

THE UPPER HUTT CONNECTION



A LOCAL NEWSPAPER - FOR THE COMMUNITY, BY THE COMMUNITY

The Upper Hutt Connection - Wednesday Edition:
28th of January 2026

Website: uhconnection.co.nz
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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.

1,162 subscribers receive The Upper Hutt Connection Wednesday Edition in their inbox every Wednesday Morning

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/community-events/>

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- <https://uhconnection.co.nz/worship-services/>

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Wellington Water / Radio New Zealand

\$2,000,000 project undertaken to protect Upper Hutt's sewerage pipe at Taita Rock.

Erosion on the cliff face at Taita Rock has been monitored over the past 15 years. Monitoring showing that it is slow erosion, the cycle path, and State Highway 2 - not big floods which threatened the sewerage pipe.

With the cliff having eroded to within about two meters of the pipe and only a few meters from the edge of State Highway Two, Wellington Water chief operating officer Charles Barker says that they've reached a threshold where they don't want the erosion to come any nearer. The danger to the pipe is increasing, but it isn't imminent, at least over the next year - He says that the public "wouldn't expect us to get to a point where there's actually an imminent risk that the pipe is hanging by a thread before we took some action".

Engineers were looking at how to protect pipe in the short term with options such as mesh, or a short retaining wall at the top of the cliff, while a long-term solution was sought.

Upper Hutt City Council and Hutt City Council are paying the two million dollars for the project. Hutt City Council have said about \$300,000 has been spent so far looking at short and medium term options. Upper Hutt City Council did not answer a question on exactly how much it would put in now or in the future, but said it's agreement with Lower Hutt was to cover about 30% of the costs of maintaining trunk sewer mains.

Upper Hutt City Council chief executive Geoff Swainson said in a statement "Collectively both councils work together to understand in advance what costs an annual basis will be but pragmatically have to reprioritise when the unexpected happens."

Source: Radio New Zealand

26/01/26



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Changes on Freeview from the 29th of January

The following changes are happening on Freeview from the 29th of January.

- Sky Open will go to channel 8 (from 15)
- Eden will go to channel 18 (from 8)
- RUSH will go to channel 9 (from 14)
- BRAVO+1 will go to channel 14 (from 9)

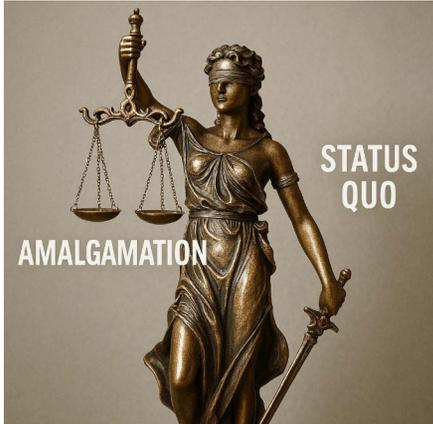
You can still watch those channels after 29 January, and of course still all for free. They'll just be on different channel numbers.

At the same time, Eden+1 and Sky Open+1 will be leaving us, and Three will be upgraded to HD.

Three is already in HD on Freeview's terrestrial and streaming services, and from 29 January it will also be in HD on Freeview's satellite TV service.

Source: Freeview

26/01/26



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Go with Amalgamation or stick with the Status Quo? A place to give your opinion.

This place is intended to be a safe place where you can leave your opinion on whether Amalgamation or continuing with the Status Quo is the best way forward for Upper Hutt. Your opinions aren't posted on social media by The Upper Hutt Connection - just available here for anyone to read. There will be a daily post on Facebook however, letting the public know when new comments have been put up.

Any opinions submitted will be added to this page, along with your name.

Any abusive comments will be declined.

Fill out the form at <https://uhconnection.co.nz/general-news/go-with-amalgamation-or-stick-with-the-status-quo-a-place-to-give-your-opinion/> to give your opinion.

Opinions from the past week.

There will be a public petition available to sign to oppose amalgamation of any design and to request the UHCC not to engage in discussion with other regions Mayors until they have a clear mandate in the form of a referendum to do so. Seek it out or call contact me tshoman@kinect.co.nz

Teresa Homan



Justin Wong: The Post

Meeting on Thursday evening covered managing crime reduction in Upper Hutt

A public meeting at Upper Hutt Library drew over 30 residents concerned about rising crime in the city centre. Mayor Peri Zee and Inspector Wade Jennings outlined what the council and police can each do. Residents were asked to submit suggestions that will inform next year's council budget.

