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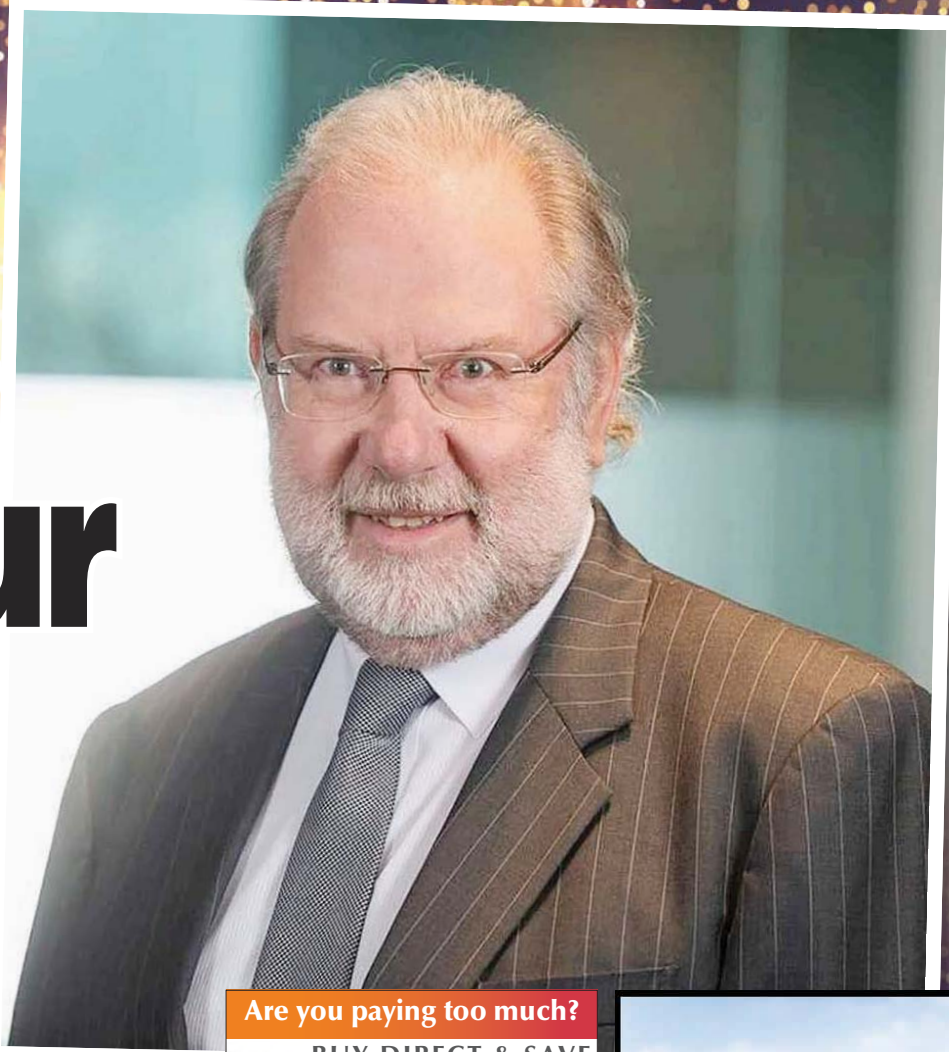
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New Years honour



By Frank Neill

Kelburn resident Jack Hodder KC was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) in the 2026 New Year's Honours for services to the law.

A commercial barrister, Mr Hodder has made important contributions both to law reform and New Zealand's legal system.

Continued on page 2.

Jack Hodder KC, who was made an ONZM in the New Year's Honours. Photo: Supplied.

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Helen Keen and Lynn Blann - recent works - at DoubleTree by Hilton Wellington, 28 Grey St, 10 am to 5 pm. **Entry Free**

Te Manu Muramura - various artists - at Rydges Wellington Airport, continuing to March, 10 am to 5 pm. **Entry Free**

Hilton Lake Taupo - selected artists - 80 Napier Rd, Taupo, continuing to March, 10 am to 5 pm. **Entry Free**

Contemporary New Zealand art

How to reach us

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Honour was utterly unexpected

Continued from page 1.

Receiving the honour was “utterly unexpected,” he says.

“I was very surprised.

“That was my first reaction.

“My second reaction was a degree of ambivalence.

“I see it as a recognition for the civil litigation branch of the legal profession, and for those who put in tens of thousands of hours of hard work on behalf of their clients.”

It was really hard to answer the question as to what have been his career highlights.

“I have done hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of cases.

“It’s hard to pick out one or two or five,” he says.

“Being part of the inaugural Law Commission, an independent body working on law reform was a

highlight in the 80s and early 90s.

“Being involved in a large law firm and becoming Chair of that law firm and running quite a large business, I found that fascinating and enjoyable and a highlight.

“Throughout my career I have had the privilege of working with very bright young lawyers, and they keep you on your toes and provide company.

“They go on and do great things.

“That’s been a feature of the career that I have had.”

He has enjoyed collaborating with the “really extraordinary young lawyers out there, young people and young New Zealanders” that he has been involved with over decades.

Being a civil litigation lawyer is “a pretty fascinating career, although civil litigation mostly slips under the public radar.”

As well as practising law, Mr Hodder has also been involved in law reform and commentary on legal issues.

“It’s added up to a fascinating career,” he says.

“Mr Hodder is recognised as one of the country’s foremost commercial litigators and was appointed a Queen’s Counsel (now a King’s Counsel) in 2008,” his award citation says.

“As Law Commissioner from 1986 to 1991, he played a key role in the development of numerous Acts of Parliament, including the Companies Act 1993 and the Arbitration Act 1996.

“From 1991 to 2015 he was a litigation partner at Chapman Tripp and served as Chair of the Board for six years.

“He became a barrister sole in 2015.

“In 2002 he was appointed to the Government’s advisory group to give recommendations on the formation of the Supreme Court to replace the Privy Council.

“His advocacy in complex and novel cases has significantly contributed to developing New Zealand law.

“He has authored many publications on a wide range of law and government-policy related topics.

“He established the highly regarded legal publication ‘The Capital Letter’ in 1978 and remained Editor until 2006.

“In 2024, he was recognised as the Leading Silk (Tier 1) for commercial disputes from the Legal 500 Asia Pacific Guide. In 2025 Mr Hodder was recognised as a Band 1 Silk for Dispute Resolution by Chambers and Partners Asia Pacific.”

Free art ecology workshops

Wellington City Libraries invites people to join them for a series of free workshops led by Dr Gabby O’Connor, a Wellington based artist with a background in science communication.

Gabby regularly collaborates with students, scientists and communities to create large-scale artworks in galleries and public spaces.

Exploring the native plants

of Te Whanganui-a-Tara, these sessions will draw on Gabby’s research with mana whenua taiao experts, ecologists and kaimahi at Ōtari Native Botanic Garden.

Participants will use images of native leaves to make pictures and patterns on illuminated lightboxes.

The artworks will be photographed and included in the first exhibition at Te Matapihi

ki te Ao Nui, the redeveloped central library when the building reopens in March 2026.

The workshops are suitable for all ages. Children under 14 must be accompanied by caregivers. All materials will be provided and the sessions will be mess-free with no glue or scissors.

There are additional activities for fast and interested makers. No bookings are required.

Sessions are being held at the

following places and times:

- Te Māhanga Karori Library on Saturday 31 January from 11am to noon;

- Te Awa-a-Taia Ruth Gotlieb Kilbirnie Library on Friday 23 January from 11am to noon; and

- Ngā Puna Waiora Newtown Library on Saturday 31 January from 2pm to 3pm.

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Light displays at the Botanic Gardens during last year’s Gardens Magic. Photo: Wellington City Council.

Gardens Magic returning

By Frank Neill

Wellington’s hugely popular Gardens Magic is now in full swing at the Botanic Gardens.

All the Garden Magic events are free.

