



Paul gets his mower wish

By Paul Williams

A lawnmower. That's what Hokio Beach teenager Paul Marsters-Sasa wished for.

He could have had a holiday in Queenstown, met an All Black, or swam with dolphins, but after serious thought, he let the people at Make-A-Wish Foundation know his decision.

Of the hundreds of wishes they receive each year, it was the first time anyone has wished for a lawnmower. But it's more than that for Paul.

It's been a tough year. After a rugby trial last year his legs started swelling, then that night his entire body. He was rushed to Palmerston North Hospital in agony. After a long series of tests, he was diagnosed with kidney disorder refractory nephrotic syndrome.

"I was playing rugby and wasn't feeling well. It was a big surprise," he says.

He was generally fit. His life was turned upside down. The disease causes the body to swell. Paul was in and out of hospital and had almost six months away from school.

His immune system had packed up so he picked up any bug that was going around. It was a case of trialling a long list of medication in an effort to minimise the effects of the illness. He takes a "box" of medication to keep symptoms at bay.

"I'm OK for now. It's definitely changed what I can do and I was a bit gutted, but I am grateful. Other people have other things way worse," he says.

The strapping number eight had to hang up his boots. With no more rugby, basketball or boxing, to keep busy he and cousin Marcel Marsters-Taniwha started mowing lawns, starting with their grandparents' Lillian and Paul Marsters' lawn and vegetable garden.

"It felt good to give Grandad a bit of a hand and learn about growing veges," he says.

A few locals heard about the quality of their work, and it's turned into a weekend side-hustle, although fatigue is still an issue for the 17-year-old. He has "good days and bad days" – hence the wish. Having a ride-on lawnmower meant he and Marcel can keep mowing.

His mother, Paula, was initially surprised he wished for a mower, but it soon made perfect sense.

"He said 'no Mum, you have to look at the big picture'. He did think long and hard about it, and this is something he can manage.

"Marcel kept the round going when Paul was at his worst. There's just three months separating them. They're the best of mates. They're good boys."

Paula says they had a visit from local Make-A-Wish volunteers Tony Thomas and Letitia Armstrong this year.

"They were so lovely. They said to Paul 'don't be afraid to think big'," she says.

Tony says on visiting Paul he remembers being surprised at his wish, usually taking wishes for a trip, a Playstation or a new puppy. But after spending time with Paul it soon made sense. He could see Paul and Marcel's push mower was "on its last legs".

Tony says Paul was aware he was getting a new mower, but no idea it was an entry level commercial mower.

"I don't think he could quite believe it," he says.

"He was so surprised, and very grateful. He was over the moon and the family were just lovely people to be around."

Make-a-Wish is a not for profit and relies

on donations and grants. It has granted 240 wishes this year – in Paul's case a donation from the Ted Manson Foundation. Tony and Letitia are among 200 volunteers nationwide.

Wish producer Helen Somerville says wishes are referred by either medical specialists or social workers and wish producers confirm their eligibility. Volunteers then follow up with family and help facilitate the wish.

Rowan Clarke from Horowhenua Outdoor machinery delivered the brand-new ride-one lawnmower last weekend, valued at more

than \$9000, and gave Paul a few pointers.

Not too long after, Paul and Marcel headed out on a job.

"He didn't know we were coming so it was great to see his surprise," Rowan says. "It's a pleasure to be involved and help a local family out," he says.



Paul Marsters-Sas on his new mower with cousin Marcel Marsters-Taniwha.
Photo Paul Williams

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By Paul McDonnell

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Waikawa access back

Vehicle access at Waikawa Beach via the entrance at 47–49 Manga Pirau Street will be permitted again after a vote at the first full meeting of Horowhenua District Council on Wednesday.

Mayor Bernie Wanden said the decision reflected a careful and considered journey, acknowledging the strong and often opposing views within the community, and the desire for clarity and certainty about how access can work in practice.

“This is a sensible compromise that recognises both the special character of Waikawa Beach and the good work the local community group has done to bring together sharply different perspectives,” he said. “I’d like to make special mention of local iwi, Ngāti Wehi Wehi, whose guidance and expertise have been essential in ensuring cultural values and environmental considerations remain at the centre of the process.”

He said he knew not everyone would agree with the decision.

“But this approach gives the community, DoC, Horizons and council the opportunity to test how managed access can operate while protecting the environment and respecting this unique place.”

The council’s decision follows an extensive period of engagement, including workshops, site visits, and discussions with iwi, agencies and representatives of various Waikawa community groups.

In a media release after the meeting, the council said that through the process, councillors sought to establish a clear, structured pathway that responded to community concerns while providing practical certainty about the immediate next steps.

It said that during the debate, councillors Jennings and Gray played a key role in proposing a series of additional resolutions



Consideration had to be given to access of horses to Waikawa Beach, too.

Photo: Donna Bright

that were adopted to strengthen safeguards and ensure clarity for residents.

“These additions provide direction on signage, environmental monitoring, neighbour privacy measures, and the expectations for respectful behaviour by users of the track,” the release said.

Cr Mike Barker said the updated resolutions reflected what the community had been asking for.

“People told us they wanted clarity and confidence about the process,” he said. “What we agreed today ensures monitoring, stronger education, and clear expectations for how the track should be used.”

- Key aspects of the decision were:
- a trial period allowing vehicle access to the beach via council-owned land entered from 47–49 Manga Pirau Street
 - council to apply for an easement with the Department of Conservation to formalise access across DoC land
 - installation of clear signs outlining suitable vehicle types, cultural and environmental expectations, and conditions of access
 - monitoring of driver behaviour, dune and vegetation impacts, and other environmental indicators
 - council to work directly with neighbouring residents to design appropriate privacy and amenity measures such as planting, fencing, screening and parking controls
 - a collaborative education campaign to be developed with the community group
 - confirmation that this access point is an interim measure only, due to practical and environmental constraints
 - council to continue investigating long-term access options, including potential land acquisition or alternative alignments.
- The Manga Pirau Street access is not expected to be a suitable long-term solution, as vehicles towing boats can’t use it and neighbouring properties are affected. The council will continue to explore long-term options to provide a more enduring and community-supported access point.

Elected member pay confirmed

Pay for the mayor and councillors were formally adopted alongside the different roles and appointments of council sub-committees at a Horowhenua District Council meeting on Wednesday.

Elected members don’t set base salary values and have accepted the recommendation of the Remuneration Authority’s allocation of a total pool of \$557,603, which council then decides how it’s split.

Bernie Wanden’s base mayoral salary is \$157,896, with deputy mayor David Allan’s base salary set at \$66,288.

Elected members all receive a base salary of \$38,993, with extra for those chairing council sub-committees. Risk and Assurance chair Sam Jennings will receive \$56,540 base salary, community and wellbeing chair Jo Mason \$52,641, Hearings and Regulatory chair Clint Grimstone \$52,641, Community Funding Committee chair Nina Hori Te Pa \$48,742.

Foxton Community Board chair Ross Brannigan will receive \$14,999; other board members \$7499.

Council posts for the 2025-2028 triennium:
Mayor Bernie Wanden. Deputy Mayor David Allan. Risk and Assurance Committee: Sam Jennings (chair), Morgan Gray, Nola Fox, Mike Barker, Alan Young. Hearings and Regulatory Committee: Clint Grimstone (chair), Alan Young, Sam Jennings, Mike Barker, Lani Te Raukura Ketu. Community Wellbeing Committee: Jo Mason (chair), Katrina Mitchell-Kouttab. Community Funding and Recognition Committee: Nina Hori Te Pa (chair), David Allan, Jo Mason, Paul Olsen, Sam Jennings, Clint Grimstone. Foxton Community Board: Ross Brannigan (chair), Irene Wakefield, Jason Davy, David Roache, Judy Sanson.

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Funding helps with Waikawa planting

Waikawa Beach Environment Group has been able to begin new planting project with the help of a Freshwater grant from Horizons Regional Council

A community site preparation and planting day held last Saturday morning (see photo) saw 700 plants dug in. The project is on a section of land along the Waikawa Stream, also helped with the support of Ngāti Wehi Wehi, and landowners Te Roera Puna and Caroline Beaufort, who opened part of their property for the planting.

Group spokesperson Debra Betts says the Horizons grant allowed WBEG to buy native plants specifically suited to riparian restoration.

“It’s an investment that will help strengthen streambanks, improve shade, and enhance habitat over time,” she says. “Riparian planting is one of the most effective and practical ways communities can care for waterways, and we’re grateful to be working alongside our local iwi and landowners to support this shared goal.”

The volunteer group was also given funding through Horizons’ Kanorau Koiara Taketake – Indigenous Biodiversity Community Grant earlier this year to support its work in restoring and maintaining indigenous plants at Waikawa Beach.

“Waikawa Stream is an important taonga for our community,” Debra says. “This [latest] project is a chance for locals, landowners, and Horizons to come together to enhance an area that has wide-ranging benefits – for people, plants, birdlife, and the wider environment.”



Speldhurst residents, from left, Jude Atkins, Pete Gillett, Roger Watkins, Mike Cashmore, Marion Nicholson, Sheryl Watkin and Mike Whalen joined other volunteers in helping prepare the meals. Photo Paul Williams

Xmas meal at Salvation Hall

By Paul Williams

People living in Salvation Army Social Housing (SASH) were treated to a special Christmas dinner at the Salvation Army Hall in Durham Street on Wednesday night.

Levin resident Roger Watkins approached local businesses for food and shoulder-tapped some associates living at Speldhurst Country Estate to help in the kitchen – even Father Christmas made a visit.

They helped prepare meals as people and families were seated to a menu of ham and turkey with mixed vegetables and gravy in a hall decorated with Christmas lights.

Roger was a driving force behind a similar Christmas event for years while living in Porirua. He’s been living in Levin for a year now and wanted to hold an event here for people that

might not otherwise have a Christmas dinner. More than 100 invitations were sent out, and 65 meals were prepared followed by carol singing to a brass band. “The big thing is the community gets behind it with food donations and sponsorship,” he says. The event in Porirua is still going, targeted at people aged more than 70, and Roger is still involved there too with more than 200 people attending. “It’s something you get a buzz from. I do. It brings people together,” he says.

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Council backs boy racer bill

Horowhenua District Council is “strongly” urging Parliament to fast-track new laws aimed at cracking down on anti-social behaviour with vehicles.

The region has been victim to some of the worst offending of so-called “boy racers” – two big incidents in Levin in as many years left police officers injured, bystanders hospitalised, and residents terrified.

In a formal written submission, the council is supporting proposed changes in the Antisocial Road Use Legislation Amendment Bill, seen as essential to protecting both police and the public. The council says the proposed changes would give police the tools they urgently need to prevent similar events from spiralling into violence.

In June 2024, Levin was brought to a standstill when more than 200 vehicles flooded the town without warning. State Highway 1 was blocked and fireworks and rocks were hurled, injuring police.

A similar gathering in May this year (photo above) involved the Armed Offenders Squad and Eagle helicopter. Fireworks were again thrown at police, and a car was used aggressively against police as they tried to disperse the crowd.

In the submission, Mayor Bernie Wanden says these events show why strengthened police powers are necessary.

“These situations are unacceptable for our community,” he says. “We strongly support the measures in this bill.”

The problem wasn’t just in Levin – he noted similar incidents in New Plymouth, Manawatu, Wellington and the Hutt Valley – but “being central to these areas, Levin has been a congregation point”.

Bernie says no community should be exposed to that level of anti-social behaviour and he

wants police to be able to stop similar gatherings before they spiral.

“If police had the power then to close the roads before those people arrived, there would very likely not have been the violence, injuries and damage that occurred,” the submission says.

The council is fully endorsing the bill, arguing that it would provide police with “a more comprehensive response” to prevent disruption and violence.

It wants police to have the authority to temporarily close an area of road, introduce tougher penalties and infringements, and outlaw “frightening and intimidating convoy”.

Meanwhile, the council also welcomes the bill’s application to beaches, which are legally public roads, and where there has been an increase in dangerous behaviour.

BRIEFS

Two die in Foxton Beach fire

Police say two people died in a house fire this week at Foxton Beach, but they were not identified by press time. Emergency services were called to the Queen Street house about 5am on Tuesday. Police later recovered the bodies of two victims.

New CE at Ucol

Ucol has appointed Jasmine Groves as new chief executive, from January 1 next year. Jasmine has held roles at Massey University, Public Education Foundation, Heart Foundation Australia and Swinburne University in Melbourne, and has been part of Ucol’s executive leadership team for almost five years. Ucol council chair Leanne Southey says the appointment reflects strong confidence in Jasmine’s capability and vision.

Another year on roundabout

Construction of a new roundabout connecting Waitāre Beach to State Highway 1 is expected to continue until late 2026. Work will run from 6am to 6pm each day for most of next year. A lane shift and a 30km/h speed limit is currently in place, although traffic management will change as works progress.

Christmas in Shannon

The Shannon Christmas Parade and Celebrations is on Sunday (December 14) at Shannon Domain from 9am to 3pm. The parade kicks off at 11.30am. Enjoy live music, bouncy castles, a kaumātua space, food stalls, and free activities for tamariki.

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Advertorial

Why regular hearing tests can help your brain

Ears collect sound, but it's your brain that processes it. A growing body of research shows a proven link between untreated hearing loss and dementia, making regular hearing checks with a trusted audiologist more important than ever.

In fact, untreated hearing loss is now recognised as the number one modifiable risk factor for dementia, ahead of other major factors like social isolation, obesity, physical inactivity, smoking, diabetes, and alcohol consumption. With dementia cases in New Zealand projected to reach 170,000 by 2050, studies suggest that almost half of these cases might be preventable through better management of key health factors, including hearing loss.

"You can't hear what you can't hear"

Kamea Lessoway, audiologist and owner of Levin Audiology, says hearing health is often overlooked during routine check-ups because hearing loss tends to creep in slowly.

"Unlike vision, where you know when you can't see, you can't hear what you can't hear," Kamea explains. "Just as we can't sit and watch the grass grow, we can't tell if our hearing is degenerating. That's why regular hearing tests should be part of everyone's health warrant of fitness."

Kamea, who is originally from Canada and studied at the University of Canterbury, has worked in clinics across New Zealand before



Kamea Lessoway of Levin Audiology, who believes in helping people have a better quality of life through better hearing.

opening Levin Audiology on Oxford Street in 2021. Her mission is simple: to give people access to quality hearing care and a better quality of life.

"I really like the people here, and people deserve good care," she says. "Helping someone hear well again can completely change their daily life."

Precision testing for better results

Kamea's commitment to excellence led her to personally build a purpose-designed

soundproof room at her clinic to ensure the most accurate hearing assessments possible.

The custom-built space is encased with three layers of noise-proof Gib board, acoustic bats, and rubber footings, providing a controlled environment to fine-tune hearing aid prescriptions.

"You need to have the most accurate testing possible to achieve the optimum hearing aid outcome," she says. "Hearing aids are medical devices and should be

treated as such; precision matters."

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Regular checks support communication and connection, and they can help safeguard cognitive health in the long term. By addressing hearing loss early, you're taking a positive step toward reducing dementia risk and improving overall wellbeing.

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Manawa Koa Kapa Haka, at right, who travelled from Palmerston North to perform at what has now become an annual event. Volunteer Viv Bold and Luella Webber share a dance in the karaoke room.

Photos Paul Williams



People with disabilities celebrated

By Paul Williams

More than 120 people gathered in Levin last week for a lively and inclusive celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPwD).

Now in its fourth year, the United Nations-recognised day promotes the rights, dignity and wellbeing of people with disabilities.

