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By Frank Neill

Young Churton Park Footballer Jade Jamieson has won selection to play internationally in not just one but two teams.

Jade is in the Cook Islands Under 15 Football team that will play in the Oceania Under 16 World Cup qualifying tournament in September.

She has also been selected in the New Zealand Under 16 Māori team that will tour New Caledonia from 10 to 16 October.

*Continued on page 2.*

Jade Jamieson in action for the Cook Islands. Photo: Supplied.

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# Exciting to represent two cultures

Continued from page 1.

“When I first found out I was very excited to know that I was going to go overseas and play internationally for the Cook Islands,” Jade says. “It’s exciting to represent my two cultures.”

Playing internationally and professionally at the top level of Football are two of Jade’s ambitions.

“I’d like to play professionally one day,” she says.

“I’d also like to play for a national team – Cook Islands or New Zealand.”

Jade first lined up for the Cook Islands Under 16 team last month, playing in a World Cup pre-qualifying tournament in Port Moresby.

The pre qualifier saw three teams vie for the one position in September’s qualifying tournament.

“We did really well,” Jade says.

In their first match Jade’s team defeated American Samoa 10-0 on 18 April.

They then drew 1-1 with Papua New Guinea on 24 April to secure their spot in the qualifying tournament.

A year 12 student at Onslow College, Jade has been playing Football since she was five.

Until this year, she was playing for North Wellington, including playing mixed Football which includes both boys and girls.

This season she moved to Waterside Karori, playing in the Capital Premier League.

Jade is a member of the Waterside Karori Reserves, and the team is unbeaten this season.

In its latest match, the Wharries defeated Western Suburbs 4-0 on 3 May.

Having secured a place in the Oceania Under 16 World Cup qualifying tournament, Jade’s Cook Island team will travel to the Solomon Islands.

They will begin the tournament in one of two groups of four teams.

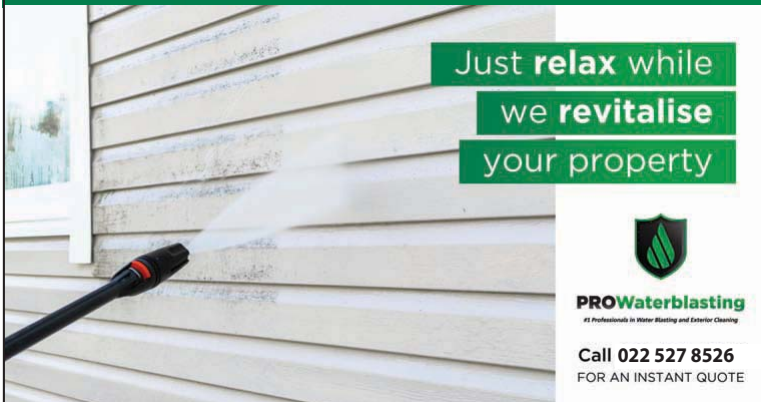
The Cook Islands will play the Solomon Islands on 6 September, Fiji on 9 September and a qualifier that has yet to be finalised on 12 September.

If they progress to post pool play, the Cook Islands will feature again from 16 to 19 September.



Jade Jamieson, who has been selected for both the Cook Islands and Māori Under 16 Football teams. Photo: Supplied.

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## Greg O'Connor MP for Ōhāriu

There are plenty of folk I speak with in the Ōhāriu electorate who take a great interest in politics and love discussing the latest events, especially those from our Parliament.

Right now, as we see the coalition partners which make up this government publicly infighting and insulting each other, instead of focusing on the dire challenges facing our economy, country, and people as a result of the Iran War. We should rightfully be demanding a stable government, focused on the job of looking after New Zealanders and bringing down the high cost of living.

Most recently, one party in Government came up with an immigration policy clearly aimed at trying to outdo their coalition partner. It’s the latest example of the coalition parties desperately trying to snatch votes from each other, rather than focusing on

what’s best for you.

We do need good balanced Immigration policies, but not ones designed for no other reason than to wind people up about immigrants for pure political reasons. Our immigration system shouldn’t become a political football for desperate parties vying for votes.

What we need now is stability, not poorly designed policies and I genuinely worry we will be weaker as a country as a result of such short-term behaviour.

We need a government focused on what matters most to New Zealanders: jobs, health, homes, and real action on the cost of living. That’s what myself and my Labour Party colleagues are focused on. The Government needs to stop attacking one another and focus on the important work of making New Zealanders’ lives better.

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



# Keeping needy families warm



The 2026 Winter Project team. Photo: Supplied.

By Frank Neill

A group of Samuel Marsden Collegiate students are currently collecting winter clothing and blankets to help keep families in need warm this coming winter.

The students are part of an organisation at the school called the Winter Project.

Started by a group of Marsden students 11 years ago, the Winter Project collects winter clothing and blankets that then get distributed to schools in the Wellington region – including schools in the northern and western suburbs.

The project is looking for items like warm jumpers, pants, jackets, polypros, blankets, beanies, scarves, gloves etc.

“Anything you can manage to donate would be greatly appreciated,” the Winter Project team says.

“We would also be incredibly

grateful for any large-medium sized boxes you’d be able to donate to us. My Food Bag boxes are a perfect size.

“We use these to pack and distribute the clothes.

“We are planning to box up and finish collecting these clothes on the 17th of May, so if you are willing to donate then please do so before then if possible.”

People can drop off items at a series of drop off points around Wellington.

Drop off points in the ‘Independent Herald’ area are at Thorndon School, Onslow College, the Karori Community Centre, the Johnsonville Community Centre, Samuel Marsden Collegiate School, Khandallah School, Kelburn Normal School and Crofton Downs School.

There is also a drop off point at Te Matapihi Ki Te Ao Nui (the new central library).

## Geeks on Wheels celebrating

Geeks on Wheels is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

To mark the milestone, Geeks on Wheels has given away \$20,000 worth of prizes to people who entered its giveaway.

The prizes included laptops, televisions, speakers, powerbanks, airpods and more.

Geeks on Wheels is a mobile computer support and repair task force.

Their staff travel to people’s or organisation’s homes or offices to fix troublesome technology and help solve computer problems.

“We take the stress and frustration out of tech repair, malware removal and

everything in between, so you can enjoy your laptop, computer, smart TV, Wi-Fi network and other technology, exactly as you are meant to,” Geeks on Wheels says.

Originally a business that focused on fixing people’s computer issues, Geeks on Wheels has morphed to become experts across a broad range of commonplace technologies with quite a different value proposition than the original ‘fix and repair’ focus.

They take customers on a personalised journey through advice, knowledge and education about how technology can benefit them in and around their daily lives.

## inbrief news

### Heritage Festival

Applications are now open for the 2026 Wellington Heritage Festival, and the festival organisers are inviting community groups, organisations and individuals to be part of this year’s programme.

Last year’s Festival featured 178 events across the region, attracting more than 15,500 visitors to a wide range of tours, talks, performances and community experiences.

A series of these were held in the ‘Independent Herald’ area, including four at the Karori Cemetery, two at Glenside’s Halfway House, and one each at the Cable Car, Wright’s Hill Fortress, Karori RSA, St Matthias Church, St Patrick’s Church, Otari Wilton’s Bush, the Society of Genealogists in Johnsonville, Katherine Mansfield House, Randell Writers’ Cottage, Lillburn House, the Botanic Garden, and the Rita Angus Garden. There were also walks in Thorndon and Ngāio.

The festival will run from 24 October to 15 November.

People can make a booking to host an event at [wellingtonheritagefestival.co.nz/form/application/](http://wellingtonheritagefestival.co.nz/form/application/).



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# Greg O'Connor

## MP for Ōhāriu

Spokesperson for Courts and Veterans' Affairs  
Assistant Speaker

### Get in touch

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

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# Comedy bringing big laughs this month

Greater Wellington's weekends will be funnier throughout the month of May.

For the first time the NZ Comedy Fest Wellington heads to the Abandoned Taprooms, with Comedy Fest in Petone every Friday and Saturday and Comedy Fest in Porirua every Sunday.

Comedy will also bring laughs to the Hannah Playhouse this month.

The Comedy Fest in Petone see some of the very best local acts and international acts head to the seashore.

James Nokise hosts Friday 8 May, with Gabby Anderson, Josh Thomson, and Rosco McClelland; 9 May is hosted by Jerome Chandrasen, with He Huang, Raybon Kan and Samantha Hannah; 15 May is hosted by Sera Devcich alongside Benny Feldman, Meaghan Fisher and Sean Collier; 16 May is hosted by Brendon Green, with Elena Smith-Beech, Jak Darling and James Nokise; 22 May is hosted by Neil Thornton with Austin Harrison, Cohen Holloway and Johanna Cosgrove; and finally, 23 May is hosted by Zach Mandeville, with Anya Rzhavitskaya, James Mustapic, and Tama Alexander.

Comedy Fest in Porirua is hosted by Dan Boerman on 10 May, with Josh Thomson, Rosco McLelland and more. Hoani Hotene hosts 17 May, with Li'i Alaimoana, Oliver Pol and Sera Devcich. Jak Darling hosts 24 May, with Booth the Clown, Jerome Chandrasen and Keegan Thomas.

Kicking off the final week of the fest at Hannah Playhouse on 19 May, online funnyman Joe Daymond (creator and star of Comedy Central's BOUNCERS) hosts and curates Comedy Mixtape.

Joining Joe as co-host is Mai FM DJ Randy Sjafrie alongside comedian and community organiser Jenice Goveas and rising comedy star and Raw Comedy Quest finalist Q Potts, plus even more still to be announced.

Late Laughs offers the Capital comedy after dark – it's fast, loose and famously unpredictable, on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the Fest at Hannah Playhouse.

With a different lineup every night,

audiences can come back multiple times for a stellar mix of locals and internationals.

This year's hosts include comedy and podcast icon Tim Batt, The Office Australia star Felicity Ward, sketch comedy duo Hot Department, Taskmaster star David Correos and UK comedian Danny Ward, in New Zealand for the first time.

The very best comics come out after dark, including internationals He Huang (Aus), Jessie Nixon (UK), Benny Feldman (US) and locals, Josh Thomson, Karen O'Leary, Henry Yan, Abby Howells, James Mustapic and Hoani Hotene, and more to come.

The NZ Comedy Fest will also present the first ever Stampdown 4 Kidz, created especially for the festival.

Stampdown 4 Kidz is hosted by Stampdown's own Zach Zucker, on 23 May at Hannah Playhouse.

Stampdown's headline show (for grown-ups) runs from May 19 to 23, also at Hannah Playhouse.

