

# Te Hononga a Hapori Community Link

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## Six-point plan to lower rates increases

Whanganui District Council's elected members explored budget options for the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 and discussed a six-point plan to lower rates increases in a livestreamed long-term plan workshop last Tuesday, 5 December.

Council chief executive, David Langford, says the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 will provide a roadmap for Whanganui for the next decade. It will set out where we aim to be by 2034, what we will need to do to get there and how much it will cost, giving a full picture of how all council activities are managed, delivered and funded.

"A huge amount of work has gone into building this draft 10-year plan. We have applied the kind of commercial thinking you would normally see in the private sector, but without taking the social good out of the council," David Langford says.

"Whanganui is a growing city with big aspirations for the future. Our six-point plan identifies what we can do to keep costs increases down in the short term, while also positioning the district for a bright future in the medium to long term."

He says, "We can think of each of the six points as a lever – projected rates increases will change depending on how hard we pull each lever."



The six points are:

- population growth
- improving efficiency
- exploring alternative funding for projects
- cutting council services
- selling assets to repay debt
- identifying sources of non-rates revenue.

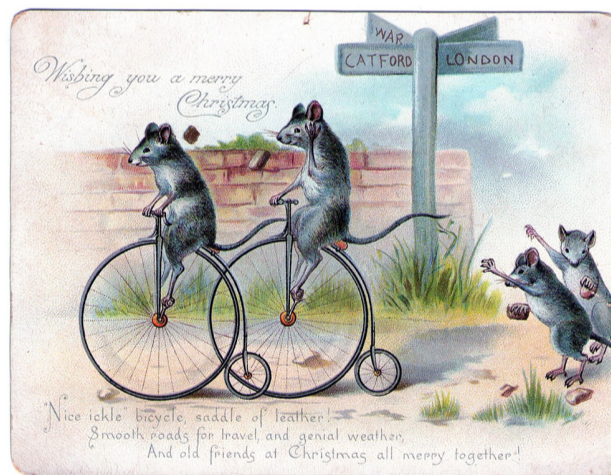
David Langford says the rates rise was initially estimated at close to 24 percent, but "after a lot of hard work and deferrals wherever possible, we are now down to three rates scenarios for consultation – high (14.8 percent), medium (9.5 percent) and low (5.8 percent)".

For more information, visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/news](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/news)

## History of the Christmas card talk at the Alex this Friday

The 100 Years of Season's Greetings 1850-1950 exhibition at the Alexander Library Te Rerenga Mai o Te Kāuru during December explores early Christmas greetings cards from the collection of noted New Zealand design historian, Dr Peter Gilderdale. As part of the exhibition, Peter will give a talk on the history of Christmas card design and imagery in New Zealand in the Victorian and Edwardian periods at the Alexander Library, Pukenamu Queen's Park, **from 2.00pm this Friday, 15 December.**

The presentation will include more greeting card examples from Peter's collection, and feature Whanganui's special place in the history of Christmas cards through 19th century printer, publisher and politician, Archibald Duddington Willis. All are welcome – find more information at: [www.facebook.com/AlexanderLibraryWhanganui](http://www.facebook.com/AlexanderLibraryWhanganui)



## Castlecliff Domain to get a 'Play Station' for summer

Play is here to stay with three "Play Station" boxes set to be installed at parks across the Whanganui region as part of a pilot project by Sport Whanganui and charitable organisation, REPLAY. The Play Stations are designed to store sports balls and equipment like basketballs, rugby balls and footballs that are available to be borrowed for casual games with friends and whānau.



Sport Whanganui has partnered with local businesses Ali Arc and Display Associates to design and build the colourful stainless-steel boxes, which will be filled with donated new and used sports balls from the REPLAY programme.

The first Play Station will be installed at Castlecliff Domain this Friday, 15 December. Whanganui District Council has already provided a new concrete pad to allow the Castlecliff Play Station to be fixed securely to the ground, and Progress Castlecliff has offered to help keep an eye on gear levels over the summer break.

## Age Concern annual survey

Age Concern Whanganui's annual survey to gather feedback from people who have used their services is open until **Wednesday, 31 January 2024.**



The survey takes about five minutes to complete and feedback can be made anonymously. Take the Age Concern survey by visiting: [forms.office.com/r/kcLGzErLvb](http://forms.office.com/r/kcLGzErLvb)

## Senior digital skills for 2024

Gain computer or smartphone and internet skills and confidence in our Digital Skills for Seniors sessions starting in 2024 at Whanganui District Library. Learn to communicate online with friends and whānau, manage your passwords, use apps, protect yourself from scams, shop and bank online, and more.

Bookings are essential as places are limited – to register your interest, please email: [rachel@whanganuilibrary.com](mailto:rachel@whanganuilibrary.com) or call / text Rachel Smith on 027 211 4261.

## Ministry of Health notice

Whanganui's drinking water is classified as plumbosolvent, which means some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours. Although the health risk is small, Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mugful of water from your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings. The Ministry of Health recommends this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

Director-General of Health

## Tea & Topics tomorrow

### Make your own Christmas decorations!

Gonville Library's last Tea and Topics event for the year at 44 Abbot Street tomorrow – **Thursday, 14 December** – features a make-your-own Christmas decorations craft workshop with Iva Leonard from the Davis Library. Iva hosts the Arts & Crafts for Grown-Ups programme at the Davis Library on the first Wednesday of each month. She works with reusable and natural materials to create easy, practical and stylish craft. Her classes are free, fun and eco-friendly with all materials provided. As always, light refreshments will be available from 10.00am, and the craft workshop starts at 10.30am. Nau mai – all are welcome!

## Rates invoices by email

### Receive your notices electronically

Would you prefer to receive your rates invoice via email rather than having it posted to you? If so, visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/rates](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/rates) and click on the **Receive your rates invoice by email** panel for a form to submit your contact details. Whanganui District Council will then send future notices to your preferred email address instead of posting them out. Please note the form is for signing up to receive your rates invoices by email only – if you have a question for the rates team, please email: [rates@whanganui.govt.nz](mailto:rates@whanganui.govt.nz)

## Senior parking permits

### Check the expiry date on your permit

If you're a SuperGold card holder and use a senior parking permit issued by Whanganui District Council, please check the expiry date on your permit to avoid an unwanted infringement notice. If it's out of date, simply bring your old permit into customer services at 101 Guyton St and you'll be issued with a new one – the permits are FREE and last for five years from date of issue. More details at: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/parking](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/parking)

## Justice of the Peace

### Friday mornings at Alexander Library

A Justice of the Peace will be available in the Alexander Library **on Friday mornings from 10.30am until 12 noon** to provide JP services such as witnessing signatures on documents and certifying copies of documents. This service is free with no appointment necessary – for a checklist of what to bring, please visit: [justiceofthepeace.org.nz](http://justiceofthepeace.org.nz)