

# Independent Herald

**SIEVWRIGHTS LAW**  
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

Incorporating Cooper & Co.  
(previously of Johnsonville)

Level 6, Central House,  
26 Brandon Street, Wellington  
Ph: (04) 473-7713  
Email: law@sievwrights.co.nz

Thursday April 23, 2026



Today 7-13



Friday 9-15



Saturday 11-15



Sunday 11-17

Phone: (04) 587 1660

# 250th kiwi release

By Frank Neill

The Capital Kiwi Project will mark a significant milestone with the release of the 250th kiwi onto the hills around Wellington this month.

Just before they are released, the wild North Island Brown Kiwi will be welcomed at Parliament by iwi mana whenua on 28 April.

*Continued on page 2.*

Capital Kiwi Project founder Paul Ward holding a kiwi. Photo: Supplied.

## ABT

### AUTO BUFF 'N' TOUCH

- Mobile brush touch repairs
- Spray paint repairs
- Buffing to a magnificent shine

Call 027 493 9903  
E: [autobuffntouch@gmail.com](mailto:autobuffntouch@gmail.com)



## TACKLE A BIG STEAK!

*Fine Meats Delivered to your Door*

[www.meatdirect.co.nz](http://www.meatdirect.co.nz) 04 479 9491  
[orders@meatdirect.co.nz](mailto:orders@meatdirect.co.nz)



# Be inspired

## SUN 3 MAY MARSDEN OPEN DAY



- Smaller classes
- Exceptional teaching and support
- Rigorous, future-focused learning
- Intentional wellbeing education
- Outstanding academic results

[marsden.school.nz/register](http://marsden.school.nz/register)

Girls Years 1-13, Co-ed Preschool • 2027 scholarships open

Marsden Inspiring Girls



## How to reach us

Independent  
**Herald**

Phone (04) 587 1660

[www.independentherald.co.nz](http://www.independentherald.co.nz)

**REPORTER****Frank Neill**

herald@wsn.co.nz

027 490 3916

**NATIONAL SALES****Les Whiteside**

les@wsn.co.nz

021 360 008

**SALES****Steve Maggs**

steve@wsn.co.nz

027 765 8303

**SALES****Brenda Ingram-Johnson**

brenda@wsn.co.nz

021 640 152

**CLASSIFIED SALES**

classifieds@wsn.co.nz

# National symbol hosted at Parliament

*Continued from page 1.*

"This is the first time that our national symbol has been hosted at Parliament," Capital Kiwi Project founder Paul Ward says. "A spirit of working together – kotahitanga kiwi – has ensured kiwi can again live free on the our hills, where they belong."

Capital Kiwi made its first release of kiwi onto Wellington's hills with 13 birds in November 2022.

That release ended 150 years of kiwi being extinct in the city.

The first release came after The Capital Kiwi Project had engaged in kōrero with iwi and the Department of Conservation to return kiwi to Wellington.

"We're proud to celebrate the results of that collective effort, alongside the partners that have enabled it," Paul says.

Next Tuesday's ceremony at Parliament will mark a milestone in an innovative approach to conservation, he continues.

"The project's initial translocation permit from the Department of Conservation was to release 250 kiwi to the southwest of Wellington.

"These kiwi mark the successful completion of this permit.

"This permit was a leap of faith in a new approach to community-led conservation – restoring our manu taonga alongside people.

"The results have been outstanding, with the project delivering extraordinary survivorship results."

The Capital Kiwi Project not only releases kiwi onto Wellington's hills, it also works to significantly reduce predator numbers.

It has set 4,600 traps across more than 23,000 hectares targeting stoats.

That includes around 2,000 existing Wellington City Council and community traps.

Stoat eradication methodology, used on Fiordland's sanctuary islands, is being deployed at landscape scale for the first time by Capital Kiwi. This requires one trap for every five hectares of land.

"In areas with no pest control over 90% of kiwi chicks die. We've flipped those statistics.

"The project is now an international leader in rewilding," Paul says.

The 28 April release will be the second this month.

Nine birds were released in the Wellington hills on 8 April.

"Bringing together iwi, community and partners at Ōpau Urupā the Taranaki Whānui cemetery down Mākara Road, the evening was a powerful moment of connection as these taonga were welcomed home," Capital Kiwi says on its Facebook page.

"Earlier in the day, four of our team stepped into the role of kiwi couriers, collecting the birds from Waiouru and transporting them home.

"Being trusted with this part of the journey, from pickup through to delivery, was a proud moment



Some of a big group of children who were at Mākara for the last kiwi release earlier this month. Photo: Supplied.

for our team and a unique way to support the safe return of kiwi to Pōneke.

"By nightfall, our wider team gathered alongside our brand ambassadors Mila Reuelu-Buchanan and Du'Plessis Kirifi for the release.

"Together, we were able to witness the moment the boxes opened and the kiwi made their way into the wild.

"Seeing them disappear into the bush and settle into their new habitat is something that will stay with us for a long time."

W · A · K · E · F · I · E · L · D  
**Homestead**  
LIMITED  
*Residential Care - Supported Living*



*"Family working for Families in Tasman"*

The Homestead is in the heart of Wakefield Village.

Helping to make a positive difference in people's lives.

Tel: 03 541 8995

10 Edward Street, Wakefield, Tasman

[www.wakefieldhomestead.co.nz](http://www.wakefieldhomestead.co.nz)



**Greg O'Connor**  
MP for Ōhāriu

With all the uncertainty we are confronted with on a daily basis around the world, especially war in both Ukraine and the Middle East, matters outside New Zealand's control, it's a time for us to be focusing on controlling and fixing those things we can influence.

This is a time when the Government of the day should be concentrating on jobs, health and affordable homes for New Zealanders. What a government should not be doing is concentrating on its own internal squabbles, so it is disappointing to see the leadership infighting

distracting the Government from getting on with the job of minimising the impacts of rising energy prices and looming shortages of oil and gas. And that is not to mention weather events of the sort we have seen here in Wellington and elsewhere around the country.

It is a time for stability, not inward-looking power battles.

New Zealanders are right to expect their politicians to focus on New Zealanders' jobs and concerns—not their own.

There is plenty that needs fixing; let's fix it.

You can contact my office on **04 478 3332** or email [Greg.OConnor@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Greg.OConnor@parliament.govt.nz).



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

# Top apprentice works locally



**Lucas Carroll, Wellington's top building apprentice.** Photo: Supplied.

Lucas Carroll, who works for Karori-based Western Builders Ltd, is Wellington's top building apprentice.

The 23-year-old secured victory in the 16th annual New Zealand Certified Builders Apprentice Challenge Wellington regional heats on April 18.

The competition carried extra meaning for Lucas.

He competed swinging the same hammer once used by his grandfather – a Polish refugee turned New Zealand builder who he credits as his greatest inspiration.

"I was thinking about him a lot today. "If he was still with us, he'd be here to support me. It was pretty special being able to nail off some nails with his hammer."

Lucas finished his build with just a minute to spare.

"It's nice to get the result I was after," he says.

"Now I'm excited to head up to Auckland and represent my company at the finals."

A Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation (BCITO) apprentice, Lucas took home a \$1,000 prize package, courtesy of Mitre 10 Trade and Makita.

The challenge saw apprentices test their carpentry skills in a head-to-head, eight-hour build of a pātaka (community sharing cupboard).

Judges evaluated workmanship, joint



**Lucas Carroll at work on his pātaka during the apprentice challenge.** Photo: Supplied.

accuracy, material efficiency, safe working practices and the ability to follow a detailed plan.

Apprentices built in a public setting, working under time pressure while employers, colleagues and family watched on to see who would come out on top.

New Zealand Certified Builders Chief Executive Malcolm Fleming says the event builds confidence in emerging builders and can be a pivotal milestone early on in their careers.

"We've got apprentices here who show real potential to lead the industry as trade-qualified, certified builders.

"Against the backdrop of a difficult few years in the sector, the challenge is a reminder that the industry has a bright future and that we must keep investing in our apprentices," Malcolm says.

BCITO Chief Executive Jason Hungerford, an event partner, says the challenge is a real-world testament to the hard work invested by both employers and apprentices.

"The Challenge gives apprentices the chance to test their skills, sharpen their craft and stand out in the industry.

"It also reflects the dedication of the employers, training advisors and whānau who have put time and resources into developing the next generation of tradespeople.

"Many of our BCITO apprentices were encouraged to participate in the challenge by their employers and we're excited to see now what all the participants will do with that opportunity," Jason says.

Mitre 10 Head of Trade, Mark Moffitt, whose organisation partners with Makita to provide prizes for the challenge, says the experience was a rewarding one.

"We're pleased to be a major sponsor of this year's challenge. Hosting most of the regional heats and providing a space for apprentices to showcase their skills was a great way to engage with the builders of the future."

The National final will take place at the NZCB annual conference on 5 and 6 June, where finalists will compete in Auckland at the final hour-long build and present to hundreds of leaders in the trade.

The overall winner will take home a \$10,000 prize package, thanks to Mitre 10 Trade, and the winning title as the country's best apprentice.

## NEWS TIPS

Send your tips to [herald@wsn.co.nz](mailto:herald@wsn.co.nz)

### THE Muriel Hopper Art Awards



2025 Winner, Jacky Pearson - The Potter

Art lovers, experience the Hutt Valley's premier art event - the 12th Muriel Hopper Art Awards.

Opens to the public from 23 May to 7 June 2026.

**Hutt Art** 9 - 11 Myrtle Street, Lower Hutt  
Tel. 04 566 0102  
[huttartsociety@xtra.co.nz](mailto:huttartsociety@xtra.co.nz)



**New hand therapy clinic NOW OPEN IN PORIRUA**

Ground floor City Fitness Building  
No charge for ACC claims

**Open 6 days a week**

Book online from our website

Alison Derbyshire is a New Zealand Registered Hand Therapist with 24 years of experience treating hand, wrist and elbow conditions.

**04 237 0229**  
1 Walton Leigh Avenue, Porirua  
[www.handwristandelbow.co.nz](http://www.handwristandelbow.co.nz)



## Greg O'Connor MP for Ōhāriu

Spokesperson for Courts and Veterans' Affairs  
Assistant Speaker

### Get in touch

My office is open 9am - 4pm  
Monday to Friday

**04 478 3332**

[greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz)

2/18 Moorefield Road, Johnsonville, Wellington

[Labour.org.nz/gregoconnor](http://Labour.org.nz/gregoconnor)

/GregOhariu



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

**inbrief news**

**Assistance dogs**

The Assistance Dogs New Zealand Trust (ADNZT) is currently running a fund-raising online silent auction.

All the funds raised by the auction will be used to bring assistance dog puppies into the programme, so that they can move into the life of a young New Zealander who needs them.

Bids can be placed at [www.32auctions.com/ADNZTSilentAuction2026](http://www.32auctions.com/ADNZTSilentAuction2026).

ADNZT is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing purpose-trained Assistance Dogs to enrich the lives of young New Zealanders living with disabilities.

New Zealand's only internationally accredited provider of Assistance Dogs for children under 16, it supports clients with a wide range of needs, including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, brain injuries, Down syndrome, and other neurological and physical disabilities.



Action from 'How is your Heart?' Photo: Supplied.

**Independent Herald**  
 Our community. Our stories. Our voice.  
 Follow us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/IndependentHerald](http://www.facebook.com/IndependentHerald)

# Interactive sculptural project at Waitohi

An interactive sculptural project called 'How is your Heart?' is coming to Waitohi Johnsonville Library.

'How is your Heart?' will run upstairs in the Link Space from 19 to 26 June.

This artist project offers audiences expressive wearable sculptures and drawings to stand in for words, expressing complexity, beauty, hope and fear.

Artist Siân Quennell Torrington will offer one-on-one readings, where people choose from a box of words three that describe how they feel.

These words activate a making process where Siân makes a fast wearable sculpture from drawings and studio fragments, as a gift and marker of this shared moment.

We live in times where feelings swirl around us, too big and complex to feel, too confusing to explain.

Siân offers an alternative to explanations, by inviting people to enter a place where colour and materials can say what we cannot.

These ritual objects offer to make the internal visual, make feelings physical.

Siân uses them to help, connect and reach out to others, knowing that the heart wants to be seen.

When people choose to put them on, they cradle and hold what might have felt incommunicable, or a source of shame – 'feeling too much', 'not wanting to be a burden'.

When the burden is made physical, we are more able to feel care for what we, and others,

are carrying.

On alternate days, racks of wearable sculptures will be in the library to try on.

'How is your Heart?' was commissioned by The Performance Arcade in 2024.

Siân is an artist who explores how to express feelings through drawings and sculptures, interconnectivity, relationships and the possibilities of alternative structures through materials.

Siân has regularly exhibited nationally and internationally, been commissioned to make works for public art institutions, and has been awarded two international and one Aotearoa-based artist residencies.

This project has been funded by the Public Art Fund, Wellington City Council.

**JMC**  
 JOHNSONVILLE MEDICAL CENTRE  
 Your local medical centre  
 Great people, great hours  
 04 920 8850  
 24 Moorefield Road, Johnsonville  
[www.johnsonvillemedical.co.nz](http://www.johnsonvillemedical.co.nz)

**DIGNITY, SENSITIVITY AND THE RESPECT YOUR LOVED ONES DESERVE.**  
 Proud to have served the families of Wellington for over 135 years, we are committed to providing quality, personal service with compassion and integrity. Contact us about pre-planning and pre-payment options.  
 Wellington: 306 Willis Street Ph 385 0745  
 Johnsonville: 7 Johnsonville Road Ph 477 6855  
 Karori: 89 Karori Road Ph 476 6472  
**LYCHGATE FUNERALS**  
[www.lychgate.co.nz](http://www.lychgate.co.nz)

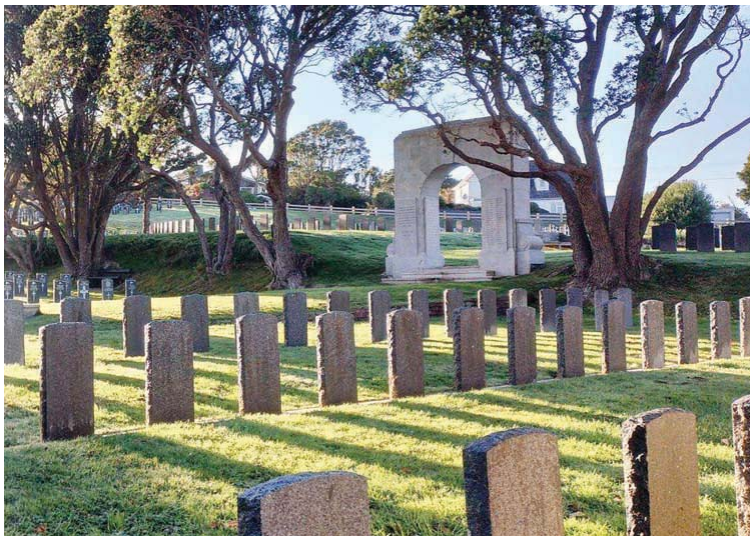


**We Have Moved**  
**Just Blinds**  
 Showroom:  
 405 Hutt Road, Alicetown, Lower Hutt  
**BLINDS FOR YOUR HOME AND OFFICE**  
 • Exciting new fabrics • Wide range of blinds  
 • Colour consultancy • Installation - Repairs  
 • 3 year guarantee  
**FREE measure and quote**  
 Hours: Mon-Fri 9.00am-4:30pm, Sat 10am-2pm  
**TRANSFORM YOUR VIEW TODAY**  
[sales@justblinds.co.nz](mailto:sales@justblinds.co.nz)  
 Ph: 04 472 9920 - [www.justblinds.co.nz](http://www.justblinds.co.nz)

**QUALITY PASSPORT PHOTOS**  
**PHOTOSPACE**  
 37 COURTENAY PLACE  
 Ask JAMES GILBERD about:  
 Profile portraits for business, LinkedIn, etc  
 Photo courses & workshops, digital & film  
 Wedding photography, artwork photos  
 Photo studio & darkroom hire  
[www.photospace.co.nz](http://www.photospace.co.nz)  
[j.gilberd@xtra.co.nz](mailto:j.gilberd@xtra.co.nz)  
 027 444 3899 | 04 382 9502  
[www.passportphotoswellington.co.nz](http://www.passportphotoswellington.co.nz)



**NEWS TIPS**  
 Send your tips to  
[herald@wsn.co.nz](mailto:herald@wsn.co.nz)



Part of the Services section of Karori Cemetery. Photo: Supplied.