The mayor explained that while the council cannot enforce the law, it can expand CCTV coverage in the short term and pursue street design changes in the long term. Jennings said police visibility in Upper Hutt will increase, following completed renovations at the local station, allowing more patrol and road policing units to be based there, alongside existing community officers and dog teams.

Read the full article at: <https://www.thepost.co.nz/nz-news/360935991/more-cctv-under-consideration-after-spate-crime-upper-hutt-city-centre>

Source: The Post - A "thank you" to The Post for allowing this article to be summarised on The Upper Hutt Connection.

24/01/26



Upper Hutt Menzshed

Menzshed Update: January 2026

So, what have we been doing in the last few weeks?

Well, everything is in place to move our donated garage to its new pad, we are just awaiting availability of the HIAB truck to complete the job. (Due 21st January – weather permitting))

Our members continue to convert all the IT and other electrical/electronic equipment to base waste streams, providing us with a regular income, and the recycling of steel pallets from local motorcycle outlets has benefitted from a pre-Christmas rush, and has been very welcome.

Community projects are still coming in with several from local kindy's, and other sources, although with the Christmas holidays, the volume has reduced. We have worked on two kindy projects recently, a simple request to cut down a large storage box (see below) and a more involved three part request, to provide a new table, storage box and provide 4 "pictures" of native birds for display on a wall.

We have also had several members from the Community approach us for help with their DIY projects during the holiday period. These requests have been varied in complexity from a simple repair (jewellery, broken travel memento), making some weaving tools and more challenging project of a "floating shelf". The customer had the material but could not proceed as he didn't have the right equipment needed to install. Some improvisation was needed to get the various components to fit correctly. We also provided a wall template to assist in its installation.

Various other projects have yet to be assigned, from making a mud kitchen, a casket, and a Community Pantry and Lilliput Library.

If you have a project in mind and you think we can help, then feel free to contact us for a chat and we will do our best to assist you.

Don't forget to visit our website for details on where we are and what we do.

You can visit it here:-

<https://upperhuttmenzshed.kiwi>

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We are still on the lookout for new members. Maybe you have seen our display in the Mall which shows some of the things we do and who we do them for. If you have, and would like more info, contact us for a free tour and meet the team. Where else can you get a coffee and biscuits, for a measly \$2 a week? You can bring your own projects or help with any of the Community projects to the shed – come along – you may not want to leave!

contactus@upperhuttmenzshed.kiwi

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

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

21/01/26

View all images associated with this article at <https://uhconnection.co.nz/clubs/menzshed-upper-hutt/menzshed-update-january-2026/>



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New name for SeniorNet

Happy New Year to all our seniornet members and welcome back to a new year of digital learning and confidence building.

As we start the new year, you will notice that we have a new name - Seniortech Skills, Upper Hutt and a new structure. We are now a charitable trust, with a different philosophy for learning that does not match the SeniorNet model. Anyone can come along, on any Tuesday with no commitment for a whole year of attendance.

Apart from the name change, the time and location and the friendly faces remain the same. We are still meeting every Tuesday afternoon, 1.30 at the library. Our first meeting for the New Year is Tuesday 3 February.

For the upcoming programme we return to our programme of mini sessions. Upcoming are health and emergency settings, installing and deleting apps, spotting scams, video calling basics. 3G has just ended so you might have purchased a new phone. Bring it along and we will help to set it up for you.

There is one important thing that is changing; we are no longer charging you an annual membership fee. Instead we are asking you for a donation of whatever you think is appropriate. Our needs are limited but we do make an annual contribution to Vinay Karanam for his entertaining and educational presentations each week; and other guest speakers. The library provides our tea and coffee and we offer them a donation to cover this. There are some other administrative costs such as mobile phone, internet and licences.

Submitted by Heather Newell

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

26/01/26



Public Submissions OPEN on the RMA Replacements: Submissions close 13th of February 2026, 4.30 pm

With Central Government replacing the Resource Management Act (RMA) the public now have a chance to submit on their replacements.

To have your say, you need to stay a step ahead.

If you are interested in submitting on the Natural Environment/Planning Bills then these links might be of interest.

Submissions need to be in by the 4:30pm, 13th of Feb 2026.

These are done online and sent directly to Central Government. So not through the UHCC.

https://www3.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCENV_SCF_BA467863-D6B0-4968-1027-08DE369D9192/planning-bill-and-natural-environment-bill

and

<https://www3.parliament.nz/en/site-search?term=natural+Environment+Bill>

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

24/01/26



Mahara Upper Hutt Community Archive: <https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/32517>

Upper Hutt celebrates 60 years of being a "city" this year.

