

THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION



A LOCAL NEWSPAPER - FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

The Upper Hutt Connection - Wednesday Edition:
29th of October 2025

Website: uhconnection.co.nz
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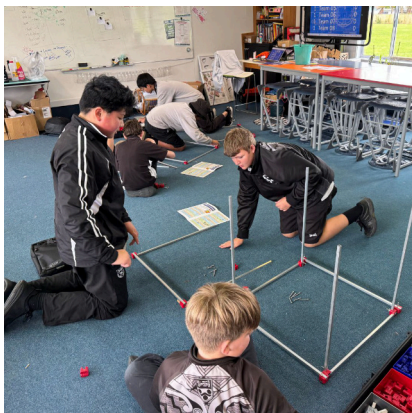
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Maidstone Intermediate

A week at Maidstone: 22nd of October – 27th of October

The ākonga had a blast taking part in the EPro8 Challenge! Using the special kits, they got hands-on with engineering and problem-solving activities, building everything from a jack-in-the-box to a sling shot launcher.

Maidstone Intermediate hosted the Upper Hutt Cluster Teachers Only Day in Upper Hutt, due to the NZEI Te Riu Roa strike action.

And the Maidstone Pasifika group performed at Polyfest 2025.

<https://maoridictionary.co.nz/>

To see all photos related to this article, please view <https://uhconnection.co.nz/school-news/a-week-at-maidstone-22nd-of-october-27th-of-october/>

Source: Maidstone Intermediate / A “thank you” to Maidstone Intermediate for their permission to share their school news on The Upper Hutt Connection.

28/10/25



A Line of Railway By W N Cameron, photograph Pg 233 by D K G Greenhill

Postal History Corner: Hayward's Post Office

The Hayward's Post Office opened on 14 December 1903 and closed on 28 February 1923.

Although the district was known as Haywards, the post office had an apostrophe in the name.

The railway station at Haywards on the Wellington – Hutt Valley line came into service in 1876. Although the population in the area was sparse it was of importance through being the only designated crossing station between Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt. The need for postal facilities was satisfied with the opening of a post office in the station building in 1903. was demolished and replaced by a “shelter shed”, as the photograph taken in 1953 shows. The rural character of the area is depicted in the background.

The names and dates of the Postmasters (who were also the Stationmasters) can be seen at the link provided: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/general-news/postal-history-corner-haywards-post-office/>

Post Office business was minimal, and the salary of the Postmaster was paid by the Railways. The office transferred from railway control on 30 September 1922 with the appointment of Charles Neave who was paid £5 (\$10) per annum. It was likely that the post office transferred to a nearby resident's home.

Only one postmark is recorded as being used at Hayward's and examples are scarce. Recorded from 4 Oct 1904 until 23 Jun 1913.

Are there more envelopes and postcards that were mailed from Hayward's waiting to be discovered to record further dates of usage?

An article in the New Zealand Mail date 4 May 1904* describes the train journey from Petone to Upper Hutt and Haywards station as being “situated at the outlet of Judgford Valley, the scenery hereabouts being somewhat similar to that surrounding Belmont”.Source – <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/NZMAIL19040504.2.130?>

Continued on Page 4.

It describes Belmont as “bush clad terraces, verdant gluches and green nooks has become an attractive spot for picnics and junketings”

The article also lists the “Business Men of the Lower and Upper Hutt”.

To see all images related to this article, please view <https://uhconnection.co.nz/general-news/postal-history-corner-haywards-post-office/>

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

28/10/25



Google Maps

Stream Grove railway/pedestrian crossing to be replaced between the 25th – 30th of October

The crossing at Stream Grove is going to be replaced between the 25th and the 30th of October. During this time, pedestrians are asked to use the crossing at Silverstream railway station.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

22/10/25



AI Generated

The council is seeking your feedback on their review of the Prevention of Nuisance from Fires and Smoke Bylaw: Consultation ends 27th of November 2025

Prevention of Nuisance from Fires and Smoke Bylaw Review and Proposed Updates

Council is reviewing its Prevention of Nuisance from Fires and Smoke Bylaw, and we need your feedback.

This review is required under the Local Government Act 2002, and we're also proposing two updates to make the bylaw clearer and more transparent.

Your views will help Council decide whether to keep the bylaw and adopt the proposed updates.

Consultation is open 22 October – 27 November 2025 (5pm)

Why We Have a Fire and Smoke Nuisance Bylaw

This bylaw protects the public from the nuisance caused by smoke, noxious fumes, or uncontrolled fires – except for fire safety issues, which are managed by Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) under the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017.

