

8 February to 8 March
WHANGANUI



Festival Guide

Brought to you by the
Women's Network Whanganui

Special Offer

NURTURING MASSAGE DURING THE FESTIVAL | \$40 for 30-minute foot massage, \$45 for 30-minute head, neck and shoulders. Embark Massage, 75 St Hill Street.

Discover an experience of self-care through nurturing touch. Unwind for the moment. Other duration options available. Bookings with Emma 021 103 3394 or embarkyoga@gmail.com

Saturday 08/02

9-10am | THE ZONE - WĀHINE CLASSES | \$10. Rivercity Boxing Gym, 100 Devon Road. Contact rianatamati@gmail.com

A special class for women and girls aged 12+ to try different workout styles. **Every Saturday in the festival.**

10am-4pm & Sunday | WOMEN IN RED | Free entry, spaces limited. Te Rangi, 4 Allison Street. **Registrations essential.** RSVP to Elise leeziebee@hotmail.com

Women in Red is a global WikiProject to address the current gender bias in Wikipedia content by creating women's biographies, works and women's issues. Whether you are a first time Wikipedia editor or experienced, there will be guidance available and a chance to meet with other female Wikipedia editors to create articles about kick-arse women. **BYO laptop, morning tea & lunch provided.**

6:30pm | SONGS AT THE SARJEANT | Adult \$15 or \$10 Senior/Student/Supporter. Te Whare O Rehua, Sarjeant Gallery. Tickets via <https://sarjeant.org.nz/events-hei-konei/> or see the team at front of house

Composer & musician **Elizabeth de Vegt** brings you this special performance of original and favourite songs **with vocal accompaniment by Elise Goodge.** Enjoy the sounds of the grand piano during this unique hour-long concert in the atrium.

Sunday 09/02

10am-4pm | WOMEN IN RED | Te Rangi, 4 Allison Street

See above listing for details

10am | FALUN DAFA MEDITATION | Free. Lotus Meditation, 137 Glasgow St. RSVP to WhanganuiLotus@gmail.com or Diana 022 123 6336

Learn about this spiritual meditation discipline that includes 5 exercises that look like *qi gong*, with teachings that revolve around 3 core principles of truth, compassion & forbearance.

6pm | MOSAIC LAMP CRAFTING BY THE AWA | \$45. The Cobb, 45 Anzac Parade. RSVP to Krystal events@squoosh.co.nz or 027 457 06812

A one-of-a-kind opportunity to craft your own mosaic lamp or candle holder. All crafting abilities welcome. **Includes a complimentary drink and delicious nibbles.**

Monday 10/02

6:45pm | RESTORING WOMEN'S VOICES FROM OUR PAST | \$3. Alexander Library, Pukenuamu Drive. Contact Teresa 027 295 1763 or whanganui@genealogy.org.nz

Women's voices are often silenced in historical records. Speakers will share some fascinating accounts of their female ancestors and how they managed to piece together their stories.

Tuesday 11/02

6:15-7am | YOGA BOOTCAMP | \$10 per class or sign up for whole month. Embark Yoga, 75 St Hill Street. Book with Emma 021 103 3394 or embarkyoga@gmail.com

Kickstart your morning in good company with a dynamic class where you can strengthen, move and lengthen. Your body and mind will thank you for it! **Every Tuesday & Thursday in the festival.**

10:30am | RESTORATIVE CONVERSATIONS | Free. Restorative City Whanganui, 1/208 Victoria Avenue. **Booking essential.** Ph [06] 3433645 or manager@rcwt.nz

Learn how to have restorative conversations to help you through blips in relationships at home, work and life. The aim is to give you tools to help repair harm and rebuild relationships.

10:30am-12pm | INSOMNIA - THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING | \$2. Venue given upon booking. RSVP to Margi 027 448 1581 or margikeys93@gmail.com

A safe and supportive conversation to offer handy tips without meds, **for women only.**

5:30pm | BIKE MAINTENANCE 4 WOMEN | Free. Velo Ronny's Bicycle Store, 49 Wilson St. Contact admin@veloronnys.co.nz

Join Cath from Velo Ronny's & the Green Bikes crew to learn practical skills for maintaining your ride + answers to your FAQs. **Also on 18 & 25 February.**

6pm | BOATING BASICS FOR WOMEN | \$75. Paddle Steamer Waimarie, Taupo Quay. **Booking essential,** RSVP to Jen manager@waimarie.co.nz

A safe & supportive evening to learn about boat terminology, safety, navigation, weather, boat prep & basic boat handling. The session comes with a **complimentary drink, goody bag + loads of fun!**

6pm | JOA'S WINE TASTING | \$40. The Burrow Cellars, Taupo Quay. **Booking essential.** Visit: www.joaswines.co.nz

Embark on a journey through the Loire Valley, one of France's most renowned wine regions. From crisp whites to refreshing rosés & honeyed Chenin Blancs, explore wines to delight the senses.

Wednesday 12/02

9-10:30am | MENOPAUSE MATTERS | \$10. Women's Network, 75 St Hill Street. RSVP to Laurika restorative.pantry@gmail.com

A hands-on, empowering workshop for women navigating peri and post-menopause. Learn about building an effective exercise routine & managing weight-gain through simple nutrition strategies.

Wednesday 12/02

12:30-1:30pm | GENTLE, STRETCH & RELAX | \$10 during the festival. Embark Yoga, 75 St Hill Street. RSVP to Emma 021 103 3394 or embarkyoga@gmail.com

5:45pm | BOXFIT | \$5. Her Fitness, 59 Ingestre St. Booking essential, RSVP to results@herfitness.co.nz or [06] 348 9121

Bring awareness to the body and your holding patterns. Unravel to sink into relaxation. **Every Wednesday.**

Enjoy a fun and energetic boxing circuit with great music and plenty of laughs. **Every Wednesday through to 26 February.**

Thursday 13/02

3 Day Experience | INTRO TO HUNTING | \$300. That Place, Kaiwhaiki. **Booking essential.** RSVP to Isabell info@wildchix.co.nz

6:15-7am | YOGA BOOTCAMP |

12-2pm | AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - WRITE FOR RIGHTS | Free. Gonville Library, 44 Abbot St. Contact kat@whanganuilibrary.com

1-4pm | HATCHING PLAYFUL FLOW | \$35 [ask about payment options]. Harrison St Hall. RSVP melindahatherly@gmail.com or 027 426 5575. **Also a session 6-9pm Tues 18 February**

6-8pm | DISC GOLF | Free. Bason Botanic Gardens, 552 Rapanui Rd. For info, contact **Darren 027 952 5374**

6:30-8:30pm | WATER IS LIFE | Free. Gonville Library, 44 Abbot St. Contact kat@whanganuilibrary.com

An immersive experience for women, introducing hunting and the skills needed, with a female facilitator. Learn what hunting is about, including a holistic understanding of how it fits with conservation and nature.

See listing for 11 February

Amnesty Whanganui is happy to offer this event with a focus on the rights of women. By mobilising our humanity we can create a world where everyone can enjoy basic human rights.

An opportunity to uncover your free-flow creative expression with gentle exploration over 3 hours of spontaneity & playfulness with movement, art, writing, dialogue & reflection.

Join in the regular disc golf sessions. Grab a gal pal or two, a female family member or partner and give it a go! **Every Thursday.**

Learn about one couple's mission to build a 1 million litre underground water reservoir in Samburu, Kenya, and how this positively impacts the lives of local girls and women

Friday 14/02

9-11am | HAVE A GO AT PICKLEBALL | \$10. Jubilee Stadium, Springvale Park. For more info, contact Julie hello@rivercitypickleballnz.com or 021 232 9029

1:30pm | CELEBRATING NZ WOMEN IN FILM | 'WHINA' PG, M, 2022 · Drama · 1h 52m. Koha. Josephite Retreat Centre, 14 Hillside Tce. Info marie.skidmore@sosj.org.au

6-9pm | NOT D&D LADIES' NIGHT | Free. Alexander Library, Pukenuamu Drive. **Booking essential**, RSVP to nicola@whanganuilibrary.com

Get some buddies together and enjoy this fun sport. It's easy to learn & very social! Gear provided, wear comfy clothes and shoes.

A biopic of the trailblazing Dame Whina Cooper, the beloved Māori matriarch who worked tirelessly to improve the rights of her people, especially women.

Join *Call of Cthulhu*, like D&D, only spookier! In this tabletop role-playing game, the party will play the role of a group of suffragettes travelling through rural England in 1909 who encounter a particularly spooksome scenario. All welcome.

Saturday 15/02

9-10am | THE ZONE - WĀHINE CLASSES | **See listing 8 Feb**

10am-1pm | SCHOOLED ON TOOLS | \$40. To enrol email admin@communityeducation.nz or visit the website www.communityeducation.nz

12-2pm | FLOWERS FOR PALESTINE | Gold coin. Awa Room, Community Arts Centre, 19 Taupo Quay. Contact Renata szarvas_renata@hotmail.com

Tutor Steve Rhodes will guide you through the essentials of power tool mastery. Learn safety, which tools to use for various DIY tasks, care & maintenance, with practical experience to gain real skills that you can use immediately.

This community-driven project invites you to stitch flowers on a large-scale tapestry in honour of the lives lost in the war on Gaza. No stitching skill needed, basic tutorial & materials provided.

Sunday 16/02

12-2pm | WEIGHTLIFTING | \$20. Primal HQ, TBC. Contact **Mollie 027 722 8824**

1pm | LUNCH AT BEE'S | \$40. Venue given upon booking. RSVP to Beverly 021 171 0544 or bstuarthurtado@gmail.com

2-4pm | UNBLOCKING YOUR SINK | \$10. Venue given upon booking. RSVP to margikeys93@gmail.com or 027 448 1581

Learn the very basics of Olympic weightlifting with international weightlifter Mollie King. No experience needed, all welcome. **Also sessions on 23 February & 2 March**

Enjoy an authentic slow, Peruvian Sunday lunch fresh from Bee's kitchen. A feast for the senses using secrets learnt while living in Peru from Bee's amazing mother-in-law.

Unblocking a sink is easy when you know how. Margi will show you in this practical and fun session.

Sunday 16/02

6-8pm | WRITING & JOURNALING WITH TAROT | \$20. Women's Network, 75 St Hill Street. [Booking essential](#). RSVP to airinibeautrais@gmail.com

Explore ways of using tarot to write intuitively & creatively. Suitable for all writing skills, BYO tarot deck.

Tuesday 18/02

6:15-7am | YOGA BOOTCAMP |

10-10:30am | STORY TIME | Free. Davis Library, Pukenu Drive. Contact jane@whanganuilibrary.com

1:30-2:30pm | GOOD READS | Free. Gonville Library, 44 Abbot St. Contact kat@whanganuilibrary.com

5:30pm | BIKE MAINTENANCE 4 WOMEN |

5:30pm | WOMEN WHO LEAD | Free. The Ammo Room, Barracks Sports Bar, 170 St Hill Street. Contact womnet.whanganui@gmail.com

6-9pm | HATCHING PLAYFUL FLOW | [See 13 February](#)

[See listing for 11 February](#)

Story and song for children aged 0-6. This special La Fiesta edition has a focus on female characters.

A special focus on chic lit, female authors & female lead characters, in celebration of the Fiesta. [BYO favourite reads to share!](#)

[See listing for 11 February](#)

Our 2025 monthly showcase launches with star guest Samantha Matthews. Samantha will chat about being part of the award-winning local Matthews Roses dynasty, her photographic career and Whanganui life, rural + urban.

Wednesday 19/02

10:30-11am | STORY TIME AT GONVILLE | Free. Gonville Library, 44 Abbot St. Info jane@whanganuilibrary.com

12:30-1:30pm | GENTLE, STRETCH & RELAX |

5:30-7pm | FESTIVAL EXHIBITION OPENING | Free. Space Studio & Gallery, 18 St Hill Street. [Viewing through to 8 March](#)

5:45pm | BOXFIT |

Story and song for children aged 0-6. This special La Fiesta edition has a focus on female characters.

[See listing for 12 February](#)

A group exhibition celebrating the 'Selfie' - a seemingly modern phenomenon rooted in art history & the ultimate form of self-expression.

[See listing for 12 February](#)

Thursday 20/02

6:15-7am | YOGA BOOTCAMP |

10am-12pm | TEA & TOPICS | Free. Gonville Library, 44 Abbot St. Contact kat@whanganuilibrary.com

6-8pm | DISC GOLF | [See listing for 13 February](#)

7:45pm | MOVIE PREMIERE 'TINĀ | \$25 [includes refreshments from 7:15pm]. Embassy 3 Cinema, 34 Victoria Ave. [Booking essential](#), [RSVP to \[steph.lewiswhanganui@gmail.com\]\(mailto:steph.lewiswhanganui@gmail.com\)](#) or call in with cash to Embassy 3 or the Women's Network for tickets

[See listing for 11 February](#)

Zenica Mann & Miriam King from Pride Whanganui will give you some tips and tricks for making spaces more inclusive.

Samoan music teacher Mareta (Anapela Polataivao) is plunged into grief after losing her daughter in the Christchurch quakes, until she takes on a relieving role at an elite private school, where inspiration is found in a choir. [Come dressed as your favourite singer! \[Tickets available mid-January\]](#)

Friday 21/02

12:15pm | LINDAUER'S WOMEN | Free. Whanganui Regional Museum, 4 Watt St. For more details, email info@wrm.org.nz

12:30-1:30pm | GONVILLE CIRCLE OF WISDOM | Free. Gonville Library, 44 Abbot St. Contact kat@whanganuilibrary.com

1:30pm | CELEBRATING NZ WOMEN IN FILM | 'CELIA', 2018 · Documentary · 1h 41m. Koha. Josephite Retreat Centre, 14 Hillside Tce. Info marie.skidmore@soj.org.au

An informative talk delivered by Lisa Reweti and Eruera Rerekura about the women in the museum collection painted by Gottfried Lindauer.

In celebration of the Fiesta, make some poppets/spirit dolls and chat about Worldwide Womencraft. [All materials supplied \[donations welcome\].](#)

Directed by award-winning current affairs journalist Amanda Millar, it celebrates the life of equality advocate Celia Lashlie. The first female prison officer in a male prison in New Zealand, Lashlie had a particular focus on empowering mothers and women.

Saturday 22/02

9-10am | THE ZONE - WĀHINE CLASSES |

[See listing for 8 February](#)

Saturday 22/02

9am-3:30pm & Sunday 10am-3:30pm | QUIRKY FELT HAT | \$185 [includes materials]. **RSVP by 3 February to jollyjaccrations@gmail.com**

9:30am registrations, 10am ride | FROCKS ON BIKES | Koha. Meet at Velo Ronny's Bicycle Store, 49 Wilson St.

10am-12pm | STITCH SUMMER | Free. Davis Library, Pukenu Drive. For more info, contact Ann donann101@gmail.com

10am-3pm & Sunday | INTRO TO OIL & COLD WAX | \$190 [core materials provided]. Space Studio & Gallery, 18 St Hill Street. **To book, email info@annalayzell.com**

5-8pm | WONDER BAR | \$20 [includes one complimentary drink voucher]. Space Studio & Gallery, 18 St Hill Street. **Tickets via: <https://spacestudiogallery.co.nz/events/>**

Create your own design and make a quirky felt hat in this 2-day hands-on workshop. Suitable for beginners.

Put on a fancy frock, suit or super hero costume & be guided on a fun ride with former Commonwealth Games & Olympic cyclist Cath Cheatley.

The local Embroiderers Guild celebrate this **national public stitching day** where they will be out and about with needles & thread. Join in, or simply stop for a look and a chat.

This 2-day workshop with artist Anna Layzell will explore the potential of Cold Wax to transform your painting or printmaking practice.

A boutique pop-up bar with tastings + **entertainment from 'That's Irish' band**. Featuring: Joa's Wines, Papaiti Gin, Good Bones Distilling & Roots Brewing Co. Food truck onsite too. A perfect way to celebrate the mid-point of the festival!

Sunday 23/02

12-2pm | WEIGHTLIFTING | \$20. Primal HQ, TBC. Contact **Mollie 027 722 8824**

Learn the very basics of Olympic weightlifting with international weightlifter Mollie King. No experience needed, all welcome. **Also session on 2 March.**

Tuesday 25/02

6:15-7am | YOGA BOOTCAMP |

See listing for 11 February

5-7pm | HAVE A GO AT GOLF | \$10. Castlecliff Golf Club, 8 Awatea St. Contact bazwoodcockl@gmail.com or 021 757 223. **Also a session 5 March at Tawhero Golf Club**

Enjoy a basic coaching session followed by a teams short course of Ambrose golf where everyone hits then play from the best spot. Followed by a cash bar and snacks.

5:30pm | BIKE MAINTENANCE 4 WOMEN |

See listing for 11 February

Wednesday 26/02

12:30-1:30pm | GENTLE, STRETCH & RELAX |

See listing for 12 February

5:45pm | BOXFIT |

See listing for 12 February

7-9pm | 4 LETTER WORD STORIES | \$10. Women's Network, 75 St Hill Street. **RSVP to margikeys93@gmail.com or 027 448 1581**

Learn how to write a 4-letter word story where every word has only four letters.

