



Eltham Newsletter

October 2024

Eltham Business & Professional Association

For news, general feedback, advertising, and
digital subscription, please contact us at
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Eltham's Christmas Spectacle – Parade & Festivities on December 6th

Join us for a fun-filled evening of Christmas cheer at the Eltham Christmas Parade! Organised by the Lions Club, this year's parade, with the theme "Christmas," will take place on Friday, December 6th, starting at 6:30 pm. There's plenty of excitement in store, with activities kicking off even earlier in the day.



This photo is from last year's Eltham Christmas Parade.
Photo credit: Alyssa Smith.

BBQ: The BBQ will fire up from 5 pm outside the old TSB building, so come hungry and enjoy some tasty food before the parade kicks off!

Market Stalls: The market will run from 5 pm to 9 pm, offering two options: a 3x3 meter marquee space or a

standard 240cm x 76cm trestle table or smaller, on the paved area at Bridger Park (116 Bridge Street). Stallholders are encouraged to decorate their space to match the theme "Christmas". Spaces are limited, so make sure to book early! The stall fee is \$10, and all proceeds go to support the Eltham community. To avoid duplication, please specify what goods you'll be selling, with a preference for locally produced items. Note that no electricity is provided, and stallholders are responsible for their own setup and cleanup. For bookings or more information, contact the Eltham Lions at elthamlionsnz@gmail.com.

Float Judging: Get your creativity flowing! Judging of the floats will begin at 5:30 pm, so make sure to arrive early and show off your Christmas spirit. If you're entering a float, please email Brenda Stanners at binkandbrink@gmail.com to register.

The Parade: The parade itself will kick off at 6:30 pm from the Town Hall, led by the Pipe Band, who are all set and confirmed to add a festive touch. The parade will make its way down Bridge Street, through the main road, and around the park, completing two laps. Face painters will be on-site to add some extra magic to the night, with two confirmed for the event!

Live Music: In addition to the parade, we're inviting local bands and buskers to bring the festive atmosphere to life with music. It's a great opportunity to showcase your talents and spread the holiday joy!

This is a fantastic event for the whole community, so bring your family, friends, and holiday spirit! Let's make this year's Eltham Christmas Parade an evening to remember.



Eltham Dental Centre Transitions to New Ownership as Wendy Pitman Retires

After more than 40 years of service, Wendy Pitman, the much-loved owner of Eltham Dental Centre, has announced her retirement. Wendy has been a familiar face to many in Eltham and the surrounding areas, providing dental care for 41 years and leading the dental centre for the last 11 years.

The decision to retire comes following a challenging period for Wendy and her family. Over the past 18 months, she has undergone back surgery and treatment for breast cancer, while also caring for her husband Graeme, who is living with dementia. Wendy has expressed her desire to spend more time with her family, including her children and grandchildren.



Wendy Pitman. Photo credit: Lisa Burd

The Eltham Dental Centre, however, will not be closing its doors. Wendy has confirmed that the practice will continue to serve the community under new ownership. In early November, she will officially hand over to Dr. Jivarne Joseph, who will be relocating to Eltham from Levin with his family. Dr. Joseph, along with his wife and four young children, is set to take over the practice and continue providing dental care to the community from mid-November.

Wendy has expressed her gratitude for the community's support over the years and asks for understanding during the transition period. Further details will be shared in local newspapers closer to Dr. Joseph's arrival.

Eltham residents can rest assured that dental services will continue as normal, with no interruption to care. Wendy's retirement marks the end of an era for the dental centre, and the community extends its thanks for her many years of dedication.

Eltham's Own Bernadette Ballantyne Wins Supreme Award at National Art Competition

Eltham-born artist Bernadette Ballantyne has achieved remarkable success, winning the Supreme Award at the Tasman National Art Awards for her stunning soft pastel self-portrait, "Resting Mum Face." The judges praised her work for its technical mastery and emotional depth, highlighting its intimate portrayal of the realities of motherhood.

