



Leading Karori



By Frank Neill

A new initiative 'Lead the Way Karori' has just been launched by the Karori Residents Association (KRA) and climate change specialist Alicia Hall.

It's aim is to mentor and connect people who are ready to lead community initiatives, but who need initial support.

Continued on page 2.

The leaders of the new 'Lead the Way Karori' initiative, Andrea Skews (left) and Alicia Hall. Photo: Frank Neill.

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AGES 5-14

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Many great ideas in the community

Continued from page 1.

"There's a lot of people with great ideas out there," the KRA Chair of the Andrea Skews says.

"Lead the Way Karori" "is about giving locals the tools, connection and confidence to drive the projects they care about.

"The goal is a future where the community leads and we stand behind them with the connections, support and know how.

"Often it's not the 'what' but it's the 'how' that prevents us from moving forward.

"I find if you can say what your intention is, there's always a way to it.

"Our communities thrive when we empower each other," Ms Skews says.

By setting up 'Lead the Way Karori' to help people lead initiatives "we get more people involved who will be doing it their way," she says.

By starting this project "we're not just helping the community, we're also empowering the Residents Association," Ms Skews says.

"It allows us to tap into community expertise, people who have passion and skills but can't commit to a committee role.

"They lead projects they care about, while we provide the support, connections, and framework.

"It's a win-win: we outsource leadership to those with the knowledge, and they help bring to life the projects the community wants to



A panorama of part of Karori. Photo: Team Woolf.

see happen.

"This all started when I called a community meeting around our stream being classed an E on Lawa website which is In the worst 25% of all sites.

"This was just an idea, but what we discovered was incredible: right here in Karori, we have true water specialists living among us.

"Now they lead the Friends of Waipāhihi Karori Stream group.

"What was once an idea now has an Memorandum of Understanding with the Council.

"They're leading vital work, testing and restoring our stream.

"It shows how much talent and passion we have locally and how,

by bringing people together, we can unlock it."

The KRA has wanted to tackle a climate project for some time, but lacked the resources to launch it.

Alicia Hall is not only sharing the leadership of 'Lead the Way Karori', she is also stepping up around Climate Change.

"Alicia brings a wealth of experience in her field," Ms Skews says.

"Her expertise is exactly the kind of leadership that will resonate with many locals, people who have skills to offer but just need that spark to get involved.

"Her leadership shows how deep our community's knowledge runs and how we can tap into it to drive

meaningful change.

"Our mission isn't just about the environment it's about a resilient, prepared Karori.

"Whether it's people, infrastructure, or transport, we want local groups collaborating.

"The more groups we connect with, the more informed and resilient we become.

"By proactively supporting each other now, we ensure Karori stays strong and adaptable in whatever we face ahead," Ms Skews says.

People can learn more by visiting the KRA stall at the Karori Kar-nival, to be held at Ben Burn Park on 22 February, or by emailing

chair@karoriassociation.nz.



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Greg O'Connor MP for Ōhāriu

I attended the Waitangi Day Celebrations this year, being welcomed onto the Upper Marae along with members of all political parties.

Many of the political issues of the day, especially those involving Māori are addressed by speakers on the marae. And there are plenty of such issues presently, with internal political issues, and overriding that, major issues with Māori unemployment, health, and crime, both as victims and offenders.

Resolving those issues should be the focus of everyone involved, and shouldn't be distracted by political grandstanding, something many parties there are guilty of.

Nevertheless, politics aside, it is a great atmosphere, especially on Waitangi Day itself, and well worth a visit at least once by every New Zealander. The protesting portrayed by media is

hardly noticeable to those who are there and certainly doesn't define the celebrations.

It is our national day, it does commemorate something unique in the world which was the signing of a treaty between the crown and the indigenous people, something which didn't occur anywhere else where Europeans colonised the world.

The Treaty is legally recognised, and like every treaty or contract, it is enforceable by either party, so we must make it work for us all. We can't ignore it as happened for about 150 years.

So, I encourage every New Zealander to get up to Waitangi Day for the celebrations at least once in their lifetime and come away with a better understanding of the uniqueness of our country, and a much better impression of the Day than we'll ever get from the media portrayal.

You can contact my office on **04 478 3332** or email

Greg.OConnor@parliament.govt.nz.



Big concerns over latest Petone to Grenada road plan

By Frank Neill

Significant concerns over the latest planned route of the Petone to Grenada road have been expressed by the leaders of two local community organisations.

Both the Chair of the Grenada Village Community Association Bruce Patterson and the Chair of the Glenside Progressive Association Claire Bibby have voiced their concern about the latest route for the road.

The New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi has released the full investment case for the 5.5km four-lane highway, including its latest "preferred option".

This option would see a 410 metre tunnel under Woodridge and a 230 metre tunnel under Mark Avenue with the road ending at Grenada Drive, where an "at grade intersection" will be constructed for northbound and southbound traffic.

It would affect 85 houses and the map shows it may well pass through two reserves, the Gilbert Bush Reserve and Seton Nossiter Park.

"It is my opinion that NZTA has regarded the main affected communities of Grenada Village and Woodridge with contempt and the way they have communicated this entire proposal is appalling," Mr Patterson says.

"They have shown total disregard to the massive and devastating impact this proposal will have on not only the 85 homes directly involved, but also on the entire surrounding residential areas and the vast ecological areas that will be destroyed.

"The stress, anxiety and emotional toll on the residents of the surrounding communities since this proposal was announced has

been immense and extremely unsettling.

"NZTA have a history of failure with this proposed road connection.

"The early beginnings of it actually began more than 30 years ago in 1995 and the first two options were publically notified in 2011/2012.

"These were ultimately rejected and then in 2014, two further options were put forward with both also being rejected.

"In all four cases, a main cause for the rejection was the impact and consequences on the surrounding suburbs being too severe.

"The ramifications were serious and too great.

"In 2015/2016 a fifth option was developed and was publically announced in 2017, but this route was rejected by NZTA themselves after undergoing a comprehensive inter evaluation.

"In 2018 NZTA announced that the multi-criteria analysis had examined the project's objectives, its costs, the design conditions, its environmental impacts and interchange design options, and that the outcome was that the alignment would have a significant environmental impact, could fail horribly in an earthquake, and that its construction cost would be \$1 billion (\$125 million per kilometre).

"As a result of these findings, NZTA cancelled the project.

"With the current proposal, it has been stated that the estimated cost of this six kilometre highway will be \$2.1 billion to \$2.6 billion (plus potential cost overruns) which is \$350 to \$400 million per kilometre

"This cost is extraordinary," Mr Patterson says.

"The initial cost of constructing the 27 kilometre Transmission

Gully was \$1.25 billion and it was opened in March 2022.

"The Grenada Village Community Association has always supported the concept of a link road connection between Petone and Grenada with the benefits of having such a connection being well documented."

However this latest proposal "is totally unacceptable and the resulting impact on the surrounding communities and the ecology would be too severe and devastating to proceed," Mr Patterson says.

"The proposed Petone to Grenada motorway on-ramp is along the length of Glenside and will impact five properties adjacent to the motorway, with at least one losing a home," Ms Bibby says.

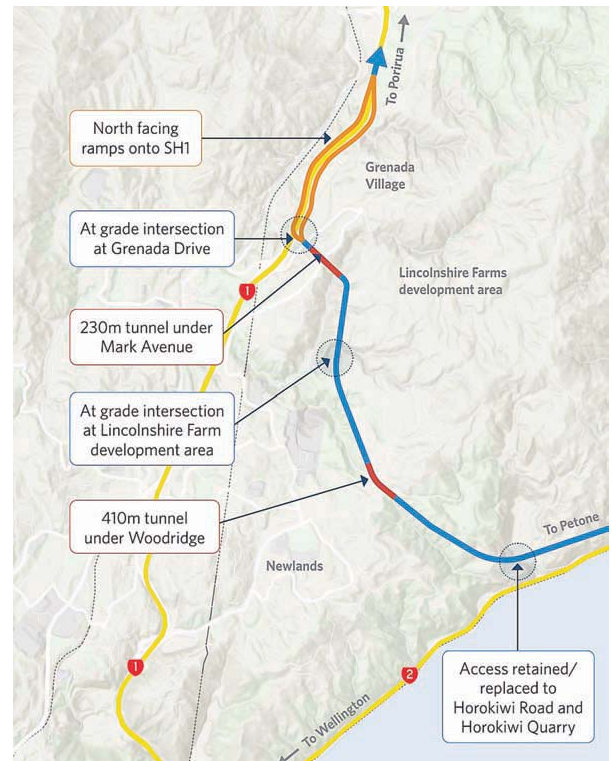
"Two of the affected families have already been through this stress before – one through motorway widening, the other having lost their former home to the Newlands motorway interchange.

"One landowner told me it's clear the Callender developers of the Lincolnshire Farm block have had a say in the roading design, as their land on the east side of the motorway is not adversely affected.

"I expect the Callender's have already suggested to NZTA they will 'do them a favour' and buy back any 'worthless' surplus land, which they will then develop for housing," Ms Bibby says.

"Glenside Reserve receives a significant volume of water beneath the motorway from two deep gullies in Grenada impacted by the NZTA roading proposal.

"Our Association is partnering with [Wellington City] Council to restore the reserve's waterways and vegetation and are inviting community to share their views on March 5 and 7," Ms Bibby says.



The map NZTA has released of their latest "preferred route" for the Petone to Grenada motorway.

Just what NZTA is proposing is "a bit ambiguous" at the moment, the Takapū-Northern Councillor and Deputy Mayor Ben McNulty told the "Independent Herald".

NZTA has produced a map of their proposed preferred route for the Petone to Grenada motorway.

The map of the route shows "a big bright line" and it is too wide to see how it will be affecting the areas it passes through.

It is not possible, for example, to determine what affect it may have on Seton Nossiter Park and

Gillberd Bush Reserve.

Cr McNulty says he plans to contact NZTA to obtain more information, which can then be used by Wellington City Council to prepare submissions to NZTA on the proposed preferred route for the road.

"Takapū councillors have created a Facebook group 'Petone to Grenada Residents' where they are sharing news and updates as they have them and gathering concerns from impacted residents," Cr McNulty adds.



Greg O'Connor MP for Ōhāriu

Spokesperson for Courts and Veterans' Affairs
Assistant Speaker

Get in touch

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f /GregOhariu



Authorised by Greg O'Connor MP,
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Free car seat checks



Free car seat checks will be provided at the Johnsonville Plunket Clinic, 19 Rotoiti Street, on Monday 16 February from 10am to noon.

Trained technicians will be available to check the installation of people's car seats and answer any other safety questions people have.

Wellington City Council has partnered with the Police and Whānau Awhina Plunket to provide the car seat checks.

Car seats, known officially as 'child restraints', need to be installed correctly in vehicles to

keep children safe.

The monthly checks conducted by the Council in 2024 and 2025 showed that more than 50% of child restraints were not installed correctly.

For more information on car seats, go to the Waka Kotahi website where you can check which standard your child restraint meets, watch video guides for installing a child's car seat and find a child restraint technician.

Child restraints have an expiry date. People can find out how to read a car seat date stamp on the SitTight website.

New Equipment for Ōhāriu Girl Guides



Local Guide leaders with one of their new tents and freshly painted hall in Broderick Road. Photo: Supplied.

Girl Guides in Ōhāriu were overjoyed last year to receive a generous bequest from the estate of Patrick (Jack) Feeny who passed away in 2024.

This bequest has been used to purchase new tents for Guides and Rangers and to make repairs to the cladding and repaint the external walls of the Ōhāriu Guides' hall.

Jack Feeny was a local firefighter who has left a lasting legacy in the community with a lot of his estate going to local community groups such as Girl Guiding and the purchase of an ambulance for Wellington Free Ambulance.

Ōhāriu Guides was excited to be a beneficiary as both their current tents and hall were tired and in need of upgrades.

"We are grateful for this bequest," says co-Local Co-ordinator Emily

Burton.

"It means our volunteer leader can focus on providing valuable and diverse opportunities to the Pippins (5 to 6 year olds), Brownies (7 to 9.5 year olds), Guides (9 to 13 year olds) and Rangers (12.5 to 17 year olds), rather than spending hours on fundraising.

"We have now good quality tents to provide outdoor experience and opportunities to Guides in the area," Emily says.

Camping is a key element of the unique Girl Guiding experience, as it teaches girls outdoor skills, such as cooking over fires and pitching tents, as well as valuable life skills, including independence and resilience.

Furthermore, they learn about the environment and how to care for it.

Having good quality comfortable

tents is key to helping girls enjoy and get the most out of their camping experience.

Being able to replace our old broken tents with new ones will help to ensure this.

Guiding is not only about camping and outdoors, but giving girls new experiences including in the community, arts and craft, and STEM activities.

