

THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION



A LOCAL NEWSPAPER - FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

The Upper Hutt Connection - Wednesday Edition:
14th of January 2025

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Climate Change: What is it, how will Upper Hutt be affected, and what actions can we usefully take?

THE CLIMATE CHANGE PROBLEM – WHAT PROBLEM?

Looking out the window as I write this it is a lovely summer's day in Upper Hutt. It can be difficult to believe that we now face a climate crisis that will have increasingly significant impacts on us, our families and businesses and our Upper Hutt community over the coming decades and longer.

The word crisis is used here deliberately. Not because "climate change" will overwhelm us immediately if not addressed, but because the climate change process that is running continues to accelerate. The longer we delay, taking the necessary actions to avoid the impacts we know are otherwise coming, the worse the outcomes will be.

Making the needed changes and moving New Zealand to a low emissions economy will have costs, but these need to be set against the costs that not addressing climate change will impose on our health, our taonga plant and animal species and our communities amongst other things. Several analyses have been carried out by the expert body that advises the government in this area – the Climate Change Commission – and they have determined that the current (or even a more ambitious plan they recommended in 2024) makes sense economically. It should be noted that the current Government did not accept this advice.

Ignoring the problem will not make it go away, nor will wishful thinking. Our failure to act today will see tomorrow's Upper Hutt inhabitants – our children and grandchildren – having to clean up, pay for and suffer the consequences of the huge climate mess we have helped create and failed to address.

THE CAUSE OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND WHY WE NEED TO ACT?

The Earth has been exposed to a number of natural climate events and cycles over its existence but conditions over the past 10,000 years have been stable and hugely beneficial for our development. The current climate crisis is unique however as it is the first one caused mainly by our activities.

Starting with the Industrial Revolution some 250 years ago, our burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) and land use changes have seen some chemicals, including carbon dioxide (a fossil fuel combustion product) and methane, build up in the atmosphere. These chemicals are known as "greenhouse gases" because they reflect, back to Earth, some of the heat energy, from the Sun – essential to keeping the Earth at a habitable temperature – that would otherwise be lost to space.

The result is that the energy flows that have kept Earth's temperature at a stable level for thousands of years have been disrupted, and our planet is heating up. The average global temperature increase is now nearing 1.5C above pre-industrial temperatures and continues to rise at a rate not seen since well before the ancestors of the human race walked the Earth.

While the world has, collectively, significantly reduced emissions over the past twenty years and so avoided a catastrophic >5C temperature increase, we have not adequately reduced emissions to meet the much safer and internationally agreed 1.5C target. We are currently looking at a global temperature increase of ~3C by 2100.

There will be many impacts as a result, including a significant global sea level rise likely at least 0.5m that will expose hundreds of millions of people around the world to increased coastal flooding and a number of major cities requiring massive flood defences.

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The climate is what makes up our weather (wind, rain, how hot or cold it is etc) over a period of years and is the sum of a large number of processes. These processes run at local, regional and global levels and at speeds ranging from daily (eg photosynthesis in plants) to many millions of years (eg weathering of rocks).

It is important to understand that, just because the impacts have been minimal so far (and, for many of us, confined to our town/city slowly getting hotter) does NOT mean that the impacts from climate change will continue along this gentle path.

Our failure to adequately address the problem has meant that, driven by the continual rise in emissions, the process is accelerating. Many of the processes involved interact with each other, mostly in ways that are destabilising. Sooner or later key global level systems, (e.g. the collapse of the two, vast ice sheets in Greenland and the Antarctic), will reach what have been identified as “tipping points”. They will then undergo a large, rapid, and likely irreversible (in human timescales) shift to a new state with potentially huge impacts on the planet – think many meters of sea level rise -that will take place over the coming decades, centuries and longer.

In short, the climate change process and the magnitude of its impacts will continue to increase until we take ownership of the problem and address it.

Making the needed changes and moving New Zealand to a low emissions economy will of course have some costs, but these need to be set against the costs that not addressing climate change will impose on our health, our taonga plant and animal species and our communities amongst other impacts.

The expert body that advises the government body on such matters, the Climate Change Commission, recently reviewed New Zealand’s 2050 (“net carbon zero”) target in the light of the situation that we, and the world are actually facing.

The Commission advised that our current 2050 emission reduction targets should be increased -i.e. we should reduce emissions faster than our current plan – Their recommended target is compatible with continued growth in GDP, and would be good for employment in most areas of the country .They also noted that economic and social benefits could follow reduced fossil fuel use and could also reduce the risk of New Zealand being forced into a more costly transition in future. [Their advice was not accepted by the Government.]