Bernadette grew up in a creative family in Eltham. After earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts in the early 2000s, she explored various creative paths while also dedicating over a decade to teaching in Whitianga, London and Cambridge. In 2019, the birth of her first child prompted Bernadette to reflect on her priorities. She realised her passion for art and the desire to spend more time with her family outweighed her teaching career. By October 2022, she made the leap, resigning from her part-time teaching role to pursue her art full-time.



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The past two years have been transformative for Bernadette. Focusing solely on her art business has been a fulfilling journey, allowing her to channel her creativity into commissioned portraits of pets, people, and even objects like cars and florals.

Now based in Waikato, Bernadette's roots remain in Eltham, and her hometown community couldn't be prouder of her accomplishments. Her story is an inspiring reminder that it's never too late to follow your passion and take bold steps toward a dream.

Right - Resting Mum Face - self portrait



Discover the Hidden Gems of Eltham: More Than Just Shopfronts

Eltham is full of amazing businesses, many of which you probably pass by every day. With two new laundromats recently opening, Crazy Pumpkin selling fresh veggies and fruits, while our beloved bakeries keep us stocked with delicious treats. You'll also find plenty of second-hand, art, and vintage shops that add character to our town.

But beyond these well-known storefronts, there's so much more happening in Eltham's business scene. For example, Gleeful Goats makes natural goat milk soaps and body butters, using milk from their own herd of goats. Then there's The Little Insect Farm, which focuses on helping people live more sustainably. They grow a variety of plants and offer garden tours and workshops for anyone



interested in learning more about gardening techniques and eco-friendly living.

Photo credit: The Little Insect Farm

Eltham Honey has been producing their rich blend of Clover, Bush Blend, and Mānuka Honey for over 50 years. They also give back to the community through school fundraising, bee presentations for kids, and promoting healthy bee populations in the environment.

Te Kahuri Nurseries offer a diverse selection of native, fruiting, deciduous, hedge, shelter, and ornamental plants. Their passion for plants, coupled with a focus on sustainability, ensures a high-quality experience for all gardening enthusiasts.

Eltham is also home to many clubs and activities for all ages. Whether you're into sports like athletics, football, netball, golf, or squash, or if you prefer hobbies like knitting or the pony club, there's something for everyone. If dancing is more your thing, Vivid Rhythm Dance School offers classes in Ballet, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Contemporary, and more.

There's more to Eltham than meets the eye, and it's worth exploring all that our town has to offer.

"The Potters" Exhibition at Eltham Gallery

The Potters exhibition returns to the Eltham Gallery from October 22 to November 16. Featuring the works of Margaret Foley and Donna Hitchcock, this exhibition has become a tradition, coinciding with the Garden Fringe Festival.

For over a decade, the talented duo has delighted the community with garden-inspired pottery, including sculptures and wall planters.

Visitors can explore their work during the 10 days of the Garden Fringe Festival and during the gallery's normal hours throughout the rest of the exhibition.



Pottery Mask by Donna Hitchcock



Fish and Plaques by Margaret Foley

Exciting Family Day Event: Trolley Racing on 27 Oct

Get ready for a thrilling day of fun as the annual Trolley Racing event kicks off on Sunday, 27 October! The action starts at 10 a.m. on Dalziell Road, Eltham, with food available from 11 a.m. Families can enjoy the excitement as participants race downhill as many times as possible, with the event wrapping up between 2 and 3 p.m.

The event promises high-speed excitement, with the fastest recorded time for King of the Mountain reaching an impressive 89 km/h.

Come along for a fantastic family day out filled with excitement, competition, and community spirit!

Ranfurly Shield at Corrie Hotel Sunday, 10th Nov.

Date: Sunday, 10th November

Time: 1pm

Venue: Corrie Hotel

Get ready, Eltham! The Ranfurly Shield is coming to town! Head down to the Corrie Hotel to show your support for the Taranaki Bulls and celebrate their incredible victory.

Bring the kids, your grandmother, or anyone who would love to hold the Shield, meet some players, and snap a photo with the iconic Log of Wood. Kids are welcome, but they must be supervised.