

# Valley news

DECEMBER 2021



## A message from the Mayor

It's been a very different year again for us here in our community and the country. We all hoped that things were going to return to normal from what we experienced in 2020, but after lockdown 2.0, normal feels somewhat a long way off.

As we all know, the way forward for some normality is vaccination and our vaccination rates are looking very good in Upper Hutt. I want to thank you all for doing your part to keep our community safe. I'm hopeful that 2022 is going to be a much better year.

As we look forward to Christmas, I know it is going to be hard for those who can't be with their loved ones, obviously with our international borders closed. Many of us will have members of our family and friends who will not be able to participate in a traditional home Kiwi Christmas. I encourage you all to reach out to your friends, whānau, and neighbours who might be on their own this year. If you are travelling over the holiday period, take care, not only on the road but also at the beach, at the lake or at the river. Importantly, stick to the principles that we know are helpful at stopping the spread of COVID. There has never been a more important time when we are all enjoying ourselves on holiday that we make sure we wash our hands and keep our distance and wear our mask.

2021 has been a big year for us at the City Council. Not only did we adopt the Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031, we've been dealing with some major changes and proposals at a national level. The present Labour Government has a number of major reforms working through the system which not only will have an effect on Council but effectively will have some effect on you. I'm talking about the Three Waters Reform, the RMA Amendment Bill, and the Local Government Review. Work on these is underway now so next year you can expect to hear a lot more on these topics. They're going to impact everyone and I'll keep you updated, but it is important that you continue to engage in these processes because it is very clear to me that we will see 'localism' taken away from communities.

It has been exciting to see what is happening in Upper Hutt over the last 12 months. Major projects like the Blue Mountains Campus at the old Wallaceville Research Centre, Lane Street Studios nearing completion, and the NZ Campus of Innovation and Sport. The opportunities that will arise from these are immense for the community and the region. In fact, whilst they will have a major impact for us here in Upper Hutt, these projects are also of national significance. We've seen some very strong residential growth too with developments at the Wallaceville Estate bringing new residents to Upper Hutt.

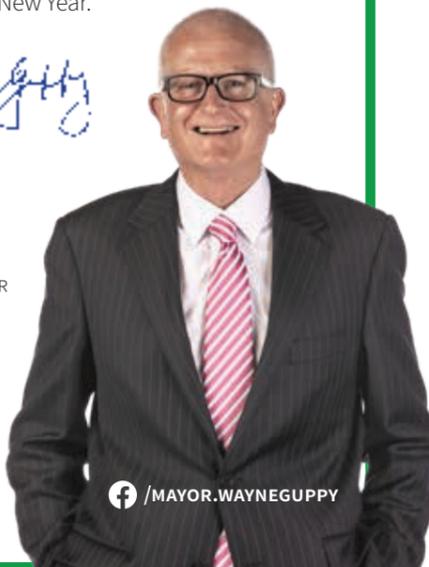
I often hear and talk to people who tell me how much they love being part of this city. As our marketing video said this year, "Upper Hutt — who knew?" But I've always known that. We've always been one of the best kept secrets of the region.

It's been a privilege and I've enjoyed leading this city again. I thank you all for the support that I've received and I'm looking forward to 2022.

Whether you're taking a break or working through, make sure you find time to catch up with all your friends. These lockdowns have highlighted the importance of connection, and I encourage you to stay to connected over the holiday period, and make sure you take a break and enjoy the company of the people that you love.

Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

**Wayne Guppy**  
KOROMATUA | MAYOR



/MAYOR.WAYNEGUPPY



## The holidays are coming...

There is plenty happening in our city over the coming summer. Please be mindful that extra measures may be in place as venues navigate the new traffic light system.

### DECEMBER

- 10 GOLD Christmas Lights Tour:** Christmas lights bus tour for over 50s
- 11, 18 Christmas on Main:** Free and fun festivities spread down Main Street.
- 21 Christmas Carols at Brewtown:** Food trucks, craft beer and live carols
- 31 Brew Year's Eve at Brewtown:** Live music, food, craft beers and activities for the whole family

### JANUARY

- 15 Group 1 Glory Day** at Wellington Racing Club
- 22 Family Day** at Wellington Racing Club
- 29 Wellington Cup Day** at Wellington Racing Club

### FEBRUARY

- 12 Child vs Wild** at Kaitoke Regional Park
- 12, 13 Gypsy Fair** at Riverbank Park
- 13 Bike the Remutaka Family Day** Pakuratahi Forest
- 19 Redwood 4WD Adventure** at Akatarawa Forest

## No vaccine passes required for most public facilities in Upper Hutt

A reminder that members of the public are not required to show a vaccine pass when entering the following Council facilities: Upper Hutt Libraries, Civic Centre, and H2O Xtream aquatic centre (with the H2O Xtream Café operating a contactless service only), under the new traffic light system.

Whirinaki Whare Taonga is the exception. This facility requires all visitors to be fully vaccinated—excluding under 12s who can't currently be vaccinated, and those with exemptions. Whirinaki is a multi-purpose public facility that includes five galleries, a 200-seat theatre, a large recreation hall with supporting event spaces, the Upper Hutt i-SITE Visitor Centre, and Dough Bakery, with open access between the various spaces. Under the COVID-19 Protection Framework, vaccine passes are required for the centre to continue to operate across all its functions.

Council Chambers remain closed to the public for now, with public forum for the 15 December council meeting being held via Zoom and live-streamed on Facebook. However, we do plan to offer physical public attendance again in the New Year.

Other public spaces like the city's parks and playgrounds will have no vaccine pass requirements but we encourage you to follow public health guidelines. Sporting and club events will follow the guidelines put in place by organisers like Sport New Zealand.

We will be continually monitoring the situation with COVID-19 and whether it requires any change in our settings.

Read the full story on our website. Go to [upperhuttcity.com/News](https://upperhuttcity.com/News)

## Sustainability Stimulus Grant

Our Sustainability Stimulus Grant is open for applications until 28 February 2022.

In line with our vision 'We have an outstanding natural environment, leisure, and recreational opportunities, and we are a great place for families to live, work, and play,' we are reaffirming our commitment to partnering with the community on sustainable projects.

We've allocated \$100,000 per year to the grant, for three years. Applications are open to businesses, organisations, and individuals. All applications are required to:

➔ Demonstrate that their project or initiative aligns with one or more of our Sustainability Strategy 2020 goals.

➔ Demonstrate that their project or initiative will be advantageous to Upper Hutt.

If you know of a sustainability project that a business or organisation is thinking about, or if you have one yourself that you're keen to get cracking on, we want to hear from you!

To find out how to apply go to [upperhuttcity.com/ssgrant](https://upperhuttcity.com/ssgrant)

## Are you Mōhio Para – Waste Wise?

This month we launched a new campaign focused on reducing waste in Upper Hutt. It's called Mōhio Para – Waste Wise. Helping households, community organisations and businesses reduce, reuse, and recycle as much as possible is a big goal for us.

This campaign highlights the seven golden rules when it comes to reducing waste. They're easy to remember, they all start with the letter R.

And if we consider those rules when we're buying something, or about to throw something out, then we'll be able to reduce the amount of rubbish going to the landfill.

So, what are the seven golden rules?

1. **Refuse** — say no to stuff that's single use or wasteful.
2. **Reduce** — buy less stuff you don't need.
3. **Reuse** — keep reusing it until it's broken.
4. **Repair** — put stuff back into use by repairing.
5. **Repurpose** — create new jobs for old stuff.
6. **Rot** — compost all organic stuff such as dirty paper and food waste.
7. **Recycle** — when all else fails.

Our website has lots of handy information for each of the seven Rs. Like where you can recycle hazardous items like batteries, oil, and polystyrene, where you can take items to be repaired (yes, Upper Hutt has a Repair Café!), what saying no to junk mail can do, and even how to create a worm farm at home.