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR NEW ZEALAND AND UPPER HUTT?

Globally, New Zealand, by virtue of its location, geography and economy, will be one of the least directly affected countries as climate change plays out. This does not mean that we can afford to be complacent about the future for two reasons. Firstly, over time, the impacts will still be major and will alter our communities and the way we live and play. Secondly, New Zealand is one of the group developed of countries that are primarily responsible for the climate crisis problem. We owe it to the countries which will be much more affected, including some of our Pacific neighbours to, at the very least, do our bit to rapidly reduce our emissions and help minimise the harms to them.

What will the impacts be in Upper Hutt:

1. It will keep on getting hotter – and there will be more hot days and fewer cold nights.

Increasingly hot summers including warmer nights, and warmer winters may appear to be a good thing but night-time temperatures above ~ 20C will affect how well we sleep. Heat stress can occur at temperatures >27C with the elderly, the chronically ill (and those people who can’t afford to buy and run air conditioning) the most affected.

Fewer frosts in winter will also kill off less of the pests and diseases that affect our vegetable and other food crops and so contribute to likely significant and on-going food-price increases.

2. Changes to rainfall patterns.

The frequency and size of storms will increase, (requiring our storm water systems to be upgraded and also bringing more flooding and slips) and we will also get more droughts and a higher risk of wildfires.

3. Sea Level Rise – and the indirect effects of this on Upper Hutt

Both Wellington City and Lower Hutt have significant areas that will be affected by sea level rise in future, and this will affect the functioning of these cities.. This issue is not one that will directly affect Upper Hutt city but it will affect the many people who either work in Wellington or Lower Hutt or visit these places recreationally or socially.

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4. Economic and other impacts

Equally Upper Hutt City may benefit if people and/or businesses relocate here as a result of climate change pressures elsewhere.

Finally, insurance companies are already moving to risk-based pricing. This may see some Upper Hutt property owners paying significantly more for (e.g.) flood or other insurance in future, and where insurance companies lead, banks and other lending institutions follow.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO MINIMISE THE IMPACTS?

Impacts from climate change will increasingly affect us, our community and New Zealand as a whole over the coming decades and longer, but urgent action by us can still limit the worst damage.

It may appear that the problem is too large and complicated, or that nothing we can do will make any real difference so it is not worth trying. This is not true. Every action that we as individuals take is important, as it is the sum of these efforts, across our community that will see us deliver a resilient Upper Hutt for our children and grand-children to enjoy.

Not everyone is able to take action at this time. Economic times are tough for a lot of people and there is no time for more than the basics – trying to provide a home and enough food for our families and pay the other bills.

However, for those of us, whether as individuals, families, business owners or community members, that are in a position to act (and there are a lot of us), there are several areas in which we can choose to do things differently.

Overall, we need to do two things; reduce emissions (mitigate) – the most urgent change needed – and we also need to help prepare Upper Hutt to deal with (i.e. adapt to) the future impacts that are already “locked in”.

One of the ways to get a handle on our personal or family emissions is to use a Carbon Calculator. For the most accurate results it is important to understand how the result is derived but a number of calculators can quickly and easily provide us with a figure to use as a starting point at least. One I have tried out that is very easy and simple to use is the ClimateHero Carbon Calculator

Reduce transport emissions from vehicles that burn fossil fuels

Transport is the largest contributor to household carbon dioxide emissions. To reduce them walk, cycle (manual or E-bike) or take public transport (trains and buses) where possible AND/OR swap your petrol/diesel) engine car/ute/SUV/truck for an electric/hybrid vehicle. A change to an EV has the potential to save several tonnes of emissions a year – more if your ICE vehicle is older and/or a higher emitter of carbon dioxide. Walking and cycling will also improve your health. However, the cost of these items can be a major barrier.

Reduce emissions from housing and household utilities (heating, cooling and powering the house)

Most carbon dioxide emissions associated with buildings are operational, from the energy used to heat, cool and power them but embodied emissions (from the materials used in its construction) can also be significant.

To reduce operational emissions use electricity rather than gas, oil or coal for hot water and home heating and cooking. If you are wanting to build/buy a new home, then consider a house that is designed to be more sustainable and energy efficient than the NZ Building Code requires.

Reduce emissions from the food and drink that we consume.

