

# THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION



A LOCAL NEWSPAPER - FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

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## GENERAL NEWS



*Maidstone Intermediate*

### **AED (Automated External Defibrillator) gifted to Maidstone Intermediate**

Exciting News for Our Kura!

We are beyond grateful to announce that our kura has been gifted an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) thanks to the incredible generosity of Emma and Rebecca from Embracing Hearts!

A huge shoutout to Rachel and the team at Wellington Free Ambulance, who have provided lockbox so the AED is accessible to our whole community, as well as covering the ongoing costs to keep it maintained. This is an incredible gift that could help save lives!

Special thanks to Jax and his mum, Melissa, who have been amazing advocates in helping us secure this AED for our school and community. Your mahi is truly appreciated!

If you'd like to learn more about the amazing work of Embracing Hearts, check them out here: [www.embracinghearts.nz](http://www.embracinghearts.nz).

Let's keep the heart of Maidstones community beating strong!

A huge thank you to those who made this possible—your generosity and support mean so much!

Let's continue looking out for one another.

*Maidstone Intermediate gave permission for this article to be put up on The Upper Hutt Connection.*

31/03/25



*the-searchers.co.uk – Mark Ellis*

### **From Harcourt Park stage Upper Hutt to Glastonbury Festival - 68 years on the road -longest surviving band now to retire!**

You may remember The Searchers pop group from Liverpool played the Harcourt Park Stage 3 or 4 times courtesy of a grants from the Rimutaka Community Trust ( who also funded the stage there )

Well they play their final concert in June at Glastonbury Music Festival in UK - probably their top festival there

You can watch an UK TV interview with them via the link below.

"The Searchers 'live in Upper Hutt <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmxZsHrRN1A>

Press release from Saturday 9th of December, 2006

The Liverpool Sound of "The Searchers" live in Upper Hutt

Harcourt Park is a great place to be when the music is good! "The Searchers" from Liverpool return to play there on Wednesday 17 January. The concert starts at 7pm with Shaun Preston, Upper Hutt's own singer, songwriter on piano. "The Searchers" have played extensively worldwide since their concert here last January.

Upper Hutt has scored their only Wellington region concert and they may not even reach the South Island! The Rimutaka Trust supported the building of the Soundstage at Harcourt Park and this concert. A special feature of the concert is that it is located in the middle of Mary Archibald's stonecarving week.

So patrons will be able to enjoy viewing artists with their Oamaru Stone as well. Patrons will be encouraged to make a gold coin donation for the Expressions Arts and Entertainment Concert Grand Piano fund. Patrons should really be in the mood when they see Shaun Preston's piano on stage.

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

28/03/25



*Narukami Taiko*

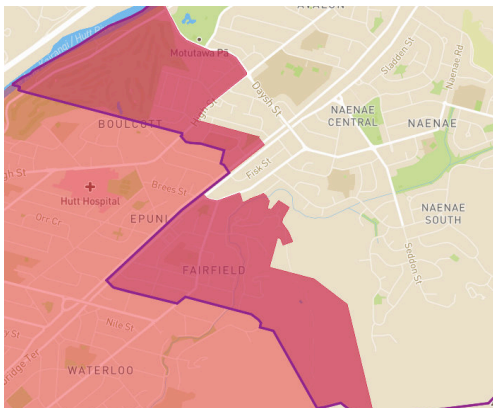
## International taiko drumming conference met at Silverstream Retreat in the weekend

A taiko drumming conference met at Silverstream retreat in the weekend, with members coming from New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Canada, and the United States. 74 members will be present, including teachers.

If you're interested in taiko drumming, google taiko drumming to find a group in your area.

Source: Radio New Zealand

29/03/25



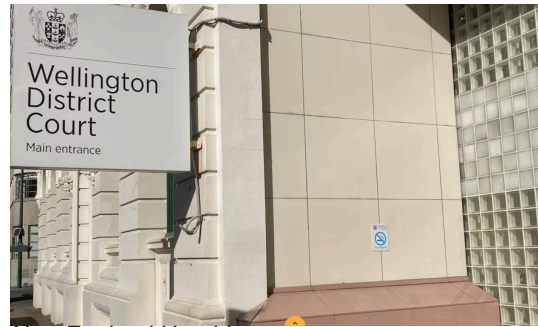
*New Zealand Electoral Commission*

## Remutaka electorate grows a little larger due to the 2025 Boundary Review

The Remutaka electorate has grown a little bit larger in Lower Hutt due to the 2025 Boundary Review, now covering parts of Fairfield and Boulcott in Lower Hutt.

Source: New Zealand Electoral Commission

28/01/25



*New Zealand Herald*

## Joseph Blackburn is given home detention after being sentenced on drug and weapon charges.

Joseph Blackburn has been given ten months home detention after being sentenced on drug and weapon charges in Wellington District Court on Friday Morning. The charges included supplying methamphetamine, cannabis, ecstasy, and fantasy-type substances. The weapons charges came for possessing two tasers.

The charges arose from two searches, one at a vacant house in Upper Hutt, and the second at his home. His phone was also searched.

Judge Davidson sentenced Joseph Blackburn to ten months home detention as opposed to being sent to jail as Joseph had checked into an Auckland-based drug rehabilitation facility, and Davidson felt that jail would undo all the good work Joseph had made. The conditions given were that Joseph would attend any alcohol and drug programme directed by his probation officer, not to possess or consume any alcohol or illegal drugs, forfeit the cash he made from the drugs, and the destruction of the drugs and tasers.

Source: New Zealand Herald

31/03/25





Simon Watts – RNZ / Samuel Rillstone

## Local Government Minister Simon Watts has decided to use the Commerce Commission to monitor Wellington Water

It was announced on Friday that Local Government Minister Simon Watts has decided to use legislation in the Local Water Done Well reforms, to allow the Commerce Commission to monitor Wellington Water. This requires Wellington Water to report key performance and financial management measures to the Commerce Commission.

Watts said that the decision came after two reports released earlier this month highlighting poor financial management at the company.

The mayors of Wellington City, Hutt City, Upper Hutt, and Porirua are supportive of this decision. Anita Baker, mayor of Porirua mentioned “I hope it doesn’t take too much of their time though to do it because at the moment we [councils] are all out consulting on our new water entity and for me its full steam ahead for the new water entity.”

Source: Radio New Zealand

29/03/25



Cat Connor / Upper Hutt Libraries

## Setting the scene in Upper Hutt: five questions with author Cat Connor

Ahead of Cat Connor launching [Indigo Romeo Lima] at our Central Library on 11 April 2025, we had the chance to get a glimpse behind the scenes.

In this interview, the creator of the acclaimed Byte series shares what inspires her new work and insights into what it takes to get from idea to published novel.

### How did you come up with the idea for the Veronica Tracey series?

I wanted a protagonist who blended espionage and private investigation, which adds a unique twist to both genres.

Veronica “Ronnie” Tracey has a background in intelligence (ex-NZSIS) but now operates as a PI, which allows for a mix of high-stakes espionage and classic detective work. And I love a good supporting cast! Reynolds, Crockett, and Ronnie’s mischievous Nana all add layers of intrigue, humour, and personal stakes.

There is definitely something delightful and delicious about writing a Kiwi set series. After writing the Byte series for so long, I was ready for a fresh setting and a new kind of protagonist. Plus, setting a spy/PI story in Upper Hutt adds a unique touch. Everyone knows nothing happens here.

(Note: This alludes to the first Veronica Tracey book, which is titled [Nothing Happens Here].)

### Speaking of writing a series: what do you enjoy about reprising a character?

I really enjoy playing a long game, apparently. I don’t know all there is to know about any of my characters when they first appear.

Continued on Page 5



But, I also never intended to write any series, let alone two – three, if we count the Fates Entwined novella trilogy. Watching characters evolve is quite rewarding, and getting to know them in the process is fascinating to me.

**For you, what's the most challenging part of the writing process?**

It's not the writing; I can tell you that. I love the writing part.

First drafts are more challenging than editing and re-writing but the hardest thing about writing isn't even writing – it's marketing. I am currently 30K [words] into the next Veronica Tracey novel and very much enjoying it... And I don't want to stop writing to do other things, like marketing.

**What advice do have for anyone who loves writing and might like to become a published author?**

I will tell you what I tell my students when I teach crime writing: it's not enough to love writing; you have to be motivated. Love will get you so far but sheer determination is what it takes to finish a novel.

It's hard work and the rewards are slim so if you don't have enough determination and motivation to get those words written, it won't happen. Don't talk it to death – write the book!

**And a classic library question to finish: can you give us a book recommendation of something you've recently enjoyed reading?**

I just finished reading Assassin in a Blue Suit by Nick Spill. I love Nick's writing.

I was lucky enough to read an early copy and get to blurb for him. It's always slightly different when you read the final product! I've always been drawn to assassins, spies, and so forth.

**Enter our Short Story Competition 2025**

If this interview has sparked your creativity, we encourage you to start (or continue) your own writing journey with a shorter piece of writing.

Our Short Story Competition 2025 is open for entries until Wednesday, 30 April 2025. Dust off an old idea, have pen or keyboard ready, and let your story take flight.

<https://www.upperhuttlibrary.co.nz/Programmes/Short-Story-Competition-2025>

We can't wait to read more from Upper Hutt's talented writing community!

*Source: Upper Hutt Libraries*

31/03/25



*New Zealand Police*

## The pointy end of police work

**Police Commissioner Richard Chambers welcomed six new patrol dog teams after their graduation today at the Police Dog Training Centre at Trentham, Upper Hutt.**

Alongside them also graduating were three personnel from 2nd Engineer Regiment, 2 Field Squadron Unit with three newly trained Explosive Detector Dogs (EDD).

The teams celebrated the occasion in front of whānau and friends, the Commissioner of Police with members of the police executive, and Lieutenant Colonel Joe Totoro Commanding Officer, 2nd Engineer Regiment, New Zealand Army.

Commissioner Chambers congratulated them all on their achievements.

"All our patrol dog teams play a crucial role in frontline policing, deploying to some of the most dynamic and challenging situations. We couldn't police the way we do without them.

"That's why I'm thrilled to see six newly trained dog teams graduate today. They will be welcomed into Eastern, Central, Waikato, Wellington, and Auckland police districts very soon."

Graduating from the police patrol dog course is one new and five experienced handlers with their dogs.

Wellington-bound Constable Nick Press with Police Dog 'Oskar' says, "It feels different this time around being my second operational dog after working 'Ink' for the past six years. It's exciting to get back on the street with a new young dog who is very different to 'Ink' and has taught me a lot and given me more skills as a handler."

Constable Pete Smits is heading back to the Waikato. "I got Ozark at the start of November last year, and I've enjoyed training him and getting him as ready as possible for the reality of what police delta teams do. I'd like to acknowledge the Waikato Dog Section for helping me get to this point in my career."

*Continued on Page 6*

Inspector Todd Southall, National Coordinator Police Dogs, says "It's a proud day for all teams, both experienced and new. This ceremony marks the end of a demanding few weeks training to become an operational team and well done on completing all the tests which replicate your day-to-day work."

Patrol dog work is one of the most physically demanding roles in Police – you're at the pointy end of frontline policing and a pivotal component in our Tactical Response Model. We are grateful for all your work, and this graduation signals the next step toward frontline duties" says Todd.

Source: New Zealand Police

28/03/25



Contributor: Sally

## Laughter is good for you.

Imagine an opportunity to play as adults, to abandon reality, to be a little silly and take on some surprising challenges. Each week groups of over 65s are taking up the challenge and enjoying improvising and theatre games, and forging new friendships.

Social Drama for Seniors has returned to the Upper Hutt. Ten years ago a similar group called Unscripted ran a weekly session at the Upper Hutt Library, founded from a council community initiative. Meanwhile, Voice Arts began – a charitable trust providing access to drama-based creative programmes delivering social drama classes for seniors across Te Whanganui e Tara for the last 7 years, in community halls and in retirement villages.

After Unscripted finished up in Upper Hutt 5 years ago, many participants joined the Voice Arts sessions, travelling to Naenae's Rata Village for a weekly session. Social Drama is now running independently with classes in Upper Hutt, Naenae and Petone.

So what happens at Social Drama?

**How:** Each session is highly imaginative and different. It involves a series of improvisation exercises, story-telling and drama games. But no learning lines, reading from scripts or public performance. We are a supportive group and you participate at your own pace and nothing is compulsory. This is drama for the people!

**Who:** People over 65 with diverse life experiences, all walks of life, all abilities and with a sense of humour. The size of the group is between 10-20 people.

Sally Richards runs the group. She's an experienced facilitator, welcoming and wrangles the fun.

**Why:** This is an innovative programme. It supports cognitive improvement, community connection, memory recall, and self-esteem. Laughter is very good for you. That's the science.

### What people say:

"The social drama classes are an unparalleled opportunity for older folk to come together to rescue their brains, socialize and learn. The classes are confidence boosters and everyone is encouraged and applauded."

"There is always laughter and jokes, as well as care, courtesy, kindness and empathy. Sally models these behaviours and traits. Social Drama is a powerful contributor to building a strong and positive community."

The group's return to Upper Hutt Library is proving popular with new and returning faces. We are causing a little bit of a stir at the library! We hope that people will come along and see if this is for them.

### When and Where:

90 minutes sessions (with a cuppa and a biscuit)

- Second & fourth Tuesday 3.30pm Upper Hutt Library (Free)
- Every Tuesday 10am St. Augustine's Church, Petone (\$5 koha)
- First & third Tuesday 1pm Te Mako, Naenae (\$5 koha)

During school term time.

For more information contact:  
sallyjoanrichards@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063696829425>

We are Supported by Hutt City and Upper Hutt Councils.

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



AI Generated

## Running for council or mayor in the 2025 local elections? Promote yourself on The Upper Hutt Connection!

Upper Hutt local body elections are coming up this October. If you're planning on running for council or for the position of mayor, The Upper Hutt Connection is more than happy to help you get your name out there.

Have a page for yourself on The Upper Hutt Connection where you can have all the text, images, social media links you like! YouTube videos and Tiktok videos, Facebook and Instagram posts, Twitter etc, are also welcome. You can update your page at any time.

Just send me an email with all the text, images, etcetera, that you'd like in your profile. I'll handle the rest. You can contact me at [editor@uhconnection.co.nz](mailto:editor@uhconnection.co.nz)

Come October, I'll also release a special Local Elections version of The Upper Hutt Connection's Wednesday Edition where all your profiles will be available to the public, all in one place.

I hope to hear from you!

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

31/03/25

## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES



Upper Hutt City Council

### Ordinary Council: 19th of March, 2025

The purpose of this meeting was to adopt the Local Water Done Well Consultation Document || Adoption of the 2025 – 2026 Annual Plan Consultation Document and its supporting information: Dog Registration Fees and Charges, Schedule of Fees and Charges for consultation, approval to consult on the Revenue and Financing Policy, Gambling Venues Policy, and the Alcohol Fees Setting Bylaw.

**Council Agenda – 19th of March 2025:** <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/your-council/meetings/2025/cycle-1/council-agenda-20250319.pdf>

**Related Information:** <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/your-council/meetings/2025/cycle-2/correction-to-revenue-and-financing-statement-of-proposal-20250318.pdf>

**Council Minutes – 19th of March 2025:** <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/your-council/meetings/2025/cycle-2/council-minutes-20250319.pdf>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

26/03/25



## SPORTS



Upper Hutt Hockey Club

### Hockey results for Saturday 29th of March / Sunday 30th of March

- P2 Men vs Karori: 1-5
- P3 Women vs Hutt United: 0-3
- Accountants Plus P3 Men vs Harbour City: 4-1
- Reserve Women vs Tawa: 2-3
- Reserve Men vs Tawa: 0-7

