

Thursday July 23, 2026



Today 11-14



Friday 7-13



Saturday 5-12



Sunday 4-9

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Major planting

By Frank Neill

Victoria University is taking its community to the hills on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 July for its annual volunteer native tree planting days.

More than 180 students, staff, and alumni from Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington will be planting 2,500 native trees in Ōhāriu Valley over two days, in the sixth year of the Growing our Future project.

Continued on page 2.

Amelia Hislop at work during one of Victoria University's native planting days. Photo: Image Services, Victoria University of Wellington.



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Amazing hands-on learning

Continued from page 1.

This year the planting will also involve some of the littler members of the university's community.

Its on-site creche – University Kids – will be bringing along some of their tamariki to learn how to plant trees, so they can go on and develop a garden in their own back yard. “We regularly take our tamariki on outings such as beach trips and forest walks, and we are always looking for opportunities that support their connection with nature and Kaitiakitanga,” says Leanna Miratana, head of complex, University Kids – Fairlie Terrace.

“Being involved in this project will be an amazing hands-on learning experience for them, and a special way to contribute to the environment.”

Growing our Future is a collaborative project run by the University with the Wellington City Council, from which the University has leased 26 hectares of land for 33 years.

During this time, the University community is replanting this land in native forest, with researchers monitoring the forest as it develops.

The University community has so far planted over 23,000 trees at the site, which is plugging a gap in the Outer Green Belt to ensure that birds and other native animals have safe spaces to nest and live.

The project is important to the University, as a way of contributing to its goal of net zero carbon by 2030.

The site has been planted with 15 species, including kānuka and mānuka, and is being monitored by researchers and Master's students from the university's Centre for Biodiversity and Restoration Ecology.



At work during one of Victoria University's native planting days. Photo: Image Services, Victoria University of Wellington.

It is a living laboratory on the university's doorstep that is ideal for teaching and learning.

Results will assist the development of optimal management strategies for similar forest regeneration projects across the lower

North and upper South Island.

“Planting more native trees is an important action we can all take to tackle climate change,” the university says on its Growing our Future website, www.wgtn.ac.nz/growing-our-future.

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Volunteers restoring Khandallah Park



Volunteers sifting through the soil for Montbretia corms in Khandallah Park. Photo: Supplied.

Thanks to a party of volunteers, a large patch of invasive weeds was removed from Khandallah Park last Sunday, 19 July, and replaced with native plants that provide food for birds and habitat for invertebrates.

Angus Napier, who co-ordinates the informal group of Khandallah Park Restorers, said it was due to the large group of 12 who turned up to help that so much was achieved in just a couple of hours.

Most of the group tackled a patch beside the Simla Crescent track that was thick with Montbretia, one of the most invasive weeds in New Zealand.

The volunteers dug up many sacks of Montbretia corms for removal and disposal.

They replanted the area with Turutu/dianella nigra (NZ bluebell) which produces clusters of deep blue berries that are a favourite food of the Tauhou/silvereye. Mikoikoi/libertia ixioides (NZ iris) was also planted.

Two volunteers headed further up the park to work on eradicating the invasive Darwin's barberry/Berberis darwinii, an evergreen thorny shrub that dominates the bush, is spread rapidly by birds, and will take many decades to be overgrown by native species.

The accidental unearthing of two Powelliphanta, rare giant carnivorous nocturnal snails, was a highlight of the afternoon.

The snails were photographed and returned carefully to the leaf litter.

The Khandallah Park Restorers group is informal, and gets together on the third Sunday of every month, weather permitting.

Anyone interesting in helping on a casual basis can email the co-ordinator Angus Napier at napiers.ace@gmail.com so he can advise people of any weather postponements, and ensure there are enough cups and cake for afternoon tea.



Two rare Powelliphanta that were discovered in Khandallah Park and returned carefully to their habitat. Photo: Supplied.

inbrief news

Tamil entertainment

The Wellington Mutamizh Sangam (WMS) will be hosting a special entertainment evening along with its annual general meeting on Sunday 26 July.

The annual meeting and entertainment will be held at the Johnsonville Community Centre starting at 3:30pm.

"An immersive musical experience awaits, featuring Akila Iyer and special guest artist MJ Sreeram from Chennai," WMS says.

The event aims to support the Tamil community and preserve its heritage.

People can register for the event by visiting WMS's Facebook page. Registration is essential.

Top city

Wellington has been named the number one city in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific in the Travel & Leisure 2026 World's Best Awards.

The judges praised the capital for enchanting its readers with its film sites, thoughtful museums and proximity to wine country.

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

How one Big Buddy changed a life

Growing up without his father, Tawa teenager Levi felt a gap in his life.

Through Big Buddy Mentoring Trust, he found someone to talk to, someone to look up to and the confidence to step outside his comfort zone.

A decade after they were matched, Levi is preparing to celebrate his 18th birthday with his Big Buddy mentor, Tim.

"Having grown up without my father, I had no male role model to really look up to," Levi says.

"Tim filled that gap, providing guidance and giving me someone to look up to (aside from my amazing Mum).

"I also found that it made a safe space to talk about things that I otherwise wouldn't have brought up."

Levi says seeing Tim regularly helped build a relationship that has lasted beyond childhood.

"Regularity was a big part of it. I often would look forward to when I would next see Tim and what we would get up to next.

"That helped to cement a relationship between us that will last, even though we might not see each other as much as we used to."

He believes the mentoring relationship changed him.

"Before meeting Tim I was a very quiet and shy kid who was anxious

about change," he says.

"Spending time with Tim helped me to overcome that, especially when we went off to do something new.

"I was forced to face those challenges that I would have previously ignored, eventually overcoming them."

For Tim, becoming a Big Buddy was equally life changing.

"By the time I turned 30 I'd reached a point where I was wanting to do something that meant more than just serving my own self interests," he says.

"I definitely had a feeling that I'd get something from it, but I didn't quite appreciate the true impact Levi would have on me. I always left our catchups feeling energised and more fulfilled."

Together they tackled activities including Adrenalin Forest and explored Whitireia Park, often finishing with a café stop in Titahi Bay.

As the years passed, Tim watched Levi grow from a shy boy into a confident young man.

"Levi was a touch on the shy side when we were initially getting to know each other, but it wasn't long before he came out of his shell and it was great to see his confidence grow."

Tim said it had been rewarding to see Levi's achievements, including



Levi and Tim on their way up Mount Kaukau. Photo: Supplied.

his academic success, becoming a First XI hockey player at Tawa College, and being selected for Outward Bound.

"He's also just developed into a bloody good human being who is caring, kind and ambitious.

"I would absolutely recommend the programme. Such a great concept. The mentors help the mentees and the mentees help the mentors."

Levi's mum Rachel says that "Big Buddy has meant the world to my

family.

"A connection to Tim has reinforced to Levi what it means to be a valued, generous, contributing member of society and a good human.

"Levi has grown in confidence and aspiration through the connection and mentoring from Tim.

"I will always be very grateful to Big Buddy and Tim (and Tim's family) for this incredible opportunity.

"Big Buddy did such a good job of understanding who Levi was at the outset and finding a very compatible buddy to match him with."

Big Buddy is looking for more volunteer male mentors, as well as boys who would benefit from a consistent male role model in their lives.

Contact Wellington Mentoring Manager, Dave Burcher, dave@bigbuddy.org.nz to find out more or visit www.bigbuddy.org.nz to start your application.

Upcoming forums on amalgamation

Wellington City Council is holding two public forums on local body amalgamation on Wednesday 29 July and Thursday 30 July.

The forums will be held at the Council's offices, 2 Harris Street, and people can register to speak by visiting wellington.govt.nz/amalgamation-forums.

People will be able to speak for up to five minutes.

"These forums are an opportunity to express your views directly to your repre-

sentatives about:

- what local authority groupings make the most sense for the Wellington region from your point of view;
- what structural reorganisation would support stronger regional planning under the Government's criteria;
- whether the 'Head Start' pathway (where territorial authorities lead their own amalgamation proposals) is preferable to the 'Backstop' pathway; and

• members will also be interested to hear what you consider to be the greatest risks, and opportunities, from amalgamation.

"Given the Government's tight timelines, this is not formal consultation on a detailed proposal," the Council says.

"If a Wellington region proposal is accepted and progressed through to detailed design, we expect to consult with the community at that next stage."

The Government has announced it will

reform local government by removing regional councils and looking at how other councils can be merged.

It has invited councils to form groups and submit proposals under a 'Head Start' pathway for how they could reorganise.

Where local authorities do not submit a 'Head Start' proposal, they will enter the Government's 'Backstop' pathway, where Central Government will lead reform proposals for the region.

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The image for Karori's Got Talent.

By Frank Neill

A talent quest is coming to Karori this year – the inaugural Karori's Got Talent.

It will take place on Sunday afternoon 29 November at the Karori West Normal School Hall.

To help put the event together Karori's Got Talent organiser Carolyn Davies is looking for volunteers.

"We're looking for enthusiastic people to help make Karori's Got Talent 2026 a fantastic community event," Carolyn says.

"I'm looking for people to help design an application form, people who can look for sponsorship for prizes and people to help run the event on the day.

"I'm looking for judges as well. I want at least three judges," Carolyn says.

A trophy and certificates are also needed. People interested in volunteering or who want more information can make contact by emailing karorigottalent@gmail.com.

Karori's Got Talent is Carolyn's initiative. "I just decided one night 'I'm going to do it,'" she says.

"I've lived in Karori for a long time and I don't think we have ever had anything like this, so I thought 'let's do it'.

"I put an initial post up on I Love Karori [on Facebook] and people were for it.

"They said 'go for it', so I have gone for it.

"Now I just need their help. I can't do it on my own," Carolyn says.

More Plunket car seat checks coming

Whānau Āwhina Plunket has secured a \$493,690 grant from NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi to expand its car restraint checking services over the next 12 months.

Data from Plunket shows that as many as nine out of 10 child car restraints, such as capsules, car seats and booster seats, that are checked at their community centres are incorrectly fitted or used.

The most common issues include infants outgrowing their capsules, incorrectly installed seats, or children riding with no restraint at all.

The extra funding means the organisation can strengthen its Child Restraint Technician (CRT) programme by increasing the availability of qualified technicians who provide the car seat checks, installation support, education and advice to help keep pēpi and tamariki safe on New Zealand roads.

It will directly improve access in areas where support is currently limited, ensuring

help reaches families who face barriers because of their location or circumstances. In-person clinics will be supported by a virtual service so remote whānau can log on for expert guidance.

Areas that are currently experiencing high demand, such as Wellington, will get the support they need to address demand. Plunket head of community services David Ensor says the funding will help Plunket reach families with limited access to specialist services.

"Every family deserves to feel confident that their child is safe while they travel. We know many parents and caregivers want to do the right thing but often don't realise their child's restraint isn't fitted correctly."

Karen Jones, NZTA's general group manager for engagement and partnerships, says correctly installed restraints are one of the most effective ways to protect young ones, and this investment will help prevent harm on our roads.



Electrification opening day, Johnsonville Railway Station, July 1938.
Photographer: Graham Tuaraki Radcliffe.
Courtesy of WCC.

Millions lost in cryptocurrency scam

The Police are warning that scammers impersonating the New Zealand Police are targeting cryptocurrency wallet holders.

Victims of the scammers have suffered millions of dollars in losses, the Police say.

Detective Inspector Stuart Mills says the scammers are posing as police detectives, often claiming that the victim's details, information or identity documents have been found on a person who has been arrested.

"The fake detective directs their questions towards establishing if and how the victim holds cryptocurrency, before arranging for a fake representative from the cryptocurrency company to contact the victim.

"The fake representative then convinces the victim to hand over their passwords or seed phrases, often through a fake webpage resembling a legitimate cryptocurrency application."

New Zealand Police are urging members of the public to protect their cryptocurrency information, and not to give it out to anyone they are not familiar with.

"This type of scam is on the rise, and we want the community to be alert.