# ANZAC talk at Karori Cemetery

Friends of Karori Cemetery are hosting a free ANZAC Day talk at the cemetery at 2:30pm on Saturday 25 April.

Barbara Mulligan will present the 45 minute talk.

She will examine the historical context and the heritage features of the oldest part of the service section of Karori Cemetery.

Barbara will also tell some of the stories of men who fought at Gallipoli but were buried at Karori.

During World War One the National Women's Reserve spent many months lobbying the government to have a dedicated portion of Karori Cemetery set aside as a National Memorial, where those whose sons had died overseas could grieve.

Finally in June 1918 the first service man was buried.

People attending the 25 April talk can meet at the Lychgate on the main road, 500 metres from the gates of the cemetery on Old Karori Road.

Parking is available in the area.

Kapiti Chorale presents:

# J.S. BACH MAGNIFICAT

# M. HAYDN REQUIEM

Sacred choral works with chamber orchestra

Music Director: Eric Sidoti

Sunday 24 May 2026, 3pm  
St Paul's Church, Paraparaumu

Tickets: \$35 · \$15 for students  
Available from Eventfinda, Jenoa (Waikanae), Books & Co., Ōtaki  
Moby Dickens' Books, Paraparaumu Beach  
tickets@kapitichorale.org.nz or (021) 261 2749

## MID SEASON PRICE BLITZ DEALS



www.100percent.co.nz/johnsonville

### Fisher&Paykel 9Kg Series5 Washer

- 21 Wash option Programs
- Flexidose Dispensing System
- Steam Refresh Cycle



**\$1529**  
Latest 5 Star Energy!

### Fisher&Paykel 10Kg Topload Washer

- 14 Wash Programs
- UV Sanitise wash option
- Auto Load Auto Water Level Sensing



**\$1397**  
4.5 Star Energy Savings!

### BOSCH S2 8Kg Washer

- 15 Wash Programs
- EcoSilence Drive Technology
- 1400rpm Final Spin



**\$1297**  
Bosch Quality!

### TCL 7.5Kg washer

- 16 Wash Programs
- Hot Washing Option
- 1400rpm Final Spin



**\$549**  
3 Year Warranty!

### Beko 8Kg Heat Pump Dryer

- 15 Drying Programs
- Optisense Control System
- 8 Star Energy Savings



**\$1029**  
Top Spec, Lowest Price!

### Midea 7Kg Vented Dryer

- 4 Drying Programs
- Dryness Level Control
- Anti Crease Setting



**\$499**  
Best Price Dryer!

### SAMSUNG 65" Crystal Series TV

- Exclusive Samsung Tv Channels
- Crystal 4K processor
- Latest One UI Tizen



**\$1028**  
BIG Tv, Small Price!

### Haier 309L Fridge Freezer

- Multi Zone Airflow-Cooling
- Electronic Temperature Control
- Bright LED Internal Light



**\$999**  
4.5 Star Energy Saving!

### SAMSUNG 310L Fridge Freezer

- All Around Cooling
- Optimal Fresh Compartment
- Power Cool Power Deodorizer



**\$1089**  
Kiwi Edition Fridge!

### Fisher&Paykel 15 Place Dishwasher

- 7 Wash Programs Auto Wash Cycle
- End Wash Auto Door Open
- 46dBA Quiet Operation



**\$1368**  
Popular Choice!

### Midea 14 Place Dishwasher

- 10 Wash Programs
- Hygiene Care Technology
- Half Load Function



**\$699**  
Limited Stock!

### Panasonic 55" OLED TV

- My Smart Home Screen 8.0
- Dolby Vision IQ & Dolby Atmos
- Google Assistance & Alexa



**\$1799** Clearance Deal!

We're Local We Care

100% HOME  
NEWBOLDS

NEWBOLDS JOHNSONVILLE

6-8 Broderick Road, Johnsonville • 478-4988 • Easy Customer Parking



# Belmont bunkers easily explorable



One of the munitions bunkers in Belmont Regional Park.

People can now easily explore the World War Two munitions bunkers, located in Belmont Regional Park.

This follows the recent opening of the Magazine Mile Track in the park, and may provide interested people an ANZAC Day activity.

Built in 1943, the Belmont Munitions Depot was once the country's largest ammunition storage site, chosen for its strategic location near shipping routes and Trentham Military Camp and its safe distance from populated areas.

The depot originally held 62 magazines storing anti-aircraft shells, mortar rounds, grenades and other munitions, including 1,500 tonnes of mustard gas, believed to be the largest store of chemical weapons in New Zealand.

This depot served a vital role in supporting New Zealand and United States troops in the Pacific during World War Two.

The self-led, easy 2.5 km circuit walk to the bunkers winds through open farmland with expansive park views.

It is best accessed from the Hill Road, Lower Hutt entrance to Belmont Regional Park.

Greater Wellington Regional Council recently undertook work to clean out several of the magazines, install gates to keep livestock out and establish the Magazine Mile walking track, allowing visitors to safely reach and explore these structures.

Three of the magazines have now been fitted with interpretive displays that explain the history of the site and the role it played in New Zealand's defence.

Rather than simply encountering unexplained concrete bunkers scattered across the hills, visitors can now step inside selected magazines and discover the story behind them.



The first ANZAC Day commemoration in 1916 at the Petone Railway Station. Photo: Supplied.

## Local history – ANZAC Day

By Felicity Wong

Invited by Wellington Mayor, John Luke (1913-1921), suburban mayors met in March 1916 to discuss how to celebrate ANZAC Day.

Mayor Luke (known as "peanut" for his short stature), said "there ought to be some united effort on the part of the local bodies, and also on the part of the general Government to commemorate Anzac Day".

He said the day was "unique in the history of New Zealand and those who had fallen and died for their homes and country and Empire deserved the fullest and most public recognition."

He also wanted to "pay a tribute to those who had been wounded in that historic struggle and to the parents and relatives of those who had given themselves so ungrudgingly."

Mayor Luke wanted "nothing of a pantomime character about the day's proceedings" and proposed asking churches to hold services in their own churches, and that a combined memorial service be held in the Town Hall ... between noon and 1pm at which hour services could be held in the churches for those who could not go further afield, and a big rally of a patriotic character should be held in the Town Hall at night."

Lower Hutt Mayor, businessman Henry Baldwin (1914-1918) did not think it possible to hold a service at 1 unless the day was made a public holiday.

Mayor Baldwin, however, thought it "quite sufficient if they held a brief memorial service and an open-air service on the following Sunday".

Karori Mayor, businessman Ben Burn (1915-1920) was in favour of the day being declared a public holiday, while Petone's Mayor, John McEwan (1907-1927) demurred.

He thought they were proposing something that "the church ministers themselves should take in hand" and expressed his opposition to having the day made a public holiday.

He said the Petone railwaymen had already exchanged flags with the New South Wales railwaymen and were going to hold a patriotic meeting in Petone on the evening of Anzac Day.

Fred Townsend, Mayor of Miramar (1913-1919), agreed with the proposal to hold a memorial service and thought that the day should be observed as a holiday.

Colin Crump, a businessman and Mayor

of Onslow Borough (1914-1919) said "if we could not show our appreciation of what our flesh and blood did at Gallipoli by observing a holiday, we were very small indeed."

With an eye to propaganda value Crump thought that "if the day was properly observed, good recruiting results would follow."

The holiday seemed secure when Frank Moore, the influential Chairman of the Johnsonville Town Board, agreed that a holiday was necessary to enable them to adequately commemorate the day.

But the Mayor of Eastbourne, James Patrick Kelly (1915-1917), a railwayman, thought the proposed programme was "not sufficient for a whole holiday".

Finally, Lower Hutt Mayor Baldwin moved that the Government be asked to allow the Territorials and all other available troops to parade at the Government Buildings at 2pm and march to the Basin Reserve, where a combined memorial service would be held; to be followed by a patriotic meeting in the evening.

The motion was seconded by Onslow's Mayor Crump and carried.

Wellington Mayor Luke promised to "interview the Prime Minister on the subject without delay".

Some historians have noted the connection with serving political purposes, such as recruitment drives for the appalling "Great War".

Nonetheless it has evolved as a culturally unifying historical event.

ANZAC Day was gazetted as an official half day holiday by the ANZAC Day Act 1920 "in commemoration of the part played by New Zealand troops in World War I and in memory of those who gave their lives for Empire".

