

NORMANDALE TIMES

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Happy 2026 Normandale

Happy New Year everyone. As you probably know, here in Normandale we started off with a bit of excitement with a small depression forming near the bottom of Normandale Road. A storm water manhole had leaked and washed out a bit of a cavity. Wellington Water were on to it quickly (see pictured) even though they reported it as being on Miromiro Road! Apparently there were some panicked comments on social media about sinkholes, but it seems no cars were actually swallowed up in an immense underground cavern.

I noticed last week that someone had been doing a bit of weeding on the garden at the junction with Miromoro Road that the NRA created five years ago after HCC cut down existing trees, ostensibly to improve visibility. All the planting has been planned and carried out by committee members led by Sandie, but it's great that our initiative is really being supported by the community. Sometimes keeping on top of maintenance can be a bit daunting for the few stalwarts. Luckily, the rain we've had this summer has meant we haven't had to lug water down to keep things alive.

Riverlink is well underway with a lot of road closures, and I've already got lost driving down on autopilot, still it all adds to life's rich pattern as the saying goes. It does do my head in though that everyone continues to witter on about the road changes and forget that the whole purpose of the project is protecting the city's key infrastructure from flood. Anyone worrying about the cost needs to talk to the folks in Tairawhiti and Coromandel about the cost of inaction. - *Pete Matcham, Normandale Residents' Association President*

President: Pete Matcham

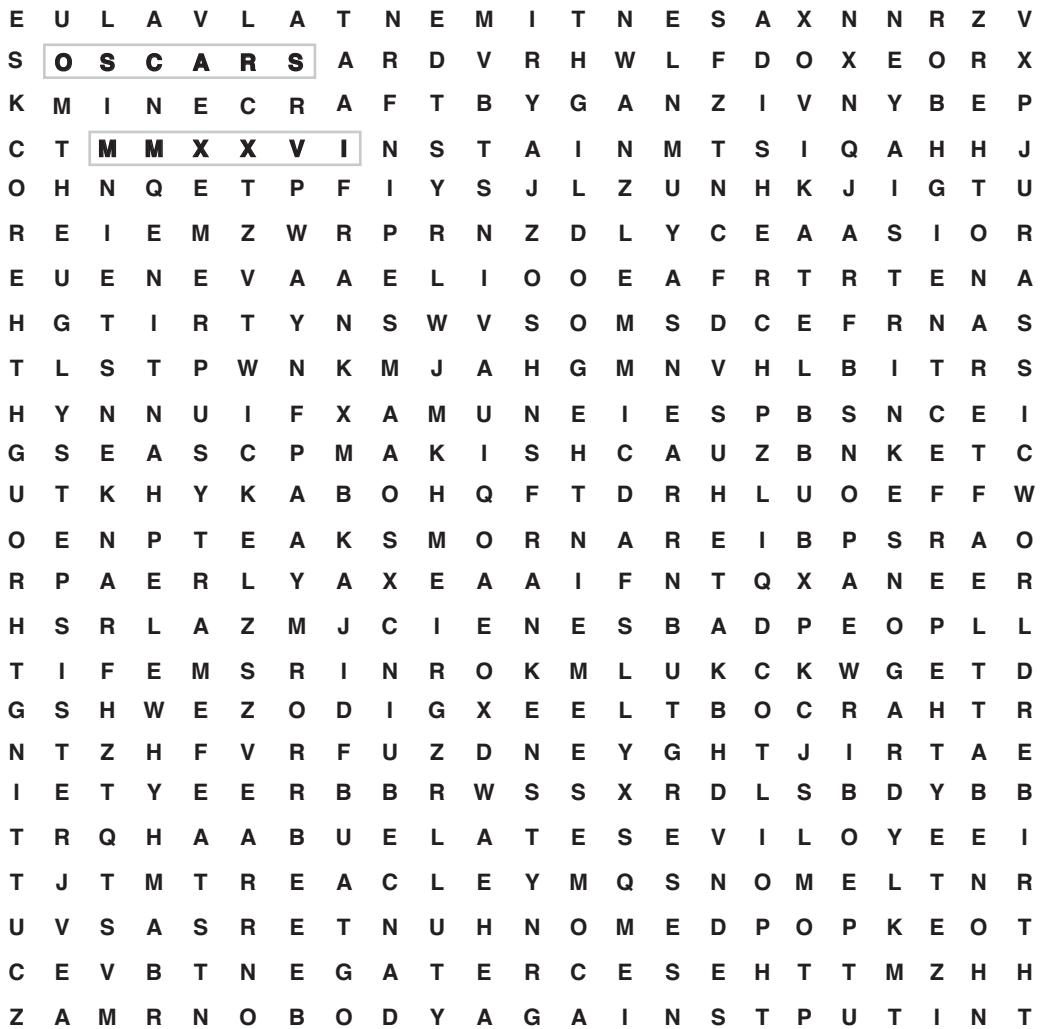
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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of the committee. **Note:** Copy deadline is the 25th of preceding month.