"There are instances where legitimate police officers will contact you as part of their duties, but New Zealand Police will never ask you sensitive financial details," said Detective Inspector Mills.

Remember:

- Police will never make unsolicited requests for details about your crypto wallets, bank cards, PIN, seed phrases, or



passwords on a phone call.

- Trust your instincts - if something doesn't feel right, or is too good to be true, it probably isn't.

- If you are contacted by someone conducting a 'Police investigation' into cryptocurrency, check in with a trusted friend or relative.

- Be aware scammers can 'spoof' legitimate Police phone numbers and email addresses, so this is not a reliable way to check who's contacting you.

- If you are still uncertain or confused, ask for the officer's details, hang up, contact 105 and request that officer call you back.

- Never give out your seed phrase. "If you believe you are in the unfortunate position of being a victim of a scam or feel this situation may be familiar, please report the matter to Police," the Police say.

- "If you're victim to a scam or fraud-related incident, report this to Police through 105, either online or over the phone."



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Chance to record your reflections

Share Te Matapihi memories will be held at Taupuni Hopuoro Sound Studio at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library from 4:15pm to 6:30pm on Monday 27 July.

At this event people can record two-minute reflections on their strongest library memory and their aspirations for Te Matapihi in the future.

"We look forward to introducing you to our studio and creating a collection of community stories," Wellington City Libraries says.

"Bookings are required and are for 15 minutes only. To reserve a space visit <https://wellingtoncitylibraries.trumba.com/Share-Te-Matapihi-Memories/E204307005>.

"After you have booked, library staff will be in contact to confirm your session time."

Made in Miramar: inside the ZELMA Lamp Factory, a local history talk, will take place from 4:45pm to 5:30pm on Thursday 30 July at Motu-kairangi Miramar Library.

"Get cosy for a short evening talk on the history of the 'lamp factory', ZELMA (New Zealand electric lamp manufacturers).

"Hear about the site on Tauhinu Road and the local workers who produced lightbulbs day and night for the war effort and many years beyond.

"This event also marks the opening of an accompanying exhibition, which will be on display for three weeks."

The New Zealand Electric Lamp Manufacturers opened in 1940 during the Second World War.

At the time electricity had only recently become commonplace in homes and the country soon faced supply shortages and "trial blackouts."

The need for domestic production boosted factory employment, with ZELMA becoming a major local employer.

By the time it closed in 1999, the factory was producing up to 20 million lightbulbs each year.

Although the main site was demolished soon after closure, the former staff cafeteria still stands and is now part of the Greek Akarnanian Brotherhood on Byron Street.

Between the Lines: the devil's bargain, with Orchestra Wellington will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm on Thursday 30 July at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui.

Between the Lines is a monthly (last Thursday each month) early-evening chamber music series and book club.

It brings music and literature into conversation and invites audiences to listen, think, and chat.

No prior knowledge of music or literature is required, just a curious mind.

Between the Lines is co-created by New Zealand String Quartet, Orchestra Wellington, and New Zealand School of Music, who take turns presenting each month.

"A talented group of musicians perform music and host discussions on a different literary theme," Wellington City Libraries says.

"From devil's bargains to language games, the obsessive tortured artist to the intimate private lives of writers and composers, this book club will delve deep into themes that span across artforms.

"Each session will feature carefully selected music and a reading list highlighting the theme of the month.

"So, arrive solo or bring your book club to Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui for a new kind of conversation.

"The theme of our July musical book club is the devil's bargain.

"Details of the music to be performed and suggested readings can be found on Eventfinda – July Between the Lines.

"All events are free and seating is limited. We encourage you to arrive early to secure a seat.

"Nau mai rā tātou katoa. Everyone is welcome."



Jessica Lemieux. Photo: Supplied.

New Porirua Community Lead

By Frank Neill

Jessica Lemieux is the new Parks and Community Programme Lead at Porirua City Council.

Her role includes working throughout the whole Porirua water catchment, including in Glenside, which the Porirua Stream runs through.

Churton Park and Grenada are also in the upper catchment of the Porirua Harbour.

"It's a very cool job," Jessica says.

"I'm very, very grateful and fortunate to be in this position, and to hang out with cool people like Claire [Claire Bibby is President of the Glenside Progressive Association] and the conservation groups we have in this area.

"My role is reaching out beyond the Porirua city boundary and connecting with the groups that are doing fantastic work."

That involves being the bridge between the community groups, the Council and also the

Harbour Accord Group.

"The Harbour Accord is an agreement between Wellington City Council, Porirua City Council, Tiaki Wai, Ngāti Toa and Greater Wellington Regional Council to take a wrap-around approach to the Porirua catchment in order to get the harbour to the state where, ideally, we could actually be harvesting food from it."

Jessica will be involved in setting up programmes and education for community groups on monitoring and planting and also in making sure they have everything they need.

"We are hoping in the next little while to do a pest identification workshop so our community groups can tell the difference between a very important native creeper and a very not wanted creeper that is going to suffocate the bush," she says.

Jessica is well known to many in the area, as she used to work at Twiglands, where she was known as the "compost queen".

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Saving lives with mini defibrillator

Hato Hone St John has launched the next-generation LifeBeat Mini defibrillator, making life-saving treatment more accessible during cardiac arrests.

The LifeBeat Mini packs the power of a full-sized defibrillator into a device around the same length and width as a mobile phone.

Weighing less than 700g – around half the weight of a traditional AED – it fits easily into a glove box, handbag or first aid kit, making it easier than ever to have a defibrillator within reach when every second counts.

Last year, almost 2,500 New Zealanders received treatment for cardiac arrest, but only 6% received defibrillation from a bystander before an ambulance arrived.

Improving access to defibrillators in everyday settings is critical, according to Hato Hone St John.

They say early CPR and defibrillation dramatically improve survival. There is a 2.1-times greater chance of survival for patients who receive CPR from a bystander, and for every minute without CPR or defibrillation, their chance of survival falls by 10 to 15%.

Cardiac arrests can happen anywhere – on work sites, at home, in schools, on the sidelines of weekend sport, during remote bush walks, on the road or on the water.

The importance of being ready when it matters has been recognised by Hato Hone St John customer, Southern Lakes Swim Club.

Preparedness is a priority for the club, which has previously invested in St John defibrillators

for water-based emergencies.

It recently secured funding for a LifeBeat Mini to better protect its growing community of open water swimmers on Lake Wakatipu.

The club attracts up to 50 swimmers aged from 18 to 70 during summer and regularly organises swims in remote locations on the lake, where there is no road access. If a cardiac emergency occurs, responders may need to reach the scene by helicopter or boat, making immediate access to a defibrillator critical.

Simon Barnett, Hato Hone St John Head of Public Training & Medical Products, says having a defibrillator within reach can make all the difference.

“You don’t need to be a medical professional to save a life. You just need the right tool at the right moment,” he says.

“The LifeBeat Mini is designed for both trained responders and everyday members of the community.”

Beyond its breakthrough portability, LifeBeat Mini offers all the life-saving capabilities of a traditional defibrillator.

Voice prompts and intuitive smart pads guide users through every step, and the device recognises the patient’s heart rhythm to deliver a shock only when required. Its dust and water-resistant design operates in temperatures from -15°C to +50°C and at altitudes of up to 5,000 metres.

Priced at \$2,990 including GST, the LifeBeat Mini is aimed at businesses, households and those looking to improve emergency readiness.

The LifeBeat Mini is available at stjohn.org.nz/first-aid/explore-our-defibrillator-range.



Southern Lakes Swim Club members with their LifeBeat Mini. Photo: Supplied.

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Local businesses make final



Hamilton and Murray Boutique. Photo: Supplied.

By Frank Neill

Three businesses operating in the “Independent Herald” area are People’s Choice Award finalists in the 2026 Spark Retail NZ Awards.

Gipps Street Butchery in Karori is one of the finalists.

Hamilton and Murray Boutique, which is based in the Khandallah shopping area, is another finalist.

This boutique sells menswear, womenswear and gifts.

The third local finalist is the Welly Collective.

It has two shops in the northern and western suburbs, one in Johnsonville and one in Karori.

“We were delighted to have such a high calibre of entries this year, and we cannot wait to celebrate the amazing work across retail at our Awards in Auck-

land on September 3rd,” Retail NZ Chief Executive, Carolyn Young says.

“Public voting is well underway for the inaugural People’s Choice Award, with thousands of votes having already been cast,” Ms Young says.

“With voting closing on August 16, there’s still plenty of time to have your say, and we’re delighted to see so many people already getting behind their communities and voting for their local favourite.”

People can cast a vote for the Spark People’s Choice Award at retail.kiwi/finalists-spea-2026/.

“We’re excited to celebrate the achievements of our finalists and the wider retail sector at what promises to be a glittering night of retail excellence, MCed by the amazing Kerre Woodham.

“We are looking forward to focusing on the successes of the past year,” Ms Young says.



Gipps Street Butchery. Photo: Supplied.



Welly Collective. Photo: Supplied.



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AUGUST

With wetter weather around it is harder to get out in the garden, a good time to do some planning with a cup of tea in hand! Frosts and snow will be about in some areas, when in doubt cover and protect all your hard work.



PLANTING

- ✓ Vege Seeds
- ✓ Summer Bedding Plants
- ✓ Herbs
- ✓ Asparagus Crowns
- ✓ Rhubarb
- ✓ Citrus Trees
- ✓ Roses



MAINTENANCE

- ✓ Cover Frost Sensitive Plants
- ✓ Prune Deciduous Trees
- ✓ Remove Flowers From Citrus
- ✓ Tend to Perennials
- ✓ Prepare Soil for Spring
- ✓ Refresh Containers
- ✓ Feed Shrubs
- ✓ Compost Rose Beds
- ✓ Feed Spring Bulbs
- ✓ Fertilise & Water Lawn



TREES & GARDEN COLOUR

- ▶ Remove old winter annuals when they have finished, freshen the soil with compost and sheep pellets ready for spring plantings.
- ▶ Sow seeds: Alyssum, californian poppy, cosmos, marigold, petunia, phlox, portulaca, salvia, and snapdragon. Protect from the cold and transplant to the garden when they are showing at least two sets of true leaves.
- ▶ Plant seedling: Pansies, primroses, marigold, nemesia, viola, polyanthus, cineraria, stock, alyssum, delphinium, cosmos, and carnations.
- ▶ Plant summer bulbs, Gladioli, Dahlia, Begonias, add bulb food to the soil as you plant.
- ▶ Plant new roses; make sure the soil around them is nice and firm. Apply some compost around the roots of your existing bushes; lightly fork this through the soil.
- ▶ Spring bulbs will benefit from a top dressing of bulb food.
- ▶ Perennials can be lifted and divided, replant straight away.
- ▶ Tidy up your containers and scrub off any moss that has grown over winter, freshen the soil add new fertiliser, replant with spring annuals if necessary.
- ▶ Take advantage of the warmer weather and plant new shrubs and trees, stake where necessary.
- ▶ Tidy up and prepare garden beds for spring planting. Remove weeds and enrich the soil with compost and sheep pellets.
- ▶ Feed all existing shrubs with a slow release fertiliser.
- ▶ New leaves will be starting to burst on your deciduous trees. Check and prune any branches that were damaged over winter.

KEY POINTS FOR THIS MONTH

- ▶ Prune Hydrangeas back, until you see two fat buds, which will be next seasons flowers.
- ▶ It's time to plant new strawberry plants.
- ▶ New citrus trees can be planted now.
- ▶ Prepare vegetable and flower gardens for spring planting.
- ▶ Plant summer flowering bulbs.
- ▶ Plant new trees and shrubs.
- ▶ Feed all existing trees, shrubs and fruit trees with slow release fertiliser.
- ▶ Plant seed potatoes.
- ▶ Fertilise your lawns now.

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MEGA

So much to do in

KAPITI★

Piano and oboe concert In Paekakariki

Kapiti classical music enthusiasts have been giving a warm reception to the Mulled Wine Concert series presented by Mary Gow.

