



Retailers guttered

Leaves block gutters, walls drip

By Paul Williams

No-one is alive today who would have helped plant 65 little trees along Oxford Street in 1897. The few that remain are massive now and look pretty in their autumn hue, but don't be fooled.

The London Plane trees were planted in Levin's town centre in the 19th century as vestiges to Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, but there is little cause for celebration now as they are causing massive headaches for retailers and costing ratepayers money.

Beneath the surface their sprawling roots are slowly lifting pavements, their giant leaves are blocking internal gutters causing shops to flood. Outside, customers get wet socks exiting their cars as leaves plug stormwater drains.

Many retailers just want them gone, citing they are no longer fit for purpose.

Levin businessman Bruce Little says the problem is much bigger than people realise. He's been trying to bring attention to the issue for more than 20 years, suggesting it's costing huge money for businesses and ratepayers alike.

"There is a reason some overseas cities have them banned," he says.

Bryan Wilton of Chainey's pays to have leaves cleaned from the shop roof, otherwise the internal drains block, sending water running down the inside of the shopfront's automatic doors.

"It's bullshit. People walking through the door get a shower and mowers we are trying to sell out the front get wet," he says. "The roots buckle the pavement and you see people trip all the time."



Guthrie Bowron paint and paper specialist Graham Hook with some of the giant leaves that block gutters.

Photo Paul Williams

David Hall of The Sponge Kitchen is greeted by puddles of water when he opens the shop if there has been heavy rain the night before. Like other shops, leaves clog internal gutters, sending water running down the inside of walls.

"If I know there's rain coming I get up on the roof and fill up bags and bags of leaves," he says.

One shopkeeper, who didn't want to be named, didn't mince words.

"They've just gotta go. No cars can park outside when it rains because they're up to their ankles in water when they hop out," he says. "You can say what you like . . . they [trees] are no longer fit for purpose. That's all there is to it."

Paint and paper specialist Graham Hook of Guthrie Bowron says their shop floods in heavy overnight rain, too, and they've had to replace rotten carpet. Guthrie Bowron owner Peter

Murphy says some businesses were struggling to get insurance due to the number of times their shops are flooded.

"They're a financial burden to business owners," he says.

The roots of the trees are lifting the pavement and there have been incidents of people tripping and falling, he says.

continues page 7

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What's on AROUND HOROWHENUA

PALMERSTON NORTH WOMEN'S LIFESTYLE EXPO

Saturday and Sunday May 17-18
10am-4pm

Fly Palmy Arena

61 Pascal St, Palmerston North

The ultimate girls' day out with shopping, pampering and mouth-watering indulgences. Featuring 150 lifestyle companies, including gourmet food and beverages, fashion and beauty, jewellery, health and wellness, artisan goods, art, homeware, eco-products and much more. Goodie Bags \$20. Door sales available, or tickets online at womenslifestyleexpo.co.nz/palmerstonnorth

FOXTON CROP SWAP

Third Sunday each month,
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Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Bring anything to do with gardening: seedlings, cuttings, seeds, suplua produce, pots, plants, gardenong magazines. Meet others, get ideas, take home surplus. And if you don't have anything to bring at the moment, join us to share what we have, and learn growing tips from each other. Check out Foxton Crop Swap Facebook page for details.



PINK RIBBON WOMEN IN BUSINESS LUNCH

Wednesday 28 May

The Pizza Factory

38 Cambridge St South, Levin

12.30-2.30pm

Guest speaker Sarah-Jayne Shine is celebrating 10 years in business. She is the creative force behind Lemonface Creative, a local visionary, resilient storyteller, and true inspiration. In her talk, "Thriving is rebellion", Sarah-Jayne will share her journey of transforming adversity into artistry, blending dark humour, creative grit, and giving back. Help us raise \$1250 for the Breast Cancer Foundation. If you have a voucher or item you wish to donate to raise funds, please contact info@thcl.nz by May 23. Hosted by The Horowhenua Company.

ŌPIKI YOUNG FARMERS' BALL NIGHT AT THE GRAMMYS

Saturday 24 May, from 6.45pm
Opiki School Hall

Live music, cash and eftpos bar, cheap drinks and delicious catered food from Fast Fuel Rotisserie. Dress attire formal. Strictly R18 - NO ID, NO ENTRY. Tickets: Ōpiki Young Farmers FB - facebook.com/opiki

FRIDAY CONCERTS

Friday May 16 and 23, 2025, 12-1pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pōio
Bath St, Levin

Drop in and enjoy free live music every Friday lunchtime. The Horowhenua boasts a plethora of seasoned musicians with musical stylings across a diverse range of genres. Pull up a chair for a relaxing hour of live music in the main space, or just listen to the music in the background as you wander through browsing for a good read.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT LIBRARY QUIZ Wednesday 21 May 7-9pm

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-po,
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Iwi get first right of refusal

By Janine Baalbergen

Horowhenua District Council has passed a property strategy amendment that gives iwi and hapū the first right of refusal if the council wants to dispose of land or buildings deemed to be non-core and surplus to requirements.

Three councillors at Wednesday’s council meeting voted against: Sam Jennings, Mike Barker and Ross Brannigan.

The issue was first raised in July 2023 and has been included in the Actions Monitoring Reports at every council meeting, a council spokesperson said.

“The initial report was brought to an open council meeting in December 2023, it was left on the table with the direction to get more feedback from iwi/hapū. It was then brought back in December 2024 in an open meeting where it was left on the table again.

“Most recently, the kaupapa was discussed in an open council workshop where further direction was sought from councillors in March 2025. The briefing ended when councillors started debating and it was then said a report should be brought back as soon as possible for decision.”

Councillor Rogan Boyle, who attended the meeting via internet,



“This is about partnership and relationships with iwi.”
– Mayor Bernie Wanden

said the vote was about honouring obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi.

“This is just a small step towards justice,” he said. “Māori deserve far more than this. What is really racist is ignoring Māori and the history of confiscations and broken promises.”

Councillor Sam Jennings said the policy was based on ideology and identify politics. He argued for council’s prudent stewardship and the need to seek the best possible price to reduce debt.

“Only the bidding process reveals the true price,” he said.



“This is ideology, not evidence, Council does not have obligations to honour the treaty. . . .”
– Cr Sam Jennings

He wants council to publish a list of surplus property for everyone to see and bid on.

“This is ideology, not evidence. Council does not have obligations to honour the treaty as Cr Boyle argues. He misunderstands that.”

Cr Jonathan Procter said the policy was a step towards providing transparency.

“It provides a clear mechanism for iwi.”

Cr Justin Tamihana said iwi just wanted to understand this process and what would be considered core and non-core.



“We should honour what hasn’t been honoured. Māori are looking for help and for opportunities.”
– Cr Justin Tamihana

He felt some of the comments made by others were hurtful.

“I am looking at families who lost their land eons ago,” he said. “For example their tupuna were fighting in the trenches of World War 1 and when they came home found they had lost their land, which was deemed to have been abandoned and thus confiscated. Their sense of loss is still real.”

He said council reprioritises and reviews policies all the time.

“We should honour what hasn’t been honoured. Māori are looking for help and for opportunities.

“Do the right thing.” Deputy Mayor David Allan urged all councillors to have their say.

“There is public interest in this. Do not abstain. You are being elected to have an opinion. Be accountable.”

He said there was no secrecy involved throughout this process.

“The process is robust and can be challenged. Debt reduction can still occur under this process.”

He said racism is about history, such as land confiscations.

“We can still engage and get a good price.”

Mayor Bernie Wanden said the policy was not about racism or money.

“This is about partnership and relationships with iwi.”

He reminded all councillors that at their installation as councillors they promised to uphold the Treaty of Waitangi, its principles, and the kaitiaki role of local iwi.

He said precedents for selling council land other than the open market had already been set, such as sales to Kāinga Ora and The Horowhenua Company.

Cr Nina Hori Te Pa said: “This is good governance, though it was hard to get together, taking two years.”

Cr Clint Grimstone saw it as providing future opportunities for Māori to contribute to the local economy.

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Ōtaki to north of Levin
community drop-in
sessions

The Ōtaki to north of Levin new highway project team are working to create a positive legacy for the region while we build a new, safer, efficient, and more reliable State Highway 1 (SH1) from Ōtaki to north of Levin.

Between Wednesday 21 May and Thursday 29 May, we’re hosting a series of community drop-in sessions in your area.

Over the last few months, we’ve been working to develop the design of the new highway. These sessions provide you a chance to find out more about the updated design, ahead of construction starting in Spring this year.

Ōtaki to north of Levin new highway drop-in sessions

Location	Date	Time
Ō2NL Levin project office 171 Oxford Street, Levin	Wednesday 21 May	3pm to 7pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō (area by the cafe) 10 Bath Street, Levin	Saturday 24 May	11am to 2pm
Manakau Hall, 12 Mokena Kohere Street, Manakau	Tuesday 27 May	3pm to 6pm
Ohau Hall, 14 Muhunoa West Road, Ohau	Wednesday 28 May	3pm to 6pm
Ōtaki Memorial Hall, next to the library, Main Street, Ōtaki	Thursday 29 May	3pm to 6pm

Find out more info@o2nl.nz 0508 625 4636 nzta.govt.nz/o2nl

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The Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 help by setting out your responsibilities to manage the trees on your property. They also include our responsibilities to inform you and advice on how you can manage your trees.

YOUR TREES & POWER SUPPLY

Property owners and electricity distribution (lines) companies have a legal responsibility to ensure the safety and security of electricity supply for people, businesses, and communities.

Trees and vegetation growing too close to power lines are a key cause of unplanned power outages. That's why the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations are important. It sets out what property owners and Electra are obligated to do to keep everyone safe.

Here's what you need to know about your responsibilities.

THE DANGERS OF TREES NEAR POWER LINES

If trees or branches come into contact with power lines it can cause damage, widespread outages, and create risk of serious injury or death.

As a property owner, you're responsible for any trees on your property, and could be liable for the significant cost of any damage to power lines. That's why it's important to check trees or hedges regularly and take appropriate action if they do pose a risk. If you're unsure what to do, contact us for advice.

Trees need to be kept at a safe distance from power equipment because:

- Children who climb trees close to power lines are at risk of serious injury or death.
- In severe weather, vegetation can become electrically 'live' and may pose an electrocution risk.
- Trees can fall during bad weather, damaging power lines and causing outages.

- Trees close to power lines may cause electrical sparking, resulting in fire.
- Tree roots can grow around underground electricity cables, damaging the insulation and causing power supply failure.

MAINTAINING A SAFE DISTANCE

In October 2024, the Regulations were updated to increase the minimum safe distances between trees and power lines, and a new 'clear to the sky' requirement for some trees. There is a grace period relating to these until 16 October 2026.

If your tree is growing within the Cut-back or Notice Zone (Tree A), you may get a legal notice saying your trees must be trimmed soon because they're getting too close to power equipment.

Should they reach the Growth Limit Zone (Tree B), you will get a legal notice requiring them to be trimmed, which can be done by Electra or an Electra approved contractor.

MANAGING TREES NEAR POWER LINES

Cutting or trimming trees in the vicinity of power lines is dangerous. Touching a live power line or a tree close to the line can result in serious injury, or even death by fatal electric shock.

RESPONSIBILITY

According to the Regulations, no person is permitted within four metres (Controlled Access Zone) of a power line without prior approval from Electra.

Therefore, only Electra or an Electra approved contractor can be used to safely trim or cut down trees growing within four metres of any power line. Request a quote to have your trees trimmed by Electra's certified team of arborists at: [www.electra.co.nz/contact us](http://www.electra.co.nz/contact-us).

FELLING TREES NEAR POWER LINES

Check there is a distance of at least twice the height of the tree between the tree and any nearby power lines. If it is within this distance you will need to use Electra or an Electra approved contractor, or you could be liable for the cost of any damage to our network if the tree lands on our lines – not to mention the potential safety risk of coming into contact with live lines!

NOTICES

Electra continually checks the network for trees and vegetation that pose a risk to power equipment. You'll receive a Notice if your trees need attention under the Regulations.

You can also declare no interest in your trees near our network. That means you won't be liable for damage the tree causes to the lines, and that we have permission to carry out necessary safety work, including removal.

FIRST CUT OR TRIM

Electra may cover the cost to perform the first cut or trim on a tree encroaching on a power line, if the following conditions apply, or are met:

- according to Electra's records, the trees have not been subject to a previous cut or trim at our cost.
- the trees are not around a service line.
- the trees have not been the subject of a previous agreement, and
- the tree owner grants access to the site.

If all of these conditions apply, Electra will issue you with a Notice and perform the work at no charge to you.

SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT CUT OR TRIM

After that you're responsible for taking care of the trees on your property. This includes organising and paying for Electra or an Electra approved contractor to trim them safely if they're close to power equipment.

Being proactive and inspecting your trees will help ensure the power can stay on for everyone.

Please note that if your trees cause any problems on the electricity network, you may be charged for all repair costs.

FINES

You can be fined up to \$10,000 if you don't comply with written requests to cut/trim your trees or don't tell us the work is taking place. We need a minimum of 3 days' notice.

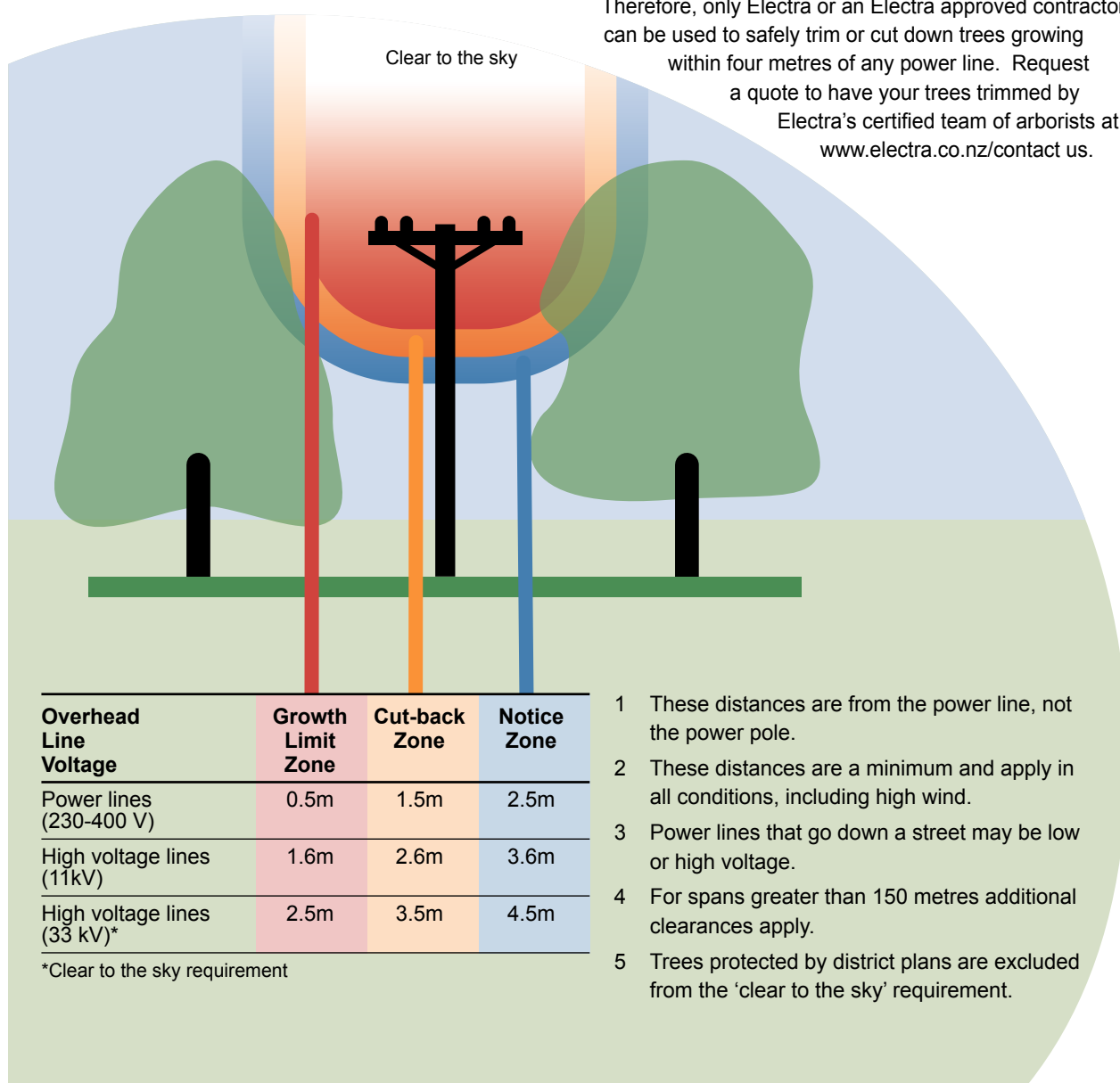
You can also be fined an additional \$500 for every day this doesn't happen.

If your trees are deemed an immediate danger to the network, we're obligated to remove the hazard. If you haven't kept your trees clear of power lines or not returned the required paperwork, you'll be responsible for all the costs we incur to remove the hazard.

CHAT TO US

Your experience with us is important. If we haven't met your expectations for any reason, please let us know so we can discuss it with you.

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www.electra.co.nz



'Positive effect' from garden

By Paul Williams

Corrections staff at Levin are excited by the positive effect a community garden can have on those serving a community-based sentence imposed by the courts for their crimes.

Senior practitioner Lisa Roiri says the benefits of the community garden are three-fold: knowledge about growing food is shared, the food grown is donated to those in need, and it provides those on a sentence with meaningful community work.

"They can see what their work can provide and can take pride from that," she says.

"It's going to be a really good project once it's fully up and running."

The community garden at Levin Equine Training Facility on Mako Mako Road complements other valuable community work they facilitate, like mowing and tending to urupa, and it is local food charities that will benefit from the food that is grown.

"We know people are struggling for money and food, so if we can do this, why not?" she says.

Community work supervisor Jim Barker says all aspects of growing are involved, and being located at an equine training facility means there's a steady supply of manure, which helps the produce to thrive.

"At the very least they have the opportunity to learn how to grow



ABOVE: Jim Barker and Linda Lake at Te Awahou Kai.

LEFT: Corrections senior practitioner Lisa Roiri and community work supervisor Jim Barker with one of the garden beds that were made and donated by her father.

Photo Paul Williams

vegetables, which they can then use in their own garden – the skills to help feed themselves and their families," she says.

"They can learn life skills that can feed whānau."

The garden had worked before. More than 10 years ago it had been alive and thriving under lead service manager Mark Cookson.

Now it's a case of breathing new life into something that has been proven to work. There are plans to plant fruits trees such as apple, plum and feijoa.

"They can see the fruits of their labour, they're doing for others and that's what community work is meant to be, to give back to the community," Lisa says.

Some people completing a sentence of community service have said they will come and help out, even after they've finished serving their sentence.

Lisa says if other community groups wanted to help they would be welcome to pitch in on a Monday or Tuesday when the team from Corrections weren't there.

She says it's important to acknowledge all businesses and individuals who had supported the community garden through the donation of materials, and Levin Racing Club for donating use of the land.

Racing club president Shawn Hawkins says helping with the project represents part of the racing club's ethos to give back to the community and partner with community initiatives where possible.

The club has also enjoyed a good relationship for more than a decade with the Menz Shed, who he says do fantastic community work in a space


beneath the members stand at the course.

"We are proud of these relationships and see the value they add to our community," he says.

Meanwhile, Jim Barker was able to drop off the first batch of produce to Te Awahou Kai in Foxton last week.

Te Awahou Kai volunteer Linda Lake says demand for food is rising – there were 72 visitors on Monday – and donations of fresh produce helped meet that demand.

"It was fantastic. Jim was amazing," she says. "We had another man come in with firewood and pinecones."




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Elemental, authentic cider maker

By Paul Williams

Award-winning Ōhau cider maker Carmen Gray is “crushing it” and can lay claim to being the only woman making authentic cider in New Zealand.

There are other ciders on the market and other women making cider, but Carmen is sticking to her guns by making traditional sugar-free cider, from apple blossom to bottle.

In a liquor market “bastardised” by artificially sweetened alcopops, using only juice crushed herself is a point of difference that is making a difference, as her cider continues to win national awards.

“It’s traditional cider that tastes like traditional cider,” she says.

Even the label proudly says “Not! Sweet as...”

Elemental Cider has been runner-up cider producer of the year the last two years at the New Zealand Cider Awards, while the pohutukawa-flavoured cider has won top cider the last two years, with other flavours Pear Drop, Totally Oaked, Dry As and Orchard Fall all winning medals.

Carmen and her husband Wal are hands-on and run the production of Elemental Cider entirely on their own – and they love it.

Carmen was a chemical engineer by trade and running a government taskforce when she says she simply got tired of report writing.

“It was a midlife crisis,” she says. “I realised that cider making was my happy place.”

Carmen did a post-graduate degree in wine science at EIT in Hawke’s Bay and travelled overseas for five years making wine, travelling home periodically to tend to her own trees. It can take five years for trees to bear enough fruit so in-between times the first cider apple trees were planted on a small block.

Carmen was able to put to use skills she had learned making cider in Australia, France, Austria and the UK as part of her study into honing her craft at home, and the first batch of Elemental Cider was made in 2019.



“It was a big learning curve. It’s what has made me the cider maker I am,” she says. “But making cider was only one part of it.

“Making booze comes with extra food and beverage regulation hurdles, too.”

In 2020 they launched their first commercial batch of Elemental Cider, only for Covid-19 to put the brakes on soon after.

But a leap of faith to double down and bring in local investors that were growing specifically bred cider apples enabled them to import new overseas processing equipment and increase production.

Now you can find Elemental Cider in some supermarkets and local cafes.

Carmen and Wal are planting more “indigenous” cider apple trees in anticipation of increased sales both her and overseas, with the possibility of an Auckland-based plant.

She says New Zealand products have a great reputation overseas, particularly in Asia.

“The New Zealand story counts overseas. It comes with stories of sustainability, providence and value,” she says.

The cider-making process takes eight months. Carmen says traditional cider is made the same way as traditional wine is made, using fermentation.

There are no leftovers. Any waste or pulp is gobbled up by a dairy farmer as supplementary feed for his herd.

“Everything we do has a local footprint,” she says.

Carmen Gray with one of her award-winning beverages at Ōhau’s Elemental Cider.



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Farmers aid fundraiser

Poroutawhao farmers opened their gates to adjoining land on Sunday to create a 64km trail bike ride that raised money towards the local community hall.

This year the annual Sand Country Trail Bike Ride attracted 470 trail bike riders, who were treated to perfect autumn conditions at the Lewis Farms start/finish line. The circuit sent riders almost to the Manawatū River to the north and back to farmland south of Waitārere Beach Road, providing a unique chance to take in some of the district’s vista.

Poroutawhao Hall committee chair Lyndon Cooney says halls such as theirs are steeped with history, but they need funding to ensure they remain community venues.

“The Poroutawhao community comes together once a year for this major fundraiser, with many people in the community helping to make this event a success,” Lyndon says. “Local farmers made significant

parts of their farms available and helped with fuel stops, recovery of broken-down bikes and riders who needed assistance. Without their ongoing support of this event it would simply not happen.”

ProMed provided medical assistance and had “nothing too major” to attend.

Committee and community members, helped by Poroutawhao School families and staff, fed lunch to all of the riders on the day, marshalling, and parking.

Horowhenua Motorcycle Club promoted the event, set up the course and took registrations on the day.

Lyndon said the hall committee thanked the riders and everyone involved in the event for their support.



BRIEFS

Fatality on Oxford St

One person died and another was taken to hospital with moderate injuries after a truck and van collided on Oxford Street, Levin, on Monday morning. Emergency services were called just before 7.20am near the LA 2000 dairy. The road was closed and traffic diverted for most of the morning.

Horowhenua prefers four year term

Horowhenua District Council favours a four-year parliamentary term. In a letter to the parliamentary Justice Committee, the council says the four-year term should also be extended to local authorities, because elected members will get more done. In the current three-year term, HDC’s letter says, six months is “lost to confirmation of results, formalities at the start, then to pre-election activities halfway through year three. A four-year time period effectively doubles the delivery period for the government. As it would for local government.”

Public transport ‘not fit for purpose’

Horowhenua District Council is unhappy at the lack of good public transport in the region. It has told Horizons Regional Council it believes more public transport – both within and to and from the district will be essential to support the existing and projected population, “as well as working towards the goals of lowering the road toll and lowering carbon emissions from the district’s vehicle fleet”. In a submission to Horizons’ Annual Plan it says the current system is not fit for purpose. “Better and affordable public transport will advance the region’s connectivity. Wellington and PalmerstonNorth offer more opportunities to rangatahi and many residents need to travel to Palmerston North for hospital.”

Water bylaw adopted

The council voted on Wednesday to adopt the Local Waters Combined Bylaw. The bylaw brings rules about drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and trade waste into one place, which the council says makes it easier for businesses and the public to understand and comply with them. It protects public health and safety, safeguards the environment and helps Horowhenua plan for future growth.



Members of Levin Waiopahu Lions Club who have been planning their 50th anniversary.

Lions to celebrate 50 years

Levin Waiopahu Lions Club is celebrating 50 years on May 24 with a celebratory dinner.

Early in 1974 the existing Levin Lions Club, chartered in 1961, had reached its optimum number of 60 members, so the decision was made to form a new club to accommodate the growth in membership. The charter was signed on May 24, 1975.

District governor David Gault made a speech and presented the charter to the new club that chose to incorporate a prominent local mountain in its name. Special guests at that event were international director Alex

Grieve, MP Allan McCready and Mayor Laurie Roberts.

“We have hand-delivered invitations for the dinner and made table mats listing our achievements,” says Anne Tofts, who has been a member since 2018. She is on the committee organising the dinner. Before joining the Levin club she was a member in Porirua..

The club has business meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. Current president is Kevin Rawlings.

Retailers fed up with Oxford Street’s falling leaves

from front page

Horowhenua District Council says it’s aware of the concerns. But it ain’t as easy as chopping down a tree. It’s proving hard just to give them a haircut.

Where the trees used to be routinely maintained as pollards – basically cut back almost to the trunk – a council decision in 1993 allowed the trees to grow out, and grow they did.

In 1999 the trees were given Notable Tree status, which means council is required to apply for resource consent just to give them a prune. In 2023 the council floated the idea of removing 27 of the trees, grinding them down and covering them in asphalt for parking. But of the 120 submissions received (less than 1 percent of residents), 88 opposed complete tree removal.

So that was that. Council withdrew a consent application anticipating their status as notable trees meant it would be costly to pursue and unlikely to succeed.

However, council parks and property manager Brent Harvey says it has just been granted resource consent for a crown reduction down to 6m, and for branches to be kept 1m away from buildings.

“It will allow us to take a more aggressive approach,” he says.

A traffic management plan is expected soon to allow them to do the work at night. He expects the work to start early next month.

HDC sets aside \$60,000 in its annual budget for the maintenance of the trees. Brent says council is acutely aware of the concerns of retailers and is doing all it can within the existing regulatory framework.

“The whole process is challenging for us to navigate,” he says. “We know there’s a level of frustration. We’re trying to move as quick as we can. If they weren’t notable trees things would be moving a helluva lot quicker.”

But Bruce Little says the issue of complete felling must be revisited, as there is provision within the District Plan for tree removal if they are causing immediate danger to buildings. He says clearly they are. Their roots can grow as wide as 30m and disrupt building foundations, asphalt, and sewer and stormwater networks, notwithstanding the damage to roofs and internal structures of building through flooding.

Bruce says the trees that remain today are all replacements of the original planting, and are only 60-years-old at most.

London Plane trees adapt well to urban landscapes and are common in many of the world’s largest cities, although they seem to create headaches in other places, too.

Melbourne has begun a staged removal of its London Plane trees, which make up 70 percent of that city’s inner-city tree population.



An early photo of the London Plane trees on Oxford Street.

Sydney has 4000 plane trees, although authorities there are replacing them with other species better suited to the urban climate.

South Wairarapa District Council has outlawed the planting of London Plane trees. A petition from residents led to seven urban plane trees in Alexandra given the chop in 2020.

In contrast, Matamata-Piako District Council in 2021 voted not to fell 22 plane trees in urban Matamata, in favour of ongoing maintenance, while Whanganui District Council had planted some London Plane trees in the city centre in recent years.

London Plane Trees are a hybrid of two sycamore species; the American sycamore, native to Eastern and Central North America, and the Oriental sycamore, native to Eastern Europe and Western Asia.

The exact origin of the hybrid is uncertain, with some suggestions it came from Spain, southern France, and England.

HEADS UP: MANAWATŪ COLLEGE

College represented proudly on Anzac Day

Welcome to term 2 and welcome also to winter!

During the term 1 school holidays, our senior student leaders proudly represented Manawatū College at the Anzac Day ceremonies held here in Foxton. It was fantastic to see our leaders in action, supporting this important kaupapa alongside key members of the community.

Last week, we held our annual in-school cross-country event, which was a great success. A number of students achieved personal best times. Congratulations to all who participated!

Special recognition goes to the following students who placed first in their respective age grades:

- Selena Clement (Junior Girls)
- Jeffrey Burr (Junior Boys)
- Greer Brader (Intermediate Girls)
- Jack Montgomery (Intermediate Boys)
- Rhyleigh Perreau-Judd (Senior Girls)
- Reed Iwanica (Senior Boys)

In a couple of weeks, we will hold our Learning Progress Conversations. These provide an opportunity to connect with Kaihāpai Ako and discuss how students are progressing with their learning overall so far this year.

These conversations are valuable, as they offer insight into your child's learning progress, areas for growth, and overall well-being at school. Understanding how your child is tracking allows whānau to support learning at home, celebrate achievements, and work in partnership with teachers to address any challenges early on.

Thank you to those parents and whānau who have already booked a time for the Learning Progress Conversations, we look forward to seeing you there!

Matthew Fraser, Tumuaki/Principal



More genre stickers to make for better reading

By Jennifer Walton
Library Engagement Team Lead

If you've visited the library recently, you might have noticed a small change on the spines of some of our newest fiction and large print books: two genre stickers.

It's not a mistake! It's a new approach our libraries are taking to help readers find books that truly match their interests.

Books don't always fit neatly into one category. A historical fiction can be shrouded in mystery. A mystery can have strong humour elements. And let's not forget the suspense novels with a splash of fantasy. Romance is one genre that can pop up in almost every other genre. Romantic suspense and "romantasy" (romantic fantasy) are two sub-genres that are increasingly popular right now.

When we label a book with just one genre, we risk oversimplifying it and possibly leading readers to overlook something they would love.

Using multiple stickers gives a fuller picture of what a book offers. It helps readers discover titles that match their tastes more accurately, and encourages a sense of curiosity. You might come looking for a mystery and leave with a mystery/romance you never expected to love.

On the flip side, if you've ever picked up a book expecting one kind of story, only to find it wasn't quite what you had in mind, you're not alone. We hope that two stickers will help eliminate confusion and disappointment from your selection. If you can't stand romance, you'll know to skip a book marked with the red heart sticker even if it's accompanied by the fantasy dragon sticker.

It's also a great tool for reluctant readers or those trying something new. Someone who says, 'I don't like fantasy but I love a good laugh' might change their mind when they find a book labelled humour/fantasy. Likewise, someone looking for historical fiction might be drawn in by a novel that's also labelled western and find that it opens up a whole new world of reading.

Ultimately, our goal is to connect you with books you'll enjoy. By adding more genre



stickers, we hope to open more doors, spark more interest, and help you discover your next favourite read. Happy browsing – and feel free to ask us if you're ever curious about a genre you haven't yet explored!

Try these new double stickered reads: *A Dark and Secret Magic* by Wallis Kinney (Fantasy/Romance), *A Cold Wind From Moscow* by Rory Clements (Historical/Suspense), *The Stolen Queen* by Fiona Davis (Mystery/Historical)

Heritage rooms

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō: Tues, Wed, Fri (10am–12:30pm), Thurs (10am–3pm)

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

Aquatics

Join us for AquaTots every Wednesday during term time at both Foxton and Levin pools, from 10:30 to 11:15am. And it's not too late to jump into our six-week Fitness Challenge – even if it's already started! Attend classes, get your card stamped, and go in the draw to win great prizes.

Exhibitions

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō Gallery: All Sorts – Friday Collective (2–30 May 2025)

Explore the 'All Sorts' exhibition by the Friday Collective, a group of local artists who meet weekly at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. Featuring works in oil and acrylic by Sally Peterson, Barbara Collis, Samantha Lewer, Iris Reesby, David Hemsley, Alola Frederikson, and Margaret Crighton, this exhibition offers a diverse range of subjects and creative expressions. Visit to find inspiration, view unique artworks, and maybe even take one home!

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom Kabinet Art Gallery: 'Poking Sticks... A Different, Irreverent Reality' (until 8 June 2025). An exhibition to spark conversation, bring smiles, and challenge conventions. Featuring nine South Island artists, the showcase ranges from vibrant and lyrical to historical, unsettling, and bizarre – including an orange sculpture with carrots sticking out! Curated by Arjan van der Boon. Artists: Rudolf Boelee | Kees Bruin | Janet de Wagt | Saskia Leek | Kim Pieters | Helm Ruifrok | Simon van der Sluijs | Francis van Hout | Ronnie van Hout.

Weekly events

Friday (16 May & 23 May)

Friday Live Concert, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 12–1pm
Youth Week Movie, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, from 5pm

Mondays (19 May & 26 May)
Storytime, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 10–10:30am

Meet Street, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 10–11am

Digital Learning: Smartphone Basics, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 1–3pm

Tuesdays (20 May & 27 May)
Digital Drop-in, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 10–11am

Storytime, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 10:30–11am

JP Service, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 11:30–1:30pm

Lego Hour, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 3:30–4:30pm

Sensory Sessions, Levin Aquatics, 7–8pm (27 May only) Pop-Up Tea & Tales, Mewington's Bookshop Foxton, 10.30–11.30am

Wednesdays (21 May & 28 May)
Aqua Tots: Foxton Pools, 10:10–11:15am / Levin Aquatics, 10:30–11:15am

Better Digital Futures: Foundation Skills, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 1–3pm

Pop-Up Eats, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō Carpark, 5–8pm

Quiz Night, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 7–9pm, \$5

Thursdays (22 May & 29 May)
Sewing Workshop, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 9.30–11.30am

Discovering Family History Workshop, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, 1–3pm





Image by Eddie K, Pixabay

Get up and go for good health

HEALTHY EATING and regular exercise are vital components of a fulfilling and independent life for older adults.

As we age, our bodies undergo natural changes, such as a slower metabolism, decreased muscle mass, and a reduced ability to absorb nutrients. These changes can lead to a range of health challenges, including increased risk of chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, and cognitive decline.

So maintaining a balanced diet and staying physically active are key to promoting longevity, maintaining independence, and enhancing overall quality of life.

A nutritious diet helps seniors maintain a healthy weight, supports immune function, and reduces the risk of many age-related illnesses. As people age, their calorie needs often decrease, but their nutritional needs remain the same, or even increase. This means every meal should count in providing essential vitamins and minerals.

A healthy diet for seniors typically includes a variety of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and low-sugar dairy products. These foods supply nutrients like calcium and vitamin D for bone health, fibre for digestive health, and antioxidants to support brain function and reduce inflammation. Limiting carbohydrates, sugars and sodium is also important to control blood pressure,

cholesterol levels, and reduce the risk of chronic diseases.

Hydration is another key factor. Older adults sometimes have a reduced sense of thirst, which increases the risk of dehydration. A habit of drinking plenty of water regularly and consuming foods with high water content, such as fruits and vegetables, helps maintain hydration and supports healthy kidney and brain function.

Physical activity is equally important. Regular exercise helps older adults maintain muscle strength, flexibility, and balance – critical factors for preventing falls and injuries. It also plays a role in maintaining a healthy heart, managing weight, improving sleep, and enhancing mood.

For older adults, a well-rounded fitness routine includes aerobic activity (such as walking, swimming or cycling), strength training (using resistance bands or light weights), balance exercises (such as tai chi), and flexibility exercises (stretching or yoga). Engaging in at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity a week can significantly boost overall health and independence.

Exercise also supports cognitive health. Studies have shown that regular physical activity might slow cognitive decline and reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. It promotes better blood flow to the brain, helps reduce stress, and supports better sleep – all of which are

essential for mental well-being.

Beyond the physical health benefits, healthy eating and exercise also contribute to emotional and social well-being. Cooking and eating nutritious meals can be enjoyable social activities, particularly when shared with family or friends. Participating in group exercise classes or walking groups can provide valuable social connections, reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation that are common among the elderly.

Mental health is closely linked to physical health. A well-nourished body and an active lifestyle support a more positive outlook on life. Older adults who feel strong and energetic are more likely to engage in hobbies, volunteer work, or travel – all of which contribute to a sense of purpose and happiness.

So healthy eating and regular exercise are crucial for older adults to maintain their physical health, mental clarity, and emotional well-being. These habits help prevent and manage chronic diseases, support mobility and independence, and enhance the quality of life.

It's never too late to adopt a healthier lifestyle. Even small changes, like eating more fruits and vegetables or adding a daily walk, can lead to meaningful improvements in overall health.

By prioritising good nutrition and physical activity, older people can enjoy a more active, vibrant, and fulfilling life well into their later years, allowing them to live fuller, more connected, and satisfying lives.

Hear well, see well, chew well!

AS WE AGE, maintaining good health becomes increasingly important to preserve independence and quality of life.

Among the key aspects of health for older people are hearing, vision, and dental care. Taking care of these areas is essential for overall well-being, safety, and social engagement.

First, hearing health plays a critical role in communication. Hearing loss in older adults can lead to social isolation – loneliness – as conversations become difficult and frustrating. This isolation can contribute to depression and cognitive decline.

By addressing hearing issues through regular check-ups and using hearing aids when needed, seniors can stay connected with family and friends and remain engaged in their communities.

Similarly, good vision is vital for maintaining independence.

Poor eyesight can limit anyone's ability to perform daily tasks such as reading, cooking, or driving. It also increases the risk of falls and accidents.

Regular eye exams can detect problems like cataracts, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration early, allowing for treatment that can preserve or improve vision. Proper eye care helps seniors navigate their environments safely and confidently.

Dental health is also crucial, but an often overlooked aspect of ageing care. Problems with teeth and gums can affect nutrition, as pain or missing teeth could lead to difficulty chewing and a reduced appetite. Oral infections can also have serious consequences for overall health, potentially increasing the risk of heart disease and diabetes complications.

Routine dental visits and good oral hygiene can prevent many of these issues and help maintain a healthy mouth.

In addition to the physical benefits, looking after hearing, vision, and dental health supports mental and emotional well-being. When seniors can hear clearly, see well, and eat comfortably, they are more likely to stay active, enjoy hobbies, and participate in social activities. These factors are strongly linked to happiness and cognitive health in later life.

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Rosewood Park Welcomes Alana Evans as Village Manager!

We're pleased to welcome Alana as Rosewood Park's new Village Manager!

Alana is excited to join our vibrant community of active, friendly residents. With a strong belief in building community and making everyone feel at home, she is committed to creating a warm and welcoming space for all. Alana is thrilled to be part of Rosewood Park—a place known for its beautiful gardens and welcoming environment.

Stop by the office to say hello and help us give Alana a warm Rosewood welcome!



Contact Alana

alana.evans@thebegroup.co.nz

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Sun-Filled Spaces: Designed to capture all-day sun, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere throughout the home.

This villa offers the perfect blend of comfort and convenience, ideal for those seeking a low-maintenance lifestyle within a friendly and active community.



Socialise, connect and be happy

SOcialising is an essential aspect of life at any age – babies and toddlers learn how to interact with siblings, teenagers learn how to form relationships, and seniors stay connected.

It's this connection that helps older people deal with ageing.

But as people grow older, they sometimes experience various changes that can lead to reduced social interaction. These include retirement, the loss of a spouse or friends, mobility issues, or relocating to a new home.

Despite these challenges, maintaining an active social life is crucial for the overall health and well-being of older adults.

One of the most important reasons for seniors to socialise is its impact on mental and emotional health.

Regular social interaction helps reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation, which are common among older adults. Loneliness has been linked to an increased risk of depression, anxiety, and even cognitive decline.

On the other hand, engaging with others can lift a person's mood, promote a sense of belonging, and foster emotional resilience. Conversations, shared laughter, and companionship help keep the mind active and spirits high.

Cognitive health also benefits from socialising. Interacting with others stimulates the brain, encouraging memory recall, problem-solving, and verbal communication. Seniors who engage regularly in social activities have been found to have a lower risk of developing dementia and other age-related cognitive impairments.



Image by Arek Socha, Pixabay

Group activities such as games, book clubs, or discussion groups challenge the mind and help preserve mental sharpness.

Social engagement also promotes physical health. Seniors who are socially active are more likely to participate in physical activities such as walking groups, dance classes, or community outings. Being part of a group can increase motivation to stay active and lead a healthier lifestyle.

Social interaction has even been shown to lower blood pressure, improve immune function, and reduce the risk of chronic diseases.

Moreover, socialising provides a support network. Friends and community members

can offer emotional support during difficult times and practical help when needed. Whether it's assistance with daily tasks, transport to an appointment, or simply having someone to talk to, a strong social circle contributes to a senior's sense of security and confidence.

Socialising also enhances purpose and meaning in life.

Contributing to a group or community, whether through volunteering, mentoring, or participating in clubs, helps seniors feel valued and needed. This sense of purpose can be especially important after retirement or following major life changes.

In addition, social interaction encourages

learning and new experiences. Meeting new people, sharing stories, and participating in different activities can broaden perspectives and keep life interesting. It combats routine and adds excitement to daily life, which contributes to a more positive outlook and better emotional health.

Encouraging older adults to maintain and build social connections – whether through family, friends, clubs, or community groups – can greatly enhance their quality of life.

Staying socially connected helps seniors feel happier, healthier, and more engaged, making the later years not only more manageable, but also enjoyable.

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MAYOR'S VIEW: BERNIE WANDEN

The relationship with central government is often tested

As mayor, my mind is constantly occupied by a wide range of important issues.

At the forefront right now are navigating the complexities of the Local Water Done Well reforms, overseeing progress on the Ōtaki to North Levin (Ō2NL) project, and shaping the future of the Levin Town Centre.

The influences that make issues top of mind are often driven by things we cannot control, whether that be weather events like our recent tornado or it might be a communication with a ratepayer, or it could be a policy direction set by central government.

The relationship that councils



have with central government (and it doesn't matter who is governing) is a relationship that is often tested as we have seen in a number of instances lately. Currently we have a coalition government that is very direct in making policy and telling us that we should concentrate on "doing the basics brilliantly", which is fine, however please don't judge us all on the behaviours of one or two councils who might not be doing things as

brilliantly as you would wish. I do believe most councils have been "doing the basics brilliantly" for some years now.

If the desired outcome is to have a positive and constructive relationship then surely local voice has a part to play. So, the decision made by NZTA – following government direction, to reverse some 80km/h speed limits back to 100km/h on three stretches of highway in our district is I think quite ironic.

What is curious is that the only criterion for doing this was the number of submissions in favour or not. There was no consideration given to the state of the road, the volume of traffic, the congestion caused by farm

vehicles, the number of entry and exit points along the stretches of the highway, and most importantly in my mind, safety.

The decrease we have seen in the number of fatal and serious accidents on these roads since the speed limit was reduced to 80km/h, has been fantastic.

When the local voice is clearly against the reversal (65 percent of submissions) but is overtaken by the number of "road user" submissions, it raises serious questions about why there is very little weighting or consideration given to the people who actually live on these roads and use these roads daily.

I've requested further details on the

submissions and hope to gain clarity on who exactly falls under the "road user" category, but I'm not optimistic about being able to identify who they are or where they come from.

For some this might not seem like a major issue, and having the ability to drive again at 100km/h on these roads will be welcomed, but safety, logic, reason and local voice should have played a part in this decision.

There will also be some who no doubt think that council operates that way as well, but that is definitely not the case. I can think of a number of issues where community voice has made the difference in decision making.

■ Bernie is Mayor of Horowhenua

CITIZENS ADVICE: GINNY WILLIAMS

THE HOROWHENUA COMPANY: ANDREW REID

Refund or repair for faulty items

Volunteers at Levin Citizens Advice Bureau answer any number of questions about the Fair Trading Act and Consumer Guarantees Act.

A familiar question about a faulty item might begin like this:



"I bought an appliance from a local retailer less than a year ago but it has broken down and the retailer says a repair is some weeks away. Can I get a refund instead?"

Under the Consumer Guarantees Act you are entitled to a refund if the business will not, or cannot repair the appliance within a reasonable time period. A reasonable time is defined by how long it would take most businesses to fix or replace the product.

It is always worth discussing the situation with the business that sold you the appliance and trying to come to an agreement about how long you should reasonably be expected to wait for the repair, and whether they will give you a refund instead.

Gather your receipts and any other relevant documentation/evidence to help you prove your case. Have your evidence with you when you talk to the business. Tell them what the problem is and what you want them to do about it. They might sort it out for you straight away.

If talking to the business about the problem has not resolved it, you can make a formal complaint in writing. The business will have a disputes process they must follow once they receive a formal complaint. If the issue is not resolved after you have made a written complaint, you can apply to the appropriate disputes resolution body to seek a remedy.

Probably the best known and most easily accessed is the Disputes Tribunal, suitable for issues under \$30,000. The Disputes Tribunal is a cheaper, quicker, and less formal way to deal with a dispute than going to court. There is a small cost for an application to the tribunal and it's able to deal with claims of \$30,000 or less.

There aren't any judges in the Disputes Tribunal, and you can't have a lawyer represent you. A trained referee hears about the dispute from all parties involved, and can make a binding order that can be enforced by the courts. The orders may include:

- someone must pay someone else a certain amount of money
- someone does not have to pay someone else money
- work must be done
- an agreement must be changed or cancelled
- someone must hand over some goods to someone else
- the claim be dismissed.

If you wish to learn more about an issue you have with a faulty item, please don't hesitate to visit us during office hours at 87 Oxford Street, Levin or telephone us on 06-368-9521. One of our trained volunteers will be available to assist you.

■ Ginny is chair of Citizens Advice Bureau, Levin

Connecting business, opportunity, community

June is shaping up to be an exciting month for Horowhenua.

On Wednesday, June 12, we're pleased to host Local Government Minister and Revenue Minister Simon Watts for a business luncheon at Tatum Park. This is a rare opportunity to hear directly from a cabinet minister about the government's priorities and how they might influence regions like ours. Seats are limited, so please get in touch with The Horowhenua Company (THCL) team if you'd like to attend – tickets are moving quickly.

In other exciting news, the Health Hub on Durham Street has reached a major construction milestone with the installation of the roof. During a recent site walk-through with THCL board directors and HNZ Trust board member Ron Turk, it was clear just how transformative this facility will be. Bringing together GPs, radiology, pharmacy, and other healthcare services under one roof, this development will make it easier for our community



to access care, and reflects our region's commitment to modern, integrated health infrastructure.

We're also continuing to support businesses as the Ō2NL roading project progresses toward delivery. A town hall-style meeting is coming up between the North and South Commercial Alliance leads and NZTA, facilitated by THCL. This session is part of our broader Tender Readiness programme, which helps local businesses position themselves to take part in large-scale infrastructure projects. If you haven't registered, it's not too late – please contact our team.

I'd also like to extend a warm invitation

to our monthly Business After 5 (BAS) networking events, held in the third week of every month. These events offer a great way to connect with fellow business owners, hear from keynote speakers, and learn more about regional activity. You can subscribe to our newsletter via the THCL website to stay up to date on upcoming speakers and venues.

Lastly, we've recently presented our Draft Economic Development Strategy to Horowhenua District Council for consultation. This strategy aims to shape the future direction of economic, business and community growth in our region. We welcome your feedback. If there's a specific opportunity, challenge, or idea you'd like reflected in the plan, reach out via our website. Community input is vital to building a strategy that reflects who we are and where we want to go.

Let's continue building momentum together.
■ Andrew is chief executive of The Horowhenua Company Ltd

THE ELECTORATE: TIM COSTLEY

No change to equal pay or pay equity

Equal pay is not changing and pay equity is not going away.

In New Zealand, pay equity started with the Care and Support Workers court case in 2012, and National introduced the first legislation to start pay equity resolution in 2017, and set aside \$2 billion for care and support workers.

I want to clearly explain what's really happening, and why, to cover off the questions I've had this week.

Firstly, equal pay (a man and woman both in the exact same job like two hospital cleaners) has been enshrined in law since 1972. NOTHING has changed with equal pay and this is still law. So a male hospital cleaner and female hospital cleaner MUST get paid the same.

Pay equity is where jobs that are predominantly filled by women, get paid the same as comparable jobs that are predominantly filled by men. So perhaps a female hospital cleaner should get paid the same as a male hospital security guard.

Pay parity is different again; a nurse at hospital getting paid the same as a nurse in the community. This also has not changed.



The pay equity legislation was started by National in 2017 but looked quite different in 2020 and resulted in claims that have often drifted away from being about sex-based undervaluation. Instead, they've become focused on broader labour market factors (like the cost of groceries and other market forces). Comparisons have been drawn between roles that are vastly different, for example nurses being compared with fishery officers, admin staff with engineers, and social workers with air traffic controllers. One claim included over 90 different roles. It seems clear that the core purpose (genuine claims where women are under-valued) is being missed.

- This is why changes were made:
- to ensure that comparisons are relevant and reflect genuine discrimination
 - to streamline the process with clear,

- evidence-based tools
- to maintain the ability of women workers to submit claims
 - to ensure the system is fair, focused, and doing what it's meant to do: delivering real outcomes for women facing genuine pay discrimination.
- Let me be clear:
- equal pay is not being scrapped, there are no changes here
 - pay equity is not being scrapped, the changes are to the system to maintain the original focus on undervaluation of women.
 - all women workers can still raise and settle pay equity claims – that does not change.
- Any current claim that meets the requirements can still be submitted and settled, but it does need to be based on evidence, sensible comparisons, and sex-based undervaluation.
- That original case back in 2012 would still go ahead and be settled under the changes we've made. That is the entire point of it and what we want: to value women whatever career they choose
- Tim is MP for the Ōtaki Electorate

What now for Nats after pay equity stunner?

A key question tickling the curiosity of political operators is what measures the National Party will take to offset the hit it has taken in popular opinion from the decision to reset pay equity claims intended to lift incomes in women-dominated industries.

Opposition parties delight in the furore the coalition government's decision has caused, especially the impact it has had on the National Party as leader of the governing group. Act might gain new supporters due to financial justification, but its presence on the Treasury benches depends on National's success.

Currently it would be doubtful that the numbers would fall National's way if matched against Labour. It was making ground in front of Labour up to the end of last month. And the emphasis on fiscal responsibility and careful economic management was holding its own as the major plank of National's claim to leadership.

But last week's announcement stunned political observers. It wasn't just a surprise. They couldn't understand why the reasons for taking such a stand had not been well communicated and the ground prepared for a move likely to be as contentious as it has proved to be.

There is an argument that the emotive opposition based solely on claims that National is "anti-women", will recede before the next election and might even be overcome by moves in this month's budget. The claim, however, will be regularly pumped up, especially by the trade union movement that lost to some extent grounds it was preparing for wage and condition claims.

Probably a good deal of scepticism can

greet claims on both sides for and against the government's move. For example, would the claim that the legislation as it stood would have resulted in successful claims beyond a reasonable ability of the public service to pay, have been confirmed in practice? Would the argument that there is a strong evidence-based formula for assessing the value of one type of work against another withstand a rigorous evaluation?

Shouts that the government's move was "anti-feminist" are understandable in a political and union-employer context. But reality suggests one side was concerned about a door opening for unlimited payouts of cash from the public purse and the other very, very upset about a lessening of the power of a bargaining tool it planned to use to extract more cash for women employees.

The end result, however, is that National, in particular, has political ground to make up. A lift in economic conditions will help it. Encouraging signs include ongoing strong dairy and beef prices in offshore markets, unemployment not worsening and interest rates continuing to decline.

However, the fact that Finance Minister Nicola Willis and a number of women associates in the cabinet were willing to front on the pay equity issue suggests that National and its governing partners believe that only significant



A protest against changes to reset pay equity claims was staged outside National MP Tim Costley's office in Levin at the weekend.

Photo supplied

policy changes will achieve the balance they consider necessary in the country's finances.

The International Monetary Fund is predicting the nation's spending will fall from 43 percent of GDP this year to 39 percent in 2029. That is a comparatively huge reduction that will mean restraints on expenditure impacting far more than future wage claims.

A guessing game as to which programmes will be most severely affected is under way. National is keen on a lift in the age of eligibility for universal superannuation – from 65 to 67. NZ First opposes such a move. Act wants change. Could an accord be reached with Labour?

There is no question that an accord between the two main parties would be of benefit to getting the future structure of superannuation payments sorted for at least the next decade. Labour would win a great many plaudits for making an agreement with National, but stands to lose support to the Greens and Te Pati Māori (TPM) which favour a lowering of the

qualifying age for Māori.

There is talk around the political corridors that there could be a lessening, or even abolition, of the government contribution to KiwiSaver. The latter seems a big stretch against the background of government encouragement for individual savings.

Approaching public political polls might tell the story of the impact on party support the pay equity legislation has provoked. They will also provide a useful background from which to measure the subsequent response to Budget '25.

From Labour's perspective, the days of May are showing out as a period of opportunity, very much a time that qualifies as "the merry month of May". But for National, something of greater substance and more universal popularity than financial restraint is needed to shore up its voter appeal, especially with women.

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

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HOROWHENUA

» 197A Tiro Tiro Road **LEVIN**

BY NEGOTIATION



ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES ON 1884M2

An exciting proposition! 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) or return to a home. Call me to discuss options.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1885
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.00AM - 11.30AM

Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz

» 14 Easton Way **LEVIN**

ASKING \$775,000



SPACIOUS AND PERFECTLY POSITIONED

Set on a generous 947m² section in one of Levin's most desirable streets, this beautifully designed four bedroom, 230m² brick home delivers the ideal blend of space, comfort, and functionality for modern family living. Thoughtfully laid out to provide multiple living zones, the heart of the home is the well-appointed kitchen which flows effortlessly to the dining area, formal lounge, and a sun-soaked conservatory. This fantastic addition almost doubles the living space. Plus there is another family room. This home is a must view property.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1899
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.45AM-12.15PM
Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz

» 15 Homewood Avenue **LEVIN**

BEO \$898,000



ARCHITECTURAL ELEGANCE

Tucked away at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac, this architecturally designed home is a true standout - understated from the street, yet breathtaking once you arrive. Set on a generous and private section, this striking property has been crafted with style, light, and modern living in mind. From the moment you step through the impressive timber front door into the expansive entrance foyer, complete with skylights that flood the space with natural light, you will feel the sense of something truly special. Designed to capture the sun, the north and west-facing living areas are bathed in light, with floor-to-ceiling sliders that blur the line between indoors and out.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1895
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.30PM-1PM
Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz

» 6 Elizabeth Street **LEVIN**

BEO \$585,000



HOME + SLEEPOUT + GARAGE

If you've been searching for a home that offers flexibility and space, this well-presented property is a must-see. Featuring three good size bedrooms all with double wardrobes, and multiple living zones, it's ideal for families, extended living, or those who love to entertain. The open-plan kitchen and dining area flows effortlessly into the lounge and a large, light-filled sunroom - perfect for year-round enjoyment with direct access to the private rear yard. New carpet in the lounge, a heat pump, and aluminium joinery add comfort and convenience. A standout feature is the sleepout attached to the double garage, complete with its own bathroom - ideal for guests and teenagers.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1884
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 1.15PM-1.45PM
Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz

» 23 Quinn Road **LEVIN**

BY NEGOTIATION



COMFORT, STYLE AND SECURITY

Nestled in a peaceful, tree-lined street, this beautifully presented home offers the ideal blend of comfort, convenience, and modern style. Whether you're looking for your first home, forever home, or a low-maintenance base to lock up and leave, this property ticks all the boxes. Step inside and be welcomed by a light-filled, open-plan living space designed for effortless living and entertaining. The neutral decor, double-glazed windows, and efficient heat pump create a warm and inviting atmosphere year-round. The contemporary kitchen is a standout feature, offering quality fixtures, generous storage, and everything you need to cook and create with ease.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1838
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.45AM-12.15PM
Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz

» 69 Stafford Street **SHANNON**

BEO \$798,000



PERFECT LIFESTYLE STARTER

Looking for a lifestyle property that ticks all the boxes? This four-bedroom home is ideal for families or anyone looking to embrace country living on 8395m² without sacrificing convenience. Be welcomed by the impressive tiled floor entrance foyer with its high ceiling. The heart of the home is the light-filled open-plan kitchen, dining, and living space, designed with entertaining in mind. The kitchen boasts a large breakfast bar, plenty of storage, a wall oven, and hob, the perfect setup for busy households or relaxed weekend brunches.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1890
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.45PM-1.15PM
Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz

» 79 Kawi Road **LEVIN**

ASKING \$625,000



SPACIOUS AND SO WELL SITUATED

Set on an expansive 814m² section in one of Levin's most sought-after streets, this impressive 210m² home offers a superb blend of character, comfort, and space, both inside and out. Step inside to discover gleaming native timber floors that enrich the open-plan living area, paired with plush new carpet in the three well-sized bedrooms for added comfort. The updated modern kitchen is a standout, offering contemporary finishes and great functionality at the heart of the home. Enjoy effortless indoor - outdoor flow with access from the living room to both the private rear courtyard and lawn, as well as the front balcony.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1878
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.45AM-12.15PM
Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz



» 21A Chester Street LEVIN

2 1 1 1

Cracker on Chester

Welcome to this delightful two-bedroom home, offering a perfect balance of comfort and convenience in a sought-after neighborhood. A spacious verandah welcomes you at the entrance, providing the ideal spot to relax with your morning coffee or unwind in the evening. A light-filled open-plan living and dining area, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. Outside there is a studio room.

PRICE BY NEGOTIATION

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11AM-11.30AM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1859

Tracey Fraser 0210779062



» 14 Awatea Street LEVIN

3 1 1

First home or Smart Investment

Step onto the property ladder in style with this freshly refurbished gem, ideal for first home buyers or savvy investors. Inside, you'll find gleaming polished timber floors and a fresh modern colour palette that instantly feels like home. The kitchen is sleek and contemporary, offering both style and functionality, while the home has been freshly painted throughout, giving it a bright and welcoming atmosphere.

BEO \$445,000 | FOR SALE BY DEADLINE SALE

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 1.45PM-2.15PM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1888

Lynaire Cottle 0272224017



» 66 Macarthur Street LEVIN

3 2 2 1

Magic on MacArthur

This eye-catching home delivers instant street appeal with its modernised roughcast exterior over the original brick, offers a fresh, contemporary feel. Step inside to discover three beautifully presented bedrooms, including a master retreat with a walk-in wardrobe and ensuite. A second bathroom caters to the rest of the household with ease. The modern kitchen features a breakfast bar and flows effortlessly into the spacious dining area

BUYER ENQUIRY OVER \$689,000

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.30PM-1PM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1897

Ryan Watson 0223554790



» 1098 Queen Street East LEVIN

4 2 3 1

Rural living close to town

Offering the perfect blend of country charm and modern convenience, all while being set on a spacious 2,523m2 lot. The internal access to a double garage adds convenience, and there's an additional standalone single garage for extra storage or workspace. The kitchen is a standout feature with high-quality appliances, including a self-cleaning oven, dishwasher drawers, and an induction cooktop, making meal preparation a breeze.

ASKING \$939,000

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.45PM-1.15PM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1877

Haley Sturt 02102387699



» 27 Weraroa Road LEVIN

3 1 1 1

Step beyond the fence!

You will find a stylish three bedroom home, featuring modern updates and a spacious layout thats perfect for comfortable living. Step inside, and you are greeted by a large lounge with impressive sloping ceilings, giving the space an airy and open feel. The fresh paint inside gives a clean, modern look, and the fairly new carpet adds a cosy touch, as does does the gas heating.

ASKING \$495,000

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.45AM-12.15PM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1875

Tracey Fraser 0210779062



» 57 Weraroa Road LEVIN

2 1 1 1

Solid brick unit, walk to town!

Whether you're downsizing, investing, or stepping onto the property ladder, this tidy brick unit is an ideal choice. Perfectly positioned just a short walk to town, it offers comfort, convenience, and low-maintenance living. Freshly updated with new carpet, curtains, and a modern paint palette, the home feels light, bright, and welcoming. The kitchen has been partially modernised, featuring a brand-new stove and fresh flooring.

BEO \$410,000 | FOR SALE BY DEADLINE SALE

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 2.30PM-3PM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1903

Lynaire Cottle 0272224017



» 11 Matipo Street LEVIN

5 2 1 2

A whole lotta house

This generous five-bedroom home is thoughtfully designed for growing families, offering multiple living zones and fantastic functionality. A tiled dining area flows seamlessly into a well-equipped kitchen and through to the laundry with access to the sunny rear deck. There's also a separate hobby or craft room with its own access.

PRICE BY NEGOTIATION

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.45AM-12.15PM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1893

Ryan Watson 0223554790



» 36 Salisbury Street LEVIN

4 1 1

Four bedrooms and stylish

This beautifully modernised 119m2 home combines the best of contemporary living with the character of yesteryear. Perfectly positioned close to town, schools, and the supermarket, convenience is just another highlight of this fantastic property. Set on a private, fully fenced 457m2 easy-care section, this home offers a wonderful sense of security and low-maintenance living - ideal for busy families.

PRICE BY NEGOTIATION

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11AM-11.30AM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1889

Adriana Wilton 0297766902



» 174 Bath Street LEVIN

2 2 1 1

Easy living not far from town

Welcome to this fabulous low maintenance two bedroom home designed for comfort and convenience. Step inside the entrance that leads to an inviting living / dining area, where warmth is guaranteed thanks to a log burner, heat pump and HRV system. The well appointed kitchen offers a practical layout, has lots of bench space. Easy living in this great home.

ASKING \$630,000

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 1.15PM-1.45PM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1865

Tracey Fraser 0210779062



» 24 Grey Street SHANNON

2 1 1 1

Cosy starter on a large section

Here's your chance to step onto the property ladder with this two bedroom home situated on a generous 1000m2 (more or less) section, there's plenty of room for kids to run, play, and explore. Th galley-style kitchen has been updated, and a warm, welcoming living area is equipped with both a log burner and heat pump for year-round comfort. Whether you're a first-home buyer, or have a flair for DIY, this property is for you.

BUYER ENQUIRY OVER \$390,000

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12PM-12.30PM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1881

Lynaire Cottle 0272224017



» 7 Heather Street LEVIN

3 1 1 1

First home buyer alert!

This could be just what you have been waiting for - this is a home you can call your own. With three bedrooms, and open plan kitchen and dining room which flows through to the lounge, heated by a wood burner, and views of the Tararua Ranges. The lounge has a ranch slider while the dining boasts French doors. The front opening to a porch, while the back opens to a larger covered deck.

BUYER ENQUIRY OVER \$425,000

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11AM-11.30AM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1879

Adriana Wilton 0297766902

Ryan Watson 0223554790



» 14 Twin Peaks Grove KOPUTAROA

3 3 3 1

IGNORE the RV of \$1,390,000

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BUYER ENQUIRY OVER \$1,059,000

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.45PM-1.15PM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1857

Adriana Wilton 0297766902



» 12A Stuckey Street LEVIN

3 1 6 1

Garaging galore!

Welcome to this charming three bedroom home just a short distance from town. Boasting two garages - a double garage provides ample space for your vehicles, with additional room for storage, plus there is also a four car garage, perfect for those with multiple vehicles or for someone working from home. A lovely open plan lounge and dining area boasts a heat pump and wood burner. Call today to view.

BUYER ENQUIRY OVER \$499,000

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.30PM-1PM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1839

Tracey Fraser 0210779062



» 61 and 71 Stafford Street SHANNON

Two generous sections

61 Stafford Street - 3324m2 - \$230,000
71 Stafford Street - 3097m2 - \$230,000
Discover the perfect blend of space and convenience with these two generously sized sections (\$230,000 each) , ideally located on the edge of Shannon township. With a semi-rural outlook and a welcoming community atmosphere, these properties offer an enviable lifestyle with room to breathe.

ASKING \$230,000

VIEW BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1870

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.

BUYER ENQUIRY OVER \$499,000

VIEW BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1835

Adriana Wilton 0297766902



» 624A Queen Street LEVIN

2 1 1

Invest in the Future

An exciting opportunity to purchase five, of a collection of ten, two bedroom premium townhouses. Priced from BEO\$460,000 each. Units, 4,5,6,7,8 are available for purchase. These modern homes are meticulously designed to offer the perfect combination of quality, functionality, and aesthetic appeal. Crafted with durable materials, each townhouse promises long-term value, ensuring minimal maintenance costs in the future.

BUYER ENQUIRY OVER \$460,000

OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11AM-11.30AM

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WILO1780

Adriana Wilton 0297766902

PHILIP HAMILTON HARPER

Compiled by Debbi Carson

One of eight brothers and two sisters

By Kerry Geerston, Horowhenua Historical Society

Philip Hamilton Harper was born in Christchurch in October 1882, to George Harper (born in England) and Agnes Loughman (born in India).

His grandfather, Henry Harper, was the first Anglican Bishop of Canterbury, and was one of those responsible for the building of the Christchurch cathedral. Philip and his siblings, however were brought up in their mother's Catholic faith, which created a stir at the time in Anglican Christchurch.

Philip was one of 10 children, with seven brothers and two sisters, and was educated privately at Christchurch Boys' High School. His father was a solicitor in Christchurch and at least two of the brothers, along with Philip, became solicitors, too.

Before qualifying, Philip served in the NZ Mounted Rifles in the Boer War from 1899 to 1902. Two other brothers, Edmund and Cuthbert, also served during that war.

Philip qualified as a solicitor in 1905, was articled to his father's firm, and was admitted to the bar in 1906. He came to Levin to set up in practice as a barrister & solicitor in 1907, probably because his brother George was already practising as a solicitor in Ōtaki, with a small office in Levin.

The office was part of David Smart, bookseller and stationers building on the west side of Oxford St. Philip and George went into partnership (as Harper & Harper) with an office in Ōtaki and one in Levin. The Levin office was part of a building on the east side of Oxford St, not far from the Bath St corner.

In October 1912 he became engaged to Flora McDonald, daughter of J R McDonald of "Heatherley". They never married and she died in July 1914.

Philip enlisted for First World War service as a private. He was promoted to lance corporal before leaving New Zealand and then to Co Sgt Major in May 1915. In July 1916 he was promoted to 2nd lieutenant. He was part of the first contingent to land at Gallipoli. Two of his brothers, Gordon and Robin, landed in May. They were there as part of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles.

The three brothers had an agreement that if they used their dog whistles the others would come to help. Gordon and Robin fought side by side and when Gordon was severely injured in the attack on Hill 60 in August, Robin carried him back to the beach. Eventually all three brothers fought again in Europe, in different theatres. Gordon and Robin were at Palestine together in January 1916. This time Gordon was again severely wounded and Robin rescued him, but he died of his wounds.

On hearing of the death of Gordon, another brother, Eric, enlisted after getting his varicose veins fixed. Unfortunately, he too was killed in April 1918. In the meantime Philip, now a captain, continued and was at Mons with the 22nd Army Corp on Armistice Day. That's a long time of service to his country, especially taking in his Boer war time.

Philip returned to Levin to continue his practice. At some point he entered into another partnership, Harper & Merton, with an office in Levin and Palmerston North. This partnership was dissolved in 1925.

On November 23, 1921, Philip married Eileen Mary O'Rourke. She was the daughter of Bridget and Timothy O'Rourke (the long-time policeman and later mayor of Ōtaki). They had three children, Beatrix (1924), Derek (1926), and Piripi [Philip] (1931).

During his time in Levin, Philip took a keen interest in sport. He was a steward of the Levin Racing Club, and a member of the golf and tennis clubs. He was also involved with the RSA and was on the committee of the St Andrew's Catholic Church.

In March 1929 he was appointed a magistrate and moved to serve in Gisborne.

In May 1933 he fell over a cliff while fishing and injured his head. He was encouraged to seek medical advice in Christchurch. However, he died after an operation at the age of 51. His wife, Eileen lived to the age of 94.

The six Harper brothers who fought for New Zealand were:

- Edmund – died in 1917 from illness related to the Boer War
- Cuthbert Strachey – died in 1921 of his Boer War wounds
- Philip Hamilton – Boer War and First World War
- Gerald Gordon – killed in action August 1916
- Robert Paul (known as Robin) – also served in Second World War
- Eric Tristram – killed in action, April 1918.

Eric was an All Black who played in the 1905 tour of Great Britain, known as the "The Originals". He features in the NZ Rugby Museum exhibition and book *Balls, Bullets & Boots*. The exhibition showed in Levin.



Captain Philip Hamilton Harper of the New Zealand Ordnance Corps, and a Lieutenant Meares (details unknown) cast off on the Thames, Walton on Thames. Captain Harper commanded No 3 Supply Depot in Belgium, and was in charge of No 2 (Area) Employment Company (Line of Communication Troops).

