

# THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION



A LOCAL NEWSPAPER - FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

The Upper Hutt Connection - Wednesday Edition:  
30th of July 2025

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Upper Hutt City Council

## Local and regional partnerships boost success of U-PLAY holiday events

Rain and freezing temperatures did not deter Upper Hutt families from making the most of the July school holidays.

The winter edition of Council's U-PLAY programme was a resounding success and serves as a testament to the organising team's capability in building effective partnerships with local clubs and regional initiatives.

One of the recent programme's highlights was the family play event hosted by Porirua-based organisation Tū Mātau Ora, whose work was recognised with the Rising Star award at last year's Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards.

More than 50 participants attended the session, filling the Professionals Recreation Hall at Whirinaki Whare Taonga with energy, laughter, and a palpable sense of community.

"Bringing Tū Mātau Ora on board was a fantastic way to let families explore taonga tākaro, traditional Māori games and play activities," says Jane Braun, Council's Community Partnerships Manager.

She adds that the driving factor for U-PLAY's success is smart investment in working partnerships that add variety to the programme.

"Upper Hutt is known for its thriving club sports and active recreation sector. U-PLAY puts an emphasis on accessible have-a-go sessions, and functions like a platform for introducing children to various sporting codes, at very low or no cost," Braun says.

U-PLAY enjoys wide-reaching community participation due to its focus on affordability and accessibility. Free and low-cost events hosted by Upper Hutt Libraries, Whirinaki Whare Taonga, H<sub>2</sub>O Xstream Aquatic Centre, and business collaborators in the city centre always round out the programme.

"The benefits of making U-PLAY happen for our community, and keeping affordability for families and whānau front of mind, extend far beyond just holiday fun," says Mike Ryan, Council's Group Manager Community Services.

"Active play is crucial to a child's development and wellbeing. Not only does it support physical health, but it also fosters creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork skills," he adds.

U-PLAY is part of Council's ongoing commitment to making Upper Hutt a great place for families to live, work, and play. Through successful partnerships and effective collaboration, the programme continues to bring local families meaningful opportunities to make memories, connect with their city, and learn together.

To read more about U-PLAY, visit [www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Community/U-Play](http://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Community/U-Play)

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

25/07/25



Menzshed Upper Hutt

## Menzshed Update – July 2025

We can now report that we have had our final inspection on our building project which we passed. As a result all the required paperwork has been submitted to the Council to apply for our Code Compliance Certificate. Unless there are any last minute adjustments to be made we should have our CCC by EO August, after a long and arduous journey of three years.

*Continued on Page 4.*

We are now about to start the metal working facility (Building #4) which will occupy space adjacent to Building #3). The final decision on the specification and supplier is due shortly. Once decided we will apply for a building consent and make a start on the build by laying down a concrete pad first.

In the meantime, partly due to our light fingered neighbours, we have leased a container to store some of our equipment. We recently had donated several pieces of equipment which we had little room to accommodate and we will also require a secure area for any building materials in the near future. The photo shows members installing some shelving, although I'm not sure which way they are going!

The major project to provide a very large model for a local deb's ball mentioned last month, has now moved from discussion to manufacture, which Doug has in hand. The model has presented several tricky issues which provided a challenge but most of these have been overcome and hopefully the project will be completed in the next two weeks. A photo of the structure will be presented after the event.

Community projects have again been a little thin this month but we have completed a few thanks to Peter, Lindsay, Keiron and Doug. (see photos in link below – Lindsay with Puzzles, new spinning wheel spools(Keiron), Weaving Frame (Peter) and refurbished train shed (Doug).

<https://uhconnection.co.nz/clubs/menzshed-upper-hutt/menzshed-update-july-2025/>

We have finally managed to fill the role of Treasurer (required after previous incumbent stepped down at the AGM). Alan takes over the role at the end of this month after a short handover from Brian. Brian has served as Treasurer for around 3 yrs now and has done a great job in that time. Thanks Brian!

We are always on the lookout for new members. You may notice a few flyers going up around the city pointing out 'The Menzshed needs you'. A display will shortly be installed in UH Mall showing some of the things we do and who we do them for. If you would like a change from being bored with nothing to do, come along to the Menzshed – you may never leave!

If you want to join us even for just a cup of tea and a yarn, pop in to see us, you will be more than welcome. Just come along @ 10am Tue to Fri. We are open 9 – 12 Tues to Fri. You will find us at McLeod Park just past the BMX track.

*A "thank you" to Mike from Menzshed Upper Hutt for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.*

28/07/25



*Upper Hutt City Council*

## Only two and a half days left to stand in Upper Hutt's local elections

With only two and a half days to go before nominations close for this year's local elections, potential candidates are being reminded to act now if they intend to stand.

To date (25<sup>th</sup> of July), we have received **one nomination for Mayor, ten for Councillors** and **none for Rimutaka Licensing Trust**.

"If you've been thinking about standing, now is the time to act," says Warwick Lampp, Upper Hutt's Elections Officer. "There's still time to get your nomination in, but the deadline is fast approaching."

**Nominations close at 12 noon on 1 August.**

All nomination documents must be submitted by the deadline. **Late submission, including those in transit, cannot be accepted.**

Standing for election is your chance to represent your community and help shape the future of Upper Hutt. Whether your passion is local services, transport, community wellbeing, or climate resilience, this is your opportunity to make a real impact.

**Don't wait until the last minute.**

Visit [www.upperhutt.govt.nz/vote](http://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/vote) to find out how to submit your nomination and what's involved in standing.

Visit [electionz.com](http://electionz.com) to find out who has submitted their nominations.

*Source: Upper Hutt City Council*

26/07/25 / updated 29/07/25



NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi - Wellington

## River Road roadworks update from NZTA

Last week sections of State Highway 2 in Upper Hutt were closed at night to complete important maintenance works.

Roadworkers patched sections of the road that were in poor condition, which is important pre-work before we get into the major resurfacing season. They also repaired barriers and hit sticks, completed line marking, and did some electrical work. These routine maintenance works help make the state highway safer and more resilient.

By utilising closures for these works, roadworkers were able to complete more works at one time. This reduces costs, is safer, and means we can do more works at once.

To keep up to date with other work in the Wellington region sign up to our newsletter: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/wellington-transport-alliance/roadworks-updates/>

Source: NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi – Wellington

25/07/25

## Upper Hutt Brass Band Does Us Proud

The “Last Night of the Proms” held at Whirinaki Expressions on Saturday night was a wonderful event featuring the Upper Hutt Brass Band and The Hutt Valley Singers, along with local artists and soloists. There was enthusiastic audience participation as the evening unfolded and favourite songs were sung. The talent on display was impressive, and the connection between the audience and the performers was personable. Such was the success of the evening that future events are very likely, possibly with the need to schedule more performances.

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

28/07/25

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## Two car crashes near Moonshine Hill Road / River Road intersection on Sunday morning due to black ice

Two crashes occurred near the intersection at Moonshine Hill Road and the River Road at 8.45 am on Sunday Morning due to black ice on the road – only light injuries. No deaths resulted from the crashes. This is a reminder to look out for black ice in shady areas while driving in winter, Police said.

Source: Stuff

28/07/25



Contributor - Stu



AI Generated

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The above photograph taken in 1944 is from the Upper Hutt Library Heritage Collection and features Mrs E Larsen and Mrs Marj Nightingale the first postwomen in Upper Hutt, along with Cliff Gribben \*\*

## Postal History Corner: Christmas Mail – second mail delivery

Can you remember back to bumper mail deliveries in the leadup to Christmas with Christmas cards being exchanged through the mail, and local businesses sending out calendars to their customers.

The Upper Hutt Weekly Review \* reported that "second delivery" of mail commenced within the borough boundaries on Tuesday 10 December 1935. Wednesday being the statutory half-holiday in this district the postmen take their half-holiday on that day also therefore, on Wednesdays, there will be only one delivery (in the morning), but correspondence may be called for during the afternoon of that day as hitherto.

There will be two deliveries on Saturdays.

\*: Vol 1 No 2 20 December 1935 Page 4 – <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/UHWR19351220.2.18?>

\*\*:. Upper Hutt Library Heritage Collection – <https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/978?>

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

28/07/25

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



Hellen Swales

### Rates in Upper Hutt: The impact and what I believe should be done. – 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 end of the article to share your thoughts.

Upper Hutt, 24th July 2025

One of the biggest concerns I hear from our community is the rising cost of living—and at the heart of that, for many, is council rates.

Upper Hutt residents have just faced two rates increases in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan 19.94% and then a 15.78% increase in rates, the highest in over a decade.

