

Valley News

September 2011 | Upper Hutt City Council Newsletter



A message from the Mayor

We are a couple weeks into the Rugby World Cup 2011 Tournament and I am sure we are all enjoying the occasion. The opening ceremony was something that I am sure made all kiwis very proud. It was a magnificent event, watched by 61,000 spectators at Eden Park and over a billion people worldwide. What a way to showcase our country.

We all have a great opportunity to showcase our city and our region as we entertain and meet visitors from all over the globe during their stay in Wellington. Let's all make sure that we participate in the events and be part of the Rugby World Cup 2011 by ensuring that we take the opportunity to help visitors in our city and go that little extra mile to make sure they enjoy their stay in Upper Hutt, Wellington, and New Zealand. Let their friends at home hear about the great experience they had here during the World Cup.

We at Upper Hutt City Council are in the process of developing the Long Term Plan (LTP) for 2012 – 2022. The LTP outlines the Council's commitment to investment and

projects that will be undertaken over this 10-year period. It is the policy document that embodies our combined vision for the city in short and medium term objectives. It's about shaping the future of our city. It's about the way forward.

Consultation for the LTP projects begins shortly and it is important that we all take the opportunity to have our say during the submissions period. This looks at the major projects that we all, as Council and as a community, want to see happen in Upper Hutt. Let's all participate in this process together.

Community focus is a key incentive of the LTP and five development principles are inherent across the proposed projects: changing perceptions, attracting growth, enhancing experiences, improving the feel, and widening the offer. With each project contributing to one or more of these principles, I am confident that we can improve opportunities for our city residents over the next decade.

Continue to enjoy World Cup 2011

GO THE MIGHTY ALL BLACKS!



Tree protection

Review of the District Plan

Council has commenced a review of the tree protection provisions in the District Plan. A recent declaration by the Environment Court confirmed that the method of protecting trees used by the Council complies with recent changes to the Resource Management Act. We will continue to keep the public informed at significant points in the review process.

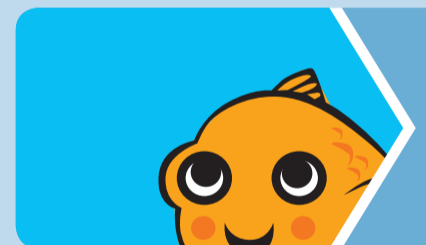
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Newspaper Archive launched—heritage preserved

Upper Hutt City Library recently launched the Upper Hutt Newspaper Archive during a heritage event held at the Central Library. This work is of considerable importance and is the first of its kind in New Zealand. Specific to Upper Hutt, this archive enhances and compliments local heritage for residents and researchers.

Hosted on the Upper Hutt City Library website, the archive initially includes content-searchable editions of the Upper Hutt Leader from 1939 to 1964. Plans are in place to continue the process with other newspaper publications including the Hutt Valley Independent and the Upper Hutt Times.

Once a search result is selected, the whole page containing the result is loaded, highlighting the relevant article and keyword(s). Users have the option of exploring the page and particular issue further. The experience is designed to feel like reading the paper. This way, the archive can give insight into the social history of Upper Hutt, through the eyes of the community newspapers.



The Archive has been designed to be user-friendly with interface features such as the following:

- Click and drag will move the page around in order to explore and view other articles.
- Click on another article to highlight/select it.
- Use the mouse scroll-wheel to zoom in to a result for ease of reading, or zoom out to view all pages of a newspaper issue for further exploration.
- Use the left side menu to view the highlighted article's text or navigate through the entire issue's contents and choose other articles that may be of interest.
- Share search results through social networks and blogs, including Facebook and Twitter, using the buttons on the right in the main issue header.
- During a search, all matching results are listed, ready to be browsed. A *Refine Search* menu on the left, allows specific category, decade, and word-count filters for the keyword.

New road alerts service for rural motorists

The recent snow storms have highlighted how the situation on Upper Hutt roads can change rapidly. Real-time information assisting drivers to choose an appropriate route or make alternative arrangements will help minimise safety risk and ease traffic congestion.