The 1920 Act banned holding horse races and required licensed premises to close as for Christmas and Good Friday.

The day was broadened to one of commemoration of the part taken by New Zealand servicemen and women in the Second World War and the Boer War as well as the First World War under the ANZAC Day Act 1949.

It referenced "the British Empire or Commonwealth of Nations" and banned employers from transferring the holiday for employees to another day.

In 1966 a new Act was passed which further broadened its commemoration to all service people including peacekeepers, while continuing to restrict trading until 1pm.

## World premier of 'War Hero'



A scene from the Stagecraft Theatre production of 'War Hero'. Photo: Supplied.

Stagecraft Theatre is presenting the world premiere of 'War Hero' by New Zealand playwright Michael Galvin, inspired by Archibald Baxter's memoir, 'We Will Not Cease'.

It is an unflinching account of Archibald's brutal treatment as a conscientious objector during World War One.

The season opens on Wednesday 6 May and runs to 16 May at Gryphon Theatre, 22 Ghuznee Street.

Coming soon after ANZAC Day, it provides an opportunity to reflect on this important chapter in New Zealand history and the courage of those who chose conscience over compliance.

The production is directed by Murray Lynch and features a stand-out cast of Wellington actors.

Murray says he has wanted to direct this play for some time.

"This play is based on a true story that should be better known," he says.

"With war raging in other parts of the world right now, the play's themes of having the courage to stand up to state coercion and choose peace will resonate with many.

"This resonance is reflected by the calibre of the actors and crew who have been drawn to this project, which is all on a voluntary basis, as well as the support we have received from others in the community."

Murray adds that he was especially drawn to the way Michael Galvin has cleverly brought Baxter's memoir to life in a script that delivers drama, poignancy and even humour, making for a thought provoking and memorable night of theatre.

Best known as an actor who has notably played Dr Chris Warner on Shortland Street, Michael has written several plays and is recognised as a talented playwright, having won the 2007 Bruce Mason Playwriting Award.

Tickets are available at [www.iticket.co.nz](http://www.iticket.co.nz).

# Antique & Estate Jewellery, Bullion, Coins, Watches in Petone



## Heritage Gold

Always buying  
and selling instore



### Visit Us

Imperial Park, Unit 81,  
41 Bouverie Street,  
Petone, Lower Hutt.



### Hours

Mon - Fri: 9:30am - 2:30pm  
Thursday: 9:30am - 4pm

Enter Imperial Park, turn right, go to the North end, and you'll see us.



### Wanted to Buy

#### All Gold & Silver Bullion

- All Gold Jewellery
- Gold and Silver coins and bars
- All Coins and Banknotes
- All Vintage & Old Watches



Please come and see us instore with your items for an on-the-spot appraisal and offer. Please bring your bank details for payment.

We Specialise in Buying & Selling all kinds of Jewellery, Bullion, Coins and Banknotes, Silver and Gold items, and Watches.

Fully licenced with over 50 years industry experience.

Visit us instore or online at [www.heritagegold.nz](http://www.heritagegold.nz)



# Shakespeare Festival celebrating 35 years

By Frank Neill

The Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand Festival, founded in 1991 by Karori resident Dawn Sanders, is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year.

The national festival brings together students from years 7 to 13 from around New Zealand, who present either five minute or 15 minute scenes from a Shakespeare play.

Following regional festivals, held in 24 regions, the top groups compete in the national festival, which will run from 28 May to 1 June this year.

Two of those days – 30 and 31 May – sees the students present public performances at the St James Theatre in Wellington.

“It’s a big year for Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand,” Dawn says.

“We have had more than 150,500 through our festivals over the 35 years nationwide,” Dawn says, noting that the growth has been “exponential” since the first festival in 1992.

The numbers of students involved this year is large, setting new records.

The Wellington regional festival, for example, saw a record 45 groups take part.

Around the country there were a record 539 scenes presented by the students “which is phenomenal,” Dawn says.

“The students are loving it.”

They are, through being involved in working on Shakespeare, seeing “parallels to all sorts of things happening – from Trump to Putin, and boardrooms and things like Apple and Google against each other.

“It’s lovely to see them embracing it and making it their own,” Dawn says.

“So we are creating people who are thinking out of the square, tangentially.

“They are being collaborative.

“They are getting off their devices and



A scene from the Wellington Girls College performances, taken from Shakespeare’s *Richard III*. Photo: Memory of Light Photography.

eyeballing each other without any assistance from electronic means.”

This year has seen 40 performances that were student directed, the highest number ever.

“That shows a real braveness to boss your

peers around, and to be able to receive other people’s input so they can press onwards,” Dawn says.

The SGCNZ festivals provide significant learnings in the art of performance for both those on stage and those who are backstage.

“So it’s a real wrap around type of learning experience,” Dawn says.

“We are very much creating people for the industry, certainly not just Shakespeare actors.”

Indeed many have moved from taking part in the SGCNZ festivals to other sectors of the entertainment industry.

“I have connections daily with people around the world and they say ‘guess what I am doing now and it’s thanks to being with SGCNZ.’”

This is what SGCNZ is all about, as shown in its vision statement: “to transform lives by mentoring potential through experiencing Shakespeare.”

The mentoring is a big part of what it does, mentoring students in all aspects of the

productions, from on stage to back stage and even essay writing.

Over the last 34 years 1,370 students have been selected to attend SGCNZ National Shakespeare Schools Production and 668 have been chosen to go to The Globe as members of SGCNZ Young Shakespeare Company.

Some 8,500 have been involved in SGCNZ’s other programmes. These include 1,930 primary age students who have performed in SGCNZ’s ‘Primarily Playing with Shakespeare’ since it began 12 years ago.

Just over 550 have participated in ‘Dance Nimble Soles’ performances since they began in 2019.

One school in the ‘Independent Herald’ area will feature in this year’s National Festival.

Wellington Girls College will present a scene from *Richard III*.

Photographs of the Wellington Girls College performance are at [www.memoryoflight.co.nz/Galleries/SGCNZ/SGCNZ-Wellington-Regional-Festival-2026](http://www.memoryoflight.co.nz/Galleries/SGCNZ/SGCNZ-Wellington-Regional-Festival-2026).

## Bendy bus test run to Karori



Passengers lining up for the test run of the bendy bus. Photo: Quentin Duthie.

A bendy bus made a Karori trip on 15 April to test bus stop adjustments made to stops on the Route 2 from Karori to Courtenay Place.

A number of Wellington City and Greater Wellington Regional Councillors took the ride on the bus, including Greater Wellington Councillor Quentin Duthie.

Cr Duthie has rated the test run a success. “I reckon our five EV bendies plying the Route 2 from next year will quickly become part of the public transport furniture,” he said following the run.

“I once feared the long tail swinging around corners and the risk to parked cars, pedestrians and cyclists.

“But, counter-intuitively, it actually

swings out less than a normal bus.

“It dutifully follows like a trailer does a car.

“We detoured back from Karori via Kelburn and it handled the hairpin corners and narrow roads quite fine,” Cr Duthie says.

Bendy buses, also known as electric articulated vehicles, are planned to join the Metlink bus fleet early next year.

Five of the buses will be introduced on Route 2 between Karori and Courtenay Place.

This is Wellington’s busiest bus route.

The bendy buses will carry 112 passengers, about 65% more than a single deck bus, and are designed to improve both capacity and comfort for passengers.



Karori resident Dawn Sanders, who established the iconic Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand Festival 35 years ago. Photo: Supplied.



# WE ARE BUYING NOW!

**UNWANTED OR BROKEN GOLD & SILVER  
JEWELLERY, COINS, WAR MEDALS,  
OLD BANKNOTES AND VINTAGE WATCHES**

**DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THE ABOVE?**

**GETTING OLDER? NEED TO START GETTING RID OF THINGS?  
THEN ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS...**

- Shouldn't I be selling now at these extremely high gold and silver prices?
- Isn't money better off in my pocket rather than having things sitting around?
- Will the kids or grandchildren really want or appreciate them?
- Shall I give them the items or give them the money instead?
- Will a museum really want them considering how much they already have in storage?
- Will they be secure in an earthquake or other disaster?
- Do I have the expertise or inclination to try and sell them myself on the internet?

**YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS - WE WANT TO BUY - SO CASH IN NOW!**

## JOHN BERTRAND (COLLECTABLES) LIMITED

LEVEL 1, HARCOURT'S BUILDING  
215 MAIN ROAD, TAWA  
WELLINGTON 5028

**CALLERS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY PLEASE - AMPLE FREE STREET PARKING**

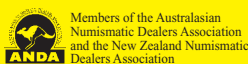
Please bring suitable photo ID and bank account details

Tel: 04 232 9832 Or email: [info@bertrand.co.nz](mailto:info@bertrand.co.nz)



**JOHN BERTRAND™**  
COLLECTABLES LTD

*John Bertrand - The Trusted name in Numismatics Since 1965*



## GWRC Deputy Chair passes away

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) is deeply saddened by the sudden passing of its Deputy Chair, Councillor Adrienne Staples.

Adrienne's contribution to regional leadership and public service was significant and enduring, GWRC Chair Daran Ponter says.

"Adrienne brought a clear rural perspective to the council table, grounded in lived experience and a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our regions.

"She was generous with her time, thoughtful in her advice, and unwavering in her commitment to serving her community.

"She will be greatly missed around the Council table by her fellow Councillors, by iwi and fellow champions of the rural sector. "Our region has lost a strong voice and personally I have lost a good friend," Cr Ponter says.

Greater Wellington Chief Executive Nigel Corry acknowledged Adrienne's leadership and the respect she had across the organisation.

"Adrienne was a principled leader who worked constructively with elected members and staff alike," Nigel says.

"Her focus on practical outcomes – particularly for rural communities – helped shape better decisions for the region."

Adrienne was recognised regionally, nationally and internationally for her work.

She was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, for services to local



Adrienne Staples. Photo: Supplied.

government, and was also awarded the Order of the Rising Sun by the Japanese government, in recognition of her promotion of Japanese–New Zealand friendship and mutual understanding.

A by-election for GWRC's Wairarapa seat will be held in the coming weeks.

For now the Regional Council asks that people remember and acknowledge Adrienne for her service, her leadership, and her enduring commitment to the communities of Wairarapa and the wider Wellington Region.

## Arts awards exhibition

Art lovers across the Wellington region can experience the Hutt Valley's premier art event when the 12th Muriel Hopper Art Awards exhibition opens to the public from 23 May to 7 June at the Hutt Art Galleries in Lower Hutt.

The Muriel Hopper Art Awards have become a highly-competitive cornerstone of the local arts calendar, showcasing the richness and diversity of creative talent from across the Hutt Valley.

The exhibition brings together a wide range of selected original works, spanning both two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, and offers visitors the chance to engage with contemporary art created within their own community.

This year's exhibition promises to be particularly compelling, with a strong field of artists expected to present work that reflects a variety of styles, subjects, and approaches.

From bold, expressive pieces to finely detailed works, the exhibition highlights the depth of artistic practice thriving in the region.

A key highlight of the Awards is the involvement of three nationally renowned judges, each highly respected in their field.

Their expertise ensures that the awards recognise not only technical excellence, but also originality, creativity and the ability to connect with audiences.

The judges will award several prizes, including the Overall Winner and Highly Commended Awards, identifying standout works from across the exhibition.

In addition to the judged awards, visitors themselves will have the opportunity to take part by voting in the People's Choice Award. Located at 9–11 Myrtle Street, the Hutt Art Galleries provide an accessible and welcoming space to explore the exhibition.

Visitors can expect a thoughtfully curated display that reflects both the individuality of each artist and the collective strength of the local arts community.

The Muriel Hopper Art Awards exhibition is more than just a competition – it is a celebration of creativity, originality, and the enduring importance of human-made art.

At a time when authenticity and artistic voice are increasingly valued, the exhibition offers a meaningful opportunity to connect with works that are entirely the product of human imagination and skill.

## City nature challenge starting

Wellingtonians are being encouraged to join the annual global City Nature Challenge by documenting biodiversity in the region.

Wellington joins hundreds of other cities around the world taking part in this year's four-day challenge.

The City Nature Challenge begins tomorrow, 24 April and runs for four days, finishing on 27 April.

People can get involved by reporting and logging sightings of wild plants, creatures and other organisms, living or dead, on the land, in the water, and from the coast to the hills.

People may potentially discover a new species which informs how we protect and enhance the ngahere.

Aotearoa New Zealand has nearly 80,000 native species, and Wellington's native biodiversity is bouncing back due to long standing efforts from projects like Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne Ecosanctuary, Capital Kiwi and Predator Free, plus support from thousands of local volunteer groups.

Last year more than 18,500 observations were uploaded on the iNaturalist app in the Wellington region, and a total of 2,715 species were recorded by 360 observers. The full results from the 2025 campaign are on the iNaturalist website.

Wellington is one of a handful of cities in the world where native bird biodiversity is increasing.

Native birds continue to increase and out-number introduced species in Wellington's forests thanks to the efforts of conservation organisations, council ecological programmes, volunteer communities, and the Predator Free movement.



A kereru in a local garden. Photo: Frank Neill.

How do you count birds when they don't exactly line up for a census?

A standard counting method that is used in New Zealand a lot is the "five minute bird count," Wellington ecologist Nikki McArthur says.

"All we do is stand at [a location] for five minutes and record every individual bird that we see and hear."

By listening for calls and scanning a 360° radius, ecologists can track population changes over time, but they rely heavily on everyday people (aka "citizen scientists") to help.

The Council's City Nature Challenge page has event listings and people can join Wellington's 2026 Project page on iNaturalist to keep up to date with the action.

Whether exploring close to home, in the garden, around the coast or local reserves, or nature hotspots like Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne Ecosanctuary or Wellington Gardens, always remember to treat wildlife and nature with respect, and leave no trace.

## Man dies in south Karori

By Frank Neill

The huge rainfall that hit Wellington on Sunday night and Monday led to the death of a man in south Karori.

Philip Sutton was reported missing early on Monday 20 April, leading to an extensive search for him on Monday and yesterday, 22 April.

At about 11am yesterday Mr Sutton's Suzuki Swift was found in Karori stream, Wellington District Prevention Manager Inspector Fleur de Bes says.

About an hour later searchers discovered the body of a man further along the coast.

"Formal identification procedures are yet to be carried out but we believe the body is that of Mr Sutton and have notified his loved ones," Inspector de Bes says.

"This is not the outcome any of us were hoping for, and our thoughts are with his family and friends at this awful time.

"I also want to sincerely thank the members of the community for their concern and assistance, and also acknowledge the dedication of the specialist search crews and emergency teams who have worked in challenging and dangerous conditions to locate Mr Sutton." The Police will be investigating on behalf of the Coroner.

"Emergency services were contacted about 7.15am [on 20 April] by a concerned resident who had not been able to make contact with him.

"Search and Rescue teams spent hours at Philip's Karori South Road residence [on Monday], clearing the property and nearby areas.

"They have operated in challenging conditions but unfortunately have been unable to find him," Inspector Fleur de Bes said on Monday. Police discontinued the search on Monday



Philip Sutton, who died during the heavy rain that hit Wellington on Monday. Photo: Police NZ.

evening.

They then visited the scene on Tuesday morning to assess stream conditions.

However the physical search activities that were expected to take place on Tuesday were unable to go ahead due to safety concerns, Inspector de Bes says.

The search began again just after 8am on 22 April, supported by specialist teams, including canyon Search and Rescue, the Dive Squad, a dog unit and drone.

South Karori experienced some serious damage to houses, vehicles and other property during Monday's storm, Wellington City Emergency Controller Vaughan Condron says.

A red rain warning was issued for Wellington, and the Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office declared a state of emergency on 20 April due to the torrential rain.

In fact a new record was set on 20 April when 77mm of rain came down in one hour.

**Independent Herald**  
Our community. Our stories. Our voice.

Follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/IndependentHerald](https://www.facebook.com/IndependentHerald)

So much to do in

# KAPITI ★



## The Kāpiti Coast – where shopping has its own character

Just 40 minutes from Wellington, the pace shifts. The streets are quieter, and the experience becomes less about rushing between stores and more about discovering what's there. A morning trip up the coast turns into something slower, a coffee, a wander, a few unexpected finds along the way.



One of the exhibitions on display at Mahara Gallery

In Paekākāriki, The Wobbly Pot sets the tone. Colourful, creative, and a little unexpected, it's part gallery, part café, the kind of place that invites you to linger. Not far along, Love Stomp Coffee & Flowers pairs great coffee with fresh blooms, creating a space that feels thoughtful without trying too hard.

