

Community Link

Whanganui District Council

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Te Pūwaha projects are underway

Work is progressing on-site for Te Pūwaha – Whanganui’s port revitalisation – following the latest COVID-19 lockdown, with demolition underway and more community engagement opportunities to come.

Whanganui District Council work has resumed on the demolition of the 80-year-old Victory Shed, which is located on wharves set to be upgraded as part of Te Pūwaha. The complex demolition is expected to take about 8-10 weeks, including the removal of asbestos.

The council’s chief operating officer, Lance Kennedy, says, “Now that our on-site demolition and work towards consent has resumed, our priority is as before – to protect the health and wellbeing of the Whanganui River, and to ensure the safety of our workers and our community.”

Te Pūwaha will be the first major project designed and delivered under the legal status of the Whanganui River as Te Awa Tupua. Work undertaken through Te Pūwaha will include replacement and repair of 400 metres of wharves and building onshore infrastructure to support commercial activities.

Project partner Horizons Regional Council has primary contractor Mills-Albert Limited on board and rocks are being delivered to the stockpile site at Morgan Street for the upgrade and repairs to the North Mole.



Dive team collecting samples near the Whanganui River mouth. Image: Gail Imhoff, courtesy Whanganui District Council

Q-West boat builders, another Te Pūwaha project partner, are preparing their new site for building and eventual relocation. Q-West managing director, Myles Fothergill, says, “The old Tod Street silos have now been removed and this has really opened up the space down at the wharves. This is where we’ll establish our purpose-built facility, which will include a 330-tonne vessel hoist.

“I see huge potential for marine industry growth in the Wharf 3 area and look forward to seeing development underway in Wharf 2,” Myles Fothergill says.

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

ROAD WORKS AND CLOSURES

VICTORIA AVE / GUYTON ST INTERSECTION

Work begins today, **Wednesday, 3 November 2021** on an upgrade to traffic signal equipment at the Victoria Avenue / Guyton Street intersection. During the upgrade, Victoria Avenue traffic will have right of way, while give way signs will be in place for Guyton Street traffic (right-turning traffic to give way to opposing traffic).

Other traffic management measures include:

- 30km/h speed restriction at the intersection
- Pedestrians to give way to all traffic (no diagonal crossing)
- Pedestrian refuges will be in place to assist crossing.

Once the upgrade is complete, pedestrians will continue to cross diagonally. There will be no change to the intersection layout or kerb alignments. Please take care if you are travelling through the intersection and keep to any speed restrictions in place.

This work is expected to be completed by **Tuesday, 30 November 2021**.

RAUPO ST PARTIAL ROAD CLOSURE

Raupo Street from Heads Road to Hinau Street closed to all traffic on **Monday, 1 November 2021** for Whanganui District Council contractors to undertake stormwater and wastewater upgrades. This work is scheduled to take about 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.

Interim CEO at the council

Recruitment for the role of Whanganui District Council’s new chief executive is underway. Former chief executive Kym Fell departed on 31 October to take up an executive position with Wellington City Council. In the meantime, the council has appointed chief operating officer Lance Kennedy (pictured) to the role of interim chief executive until a permanent appointment is made. Lance Kennedy has previously held senior roles with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and the New Zealand Police.

Lance Kennedy says, “I’ve been with the council for a year now and I’m absolutely delighted and committed to serve the Whanganui community. I’ve been impressed by the council’s professionalism since I joined the organisation and I look forward to working with staff, elected members, local iwi and the wider community on a range of challenges and changes that face local government and our district.”



GovHack event a success

Whanganui was well represented in the GovHack event that was held virtually throughout New Zealand and Australia in August. The results were announced on 21 October 2021, with Whanganui District Council runner-up in the best local government participation category. Whanganui Emergency Management sponsored the award in the Making Reaching Out Easier category. The winner was Whanganui-based IT company Yetitech. Their project was Wellhub, a user-friendly and accessible tool designed to help people struggling with depression and anxiety. For information more about this project, please visit: www.govhack.yetitech.nz



Creative Communities

Funding applications close next week

The Creative Communities Scheme is a partnership between Whanganui District Council and Creative New Zealand to promote local arts projects. **Creative Communities Scheme Round 2** funding applications close at **12 noon next Monday, 8 November 2021**. Details at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/funding

Facilities open again

Durie Hill elevator / Winter Gardens

• The 102-year-old Durie Hill elevator has reopened to the public after the completion of repairs to its DC motor. The elevator operates from 8.00am–6.00pm, Monday to Friday, and from 10.00am–5.00pm on Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

Please note: Contractors will be working each night this week at the Durie Hill elevator to test potential fixes to the water that periodically enters the lift shaft. Work will take place once the elevator closes for the day at 6.00pm and continue until about 1.00am.

• The Winter Gardens at Rotokawau Virginia Lake have reopened to visitors. The gardens have been closed since July while upgrade work took place and are open daily from 9.00am to 5.00pm. **Please note:** There is still some work taking place on the gardens.

Senior driver events

Age Concern hosting local courses

Age Concern Whanganui is holding free events for senior drivers during November and December.

• **Staying Safe** is a refresher driving course for older drivers who want to keep driving safely for as long as possible. It takes place from **9.30am-3.00pm on Wednesday, 10 November and Wednesday, 1 December 2021**.

• **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, please call Age Concern Whanganui on 06 345 1799.

Council meetings

Upcoming meetings

Infrastructure, Climate Change and Emergency Management Committee	1.00pm Thursday 4 November	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
Property and Community Services Committee	1.00pm Tuesday 9 November	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
Policy and Bylaw Committee	10.00am Wednesday 10 November	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street

• *Waste Management and Minimisation hearings and deliberations*

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

Agendas: www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas
Livestreamed council meetings:
www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil
www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings