# THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION



A LOCAL NEWSPAPER - FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

The Upper Hutt Connection - Wednesday Edition: 16th of July 2025

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Website: uhconnection.co.nz
Facebook: The Upper Hutt Connection
Contact the editor at: editor@uhconnection.co.nz

883 subscribers recieve The Upper Hutt Connection Wednesday Edition in their inbox every Wednesday Morning

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#### AT HOME: HOUSEHOLD HINTS AND TIPS

 Fed up with Facebook showing irrelevant and unwanted content? Have you tried clicking on the "feeds" button?

#### **GARAGE SALES**

• Garage Sale: 2 Bernadette Street, Upper Hutt | Sunday 20th of July, 9.00 am – 2.00 pm

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#### **BUSINESS ADVERTISING**

 Advertise your business on The Upper Hutt Connection for \$1 a day, or in the Wednesday Edition for \$10 a week.

#### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

- Heretaunga Community Church
- St. Margaret's Presbyterian Church Silverstream
- Rimutaka Baptist Church
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#### **ENTERTAINMENT**



Contributor: Janice – Golder Homestead Museum Society, Inc

# Golder Cottage – Farewells long serving Committee member & past President.

Golder Homestead Museum Society, Inc farewelled Yvonne Airey our past President at an Afternoon Tea (Thurs 10), held at Golder's Cottage. In appreciation of Yvonne's, many years of service to Golder Cottage, our new President David Passmore presented Yvonne and husband Bob, with Honorary Life Membership. Bob, our key handyman in recent years, using his carpentry skill at the cottage. His last project has been a new and improved letter box!

We wish Yvonne & Bob well on their move to Napier, warm climate and closer to family.

Both Cherylynn (nee Browne) and David Passmore are Life Membership of the Society. David was also a member of the original Golder Homestead Museum Society Committee. Cherylnn provides the Golder family link through her mother Janice Browne (nee Golder) and is our co-ordinator for Group tours (P: 528 9855)

Golder Cottage, Golder Homestead Museum Society, Inc.

#### http://www.goldercottage.co.nz

A "thank you" to Janice @ The Golder Homestead Museum Society for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

14/07/25



# Highest rates increases: Upper Hutt comes in at second place!

Upper Hutt City Council has come in second place for rates increases this year, at 15.78%, this comes after Clutha District Council at 16.59%.

The lowest rates increase comes from Whanganui District Council which comes in at 2.20%

The average rates increase across the whole of New Zealand is at 8.39%

To read all the data, follow the link: <a href="https://www.taxpayers.org.nz/rates\_dashboard\_2025">https://www.taxpayers.org.nz/rates\_dashboard\_2025</a>

As for how Whanganui met their 2.2% rate increase – replicated from Radio New Zealand

Mayor Andrew Tripe says the low figure is the envy of the country and the payoff in a sustained drive to adjust how the council operates.

"[It] didn't happen by accident – it's the result of a deliberate strategy to keep costs under control," Tripe said.

"Many of the savings are structural and will flow through to future years. We expect there will be opportunities to reduce the 2026/27 rates increase as well."

In his first tilt at local government in 2022, Tripe's successful campaign for the mayoralty included driving efficiencies to reduce the rates burden.

A six-point plan was developed early in the electoral term to reduce costs and ease reliance on rates.

Continued on Page 4.

As well as improving efficiency, the plan looked at reducing services, finding alternative funding for projects, identifying non-rates sources of revenue, and growing the population so there were more households to pitch in on rates.

"The plan has taken a while to get some traction, however the benefits of that approach are now starting to show," Tripe said.

The savings drive led to works and services being deferred, scaled back or cut but Tripe said investment in infrastructure had been prioritised.

Variations to the long-term plan included Tripe's push to ditch a planned food scrap collection, reducing rates by \$1 million or about 1.5 percent, he said.

Council restructuring saved \$1.2m a year.

For the full article, please read: <a href="https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/566846/how-whanganui-achieved-lowest-rates-in-the-country">https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/566846/how-whanganui-achieved-lowest-rates-in-the-country</a>

Source: Taxpayers' Union / Radio New Zealand

A "thank you" to Derek for requesting that this article be put up on The Upper Hutt Connection.

15/07/25



Upper Hutt City Council

# Reminder to ratepayers to plan ahead and avoid penalties

Council is encouraging residents to reach out early if they are concerned about paying their rates, with a reminder that support and flexible payment options are available to avoid late penalties.

As the new rating year begins, Council is reminding ratepayers that there are a number of ways to manage rates payments.

Setting up a direct debit is one of the most effective ways to spread payments throughout the year in regular, manageable amounts.

These are calculated by Council to ensure the full balance is paid by 30 June, helping residents avoid missed payments and penalty charges.

For those who choose to make automatic payments through their bank, Council advises checking that payments align with invoice due dates and amounts.

"Automatic payments are payments set up through your bank. The ratepayer controls the timing of the payment and the amounts," says UHCC Financial Controller Sarah Tunnicliffe.

"Direct debits are set up by council at the request of the ratepayer. The ratepayer can decide the timing of the payment, and the amount to be debited is calculated by our finance system to ensure that the rates balance is paid off in full by 30 June. While both methods are convenient, the direct debit option is more flexible due to the ability to pay up until 30 June, whereas other payment methods are bound by the due date of the invoice. Direct debit allows longer payment periods, without penalties."

Residents on low or fixed incomes may also be eligible for assistance through the Government's Rates Rebate Scheme.

Applications can be submitted online to rates@uhcc.govt.nz, and Council staff are available to assist with any questions about the process.

Tunnicliffe encouraged anyone having trouble making payments to get in touch early.

"Staff are available to discuss payment options and help residents avoid unnecessary stress or financial penalties."

"If you're worried about paying your rates invoice, the most important thing you can do is talk to us. We're here to help and can often find a solution that works for your situation."

Rates can be paid online, or in person at the Upper Hutt Civic Centre.

For assistance or more information, residents are encouraged to email rates@uhcc.govt.nz or call 04 527 2169.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council



Inner Wheel New Zealand

# Step Up and Lead by Example – The Inner Wheel Club of Upper Hutt

Inner Wheel Club of Upper Hutt is a part of an international women's organization whose mission is focused on friendship, personal service and international understanding. At a local level, being an Inner Wheel member brings with it compassion for others, a sense of achievement and a purpose, all of which have enabled the club to reach out to the community, offering help and assistance where there is a need. In the last 12 months the club has supported a number of local charities with financial gifts raised through our various fundraising activities. In addition practical support has been offered to those charities who work toward providing assistance where it is needed. Schools, kindergartens, food banks and the Women's Centre have all been recipients of our programmes. From time to time club members can be found supporting street appeals for those organisations who rely heavily on the outcome of a successful street appeal to continue providing much needed community based services.

Monthly dinner meetings, coffee mornings, regular phone contact, group meetings, and a connection to a national and international organisation provide members with an opportunity to further enjoy the friendship of like minded women offered by the club.

Want to know more, or feel like joining us – you are most welcome.

Please contact through the form at: <a href="https://www.innerwheel.org.nz/Expression-of-Interest-Form">https://www.innerwheel.org.nz/Expression-of-Interest-Form</a>

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

10/07/25



# It takes the people of Upper Hutt to make The Upper Hutt Connection

How many staff do you think work at The Upper Hutt Connection? Twenty? Ten? Five? – Neither, the true answer is one.

You might not realise it but The Upper Hutt Connection is really a one-man-band operation. All the maintenance of the website, and the assembling and mailing out of the Wednesday Edition is all done by one guy.

It's everyone else who really makes The Upper Hutt Connection what it is, though. Upper Hutt City Council who allow me to put up their articles, Upper Hutt Libraries, individuals in the community, and the various sports groups in Upper Hutt that have given me the permission to put up their items too...

But if you want things to always just be this way, I do need your help too. I don't have journalists and reporters – I need you, the people of Upper Hutt, to send in articles too if you'd like The Upper Hutt Connection to be more interesting than it is now.

I have a Send in an Article page on The Upper Hutt Connection which makes it nice and simple. Fill in the form which includes the genre, the article headline, the text of your article, and any images you'd like included. You can even include a prompt for the Al image generator I use, if you like

# https://uhconnection.co.nz/send-an-article-to-the-upper-hutt-connection/

I do hope you'll send in articles and we can make The Upper Hutt Connection an even better online newspaper for the people of Upper Hutt. A newspaper where all citizens are involved.

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

# COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES



Upper Hutt City Council

### Additional Council: 30th of June, 2025

The purpose of this meeting was for Council to consider the Local Water Done Well Services Delivery Model and confirm next steps, and to consider and adopt the Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025-26, the Revenue and Financing Policy, the Alcohol Fees Bylaw, Class 4 Gambling Venues Policy, the Annual Plan 2025-26 and setting of the Annual Rates and Uniform Annual Charges for 2025-26.

Council Agenda – 30th of June 2025: <a href="https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/2/meetings/2025/cycle-4/council-agenda-20250630.pdf">https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/2/meetings/2025/cycle-4/council-agenda-20250630.pdf</a>

Council Minutes – 30th of June 2025: <a href="https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/meetings/2025/cycle-4/council-minutes-30-june-2025.pdf">https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/meetings/2025/cycle-4/council-minutes-30-june-2025.pdf</a>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

09/07/25

# City Services Committee: 2nd of July, 2025

The purpose of the City Services Committee is to monitor Council's performance in promoting the on-going growth, redevelopment and improvement of the City. The meeting agenda and minutes are available below.

City Services Agenda – 2nd of July 2025: <a href="https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/meetings/2025/cycle-4/city-services-agenda-20250702.pdf">https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/meetings/2025/cycle-4/city-services-agenda-20250702.pdf</a>

City Services Minutes – 2nd of July 2025: <a href="https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/meetings/2025/cycle-4/city-services-minutes-20250702.pdf">https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/meetings/2025/cycle-4/city-services-minutes-20250702.pdf</a>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

09/07/25

# LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS 2025



### 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.

Please note that YouTube, Social Media posts etc, can't/won't be included in the Wednesday Edition.

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

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



https://www.hellenformayor.com

# Wai Worry at Ōrongomai Marae on the 21st of July – Heather / Weaving the Harakeke

Firstly, credit where credit is due. Community were feeling angry and unheard last year. This resulted in a collaboration between community, Örongomai and Council. A face to face hui on a regular basis with the chance to ask and answer questions. Despite the many invitations. Two Councillors (our Deputy Mayor Hellen Swales and Cr Tracey Ultra) attended every hui along with senior Operational staff from time to time. They weathered our storm and eventually the storm eased to a gentle breeze with the ocassional gust.

We support each other to take action on matters needing more voices. One or two can be ignored easily. We didn't want to wait until tomorrow.

We are having a working hui outside our regular monthly hui to discuss water on the 21st of July 2025 at 7pm.

The attached letter was written by one of our attendees following advice from Hellen that the decision makers need to hear our voices. May this letter encourage you all to write to those who are making decisions about water and it's affects on you and your community. Not least Te Taiao (our natural environment) who pays the ultimate price. Better still come along with your questions and work out what actions we can take.

Water – an essential to all life. let's talk about the facts and figures and what we can do.

We are meeting at the new time of 7pm. one hour to respect those who are time poor. Please bring a koha towards one of the many services the marae provide the community, eg. mara/garden, foodbank.

I'm acutely aware that many in our community are deeply concerned about the impact of Local Water Done Well.

The projections outlined in Upper Hutt's 2025–2026 Annual Plan are alarming, and when you look further ahead to 2034, the estimated cost per water connection ranges between \$6,000 and \$8,000.

In November 2024, I commented in the Dominion Post article "Upper Hutt backs water entity plan" that "Councillor Hellen Swales said she was concerned about the impact on Upper Hutt ratepayers and the affordability of the regional approach."

[PayWalled] https://www.thepost.co.nz/nz-news/360478307/upper-hutt-backs-regional-water-entity-plan

Nowhere in the planning documents released to the council so far has affordability for the end user been meaningfully addressed. My 94-year-old father, who lives alone on a pension, is just one example of how these rising costs will hit hardest, especially as the cost-of-living challenges continue

I have been encouraging residents to write to Government Ministers and share their personal stories. It's been a privilege to help proofread these letters and guide people on where to send them. One of those powerful stories has been generously shared with me to pass on—and I'm grateful to its author. This is published below with their full approval.

I urge others to do the same. Tell your story. Let the central government hear directly from our community about the real-world consequences of implementing Local Water Done Well, a program council is being mandated to carry out, and whether our communities can afford it.

This will not just affect Ratepayers, but renters, businesses, and our Community organisations. Rural appear untouched directly at present but be aware there is a clause if you are closer than 100m of a town water supply. See the Reference in the Long Term Plan: <a href="https://c29daf59-758a-4029-be4e-3a751893ecad.usrfiles.com/ugd/c29daf-06fdce6c85514cd58c4e4783dfb26ab3.pdf#page=292">https://c29daf59-758a-4029-be4e-3a751893ecad.usrfiles.com/ugd/c29daf-06fdce6c85514cd58c4e4783dfb26ab3.pdf#page=292</a>

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Letter to Ministers & Local MP from Concerned Upper Hutt Residents

**To:** The Hon. Simon Watts, Minister for Local Government The Hon. Casey Costello, Minister for Seniors The Hon. Chris Hipkins, MP for Remutaka Electorate

From: Retired Superannuitants (Concerned Upper Hutt Residents)

Date: 4th July 2025

Subject: Submission from Retired Superannuitants: The Unaffordable Burden of Water Reform

Dear Ministers

#### 1. Who We Are: A Lifetime of Contribution

We are a retired couple from Upper Hutt. We have lived in this community for 36 years, where we have worked, paid our taxes, and raised our family. We write to you today not just as individuals, but as a household whose financial stability is now under direct threat from the government's water reform policy.

We did everything we were told to do to prepare for a secure retirement. We lived frugally to buy our home and support our children. To build a small nest egg for our later years, I (Wife) worked until I was 67, and my husband worked until he was 70. We have always managed our finances carefully, believing that this lifetime of effort would grant us security and dignity.

Now, that dignity is at risk. The dream of a 'golden years' retirement, where we could support our children and enjoy our grandchildren, is slipping away. Our daughters have started their families in Australia and the South Island. If we are to have a meaningful relationship with our four beloved grandchildren, we must be able to afford to travel. I fear that the coming water costs will make this impossible. The thought that we will become isolated and lonely in our old age, unable to be part of our growing family's lives, is heartbreaking. It feels less like a reward for a life of hard work and more like a betrayal.

### 2. Our Reality: A Budget with No More Room

The planned financial security is vanishing. The current cost-of-living crisis is hitting low and fixed-income households like ours the hardest. We have watched the cost of food, insurance, petrol, and power rise relentlessly, while our income remains static. Our budget is now a constant source of stress, a daily exercise in deciding what we can go without.

This is not just our story. The Massey University "Retirement Expenditure Guidelines" (2024) proves this mathematically. It shows that even a 'no-frills' lifestyle costs significantly more than what NZ Super provides. For us, this means we are already making difficult choices that impact our health and well-being, such as reducing heating in winter and cutting back on food. We no longer have Life or Contents insurance.

# 3. The Tipping Point: Water Costs Will Push Us Over the Edge

Into this already precarious situation, we now face the prospect of massive, unavoidable increases in our rates to pay for water infrastructure. Our local council has been clear that under the "Local Water Done Well" model, the costs will be significant.

For us, this is the tipping point. An extra cost of this magnitude is not something we can "absorb". It is a cost that will push our household budget into crisis. It raises the terrifying prospect of going into debt simply to pay for basic utilities or being forced to sell the home we have worked for decades to achieve.

This is not the dignified retirement we were promised. It feels as though the social contract—that you can work hard and be looked after in your old age—is being broken.

#### 4. Our Ask: A Call for Central Government to Uphold its Responsibility

The problem of funding our country's water infrastructure is a national one, born of decades of neglectful decisions by elected officials at both the central and local levels.

It is, therefore, fundamentally unfair to place the full burden of fixing it onto the shoulders of local ratepayers, especially those who are the most vulnerable

We urge you, as our current elected leaders, to intervene and create a system that is both effective and humane.

We ask the government:

- Place a Moratorium on councils passing on full infrastructure costs until these national affordability protections are put in place. Protect citizens like us from being pushed into poverty while the details are worked out.
- Legislate a National Affordability Standard: Create a law that requires all councils to ensure water charges do not exceed a set percentage of income for low and fixed-income households. Do not leave affordability to chance or to 67 different interpretations.
- Urgently Reform and Expand the Rates Rebate Scheme: The current scheme is completely inadequate for the scale of the coming rate hikes. The income thresholds must be raised substantially, and the maximum rebate amount must be increased to provide meaningful relief.

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 Provide Direct Central Government Co-Funding for Water Upgrades: Treat critical water infrastructure like other national assets, such as hospitals and state highways. Use general taxation to co-fund these essential projects, spreading the cost fairly across the whole country and all taxpayers, rather than concentrating it on small groups of ratepayers.

We trusted the government to provide a framework for a secure and dignified retirement. We ask you now to honour that trust. Please do not create a policy that solves an infrastructure problem by creating a social crisis for your seniors.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission.

Sincerely,

Sue & Murray

Retired Superannuitants (Upper Hutt Residents)

Source: https://www.hellenformayor.com/post/local-water-done-well

A thank you to Weaving the Harakeke and Heather for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

11/07/25

# **SPORTS**

# Football results for the weekend: 12th of July / 13th of July

Our weekend fixture wrap up showed some fantastic results for a lot of our teams across the club.