#### Key points:

- Taking a more measured approach in past years would have helped spread the financial impact gradually, avoiding the sharp increases we are now facing.
- Anyone struggling to pay their rates should get in touch with the council. (Rates Department)
- I have been working closely with the community with regards to the rates rebate and will continue to do so.

#### 2022 – 2023 Annual Plan

At the council Meeting adopting the annual plan for 2022 – 2023 there were 4 councillors who voted against accepting the 5.83% increase on rates, Cr. Carson, Lambert, McLeod and Hellen Swales (me), as we knew this was not putting council in a better financial position going forward.

However, Mayor Guppy, Cr Bentley, Griffiths, Newell, Ultra, Taylor, and Wheeler who some had campaigned on “Low Rates” stayed true to their campaign and voted for keeping rates low. This was just creating an issue further down the line.

Link to the UHCC 2022/2023 Annual Plan Minutes: <https://c29daf59-758a-4029-be4e-3a751893ecad.usrfiles.com/ugd/c29daf723a2df100aa4099948cca78bc7bea6b.pdf#page=3>

#### 2023 – 2024 Annual Plan

At the Council meeting held on the 28th of June 2023 when discussing the adoption of the annual Plan for 2023 – 2024 we revisited our plans and budgets for that year. This is where we had planned for a net rates increase of 5.81% (effectively keeping it below inflation) and keeping to under the 6% promised by Mayor Guppy. The rationale, for the current Mayor Guppy and Cr's Holderness, Carey, Carson, Hammond, Wheeler, Newell, Ultra, Griffiths', was, keeping the needs of the community in front of mind, and staying in line with the limit committed to in the Long-Term Plan.

But by keeping the rates at 5.81% with the council facing substantial operating costs increases, the true rates increase should have been around 20% for that year 2023-2024. However, the proposal from the officers was to apply \$7.8 million from our reserves fund to help reduce the overall burden on the rate payers was accepted. Link to the UHCC 2023/2024 Annual Plan Minutes: <https://c29daf59-758a-4029-be4e-3a751893ecad.usrfiles.com/ugd/c29dafac2bc7380b0348e89befa28715564416.pdf#page=3>

However:

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) running at 7.23%
- The forecasted interest cost for the council on its debt had increased that year 2023-2024 to 26% = \$1.382m,
- Bulk water had increased \$1.169m higher than what was budgeted at \$9,880m
- Insurance on council assets had increased by an estimated 36% year on year 2023 – 2024.

*Continued on Page 8.*

So, in summary, the net effect was that in June 2023 a 20% rate increase for the 2023 – 24 annual plan was necessary to fund the council activities. This was 14.1% higher than the 5.81% forecast for that year in the Long-Term Plan. However, the Mayor and most Councilors wanted to keep the rates for 2023 – 2024 at 5.81% and voted accordingly. Their view was that the community, like the rest of New Zealand, was/is feeling the immediate pressure of the high cost of living, high rates increase would not be tolerable or prudent in their view. But this decision while viewed as being community minded, it was just creating a bigger issue down the line.

This is why Cr. Dylan Bentley, and I could not support the adoption of the 2023 – 2024 annual plan, as it kept the rates below where they needed to be to sustain our infrastructure. We both believed that on top of rising inflation, construction costs, and central government reforms like Local Water Done Well, these would put increasing financial pressure on the council.

I canvassed other elected members that we should consult with the community on such rates increases that, at the very least, to keep pace with inflation at the time. The mayor, and some council members and council officers were not supportive of such consultation.

**Taking a more measured approach would have helped spread the financial impact gradually, avoiding the sharp increases we're now facing.**

It's crucial that those elected to represent our community around the council table understand the realities of governing a multi-million-dollar organisation. Every "decision made" has real consequences for the ratepayers they serve, and many do not have the financial acumen to see direct and unintended consequences.

Democracy, in the end, is a numbers game—but leadership requires more than just counting votes. It requires foresight, responsibility, and a genuine commitment to the long-term wellbeing of our city.

## What Needs to Change?

### A Rates Review.

I've been calling for a complete rate review since we adopted the 2024 – 2034 Long Term Plan that became effect on the 1st of July 2024. This would review how we structure and apply rates in Upper Hutt. Our council currently use a capital value-based rating system. A rates review would consider whether this remains the most equitable model or whether another approach (e.g. land value or uniform annual general charges) would better reflect the community's needs.

There is a commitment that council will undertake a rates review in 2026.

Key questions: ‘

- Should we continue rating on capital value?
- Is the balance between fixed charges and variable charges fair?

- Are commercial and residential ratepayers contributing appropriately?

### Reassessing Differential Rating

A review may explore differentials—where different types of properties (e.g. rural, commercial, residential) are charged at different rates based on their use.

Key questions may include:

- Should rural properties be rated differently due to fewer council services?
- Is the business sector contributing a fair share?

### Community and Stakeholder Engagement

A full consultation out of such a rates review is an absolute necessity for 2026 to answer these and other questions the community may have.

Council would need to engage with:

- Residents
- Community organisations
- Businesses
- Mana whenua

Workshops, surveys, public meetings (e.g. hui), and submissions would ensure the community has a say in shaping any changes. Then different scenarios would be modelled. We must improve awareness of, and access to the Rates Rebate Scheme and explore local relief measures for those struggling the most. I have been working closely with the community with regards to the rates rebate and will continue to do so.

Link to DIA Rates Rebate Form: <https://www.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Housing-and-property/Rates-Rebates-application-form.pdf>

### In Summary

We need leadership that understands both the finances and helping the community to understand them. I believe in responsible financial management—but not at the expense of fairness or community wellbeing. If elected Mayor, I will work hard to bring balance back to how rates are managed in Upper Hutt.

**Let's make our city affordable, sustainable, and fair for everyone.**

Authorised by Hellen Swales:  
hellenformayor@gmail.com

28/07/25

### Your thoughts:

*The rating system is unfair and is a form of wealth tax. My property RV went up nearly \$200,000 in the last valuation without me adding any improvements to the property. There are home owners in Wellington who bought their properties for pounds back in the 60's and now through market forces their properties are now valued in the millions. I think the current rating system is very unfair. It treats you as well off and capable of paying the rates calculated based on your RV. There also needs to be some other source of revenue for Councils. The bank of ratepayers is breaking with all of the pressures faced by the rising cost of living. My bank is closed to the Council next year through insufficient income arriving to meet large rate increases year after year.*

### Rowena Simpkins

The form to give your view on this matter can be found at <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-issues-forum/rates-in-upper-hutt-the-impact-and-what-i-believe-should-be-done-hellen-swailes/>

## LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS 2025



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

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

Have a page for yourself on The Upper Hutt Connection where you can have up to 300 words, along with images, social media links, etc.

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

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

I hope to hear from you! :)

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

31/03/25

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



*AI Generated*

### Untitled: Teresa Homan

I am constantly dismayed when I hear older members of the community and retirees complaining about rate increases and the cost of living. I am more concerned with families struggling to pay rent, buy a home and feed their families. I also worry that children are becoming more insecure because their parents both must work to provide the basics for their families like food and housing. When we retire, we will have a mortgage free home apart from the bit we borrowed against the asset for nice to haves and a little extra cash set aside in savings. We will be able to live on the NZS just as we lived on one wage while we raised seven children. We will not have money to travel the world but have already had a few overseas holidays so we will not miss anything. And our grown children who have moved further afield are more than accessible by modern communication devices. As well as this they moved we didn't. I would encourage older people to count your blessings and look to the younger generation and their needs and give support to government policies that offer them the same opportunities that we had. Live simply so others simply live.

Teresa Homan

0223127259

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

24/07/25

## SPORTS



*Rimutaka Gymsports*

### A judge and a gymnast from Rimutaka Gymsports heading to Europe this September as part of the NZ team

A first and major achievement for Rimutaka Gymsports and for Upper Hutt on the world stage. Two members of the club, Kate and Ingrid, are heading to Europe this September as part of the New Zealand team to compete in Paris, France and Szombathely, Hungary. Ingrid joined Rimutaka Gymsports in 2012 and has been competing for the club for 13 years. She has represented Wellington at National Championships since 2018 and is now very excited to be the first gymnast from the club to represent New Zealand at the Senior International level. This has been the result of years of hard work and dedication from both Ingrid and the coaches who have believed in her. Kate is the coach of the senior squad at Rimutaka Gymsports and will be travelling to Hungary as a judge at the event.

