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Mahurangi matters

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Greg Sayers at one of the long parking bays on a residential street in Omaha, just minutes from the beach. Residents fear the bays will fill up with freedom campers who will stay forever.

What's inside

Radiation scare page 3

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Omaha challenges freedom camping bylaw

A legal challenge mounted by the Omaha Beach Community (OBC) residents and ratepayers group has successfully stalled moves to introduce a controversial new freedom camping bylaw.

The bylaw was due to be voted on by Auckland Council's Governing Body last week, but the vote was deferred after Mayor Phil Goff advised councillors in an email that the freedom camping bylaw process needed to be paused while "legal implications are considered".

Mr Goff told councillors that Council had received a letter from lawyers representing Omaha residents that challenged the way the freedom camping bylaw had been consulted on and "raised specific issues around reserves in that area".

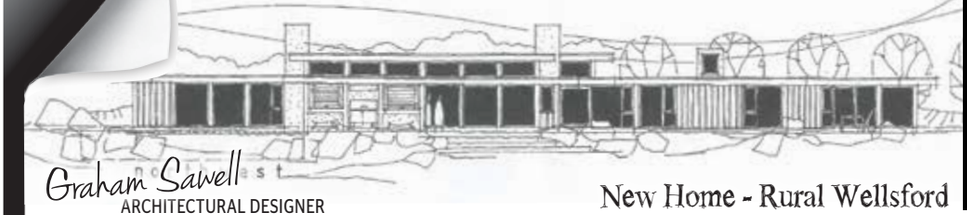
OBC president Chris Allan says the letter was sent after lawyers Bob Hollyman QC and Brian Latimour advised OBC that Council's proposed bylaw and consultation process was unlawful.

Mr Allan says a major concern of OBC is that Council consultation material failed to highlight the effect the proposed bylaw would have on Omaha roadsides, berms and parking bays.

He says under the proposed bylaw these areas would be "open slather".

continued page 2

off the drawing board . . .



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Omaha challenges freedom camping bylaw

from page 1

"In the summer months, people could just come and park there and stay forever," he says.

And he says while the proposed bylaw would limit freedom camping in local reserves to self-contained vehicles within limited time frames, Council has neither the will nor the resources to enforce the restrictions.

"We struggle to get bylaws enforced up here on the best of days," he says.

Meanwhile, Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers is hailing the deferment on the bylaw decision as a "huge win for Auckland's democracy".

"I believed Auckland Council had predetermined the outcomes it wanted and public feedback was being ignored. That is wrong and I decided to stand up and call the Mayor out on it," he says.

Cr Sayers twice wrote to the Mayor, arguing that the proposed bylaw needed to be modified to exclude freedom camping from within currently protected reserves and from allowing unlimited freedom camping on residential streets.

But he says the Mayor rejected these concerns, prompting Cr Sayers to enlist the support of 11 fellow councillors to defeat the bylaw should it have reached a vote last week.

Chair of Council's bylaws hearings panel Cr Linda Cooper says the panel will delay reporting to the Governing Body in light of potential legal action over the bylaw.

The panel will seek further advice before making its recommendations.

Public consultation on the proposed Freedom Camping bylaw ran from December 3 to February 18. Public deliberations were held on April 4, May 29 and May 31.

Whangateau residents battle to reduce speeds

Police have increased patrols and allocated a speed camera van to Whangateau, following an outpouring of community concern about motorists speeding through the settlement.

Police have completed a mapping exercise for the van, which has identified suitable sites for it to be located in both Whangateau and Leigh. It is expected to be in the area regularly from this month.

Meanwhile, Auckland Transport has confirmed it will install five road markings between Tramcar Bay through to the end of the Whangateau settlement to warn motorists to slow down. The markings will consist of the word "slow" written in large letters on a red background.

The Whangateau Residents & Ratepayers Association is also working with Auckland Council to erect a community sign that will alert motorists to keep their speed down.

Association secretary Leesa Irving says pupils at Matakana and Leigh primary schools will be invited to suggest wording for the sign to make it something unique for the village. It will likely be located at the western entrance to Whangateau, near Ashton Road.

The anti-speeding measures follow a community meeting in March at the Whangateau Hall. About 50 residents turned up to voice their concerns about people speeding through the village and risking serious accidents.

The most popular solutions proposed to combat the problem were increased use of speed cameras and a greater police presence.

Ms Irving is hopeful that an electronic sign that indicates the speed motorists are travelling can also be installed on Leigh Road and that the speed on the road can be reduced to 80km/h for the entire length of the road. Moves are afoot to advance both initiatives.

Ms Irving says community concerns over speeding reflect the fact that locals are often called upon to rescue motorists who have ploughed into ditches or "come a cropper" in other ways due to excessive speed.

She adds that Whangateau has a caravan park, a dementia care facility, a sports ground and an events centre. People using these facilities are regularly crossing the road and are at risk of being struck by speeding motorists, she says.

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5G radiation concerns spark petition in Mangawhai

A petition started by Mangawhai architectural drafter Lis Martinac to stop the roll out of fifth generation (5G) cellular phone technology in Mangawhai gained 200 signatures in two days and has now reached over 500.

The petition states: "5G will massively increase the microwave radiation in our environment. It will also use new frequencies that are not evaluated by independent experts".

Exactly how 5G infrastructure will be implemented is still a subject of speculation. However, the term is broadly used to refer to cell phone transmission that makes use of a higher frequency or shorter wave length.

Because the wavelength is shorter, it is unable to travel long distances or easily pass through obstructions, which means that telecommunication companies will need significantly more cell towers and signal boosters to create a workable network.

"5G will theoretically pump out the same amount of radiation as a microwave, but a microwave is only on as long as it takes to cook the custard, whereas this will be blanket radiation all the time," Lis says.

Lis has acquired a supporting statement from Dr Robin Kelly, a GP based on Auckland's North Shore.

"From the expanding peer-reviewed literature, it is clear to me that living tissue can be affected adversely by these frequencies," he says

"The roll out of 5G should be postponed until high quality independent health safety testing is carried out. All governments should act now, as public safety must be their priority."

Lis came across the 5G issue on Facebook and took on the cause after learning that the new 2degrees cell tower above the Mangawhai Village Four Square at 42 Moir Street is 5G capable.

"As a mother, my concern for my kids is what most inspired me. If there is a 5G hotspot outside a school, then it is permanently projecting radiation into their developing brains."

Lis Martinac is the driving force behind the Stop 5G in Mangawhai campaign.

Lis says she has been amazed by the support the community, including from 20 local volunteers who are assisting her to deliver an information leaflet to 2000 households across the Kaipara District.

Once the Stop 5G in Mangawhai petition reaches 1000 signatures, Lis is going to present it to the Kaipara District Council.

"I have a lot of faith in our local council and see it as the voice of our community. I hope they will assist to take a step further to powers higher up."

Kaipara District Council says it will gladly receive the petition if it is presented, but does not currently have a view on the potential roll out of 5G, which is still in its infancy in New Zealand.

As long as a cell tower fits within the parameters of Council District Plan guidelines, telecommunication companies do not have to apply for consent to erect a tower on private land, says council spokesperson Ben Hope.

This means that the installation of 5G capable cell towers do not require public consultation, relying only on an agreement between a company and a private landowner.

2degrees chief of corporate affairs Matthew Bolland says the cell site in Mangawhai Village is only '5G capable' in the sense that all towers can be retrofitted with equipment for the 5G radio spectrum.

"2degrees has no current plans to introduce 5G to the Mangawhai area, and the radio spectrum required to deliver 5G services will not be made available by the government until November 2020," he says.

"When 5G is introduced, operators will likely focus first on areas with larger populations where demand is testing capacity, so we expect Mangawhai will be served by 4G technology for many years to come."

He says cell sites must meet Ministry of Health safety standards and the cumulative radiation from 2degrees sites will continue to be well within those standards.

According to the Ministry of Health website, at least initially 5G will use frequencies similar to those already used.

"The existing New Zealand exposure standard covers all cell site frequencies, and research published since the standard was adopted still supports the limits set," it says.

"Measurements at test sites also suggest that exposures from 5G transmitters will be similar to those from the current technologies."

The Ministry's standard for human exposure to radio frequency radiation is 'less than 0.08 watts per kilogram', which is 50 times lower than the established threshold for known effects, it says.

Although there is disagreement within the scientific community, the World Health Organisation's review of research into radio frequency radiation concludes that exposures which comply with current limits do not cause adverse health effects.

Furthermore, no mechanism has been established through which non-ionizing radiation, such as cell tower radio waves, could cause effects on humans such as tissue damage.

Mangawhai's Lis Martinac says while she does still own a mobile phone and uses WiFi, she is intending to downgrade to a 'dumb phone' and switch to cable internet.

"I have joked with my friends that I should be wearing a tin foil hat, but I don't think it would help my cause," she says.

"One fact no one can deny is that long term exposure to 5G frequencies has never been tested on humans."

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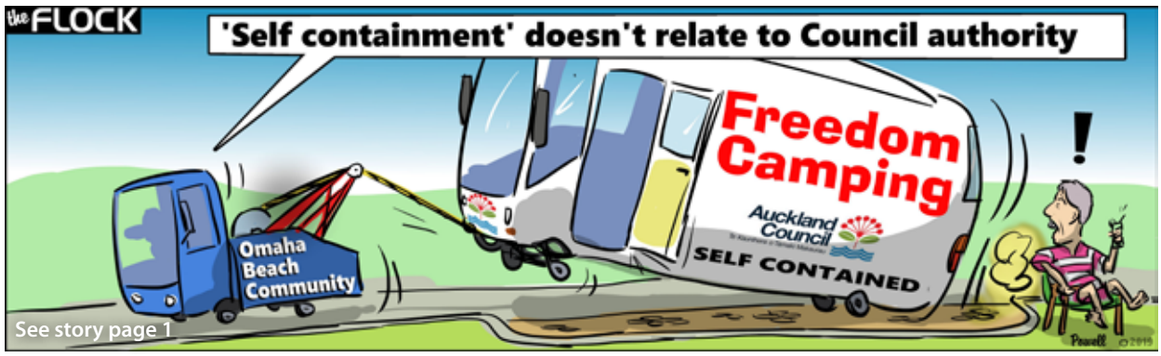

See story page 1

YOU SAY

We welcome your feedback but letters under 300 words are preferred. We reserve the right to abridge them as necessary. Unabridged versions can be read at localmatters.co.nz/opinion. Letters can be sent to editor@localmatters.co.nz or PO Box 701, Warkworth

The Rehms regret the loss of the iconic barn at Puhoi Pioneer Memorial Park, which formed part of a stunning view.

Barn bother

Regarding "Council adopts zero-waste demolition strategy" and the removal of a barn at Puhoi Pioneer Memorial Park (*MM May 22*). What plans does Council have for screening the two containers previously hidden by the barn or are they also to be removed? Our guess is that the containers were allowed by Council so long as they were screened from view behind the barn, which is now no longer there. We are new to the district but have enjoyed the view, including the iconic barn – a little piece of Puhoi history now destroyed. Your article regarding removal of the barn suggested that the Council would be having it demolished in a manner that the timber etc. from it could be recycled for later use. The wall cladding on the two ends and exposed (to view) side was removed (for reuse?) and the structure pushed over and crushed, loaded on to a truck and removed. It is a real shame to see the barn removed but as it has now gone the least the Council can do is take steps to have the containers removed or suitable planting undertaken to screen them.

John & Karen Rehm, Puhoi

Mahurangi Matters sought a response from Council on this but had not received one by the time the paper went to press – Ed

i-SITE blues

I have read with interest the move by Matakana Coast Tourism (MCT) to withdraw support for the former Warkworth i-SITE information centre. In the opinion of many, it was only a matter of time before they realised that they could no longer manage and run a tourism facility of this standing. The centre was established back in 1983 and was run, in the main, by a group of dedicated and trained volunteers over all those years, many of whom gained tourism levels of skill and competence. MCT took many of the concepts (e.g. Puhoi to Pakiri) that had been devised and promoted by the Kowhai Coast Tourism group. I therefore feel huge disappointment that, after all the efforts of previous staff, management and advisory committee members, MCT has now withdrawn and as a direct result of their mis-management, the centre has now lost its national status as an official i-SITE information centre. I wish One Warkworth and their team every success in re-establishing a facility that Warkworth can be proud of.

Dave Parker, Warkworth

OFF THE RECORD

Off the record contributions welcome. Email to editor@localmatters.co.nz

This sign from a pub in Auckland caught the attention of a Warkworth resident who posted it in the District Traffic Facebook page.

Kind donation

On behalf of Seasons for Growth, we would like to thank the Mahu Community Trading Post in Warkworth for their donation made recently for our work with children, young people and adults, who have suffered significant loss through death, divorce and separation, or any other loss that impacts significantly on their ability to live life well. Programmes are available through local schools or after school for children and young people and at a mutually agreed time for adults. The programme is nine weeks long of about an hour duration and focuses around the seasons of the year in a gentle, enabling, creative manner that enables participants to grow through grief. For further information, email *seasonswarkworthwellsford@gmail.com*

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Viewpoint

Marja Lubeck, Rodney-based MP
marja.lubeck@parliament.govt.nz

Taking mental health seriously

For every person who takes their own life, a whole community is shattered. For too long, we've tackled mental health or addiction only when it becomes a crisis. As a society, we've left too many of our people on their own, coping with mental distress or struggling with drugs and alcohol. No matter where we live in New Zealand, we all know someone affected by mental health issues, suicide or addiction. As our prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, said in her Wellbeing Budget speech: "There's no degree of separation when it comes to these issues."

Often this pain reverberates the furthest in our rural communities. People in Rodney are self-sufficient and resilient, but we've long known that rural mental health deserves much greater attention and support. That's why this month you saw the Government make the largest ever investment in mental health. New Zealanders have demanded action on mental health and this government has delivered it.

"People in Rodney are self-sufficient and resilient, but we've long known that rural mental health deserves much greater attention and support."

Right now, if you're struggling, the support you get varies depending on where you live. We believe that no matter where you are, help should be on hand. That's why we're rolling out free mental health, addiction and wellbeing support in every community over the next five years. A part of this is funding for digital and tele-health services – which will make a real difference in rural communities. This is about making support immediately available with an internet or phone connection, no matter how isolated you are.

We understand that while taking mental health seriously is an important step, wellbeing is about more than just access to services. For communities like Warkworth or Wellsford to thrive, we need sustainable industry and jobs for our young people. Under Labour, unemployment is down to its second lowest level in a decade and wages are rising across New Zealand. We're bringing jobs back to the regions through investment in industry, as well as through programmes that help young people who are not in education, training or employment, get into work.

Agriculture plays a big part in New Zealand's wellbeing – when rural communities thrive, New Zealand thrives. This Government is supporting the sector with a $122 million investment over four years to support the on-farm changes required to use land more sustainably while growing productivity. This is part of our $229 million sustainable land use Budget package. This is on top of the work we've undertaken to eradicate M. bovis – including fixing National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT). We're also supporting farmers cleaning up our rivers and waterways, investing in R&D, and we've introduced the Rural Proofing Policy, which makes sure every Government department puts rural affairs at the heart of decision making. This Government is thinking long-term. We're looking beyond the three-year electoral cycle and investing in fixing the long-term challenges for our communities.

I will be out and about in the electorate over the next few weeks and you can catch me at my regular walk-in clinic at the Warkworth Markets or at my office, which is now open in Albany.

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I am pleased to announce we have partnered with the fantastic local organisation Springboard and through them we have three keen apprentices joining the Pūhoi to Warkworth project. We welcome Kaelib Newey to our Structures Team, and Brady Coleman and Galwynn Anderson to our Civils Team in the Central Zone.

Springboard provides support and opportunities to local youth and young adults, helping them create positive futures they may not have otherwise had the opportunity to achieve.

Over the next couple of months our young apprentices will be shadowing and learning from their project mentors to get a feel for the construction environment. The apprentices will then have the opportunity to enter a more comprehensive construction apprenticeship with the project.

It's an exciting opportunity for our apprentices and I'm looking forward to seeing Kaelib, Brady and Galwynn develop their career opportunities knowing they're well supported by both Springboard and our project team.

To find out more about Springboard head to their website https://www.springboard.org.nz/

From left to right Brady Coleman, Kaelib Newey, Robert Jones, Galwyn Anderson.

For more information, call the NX2 team on:
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Rahui formally placed on proposed Dome Valley landfill site

A crowd lit by burning braziers gathered at dawn as Ngati Rongo's Richard Nahi and Ngati Manuhiri's Herby Skipper and Mikaera Miru placed an aukati rahui (political rahui) on Waste Management's proposed Dome Valley landfill site.

As part of the ceremony which took place on Spindler Road in Wellsford, each member of the crowd placed their hands on two stones taken from the west and east coast, which were then placed in the Hoteo River.

In a stirring speech, Mikaera Miru, who is of Ngati Manuhiri descent, responded to media reports of Ngati Manuhiri Settlement Trust chairman Mook Hohneck saying that the group of landfill opponents did not have the mana to place the rahui.

He referred to the fact that a group of 280 community members, including representatives from Ngati Whatua, met in Wellsford on June 9 and unanimously voted in favour of placing a rahui on the proposed landfill site.

"What we put on the table was to place an aukati rahu and everyone gave that the tautoko (support). If Ngati Manuhiri or Mook Hohneck wasn't present, then who is it they are talking to?" Mikaera said.

Mikaera Miru, Herby Skipper and Michelle Carmichael at the rahui on June 15.

He said he had major concerns about Maori statutory boards, which have been established by treaty settlements, not representing the will of the people they are purported to represent.

"We are here, and we are going to proceed to put this karakea over the land to protect it. How many things do you have to show on TV like the Fox River or Hampton Downs to show that landfills are environmental disasters?

"We have a legitimate reason to be here and have gone through a tikanga process of customary Maori law. Maybe Mook Hohneck needs to get his book out and start studying what tikanga Maori is all about."

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Ruth

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Environment

Christine Rose

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Ethical dilemmas

When I was first studying environmental ethics and environmental law in the early 1990s, it was all about sustainability. Sustainability and sustainable development and management, though we thought they were oxymorons even back then. How can you have sustainable development, like sustained growth, on a finite planet?

Nevertheless, sustainable development focuses on 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs'. It became internationally socialised through the Agenda 21 principles signed at the first Earth Conference in Rio in 1991. In New Zealand, it led to the adoption of sustainable management enshrined in the Resource Management Act.

> ***"Growth simply can't be sustained forever, so the model of capitalist development dominating the globe at the moment is part of the problem."***

Growth simply can't be sustained forever, so the model of capitalist development dominating the globe at the moment is part of the problem. It's both what we do and how we do it that is using up limited 'natural capital' all 'resources', as they're defined in that paradigm. Though in another view, which I prefer, nature isn't just a commodity to be priced and traded, or not valued at all. Nature has its own rights and needs and interests, both through sentient individual animals and through species, habitats and ecosystems in landscapes and the ecosphere. In this paradigm, sustainability would recognise the needs of present non-human generations without compromising the needs of future non-human generations.

Almost 30 years since the Rio Declaration, we've had lots more Earth and Climate Change summits. We've had the Anthropocene (the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment) formally recognised, and the problem of the oceans' plastic has hit us where it hurts – at our beaches and in our fish. Science confirms 'The Great Acceleration', or the impact of human activity on the environment, has increased since WWII, with cumulative and feedback effects compounding our damage ever more.

Environmental ethics have also moved on. We now have laws that recognise animal sentience, even if we don't honour them. There are recognised non-human animal rights and personhood. Occasionally, rivers and mountains have personhood status, too – not that being a person is everything. Animal and environmental rights philosophies are reaching a new wave and are manifest in social movements to end trophy hunting, bear fighting, circuses, inhumane treatment on farms and in calls for a broader land/planetary ethic, which is often found in indigenous cultures.

Humans show capacity for great compassion, wisdom, insight and technical dexterity. Our ability to make and shape nature to suit our purposes has extended human quality of life and longevity. Those same tools have enabled us to shape whole ecosystems – mountain top removal, deforestation, extinction, ecosystem destruction, giant lakes bled completely dry. We have scientific tools that show the damage we've done even while we become more attuned to the need to stop, give the Earth a break, and repair. In a lifetime, in full view, we've gone from aims of sustainability to evidence of crisis.

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local folk

Dr Jonathan Leaver

Unitec associate professor Dr Jonathan Leaver, who lives in Omaha, once studied petroleum engineering at Stanford University, but today says burning fossil fuels must stop if we are to save our planet. He spoke to James Addis about how his environmental concerns grew and the research he has undertaken to help us reach zero carbon emissions.

I was brought up in New Lynn and went to Kelston Boys High School. I played football for the first XI and some cricket. Apart from that, I just had normal teenage interests. I enjoyed mathematics but barely passed School Certificate English. My best friend – who was a lot smarter than me – persuaded me that engineering might be a good career choice, and I successfully applied for a Ministry of Works cadet scheme with a view to becoming a civil engineer. This meant I studied engineering at Auckland University and worked for the Ministry during the holidays. It was extremely varied. I did stints on a New Plymouth power project, I worked as an electrician's labourer, and I reconditioned bulldozer tracks at workshops in Otahuhu. In New Plymouth, I was tasked with going four metres down into the foundation of a boiler that we were making. My workmates took great delight in pouring concrete down from a great height nearly on top of me, which I then had to spread. One time – much to their amusement – they got so close my gum boots became completely immersed in concrete and I had to be assisted to extricate myself.

I graduated with an honours degree in civil engineering and worked briefly on Sir Dove-Myer Robinson's rapid rail system, which was ultimately scrapped. Though interestingly it was, in effect, a 1970s version of what is being built now in downtown Auckland. I was later transferred to the Ministry of Works structural division in Wellington – helping design government buildings that might be 10 storeys high or more. I discovered I had an aptitude for the computer modelling side of structural engineering and within 18 months I was asked to lead a workshop session for other engineers on the subject, though I was only 24.

Back then, the Ministry had a policy of moving young graduates around. I was sent to Rotorua and spent five years in roading and bridging, and then an opportunity came to work at the Ministry's geothermal section at Wairakei, near Taupo. While there, I started to become more aware of the threats our activities posed to the natural environment. One of these was to the Pohutu Geyser – New Zealand's biggest, near Rotorua – which was in danger of failing to erupt because of the exploitation of geothermal resources. It was taonga for Maori and it was very important for tourism nationally. I felt it was imperative it be protected and supported the ban on geothermal extraction nearby.

While at Wairakei we hosted a visiting professor, Hank Ramey, from Stanford University. He came around to dinner one night with a bottle of wine and invited me to go to Stanford to further my studies. I went there on a government scholarship studying petroleum engineering – whose principles are similar to geothermal. I learned more about what happens underground – how fluids flow, how you get them out and how to use computer models to determine how much of them are there. I came back to New Zealand and continued to work in geothermal energy for another two years, while at the same time my environmental consciousness was growing. More and more, I was thinking 'let's not exploit this resource for as much as we can get out of it, but let's consider the other impacts'. Some of these other impacts included health and safety. I joined the Ministry of Energy and became the chief geothermal inspector, the chief petroleum inspector and was responsible for the health and safety conditions in all North Island mining operations. It was busy and stressful work. I remember an explosion in a coal mine in Huntly, which certainly would have resulted in fatalities had miners not been successfully evacuated by one of my staff. Unfortunately, there were three deaths in the oil industry on my watch. I assisted in preparing prosecution evidence. In the case of one well blowout, the employer received a record fine under the Health and Safety in Employment Act.

By 1997, health and safety was increasingly being administered by the Department of Labour and I needed to find another job. I applied for the position of head of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Unitec – not believing that I would get it, but much to my surprise, I did. At Unitec, I embarked on research into geothermal systems modelling and in 2000 returned to Stanford to present some of my findings. It was there I had a life changing event. I bumped into an old colleague, Paul Kruger, who said he had dropped out of geothermal. "I'm working on something new and exciting," he said. "Hydrogen energy."

I was fascinated and asked him to come to New Zealand to mentor our students, and I got him on national TV news talking about how hydrogen could be used to fuel our vehicle fleet and generate zero greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change was becoming a bigger and bigger focus for me. I think I first used the term with my students in 2001. I remember telling them this could be the biggest challenge mankind would face, and unless we changed our ways in relation to energy the consequences were going to be serious. The TV appearance by Paul Kruger generated a lot of interest and I got some funding to figure out how hydrogen might play a bigger part in New Zealand's economy. Around that time, a student at Unitec showed me a simple model he had created of the New Zealand energy generation sector. I immediately realised his basic idea could do so much more. So I, along with my students, started to create another model, called UniSyD – basically lines and lines of computer code. You input into the programme all the energy resources New Zealand has – all its coal, all its hydro, its wind and its solar and you ask the model how to make the best use of those resources to fuel its vehicle fleet and generate electricity at lowest cost. A key driver of the model is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. When a petrol vehicle needs to be replaced, the model will tell you the cheapest option to replace it with – whether that be a hydrogen vehicle, an electric vehicle or a natural gas powered vehicle. After 17 years in development, the basic model is being used in Japan, Finland, Iceland and New Zealand. Australia is evaluating it. The model gives government advisors and investors a clear picture of the consequences of their policies. Though whether they listen to what it tells them is another story.

Why should we be concerned? Well, as temperature rises, the mechanisms that contribute to temperature rise also change. Take just one example – the browning of the ice caps. If the ice caps melt, then they no longer have the same reflective qualities they used to and the earth ends up absorbing even more heat. It's a vicious cycle. Unless we act, things are just going to get hotter and hotter at an ever-faster rate. In a worst-case scenario, we could have a five-degree temperature rise by the end of the century. That would put the world's whole ecosystem under severe strain, with a dramatic increase in species extinction. Trillions of dollars would be needed to build defences against rising sea water. Droughts and floods would become ever more frequent and more intense.

Every country in the world needs to have zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. That means solar power generation on residential roofs, planting more trees, switching from livestock farming to horticulture. It means much greater use of recyclable materials, and UniSyD would tell you to ban petrol and diesel-powered vehicles. It's not for our sake, but for the sake of future generations, because these effects will last for hundreds of years. It's good that even high school students are pushing for action from our politicians. They are right to be concerned about their future.

One Warkworth pushes for BID despite earlier opposition

One Warkworth Business Association will have a stab at introducing a Business Improvement District (BID), despite the fact that an attempt to introduce one three years ago bitterly divided the business community.

A BID would require owners of commercial buildings within a designated area to pay a targeted business rate via Auckland Council's quarterly rates bill.

Council would then forward 100 per cent of the targeted rate money to One Warkworth to advance business objectives in Warkworth.

One Warkworth chair Chris Murphy says the organisation's current method of funding itself is no longer sustainable.

Currently, One Warkworth has a budget of about $100,000 per annum, but only about $35,000 of this comes from membership fees. The rest comes from 22 sponsors who chip in about $3000 each.

So far, the budget has successfully covered all One Warkworth's activities, including paying for a part-time manager and support staff.

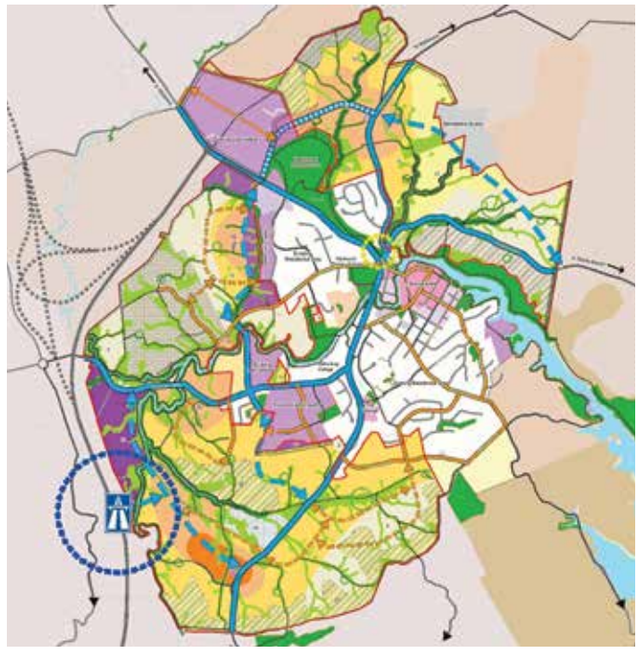
However, One Warkworth believes it can't continue to rely on sponsors and any kind of economic downturn would mean support would quickly dry up.

"All it would take is a little bit of recession and One Warkworth would be on its knees. We would be laying off staff and we would not be able to do half of what we are currently doing," deputy chair Mark Macky says.

In 2016, the Warkworth Area Business Association (WABA), tried to introduce a BID, but was bitterly opposed by the rival Warkworth Commercial and Industrial Association (WCIA).

When business owners voted on whether to accept the WABA BID proposal, more than 70 per cent rejected the idea.

The debacle led to a shake up of WABA. The entire committee resigned, a new committee was installed and WABA's name was changed to One Warkworth.



The proposed BID would apply to commercial properties coloured light and dark purple on the map. It would include areas still to be developed under the Warkworth structure plan.

But Mr Murphy and Mr Macky are confident a similar situation will not recur. This is because WABA proposed that the targeted rate would be based on the capital value of the commercial property attracting the rate, which proved hugely unpopular.

One Warkworth instead proposes that each property attracts a flat fee of $500+gst.

If several tenants share a building, and the landlord passes the fee on to them, the $500 would be split between the tenants.

Mr Murphy says the revised formula is precisely the one many in the WCIA advocated three years ago.

He adds that One Warkworth has spoken to several vehement opponents of the original BID proposal and discovered they would be in favour of the new proposal.

To advance the BID, One Warkworth intends to consult more widely with business owners to gauge their support.

"If we get a violent adverse reaction, then we will pull back and we will need to rethink. But we are confident we have got it right," Mr Murphy says.

If all goes to plan, the One Warkworth committee will propose that it starts the BID establishment process at its annual general meeting on August 21.

One Warkworth will then seek approval of the BID from the Rodney Local Board after Board elections in October.

Assuming approval is forthcoming, commercial property owners and tenants will likely get the chance to vote on whether to accept the BID via a postal ballot around March next year.

It is anticipated the proposed BID would raise about $130,000 annually.

In a leaflet outlining the BID proposal, One Warkworth says that a strong business association will be critical as Warkworth expands rapidly over the next 20 years.

"The squeeze on infrastructure has the potential to grind business activity to a halt, while the growing market has the potential to accelerate demand for goods and services exponentially," the leaflet says.

"A strong business association will collectively and efficiently help local businesses deal with the challenges and capitalise on the opportunities."

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INTRODUCING

Rodney Honda

Up until last month, Mahurangi residents seeking a Honda authorised dealer for motorcycles or all-terrain vehicles were faced with a long trek to Dargaville, Whangarei or Takapuna. That's changed now with the opening of Rodney Honda, which has taken over the site formerly occupied by Nurtured by Nature on 74 Hudson Road, Warkworth.

The building has been completely refurbished providing a showroom and spacious workshop for servicing and repairs.

Besides bikes and ATVs, Rodney Honda also sells and services a range of Honda power equipment, such as lawnmowers, generators, water pumps and trimmers.

Director Brendon Browne says the move to establish in Warkworth was prompted by the town's anticipated growth, its central location and the wide range of farmers, lifestyle block owners and urban dwellers in the area who have come to know and trust their Honda equipment.

He adds that he and Rodney Honda mechanic Hayden Lupton both grew up in rural areas and appreciate how much farmers depend on their machinery and the necessity of prompt and efficient service.

Both men are also motocross enthusiasts.

