

A hundred years and twelve mayors

Today we celebrate 100 years of Upper Hutt mayors! On this day in 1926, the first Upper Hutt mayor was appointed. Since then, 11 mayors have followed:

Upper Hutt Borough Council:

- Angus McCurdy (1926–1927) <https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/15997>
- Peter Robertson (1927–1931) <https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/16563>
- Angus McCurdy (1931–1938)
- Peter Robertson (1938–1939)
- James Blewman (1939–1947) <https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/699>
- Ed Nicolaus (1947–1950) <https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/693>
- George Williams (1950–1953) <https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/694>
- Dick Slacke (1953–1959) <https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/695>
- Percy Kinsman (1959–1966) <https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/24082>

Upper Hutt City Council:

- Percy Kinsman (1966–1968)
- George Thomas (1968–1970) <https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/16026>
- Doris Nicholson (1970–1977) <https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/16001>
- Rex Kirton (1977–2001) <https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/24087>
- Wayne Guppy (2001–2025) <https://uhcl.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/25235>
- Peri Zee (2025–present)

Source: Upper Hutt Heritage

26/02/26

Annual road resealing programme underway across Upper Hutt

Upper Hutt City Council has begun its annual road resealing programme, with work taking place across multiple neighbourhoods over the coming weeks.

Each year, Council undertakes resealing to maintain and protect local roads. While it may look like a simple surface treatment, resealing plays a critical role in keeping Upper Hutt's transport network safe, durable and cost-effective for our community.

When and where

Works are taking place between 23 February and 13 March 2026 across selected streets throughout the city. [A full list of affected streets is available on our roading and safety updates page here.](#)

The progress of these works is weather dependent. Wet or cold conditions can delay resealing, as dry conditions are required for the seal to bond properly.

Why resealing matters

Road resealing is preventative maintenance. It seals the road surface to stop water from penetrating the layers beneath. Without this protection, water can weaken the pavement structure, leading to potholes, cracking and more extensive damage.

- By resealing at the right time, Council can:
- Extend the life of the road surface
- Prevent more expensive reconstruction work in the future
- Improve skid resistance and safety
- Maintain a smoother, more reliable driving surface Investing in annual resealing helps reduce long-term costs for ratepayers and ensures roads remain safe for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

What the work involves

The resealing programme typically includes:

- Surface preparation
- Application of a bitumen binder
- Spreading of chip to seal the surface
- Rolling and sweeping to secure the seal

In some locations, asphalt resurfacing may also be carried out, particularly at intersections or turning areas where wear is higher.

Temporary traffic management will be in place while work is underway. Residents may notice loose chips on the road surface for a short period following sealing. This is normal and will be swept as part of the finishing process.

Access to properties will be maintained wherever possible, although short delays may occur.

Council appreciates the community's patience while this essential maintenance is completed. These works are an important part of caring for Upper Hutt's infrastructure and ensuring our roads remain safe and reliable for everyone.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

25/02/26

Child Cancer Foundation Calls for Support as Family Numbers Rise Ahead of Street Appeal

The need for critical support for children with cancer and their whānau continues to grow, with the number of families under the care of Child Cancer Foundation Family Support Coordinators increasing by more than 20 percent compared to this time last year.

As ongoing diagnoses and long treatment journeys continue across Aotearoa, the Foundation is urging Kiwis to show their support by donating to this year's nationwide Street Appeal on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th March.

Chief Executive Monica Briggs says even the smallest donation can make a meaningful difference for tamariki with cancer and their families.

"Every week in Aotearoa, four families receive the devastating news that their child has cancer. That moment is mentally overwhelming, and the journey ahead most often involves years of treatment and a lifetime of long-term effects," says Briggs.

"Even the smallest donation can have a big impact. A donation as small as the price of a coffee can become a coffee in the hand of a stressed parent, handed to them by one of our Family Support Coordinators, offering both a hot drink and an understanding ear. A small moment of connection like that can turn a terrible day around when families need it most."