New Zealand farmers are very efficient producers, from both economic and climate change perspectives, of dairy and meat products.

Nevertheless, emissions from the production of beef and sheep meat are significant and agriculture produces around half of New Zealand's emissions – mainly methane. Eating less meat and dairy products will benefit the planet and likely your wallet.

Reduce waste

Everything we throw out took energy and natural resources to produce. While not everything we use can be recycled it is important to keep a focus on sustainability in mind by reducing (minimising the amount of waste we produce) , reusing (use more than once) and recycling (finding a new use for a product rather than throwing it away) in mind.

Helping with adaptation planning is also important for our City.

Making sure that the right buildings and other structures (including 3 Waters infrastructure) are the right size and in the right places – and that they take into account the demands that climate change will make – is one of the critical functions of our City Council.

There is lot of work that remains to be done in this area, but work is getting underway such as the publication, recently, of the National Adaptation Framework, designed to help manage the growing risks we face.

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Last but not least, we can lend our voices and, even better, our help and our votes, to the people and organisations that are already working to address climate change – or to help make the changes at local and national levels that are needed to address climate change and set Upper Hutt and its current and future citizens on a path to a resilient and sustainable community that we can all enjoy.

MORE INFORMATION:

There is a lot of information available including:

[BBC a really simple guide to climate change](#)

[Climate and weather](#) from Earth Sciences New Zealand (previously NIWA)

[United Nations Climate Change](#)

[Greater Wellington Regional Council Climate change](#)

Some blogs and information on a range of climate change topics is available at my website <http://nzclimatecrisis.co.nz> Consider also joining the Upper Hutt Climate Change Facebook Group. The focus this year will be on engaging with the City Council to ensure that climate change, sustainability and resilience are a key part of the vision for Upper Hutt.

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

12/01/26



NZ Empowered

Pro active ways to get UHCC to hear and be your voice

We have officially hit 2026....

Many complain about the council or are asking for information about council matters on social media. These need to be directed to those we have voted and entrusted to be our voice.

As we have just had an election and many of those voted in have said they want to be the voice of community, we believe it is timely to give some info on council and our new councillors. They are our elected voices and there to serve our community.

There are many parts to council, and the councillors, deputy mayor and mayor are the communities voice in council. and as so, should be representing the wider communities' views, concerns and questions. They are the best ones to establish how to get the best results or find out.

For example: Fly tipping along our river usually falls under the GWRC. Ph: 0800 496 734E: info@gw.govt.nz,

but Upper Hutt's parks fall under the UH Council Ph: 04 527 2169 E: askus@uhcc.govt.nz

Ideally, it is best to be in on the ground floor of any discussions. Meaning that you want to be engaging with council when the council is first considering a matter. Typically, when the news hits the media or if the council is voting on an outcome, it is too late to voice your opinion, for or against.

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By doing one of the below you may just get the action you are wanting.

1. If you have trouble getting information or action by going through the Councils "Ask Us" or telephone facilities, then that is where those that are elected including our mayor come into play. Email them with your queries and cc in the other councillors/mayor(email addresses at the end of this article). Just ensure emails are respectful, clear and concise with questions. With questions, your elective members/council have 20 working days to respond to you with answers.
2. You may have heard our new Mayor mention several times during the elections that she and her team had an "OIA" in with the council. OIA stands for "Official Information Act". This is where those questions elected members are unable to answer are passed to the "LGOIMA" team, which stands "Local Govt Official Information and Meetings Act". Any correspondence with council or councillors/ mayor can be subject to the conditions of an OIA. They have 20 working days to respond with answers also. Remember to, once again, make sure you have clear concise questions. Direct OIA requests are typically sent via the CEO (Geoff Swainson) or the mayor.
3. Submissions to council at council meetings can be in person, via Zoom, for the computer savvy, or if needed, an elected member or other person can be nominated to read out (Deputations – Sect 16 of the Standing Orders) a preprepared submission you provide.

As part of submitting you may wish to table your submission or supporting info to be put on public record (available on the council's website). This can be a document, PowerPoint, drawings etc.

Currently there is a 5 min limit to speaking at council and you may only submit on subjects which are included in the agenda. Found here:

<http://upperhutt.govt.nz/Council/Council-meetings/Meeting-agendas-and-minutes?>

UHCC Guide to speaking at Council. : <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/1/meetings/attending-and-speaking-at-council-meetings.pdf?>

If you would like to see how the council meetings are run do have a look at some of the live streams or older videos of meetings here <https://www.youtube.com/@UHCCCommunityService/streams>

Mayor, Councillors and CEO

The mayor and CEO are full time roles which they are well compensated for and have support capabilities. The councillors/mayor employ the CEO, and the CEO is responsible for the day to day running of the council and its employees. The councillor roles are part-time and in a lot of cases are being juggled alongside another job/role.

