

THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION



A LOCAL NEWSPAPER - FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

The Upper Hutt Connection - Wednesday Edition: 8th
of October, 2025

Website: uhconnection.co.nz
Facebook: [The Upper Hutt Connection](#)
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Maidstone Intermediate

A week at Maidstone: 1st of October – 7th of October

Touch rugby season has started again with a good turn out for the first competitive touch training for term 4.

Mikaia, Landon, Marquis, and CJ, were up in Napier representing the Hutt Valley Basketball Tama team and won the regional final.

Yesterday, after a delayed ferry sailing, the Pakuratahi rōpū are on their way to their camp in the South Island.

Lastly it's mental health awareness week and Maidstone is joining the nationwide Top Up Together campaign. It's all about recognising that social connection matters: It gives us purpose, belonging, and happiness – and realising that volunteering, learning, being active, celebrating culture, and joining community events all boost our mental health.

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

07/10/25

rōpū: (noun) group, party of people, company, gang, association, entourage, committee, organisation, category. – <https://maoridictionary.co.nz/>

View all photos associated with this article at <https://uhconnection.co.nz/school-news/a-week-at-maidstone-1st-of-october-7th-of-october/>



AI Generated

First and Last name now required and published with any article, letter, etc sent into The Upper Hutt Connection

Hi everyone,

After I received a comment last week concerning an article in the Wednesday Edition, I've decided to make it a rule that with any articles, letters, etc sent in that the first and last name of the contributor will be included with the article. Also the first and last name is always required.

This is standard practice with other newspapers, so I don't think there should be any cause for complain. Just keeps people accountable for the articles they send in.

No other personal details are asked for, only your email so I can contact you if I have any queries about your article.

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

06/10/25



New Zealand Herald

Lotto players in Upper Hutt are asked to check their tickets as someone has won \$1,000,000 at Pak'nSave from Saturday's draw

A player from Pak'nSave Upper Hutt won the 1st division draw on Saturday the 4th of October. All players who bought their ticket from Pak'nSave Upper Hutt are being asked to check their tickets as soon as possible.

The night's winning numbers were: 14, 25, 24, 27, 32 and 17. The Powerball was 7 and the bonus ball was 28.

Source: New Zealand Herald

06/10/25



Upper Hutt Libraries

New at Central Library: a dedicated space for our manga collection

We've had a busy few weeks at Central Library recently. Alongside the buzz and general busyness of the school holidays, work was under way to install shelving for a dedicated manga collection area.

(Please note: This new collection space is for our adult manga collection. Children's and teen manga continue to be available for browsing and borrowing in the children's and teen collections, respectively.)

Why have we created this new collection space?

Manga are one of our fastest growing collections. Increasing popularity and improved availability of quality translations have opened up a whole new world of captivating stories and characters to readers.

Meeting demand, we decided to highlight this up-and-coming story format, and to make titles easier to browse and discover. Both keen manga fans and customers making first forays into this genre will enjoy the new collection space, housed right beside the graphic novels.

Reading across formats: why manga matter

Manga are a Japanese storytelling format combining writing and visual art, similar to comics and graphic novels. Like chapter books, they cover an incredible range of genres, from light-hearted humour and slice-of-life human experiences to supernatural epics and complex narratives.

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Readers of all ages find joy in following stories told in pictures and text. And this format doesn't only promote a lifelong love of reading – it boosts literacy, scaffolds understanding, and builds confidence to branch out and give new content a go, as pointed out in an article by the National Library of New Zealand: <https://natlib.govt.nz/blog/posts/graphic-novels-valuing-their-role-in-reading-journeys#:~:text=A%20growing%20body%20of%20research,nurture%20a%20love%20of%20reading.>

Explore Upper Hutt Libraries manga collection: https://uhlibraries.spydus.co.nz/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/OPAC/BIBENQ?ENTRY=manga&ENTRY_NAME=BS&ENTRY_TYPE=K&SORTS=SQL_REL_BIB&GQ=car&NRECS=50&QRY=&QRYTEXT=All+of+the+catalogue&SPQ=2

On the bus, by the river, at the beach: explore Comics Plus

Ditch the hold queue on popular manga, comics, and graphic novels, and explore thousands of titles in the Comics Plus app!

Available 24/7 and no holds required – perfect for a quick reading break, your daily commute, or to keep the family entertained on those long journeys.

Explore Comics Plus: <https://www.upperhuttlibrary.co.nz/Digital-Library/Adults/Comics-Plus>

Source: Upper Hutt Libraries

06/10/25



Upper Hutt City Council

Return your voting papers and have your say

As of 1 October, only 21.20% of eligible Upper Hutt voters have returned their voting papers.

With the 2025 local elections closing in ten days, we are urging residents to return their papers early and encourage friends, whānau, and neighbours to do the same.

Your vote matters. Local elections decide who represents you on Council and who makes key decisions about the future of our city, from funding infrastructure and community services to planning for growth and change.

Every returned paper helps ensure our community's voice is heard.

Voting papers were delivered between 9 and 22 September. You can return them by:

- Orange bins – drop them at any orange voting bin across Upper Hutt. They can be found here (<https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Council/Elections/Vote#section-3>).

Voting closes at 12 noon on Saturday 11 October.

If you are not able to vote using the ordinary postal process, you may be able to cast a special vote.

Special votes make sure you can still take part in the local elections.

You may be eligible to cast a special vote if any of the following apply:

- You enrolled online after 1 August 2025;
- You didn't receive your voting papers in the post by 22 September;
- Your voting papers were lost or damaged;

Continued on Page 6.

- Your name isn't on the printed electoral roll;
- Your details are out of date;
- You are on the unpublished (confidential) electoral roll;
- You have made a mistake when completing the voting papers.

Special votes can be cast up until 12 noon, Saturday 11 October 2025.

Find full details on eligibility and what you need to bring here: Special votes – Upper Hutt City Council (<https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Council/Elections/Vote#section-4>)

To ask about special vote, please email elections@uhcc.govt.nz or ring 04-527 2133

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

03/10/25



Send an article to The Upper Hutt Connection
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Send an article to The Upper Hutt Connection

I'm 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, via email, 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



Ramil Adhikari

Vijaya Dashami: Celebrating Triumph, Family, and Cultural Roots in Nepal and Aotearoa New Zealand

Upper Hutt, New Zealand- For Nepalese people around the world, Vijaya Dashami (commonly known as Dashain) is more than just a festival- it is the heart of cultural identity, unity, and shared joy. Marked as one of the biggest celebrations in Nepal, this festival carries deep religious, spiritual, and social significance.

Traditionally, Vijaya Dashami honours the victory of good over evil, symbolised by Goddess Durga's triumph over the demon Mahishasura. It is a time when families reunite, elders bless the younger generations with tika (a mix of yoghurt, rice, and vermilion placed on the forehead) and jamara (sacred barley grass), and communities come together with prayers, feasts, and festive gatherings.

For Nepalese families in New Zealand, the celebration of Vijaya Dashami carries a double meaning. While it connects them to their ancestral homeland, it also strengthens bonds within the diaspora community. In Upper Hutt, Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch, and across Aotearoa, Nepalese communities gather to share meals, exchange blessings, and recreate the warmth of home even while living thousands of kilometres away.

"Vijaya Dashami reminds us of who we are," says Dr. Ramil Adhikari, a Nepalese community representative in Upper Hutt. "It is about passing on traditions to our children while also celebrating the life we are building here in New Zealand. For us, it is a festival of belonging — to our roots and to our present home."

Many local Nepalese associations and cultural groups organise community events during this time, with traditional music, dance, and food. Temples across New Zealand also welcome families for special prayers, ensuring the spirit of Dashain continues to thrive far from the Himalayan valleys.

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The festival also symbolises hope, resilience, and gratitude. In a world facing rising costs, global uncertainty, and busy lifestyles, Vijaya Dashami offers a moment to pause, reconnect with family, and remind one another of the importance of togetherness.

For the Nepalese diaspora in New Zealand, celebrating Vijaya Dashami means carrying forward the essence of home - the blessings of elders, the laughter of children, and the strength of community. It is both a cultural anchor and a bridge, linking generations and uniting two worlds- Nepal and Aotearoa.

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

04/10/25



Wellington Water

Whakawhirinaki Silverstream Pipe Bridge officially connected up to the drinking water network – Official opening of the bridge yet to come

Whakawhirinaki Silverstream Pipe Bridge is officially connected to the drinking water network!

The cut-in works to bring the pipe bridge online wrapped up at midnight last Thursday after a massive 33-hour water shutdown, requiring careful planning and coordination.