The bylaw:

- Prohibits fires, smoke, or fumes that create a nuisance, health risk, or safety risk to any person or property (excluding fire safety issues covered by FENZ).
- Allows Council officers to take reasonable steps to abate (reduce or stop) the nuisance – including requiring a fire to be extinguished.

Continued on Page 5.

- Allows Council to recover costs if it must take action.

This approach is more practical than relying on voluntary compliance or going through the District Court under the Health Act 1956. It also provides officers with the tools to respond quickly and maintain community safety.

What the Bylaw Does

The bylaw makes it an offence to:

- Light or allow to remain lit a fire that creates a nuisance, health risk, or safety risk to any person or property.
- Allow smoke, noxious fumes, or other matter to be emitted in a way that creates a nuisance, health risk, or safety risk.

If required, authorised officers can:

- Direct a property owner to extinguish a fire.
- Enter property without notice if immediate action is needed (under the Health Act 1956).
- Take reasonable steps to stop or remove the nuisance.

Serious fire safety risks are referred to Fire and Emergency New Zealand; environmental pollution risks are referred to Greater Wellington Regional Council.

How the Bylaw Has Worked So Far

- 235 fire and smoke nuisance requests were made to Council between June 2019 and April 2025.
- Most complaints were resolved with warnings and voluntary extinguishing of fires.
- From September 2023 to April 2025 (89 complaints):
 - 55% were about burning rubbish or toxic materials.
 - 20% were about outdoor fires or bonfires.
 - 12% were general concerns about smoke or fire.

Officers have not yet needed to extinguish fires forcibly, as people have complied when asked.

Proposed Updates to the Bylaw

The bylaw is fit for purpose and remains the most appropriate way to deal with nuisance from smoke and fire.

We're proposing two small updates to make it clearer and more transparent (these do not create new rules):

1. Full definition of "nuisance"

Currently, the bylaw only refers to the Health Act 1956. We propose to include the full text of section 29(m) and (n) so the public can see exactly how "nuisance" is defined.

2. Add a Penalties section (Section 6)

Council already has the power to impose penalties for breaches, but we propose to add a dedicated section so the public clearly understands the potential fines and enforcement powers.

These changes bring the bylaw in line with Council's Public Places Bylaw 2005 and increase transparency.

For information on how to have your say and how to make a submission, please view: <https://letskorero.upperhutt.govt.nz/prevention-of-nuisance-from-fires-and-smoke-bylaw>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council / A "thank you" to NZ Empowered (nzempowered.com) for requesting that this article be put up on The Upper Hutt Connection.

23/10/25



Wellington Water

Whakawhirinaki Silverstream Pipe Bridge now open to pedestrians and cyclists

The Whakawhirinaki Silverstream Pipe Bridge opened for pedestrians and cyclists on Friday the 24th of October.

Final works are being completed on Fergusson Drive before the reinstatement of the road surfaces. Traffic management is expected to remain until early November. The old pipe which runs underneath Silverstream bridge will be removed next month – this is weather dependent as the work necessary to remove the pipe needs to be accessed from the riverbed.

Source: Wellington Water

28/10/25



Kim Cunio , Amelia Lin and Jian Liu -Head of Piano Studies , Victoria University of Wellington

What a wonderful afternoon of music says Trust Chair Paul Lambert

The Upper Hutt Piano Trust is thrilled to celebrate the success of today's Scholarship Concert Sunday 26 October , featuring the incredibly talented Amelia Lin at Whirinaki Whare Taonga.

Amelia delivered a stunning performance that wowed the audience with her skill, sensitivity, and stage presence — a true reflection of the bright future ahead for young New Zealand pianists.

We were also honoured to welcome Professor Kim Cunio, Head of Te Toki – New Zealand School of Music at Victoria University of Wellington, who gave a fascinating pre-concert talk about creativity, music, and education in Aotearoa.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along, to our wonderful hosts at Whirinaki Whare Taonga, and to all those who continue to support the Trust's mission to encourage and celebrate musical excellence in Upper Hutt.

We will be back in March 2026 when another series of Lunchtime Live starts with eight concerts through to October by students from NZ School of Music .Keep in touch by checking out the Classical Expressions 2026 Season here <https://www.whirinakiarts.org.nz/events/classical-expressions-2026/>

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

28/10/25



Friends of Mawaihakona Stream

What's going on at Mawaihakona Stream?

Stage Two of the land development adjacent to the stream has begun.

This involves raising the land up to circa 3m within the bund (embankment) currently being built back to the Stage One land that has already been raised.

Presently, an existing sewer line is being upgraded prior to the infill commencing.

