

NORMANDALE TIMES

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Normandale Inorganic Collection 2026

Saturday 23rd May | 8:30am - 4pm Bend of Normandale Rd (near no. 141)

What is the Inorganic Collection?

Inorganic Collection Day is a tradition in the Normandale community hosted by the Normandale Residents' Association.

One Jumbo sized bin for regular rubbish, and a smaller bin for metal will be positioned at the bend of Normandale Rd, (near 141) where Normandale residents can dispose of their inorganic rubbish. Helpers will be in attendance for transferring the rubbish.

For safety reasons, please approach the bins from below and wait for help.

Do I have to pay to use the bins?

For residents who have prepaid their annual sub of \$10 (per household) use of the bins is free. Otherwise, use of the bins is \$10. For large loads an additional charge may be requested, so if you are bringing a large load, or multiple loads, please bring some cash as well :)

If you have a larger item intended for bin disposal, the NRA may be able to lend a hand. Subject to prior discussion- inquire with us (see contacts below).

What can I put in the bins?

We can accept most inorganic rubbish but please be advised that we cannot accept:

- Garden / household refuse
- Tyres, Glass, Paint
- Recyclable materials
- Hazardous materials (especially medical waste).
- Commercial / excessive quantities of building waste

Jubilee Park pond update - park visitors be advised

We understand that after 70m3 of rock and mud were removed from the catchpit at the bottom of Miromiro Rd, the contractor intends to return to Jubilee Park to continue removing more mud and sludge from the pond. This is a tricky site with heavy machinery and large trucks being operated, so be careful if you are visiting the park.

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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:
16th April 2026 7:30pm
at St Aidan's on the Hill.
All association members
welcome.

GET COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE!

The NRA committee would appreciate any volunteers during our Inorganic Collection Day. If you can spare a hour to help out at the collection site, please let us know when you are available - normandale.residents@gmail.com.

PREDATOR FREE NORMANDALE

Total catches recorded on TrapNZ data for the last 9 years are 2,981 rats, 15 stoats and 14 weasels, totaling 3,010 (plus lots of mice too).

If each predator would have eaten an average of five eggs or fledgelings of native birds over its lifetime, then using a total of 3000 predators, we should have saved about 15,000 native birds (plus their offspring). So we should have vast flocks of native birds!

However, not all those hypothetical eggs/fledgelings would have survived anyway, and some birds might have moved to other suburbs, etc. Meanwhile, rats, stoats and weasels continue to breed and come into Normandale from other areas, so the battle is ongoing.

*Have you noticed an increase in bird life at your place over the last 9 years?
Can you help by looking after a trap or two at your place?*

Want to learn how to backyard trap? Join us!

Normandale Playcentre | Saturday 18th April 2026 | 10am - 12pm

Learn more about Predator Free Normandale, or how to record your catches on TrapNZ.

Drop in anytime for a chat or to buy a trap.

Victor Trap/Tunnel Combo \$10 | Replacement Victor trap \$5 each

Response times to fires on the Western Hills - PART 2

Letters to cabinet ministers on response times to fires in the Western Hills was noted in last month's issue. In support, local resident Marco Renall has shared his letter (see next page) he sent to Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ) after his own house fire experience in late 2024.



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I write in support of an urgent review into a replacement for the closed Lower Hutt Bridge St Fire Brigade premise.

In November 2024 I had a woodshed and garage fire at my property 199 Miromiro Rd. I discovered it while it was small and put the garden hose on it while ringing 111. After 3 minutes I realised I wasn't going to be able to control it, so dropped the hose and rushed 1 car out to the street. When I ran back, the garage was full of black smoke and petrol, tyres and kerosene were blowing up. I could not enter the garage to rescue anything.

Inside I lost my Audi RS4, Yamaha R1, 2 bicycles >\$10,000 each and 1,000+ tools. Firefighters had to come 12 minutes away from Avalon. It was an absolute nightmare waiting those 12 minutes. All I could do was hose my nearby house to keep it wet. The firefighters told me that coming from the old Bridge St station would have taken 5 minutes, and everything could have been saved apart from the back garage wall being burnt and 1 corner of the woodshed.

The next week I went to a Western Hills Community Meeting and explained that FENZ are now at least 12 minutes away instead of 5, and the extra 7 minutes was catastrophic for me. They wanted to know when Lower Hutt were getting a new Fire Station. I said I had spoken to Brendan Nally, and Kerry Gregory [FENZ leadership] and there was no short term solution. They were astounded that FENZ had dropped the ball on Lower Hutt and the Western Hills, and had no replacement site planned.

\$10,000 worth of damage skyrocketed to over \$300,000 in those extra 7 minutes of travel time - New garage \$115,000, Vehicle & bikes \$100,000, Woodshed and garden \$24,000 and personal items \$77,000. If I was not home, I expect that my house would have burnt down as well. It was singed black. Plus I had the horrendous mental stress of the incident, and the workload of going through a rebuild. Insurance premiums have to rise to (cont. next page) cover costs that would have been avoided if Hutt City Brigade was in operation.

Could you please urgently find a new site for a replacement for the closed Bridge St Brigade that can cover Lower Hutt/Petone and the Western Hills.

- Thank you, Marco Renall'

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Western Hills Wine Society

As the days get shorter and temperatures drop, what better way to spend an evening than sampling warming red wines in the cosy atmosphere of the Western Hills Wine Society.

The society, which turns 43 this year, meets in the Maungaraki Community Centre supper room on the first Wednesday evening of the month from February till 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. Wines from Central Otago, Hawke's Bay, Portugal and Western Australia will be among those presented this year. Most presentations are made by the guest winery's owner or winemaker who shares their story and explains the wine's unique characteristics.

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+ always welcome. Admission is \$15 per person. Inquiries to Rosemary- 586 4180 or rvmclennan@gmail.com

RECYCLING WEEKEND **9-10th May (16-17th May. backup dates)**

Ahead of Inorganic Collection Day the community recycling days will be on the weekend of the **9th-10th May** (Mother's Day weekend). 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.

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