Gardens Magic includes a series of concerts at the Botanic Gardens ki Paekākā Soundshell that will run until 25 January.

These concerts will feature the sounds of Wellington’s vivacious talent.

The free concerts start with a warm-up solo act from 7pm, before the main act at 8pm.

Concerts are on Tuesday to Sunday each week, with Sunday afternoons from 1pm to 3.15pm kept as a rain back-up day.

The concert programme is at [wellington.govt.nz/news-and-events/events-and-](http://wellington.govt.nz/news-and-events/events-and-festivals/gardens-magic#concert)

[festivals/gardens-magic#concert](http://wellington.govt.nz/news-and-events/events-and-festivals/gardens-magic#concert).

On Monday 19 January a relaxed solo performance will be held at the Duck Pond from 9:15pm to 10:15pm.

Along with the concerts there will be evening light displays at the Botanic Gardens, with a magical light display by MJF Lighting.

The light displays will take place between 9pm and 10:30pm daily until 25 January.

During the day, families can enjoy the Kids Garden Trail and Discovery Days.

They take place daily between 9am and 5pm and once again will run until 25 January.

Kids Explorer Days will take place from 10am to 2pm on Wednesday 21 January at the Discovery Garden and on the Quad Lawn near the Soundshell.

Honoured for service to science

By Frank Neill

Professor Graham Le Gros, who led the Kelburn-based Malaghan Institute for 30 years and is its current Deputy Chair, was made a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (KNZM) in this year's New Year's Honours.

He was made a KNZM for services to medical science.

Professor Le Gros led the Malaghan Institute from 1994 to 2024.

He is an active and respected research scientist internationally, leading a research programme in allergic and parasitic diseases.

When asked his reaction to being made a KNZM, Professor Le Gros said it was a surprise.

"I didn't expect it.

"Thinking about it, it's good. It's really good," he said.

"Cancer and medical areas don't do well here in New Zealand.

"We are under resourced.

"We have got to innovate. We have got to service things here ... to give people hope that they can enjoy life and a good life."

That is, he says, what the award, in part, represents.

The Malaghan Institute is a fully independent research institute that researches medical problems to find solutions.

It rents its Kelburn Parade premises from Victoria University of Wellington.

The institute "is unique to New Zealand," Professor Le Gros said.

One of the highlights of his career with the Malaghan Institute has been "getting to the bottom of how several of the parasitic worms can be good or bad for you.

"Another is getting an innovative T-Cell cancer therapy going here in New Zealand. That's been a big goal."

A third highlight has been gaining an understanding of the "exciting things about how the immune system works.

"I've been involved with that over in the [United] States, Switzerland and New Zealand."

"And most of all, it has been helping develop the Malaghan Institute into a 150 person dedicated institution that is focused



Professor Graham Le Gros. Photo: Supplied.

on finding full solutions for people in New Zealand."

While Director from 2014, Professor Le Gros more than doubled the size of the Malaghan Institute and grew its operating budget from \$7.5 million to more than \$30 million in 2024.

"His leadership in the securing of significant funding and maintenance of long-term partnerships nationally and internationally has enabled the Institute to lead nationally significant research programmes with global relevance to improve human health," his award citation says.

"Since 2014, the Institute has developed major new programmes in cancer immunotherapy, vaccine development, inflammatory disease and RNA technologies, and a focus on translational science from laboratory to clinic.

"His leadership in bringing CAR T-cell

therapy to New Zealand to build the Institute's cancer immunotherapy expertise and capability has been a defining achievement of this period.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, he played a key role in driving the development of domestic vaccine capability, and under his leadership the Vaccine Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand was established.

"Professor Le Gros has supported regional equity and capability, guiding emerging research organisations, and has helped shape a new generation of scientific leadership in New Zealand," his citation says.

Professor Le Gros is also a Professor of the School of Biological Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington.

A Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, in 2014 he was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to medical research.



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Authorised by Greg O'Connor MP,
Parliament Buildings Wellington.

Honoured for service to railways

By Frank Neill

Wadestown resident Dr Murray King was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in the 2026 New Years Honours.

He received the honour for services to transport, logistics and railway heritage.

Following 30 years service with New Zealand Railways and its successors, Dr King became involved in rail heritage and is the current Chair of the Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand.

Being made an MNZM "is as much an honour for the many hundreds, probably thousands, of people involved in railway heritage in New Zealand," he says.

"For the railway sector as a whole it is a recognition that it is important."

When asked his reaction to being made an MNZM, Dr King said "I was surprised.

"Honoured, of course, and grateful, but surprised because I was actively involved in helping with the nomination of a couple of other people and didn't expect to be included myself."

Being part of the management of the railway system which went through to the year 2000 was a highlight of his career, he says.

"The nineties, of course, was a privatisation era and that whole process was quite interesting.

"I'm not sure that the result was spectacular for the railways.

"Since then as a consultant I have contributed to the knowledge and understanding of the industry."



Dr Murray King MNZM. Photo: Supplied.

One particular contribution was being involved in the team that wrote the National Freight Demand Study, which has already had three editions and a fourth edition is now likely.

A recent highlight came for the rail heritage initiatives when "the Minister decided KiwiRail would increase our funding so we could tackle more tasks."

One particular task that includes is the Maitara Station restoration.

"That process will cost us well over a million bucks," Dr King says.

The Rail Heritage Trust also owns the

Wingatū Railway Station and Signal Box, the goods shed and railway station in Moana on the West Coast and the goods shed in Greytown.

"Dr King joined New Zealand Railways (NZR) in 1971 and over the next 30 years moved through the ranks to hold senior management positions with the Railways Department, and its successors the New Zealand Railways Corporation, New Zealand Rail Limited and TranzRail," his award citation says.

"He established a reputation as one of New Zealand's foremost transport and logistics experts.

"In 2000 he set up a consultancy offering transport and logistics expertise with a focus on rail.

"He was appointed to the Board of Land Transport New Zealand in 2007, and in 2008 co-authored the 'National Freight Demand Study', a Ministry of Transport report forecasting future freight requirements and transport infrastructure needs, which was updated in 2012 and 2018.

"He has served at a national level of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in New Zealand, including as National President from 2009 to 2011.

"He has been an active member of The New Zealand Railway and Locomotive Society since 1962.

"Dr King became a Trustee of the Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand (RHTNZ) in 2008 and Chairman in 2012, overseeing major restoration projects at the two railway precincts the trust owns," his citation says

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Newtown Library	1:20pm
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Marlborough Harness racing this friday

A family favourite for racegoers is the Marlborough Harness Race meeting 'Summer at the Trots' which kicks off this Friday with the Twilight Meeting, starting at 2pm, gates open from 1pm.

The second day is Sunday the 18th starting at 12.25pm, gates open from 11.30am.

Entry is FREE on both days. The feature race on Sunday is the Donegal House Marlborough Pacers Cup.

Summer at the Trots will be a feast of non-stop harness racing on the grass.

Sunday is the Summer at the Trots Racing family day.

Pack the kids up and bring them along for a picnic and family fun.

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Some of the Marlborough Harness committee, from left Grant Anderson, Lee Wilde Tony Thomas (Chairman) Sally and Jamie Arbuckle, Shirley Morrison and Mike Rangl.

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A truly inspiring read

By Frank Neill

Johnsonville author Barbara Docherty's new book, "Secrets and Lemons" is a truly inspiring read.

The back cover of the book describes "Secrets and Lemons" as "a powerful, must-read memoir", and that is exactly what it is.

It is a story of drama and trauma, woven against a series of social issues that have impacted upon New Zealand.

Two of her babies were stolen (Barbara uses the word "kidnapped") from her following their birth.

This took place during the forced adoptions of what is now commonly referred to as New Zealand's "baby scoop era".

The first baby that was stolen was born after Barbara was raped by a person she thought was a friend, but who then spiked her drink.

The trauma does not stop with the rape and her babies being kidnapped either.

