

Maungaraki Views

OUR NEWS & VIEWS | MAUNGARAKI.CO.NZ | JUN & JULY 2024

Melling line closure for Riverlink flood protection upgrades

Lower Hutt's Melling station is scheduled for an 18-month closure starting in July 2024.

The closure is necessary to facilitate the RiverLink flood protection project, which includes relocating Melling Station approximately 250 meters south of its current location.



Melling Station is getting an upgrade and moving.

The existing station is to be preserved as a heritage building. The upgrade is aimed to improve flood protection measures and improve transportation infrastructure in the region. The upgrade will impact commuters travelling into the city for work and students who attend high school and tertiary institutions. Other nearby train stations include Ava and Petone. *Ed.*



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Free plants for Hutt residents

Free native plants are on offer to Lower Hutt residents as part of Hutt City Council's Mouri Tupu: Planting for the Future initiative.

Mouri Tupu is driven by Mayor Campbell Barry who pledged to have 114,000 native trees and shrubs – one for each of the city's residents – planted by the next council election in 2025. So far, 60,658 have been planted.

To grow that number further, Council has launched a plant register so any Lower Hutt household can apply for up to five free native plants for their own backyard or community area.

Pre-ordered plants can be picked up between 10am-2pm from Avalon Park on Saturday 17 August, or Hikoikoi Reserve on Sunday 25 August. There will be up to 1000 plants available from each site. Proof of being a Lower Hutt citizen, such as a utilities bill or



Mayor Campbell Barry was happy to help with the planting.

library card, must be presented on the day.

You can order your plants via this website - <https://huttcity.events.mylibrary.digital/event?id=82362>

Days Bay's Williams Park upgrade complete

Eastbourne is always a nice place to visit over the warmer Summer months so the recent completion of

the Ōruamātoro Days Bay's Williams Park will be well received by Maungaraki residents looking for a nice place to spend a day or long afternoon. Williams Park received a \$660,000 upgrade, enhancing safety and appeal. A new barbecue area features bespoke concrete pavers acting as a contemporary mauri stone, symbolizing nourishment (patiki tohu),

- Additional improvements include:
- New seating, picnic tables, and a drinking fountain.
 - A safer, kerbed path to the duck pond.
 - Enhanced open spaces and coastal views.
 - A raised pedestrian crossing and one-way traffic flow for safety.



The Pavillion at Williams Park, Eastbourne

Better disability access and upgraded stormwater systems.

Increased native planting as part of the Mouri Tupu initiative

Mayor Campbell Barry calls Williams Park a 'gem' and highlights the

intergenerational connections (kaokao tohu), and storytelling (niho taniwha tohu). These elements create a space for whānau to gather, connect, and share experiences.

importance of reconnecting with the land through kaupapa Māori. The upgrade was shaped by community input, ensuring the park remains a cherished space for recreation and relaxation. *Ed.*

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Seaview stench affects residents and local businesses. Solution 4 years away!

The Seaview wastewater treatment plant continued to release persistent and unpleasant odors, severely impacting the daily lives of Lower Hutt residents and businesses.

Equipment failures, compounded by a fire in the plant's dryer system, worsened the situation, causing untreated waste to accumulate and intensifying the stench. Wellington Water acknowledged the issue, attributing it to decades of underinvestment in the region's water infrastructure.

While efforts to mitigate the odor were underway, a full resolution including the installation of a reliable replacement system was expected to take up to four years. To address the root causes of the odor problems, Wellington Water has prioritised improvements in three critical areas: the biofilter system, the millisscreening building, and the sludge drying building. Hutt City Council has allocated \$13 million for these upgrades, aiming to mitigate the odor issues effectively. *Ed.*



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