

# Community Link

Whanganui District Council

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## Airport makes hay while sun shines

There is about 54 hectares of grassed land at Whanganui Airport with three grass runways criss-crossing the airfield.

The angled grass runways allow the smaller single-engine aircraft to land when there is too much crosswind on the main runway.

While the grass runways are kept short for aircraft use it's too costly and time-consuming to mow the rest of the airfield so this is left to grow long and made into hay each summer (pictured).

Whanganui Airport manager, Phil McBride, says, "This summer the grass was cut earlier in the season and made into a mix of baleage and hay. A trial area was also planted with lucerne to determine if this higher-value crop may be suitable to provide an alternative income source for the airport."

"If left to dry the long grass becomes a fire hazard so it has to be cut every year. It can be like herding cats though, with up to six tractors and two trucks working on the airfield mowing, tedding, raking and baling the grass."



Unlike making hay on a farm the bales can't be left scattered all over the airfield, so they are immediately moved clear of the runways.

To co-ordinate aircraft activities, an airport safety officer is present on the airfield whenever the haymaking team are working. The UNICOM operator in the control tower adds the final safety measure to ensure the proper separation of aircraft and vehicles is maintained.

## Three Waters stimulus projects completed or in pipeline

Whanganui's stormwater, wastewater and water infrastructure continues to benefit from more than \$6 million allocated by central government as part of its Three Waters stimulus project fund. The fund was launched in July 2020 following the first COVID-19 lockdowns.

Several projects have been completed and others are in progress, including the renewal of the Westway pipe bridge (pictured).

The pipe bridge spans 64-metres with a maximum height of eight-metres and services the sewer main that takes the bulk of wastewater from Durie Hill. The bridge and pipeline are more than 100 years old and the pipe, which forms a large portion of the bridge structure, is corroded.

For more information on the Three Waters stimulus projects, including completed projects and progress updates, please visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/stimulus-project](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/stimulus-project)



## New Zealand Glassworks' first exhibition for 2022

New Zealand Glassworks Te Whare Tūhua O Te Ao has announced its first show for 2022, a residency exhibition of works by Auckland-based artist Te Rongo Kirkwood. The first recipient of the NZG Glass Residency in June last year, Te Rongo Kirkwood has been working in glass for 15 years and regularly exhibits in this country and abroad. The exhibition opens at New Zealand Glassworks, 2 Rutland Street, this Friday, 21 January and runs until Sunday, 27 March. More information at: [www.facebook.com/nzglassworks](http://www.facebook.com/nzglassworks)

### WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

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

- Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw review - initial survey
- Survey on internet access and digital confidence in Whanganui
- Durie Hill lookout improvements

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



## Council CEO appointed

### New chief executive starts in March

Whanganui District Council has appointed David Langford (pictured) as its new chief executive, starting in the role on 14 March 2022.

David Langford's current role is with New Plymouth District Council where, as group manager for planning and infrastructure he has had responsibility for the management of parks and reserves, and a wide range of development and planning functions as well as essential infrastructure.



## Internet access survey

### Focus on digital coverage, confidence

Whanganui District Council wants to hear about internet access and the level of digital confidence in the Whanganui District.

A community survey is available online, in paper form and via phone call, and is to help the council better understand the current state of online access and services throughout our district. There will also be opportunities for people who don't use the internet to participate by paper, at events or by phone. The survey also includes the chance to win one of several prizes donated by Tuatahi First Fibre, including digital tablets and Prezzy Cards to the value of \$25.00 each.

The survey on internet access and digital confidence in Whanganui closes at 5.00pm on Tuesday, 22 February 2022. To complete the online survey and for more details, please visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/digital-survey](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/digital-survey) or call 06 349 0001 quoting the digital survey, or scan the above QR code.



## Cemeteries survey

### Closing date is Friday, 4 February

Whanganui District Council is asking the community to take part in a survey on burials, cemeteries, cremations, monuments and memorials in our district, ahead of a review of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw in 2023. Everyone who fills in the survey will also have the option to go into a draw to win a \$50.00 grocery voucher. The survey closes on Friday, 4 February 2022 - visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/cemeteries-bylaw-review](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/cemeteries-bylaw-review)

## Council meetings

### Meetings in February

Council Meeting	1.00pm Tuesday 15 February	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
Property and Community Services Committee	1.00pm Tuesday 22 February	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street

Agendas: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/agendas)  
Livestreamed council meetings: [www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/whanganuidistrictcouncil)  
[www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/live-council-meetings)

## TE RONGO KIRKWOOD

Residency Exhibition  
21 JAN - 27 MAR

NZ GLASSWORKS | 2 RUTLAND ST | WHANGANUI

NZG Supported by GasNet Connecting communities

NZG New Zealand Glassworks Te Whare Tūhua O Te Ao

Special thanks to creative.nz ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND THE ARTS FUND