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# Public Art Fund applications open

Applications are now open for a Public Art Fund which will support Whanganui’s reputation as a place of art, heritage and culture.

Whanganui District Council will administer the \$25,000 fund, which is contestable and will require matched funding. The fund’s allocation was adopted by councillors as part of the Council’s 2017/18 Annual Plan and consultation process. It replaces the Sculpture Whanganui Fund.

As a matched fund, any successful grants will only be disbursed once the same amount of funding is sourced by applicants from additional sources (for instance, if someone applies for \$5000 from the Public Art Fund, they will need to match that with \$5000 from other places).

Council Property and Community Services chair, Cr Helen Craig, says the Whanganui public has been asking for more public art for years.

“We know we are a creative district and public art is the very visual representation of that. It’s hoped this fund will stimulate more Whanganui artists to experiment in this specific art form, including our iwi.”



Handspan Peace Sculpture, Ross Mitchell-Anyon, 2002

Cr Craig says public art creates interest and vibrancy and also grows a feeling of community, pride and belonging.

“The various murals that have appeared throughout the district in the last few years reflect that very well, and Castlecliff’s Rangiora Street is a great example of how the murals and the driftwood dinosaur add hugely to the rejuvenation of that suburb.”

The Council’s Arts Facilitator, Riah King-Wall, says the Public Art Fund is designed to support the delivery of innovative and exciting public art in Whanganui.

“We are excited to see the broad scope of artworks that will be supported by the fund. Projects could include sculpture, street art, digital art, moving image or installations, or artists contributing to urban design developments for parks, streets, bridges, buildings and street furniture. It could even assist artists working with communities in public spaces – there are a huge range of possibilities.”

Applications will be assessed twice yearly by the Public Art Steering Group to ensure they meet the criteria and outcomes of the Public Art Fund Guidelines.

The closing date for applications is 5.00pm on Thursday, 3 May 2018 for projects that will be completed between 1 June 2018 and 31 May 2019.

More information is available from:  
www.whanganui.govt.nz/funding or you can contact Riah King-Wall at riah.king-wall@whanganui.govt.nz



## Bienvenue, konichiwa, bula

More than 100 international students representing 18 countries were given a special mayoral welcome at the War Memorial Centre on Tuesday, 6 March.

A joint initiative between the Education New Zealand Regional Partnership Programme and Whanganui & Partners, the event was not only an opportunity to give the students a glimpse of Whanganui’s manaakitanga (hospitality), but also for them to meet other international students from schools and tertiary institutions throughout Whanganui.

The Education New Zealand partnership programme supports regions to raise their profile as a destination for international students.

## A long-term plan for Whanganui

Whanganui District Councillors have formally adopted a consultation document which sets out the main issues they want to address in their 2018-2028 Long Term Plan.

The document will be made available to the public from Monday, 19 March and councillors are asking the public to read the document and have their say via submission by 5.00pm on Thursday, 19 April.

Mayor Hamish McDouall says, “This is our ten year plan and it’s vitally important we tap into the wisdom of the Whanganui community before we finalise it.

“We have spent months considering the priorities for the future of our district, working through the options and doing everything in our power to keep rates as low as we possibly can while still maintaining levels of service.

Mayor McDouall says, “The projects in the plan are informed by evidence, science, projections and models. We need to grapple with the fact of climate change, and what that means for our infrastructure.

“We also need to consider that our demographics are projected to change and what that will mean for new subdivisions and extended services.”

He says, “From next week we will be asking our community to check out our plan and tell us what they think. We’ll be out and about to answer questions and hear views – so keep an eye on the Council’s Facebook page and our media releases and advertisements for further information on events and displays.”

Print and downloadable versions of the consultation document will be available from Monday, 19 March 2018.

## Positive Ageing Forum

### Community organisations welcome

The Positive Ageing Forum will be held from 1.00pm to 3.30pm on Wednesday, March 21 in the Council Chambers at 101 Guyton Street.

The quarterly forum provides a connection between community organisations and local government, updates and information sharing, relevant presenters and an opportunity for attendees to provide feedback on community matters.

The formal part of the meeting is expected to finish at 3.00pm and will be followed by afternoon tea.

## Road closure

### Concord Line

Concord Line will be closed, weather permitting, at 137 Concord Line, on Wednesday, 21 March from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

This is to allow Powerco contractors to replace a power pole close to the road.

If work is postponed that day, the replacement will take place on Thursday, 22 March.

Thank you for your patience.

## Creative Communities Scheme

### Applications close next month

A reminder that applications for round 2 of the 2017/18 Creative Communities Scheme close at 12.00pm noon on Thursday, 19 April.

The Creative Communities Scheme is a partnership between Whanganui District Council and Creative New Zealand to support local arts projects.

A brochure about the scheme is available in several languages. Visit [www.whanganui.govt.nz/funding](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/funding) to view it or apply.

For more information please contact Cath Watson at [cath@cathwatson.com](mailto:cath@cathwatson.com)

## Council meetings

### We welcome the public to our meetings.

<b>Youth Committee</b>	4.00pm – Monday, March 19	Council Chamber
<b>Statutory Management Submissions Hearing - Trade Wastes Bylaw</b>	9.00am – Tuesday, March 20	Council Chamber
<b>Wanganui Rural Community Board</b>	3.30pm – Wednesday, March 28	Committee Room 2
<b>Property and Community Services</b>	1.00pm – Tuesday, April 3	Council Chamber

Agendas are available at the Customer Services Counter, 101 Guyton Street and the District Library or at [www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas).

Full Council meetings are live-streamed at [www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil) and [www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings)