

# THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION



A LOCAL NEWSPAPER - FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

The Upper Hutt Connection - Wednesday Edition:  
27th of August 2025

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## CONTENTS

969 subscribers receive The Upper Hutt Connection Wednesday Edition in their inbox every Wednesday Morning

- [Good news for drivers over 75: No need to re-sit your test unless your medical conditions require it.](#)
- [ADVERTISING: Upper Hutt Taxis](#)
- [Lane width reductions and alternate routes while Whakawhirinaki / The Silversream pipe bridge is connected to the region's drinking water network.](#)
- [Staglands brand-new main entrance building now officially open!](#)
- [Upper Hutt Cossie Club member Henry Fawbert celebrates his 100th birthday](#)
- [Watch the Water.](#)

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

- [Upper Hutt CBD – Revitalisation | Hellen Swales](#)

### COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MATTERS

- [Creative Communities NZ Arts Funding Assessment Committee: 28th of August 2025, 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm](#)
- [Policy Committee: 27th of August 2025, 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm](#)
- [Risk and Assurance Committee, 15th of August – Minutes](#)

### LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS 2025

- [Bill Hammond \(Independent\)](#)
- [How are we doing? A regional snapshot of voter enrolment](#)

- [Upper Hutt Economic Growth Policy: Brett Thomson](#)
- [Upper Hutt Transport Policy Announcement: Brett Thomson](#)

### SPORTS

- [Remutaka Raptors win against Hellmilton Roller Ghouls: 279 12 – 0 124](#)
- [Team Pizza Party the winners at Remutaka Roller Derby's fundraiser quiz night](#)
- [Weekend football results: 23rd of August / 24th of August](#)
- [Wellington's petanque team wins the Chanticleer Cup in Otaki](#)

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

- [Book now for Positive Pathways School Holiday Programme: 22nd of September – 3rd of October](#)
- [Electrify the Hutt Expo: Saturday 4th of October, 8.00 am – 4.00 pm](#)
- [Hutt Sings: Saturday 13th of September, 3.00 pm](#)
- [Listening tour – Disability discussion: Thursday 28th of August, 10.30 am – 11.30 am](#)
- [Pinehaven Art & Craft Exhibition: 5th and 6th of September](#)
- [Poetry Awards 2025 – Teen and Adult Categories: Friday 29th of August, 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm](#)

[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)

- [Scottish Country Dancing in Upper Hutt – 7.00 pm on Wednesdays during August](#)
- [Time to enrol for Kelly Sports 5-A-Side Soccer: Term starts 17th of October.](#)
- [Upper Hutt Competitions Society – Troupes 2025: Sunday 31st of August, 9.00 am – 2.20 pm](#)
- [Upper Hutt | Food Lovers Masterclass: Thursday 18th of September, 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm](#)
- [Taoist Tai Chi: Mondays, 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm](#)
- [SeniorNet: Tuesdays 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm](#)
- [Playgroup at St. Hilda's: Wednesday mornings during term time, 9.30 am – 11.00 am](#)
- [St. Margaret's Playgroup: Tuesday Mornings, 10.00 am – 11.30 am \(term time only\)](#)
- [Rimutaka Baptist Church Playgroup: Fridays, 9.00 am - 11.30 am during term time](#)
- [Upper Hutt Baptist Church playgroup: 9.30 am – 11.30 am, Tuesday mornings](#)

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- [Strings Attached Ukulele Group](#)
- [The Upper Hutt Womens' Carers' Group](#)

#### RECIPES

- [Recipes](#)
- [Advertise your business The Upper Hutt Connection for \\$1 a day, or for \\$10 a week in The Wednesday Edition](#)

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

- [Heretaunga Community Church](#)
- [St. Margaret's Presbyterian Church - Silverstream](#)
- [Rimutaka Baptist Church](#)
- [St. Hilda's Anglican Church](#)
- [Silverstream Reformed Church](#)

#### ENTERTAINMENT

- [What's new at Monterey Cinemas? Releasing 28th of August, 2025](#)

#### [RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)



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## Good news for drivers over 75: No need to re-sit your test unless your medical conditions require it.

Good news for drivers over the age of 75.

Drivers over 75 no longer have to re-sit their drivers license test unless required by their doctor, or stated on their medical certificate.

For full details please check out: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/factsheets/57>

Source: NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi

25/08/25

## Lane width reductions and alternate routes while Whakawhirinaki / The Silverstream pipe bridge is connected to the region's drinking water network.

It's on! Works to connect Whakawhirinaki, the Silverstream pipe bridge, to the drinking water network is starting mid-September. This is a major step towards increasing our region's water supply resilience!

As works will be taking place next to SH2 and Fergusson Drive, there will be some traffic impacts during the works.

Lane diversions will be in place around the Fergusson Drive (south)/Silverstream Bridge intersection from 7 September until early November.

Traffic management on SH2 at Silverstream is expected to be between 14 September and early October.

Two northbound lanes towards Upper Hutt will remain open, but the lane widths will be reduced to 2.8m.

Continued on Page 4.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)

## Upper Hutt Taxis

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A "thank you" to Gurpreet for advertising on The Upper Hutt Connection.



The cycle lane will be closed so cyclists will need to use alternative cycling routes and travel options.

Cyclists can also use the train service between Manor Park and Silverstream. For the most up-to-date bus replacement schedule, head to MetLink's website.

We're minimising disruption as much as possible. Please plan ahead and expect delays while commuting during this time.

For more details on the project, check out the link:

[https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/projects/silverstream-pipe-bridge-project?tab=4&fbclid=IwY2xjawMY7bdleHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlkETFsRVdMOHdMbGZBbmFjaktVAR5xJYF9bLkalOG6An1HUSpt8x7m4oAAfbii5DvchL5iTzBYMjZnecloZkrw\\_aem\\_jduGY1pkWjlie9M6GgSmw](https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/projects/silverstream-pipe-bridge-project?tab=4&fbclid=IwY2xjawMY7bdleHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlkETFsRVdMOHdMbGZBbmFjaktVAR5xJYF9bLkalOG6An1HUSpt8x7m4oAAfbii5DvchL5iTzBYMjZnecloZkrw_aem_jduGY1pkWjlie9M6GgSmw)

Source: Wellington Water

25/08/25



Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

## Upper Hutt Cossie Club member Henry Fawbert celebrates his 100th birthday

Last night it was an honour to recognise a very special milestone– the 100th birthday of our valued member, Henry Fawbert.

Henry was born in Yorkshire on the 20th of August 1925. During World War II he bravely served as a rear gunner in the Royal Air Force. In 1952 he made the move to Upper Hutt, where he later met and married Lois in 1955. Together they shared 69 wonderful years of marriage until her passing.

Henry's life has taken him around the world – from running shoe stores back in Yorkshire, to returning to New Zealand in 1965 and enjoying a long career in aviation with NAC and later Air New Zealand.

*Continued on Page 4.*



Peryer Construction

## Staglands brand-new main entrance building now officially open!

We're OPEN!

After many months of dreaming, planning and plenty of hard mahi, we're so excited to share that our brand-new main entrance building is now officially open!

This stunning new space marks a huge milestone for us, one that we'll be celebrating properly in the coming months (so watch this space)

And we're not stopping here... soon you'll also see:

- A brand-new shop
- Upgraded toilets
- A permanent exit replacing the temporary one

For now, we'd love you to come in, explore, and make yourselves at home in this beautiful new space.

Don't forget to snap a pic during your visit and tag us on Facebook, we can't wait to see your first impressions!

Thank you to Andy Radka from Above Ground Level Photography and Peryer Constuction for sharing these amazing images.

View all the photos at: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/general-news/staglands-brand-new-main-entrance-building-now-officially-open/>

Source: Staglands Wildlife Reserve & Cafe

23/08/25



He has also given much to the community through his passion for indoor bowls, first with the RSA and later here at the Upper Hutt Cossie Club. Since joining in 1997, Henry has been an active and loyal member, most recently with the Seniors.

Henry, reaching 100 years is an extraordinary achievement. On behalf of the Cossie Club, we wish you the happiest of birthdays and congratulate you on this remarkable milestone.

Please join us in congratulating and celebrating Henry on this special day.

This was the second celebration today at the club with the Seniors coming together to celebrate and share cake as well.

It was lovely for everyone to just stop for a moment, and even the staff all lined up to acknowledge Henry!

Happy birthday and best wishes from all of us!

Source: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

21/08/25

Original Data from MBIE					
Forecast 2034 NZ Median Household Income and cost at that time.					
Year	The median annual	The annual per	3.3% of Median	Cost per week	cost per day
2016	\$ 90,000.00	-			
2017	\$ 99,100.00	10.1%	\$ 3,270.30	\$ 62.89	\$ 8.98
2018	\$ 102,100.00	3.0%	\$ 3,369.30	\$ 64.79	\$ 9.26
2019	\$ 104,100.00	2.0%	\$ 3,435.30	\$ 66.06	\$ 9.44
2020	\$ 108,000.00	3.7%	\$ 3,564.00	\$ 68.54	\$ 9.79
2021	\$ 118,800.00	10.0%	\$ 3,920.40	\$ 75.39	\$ 10.77
2022	\$ 124,400.00	4.7%	\$ 4,105.20	\$ 78.95	\$ 11.28
2023	\$ 141,300.00	13.6%	\$ 4,662.90	\$ 89.67	\$ 12.81
2024	\$ 149,600.00	5.9%	\$ 4,936.80	\$ 94.94	\$ 13.56
2025	\$ 150,625.00	0.7%	\$ 4,970.62	\$ 95.59	\$ 13.66
2026	\$ 157,696.67	4.7%	\$ 5,203.99	\$ 100.08	\$ 14.30
2027	\$ 164,768.33	4.5%	\$ 5,437.36	\$ 104.56	\$ 14.94
2028	\$ 171,840.00	4.3%	\$ 5,670.72	\$ 109.05	\$ 15.58
2029	\$ 178,911.67	4.1%	\$ 5,904.08	\$ 113.54	\$ 16.22
2030	\$ 185,983.33	4.0%	\$ 6,137.45	\$ 118.03	\$ 16.86
2031	\$ 193,055.00	3.8%	\$ 6,370.81	\$ 122.52	\$ 17.50
2032	\$ 200,126.67	3.7%	\$ 6,604.18	\$ 127.00	\$ 18.14
2033	\$ 207,198.33	3.5%	\$ 6,837.54	\$ 131.49	\$ 18.78
2034	\$ 214,270.00	3.4%	\$ 7,070.91	\$ 135.98	\$ 19.43

<https://www.nzempowered.com/> / MBIE Data

## Watch the Water.

*Note: This article has been re-published on request of Kate and Paul at NZ Empowered*

With many focused on Local Elections we believe this will slip under the radar and would like to again bring it to your attention that writing in letting your thoughts on the cost to the community.

It is reported now an average of \$5700 per year along other indicators we have seen from council reports which is based on the 3.3% of median household wage in 2034 and the Scott report fro Oct 2024.

Either way it is a major expense. Can you or others afford this along with rents and high rates etc.

[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)

Either way it is a major expense. Can you or others afford this along with rents and high rates etc.

We have until the 3rd Sept to let central government know the financial burden and costs to us all.

Renters cost Shock – [https://c29daf59-758a-4029-be4e-3a751893ecad.usrfiles.com/ugd/c29daf\\_1df94bb2d0cb4d5ba25d996e20e57353.pdf](https://c29daf59-758a-4029-be4e-3a751893ecad.usrfiles.com/ugd/c29daf_1df94bb2d0cb4d5ba25d996e20e57353.pdf)

Local Water Done Well – <https://www.nzempowered.com/post/local-water-done-well>

Check out this Weaving the Harakeke – Special “Wai Worry” meeting for a recent update from UHCC CEO – <https://www.nzempowered.com/post/weaving-the-harakeke-wai-worry-hui-minutes-21st-july-2025>

**So put pen to paper as the old saying goes. We would recommend sending your views in an email through to:**

[infrastructure.regulation@comcom.govt.nz](mailto:infrastructure.regulation@comcom.govt.nz)

[market.regulation@comcom.govt.nz](mailto:market.regulation@comcom.govt.nz)

[ofs@msd.govt.nz](mailto:ofs@msd.govt.nz)

[waterservices@dia.govt.nz](mailto:waterservices@dia.govt.nz)

A “thank you” to Kate and Paul @ NZ Empowered for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection

14/08/25



Hellen Swales

## Upper Hutt CBD – Revitalisation | Hellen Swales

Upper Hutt, 18th August 2025

Authorised by Hellen Swales – [hellenformayor@gmail.com](mailto:hellenformayor@gmail.com)

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 here to share your thoughts: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-issues-forum/upper-hutt-cbd-revitalisation-hellen-swales/>

### Introduction

I'm acutely aware that Upper Hutt's Central Business District (CBD) has been a concern for many in our community for some time and has been a consistent theme in the Upper Hutt Councils Annual Community survey.

***At the Council meeting on 30 October 2024, I asked officers whether we have a strategy in place to address areas where we are not meeting community expectations or satisfaction in the delivery of services. Too often, we survey the community but see very little change as a result. I will be following up when the next survey results come to the Council table to see whether the dial has shifted and whether we are making genuine progress with regards to the CBD.***

Video of Council Meeting 30th October 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9U0y5R5uVAM&pp=ygUsVXBwZXIqSHV0dCBDaXR5IENvdW5jaWwgMzB0aCBvZiBPY3RvYmVydIwMjQ%3D>

I believe, council and community, know there are issues with absentee building owners and a noticeable deterioration in the CBD's presentation.

As a council, the options to directly address this are limited, but the challenge remains: how do we encourage building owners to tenant their premises rather than leave them empty? This is a conversation that has been had around the Upper Hutt City Council table, and it's one which needs to remain on our agenda, not just talked about but also actioned.

Gisborne District Council submitted to the Annual Conference of Local Government New Zealand calling for "tackling unoccupied buildings as a priority" and for legislative change to give councils the power to take action. Upper Hutt City Council supported the remit(proposal) from the Gisborne District Council. Since supporting this council have also been investigating the possibility of introducing its own updated bylaw. In my opinion, the current tools are not sufficient to achieve positive outcomes in addressing derelict and unoccupied commercial buildings.

Here is an example of one section of this bylaw. Refer to the below link for the entire bylaw. \*<sub>1</sub>

Upper Hutt Council Unoccupied Commercial Premises Bylaw: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/policies-and-bylaws/upper-hutt-city-unoccupied-commercial-premises-bylaw-affirmed-7-11-2018-1.pdf>

This Upper Hutt bylaw has references to the Local Government Act 2002 which also, in my opinion, is ineffective in supporting a positive outcome for council and our city.