With our Men's Reserves beating Stokes Valley 5-1 on Saturday, this now puts them 3 points clear at the top of the Capital 1 table and Campbell Webster well clear for Golden Boot as well (after scoring a hat trick on Saturday!)

Some great wins for our Men's 3rds, 4ths as well as in our Masters grades for the RJs, Marauders and Saints (who decisively won 13-1!!)

Sunday had some tightly contested draws for our Women's 1st and 3rds and a win for our U13 and U17 TDP teams!

Source: Upper Hutt City Football

14/07/25



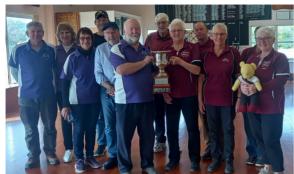
Rams results from last Saturday 12th of July

Some HUGE results this week, and it makes for an even bigger weekend on the 19th especially with the Triple Threat kicking off afterwards!

Source: Upper Hutt Rams RFC



Upper Hutt City Football



Upper Hutt Petanque

# Upper Hutt Petanque retains Jacques Cochonnet Trophy against Otaki

Upper Hutt Petanque Club has retained the Jacques Cochonnet trophy after another good humoured challenge from Otaki Petanque Club played on their home ground at Otaki on Thursday 10th July 2025. A most enjoyable 9 games were played and whilst a couple of them were very close indeed, Upper Hutt won 6 of the 9 games. The Upper Hutt team was Brian Smith, Mary Khalil and Moises Burgos (Triples), Dave Gwerder and Derek Worsley (Doubles) and Adrienne Gwerder (Singles). The Otaki team consisted of Linley Wistrand, Wendy Mohan and Craig Watson (Triples), Shirley MacDonald and Gary Brunton (Doubles), and Carolyn Graham (Singles).

This was the thirteenth challenge and fourteenth consecutive win for the trophy since Upper Hutt won it in November 2023. The next challenge is from Wanganui East at Maidstone Park, Upper Hutt.

Source: Upper Hutt Petangue

10/07/25



Upper Hutt Libraries

## Drop-in Info Session: Community Grants | Monday 21st of July, 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Location: Upper Hutt Library

Looking for information and help to guide you through the application process for Upper Hutt City Council's annual Community Grants?

Come along to this open drop-in session and have a chat with our Community Partnerships team.

For general information about the Community Grants, visit the dedicated grants webpage <a href="https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Community/Grants-and-funding/Community-Grants">https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Community/Grants</a>

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



## Applications for 2025 Community Grants now open: Final day for applications – Monday 11th of August, 5.00 pm

The 2025 funding round of our Community Grants is now open for applications!

Do you work for a local organisation, support group, or initiative that puts community wellbeing at the heart of what they do? Does your service reach a wide audience and benefit Upper Hutt locals who are in need of support, advice, and help?

We know that the Community Grants make a huge difference to local organisations who help keep residents informed on rights and services; supported through health challenges; and connected to their community.

They also create opportunities for locals to take care of their environment, enjoy active recreation, and build connections with others.

And that's only a short summary of the invaluable work that these groups and projects deliver.

For more information and how to apply, visit our website: <a href="https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/">https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/</a>
<a href="Community/Grants-and-funding/Community-Grants">Community/Grants-and-funding/Community-Grants</a>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

14/07/25

Source: Upper Hutt Libraries



# Learn to skate with Kiwiskate in Term 3: Tuesdays and Saturdays

Come skate with us

Kiwiskate classes kick off for Term 3 at our brand new location, St Patricks Silverstream. Want to give it a go? First lesson is free Please arrive after 5:15pm to give us a chance to get the class set up. See you there!

For more info – including costs, check out <a href="https://www.skatewellington.org.nz/kiwiskate/">https://www.skatewellington.org.nz/kiwiskate/</a>

Source: Upper Hutt Roller Skating Club

15/07/25



# NOODLES @ THE COSSIE: Saturday 19th of July, 9.00 pm

The Noodles are Wellington's busiest professional cover band, playing 3-4 nights a week in Wellington and all around New Zealand's top nightspots. Their repertoire ranges from classic rock through to contemporary – from the 1960's to today.

For further details contact the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

Source: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

11/07/25

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Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

# Money For Old Rope @ The Cossie!: Saturday 26th of July, 7.30 pm

Money For Old Rope are a Wellington based 4piece rock band.

Collectively, the members of the band have been in the music business for over 40 years,

They play mainly covers – by artists such as The Rolling Stones, Peter Frampton, Deep Purple, The Mutton Birds – but will play a few of their original numbers as well.

The band love playing live music and will make sure you have an awesome MFOR experience, and get what they paid for – a rockin' good time.

For further details contact the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club.

Source: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club



Upper Hutt Libraries

# Poetry Competition 2025: Final date for entries – 3rd of August, 4.00 pm

Calling all wordsmiths, poets, and poets-to-be!

It's time to dream and draft, chisel and polish.

Wherever inspiration finds you, let the words take you places – to bold rhymes, striking metaphors, and that perfect little moment, captured in the stanzas, lines, and imagery of a thoughtful poem.

Our annual Poetry Competition is now open for entries.

# Marking 25 years of hosting the Upper Hutt Libraries Poetry Competition

It's incredible that we have reached this special milestone. Looking back at two and a half decades of themes, we have listened to, read, and shared poems of friendship, freedom, home, and much more – every year showing the power of poetry in bringing people together as a community.

Fittingly, this year's competition theme is "Celebrate". So, close your eyes, search your heart. What, who, how do you celebrate?

#### Poetry is for everyone - why you should take part

Haiku, classic sonnet, limerick, or graceful ode. Whatever form your entry will take, our Poetry Competition is for all ages, and all levels of writing experience.

Know someone who loves to write, rhyme, recite, slam – a family member, student, friend? Help us cheer our community on and share this opportunity with others.

#### Here's why we encourage you to take part:

 Improve writing skills: Writing competitions are great for exploring style, voice, and the creative process. Take the opportunity to step out of your comfort zone and try something new – this is how you hone your craft and open the door to fresh

- Connect with other poets and writers: Our competition brings together a diverse community of locals who share a passion for words and storytelling. Participate and come along to the Poetry Awards on Friday, 29 August 2025, whether you're shortlisted or not – and find like-minded people to spark inspiration, peer support, and creative dialogue.
- Win prizes and boost your confidence:
   Receiving a reward can be a big incentive for participating. Even if you don't win, being shortlisted or receiving an honourable mention gives your confidence and motivation a big boost.

For further information and how to enter, click the link: <a href="https://www.upperhuttlibrary.co.nz/">https://www.upperhuttlibrary.co.nz/</a>
Programmes/Poetry-Competition-2025

Source: Upper Hutt Libraries



Rimutaka Gymsports

## Rimutaka Gymsports Adult classes: Wednesdays 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm

Did you know we Adult gymnasts classes here at Rimutaka? Come check it out every Wednesday from next week and bring a friend to get half price!!

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

#### 09/07/25



Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

# The Young Once: Sunday 20th of July, 4.00 pm

Wrap up your week with a nostalgic trip down memory lane as The Young Once take over the Sports Bar! on Sunday, 20th July, from 4–7 pm for a lively afternoon filled with the unforgettable sounds of the '60s and '70s.

From the Beatles to the Rolling Stones, this is the era that shaped music history—and The Young Once are here to bring these timeless hits back to life. Come sing along, tap your feet, and let the music take you back!

For further details contact the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan

Source: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

11/07/25



hirinaki Whare Taonga

### The Last Night of the Proms: Saturday 26th of July, 2.00 pm / 7.00 pm

Location: Whirinaki Whare Taonga

Upper Hutt Brass Band presents

A spectacular evening that blends the beloved traditions of London's Royal Albert Hall with a distinctive New Zealand flavour. Joining the celebration are The Hutt Valley Singers, alongside a host of talented local artists and soloists. Raise your voice and wave your flag as you revel in stirring favourites like Jerusalem, Land of Hope and Glory, Sea Songs, and rousing patriotic marches timeless highlights that capture the true spirit of this grand musical tradition.

Adult \$25.00 | Concession (Seniors 65+ with Gold Card) \$20.00 | Child (11 years and under) \$10.00 | Booking and transaction fees apply | Bookings required

Book through iTicket.com: www.iticket.co.nz/ events/2025/jul/last-night-of-the-proms

Source: Whirinaki Whare Taonga - A "thank you" to Jacquie for requesting this article to be put up on The Upper Hutt Connection.

19/06/25



# The Triple Treat at Brewtown – Watch three games for free on the big screen: Saturday 19th of July

The Triple Treat is here at Brewtown Saturday 19th July on THE BIG SCREEN!

Brewtown Greenspace with FREE ENTRY.

Thanks to our mates The Big Screen Company NZ sport has never been bigger.

Three MASSIVE games – one giant 9m x 5m screen, an atmosphere you won't forget and you are invited.

- Wellington Phoenix Vs Wrexham: 5.00 pm
- All Blacks Vs France Live from Hamilton: 7.00 pm
- British Lions Vs Australia: 10.00 pm

The ultimate live sport line up right here on our covered outdoor greenspace! The fire will be going, layer up, bring your deck chairs and settle in for an adrenaline – charged night of footy, food and fun!

Gates open 4pm

BYO Deck Chair

Source: Brewtown Upper Hutt

10/07/25





Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan

# Uncle Monkey – LIVE @ THE COSSIE: Friday 18th of July, 7.30 pm

Get ready for a legendary night of music and fun at the Cossie!

Uncle Monkey, the iconic band that has become a Wellington institution, is here to rock your world. They recently celebrated an incredible 25 years together. That's a true testament to their popularity and their lasting impact on the music industry.

Over the years, they've graced numerous festivals, corporate events, and stages, delivering a party atmosphere with their signature brand of popular covers wherever they go. Join us for a night of nostalgia, great tunes, and unforgettable memories as we celebrate 25 years of Uncle Monkey's incredible journey in the world of music!

For further details please contact the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club.

Source: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

11/07/25

# Taoist Tai Chi: Mondays, 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm

Taoist Tai Chi sessions

Mondays 6.30-8.00pm.

Trentham School Hall.

Start any time.

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



RACE Trentham Events

# Upper Hutt Night Market: Friday 7th of November, 6.00 pm – 10.00 pm

Location: Trentham Racecourse

The Upper Hutt Night Market returns to RACE Trentham for an unforgettable evening.

This vibrant community event promises an exciting evening of entertainment, artisan crafts and delectable food options for attendees of all ages.

Over 80 artisan craft stalls will showcase the talent and creativity of local artists. Attendees will have the opportunity to browse and purchase a wide range of unique handmade products, including artwork, jewellery, candles, home decor, plants, clothing and much more.

To satisfy the appetites of hungry visitors, the Upper Hutt Night Market will also feature over 20 carefully selected food trucks offering a diverse range of culinary delights. From international cuisines to local favourites, attendees can indulge in a variety of mouthwatering dishes, ensuring there is something to satisfy every palate.

At the heart of the event will be the sensational sounds of The Shenanigans, a local band renowned for their energetic performances. Their lively melodies and infectious tunes will grace the sound stage, ensuring a memorable night filled with music and joy.

Vendors can apply to sell via this link : <a href="https://membership.raceinc.co.nz/Vendors/07-11-2025">https://membership.raceinc.co.nz/Vendors/07-11-2025</a>

FREE ENTRY

Source: RACE Trentham Events

10/07/25



SeniorNet: Tuesdays 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm

Location: Upper Hutt Library

Not completely comfortable with technology? Wondering how you are going to cope when everyone is using their mobile phones?

Come along to Upper Hutt SeniorNet, every Tuesday at 1.30 – 2.30pm at the library where a happy group of older people meet to discuss technology and learn how to be confident in the digital world.

Just turn up and say hello!

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

29/04/25



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

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.



St. Margaret's Church - Silverstream

## St. Margaret's Playgroup: Tuesday Mornings, 10.00 am - 11.30 am (term time only)

Tuesday mornings during term time 10-11.30am. Come along and join in the fun with your preschool children. Meet other parents and carers, relax and enjoy a cuppa while the kids play. (Please note all children must be accompanied by an adult!). Looking forward to seeing you. Start's Tuesday 13 May 2025.

A "thank you" to St. Margaret's Church -Silverstream for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

06/05/25

### Rimutaka Baptist Church Playgroup: Fridays, 9.00 am - 11.30 am during term time



Contributor: Kerry



Contributor: Cushla

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

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.

28/03/25

# AT HOME: Household hints and tips



Al Generated

# Fed up with Facebook showing irrelevant and unwanted content? Have you tried clicking on the "feeds" button?

Is Facebook showing unnecessary and unwanted content every time you open it up? Does it not seem to get that you'd rather see the posts from your friends or the pages you decided to follow? I had the experience with The Upper Hutt Connection's Facebook page a couple of weeks back, when suddenly Facebook had the bright idea that I wanted to see the posts from every city and regional council it seemed from New Zealand and Australia – which of course I don't. I only care about local news here!

Making a quick search, I found this solution and it works very well. When you open up Facebook, click on the "Feeds" button, and it will "mostly" only show you your friends posts and any other page you actually follow or like. As soon as I started using this approach, I was soon only seeing posts from Upper Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt Community Page, etc.

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

18/11/24

### **GARAGE SALES**



Al Generated

# Garage Sale: 2 Bernadette Street, Upper Hutt | Sunday 20th of July, 9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Items for sale:

- Clothes
- Shoes
- Books
- Toys
- Homewares

Bring cash

(Plenty of bargains and treasures to find)

A member of the Upper Hutt community (anonymous on the Upper Hutt Community Page – Facebook) gave permission for this article to be put up on The Upper Hutt Connection.

### **RECIPES**



Stuck for an idea to what to do for dinner? 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/

### **Business Advertising**

A webpage on The Upper Hutt Connection at only \$1 a day

Is your business lacking a website, and you don't want to bother with setting one up yourself? The Upper Hutt Connection can offer you a webpage on The Upper Hutt Connection at only \$1 a day (billed at \$30 a month). Include all the text, images, links etc that you like.

Advertise your business in The Upper Hutt Connection's Wednesday Edition for only \$10 a week - be seen by all 883 subscribers.

Would you like to advertise your business weekly in The Upper Hutt Connection's Wednesday Edition? You can have your business advertised at only \$10 a week (billed at \$40 a month). Include a small paragraph of text along with a small image – OR an image alone, with all your business info included in the image itself. A small line of text can be included for a link to your website, etc. If you have a request where you'd like your ad to be placed in the Wednesday Edition then please say – otherwise l'Il use my own judgement.

### Restrictions

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.

If you're interested in advertising on The Upper Hutt Connection, please email me at 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

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 Huff

**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 minister@stmargaretssilverstream.org.nz

**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 the second and fourth Thursday of the month in the church hall and lounge during term time. 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

### Rimutaka Baptist Church

Location: 2 Akatarawa Road, Brown Owl, Upper Hutt

We would love to get to know you, so come along to one of our groups and meet others in your community.

#### **Tuesdays**

5 Loaves and 2 Fish Food Pantry: 11am - 12noon - Free

Food is available for those who are needing extra assistance. If you have food to contribute to contribute to the pantry, feel free to drop off at the church.

### **Wednesdays**

Community craft session: 10.30 am - 12noon - Free

Bring along your craft and join us for morning tea.

Community Lunch: 12noon - Free

All welcome

Bible study: 7.00 pm - Free

All welcome to learn more about the Christian faith.

#### **Fridays**

Rimutaka Playgroup: 9.00 am - 11.30am - Donation

All caregiver and preschoolers are welcome. This is a fun, friendly, safe environment. Morning tea is provided.

Youthgroup: 7.00 pm - Donation

Contact the church for details

### Sundays

Church Service: 10.00 am

All welcome, and please stay for morning tea after the

Sunday online recording available on YouTube from 5.00 pm



Google Maps: Sky Stream Media

### **Room Hire**

Contact us if you would like to hire out either the hall, foyer area or conference room.

All Enquires: 04 5268708

Email: rbc.office@xtra.co.nz

A "thank you" to Kerry, and Rimutaka Baptist Church, for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

23/04/25



### 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

#### 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 22

#### 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 17th of July 2025

To view all films coming out this week, please view https://www. montereyupperhutt.co.nz/coming-soon

#### I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER

Running time: 111 minutes

Rated: R16 (Violence, horror, sexual material & offensive language)

When five friends inadvertently cause a deadly car accident, they cover up their involvement and make a pact to keep it a secret rather than face the consequences. A year later, their past comes back to haunt them and they're forced to confront a horrifying truth: someone knows what they did last summer...and is hell-bent on revenge. As one by one the friends are stalked by a killer, they discover this has happened before, and they turn to two survivors of the legendary Southport Massacre of 1997 for help hen five friends inadvertently cause a deadly car accident, they cover up their involvement and make a pact to keep it a secret rather than face the consequences. A year later, their past comes back to haunt them and they're forced to confront a horrifying truth: someone Last Summer knows what they did last summer...and is hell-bent on revenge. As one by one the friends are stalked by a killer, they discover this has happened before, and they turn to two survivors of the legendary Southport Massacre of 1997 for help.

Book Here: https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/i-know-what-you-did-lastsummer

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4045450/videoplayer/ vi1241040921/?ref =nv sr srsg 2 tt 7 nm 0 in 0 q I%2520know%2520what%2520you%2520did%2520last%2520summer

Source: Monterey Cinemas Upper Hutt

I Know What You Did