Barbara also discovered her husband was gay, had to cope with a stalker, survived an armed bank robbery and had her Christchurch house trashed by a cannabis operation.

And these are just the major traumatic life events Barbara experienced.

Following the trauma, Barbara would push it away, hide it away.

As she says in the book: "over the years, each time a major drama came my way, that same avoidance became an art well practised and polished".

However the years of truth finally came to light as she peeled back the layers of her life.

Barbara finally found "an escape from a feeling of entrapment with myself [and] eventually showed me a future that is different from the past, but which will continue to be forever connected".

The story of her finally facing the truth is full of learnings for many, if not all of us.

As well as providing a great read for us all, "Secrets and Lemons" is also a must-read book for all health professionals, government officials and religious leaders.

It provides some excellent advice for doctors and specialists, for example.

"Many health professionals," the book says, "were unable to stop for a brief minute and listen to me.

"This made it impossible for them [the doctors] to look past my medical diagnosis and physical symptoms and recognise the mental stress I was experiencing."

This phenomenon of doctors not listening rang a real bell with this reviewer, who had four doctors not listen to what he was saying and so they failed to provide a correct diagnosis for over a decade.

Barbara also talks about her husband's reaction to a medical instruction to undergo radiotherapy.

"Colin's decision to avoid radiotherapy didn't sit at all well with the specialists, of course.

"They decided that if he continued to refuse their treatment, there was little point in having further follow-up consultations.

"We soon discovered that the medical profession in general was loath to even have a conversation about anything other than traditional or conventional treatment.

"Our views on the significant role we believed the immune system played in cancer development and treatment were sometimes rudely pushed aside.

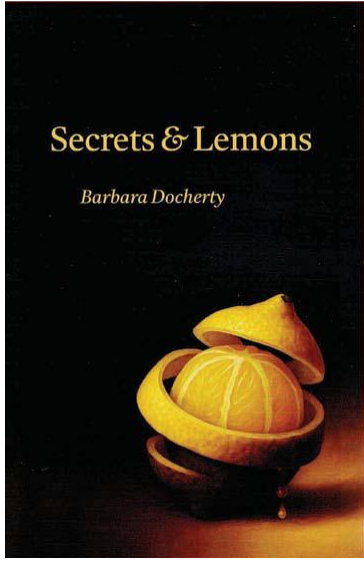
"We were led to believe that Colin's only chance of survival was radiotherapy."

However Colin stood by his stance, and recovered from the cancer.

Likewise there are some great learnings for politicians.

The predecessors of the current Parliamentarians had sanctioned, organised and funded the forced adoptions.

In her book, Barbara notes that the Austral-



The cover of Barbara Docherty's new book "Secrets and Lemons".



Barbara Docherty. Photo: Supplied.

ian government apologised for those policies and practices in 2013, Canada's government apologised in 2018, both Scotland and Wales issued a "sincere, heartfelt and unreserved" apology in 2023 and both Ireland and Belgium also apologised later.

The New Zealand government and opposition parties did finally offer a brief apology in 2024, but the country still awaits a much wider acknowledgement and redress.

"In these pages you will encounter honesty of a rare and affecting kind ... the kind that exposes things most of us would keep buried," Paula Penfold accurately writes in the Foreword of "Secrets and Lemons"

"This is how it was, and this is what it was like to live it."

"Secrets and Lemons" is the second book Barbara has written.

A retired primary health care nurse, Barbara wrote "Nursing in General Practice: a NZ Perspective" – a lengthy book for nurses who work in general practice in 1996.

This book is still in use as a key resource for nurses.

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Rates cap will likely increase costs

The Government's rates cap proposal will likely increase costs, erode services and are already negatively impacting the region, Greater Wellington Regional Council Chair Daran Ponter says.

Many of this government's announcements around local government are already impacting Greater Wellington's financial position, Cr Ponter says.

In March this year, Standard & Poor's downgraded Greater Wellington's Global credit rating from AA+ to AA, citing the volatile nature of local government reform at present.

"It's simple economics.

"Like all councils, our borrowing is secured against our rates revenue. Any cap or constraint on rates would limit our capacity to borrow and invest in essential infrastructure for environment management, flood protection and land management, provision of regional parks, and public transport.

"The mere signal of change has not been well received by international financial and market indicators.

"Any resulting future credit rating changes will result in an increase in our financing costs.

"This will simply stop progress and major investment in our region when approximately \$90 million in infrastructure spending represents 2% on rates," Cr Ponter says.

Chair of Greater Wellington's Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee, Councillor Yadana Saw, says external cost pressures outside Greater Wellington's immediate control will limit its ability to stay within the proposed caps.

"Like everyone out there, we're feeling the

pinch of rising electricity, fuel and insurance costs.

"When electricity prices surge 11.3% year-on-year, the largest annual increase since the late 1980s, it's a delicate balancing act when our rates also have to cover ongoing maintenance contracts," Cr Shaw says.

"We have a responsibility to keep our communities safe from weather events and natural disasters and it makes basic financial sense to invest in resilience than facing the cost of rebuilding and recovery at six times more the cost. This is why our credit rating matters so much."

The Chair of Greater Wellington's Public Transport Committee, Councillor Ros Connelly, says communities should brace themselves for the likely impact of the Government's short-sighted and overreaching proposals. "Rates caps are just Central Government cuts in disguise.

"The only way to keep within the proposed targets and balance fixed cost pressures is to make drastic service cuts to public transport and the environment. "Limiting the ability of councils to fund our community's essential assets and services through rates could see the costs being transferred elsewhere. "We could see increased public transport fare increases and user charges imposed on lower income families, we will see risks being individualised and downgraded, and asset renewals being pushed onto future generations where they become more and more unaffordable. "Central Government should focus on keeping the economy ticking over and emerging from a protracted recession, leaving local democracy and funding to the locals," Cr Connelly says.

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Johnsonville Navy officer promoted

Jessica Layburn of Johnsonville has been promoted to Sub-lieutenant in the Royal New Zealand Navy.

The 23-year-old was promoted last month after completing a 22 weeks Officer Training Course at the Devonport Naval Base.

For the next six months she has been posted to an Australian Navy college near Melbourne to complete a Marine Engineering course.

Jessica attended Onslow College for five years and in 2019 received the Year 13 prize for "Outstanding Academic Excellence".

Awarded a scholarship by the Navy, she graduated with an Engineering Honours degree from Canterbury University in 2024.

Jessica knew from a young age she wanted to study engineering but she never thought the Royal New Zealand Navy would help to realise her ambition.

It was actually aviation that first showed her how the military values Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

In 2019 she took part in School to Skies, a Royal New Zealand Air Force STEM initiative designed to increase the number of women in the aviation industry.

Every year between 30 and 40 year 13 students from around Aotearoa New Zealand get a chance to spread their wings and spend six days with the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to find out if a career in the military is right for them.

Her decision to attend proved to be a turning point.

"I was so impressed by all the different roles that were available in the NZDF," Jessica says.

"No one in my immediate family had served in the military, so growing up I never considered it to be an option."

After arriving home from the camp, she visited the NZDF careers website to check the application process, and discovered that NZDF awards tertiary scholarships.

"I wasn't fully set on the military lifestyle yet, but I knew I wanted to pursue an engineering degree at the University of Canterbury, and figured it couldn't hurt to apply to the Chatham Scheme scholarship that the Navy offers," she says.

It was really only during the final Officer Selection Board that she became dead set on



Jessica Layburn at her graduation. Photo: Supplied.

joining the NZDF, she says.

"It was three days of interviews and evolutions and fitness testing, but even just in those three days I learnt so much about myself, about leadership and heard so many stories from naval personnel about their work and lifestyle," she says.

Jessica's application was successful and her next step after the selection board was officer training.

"I was only required to do the first three weeks of officer training before heading back to Christchurch to continue working towards my degree in mechanical engineering.

"In such a short time, I learnt so many valuable skills and met a ton of amazing, motivated and interesting people."

