

NORMANDALE TIMES

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MEET THE CANDIDATES EVENT



Our 'Meet the Candidates' evening at St Aidan's on the Hill was very well attended by both local body candidates and residents. All candidates for Mayor, City wide Councillors and most for Greater Wellington turned up. Plus of course the two candidates standing for our ward. The candidates were asked to address specific questions sent in by Normandale residents. The crowd was engaged, and after some encouragement from audience members Gabriel Tupou closed the meeting with an impromptu song. Following the formal part, candidates continued with informal discussions over supper. We estimate the audience was about one hundred, with some having to resort to standing room. Several candidates congratulated us on the way the meeting was run, and on the turn out, which was higher than any other campaign event they had attended.

Local body election results will be announced 16th through to the 19th October, as well as the results of the two referenda; one imposed by the Government to confirm the adoption of a Māori ward, and a non binding one to gauge support for amalgamating the four local councils in our area and the Regional Council. (continued over the page)

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of the committee. ***Note:** Copy deadline is the 25th of preceding month.

Next NRA meeting:
20th November 2025
7:30pm at St Aidan's on
the Hill. All association
members welcome.

Special thanks to all the Normandale residents who came out on a Friday night and filled the hall- the Western Hills can be thought of by the rest of the Valley as the 'forgotten child' (as mentioned during the evening) but your turnout proved otherwise. Also thanks to all the candidates who made the trek up the hill - Brady Dyer, Ken Laban, Karen Morgan, Prabha Ravi, Jonathon Gilbert, Semi Kuresa, Chris Paul, Suzanne Levy, Tony Stallinger, Mele Tonga-Grant, Kaz Yung, Chris Parkin, Robbie Schneider, Quentin Duthie, Nigel Elder, Omar Faruque, Mike Fisher, and Gabriel Tupou.

Top picture - Western Ward candidates Chris Parkin (left), Robbie Schneider (middle), and Normandale Residents' Association president/ event MC Pete Matcham (right).

Bottom picture- All mayoral candidates for Hutt City (from left) Karen Morgan, Ken Laban, Brady Dyer, and Prabha Ravi.



Communicating in an emergency

Following a major event, such as an earthquake, the first thought of most of us will be "I'm OK but is my family OK?" and we will reach for the phone to find out. Unfortunately a quarter of a million other Wellingtonians will have had exactly the same thought at exactly the same time so, even if the cell system is undamaged, it will still be overloaded and not available. This communications void can be bridged with an encrypted text messaging system, with GPS, called Meshtastic. The hardware is commercially available at low (compared to a cellphone) cost, and it is free to use.

If you would be interested in joining an alternative way of communicating with family, friends, and community in Maungaraki please bring your family to a public meeting at **8:30 pm on Thursday 16th of October 2025** in the large hall in the **Maungaraki Community Centre**.

RECYCLING WEEKEND

1st-2nd November (8-9th Nov. backup dates)

We will be holding our annual community recycling days on the first weekend of November. Residents can put out household goods, toys, garden equipment, pieces of furniture, and other bric-a-brac that other residents can pick up and reuse. Take a trip around the neighborhood and help yourself to anything clearly free to a good home.

You are responsible for anything you put out and anything remaining at the end of the weekend should be taken back in. In the case of bad weather, please do not put your goods outside.

K S F X S W R Y B I L L K R W D
P O T Q K H E K E T E K E T Ū P
A U K S C I T C R A T N A B U S
B T R Ī U T A K A H E L S L O H
Ē H N L D E W Ō S U T A T A O C
Q E W Y Y H R D H A L E E C K T
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A K A R A K I K I R Ā K Ā K B A

- PĪWAUWAW (Rock wren)
- STITCHBIRD (Hihi)
- BLUE DUCK (Whio)
- BLACK STILT (Kakī)
- WEWEIA (NZ Dabchick)
- WRYBILL (Ngutu Pare)
- KARURE (Black robin)
- SHORE PLOVER (Tāturuatu)
- YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (Hoiho)
- KŌKĀ (South Island kōkako)
- GREY DUCK (Pāpera)
- BROWN TEAL (Pāteke)
- FAIRY TERN (Tara iti)
- KEA
- KŌKAKO
- KĀKĀPŌ
- TAKAHĒ

- PŪTEKETEKE (Australasian Crested grebe)
- HUTTON'S SHEARWATER (Kaikōura tītī)
- WHITE HERON (Kōtuku)
- AUSTRALASIAN BITTERN (Matuku-hūrepo)
- ANTIPODEAN ALBATROSS (Toroa)
- NORTHERN NZ DOTTEREL (Tāturiwhatu)
- LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (Koekoeā)
- BLACK-FRONTED TERN (Tarapirohe)
- KĀKĀRIKI KARAKA (Orange-fronted parakeet)
- SOUTHERN NZ DOTTEREL (Pukunui)
- SPOTTED SHAG (Kawau tikitiki)
- REEF HERON (Matuku moana)
- SUBANTARCTIC SKUA (Hākoakoa)
- KĀREAREA (NZ Falcon) *Bird of the Year 2025 winner
- EASTERN ROCKHOPPER PENGUIN (Tawaki piki toka)



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Bird of the Year 2025
*Listed are all the nominees from
Bird of the Year 2025 with a 'in
serious trouble' conservation status.*

Hutt City Council Community engagement - president's update

Along with the other community representatives chosen, I was invited to a focus group workshop on Saturday 13th September to review the draft Tō Tātou Tāone 2055 Our City 2055 document which sets out the strategic objectives for Hutt City for the next 30 years. Members of the focus group were drawn from a wide range of backgrounds and experience, but all shared an interest in not only the development of our Lower Hutt, but also in the devolvment of decision making to communities. The process of developing the plan was started last year with the Lower Hutt City Summit, and has been developed since through a series of hui and workshops. The document we were asked to review is the culmination of the process to date.

We started our review by questioning the relevance of the 'City Leadership Group' which developed the plan, as they were, apart from one student representative, drawn from existing power structures such as the Police, MSD, the Chamber of Commerce, etc. We also questioned the structure of the document- for example, some concrete goals were presented as 'Visions' and processes presented as goals. Nonetheless, for all the opportunities for improvement, the draft document we saw, and the process that gave rise to it, is a major step forward in community engagement and community led policy development. We were all supportive of HCC staff in the way they have engaged with us, and look forward to continuing to contribute on this journey. It would be a travesty if the work done so far, and the philosophy behind it were to be lost by an incoming Council being pennywise and pound foolish and cutting long term planning in the name of reducing rates.

- Pete Matcham, Normandale Residents' Association president

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