

LAST CHANCE TO VOTE MIDDAY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

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ŌKETOPA/OCTOBER 10, 2025

*For any parent dealing with the sudden loss of a baby, they can be a flickering light in the dark. PAUL WILLIAMS talked to one of the amazing volunteers at Sands Manawātū-Horowhenua, a special group of people offering support to people dealing with unimaginable grief. This week is Baby Loss Awareness Week.*

## Sands offers light in the dark

**Feilding couple Robert and Emma Strachan were expecting their first child. Emma says as it was her first pregnancy, they didn't really know what to expect. At 27 weeks, she suddenly felt reduced movement.**

Tests showed their baby boy, Benjamin, had died in utero. They were taken to the Maimai Aroha room, a special birthing suite at Palmerston North Hospital, away from the crying babies in the neo-natal ward. They were introduced to volunteers from Sands, who were there to offer advice and understanding, if needed.

"The care we got ... it was all a bit of a blur and I didn't think about it or remember it for a while afterwards, but all the little things ... it was a really difficult time and we appreciated them so much," she says.

"It was incredible to have that support."

She was so grateful for the support from perfect strangers, that at a service for Benjamin family and friends were asked to donate to Sands, raising \$600.

When Emma felt the time was right, she began attending Sands meetings and began volunteering herself.

"It was amazing to be heard by someone who knew what we were going through ... feeling less alone and feeling seen, feeling heard, that your grief matters. I realised we weren't the first people to go through this incredible pain and we wouldn't be the last.

"That's what made me want to be part of Sands."

She says it's a hard thing to comprehend, but it's rewarding to help other families.

"We see them in the freshness and grips of their grief. In that moment you just have to be there for these babies and for the parents, as incredibly heartbreaking as it is."

Sands volunteers are not counsellors and can't give professional advice, but as bereaved parents themselves can offer empathy and understanding.

No-one is prepared for the sudden loss of a baby. Sands can help with memory items like memory

boxes, blankets, clothing and teddy bears. They also have coffins available and a good relationship with funeral homes. It doesn't seem like much to suggest at the time, but a photo of a tiny hand or a footprint can be a priceless keepsake.

Emma says two identical teddy bears are gifted, so one can go home with the family and one can stay with baby.

In the days, weeks, months and years following, Sands are there, if needed. Regular support meetings provide for the expression of loss and grief in a safe and understanding environment. Sayings can be helpful, like "born still, but still born" and "a little life, not a little loss".

"No-one is the same person. There is pre-loss Emma, and post-loss Emma. I envy who I used to be, but proud to be doing something and it's an important part of my experience. It might be hard to comprehend for a lot of people, but I feel I need to do it for my son, for these families, and for myself."

There are 25 Sands volunteer groups in New Zealand. The Manawātū-Horowhenua branch has eight volunteers, who also support each other knowing that sometimes they might need to step back themselves. In March this year, Emma and Robert lost another baby, at 6 weeks.

"We have an incredible team. We work together so if someone needs to step back someone can be there to pick up what they need to put down," she says.

"Anniversaries can be hard and sometimes you need to step back to understand what your triggers are."

Emma and Robert know how blessed they are to have Rowan, a happy and healthy three-year-old boy. He knows he has an older brother called Benjamin.

"We talk to Rowan about Benjamin all the time. He loves his brother in the sky," she says.



Emma and Robert Strachan with 3-year-old Rowan.

Photo supplied

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By Paul McDonnell

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# What's on

## HOROWHENUA




Horowhenua Art Society member Candy Summer works on a watercolour painting.  
*Photo Janine Baalbergen*

### ART TRAIL MANAWATŪ

**Saturday-Sunday, October 18-19, throughout the Manawātū region.**  
The Horowhenua Art Society has already decked out its Bath Street, Levin, gallery ready for Art Trail Manawātū, running on the weekend of October 18 and 19. During the trail weekend, members will be showcasing their varied talents, including watercolour painting, drawings, pen and ink drawing, oil painting, floral art, jewellery, cardmaking and mixed media. They will also have a table for children who can make cards to take home. The society does art classes throughout the year, including for children and teenagers. Next year it will start classes for beginners. It also offers lectures by artists from outside the district. At least 20 members joined in the past year, swelling the society's ranks to 80-plus after holding regular open weekends.

Horowhenua Art Society, 119 Bath Street, Levin. See [horowhenuaart.com](http://horowhenuaart.com)  
Art Trail Manawātū: Search "ArtTrail Guide" at [communityarts.org.nz](http://communityarts.org.nz)



# Turnout dismal

**Unless there is a late flurry of votes, Horowhenua is headed for its worst local government election voter participation figure in history.**

As of Wednesday night, only 31.63 percent of eligible votes were in, mirroring a nationwide trend of voter apathy. Voting ends at midday tomorrow.

At the same stage of the 2022 election, 32.69 percent of votes were in, and in 2019 the figure was 43.81 percent. Total votes in 2022 closed at 45.07 percent and in 2019 turnout was 54.5 percent.

Department of Internal Affairs figures show voter turnout in local government elections has trended down steadily New Zealand-wide since the restructure of local government in 1989, when nationally, voter participation was 56 percent.

The issue is more pronounced in big urban regions. In 2022, voter turnout among district councils was 45 percent compared with just 39 percent among city councils.

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# Businesses gather for support

By Paul Williams

**A local and independent business support group sharing advice and ideas has ballooned in number in a short time.**

The group, which initially started with a handful of businesses early last year, now has more than 20 who meet every Wednesday morning at the Bush Street Café.

Chairperson Willie Masters says for many business owners in the Horowhenua-Kāpiti region, especially new or small businesses, the opportunity to network with others is important.

Participating in a business collective can be helpful for sharing advice and having a support network to develop and grow, he says.

The collective started organically with original members Liz Maclean, Teresa Haley and Carly Bowers, who now form a committee of five with Russel Bacon and chairperson Willie.

Liz had belonged to a similar group in another region and saw value in starting one up in Horowhenua. More businesses were shoulder-tapped to join or have heard about it through word of mouth.

Carly says there is an expectation for attendance around 75 percent, but when someone can't make it the group will make sure their businesses is mentioned.

"People and businesses can go through tough times. It's about having that support and someone to talk to. A lot meet aside the group," she says.

A variety of businesses are involved, from lawyers to plumbers, builders to business advisors. Following a relaxed around-the-table introductions, each week a different business



From left, Carly Bowers, Russel Bacon, Teresa Haley, Liz Maclean and Willie Masters and part of a growing business group pooling together advice and support.. Photo Paul Williams

will give a presentation outlining who they are and what they do.

It might be that they bring in an expert on a topic of interest outside the group guest speakers

to come and present if it will benefit the group. Teresa says it's deliberately not too formal or rigid. Some members order coffee. Others use it as an opportunity to have breakfast.

At the end of each year the group contribute to Pack The Bus, an initiative supporting a local food bank and the local branch of Women's Refuge and Birthright organisations, she says.

## Ōtaki to north of Levin highway construction now underway

The main construction works are starting on the 24km Ōtaki to north of Levin (Ō2NL) highway. The new highway and shared path for walking and cycling will improve safety, reduce travel times and make the road more reliable for everyone. The road is planned for opening in late 2029.

You'll start seeing more activity in the area as crews begin building the new highway. This includes more vehicles, heavy machinery, and work happening along the route between Taylors Road in Ōtaki and north of Levin.

From October, teams will have a major focus on earthwork and connected activities, such as vegetation clearance, stream diversions and defishing.

Site establishment works will also continue, which includes fencing, building haul roads, surveying, testing and house removal.

The new Ō2NL highway is being delivered by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi with partners Muaūpoko Tribal Authority, local hapū of Ngāti Raukawa te au ki te Tonga and council partner Horowhenua District Council.



### Come and meet the team

The project team is hosting drop-in sessions to answer questions about the start of the Ō2NL project:

#### Manakau

Manakau Community Hall  
Tuesday 14 October  
3pm - 6pm

#### Ōtaki

Ōtaki Memorial Hall  
Thursday 16 October  
3pm - 6pm

#### Ohau

Ohau Community Hall  
Tuesday 21 October  
3pm - 6pm

#### Levin

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō  
Thursday 23 October  
3pm - 6pm

To find out more about the project and the construction progress:

[www.nzta.govt.nz/o2nl](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/o2nl)

[info@o2nl.nz](mailto:info@o2nl.nz)

0508 625 4636



# Get arthritis help early, Yvonne says

By Paul Williams

**It's World Arthritis Day tomorrow. A Levin woman who has lived with the condition for more than 30 years ago says while it's tough hearing the diagnosis, it's important to seek help straight away.**

Yvonne Mabey, 67, got her diagnosis in her mid-30s, changing her life in an instant. She lost her job as a caregiver in a nursing home that day. Within a week she was admitted to hospital.

"I was misdiagnosed for a long time, until a doctor noticed a deformity in my fingers and ordered a blood test," she says. "It's good to catch it early. As soon as you think something is wrong, get in and get it checked."

"You can get the right information and advice and put a plan in place to manage it."

Yvonne says her initial reaction was denial, but the help and advice she received enabled her to plan management of the disease with advice from a rheumatologist, physiotherapist, chemist, and occupational therapist

"There's a lot of misconception, but there is no rhyme nor reason. It just turns up. Some say it is hereditary but I'm the only one in my family with it."

She was told it would be hard to find work again, and it was, as she was obliged to disclose her condition in an interview.

One thing Yvonne saw she could do is help others. She joined the local branch of Arthritis New Zealand and for more than 20 years was involved with the regional group, helping organise bi-annual seminars that saw hundreds of people attend and hear guest speakers.

"I met a lady at the hospital who said 'oh, do you know about our support group?' and she gave me a



**Yvonne Mabey: "As soon as you think something is wrong, get in and get it checked. You can get the right information and advice and put a plan in place to manage it."**

number. They were lovely, and the fellowship was so good," she says.

She is proud that she has been able to play a role in spreading awareness and educating others.

Some famous people have rheumatoid arthritis, such as Paula Abdul, Caroline Wozniacki, Tatum O'Neill, and cricket umpire Billy Bowden.

Life with rheumatoid arthritis is a battle, but Yvonne says it's about learning to manage it and reprioritising goals to get the most out of life.

"I won't let it slow me down. You have to be proactive. Use it or lose it. You manage it. You follow the advice."

# Network to combat food insecurity

By Janine Baalbergen

**Horowhenua's Kai Network has gathered at least 20 organisations together to combat food insecurity in the district.**

The network intends to combine knowledge, contacts and skills to make sure everyone has enough to eat every day. It encourages people to grow at least some of their own veggies and fruit, and others to grow a bit more to give away.

The initiative is funded by the Department of Internal Affairs and the Eastern and Central Community Trust, with the support of Horowhenua District Council.

Mayor Bernie Wanden says the council's wellbeing strategy identified the need for access to healthy kai.

"This network is the start to a collective journey, collaborations in creating reliable access to healthy and affordable kai," Bernie says.

Deborah Manning, who began Kiwi Harvest 14 years ago, says

dignity matters to those receiving food, and there is an over-reliance on emergency food in New Zealand.

She says Horowhenua already has a strong food growing culture and can build on that.

"A multi layered approach is needed. We need to encourage innovation, such



**Matt Roberts, who is calling on all gardeners, preserver, bakers and jam-makers to help share their knowledge and skills.**

as vertical growing, and start seed libraries."

Local residents can help the network by growing extra food in the background to give away, for example, and sharing skills in food gardening or fruit growing.

Growers are also needed, and teachers for workshops on growing from seed, soil preparation, composting, planting, harvesting and cooking.

"You can have great fun joining together to make tomato sauce and go home with some jars or bottles," says coordinator Matt Roberts.

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# Magic in books – Trudi

By Paul Williams

**In an ever-changing world of screens, lights and podcasts competing for our attention, it’s easy to forget the power and magic that can be found inside the pages of a book.**

There’s magic in books, according to local second-hand book dealer Trudi Gray, who is celebrating Bookshop Day tomorrow (Saturday).

A good book can travel through time and open new worlds. It can connect a young reader of today with a mind like William Shakespeare, who died 407 years ago, and to quote George R R Martin: “A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one.”

Trudi says books aren’t dead. They’re only sitting there waiting to be opened again. Since opening her store in February last year she has sold an estimated 20,000 books – at a rate of 1000 a month.

A recent National Reading Survey commissioned by Read NZ Te Pou Muramura showed reading rates are remaining steady – and even increasing in some areas. The survey shows a slight increase in the number of adults who have read a book in the past year: 87 percent, equivalent to about 3,359,000 New Zealand adults.



Levin second-hand bookstore owner Trudi Gray. Photo Paul Williams

This is a slight rise from 85 percent in 2021, with the data since 2017 remaining relatively steady overall. While 84 percent of males had read a book in the past year – up from 79 percent in 2021 – a greater proportion of women are still reading – 90 percent of women self-reported as being readers. Bookshop Day started in New Zealand 10 years ago, in 2015, and is run by the Booksellers Association to encourage book lovers to celebrate their local bookshop.

**PROBUS 30:** Levin’s Combined Probus Club, an off-shoot of Rotary, celebrated 30 years this week at the Cosmopolitan Club. The Inaugural meeting was in October 1995 when its first president, John Lancaster, was invested by Bernie Wanden, then president of the Levin Rotary Club.

Since then 22 people have been president, with Graeme Gore the longest serving after joining in 2008. The longest serving member is Catherine Campbell, who joined in 2002. Friendship, fellowship and fun are the club’s aims with the Levin club holding monthly meetings and members organising

outings to the cinema, cafes and coach trip. There’s also have a writers group. Guest speaker at the 30th anniversary morning tea was Lesley Harrison of the Easie Living Centre in Palmerston North, who showed how to use handy gadgets around the home properly.

## BRIEFS

**Dairy awards open**  
Know anyone working hard in the dairy industry? Entries for the annual Manawātū Dairy Industry Awards, which have been running since 1989, are now open. The awards celebrate success, innovation, and excellence across New Zealand’s dairy sector. Each year, 11 regional programmes showcase outstanding people in the industry, with regional winners then competing for the overall New Zealand title. There are four regional categories and two national awards, including dairy trainee of the year, dairy manager of the year, share farmer of the year, responsible dairying award, alumni of the year, and first farm award. The event was launched in Longburn on Wednesday. Entries close December 6. For more, visit [dairyindustryawards.co.nz](http://dairyindustryawards.co.nz)

**Fewer delivery days signalled**  
A new deed between the government and NZ Post means urban deliveries of mail – including PO boxes and private bags – can be reduced to two days a week from three. Rural deliveries may be reduced to three days from five. As of press time NZ Post had not indicated what changes it will make. The changes apply only to mail – courier parcels, magazines and newspapers will continue to be delivered daily. The deed also allows NZ Post to close up to 380 “service points”, taking the total from 880 to 500, and reducing to a minimum of 400 within four years. Rural branches can’t be closed for at least a year.

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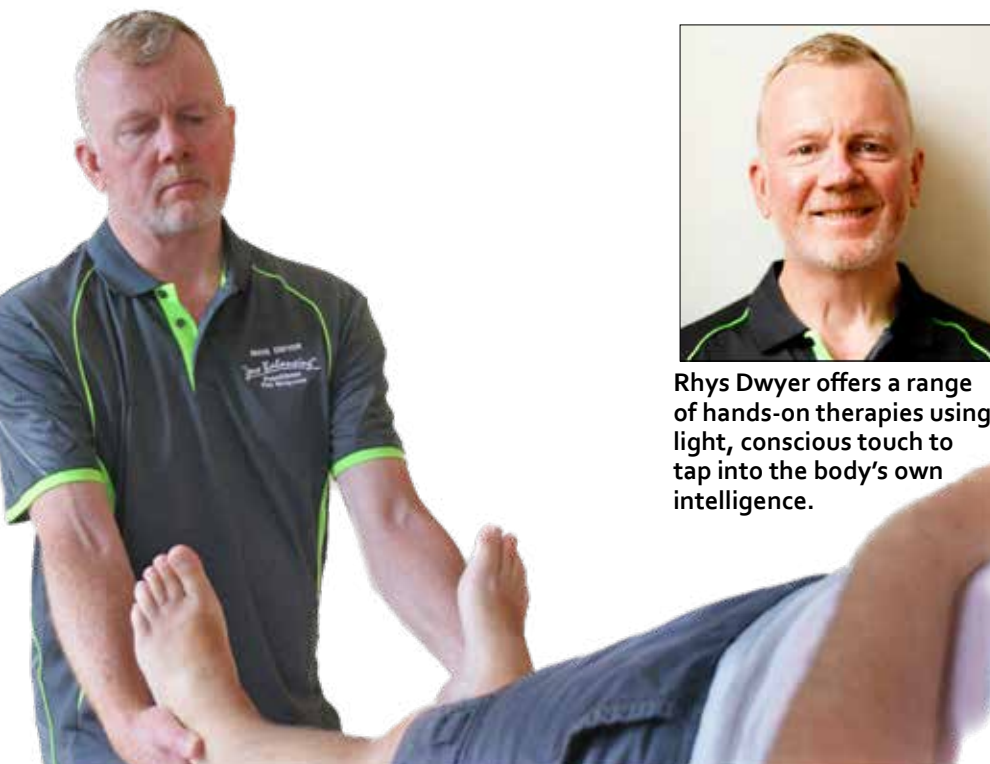
These hands-on therapies use light, conscious touch to tap into the body's own intelligence, encouraging it to unwind deeply held patterns—physically, mentally, emotionally, and energetically.

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Rhys Dwyer offers a range of hands-on therapies using light, conscious touch to tap into the body's own intelligence.

nervous system, and energy fields—helping the body naturally return to balance.

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Rhys sees clients two days a week in each of his three locations: Levin, Ngāio (Wellington), and Upper Hutt.

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# MAHI MĀRA/Gardening



Everyone would like either fruit trees and shrubs or fruiting plants in their gardens, but how many you can have will depend on not only how much area you have but also on how you allow them to grow.

There are several ways to grow healthy fruiting plants that cost you little other than your time. One of my readers emailed me recently, prompting to write this article.

The email explained how he took the seed from a persimmon fruit and soaked it overnight in a solution of Magic Botanic Liquid (MBL) and then planted it. Not too long after planting the seed sprouted and now he has a lovely persimmon sapling that will likely bear him fruit in a couple of years. This saved him about \$150 – the cost of a grafted persimmon tree from a nursery.

I used to have an uncle who was a Desert Rat with New Zealand forces in Northern Africa during the Second World War. On returning he was allotted land to build and live on. His was about half an acre on the outskirts of Palmerston North.

On his property was the best citrus grove I have seen in private ownership – and every one was grown from a pip. They were big trees covered in fruit and about 10 years old.

Another elderly gardener told me she had a large orchard on her property with many fruit trees. We talked about curly leaf disease on stone fruit, peaches and nectarines. She told me she never had a problem, saying she had grown every one from a stone planted in the spot where the tree would mature.

To make it even more interesting she told me she had been at a garden centre where she saw metre-tall dwarf peach and nectarine trees that are sometimes doubly grafted. She took one of each variety home to her orchard and planted them.

She said that every season both the dwarf trees are badly

blighted with curly leaf disease but it doesn't affect her fruit trees that were grown from stones.

This shows two things: grafted trees are not as strong as trees grown from seed; and when the seed is planted to sprout where it is going to mature it develops a root system as nature intended – strong and deep, unlike the trees you buy in a bag or pot whose the roots been contained.

If you do buy trees or shrubs that come in a container and see that the roots have spiraled around, then (this is important) don't try to tease the roots out. It makes no difference. Instead, with your secateurs cut the spiraling roots at the four cardinal points – north, south, east and west – then the cut roots will form new roots and your plant will never look back. If you don't do that your tree may never establish and grow.

### How to get fruit trees for free

When you buy a fruit to eat you can stratify it. Stone fruit kernels benefit from cold stratification.

After cleaning, the pits should be soaked in water with MBL added for several hours to imbibe moisture, then optionally cracked slightly to help germination, as the hard outer shell can inhibit sprouting.

Place the moist seeds in a sealed container filled with damp peat moss, sand, or a wet paper towel, and store in a refrigerator for 8-12 weeks, or as recommended for each species. If mold is a concern, adding a touch of cinnamon as a natural anti-fungal agent can help.

After stratification, seeds can be planted outdoors where they are going to germinate and grow to maturity. Put a stake as a marker next to where you plant.

### Strawberries from seed

Gently remove the seeds from a fresh strawberry using a toothpick or similar tool, then dry them on a paper towel for a few hours to a day. Place the seeds in a small plastic bag with damp sand that has been wet with MBL, seal it, and refrigerate them for about four weeks. This

cold stratification process mimics winter conditions and improves the germination rate.

After stratification, allow the seeds to warm to room temperature before planting.

To sow the seeds, fill a seed tray or small pots with a quality seed-starting mix, and water it lightly so it's damp but not soggy.

Scatter the strawberry seeds over the surface of the mix – don't cover them with more soil, as they require light for germination. Optionally, top the mix with a thin layer of vermiculite to hold moisture while still allowing light to reach the seeds.

Cover the tray with plastic wrap or a plastic dome to retain moisture, but remove it once seedlings appear, to prevent mold.

Place the tray in a bright light location – a glasshouse or sunny sheltered spot inside a old drawer with a sheet of clear glass on top – keeping temperature between 18-24C.

Water regularly from below to keep the soil evenly moist, ensuring it never dries out or becomes waterlogged.

The two lessons to learn here is that a seed that germinates where it will mature is far superior to any transplanted – your weeds will vouch for that.

Also, anything that is grafted will not have the same health as seed or cutting grown.

The only advantage in grafted fruit trees is you are getting a specific variety from a tree that was also originally grown from seed.

Your seed-grown tree will start cropping quickly if it's germinated where it's going to grow. It will be a nice sapling within a season or two and then likely the following spring it will flower and set fruit.

Go for free and have the best fruit ever.

Wally has owned plant shops, a garden centre and nursery sites. His online business is Wally's Garden Enterprises. Phone 0800 466464. For garden information and news see gardennews.co.nz



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# Being a witness to a will

To be a witness for a will, you simply have to be present and witness the will maker (testator) signing their will. You then sign the will as their witness.

A will must be witnessed by two people, who must both be present at the same time. As a witness, you are not responsible for the content of the will, nor are you witnessing that the will is correctly drafted or is legally valid.

If you have agreed to witness a will, you must follow the rules to avoid problems with the will later. If a will is not done correctly, it may be challenged and become invalid.

- The rules are:
- You cannot witness the will if you are a beneficiary of the will.
  - A will must be witnessed by two people who must be together with the will maker and watch each other sign the document.
  - If the will maker alters their will before they sign, they and both witnesses must sign or initial in the margin or near the alteration. The alterations will not be valid unless they are signed by the will maker and witnessed by both witnesses.
- The following are recommendations rather than things you must do:
- If you do not personally know the will maker, ask to see some photo ID to confirm they are the person named on the will as the will maker.
  - You should all use the same pen - this reinforces the fact that the will was signed and witnessed when all three people were together.
  - Sign each page of the will - this reinforces that the separate pages are all part of the same document, and that no pages were inserted afterwards.
  - The will should be dated at the time of signing.
- Citizens Advice Bureau workers must not:
- draft a will for a client;
  - provide a template will or will-making kit to a client; or
  - give advice to a client about the legal validity of their will.

■ Ginny is chair of Citizens Advice Bureau Levin



# Experiences of a pending expressway

I've had a bit of experience of how an expressway can affect a small New Zealand town.

When the diggers and rollers were preparing for the first chunk of construction from Peka Peka to Ōtaki, I was on the community liaison group (CLG) set up to allow conversations between NZTA Waka Kotahi and the community. And I was on the Elevate Ōtaki committee, which received a total of \$200,000 from NZTA and Kāpiti Coast District Council.

Both of these groups were valuable, and I note no such groups have been established up here in Horowhenua.

People on the CLG included representatives of various local organisations, so they were able to advocate on behalf of the community. My involvement was as chair of the Ōtaki

Promotions Group, which organises, among other things, the Ōtaki Kite Festival. So I was able to discuss, for example, the impact of road works that might impede traffic getting to the festival.

Elevate Ōtaki was a similar, but smaller group of community and council representatives. Its task was to look at ways of mitigating – or promoting – the effects of the expressway bypassing the State Highway 1 shopping strip (similar to Levin).

Its main task was initially to come up with an identity for Ōtaki, hence a new piece of branding and the emergence of “Manaakitanga – Small Town, Big Heart”.

It's a tragedy this wasn't rolled out effectively at the time – Covid part of the problem –



but Elevate did eventually morph into a new business association for Ōtaki, which took the left-over money with it.

When the expressway finally opened two days before Christmas in 2022,

retailers on the old highway strip were cautiously optimistic, but some held their breath. The thousands of vehicles passing through every day dwindled in number, but the number of visitors (rather than passing traffic) grew, especially during the weekends. They could finally come to Ōtaki and know they would get home quickly without the infamous Ōtaki traffic jams. There were other implications, but that's for another column!

■ Ian is managing editor of ID Media Ltd

## KŌRERO MAI | A KUKU: DR HUHANA SMITH

# Unwinding from a busy life – in the garden

There has been rain and more overnight rain with blossoms aplenty in my small farm's orchards.

I got the trailer bogged in the grove two weekends ago and it's there until we dry out. I even got the 4x4 ute stuck last weekend. Thanks for a small tractor to help.

So I've been working hard when not on campus in Wellington to get the three rows of olive trees pruned, with all cut branches ready for the mulcher or for future biochar burning workshops.

Despite the warming temperatures it's a wet spring that's holding up these final clean-up tasks. In the interim, Kiwirail's Treescape is eyeing up the railway line blackberry very shortly to sort a safe way of removing it once and for all, without affecting my pending organic/hua para kore certification.

While all these farm/grove tasks have been helped by willing workers, I've been getting the house māra kai ready, mulching branches from freeing up garden trees, pea strawing more beds and staking up the robust artichokes as they bear fruit – just as the ngutu kaka blossoms fade and kowhai flowers carpet the beds.

The best way to unwind from a busy life is to garden as my reset meditation and to recharge myself.

I've been doing much since spring has sprung, but most importantly prepping with long-term iwi research leader Moira Poutama of Kuku, as we present our recent research findings at the Adaptation Futures conference in Christchurch, among other talks required with the global network there soon. We represent our hapū and our research team of Hayden Fowler, Nathan Galuzzo and Derrylea Hardy – a committed transformative change agency, envisaging and designing Te Taiao-centric plans for mitigating climate change within our rohe.

Based on intensive fieldwork on coastal lands undertaken from 2022-2024, the proposed future land-use options have been analysed in terms of calculated greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions. long-term economic farm sustainability, improvement of ecosystem services and diversity, revitalisation of taonga species. and climate change impact mitigation.

Moira and I (with our iwi farm board)



used mātauranga Māori-led approaches and ancestral knowledge of place to underpin the work of technical experts. Together, we have visualised future farmland-use transition options for

the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). These high-level communication devices aim to benefit farm management and hapū shareholders with all-of-farm maps that quantify our recommended and priority land-use transition options. These are seen alongside high quality digitally visualised 'flyovers' of land-use transitions, as an all-of-farm geo design. High GHG emitting activities alongside robust carbon sequestration strategies within the system, have also been prioritised as transitions and adaptation for our revered ancestral landscape for hapū of Ngāti Tukorehe within the southwest coast at Kuku Ōhau estuary. More conversations are in train with AgEmissions on a possible funded phase of this critical work, which Moira and I attest will definitely be our last major project!