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## Symphony from the New World

**The Kiwi Art House Gallery**  
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heimlerandproc@gmail.com

## Three local NZCT grants

By Frank Neill

Three organisations that operate in the 'Independent Herald' circulation area were recipients of grants in the latest round of the New Zealand Community Trust's disbursements.

The Karori Hockey Club was granted \$4,369.50 for turf fees. The Karori Lawn Tennis Club was provided \$3,565.23 for tennis balls and equipment. Waterside Karori Association Football Club was granted \$80,000 for Contractor fees for Men's Reserve and Youth Coach, Director of Junior and Youth Football, and Director of Women's and Junior Football.

The trust disbursed \$703,858.19 in the latest round of funding, announced on 4 May.

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

It was one of 19 gaming venues in the greater Wellington region that contributed.

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# Major new exhibition

By Joseph Lewis

A major new exhibition by internationally renowned artists Heimler and Proc is set to open this May, bringing fresh attention to two figures already celebrated for their striking public works.

Titled 'Symphony from the New World', the series showcases the artists' latest explorations across a range of subjects and forms.

The exhibition will be held at The Kiwi Art House Gallery, 225 Cuba Street, Te Aro, opening at 6pm on 15 May.

While globally recognised, the duo are particularly well known in Wellington for their large-scale murals.

Among their most iconic local works are The Mover, located on the QT Museum Art Hotel, and Seven Sisters in Oriental Bay.

Internationally, they gained widespread acclaim for The Wall Jumper, famously painted on the Berlin Wall. In 2019, they also represented New Zealand at the Beijing Biennale.

The upcoming exhibition



One of the paintings that will feature in Symphony from the New World.

continues their long-standing relationship with the Kiwi Art House Gallery, where they have held regular shows featuring diverse and evolving themes.

These new paintings consist of stunning pieces inspired by German Expressionism, but feature New Zealand's

natural beauty in an array of vibrant, dreamlike settings.

'Symphony from the New World' promises a refreshing and thought-provoking new series from Heimler and Proc, who will be there in person to showcase their work.

# Light House Cinema welcomes back the French Film Festival Aotearoa

One of the most important cultural winter events in New Zealand returns! L'Oréal Groupe French Film Festival Aotearoa 2026 is playing at Light House Cinema from 04 – 28 June, and tickets are on sale now.

Every year, the French Film Festival takes you on an incredible journey through cinéma français, with a selection of the best and most exciting films from around the French-speaking world.

This year's Festival has a vibrant mix of comedies, dramas and romances, with captivating storytelling, powerful characters and though-provoking scenarios all on show. Here are just a few of the titles we're looking forward to:

**Colours of Time** is a genuine crowd pleasing story that blends the excitement, wonder and art of Belle Epoque France with present day themes around identity, legacy and connection.

Direct from the Cannes Film Festival 2026 comes **De Gaulle: Tilting Iron**, a powerful and dramatic view of a man at the very centre of a turning point in history, on his path to becoming a 20th century leader and cultural icon.

**The Richest Woman in the World** adapts the incredible story of Liliane Bettencourt, the billionaire heiress to the L'Oréal fortune and doyenne of Parisian society. This dark comedy features a jaw-dropping performance from one of France's most iconic stars, Isabelle Huppert.

Léa Drucker won the Best Actress César award for her performance in the gripping thriller **Case 137**, a compelling crime drama exploring themes of loyalty and justice.



Based on an incredible true story, **The Money Maker** follows Jan Bojarski, known as "The Cézanne of counterfeit money." The film was a certified hit in France, with over 1.1 million admissions.

The award-winning directors Eric Toledano and Oliver Nakache are back with **Just an Illusion**, their biggest opening at the French box office since their seminal hit **The Intouchables**. An infectious blend of a classic 80s soundtrack with their signature brand of heartfelt humour – this one should not be missed.

That's just a taste of the incredible line-up on offer this year. With 24 films to choose from, there's something for everyone! To browse the full selection, pick up a copy of the programme from one of our cinemas, or view films and book online at [lighthousecinema.co.nz](http://lighthousecinema.co.nz). You can also book by giving one of our friendly staff a call, they'll be happy to help.

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# Wellington Repertory celebrating 100 years

The Wellington Repertory Theatre is celebrating its centenary this year.

The celebration marks 100 years of continuous storytelling, community spirit and theatrical excellence.

Three Karori actors will feature in two of the four stage shows that are running to mark the centennial.

Catherine McMechan, Kevin Hastings and Mark Wilton are in the cast of 'The Other Boleyn Girl' and Catherine is also performing in 'Through the Decades', where excerpts from selected productions from past decades will be staged at the celebration dinner.

One hundred years ago, a group of passionate, like-minded thespians gathered together to form a Repertory Theatre Society.

Since those early days, Wellington Rep has been one of the main providers of entertainment for Wellingtonians with more than 600 productions staged.

For the premiere production in 1926, founder Leo du Chateau staged George Bernard Shaw's

'Pygmalion' at the Town Hall's Concert Chamber.

Fast forward to 2026 and Rep remains a cornerstone of the capital's cultural identity.

To mark the 100-year milestone it features a diverse lineup of classic and contemporary works at their current performance venue, the Gryphon Theatre on Ghuznee Street.

These productions are:

- The Other Boleyn Girl (May 27 to June 6): a compelling historical drama of power and betrayal.

- Hay Fever (July 1 to 11): a sparkling Noël Coward classic – a nod to the traditional 'repertory' style; and

- Accomplice (October 28 to November 7): a fiendishly clever thriller to close the centenary year.

In addition to the mainstage shows, Rep will continue its tradition of family entertainment with the 'Toybox' kids' show during the July school holidays.

Wellington Repertory Theatre invites all members, past members, patrons and the Wellington public to

join them for a weekend of celebration over King's Birthday weekend, 30 and 31 May.

These celebrations will include an exhibition of photos, posters, programmes and other memorabilia spanning the hundred years that Wellington Rep has existed, and a theatrical cake cutting ceremony with some of Rep's most senior members.

On the Saturday night a gala dinner will be served during which 'Through the Decades', excerpts from selected productions from past decades, will be staged.

The celebration will take place at Prefab Hall, 14 Jessie Street, Wellington.

There will also be a special matinee performance of the centenary production, 'The Other Boleyn Girl', at The Gryphon Theatre on the Sunday afternoon.

"The weekend promises to be a wonderful celebration of a glorious 100 years of making theatre magic in Wellington," Wellington Repertory Theatre says.



Nan Pike as Eliza Doolittle and W S Wauchop as Professor Higgins in a scene from Wellington Repertory Theatre's first production, 'Pygmalion', in 1926.

## Rewa Rewa School Mini Fair

Rewa Rewa School is about to run the first fair it has run, at least in recent times.

It is holding a Mid-year Mini Fair at the school on Saturday 9 May, running from 10am to 2pm.

The Mini Fair will go ahead whether it is sunny or rain is falling.

Rewa Rewa School is located at 18 Padnell Cres, Newlands.

Plenty of food options will be

available, including lunch and hot drinks.

There will also be games, face painting, a bouncy castle and other entertainment, as well as craft stalls, raffles, emergency vehicles and police puppies.

The Mini Fair is being held to raise money for the school pool upgrade.

Payment is cash only, and EFT-POS will not be available.



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TUESDAY 12 MAY	WEDNESDAY 13 MAY	THURSDAY 14 MAY	FRIDAY 15 MAY	SATURDAY 16 MAY	SUNDAY 17 MAY
<p><b>TAWA</b> 9am to 10.30am Tawa Union Church 6 Elena Place</p> <p><b>WAIKANA E</b> 11.30am to 1pm Mezzanine, Waikanae War Memorial Hall, Pehi Kupa Street</p> <p><b>RAUMATI</b> 2pm to 3.30pm Kapiti Uniting Parish Hall 10 Weka Road</p>	<p><b>UPPER HUTT</b> 9am to 10.30am The Balcony Room Upper Hutt Cossie Club 11 Logan Street</p> <p><b>LOWER HUTT</b> 11.30am to 1pm Knox Church lounge 574 High Street</p> <p><b>KHANDALLAH</b> 2pm to 3.30pm Khandallah Presbyterian Church 33 Ganges Road</p>	<p><b>MIRAMAR</b> 9am to 10.30am Miramar Community Hall 27 Chelsea Street</p> <p><b>JOHNSONVILLE</b> 11.30am to 1pm Johnsonville Uniting Church 18 Doctor Taylor Terrace (parking at rear)</p> <p><b>WAIWHETU</b> 2pm to 3.30pm St Pauls Church Hall 76 Waiwhetu Road</p>	<p><b>KARORI</b> 9am to 10.30am St Ninians Church Hall 208 Karori Road</p> <p><b>PETONE</b> 11.30am to 1pm Petone Baptist Church 38 Buick Street</p> <p><b>PARAPARAUMU BEACH</b> 2pm to 3.30pm Ocean Rd Community Centre 45 Ocean Road</p>	<p><b>MASTERTON</b> 10am to 11.30am St James Union Church Hall 116 High Street</p> <p><b>GREYTOWN</b> 12.30am to 2pm St Andrews Union Church Hall 63 Main Street</p>	<p><b>MASTERTON</b> 10am to 11.30am Discovery Motor Lodge 210 Chapel Street</p> <p><b>CARTERTON</b> 12noon to 1.30pm Carterton Community Courthouse Holloway Street</p>

# Lots on at the libraries

From Music Month to crafts, plenty is happening at local libraries over the next week.

New Zealand Music Month: Voices in the Wind Choir will present 'Heartbreaks & Harmonies' at Te Takapū o Patukawenga Tawa (Mervyn Kemp) Library on Saturday 9 May from 11am to 11:30am.

This energetic and fun choir performs all over the Wellington

area.

In their latest programme 'Heartbreak & Harmonies' people will recognise many well-known favourites such as "I Heard it Through the Grapevine", "Four Strong Winds" and "On My Own".

Wā tākaro special: waiata tahi mai will be held at Waitohi Johnsonville Library on Thursday 14 May from 4:30pm to 5:30pm.

"Learn and build te reo Māori

skills together by playing games. Sing waiata and explore the fun and rhythm of rākau sticks," Wellington City Libraries says.

"Wherever you are in your te reo journey, come for a friendly kōrero and kai.

"As the days get cooler why not join a library-run craft group?"

"Meet new people and learn new skills."

Sit 'n' knit will take place at

Waitohi Johnsonville Library on Sunday 10 May from 2pm to 4pm.

Sit 'n' knit is a fortnightly sewing and craft group for thread-heads of all skill levels and ages. Bring along an existing project, some needles and some yarn, or use our basket of goodies.

Craft time for adults – bring a project will be held at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui, Central Library on Sunday 10 May from 2pm to 4pm;

Monday 11 May from 5pm to 7pm and Wednesday 13 May from noon to 2pm.

"A friendly space to work on your latest craft. Bring along a project for some companionable crafting. We meet on the first floor by the window overlooking Te Ngākau square," Wellington City Libraries says.

Nau mai rā tātou katoa. Everyone is welcome.



## INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

12 May



**Plimmer Steps Medical Centre**

Plimmer Steps: Level 2, 342 Lambton Quay, Wellington Central  
Phone 04 472 6024

Hutt City Health Centres: 5 Raroa Rd, Lower Hutt,  
5 Fitzherbert Rd, Wainuiomata | Phone 04 576 2009

[www.plimmerstepsmedical.co.nz](http://www.plimmerstepsmedical.co.nz)  
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Hutt Central & Wainuiomata



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W: [www.arohacarecentre.co.nz](http://www.arohacarecentre.co.nz)

### Celebrating the nursing profession

International Nurses Day (IND), celebrated on 12 May, honours Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Her work during the Crimean War revolutionised patient care and sanitation practices, laying the foundation for the nursing profession as we know it today. Established in 1974 by the International Council of Nurses, IND recognises the essential contributions nurses make across the globe and raises awareness of their critical role in healthcare systems.

This year's theme, "Caring for nurses strengthens economies," builds on the ongoing "Our Nurses, Our Future" campaign, emphasising the importance of workforce wellbeing. It highlights the need to support nurses' physical and mental health, ensuring a resilient workforce capable of delivering high-quality care and sustaining effective, accessible healthcare systems worldwide for generations to come.



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AGES 5-14



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# Road Safety Week 4-10 May 2026



## 20 years fighting drowsy driving

For more than two decades, the AKILLA® Sleep Safety Educational Campaign has been one of New Zealand's most persistent forces in raising awareness about the dangers of drowsy driving.

Founded in 2004 by Martin S. Jenkins, B.E (Civil), Dip.Bus.Studies (Fin), the campaign has grown from a grassroots initiative into a nationally recognised contributor to roadsafety education.

Martin began the campaign after researching fatigue related crashes and discovering how little public information existed on the issue.

Since then, AKILLA has delivered hundreds of community presentations, produced educational resources used across New Zealand, and contributed to international roadsafety forums.

Its outputs include the widely distributed 'In the Blink of an Eye' handbook and 'The Drowsy Driving DVD', both designed to help drivers recognise the early signs of drowsy driving.

AKILLA also established New Zealand's annual Drowsy Driving Awareness Day, held every 13 December, and has repeatedly engaged with government agencies and Members of Parliament on fatigue related policy.

The campaign's work has been featured on national television, radio and in the print media.

After 20 years, AKILLA remains one of the country's longest running independent road safety efforts – a testament to Martin's determination to reduce preventable crashes and save lives on New Zealand roads.



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# What's cool in the Wairarapa



## Featherston Booktown this weekend

Featherston Booktown is a year-round literature development organisation whose largest individual project is the annual Karukatea Festival, held in May.

The Karukatea Festival is a significant regional/national cultural event involving collaborations with Mana Whenua – and regional and national literary festivals and organisations, as well as strong community involvement through the Young Readers Programme in schools and Festival volunteers.

Other initiatives include the Young Reader's Programme, the popular Book Voucher scheme which provides South Wairarapa children with book vouchers, the Booklover's Trail Te Ara Kai Pukapuka Audio App, the Featherston Booktown Podcast and YouTube channel and the Rural Readers Outreach Programme.

Featherston Booktown aims to grow great communities by inspiring the diverse populations of Featherston/Paetūmōkai, the wider Wairarapa and Aotearoa New Zealand to read more, write more, engage in dialogue, and share ideas.

Two cultures share our wonderful country – and region – and, at Featherston Booktown, the Festival seeks to recognise and bring that to life.



After consulting Mana Whenua, they are proud to reveal the Te Reo expression of Featherston Booktown.

Karukatea means “the clear and observant eye” – with karu the word for “eye” and katea meaning “clarity”. The word takes in the narrative of our region (Wairarapa Moana being one eye of the fish and Wellington Harbour being the other eye of Māui's fish). On a deeper level, the word also captures the concept of people seeking knowledge and clarity.

Our sincere thanks to Liz Mellish and Robin Potangaroa (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa) for their help and guidance through the process of finding an appropriate Te Reo expression of Featherston Booktown.

## Tora trail and accommodation

If you're looking for a few days getting back to nature why not visit The Last Resort Walk to the Wairarapa's rugged east coast, between Tora and White Rock and back.

Ben and Georgie Lutyens, owners of Riversdale Station (a working cattle station where The Last Resort Walk is based) have a long history in the Wairarapa, with Ben's family connection stretching back six generations. The walk also has a bike and horse trekking option, an addition to their existing heavenlyhorestreks.co.nz providing opportunities for groups to tailor their visit.

The trail is 11km to The Last Resort accommodation, comprising “The Roost” and “The Old Place”, returning the following day via a loop track. Visitors can add a 7-10km track heading down to the beach and back, and stay for a second night.

Ben and Georgie wanted to create a different kind of experience, “our land is rustic and charming, and we wanted to share that. The Walk is mostly through bush. The 360-degree view from the top, or the sunrise from your bedroom makes this quite special” says Ben.

Perhaps the most unique aspect of The Last Resort is that bookings are exclusive, meaning visitors have the trail and accommodation all to themselves, ideal for family get togethers or groups of friends.

