

THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION



A LOCAL NEWSPAPER - FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

The Upper Hutt Connection - Wednesday Edition:
23rd of July 2025

Website: uhconnection.co.nz
Facebook: [The Upper Hutt Connection](https://www.facebook.com/TheUpperHuttConnection)
Contact the editor at: editor@uhconnection.co.nz

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Staglands Wildlife Reserve & Cafe

A new duckling at Staglands – The breeding pāteke have had a baby!

That didn't take long!

Remember the new pāteke breeding pair we welcomed from The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust back in May?

Well, they've wasted no time settling in — and we're thrilled to share that their first duckling has already arrived!

As part of the Captive Breeding Programme for this nationally endangered, endemic dabbling duck, we had high hopes — and these two have delivered.

Welcome to the world, little one!

Source: Staglands Wildlife Reserve & Cafe

19/07/25

A paw-friendly ramp makes crossing the pipe bridge easier for dog walkers

The Kaitoke pipe bridge has had a paw-fect makeover as modelled by ranger Steve and assistant Lucky

A new paw-friendly dog ramp makes crossing the bridge easier on doggie paws.

Reopened at the end of 2024, the new earthquake resistant pipe bridge carries 50% of the Wellington Region's drinking water. Check it out, and give your fur-baby some exercise by walking the Swingbridge Track at Kaitoke Regional Park.

Please remember to keep four-legged friends on lead and pick up their doggy doo

Source: Greater Wellington Regional Council

18/07/25

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Be Safe, Be Seen

The "Be Safe, Be Seen" campaign encourages children to ride with confidence while learning how to stay visible and protected on the road. It combines essential cycling safety tips with a fun and imaginative twist: the Helmet Design Challenge.

This challenge invites students to have a play and design a helmet, allowing them to express their personal style while reinforcing the importance of always wearing a properly fitted helmet.

Cycling is a fantastic way for kids to stay active, independent, and eco-friendly. This campaign not only teaches the key principles of bike safety but makes them stick through creativity and hands-on learning.

Continued on Page 4.



Greater Wellington Regional Council

The campaign focuses on four easy-to-remember messages that every young cyclist should follow:

- Safety First – Always wear a properly fitted helmet to protect your head.
- Be Seen – Bright clothing and lights help others notice you on the road.
- Ride Smart – Know the rules, stay alert, and make safe choices.
- Express Yourself – Your helmet can reflect your unique personality.

Students across three age groups—5–8, 9–12, and 13–16 years—are invited to enter the Helmet Design Challenge. They can use templates provided in school or create their own artwork on paper, designing helmets that are fun, bold, and original. Prizes will be awarded for the most eye-catching and creative designs in each age group. Prize includes a Helmet (Design not printed), reflective tape, reflective bag cover and a set of LED lights.

Each participating school has received a safety pack filled with useful materials: posters, bike safety checklists, design templates for the Helmet Challenge.

The campaign is running throughout the month, with Helmet Challenge entries due by 5 August 2025.

Let's help every child be safe, be seen—and be themselves.

Download Helmet design template: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/events/adhoc-events/helmet-design-comp.pdf>

Download Fact Sheet: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/events/adhoc-events/fact-sheet.pdf>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

16/07/25



Upper Hutt Stamp Club – Contributor:
Andrew

New Zealand's Rarest Stamp to be Auctioned

New Zealand Post recently announced that it is selling the famous 4d Lake Taupo stamp that it has owned since 1998, when it purchased it for \$125,000 to coincide with a centenary commemoration reprint of the 1898 Pictorial stamp issue. The unique specimen from the 1902-07 Pictorials collection (which reused designs from the 1898 Pictorials) was printed with an inverted centre. Although this error would have appeared across a full sheet of 80 stamps, only one has ever been found.

The stamp was used in 1904 on a letter sent from Picton. It wasn't discovered until 1930, when an English collector came across it in his childhood collection.

The stamp has been on long term loan with the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa since 2010.

The Taupo invert will be auctioned by Mowbray Collectables in Wellington on 20 September 2025 with an estimate of \$250,000.

An enlarged print of the stamp was shown at the Upper Hutt Stamp Club on Monday 21 July at its monthly meeting held at Wesley Centre, Pioneer Room, Benzie Avenue, Upper Hutt, when Andrew McNiven spoke on NZ Post Office History.

