

**DISCOVER AND ENJOY OUR
NATURAL HERITAGE, CULTURE
AND HISTORY**

WHANGANUI

*Summer
Programme*

2024



**3RD-
31ST
JANUARY 2024**

PLEASE BOOK ONLINE AT WWW.ITICKET.CO.NZ OR AT THE
WHANGANUI I-SITE VISITOR CENTRE, 31 TAUPO QUAY.

The Whanganui Summer Programme's bus trips, guided walks and talks are organised by the Whanganui Summer Programme Trust

PROGRAMME PARTNERS

The Whanganui Summer Programme is coordinated by a Trust set up in 2008 to take on the role previously undertaken by the Department of Conservation. The trustees thank all the organisations involved with the 2024 programme, including the museums, societies, business and property owners who have enabled us to arrange such a varied programme. Many of the partner organisations who arrange and lead events have been involved for a number of years.

The Whanganui Regional Museum's Davis Theatre is the venue for the evening talks.

We are most grateful to the Whanganui Chronicle for distributing this programme in their newspaper. And our thanks to the Chronicle, Midweek and Rivercity Press for providing event updates during January. We hope you enjoy the 2024 Whanganui Summer Programme. We welcome feedback, so please do contact us by letter or e-mail with your suggestions for future events.

Whanganui Summer Programme Trust

c/- 225 Great North Road, RD1, Whanganui 4571.

E-mail: whanganuisummerprog@gmail.com



If you are unable to book online, please book at the Whanganui i-SITE Visitor Centre

If you are coming from out of town you can arrange accommodation at the i-SITE, 31 Taupo Quay. You can also find out what else is going on in Whanganui.

The New Zealand Opera School will run between 7 - 21 January.

And Whanganui Vintage Weekend will transport you to a bygone era between 19 - 22 January.

Check out **discoverwhanganui.nz**

and Discover Whanganui on Facebook for all your information about Whanganui.



Mt Taranaki - Photo courtesy of David Scoullar

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

YOU CAN CONTACT US

BY E-MAIL

whanganuisummerprog@gmail.com

Please provide your postal address and telephone number in all e-mail communications.

ON THE INTERNET

Access the programme pamphlet at www.whanganuisummerprogram.weebly.com

BOOKING & PAYING FOR TRIPS

Unless otherwise indicated, numbers on all trips are limited and bookings **MUST** be made through one of the methods indicated below:

BOOK ONLINE

Our online booking Agent iTICKET can be accessed as follows: www.iTICKET.co.nz

Payment can be made by internet banking or credit card (a fee may apply). With the exception of credit card fees, **PRICING IS ALL INCLUSIVE.**

BOOK AT I-SITE

Bookings Agent for iTICKET: Book in person or by telephone at **Whanganui i-SITE Visitors Centre**, 31 Taupo Quay, Whanganui phone 06 349 0508.

Open 7 days a week 9am-5pm, Public Holidays 9am-3pm, closed Christmas Day. Payments can be made by cash, eftpos or credit card.

Please note:

- No bookings are confirmed until payment has been received.
- Child fares apply to all who are still at school in 2024 unless otherwise stated.
- The trip price includes all transport, entry fees or koha for museums, marae, churches, historic places, gardens or contributions to host organisations for food when provided, unless stated in the trip description.
- Please provide a contact phone number.

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WAITING LISTS

We will not be operating a waiting list system. iTICKET will advise you if the trip is full.

TRIP CANCELLATIONS, AMENDMENTS AND REFUNDS

We reserve the right to cancel or amend the content of trips due to adverse weather or other factors beyond our control. That said, wet weather can usually be accommodated, so come prepared. **If we have to cancel a trip, we will do our best to contact you by telephone before the departure time.** In all such cases a full refund will be provided.

If you need to cancel your booking on a trip, let iTICKET know as early as possible. There is a no cancellation/no refund policy with iTICKET so we suggest you consider that when booking

In extenuating circumstances, a refund request can be lodged with iTICKET who will consult with the Trust for authorisation of a refund request.

Any refunds will be processed the same way they were originally paid.

No refunds are paid at the Whanganui i-SITE Visitor Centre.



Sculture, Steuart Welch - WSP

COMING ON OUR TRIPS

We want people to enjoy themselves on the Whanganui Summer Programme so plan our events accordingly. Our bus trips allow for rest stops en route, especially where long journeys are involved. On some trips you will need to be prepared to spend much of the day outdoors, away from the bus.