You can expect to hear a lot more on this topic as we drill down into each of the different areas. In the meantime, go to [upperhuttcity.com/wastewise](https://upperhuttcity.com/wastewise) and find out what things you can start doing today.



Refuse

Reduce

Reuse

Repair

Repurpose

Rot

Recycle

Rubbish

## Local business update

➔ **Specsavers** **NEW**  
Main Street

➔ **All Things Rental** **NEW**  
Main Street

➔ **Caci Clinic** **NEW**  
Main Street

➔ **Build a Body** **NEW**  
Wakefield Street

➔ **JMD Railtech** **NEW**  
Goodshed Road

➔ **Catch Phrase Promotions** **NEW**  
Shakespeare Avenue

➔ **Studio One** **MOVED**  
Cuba Street

➔ **Saluté/Liberté** **NAME CHANGE**  
Main Street

➔ **JG Testing** **MOVED**  
Clouston Park Road

➔ **Warehouse Stationery** **MOVED**  
Main Street



## A word from Councillor Tracey Ultra

Our 1989 Nissan Sentra is good at emphasising every bump in the road. It is certainly an ideal test vehicle for Fergusson Drive's potholes, dips, and cracks that I've been told off for: "fix the roads!" Heavy traffic, age, water infiltration, and patched areas where service pipes have been accessed all contribute to the deterioration of roads.

I contacted the Council's Director of Asset Management and Operations to learn more. He explained that some time ago, Council decided to replace the chip seal (which costs \$6.50 per m<sup>2</sup>) with a thin asphalt overlay (\$35 per m<sup>2</sup>) to smooth and enhance the appearance of the road and reduce noise. A thin layer was milled off the chip seal and overlaid with asphalt.

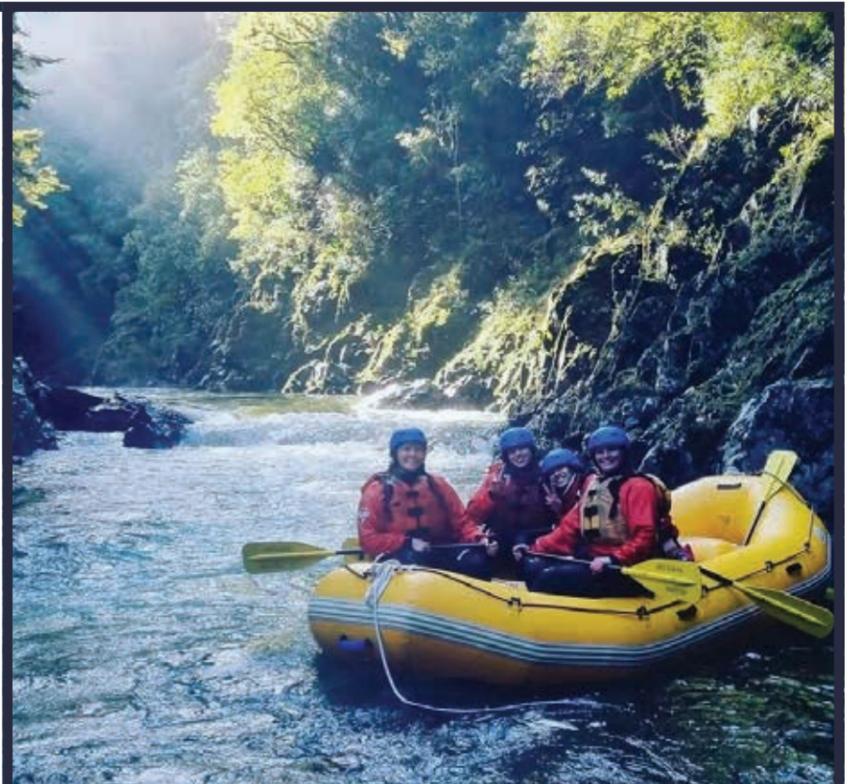
Eight years on, fatigue cracking was found to be caused by the underlying surface not being firm enough to support the new seal. This issue was addressed by testing pavement strength before starting works and using the more expensive (\$175 – \$200 per m<sup>2</sup>) 'deep lift asphalt' in the most recent repairs which is holding up well.