The Last Resort is self-catered. Ben and Georgie find visitors enjoy cooking together in the fully equipped kitchen “it's a homely way to finish the day” says Ben.

“We like to make visitors feel at home, so when we take their luggage and food up in our Can-Am vehicles, we pop beverages in the fridge, light the fire if it's chilly and turn on the hot tub under the stars - everything is ready for when they arrive” says Georgie.

You can see more about The Last Resort at [www.lastresortwalk.co.nz](http://www.lastresortwalk.co.nz)

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## Finding out about the life and times in the early Wairarapa

Find out about William Hastwell, the man who got Wairarapa moving, in our new exhibition. What must it have been like to make sure the mail got through the hazardous ranges through rivers and howling winds?

Our recently installed exhibition tells the story of how he built the biggest transport business in the lower North Island in the late 1800s.

You can see the original stables and the cobbles that were the foundation of his business and get your photo taken in the Glass Coach or the replica stagecoach.

The history really does come alive at Cobblestones but why not also bring a picnic to enjoy in our extensive gardens.

Explore the old one classroom school, the original church, built and shared by all the different denominations, the tiny cottage that was home to a family with ten children.

Find out about shearing and the first flocks of sheep in the 170 year old woolshed. You can even ride the 1955 Fire Engine on open days. Enjoy experiencing our New Zealand Heritage.

Cobblestones is part of the famous Festival of Christmas in Greytown, an ideal place for a cosy winter weekend.

To find out about special events, open days, and winter opening hours check Cobblestones Facebook page or our website [www.cobblestonesmuseum.org.nz](http://www.cobblestonesmuseum.org.nz).

## Greytown Butchery knows how to win awards – sausages are their speciality

Established in 1873, Greytown Butchery is still operating in the same historic building and keeping old butchering traditions alive.

It's no wonder they consistently win awards with their multi-award winning sausages, having so far clocked up 25 awards in the last 18 years.

Greytown Butchery have recently won their 25th award at the annual Great New Zealand Sausage Competition. Ironically it was the Sausage Competition's 25th year running.

ed the Butchery Building's 150th year, with its establishment when Greytown Butchery first opened, by original owner, Sam Haigh.

Artisan butcher Gavin Green and Julie Fairbrother, have transformed this iconic and popular business into a gourmet, European-styled butchery.

It prides itself on top quality cuts with exceptional service to match.

Remember to bring your chilly bin with you next time for your goods – there's always plenty to choose from!

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The Newlands Community Centre, which is due to reopen on 11 June. Photo: Supplied.

# Newlands Community Centre reopening

Newlands Community Centre is scheduled to reopen on 11 June after it was temporarily closed following damage sustained during the severe weather event of 16 February. While roof repairs have been completed, additional necessary work was identified during the repair process. This work has taken longer than originally expected, which has resulted in the temporary closure needing to be extended. The

additional works are currently under way. "We recognise the important role the centre plays in the community and sincerely thank everyone for their patience during this extended closure," the community centre says in its latest newsletter. "Everything is coming together for a smooth and welcoming return, and we look forward to resuming normal activities and events after the reopening."

# Govt help with flood relief

The Government will provide \$100,000 to the Wellington City Mayoral Relief Fund, the Minister for Emergency Management, Mark Mitchell has confirmed. It has also provided \$50,000 to the Ruapehu District Council's Mayoral Relief Fund for those impacted by flooding in Ohura. "Last week's flooding was hugely disruptive and damaging, and my thoughts are with everyone who has been impacted," Mr Mitchell says. "My deepest condolences are with the loved ones of Philip Sutton, who tragically passed away during the Wellington flooding event. "I have been on the ground in the flood-hit regions to speak with emergency responders and locals to discuss their needs and see the extent of the damage first-hand. "I have also been in contact with Mayors in the affected regions to offer the Government's support.

"This contribution will help communities in Wellington and Ohura to get on with the clean-up, and support those who need it. "I'd like to acknowledge everyone who stepped up to respond to this event – Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups, councils, first responders, iwi and volunteers, utility and lifeline workers, and members of the community who came to each other's aid," Mr Mitchell says. The Wellington Mayoral Relief Fund is still open for public donations and they can be made via:

- Internet banking to the Wellington City Mission: bank account number 03-0547-0296036-17, bank account name "The Wellington City Mission Anglican Trust Board", reference "Relief Fund"
- Credit card through the Wellington City Mission website at wellingtoncitymission.org.nz/floodrelief.

# Wadestown House and Garden Walk

Wadestown School's long standing Wadestown House and Garden Walk will take place again on 15 November. Organised by the Wadestown School Parent Teacher Association, this popular event has been part of the community for nearly three decades. It attracts local residents and visitors, giving them the opportunity to step inside some of Wadestown's most beautiful homes and explore their gardens, with a wonderful

mix of indoor and outdoor spaces. The walk will feature a captivating range of homes – from cleverly renovated houses with fresh, inspiring design to historic homes showcasing their heritage. Two of the featured homes will offer refreshments (included with ticket), and the much-loved deli stall will be making a return. The walk runs for six hours, from 10am to 4pm.

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**Onslow Historical Society**

Our historical centre at 86 Khandallah Road is open every Sunday afternoon from 1-4pm. Come along to learn about local history.

**Don't Chuck It. Fix It**

Ngaio Repair Cafe is free, open Saturday 16 May, 10am - 1pm, Ngaio Union Church, corner Crofton Road and Kenya Street.

# Railways Road Service reunion planned for Waikanae this month

By Rob Webb

What started out as a gathering for ex-employees of Aotea Quay Wellington Bus Garage has quickly grown to a get-together of Railways Road Services staff, but one of the organisers Ricky Wilson says the interest shown is a testament to the size and 'family' nature of the New Zealand Railways bus, truck and coach network.

Railways Road Services were a huge force in the passenger and freight transport industry for seven decades, especially after the Government bought up private operators in the 1930s and 40s.

In 1936, local operators S A Crichton and Bell Bus Co services to Johnsonville, Khandallah and Ngaio became part of the Government fleet.

Vehicles were maintained at the Aotea Quay Bus Garage which was moved south in the mid-70s to accommodate the new motorway.

Along with fellow former work mates Derek Smyth and Kevin Tither, Ricky is keen to have a get-together and reminisce before its too late.

"Starting my mechanics apprenticeship in 1980 on 45 dollars a week, I'm definitely one of the young ones," he jokes.

"There are some drivers, office staff or



Flashback to the 1960s and 70s when NZ Railways buses arrived and departed from Stout Street behind the Wooden Government Building. Photo: JF (Fred) Ericson collection.

workshop people who were there in the 1960s and they have incredible stories to be told about the long-gone era of when the Government ran a huge fleet.

"At Aotea Quay, lots of us got their start in many vocations like engineering, coach-building, upholstery or spray painting ... and it was a great place to work. There was certainly a lot of sadness when Road Services down-sized and was finally privatised

in 1991.

"We are also keen to collect any photographs or memorabilia of the era," Ricky says.

The organisers need to finalise numbers for the 16 May function this week.

Anyone with photographs or interested in attending should contact Ricky Wilson on 021 530 254 or wilsonmorgan1803@gmail.com.

**Public Notice**



**Churton Park School Enrolment**  
Out of Zone Enrolment for Term 3 & 4 2026

The Board of Trustees invites applications from parents who wish to enrol "Out of Zone" students at Churton Park School in Terms 3 & 4 2026. Churton Park School is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available on the school website.

The Board of Trustees have approved 30 Out of Zone vacancies for Terms 3 & 4 in 2026. Applications are made on the official enrolment form, which is available at the school office or online enrolment on the school website. The deadline for receipt of applications for out of zone places is Friday 29th May 2026 at 3pm. If a ballot for out of zone places is required, it will be held on Thursday 4th June 2026. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three working days of the ballot being held.

If you live in the home zone and have not yet signalled your intention to enrol your child, please contact the school immediately to assist us to plan appropriately.

Please contact the school office, phone 04 4784282 for details regarding the application process or email: office@churtonpark.school.nz

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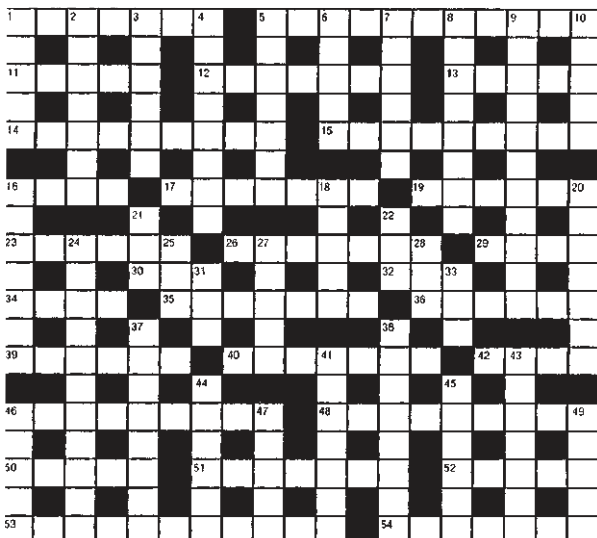
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**CROSSWORD Puzzle**



**ACROSS**

1. Nurture (7)
5. Is suitable for (4,3,4)
11. Pale (5)
12. Giver (7)
13. Sprite (5)
14. Uncomfortable (3,2,4)
15. Amazed (9)
16. Tree bark (4)
17. Be resolute (7)
19. Inhabitant (6)
23. Trench (6)
26. Type of race-horse
29. Small amount of something (4)
30. Rocky hill (3)
32. Tweak (3)
34. Soothe (4)
35. Exterior (7)
36. Clergyman (6)
39. Spruce (6)
40. Absconds (7)
42. Decline (4)
46. Lifeless (9)
48. Most stable (9)
50. Banishment (5)
51. Ardent (7)
52. Tests (5)
53. Stingy (5-6)
54. Is indecisive (7)

**DOWN**

1. Raccoon-like animal (5)
2. Rank (7)
3. Natural (6)
4. Combine chemically with water (8)
5. Ships' chimneys (7)
6. Ballet costumes (5)
7. Muslim headdress (6)
8. Becoming gradually visible (8)
9. Hospitals (11)
10. Covered inner surface with material (5)
16. Dishevelled (7)
18. Placed (5)
20. Cost (7)
21. Write (3)
22. Small cottage (3)
24. Acting the part of another character(4-7)
25. Court (3)
27. Pauses (5)
28. Tear (3)
31. Chafe (3)
33. Rocket-launching place (3)
37. Regretful (8)
38. Freed (8)
41. Runs off (7)

43. Mean (7)
44. Japanese battle cry (6)
45. Arrival (6)
46. Clumsy (5)
47. Precise (5)
49. Chores (5)

**Solution**

Last Week: 30 April 2026



# Hawks lose against Ories

By Frank Neill

The Johnsonville Hawks Rugby team was not able to capitalise on the home ground advantage of Helston Park in their match against Oriental-Rongotai on 2 May.