■ Huhana (Ngāti Tukorehe) lives at Kuku

## HEADS UP: TE PUNA WHAI MĀTAURANGA

# Staff welcomed to Kohuturoa Marae

Tararua Te Maunga  
Punahau Te Moana  
Pāriri Te Tupuna Whare  
Muaūpoko Te Iwi  
Tena koutou Katoa

On September 25 Te Puna Whai Mātauranga staff had the privilege of being welcomed onto Kohuturoa Marae. All staff, including from Whakaoriori (Masterton), Papaioia (Palmerston North), Kapiti (Paraparaumu) and Taitoko/Levin took part. We were also joined by Trust Board member John Denton and his wife, Diane.

The pōwhiri was an opportunity for Muaūpoko Tribal Authority and Te Puna Whai Mātauranga staff to develop our relationship and work closer together for the betterment of the Tamaiti me nga mokopuna (children and grandchildren) of Muaūpoko Iwi.

A big thank you to Tama Paki for organising this pōwhiri for our staff.

Thank you also to the kai karanga for their call of welcome onto the marae, and to Dean Wilson for his whaikorero welcoming Te Puna Whai Mātauranga staff onto the Kohuturoa Marae.

To the ringawera (cooks) for the kai which they

served up which showed the manaakitanga of Muaūpoko Tribal Authority towards the manuhiri (visitors).

During the visit Di Rump, CEO of Muaūpoko Tribal Authority gave a history on the origins of Taitoko/Levin. The joint research presented has been conducted to gather information on the history of Horowhenua. Dean Wilson also gave the history of Lake Punahau and the abundance of available kai that used to be in the lake.

As some Te Puna Whai Mātauranga staff had not been welcomed onto a marae in the past it was their first opportunity to experience marae hospitality, and they found this, along with the origins presentation, a rewarding cultural experience.

Our thanks again to all who hosted us, we look forward to continuing to develop our relationship with Muaūpoko Tribal Authority to develop new programmes for rangatahi in the region.  
Ngā korero ō ngā tupuna, (the saying of the ancestors).  
Ngā tamaiti ō te ra, ngā Rangatira ā pōpō (the children of today are the leaders of tomorrow).  
Noreira, tena koutou tena koutou. Kia ora huihui mai tatou katoa. Ka huri.



Kohuturoa Marae (top) and (above) Te Puna Whai Mātauranga staff and Muaūpoko iwi members at the welcome. Photos supplied



# Hipkins on the wrong side of middle ground

The longer Chris Hipkins stays at the helm of the Labour Party the more prospects improve of the coalition government either retaining the Treasury benches at next year’s general election or NZ First holding a pivotal role in the outcome.

The reason is a habit of his and his advisers to get on the wrong side of middle ground public opinion when issues of substance and potential cooperation with the government arise. Their preference for supporting the clamour of single-issue groups taking issue with the government can be likened to the cheers for kamikaze pilots with a battleship in their sights.

This tendency showed up twice on key issues in the past two weeks. First was recognition of a Palestinian state. The second embraced the future of gas exploration as a measure to shore up reserves for energy usage against a background of steadily rising prices.

Hipkins has been in Parliament long enough to learn that when it comes to making decisions on global issues, the government of the day knows a great deal more of the interactions taking place among the big powers than oppositions.

Thus, when Foreign Minister Winston Peters and Prime Minister Christopher Luxon signed off on their position they would have assessed that the moving feast of diplomatic and political exchanges between the parties justified the “wait and see” call.

Claims of “absolute cowardice” by Green Party co-leader Marama Davidson simply confirmed her frequent liking for hyperbole over reality. Hipkins terming the decision “morally

reprehensible” and a show of “weakness” reflected partisanship more than it did the realities of the negotiating position. Subsequent assertions made by the Labour leader that the decision was based on “political positioning”

at least recognised that the government may be acting in line with what it considered to be a majority view of New Zealanders.

The fact was that New Zealand lined up as ready to recognise a Palestinian state when the conditions for a lasting peace are achieved. Britain, France, Canada, and Australia declared their recognition of a Palestinian state as a means of pressuring Israel to end its genocidal actions in

Gaza. Globally their positioning was a plus for President Trump’s efforts to secure a settlement because Israel’s hawks could clearly see a gathering array of major powers with a capability to thwart their ultimate Gaza aspirations.

Whether New Zealand lined up with them mattered little to the peace process. But when it comes to the right side of history – Hipkins having claimed New Zealand was on the wrong side of it – the government is positioned to recognise a viable Palestinian state when established and has maintained recognition from Israel that it realises the importance of elimination of Hamas as a governing body.

Should the Trump 21-step solution bring



POLITICS

BRUCE KOHN

*[Hipkins] and his advisers’ preference for supporting the clamour of single-issue groups taking issue with the government can be likened to the cheers for kamikaze pilots with a battleship in their sights.*

about a lasting peace, New Zealand is well positioned to deal positively with all sides, even as a peacekeeper trusted by both sides. Singapore, Japan, and South Korea, who took a similar position to that of Wellington, are all strong players internationally. But they are, like New Zealand, bit players in the Mideast negotiating framework.

Probably of most concern to ongoing international relations is a perception taken in Beijing that the Palestine decision represented further evidence of New Zealand siding with the US no matter what happens. Repair work seems in order on the delicate balance that Wellington needs to reflect in its dealings between the two major powers.

The tendency of Hipkins and Labour to “grandstand” for a vociferous support base, in this case favouring recognition of Palestine, may help shore up party support among Labour activists and Palestinian supporters. But it is not a stance that captures middle ground voters

pragmatic in approach, intensely resentful both of the Israeli slaughter and the Palestinian atrocities that provoked it and look for solutions rather than more rhetoric.

It is difficult to imagine energy companies subscribing to the Hipkins view that Luxon’s despatch of a letter to him seeking agreement to a 10-year programme for offshore gas exploration is a political stunt. Against a background of rapidly declining gas reserves being a factor in higher energy prices, the case for searching out more reservoirs is not difficult to make.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has advised the government that domestic gas supply is not adequate to meet demand; reserves are falling faster than anticipated, and there are significant negative perceptions of the risk of investing in New Zealand. Energy companies have since obtained Commerce Commission approval to pool resources to develop and hold coal reserves at Huntly for electricity generation at times of demand pressure.

Labour activists and Greens committed to greenhouse gas reduction may flay the government on this issue. Climate change makes energy generation a focal point of contention with differing views on the capability of hydro, wind and solar to make up for the loss of gas.

With the government’s stance being that a reservoir of natural gas is a better standby than greenhouse gas-generating coal, it is not hard to accept that consumers wanting surety of supply and cheaper electricity might prefer exploration to the ban Labour plans to reimpose.

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

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# Community Connection

Issue 226 OCTOBER 2025

**Horowhenua**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Monique Davidson

## Message from the CE

**Kia ora Horowhenua,**

This will be my last message for a while to you in Community Connection. As you may recall I've been writing to you during the local

government election period, to keep the mayoral campaign fair and transparent. And while I've really enjoyed the chance to talk to you directly in these pages I am looking forward to things getting back to normal after the election, with the elected Mayor returning to writing these columns.

Incidentally, it's not too late to have your say. Voting closes tomorrow, Saturday 11 October, at midday. You've missed the deadline to post your vote, but you can still drop it off at one of our ballot boxes around the district – you can find a list of them on our website, or in the vote pack that was posted to you.

If you don't have a vote pack, or you enrolled after 10 October, you can still cast a special vote at the Council building on Oxford St, today or until midday tomorrow, though that really would be taking it down to the wire.

Voter turnout in local body elections has been low in recent years – in 2023 45 percent of eligible voters in our district cast a ballot, which was slightly above the national average. This is a shame, as voting is one of the main ways people get to have a say in decisions which shape their lives in very real ways.

So come on Horowhenua – there's still time. And many thanks to those who have already taken up their right to vote.

Preliminary votes will be published on our website and posted on the front door of Council tomorrow afternoon.

Next week, our focus will turn to welcoming the newly-elected Council and Te Awahou Foxton Community Board members. Final election results are expected to be confirmed by the end of the week, with the new Council officially taking office the following day.

A comprehensive induction programme will take place throughout October and into November. These sessions are designed to ensure that both Council and Community Board members are well-prepared with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions on behalf of the Horowhenua community.

The official swearing-in ceremony for elected members will be held at the end of October, marking the beginning of a new term of local leadership.

It is very pleasing to see construction activity for the Ōtaki to North of Levin (Ō2NL) expressway project ramping up across the district. After many years of planning and anticipation, visible progress is now taking place with a range of preparatory works underway, including surveying, house removals, fencing, and vegetation clearance. These early stages signal the beginning of a project that will bring significant safety, transport, and economic benefits to our community for generations to come.

The Ō2NL expressway has been a long-awaited development for residents, businesses, and commuters alike. To now see tangible progress on the ground is both exciting and reassuring, as it represents the transition from plans on paper to real improvements taking shape in our district.

