

# Community Link

Whanganui District Council

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## Bason Botanic Gardens' star power

Bason Botanic Gardens in Westmere has retained its four-star rating from the New Zealand Gardens Trust.

The trust made its reassessment of the gardens in November, saying: "This place is a real asset to Whanganui. The gardened areas are beginning to come into their own with exotic trees and shrub borders maturing to create a variety of spaces for a range of activities and to provide visual and botanic interest."

Bason Botanic Gardens feature numerous indoor and outdoor gardens, bush walks, the recently-relocated Japanese Tea House – gifted by Whanganui sister-city, Nagaizumi-chō – and relaxation and family sports areas that include free-to-use barbecues.

The gardens also host Shakespeare in the Park, an annual event organised by the Bason Botanic Gardens Trust. This year's play is *The Merchant of Venice*, which will be performed during the last week of February.



Bason Botanic Gardens is open on a daily basis, year-round. Extended summer hours – 8.00am to 8.30pm – are in place until March.

## Opera Week grand finale

Whanganui Opera Week's final public event this year is *Great Opera Moments 2020*, an evening of arias at the Royal Whanganui Opera House, 69 St Hill Street, **this Saturday, 18 January 2020 from 7.30pm-9.30pm.**

Tickets cost \$35.00 for adults – senior citizens and students \$30.00. To buy tickets and for more information, please call (06) 349 0511 or visit: [www.whanganuivenues.co.nz](http://www.whanganuivenues.co.nz)

Whanganui Opera Week presents students from the New Zealand Opera School, based at Whanganui Collegiate, at various public events around Whanganui every January.

## Vintage Weekend returns

Whanganui Vintage Weekend, now in its eighth year, will be held over the Wellington Anniversary long weekend from **this Friday, 17 January until Monday, 20 January 2020.**

Alongside crowd favourites like the Mainstreet Caboodle, Riverside Shindig, Retro Market and Vintage Fair, this year's event also features the return of the Billy Webb Challenge long-distance single sculling race on the Whanganui River on Sunday, 19 January from 10.30am.

Most Vintage Weekend events are held in the central city and along the riverbank area near Whanganui i-SITE Visitor Information Centre on Taupō Quay. For more information, please visit: [www.whanganuivintageweekend.nz](http://www.whanganuivintageweekend.nz)

## Events for senior drivers

Age Concern Whanganui is offering FREE senior-driving events during January and February in association with the Automobile Association, Horizons Regional Council and Safer Whanganui.



The first event, **Hanging Up the Car Keys**, is a panel forum for seniors, their families and support workers. The panel will feature presentations by a geriatrician and a senior-driving educator. This event will be held at the Summerset Leisure Centre at 40 Burton Avenue, Whanganui East, on **Wednesday, 29 January 2020 from 9.30am-12 noon.** Morning tea will be provided.

The second, **Keys to Safe Driving**, is a refresher driving course for seniors. This course includes an information booklet and will be held at Masonic Hall on the corner of Dublin and Keith streets on **Wednesday, 5 February 2020 from 10.00am-2.30pm.** Luncheon is included.

The final event, **CarFit**, offers older drivers a 20-minute check on how well their cars "fit" them personally, as well as providing information on how to improve driver safety and comfort. This event will be held at the Laird Park car park on Peat Street (near the Blind Foundation entrance) on **Tuesday morning, 18 February 2020.**

Bookings are essential for each event – please call Age Concern Whanganui on (06) 345 1799.

## Road closures

### Whanganui Vintage Weekend

Under the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, the following roads will be closed for Whanganui Vintage Weekend:

- Taupō Quay from Market Place to Bates Street, and Somme Parade from Bates Street to Church Place, will be closed from **7.00am-11.00am on Sunday, 19 January 2020**
- Moutua Quay from Drews Avenue to Taupō Quay will be closed from **7.00am-6.00pm on Sunday, 19 January 2020.**

Directional signs will be in place during the closures to show alternative routes.

## Tree trimming

### Partial road closure in Halswell St

Halswell Street, between Glasgow Street and Somme Parade, will be closed for tree trimming between **9.00am-4.00pm from Tuesday, 21 January until Thursday, 23 January 2020.** If the weather is unsuitable Friday, 24 January will be the reserve day for trimming. Road users are advised to use the alternative route via Gloucester Street and Alexander Street during the road closure. Resident access will be available and marshalls will be onsite to assist.

## Pākaitore Celebrations

### Proposed road closure

Under the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, Whanganui District Council proposes to close Taupō Quay, from Market Place to Bates Street, for Pākaitore Celebrations. The **proposed period of closure is from 8.00am to 8.00pm on Friday, 28 February 2020.** During the proposed closure, directional signs will be in place to show the alternative route. Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge written notice of their objection and reasons **before Friday, 31 January 2020** at Council Customer Services, 101 Guyton Street, Whanganui.

## Summer pool hours

### Whanganui East Aquatic Centre

The Whanganui East Aquatic Centre summer opening hours, until early March 2020, are:

#### January 2020

- Monday-Thursday – 11.00am-6.00pm
- Friday-Sunday – 11.00am-5.00pm

#### February 2020 onwards

- Monday-Thursday – 3.00pm-6.00pm
- Friday – 3.00pm-5.00pm
- Saturday and Sunday – 11.00am-5.00pm
- Public holidays – 12.00 noon-5.00pm.

## Gravel area of Mill Rd

### Closure for construction until April

The gravel section of Mill Road from the intersection of Rakau Road and Mill Road to the intersection of Manuka Street and Mill Road will be closed until **Friday, 3 April 2020** to enable contractors to reconstruct and finish the surface of the road. Both Manuka Street and Rakau Road will remain open at all times for businesses and residents during the construction.

