

# Community Link

Whanganui District Council

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## Our airport wins top-flight award

Whanganui Airport was recognised as the 2022 Small Airport of the

**WHANGANUI AIRPORT**

Year at the NZ Airports Association Awards held on 14 September 2022 at Ohakea Airbase. Our local airport (pictured) was competing with other small regional airports from around the country that have less than 200,000 passengers per year.

The award recognised the significant work done recently to introduce an Aeronautical Information Service, known as UNICOM, which assists pilots of aircraft flying in Whanganui's airspace while also providing the airport operator with greatly improved oversight of airport activities.

The judges described the provision of the UNICOM service as a project that went beyond the traditional individual award categories through its excellent safety improvements and enhanced airport user collaboration. They also noted that by reusing the existing heritage control tower building the airport has strongly underpinned the future potential of its aviation community.

Whanganui Airport manager, Phil McBride, says the negative effects of COVID-19 have been significant for the aviation industry. "However, Air Chathams has now resumed their Whanganui-Auckland flight schedule and passenger demand is steadily increasing as New Zealanders return to travelling regionally and overseas."



Presentation of the 2022 Small Airport of the Year award for Whanganui Airport, from left: Rachel Keay - Whanganui Airport's UNICOM manager, Kevin Ward - NZ Airports Association chief executive, Phil McBride - Whanganui Airport manager



The reopening of New Zealand's borders has also meant the number of international student pilots at the New Zealand International Commercial Pilot Academy, located at Whanganui Airport, have returned to pre-pandemic levels.

This has resulted in a notable increase in light aircraft activity, which places Whanganui Airport in the top 10 airports around the country based on the total number of aircraft take-offs and landings.

## Mates help build resilience

Whanganui District Council's building inspectors have recently been through the Mates in Construction Connector training programme. This means anyone on a building site who is struggling with mental health issues can reach out to a council building inspector to be put in touch with services that can help.



Council building control officer, Alan Hoskin, says, "There's a big list of mental health professionals out there - we're not there to take on that role. For us, it's about noticing if someone's not acting as they should, having a conversation and making sure they get connected to the services they need. In this job we get to know a lot of builders and plumbers in the trade so we're in a good position to help with any concerns."

Keep an eye out for the "Mates inducted" stickers on hard hats around town. For more details, visit: [mates.net.nz](https://www.mates.net.nz)

## Cooks Gardens athletics track gets a spring clean



Spring represents the changeover point for various sporting codes and also marks the time when the Cooks Gardens athletics track gets its annual wash. Whanganui District Council contractors cleaned the track last week - also an opportunity to inspect for any maintenance that might be needed - so now the track's at its best again and ready for summer activities

## Sarjeant Gallery collection store tours during October

Whanganui residents will have the opportunity next month to take a tour through the Sarjeant Gallery's collection store at 38 Taupo Quay to view some of the Sarjeant's important historical artworks. Four dates are available:

- Saturday, 8 October - 2.00pm-3.00pm
- Sunday, 9 October - 2.00pm-3.00pm
- Saturday, 15 October - 2.00pm-3.00pm
- Sunday, 16 October - 2.00pm-3.00pm.

Access is by stairs only and numbers are limited. Pre-sale tickets are \$10.00, door sales (if still available) \$15.00. Buy your tickets at: [shop.sarjeant.org.nz/collections/events](https://shop.sarjeant.org.nz/collections/events) or from Sarjeant on the Quay at 38 Taupo Quay, or call 06 349 0506. Call or email: [info@sarjeant.org.nz](mailto:info@sarjeant.org.nz) for any enquiries.

## Vote 2022 elections



Whanganui District Council is making postal voting a little easier for the upcoming local elections. Completed votes need to be returned using the provided envelope via the postal system. The council has also placed orange ballot bins in high-traffic areas in our community to provide an additional option.

For ballot bin locations, and a full list of election candidates, please visit: [votewhanganui.nz/vote](https://www.votewhanganui.nz/vote)

## Apply for funding

### Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund

Whanganui District Council's Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund is available to local groups with council-owned or partially owned sport and recreation facilities.

Applications are sought for projects that will improve our sport and recreation venues to ensure we have quality facilities that accommodate the needs of the Whanganui community into the future. The Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund is a contestable fund - applicants must have a funding partner (seed funding) for their project.

The current funding round closes at **midnight this Friday, 30 September 2022**. To make an application, or if you need more information, please email Sport Whanganui's Aidan O'Connor at: [aidan@sportwhanganui.co.nz](mailto:aidan@sportwhanganui.co.nz) or call 06 349 2300. Find an application form at: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/funding](https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/funding)

## Totara St road closure

### Through-traffic restrictions next week

Whanganui District Council advises that Totara Street directly in front of 86 Totara Street will be closed to all through traffic for three days next week to allow contractors to install underground infrastructure. This road closure will take place from **7.00am on Monday, 3 October until 5.00pm on Wednesday, 5 October 2022**.

- Access for residents with properties numbered 79, 81 and 88 Totara Street, and also 79 Fitzherbert Avenue, will only be possible from Fitzherbert Avenue.
- Access for residents with properties numbered 52 to 84 Totara Street, and numbers 55 to 77 Totara Street, will only be possible from Totara St via Toi Street, Karamu Street or Puriri Street.

For more information, please visit:

[www.whanganui.govt.nz/public-notice](https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/public-notice)

## Climate Action Fund

### Support for not-for-profit projects

Applications are open for a Whanganui District Council fund that will support up to 50 percent of costs for not-for-profit climate action projects. The Community Climate Action Fund is for projects in the Whanganui district that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions or grow resilience to climate change.

Funding for this initiative comes from existing funding allocated to climate action in the council's Long-Term Plan 2021-31. More details at: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/climate-fund](https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/climate-fund) Applications close at **midnight on Friday, 25 November 2022**.

## TĀKARO - PLAY TRAILER

**Term 3**  
Come and join the fun!

**Tuesdays - 3pm-4.30pm**  
at Lndon Park, Castlecliff

**Wednesdays - 3pm-4.30pm**  
at Williams Domain,  
Whanganui East

Please note these events are weather dependent