

THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION



A LOCAL NEWSPAPER - FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

The Upper Hutt Connection - Wednesday Edition:
10th of September 2025

Website: uhconnection.co.nz
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H2O Xtream Aquatic Centre

H2O Xtream Upcoming building works: 8 – 18 September 2025

From Monday, 8 September 2025, customers will notice building work preparations on the roof of H2O Xtream.

This is part of planned building works which will see additional screenings fitted around the extractor fans on the facility's roof.

Timeline

Monday, 8 September 2025

- Roofing work preparations (Brown Street side)
- Fitting of screenings around extractor fans
- Installation of attenuators

No impact on opening hours or access to H2O Xtream

The aquatic centre will continue to be **open for its normal opening hours** while the building works are in progress on the outside of the facility.

Customers visiting H2O Xtream will be able to enjoy swimming, aqua aerobics and swim classes, and wellness spots as usual.

H2O Xtream is a new facility. Why is this additional work taking place now?

We understand that it is disconcerting and frustrating to see extra building works taking place after H2O Xtream's recent refurbishment.

As with any re-opening, we get the best picture of the day-to-day operations of new equipment once a facility has been up and running for a while. In this case, we have identified that the extractor fans on H2O Xtream's roof require additional screenings for a sustainable seven-day operation of the facility.

We know that H2O Xtream is a significant drawcard for local swimmers as well as visitors from the wider region. Our priority has been to schedule and plan this work to keep the impact on customers and community minimal.

Source: H2O Xtream Aquatic Centre

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Upper Hutt Taxis

Upper Hutt Taxis
(04) 3900039
 uhtaxiservice@gmail.com
 Upper Hutt, New Zealand
<https://upperhuttaxis.co.nz/>
Local | Safe | Reliable | Affordable

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



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.



Ride Forever / Motorcycle Awareness Month

September is Motorcycle Awareness Month

MAM was created in response to a concerning trend spotted by Ride Forever in the 2017 crash statistics. Each September marks the return of more than half of New Zealand's motorcyclists to the roads after winter – and with more bikes on the road comes an increased risk of crashes, injuries, ACC claims, and fatalities.

MAM is about raising awareness:

- For riders: How to safely return to the road after a break
- For drivers: That motorcyclists are back in greater numbers and need to be seen
- For everyone: A celebration of New Zealand's riding community, and a reminder to ride safe, ride smart, and build your skills with a Ride Forever course.

Wear Yellow! Yellow is the official colour of MAM, it also increases your visibility on the road.

Find out more here: https://www.rideforever.co.nz/riding-in-new-zealand/motorcycle-awareness-month/motorcycle-awareness-month-2025?fbclid=IwY2xjawMkRVpleHRuA2FlbQlzMABicmlkETFzS1NNRDFteVNxSnFHNkVZAR50i1zPjm3DPzw7G3KOSV7StvPcqYMI4cXxrSRBZd6Nm6ngAeuWhDZ4rzq_aem_72_s_zPFYy750-rx_oQvnQ

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

03/09/25



Befriending Death

Talking more often and more deeply about aging, illness and dying

Over the last year, a small community group (Befriending Death) has been listening to the stories of 'ordinary' New Zealanders and unearthing what their real-life experiences can tell us about what we know and need in our last few years of life.

One of the clearest messages has been that more people than you might think do want to talk about dying and aging. And we don't just want to talk about wills and End of Life Care Plans. Lots of us also want to talk more openly and more often about the messier things that come up as we get older and frailer. Things like meaning, purpose, pain, love, fear, joy, gratitude and regrets. As well as things like the realities and complexities of needing help, becoming a caregiver, making choices, handling finances, and finding new roles in our family and community. We often don't talk about these sorts of topics because we think other people don't want to talk to us, and because we just don't know how to start.

Befriending Death has put together a website where you can find lots of ideas about what to talk about, as well as guides on how to start thinking and talking about these sorts of things with the people who matter to you.

The website is designed to be a place that you can drop in and revisit often to find one or two things that might be of interest to you at the moment. You don't have to do it all at once! There are no quick answers or simple solutions. But there are lots of curious questions to consider.

One of the other main messages from listening to the stories of lots of people, is that this doesn't have to all be serious and hard. Laughter, creativity, friendship and slow gentle exploring of what feels good and right for you are all great tools for helping all of us to talk more often and more deeply about aging, illness and dying.

Visit <https://www.befriendingdeathnz.com/> to find out more.

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

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Soren Neupane / Photo by Ana Lyubich

Teaching ChatGpt to Seniors

– Soren Neupane (soren.neupane@gmail.com) in collaboration with Allan Chee, Ex Massey Uni, Wellington Polytech : Senior Lecturer and Program Leader; SeniorNet : Education Leader/Manager

I teach Chatgpt to seniors and I have come across many beliefs I've had to put aside as I work with them on a regular basis. Thanks to Allan Chee who encouraged me into this area.

What I found, amongst many other things, during my teaching experience was that

1. Some have extremely good vocabulary stock which was good for prompts and framing questions
2. And many have knowledge on a wide range of topics.

The Unexpected Teachers

Now, Allan Chee was also my teacher from Wellington Polytech from the year 1995. I was, as always, techno-phobic and, I am very sure, his patience must have given up very often and, he surely, must have given up on me. But he persevered. So, I know what it is to fear when it is technical and when it does not gel with your system. But – look at us both – we survived.

So, decades later, recently, when Allan Chee first suggested I teach ChatGpt to seniors, I confess I approached the task with a bit of uncertainty. I thought they would not be interested or those who could use ChatGpt would think I was wasting their time.

Well...I was wrong on many counts.

Continued on Page 6.

In medicine, we have a saying: “Listen to your patient—they’re telling you the diagnosis.” The same principle, I discovered, applies to teaching technology. My students, ranging from fifty-nine to eighty-nine, weren’t all struggling novices fumbling with foreign concepts. They were seasoned thinkers equipped with something I hadn’t fully appreciated: decades of refined language and accumulated wisdom.

Margaret, a retired English teacher, crafted prompts with surgical precision. Where I might hastily type “write about climate change,” she would construct elegant requests: “Compose a persuasive essay examining the intersection of environmental policy and intergenerational responsibility, drawing upon historical precedents for collective action.” Her vocabulary wasn’t just extensive—it was purposeful.

Then there was Harold, a former engineer, who approached ChatGPT like a research collaborator rather than a search engine. He would engage the AI in Socratic dialogue about nuclear energy policy, building complex arguments through iterative questioning. His prompts revealed not digital naïveté but intellectual sophistication honed over decades.

What struck me most was their natural grasp of context. These weren’t digital natives, but they were native thinkers. They understood that good communication—whether with humans or machines—requires specificity, nuance, and patience. They had spent lifetimes asking thoughtful questions and weren’t about to stop now.

I had expected to teach them about artificial intelligence. Instead, they taught me about authentic intelligence—the kind that comes not from quick reflexes with touchscreens, but from years of careful thought and measured conversation. In trying to bridge the digital divide, I discovered that the gap might be smaller than we think, and the direction of learning more mutual than I’d ever imagined.

The Quilt Maker’s Guide to Artificial Intelligence

Many decades ago at a national quilt exhibition in Stockholm, I stood mesmerized by enormous tapestries stretching across exhibition hall walls—intricate masterpieces that seemed to defy comprehension. Yet each began with the most elementary act: a single needle threading through fabric. The complexity that intimidated me from across the room dissolved into something manageable, even meditative, when understood piece by piece.

Teaching ChatGPT to seniors has taught me the same lesson. The technology arrives wrapped in breathless headlines and technical jargon that makes it seem alien, even threatening. But like those Swedish quilts, artificial intelligence becomes approachable once you understand it starts with simple, human-scaled interactions.

Allan Chee understood this when he encouraged me into this work. After several meetings, my initial intimidation gave way to something more useful: curiosity. We developed what I think of as the quilter’s approach to AI—beginning with basic stitches before attempting complex patterns. The principles are surprisingly straightforward. Start simple. Ask clear questions rather than vague ones—“What are some gentle exercises for seniors?” works better than “Tell me about health.” Treat ChatGPT as you would a knowledgeable but fallible research assistant, not a replacement for your doctor or financial advisor. Protect your privacy by avoiding personal details, just as you would with any stranger.

Most importantly, maintain realistic expectations. The technology is powerful but imperfect, much like those exhibition quilts that revealed small irregularities upon closer inspection—flaws that somehow made them more beautiful, more human.

My students have discovered that ChatGPT can help write letters, explain current events, suggest recipes, or provide gentle mental stimulation through puzzles and trivia. Each person finds their own pattern, their own rhythm of interaction.

The real revelation isn’t technological—it’s recognizing that learning, at any age, follows the same ancient pattern: needle through fabric, stitch by careful stitch, until something beautiful emerges.

What more is there in AI for Seniors

Show don’t tell : Then again there is the whole world of creating memoirs – using specific anecdotes like Dorothy organizing her husband’s wartime letters and students planning European trips to illustrate the practical applications. You can also create illustrated, personalised children’s story books.

These are the ways to preserve the dignity and wisdom of older learners while demonstrating how ChatGPT serves as a patient, respectful digital companion that adapts to their needs rather than forcing them to adapt to it.

The quilt metaphor, reinforcing the central theme that both traditional crafts and modern technology involve the same fundamental human process: patient, purposeful creation that transforms simple elements into something meaningful and lasting.

And now – I love my teaching job and the opportunity to learn from my students. And – last but not least – thank you Mr Chee.

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

08/09/25



Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

Upper Hutt Cossie Club celebrates Tania Brown and Kathy Jones serving as Duty Managers to the club

Last night we had the pleasure of celebrating of a remarkable 30 years of Service to the Club by one of our Duty Managers, Tania Brown.