Thursday 27/02

6:15-7am | YOGA BOOTCAMP |

See listing for 11 February

10-11:30am | POSITIVE LIFESTYLE PROGRAMME | Free [light refreshments provided]. Salvation Army, 4 Indus St. Contact amethyst.meade@salvationarmy.org.nz

Learn about what's offered with the positive lifestyle programme and join in some self-reflection with **spot prizes and fun!**

10am-12pm | SCAM SAVVY | Free. Gonville Library, 44 Abbot St. Contact kat@whanganuilibrary.com

Learn how to recognise romance scams which especially target women, with tips to avoid falling for them.

5pm | PŪTANGITANGI | \$20. Whanganui Regional Museum, 4 Watt St. Booking essential info@wrm.org.nz

Pūtangitangi are a small mouth organ, originally referring to small seashells. Have a go at making one & decorating it & experience a demonstration of various taonga pūoro by Lisa Reweti.

6-8pm | DISC GOLF | **See listing for 13 February**

7-8pm | INDOOR SMALLBORE TARGET SHOOTING | \$15. Okoia Rifle Range, 719 No.3 Line. **RSVP to Graeme 020 4081 9670 or Linda 027 634 0007. Registration essential - also a session on 2 March**

Open to anyone aged 13 + regardless of ability or experience. All equipment provided & full safety briefing given. The great coaching team will ensure that your experience is safe and enjoyable. Try something new this year!

Friday 28/02

Friday-Sunday 2 March | CENTRAL DISTRICTS WOMEN'S T20 WEEKEND | Victoria Park. For more info, contact pete@cricketwhanganui.co.nz

Featuring the top women's teams from Wairarapa, Nelson, Marlborough, Manawatu, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki. A chance to check out top cricket talent.

Friday 28/02

1:30pm | CELEBRATING NZ WOMEN IN FILM | 'HOW FAR IS HEAVEN' M, 2012 · Documentary · 1h 39m. Koha. Josephite Retreat Centre, 14 Hillside Tce. Contact marie.skidmore@soj.org.au

5:30pm | SING-A-LING-ALONG | \$10 Adult or \$5 Sarjeant Supporter. Te Whare O Rehua, Sarjeant Gallery. RSVP to Lizzie lovesingingnz@gmail.com

Saturday 01/03

9-10am | THE ZONE - WĀHINE CLASSES |

9am-3:30pm & Sunday 10am-3:30pm | QUIRKY FELT BAG \$195 [includes materials]. RSVP by 10 February to jollyjaccrations@gmail.com

10am | PUTIPUTI WORKSHOP | Koha. 138 Gonville Ave. RSVP to Margot 027 605 5992 or margot@sportwhanganui.co.nz

10:30am-12pm | KIDS ART IN SPACE | \$25 [includes materials + morning tea]. Space Studio & Gallery, 18 St Hill Street. To book: sarah@spacestudiogallery.co.nz

10am-3pm & Sunday | POP-UP SHOP | Victoria Ave, venue TBC. Contact Paula 027 283 1113 or vincentmeats@gmail.com

12-2pm | FLOWERS FOR PALESTINE |

3:30pm | JOA'S WALKING WINE TOUR | \$30, includes some nibbles and a complimentary glass of bubbles at start. Meet at the Women's Network, 75 St Hill Street. Booking essential www.joaswines.co.nz
Purchase other drinks + food at venues on the tour

Sunday 02/03

10am-2pm | REIKI FOR CHILDREN | \$125. Glimmers Cafe, Coherence 4 Health, Suite 9 Wicksteed Tce. RSVP to Ruth 027 4839669 or ruth.stewart201@gmail.com
Booking essential

10:30am-2:30pm | CRAFTY ART FAIR | Free. Bason Botanic Gardens, 552 Rapanui Rd. For more info events@squooosh.co.nz

12-2pm | WEIGHTLIFTING |

2pm | CHINESE DUMPLINGS | \$40. To enrol email admin@communityeducation.nz or via the website www.communityeducation.nz

2-3pm | INDOOR SMALLBORE TARGET SHOOTING

5pm | CONCERT 'IN RETURN' | Adult \$30, Senior/Student \$15. Atrium, Whanganui Regional Museum, 4 Watt St. Tickets available for purchase at the museum. Contact info@wrm.org.nz

Monday 03/03

6pm | LINE DANCING | \$5. Women's Network, 75 St Hill Street. Contact Carla clangmead@slingshot.co.nz

Tuesday 04/03

6:15-7am | YOGA BOOTCAMP |

5-7pm | HAVE A GO AT GOLF | \$10. Tawhero Golf Club, 24 York St. Contact bazwoodcockl@gmail.com or 021 757 223

The Sisters of Compassion have lived in the remote village of Jerusalem/Hiruharama on the Whanganui River in New Zealand for 120 years. Over the course of a year, the film follows the journey of newest Sister, Margaret Mary, and the Sisters' engagement with the traditions of local Māori.

