

Community Link

Whanganui District Council

101 Guyton Street

PO Box 637, Whanganui 4500

06 349 0001

yourcouncil@whanganui.govt.nz

www.whanganui.govt.nz

@whanganuidistrictcouncil

@whanganuidc

@WhanganuiDC



Making it count with heritage grant

Whanganui's heritage buildings have received a boost with an increase in Whanganui District Council's Heritage Grant Fund.

The funding pool has increased from \$100,000 annually to \$250,000 annually, and the scope of the funding criteria has widened.

Owners of heritage buildings can now apply for funding support for professional services relating to seismic design and fire upgrades, and funding can be sought for council and Crown-owned buildings that are in community use, as well as privately owned buildings outside the central city subject to demonstrating substantial community benefit.

The Doyle's Accounting building at 32 Taupo Quay – one the oldest in the Old Town area – is the latest recipient of funding. It was built as the *Whanganui Chronicle's* headquarters in 1896 and served this purpose until the newspaper moved to larger new premises in 1912 on the corner of Rutland Street and Drews Avenue.

While the building was unsympathetically altered in 1954, the original sash windows were retained. Incentive funding was granted towards their careful repainting as they are rare examples of pre-1900 joinery at the heart of Whanganui's Old Town precinct.

The current Heritage Grant Fund round has just opened – funding applications can be made up until 31 January 2022. For more information and a downloadable application form, please visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/heritage-fund



Above: Whanganui District Council's heritage advisor Scott Flutey and Samantha Neilson of Doyle's Accounting. Below: The building at 32 Taupo Quay, shown left, was originally the *Whanganui Chronicle* headquarters. Credit: Taupo Quay, Wanganui, circa 1905, Dunedin, by Muir & Moodie studio. Te Papa (C.012678)



Kowhai Park's flying fox is up and running for summer

The flying fox at Kowhai Park (pictured) has reopened to the community. The ground around the structure that was previously saturated has dried out enough to let people use the flying fox. The previous flying fox was taken down in October 2020 because of safety concerns. The new ride has now been brought up to current safety standards with the safety zone widened and improvements made to the launch zone. Contractors will return at a later date to finish the tidy-up of the site.



Backhouse Trust partnership wants innovative thinkers

The Backhouse at 28 Taupo Quay is Whanganui's new centre for innovation, creative industries, entrepreneurship and education. A collaboration between Whanganui & Partners – Whanganui District Council's economic development agency – and UCOL Whanganui, the facility is intended to give aspirational locals a space to explore new business opportunities, develop ideas and deliver projects.

The Backhouse Trust currently consists of two appointed trustees from W&P and UCOL. The trust is now seeking more trustees from diverse backgrounds who can help the initiative reach its potential as a centre for business development. Applications to become a Backhouse Trust trustee close at **4.00pm on Thursday, 18 November 2021**. More details at: www.discoverwhanganui.nz/news/backhouse-trust

Friends of the Sarjeant

Annual meeting on 30 November

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of the Friends of the Sarjeant Gallery Incorporated will be held at Sarjeant on the Quay, 38 Taupo Quay, Whanganui at **7.30pm on Tuesday, 30 November 2021**.

The meeting will also include a presentation from Emma Bugden on her role as strategic lead, creative industries and art at Whanganui & Partners (Whanganui District Council's economic development agency) and how the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui fits into the W&P strategy.

Ian McGowan, Secretary

Facilities open again

Durie Hill elevator / Winter Gardens

- The 102-year-old Durie Hill elevator has reopened to the public after the completion of repairs to its DC motor. The elevator operates from 8.00am–6.00pm, Monday to Friday, and from 10.00am–5.00pm on Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

- The Winter Gardens at Rotokawau Virginia Lake have reopened to visitors. The gardens have been closed since July while upgrade work took place and are open daily from 9.00am to 5.00pm. **Please note:** There is still some work taking place on the gardens.

Somme Pde road works

Gloucester / Lowther streets area

Work to prepare and seal the road on Somme Parade between Gloucester and Lowther streets started earlier this week and is expected to be completed this **Friday, 12 November 2021**.

Stop-go traffic management is in place and delays are likely. Glasgow Street is advised as an alternative route to avoid the worksite.

Traffic signal upgrade

Victoria Ave / Guyton St intersection

Work has begun on an upgrade to traffic signal equipment at the Victoria Avenue / Guyton Street intersection. During the upgrade, Victoria Avenue traffic will have right of way, while give way signs will be in place for Guyton Street traffic (right-turning traffic to give way to opposing traffic).

Once the upgrade is complete, pedestrians will continue to cross diagonally. There will be no change to the intersection layout or kerb alignments. Please take care if you are travelling through this intersection and keep to any speed restrictions in place. The work is expected to be completed by **Tuesday, 30 November 2021**.

Council meetings

Upcoming meeting

Whanganui Rural Community Board	2.30pm Thursday 11 November	Nagaizumi-cho Room, 101 Guyton Street
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Agendas: www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas
Livestreamed council meetings:
www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil
www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings

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Whanganui District Council has a smartphone app available to the community. Antenno allows you to receive alerts and notifications about places and topics vital to you like water shut-offs or important information in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. Install Antenno now – it's free to download.

www.whanganui.govt.nz/antenno

