

THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION



A LOCAL NEWSPAPER - FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

GENERAL NEWS



Upper Hutt City Council

Ward Street Drainage Works Update

We're making great progress on the Ward Street drainage works, aimed at addressing long-standing issues with water retention and ponding. The location was identified as reaching the end of its lifecycle, primarily due to various utility works that have impacted the stability of the kerb.

To minimise disruption and stay within available funding, we focused on prioritising localised sections of the street. This includes the renewal of a 20m culvert (pipe) and the replacement of up to four sumps. We're pleased to report that all drainage work is expected to be completed ahead of schedule and before schools reopen.

Once the drainage work is finished, the next phase will involve surface repairs to improve the shape of the carriageway, particularly in the eastbound direction. These repairs will resolve poor reinstatement issues that were caused by previous work in 2017.

To keep the community informed, a letter drop was carried out a week before the work began, and we are planning further communications as the project nears completion.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to enhance Ward Street and ensure a better, safer road for all.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

18/01/24

Website: uhconnection.co.nz

Facebook: The Upper Hutt Connection

Contact the editor at: editor@uhconnection.co.nz



Radio New Zealand

Man living "outside the wire" at Rimutaka prison charged with indecent assault, and other misdemeanors

A man living in the Te Korowai facility which is part of Rimutaka Prison but outside the perimeter fence is due to appear in court on Tuesday (21st of January), relating to indecent assault, and breaching extended supervision orders which includes an evening curfew. Other charges also include testing positive for drug and alcohol use, and being in public places he shouldn't have been in.

Source: New Zealand Herald

15/01/25

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Contributor: Dr. Ramil Adhikari

From the Himalayas to Aotearoa: A Shared Celebration of Diversity

By: Dr. Ramil Adhikari, Upper Hutt, New Zealand

Email: dr_ramils@yahoo.com

In a world that thrives on connection and collaboration, cultural exchange remains one of the most powerful tools for fostering understanding and unity among diverse communities. To celebrate this spirit of togetherness, the Nepalese Culture and Tourism Promotion Forum, in collaboration with the Nepal Tourism Board, is hosting a landmark event titled "From the Himalayas to Aotearoa: A Shared Celebration of Diversity" on Monday, February 10, 2025, at the Upper Hutt Cossie Club in Upper Hutt.

This event is more than just a celebration; it is a platform to bring together community leaders, cultural representatives, and members of diverse backgrounds to strengthen bonds, appreciate unique heritages, and foster meaningful dialogue. In an increasingly interconnected world, events like this play a crucial role in uniting people through shared experiences and understanding. The celebration will feature vibrant cultural performances that showcase the rich traditions of Nepal alongside the multicultural fabric of Aotearoa New Zealand. These performances serve as a reminder of how art and culture transcend borders, speaking a universal language that connects us all.

In addition to the cultural showcase, the event will highlight Nepal's tourism opportunities, offering a glimpse into the majestic Himalayas, the country's warm hospitality, and its unique cultural landscapes. It underscores the importance of cross-cultural tourism as a means of building economic and social bridges between nations. Perhaps most significantly, the event provides a space for diverse leaders and communities to come together, fostering collaboration and mutual understanding. It is a chance for attendees to connect, share ideas, and explore pathways to build stronger relationships across cultural lines. As New Zealand continues to grow as a multicultural society, initiatives like this are essential in nurturing a sense of unity while celebrating diversity. By bringing together the traditions of Nepal and the shared values of Aotearoa, this event exemplifies the power of cultural exchange to enrich and unite communities. Through shared celebration, this gathering aspires to leave a lasting impact, inspiring stronger connections and a deeper appreciation for the richness that diversity brings to our lives. It is a celebration not just of culture but of the unity that lies at the heart of humanity.

A "thank you" to Dr. Ramil Adhikari for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

17/01/25



Mary Argue - Radio New Zealand



New Zealand Police

Five pedestrians injured after being hit by a car on Fergusson Drive near Islington Street

Five pedestrians were hit by a car, during a car crash, shortly before 1.45 pm on Saturday afternoon.

Four people were taken to hospital. Two to Hutt Hospital, one in a serious condition and one in a mild condition. The other two were taken to Wellington Hospital in mild conditions. The fifth person was treated at the scene.

Fire and Emergency have said that two cars were involved in the crash, and a power pole had been hit as well as the pedestrians.

Fergusson Drive is currently blocked, and detours are in place for those heading to and from the races today.

18/01/25

Source: Radio New Zealand

Fleeing driver sentenced to 23 months in jail after hitting police officer deploying road spikes

James Wiki Henry was sentenced to 23 months in jail in Wellington District Court on Tuesday. Charges laid included endangering transport, driving while forbidden, failing to stop to ascertain injury, failing to remain stopped, reckless driving, and several counts of shop lifting.

The offending happened in January last year, where he rammed a police car after road spikes were being laid while fleeing police. He used Z-spikes to deflate the tires of two other police cars that were pursuing him, until he fled his vehicle and was caught in Silverstream.

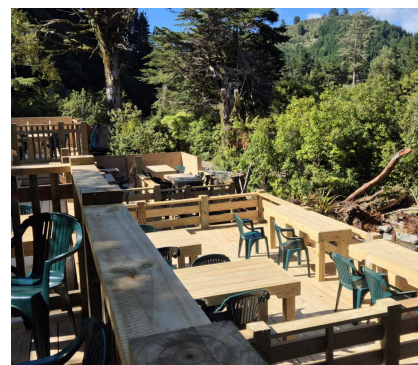
The incident is similar to that which resulted in the death of Senior Sergeant Lyn Fleming in Nelson. The police officer in this incident didn't die from the injuries, but it did lead to them leaving the police force.

Source: New Zealand Herald

16/01/25

Staglands Renovations: The new decks and their balustrades

Our new decks are looking awesome with their balustrades now in place. - Source: Staglands Wildlife Reserve & Cafe, 18/01/25



Attempted robbery at Redwood Dairy on Sunday morning

The Redwood Dairy faced an attempted robbery on Sunday morning (19th of January), just after 10.00 am. A man came in asking if they stock band aids, when told no, he left the store but came back shortly afterwards wearing a mask and threatening the man operating the store at the time, Jugvinder, with a metal bar. Jugvinder chased after the offender with a stick, and the man fled. They had CCTV operating and gave the security footage to the police, who arrived 15 minutes later.

His wife, Manmeet said that "They (the offenders*) might be coming from a bad background or they have a sad story from their family or their childhood was something traumatic. That is all secondary ... they're robbing us and it's not okay."

*added by the editor

Source: *New Zealand Herald*

20/01/25



New Zealand Herald

Council gives consent to mall manager to demolish the Criddles building

Upper Hutt City Council have issued Andy Bell, and Ganson Group, the property managers of The Mall, consent to demolish the Criddles Curtains building on Queen Street, which has been suffering from mould, plants growing through the floors, and weather-tightness issues. The building also includes the old Pet Centre, and what was United Video. The mall had applied for consent for demolition back in October, but the council wanted more information on the impact this would have on Monterey Cinemas which is next door.

The property managers have plans to build a 2,500 m2 retail building in the space between Logan Street and the back of Monterey Cinemas, and they are now arranging to lock in a date for the demolition to begin.

Source: *The Post*

20/01/25



Stuff

"Have Your Say - Current Submissions at the New Zealand Government" - A new page at The Upper Hutt Connection

Hi everyone, there's a new page up on The Upper Hutt Connection.

With all the current events going on concerning bills and such at parliament, I've decided to make a "Have Your Say - Current Submissions at the New Zealand Government" page on The Upper Hutt Connection.

<https://uhconnection.co.nz/have-your-say-current-submissions-at-the-new-zealand-government/>

There's actually quite a lot going on all the time which isn't given much media attention, or otherwise only briefly. I've bookmarked the page on parliament's website so I'll be checking it each day to see if there's anything to be updated. All links go to the respective pages at <https://www.parliament.nz>

Hope you find this new page useful. You can find a link to it near the top of the latest news page in the category block.

Cheers, Ben Knowles - Editor / Operator @ The Upper Hutt Connection.

Use of AI generated images on The Upper Hutt Connection

Hi everyone,

I know that I put up an article about the use of AI generated images a couple of months back but I thought I'd put up this revised edition of it. Things have changed somewhat, and I thought I'd make it clear when I use AI images and when I don't.

- If an article has a photo or image included with it, I'll use the image provided.
- If no image or photo is provided, or if I feel it's inappropriate, then I'll use an AI generated image.
- If privacy is required, like for a school protecting students identities, then I'll use an AI generated image.
- If the AI program can't generate the image I'm looking for (there are some things which it doesn't seem to get, like carrot cake. Where it showed a cake with literal carrots on it!), then I'll get the image from pixabay.com or pexels.com)
- I'll only be using AI image generation on The Upper Hutt Connection. I won't use AI for creating articles, video creation, etc.

Lastly, I've recently signed up to a paid AI image generation software. This produces much higher quality images than previously, and better editing options. Below is a comparison of what I was able to do before with the skate park scene and what it was able to give me now.

Cheers, Ben Knowles – Editor / Operator @ The Upper Hutt Connection



Previous AI generated image



Similar image with new AI generation software - artspace.ai

SPORTS



Russell Potts – lintottphoto.co.nz

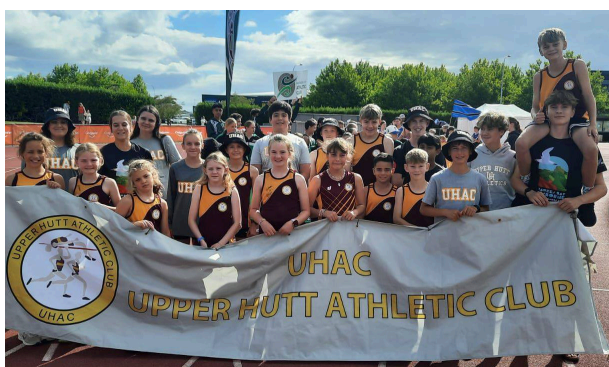
Upper Hutt United Cricket Club's Premiere Mens team takes the Hazlett one day trophy, beating Petone-Riverside

A massive congratulations to our premier mens team who have taken out the Hazlett one day trophy and earning promotion into division 1 after beating Petone-Riverside at the Barton Oval on Sunday. It has been a perfect one day campaign where our team has remained unbeaten for the campaign and what a way to top it off with a massive win in the finals.

Well done to everyone involved!

Source: Upper Hutt United Cricket Club

20/01/25



Upper Hutt Athletic Club

Upper Hutt Athletics Club Athletes Excel at Recent Colgate Games

Upper Hutt Athletics Club (UHAC) sent a big team of 26 to the North Island Colgate Games, coming away with a big haul of 16 medals, more than the club has taken for many a year. The stars were undoubtedly on the track with 11 individual medals on the track, and the clubs grade 11, 13, and 14 mixed medley teams all getting on the podium.

Medalists were as follows.

Gold

- Hazel Roos Grade 10 Girls 400m, 800m, 1500m
- Sanjith Ragunath Grade 11 Boys 400m
- Matthew Meiklejohn Grade 13 Boys 800m

Silver

- Matthew Meiklejohn Grade 13 Boys 400m 1500m
- Grade 13 Mixed Medley Team
- Grade 14 Mixed Medley Team
- Ruby Tourelle Grade 14 Girls High Jump

Bronze

- Taylah Nightingale Grade 11 Girls 400m
- Sanjith Ragunath – Grade 11 Boys 200m, 800m, 1500m
- Faith Hilton Grade 10 Girls Discus
- Grade 11 Mixed Medley Team

A Smaller team of 4 then headed away the next weekend to Christchurch for the South Island Colgate Games.

Medals were as follows.

- Zoe Hilton – Bronze 14 girls 1500m
- Jacob Rice – Bronze 14 Boys 1500m
- Faith Hilton – Bronze 10 Girls Shotput

The club is very proud of the achievements of its athletes. Our club nights start up again in term one on Wednesday 29th.

A “thank you” to Joshua for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection. - 20/01/25



**PLAY
NETBALL IN 2025 FOR UHMU**

*Upper Hutt Maidstone United Club Welcomes
All New and Existing Players*

TRIAL DATES & VENUE (WALTER NASH CENTRE, COURT 1)	TIME
SUNDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2025	11AM -2PM
TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2025	6PM -9PM
SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2025	11AM -2PM

Registrations are now open for Premier, Senior, and Social Grades (teams).
Nau mai haere mai! Join our welcoming and inclusive netball club, where everyone is celebrated, whether you're focused on competition, developing your skills, or staying active in a fun environment.

**REGISTER
HERE**

Want to know More? Check us out here

Instagram: @uh_maidstone_united Facebook: @upper hutt maidstone united netball



Registrations are NOW OPEN for Upper Hutt Maidstone United Netball Club (UHMU) for the 2025 season!

Be part of a club that's passionate about Netball – whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out, we have teams in all adult grades from Premier 1 to senior training teams and social teams!

