

A message from the Mayor

At last, Spring has arrived and hopefully the weather will improve—particularly after some of the heavy rain events that we've had in the last few months.

It's important that we're all coping and helping one another as we work through the alert levels having recently spent two weeks in full lockdown. Upper Hutt has done well again to follow the rules as required. These outbreaks remind us that immunisation is very important for protecting our city and our country. It's been great to see so many Upper Hutt people lining up to be vaccinated. The evidence is clear that vaccination is the way forward so that we can return to life as in pre-COVID days. I've had my two vaccination doses with no issues, so I urge all of us to look after one another and be vaccinated.

The Government is undertaking a large number of reforms that will affect all of us in New Zealand—particularly in the local government sector. These reforms include health, three waters, resource management, tertiary education, housing, fresh water management, climate change, significant natural areas, and of course the future for local government. I am not against reforms or change, but I am concerned that all these reforms are all going on at the same time. This can lead to the wrong decisions being made—reforms in silos.

We should first sort out what the future for local government is for the next 30 years. This will then help decide how local government might deliver for New Zealanders in the next 30 to 50 years. Many of these reforms promote centralisation or regionalisation. It's clear that the condensed and illogical sequencing of the reforms is stretching the capability and capacity of local and central government. I'm concerned that collectively these reform proposals will reshape the democratic wellbeing of communities and will result

in a reduction of 'local voice.' Democracy will be severely undermined without there being a clear outcome for local government sector. I believe that these concerns are held by a number of my mayoral colleagues and territorial authorities around the country.

I also believe that the *Three Waters Reform* will not result in a positive outcome for our communities. It's clear that there is insufficient information on the impact of these reforms. The pace of this reform leaves us too little time to engage appropriately within our communities so that councils can form decisions. Communities need to be given adequate time to understand the implications of the three waters programme and what affect it is going to have on them—including the cost. For this to be successful, the Government needs to pause the reform process. Rushing the engagement process will not result in good decision making. My view—particularly for the three waters—is that if there are better ways of doing things, then we should consider them, but not be presented with one proposal and very little consultation. I believe having a regulator is a very good idea, but at the end of day we all need time so that we and our communities can make the right and best decision.

There are just too many unknowns in these reforms. I'm not convinced that communities will have meaningful control over the proposed multi-regional three waters entities or that some future government will not privatise these services. The *Three Waters Reform* will lead to the 'transfer' (what I call confiscation) of billions of dollars' worth of assets from ratepayers without fair compensation. Councils will then have no control over the four large water authorities.




Wayne Guppy

KOROMATUA | MAYOR

 /MAYOR.WAYNEGUPPY

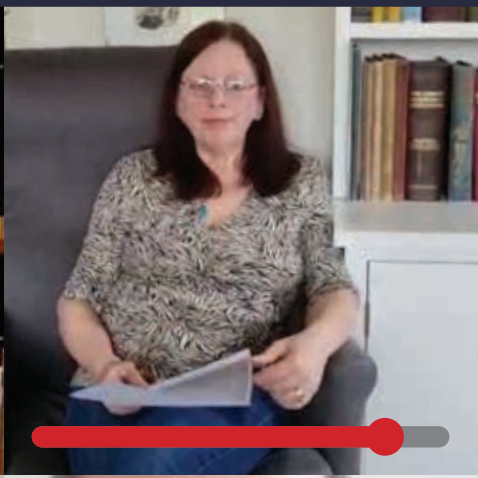


Upcoming meetings

Did you know you can find the upcoming Council and Committee meetings on our website? Go to upperhuttcity.com/meetings, click on any meeting for a link to the agenda and minutes.

NOTE: Meeting dates and times are subject to change so please keep an eye out for updates on our website closer to the time of any particular meeting

- 🕒 **Council meeting**
Wednesday 15 September—4.30 pm
CANCELLED
- 🕒 **Extraordinary Council meeting**
Wednesday 22 September—3.00 pm
- 🕒 **City Development Committee**
Wednesday 6 October—4.30 pm
- 🕒 **Finance and Performance Committee**
Wednesday 13 October—4.30 pm
- 🕒 **Traffic Committee**
Monday 18 October—9.30 am
- 🕒 **Policy Committee**
Wednesday 20 October—4.30 pm
- 🕒 **Creative Communities Committee**
Thursday 21 October—4.30 pm
- 🕒 **Council meeting**
Wednesday 3 November—4.30 pm
- 🕒 **City Development Committee**
Wednesday 17 November—4.30 pm
- 🕒 **Risk and Assurance Committee**
Wednesday 24 November—2.00 pm
- 🕒 **Finance and Performance Committee**
Wednesday 24 November—4.30 pm
- 🕒 **Hutt Valley Services Joint Committee**
Friday 26 November—9.30 am
- 🕒 **Policy Committee**
Wednesday 1 December—4.30 pm
- 🕒 **Traffic Committee**
Monday 6 December—9.30 am
- 🕒 **Council**
Wednesday 15 December—4.30 pm



Upper Hutt Poetry comp ups the ante

With a record-breaking 133 entries, Upper Hutt Libraries' annual Poetry Competition proved once again that we are home to many talented writers here in the Valley and across the wider Wellington region.

The annual competition always runs in the lead-up to National Poetry Day, held on 27 August this year, and was open for submissions from 25 June – 1 August. A highlight of the Libraries' schedule of events, the competition encourages everyone in the community to put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard, and give poetry a go. Due to Alert Level 4, the traditional Poetry Awards Night event was replaced by an online announcement of the shortlisted and winning entrants on the Libraries website and Facebook page. Participants also shared videos of themselves reciting their poems which we've also included on the Libraries Facebook page.

Thanks to an extensive promotional programme, the 2021 competition theme 'Dreams' inspired an unprecedented number of creative responses. 102 adults, 24 children, and 7 teens took on the challenge, writing about night-time adventures, fantasy lands, and thought-provoking visions of the future, amongst a variety of other takes on the theme. We're delighted that the competition keeps supporting a continued and growing local writing community, with several participants entering poems every year.

Upper Hutt writers Cat Connor and Caro Lankow formed the judging panel for the adult category, with librarians Louisa Wilkinson and Jayme Sinclair shortlisting the children's and teen categories. To read all shortlisted, winning entries, and to see what else is coming up, go to upperhuttlibrary.co.nz



Extended success

Whirinaki Whare Taonga continues to be a significant player in the region's cultural life and continues to perform extremely well in levels of visitation, participation, community engagement, and use. In 2020 – 2021 over 150,000 visited the centre (despite COVID-19) with over 4,000 school students visiting the Ministry of Education learning programme.

One success of the new extension is the **Te Ara** exhibition in the Gillies Gallery, where the Upper Hutt community has access to our cultural heritage and local stories. Since the completion of the extension and with the new Gillies Gallery there has been huge visitation to Te Ara: 30,000 in the first 6 weeks! Te Ara—Upper Hutt's first signature historical exhibition—explores the significant stories behind the streets of Upper Hutt, our people and places, our meetings, and memories, told and untold. From the first meetings of Māori and early settlers to today; the stories that our city is built on.

The exhibition following Te Ara in 2022 is based on telling the stories of the many cultures in Upper Hutt.

Glasgow Boy: the Artwork of James Nairn: [9 October – 5 December]

In October we'll shine a spotlight on the work of James Nairn, the founder of Impressionism in New Zealand and champion of the Pumpkin Cottage artists based in Silverstream. Featuring work from public and private collections, including from our own Pumpkin Cottage Collection, this solo exhibition celebrates James' *plein air* approach to painting and interest in the effects of light on his subjects and in the countryside.



Tess by James Nairn

Celebrating our volunteers

In July we hosted the Wellington Airport Community Awards at Whirinaki Whare Taonga. These awards are an opportunity for us to acknowledge and thank our local volunteers. Category winners from Upper Hutt are also then acknowledged at a regional level in November.

For Upper Hutt, this year we congratulate Ōrongomai Marae as supreme winner—in recognition of the amazing community work, coordination, and support they provided throughout COVID-19 alert levels last year.

Category winners included Urban Wildlife Trust for *Heritage and Environment*; Ōrongomai Marae for *Health and Wellbeing*; Heretaunga Players for *Arts and Culture*; Community Sports Bank for *Sport and Leisure*; and YMCA—Raise Up Upper Hutt for *Education and Child/Youth Development*. Food 4 Thought also received Upper Hutt's rising star award.



A word from Councillor Hellen Swales

It certainly is a busy time for all councils up and down the country with many initiatives being presented by Central Government for consideration by our council and communities. First, we have the proposed 'Three Waters Reform.' Do we opt-in or opt-out? Second, we have the 'Resources Management Act (RMA)' which Government has proposed to repeal and replace with new legislation. Then finally, we have the reimagining 'The Future of Local Government.' So, with these proposed initiatives the government through its agenda have the potential to fundamentally change some of the more traditional roles and functions of local government.

So, what will local government look like in 50 years time? Will we still be fit for purpose in our current form? These are the questions being posed. We will need to look at a new funding model one more sustainable that distributes the cost more equitably to ensure we can keep pace with the pressures of a changing landscape. We will still have to manage urban growth adapt and mitigate climate change to ensure we have a resilient community along with the infrastructure of roading, transport and housing. But most importantly the community needs to know they have an influence and a voice at the table that influences change in their community.

The terms of reference given by the Minister Hon Nanaia Mahuta to focus on included how local government will be a key contributor to the wellbeing and prosperity of New Zealand and an essential connection to communities in the governance of New Zealand in the future. Let's see how this lines up with the expectation of our communities. We're working to have a draft report and recommendations to be issued for public consultation by 30 September 2022. Be ready with your voices to add to this important conversation on the shape of your community now and into the future remembering we also have a duty of care for the generations that follow.



Civic Awards

Know someone who has done some really amazing voluntary work for our city and community? Why not nominate them for a Civic Award?

For this year's awards, we're accepting nominations up to **Friday 1 October**.

For more information and to nominate someone, go to our website: upperhuttcity.com/civic-awards. If a nomination is successful, we'll contact the nominee to ask if they wish to accept the award.



Final few days for Creative funding

Round two of **Creative Communities** funding for 2021 closes for applications on **Friday 17 September**.

Do you have a creative project or arts programme that you would like to get the community involved with? Then check out the application form and see if your project qualifies for funding.

For more information. Go to upperhuttcity.com/creative



Wonky Box takes off in Welly

Ever wondered what happens to the ugly fruit, the ones that are all kinds of weird shapes and sizes that you don't see in the produce section of your supermarket? They're often rejected by supermarkets and overseas buyers for all kinds of reasons, like due to size, shape, shade or just general excess produce grown each week. Now, thanks to local business, The Wonky Box, the not so perfect produce has a new lease on life.

The Wonky Box was started by The Wonkers, Angus Simms and his partner Katie Jackson when they returned to New Zealand in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their goal was to tackle food waste by rescuing locally farmed fruit and veggies. "We were always pretty cautious of where we were eating, where we were getting it from and what waste it produced," Angus said.

"We did some research and started working with local growers to save their excess vegetables, and the ones which are not the right size or shape to be packed up for supermarkets," Katie said. "Within weeks we were up and running after a short trial with family and friends followed by people who were interested after we posted on community pages."

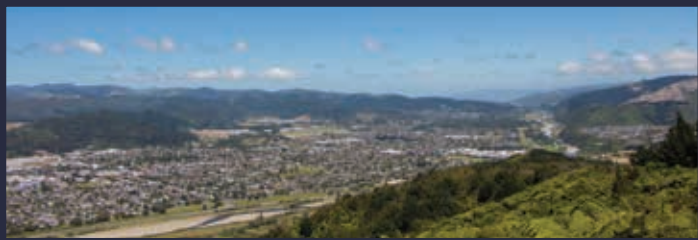
Since then, business has boomed with delivery expanding to include more than 400 households in the greater Wellington region.

Upper Hutt has helped play a role in The Wonkers success with Angus saying "I feel Upper Hutt was our birth place and we got a real urge to make it happen after the response we received from the local community. One of our close friends, Holly Carstens (who also runs a local platter service, Wild Thyme Platter Co) decided to share our service on Facebook, and from there, it just took off!"

If you're keen to get your hands on a Wonky Box, go to wonkybox.nz

Local business update

- | | |
|--|--|
| → Union Yoga NEW
Centre Walk | → Lutra NEW Thomas Neal Cres |
| → Dye Pretty/Shady Lady Barbers EXPANDED
Silverstream | → Caci Clinic NEW The Mall |
| → Bespoke Interiors MOVED
Silverstream | → Laura Ridley Photography NEW Main St |
| → Café Blume REOPENED Main St | → Phone Zone NEW The Mall |
| → Filmtec NEW Dante Rd | → Wonky Box NEW FEATURED
wonkybox.nz |



Upper Hutt District Plan

We are continuing to work through our 10-year rolling review of the District Plan. Here are a few updates of our Plan Changes we currently have in process...

Planning for the future [PC50]

Plan Change 50 represents two and a half years' work reviewing the residential and rural chapters of our District Plan alongside the Government's National Policy Statement on Urban Development to see how we might be able to accommodate more growth.

We are proposing some big changes so before we go through a formal consultation process, we wanted to share our draft proposals with our community for feedback, to improve the quality of our final proposals.

Informal feedback on PC50 closed on Monday 13 September. We'll now be reviewing this feedback and making any changes before publicly notifying PC50 for formal consultation next year.

For more information, go to upperhuttcity.com/pc50

Open Spaces [PC49]

We've now 'publicly notified' Plan Change 49. This means the process has reached a point where Council has made a proposal of changes and is seeking formal feedback. We're proposing to split 'Open Space' zoning into three different zones to better reflect the nature and use of an open space and allow us to manage it more effectively. Consultation is open until **Friday 17 September**. Go to letskorero.upperhuttcity.com to have your say.

Tiaki Taiao [PC48]

Over the last year, we've been engaging with landowners and the community to discuss the changes to the current indigenous vegetation clearance rules and to identify areas with significant indigenous biodiversity values, native bush, and landscapes. Draft policies and rules for the significant natural areas and landscape overlays were shared with landowners and the community on 8 July.

Since the motion was carried at the Council meeting on 28 July that we continue pre-consultation, we've been developing a new approach, which we're expecting to present soon.

In the meantime, the draft chapters and draft overlay areas are still available, however the indigenous biodiversity (ECO) chapter will need to be revised once the Government releases the national policy statement of indigenous biodiversity.

For more information go to upperhuttcity.com/pc48



Recycle your batteries!

We're partnering with local businesses and **UpCycle** to pilot a battery recycling programme for household batteries. We've set up battery drop-in bins at local retailers.

Go to upperhuttcity.com/recycling for details and where you can drop in your old batteries.



Celebrate 'the magic of Christmas' at the Upper Hutt Santa Parade

Do you remember Christmas time as a child? The excitement? The anticipation? The Christmas season seems to carry its own sense of magic and wonder—and that's our theme for this year. It's time to start planning your float for the 2021 Upper Hutt Santa Parade.

The parade will make its way down Main Street on Sunday 5 December from 3.00 pm.

An invitation is extended to all business and community groups operating in Upper Hutt to join this community event and enter a 'magical Christmas' themed float in the Parade.

There is a \$1,000 prize for the float that best reflects 'the magic of Christmas' and a \$250 prize for the People's Choice Award.

Get creative and start planning your most magical Christmas float idea and put it to your school, club or your boss to make it happen.

Go to upperhuttcity.com/santa-parade for more information and to register your float.

Active participation



Sporting Chance and Arts Participation funding

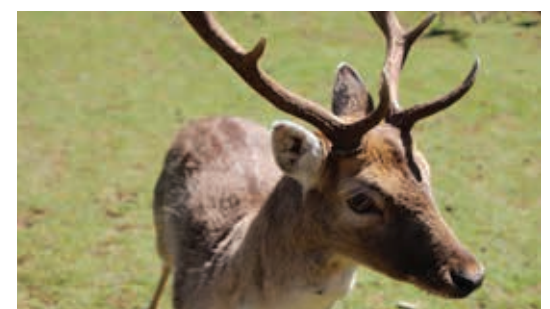
Council has set up two funds to assist young people where financial hardship (as a result of COVID-19) is a barrier to participation in sports and physical activity and/or in art and culture.

These funds are about supporting families affected financially by COVID-19 with the necessary equipment, clothing or other related costs to enable Upper Hutt children (ages 5 – 18) to participate in these activities.

This may include but is not limited to:

- ➔ Club or class fees
- ➔ Equipment not provided through a club and/or class
- ➔ Uniform, footwear and/or clothing/costumes associated with sports and/or dance, art, music, culture, or theatre (arts) classes.

For more information and to apply, go to whirinakiarts.org.nz/education/sporting-chance-and-art-participation-funds



GOLD—Trip to Staglands

GOLD is a series of activities for those aged 50+ who want to experience something a little bit different, meet new people, and try new things.

Next up is a tour of Staglands Wildlife Reserve on Friday 1 October. We depart H2O Xtream at 10.00 am and return by 2.00 pm. Registration and payment (\$30) can be made at H2O Xtream.

What's coming up...

- ➔ October Holiday Programme is coming up. For more information, go to h2oxtream.com/holiday-programmes
- ➔ Mental Health Awareness Week runs from 21 – 27 September
- ➔ Summer sports club registrations are coming up. Check our directory of sports clubs at upperhuttcity.com/sports-clubs