### The Challenge

Upper Hutt is not alone in facing this issue, Whanganui, South Wairarapa, and Gisborne, to name just a few, all feel they are equally ineffective in achieving better outcomes for their cities. Many are all well aware of the consequences of these unoccupied buildings:

- Unoccupied or deteriorating buildings negatively affect local economies and tourism in key centres, undermining the key roles councils play in attracting new businesses and visitors to their communities.
- That unoccupied buildings can result in increased vandalism and antisocial behaviour, including litter and sanitation issues.

*Continued on Page 7.*

Gisborne District Council wants power to act on derelict buildings: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/gisborne-district-council-wants-power-to-act-on-derelict-buildings/5766GDKFG5FUJN3QS2CHGZTIXE/>

\*<sub>2</sub>

With a proposed rates review on the agenda for Upper Hutt City Council, this is an ideal opportunity to put on the table a conversation about introducing a Business Improvement District (BID) programme or a MainStreet programme. There are many proven examples across New Zealand of how these initiatives have successfully revitalised CBD and boosted economic activity.

In Auckland there are currently 51 BIDs, representing over 25,000 businesses with a combined capital value estimated at \$72.7 billion. Through the Business Improvement District (BID) programme, Auckland Council works with business districts to improve the local business environment and grow the regional economy. This programme creates a relationship between the council and business associations, which are separate entities.

Reference: <https://bid.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/>

\*<sub>3</sub>

Mainstreet Programmes have a similar brief to BIDs in that they too are independent of council and are funded through a targeted rate on building owners.

The first Mainstreet program was in Wanganui which started in a time when things were on the decline for them in 1991.

Here is the Mainstreet Whanganui mandate from its website: – <https://www.mainstreetwhanganui.co.nz/>

- ***We were established in 1991, a time when Whanganui's CBD had grown increasingly tired and was in serious economic decline. 30 years on, the economic outlook has vastly improved, and perceptions of our city have changed significantly – with Whanganui regularly topping the list as New Zealand's most beautiful city.***
- ***Mainstreet Whanganui is a not-for-profit town centre management organisation representing the Whanganui CBD. We work to promote local businesses and make our central city as vibrant and attractive as possible.***
- ***From our outset, Mainstreet has been a catalyst for change in Whanganui, both as an advocacy group supporting local businesses, and as a grassroots organisation, carrying out beautification works and managing events in the central city.***

For Upper Hutt, I would take the opportunity to have this conversation to establish a BID or a Mainstreet programme as part of the rates review. These initiatives must be led by the business community, not imposed from the top down.

Upper Hutt had a similar programme back in the early 2000's called Experience Upper Hutt. Unfortunately, council stopped it in 2012 even though it had the approval of local businesses.

\*<sub>4</sub>

I'm not prepared to spend more ratepayer money on consultants for CBD design. Over the years, we've already had reports from at least three — Hames Sharley, Kobus Mentz, and Isthmus. The last thing we need is yet another report provided from external consultants, when Upper Hutt is more than capable of telling its own story and shaping its own future.

\*<sub>5</sub>

I see council's role is to provide, in partnership with local Building and Business Owners:

- **Infrastructure & Placemaking:** Streetscapes, lighting, signage, parking, parks — the things businesses can't build themselves but need to attract customers.
- **Events & Activations:** Markets, festivals, and seasonal promotions that bring people into commercial areas.
- **Business-friendly Policy:** Streamlined consenting, reduced red tape, and clear communication.
- **Promotion & Marketing:** Destination branding for the town or CBD, often run in partnership with a business association.

*The heart of our city should be vibrant, welcoming, and full of life. This is a theme of conversations I have heard from many in our city.*

This isn't just about physical improvements, it's about changing the story of the CBD from "a bit quiet" to "the place to be in Upper Hutt.", a destination to spend time in.

\*<sub>6</sub>

These ideas would need the support of building owners and business in order to drive any framework in revitalising our CBD. The council can support either a BID, or Mainstreet programme, that provides the opportunity for building and business owners to work with the council. Such an approach would encourage collaboration to achieve greater local outcomes.

I see this as a unique relationship where communication and professional cooperation are valued.

*Continued on Page 8.*

## How I believe this could be approached.

With a realistic, budget-conscious approach to shift perception of the Upper Hutt CBD and build momentum over time. Purse strings are tight, both for council, business owners, building owners and community, but I believe the following could be achieved.

### 1. Quick Wins (0–12 months) Fast Visible Changes

- **Pop-up activation:** Encourage short-term leases for pop-up shops, art displays, or community uses in vacant spaces (low rent incentives with landlords). Our community has amazing talent from all throughout our community, engaging ideas using local talents.
- **CBD events calendar:** Run regular, small-scale events e.g., night markets, food truck events, live street music that give people a reason to come after hours.
- **Beautification blitz:** Budget-friendly improvements like better lighting, flower planters, and repainting tired façades in partnership with building owners.

### 2. Medium-Term (1–3 years) Growing Together

\*<sub>7</sub>

- **Anchor attraction:** Support one or two standout businesses or experiences (e.g. destination dining, artisan market) that make the CBD a drawcard and as a springboard for all of our local businesses
- **Public space upgrade:** Redesign key areas like pedestrian alleys or squares to make them more inviting, safer and people friendly.
- **Business mix strategy:** Partner with building and business owners to target missing services, like more hospitality, specialty retail, or entertainment venues.
- **Parking Accessibility:** Encouraging a parking review with the support of the community along with building and business owners.
- **Local and Regional Promotion:** In collaboration with Upper Hutt Council, promoting Upper Hutt as a Vibrant destination for shopping and Vibe.

### 3. Long-Term (3–5 years) Changing the Story

- **Consistent branding:** Promote the CBD as the “Heart of Upper Hutt” with coordinated signage, marketing, and events.
- **Mixed-use development:** Encourage upper-floor residential living to bring more people into the CBD day and night.
- **Transport and access improvements:** Make it easier to get into and around the CBD for all.

- **Extended Promotion:** Expanded promotion of Upper Hutt outside of the Wellington region.

## In Summary

\*<sub>8</sub>

This approach uses low-cost, partnership-driven initiatives to build visible improvement quickly, while laying the groundwork for bigger changes. Every initiative keeps momentum going, so perception shifts from “tired and empty” to “alive and worth visiting” and puts the direction and pace back in the hands of those who know our CBD best.

Upper Hutt Council simply do not have the budget at present to take on new projects. Instead, we must encourage out-of-the-box thinking and build partnerships that deliver real wins for our community.

*Authorised by Hellen Swales:  
hellenformayor@gmail.com*

## Your thoughts:

Many of these ideas are grandiose. A big hurdle in any revitalisation of the CBD is the Mall owner who owns many of the CBD buildings.

Upper Hutt City Councils needs to pass a tougher by law which gives the Council more teeth to force the building owner to cooperate. Seize his buildings and sell them off. If he owed money to a bank there would have been a mortgagee sale long ago. So get tough!

The CBD looks like the remains of a lengthy civil war which has left bomb craters and damaged and deserted buildings.

Artwork will only be like a curtain drawn over the debris and decay. The sculptures previously installed have done nothing. Horses in shop windows and The Mall also did nothing. I hardly think artwork of any sort will bring people to the CBD.

Please! No more hospitality venues. We have enough. The development at the old Courthouse site will have a restaurant. The CBD is full of eateries and nothing has changed in the CBD.

Beggars are a nuisance too in the CBD. I have repeatedly been approached by a woman wanting to ask me a question. I keep walking but I have heard from others that she asks for money and then gets aggressive if you refuse. Beggars will deter people coming to the CBD.

*Continued on Page 9.*



Don't forget that retailers are also suffering as discretionary income has been eroded by your Council's reckless rate increases. Some people are paying \$400.00 a month in rates! That's in addition to mortgage, insurance, power bills and food. It is only going to get worse next year with high water bills hitting households. There is going to be even less money to spend in local shops. People are choosing now between food and paying rates and the mortgage and next year the high water bills will hit the fan and the heat will really be on household budgets.

Rowena Simpkins

20/08/25

\*1 - \*8 (Not all images can be included in the Wednesday Edition to help keep the file size down. View all images at <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-issues-forum/upper-hutt-cbd-revitalisation-hellen-swailes/>

## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MATTERS



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### Creative Communities NZ Arts Funding Assessment Committee: 28th of August 2025, 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm

**Location:** Civic Building, 838 – 842 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt

Creative New Zealand, is a Crown entity and works with local city and district councils to deliver the Creative Communities Scheme (CCS). The CCS is a funding scheme to support local arts administered by Upper Hutt City Council. You can find out more about this scheme under the 'Related Information' below.

Creative Communities NZ Arts Funding Assessment Committee – 28 August: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v1/meetings/2025/cycle-5/agenda-creative-communities-20250828.pdf>

Related Information: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Community/Grants-and-funding/Creative-Communities>

If you wish to speak at and/or attend the meeting you can find out how at: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Council/Council-Meetings/Attending-and-speaking-at-Council-and-committee-meetings>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

26/08/25

[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)



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### Policy Committee: 27th of August 2025, 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm

**Location:** Council Chambers, 838 – 842 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt

Topics for discussion include:

- Public and Private Road Naming in Wallaceville Estate Subdivision (Stages 9C and 9D)
- Public and Private Road Naming in Maymorn Farm Subdivision (Stage 1)
- Establishment of Interim Waste Minimisation Fund
- Bylaw Review
- Strategy, Planning and Policy Report

For information on how to attend and speak at council and committee meetings, check out the link provided: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Council/Council-Meetings/Attending-and-speaking-at-Council-and-committee-meetings>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

23/08/25



Upper Hutt City Council

### Risk and Assurance Committee, 15th of August – Minutes

<https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v1/meetings/2025/cycle-5/risk-minutes-20250813.pdf>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

26/08/25

# LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS 2025



Authorised by Bill Hammond /  
<https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz>

## Bill Hammond (Independent)

Hi I am Bill Hammond and firstly I would like to thank the people that had the confidence to vote for me at the last election and hope your faith in me continues.

It is a privilege to be on council and I have always done my best to help Upper Hutt through this most disruptive time as a city. I am confident that this council has handled everything that has been thrown at it with a future focus and in the best interests for us ratepayers.

The next 3 years will be just as disruptive but the rate increases will decrease as the water costs are being handled by a new entity.

As a council we have to be vigilant that this water entity doesn't rip off, as Wellington water and their contractors have done so over the last 10 years. I will ensure that Upper Hutt ratepayers will always get value for money and make sure our infrastructure is fit for purpose and is future proof.

Upper Hutt city is very lucky to have a refurbished pool a new Sport and community hub a great Maidstone Max with football, hockey, Rugby facilities, Whirinaki, a great library and much more, fantastic parks and walking and cycle tracks Putting us in a good position for the future. This is why more and more people want to make Upper Hutt their home.

Our Main street is struggling. We have a disinterested Mall and land owner and our shop owners have never seen trading so bad. We must keep shopping local and help our CBD survive or more shops will close We can get through this.

Lastly to all the candidates standing I like to wish you all the best in this election it certainly is a great experience and we can make a difference.

*Authorised by Bill Hammond*

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

26/08/25

## How are we doing? A regional snapshot of voter enrolment

With local elections fast approaching on 11 October, we looked across the Wellington region to see how Upper Hutt's voter enrolment rates stack up and where we might want to focus our efforts.

### Upper Hutt: 90.74% enrolled

As of 31 July 2025, Upper Hutt enrolled 33,955 eligible voters out of an estimated 37,311, a solid enrolment rate of 90.74%.

A strong turnout overall, but we're mid-pack in our region.

Here's the regional snapshot:

Council	Enrolment %	Total enrolled	Eligible population
Whole of NZ	88.14%	3,611,502	4,097,232
South Wairarapa District Council	96.73%	9,393	9,711
Porirua City Council	93.69%	43,769	46,717
Kapiti District Council	93.17%	44,094	47,327
Wellington City Council	91.03%	164,841	181,086
Upper Hutt City Council	90.74%	33,857	37,311
Hutt City Council	89.56%	80,387	89,761
Masterton District Council	87.65%	20,370	23,239

### What does this tell us?

Upper Hutt is sitting just above the national average, but behind nearly all our neighbouring councils, including Kāpiti, Porirua, and South Wairarapa, which are leading the pack.

*Continued on Page 11.*

This is a chance for us to lift our game. While 90% is solid, every single vote matters, especially in local elections where decisions affect everyday things like roads, parks, housing, climate action, and community services.

### What's next?

If you enrolled online before 1 August, you'll receive your voting papers in the post between 9 and 22 September, so look out for them in your letterboxes.

If you missed the enrolment deadline, you can still enrol online (<https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online/>) and then email our Deputy Electoral Officer to make a request to cast a special vote ([elections@uhcc.govt.nz](mailto:elections@uhcc.govt.nz)) but you won't receive papers in the mail.

**Voting closes 12 noon, Saturday 11 October.**

### Let's keep pushing for enrolment

We're calling on everyone to check their enrolment, encourage others to enrol, and most importantly vote early.

**Know someone who's just moved to Upper Hutt or is between the age of 18 and 34?** Let them know it's not too late to take part. They can enrol online and then get in touch with our Deputy Electoral Officer to request a special vote.

Every voice counts and in order to have your say, it starts with enrolment to vote today.

*Source: Upper Hutt City Council*

20/08/25



*The Upper Hutt Connection.*

## Upper Hutt Economic Growth Policy: Brett Thomson

### "Region of Opportunity"

Authorised by Brett Thomson – [brett.thomson@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:brett.thomson@hotmail.co.nz) – Standing for Upper Hutt City Council

### Introduction

Upper Hutt is a fantastic place to live. We are blessed with natural beauty, strong communities, and a proud heritage. But many residents are telling me they are struggling with the rising cost of living, the lack of local employment, and ongoing rates increases.

The national economy is slow to recover, and the Wellington region is under pressure from cuts to public service spending. This has flow-on effects to our local economy — reducing demand for services, hospitality, and small business.

At the same time, Upper Hutt has more than 50% of its residents working outside the city. That means other regions benefit from the production, spending, and commercial rates that come with jobs, while Upper Hutt shoulders the infrastructure cost of housing growth. With more residential subdivisions and not enough commercial/industrial growth, the rates burden falls unfairly on homeowners.

If we do not pivot now, Upper Hutt risks falling further behind.

That's why I am standing for Council — to bring leadership that attracts investment, creates good local jobs, diversifies our economy, and builds pride in every part of Upper Hutt.

This policy sets out a clear vision: **make Upper Hutt a region of opportunity where people want to live, work, invest, and visit.**

*Continued on Page 12.*

## Vision

Upper Hutt will be more than a commuter town. We will be:

- **A place of opportunity** – where people can find quality jobs close to home.
- **A fairer city** – where the rates burden is shared more evenly across residential, commercial, and industrial properties.
- **A destination** – where visitors want to come, spend, and return.
- **A proud community** – where each area of Upper Hutt has its own celebrated identity.

