

Community Link

Whanganui District Council

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Let's Go for BikeReady programme!

Almost 7000 Whanganui students have benefited from a cycling education package delivered by Mā Ake Let's Go, part of Whanganui District Council's active transport programme.

Mā Ake Let's Go is in its fifth year of delivering the BikeReady programme to all Whanganui schools. The national cycling education programme is funded by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

Let's Go active transport facilitator, Norman Gruebsch, says 31 Whanganui schools have participated, involving 6814 students. Of those, 1454 students have gone on to complete grade two, using quiet streets and shared pathways to get around town.

Norman Gruebsch says one of the highlights has been the organisation's input into moving students from basic skills in grade one, to gaining confidence and knowledge at grade two, to regularly use cycling as a transport option.

Grade two learning has involved group rides along Te Tuaiwi shared pathway, with students demonstrating good cycling etiquette, becoming familiar with the shared pathway and learning how to cross safely at intersections.

Let's Go coach Greg Fromont says watching the students' skillsets and road abilities grow has been rewarding. "The bonus is watching their confidence and self-esteem grow with it."



Mā Ake Let's Go coach Greg Fromont, far right, with Whanganui Intermediate School students on St Hill Street, part of Te Tuaiwi shared pathway

Whanganui Intermediate School principal Katherine Ellery says the programme's focus on using shared pathways has led to more students cycling to and from the intermediate school. "We regularly have over 100 bikes and almost as many scooters at the school."

The council has received funding approval from Waka Kotahi for the next three-year block – from 2021/22 to 2023/24. The Mā Ake Let's Go programme contract will go out for tender soon with interested organisations encouraged to submit.

For more information about Whanganui's shared pathways, visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/cycling-shared-pathways

Upcoming Raupo St road closure is for service upgrades

Raupo Street from Heads Road to Hinau Street will be closed to all traffic from Monday, 1 November 2021 for Whanganui District Council contractors to undertake stormwater and wastewater upgrades. This work is scheduled to be completed in approximately six months.

During the upgrade all traffic in this part of Raupo Street will be diverted into Hinau Street so that vehicle users can access Rogers Street or Mosston Road as alternate routes to avoid the work area. Traffic in Heads Road will be reduced to one lane with traffic light controls while work takes place at the intersection of Heads Road and Raupo Street. Please note that affected Raupo Street residents will have access to their properties at all times during this work.

The installation of stormwater and wastewater pipes in this area will allow for the separation of these flows, and significantly improve stormwater and wastewater levels of service the council provides to the community. This work will also reduce wet weather flows in the city's wastewater system, reducing the risk of flooding that is key to meeting environmental objectives. The upgrade will also accommodate current and anticipated growth in Whanganui's urban area.

This project is being funded from central government's Three Waters Stimulus Project funding that was launched in July 2020 after last year's COVID-19 lockdowns – more information at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/stimulus-project

Age Concern offering free events for senior drivers

Age Concern Whanganui is holding free events for senior drivers during November and December to encourage driver



confidence and road safety. Bookings are essential and events will be held under COVID-19 alert level measures. **Staying Safe** is a refresher driving course for older drivers who want to keep driving safely for as long as possible. It will take place from **9.30am until 3.00pm on Wednesday, 10 November and Wednesday, 1 December 2021**. The course aims to build the confidence of older drivers and update their knowledge of how ageing affects driving, road code changes, licence renewal for 75+ and safe driving practices. A booklet and luncheon will be provided. **CarFit** is a 20-minute free check that helps older drivers maximise safety and comfort in their vehicles. This event will happen during the morning on **Thursday, 11 November and Thursday, 2 December 2021**. For venue details and to book times for both of these events, please call Age Concern Whanganui on 06 345 1799.

Creative industries survey

Are you involved in the arts or creative industries? Have your voice heard with the Whanganui Arts and Creative Industries Survey 2021.

The survey by Whanganui District Council and Whanganui & Partners aims to identify what's working for our creatives, what isn't, and what support is needed. The results will help inform decisions on funding and other support provided to our vibrant arts community. As a bonus, respondents go into a draw to win one of four \$100.00 vouchers for either Paige's Book Gallery, New World supermarket or Aotearoa Art Supplies.

Take the online survey with the QR code above or go to: www.discoverwhanganui.nz/business/creative-industries-survey Hard copies of the survey are also available at Sarjeant on the Quay, 38 Taupo Quay, and from Whanganui District Council customer services at 101 Guyton Street. The survey closes on **Monday, 25 October 2021**.



Labour Day holiday

Council services – Monday, 25 October

Whanganui District Council offices will be closed for the Labour Day public holiday next **Monday, 25 October 2021**. Customer services at 101 Guyton Street will reopen at 8.30am on Tuesday, 26 October.

Contact the council at any time on 06 349 0001 – this number is monitored 24/7 including for urgent enquiries. For a full list of opening hours for council facilities and services on Labour Day, 25 October, visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/labour-day-2021

2021 Public Art Fund

Applications open until 29 October

Whanganui District Council's 2021 Public Art Fund is an annual contestable fund that supports a wide range of public artworks including digital art, temporary performance, toi Māori, interactive art, sculpture, pou whenua, moving image, land art, mural art and much more. Funding applications close at **12 noon on Friday, 29 October 2021**.

For more information, please visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/funding

Council meetings

Meeting in October

Policy and Bylaw Committee	10.00am Thursday 28 October	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
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• *Review of Alcohol Control hearing and deliberations*

Meetings in November

Youth Committee	4.00pm Monday 1 November	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
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Strategy and Finance Committee	1.00pm Tuesday 2 November	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
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Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee	1.00pm Thursday 4 November	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
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Property and Community Services Committee	1.00pm Tuesday 9 November	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
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Policy and Bylaw Committee	10.00am Wednesday 10 November	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
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• *Waste Management and Minimisation hearings and deliberation*

• *Reserve date for this meeting: 10.00am – Thursday, 11 November*

Whanganui Rural Community Board	3.30pm Thursday 11 November	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