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Karori's new takahē



By Frank Neill

A pair of takahē were welcomed to Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne on 6 May. The birds came from the Department of Conservation's Burwood Takahē Centre near Te Anau, setting a new record for takahē population numbers in the capital city in a century.
Continued on page 2.

Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne's two new takahē, Autahi (left) and Hopi. Photo: Rebecca Chrystal.

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Great to welcome the new taonga

Continued from page 1.

Female 13-year-old Autahi and 16-year-old male Hopi were welcomed by members of Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Ngāi Tahu, alongside Zealanda staff and volunteers.

On their arrival at Wellington airport on the afternoon of 6 May, Autahi and Hopi were brought to Zealanda and released into the wetland area in the sanctuary.

"It was so encouraging to see all the staff and supporters that came through for the guard of honour at the arrival of the Takahē to Te Māra a Tāne," says Mark Ormsby, representative for Taranaki Whānui.

"The soothing sounds of the Pūtorino infused alongside karakia whakatau added to the special occasion.

"From a mana whenua perspective, it was great to tautoko the translocation of these taonga from Te Waipounamu into the rohe of Taranaki Whānui."

Both takahē are senior birds nearing the end of their breeding years and they will enjoy a comfortable retirement at the sanctuary.

With Zealanda's 140,000 annual visitors, the pair will also be advocacy champions for the nationally vulnerable species.

There are only around 520 South Island takahē (Porphyrio hochstetteri) so Zealanda says it

is "delighted" to offer visitors a rare chance to see these flightless and charismatic manu/birds.

"Takahē always march their way straight into the hearts of Zealanda's visitors and our staff and volunteer team," Zealanda's Chief Executive, Dr Danielle Shanahan says.

"It is remarkable that people can encounter this somewhat surreal blue green and red bird, right here, in the middle of Wellington.

"Takahē are such an incredible example of why we should never give up when it comes to nature.

"A small population of the species was rediscovered in the Murchison Mountains in the 1940s, 50 years after being declared extinct."

Nio and Orbell, the takahē pair who previously lived in the wetland area and delighted tens of thousands of visitors, both passed in 2024.

DOC's Takahē Recovery Project Lead for Sanctuary Sites, Phil Marsh, says sanctuary sites play an important role in the recovery programme.

"Sanctuary sites support the breeding programme as well as the advocacy of the species.

"This transfer allows space for two young birds to join our breeding programme at Burwood.

"Any juveniles produced at sanctuary sites help support the establishment of our wild recovery sites," he says.

"We think Zealanda visitors



The two new takahē being released at Zealanda Te Māra a Tāne. Photo: Scott Langdale.

will really enjoy seeing this pair up close.

"Hopi is a confident bird, known to always be the first to his hopper at feeding time at Burwood. He has 21 chicks and 17 grand-chicks.

"Autahi is a bit more wary around people. She has had 11 chicks and has eight grand-chicks and even one great grand-chick."

The arrival of Autahi and Hopi brings the number of takahē currently living wild at Zealanda to five.

Since August 2023, Waitaa (female) and Bendigo (male) have roamed the southern section of the valley.

In November 2025 this presumed infertile young couple

produced a 'miracle' chick and the nomadic whānau/family is often seen exploring the far reaches of their territory.

Takahē can be territorial, so the new arrivals will remain separated from the three much younger manu by fencing and gates.

"By hosting this pair at Zealanda Te Māra a Tāne, we are assisting with takahē recovery efforts through advocacy," Zealanda says.

"Takahē are naturally found in remote mountainous and inaccessible habitat, so their presence at sanctuaries such as Zealanda allows visitors to see and connect with this nationally vulnerable species.

Business Advisory Groups being set up

Wellington's business leaders are being asked to have a meaningful say on the economic direction of the Capital.

Wellington City Council is seeking expressions of interest from experienced leaders to join three new Expert Business Advisory Groups, to grow jobs and strengthen Wellington's economic development.

"This is an opportunity for leaders across critical sectors of Wellington's economy for meaningful engagement with the Council and to help guide our city's economic direction," Mayor Andrew Little says.

"We're establishing three distinct groups to reflect the Capital's key economic sectors and for these groups to respond to challenges across the city's economy through strong relationships with people, businesses and organisations within each sector.

"In my time as Mayor, I've been impressed by the optimism and commitment shown by sector leaders toward a strong and thriving economy for Wellington.

"Now is the time to bring these voices together, share insights and collaborate with the Council for our future prosperity.

"These groups will have a mandate to inform the work of Te Urungi Whakatupu Ōhanga | Economic Growth and Development Subcommittee, chaired by Cr Karl Tiefenbacher, to develop an action plan for measurable economic growth in Wellington over five years," the Mayor says.

The three groups are mandated by Wellington City Council's Triennium Plan 2025-2028 and represent the following three significant areas of the Capital's economy:

- Property, Infrastructure and More Housing;
- Technology, Science, Education and Innovation; and
- Arts, Creative, Hospitality and Inner-City Revitalisation.

Cr Tiefenbacher, who chairs the subcommittee that the advisory groups will report into, says insights from sector leaders will be crucial for revitalising the city's economy.

"Wellington is home to more than 27,000 businesses, with strong representation across professional services, technology, property, construction, finance, hospitality and the creative sectors.

"The city also has one of the highest concentrations of knowledge-intensive and innovation-led firms in the country, supporting high-value jobs and economic resilience. "We have considerable strengths in the capital. Let's collaborate better with business to ensure our economy flourishes, provides more jobs and drive future prosperity," Cr Tiefenbacher says.

The groups will meet quarterly, provide sector-specific advice to the Mayor, Councilors and Council officers via Te Urungi Whakatupu Ōhanga | Economic Growth and Development Subcommittee, and will operate in an advisory capacity only.

Positions are voluntary and unpaid. Applications for the Business Advisory Groups closes at 5pm on Friday 22 May.

More information and the EOJ form are available at wellington.govt.nz/your-council/expert-business-advisory-groups-expressions-of-interest.



Read the Independent Herald News online at independentherald.co.nz

Big milestone for Onslow College



SCAN ME



Onslow College's former Rec Centre being demolished. Photo: Supplied.

Onslow College has reached a significant milestone in its campus redevelopment with the commencement of the demolition of the old 'Rec Centre.'

This site, which has served the school community for decades, is being cleared to make way for a modern, purpose-built facility.

The new two storey building will house specialist technology spaces – including a commercial hospitality kitchen and modern

workshops – alongside a new reception, administration hub and dedicated wellbeing spaces.