Celebrations locally have grown into a major community fixture, highlighting the voices, talents and lived experiences of disabled residents and their support networks. The three-hour event is held at the Levin Uniting Church and Community Centre, and features activities that include arts and crafts, adaptive recreation, karaoke, dance, a sensory room, hauora stalls and plenty of food.

A standout moment came from Manawa Koa Kapa Haka, who stepped in at short notice after their original engagement was cancelled. Travelling from Palmerston North, the group delivered a powerful performance that brought the

audience to its feet and infused the event with energy and pride.

Key to shaping this year's gathering was the involvement of Lael Marshall and the Limitless crew, a group that emerged from earlier IDPwD events and now contributes lived-experience leadership to the organising team.

Lael, who is neurodiverse and lives with invisible disabilities including autism, ADHD and Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, says the day offers a chance to celebrate identity and capability.

"Disability Day is about celebrating our disabilities and the strength, pride and community that comes with them . . . Let's celebrate who we are and everything we can do," she says.

The event was delivered through a partnership between Levin Uniting, CCS Disability Action, Mash Trust, and Muaūpoko Tribal Authority, with support from Sport Manawatū, Parafed,

Levin Basketball Association, Ucol, Rapid Relief Team and Manawa Koa.

Schools throughout the district also contributed by hosting Purple Dress days to raise awareness and funds for future IDPwD celebrations. Horowhenua District Council, Foxton New World and Gilmours Palmerston North helped with sponsorship, ensuring the event remained free and accessible.

Levin Uniting community development manager Michelle Rogerson says the day reflects a deeper purpose: "Events like this change the way communities see disability . . . you're building a future where everyone belongs."

Organisers say planning for the 2026 celebration is already under way, driven by a shared commitment to building a more inclusive Horowhenua.



Merry Christmas from Tim Costley, Your local MP

Reach me at my Kāpiti office

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Tim Costley
MP for Ōtaki

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Authorised by Tim Costley, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

FROM NORTH POLE: SANTA CLAUS

No mall visit, but still busy making presents for everyone

Hello boys and girls and your families.

It's time for me to write and sadly say that I will not be able to come to the Levin Mall this year to see how much you have all grown since last year, or to meet any new brothers or sisters who you now have.

I can tell you that everyone is busy in our workshops, making the toys and gifts that we hope that you will



enjoy. As is the usual thing, our team of elves have some interesting new presents for you to enjoy.

Rudolph and the other reindeer have had a new trainer, as they need to be in tip-top condition to pull my sleigh, which is now bigger than ever to hold all of your parcels.

With the vets checking, they are on a new diet to make sure they will travel around the world so that we can be back at the North Pole in time for our Christmas party.

To be sure we don't forget to give

you the present you would like, use any of the new apps, a text, or even send us a letter, with any drawings for Mrs Claus to add to her albums, no later than December 23.

Oh, in case you may be not at your usual home on Christmas Eve, could you let us know, so when we pack the sleigh your gifts will be in the right place.

Message from Grandma Claus:

don't forget about the "Santa Hugs" for your grown-ups on Christmas Day – they should be longer than 13 seconds, and end with an "I love you".

Till I see you all asleep when I come and deliver your gifts, lots of love and heaps of hugs from all of us at the North Pole.

– Santa, Mrs Claus, Grandma and Grandpa, and all of the elves who help out.

THE ELECTORATE: SUZE REDMAYNE, MP

Community buzzes with festive cheer, showcases creativity

Last weekend Levin was buzzing with festive cheer as the annual Christmas Parade and Carnival brought the community together for a wonderful celebration.

Local businesses, schools and community groups did a fantastic job showcasing their creativity with colourful floats and displays. If you missed it, there's still time to join the fun at the Shannon Christmas Parade and Celebrations this Sunday (December 14), from 9am.

It's hard to believe another year has flown by already. I am grateful for the privilege of representing the mighty Rangitikei electorate, and for the

outstanding people and communities who make it such a special part of New Zealand.

A real highlight for me this year – and I'm sure for many of you too – was seeing work officially begin on the new Ōtaki to North of Levin (Ō2NL) Highway. I know how much this long-awaited project means, and I'm excited about what it will deliver for Horowhenua communities – faster, safer travel and new opportunities to grow and stay connected. Keeping with the roading theme, the opening of the new Manawatu Tararua Highway – with no toll – was another highlight!

I've also continued to enjoy my work on the Primary Production



Select Committee this year, particularly as we partnered with the Finance and Expenditure Committee on the Inquiry into Banking Competition. The final report placed strong focus on rural issues, recommending practical steps to strengthen competition and better support our rural communities. It was also fantastic to see Parliament pass

legislation in September to curb large-scale farm-to-forestry conversions on high-quality farmland – a clear sign our government is backing farmers and growers, protecting food security, and safeguarding the land that drives our economy.

Here in Rangitikei, it's been another busy and rewarding year. I've welcomed 13 of my minister and MP colleagues to the electorate, along with the prime minister in July. I've attended 182 events, worked through 96 sitting days in Parliament and met with hundreds of constituents.

A major development this year has been the boundary changes, which will see the mighty Horowhenua – including Foxton, Wāitāre, Levin,

Ōhau and Manakau – become part of the Rangitikei electorate at the 2026 General Election.

As we head into Christmas and the summer break, I hope you have the chance to relax, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends. Please take care on the roads and in the water, and a special thank you to those who will be working through the holidays – our amazing emergency services, first responders, defence personnel, and those keeping essential services running. Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

■ Suze is the Rangitikei electorate MP

Read for Bees – a brand new summer reading programme

By Samantha Tibbs
Children's Learning Librarian

It's summer time and the library is buzzing!

Thanks to our amazing community that took on the Read for Trees challenge last year we were able to plant 42 native trees in Kowhai Park. Now, we're all flutter with excitement to bring you a brand-new summer reading programme.

Introducing... Read for Bees (we can't resist a rhyme)! Read for Bees is another reading challenge for the whole community, but this time there's no page limit!

Why bees? Well, aside from the rhyme and our love of delicious, nutritious honey, did you know that one out of every three mouthfuls of our food depends on pollinators such as bees? In partnership with Green by Nature, the school community that reads the most pages (per student), will receive a beautiful new (or refurbished), pollinator garden to provide nectar, pollen and shelter for bees, butterflies and birds.

A pollinator-friendly garden at the winning school will benefit the WHOLE neighbourhood! Plus, there are some wonderful spot prizes and incentives to help you and your readers spread a little bit of backyard magic along the way. Join in by registering on the Beanstack app or picking up a reading log from Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom or Shannon Library.

Nominate a local school and read as many pages as you can. With Read for Bees we're excited to encourage reading for pleasure alongside a bit of friendly competition between school communities, while fostering environmental kaitiakitanga across generations and helping our communities find joy in supporting biodiversity in our own back yards.

What a buzz! Bee sure to tell your friends,



whānau and neighbours! To help you and your readers get started, we're kicking off with Summer Reading drop-in sessions over the next week.

The library has so much to offer that sometimes it's hard to know where to start! With thousands of titles to choose from in our jam-packed physical collection and even more available in our eLibrary there is certainly something for everyone. Drop in to the library for one-on-one support to get ready for an imaginative and magical summer of adventure in your backyard with our friendly library staff.

And speaking of making the most of what your library has to offer, we're thrilled to introduce our brand-new Library App. This handy tool puts the library right in your pocket, giving you the freedom to manage your own account, issue and renew books, reserve items, and even recommend new titles for our shelves. It's a simple, convenient way to stay connected with everything you love about your library,

whether you're diving into the Read for Bees challenge or exploring your next great read.

And to celebrate its launch, if you pop into the library and show one of our friendly team members the app on your device, you'll go in the draw to win a Kobo eReader. Download the app today and discover just how easy it is to keep your reading journey buzzing along.

EXHIBITIONS

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō Gallery – Enchanted Gingerbread Grove until 31 December. Step into a festive fairytale as Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō transforms into the Enchanted Gingerbread Grove. Created by the Libraries Horowhenua team, this magical space is filled with twinkling lights, sweet details, and charming Christmas touches. Visitors can enjoy photo opportunities, simple activities, and a few festive treats as we celebrate the lead-up to Christmas together.

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom: Māpuna Kabinet Art Gallery – *Imagine: Imagine, Spark, Create:* until 20 February 2026.

This summer-long exhibition celebrates the pure joy of creating for the sake of creating, with no pressure, no hidden meaning, and no rules. Just imagination meeting the moment. Imagine transforms the gallery into a lively, ever-changing hub of colour, texture, light, and movement, inviting visitors to explore playful expression and creative joy. From a live doodle wall that grows over three months to sculptural experiments, photography, and digital art, this exhibition invites everyone to embrace curiosity and spontaneity. Expect whimsy, wonder, and plenty of inspiration, a celebration of creativity at its most joyful.

AQUATICS

Christmas is here and the Splash Pad is back! Open every day from 9am to 7pm, including weekends and public holidays, perfect for cooling off and having some fun in the sun. Inflatables are up every day from 1 to 4pm at both Levin and Foxton pools, so come make a splash! Remember, kids under 8 need to be actively supervised by a responsible adult aged 16 or over.

HERITAGE ROOMS

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō: Tues, Wed, Fri (10–12.30pm), Thurs (10–3pm).

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom: Research librarian available all day Fridays.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Fridays (12 & 19 December)
(12 December), Friday Live Concert Finale for 2025, we welcome Jess Murphy, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, midday-1pm

(12 December), Summer Reading Starts Here, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 3.30–4.30pm
(19 December), Christmas Crafts, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 10.30–12pm

Mondays (15 & 22 December)
Meet Street, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 10–11am

(15 December), The Storytime Before Christmas, Disney Musical Special with Myah & Lavara, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 10–10.50am
(15 December), Summer Reading Starts Here, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 3.30–4.30pm
(22 December), Christmas Crafts, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 10.30–12pm

Tuesdays (16 & 23 December)
JP Service, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 11.30–1.30pm
Sensory Sessions, Levin Aquatics, 7–8pm
Lego Hour, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 3.30–4.30pm

(16 December), Celebrating Jane Austen, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 10–11am
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, midday–1pm
Shannon Library, 3–4pm

(16 December), Summer Reading Starts Here, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 9–4pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 3.30–4.30pm
(23 December), Christmas Crafts, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 10.30–12pm

Wednesdays (17 & 24 December)
Aqua Tots: Foxton Pools, 10.10–11.15am / Levin Aquatics, 10.30–11.15am

Pop-Up Eats, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō Carpark, 5–8pm
Quiz Night, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 7–9pm, \$5

(17 December), Summer Reading Starts Here, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 3.30–4.30pm
(24 December), Closed

Thursdays (18 & 25 December)
Sewing Workshop, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 9.30–11.30am

JP Service, Shannon Library, 2–3pm
(18 December), Christmas Crafts, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 10.30–midday.
(25 December), Closed.

Signs look positive for the blue corner

Little short of politically explosive events during the next 11 months seems likely to upset projections that Horowhenua and Kāpiti will be strongly in the blue corner when Election 2026 is held.

National already has its candidates selected for the two electorates – Tim Costley in Kāpiti and Suze Redmayne in Rangitikei (now incorporating almost all of Horowhenua). Both are sitting MPs and well connected to both constituencies from their terms in Ōtaki and Rangitikei respectively.

They can at this stage look forward to positive economic developments that encompass the country as a whole, while their respective regions will likely benefit directly from the coalition government's bid to forge a fresh trading relationship with India that will open wider doors for sales of horticultural products.

Labour has named Sophie Handford, a star of youth politics and a member of Kāpiti Coast District Council from 2019 to earlier this year when she left office to prepare for a run at entry into the nation's Parliament. Both as a councillor and an old girl of Kāpiti College, where she was head girl in 2018, Handford has a string of testimonials endorsing her talents as an emerging political achiever.

Among these testimonials is her role as founder and national co-ordinator of School Strike 4 Climate in New Zealand which, among its various activities, organised on September 27, 2019, a mobilisation of climate protest that involved some 170,000 people across more than 40 events around the country.

Her candidacy for Kāpiti suggests Costley

will not be able to rely on his current goodwill in the old Ōtaki electorate to carry him through. Boundary changes have placed him more at the mercy of voters in the southerly areas of the electorate where Handford can be expected to have deep-seated loyal support. She represented the Paekākāriki-Raumati ward on the district council.

In the Ōtaki electorate at the last election Costley personally polled well ahead of the National party vote – 22,145 to 16,520. Labour did not benefit. Its candidate vote (Teresa Ngobi) was 15,374 and the Labour party vote 13,709. The beneficiary was Act with a lift from 1327 for the candidate to 3306 for the party.

Handford could expect to win back for Labour that party vote switch from National to Act and to earn a higher personal vote than Labour's candidate achieved in Ōtaki. But the support Costley has in the northern reaches of the electorate suggest victory for Labour would represent an upset.

Labour has yet to select its candidate for Rangitikei. Against the background of agriculture and horticulture providing backbone strength to the nation's finances while benefitting from a sympathetic ear in the Beehive, it is not a constituency expected to turn against Redmayne.

Last election in 2023 she gained 18,945 votes in Rangitikei to 9160 of Labour's candidate. The National vote was 17,018 and the beneficiaries



Suze Redmayne, Tim Costley and Sophie Handford.

Photos supplied

of the drop in the party vote for National were the candidates of Act and NZ First, not Labour.

National's record in office as part of the coalition will have done little to shake the hold it has in the electorate. The predicted economic turnaround is starting to emerge. Farmer income returns are strong. Red tape is being cut. Interest rates and inflation are about where they should be for quality economic growth to occur. Classroom education performance surveys are showing positive signs and global trade uncertainties have been managed well to preserve market access.

It is these positive aspects for National that give rise to the belief that opinion polls placing Labour in a reasonable position to form the next government in association with the Greens and Te Pati Maori (TPM), offer only false hope to the three opposition parties.

This belief would change if the leading party on the left assembled a comprehensive programme of action. The programme would need to be sufficiently convincing that it could withstand verbal and written assaults on both the party's record when last in office and the performance of its front bench members in the

previous Labour-NZ First-Greens Cabinet.

In particular, leader Chris Hipkins will find his record as a minister, especially in education, will be in the spotlight.

The positioning of NZ First will be crucial, as it has been in the past three elections. National needs a two-pronged approach to morally, at least, cut down the scope for bargaining that NZ First has. The first of these is the most difficult requirement – achievement of more than 36 percent of the vote. The second is an election manifesto that sets out the forward goals of National with the steps it plans to achieve them.

On the face of the latest polling the vote percentage needed is a big "ask." But evidence is accruing that the recent 30-32 percent support levels are a low water mark for National.

The health and welfare systems remain weaknesses for the coalition. But Labour's annual conference produced little to suggest it had moved greatly beyond a "tax and spend" philosophy. The Ardern political albatross of all talk and no action needs putting down with an emphasis on the practicality and prudence of the party's policies across the board.

■ Bruce has been an economics/business editor, and a correspondent in Washington, London and Hong Kong.



Horowhenua AP&I Show

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 January 2026

Fun for all the family

Come and enjoy watching:

- woodchopping
- shearing
- judging of beef and dairy cattle, pigs, sheep
- visit the animal nursery
- watch horse show jumping, ponies, alpacas fleeces
- Mahon Amusement, Fonterra barrel train
- visit Home Industries: full of arts, crafts, baking, preserving
- poultry, observe dog trials, enjoy music, food court
- Meet the Clydesdale horses
- Visit the Trade space with business and clubs exhibiting



Info: Jill Timms
06 368 6539
levinapishow.co.nz

Entry fees: \$40 for a family of two adults and three children. Individual tickets per day are: \$15 for adults, \$5 for those under fifteen years of age, with preschoolers free.

Membership \$50: free entry for three adults, two children as well as a car pass on both Saturday and Sunday.

» 38 Duke Street **LEVIN**

ASKING \$592,000



PRIVATE, SECURE AND EFFORTLESS LIVING

If easy living is high on your list, this well presented home ticks all the boxes. Private, secure, and low maintenance, it's the perfect fit for a small family, retirees, or anyone wanting a comfortable lifestyle without the hard work.

Step inside to an inviting open-plan kitchen, dining, and living space warmed by a heat pump and flowing seamlessly to a sunny patio. The modern kitchen features an island bench, pantry, and dishwasher - ideal for everyday convenience. There are three well proportioned bedrooms, a bathroom with both shower and bath, plus the bonus of a separate toilet. The large single garage incorporates the laundry.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO2018

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.30PM-1PM

Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz



» 58 Highbury Drive **LEVIN**

ASKING \$770,000



SPACE & STYLE IN A SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION

Set among homes of similar calibre, this beautifully maintained family residence combines personality, space. The open plan kitchen and dining area connect seamlessly to the generous lounge which opens to a patio area. The kitchen has been tastefully modernised. There are three bathrooms and four or five bedrooms - you choose. To the rear of the double garage, a generous additional room with its own ensuite provides flexibility - ideal for guests, a home office, or a creative studio. Within walking distance of Fairfield School, this is a home where timeless design meets modern comfort - full of charm, light, and life. A must view property!

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1982

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11AM-11.30AM

Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz



» 20 York Street **LEVIN**

DEADLINE SALE



FIRST TIME ON THE MARKET

Lovingly held by the same family since it was built, this beautifully maintained home is now ready to welcome its new owners. Thoughtful modern updates blend seamlessly with the home's original charm, creating a warm and inviting place to call your own.

Step into the light filled open plan kitchen and living area, where everyday living and entertaining come together effortlessly. From here, the space extends out to a fantastic covered and partially enclosed entertainers deck - the perfect spot for gatherings year-round.

Deadline Sale (Unless Sold Prior) Closes 1pm, 17 December 2025, Wilton & Co, 530 Queen Street East, Levin

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO2016

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 1.15PM-1.45PM

Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz



» 11 Stuart Street **LEVIN**

BEO \$599,000



EASY LIVING IN A GREAT LOCATION

If you're all about light, space and location, this one's going to tick a lot of boxes. This home has instant vibe - it's bright and airy with five ranch sliders connecting you straight out to patios and decks front and back.

The exposed ceiling beams bring a cool retro edge, while the updated kitchen keeps things modern with great cabinetry, electric hob, under-bench oven and dish drawer.

The walk-in pantry is huge, so you can actually stock up and stay organised. The master bedroom is a real retreat with walk-in wardrobe, ensuite.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO2010

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 2PM-2.30PM

Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz



» 5 Nelson Street **LEVIN**

BY NEGOTIATION



CHARMING, STYLISH & SO CONVENIENT

If you are looking for a home that is stylish in design, has great indoor/outdoor flow and a private easy care section, then this is it.

This delightful home blends charm and comfort beautifully, offering a warm and inviting feel with all the upgrades you're hoping for. A fresh, modern colour scheme, kitchen and tiled bathroom, and the ease of year-round comfort thanks to insulation and a heat pump. The layout includes two well sized bedrooms and a bright, open living area that flows seamlessly out to a fabulous covered deck.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO2000

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.45AM-12.15PM

Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz



» 76A Kennedy Drive **LEVIN**

ASKING \$539,000



SPACIOUS LIVING

Here's your chance to secure a home in the desirable North/East sector of town, just a short walk to Fairfield School - an ideal spot for families. The home provides generous living spaces designed for comfort and connection. The open plan kitchen and dining area flow seamlessly into a warm, inviting living room with a wood burner. From here, move through to the large lounge, complete with a heat pump and easy access to the rear deck - the ultimate entertaining hub for family and friends.

A versatile flexi space, perfect as a home office or study, connects to the three bedrooms, including the master with a walk-in wardrobe.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1979

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11AM-11.30AM

Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz



» 26 Green Avenue **LEVIN**

BEO \$525,000



ALL ROUND GREAT PROPERTY

Set in a quiet cul-de-sac and positioned perfectly for the sun, this lovely 114m2 family home offers easy living with plenty of space inside and out. The open plan kitchen and dining area flows seamlessly into the inviting lounge, where doors open out to the patio - an ideal spot to relax. The kitchen has been updated and is well-designed for everyday living, while the modern bathroom is complemented by the convenience of a second shower located in the laundry. All three bedrooms are generously sized, giving everyone their own space. A heatpump keeps the home comfortable year-round.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO2001

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.30PM-1PM

Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz



» 45 Green Avenue **LEVIN**

BEO \$438,000



THIS IS A WINNER!

This gem is the perfect start! Whether you're stepping into home ownership for the first time, or looking for a smart investment, this home on a 657m2 section is one you must see!

Fresh, tidy and inviting throughout, the kitchen offers great storage and flows easily to the dining and living area, complete with heat pump for year-round comfort. The bathroom is neat and practical, and the bonus of a separate toilet and separate laundry adds everyday convenience. Both bedrooms are well sized and have their own wardrobes.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1999

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 1.15PM-1.45PM

Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz





» 95 Weraroa Road **LEVIN**

3 1 1 1

Mediterranean inspired

This home offers exceptional convenience, for the modern family. Centrally located just moments from Levin's town centre features three generous sized bedrooms with built-in wardrobes, a modern kitchen with pantry, step down from the kitchen into the lounge which features a heat pump for year-round comfort. Plenty of off-street parking with a single garage.

BUYER ENQUIRY OVER \$498,000
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.30PM-1PM
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01996
Ryan Watson 0223554790



» 48 Kings Drive **LEVIN**

4 2 2 2

Space, Style, Studio and Pool

Set on a private, fully fenced 1400m2 section, this exceptional property offers the ultimate family lifestyle - space to grow, entertain, and unwind in style. At the heart of the home is the beautifully updated open plan kitchen, complete with stone benchtops, flowing effortlessly into the dining and living area. From here, step out to a large covered deck overlooking the perfect setting for summer

ASKING \$859,000
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 1.45PM-2.15PM
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01927
Ryan Watson 0223554790



» 44 Kings Drive **LEVIN**

2 1 1 1

Convenient location

This home is a fantastic opportunity for first home buyers, small families, downsizers, or savvy investors. Inside, you'll find an updated kitchen and bathroom, two bedrooms plus an extra room which would could be used for a second living room, sunroom or even third bedroom. You'll stay comfortable all year round with a heat pump, ventilation system, ceiling and underfloor insulation.

BUYER ENQUIRY OVER \$450,000
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 2PM-2.30PM
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01984
Ryan Watson 0223554790



» 39 Bristol Street **LEVIN**

4 2 2 1

Spacious and designed for easy living

From the moment you step through the solid timber door, it's clear this is no ordinary home. Impressive from the street and equally captivating inside, the ground floor offers generous open plan living and dining, enhanced by floor to ceiling double glazed windows that bathe the space in natural light. There is an office or fourth bedroom and you can take the lift upstairs.

BUYER ENQUIRY OVER \$879,000
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.30AM-12PM
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01941
Adriana Wilton 0297766902



» 8A Nikau Street **LEVIN**

2 1 1

Little Gem in Nikau

Discover this delightful two bedroom home, where privacy, low maintenance living, and functional design come together effortlessly. Whether you're stepping onto the property ladder, downsizing, or seeking a solid investment, this is a home that ticks all the boxes. The open plan kitchen, dining, and lounge form a welcoming hub - perfectly sized for relaxed living and easy day-to-day comfort.