Wrights Hill Fortress open

Wellington's historic Wrights Hill Fortress in Karori will be open for public inspection again on Waitangi Day, Friday, February 6th. The World War Two coastal battery first opened to the public in 1989 and will be accessible between 10am and 4pm.

On Waitangi Day people are invited to self-guide themselves through the tunnels and gun emplacements. The walk usually takes about one hour. Bring a torch with you for some fun! Strong footwear and no jandals!

Visitors will be able to explore the 620 metres of underground tunnels with a free map and history pamphlet. They will see shell stores, plotting rooms and the huge gun pit where Gun Number 1 used to stand, as well as a replica of the 10-metre-long gun barrel.

Also on show will be historic photos, and an assortment of military weapons. A DVD of how a 9.2-inch gun operates will be showing as well. The World War Two

Fortress is the only one of its type in New Zealand available to the public on four Open Days a year.

Wrights Hill Fortress was built from 1942 to protect Wellington from Japanese bombardment. In the early 1960's, the guns were cut up for scrap and sold, ironically, to the Japanese.

Admission is \$20 for a family of two adults and three children under 12, or \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. (CASH ONLY please-NO EFTPOS). Access is via Karori Road, Campbell Street, and Wrights Hill Road. All proceeds go to the continuing restoration of the Fortress. There is limited car parking at the summit of the Hill.

Visitors to the Fortress in Wrights Hill Reserve can also enjoy bush walks, picnic sites and panoramic views from the top of the hill. There will also be a BBQ sausage sizzle and soft drinks on sale. No booking required.

ENQUIRIES: (04) 476.8593.

contact@wrightshillfortress.org.nz



Khandallah chef Mark Limacher MNZM. Photo: Supplied.

Khandallah restaurateur honoured

By Frank Neill

The award winning Khandallah chef Mark Limacher received yet more recognition when he was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in the 2026 New Years Honours.

A respected figure in New Zealand's hospitality industry, Mr Limacher has won many awards, including the Corbans Food and Wine award twice, the Felix award for outstanding Chef in 2002 and 2005, and Supreme individual awards in 2005 and 2023.

"Over the years we've been fortunate to garner awards and recognition for various facets of our businesses," Mr Limacher says.

"They are a testament to the many brilliant people who have supported us on our way.

"My late dear friend Ian Hornblow was a larger than life hospo guru and he is just one such person to whom we and Wellington hospitality are indebted.

"Witnessing a humming dining room full of happy and contented guests is obviously what it's all about on a day to day basis.

"If you're wondering about a career highlight, I've never been so touched as when a much loved regular requested I cook him, his family and friends a farewell dinner at his home before he moved into palliative care at the hospice.

"Another bona-fide career highlight which I've touched on earlier was working alongside so many wonderful characters and lifelong friendships developed there.

"Away from the mayhem and buzz of a busy kitchen it's something I reflect on often and cherish."

Mr Limacher was not surprised when he was notified that he had received an MNZM. "The honours board gave me the heads up

a few weeks ago that I had been nominated, so my reaction wasn't one of complete incredulity," he says.

"However Helen and I were bowled over by the avalanche of social media messages, texts, emails and phone calls.

"We even had a charming stranger knock on our front door to offer his congratulations. "My Mum Mary arrived in Wellington as a 'ten pound Pom' in the fifties aboard the passenger ship the James Cook.

"A kind and gregarious lady, she loved to party but also had a steely determination to get ahead. She would have been pretty chuffed," he says.

"Mr Limacher began his career in the 1970s at Bellamy's, the Parliamentary restaurant, and has since opened some of Wellington's most popular establishments," his award citation says.

"He co-founded Ortega Fish Shack in 2009, which won a 2014 Cuisine Good Food Guide Award and continues to be recognised as one of the capital's top dining destinations.

"He launched the Roxburgh Bistro and Café Bastille, which won the inaugural Cuisine Restaurant of the Year Award.

"He has supported many charity and community events, including cooking for early childhood centres and hospices and contributing recipes for neonatal fundraising.

"He is highly respected in the hospitality and tourism sectors, known for not only culinary excellence but his commitment to fostering talent and creating inclusive work environments.

"He has trained generations of New Zealand chefs and waiters during his career, supporting and mentoring many who have gone to run their own award-winning kitchens.

"He is a passionate advocate for New Zealand's primary industries," his citation says.

Christmas miracle at Zealandia

A Christmas miracle took place at Karori's Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne in the weeks leading up to 25 December.

Against the odds, a takahē pair believed to be infertile successfully hatched a chick.

Bendigo (a male) and Waitaa (a female) came to the award-winning wildlife sanctuary from Burwood Takahē Centre two years ago as a non-breeding pair.

It was thought at the time that Bendigo may have had fertility issues, as he was not productive with two previous partners.

Every chick is significant for the endemic takahē, which are classified as Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable, with an estimated population of around 500.

Zealandia is a takahē advocacy site that gives people the opportunity to see these rare and remarkable manu (birds).

After an unsuccessful nesting attempt last year, staff were not expecting the pair to successfully breed.

In November, while searching for a nest in the upper valley, Zealandia's conservation team heard some high-pitched calls indicating the pair had – miraculously – produced a chick.

Trail cameras at a takahē feeding station confirmed the surprise and have since confirmed the chick growing fast.

Jo Ledington, General Manager Conservation and Restoration at Zealandia, says the team waited to share the news until they were confident the

chick had made it through the most vulnerable stages.

The news was then shared on 22 December.

"This is one of the things that excites me most about nature and conservation – the unexpected is always possible," she says.

"I'm thrilled that Zealandia can support DOC's Takahē Recovery efforts, not only by providing opportunities for hundreds of thousands of people to connect with this amazing species, but to also add more manu to the national population."

Zealandia closed off the track where the whānau is currently based to ensure they aren't disturbed at this crucial time.

Takahē chicks are very vulnerable

particularly in the early stages of life, and a cold snap or prolonged wet weather can prove fatal.

In addition, when disturbed, takahē adults will often hide their chick in long grass or under shrubs and leave the area to draw the disturber away.

This disturbance means more stress on the birds and more time that the chick isn't getting fed.

Bendigo, hatched in 2017, and Waitaa, hatched in 2020, are still a relatively young pair.

Takahē generally live to anywhere between 16 and 22 and are known to breed from the age of two into their mid-late teens.

Despite being known for keeping to themselves and widely roaming the upper valley, Bendigo and Waitaa are

proving to be attentive and devoted first-time parents.

This is the second 'surprise' takahē chick to hatch at Zealandia.

A former pair, Orbell (a male) and Nio (a female) were brought to the sanctuary from Mana Island when they were believed to be past breeding age.

But in November 2018 Zealandia staff were delighted to discover that Nio and Orbell had hatched a chick, later named Te Āwhiorangi meaning 'the encircler of heaven'.

It will be some time before the new chick's sex is known.

It will eventually be banded and health checked, and in time named and moved to a new home, as part of DOC's Takahē Recovery Programme.

Warm Weather Footcare

As the temperatures climb, our feet have to adapt to summer shoes and activities. Sandals offer a chance for the feet to breathe and stay cool.

The best sandals are ones that have a strap or closed heel to help provide support to the foot. It is important to clean sandals occasionally to prevent problems such as tinea or athlete's foot. Self-care in summer should also include using heel balm to keep the heels from drying out and cracking. Podiatrists help in maintaining summer feet by trimming off the buildup and helping to prevent these heel cracks forming, known as fissures. At Active Feet Podiatry we are here to assist and advise you to

have pain free and attractive feet. Call for an appointment and start the new year with a spring in your

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Health & Wellbeing

Prostate cancer fundraising event at Queen Elizabeth Park this weekend

Support Danny's race to save lives



Alcohol levy funds

The Ministry of Health and Health New Zealand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining how alcohol levy funds will be used to reduce alcohol-related harm.

