

Ā Mua Update

Guy Walker

Yes! Ā Mua Community Resource Centre is up and running again after a protracted hiatus due to COVID-19.

We will be operating on Saturdays only to begin with, but will be extending our days of operation as soon as possible. Please see our Facebook page for updates.

In line with government recommendations, we have lifted the vaccine pass requirement for entry, but the use of masks and social distancing are required while Omicron persists in the community.

Repair – reuse – repurpose – upcycle

As we re-open we will be shifting our focus to being more of a resource centre and less of an over-sized op shop.

We will therefore be allotting more time and energy to salvaging and providing materials and resources to the community – things like hardware, building materials, crafting items, and things you can find a creative new use for or breathe new life into.

To make this possible we will be accepting fewer “op shop” type items such as homeware, books, CDs and bric-a-brac. Please take these items to Featherston’s Own Op Shop if possible.

Electrical items and e-waste

Unfortunately we are still not in a position to accept electrical goods.

Rest assured, we do have plans for an onsite workshop to process all manner of electrical items, but this cannot move forward until we have the space and infrastructure to facilitate this. And, of course, we need appropriate funding for this to happen. Watch this space.

Recycling

We accept the following items for recycling or re-use: scrap metal, plastic plant pots and punnets, tetrapaks (washed and cut open), plastic milk bottle tops, wine bottle caps and household batteries.

On-site improvements

When you next pay Ā Mua a visit, you will notice the place is looking a bit tidier than before.

Being closed has meant we have had time for a bit of a tidy-up. We are also in the process of doing up the buildings on site. The roofs have had a lick of paint, murals are appearing on the sides of containers (thanks, Anne!) and the walls will soon be re-clad. Other on-site additions and improvements, including a community tool share, are also in the pipeline.

Ā Mua Community Resource Centre is at 69 Boundary Rd, Featherston and is open on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. Items for donation may only be dropped off during opening hours and must be approved for drop-off by a staff member. Contact us via our Facebook page.

Crop Swap Featherston

Guy Walker

Have you heard of Crop Swap?

Crop Swap Featherston started in 2020 and is held on the third Sunday of each month at Fareham House. It’s a free moneyless event where people bring not just crops they have grown, but all manner of gardening and self-sufficiency-related items to share.

Crop Swap is open to all, regardless of whether you have anything to swap. Everything is given for free and no money changes hands.

Examples of things you might bring along include home grown produce (organic preferred), flowers, cuttings, seedlings, seeds, preserves, unwanted tools, books and magazines. It is also a great opportunity to swap gardening stories, tips and tricks.

Why not join us?

Third Sunday of each month, 2-3pm at Fareham House, 80 Underhill Rd, Featherston.

For more information, see the Crop Swap Featherston Facebook page.



Debate on Wairarapa Moana to mark Restoration Day

Marisa King

How to lift Wairarapa Moana from the “too hard” basket will be the focus of an online debate this month to celebrate Restoration Day.

Held on Saturday 28 May this year, the annual event is run by Greater Wellington Regional Council in collaboration with mana whenua and other partners to thank local environmental restoration groups for their efforts.

At the debate, five experts will discuss their ideas for recognising the value of Wairarapa Moana, while keynote speaker Rawiri Smith from Ngāti Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa will ask the question: How do we lift Wairarapa Moana from the too hard basket and restore its value?

Field trips to Kohunui Marae and a two-part visit to Wairarapa Moana will follow the presentation and debate.

“It’s great to focus this year on Wairarapa Moana. It is our receiving environment, a place where all our water, clean and unclean, ends up,” said Restoration Day Event Manager Tessa Bunny.

“It’s fantastic to have an expert panel divulge their ideas on how we can work together to turn Wairarapa Moana back into the jewel of the Wairarapa.”

It is also hoped the event will inspire people to take ideas and use them in their local streams, rivers and urban areas and green spaces.

For more information about Restoration Day, including registration, go to www.eventbrite.co.nz and search for ‘restoration day 2022’.

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