TRANSPORT INFORMATION

All our bus trips depart from the bus stop at 29 Taupo Quay, in front of the Tram Shed next to the Whanganui i-SITE Visitor Centre. Some events such as talks, guided walks and museum events have different departure or meeting points as noted in the trip descriptions. Note there is plenty of free all-day parking in Rutland Street and around Pākaitore Moutoa Gardens. The public toilets beside the Tram Shed are open 24/7.

Please make sure you **arrive at least 15 minutes before the departure time** for all events and report to the trip leader who will mark your name on the booking sheet or take your payment if no booking is necessary.

It may be possible to arrange for the bus to pick you up en route, e.g. just past the St John's Hill shops, beside the tennis courts at the junction of Wanganui Road and SH3 in Turakina, by the primary school on SH3 in Bulls, opposite the Z Service Station on SH3 in Sanson, at the Transit Depot on Calico Line in Marton, by the Museum on SH1 in Hunterville, at the railway station in Taihape, opposite the library on SH3 in Waverley or at the i-SITE in Hāwera depending on the trip destination. **Other points may be able to be arranged on request.** Please ask the i-SITE what arrangements can be made for your trip.

We use Transit Coachlines air-conditioned buses. Transit provide drivers for our bus trips.

We endeavour to return by the advertised time but delays are possible, so avoid making other commitments close to the return time. Please check you have all your belongings with you before you leave the bus. We do keep a lost property box at the i-SITE but only while the programme is in operation.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

Remember that trips can be subject to rapidly changing weather conditions.

For ALL trips you need to bring:

- Food for the duration of the trip. For a full-day trip bring your lunch as well as morning and afternoon tea. If food is being provided as part of the event, this will be noted in the trip description. Some trips allow for a snack stop on the way back, so you may want to bring money for ice creams or drinks.
- Water and other drinks as required.
- Sun hat and sunscreen.
- Any medication you require including insect repellent.
- Face mask if required (or desired) on public transport at the time of your trip.

For trips where you will be venturing away from the bus for much of the day make sure you have:

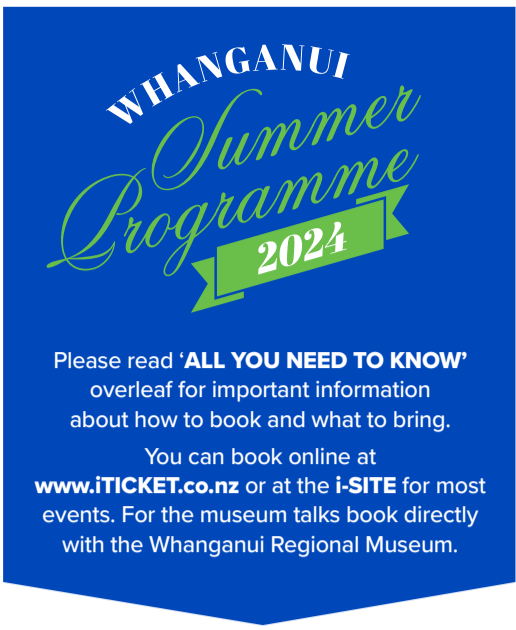
- Solid footwear (not jandals). We recommend you always wear sturdy shoes.
- A warm, waterproof jacket.
- A small day pack to carry all your gear.
- A walking pole may be helpful.
- Binoculars if appropriate.

Fitness requirements. Most trips do not involve long walks but others may involve walking uphill, through grassland or over rough ground. The trip description notes any special requirements but do check with the i-SITE if you are unsure whether your level of fitness will suit your preferred trip. We do not expect everyone to walk at the same pace and you will have time for rest stops, especially on walks where there are points of interest on the way.

Safety. Our guides and leaders are experienced at taking people on Summer Programme trips including bush walks and tramping expeditions. There are first aid kits on each trip. The leaders carry a cell phone although coverage cannot be guaranteed.

A personal locator beacon is carried on remote trips. Please advise us in advance if you have any medical conditions, e.g. allergies to stings. During the course of the day, if you experience any difficulties, let the leader know so we can act quickly to ensure your safety and comfort.

Feedback. We welcome your feedback. Please pass your thoughts on to your leader.



Please read 'ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW' overleaf for important information about how to book and what to bring.

You can book online at www.iTICKET.co.nz or at the i-SITE for most events. For the museum talks book directly with the Whanganui Regional Museum.

Upokongaro Family River Walk

Wednesday 3 January – It's Back!

A flat walk ideal for most ages.

Wear sturdy footwear and bring sunblock.

We start our 2024 programme with this popular family walk. After meeting at the Aramoho Crematorium car park, we will stroll along the riverside walkway to the Upokongaro bridge which should take about 1 hour. Bring afternoon tea or buy it at the Upokongaro cafe and take time to explore the village.

