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Sweet future ahead for young people

100% Sweet, which supports young people into productive futures, has received a boost thanks to Whanganui & Partners, the Council's economic development agency.

100% Sweet supports school leavers to prepare for a job or further education and training after leaving school and up to the age of 25.

The Chair of the Whanganui & Partners Board, Myles Fothergill, says one of the organisation's long-term goals is to retain young people in Whanganui as well as attracting them from outside the district by offering paths to employment.



Representatives from the Whanganui Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bruce Morgan from Skills and Jason Shailer interview Gina Guilford for the Skills Work Ready Passport initiative

"Supporting 100% Sweet is a way Whanganui & Partners can put its money where its mouth is. By partnering with the Whanganui District Employment Training Trust, we have been able to continue to fund the role of 100% Sweet Manager Jason Shailer, who has done a fantastic job over the last 17 months."

Mr Shailer works with schools and agencies to get young people into education and employment. Since the project began, 81 young people have been placed into work or training.

Part of Mr Shailer's role is to get the 'Work Ready Passport' a Skills NZ initiative, into secondary schools and agencies who engage with youth. The passport is a tool for young people to demonstrate that they have the skills, experience and attitude employers want.

"The Skills Work Ready Passport ticks off things like good healthy habits such as getting enough sleep and keeping yourself fit, or how you've gained skills from taking part in community activities, as well as budgeting and communication. It helps youth think about the skills and attributes which are useful to employers. The focus is on matching school leavers with local employment and training opportunities."

The Whanganui Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which is a partner in the Skills Work Ready Passport initiative, interviews the young person once the passport is complete.

"They are interviewed about the tasks they have completed and the evidence they have collected in an interview setting, as if they were a candidate at a job interview."

If an interviewee is successful, the young person will be presented with their official passport. 100% Sweet stands for 'Students in Whanganui, in Education, Employment and Training' and is Whanganui's solution to connecting school leavers with tertiary and local employment opportunities.



Good vibes at Vibe

Over 500 people attended the Vibe summer music festival at Cooks Gardens on Saturday 9 December.

Organised by the Whanganui District Council Youth Committee, Vibe featured non-stop music from 5.00pm to 10.00pm, with Whanganui bands sharing the stage until the headline act, Nomad (pictured) began.

The alcohol-free event also featured food stalls, zorbs and roving entertainers, including jugglers, with proceeds donated to Youthline.

Library offers free digital magazines

Whanganui District Library customers can now access digital magazines on their computers or mobile devices. The service is offered through RB Digital, world leaders in providing digital content to consumers.

Customers can browse magazines online or download the app. The eMagazines are full digital versions of the print editions, including editorial content, graphics and advertising.

Some of the library's most popular magazines, including *Time* and *Australian Women's Weekly*, will be instantly accessible anywhere.

Library Performance Manager Sonny Tamihana says, "Customers will be able to read current and past titles, at no cost to borrow with no waiting or loan periods, no overdue charges and no limit to the number of checkouts.

"They can opt into alert emails informing them the moment the latest edition of their favourite magazine is available."

Mr Tamihana says the service will be of great interest to longstanding and new library members and will open the world of books to many more Whanganui residents.

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Planned works

December 2017

Following the June 2015 weather event, flood damage recovery works will be occurring at Whanganui River Road Shellrock (Oyster Bluff and Garlands Bridge (off Mangamahu Road)

Road widening: Whanganui River Road (Wickham's Orchard)

Pavement maintenance: Brunswick Road, Whanganui River Road, Flemington Road, Raine Street, Pitt Street

Re-sealing works: Mangamahu Road, No 2 Line, No 3 Line

Unsealed road grading: Areas of Westmere and Okoia

Underground works: Rangiora Street (Cornfoot Street to Seafrost Road)

Kerb and channel, footpath renewal and pavement reinstatement: Liverpool Street (Niblett Street to Keith Street) and Rangiora Street (Cornfoot Street to Seafrost Road)

Water table and culvert maintenance: Whanganui River Road

Vegetation treatment: Whanganui River Road and areas of Westmere

Stormwater works: Mosston Road (Wharf Street to Heads Road), Mosston Road (Heads Road to Hinau Street), Glasgow Street (Keith Street to Harrison Street)

Fire season and water use update

Restricted fire season

Although the hot weather we are having is enjoyable, it also poses a fire risk.

To minimise this risk, there is a restricted fire season in place between Fordell in the east and Mowhanau in the west, as well as the Whanganui urban area. Permits are required for outside fires in these areas.

For more information on the fire season status in all Whanganui district areas and to request a permit, go to www.checkitsalright.nz

Fire and Emergency New Zealand are now responsible for urban and rural fire control in the Whanganui District.

Please contact them for permits to light fires by calling 06 348 0103 for urban areas or 0800 658 628 for rural areas.

The Council does not have any water restrictions in place, but we are advising residents to use water responsibly by ensuring leaky taps are fixed, are not left running and sprinklers are not used unnecessarily.

Virginia Lake work

Twin Bridges

From this week to Friday 22 December 2017, contractors will be removing debris from one of the ponds at the Twin Bridges water garden at Virginia Lake.

Heavy machinery will be operating. Please observe the warning signs.

Council meetings

No Council or committee meetings are scheduled for the remainder of 2017.

The meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 19 December 2017 has been cancelled.

The Council meeting schedule can be found at www.whanganui.govt.nz/meetings-agendas-minutes/