

THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION



A LOCAL NEWSPAPER - FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

The Upper Hutt Connection - Wednesday Edition:
13th of August 2025

Website: uhconnection.co.nz
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New Zealand Police

A valued partnership – Police and Customs celebrate graduates

After several weeks of training, four Police patrol handlers and dogs and four New Zealand Customs officers and their detector dogs took part in the ceremony formally recognising their graduation as operational teams.

"It's a proud day for the graduates of both our agencies, highlighting the value we place on working together to protect our borders and our communities. "The training has been a busy and demanding for the handlers, but they've risen to the challenges," says Inspector Todd Southall, National Coordinator of New Zealand Police Dogs.

The ceremony was hosted by New Zealand Police at the Dog Training Centre in Trentham and attended by Commissioner Richard Chambers, officials from both agencies, families and guests.

Customs Group Manager Intelligence, Investigations and Enforcement, Terry Brown says, "We recognise the longstanding co-operation between Customs and Police, with our agencies working closely together to establish and support detector dog capabilities. Detector dog teams have a vital role in keeping New Zealand's borders safe and protecting our communities by helping in the fight against transnational and serious organised crime."

New Zealand Police Graduates who start in their districts next week:

- Constable Jordan and Hawke – Wellington District.
- Constable Mike and Marley – Wellington District.
- Constable Blake and Whetu – Southern District
- Constable Matt and Ulfi – Central District.

The four graduating handlers and their dogs from New Zealand Customs Service will be deployed next week also.

Inspector Southall says, "Agency partnerships are effective at both the operational and strategic level, and New Zealand Police was very pleased to support them.

I'm proud of our fantastic team here," he said. "The passion our training staff have for their role is amazing and it makes my job easier. So, thank you to everybody who contributes to the success of all the handlers and their dogs.

Source: New Zealand Police

08/08/25



The Upper Hutt Connection

Did you know that your rates pay for the maintenance of...

- 748 hectares of open space?
- 54 bridges?
- 266 km of footpaths?
- 4058 street lights?
- 160 km of storm water mains
- 228 km of sewer mains
- 4 libraries
- and 252 km of roads
- among other things!

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

11/06/25

Important Information for Candidates

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to LGE 2025

As you may be aware, we, electionz.com are the Electoral Officer (EO) for 44 councils and 8 regional councils. I, Warwick Lampp, am the EO for 31 councils and 4 regionals, my colleague Anthony Morton (copied in) is EO for 13 councils and 4 regionals. Our company is based in Christchurch, where all our votes are processed. I live in Tauranga and work remotely. We are external to council; we carry out the vote processing for 47 councils around NZ.

Now that nominations have closed, this is the first of six emails that I will send to the 2,106 candidates in our elections over the next two months. Please keep an eye out for these regular updates throughout the election period.

Candidate Handbook

If you haven't already done so, please make sure you carefully read the Candidate Handbook for the council you are standing for, available at this link https://www.electionz.com/lge2025_landing/index.html.

In particular, I draw your attention to the rules regarding signage and election hoardings, and the social media guidelines. Please remember that council social media channels cannot to be used for any form of campaigning or profile raising. Any comments regarding candidates and electioneering will be removed asap by each council.

Election signs can go up on the date set by each council (each council is different). Their removal dates also differ. Many councils require them to be down on the last Friday, ie 10 October, so please check in the candidate handbook for your council's date if you are placing election signage.

Please make sure every piece of campaign material has the appropriate authorisation statement, including your Facebook pages etc. This is a legal requirement. The authorisation statement is to be: Authorised by (candidate's name (or their agent)), [contact method – email or mobile or web address/QR code]. The authorisation statement does not need to include the candidate's physical address anymore.

Contacting the Electoral Officer

If you have any queries about the election process, please do not hesitate to call our Election Helpline on 0800 666 048 during office hours or email iro@electionz.com.



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Final list of nominations and contact details

These are finalised, along with the contact details for all candidates for each election. They can be found on this link: https://www.electionz.com/lge2025_landing/index.html, under Nominations Received.

The nomination papers are public documents, so all relevant contact details have been made available from the website, unless you have specifically asked for them to be excluded.

Community groups may organise "meet the candidate" events over the next month or so. Councils will list these on the website if they know about them. You may be contacted by media advertisers, community groups, or electors about these events.

Candidate Campaigning Events

Candidates are able to hold campaigning events, but please be careful around "treating", which is an offence under the Act. See this link: <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2001/0035/latest/DLM94790.html> for what that means. Please contact me if you are unsure about this.

A full section on election offences is set out in Appendix 6 of each Candidate Handbook. It would pay for you to familiarise yourself with these.

Continued on Page 5.

Candidate Withdrawals

I often get queries about this, but please remember that it is now **NOT** possible for a candidate to withdraw during the election period, unless a medical certificate for "medical incapacity" is provided to the Electoral Officer, accompanied by a withdrawal form: [https://www.electionz.com/LGE2025_resource/documents/LGE2025%20Application%20for%20Cancellation%20of%20Nomination%20Form%20\(generic\)%20v2.pdf](https://www.electionz.com/LGE2025_resource/documents/LGE2025%20Application%20for%20Cancellation%20of%20Nomination%20Form%20(generic)%20v2.pdf) signed by the nominator, seconder, and Justice of the Peace or solicitor. Even then, after this week it will be too late to remove the candidate's name from the voting papers. Please call me direct ASAP if you wish to discuss this further.

Campaigning

Within reason, anything goes in the campaign period (the usual laws of defamation apply), so don't bother complaining to me if someone has said something on social media about you that you don't like, it is just politics 😊.

Campaign expenses

All candidates must keep track of any election expenses and donations. This can get tricky, particularly around some types of donations etc, and if you are combining your campaigning with other candidates, so please do not hesitate to ask.

Please see and use the Return of Donations and Expenses Form: [https://www.electionz.com/LGE2025_resource/documents/LGE25%20Return%20of%20Donations%20and%20Expenses%20\(Generic\)%20v1.pdf](https://www.electionz.com/LGE2025_resource/documents/LGE25%20Return%20of%20Donations%20and%20Expenses%20(Generic)%20v1.pdf) for recording all donations and campaign expenses, as set out in the Candidate Handbook.

