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# Bridge projects get off the ground

Whanganui District Council is reallocating funding to move ahead with two Whanganui bridge projects – the pedestrian bridge that is part of the Aramoho Railway Bridge, and Erni’s Bridge on Kauarapaoa Road.

The council’s transportation manager, Damien Wood, says the Aramoho pedestrian bridge (pictured) is an extremely well-used bridge but the surface and structure don’t meet Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency’s safety specifications. “This work will involve replacing the Aramoho pedestrian bridge so it’s wider and can easily accommodate all bikes and mobility scooters.”

Reallocating funding means work on the pedestrian bridge can be started this year for completion by July 2024.

The other bridge fast-tracked for replacement – Erni’s Bridge on Kauarapaoa Road – is deteriorating rapidly and is in a key location. Damien Wood says, “When the lower culvert at the start of Kauarapaoa Road washes out – as we saw in the December 2021 rainfall events – Erni’s Bridge provides the only access to Kauarapaoa Road.



“It’s an essential piece of infrastructure not only for residents but also for trucks transporting logs from Kauarapaoa Road forestry blocks to Whanganui distribution points and wider regional distribution hubs.”

To read more, please visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/news](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/news)

## Community Climate Action Fund applications are open



Whanganui District Council is calling for applications to its Community Climate Action Fund. The fund aims to support not-for-profit climate action projects by providing up to 50 percent of project costs. The initiative is designed to empower local residents to turn their climate action ideas into reality.

The council’s climate change advisor, Caroline Arrowsmith, says the significance of the fund is important since climate change is becoming part of our daily lives. “Climate change is becoming less abstract and more of a reality. This new fund will give local people the chance to make their climate action ideas a reality. We can already see how the projects from the first funding round are picking up momentum, so I’m really excited to see what will emerge this time around.”

For more information about the fund and to make an application, visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/climate-fund](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/climate-fund)

Applications close at 5.00pm on Friday, 18 August 2023.

## Plastic Free July upcycling!

Plastic Free July 2023 coincides with a central government move to ban hard-to-recycle and single-use plastic items from supermarkets, hospitality businesses, pharmacies, schools and hospitals. The Ministry for the Environment ban came into effect on 1 July, and is the second tranche in the ministry’s strategy to transition New Zealand away from hard-to-recycle plastics following a ban on single-use shopping bags in 2019. This country is now the first in the world to ban single-use plastic produce bags.

Local advocates Plastic Free Whanganui have organised a range of activities to support Plastic Free July. The group will have a stall at the Whanganui River Markets each Saturday during July to raise awareness about plastic pollution and offer alternatives, with produce bags (upcycled from old net curtains) available to buy. For more information about how you can get involved with Plastic Free July, please visit: [sustainablewhanganui.org.nz](http://sustainablewhanganui.org.nz)



**WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS**

Whanganui District Council invites you to have your say on these topics:

- Community nominations for heritage places
- Road Naming and Numbering survey

More details at: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/have-your-say)

HAVE YOUR SAY  
KŌRERO MAI

## BE BRIGHT BE SEEN



As mornings and evenings get darker, wear lights and reflective clothing whether you are cycling, walking or running.



## Springvale Park toilets

**Temporary closure for maintenance**

Maintenance work on the Springvale Park toilets begins today, **Wednesday 5 July**, and is expected to take a week. The main toilet block will be closed during the work period but the accessible toilet will remain open during daylight hours.

## Waitahinga closure

**Pest control work during July-August**

The Waitahinga conservation and recreation area, inland from Kai Iwi, is closed for pest control work during July and August.

This work is necessary as pests like possums, goats, deer and pigs are damaging the undergrowth. Possum traps are laid by an approved contractor, and the work also involves shooting goats, deer and pigs. The only bait being used is a mixture of flour and icing sugar to attract possums to the traps.

Signs will be displayed notifying the work, and the control operation will take place throughout the entire site including the trails. Please do not enter the Waitahinga site during the pest control period.

## Intersection closure

**Purnell-Ingestre streets on 10-12 July**

With rail crossing repairs completed last month, the intersection of Purnell Street and Ingestre Street will be closed **from 7.00am next Monday, 10 July until 5.00pm on Wednesday, 12 July 2023** to allow KiwiRail to seal the roading surface around the rail crossing.

Hatrick Street East and West will serve as detours around the worksite during the repairs – pedestrians are asked to also use these detours. Grey Street and College Street are also advised as alternate routes for traffic to bypass the worksite. For more information, please visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/public-notice](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/public-notice)

## Smartphones for seniors

**Register for District Library classes**

Want to learn to use your smartphone for more than just phone calls? You can build your smartphone skills and confidence with Whanganui District Library’s Appy Seniors classes.

Starting in August, the library will be running a series of one-hour sessions covering smartphone skills and popular apps including Google Maps, online grocery shopping, online banking, Libby, PressReader, SuperGold, Trade Me and Zoom. To register your interest in attending these sessions, please email: [rachel@whanganuilibrary.com](mailto:rachel@whanganuilibrary.com) or call or text **027 211 4261**.

## Council meetings

Meeting next week		
Council meeting	9.30am Tuesday 11 July	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton St
• Strike rates		
Agendas: <a href="http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas">www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas</a>		
Livestreamed council meetings: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil">www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil</a>		
<a href="http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings">www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings</a>		