"Working on motorcycles in particular is kind of a passion for us more than a job," Brendon says.

Brendon Browne and Hayden Lupton

To make it easier for rural dwellers Rodney Honda offers on-site service and repairs and a pick-up and drop-off service. As the business grows, Brendon anticipates the showroom will be filled with more and more bikes, equipment and accessories, such as helmets, boots and tyres.

He also plans to acquire a full range of demonstration models. Before committing to a purchase, potential buyers will have the opportunity to have a product demonstrated and try it for themselves.

"We want the customer to be confident that the thing they are buying is just what they are after," Brendon says.

The business plans a grand opening in the coming weeks with a barbecue and tents set up outside their building, showing off more Honda stock.

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Pet of the Month

Otis the German short haired pointer

Otis was a lovely entire male german short haired pointer. He is still lovely, and he's still a male german short haired pointer, but he's no longer entire.

He was presented at Warkworth Vets on an eerily quiet Saturday morning surgery. Our staff were itching for a good solid case to sink their teeth into and make the morning sail by a little quicker, when in walked Otis. A healthy GSP is a tricky dog to examine. They are like coiled springs, following their noses to all corners of the consulting room, tail wagging hard enough to bruise bare knees. Otis stumbled into the clinic, and stood still. A grave sign in a GSP. Our vet on duty, although slower witted than average on a Saturday morning, was quick to recognise that Otis had deathly pale gums. His pulse was racing, and had a weak, thready quality to it. It was rapidly established with some blood tests that he was bleeding out due to rat bait toxicity. He was unlikely to see that afternoon without a blood transfusion. Our nurse was quick to recognise the gravity of the situation and had arranged for her labrador to be rushed into the surgery to donate blood even before our vet had solved a paper jam crisis in the process of printing a consent form. A pint of blood later, and lashings of Vitamin K and Otis had perked up considerably.

He was seen a week later by our vet. His was clotting so effectively after his treatment that he was booked in immediately for a castration procedure, which went without a drop of blood being spilled.

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Dan Klink was joined by apprentice Dylan Thompson, left, at the regional butchery competition.

Mangawhai meat shop clear cut winner in butchery stakes

Mangawhai Meat Shop butcher Dan Klink stunned crowds in a sizzling regional final, taking out the Alto Butcher of the Year award with his 'flexitarian burger'.

The flexitarian is a Mexican-inspired beef and bean burger with 70 per cent vegetable protein.

"It appeals to the modern consumer," Dan says.

"Being in a small rural area, we have to keep pushing the boundaries to keep people interested and coming from beyond the village.

"I am trying to bring back the small-town butcher where people can come and have a laugh, along with getting their groceries," he says.

For the Upper North Island competition, butchers are presented with a size 16 chicken, boneless beef rump, and a pork loin, which they have to create into an array of products.

Butchers are judged on the 'cookability' of the product, the weight yield off the bone, their hygiene, and how well they can sell it to a mock shopper questioning them on the cut.

Dan's victory was all the sweeter when his apprentice, Dylan Thompson, was named Apprentice of the Year despite this being only his second attempt at the competition.

"He's a good kid who listens and does what we talk about. He has put in a lot of hours of practice, and it's a great achievement after only a couple of years in the trade," Dan says.

Dan and Dylan will head to Shed 10 on Auckland's waterfront for the national showdown on August 8.

Dan says he has got so close to the national title of Best Butcher in earlier years that he could taste it.

"I have come runner-up twice in the past, and it has really got me wanting the top spot. Last time the judges said there was a half point between me and the winner."

The grand prize is a trip to the United States in 2020 to see the World Butchers Challenge, held in Sacramento, California.

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New public seating area planned for Warkworth town centre

Warkworth will have a new town centre spot in which to sit and watch the world go by, once the old Warkworth Hotel site in Queen Street has been redeveloped next year.

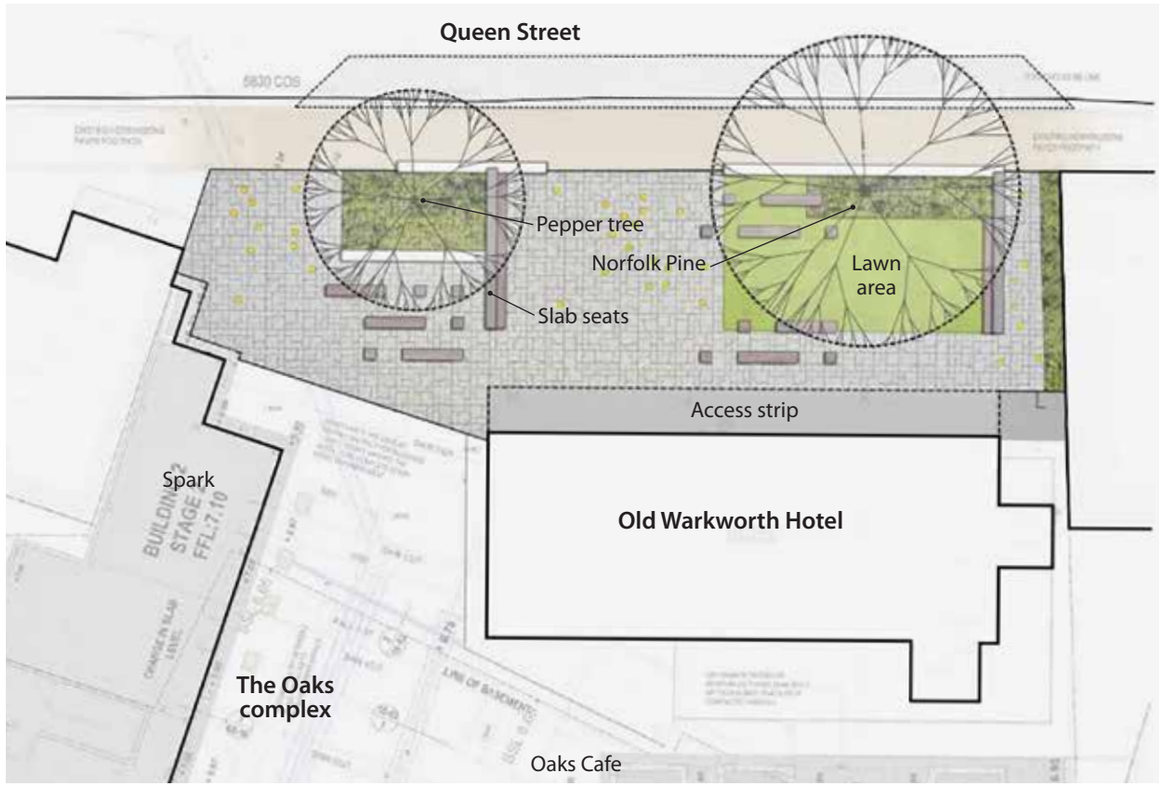
The paved area in front of the former tavern building, between Barfoot & Thompson and The Oaks retirement and retail complex, will be opened up for community use and landscaped with grass, plants and seating.

Oaks developer Real Living Group has offered to carry out and pay for the necessary work and put forward two alternative concept designs to Rodney Local Board, one with a grassed area and one completely paved.

Board members voted in favour of the design with grass at its meeting last month, and requested that Council staff liaise with Real Living Group to see if the seating could match that being proposed for the new Te Huihuinga Kowhai public space being developed between the library and the Old Masonic Hall (*MM May 8*).

Board chair Beth Houlbrooke said it would make sense for both public open spaces to use complementary designs, to unify the look of both sites and potentially reduce costs.

The piece of land in front of the old hotel had been earmarked for a 'town square' by the former Rodney District Council, before it was sold as part of the larger block for The Oaks development in 2010. The sale agreement provided for the 'square' being transferred back to Council when the tavern lease expired, which should happen in September, but will actually take place once construction work has been finished, probably in May or June next year.



The site's landmark Norfolk Pine and pepper tree form a key part of the open space concept designs.

The developer offered to carry out the construction and landscaping in exchange for a 1.5-metre strip of land immediately in front of the tavern building to allow access into the redeveloped historic building.

Council principal property advisor Allan Walton told Board members this was a good deal, as the cost of developing the open space was estimated to be more than the value of the access strip.

"The Investigation and Design team confirm that the development cost as proposed by the developer would be over $100,000," he said. "Based on rating valuations of adjacent land, and allowing for time, the value of the land to be retained is (pro-rata) in the vicinity of $40,000 to $60,000. The offer from the developer therefore represents good value for the council."

The final design will go before the Local Board's Parks and Recreation Committee for final feedback and approval in the next few months.

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Parents, residents and community group members have been pushing for a Matakana Road crossing for many years.

Pleas for school crossing finally answered by new AT fund

A lengthy battle to get a pedestrian crossing outside Matakana Primary School appears to have been won, as a result of a new $20 million Community Safety Fund (CSF) from Auckland Transport (AT) to address road safety issues.

Parents and residents have been lobbying for years to get a safe crossing installed near the school, but despite protests, petitions and countless meetings with AT, police, school and the Matakana Community Group (MCG), AT has always maintained that Matakana Road did not warrant a new crossing.

However, in a report to Rodney Local Board's transport committee, AT said that it did make the grade under the funding criteria for the one-off CSF.

"The purpose of the fund is to allow local communities to address long-standing road safety issues that have yet to become regional priorities and have therefore not been addressed by AT," said a spokeswoman.

The Matakana crossing is one of 12 projects identified and approved by the Local Board for its fund allocation of just over $2 million.

Initial plans to install a Kea crossing, which has swing-out Stop signs and has to be staffed by the school, have been dropped in favour of a signalised crossing that can be used by anyone at any time.

"We've had other requests from other parts of the community for the crossing and, on balance, a signalised pedestrian crossing will provide a great outcome," AT senior media advisor Joanna Glasswell said.

The news that a proper pedestrian crossing had finally been scheduled was greeted with delight and a degree of disbelief by campaigners in Matakana. School principal Darrel Goosen said it was fantastic that AT had listened to what people wanted after such a long time.

"Hallelujah!" he said. "That's a huge positive outcome for us, that's really great news. I'm really, really happy."

MCG chairman Simon Barclay agreed.

"It's unbelievable," he said. "It's a fantastic outcome. I'm extremely pleased and glad they're taking the kids' safety seriously."

Local parent campaigners Amanda Stewart and Chris Blackbourn, who organised a petition with more than 500 signatures in support of a crossing, both agreed that it was a wonderful surprise.

"We'd reached a bit of an impasse before, but this is exactly what we want," Chris said. "The safety of kids is the priority here."

Amanda added that the decision to go with a crossing that everyone could use would be great for older students catching college buses from the school bus bay, as well as the wider community.

Local Board chair Beth Houlbrooke said it was now up to AT to schedule the crossing into its programme of works for the next two years. Installation timing will depend on when detailed design is complete and construction scheduled by AT.

A second new school pedestrian crossing is being proposed from the CSF by the Local Board, this time in Woodcocks Road in Warkworth, near the rear entrance to Mahurangi College and Glenmore Drive, but funding and timing are still to be confirmed for this.

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Bill Townson, right, at the NAG AGM. He remains hopeful that a binding referendum on the future of North Rodney is still an option.

NAG fights on in High Court

Northern Action Group (NAG) will continue its fight in the High Court to secure an independent North Rodney.

The vow to fight on was made at NAG's ninth annual general meeting held at Totara Park Retirement Village in Warkworth on June 18. About 30 people attended.

NAG is appealing a Local Government Commission (LGC) decision in November 2017 to keep North Rodney within the Auckland Supercity.

The commission ruled that a North Rodney unitary Council favoured by NAG was not a viable option.

It said unitary councils must fulfil a broad sweep of functions, including sensitive environmental management, and the cost of funding all these functions was prohibitive.

But NAG committee member Bill Foster told the meeting that NAG believed there was "moral justice" in continuing to see the appeal through.

"We sincerely believe the commission should be held to account for the way in which it has used legislation for its own purposes, rather than the purposes of the communities the legislation says it should be supporting," he said.

The High Court in Wellington is due to hear the case at the end of September.

Mr Foster said one of the points NAG was appealing was the fact that the LGC used its own model of what a North Rodney unitary council would look like rather than the version suggested by NAG.

Moreover, he said the LGC had ignored a report by APR Consultants, commissioned by NAG, that said a Rodney unitary authority was a "reasonably practical option".

"We have felt all along that the commission had made up its mind in advance that the North Rodney unitary council was never going to happen and the de-amalgamation was not to be approved," Mr Foster said.

But Mr Foster conceded that even if NAG won its appeal, the court could not rule that the LGC reverse its decision.

The best that could be hoped for is that the LGC would be directed to reconsider NAG's application for an independent North Rodney, a process which previously took more than two years.

Meanwhile, NAG chair Bill Townson told the meeting he had not given up on securing a binding referendum on the future of North Rodney.

He said Rodney's National MP Mark Mitchell had agreed to put forward a private member's bill calling for a referendum to be held, if NAG could secure support for such a bill from the NZ First caucus

Mr Townson had hoped to hear from NZ First MP Tracey Martin last week on whether such support would be forthcoming, but had not heard anything by the time *Mahurangi Matters* went to press.

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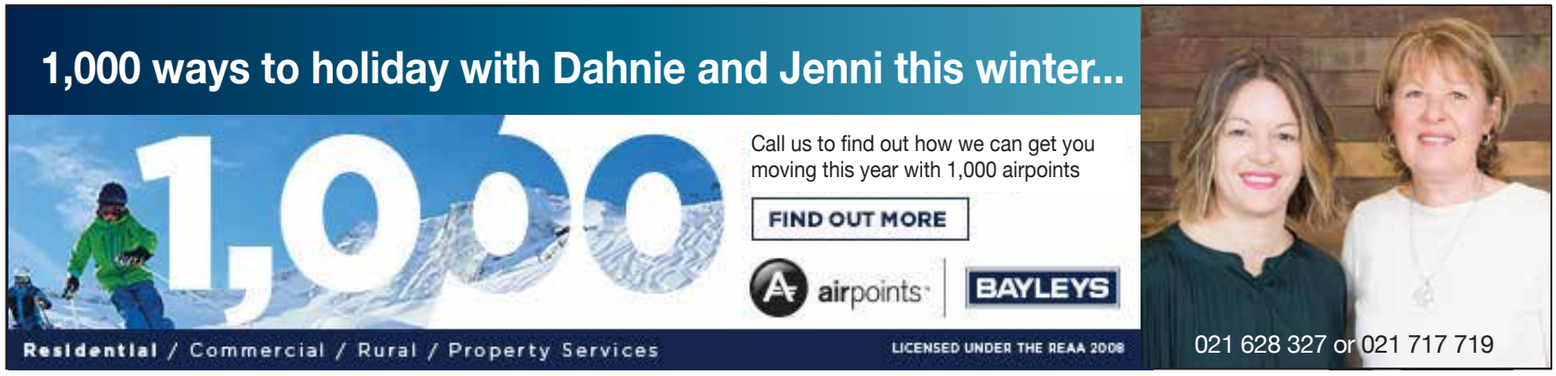

Two local bands rock critics at Whangarei's Forum North

Two local bands performed and won awards at the Northland regional Rockquest finals last month.

Otamatea College's Pahi State of Mind won the people's choice award while Mahurangi and Rodney Colleges' band Elevated took the best vocals prize.

Both bands were selected from a pool of 22 contenders to play at the regional finals and had to write two original songs to perform at Whangarei's Forum North.

Alternative rock band Elevated managed to win their award on its first attempt at entering Rockquest, thanks to the soulful singing of Michaela Pow.

"When they read out Mahurangi College during the prizegiving I was looking around to see who else from school was here. When I heard my name, my heart nearly exploded," Michaela says.

The band, consisting of Michaela Pow, Jackson Brierly, Harry Leese and Mitchell James, practices three to four times a week with music teacher Martin Worthington.

"Despite a couple of stuff-ups, I think we played one of our best performances, so I am really happy. Obviously, we are going to perform again at Rockquest next year and come at it even harder," Michaela says.

The band will perform at Rodney College's Matariki markets this week.

Michaela says she wants to continue to progress her singing career but understands the difficulty of making it in the music industry and is pursuing a fallback career in architecture.

Otamatea's Pahi State of Mind, comprising Joshua Sheppard, Ben Donald, Roman Miru and Jayke Parker, won the people's choice award after receiving the most votes from the audience at the regional competition.

It qualifies the band for the next stage, which requires them to submit a 12-minute performance video to be reviewed by a panel of industry heavyweights.

The top 10 video submissions are then selected for the national finals at the Bruce Mason Centre on Auckland's North Shore on September 14. Bream Bay College's reggae band, Jeeks, also made the video submission stage of the competition, having taken first place at the Northland regional finals.

Pahi State of Mind's Joshua Sheppard, Ben Donald, Roman Miru and Jayke Parker. Photo, Josh Burns Up Imagery.

Elevated's Jackson Brierly, Michaela Pow, Harry Leese, and Mitchell James will play at Rodney College's Matariki markets this week. Photo: Josh Burns Up Imagery.

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what'son ■ ENTERTAINMENT

Rising star Nadia Reid to play at Leigh

Fans of acclaimed alt-folk singer songwriter Nadia Reid should head to the Leigh Sawmill Café on Saturday, July 20, not least as it could be the last chance to see her perform in New Zealand for a while.

That's because as soon as her High & Lonely tour of NZ and Australia is over, Nadia will be leaving her Dunedin home to try living and working in the UK for the foreseeable future. She says it makes sense on several levels.

"I'm half British – my mother is British – I work with a lot of people over there and my label is an English label (Basin Rock Records), so it sort of makes sense," she says. "I just felt like having a little go over there. I don't know for how long, it's hard to know. I'm mentally preparing to be based there for the next few years. But I have a house in Dunedin, so there'll be a fair bit of to-ing and fro-ing."

Nadia first attracted attention with rave reviews after the release of Listen to Formation, Look for the Signs in 2015, and had built a global following by the time her second record, Preservation, was released in 2017. She has recently completed her third album, as yet untitled, which was recorded in Richmond, Virginia, and should be out around February next year.

"It's hard to be objective, but I feel like it's a bit more considered, made with more instruments and more time," she says.

Nadia's voice has been described as breathtaking, ethereal and otherworldly, and her style as "lovelorn folk with dirt under its nails" that can produce gut-wrenchingly emotive and beautiful songs. Her Sawmill show will be a mix of new material and songs from her first two albums, backed by her band – Sam Taylor on guitar, Chris O'Connor on drums, Richie Pickard on bass and, for this tour, violinist Anita Clark (aka Motte).

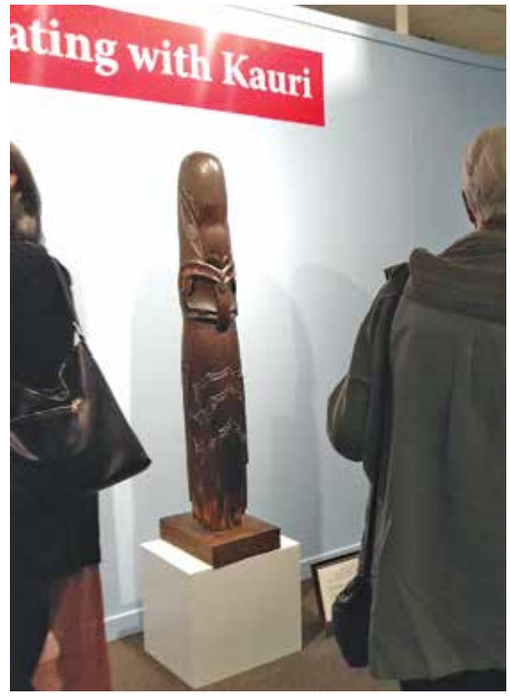
Last chance at Leigh – Nadia Reid is touring NZ before she moves to the UK for the next few years. Photo, Sinead Jenkins.

She's no stranger to Leigh, either on the Sawmill stage or in the audience, having supported bands and visited to watch others when she lived in Auckland.

"I love it up that way," she says. "I've definitely done the drive up there and back a few times."

Tickets cost $35 from *banishedmusic.com/nadiareidjuly* and the show starts at 8pm.

Kauri-inspired artwork



Nineteen artworks crafted from a single piece of kauri are on display at The Kauri Museum, in Matakohe, until September 30. Museum exhibits coordinator Mary Stevens said the contributing artists were invited to use their imagination to create any type of work. The result was furniture, sculpture, jewellery, musical instruments and decorative pieces. "It's a mixed bag that will appeal to a range of tastes," she says. The Creating With Kauri exhibition is free during museum hours, 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

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New attractions for Mahurangi Winter Festival of Lights

A disco, merry-go-round, bouncy castle and foam cannon will be among the additional attractions for the Mahurangi Winter Festival of Lights main event, held in Baxter Street, Warkworth, on Saturday, July 20.

The disco will feature an illuminated floor and be held at the Old Masonic Hall. Meanwhile, the foam cannon will pump out gallons of foam for children to completely jump around and immerse themselves in.

The new events will complement the laser light show, ice-skating, and snow that made their appearance at the inaugural event last year. The merry-go-round, foam cannon, ice skating and bouncy castle will kick off at 11am, while the laser light show runs from 6pm.

The movie Smallfoot will screen at the Warkworth Town Hall at 4pm. Moviegoers will be provided with free popcorn and glow sticks. Afterwards they will be able to wander down to Baxter Street to take in the laser light show. To secure tickets, tune in to More FM Breakfast with Brent and Jacque (6am-10am) or More FM Workplace Social Club with Lia Shelford (10am-3pm) from July 8.

The big day will be preceded by Parade of Lights on Friday, July 19 where illuminated floats, bikes, trikes and a myriad of other vehicles will assemble at the PaperPlus carpark at 6.30pm, circle around Queen Street and end up at Warkworth Wharf, where there will be entertainment, food trucks and more lights. The Jane Gifford and other boats will be lit up and there will be a grand lighting ceremony of trees along the water's edge about 7.30pm.

Organiser Murray Chapman says he is pleased with the way the winter festival is growing, with new sponsors coming on board and additional events in Snells Beach and Leigh.

He says the festival is now officially a One Warkworth Business Association event and organisers are currently putting together accommodation and restaurant packages that can be purchased through the Information Centre (formerly i-SITE) in Baxter Street.

"It's all about bringing people into the area and encouraging them to stay a few days in Mahurangi," he says.

Info: *facebook.com/mahurangiwinterfestivaloflights* or phone Murray on 0274 966 550

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Winter festival lights up Leigh

The Leigh community has embraced the Mahurangi Winter Festival of Lights, contributing its own Light up Leigh event to add extra fizz to the annual celebration.

The event will see prizes awarded to the best illuminated house in Leigh and the best illuminated letterbox in Whangateau.

The competition runs from July 5-20 and will be judged on July 12.

July 12 will be the big day for Light up Leigh, with residents and visitors encouraged to come together to take in the light spectacle.

A scavenger hunt will start from Main Street from 4pm. Participants are encouraged to bring a torch and pen to join in the fun.

Leigh Bar will offer homemade soup and bread, along with mince pies and mulled wine to warm up winter revelers, the Pasta Van will be parked near Leigh Central and Leigh Eats and the Sawmill Café will be open.

Lanterns will decorate the pōhutukawas along Snells Beach on July 18.

Tots to join in festival fun at Snells Beach

Tots and their mums and dads looking for ways to participate in the Mahurangi Festival of Lights can join a Lanterns and Lightcatchers event at Snells Beach.

The event is organized by early childhood software company Kinder M8 and will encourage young children to make their own lanterns and lightcatchers.

The lanterns will be displayed in the pōhutukawa trees along the beach-front between Ariki Drive and Snells Beach Road on Thursday, July 18 starting at 5.30pm.

Children and their parents are invited to come along with a torch to check out the lanterns and enjoy a sausage sizzle.

Organiser Jackie Russell says lanterns and lightcatchers must be completely biodegradable – no plastic, please – and should not be illuminated themselves as this could create a fire hazard.

Lanterns and lightcatchers can be dropped off at Kinder M8, 20 Goodall Road, Snells Beach, by July 15. Alternatively, Kinder M8 can arrange to pick them up.

Info: Jackie Russell 027 570 8971

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Lady Smith talks on tapestry

One of the stitchers involved in the Mount Felix Tapestry project, undertaken in England, will be the guest speaker at a joint Warkworth Red Cross and Warkworth Women's Institute event on Friday, July 19.

Lady Alexandra Smith, wife of former NZ High Commissioner in London, Lockwood Smith, was involved with Poppy's Story on Panel 27 of the 44-panel project.

Red Cross secretary Cunitia Wilkinson says Lady Smith will talk about the tapestry, as well as her time in London.

The Mount Felix Tapestry was a community project developed over three years and involved more than 600 embroiderers in England and New Zealand.

It commemorates and honours the 27,000 Kiwi soldiers who were treated at Hospital No 2 Walton-on-Thames, between 1915 and 1920, as well as the doctors and nurses who cared for them.

Cunitia, who viewed the tapestry when it toured NZ last year, said it was a very moving tribute.

Panel 27 of the Mount Felix Tapestry, created in England, has a local connection.

"It was lovely to think that all these years later, this project was organised to remember the New Zealanders who served and died in World War I, and the people who worked at the hospital," she said.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the talk, which will start at 2pm.

Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at the door or by phoning Cunitia on 425 5800.

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Stargazing session to mark Matariki

There's a chance to see stars and planets up close and learn more about the night skies as part of Warkworth Library's Matariki celebrations on Thursday, July 11.

The evening will start with an interactive presentation in the Old Masonic Hall that promises to take viewers "on a journey from planet Earth to the beginning of time and space". Then – weather permitting – the activity will move outside for some serious stargazing through powerful telescopes.

Astronomer Niven Brown, from the Auckland Astronomical Society, will host the family event, which is part of an annual programme of public talks and star viewings by the society to celebrate Matariki, the star cluster that reappears every winter and marks the start of the Maori new year.

The free stargazing evening is suitable for all ages and hot drinks will be available, though people are advised to wear warm clothing. It starts at 6.30pm and will run until around 9pm.

Info: 09 427 3920

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Cosy winter fare

Winter is the time for hearty meals to warm body and soul. A rich, flavoursome casserole is a great way to achieve this – especially when it is served up with a creamy mash to sop up all the delicious gravy.

Adding vegetables into the mix cuts down on dishes and ups the nutrient value of the meal. You may have noticed with my recipes that I am always trying to find ways to sneak in more veggies! You could even swap out one of the carrots for a parsnip, or add in frozen peas and/or corn instead of the shredded leafy greens. It's best to work with what you like and what you've got.

I do not own a slowcooker, but for readers that do, I am sure that you can figure out how to make this recipe work in one.

Hearty Chicken Casserole

1 tbsp olive oil
1kg chicken drumsticks
2 rashers bacon, roughly chopped (optional)
1 onion, peeled and diced
2 cloves garlic, crushed
3 carrots, peeled and sliced
150g mushrooms, roughly chopped
400g tin diced tomatoes
1 cup chicken or vegetable stock
2 cups shredded silverbeet, kale or cabbage
Salt & pepper
1 tbsp cornflour, plus 1 tbsp water
2 tbsp parsley, chopped, to garnish (optional)

Heat oil in a large, lidded frying pan (or large pot). Place the chicken in the pan and brown pieces on all sides. Remove chicken from pan and add bacon, onion, garlic, carrots and mushrooms. Sauté for two to three minutes. Add tomatoes, stock, salt and pepper and bring to the boil. Return the chicken to the pan, cover, reduce the heat and simmer gently for 30 minutes, or until juices run clear when chicken is tested. Add the shredded silverbeet, kale or cabbage to the pan and cook for five minutes. Mix together the cornflour and water to a smooth paste and stirring in to the sauce to thicken. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve the chicken drizzled with the thickened sauce and garnished with parsley.

health&family LIVING WELL

Baddock blasts End of Life Choice Bill

Warkworth GP and New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) chair Dr Kate Baddock has reiterated the NZMA's strong condemnation of the End of Life Choice Bill, even as it passed its second reading in Parliament last week.

The private member's bill, introduced by ACT MP David Seymour, aims to give people with a terminal illness or a "grievous and irremediable" medical condition the option to seek assistance to die.

But Dr Baddock says the act of deliberately ending the life of a patient, even at the patient's request, is unethical.

She adds that the NZMA position is not dependent on euthanasia and doctor-assisted suicide remaining unlawful. Even if they were to become decriminalised, the NZMA would continue to regard them as unethical.

Asked why the NZMA holds such a strong view, Dr Baddock referred to its submission to the Justice Select Committee last year.

Among the points made in the submission were that it would be impossible for any law to ensure that a patient who decides to die was free from any improper pressure to do so.

"Subtle emotional coercion from relatives might be present but not identified, and self-imposed pressure may also be a factor if the individual feels euthanasia is something they ought to consider rather than becoming a burden on family and others," the submission said.

The submission added that a 2014 report on

Kate Baddock

Oregon's Death with Dignity Act found that 40 per cent of patients choosing to die cited concerns about being a burden as part of the reason they wanted to end their life.

Dr Baddock says these kinds of pressures would result in wrongful deaths if the End of Life Choice Bill were to become law.

"Any law must safeguard the vulnerable, which includes the weak, the elderly – who feel they are or could be a burden – and those subject to elder abuse," she says.

Despite the opposition to euthanasia, Dr Baddock says the NZMA encourages the concept of "death with dignity and comfort" and supports the right of patients to decline treatment, request pain relief, and supports access to palliative care.

Dr Baddock adds that the provision of pain relief, even though it may hasten the death of the patient, is not unethical, as the intent is not to shorten life but to relieve suffering.

Mahurangi-based MPs comment on the End of Life Choice Bill …

Marja Lubeck (Labour list)

I do not support the bill in its current form, but will vote for it to go through to the committee stage so that more debate can take place and amendments can be made. Research has shown that knowledge of having access to assisted dying can be a comfort, knowing that the option is available if the suffering and pain would become intolerable; but this does not necessarily mean the person will chose to use this option.

Mark Mitchell (National MP for Rodney)

I do not support the End of Life Choice Bill in its current form and I agree with the NZMA that the bill poses a threat to vulnerable people who may feel pressured to end their life.

Jenny Marcroft (NZ First list)

New Zealand First supported the End of Life Choice Bill through its first reading on the provision that mechanisms for a binding referendum are added to the bill. We do not believe that this decision should be made by 120 temporarily elected officials, but should be a decision made by the public.

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Health

Wendy Hawking, Rodney Health Charitable Trust

wendyhawk44@gmail.com

Help with medical bills

Many people are not aware of the Rodney Health Charitable Trust and its contribution to the health of the local population. This organisation provides funds for those who need surgery, but due to not meeting elective surgery criteria, they miss out on surgery in the public system. Their only other option is private surgery, which is not a financially viable option for many.

The Rodney Health Trust was started in 1977 with four employees and by 2014 it had 1020 employees. Then, in 2014, two arms of the business, Northlink Health and Rodney Health Trust, were sold to Geneva Healthcare.

The Rodney Health Charitable Trust was kept with the aim of meeting the health needs of those who required health treatment that was not funded by the public system. For example, those on public waiting lists for cataracts could wait up to four years before they had their operations.

"If you need surgery and don't have the funds to pay for it, you can apply to the Rodney Health Charitable Trust."

So how does it work? If you need surgery and don't have the funds to pay for it, you can apply to the Rodney Health Charitable Trust by asking your local GP or a specialist for the forms to fill out. Rodney Surgical Centre also have the forms. The questions you will be required to answer are based around the urgency of your surgery, why the specialist is recommending surgery and what your financial situation is. You will probably be asked to make some contribution towards the cost of the surgery.

You will need a community service card and a quote for the cost of your treatment. Ask for a written estimate or quote so you have the evidence you need to go with the application forms. While all forms of surgery are considered, cataracts and endoscopies are very common surgeries that the Rodney Health Charitable Trust funds. The trust's priority is to fund surgery that will ensure a better quality of life for the recipient.

So, all is not lost if you find yourself on a public waiting list that will cause a long delay in treatment, or if you are not able to receive treatment in the public system. Don't despair, talk to your GP, specialist, Rodney Surgical Centre or ask Rodney Health Charitable Trust directly by phoning 425 9381 and asking for me, Wendy Hawking. Who knows, you may be able to receive the treatment you need with the trust's help.

Advice and support for younger mums

Support and advice aimed specifically at younger mothers is proving popular at Women's Centre Rodney in Warkworth. Its free Young Mums Group was started a couple of years ago for women aged up to 25. Centre manager Colleen Julian says it is a social group, as well as providing information and education. "The group explores parenting strategies and skills, while giving women an opportunity to meet other women of a similar age to form friendships and reduce isolation," she says. The Young Mums group is held at the women's centre in Morpeth Street every Thursday during term time, and runs from 10am to 12.30pm.

Info: Call free on 0800 237674 or email *info@womenscentrerodney.org.nz*

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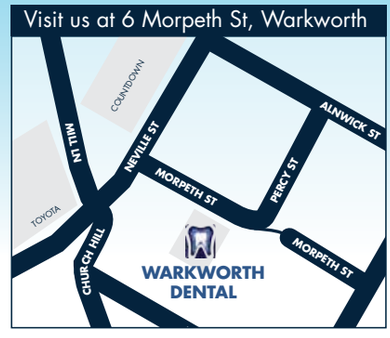

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Kiri Eriwata, right, leads a discussion at the launch of Te Whai Sages Senior Support.

Suicides among elderly prompts push to end loneliness

A spate of suicides among the elderly in Mangawhai has sparked a new initiative to combat social isolation and loneliness.

The Te Whai Sages Senior Support service was launched by the Te Whai Community Trust last month, after several social agencies, including Te Whai, noted that a lack of support for senior citizens was a major social problem in the area.

Trust services coordinator Kiri Eriwata says the launch event, held at Jessie's Café at the Mangawhai Museum on June 19, brought together senior service providers from around Northland, including Age Concern, Geneva Healthcare, Coast to Coast Health Care, NorthAble, Alzheimers Support, Sports Northland and the police.

"The event brought a wealth of knowledge and experience together in one place, encouraging more connection and support across all senior services," she says.

Attendees wrote a message of aroha on feathers to create a cloak. The messages reaffirmed the value of elders to the community and encouraged them with positive messages.

Te Whai now has 12 volunteers training to become a Te Whai Sage.

The sages will provide a range of activities and support for the elderly, such as companionship, outings, shopping assistance and special events.

In addition to decreasing isolation, the new service will aim to increase knowledge of the rights of older people, assist grandparents parenting grandchildren, provide extra support for widows and widowers, and combat depression.

The trust notes there is strong evidence linking isolation with depression and that older people have one of the highest suicide rates in New Zealand.

Te Whai plans to use its sages programme as a model for further services to other vulnerable groups in the community, such as young families and those with special needs.

Currently, the trust operates from the old school house at the Pioneer Village next to Mangawhai Museum, but it ultimately hopes to establish its own community centre as a base for social services.

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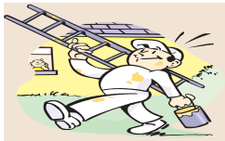
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Home buyers need to do their homework

For most people, buying a home will be the biggest single investment they will make in their lives.

Not only is there the purchase price and mortgage to consider, but insurance, legal fees and other costs also need to be factored in to the budget.

It makes sense, therefore, to do some homework and seek advice even before looking at real estate advertisements.

Harcourts salesperson Karen Franklin, who has been selling real estate for more than 15 years, says leaving a pen and paper somewhere handy in the house is a good place to start.

"If you start compiling a 'like' and 'don't like' list, you can prioritise what really matters," Karen says. "For instance, do you want stairs or no stairs, is a sea view important, do you need room to park a boat, and so on."

Bayleys sales consultant Fin Higgins says other factors such as schooling, transport and services also need to be considered, as well as practical considerations such as number of bedrooms and bathrooms, lounges, garaging and parking.

Both agents agree that determining a budget should also be one of the first steps.

Fin suggests going to a bank prior to looking at property so that the buyer has a clear idea of what they can spend, rather than guessing.

"Secondly, if you have a house to sell, have an appraisal completed on your home, which will give you a guide to your property's value," Fin says. "I'm asked to do appraisals all the time and there is no cost involved."

Karen recommends using local agents who know the area, adding that there is no point getting a Browns Bay agent to sell a home in Manly.

"With this information in hand, you can start looking," Karen says. "The internet is only one part of the search and if you find a home that has been on the market for a while, ask 'why' as there are usually good reasons for this.

"Rateable valuations can be taken into account, but they are done by computer so can be misleading. Some homes do sell over rateable valuation, especially well presented homes in a good location."

Lastly, Karen says don't be pushed, love the home you are buying, pay what it is worth to you and enjoy.

Fin adds that if the buyer has done their homework well, they will know what house is right for them.

"How will you know your new home is the right one you won't be able to stop thinking or talking about it," he says.

Helpful information for new home buyers can also be found at *sorted.org.nz/guides/home-buying/buying-a-first-home*

Building statistics

- Auckland Council consented 1043 dwellings in April this year – 46% were for houses, 12% for apartments and 41% for townhouses, flats, units, retirement units or other types of attached dwellings. A total of 956 dwellings were inside the Rural Urban Boundary (RUB). For the 12 months to the end of April, a total of 13,754 dwellings were consented in Auckland, of which 93 per cent were inside the RUB.
- A total of 494 new residential parcels under 5000sqm were created in Auckland in May. In the past 12 months, 7758 new residential parcels under 5000sqm were created – an average of 647 a month. Most (99%) of all new residential parcels, of all sizes, were created inside the RUB.
- The median residential sales price in April was $800,000 (district valuation rolls sales records).

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We had such glowing feedback for Charlie Cochrane's work and outstanding successes that, when it came time to sell our home, we didn't hesitate to get him in for a chat. We weren't disappointed. Within just a few minutes we knew we had someone who was totally on our wavelength. Charlie didn't arrive with the bag of cliches that you have heard from other agents - "I've got buyers waiting for a property like this" "we have a network of agents who will all be working on your property" etc. etc. It was extraordinary. Within a very short space of time, Charlie had an acceptable offer to present to us. We signed. Job done!

The word 'passion' is totally overused and abused by many C.V's. But, in Charlie Cochrane, we observed a man who was totally passionate in doing the very best for his clients, to the extent that we completely believe him when he says a successful sale is far more exciting than the commission it brings. If you are looking for a friendly, honest and successful real estate agent to sell your most precious commodity, do what we did - leave it to Charlie!

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We know the Hibiscus Coast and confidently say "Charlie Cochrane is the hardest working agent on the coast".

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Vivien & Gordon Hughes

I am a man of few words but I cannot more highly recommend Charlie Cochrane. He is honest, kind, hardworking and an excellent salesman. He sold my property for $300,000 over the registered capital value!

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DEATH NOTICE

GARDNER, Ian Lindsay, 84

Master Mariner of Warkworth NZ, passed away suddenly June 19th, 2019. Survived by his wife Jean, children Donald (and Tanja) of Auckland, Treva of Canada, and Stella (and Shawn) of Kaiapoi, brother Robert and sister Anne in the UK. He will be missed by the volunteer organisations, CAB and Budget services he had participated in for many years. Private cremation has been held. No flowers by his request but donations to Forest and Bird or your favourite charity would be appreciated.

The deadline for classified advertising for our July 17 paper is July 10.
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PUBLIC NOTICES

KOWHAI FESTIVAL SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 7pm, 9 JULY 2019
Warkworth RSA Committee room

The purpose of this SGM is for the presentation and acceptance of proposed changes to the current constitution.

For further information contact:
Murray Chapman - 027 496 6550
kowhaifestival@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

HAVING TROUBLE MAKING ENDS MEET?

Free, confidential budget advice is available at the Warkworth Town Hall every Tuesday, from 10am-noon.

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NOTICE TO MARINERS

MAINTENANCE DREDGING COMMENCING AT SANDSPIT MARINA

Sandspit Marina will be commencing maintenance dredging in the Sandspit Marina basin and access channel on 15 July, weather permitting. The dredging process is expected to take up to 2 ½ months. During this period, there will be a tug and barge working in the marina and all marina users and boaties in the Sandspit harbour are asked to take extra care when the machines are operating.

Dave Searle of Clearwater Dredging is the contractor carrying out the work. He will be monitoring VHF 17 while working.

Contact Grant Brown, Marina Manager, on 021 511 461 if you have any queries.

Looking for extra copies of the paper?

They are available at Waiwera Store, Puhoi Hotel, Puhoi General Store, Matakana Information Office, Leigh Store, Point Wells Store, Omaha Superette, Matakana Four Square, Matakana Dairy, Gull services stations, Wellsford Top Shop, Woodys Winners Wellsford, Te Hana Gas, Jaques Four Square, Kaiwaka Caltex, Molesworth Four Square, Mangawhai Heads Four Square, Maungaturoto Four Square and Paparoa General Store.

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MEDIUM

SOLUTION page 29

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Four-lane Matakana link road edges back on the table

One Warkworth Business Association says a concerted and united effort by local community leaders and groups has succeeded in keeping hopes of a four-lane Matakana link road alive.

Last month, One Warkworth was pessimistic that the proposed 1.4km road linking Matakana Road to State Highway 1 would be four-lanes from the outset and feared that, at least initially, it would be only two-lanes and fail to adequately cope with expected traffic volumes.

But the latest communications One Warkworth has received from Auckland Transport (AT) indicate that four lanes from the outset is still on the cards.

One Warkworth spokesperson and former roading engineer, Dave Stott, says AT has committed to build as much of the road as it possibly can for the budget of $62.4 million.

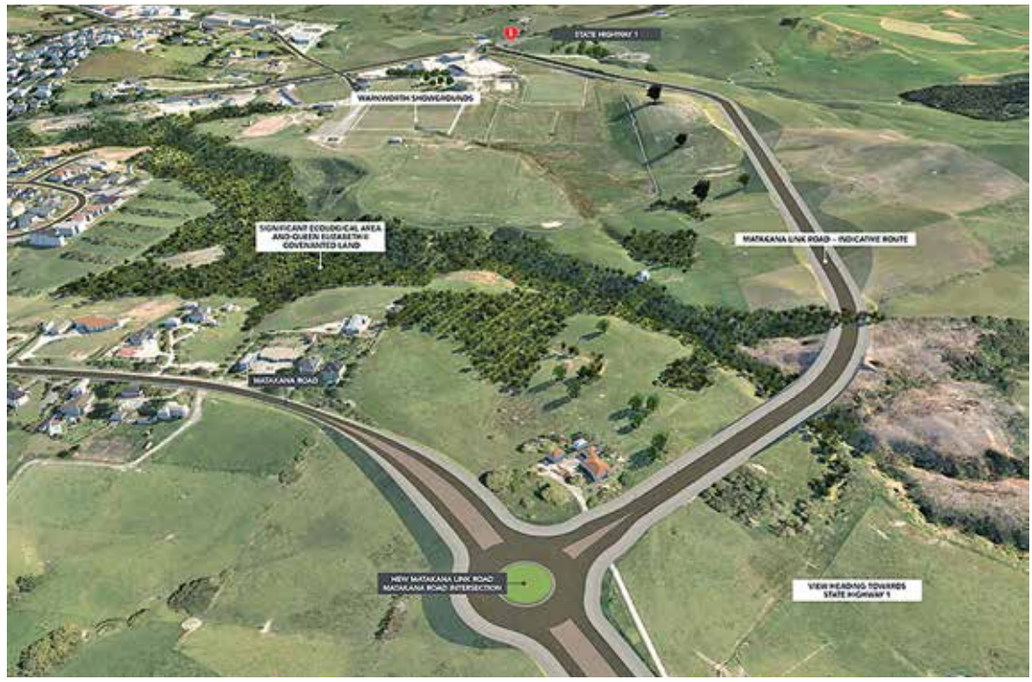
"They have confirmed the budget will be fully expended, which previously was in doubt," he says.

To test whether four-lanes is possible within the budget, Auckland Transport will invite contractors to tender for two versions of the four-lane option. One will be for four lanes over the entire route, including a bridge that crosses a gully. A second, cheaper option, will be to construct a four-lane road for 800 metres between SH1 and the bridge. The bridge and rest of the road will be two lanes.

Mr Stott says even if the cheaper option is selected, having four lanes for more than half the route would be a major improvement on two lanes for the entire route. It would facilitate traffic flows around intersections on the four-lane section and enable the intersections to be designed for four lanes at the outset, rather than having to adapt them at a later stage.

Mr Stott says AT has also taken on board community suggestions for helping to reduce construction costs, thereby making the four-lane options more likely.

These include having a walking/cycleway on the southern side of the road only, rather than on both sides, and by dumping excavated soil locally, with the agreement of local farmers, rather than carting it all the way to landfill at Redvale.



The Matakana link road indicative route showing the Matakana Road intersection.

Mr Stott also commended AT for altering the road alignment to reduce the amount of excavation required and thereby further reducing costs.

One Warkworth deputy chair Mark Macky says the concessions wrung from AT shows what can happen when the community comes together and delivers a clear message.

"It's about not leaving Auckland Council and the Council Controlled Organisations the room to do just what they want, but rather giving them a very clear steer from the community. It's great to see what can happen when the community gets coordinated," he says.

In particular, Mr Macky praised the advocacy efforts of local MPs – Mark Mitchell, Jenny Marcroft and Marja Lubeck – along with Councillor Greg Sayers, the Rodney Local Board and community groups from Omaha and the eastern beaches.

Meanwhile, AT spokesperson Mark Hannan says while the four lane options were being considered, it was early days and all were subject to approval not only from the AT executive, but also from the NZ Transport Agency and Auckland Council.

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Bridge plan suspended over lack of landowner support

Hopes for a spectacular 70-metre long suspension bridge over native bush between Warkworth Showgrounds and Kowhai Park Reserve appear to have been scuppered by landowners unwilling or unable to support the $335,000 Rodney Local Board pedestrian and cycle project.

Instead, the Board has been forced to move forward with an alternative route and has approved a more prosaic wooden bridge and concrete path that goes through the old Atlas site, which has been earmarked as a future park and ride site.

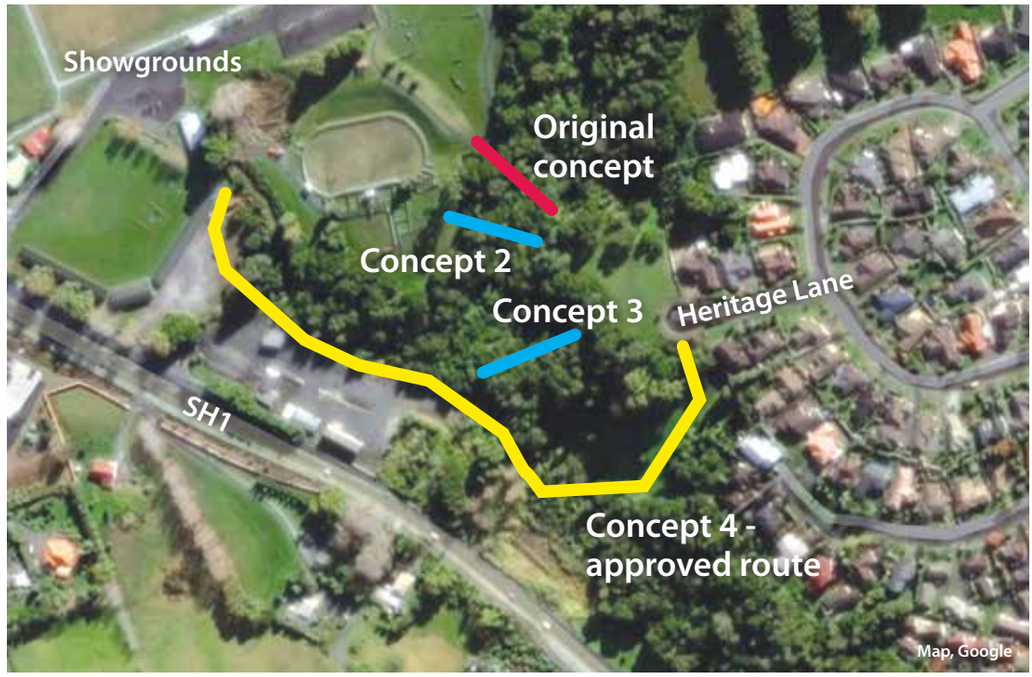
The original concept design from 2017 provided the shortest and most direct route, with a 35-metre boardwalk and the suspension bridge linking the existing Kowhai Park path with the Showgrounds, plus the Melwood subdivision, via Heritage Lane. The bridge would have crossed a deep gully of largely native bush jointly owned by Auckland Council and three private landowners.

Although initial discussions with the private landowners seemed promising, efforts by Board staff and members to obtain formal support from them in 2018 proved fruitless, so alternative routes were sought, avoiding the privately owned and covenanted land.

Three new routes were considered – Concept 2, a 70-metre suspension bridge, with 58 metres of boardwalk and concrete pathway; Concept 3, a 110-metre suspension bridge, with 60 metres of boardwalk and concrete pathway; and Concept 4, a 15-metre timber bridge with 450 metres of concrete pathway.

Last month's Local Board meeting heard that Concept 2 and Concept 3 would cost $398,000 and $560,000 respectively, while Concept 4 worked out around the same price as the original plan.

Although Concept 4 would be the longest and least direct route from Heritage Lane, it would have the least ecological and visual impact on the surrounding reserve area. However, Board members conceded that it would be less of a visitor drawcard than the original suspension bridge plan, and the redevelopment of the Atlas site could affect timing issues.



The original Concept 1 was the most direct route and would have offered pedestrians and cyclists elevated views of native bush.

Local Board chair Beth Houlbrooke said plans for the new path had been in the pipeline for a couple of years and they needed to be progressed to attract Growth Funds, the fees paid by developers applying for a resource consent used to fund infrastructure.

"We're well aware we had originally had a vision of a suspension bridge, but that's shelved for now," she said. "It could happen in the future, but for now we need to move forward with the Atlas site and Concept 4."

She said the new route would still provide safe pedestrian and cycle access from Warkworth through two reserves, well away from State Highway 1, and open up opportunities for recreation, fitness and commuting.

"It's going to be an incredible community asset coupled with the upgraded Kowhai Park and the soon to be developed park and ride facility funded by the Rodney Transport Targeted Rate," she said.

Council staff will develop the path concept more fully, then obtain feedback from the community, sports and other groups, before detailed designs, plans and costs are developed and consents sought.

growingupgreat ■ FEATURE

Plunket always there for new mums and newcomers

With the local population rising rapidly as development increases, local Plunket groups and clinics are seeing an increase in demand for their services.

For newcomers to the area, sometimes without family close by, Plunket provides a vital source of support, guidance and information for babies, preschoolers, mums and families.

Ann Neha is a relief Plunket nurse who covers all of Northland and is currently working in the Wellsford and Mangawhai areas. She is standing in while Wellsford nurse Rachael Turner is on maternity leave until January and helping out at Mangawhai until a new nurse is appointed to replace Cynthia Reay, who recently left to become a clinical nurse consultant.

Cherrie Christy-Hita and Ann Neha make home visits and run clinics throughout the area, including Wellsford.

She says there's been a definite increase in new babies locally, and several new nurses are being appointed, so it's important for mums to know that help is at hand throughout the region.

"I would say to them that they're not alone," she says. "The support is out there."

Plunket nurses make home visits and run regular clinics at their bases in Wellsford, Warkworth and Mangawhai, as well as in Kaiwaka, Maungaturoto and Paparoa. They also work closely with other health providers and social agencies to ensure families are getting the right help.

"We have a good rapport with GPs and other health services, we cover a pretty wide front in the community," Ann says. "And midwives share the information, too."

Cherrie Christy-Hita is one of only 15 Plunket Kaiawhina, or specialist Maori community health workers, in the country. She covers Wellsford, Kaiwaka, Bream Bay, Maungaturoto, Paparoa and Dargaville.

"I'm more the support, with mother craft and old school Plunket skills," she says. "I look at ages and stages of baby development and prepare families for different milestones in growth.

"It's about making sure our families are enrolled with services, knowing they have a choice and connecting whanau with whanau."

Louise Hayward has just joined Plunket as an extra nurse working with clinical nurse leader Wendy Turner covering Warkworth and the surrounding area, including Snells Beach, Kaipara Flats, Matakana and Leigh. A former emergency and maternity nurse, she is passionate about connecting with local mums and letting them know they are not alone. She says she tries to draw on her own experiences, not only professionally, but as a mother and someone who's experienced postnatal depression.

"A lot of women don't even know they have it, and it's still sometimes seen as quite taboo to talk about it," she says. "It's important to get on their level and talk. Plunket's amazing, and I really would like to make a difference."

As well as the nurses' home visits and clinics, Plunket volunteers run a range of family support activities, including coffee groups in Warkworth, a playgroup in Wellsford and a toy library in Mangawhai.

Anyone wanting to know more or get involved can contact the free 24-hour Plunket number, 0800 933 922, or local Plunket workers Ann Neha (Wellsford and Mangawhai) on 027 675 3408; Cherrie Christy-Hita (Kaiawhina) on 027 675 3317; or, for Warkworth, Wendy Turner on 027 275 3098 or Louise Hayward, 027 282 3987.

Two classes from Wellsford School dressed as pirates for a trip to Warkworth.

Pirates board Jane Gifford

Two classes of swashbuckling, scallywag kids from Wellsford School travelled to Warkworth last week, dressed in their pirate rags to board and commandeer the Jane Gifford for an afternoon of historical learning on the Mahurangi River.

They were welcomed aboard by helmsman Dave Parker, who started things with a quick training drill – telling them all good sailors know which is port and starboard, and not to lean over the railing.

Many of children got their first sight of the old cement works in Warkworth, seeing it from the perspective on the river as it might have been seen in the Gifford's heyday.

They learned that the Jane Gifford is the oldest scow in New Zealand and was formerly used to deliver cattle to Little and Great Barrier Islands.

At high tide, the cattle would be herded off the boat and have to swim to shore, he told them.

Teacher Sally Jack said the Jane Gifford visit was the culmination of three weeks of pirate- themed learning for the classes.

"It has involved writing and reading stories, doing pirate maths and building model boats. We try to incorporate themes into the curriculum so things don't get too boring.

"It's been great for them to learn about seafaring and then actually experience this. Most of the kids have never been on a big ship and a lot were really worried until they realised it was safe and it wasn't going to tip over."

The pirate event finished off both the school term and the Jane Gifford's sailing season. It now goes into dry-dock for two months for maintenance.

Dave Parker says the next opportunity to sail the Jane Gifford will be in September as part of group charter tours which can be booked on the website *janegifford.org.nz*.

He says the ship already has a wedding booked in for the upcoming summer season.

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Leaves make a useful addition to the compost bin.

Children enjoy learning about and growing healthy foods.

Annabelle Dodds, 3, holds aloft pictures of two local pigs who enjoy feasting on the children's food scraps.

Kindergarten goes green

Mahurangi Kindergarten was rebranded this month to better reflect its New Zealand identity and highlight its increasing push to educate children about caring for the environment.

Although the Mahurangi Kindergarten name remains, the umbrella organisation it is part of – the Northern Auckland Kindergarten Association – has become Kaitiaki Kindergartens.

Kaitiaki means caretaker or guardian and Mahurangi Kindergarten head teacher Michelle Fogerty says this reflects the school's emphasis on bringing up children to be guardians of their world.

Mahurangi Kindergarten joined the burgeoning Enviroschools movement last year, which aims to foster a generation of young people who instinctively think and act sustainably.

This means children participate in tending a school garden, feed worms in their worm farm, compost vegetable matter and recycle paper and cardboard.

Activities also include visits to zero waste transfer stations to expand children's awareness of other forms of recycling and meeting two local pigs who enjoy munching on their food scraps.

Produce from the school garden includes cabbage, kale, beetroot, tomato, onions and silverbeet.

The produce is either cooked and eaten at the kindergarten or stocks a community stall, placed outside, where passers-by can help themselves to fresh veggies.

Meanwhile, children are encouraged to have as little plastic wrapping as possible in their lunch boxes.

Earlier this year, the school received an Enviroschools Bronze award for the progress it is making.

To celebrate coming under the Kaitiaki umbrella, the school is holding a disco on Thursday, July 4, at 5pm, for current and former pupils and their families. Attendees are asked to bring a plate and ethnically diverse dishes are encouraged. Mahurangi Kindergarten is located at 13 Albert Road, Warkworth.

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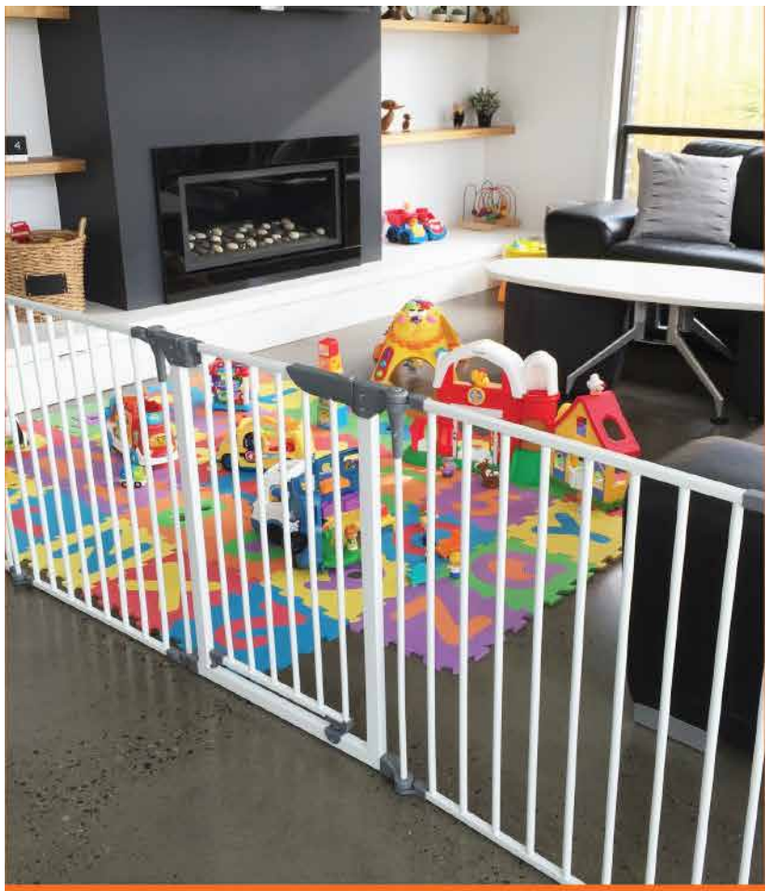

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From left, PGG Wrightson's Bernie McGahan and Sjanna Bishop of Carrfields Livestock show Plunket's Tania Hamilton, Emma Bottema and their boys round the Wellsford Saleyards.

Farm animals help Plunket build Wellsford carpark

Farmers in and around Wellsford are being asked to donate young sheep or cattle to help the local Plunket create an extra carpark at the rear of its Rodney Street rooms.

Fundraising coordinator Tania Hamilton is hoping farmers will consider donating a lamb, sheep, calf, heifer, steer or bull to the Wellsford Weaner Sale in November, with proceeds going to Plunket. She says the local support already received is hugely appreciated, and she hopes the new fundraiser will prove appealing to a different audience.

Both livestock agents at the Wellsford Saleyards, PGG Wrightson and Carrfields, have agreed to waive their selling fees to help Plunket with its goal of building a retaining wall to make a safe parking place for families.

Although prices vary greatly, lambs are normally expected to bring in upwards of $50 and calves and cattle at least $150 per animal.

For more information about the scheme and sale, contact PGG Wrightson's regional livestock manager, Bernie McGahan, on 027 590 2210 or Carrfields' Northland livestock manager, Robert McLean, on 0275 904 829.

Health service urges vaccination

The Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) is recommending all 12-month-old children in the region receive their first measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination to protect them from measles.

Previously, children were vaccinated at 15 months.

The recommendation comes in the wake of a measles outbreak in Auckland, which has seen more than 120 confirmed cases this year.

ARPHS Clinical Director Dr Julia Peters says GPs can provide other vaccinations at the same time as the MMR vaccination for the sake of convenience. These include vaccines against invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD), Hib (Haemophilus influenzae) and chickenpox.

"With a 12 month MMR vaccination, there's no extra dose to be added. Children will continue to receive the second MMR at four years as usual," Dr Peters says.

"We have seen a significant number of young babies with measles, many of whom have been hospitalised. Receiving the first dose of MMR at 12 months will increase levels of immunity in the community and provide added protection for these infants."

ARPHS is also asking primary care providers to recall all children aged less than five years who have missed out on their first MMR vaccination.

"The virus is now spreading around the Auckland region. The only effective way to reduce the impact of measles is to increase vaccination rates in the region," Dr Peters says.

Children travelling to countries where there are measles outbreaks can be vaccinated with MMR as early as six months of age.

Older children and adults aged up to 50 who have no documented evidence of vaccination against measles are recommended to receive an MMR vaccine. The vaccination is free.

Those over 50 years of age are considered immune, as they will have been exposed to the disease during their childhood.

Measles symptoms include fever, coughing, runny nose and sore red eyes. After three to five days, a rash appears on the face before moving down the body.

Info: Call Healthline on 0800 611 116

Colin Chester gives Reon Travers a few hints on how to hit a hockey ball.

Stick donation introduces youngsters to joy of hockey

Kids at Warkworth Educare preschool are taking their first swing at hockey, thanks to brand new miniature Kookaburra sticks donated by Colin Chester.

Colin and his brother Grant bought 1000 hockey sticks and have distributed roughly half of them to schools and clubs in need around the country, via Hockey NZ.

Warkworth's Educare kids are the first preschooler age recipients of sticks from the programme, thanks to teacher and hockey player Helen Travers.

"Helen got in contact and asked if we might have gear for the little kids of Warkworth, and I said of course," Colin says.

"These kids will go home and tell their parents they love hockey and they might buy some gear and pick it up themselves. Unless we had given them the opportunity, they might never have played the game."

Colin also has a programme recycling secondhand gear, which he picks up from North Harbour Hockey and reconditions with paint and new grips.

"My wife came home one day and suddenly found our garage full of gear."

Colin has played hockey internationally at masters level and was selected for the New Zealand team to compete in South Korea in 2006.

He is inspired by his father who loved playing hockey in Mt Roskill before he died at the age of 57.

"My wife said he'd be very proud of what us boys are doing, and I hope she's right," he says.

Colin says he has gear for any school or club that wants to grow the game and requests can be made to Hockey NZ, *hockeynz.co.nz*.

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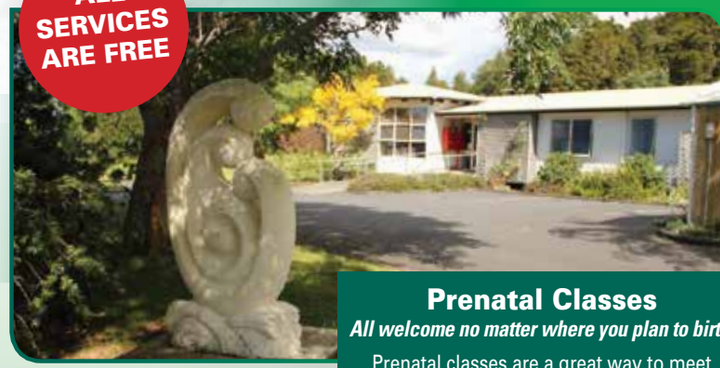

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For booking classes please phone the Centre 9am - 4pm, Monday to Friday.