ASKING \$395,000
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.15PM-12.45PM
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL02003
Tracey Fraser 0210779062



» 10A Queenwood Road **LEVIN**

3 2 2 1

Near new just for you

A delightful home built in 2022 seamlessly blends modern living with comfort and style. This inviting three bedroom home boasts a spacious layout, perfect for both entertaining and relaxation. Imagine living in a home that not only meets your functional needs but also enhances your lifestyle. The thoughtfully designed layout flows effortlessly from the kitchen to the dining and living.

ASKING \$765,000
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.45AM-12.15PM
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01990
Richard Wilton 0211557150
Adriana Wilton 0297766902



» 76 Parker Avenue **LEVIN**

4 1 1 1

Make Your mark!

Positioned on a private 587m2 section, this home offers generous living with four bedrooms, spacious lounge which flows seamlessly to the kitchen. The bathroom has been updated and boasts a shower, vanity and toilet. There is a good double garage. Situated close to town, park and Schools.

PRICE BY NEGOTIATION
VIEW BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01919
Adriana Wilton 0297766902



» 224B Cambridge Street **LEVIN**

2 1 1 1

For the creative minds

Tucked away in a quiet, private position, this delightfully different home is brimming with charm and personality - the perfect sanctuary for an artist, writer, or anyone who appreciates unique design. Inside you will be inspired by the soaring high ceilings, incredible natural light, and generous living spaces that invite creativity and calm. A whimsical, storybook-style staircase adds a touch of magic, leading to two bedrooms.

ASKING \$435,000
VIEW BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01835
Adriana Wilton 0297766902



» 16 Adkin Avenue **LEVIN**

2 1 1

The ideal starter home

Smart buying at this price! This charming two bedroom, one bathroom home boasts open plan kitchen, dining, and lounge area creating a welcoming space, while a separate laundry leads to a delightful private backyard - perfect for outdoor gatherings. In an ideal location not far from Schools or sports field. Make your move today.

BUYER ENQUIRY OVER \$339,000
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11AM-11.30AM
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01992
Lynaire Cottle 0272224017



» 100A Queen Street **LEVIN**

3 1 1 1

Near new! Vendor wants SOLD!

Built in 2020, this smart and stylish three bedroom home is the perfect match for those wanting easy living without the hassle of building. The current owner has loved living here, but now it's time to move on. The open plan kitchen, dining and living area is filled with natural light, offering a welcoming space to relax or entertain. Modern appliances and an island bench make the kitchen a practical and social hub of the home.

BUYER ENQUIRY OVER \$619,000
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.45AM-12.15PM
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01980
Lynaire Cottle 0272224017



» 4 Rugby Street **LEVIN**

3 1 1 1

Packed with extras

Looking for a warm, low-maintenance home packed with great extras? This one delivers! You'll love the full double glazing, newer roof, cosy Kent fire, and top-notch insulation keeping you comfortable year-round. The fresh interior, updated kitchen, and modern touches mean all the hard work is done. A garage plus multiple sheds for storage, and a location just moments from town.

ASKING \$585,000
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.30PM-1PM
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01924
Lynaire Cottle 0272224017



» 1205 State Highway 57 **LEVIN**

4 2 2 2

PRICE REDUCED!

This exceptional residence sitting on 4.4515 hectares, offers space, style, and serenity on a truly impressive scale. With a substantial 412m2 floor area spread across two levels, this striking home sits proudly amid picturesque, well-planted grounds that set the stage for everything from tranquil afternoon tea parties to once in a lifetime celebrations.

ASKING \$1,249,000
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 1.30PM-2PM
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01954
Lynaire Cottle 0272224017



» 53 Nathan Terrace **SHANNON**

1012m2 Industrial section

This 1012 square metre industrial section offers a superb opportunity for small business owners, tradespeople, or investors seeking a well located site with excellent accessibility. Situated right beside State Highway 57 and just a stones throw from the heart of Shannon, this property combines versatility with convenience. The land is flat and usable, making it ideal for light industrial activities, storage or workshops.

ASKING \$120,000
VIEW BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01923
Richard Wilton 0211557150



» 624A Queen Street **LEVIN**

2 1 1

Great investment - Buy one or more

An exciting opportunity to purchase five, of a collection of ten, two bedroom premium townhouses. Units, 4,5,6,7,8 are available for purchase. The units are all currently tenanted and returning \$2700 per week (gross) collectively . These were built with hassle-free investment in mind, minimal maintenance costs, greater tax efficiency, and easy-care. Contact me for further details.

PRICE BY NEGOTIATION
VIEW BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01780
Adriana Wilton 0297766902



» 288 North Manakau Road **MANAKAU**

Field of dreams - No Covenants

Unleash your imagination on this incredible block of land in the highly sought after Manakau area! With no covenants to hold you back, you have the freedom to relocate a charming home from a house moving company or create your very own dream sanctuary - your possibilities are endless! Spanning 4.45 acres, this stunning property boasts breathtaking views of lush farmland, all nestled in a serene country setting.

ASKING \$600,000
VIEW BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01949
Lynaire Cottle 0272224017



» 197A Tiro Tiro Road **LEVIN**

2 1 1

Bring your ideas, bring your vision

Set on a generous 1884m2 section, this spacious 154m2 property offers a rare opportunity to create something truly special. The layout currently offers two bedrooms and expansive living areas that open to a sunny west-facing deck. With a little reconfiguration, the home could easily be reinstated to a comfortable four bedroom home.

ASKING \$559,000
VIEW BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01885
Adriana Wilton 0297766902

MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



Wrap up a garden gift for Xmas

With Christmas only about four weeks away, many of you will be sorting out what presents to buy for whom.

Gardening related gifts are always appreciated by the beginning gardener through to the seasoned.

Garden centres these days offer such a diverse range of gardening and gardening related products that you are sure to find a number of products that are very suitable, at prices within your budget.

Water features are very popular at this time and you will see small units that are ideal for indoor use as well as outside.

An indoor setting of house plants with a small water feature will not only look great but the moving water will create a humid area that is ideal for plants.

Foggers also are a current favourite to enhance a water feature.

Container plants for outdoors can be purchased, or you can add a personal touch by selecting a suitable container for a feature plant and potting it up yourself, finishing it off with a few flowering seedlings such as lobelia around the edges of the container.

Alternatively, select a few colour spots and a suitable container, then plant up these flowering plants for a great affect.

If you decide to make up a few containers as gifts, do so as soon as possible, so they have the next few weeks to settle down, before you give them away.

To ensure they are at their best, place the planted up containers in a sheltered situation outside that has a good amount of light. Water to keep the mix a little moist and that's all there is to it.

Garden centres have gifts suitable for children such as carnivorous plants, cacti and succulents.

For young children a few packets of seeds that are easy to grow such as marigolds, sweet peas, radish and lettuce will provide the child with a interesting time planting and caring for their plants.

If you have friends or family who have a new section you can have a field day selecting a few plants, shrubs and trees for their gardens. Fruit trees are popular, including all the citrus family and the recipient will benefit from the fruit for years to come.

Gardening tools never go amiss (unless you send them to the tip with the rubbish) and there are many useful tools to choose from.

Gardening books also make excellent gifts and the range of titles and subjects will fill any need.

I have two of my gardening books currently in print: *Gardening with Wally Richards* and *Glasshouse Gardening for New Zealand* by yours truly. (They can be ordered from our mail order web site at <https://0800466464.co.nz/product-category/our-books/>.)

I autograph the books and put in a message for the receiver making it a very personal gift.

Gardening gift vouchers are excellent gifts and the lower nominations of \$5 and \$10 are nice to add to a Christmas card.

You can purchase the current national garden gift cards in New Zealand, which are now branded as "Give a Garden gift cards". These cards are offered by the same industry association (now known as NZPPI/Nursery and Garden Industry New Zealand) and are widely available and redeemable at more than 150 garden retailers nationwide, including big

GARDENING



WALLY RICHARDS



stores like Mitre10, Palmers, and Kings Plant Barn.