The rest of the paddock between the bund and the river trail will be excavated to an average depth of 1.5m and used as fill for the land being raised. The topsoil will be set aside and spread/grassed, re-creating the flood plain area capacity.

The power and gas lines that run across the paddocks will not be disturbed.

The stream track on the side adjacent to this work will be closed off for safety reasons and will be re-opened once the adjacent work is no longer a safety risk.

Once the fill from this paddock area has been removed, the excavation works will move to the other side of the stream, removing an average 1.5m from the paddocks up as far as the formed pathway from Heretaunga Park to the river trail. There will be no encroachment on the planting alongside the stream. Once this work starts, there will be a lot of truck movement.

In early 2026, a temporary bridge will be installed across the ford to avoid damage to the stream. The trucks are not permitted to enter the stream at all.

At this point, there will be no access from one side of the ford to the other. Your path walking will need to be in and back the same way you came.

If all goes well and the weather behaves itself, the developers are hopeful of completing this work by mid to late 2026.

Off-limit areas will change as the work progresses.

The haymaker will be doing one more run of grass collection prior to the paddocks being dug up. Just awaiting a run of fine weather!

Working bees to maintain the lower reaches of the stream and prevent it closing up with weed will generally be held on Sundays when the developers are not working.

We are currently looking at putting down base course gravel which will considerably improve the paths in winter weather. This is not a cheap exercise and grant applications are underway to raise the estimated \$20,000 for the complete job. At the earliest, nothing will be happening until the grounds harden up, but we have met with the developers who will enable us to get the materials in as we can afford it.

We are in touch with the project team and will keep you informed as new information comes to light.

Cheers

Stream volunteers

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

22/10/25



Contributor: Ron Edmonds / Upper Hutt Housing Charitable Trust

Upper Hutt Housing Charitable Trust office opening

Forty-eight main street is the new home of The Upper Hutt Housing Charitable Trust (UHHCT) and Hutt Valley Benefit Education Service Trust, (BEST). It was with a sense of joy and pride that we opened this new office facility on Friday the 10th of October. Guests from other similar Church and service organisations, The Mayor, Council Community Service Group members, the local MP's office, Work and Income, Police and other well wishers joined us in the celebrations.

Both the UHHCT and Best began their work in the Upper Hutt community as a Christian response to poverty and housing deprivation, works of Mercy. The two organisations fit well together as their purpose is to serve the needs of the people who are on the peripheries of our community due to being deprived access to financial independence, limiting their access to basic human necessities such as food, health care, shelter. The Mayor Wayne Guppy opened the facility commending the work of the UHHCT and BEST within Upper Hutt community. He noted that UHHCT was a nominee for the Wellington Airport Upper Hutt community award. Further noting that both UHHCT and BEST had their origins from local Catholic outreach groups. While this is the case UHHCT and BEST have had and have the support of other local Church groups and like minded people of good will who recognise the need of the marginalised and want to help. The chair of the UHHCT and service manager of BEST spoke of their different journeys to the new office of both. The UHHCT was varied, from an office in St Joseph's Church, to a garage in a rental property in Maoribank, to temporary facilities in the old Wallaceville Research complex made available by Malcolm Gillies, then 95B Main Street and now home at 48 Main Street. BEST was run from a house on the property of the Home of Compassion Silverstream then owned by the Compassion sisters, then 95B Main Street and now here. Both organisations are supported by boards committed to the work, friends of the organisations, and funders of not-for-profit groups, without them, there would be no facility to operate from.

The UHHCT seeks new board members who share the trust's Kaupapa To continue operating the trust needs to generate funding so are setting up a dedicated fund-raising group led by a member of the board. We seek as well, sponsors and benefactors with a heart for improving the plight of the vulnerable. If you can help to make a difference as a board member, help with fund raising, sponsor the work, or volunteer, please contact the Upper Hutt Housing Charitable Trust Secretary Judy Dixon 022 043 4703.

We acknowledge our sponsors.

UHHCT has been fortunate to receive funding from Sisters of St Joseph, Presentation Sisters, Tindall Foundation, Macarthy Trust, Upper Hutt City Council, Nikau Foundation plus other people who are generous and give regular monthly donations. The Trust is very grateful for this support.

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

21/10/25



Send an article to The Upper Hutt Connection
AI Generated

Send an article to The Upper Hutt Connection

I always welcome to any articles that are related to Upper Hutt. You can either send in articles by filling in the form on the website, or by messaging The Upper Hutt Connection on Facebook.

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

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

To better understand why I encourage the sending of articles and events from members of the public, please visit the link: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/it-takes-the-people-of-upper-hutt-to-make-the-upper-hutt-connection/>

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

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MATTERS



Upper Hutt City Council

Inaugural council meeting: Thursday 30th of October, 3.00 pm

The purpose of an Inaugural council meeting is to formally begin the new council's term by swearing in members. This ceremonial first meeting validates the elected members' positions and establishes the framework for their future decision-making and conduct.

Location: Te Kupenga o Rongomai | Maidstone Sports Hub, 11 Railway Avenue, Upper Hutt, 5018

Time: 3.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Inaugural Council Agenda: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/meetings/2025/post-election/inaugural-council-agenda-20251030.pdf>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

24/10/25

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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A Candidate Comments – Nigel Mander

Some newspapers are reluctant to give any space to local body elections, but I was glad to see The Upper Hutt Connection last week published the Preliminary Results for the Upper Hutt City Council election that closed on 11 October. After the 15 October edition had been published, the Final count of votes concluded a couple of days later. Candidates got a few more votes but their order didn't change, so the city councilors for the next three years are the people listed in The Upper Hutt Connection last week.

The contest for the mayoralty was separate from the race to be a councilor. I see that our new mayor, Peri Zee, got 5479 votes. In the separate race, twelve candidates for council got more votes than Peri Zee got (and the top ten of them join the Mayor in forming the Council).

Candidates who stood for both the mayoralty and the council, all got onto the council. The two men who were standing for the mayoralty were not also standing to be councilors, so Dr Wayne Guppy and Blair Griffiths are now taking a break from council service.

We live in interesting times!

Yours in the work for a better world,

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

21/10/25

SPORTS



Upper Hutt United Cricket Club

Cricket results for Saturday 25th of October

Not our Prem's day on Saturday, but our Reserves were firing with two strong wins!

And a well done to Ishan Singh on an outstanding 5-fa for our Reserves against Eastern Suburbs on Saturday afternoon!

See all images related to this article at <https://uhconnection.co.nz/sports/upper-hutt-united-cricket-club/cricket-results-for-saturday-25th-of-october/>

Source: Upper Hutt United Cricket Club

28/10/25



Upper Hutt Petanque Club

Geoff and Linda Brown win Upper Hutt Petanque Club's Doubles Championship

Upper Hutt Petanque Club held its 2025 Club Doubles Championship on a cool and mostly dry Sunday the 26th October 2025. 16 members (8 teams) took part in 4 random qualifying rounds, followed by the top 4 playing a semi-final round, and ending with a final for the top 2.

After the qualifying, the ranking was as shown below. The top 4 went into semi-finals, and the final playoff was between Julian/Peter and Geoff/Linda, with Geoff and Linda winning the final and taking the trophy. They make a great team!

Well done to all the players, especially the finalists, and thanks to all the spectators and helpers.

Geoff and Linda Brown will now represent UHPC at the Champion of Champions tournament on 13th December, to be held in Palmerston North, where the club champions from all the clubs in the Wellington region battle over the trophy.

To see all images related to this article, please view <https://uhconnection.co.nz/sports/upper-hutt-petanque/geoff-and-linda-brown-win-upper-hutt-petanque-clubs-doubles-championship/>

Source: Upper Hutt Petanque Club

28/10/25



Upper Hutt United Cricket Club

Sam Shukla and Sam Morgan played their 100th and 50th games on Saturday

A club stalwart plays his 100th game for the mighty Piwakawaka. Sam "Shuks" Shukla is one of those blokes that has never failed to make an impact since joining the Club in the 2018/19 season. Shuks has truly done it all – he's been a regular in the Prem's, captained the reserves, Club Captain and has recently been appointed Chair!

The only thing more impressive than his bat collection has been just how much Shuks puts back into the Club whether it be sorting game balls on a Friday night, ensuring both the Men's and Women's sides are sorted going into each weekend or sorting kit (Shuks also loves kit!). A lot of what Shuks does isn't always seen by the masses but the Club is reliant and grateful for the many silent hours Shuks puts in behind the scenes.

Cheers to one of the Clubs best!

Sam will step onto the field for the 50th time for Upper Hutt.

Sam joined us straight out of school and, after a short sabbatical, he rejoined the club at the end of the 2023/24 season. Since then, he has truly made his mark, scoring over a thousand runs last season — including a best of 226*, a club record. During the off-season, Sam was rewarded with his first contract with the Firebirds!

Continued on Page 12.

We wish Sam all the best this weekend and can't wait to celebrate what will surely be the first of many milestones in his career!