The pipeline was recharged overnight, and valves restored the next morning. A huge shoutout to the project team and everyone involved for getting this work across the line.

Crews will now be focusing on pouring thrust blocks (concrete supports) around the pipe bends and reinstating the road surfaces. Final checks and adjustments will be made in the next couple of weeks.

Traffic management will be removed from SH2 at Silverstream by the end of this week, and from Fergusson Drive in early November.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as Greater Wellington and Wellington Water work to improve the resilience of our region's water supply.

We're almost there – stay tuned for an opening date! For more info on the project, click here <https://www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/projects/silverstream-pipe-bridge-project>

Source: Wellington Water

07/10/25

View all photos related to this article at <https://uhconnection.co.nz/general-news/whakawhirinaki-silverstream-pipe-bridge-officially-connected-up-to-the-drinking-water-network-official-opening-of-the-bridge-yet-to-come/>

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS 2025



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Accessibility Is for Everyone – Let's Build an Inclusive Upper Hutt: Angela McLeod

By Angela McLeod
Mayoral Candidate, Upper Hutt

In Upper Hutt, around 11,000 of us live with a disability. But the truth is, far more people face barriers to participation every day — whether due to age, injury, pregnancy, or caring for young children. Accessibility isn't just a niche issue. It's a community-wide concern that affects us all.

If you've ever pushed a pram across a cracked footpath, struggled to find a public toilet while pregnant, or worn a moon boot after an injury (as I have), you'll know how frustrating and limiting poor design can be. These everyday barriers make it harder to participate in community life — and they're entirely avoidable.

As Upper Hutt grows — with our population projected to exceed 50,000 by 2030 — we must ensure our city grows in a way that includes everyone. That means designing streets, buildings, and services that work for all of us, not just some of us.

Yet, disabled people and others who experience barriers have had limited opportunities to influence civic decision-making. That needs to change.

My Plan for Accessibility (<https://www.angelamcleod.nz/news/disability-accessibility-policy>)

As Mayor, I will lead a Council that removes barriers and co-designs solutions with disabled people and tāngata whaikaha Māori. My plan includes:

- Establishing an Accessibility Advisory Panel to guide inclusive decision-making
- Embedding Universal Design principles in public spaces

- Improving transport and movement options for all ages and abilities
- Ensuring digital services and events are accessible to everyone
- Building a disability-confident workforce within Council
- Publishing an annual Accessibility Scorecard to track progress

Who Benefits From Inclusive Design?

Simply put — we all do.

Inclusive design helps older residents with reduced mobility or vision, people recovering from injuries, pregnant women, parents with prams, and visitors unfamiliar with our city. When we make our streets safer, our signage clearer, and our services easier to use, we create a city where everyone can thrive.

The Barriers We Must Break Down

- **Physical barriers** like uneven footpaths, inaccessible buildings, and poorly designed transport stops make daily life harder for many.
- **Digital barriers** exclude people when information isn't available in formats like Easy-Read, NZSL, or plain language.
- **Social barriers** persist when there's low awareness of non-visible disabilities and limited representation in decision-making.

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Accessibility isn't just about ramps and toilets — it's about dignity, independence, and equal opportunity. It's about making Upper Hutt a place where everyone belongs.

Let's build a city that reflects our values: inclusive, welcoming, and forward-thinking. Together, we can make Upper Hutt a leader in accessibility — not just for some, but for all.

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

01/10/25



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Want to have some influence on how the local elections turn out this year? Why not do the simple thing and vote!

It's kind of true what they say that if you can't be bothered to vote, then you don't really have a valid reason to complain if the election results don't turn out how you would have liked them to.

It may seem small but your vote really can make a difference in the elections. Whether you want things to remain the same, or if you'd like to see a change in who is a councillor or mayor, make sure to vote this year.

Your voting papers will be arriving in your mailbox between the 9th of September – 22nd September.

Voting closes on the 11th of October at 12.00 pm, voting locations and candidate profiles can be found at:

- Where you can return your voting paper in this year's local body elections: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-body-elections-2025/where-you-can-return-your-voting-paper-in-this-years-local-body-elections/>
- Local Body Elections 2025: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-body-elections-2025/>



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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



AI Generated

Want all the info on the candidates for council and mayor?