Tania started in 2005 and has seen so many changes in her time including the rebuild after the fire. It was clear from her replies the Club is more than just a place of work, it's a family.

This week also marked the 20 years of Service from another Duty Manager Kathy Jones, all in all we have celebrated over 100 years of service over the past year in milestones already. Quite the achievement!

Source: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

05/09/25

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS 2025



AI Generated

Where you can return your voting paper in this year's local body elections

You can either post it into any NZ Post or DX Mail postbox by Tuesday 7th of October, 2025

OR you can drop your completed voting paper into any of the orange ballot bins at the following locations.

- Upper Hutt City Council: Civic Administration Building, 838-842 Fergusson Drive
- Upper Hutt Library: 844 Fergusson Drive
- Pinehaven Library: Cnr Pinehaven Road and Jocelyn Crescent
- New World Silverstream: 28 Whitemans Road
- PAK'nSAVE: Gibbons Street
- Maidstone Woolworths: Russell Street
- Upper Hutt Woolworths: Queen Street
- Mitre 10 MEGA: 9 Park Street

Source: <https://www.electionz.com>

09/09/25



Authorised by Angela McLeod

Angela McLeod

Tēnā koutou katoa

I am standing for Mayor because I believe leadership is about service – taking care of the people in your charge and ensuring decisions today create the future our community deserves. I bring more than three decades of governance, advisory, and leadership experience, from local boards and community organisations to national policy and parliamentary roles. I have the skills to lead with integrity, the courage to advocate for our community's interests, and the financial discipline to ensure Council decisions deliver real value.

As Mayor, I will put community wellbeing at the centre of every decision. That means building a strong and resilient economy where businesses can thrive, jobs are secure, and investment benefits everyone. It means protecting our environment, ensuring our natural assets are safeguarded for future generations. It means strengthening our social fabric – supporting families, young people, seniors, and vulnerable groups, and valuing the voices of all residents. And it means celebrating our cultural life, recognising that arts, heritage, and diversity enrich our city and bring us together.

I understand the financial pressures our Council faces. Rates must be affordable, services sustainable, and investment focused on what matters most. My approach is to make prudent, transparent decisions, seek efficiencies where they can be made, and ensure every dollar spent supports long-term community outcomes.

Most importantly, I believe in working alongside you. By engaging openly, listening to diverse perspectives, and fostering respectful debate, we can restore trust in local government and create a shared vision. Together, we can build a future that is economically vibrant, socially inclusive, culturally rich, and environmentally responsible – a city we are proud to call home.

Ngā mihi mahana

Angela

Contact details:

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W: angelamcleod.nz

C: 027 497 2761

Authorised by Angela McLeod

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

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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 of 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.

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

Blair Griffiths

Mayoral Candidate for Upper Hutt

Blair Griffiths is running for a seat as Mayor for Upper Hutt.

- Telephone 027 451 9561
- Email blair4mayor25@gmail.com

Meet the Candidate

My principal place of residence is in the Upper Hutt City Council area.

My name is Blair Griffiths and I am a proud lifelong resident of Upper Hutt, a current City Councillor, and a long-standing small business owner.

I am standing as an independent candidate for Mayor, bringing 12 years of local government experience and a strong focus on community leadership. I have a comprehensive overview of all council committees and the day to day running of Upper Hutt City Council.

I understand real life challenges. As a father, adoptive parent, property owner, landlord, I have lived experience, also supporting children with disabilities. I also own a lifestyle block, still play rugby for Upper Hutt and actively support local charities and boards.

Known for my practical approach, clear communication, I have the ability and drive to get things done! As your next Mayor I will bring independent leadership, local knowledge and a genuine commitment to putting Upper Hutt first.

Vote Blair4Mayor!

Source: Upper Hutt City Council 04/09/25



Authorised by Brett Thomson

Upper Hutt is my home — let's shape its future together.

I'm standing because our city deserves leadership that's **financially responsible, community-focused, and future-ready.**

As a Chartered Accountant and member of the Institute of Directors, with experience in both the private and public sectors, I have the skills to help Upper Hutt grow sustainably — without pushing rates out of reach.

My priorities:

- Smarter Council – stabilise or reduce rates as a share of household income, demand evidence-based decisions, and listen to residents.
- Stronger Infrastructure – invest in transport, water, and community assets that last for generations.
- Local Prosperity – support quality jobs, housing solutions, and smart development.
- Trust in Council – transparent decisions, clear communication, and accountability.

I'm not a career politician — I'm a local who wants better for our city and is ready to do the work.

Let's build a future that reflects the pride we have in this place we call home.

Vote Brett Thomson for Upper Hutt City Council.

Authorised by Brett Thomson.

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

13/08/25

Articles by Brett Thomson:

- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-body-elections-2025/upper-hutt-economic-growth-policy-brett-thomson/>
- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-body-elections-2025/upper-hutt-transport-policy-announcement-brett-thomson/>

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Authorised by Corey White

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

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

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

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

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

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

Authorised by Corey White.

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

05/08/25



Authorised Daniel Welch

Daniel Welch for Upper Hutt City Councillor – Backing the Future of Upper Hutt

Hi, I'm Daniel Welch – and I'm backing the future of Upper Hutt.

First and foremost, I'm a proud local dad to three amazing boys. My two eldest, who came as a package deal with my loving partner of 10 years, Angela, are studying at St Pat's. Our youngest, Ben, is about to turn two – so life is busy, but my passion for our community keeps me energised. I want Upper Hutt to be a place we are all proud to call home.

After a decade in telecommunications, COVID changed the world – and I changed with it. I took the opportunity to join Silverstream School as Caretaker and Groundsman, a role that has been the most rewarding of my career. Over the last five years, I've worked alongside the school's leadership to create the best environment for our children to learn and thrive.

I've been part of the Silverstream Trappers and Enviro School programme, helping connect our children to their local environment. As the school's IT Coordinator, I also volunteer my own time to teach technology. Right now, my students are learning robotics and coding – and they love it

My role has also given me experience that I believe is directly relevant to council decision-making. I've overseen major infrastructure and building upgrades, some with budgets in the hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars. I've been involved from design to tendering to daily project management – holding contractors to account, finding savings, and ensuring we get the best results for the least cost. Every dollar saved is another dollar that can go directly into our children's education – and I believe the same principle should apply to council spending.

I bring a passionate, positive, and progressive mindset. I want to help shape Upper Hutt with smart, future-focused decisions that improve our city for generations to come.

I'm Daniel Welch, and I'm backing the future of Upper Hutt.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579095325984>

Authorised by Daniel Welch

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

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Authorised by David Burt djhbconsult@gmail.com

Hope, Resilience, and a Shared Future – Dave Burt: Candidate for Upper Hutt City Council

Upper Hutt City is at a turning point.

Our Council is facing significant financial and environmental challenges. We're caught between urgent infrastructure demands and the need to protect ratepayers from costs they can't afford. We need practical, future-focused leadership and that's why I'm standing for Council.

Like many in our community, I have felt the financial pressure firsthand and I understand just how tough things are. But whether it's a household budget or the city's finances, there are some things that simply can't wait.

Top priorities:

- Fix the basics. Our "3 Waters" infrastructure (drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater) is struggling after years of underinvestment. We must act now, without pushing rate rises beyond what our community can bear.
- Plan for climate impacts. Climate change is already affecting us, and those impacts will only grow. We need smart, targeted investments that protect our environment and support long-term resilience, not just short-term actions focused on waste management.
- Think of the next generation. If we don't step up now, our children and grandchildren will bear the costs, both financially and environmentally. Ask them: are they willing to pay for our inaction?

Let's be honest.

We can't afford to do everything. That means Council must take a much harder look at how we spend discretionary funds over the next three years.

For every proposed initiative, we must ask:

- How many people will this benefit?
- Why must it be funded now?

Future spending must deliver the greatest good to most people. That's the lens I'll bring to every Council decision.

Let's work together to build a resilient, future-ready Upper Hutt.

If you have questions or ideas, I'd love to hear from you.

Authorised by David Burt djhbconsult@gmail.com

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

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

04/08/25



Authorised by Dave Wheeler

Dave Wheeler

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Authorised by Dave Wheeler.

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

08/08/25

Articles by DJ McNicholas

- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/letters-to-the-editor/reply-to-teresa-homans-letter-d-j-mcnicholas/>

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Authorised by DJ McNicholas

DJ McNicholas

A BETTER UPPER HUTT STARTS WITH US

Vote DJ McNicholas for Council

Hard Work. Real Change. Community First.

A bit about me

I'm a long-time Upper Hutt resident, married to Maya for 36 years, and a proud father of two daughters and grandfather to eight. As a small business owner with leadership experience, I believe in hard work, fairness, and creating real change.

Why I'm standing

I've lived the highs and lows of life in Upper Hutt. I've raised a family here, run a business, and faced unemployment. I know the struggles and I know the strength of our community.

I have the skills and passion to represent our people and push for meaningful improvements that benefit us all.

My priorities

- Safe streets and warm homes for our children
- Building homes and services for the future
- Fixing potholes and restoring infrastructure
- Clean, well-lit CBD with pride and purpose
- Water services done well – without costing us the earth
- Environmental responsibility and smart planning

Upper Hutt is a fabulous place to live, but we can and must do better.

Let's talk – I'm here to listen. Got questions, ideas, or suggestions? Reach out for a chat. Your voice matters.

A: 5 Beth Street, Trentham

E: d.j.mcnicholasuhcc@gmail.com

P: 027 300 4425 *Authorised by DJ McNicholas*



Authorised by Emma Holderness

Emma Holderness

Mayoral Profile:

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

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

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

emma4mayor.nz

Authorised by Emma Holderness.

Councillor Profile:

Councillor Candidate for Upper Hutt

Emma Holderness is running for a seat as a Councillor in Upper Hutt.

Telephone 021 992 989 Email emma@emma4mayor.nz

Meet the Candidate

My principal place of residence is in the Council area. I am also standing for Mayor.

I'm standing for a second term as Councillor because I believe Upper Hutt needs strong leadership going in this new political context. I've been around enough to know how things work but also not so long that I'm stuck in how things have always been.

I bring real-world governance experience, professional leadership skills, and a genuine commitment to our community. In my leadership consultancy I've helped government and businesses deliver strategy and results-driven outcomes. Before that, I served in the RNZAF – shaping my values of service, discipline, and clear decision-making.

In my first term as a councillor, I advocated for transparency and more democratic processes. I promise to continue this advocacy while ensuring our Council focuses on what matters: smarter use of ratepayer money, targeted investment where it makes a difference, and ensuring everyone has a voice.

We have some challenges ahead, it's time to make some changes.

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

Councillor Profile: Source – Upper Hutt City Council

08/08/25

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Authorised by Euan Andrews

Euan Andrews

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

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

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

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

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

Authorised by Euan Andrews

blendbarandbistro@gmail.com

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

07/08/25

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Authorised by Gurpreet Dhillon

Gurpreet Dhillon

I'm Gurpreet Dhillon, a proud Upper Hutt resident for over a decade, small business owner, dedicated volunteer, and community advocate. My wife and I are raising our children here, and I want to make sure Upper Hutt grows as a safe, thriving place to live, work and raise a family.

I studied Information Technology from Auckland and went on to work as an IT professional. I have also worked as a radio presenter, connecting with audiences and advocating for community concerns, and in the retail industry, understanding the needs of both businesses and customers.

As a ratepayer and a parent, I feel the pressure of the cost of living crisis, rising inflation and increasing rates, just like many in our community. I understand how these challenges affect households and the need for Council to spend every dollar wisely.

Driving taxis and volunteering for years has given me a unique window into people's lives and a deep knowledge of our city. I know every corner of Upper Hutt and most of my day is spent out on the roads, not in an office, which means I am easily approachable to residents and always listening to what matters most to you.

If elected, I will focus on better roads, fewer potholes, improved street lights, backing local businesses to grow and thrive, accessibility for people with mobility challenges and senior citizens, and strong advocacy for better public transport and after hours medical services.

I believe council should focus on the basics first, plan for the future sensibly and be open and accountable to the people it serves. I will listen to your concerns, advocate on your behalf and work to deliver real results for our community.

Let's get the essentials right, support local businesses and build an Upper Hutt that works for everyone.

Vote Gurpreet DHILLON – Putting Community First.

Authorised by Gurpreet Dhillon.

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

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

Heather Blissett

Councillor Candidate for Upper Hutt

Heather Blissett is running for a seat as a Councillor in Upper Hutt.

- Telephone 027 351 5211
- Email heather.7.blissett@gmail.com

Meet the Candidate

My principal place of residence is in the Council area.

My background is volunteering and working within our community supporting people from a variety of ages and abilities.

I've learned that the key to better outcomes is listening and asking what support is needed rather than projecting my own values on them. Imagine if our relationship with Council used the same principles.

Like many of you. I have felt the frustration of feeling unheard. Years of involvement in local decision making and conversations with others have shown me this is a shared experience. That is why I co-created a collaboration called 'Weaving the Harakeke' and driven me to stand.

We need a cultural shift at Council. One that prioritises open, honest and transparent communication from conception not completion. Decision making should reflect the people who live here. Remembering too that we are not just about people. We are place. Healthy rivers and forests are essential to our collective wellbeing.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

04/09/25

Articles by Heather Blissett:

- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/letters-to-the-editor/local-water-done-well-the-title-is-misleading-to-say-the-least-heather-blissett/>



Authorised Heather Newell

Heather Newell for council

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

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

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

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

Authorised by Heather Newell

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

08/08/25

Articles by Heather Newell:

- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/letters-to-the-editor/five-questions-to-ask-when-considering-who-to-vote-for-councillor-heather-newell/>



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

Hellen Swales (Change we need, voice you deserve)

Mayoral Candidate profile:

Mayoral Candidate for Upper Hutt

Hellen Swales is running for a seat as Mayor for Upper Hutt.

- Email hellenformayor@gmail.com
- Website www.hellenformayor.com

Meet the Candidate

My principal place of residence is in the Upper Hutt City Council area. I am also standing for Council – At Large.

For the past 12 years, I've proudly served Upper Hutt, six as your Deputy Mayor.

I'm standing for Mayor to ensure our Council stays focused on what truly matters: our people, our future, and our financial wellbeing.

I'm committed to strengthening community engagement, promoting transparency, and delivering services that offer value for money. We must focus on essentials, not vanity projects, and manage our debt responsibly to secure long-term financial sustainability.

I believe leadership is about service, not self-promotion. My commitment is to represent you with integrity, advocating your needs, and shape a Council that listens and leads with purpose.

With coming reforms, we need a strong, experienced voice at the table. Someone who knows how to navigate regional forums, advocate on your behalf, and engage confidently with Government.

Now more than ever, leadership matters. Together, we can deliver the change Upper Hutt needs, and the voice our community deserves.

Articles by Hellen Swales:

- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-body-elections-2025/my-policies-hellen-swales/>
- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-issues-forum/from-social-media-part-2-some-questions-some-answers-hellen-swales/>
- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-issues-forum/upper-hutt-cbd-revitalisation-hellen-swales/>
- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-issues-forum/h2o-pool-the-facts-exposed-hellen-swales/>
- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-issues-forum/local-water-dome-well-update-of-forecasted-water-charges-hellen-swales/>
- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-issues-forum/rates-in-upper-hutt-the-impact-and-what-i-believe-should-be-done-hellen-swales/>
- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/letters-to-the-editor/touching-on-some-social-media-questions-with-answers-hellen-swales/>

Councillor Candidate profile:

Councillor Candidate for Upper Hutt

Hellen Swales is running for a seat as a Councillor in Upper Hutt.

- Email hellenformayor@gmail.com

Meet the Candidate

My principal place of residence is in the Council area. I am also standing for Mayor.

For the last 12 years I've been proud to serve Upper Hutt, on Council, and 6 years as your Deputy Mayor.

I am committed to enhancing community engagement, ensuring fiscal responsibility, and prioritising residents' needs, to positively impact on the Upper Hutt community.

As a passionate advocate for value-driven services, I emphasise transparency and accountability within the council. I will ensure our council focuses on value for money in the services it delivers, demonstrating this through clear communication with the community,

My goal is to secure the council's long-term financial sustainability by effectively managing debt, funding essential services, and limiting non-essential/vanity projects.

Amidst a significant wave of impending reforms, experienced leadership is essential to navigate change and safeguard the local voice. One that understands the complexities of change and upholds the principles of transparency.

Working together will provide Upper Hutt the change we need and the voice you deserve.

Source: *Upper Hutt City Council*

04/09/25



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

Henry Grey

Councillor Candidate for Upper Hutt

Henry Grey is running for a seat as a Councillor in Upper Hutt.

- Telephone 021 764 077
- Email henry.grey@hotmail.com

Meet the Candidate

My principal place of residence is not in the Council area.

Talofa lava, I am Henry Grey.

Upper Hutt holds a special place in my heart. In 2010, I moved from Samoa through a life-changing opportunity to attend Saint Patrick's College Silverstream. I have lived, raised my family, and called Upper Hutt home.

I was raised with the belief that we live a life of service. Over the years, I've been involved in our community as a volunteer firefighter and as a Rugby Game Developer for the Upper Hutt Rams.

I believe in empowering our young people, supporting cultural connection, and ensuring our diverse community feels heard.

As Upper Hutt continues to grow, I want to help guide growth in the right direction.

To listen, observe, and take action. I will work hard to represent shared interests and challenge where necessary.

Let's build a future for Upper Hutt that reflects the strength, heart, and potential for everyone who calls it home.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

04/09/25



Authorised by Kylie McKenna

Kylie McKenna

I'm Kylie, a proud Upper Hutt local of 20 years and mum to two awesome kids. I've spent most of my career in healthcare and medical sales, but my heart has always been in serving the community. Whether it's chairing the fundraising committee at my children's school, coordinating the school breakfast club, or volunteering behind the scenes, I believe strong communities are built by showing up, listening, and taking action.

I'm not afraid to ask hard questions or challenge the status quo when something isn't working. A few years ago, I led a public push that helped change national legislation around product safety – a change that's now protecting thousands of Kiwi families. It taught me that with determination, collaboration, and a clear voice, real change is possible.

That's what I want to bring to council: practical action, genuine community connection, and a fresh, transparent approach to decision-making. I believe Upper Hutt deserves councillors who will keep residents informed, explain the "why" behind decisions, and be accessible – not just at election time, but always.

I'm passionate about equality, sustainability, and creating a city that works for everyone – families, small businesses, our aging population, and future generations.

Together, we can shape an Upper Hutt that's vibrant, inclusive, and future-focused.

Ngā mihi nui

Follow Kylie for Council on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Kylie.for.Council>

Authorised by Kylie McKenna

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

05/08/25



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

Matt Carey (Independent)

Councillor Candidate for Upper Hutt

Matt Carey is running for a seat as a Councillor in Upper Hutt.

- Telephone 027 608 3108
- Email matt.g.carey@gmail.com

Meet the Candidate

My principal place of residence is in the Council area.

I am running again for Upper Hutt City Council because I want to see the commitments and changes I have made to Upper Hutt through.

I have delivered on my promises. Your Council now runs a balanced budget. That means spending within our means. We also put money aside to replace our aging assets; no longer forcing the costs on our future generations.

We have increased transparency around our workshops; we publish the content and what we discuss. I know we can do better still, and that is a priority for me.

I am very passionate about our water and ensuring a sustainable model is adopted by the new regional water entity.

