

Heritage Festival

Five weeks of events
bringing our heritage to life



8 March - 12 April 2026

Deepen your understanding of people and place

How this booklet works

The Heritage Festival runs from 8 March to 12 April.

Activities and events are grouped by type, for example, exhibitions, talks and documentaries, guided experiences etc.

We have also curated some areas of interest pages for quick reference. These include Rangitāne o Manawatū and Te Ao Māori; Families and Schools; Storytelling; Writers and Readers; Industrial; Military History; and Destination Te Awahou Foxton, with all activities and open days on Saturday 11 April.

There is also a calendar that you can use to plan your heritage festival. This is available as a separate item as it is now too large to be a pull-out within the booklet itself.

Register

The majority of activities are free to attend, unless stated. For most activities, you can turn up on the day. The remaining activities require you to register, pay or have a ticket to participate. The guided visit to both Biggin Hill Aircraft Centre and the Engineer Corps Memorial Centre require participants to have current NZ government issued photo ID for entry.

To register, contact the Heritage Team at heritage@pncc.govt.nz or through the email address listed with a specific event.

You can find all of the Heritage Festival activity listings, as well as a downloadable booklet online:

citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz/whats-on/programme/heritage-festival

For more information about anything in this booklet, please contact the Heritage Team.

Production Palmerston North City Council
Palmerston North City Library – Heritage Team

Email heritage@pncc.govt.nz

Phone 06-351-4100

Nau mai, haere mai

Welcome to a celebration of our unique heritage!

This year's Heritage Festival runs from 8 March to 12 April

to include the first week of the school holidays. The festival features over 170 free or low-cost events that highlight the diverse history of the city of Papaioea Palmerston North, Te Awahou Foxton and the wider Manawatū.



Smith, W. (2026). Paper boys, [Photograph]. Manawatū Standard newsroom. Supplied.

These activities include exhibitions, talks, films, guided tours, workshops, walkshops, games, craft sessions, open days and family-friendly activities. Attendees can explore heritage buildings, find out how the tools and techniques of working with harakeke (flax) inspired the sculptures and design work on the Te Ahu a Turanga highway, discover why holding the Ranfurly Shield meant so much to Palmerstonians and enjoy our new series Histories and Mysteries in the Collections.

Overall, the festival provides something for everyone. We acknowledge and thank the generosity of our city's knowledge holders, historians, researchers, enthusiasts and heritage organisations in offering a range of opportunities for us to learn and understand more about our rohe. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this festival come alive!

We hope to see you all there!

Mauri ora,

**The Heritage Team at the
Palmerston North City Library**



Small Plants That Are Everywhere: Mosses, Liverworts, and Lichens

New Zealand is the world's hotspot for liverworts, with over 600 species. We've got lots of mosses and lichens too, with some 500 and 2000 species, respectively. Because they are small, this rich diversity is easily overlooked and often not appreciated. Nevertheless, mosses, liverworts, and lichens are significant components of many ecosystems, and they can be important in succession, habitat provision, geochemical cycling, and hydrology. This presentation by **Leon Perrie**, Curator of Botany at Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, introduces these three groups and outlines how they differ from each other. Leon will also cover tips for spotting them in the field.

Everyone welcome. A gold coin donation would be appreciated.

Presented by the **Manawatū branch of Forest and Bird**

Tuesday 10 March, 7 - 8.30pm

Central Library, Ground Floor



Aubrey, C. (1893). Painting of Awapuni Lagoon, [Slide]. 2014SI_AWA4_009358, Manawatū Heritage.

Bohumil Pospíšil: Interwar Globetrotter and Adventurer

Learn about interwar globetrotter and adventurer Bohumil Pospíšil (1902-1974). His five-year trip around the world began in August 1926 and he visited some 50 countries. With only one suit, a backpack, a minimum of cash, and using a wide range of transport options, Pospíšil travelled over 160,000 kilometres in total. During his world trip, he saw immeasurable wealth, poverty and misery. He took thousands of photographs, depicting natural beauty, cultural monuments, traditions, ceremonies, celebrations, conflicts, and everyday life. Join Dr. **Martin Nekola** as he tells the story of Bohumil Pospíšil's travels.

Browse a special pop-up exhibit of Pospíšil's black & white photographs, now a century old, some with original captions and lively observations in English.

Wednesday 11 March, 6 - 7pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor

21st Anniversary of the NZDF Response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami in Banda Aceh (January - March 2005)

This presentation explores the deployment of NZDF personnel to Banda Aceh, Indonesia in January 2005; including mobilisation, an overview of the impacts of the tsunami, ANZAC Medical Team tasks and the lessons identified for future Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) deployments.

Presented by MAJOR **Andrew Brooks**, RNZAMC, Executive Officer, Defence Training Institute, NZ Defence College.

Co-hosted by RNZE CT/ECMC and Palmerston North City Library.

Donations to the RNZE Charitable Trust would be appreciated.

Thursday 12 March, 12 - 1pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor

The Lagoons at Awapuni

Hokowhitu (Centennial) Lagoon is the last remaining "oxbow" lagoon within the Palmerston North city boundary. U3A New Zealand history coordinator **Graham Slater** will share some of the stories of a number of other such lagoons in the city, including those at Awapuni. These lagoons, originally created by a shifting river bed, have all since disappeared. However, remnants of all of them are still clear to see once you know what to look for.

Brought to you by **River Stop Awapuni**

Thursday 12 March, 2 - 3.30pm

Boho Café, 2 Pitama Road, Awapuni

Histories and Mysteries in the Collections

Step inside the hidden world of heritage collections and discover the surprising stories that lie behind some of these artefacts. In the histories and mysteries series we open the vaults to share remarkable (and occasionally mysterious) items, revealing how collected treasures help us understand the people, events, and ideas that have shaped the city, our wider region and the country. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a curious local, or someone who enjoys a good mystery, join us for an evening of storytelling, discovery, and behind the scenes insights. All presentations will be at the Central Library, Mezzanine Floor at 6pm.

Thursday 12 March

The Ian Matheson City Archives with City Archivist, **Heather Glasgow**

Thursday 26 March

The Engineer Corps Memorial Centre with Director, LTCOL (Rtd) **Joe Hollander**

Thursday 2 April

Massey University Archives with University Archivist, **Louis Changuion**

Thursday 9 April

Te Manawa Museum of Arts, Science and Heritage with Archivist, **Juliet Galuszka**

Artist Talk: Dame Robin White with Dr Sarah Farrar

A special opportunity to hear Dame **Robin White** in conversation with Dr **Sarah Farrar** about *Robin White: Tuituia | Something Is Happening Here*, a Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa touring exhibition that explores the trajectories of Robin's artistic career. For over 50 years, Dame Robin White's art has portrayed people and their environments in Aotearoa New Zealand, Kiribati, Fiji, Tonga, and beyond. These places have transformed both her life and art. The exhibition explores a selection of artworks spanning her career – from early paintings to recent collaborative tapa (bark cloth).

See also: *Robin White: Tuituia | Something Is Happening Here* page 18 and *Grace: A Prayer for Peace* page 9

Saturday 14 March, 11am – 12pm

Te Manawa Art Gallery



White, R. with Te Itoiningaina Catholic Women's Training Centre. (1998). Instant sunshine 3, [Photograph of woven pandanus]. Collection of Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. Used with permission of Te Manawa Museum.

An Uncommon Land

Dr **Catherine Knight** is an award-winning environmental historian and author. *An Uncommon Land: From a history of enclosure towards a regenerative future* weaves together ancestral family stories and wider social and environmental history to trace the process of enclosure and the rise of private property, and offers a compelling vision for a regenerative, re-communed future. Catherine works in public policy and is an Honorary Research Associate at Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University.

Join us for a stimulating conversation as Catherine discusses her new book with Dr **Allanah Ryan**, Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University.

Longlisted in the General Non-Fiction category of the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards.

Sunday 15 March, 5 - 6pm

Central Library, Ground Floor

Te Rongo mai whiti – Language heritage

A look at the linguistic connection of te reo Mā'ohi (Tahitian) to te reo Māori. On a recent visit to Tahiti and talking with taxi drivers, lecturers and students, it was clear to Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University Associate Professor **Hone Morris** that there are linguistic connections between our te reo Māori and the Tahitian reo Mā'ohi. His talk will discuss similarities and differences.

Tuesday 17 March, 6 - 7pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor

Do New Zealand's active faults and volcanoes talk to each other? Insights from 25 years of trenching ancient faults

Pilar Villamor is an internationally respected earthquake geologist and principal scientist whose research on active faults and volcano–tectonic interactions in Aotearoa New Zealand has had a transformative impact on our understanding of natural hazards. Their recent studies show that the recurrence of fault ruptures in the Taupō Volcanic Zone (TVZ) can be strongly modulated by volcanic activity, and vice versa. This represents a paradigm shift for New Zealand hazard science.

Everyone welcome.

The **Geoscience Society** touring lecture is presented by the **Royal Society Te Apārangi**

Tuesday 17 March, 7.30 - 9pm

Central Library, Ground Floor

Grace: A Prayer for Peace

Artist Dame **Robin White** (Ngāti Awa) has spent more than five decades creating work which ranges from iconic New Zealand landscapes to collaborative tapa cloth. *Grace: A Prayer for Peace*, directed by Gaylene Preston, traces White's evolution as an artist, and her creative response to the world around her. Filmed in Aotearoa, Japan and Kiribati, the documentary follows her working with collaborators and reflecting on what drives her creativity. *Grace* offers a meditation on living a creative life in motion – shaped by community, faith and a deep engagement with the Pacific.

Grace: A Prayer for Peace premiered on 3 August at Auckland's SkyCity Theatre, as part of Whānau Mārama 2025 (the New Zealand International Film Festival).

See also: *Robin White: Tuituia | Something Is Happening Here* p18 and *Artists Talk* page 8

Wednesday 18 March, 6.30pm

Central Library, Ground Floor

Saturday 11 April, 5pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor



Image supplied

The Doctor, the Nurses, the Volunteers who died, and a Bank Hold Up in Palmerston North – New Zealand and the Spanish Civil War 1936-1939

This year, on 17 July, marks the 90th anniversary of the start of the Spanish Civil War. While Spain is very distant from Aotearoa New Zealand there were small but arguably important associations. This presentation gives life to those links, including how a failed bank robbery in Palmerston North involved a Kiwi who fought in Spain; and how Palmerston North born Geoffrey Cox, a reporter for the London newspaper News Chronicle, was one of the first journalists reporting from Madrid when the war started. Join Trade Unionist **John Shennan** as he provides a gripping summation of events.

Thursday 19 March, 1 – 2pm

Central Library, Second Floor

Shield Fever: Reflections on Manawatū's Ranfurly Shield Tenure 1976-78

Why did holding the Ranfurly Shield mean so much to Palmerstonians? Sports historian Associate Professor **Geoff Watson**, Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University, reflects on Manawatū's shield tenure within the context of sport and society in New Zealand at that time.

Thursday 19 March, 6 – 7pm

New Zealand Rugby Museum

30 Years On: Has MMP Delivered?

In 1996 New Zealanders voted under the new mixed-member proportional (MMP) electoral system for the first time. Tired of old electoral rules which routinely handed power to either National or Labour, even when they won less than 50% of the vote and disenchanted with governments which routinely abused their electoral mandates, many citizens hoped the new system would usher in a different style of politics. Three decades down the track, Professor **Richard Shaw**, Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University asks: Have things worked out that way? What, if anything, has changed? And what is the future for not only MMP, but the wider political system in Aotearoa New Zealand?

Thursday 19 March, 6 – 7pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor

World Poetry Day: Poems Without Borders

To celebrate World Poetry Day join us for an evening of poetry with **Margaret Austin** inspired by her experiences during the 1970's/80's in Amsterdam, Athens and above all Paris. Margaret is a woman of courage, resilience and humour. Turning her back on a conventional career path, she deliberately sought experiences in places and situations not for the faint hearted.

Friday 20 March, 6 – 7pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor

Impact of the Poll Tax on Chinese in New Zealand

Business leader and current chair of the Chinese Poll Tax Heritage Trust **Rodney Wong**, in discussion with retired lawyer, and past chair of the trust, **Tony Thackery**, examine the impact of the 1881 Poll Tax imposed on Chinese immigrants in New Zealand. It was a significant source of hardship and discrimination, leading to the separation of families and the loss of social status. The tax was part of a broader set of discriminatory measures that included restrictions on naturalisation, residency, and universal social benefits such as the right to vote. The Chinese community protested against these injustices, highlighting the value they brought to the wider community and the injustice of the tax. The poll tax was officially lifted in 1944, with a formal apology by the New Zealand Government in 2002, but its legacy continues to affect the Chinese community in New Zealand.

Saturday 21 March, 10.30 – 11.30am

Central Library, Second Floor



Poll Tax Certificate, [Photograph]. Image courtesy of Manying Ip. Used with permission.

World Poetry and Race Relations Day: Open Mic and Potluck Afternoon Tea

To celebrate World Poetry and Race Relations Day join us for a Community Open Mic. Hosted by award-winning poet **Leonel Alvarado** - let voices unite, stories inspire and every word matter. Bring along a short original poem or a short favourite poem to share. Celebrate diverse voices and creative expression in a supportive environment. All languages and themes are encouraged. Content should be suitable for a general audience.

Followed by a potluck afternoon tea.

In partnership with **Manawatū Multicultural Council** and **Welcoming Communities Te Waharoa Ki Ngā Hapori**.

Saturday 21 March, 2.30 – 4.30pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor

Pūrerehua: True Stories Told Live in Palmy

True stories told honestly from the heart, bringing community together. This show will feature a range of local storytellers telling tales about their lives. You will be surprised, entertained, moved and leave with a renewed understanding of the human condition. Sharing in their stories will enrich you and your story. If you would like to tell a story or know a good storyteller, we would love to hear from you. Send a short summary of your story idea to palmystories@gmail.com

Saturday 21 March, 7 - 9pm

Central Library, Ground Floor

Exploring our Southern European and Balkan Heritage in Palmerston North

A presentation from the Untold Stories team Dr **Tania Kopytko**, **Susie Tsaclis**, **Mary Zambazos**, and **Mychelle Mihaloff** to celebrate the 75th anniversary of arrival of Displaced Persons on the Goya migrant ships, who settled in Palmerston North and the heritage they brought with them - their journey, their cultures and their cuisine.

See also: *Exploring our Southern European and Balkan Heritage in Palmerston North on page 18*

Monday 23 March, 1 - 2pm

Central Library, Second Floor

Te Whatu Rāanga o Highbury Weavers Collective

Join members of **Te Whatu Rāanga o Highbury Weavers Collective** as they share information about the plants, the tools and the technology used for the process of rāanga. Learn about the examples of rāanga created by individuals from the collective that are an important part of Te Pātikitiki Library.

Tuesday 24 March, 10 - 11.30am

Te Pātikitiki Library



35th Anniversary of the RNZAF Deployment to the First Gulf War in 1991

This presentation recounts the RNZAF's deployment of two Hercules and 60 aircrew to the Gulf War, and how the aircrew's own stories differ from the portrayal of this deployment in New Zealand media and history.

Presented by Dr **Nina Harding**, Lecturer in Social Anthropology, Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University.

Co-hosted by RNZE CT/ECMC and Palmerston North City Library.

Donations to the RNZE Charitable Trust would be appreciated.

Tuesday 24 March, 6 - 7pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor

Kōwhaiwhai - A lifelong pursuit

Professor **Ngataiharuru Taepa**, Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University, is a Toi Māori practitioner who comes from the tribes of Te Atiawa, Te Arawa, Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Rangitāne. Born into a family of artists, Ngatai has explored the art form of kōwhaiwhai for most of his life and has called Te Papaioea home since 1999.

Wednesday 25 March, 6 - 7pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor

Evening Post staff photographer. (1951). Immigrants who arrived on the ship 'Goya', [B&W negative]. 114/290/07-G, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington New Zealand. Untold Stories Project: used with permission.

Early NZ Film Community Comedies: Frances of Feilding

Enjoy this presentation and special screening, the latter from the archives of Ngā Taonga Sound and Vision. U3A New Zealand History Group coordinator **Graham Slater** explores the earliest aspects of film production and consumption in Aotearoa New Zealand, shining a light on the work of Rudell Hayward, a film pioneer who contributed much to the field in this country. He examines the era of 'community comedy' by looking at one of Hayward's collaborators, a man named Lee Hill. Hill branched out on his own to make several local comedies including *Frances of Feilding*.

Thursday 26 March, 1 - 2pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor

The Manawatū Guardian Collection: A Taonga for the City

Gifted to the City Library in late 2024, the Manawatū Guardian collection consists of every edition of the printed newspaper since the first edition in July 21, 1972. Containing a huge wealth of knowledge for locals, it is an incredibly valuable resource for the wider community as there are stories in its pages that cannot be found elsewhere. Join the City Library **Heritage team** in reading selected editions and revisiting some of those unique stories.

Friday 27 March, 2 - 3pm

Central Library, Second Floor

A Farming Story Like No Other

A family turned Hawke's Bay scrubland into farming gold. Join us for an evening with **Bill and Carolyn Mouat** in conversation with **Charity Norman** discussing *Gold Under The Manuka: Mangaorapa Station - A Farming Story Like No Other*. This is a remarkable true story of how the Mouat family transformed a block of seemingly worthless scrubland into one of New Zealand's most successful, innovative farming operations.

Friday 27 March, 6 - 7.30pm

Central Library, Ground Floor

Traces of a City: Mr Ward's Map

Long before GPS and digital mapping, Wellington had its own master surveyor Thomas Ward. In 1891, he created a remarkable and detailed map of Wellington, recording the footprint of every building in the city, from Thorndon in the north, across the inner-city slums of Te Aro, to Berhampore in the south. Over the next 10 years, the map detailed Māori kāinga, shops, stables, hotels, theatres, oyster saloons, brothels, Parliament, the Town Belt, prisons, the 'lunatic asylum', and the hospital. Historian **Elizabeth Cox** discusses her new book *Mr Ward's Map: Victorian Wellington Street by Street* with fellow historian Dr **Fiona McKergow**.

Longlisted in the General Non-Fiction Award category of the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. Copies of the book will be available for sale through Bruce McKenzie Booksellers.

