

Thursday July 30, 2026



Today 10-13



Friday 5-13



Saturday 5-8



Sunday 6-11

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Outstanding service



By Frank Neill

Johnsonville volunteer firefighter Warren Field was presented the Gold Star for 50 years' service at a ceremony held at Rydges Hotel on 25 July.

Warren – who is the brigade's Officer in Charge – was presented his Gold Star by Peter Dunne, the Chair of the United Fire Brigades Association and a former MP for Ōhāriu.

Continued on page 2.

Warren Field wearing his newly presented 50 Year Gold Star.
 Photo: Frank Neill.

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**REPORTER****Frank Neill**

herald@wsn.co.nz

027 490 3916

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

les@wsn.co.nz

021 360 008

**SALES****Steve Maggs**

steve@wsn.co.nz

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A tremendous achievement



Peter Dunne pinning the 50 Year Gold Star to Warren Field's jacket. Photo: Frank Neill.

Continued from page 1.

Warren's 50 years service "is a tremendous achievement," Mr Dunne said just before presenting the Gold Star.

"It is selective of people who like and serve their community."

"For someone to stand up and volunteer for 50 years, I find that quite astonishing," Fire and Emergency New Zealand representative Brendon Nully said in his presentation at the

awards evening.

He also noted that the service came through "a real family commitment" by Warren's wife and daughter.

"Volunteers are great people, who care about others, delivering service to the people of New Zealand."

Addressing the big number of firefighters from around Wellington at the awards ceremony, Brendan said that "I am very grateful to you all ... for serving your communities".

Warren belongs to a "unique group of members who have given 50 years service," John Rowe of the Gold Star Association said.

"I have found Warren to be an absolute professional in all he does," the guest speaker James Gray said.

The Johnsonville Volunteer Fire Brigade "are considered the best volunteers in the Wellington district."

"That mainly comes down to the person who leads them – Warren Field."

Warren joined the now 83-year-old Johnsonville Volunteer Fire Brigade in February 1976.

He has served with the brigade since, having been born and lived all his life in Johnsonville.

He has been the brigade's Officer in Charge since 2002 and the brigade's treasurer since 1987.

As well as taking part for many years in various firefighting competitions, Warren represented the New Zealand Fire Service at the World Firefighters Games in Christchurch in 2002, playing Softball. The New Zealand Fire Service won the competition, coming away with gold.

When asked the highlights of his career, Warren said that "I've been to some massive fires, including Hannahs in Lambton Quay."

He also recently served at the Wellington Airport terminal fire.

When attending a medical event or motor

accident, helping to keep people alive is a success, as is cutting off a fire so that it has not done too much damage.

He has also enjoyed being involved in community events, such as helping out at the Toot 4 Tucker event organised by Johnsonville Rotary.

Firefighting in Johnsonville has been a family affair for the Fields.

Warren's older brother Stephen served 49 years with the Johnsonville Volunteer Fire Brigade, and his younger brother David is a Station Officer with the brigade, having served for 46 years.

The brigade, Warren says, is looking for members.

People can apply to join the brigade by visiting Fire and Emergency New Zealand's website, www.fireandemergency.nz and clicking on "Volunteer with us".

"We always struggle for volunteers," Warren says.

A series of other brigade service honours were presented at the Gold Star and Honours Evening on 25 July.

Station Officer David Field was presented his 40 year certificate and also a two-year gold bar.

Senior Fire Fighter Kapu Werahiko and retired fire fighter Hamish Collier were presented 14 year long service and good conduct medals.

Senior Fire Fighter David Baker, Senior fire Fighter Kapu Werahiko, Qualified Fire Fighter Greg Johnstone and retired fire fighter Hamish Collier were presented two year silver bars.

Senior Fire Fighter David Baker, Qualified Fire Fighter Nick Wong and retired fire fighter Margaret Te Huna were presented five year medals.

Fire Fighter Connor Harrison, Fire Fighter Rayhan Satriawan, Qualified Fire Fighter Nick Wong, Senior Fire Fighter David Barker and retired fire fighters Margaret Te Huna and Fraser McLaren were presented three year certificates.

**Greg O'Connor**
MP for Ōhāriu

One good thing about having more parties on the political scene is that for those who take an interest in politics, there is much more political news across the airwaves. When it was a two or even a three-party environment, the pathway into politics was relatively well defined; you essentially proved to the party that you adhere to their philosophy and could add value. It also generally meant people served something of an apprenticeship in a caucus before moving to influential positions as ministers. They also had to learn about how the law-making process works, knowledge honed in select committees and parliamentary debates. No one ever became a successful sportsperson, lawyer, farmer, police officer or tradesperson without doing the hard yards first.

Now, we have high profile individuals parachuting, into smaller parties especially, expecting a lifetime spent

in the media and other professions to qualify them to take up high ranking list positions, leapfrogging those who have earned their positions through hard work and learning their political trade. I can just imagine their contempt of anyone entering their area of expertise expecting the same instant promotion.

I am leaving politics at the end of this term after 9 years. I believe it took me at least three years to understand the nuances of politics, and to learn how much I didn't know. Plenty are brighter than me, but in the same way airline pilots must do many flying hours to be considered competent to fly alone and many more to fly commercially, so it is very reasonable to expect our politicians to learn their trade before being elevated into highly influential positions.

Beware the politician who thinks New Zealand needs them more than they need New Zealand.

You can contact my office on **04 478 3332** or email**Greg.OConnor@parliament.govt.nz.**Authorised by Greg O'Connor MP,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington

MISSED AN ISSUE?

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Major award for Churton Park resident

By Frank Neill

Churton Park resident Awilda Baomgren was presented with a major award by Animal and Plant Health New Zealand (APHANZ) on 22 July.

APHANZ makes the awards to recognise individuals who have made exceptional contributions to New Zealand's animal and plant health sector.

This year's awards honoured two standout recipients – Awilda Baomgren, who received the President's Award for her service and leadership in veterinary medicine regulation, and Gavin Kerr who received the Outstanding Contribution Award.

Awilda has spent more than a decade supporting industry through pragmatic and evidence-based regulatory advice, leading veterinary medicine reassessments, contributing to policy development, and presenting widely to industry groups.

Acting APHANZ Board Chair Fraser Hodgson says that Awilda's recognition reflects the value of a strong, constructive relationship between regulators and industry.

"Awilda exemplifies the consistent leadership that underpins good regulatory practice.

"She is respected within the sector as knowledgeable, approachable and pragmatic, bringing steady, practical expertise to every conversation.

"That kind of engagement strengthens an effective working relationship between regulators and industry and ultimately supports better outcomes for New Zealand," Fraser says.

Director of ACVM, Karen Booth, says that Awilda's influence on veterinary medicine regulation extends far beyond her day-to-day role, helping to build understanding, trust and confidence across the sector.

"New Zealand Food Safety and the ACVM team are delighted to see her years of service and leadership recognised through this award."

Awilda says that she was honoured to



Awilda Baomgren. Photo: Supplied.

receive the award.

"The team and I work hard every day to make sure that the important work of safeguarding animal welfare, supporting farmers and owners, and protecting New Zealand food safety and trade is done.