I also believe I will represent our community in any discussions regarding council amalgamation.

I want to make sure any future plans are sustainable, resilient, affordable, and represent our City.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

04/09/25



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

Michael J Anderson

Michael has run FTI Computers since 1999. He understands keeping businesses doors open means keeping up with the play, ahead of regulations, and on side with the tax department ... whilst never confusing your bank balance with your spending power. Second jobs have been taken occasionally in retail, financial services and market research, so he's used to wearing two hats. If elected, he'll bring cost-conscious troubleshooting and project management skills to the table. Michael recently eyeballed WCC's \$2.3m "rainbow" illuminated public toilet design, and reverse-engineered the lighting effect for \$17.24: beat that! Michael created the Main Street community organisations window dressing concept, successfully lobbied for an UH Train station rebuild, and put 4-laning SH2 to Silverstream on Chris Bishop's to-do list. He supports recreational cycling, but not converting carriageways to dangerous parking killers. Michael will rebuild public confidence, streamline services, and critique costs. Enthusiastic. Local. Energised. Canny. Talented. ANDERSON for Council!

Upcoming law changes affecting Councils around NZ will be challenging. Ratepayers and staff alike are nervous about their job security, and need new endeavours to keep the home fires burning. If elected, Michael will promote U.H. as the sporting capital of N.Z., and extend the Xtream brand to promote all Upper Hutt sporting events. Imagine Xtream rugby, Xtream Netball!! Completing the riverbank cycle way will provide a golden opportunity to support cycle tourism. Michael will promote the refurbishment and conversion of the buildings at Maoribank park for lease as a Council Controlled Organisation, providing cycle hires, refreshments and directions; and retain a changing room/public toilet facility. Up-cycling is good for the community! Upper Hutt used to have a poster-sized map of attractions. Michael will be pressing for a modern on-line equivalent accessed by QR codes, using GPS to assist the user with travel distances and routes, and hosted by Council.

Authorised by Michael J Anderson.



Authorised by Nigel Mander

Nigel Mander

Serve the Community!

One of the first things to change is our voting method. We use 'First Past The Post' but we would be more sure of getting people who are widely supported by the voters if we used Transferable Votes. That's already done by many councils where voters put numbers beside candidates' names.

We don't need Upper Hutt to combine with Lower Hutt -- we already cooperate for water supply and disposal, and for cemeteries -- but if our city was just part of 'Greater Hutt Valley' we could be swamped by the number of voters from Lower Hutt. To avoid a group with particular interests being ignored or under-served, I believe we should also get Maori Ward(s).

I volunteer for Forest & Bird in Upper Hutt.

I volunteer at The Free Store in Wellington. The Free Store collects surplus food from cafes, shops and restaurants and distributes the food without charge to people who need it in central Wellington. The Free Store tackles the problems of Food Waste and Food Poverty.

I also volunteer at the Upper Hutt Repair Cafe where skillful people fix, mend and improve appliances and clothing so that people don't need to spend so much on things that go into landfill.

I was a founding trustee of the Upper Hutt Housing Trust and now I work part time for the Trust as manager of one of its hostels.

I want Upper Hutt City Council to put solar panels on its buildings to reduce the need for power from the national grid. UHCC should also enable citizens to harvest sunshine falling on their own homes.

Houses should also harvest rainwater off their roofs, and save greywater so that we're more resilient in dry seasons.

Nigel Mander 0224685477

Authorised by Nigel Mander.

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

05/09/25



Authorised by Peri Zee

Peri Zee

Upper Hutt has huge potential. We need an energetic and dedicated Mayor to create a more family-friendly city. I will be a leader who gets things done in a collaborative and transparent way.

My priorities are to create a city centre where people want to spend time, make it easier to move around the city, and ensure developers pay their fair share towards the infrastructure we need for growth. I will also advocate on your behalf to the Government to get better local services, like urgent healthcare.

I started my career in local government while studying business and resource management. I'm now a strategic advisor to councils across the country, helping them solve big challenges in infrastructure, transport, strategy and urban planning. From this experience, I know how to make pragmatic, responsible decisions that create public good and are affordable.

It's time to start building our future city, together.

Find out more here:

Website: <https://www.perizee.co.nz/>

Detailed policies: <https://policy.nz/2025/upper-hutt-city-council-mayoral/candidates/peri-zee>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560371857992>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/perizee1/>

Authorised by Peri Zee.

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

05/09/25



Authorised by Rachel Tukaki Kingi

Rachel Tukaki Kingi – Candidate for Upper Hutt City Council 2025

For our City, For our Future

Upper Hutt has always been home for me and my whānau. My family has called this city home since 1916, with the O'Flaherty's contributing to local schools, workplaces, and community life. With my children grown and my grandchildren part of our community, I want to help shape a city that works well for both today's residents and generations to come.

Proudly Māori, my culture grounds me in values of service, respect, and community connection — values that guide the way I work and lead.

Alongside my community life, I've built a career with national and international experience that I believe will add real value at the council table. I've worked across diverse sectors, gaining skills in governance, advocacy, and collaboration — skills I want to put to work for the people of Upper Hutt.

As your councillor, my priorities are:

- Keeping rates fair and affordable – ensuring council lives within its means, while protecting essential services.
- Strong core infrastructure – roads, footpaths, water, and public amenities that meet the needs of all ages and abilities.
- Better communication and engagement – council must reach people where they are, not just through websites or social media. Newsletters, community meetings, and face-to-face engagement all have an important role.
- Community wellbeing – safe spaces, support for youth and families, and facilities that keep Upper Hutt thriving.

I believe in open, respectful communication and in putting people at the centre of council decisions. Standing for council is about service — listening to our community and being accountable.

I'm committed to representing everyday Upper Hutt residents, making sure our voices are heard and our needs are prioritised. Together, we can build For our City, For our Future.

Connect with me:

<https://www.facebook.com/RachelTukakiKingiforCouncil>

Email: rachel.tukaki.kingi@gmail.com

Authorised by Rachel Tukaki Kingi.

A "thank you" to Rachel Tukaki Kingi for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

01/09/25



Authorised Ramil Adhikari

Ramil Adhikari

Kia ora e te whānau, kia ora Upper Hutt community,

I'm standing again in the Upper Hutt local election because I care deeply about our community and believe every voice should be heard.

Upper Hutt is growing and becoming more diverse – it's time our Council reflects that.

Why I'm Standing

I came from Nepal and proudly call Aotearoa New Zealand home. My two children were born here, and like many of you, I'm invested in our city's future for our tamariki and mokopuna. For many ethnic migrants and former refugees, language and communication barriers mean missed opportunities to engage with Council. I want to change that by creating an open, welcoming, and accessible Council – where everyone feels confident to participate. As someone fluent in Nepali, Hindi, Chinese (mainland), Dutch, and conversational in Te Reo Māori, I understand how language builds trust and connection. I will champion regular hui, culturally responsive communication, and genuine community outreach.

My Experience

I'm a medically trained doctor from Nepal and a public health professional focused on equity and wellbeing. I currently serve on the boards of the Public Health Association of NZ and KiwiClass, and as Chairperson of the Wellington Branch of the Public Health Association. I'm also a Justice of the Peace, Marriage Celebrant, and long-time community advocate.

My Priorities

- Accessible after-hours healthcare for families
- Lower rates
- Diversity and inclusion where every voice is valued
- Greener spaces and environmental protection
- Transparent, compassionate leadership
- Local business growth and smart economic development

Mā te mahi tahi ka ora ai te iwi – Through collective action, we thrive

Support Ramil Adhikari – for a change that truly matters.

Ngā mihi nui,

Ramil Adhikari

MBBS (MBChB – Abroad), DPH (Aotearoa-NZ), MPH (Aotearoa- NZ)

PhD Candidate (Aotearoa-NZ)

Current: Public Servant

Upper Hutt Resident

Contact: dr_ramils@yahoo.com

<https://www.facebook.com/drramiladhikari>

Contact: dr_ramils@yahoo.com | Facebook: facebook.com/drramiladhikari

Authorised by Ramil Adhikari

15/08/25



Authorised by Teresa Homan

Teresa Homan - Nice 2 Have For Upper Hutt City Council

Upper Hutt a Place to Live and a way of Life

Email: tshoman@kinect.co.nz

Facebook: **Homan 4 Council nice 2 have**

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

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

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

05/08/25

Articles by Teresa Homan

- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/letters-to-the-editor/letter-to-the-editor-teresa-homan/>
- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/letters-to-the-editor/response-to-letter-by-d-j-mcnicholas-teresa-homan/>
- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/letters-to-the-editor/pool-debate-teresa-homan/>
- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/general-news/save-our-water-assets-protect-our-water-source-and-our-access-to-it/>



Authorised by Tofa Gush

Vote 4 Tofa – Tofa Gush

The time has come for a new council representative who will work with everyone to continue to make Upper Hutt a thriving city for families, communities and local businesses.

Many people have told me I have the expertise, experience, insights, and networks to make a positive contribution to our city. This comes from decades of working at both grassroots and at the top-level of many education, industry, health, social development, cultural and community boards and organisations.

These experiences have given me the ability to oversee big budgets, allocate resources to best effect, solve complex problems, and to make good decisions that positively impact peoples' lives.

My passion is to always seek to increase people's participation in decisions affecting their lives because this improves the quality of decision-making.

Wider participation is not a nice to have, especially given the number of big issues that our community needs to decide on over the next few years. Issues such as rates setting, water management, urban development, mitigating climate change and amalgamation.

My focus on Council will be to:

- Improve core services,
- Keep spending under control,
- Bring what people tell me to the table,
- Prioritise community safety so families can live in and enjoy safe spaces.

I want to be a strong and fresh voice for all of Upper Hutt on issues such as employment, education, the environment, safety and infrastructure. I would especially like to support our young people, our local small businesses, Māori, Pacific and ethnic communities, as well as those with disabilities.