Source: Upper Hutt United Cricket Club

24/10/25



Upper Hutt Petanque Club

Upper Hutt Petanque Club defends the Jacques Cochonnett trophy against Horowhenua

Upper Hutt Petanque Club hosted a challenge by Horowhenua Petanque Club for the Jacques Cochonnett trophy on Wednesday 22nd October 2025 at their Maidstone Park terrain. In the 1st round, Upper Hutt took the doubles and triples games. This was repeated in the 2nd round, putting Upper Hutt up 4-2 and needing only 1 win from the 3rd round to retain the trophy. They went one better and took the singles and triples games, reaching an overall score of 6 games to 3, the 19th consecutive win and 18th defence for this prestigious trophy.

The Upper Hutt team consisted of Derek Worsley (singles), Dave Gwerder and Colin Gooch (doubles) and Brian Smith, Mary Khalil and Adrienne Gwerder (triples). The Horowhenua team consisted of Gavin Jones (singles), Marie Jones and Judy Tyree (doubles) and Ricky Winkler, Jon Whittaker and Jan Haumaha (triples)

The next challenge is from Naenae and will be away for Upper Hutt, after the last 5 challenges having being at home.

Source: Upper Hutt Petanque Club

23/10/25

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



Echo Tech NZ

FREE Echo E-Waste Recycling Day, SKY Stadium, Wellington: Sunday 2nd of November, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

Ready to finally clear out that drawer of outdated devices? We have the perfect solution!

Echo is partnering with the Wellington City Council and SKY Stadium to bring the first FREE e-day to central Wellington!

- Sunday 2nd November
- Held at SKY Stadium
- 105 Waterloo Quay, Wellington
- 9am – 1pm

Our team will unload everything at your convenience. We are proud to be a Variety partner and will be collecting donations via Cash & Eftpos.

Our accepted and non accepted items are as follows:

- Computers & Laptops
- Toner Cartridges
- Keyboards
- IP & Landline Phones
- Digital Cameras
- Tablets & Small Devices

Continued on Page 13.

- Mobile Phones
- Scanners / Fax Machines
- LCD & Plasma TVs
- Washing Machine & Dryers
- Dishwashers
- Fridges & Freezers
- Heatpumps
- Power boards & Multiplugs
- Photocopiers & Printers
- Servers & Switches
- Routers & Modems
- HDDS & USB Drives
- Wiring & Cabling
- AV Equipment & Stereos
- Oil Heaters
- Microwaves / Ovens
- Vacuums
- Kettles
- Batteries

NON-ACCEPTED ITEMS

Vapes, CDs & DVDs, Floppy Discs, LED & Household Lightbulbs, LPG Gas Bottles, Other hazardous waste e.g. paint, garden waste or general chemicals, furniture e.g. TV cabinets, medical devices or glass.

A "thank you" to Hannah Morgan at Echo Tech NZ for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

28/10/25

Community events, garage sales, etc are included regardless of their location – at the discretion of the Editor / Operator of The Upper Hutt Connection.



Upper Hutt Libraries

FREE screening of Future Council at Upper Hutt Library: Tuesday 18th of November, 6.00 pm

Join us for a free screening of 'Future Council.' Damon Gameau (2040, That Sugar Film) takes eight children on the ultimate school excursion: a road trip across Europe to meet with powerful leaders and find solutions to our greatest environmental challenges.

We will be joined by Sophie Handford (founder of NZ School Strike for Climate and a former Councillor for Kapiti Coast District Council from age 18). She is now working with the Wellbeing Economy Alliance Aotearoa and developing the 'Tomorrow Together' campaign, which advocates that our politics should have more long-term thinking, and that the choices we make today should ensure a thriving future for generations to come. Sophie will introduce this work and give opportunities to feed into it – all ages welcome!

Register at: https://au.openforms.com/Form/7360dca0-5a20-4998-b4da-5f9d8ade91f1?fbclid=IwY2xjawNmckxleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETF3bDRXZ0t5YXhhbFNkMEJoAR7DA3cFqB9n4gQ2mUKo6JGPGKfBohJ5z7LjynZ2zSqPfwYqPt mPixyjlYVT4Q_aem_7K19pM50xo0wBgtbm-XDzw

Source: Upper Hutt Libraries

23/10/25

Greenstone Doors Quiz Night:
Friday 7th of November, Door open
6.30 pm / Quiz starts 7.00 pm



Greenstone Doors

QUIZ NIGHT

Petone Club, 45/47 Udy Street, Petone

FRIDAY
07 November 2025

DOORS OPEN 6:30PM
QUIZ STARTS 7PM

TICKET PRICE
\$ 25 PER PERSON
TEAMS OF 6-8 PEOPLE

OFFICE@GREENSTONEDOORS.CO.NZ
EMAIL TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS!