"Thank you for recognising that work."

The award, she says, came as a surprise – "a pleasant one, but quite a surprise.

"I understand it was the first time they have given the award to a regulator."

Awilda works in the Ministry of Primary Industry's ACVM (agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines) unit.

ACVM looks after the regulatory framework governing the use, sale and management of agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines, ensuring safety and compliance in the treatment of plants and animals.

Before she became involved in regulation some 16 years ago, Awilda was practising as a veterinarian, including working in a vet practice in Khandallah.

"I've gone from looking after my own patients to now being able to look after all

New Zealand's animals and people," she says.

When asked what has been the highlight of her career she says that "just the fact that I'm in this team is a highlight.

"In this role I'm functioning as someone making sure that everything [such as animal food, medicines and agricultural compounds] is going to be safe for animals and crops and New Zealanders.

"I can have a direct impact on every animal.

"Very specifically one of the very cool things about my role is being involved in getting new vet medicines out there for vets to be able to use on their patients."

The "big highlight," she says, is "just being able to have a hand in resolving the situation when medications have not been available in New Zealand, and helping get access to the medication that otherwise would not be available to New Zealand animals and New Zealand vets.

"To me that's such important work.

"I became a vet to take care of animals," Awilda says.

Now she is still able to take care of animals, but is doing it "on a much bigger scale."

APHANZ Chief Executive Liz Shackleton says the awards highlight the people who deliver progress through a balance of expertise, pragmatism and collaboration across the animal and plant health sector.

"Our sector succeeds when expertise and a willingness to work constructively together come first.

"These contributions strengthen our organisation, the wider regulatory relationship between industry and government, and the primary sector as a whole."

The awards were presented at the APHANZ Annual Conference dinner in Wellington, attended by more than 130 leaders of multinational and national companies operating in New Zealand's animal and plant health sectors as well as senior managers and representatives from across government and primary industry.

inbrief news

Monthly CPI

New Zealanders will have access to more frequent information about changing prices from next year.

Stats NZ announced on 23 July they were introducing monthly consumers price index (CPI) information in 2027.

Currently the CPI is published quarterly.

Moving from quarterly to monthly "will provide a more current view of price changes across the economy," Government Statistician and Stats NZ Chief Executive Colin Lynch says.

"The CPI is used to inform decisions that affect all New Zealanders, from interest rates and government policy to business planning, contracts and household finances.

"Providing a monthly CPI from 2027 represents a major change to one of New Zealand's most important economic measures, so it is essential this is done with quality and trust at its heart," Colin says.

The move will help households, businesses and government make better informed decisions, Stats NZ says.



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Greg O'Connor MP for Ōhāriu

Spokesperson for Courts and Veterans' Affairs
Assistant Speaker

Get in touch

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

04 478 3332

greg.oconnor@parliament.govt.nz

2/18 Moorefield Road, Johnsonville, Wellington

Labour.org.nz/gregoconnor

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Labour



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



Hutt South's Labour candidate with Peter Gilberd and Matthew Reweti. Photo: Supplied.

Labour launches Hutt South campaign

Labour's Hutt South campaign officially launched on 25 July with a strong turnout of volunteers from across the electorate, including Newlands.

Recent electoral boundary changes have brought the suburb into Hutt South for the first time.

Local councillor Matthew Reweti and respected community leader Peter Gilberd joined the campaign launch and are now helping lead Labour's volunteer effort in Newlands, with teams out talking to residents most weekends.

Previously part of Ōhāriu, Newlands voters will now be represented in either Hutt South or Kenepuru.

"When I am out talking to people in Newlands, many of them can't see the clear reason that they are now in Hutt South," Labour's Hutt South candidate Ginny Andersen says.

"It is a bit confusing. That's why we've got a team out most weekends engaging with people and letting them know about the change.

"It was fantastic to have Matthew Reweti and Peter Gilberd at our campaign launch.

"They know Newlands inside and out, and their support reflects the strong community spirit that exists across the suburb.

"And while we're on the doorstep, we're also talking about what matters most to local families in Newlands.

"Only Labour is focused on your job, your health and your home.

"People tell us they're worried about the rising cost of groceries, higher power bills and the increasing cost of getting to work.

"And they're looking for practical solutions. Labour has a plan to put more money back into people's pockets through free GP visits, cheaper public transport fares and solar power without the upfront cost.

"We're backing small businesses, apprentices and investing in New Zealand's future so people can get ahead.

"That's the choice at this election: getting ahead with Labour, or three more years of higher costs under National," Ms Andersen says.

"We're a party that cares about everybody in society, not just the privileged," Peter Gilberd says.

"This means everyone has access to housing, healthcare and justice".

He volunteers, he says, because "while I have the ability to, I'll do what I can to make a difference.

"To represent the people we care about we need to be in governing power.

"New Zealand needs a government that actually cares about all people.

"It's important to never lose sight of the people you represent.

"If you're in a position to help make a change for the better, you should," Peter says.

Local heroes lead murderous mayhem



Danica Frentz in a scene from 'Murder and Matters More Pressing'. Photo: Supplied.

What do you get when two inept burglars, a dead aristocrat, a priceless painting and a manor full of eccentric guests collide?

Absolute chaos. That's the irresistible premise behind 'Murder and Matters More Pressing', a brand-new comedy making its world premiere at Linden Community Centre this August.

Presented by New Players Theatre Company, the production is a fast-paced British-style farce written by Amelia Lucie-Smith and directed by Martin Hunt.

Set in the delightfully dysfunctional Fardelbear Manor, the story follows two bungling thieves whose plan to steal a valuable painting goes spectacularly wrong when they accidentally kill the lord of the manor.

With a house party under way in the very room where they've hidden both the body and the artwork, the pair scramble to cover their tracks, unleashing a whirlwind of mistaken identities, wild accusations, collapsing relationships and ever-growing confusion – in short murder, misunderstandings and mayhem.



Lyndon Jones in a scene from 'Murder and Matters More Pressing'. Photo: Supplied.

Leading the charge are Northern Suburbs locals and local stage heroes Lyndon Jones and Danica Frentz, who play the feuding aristocratic couple Howard and Letitia Fardelbear.

Their performances anchor an ensemble cast packed with larger-than-life characters, suspicious servants, awkward military men and mysterious visitors, all caught in an increasingly ridiculous web of deception.

Promising sparkling dialogue, plenty of laughs, and thoroughly British silliness, 'Murder and Matters More Pressing' is a joyful celebration of comic theatre and classic farce.

The show runs at Linden Community Centre on 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22 August, with evening performances beginning at 7.30pm.

A special fundraising performance supporting Wellington Free Ambulance will be held on 20 August.

Tickets are available now via www.newplayers.org.nz.

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Very successful Onslow College display

By Frank Neill

The Sunday afternoon Onslow College display by the Onslow Historical Society (OHS) has been very successful.

Marking 70 years since Onslow College opened, the display has attracted old students and others to visit and enjoy the memories of their old college.

The display opened in June and runs until this Sunday, 31 July, at the Onslow Historical Society's rooms at 86 Khandallah Road. It is open from 1pm to 4pm.