The Rec Centre has a long history, but has not been fit for purpose for some time.

As the college's community grows, so does the need for facilities that reflect a modern learning environment.

This project represents a shift from the "broken promises" of the past toward a future of high-quality, fit-for-purpose

infrastructure.

"The demolition of the Rec Centre is a pivotal moment and one that has generated immense excitement for our school," Onslow College's Tumuaki/Principal Jono Wyeth says.

"At Onslow College we are driven by our value of 'pursuing growth'. It's about providing our students with the specialised environments they deserve to truly thrive."

Onslow College students

continue to achieve incredible results.

In 2024 Onslow College had the highest University Entrance attainment of all state co-ed secondary schools in New Zealand, and in 2025 the school was again in the top four.

"We are building a future where our physical environment matches the high expectation and high care environment we provide for our students," Mr Wyeth says.



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

inbrief news

Rotary fundraiser

The newly formed Rotary Club of Wellington North, serving from Karori to Khandallah, is planning two upcoming community events.

It is running a quiz night fundraiser at the Karori Taphouse on Sunday 19 July at 7pm.

The quiz night is raising funds for the Lifting the Lid project supporting local youth mental health.

The club is also holding a working bee at the Marsden Club on Saturday 19 September at 9am.

The working bee will help tidy the grounds of the Marsden Club, which provides day programmes and support for people living with dementia and related neurological disorders.

This event is great for young people wanting to complete some community service hours.

For more information or to join Rotary visit <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/13113>.

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* Entries close 25th May 2026

Local actors in big celebration



A scene from the Wellington Repertory Theatre's 'The Other Boleyn Girl'. Photo: Supplied.

By Frank Neill

Three Karori actors are about to feature in the Wellington Repertory Theatre's centenary celebration.

Catherine McMechan, Kevin Hastings and Mark Wilton are in the cast of 'The Other Boleyn Girl', a large-scale production Wellington Repertory is bringing to the stage for their official centenary celebration, which will take place over King's Birthday weekend.

Based on Philippa Gregory's internationally best-selling novel, 'The Other Boleyn Girl' is a recreation of intrigue at the Tudor court.

This stage adaptation by Mike Poulton is a riveting drama of events that changed the course of English history.

Henry VIII's court is a stage for love and treachery, where the weapons of choice are sex, marriage and the executioner's axe.

As Henry's mistress, Mary Boleyn is a pawn in her family's

lust for power. Queen Katherine of Aragon hasn't produced a male heir, and Mary's ruthless uncle scents the chance of putting his niece on the throne.

However Henry VIII's wandering eye has fallen on another: Mary's headstrong sister, Anne, whose ambition not only threatens to destroy her bond with Mary and their brother George, but shakes the foundation of Church and State.

The Director of Wellington Repertory's production of 'The

Other Boleyn Girl', Ewen Coleman, is also the longest serving member of Wellington Repertory's committee.

Ewen has already served 49 years and it is fitting that his production coincides with the society's centenary celebrations.

'The Other Boleyn Girl' opens on Wednesday 27 May and runs to Saturday 6 June at the Gryphon Theatre, 22 Ghuznee Street.

Tickets are available at www.wellingtonrepertory.org.nz.

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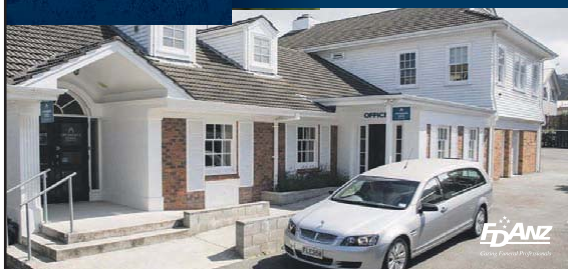
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Courtenay Place (Main Bus Stop)	1:30pm
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Karori Library (Outside the Postshop)	1:45pm

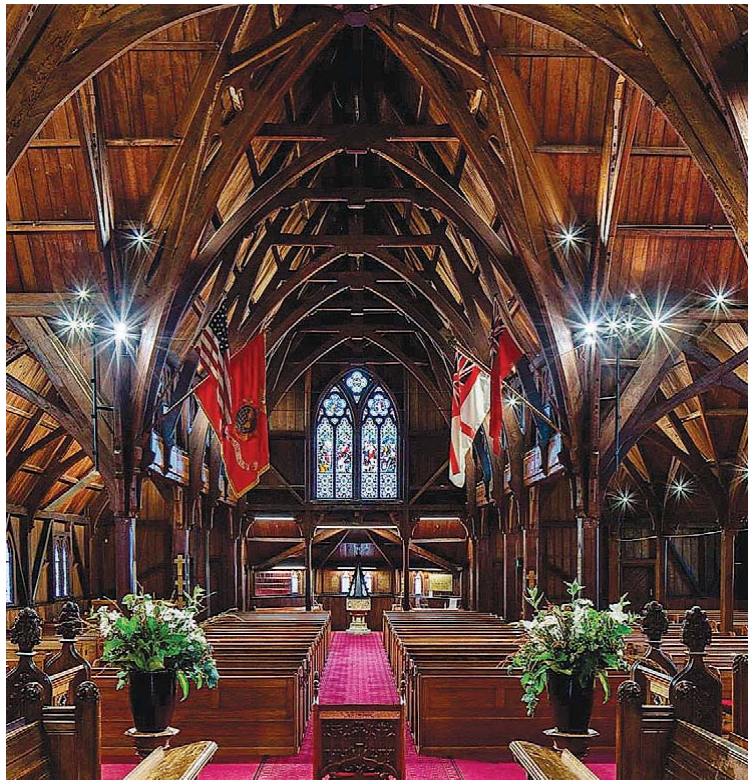
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NEWS TIPS

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Music Month at Old St Paul's



Inside Old St Paul's, which will host performances during Music Month. Photo: Supplied.

Throughout May Old St Paul's will celebrate New Zealand Music Month with a series of lunchtime listening sessions featuring selected 2026 Aotearoa Music Award-nominated albums played in full.

The series ties in with the theme of this year's Music Month – Our Sounds, Our Spaces – which is aimed at highlighting unique, local and historic venues across Aotearoa.

The nationwide theme is designed to celebrate local music and the spaces that sustain it, including heritage sites, community halls and live music venues.

"What better way to experience some of New Zealand's finest contemporary music than in this beautiful historic setting, cared

for by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga," says Old St Paul's Event Coordinator, Jane Nye.

"Audiences can enjoy the ambience of this very special Gothic Revival building as well as its near-perfect acoustics."

The listening series will be held twice weekly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from midday, with entry by koha.

"These albums deserve to be experienced as complete works, heard from start to finish in the unique surroundings of Old St Paul's," Jane says.

Visitors are welcome to drop in for part or all of each session.

For upcoming albums, follow Old St Paul's social media channels for the latest schedule.

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A section of one of the new mosaic murals at Khandallah School. Photo: Frank Neill.

New Khandallah School murals celebrated

By Frank Neill

Khandallah School celebrated the completion of its new mosaic murals on 8 May.

The new murals are on the outside of three planter boxes at the school.

Wellington mosaic artist Rachel Silver worked with 29 student mosaic artists on the project, which took four months to complete.

The project began with the students drawing birds – tūi, kākā, kererū, korimako and hihi – and trees – kōwhai, matai and kauri.

These were then made into a collage before

the mosaic pieces were cut out and the mural was put together, similar to putting together a jigsaw puzzle, by Rachel and the students.

The 29 students who worked on the project “were a wonderful group of artists,” Rachel says.

“They worked really hard, listened really well and were very enthusiastic.”

The mosaic mural project had its genesis when Creative in Schools came to an end in 2024.

The school then spoke with Rachel, who was interested in working on the project, and the planning began.



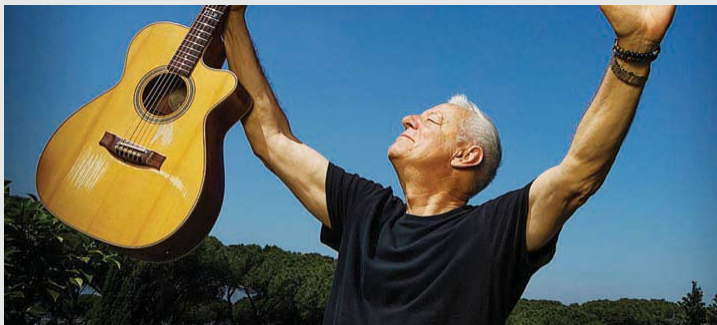
Mosaic artist Rachel Silver and some of the artists who worked on the project beside one of the three murals they created. Photo: Frank Neill.



NEWS TIPS

Send your tips to herald@wsn.co.nz

Renowned guitarist coming to Wellington



Tommy Emmanuel. Photo: Supplied.

World-renowned guitarist and master entertainer Tommy Emmanuel, CGP is has announced what is sure to be an unforgettable tour of New Zealand in May 2026.

The five-date tour takes in Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington and Christchurch.

He will perform at Wellington’s Opera House on Friday 22 May.

Tommy is a living legend in the world of acoustic guitar, celebrated for his jaw-dropping technique, innovation and boundless musicality.

He has enthralled audiences around the globe with his dazzling fingerstyle performances, and now, New Zealand will have the privilege of witnessing his mastery up close and personal.

“I feel like the Indiana Jones of the guitar world,” says the globe-trotting fingerpicker. “I’m on this wild journey, just making it up as I go, and I’m thrilled that so many people are having fun joining along with me.”

Inspired in part by his hero, Chet Atkins (who would later become a friend, mentor, and collaborator), Tommy stepped out on his own as a solo artist in 1979.

In the decades that followed, he would go on to headline everywhere from the Sydney Opera House to Carnegie Hall; tour with luminaries like Eric Clapton and John Denver; win a Grammy Award for Best Instrumental Arrangement; perform for a televised audience of more than two billion at the Sydney Olympics; and collaborate with a who’s who of fellow guitar greats.

Space design competition

Students are being invited to put their creativity into orbit with Patch to the Future, a national competition encouraging years 1 to 8 students to design a bold, space themed “mission patch” as the New Zealand Space Agency marks its 10-year milestone.

From real world space missions to science stories and space adventures in books and films, many young New Zealanders are already curious about what’s happening beyond Earth.

Patch to the Future gives them a chance to channel that excitement into a creative challenge focused on ideas, imagination and looking to the future.

“As the New Zealand Space Agency marks its 10th year anniversary, it’s a great moment to invite kids to share their ideas about space, science and the future, and help shape the space story of New Zealand,” says Dr Jess Dallas, Manager of Space Policy and Sector Development at the New Zealand Space Agency.

“Mission patches are the small, circular designs you’ll often see on space mission uniforms. They’re a symbolic way to show what a mission is about.

“We thought inviting kids to design their own would be a great way to see how they imagine New Zealand’s place in space.”

Entries can be hand drawn or digitally created, and designs should be big, bold and original. Use of generative AI tools is not permitted.

One winning design will be selected from



each of the three year-group categories (Years 1–3, Years 4–6, and Years 7–8), with each category winner receiving a certificate of recognition.

One overall winner will then be selected from the category winners.

The competition closes on 5 June.

For more information, students should talk with their teachers or visit Patch to the Future www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/space/about-nzsa/celebrating-10-years-of-new-zealands-space-sector.

Art Scene

Artist: Joe Zhou

Bringing Community and Cabaret Together

Porirua City Brass is betting big this July with Casino Royale — a glitzy cabaret packed with charm, music and more than a few surprises.

Taking centre stage alongside the band's top brass is actor Mike Bryant and local singers and dancers, under the creative direction of Letitia Garrett, known best for acting and directing with the Wellington Footlights.

"We have such a great cast of awesome performers who know how to put on a show and absolutely love it," Letitia says.

The story follows Jack Potts, the owner of a once thriving casino, now fighting survival following the pandemic and a myriad of other misfortunes and bad decisions. Watch him and the talented cast reminisce about the once glamorous casino lifestyle through music from the 1920s to the present day.

You will be entertained, not just by the performance, but also delicious drinks, food and games of chance.

This show is just one gamble Porirua City Brass will be taking over the next year. For the first time since 1975, the band is traveling overseas to compete in the Australian Brass Band Championships.

Edrick Child, band Chair (and 007 enthusiast) says prepare to be shaken, not stirred by this performance.

"It's not often that we combine with local theatre. These actors will bring vibrancy, stage presence and pizzazz, making it unlike any other show we've done before."

Get ready to don your glad rags in July. Porirua City Brass can't wait to see you there."

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Top paediatric therapy comes to Wellington

Wellington families will soon have access to world-class paediatric therapy services, as Centre of Movement announces a limited-time pop-up clinic bringing the Trexo robotic walker and intensive therapy to the capital.

This is currently the only clinic in the Southern Hemisphere offering this technology for children with mobility challenges.

For local boy Raika and his family, the clinic marks a groundbreaking and emotional turning point.

Living with hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy (HIE) and cerebral palsy (CP), Raika has spent much of his young life travelling away from home to access the specialised therapy he needs.

Until now, that has meant regular trips to Rotorua, an exhausting and

often challenging journey for the whole family.

"This is the first time we don't have to leave our home to give Raika these opportunities," his mother, Letava, shares.

"It's hard to explain how much that means to us.

"Having the Centre of Movement come to Wellington means the whole family can attend and see Raika in the



Raika on the swing with his mother Letava. Photo: Supplied.

trexo in person and not through video recordings."

The pop-up clinic will deliver intensive therapy programmes designed to support children with neurological and developmental conditions, led by a highly skilled multidisciplinary team made up of Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Exercise Physiologists.

The team will be offering therapies such as Dynamic Movement Intervention (DMI), Universal Exercise Unit (Spider Cage), Task-Specific Electrical Stimulation (TASES), the Trexo robotic walker, and a range of other specialised services tailored to each child's goals and function.

Raika is especially excited to experience the Trexo robotic walker, an advanced device that supports assisted walking and mobility training, opening up new possibilities for independence and development.

Centre of Movement says the opportunity to bring these services directly to communities like Wellington is a major driver behind its outreach work.

"We absolutely love delivering these pop-up clinics," Centre of Movement Exercise Physiologist Sam Baxter says.

"Being able to reach communities and families who may not have otherwise been able to access our services is exactly why we do what we do.

"It's incredibly rewarding to expand our community here in New Zealand, helping families connect, support each other, and feel like they're not on this journey alone."

Sam highlights the clinical sig-

nificance of the Trexo technology and the opportunities it creates for children.

"The Trexo is a wearable robotic gait trainer that attaches to a child's legs and torso, helping guide them through a natural walking pattern," he/she explains.

"It allows us to deliver consistent, repetitive gait training in a way that simply isn't possible to replicate manually, which is incredibly important for building strength, co-ordination, and establishing those new neural pathways."

Sam says the impact can be profound, both physically and emotionally.

"For some children and their families, this is the very first time they get to experience walking. That moment is incredibly powerful, not just for the child, but for their families as well. It's exciting, it's emotional, and it opens up a whole new world of possibilities using advanced, evidence-based technology."

For Raika's family, this moment is about more than just one child.

"We know we're not the only ones who've had to travel for this kind of care," Letava says.

"Having it here in Wellington means other families won't have to go through what we have. It gives our whole community something we've been missing." For Raika and families like his, it's a step closer to a future where opportunity isn't limited by location. The Wellington pop-up will run from 1 to 19 June.

More information is on the Centre of Movement's Facebook page and the Wellington pop-up post is dated 22 April.

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Local history – Why Turkey?

By Felicity Wong

Reminders of New Zealanders fighting at Gallipoli in Turkey are plentiful at the large service persons site at Karori Cemetery and numerous suburban memorials such as inside the Ngaio Town Hall.

Some people ask “why were we fighting in Turkey? What right did we have to invade their country in 1915?”

Historian Damien Fenton gave a fascinating talk at the Onslow Historical Society recalling the history of why the ANZACs were there and who they were fighting.

Fenton said that New Zealanders “should not be surprised” that the Ottomans had sided with Germany in the First World War (1914-18).”

They were a European great power that had “made their decision to enter the war independently”.

“The British Empire was not the aggressor,” he recalled.

Although the Turkish people were part of the Ottoman Empire, its army incorporated many other ethnicities, including Arab and other peoples from across the middle east.

At the time, the term “Turks” was loosely applied to many peoples who inhabited the large swathe of Ottoman Empire lands stretching from Palestine to Anatolia, an area which was once the ancient Roman-Byzantine Empire.

The ethnic roots of modern Turkish people lay in Central Asia, (pushed out by the Mongols).

A succession of strong, smart Ottoman rulers had controlled Constantinople – “New Rome” (now called Istanbul).

Over centuries the Ottoman Empire had extended its borders throughout Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary and southern Italy.

Sofia, Bucharest, Belgrade and Athens were all European cities that had at one time been conquered and ruled by the Ottoman Empire.

Its permanent, professional army had pressed on to lay siege to Vienna until it was halted by Polish and other forces, and eventually driven back by the Balkan League.

In a nutshell, the Ottoman administration was itself a “European great power”.

One with a long “history” with the other European great powers.

Turning to events closer to WW1, the Ottomans had a series of wars with Russia, Austria, Italy and other neighbours.

A war with Bulgaria lost 250,000 men and resulted in a bitter and humiliating defeat.

There were also appalling activities being conducted against local civilian populations.

The Ottoman rulers wanted “Turkification” of its population with nationalism and pan Turkic efforts in Central Asia.

When the modern state of “Turkey” was emerging from the Islamic “Caliphate” of the Ottoman Empire, it attempted a programme of modernisation, including giving rights to women.

The army had very close links with the German army which had been helping it to modernise.

Person to person links with the German military were strong.

Although the Turkish Prime Minister was in favour of “neutrality”, domestic political forces engineered an inevitable entry into the existing European war.

The pro war faction had essentially won, and in October 1914 the navy launched a surprise attack on Russian ships in Black Sea ports.

It was “a mini Pearl Harbour” Fenton said (referring to Japan’s sinking of the American fleet in Hawaii in WW2).

The series of wars between the Ottomans and Russia guaranteed war with Russia, already at war with Germany.

One million Ottoman reservist soldiers were mobilised three days before the British declaration of war.

They came from a multi-ethnic area of some 22 million people of which 12 million were Turkish.

Five days later Britain “requisitioned” two Ottoman warships being built in the United Kingdom.

Turkey felt they were being stolen, and Germany then transferred its ships and 500 of its forces to the “neutral” Ottoman Navy.

A large Ottoman force of 128,000 invaded and attacked Russia.

Britain then blockaded the Dardanelle strait, attempting to stop German ships from using the narrow passage to the Black Sea (adjacent to Istanbul). The Ottoman/German forces continued to control the strait from their land based military positions.

ANZAC forces, Britain’s allies, were sent in to disable the land based control at the entry to the strait.

The rest is history.

The ANZACs were defeated and withdrawn and a long and appalling war unfolded.

For the Ottomans, Fenton said, “it was a war of their own making”.

The Ottomans were to lose 300,000 casualties.