Can't sing? Too scared? No experience? Don't panic! Join others in this magical pop-up choir for a fun festival sing-along featuring classic songs & well-known popular numbers.

[See listing for 8 February](#)

Create your own design and make a quirky felt bag in this 2-day hands-on workshop. Suitable for beginners.

Learn to make a variety of putiputi [flowers] from fresh harakeke, as well as learning tikanga around working with harakeke & how to harvest sustainably.

A fun and colourful Mexican Fiesta-inspired art activity for kids aged 7-12 years.

The Fordell/Mangamahu branch of Rural Women will showcase a variety of interests & hobbies with raffles, items to purchase, and creative activities in-store.

[See listing for 15 February](#)

Grab your walking shoes and get ready to embark on a delightful journey of discovery, one glass at a time! Discover some hidden gems as you make your way from one tasting room to the next, learning about winemaking, various regions & terroirs, and the art of pairing wine with food. **3 hours of wine-geek chatting and fun!**

A child-friendly interactive workshop where parents can bring their child/ren to receive their own Reiki attunement. This fun session will include learning, practise, arts & crafts. **All participants will receive a certificate & workbook.**

Enjoy a fun outing filled with creativity, wonder, entertainment, food and crafting activities.

[See listing for 16 February](#)

Impress your friends with home-made Chinese dumplings in this hands-on workshop where you will perfect the art of dumpling-making.

[See listing for 27 February](#)

Accomplished composer **Brigid Ursula Bisley leads an ensemble of 17 talented performers** in a unique programme entirely of Brigid's original compositions. The premiere of *In Return* promises a rich variety of contemporary music with beautiful classical instruments.

Dust off your spurs, buckles, boots & tassels for a fun line-dancing session with great music and easy moves. Bring your buddies. All welcome!

[See listing for 11 February](#)

Enjoy a basic coaching session followed by a teams short course of Ambrose golf where everyone hits then play from the best spot. Followed by a cash bar and snacks.

Wednesday 05/03

10am-12pm | WHANGANUI LIBRARY WRITERS | Free. Alexander Library, Pukenu Drive. **RSVP to rachel@whanganuilibrary.com** or 027 211 4261. **Bookings essential**

10:30am-12pm | ARTS & CRAFTS FOR GROWN UPS | Free. Davis Library, Pukenu Drive. Contact iva@whanganuilibrary.com

12-1pm | LUNCHTIME POETRY | Free. Alexander Library, Pukenu Drive. For info, contact rachel@whanganuilibrary.com

12-2pm | REPAIR CAFE | Aunty's Community Cafe, 63 Ridgway St. Koha. Email whanganuirepaircafe@gmail.com

12:30-1:30pm | GENTLE, STRETCH & RELAX |

1:30pm | SOCIAL MEET-UP FOR WOMEN WHO LIVE ALONE The Barracks, 170 St Hill Street & **5:30pm at the Women's Network**, 75 St Hill Street. Contact womnet.whanganui@gmail.com

An open invitation to attend our regular writing group. Bring along writing to share, in any form or genre, or just come along to listen.

Join in a morning of creativity while also enjoying the company of fellow craft enthusiasts.

An open invitation to attend our regular poetry group. BYO lunch and a poem to share, or just come along to listen.

Soft tech only: machine stitching, darning, hand stitching. Clothes, bed linen, soft toys. BYO thread & fabric for patches. **2 items each person.**

See listing for 12 February

An opportunity for social connection and conversation with other women who live alone. **Purchase food & drink at the lunch meet-up at The Barracks or enjoy refreshments at the evening meet-up**, koha welcome.

Thursday 06/03

6:15-7am | YOGA BOOTCAMP |

6-8pm | DISC GOLF |

6:30pm | CHINESE HERB SACHET | Free. Gonville Library, 44 Abbot St. Contact kat@whanganuilibrary.com

See listing for 11 February

See listing for 13 February

Make your own artistic Chinese herb sachet for summer and learn about Chinese culture with some health tips.