Check out: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-body-elections-2025/>



Authorised by Brett Thomson

Policy platform summary

Fiscal responsibility <i>"We can't rate people out of their homes"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve rate relief closer to inflationary levels Concise and transparent reporting Maximising value for Council assets Smarter debt management Community funding Efficient Council operation 	Infrastructure <i>"Let's fix our roads and water"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get the fundamentals right (new water entry, Address potholes, protect free parking, better rural roads) Enhance our existing corridors (relocate Lane 542) Generational projects (advocate alternative route Remuera and Alstonville)
Economic growth <i>"Region of opportunity"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building a destination strategy (major events, food attractions, signature community experiences) Attracting and growing business (health precinct, industrial precinct, rural innovation, service national projects) Growing a stronger local economy (local entrepreneurs, strengthen rural economic activity, expand commercial activity) 	Smarter Council <i>"We need a better deal for Upper Hutt"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stronger advocacy that secures a better deal for Upper Hutt (health, education, and transport) A Council that is focused on prosperity, not distracted by short-term politics A more connected and supportive community, where residents feel engaged and heard

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

Authorised by Brett Thomson - Contact: brett.thomson@hotmail.co.nz

Why vote for Brett Thomson

Over the past 8 weeks, I've shared my vision for a council that is balanced, strategic, and innovative – and always putting Upper Hutt first.

I love Upper Hutt. My family moved here 8 years ago for all the reasons that make this place special. Many of those reasons remain today — but I believe it's time for a pivot:

- Towards better fiscal discipline
- Towards improving core infrastructure
- Towards building prosperity for Upper Hutt

With voting underway and closing on 11 October 2025, here's why I'm asking for your support:

Why Vote for Me

- **Balanced** – I listen to a wide range of perspectives, but facts, evidence, and common sense guide my decisions.
- **Collaborative** – I problem-solve, build consensus, and will work as a team player to get council operating effectively.
- **Professional Expertise** – I'm a Chartered Accountant with experience in strategy, financial performance, and governance. I've managed investment, business performance, Crown entity monitoring, and regulatory cost recovery teams.

- **Government & Leadership** – I've been part of leadership teams and advised Ministers on the performance of 20+ Crown entities across health, justice, transport, and arts, culture & heritage. I have audited another 50+ private and public entities in New Zealand, Switzerland, and England.
- **Governance Experience** – I've advised on Crown entity board performance, gained sports governance experience, completed governance training, and am a member of the Institute of Directors.
- **Grounded & Family-Focused** – My wife keeps me grounded, and my daughter keeps me focused on building a better future for the next generation.
- **Proudly Upper Hutt** – I've shorn sheep across the valley, played senior reserve rugby for Upper Hutt, and my family enjoys our city's parks, facilities, and playgrounds every week.

By 11 October, I'd be honoured to earn your vote — for a council that is open, fair, and future-focused for Upper Hutt.

Want more detail? Check out my full policies on The Upper Hutt Connection:

Fiscal Responsibility Policy: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-body-elections-2025/fiscal-responsibility-policy-we-cant-rate-people-out-of-their-homes-brett-thomson/>

Infrastructure Policy – Let's fix our roads and water: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-body-elections-2025/upper-hutt-transport-policy-announcement-brett-thomson/>

Economic Growth Policy – Region of opportunity Smarter Council Policy – We need a better deal for Upper Hutt: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-body-elections-2025/smarter-council-policy-we-need-a-better-deal-for-upper-hutt-brett-thomson/>

Smarter Council Policy – We need a better deal for Upper Hutt: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/local-body-elections-2025/smarter-council-policy-we-need-a-better-deal-for-upper-hutt-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.

02/10/25

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Heather Blissett

Cycleways! Another contentious topic! Do we? – Heather Blissett

I support safer active spaces and believe EVERYONE has the right to get about the rohe* safely.

During this campaign we've been asked about cycleways, tactile tiles for vision impaired, wheelchair access to name a few.

What I know.

Central has removed funding for footpaths so any work done would be solely at the cost of ratepayers. Remembering too that Central funds aren't free money. It's your tax dollars.

I know there was a Council led project looking at the design of our active spaces because I submitted some ideas a few years back. I am unsure where this is at. Perhaps it was requiring funding from Central.

I asked a current councillor about cycleways and was advised that they were planning one along the railway tracks. The challenge has been pinch points. That being privately owned land.

Everyone walked or biked to school from primary age when I was growing up. In an ideal world walking and biking would be how we move around. Sadly, it has become a recreation. We even drive to the gym to walk for an hour. The reality is gyms provide safe environments to get fit and active.

Even if safer active spaces were available. Would we use them? Would our children walk/bike to school? Can we slow our current life down enough to be able to?

The answer will be different for everyone which is why really good community consultation is essential.

Kaitoke Regional Park bridge is the result of really good consultation. One of the people invited to the design process is reliant on a wheelchair for mobility.

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

Rohe: (noun) boundary, district, region, territory, area, border (of land).

<https://maoridictionary.co.nz>

04/10/25



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.

Continued on Page 12.

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: **Low Rohloff**

Vice President / Grey Power Upper Hutt Association

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



Upper Hutt City Council

With whom, do consultants consult? – Teresa Homan

Consultant Linda Meade, Kalimena boutique infrastructure consultant thinks to get Wellington city back from the abyss (today's Post article Thursday 2nd October) and a share of government regional deal initiatives is "amalgamation," of course. One initiative, she in her wisdom, thinks could be done is a regional apprenticeships skills hub based around Trentham Army base. Interesting proposition, is that anything like the CIT that was at Heretaunga? If only we had known the answer to the loss of this facility was due to Wellington region not being one amalgamated region. If only we had, had consulting advisors in the day. I say beware of consultants and their expensive advice any which way you look at it they are just more lobbyist telling us what is good for us. Perhaps government could pay the rates on the army camp property and Upper Hutt city council could use it to support shops in a main street upgrade. Keep Upper Hutt local, unless we profit, on an amalgamated regional deal, is my pledge as an Upper Hutt city council candidate. In my opinion, random consultations are not necessary or Nice to Have.

Teresa Homan

Upper Hutt city council candidate
tshoman@kinect.co.nz

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

02/10/25

SPORTS



Contributor: Liz Edwards

Artistic Roller Skating World Figure Cup

Victoria Edwards from the Upper Hutt Roller Skating Club recently returned from Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she proudly represented New Zealand in the 2025 World Figure Cup.

This prestigious competition featured top-level athletes from 11 different countries, all judged on their ability to create flawless tracings, demonstrate exceptional edge quality, and execute turns with exacting accuracy and control.

This marked Victoria's third time representing New Zealand at this elite level. She achieved outstanding results, scoring the highest marks for an Oceania skater and surpassing two other New Zealand and two Australian competitors.

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

06/10/25



Ryan @imrays_snaps

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Upper Hutt City Football

Petone Football Club wins the Bob Bamford tournament against Upper Hutt in the weekend

Congratulations to Petone FC for winning the Bob Bamford Memorial Tournament this weekend

Headed into the final both Petone and Upper Hutt were undefeated over the weekend with Petone coming away with the win in the finals.

Source: Upper Hutt City Football

06/10/25

Upper Hutt City Football's U19 Women's team takes the win at the Dawn England Tournament in the weekend

Congratulations to our U19s Women's team who have taken the win at Dawn England Tournament this weekend.

Results for the weekend:

- 5-0 Win against Lower Hutt
- 1-1 Draw against Petone
- 1-0 Win against Western Suburbs
- 1-1 Draw against North Wellington
- 2-0 Win against Whanganui Athletic
- Finals: 1-0 Win against Petone

Thanks so much to Ryan @imrays_snaps for capturing pics over the weekend including this fantastic winners pic of the girls and their trophy

Source: Upper Hutt City Football 06/10/25



Upper Hutt Petanque Club

Upper Hutt Petanque Club successfully defends the Jacques Cochonnet Trophy against Silverstream

Upper Hutt Petanque Club hosted a very strong challenge from Silverstream for the Jacques Cochonnet Trophy on Saturday 27th September, in warm and dry conditions for a change.

The two teams started the first round of games at 09:30. Upper Hutt took only 1 of the 3 games in the first round, and only another 1 in the second round, making it 2-4 at that point. This meant that Silverstream needed only 1 more win of the 3 games in the third round to take the trophy. The final round was climactic right up to the last boules of the last game which played into extra time, but Upper Hutt took all 3, making the final score of 5-4 to them, the 18th consecutive win for UHPC. The Upper Hutt team consisted of Colin Gooch, Mary Khalil and Adrienne Gwerder (Triples), Dave Gwerder and Derek Worsley (Doubles) and Brian Smith (Singles). The Silverstream team consisted of Claire Bradburn, Seymour Harawira and Theresa Harawira (Triples), Rachel Clarke and Graham Jackson (Doubles), and Brayden Harawira (Singles).

The next challenge is from Horowhenua to be held at Upper Hutt on Wednesday 22nd October.

Source: Upper Hutt Petanque Club

01/10/25

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



Retrieved from Whirinaki Whare Taonga

A Cosmic Quest: 14th / 15th / 16th of November

Danzworx presents

A Cosmic Quest

- Friday 14 November | 6.30pm
- Saturday 15 November | 1.00pm
- Saturday 15 November | 6.00pm

"A Cosmic Quest" – A fantastic show involving all students at Danzworx in ballet, contemporary, lyrical, jazz, funk and fusion. The planet Altheria, once a lush paradise, now withers as its life force fades. Two heroes travel through space on a quest save their planet, visiting several strange and wondrous planets and meeting quirky alien species along the way.

Adult \$28.00 | Child \$22.00 | Booking fees apply to all sales | Bookings required

Book through iTICKET: <https://www.iticket.co.nz/events/2025/nov/a-cosmic-quest-danzworx-2025-show>

Source: Whirinaki Whare Taonga



AI Generated

Age Concern Connect Hub: Wednesday 8th of October, 12.00 noon

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

Speakers include Zechariah Reulu from Arthritis NZ, and Grace Hemara-Tylden from Bowel Screening.

Followed by a light lunch.

Source: Age Concern Wellington Region

05/10/25



Remutaka Roller Derby

Notice about Remutaka Raptors vs. Nelson Bays Roller Derby match this Saturday

We have a slight update about the event to share! All the timings for the game remain the same, however instead of Remutaka facing Nelson we will be smashing both leagues into two mash up teams; the Black Cats and the White Birds (a little play on our past and present Remutaka league logos!)

The game will still absolutely be a smasher and we can't wait to see you trackside this Saturday from 2pm.

Source: Remutaka Roller Derby



Renaye Huia Fireworks Spectacular + Wellington Superstock Champs + Wellington Modified Champs: Saturday 1st of November, 6.00 pm – 10.00 pm

The Hutt Valley's only fireworks display is back — and it's going to be EPIC, thanks to our loyal sponsor, Renaye Huia! Beat the crowds and get in early for a night of full-throttle action, the FH Group Superstocks will go head to head for their Wellington Championship, as well as the high-speed C&M Transport Modifieds battling for Wellington Championship glory too. With the NZ Superstock AND NZ Modified Champs on the horizon, this is where it all kicks off. Racing, fireworks, and a packed house — don't miss it!

Classes running:

- Superstocks
- Stockcars
- Ministocks
- Production Saloons
- Modifieds
- TQ Midgets

Continued on Page 16.

All classes are to be confirmed and are subject to change without notice.

Purchase tickets at <https://wellingtonspeedway.flickit.co.nz>

Note that all events at Wellington Family Speedway are weather dependent. Keep an eye out for updates on the Wellington Family Speedway Facebook page.

Source: Wellington Family Speedway

03/10/25



Upper Hutt Libraries

Seed Bank Working Bee – Growing Pumpkins: Sunday 19th of October, 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Spring has sprung!

Join us for a free talk by local gardener Hannah Dawson about growing plants in the cucurbit family (including pumpkin, squash, and cucumber).

The event also includes a working bee for the Upper Hutt Seed Bank, where we will process and package up seeds to make them available through the Seed Bank at our Central Library.

Nau mai, haere mai – everyone welcome.

For more info, visit our website: <https://www.upperhuttlibrary.co.nz/Events/Growing-Pumpkins>

Source: Upper Hutt Libraries

01/10/25

A vertical poster for a Scouts New Zealand fundraiser. At the top is the Scouts New Zealand logo. Below it, the text 'ORGANIC COMPOST' is written in large, green, leafy letters. Underneath, it says 'St Joseph's Scout Group Fundraiser' and '\$10.00 - 40L bags'. A small note says 'Delivered from 12/10/25'. The main text describes the fundraiser: '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.' It continues: '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.' There is a QR code with the text 'Order here!' below it. At the bottom, there is a photo of gardening tools (a hat, a shovel, a watering can, and some flowers) and the contact information: 'ph 0226524002 / fundraising.stjosephs@group.scouts.nz'.