Continued on Page 24.

If elected, I will always be approachable. I promise to listen, and to work with integrity.

Let's work together for a stronger, safer, and thriving Upper Hutt.

Contact me at

Vote4Tofa.co.nz

vote4tofa@gmail.com

Check my social media on Facebook [Vote4Tofa](#)

Authorised by Tofa Gush

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

03/08/25

Articles by Tofa Gush:

- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-body-elections-2025/tofa-gush-wants-community-control-of-alcohol-applications/>



Authorised by Tracey Ultra

Tracey Ultra

I am seeking re-election to follow through on reducing debt, keeping a balanced budget and advocating for an affordable pricing structure for Local water done well.

I have attended community meetings and consultations and would like to increase opportunities for in person discussions. I am concerned about the high cost of living and supported the call for a rates review.

I appreciated the opportunity to work with Council Officers to write submissions on the Government's RMA reforms, these changes affect our rivers and land use for rural, housing and industrial developments.

I would like to update the notable tree register and keep Te Awakairangi Hutt river clean and free from toxic algae.

I have supported the return of the Hapai Building to community use. I attend Civil Defence practice events to learn how to run an emergency response.

I oppose parking meters, free car parking supports commuters, businesses and visitors.

I attended the 2023 Main St consultation and listened to how the community use the CBD and what improvements people want. Council has budgeted for a gradual replacement of pavers and as this work progresses, there is an opportunity to improve accessibility, pedestrian crossings, outdoor dining and event spaces.

In the 2025 Annual plan, Councillors voted against introducing kerbside recycling and instead supported the cheaper option to increase the capacity of the recycling station and look for a second location. This decision was made to avoid further rates increases.

Upper Hutt's walking and cycling routes could be improved by linking rail, shops, schools, parks and better access to river trails for safe cycling routes away from busy roads.

As Deputy Chair of the City Services committee, I have contributed to discussions and decisions on projects and infrastructure and would like to continue to bring community concerns to the meetings.

<https://www.facebook.com/Ultra4Council?>

Tracey.ultra@gmail.com

Authorised by Tracey Ultra.

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



Authorised by Wade Cashmore

Wade Cashmore

Hi I am Wade Cashmore.

I am running for Upper Hutt council as an Independent.

I live in Birchville Upper Hutt

I am a Bus Driver/ Driver trainer, I do both Tour driving and domestic driving. I have gained skills relating to management over the years and I am constantly in and around Upper Hutt.

In the Hutt valley, I am mainly driving charters for pretty much every Hutt valley school, and Rail replacement on the Hutt valley line.

I am running for council to make changes. Honesty, Integrity, Transparency, used to mean something, I feel these qualities are long gone in the current council, It is time for refresh, Spring clean, Get the proverbial broom into the corners and sweep out the old dust.

Things are changing, The Government has introduced new legislation aimed at refocusing councils on essential services, responding to growing public frustration over rising rates expansion, and declining infrastructure.

New Zealand is undergoing significant changes to its water policy, particularly in the areas of water services, infrastructure and freshwater management.

I am running for council not only because I feel the current council is not fit to manage these changes (Take off the rose colored glasses and really look at the dodgy shambles of late), but I also to go into bat for the Upper Hutt community as a whole. This used to be a livable city, what happened?

Bureaucracy, Bad tendering, Mismanagement, Stale over-comfy leadership, Pipe-dream 10-year planning, the list goes on.

Time for a change, lets get Upper Hutt back on track

Vote Wade Cashmore Independent Candidate.

Authorised by Wade Cashmore

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

04/08/25



Authorised by Wayne Guppy

Wayne Guppy

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

Authorised by Wayne Guppy.

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

07/08/25

A "thank you" to all candidates who responded to my invitation to send in their profiles to The Upper Hutt Connection. :)

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



AI Generated

Fiscal Responsibility Policy – We can't rate people out of their homes: Brett Thomson

We can't rate people out of their homes. My Fiscal Responsibility Policy will keep life affordable in Upper Hutt by making council live within its means, just like every family does. Rates must stay fair, debt must fund essentials like roads, water, and resilience — not "nice-to-haves." I'll fight for smarter spending, honest reporting, and better value from every contract. By focusing on what matters most, we can keep rates under control, restore trust, and build a stronger, more affordable Upper Hutt for everyone.

Read the full article on The Upper Hutt Connection:
<https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-body-elections-2025/fiscal-responsibility-policy-we-cant-rate-people-out-of-their-homes-brett-thomson/>

Authorised by Brett Thomson – standing for Upper Hutt City Council

Contact: brett.thomson@hotmail.co.nz

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

08/09/25



Authorised by Tofa Gush

Tofa Gush wants community control of alcohol applications

4 September 2025

Tofa Gush, Upper City Council candidate, says that any decisions on opening more alcohol outlets in the city should be up to local communities and the council.

Mrs Gush was responding to a recent announcement on changes to alcohol regulations on made by the Government.

"As a massive All Black fan, I support making it easier for local bars and clubs to open for major events. But I also know that more needs doing to reduce alcohol-related harm in Upper Hutt and elsewhere."

"Sadly, the Hutt for example, including Upper Hutt, has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in New Zealand. Excess alcohol consumption and availability is one major cause of that. So, I would not want to see the proposed changes necessarily make it easier to open more alcohol outlets in our city. Our local community and our council must have full control over such applications."

Mrs Gush she was speaking from experience.

"I chair Kupenga o Moana, a not-for-profit community group that works with over 400 Pacific and Pakeha families to support families impacted by domestic violence, or who have high needs. In that role, and in my lead roles over many years in local health authorities, I have seen, first hand, the physical and mental damage that alcohol can do to the wellbeing of families."

"If elected, a priority for me will be to support measures that lead to a safer Upper Hutt for all. This will include having the Council play a lead role in supporting local communities to control the development of any more alcohol or gambling outlets, noting that both often go together, in our city. "

Continued on Page 28.

I will also work with our communities to review any 'safety blackspots' within them, and see what can be done by way of improvements, such as better lighting, to help residents feel safer. And I want to talk to Police and communities about what we, as a Council, could do to reduce domestic violence and support family wellbeing in our city."

"A vote for me is a vote for a Council that will do all it can to make our city safer," Mrs Gush says.

Tofa Gush

Contact: 0278395994

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

05/09/25

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Upper Hutt Grey Power

Local Elections 2025 – Lew Rohloff / Upper Hutt Grey Power Association

Grey Power has serious concern that the 'run away' inflation of Local Government rates in recent years, in terms of impact on low to median income households has exceeded all reasonable measurements of fairness, equity and, indeed; affordability.

The 'four well-beings' provision in the Local Government Act 2002 requires Local Government to establish 'affordability parameters' in long term and annual planning procedures, not only for council activities but also for rating revenue impacting on households. Councils have the legislative power to adjust the proportionate impact of rating on households to ensure the affordability principle is not breached.

Councils have not conscientiously employed this legislated safeguard. Effectively, while elected to represent low to median income households, whether property owners or renters: the financial security of such people has been compromised to favour development and economic growth.

Over the many decades since the early 1980's when Local Government began its divestment of internal planning and works teams and pursued its obligations through contracting via 'public and private' partnerships; 'community outcomes' in terms of 'value for money' and 'delivery of public services' have markedly deteriorated.

Councils and the Mayors who have led them have not demonstrated any sustained devotion to 'leadership' of a 'people first' orientation sufficient to reverse this undesirable social degradation.

This statement is derived from research based on anecdotes our vulnerable families are telling us. They identify the core contributing factors which are leading to rapid deterioration of public confidence in local government and, for that matter, central government's failure to adequately resource it.

Readers who are Grey Power members together with their families and neighbours will shortly be faced with the responsibility of electing a new Council. Do not vote too soon. Take the opportunity to hear the emerging issues to form an impression of the likely 'character' of the council emerging and then, importantly, the best candidate to lead it.

The Local Government team we choose must have the character to resist 'capture' by developer interests and it must begin to prioritise people and families well-being.

Look for a candidate who:

- 1. In the legitimate interests of lower-income households, campaigns for central government funding of the 'growth' component in capital costs of infrastructural assets and treatment charges for 'safe' drinking water.***
- 2. Identifies an acceptable solution to the unsustainable 'user charges' on essential public services which government requires vulnerable households to bear at proportions far exceeding traditional benchmarks.***
- 3. Undertakes to inform communities of the adverse implications of legislative reforms and is prepared to facilitate and lead 'public interest' deputations to government ministries.***

Grey Power Upper Hutt is making this statement to acquaint all candidates with the attributes sought from those who advance to represent their community for the next triennium.

Our monthly meeting to be held on Wednesday 17th September will provide an opportunity to hear Mayoral Candidates' responses to our 'public interest' expectations.

Authorised by: **Lew Rohloff**

Vice President / Grey Power Upper Hutt Association

Note to readers: This letter will be published regularly up until the 11th of October.

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Heather Blissett

Local Water Done Well – The title is misleading to say the least: Heather Blissett

Ko au te awa ko te awa ko au / I am the river the river is me.

In a nutshell. The Council was given one year to decide whether we controlled our own water or joined forces with other Councils. That decision was required by the Department of Internal Affairs by the 3rd of September 2025 with much of the information missing.

That's like signing a bank agreement for a loan without knowing what the interest rate will be or the terms of the loan. If Council buried their head in the sand and did nothing the Commissioner would make the decision for us.

On the 20th of August Local Water Done Well was passed at an Ordinary Council meeting. The minutes note that as a city we 'still have a stake through shareholding in the new company' (<https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/2/meetings/2025/cycle-5/council-minutes-20-august-2025.pdf>) and the new entity called Metro Water will be live on the 1st of July 2026.