If you spend nothing on your campaign, you still have to complete and return a NIL return.

Profiles on websites

Candidate profiles will go up on the council's website by the end of August, once they all been released for printing. Sometimes we may make minor formatting changes to fit profiles on the same page in each booklet, ie remove paragraph returns etc.

Candidate Videos

Most councils, not all, are offering mayoral and council candidates the chance to record a short video about themselves to give voters more information. The participating councils will contact those candidates about this shortly, to arrange a time etc.

Electoral Commission (EC), Ombudsman, LGOIMA

FYI, the Electoral Commission has no say or jurisdiction over council elections. EC's only role is to provide us the electoral roll data for us to send voting papers out to. There is no point candidates ringing the Electoral Commission about council election administration matters, EC will just refer them back to us.

The same for the Ombudsman who has no jurisdiction over council elections. Council elections and the Electoral Officers are excluded from what the Ombudsman can investigate. There is no point anyone contacting the Ombudsman about council elections.

Likewise, we, [electionz.com](https://www.electionz.com), are separate and independent from councils, so we won't be responding to official information requests. Our process is entirely transparent and in the public domain, so just ask us if you wish to know anything.

The only person who can direct an Electoral Officer is a District Court Judge, ie recounts or petitions for enquiry, after the elections.

Voting and Vote Processing

[electionz.com](https://www.electionz.com) is carrying out the vote processing from our vote processing centre in Christchurch, where the votes will all be delivered to after collection from the numerous orange voting bins around the country. Please familiarise yourself where the orange voting bins are in your community. A list of locations will be made available on the council website at the link above and will be included in the Voting Guide Booklet.

We are hoping for more than a 50% turnout in 2025 – the long run average for councils across the country is 45% excluding Auckland. As a result we will be sharing links to the daily voting return stats on our website, once votes start coming in, from the same link above, probably from about 17 September.

Voter packs will start hitting letterboxes from Tuesday 9 September.

We look forward to the voting period. Thank you to everyone for participating in this crucial part of our democratic process.

Ngā mihi

Source: Warwick Lampp: Chief Returning Officer – Business Development Manager / Āpiha Pōti Matua

10/08/2025



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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.



TrackSAFE NZ / KiwiRail

Rail Safety Week

Rail Safety Week (11–18 August 2025) is an annual, nationwide campaign coordinated by TrackSAFE NZ and KiwiRail, supported by numerous organisations. The campaign aims to raise public awareness around rail safety and encourage safe behaviours near the rail network. This is an example of how road safety coordinators are collaborating at a national and regional level utilising shared campaign assets.

This year's campaign continues to emphasise that:

- **The only safe crossing is at a designated railway level crossing:** These crossings are specifically designed to ensure the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles. Before crossing, always look both ways to ensure no trains are approaching. Never assume it's safe to cross just because a train is not in sight—trains can appear suddenly, and travel faster than you expect.
- **The rail corridor is not a public walkway:** The rail corridor is not meant for casual use. It's a highly dangerous environment, with moving trains that can travel at high speeds. The area, which typically extends five meters on either side of the tracks, as well as railway bridges, tunnels, and yards, is off-limits to the public.
- **The dangers are real:** Since 2012, 185 lives have been lost in the rail corridor in New Zealand. Last year alone, KiwiRail recorded 642 trespassing incidents, with approximately 60 near misses involving pedestrians. These numbers highlight the continuing, serious risks posed by unauthorized access to the rail network.
- **Trespassing is illegal and risky:** Walking on or alongside railway tracks, or entering railway yards, bridges, or tunnels is illegal under the Railways Act 2005. Trespassing in the rail corridor is not only dangerous, but you can also be prosecuted. This law exists to protect lives and prevent avoidable injuries and fatalities.

Continued on Page 7.

- **A widespread issue:** Recent research commissioned by TrackSAFE shows that almost half of surveyed individuals admitted to walking on or across railway tracks. Despite the risks, trespassing remains a persistent issue in New Zealand and around the world, making awareness and education critical in changing behaviour.
- **The impact on locomotive engineers (train drivers) and railway staff:** Locomotive engineers (train drivers) and railway staff who witness or are affected by these incidents sometimes face long-term emotional trauma. Witnesses and first responders can also be profoundly affected. Preventing harm means protecting the wellbeing of all these people too.

Rail safety week is included in UHCC road safety promotion to support safer school journeys. The week is a time to draw attention to the risks around tracks, and the roles we all play to stay safe.

Every year, the campaign highlights the serious consequences of trespassing or unsafe behaviour around railway tracks. Since 2012, 184 people have died in the rail corridor, with hundreds more narrowly avoiding tragedy. In 2024 alone, KiwiRail reported 550 trespass incidents, including 60 pedestrian near misses.

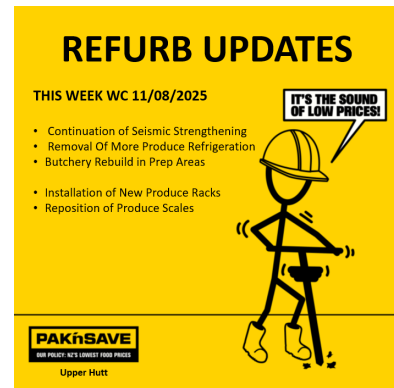
Upper Hutt has three rail crossings that rank among the top 30 highest-risk sites in the country. These are the Stream Grove pedestrian crossing, and both the right-hand and left-hand pedestrian crossings on Whitemans Road. In 2024, a member of the public raised safety concerns with KiwiRail about pedestrians crossing the tracks at Ward Street while the barriers were down.

There are 5 schools that are close to level crossings and multiple college students who travel by train to schools in Lower Hutt / Wellington, students living in Pinehaven & Silverstream also cross the railway line to access busses on Fergusson drive. How students learn to travel safely is strengthened when schools take their local context into account. For many schools this includes awareness of railway tracks and trains.

We encourage you to share the message and help raise awareness within your community and networks.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

11/08/25



PAK'nSAVE Upper Hutt

Refurbishments at PAK'nSAVE this week: Week Commencing 11th of August, 2025

- Continuation of seismic strengthening
- Removal of more produce refrigeration
- Butchery rebuild in prep areas
- Installation of new produce racks
- Reposition of produce scales

A "thank you" to Damon @ PAK'nSAVE Upper Hutt for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

11/08/25



AI Generated

Wastewater overflow at Silverstream last Wednesday (6th of August) means the Hutt River, Petone, and Eastbourne beaches are off-limits until further notice.

A wastewater pipe has burst resulting in wastewater being discharged into the Hutt River, near Silverstream. Wellington Water have since resolved the issue. Water samples will be taken, and temporary signage will be placed in the area.

Due to the health risk, we strongly advise NO CONTACT with the water from Silverstream down (including the river mouth, Petone, and Eastbourne beaches) until further notice. This includes not allowing dogs into the water. If you do come into contact with the water, wash thoroughly immediately afterwards to avoid potential illness.

A 'thank you' to Rosamond Connelly / Source: <https://www.lawa.org.nz>

06/08/25



H2O Xtream Aquatic Centre

LOCAL ISSUES FORUM: A place where local issues can be raised, explained, and debated.

H2O Pool – The Facts, Exposed – Hellen Swales

Note to members of the public in Upper Hutt: Your opinions and comments on this article are encouraged and welcomed. Please fill in the form at the link at the end of the article to share your thoughts.

Upper Hutt, 8th August 2025

Introduction

Below is an extract from a single social media thread which has been highlighted to me while preparing for the forthcoming Local Body Elections for Upper Hutt in 2025, and I have decided to address it.

A social media post might "weave a story" that captures the minds of some community followers, leading them to believe that because the author is a candidate for the upcoming elections, that this is the truth.

Recently, a candidate submitted a Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) request regarding the H2O procurement processes.

From this, it was interpreted and presented to the community, in their opinion, that **"Upper Hutt City Council didn't have a competitive tender for the main contract,"** and further claimed that Council **"didn't have a procurement plan."**

How to raise an Information Request (LGOIMA): <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Contact-us/Official-Information-Requests>

While I respect anyone's right to interpret information, it's important that interpretations are supported by facts and, ideally, references, especially if you're making such claims after requesting the information directly.

So, in the interest of transparency,

I'd like to share with you the same information that was provided to the candidate, but first here is some background information.

Continued on Page 10.

H2O – Procurement Background

In the 2018 – 2038 Long Term Plan Council consulted on a H2O upgrade where a feasibility study was completed to determine what investment should be made in the facility.

The study investigated the current and future needs of the community along with trends in aquatic provision regionally, nationally, and internationally. Design Planning got underway to articulate what an upgraded facility would look like. The community was then consulted further during the design and planning phase and new features would include:

- An additional separate lane pool.
- A separate toddler pool.
- A new splash pad

We had 82% of the community strongly support the direction the Long-Term Plan had set for the next 10 years 2018 – 2028.

In 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan 79% of respondent's consultation told us they would like to see a full upgrade of H2O Xstream. However, the costs had escalated significantly since 2018, so we had to reconsider our approach, so we asked again for feedback from the community. The cost escalations could be attributed to the effects of COVID on the international supply chains for key equipment for the pool. **See Note at end of article.**

The outcome of the subsequent consultation was that 79% supported the completing the upgrade whilst 12% where in support of a two-stage approach.

The upgrade at this time was scoped at an estimated total cost of \$27m capital which was going to be paid by 55% rates and 45% from user charges and would include the following:

- new leisure pool, full hydro slide replacement,
- upgrades to the existing building and operational systems,
- new sustainable electric heat pump,
- new hydrotherapy/learn-to-swim pool,
- offices, reception, café, and other renewal work.

See Note at end of article.

In December 2022, with the costs of materials and labour continuing to rise, the NZ\$ exchange rate fluctuation, the procurement of pool equipment, and a tight labour market, council had to rethink how we deliver this project.

After again consulting with the community as part of the Annual Plan 2022 – 2023, we advised the community that changes were being proposed for the following key projects:

- Fixing Fergusson Drive
- H2O Xstream upgrade
- Civic Centre upgrade

See Note at end of article.

After consultation our recommendation was to proceed with the upgrade at a revised cost of \$51M. This was to be completed in a single stage over years 2022 – 2024 to achieve an upgraded aquatic facility for our city.

While higher in cost than planned, this option provides the overall least cost and highest benefit over the shortest timeframe.

To ensure we could stay within budget while still delivering the critical elements of the project, Council decided to change the scope of the upgrade removing the café and the hydro pool from the scope of work. The changes were made consistent with the majority of the feedback we received through our consultation with the community in April and May.

When the H2O upgrade work started, the contractor found issues with the existing pool's roof. Following investigations by architects and engineering staff a solution for the roof was estimated costings between \$2m and \$4m. Further work on the roof issue had a revised cost being tabled to council on 13/12/2023, an increase of \$4m was approved by council to the \$51m. So cost was \$55m but now excluded the hydrotherapy pool and Café to mitigate increasing costs.

In Summary

Under normal circumstances the Annual Plan usually follows and consolidates the plans laid out in the Long-Term Plan for that year—any variations would not be significant. However, this time around there have been some critical upheavals happening around us and we have had to respond to those.

- Inflation was running at 6.9%. The cost of goods, services, and fuel had surged over the last year.
- Fluctuations in NZ\$ exchange rate impacting imported equipment.
- Labour shortages and supply chain slowdowns added delay and cost to everyday business.

Continued on Page 11.

All of this has created an unpredictable landscape in terms of costs and the projects we could reliably deliver.

Key Points:

1. *Upper Hutt City Council did have a procurement plan, which is inherent when a procurement uses the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) Methodology.*
2. *Upper Hutt City Council did run a competitive Request for Proposal tender process, with 4 companies responding.*
3. *Two companies later withdrew due to supply chain issues for critical equipment needed for the pool*
4. *The remaining two potential contractors went through the rest of the ECI procurement process, with one finally being selected against the Council Request for Proposal (RFP) and ECI requirements.*

Email from UHCC CEO

I share the email below with the community as approved by the Upper Hutt City Council CEO Geoff Swainson.

See Note at end of article.

Files

These are the files shared as part of the Information Request and an Early Contractor Involvement – Information Sheet. They can be accessed at my website under Blogs www.hellenformayor.com

LGOIMA Response H2O

<https://0386664d-7bae-4650-a969-ada9cf9eb9959.usrfiles.com/ugd/038666202a03d1ba7445e68dba41215b0fc25b.pdf>

H2O Xtream upgrade Business Case Sept 2020

<https://0386664d-7bae-4650-a969-ada9cf9eb9959.usrfiles.com/ugd/0386668bb65e74a1c54ec8b400285ff4e7d627.pdf>

H2O Xtream upgrade ECI Contracts Committee Memo 20 May 2021

<https://0386664d-7bae-4650-a969-ada9cf9eb9959.usrfiles.com/ugd/038666bb61b69c9cfa46fd8c29929ccb02aa1d.pdf>

Early Contractor Involvement Construction Procurement Process

<https://0386664d-7bae-4650-a969-ada9cf9eb9959.usrfiles.com/ugd/038666bb61b69c9cfa46fd8c29929ccb02aa1d.pdf>

Authorised by Hellen Swales:
hellenformayor@gmail.com

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NOTE: Images have been removed as to keep the file size of The Wednesday Edition down - view the images absent from this article at: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-issues-forum/h2o-pool-the-facts-exposed-hellen-swales/>

Your thoughts:

I understand what you're saying, but the new pool is harder for the elderly/ disabled to access, and there are less changing facilities for them than in the original pool.

The new showers are great, but non- adjustable, so let's hope the thermostat keeps working!

It's a shame about the cafe, but perhaps there will be adjustments as time and money allow.

Louise Cleghorn

To give your thoughts on this article "H2O Pool – The Facts, Exposed – Hellen Swales", please fill out the form at <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-issues-forum/h2o-pool-the-facts-exposed-hellen-swales/>

COUNCIL MATTERS



Upper Hutt City Council

Important Risk and Assurance Committee meeting on the 13th of August, agenda items you may wish to be aware of

Location / Time: Upper Hutt City Council | 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm

The purpose of this Committee is to oversee the effectiveness of Council's risk management, internal control practices, statutory compliance, external audit, and health and safety. Topics for discussion include:

Continued on Page 12.

- Debenture Trust Deed Audit Engagement
- Letter, and reporting on Strategic Risk Management
- Sensitive Expenditure
- Treasury and Health and Safety.

<https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Council/Council-Meetings/Meeting-agendas-and-minutes>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council / Hellen requested that this article be put up on The Upper Hutt Connection.

11/08/25

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS 2025

A note to candidates for this year's Local Body Elections: I've sent an email to all of you, please check your junk email folder in case it went in there by accident. I offer you a profile of up to 300 words, links, and multiple images - **free of charge** - on The Upper Hutt Connection

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



Authorised by Corey White

Corey White

Hi, I'm Corey White, and I am running for council.

I am standing because we need **change and fresh ideas**. Debt and rates are ballooning. I will do my best to ensure we deliver core council services, focused on community necessities.

I have lived in Upper Hutt for 21 years. I'm a husband and father of four school-aged children. I'm a Deputy Principal of a local school and have also run businesses.

I am **actively involved in the community**, including cricket, rugby, indoor sports, school sports, a local church and have organised local cultural festivals. I have created and run a trapping group focused on bringing kiwi to Upper Hutt.

In regards to governance, I am serving on various boards, have run sub-committees and supported many local initiatives and charities. I know how to listen, collaborate and make things happen.

I'll bring energy, experience and practicality to council decisions.

Authorised by Corey White.

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

05/08/25



Authorised by Dave Wheeler

Dave Wheeler

I have been a City Councillor for 15 years, born and raised in Upper Hutt, Owner of Wheelers Shoes celebrating our 56th Birthday in Main Street.

I'm a keen sportsman with strong ethics, values and principles.

I have been 6 years as the Chairperson of the City Services Committee.

I've been an active member of Upper Hutt's Community Patrol for 20 years constantly striving to keep our city safe.

My vision is to see a healthy, vibrant and safe CBD.

Our single biggest challenge will be the 3 waters (drinking, waste and storm). It was 46% of councils expenditure, with the reforms taking place we need good representation.

I'm a stern believer in a democratic process where issues are debated, questioned and a well informed outcome delivered.

I have the Passion, Energy and the Experience of local issues.

I love Upper Hutt, this is a great place to live.

Authorised by Dave Wheeler.

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

08/08/25



Authorised by DJ McNicholas

DJ McNicholas

My name is David McNicholas—some know me as DJ, and others might call me names I can't repeat here!

But above all, I am a proud resident of this wonderful city. Since settling in Upper Hutt in 1990, I've raised a family—two daughters and now eight incredible grandchildren.

Over the years, I've owned and run several businesses, held senior positions in major companies, sat on a school board of trustees, and currently serve on the committee for Grey Power Upper Hutt.

These experiences have reinforced the importance of leadership, responsibility, and most importantly—listening to my customers i.e you the ratepayers.

My goal as a councillor is simple:

To serve the ratepayers of Upper Hutt, to listen to your voices, to ask questions on your behalf and to share the answers to those questions with you.

When any project or plan is brought before a council I am on, I will always ask five key questions:

1. What is it?
2. Who will benefit?
3. Will it be used by the ratepayers?
4. How much will it cost?
5. How do we pay for it?

There are "must-haves" and "nice-to-haves." Our focus must remain on the essentials.

I recently came across an article listing what voters want most from their councils.

Continued on Page 14.

At number six was, "Ask the bill payer first."

To me, that should be **number one**. That's why my priorities are:

- **Ask the bill payer first** - and more importantly, genuinely listen to what they have to say.
- **Contain rate increases** within the level of inflation.
- **Ensure rate rises** do not exceed other costs faced by ratepayers. (insurance, water charges etc)
- **Focus on core service delivery** – ensuring the council provides what private enterprise cannot.

Upper Hutt deserves leadership that listens, asks the right questions, and takes action.

Our council must take responsibility for what happens under its watch, learn from mistakes made, and must put the will of the ratepayers first.

That is the kind of councillor I will strive to be.

Vote DJ for your voice to be heard and listened to.

Authorised by DJ McNicholas, 5 Beth Street, Trentham, Upper Hutt, 0273004425

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

07/08/25

Emma Holderness

I'm running for Mayor because Upper Hutt deserves fresh leadership and better results. I've been around long enough to know how things work but not so long that I'm stuck in how things have always been.

Like you, I want a council that's practical, responsive, and ready to make smart decisions about where our money goes. That means stabilising rates, cutting waste, and investing in what really matters: safe streets, thriving neighbourhoods, and a strong local voice in regional decisions. I'm raising my son here, walking our dogs through our local bush tracks, and hearing the same hopes and frustrations you are—from potholes and planning to how we prepare for the future.

As a councillor I advocated for transparency and more democratic processes. As mayor I'll ensure your Council focuses on what matters: smarter use of ratepayer money, smart investment where it makes a difference, and rebuilding regional status so Upper Hutt has a strong voice at the table.

emma4mayor.nz

Authorised by Emma Holderness.

A "thank you" to Emma Holderness for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection. 08/08/25

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Authorised by Euan Andrews

Euan Andrews

Kia ora, I am Euan Andrews and I am standing for the position of councillor on the Upper Hutt City Council to bring strong local representation, practical leadership, and a clear voice for our community.

Upper Hutt is my home town and I want to see it thrive. I grew up and went to school here, and over the years I have worked in and managed several local hospitality venues. Today, I am proud to own and operate Blend Bar and Bistro in the heart of our CBD. This experience has given me strong business credentials, a deep understanding of the challenges faced by local operators, and a friendly, approachable way of working with people from all walks of life. I am always available to the public at Blend Bar and Bistro, where anyone is welcome to come and share their ideas or concerns.

Lowering rates will be one of my highest priorities. People are struggling, and we cannot afford to include expensive pet projects that lead to excessive rate increases. I will focus council spending on essential core services, not the nice to haves.

Continued on Page 15.



Authorised by Emma Holderness

My other priorities include providing businesses more tools to tackle crime in the CBD, improving the shopping experience by addressing landlords of empty and derelict shops, lobbying for long overdue upgrades to State Highway 2, and ensuring the council is fully transparent with no backroom or confidential deals.

If elected, I will work hard to ensure council decisions are fair, responsible, and focused on the long-term wellbeing of Upper Hutt. I will be accessible, accountable, and committed to delivering real results.

Authorised by Euan Andrews

blendbarandbistro@gmail.com

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

07/08/25



Authorised by Heather Newell

Heather Newell for council

You may have seen my name before – Heather Newell – as I have been on council a number of times since 1989. In fact, I'm active in the senior community so you may recognise me from around town. My husband has a long contribution to our community providing legal services and my son, Michael Newell, stood for council when he was just 18 years old! I was elected onto the Remutaka Licensing Trust for two terms and I've been involved in hundreds of local and national community organisations.

This is a crucial time for Upper Hutt city and it's not a time for radical changes. I understand that most people are very upset about our rates rises but right now there is no alternative. We have to cut our cloth accordingly and no matter who sits around the council table, there are no other options. Major changes to councils' responsibilities have been forecast by government, and the next few years will be very challenging for whoever secures a seat at the table.

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Authorised by Teresa Homan

Teresa Homan – Nice 2 Have For Upper Hutt City Council

Upper Hutt a Place to Live and a way of Life

Email: tshoman@kinect.co.nz

Facebook: Homan 4 Council nice 2 have

I am Teresa Homan, Stewart and I have, four children and their families living in Upper Hutt. I have lived in Te Marua, Birchville, now in central City. Am a member of Upper Hutt housing trust, Friends of the Hutt River, and manage BEST advocacy. I believe, we need a strong council committed to local decision-making regarding water infrastructure and housing development that balances environment, with need. I will work to ensure Central government enables council to meet its infrastructure costs, rather than chipping away at local autonomy. I believe developing and maintaining "nice to have" enhances the lifestyle of residents and is a role of council. I oppose amalgamation of council function or services, without proof of the value to local services and cost savings. I promise to ensure Upper Hutt is a place to live work, raise our children, enjoying the "nice to have" while being fiscally responsive.

Authorised by Teresa Homan candidate for Upper Hutt City Council tshoman@kinect.co.nz

A "thank you" to Teresa Homan for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection 05/08/25

That said, Upper Hutt now has a wealth of community facilities for the sports, arts, community, recreation and our outdoor opportunities are the best in the region. We are attracting new residents who appreciate the space and environment. We are attracting new businesses into the cbd – with employees who will buy local. Some of our dangerous premises are being demolished with new developments planned for the centre of Main Street.

Please say hello if you see me campaigning and vote for me as a steady hand.

Authorised by Heather Newell

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

08/08/25



Authorised by Wayne Guppy

Wayne Guppy

Educated St Patricks' College Silverstream. Doctor Pharmacy Degree, University Nebraska, USA. Married to Sue. Two adult daughters. It's been tough. Upper Hutt continues to prosper. Under my leadership Upper Hutt's been a place where people are prepared to invest. They have confidence in my leadership. City has grown stronger, record investment in infrastructure and support for local businesses. Challenging times I've provided steady leadership. Decisive leader. Developments include Wallaceville Estate, NZCIS, Lane Street Film Studios, Brewtown. Next few years local government will undergo change RMA reform, local water done well, rating caps and more central and regional control. Discussion on future of local government and amalgamation. This will be major change. Upper Hutt needs a leader that's experienced, understands the region and is collaborative. I give Upper Hutt a voice regionally and nationally. I'll be the leader to make that happen. I provide steady leadership. Don't mess with success. I give trusted leadership, delivery and a vision.

Authorised by Wayne Guppy.

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

07/08/25



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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Great to see that Teresa Homan is standing for Council – Lorraine Cartwright

Great to see that Teresa Homan is standing for Council. An amazing person who does so much for the people of Upper Hutt. Let's all vote for her.

Lorraine Cartwright

Birchville

A "thank you" to Lorraine Cartwright for sending this letter to The Upper Hutt Connection.

07/08/25

Reply to Teresa Homan's letter – D.J McNicholas

I was deeply dismayed, offended, and frankly incredulous to witness a local council candidate publicly demean an entire segment of our community with vile, ageist rhetoric. That someone seeking public office would choose to alienate older citizens—many of whom have contributed decades of hard work to society—is not only astonishing, but also profoundly disrespectful.

Contrary to this candidate's sweeping assumptions, not all older people face retirement with mortgages fully paid or carefree finances. Many remain burdened by debt, rising living costs, and housing insecurity. To paint this demographic with a single, dismissive brush ignores both economic realities and personal histories.

Even more disturbing was the suggestion that older individuals should refrain from travel or engagement simply because, in the candidate's view, they've "already had their turn." Such naive assumptions not only show ignorance but a stunning lack of empathy and understanding. No one, regardless of age, deserves to be told to shut themselves in and stop living.

Continued on Page 17.

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It baffles me that any person running for public office would attack a group they may well rely on for votes. I once held the writer in high regard, but that respect has been irrevocably lost. They will not receive my vote, nor my support, in any form.

D.J McNicholas

The original letter this article is referring to can be read at: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/letters-to-the-editor/letter-to-the-editor-teresa-homan/>

A "thank you" to D.J McNicholas for sending this letter to The Upper Hutt Connection.

06/08/25

Response to letter by D.J McNicholas – Teresa Homan

As a 66 year old I look back on what can only be considered the golden years. I had free education and could have gone to university for free. Most students now have student loans that impact on their ability to buy housing. We were able to purchase our first home with a state home mortgage, second bank loan and sweat equity, as the deposit. We raised seven children on one wage. I have travelled overseas. I am satisfied; I have had a privileged life. I work with families who have no housing. Who struggle to pay their power bill, who need to beg work and income for food assistance, after paying power. Who are paying rents they can't afford. I think that all retiring NZ needs access to a super they can live on house themselves get medical assistance as should all NZ. My priority though is young families putting food on their table and having shelter they can afford. Many young NZ families are leaving NZ to go to Australia because they can't afford to live here. If champion the needs of younger people offends older folk in Upper Hutt, I am sorry, but I think if we count our blessings and live simply our young people might have a chance to get ahead just like most of us did. Available though, to assist older people if needing benefit assistance.

Teresa Homan

The letter that this is responding to can be viewed above at: [Reply to Teresa Homan's letter – D.J McNicholas](#)

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

07/08/25

SPORTS

Football results for the weekend: Saturday 9th of August / Sunday 10th of August

Our weekend results are in, due to conditions there were a few postponed matches on Saturday whilst our Juniors continued to endure the elements!

Shout outs to our Men's 1st for their hard fought 1-1 draw against Olympic, Men's 4th absolutely smashing it with a 10-0 win against Naenae, Women's 1st for their 4-2 win in the Wairarapa, U15 beating Greytown 2-0 and our U17 decisively beating Petone 6-0!

Special mention to Will Taylor who with his hat-trick yesterday sits on 20 goals for the season and currently in 1st for Golden Boot in U17 Capital Development League! Closely behind is Luca Hall on 18!

Source: Upper Hutt City Football

11/08/25



Upper Hutt City Football



Kartsport Wellington

News from Kartsport Wellington's AGM on Wednesday night

On Wednesday night we held our AGM, thanks to all who made the effort to come along. Some good discussions and ideas coming through on where you'd like us to head.

Well done to all who received trophies and new positions!

- Vicki Park – Patron (Big thanks to outgoing Patron, Robert Hutton)
- Macarn Binns – Rookie of the year
- Emmerson Healey – Junior Sports person
- Jack Strand – Senior Sports person
- Corrie McGuigan – Dedication Award
- Jesse Free – Club person of the year

Source: Kartsport Wellington

08/08/25



Upper Hutt Petanque

The results of Upper Hutt Petanque's Club Singles Championship for 2025

Upper Hutt Petanque Club held its 2025 Club Singles Championship on a cold and wet Sunday the 10th August 2025. 13 members took part in 4 random rounds with Byes being awarded, followed by the top 4 playing a semi-final round, and ending with a final for the top 2. Sadly the current holder was unable to defend the trophy, due to injury.

After the qualifying and before the semi-finals, the standing was Dave Gwerder, Moises Burgos, Mary Khalil and Bob Horton, so those 4 went into the semi-finals. Dave won over Bob, and Moises won over Mary.

After the final, the result was Moises Burgos (Champion), Dave Gwerder (Runner Up) and Bob Horton (3rd). Well done to all players.

Moises will now represent UHPC at the Champion of Champions tournament on 20th September, to be held at Otaki, where the club champions from all the clubs in the Wellington region battle over the trophy.

The standing after qualifying is shown in the table at the link below.

<https://uhconnection.co.nz/sports/upper-hutt-petanque/the-results-of-upper-hutt-petanques-club-singles-championship-for-2025/>

Source: Upper Hutt Petanque

11/08/25

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



**Bingo and Boardgames Night:
Friday 22nd of August, 5.00 pm
onwards**

Location: Silverstream Bowling Club, 37 Dunn Street, Silverstream

Join us for a fun night of bingo, boardgames, music, and good company! Bring your favourite game or play one of ours.

- Drinks available at club prices
- Bring a plate to share
- Music to keep the night lively

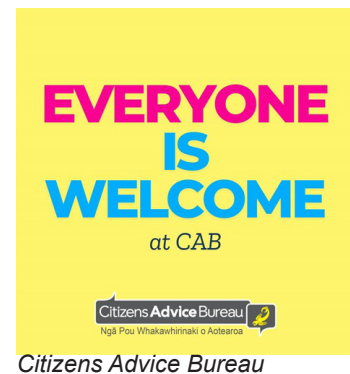
Everyone is welcome – come alone, bring friends, or make some new ones.

We look forward to seeing you there!

www.silverstream.co.nz

Silverstream Bowling Club gave permission for this article to be put up on The Upper Hutt Connection.

09/08/25



Citizens Advice Bureau

**Citizens Advice Bureau Upper Hutt:
AGM + Mayoral Candidate Speeches
– Saturday 23rd of August, 1.00 pm**

The Board of Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Upper Hutt warmly invites the community to attend our Annual General Meeting on Saturday 23 August 2025, from 1pm, at the Baptist Church, 1 Milton Street, Upper Hutt.

As part of the event, we're pleased to offer Upper Hutt's mayoral candidates the opportunity to speak briefly, up to 2 minutes each, to share their vision with the community.

Mayoral candidates who wish to speak must RSVP to manager.upperhutt@cab.org.nz by Friday, 15 August.

Come along to hear from those putting their names forward to lead our city and to support the work of CAB in our community.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

12/08/25

**Grey Power Informal Discussion -
Upper Hutt Grey Power's
Responsiveness to Local Government:
Wednesday 20th of August, 1.30 pm**



**Changed Arrangements
Wednesday, 20th August 2025 Meeting'**

We advise a change of business and commencement time
for our Meeting on Wednesday 20th August 2025.

**Baptist Church Centre
Cnr Fergusson Drive and Milton Street, Upper Hutt**

**Wednesday, 20th August 2025
Commencing at 1:30 pm**

**Informal Discussion
'Upper Hutt Greypower's Responsiveness to Local Government**

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

11/08/25

**Grey Power Upper Hutt: Councillor
Candidates Meeting – Wednesday 17th
of September, 1.30 pm**

Location: Upper Hutt Baptist Church, corner of Milton
Street and Fergusson Drive

Come along and meet the candidates running for a seat
in Council in the upcoming local elections.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

12/08/25



Heretaunga Players Inc.

**Heretaunga Players audition for
Short Play Double Bill: 2.00 pm,
23rd of August**

AUDITION NOTICE

Calling all actors and directors!

Heretaunga Players is happy to announce the
audition for our end-of-year Short Play Double Bill
will be at 2pm on Saturday 23 August 2025 at the
Studio, Ward Street, Upper Hutt.

The production will run from 27 November to 6
December 2025, with rehearsals starting around
mid-September 2025. The two plays are 'Bang,
You're Dead!' by Paul Reakes (2M, 2F) and
'Flatmates' by Barry Lambert (3M, 3F).

We are very interested in introducing new actors
to our stage, and are also keen to talk to anyone
interested in directing. Depending upon interest,
we may also consider other plays requiring a
smaller total cast.

Please contact us at
theheretaungaplayers@gmail.com at any time for
more information and/or copies of the scripts.

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

08/08/25





Remutaka Roller Derby

Learn to Roller Skate: Starting Tuesday 26th of August, 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Location: 4A Railway Ave, Upper Hutt

Are you looking for a new hobby, or have you always wanted to give roller skating a go but never knew where to start?

Well here is your chance!

Starting on the 26th August, our learn to roller skate course will teach you everything you need to know about fundamentals of roller skating, keeping yourself safe while doing it, all while having fun!

No previous skating experience required, and we can also supply you with skates and all the necessary safety gear. All you need is yourself!

This course is 8 weeks long and runs on Tuesday nights at a new earlier time of 7-9pm.

Inclusive of all genders, age 16+.

This course (or equivalent) is a pre-requisite for our follow up course, Learn to Roller Derby.

Please complete the registration form below and complete payment of \$80 to:

Remutaka Roller Derby

06 0172 0807994 00

(use your name and LTS as the reference)

Register quick as spaces are limited!

Are you ready to try something new, meet an awesome bunch of people, and do something for YOU?!

Register at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGImkq90mgidAqJznCRT5eUV9LWq2oNFv2iTLQr6lhf6xSA/viewform>

Source: Remutaka Roller Derby

11/08/25



Remutaka Roller Derby

Remutaka Raptors vs Hellmilton Roller Ghouls: Saturday 23rd of August, 2.00 pm

Location: G16 Studios & Events Centre, 6 Railway Ave, Maidstone, Upper Hutt

Our next game is fast approaching! This time, the Remutaka Raptors will be taking on the Hellmilton Roller Ghouls!

We will playing on our new/old home turf, now known as G16 Studios & Events Centre (same rink, new name)!

Doors open at 2pm, first whistle at 2:30pm.

Entry is \$10 per person, gold coin for children – cash or bank transfer only.

Come along to cheer us on and enjoy the derby action! For more information flick us a message on Facebook!

Source: Remutaka Roller Derby

11/08/25

CARBOOT SALE

Saturday 30 August
9:30am - 12:00pm
Riverstones Church
713 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt

If you are interested in booking a site email: r3youth@live.com or click on the link to fill in the application form. Sites from \$20. Terms & Conditions apply.

 **Youth (Riverstones Church Youth Group)**
are raising funds towards a Youth Event in September & Summer Camp 2026

Riverstones  www.riverstones.org.nz
 713 Fergusson Drive,
 Upper Hutt

Riverstones Church

Riverstones Church Carboot Sale: Saturday 30th of August, 9.30 am – 12.00 pm

Location: Riverstones Church, 713 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt

Hi Everyone, R3Youth is Fundraising to get to Fearless Conference and Summer Camp. ere's a great opportunity to declutter, promote your goods, share your amazing baking and earn a bit of \$\$\$ for Christmas. If you're interested in booking a site at our Carboot Sale fill in the registration form: <https://forms.gle/yFsQwUNkd2XuqYgD8>

Contact Tania Goose r3youth@live.com if you have any other questions.

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

10/08/25



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Beginners Classes Upper Hutt Scottish Country Dancing

Wednesdays
Four weeks starting 6th August
7:30 at Wesley Centre
Benzie Ave
\$5 each session

All welcome. Wear soft comfortable shoes.

Contributor: Chris

Scottish Country Dancing in Upper Hutt – 7.00 pm on Wednesdays during August

Scottish country dancing is popular social dancing from Scotland. We don't do highland dancing or leap over swords – just fun dancing with a group of people. You don't need to bring a partner or wear a kilt – just comfortable clothing and soft shoes. We are holding beginners' classes for 4 weeks, starting on 6 August 2025. So why not give it a try? We meet 7.30 pm each Wednesday at the church hall in Benzie Ave (just behind the Cooperating Church).

Upper Hutt Scottish Country Dance club

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

04/08/25

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.



Weaving the Harakeke: Meet the Candidates | Monday 25th of August, 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Location: Ōrongomai Marae

Come along and meet the candidates in a speed-dating style.

Light refreshment provided.

This is a politically neutral hui that want to provide a safe space to engage.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

12/08/25

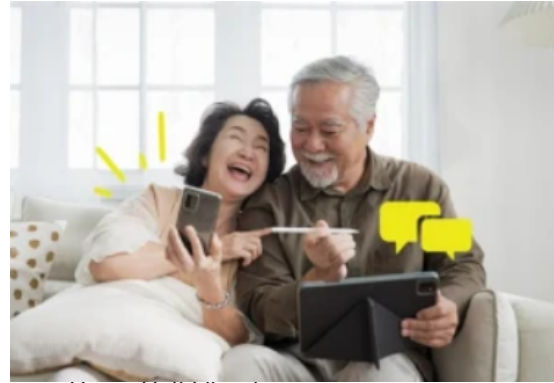


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Playgroup at St. Hilda's: Wednesday mornings during term time, 9.30 am – 11.00 am

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.



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



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

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



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Strings Attached Ukulele Group

We need a few new players/performers for our ukulele /singing/ performance group, based in Upper Hutt. More than anything we love people with enthusiasm who are keen to interact with an audience. We perform mostly at retirement villages but have also performed at birthday parties and celebrations of life. We focus on songs from the 50's to the 80's but most importantly we are there for our audiences and what they enjoy.

- you need to be able to hold a tune.
- the ability to play a ukulele would be great but if you don't we can teach you!

If you are keen or know of someone who would be an asset to our group' please ring Virginia on 0273920920.

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

28/07/25

The Upper Hutt Womens' Carers' Group

Our group consists of women who have someone in their lives who has had a stroke or has Alzheimers, that they are caring for.

We meet once a fortnight for two hours. We offer a supportive listening environment with lots of laughs as we walk our challenging journeys together. If there are women out there who feel we could be of support, please contact Jenny on 0284340102 for further details.

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

28/07/25



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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/>



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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 939 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.



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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.

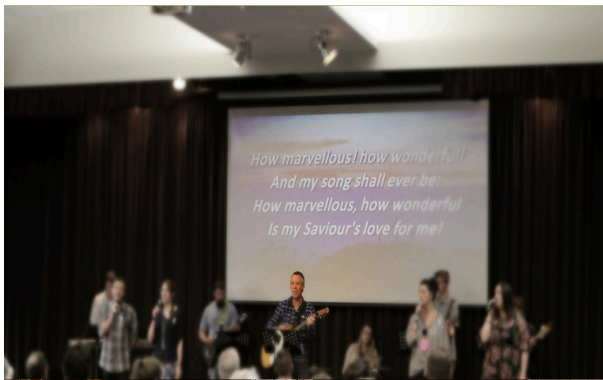
Our Creche for children under 3 1/2 years runs every Sunday morning. Our Children's Church runs Sundays during school terms.

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.

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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 14th of August, 2025

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

JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE

Running time: 98 minutes

Rated: M (Offensive language)

A desperately single bookseller, lost in a fantasy world, finds herself forced to fulfil her dreams of becoming a writer in order to stop messing up her love life.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/jane-austen-wrecked-my-life>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt31112509/videooplayer/vi2675951897/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_1_tt_7_nm_1_in_0_q_Jane%2520austen



Jane Austen
Wrecked My Life

MR. BURTON

Running time: 124 minutes

Rated: M (Adult themes)

Set in post-war Wales, MR BURTON is the extraordinary true story of a working-class boy destined for greatness and the teacher who saw it first.

When Philip Burton, a principled and passionate school teacher in Port Talbot, meets Richie Jenkins, a volatile yet gifted teen, he recognises a spark that others have overlooked. Through mentorship, discipline, and love, Philip shapes Richie's raw talent, setting him on the path to becoming Richard Burton, one of the greatest actors of the 20th century.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/mr-burton>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5171016/videooplayer/vi964479257/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_2_tt_3_nm_4_in_0_q_Mr%2520Burton



Mr. Burton

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NOBODY 2

Running time: 89 minutes

Rated: R16 (Strong violence & offensive language)

Sometimes the most dangerous place for a dad is a family vacation.

Bob Odenkirk returns as suburban husband, father and workaholic assassin Hutch Mansell in the new chapter to Nobody, the hit 2021 bare-knuckle action-thriller that opened at number one at the U.S. box office.

Four years after he inadvertently took on the Russian mob, Hutch remains \$30 million in debt to the criminal organization and is working it off with an unending string of hits on international thugs.

Much as he likes the slam-bang action of his "job," Hutch and his wife Becca (International Emmy nominee Connie Nielsen) find themselves overworked and drifting apart. So, they decide to take their kids (Gage Munroe, Paisley Cadorath) on a short getaway to Wild Bill's Majestic Midway and Waterpark, the one and only place where Hutch and his brother Harry (Grammy and Emmy nominee RZA) went on a vacation as kids.

With Hutch's dad (Emmy winner Christopher Lloyd) in tow, the family arrives in the small tourist town of Plummerville ("Plummerville is Summerville!"), eager for some fun in the sun.

But when a minor encounter with some town bullies yanks the family into the crosshairs of a corrupt theme-park operator (John Ortiz; Fast and Furious franchise, Bumblebee) and his shady sheriff (Emmy and Golden Globe nominee Colin Hanks), Hutch finds himself the focus of the most unhinged, blood-thirsty crime boss he (or anyone) has ever encountered (Emmy winning and Oscar® nominated screen icon, Sharon Stone).

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/nobody-2>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt28996126/videooplayer/vi2293221401/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_2_tt_7_nm_0_in_0_q_Nobody%25202

Source: Monterey Cinemas Upper Hutt

12/06/25