Memorials to ANZACs, who were at war with the Ottoman Empire not the Turkish people, dot our contemporary landscape and historic community halls and monuments form part of New Zealand’s cultural heritage.

“History”, it is said is “90% geography and 10% common sense”. Current events unfolding in the Middle East, Fenton said, were giving him an eerie sense of recall.



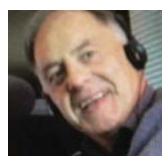
Damien Fenton looking at WW1 memorabilia at the Onslow Historical Society. Photo: Supplied.



Barbara Mulligan sharing stories of ANZAC soldiers at Karori Cemetery on ANZAC Day. Photo: Supplied.

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Collaborating Centres for stronger scientific collaboration

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently convened the historic first Global Forum of Collaborating Centres – one of the world’s largest and most diverse public health networks – bringing together representatives from over 800 institutions designated as WHO Collaborating Centres (CCs) across more than 80 countries.

At the meeting, scientists highlighted the health threats emerging in today’s fragmented world—challenges that not only create an urgent need for action but also open new opportunities to mobilize efforts toward better health solutions. The Forum concluded today with a renewed sense of commitment across the broad network, moving beyond rigid scientific projects toward more dynamic and integrated partnerships.

Rooted in one of WHO’s core constitutional functions, the Collaborating Centres network has enhanced the Organization’s scientific foundations since its earliest years. In 1949, the Second World Health Assembly af-

firmed that WHO should advance health research not by creating its own institutions, but by coordinating, supporting, and leveraging existing expertise across the world.

Over the past 77 years, the WHO CC network has expanded to include many of the world’s leading public health, academic, research, and technical institutions. Today, it remains a powerful asset—strengthening WHO’s global norms and standards, supporting innovation, collaborative research and capacity building—helping turn scientific knowledge into life-saving action worldwide.

“WHO’s network of collaborating centres is an immensely valuable but under-utilized resource for global health,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “It brings together the world’s leading institutions to translate evidence into action to support countries, strengthen health systems, and protect populations. Collaborating centres are a

powerful demonstration of international cooperation, and what it means to stand with science.”

The Global Forum leverages the momentum and is aligned with the international One Health Summit, which gathers leaders from across human, animal, and environmental health disciplines.

WHO is also expanding its global community of CCs to confront emerging health threats with greater strength and unity. A key initiative is the creation of the CORC (Collaborative Open Research Consortia)—networks of leading research institutions that bring together thousands of scientists worldwide.

Their mission is bold and essential: to accelerate the development of vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments for Disease X — the unknown pathogen that could spark the next pandemic. By joining forces, the networks aim to build the scientific readiness the world will rely on when that moment comes.

The Global Forum participants emphasized that strong international cooperation remains essential, particularly amid reductions in global health financing. Coordinated global responses, collective investment and collaboration are critical in preventing local health crises from becoming global emergencies.

Cherries – helping support heart health and joint mobility

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agents and are 100% natural. Tart cherry juice concentrate can be reconstituted into a single-strength beverage.



Kiwis helping other Kiwis beat prostate cancer

The Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand - Te Kāhui Mate Pukupuku Repe Tātea o Aotearoa Manatōpū, (PCFNZ) provides vital support, education and information to individuals, their families and whānau across Aotearoa New Zealand affected by prostate cancer.

PCFNZ provides a comprehensive portfolio of free in-person and remote support services to help those living with

prostate cancer, at any stage of diagnosis, treatment and survivorship.

PCFNZ is also dedicated to reducing the impact of prostate cancer through raising awareness, funding NZ-based research and advocating for improved standards of care and investing in research that raises the understanding of prostate cancer and its effects on men, their families and our communities.

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New book about justice

A new book about crime and punishment, and how it may be different in future, was published on 11 May.

Entitled 'The Valley' it is the debut book by Wellington writer and lawyer Asher Emanuel.

The book follows three men – two facing criminal charges, and their legal aid lawyer – through the New Zealand courts and prison, hospital, rehab, boarding houses and welfare offices.

Asher named the book 'The Valley' as the two men facing the charges both lived in the Hutt Valley.

"I think it is of particular relevance to people in the 'Independent Herald' area because it is about people nearby.

"It takes place in our part of the country," Asher says.

Set in late 2020, it draws on over two years of field work: court hearings, prison visits and hundreds of hours of recorded interviews.

Told largely in verbatim dialogue, it traces the collision between the justice system and the wider landscape of housing insecurity, mental



Asher Emanuel, author of 'The Valley'. Photo: Supplied.

health, addiction and economic hardship.

Emanuel came to the book as a former judges' clerk who later reported on justice issues as a journalist.

"I wanted to cover the kind of cases that go unreported," he says, "and to surface the knowledge that is unremarkable to those familiar with the criminal justice system,

but obscure to anyone who isn't."

The stories at the heart of the book, he writes, "are not the stories of crime and punishment that make headlines.

"But they are essential to understanding the reality of the criminal justice system in New Zealand as well as how it might one day be different."

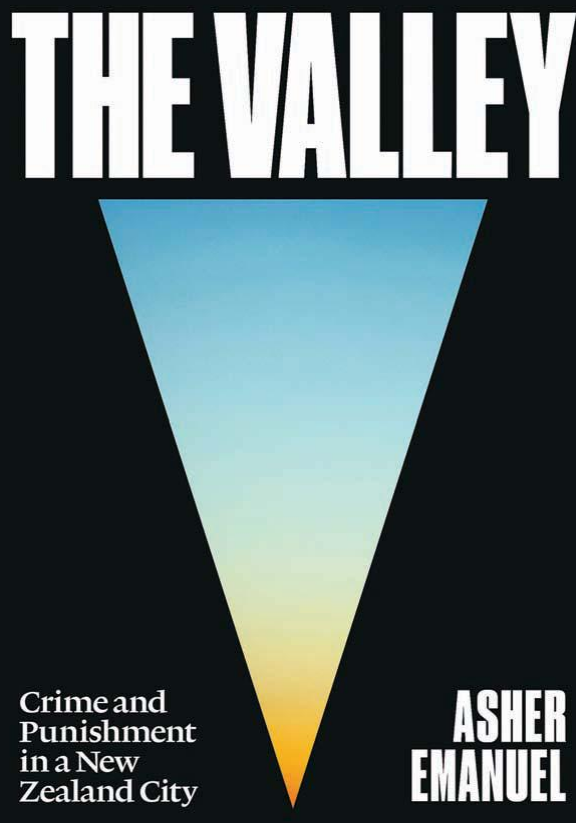
This up-close and personal account brings the realities of the New Zealand criminal justice system to life through the voices of those who experience it first-hand.