Upper Hutt City Council is establishing a new system to advise residents of changing road conditions. The system will send alerts via text message or email when there has been an incident or emergency event affecting roads in their area. This service is particularly for rural Upper Hutt residents in the Moonshine, Akatarawa, Kaitoke, Maymorn, Mangaroa Valley, Blue Mountains, and Whitemans Valley Areas.

If you are a rural resident and would like to subscribe to the new service, complete the registration form at www.upperhuttcity.com/roadalerts



World Cup round-up

Building up to the Rugby World Cup, we have been busy promoting local events and attractions to both residents and visitors, domestic and international.

Along with a regular column in the Leader, Liesl Harlen, our Rugby World Cup Coordinator has spent many hours promoting, liaising, setting up, and publishing guides showcasing events and facilities, for everyone to enjoy during the Rugby World Cup Tournament.

Now that the Tournament has kicked-off, the festivities for RWC 2011 are well under way. Campervan facilities are already available at *Harcourt Holiday Park* and, with help from several departments at Council, Trentham Gardens at the Wellington Racing Club. *Trentham Camper Van Central* offers our visitors additional capacity and, being adjacent to Trentham Railway Station, direct public transport to Wellington Regional Stadium as well as Upper Hutt CBD.

We are continuing to promote the Rugby World Cup Tournament and concurrent local events through our website: www.upperhuttcity.com/RWC2011. There are also links on this page to further regional information regarding the Tournament season.

If you haven't yet got your *What's on Where in Upper Hutt—RWC 2011* events schedule, you can pick one up from the Upper Hutt i-SITE Visitor Centre.

Please continue to welcome our guests and host them in a manner that we can all be proud of.

A word from Councillor Nick Thomas

It is exciting to see areas of our city starting to regenerate. The recent announcement of a film studio seriously looking to locate here brings hope of employment for locals. It is through employment that our city will prosper, and bring benefits for all.

I have had the privilege of attending many of our community groups' open days and AGMs. It is encouraging to see the enthusiasm and passion in these various organisations. We certainly are blessed with many opportunities to participate in our community.

The new Waste Minimisation Strategy was considered at the Wellington Region Waste Forum recently. It was recommended that the local authorities throughout the area adopt

the strategy. This will be presented to Council in the near future. There are exciting developments in waste minimisation. Envirocomp is looking to start its nappy composting plant within the region, and is in the process of securing land for this development. Our landfill is now receiving less waste and our recycling is increasing.

Council has a responsibility to ensure good stewardship of its ratepayer's funds. I have continued to monitor closely the amount the city spends, however this has been influenced heavily with the outcomes from the insurance industry. While we proceed through the initial stages of the Long Term Plan, it is my endeavour to see we get the right mix for good financial management that allows us to grow.

The feedback I receive from the community is most welcome. Please feel free to contact me on (04) 528 7588 or ntflooring@xtra.co.nz regarding any issues you may have.



Seniors Week

Celebrating the golden years

Council is holding its 7th annual Upper Hutt Seniors Week of events and commemorating the International Day of the Older Person on 1 October. There's a great range of events on offer including guest speakers, music and dance. All events are either free or heavily discounted. Seniors Week will run from Monday 3 October to Sunday 9 October. Information flyers are located at council facilities or go to www.upperhuttcity.com/council for more information.

Monday 3 October	11.00 am	Ken Ring speaks at the Central Library —FREE
Tuesday 4 October	11.00 am	Zumba dance class for seniors at the Central Library —FREE
	11.00 am	Over 60s swim for free at H ² O Xtream until 1.00 pm —FREE
	1.00 pm	<i>Te Papa Tuesday</i> at Expressions: painting conservators discuss <i>Poedua</i> , Te Papa's new painting acquisition, and its care and conservation —FREE
Wednesday 5 October	10.00 am	Tony Chad sings old-time favourites in Expressions Foyer until 11.00 am —FREE
	11.00 am	Share and record memories of Upper Hutt at the Central Library —FREE
Thursday 6 October	10.00 am	Upper Hutt Central Library tours on the hour until 4.00 pm —FREE
	11.00 am	Over 60s swim for free at H ² O Xtream until 1.00 pm —FREE
	10.30 am	Pianist Clare Derby entertains in the Genesis Energy Theatre at Expressions, followed by a tour of the theatre and backstage —FREE
Friday 7 October	11.00 am	Antiques Road Show at the Central Library until 4.00 pm —FREE
Sunday 9 October	11.00 am	Silver Stream Railway, half price for Gold Card holders until 4.00 pm

Rates rebate

You could be eligible!