One of the families supported by Child Cancer Foundation is toddler Holly and her whānau from Upper Hutt.

What initially seemed like a minor fall from the deck quickly escalated into something far more serious, as Holly became increasingly unwell over the following weeks.

"She started kind of not really eating very well, and then just sitting on the couch, not her usual bubbly, happy self. I remember me and Nathan being like, 'something's not right'," says Holly's mum, Jenna.

After multiple visits to the doctor, blood tests revealed some warning signs. Holly was urgently flown to the Children's Haematology and Oncology Centre in Christchurch, where she was diagnosed with had High-Risk B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia, and was started on treatment right away.

"The first two weeks were horrific," says Jenna. "How do you explain to a not-even-two-year-old that she's about to have multiple rounds of chemo?"

Holly's treatment required her parents to divide their time between hospital in Christchurch and caring for her sibling Finn back home in Upper Hutt – a situation many families facing childhood cancer know all too well.

Child Cancer Foundation supported the family with flights so Holly's dad and brother could visit on weekends, as well as emotional support through their Family Support Coordinator, Tania.

"We were just trying to figure out how to survive at that point," says Jenna. "Just knowing there's someone there to talk to who understands what you're going through made such a difference. They're there in the worst time of your life and provide amazing support – not just practical things like food or petrol, but emotional support too. You really can't put a price on it."

Briggs says the impact of childhood cancer extends well beyond the child themselves.

“Research shows siblings can be just as traumatised by a childhood cancer journey as the child undergoing treatment. That’s why we run programmes like SuperSIBS – to provide siblings with tools to build resilience and stay connected through fun, supportive activities.”

Child Cancer Foundation must raise at least \$6.5 million each year to continue providing vital emotional, financial and practical support to families, and receives no direct government funding.

Hundreds of volunteers will take to the streets during March’s Street Appeal to help ensure no family faces childhood cancer alone.

The Foundation is calling for more generous Kiwis to donate two hours of their time across Aotearoa, and need help filling some key sites below:

- Auckland: Auckland CBD, Birkenhead, Mt Albert, Pukekohe, Takapuna, Waiuku, and Westgate
- Bay of Plenty: Brookefield, Fraser Cover, Taupō, and Waihi
- Kaikoura
- Canterbury: Akaroa, Rangiora, Ferrymead/Woolston, Rolleston, Darfield and West Melton
- Manawatu: Fielding, Whanganui, and Palmerston North
- Northland: Kerikeri and Whangārei
- Southland: Arrowtown, Milton, Oamaru, Queenstown and Wanaka
- New Plymouth
- Waikato: Te Kuiti
- Wellington: Kapiti Coast and Upper Hutt

To donate or sign up as a volunteer, visit childcancer.org.nz.

About Child Cancer Foundation

Child Cancer Foundation provides essential support to Kiwi children diagnosed with cancer and their families. Every week in Aotearoa, four families receive the devastating news that their child has cancer. The Foundation is there to ensure these families never face their journey alone, offering tailored emotional, financial, and practical assistance to meet their unique needs.

As an independent charity, Child Cancer Foundation does not receive direct government funding and relies on the generosity of New Zealanders to continue delivering its vital services. With a nationwide network of Family Support Coordinators, the Foundation provides one-on-one guidance, connection, and care from diagnosis through treatment and beyond.

To learn more or donate, visit childcancer.org.nz.

A "thank you" to Sarah Jesson and the Child Cancer Foundation for sending this article to The Upper Hutt Connection.

02/03/26

Collapsed Metlink train parts provider still owes employees wages

Trovon staff in Upper Hutt arrived at work in October to find the workshop locks changed. The landlord said the company owed months of rent. Australian head office told staff to go home. Administrators were appointed on 7 October. New Zealand staff were not formally terminated until early November.

Trovon has since been wound up in Australia, but its New Zealand arm remains registered. Ten workers are still owed wages. Team leader Mohammed Shameel is owed \$16,000. Other staff are owed weeks of pay and leave. Some have gone into overdraft to cover living costs.

