

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN



LITTLE WHIRINAKI: ART FOR LITTLE PEOPLE

TUESDAYS DURING TERM TIME · 9.15 – 10AM
\$40 PER TERM FOR MATERIALS

Weekly art sessions for little people aged 2.5–5 years old, with something new every week! Places are limited so bookings are essential, and parent/caregiver supervision is required.



BUILD A BUG

TUESDAY 1 JULY · 10AM – 2PM · FREE · NO BOOKING REQUIRED

Create your very own beautiful bug or creepy crawly to take home.



PALEONTOLOGIST FOR A DAY

TUES 23 SEPTEMBER · 10–11AM · FREE · BOOKING REQUIRED

VOLCANOLOGIST FOR A DAY

TUES 23 SEPTEMBER · 1–2PM · FREE · BOOKING REQUIRED

Whirinaki goes dino crazy these school holidays, so stomp over to hear from the National Paleontological Collection crew and their fascinating fossil collection...and volcanoes!

Bought to you by GNS Science.

MUSIC & THEATRE



THE HOME INSIDE

MONDAY 7 JULY · 1PM & 2.30PM · \$12 PER TICKET
BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED

Underscored by music, puppetry, and striking visual design, The Home Inside is a heartwarming tale for children about self-discovery, and the power of nature to heal.

Presented by Whirinaki in association with Wonderlight Theatre Aotearoa



THE ORANGE BOX

MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER · 1PM · \$12 PER TICKET
BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED · SUITABLE FOR AGES 6 AND ABOVE

Step outside the box where true magic unfolds, with circus acts, intricate puppet craftsmanship, juggling and enchanting illusions. Created by an extraordinary Spanish company, Naranjarte.

Presented by Whirinaki in association with Arts on Tour



SILENT MOVIES LIVE

WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER · 1PM · \$20 PER TICKET
BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED

Pianist David Selfe and percussionist Jeremy Fitzsimons add live musical accompaniment to two silent Charlie Chaplins films. Featuring high-paced action scenes to melancholic moments.

In association with Chamber Music NZ

CLASSICAL EXPRESSIONS 2025



THE NZ STRING QUARTET

SUNDAY 13 JULY · 1PM & 3PM · \$38 PER TICKET
CHILDREN FREE WITH A PAYING ADULT · BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED

A nature inspired show for family audiences. Join the New Zealand String Quartet as they embark on a journey of celebrating nature through the medium of music.



GHOST TRIO

THURSDAY 7 AUGUST · 7.30PM · \$38 PER TICKET
BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED

This concert will take you on a journey through time and cultural landscapes, showcasing the evolution of chamber music from the late 18th century (Beethoven) to the 20th century.

In association with Chamber Music NZ



THE FELLOWSHIP ENSEMBLE: ANTIPODES QUARTET

THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER · 7.30PM · \$38 PER TICKET
BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED

This exciting new project brings together some of the country's most promising young string players and a program exploring the profound emotional territories that music can evoke.

In association with Chamber Music NZ

\$38 Adult · \$30 Concession (Friends/Piano Club/Upper Hutt Music Society) · Booking fees apply

WELL MADE Craft Festival

CRAFT STALLS | CRAFTING WORKSHOPS | DEMONSTRATIONS
MEET THE MAKERS | ARTISAN FOOD | ART TRAIL HUB

Saturday 11 October 2025
10AM – 2PM

Stall registration forms are available from reception or go to whirinakiarts.org.nz

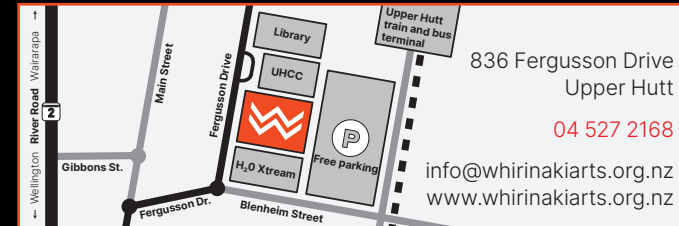
Be part of the
Whirinaki Whanau

Become a friend! Stay in the loop, enjoy benefits, connect with art, culture, ideas and people.