The Upper Hutt Stamp Club is the latest club to join the growing list of community clubs and societies who wish to use the Upper Hutt Connection to advertise their events.

The club meets monthly, other than January. For further details (<https://sites.google.com/site/upperhuttstampclub/home>)

A "thank you" to Andrew from Upper Hutt Stamp Club for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

18/07/25



Somebody dunit! The suspects, from left to right: Steph Lambert, Liz Ebrey, Heather O'Brien, Angela Calkin-Goeres, Charles Wells, Andrew Tait, Janet Beams, Scarlett Askew, and Martin Edwards as the butler (surely it was him?)

The butler did it! Or did he?

Upper Hutt's amateur theatre company, Heretaunga Players, is proud to present the 1-act comedy 'Murder on a Budget' by David Tristram as their mid-winter production of 2025.

The show is a whodunit spoof that's bound to have audiences leaving the theatre with sore cheeks from laughing. Described as a farce-mystery-thriller-comedy(!), the 1-act play introduces multiple odd-ball characters that the 'legendary' Inspector Drake and his trusty sidekick Sergeant Plod encounter when investigating a headless corpse at the manor house.

But putting on a 1920's period-correct murder mystery is an expensive undertaking for a theatre company. What happens when your theatre can't afford to build an elaborate set and hire special effects experts and professional actors? Simple – you do it on a budget!

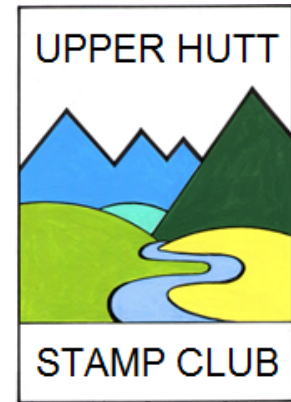
Director Andrew Tait says the play is the funniest show he's ever been part of. "I first read the script while on the Wellington to Upper Hutt commuter train, and I couldn't stop laughing. The other passengers must have thought I was nuts! I absolutely love all the characters, each with their peculiar eccentricities, and the whole 'on a budget' theme means we can leave a lot to the imagination!"

"The audience will particularly love the props lady who must hurriedly bring on and remove key props to set the stage (like the fake pot plant representing 'the forest') and deliver critical items that the actors have forgotten to bring on themselves. Of course, she gets increasingly frustrated at all of this and so naturally she's the scene-stealing star of the show!"

Show dates are 24 July to 2 August, and tickets are now available from Whirinaki Whare Taonga (call 5272168), or via iTicket.co.nz. <https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2025/jul/murder-on-a-budget>

A "thank you" to Georgina from Heretaunga Players for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

21/07/25



Upper Hutt Stamp Club

Upper Hutt Stamp Club Inc

Do you collect stamps?

Would you like to get to know other collectors?

Come to the Upper Hutt Stamp Club.

The club offers

- Monthly evening meetings
- Monthly Newsletter
- Exchange of stamps (Circuit Books)
- A reference library

Meetings:

These are held on the 3rd Monday of the month February to November and 2nd Monday in December in the Pioneer Room of the Wesley Centre, Corner of Benzie Ave and Fergusson Drive Upper Hutt.

The usual programme has:

- News and coming events
- Items of interest Where members are encouraged to display new and interesting items which they have acquired
- One Page Competition (monthly: George Robertson Trophy)
- Talks and displays by invited guests and members on varying topics
- An annual competition (4, 8 and 16 page classes)

Continued on Page 6.

- For a copy of our recent newsletter and membership application form contact: The Secretary, Upper Hutt Stamp Club (Inc), 47 Thackeray St, Trentham, Upper Hutt 5018, Ph (04) 970 7930

2025 Programme

Inquiries to John Goose, Secretary:
johngoose60@gmail.com

- **21st of July:** Andrew McNiven – NZ Post Office History
- **18th of August:** Herb Cowley – NZ Military Forces Christmas Greetings Cards
- **15th of September:** Nik Zangouropoulos – Postcards of Upper Hutt
- **20th of October:** Andrew Gould – Nelson / Marlborough Postal History 1842-98
- **17th of November:** Stephen Jones – NZ Revenues
- **8th of December:** Christmas Presentation of One Page Trophy & Members' Night with Quiz & Cake