Malaysian firm Destini bought Trovon in December 2024 for A\$100m, absorbing A\$3.25m of debt. It has not responded to questions. Australian administrators told staff they could not claim entitlements because the issue was in New Zealand. MBIE said it could not help because Trovon had no New Zealand assets.

Director John Marinos said he was sorry and also lost his job. He said the parent company failed to provide expected funding, leading to unpaid payroll.

Greater Wellington Regional Council had earlier said 11 Matangi trains would be temporarily withdrawn from service due to the collapse but expected maintenance to return to normal in August.

Source: Radio New Zealand

26/02/26

Fun workouts for all fitness levels: Have-a-go Hydro is back

We're excited to announce that our popular Have-a-go Hydro classes are back during [Women's Only Swim Night](#).

If you've been meaning to improve your fitness, strength, and overall wellbeing, this fun and inclusive class will be a great fit for you.

Date, time, pricing

Have-a-go Hydro runs on the first Sunday of the month, 7.15-8.00PM, during our Women's Only Swim Night here at H₂O Xstream.

This have-a-go class is included in our standard admission price – no extra cost to join in and try it out.

Benefits of water-based aerobics workout

Working out in the water has lots to offer:

- Water provides great resistance, making this type of exercise effective for increasing circulation and improving strength.
- Buoyancy from the water reduces impact on your body and joints while working out. This is ideal if you need to manage joint point or want to ease back into exercising after recovering from an injury.

More fitness classes at H₂O Xtream

We offer a varied aquatic fitness programme at our facility and would love to be part of your regular workout routine.

[Hydro-Energize](#) and [Hydro-Pump](#) run several times a week, so you can enjoy lots of options to work out and achieve your fitness goals right here at one of the region's best places for aquatic sport and recreation.

Source: H2O Xtream Aquatic Centre

26/02/26

Get out and about into our parks this Parks Week

Upper Hutt is home to some of the most beautiful parks, playgrounds, and open spaces in the region. This Parks Week, we're inviting everyone in our community to step outside, get moving, and reconnect with the green spaces that make Upper Hutt such a special place to live.

What you can do in our parks

There are so many ways to get active during Parks Week. We invite you to step outside and rediscover the joy of our parks. Whether you're exploring scenic walkways, playing at one of our many playgrounds, or simply relaxing in nature, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Find out more at: <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/News/parks-week>

Why our parks matter

Parks are more than just open spaces. They are essential green infrastructure that supports:

- Physical and mental wellbeing
- Social connection and community life
- Children's play and lifelong recreation
- Biodiversity and native habitat
- Climate resilience, shade, and urban cooling
- Natural water management

Spending time outdoors reduces stress, improves mood, encourages movement, and helps cut down screen time. For tamariki, outdoor play builds strength, coordination, confidence, imagination, and social skills. No matter where you live in Upper Hutt, there's a park or green space nearby ready to explore.

Parks Week is about celebrating what our parks already do for our communities - play, culture, connection, nature, and health - and encouraging everyone to experience them in new ways. Whether it's a lunchtime walk, a family picnic, a weekend bike ride, or simply sitting under a tree with a book, every visit strengthens our connection to nature and each other.

We invite you and your family to explore our parks and reserves this March. so get outside, get moving, and make the most of our big green backyard.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

28/02/26

Cyclist run down by dirt bike at Trentham Memorial Park

A cyclist suffered leg injuries after he was run down by a moto-cross biker at Trentham Memorial Park last Monday, the cyclist suffering a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament and a dislocated knee cap. According to the cyclist and footage from a nearby home security camera, this appears to have been deliberate. Residents came from across the park to assist him, and by the time he'd come to, the bikers had left the scene.

The man says that he did nothing to provoke the rider, although police mentioned that the group of bikers may have mistakenly thought the cyclist was filming them.

The event has made a big impact on his life, having caused him give up cycling after having done it for the past 30 years - not to mention the cost of medical expenses, a new phone, and helmet. The family is considering moving out of the area.