In the meantime we are still responsible for existing water related costs such as Pinehaven (currently on hold due to escalation of cost as decided in a GWRC meeting <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/infrastructure-projects/pinehaven-culverts/pinehaven-floodplain-management-plan-fmp-partial-review.pdf?>) dated 25 May 2025. Thank you to Cr Ultra for sharing.

Throughout this process there have been many concerns from community and rightly so. Such as:

Water meters and the effects this will have on us financially and water availability,

Cost of Living Crisis,

The Fabians did some extensive research and asked questions relating to data provided to the community in the latest Annual Plan consultation booklet. Their findings suggest that we will be charged \$7 per day. Getting anyone to provide differing information has proved futile. <https://www.nzempowered.com/post/local-water-done-well>.

No one knows what the new entity will cost us. Ideally, whatever we currently pay should just be charged by a different name with no increase. If anything, a decrease because we are sharing resources and costs.

There has been no mention of environmental sustainability. Growth of 30% is mentioned often. The Pipe Bridge in Kaitoke has capacity transport up to 140,000,000 (million) litres of water from Pakuratahi River PER DAY to supply half the regions daily water needs (just one of four water sources in the area). Yet the treatment plant can only process 80 million litres of water per day. How will 30% growth affect the take from our water and the environmental effect this will have on te taiao. Everything has a cause and effect. The suggestion is another storage lake. Is that compounding the issue. Many have asked why are we flushing our toilets with treated water when it could be harvested water for example.

I have concerns that we are becoming co-dependent rather than truly resilient. Imagine if something were to go wrong. We are completely reliant on infrastructure. Most of us can live for years without power, albeit uncomfortably perhaps. However, we cannot live more than 3-5 days without water.

Continued on Page 30.

At the meeting on the 20th of August, I asked why Silverstream Forest was included in the document as a future project when their neighbour Blue Mountains are fully self-sufficient for water. If it suggests that infrastructure is going to be hauled up a hill then who will be paying that cost? The ratepayer under Metro Water?

Weaving the Harakeke held a special meeting on the 21st of July 2025 to discuss water with our Chief Executive Geoff Swainson. We had the opportunity to share our concerns in person kanohi ki te kanohi and Geoff answered each and every one of us with the knowledge available. The questions and answers can be found here. <https://www.nzempowered.com/post/weaving-the-harakeke-wai-worry-hui-minutes-21st-july-2025>.

Let's not forget that we are water. Wairua means two waters.

Someone mentioned at a recent hui that the water you drink in England has been through the human body and reprocessed at least 9 times. That's the known figure. The truth is we are 60-80% water which enters and exists our body and becomes part of the water cycle. So you are recycled water thousands of times over.

What Can we Do?

I've heard it said often that "there is nothing we can do!".
THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING THAT WE CAN DO.

We can ask the bank manager for more information before signing any documents. (metaphorically) or include 'subject to' clauses.

What were the effects of water meters being installed in other communities?

Find out if Government subsidies could be created and/or change building codes to create more resilient homes and communities?

This election we can vote for a team who will work together and more importantly SPEAK UP and SPEAK OUT on your behalf.

Water is not a thing or a resource. It lives and moves and sustains life.

How did the essentials of life become so unaffordable?

Authorized by Heather Blissett of Upper Hutt.

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

08/09/25

SPORTS



Upper Hutt Petanque Club

Upper Hutt Petanque Club comes in second at the Baine Trophy 2025 tournament in Naenae

The Baine Trophy 2025 tournament was held on Sunday 7th September 2025 at Naenae Petanque Club. This tournament is played between Masterton, Upper Hutt, Silverstream and Naenae clubs, and was designed to encourage newer players to compete in more inter-club competition, without being too onerous regarding rules, and ensuring everyone has a good social day. The weather was mostly sunny and warm, and all the clubs were well represented, with 7 from Naenae, 6 from Upper Hutt, 5 from Silverstream and 4 from Masterton. 5 rounds of 50m doubles games were played, with alternative players allowed between games to involve as many players as possible. Upper Hutt especially had a good number of newer players, who were paired with more experienced players for guidance and encouragement. Scores were 2 points for a win, and 1 point for a draw. After all 5 rounds, The total scores per club were divided by the number of teams entered by that club, to obtain an average score per club. The club with the highest average is the winner. Naenae were placed 3rd, Upper Hutt were 2nd, and Masterton went home with the prized trophy, previously held by Upper Hutt for both 2023 and 2024. The majority of the Upper Hutt team for 2025 is shown in the photo, missing only Bev Plowman. Well done all players, and thanks to Naenae for hosting this year.

Source: Upper Hutt Petanque Club

08/09/25

Weekend football results: 6th of September / 7th of September

Our weekend fixtures are up with our U19s starting strong at Ivan England on Saturday!

Also congrats on wins across the board for RJ's, Saints, U13 TDP with a special mention to our U17 TDP who dominated 10-0 against Karori yesterday.

Will Taylor scored an impressive 6 goals which sees him now 13 goals clear at the top for Golden Boot in U17 Mixed CDL grade.

Additional congrats to our youth teams who saw some great results in the Wellington Graded Champs over the weekend.

Source: Upper Hutt City Football.

08/09/25



IVAN ENGLAND
U19 Men's Tournament 2025

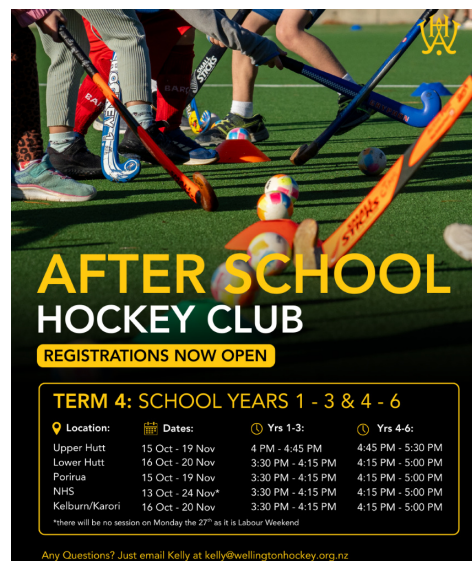
Results - Round One
Saturday 6th Sept
Match 1 - Upper Hutt v Petone at 10am
Draw 1-1
Match 2 - Upper Hutt v Lower Hutt at 12pm
Won 3-0

Weekend RESULTS

UHCF U15 Orange	2-5	Island Bay Sharks
UHCF RJ's	7-1	The KCU Corinthians
UHCF Saints	3-1	Island Bay Internationals
UHCF Women's Reserves	1-3	Wellington United Emeralds
UHCF U13 Orange	4-2	Waterside Karori Swifts U13
UHCF U14 CDL Meerkats	0-3	Te Kōwhiri FC Rockets
UHCF U15 Orange	0-11	WPK Academy U15 Boys
UHCF U16 Amazons	2-4	Miramar Rangers U16 Girls
UHCF U17 Orange	10-0	Waterside Karori Swifts U17

Upper Hutt City Football

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



AFTER SCHOOL HOCKEY CLUB
REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

TERM 4: SCHOOL YEARS 1 - 3 & 4 - 6

Location:	Dates:	Yrs 1-3:	Yrs 4-6:
Upper Hutt	15 Oct - 19 Nov	4 PM - 4:45 PM	4:45 PM - 5:30 PM
Lower Hutt	16 Oct - 20 Nov	3:30 PM - 4:15 PM	4:15 PM - 5:00 PM
Porirua	15 Oct - 19 Nov	3:30 PM - 4:15 PM	4:15 PM - 5:00 PM
NHS	13 Oct - 24 Nov*	3:30 PM - 4:15 PM	4:15 PM - 5:00 PM
Kelburn/Karori	16 Oct - 20 Nov	3:30 PM - 4:15 PM	4:15 PM - 5:00 PM

*there will be no session on Monday the 27th as it is Labour Weekend

Any Questions? Just email Kelly at kelly@wellingtonhockey.org.nz

Wellington Hockey Association

After school hockey club at Maidstone Park: Wednesdays, 15th of October – 19th of November

Looking for a fun and active way to finish the school day?

Our After School Hockey Club is back this Term 4 and bigger than ever, with five hubs running across the region!

Maidstone Park: Years 1 - 3: 4 - 4:45 PM | Years 4 - 6: 4:45 - 5:30 PM

The programme runs for six weeks and offers a blend of learning, fun, and connection. Whether your child is picking up a stick for the first time or building on their skills, it's a great way to stay active and enjoy more time at the turf!

Register now at the link below or visit our website for more information.

<https://www.playhq.com/hockey-new-zealand/register/9dfb31>

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

04/09/25



AI Generated

Age Concern Social Connection Hub: Wednesday 10th of September, 12.00 pm

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

Source: Age Concern Wellington

04/09/25



Staglands Wildlife Reserve & Café

Celebrate the opening of Staglands' new Main Entrance and Café with 1/2 Priced Kids Entry these school holidays! 20th of September – 5th of October

Staglands' new Main Entrance & Café is officially open!

To celebrate this exciting milestone, ALL KIDS GET ½ PRICE ENTRY these school holidays. Gather the whānau, come and explore our beautiful new space, and be part of the celebrations.

Offer valid: 20th September – 5th October

Not available with any other offer.

www.staglands.co.nz

A "thank you" to Wendy at Staglands Wildlife Reserve & Café for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

04/09/25

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Lilia Alexander / Blossom Valley

Blossom Valley 2025: 6th of September – 5th of October

Location: Aston Norwood Gardens, Kaitoke, 1747 State Highway 2, Upper Hutt

Blossom Valley started in 2021 after two years of growing numbers turning up to see the blossoms. Numbers started at 3000 and have steadily grown to in excess of 30,000 each year with guests arriving from all over New Zealand and a growing number from around the world including us in their travel plans.

WellingtonNZ set up during COVID to promote local events sponsored us for two years enabling a trial of the now very popular After Dark experience where literally 14 acres of gardens are lit up for the Blossom festival.

Blossom Valley 2025 runs from September 6 through October 5. As always the Stables food area will be available and this year sees the return of the Japanese Streetfood style of catering. There is also the introduction of the flexipass which enables guests to pick the day they want to come. This means you can wait for the perfect day and best blossom to make your visit.

Blossom Valley is a family friendly annual event which enjoys a diverse range of ethnicities visiting and ages literally from 1 day old to 100 years. We are really excited to once again host this event at Aston Norwood Gardens, Kaitoke, Upper Hutt.

Tickets are available at Blossomvalley.nz

A "thank you" to Mark at Aston Norwood for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

18/08/25

Note to readers: This event is going to be run until the 5th of October.



Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

Cover Story @ The Cossie! Saturday 13th of September, 9.00 pm

Location: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, 12 Logan Street, Upper Hutt

Come down to the Cossie to catch the excitement as Cover Story hits the stage after the rugby! Known across New Zealand for delivering high-energy performances, Cover Story brings professional, crowd-pleasing music from every genre imaginable, perfect for everything from corporate events and weddings to festivals like Brew Day, Ignite Marlborough, and Toast Martinborough.

This dynamic 4-piece band features Awan Gde on bass and vocals, Mark Bisson and Tai Fuimaono alternating on drums, Awerangi Thompson as lead vocalist, and Eoin Williams on guitar and vocals.

For further details contact the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club.

Source: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

05/09/25

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



Invites you to hear the Mayoral Candidates

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

Wednesday, 17th September 2025
Commencing at 1:30 pm

All voters are welcome to attend and are requested to be seated early as a courtesy to the candidates



Upper Hutt Grey Power

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PSA MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM

Maidstone Sports Hub
11 Railway Avenue, Maidstone
Upper Hutt

Tuesday 16 September
Venue opens at 6pm
Forum runs from 6.30-8pm

Contributor: Janine

PSA Mayoral Candidate Forum: Tuesday 16th of September – Doors open 6.00 pm / Forum runs 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Location: Maidstone Sports Hub, 11 Railway Ave, Maidstone, Upper Hutt

The Public Service Association is pleased to invite you to PSA's mayoral candidates' event in Upper Hutt.

Each Mayoral candidate will have few minutes to introduce themselves, followed by some questions from our MC. Then the floor will be open to attendees to ask questions.

With six candidates wanting to be mayor this is an excellent opportunity to hear directly from the candidates to help you determine who you think will be best for the job.

Come along with your friends and whānau to hear directly from the candidates who want to represent you.

RSVP here <https://forms.office.com/r/FiAatnazFs>

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

03/09/25



Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

Sam Hyde Live @ The Cossie! Friday 12th of September, 7.30 pm

Location: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, 12 Logan Street, Upper Hutt

Get ready for an unforgettable night as Sam Hyde takes the stage in the Main Bar on Friday, 12th September!

Sam delivers electrifying renditions that pay homage to music's greatest legends. From soulful ballads to high-energy anthems, his versatile performances will have something for everyone.

Come along, soak up the atmosphere, and enjoy the magic of live music with Sam Hyde!

For further details, contact The Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club.

Source: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

05/09/25

Staying Safe Refresher Driving Course for older drivers: Wednesday 17th of September, 10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Staying Safe is a classroom-based refresher workshop for senior road users. Age Concern runs these workshops in partnership with Waka Kotahi (NZTA).

The workshop aims to maintain and improve safe driving practices and increase the knowledge of other transport options available to help senior road users remain safely mobile.

The free interactive workshop runs for around 4 hours, with refreshments provided.

Spaces at each workshop are limited so please register on our website: <https://www.acwellington.org.nz/events/staying-safe/> or call us 027 248 0335

Source: Age Concern Wellington Region

04/09/25

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St. Mary's Anglican Church – Silverstream

Silverstream Sunflower Growing Contest: Sunday 14th of September, 3.00 pm

Location: St. Mary's Church Silverstream, Terminus Street, Silverstream

Come and meet your neighbours and join in with the Silverstream Sunflower Growing Contest!

Potting day is Sunday 14 September at 3pm, St Mary's, Silverstream (Terminus Street)

Choose and pot your seed to take home to nature as it grows.

Who will grow the tallest?

A free event – all welcome!

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

09/09/25



Age Concern Wellington Region

St. Joseph's Scout Group Certified Organic Compost Fundraiser: \$10 per 40 litre bag – delivery day, 12th of October



SCOUTS[®]
New Zealand

ORGANIC COMPOST

St Joseph's Scout Group Fundraiser

\$10.00 - 40L bags
Delivered from 12/10/25

Back by popular demand - we've done a deal with a "top shelf" supplier of certified organic garden compost to give you a great product at a great price this spring.

We are getting it delivered in bulk, the scouts are adding their labour to fill 40L bags and we'll deliver to your door.
(Order & Pay Online to St Joseph's Scouts).

All profits go to support our youth.

Please think of them and your garden by ordering heaps.

 Order here!

ph 0226524002 / fundraising.stjosephs@group.scouts.nz



Brewtown Upper Hutt

**Tartan Up The Green:
Saturday 4th of October, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm**

Are you ready to be blown away by the power of the Pipes and Drums as Tartan Up The Green returns this October 4th for another rousing rendition of Bagpiping, Highland Drumming and Dancing!

Our mates from RNZPBA Wellington-Hawkes Bay Centre are back to curate their all-new take on traditional pipe and drum comps with some of the finest musicians in the country.

Save the date and we'll see you on the Green!

FREE ENTRY

Source: Brewtown Upper Hutt

06/09/25



The Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

The Young Once: Sunday 14th of September, 4.00 pm

Location: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club, 12 Logan Street, Upper Hutt

Wrap up your week with a nostalgic trip down memory lane as The Young Once take over the Sports Bar! on Sunday, 14th September, from 4–7 pm for a lively afternoon filled with the unforgettable sounds of the '60s and '70s.

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

Contact the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club for further details.

Source: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

05/09/25



Authorised by Tofa Gush

Tofa Gush “meet and greet” events: 10th, 13th, 17th, and 24th of September

Tofa will be hosting Community Meet and Greets at the Monterey Cinemas Cafe Upper Hutt during September. All welcome!

Join us to learn more about Tofa's vision for Upper Hutt and her values.

- Wednesday 10 September, Monterey Cafe 7-8pm
- Saturday 13 September, Upper Hutt Spring Festival, Main Street
- Wednesday 17 September, Monterey Cafe 10:30-11:30am
- Wednesday 24 September, Monterey Cafe 10:30-11:30am

A “thank you” to Tofa Gush for sending this article to *The Upper Hutt Connection* / Source: <https://www.vote4tofa.co.nz>

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Upper Hutt Libraries

Trivia Quiz for Seniors: Wednesday 8th of October, 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm

Location: Upper Hutt Library

Our entertaining Trivia Quiz for Seniors is back – great company, laughter, and lots of fun guaranteed!

Light refreshments and nibbles included, to keep you going through the really tough questions.

Registration required. You may register a team (up to 6 people) or register as a single person and will with match you with a team on the day.

For more info, and to register, visit our website: https://www.upperhuttlibrary.co.nz/Events/Trivia-Quiz-for-Seniors?fbclid=IwY2xjawMrEDdleHRuA2FibQlXMAbicmlkETF4OUtNa1VNWEZZT2xVTvIvAR48HEzjhqW-aG56TrBYiETFt0FIB4D2sNPSFLe1MsYTpkeoGMS2EAkA15Z6IA_aem_Suzd1n3971L-Wxm-9rWbAA

Source: Upper Hutt Libraries

08/09/25



Upper Hutt Spring Festival: 13th of September, 9.00 am - 3.00 pm

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Upper Hutt City Football September holiday programme: Last day to register, Saturday 20th of September

Registrations for our September School Holiday Programme are officially open online.

We will be running this for the entire first week of the holidays (Mon-Fri)

Secure your place via: <https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/368263>

For questions or more info contact Jonathan Winkworth at jonathan@upperhuttcityfootball.org.nz

Source: Upper Hutt City Football

04/09/25



Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club Open Weekend: 26th – 28th of September

We're excited to announce that we're hosting an Open Weekend from September 26th to 28th to showcase our club, its facilities, activities, and all the benefits of membership.

Here's what's happening:

Friday – Members' Day: A special day to thank our members for their support, with entertainment, happy hours, spot prizes, and "Sign a Mate Up" promotions.

Saturday – Open to All: A day for everyone—young and old—to explore the club in full swing! Expect tours, great promotions, spot prizes, the All Blacks on the big screen, and more fantastic entertainment.

Sunday – Family Day: Fun for the whole family with bouncy castles, face painting, a kids' DJ, membership promotions, and a Mega Raffle fundraiser supporting the Clubs NZ Club Connect well-being programme. This initiative, inspired by Craig "Wiggy" Wiggins' work in rural communities, is bringing vital support resources to clubs across New Zealand.

This is a great opportunity to come in and have a look around to see what the Cossie is all about. More details will be released as we get closer but there will definitely be something for everyone.

Contact the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club for further details.

Source: Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club

06/09/25



visitalbuquerque.org

Want to have fun, Keep fit, Meet friends? – Square Dancing could be for you!

Beginners classes are held at:

Mondays 7.30pm – At the Masonic Lodge Hall at 27 Islington Street, Upper Hutt

Phone Winton: 0220157989

Wednesdays 7.00 pm at Avalon Public Hall, Mabey Road, Avalon, Lower Hutt

Phone Kathy 02102902108

Wear soft-soled comfortable shoes.

See our Spring Festival Demonstration Dance at 12.45 pm on the 13th of September, outside the ANZ bank.