The visitors dominated proceedings, winning 49-17.

In doing so they won the Ash Pointon Cup, played for each season between the two clubs.

Oriental-Rongotai had the game in the bag

by half time in the Swindale Shield match, when they led the Hawks 28-5.

The Hawks scored three tries, with all of them chalked up by the forwards.

Loose forwards Tyler Hall and Serge Hollis dotted down and the hooker, Raja Sami also scored a try.

First five eight Niall Delahunt kicked one conversion.

Johnsonville's next match is against Avalon at Fraser Park on 9 May, with a 2:45pm kick off.

# Norths away form still in tatters

By Hamish Wareham

Following their 5-0 win over Wellington United under lights at Newtown Park on ANZAC Day Monday, TFS North Wellington were drawn at home in the Chatham Cup match to face the same side they were to do battle with on Saturday, Tawa.

North Wellington are yet to win a Central League Two game away from home and they didn't look like changing that stat when they were 3-0 down after 20 minutes with goals from Sam Staunton, Josh Walter and Jack Parry.

Tawa held that lead until half time in the match, played at Redwood Park.

Two goals, three minutes apart in the second half, made a nervy last quarter of an hour for Tawa as yet again Jared Cunniff and Jerram Tuck got on the score sheet for North Wellington.

However a third goal proved elusive and North Wellington after six rounds languish in eighth spot on the table having won just two games.

Norths will play Tawa in the first Chatham Cup round at Alex Moore Park on 9 May, with a 2pm kick off.

The Waterside Karori women bounced back on 2 May from their first Central League defeat of the season on 25 April, a 3-2 loss to Wellington United.

Back at home, they defeated the eighth placed side Taradale 10-0.

A 12 minute hat-trick from Sophie Burchfield put the game to bed before the half hour mark, along with a brace from Natalie Orellana as well as goals from Renee Bacon, Margot Ramsay, Jessica Woodside, Chloe Mattock and Sherize Concessio saw Karori remain in top spot on the table and up their goal difference to +31 in the process.

A week off now beckons for the Karori Women as they have received a first round bye in the Kate Sheppard Cup.

Their next league fixture sees them do battle away to Palmerston North United on Sunday 17 May.

A week after their first win of the men's Central League competition this season, things hardly got easier for Waterside Karori as next up they hosted league leaders Miramar Rangers who had been scoring goals for fun and keeping them out just as well.

Two goals just before halftime from Adam Hewson and Martin Bueno, would've been enough to wrap up the three points for Miramar. However, they weren't content and piled on four further second half goals to leave Karori Park with a 6-0 win.

A road trip beckons this week for Wharfies men, facing another unbeaten side, Napier City Rovers, at Bluewater Stadium.

# Wellington rates huge report shows

By Frank Neill

Wellington City Council had New Zealand's second highest average residential rates bill and the highest non-residential rates bill in 2024-25, figures released by the New Zealand Taxpayers' Union on 4 May show.

Wellington City Council's average residential rates were \$5,093.73.

Porirua City Council had the highest figure, with \$5,591.

Other key findings of the Taxpayers' Union "Ratepayers Report" are:

- Residential rates are up \$451 from last year at an average of \$3,386. That's a 15.4% rates jump, when inflation over the same period was 2.5%.

- Otorohanga District Council reports the lowest average among the territorial authorities, at \$2,554.

- Wellington City Council's average non-residential rates are a staggering \$53,258, up 55.5% in the last two years.

Second was Kawerau District Council at \$46,352 (up 43.3% from last year).

- On average across New Zealand, more than one in three council staff (40.6%) are paid more than \$100,000.

- On average, councils owe 2.2 times the annual rates revenue in debt.

"At a time when households are tightening their belts, Ratepayers' Report demonstrates that many councils are doing the opposite," says Jordan Williams, the Executive Director of the New Zealand Taxpayers' Union.

"It shows that too many councils have lost sight of their core role and are focusing on pet projects and back-office expansion.

"It also demonstrates why capping rates to inflation is necessary and we need more, not less, measures to improve ratepayer transparency, accountability and a better focus on core services and quality of governance."

The report is available at <https://ratepayersreport.nz/2026/demographics-rates/?type=all>.

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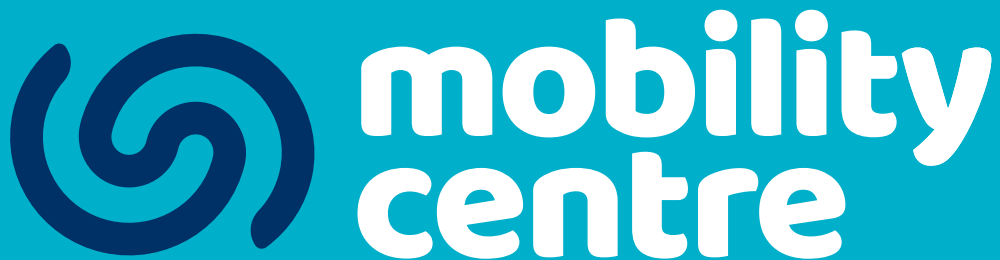
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