Depart 1pm. Return approx 3pm. Free.

Magic Marton

Thursday 4 January – New!

Short walks, mainly flat.

Sturdy footwear and rain wear. BYO morning tea and lunch.

Our day in Marton begins with morning tea at Marton Park and a chance to explore the town centre, followed by a visit to the local museum with its focus on early days in the Rangitikei. Lunch will be at the home of Stuart Welch and the opportunity to look at his amazing steel sculptures. Later we visit the Tutaenui Reservoir which has a large-scale environmental restoration. The final stop in Marton is at Royston - a stately house built in 1896 for a mayor of the town.

Depart 9am. Return approx 3pm. Adult \$31 | Child \$15

Kauarapaoa Valley

Friday 5 January – Favourite!

Short walks

Sturdy footwear and rain wear. BBQ lunch provided by The Friends of the Whanganui River at Noel Shepherd's house.

Although quite close to Whanganui, the Kauarapaoa Valley seems a world away. We loop via Kai iwi and up past Bushy Park, along the top of the watershed and return down the valley, viewing some of our impressive back country en route. Sid Soulsby of Wairangi Station will share his stories of living in the valley.

Depart 10am. Return approx 5.30pm. Adult \$51 | Child \$26

South Taranaki Heritage Tour

Saturday 6 January – New!

BYO lunch, snacks and drinks. Hot water and milk available. Bring a deck chair if you wish.

A tour of historic places and landscapes between Whanganui and Patea. Highlights will include the Hunter Shaw building, St George's Church, St Mark's Church, the Edwardian Pearce Family Home and one mystery destination.

Leave 9am. Return approx 4.30pm. Adult \$45 | Child \$25

Whanganui Historic Walk

Sunday 7 January – New!

Mainly flat walking.

Sturdy footwear and rainwear.

Whanganui has many magnificent heritage buildings and houses and on this two hour walk we will learn about some of them, their stories, architecture and details of the people who lived in them. Meet on the riverbank at the Whanganui i-SITE. The walk itself is easy and suitable for all ages.

Depart 2pm. Return approx 4pm. Adult \$5 cash | Child free

No bookings needed, pay at the start of the walk.

Matiu Somes Island

Monday 8 January – Favourite!

Reasonable fitness for a short, steep ascent.

Sturdy footwear, warm clothing, binoculars and walking poles and sun protection.

BYO lunch, drink and snacks.

Matiu Somes Island in Wellington Harbour has a long and interesting history. It is now home to tuatara, Cook Strait giant weta, sea and land birds. Bring your Gold Card (if you have one) for the ferry.

Depart 6am. Return approx 6pm. Adult \$87.50 | Child \$35

Bookings close on Thursday 4 January.

Evening talk: Walking the Te Araroa Trail

Tuesday 9 January – New!

Aged 65, Whanganui resident and keen trapper Laurel Stowell set out from Cape Reinga on the 3000km Te Araroa trail in October 2022. Enjoy the ups and downs of her epic journey in this illustrated talk about walking through a rainy but beautiful Northland to Auckland city.

Starts 7.30pm. Davis Theatre, Whanganui Regional Museum, Watt Street. Adult \$5 cash | Child free

No booking necessary although numbers are limited to 200. Wheelchair access.

Destination Castlecliff Beach

Wednesday 10 January – New!

Reasonable fitness needed for light work in the dunes and a walking tour.

Sturdy footwear and rain wear. BYO lunch though hot and cold drinks and light refreshments will be provided.

Learn what's going on at the beach with a little work thrown in. Castlecliff Coast Care will explain the coastal dune system, show us their plantings and provide updates on WDC's proposed Coastal Management Plan and the recent North Mole rebuild. We will also spend time releasing native plants from weeds and mulching them.

Meet at the Duncan Pavilion at 10.30am. Return home approx 2.30pm. This community event is free and you are encouraged to join.

Raurimu Spiral Train Ride

Thursday 11 January – It's Back!

BYO morning, afternoon tea and lunch.

We have scheduled this trip for the last two years and each time circumstances have intervened but we are trying again. After busing to Taumarunui and the historic Cherry Grove, we get on the Northern Explorer and ride through the famous Raurimu Spiral to Ohakune. At Ohakune we will visit the local railway museum. A day to remember.

Depart 8am. Return approx 4.30pm. Adult \$141 | Child \$100
This includes train and museum fares. Bookings close on Friday 22 December.

Blue Duck Station

Friday 12 January – It's Back!

Reasonable fitness required. BYO morning and afternoon teas. Sturdy footwear, rainwear and warm clothing.

Enjoy a wonderful trip into the Blue Duck Station at Whakahoro on the Whanganui River. Meet the Steele family who run a successful tourism venture at the Retaruke Station. The trip includes a picnic lunch at Mangapapa, one of the campsites in the Whanganui National Park and travelling down by jet boat. There will be a quick debrief at the Blue Duck Café before we leave. When booking please indicate any dietary requirements ie gluten-free or vegetarian.

Depart 6.30am. Return approx 7pm.

Adult \$208 | Child \$104

Kapiti Island

Saturday 13 January – Favourite!

Climbing fitness essential for the summit. Sturdy footwear, rain coat, warm clothing, binoculars, walking pole.

BYO morning tea and lunch.

Kapiti has a long history and more recently one of restoration. A tranquil bird and marine sanctuary, it is one of New Zealand's most accessible nature reserves. Time to relax or climb and return from the summit.

Depart 6.30am. Return approx 6.30pm. Adult \$175.50 | Child \$125

Bookings close Sunday 7 January.

Boyd's Autobarn

Sunday 14 January – New!

The late Ed Boyd not only loved cars but he also collected them. Lots of them. This is an opportunity to see 17 of Ed's vintage and classic cars at Whanganui's own car museum - Boyd's Autobarn at 3 Pickwick Rd, just off SH3. The autobarn is open from 10am to 3pm.

Door entry is a donation which will go to the Rescue Helicopter service.

Up the Waitotara Valley

Monday 15 January – Favourite!

Short walks

BYO lunch, snacks and drinks.

On the programme for years and still very popular, join this fascinating drive to the end of the Waitotara Valley. Enjoy many yarns about rural life on the way. Stops include the Ngamatapouri Hall, Mangapapa Station woodshed on Makakaho Road, St Hilda in the Wood Church and the Larsen farm at the top of the valley. End your trip with refreshments at the Waitotara pub and store.

Depart 9am. Return approx 5.30pm. Adult \$39 | Child \$19

Evening Talk: Underground Whanganui

Tuesday 16 January – New!

Over hundreds of years Whanganui has built up a collection of hidden underground spaces. Historian Scott Flutey will take us through these places with an illustrated commentary, shedding light on some of the stories connected to them.

Starts 7.30pm. Davis Theatre, Whanganui Regional Museum, Watt Street. Adult \$5 cash Child free. No booking necessary although numbers are limited to 200. Wheelchair access.

Ceramics Wonderland

Wednesday 17 January – New!

Located at 8 Bates Street near the Whanganui courthouse. Quartz, Museum of Studio Ceramics has dazzled visitors for more than 8 years. Opened by studio potter Rick Rudd, this is the only dedicated museum for studio ceramics and the largest and most diverse public ceramic display in Aotearoa NZ with more than 1,100 works displayed. Come and see why Quartz is not only famous in Whanganui but draws people from all over the country.

Open 10.30am to 4pm. Free.

Day on Taranaki Maunga

Thursday 18 January – New!

Various walks available - you choose according to your level of fitness.

Sturdy footwear, rain wear, warm clothing and sun hat. BYO morning tea, lunch, snacks and drinks.

In 2023 we went to Dawson Falls in Te Papakura o Taranaki (formerly Egmont National Park). Today we revisit the maunga at North Egmont to explore a range of self-guided walking opportunities on well-formed tracks. On the way home we will stop at the Eitham cheese bar and there is the option to climb the iconic Hawera water tower for a panoramic view of the town.

Depart 8am. Return approx 5.30pm. Adult \$58 | Child \$28

Whanganui Collegiate School Museum and Historic Buildings

Monday 22 January – Favourite!

Allow two hours.

First opened in Victoria Ave in 1854, WCS is NZ's third oldest school and the city's oldest business. Its 170 years of history is displayed and documented in the school's museum. The fully-guided tour includes Big School and the chapel - both earthquake-strengthened and filled with fascinating history.

Time 10.30am. Adult \$5 cash | Child \$2 cash
Follow the signs from the main entrance, Liverpool St. Register at Museum@collegiate.school.nz or by text to 0274 812 324

Evening Talk: Garden Tips & Design

Tuesday 23 January – New!

Whanganui garden guru Phil Thomsen will present 10 top tips for gardens and raised garden design. He will also include tips on how to get maximum productivity from your garden. Phil is the author of the Practical Kiwi Gardener book to be published next autumn. He also writes articles for the NZ Garden magazine.

Starts 7.30pm Davis Theatre, Whanganui Regional Museum, Watt Street. Adult \$5 | Child free.
No booking necessary although numbers are limited to 200. Wheelchair access.

Bridge to Nowhere

Wednesday 24 January – Favourite!

Reasonable fitness and agility required

Sturdy footwear, rain wear and warm clothing for river journey. BYO lunch and snacks. Hot drinks and water provided at lunch time.

Bus to Pipiriki, followed by 32km jet boat ride and 3km bush walk. The Bridge to Nowhere is a poignant monument to 96 returned soldiers and their families who farmed there after WW1 but were unable to withstand serious erosion, flooding and poor road access. By 1942 only three farmers remained in the Mangapuru Valley and they were eventually forced to leave. The concrete bridge is the symbol of the ill-fated settlement in this 'valley of abandoned dreams'.

Depart 8am. Return approx 5.30pm. Adult \$194 | Child \$115

Fun Trivia Quiz

Thursday 25 January – New!

How good is your local and general knowledge? Test it out at a fun, summer-themed trivia quiz in the Hakeke Street Library Community Room from 1.30-4.30pm. Make up a team of up to six people. Feel free to BYO snacks or non-alcoholic drinks.

Register your team name and captain with: kat@whanganuilibrary.com \$2 per person entry.

Heritage Tram Rides

Friday 26 January – Favourite!

For 42 years until 1950 public transport in Whanganui was by tram. A relic of that service, Tram Number 12, 'Mable', was donated to the city in 2007 and lovingly restored by volunteers.

From 29 Taupo Quay, take a ride back in time along the riverbank between 10am and 12.30pm. Pay at the tram shed.

Adult \$5 | Child free

Gumboot Day

Saturday 27 January – New!

Sturdy footwear and rainwear.

BYO morning tea and lunch.

The last Saturday in January is always a big day in Taihape for the local community and in 2024 we will be there to enjoy it, too. The focus will be the Gumboot Day throwing competition. A chance to have a go and to experience an old-style show day. Also an opportunity to explore Taihape. Short stops at Utiku, Mangaweka, Hunterville and at a heritage house at Turakina will complete an interesting day in the country.

Depart 8.30am. Return approx 5.30pm. Adult \$46 | Child \$22

Glass Blowing Showcased

Sunday 28 January – New!

Join internationally known glass blower Katie Brown at the Whanganui Regional Museum as she discusses her creative process. Katie will be in the Davis Theatre followed by a show and tell of her latest works while enjoying a cool beverage.

3pm-4.30pm. Wheelchair access. Koha appreciated. Bookings essential. Book directly with the museum. Tel 06 349 1110.

Hipango Park Excursion

Sunday 28 January – Favourite!

A reasonable standard of mobility and fitness is required due to uneven ground, stairs and unpaved tracks.

BYO lunch, snacks and drinks.

The MV Wairua's trip to Hipango Park remains popular because of the charm of the river journey and ambience of this bush-surrounded park. Tables are available for lunch otherwise bring rugs to sit on and a jacket for the river trip. A barbecue is available for use and complimentary tea/coffee/juice and biscuits on the upstream journey.

Depart 10am MV Wairua pontoon opposite Pakaitero/Moutoa Gardens. Return approx 4.30pm. Adult \$78 | Child (5-15) \$29 | Under 5 free | Family (2 adults 2 children) \$185
Passengers must report no later than 9.45am.

Rangitikei Heritage Tour

Monday 29 January – New!

BYO lunch, snacks and drinks. Boiling water and milk provided. Bring a deck chair if you wish.

John Vickers will again lead us on a tour of Rangitikei homesteads with the houses dating from 1870 to 1920. These include Westhoe, Heaton Park, one mystery visit and the Tutu Totara Church. An interesting day out discussing many aspects of the houses and their stories.

Depart 9am. Return approx 5pm. Adult \$75 | Child \$40

Evening Talk: Public Transport

Tuesday 30 January – New!

From the first provincial tram system and the Durie Hill Elevator to Greyhound Buses and more recent developments, Whanganui has a rich and innovative history of public transport. Durie Hill Elevator operator and public transport advocate Anthonie Tonnnon will speak about how this has shaped his work.

Starts 7.30pm. Davis Theatre, Whanganui Regional Museum, Watt Street. Adult \$5 cash | Child free.
No booking necessary although numbers are limited. Wheelchair access.

Parikino Forest

Wednesday 31 January – New!

A short walk across farm land.

Bring lunch, sturdy shoes or gumboots and rainwear.

A chance to visit and learn about a 6.4ha piece of threatened lowland kahikatea forest which has been fenced and is now regenerating.

Depart 10am. Return approx 2pm. Adult \$18 | Child \$10



Linda Cutch - Northern Explorer Hapuawhenua Viaduct