Head further north and you'll start to feel the rhythm of the coast settle in. Toi Mahara Gallery offers a moment to slow down, light-filled, quietly striking, and grounded in the stories of local and national artists. Nearby, NZ Native Oils brings the landscape into everyday rituals, with products crafted from native botanicals.

In Paraparaumu Beach and Waikanae, a collection of independent boutiques gives Kāpiti its own distinct retail edge. Artel Gallery showcases evolving art and design, while Hendrix Lifestyle Store offers a

curated mix of homewares and lifestyle pieces that feel modern, considered, and far from mass-produced.

For fashion, Milk + Ginger and Paperdoll bring a more personal approach, the kind of places where you're guided, not sold to, and where the right piece tends to find you.

And at The Wilderness, it all comes back to the coast. Natural textures, earthy tones, and pieces that reflect the environment you're in, relaxed, thoughtful, and quietly confident.

That's what makes Kāpiti's shopping scene worth the trip. It's not about scale, it's about feel. You're not moving from one big-name store to the next, you're wandering, discovering, and letting the day unfold.

Because here, shopping isn't just about what you take home.

## Michael Houstoun - The Masterpiece Concert

On Sunday 17 May the Waikanae Music Society will present New Zealand's most acclaimed pianist Michael Houstoun with his "Masterpiece Concert", described by the pianist himself as "music to defy time". The concert opens with Bach's longest, most complex keyboard suite known as "The French Overture". It will be followed by one of Beethoven most profound late sonatas, Opus 109 in E Major.



The second part of the concert features Ravel's Gaspard de la nuit – a set of three

descriptive and incredibly demanding pieces. To complete the concert is another exciting showpiece – the Busoni transcription of Bach's famous violin Chaconne in D minor.

To have any one of these four works is enough to draw the crowds to a concert, to have all four on the same programme is beyond belief. The concert, played on the Waikanae Music Society's beautiful Fazioli piano, will be in the Waikanae Memorial Hall,

2.30pm, Sunday 17 May. Enquiries [www.waikanaemusic.org.nz](http://www.waikanaemusic.org.nz)

## Jenny Turnbull potter and ceramicist

Jenny Turnbull is part of a group of potters who are interested in reduction atmospheric firings of salt and soda, using different clays and glazes to achieve interesting surface effects, on porcelain and stoneware.

Each piece is individual, not repeatable, making them one-off pieces of ceramic art. Also available is gas fired porcelain domestic ware, framed lithography printed tiles and travel cups and gift boxed pottery – ideal for that very special gift.

## Kapiti Kiln Services

Kiln Services in Nikau Valley have spent over 30 years maintaining and installing kilns. Brent Russell from Kiln Services said "I am seeing resurgence in the craft after

the hit it took from cheap imports". "People now appreciate well-made craft pottery, and schools see the benefits of clay work for pupils.



## Jennifer Turnbull: Jailhouse Pottery

Hand-made domestic and decorative pottery

Phone: 021 2957 473  
3 Iiti Street, Otaki

JENNIFER TURNBULL

- Restaurant
- Craft Beers
- Accommodation

Live Music 4–6pm  
next session this Sunday



**finn's**  
PAEKAKARIKI

Right next to Paekakariki Station!  
2 Beach Road, Paekakariki  
Phone: 04 292 8081  
OPEN TUESDAY-SUNDAY 10AM-9PM



## MICHAEL HOUSTOUN

"MASTERPIECE CONCERT"

Bach: French Overture  
Beethoven: Sonata Op 109  
Ravel: Gaspard de la Nuit  
Bach/Busoni: Chaconne

Sunday 17 May, 2.30pm  
Waikanae Memorial Hall

Public \$50, Members \$40 and Students \$10.  
Door sales available or tickets from:  
Waikanae New World or  
Moby Dickens Books (Paraparaumu Beach)  
Phone 04 905 6070  
[www.waikanaemusic.org.nz](http://www.waikanaemusic.org.nz)

## BRENT RUSSELL KILN SERVICES



A Complete kiln support service. From design and installation, to repairs and rebuilding of fibre and brick/metal work, to control systems, support and advice.

Over 30 years' experience in Wellington Nationwide by arrangement

Ph: 04 9050729 Cell: 027 664 9280  
email: [houscene@gmail.com](mailto:houscene@gmail.com)



## Wellington's destination for yarn and wool products

Kapiti Knitting and Lotto is a lovely shop down Sunny Paraparaumu Beach. We have something for everyone. Wool, Haberdashery, Giftware, New Zealand souvenirs and Lotto.

Open Monday to Saturday

24 Maclean Street, Paraparaumu Beach | Phone 04 902 5455

# Karori author launches new book

By Frank Neill

Prolific Karori author Julia Millen will launch her new book, 'The Lost Climber's Legacy' at Unity Books at 6pm on 29 April.

Julia is a writer, historian and biographer. Her career spans more than 40 years, with notable titles including 'Dilemma of Dementia' (1985), her moving account of caring for her mother who suffered from Alzheimer's Disease.

She has published a collection of short stories, and many others have appeared in journals.

Julia has produced a range of books on social history, from the Royal New Zealand

land Corps of Transport to the Kirkcaldie and Stains department store.

She is known for her literary biography of novelist Ronald Hugh Morrieson, and has written for television and radio, particularly for the Concert programme.

Julia has been a libretto writer for two New Zealand operas, 'Hypatia' and 'The Golden Salamander'.

Julia's new novel tells a story about Auckland fashion designer Deirdre Smythe.

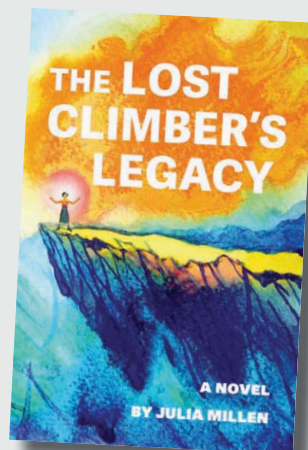
One busy afternoon in her studio Deirdre receives a phone call from the police.

The remains of a mountaineer, killed 30

years earlier in a fall on Mount Tasman, have been discovered on a glacier in New Zealand's Southern Alps.

The body could be that of a ski-mountaineering instructor who was Dee's one-time lover.

While coping with her grown daughter, who suffers from a mysterious ailment, and her demented mother, who resides in a rest home, Deirdre's memory is jogged by the phone call to reconstruct the events around the time of the alpine disaster, and recreate her relationship with her ex-husband and climbing mates into an exotic, award-winning wearable artwork while she envisages her future.



The cover of Julia Millen's new novel.



## Talk to your LOCAL PHARMACY



What is cholesterol and why is high cholesterol bad for you? Find out how high cholesterol can affect your heart and how to lower it.

### What is cholesterol?

Cholesterol (matū ngako) is a fat-like substance in your blood. It comes from two places: some is made naturally by your liver, and some comes from the food you eat.

Cholesterol isn't always 'bad'. Your body needs some cholesterol to work properly. It uses it to develop cells and hormones, and to process and digest fats. But, if the amount of cholesterol in the blood gets too high, it can cause a heart

attack or stroke.

### Types of cholesterol

There are two types of cholesterol: Low-density lipoprotein (LDL cholesterol) and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL cholesterol).

LDL cholesterol is sometimes called 'bad cholesterol'. When you have too much LDL cholesterol it builds up in the arteries (the blood vessels that carry blood and oxygen around the body).

The build-up of cholesterol causes lumps of hard fat called plaque to form on the artery walls. These can break off, block the artery, and cause heart attacks and strokes.

HDL cholesterol is the 'good' cholesterol. It works like a cleaner, carrying LDL cholesterol out of the arteries to your liver, where it is broken down and used by the body.

Triglycerides are another type of fat in your blood. When we eat or drink our body turns any energy (calories) that it doesn't need into triglycerides, which are then stored in fat cells.

Triglyceride levels normally rise after we've eaten, but when we consume more energy than our body needs they stay at a high level, rather than returning

to normal.

This is particularly true if our diet includes lots of refined sugar. This includes foods high in added sugar, like sweets, baked goods and chocolate, low fibre carbohydrates, like white bread, and alcohol and fizzy drinks, which include lots of extra sugar.

