THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION



A LOCAL NEWSPAPER - FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

GENERAL NEWS



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Why not give the free lunches rejected by some schools, to the schools that need them?

Wikus Swanepoel, principal of Maidstone Intermediate has said that Maidstone Intermediate did not qualify for the School Lunch Collective, but 80-90 students out of it's 530 students don't get enough nutritious food at home and would benefit from it. He says that if schools on the scheme are getting lunches and rejecting them, then why can't those same lunches be provided to schools that genuinely need them? He says that the Education Ministry should talk to schools about who needs the free lunches.

Swanepoel said that about 30 of the students previously attended a primary school which was covered by the lunch scheme, and for six years they'd received a warm lunch every day. Now three months down the track, a new system has decided they don't need those lunches anymore. Nothing has changed in the students situations, and now suddenly they have no lunches being provided for them.

Source: Radio New Zealand

07/03/25

Note: I know that the AI image is nothing like the ones which are being produced, but I felt like showing the frequent images again and again isn't really needed. Cheers, Ben Knowles - Editor / Operator @ The Upper Hutt Connection.

Website: uhconnection.co.nz

Facebook: The Upper Hutt Connection

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



Contributor: Jenelle

Bed, Bath & Beyond move to their new location on Park Street

Bed Bath & Beyond Upper Hutt are excited to open their doors in their new Park Street location today.

It's been a busy week with an amazing crew preparing the store and filling the shelves with beautiful new products for us all to enjoy. Call in and visit!

We look forward to seeing you and welcoming you all in store!!

Jenelle gave permission for this article to be put up on The Upper Hutt Connection.

07/03/25

Index:

Pg 1: General News

Pg 3: Council and Committee

Meetings Pg 4: Sports

Pg 7: Community Events Pg 11: Send in an article Pg 12: Worship Services Pg 14: Entertainment

Saying goodbye to Bogantown 2025

We're sad to say goodbye to BOGANTOWN!

But we had a good time throwing our mullets around while headbanging, exploring what it meant to be a teenager in Aotearoa in 1950s-1980s, watching stockcars speed round the race track and eating delicious Bogan themed Burgers!

And it looks like you all did too!

Check out some of the photos and reminisce.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

11/03/25



Take a trip down memory lane with Upper Hutt Library's 50 Years of Maidstone Mall

Come with us on a walk down memory lane.

When you next visit Central Library, take some time to stop in our heritage and local history corner. It's a bit tucked away and a real treasure trove.

Right now, we have a special display looking back at five decades of Maidstone Mall, from store promotions to performances and community events.

Explore more about Maidstone Mall and Upper Hutt through the years on Recollect, our online archive: https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/

Source: Upper Hutt Libraries



The Upper Hutt Connection: - Photo dated January 1990

What is Weaving the Harakeke about?

We started a successful pilot in 2024. Once a fortnight for an hour at Ōrongomai marae on a Monday night at 6pm. Next Monday (17th of March) is our official launch and then our hui will commence every fortnight from the

Every decision Council makes affects us.

Our purpose: To have a korero as a community with representatives from Council kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) for an hour once a fortnight in a safe, collaborative space empowering actions leading to improved outcomes.

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

11/03/25

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

Risk and Assurance Committee: 19th of February, 2025

Topics for discussion at this meeting included:

- Delegations update
- Recommendations from the Denton's Kensington and Swan Report
- Strategic risk management
- Sensitive expenditure
- Treasury
- Health and safety

Risk and Assurance Committee Agenda – 19th of February, 2025: https:// www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/your-council/meetings/ 2025/cycle-1/risk-agenda-20250219.pdf

Risk and Assurance Committee Minutes – 19th of February, 2025: https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/3/your-council/meetings/ 2025/cycle-1/risk-minutes-20250219.pdf

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

07/03/25



The Upper Hutt **Connection Blog:**

Hi everyone, have you checked out The Upper Hutt Connection's Blog? This is mostly intended for those who don't use social media.

https://uhconnection.co.nz/theupper-hutt-connection-blog/



Upper Hutt City Council

Finance and Performance Committee: 26th of February, 2025

Topics discussed included:

- reporting on the non-financial performance measures for Oct-Dec 2024
- · Council's financial strategy performance
- · Debtors and rates areas.

Finance and Performance Committee Agenda – 26th of February, 2025: https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/your-council/meetings/2025/cycle-1/finance-agenda-2025026.pdf

Finance and Performance Committee Minutes – 26th of February, 2025: https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/your-council/meetings/2025/cycle-1/finance-minutes-20250226.pdf

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Source: Upper Hutt City Council

07/03/25

SPORTS

Naenae College beat St. Pat's Silverstream in match of kilikiti (Samoan Cricket) at the Basin Reserve.