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Dive course to bolster kids' spearfishing

A brand-new course that teaches youngsters how to hold their breath for three minutes and efficiently swim underwater could turn kids into top spearfishers these holidays.

The course will be taught by ex-Mahurangi College student Caroline Baddock, who swam for New Zealand at the Pan Pacific Championships and the World University Games. She can hold her breath underwater for five minutes and twenty seconds.

"It's a freediving course that will teach breath control and efficient propulsion to get to a depth of 10 to 20 metres using the minimum amount of energy," Caroline says.

After students complete the course, there is an optional spearfishing charter where they can learn how to use a speargun safely and identify which fish are good to eat.

NZ Diving is also establishing a new diving club for college-aged students that will allow them to join NZ Diving charters at a subsidised rate.

Caroline is back in Mahurangi after completing a swimming scholarship at Auburn University in Alabama. She started hosting holiday programmes with NZ Diving in Warkworth during the last school holidays. "It has been great because kids always have fun and they are easy to teach, and at that age they are just natural in the water," she says.

Ex-Mahu college student Caroline Baddock hosts school holiday programmes with NZ Diving in Warkworth.

NZ Diving will also continue its popular scuba diving course which teaches how to assemble gear and safely ascend and descend over three days. Those who complete the course gain a Scuba Diving International certified diving licence.

The courses are open to anyone aged 13 and above who is fit and healthy and can comfortably swim 200 metres.

Info: email *dive@nzdiving.co.nz*

Showcase day for local clubs and groups

The diverse range of clubs, groups and organisations in the area will come under the spotlight at a special event organised by Warkworth Library on Friday, July 26.

The Groups & Clubs Information Day will take place at the Old Masonic Hall, next to the library in Baxter Street, from 10am until 4pm. Senior library assistant for community engagement Katie Mitchell says there is a huge variety of local groups in Warkworth and the surrounding area, covering a wide range of interests and activities, from sports and hobbies to environmental and community causes.

"Many of these clubs and groups have been established for years and they are keen to pass on their skills and knowledge to potential new members," she says. "With so many people moving into the area, we thought it would be good to showcase what's going on and what there is available."

The information day is free to clubs that would like to promote their activities and also to visitors. Anyone wishing to know more or to take part should email *Katherine.mitchell@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz*

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College recognises trustee

If your children attended Rodney College, you might be unaware how much Gay Pride has done for their schooling.

The college celebrated with Gay last week as she stepped down from the Board of Trustees after 27 years in the job. Gay says that as a mother of five she first joined the Tauhoa School board, because she knew schooling years were going to amount to a significant time in her life.

"If parents see the school as important and take an interest, then the kids will also view their schooling as important," she says.

"My mother, my husband, and my kids all went to Tauhoa School, and I just felt joining the board shows your commitment to your community."

Gay recommends the job, but says parents need to recognise that it is a governance role and not a way of shaking up things they don't like about a school.

"You have to bring community concerns to the table, but balance them with what is achievable and what the government of the day wants."

Rodney College principal Irene Symes says the work that Gay has done for the board is the epitome of everything good about having the community involved in the running of a school.

"She had credibility because she was always a visible part of the community. She was prepared to front up and talk to parents from their perspective and was confident in telling them what they needed to do."

The Board presented Gay Pride with a pounamu necklace in recognition of her long service.

Gay's husband, Richard, also coached Rodney College's U14s rugby team, and Gay was there to cheer them on at every game, Ms Symes says.

"She is notorious for yelling across the field, and I am certain everyone is going to miss the presence of her distinctive howl. The team has progressed really well thanks to their care."

Ms Symes says looking back on Gay's service to the school is poignant, given that the Ministry of Education is currently reviewing the 'Tomorrow's Schools' governance model that established school boards.

"Some principals are anti-boards, but I think Gay is a great example of the positive impact they can have."

Matariki, magnets and more for winter holiday fun

Everything from snowflakes, stargazing and sock snowmen to penguins, puppets and penfriends will form part of a free programme of fun winter activities at local libraries this school holidays.

There will be a diverse range of things to make, see, do and enjoy throughout the two weeks at Warkworth, Wellsford and Mahurangi East libraries, with stories, performances, projects and presentations all based around the theme Poles Apart.

Matariki-themed events and crafts feature at all three libraries, with the professional Toro Pikopiko Puppet Theatre performing at Warkworth and Wellsford, Matariki Stargazing at Warkworth (*see story p20*), Matariki magnet making and a whanau day at Wellsford, and crafts, story times and Te Ao Māori myths and art at Mahurangi East.

Magnetism also features strongly, with plenty of science play and creation including fishing sets and sand art at Mahurangi East and compass making at Warkworth and Wellsford.

Other activities include a yoga session for kids at Warkworth, making penguins and snowflakes at Wellsford and using playdough to complete an electrical circuit and light an LED at Snells Beach.

Mahurangi East librarian Anne Dickson says Poles Apart has something to appeal to everyone, and all activities are free.

"As well as being entertaining, the activities are all designed to inspire imagination and creativity, as well as a love of learning and reading," she says. "And several are especially for the whole family to enjoy."

Info: Pick up a flyer at the library, or visit *aucklandlibraries.govt.nz* or each of the libraries' Facebook pages. Some activities require bookings.

Visit us on Facebook for daily notices
MahurangiMatters

What's on at the libraries ...

	Warkworth	Wellsford	Mahurangi East
Monday, July 8	Toro Pikopiko Puppet Theatre, 10.30am	Toro Pikopiko Puppet Theatre, 1.30pm	All day, every day – Matariki crafts
Tuesday, July 9	Making Snowflakes, 10.30am	Make a Penguin, 10.30am	Tuatara Storytime, Ngaire Dolphin, 10.30am
Wednesday, July 10	Make a Coat of Arms, 10.30am		Magnetic Attraction, 10.30am
Thursday, July 11	Matariki Stargazing, 6.30pm	Matariki Fridge Magnets, 10.30am	
Friday, July 12		Film: Moana, in reo Maori, 3pm	Sands of Time magnetism, 10.30am
Saturday, July 13		Matariki Whanau Day, 10am	
Monday, July 15	Polar Sock Snowmen 10.30am		
Tuesday, July 16	Yoga with Ingrid, 11.30am	LED Popsicle Stick Lights, 10.30am	The Norse Tree of Life, 10.30am
Wednesday, July 17	Compass Rose making, 10.30am	DIY Compass Making, 10.30am	Squishy LED circuits, 2.30pm
Thursday, July 18	Imaginary Penfriends, 10.30am	Making Snowflakes, 10.30am	Mini-debates & Improv, 2.30pm
Friday, July 19		Film: Happy Feet, 3pm	Creation in Te Ao Maori, 10.30am

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Education

Helen Pearson, Lead principal Kahui Ako
principal@horizon.school.nz

Fearful children

Children hitting or throwing something because someone looks at them wrong; silently freezing because others might be watching; running away because they can't face an assessment, or screaming as their mother says goodbye …

Teachers across the country are facing a tidal wave of learners who suffer from anxiety. What is happening, and what can we do about it?

About 180 parents and teachers from the Mahurangi Kahui Ako (community of learning) gathered recently to hear psychologist Dr Ruth McConnell explain what is happening in the brain when we are anxious, and how we can respond.

Dr McConnell shared the importance of developing and maintaining strong attachment to parents, because confidence and security are developed most easily when we can relax in secure and strong relationships. Danger and risk are a part of life, and fear is often a healthy response to danger. However, sometimes our bodies trick us, moving into protective modes like freezing, fighting or fleeing, even when there is no need to worry. In these times, we need calm people around to help us regulate our emotions until we can do this ourselves.

Even though we are busy, children need to have parents and caregivers present with them when they are together, available to talk about times they are feeling overwhelmed. They so badly need to feel our calm presence, but when we are stressed this is really hard to prioritise. Comments said when we are feeling overwhelmed can result in anxiety that impacts on both relationships and learning.

So how do we develop courage, resilience and confidence in our children? Helping children understand that we all face fears, even as adults, is a good start. Become an emotional coach for your children – acknowledging that their feelings are real and strong, and that our bodies react in case there is real danger. If we breathe deeply and slowly, especially with a calm adult, we will help our bodies to know that we are okay, and, instead of operating out of our 'survival' brain, we can begin to think more logically about what to do. Helping our children realise that they can be the 'boss of their brains' is powerful when they know they have a supportive coach.

Speaker to discuss technology and children

Mahurangi Kahui Ako is hosting John Cowan, of Parenting Place, who will speak on Navigating Technology with your Child on Tuesday, August 13. Contact *sally@horizon.school.nz* to register your interest.

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Mangawhai Museum
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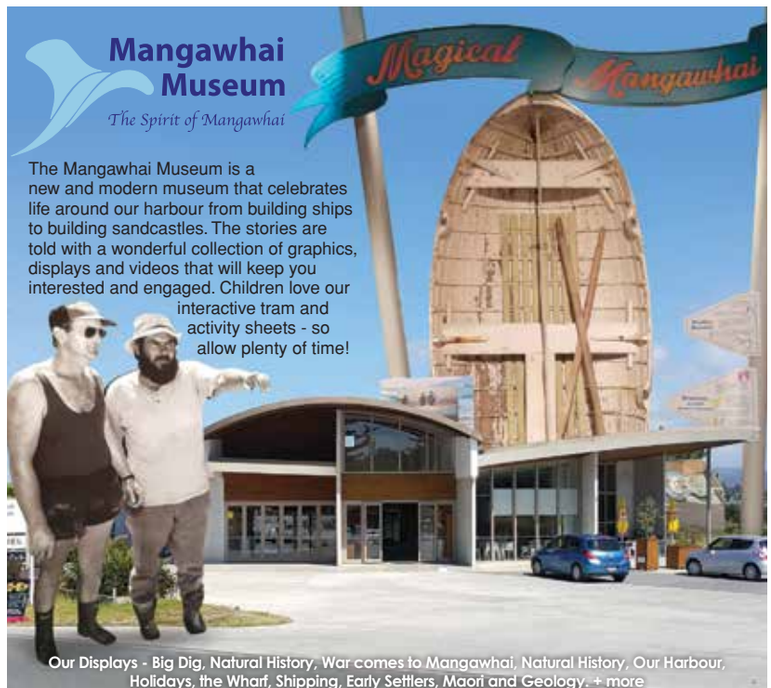

The Mangawhai Museum is a new and modern museum that celebrates life around our harbour from building ships to building sandcastles. The stories are told with a wonderful collection of graphics, displays and videos that will keep you interested and engaged. Children love our interactive tram and activity sheets - so allow plenty of time!
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Museum open 10am - 4pm. Cafe open 10am - 3pm. mangawhai-museum.org.nz

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The 30-tonne Deodar III was able to navigate the Mahurangi River at high tide.

Maritime Police visit Mahurangi River seeking person of interest

Maritime Police boat Deodar III came all the way from Auckland's Mechanics Bay, up the Mahurangi River, to visit Warkworth, after several reports were received of a boat being piloted erratically.

Police say the boat was on a 'prevention patrol' following the reports, which concerned a male living aboard his own vessel.

"The maritime unit came up the river to assist in seeking a person of interest."

Despite being a 30-tonne aluminium vessel, the Deodar III has a draft of only 0.75m, meaning it can travel on the shallow waters of the Mahurangi River.

It is also a jet-driven boat, so there is no risk of a propeller striking the bottom of the river.

Nevertheless, police say the work by the Mahurangi River Restoration Trust in dredging the river has been valuable in allowing police boats to assist in the area.

Warkworth Police say having access to marine resources is useful given the area has a significant recreational boating community.

In former times, the Warkworth Police Station was based on the Mahurangi River at Hamilton Farm.

The new camera can pick up vehicle licence plates.

New camera for Snells Beach

A new high-tech security surveillance system has been giving Snells Beach speeders a fright since it was installed last month, even though it is not a speed camera.

The double camera at the corner of Mahurangi East Road and Arabella Lane is fitted with an infrared 'flash' for easily picking up vehicle licence plates.

Its software automatically scans the image for plates and stores the information, providing police with a list of cars that have travelled past the corner for up to a month, says Insite Security director Chris Martin. That information can be wirelessly accessed if there is a report of crime in the area involving a vehicle.

"We are able to take advantage of the fact that there is a only one road into the Mahurangi Peninsula," Chris says.

"The spot we have chosen is in a 50km zone on a twisty corner where drivers have to slow down, and their plate number can be easily captured."

The second camera produces high resolution colour footage, so that police can zoom in on and identify a driver. The footage is wirelessly transmitted to an offsite recording facility and can also be accessed as a live stream by police and Insite Security.

The camera was entirely funded by the community, Snells Beach Residents and Ratepayers chairman Mark Dinniss says.

Snells Beach Gull and Northland Waste made substantial donations, Auckland Transport paid for traffic management and power, Brick Bay Wines for the broadband connection and Insite Security is providing the equipment, installation and maintenance at cost. Mark says the camera is a perfect deterrent against crimes such as ram raids or boats stolen on trailers.

"If you commit a crime, remember to smile," he says.

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From strength to strength

Being the end of our financial year, it's a fitting time to do a round-up of our achievements over the last 12 months. Any business owner will know how much work goes on behind the scenes and One Warkworth is no different. We have a wonderful team behind us, including our 12 committee members who volunteer their time providing strategic leadership and making sure this association meets the needs of the business community while staying financially viable.

They are instrumental in the advocacy work we do, meeting with politicians, CEOs and senior managers to get Warkworth's voice heard on anything from roads and the Warkworth Structure Plan, to crossings, footpaths and the weir. I would hate to calculate just how many collective hours go into this, but it's lots. That is why Warkworth proudly has the reputation, at least within Council, of being one of the most 'engaged' communities in Auckland – I think they mean vocal!

> ***"Warkworth proudly has the reputation, at least within Council, of being one of the most 'engaged' communities in Auckland – I think they mean vocal!"***

I also have a team to help me get the doing done. Until last month, Charlene Heyns has been our bookkeeper and admin extraordinaire – it has been a pleasure working with her, and I would like to say a huge thanks for all her work. Claire Blair is now taking over this role and, along with Rachel Callender (marketing and communications) and Ayla Walker (membership support and social media), our team is back to its full complement. Like any business, it is this team that keeps the wheels moving – the mechanics of the organisation that you don't necessarily get to see. Without them, everything would simply stop.

With this team, we have delivered some great initiatives for the business community over the last 12 months. Our networking events have gone from strength to strength with new members joining up on the spot. We've launched new member offers, including in-store discounts at Warkworth's Noel Leeming and launched our new search-optimized website with a focus on member listings. This has been a highlight, with businesses reporting a number of new referrals via *onewarkworth.co.nz* and our Facebook page.

I'm particularly proud of our events that connect local businesses with the people who live in our community. While the weather thwarted the Santa Parade last year, the work that went into it means we're raring to go this year, and of course the Mahurangi Winter Festival of Lights will soon be here and promises to be a spectacular spectacle. It really has been an amazing year. One Warkworth has made steady progress and built some real strength around the local business community. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our success. We're looking forward to maintaining momentum in 2019/20.

Forum to assist Mururoa veterans

Veterans Affairs New Zealand will host a forum for Mururoa veterans and their dependents and any other veterans to inform them of their eligibilities for pensions and services. The forum will be held at the Warkworth RSA on July 12 at 1pm. Case managers will be available for one on one appointments and afternoon tea will be provided. New Zealand ships were sent to Mururoa in 1973 to protest the testing of nuclear devices.