On the 28th of May this year, Upper Hutt marks 60 years since it was recognised as a city.

With talks of potential amalgamation and amalgamation options going round, feel free to leave your thoughts on this and your memories about Upper Hutt at the Facebook post below. Otherwise you are always welcome to send you memories about Upper Hutt to The Upper Hutt Connection. Fill out the form here: <https://uhconnection.co.nz/general-news/upper-hutt-celebrates-60-years-of-being-a-city-this-year/>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/25613502801604698>



Upper Hutt City Council

With school starting up again, it's time for a reminder about road safety

School's back for the year very soon and we all need to help keep tamariki safe on the roads.

If you're driving near schools:

- Watch out for children walking, scooting, or cycling
- Be alert for children and be prepared to stop
- Be ready to stop at student-controlled school crossings

Parents, caregivers, or whānau members can join children on their walk, scoot, or cycle and teach them:

- Where to cross the road and how to cross safely.
- Any tricky driveways they should be careful of.
- To cross with their school patrol if they have one.

More children are out and about before and after school—let's help keep them safe.

For more road safety advice, go to <https://nzta.govt.nz/safety/keeping-children-safe/>

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

22/01/26

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Post

Fenced Parks - NZ Empowered

Last year there were a lot of call during for fenced playgrounds and submissions to the UHCC. Cr Emma Holderness and Mayor Peri Zee posted about a Council meeting that brought this up and posted about it on their Facebook pages. They received and attracted many comments in favour of fenced parks and potentially from the comments many caregivers/ parents/whanau were indicating some children's needs require a different set up within our parks.

We understand money is tight at the moment and we believe with the Metro Water and other areas rates will not be as low as indicated last year. As with the CBD meeting in held by the Council on Tuesday night we would expect the Council will only move on something like this next year.

Maybe head to the park and check it out, get some ideas and enjoy, and bring back thoughts and share with your elective members and submit on if you wish Upper Hutt to have a fenced park similar to this or not.

<https://c29daf59-758a-4029-be4e-3a751893ecad.usrfiles.com/uqd/c29dafdcd4a5c23fcd4470a0fee5778d833b2d.pdf>

If you wish to share your views or questions with our council here are their email addresses

Mayor- peri.zee@uhcc.govt.nz
Deputy Mayor - corey.white@uhcc.govt.nz
Councillor - matt.carey@uhcc.govt.nz
Councillor - gurpreet.dhillon@uhcc.govt.nz
Councillor - bill.hammond@uhcc.govt.nz
Councillor - emma.holderness@uhcc.govt.nz
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Councillor - tracey.ultra@uhcc.govt.nz

Councillor - dave.wheeler@uhcc.govt.nz
Councillor - daniel.welch@uhcc.govt.nz

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

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Greater Wellington Regional Council

Update Upper Hutt Residents coalition united to oppose amalgamation meeting. - Teresa Homan

Tuesday 20th, I organised an open meeting to form the Upper Hutt residents united coalition. The main purpose of the meeting was to raise opposition to amalgamation of Wellington regions council into one council. The small turn out either was because people are not interested in opposing amalgamation or they are unaware that Upper Hutt's Mayor and therefore the UHCC has entered into talks with other Mayors in the region to consider not just amalgamation, but what sort of amalgamation does our council and Mayor support. People on the street were unaware that these talks were being entered into by our council most likely because at the last local body election voters in Upper Hutt were not canvassed on whether or not they even wanted to discuss the possibility of amalgamation. While our mayor may have mooted her willingness to do so I think it would have been missed by most voters. The meeting agreed to form the Upper Hutt residents united coalition and as its number one priority to oppose amalgamation. The meeting also discussed the setting up of the council owned Tiaki Wai water organisation against the agreement of residents who participated in the submission process and the Central governments hand in forcing this and "their" proposal to eliminate our elected regional council. All this, it was agreed puts local democracy at risk. It needs to be debated in relation to our up and coming general election. In my opinion it has far reaching ramifications where the general populous lose democratic control by the functions of council being given over to boards and committees such as Tiaki Wai and the proposed replacement of elected regional councils. What we risk is big business prioritised over the community's needs and the environment we enjoy for the believed folly that loss of councils, rates capping and not spending on the "nice to haves" in favour of "Essentials" will reduce rates.

An article in today's post **Rates cap could hit arts funding** bears the risk. The group will have more meetings and will be on the street and in public places canvassing residents' opposition to amalgamation. For updates Fb Like Upper Hutt Keep It Local or contact Teresa Homan gintyjane@gmail.com or tshoman@kinect.co.nz

Teresa Homan

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

22/01/26