Our economy is currently anchored in the Wellington government workforce (public service, health, education, corrections, defence), which employs over 50% of our residents. Manufacturing and construction provide another 20%. This leaves us vulnerable.

The opportunity is to **diversify** into health, food, defence, digital, tourism, and advanced construction — while celebrating our environment and rural strengths.

By bringing new money into the city — through visitors, exports, and business investment — we create jobs, reduce rates pressure, and unlock more community services.

## Policy Priorities

### 1. Building a Destination Strategy

Tourism and events are not just “nice to haves.” They are **economic engines** that bring in new money and jobs.

- **Major Events Hub** – Streamline processes to make it easier to host large-scale events (5,000+ visitors) in sport, culture, music, and lifestyle. Fast-track approval for smaller events under 1,000. Build on Upper Hutt’s heritage of motorsport, festivals, and outdoor recreation.
- **Bold Attractions** – Investigate a luge and gondola in the hills. This would put Upper Hutt on the map alongside Rotorua and Queenstown as a must-visit adventure destination.
- **Signature Community Experiences** – Each suburb and valley should tell its own story. Councillors will lead community-led identity projects (Mangaroa = rural trades & horses, Whitemans Valley = lifestyle living, etc.), with locals developing signage and branding at no cost to ratepayers.

**Benefits:** More visitors, more spending, new jobs, boosted pride, and resilience against downturns.

### 2. Attracting and Growing Businesses

We must grow our commercial and industrial base to share the rates load and create sustainable jobs.

- **Health & Medical Precinct** – Position Upper Hutt as a healthcare hub, attracting doctors, specialists, and medical equipment manufacturing.
- **Industrial Precinct Development** – Open new industrial land for businesses that bring in revenue from outside Upper Hutt. Diversify the rates base to reduce homeowner pressure.
- **Rural Innovation** – Back landowners to explore agritourism, boutique food and beverage, rural trades, and small-scale manufacturing.

**Benefits:** Local jobs, diversified economy, lower rates burden on residents, and transformation from a commuter town into a hub of opportunity.

### 3. Growing a Stronger Local Economy

Small business and entrepreneurship are the lifeblood of a community. Council should reduce barriers and provide an environment where local enterprise can thrive.

- **Back Entrepreneurs** – Create a supportive environment for start-ups in hospitality, digital, creative industries, and tourism.
- **Strengthen rural economic activity** – Encourage high-value food production (vertical horticulture) using modern growing techniques that use minimal land but produce export-quality products.
- **Expand the Commercial Rates Base** – Right now, residential homeowners bear too much of the load. A fairer balance requires targeted growth in commercial and industrial sectors.

**Benefits:** More diverse economy, better jobs for young people, fairer rates, and more opportunities across all communities.

### 4. A Shared Task for Prosperity

Economic growth is not just about Council — it’s about all of us.

- **Families** – Supporting each other’s goals and ventures.
- **Communities** – Shaping their local identities and celebrating what makes each area unique.

*Continued on Page 13.*



- **Communities** – Shaping their local identities and celebrating what makes each area unique.
- **Council's Role** – Opening doors, reducing red tape, and championing big projects that bring in outside money.
- **Councillors** – Leading community identity projects, ensuring every area has a voice and a plan for how it wants to develop.

**Principle:** When each of us succeeds, we all succeed. Prosperity is shared.

## Conclusion

Upper Hutt is at a crossroads. We can continue as a commuter town with rising rates and limited opportunities — or we can build a region of opportunity where jobs are close to home, rates are fairer, and visitors want to come and spend.

This policy sets out a clear, practical pathway to achieve that. It balances big ideas with community-led initiatives, investment with fiscal responsibility, and growth with pride in who we are.

Follow my page for my other policies (transport has been released). I will be releasing my fiscal responsibility and smarter council policy in the next week.

**Upper Hutt is home, let's shape its future together.**

**Brett Thomson**

*Candidate for Upper Hutt City Council*

*Authorised by Brett Thomson, [brett.thomson@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:brett.thomson@hotmail.co.nz)*

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

22/08/25



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## Upper Hutt Transport Policy Announcement: Brett Thomson

*Authorised by Brett Thomson, standing for Upper Hutt City Council.*

### Short policy version:

Let's fix our roads, free families from gridlock, and open bold new links to connect Upper Hutt with Kāpiti and Wairarapa. Together, we'll build safer journeys, stronger connections, and a thriving future — a lifeline for our people and our region. My promise: I will fight relentlessly to keep Upper Hutt on the transport agenda.

### Long policy version (if you desire more detail):

#### Getting the Fundamentals Right. Enhancing Our Corridors. Connecting Upper Hutt to the Future.

Upper Hutt is still a young city in terms of development. We haven't had the same investment in transport that Wellington City through to Porirua has enjoyed. Yet our community is growing, our economy is diversifying, and our people are commuting further than ever before.

Transport is not just about roads and traffic lights — it is about **unlocking opportunity, enabling connection, and powering prosperity**. If we get this right, we can transform Upper Hutt into a city where:

- People spend more time with family instead of sitting in traffic.
- Businesses thrive because goods and services flow easily across the region.
- Cyclists, drivers, bus users, freight, and scooters all share safe, well-built corridors.
- Our children grow up in a community that is connected, vibrant, and forward-looking.

*Continued on Page 14.*

This is our chance to **lay down the transport foundations for the next 50 years.**

### Getting the Fundamentals Right – Strong Foundations for Growth

- **Rural Road Renewal – Mangaroa & Whitemans Valley:** These roads have been left behind, riddled with potholes and too narrow for modern use. I will ensure an **incremental, annual improvement programme** that is affordable, staged, and visible. Residents will see **year-on-year** progress — widened shoulders, straightened bends, and smoother surfaces.
- **Transparency:** I will push for a **public renewal schedule**, so everyone knows when and where improvements are happening. Then we can hear your voice.
- **Corridor Care:** Strong, resilient roads are the backbone of safe, reliable transport — supporting freight, cars, buses, cyclists, motorbikes, and scooters alike.
- **Protect Free Parking:** I will protect and, where possible, expand Main Street parking. Shopping and dining in Upper Hutt must remain easy and accessible. Wellington has shown us what happens when parking costs drive people away — we will not repeat that mistake.
- **Congestion charging in Wellington city** — I will oppose this strongly as it will hurt our community. Over 50% of residents work outside Upper Hutt.

### Enhancing Our Corridors – Unlocking Flow & Safety

- **Four-Lane SH2 from Silverstream to Remutaka:** Tens of thousands of vehicles use this route every day. Congestion here is costing Upper Hutt time, productivity, and opportunity. Four-laning will:
  - Free commuters from daily gridlock
  - Speed up freight and reduce costs for local businesses
  - Unleash productivity across the Wellington region
- **Cycling on SH2:** As someone who cycles Upper Hutt's roads, I know the best experience is when **lanes are wide enough for both cars and bikes** to share safely — just like Ferguson Drive. I will advocate for **practical cycling improvements**, focusing on road space rather than excessive paint and barriers.
- **Haywards to Stokes Valley Link:** A strategic connection that relieves the bottleneck at Silverstream and unlocks smoother flow across the whole Hutt Valley. Even though it sits just outside our boundary, it will transform traffic for Upper Hutt families, so I will fight for it.

### Connecting Upper Hutt to the Future – Generational Projects

These are the bold projects that will **redefine Upper Hutt's future** and make our city a true regional connector. They are more than just transport projects — they are **lifelines for a struggling Wellington region**, creating jobs, fuelling growth, and building resilience for decades ahead.

- **Remutaka Tunnel:**
  - A once-in-a-century project that would **reshape the movement of people and freight between Upper Hutt and Wairarapa.**
  - Safer, faster, and weather-resilient compared to today's treacherous hill road.
  - Safer, faster, and weather-resilient compared to today's treacherous hill road.
  - Thousands of construction jobs, ongoing freight efficiency, and a new corridor for regional growth.
  - In Norway — a country with rugged landscapes like ours — there are over 1,000 road tunnels, many longer than what we propose here. If they can do it, so can New Zealand.
- **Great Akatarawa Road (Birchville to Waikanae):**
  - Halves travel times (up to **50% faster**) between Birchville and Waikanae.
  - Connects Upper Hutt directly to the Kāpiti Coast — with its airport, businesses, and growing population.
  - Opens the door to an **eco- and adventure-tourism hub**, showcasing our forests, rivers, and trails. Imagine Upper Hutt as the gateway to both the Remutaka Ranges and Kāpiti Coast, with cyclists, hikers, and visitors fueling our local economy.
- **Funding with Vision:**
  - Both the Remutaka Tunnel and Great Akatarawa Road can be toll-funded, backed by long-term New Zealand investment such as the Superfund or KiwiSaver.
  - With fuel and time savings outweighing toll costs, these projects will **pay for themselves many times over.**
  - They will breathe new life into Wellington's struggling region, turning dangerous, outdated passes into modern corridors for all.

*Continued on Page 14.*

## Delivery Through Council and Advocacy

We must be clear about what Council can do directly, and where central government must support our regional prosperity:

- **Council's responsibility:** Rural road renewal, corridor maintenance, and parking. These are tangible, local projects that can be delivered incrementally, visibly, and affordably.
- **Central government responsibility:** SH2 four-laning, the Remutaka Tunnel, and the Great Akatarawa Road. These are nation-shaping projects that require serious investment. Advocacy here is critical — and it's an area I know well. I will bring Upper Hutt's case to the decision-makers in Wellington, relentlessly.

## Why This Matters

These projects are more than asphalt and concrete. They are about:

- **Immediate employment:** Local contractors, trades, and suppliers gaining steady, well-paid work.
- **Smarter movement:** Faster, safer journeys for families and businesses.
- **Economic revival:** Making Upper Hutt and the wider Wellington region more attractive for investment and business.
- **Social connection:** Better links to Wairarapa, Kāpiti, and Wellington mean stronger communities and opportunities for all generations.

***This is about getting the fundamentals right, enhancing our corridors, and boldly connecting Upper Hutt to the future. We can build roads that serve not just vehicles, but people, jobs, and communities. By doing so, we will transform Upper Hutt into the regional connector it is destined to be.***

Follow my page as I look to release detail of my transport policy through the week (**generational projects and rural roading**). I will also be looking to release my economic growth (tourism and industry), health, fiscal responsibility, and governance fundamentals policies.

I welcome feedback. I see many of this transport policy as a matter of time — let's speed it up so we don't fall behind.

Upper Hutt is our home. **Let's shape its future together.**

*Authorised by Brett Thomson, standing for Upper Hutt City Council.*

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

22/08/25

[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)

## SPORTS



Sir Clicks-A-Lot Roller Derby

### Remutaka Raptors win against Hellmilton Roller Ghouls: 279 12 – 0 124

What a fantastic game! Hellmilton Roller Ghouls you really brought your A-game to the track to today! We had a blast! Thanks so much for making the trip down to us, we look forward to another match up in the future!

Source: Remutaka Roller Derby

23/08/25



Remutaka Roller Derby

### Team Pizza Party the winners at Remutaka Roller Derby's fundraiser quiz night

We wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along to the quiz last night! We hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as we did!

Thanks again to all our sponsors for the generous prize donations and to 7 Bar & Restaurant for hosting!

Congratulations to team Pizza Party for taking out the win and despite what their name might lead you to think, team Clueless came in second!

Source: Remutaka Roller Derby

23/08/25

Weekend football results: 23rd of August / 24th of August

Weekend fixtures results are in!

Massive result for the Men's Reserves on Saturday which locked in their win of the Capital 1 league, again congrats lads!

Saints with their 8-0 win end the season undefeated in true Saints style with another decisive victory. Congrats to the Antiques who also won Masters 3 with their 2-1 win on Saturday.

Mens 3rds played in the Capital 3 Cup round which was 0-0 leading into penalties seeing them come out with the win 6:5! The 4ths also went to penalties for their match coming out with the win at 4:3

Women's 1st whilst light on players due to tournament week were able to come away with a 5-1 win! As well as our U13 TDP, U16 Amazons and U17 TDP

Saturday RESULTS		Sunday RESULTS	
UHCF Men's 1st	0-3 Western Suburbs	UHCF Women's First	5-1 Vic Uni Women's Reserves
UHCF Men's Reserves	8-1 Miramar Rangers Men's 3rds	UHCF Women's Reserves	Bye
UHCF Men's 3rds	6-5 Island Bay United JJ's	UHCF Women's 3rds	0-2 Miramar Rangers Plastics
UHCF Taranaki	POST Seatoun AFC Gulls	UHCF U13 Orange	2-0 Stop Out Sports Club U13
UHCF RJs	9-1 Karori Juventus Fossika	UHCF U14 CDL Meerkats	1-2 North Wellington U16 Wolves
UHCF Antiques	2-1 Papanui City AFC	UHCF U15 Orange	Bye
UHCF Marauders	1-1 Waterside Karori Turtles	UHCF U16 CDL Amazons	5-2 Petone COL 16" CDL
UHCF Saints	8-0 BNJ Postmasters	UHCF U17 Orange	6-1 Island Bay United U17 Sharks
UHCF 4ths	4-3 Vic Uni of Wellington Universe		

Wellington's petanque team wins the Chanticleer Cup in Otaki

The Wellington petanque team (which included members from Upper Hutt and Silverstream) won the Chanticleer Cup against the team from Auckland, in Otaki during the weekend.

Final score was 70/38

Source: Horowhenua Petanque Club / Upper Hutt Petanque

25/08/25



Horowhenua Petanque Club / Upper Hutt Petanque



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



Positive Pathways

### Book now for Positive Pathways School Holiday Programme: 22nd of September – 3rd of October

September School Holiday Programme – Registration Now Open!

It's that time again! Our School Holiday Programme for September 2025 is now open for registration.

For those that are new to our services – we offer a small and intimate school holiday programme, specialised for those with Autism and PDA (although anyone is welcome, you don't have to have a diagnosis).

Our staff to child ratio is 1 (staff) – 3 (children), and we offer very low demand activities, lots of regulation time, facilitation of social interaction and lots of arts and crafts!

To book your spot, please complete the registration form here: <https://forms.gle/M2iWMQepVutKxy8J9>

Get in touch if you want to discuss further.

And to all our regulars... we look forward to seeing you soon

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

20/08/25



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### Electrify the Hutt Expo: Saturday 4th of October, 8.00 am – 4.00 pm

**Location:** Lower Hutt Town Hall, Laings Road, Lower Hutt

No expo is scheduled to take place in Upper Hutt, so Lower Hutt is the next best thing.

The Electrify the Hutt Expo is charging into Lower Hutt with a mission to spark inspiration and supercharge your lifestyle with the power of clean electricity. As energy bills climb and climate concerns grow, this high-energy event will show you how to take control—cut costs, slash emissions, and embrace a smarter, more sustainable way of living.

Discover the incredible potential of generating your own local power through solar panels, micro wind turbines, and more. With dynamic demos, interactive exhibits, and expert talks, you'll learn how easy and empowering it is to electrify your home, reduce your reliance on fossil fuels, and enjoy the long-term benefits of clean energy.

But that's just the beginning. The expo goes beyond saving money and helping the planet—it's about building stronger, more resilient communities. By embracing local energy generation, we can protect ourselves from rising energy costs, power outages, and climate extremes. It's about creating homes and neighbourhoods that are not just efficient, but future-proof.

So whether you're a curious homeowner, a savvy business owner, or just someone who wants to be part of something positive, Electrify the Hutt is your place to plug in. Come connect with experts, explore cutting-edge tech, and join a growing movement to electrify our lives and build a cleaner, brighter Hutt Valley for everyone.

Add the date to your calendar now!

*Source: Kill Bills Electrification Tour – The Great New Zealand Electric Roadie*

22/08/25

[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)

Page 17



Hutt Valley Singers

## Hutt Sings: Saturday 13th of September, 3.00 pm

**Location:** Whirinaki Whare Taonga

**Cost:** Koha

Join us for an afternoon of singing.

The Hutt Valley Singers proudly presents Hutt Sings, a joint concert with other local Hutt Valley choirs and singing groups. Each choir showcases their talent and we end the afternoon with a couple of joint pieces. It is a lot of fun and a fantastic way to connect with other like-minded people in our community. It also gives our musical directors more song ideas for future concerts!

Koha entry will be donated to a local charity.

Hutt Sings 2025 features the following choirs:

- Hutt Valley Singers
- Hutt Valley Community Choir
- Hutt City Chorale
- Take Note Singers Avalon
- Wednesday Ladies Group
- Major Minor Children's Choir

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

24/08/25



Peri Zee for Mayor of Upper Hutt

## Listening tour – Disability discussion: Thursday 28th of August, 10.30 am – 11.30 am

Join us for coffee to discuss accessibility in our city for people with disabilities. This event is hosted by Peri Zee, Upper Hutt Mayoral Candidate along with disability sector leaders Nick Ruane and Blake Forbes-Gentle.

Please respond to the event (click “interested” or “going”) if you intend to come, so that we know how many places to book for.

If you have any special requirements for accessibility, please let me know via direct message or email at [hello@perizee.co.nz](mailto:hello@perizee.co.nz)

Show your interest in the event by clicking the link here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/listening-tour-disability-disc/1825302868413099/>

*A “thank you” to Blake for requesting that this article be put up on The Upper Hutt Connection.*

22/08/25



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## Pinehaven Art & Craft Exhibition: 5th and 6th of September

**Location:** Pinehaven School Hall, 67 Pinehaven Road, Pinehaven, Upper Hutt

**Time** – Friday: 6.00 pm / Saturday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm



Upper Hutt Libraries

## Poetry Awards 2025 – Teen and Adult Categories: Friday 29th of August, 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm

**Location:** Upper Hutt Central Library

### Rhyme and shine!

The grand finale of our annual Poetry Competition is here: our Poetry Awards Night, where we **announce and celebrate the shortlisted and winning entries in the Teen and Adult categories** from this year's competition.

Our special anniversary theme – **Celebrate** – has inspired a wonderful variety of poems. Get ready for an evening with heart-warming takes, laugh-out-loud moments, and an opportunity to celebrate all the little things together.

Come along and experience the power of poetry! Nau mai, haere mai – everyone welcome.

Nibbles and refreshments provided.

*Source: Upper Hutt Libraries*

20/08/25



Kelly Sports / Upper Hutt Summer Soccer

[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)

## Beginners Classes Upper Hutt Scottish Country Dancing

Wednesdays  
Four weeks starting 6<sup>th</sup> 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

## Time to enrol for Kelly Sports 5-A-Side Soccer: Term starts 17th of October.

**Location:** Trentham Memorial Park

8 weeks and counting down. Spaces are still available for our Summer Series Soccer. Get your friends together and secure your team's spot at [www.kellysports.co.nz/soccer2025](http://www.kellysports.co.nz/soccer2025)

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

20/08/25





Retrieved from Whirinaki Whare Taonga

## Upper Hutt Competitions Society – Troupes 2025: Sunday 31st of August, 9.00 am – 2.20 pm

**Location:** Whirinaki Whare Taonga

### Session 1 | 9.00am

Jazz groups under 10, Tap under 13, Contemporary under 13, Entertainment under 13

### Troupe Session 2 | approx. 10.30pm

Jazz 10-12, Lyrical 13+, Hip Hop under 13, Ballet groups open

### Troupe Session 3 | approx. 12.30pm

Jazz 12-15 , Lyrical 13+, Entertainment 13+

### Troupe Session 4 | approx. 2.20pm

Tap troupes 13+, Hip Hop 13+, Contemporary 13+, Jazz 15+

Please view the competition app for the most up to date session start times on the day.

Tickets available from the 21st of August: Book via iTicket.co.nz: <https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2025/aug/troupes-august-2025>

Source: Whirinaki Whare Taonga

25/08/25



Upper Hutt City Council / Waste-Ed with Kate

## Upper Hutt Food Lovers Masterclass

Sept 18th 6-8PM  
2025



## Upper Hutt | Food Lovers Masterclass: Thursday 18th of September, 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm

**Location:** Te Kupenga o Rongomai, Maidstone Community Sports Hub

Are You Tossing Out More Food Than You'd Like? It's time to change the way you think about food waste—and we're here to help! Join our Food Lovers Masterclass and learn how to store food like a pro, decode best-before dates, get creative with leftovers, and discover clever tricks to save money.

This fun, interactive session will leave you with life-changing tips that will reduce food waste in your home and level up your kitchen game.

Learn the Basics of Food Waste. Understand why food goes to waste and how you can make smarter choices in your kitchen to avoid it. From understanding expiry labels to recognizing when food is still good to eat, you'll become a savvy shopper and savvy cook.

Reserve your ticket: <https://www.wastedkate.co.nz/event-details-registration/upperhutt-food-lovers-masterclass>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

20/08/25



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## 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.





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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.*



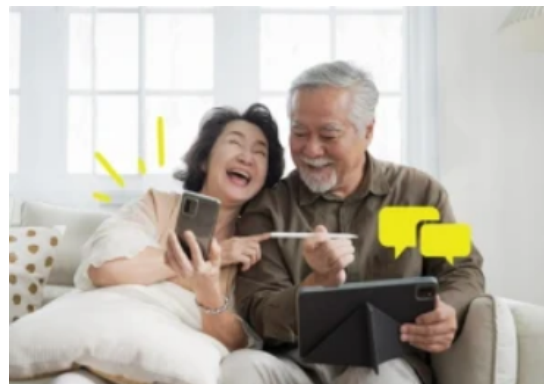
St. Margaret's Church - Silverstream

### **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



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

**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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[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)

## 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/>



AI Generated

## 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 969 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](mailto:editor@uhconnection.co.nz)

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

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



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[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)



## WORSHIP SERVICES

### Heretaunga Community Church

*Live for Jesus, Share his Love*

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

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

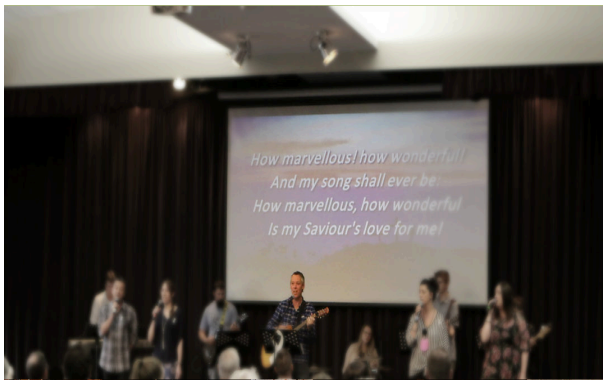
Our Creche for children under 3 1/2 years runs every Sunday morning. Our Children's Church runs Sundays during school terms.