Saturday 28 March, 3.30pm - 5pm

Central Library, Second Floor

The Enduring Impact of Kōhanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa Māori in the Manawatū

In 2026, kōhanga reo, kura kaupapa Māori, wharekura and whare wānanga are familiar parts of the educational landscape in Aotearoa. However, in the 1980s and early 1990s these pathways were still being fought for. On 27 February 1990, after years of determined lobbying and careful planning by whānau, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Manawatū opened its doors as one of the early kura kaupapa in the country. Its founding story reveals the courage, challenges, and vision that shaped that Māori initiative and philosophy of education for Māori children. Thirty six years on, generations of raukura stand as living proof of their parents, kaumātua, and iwi aspirations for language, identity, and educational sovereignty. The founding Tumuaki of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Manawatū, **Debi Marshall-Lobb** will share her personal recollections of those early years and the enduring impact that journey has had.

Saturday 28 March, 5.30 – 6.30pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor

Nils Magnus Person: Sexton of Terrace End Cemetery

This presentation by historian **Leanne Croon Hickman** explores the story of Nils Magnus Person, the outspoken Swedish caretaker who transformed Terrace End Cemetery and then challenged the officials who dismissed him. From overgrown graves and wandering livestock to public showdowns and missing records, Person's journey reveals the drama and growing pains of early Palmerston North. It's a lively look at how one determined individual shaped a community's history.

Sunday 29 March, 11am – 12pm

Central Library, Second Floor

Book Launch: Legacy: A lost fortune, a new land, lasting faith, a Nelson family history

Join us to celebrate the launch of *Legacy: a lost fortune, a new land, lasting faith, a Nelson family history* by local writer **Wendy Shailer-Knight**.

Wednesday 1 April, 6 - 7pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor

Savage Crescent: the Planning, Conservation and Management of a 1930s Concept

Savage Crescent is Palmerston North's first major state housing area. This presentation by former City Archivist **Lesley Courtney**, Policy Planner **Greg Vossler** and Senior Planner **Keegan Aplin-Thane** covers the Labour government's promise to provide state housing in 1936 and the subsequent completion of the complex; community conservation of the area in the 1980s and 1990s as a heritage site, from planning and design through to management; and how oversight of the Savage Crescent portfolio works through to present day.

See also: *Savage Crescent Walkshop on page 29*

Thursday 2 April, 1 - 2.30pm

Central Library, Second Floor

Off the Page Series 2026

Everything But The Medicine

Join **Lucy O'Hagan** to celebrate her memoir *Everything But the Medicine*, a candid insight into the life and work of a general practitioner. Lucy will talk, read from her book and create a conversation about the important things that are needed in a room with a doctor.

Longlisted in the General Non-Fiction Award category of the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. Copies of the book will be available for sale through Bruce McKenzie Booksellers.

Friday 13 March, 6 - 7.30pm

Central Library, Ground Floor

Creative Writing Workshop: Journal Your Life

Have you ever wanted to start a journal practice but aren't sure how to get started? In this informative and fun-filled workshop you will do some creative journaling and collage activities. **Helen Lehndorf**, seasoned journal-keeper and author of journaling book *Write to the Centre*, will bring some of her journals to the session for you to have a look through for inspiration.

Saturday 14 March, 10.30am – 12.30pm

Central Library, Oroua Room

Limited numbers. Registrations to Genny Vella: gennyvella@pncc.govt.nz or 027 292 9965

1990: The Turning Point of New Zealand's International Education

New Zealand's status as an open, free, culturally diverse, inclusive, and peaceful democratic nation has made it an ideal destination for international education, particularly amid today's geopolitical tensions. The trend started in 1990 when the Government made an epoch-making decision. Join IPU Public Relations Manager **Hiroyasu Tsumakura** in exploring the reasons: What was it? Why did it happen? The presentation explains.

Wednesday 8 April, 6pm – 7pm

IPU Library, 57 Aokautere Drive, Palmerston North

80th Anniversary of J Force in Japan

Between 1946 and 1948, more than 12,000 New Zealanders served in J Force. This presentation discusses why New Zealanders were involved in the occupation of Japan; who the J Force personnel were; and what experiences they had during their deployment.

Presented by Dr **David Littlewood**, Senior Lecturer in History, Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University.

Co- hosted by RNZE CT/ECMC and Palmerston North City Library.

Donations to the RNZE Charitable Trust would be appreciated.

Thursday 9 April, 12 - 1pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor

Past, Present and Possible Futures: Max Rashbrooke and Richard Shaw in conversation

Authors **Max Rashbrooke** and **Richard Shaw** have both written about their settler-colonial ancestors. In this conversation, facilitated by Massey University's Dr **Carolyn Morris**, they discuss the challenges associated with this particular form of non-fiction writing, and the consequences their historical backstories have not only for their own lives, but for the ways in which they make sense of the country they live in today.

Friday 10 April, 6 - 7.30pm

Central Library, Ground Floor



"NCW Hold Final Session". (1960). Manawātū Evening Standard, Fairfax Media New Zealand via Manawatu Heritage.

The Battle for Women's Rights: 130 Years of the National Council of Women in Aotearoa

Celebrating 130 years of the **National Council of Women in Aotearoa**. Join us for a discussion about issues affecting women: the history of the battle, domestic transitions to the right to work and equal pay, and educational and political rights, with an emphasis on women in the Manawātū .

Followed by afternoon tea.

Saturday 11 April, 2 - 3.30pm

Central Library, Second Floor

Exhibitions and displays

Displays and exhibitions listed below run across the duration of the Heritage Festival.

Manawātū Journeys

Manawātū Journeys focuses on European settlement from the 1870s to 1970s. It introduces us to people who made their homes in the planned town of Palmerston and contributed to its transformation into the city of Palmerston North. Discover the objects and stories that European migrants brought with them and consider the lasting impact that 19th and 20th century migration had on Manawātū land, life, and identity.

Te Manawa Museum, 326 Main Street

Warnock Medical Museum

Browse a selection of medical instruments and equipment dating from the New Zealand wars to the present day. See how medical equipment and procedures have evolved over the last 100 years! The Medical Museum was established in 1980 by Dr David Warnock, a passionate collector of medical history. The Museum has collected approximately 10,000 objects related to Palmerston North Hospital, the Manawātū region, and New Zealand. It is administered by a charitable trust which was incorporated in 2001.

Central Library, First Floor

Out in the Field

Peter Bush (1930–2023) was a legendary New Zealand photojournalist with an insatiable desire to discover and record the world. From the 1940s, he travelled around Aotearoa and internationally, photographing almost everything he saw. Upon Peter's death in 2023, over 300,000 of his photographs came to Te Manawa, where the team is now uncovering their histories. Out in the Field is an invitation to delve into the collection, following Peter Bush back through time. Expect to discover photographs of the people, places, and events that made Aotearoa what it is today.

Te Manawa Museum, 326 Main Street



Palmerston North City Library. (2023). Vintage Medical Equipment, [Photograph].

The Art and Science of Photojournalism

A curated selection of images and videos from Manawatū Standard photojournalist Warwick Smith.

Warwick reflects on moments of significance over a 25 year career – spanning print to digital. How photographic images started off as an alchemy of science and chemistry (taking and developing) and are now digital – recognising that the capturing of images in time is an art form.

See also: *From Evening Standard to the Dawn of Digital* on page 5

Central Library, Mezzanine and Second Floors

Exploring our Southern European and Balkan Heritage in Palmerston North

75 years ago this year the SS Goya sailed to New Zealand bringing displaced persons from Central, Southern and Eastern Europe as skilled labourers to fill the post WWII labour shortage. After their time at Pahiatua Camp several families settled in Palmerston North. This small exhibition shines light on their stories and the heritage they brought with them.

See also: *Exploring our Southern European and Balkan Heritage in Palmerston North* on page 12

Brought to you by the Palmerston North based project - Untold Stories: WWII Displaced Persons who settled in New Zealand.

Central Library, First Floor

Robin White: Tuituia | Something Is Happening Here

For over 50 years, Dame Robin White's art has portrayed people and their environments in Aotearoa New Zealand, Kiribati, Fiji, Tonga, and beyond. These places have transformed her life and art. This exhibition explores a selection of artworks spanning her career, from early paintings to recent collaborative tapa (bark cloth). Developed and presented by the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

See also: *Artists talk* page 8 and *Grace: A Prayer for Peace* page 9

Te Manawa Museum, 326 Main Street

The Manawatū Guardian collection

A selection of items from the Manawatū Guardian collection, highlighting unique stories from the Manawatū.

See also: *The Manawatū Guardian Collection: A Taonga for the City* on page 13

Central Library, Second Floor

Back Issues

Following Tina White's Memory Lane, which ran for 18 years, the *Manawatū Standard* started a new series, *Back Issues*, in October 2021. Features in the series reflect on a news moment or issue from Manawatū's past, recounting key events, decisions and voices.

With more than thirty writers, knowledge holders, researchers and academics contributing to the weekly series, you can expect to read about a different aspect of life each week.

Back Issues is coordinated by the Palmerston North City Library and features images from Manawatū Heritage. The series is published every Saturday by the *Manawatū Standard*.

Features for Heritage Festival

7 March Palmerston North 75th Anniversary
Margaret Tennant

14 March Tales from the Cemetery: The Florence Nightingale nurse, the Crimean war veteran and their lost WWII grandsons
Leanne Croon Hickman

21 March The story of Glaxo Bunnythorpe
Val Burr

28 March Pathways Presbyterian Church 150 years
Geoff Watson

4 April Manawatū Rugby Supporters Club
Clive Akers

11 April Showgrounds Grandstand Fire April 1983
Murray Brown





SEARCH. SHARE. DOWNLOAD. CONTRIBUTE.

Guided experiences

- Registrations are required for guided experiences – please register through the email provided
- Spaces are limited, and will be allocated on a “first come, first served” basis
- Please meet at the designated meeting point 10 minutes prior to the starting time
- Adults must accompany children under the age of 14 years
- Cancellations – advise in advance for wait list benefit
- Please follow the health and safety procedures of your guide and host organisation

Back of House Tour: Te Manawa Museum of Arts, Science and Heritage

Step behind the scenes at Te Manawa Museum of Arts, Science and Heritage, and glimpse into the collection stores where 45,000 artefacts of Manawatū history rest. The **Curatorial and Collections team** will share their favourite items from the collection, which encompasses settler history and taonga Māori, as well as items from contemporary life. Expect the unexpected as you discover objects rarely displayed. Be sure to bring your sense of curiosity – questions are encouraged as you learn the stories behind the objects.

Sessions are one hour long, with a maximum capacity of eight people per session. Bookings are essential and a fee of \$10 per person applies.

Sunday 8 March – tours on the hour at 11am and 12pm
Wednesday 11 March – tours on the hour at 11am and 12pm

Te Manawa Museum, 326 Main Street

Limited numbers. To register, email bookings@temanawa.co.nz

Guided Visit: Biggin Hill Historic Aircraft Centre

Housing airworthy examples of iconic WWII combat aircraft and other military aircraft on display the trip to Biggin Hill is not to be missed! **Brendon Deere** will share insights on how the aircraft serve as a living memorial to all who have served their country in the air. The bus trip to Biggin Hill departs at 9.50am from Arena 5 carpark, Waldegrave Street. All participants require security clearance in advance of the trip and must have current NZ government issued photo ID for entry to Ohakea.

Monday 9 March and Sunday 29 March, 9.50am - 12.45pm

Limited numbers. To register, email heritage@pncc.govt.nz

The Woolshed Café and House Eras Tour

Treat yourself to morning tea at The Woolshed Café, followed by a unique, audio-guided heritage walk of seven carefully restored New Zealand houses dating from 1860s to 1960s. The bus to Sanson departs at 8.45am from Arena 5 carpark, Waldegrave Street.

Full details of the visit and payment options will be provided upon registration. Tickets \$10.00, refreshments not included.

Wednesday 11 March and Sunday 29 March, 8.45 am - 12.30pm

Limited numbers. To register, email heritage@pncc.govt.nz

Guided Tour: New Zealand Rugby Museum

Be guided on your visit to the iconic New Zealand Rugby Museum by Director **Stephen Berg**. Listen to expert commentary as you learn about the rich history and folklore of New Zealand's national game. See the first All Blacks match programme, a 1905 *Originals* jersey, the whistle from the final test of the *Invincibles* tour and other curated displays. After the tour, stay on and test your rugby skills in the interactive 'Have a Go' area.

Friday 13 March, 2 - 3pm
Monday 23 March, 3 - 4pm

Limited numbers. To register,
email info@rugbymuseum.co.nz

Te Hīkoi Toi at Te Ahu a Turanga Highway

Discover how the mahi toi embedded in the highway expresses relationships between the four Iwi involved in the project. Walk with **Warren Warbrick** (Rangitāne) and find out how the tools and techniques of working with harakeke (flax) inspired large sculptures and infrastructure design work. Hear Warren's kōrero on site. Spend 100 mins at three locations in the Parahaki Bridge vicinity. Then choose whether to self-drive to two other locations on the highway.

Saturday 14 March, 6 -7.45pm
Register for free tickets:
bit.ly/TeHikoiToi-14March

Friday 20 March, 2.30-4.15pm
Register for free tickets:
bit.ly/TeHikoiToi-20March

Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū-Tararua Highway

Guided Tour: Terrace End Cemetery

Join **Leanne Croon Hickman** and local New Zealand Society of Genealogists member **Geraldine Reynolds**, on their popular tour to 'meet' some of the interesting residents of Palmerston North's oldest existing cemetery.

Saturday 14 March, 4 - 5pm and
Sunday 29 March, 2 - 3pm

Limited numbers. To register,
email heritage@pncc.govt.nz

Guided Visit: New Zealand National Army Museum

Join us on a visit to the New Zealand National Army Museum at Waiouru. The museum showcases our nation's military history – telling the stories of the service and sacrifice of Kiwi soldiers and explores New Zealand's participation in major conflicts worldwide. The museum also serves as a memorial for all those who have died in the active service of this country.

The bus to Waiouru departs at 8.30am from Arena 5 carpark, Waldegrave Street.

Full details of the visit and payment options will be provided upon registration. Tickets \$15.00, refreshments not included.

Tuesday 17 March, 8.30am - 4pm

Limited numbers. To register,
email heritage@pncc.govt.nz

Guided Tour: Ashhurst Cemetery

Well-known for her tours of Terrace End Cemetery, local historian **Leanne Croon Hickman**, turns her focus to Ashhurst. Hear about lives lived well and those cut tragically short.

Sunday 22 March, 2 - 3pm

Limited numbers. To register,
email heritage@pncc.govt.nz

Guided Tour: Regent Theatre

The Regent Theatre is 96 this year! Built by J C Williamson Ltd, the theatre opened on the 4th of July 1930. Join Regent Theatre manager, **David Walsh**, and arts historian Dr **Tania Kopytko**, for a special historic tour. You will hear about the amazing history of the site and building, stories from its past and visit the foyer, auditorium, stage and other areas. A donation would be appreciated.

Monday 16 March and Saturday 21 March, 11am - 12pm

53 Broadway Avenue

To register,
email bookings@regent.co.nz

Guided Talk and Tour: 150th Pathways Presbyterian Church

Join historian **Geoff Watson** and the Very Reverend **Pamela Tankersley**, for a talk-and-tour as they trace the history of the Pathways Presbyterian Church and its work in the community from the 1870s to the present day.

Tuesday 24 March, 1 - 2.30pm

388 Church Street

Guided Visit: Engineer Corps Memorial Centre (ECMC)

Visit the Engineer Corps Memorial Centre (ECMC) Library, Museum and Chapel at Linton Camp. Artefacts, photographs and other materials on display, date from the early 1800s and cover the fascinating history of the Corps of Royal NZ Engineers (RNZE). Discover the collections and their stories with LTCOL (Rtd) **Joe Hollander**, ECMC Director. All participants require security clearance in advance of the trip and must have current NZ government issued photo ID for entry to Linton Camp.

Friday 27 March and Saturday 28 March, 10.30am - 12pm

Limited numbers. To register,
email heritage@pncc.govt.nz

Guided Art Tour: Baby Steps with Brent Harris - Home and Back Again

Bring your little ones to the art gallery for a short tour of painting and printmaking by Palmy ex-pat Brent Harris with Exhibition Curator, **Sian van Dyk**. Baby Steps is a relaxed and social setting for caregivers of babies, 1 year of age. Learn about the curious world of contemporary art and meet other whānau. The tour will take approximately 30 minutes and will start in the art gallery. Stay for more conversation over morning tea. This is a drop-in event with no booking required. Late-comers are welcome and you can leave early if necessary!

Donations appreciated.

Monday 30 March, 10am - 12pm

Te Manawa Art Gallery

Guided Visit: NZ Micrographic Services, National Library of New Zealand, Archives NZ and the Parliamentary Library

Have you ever wondered about the complexities around digitising old documents and images? Or wanted to view the declaration, treaty and petition that shaped our nation? Curious about what is in the national archive? Or how the library at Parliament works? Join us on this guided experience visiting and learning about places that kaitiakitanga this taonga - New Zealand Micrographic Services, The National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga Aotearoa, Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o Kawanatanga and the Parliamentary Library.

Full details of the visit and payment options will be provided upon registration. Tickets \$15.00

Tuesday 31 March, 7am departure

Estimated time of arrival back in Palmerston North 6 – 6.30pm

Limited numbers. To register, email heritage@pncc.govt.nz



Image courtesy of Foxton and Flax.

Guided Walks: Foxton Historical Riverside

Victor and Eileen Taylor will be offering guided historical riverside walks from 30 minutes to one hour duration. Contact them by phone 0274039941 or email on foxtonwalks2025@gmail.com to organise a bespoke walk that fits your schedule. Walks will be charged at a special offer of \$15 per person. Walks will be available from 9am through to 5pm.

To find out more about Matua Victor's guided walks please visit their website www.foxtonguidedwalks.co.nz and Instagram account [MatuaVictor_2025](https://www.instagram.com/MatuaVictor_2025).

Saturday 11 April, 9am – 5pm

Foxton

Guided Visit: Foxton Flax Stripper Museum

Join **John Girling** for *Foxton and Flax*, an experience which includes seeing the flax stripping machinery in operation, and an overview of the flax industry. Well worth a visit, as there have been exciting new additions over the past months! The museum's photographic display shows the production of carpets and woolpacks from flax. Pair your museum visit with a walk along the Piriharakeke Walkway. Enjoy views of the Manawatū River loop and farmland while learning about the history of the area from historic signs and photographs along the walk.

Saturday 11 April, 9.30am and 11am

Harbour Street, Foxton

Limited numbers. To register, email heritage@pncc.govt.nz

Workshops, walkshops and learning sessions

- Registrations are required for some workshops and learning experiences – please register through the email provided
- Spaces are limited, and will be allocated on a “first come, first reserved” basis
- Please meet at the designated meeting point 10 minutes prior to the starting time
- Adults must accompany children under the age of 14 years
- Cancellations – advise in advance for wait list benefit
- Please follow the health and safety procedures of your guide and host organisation

Object Histories Blogging Workshop

Senior Lecturer and author Dr **Thom Conroy** and historian Dr **Fiona McKergow** facilitate an introductory workshop on blogging about historical objects for Object Histories from Manawatū. Bring your own writing materials. Morning tea provided.

Saturday 7 March, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Te Manawa Museum



Ward, D. (2007). Lead animals, c. 1930s, Te Manawa Museum, [Photograph]. 2007/74/49-66, Te Manawa Museum Society.

He Pou Kōrero

Join **Damian McGregor** on an adventure to Ashhurst School and discover the recently installed He Pou Kōrero. These four two metre tall pou (pillars) bring insight to the significance of the surrounding environment: its unique geography, flora and fauna, history, and cultural heritage. Learn about the history of Ashhurst School and the diverse stories that have emerged over the past 147 years. Then head to the classroom and participate in a school exercise the way it was done in times past – pencils, paper, chalk, blackboard, mean teachers and the threat of the cane for anyone who misbehaves!

Tuesday 10 March, 1.30-2.30pm

Ashhurst School, 96 Cambridge Avenue

Heritage Help Sessions

Spend 30 minutes, one-on-one with a skilled heritage practitioner. Select from one of three options:

1. A tutorial on digitising your photographic treasures (prints, negatives or slides)
2. Answer my local history question
3. Help me with my genealogical research. A member of the City Library Heritage team will guide you through the processes on how to access relevant and useful resources, or how to use on-site equipment.

Tuesday 10 March, 10am - 12pm

(three sessions 10am, 10.45am and 11.30am)

Wednesday 11 March, 2 - 4pm

(three sessions 2pm, 2.45pm and 3.30pm)

Friday 13 March, 10am - 12pm

(three sessions 10am, 10.45am and 11.30am)

Tuesday 17 March, 10am - 12pm

(three sessions 10am, 10.45am and 11.30am)

Wednesday 18 March, 2 - 4pm

(three sessions 2pm, 2.45pm and 3.30pm)

Friday 20 March, 10am - 12pm

(three sessions 10am, 10.45am and 11.30am)

Monday 23 March, 10am - 12pm

(three sessions 10am, 10.45am and 11.30am)

Wednesday 25 March, 2 - 4pm

(three sessions 2pm, 2.45pm and 3.30pm)

Thursday 26 March, 10am - 12pm

(three sessions 10am, 10.45am and 11.30am)

Friday 27 March, 10am - 12pm

(three sessions 10am, 10.45am and 11.30am)

Tuesday 31 March, 10am - 12pm

(three sessions 10am, 10.45am and 11.30am)

Wednesday 1 April, 2 - 4pm

(three sessions 2pm, 2.45pm and 3.30pm)

Central Library, Second Floor

Limited sessions as listed above. To book a 30 minute session, email heritage@pncc.govt.nz



Palmerston North City Library. (2026). Heritage Help Session, [Photograph].

Connecting the Genealogy Dots

Do you have a genealogy question you need help to answer? How can you be sure your research is correct? How do you document your sources in order to find them again or convince others your information is correct? **Local members of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists** will help you with practical steps you can take to verify your sources, verify the information of others, and keep good research records.

Saturday 14 March and Saturday 11 April, 10.30am - 12pm

Central Library, Second Floor

Walkshop: Edwards Pit Park

The strata in the exposed cliff at Edwards Pit Park contains a record of how the landscape around Palmerston North evolved in response to climate change (glacial and interglacial) and mountain erosion. The presence of volcanic deposits is a reminder of the proximity of active volcanism and its likely influence on the region. Join sedimentologist, **Julie Palmer**, on a fascinating guided tour of the park.

Sunday 15 March, 2.30 - 3.30pm and Wednesday 1 April, 10.30 - 11.30am

Meet at Skoglund Street carpark, at the end of Thames Street

Sorrowing Mothers Workshops

The Palmerston North War Memorial in Te Marae o Hine – The Square was unveiled 100 years ago, in February 1926. The bronze figure atop the memorial represents sorrowing motherhood. Join other community researchers in using online heritage tools to identify the mothers of people named on the memorial following WWI. These hands-on, drop-in workshops include an introduction to military and civic records. A passion project developed and hosted by **THEN – Histories of Pāmutana**, in memory of Wilkie Mardon (WWI 7/1635).

See also: *Sorrowing Mothers on page 35*

Sunday 15 March and Monday 16 March, 2.30-3.30pm

Sunday 29 March and Monday 30 March, 2.30-3.30pm

Central Library, Second Floor



Palmerston North City Council. (2025) Edwards Pit Park.



McLennan-Boman, V.L. (1946-1954). Inside the Peter Black Conservatory at the Victoria Esplanade, [B&W negative]. 2025N_McLennan-Boman-S2_043257, Manawatū Heritage

Walkshop: Explore the Evolution of the Victoria Esplanade

Discover how one of Palmy's most loved places has been transforming over the past decade. Join Senior Urban Designer **Dave Charnley** in exploring how the Victoria Esplanade Masterplan and Manawatū River Framework have guided 10 years of park transformation. Beginning at the new Main Entry on Park Road, you will visit a range of spaces including the Victoria Esplanade Railway Station and river walkway entry, Dugald Mackenzie Rose Gardens, Peter Black Conservatory and Lath House, Wildbase, Lions Mini-Golf and Junior Road Safety Park. Discover the stories, design thinking, and community values shaping each upgrade, and see how the heritage of the Victoria Esplanade and its Manawatū awa connections are being strengthened for future generations.

Wednesday 18 March, 10.30 – 11.30am

Limited numbers. To register, email heritage@pncc.govt.nz

Creative Writing Workshop: BYO... stories

In this creative writing workshop, award-winning poet **Leonel Alvarado** asks: What stories come with us when we move to another place? How do they shape who we now are, and how is that place shaped by them? Is writing poetry a way to make sense of our new life? In BYO... stories, and let's try to find out together.

Sunday 22 March, 10.30am – 12.30pm

Central Library, Oroua Room

Limited numbers. Registrations to Genny Vella: genny.vella@pncc.govt.nz or 027 292 9965

Genealogy Workshop: Start Your Heritage Journey

Join members of the Palmerston North Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Dr. **Tania Kopytko, Margaret Riordan and Susie Tsaclis** for this two-hour workshop. The session will cover the basics on how to start researching your family, what resources and research methods are available and how to put it all together. Bring your questions. Suitable for 12 years and older.

Sunday 22 March, 2 – 4pm

Central Library, Second Floor

Walkshop: The Peter Black Conservatory - Past and Present

Join Professor Emeritus **Mike Roche** on a short walk to observe some features of the Victoria Esplanade before listening to a commentary on the work of Peter Black, who served as Curator of Reserves from 1908 to 1946, and whose name the conservatory bears. The design and construction of the new lath house frontage will be discussed, followed by information on the backdrop to the bonsai collection on display. After the walkshop there will be time for a self-guided wander through the larger Conservatory.

Wednesday 25 March, 10.30 – 11.30am

Limited numbers. To register, email heritage@pncc.govt.nz

Genealogy Workshop: Memories of School Days

Join local New Zealand Society of Genealogists member **Linley Robinson** for this one hour workshop. Linley will prompt reminiscences of your time at school and encourage you to record your memories. You will be shown local and national sources to elaborate and illustrate this period of your life. These resources will also be helpful when looking into the school lives of previous generations of your family.

Saturday 28 March, 2 – 3pm

Central Library, Second Floor

Walkshop: Savage Crescent

Join former City Archivist **Lesley Courtney** in exploring Savage Crescent, Palmerston North's first major state housing area. This walkshop takes you around the complex, giving a brief history of the area while discussing original historical features. Walking fitness required.

See also: *Presentation on Savage Crescent on page 14.*

Wednesday 8 April, 10.30 – 11.30am

Limited numbers. To register, email heritage@pncc.govt.nz

Heritage Tools for Teachers (and Principals)

While students are on holiday, it's a good time to meet with other kaiako in the city to discover more about running school anniversaries, the Papers Past website, free heritage resources and more. Sign up for one or more sessions. Limited spaces.

Register: <https://bit.ly/HeritageTools>

With support from **Palmerston North City Library, Cloverlea School, Horizons - Environmental Education** and **THEN - Histories of Pāmutana.**

Friday 10 April, 10.30am – 2.30pm

Central Library, Oroua Room

Activities

Self-Led Tour: Figures of Pāmutana:

More than 20 people associated with our rohe are remembered or recognised in public artworks around the city. Pou, and other sculptural forms, featuring tīpuna have been made by toi Māori practitioners such as John Bevan Ford, Heemi Te Peeti, Craig Kawana and Warren Warbrick. Pick up a map locating selected sculptures and murals from the Central Library and determine your own self-led tour to one or more of ten sites in the city and surrounds.

Sunday 8 March – Sunday 12 April



Palmerston North City Library. (2026). VR, [Photograph].

Virtual Reality (VR) heritage activities:

Step into the immersive world of virtual reality to discover more of Aotearoa New Zealand's history and heritage. Choose from a range of heritage-themed experiences, videos and games.

Available as a bookable 45-minute session for up to 4 people. Virtual reality headsets are suitable for ages 8yrs and above. All sessions will be in the Oroua Room, Central Library.

Sunday 8 March,
sessions start at 10am, 1pm and 3pm

Tuesday 10 March,
session starts at 4pm

Thursday 12 March,
session starts at 4pm

Sunday 15 March,
sessions start at 10am, 11am and 1pm

Limited numbers. To register, email Waka Curd: waka.curd@pncc.govt.nz



Kopytko, T. (2024). Treasures, [Photograph]. Supplied

Manawatū Writers Hub

Join local writers for an evening of sharing and connection. All writers welcome.

Monday 9 March, 5.30 – 7pm
Central Library, Mezzanine Floor

Heritage Craft Group

Want to contribute to heritage craft projects? Please join us for drop-in crafting sessions on the Second Floor of the Central Library. Bring your own yarn, knitting needles or crocheting hooks.

Craft sessions are held every Tuesday 1-4pm throughout the festival

Central Library, Second Floor

Treasures with Tania – Generations!

Share a little of your family history in friendly conversation facilitated by local NZ Society Genealogists member Dr **Tania Kopytko**. You are warmly invited to bring along a taonga or memento that relates to your family story or history – it could be jewellery, an item of clothing, a photo or an object. Generations encouraged - parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren.

Central Library, Second Floor, Wednesday 11 March, 3.30 – 4.30pm

Central Library, Second Floor, Monday 30 March, 4 – 5pm

Central Library, Second Floor, Wednesday 1 April, 1– 2pm

Roslyn Library, Friday 13 March, 10.30 – 11.30am

Te Pātikitiki Library, Wednesday 18 March 12.30 – 1.30pm

Ride the Esplanade Scenic Railway

The Esplanade Scenic Railway was opened in 1969 by the Manawātū Miniature Railway and Model Engineering Society. The original locomotive engines were petrol powered and the engines were taken from a Vauxhall Velox engine, later converted to diesel using a Kubota 3 cylinder engine. Travelling through native bush and secluded areas of the Victoria Esplanade, the main track is 2.2km long and the scenic trip lasts around 15 minutes.

Sunday 15 March, 10am - 12pm

The Esplanade Scenic Railway,
Victoria Esplanade

The Great Manawātū Steam Fair

Join the **Steam Traction Society** for their annual fair! See history come alive with live displays, free trailer rides, steam sports and the chance to steer an engine with one of their qualified drivers. The fair will have a sausage sizzle, cold drinks and ice creams for sale; and a raffle with four prizes to be won. There is parking on site, with space available for campervans and disability ticket holders. The site is dog friendly, for friendly dogs on leash at all times. Entry is by cash only at the gate.

Ticket information:

Single ticket (ages 5yrs+) \$10.00
Carload (maximum of five people) \$30.00
Steer an Engine \$5.00

Saturday 21 March and Sunday 22 March, 10am - 4pm

76 Maewa Road, Feilding

Rugby Jamboree

If you have a rugby collection worth bragging about, a pet project to show off, an idea for a book, a growing website or a much needed database - come along and share.
Book in the weekend of **21-22 March**.
The day one venue is Marist Sports, 19 Pascal St, Palmerston North. The day two venue is Wilkins Theatre, Te Manawa, 326 Main St, Palmerston North.
Please register your interest by contacting Stephen Berg on one of the options below:

Email:
stephen@rugbymuseum.co.nz
Phone 06 358 6947 (8.30am-5pm)
Message via Facebook:
The New Zealand Rugby Museum

Motorcycle Ride with the Manawātū Classic Motorcycle Club

Join members of the **Manawātū Classic Motorcycle Club** on a ride to Thomson's Motorcycle Museum with the choice to ride on to The Great Manawātū Steam Fair. Entry fee of \$10.00 for The Great Manawātū Steam Fair. See event details.

All motorbikes and riders must be road legal.

Saturday 21 March

Assemble at Te Marae o Hine The Square from 9.30am, ride departs 10am

Make your 'Own Tiny Statement' - Badge Making Drop-in Sessions

We have been inspired! The book *Tiny Statements: A social history of Aotearoa New Zealand in badges* by award-winning authors Stephanie Gibson and Claire Regnault, delves into Te Papa's collections of over 1600 badges to examine how New Zealanders have used badges to join, to belong, resist, defy and celebrate. We invite you to make your own 'tiny statement' about a current issue or event at one of our badge making sessions. Perhaps one day in the future, your badge may become part of Te Papa's collection!

All sessions will be on the Second Floor of the Central Library.

Sunday 22 March, Wednesday 25 March, Thursday 2 April, Tuesday 7 April, sessions at 10am - 12pm

Saturday 4 April, Wednesday 8 April, Sunday 12 April, sessions at 1 - 3pm

Operatunity - celebrating 25 years!

The musical celebration *Operatunity's 25th Birthday Bash!* honours the past 25 years of *Operatunity Daytime Concerts* touring New Zealand. This birthday concert brings together a show-stopping line-up of artists performing the most beloved hits across a wide range of genres including classical, musical theatre, country, the hits of the 50s and 60s and the vintage glam of the Gatsby era. The 25th Birthday Bash is a joyous tribute to the power of music in bringing back memories and connecting us all.
Tickets available from: Operatunity's 25th Birthday Bash! | Operatunity NZ
Or by calling toll free: 0508-266-237
Doors open 10am, concerts start 11am.
General admission seating.
Complimentary refreshments provided.
Bookings essential as almost sold out!

Thursday 26 March

New Life Church, 590 Featherston Street



Palmerston North City Council. (2023). Hurricanes vs. Western Force, [Photograph].

70 Years of Epilepsy New Zealand – Purple Day

In 2026, **Epilepsy New Zealand** celebrates 70 years of supporting people with epilepsy, their families, whānau and communities. To mark this milestone we invite you to be part of 70 Ways to go Purple – because every action, large or small, helps raise awareness and reduce stigma. You don't have to do all 70 – just choose one (or a few) and help make this Purple Day the biggest yet! Purple Day is 26 March, but a Purple Day fundraiser or awareness event can take place any day throughout March. Please head to the Epilepsy New Zealand website for more details.

Thursday 26 March

Community Ukulele Sing-along

A fun community sing-along led by **HUG (Horowhenua Ukulele Group)** for all those who love music. Come to just relax, sing and enjoy some music therapy. If you have a ukulele bring it along and a music stand if you have one. Music with words will be provided. All welcome!

Thursday 26 March, 11am - 12pm

Central Library, Mezzanine Floor



Catheryn Anderson, (2021). Clock tower lit in purple via Manawatū Heritage.



Image supplied

The Lost Monument

Play an in-person game which illuminates Palmerston North art and history, underpinned by an unresolved matter from 1900. You will visit a number of monuments in Te Marae o Hine - The Square. With your game booklet and extra clues along the way, you will attempt to solve the whodunit-style, real-life historical mystery. The game can be played individually or in small groups. Suitable for 10+ year olds. Developed and hosted by **THEN – Histories of Pāmutana** with support from the Earle Creativity Trust.

Wednesday 8 April

Three games, duration 45mins
Sessions commence on the hour at:
1pm, 2pm and 3pm

Te Marae o Hine – The Square

Get your free ticket at:
<https://bit.ly/TheLostMonument>

Sorrowing Mothers

One hundred years ago our community unveiled the Palmerston North War Memorial in the centre of Palmerston North to honour our war dead. Inspired by the symbolism of the bronze figure atop the memorial, spend time at the memorial for a reflective, creative remembering of the 7 February 1926 ceremony. A passion project developed and hosted by **THEN – Histories of Pāmutana**, in memory of Wilkie Mardon (WWI 7/1635).

See also: Drop-in workshops to research sorrowing mothers on page 27.

Saturday 11 April, 3 – 4pm

Palmerston North War Memorial,
Te Marae o Hine – The Square

Heritage Games and Taonga Tākaro

Step back in time and experience the joy of heritage and traditional Māori games. Join a team of passionate **Play Champions** for a hands-on session featuring a selection of Ngā Taonga Tākaro and classic heritage games. Try your hand at a variety of activities and discover the history behind some well-loved favourites. Pick up your play pass upon arrival, collect stamps for each play station you visit and go in the draw to win some great prizes! FREE fun for all ages – from grandchildren to grandparents.