'This is a formal agreement that will strengthen oversight of alcohol levy spending by providing transparency about what the money is used for,' says Director-General of Health, Audrey Sonerson.

The agreement aims to raise awareness about the harm alcohol can cause, encourage safer drinking habits, and strengthen support for people and communities. It clearly outlines how the money should be allocated, ensuring they are directed toward evidence-based initiatives.

Source: MoH

This Saturday from 9am prostate cancer survivor Danny Bedingfield will take on the brutal MAS*H Backyard Ultra—not for glory, but to raise \$1.6 million, the amount experts say would fund the first year of a Government-backed PSA screening pilot that could stop hundreds of Kiwi men dying needlessly. The event is at Queen Elizabeth Park, Paekakariki.

The day-and-night race forces runners to complete a 6.7km lap every 60 minutes, with no finish line—only the last runner standing. Danny will carry the name of a man lost to prostate cancer on every lap, until his legs give out.

Diagnosed at just 37, months after losing

his father Phil to the same disease, Danny's life was saved by a routine PSA blood test. His dad was never given that chance.

"I get to run because early detection saved me," says Danny. "I'll keep running for those denied it. A few hours of pain is nothing compared to knowing a simple test could have saved someone you love."

Every day, 10 Kiwi men are told they have prostate cancer, and two families lose someone they shouldn't have had to lose. The Government can change this – but while we wait men are dying.

To learn more, donate, or dedicate a tribute lap, scan the QR code above or visit LAPS4LIVES.



Prostate Cancer Support

Are you living with prostate cancer or caring for someone who is? You don't have to go through it alone. A community of others who've been there too are here for you.

Contact your local Support Coordinators
 Graeme Coutts & Bill Guthrie
 P: 022 674 7832 (Graeme)
 P: 027 247 5427 (Bill)
 E: lowerhutt@prostate.org.nz

- Individual support & information
- Group support meetings - all welcome
- Prost-FIT exercise group

Prostate Cancer Foundation NZ 0800 66 0800
 prostate.org.nz

LAPS4LIVES

Danny's M*A*S*H Backyard Ultra
 Queen Elizabeth Park, Kapiti Coast, 17 January 2026

Every lap a tribute to all those affected by prostate cancer, and the hundreds of lives a PSA screening programme in Aotearoa New Zealand could have saved.

Over 700 men's lives cut short by prostate cancer in New Zealand is unacceptable. A simple PSA blood test at 37 saved my life. Too many others are not so lucky. Danny Bedingfield.

Join our call for a PSA testing pilot programme, and donate a tribute lap today. Scan the QR code or visit the website.

www.prostate.nz/laps4lives

Kapiti Women's Triathlon in February

Rally your crew. Race together. Celebrate with coffee and connection at the Kapiti Women's Triathlon on 22 February.

New Group entries are now available across all events in the Kapiti Women's Triathlon. Enter with a group of 6 or more and every member will score a free coffee voucher from our friends at Coffee Cruisers - because races are better when they finish with caffeine and good company! Round up your running buddies, workmates, or whānau, and join us in February.

To promote health and wellbeing in the workplace, Kapiti Women's Triathlon has teamed up with the legends at Coffee Cruisers to launch the KWT Workplace Challenge.

Acorn Stairlifts provide safe and easy access in your home

As an example of Acorn's commitment to excellence and safety, they are proud that their products have earned the prestigious Ease of Use Commendation from the Arthritis Foundation. This commendation is only awarded to companies whose products have passed rigorous testing proving they are easy to use for people with arthritis.

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Summer AT THE TROTS

Marlborough Harness At Waterlea Racecourse TWO DAYS

**Friday January 16 -Twilight meeting at 2pm
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**Racing starts on January 16 with our
Friday Twilight Meeting, first race at 2pm.
and Sunday first race at 12.25pm.**

The Marlborough Harness Racing Club. Waterlea Racecourse McLaughlan St .

Ngaio Waitangi Day walk

A walk with a focus on the history of Ngaio will be held on 6 February by the Onslow Historical Society.

The society is repeating the Waitangi Day walk it held last year as the event was over-subscribed, and also because inclement weather affected the 2025 event.

The OHS Waitangi Day walk will start at 10am with morning tea at KATE (the former Khandallah Automatic

Telephone Exchange), 86 Khandallah Road.

The 2.5km stroll through the streets of Ngaio will visit historic sites, and houses and buildings along the way.

It will end with an optional lunch at Café Villa, Otta-wa Road, Ngaio, at about 12:30pm.

People wanting to join the walk are asked to reply to the society, onslowhistorical@gmail.com.



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Diarrhoea and vomiting are not diseases themselves but are symptoms that can have many possible causes.

When either diarrhoea or vomiting occurs then the body can lose a lot of fluid and become dehydrated. It is very important to get fluid replacement and become rehydrated again.

There are a number of different reasons for diarrhoea and vomiting to occur.

One very common cause is a gut infection ("gastro") from either viruses (e.g.: noravirus), bacteria (e.g.: salmonella), or parasites (e.g.: giardia) from contaminated food or water.

Leaving food out of the fridge, possibly, is a common cause for food going 'off' due to contamination. In many cases, the 'gastro' is only a short-term inconvenience and the diarrhoea and vomiting tend to go away within a few days.

However if the symptoms go on for longer, then a visit to the doctor is advisable. Vomiting and diarrhoea causes the loss of body fluids and important electrolytes (salts), and if it goes on for a longer period of time can result in dehydration.

Babies under 12 months of age are particularly prone to diarrhoea and vomiting from contaminated food and drink and they can become dehydrated

very quickly- for example the bottle of formula milk left out of the fridge.

"Look out", caution Self Care pharmacists, "for the danger signs of dehydration - dry mouth, tongue and lips, reduced skin elasticity, sunken eyes and cheeks, weakness, little urination.

Children this young need to see a doctor if the symptoms continue for longer than 3 hours (for vomiting) and 24 hours (for diarrhoea)."

The best treatment for 'gastro' symptoms is drinking plenty of fluids such as oral rehydration solutions. These contain the right amounts of electrolytes, glucose and water to replace lost nutrients.

"A range of replacement fluids products are available from our pharmacies" advise Self Care pharmacists "and we can provide you with a copy of the Diarrhoea and Vomiting fact card that has helpful advice."

Begin fluid replacement as soon as diarrhoea starts and give small amounts of fluid often as large amounts may not be kept down.

Babies and children should be given a teaspoon of fluid every minute and adults should take a quarter of a cup every 15 minutes. It is best to avoid undiluted sugary drinks as their



DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING

high sugar content can make diarrhoea worse.

Light foods such as dry biscuits, cooked mashed vegetables (e.g. plain potato) dry white toast, boiled rice and clear soup are suggested if hungry and then slowly get back to eating normal meals.

For a few days avoid raw vegetables and fruit, wholemeal bread, fried or spicy food and milk products such as cheese and yoghurt.

Here are some simple food handling and cooking tips, and general hygiene measures to help prevent getting a 'gastro' bug or passing it on to others.

Wash hands in hot soapy water and dry them well after going to the toilet, after changing babies' nappies, and before touching food and preparing meals; have clean utensils and chopping boards; defrost meats thoroughly in the fridge and

not out on the bench; keep raw foods in the fridge separated from cooked and ready-to-eat foods; refrigerate all foods until ready to use; use chilly bins with frozen pads inside to keep food cool, and keep them out of the sun; cook meats, especially chicken and other poultry, until the juices run clear and the flesh is no longer pink; cover hot food while cooling, and leave it to cool no longer than 30 minutes before putting in the refrigerator; reheat leftovers until they are steaming hot and only reheat once.

For more information on preventing and treating 'gastro'-related diarrhoea and vomiting, come and see your Self Care pharmacist and ask for a copy of the "Diarrhoea and Vomiting" Self Care fact card.

Also visit www.foodsmart.govt.nz for additional food safety and handling advice.