Are you the ratepayer for the house you live in? Was your total household income (before tax) less than \$23,240 in the 2010 – 2011 tax year?

You may be eligible for a rates rebate of up to \$580.

If you have dependants and a higher income, or if your rates are high, you may still be eligible for a rebate.

To find out about your eligibility for a rates rebate, call us on (04) 527 2169 or go to www.ratesrebates.govt.nz

You have until 30 June 2012 to make an application.

Less water this summer

Whatever the weather, it's going to be a dry summer.

The Stuart Macaskill Lakes in Te Marua are being upgraded to increase earthquake resilience and capacity—one this summer, and one next summer. This means the **entire Wellington Region** will have half the usual reserves of drinking water! Please be prepared to conserve water this summer. Some things you can do to help include:

- Put a plastic bottle filled with water in your single-flush toilet cistern—saves 1 – 2 litres every flush.
- Put a flow control 'trigger' on your hose—stops unnecessary wastage.
- Fix your leaks—they can waste hundreds of litres per day.
- Put mulch on your garden to keep it moist and water less often.

For more information on water conservation go to: www.gw.govt.nz/water

We need your support to bring about a permanent cultural change in our water use that reduces consumption year-round.



Akatarawa Road—building bridges

Council's Bridge Replacement Programme for Akatarawa Road continues to progress well. The work has not been without a number of challenges, including the remote and difficult to access location, along with snow in July and August.

The first bridge opened to traffic on

8 September. The second and third bridges are expected to open in late October, with final works complete by early November.

Council has continued to receive positive feedback for its proactive communication of updates through its website and subscribed email list.



Maymorn Structure Plan

The 6-week consultation period for the Maymorn Structure Plan has now finished with more than 460 submissions being received. The next step in the process is for hearings to be held for those submitters wishing to be heard. The hearings are expected to take place in mid-November. Submitters wishing to be heard will be contacted directly once hearing dates are finalised.



How do we elect our Council?

Council is reviewing how we elect our representatives. This review will determine whether or not the current electoral arrangements provide a fair and effective representation of the city.

Initial questions to be considered

Should Upper Hutt have wards, and where would their boundaries be? Should Councillors be elected at large or from the ward in which they live?

Are the ten Councillors, who are currently elected at large, a fair representation of all our communities of interest? Should we have more Councillors or less?

Do we need community boards or does the current arrangement without them work well?

These questions form the basis of a *pre-review*.

Māori representation

Should a Māori ward be established? As part of the review, Council has the opportunity to consider the establishment of a Māori ward. The electors of a Māori ward could elect one Councillor to the Council.

How do I get involved?

Organisations and individuals are encouraged to submit their views on both Māori representation and the pre-review considerations by **5.00 pm Friday, 21 October 2011**.

Comment submission forms along with a report overviewing the requirements of the review are available from Upper Hutt City Council Civic Administration Building, the Upper Hutt i-SITE Visitor Centre, the Upper Hutt Central and Pinehaven Libraries, and our website: www.upperhuttcity.com/consultation

Please submit Māori representation comments separate from pre-review comments. Forms can be posted or emailed to Upper Hutt City Council or completed online at: www.upperhuttcity.com/consultation

Please note that your name and comments will be made public.

What next?

The collation of feedback on Māori representation will be reviewed by Council on 2 November to ensure that, if a decision is made to establish a Māori ward, it meets the 23 November deadline to enable its establishment in time for the 2013 local government elections.

The collation of pre-review feedback will provide the basis for a proposal that will become the focus of more extensive consultation in 2012.