What we experience as children helps shape our ideas of what is possible.

Guiding aims to give girls those opportunities to get outdoors, learn new skills, be active in the community, challenge themselves and make new friends, growing our future leaders.

There are places in the community across a range of units. More information is available at <https://girlguidingnz.org.nz/join-us/>

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NEWS TIPS
 Send your tips to herald@wsn.co.nz



Brian Sheppard's grandfather. Photo: Supplied.

A search to know my birth family

Brian Sheppard, who was adopted at birth, will speak about his long search for his birth family at the next meeting of the Wellington Branch of the NZ Society of Genealogists.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday 18 February at 7:30 pm at the Johnsonville Bowling Club, 34 Frankmoore Avenue.

Most people can grow their family tree from a rootstock of personal family experience, photos and stories that were shared with them.

Those who were separated from family at an early age may not have that luxury.

This was Brian's case. He was adopted at birth and brought up in a loving, but different, family.

From access to censuses and 'vital' records he built the skeleton of his family tree but, after over two decades of searches and dead ends, it still told him little about the people in it.

The breakthrough came last year when he found his grandfather's police service record

which, unexpectedly, allowed him to meet cousins who were also studying it.

He was their grandfather too and their parents had grown up with his mother.

Brian will share some of the stories behind that discovery, some unexpected sources of information, and how he found and was accepted by his 'new' cousins.

And finally he will share how his discoveries led to a better understanding of the background to his adoption and its effects on other family members.

Visitors are very welcome at all the meetings. Arrive at 7pm for coffee, tea and biscuits, and a chance to chat with the branch's friendly and helpful members.

If people would like some help with their family history search, they can ask about the branch's pre-meeting clinic.

The main meeting should finish between 8:30 and 9pm. For more information see <https://www.wellingtongenealogy.org/>.

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Thatcher development concerning residents

By Frank Neill

Plans for a new housing development at 2 Thatcher Crescent Crofton Downs were unveiled by the developer, Te Toi Mahana, at a meeting in the Ngaio Union Church last Thursday, 4 February.

Te Toi Mahana has received approval to develop a complex with 23 new healthy homes.

Two of them will be two-bedroom townhouses and the other 21 will be one-bedroom apartments.

They are designed to meet HomeStar 6 and the first homes are due to open in early 2027.

The Ngaio Crofton Downs Residents' Association (NCDRA) does not have any particular view on the 2 Thatcher development, NCDRA committee member Ian Turk says.

"We realise that we have many members who have concerns, but also others who are supportive or not engaged," he says.

"I am not aware of any residents who are concerned about having social or affordable housing in Crofton Downs. In fact I have been surprised at how many know the current tenants.

"There is considerable concern though about the living standards that are being offered in the stacked 45sqm apartments, due to size, privacy, access and accessible outside

space.

"Residents have expressed strong concern about social issues that may arise from these conditions, tenant safety, and integration into the community – including impacts on local families walking kids past the site to primary school.

"The Residents' Association is concerned about the impact on local parking and thoroughfare.

"The lower end of Thatcher Crescent where this development lies already has restricted parking spaces with yellow lines, because of difficulty driving through when there are cars parked on both sides.

"The street is used for commuter parking and nearby retail parking.

"While the view of Te Toi Mahana is that the development will appeal less to tenants with cars, there will undoubtedly be increased demand from tenants, visitors and services.

"We understand that Central Government has decreed that new developments do not have to include resident parking, but Board Member Diane Calvert has said she wants Te Toi Mahana to act as a good neighbour.

"There is a lot of local concern that putting a development of this size and design in that location is not acting as a good neighbour," Mr Turk says.

A group of Thatcher Crescent



An artist's impression of the Thatcher Crescent development.

residents are "very concerned about the development", a spokesperson for the group told the "Independent Herald".

The group is concerned about both the process of engagement with the residents and the design of the development.

"There has been no consultation with local residents," he said. "It has been presented to them as a fait accompli.

"I think for a lot of Thatcher Crescent residents that is a very disappointing situation."

In terms of the design, first "the residents are completely happy that this is going to be social housing."

However they are concerned about the large number of single bedroom units. Some units have no outdoor space, there is limited shared outdoor space, there is no off street parking and "there is nothing for families and children.

"The block of 21 units will be people without children and the area is very, very suitable for children."

The Thatcher Crescent area "is a very family and children focussed

neighbourhood.

"It seems a tremendous shame that the design excludes children," the spokesperson said. The development could have been designed to accommodate "a much more diverse mix of people.

"We think the design does not comply with New Zealand social housing guidelines ... and that it will lead to anti-social outcomes."

There are a "lot of frustrated residents in the street," the spokesperson said. "Everyone I have spoken to has concerns."



Artist: Joe Zhou

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Their humor is sharp, their observations hard-won, and their perspectives refreshingly different from the usual comedy lineup.

Whether you're young or young at heart, you'll appreciate the wit, wisdom, and occasional shocking cynicism these performers bring.

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Highlanders v Crusaders
 Waratahs v Reds
 Fijian Drua v Moana Pasifika
 Blues v Chiefs
 Force v Brumbies
 Bye: Hurricanes

Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin
 Allianz Stadium, Sydney
 Churchill Park, Lautoka
 Eden Park, Auckland
 HBF Park, Perth

7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 4:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm

ROUND 2

Friday 20 February
 Friday 20 February
 Saturday 21 February
 Saturday 21 February
 Sunday 22 February
 Bye: Reds

Hurricanes v Moana Pasifika
 Waratahs v Fijian Drua
 Highlanders v Chiefs
 Force v Blues
 Crusaders v Brumbies
 Bye: Reds

Sky Stadium, Wellington
 Allianz Stadium, Sydney
 Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin
 Arena Joondalup, Joondalup
 Apollo Projects Stadium, Christchurch

7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 3:35 pm

ROUND 3

Friday 27 February
 Friday 27 February
 Saturday 28 February
 Saturday 28 February
 Saturday 28 February
 Saturday 28 February
 Bye: Waratahs

Moana Pasifika v Force
 Reds v Highlanders
 Fijian Drua v Hurricanes
 Chiefs v Crusaders
 Brumbies v Blues
 Bye: Waratahs

TBC
 Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
 Churchill Park, Lautoka
 FNG Stadium, Waikato, Hamilton
 GIO Stadium, Canberra

7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 4:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm

ROUND 4

Friday 6 March
 Friday 6 March
 Saturday 7 March
 Saturday 7 March
 Saturday 7 March
 Saturday 7 March
 Bye: Fijian Drua

Chiefs v Moana Pasifika
 Waratahs v Hurricanes
 Highlanders v Force
 Blues v Crusaders
 Brumbies v Reds
 Bye: Fijian Drua

FNG Stadium, Waikato, Hamilton
 Allianz Stadium, Sydney
 Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin
 Eden Park, Auckland
 GIO Stadium, Canberra

7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 4:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm

ROUND 5

Friday 13 March
 Saturday 14 March
 Saturday 14 March
 Saturday 14 March
 Saturday 14 March
 Sunday 15 March
 Bye: Chiefs

Hurricanes v Force
 Fijian Drua v Brumbies
 Crusaders v Highlanders
 Reds v Waratahs
 Blues v Moana Pasifika
 Bye: Chiefs

Melale Park, Napier
 4R Electrical Govind Park, Ba
 Apollo Projects Stadium, Christchurch
 Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
 Eden Park, Auckland

7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 4:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 3:35 pm

ROUND 6

Friday 20 March
 Friday 20 March
 Saturday 21 March
 Saturday 21 March
 Saturday 21 March
 Saturday 21 March
 Bye: Force

Highlanders v Hurricanes
 Brumbies v Chiefs
 Fijian Drua v Reds
 Moana Pasifika v Crusaders
 Waratahs v Blues
 Bye: Force

Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin
 GIO Stadium, Canberra
 Churchill Park, Lautoka
 North Harbour Stadium, Auckland
 Allianz Stadium, Sydney

7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 4:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm

ROUND 7

Friday 27 March
 Friday 27 March
 Saturday 28 March
 Saturday 28 March
 Saturday 28 March
 Saturday 28 March
 Bye: Crusaders

Moana Pasifika v Highlanders
 Brumbies v Waratahs
 Hurricanes v Reds
 Blues v Fijian Drua
 Force v Chiefs
 Bye: Crusaders

North Harbour Stadium, Auckland
 GIO Stadium, Canberra
 Sky Stadium, Wellington
 Eden Park, Auckland
 HBF Park, Perth

7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 4:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm

ROUND 8

Friday 3 April
 Saturday 4 April
 Saturday 4 April
 Bye: Brumbies, Blues, Highlanders, Hurricanes, Moana Pasifika

Crusaders v Fijian Drua
 Chiefs v Waratahs
 Reds v Force
 Bye: Brumbies, Blues, Highlanders, Hurricanes, Moana Pasifika

Apollo Projects Stadium, Christchurch
 FNG Stadium, Waikato, Hamilton
 Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm

ROUND 9

Friday 10 April
 Saturday 11 April
 Saturday 11 April
 Saturday 11 April
 Saturday 11 April
 Saturday 11 April
 Bye: Waratahs

Highlanders v Brumbies
 Moana Pasifika v Chiefs
 Fijian Drua v Force
 Hurricanes v Blues
 Reds v Crusaders
 Bye: Waratahs

Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin
 Teufaiva Sport Stadium, Tonga
 Churchill Park, Lautoka
 Sky Stadium, Wellington
 Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

7:05 pm
 2:05 pm
 4:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm

ROUND 10

Friday 17 April
 Friday 17 April
 Saturday 18 April
 Saturday 18 April
 Saturday 18 April
 Saturday 18 April
 Bye: Reds

Blues v Highlanders
 Waratahs v Moana Pasifika
 Chiefs v Hurricanes
 Brumbies v Fijian Drua
 Force v Crusaders
 Bye: Reds

Eden Park, Auckland
 Allianz Stadium, Sydney
 FNG Stadium, Waikato, Hamilton
 GIO Stadium, Canberra
 HBF Park, Perth

7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 11:55 pm

ROUND 11

Friday 24 April
 Saturday 25 April
 Saturday 25 April
 Saturday 25 April
 Sunday 26 April
 Sunday 26 April
 Bye: Force

Crusaders v Waratahs
 Hurricanes v Brumbies
 Blue v Reds
 Highlanders v Moana Pasifika
 Chiefs v Fijian Drua
 Bye: Force

One NZ Stadium, Christchurch
 One NZ Stadium, Christchurch
 One NZ Stadium, Christchurch
 One NZ Stadium, Christchurch
 One NZ Stadium, Christchurch

7:35 pm
 5:05 pm
 7:35 pm
 7:35 pm
 2:00 pm
 4:30 pm

ROUND 12

Friday 1 May
 Friday 1 May
 Saturday 2 May
 Saturday 2 May
 Saturday 2 May
 Sunday 2 May
 Bye: Chiefs

Hurricanes v Crusaders
 Waratahs v Force
 Fijian Drua v Highlanders
 Moana Pasifika v Blues
 Reds v Brumbies
 Bye: Chiefs

Sky Stadium, Wellington
 Allianz Stadium, Sydney
 One NZ Stadium, BA
 North Harbour Stadium, Auckland
 Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 4:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm

ROUND 13

Friday 8 May
 Friday 8 May
 Saturday 9 May
 Saturday 9 May
 Saturday 9 May
 Saturday 9 May
 Bye: Fijian Drua

Crusaders v Blues
 Reds v Chiefs
 Highlanders v Waratahs
 Moana Pasifika v Hurricanes
 Brumbies v Force
 Bye: Fijian Drua

One NZ Stadium, Christchurch
 Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
 Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin
 North Harbour Stadium, Auckland
 GIO Stadium, Canberra

7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 9:35 pm
 4:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm

ROUND 14

Friday 15 May
 Saturday 16 May
 Saturday 16 May
 Saturday 16 May
 Saturday 16 May
 Saturday 16 May
 Bye: Brumbies, Crusaders, Moana Pasifika

Chiefs v Highlanders
 Fijian Drua v Waratahs
 Blue v Hurricanes
 Force v Reds
 Bye: Brumbies, Crusaders, Moana Pasifika

FNG Stadium, Waikato, Hamilton
 HFC Bank Stadium, Suva
 Eden Park, Auckland
 HBF Park, Perth

7:05 pm
 4:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm

ROUND 15

Friday 22 May
 Friday 22 May
 Saturday 23 May
 Saturday 23 May
 Saturday 23 May
 Saturday 23 May
 Bye: Blues

Crusaders v Chiefs
 Waratahs v Brumbies
 Moana Pasifika v Reds
 Hurricanes v Highlanders
 Force v Fijian Drua
 Bye: Blues