In the last Long Term Plan, the budget has been increased over the next three years to repair Fergusson Drive from Silverstream to the CBD. This could cost up to \$7million. Council Officers have commissioned a survey of pavement strength along the full length of the road however the COVID lockdowns have prevented the Auckland-based machinery and operators from starting this work.

When the survey work is done the officers will plan the works, starting with the worst areas needing 'full pavement rehabilitation,' and continue the less urgent work from there. Details of major road works and resurfacing will be published in the new financial year.

I am hopeful that with an oil change and a wheel alignment our little old car will last long enough to rumble along on the new surface.

Tracey



## Wellington Rafting

Upper Hutt business, Wellington Rafting, was founded by Upper Hutt local, Hamish Watters, following in the footsteps of the legendary John Slater, his father-in-law. After Hamish's daughter was born he moved back to Wellington and started investigating the surrounding rivers. With a passion for rafting, Hamish wanted to share this experience with others so he started Wellington Rafting.

Wellington Rafting is a commercial river operation running adventures on local, Upper Hutt, Wellington, and Wairarapa rivers in an eight person raft or two person inflatable kayak/duckies depending on river flows. Wellington Rafting has something for everyone. As well as providing action-packed fun and adventure for the younger generation, they also offer a more relaxed scenic river trips for work events, family fun, and special occasions such as Christmas and stag/hen parties. With exciting white water and amazing untouched native New Zealand scenery, you will be accompanied along your journey by their fun loving, experienced and professional river guides keeping you safe and entertained. This is a must-do experience for every one looking for something new to do in the greater Wellington's back yard, right here in Upper Hutt!

For further information, go to their website [wellingtonrafting.nz](http://wellingtonrafting.nz) or follow them on Facebook [@WellingtonRafting](https://www.facebook.com/WellingtonRafting)

## Sustainable shopping gift guide

Last year, our friends at the Sustainability Trust (ST) created a sustainable Christmas gift guide, so we thought, why not create something similar for the wonderful people of Upper Hutt!

We're big on all things sustainability, including shopping. Have you checked out our Sustainable Shopping Guide? You can download it at [upperhuttcity.com/Sustainability-in-Upper-Hutt/Sustainable-Shopping-Guide](http://upperhuttcity.com/Sustainability-in-Upper-Hutt/Sustainable-Shopping-Guide)

As the ST guide says "for those of us who care about environmental sustainability, it can feel harder and harder to justify engaging in a mindless bout of consumerism each Christmas."

But if you could buy a gift that is ethical, sustainable or reusable, and supports our local retail community, it might make it a little easier.

Here is our top Christmas gift inspo from some of our many amazing Upper Hutt businesses:

- ➔ Pick up a set of naked shampoo and conditioner bars from **Botanical Beauty** on Main Street: [botanicalbeautyco.com](http://botanicalbeautyco.com)
- ➔ The **Ekko Shop** is not only home to zero-waste, natural, and reusable products, they also have a refillery where you can top up your lentils, salt, chickpeas, and other food items: [ekkonaturals.com](http://ekkonaturals.com)
- ➔ Perhaps you're into vintage or retro collectables. Can you hear **Take Me Back** calling your name? Go to [takemebacktraders.co.nz](http://takemebacktraders.co.nz)
- ➔ **Studio One** has the latest in Street Hype. Owner Israel Starr curates a select range of vintage, thrifted, and locally designed streetwear. With new drops every Thursday, you have to check them out: [studio-one-wear.myshopify.com](http://studio-one-wear.myshopify.com)

And if you're after more advice on going green this Christmas, check out the EcoBags blog on eco-friendly Christmas tips, like swapping to fabric napkins, reusing wrapping paper, bags and ribbons, donating your leftovers, and disposing of your tree the right way. We loved their 20 ideas. Go to [ecobags.co.nz](http://ecobags.co.nz)

