

# Maungaraki Views

OUR NEWS & VIEWS | MAUNGARAKI.CO.NZ | OCT & NOV 2023

## Paul Matthews and family leave a lasting legacy of friendship and community

The Maungaraki Community Association (MCA) extends heartfelt appreciation to Paul Matthews for his remarkable contributions to the MCA, Maungaraki School, and the wider community. Paul's dedication and enthusiasm has made a significant and lasting impact to Maungaraki that we deeply value.

During his six years as chair of the board of trustees, Paul spearheaded various projects that enhanced the school's learning environment, including new classrooms, a community library, sports facilities, and recreational amenities like the flying fox and bike track. His leadership and vision



Paul Matthews contribution to Maungaraki has been significant and lasting.

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have elevated both the MCA and Maungaraki School, setting new standards for better organisation and excellence.

Together with his wife Lisa, Paul has been a driving force in our community, quietly supporting initiatives and tirelessly working to improve conditions for all residents. Their selflessness has inspired others to join in community efforts, from organizing activities for children to advocating for community funding.

Last year, Paul and a dedicated group from the MCA successfully advocated to maintain funding for community projects in the Western Ward, securing \$60,000 that would have otherwise been redirected. Paul's proactive approach, including a persuasive public submission to the council, made a crucial difference.

The MCA extends gratitude to the entire Matthews family for their exceptional volunteerism and service to the community. As they embark



The Matthews family set off on another adventure.

on a new journey south, we express our sincerest thanks and wish them all the best.

On behalf of the MCA, grateful community and Views editor, Maururu koe mo nga mea katoa. Kia ora katoa i runga i to haerenga hou. Thank you for everything Paul and best wishes for the future. Ed.

# Melling to Petone walking/cycleway opens

Recently, the Melling to Petone shared path opened, part of the Te Ara Tupua walking and cycling link between Central Hutt, Eastbourne, and Wellington City. Despite delays and cost overruns, funded by Waka Kotahi and Hutt City Council, it's a significant project.



Hutt City Mayor Campbell Barry takes a ride on the newly completed walking/cycleway.

However, some cyclists express safety concerns, particularly regarding the section through the Petone car park, likening it to mixing "wolves and mice." Despite these worries, cyclists like Larri Wallbridge plan to use it regularly.

High-profile cyclist Paul Kennett sees it as a valuable asset, predicting increased ridership once the Petone to Ngauranga section opens in 2026. Mark Renall praises the path's safety and usability, though acknowledging the need for cyclist-pedestrian cooperation. Dave Appleyard of Hutt Rotary

emphasizes its benefits for less confident cyclists and older users.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency expects significant usage once the full link is complete. Hutt City Mayor Campbell Barry hails the path as crucial infrastructure for changing transportation habits in Hutt. However, the project's costs have ballooned to \$65 million, making it one of the country's most expensive cycleways. What do you think about the new walkway/cycleway? Do you think it was worth the investment? Send your comments to [views@maungaraki.co.nz](mailto:views@maungaraki.co.nz). Ed.

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# Consultation open for accessibility improvements to Jackson Street bus stops

Metlink seeks input on proposed upgrades for Jackson Street bus stops in Petone, aimed at enhancing safety and accessibility. The \$9 million project, part of Waka Kotahi's \$350 million Transport Choices program, focuses on improving public transport infrastructure to accommodate future demand and reduce reliance on cars. Greater Wellington Transport Committee Chair Thomas Nash lauds the initiative for its climate-friendly investments.



An example of two bus shelters set back

Metlink emphasizes the importance of feedback to improve bus stops, prioritizing accessibility for all passengers, including those with bikes, prams, or wheelchairs. The project targets stops 8005 (near Petone police station), 9005 (near Britannia Street corner), and 8006 (near Subway and Hell Pizza) on

Jackson Street, among others across the network. [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz).

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