



WELCOMING WEEK

TE WIKI O MANAAKI

4-13 September 2026

Welcoming Week 2026 Community Event Guide

Welcoming Week celebrates the people, cultures and connections that make Whanganui a welcoming place to live. This year's theme, Together We Belong, recognises that belonging is something we create together.

This calendar brings together events and activities led by local community groups, organisations, cultural groups, businesses and council facilities. Come along, get involved and help us celebrate what makes Whanganui home.



Welcoming Week 2026 brings together events and activities led by community groups and organisations across Whanganui, coordinated by Whanganui District Council. Events are correct as of 25 August. Some changes may occur. Please contact the organiser directly to confirm event details.

29 August

TE AO HOU MARAE VISIT

Te Ao Hou Marae is opening its doors to the community. Everyone is welcome, and the visit is free for all. Kai provided, transport available. Booking is essential with Multicultural Council 021 231 3274 356 Somme Parade, 10am-2pm | info@wanganuimulticultural.co.nz

4 September

MADE IN WHANGANUI

An exhibition collection from community education Whanganui artists and makers. Live music. Edith Gallery, 14 Taupo Quay 5:30pm | manager@communityeducation.nz

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S GROUP

The International Women's Group is a long-running programme at English Language Partners Whanganui, where women from a diverse range of cultures meet to improve their English Language skills and make new friends in a welcoming and inclusive group
Suite 6/66 Ingestre Street, 9:45am-11:30am | whanganui@englishlanguage.org.nz

7 September

SAFETY DAY

NZ Police, FENZ, Neighborhood Watch and SENSE around all aspects of keeping safe. Lunch included (registration essential).
Gonville Library, 44 Abbot Street 10am | gonville@whanganuilibrary.com

8 September

THE STITCHER-HOOD (LEARN CROSS-STITCH) & ADULTS CHESS CLUB

Gonville Library, 44 Abbot Street 10am | gonville@whanganuilibrary.com

9 September

GONVILLE KNITTERS & GONVILLE GAMES CLUB

Gonville Library, 44 Abbot Street 9am and 12:30pm respectively | gonville@whanganuilibrary.com

LUNCH AND LEARN

Bridging cultures and building connection with William 'Gumz' Pati, Regional Health Network.
Community House, 60 Ridgway Street | hello@cldcollective.org.nz

WE RUN WEDNESDAYS

Relaxed, free run club. No experience needed, all abilities welcome
Cooks Gardens, Maria Place 5:15pm

PLUNKET OPEN DAY

Discover how you can make a meaningful difference in your local community. Learn about a range of volunteer opportunities, meet the team, and find out how your skills, time, and passion can help support families and children. Whether you're looking to give back, connect with others, or develop new experiences, we'd love to meet you and share how you can get involved.
Plunket rooms, 6 Bates Street 10am-12pm | Dipti.Pandurangi@plunket.org.nz

Together We Belong



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9 September continued

HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Free beginner's home composting workshop, hosted by Sustainable Whanganui. Includes \$40 discount voucher for home composting system and compost caddy. Booking essential.

Te Ao Hou Marae, 356 Somme Parade | office@sustainablewhanganui.org.nz

COMMUNITY BIKE WORKSHOP

Open workshop where locals can come in and repair their own bikes or buy a cheap second-hand bike that has already been fixed and restored. With friendly mechanics available to offer guidance, the focus is on DIY learning, providing access to a variety of tools, and helping individuals build skills and knowledge. If you don't have a bicycle yet, this is a great place to get one!

Sustainable Whanganui, 23 Drews Ave 1pm-5pm | finn@sustainablewhanganui.org.nz

10 September

MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL SENIORS GROUP

A friendly space to connect, share a cuppa, and enjoy good company. Whether you're a regular or coming for the first time, you're most welcome!

137 Anzac Parade, 10:30 AM | info@wanganuimulticultural.co.nz

JOURNALLING WORKSHOP

Gonville Library, 44 Abbot Street | gonville@whanganuilibrary.com

TAIAO THURSDAY'S

Potting up native seedlings alongside other community members at the native nursery at Pīwaiwaka Farm. No experience needed, training on arrival. Morning tea / coffee and snacks provided.

Pīwaiwaka Farm, 673 Papaiti Road 9:30am-1pm | julie@learningenvironment.nz

DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN (Denominación de origen)

Latin American & Spain Film Festival (LASFF): Robbed of the prize for the best longaniza sausage in Chile, a spontaneous social movement surfaces in small town San Carlos as proud residents fight for a precious 'designation of origin'. Tomás Alzamora Muñoz CHILE 2024 PG Comedy 86 mins.

Davis Theatre, Watt St 7pm

11 September

LEARN HOW TO PLAY GUITAR

Gonville Library, 44 Abbot Street | gonville@whanganuilibrary.com

SHARED COMMUNITY MEAL

Nau mai haere mai, all welcome to the Born & Raised Pasifika shared community lunch. Wear your Ethnic Costumes & bring along an Ethnic Cultural Food Dish to share. Aunty Hellen 021-743-505

Aramoho Community Library, 2 Mitchell St, 12 noon | bornandraisedpasifika@xtra.co.nz

BASIC SANITATION (Saneamiento Básico)

LASFF: Frustrated the council can't replace a foul-smelling septic system, residents in a small rural community apply for a grant to make a movie, hoping to divert the funds and fix the problem. But their plans may be thwarted. Jorge Furtado BRAZIL 2007 M Comedy 112 mins

Davis Theatre, Watt St 4pm

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11 September continued

BLACK SNOW (Nieve Negra)

LASFF: A hermit living in remote Patagonia is visited by his brother and sister-in-law insistent on selling the family lands. Their meeting threatens to revive a family secret hidden for many years.

Martín Hodara ARGENTINA 2017 R16 Thriller 90 mins. Free entry

Davis Theatre, Watt St 7pm

12 September

WĀNANGA AND PERFORMANCE

He Ao Āpōpō, He Ao Tea - Interactive wānanga and performance, followed by a tour at Tarapurui Bushy Park. No bookings required, own transport needed to Tarapurui.

Te Whare o Rehua Sargeant Gallery 10am-12pm | info@sarjeant.org.nz

SATURDAY SOUNDS

Live music at the Whanganui Regional Museum, koha appreciated

Te Puni Tiaki Taonga o Whanganui (Whanganui Regional Museum), 4 Watt Street 1pm-2pm

FREE MAKERS DAY

Meet the Community Education Whanganui team at the markets! Learn how to hand-build a bowl or simply enjoy the feeling of clay between your fingers. Live performance by talented Rachel Dawick.

Saturday River Markets 8:30am-1pm | manager@communityeducation.nz

LATIN AMERICAN AND SPAIN FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAMME CONTINUED...

All films shown at Davis Lecture Theatre, Watt St and are free entry

EL BENNY (Benny): A fictionalised account of Cuba's legendary jazz vocalist, Benny Moré, who careened through life, alcohol and women, driving crowds wild with his mastery of every Cuban musical style from boleros to mambos. Jorge Luis Sánchez CUBA 2006 M Drama 132 mins.

18 September, 4pm

A WORLD FOR JULIUS (Un mundo para Julius): An upper-class boy growing up in 1960s Lima grapples with loss of innocence as he encounters an adult world marred by inequality and injustice.

Rossana Díaz Costa PERU 2021 M Drama 104 mins. **18 September, 7pm**

CLOSE YOUR EYES (Cerrar los ojos): Twenty years after a famous actor mysteriously vanishes from a film set, a TV programme revives the case, seeking answers from the director, his family and others who knew him. Victor Erice SPAIN 2023 M Drama 169 mins. **19 September, 7pm**

A POET (Un poeta): A washed-up poet attempts to mentor a talented working-class teenage girl, only to confront the harsh realities of the literary establishment, her aspirations and his own unmet ambition. Simón Mesa Soto COLOMBIA 2025 M Tragicomedy 163 mins. **24 September, 7pm**

CORINA (Corina) A young publishing house worker with agoraphobia makes a grave mistake and must embark on a journey outside her comfort zone to save her job and that of her colleagues.

Urzula Barba Hopfner MEXICO 2024 M Comedy Drama 96 mins. **26 September, 7pm**

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