

Community Link

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A bird's-eye view of Virginia Lake

If you've ever wanted to know about the birdlife at Rotokawau Virginia Lake, a series of new signs will help. The 12 signs have been placed at easily accessible locations around the lake. Each one has a painting and information about a different water bird that can be found at the lake. The signs are a collaboration between local artist Des Bovey, who created the illustrations, and bird expert Peter Frost, who wrote the text. Their time was donated. Whanganui District Council's senior parks manager, Wendy Bainbridge, says the two approached her with the drawings and text already completed. "The drawings are very beautiful and the text very informative. I hope these signs help to bring understanding to the birdlife at Rotokawau Virginia Lake. They are another reason for people to walk around and enjoy the lake."



Bird expert Peter Frost, left, and artist Des Bovey have teamed up with Whanganui District Council to produce a series of 12 signs and a brochure about Rotokawau Virginia Lake's birdlife. PHOTO: ANNE-MARIE MCDONALD

The council funded the signs and their installation at the lake. The Virginia Lake Trust has funded a brochure of the signs, which is available at the Funky Duck Cafe at Rotokawau Virginia Lake and the Whanganui i-SITE Visitor Information Centre at 31 Taupo Quay.

Both the signs and brochure have a QR code. People can scan the code, which will take them to the Birds New Zealand website for more information. To view an online version of the brochure, please visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/virginia-lake-birdlife

Digital literacy programmes for seniors to start at library

Whanganui District Library in partnership with the Digital Inclusion Alliance of Aotearoa is beginning FREE digital literacy programmes in March for people aged 65 and over. The Better Digital Futures for Seniors programme is designed for over-65s who have very little experience with the internet and digital technology. The programme is divided into four different classes, or pathways, that are each designed to give older people the skills and confidence they need to go online with smartphones, tablets and-or desktop computers. The first class on offer – the Digital Introductory Pathway – starts on **Friday, 19 March 2021** at the Alexander Heritage & Research Library Te Rerenga Mai o Te Kāuru, Pukenui Queen's Park, and runs from 10.00am-12 noon over four successive weekly sessions.

At the Digital Introductory Pathway, seniors can learn about the different types of digital devices available and the various ways of communicating with people using the internet such as messaging, Skype and Zoom. Other topics of discussion will include, for example, how to use the internet to pursue hobbies as well as apps and websites that will make over-65s more independent in finding products and services online. Bookings are essential for all Better Digital Futures Pathway classes. For help with bookings and for more information, please call learning and discovery librarian, Rachel Smith, on 06 349 1000. Booking registrations can also be made online at: www.bit.ly/37WO9g2 For more information about the Digital Inclusion Alliance of Aotearoa, please visit: www.steppingup.nz

City Bridge closure

Road works on Putiki Dr / Anzac Pde

Whanganui City Bridge will be **closed overnight from 6.00pm until 6.00am until this Sunday, 7 March 2021** for repairs to a section of Putiki Drive-Anzac Parade. The bridge will be closed to vehicles to allow for the control of traffic through the worksite (please note the pathways on the bridge will remain open to pedestrians, cyclists and mobility-scooter users). The affected Putiki Drive-Anzac Parade area will have traffic management in place. This section of road at the intersection with the City Bridge is part of State Highway 4 and the work is being carried out by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency contractors. The repairs are weather dependent – if work is postponed it will move to the next fine night.

Coastal conference

Whanganui hosting national event

The Coastal Restoration Trust of New Zealand – Tahuna Ora will hold its annual conference in Whanganui over three days from **next Wednesday, 10 March until Friday, 12 March 2021**. The conference's theme is Living On A Dynamic Coast – Ko Te Kawa o Tangaroa, he kawa ora. A free pre-conference workshop, Working With Nature, will also be held on Tuesday, 9 March 2021. For more information about both the conference and pre-conference events, please visit: www.bit.ly/3cbw9kP

Book group launching

Davis Library to host Book Chat

A new book group, Book Chat, begins at the Davis Library, Pukenui Queen's Park, on **Thursday, 18 March 2021**. Hosted by learning and discovery librarian, Esther Newrick, Book Chat will serve as an open discussion for booklovers to share their favourite authors and recent reads. Book Chat will be held on the third Thursday of every month and start at 11.00am – everyone is welcome. For more information, please call Esther Newrick on 06 349 1000.

Design a library card

Get your entries in by 31 March

Whanganui District Library's Design a New Library Card competition is now open. The theme for the competition is: Whanganui, Tell Us Your Story. To enter, visit any District Library branch and pick up a template form. The competition closes on **Wednesday, 31 March 2021**.

Proposed policy update

Significance and Engagement Policy

Whanganui District Council is proposing to make updates to its Significance and Engagement Policy. Objections or any other feedback can be emailed to: policysubmissions@whanganui.govt.nz or dropped into customer services at 101 Guyton Street. All consultation information is available at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say Submissions close at **5.00pm on Monday, 5 April 2021**.

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13 FEBRUARY TO 13 MARCH

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* All welcome! Activities + events all around Whanganui

WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL
To Kaitiaki o Whanganui

EMAIL: womnet.whanganui@gmail.com
DOWNLOAD A FESTIVAL GUIDE AT: LAFIESTANZ.COM

Parking changes proposed

Whanganui District Council is calling for public input on a proposal to make changes to the parking controls on Victoria Avenue, Wilson Street and Mosston Road, as well as create an offence of inconsiderate parking. All consultation information is available at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say Objections or any other feedback can be emailed to: policysubmissions@whanganui.govt.nz or dropped into customer services at 101 Guyton Street. Submissions close at **5.00pm on Wednesday, 17 March 2021**.

WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

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

- Further Review of Gambling Venues Policy 2020
- Updates of Parking Controls
- 2021 Review of Significance and Engagement Policy
- Changes to Otamatea Speed Limits 2021

For more information, please visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say