

Maungaraki Views

Our News & Views | Feb & Mar 2025

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Hutt City Council is planning a 12.8% rates increase next year

The Hutt City Council's 2025-26 draft Annual Plan prioritises essential services, key projects, and responsible cost management while keeping rates as affordable as possible. To ease the financial impact on residents, the Council reduced the proposed rates increase from 13.4% (in the Long-Term Plan) to 12.8%. For an average residential home, this means an additional \$9.06 per week.

Mayor Campbell Barry emphasised that economic pressures were central to the Council's decision-making.

"We understand that any rates increase will be challenging as households continue to face financial strain. At the same time, the Council must manage its own



rising costs while ensuring the city continues to grow and improve."

"Infrastructure remains our top priority, particularly water services, which account for 53% of the proposed rates increase," Mayor Barry said. As Lower Hutt's population is expected to reach 125,000 by 2033, the Council is planning ahead to meet future demands while protecting essential services and the environment. *Ed.*



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WH Wine Society

Wineries from Martinborough, Wairau, Marlborough, southern France and Australia feature in this year's line-up at the Western Hills Wine Society.

The society, which turned 41 in 2024, meets in the Maungaraki Community Centre supper room on the first Wednesday evening of the month from February until November.

It aims to give locals an introduction to New Zealand and overseas wines in a friendly and fun environment. The format makes it easy for visitors to attend alone or with friends.

Most presentations are made by the guest winery's owner or winemaker who shares their story and explains the unique characteristics of each wine being tasted.

Society president Michael Kuus says that in a world increasingly dominated by technology, fast living, prepackaged and over-processed convenience food, "people are still drawn to the magic of wine, a natural product, which has apparently been made for the last 8000 years".

The meetings, 7.30pm for 8pm, are covered by a liquor licence. Visitors 18 and over always welcome. Admission is \$15 per person.

Inquiries to Rosemary 586 4180 email rvmclennan@gmail.com

Sandra's moved her Salon home

I have relocated my nail care business to my home at 45 Oakleigh Street, Maungaraki, Lower Hutt 5010, after 22 years as a contractor at Trim n Shape Hairdressing Salon. In addition to



Nail care specialist Sandra Austin

salon services, I now offer home visits for those who are housebound, including patients in hospitals, rest homes, and private residences.

For a full list of nail services, pricing, and additional treatments such as eyebrow and eyelash tinting, as well as facial waxing, please visit my website.

My salon is set in a peaceful garden environment, where clients can relax while enjoying native birdlife and stunning harbour views.

By Sandra Austin.

As a loyal supporter of Maungaraki Views and the MCA for a number of years, we would like to thank Sandra for her support and commitment to local news. We wish you every success in your new home based Salon. *Ed.*

Local author supports new book category

Denika Mead, 21, has published seven children's fantasy and science fiction books. She recently completed a graduate diploma in



Author Denika Mead supports the 'New Adult' book category

publishing, where she explored the use of the term "New Adult" in the Aotearoa book scene.

Her latest self-published novel for 8–12-year-olds, *TIME Rogue*, is available now (RRP \$23.00).

There's middle grade, young adult (YA), and in some places, new adult (NA) is recognised as a separate category. However, opinions on NA vary.

Some authors find it useful for reaching the right readers, while others worry it limits readership. If a book is labeled for 18–25-year-olds, for example, a 30-year-old might assume it's not for them—when, in reality, readers of any age can enjoy it. *Ed.*

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WREMO Quiz Night draws a full house

Thanks to everyone who came along to the WREMO Quiz night at the Community Centre on the 22nd March. We had 13 teams with a mix of families, friends and others simply joining in for the fun and

dedicated to the challenges we face during a natural disaster.

Lower Hutt is the most densely populated flood plain in New Zealand and we also live exceptionally close to 3 large faults (Ohariu, Wellington and Wairarapa faults).

It's good for all of us to be familiar with WREMO and the work they are doing to help us help ourselves. Well done to the people who won the prizes – they are what we need



joining a team. The evening was a free event sponsored by WREMO with challenging and wide-ranging questions to keep us thinking – as well as pizza and a great range of snacks to keep the brain going. One section of questions was

and hope to never have to use. The Community Centre is our Emergency Hub and it's where we go if we need help or can offer help. Visit www.wremo.nz for more info.

By Wendy Garlick.

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