

Community Link

Whanganui District Council
 101 Guyton Street
 PO Box 637, Whanganui 4500
 06 349 0001
 yourcouncil@whanganui.govt.nz
 www.whanganui.govt.nz
 @whanganuidistrictcouncil
 @whanganuidc
 @WhanganuiDC

Tylee Cottage on show this Saturday

Tylee Cottage, at 26 Bell Street, is hosting a series of talks on its grounds **this Saturday, 11 February 2023, from 11.00am until 1.00pm.**

**Sarjeant Gallery
Te Whare o Rehua
Whanganui**

Built originally in Wilson Street in 1853, Tylee Cottage (pictured) is one of Whanganui's oldest existing buildings and is now home to the Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui's artist residency programme. To date more than 60 practising artists have spent time living and creating at Tylee Cottage since the programme's inception in 1986.

Join Whanganui District Council's heritage advisor, Scott Flutey, and the Sarjeant's curator and public programmes manager, Greg Donson, to hear about the cottage's fascinating history and the important role it plays in supporting the Sarjeant Gallery and the arts community in Whanganui. This is a free event.



Talks will be outside the cottage – in case of rain the event will be postponed. For more information please call the Sarjeant on 06 349 0506 or visit: www.sarjeant.org.nz

Mayor wants more transparency in rates-setting process

Whanganui Mayor Andrew Tripe says he would like to see more transparency in Whanganui District Council's rates-setting process which is carried out annually between December and the following April. Traditionally councillors' rates-setting workshops have been held in confidence.

Mayor Andrew says, "In recent weeks I have been able to indicate that external factors are putting pressure on rates to an unprecedented level – but because rates workshops are held behind closed doors, I have been unable to be more specific.

"I would like to see a more transparent rates-setting process in future so our community can understand the pressures councillors and staff are facing and how we're navigating the big issues and decisions that need to be made."

Councils across the country have increased rates because it costs more to run services and facilities with inflation running at more than 7 percent, interest rates rising and supply chain issues.

Mayor Andrew says, "From looking around at other centres people will know a significant rates rise is inevitable in Whanganui, particularly with last year's very low 3.5 percent increase.

"All councils have at some point had to face up to increasing rates so they can keep running key services and facilities but it's important to make sure that increase is manageable."

Mayor Andrew says when councillors were presented with a budget in December showing initial 2023/24 rates calculations in the high teens he asked council staff to find savings. In January chief executive David Langford and chief financial officer Mike Fermor came back with over \$2M of savings to shrink the projected rates increase to 11.3 percent.

"That figure is in line with other councils, but in my view it's still unacceptably high," Mayor Andrew says. "I'm aware many people in our community are doing it tough right now so in light of that I asked staff to find further savings."

Since the December workshop, the council team has continued to work on the budgets and found further savings along with some small reductions in service levels that has brought the projected rates rise down to 8.4 percent.

At a Thursday, 2 February workshop councillors considered options to further reduce the rates. Mayor Andrew says 8.4 percent is a good figure in the current environment. Read more in the council's media release at:

www.whanganui.govt.nz/news

Rangatahi art showcase

Whanganui District Council Youth Council is looking to the future and inviting young people aged 12 to 24-years-old to get creative for this year's Artists Open Studios rangatahi art showcase, *In Our Hands*.

Young people are encouraged to submit up to three original visual or media art pieces linked to the exhibition theme *In Our Hands* to be considered for display. The deadline for submissions is **5.00pm on Tuesday, 7 March 2023**.

The group exhibition's title *In Our Hands* is influenced by the diverse ideas rangatahi have of the future related to wellbeing, environmental sustainability and cultural appreciation. The final collection of artworks will represent these values, and will consider how each of us, young and old, make an impact as part of the collective.

Youth Councillor, Lola Fischer, says, "It's so incredible for the Youth Council to help showcase Whanganui's amazing rangatahi artists, and we can't wait to see all the ātaahua artworks."

For more details, visit: facebook.com/WDCYouthCouncil

YC Whanganui District Council
YOUTH COUNCIL

La Fiesta events at libraries

As part of La Fiesta - NZ's Best Women's Fest, that runs from **10 February until 10 March 2023** Whanganui District Library is hosting a range of FREE events for children and adults. Details are available in the District Library's event guide available at the Davis or Alexander libraries, or download at: tinyurl.com/zw2jpmkb – download the official La Fiesta Festival Guide at: lafiestanz.com



Tea and Topics in Gonville

Tea and Topics at Gonville Library, 44 Abbot Street, **next Tuesday, 14 February 2023** features the return by popular demand of health coach Irene Davis, who will this time talk about the basics of organic skincare. Please bring pen and paper for notes. This event, which is also part of the District Library's La Fiesta line-up, begins with light refreshments at 10.00am. For more information about this event, please visit: facebook.com/GonvilleLibrary

Community Kōrero

Upcoming series of public forums

Whanganui District Mayor Andrew Tripe and Councillors invite you to talk with them about key topics in a series of community sessions. Everyone is welcome. Community Kōrero events in February and March will be at these times and locations:

- **Wednesday, 22 February from 5.15pm**
Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Tupoho
18 Cross Street, Castlecliff
- **Tuesday, 28 February from 5.30pm**
Hakeke Street Community Centre
65 Hakeke Street, Whanganui East
- **Wednesday, 1 March from 12.30pm**
Majestic Square
98 Victoria Avenue
- **Wednesday, 1 March from 5.15pm**
Cullinane College
15 Peat Street, Aramoho
- **Tuesday, 7 March from 5.15pm**
St John's Hill School
71 Parkes Ave, St John's Hill

Dublin Street Bridge

Temporary closure next Monday night

Dublin Street Bridge will be closed to all vehicle traffic for road repairs over one evening **from 6.00pm until midnight next Monday, 13 February 2023**. One of the bridge's walkways will remain open during the work. For more information, please visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/public-notice

Requests for tender

Contract 1985: CBD maintenance

Whanganui District Council invites tenders from suitably experienced contractors for the high-quality maintenance of open space areas within Whanganui's central business district.

- TenderLink reference: **WANGDC-1047602**
- Tender deadline: **4.00pm on Thursday, 16 February 2023.**

Contract 2013: Wastewater treatment plant biofilter media replacement

Whanganui District Council is seeking a capable contractor to complete media replacement work for the two biofilters at the Whanganui wastewater treatment plant, and replacement work of the geotextile layer.

- TenderLink reference: **WANGDC-1047643**
- Tender deadline: **4.00pm on Thursday, 23 February 2023.**

For all tender documents and TenderLink registration information, please visit: portal.tenderlink.com/whanganui
For TenderLink enquiries, call **0800 698 363**. For any other tendering assistance, contact the council's senior procurement officer, Lana Treen, on 06 349 3105 between 10.00am-4.00pm weekdays or email: lane.treen@whanganui.govt.nz

Council meetings

Meeting next week

Council meeting	9.30am Tuesday 14 February	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
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Agendas: www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas
Livestreamed council meetings:
www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil
www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings