



MAUNGARAKI EMERGENCY TRAINING DAY RUN BY WREMO

Learn about what a Community Hub is, the role of the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO), and how the Maungaraki community can play an important role in times of emergencies like earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding, storms, and events where we need each other.

Where: Maungaraki Community Centre- Toy Library/Supper room (opposite the pedestrian crossing), 135 Dowse Drive

When: 1:30-3:30pm, Saturday 18th July

Who's it for: All ages



Word of the Month:

Effulgent

- A. Polite or thoughtful
- B. to do quickly
- C. Shining or radiant
- D. A calming presence

Last month's word:

Hornswoggle

- B. to trick or deceive

Check out the tie in
word find over the page!

Communicating in an emergency- Meshtastic

How would you communicate with loved ones in an emergency if the internet or cell phone towers were down? Such communication chasms can be bridged with Meshtastic- an encrypted text messaging system with GPS. The hardware is commercially available at a low (compared to a cellphone) cost, and is free to use.

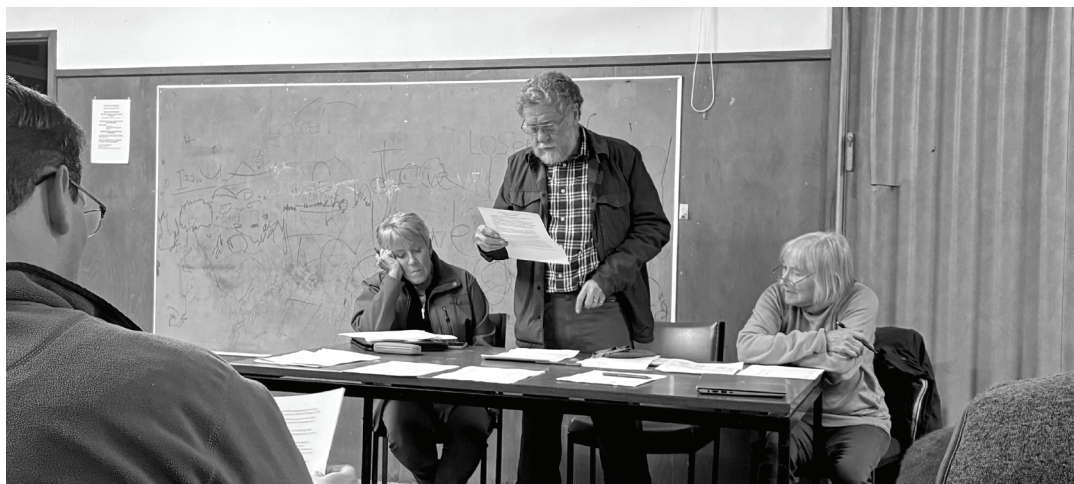
If you would be interested in joining an alternative way of communicating with family, friends, and community in the Western Hills there will be an **'Introduction to Meshtastic'** public meeting at the **Maungaraki Baptist Church (upstairs room) 164 Dowse Drive at 7pm on Wednesday 22 July.**

Response times to fires on the Western Hills - PART 3

The Normandale Residents' Association send a letter on the 15th March to the Minister responsible for the Fire Service regarding coverage of the Western Hills, following the fire station closure at the bottom of Normandale Road. On June 23rd we received a reply.

In summary the letter refers to the development of a 'business case' which will include consideration of 'response times and service capability' and that no funds can be made available until this is completed- really? After four and a half years they are going to do a business case? The letter goes on to say there will be a 'comprehensive review of property investment prioritisation process'. Roughly translated this means they are going to cut cost regardless of any loss of service. All in all just what we expected, although not what we hoped for. Hopefully after the elections the new Minister will see things differently.

The full letter can be read on our website attached to the this months web edition of the Normandale Times.



Pictured above: Outgoing president Pete Matcham reads closing address.

Introducing your new president

At the June AGM I was honoured to be chosen as your new Normandale Residents' Association president and I thank all those who trust me with this role. I would also like to thank Pete for the excellent work he has done for many years.

I have been involved with the Residents Association since 2012, acting as Treasurer, Secretary, Treasurer again, and now President. Before that I was the long-suffering family member of previous committee members, presidents, and Normandale Times editors going back over 35 years. I hope I can now perform my new role satisfactorily.