Source: Upper Hutt Hockey Club

01/04/25

### Free Square Dancing sessions: Wednesday 26th of March / Wednesday 2nd of April



**Free**

**Free session of dancing**  
Wednesdays 7 – 8pm  
At Avalon Public Hall, Mabey Road,  
Lower Hutt

**Square dancing for all ages**  
Gentle exercise, good for the mind and a  
safe place to meet people.  
Enquiries: Kathie Ph 04 528 9235

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



**Dominion Cat Club**  
**CAT SHOW**

**WHERE:**  
WHIRINAKI WHARE TAONGA  
(EXPRESSIONS)  
836 FERGUSON DRIVE  
UPPER HUTT

**WHEN:**  
**SAT 5TH APRIL 2025**  
**9AM - 3.30PM**

ADULT \$5, CHILD \$2  
UNDER 5 ARE FREE

 **PURINA PRO PLAN**  
NUTRITION THAT PERFORMS®

 Easter theme

### Dominion Cat Club Cat Show: Saturday 5th of April, 9.00 am – 3.30 pm

Calling all Cat Lovers!!!!

Save the date... 5th April

The following breeds are registered for the show. Come along and see a variety of felines.... Devon Rex, Devon Rex Longhair, Cornish Rex, Burmese, American Shorthair, Abyssinian, Bengal, Sphynx, British Shorthair, British Longhair, Russian, Mandalay, Persian, Birman, Ragdoll, Exotic, Maine Coon, Turkish Angora

<https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Community/Events/DCC-Cat-Show>

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

28/03/25



Retrieved from Whirinaki Whare Taonga

## Bogan Bingo: Saturday 5th April, 7.30 pm

Get your mates together and unleash your inner bogan. More than your traditional Bingo, be ready to rock out to all your old school rock songs, together with air guitar competitions, head banging comedy, and the chance to win prizes (including best dressed Bogans).

Adults (18+) \$25 | R18 EVENT | Booking fees apply to all sales | Bookings required

Book via iTicket: <https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2025/apr/bogan-bingo>

Source: Whirinaki Whare Taonga

17/02/25

## Free car seat checks: Saturday 5th of April, 12.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Did you know that 80% of child car seats aren't correctly installed?

We've partnered with Plunket – Upper Hutt and qualified restraint technicians to bring FREE child car seat safety checks to Upper Hutt to make sure kiddies in the back seat are buckled up safely.

The next session is coming up and you can book now

Book in advance to secure a spot as spaces are limited

Checks will be at Plunket on Logan Street. (In the carport, entry from Kowhai Ave) where a technician will check the seat, make any corrections, show you what to look for, and explain what they're doing so you can be sure your little cargo is travelling safely.

To book a safety check, please contact Caroline, our Road Safety Co-ordinator, at [caroline.tansell@uhcc.govt.nz](mailto:caroline.tansell@uhcc.govt.nz), or call on 04 5272169.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

27/03/25

## Kartsport Wellington Have a Go day! Saturday 5th of April

**KartSport™**  
WELLINGTON

Looking for an adrenaline-fueled way to satisfy your need for speed?  
Experience the thrill of motorsport!  
This is not your typical indoor karting experience...  
**This is the real deal!**

So what are you waiting for?  
Join our have a go program.  
Discover the excitement of outdoor Kart racing!  
You'll never want to race anything else!

**WWW.KARTSPORTWELLINGTON.NZ**  
**Gazley G**

Have a Go Day! Saturday 5th April! Hit the link below for more info!

<https://www.kartsportwellington.nz/new-to-karting/have-a-go-1>

Source: Kartsport Wellington

18/03/25

**Mainly Acoustic Presents: Tuesday  
8th of April, Doors open 7.00 pm /  
Show starts 7.30 pm**



*Mainly Acoustic Music Club Upper Hutt*

## **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!

**Trentham United Harriers & Walkers  
open day: Saturday 5th of April, 1.30  
pm**



*Trentham United Harriers & Walkers*



*Whirinaki Whare Taonga*

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*

10/03/25



## Consultation on Upper Hutt City Council's Water Service Delivery Options – Local Water Done Well: Consultation closes 27th of April

Public consultation is now open on Upper Hutt City Council's Water Services Delivery Model Options under the Government's Local Water Done Well reform.

### About this consultation

- The new legislation states that all councils must consult and decide on a delivery model and submit their water services delivery plan to Government by 3 September 2025.
  - To read more about the process we've followed to reach this point, see the 'What's happened so far' section on our webpage: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Home/Tabs/Council/Your-Council/Plans-policies-bylaws-and-reports/Local-Water-Done-Well-Reform>
  - Council is consulting with the community on this in accordance with the alternative requirements of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 (sections 60-64). This means it is a little different to how other consultations may look, the information available and what we can do.
  - There are only two options that we are asking for feedback on. You can read more about these options in the Consultation Document, and then provide feedback.
- Option 1 – Our preferred approach: a new multi – council owned water organisation which will own and operate public water, wastewater and stormwater assets/networks.
- Option 2 – Modified status quo: a modified version of Wellington Water where asset ownership and investment decisions remain with each individual council. As the existing Wellington Water model would not comply with all aspects of the new legislation, this option includes changes required to comply with legislation.

We've done some initial financial work to compare different delivery models for your feedback. The financial details in the consultation document are not complete. The full financial information will be included in the final Water Services Delivery Plan.

- We are teaming up with the councils (Hutt, Porirua and Wellington City Councils and Greater Wellington Regional Council) that would be part of the proposed new water services organisation to gather feedback on the preferred delivery approach. Following consultation, councillors will consider all the feedback and make their final decision on a new delivery model. Although each council will make its own decision, themes from feedback will be shared across all councils, to ensure alignment in the councils' decision-making.

- A water services delivery plan will then be finalised based on the confirmed delivery model. Councils are required to submit their plans to the Department of Internal Affairs no later than 3 September 2025 for review and approval.
- There is more detailed information available on a range of Frequently Asked Questions on the right of this page.

### What's Local Water Done Well?

In December 2023 the Government announced a new direction for water services (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater) policy and legislation called Local Water Done Well (LWDW). It requires councils across the country to decide, alongside their communities, what approach they will take to deliver water services.

You can read more on the background and details to Local Water Done Well in the Frequently Asked Questions (on the right of this page) or on the Department of Internal Affairs website: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Water-Services-Policy-and-Legislation>

The Government's implementation map for the reform is available in the Supporting Documents section on the top right of this page.

The core expectations and legislative requirements of the reform are that:

- Councils develop a Water Services Delivery Plan to transition to a new water services delivery model that meets regulatory requirements (plans must be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025 for review and approval).
- There will be increased regulation concerning water quality and infrastructure investment.
- Financial sustainability of a water service delivery model is required, based on sufficient revenue, ringfencing to fund investment and funding for growth.

### How to have your say

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to tell us what you think, and you can make a submission at the bottom of this page.

Brochures have been delivered to Upper Hutt households with information on how you can be involved and have your say.

The Consultation Document, submission form, and other material outlining all you need to know to make an informed decision are available here: <https://letskorero.upperhutt.govt.nz/lwdw>

*Continued on Page 12*

Consultation Documents and other supporting material will be available in hard copy from early April at Whirinaki Whare Taonga, Upper Hutt Libraries, and Upper Hutt City Council reception.

Greater Wellington Regional Council also wants to hear from the region's residents on its Local Water Done Well consultation. Visit [gw.govt.nz](https://www.gw.govt.nz) to give them your feedback.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

28/03/25

## Upper Hutt Baptist Church playgroup: 9.30 am – 11.30 am, Tuesday mornings



Contributor: Cushla

If you're looking for a Tuesday activity for your little ones then come check out UHBC Playgroup at Upper Hutt Baptist Church, corner of Milton St and Fergie Drive.

We run 9.30am – 11:30am each Tuesday morning and you can drop in anytime that suits.

Lots of fun stuff to play with and a different activity each week to stimulate young minds.

Morning tea for children and adults provided.

Everyone welcome

Gold coin donation

Hope to see you there

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



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## 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.*

07/11/24

## 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

## RECIPES

Hi everyone, I've decided to just keep using this format for the recipes from now on. There's never enough room to allow for one to be included these days. Please check out the different recipes in the meals, desserts, and baking sections below.

Cheers, Ben

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

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

<https://uhconnection.co.nz/recipes-desserts/>



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## FILM REVIEW

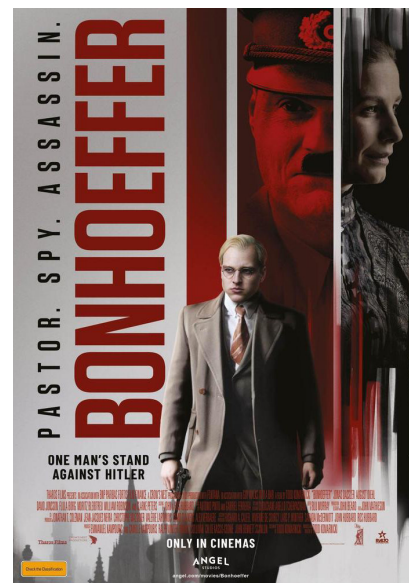
### Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin

In the final days of the Second World War in Europe, Bonhoeffer is in prison following a failed assassination attempt on German leader, Adolf Hitler. The film then focuses on the events of his life which built up to this point, and shortly after his eventual hanging by Nazi soldiers.

After spending some time in the United States giving him a different view of how Christian services can be conducted by visiting an African American church, Bonhoeffer returns to Germany shocked with how quickly things have changed in the church during his absence, where the Nazi party has taken control of how the German church is run. With him and others with feelings about how the church is now operating, he becomes a spy travelling to Britain to inform the British church leaders of what is happening in Germany.

Eventually, deciding that it is God's calling, he takes part in an assassination plot against Adolf Hitler which ultimately lands him in prison...

27/03/25



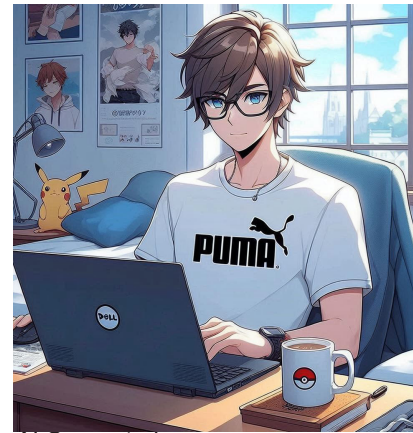


## THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR ARTICLES

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/>



AI Generated

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.

## BUSINESS ADVERTISING

Advertise on The Upper Hutt Connection at only \$1 a day – billed at \$30 per month. No contract – make sure you pay each month and your business will continue to be advertised on The Upper Hutt Connection.

\$1 a day advertising means a page all to yourself on The Upper Hutt Connection along with a small image and blurb on the homepage linking to your page. You can include as much content as you like, including images, social media links, etc.

If you ask, I'll also include a mention in The Wednesday Edition. This will have to be a shorter ad in order to fit with everything else, but it will include a link to your page on The Upper Hutt Connection.

The advertisement can be included in any section you want in the Wednesday Edition, just say where and I'll find a place to slot it in. If you don't say which category, I'll just put it in any place that works as I'm assembling it.

As for restrictions on who can advertise, the only exclusion is the sex industry. Everyone else is welcome to advertise on The Upper Hutt Connection.