For anyone who has questions or would like to better understand the project and its impacts, NZTA will be holding a series of drop-in sessions over the coming weeks in Manakau, Ōhau and Levin. These sessions provide an excellent opportunity to speak directly with the project team, raise any concerns, and learn more about the construction programme. Further details, including dates and venues, can be found on the NZTA website. We encourage residents to take advantage of these sessions to stay informed and engaged as this major infrastructure project progresses.

Supporting local aspirations is important, and we are pleased to announce that applications for the Horowhenua Tertiary Education Scholarship are now open. Each year, Council offers a \$1,000 scholarship along with a paid summer internship, providing a valuable opportunity to gain practical experience within local government.

To be eligible, applicants must live in Horowhenua and either be school leavers planning to begin tertiary study in 2026 or current students continuing their tertiary education in 2026.

This scholarship is about more than financial support — it's a chance to develop skills, explore future career pathways, and contribute to the community. We are proud of the achievements of our past recipients, many of whom have gone on to make a positive impact in a wide range of fields. As someone who ventured straight from university into Local Government, I certainly encourage young people who are thinking about a career in public service to consider this opportunity.

Applications are now open and close at 11:59pm on Monday 20 October. Full details, including how to apply, are available in the graphic on the next page. We encourage all eligible students to apply and take advantage of this exciting opportunity.

One of the things I've enjoyed most about writing this column has been the chance to showcase some of the excellent work being done by the team here at council. I am endlessly proud of the mahi they do, be it in the public eye or behind the scenes, to make Horowhenua a better place for all of us to live. So, to close I want to offer a note of thanks and acknowledgment to our skilled, passionate and committed staff at Horowhenua District Council. Thank you for the work you do and the positive contribution you make to our community.

*Monique Davidson*

**Monique Davidson**  
Chief Executive

## Council Meetings



### Council Meeting – inaugural meeting of new council

Wednesday 29 October 2025,

Time tbc

Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin  
(Live streamed)

Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Please refer to [horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Council-Meetings](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Council-Meetings) for the full meeting schedule, minutes and agendas.

## Register your business for trade waste

**Anyone who operates a business or organisation at a trade premises within the Horowhenua District needs to register with Council so we can assess whether your business is producing trade waste.**

Trade waste is commercial and industrial liquid waste that is discharged into our wastewater network. Some contaminants can be harmful if they are not removed before they enter the network. For example, fat from commercial kitchens can block drains and toxic substances can be dangerous to the environment as well as to people and animals.

Once you're registered we'll let you know if you need to apply for a trade waste permit. As a rule of thumb if you run a business such as an office or shop you probably won't need a permit, but you still need to register. Businesses like restaurants or mechanical workshops probably will need a permit.

The good news is that if you do need to apply for a trade waste permit we're waiving the application fee until 31 December, though you may still need to pay to discharge your trade waste.

So remember to register, and do your bit for your community and the environment.

You can find out more on our website (search for trade waste) or please contact us at:

@ [tradewaste@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:tradewaste@horowhenua.govt.nz)

☎ (06) 366 0999

🌐 [horowhenua.govt.nz](https://horowhenua.govt.nz)

**DON'T JUST DREAM.  
VOTE TO BE HEARD.**

**VOTE  
2025**  
LOCAL ELECTIONS



**Voting closes at 12 noon  
on Saturday 11 October.**

Find out more at:

🌐 [horowhenua.govt.nz/elections](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/elections)



## Play a Part in Levin's Town Centre Transformation

Horowhenua District Council is inviting developers to help reimagine a key site in the heart of Levin. Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now open to redevelop the Bath Street/Salisbury Street carpark - currently used for free daytime parking - into something that brings fresh energy and activity to the town centre.

The centrally located site, directly behind New World, is under-used, with weekday occupancy averaging just 20-40 percent. Council sees it as a prime opportunity to deliver a vibrant, people-focused project in line with the Levin Town Centre Strategy.

The strategy outlines a bold vision for a more resilient and dynamic town centre. Earlier this year Council approved the sale of the Levin War Memorial Hall site for a mixed-use development, signalling momentum and that transformation is already underway.

By selling surplus land, Council aims to unlock private investment, delivering benefits to the community without adding extra costs to ratepayers.

Developers and investors can view the full EOI details at:  
[horowhenua.govt.nz/CarparkEOI](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/CarparkEOI)

**Questions close:** 5 pm, 22 October 2025

**Registrations close:** 5 pm, 29 October 2025

For more on the Levin Town Centre Transformation visit:

[horowhenua.govt.nz/LevinTownCentreTransformation](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/LevinTownCentreTransformation)



## In the Works

Work to replace the main inlet pipe at the Levin wastewater treatment plant is going at pace. By the end of October 600m of 60-year-old old concrete pipe, which is cracked in places, will have been replaced with new polyethylene pipe.

Out on the roads, the Higgins Concrete team has been busy on Rugby Street in Levin, renewing sections of the footpath by replacing damaged and uneven concrete.

In Shannon contractors are laying the asphalt footpath on Ballance Street, and working on the rip and remake work on Kara Road.



NEW LEVIN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT INLET PIPE



ASPHALTING ON BALLANCE STREET, SHANNON

## Horowhenua Tertiary Education Scholarship

Looking for a unique work experience? How about Local Government? If so, you might be eligible to apply for a Horowhenua District Council Tertiary Education Scholarship.

**Applications close on Monday 20 October 2025.**

For more information please visit or contact us on:

[horowhenua.govt.nz/Scholarship](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/Scholarship)  
[suehtp@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:suehtp@horowhenua.govt.nz) or  
(06) 366 0999

Horowhenua  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Diwali

Join us for a vibrant celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights

**NOV 8** Saturday 8 November from 5-9pm  
Gladys Taylor Park, Levin  
**FREE EVENT**

Diwali celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, & renewal of life. Festivities are organised in collaboration with our Indian community and will provide an opportunity to learn and engage with the rich traditions of Indian culture.

Horowhenua  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Free Event

# KORU BEATS

The youth of Horowhenua are hitting the stage at Koru Beats, showcasing rising talent from across the rohe.

Don't miss the chance to see these up-and-coming artists perform live for the first time!

**OCT 18** Saturday 18 October, 10am - 3pm  
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

[TeTakeretangaokura-hau-po.org.nz](https://TeTakeretangaokura-hau-po.org.nz)

Horowhenua  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō  
Horowhenua Culture & Community Centre

info@horowhenua.govt.nz  
06 368 1953 te.takere

# GET READY TO Shake Out

16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 9.30AM

OUR NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE DRILL AND TSUNAMI HIKOI

SIGN UP AT [SHAKEOUT.GOV.TZ](https://SHAKEOUT.GOV.TZ)

SIGN UP!



## » 13A Kawi Road LEVIN

**BEO \$595,000**



### PACKED AND READY TO GO

No mucking about here! The house is all but packed and the current owner is ready to move. This creates a blank canvas for you to envisage placing your furniture and moving right in. With a stylish modern kitchen and bathroom, three bedrooms, an ensuite, two decks and a double garage, this is too good to miss!

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1981](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1981)  
**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.45AM - 12.15PM**

**Adriana Wilton**  
0297766902  
[adriana@wiltonandco.nz](mailto:adriana@wiltonandco.nz)

## » 156 Winchester Street LEVIN

**DEADLINE SALE**



### PACKED WITH POTENTIAL

Just a short stroll to town, this property on 1057m2 section is bursting with potential inside and out. Opportunities like this don't come along every day! Whether you're looking to roll up your sleeves and breathe new life into the existing three bedroom home, or explore subdivision and development possibilities (with council approval), the options here are exciting. With a solid footprint to work from, you can transform the home into a modern family haven with space to play.

**Deadline Sale (Unless Sold Prior) Closes 10am, 14 October 2025, Wilton & Co, 530 Queen Street East, Levin**

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1977](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1977)  
**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.30PM-1PM**  
**Adriana Wilton**  
0297766902  
[adriana@wiltonandco.nz](mailto:adriana@wiltonandco.nz)

## » 174B Bartholomew Road LEVIN

**BEO \$535,000**



### LOW MAINTENANCE MODERN LIVING

Here you get to enjoy the simplicity of a home that's ready to just move in and live your best life. Recently redecorated throughout, this property offers modern comfort with a modern kitchen featuring sleek granite benchtops, an under bench oven, hob, and plenty of storage to keep things tidy. The spacious open plan dining and living area flows effortlessly, complemented by excellent flooring throughout. Two generously sized bedrooms include a master with a large double wardrobe, while a separate toilet and a modern tiled bathroom. Practicality is front of mind with a separate laundry and internal access single garage.

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1964](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1964)  
**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 1.15PM-1.45PM**  
**Adriana Wilton**  
0297766902  
[adriana@wiltonandco.nz](mailto:adriana@wiltonandco.nz)

## » 115B Bartholomew Road LEVIN

**BEO \$595,000**



### A HIDDEN GEM! EASY LIVING

Tucked away on a private rear section, this light-filled and inviting home is the perfect match for first home buyers or active retirees seeking comfort, space, and convenience. A bright, open-plan living area enhanced by charming chapel ceilings that create a wonderful sense of space. The living flows effortlessly to a sunny north-facing deck, plus there is a verandah, ideal for relaxed morning coffees or entertaining friends. The kitchen is open to the living area, making it easy to stay connected with family or guests. It features excellent bench space, ample storage, and a handy breakfast bar, perfect for casual dining or sharing a morning chat.