We will continue to monitor what is happening in Normandale and forward information to the whole community via the Normandale Times. We will also continue to report roading and similar issues to the council and water issues to Tiaki Wai. Keep your eyes peeled for information on the up-coming election and where you can hear the candidates sell themselves to you.

- Nga mihi,
Sandie Matcham

President: Sandie Matcham Editor: Victoria Hunt

Website: www.normandale.org.nz

Get in touch: normandale.residents@gmail.com

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 July 2026 7:30pm
at St Aidan's on the Hill.
All welcome.

Normandale Residents' Association 2026 committee

Following the events of the AGM, the Normandale Residents' Association committee for 2026 is:

President- Sandie Matcham **Treasurer-** Fiona Angus
Secretary- Angelica Edgley

Committee members- Margaret Cousins, Katrina Lloyd, Ivan Hunt, Victoria Hunt, Margaret McArthur, Pete Matcham, and Phil Pegler.

Special thanks to Quentin Duthy (Greater Wellington Regional Councillor), and Chris Parkin (Western Ward councillor for Hutt City) who gave updates at the AGM. Also thanks to our counterparts from the Maungaraki Community Association who stopped by to see how things were done on our side of the hills.

If you would like to know what the committee gets up to or perhaps get involved yourself, please come along anytime to a meeting (see front page for times).

Upcoming Meet the Candidates event-
The Normandale Residents' Association will be hosting a Meet the Candidates event for Hutt South candidates in the upcoming election on
Friday 23rd October 7:30-9:30pm.
Details to follow in future Normandale Times issues.

community yoga
Held by Celine - 02108105041



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Y T I R E L E C U P I D I T Y V

Word of the Month

Find the Normandale Times word of the month from the past 6 years.

- HORNSWOGGLE
- EFFULGENT
- AMELIORATE
- COMMENSURATE
- FELICITOUS
- LUGUBRIOUS
- TERRAQUEOUS
- SYMBIOTIC
- ATTENUATE
- AMBISINISTER
- FUGACIOUS
- APPROBATION
- ADUMBRATE
- HINTERLAND
- CREPUSCULE
- PREVARICATE
- FEBRILE
- INCIPIENT
- REPINE
- VOLANT
- FRISSON
- BUCOLIC
- LAMBENT
- PUTIPUTI
- FURPHY
- HEGIRA
- CELERITY
- TAIHOA
- VEXATIOUS
- TOCSIN
- EBULLIENT
- PANACEA
- SELCOUTH
- VITRIOL
- CUPIDITY
- FUSTIGATE
- ELDRITCH
- BAILIWICK

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49 Pokohiwi Rd, Normandale
MID CENTURY MAGIC

- Three bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- Open plan living
- Private setting with harbour views

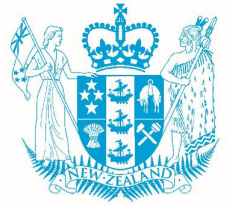
DEADLINE SALE
4:00pm Friday 17th July 2026

Chrissy Kibblewhite | 021 244 6784 | chrissy@ckandco.nz



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23 June 2026

Peter Matcham

petematcham45@gmail.com

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 15 March 2026 on behalf of the Normandale Residents Association, about fire service coverage in Lower Hutt.

I am advised by Fire and Emergency that the Hutt City crews previously operated from a leased facility in Lower Hutt, which was vacated due to ongoing weathertightness issues that were creating health and safety concerns for their staff. To ensure continuity of service to the community, staff have been responding from Avalon Fire Station while long-term options are assessed.

A business case is currently under development to explore the options for meeting operational needs in the Hutt City area. Response times and service capability will be key considerations in determining the most appropriate reinvestment approach. No funding decisions for a new station can be made until this business case is completed and approved.

As part of a wider operational capability initiative, Fire and Emergency is strengthening its processes to ensure consistent, evidence-based decision making about resource allocation. This work will inform both local and national planning for future station builds and resource deployment, ensuring Fire and Emergency continue to meet the needs of New Zealand communities.

In parallel, Fire and Emergency have initiated a comprehensive review of their property investment prioritisation process. This will support the development of a national capital investment plan for their portfolio of more than 640 stations and buildings, ensuring future investment decisions are made in a transparent, strategically aligned, and financially responsible manner.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'BV' with a flourish.

Hon Brooke van Velden

Minister of Internal Affairs

Cc: Hon Chris Bishop, MP for Hutt South Christopher.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz