

Maungaraki Views

OUR NEWS & VIEWS | MAUNGARAKI.CO.NZ | MAR 2021

Bringing people together

This year's event runs from March 20 - 30th with the theme being 'The Great Plant Swap' as an easy way for neighbourhoods to grow stronger together.

neighbours,
day AOTEAROA

Here's some ideas for ways you could get involved:

- Swap seeds with a neighbour
- Gift a plant you've grown to a neighbour
- Take some flowers to a neighbour
- Organise a produce swap

- Share garden tips or recipes for food in season
- Create community gardens or berm pollinator pathways
- Host an inclusive garden-themed working bee
- A friendly neighbourhood BBQ

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Cont'd from front.

with homegrown ingredients

The options are endless! At the end of the day, our shared aim is to help bring people together by encouraging intentional connection with our neighbours.

Whether that be organising a street party, sharing a cuppa, or simply saying "Kia Ora!" to those who live around you, every action helps to create a safer and more connected New Zealand.

Great Petone Beach Dig

Fundraising event for Wellington Bird Rehabilitation Trust. Dig starts at 1.30pm sharp! Entry fee \$5 per person. Cash sales only. Ticket sales on sale from midday.

Get ready to dig deep for Wellington Bird Rehabilitation Trust! 200 prizes up for grabs worth a total \$5000 including prizes from Weta studios, The Great Journeys of New Zealand, Staglands, Zealandia, Escape Masters and Lighthouse Cinemas.

One prize per entry. Enter as many

times as you like. Hands only to dig: All ages welcome. The fun starts at midday: Sausage sizzle: \$2, Making faces NZ face painters \$5, Raffles \$2. Please note only cash is accepted. No Eftpos sales.

Wine Society News

Family-owned vineyards from Central Otago to the Hawke's Bay will dominate the line-up of presenters at the Western Hills Wine Society this year. The society meets in the Maungaraki Community Centre supper room on the first Wednesday evening of every month except December and January. Presenters at the March 3 meeting will be Clearview Estate from the Hawke's Bay. Family-owned, the estate has been producing wine since 1986 and has a wide range of whites, rosés

and reds. Pisa Range Estate from Central Otago will present at the April 7 meeting.

Central Otago is the only wine region in New Zealand with a continental climate. The hot dry summers, cold winters and long cool autumns provide the ideal conditions for the notoriously fickle pinot noir grape grown successfully at Pisa Range Estate. Well-known Te Mata Estate from the Hawke's Bay will present at the May 5 meeting. Established in 1896, Te Mata Estate has some of the oldest grape growing sites in New Zealand and remains family-owned, producing internationally recognised wines exclusively from its vineyards. A speciality is their Coleraine, usually a blend of cabernet sauvignon, merlot, and cabernet franc, and which many critics say rivals the best Bordeaux blends in the world. Presenters towards the end of the year will include Porters Pinot of Martinborough, Hawke's Ridge in Hastings, Mt Rosa from Queenstown's Gibbston Valley and Moana Park Estate from the Hawke's Bay.

The society aims to give locals an introduction to New Zealand and overseas wines in a friendly and fun environment. The wine society meetings, 7.30pm for 8pm, are covered by a liquor licence and a set measure used which limits the overall amount a person can drink. Visitors 18 and over always welcome. Admission is \$15 per person. President, Jim Woodland, 021 957 441. www.westernhillswinesociety.nz
Supplied by Rosemary McLennan.

Increase in bad drivers

Over recent months the MCA has received reports in an increase of speeding cars driving up and down Dowse Drive, including dangerous overtaking on corners. This is cause for concern for many families.

If you see speeding vehicles or reckless driving on our roads, please use your mobile to take a photo of the vehicle and/or take down the number plate and let the police know. Maungaraki has always been a safe place, so let's all do our bit to combat this callous behaviour now

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to ensure Maungaraki's roads stay safe for everyone. *Ed.*

Weeds - Agapanthus

Agapanthus, while beautiful with gorgeous flowers, is also a hazard for our natural environment. It grows in large clumps which crowd out any hope for natives to establish themselves. It also spreads its seed far and wide and can take hold in the most inhospitable places.

The Greater Wellington Regional Council advises people not to plant Agapanthus and removes any it finds in areas identified as key native ecological areas. It does not list the plant in its pest management strategy – but only because the cost of controlling it would be too high.

Maungaraki, when you start to look, has Agapanthus everywhere. Removing it is difficult (it requires digging and multiple applications of chemicals) but managing it isn't so

hard. Just make sure to cut off any flower heads before they get the chance to set seed. If you do have seed heads, they can be cut off and burned or thrown out in landfill rubbish to prevent them from germinating in your garden.

Avoid planting new Agapanthus that can spread. Instead plant sterile Agapanthus cultivars (that don't form viable seeds) or the beautiful native rengarenga.

More information on common weed plants can be found at these links:

<https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/>

<http://www.gw.govt.nz/pest-plants/>
Supplied by Hana Craig.

Got a local story, sports results or achievement you want to share in

Maungaraki Views?

Send it in to the Editor at
views@maungaraki.co.nz

Where some see uncertainty, we see possibilities.

The pandemic has drastically altered or wiped out previously trusted business models. Uncovering new revenue streams now could mean the difference between your business staying relevant in 2021, or not.

Growing business is what we do. Talk to us today.



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