## Christmas season hours

### Council

24 Dec	8.00 am – 12.00 pm
25 Dec – 4 Jan	Closed

### Libraries

#### Central Library

24 Dec	9.30 am – 5.00 pm
25 – 28 Dec	Closed
29 – 31 Dec	9.30 am – 5.00 pm
1 – 4 Jan	Closed

#### Pinehaven Library

24 Dec – 4 Jan	Closed
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#### Mobile Libraries

24 – 28 Dec	Closed
29 Dec – 31 Dec	9.30 am – 5.00 pm
1 – 4 Jan	Closed

### H2O Xtream

24 Dec	5.30 am – 7.00 pm
25 Dec	Closed
26 – 28 Dec	8.00 am – 7.00 pm*
29 – 31 Dec	5.30 am – 7.00 pm
1 – 4 Jan	8.00 am – 7.00 pm*

\*No Women Only Swim Night on Sundays  
26 December and 2 January

### Whirinaki Whare Taonga

24 Dec	9.00 am – 4.00 pm
25 – 28 Dec	Closed
29 – 31 Dec	9.00 am – 4.00 pm
1 – 4 Jan	Closed

## New roundabout

Over the last few months, we've been working with Wellington Water and Downer on the replacement of two culverts in Pinehaven.

Sunbrae Drive is almost complete and the road has partially reopened and the culvert at Pinehaven road is close to completion.

We will also be building a new roundabout at the Pinehaven Road/Blue Mountains Road intersection.

This work is part of our safety improvement programme and it made sense to do it now while the road is closed and Downer is onsite.

With good weather, we're anticipating the roundabout will be ready by the end of January.

To make life a little easier for residents, we will temporarily open Pinehaven Road on 18 December for the Christmas period.

The new road layout will be in place but there will be some work still to do in the New Year, so it will be closed again for a few weeks in January.

To find out more, and to see the new road layout, go to [upperhuttcity.com/pinehaven-culverts](http://upperhuttcity.com/pinehaven-culverts)



## H2O Xtream school holiday programme

H2O Xtream offers children and young people exciting and educational activities to keep them happy and active during the school holidays! There are two programmes:

- ➔ **Surf's up** (for ages 5 – 8)
- ➔ **Hang ten** (for ages 9 – 13)

School holiday programmes are based at Upper Hutt Uniting Parish Hall in Benzie Ave. To find out more, go to [h2oxtream.com/Programmes/School-Holiday-Programmes](http://h2oxtream.com/Programmes/School-Holiday-Programmes) or call **(04) 527 2113**.

## SUMMER HOLIDAYS

### Summer reading

Check out what's hot at Upper Hutt Libraries this summer holidays. They have clubs and activities with their ever-popular summer reading programme making a comeback, and this time it's going digital. All ages can participate in their summer reading challenge and there's heaps of cool prizes to be won.

Tech clubs, boardgames, crafting, and writing is all on this summer at the library. There are bilingual storytimes, outdoor library pop-ups to soak up the sun, and a pizza party to end the summer with a bang. Pick up an activity sheet from the library or go to [upperhuttlibrary.co.nz](http://upperhuttlibrary.co.nz) to enter.

## Water restrictions

Don't forget that in Upper Hutt, we observe water restrictions all year round. The restrictions allow you to use:

- ➔ **One garden watering system** at a time (a sprinkler, an irrigation system, a soaker hose or an unattended hose)
- ➔ **From 6.00 am – 8.00 am** and **from 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm** only.

- ➔ **Only on odd dates** of the month (1st, 3rd, 5th, etc.) if your house is odd-numbered, or
- ➔ **Only on even dates** of the month (2nd, 4th, 6th, etc.) if your house is even-numbered

Saving water means we can keep our reserves at a healthy level, so we can all enjoy water all summer long. For more information, go to [upperhuttcity.com/water-restrictions](http://upperhuttcity.com/water-restrictions)