Our training teams have an amazing culture, with dedicated coaches to help you grow your skills while working together as a team.

All games are played at Walter Nash Stadium on Saturdays in Taitā.

UHMU Netball Club has proudly been part of the Netball community for over 40 years and each season we enter at least 11 teams into the Hutt Valley Netball Competition.

Register today or get in touch if you have any more pātai/questions about playing for UHMU!

<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/154090>

Jessie gave permission for this article to be on The Upper Hutt Connection.

18/01/25

The Upper Hutt Connection - Wednesday Edition: 22nd of January, 2025

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COMMUNITY EVENTS



Contributor: Aly Cook

Sisters in Country Hit the Road – with special guest Marian Burns: Friday 24th of January, 7.30 pm

Location: Upper Hutt Cossie Club

Join Jodi Vaughan, the iconic star of the 1980s TV show "That's Country," 2024 Benny Award winner and 2024 Hands of Fame recipient at the Gold Guitars. Along Aly Cook, an award-winning songwriter and ARIA & NZ Charting recording artist, as they bring their soulful brand of country music to Taranaki, Otaki & Upper Hutt. This dynamic duo 'Sisters in Country', along with their special guest, the extraordinary fiddle player Marian Burns, will take you on a nostalgic journey through classic country tunes and original songs wrapped in a fun performance.

Sisters in Country's album hit the #1 slot on the official New Zealand album charts in 2024, with the album now featuring on the Air NZ Inflight program. They have enjoyed a lot of airplay and chart success at radio in Australia with multiply #1 hits.

Don't miss this opportunity to experience the magic of live country music, full of rich female harmonies and some hottest fiddle playing you'll see.

Buy tickets at eventfinda.com: <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/sisters-in-country-with-jodi-vaughan-aly-cook-marian-burns/upper-hutt>

Or buy tickets at the Upper Hutt Cossie Club

A "thank you" to Aly Cook for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

15/01/25



Silverstream Bowling Club open evening: Wednesday 22nd of January, from 5.00 pm

FREE EVENT – All Welcome, bring the family!

All equipment provided. Wonderful opportunity for College students trying to pick their summer sporting option. Come Have a Go!

Silverstream Bowling Club sent this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

16/01/25



AI Generated

Playgroup at St. Hilda's: Wednesday mornings during term time, 9.30 am – 11.00 am

Location: St. Hilda's Anglican Church, 35 Cruickshank Road, Clouston Park

Wednesday mornings during term time.

Ages from babies to school age are welcome, depending on the circumstances.

A "thank you" to Jocelyn for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

RECIPES



The Upper Hutt Connection

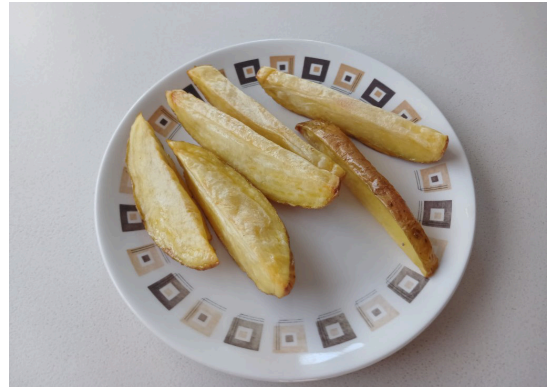
Chicken à la King

Ingredients:

- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 150g button mushrooms
- 1/2 red capsicum, diced
- 250-300g cooked chicken
- 25g butter
- 2 tbsp flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1 tsp garlic salt
- 1/2 cup grated cheese

Method:

1. Fry onion in a little oil, in a large frying pan. While the onion is cooking, prepare and add the following ingredients – Mushrooms, capsicum, and cooked chicken.
2. In a large saucepan, melt the butter over a medium heat, and when melted stir in the flour.
3. Add 1 cup of the milk to the butter mixture, and stir constantly until it boils and thickens. Then add the other cup of milk, stirring constantly, until the sauce boils again.
4. Stir in the garlic salt and the grated cheese, then add the cooked vegetables and chicken into the sauce, and stir together.
5. Serve with pasta, rice, potato wedges, or on toast.



The Upper Hutt Connection

Potato Wedges

Ingredients:

- 5 – 6 potatoes. Agrias work well.
- Olive oil
- Seasoning (optional)

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 220°C
2. Cut each potato into quarters, and then cut each quarter in half, making 8 wedges.
3. As you prepare each wedge of potato, dry it with a tea towel, and then brush with olive oil using a pastry brush. You can add salt, pepper, garlic salt, or other seasonings to the olive oil if you wish.
4. Arrange the wedges in a large roasting pan, and bake in the top area of the oven for 30 minutes.