Raffles
Mini Games
Supper Provided
Drinks available for purchase from the bar

Sponsored by
Anna Geremia-Young

Tall Poppy

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

22/10/25



LAUGH WITH LAUGHING CLUB

very good, very good yeah

• **Session Day:** every monday
 • **Time:** 6:30pm - 7:30pm
 • **Place:** Plunket rooms, 21 Tawai St, Trentham, Upper Hutt
 • **\$5 a session** to pay for venue

Enquires:
 Sharyn on 0272308289
 Sandra foglianis@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing and laughing with you

Laugh with Laughing Club: Every Monday, 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm

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

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Mainly Acoustic Music Club

www.mainlyacoustic.co.nz \$15 \$20 \$10 Cash only Keeping Music Live Text Only 0211 205 961

Adam McGrath
 Front man for The Eastern
 Stories of life - put to music

TUES 11 Nov '25

The Bidibids
 Home-grown Americana

Mayfair Café
 116 Main Street

7.30 - 10 pm

Karen Munro
 - Eclectic variety

Mainly Acoustic Presents: Tuesday 11th of August, 7.30 pm – 10.00 pm

Not to be missed !

A great night promised !

== ADAM MCGRATH ==

Adam McGrath is a folk singer and yarn spinner stationed wherever he can get a key! He is the winner of the 2024 Aotearoa/New Zealand Folk Artist of the Year Award at the Aotearoa/New Zealand music awards.

Described by RNZ as a "National Treasure" and the Herald as "NZ's toughest minded songwriter", Adam is more widely known as lead singer and songwriter with one of NZ's most loved roots/country bands The Eastern.

He spends 8 months a year on the road between NZ, Australia, Europe and parts beyond. With The Eastern and solo he has shared stages with and opened for Fleetwood Mac, Steve Earle, Old Crow Medicine Show, Paul Kelly, Jimmy Barnes and many, more. His song Hope and Wire was the inspiration behind Gaylene Preston's TV series of the same name and he is known for his service orientated approach to music in the years since.

Continued on Page 15.

Described as “maybe part folk singer, part preacher, part boxer, and part rodeo clown he is however all heart”. Raucous, tender, roof and spirit raising a McGrath show goes straight for the spirit level in all of us, looking deep for the good parts and hoping to reach all the thoughtful bits that matter.

-Q magazine (UK)

-NZ Herald

“NZ’s toughest minded songwriter”

-Graeme Reid

“One of the best modern roots artists, from any country”

-No Depression magazine

“A national treasure”

-Radio NZ National

== THE BIDIBIDS ==

You listen to folk music because you want to hear something intimate and honest. Something that speaks in your language. A connection from one human being to another. You want music that sounds like how you feel.

Since 2021, the Bidibids have become regulars in the Wellington folk scene. With Sarah August on banjo and guitar, Simon Carryer on cello-banjo, and Brendan Schenk on mandolin and guitar, they are steeped in bluegrass and Americana, but inspired by the idea of creating an authentic home-grown folk sound.

== KAREN MUNRO ==

Karen Munro’s repertoire of original songs provides an eclectic mix ranging from jazz blues, to trad to Americana.

Accompanying herself on guitar and sometimes mouth harp, she also plays fiddle and mandolin. Her first album, Across the Blue was released a few years ago and she is now on her second which she hopes to release early next year.

Source: *Mainly Acoustic Music Club – Upper Hutt*


23/10/25

A colorful poster for the St. Margaret's Church Fair. At the top, there's a banner of colorful triangular flags. Below it, the title 'ST MARGARET'S CHURCH FAIR' is written in large, bold, green and orange letters. To the right, the date and location are listed: 'Saturday 1st November' and 'Dunns Street, Silverstream'. On the left, a yellow starburst graphic says '10am Rain or Shine'. Below this, there are three small images: a plate of 'Rich Choc Biscuits', two children wearing face paint (one with a white mask and one with red), and a photo of the fair's outdoor setup with tents and people. To the right of these images, a list of items for sale is provided: 'Pre-loved Clothing, Toys, Café, Plants, Homeware, Books, Baking, Jewellery, Crafts, Lucky Dip, Raffles, Sweets'.

St. Margaret's Church Fair: Saturday 1st of November, 10.00 am

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

25/10/25



UHAG is excited to present:

Meet the services

An opportunity to meet some of the services available in Upper Hutt to help support your child and whanau

Held on:

Thursday 30th October 2025

7:00pm until 9:00pm

at



6 Railway Ave, Upper Hutt
the new home to UHAG



Book here

Book online at
<https://www.uhautismgroup.org/event-details/meet-the-services-has-taken-over-this-months-support-meeting-2025-10-30-19-00>

This lets the services tell families what support is available and how to access it

Services include: UHAG, Autism NZ, Brick engaged, DHB services, UHub, Postive pathwaus

Upper Hutt Autism Group

Upper Hutt Autism Group – Meet the Services evening: Thursday 30th of October, 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

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

28/10/25



Wellington Heritage Festival 2025

Wellington Naturist Club Open Day – Sunday 2nd of November, 11.00 am – 3.00 pm

Location: 20 Molloys Road, Te Marua, Upper Hutt

Reconnect with your senses and your environment. Try it, let your skin breathe and de-stress from your busy world.

You are invited to visit our beautiful grounds at Te Marua, Upper Hutt on Sunday 2 November. Lounge by the pool, have a spa or hot tub, play petanque, pickleball, kubb or just chill under a tree, the choice is yours.

Life Drawing, Plant Sales, Sausage Sizzle & Bacon Butties

Visit our website wnc.nz for further information

Wellington Naturist Club celebrating 75 years in Upper Hutt, part of the Wellington Heritage Festival events.

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



McDonald's New Zealand

McDonald's are giving away a million Chicken McNuggets: Starting from 11.00 am, Wednesday 29th of October

It's time to (nug)get excited... Macca's is shouting Kiwis to 1 million free Chicken McNuggets. Yep – 1 MILLION!

Grab your mates and get your code ready. From 11am Wednesday, Macca's lovers can claim their free 6-pack of Chicken McNuggets via the Macca's App. Better be quick – because once they're gone, they're gone.

Macca's are running a 30 days / 30 deals from the 1st of November. Be informed on what the deal is each day by downloading the Macca's app.

A "thank you" to Zoe Bates at Mango Communications for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

28/10/25



Taoist Tai Chi: Mondays, 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm

Taoist Tai Chi sessions

Mondays 6.30-8.00pm.

Trentham School Hall.

Start any time.

Reduce stress, find calmness, balance, strength and flexibility with Taoist Tai Chi™ practice. Join us to have a go a great way to improve your life and health. <https://www.taoisttaichi.org/find-a-location/>

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

13/05/25



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

Ages from babies to school age are welcome, depending on the circumstances.

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

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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 Newell for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

29/04/25



St. Margaret's Church - Silverstream

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

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

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

06/05/25

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



Contributor: Kerry



Contributor: Cushla

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

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

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

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

Morning tea for children and adults provided.

Everyone welcome

Gold coin donation

Hope to see you there

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

28/03/25

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



AI Generated

Strings Attached Ukulele Group

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

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

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

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

28/07/25

The Upper Hutt Womens' Carers' Group

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

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

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

28/07/25



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RECIPES

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

Cheers, Ben

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

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

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



AI Generated

New recipe this week: Malteser Biscuits

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 1,074 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.

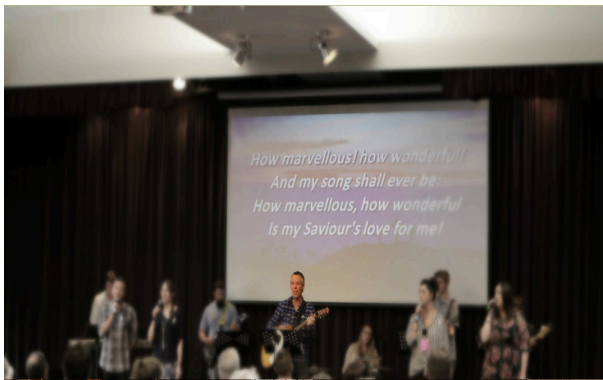
Our Creche for children under 3 1/2 years runs every Sunday morning. Our Children's Church runs Sundays during school terms.

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 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



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 30th of October, 2025

Spinal Tap II: The End Continues

Running time: 84 minutes

Rated: M (Offensive language & sexual references)

The long-awaited sequel to the comedy classic This is Spinal Tap is here to turn the Festival up to 11!

Forty-one years after the release of the original groundbreaking mockumentary, the now estranged bandmates David St. Hubbins, Nigel Tufnel, and Derek Smalls (Michael McKean, Christopher Guest, and Harry Shearer) are forced to reunite for one final concert.

Spinal Tap II: The End Continues also marks the resurrection of documentarian Marty Di Bergi (Rob Reiner), who once again tries to capture his favourite metal gods as they contemplate mortality—and the hope that their 12th drummer doesn't join them in The Great Beyond.

Joined by music royalty Paul McCartney and Elton John, Spinal Tap wrestles with their checkered past to put on a concert that they hope will solidify their place in the pantheon of rock 'n' roll.