AI Generated

If you're interested in advertising on The Upper Hutt Connection, please email me at [editor@uhconnection.co.nz](mailto:editor@uhconnection.co.nz)

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

*Please note that advertising on The Upper Hutt Connection is only open to those based in Upper Hutt – That is as north as the Remutaka Hill, the border of Akatawara Road between Upper Hutt and Kapiti, and as south as Reynolds Bach Drive, Stokes Valley.*

## 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.

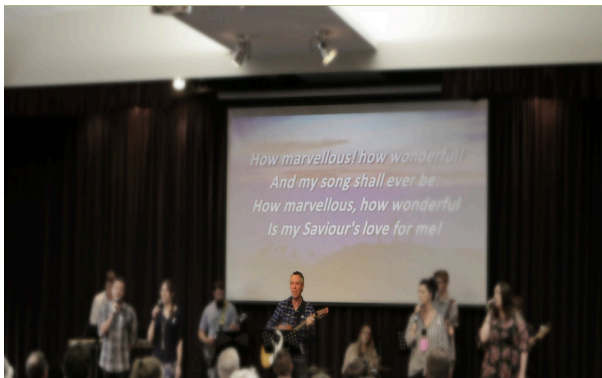
Our Creche for children under 3 1/2 years runs every Sunday morning. Our Children's Church runs Sundays during school terms.

Services are live-streamed on YouTube: Heretaunga Community Church

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

Email: [admin@heretaunga.com](mailto: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 [rodneyransay62@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 17*



## 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 3rd of April, 2025

### A MINECRAFT MOVIE

**Running time:** 101 minutes

**Rated:** PG (Violence & scary scenes)

Welcome to the world of Minecraft, where creativity doesn't just help you craft, it's essential to one's survival! Four misfits—Garrett “The Garbage Man” Garrison (Momoa), Henry (Hansen), Natalie (Myers) and Dawn (Brooks)—find themselves struggling with ordinary problems when they are suddenly pulled through a mysterious portal into the Overworld: a bizarre, cubic wonderland that thrives on imagination. To get back home, they'll have to master this world (and protect it from evil things like Piglins and Zombies, too) while embarking on a magical quest with an unexpected, expert crafter, Steve (Black). Together, their adventure will challenge all five to be bold and to reconnect with the qualities that make each of them uniquely creative...the very skills they need to thrive back in the real world.



*A Minecraft Movie*

**Book Here:** <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/a-minecraft-movie>

**View trailer at IMDB.com:** [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3566834/videooplayer/vi2627324185/?ref=mv\\_sr\\_srsq\\_2\\_tt\\_7\\_nm\\_1\\_in\\_0\\_q\\_Minecraft](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3566834/videooplayer/vi2627324185/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_2_tt_7_nm_1_in_0_q_Minecraft)

### NOVOCAINE

**Running time:** 109 minutes

**Rated:** R16 (Graphic violence & offensive language)

When the girl of his dreams (Amber Midthunder) is kidnapped, everyman Nate (Jack Quaid) turns his inability to feel pain into an unexpected strength in his fight to get her back.

**Book Here:** <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/novocaine-no-pain>

**View trailer at IMDB.com:** [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt29603959/videooplayer/vi4208904473/?ref=mv\\_sr\\_srsq\\_1\\_tt\\_7\\_nm\\_1\\_in\\_0\\_q\\_Novocaine](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt29603959/videooplayer/vi4208904473/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_1_tt_7_nm_1_in_0_q_Novocaine)



*Novocaine*

*Continued on Page 18*

## DEATH OF A UNICORN

Running time: 107 minutes

Rated: R16 (Horror, violence & animal cruelty)

A father (Paul Rudd) and daughter (Jenna Ortega) accidentally hit and kill a unicorn while en route to a weekend retreat, where his billionaire boss (Richard E. Grant) seeks to exploit the creature's miraculous curative properties.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/death-of-a-unicorn>

View trailer at IMDB.com: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt28443655/videooplayer/vi1987496217/?ref=mv\\_sr\\_srsq\\_2\\_tt\\_7\\_nm\\_0\\_in\\_0\\_q\\_Death](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt28443655/videooplayer/vi1987496217/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_2_tt_7_nm_0_in_0_q_Death)

Source: *Monterey Cinemas Upper Hutt*

01/04/25



*Death of a Unicorn*