A "thank you" to Andrew from the Upper Hutt Stamp Club for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

18/07/25



Upper Hutt City Council

Want to Help Shape Upper Hutt's Future? Start Here! (a summary of the 2025 Pre-Election report)

Upper Hutt is getting ready for the 2025 local elections—and it's a big deal! This Pre-Election Report (link is below) gives you a look at what the Council is doing now, the challenges it's facing, and what's coming next. Whether you're thinking about voting or even running for Council, this is the perfect place to start.

Our city is growing fast—over 63,000 people are expected to live here by 2053 (page 4). That means more houses, more jobs, and more pressure on things like roads, parks, and water systems. The Council is focusing on three main goals: keeping the budget balanced, maintaining important services, and going back to basics (page 9).

There are some big challenges ahead. Changes to how water services are handled mean the Council could lose control of 40% of its current spending (page 1). At the same time, costs are going up, and there's pressure to keep rates affordable (page 14). Despite this, the Council is working hard to invest in key projects like sports hubs, transport upgrades, and safer stormwater systems (page 22).

Between now and 2034, the Council expects to spend most of its money on wastewater (\$382.3 million), community and recreation (\$353.3 million), and transport (\$238 million) (page 12). It's also borrowing money to help fund big projects—but keeping within safe limits (page 18).

So, if you care about Upper Hutt's future—whether it's our environment, economy, culture, or community—read the full report and get involved. Local elections are your chance to speak up, vote smart, and maybe even stand for Council yourself!

The report includes lots of interesting stuff about Upper Hutt – such as we have 54 bridges to maintain. Who knew?

Get the Upper Hutt City Council's Pre-Election Report 2025 here:

<https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/News/Pre-Election-Report-2025>

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

16/07/25



Upper Hutt City Council

Where are all the candidates?

Upper Hutt – is it your time to stand?

In every neighbourhood, there's someone who knows the area inside out. Someone who cares about what's happening, who's always lending a hand, and who's full of ideas for making things better.

You might be a quiet organiser, a spreadsheet pro, a long-time volunteer, or just someone who cares deeply about where we're headed. If you're ready to represent your community and help shape decisions that matter, this is your chance.

We need a diverse range of voices at the Council table. Whatever your background, your experience matters, and so does your perspective.

If that sounds like you or someone you know, now's the time to step forward.

Nominations are officially open for this year's local elections, and we're calling on everyday people with a heart for Upper Hutt to consider standing.

The first nominations are in

Some candidates have already put their hands up to represent Upper Hutt. The race is on, and there's still time for you to join them.

See nominations received on electionz.com: https://www.electionz.com/LGENominations/2025/ELT45UH25_candidates.htm

Whether you've been thinking about it for a while or the idea's just taken root, now's the moment to act.

What you need to know

Nominations close at 12 noon sharp on Thursday, 1 August. This means your completed nomination must be received by our Deputy Electoral Officer by 12 noon, not in transit.

You can email it to elections@uhcc.govt.nz or drop it off to the Civic Building (and say hi while you're at it).

How to get started

- Get your nomination form and fill it out. You'll need two people to nominate you (and they must be enrolled to vote in Upper Hutt).
- Prepare your 150-word profile and a photo.
- Pay your \$200 refundable deposit.
- Email it or drop it off by the deadline.

You don't need to have all the answers. Just a willingness to listen, learn, and lead alongside your community.

Download forms here: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Council/Elections/Run>

What does it take to be an elected member

As an elected member of Upper Hutt City Council, you help shape the future of our city. While your role is focused on governance, not the day-to-day operations of Council, your decisions guide how we plan, invest, and grow together as a community.

Find out what it means to be an elected member: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Council/Elections/Elected-Member>

The city is calling. Will you answer before nominations close on 1 August?

Keen to know more? Visit www.upperhutt.govt.nz/vote or contact us at elections@uhcc.govt.nz

Note: "Sent at 11:59 AM" is not the same as "received before 12 noon." Please don't cut it close. We don't want your nomination to be the electoral equivalent of missing the bus by 30 seconds.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

22/07/25



AI Generated

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 don't 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 AI 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



AI Generated

Policy Committee: 9th of July 2025

The purpose of the Policy Committee is to assist Council to monitor the development of strategies, policies and bylaws that meet the needs of the community. Topics for discussion included:

- The draft submission on Resource Management National Direction Packages 1 – 3
- Private Road Naming in Subdivision at 395 Fergusson Drive and the Engagement
- Strategy and Planning Group Report

Policy Committee Agenda – 9th of July 2025: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/meetings/2025/cycle-4/policy-agenda-20250709.pdf>

Unconfirmed Policy Minutes – 9th of July 2025: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/meetings/2025/cycle-4/policy-minutes-20250709-pending-attachment.pdf>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

19/07/25

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS 2025



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.

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/>

Touching on some Social Media Questions with Answers – Hellen Swales

Upper Hutt, 18th July 2025

Introduction

Below are some extracts from various social media threads that I have picked up during my own preparations for the forthcoming Local Body Elections for Upper Hutt in 2025.

One of the challenges with social media is that valuable questions and comments can easily get lost in the noise and scattered across different threads and groups and often buried before they're properly seen or addressed. So, I have captured some of the statements/questions into this blog to distribute to a wider audience. My intention is to present similar blogs in the coming weeks with commentary (statements and questions extracts) on subjects such as Developer Contributions, Rates, Rates Assistance Scheme, Transport and Kerbside Recycling etc. I would encourage you to contact me directly through my email or my contact page if there were specific topics that you would like me to cover.

hellenformayor@gmail.com

<https://www.hellenformayor.com/contact-7>

Regards,

Hellen Swales

Q: The cost of Local Water Done Well concerns me. The projected costs to get water to a house are alarming. This on top of more rate increases

A: I'm acutely aware that many in our community are deeply concerned about the impact of Local Water Done Well. Therefore, I am working very hard with those in the community who wish to voice their concerns to central government.

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I have written a separate Post on Local Water Done Well which you can read here. 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.*"

<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. There was also a comment the other day from a member of the community who said, "Well there goes the kids pool".

Council is still waiting on more information from the new Water Entity (Metro Water) Establishment Board which must be up and running by October 2025. Until this Board has undertaken its work it is unlikely we will get further costs & affordability forecasts till 1st half of 2026.

What we do know is that Water charges will be coming through council for the first 3 years as we move over to the new Water Done Well Entity for the 5 participating councils. This will be in a similar method to how the Greater Wellington Regional Council rates are passed on through the Upper Hutt Council Rates invoice to the community. Post this 3-year period, it is expected that the new Metro Water entity will be up and running and be in a position to take over the separate charging for water. This charge will come direct to the community from the Metro Water entity.

See my Blog titled Local Water (Done Well?): <https://www.hellenformayor.com/post/local-water-done-well>

Q: Your Conflict with your Job in Petone?
Q: Massive conflict of interest, the Petone gig, should have resigned as a councillor?

A: Councillors are, for the most part, in part-time roles and are often required to be available at unusual hours. The role of Mayor, while full-time, also extends well beyond the typical 9-5 schedule. Many elected members, me included, need to juggle a second job that accommodates the irregular hours required by Council commitments.

I've been incredibly fortunate that the Jackson Street Programme has allowed me the flexibility to serve the Upper Hutt community while meeting the demands of my role as Deputy Mayor. I've always been transparent about my employment, declaring it on the Conflicts of Interest Register. In all my years as a councillor and now Deputy Mayor, I have never had to step away from a workshop or council meeting due to a conflict of interest.

If anything, my work with over 235 small businesses has enriched my understanding and added valuable depth to the discussions I have contributed to around the Council table. It has also heightened my appreciation for public participation, particularly the importance of welcoming and supporting community members who speak at councils Public Forum-Submitting to council is something I regularly do in the Lower Hutt Council Chamber.

The role has further strengthened my advocacy, particularly in responding to both the Greater Wellington and Lower Hutt Long Term and Annual Plans and assisting the community where possible. Recent Facebook Post: https://www.facebook.com/CouncillorHellenSwales/posts/pfbid01AZ2fS5vhKL1QRRdzmfZwDMirpEPstvswEepidCf8suHCsz8ZCu12PDZgM5AVk4tl?cft_%5b0%5d=AZV1-pvlsEwUojk14HuOEzBuQgBtXvwlnY-l-a8Pg-UlRs7B3yXUCYNrza7Yhn4EQRVotdOBwt1uqxnJKqiyDVc5ujkHrwHgvGit9G0VHPNmQ76PUc8bzuJ1dow7PvDFLbzB-GeBkpf0xgPdKV4ja8kRTKfKbGzCaYkt4AhlaMwbOVjxBfCfxKCPSi5yovrDd-KWheoCo8bEjQszqvQ_v&tn=%2CO%2CP-R

Should I be successful in my bid to become Mayor, I would, regrettably, have to step away from my part-time role with the Jackson Street Programme. But I will remain grateful for the experience and the skills it has helped me develop in service to our community.

Q: Hellen and Blair just Splitting the Vote?
Q: Isn't Hellen just splitting the anti-Guppy vote so she can be deputy again?

A: Interesting that the person corresponding on Facebook sees "Blair and Hellen" as "sabotaging" – or splitting the vote. Once there is more than one person running for mayor, votes will be split as different candidates will appeal to different members of our community. This allows for a healthy democracy. Many in our community need to look at each candidate on their own merits.

After serving two terms as Deputy Mayor, I've made the decision to again stand for Mayor of Upper Hutt in the upcoming local body elections.

Over the years, I've gained valuable experience and insight into how our city operates – and I truly believe I can bring fresh ideas and stronger direction to both Council and our wider community.

I've loved being Deputy Mayor, but I know there's more I can do – more to achieve, more to lead, and more to deliver for the people of Upper Hutt. I believe I can do this alongside an engaged Upper Hutt community.

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This campaign isn't just about leadership – it's about building a Council that truly reflects our community's values, listens to its people, and works together to shape a city we can all be proud of.

I've heard the concerns many have shared about the current leadership. My hope is to offer a fresh approach – one grounded in experience, collaboration, and a genuine commitment to positive change. I bring not only knowledge and proven governance, but also a strong belief in teamwork. I'm here to support our community and work constructively alongside fellow councillors to deliver better outcomes for Upper Hutt.

I'm ready to step up. I hope I can count on your support.

Q: As Deputy Mayor you just support Wayne Guppy?

A: The Mayor has the power to appoint the Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor exercises the same roles as other elected members (councillors), and if the Mayor is absent or incapacitated, the Deputy Mayor must perform all of the responsibilities and duties, and may exercise the powers, of the mayor.

This does not mean that the Deputy Mayor shares the same opinion or necessarily votes the same as the Mayor might. I have demonstrated on several occasions that I hold different opinions to our current Mayor.

These vary across multiple issues, and I have voted differently to the mayor's vote on such issues.

Q: Can you be trusted with my vote?

A: First and foremost, I work closely with the community over many issues. Most recently Maidstone Terraces, Pinehaven Flood Protection and Local Water Done Well, ensured a new Bus Stop got moved to a safer location for the school age children in Blue Mountains to name a few.

I have strong governance experience and understanding of the community and Local Government. I am very familiar with being the voice of the community locally, nationally, and internationally. I am often around the council table, questioning and being a voice with integrity for our community and our businesses.

I will endeavour to build community trust in the council by reassessing our communication strategies to enhance engagement through focus groups on our economy, our environment, and upcoming legislation.

While I'm proud of many initiatives we've supported together on council, there were some decisions I couldn't back and therefore voted against:

- Keeping rates at their lowest over nine years led us into years of deficits; I advocated for gradual increases instead. We would not be facing a rate rise of 15.7% if my council colleagues had voted with me. But many of them stood on "Low Rates" election promises over the years.

- The costly renovations at H2O Swimming Complex could have been phased more prudently over time as I advocated. But unfortunately, the majority preferred the "big bang" approach to undertake all the work in one phase. Again, another contributor to our rates increases.
- Leasing Maidstone Terraces to the Upper Hutt Bowling club at minimal rent over 33 years as this wasn't financially sound; we need better returns for our community. Also, due process was not observed during the council's consideration of this opportunity and so this will be consulted again with the community.

Q: If you're not a rate payer, you cannot vote

A: Not true. All residents of Upper Hutt (even those who do not pay the rates, e.g. a Tenant) can vote if they have enrolled. It is important that everybody has their say, and I would encourage all eligible voters to vote in these elections local body elections in 2025.

Also, those that are not residents but own property in Upper Hutt need to register on Upper Hutt City Ratepayer roll by the 1st of August 2025 to allow them to vote.

<https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Council/Elections>

<https://www.votelocal.co.nz/information-for-voters/>

You can keep up to date with Upper Hutt Election candidates here:

https://www.electionz.com/LGENominations/2025/ELT45UH25_candidates.htm

Q: Crime rate is rising, and people do not feel safe

Q: It would be good to hear your thoughts on the recent retail break-ins and how we as a city can support the store owners

A: Please read this article for my thoughts and actions so far on recent retail break-ins and the crime rate statistics for Upper over the 12 months through to March 2025.

<https://www.hellenformayor.com/post/crime-in-upper-hutt>

Continued on Page 12.

Q: I have noticed a lack of respect towards some people who present their submissions in person at council meetings. These people put a lot of effort and thought into their submissions and have presented some really good ideas. One councillor asked an elderly submitter "Don't you think the train has already left the station?" The submitter was a bit hard of hearing, and he did not quite hear clearly what was being asked. Councillors can ask you questions about your submission, but no one should be demeaned or have their submissions rubbished until they are left offended.

A: I know of the examples you mention, and I can assure you that Councillors who have shown such a lack of respect have been reprimanded in council over their attitude to these members of the public. Our standing orders (the rules that govern us as councillors) clearly set out the expectations of conduct and the process by which complaints can be lodged, investigated, and actioned if necessary., taken.

Here is a link to our Upper Hutt City Council standing orders: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/4/your-council/standing-orders.pdf>

I also point you to a YouTube Video (One of Three) that our Upper Hutt Chief Executive released recently which covers the role and expectations of elected members: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qADyypa_Ghl&t

Q: I'm sure all the council people could take a 30% salary decrease too repay the rate payer they splash money on stupid ^%#@#^ around Upper Hutt. I'd imagine they don't take cut lunches or their own biscuits to work every day I'm sure we could thin them out on their luxuries every cent helps ..there should be a web page that shows every cent they spend and receive along with the hours they actually work.

A: Standing for council takes a strong commitment, it's not a 5-minute job. The Mayor is a full-time job while a councillor is approximately 3-5 days a week. It varies from week to week depending on where the council is in its cycle of meetings and responsibilities which can involve travel away from home.

It requires lots of reading and understanding of reports and agendas (often hundreds of pages) along with flexible working hours into evenings and weekends. Most councillors also have a full-time / or part-time job outside of being a councillor, while also trying to juggle a personal life.

In terms of lunches, there's no free lunch with this job, I (we) take my (our) own. I have only missed one full council meeting this triennium (3 years) as I was chairing a Wellington Regional hearing committee meeting in Kapiti Coast District Council Chambers.

I was asked at a recent meeting about my hourly rate. With the hours that I work I estimate that I am on approximately \$2.40 per hour, but I love serving our community and making a difference and sometimes lose track of hours 😊

A "thank you" to Hellen Swales for sending this letter to The Upper Hutt Connection.

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SPORTS

Football results for the weekend: Saturday 19th of July / Sunday 20th of July

Weekend results are in! Solid effort to our Men's Reserves who won against Greytown on Saturday, holding the top spot in Capital 1! Congrats to our Men's 3rds and 4ths for their decisive wins in their respective matches too.

RJs, Antiques and Saints also came away with the win on Saturday. Our TDP teams showed some great wins in our U13 and U17 matches and the U16 Amazons came away with a hard fought draw against Miramar.

Source: Upper Hutt City Football

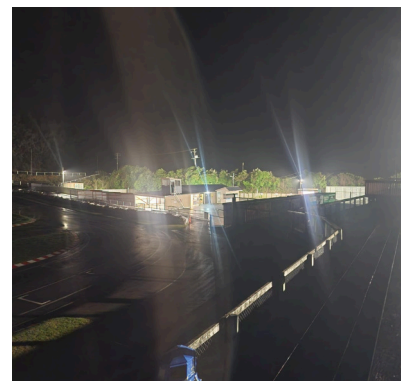
21/07/25



The image shows a digital results board for Upper Hutt City Football, divided into Saturday and Sunday results. It lists various teams and their scores for different leagues.

Saturday RESULTS			Sunday RESULTS		
UHCF Men's 1st	2-4	Miramar Rangers AFC	UHCF Women's First	1-1	Poweries Petone Reserves
UHCF Men's Reserves	3-1	Greyfriars Greytown FC	UHCF Women's Reserves	2-3	Otaki Koroareo
UHCF Men's 3rds	7-0	Island Bay United JJ's	UHCF Women's 3rds	0-3	Wellington United Gems
UHCF Taranaki	2-5	Stokes Valley Mentors	UHCF U18 Orange	5-0	Ti Kōwhiri FC U18 CDL
UHCF RJs	3-1	Naenae FC Dragons	UHCF U18 CDL Meekits	0-9	Ti Kōwhiri FC Roadwits
UHCF Antiques	3-1	Lower Hutt AFC Longhills	UHCF U18 Orange	1-9	Ti Kōwhiri FC U18 CDL
UHCF Marauders	Bye		UHCF U18 CDL Amazons	2-2	Miramar Rangers AFC
UHCF Saints	2-1	Wellington Marist Cavaliers	UHCF U17 Orange	6-0	Ti Kōwhiri FC U17 CDL
UHCF 4ths	5-0	Stokes Valley Football Lines			

Upper Hutt City Football



KartSport Wellington

Permanent lighting installed in the pits up at KartSport Wellington

The team have been hard at work lately pulling late night shifts after their regular full time jobs! The pits are going to be fully lit with permanent lighting. Handy AND safe!

Source: KartSport Wellington

18/07/25

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



AI Generated

Age Concern Community Coffee Group: Wednesday 13th of August

Location: Heretaunga Community Church, 51 Lane St, Upper Hutt

Join Age Concern for our monthly coffee group for seniors: come by for some tea and coffee, and snacks, and a great speaker!

Email events@acwellington.org.nz for details.

Source: Age Concern Wellington Region

21/07/25



Grey Power
UPPER HUTT ASSOCIATION INC

August Social Meeting
Afternoon Tea Provided

Wednesday, 20th August 2025 at 12 noon

Upper Hutt Baptist Church,
Cnr of Milton St & Fergusson Dr

Special Guest Speaker
UHCC Mayoral Candidates

All Welcome

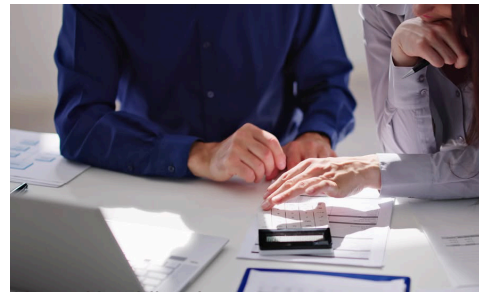
Proudly Supported by



Upper Hutt | 528 8924
harbourcityfunerals.co.nz

Grey Power August Social Meeting – UHCC Mayoral Candidates: Wednesday 20th of August, 12.00 noon

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Upper Hutt Libraries

IRD Mobile Office: Thursday 14th of August, 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

Location: Upper Hutt Library

Need help with your tax return, or do you have questions about KiwiSaver, Working for Families, or another service provided through Inland Revenue?

Book an in-person appointment with a team member from IRD to get information and support: <https://www.upperhuttlibrary.co.nz/Events/IRD-Mobile-Office>

Source: Upper Hutt Libraries

22/07/25



Orchid Cuckoo Bee, Brazil. *Exaerete frontalis* (Hymenoptera, Apidae). Photographed by Levon Biss.

Microsculpture: Saturday 14 June – Sunday 14 September

The Insect Portraits of Levon Biss

A ground-breaking photographic exhibition of science and art, Microsculpture presents insect specimens from the collections of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History like never before. The breathtaking, high magnification portraiture of photographer Levon Biss captures the microscopic form of these insects in striking high-resolution detail. This exhibition, has been shown in venues around the world and comes to Upper Hutt.

Proudly toured by The American Museum of Natural History.