One NZ Stadium, Christchurch
 Allianz Stadium, Sydney
 North Harbour Stadium, Auckland
 Sky Stadium, Wellington
 HBF Park, Perth

7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 4:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm

ROUND 16

Friday 29 May
 Friday 29 May
 Saturday 30 May
 Saturday 30 May
 Saturday 30 May
 Saturday 30 May
 Bye: Highlanders

Crusaders v Hurricanes
 Reds v Fijian Drua
 Brumbies v Moana Pasifika
 Chiefs v Blues
 Force v Waratahs
 Bye: Highlanders

One NZ Stadium, Christchurch
 GIO Stadium, Canberra
 Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
 FNG Stadium, Waikato, Hamilton
 HBF Park, Perth

7:05 pm
 9:35 pm
 4:35 pm
 7:05 pm
 9:35 pm

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Local history – historic tour

By Felicity Wong

Guided by the Onslow Historical Society, two dozen walkers set off from the Khandallah Automatic Telephone Exchange museum on Waitangi Day.

In the shadow of Tarikaka/Mount Kau Kau, they noted the nearest Māori settlements had been Te Ati Awa's pa at Ngauranga and Ngati Tama's Kaianga at Kaiwharrawharra.

Under Khandallah Road runs the Korimako Stream flowing through Ngaio backyards and pipes to merge with Kaiwharrawharra Stream from Otari to flow down Ngaio Gorge.

The group walked Ngatoto Street, the Khandallah and Ngaio suburb boundary, and before that the boundary between the early Nairn and Aplin family farms.

The Ngatoto Native Reserve, created in 1846, was not settled but soon purchased by the Nairns who travelled to Taranaki to complete the sale.

In 1919 they sold 11 acres to the Government for "Nairnville Recreation Ground".

Ngaio was known as Crofton until 1908.

A 1916 description of the "Crofton subdivision" said "one of the most attractive and most progressive quarters around Wellington is the picturesque suburb of Ngaio.

"Standing high above sea level and yet well sheltered it is a remarkably healthy spot.

"It is very handy to city being 10 minutes run from Lambton station."

The group viewed the Tarikaka Railway Settlement, a government scheme to house its shift rail workers, built in 1927 near the main Wellington-Auckland train line.

The historic zone is a sought after area of sustainable small homes on one sixth acre sections near Awarua station.

Above the settlement (eastwards) is Ngaio's high point (221m) "Te Wharau" - now called "Odell's Reserve", accessible off Punjab Street.

Numerous old houses were built for Aplin family members on the old farm land, each becoming surrounded by younger bungalows.

The group paused in Abbott Street at Ngaio School, built in 1928 on the third school site when the roll expanded with the Railway Settlement.

By 1929 it's roll was over 300.

Looking across the valley is the Chelmsford Street site of the second Ngaio School built in 1912 and now a dog park.

Earlier classes were held in the Methodist Church hall from 1908.

The lonely landmark of All Saints Anglican Church sits prominently above the oldest part of Ngaio at the intersection with Crofton Road.

In private ownership and sadly lacking



Donesthorpe in Kenya Street, Ngaio. Photo: Supplied.

maintenance, the site has an original wooden hall behind the 1912 wooden church building.

It was extended in 1929 when a brick bell tower was added designed by architects Clere and Clere in an English rural style.

The church was further extended in 1963 by adding side aisles to cater for a growing congregation.

Crofton Road was the original access route to Ngaio coming off the Old Porirua Road from Wellington.

Bullock trains hauled timber from the sawmill near the Town Hall site up and over the hill to Wellington.

On the vehicle servicing site across the road was Ngaio's first store.

The absolute highlight of the day was visiting historic Donesthorpe, home of Kings Trust CE Rod Baxter, and Aplin family member and teacher, Dylan Aplin.

The distinctive "stick style" house, has a large two storey extension on one end and a turret on the other.

Although the house is well known to local residents driving through Ngaio, fewer are

aware of the better view of it's impressive front verandah face from Ngaio station.

The oldest portion of the house was built in 1896, with the architectural designed extensions added by owner Arthur Newbold in the early twentieth century.

The hosts explained the interesting history, including its period as flats; a home for children; an association with a gang; eventual restoration and present elegant refurbishment and careful repair and maintenance.

The house features intricate fretwork, eaves brackets and finials, with a unique "crown" on top of the turret, original to the house.

Carefully restored it glints in the sun with Tarikaka visible behind.

Walkers then viewed Crofton, built in 1857 and one of Wellington's oldest surviving

buildings.

Crofton was the country home of Premier Sir William Fox before becoming Wellington's first grammar school, operated by the Anglican Church from 1863.

It later became the home of jeweller and clockmaker Wilson Littlejohn, the first Mayor of Onslow Borough.

Two walkers were actually Littlejohn descendants and were able to confirm that the large clock mounted on the roof of a nearby garage was made by Littlejohn.

After several different owners and being subdivided into flats, "Crofton" was finally beautifully restored by OHS Life Member and past president, Margaret Domett.

The walk ended at the Ngaio service people's memorial.

Regular library programmes continuing

Wellington City Libraries' regular programmes continue across the library network this week.

Let's Go LEGO® will be held from 3:30pm to 4:30pm on Friday 13 February at Waitohi Johnsonville Library and from 3:30pm to 4:30pm on Wednesday 18 February at Te Takapū o Patukawenga Tawa Library.

Put your creative skills to the test to design and build your masterpieces. Each session has a different theme and building challenges.

These sessions are recommended for children aged 5 and older with their caregivers.

Sit 'n' Knit will take place from 2pm to 4pm on Sunday 15 February at Waitohi Johnsonville Library.

This is a fortnightly sewing and craft group for thread heads of all skill levels and ages.

Wellington Libraries suggests that people bring along an existing project, some needles and yarn, or use the basket of goodies at the library.

CRAFTerschool will be held from 3:30pm to 4:30pm on Tuesday 17 February at Waitohi Johnsonville Library and from 3:30pm to 4:30pm on Monday 16 February at Te Takapū o Patukawenga Tawa Library.

CRAFTerschool is a free art and craft session aimed at school aged children with a different project every week during term time.

Crafting starts at 3.30pm. Please arrive by 4pm so you have time to complete the craft. This programme is suitable for children aged 5 and older. Caregivers must remain onsite during sessions.

Let's talk in English! Will be held from 10:30am to 11:30am on Tuesday 17 February at Waitohi Johnsonville Library.

This is a free group for people who want to practise speaking and listening to English and people can join any time at these weekly sessions.

Nau mai rā tātou katoa. Everybody is welcome.



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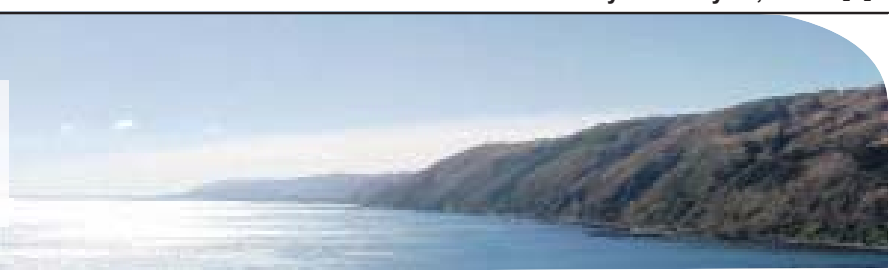
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So much to do in

KAPITI



Return of NZ PGA Championship to the Kāpiti Coast

The Kāpiti Coast Economic Development Kotahitanga Board (EDKB) and Kāpiti Coast District Council (KCDC) are delighted to be supporting the return of the New Zealand PGA Championship to the Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club on 19 to 22 February 2026.

Recognised as one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most iconic golfing destinations and consistently ranked among the top 100 golf courses in the world, Paraparaumu Beach Golf Course is celebrated as New Zealand's finest example of true links golf. Its rich history includes hosting the 2002 New Zealand Open, when global superstar Tiger Woods played the course, an event that elevated Kāpiti's profile internationally and cemented the venue's reputation among the world's golfing elite.

As part of the Challenger PGA Tour of Australasia, the 2026 NZ PGA Championship will be bringing some of the best golfers from across NZ and Australia to the Kāpiti Coast.

Paraparaumu Beach Golf Club is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most iconic golfing destinations — and consistently ranked among the top 100 courses in the world.



Otaki Golf Club's 125th anniversary

Nestled in the stunning landscape of Kapiti, the Otaki Golf Club is a true gem for golf enthusiasts. This historic club, established in 1901, is often referred to as the "Jewel of Kapiti." The course boasts a welcoming links-style layout, making it an inviting experience for golfers of all skill levels.

What sets Otaki Golf Club apart is its scenic beauty and the unique undulating terrain. The course is sand based, ensuring excellent year-round playing conditions. The picturesque surroundings and well-maintained fairways and greens make every round a memorable one. For those looking to join, Otaki Golf Club offers new memberships at competitive rates, providing excellent value for passionate golfers. The club takes pride in its outstanding Junior Golf Program, which has produced some remarkable teenage golfers who often play alongside experienced members.

Otaki Golf Club is open seven days a week, offering convenience and flexibility for golfers. You can rent clubs, trundlers, or electric carts to enhance your experience on the course. After a rewarding round of golf, unwind in the inviting 19th hole. Here, you can savour fresh sandwiches, delicious

savouries, and a well stocked bar featuring local craft beers, an ideal way to cap off a great day of golf.

Come and experience the Otaki Golf Club, a blend of tradition, natural beauty, and a warm golfing community. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or just starting your golfing journey, this club promises a delightful and memorable golfing experience you won't want to miss. Join us and discover the charm of Kapiti's "Jewel" for yourself.

125-Year Anniversary

Easter Weekend this year Ōtaki Golf Club (OGC) is celebrating its 125-year anniversary. It is the oldest golf club on the Kāpiti Coast and one of the oldest in the Wellington Region.

Established in 1901, Ōtaki Golf Club is the second-oldest golf course in the Wellington region, steeped in tradition and local heritage. Our 125th Anniversary marks a major milestone for both the club and the wider Wellington & Kāpiti-Horowhenua community.

Korimako – concert in Waikanae

The Waikanae Music Society's opening concert for 2026 on Sunday 8 March will feature Korimako - a newly-formed piano trio making their debut.

The ensemble may be new, but the musicians are very familiar. Violinist Helene Pohl and her cellist husband Rolf Gjelsten spent 30 years as valued members of the New Zealand String Quartet.

They are joined by New Zealand-based German pianist Michael Endres, renowned for his brilliant performances.

The three have played together occasionally with various different ensembles, but their new piano trio with its different repertoire is an exciting and joyful experience for them all as they perform a concert of delightful works by Haydn, Copland, Schubert and Brahms. Door sales will be available for the

2.30pm concert in the Waikanae Memorial Hall.

For ticket enquiries go to www.waikanaemusic.org.nz



Korimako Trio: Helene Pohl (violin), Michael Endres (piano), Rolf Gjelsten (cello).

Women's Triathlon almost here!

Rally your crew. Race together – the Kapiti Women's Triathlon is 22 February.

New Group entries are now available across all events in the Kāpiti Women's Triathlon. Enter with a group of 6 or more and every member will score a free coffee voucher from our friends at Coffee Cruisers - because races are better when they finish with caffeine and good company! Round up your running buddies, workmates, or whānau, and join us in February.

To promote health and wellbeing in the workplace, Kapiti Women's Triathlon has teamed up with the legends at Coffee Cruisers to launch the KWT Workplace Challenge.

See more details for the triathlon at <https://www.kwt.org.nz>

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Korimako

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Helene Pohl, Rolf Gjelsten
and Michael Endres

Trios by Haydn, Copland, Schubert
and Brahms

2.30pm, Sunday 8 March
Waikanae Memorial Hall
Sunday 8 March, 2.30pm

Public \$50, Members \$40, Students \$10.
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Wellington, get your bike films fix in '26!!!

The Big Bike Film Night 2026 is set to ignite the passion of cycling enthusiasts across Wellington, rolling into cinemas over 22 -25 March.

Showcasing 2.5 hours of the best cycling short films that have everything a cycle-centric audience could want - action, drama, humour, and plenty of inspiration;

the evening is unashamedly and utterly designed and devised to delight the two-wheel devotee!

“One of the most inspiring events of the year”

So...listen to the voice inside you; it's telling you to go. Grab your mates, grab your tickets, and come along for the ride!!

Otapawa for a back-to-nature experience

Off the beaten track and set in a peaceful valley with views of the Puketoi Ranges and hill country farmland. Otapawa gives visitors a taste of the country lifestyle.

With both farmstay (optional B & B) and backpacker accommodation available Otapawa Farmstay and Backpackers is suitable for families, group bookings or backpackers wanting a rural experience. Otapawa is also able to cater for groups who would like to gather together for a special occasion. Located at Tiraumea on a hill country sheep and beef station. One-hour drive from Masterton.

Otapawa makes an ideal halfway stop between Wellington and Hawkes Bay. Campervans and Caravans are also welcome.



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With five guest rooms, three of which are ensuite; the other two share a private bathroom, but can be booked individually. Escape the bustle of the city for tranquility when you stay.

They have 21 acres of parklike grounds to wander through, they also have a wonderful orchard to sit and enjoy listening to the birds maybe enjoying a glass of wine and a picnic. Drive out to one of the beautiful local lakes where you can sit or swim in the crystal waters.



Elsa Couvrer performing "Embarrassed Naked Female". Photo: Supplied.

Award winner in Fringe Festival

By Frank Neill

The award winning show "Embarrassed Naked Female" will be part of this year's Fringe Festival.

It has won the Virtuoso Award (Stockholm Fringe Festival 2025) and the Hot Potato Award (Gothenburg Fringe 2025).

Elsa Couvrer's show had its genesis when she made her solo show "The Sensemaker" temporarily available online.

The video quickly became "highly sought-after in certain corners of the internet, all because of the five minutes of nudity it contains."

"Years later, I'm still having to take it

down from various adult forums where it keeps resurfacing without my consent," the Swiss-based Elsa says.

"Embarrassed Naked Female" is a lecture performance following the stolen video down the rabbit hole of internet creeps – the true story of five nude minutes sparking years of obsessive sharing, bizarre commentary and surreal online encounters.

It is a darkly humorous dive into consent in the digital age.

The show, which contains nudity, will run at the Gryphon Theatre, 22 Ghuznee Street on Wednesday 18 February at 8:30pm and Friday 20 February at 8:30pm.

Tickets can be booked at Eventfinda.

Engaging and committed performances

Straight from a critically acclaimed season at Sydney Fringe, the multi award winning 'The Cardinal Rules' opens at The Hannah Playhouse on February 27.

Winner of Best in Theatre and the NZ Tour Ready Award, 'The Cardinal Rules' is a delightfully surprising genre mashup, with thoroughly relatable humour, staggering humanity and pushy Aunties from the ancestral plane.

Engulfed by nostalgia, a woman stands at the funeral of a primary school friend that she hasn't seen in years.

As she remembers her 90s childhood in a close-knit suburban Catholic community, she questions how their lives diverged.

When two peculiar beings disrupt her sense of reality, she is forced to re-evaluate her understanding of everything she thought she knew.

Co-writer and Hurrah Hurrah's Artistic Director Alison Bennett says: "If you have ever questioned the values you were brought up with, but still can't seem to shake them, then this show will speak to you".

Touching, playful and visually stunning, this new work invites people into a conversation about the moments that shift their faith and perspective.

'The Cardinal Rules' is presented as part of The New Zealand Fringe Festival thanks to the NZ Tour Ready Award.



A scene from 'The Cardinal Rules'. Photo: Supplied.

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Independent Herald

WHAT'S ON...

The Community Noticeboard is for non-profit organisations. For \$15.00 you can publish up to 25 words.

No AGMS, sporting notices or special meetings. Community Notices must be pre-paid.

phone (04) 587 1660 or

email classifieds@wsn.co.nz

"I Think I Can"

Khandallah Park February 14, 15, 21, 22. Laughs, songs and audience interactions in this play for children. kat-theatre.org.nz

Don't chuck it. Fix it

Ngaio Repair Cafe, free, open Saturday 21 February 10am to 1pm, Ngaio Union Church, corner Kenya Street and Crofton Road.



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 2 2026 (Fri 03 April - Fri 03 July 2026)**. The deadline for receipt of applications is 9am, Friday 20 March 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 23 March 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.

Top tap dance at the Fringe Festival

Tap NZ, New Zealand's leading Tap Dance Company, will present the Wellington Premiere of 'Tap Fusion' on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 February at the Hannah Playhouse for the New Zealand Fringe Festival 2026.

'Tap Fusion' is a high energy, percussive Tap Dance show that fuses with Street Dance and Live Original Music.

National Tap and Hip Hop Champions Brandon and Cameron Carter-Chan have come together to create a show that pushes the boundaries of the Tap Dance discipline for an unforgettable audience experience.

The show will take the audience on a journey through the concept known as 'Sound Communication.' This simply means to communicate with our feet.

Brandon and Cameron intend to express this concept in a way that has never been done before.

By fusing with different styles of dance such as Hip Hop, Popping, Breaking and Lindy Hop 'Tap Fusion' will push the creative boundaries of Tap Dance as a way to communicate and collaborate with different artists.

Inspired by famous shows such as Tap Dogs, Riverdance and STOMP, this sound and percussion show is designed to entertain the audience through a multi-layered sensory experience.

The show features a dynamic cast of 12 tap dancers, seven street dancers and four musicians, many of which hold national and international titles.

The cast have performed on stages all over the world representing New Zealand at various International events such as World of Dance, Hip Hop International, Stockholm Tap Fest and the IDO Tap World Championships.



A scene from 'Tap Fusion'. Photo: Supplied.

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Public Notice

Friendship Club of Johnsonville

Speaker: **Judge Geoffrey Ellis**
Title of Talk: **"What is Parole?"**

Date: Thursday 19 February at 9:45am
Johnsonville Uniting Church
18 Dr Taylor Terrace

Enquiries to Annie 938 9168

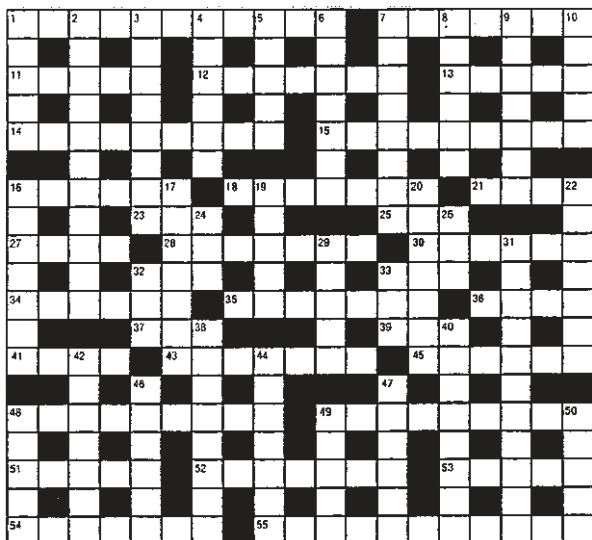
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CROSSWORD Puzzle



ACROSS

- Defensive police protection ... vest (11)
- Wharf post (7)
- Inflexible (5)
- Dig up (7)
- Burn in (5)
- Delights (9)
- Immunize by injection (9)
- More intense (6)
- SEE 7 DOWN.
- Hairless (4)
- Cavern (3)
- Sheep (3)
- Ancient Roman garment (4)
- Generous (7)
- Litter of pigs (6)
- Hint (3)
- Air Traffic Control(abbr) (3)
- Couch (6)
- Supplement(pl) (7)
- Gaystone (4)
- Day before (3)
- United (3)
- Unpowered barge (4)
- Overshadow (7)
- Abuses (6)
- English city (9)
- Waters (9)

- Inspire (5)
- Journeys (7)
- Running loop (5)
- Of the stomach (7)
- Shop assistant (11)

DOWN

- Canal boat (5)
- Of little importance (5-6)
- Captivated (8)
- Swoop (6)
- Abides by (5)
- One who shoes horses (7)
- & 18 ACROSS. By fair means or foul (2,4,2,2,5)
- N.Z. political party (6)
- U.S. state (7)
- Avoid (5)
- Loathes (7)
- Ease (7)
- Concede (5)
- Long coatlike Eastern garment (7)
- Loiters (7)
- Pinch (3)
- Son of(Scot) (3)
- Regions (5)
- Recurring ad nauseam (11)
- Golf pin (3)

- Fuss (3)
- Overjoyed (8)
- Grace (8)
- Book containing several works (7)
- Advances (7)
- Vocation (6)
- Critical point (6)
- Dishonest (5)
- Perfect (5)
- Flock of wild geese (in flight)(5)

Solution

Last Week: 5 February 2026



Johnsonville Cricketers about to surpass Collegians

By Frank Neill

Johnsonville's premier Cricketers were just seven runs from taking a first innings lead at the end of day one of their two-day division two match against Wellington Collegians Cricket Express on 7 January.

Johnsonville bowled the Collegians out for 176 on Anderson Park. They then reached 170 for the loss of just four wickets at stumps.

Three Johnsonville bowlers featured prominently.

Connor Lusty took four wickets for 31 runs, Maximus Petrie three wickets for 31 runs and Ben Stephen three wickets for 32 runs.

Ben then followed up his outstanding bowling by scoring a half century, finishing with 57 runs.

Will Martin also scored a half century for Johnsonville, with 52 runs.

Johnsonville's premier women did not have such a good day on 7 January, losing the Petone Riverside.

Batting first on Alex Moore Park, Johnsonville reached 117 for the loss of nine wickets in their 40 overs.

Petone Riverside took just 24 and a half overs to win the match with a score of 118 for three.

The Johnsonville women next play North City at Alex Moore Park on 14 February, starting at 11am.

Karori's premier Cricketers finish day one of their two day division one match well ahead of Petone Riverside.

Batting first on the Petone Recreation Ground, Karori scored 413 for the loss of five wickets when they declared.

Petone Riverside lost its first three wickets and scored 64 when stumps were drawn.

Two Karori players scored centuries.

Dimithri Gallage scored 126 runs and Shivang Choudhary scored 101 runs.

Two other Karori players notched up half centuries.

Kevin Weerasundara scored 66 from only 63 deliveries and Anirudh TP was 51 not out when Karori declared. Anirudh has faced just 27 deliveries to have the very high strike rate of 188.88.

Anirudh then featured with the ball, taking two wickets for 31 runs.

Louis Ayres was the other Karori wicket taker and did not concede a run in the one maiden over he bowled.

Onslow's premier Cricketers finished day one of their two day division one match well ahead of Victoria University on 7 February.

Batting first on Nairnville Park, Onslow scored 370 for the loss of six wickets before declaring after 66 overs and two balls.

Victoria University reached 109 at stumps but had lost only two wickets in the 33 overs they faced.

William Julian top scored for Onslow with 92 runs, scored from exactly the same number of deliveries.

Devan Vishvaka, who scored 85, and Micah Conroy, who scored 82, also batted well, as did Logan Malthus who had reached his half century and was 51 not out when Onslow declared.

Yash Vagadia was in fine form with the ball, taking one wicket and conceding just one run from the three overs he bowled.

George Holmes was the other wicket taker, and he finished the day with one wicket for 35 runs.



Dimithri Gallage celebrating his century for Karori. Photo: Supplied.

XRACE returning this month

XRACE is back for 2026, with the Wellington event taking place at Hikoikoi Park in Petone on Saturday 14 February.

There will be two races in the event, with the "nippers" starting at 9:30am and the "XRACE" at 10am.

Every XRACE event gives Kiwi families a chance to step away from the busyness of day-to-day life and reconnect through ten mystery challenges.

The series blends physical, mental, and connection, building challenges designed to encourage teamwork, resilience and genuine fun.

From memory games and dance offs to physical puzzles and problem-solving tasks, every challenge puts wh nau at the centre – celebrating effort over perfection and connection over competition.

In its 12th year as title sponsor, NZHL says XRACE remains one of the most meaningful ways to show what it looks like to have a mortgage and a life – their belief that families shouldn't have to put life on hold while working toward financial goals.

For NZHL, this partnership goes well beyond sponsorship. Helping Kiwis pay off their homes faster is what they are known for but helping them enjoy life along the way is a key driver for the adviser network.

XRACE reflects that balance perfectly: energetic, positive and made for families who want to stay active, connected and present.



An XRACE in full swing. Photo: Supplied.



Margaret Austin in "Please Adjust your G-string". Photo: Supplied.

Hilarious romp through OE

"Please Adjust your G-string" will feature at this year's Fringe Festival.

The show will run at the Fringe Bar on 3, 4 and 5 March at 6pm, and people can book at fringe.co.nz.

"Please Adjust your G-string" is a hilarious romp through an OE with a difference.

Margaret Austin left New Zealand in 1975 with no idea what lay ahead on the other side of the world.

Blessed – or cursed – with a sense of adventure she turned up her nose at London, and went for Amsterdam, Athens and Paris, diving into experiences and situations not for the faint hearted.

Some of them involved G-strings, one or two were downright dangerous, and all of them added up to a life of unique discovery.

"G-String is an intriguing, amusing and heartfelt memoir," 'Theatreview' says in its review.

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