It has been put together by OHS committee members John Galloway, George Walter and Christine Davies with help from Hugh Bibby, and with the assistance of people who have donated pertinent material.

Visitors have been reminiscing and sharing stories, aided by visual cues on the new screen and other historical ephemera.

The school opened in 1956 with 200 students and its first Principal was Colin Watts, who served from 1956 to 1965.

Mr Watts was energetic and sincere with a profound understanding of "modern" educational trends of the time.

"His energy, foresight and vision developed a sound liberal philosophy that became Onslow's raison d'être" recalled second Principal Dudley Hughes (1966-77).

Mr Hughes recalled in 1981 at its 25th birthday that "the liberal humanism thus established continues and has been broadened and honed by successive staffs."

Rapid growth followed the opening of the college, with the roll reaching 1,180 by 1969. Early in its life the school showed deep concern for students facing particular difficulties whether in learning or personal development.

Throughout the decades since, the school has enabled students to make huge achievements academically and in the arts and culture.

"Onslow College is a beloved local institution which has enriched the lives of generations of students and whānau," OHS says.



The Onslow Historical Society display marking the 70th anniversary of Onslow College.

Arrest for damaging cables

Police have arrested and charged a man in connection with the alleged damage of railway signalling cables in Tawa earlier this month.

The investigation relates to an incident reported on 3 July, when railway signal cables were allegedly tampered with at the southern end of the Tākāpu Road platform. The damage caused multiple signal issues and disrupted rail services.

Sergeant Ryan Storey, Wellington Police says his team executed a search warrant in relation to the investigation on 22 July but the suspect was not located at the address at that time.

"Our officers returned to the address the

next day and arrested a man in relation to this."

A 43-year-old man has been charged with intentional damage with intent to obtain a benefit or cause loss.

"Enquiries remain ongoing," Sergeant Storey says.

Police continue to follow lines of enquiry and encourage anyone who has information that has not yet been reported to get in touch.

People can contact the Police via its 105 service, either over the phone or online at 105.police.govt.nz, quoting file number 260703/4789.

Information can also be provided anonymously via Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.



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The millionth tree planting group behind the tree they have just planted. Photo: Supplied.

Millionth tree planted

The millionth tree was planted in Queen Elizabeth Park on 24 July, celebrating the ongoing work of mana whenua, community groups, and volunteers at planting days

facilitated by Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Council Chair Daran Ponter says the programme is about working with the com-

munity to restore ecosystems that sustain wildlife and forests that protect the climate.

"A million native trees is a special milestone for our region, and a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we come together for te taiao," Cr Ponter says.

"Recloaking Papatūānuku is about much more than planting trees.

"It's about restoring the health of our regional parks, improving habitat for native species, enhancing the well-being of our waterways and giving communities a practical way to care for the whenua that sustains us."

Since 2019, 420 of about 2,000 hectares of former grazing land in regional parks has been replanted.

In the coming years, 200,000 native trees are expected to be planted every winter under the planting programme.

Greater Wellington Project Lead for Parks Restoration Kellie Benner says the programme's success is underpinned by strong partnerships with mana whenua, community groups and local businesses.

"We work with local contracting crews, Māori-owned businesses, and community volunteer groups who are passionate about environmental restoration; work that has a positive impact not only on the environment, but the community as a whole," Kellie says.

"Park visitors can see the transition for

themselves. In just a few short years, the land has changed from pasture with very little biodiversity to regenerating native areas that are full of life."

Greater Wellington manages eight regional parks covering 33,000 hectares.

While the parks contain areas of lush native forest, much of the land was historically converted to farmland, reducing biodiversity and displacing native wildlife.

Greater Wellington Director of Delivery Jack Mace says planting does more than change how the parks look.

"Restoring our parks means improving the health of our streams, wetlands, rivers and inlets.

"Planting along waterways helps create habitat for fish, reduces erosion and the amount of sediment and nutrients getting into the water," Jack says.

"By gradually retiring stock from these areas, emissions from grazing in our regional parks have nearly halved since 2019.

"At the same time, forests that capture carbon are re-growing on land previously converted to pasture."

Greater Wellington hosts regular community planting days during the winter months that mana whenua, community groups and volunteers are encouraged to attend. Event information is available on the Greater Wellington website.

Libraries want people's poems

Meet the past: Women in colonial Aotearoa will take place at Johnsonville Library at Waitohi Hub on Thursday 6 August from 3:45pm to 5pm.

Explore perspectives and experiences on wāhine Māori and Pākehā emigrants in the first decades of colonisation in an interactive, hands-on living history kōrero with stories, letters, images, garments and objects.

Meet the past is suitable for people aged 11 years and older.

Wellington City Libraries wants people's poems for Tūhono 2026.

The submission date for Tūhono 2026 has been extended until Sunday 9 August.

Tūhono is Wellington City Libraries' poetry journal for tamariki and rangatahi.

"Since Tūhono began in 2020 we have published over 1,000 young poets in its pages," Wellington City Libraries says.

"Unlike some other journals, having your work accepted in Tūhono is not a competition – as long as you follow the rules of submission, every piece of work that gets sent to us will be published.

"Tūhono itself will be published as an eBook on Libby, and in a limited print run for our libraries, so that everyone with a library card can borrow it and bask in your talent and glory."

Visit wcl.govt.nz/tuhono for more information. New Zealand Aotearoa music in fiction, fact and verse, will be held from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday 1 August at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library.

Three Wellington writers have turned their passion for music into books.

In 'Paper Husbands', Nick Sceats tells the story of a band reuniting 30 years after playing at the Clarendon.

In 'The Clean: in the dreamlife you need a rubber soul' Richard Langston celebrates the band that burst out of Dunedin 40 years ago.

In 'The Richard Poems' Simon Sweetman explores a toxic friendship through the playlist of their lives.

Come and hear Nick, Simon and Richard riff on their books and the music that inspired them. Nick Sceats is the co-founder and

director of Catapult, a leadership development company, and has also worked in journalism and marketing. He enjoys guitars, gardening, reading, and sailing at Worser Bay. Nick lives on the Miramar Peninsula with his wife Andrea. 'Paper Husbands' is his first novel.

Richard Langston is a Wellington journalist, poet and television director who has written about the Dunedin music scene since the 1980s, including in 'Pull Down the Shades: Garage Fanzine 1984–1986'. His latest book is 'The Clean: in the dreamlife you need a rubber soul'.

Simon Sweetman is a Whanganui-a-Tara writer, music journalist and poet with a love of pop culture and broadcasting.

His books include 'On Song', 'The Death of Music Journalism' and 'The Richard Poems'. He hosts the Sweetman Podcast and co-hosts 'We All Float Down Here: A Stephen King Podcast'. 'The Creation Voyages' will be performed by the NZ String Quartet on Sunday 2 August at Te Matapihi ki te Ao Nui Central Library. The two performances are from 11am to 11:50am and 1pm to 1:50pm. Spaces are limited and registration is highly recommended for these free performances. Sign up at <https://wellingtoncitylibraries.trumba.com/>. The Creation Voyages, from New Zealand Poet Laureate Robert Sullivan's award-winning children's book 'Weaving Earth & Sky' is an exciting new performance from the New Zealand String Quartet - Te Rōpū Tūrū o Aotearoa. Through music and storytelling, with imagery by Gavin Bishop, the NZSQ vividly reimagines Aotearoa's creation myths in an engaging, whānau-friendly performance.