Services are live-streamed on YouTube: Heretaunga Community Church

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

Email: [admin@heretaunga.com](mailto:admin@heretaunga.com)

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



Heretaunga Community Church

### St. Margaret's Presbyterian Church - Silverstream

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

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

If you have any need to contact Rodney he can be reached at the office number 5279604, on his mobile 0211259835 or via email at [minister@stmargaretssilverstream.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto:mcinnarneys@gmail.com).

We offer children's church for primary school age that happens during the main church service.

St Margaret's runs a teenage youth group on 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](mailto:rosanowskic@gmail.com)

Please visit our website for further information including the hire of our facilities.

<https://stmargaretssilverstream.org.nz>



St. Margaret's Presbyterian Church - Silverstream

## 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](mailto: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



*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.

### **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*



## 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



## ENTERTAINMENT

### What's new at Monterey Cinemas? Releasing 28th of August, 2025

#### CAUGHT STEALING

Running time: 107 minutes

Rated: R16 (Violence, offensive language, drug use & content that may disturb)

Hank Thompson (Austin Butler) was a high-school baseball phenom who can't play anymore, but everything else is going okay. He's got a great girl (Zoë Kravitz), tends bar at a New York dive, and his favorite team is making an underdog run at the pennant.

When his punk-rock neighbor Russ (Matt Smith) asks him to take care of his cat for a few days, Hank suddenly finds himself caught in the middle of a motley crew of threatening gangsters. They all want a piece of him; the problem is he has no idea why. As Hank attempts to evade their ever-tightening grip, he's got to use all his hustle to stay alive long enough to find out...

Caught Stealing is directed by Academy Award® nominee Darren Aronofsky, screenplay by Charlie Huston, based on his book of the same name. The film stars Austin Butler, Regina King, Zoë Kravitz, Matt Smith, Liev Schreiber, Vincent D'Onofrio, Griffin Dunne, Benito A Martinez Ocasio, and Carol Kane.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/caught-stealing>

View trailer at IMDB.com: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1493274/videoplayer/vi3325806617/?ref=mv\\_sr\\_srsq\\_1\\_tt\\_8\\_nm\\_0\\_in\\_0\\_q\\_Caught%2520](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1493274/videoplayer/vi3325806617/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_1_tt_8_nm_0_in_0_q_Caught%2520)



*Caught Stealing*

#### JAWS 50TH ANNIVERSARY RE-RELEASE

Running time: 124 minutes

Rated: M (Violence & offensive language)

When a gigantic great white shark begins to menace the small island community of Amity, a police chief, a marine scientist and grizzled fisherman set out to stop it.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/jaws-50th-anniversary-re-release>

View trailer at IMDB.com: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0073195/videoplayer/vi4242122009/?ref=mv\\_sr\\_srsq\\_1\\_tt\\_7\\_nm\\_1\\_in\\_0\\_q\\_Jaws](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0073195/videoplayer/vi4242122009/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_1_tt_7_nm_1_in_0_q_Jaws)



*Jaws 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Re-Release*

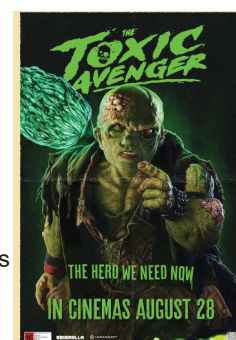
#### THE TOXIC AVENGER

Running time: 102 minutes

Rated: R16 (Graphic violence, gore & offensive language)

When a downtrodden janitor, Winston Gooze, is exposed to a catastrophic toxic accident, he's transformed into a new kind of hero: The Toxic Avenger. Now, Toxie must rise from outcast to savior, taking on ruthless corporate overlords and corrupt forces who threaten his son, his friends, and his community. In a world where greed runs rampant... justice is best served radioactive.

*Continued on Page 30.*



*The Toxic Avenger*

[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/the-toxic-avenger>

View trailer at IMDB.com: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1633359/videoplayer/vi4210804761/?ref=mv\\_sr\\_srsrg\\_1\\_tt\\_7\\_nm\\_1\\_in\\_0\\_q\\_The%2520toxic%2520avenger](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1633359/videoplayer/vi4210804761/?ref=mv_sr_srsrg_1_tt_7_nm_1_in_0_q_The%2520toxic%2520avenger)

## MAA JAYE

Running time: 110 minutes

Rated: PG (Mild themes, violence & coarse language)

Spanning across decades and continents, Brothers Beyond Borders is a powerful tale of partition, perseverance, and brotherhood. As Amar returns to India in 2001, he is reminded that no success can ever replace the warmth of family or the strength of one's identity.

A heart-wrenching, inspiring saga that celebrates the spirit of resilience, the pain of separation, and the love that defies borders.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/maa-jaye>

View trailer on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCmOE1WRzQ&pp=ygUQbWFhIGpheWUgdHJhaWxlcg%3D%3D>



Maa Jaye

## ANDRÉ RIEU'S 2025 MAASTRICHT CONCERT: WALTZ THE NIGHT AWAY

Running time: 180 minutes

Rating: N/A

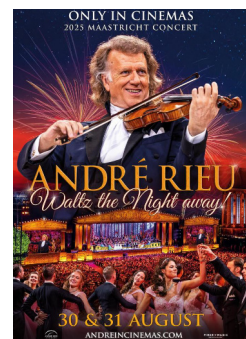
Step into a night of music, romance, and celebration with André Rieu's Waltz the Night Away! An all-new summer concert captured live from the stunning Vrijthof Square in his beloved hometown of Maastricht is coming to cinemas!

Each night, the Vrijthof transforms into a grand ballroom as André and his Johann Strauss Orchestra invite audiences of all ages to waltz under the stars. With timeless melodies and beautiful waltzes, this concert will take you on a journey filled with joy, love, and heartfelt emotion.

Let yourself be swept away by one of the most romantic events of the year, bigger and more dazzling than ever, on the big screen. Bring someone special and create cherished memories as you Waltz the Night Away with André Rieu — only in cinemas!

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/andr-rieus-2025-maastricht-concert-waltz-the-ni>

View trailer on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81gWiWDknuQ&list=RD81gWiWDknuQ&start\\_radio=1&pp=ygUfYW5kcmUgcmlldSB3YWx0eiB0aGUgbmlnaHQgYXdheAQAQ%3D%3D](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81gWiWDknuQ&list=RD81gWiWDknuQ&start_radio=1&pp=ygUfYW5kcmUgcmlldSB3YWx0eiB0aGUgbmlnaHQgYXdheAQAQ%3D%3D)



André Rieu's 2025 Maastricht Concert – Waltz the Night Away

Source: Monterey Cinemas Upper Hutt

26/08/25

[RETURN TO CONTENTS](#)