Soon after the launch of 'The Valley', Asher and publisher Bridget Williams Books will celebrate its publication at a BWB Talk.

The talk will be held at St Andrew's Hall, 30 The Terrace, on Wednesday 27 May. The doors will open at 5:30pm for a 6pm start.

Rebecca Macfie, best known for her book on the Pike River Mine disaster, will chair the session and legal academic and former prosecutor Yasmin Olsen and Asher will speak.

Right: The cover of the new book 'The Valley'.



More Pink Ribbon Breakfasts needed

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ urgently needs more Wellingtonians to get involved in Pink Ribbon Breakfasts.

Throughout the month of May, and even into June, Pink Ribbon Breakfasts are held around the country to raise funds for breast cancer education, research and patient support services.

These programmes play a crucial role in improving outcomes for Kiwis affected by breast cancer, from early detection initiatives to practical and emotional support for patients and their families.

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ doesn't receive any government funding and relies entirely on

the generosity of kind-hearted individuals and communities to sustain its work.

Without continued support, essential programmes that thousands of New Zealanders depend on each year could be at risk.

"Breast cancer doesn't stop during tough times and as a community, neither can we," says the Foundation's chief executive, Ah-Leen Rayner.

"Each year, around 390 women across the Wellington region are diagnosed with breast cancer, and Pink Ribbon Breakfasts help fund vital support, research and education.

"Without enough hosts, we risk

losing millions of dollars to invest in programmes that save lives.

"There's still time to get involved, rally your community and be part of something that truly matters.

"Whether it's a morning tea at work, brunch with friends, or a large community event, every gathering helps ensure we can continue supporting Kiwis affected by breast cancer," Ah-Leen adds.

For more information and to register to host a Pink Ribbon Breakfast, visit pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz.

Once registered, people will be sent a free host kit with ideas and resources to get them started. Registrations close on 31 May.



A scene from a past Pink Ribbon Breakfast. Photo: Supplied.

Celebrated rocker coming to Wellington

Celebrated US alt-rocker Suzanne Vega is returning to New Zealand for a three-date tour in September.

One of the foremost songwriters of her generation, she will perform at St James Theatre on Sunday, September 6.

Suzanne will perform a career-spanning show including favourites such as 'Tom's Diner', 'Luka', 'Marlena On The Wall' and many more, including songs from her latest album FLYING WITH ANGELS, which was released in May 2025 to critical acclaim.

She will be joined on stage by her long-time guitarist Gerry Leonard (of David Bowie fame) and cellist Stephanie Winters.

The media has heaped praise upon FLYING WITH ANGELS, with Rolling Stone proclaiming, "Four decades after her new-waif debut, Suzanne Vega retains her knack for lucid reflections and crisp music to match... Her voice remains both knowing and observant," and naming it one of 2025's best albums.

Stereogum observes, "Veteran Alt-rocker Suzanne Vega is still



Suzanne Vega. Photo: Ebry Yildiz.

making great music... It's not an exaggeration to call her a straight-up legend."

Finding Connecticut called a recent performance "nothing short of mesmerizing, weaving tales through her soulful songs in a cozy setting that allowed for a deep connection with the audience", while Patch declared, "Suzanne Vega wove a spell of light and shadow, blending classics and new material with intimate stories for a memorable night".

Pink Shirt Day tomorrow

Pink Shirt Day takes place tomorrow, Friday 15 May.

Pink Shirt Day is about working together to stop bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusiveness.

It's about creating a community where all people feel safe, valued and respected, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, religion or cultural background.

The Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand (MHF) has run Pink Shirt Day in Aotearoa since 2012, with Cotton On Foundation joining as major sponsor in 2019.

The campaign theme, "Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu, Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora – Speak Up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying", serves as a powerful call to action for schools, workplaces and communities across the motu to spread kindness and take a stand against bullying.

Studies show that people who are bullied are more likely to experi-

ence poor mental health, including experiences such as depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts.

"Pink Shirt Day is about more than just wearing a colour; it is about the power of coming together to end bullying, harassment and discrimination in Aotearoa," says Shaun Robinson, chief executive of the MHF.

"With New Zealand still facing the third highest rate of school bullying in the OECD, and where one in five workers have experienced bullying behaviour over the past 12 months, the visibility and support of this campaign is critical.

"When we lead with kindness we strengthen mental wellbeing and build environments where bullying can't thrive," Shaun says.

The impact of this movement is measurable.

Since 2021, more than 277,000 Cotton On Pink Shirt Day t-shirts have been sold across Aotearoa, each one acting as a visible beacon against bullying.

With 100% of net proceeds from Pink Shirt Day merchandise going directly to the MHF, the funds help power vital programmes that lift mental wellbeing in schools, workplaces and communities.

Since the partnership between the MHF and Cotton On began in 2019, the total raised through sales and in-store donations has surpassed \$3,801,000, helping fuel the Upstander movement, which is rooted in the fact that more than half of bullying situations stop when a peer intervenes.

Elephant Publicity is also a supporter of the initiative.

Pink Shirt Day started in Canada in 2007 after two students stood up for another student who experienced homophobic bullying for wearing pink.

The next day, hundreds of students wore pink to stand in solidarity with him.

Pink Shirt Day is now celebrated annually in more than 180 countries around the globe.

Science, history and music at libraries

Wellington City Libraries, in association with The Cuba Press, hosts a conversation between science communicator turned homeopath Vanessa Young, and author Kristen Phillips.

Entitled 'The Reluctant Homeopath' it will be held at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui on Thursday 21 May from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Vanessa draws on decades of work to provide insight into how she has reconciled parts of herself that are seemingly at odds, and how to do this when she needed to reframe everything she understood to be certain.

Her journey, told with empathy and supported by experience, yields an unexpected science story.

Leslie Adkin: local history discussion will take place at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui on Wednesday 20 May from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Join Wellington City Libraries' local and New Zealand history specialist Gábor Tóth as he discusses the book 'Leslie Adkin: Farmer Photographer' with author and Te Papa Curator of Photography Athol McCredie.

This free talk will explore in detail the rich history of the Wellington region in the early 1900s, and the lives that Adkin captured in his

remarkable photographs.

Leslie Adkin (1888-1964) was a Levin farmer, photographer, geologist, ethnologist and explorer, a gifted amateur and renaissance man, who used photography to document his scholarly interests, farming activities and family life.

His much loved and exceptionally beautiful photographs taken between 1900 and the 1930s are a highlight of Te Papa's historical photography collection, and an exhibition of these photographs is currently on display.

Athol McCredie has worked at Te Papa since 2001.

He has been involved with photography as a researcher, curator and photographer since the 1970s.

His publications include 'Brian Brake: Lens on the World' (2010), 'New Zealand Photography Collected' (2015), 'The New Photography: New Zealand's first generation of documentary photographers' (2019), 'Leslie Adkin: Farmer Photographer' (2024), shortlisted for New Zealand's national book awards, and 'New Zealand Photography Collected: 175 Years of Photography in Aotearoa'.

A New Zealand Music Month event, 'Ciaconna' with Corrina and Katrin, will be held at Te Takapū o Patukawenga Tawa (Mervyn Kemp)



Library on Saturday 16 May from 11am to 11:30am.

Corrina (cello) and Katrin (recorders) explore the world of the chaconne (Italian "ciaccona"), an 18th century stately dance, popularised by J S Bach.

Mood music with Sam and Neil will take place at Waitohi Johnsonville Library on Thursday 21 May from 3:30pm to 4pm.

Enjoy a soundscape of music with Sam on electric guitar and Neil on synth deluge. Close your

eyes and allow the music to envelop you.

There will be time for questions and discussion after the performance.

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Use rail more to move freight

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) strongly supports the Minister for Rail's call for increased use of rail to move freight during the current fuel supply crisis, particularly for heavy bulk goods such as logs.

Rail freight consumes significantly less diesel than road freight, GWRC Chair Daran Ponter says.

"On average, moving goods by rail is nearly four times more fuel efficient than moving by road.

"In a fuel crisis, that efficiency really matters," Cr Ponter says.

"There is no question rail is essential national infrastructure.

"When we use rail for heavy and bulk freight, we reduce pressure on limited fuel supplies and keep goods flowing to where they're needed most," Cr Ponter says.

Using rail instead of road also protects New Zealanders from avoidable costs.

"Heavy freight causes disproportionate damage to our roading network.

"That leads to earlier and more expensive repairs, paid for by taxpayers and ratepayers. Shifting more freight to rail reduces that damage and lowers long-term maintenance costs," Cr Ponter says.

The wide-ranging benefits of rail extend well beyond the current fuel challenge.

The Benefit of Rail to New Zealand, a report released by the Australasian Railway Association, estimates rail delivers \$3.3 billion in benefits every year to New Zealanders, including reduced congestion by taking cars



Greater Wellington Regional Council Chair Daran Ponter. Photo: Supplied.

and trucks off our roads, lower greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, improved road safety, with fewer injuries and fatalities, lower road maintenance costs for taxpayers and ratepayers, fuel savings and a contribution of \$1 billion to GDP.

"These benefits only grow as investment continues into the rail network," Cr Ponter says.

"With significant government funding supporting rail upgrades, the opportunity is

there to move more freight and passengers efficiently, safely and sustainably."

The current fuel pressures highlight why long-term shifts toward both freight and passenger rail are not just environmentally responsible, but economically smart and essential to national resilience.

Greater Wellington has also asked the Government to prioritise passenger rail services during the fuel crisis, recognising the role rail plays in keeping people moving when fuel availability is uncertain.

"Passenger rail is critical to maintaining access to jobs, education, health services, and essential activities.

"Prioritising passenger services reduces pressure on fuel supplies, keeps congestion down and supports those who rely on public transport most during times of disruption.

"Rail helps keep New Zealand moving when conditions are toughest. That's something worth backing – now and into the future and whether there is a fuel crisis or not," Cr Ponter says.

Local people should decide the future

The Wellington Mayoral Forum met at Silverstream on 8 May to continue discussions about options for regional governance reform.

The forum also considered the central government's announcement about a three-month window to put forward 'fast track' proposals.

"Mayors continued our frank and constructive discussions. No final decisions were made," Mayoral Forum Chair and Wellington Mayor Andrew Little says.

"We've been working since November to respond to the central government's 'Simplifying Local Government' policy.

"The new three-month deadline has complicated that work, but the bottom line remains

that local people should decide the future of their local governments," Mayor Little said.

"The appropriate next step is to report back to our respective councils," Deputy Forum Chair and South Wairarapa Mayor Dame Fran Wilde says.

"That's the right process to ensure all councillors get to fully participate in leading the conversations we'll keep having as local communities," Dame Fran adds.

The Wellington Mayoral Forum is made up of the mayors of Wellington City, Hutt City, Upper Hutt City, Porirua City, Kapiti Coast District, South Wairarapa District, Carterton and Masterton, as well as the Chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council.

At last year's local body elections voters in Hutt City and Porirua City voted to explore the possibility of amalgamation.

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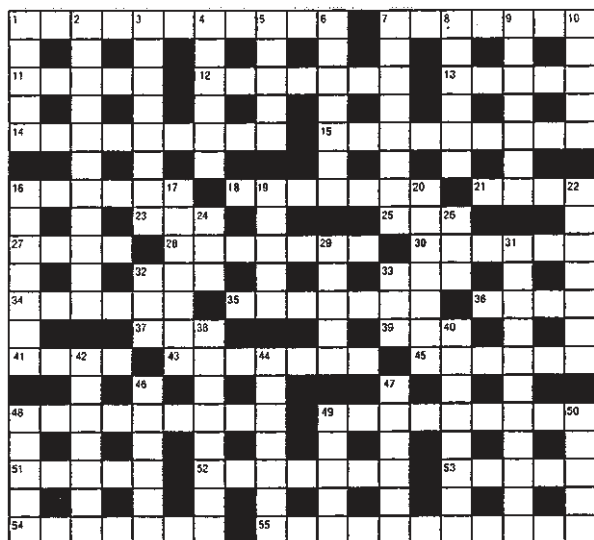
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CROSSWORD Puzzle



ACROSS

- Fragility (11)
- Grossly overcharges (7)
- Faint (5)
- Get rid of (7)
- Extinguish light (5)
- Provide(tower) with battlements (9)
- Put aside (2,3,4,6)
- Sailors (6)
- Thug (7)
- Dispatch (4)
- Smear (3)
- Statute (3)
- Scold (4)
- Provides (7)
- Calm (6)
- Unrefined mineral (3)
- Expert (3)
- Memorandum-book (6)
- Blather (7)
- Gemstone (4)
- et cetera(Abbr) (3)
- Limit (3)
- Enfold (4)
- Hearing distance (7)
- Swapped (6)
- Requiring great strength (9)
- Plunged headlong (9)

DOWN

- Contempt (5)
- Closest to (7)
- Hidden riches; treasure ... (5)
- Made certain (7)
- Qualified drug dispensers
- Fundamental (5)
- Out of action (11)
- Offered (8)
- Charm (6)
- Follow (5)
- Flaunt (4,3)
- Final (8)
- More neat (6)
- Rolled pork (with stuffing) (7)
- Shiny (5)
- Retainer (7)
- Recount (7)
- Beneath (5)
- Just coming into existence (7)
- Resided (7)
- Busy insect (3)
- Tiny (3)
- Proportion (5)
- Prompt (11)

Solution

Last Week: 7 May 2026

C	H	E	R	I	S	H	F	I	T	S	T	H	E	B	I	L	L
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Norths on the wrong side of Cup thriller

By Hamish Wareham

After having a Chatham Cup preliminary fixture on ANZAC day Monday, in which North Wellington beat Wellington United 5-0 at Newtown Park, a round one cup fixture was drawn versus Tawa at Alex Moore Park in a fortnight's time.

With the draw structured the way it was, that meant that the two sides would play each other in consecutive weeks.

Tawa won their maiden encounter 3-2 at Redwood Park, helped by a fast start scoring three goals in the first 20 minutes. But surviving a late North Wellington fight as two goals in as many minutes made it a nervy last 10 minutes for Tawa.

For the second week running it was Sam Staunton who opened the scoring for Tawa, this time latching onto the end of a low cross from Harry Findlay and finishing into the corner past goalkeeper Cameron Maung-Maung.

A clever assist saw Jerram Tuck equalize for North Wellington just four minutes later, however a goal worthy of the highest order from Staunton, smashing a strike into where the cobwebs live in the top right corner of the goal, sent Tawa into halftime 2-1 ahead.

Lachie Macgregor equalized for North's eight minutes into the second half, before Nate Brosnahan, recently returned from a

trip to Singapore, assisted Staunton's third goal put Tawa back ahead within the blink of an eye.

A free kick on the edge of the box is always dangerous with a player like Miles Woodhall on the opposing team and that's exactly what the young North Wellington captain did, striking the post from his set-piece before it was bundled over the line by Sidney Sharp-Judge tying the game up in the 63rd minute.

Brosnahan would have the final say against the club he used to call home for a number of years, after Tawa substitute Ethan Phelan drove into the box and was adjudged to have been fouled by referee Dan Shaw who awarded a penalty to the visitors.

Nate stepped up and rolled the penalty down the middle while Cameron dived to his left. Despite North Wellington having what looked like a strong penalty appeal turned down for handball later on, they were unable to find another equaliser and were eliminated from the Chatham Cup in a thrilling 4-3 defeat to Tawa AFC.

Waterside Karori men's side travelled to Park Island on Sunday to do battle with an unbeaten side for the second week in a row, this time being Napier City Rovers.

Three first half and two second half goals unfortunately spelled a sixth defeat of the Central League season, with Napier Rovers winning 5-0.



North Wellington Captain Miles Woodhall (in the blue) and Tawa Captain Aaron Scott battle for possession. Photo: Wareham Sports Media.

Johnsonville Hawks crush Avalon Wolves

By Frank Neill

The Johnsonville Hawks Rugby team crushed the Avalon Wolves 43-7 at Fraser Park on 9 May.

The Hawks ran in seven tries in the match, five of them scored by two players.

Left wing Jacob Kennedy secured a hat trick and second five eight Jacob Walmsley dotted down twice.

Jacob Kennedy's three tries lifted his total for the season to eight, and he is one of three players leading the try scoring table for

2026 to date. Paremata-Plimmerton's Louis Northcott and Hutt Old Boys Marist's Rupeni Raviyawa have also scored eight tries.

Right wing Ngahau Teepa and prop Hayden Kuresa also scored tries for the Hawks.

The fullback, Kayd Parata, converted four of the tries in the one-sided encounter.

Johnsonville's next match sees them play Tawa, who currently lead the Swindale Shield standings, at Lyndhurst Park on 16 May. The kick off is at 2:45pm.

They will be playing for the Carman Cup, contested annually between the two teams.

Transport fares rise tomorrow

Metlink will increase public transport fares by 3.1% tomorrow, 15 May.

At the same time the off-peak Snapper fare discount will reduce from 30% to 20%.

From tomorrow the cost of a three-zone trip will increase by 14 cents, bringing the peak adult Snapper fare to \$4.67 for those travelling from Karori to the CBD.

The decision to adjust fares was a result of Greater Wellington Regional Council's Annual Fares Review – a policy requirement that ensures public transport fares keep pace with inflation and operating costs.

The review helps ensure passengers contribute a balanced and sustainable share toward running and improving the network, alongside ratepayers, and other funding partners, including the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

Greater Wellington Public Transport Committee Chair Ros Connelly says the Council made the decision to raise fares earlier this



year. "We resolved to raise fares prior to the current conflict in the Middle East to mitigate cost pressures and address revenue loss," Cr Connolly says.

"Since then, the cost of diesel has skyrocketed, costing Metlink an extra \$200,000 a week. "Metlink understands the cost-of-living challenges that people are facing.

"However, even with the inflation-adjusted fares, using public transport saves personal fuel use and contributes to the running of the whole network.

"We are also having to balance fiscal responsibility and funding constraints with affordability, ensuring our fare revenue meets targets set by NZTA."

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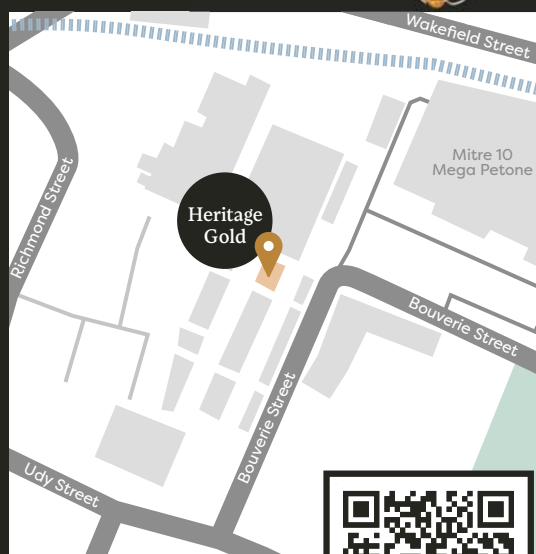
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