Across 45 minutes, string quartet will meet live storytelling. NZSQ violinist Peter will narrate Ranginui and Papatūānuku's embrace, their separation and the rise of the atua, while accompanied by live sound effects and music played by the NZSQ on their unique instruments. The Creation Voyages is suitable for all ages, but it has been created with primary-school-aged tamariki and their whānau in mind. All events are free. Nau mai rā tātou katoa. Everyone is welcome.

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ROUND 1	30 July	Waikato v Bay Of Plenty	FMG Stadium Waikato	7:10 pm
	31 July	Tasman v North Harbour	Trafalgar Park	7:10 pm
	1 August	Counties Manukau v Taranaki	Navigation Homes Stadium	2:05 pm
	1 August	Southland v Otago	Invercargill Rugby Park	5:05 pm
	1 August	Canterbury v Auckland	One NZ Stadium	7:10 pm
	2 August	Northland v Manawātū	Semenoff Stadium	2:05 pm
	2 August	Wellington v Hawke's Bay	Hnry Stadium	5:05 pm
ROUND 2	6 August	North Harbour v Counties Manukau	North Harbour Stadium	7:10 pm
	7 August	Taranaki v Waikato	Stadium Taranaki	7:10 pm
	8 August	Auckland v Wellington	Eden Park	2:05 pm
	8 August	Bay Of Plenty v Northland	Rotorua International Stadium	5:05 pm
	8 August	Hawke's Bay v Tasman	McLean Park	7:10 pm
	9 August	Otago v Canterbury	Barr Stadium	2:05 pm
	9 August	Manawātū v Southland	Central Energy Trust Arena	5:05 pm
ROUND 3	13 August	Wellington v North Harbour	Hnry Stadium	7:10 pm
	14 August	Northland v Taranaki	Semenoff Stadium	7:10 pm
	15 August	Canterbury v Bay Of Plenty	One NZ Stadium	2:05 pm
	15 August	Auckland v Hawke's Bay	Eden Park	5:05 pm
	15 August	Manawātū v Otago	Central Energy Trust Arena	7:10 pm
	16 August	Southland v Waikato	Invercargill Rugby Park	2:05 pm
	16 August	Counties Manukau v Tasman	Navigation Homes Stadium	5:05 pm
ROUND 4	20 August	Canterbury v Northland	One NZ Stadium	7:10 pm
	21 August	Hawke's Bay v Manawātū	McLean Park	7:10 pm
	22 August	Tasman v Southland	Lansdowne Park	1:05 pm
	22 August	North Harbour v Auckland	North Harbour Stadium	5:35 pm
	22 August	Bay Of Plenty v Taranaki	Rotorua International Stadium	7:35 pm
	23 August	Waikato v Counties Manukau	FMG Stadium Waikato	2:05 pm
	23 August	Otago v Wellington	Forsyth Barr Stadium	5:05 pm
ROUND 5	27 August	Southland v Hawke's Bay	Invercargill Rugby Park	7:10 pm
	28 August	Auckland v Bay Of Plenty	Eden Park	7:10 pm
	29 August	Taranaki v Canterbury	Stadium Taranaki	2:05 pm
	29 August	Otago v Waikato	Forsyth Barr Stadium	5:05 pm
	29 August	Manawātū v North Harbour	Central Energy Trust Arena	7:10 pm
	30 August	Wellington v Counties Manukau	Hnry Stadium	2:05 pm
	30 August	Northland v Tasman	Semenoff Stadium	5:05 pm
ROUND 6	3 September	Taranaki v Auckland	Stadium Taranaki	7:10 pm
	4 September	Hawke's Bay v Otago	McLean Park	7:10 pm
	5 September	Bay Of Plenty v Manawātū	Tauranga Domain	2:05 pm
	5 September	Tasman v Wellington	Lansdowne Park	5:05 pm
	5 September	Waikato v Canterbury	FMG Stadium Waikato	7:10 pm
	6 September	Counties Manukau v Southland	Navigation Homes Stadium	2:05 pm
	6 September	North Harbour v Northland	North Harbour Stadium	5:05 pm

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ROUND 7

10 September	Manawatū v Taranaki	Central Energy Trust Arena	7:10 pm
11 September	Otago v Tasman	Forsyth Barr Stadium	7:10 pm
12 September	Auckland v Counties Manukau	Eden Park	2:05 pm
12 September	Northland v Waikato	Semenoff Stadium	5:05 pm
12 September	Canterbury v Wellington	One NZ Stadium	7:10 pm
13 September	Hawke's Bay v North Harbour	McLean Park	2:05 pm
13 September	Southland v Bay Of Plenty	Invercargill Rugby Park	5:05 pm

ROUND 8

17 September	Counties Manukau v Otago	Navigation Homes Stadium	7:10 pm
18 September	Tasman v Auckland	Trafalgar Park	7:10 pm
19 September	Bay Of Plenty v Hawke's Bay	Tauranga Domain	2:05 pm
19 September	Waikato v Manawatū	FMG Stadium Waikato	5:05 pm
19 September	Wellington v Northland	Hnry Stadium	7:10 pm
20 September	North Harbour v Canterbury	North Harbour Stadium	2:05 pm
20 September	Taranaki v Southland	Stadium Taranaki	5:05 pm

ROUND 9

24 September	Tasman v Bay Of Plenty	Trafalgar Park	7:10 pm
25 September	Auckland v Manawatū	Eden Park	7:10 pm
26 September	Northland v Counties Manukau	Semenoff Stadium	2:05 pm
26 September	Canterbury v Southland	One NZ Stadium	5:05 pm
26 September	North Harbour v Otago	North Harbour Stadium	7:10 pm
27 September	Wellington v Waikato	Hnry Stadium	2:05 pm
27 September	Hawke's Bay v Taranaki	McLean Park	5:05 pm

ROUND 10

1 October	Otago v Auckland	Forsyth Barr Stadium	7:10 pm
2 October	Southland v Northland	Invercargill Rugby Park	7:10 pm
3 October	Manawatū v Canterbury	Central Energy Trust Arena	2:05 pm
3 October	Counties Manukau v Hawke's Bay	Navigation Homes Stadium	5:05 pm
3 October	Waikato v Tasman	FMG Stadium Waikato	7:10 pm
4 October	Taranaki v Wellington	Stadium Taranaki	2:05 pm
4 October	Bay Of Plenty v North Harbour	Tauranga Domain	5:05 pm

ROUND 11 Quarter-finals

9 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC
10 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC
10 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC
11 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC

ROUND 12 Semi-finals

17 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC
18 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC

ROUND 13

24 October	TBC v TBC	TBC	TBC
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FINAL: Saturday 24 October

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Khandallah/Ngaio's Korimako Track construction progressing well

The Satara Crescent track construction forms part of the volunteer-led development of the Korimako Track in Khandallah.

Active construction focuses on a technically demanding steep fault-line corridor linking Satara Crescent to Ridvan Grove and volunteers are welcome to join the group which

works there every Saturday morning from 9am-12pm.

Volunteers are provided with tools and gloves and a variety of tasks are available from planting, weeding, track clearance or digging and benching into the hillside. If you'd like to be involved email the group coordinator grahamweir@xtra.co.nz



A Canterbury home-away-from-home by the Te Araroa Trail

The heartbeat of Peel Forest homestay comes from Steve and Jenny Deans' Christian world-view which aims to give guests a friendly, warm welcome in their beautiful environment. This is your chance to unwind and recharge. It can be a convenient stop-over on the Te Araroa Trail between the Mackenzie Country and Christchurch, or simply

a quiet weekend away from the bustle of city life.

Wood pigeons can be seen doing their sun dives and the dawn chorus is magnificent.

Accommodation provides for four single beds and one double bed on the balcony of the main homestead.

There is a self-contained bunkhouse

20 metres from the house, whose veranda looks up onto the mountains and spectacular sunsets. This rustic and cosy room contains five single beds, one double, a large table and a small kitchenette. Tariffs are from only \$55.

Steve and Jenny can provide meals or guests can use the house or bunkroom kitchens themselves.

Lake activities and thermal pools when visiting Tokaanu

Tokaanu Lodge Motel is a geothermal accommodation near Turangi and Lake Taupō, featuring indoor mineral pools, family chalets, and it is just 40 minutes from the Whakapapa ski area. Guests can enjoy their hot mineral pools free of charge.

There's a range of passive or more active attractions to be enjoyed at Tokaanu. The

Thermal Walk is a free, easy 20-minute flat loop track featuring boiling mud pools, steaming mineral springs, and sinter basins set in native bush.

Tokaanu Thermal Pools have public and private natural mineral hot baths located right next to the thermal walk, open daily for therapeutic soaking. Or the Tokaanu historic wharf is a picturesque,

restored 19th-century wooden pier jutting into Lake Taupō. It is a quiet spot for photography, picnicking, birdwatching, and casual fishing.

For ornithologists there are the surrounding wetlands and stream estuaries where the Tongariro River meets the Lake Taupo which serve as a haven for native bird species

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When you're heading into our great Outdoors this winter make sure you check out the great range of roofboxes at The Roof Rack Centre at 2 Centennial Drive, Ngauranga.

They have specials throughout autumn so make sure you call in or give them a ring to find out how you can save so much on quality. But stock can be limited so call them soon!

Andy and the team have always been happy to install and advise about the best option roofbox brands including Rhino

and Thule, and now the Yakima Streamline roofrack range. Ask them about how quiet these roofboxes and roofracks are. Free fitting is offered (terms and conditions apply).

"We live, breathe and sleep for the outdoors so we know what works. It's who we are" says owner Andy Blake. They are the professionals in roofbox and roofrack stocking and installation, and as specialists they aim to offer you the best range to give you the best choices.

You'll find they work hard to resolve all your needs and concerns.

Think smart and carry a beacon for peace of mind – hire available from selected outlets

When heading to the outdoors so many people are finding a personal locator beacon is a must-have. The ACR ResQLink PLB 400 is already saving lives.

It has all the great features of the previous model - the ACR ResQLink 375 - plus it has the added feature of not only a built-in high intensity strobe light, but also an infra-red strobe light that can be seen from kilometres away at night.

Some models have a screen on the front of them that will confirm your emergency

signal has been sent, then it will give you your GPS position.

They are waterproof, they float, and they come with a free heavy-duty custom-made pouch.

Check them out for sale or hire at Macpac stores at 45 Willis St, Wellington; Queensgate, Lower Hutt; or 4 Jackson Street, Petone. They are all for hire at Macpac branches around Wellington, or for sale on Southland Locator Beacons website www.locatorbeacons.co.nz/shop

The Royal Albatross Centre on Otago Peninsula

The Royal Albatross Centre is nestled at the tip of the Otago Peninsula, Ōtepoti-Dunedin. Here visitors have the unique opportunity to view the only mainland nesting site of one of the greatest seabirds in the world.

The Northern Royal Albatross – with an impressive three metre wingspan is definitely an extraordinary bird to watch. The Albatross colony can be viewed from our observatory, which is located a short walk uphill from the Albatross Centre on a guided tour.

At the Albatross Centre visitors can also learn about the Albatross and the history of the headland.



Our on-site Toroa Café provides freshly baked and cooked meals and our Giftshop has a big range of New Zealand and locally made treasures.

Tora trail and accommodation so close

The Last Resort Walk to the Wairarapa's rugged east coast, between Tora and White Rock and back was opened just last year and makes an easy get-away for a great time in native bush and to the coastline.

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

The trail is 11km to The Last Resort accommodation, comprising "The Roost" and



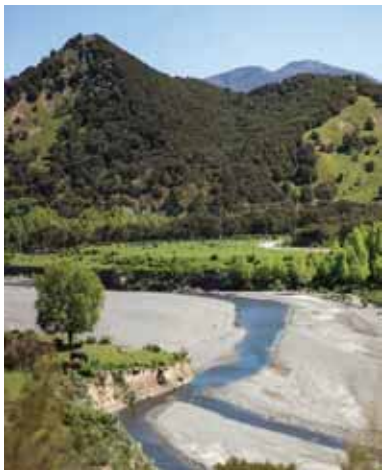
"The Old Place", returning the following day via a loop track. Visitors can add a 7-10km track heading down to the beach and back, and stay for a second night.

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

Perhaps the most unique aspect of The Last Resort is that bookings are exclusive, meaning visitors have the trail and accommodation all to themselves, ideal for family get togethers or groups of friends. The Last Resort is self-catered. Ben and Georgie find visitors enjoy cooking together in the fully equipped kitchen "it's a homely way to finish the day" says Ben.

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

You can see more about The Last Resort at www.lastresortwalk.co.nz



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Local history – Wellington streams

At the bottom of a steep, loved Kelburn garden is a short stretch of the Kumototo Stream.

It babbles along with crystal clear water tumbling over rocks around ferns and magnolias.

Its piped journey begins near Victoria University above the garden, and then down the Terrace, Lambton Quay, Featherston Street and out to the harbour at the Kina Sculptures on the waterfront.

In 1866 it was the first stream to be piped.

The garden's remnant is one of many Wellington streams that entered the harbour from Thorndon to Oriental Parade.

In 1840 Dr Evans described the area as "a second Italy".

That "most picturesque spot" before its settlement by Māori and other city builders was a maze of streams and wetlands draining into the harbour.

The severe earthquakes of 1848 and 1855 (8.2 on the Richter Scale) uplifted much of the coast, including the Hutt Road, Oriental Parade (by 1.5m), and Lyall Bay/Kilbirnie.

Those suburbs were once a sandy bar between the mainland and Motukairangi (Miramar Peninsular).

Desperately short of land for a township, reclamation of the harbour and wetland draining dealt to the early Italian look.

The streams became badly polluted with some stagnant beachside pools.

Piping and paving over them was a critical public health measure for the town's devel-

opment.

Now only 25 km of the streams remain visible while some 550 km are piped underground.

Between Thorndon and Oriental Bay were the mouths of nine streams entering the harbour.

Eight were clear sparkling streams and the ninth was the sluggish Waitangi Stream which drained the swampy area now known as the Basin Reserve and Kent and Cambridge Terraces.

Early maps show the marshy wetland stretching between Tory Street in the west to Hania Street at the base of Mount Victoria/Matairangi.

By 1990 the area was piped for Te Aro's sprawling industrial area with brickworks, abattoirs, gas works and poor, cramped housing.

After Te Papa was built the Council depot wasteland between the museum and Oriental Bay was to become medium density townhouses.

Instead Wellington Waterfront Watch publicly advocated for green space and water was diverted into reimagined "natural" wetlands of native reeds and flaxes.

In order from north to south the nine streams between Thorndon and Oriental Parade were the Pakuao, which flows through Queen Park (Grant Road Reserve); the Tiakiwai, which once had two mouths where Thorndon Quay is now; the Pipitea, which flowed out near Davis Street; the Waipirau/



The bridge over the stream running through the Botanical Gardens in 1907.

Waipiro, and another small stream, which both entered the harbour near the present cenotaph/war memorial; the Kumutoto, which flowed down the line of Woodward Street; the Waikoukou, which met the sea not far from where the old Town Hall stands; Te Aro/Waimapihi, which entered the harbour midway along the line of Wakefield Street, and the marshy Waitangi.

Thousands cross the streams daily unaware of the dark culverts, once favoured landing places of Māori canoes.

The visible part of the Pipitea Stream is in the Wellington Botanical Gardens/ki Paekaka but parts are piped along the path from Glen Road to the duck pond.

From thereabouts it's piped down Tinakori Road, the motorway and railway yards.

Reclamations have pushed the mouths further seaward.

The old mouth of the Waipirau/Waipiro is underneath the cenotaph/war memorial and its mouth is now covered by concrete wharves.

It ran down beside Parliament Hill/Bowen Street to the end of Lambton Quay which was the waterfront, near Pipitea Pa and its cultivations.

In 2015 the area of the cenotaph was developed to commemorate the stream with trees, benches and a path of pouamu inlaid medallions by artist Joe Sheehan.

There is also a soundscape of stream and bird sounds piped through audio speakers.

The Te Aro/Waimapihi Stream comes down from Polehill/Waimapihi Reserve, below the Brooklyn wind turbine, and is culverted down Holloway Road, Aro Street and across town to the sea.

It used to emerge at the waterfront near Cuba Street and just south of Manners Street.

On its way it passes underneath the Z Energy petrol station in Vivienne Street, and is marked by a blue line on the forecourt and a sculptural remembrance using pieces of its old brick culvert, discovered during development.

The Moturoa Stream emerges from a stormwater dam below the junction of Brooklyn and Ohio Roads.

It travels through Central Park under 12 bridges including an historic one.

Near the park's main entrance the stream, like the others, disappears forever until its rude outfall into the harbour.



Women's Refuge provides great service

Wellington Women's Refuge is a not for profit specialist domestic violence service which has been in existence in the Wellington community for 48 years.

While Womens Refuge are well known for their safe houses for women and their children needing safety from domestic violence, this is just one factor of their service.

Women's Refuge provides a wraparound social work service, working in a holistic way with survivors of domestic violence, walking alongside and empowering them to make safe decisions for their future.

Intimate partner violence involves one person dominating and controlling another in a relationship.

This can include a range of power and

control tactics and may not always involve physical violence.

The Wellington Women's Refuge community office, based at 44 Wigan Street, is open from 9am to 5pm weekdays.

The office is easily accessible and is a base for enquiries from the public, support work, meetings, education and provision of our programmes.

Wellington City has two Refuges; Te Whare Rokiroki, Maori Women's Refuge and Wellington Women's Refuge.

The two organisations work closely alongside each other sharing a community office, donations and the afterhours crisis line service.

This parallel development model ensures a specialist service for Māori women and their children.



The Waitangi Stream outfall. Photo: Felicity Wong.

New Johnsonville Business Group Chair

By Frank Neill

Sam Hinder is the new Chair of the Johnsonville Business Group (JBG).

A quantity surveyor, Sam is the owner-operator of the Johnsonville-based Ninety3 Limited, a quantity surveying and project management consultancy.

"Ninety3 works on the behalf of both clients and contractors to provide accurate cost estimates, detailed pricing, and practical construction advice, helping all parties better understand the true cost of their construction projects," Sam says.

"My company's prime focus is on fair outcomes for all parties: clients paying a fair price, contractors being paid fairly, and projects being completed on time and within budget."

Sam lives in Johnsonville with his wife and two-year-old son.

"It's a community that I'm personally invested in," he says.

"What I enjoy about Johnsonville is its diversity and location.

"We are a short commute into the Wellington CBD, Porirua or the Hutt Valley, making it a great central hub for businesses.

"Alongside our current hospitality and retail businesses, we are also home to a wide range of professional and trade services (lawyers, mechanics, accountants, IT consultancy, engineers, quantity surveyors, to name a few)."

Before being elected JBG's Chair, Sam served as a JBG committee member for two years.

"During this time we've delivered projects such as the planter boxes and murals along the main street; hosted some successful community events, including our recent breakfast networking event with Wellington Mayor,



Sam Hinder, the new Chair of the Johnsonville Business Group. Photo: Supplied.

Andrew Little; [and] pushed proposals for future developments and investment within the area.

"I'm excited to build on this momentum by bringing fresh ideas, youthful energy and a proactive approach to representing and advocating for Johnsonville Businesses," Sam says.

"Through supporting and championing our current local businesses, as well as attracting new, I hope that we can strengthen our local economy and create more opportunities.

"This will make Johnsonville an even greater community to work, live and be a part of," Sam says.

The current JBG committee members are Mark Kirk-Burnnand, Property Logic; Leanne Cubbitt, Greg O'Connor's Electorate Office; Kirsty Macgregor, Centre Manager, Johnsonville Shopping Centre; Kamil Lakshman, Idesi Legal; Troy Campbell, McDonald's, Johnsonville; Paul Coutts, Evolution Business; and Chris O'Connor, Strachan O'Connor.

New Johnsonville BID manager

By Frank Neill

The Johnsonville Business Improvement District (BID) has a new manager – long-time Johnsonville resident Jacqui Johnston. Jacqui will take up her new role on 3 August.

She is taking up the role to "make a difference in the community.

"This role is about being community based and giving back.

"I like bringing people together and working with the local businesses.

"There is potential for things to happen here in Johnsonville, and bring it back to be not just a transient place that people pass through.

"I'd love to see the Johnsonville town centre grow as a vibrant place where people choose to shop and eat and work and spend time.

"There's a lot of opportunities to collaborate on this so that people will have a reason to come to Johnsonville.

"My priority is listening to hear what's working and what challenges people are facing.

"I enjoy working collaboratively and getting things done," she says.

She is "really pleased to be stepping into the BID manager role and is looking forward to getting to know and support the local business community."

She says she brings a practical, down-to-earth approach, along with plenty of experience in communication, problem-solving, administration and supporting people, and that she enjoys listening, building relationships and helping turn ideas into action.

"I am excited to champion local businesses, strengthen community connections and help



Jacqui Johnston, the new Johnsonville BID manager. Photo: Supplied.

bring fresh energy to Johnsonville."

Born in Scotland, Jacqui came to New Zealand when she was young.

She was a student at Ngaio School, Rarua Intermediate and Onslow College.

Most recently she worked for New Zealand Plant Producers as their membership administrator.

"I love it here in Johnsonville," she says.



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Local scenic reserves planned

By Frank Neill

Wellington City Council is currently consulting on a plan to classify seven areas of reserve land in the city's outer green belt as

Public Notice



Cashmere Avenue School New Entrant Out-of-Zone Enrolment

For Term 1 2027

There are up to nine out-of-zone spaces available for new entrant children (children who have not yet started school) for Term 1 2027. The Board invites applications from parents who wish to enrol new entrant out-of-zone students at Cashmere Avenue School. Cashmere Avenue School is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available on the school website.

Applications for new entrant out-of-zone places are now being invited for students who will be eligible for enrolment during Term 1 2027. Applications are made on the official enrolment form, please email: office@cashmere-ave.school.nz

The deadline for receipt of applications for new entrant out-of-zone places is **5pm, Friday 18 September 2026**. If a ballot for out-of-zone places is required, it will be held on Monday 21 September 2026. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held. Please contact the School office, phone **04 939 4700** for details regarding the application process or email office@cashmere-ave.school.nz

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scenic reserves under the Reserves Act 1977. All seven are in suburbs covered by the "Independent Herald".

These seven areas are Huntleigh Park in Ngaio; Kakariki Reserve, 174 Westchester Drive and 268 Ōhāriu Valley Road in Churton Park, 185 Ōhāriu Valley Road in Johnsonville, Awarua Street Reserve in Ngaio and Otari Farms Reserve in Karori.

There are seven different classifications under the Act.

Wellington City Council generally uses recreation, historic, scenic or local pur-

pose classifications for its reserves, but only scenic reserve classification is proposed for the land in this consultation.

Most of the land in the Outer Green Belt is classified scenic reserve.

Scenic reserves protect areas of scenic interest, beauty, natural features or landscape for public benefit, use and enjoyment.

The consultation is currently open and closes at midnight on 23 August.

For more information visit www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/outer-green-belt-reserve-classifications.

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INFORMATION EVENINGS

6 - 7 PM

3RD / 4TH AUGUST

OPEN MORNINGS

9 - 10:30AM

4TH / 5TH AUGUST

Rāroa Normal Intermediate School operates under an enrolment scheme. The Board of Trustees anticipates that 25 places will be available for out-of-zone students next year, although the final number will depend on the number of in-zone enrolments received. If applications from out-of-zone students exceed the number of places available, places will be allocated through a ballot process. Details of the ballot process can be found on our website.

Out of zone applications close 31 August 2026

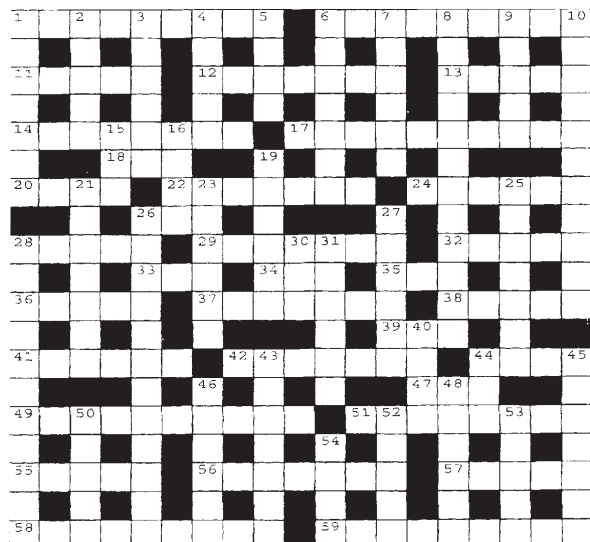
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Finalist
2026



CROSSWORD Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Improvised barrier (9)
6. Female family ruler(9)
11. opposite of 'Zenith' (5)
12. Desert(7)
13. Subject of speech (5)
14. Recounted(8)
17. Pertaining to small planets(10)
18. Fuss(3)
20. Friend(4)
22. Makes use of (7)
24. Chaotic din (6)
26. Exploit unfairly (3)
28. Muscle (5)
29. Influences (7)
32. Male singing voice (5)
33. Charged atom (3)
- 34.& 45 DOWN.Beyond comparison (3,3,4)
35. Snow runner (3)
36. Strong cotton drill (5)
37. Put into office (7)
38. Female egg-producing organ (5)
39. Daughter's husband, ...-in-law (3)
41. Farmyard(6)
42. Most simple(7)
44. Mother(archaic) (4)
47. Outlawed Irish army(abbr) (3)
49. Not creative(10)
51. Raw(8)

55. Deem worthy(5)
56. Make cheerful(7)
57. Bestow(5)
58. Repeat again(9)
59. Cloister(9)

DOWN

1. Source of good fortune (7)
2. Supplementary clause (5)
3. Incursion (6)
4. Proverb (5)
5. Type of cheese (4)
6. Humility (7)
7. Offer (6)
8. Foreword (12)
9. Swift (5)
10. Mark Twain character, ... Finn (11)
15. Marine fish (3)
16. Conforms, ... the line (4)
19. Feigns (6)
21. Novice (7)
23. Miserly person(coll) (6)
25. Silk handkerchief (7)
26. Irrelevance (12)
27. Evaluate (6)
28. One who develops muscles through exercise (4,7)
30. Consume (3)
31. Skull(pl) (6)

40. Of the ear (4)
43. Stir (7)
44. One-time Chinese political leader, ... Tsetung (3)
45. SEE '34 ACROSS
46. Breathing illness (6)
48. Wanderers (6)
50. Excuse (5)
52. Light silk material (5)
53. Small anchor (5)
54. Check (4)

Solution

Last Week: 23 July 2026



Cup named after former Ngaio resident

By Frank Neill

Paremata-Plimmerton's premier Rugby team were presented the cup named after former Ngaio resident Major William Hardham after they defeated the Wellington Axemen 45-25 on 25 July.

Left wing Louis Northcott scored two tries for the victors, as did loose forward Jeremiah Avei-Collins.

Hooker Toby Mallon and wing Marzy Karim also dotted down.

Dale Sabbagh kicked three conversions and a penalty and Zane Edwards also kicked a penalty.

Paremata-Plimmerton was presented the Major William Hardham VC Memorial Cup by the New Zealand Remembrance Army.

Major Hardham is Wellington Rugby's only Victoria Cross recipient.

"The presentation forms part of the New Zealand Remembrance Army's (NZRA) ongoing campaign to raise awareness of Major Hardham's remarkable life and legacy across Wellington rugby, including its clubs, players, supporters and wider community," says Simon Strombom, NZRA Managing Director.