Moto-cross riders turning up at the park is becoming a more frequent occurrence, much to the annoyance of locals, as the park is an area with young children and it's too dangerous to have dirt bikes here. Hutt Valley area inspector, Shuan Lingard said that police were aware of an ongoing issue with riders, and that this behaviour isn't something just isolated to the Wellington District - it's happening all across the country.

Source: 1News

25/02/26

New heritage collection captures Silverstream Hospital's last chapter

Tinsel garlands brightening up wards at Christmas time. Feathered visitors greeting patients at the entrance to the building complex's cinema and creche. Craft projects showcasing the creativity and handiwork of patients and staff.

The recent addition of the Susi Williams Collection to Mahara Upper Hutt Community Archive allows a unique glimpse into everyday life at Silverstream Hospital during the 1980s, the facility's final decade of operation.

As the hospital's Medical Superintendent from 1980 to 1989, Doctor Susi Williams was both at the helm and at the heart of day-to-day staff and patient life. Photographs, diary notes, original issues of the hospital newsletter Getting Together Hilltop News, and more pull back the curtain to reveal a bustling place where medical care was, very much, community care.

This last chapter of Silverstream Hospital, with performances, music revues, cultural events, and a varied schedule of occupational therapy activities, stands in stark contrast to the facility's beginnings as a military hospital during World War II.

Although the building complex has changed over the years, its legacy lives on locally, regionally, and internationally in the life stories of the patients who received care there.

[Explore the Susi Williams collection at Mahara Upper Hutt Community Archive](#)

Source: Upper Hutt Libraries

25/2/26

New Upper Hutt Food Week launches with nine days celebrating local food and community: 21st March - 29th of March

Upper Hutt Food Week launches for the first time from 21–29 March 2026, offering nine days of events celebrating local food, growing, and community connection across Upper Hutt and the wider Hutt Valley.

The community-led programme includes a Harvest Festival, market day, workshops, films, long lunches, competitions and hands-on activities — all centred around seasonal produce, local growers and practical food skills. Events will take place across community gardens, local venues and neighbourhood spaces throughout the city.

Rather than a single large festival, Upper Hutt Food Week is designed as a city-wide participation event, encouraging people to take part, learn new skills, share knowledge and reconnect with where their food comes from. The initiative builds on the Hutt Valley's long history as Wellington's traditional food basket while responding to modern challenges such as rising food costs, climate pressures and the gradual loss of everyday food knowledge.

Organiser Alice Midgley, Founding Trustee of Growing Sustainability NZ, says the week is about strengthening community through food.

“Food connects us — to place, to culture and to each other. Upper Hutt Food Week celebrates what we already have locally while helping people rediscover the skills and relationships that make communities resilient.”

The week launches with the Mangaroa Farms Harvest Festival featuring baking and preserve competitions, followed later in the week by a community vegetable muffin competition hosted by Upper Hutt Food Co-op.

Upper Hutt Food Week is coordinated by Growing Sustainability NZ, working in partnership with Upper Hutt City Council and Rimutaka Lions, and delivered alongside key collaborators including Mangaroa Farms, 4 A Better City and Heritage Nursery, together with many local growers, businesses and volunteers contributing across the programme.

Events are designed to appeal to families, experienced gardeners, new growers and anyone interested in good local food. Many activities will be free or low-cost to ensure accessibility and broad participation.

Media Contact:

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

27/02/26

Upper Hutt schools join Movin'March 2026

Upper Hutt schools are gearing up for Movin'March 2026, Greater Wellington's annual month-long active travel challenge that encourages tamariki and their whānau to walk, wheel, cycle or scoot to school throughout March.

Focused on fun, fitness and connection, Movin'March promotes healthier travel choices while helping care for our environment.

The challenge kicks off on Monday, 2 March and runs through to Tuesday, 31 March 2026.

This year, Upper Hutt has reached a record number of schools signed up, reflecting the strong commitment from our kura, whānau and wider community to supporting active and safe journeys to school.