Rimutaka Gymsports is a not-for-profit Gymnastics club based in Montgomery Crescent Upper Hutt. The club has been offering Gymnastics to the Upper Hutt community from babies and toddlers, school festival events, holiday programmes, through to Senior Competitive gymnasts for over 40 years. [www.rimutakagymsports.nz](http://www.rimutakagymsports.nz)

As gymnastics in New Zealand is largely self-funded, Rimutaka Gymsports would greatly appreciate if you could help them fundraise for the trip at the Give a Little page below.

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-ingrid-represent-nz-in-gymnastics>

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

24/07/25




Saturday RESULTS		Sunday RESULTS	
UHCF Men's 3rds	6-2 Brooklyn Northern United 3rds	UHCF Women's First	8-0 North Wellington FC
UHCF Taranaki	1-6 Western Suburbs Wanderers	UHCF Women's Reserves	0-8 Seatoun FC Sea Shanties
UHCF RJs	3-3 Victoria University Stallions	UHCF Women's 3rds	1-2 Lower Hutt City AFC Reserves
UHCF Antiques	Bye	UHCF U13 Orange	0-4 Petone FC U13 Settlers
UHCF Marauders	2-2 TFS North Wellington FC	UHCF U14 CDL Meerkats	0-3 Onslow/North Wellington U14
UHCF Saints	3-0 North Wellington Zimmers	UHCF U15 Orange	3-4 Miramar Rangers AFC U15
UHCF 4ths	3-3 Victoria University Unionisers	UHCF U16 CDL Amazons	2-0 Te Kōwhirianga FC U16 CDL
		UHCF U17 Orange	3-2 Miramar Rangers AFC U17 CDL

Upper Hutt City Football



Upper Hutt City Football

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

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

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

Source: Upper Hutt City Football

21/07/25

## Richie Smyrnis transitions to Upper Hutt City Football's men's teams

Two Saturdays ago (19th / 20th of July) marked a key milestone for Richie Smyrnis who made his debut start in our Men's 1st team against Miramar. We are excited to see Richie continue to grow as a player and proud of his success as someone who has come up through the ranks of junior football here at Upper Hutt and now transitioning into our men's teams.

A few words below from Rory Fallon (Director of Football and the coach of the Men's 1st:

16 year old Richie who's selection in his Central League debut game v Miramar is a great moment not just for Richie but for his family and the club.

Richie is part of the elite pro players that are training everyday and working towards their goals of being professional players.

Our TDP space is producing some of the best young talent in Wellington with other players soon to follow in his footsteps.

A big thank you to Jonathan Winkworth and the rest of the TDP coaches that have put time into these young players.

We are looking forward to more young players making their debuts into the first team and hopefully one day going even higher than the Central League.

He Waka Eke Noa

Rory.

Source: Upper Hutt City Football / A "thank you" to Chantelle at Upper Hutt City Football for the names.

23/07/25



Upper Hutt Petanque

### Upper Hutt Petanque's Bob Horton wins the Masterton Bastille Day Mêlée

The Masterton Bastille Day Mêlée was held on 14th July. There were 42 entries and not a great number of pistes, so the games were all triples, with some players alternating playing for some games. 5 rounds of games were played, and as players were mostly dressed for the occasion (Bastille Day), it was a very fun day. In the end, UHPC did very well with Bob Horton winning overall, and Dave Gwerder getting runner-up. Very well done to both of them.

Source: Upper Hutt Petanque

25/07/25



Upper Hutt Petanque

### Upper Hutt Petanque comes out on top at the Khandallah Winter Triples

The Khandallah Winter Triples was held on 20th July. The number of entries was verging on being non-viable so at the last minute, Dave Gwerder, Adrienne Gwerder and Mary Khalil entered, a little reluctantly, to save the day. As it happens, they ended up playing Michael Rocks (Naenae), Moises Burgos (UHPC) and Brian Smith (UHPC) in the championship final, and won! Suddenly they were not so reluctant to have entered! Well done to all 5 of the UHPC members, and of course Michael, who also hosted the tournament.

Source: Upper Hutt Petanque

25/07/25

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

### Beat the Bin Challenge: 4th of August – 31st of August

This August, our Council team is stepping up to tackle food waste by joining the #BeatTheBin challenge and we'd love our community to get involved too!

Did you know the average Kiwi household throws away around 82 kg of food every year? That's like going to the supermarket, filling up 16 reusable shopping bags full of kai and throwing them straight into the bin.

Through small changes like better storage, smarter planning, and loving our leftovers, we can all make a big impact.

Participants receive weekly emails with practical challenges, tips, and motivational check-ins. Each week offers two challenge levels:

Continued on Page 13.



Upper Hutt City Council

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- Quick Win (less than 10 minutes), and
- Waste Warrior (more effort, greater impact).

The aim is to build momentum, not perfection—helping people feel good about the progress they make.

- **Challenge dates:** 4–31 August 2025
- **Incentives:** All participants are in the draw to win one of three \$500 grocery vouchers and Love Food Hate Waste merch.

Join as an individual, whanau or organisation. A campaign toolkit is available with everything needed to promote and participate, including ready-made communications and assets.

Download resources here: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/events/adhoc-events/beat-the-bin-toolkit-public.pdf>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

26/07/25

## Fergusson Intermediate Open Evening: Wednesday 30th of July: 6.00 pm

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

23/07/25

WEDNESDAY 30 JULY  
FERGUSSON INTERMEDIATE HALL



### 6PM: CURRICULUM UPDATE

Join us to hear about the latest changes to the New Zealand school curriculum and what these changes look like for our teaching and learning at Fergusson Intermediate

### CAMP 2025 INFORMATION

Toby Funnell will give an overview of our upcoming camp at [Makahika](#) in Weeks 9 and 10.

6:45 PM

A number of staff will be available in the staffroom to connect and discuss any questions regarding curriculum and camp. Join us for a tea, coffee and / or biscuit.

### 7 PM: OPEN EVENING

Ngāti Kotahitanga will perform and welcome new whānau to our kura. School information shared from a variety of speakers including Students, BOT, Principal and the Senior Leadership Team.

Following this there will be an opportunity to explore the school learning spaces and connect with staff and students over a range of learning activities.

Contributor: Anne

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## It's in the Ballot returns to Upper Hutt on Monday 11th of August

Location: Lane Park Church

Upper Hutt we need you, It's in the Ballot coming back to Upper Hutt on Monday 12th August to bring you a selection of shows for this year local election candidates wanting for your votes, their will be there shows starting with Greater Wellington Regional Council – Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta/Upper Hutt Constituency at 11am, Upper Hutt City Councilor at Large part 1 130pm, Upper Hutt City Councilor at Large part 2 at 4 pm and Upper Hutt City Mayoral Debate at 7pm as seen below you can get your tickets here with over 500 seats available, there will be room for all.

Reserve your spot here before the spaces fill up: <https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/its-in-the-ballot-upper-hutt-ccupper-hutt-city-mayoral-debate-in-studio-tickets-1400387840729?aff=oddtcreator>

Please contact It's in the Ballot, for any additional information you require: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1442466302640567/user/100063632139105/>

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

## Learn to Roller Skate with Remutaka Roller Derby: Starts 12th of August

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 12th 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 0907994 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?!

<https://forms.gle/TkZJTXxUrinKp4Yh6>

Source: Remutaka Roller Derby

23/07/25



Remutaka Roller Derby

## Mainly Acoustic Presents: Tuesday 12th of August, 7.30 pm – 10.00 pm



Mainly Acoustic Music Club - Upper Hutt



Mountains to Sea Wellington

## Pinehaven Party – Streamside Celebration: Sunday 10th of August, 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Location: Pinehaven Reserve

Come and celebrate Pinehaven Stream with 'Mountains to Seas' and children from Silverstream and Pinehaven Schools who are putting in some big efforts to protect this special and treasured taonga for us all to enjoy now and in the future!

Meet our wriggly neighbours, create fish ladders from leaves, learn about local students restorations efforts along the stream past + present, mulch recent plantings and enjoy some Tihanga/whitebait themed games

BYO picnic encouraged, BBQ/bake sale fundraiser for local community group pending

We love to support our communities supporting te taiao – see you there!

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

26/07/25

## Trentham Blood Drive: Monday 4th of August, 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

**Location:** Wellington Area Sports Club (WASC), Messines Ave (opposite Trentham Army Camp)

Book Now: 0800 448 325

<https://www.nzblood.co.nz/>

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

25/07/25

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Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

## The Warratahs Live at The Cossie: Saturday 2nd of August, 7.30 pm

It gonna be one unforgettable night with one of New Zealand's most iconic bands – The Warratahs coming back to the Upper Hutt Cossie Club!

With nearly four decades of touring, The Warratahs have etched their place into Kiwi music history. From chart-topping albums and a Tui Music Award, to sharing the stage with legends like Johnny Cash & The Highwaymen, Lucinda Williams, and Jackson Browne — this band is the real deal.

Led by Barry Saunders, whose voice and songwriting are part of NZ's musical DNA, and joined by the incredible Nik Brown on violin, the band continues to deliver the heartfelt, foot-tapping tunes that made them famous since their debut at The Cricketers' Arms in 1986.

Whether you're a lifelong fan or new to their sound, this is a night you won't want to miss.

Don't miss this chance to experience a legendary Kiwi band, live and loud, right here in Upper Hutt!

<https://events.humanitix.com/the-warratahs>

Source: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

23/07/25



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Upper Hutt School

## Upper Hutt School's Quiz Night: Friday 1st of August, 7.00 pm

**Location:** Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

Come join us for a night of fun and laughter and help us raise money to send our Year 5/6 students to camp.

Grab your friends, whanau, or work colleagues and register a team of up to 6 people.

Don't worry if it's just you or a plus one – let us know and we'll find you a team 😊

Friday 1st August from 7pm

\$15 per person

Email [fundraisingteam@upperhuttsschool.nz](mailto:fundraisingteam@upperhuttsschool.nz) to register

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

26/07/25



Retrieved from Whirinaki Whare Taonga

## Waiting for Gertie! Wednesday 3rd of September, 7.30 pm

**Location:** Whirinaki Whare Taonga

Waiting for Gertie! Music, Mayhem & Madness. Written and performed by Helen Moulder. Directed by Jeff Kingsford Brown.

"A concoction of delicate whimsy" – Theatreview.

Yes, Miss Cynthia Fortitude, the legendary diva is coming to Upper Hutt to give a musical lecture to the Upper Hutt Opera Guild (UHOG). Her indefatigable accompanist, the equally legendary Miss Gertrude Rallentando, is nowhere to be found, so Cynthia must battle on without her. "Cynthia's belief and delight in what she does is likeable and infectious." "What really brings this concoction of delicate whimsy together .... is the charm, energy and vivacity Helen Moulder brings to her creation."

Suitable for 12 years and over.

Adult \$30.00 | Concession (Seniors 65+ and Student with ID) \$25.00 | Booking fees apply to all sales | Bookings required

Book via iTicket: <https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2025/sep/waiting-for-gertie>

Source: Whirinaki Whare Taonga

28/07/25

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

Taoist Tai Chi sessions

Mondays 6.30-8.00pm.

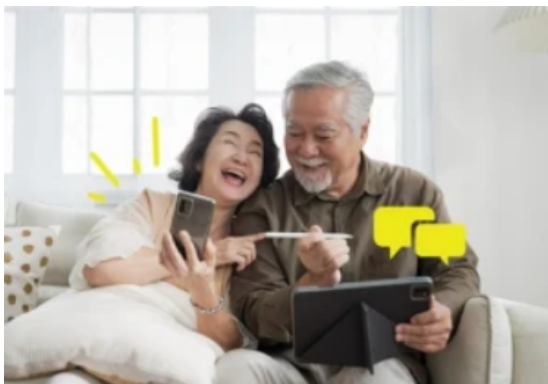
Trentham School Hall.

Start any time.

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



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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



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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.*

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

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

*A “thank you” to St. Margaret's Church – Silverstream for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.*

06/05/25

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



Contributor: Kerry



Contributor: Cushla

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

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

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

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

Morning tea for children and adults provided.

Everyone welcome

Gold coin donation

Hope to see you there

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

28/03/25



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## 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

## CLASSIFIEDS



### Wanted: Home Cook for Hungry Family – Upper Hutt

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

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

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

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

sharongblackmore@hotmail.com

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

22/07/25

## RECIPES



Stuck for an idea to what to do for dinner? Check out the different recipes in the meals, desserts, and baking sections below.

Cheers, Ben

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

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

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

## Business Advertising

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

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

### Advertise your business in The Upper Hutt Connection's Wednesday Edition for only \$10 a week - be seen by all 905 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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## 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.

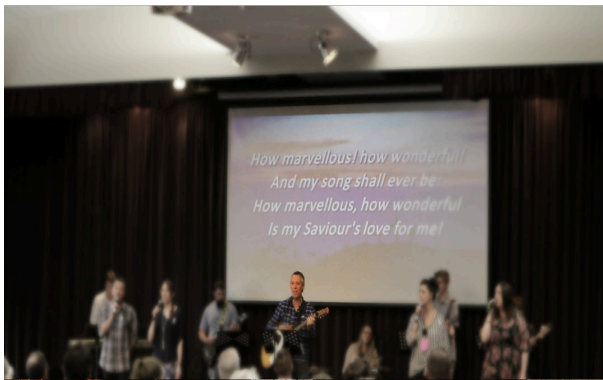
Our Creche for children under 3 1/2 years runs every Sunday morning. Our Children's Church runs Sundays during school terms.

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



## 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](mailto:sthildasuh@gmail.com)

### Who we are:

A congregation of faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, who draw on the Anglican tradition to support a lively expression of our faith.

Our recently unanimously agreed vision statement is: St Hilda's – a vibrant, faith-based presence within our community.

### What we do:

- We are a community of people who come together to worship God, to grow in relationship with one another and with the wider community.
- We offer loving service to God, one another, the people of Upper Hutt and the world.
- We are disciples of Jesus, the Lord of Love.
- We believe in the Christian Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life. We are inspired and guided by the Holy Bible. We seek to grow in faith.
- We welcome newcomers to our parish family with warm hospitality. We provide a wide range of activities, both spiritual and secular. We encourage all to develop their relationship with Christ through our worshipping community.
- In recent years we have turned our focus outwards to serving our community.

*Continued on page 24*

### 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 31st of July, 2025

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

#### THE LIFE OF CHUCK

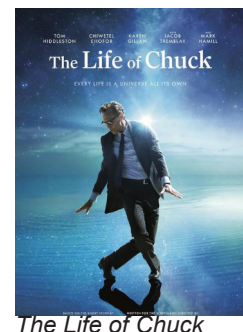
Running time: 110 minutes

Rated: M (Offensive language & suicide references)

A life-affirming, genre-bending story based on Stephen King's novella about three chapters in the life of an ordinary man named Charles Krantz.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/the-life-of-chuck>

View trailer at IMDB.com: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt12908150/videooplayer/vi1045416217/?ref=mv\\_sr\\_srsq\\_2\\_tt\\_5\\_nm\\_3\\_in\\_0\\_q\\_The%2520Life%2520of%2520Chuck](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt12908150/videooplayer/vi1045416217/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_2_tt_5_nm_3_in_0_q_The%2520Life%2520of%2520Chuck)



*The Life of Chuck*

#### TOGETHER

Running time: 101 minutes

Rated: R16 (Violence, horror, sex scenes & offensive language)

Years into their relationship, Tim and Millie (Dave Franco and Alison Brie) find themselves at a crossroads as they move to the country, abandoning all that is familiar in their lives except each other. With tensions already flaring, a nightmarish encounter with a mysterious, unnatural force threatens to corrupt their lives, their love, and their flesh.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/together>

View trailer at IMDB.com: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt31184028/videooplayer/vi245811225/?ref=mv\\_sr\\_srsq\\_2\\_tt\\_7\\_nm\\_0\\_in\\_0\\_q\\_Together](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt31184028/videooplayer/vi245811225/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_2_tt_7_nm_0_in_0_q_Together)



*Together*

*Continued on Page 25.*

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## SON OF SARDAAR 2

Running time: 145 minutes

Rated: M (Drug use)

Years after settling an epic family feud and surviving house arrest in Punjab, Jassi Singh Randhawa returns — this time chasing love, not trouble. But when he lands in Scotland to win back his estranged wife, he stumbles into a hostage crisis, a mafia war, and the most bizarre Sardaar wedding of the century.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/son-of-sardaar-2>

View trailer at IMDB.com: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt29429860/videoplayer/vi1255327769/?ref=mv\\_sr\\_srsq\\_1\\_tt\\_7\\_nm\\_1\\_in\\_0\\_q\\_Son%2520of%2520Sardaar%25202](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt29429860/videoplayer/vi1255327769/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_1_tt_7_nm_1_in_0_q_Son%2520of%2520Sardaar%25202)

Source: *Monterey Cinemas Upper Hutt*

29/07/25



Son of Sardaar 2