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

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

01/09/25



Te Marua Golf Club 9-Hole Twilight Golf for Teams: Starts Thursday 30th of October

Te Marua Golf Club And Upper Hutt's TOA itm present 9-HOLE TWILIGHT GOLF for TEAMS – Starts Thursday 30th October 2025

Played each Thursday for 6 weeks

Tee off between 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

COST = \$400 per team of 4 (maximum)

Weekly prizes, light dinner (for each team player) and fun !

To register your team, or to get more information, please contact Te Marua Golf Club on (04) 526 7020

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- Commences 30th October and played weekly on a Thursday for 6 weeks
- Play in your own team of 4 players (great for clients, workmates, friends etc.)
- Prizes for teams, calculated using the 3 best individual Stableford scores in each team
- Prizes for individuals, calculated on best / worst (and/or "other") individual scores or performance
- Prize Giving each night. Catering and Bar Facilities will be open for business after each round.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Starting Tee for each team is assigned weekly

Each player's Golf handicap (H/C) will be reviewed weekly and based on their "adjusted" (see * below) Stableford points, their H/C may be changed

A player showing their true talent with

- 18 – 19 Stableford points no change
- 20 – 21 Stableford points cut 1 shot
- 22 – 23 Stableford points cut 2 shots
- 23 – 24 Stableford points cut 3 shots
- and so on...

A player needing a bit of encouragement [in the form of their H/C being raised]

- 18 – 17 Stableford points no change
- 16 – 15 Stableford points out by 1 shot
- 14 – 13 Stableford points out by 2 shots
- 12 – 0 Stableford points out by 3 shots

*For H/C review purposes only, "ringers" are counted as 1 Stableford point.

e.g. 12 Stableford points with 2 ringers = an "adjusted" Stableford score of 14 points

Golfers without an official WHS Golf H/C may be allocated a H/C based on any scoring history held for them in this event or will otherwise start on a maximum of 24 for men and 30 for women. This applies for their 1st round only and then H/C adjustments as detailed above will be applied.

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

06/10/25



Totara Park Softball Club

Totara Park Softball Club Give it a Go Day: Saturday 11th of October, 10.00 am

Looking for a new family summer sport?! Softball is a must!

Swing into Summer with Softball!

Join us for our Totara Park Softball Club – Give it a Go Day!

- Saturday, 11 October 2025
- 10:00am – 12:00pm
- Totara Park Softball Clubrooms, Whakatiki park. Masfield street, Trentham, Upperhutt

Come along for a fun-filled morning where you can:

- Check out the sport
- Try out your skills
- Learn some new techniques
- Chat with our friendly club officials about registrations

It's an enjoyable, family-friendly event for all ages — everyone is welcome! Whether you're a seasoned player or brand new to the game, this is the perfect chance to get involved and see why softball is such a great summer sport for kids and families.

Come for the fun, stay for the community – let's hit it out of the park together!

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

06/10/25

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Wellington Family Speedway – Opening Night: Sunday 26th of October, 6.00 pm – 10.00 pm

We're back! After five months off, the engines are firing up and the dirt's ready to fly. Don't miss the first night of the new season — a high-energy return with full grids, fresh cars, and that unbeatable Speedway atmosphere. Let's kick it off in style!

Purchase tickets at: <https://wellingtonspeedway.flicket.co.nz>

Classes running:

- Superstocks
- Stockcars
- Ministocks
- Saloons
- Modifieds
- Streetstocks
- TQ Midgets

All classes are to be confirmed and are subject to change without notice.

All events at Wellington Family Speedway are weather dependent: Please check the Wellington Family Speedway Facebook page to keep up to date on the details.

Source: Wellington Family Speedway



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

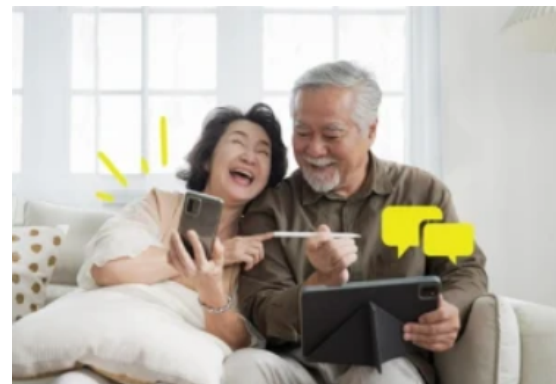


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Playgroup at St. Hilda's: Wednesday mornings during term time, 9.30 am – 11.00 am

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.



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

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 1,030 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.

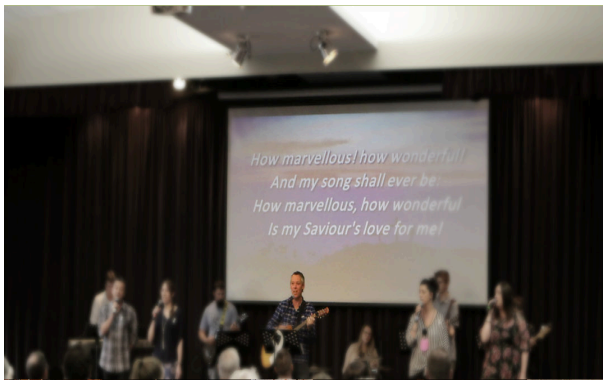
Our Creche for children under 3 1/2 years runs every Sunday morning. Our Children's Church runs Sundays during school terms.

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 9th of October, 2025

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

A HOUSE OF DYNAMITE

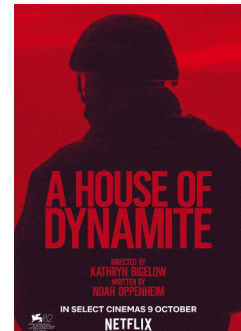
Running time: 112 minutes

Rated: M (Offensive language & content that may disturb)

When a single, unattributed missile is launched at the United States, a race begins to determine who is responsible and how to respond.

Book here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/a-house-of-dynamite>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt32376165/videooplayer/vi3204958233/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_2_tt_7_nm_0_in_0_q_A%2520house%2520of%2520dynamite

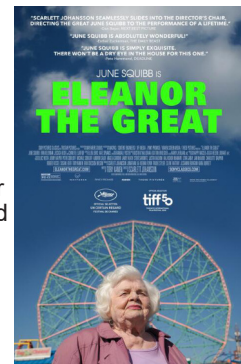


A House of Dynamite

ELEANOR THE GREAT

Rated: PG (Violence & coarse language)

Eleanor the Great features a bravura performance from June Squibb in the title role of the spirited 94-year-old who tells a tale that takes on a dangerous life of its own. Eleanor Morgenstein has always stayed engaged and connected to the people around her. So, after a devastating loss, she relocates from Florida to New York City to live with her daughter and grandson, hoping to reconnect with her family. Instead, she feels even more adrift and invisible. One day she unknowingly wanders into a support group where she doesn't quite belong, only to reveal a story that unwittingly brings her a level of attention she did not intend. Eleanor finds herself caught up in the enlivening consequences as a young journalism student pursues her as a friend and mentor. When things go too far, Eleanor must confront the truth. In her directorial debut, Scarlett Johansson brings together themes of aging, family, loss and what constitutes deceit, as this story of friendship and history turns into a profound tale of complicated humanity.



Eleanor the Great

Book here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/eleanor-the-great>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt30268321/videooplayer/vi4097165337/?ref=mv_sr_srsq_2_tt_6_nm_1_in_0_q_Eleanor%2520the%2520Great

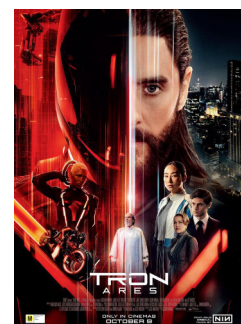
TRON: ARES

Running time: 119 minutes

Rated: M (Violence)

"TRON: Ares" follows a highly sophisticated Program, Ares, who is sent from the digital world into the real world on a dangerous mission, marking humankind's first encounter with A.I. beings.

Continued on Page 28.



Iron: Ares

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The feature film is directed by Joachim Rønning and stars Jared Leto, Greta Lee, Evan Peters, Hasan Minhaj, Jodie Turner-Smith, Arturo Castro, Cameron Monaghan, with Gillian Anderson, and Jeff Bridges.

Sean Bailey, Jeffrey Silver, Justin Springer, Jared Leto, Emma Ludbrook and Steven Lisberger are the producers, with Russell Allen serving as executive producer.

Book here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/tron-ares>

View trailer at IMDB.com: https://www.imdb.com/video/vi1608173593/?ref=ttvg_vi_7

Source: Monterey Cinemas Upper Hutt

07/10/25