TU NEWSLETTER / PĀNUI o TU
OCTOBER 2026 / WHIRINGA-Ā-NUKU 2026
ISSUE: 2026-08

Kia ora koutou,

October brought lots of fun outings and activities here at TU. A month of Halloween excitement and dress up opportunities. Learning the wonders of science and taking part in the Adventure Group Scavenger Hunts. Along with welcoming new service members and staff. We also have 7 tickets to giveaway for the Elton John Experience – Sir El Tom on Monday, 9 November!

Here are a few highlights we'd like to share…







Halloween Disco at Laura Fergusson | Te Kanikani Halloween ki Laura Fergusson

We received an invitation to attend the Laura Fergusson Halloween Disco. After the excitement and enthusiasm of which costumes to wear, our service members that went along had a great time!

Dancing to the Monster Mash and Thriller, as well as making connections with others in the community.

Laura Fergusson went all out with the Halloween food and decorations!

Thanks so much for the ghoulish time Laura Fergusson – we had a blast!











Welcome Jaanvi and Ray! | Nau mai, haere mai ki a Jaanvi rāua ko Ray!



We have welcomed two new faces to the TU whānau this month!

Jaanvi Kumar has joined TU as a service member, and Ray Te Puni is a new TU Support Worker who will be supporting our service users five days a week.

Please say "Hello" to welcome them next time you see them! We are looking forward to sharing new experiences and making memories with you both!







Science – Making Ice-cream & Slime | Pūtaiao – Te Mahi Aihikirīmi me te Tāpia (Slime)

Our Science STEM Group have had a lot of fun learning about making all sorts of funky things and extending their knowledge with science-based experiments.

Two favourites this month were lessons on making ice-cream and slime – in two different sessions!













Taking Pride in Who We Are | Te Whai Mana i roto i a Tātou Anō

With the nicer weather we took the opportunity to give our TU vans a good clean. Great work by Bradley, Luke, Xavier and Ben. Excellent work team - Tino pai rawa atu, e te tīma!











TICKET GIVEAWAY:
Sir El Tom – Monday, 09 Nov 2026, 8:00pm @ St James Theatre



Sir El Tom is ***two hours of Elton John's songs***, every note played and sung live by six musicians, from Your Song and Rocket Man to I'm Still Standing. The show has played Carnegie Hall and London's West End, and behind it is a story of recovery: Tom Cridland, the man at the piano, taught himself to play in lockdown at 30 to get sober, and three years later he was on stage at Carnegie Hall.

Thumbs Up have ***7 x free tickets*** to giveaway.
Contact: manager@thumbsuptrust.org.nz

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026/27

Term 3 2026: 7th Sept—17th Dec

1st Nov: Mitre 10 Petone, Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

17th Nov: Annual General Meeting,
7:30pm @ TU Community Hall – Doors open at 7:15pm

17th Dec : Christmas Party & Last day for Service Users

23rd Dec: Last day for Staff

Closed for Christmas/New Year Holidays:

24th Dec 2026— 11 Jan 2027

Term 1 2027: 11th Jan— 30 Apr

6th Jan: First day for Staff Only

11th Jan: First day of Term for Service Users

Closed: 25th Jan: Wellington Anniversary Day

Closed: 8th Feb: Waitangi Day observed Monday

Closed: 26th & 29th Mar: Good Friday & Easter Monday

Closed: 26th Apr: ANZAC Day observed Monday

30th Apr: Last day of Term

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TU ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe

To all the ***wonderful give-a-little page donors***. Your generosity continues to create new opportunities!

To ***Hutt Timebank*** and the ***Koha Cafés*** for their ongoing support in creating meaningful volunteer roles for our members within the community. Giving them purpose and fostering connections.

To all ***our fantastic Volunteers*** for offering their time and talents to deliver our diverse and wonderful TU tailored programmes. We appreciate your ongoing support and being a part of our TU community!

Annual General Meeting | Pānui Hui-ā-Tau:

On ***Tuesday, 17th November 2026*** we will be holding our AGM from ***7:30pm until 8:30pm*** followed by a light supper at the TU Community Hall. Doors open at 7:15pm.

There have been some enquiries asking if the meeting will be live streamed, which we are currently looking into.

Can all Trust Members please contact trustees@thumbsuptrust.org.nz to confirm your attendance or send your apologies. We look forward to seeing everyone to recap this past year.



Thumbs Up
Supporting people with disabilities

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NEXT ISSUE TO BE SENT OUT: First week of December 2026