Upper Hutt schools have already shown what's possible. In 2025, Birchville School achieved the highest average trips per student in the Wellington region — around 18 active journeys per student — an outstanding result that highlights what can be achieved when schools, students and families get behind the challenge.

Movin'March forms part of Upper Hutt City Council's road safety programme, which encourages active travel for tamariki across the city. By choosing to walk, wheel, cycle or scoot, children build confidence, independence and wellbeing, while whānau and schools help ease congestion around school gates and reduce emissions.

We look forward to seeing our schools get moving again this March and celebrating the positive impact across our community.

Source: Upper Hutt City Council

27/02/26

Wellington Vintage Machinery Club

Do you have a soft spot for the rhythmic chug of a vintage stationary engine? Does the smell of

diesel and the sight of polished brass make you feel right at home? If so, the Wellington Vintage Machinery Club has a seat (and likely a wrench) waiting for you!

Nestled in the scenic Mangaroa Valley in Upper Hutt, our club is more than just a workshop—it's a

living museum. We are a group of like-minded enthusiasts dedicated to the restoration and

maintenance of the machinery that built our region

Why We Do It

While we love anything with a piston or a pulley, we take special pride in preserving equipment with a Wellington connection. Whether it's an engine that once powered a local farm or a piece of industrial gear from the city's past, we believe these machines tell the story of our home.

Join Us for a Crank-Up!

We believe that history is best shared. Whether you are a master mechanic, a curious tinkerer, or someone who just wants to learn the ropes, you are more than welcome to join us.

When: The 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month.

Where: Our clubrooms in Mangaroa Valley. 155a Mangaroa Hill Road, Mangaroa, Upper Hutt.

What to expect: Good coffee, great conversation, and plenty of vintage iron.

Come along and join our club and help us keep Wellington's history moving!

All welcome, we look forward to seeing you soon.

Our club email: wvmc.info@gmail.com

Our Google Site: <https://sites.google.com/view/wellingtonvintagemachineryclub/home>

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

02/03/26

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MATTERS

For all information on past and upcoming council and committee meetings, including workshops, agendas, minutes, and other related content please visit <https://www.upperhutt.govt.nz/Council/About-Your-Council/Council-meetings/Meeting-agendas-and-minutes>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Move on orders - Teresa Homan

Move on orders by police for the homeless simply shifts the problem caused by homelessness it doesn't solve it; it is no solution. If people on the streets in other council areas are made to move on will this increase the people without homes moving on to Upper Hutt? The solution is more housing; the answer lies in more government funding to build more houses. Not high-end market housing, but moderate family homes or single bedroom houses or flats. As voters in the next general election, we should be looking to a government with a plan for housing. Plans that include government guaranteed mortgage sponsored by banks or credit unions. Rent to buy schemes of state-built houses. Low interest loans for development costs for developers. We need too, to acknowledge not all people who we see sleeping on the street or in park bushes are simply without shelter. Some have unmet unwellness concerns, complex trauma, addiction, mental health illness. The answer for this group of people is first recognising the right for them to have their dignity protected and for them to be confident they can trust others by building up trusting relationships with people and agencies whose corner stone is non-judgemental compassion. This takes a whole community organised to offer every assistance every step of the way assistance that is not denied at the first hurdle but is offered over and over to be freely chosen or rejected without penalty. Upper Hutt has available, all the resources to do this, and with government support can. The question I believe is do we want to be that community or do we want to invest in more security cameras and move the problem out of sight.

Teresa Homan

BEST advocacy service manager, UHHCT chair

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

26/02/26

New Water Entity, New Water Charges - 1st July 2026 - NZ Empowered

www.nzempowered.com/QNA

After talking to people in our community, it appears many are unaware of the impending changes to their water, waste and stormwater supply, or have questions.. From 1st July 2026 Tiaki Wai (Metro Water) will be Wellingtons new water entity. This new entity will be taking over from Wellington Water and assuming all assets and debt from the 5 participating councils.

Councils and organisations seem more interested in their systems and process than actually providing relevant information and impacts to the community. At the UHCC meeting on the 24th Feb it was stated "we all need to be communicating with people at the right time on the thing that matters." And that "It will hit ratepayers in the pocket." So much so they have set in motion a Ratepayers Assistance Scheme which seems to be a reverse mortgage facility.

Until Councils and Tiaki Wai provide more information on impending costs the only information that is available comes from reports and information from councils, Tiaki Wai and third parties. Here is a webpage which tries to answer some of the questions which we feel people would like answers too and have tried best we can to answer.

24th Feb Workshop Summary - https://c29daf59-758a-4029-be4e-3a751893ecad.usfiles.com/ugd/c29daf_034e14c1676b440286394c66d19205c0.pdf

Water Q&A - https://c29daf59-758a-4029-be4e-3a751893ecad.usfiles.com/ugd/c29daf_132e11ddb1d64015b30b316f2fbf8d43.pdf

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

03/03/26

SPORTS

Podium finishers at Wellington Family Speedway's Triple Header

Dated: Sunday 1st of March, 2026

What an incredible Triple Header event last night at Value Motors Wellington Family Speedway!

Thank you to all those who attended - fans for bringing the excitement, competitors for putting on the show, and our staff for making it all happen!

Congratulations to our podium finishers...

Kiwi Car Removals Demolition Derby

- \$2,000 WINNER - Darren Mckay

AV Kiwi Wellington Production Saloon Champs

1. 434V Brent Hackett
2. 79W Brendon Engman
3. 97W Sean Lockyear

Ministock Capital Cup

- Placemakers Tier 1 - WINNER - 52P Boston Joblin
- Tier 2 - WINNER - 65W Fletcher Philpott

Nelson Street Motors - Female Group

1. 45W Charlotte Philpott
2. 16W Vayda Pou
3. 119W Sophie Bewley

FH Group - Male Group

1. 88W Ashton Kahui
2. 21P Mason Taylor
3. 126S Blake Luscombe

Custom Builders - Male Group

1. 52P Boston Joblin
2. 9W Jesse McPhee
3. 54W Jacob Pye

Tyre Winners thanks to Nelson Street Motors;

- 45W Charlotte Philpott
- 17A Corbin Seals
- 98R Reeve Transom

Massive thank you to all of the out of town competitors that came to join our meeting last night, we appreciate your support for our club and event!

Thank you to our event organisers for putting together the Ministock Capital Cup, we couldn't do it without the time and effort you put in to making this happen!

Source: Wellington Family Speedway

02/03/26

Upper Hutt comes in first at Masterton Petanque's Open Triples

Masterton Petanque Club held their annual Open Triples tournament on Saturday 28th February on a sunny warm day, though a cool start. 8 teams were entered from various clubs, including from outside the Wellington region, drawn in part by the sponsorship of the event by Arvida Lansdowne Estate, a popular retirement community in Masterton. Arvida Lansdowne provided a hamper and the prize money for the tournament.

Initially 4 random draw games were played in order to provide the ranking of the 8 teams, at which point they were split into 2 divisions of 4 teams each. Each division then played a semi-final and then a final to determine the winner and runner-up for each division.

The 2nd division winners were Graham and Ingrid Edmondson (Hawkes Bay) and Mike Robinson (Upper Hutt), and the runners-up were Steve Loftus, Dave Roper and Sue Walker, all from Masterton. The overall 1st division winners in a very close final (13-11) were Dave and Adrienne Gwerder, and Derek Worsley, all from Upper Hutt. Their very worthy opponents and the runners-up were Michelle Maxwell and Debby Butler (Kapiti) and Michael Rocks (Naenae).

The sponsorship of such events is key to drawing in entries from farther afield than the local region, and helps considerably to get clubs to communicate socially and obtain a greater mix of players and capabilities, whilst retaining the friendliness of the game of petanque. Arvida Lansdowne have expressed an interest to continue to sponsor this event in the future.

Thanks to Masterton Petanque Club and Arvida Lansdowne Estate for a great day.

Source: Upper Hutt Petanque Club

02/03/26