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# Community Link

## QV property valuations available now

New rating valuations are being mailed to Whanganui property owners at present and are also available online at: [www.qv.co.nz](http://www.qv.co.nz)

Whanganui District Council’s chief financial officer, Mike Fermor, says, “Some people think the council collects more rates when property values go up, but that’s not correct.

“The total we collect in rates is calculated by working out the total cost of providing services and facilities for the community for the year. That doesn’t change because property values go up.”

He says what the revaluation can change is your “piece of the pie” or the amount you pay compared to others. “Revaluations help us work out everyone’s share of the rates,” Mike Fermor says.



If you think your valuation is too high or too low, get in touch with Quotable Value (QV) to lodge an objection on or before Friday, 14 April 2023 at: [www.qv.co.nz/services/rating-valuations/object-rating](http://www.qv.co.nz/services/rating-valuations/object-rating)

## Heritage Grant Fund open

Applications are open for Whanganui District Council’s Heritage Grant Fund, which provides assistance to building owners to undertake heritage enhancement work. The grant can be used on external works that enhance the historic character of a heritage site.

The grant now covers not only the town centre but also heritage projects throughout the Whanganui district that show substantial benefits to the wider community. Privately-owned buildings are eligible to apply for funding, as are council and crown-owned buildings that are in community use. For projects up to \$15,000, applicants can be considered for up to 80 percent funding towards the total cost of the project, while for projects above \$15,000 owners can apply for up to 50 percent towards the total cost of the project. Funding applications must be made before work starts and the project needs to be completed within 12 months of funding approval.

To apply, please visit: [www.whanganui.govt.nz/funding](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/funding)  
The current funding round closes at 5.00pm on Wednesday, 31 May 2023.

## Register for Appy Seniors!



Whanganui District Library in partnership with the Digital Inclusion Alliance of Aotearoa will soon be offering Appy Seniors, a series of free one-hour sessions on how to use popular smartphone apps. The sessions are aimed at seniors who want to learn to use their smartphones for more than just phone calls.

The first session will be an introduction to using smartphone functions and apps. Subsequent sessions will cover online banking, grocery shopping, video calling, Libby, Google Maps, SuperGold card, WhatsApp, Stuff, AirBnB and TradeMe. Classes start soon – to register your interest for one or more of these sessions, please contact learning and discovery librarian Rachel Smith on 06 349 1000 or email: [rachel@whanganuilibrary.com](mailto:rachel@whanganuilibrary.com)

## Open Studios in the frame

Artists Open Studios returns to Whanganui and Marton for 2023 this Saturday, 25 March. The event runs over two consecutive weekends – 25-26 March and 1-2 April – with some studios open during the week. Visit more than 60 studios and galleries with over 150 artists taking part. For information on participating artists and studios, please visit: [openstudios.co.nz](http://openstudios.co.nz)



Safer Whanganui

Free family fun day

Creating safer homes together

Saturday 25 March 2023  
10am – 2pm  
Springvale Stadium  
Whanganui

Most child injuries in the home are preventable

Safety demos  
Games & giveaways  
Fun activities for all ages  
Free sausage sizzle  
Gymnastics display at 12.30pm!  
...and lots more!

WHANGANUI DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Whanganui District Council invites you to have your say on this topic:

- Cemeteries and Crematoria
- Bylaw review

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

HAVE YOUR SAY KŌRERO MAI

## Mayoral Relief Fund

### Donations open for cyclone recovery

The Whanganui Mayoral Relief Fund is open for donations to help with Cyclone Gabrielle recovery. All funds raised will go directly to relief efforts.

Donate via internet banking to account 01-0790-0157888-00 – reference CG23 – or visit: [cg23.whanganui.govt.nz](http://cg23.whanganui.govt.nz)

## Digital drop-in sessions

### Castlecliff Community Hub and Library

Get free help with your digital devices on Tuesdays from 1.00pm until 3.00pm at Castlecliff Community Hub and Library, 10 Rangiora Street. Whanganui District Library and Age Concern Whanganui will be there to help with your smartphone and tablet issues.

Get help to connect to wi-fi, download and use apps, send emails, browse the internet, listen to audiobooks, apply for jobs online and more.

Drop in for a chat about how we can help you. For more details, contact Rachel Smith on 027 211 4261 or Becky Stanley on 021 0273 2901.

## Whanganui East Pool

### Swimming season coming to an end

The Whanganui East Pool is open to the public this weekend from 10.00am until 5.00pm.

The final day at the pool for this season is next Saturday, 1 April 2023, with the annual Doggy Paddle Day on Sunday, 2 April. More details at: [www.facebook.com/SplashcentreWhanganui](http://www.facebook.com/SplashcentreWhanganui)

## Help with Census forms

### Pop-up clinics at Alexander Library

Whanganui District Library is offering help for people to complete their Census 2023 forms.

Drop in to one of the pop-up census clinics at the Alexander Heritage & Research Library Te Rerenga Mai o Te Kāuru in Pukenui Queen’s Park from 10.00am-4.00pm today, Wednesday 22 March, and next Wednesday, 29 March.

Trained census staff will be available to answer your questions and help you with the census.



## Council meetings

### Upcoming meetings

Strategy and Policy Committee	9.30am Tuesday 28 March	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
Operations and Performance Committee	9.30am Thursday 30 March	Council Chamber, 101 Guyton Street
Whanganui Rural Community Board	2.00pm Tuesday 4 April	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)