Book here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/ST00001700-spinal-tap-ii-the-end-continues>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt20222166/videoplayer/vi1220659225/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_1_tt_5_nm_3_in_0_q_Spinal%2520tap%2520II



Spinal Tap 2: The End Continues

Bugonia

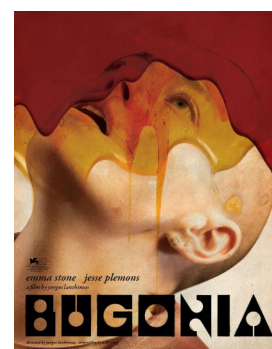
Running time: 118 minutes

Rated: R16 (Graphic violence, cruelty, offensive language & suicide)

Two conspiracy obsessed young men kidnap the high-powered CEO of a major company, convinced that she is an alien intent on destroying planet Earth.

Book here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/bugonia>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt12300742/videoplayer/vi3962030105/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_2_tt_6_nm_1_in_0_q_BUGonia



Bugonia

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Chainsaw Man – The Movie: Reze Arc

Running time: 100 minutes

Rated: R13 (Violence, horror & sexual themes)

For the first time, Chainsaw Man slashes his way onto the big screen in an epic, action-fueled adventure that continues the hugely popular anime series. Denji worked as a Devil Hunter for the yakuza, trying to pay off the debt he inherited from his parents, until the yakuza betrayed him and had him killed. As he was losing consciousness, Denji's beloved chainsaw-powered devil-dog, Pochita, made a deal with Denji and saved his life. This fused the two together, creating the unstoppable Chainsaw Man. Now, in a brutal war between devils, hunters, and secret enemies, a mysterious girl named Reze has stepped into his world, and Denji faces his deadliest battle yet, fueled by love in a world where survival knows no rules.

Book here (dubbed): <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/chainsaw-man—the-movie-reze-arc-dubbed>

Book here (subtitles): <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/chainsaw-man—the-movie-reze-arc-subbed>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt30472557/videooplayer/vi2652293145/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_2_tt_8_nm_0_in_0_q_Chainsaw%2520Man



Chainsaw Man - The Movie: Reze Arc

Good Fortune

Running time: 98 minutes

Rated: M (Offensive language, sexual references & drug use)

A well-meaning but rather inept angel named Gabriel meddles in the lives of a struggling gig worker and a wealthy venture capitalist.

Book here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/good-fortune>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt27543578/videooplayer/vi1356843033/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_3_tt_7_nm_0_in_0_q_Good%2520fortune



Good Fortune

Pike River

Running time: 131 minutes

Rated: M (Offensive language)

Three-time Emmy nominee Melanie Lynskey (YELLOW JACKETS, THE LAST OF US) and acclaimed NZ actress Robyn Malcolm (TOP OF THE LAKE, AFTER THE PARTY) star as Anna Osborne and Sonya Rockhouse; two ordinary women who together stand up and take on the government, justice system and a company that will stop at nothing to protect itself, after the 2010 Pike River Mine explosion takes the lives of 29 men underground.

This is a film about the powerless vs. the powerful, of people vs. money, of right vs. wrong. An inspiring true story of an incredible female friendship and together what is possible when you simply won't give up.

Book here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/pike-river>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt31841936/videooplayer/vi4277192729/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_4_tt_4_nm_4_in_0_q_Pike



Pike River

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The Twilight Saga Marathon

Running time: 684 minutes

Rated: M (Supernatural themes & violence)

Time to dive back into the Twilight saga! You can experience all five films one after the other during the ultimate Twilight marathon. From Bella and Edward's first look to the epic battle in Breaking Dawn Part 2. You'll see them all again on the big screen.

When Bella Swan moves to the quiet town of Forks, she never expects to fall for the enigmatic Edward Cullen—nor to discover the world he hides: one of vampires, werewolves, and eternal choices. As passion ignites and danger closes in, Bella must navigate a love that defies time, mortality, and the laws of nature itself.

Book here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/ST00001712-the-twilight-saga-marathon>

View trailers at IMDB.com:

Twilight: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1099212/videoplayer/vi1065091097/?ref=nsr_srsq_3_tt_7_nm_0_in_0_q_Twilight

Twilight Saga: New Moon: https://www.imdb.com/video/vi3868591385/?playlistId=tt1259571&ref=tt_ov_pr_ov_vi

Twilight Saga: Eclipse: https://www.imdb.com/video/vi2562262553/?playlistId=tt1325004&ref=tt_ov_pr_ov_vi

Source: Monterey Cinemas Upper Hutt

28/10/25