Sunday 12 April, 10am - 12pm

Te Marae o Hine - The Square
(Wet weather venue is Te Manawa Museum, 326 Main Street)

Open days

- *Open days at each location are for the hours specified below*
- *Car parking may be limited or in a designated area – please follow the instructions of your host*
- *Adults must accompany children under the age of 14 years*
- *Please follow the health and safety procedures of your guide and host organisation*

Bring a Picnic to Caccia Birch House

Palmerston North's only Category 1 historic property was built in 1893 by local sawmiller Jacob Nannestad. It was acquired by the Palmerston North City Council in 1984 and after extensive refurbishment has been available for community use and hire since 1992. Bring your picnic, enjoy the gardens, explore the house and learn about the history of the area by viewing the Coach House displays.

Sunday 15 March, 11am - 4pm

130 Te Awe Awe Street, Palmerston North

Thomson's Motorcycle Museum

Visit the home of New Zealand's motorcycling heritage with over 100 motorcycles on display, dating from 1904 to the present day. See motorcycling memorabilia, brochures, motorcycle magazines, parts, workshop manuals and much more. The collection was created by **Peter and Jennifer Thomson**.

Saturday 21 March, 10am - 4pm

1154 Rongotea Road, Palmerston North

Hoffman Kiln

The Hoffman Kiln was built in 1904 and opened in early 1905 (although no official opening date has been confirmed). The 'continuous' kiln was built by brickmaker, Robert Price Edwards, and was able to produce 9,000 bricks per day, with the clay coming from the pit nearby. The kiln provides a rare insight into New Zealand's industrial history. The Hoffman Kiln Trust was formed in 2015 to care for this unique structure and its surrounds.

Sunday 22 March, 11am - 4pm

615 Featherston Street, Palmerston North

Palmerston North Electric Power Station

When the station was officially opened in 1924, Palmerston North was the last borough in New Zealand to get a public electricity supply. Previously businesses and some homes had operated gas-powered generators, utilising the town's gasworks. For most of its operational life, the power station served as a substation for electricity generated from hydro power stations. Since last being in service in 1992, the station now only runs two British Polar diesel engines as a special treat on open days. Engine starts are on the "hour". Entry by donation. Funds raised will contribute towards the earthquake strengthening of this Category One industrial heritage building. Due to the building's earthquake-prone status, entry is at your own risk.

Sunday 29 March, 1 - 4pm

162 Keith Street, Palmerston North

Tokomaru Steam Engine Museum

Hosted by owner/operators **Roxanne and Damian Groves**, this is a great opportunity to view a private collection of historic machinery, featuring a comprehensive collection of stationery steam engines, small locomotives and steam rollers. Highlights include the 1869 Appleby engine (NZ's oldest steam engine) and the mammoth Filer and Stowell engine, one of the country's largest.

Entry by donation.

Sunday 29 March, 1 - 4pm

742 Makerua Road, Tokomaru

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom: Museums, Exhibitions and Community Stories

This multicultural destination celebrates the stories and heritage of Te Awahou Foxton.

Developed through partnership between local iwi, the Dutch heritage community and Horowhenua District Council, the facility reflects the shared stories and identity of the town.

Discover Māori, Dutch and pioneering history through museum spaces, galleries, exhibitions and the community library, where diverse cultures and traditions are woven together.

Visitors can explore exhibitions, artworks and historical displays that reflect the people who have shaped this place over time.

A special interactive digital experience will also be available, offering engaging ways to explore museum stories on the day.

Saturday 11 April, 10am - 3pm

92 Main Street, Foxton

De Molen

The replica Molen is the same design as any similar flour mill in the Netherlands. Plans taken from a 17th century Dutch windmill were used to build the Molen to the same standards in Foxton. You will see ancient build techniques in heavy timbers, one-tonne grinding stones that produce flour powered solely by the wind. Opened in 2003 the Molen ensures the charm, power and authenticity of days gone by when many mills of varying styles were used across the landscape of New Zealand in the 1800's.

Free entry for the day for Heritage Festival visitors. Koha is welcomed.

Saturday 11 April, 9 - 4pm

96 Main Street, Foxton



Leith Haarhoff, (2019). Thomson Motorcycle Museum, [Photograph].



Palmerston North City Library, (2023). Keith Street Power Station, [Photograph].

Nye Cottage

The cottage, built by George Nye in 1868-69 is understood to be the oldest surviving cottage in the Manawatū. Nye was at various times a ship builder, overseer of public works, Māori language translator and Mayor of Foxton. The cottage has been restored to its original state and the first layer of newspaper wall lining is revealed upstairs. The original R N Speirs timber yard office built around 1905 has been relocated behind the cottage. The office may be the oldest surviving industrial building in Foxton. This business later evolved into the MSD-Speirs business conglomerate.

Saturday 11 April, 1 - 4pm

30 Harbour Street, Foxton

MAVTech: National Museum of Audio Visual Technology

Aotearoa New Zealand's specialist museum of audio-visual technology is based in the Coronation Town Hall in Foxton. The hall turns 100 years old in November 2026! Marvel at the wide array of radios, recording equipment, cameras, cinema equipment, televisions, musical machines and camcorders. There will also be a screening of vintage newsreels and short clips in the cinema from 2 – 2.30pm. MAVtech is one of only a handful of theatres in the world that still regularly shows 35mm films using carbon arc projectors.

Saturday 11 April, 1 - 4pm

Avenue Road, Foxton

Foxton Courthouse

Opened in 1929, the Foxton Courthouse heard both civil and criminal cases until 1948. The courthouse is a brick building with Marseilles roofing tiles, originally built for the sum of £1,860 and Palmerston North's Messrs LG West & Son were the supervising architects. It comprises a portico, a witness room, public office and Magistrate's room on the south side of the courtroom and a public gallery on the northern side. The associated brick cell block, built around 1924, also survives (disused) behind the police station. Upon closing in 1971, the building became the Foxton Historical Society Museum.

Saturday 11 April, 1 - 4pm

1 Main Street, Foxton



Image courtesy of MAVTech National Museum of Audio-Visual Technology

Manawatū Herald Building

The main section of the Manawatū Herald office was constructed in 1879 and is the oldest surviving commercial building on Main Street. George Warren Russell and his brother, John Ruffell Russell, founded the Manawatū Herald which was produced at the printery until 1964. Now, 147 years later the print shop is still used for some letterpress printing and much of the early equipment is still on site, and in use!

Saturday 11 April, 1 - 4pm

6 Main Street, Foxton

All Saints Church

All Saints Church, built in 1876, celebrates 150 years in November. A clause in the deed authorising construction was that Pationa, son of the chief Taratoa, be buried in the church grounds. The church is built in the Gothic Revival architectural style with much fine detailing in native NZ timber. The 1907 Nicholson and Lord church organ is a notable heritage instrument and is still in regular use.

Saturday 11 April, 1 - 4pm

53A Main Street, Foxton



Laura Appleby. (2023), New Zealand Rugby Museum, [Photograph]. Palmerston North City Council

New Zealand Rugby Museum - Gold Coin Entry Day!

Visit the iconic New Zealand Rugby Museum, home to the world's first museum dedicated to the oval ball. Travel back in time and explore the rich history and folklore of NZ's national game. See the first All Black's match programme, a 1905 'Originals' jersey, the whistle from the final test of the 'Invincibles' tour, or today's playing kit. Test your rugby skills – kicking, tackling, leaping, sprinting and pushing in the 'Have a Go' area. Bring the kids, they will love imitating their heroes! Entry by gold coin donation.

Sunday 12 April, 10am - 4pm

326 Main St, Palmerston North

Curated pages for quick reference

Our curated pages for quick reference follow. These include:

- [Rangitāne o Manawatū and Te Ao Māori](#)
- [Families and Schools](#)
- [Storytelling](#)
- [Writers and Readers](#)
- [Industrial](#)
- [Military History](#)
- [Destination Awahou Foxton Heritage Day](#)

We hope you find them helpful. See you at the festival!



Te Marae o Hine carvings, photo by Virginia Warbrick, 2022.

Rangitāne o Manawatū and Te Ao Māori

Nau mai, haere mai! Welcome to a curated page for quick reference, and an itinerary through the month, for events relating to Rangitāne o Manawatū and Te Ao Māori.

Self-Guided Tour: Figures of Pāmutana

8 March - 12 April

Object Histories Blogging

Presented by Dr Thom Conroy and Dr Fiona McKergow

Saturday 7 March, 9.30am

Back of House Tours at Te Manawa Museum

Sunday 8 March, 11am and 12pm
Wednesday 11 March, 11am and 12pm

Artist Talk:

Dame Robin White with Dr Sarah Farrar

Saturday 14 March, 11am

Te Hīkoi Toi at Te Ahu a Turanga Highway

Presented by Warren Warbrick

Saturday 14 March, 6pm and
Friday 20 March, 2.30pm

Te Rongo mai whiti - Language heritage

Presented by Associate Professor Hone Morris

Tuesday 17 March, 6pm



Manawatū Evening Standard. (1985). Visitors Flock to the Nests for Māori Language Week, [B&W negative]. 2023N_2017-20_BF313_002, Manawatū Heritage

Grace: A Prayer for Peace

Film screening

Wednesday 18 March, 6.30pm and
Saturday 11 April, 5pm

Te Whatu Rāanga o Highbury Weavers

Tuesday 24 March, 10am

Kōwhaiwhai - A lifelong pursuit

Presented by Professor
Ngataiharuru Taepa

Wednesday 25 March, 6pm

The Enduring Impact of Kōhanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa Māori in the Manawatū

Presented by Debi Marshall-Lobb

Saturday 28 March, 5.30pm

Visit to NZ Micrographic Services, National Library of NZ, National Archive and Parliamentary Library

Tuesday 31 March, 7am

The Lost Monument

Hosted by THEN - Histories of Pāmutana

Wednesday 8 April, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm



Tuia Te Maunga, photo by Virginia Warbrick, 2025.

Families and Schools

Nau mai, haere mai! Welcome to a curated page for quick reference, and an itinerary through the month, for events of potential interest to families and schools.

Self-Guided Tour: Figures of Pāmutana

8 March - 12 April

Virtual Reality sessions

Sunday 8 March, Tuesday 10 March,
Thursday 12 March,
Sunday 15 March

Treasures with Tania - Generations!

Presented by Dr Tania Kopytko

See page 31 for session details

Ride the Esplanade Scenic Railway

Sunday 15 March, 10am - 12pm

Bring a Picnic to Caccia Birch House

Sunday 15 March, 11am - 4pm

The Lost Monument

Hosted by THEN - Histories of Pāmutana

Wednesday 8 April, 1pm, 2pm
and 3pm

Traditional Games and Taonga Tākaro in Te Marae o Hine

Sunday 12 April, 10am - 12pm

NZ Rugby Museum:

Gold coin entry day

Sunday 12 April, 10am - 4pm

Guided Experiences

See pages 21 to 24 for a full list of guided experiences across the festival

Open Days

See pages 36 to 39 for a full list of open days across the festival

Of particular interest to kaiako (teachers)

Self-Guided Tour: Figures of Pāmutana

8 March – 12 April

Te Hīkoi Toi at Te Ahu a Turanga Highway

Presented by Warren Warbrick

Saturday 14 March, 6pm
Friday 20 March, 2.30pm

Te Rongo mai whiti – Language heritage

Presented by Associate Professor Hone Morris

Tuesday 17 March, 6pm

Grace: A Prayer for Peace

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Wednesday 25 March, 6pm

The Enduring Impact of Kōhanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa Māori in the Manawatū

Presented by Debi Marshall-Lobb

Saturday 28 March, 5.30pm

Visit to NZ Micrographic Services, National Library of NZ, National Archive and Parliamentary Library

Tuesday 31 March, 7am

Heritage Tools for Teachers (and Principals)

Friday 10 April, 10.30am – 2.30pm

Guided Experiences

See pages 21 to 24 for a full list of guided experiences across the festival

Open Days

See pages 36 to 39 for a full list of open days across the festival



Manawatū Evening Standard. (1961). "Skating Popular Again" School Holidays Spent at Memorial Park, [B&W negative]. 2017N_2017-20_016302, Manawatū Heritage
Te Manawa Museum. (2025). Te Manawa collections team, back-of-house, [Photograph]. Supplied
Body, R. (2026). Scanning negatives on Digitisation Station, [Photograph]. Palmerston North City Library



Storytelling

History is filled with stories – of discovery, of adventure, of courage, of pain and of loss. Here is a curated page for quick reference, and an itinerary through the month, for events of potential interest to those who are researchers and/or tellers of stories.

Object Histories Blogging Workshop

Presented by Dr Thom Conroy and Dr Fiona McKergow

Saturday 7 March, 9.30am

From Evening Standard to the Dawn of Digital

Presented by Matthew Dallas, Janine Rankin and Warwick Smith

Monday 9 March, 1pm

Manawatū Writers Hub

Monday 9 March, 5.30pm

Connecting the Genealogy Dots

Presented by local members of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Saturday 14 March and Saturday 11 April, 10.30am

Sorrowing Mothers

Presented by THEN – Histories of Pāmutana

Sunday 15 March and Monday 16 March, 2.30-3.30pm

Sunday 29 March and Monday 30 March, 2.30-3.30pm

Saturday 11 April, 3pm

Pūrerehua: True Stories Told Live in Palmy

Saturday 21 March, 7pm

Start Your Heritage Journey

Presented by Dr Tania Kopytko Margaret Riordan and Susie Tsaclis

Sunday 22 March, 2pm

The Manawatū Guardian Collection: A Taonga for the City

Hosted by the City Library Heritage Team

Friday 27 March, 2pm

Memories of School Days

Presented by Linley Robinson

Saturday 28 March, 2pm

Past, Present and Possible Futures:

Max Rashbrooke and Professor Richard Shaw in conversation

Friday 10 April, 6pm

Grace: A Prayer for Peace

Film screening

Wednesday 18 March, 6.30pm and Saturday 11 April, 5pm



Manawatū Standard. (1959). "School is Forgotten", [B&W negative]. 2017N_2017-20_015287 Manawatū Heritage
Lil's Wedding, (1910). Wedding of Lil Batchelar, [Photograph]. 2007N_Pi416_PEO_1205, Manawatū Heritage
Smith, W. (2011). World Cup Final, [Photograph]. Supplied



Writers and Readers

History is filled with examples of the connection between writer and reader – in the quiet reading of words, in the listening of words spoken or sung, the shared experiences, and the creation of new genres. Here is a curated page for quick reference, and an itinerary through the month, for events of potential interest to those who enjoy the power of words.

**OFF THE PAGE:
Everything But The Medicine**
with Lucy O'Hagan
Friday 13 March, 6pm

Journal Your Life
with Helen Lehndorf
Saturday 14 March, 10.30am

An Uncommon Land
Dr Catherine Knight in conversation
with Dr Allanah Ryan
Saturday 15 March, 5pm

Poems Without Borders
with Margaret Austin
Friday 20 March, 6pm

**World Poetry and Race Relations
Day: Open Mic and Potluck
Afternoon Tea**
with Leonel Alvarado
Saturday 21 March, 2.30pm

BYO Stories
with Leonel Alvarado
Sunday 22 March, 10.30am

A Farming Story Like No Other
Bill and Carolyn Mouat in
conversation with Charity Norman
Friday 27 March, 6pm

Traces of a City: Mr Ward's Map
Elizabeth Cox in conversation with
Dr Fiona McKergow
Saturday 28 March, 3.30pm

**Book launch: Legacy: A lost fortune,
a new land, lasting faith, a Nelson
family history**
with Wendy Shailer-Knight
Wednesday 1 April, 6pm

Industrial and Transport

Welcome to a curated page for quick reference, and an itinerary through the month, for events of potential interest to those who are keen on all things transport and industrial.

**Visit to Biggin Hill Historic Aircraft
Centre**
Monday 9 March and
Sunday 29 March, 9.50am

Ride the Esplanade Scenic Railway
Sunday 15 March, 10am – 12pm

Thomson's Motorcycle Museum
Hosted by Peter and Jennifer
Thomson
Saturday 21 March, 10am - 4pm

**Motorcycle Ride with the Manawatū
Classic Motorcycle Club**
Saturday 21 March, departs 10am

The Great Manawatū Steam Fair
Hosted by the Steam Traction
Society
Saturday 21 March and Sunday 22
March, 10am – 4pm

Hoffman Kiln
Sunday 22 March, 11am – 4pm

Tokomaru Steam Engine Museum
Sunday 29 March, 1 – 4pm

**Palmerston North Electric Power
Station**
Sunday 29 March, 1 – 4pm

Foxton and Flax
Saturday 11 April, 9.30am
and 11am

Manawatū Herald Building
Saturday 11 April, 1 – 4pm

Military History

Welcome to a curated page for quick reference, and an itinerary through the month, for events of potential interest to those who enjoy exploring and commemorating military history.

Visit to Biggin Hill Historic Aircraft Centre

Monday 9 March and Sunday 29 March, 9.50am

21st Anniversary of the NZDF Response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami in Banda Aceh (January - March 2005)

Presented by MAJOR Andrew Brooks

Thursday 12 March, 12pm

Visit to New Zealand National Army Museum

Tuesday 17 March, 8.30am

35th Anniversary of the RNZAF Deployment to the First Gulf War in 1991

Presented by Dr Nina Harding

Tuesday 24 March, 6pm

Histories and Mysteries in the Engineer Corps Memorial Centre

Presented by Director, LTCOL (Rtd) Joe Hollander

Thursday 26 March, 6pm

Visit the Engineer Corps Memorial Centre

Friday 27 March and Saturday 28 March, 10.30am

80th Anniversary of J Force in Japan

Presented by Dr David Littlewood

Thursday 9 April, 12pm

Destination Te Awahou Foxton - 11 April

In the mid-1800s Te Awahou Foxton was the main population, commercial and transport hub of the Manawatū – accessible by land, river and sea. Enjoy a day dedicated to celebrating the history and heritage of this great town and its enduring story within the rohe.

De Molen

9am - 4pm

Manawatū Herald Building

1pm - 4pm

Foxton Historical Riverside Walks

9am - 5pm

Foxton Courthouse

1pm - 4pm

Foxton and Flax

9.30am and 11am

All Saints Church

1pm - 4pm

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

10am - 3pm

Nye Cottage

1pm - 4pm

MAVTech Museum of Audio Visual Technology

1pm - 4pm



Horowhenua District Council. (2017). Exterior of Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park, [Photograph]. Supplied.

New Zealand Government. (1947). Evans Family Collection: Betty Evans at the letterbox, 5 Mansford Place, [Photograph].