Like cholesterol, high triglycerides can increase the amount of plaque (hard fat) in the artery walls.

The only way to measure cholesterol is to get a blood test. Sometimes your doctor will call this blood test a 'lipid profile' or 'lipid test'. Lipid is another word for fat, so this test includes your cholesterol and your triglyceride levels.

### When should I get my cholesterol levels checked?

If you haven't had a cholesterol test before, talk to your doctor or nurse about when you should have one.

If you're at high risk of heart attack or stroke because of your or family's health history, then you may need one at a younger age.

Cholesterol tests are given routinely as part of a heart health check.



## MANAGING HIGH CHOLESTEROL

### KELBURN PHARMACY



#### Opening hours:

Monday - Friday 8am-5.30pm,  
Sat 9am-2pm

1 Upland Road, Kelburn

Phone 04 475 9512

Email: Kelburn@psl2022.nz

### Unichem Johnsonville

Ear piercing  
Instant Passport photos  
Vaccinations  
Diagnostic + Health checks  
Unit dose packaging  
Smoking Cessation

Mon - Fri: 9am - 7pm

Sat: 9am - 6pm

Sun: 10am - 5pm

59 Johnsonville Road

P: 04 477 9513

F: 04 477 1963

Located between  
Countdown & the Warehouse  
Johnsonville

### UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

## Johnsonville Medical Centre Pharmacy



#### OPENING HOURS:

Mon-Wed: 8:30am - 8pm

Thurs/Fri: 8:30am - 6:00pm. Sat: 9:30am - 12:30pm

2 Trafalgar Street, JOHNSONVILLE

Michele Thompson

Phone: 920-8844

To advertise on this Page contact Brenda NOW

Brenda Ingram-Johnson Sales M: 021 640 152 E: [brenda@wsn.co.nz](mailto:brenda@wsn.co.nz)



### Unichem Cuba Mall

Open 7 days

122 Cuba Mall • P: 384 6856 • F: 382 9180

Mon- Fri 8am-6pm Sat 9-5  
Sun and Public Holidays 10-5

Unichem  
Your local health professional



# Authors answer important questions

All Wellington City Libraries branches will be closed on Anzac Day Saturday 25 April and on Monday 27 April.

The Ockham Awards author panel of Tracy Farr and Duncan Sarkies will present at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library on Friday 1 May from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

The Ockham New Zealand Book Awards celebrate and highlight some of our country's brightest literary talents.

This panel will be authors asking other authors the big, deep important questions about their work, practice and creative life, providing a unique, intimate and in-depth insight into the creative processes behind their award nominated works.

Tracy Farr's debut novel, 'The Life and Loves of Lena Gaunt' was longlisted for Australia's Miles Franklin Literary Award, shortlisted for the Barbara Jefferis Award and Western Australian Premier's Book Awards.

'Wonderland' is her third novel and is set in and during the time of Miramar's Wonderland.

Duncan Sarkies is a writer of novels, theatre and screen stories for film and television.

He has been recognised with the Best First Book of Fiction Award at the New Zealand Book Awards for 'Stray Thoughts and Nosebleeds', and the Bruce Mason Playwriting Award.

Duncan's screenplays include the very well known 'Scarflies', and the adaptation of his first novel, 'Two Little Boys'.

His television work includes writing for 'Flight of the Conchords' and 'What We Do in the Shadows'. 'Star Gazers' is his third novel.

This is a free event and all are welcome.

"We expect this event to be popular and seating is limited. Please arrive early to ensure a seat," Wellington City Libraries says.

# Council consulting on draft budget

Public consultation is now open on Wellington City Council's draft budget for the coming financial year (the 2026/27 Annual Plan).

The draft budget reduces the forecast rates rise from 12.7% to 7.4% by reducing some spending and increasing revenue.

"We have proposed options to make a more affordable city and keep rises as low as possible, while prioritising services and community facilities, jobs and the economy, and environmental protection," Mayor Andrew Little says.

"I want every Wellingtonian to give feedback on the Council's draft budget.

"That will help us to protect the community facilities and services people really care about, while also keeping rates rises as low as possible."

"Consultation gets underway at a time when fuel prices have risen quickly, which puts pressure on households, and the Council," Councillor Diane Calvert, Chair of the Council's Te Taurapa Planning and Finance Committee, says.

"It's all the more reason to participate and give feedback, because Councillors need to know what's most important to Wellingtonians when final budget decisions are made in May."

The consultation document, submission forms and answers to common questions are available at [www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/mahere-tau-annual-plan-202627](http://www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/mahere-tau-annual-plan-202627).

Printed copies and submission boxes are also available in Wellington City Libraries.

The Council is required to consult on certain key changes. These are:

- introducing a rating change for short-term accommodation providers;
- changes to the roll-out of the Paneke Pōneke Bike Network Plan;
- increases to fees for contaminated waste;
- increases to cremation fees;
- introducing new room hire fees for Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library and Toi Pōneke; and
- increases to fees for marinas, berths and recreation centres.

The consultation period closes at 5pm on Sunday 10 May.

Following the consultation oral hearings will take place between 14 and 19 May.

Committee and Council Deliberations will be held on 27 May and the final plan will be adopted on 25 June.

# LOCAL TRADES TRUST A LOCAL



Try the Independent Herald - we get results!

Phone **BRENDA** today on **021 640 152** or email [brenda@wsn.co.nz](mailto:brenda@wsn.co.nz)



## NEWS TIPS

Send your tips to [herald@wsn.co.nz](mailto:herald@wsn.co.nz)

### BUILDERS

#### BUILDER

LBP

Qualified for:  
Alterations,  
Additions  
Refurbishment,  
Repairs

Ph Allan Johnstone:

973 1239  
027 450 3239



### BUILDERS



- Professional • reliable
- high-quality work
- licensed building practitioners

Our services include home renovations, alterations, kitchens, bathrooms, maintenance and repairs. No job is too small.

Ph: 04 390 1351  
[www.citybuilders.co.nz](http://www.citybuilders.co.nz)

### ADVERTISING

TO ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE CONTACT **BRENDA NOW**

**BRENDA**  
Sales  
M: 021 640 152  
E: [brenda@wsn.co.nz](mailto:brenda@wsn.co.nz)

### ADVERTISING

Book yours with **BRENDA** today on **021 640 152** or email at [brenda@wsn.co.nz](mailto:brenda@wsn.co.nz)

### CARPET & VINYL

David & Maria's **CARPET & VINYL SALE NOW ON** For A No Obligation **FREE MEASURE & QUOTE**

7 Strathmore Ave, Strathmore Park, Wellington  
Ph: (04) 388 7969  
E: [dmcarpets@gmail.com](mailto:dmcarpets@gmail.com)

### PLUMBING

#### CRAFTSMAN PLUMBER

Certified Plumber and Drainlayer  
Graham Plumbing & Drainage Ltd

Plumbing, Drainlaying, Roofing and Spouting. Blocked drains. Burst pipes. Repairs and Leaks. Black Dux Qest pipe replacement. Maintenance. Kitchens. Bathrooms. Replacing hot water cylinders.

Phone 027 4574 999 or 970 2409  
Email: [jokagraham3@gmail.com](mailto:jokagraham3@gmail.com)

### PAINTER

#### Graham's Painters

Exterior / Interior  
Experienced tradesmen and large team  
**Autumn is here!!!**

Now is the time to get your House Exterior painted

Available for Interior work too.

~ Pensioner Discounts ~

Email: [grahampaintersnz@gmail.com](mailto:grahampaintersnz@gmail.com)  
[www.grahampainters.nz](http://www.grahampainters.nz)  
Ph (04) 564 9202 or 021 183 9492

### RUBBISH

#### RUBBISH & GREEN WASTE REMOVAL



Whiteware, appliances, furniture & recyclables  
Free quotations  
Ph Sam on

**021 0252 7361**

[Samsrubbishnz@gmail.com](mailto:Samsrubbishnz@gmail.com) No job too small!!

### BLOCKED DRAINS



"Great communication for work completed with replacing our guttering, & drainage for a new soak pit. Very satisfied with the work completed thanks."  
-Robert

- Drain Re-Laying
- Drain Maintenance & Repairs
- Blocked Drains
- CCTV Inspection
- Soak Pits
- New Builds

Call Now 027 844 6899 | [www.doubledzdrainage.com](http://www.doubledzdrainage.com)



# Wharfies women remain unbeaten

By Hamish Wareham

Despite atrocious conditions on Saturday throughout the whole region, first game out the gates on Saturday saw the two remaining unbeaten teams in the women's central league do battle at Memorial Park as Petone hosted Waterside Karori.