Naenae College beat St Pat's at the second "Kilikiti at the Basin" event last Saturday. The first kilikiti event in New Zealand happened at the Basin last year. This year featured more teams, youth teams, and two female teams.

Kilikiti, also known as Samoan Cricket came about after Christian missionaries introduced cricket to the Samoans, but lacking the willow trees of which cricket bats are usually made from, the Samoans adapted it to put their own spin on the game. The bats used in Kilikiti are the three-sided Samoan war club, the LapaLapa, and the ball is made from pandanus leaves (Pandanus a species of palm tree).

Source: Radio New Zealand





Upper Hutt Petanque Club defend the Jacques Cochonnet Trophy against Manawatu

Upper Hutt Petanque Club have successfully defended the Jacques Cochonnet trophy from a challenge by Manawatu Petanque Club, held on their own terrain in Palmerston North on Saturday 9th March 2025. The team travelled up to Manawatu arriving around 9:45am. and play started at 10:40. Two rounds of games were played before a superb lunch was provided by the hosts, followed by another round of games. Each round consists of a Singles, Doubles and Triples game between the two clubs. The tournament is won by the club winning at least 5 of the 9 games overall.

Upper Hutt won the Singles and Doubles from the 1st round, then all 3 games in the 2nd round, so had in fact retained the trophy by lunch break. Upper Hutt then went on to win all 3 games after lunch, making the win 8-1 to Upper Hutt. A great day of semi-social, semi-competitive play was had by all and Upper Hutt went home with the trophy again. Manawatu were very good sports and great fun to play with. The next challenge for the trophy is from Otaki Petanque Club at UHPC terrain at Maidstone Park within the next 6 weeks.

The winning team from left to right was Derek Worsley, Brian Smith, Mary Khalil, Moises Burgos, Adrienne Gwerder and Dave Gwerder.

Source: Upper Hutt Petanque

10/03/25

Joey Sipikiotis signs up with Upper Hutt City Football for the upcoming season

We are thrilled to announce the signing of Joey Sipikiotis for the upcoming season.

Joey Sipikiotis is the product of the US university system at 'Wheaton College' he then moved to Brisbane in 2023 in FQPL 1 for Wynnum Wolves. And now he is one of the top performers in the team playing at centre midfield.

Source: Upper Hutt City Football

06/03/25

Sam Twigg joins Upper Hutt City Football for upcoming season

UHCF is excited to welcome Sam Twigg for our upcoming 2025 Season.

"I'm pleased we have brought in such a quality player to club who has represented NZ and Thailand in futsal and is an established National League player.

He will be coming here to train in our elite daily programme and if he really dedicates himself to the game he could one day be a top professional." – Rory Fallon (Director of Football)

Source: Upper Hutt City Football



Upper Hutt Petanque



Upper Hutt City Football



Upper Hutt City Football

Shimal joins Upper Hutt City Football to support youth and junior female players

UHCF is thrilled to announce another addition to our team supporting our junior and youth female footballers.

Shimal will be looking after the non-technical development of our female players, ensuring their social and emotional needs are being met in their playing environment(s) and supporting the pathway as they progress from junior into youth and then senior football.

Here's what Shimal has to say:

"Hi, I'm Shimal and I'm excited to come on board as the Junior & Youth Girls Development Officer this year.

A little about me, my husband Mark and I moved to Upper Hutt in 2022. We have since adopted our doggy daughter Rosa (pictured), and we all are thoroughly enjoying life in Upper Hutt.

I grew up playing football in the Western Bay of Plenty. Football played a very important part of my development in teaching me vital life skills, gave me lifelong friends and of course, I had a lot of fun!

This is the reason I have chosen to volunteer this year to work with girls and youth at the Club. I am passionate about seeing girls and youth get into football and see them reach their goals - whatever that may look like.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all and working with you this year!"

Source: Upper Hutt City Football

10/03/25



Upper Hutt City Football

Upper Hutt City Football looking for social and competitive women's players: Sign ups available until the end of March

UHCF has seen an amazing influx of senior women's players this year and we're looking to fill the last remaining spots on a brand new competitive Women's 3rd team as well as our social Women's team. Whether you played last year, five years ago or thinking about starting up, we would love to welcome you to our team.

We boast a positive and welcoming culture with competitive and social teams across multiple divisions and a support team which is continuing to grow.

If you would like more information on playing with the UHCF senior women's teams, contact katie@upperhuttcityfootball. org.nz

Source: Upper Hutt City Football



Rosa Posa Photos

COMMUNITY EVENTS: To view all upcoming and regularly occurring events, please visit https://uhconnection.co.nz/community-events/



Forget-Me-Knot: 3rd of April – 12th of April

Venue: The Studio, 52 Ward Street, Upper Hutt

Dates:

- Thursday 3 April, 8pm
- Friday 4 April, 8pm
- Saturday 5 April, 3pm
- Sunday 6 April, 3pm
- Wednesday 9 April, 8pm
- Thursday 10 April, 8pm
- Friday 11 April, 8pm
- Saturday 12 April, 8pm

by David Tristram, and directed for Heretaunga Players by Ruth Sarratt, 3rd to 12th April 2025.

Robert Zeinfeld is not the man he thought he was. Then again, he can't actually remember who he was. Or can he? Inspector Monroe doesn't know whether to believe Robert or not. Trouble is, the deeper he digs, the more confused he gets, until he finds himself wrestling a plot with more twists than a buckled slinky! Mrs Zeinfeld is no help. Funnily enough, neither is Mrs Monroe!

This wickedly witty comedy from David Tristram will leave audiences weak with laughter, and debating the question "is he, or isn't he?" all the way home.

Forget-Me-Knot is performed at The Studio, 52 Ward St, Upper Hutt April, 3rd to 6th (Wednesday to Sunday) and 9th to 12th (Thursday to Saturday). Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th are matinées starting at 3pm; all other performances start at 8pm

Tickets \$23 | Booking fees apply to all sales | Bookings required

Book through iTicket.co.nz: https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2025/apr/forget-me-knot

Source: Whirinaki Whare Taonga

SHOE
SALE
Children's shoes, men's shoes, women's shoes, belts, handbags and wallets!

Saturday
15th March 10am-1pm
Greenstone Doors
1285 Fergusson Drive
Upper Hutt

Greenstone Doors



Brick Engaged Foundation

Let's Get Elected: starts Thursday, 13th of March

The promotion of a series of workshops.

Have you thought about how you can be an influencer?

Upper Hutt Business and Professional Women in collaboration with the National Council of Women is hosting a series of workshops for those women thinking of standing for the local Body Elections, School boards or other governance position on boards;.

Dame Kerry Prendergast and other speakers will share their insights through these workshops to empower women for community leadership.

A "thank you" to Hellen Swales President of Upper Hutt Business and Professional Women, for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

05/03/25



Age Concern Wellington

Staying Safe Refresher Driving Course for older drivers: Wednesday 19th of March, 10.00 am

Staying Safe is a classroom-based refresher workshop for senior road users. Age Concern runs these workshops in partnership with Waka Kotahi (NZTA).

The workshop aims to maintain and improve safe driving practices and increase the knowledge of other transport options available to help senior road users remain safely mobile.

The free interactive workshop runs for around 4 hours, with morning tea and a light lunch provided.

Spaces at each workshop are limited so please register via our website https://www.acwellington.org.nz/events/staying-safe/ or call us 04 4996646

Source: Age Concern Wellington

04/03/25











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. Note that the playgroup will not be operating on the 1st and 9th of April 2025, and will be resuming after the school holidays on the 30th of April.

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.

Weaving the Harakeke: 6.00 pm, 17th of March 2025

Nau mai, haere mai

You are warmly invited to the official launch of 'Weaving the Harakeke' at Orongomai Marae on the 17th of March 2025 at 6pm. Our intention is to continue to build strong foundations and hear the history of the marae from conception to the present day. Highlight the many services that the marae provide.

There will be a cup of tea afterwards. As we are completely volunteer led. Therefore, we will be collecting a koha to return the generosity to hau kainga*.

An RSVP will help hosts with planning to weavingtheharakeke@gmail.com

*hau kāinga: home, true home, local people of a marae, home people. – https://maoridictionary.co.nz

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

03/03/25

Take a Walk On The Wild Side -CIRCLE OF SONG

Songs of inspiration, love & appreciation of life

Tues 1.00 - 2.30

Instruments and players welcome.

Remutaka Baptist Church

Akatarawa road

Contact kevin 021 311 465

Weaving the Harakeke

Örongomai Marae in the wharenui 17 March 2025 at 6pm All Welcome. RSVP is appreciated

Koha to hau kainga welcomed

Building Strong Foundations
Sharing the history of the marae from conception
Highlighting the services provided by Orongomai marae

o have a korero as a community with representatives from Council kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) for an hour once a fortnight in a safe, collaborative space empowering actions leading to improved outcomes.

Contributor: Heather



Upper Hutt City Council

Meet the Funders workshop: Wednesday 12th of March, 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Location: Te Kupenga o Rongomai Maidstone Sports Hub, 11 Railway Avenue, Upper Hutt

Looking for funding or grants to support your community group, sports club, or local project?

We are running our Meet the Funders workshop again in March. Find out from different organisations about how and when to apply for their upcoming funding rounds.

10/02/25

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

Positive Pathways School Holiday Programme – register now: 14th of April – 24th of April

Hi All! 5 weeks till the next school holidays and our registration is open for our School Holiday programme.

We specialise in support Autistic and PDA children, so our holiday programme is designed specifically to cater to their needs.

If you have carer support or IF funding, our holiday programme is able to be claimed back.

Any questions please reach out to us through our page Positive Pathways: https://www.facebook.com/positivepathwayswellington

Emma gave permission for this article to be put up on The Upper Hutt Connection.

11/03/25



Contributor: Emma

GARAGE SALES



Contributor: Steve

Heretaunga Community Church Garage Sale: Saturday, 15th of March, 8.00 am -12.00 pm | 51 Lane Street, Upper Hutt

A garage sale held by Heretaunga Community Church. Help us raise funds to help cover the costs of our current building work going on at the church.

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

RECIPES

Hi everyone, sorry but no room for a recipe this week. Check out the meals, baking, and desserts section on The Upper Hutt Connection for inspiration.

Cheers, Ben

https://uhconnection.co.nz/recipes-meals/

https://uhconnection.co.nz/recipes-baking/

https://uhconnection.co.nz/recipesdesserts/



THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR ARTICLES

Hi everyone, did you know that it costs nothing to put up an article on The Upper Hutt Connection? It doesn't matter if you're a professional journalist or not (I'm certainly not!), any and all articles are welcome on The Upper Hutt Connection.

Schools and groups are most certainly invited too. Where privacy is a concern, I can create high quality AI images for you, protecting the students privacy. Please check out the images to see what I can do for you! The AI loves details - The more info you put in, the more detailed your image will be!

Examples of the AI images I can provide can be found here: https://uhconnection.co.nz/send-an-article-to-the-upper-hutt-connection/the-upper-hutt-connection-ai-image-gallery/

The Upper Hutt Connection is always looking for:

- · General news articles
- Community events
- Letters to the Editor / Opinion (Community Commentary)
- Recipes
- Sports articles
- Garage Sales
- · Book, film, or restaurant reviews
- Promoting the worship services here in Upper Hutt
- And anything else you might think of I'm always open to suggestions.

Please visit https://uhconnection.co.nz/send-an-article-to-the-upper-hutt-connection/ to find my easy-to-fill-out forms, which make sending in articles a breeze.

CHEAP BUSINESS ADVERTISING

The Upper Hutt Connection also offers very cheap business advertising at only \$1 a day (billed at \$30 a month). There are no contracts, pay by the end of each month and your business will continue to be advertised.

Include everything you want in your advertisement, and it will still only cost you \$1 a day!

Please contact me at editor@uhconnection.co.nz if you're interested. I'd love to hear from you. :)

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

WORSHIP SERVICES

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 Community Church

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

Email: admin@heretaunga.com

Website: https://www.heretaunga.com



Heretaunga Community Church

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 rodneyramsay62@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 Live. 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 14

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 13th of March, 2025

BLACK BAG

Running time: 93 minutes

Rated: M (violence, sexual references & offensive language)

From Academy Award®-winning director Steven Soderbergh (Traffic, Ocean's series) and acclaimed writer David Koepp (Mission: Impossible, Jurassic Park), comes BLACK BAG— a gripping spy thriller starring Michael Fassbender and Academy Award®-winner Cate Blanchet as legendary intelligence agents George Woodhouse and his beloved wife Kathryn.

When a device that could result in hundreds of thousands of deaths goes missing, George has only seven days to find the traitor who stole it. When he discovers that Kathryn is one of the five suspects, George faces the ultimate test – his love for Kathryn or his allegiance to his country.

A high-stakes tale of lies and loyalty, don't miss BLACK BAG only in cinemas from March 13.

Book Here: https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/black-bag

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt30988739/videoplayer/ vi2093271321/?ref_=nv_sr_srsg_1_tt_8_nm_0_in_0_q_Black%2520bag



Running time: 133 minutes

Rated: M (Violence, sexual violence, domestic violence, and content that may disturb)

Based on a story of an Indian diplomat who tries to repatriate an Indian girl from Pakistan, where she was presumably forced and deceived into marrying against her will.

Continued on Page 15



Black Bag



The Upper Hutt Connection - Wednesday Edition: 12th of March, 2025

Page 14

Book Here: https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/the-diplomat

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/video/vi2349254937/? playlistId=tt26229612&ref =tt ov pr ov vi

Source: Monterey Cinemas Upper Hutt