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1939](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1939)  
**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 2PM-2.30PM**  
**Adriana Wilton**  
0297766902  
[adriana@wiltonandco.nz](mailto:adriana@wiltonandco.nz)

## » 76 Parker Avenue LEVIN

**BY NEGOTIATION**



### MAKE YOUR MARK!

Positioned on a combined 918m2 (more or less) across two titles, this property includes a spacious four bedroom home set on a 587m2 section and (181 Bath Street) a 331m2 section complete with a shed, both are available to purchase together or separately. The 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 and the section is well fenced and private. It's ideal for those looking for their home, an investment, or future development. Buy just the house, or secure both

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1919](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1919)  
**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.45AM-12.15PM**  
**Adriana Wilton**  
0297766902  
[adriana@wiltonandco.nz](mailto:adriana@wiltonandco.nz)

## » 197A Tiro Tiro Road LEVIN

**ASKING \$599,000**



### ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES ON 1884M2

Welcome to 197a Tiro Tiro Road - an exciting and unusual proposition. Sitting proudly on a generous 1884m2 section, this spacious 154m2 home has been utilised for commercial purposes for almost 20 years. With residential zoning still in place, the opportunity is wide open, continue as a commercial venture (consent required), reimagine as a unique residential home, or create a work-from-home setup with serious space. Inside, the layout offers flexibility with two bedrooms and expansive living areas.

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1885](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1885)  
**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12PM-12.30PM**  
**Adriana Wilton**  
0297766902  
[adriana@wiltonandco.nz](mailto:adriana@wiltonandco.nz)

## » 190 Tiro Tiro Road LEVIN

**ASKING \$450,000**



### MODERN, LIGHT FILLED, AND MOVE IN READY

Step into this beautifully modernised 1970s gem, where timeless architecture meets contemporary style. Fully refreshed throughout, this two bedroom home showcases a modern colour palette and quality finishes that enhance its warm, welcoming feel. Sunlight floods the open plan kitchen, dining, and living area through expansive west facing windows, while doors open effortlessly to a spectacular deck, your perfect spot for entertaining or relaxing at the end of the day. Stay comfortable year - round with a heat pump, and enjoy the convenience of an internal access single garage. The bathroom is stylish and practical, featuring a shower and vanity.

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1938](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1938)  
**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12PM-12.30PM**  
**Adriana Wilton**  
0297766902  
[adriana@wiltonandco.nz](mailto:adriana@wiltonandco.nz)



» 121 North Manakau Road **MANAKAU**

**BEO \$799,000**



## CHARMING LIFESTYLE HOME ON 2.5 ACRES

Prepare to be captivated by this delightful 1940s bungalow, perfectly positioned in the heart of Manakau's most sought after lifestyle location. Inside you will discover an inviting open plan kitchen, dining, and lounge, featuring original matai floors and a cosy wood burner. French doors that open onto a sun-soaked deck, ideal for enjoying your evening while taking in spectacular sunset views. This home offers three bedrooms plus a dedicated office. The master bedroom with gorgeous views is a true retreat with a walk-in robe and ensuite. This is a must view property.

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1962](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1962)

**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11AM-11.30AM**

**Lynaire Cottle**  
0272224017  
lynair@wiltonandco.nz



» 1205 State Highway 57 **LEVIN**

**BEO \$1,295,000**



## A GRAND RETREAT

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. Inside, the home features four generous bedrooms, with the luxurious master suite privately positioned upstairs to take full advantage of the panoramic farmland views. Two large sheds, yards, and paddocks, ensure practicality for those looking to keep animals or enjoy the rural lifestyle.

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1954](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1954)

**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12PM-12.30PM**

**Lynaire Cottle**  
0272224017  
lynair@wiltonandco.nz



» 7 Harlech Street **LEVIN**

**BEO \$628,000**



## RENOVATED & READY

If you've been waiting for the perfect blend of modern style and family friendly living, this home delivers. Recently renovated throughout, it offers everything you need and more, on a generous section. The brand new kitchen with wall oven and gas hob flows seamlessly into the open plan dining and living area, creates the perfect hub for family living. Fresh paint and new carpet add a light, welcoming feel, while three well sized bedrooms provide space for the whole family. Two conservatories extend the living space, offering sunny retreats or extra room for family life. The bathroom is new, and the laundry includes the bonus of a second shower and toilet.

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1957](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1957)

**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 1.15PM-1.45PM**

**Lynaire Cottle**  
0272224017  
lynair@wiltonandco.nz



» 4 Rugby Street **LEVIN**

**BEO \$599,000**



## DOUBLE GLAZED BEAUTY

This beautifully kept 1950s home blends timeless character with stylish modern upgrades. Featuring two generous double bedrooms plus a single, it's ideal for families, couples, or smart investors. Experience year round comfort with full double glazing (aluminium joinery), a new roof installed in 2016, and a cosy Kent Fire. The home is fully insulated with Batts in the ceiling and Mammoth Insulation under the floor, ensuring excellent energy efficiency. The kitchen boasts a generous pantry and brand-new linoleum flooring, while the interior has been mostly refurbished with fresh paint and wallpaper throughout. The stylish Thermotech front door enhances both aesthetics and security.

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1924](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1924)

**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 2PM-2.30PM**

**Lynaire Cottle**  
0272224017  
lynair@wiltonandco.nz



» 76A Kennedy Drive **LEVIN**

**ASKING \$559,000**



## 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](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1979)

**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.45PM-1.15PM**

**Adriana Wilton**  
0297766902  
adriana@wiltonandco.nz



» 14 Okarito Avenue **LEVIN**

**BEO \$765,000**



## A STANDOUT IN OKARITO

Welcome to your new home, where modern comfort meets unbeatable location. Set in a highly sought after neighbourhood and zoned for popular Fairfield School, this spacious four bedroom residence offers the ideal lifestyle for families who want quality, convenience and room to grow. From the moment you arrive you will be impressed. Nestled on a private back section, this two level home combines timeless design with practical features including solar panels to help keep the energy costs down. Step inside and feel immediately at home, the light filled living area is the heart of the home, warm, inviting and perfect for both relaxed family evenings and entertaining guests.

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1960](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1960)

**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.15AM-11.45AM**

**Tracey Fraser**  
0210779062  
tracey@wiltonandco.nz



» 11 Duke Street **LEVIN**

**BY NEGOTIATION**



## MODERN COMFORT MEETS VERSATILE LIVING!

If you've been searching for a home that offers room to spread out, entertain in style, or comfortably accommodate extended family - this one's for you! This well presented property ticks all the boxes with a modern kitchen, open-plan living, and an updated bathroom that brings everyday comfort to the forefront. What truly sets this home apart is the separate wing - complete with its own bedroom, bathroom, and living area, ideal for teenagers, guests, or multigenerational living. With private access to the rear yard, it's a haven of independence and ease. Step outside and get ready to entertain! The dedicated bar area and outdoor space are perfect for summer BBQs.

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1911](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1911)

**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11AM-11.30AM**

**Adriana Wilton**  
0297766902  
adriana@wiltonandco.nz



» 48 Kings Drive **LEVIN**

**BY NEGOTIATION**



## SPACE, STYLE & POOLSIDE LIVING

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 sparkling inground freshwater pool - the perfect setting for summer barbecues, family fun, and relaxed evenings with friends. Inside, a separate lounge with inbuilt sliding doors provides a cosy retreat or can be opened up for larger gatherings. The home features three spacious bedrooms

Ref : [www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1927](http://www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1927)

**OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.30PM-1PM**

**Ryan Watson**  
0223554790  
ryan@wiltonandco.nz







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# HĪTŌRIA/History

FOXTON CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS 70 YEARS AGO

Compiled by Debbi Carson



Foxton Little Theatre members re-enacted the arrival of settlers in Foxton from Paiaka as part of the Foxton Centennial celebrations on Labour Weekend in 1955. In the photograph above, the settlers, led by Neil Hunt (representing Rev James Duncan), move up the bank from the river. Included in the photograph are Don Rickerby, Robin Thompson, Kay Hunt, Katrina Cade, Mona Hannay, Neil Hunt.

*Photo taken by F H Murray, Foxton*  
*All photos courtesy of Foxton Historical Society.*



Foxton Junior Brass Band, 1955. Those in the photograph include (order unknown): W or F Blacklock, L Cobcroft, R Mence, W Kauri, T Healy, D Cobcroft, B Quillan, W Van Brugge, P Skogstad, A Cobcroft, J Lewis, A Lewis, E Van Brugge, N Walls, W Holden, H Skogstad, M Skogstad, R Sayer, K Walls, J White, W Melton, C Nixon, D Walls, K Perreau, C Sexton, C Stokes, R Skogstad, M Perreau.



Left: Neil Hunt as Rev J Duncan accepts a Māori challenge on arrival at Te Awahou, as part of the Foxton Centennial celebrations in 1955. A report at the time said: “Men, women and children dressed up for a re-enactment to commemorate the landing of pioneers on the banks of the Manawatu River. Mr Neil Hunt portrayed the first Presbyterian minister, The Reverend James Duncan. The original landing occurred because of the disaster of 1855, when an earthquake badly damaged the settlement of Paiaka. Consequently, the Anglican Community moved downriver to Foxton, or Te Awahou as it was called then.”



Cochran’s cycle float in the Foxton Centennial Parade 1955 passes Booth’s garage.



Horse-and-carts in the 1955 Foxton Centennial parade passing Perreau’s building. A clown is on a unicycle and another man is riding a penny farthing bicycle.



# Sport/Racing

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## Soft-track hopes for Archaic Smile

**Cambridge trainer Hollie Wynyard is hoping the weather gods serve up conditions to suit her talented mare Archaic Smile, who lines up in the \$120,000 Group 3 Fastinternet.nz Spring Sprint (1400m) feature race at the Ōtaki-Māori racecourse tomorrow.**

It's a homecoming of sorts for both horse and trainer. Hollie spent the best part of 20 years living in Ōtaki before a move north to Cambridge two years ago, which has borne fruit.



"She has come up really well," she says.

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NAU MAI, HAERE MAI!

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**[www.otakimaoriracing.co.nz](http://www.otakimaoriracing.co.nz)**

**TAB.**

Expert Picks.... 4-Sam's Turn 2-Trauma 1-Complex			
<b>R5</b>	<b>HARCOURTS OTAKI PREMIER \$65000 1200m</b>	<b>2:57pm</b>	
<b>Win</b>	<b>PLC, TLA, GFA, DBL, Legz, QAD Legz, TRB Legz</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>Name, Carrier, Trainer</b>	<b>Jockey (allowance) kg (Rtg)</b>	
1	62261 Shobwashtan Coe (8) Mike Breslin	Avery Rendell (2) 61.5 (R8)	
2	13131 Tolstoy (11) Ivone Kelly	Kate Hercuroc (2) 59.5 (R74)	
3	21153 Cypress (10) Kevin Myers	Liam Karaci (2) 59 (R73)	
4	32113 Jethro Tull (5) Brent Gillovic	Craig Doyle 58.5 (R72)	
5	3130X Aquilifer (3) Sam Mynott	Joe Gynle 58 (R75)	
6	31232 Honey Badger (13) Tony Pike	58 (R75)	
7	X123X Erin Go Bragh (9) Stephen Marsh	Wiremu Pinn 58 (R71)	

Expert Picks.... 9-Sacred Zed 4-Intoxicated 8-Rosesrred

## Sub-par Awapuni awaits further assessment

– NZ Racing newsdesk - [loveracing.co.nz](http://loveracing.co.nz)

**Levin** (week ending October 5)  
Monday – Speldhurst 9 Hole Stableford: Rau  
Ferguson 18, Stu Bryant 17, Mick Thomson 15.  
Tuesday – Stableford: Gavin Jones 37, Ian Morby  
37, Sam Bartosh 36. Twos: Sam Bartosh, Peter  
Bull, Gavin Jones. Wednesday – 9 Hole Mixed Irish  
Stableford: Wayne James 40, Patricia Van Der Velden  
40, Lance Heger 35. Birdies: Jeremy Smith. Thursday  
– Early Men Net: Kevin Campbell 72, Ian Morby 74,  
Wayne Askew 75. Late Men Stableford: Brian Leslie

**Foxton**  
9 Hole (Wednesday, October 8)  
Hidden Partners Nett Score: Carol Kupa & Charlie Matenga 78, Sylvia & Kevin Young 79, Ruth Williams & Clint Taylor 80, Jennifer Sexton & Geoff McBrydie 80, Diane Eveleigh & Steve Kupa 82, Rae Jack & Stephen Hanna 87.



# Picklehead Moana a champion

By Paul Williams

**Horowhenua Pickleball has its first national champion less than two years since the local club formed.**

Moana Hohepa, 12, recently represented the club at the NZ Pickleball Open in Auckland, winning gold in a mixed doubles graded event against adults.

But she almost didn't make it there. Her regular playing partner was forced to withdraw just two weeks before the competition, and her title hopes looked dashed. A call went out and was answered by 26-year-old Christchurch player Sam Green. Both he and Moana took a leap of faith as they had never met before the tournament, and paired up on the court for the first time that morning.

The nerves settled quickly and they proved to be a formidable combination, winning nine games in succession on their way to a gold medal in the 3.5DUPR Mixed Doubles event. DUPR stands for Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating.

Moana says it was great to form a good partnership with Sam straight away and just settle in to playing and enjoying pickleball.



WINNERS: Benji Hohepa and Laurie Smith, and Lena Borck with Katie de Roo. Photos supplied

"I was nervous at the start but got more and more confident throughout the games and enjoyed all the support that was there and from home," she says. "And I'm very grateful to Sam, too."

Horowhenua Pickleball deputy president Mandy Fryer says it was a fantastic result for the club and the players could be proud, especially Moana.

"She is small in stature and people underestimate her and she can more than hold her own against adults. She is quite a handful and has a bright future."

It was the first time Horowhenua has sent players to the tournament. Moana's father, Benji Hohepa, teamed up with Laurie Smith to win bronze in the 50plus (4.0DUPR) men's doubles representing the Horowhenua club.

Moana and her father both have a background in badminton, but took an instant liking to pickleball, a hybrid sport combining elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis.



The game was invented in 1965 when Washington friends Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum used badminton courts, ping-pong paddles, and a plastic perforated ball. It has gone from backyard recreation to a world-wide sport in short time.

Pickleball arrived in New Zealand 10 years ago. It was first played in Rotorua and quickly spread.

The Horowhenua Pickleball club had 60 people turn up when it formed in April 2023, and participation continues to grow. Affectionally referred to as "pickleheads", the club has more than 130 members and club days (Monday, 11am-1pm, Thursday and Sunday 6pm-8pm) regularly attract 70 players or more.

The club uses the three-basketball court arena at Horowhenua Events Centre and also organises and hosts major tournaments.

Meanwhile, in more good news for the club, Lena Borck and Katie de Roo teamed up with Graeme Fowler and James O'Hare to win bronze in the competitive 3.75DUPR Mixed Doubles against 13 other teams at the Wellington Regional tournament at the weekend.

Mandy says the local club focusses on inclusivity and fun.

"We're a community club so we are all about community – manaakitanga," she says.



Moana Hohepa, 12, who is now a national pickleball champion.

## Key players back for semi clash

By Paul Williams

**Horowhenua-Kāpiti will be back to full strength for their Heartland competition Lochore Cup semi-final against Whanganui tomorrow with the return of experienced players in key positions.**

Captain and first five-eighth Kahn Fotuali'i, vice-captain and lock Dallas Wiki, halfback TJ Barnsley and experienced wing Willie Pai'aua were all missing in the narrow loss to South Canterbury last weekend.

All four have been cleared for a return for a match that will give Horowhenua-Kāpiti a chance to win a trophy they have held just once before, in 2018, when they beat Wairarapa Bush 26-23 – the year HKRU celebrated its 125th jubilee.

There are just three players in the current squad to have suppld from the Lochore Cup after playing in that final – prop Dave McErlean, flanker Aaron Lahmert and wing Willie Pai'aua.

A Whanganui weather forecast that looks windy and wee bit wet could be to Horowhenua-Kāpiti's favour, with a big mobile forward pack and some size in the midfield with second five-eighth Emmanuel Solomon and centre Connor Paki.

Should Horowhenua-Kāpiti beat Whanganui tomorrow, it would set up a final against either Poverty Bay in Gisborne, or North Otago in Oamaru.

An under-strength Horowhenua-Kāpiti team went down 31-21 to South Canterbury in what was a good effort considering they were down three tries in the first 15 minutes.

The bounce of the ball went the way of the home team early and the took a big lead early.



Captain Kahn Fotuali'i (centre) returns to the Horowhenua-Kāpiti team for the semi-final after missing last week's game. Photo Tyler McKnight

Horowhenua-Kāpiti fought back and were the dominant side for much of the second half, but were unable to bridge the gap.

There was plenty at stake for South Canterbury. The win gave them a home semi-final for the Meads Cup against Thames Valley, while the unbeaten Mid Canterbury host Wairarapa Bush at the Ashburton Showgrounds.

Horowhenua-Kapiti were able to blood three debutantes in that match: Josh Sanson, Harry Press and Cameron Bond.

At Fraser Park, Timaru: South Canterbury 31 (Kalavini Leatigaga, Clarence Moli, Sireli Masi 2, Salesitangi Savelio tries, Willie Wright 3 con) beat Horowhenua-Kāpiti 21 (George Jacobs, Joeli Rauka, Pene To'o tries, Rory Woollett 3 con). Team for Saturday against Whanganui: George Jacobs, Harry Press, Ted Northcott, Dallas Wiki, Mikaere Harvey, Alby Hemopo, Jack Sturme/Brad Reilly, Pene To'o, TJ Barnsley, Kahn Fotuali'i, Jayson Aquila, Emanuel Solomon, Connor Paki, Joeli Rauca, Max Hosking, Jeremy David, David McErlean, Stephen Burnell, Michael Laursen, Tema Tihema/Rory Woollett, Brad Reilly/Aaron Lahmert, Darren Falaniko, Willie Paiaua.

## Catriona Finau McKay



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**GROWTH:** Ensuring we have a vision and fit for purpose infrastructure so more and better houses and jobs are created for our people.

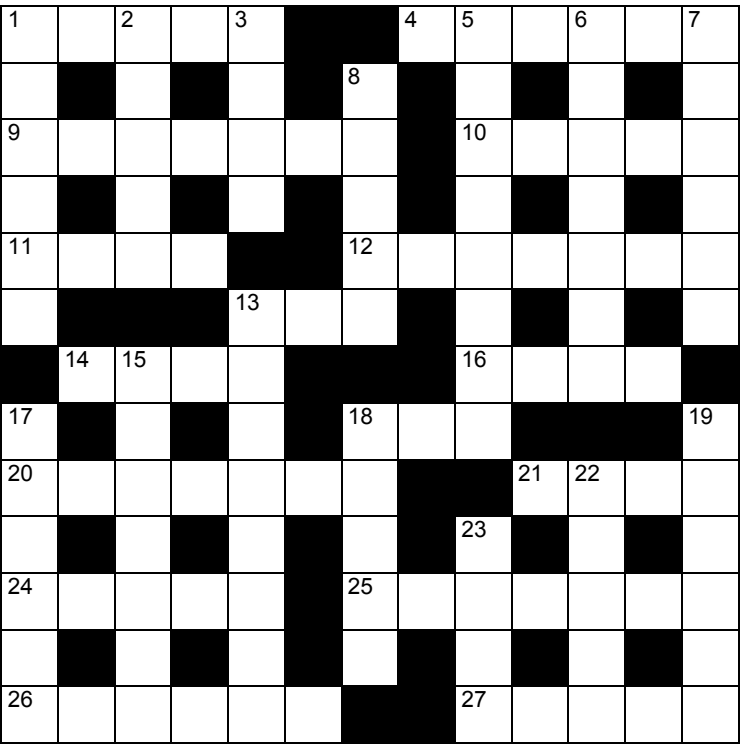
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Authorised by Catriona Finau McKay: cfinaumckay@gmail.com

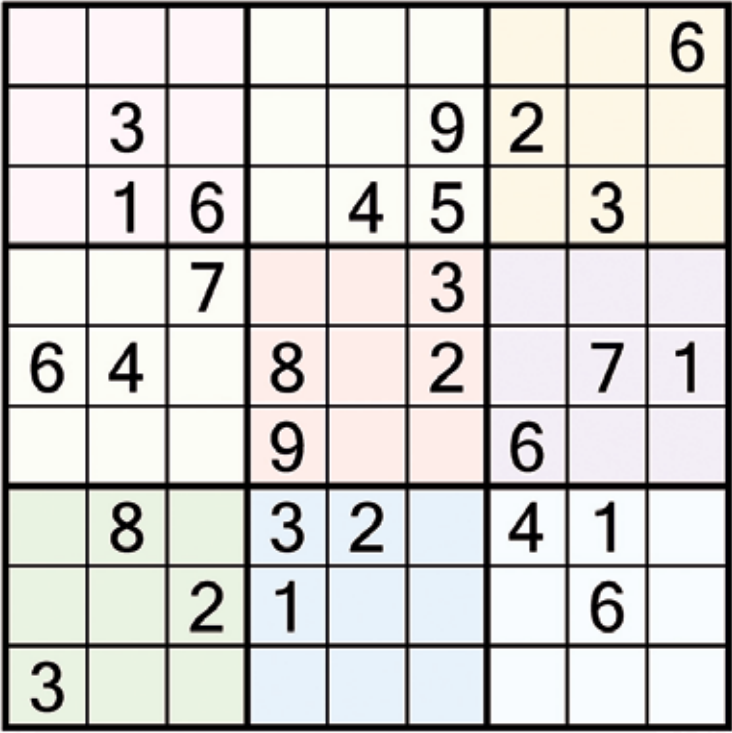


THE CROSSWORD #NZ1954E (answers below right)



- ACROSS**  
1. Slightly sticky (5)  
4. Set to (6)  
9. Creature on former 5c coin (7)  
10. Deduce (5)  
11. Impetuous (4)  
12. Outside NZ, it's a drop scone (7)  
13. Annual illness (3)  
14. Resound (4)  
16. Christchurch suburb, home to the University of Canterbury (4)  
18. An amusing type (colloq) (3)  
20. Electric transport popular in NZ cities (7)  
21. Badly behaved child (inf) (4)  
24. Theatre attendant (5)  
25. Useless person (colloq) (2,5)  
26. Snare (6)  
27. Golfer's assistant (5)
- DOWN**  
1. Native tree which was used for fence posts and railway sleepers (6)  
2. School group (5)  
3. A school's annual intake (4)  
5. Popular term for a 1980s economic strategy by the Muldoon government (5,3)  
6. Sprouting pea (7)  
7. Martial art (6)  
8. Northland town that has held a highland games at New Year for 150 years (5)  
13. One of NZ's largest companies (8)  
15. Handcraft (7)  
17. Shrewd (6)  
18. Flying device (5)  
19. One level of a building (6)  
22. Fast-moving section of a river (5)  
23. Stylish (4)

**SUDOKU PUZZLES** [thepuzzlecompany.co.nz](http://thepuzzlecompany.co.nz)  
EASY #97E 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.



**LIFE GETS EASIER**  
when you stop fighting it.  
The rain will fall whether you complain or not. Traffic will exist whether you stress or not. People will act how they want whether you worry or not. Focus on what you can change.  
Let go of what you can't.

Forget the former things;  
do not dwell on the past.  
See, I am doing a new thing!

Isaiah 43:18-19

**WOW QUIZ**  
Did you go to WOW this year? Were you WOWED?  
Answers below.

- What does the acronym WOW stand for?
- What year did WOW start?
- Where was it first held?
- When did WOW move to its current centre?
- Who created WOW?
- WOW toured an international exhibition of 32 award winning garments in what years?
- Which four countries did this international exhibition visit?
- After the 2020 WOW Show was cancelled due to COVID-19, what happened to the show that year?
- WOW held its largest show ever in 2022, How many attended its three week season?
- Which Ōtaki artist won The 2025 Dame Suzie Moncrieff Award?

**WORD SEARCH: DAVE DOBBYN SONGS**  
answers page 19

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

ANGELINA  
BESIDE YOU  
LANGUAGE  
MY KINDA PEOPLE  
DEVIL YOU KNOW  
WHALING  
SLICE OF HEAVEN

KINGDOM COME  
TELL THE WORLD  
LAP OF THE GODS  
WELCOME HOME  
NAKED FLAME  
SHAKY ISLES  
LOYAL

**CROSSWORD #1954E ANSWERS**  
**Across:** 1. Tacky, 4. Attack, 9. Tuatara, 10. Infer, 11. Rash, 12. Pikelet, 13. Flu, 14. Echo, 16. Ilam, 18. Dag, 20. Scooter, 21. Brat, 24. Usher, 25. No hopper, 26. Entrap, 27. Caddy.  
**DOWN:** 1. Tōtara, 2. Class, 3. Year, 5. Think Big, 6. Alfalfa, 7. Karate, 8. Waipū, 13. Fonterra, 15. Crochet, 17. Astute, 18. Drone, 19. Storey, 22. Rapid, 23. Chic.

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Levin Lucky Lotto – Oxford Street  
Mall Lotto – Levin Mall  
New World, Bath Street  
Property Brokers, 1 Bristol Street  
Queenwood Road Dairy  
Ray White, 118a Oxford Street  
Te Takeretanga Library, Bath Street  
Tremains Real Estate – 265a Oxford St  
Wilton & Co, 530 Queen St East  
Woolworths, cnr Bristol/Stanley St

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**FOXTON BEACH**  
Foxton Beach Community Centre

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Tokomaru Dairy



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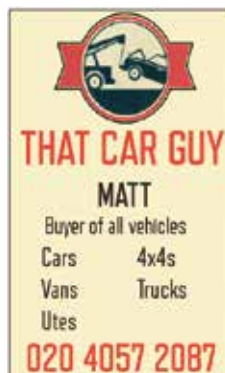


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**October 10-17**

<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/whanganui-manawatu/tides/locations/foxton>

<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/kapiti-wellington/tides/locations/waitarere-beach>

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 10 OCT 00:33 07:09 13:00 19:32 -

SAT 11 OCT 01:20 07:56 13:48 20:23 -

SUN 12 OCT 02:12 08:46 14:42 21:21 -

MON 13 OCT 03:12 09:43 15:46 22:29 -

TUE 14 OCT 04:21 10:50 17:04 23:45 -

WED 15 OCT 05:40 12:10 18:28 - -

THU 16 OCT - 01:03 07:00 13:30 19:40

FRI 17 OCT - 02:10 08:08 14:35 20:35

**WAITAREBE BEACH**

HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH

FRI 10 OCT - 06:07 12:15 18:30 -

SAT 11 OCT 00:35 06:54 13:03 19:21 -

SUN 12 OCT 01:27 07:44 13:57 20:19 -

MON 13 OCT 02:27 08:41 15:01 21:27 -

TUE 14 OCT 03:36 09:48 16:19 22:43 -

WED 15 OCT 04:55 11:08 17:43 - -

THU 16 OCT - 00:01 06:15 12:28 18:55

FRI 17 OCT - 01:08 07:23 13:33 19:50

**SUDOKU SOLUTION #97E**

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

**WORD SEARCH ANSWERS**

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

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