If you are struggling to get your voice heard, do contact one elected member and cc in the rest. They are there to be our voice on council and have signed up and been elected to be your voice. If it matters to you, it should matter to your elected members.

(Full-Time) Mayor – peri.zee@uhcc.govt.nz

(Full-Time) CEO – geoff.swainson@uhcc.govt.nz

(Part-Time) Deputy Mayor – corey.white@uhcc.govt.nz

(Part-Time) Councillor – matt.carey@uhcc.govt.nz

(Part-Time) Councillor – gurpreet.dhillon@uhcc.govt.nz

(Part-Time) Councillor – bill.hammond@uhcc.govt.nz

(Part-Time) Councillor – emma.holderness@uhcc.govt.nz

(Part-Time) Councillor – angela.mcleod@uhcc.govt.nz

(Part-Time) Councillor – hellen.swales@uhcc.govt.nz

(Part-Time) Councillor – tracey.ultra@uhcc.govt.nz

(Part-Time) Councillor – dave.wheeler@uhcc.govt.nz

(Part-Time) Councillor – daniel.welch@uhcc.govt.nz

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

12/01/26



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

I always welcome to any articles that are related to Upper Hutt.

For example: general news, sports, community events, garage sales, Letters to the Editor, situations vacant, etc

You can either send in articles by filling in the form on the website, or by messaging The Upper Hutt Connection on Facebook.

Filling in the form is the preferred option.

If you have an article that you'd like included in next week's Wednesday edition, please make sure that you've sent it through to me by 12.00 midnight, Monday evening.

<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



Daniel Talbot

The origin of Wellington Severe Weather Reports

HOW MY WEATHER PAGE STARTED

I'd like to share my story and the journey behind Wellington Severe Weather Reports and the Upper Hutt Weather Station.

My interest in weather forecasting began in 2007 while I was studying Ski Patrol. During that time, I learned how weather systems directly affect Mt Ruapehu and alpine safety. That experience gave me a deep respect for weather forecasting and its real-world importance.

After the ski season ended, I began forecasting the weather informally for friends on my personal Facebook page. I continued doing this for several years, building knowledge and experience along the way.

In June 2013, Wellington experienced a significant storm event. Encouraged by friends, I created a dedicated Facebook group called Wellington Severe Weather Reports to provide timely, local weather information. The response was overwhelming, and the page quickly grew to thousands of members.

In 2017, members of the community suggested an ambitious idea—crowdfunding a public weather station for Upper Hutt. At the time, Upper Hutt had no publicly available weather observation data. What followed was a seven-year community effort involving sausage sizzles, calendar sales, sponsorships, and generous donations from local businesses and residents.

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Through this collective effort, Business and community donations \$200,000 was raised. This allowed us to install one of the most advanced weather stations in New Zealand—comparable to those used at international airports, featuring state-of-the-art instruments.

The Upper Hutt Weather Station was installed at St Joseph's School in April 2023. It serves both the wider community and an educational purpose, allowing students and residents to view live weather data in real time via on-site displays and the station website (www.wswr.co.nz). The station is now the official weather station for Upper Hutt City.

The observation data is now actively used by MetService to improve forecasting accuracy across the Hutt Valley region. One particularly rewarding outcome has been seeing Upper Hutt featured on One News Weather at 6pm, ensuring our local climate is accurately represented.

This project was deeply personal and required years of dedication, persistence, and community trust. The outcome exceeded anything I could have imagined and stands as a testament to what a community can achieve together.

Now in 2026, I continue to provide regular weather forecasts to over 50,000 followers. The work has been genuinely life-changing, and I'm proud of the strong connection built with the community.

Some personal milestones include being one of the youngest recipients of an Upper Hutt City Civic Award, and later winning my category at the Wellington Airport Awards—both humbling acknowledgements of this journey.

Special thanks to my friends at the MetService New Zealand

I am forever grateful, Daniel

A "thank you" to Daniel Talbot who gave permission for this article to be put up on The Upper Hutt Connection.

12/01/26



newzealand.com

Wellington Anniversary next Monday, 19th of January

Just a reminder that it is Wellington Anniversary next Monday, so I'll be taking the long weekend off. As always, if you have any articles you'd like in next week's Wednesday Edition then please have them sent into me by 12.00 midnight on Monday the 19th of January.

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

12/01/26

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Greater Wellington Regional Council

Residents' coalition against amalgamation – Teresa Homan

It is of question why legislation to remove regional councils and to enforce conversations about amalgamation of local councils is being deadline for the time of year most of us are on holiday enjoying well-earned breaks and literally napping. Chris Bishop a local MP and RMA reformer, has, as his top priority for wanting to implement and reorganise regional government the apparent low participation and engagement of voters with the process of electing their regional council and local council. It would appear he is banking on that low involvement in the proposals to reorganise local government and has hedged his bets by making the submission time in the period when most are on holiday and soaking up the sun. I do not believe that this government has been mandated by electors to reorganise local or regional government. A small minority of voters in the local elections even wanted the opportunity to discuss any form of amalgamation. The proposal to disband our representative regional council in favour of a committee of regional Mayors and appointed central government representatives, with no Māori representation with voting rights as of right, seems typical of this coalition government. Surprising that Mayors who were elected with low participation of voters around 45%, in the local elections are now to be elevated by Chris Bishop to take on the role currently held by regional council without a mandate from the people to do so. Would seem he has a bob either way with his disdain for election engagement. If you are concerned that we are being played and our legitimate right to elect our regional council representatives and oppose amalgamation of Wellington region's local councils you are invited to a meeting on Tuesday 20th of January 7pm to be held at the King Lion Hall, 12 King Street UH, to form a united coalition of residents to oppose amalgamation. All who oppose amalgamation are welcome to attend. Don't let the good weather deter you storms are brewing.

Facebook Like Upper Hutt Keep it local or email gintyjane@gmail.com

Teresa Homan

5279061 0223127295

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

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SPORTS

KARORI PREMIER MEN | **UHUCC PREM MEN**

298/8 | **303/3**

(50) | (37.5)

B. PATEL 3/48 | 105 (79) B. PATEL
L. BAILEY 3/60 | 62 (79) L. BAILEY
56*(44) D. PAWAR

UPPER HUTT WON BY 7 WICKETS

Upper Hutt United Cricket Club

Cricket results for the weekend: 10th / 11th of January

Two wins and two losses in our first weekend back, highlighted by a huge seven-wicket win for our premier men in a high-scoring clash.

View all images associated with this article at <https://uhconnection.co.nz/sports/upper-hutt-united-cricket-club/cricket-results-for-the-weekend-10th-11th-of-january/>.

Source: Upper Hutt United Cricket Club

13/01/26

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



RACE

Family Day at RACE Trentham: Saturday 17th of January, 11.30 am onwards

Family Day is back at Trentham!

Join us for Harcourts Thorndon Mile Family Day on Saturday, 17 January, for a fun-filled day at the races, with loads on offer for the kids alongside top-class racing.

Family activities include:

- Bouncy castles
 - Face painting
 - Bumper cars
 - Inflatable obstacle course & slides
 - Chalk space
 - Lolly scramble
 - Fashion In The Fields
 - And plenty more!
-
- General Admission & Activities FREE!
 - Activities available from 11.30am – Racing schedule to be confirmed
 - Gazebos and sun shelters allowed – Must be well secured

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- Limited Free Parking available
- No BYO alcohol

Pack your picnic and bring the whole family to enjoy a day of free activities and entertainment with top class racing action on the track!

Source: RACE

12/01/26

KartSport™
WELLINGTON

Looking for an adrenaline-fueled way to satisfy your need for speed?
Experience the thrill of motorsport!
This is not your typical indoor karting experience...
This is the real deal!

So what are you waiting for?
Join our have a go program.
Discover the excitement of outdoor Kart racing!
You'll never want to race anything else!

WWW.KARTSPORTWELLINGTON.NZ
Gazley **G**

Kartsport Wellington

Kartsport Wellington “Have a Go” day: Saturday 31st of January

Need something to fill in the school holidays?
Ever wanted to try your hand at motorsport?
Come along to our Have a Go Day on Saturday 31st Jan!

Hit the link below for more info:

<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/235066>

Source: Kartsport Wellington

12/01/26



Wellington Family Speedway

FH Group New Zealand Superstock Championship – Qualifying and Finals, Friday 16th of January / Saturday 17th of January

The biggest event on the Speedway New Zealand calendar kicks off with the first of two action-packed nights for the FH Group New Zealand Superstock title! Cars from across the country come together to battle it out, vying for a spot in the finals field and a chance to compete for the prestigious 1NZ title. Expect fast-paced racing, fierce competition, and plenty of excitement as the championship journey begins.

Classes running:

- Superstocks
- Classic Stockcars

Buy Tickets Here: <https://wellingtonspeedway.flicket.co.nz/events/8233cd3a-c01b-4a19-b39f-646a02f694e6/reservation>

The moment everyone's been waiting for — the FH Group New Zealand Superstock Championship Finals! The country's top drivers go all out to crown the new 1NZ champion in a night full of intense racing, close battles, and high stakes. This is where legends are made and history is written!

REPECHAGE TO START AT 5PM

Classes running:

- Superstocks
- TQ Midgets

Buy Tickets Here: <https://wellingtonspeedway.flicket.co.nz/events/f8645eae-bc67-4240-8105-deb2073b9b92/reservation>

Source: Wellington Family Speedway

13/01/26



Whirinaki Whare Taonga

Late Nite Sound Bite at Whirinaki Whare Taonga: Friday 6th / 13th / 20th / 27th of February

Fridays through February 2025 | 5.00pm – 8.00pm

- Rotary Foyer
- Koha Entry

Late Nite Sound Bite is a once a week late night on Fridays featuring fresh NZ music, dinner and drinks available at Dough Bakery and all galleries open until 8.00pm.

Entry is by koha!

Late Nite Friday is brought to you by Whirinaki Whare Taonga.

Upcoming performances:

- Andrew London Duo: Friday 6th of February, 5.00 pm – 8.00 pm
- Hobnail Boots: Friday 13th of February, 5.00 pm – 8.00 pm
- Wooden Box Band: Friday 20th of February, 5.00 pm – 8.00 pm
- Lisa Tomlins and Wade Reeves: : Friday 27th of February, 5.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Source: Whirinaki Whare Taonga

12/01/26



Retrieved from Whirinaki Whare Taonga

Pop-Up Board Games Bar: Every Wednesday in March, 5.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Location: Whirinaki Whare Taonga

Roll the dice, grab a drink at Dough Bakery, and let the games begin! Our once-a-week pop-up Board Games Bar brings together great drinks, tasty bites, and a huge stack of games — from timeless classics to party favourites.

Free entry | Bookings recommended with Dough Bakery | Click here to book a table: <https://www.doughbakery.co.nz/booking>

Source: Whirinaki Whare Taonga

12/01/26



H2O Xtream Aquatic Centre

Save the date: the ultimate pool party is coming to Upper Hutt – Saturday 24th of January, 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Get ready to make the biggest splash of the summer! The holidays are on, there's not a cloud in the sky, and Upper Hutt's destination for aquatic fun is transforming into a splashing party zone for one unforgettable afternoon.

Summer Splash Pool Party at H₂O Xtream

Date: Saturday, 24 January

Time: 4.00-7.00pm

Venue: H₂O Xtream, 26 Brown Street, Upper Hutt

Cost: \$8 per person (includes slides and a free ice block or mocktail)

Perfect for ages 8-16

This event is specifically designed for families with kids and teens aged 8-16, bringing together the best of summer fun and friendly competition.

Here's what to expect:

- epic dive-bombing competition
- small challenges and awesome games
- great tunes and upbeat music
- delicious kai (food) from local food trucks

Important details for parents and caregivers

- Safety first: Please remember that our standard supervision rules apply to ensure everyone has a safe and fun time.
- Games and activities are aimed at ages 8-16. For younger kids, we run a special school holiday programme, with lots of time exploring Upper Hutt and the region – and hours of fun and water play at H₂O Xtream, of course.
- No advance sales for tickets. Just turn up on the day and join in with the family!

Thank you to our prize sponsors and supporters

- PitaPit
- Mint Food Truck
- Daytona Adventure Park – Upper Hutt

So, save the date and mark your diaries. See you poolside!

Source: H2O Xtream Aquatic Centre

12/01/26



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Upper Hutt Forest & Bird – Weeding / Releasing: Thursday 22nd of January, 5.00 pm

Forest and Bird welcome all helpers

While we have been enjoying our summer holiday break, the weeds have kept growing around our recent plantings which is making it harder for them to thrive while they are still young trees.

We plan to have our first get-together for 2026 at 5pm on Thursday 22 January to do some weeding / releasing.

It's not nearly as hard to do as it sounds – it's simply making room around the plant stems by either roughly snipping off the tops of the nearby grasses or otherwise making room around the plants in the easiest way possible. It's easy to do and a great way to make new friends.

We do have some spare tools, but if you have your own pair of garden shears (hedge clippers) or something similar, and maybe a pair of gloves too, then please bring those with you.

If you are a new-comer, please text Lynne on 021 66 00 76 beforehand with any questions you may have.

- **WHEN** – 22 January, Birchville Park, 5 pm till 7 with picnic tea after.
- **WHERE** – Birchville Park – off SH2 – Topaz Street > Emerald Hill Drive.
- **WHAT** – releasing last winters plantings and controlling the convolvulus. We also have some native jointed rushes planted last winter we will need to find.
- **BRING** – mostly grass cutting/pulling. We will have some spare hedge shears available.

A “thank you” to Upper Hutt Forest & Bird for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

12/01/26

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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

Sharyn Rive

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.

10/10/25



Taoist Tai Chi: Mondays, 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Taoist Tai Chi sessions

- Mondays 6.30 pm-8.00 pm.
- Trentham School Hall.
- No sessions held on public holidays.

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

BEYOND UPPER HUTT



The Upper Hutt Connection

Jackson Street Programme – Free Parking: Available until 28th of February 2026

Free Parking*

Shop, dine, or unwind on Jackson Street.

SPEND \$30+ at participating locations on Jackson Street and get your hour of parking free.*

VISIT multiple spots to extend your free parking!

* Free parking is provided as a discount off your \$30+ purchase. See www.jacksonstreet.co.nz for details. Available until 28th February 2026

This article has been republished on request of the Jackson Street Programme.



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Jackson Street Programme Christmas Giveaway: Vouchers to be redeemed by the 28th of February, 2026

Christmas Giveaway

Spend \$20 and win up to \$1000

Spend: \$20 or more at a participating Jackson St business, and enter the draw to win.*

Prizes: to win - 2x \$1000 / 10x \$100

Pop: your entry into the in-store box or email your receipt to.. info@jacksonstreet.co.nz

Draw: First draw - 26 Nov 25 / Second draw - 22 Dec 25

Vouchers to be redeemed by 28th February 2026*

*prizes are in vouchers to spend at Jackson St businesses. Terms and conditions apply, see www.jacksonstreet.co.nz for details.

This article has been republished on request of the Jackson Street Programme.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



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Strings Attached Ukulele Group

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

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

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

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

28/07/25

The Upper Hutt Womens' Carers' Group

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

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



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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 1,128 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.



AI Generated

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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.

JANUARY SERVICES AT ST HILDA'S

Cruickshank Road, Upper Hutt

Sundays through January to Sunday 25 January

5pm Evensong, followed by a shared barbeque tea.

Sunday 1 February onwards

9.30am Normal Sunday services resume

Thursday 12 February onwards

10am Normal Thursday services resume.

Sue sent this article to The Upper Hutt Connection / Source: St Hilda's Anglican Church Upper Hutt



Silverstream Reformed Church

Silverstream Reformed Church

Location: 8 Blue Mountains Road, Silverstream

What we Believe:

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour and the Sovereign Lord over all of life. We are fully committed to the Bible in its entirety as the Word of God. We believe that theology is important, it is vital for the health of the church, and without sound doctrine the church decays. Throughout history, the church has confessed what it believes by faithfully summarising the truths of the Bible in written forms known as creeds and confessions. These confessions do not hold the same authority as the Bible, but they help to summarise the Bible's teaching. Ultimately, the Bible remains our only rule for faith and life.

Who we Are:

Our Church is a family church, with a mixture of young families, retirees, couples, single people and youth. We have approximately 200 members, from different backgrounds, meeting together because we share a common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

Service Times:

Our worship services are on Sunday at 10 AM and 4 PM, and we would love to see you there. Our friendly greeters will meet you at the door and answer any questions you have.

Like to know more? Visit our website at: <https://silverstreamrcnz.co.nz/>

Silverstream Reformed Church sent this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

11/12/24



St John's Anglican Church in Trentham

St John's Anglican Church in Trentham

Location: 563 Fergusson Drive, Trentham, Upper Hutt

Email Church Office: office@stjohnstrentham.org.nz

Church website: <http://www.stjohnstrentham.org.nz>

Who we are: A congregation of faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ in the heart of Trentham. We gather in a historic Anglican church, founded in 1863 and continuously used for worship since then, providing a place of beauty, sacredness, and stillness. But the church is primarily about people, relationships, and recovery day by day, wherever we live. Our focus is on faith, family, and care for others.

What we do: We seek to nurture our faith, our relationship with God, in various ways. First and foremost, we come to worship and pray together. The Parish seeks to provide a variety of styles of worship to suit the varying needs of parishioners. We also gather in small groups for Bible study and fellowship, have regular community events, and have monthly communion services in Fergusson Rest Home and the Summerset Community Centre.

Weekly services:

Sunday 10.00am: Communion in the church with children's ministry

Our Sunday inter-generational service unites families, young and old, in the church, while our children's program (Godly Play) offers meaningful spiritual education for our tamariki. We gather for morning tea in and around the entry foyer afterwards.

Wednesday 10.00am: Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion in the church

In addition to the Sunday service, there are other opportunities for worship during the week, such as the Wednesday 10am Holy Communion. This is in the church and uses one of the services in A New Zealand Prayer Book He Karakia Mihinare. We gather for morning tea in the foyer afterwards.

Weekdays 7.00am: Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is held in the church chapel every weekday morning at 7am. We use A New Zealand Prayer Book He Karakia Mihinare, but there is plenty of opportunity for everyone to join the time of intercession and thanksgiving at the end of this service. All ages are welcome.

Source: St John's Anglican Church in Trentham

18/11/25



Upper Hutt Uniting Parish

Upper Hutt Uniting Parish

Address: Cnr 1 Benzie Avenue / 780 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt

Worship Services:

Upper Hutt Uniting provides Presbyterian – Methodist church services each Sunday at 10am at the Wesley Centre (Te Whanau Lounge) located at 1 Benzie Avenue. We are fortunate to have a revolving preaching team, of both Ordained and Lay Preachers, who offer an interesting and different variety of relaxed preaching styles. After service refreshments and social time. Visitors are welcome to join us.

Wesley Centre:

A multi-use community centre located close to the Upper Hutt city centre, hosting 5 separate churches (Presbyterian -Methodist, Tongan language Methodist, Samoan Assembly of God, Messianic Saturday study group and a church from Myanmar – contact us for details on other groups services), together with the Wesley Thrift Shop and Upper Hutt Foodbank, plus multiple regular and casual community organisations meetings and as a venue for group and family events.

Wesley Centre provides a modern church space, a gymnasium style hall for functions, two kitchens and two spacious meeting rooms.

For enquiries regarding building use, contact the Parish Office 528 8915, or the Property Manager 0274 456 992, or email property.uhup@outlook.co.nz.

Parish Office:

64 Martin Street – open Thursday / Friday 10am to 3pm

Ph: (04) 528 8915

Email: uhup@xtra.co.nz

Website: <http://www.upperhuttuniting.nz>

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

What's new at Monterey Cinemas? Releasing 15th of January 2026

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

28 YEARS LATER: THE BONE TEMPLE

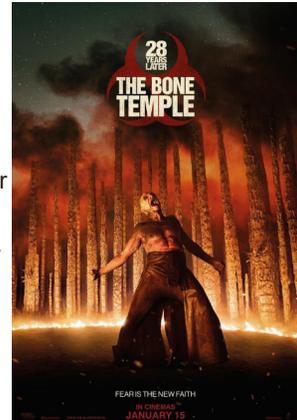
Running time: 110 minutes

Rated: R16 (Graphic Violence, cruelty, offensive language, drug use & nudity)

Expanding upon the world created by Danny Boyle and Alex Garland in 28 Years Later – but turning that world on its head – Nia DaCosta directs 28 Years Later: The Bone Temple. In a continuation of the epic story, Dr. Kelson (Ralph Fiennes) finds himself in a shocking new relationship – with consequences that could change the world as they know it – and Spike's (Alfie Williams) encounter with Jimmy Crystal (Jack O'Connell) becomes a nightmare he can't escape. In the world of The Bone Temple, the infected are no longer the greatest threat to survival – the inhumanity of the survivors can be stranger and more terrifying.

Book here: <https://www.montereyupperhutt.co.nz/movie/28-years-later-the-bone-temple>

View trailer on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/EOWtDTZA8D8>



28 Years Later: The Bone Temple

HAMNET

Running time: 126 minutes

Rated: M (Sex scenes)

From Academy Award® winning writer/director Chloé Zhao, HAMNET tells the powerful love story that inspired the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, Hamlet.

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

View trailer on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/xYcgQMxQwmk>



Hamnet