Proudly supported by Upper Hutt City Council Bio-Diversity Fund.

Entry by donation.

Source: Whirinaki Whare Taonga - 21/07/25



Whirinaki 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 Jacqui for requesting this article to be put up on The Upper Hutt Connection.

19/06/25



RACE Trentham Events

Upper Hutt Car Boot Sale: Saturday 18th of October, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm

Get ready for a fantastic opportunity to declutter and turn your unwanted items into someone else's treasure. The Car Boot Sale at RACE Trentham is the perfect event to have a declutter and earn some extra Christmas cash.

Join us on Saturday 18 October 2025 from 10am to 1pm for a fun-filled morning of buying and selling.

You know what they say, one man's trash is another man's treasure!

Vendors can register via this link : <https://membership.raceinc.co.nz/Vendors/18-10-2025>

Free entry to the public

Source: RACE Trentham Events

19/07/25

Taoist Tai Chi: Mondays, 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm

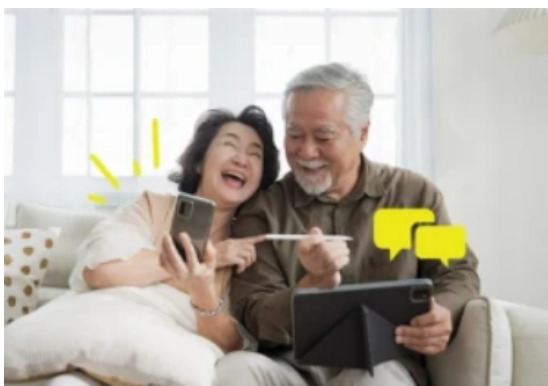
Taoist Tai Chi sessions

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.



Upper Hutt Libraries

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



AI Generated

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.

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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

CLASSIFIEDS



AI Generated

Wanted: Home Cook for Hungry Family – Upper Hutt

Looking for a kind-hearted, reliable cook to help nourish my busy household in Upper Hutt. I'm a working sole parent needing support with:

- 2 large trays of slice (lunchbox friendly)
- 2 pre-cooked dinner meals each week (to feed 5 hungry boys!)

If you love to cook and can help ease the load for a hardworking family and can drop this off, I'd love to hear from you. We can chat about food preferences, costs, and payment.

Thank you so much – your help would mean the world!

sharongblackmore@hotmail.com

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

22/07/25

RECIPES



AI Generated

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 889 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 I'll 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.



AI Generated

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WORSHIP SERVICES

Heretaunga Community Church

Live for Jesus, Share his Love

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

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

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

Services are live-streamed on YouTube: Heretaunga Community Church

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

Email: admin@heretaunga.com

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



Heretaunga Community Church

St. Margaret's Presbyterian Church - Silverstream

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

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

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

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 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 worshipping community.
- In recent years we have turned our focus outwards to serving our community.

Continued on page 21

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 24th of July 2025

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

THE FANTASTIC FOUR: FIRST STEPS

Running time: 130 minutes

Rated: PG (Violence & coarse language)

"The Fantastic Four: First Steps" introduces Reed Richards/Mister Fantastic (Pedro Pascal), Sue Storm/Invisible Woman (Vanessa Kirby), Johnny Storm/Human Torch (Joseph Quinn) and Ben Grimm/The Thing (Ebon Moss-Bachrach) as they face their most daunting challenge yet. Forced to balance their roles as heroes with the strength of their family bond, they must defend Earth from a ravenous space god called Galactus (Ralph Ineson) and his enigmatic Herald, Silver Surfer (Julia Garner). And if Galactus' plan to devour the entire planet and everyone on it weren't bad enough, it suddenly gets very personal.

The action adventure also stars Paul Walter Hauser, John Malkovich, Natasha Lyonne and Sarah Niles.

"The Fantastic Four: First Steps" is directed by Matt Shakman, produced by Kevin Feige and executive produced by Louis D'Esposito, Grant Curtis and Tim Lewis.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/the-fantastic-four-first-steps>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10676052/videooplayer/vi3353462809/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_3_tt_7_nm_0_in_0_q_The%2520Fantastic%2520Four

Source: Monterey Cinemas Upper Hutt

22/07/25



The Fantastic Four: First Steps