



Community Link

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Tea ceremony to honour sister city

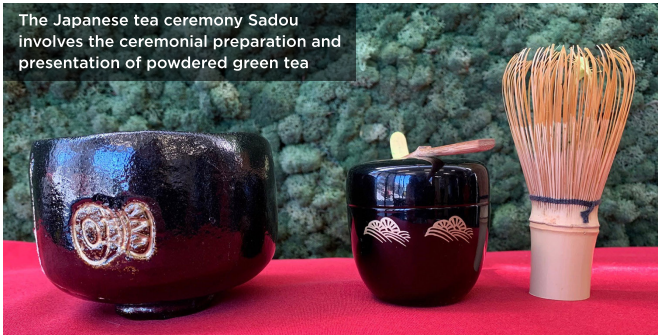
For the first time a public tea ceremony will be held at the Japanese Tea House at Bason Botanic Gardens, highlighting Whanganui's sister city relationship with Nagaizumi-cho.

Whanganui District Council group manager – customer experience and international relations advisor, Marianne Cavanagh, is delighted recognition of the sister city relationship and the tea house will be in the spotlight on **Monday, 14 February 2022**.

“Nagaizumi-cho and Whanganui have been sister cities for more than 30 years and many long-lasting friendships have developed over that time. We appreciate the opportunity to host a tea ceremony at such a beautiful building and location.”

COVID-19 protocols mean bookings are essential and numbers will be limited to 15 for each afternoon session, with two sessions planned. While the ceremony will take place outside, the tea house's windows and doors will be open to allow for views of its interior.

Whanganui residents Michiko Yamada, Rie Onogi and Mizuho Jones have helped to organise and present the ceremony (known as Sadou).



The Japanese tea ceremony Sadou involves the ceremonial preparation and presentation of powdered green tea

Michiko Yamada says, “For me, Sadou is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – the moment of having peace in your heart and nature and respect for each other. Everyone has different opinions, but at the tea ceremony we are all equal.”

A valid My Vaccine Pass is required to attend this event for everyone aged 12 years and older. Bookings can be made by email or phone ONLY. For bookings, please contact council property and facilities officer, Aimee Ashworth, between 8.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday, on 027 4375 375 or email: aimee.ashworth@whanganui.govt.nz
Bookings close on **Thursday, 10 February 2022**.

Survey on internet access and digital confidence open

Whanganui District Council wants to hear about internet access and the level of digital confidence in the Whanganui District. A community survey to help the council better understand the current state of online access and services throughout our district is available online, in paper form and via phone call. Paper survey forms are available from council customer services at 101 Guyton Street.

The survey on internet access and digital confidence in Whanganui closes at **5.00pm on Tuesday, 22 February 2022**. To participate, scan the QR code or visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/digital-survey
You can also take part over the phone by calling the council on 06 349 0001 – request the digital survey.



Get prepared – COVID-19 care in the community

Whanganui District Council encourages everyone in the community to take some time now to prepare for COVID-19. Being ready for COVID-19 is about making sure you and your household have a plan. It's important to know what to do if you need to isolate, or if you or any family members become unwell and need to go to hospital.

Now is the time to check you have what you need. This might be putting together a wellness kit with face masks, hand sanitiser, gloves, tissues and cleaning products. It could also include things to enjoy doing at home as well, for yourself or younger family members.

If you have to self-isolate due to COVID-19 there is help and support for your health and welfare needs. Whanganui DHB and local health providers, Te Oranganui and Whanganui Regional Health Network, are working with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to provide local care. Health providers will assess your immediate health needs and MSD will help connect you with welfare services.

If you are directed to self-isolate and have questions about what support is available, call MSD's COVID-19 welfare line on 0800 512 337 (available 8.00am-8.00pm daily, including public holidays). For local COVID-19 updates, including vaccination clinics in the Whanganui District, please visit: www.wdhh.org.nz – for more information on how to prepare and stay safe, please visit: bit.ly/3eB6rXf

WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Whanganui District Council invites you to have your say on these topics:

- Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw review – initial survey
- Survey on internet access and digital confidence in Whanganui

More details at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say

Stay in the know with Antenno!

Whanganui District Council has a smartphone app available to the community. Antenno allows you to receive alerts and notifications about topics 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

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

Waitangi Day hours

Council services – Monday, 7 February

This year's Waitangi Day is observed on **Monday, 7 February 2022**. For council services and facilities on this public holiday, please visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/waitangi-day-2022

Whanganui is at Red

Council services in COVID-19 setting

At the COVID-19 Red traffic light setting, most of Whanganui District Council's services and facilities remain operational – details at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/covid-19

Please consider whether you need to visit council services and facilities in person. For all general enquiries, please call 06 349 0001 or email: yourcouncil@whanganui.govt.nz

If you need to visit us in person, council customer services at 101 Guyton Street are open from Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5.00pm. A My Vaccine Pass is required for access beyond customer services on the ground floor.

Please note that council services currently available may be subject to change at short notice.

Senior driver events

Bookings essential for free courses

Age Concern Whanganui is hosting free events for senior drivers in February and March.

• **Staying Safe** is a refresher driving course for older drivers who want to keep driving safely for as long as possible. Intended to improve driving safety and skills, and build confidence on the road, this course runs from **9.30am-3.00pm on Wednesday, 9 February 2022**.

• **CarFit** is a 20-minute free check that helps older drivers maximise safety and comfort in their vehicles. This event takes place on the **morning of Wednesday, 2 March 2022**.

• **Hanging Up the Car Keys** is for senior drivers and their families to learn about the medical and safety aspects of driving safely, and alternative transport. This event will include a geriatrician and driver educator and takes place from **2.00pm-4.00pm on Friday, 11 March 2022**.

Please note that bookings are essential and a COVID-19 vaccine pass is required for all events. For venue details and to book times, please call Age Concern Whanganui on 06 345 1799.

Cemeteries survey

Closing date this Friday, 4 February

Whanganui District Council is inviting the community to complete a survey on burials, cemeteries, cremations, monuments and memorials in the district, ahead of a review of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw in 2023.

The survey covers a range of issues such as cemetery maintenance, nuisance behaviour at cemeteries, access to burial services, natural burials, materials allowed for headstones and whether there should be a dedicated area for scattering ashes.

Everyone who fills in the survey will also have the option to go in the draw to win a \$50.00 grocery voucher. The survey closes this **Friday, 4 February 2022** – please visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/cemeteries-bylaw-review