Both sides had been scoring goals for fun in the first three weeks of the season, so had a fine day beckoned then this could have been a real high scorer.

Sophie Burchfield opened the scoring for Waterside Karori in the 17th minute, before Renee Bacon scored against the side she participated in the National League for last year giving the visitors a 2-0 halftime lead.

Ellen Flett halved the deficit for Petone just five minutes into the second half, but despite camping Karori in their own half for the majority of the second half Petone were unable to find an equalizer and succumbed to their first defeat of the season 2-1 to Waterside Karori.

Elsewhere on Saturday, Wellington United thrashed Victoria

University 9-2 at Newtown Park.

Taradale won a battle of the Central Districts clubs as they beat Palmerston North Marist 3-2.

Meanwhile on Sunday Miramar Rangers picked up their first win of the women's season 2-0 at home against Palmerston North United.

Friday sees the blockbuster clash in the women's league take place as United host Karori at Newtown Park with kickoff at 7pm.

The men's fixture followed the same scoreline but in reverse, as former Wharfies striker Harry Lamont put Petone ahead in the 21st minute.

That was cancelled out just five minutes later by a new Karori arrival Oscar Crowe with the game going into halftime locked at 1-1.

Ashtun Lake scored his maiden central league goal in the 64th minute to put Petone 2-1 up and they looked destined to take three points until a 90th minute penalty gave Karori the golden chance to level things up through captain Tomas Alvarado.

His spot kick was denied by

young Petone goalkeeper, Luca Siegel diving down low to his left and parrying the ball away, leaving Karori in search of their first win of the season for yet another weekend.

A big game beckons this Saturday though, as they face the only other winless side, Taranaki-based FC Western at Karori Park at 1pm.

It wasn't about how you finish but how you start this past Saturday for TFS North Wellington at Alex Moore Park.

After back to back defeats in away fixtures to Palmerston United and Lower Hutt a win seemed in the bag after 23 minutes when goals by Miles Woodhall, Jerram Tuck and Lachlan Millar had North Wellington cruising at 3-0 up.

Winless opponents Douglas Villa came roaring back into the contest and goals just before halftime and in the 90th minute made for a nervous final few minutes for North Wellington who hung on for just their second win of the season moving up to fourth on the table with a trip to Napier on the cards this weekend to face Taradale on Saturday at 3pm.



Waterside Karori players celebrating their victory over Petone on 18 April. Photo: Supplied.

# Hawks gain convincing win

By Frank Neill

The Johnsonville Hawks claimed their first win of the 2026 Rugby season when they defeated the Wellington Axemen 23-3 at Helston Park on 18 April.

The convincing victory saw them win the Mick Kenny Memorial Trophy, contested between the two clubs.

The home team began the Swindale Shield match strongly, and it was not long before first five eight Niall Delahunt scored the game's first try and converted it to give his team a 7-0 lead.

The Axemen replied with a penalty in what would be their only score in the match.

As half time approached Jacob Walmsley scored a try and Niall kicked a penalty to give the Hawks a 15-3 half time lead.

Niall added to Johnsonville's score with another penalty, giving them a 15 point buffer.

With less than five minutes to play Jacob Kennedy picked up the ball when the Axemen knocked it on and ran more than half the length of the field to score.

The Hawks prop, Haamea Ahio, chalked up a milestone in the match when he led his team onto the field to take part in his 150th game for the club.



Niall Delahunt kicks more points for the Johnsonville Hawks. Photo: Supplied.

# School celebrating 120 years

By Frank Neill

Newlands Primary School is celebrating 120 years.

To mark the occasion the school's Tumauki/Principal Shirley Porteous had written a history of the school.

Named 'The History of Newlands Primary School: He tangata, he tangata, he tangata! (1906-2026)' the book will be launched in the school hall on Wednesday 6 May.

The evening will run from 6pm, with the book launch starting at 6:30pm.

"This premium 120th anniversary publication is more than just a timeline," the school says.

"It is a vibrant celebration of the people who built our community.

"From the very first classroom in 1906 to the familiar faces of our current students, every page captures the unique spirit of our kura."

Those attending the book launch will be able to explore the school history archives, enjoy canapés and light refreshments and hear Shirley share insights and highlights from writing the school's 120-year history.

Shirley will be available to sign pre-purchased copies of the book.

Registration for the book launch and a book order form is available at <https://forms.gle/QAooa38JKAgGY1aW6>.





## Tawa Pop-Up Store

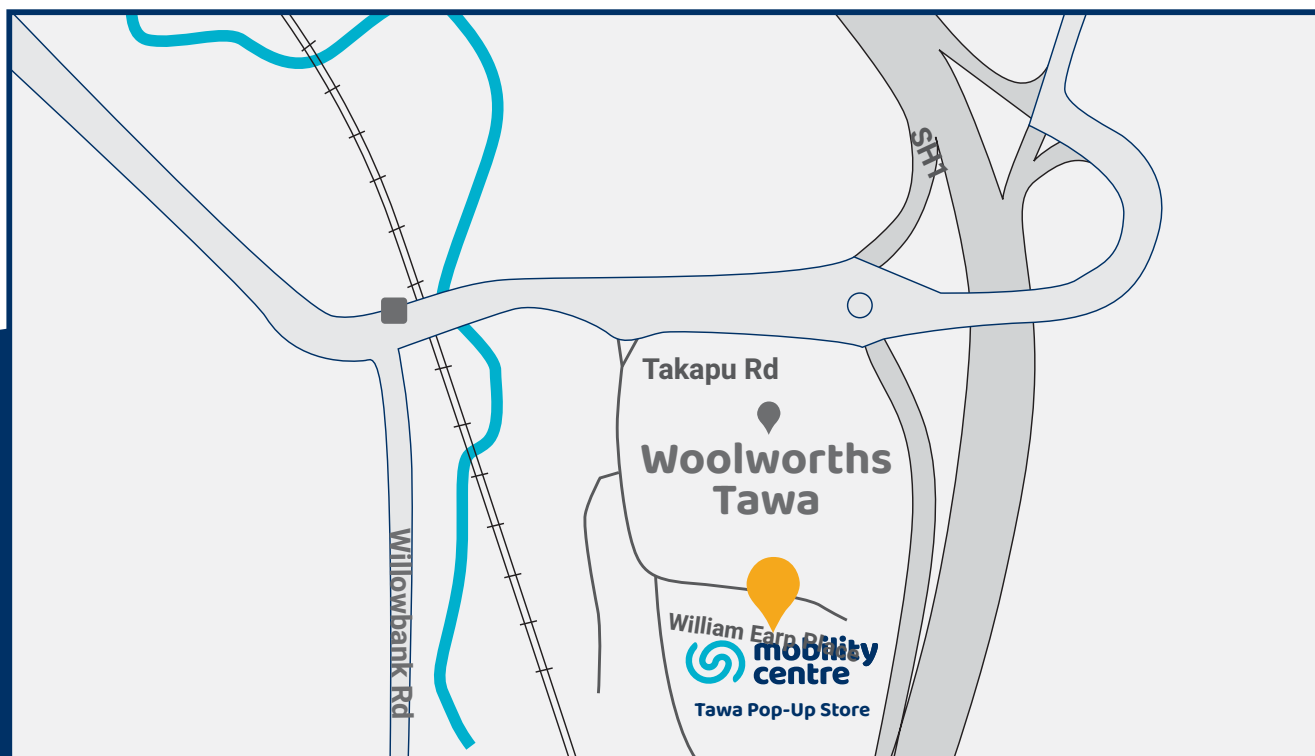
Open 10am-1pm Weekdays

### Easy access. Easy parking. Friendly help.

Mobility Centre has opened a temporary pop-up store in Tawa next to Woolworths, just off SH1.

#### Why visit our Tawa pop-up?

- Easy access and ample parking
- Close to SH1 on and offramps
- Meet with a knowledgeable mobility advisor



**Tawa Pop-Up Store** Unit 13, 20 William Earp Place, Tawa

021 243 8662 | [www.mobilitycentre.co.nz](http://www.mobilitycentre.co.nz)