

The Angus is back! An iconic New Zealand hotel returns

The Angus Hotel is being relaunched, and will be, once again, an iconic landmark in Lower Hutt and the Wellington region.

The Angus, as it is fondly referred to, dates back over forty years when it was built by local construction company W.M Angus. Over the years it has been involved in many local milestone celebrations and events, building up a considerable and loyal following for acclaimed hospitality, based on great service, staff and experience.

This once thriving, popular establishment had sadly suffered after several challenges including the pandemic and the future was looking bleak for this much loved hospitality business. Fast forward to 2026 and the future is bright with the venue ready to take its place back in the limelight providing comfortable accommodation, a great restaurant, bars and multi use event spaces.

New owners working with the new management team of Carnmore Hotel Collection are breathing fresh life into The Angus, while retaining the character and charm of a previous era. As part of their commitment to developing hotel properties in key communities around New Zealand, Carnmore saw an opportunity to invigorate the property and give The Angus a chance to shine once more for its guests and the local community. Speaking of the development, Andrew French, a Director of Carnmore said "We knew this was a unique hotel that held a special place in the hearts and minds of Lower Hutt and beyond. We are delighted to build on that, with the support of a strong team that has seen the challenges over the years, who are committed to continuing the tradition of excellence, service and care. This completely aligns with our values at Carnmore of providing Comfort, Care and Connections."

Carnmore Management had been operating as a highly successful bespoke hotel management company for some years, prior to its relaunch with Carnmore as the customer facing brand, in 2020. Carnmore is a partnership of three professional, seasoned hoteliers having a combined experience of over one hundred years in the management of hotels both in New Zealand and internationally. This partnership enhances the overall skills available which greatly benefits owners and those seeking professional expertise in realising the full value of their hotel or apartment complex. The Carnmore Hotel Lower Hutt (known as The Angus Hotel) will be the fifth hotel to be branded Carnmore, as part of the Carnmore Hotel Collection.

This multi million dollar project is already underway including the renovation of hotel rooms and event spaces, which will launch in stages throughout 2026. Several original features have been retained to keep the character of the building. This refurbishment is being undertaken by highly experienced and award winning local Lower Hutt company Duncan Commercial Construction, supported by a number of other providers. Once the hotel refurbishment has been completed, guests can expect to see 75 modernised hotel rooms, with all the amenities of a four star hotel. While the establishment still retains the charm, warmth, character and heritage it's so well known for, it will come to life again as Carnmore Hotel Lower Hutt.

Media Release for immediate release

2nd March 2026

“The Angus is one of those places everyone in the Hutt knows. A lot of us have memories tied to this building, so being trusted to help bring it back to life is pretty special. We’ve been very mindful of what it’s meant to people over the years, while also being excited about what it’s becoming. It’s great to be part of something that respects the past but is clearly focused on the future of the community.”

Scott Duncan, Managing Director - Duncan Commercial Construction.

The venue is soon to finish the renovations of the four function and meeting spaces relaunching as Events at The Angus. Next door to the function rooms is the substantial restaurant and bar which will also see some changes, relaunching as a new local favourite, The Angus Restaurant & Bar, to be loved and appreciated by many. Aiming to be the place to come for a get together, romantic meal or family gathering with great food, excellent service and a warm greeting for all. The additional bar in this location is also being completely reimagined to become new friendly local bar - The Hutt! A place to gather, enjoy and create memories - with good times on tap.

The Angus currently employs 35 people, many of whom have been valuable, long standing team members. Carnmore is building on this strong foundation of the existing team by recruiting a new head chef, front of house and other key personnel. The newest additions join a proud team helping to secure the future of this asset for the Lower Hutt community, New Zealand and ensure it is enjoyed by many, for years to come.

Patrick McKibbin, Chief Executive of Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce commented "We are so excited to see this once much loved venue and heart of our area, being given new life. It is a major part of hosting people, events and supporting business activity, as well as a home for personal celebrations in our area and we completely support it and the success it deserves. We must give credit and thanks to the new owners, investors, management team and all the local businesses who have done the work, who are making this possible for all to enjoy. The Angus is back! "

An invitation to media

We would welcome the opportunity for you to come and visit us to see for yourself that The Angus is back with a new and fresh perspective! Please contact our Group Marketing Manager to arrange a visit, to see what we’re working on and enjoy some legendary Angus hospitality.

For further information, please contact:

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