WORSHIP SERVICES - To promote your place of worship: <http://uhconnection.co.nz/promote-your-church-or-place-of-worship/>

Heretaunga Community Church

Live for Jesus, Share his Love

Our Sunday morning service is at 10am and everyone is welcome.

We would love you to stay afterwards for fellowship over morning tea.

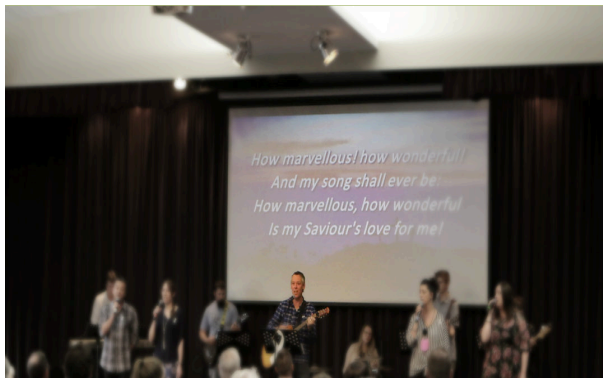
Our Creche for children under 3 1/2 years runs every Sunday morning. Our Children's Church runs Sundays during school terms.

Services are live-streamed on YouTube: Heretaunga Christian Centre

Address: 51 Lane St, Wallaceville, Upper Hutt 5018, New Zealand

Email: admin@heretaunga.com

Website: <https://www.heretaunga.com>



St. Margaret's Presbyterian Church - Silverstream

You will find us at: 4-6 Dunns St, Silverstream, Upper Hutt

The Minister: The minister at St Margaret's is Rev Rodney Ramsay. Rodney is on-site most days from Tuesday to Friday and anyone is welcome to drop in for a chat over a cup of coffee/tea.

If you have any need to contact Rodney he can be reached at the office number 5279604, on his mobile 0211259835 or via email at rodneyransay62@gmail.com

Worship services: Our worship services take place on Sundays at 10.00am.

The First Sunday of each month is a Communion Service and the second Sunday is a Family Service.

Our services are fairly traditional, and we have a very warm and welcoming congregation. All are welcome.

Our services are live streamed on Zoom. If you wish to receive the link, please text Lynley McInnarney at 027 278 0010 or send an email to mcinnarneys@gmail.com

We offer children's church for primary school age that happens during the main church service.

St Margaret's runs a teenage youth group on Friday night in the church hall and lounge. Youth group runs from 6.30pm to around 8.00pm.

Other contact details: The Lay leader (Session Clerk) at St Margaret's is Chris Rosanowski and he can be contacted at rosanowskic@gmail.com

Please visit our website for further information including the hire of our facilities.

<https://stmargaretssilverstream.org.nz>



St. Margaret's Presbyterian Church - Silverstream



Silverstream Reformed Church

Location: 8 Blue Mountains Road, Silverstream

What we Believe:

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour and the Sovereign Lord over all of life. We are fully committed to the Bible in its entirety as the Word of God. We believe that theology is important, it is vital for the health of the church, and without sound doctrine the church decays. Throughout history, the church has confessed what it believes by faithfully summarising the truths of the Bible in written forms known as creeds and confessions. These confessions do not hold the same authority as the Bible, but they help to summarise the Bible's teaching. Ultimately, the Bible remains our only rule for faith and life.

Who we Are:

Our Church is a family church, with a mixture of young families, retirees, couples, single people and youth. We have approximately 200 members, from different backgrounds, meeting together because we share a common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

Service Times:

Our worship services are on Sunday at 10 AM and 4 PM, and we would love to see you there. Our friendly greeters will meet you at the door and answer any questions you have.

Like to know more? Visit our website at: <https://silverstreamrcnz.co.nz/>

Silverstream Reformed Church sent this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

11/12/24



St. Hilda's Anglican Church

St. Hilda's Anglican Church

Location: 35 Cruickshank Road, Clouston Park, Upper Hutt

Email Church Office: sthildasuh@gmail.com

Who we are:

A congregation of faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, who draw on the Anglican tradition to support a lively expression of our faith.

Our recently unanimously agreed vision statement is: St Hilda's – a vibrant, faith-based presence within our community.

What we do:

- We are a community of people who come together to worship God, to grow in relationship with one another and with the wider community.
- We offer loving service to God, one another, the people of Upper Hutt and the world.
- We are disciples of Jesus, the Lord of Love.
- We believe in the Christian Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life. We are inspired and guided by the Holy Bible. We seek to grow in faith.
- We welcome newcomers to our parish family with warm hospitality. We provide a wide range of activities, both spiritual and secular. We encourage all to develop their relationship with Christ through our worshiping community.
- In recent years we have turned our focus outwards to serving our community.

Continued on page 8

Weekly services:

Sunday 9.30am: Traditional NZ Anglican Worship

This is a comfortable, family-friendly feeling service, although it follows the traditional liturgical format. The service order alternates between the three ANZPB Eucharistic (communion) liturgies. There is always a sermon with a liturgical assistant leading the worship; when a priest is not available. The communion is led by one of our leaders licenced for reserved sacrament.

Thursday 10.00am: Traditional Communion Service

The service order follows ANZPB with the Sunday sermon being repeated here. Our services are supported by a good tech suite, including two large monitors installed at the front of the church, and a quality sound system.

Prayer books remain available in the pews for anyone who prefers to use them.

Sue sent this article to The Upper Hutt Connection / Source: St Hilda's Anglican Church Upper Hutt

ENTERTAINMENT

What's new at Monterey Cinemas? Week starting 23/01/25

View all movies releasing this week at <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/coming-soon>

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN

Running time: 141 minutes

Rated: M (Offensive language)

New York, early 1960s. Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota arrives in the West Village with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. As he forms his most intimate relationships during his rise to fame, he grows restless with the folk movement and, refusing to be defined, makes a controversial choice that culturally reverberates worldwide. Timothée Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in James Mangold's *A COMPLETE UNKNOWN*, the electric true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/a-complete-unknown>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11563598/videooplayer/vi2538325529/?ref=nm_sr_srsq_1_tt_8_nm_0_in_0_q_A%2520complete



A Complete Unknown

Continued on Page 13

THE BRUTALIST

Running time: 215 minutes

Rated: R16 (Rape, sex scenes & drug use)

Escaping post-war Europe, visionary architect László Toth arrives in America to rebuild his life, his work, and his marriage to his wife Erzsébet after being forced apart during wartime by shifting borders and regimes. On his own in a strange new country, László settles in Pennsylvania, where the wealthy and prominent industrialist Harrison Lee Van Buren recognizes his talent for building. But power and legacy come at a heavy cost...

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/the-brutalist>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8999762/videooplayer/vi988989721/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_1_tt_7_nm_1_in_0_q_The%2520Bru



The Brutalist

WE LIVE IN TIME

Running time: 108 minutes

Rated: M (Sex scenes, offensive language & nudity)

Almut (Florence Pugh) and Tobias (Andrew Garfield) are brought together in a surprise encounter that changes their lives. Through snapshots of their life together — falling for each other, building a home, becoming a family — a difficult truth is revealed that rocks its foundation. As they embark on a path challenged by the limits of time, they learn to cherish each moment of the unconventional route their love story has taken, in filmmaker John Crowley's decade-spanning, deeply moving romance.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/we-live-in-time>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt27131358/videooplayer/vi1815004697/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_1_tt_8_nm_0_in_0_q_We%2520live%2520in%2520time



We Live in Time

FLIGHT RISK

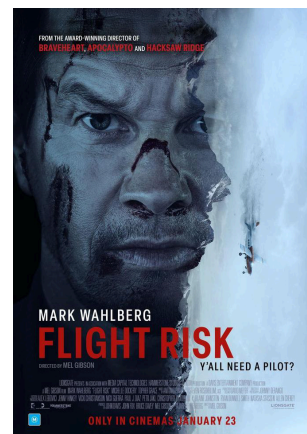
Running time: 91 minutes

Rated: M (Violence, offensive language, sexual references & content that may disturb)

In this high-stakes suspense thriller, Academy Award® nominee Mark Wahlberg plays a pilot transporting an Air Marshal (Michelle Dockery) accompanying a fugitive (Topher Grace) to trial. As they cross the Alaskan wilderness, tensions soar and trust is tested, as not everyone on board is who they seem.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/flight-risk>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10078772/videooplayer/vi2703410713/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_2_tt_8_nm_0_in_0_q_Flight%2520risk



Flight Risk

Source: Monterey Cinemas Upper Hutt

21/01/25