Photo: National Army Museum of New Zealand



FIVE OF THE HARPER BROTHERS From left: Ernest, Martin, Allan (seated), George, and William (inset).

Photo: Adopt an Anzac Project

OBITUARY Ōtaki Mail, 8 May 1933

PHILIP HAMILTON HARPER, S.M.
The death of Mr Philip Harper, at Christchurch, on Saturday, came as a shock to his many friends in the district. During the Easter period Mr Harper was a visitor to Ōtaki and though his intimate friends knew of his suffering he appeared outwardly to be strong and healthy.

As is his custom he went south to see his venerable father, Mr George Harper, of Christchurch. After his arrival it was deemed necessary for him to take specialists' advice. An operation of a minor nature was suggested and was agreed upon. This took place late Tuesday and though Mrs Harper was advised to go south on Wednesday hopes for his recovery were bright. The sad news of Saturday came as a severe shock.

Philip Hamilton Harper was the second youngest son of Mr George Harper, and the late Mrs Agnes Harper, of Christchurch. He is predeceased by four brothers and now there remain but his eldest brother George, of Te Horo, and Robin, the youngest.

Some ten or eleven years ago Mr Philip Harper married Miss Eileen O'Rourke, a daughter of Mr Timothy O'Rourke, Ōtaki. Of the marriage there are three children, Beatrix (aged 9), Derek (7), and Piripi [Philip] (2).

Mr Harper is well known in Ōtaki where he was a member of the legal firm of Harper and Harper. Later, he moved to Levin where he entered into partnership with Mr Murton.

He was appointed Magistrate in April, 1929, and was stationed at Gisborne. While there he enlarged the already numerous circle of friends he possessed and his passing will be a serious loss to the Bar and a heavy blow to his relatives.

The serious nature of his illness was never suspected, though as a result of a fall whilst fishing some months ago he suffered head injuries which caused grievous pain and resulted in his being incapacitated some time.

By nature he possessed the ready charming wit of his talented mother and the loveable bearing of his beloved father. A friend of European and Māori he called his youngest son Piripi, as a token of his deep affection for his native country and its charming original inhabitants. His Māori friends appreciate the compliment and join with their pakeha brethren in tendering their sympathy and loving remembrance to the widow, Mrs Harper, and Mr Harper's relatives and friends, and to Mr and Mrs O'Rourke.

Haere, e Piripi, haere ki tou whaea. Haere ki te Iwi.

Pre-season prep key for Rāhui

By Paul Williams

Rāhui coach Mark Tooman is crediting his players for the way they prepare for a season of rugby after his side won its sixth consecutive Nash Cup at the weekend.

The Nash Cup is awarded to the team leading the Horowhenua-Kāpiti premier club rugby competition after the first round of games, and Rāhui have consistently flown the gates. Mark says there is no great mystery to it – the credit lies with the players for starting each season having done plenty of preparation individually over the summer.

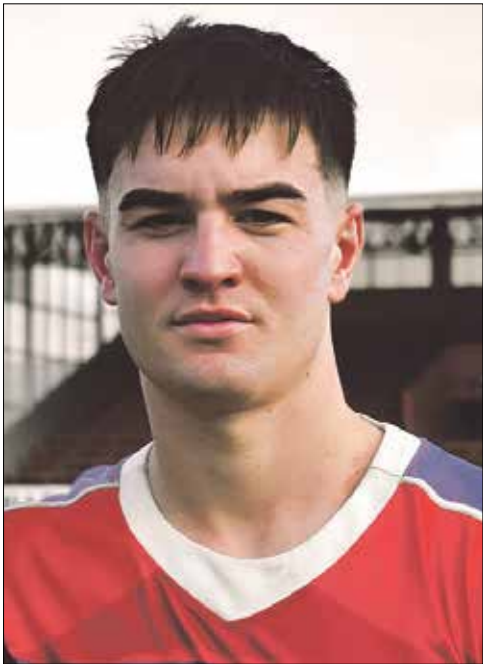
“It does take a lot of pressure off because you can start early and work to a game plan and a style of game that they enjoy playing – and that’s running the ball and scoring tries,” he says. “Of course you have to do the work up front, but it makes it so much easier when everyone is fit. “We know it’s a close competition this year and you only have to look at our game against Wanderers at the weekend. So you need to put in that work and that effort.” And there wasn’t much in it. Rāhui were

awarded the Nash Cup ahead of Foxton only by the barest of margins. Both teams are unbeaten and drew 24-all when they played a fortnight ago. It all came down to bonus points, with Rāhui taking maximum points from every game. Foxton managed just three tries in their game against Paraparaumu, but ultimately would have been happy just to have come out on top of what was a thriller at Paraparaumu Domain. Both teams were level at 27-all. Foxton first five-eighth Arana Murphy had a chance to take the lead but missed a long-range penalty nearing fulltime. However moments later he kicked what was the winning field goal from near the posts. Rāhui were without one of their most experienced forwards, Joel Winterburn, who broke his finger in the warm-up, and kicker Alizay Roach, who still has two weeks to go in

an enforced concussion break suffered in the Foxton game. But their side is blessed with depth and experience with the likes of captain Morehu Connor-Phillips running the backline and veteran lock Sam Gibson in the forward pack. Former loose forward Vaianu Donaghey, one of three brothers in the team along with Charles and Te Raiti, has successfully converted to the midfield this year. The other match of the round saw Waikanae head off College Old Boys 24-12 at Levin Domain.

RIGHT: Rāhui kicker Alizay Roach, who is sitting out a mandatory stand-down period due to a concussion against Foxton in round 6 of the club rugby championship.

Photo Horowhenua Star



Wanderers U12s top league competition

Levin Wanderers Sports Club’s U12 rugby league team are winners of their Manawātū competition after finals day in Palmerston North at the weekend.

The team had gone through the entire season unbeaten but still had to seal the deal by the finals day competition where teams were split into pools to qualify for semi-finals. Wanderers beat teams from throughout the lower North Island involved in the Manawātū Rugby League competition on their way to beating Kia Ora 24-8 in the final. The team was coached by Jerome Kerehi, with help from assistant coaches Anton Kerehi, Jax Reihana and manager Luke Fryer. The club also sent U14 girls and boys teams and an U10 boys team to the tournament.

RESULTS & DRAWS

RUGBY
Tomorrow’s draw (May 17): Ramsbotham Cup: Levin COB v Shannon, Levin Domain; Rāhui v Waikanae, Ōtaki Domain; Paraparaumu v Wanderers, Paraparaumu Domain. Bill Muir Cup: Levin COB v Athletic, Levin Domain; Paraparaumu v Wanderers, Paraparaumu Domain; Rāhui v Waikanae, Ōtaki Domain. **Results, Saturday May 10** Ramsbotham Cup Waikanae 24, Levin COB 12. *Waikanae:* J Hinds, S Osmond, G Fungalei, J Poutama tries; C Bond 2 conv. *Levin* COB: A Ackerman 2, W Paiaaua tries; C Salu pen. Rāhui 40, Wanderers 22. *Rāhui:* R Verney, J Ashford, T Northcott, L Ellison, K Kaihe tries; P Connor-Phillips 5 conv. *Wanderers:* M Masoe, P Takuira-Picchi, L Tovo tries; M Masoe conv, A Taiapa conv, pen. Foxton 28 Paraparaumu 27. *Foxton:* M Harvey, S Visavisawaqa 2 tries; A Murphy 2 conv, 2 pen, fg. *Paraparaumu:* L McMahan, J Aquila, J Keating tries; T Barnsley 3 conv, 2 pen. Bill Muir Cup (Senior Reserve) Waikanae 40, Levin COB 27. *Waikanae:* S Fonua, D Afemui, D Murray, E Banuve 2, J White tries; K Suli 5 conv. *Levin* COB: J Masoe, R Fonoti 2, J Tevita, J Fonoti tries; J Tevita conv. Rāhui 42, Wanderers 10. *Rāhui:* M Rikihana, J Lewis, H Nikora 2, N Fleming, K Nohotima-hunia tries; J Lewis 6 conv. *Wanderers:* B Toto-Foster, T Matakatea tries. Foxton 16, Paraparaumu 8. *Foxton:* Z

Benton, I Batt tries; K Murphy pen 2. *Paraparaumu:* T Anae-Laupola try; J Reddin pen. **GOLF** **Foxton** 9 Hole May 14 Putting Competition: Kevin Young 12, Geoff McBrydie 15, Sylvia Young 16, Steve Kupa 16, Neil Thompson 17, Ruth Williams 17, Mike McDowell 18, Carol Kupa 18, Lylal Brenton 18, Mahes Naran 18. **Levin** – week ending May 11 **Monday** – Speldhurst 9 Hole Stableford: Ray Ferguson 20, Neville McRae 19, Stu Bryant 18. Twos: Steve Tristin. **Tuesday** Men Stableford: Sam Bartosh 36, Ivan Franklin 34, Phil Beale 32. **Wednesday** – 9 Hole Mixed Stableford: Wayne James 20, Eric Smith 20, Barry Rollinson 20; Ladies Stableford: Ani Lochore 40, Frances Allen 37, Robyn Saulbrey 36. **Thursday** – Early Men Net: Colin Finlayson 64, Sam Bartosh 70, Dean’o Offord 73. Twos: Colin Finlayson; Late Men Stableford: Barry Judd 38, Neville Simpson 38, Corey MacMillan 37. Twos: Corey MacMillan. **Friday** – 9 Hole Mixed Net: Den Hutchins 30, Helan Latham 31, Michael Christensen 33. Birdies: Kuresa Faleseuga. **Saturday** – Early Men Net: Tony Newling 73, Geoff Pate 75, Phil Beale 76. Twos: Ernie Leslie; Ladies Stableford: Anita Davidson 32, Leanne Ward 29, Ani Lochore 24; Late Men Stableford: John Wehipeihana 38, Alistair Finn 37, John Saulbrey 37. Twos: Alistair Finn, John Wehipeihana.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hohepa Jacob

Hohepa Jacob – also known as Harry – was one of Horowhenua’s most notable All Blacks.

He was born in Levin on November 16, 1894. Hohepa played as a loose forward, originally representing Horowhenua and then the merged Manawhenua rugby union in provincial games. He caught the attention of national selectors when he was chosen in the New Zealand Māori side of 1913, then again in 1914, 1922, and 1923. He captained the team in 1922. The gap in his playing days was because of the First World War, in which Hohepa served in the New Zealand (Māori) Pioneer Battalion. He had a distinguished service, rising to the rank of 2nd lieutenant. He was awarded the Military Cross in the 1919 King’s Birthday Honours, and received the medal from then Governor-General Lord Jellicoe during a vice-regal visit to Levin in November 1921. He was a member of the All Blacks on their 1920 tour of New South Wales. He played eight matches on that tour, but didn’t get the opportunity to play in any Test matches. He died on May 30, 1955, at the age of 60. The Hohepa Jacob Community Rugby Centre at Playford Park opened in 2018 in his honour. “This is a very special year for the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Football Union as it’s our 125th year,” HKRFU chief executive Corey Kennett said at the opening. “Today is a very special occasion to honour a great man and a great rugby player.”



Entrance tides
May 16-23

<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.

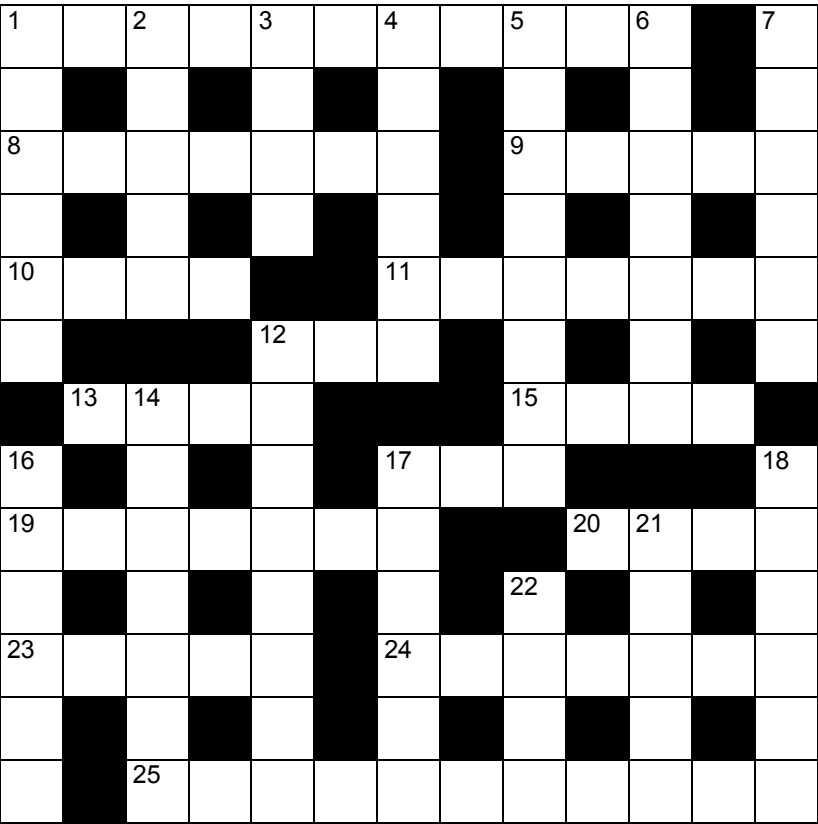
MANAWATU RIVER FOXTON

		HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
FRI 16 MAY	-	06:27	12:14	18:44	-	-
SAT 17 MAY	00:32	07:10	12:57	19:26	-	-
SUN 18 MAY	01:15	07:58	13:46	20:12	-	-
MON 19 MAY	02:07	08:52	14:42	21:07	-	-
TUE 20 MAY	03:06	09:51	15:43	22:08	-	-
WED 21 MAY	04:10	10:53	16:46	23:14	-	-
THU 22 MAY	05:14	11:54	17:50	-	-	-
FRI 23 MAY	-	00:19	06:14	12:53	18:50	-

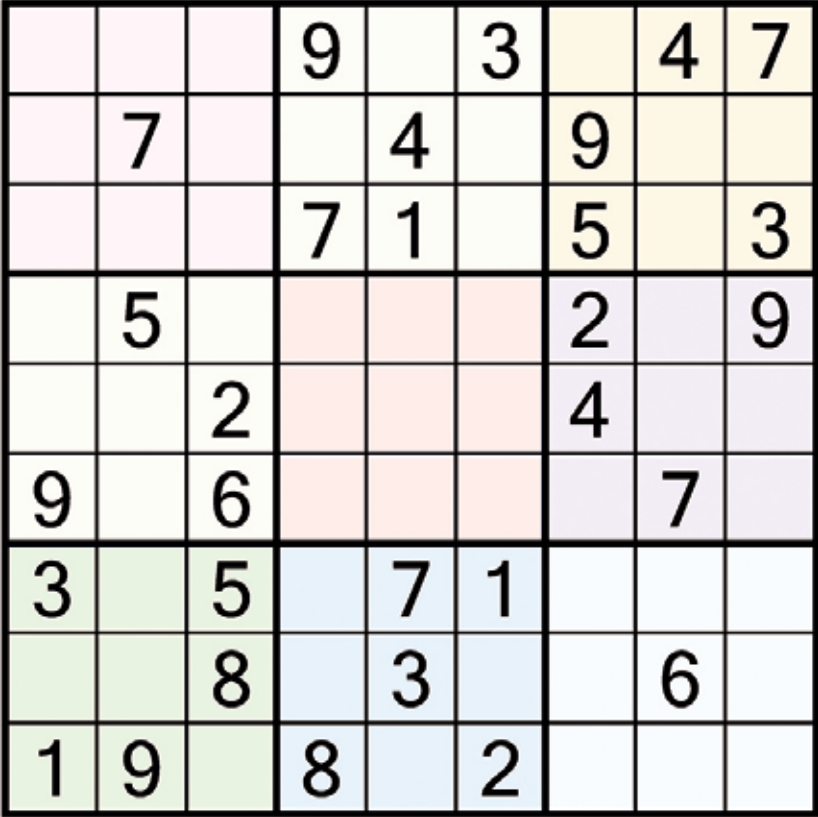
WAITARERE BEACH

		HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
FRI 16 MAY	-	05:25	11:29	17:42	23:47	-
SAT 17 MAY	-	06:08	12:12	18:24	-	-
SUN 18 MAY	00:30	06:56	13:01	19:10	-	-
MON 19 MAY	01:22	07:50	13:57	20:05	-	-
TUE 20 MAY	02:21	08:49	14:58	21:06	-	-
WED 21 MAY	03:25	09:51	16:01	22:12	-	-
THU 22 MAY	04:29	10:52	17:05	23:17	-	-
FRI 23 MAY	05:29	11:50	18:05	-	-	-

THE CROSSWORD #1914I (answers below right)



SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz
HARD #57H 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. Puzzle solution page 19.



QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Whisky 2. Italy 3. 24. 4. Margaret Atwood 5. 2017 6. Michael Phelps 7. All male 8. New York City 9. Prosecco. 10. Black 11. Endocrine System 12. Platelets 13. Hockey game 14. Kurt Cobain 15. Cats 16. Gillian Anderson 17. Two under par 18. "Love is in the Bin" 19. Louis Armstrong 20. Chromatic.

- ACROSS**
1. Type of friend who can't be relied on (4,7)
8. NZ's most popular summer sport (7)
9. Tuck (5)
10. Title for Patsy Reddy, Susan Devoy and Cindy Kiro (4)
11. Goodbye, farewell (Māori) (1,4,2)
12. Structure associated with hydro power station (3)
13. Shark found in New Zealand waters (4)
15. Doubtful (4)
17. NZ's 'no-fault injury' government department (3)
19. Iconic NZ food company with headquarters in Hastings (7)
20. Leer (4)
23. Native tree
- being hit by dieback disease (5)
24. Serving no purpose (7)
25. Pay for risky work (6,5)
DOWN
1. Front (6)
2. Colloquialism (5)
3/7. All Black legend of the 1960s who died in 2021 (4,6)
4. God Defend New Zealand is our version of this (6)
5. Mesmerising (8)
6. Recite effortlessly (4,3)
7. See 3
12. Original name of Wellington based newspaper (8)
14. Astonish (7)
16. Rouse (6)
17. Shrewd (6)
18. Breed of dairy cow (6)
21. Inexperienced (5)
22. Shaft of light (4)

GENERAL QUIZ
Think you know a thing or two? Answers below.

1. Which type of alcohol is found in a Manhattan?

2. The Renaissance began in which country in the 14th century?

3. How many time zones are there in the world?

4. Who wrote The Handmaid's Tale?

5. What year did TikTok launch?

6. Who is the most decorated Olympian in Olympic history?

7. When turtles lay eggs in the cold, what gender will the babies be?

8. Where does Curious George live?

9. A bellini calls for white peaches and ?.

10. In electrical work, typically which wire is the "hot" wire?

11. Which system in the human body is responsible for hormone production and regulation?

12. Which of the following components of blood helps in clotting?

13. The "miracle on the ice" was an Olympic ?

14. Who was the lead singer of the '90s grunge band Nirvana?

15. "Memory" is a song featured in which Broadway musical?

16. Who played Agent Dana Scully in the '90s TV series The X-Files?

17. If you get an eagle in golf, how many strokes did you get?

18. What Banksy painting shredded itself when it was sold at auction in 2018?

19. Which famous musician was nicknamed "Satchmo"?

20. What type of musical scale is in half steps?

FACEBOOK

ENGLISH GRAMMAR'S 100 WORDS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED

51. **Lackadaisical** – lacking enthusiasm or effort

52. **Lambent** – softly glowing or flickering

53. **Lollygag** – to spend time aimlessly; idle

54. **Malarkey** – nonsense; insincere talk

55. **Mollycoddle** – to treat someone indulgently; or protectively

56. **Moxie** – determination or nerve

57. **Muckety-muck** – a self-important person

58. **Nitwit** – silly or foolish person

59. **Noggin** – a person's head

60. **Nudiustertian** – the day before yesterday

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Are you too lackadaisical to give us a laugh, don't be a nitwit, send us some malarkey! Email your short story – no more than five sentences – with as many words above included. The best one will be printed in next week's paper (May 23). Value \$30. Must be in by 5pm Tuesday May 20.
e: debbi@idmedia.co.nz

2.5.25 and 9.5.25 winner was **Michele Morris-Denize**
"My friend asked me if I would like to GALLIVANT over to the lake to shoot ducks. I thought this was a joke, and not wanting to sound GOBBEMOUCHE, I took the opportunity; early the next morning we settled with all the GUBBINS in a grassy spot by the lake facing north. I couldn't understand why he was wildly shooting in all directions, was it to GAZUMP the ducks or was it to scare me? Sitting in the long grass, I was being GONGOOZLE, watching the ducks now flying by in a HIGGLEDY-PIGGLEDY way. When I mentioned how the ducks were flying, he told me to stop being FOOFARAW, and that I was being a FUDDY-DUDDY!"

"Horowhenua is in a KERFUFFLE, caused by the appearance of the Ant's who HORNSWOGGLE the residents. As the custom they hikoi and gather together to talk the Ant JABBERWOCKY of their next plan to invade the area. The Ant HOBBLEDEHOY's are always the cause of the HULLABALOO in every kitchen in the Horowhenua. Although the residents are unaware of the Ant's plan for the future takeover if they did, many of the residents would IMPIGNORATE their homes."

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FAMILY NOTICES

deaths

WILSON, Joshua Eric
Much loved son of
 Julie and Dale, Karl and Deborah. Loved grandson of Tony and Maxine Newick, Robin and Eric Wilson, and Beverley and Rod Poulton. Awesome big brother to Michelle, Brittoni, Liam, Lucass, Campbell and Antonia. Friend to many. Tragically taken Monday May 12. Celebration of Josh's life to be held on Friday May 16 (TODAY) 1pm at the Levin Memorial Hall followed by a private cremation.



public notice

**WATER AND
 ENVIROMENTAL
 CARE ASSOCIATION**

AGM

Monday
May 19, 2025
at 7.30pm
Thompson House
4 Kent St. Levin

public notice

Himatangi 1D1B5
Special Meeting for Beneficial Owners
 Sunday 8 June 2025
 10am to 2pm
 Himatangi 1D1B5
 Himatangi Block Rd North
Purpose:
 * To progress the building of a principal home for Ngāti Te Au.
 * To discuss and decide if part or all of Himatangi 1D1B5 can be transferred to a marae reservation for development of a marae and housing for Ngāti Te Au.
Chairperson
Edward Whatanui
Devonshire
Phone 027 497 2983

AGM

Foxton Beach
Community Centre
108 Seabury Ave
Friday 23rd May, 4.30pm

SAMARITANS
of
HOROWHENUA
AGM

Friday
May 30, 2025
at 7pm

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MAY 17, 2025
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public notice

Brooke Te Whiti, you are party to a Family Court case. Go to the Levin District Court and quote: "FAM-2024-031-000186" to find out more.

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community

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8	3	2	1	9	7	4	5	6
9	1	6	2	5	4	3	7	8
3	6	5	4	7	1	8	9	2
7	2	8	5	3	9	1	6	4
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 ISSUE 9 • December 2024

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