Friday 07/03

12:15pm | OUTFIT OF THE MONTH | Free. Whanganui Regional Museum, 4 Watt St. Contact info@wrm.org.nz

1:30pm | NZ WOMEN IN FILM 'COUSINS' | 2021 · Drama · 1h 38m. Koha. Josephite Retreat Centre, 14 Hillside Tce. Contact marie.skidmore@sosj.org.au

3:30-4:30pm | BUTTERFLY ART | Free. Gonville Library, 44 Abbot St. Contact kat@whanganuilibrary.com

6:15pm | WOMEN'S SMASH CRICKET | Free. Victoria Park. Contact verity@cricketwhanganui.co.nz

A special International Women's Day edition of the popular monthly museum series celebrating the history of Whanganui fashion and textiles.

Connected by blood but separated by circumstances, three cousins spend a lifetime in search of each other. Based on the 1992 novel by Patricia Grace.

Create a lovely collage butterfly in honour of International Women's Day tomorrow. Suitable for all ages.

A fun, social cricket game with no fuss and no kit required. Come and give it a go! All skills, fitness levels and ages are welcome.

Saturday 08/03 – International Women's Day

9-10am | THE ZONE - WĀHINE CLASSES |

9am-2:30pm | MAKE A FELT HAT | \$145 [includes materials]. **RSVP by 17 February to jollyjaccrations@gmail.com**

11am | LIFE & TIMES AT THE LADIES' REST | Koha. Women's Network, 75 St Hill Street. Contact womnet.whanganui@gmail.com

7pm | CONCERT 'FROM OUR RIVER TO YOURS' | Adult \$20, Senior/Student \$10 + booking fee. Space Studio & Gallery, 18 St Hill Street. **Tickets via <https://spacestudiogallery.co.nz/events/>**

See listing for 8 February

Make a felt hat with merino wool sliver. Suitable for beginners.

Manager-in-residence & La Fiesta legend Carla D, will give a potted history of the Ladies' Rest over some morning tea in tribute to the importance of International Women's Day.

In celebration of International Women's Day, this special concert will feature **3 musical acts visiting from Wellington:** Laura Chester-Murphy, Araiya & Izzy, and Cathy Elizabeth to finish the Fiesta with a flourish. Come join us!

Details were correct at the time of compilation in December 2024. **SOME DETAILS MAY CHANGE.** For more info, get in touch with the contact person listed for each festival event. General enquiries can be sent to womnet.whanganui@gmail.com or visit the official festival website <https://lafiesta.co.nz/>

A word from our Festival Director

Carla Donson, MNZM
Manager: Women's Network Whanganui



THANK YOU! Without the support of our amazing community, this festival simply wouldn't come alive. Seventeen years ago I had this wild idea to start up a festival as a way of raising awareness about International Women's Day. Little did I know then how it would capture the imagination of so many people, not only locally, but also globally. La Fiesta is one of the most significant women's festivals in the world. That is something for Whanganui to celebrate. It really is NZ's Best Women's Fest.

Incredibly, here we are, about to celebrate **our sweet sixteenth version of La Fiesta**. And, it continues to grow which is a great source of pride to me and the team at the Women's Network. Each year the festival draws participation of up to 3500 people. We reckon that makes around 45,000 people in its first 15 years.

With around 100 activities and events to enjoy over a whole month, the festival also features around 55 event partners across the community at 30+ different venues. WOW!

There really is something for everyone, kids included. Whether it's a give-it-a-go sporting activity, live music or film, outdoor adventures, art and craft, something educational or simply social, I know you'll enjoy yourself, and maybe even make some new connections. **Workplaces even use the Fiesta as an opportunity for some team-building and after hours antics.** The festival is all about community, and I'm so glad to have YOU in our gigantic cheerleading team.

Here's to another month of exploration, celebration and fun. **Thanks to EVERYONE** who makes it all possible. Onward!

La Fiesta is a flagship initiative of the Women's Network. Operating in Whanganui from the iconic Ladies' Rest Building for almost 40 years, the Women's Network is all about making positive change for women and girls in our community. As a social service organisation, we have many partnerships across the community, as well as in-house support services & activities. **Follow us on Facebook + Instagram at Women's Network Whanganui & La Fiesta NZ on Facebook.** Email: womnet.whanganui@gmail.com



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