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

03/09/25



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NOTICE: Weaving the Harakeke event on the 22nd of September:

The meet the candidates event a Ōrongomai Marae on Monday the 22nd of September has had its hours changed from 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm to 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm



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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

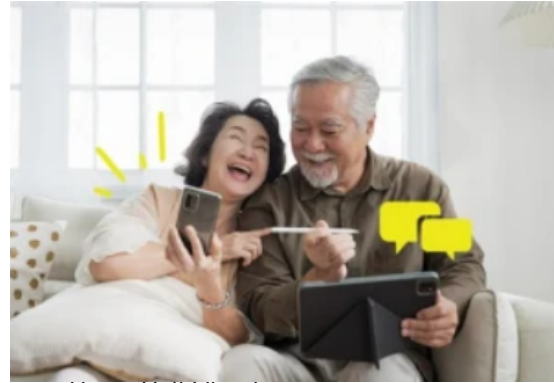
St. Margaret's Playgroup: Tuesday Mornings, 10.00 am – 11.30 am (term time only)

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

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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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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.

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



AI Generated

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RECIPES

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

Cheers, Ben

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

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

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



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 986 subscribers.

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

Restrictions

As for restrictions on who can advertise, the only exclusion is the sex industry. Everyone else is welcome to advertise on The Upper Hutt Connection.

If you're interested in advertising on The Upper Hutt Connection, please email me at editor@uhconnection.co.nz

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

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



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WORSHIP SERVICES

Heretaunga Community Church

Live for Jesus, Share his Love

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

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

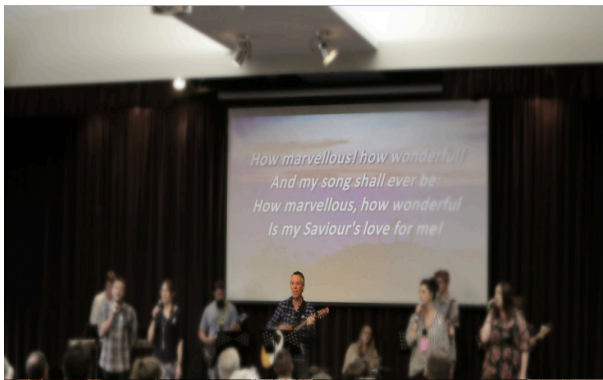
Our Creche for children under 3 1/2 years runs every Sunday morning. Our Children's Church runs Sundays during school terms.

Services are live-streamed on YouTube: Heretaunga Community Church

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

Email: admin@heretaunga.com

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



Heretaunga Community Church

St. Margaret's Presbyterian Church - Silverstream

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

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

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

Worship services: Our worship services take place on Sundays at 10.00am.

The First Sunday of each month is a Communion Service and the second Sunday is a Family Service.

Our services are fairly traditional, and we have a very warm and welcoming congregation. All are welcome.

Our services are live streamed on Zoom. If you wish to receive the link, please text Lynley McInnarney at 027 278 0010 or send an email to mcinnarneys@gmail.com.

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

St Margaret's runs a teenage youth group on the second and fourth Thursday of the month in the church hall and lounge during term time. Youth group runs from 6.30pm to around 8.00pm.

Other contact details: The Lay leader (Session Clerk) at St Margaret's is Chris Rosanowski and he can be contacted at rosanowskic@gmail.com

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

<https://stmargaretssilverstream.org.nz>



St. Margaret's Presbyterian Church - Silverstream

Rimutaka Baptist Church

Location: 2 Akatarawa Road, Brown Owl, Upper Hutt

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

Tuesdays

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

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

Wednesdays

Community craft session: 10.30 am – 12noon – Free

Bring along your craft and join us for morning tea.

Community Lunch: 12noon – Free

All welcome

Bible study: 7.00 pm – Free

All welcome to learn more about the Christian faith.

Fridays

Rimutaka Playgroup: 9.00 am – 11.30am – Donation

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

Youthgroup: 7.00 pm – Donation

Contact the church for details

Sundays

Church Service: 10.00 am

All welcome, and please stay for morning tea after the service.

Sunday online recording available on YouTube from 5.00 pm



Google Maps: Sky Stream Media

Room Hire

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

All Enquires: 04 5268708

Email: rbc.office@xtra.co.nz

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

23/04/25



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 11th of September, 2025

View all films releasing this week at <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/coming-soon>

DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA INFINITY CASTLE (SUBTITLES)

Running time: 155 minutes

Rated: R13 (Bloody violence, suicide & content that may disturb)

Tanjiro Kamado – a boy who joined an organization dedicated to hunting down demons called the Demon Slayer Corps after his younger sister Nezuko was turned into a demon.

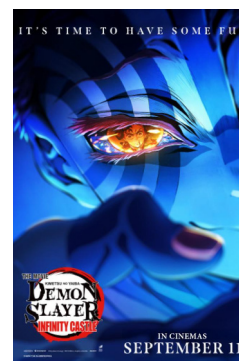
While growing stronger and deepening his friendships and bonds with fellow corps members, Tanjiro has battled many demons with his comrades – Zenitsu Agatsuma and Inosuke Hashibira. Along the way, his journey has led him to fight alongside the Demon Slayer Corps' highest-ranking swordsmen, the Hashira, including Flame Hashira Kyojuro Rengoku aboard the Mugen Train, Sound Hashira Tengen Uzui within the Entertainment District, as well as Mist Hashira Muichiro Tokito and Love Hashira Mitsuri Kanroji at the Swordsmith Village.

As the Demon Slayer Corps members and Hashira engaged in a group strength training program, the Hashira Training, in preparation for the forthcoming battle against the demons, Muzan Kibutsuji appears at the Ubuyashiki Mansion. With the head of the Demon Corps in danger, Tanjiro and the Hashira rush to the headquarters but are plunged into a deep descent to a mysterious space by the hands of Muzan Kibutsuji.

The destination of where Tanjiro and Demon Slayer Corps have fallen is the demons' stronghold – the Infinity Castle. And so, the battleground is set as the final battle between the Demon Slayer Corps and the demons ignites.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/demon-slayer-kimetsu-no-yaiba-infinity-castle-su>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt32820897/videooplayer/vi434489369/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_4_tt_8_nm_0_in_0_q_Demon%2520Slayer



*Demon Slayer:
Kimetsu no Yaiba
Infinity Castle*

DOWNTON ABBEY: THE GRAND FINALE

Running time: 124 minutes

Rated: PG (Coarse language & sexual references)

DOWNTON ABBEY: THE GRAND FINALE, the cinematic return of the global phenomenon, follows the Crawley family and their staff as they enter the 1930s. As the beloved cast of characters navigates how to lead Downton Abbey into the future, they must embrace change and welcome a new chapter.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/downton-abbey-the-grand-finale>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt31888477/videooplayer/vi2129053721/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_4_tt_8_nm_0_in_0_q_Downton%2520Abbey



*Downton Abbey: The
Grand Finale*

Continued on Page 48.

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THE LONG WALK

Running time: 108 minutes

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

From the highly anticipated adaptation of master storyteller Stephen King's first-written novel, and Francis Lawrence, the visionary director of The Hunger Games franchise films (Catching Fire, Mockingjay – Pts. 1 & 2, and The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes), comes THE LONG WALK, an intense, chilling, and emotional thriller that challenges audiences to confront a haunting question: how far could you go?

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/the-long-walk>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10374610/videooplayer/vi2796079129/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_2_tt_8_nm_0_in_0_q_The%2520Long%2520Walk



The Long Walk

TOY STORY (30th ANNIVERSARY)

Running time: 78 minutes

Rated: G

A cowboy doll is profoundly threatened and jealous when a new spaceman figure supplants him as top toy in a boy's room.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/toy-story-30th-anniversary>

View trailer on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9hsA-LjQtk&pp=ygURdG95IHNoY3J5IHRYZWlsZXI%3D>



Toy Story (30th Anniversary)

AABEER GULAAL

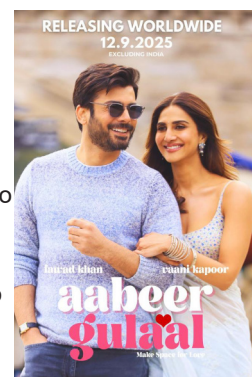
Running time: 133 minutes

Rated: PG (Coarse language)

When spirited Gulaal escapes an arranged marriage and lands in London, she crashes into the life of Aabeer Singh — a guarded restaurateur with a complicated past. Their lives collide through chaos, dance classes, and unexpected late-night rescues. What begins as rivalry slowly simmers into something deeper neither is ready for. But love demands more than chemistry. Aabeer Gulaal is a joyful, heartfelt romance that asks its lead characters to heal, forgive, grow and make space for love.

Book Here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/aabeer-gulaal>

View trailer at YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxWPt2QLT0A&pp=ygUUQWFIZWVlEd1bGFsIHRYZWlsZXI%3D>



Aabeer Gulaal

Continued on Page 49.

PUNJABI AA GAYE OYE

Running time: 141 minutes

Rated: M (Violence)

Punjabi Aa Gaye Oye is a heartwarming and hilarious journey that follows the lives of four mischievous yet lovable kids—Batak, Timari, Pamiri, and Fulchadi—and their quirky but big-hearted caretaker, Kachori. Set against a vibrant Punjabi backdrop, this story is packed with laughter, chaos, emotional twists, and endless fun. Punjabi Aa Gaye is a full family entertainment package, where you can bring your kids and family and enjoy the beautiful journey of Kachori and his 4 kids.

Book here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/punjabi-aa-gaye-oye>

View trailer at YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRf6uHJcg8Q&pp=ygUhchVvamFiaSBhYSBnYXllIG95ZSBtb3ZpZSB0cmFpbGVy>

Source: Monterey Cinemas Upper Hutt

09/09/25