Being a gardener, don't forget your best friends that live in the soil of your own gardens this Christmas. Treat the soil life this Christmas with either Mycorrcin or Wallys Super Fish Fertiliser (you can double treat using both).

These products will enhance your garden's soil life and be of great benefit to the health of your plants, giving you greater pleasure in the years to come.

If you would like to give friends or family some of Wallys gardening products you can order on our mail order web site and when I contact you after receiving the order we can make arrangement to send the products to the recipient a week before Christmas with greetings and Christmas wishes from you the sender. (Or sent to you for you to give – whichever you prefer.)

Reminds me of one time a gardener contacted

me to send an autographed book to their newly married daughter and her husband.

The book was sent with their names and gardening wishes but a couple of weeks later the book was returned to me with a rude letter from the recipients stating: "We did not order this book and refuse to pay for it and do not want unsolicited mail!"

I found their phone number and explained that this was a paid for gift from their mum.

Some red faces no doubt and we sent the book back to them.

There is an old saying: "Never look a gift horse in the mouth." For those not familiar with the origins of the saying, it means that you can guess the age of a horse by the wear of its teeth, thus even an old horse is a gift.

■ Wally operates online business Wally's Garden Enterprises. Phone 0800 466464. For garden information and news see gardennews.co.nz

TAKĀRO/Sport



BOWLS ATTRACTION
Central Levin Bowling Club attracted a decent crowd to watch its pairs championships last weekend. Timeri Sanders and Marei Bevan won the Women’s Championship Pairs title in a close and exciting game against Jen Watt and Jenny Rose. Peter Brown and Gary Wylie won the Men’s Championship Pairs title, beating Gerry Welpy and William Robinson. The next major competition at the club is the Mixed 2x4x2 starting December 20.



From left, Wes Munn, Joe Ashby and Charles Parry, who are part of the newly formed Ōhau Football Club. The club’s goal is to enter both men’s and women’s teams next season.
Photo Paul Williams

‘Game on’ for new Ōhau Football Club

By Paul Williams

The goals are up and the clubrooms are tagged for a lick of paint. All the Ōhau Football Club needs now is a few extra players and it’s game on.

The region’s newest football club has taken residence in a vacant pavilion at Ōhau Domain, their home turf an under-utilised sports field adjacent to State Highway 1 south of Levin. OFC president Wes Munn moved to Ōhau from Wellington five years ago and lives a short walk from the ground. He often thought to himself it had potential as a football venue, but the idea sat parked until he mentioned it at a get-together with a group of friends. “It really was a humble pub idea that just snowballed,” he says. Now the club is fizzing at the prospect of having both a men’s and women’s team taking the field next season. Shirts have been printed, the team logo has been ratified, and boots are being dusted off.

“It’s exciting, and it’s exciting for football, Wes says. “There’s still a bit of work to go, but we are lucky with the ground and the pavilion. “The clubrooms need a bit of love. But it’s all there.” Training will begin in the new year with a series of pre-season games planned for February. Wes says the club is inclusive and would warmly welcome anyone wanting to join either team. “We could probably scratch a team together [now] but we will definitely need more players for sure,” he says. The club will affiliate with Capital Football and join Wellington leagues. While the club’s aim is to put out both men’s

and women’s teams, eventually they want to field junior teams, too. “Absolutely. We just haven’t quite got the facilities at this stage,” Wes says. “We’ll just try and walk before we run.” A social media page has been put together and the team colours confirmed – a black and gold strip. Wes, 36, says football is a sport you can play well into middle-age, seriously or socially, and it’s great to see the sport continuing to increase in popularity. He says it’s not an easy task starting afresh and the club is grateful to players and sponsors who have come on board already. ■ If anyone is interested in being involved at any level they can visit the Ōhau Football Club social media page or email ohaufc@gmail.com



Entrance tides
December 12-19
<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/whanganui-manawatu/tides/locations/foxton>
<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/kapiti-wellington/tides/locations/waitarebeach>
Please note: The actual timing of high and low tide might differ from that provided here. Times are extrapolated from the nearest primary port for this location, so please take care.

MANAWATU RIVER FOXTON					
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
FRI 12 DEC	04:36	11:00	17:05	23:41	-
SAT 13 DEC	05:34	12:02	18:04	-	-
SUN 14 DEC	-	00:39	06:35	13:07	19:01
MON 15 DEC	-	01:37	07:36	14:07	19:55
TUE 16 DEC	-	02:31	08:31	15:01	20:45
WED 17 DEC	-	03:21	09:19	15:48	21:31
THU 18 DEC	-	04:06	10:01	16:30	22:14
FRI 19 DEC	-	04:47	10:41	17:09	22:54

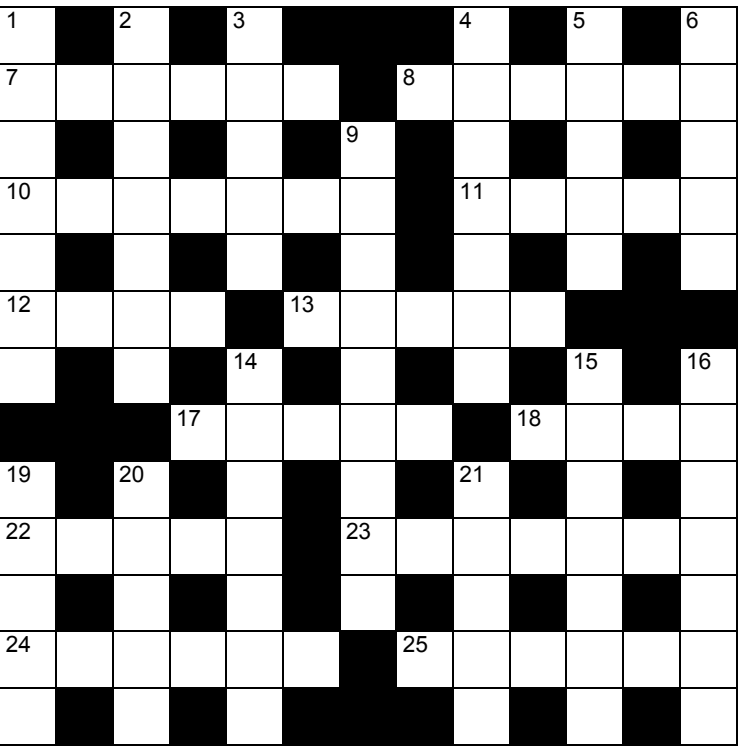
WAITAREBE BEACH					
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
FRI 12 DEC	03:51	09:58	16:20	22:39	-
SAT 13 DEC	04:49	11:00	17:19	23:37	-
SUN 14 DEC	05:50	12:05	18:16	-	-
MON 15 DEC	-	00:35	06:51	13:05	19:10
TUE 16 DEC	-	01:29	07:46	13:59	20:00
WED 17 DEC	-	02:19	08:34	14:46	20:46
THU 18 DEC	-	03:04	09:16	15:28	21:29
FRI 19 DEC	-	03:45	09:56	16:07	22:09

RESULTS

GOLF
Levin
Week ending December 7
Monday - Speldhurst 9 Hole Stableford: Brian Lang 22, John Griffin 20, Stu Bryant 19.
Tuesday - Men Stableford: Peter Clarke 37, Peter Bull 36, Peter Holmes 33.
Thursday - Early Men Stableford: Peter Holes 35, John Smith 34, Robert Corkill 34. Late Men Stableford: Leslie Marshall 37, John Saulbrey 37, Graeme Cliff 36. Twos: Brian Wisker, GERAL Harpur, John Fisher.
Friday - 9 Hole Mixed Stableford: Valda Anderson 25, Sid Richardson 23, Helen Latham 20. Birdies: Paul McQuillam.
Saturday - Christmas Cheer Mixed - Best Gross: Phil Fryer 78. Division 1 Net: Graeme Cliff 69. Division 1 Stableford: Phil Beale 39, Robert Ward 39, John Fisher 34. Division 2 Net: Steven Leppard 72. Division 2 Stableford: Penny Gaylor 37, Gavin Jones 37, Glen McIntyre 35. Twos: Michael Best, Robert Ward, Corey Harris, Nigel Hemopo, Kevin Dee.
Foxton
Midweek (Thursday, December 4) Steve Tickner 42, Stephen Hanna 38, Mike Wilks c/b 34, Lorna Soo 34, Harriet Dewes 33. 2's: Steve Tickner on 10, Neville Simpson on 10.
Tuesday - Adrienne Darragh 39, Stephen Hanna 38, Margaret Chrystall 37, Russell Jack 36.



THE CROSSWORD #NZ1963D (answers below right)



- ACROSS
- 7 Native NZ feathery tussock grass (6)

8 Soak (6)

10 Co-producer and star of *Muru*, a 2022 film about the 2007 Te Urewera police raids (4,3)

11 Influence, power (inf) (5)

12 Belonging to us (4)

13 Resides (5)

17 Artist's stand (5)

18 North Island bird already rare before of European arrival, last seen in 1907 (4)

22 Pounce upon (5)

23 Hamilton's nickname (3,4)

24 Writer (6)

25 Dive (6)
- 3 Film (5)

4 Sport in which NZ women's team won a World Cup in 2024 (7)

5 Madden (5)

6 Slide (5)

9 Nickname of a former NZ prime minister and governor-general, prominent 1957-1980 (4,5)

14 NZ director who won an Oscar for *The Power of the Dog* in 2022 (7)

15 Uncompetitive races, usually for fundraising or awareness (3,4)

16 Bike bag (7)

19 Customary (5)

20 Privacy compartment (5)

21 Goggle-box (inf) (5)

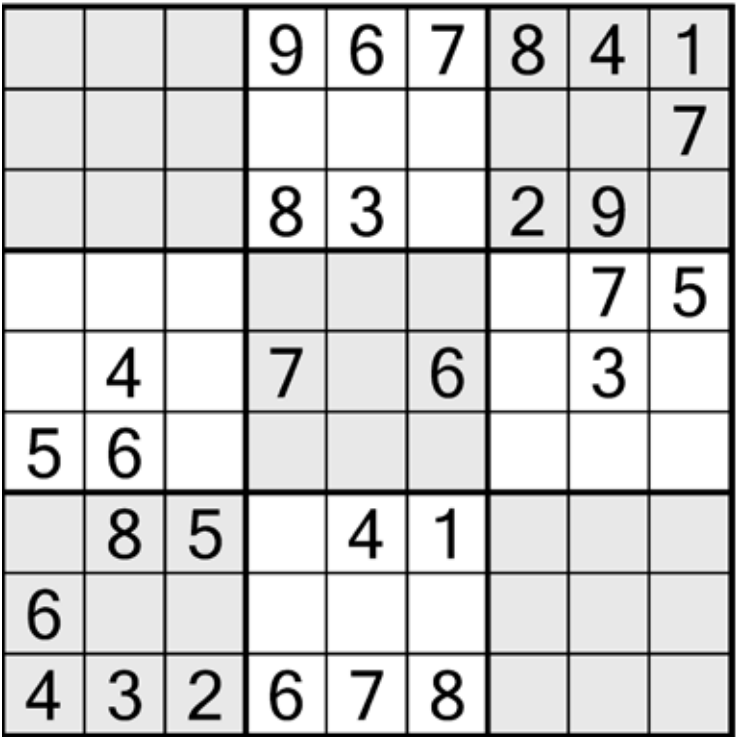
DOWN

- 1 Sheep or cattle farm (7)

2 Name of a large man-made South

Island lake, and a nearby mountain (7)

SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz
EASY #106E Use logic and process of elimination to fill in the blank cells using the numbers 1 through 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Answers opposite page.



CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Medieval Britain. 2. A coin. 3. An orange or tangerine.
4. On a Sunday, five weeks before Christmas. 5. Germany.
6. Clockwise. 7. Nut roast. 8. The German version of mulled wine.
9. 651kg. 10. Bing Crosby's *White Christmas*, according to the *Guinness Book of World Records*.
11. Annie Lennox.
12. Two – Buzz and Jeff. 13. Candy, candy canes, candy corns, and syrup.
14. Hans. 15. Macy's.

A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Answers below left

1. Where did eggnog originate?

2. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding?

3. What fruit is traditionally put inside a Christmas stocking?

4. Traditionally, when should you start making a Christmas pudding?

5. Stollen is a traditional fruit cake in which country?

6. When making mince pies, which way should you stir your mincemeat for good luck – clockwise or anti-clockwise?

7. What is the most popular vegetarian alternative to a roast turkey?

8. What is glühwein?

9. In 2009 Ikea made the largest gingerbread man. To the nearest kilogram, how much did it weigh – a: 651kg b. 612kg c. 490kg?

10. What is the best-selling Christmas music single of all time?

11. Which famous Scottish singer was born on Christmas Day in 1954?

12. In *Home Alone*, how many brothers does Kevin have?

13. According to *Buddy the Elf*, what are the four food groups elves can eat?

14. What is the name of the prince in the movie *Frozen*?

15. *Miracle On 34th Street* centres on what real-life US department store?

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH: answers page 15

A J O U L U P U K K I N V M

P S V I S V H O L I D A Y S

A R X B U C A D V E N T J E

V H E Y M Q F S U T C T Y R

L H R S M P Z Q P V A R C V

O C C O E C O J O T R A H R

V N H A R N E L I R O D R O

A A K I K I T X N I L I I K

L T Q N D E V S S F S T S D

T I G R O T T O E L M I T Y

U V F A M I L Y T E T O M E

U I N T R E E S T K N N A R

A T L I G H T S I A B S S G

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Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad.
Psalm 96:11

CROSSWORD #1963D ANSWERS Across: 7. Toetoe, 8. Drench, 10. Tame It, 11. Clout, 12. Ours, 13. Lives, 17. Easel, 18. Huia, 22. Swoop, 23. The Tron, 24. Author, 25. Plunge. Down: 1. Station, 2. Benmore, 3. Movie, 4. Cricket, 5. Annoy, 6. Chute, 9. Kiwi Keith, 14. Campion, 15. Fun runs, 16. Pannier, 19. Usual, 20. Booth, 21. Telly.

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Tremains Real Estate – 265a Oxford St
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Woolworths, Bristol/Stanley
WAITĀRERE BEACH
Waitārerere Gift Shop
FOXTON
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

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3	9	6	7	8	4	1	2	3	5	7	6	8	5
2	5	3	9	6	4	1	2	3	5	7	6	8	5
8	9	6	4	1	2	3	5	7	6	8	5	1	9
7	1	4	8	3	5	2	9	6	7	5	3	2	8
3	2	9	1	8	4	6	7	5	3	2	1	8	4
1	4	8	7	5	6	9	3	2	1	8	4	6	7
5	6	7	3	2	9	1	8	4	6	7	5	3	2
9	8	5	2	4	1	7	6	3	8	5	2	4	1
6	7	1	5	9	3	4	2	8	6	7	1	5	9
4	3	2	6	7	8	5	1	9	4	3	2	6	7

WORD SEARCH CHRISTMAS ANSWERS

A J O U L U P U K K I N V M
P S V I S V H O L I D A Y S
A R X B U C A D V E N T J E
V H E Y M Q F S U T C T Y R
L H R S M P Z Q P V A R C V
O C C O E C O J O T R A H R
V N H A R N E L I R O D R O
A A K I K I T X N I L I I K
L T Q N D E V S S F S T S D
T I G R O T T O E L M I T Y
U V F A M I L Y T E T O M E
U I N T R E E S T K N N A R
A T L I G H T S I A B S S G
E Y I U S A N T A B A D X Q



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