Talk to one of our friendly staff or check out www.whirinakiarts.org.nz

 Friends of Whirinaki

INFORMATION



10am–4pm, seven days a week
One hour prior to performance on show nights

BOOKING TICKETS: to book tickets, either pop in to Whirinaki Whare Taonga, call 04 527 2168, or book online at www.whirinakiarts.org.nz. Booking fees online apply.

EAT & DRINK: for opening hours of Dough Bakery, please visit our website

SHOP: our shop is open every day 10am – 4pm for the very best New Zealand made art, design and gifts.

FREE Wifi: Wifi is available throughout the building.

ANNUAL PARTNERS

Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta
Upper Hutt City Council

Mangaroa FARMS

MITRE 10 MEGA
UPPER HUTT

★ Professionals

Information is correct at time of printing, but may be subject to change, including late additions, cancellations, and booked-out sessions.



EXHIBITIONS



MICROSCULPTURE
THE INSECT PHOTOGRAPHY OF LEVON BISS
UNTIL 14 SEPTEMBER · ENTRY BY DONATION

A ground-breaking photographic exhibition of science and art, Microsculpture presents insect specimens from the collections of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History like never before. These breathtaking, huge and highly magnified portraiture by photographer Levon Biss capture the microscopic form of these insects in striking high-resolution detail. This exhibition, has been shown in venues around the world and comes to Upper Hutt from the American Museum of Natural History.

Proudly toured by The American Museum of Natural History. Proudly supported by Upper Hutt City Council Bio-Diversity Fund and Pub Charities.
Image credit: Splendid-necked Dung Beetle Credit: © Levon Biss



DINOSAURS: SURVIVING EXTINCTION
20 SEPTEMBER – 10 DECEMBER · ENTRY BY DONATION

Step into a world where ancient giants roamed the earth! Explore the remarkable journey from ancient dinosaurs to modern birds through fossil discoveries and reconstructions. This exhibit focuses on three key dinosaur groups—Ceratopsians, Ornithopods, and Theropods—and features fossil specimens, life-like artwork, and interactive elements revealing how dinosaurs lived, behaved, and gave rise to the birds we see today.

Proudly toured by Gondwana Studios
Proudly supported by GNS Science and The Lion Foundation



MY LAST ABC
2 AUGUST – 27 OCTOBER

My Last ABC celebrates Jeanette Verster’s love of visual storytelling through layered works of fabric, stitch, handmade paper, and collage. Inspired by alphabet books for children, this series playfully reimagines the concept as an ABC for the unyoung.

Image credit: Jeanette Verster ,2025



WORN: PRISONERS' SHOES & THE STORIES THEY TELL
1 NOVEMBER – 1 FEBRUARY 2026

This exhibition reflects the power of art to transform lives and the strength of communities willing to stand behind stories of growth and repair.

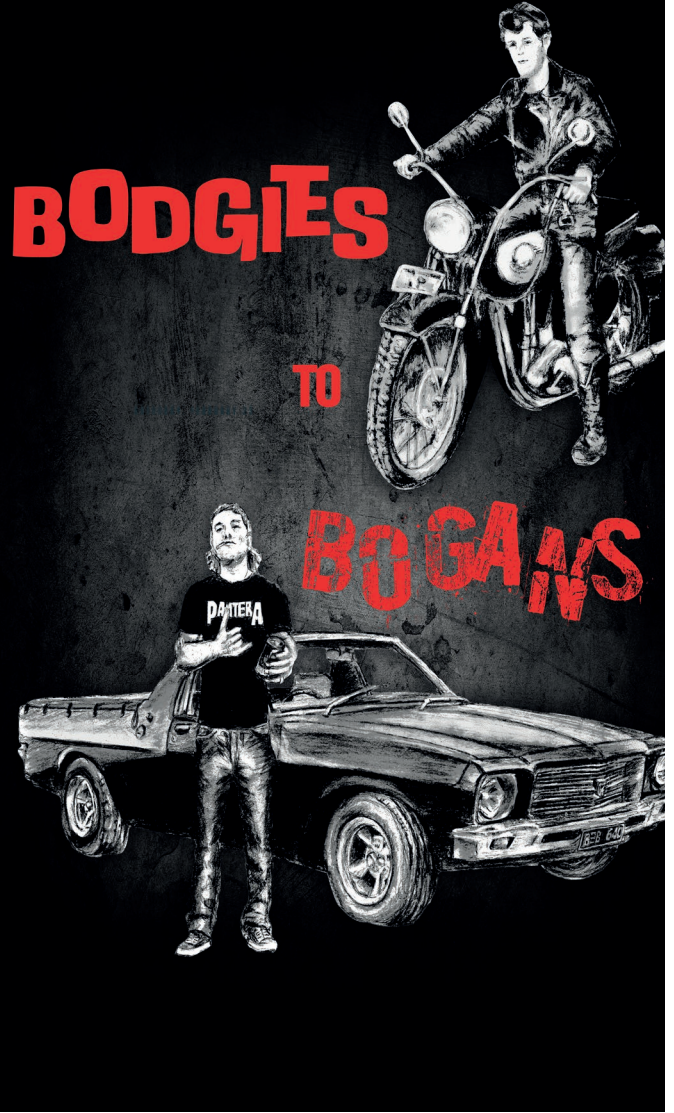
Developed by The Learning Connexion as part of their national Restricted Programme delivery in Ara Poutama Aotearoa Dept of Corrections facilities.



THE SUPERLATIVE ARTISTRY OF JAPAN
20 DECEMBER – 29 MARCH 2026

This exhibition captures Japan’s creative culture and monozukuri spirit through a cohesive collection of work from a variety of art genres. Elaborate Meiji era (1868-1912) works are shown alongside kogeï (traditional arts & crafts) as well as contemporary art, craft works, food samples, and shokugan (small toys sold with candy). All illustrate a strong commitment to craftsmanship and a high level of perfection and often an element of surprise.

Curated by: Yuji Yamashita (Professor, Meiji Gakuin University) presented by The Embassy of Japan. Image credit: Kaiyodo. Capsule Q. 2013–2017. PVC, ABS. Photo © Shu Nakagawa



BODGIES TO BOGANS
UNTIL 19 JULY 2026

Bodgies to Bogans tells the story of the juvenile delinquencies and teenager rebellion of the 1950s to the Bogans of the 1980s. Whether you were listening to rock and roll, riding motorcycles and drinking milk shakes at milk bars in the 50s or growing a mullet and thrashing out the leathers to heavy metal in the 80s, this exhibition documents the history of youth culture in Upper Hutt, and New Zealand.

Curated and developed by Whirinaki Whare Taonga
Proudly supported by The Rimutaka Trust

Pilates
with the
Beetles

SUNDAYS UNTIL 14 SEPTEMBER · 3.30–4.30PM · \$15
BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Join us for immersive Pilates amongst the striking insect photography of Levon Biss. Provided by certified mat pilates instructor, Penny Ebbrell, this class will help you improve your posture, mobility, strength, balance and coordination. Open for beginners to intermediates aged 14 years and over. Please bring a mat and water bottle with you.

LUNCHTIME LIVE!

A series of lunchtime concerts given by performance students from Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music. 1PM · Entry by donation

July 15 Piano	September 9 Strings
August 12 Voice	October 7 Winds and brass

Lunchtime Live! is brought to you by Whirinaki Whare Taonga, The Upper Hutt Grand Piano Trust and Te Kōkī New Zealand School of music at Victoria University of New Zealand.



SUNDAY STRUM

Join us on the first Sunday of every month for a ukulele jam.

You can listen or join in, use one of our ukes or bring your own. Beginners to advanced players, ages 5 to 95, all welcome.

Sunday 6 July, 3 August, 7 September, 5 October, & 2 November
2–3pm in the Rotary Foyer · \$10 donation per person