Major Hardham was one of Wellington's greatest sportsmen and soldiers.

He was New Zealand's first New Zealand-born Victoria Cross recipient, an inaugural Ranfurly Shield winner with Wellington, a Gallipoli veteran, a Life Member of the Wellington Rugby Football Union and a lifelong servant of rugby and returned servicemen.

"Hardham's story deserves to be better known across the Wellington rugby community," Simon says.

"It's not just a name on a trophy. He was an extraordinary New Zealander

whose life connected courage on the battlefield, leadership on the rugby field and service to his community.

"We believe Wellington is the only Rugby union in the world with a premier trophy named after a Victoria Cross recipient, and that is something players and supporters should know and be proud of."

The presentation follows the New Zealand Remembrance Army's work to restore the mana of the Major William Hardham VC Memorial Cup.

For many years, the trophy's significance had been overlooked, with informal nicknames such as the "Hard Up Cup" and even the "Losers Cup" diminishing the legacy of the man it honours.

In 2025, the New Zealand Remembrance Army completely restored the historic trophy and ensured it would be known by its proper title, the Major William Hardham VC Cup.

A second wooden base was added to preserve the trophy's history while allowing future winners to be recorded.

The restoration also included unique military features, including Major Hardham's regimental badge and service number incorporated into the base, ensuring the military legacy behind the trophy is never forgotten.

"This Cup is far more than silverware," Simon says.

"It represents courage, leadership, sacrifice and service.

"Every player who competes for it will come to understand the remarkable man whose name it carries."

A rugby player, soldier and veteran advocate, Major Hardham played in the first Wellington team to win the Ranfurly Shield, defeating Auckland in 1904.

He remains the only Victoria Cross recipient from the South African War and



Former Ngaio resident Major William Hardham VC and the cup named after him. Photo: Supplied.

later served again during the First World War, including at Gallipoli, despite ongoing health issues.

Away from the battlefield, he remained deeply involved in Rugby and played an important role in supporting returned servicemen, including through the development

of the Wellington RSA.

The presentation of the framed medal set and story to Wellington Rugby Football Union is part of the New Zealand Remembrance Army's wider mission to restore, retell and remember the stories of New Zealand service personnel.

Portrait of Sir Keith Park unveiled

A portrait of Second World War hero Sir Keith Park will be unveiled at the British High Commission in Wellington on 6 August.

Sir Keith, who regularly visited his sister Lilly in Kelburn, played the key role in the Battle of Britain victory during the Second World War.

At the time Sir Keith was an Air Vice Marshall and commander of the Royal Air Force's No 11 group which bore the brunt of this key battle.

His superb strategic and tactical abilities and his outstanding leadership ensured what was a victory, and secured it against the odds.

It saved Britain from being invaded by Hitler and that outcome may well have saved the world from being subjected to Nazi tyranny.

"If any one man won the Battle of Britain, he did," Lord Tedder, who later became Chief of the Royal Air Force, said in 1947.

"I do not believe it is realised how much that one man, with his leadership, his calm judgement and his skill, did to save not only our country but the world."

"We believe that none of our countrymen from this era had a more direct impact on our history and been denied more recognition," the Chief of Air Staff, Sir Stephen Dalton, said in 2010.

"Everywhere, and all the time, Park knew he was a New Zealander.

"He never failed at any task he was given."

Sir Keith was born in Thames, and the town was his home.

As well as being the major force in the Battle



The portrait of Sir Keith Park that has been gifted to the British High Commission.

of Britain victory, Sir Keith has had many other significant achievements.

He led the creation of Auckland International Airport, as well as influencing modern civil aviation.

He was an environmentalist whose advocacy worked to save the Hauraki Gulf from pollution.

His humanity and sensitivity changed the lives of underprivileged children, as well as people who were blind and had epilepsy.

And these are just three of his remarkable achievements.

Sir Keith also served three terms as an Auckland City Councillor.

He was knighted on 17 December 1940, when he was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

Sir Keith died in 1975 aged 82.

Big increase in pest cull

A 56% increase in the number of pest animals culled by Greater Wellington in the 2025/26 financial year is being attributed to new thermal hunting technology, and extra funding for pest control in the region's 2024-34 Long-Term Plan.

11,578 pest animals were culled by staff last year, the highest number controlled by the regional council in the last five years. 40% were rabbits, 20% wild goats, 10% possums and 9% hares. Greater Wellington Director of Operations Jack Mace says the new hunting tools have increased cull numbers across the council projects.

"Pest control is a core function of Greater Wellington, and our techniques continue to improve.

"We're now using advanced technology like thermal drones, scopes, and viewers which means better night shoots," Jack says.

"We're working across a range of projects and stretching our funding further to deliver better results. Last week, we celebrated the planting of the millionth tree as part of our Reclimbing Papatūānuku planting programme, and pest control gives the seedlings their best chance of survival.

"As well as protecting regenerating forest and nesting birds, culling pests helps vegetation recover without constant browsing."

Greater Wellington Environment and Climate Committee Chair Quentin Duthie says the increase is consistent with community action to rid the region of pests.

"Our communities are leading the charge against invasive species.

"By setting thousands of traps in gardens, farms and regional parks the public has shown us the importance of protecting our precious ecosystems and taonga species," Cr Duthie says.

"Greater Wellington's tally complements the

effort of dozens of community groups, as well as Predator Free Wellington, Capital Kiwi, and the Wairarapa Pūkaha to Kawakawa Alliance.

"The public has voted with their traps and bait stations for better pest control from council, and we have responded."

Greater Wellington also undertakes pest control for other councils and projects like WOWCAZUP, which aims to eradicate feral ungulates (pigs, deer and goats) from the Wainuiomata/Ōrongorongo water collection area and wider catchment (including the DOC buffer zone) than the previous year, supporting a local population of North Island brown kiwi and reducing browsing pressure on native seedlings and saplings.

"Effective pest control doesn't happen in isolation. We work with city and district councils, and DOC to have an impact on pest animal populations," Cr Duthie says.

"We also work with private landowners who live close to our regional parks to control animals before they make their way in.

"Our goal is a region where native plants and animals can thrive.

"Controlling pests protects wildlife and strengthens the health of our forests and waterways.

"It supports mana whenua, communities and businesses that rely on and identify with the wildlife and ecosystems that define the Wellington Region."

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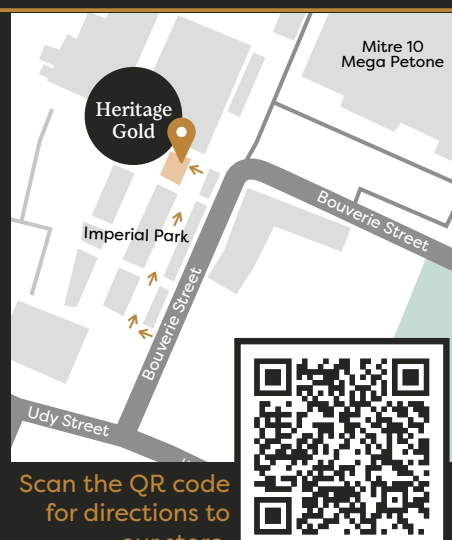
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