These concerts, held in the seaside village of Paekakariki have featured the best of New Zealand's musicians playing a wide variety of music from both classical and modern composers. "Our aim is to bring music to the region without the expense of travelling to the capital" says Gow. "Our audiences have grown over the years and obviously appreciate the opportunity to hear great music in an intimate setting". Paekakariki's Memorial Hall is situated on the seafront looking out on to the beautiful sandy beach with views to Kapiti Island.

The village offers much in the way of artistic and culinary interest, not to mention beach activities and outdoor walks and trails.

The Mulled Wine Concert to be held

on Sunday 16 August will feature two well-known artists for an afternoon of pastoral, nature-themed duos and solos. Auckland Philharmonia principal oboist Bede Hanley, acclaimed for his "gorgeous tone and buoyant phrasing" joins pianist Sarah Watkins (3-time Classical Artist of the Year).

Watkins is a graduate of the University of Canterbury (NZ) and the Juilliard School in New York City. While living in the US, Sarah worked as a staff pianist at Juilliard, Yale University, and the Aspen Music Festival. In 2023 she was appointed Senior Lecturer in piano at the University of Auckland.

Bede Hanley and Sarah Watkins have known each other since he took up the position of principal oboe in the Auckland Philharmonia back in 2008. Most recently they have toured for CMNZ as part of Trio Obscura, with violinist Robert Ashworth - that was a

programme of music for quite a rare combination of instruments.

The Paekakariki programme is equally one whose repertoire may seem very unfamiliar. But it's a beautiful mix of pastoral and colourful duos and solos, and a wonderful opportunity to experience the lyricism of the oboe outside of an orchestral setting.

French colours feature prominently in music by Saint-Saëns, Godard and Lili Boulanger; Bede's home country is in full bloom in a bouquet of Calla Lilies and Japanese garden scenes from Canadian composers Coulthard and Mozetich; American composers Peter Schickele and Althea Talbot-Howard offer something both old and new, while Douglas Lilburn's ever popular "Three Sea Changes" brings nature closer to home. Placed into the seaside setting of Paekakariki, a grand afternoon of music is in prospect!

Mulled Wine Concerts
SARAH WATKINS PIANO BEDE HANLEY OBOE
Paekakariki Memorial Hall
Sunday 16 August 2.30pm



Tickets: Adults \$30 Students \$10.
Online sales: marygow@gmail.com Info: 021 101 9609
Ticket outlets: (please note: CASH ONLY) : Dickensian Bookshop, Featherston: Mrs Blackwell's Village Bookshop, Greytown: ISITE, Martinborough.

Aroha String Quartet in Waikanae

The popular Aroha String Quartet return to Waikanae on Sunday 9 August. They will be joined by a new member, violinist Eli Vincent. Australian born, he joined the NZSO in 2022.

The other long-standing members of the quartet are Haihong Liu and Konstanze Artmann (violins) and Robert Ibell (cello). The concert opens with a delightfully lyrical quartet by Haydn.

Samuel Barber's string quartet follows. Barber is well known for his Adagio for Strings and the original version of this famous music can be heard at the concert as the slow movement of his only string quartet.

After the interval New Zealander Ross Carey's charming Toccata leads the way to Beethoven's charming Opus 74 quartet, known as "The Harp" because



From left to right: Eli Vincent (viola), Konstanze Artmann (violin), Haihong Liu (violin), Robert Ibell (cello)

of the striking pizzicato effects in the first movement. For ticket enquiries visit www.waikanaemusic.org.nz

Waikanae Music Society Inc.

AROHA STRING QUARTET

Haydn: Quartet in Eb, Op 64, No 6
Barber: Quartet in B minor, Op 11
Ross Carey: Toccata
Beethoven: Quartet No 10 "Harp"

Sunday 9 August, 2.30pm
Waikanae Memorial Hall

Public \$50, Members \$40 and Students \$10.
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getaway destination for that weekend away from the pressures of city life and work. It is a boutique hotel of superior studio units with spa baths, king-size beds, microwave, tea and coffee-making facilities so why not book a room for Labour Weekend or the holidays?

Don't forget to check out the nearby Paekakariki Station Museum!

Jane Santos – Mosaic artist

Jane uses porcelain, ceramic and glass tiles which are hand cut and applied on sign plywood. These panels are not suited to the outdoors.

Outdoor mosaics are by commission only. They are done by the indirect method and do not use wood.

Jane has exhibited in Wellington, Auckland,

Australia and England and sold from selected Galleries. She says she is lucky that her work has pleased, and been collected by, so many buyers from around the world.

Jane is available for commissions and welcomes enquiries from her website: www.janepsantos.com or emailing at janepsantos@live.com



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Fund to help with Te Wiki events

A community fund is now open and daily themes are unveiled to inspire participation throughout Te Wiki o te Reo Māori.

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori (Māori language week) runs from 14 to 20 September.

Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori and Te Mātāwai are opening the Te Reo Towns Activation Fund from 7 to 31 July, offering grants of up to \$3,000 to support launch-day public events on Monday 14 September.

The fund is designed to help communities create visible celebrations of te reo Māori in public spaces and get planning under way early.

Funding is limited and groups are encouraged to apply quickly.

Applications are welcomed from councils, iwi, schools, trusts and community organisations, with preference given

to collaborations between councils and community groups. Applications close on 31 July.

Proposals will be assessed against criteria including community impact, geographic spread, public visibility, strong planning and alignment with the Te Reo Towns kaupapa and normalisation of te reo Māori. All information is available on reomaori.co.nz.

"The fund is to help communities kick off Te Wiki with a bang," says Ngāhiwi Apanui, Chief Executive of Te Taura Whiri.

"Incredible things are already happening, with parades in planning for Whanganui, Christchurch and Wellington.

"We want to help more communities bring their ideas into their spaces so

everyone can show their love for te reo."

"Some communities already have strong traditions of hearing and speaking te reo Māori every day. Others are just beginning. Te Reo Towns celebrates both," says Mātai Smith, Co-Chair of Te Mātāwai.

"Māori language has a normal place in everyday life. Whether you're in a major city, a small rural town, a sports club, a workplace or at the dinner table, every community can be a Te Reo Town.

"We want people to encounter te reo Māori in places they might not expect. That's how a language becomes part of everyday life, Mātai says.

Communities do not need to start from scratch.

Resources, activation ideas and practical



tools will be available to help towns and groups participate in ways that reflect their own identity and strengths.

Full details on the fund and daily themes for Te Wiki o te Reo Māori 2026 are available at reomaori.co.nz.

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Wuthering Heights at Sound Shell

The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever Pōneke returns for 2026 to the Sound Shell at the Botanical Gardens on Sunday 26 July, starting at 2pm.

“Whether you’re a lifelong Kate Bush fan or you’ve never danced a step in your life, you’re welcome,” the event organisers say.

“This wonderfully dramatic, low-pressure community event brings people together to dress in red, learn a few simple moves and recreate Kate Bush’s iconic dance together, find joy and bring some light to the dark days of winter.

“No dance experience required. Participation over perfection is very much the vibe.”

In the lead up to the event there will be:

- community workshops;
- a couple of practice runs;
- a group performance; and
- lots of laughter, connection and mid-winter joy.

The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever started back in 2013 in Brighton, United Kingdom.

It has since become a worldwide phenomenon, with thousands of people in cities around the globe donning red dresses and dancing together.

Last seen in Pōneke in 2016, it is returning again 10 years later.



Some of a big crowd dancing in the Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever. Photo: Supplied.

WCC’s expert business advisory groups

Wellington City Council has appointed three high-powered expert business advisory groups to help propel economic growth in the city.

This fulfills a commitment made in the Triennium Plan 2025–2028.

The groups will inform the work of Te Urungi Whakatupu Ōhanga | Economic Growth and Development Subcommittee to propose a plan of specific actions Wellington City Council could undertake to foster measurable economic growth over five years.

The groups are:

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

“Wellington is so much more than a government town,” Mayor Andrew Little says.

“We’re the coolest little capital in the world, and have world-class capabilities in tech, creativity and amazing hospitality.

“The challenge is to unlock our potential, to generate economic and population growth, and good jobs.

“It’s a challenge the city is up for, and the expert business advisory groups have a crucial role to play.

“They have been selected for their skills and

experience, but also for their commitment to unlocking the Capital’s economic potential and restoring Wellington as the place to grow global businesses, attract amazing talent and thrive,” Mayor Little says.

Councillor Karl Tiefenbacher, who chairs Te Urungi Whakatupu Ōhanga | Economic Growth and Development Subcommittee that the advisory groups will report to, says it was pleasing to see so many applicants to the three Advisory Groups.

“All applicants shared the qualities and commitment to Wellington, so it was a good problem to have to identify applicants with complementary skillsets to make up the groups,” he says.

“Wellington has its share of challenges but the fundamental elements of growth remain.

“We have a highly qualified workforce, strong international connections and we’ve demonstrated through the growth of the film and tech sectors that we can harness our creative culture to build world-leading industry.

“The Expert Business Advisory Groups will contribute their wisdom and experience so we can continue to grow the economy and support high-value jobs,” Cr Tiefenbacher says.

The groups will meet quarterly and will operate in an advisory capacity only. Positions are voluntary and unpaid.

Stop Tiaki website now live

By Frank Neill

The Stop Tiaki Wai movement has launched its new website.

It is at stopitiakiwai.org and is in addition to the group’s Facebook page.

The mission of the movement is “to restrict Tiaki Wai’s ability to incur significant new debt or begin projects until democratic accountability is restored, affordability is addressed and meaningful consultation has taken place.”

The website notes, among other things, that Tiaki Wai’s forecasted billing is set to triple in 10 years.

The forecast water bill for 2027 is \$2,100,

and for 2036 it is \$6,200.

“Forecasted water charges will bankrupt many home owners,” Stop Tiaki Wai says.

It also noted the charge for water metres for each household is \$4,000, and asks if the metres are “gold plated”.

Loss of democratic accountability and flawed governance is also among the series of issues the website raises.

It also says “public consultation on Tiaki Wai was a sham” and there is an “alarming conflict of interest within the Tiaki Wai governance structure”.

It further notes that the “Commerce Commission and others have raised major concern”.



The banner at the top of the Stop Tiaki Wai website.

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Public Notice



Out of Zone Enrolment

Rewa Rewa School is currently inviting applications for out of zone enrolments in New Entrants, Year 1 & Year 3, starting in Term 4 2026 (Saturday 26 September – Wed 16 December 2026). The deadline for receipt of applications is 9am, Friday 04 September 2026. Submit an online enrolment application at www.rewarewa.school.nz

Enrolment at our school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available on our website. The board has determined that up to 12 places will be available for out-of-zone students in 2026.

The exact number of places will depend on the number of in zone student enrolments. If the number of out of zone applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot. If a ballot for out of zone places is required, it will be held on Monday 07 September 2026.

Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held. Parents of students who live in zone should notify the school when their child turns 4, to assist the school to plan appropriately.

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We make a difficult time a little easier

New plan to manage longer, more complex emergencies

The Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group Plan 2026–2031 came into effect on 2 July, setting a new direction for how the region prepares for, responds to and recovers from emergencies.

The plan sets a clear challenge: the scale and complexity of natural hazards is increasing faster than the capacity of the current emergency management system.

"Right now, we know the system can be stretched by large, sustained events," the Chair of the Wellington Region CDEM Group Joint Committee, Porirua Mayor Anita Baker says.

"Delays in decision-making, pressure on resources, and gaps in co-ordination can emerge when disruption lasts for weeks – increasing risk to communities."

Developed with councils, emergency services, iwi, lifeline utilities, government agencies and community organisations, the plan sets out how the region will work together to strengthen system performance and resilience.

A 2025 environmental scan confirmed the Wellington region has one of the highest disaster risk profiles in New Zealand, with growing exposure to earthquakes, tsunami and severe weather.

While strong work is already under way, capability and capacity gaps remain in areas such as co-ordination, logistics and community readiness.

"We asked ourselves a simple but confronting question – if a major event like Cyclone Gabrielle happened here tomorrow, could our system cope not just in the first 24 hours, but in the weeks that follow?" Mayor Baker says.

A key feature of the plan is a shift to an all-



Anita Baker, Chair of the Wellington Region CDEM Group Joint Committee. Photo: Greater Wellington Regional Council.

of-society approach, recognising emergency management as a shared responsibility across agencies, communities and individuals.

"We are moving from a system centred on agencies to one that enables communities to play a fully active role," Mayor Baker says.

The plan places a stronger emphasis on outcomes over activity, focusing on the difference emergency management makes for communities – including faster decision-making, reduced disruption and more effective recovery.

"Emergencies don't impact everyone the same way," Mayor Baker says.

"This plan recognises that and prioritises more equitable outcomes, ensuring those most affected are better supported."

It outlines practical improvements to strengthen the system over time, including clearer roles and responsibilities, improved decision-making processes, stronger leadership and accountability, and more effective communication and collaboration – all designed to support sustained, long-duration responses.

Public consultation earlier this year helped shape the final plan, with input from residents, businesses and community organisations across the region.

"Community insight is critical to ensuring our approach reflects real experiences and builds on the strengths already in our region. We want to thank everyone who contributed," Mayor Baker says.

The Wellington Region CDEM Group Plan 2026–2031 is available at www.wremo.nz.

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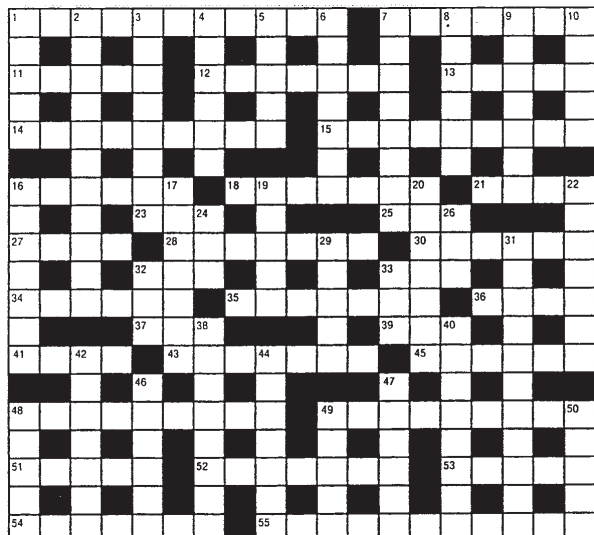
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CROSSWORD Puzzle



ACROSS

1. One who studies language development (11)
7. Saviour (7)
11. Plentiful (5)
12. Distressing experiences (7)
13. Its capital is Katmandu (5)
14. Formal interviews (with authority) (9)
15. Spacious (9)
16. Nearly (6)
18. Annual handbook (7)
21. Small island (4)
23. Foolish chatter (3)
25. Short sleep (3)
27. Colour (4)
28. Injured parties (7)
30. Barrel maker (6)
32. Look (3)
33. Snow runner (3)
34. Closer (6)
35. Some (7)
36. Ballad (4)
37. Insect (3)
39. Garland (3)
41. Whirl (4)
43. Ungenerous (7)
45. Traps (6)
48. Funds official (9)

49. Advocate (9)
51. Indication (5)
52. Bet takers(coll) (7)
53. Presses (5)
54. Ornamental staff (7)
55. Takes back property (for non- payment) (11)

DOWN

1. Public square (5)
2. Things that hinder progress (11)
3. Style of lightly fried egg (4-4)
4. Science of vision (6)
5. Prayer leaders(in mosques) (5)
6. Japanese seafood dish (7)
7. Band member (8)
8. Parheliion (3,3)
9. Hinders (7)
10. Punctured (5)
16. Frequents (7)
17. Inns (7)
19. Wood-turning machine (5)
20. Giggles (7)
22. Angers (7)
24. Baked dish (3)
26. Maori dance prop (3)
29. Makes acquaintance of (5)
31. Deed holders (11)

32. Ocean (3)
33. Large Indian tree (3)
38. Dreadful (8)
40. Very quickly (2,2,4)
42. Repeat (7)
44. Zeal (7)
46. Rise (6)
47. Wakens (6)
48. Hauls (5)
49. Preen (5)
50. Chores (5)

Solution

Last Week: 16 July 2026

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ELEVATE CHEAPSKATES

Hawks make Rugby final

By Frank Neill

The Johnsonville Hawks Premier 2 Rugby team has qualified for the final of the HD Morgan Memorial Cup.

They made the final when they defeated Tawa 27-18 on 18 July.

The last time the Hawks side won this trophy was in 2018 when they beat Petone.

The Hawks will play Avalon on 25 July on field number two at Porirua Park, with a 12:45pm kick off.

To win the HD Morgan Memorial cup, the Hawks will be looking for a big turnaround from the last time the two teams met, with Avalon winning 47-5 in round one of the competition.

In fact they will be looking to emulate last Saturday's big turnaround, when they defeated Tawa, who had beaten them 85-19

in the first round.

"The semi final against Tawa was sweet revenge for a thumping they received earlier," the Hawks head coach Fa'aoi Seiuli says.

"The Hawks gained confidence over the past five weeks, despite weather and other disruptions that caused two weekends off the season."

Sam Ofa Ueseli, Norman Guttenbeil and Noah Bryce scored tries.

Kayd Parata converted all three tries and he added two penalties.

When the Hawks were trailing 18-17 in the second half, the match could have gone either way.

However Noah's try, which Kayd converted, and a penalty by Kayd took out the match.

Tawa needed to score twice to win in the dying minutes but they were unable to make a comeback.

Norths rocket up to second

By Hamish Wareham

A fifth goal of the season for both Benji McMillan and Miles Woodhall proved enough to secure three points for TFS North Wellington on 18 July.

Norths won the match against the Badcock Law Magpies 2-0 and the result saw them finish the day in second place on the Central League 2 ladder.

Wary of holding a three goal buffer earlier in the season against their Wairarapa opponents, North Wellington drove back over the Rimutakas with the third clean sheet in a row and their fifth overall for the season and for English goalkeeper Cameron Maung-Maung.

Tawa and both Palmerston North sides, as well as league leaders Taradale, dropped points so although it was already close the men's Central League two league's upper echelon has closed up even further.

With the brain explosion of no other games to be played due to a cup weekend, despite no games being on in Wellington, North Wellington have to wait a fortnight for their next fixture against 8th placed Stop Out.

Both Seatoun and Tawa have the chance to shake up the top five even more as they have a catch up game this weekend along with Wainuiomata and Douglas Villa.

A road trip to New Plymouth beckoned on Sunday for Waterside Karori to take on the Central League's bottom placed FC Western at Lynmouth Park.

A goal from recent arrival Jacob Jefferson gave Wharfies a 1-0 half time lead against the side that they claimed their first win this season against in April.

Albie Francis-Alles extended Wharfies lead just past the hour mark.

Connor Oliver-Rose got Western back into the game moments later in the 66th minute. Leo Elder equalized in the 94th minute and would've sent the home crowd wild famed for the home celebrations whenever their team scores.

One more goal would come via Francis-Alles in the 97th minute, earning a valuable three points for Waterside Karori giving them back to back wins and rocketing up to sixth on the ladder ahead of facing the top three teams in next three weeks Miramar, Napier and Olympic.

NZer of Year nominations open

Nominations for the Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards Ngā Tohu Pou Kōhure o Aotearoa are now open.

These awards honour people who use their passion to make Aotearoa New Zealand a better place.

Capital Kiwi Project founder Paul Ward was a semi finalist in the 2024 Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards. Paul was selected in the 2024 Ministry for the Environment Environmental Hero Award section.

"We all know someone whose impact deserves to be celebrated," Kiwibank Chief Executive Steve Jurkovich says.

"This is the chance to acknowledge their contribution and share their story with the rest of the country, and we encourage Kiwi to nominate someone whose mahi is making a difference."

The awards recognise a diverse range of people making a difference and nominations, which close on 18 August, can be made at nzawards.org.nz.

Six awards are made to individuals in the following categories:

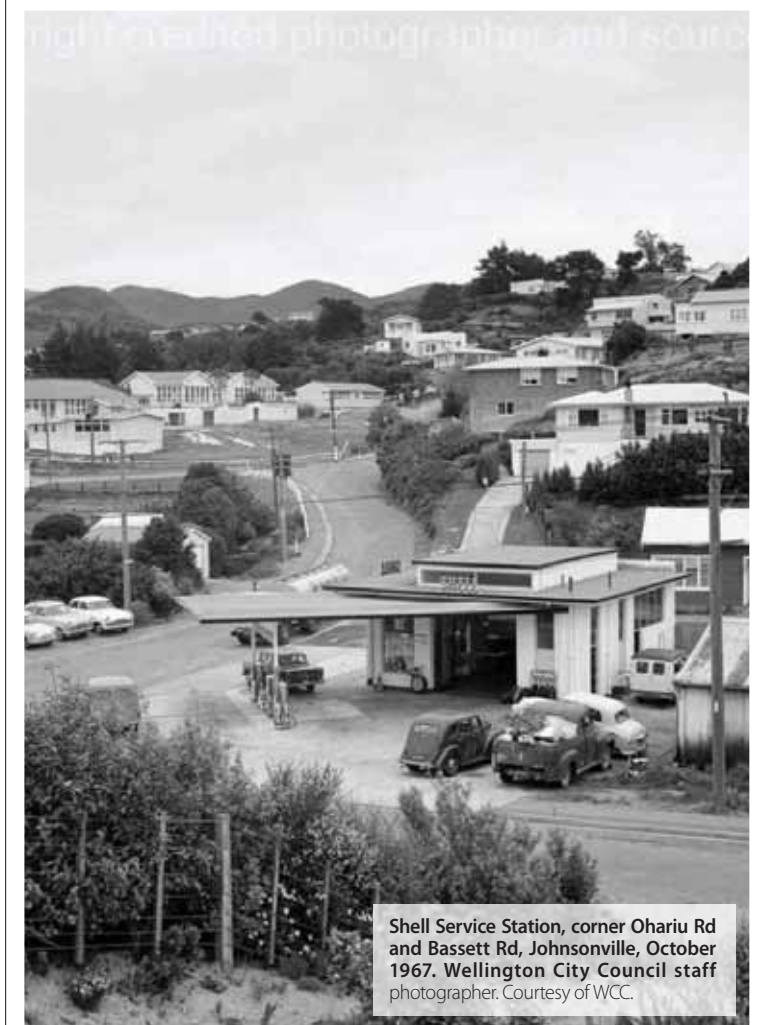
- Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year;
- Go Media Young New Zealander of the Year;
- Ryman Healthcare Senior New Zealander of the Year;
- Tower New Zealand Local Hero of the Year;
- 2degrees New Zealand Innovator of the Year;
- New Zealand Sustainability Leader of the Year; and
- Mitre 10 New Zealand Community of the Year.

Semi-finalists for the seven award categories will be announced on 10 December, with the top three finalists in each award announced on 4 March 2027.

The winners will be announced in April 2027 at the Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards Gala in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.



Kayd Parata makes a successful kick for the Hawks. Photo: Braydzmedia.



Shell Service Station, corner Ohariu Rd and Bassett Rd, Johnsonville, October 1967. Wellington City Council staff photographer. Courtesy of WCC.

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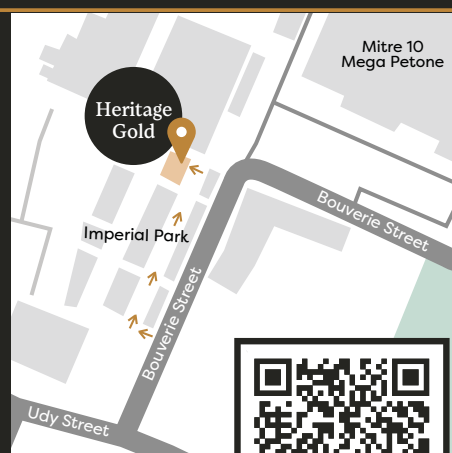
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