

Community Link

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Awards put spotlight on Whanganui!

Whanganui's winter celebration and light parade, Lights on Bikes and Drews Ave Street Party, scored the Outstanding Event award at Recreation Aotearoa Te Whai Oranga's New Zealand Recreation Awards 2022 held in Nelson on 24 November.

Lights on Bikes celebrates lit-up bikes, skateboards, prams, wheelchairs and other wheeled contraptions that travel from Drews Avenue, through Pākaitore Moutoa Gardens, along the Whanganui River and back.

The cycle route includes a range of illuminated displays by local artists, projections on buildings, a lit-up tram and roving performers. Local musicians and bands were centred at the hub of the street party and a band performed from a balcony. Workshops to make illuminated costumes for people and their bikes were held at the Sarjeant Gallery leading up to the event.

Lights on Bikes has run since 2018. The 2021 event (pictured) was an opportunity to showcase the opening of the Drews Avenue streetscape project co-designed by businesses, Iwi, building owners, artists and residents operating in the street. The upgraded streetscape in Drews Avenue, funded through Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's Innovating Streets programme, features communal outdoor seating surrounded by plantings, bike racks, a retro telephone handset and games for locals and visitors to enjoy.

Wharf demolition underway



Te Pūwaha, the Whanganui Port revitalisation project, has taken another step forward with work to demolish the concrete foundations of the previous Victory Shed now underway. Jurgens Demolition have been onsite since the beginning of December, with the work expected to take two-to-three weeks to complete.

Whanganui District Council's port project manager, Phil Wardale (pictured above, at left), says the work needed to be completed before Christmas. "Recent assessments have indicated the concrete slabs which were once located under the Victory Shed are slumping and at risk of collapse. It is important that we remove that risk as soon as possible. We are fortunate to have a local business with the capabilities and expertise to undertake the work for us. Jurgens have even procured a specialist demolition attachment so they can complete the demolition promptly and more efficiently, with the most appropriate equipment.

"Demolition will also include further securing of the site to prevent public access. It's important for us to convey that the entire port including this work site is not a safe place for the general public, especially children and no one should be trying to access the area, or swimming into the property and jumping off wharf structures," Phil Wardale says.

For more information, please read the council's media release at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/port



The street itself was beautified thanks to an on-road mural created by local artists Cecelia Kumeroa and Jodi Clark. The Drews Avenue project was also awarded a merit award at the Recreation Awards.

The Lights on Bikes event and the upgraded streetscape was a team effort, led by Shanti Sibbing and former Town Centre activation officer, Ellen Young, and supported by Waka Kotahi's Innovating Streets and council staff as well as a host of local organisations.

For more information about Recreation Aotearoa and this year's Recreation Awards, visit: www.nzrecreation.org.nz

It's a Winter Gardens Christmas wonderland!



The Winter Gardens at Rotokawau Virginia Lake have again been transformed into Santa's Grotto for Christmas - take the family along and check out the decorative displays in the lead up to the big day on 25 December!

New airport cafe launches

Air Chathams has taken over the Whanganui Airport cafe. JARS Cafe will be run by Loulou Krebs (pictured) and her daughter, Lola. Loulou, originally from Wellington, previously taught bakery and cookery at UCOL and worked at Maria Lane Eatery & Bar.



Whanganui District Council supported Air Chathams with the set-up of the in-house cafe through favourable lease terms and a coffee machine. Previously, the cafe was leased to private providers. The in-house cafe will be based on the Whakatane Airport model, which Air Chathams also runs.

Loulou Krebs says the cafe will provide "good, healthy, uncomplicated and delicious" food, with menu items like "tomato on Vogel's bread" for early-morning passengers to start the day. Other menu items include scones and muffins, quiches and sausage rolls, all made in the cafe kitchen. Superfood ingredients and home-made preserves will also be in the mix, as well as great coffee.

The cafe's name is based on Lola's love of jars as well as Loulou's preserves, and jars will be used as serving vessels. JARS Cafe hours are Monday to Friday, 6.00am-11.00am and 3.30pm-5.00pm. Closed on Saturdays, the cafe's Sunday hours are 3.30pm-5.00pm. Hours will be reviewed in the new year.

Property file requests

Holiday period deadline 19 December

If you require a property file before the 2022-23 Christmas / New Year holiday period, Whanganui District Council must receive your request **no later than 5.00pm on Monday, 19 December 2022**. This means you will receive the electronic file before the council closes for the holiday period at 12 noon on Friday, 23 December 2022. Request a property file at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/property-file-request

By-election nominations

Whanganui subdivision vacancy

A by-election is being held to fill an extraordinary vacancy for a Whanganui subdivision representative on the Whanganui Rural Community Board. Nominations must be made on the official nomination form, which is available on the Whanganui District Council website or by request from council customer services at 101 Guyton Street. Nomination forms and a by-election information sheet can also be requested from:

- Anna Palamountain, deputy electoral officer, Whanganui District Council, at: anna.palamountain@whanganui.govt.nz
- Warwick Lampp, electoral officer: iro@electionz.com or call **0800 666 048**.

Candidate information is in the 2022 local government elections candidate handbook at: bit.ly/3EUjGPg

Completed nomination documents must be received by the deputy electoral officer at Whanganui District Council, 101 Guyton Street, Whanganui, **no later than 12 noon on Thursday, 22 December 2022**.

Royal Opera House

Box Office holiday period hours

The Royal Whanganui Opera House's Box Office at 69 St Hill Street will close for the upcoming Christmas / New Year holiday period **from 1.30pm this Friday, 16 December 2022 until 10.00am on Monday, 9 January 2023**. The Box Office is open for ticket sales all this week from 10.00am-1.30pm. Show details at: rwoh.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales

Sarjeant on the move

Gallery relocation plans announced

Sarjeant on the Quay, the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui's temporary home since 2014, will close its doors at the end of June 2023 in advance of the gallery reopening at Pukenui Queen's Park in 2024, the Sarjeant's 105th year. For more information, visit: www.sarjeant.org.nz/news

Council meetings

Meeting next week

Council meeting	1.00pm Tuesday 20 December	Council Chamber, 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