Next NRA meeting:
19th February 2026
7:30pm at St Aidan's on
the Hill. All association
members welcome.



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REMINDER- MELLING RAILWAY STATION IS NOW CLOSED

Site work is now well underway for the new Melling interchange and the associated relocation of Melling Railway station. Following are a few points to remember with these changes:

- Both Melling station and carpark are closed. The closest railway station, and end of the Melling line is now Western Hutt Station. Trains travelling to Western Hutt are still running at usual times.
- You may see a rise in commuter traffic to and from Western Hutt Station. Additional parking has also been made available at Petone Station.
- New rail lines are being laid for the new Melling station site.
- Traffic is now diverted around the old Melling station site.
- On completion of the work, a new Melling station will be built at a site positioned a few hundred metres closer to Western Hutt Rail Station.

WORD FIND THEME- OSCARS 2026

Find the names of some of the films nominated for this year's Academy Awards. Bonus trivia question- the film 'Sinners' broke Oscars history with how many nominations?

BUGONIA • FRANKENSTEIN • HAMNET • THE LOST BUS
THE UGLY STEPSISTER • ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER
COME SEE ME IN THE GOOD LIGHT • MARTY SUPREME
THE SECRET AGENT • SENTIMENTAL VALUE • SINNERS
THE SMASHING MACHINE • TRAIN DREAMS • BLUE MOON
AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH • MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN
IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT • JURASSIC WORLD REBIRTH
KPOP DEMON HUNTERS • ARCO • ELIO • KOKUHO
CUTTING THROUGH THE ROCKS • THE ALABAMA SOLUTION
THE PERFECT NEIGHBOR • THE VOICE OF HIND RAJAB

Quiz

Word of the Month:
Commensurate
A. Proportional
B. to take pity
C. Giving false praise
D. Second place
E. Closing speech

Last month's word:
Felicitous
C. Well chosen

Sun and Santa smile on Normandale

There seemed to be smiles all round as locals warmly greeted Santa on Christmas morning, with perfect parade weather for his 42nd daytime visit to our suburb. More than 30 households received deliveries during Santa's Christmas morning visit. Fourteen kilos of sweets for those watching Santa travel past were again provided by the Normandale Residents' Association.

Thanks are due to this year's parade team - David Capel, Göran Persson, Malcolm Cameron, Rosemary McLennan, Hana, Jasmine, Mckenzie, Elise, Ada McBride and Jared and John McKerr.

This year Jared McKerr drove the van that pulled Santa's sleigh. In an interesting twist, as a pre-schooler Jared may have been in a late 1990s Upper Hutt Santa Parade that featured the same sleigh. Around that time Jared and his brother attended Totara Park Playcentre which several times put a float in the parade. His father John remembers it won a prize at least twice. So now, instead of being a youngster in a Santa Parade, Jared has become Santa's driver.

Pictured: Blake receiving a gift from Santa (left). and Santa stopping at Pokohiwi Road for a delivery on Christmas morning (right).



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