



TU NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026 / ISSUE: 2026-03

Kia ora koutou,

As we move into autumn, this month we're sharing updates that celebrate connection, progress, and the everyday wins made possible by our amazing community. From service highlights to upcoming opportunities and stories of impact, thank you for being part of the Thumbs Up journey and for continuing to support inclusion, independence, and wellbeing for all.

We will be joining the movement on Pink Shirt Day (Friday 15 May 2026), and encouraging everybody at Thumbs Up to Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu, Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora – Speak up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying! Pink Shirt Day works to reduce bullying by celebrating diversity in all its forms and supporting schools, workplaces and communities to be safe, supportive, welcoming and inclusive for everyone. It's time to start thinking about a pink shirt that you or your family member can wear to celebrate—let's see if we can get everyone wearing pink!



Nau mai haere mai e Cameron

We're delighted to welcome Cameron Jones as a new service user at Thumbs Up. We look forward to getting to know you and supporting you on your journey with us. A big warm welcome to the Thumbs Up community, Cameron!



Fundraising: Thumbs Up wouldn't be able to offer the amazing service that we do without fundraising and grants. We would love your support in helping us achieve our fundraising goals for this year. If you were not aware, Thumbs Up does have a [give a little page](https://givealittle.co.nz/org/thumbsup) where you can donate to us (every little bit helps)- givealittle.co.nz/org/thumbsup or **scan the QR code** to the left.



Please share this page with family/friends/work colleagues who may like to donate to a worthy cause. thank you to people who have recently donated! We are also going to be selling items on Trade Me, so if you know anybody who may have items to donate, please ask them to get in contact.

Creating Connection Through Drums



Drums are the musical instrument of choice during music sessions.



Creating Spaces for Friendship and Connection



IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026

Term 1 2026

12th January—1st May

Closed:

April 3rd - 6th: Easter; **April 27th:** Anzac Day Observed

Term 2 2026

11th May—28th August

May 15th—Pink shirt day

Closed: June 1st: King's Birthday;

Term 3 2026

7th September—17th December

Closed: Oct 26th: Labour Day **17th Dec:** Xmas Party and last day for service users; **23rd Dec:** Staff last day

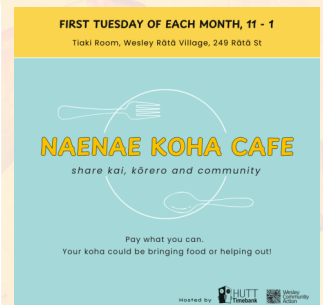
Turning Support into Smiles



With support from the Hutt City Council Creative Communities Scheme, we recently purchased a new speaker and microphone, which have already had a big impact and been enthusiastically embraced by our service users. We have also had a shade sail installed, made possible through a grant from NZ Community Trust. We are deeply grateful to our grant funders for helping create opportunities that support connection, participation, and enjoyment for our community.

TU ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- The wonderful donors who have been donating through our Give-a-little page.
- The ongoing support of our volunteers enables us to continue to deliver our diverse and wonderful programmes.
- Hutt Timebank and the Koha Cafés for their ongoing support in creating meaningful volunteer roles for our members within the community.



OUR NEXT ISSUE

WILL BE SENT OUT:

First week of May 2026

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