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Karate demonstration at North City Plaza

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For adults, it's also a great way to relieve stress, learn something new, meet new people, and stay healthy.

GKR Karate promotes Karate for everyone, including children from 5 years old through to men, women and families of all ages. They now have "Yoji" classes for 3-4yr olds.

They are at North City Plaza, Porirua on the week beginning 19 January where

they're giving away a free uniform and discounted membership. Put my phone number on there and email address. GKR Karate is open 7 days a week for beginners of all ages in multiple locations. Call Neil on 021 979 999 or email region21nz@gkrkarate.com



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Warmth and security from Eco Wellington

Eco Wellington is the new name for trusted and well-known Wellington company Eco Doors & Windows. They have also relocated to large new premises in Alicetown, Lower Hutt.

Eco Wellington specialise in uPVC glazing and as winter approaches you'll find just the advice and look you're after at their new location at 405 Hutt Road, Alicetown, Lower Hutt.

Their windows are ideal for helping keep your house warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

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Monday club nights run from 2 March to end of November

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Scottish country dance classes in Khandallah Town Hall from Monday 9 February

All genders, all ages, from teenagers upwards, come and give it a go, make new friends and get some exercise – up to 5000 steps in a night of dancing! No partner needed, come alone or bring a friend. Tutor Rod Downey makes the classes fun with lively Celtic music, friendly club members are on hand to help new dancers. Wear soft, flat shoes, dress ready for exercise, BYO water bottle & \$5 cash. Doors open from 7:15. Contact: Robert 021 163 9649, Maureen 027 447 2312. More info at <http://www.johnsonvillescld.org.nz/aboutus/beginners/>



Mischief Shoes

Shoe lover rejoice! Wellingtons much loved shoe store Mischief Shoes is back with a POP UP store in the CBD. They have cleverly re-located in Victoria Street surrounded by a fantastic collection of womens clothing brands with convenient parking in Lombard Lane. The same fabulous shoe collections and the same wonderful friendly service is guaranteed. Currently they have fantastic savings on nearly all of their womens summer collection along with some extra special stock specifically for the POP UP from \$70. With plenty of summer ahead of you you should

definitely pop in to their POP UP... There is always room for one more pair !

For the Guys... although not stocking their Mens shoes collection in the current site, the team will happily arrange to have your selections ready for you to try on with a few days notice. Simply visit their fabulous website and email or call them with your selections and a preferred day and time to visit the store. Every mens style is currently reduced so guys, never a better time to upgrade your business shoes, casuals or sandals .

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- Michael Josephson



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Taupo village C 1844. Photo: G F Angas, courtesy Pataka Arts and Museum.



An early photograph of Plimmerton. Photo courtesy Pataka Arts and Museum.

Local history – Plimmerton walk

By Felicity Wong

A walk around the seaside village of Plimmerton, north of Wellington, reveals an interesting history.

There's a heritage trail, with signage, a map and good online information.

Māori history in the area dates from Kupe's visit over 850 years ago.

Ngāti Ira later held the territory until it was taken over by Ngāti Toa Rangatira in the 1820s after their arrival from Kāwhia (southwest of Hamilton/Kirikiriira).

The Plimmerton area was known as "Taupō", not to be confused with the town and lake in the central North Island.

"Taupō" is also the name of the land block, the stream and the main Ngāti Toa Rangatira settlement which used to extend along the shoreline.

Ngati Toa were very significant in early settlement by sealers and whalers.

In 1843 Rawiri Puaha, who had converted to Christianity, took his followers from Cloudy Bay to Taupō village and it became the centre for missionary work in the area.

In 1846 the Crown took the Ngāti Toa Rangatira leader, Te Rauparaha and several other chiefs prisoner from the village and held him without trial for eighteen months during which time other chiefs sold much of the area to the Crown, endeavouring to secure his release.

After his release in 1848 Taupo village gradually lost its pre-eminence to the other settlements of Takapuwahia and Te Uru Kohika (near Porirua).

Contemporary train travel to Plimmerton is easy and was how many used to arrive from 1885 when the rail line opened.

The area was named Plimmerton, after John Plimmer, a founding director of the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company that built the line.

Advertised as "the great marine suburb of Wellington", by 1896 about 50 sections had been sold and hundreds of summer day trippers flocked here.

Over time cottages, holiday homes, boarding houses and shops were built forming Plimmerton village.

In 1894, the rail company built a 32 room building near the station called Plimmerton House, which could seat 100 diners.

People could walk through it from the station to the beach but it burnt down in 1906.

Although it looks older, the current station building dates from 1940 (site 12 on the heritage trail).

The design was a standard one by George Troup (1863 to 1941), architect and engi-

neer, designer of the impressive Dunedin Railway Station, and later also the Mayor of Wellington.

Troup bought a large block of land in Plimmerton and buildings and a park are associated with him.

Sites 5 to 31 on the heritage trail are easily accessible on foot, although a couple of signs for sites are hard to find.

There's a long history of Christian services in the area, with both Wesleyan and Anglican missionaries arriving in 1839.

The first local Anglican Church wasn't built however until 1916.

The Native Land Court had set aside ten acres as a Māori burial ground in 1888, vesting the reserve (Taupō No 2 Block) in the Public Trustee as "absolutely inalienable".

Unfair legislative changes saw the land subdivided for sale.

Despite its original status, and the Plimmerton community protesting that they wanted the land to be vested as a scenic reserve instead, sections were leased, then sold in 1913.

Site 18 on the heritage trail marks the ridiculously tiny residual reserve.

In 1896 one acre of Māori reserve land, including the urupā (burial area), was reserved "in perpetuity" for descendants of a number of Ngati Toa people.

Under pressure, particularly from visitors, the Hutt County Council took the lower part of this land under the Public Works Act and other legislation and erected a Pavilion as shelter for visitors in 1925.

Locals decided to upgrade it after World War 2. Two hundred and fifty people attended the gala opening concert in November 1952 (site 22).

By 1908, Plimmerton had about 100 permanent residents and many more weekend visitors.

Some large houses were built as holiday homes by John Plimmer (site 16); David Stuart (site 17); T K MacDonald (site 8) and at site 9.

The latter three sites are buildings from that time.

Plimmer's House burnt down in 1923 with fires being an historical theme.

The volunteer fire brigade was formed in 1934, and the current waterfront fire station opened in 1955 (site 20).

The Plimmerton/Taupo area can be explored with information from this excellent website: <https://www.plimmerton.nz/heritage-trail/>

There is also a link to the heritage trail map for visitors to this charming sea-side village with a controversial history.

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Independent Herald

Khandallah resident honoured

By Frank Neill

Khandallah resident David Harrison was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in the 2026 New Years honours.

His award was made for services to the insurance industry and the community.

Mr Harrison has contributed to his community for 60 years through business and governance.

When asked his reaction to being made an MNZM, Mr Harrison said "I wasn't expecting it at all, so I was pretty surprised when they came back with such an honour.

"I've done very well in the insurance field. "I'm very thankful that I have had a lot of very good business people, good friends who have supported me as I worked my way through," he says.

When asked about his community service, Mr Harrison noted that he has been involved in the Bible Society for most of his life.

"I was asked by the Bible Society to become the Chairman, so I spent a lot of time at their request visiting here and visiting a lot of other countries that had an interest in the Bible Society.

"That was an important thing to be involved in.

"I regard the Bible and the message of the Bible as the most important thing in my life," he says.

Mr Harrison also commented on his involvement with the Life Education Trust.

"At one stage in my business career I found I wanted another challenge and that was when



David Harrison MNZM. Photo: Supplied.

I was approached by the Chair of the Life Education Trust to ask me if I would consider being the CEO of the trust as it was setting up."

Established to inspire tamariki and rangitahi to make positive choices, the trust has been "very popular amongst the schools," Mr Harrison says.

Being appointed to the Prime Ministerial Task Force on Positive Ageing was an honour, he adds.

It had come about because through his business he had a lot to do with the government.

"Mr Harrison has been Executive Chair of Ansvr (now Ansvr Claims Services) since 2005 and has had a 100% payout of claims in the rebuild of several iconic and historical Christchurch landmarks following the 2011 earthquakes," his citation says.

"The insurance industry at the time faced immense pressure, leaving him as the only Ansvr board member to co-ordinate claimants, underwriters and the Reserve Bank to approve claims.

"The entity became Ansvr Claims Services, having \$30 million in turnover per annum but paying out approximately \$1 billion in claims to preserve and repair damaged buildings

Trilogy co-founder honoured

By Frank Neill

Wadestown resident Sarah Wickens was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2026 New Years Honours for services to business.

She co-founded the natural skincare brand Trilogy in 2002 with her sister Catherine de Groot, running it until they sold it in 2010.

"Without a doubt my career highlight was running Trilogy with my sister," she says.

"It was so much fun working with her. "We had so much fun together.

"It's a standout. "We couldn't have done it without each other.

"It truly was a partnership and it was a very successful one."

Sarah and Catherine founded Trilogy after they discovered the benefits and renewing properties of rosehip seed oil, and used it to create a simple, easy to use skincare range.

Being made an MNZM "is an absolute honour," Mrs Wickens says.

"It's a privilege. "Obviously someone has been pleased with what I've done, so it's lovely, really lovely."

and sites.

"He was appointed to the government's committee on fire services funding and the associated fire services levy in 1992.

"He was a member of the Prime Ministerial Task Force on Positive Ageing established in 1996 to ensure New Zealanders can move through to a safe, healthy and independent old age.

"He was Chairman of the Lottery Aged Distribution Committee and was on the board of the Bible Society in New Zealand between 1987 and 2017.

"Mr Harrison was the founding Chief Executive Officer of Life Education Trust in New Zealand between 1991 and 2000, teaching life skills to more than 250,000 children each year."



Sarah Wickens MNZM. Photo: Supplied.

"Wellington has been very good to me as a city to live in and run a business from.

"In the last 10 years since I've semi retired, I've tried to give back."

That has included serving on a range of not-for-profit organisations, including being involved with the Wellington City Mission.

"Mrs Wickens trained as an accountant, working early in her career in both Wellington and aboard in accountancy and corporate finance," her citation says.

"She is a former Fellow of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand.

"With her sister, she co-founded natural skincare brand Trilogy in 2002, winning multiple awards and receiving international recognition for their environmentally friendly products. "This included the 2005 Wellington Exporter of the Year, 2010 Dominion Post Wellington Supreme Gold Award and the 2012 KPMG Emerging Leader in International business.

"Since selling Trilogy in 2010, she has focused on supporting not-for-profits and young business owners through mentorship and governance, particularly in Wellington.

"She has served on the Boards of Absolutely Positively Wellington, The Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency, and several private companies. "She has been a long serving Trustee of the City Gallery Foundation and Wellington Culinary Events Trust.

"Mrs Wickens has provided considerable support to building the awareness of The Wellington City Missions' new facility, Whakamaru, by encouraging numerous private donations, and spearheading several innovative and creative fundraising initiatives with local companies including Hamish McKay Gallery, The Village Goldsmith and Yu Mei."

The new Whakamaru facility "is a game changer," Mrs Wickens says.

"It's a fantastic initiative."

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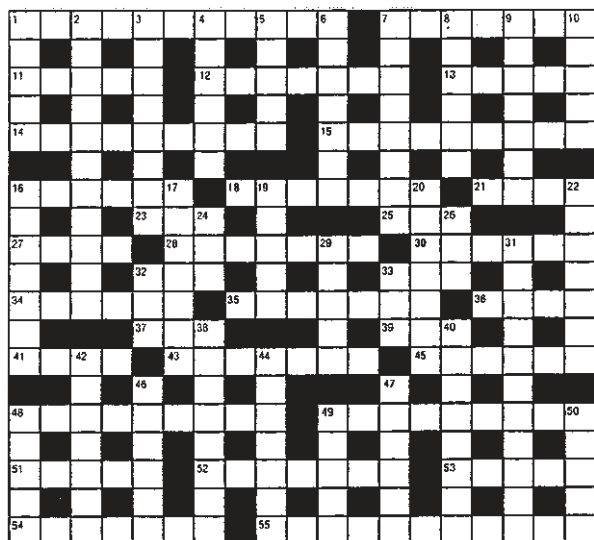
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CROSSWORD Puzzle



ACROSS

- Alliance (11)
- Dipping(biscuits)in tea (7)
- Move aimlessly (5)
- Foolish (7)
- Slacken (3,2)
- Money expert (9)
- Study of word sources (9)
- Variety of fowl (6)
- N.Z. lizard (7)
- Engrave (4)
- Ballad (3)
- Defective bomb (3)
- Kiln (4)
- Tutor (7)
- Silk fabric (6)
- Firearm (3)
- Hovel (3)
- Hot water spring (6)
- Income (7)
- Restrain (4)
- Statute (3)
- Epoch (3)
- Worlds' longest river (4)
- Oscillate (7)
- Loophole (6)
- Retract on opinion(Inf) (4-5)
- Water clock (9)

DOWN

- Beer mug (5)
- Art of paper folding (7)
- Yucca tree fibre (5)
- Military shop (7)
- Social gathering(3-8)
- Italian priest (5)
- Plastic surgery of the nose (11)
- Don Brash heads this party (8)
- Dried grape (6)
- Lift up (5)
- Tolerant (7)
- Area for ship repairs (8)
- Country singer; Willie ... (6)
- Slightly drunk (7)
- Itinerant traveller (5)
- Forced marriage; "... Wedding" (7)
- Unaffected (7)
- Male relative (5)
- Stern (7)
- Flatfish (7)
- Longing (3)
- Algerian Governor (3)
- Leave of absence from school (5)
- Gibberish (6,5)

- Coagulate (3)
- Prosecute (3)
- Lower by cranking (4-4)
- Scottish county (8)
- Reading desk (7)
- Undulating (7)
- Larder (6)
- Sheep breed (6)
- Fundermental (5)
- Map (5)
- Moham and ruler (5)

Solution

Last Year: 18 December 2025

A I R S H I P C H O R E O G R A P H
L E A F U Z N E P A
O S C A R N A R R O W S M O P E D
H I R T A N U I R E
A S T R O N A U T E R R O N E O U S
A W G O E A X
S I L O J O U R N A L A T T I R E
T A N R U E M X
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L E A S E E M B A R G O O K A P I
I N I L O L U C O
C O N S T I T U E N T I M P E T U S

Big victory for Onslow Cricketers

By Frank Neill

Onslow's premier Cricket team kicked off 2026 with a resounding victory over Eastern Suburbs on 10 January.

Batting first on Kilbirnie Park, Onslow scored 339 runs for the loss of seven wickets in the division one match.

They then bowled out Eastern Suburbs for 132.

Two players reached half centuries in helping Onslow reach its big total.

Charlie Jackson scored 86 from only 61 deliveries and Yash Vagadia scored 57.

Lex Catermole contributed 45 runs and Micah Conroy 34 runs.

Elliot Seddon started with the ball, claiming a five wicket bag and finishing with five for 38 after he had scored 22 not out with the bat.

Onslow also scored a big win in their final match of 2025 on 20 December, defeating Petone Riverside.

Batting first on Nairnville Park, the visitors scored 240 for the loss of nine wickets in their 50 overs.

Onslow took just 35 overs and three balls to overtake the total, finishing on 244 for four.

Two Onslow players achieved significant milestones during the match.

Ryan Tsourgas claimed a five wicket bag, finishing with figures of five for 54.

Yash Vagadia then scored a century, finishing with 101 runs after he had earlier taken two Petone Riverside wickets for 36 runs.

Oscar Jackson also starred with the bat, scoring 70 not out and Lex Catermole scored 23 not out.

Onslow's next match is against Taita at Nairnville Park on 17 January, starting at 10:30am.

Karori's premier team, also playing in division one, did not have such a good day on 10 January.

They were comfortably beaten by Upper Hutt United.

Batting first on the Petone Recreation Ground, Karori scored 298 for the loss of eight wickets.

Upper Hutt United lost just three wickets in reaching 303.

Three Karori players passed their half centuries with Dimitri Gamage scoring 82, Shivang Choudhary 66 and Max Parun 51 not out.

Karori were narrowly pipped by Taita in their final 2025 match on 20 December.

Batting first on the Barry Clarke Oval at Fraser Park, Karori reached 268 for the loss of eight wickets.

Taita took until the second to last ball of the match to reach the winning total of 269 for eight.

Shivang starred with the bat for Karori, scoring a century and finishing on 104.

Max came close to a half century, finishing on 49.

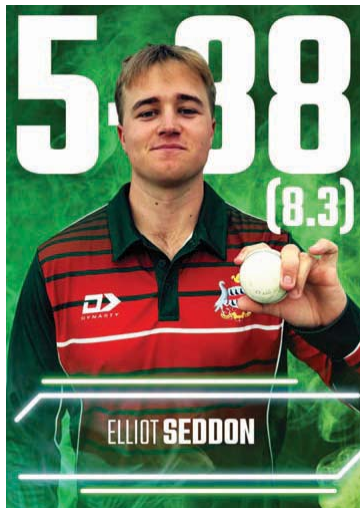
Following his century, Shivang went on to take four wickets for 67 runs.

Yashraj Kalsi also bowled well, taking two wickets for 38 runs.

Karori's next match is against Petone Riverside at the Petone Recreation Ground on 17 January, starting at 10:30am.

Johnsonville's premier Cricketers began the year with a huge victory over the Sri Lankan Sports Club in their division two match on 10 January.

Batting first on Alex Moore Park, Johnsonville scored 275 for the loss of six wickets.



Elliot Seddon, who snared a five wicket bag for Onslow on 10 January. Photo: Supplied.

They then bowled out the Sri Lankans for 114.

Andrew Moir was in great form with the bat, scoring 89 not out after he faced only 64 deliveries.

Janakan Kurunaharan came close to a half century when he scored 49.

Four Johnsonville players took two wickets each – Connor Lusty, Sunny Rana, Sean Wakelin and Ben Stephen.

Johnsonville's next match is against Wellington Collegians Cricket Express at Anderson Park on 17 January, starting at 10:30am.

The Johnsonville women's premier team scored a convincing win over City Suburbs to end 2025.

Batting first on Karori Park, Johnsonville scored 149 for the loss of four wickets.

They then restricted City Suburbs to 116 for eight.

Anvi Verma starred with both the bat and the ball, scoring 59 and taking two wickets for 17.

Cara McCully also took two wickets, at a cost of just 21 runs.

The Johnsonville women next play Petone Riverside at the Petone Recreation Ground on 17 January, starting at 11am.

One local NZCT grant

By Frank Neill

One organisation that operates in the "Independent Herald" circulation area was a recipient of a grant in the latest round of the New Zealand Community Trust's disbursements.

Alex Moore Park Sport and Community Inc was awarded \$24,450 for salary.

The trust disbursed \$559,458.77 in the latest round of funding, announced on 12 January.

One gaming venue in the "Independent Herald's" circulation area contributed to these grants – The Pickle Jar in Karori.

It was one of 17 gaming venues in the greater Wellington region that contributed.

Double honours for local athlete

By Frank Neill

Two honours came the way of local athlete Michael Holdsworth during the Special Olympics New Zealand National Summer Games, held in Christchurch from 10 to 14 December.

Michael was selected as one of the torch bearers to carry the Flame of Hope during the final stages at the games opening ceremony.

He then went on to win a bronze medal in the 50 metres freestyle.

Michael competed in four swimming events, finishing in high places in all four.

He placed fifth in the 100 metres freestyle and sixth in the 50 metres backstroke, and the Wellington team he was a member of were seventh in the 4 x 50 metres freestyle relay.

Michael is a long-standing icon in the Special Olympics movement.

He has been involved in Special Olympics for 37 years and is the only New Zealander, athlete or coach, to have attended every National Winter Games since 1992.

Christchurch saw him competing in his ninth National Summer Games, on top of 10 National Winter Games, two World Winter Games, and many regional and international appearances.



Michael Holdsworth. Photo: Supplied.

He was part of the inaugural Athlete Leadership Programme in 2010 and remains a strong advocate for athlete voice and visibility.

Michael, who has Down Syndrome, was educated at Cashmere Avenue School, Raroa Intermediate School and Onslow College, and now lives in Thorndon.

In 2021, he became the first person with Down Syndrome to receive a Royal Honour, being made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Special Olympics.

As well as the volunteer work he does helping other athletes and with the Khandallah Keas, Michael also works as an assistant librarian with IHC.

Honoured for service to school debating

By Frank Neill

Karori resident Rosemary Dixon was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in the 2026 New Years honours for services to school debating.

Her significant contribution to secondary schools debating began when she and Professor Andrew Stockley established both the New Zealand Schools' Debating Championship and the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Debating Council in 1988.

Both Ms Dixon and Professor Stockley were recognised for their contributions to debating by being awarded an MNZM in this year's honours.

"Back in the day, Wellington had strong both university and adult debating competitions," Ms Dixon says.

"In 1988 we were contacted by Australia, who said they wanted to establish a world schools debating competition and invited New Zealand to send a team.

"I and Andrew Stockley realised that we actually had no means of selecting a truly representative team from New Zealand secondary schools.

"There was no existing competition that would enable us to put together a team that could be seen to represent New Zealand.

"That was the impetus for setting up what was called the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Debating Council and the very first national competition.

"From there we could select the strongest individuals to be a New Zealand team.

"The format we adopted back in 1988 is the one that has basically been retained," Ms Dixon says.

Since then "New Zealand has sent a team [to the world secondary school competition] every year except one year."

New Zealand has also won the competition three times, including winning it two years in a row in 1991 and 1992.

Ms Dixon coached two of the three winning New Zealand teams.

During her long association with debating,



Rosemary Dixon MNZM. Photo: Supplied.

Ms Dixon has been a debater herself, and since then has moved from organising to coaching to representing New Zealand on the world body.

Receiving the New Years Honour was "rather nice," she says.

"It was sort of a surprise ... a very pleasant one."

"In 1988, Ms Dixon was one of the founders of the New Zealand Schools' Debating Council (NZSDC) and the New Zealand Schools' Debating Championships," her citation says.

"NZSDC is the foremost charitable organisation in New Zealand promoting and co-ordinating debating in New Zealand's secondary schools.

"She has volunteered countless hours administering the work of the NZSDC, serving as President from 1991 to 1995 and Treasurer from 1998 to 2005, attending and organising competitions, acting as adjudicator and coaching the national team.

"She coached the national team to World Championship wins twice.

"She was Chair of the organising committee for the 1994 World Championships held in New Zealand.

"She has been an official adjudicator for New Zealand at multiple World Championships and has adjudicated the Grand Final of the World Championships on many occasions.

"Ms Dixon was the first person to be made a Life Member of NZSDC," her citation says.



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different from leaving a window open 24/7. Others are only single glazed or just plastic. By upgrading to double glazing you can retain up to 70% more of your heat. A lot of skylights we come across is simply a piece of glass glued to the roof structure of your home – This is by far inadequate for many reasons including thermal properties and condensation issues, as the moisture has no where to go but get absorbed by the structure of your home. We will assess the entire skylight including the flashings (roof flashings

are what connects the skylight to your roof and keeps all watertight). This will cover if you have adequate condensation channels, drainage, seals, condition of flashings, thermal properties and of course longevity of the skylight/s and the surrounding areas.

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