Say it to Sayers

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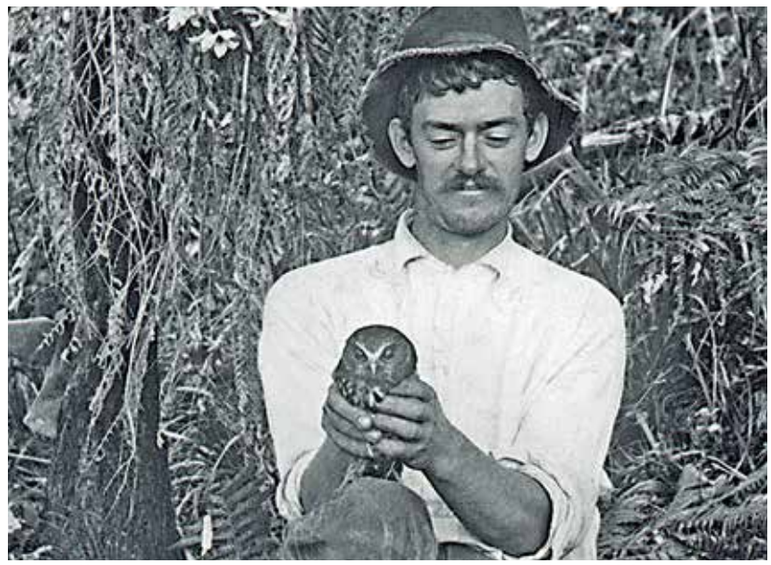

Archie Brookes and inquisitive morepork, Solomon's Bay, 1904 (W H Marsh Collection)

Albertland's Archie

Recent news of the latest royal baby brought to mind an interesting second-generation Albertlander.

Archibald Edwin Brookes was born in 1878 in Taranaki, where his father, Edwin Stanley Brookes Jnr, was working as government surveyor. When Archie's mother died, his father remarried and, in 1886, the family returned to Minniesdale Farm, Wharehine.

Brookes senior was no farmer, but a researcher, antiquities collector and writer. Archie's older brother had gone to the Tasmanian goldfields and his sisters were out 'in service', so to support the land and family Archie, 15, went to work on the nearby Okahukura block. For many years he did fencing, bushfelling, scrubcutting and other hard, manual labour. In fact, he spent most of his single life working to provide for senior members of the family, as they had no capital to invest in farm improvements.

Archie was 30 when he married local girl Isabel Witheford in 1909. They moved to Matamata where he earned money to buy Minniesdale. His sister Winnie wrote to a friend: "We do not hear much about Archie, I have had one letter from him since he got married. He says he would not be single again for anything."

Archie Brookes was remembered as an excellent shot, but one of his letters from Matamata states: "Isabel is a far better shot than I am, she can pick the sparrows off a stump a chain away with a pea rifle one after the other without a miss."

After about three years, Archie and family moved back to Minniesdale, finally gaining ownership of the property. There they ran several hundred sheep, which were hand-shorn. Bales of wool were taken by horse and sledge to Takapau Creek for transporting to Helensville by steamer. Archie and Isabel also hand-milked a few cows and Archie would carry the heavy cream can up their very, very steep hill to Shegadeen Road for collection.

He was a great gardener, growing a wide variety of vegetables. One garden on the edge of Takapau Creek produced magnificent corn, maize and watermelons. Bird egg collecting was also a passion. He and friends would row a dinghy down the Oruawharo River to Shag Creek, where in spring the mangroves were festooned with nests. His collection is now in the Albertland Museum. Archie and Isobel were popular and sociable. They hosted many picnics at the homestead with croquet on the front lawn for the adults while children played in the bush or swam in the creek.

During WWII, their boys joined the services so Archie and Isabel carried on the farm alone. After the war, son Bernard came back to Minniesdale and took over, as both parents had failing health. He found it too difficult to cope alone and the house needed work so, after nearly 100 years in the Brookes family, Minniesdale was sold.

Cheryl Clarke and Wendy Franklin of Warkworth's Kowhai Art & Craft receive their certificate.

Board gives thanks for volunteers

Volunteers representing community, recreation and environmental groups from throughout the region were honoured by the Rodney Local Board recently. Board chair Beth Houlbrooke thanked them for getting stuck in to many projects that, without their efforts, might never get done, or at least be severely delayed.

"It's humbling and inspiring to see how dedicated volunteers improve people's lives by giving their time and resources so generously, often to many different groups," she said. The volunteers received certificates, enjoyed an afternoon tea and heard a presentation about bats from Auckland Council's senior biodiversity advisor, Ben Paris. Warkworth volunteer Roger Williams said it was gratifying to be recognised and enjoyable to meet others. "It's amazing to look around at the volunteers here and then multiply that number by 10, which gives you some idea of the many volunteers in the community," he said. "What is equally amazing is the diverse tasks that they all do." Representatives attended from organisations including Albertland & Districts Museum & Heritage Centre; Goodall Reserve; Kowhai Art & Craft; Leigh Hall; Lions Clubs Zone 4 Rodney; Mahu Vision Community Trust; Mahurangi Community Sport & Recreation Collective; Mahurangi East Community Centre; Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers; Mahurangi Wastebusters; Matakana Community Group; Matheson Bay Neighbourhood; Omaha Shorebird Protection Trust; Omaha Beach Reserve; Puhoi Community Forum; Ranfurly Hall; Sandspit SOS; Springboard Community Works; Tapora Citizens and Ratepayers; Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society; Warkworth District Museum; Warkworth Forest and Bird; Warkworth Town Hall Restoration Trust; Wellsford Community Centre; Warkworth Wellsford Hospice; Whangateau Harbour Care; Whangateau Residents and Ratepayers; and Whangateau Hall.

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Leigh School students including Poppy Shears, centre, and Zoe Harley, right, enjoyed the warmest Leigh Mid-Winter swim on record.

Leigh School students out in force for Mid-Winter swim fundraiser

Children from Leigh School were among the scores of swimmers who braved chilly conditions for the Leigh Community Mid-Winter Swim.

The swim at Matheson Bay was held on June 23, the weekend immediately after New Zealand's shortest day.

Despite being the middle of winter, the day dawned bright and sunny and the sea temperature of 17C turned out to be the warmest ever for the annual event.

This year, parents of children at Leigh School organised a sausage sizzle and home baking stall on the beach as a fundraiser for the school.

Money raised will be used to renovate a school kitchen used for teaching cookery skills.

The oldest swimmer was Averil Lovegrove, 91, who has been a regular at the event for several years.

She says it's hard to say whether she actually looks forward to the swimming part, but it's nevertheless a great event – typical of the community spirit in Leigh.

Emerging from the water after about 10 minutes she said it was colder than expected and she was looking forward to something from the sausage sizzle.

Al Mason turned up in a 1958 Chevrolet Bel Air to hand over a defibrillator to Wellsford Warkworth Vintage Car Club chair Anne Richardson.

First aid boost for car club

A club member suddenly taken ill during a Wellsford Warkworth Vintage Car Club Rally prompted the club to decide to beef up its first aid skills.

St John was invited to come and give the club a first aid demonstration and it was suggested that it would be ideal to have defibrillator (AED) on hand in case of an emergency.

A defibrillator is able to effectively treat a patient who suddenly develops an irregular heartbeat.

Club member Al Mason, of Mason Containers, volunteered to pay for the defibrillator, which cost around $2,500.

The device will be kept at the car club's clubrooms on Satellite Station Road, but will travel with the vintage cars on rallies.

Over the years, Al has donated about a dozen defibrillators to various Mahurangi clubs.

He is also a keen classic car enthusiast, owning a range of vehicles dating from 1947 to 1970.

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Te Waka Youth Trust silenced by callous thieves

Wellsford's Te Waka Youth Trust is appealing to the public for information after two guitars and a Sony speaker were burgled in a break-in at the trust premises on Sunday, June 23.

Between the stolen items and the cost of repairing a door that was smashed in, the trust has lost $1000.

Manager Melanie Torkington says it's a big blow for an organisation that doesn't have spare cash and fundraises for everything it buys.

"I just want to know what makes the thieves think they are more entitled than these kids, who put in the time fundraising to get the musical instruments," Melanie says.

"With this being a hangout hub, the kids have been teaching each other songs and having jams together, and it has been part of the culture around here. Musical equipment has been an important resource for the self-development of these disadvantaged youth.

"It's terrible because we have lovely people who make donations for us to buy these things and these thieves are basically robbing the community. A theft like this is worse because it directly affects the kids – it's not like it was a computer from an admin office."

The Te Waka Trust is also now having to increase its security with larger locks and increased visits by security guards.

Melanie says the trust just wants the instruments back and if the thieves were to drop them back on the doorstep then no further questions would be asked.

If anyone has information about these stolen guitars, they should call police on 105.

Although the instruments have not yet been replaced, Melanie says she has been touched by a number of offers from the community to lend kids instruments so they can continue to play.

The thieves left the power cable behind for the Sony speaker and there is a possibility they will be trying to obtain a new one, which may provide a lead.

Anyone who knows anything should call police on 105. The case file number is 190624/232.

Sweetappreciation with chocolatebrown

Send your nominations to editor@localmatters.co.nz

Congratulations to Coral Broadhead, of Warkworth, who is a recipient of a gift basket from Chocolate Brown. Coral was nominated by Moira Dye, who wrote:

"We recently returned from a holiday abroad to the news of an unexpected family bereavement. Not only did Coral take on the job of watering our large garden, she filled the fridge with fresh food and meals for us, and even arranged for our lawns to be mowed. It was such a treat to return home to this welcome when we were not feeling our best. She is a treasure – a neighbour in a million."

Know someone who deserves a big "thank you" for their community spirit? Tell us and they will receive acknowledgement in *Mahurangi Matters* and an amazing hamper from Chocolate Brown, 6 Mill Lane, Warkworth. Send your nominations to *editor@localmatters.co.nz* (subject line: Sweet Appreciation) or post to: Sweet Appreciation, Mahurangi Matters, PO Box 701, Warkworth. Kindly refrain from nominating members of your own family.

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Back, from left: Ashley Came, Jack Brown, George Durban Burgess. Front: Robbie McFarlane, Jackson Gravatt and Eli Hallan.

U21s back with a vengeance vs Kumeu

The Mason Containers U21s showed methodical control of the ball, resulting in a striking 74-7 victory against a beleaguered Kumeu on June 15.

It was a sweet victory for Mahurangi who last played an away game with Kumeu in April and lost 20-15 in a tough match against a well-manned side.

Coach Terrence Banks says the boys had some extra motivation at the weekend to push themselves, having lost to Takapuna 19-12 in the previous week in a match that should have been theirs.

"We have improved leaps and bounds since the start of the season. The boys have been working hard on a pattern that suits us, and, as you can see, when it goes right, it is pretty to watch."

"I have been advocating for a style of play where the boys know and concentrate on their own roles. We play a structured combination of forward ball control, then, if that's done its job, it creates space and time for the backs to do what they do best.

"The team has been learning these plays for three seasons and everyone on the back line knows what's happening when a move is dropped."

Mahurangi is square in the middle of the U21 standings tables, with five wins and five losses, and has two more games before the quarter-finals.

The games are against the two top ranked teams in the standings – East Coast Bays and Northcote.

"We will most likely be in the quarter-finals looking at where the tables are at, but a bonus point would confirm us. It would also be great to knock a tough scalp that nobody is expecting us to."

In the quarter-finals, Mahurangi will most likely be up against Marist, which is just ahead in the current standings, making for a highly anticipated match.

Coach Banks has been with some of the current U21 players for 14 seasons and coached them as a First XV team when they won the interschool tournament in Papamoa.

"The club is often overlooked because we are still a small rural area and don't have the rolls of city clubs like Orewa, but we compete with them and achieve good things.

"I've always seen the fact that we are a one college town as a strength not a weakness because we don't tend to lose a lot of boys, and I think there is more pride here in playing for the jersey."

He says the club couldn't achieve the same result without its sponsors, including Central Landscaping Supplies, and Ramona Holt, of the Bridgehouse, who provides the boys with lunch after training.

Six new caps for First XV

Six players from Mahurangi College's First XV got their 15 game caps on June 15.

The occasion was made even more momentous with a 71-0 victory for Mahurangi over Massey.

Mahurangi First XV is at the top of the Open B division having played and won four matches.

Club calls for coaches

If you've got love for the blue and white jersey and want to make an impact in your community, then Mahurangi RFC has the opportunity for you. The club is looking for new coaches for its premier 1, premier 2, U21, U85kg, and women's teams for next season. Chairman Ian Bradnam is looking for expressions of interest as soon as possible, as he is hoping to announce the new coaches at the club prizegiving on Friday, July 26. He says that last season the club was unable to field an U85kg team due to a lack of a coach to bring together the players, but it would be great to put something together for next year. Having no age limit for the U85kgs means the game is less physical but still 'pretty fast rugby'. Contact Ian Bradnam on 021 423 144.

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Dave Cash, Dennis Sullivan and Ian Ward.

Mahurangi RFC celebrates three decades of great rugby

It was a huge day of rugby at Mahurangi RFC on Saturday, June 15, with three home victories as the club celebrated 30 years since Kaipara Flats, Omaha and Warkworth merged and joined the North Harbour competition.

Three of the original founding members, Dave Cash (Warkworth), Dennis Sullivan (Kaipara Flats) and Ian Ward (Omaha) celebrated by cutting a cake in front of a crowd of fans and sponsors.

President Chris Jujnovich said it took years for the formation committee to bring three clubs together 'that basically hated each other', but have since managed to work incredibly well.

North Harbour president John McKittrick was in attendance and congratulated the club on being one of the most well governed and for having Harbour Rugby's first female chair, Charmaine Gravatt.

Gravatt said that despite being the most northern club, and only having one feeder college, Mahurangi maintains 300 junior players, 130 college level, and 60 senior players, all of whom contributed an outstanding performance on the day.

She thanked the community members who kept the club running as well as the long-loyal sponsors.

"When Judy washes big Al Mason's clothes she must wonder 'how big is this guy's pockets?' because he always digs deep for our sports clubs," she said, referring to Al Mason of Mason Containers.

J1 team is heading to Christchurch

Mahurangi College's J1 team is joining with Christchurch's Waihora RFC to play in the Methven Junior Rugby Tournament on July 13-14. The players in the under 13s J1 team have been together for five seasons but after this year will be graduating to play for their respective colleges and so the club wanted to do something special, coach Chris Murphy says.

"Many of these kids haven't ventured south of Auckland, let alone stepped on a plane. Methven is at the foot of the Southern Alps, so it will be a real winter experience for our northern kids."

The tournament comprises six games over two days and Mahurangi will be the only North Island club playing. Murphy says the team is often the smallest in their open weight grade, being an average of 5kgs lighter, but has won five out of seven games this season including a 26-15 win against Silverdale on Saturday, June 15.

"The problem is that we lost important time to raise funds due to the tournament being in less than a month, rather than in September at the end of our season when we would typically play.

Mahurangi's J1 team beat Silverdale 26-15 in a home game on July 15.

"The kids are working hard selling chocolates, raffles, and mandarins and one of the parents has set up a 'Givealittle' page and we ask that anyone who is willing to support view the page and assist."

He says rugby has been more than just an opportunity to play a game for the kids, being a supportive environment in which they have been challenged to grow as individuals, but also learn to put a team first.

Info: ***givealittle.co.nz/cause/mahuj1rugby***

Coaching and Management Teams 2020 Season

MAHURANGI R.F.C

The Club is seeking applications for head coaching, assistant coaching and management positions for the senior teams in the 2020 season.

The planned senior teams in 2020 season will be Premier 1, Premier 2, Under 85kg (restricted), Under 21's, 7's and Women's Team.

Applications should be in the form of a letter of application including relevant CV.

Applications and or inquiries should be addressed to the Director of Rugby.

Mail: **P.O. Box 170, Warkworth 0941**

Email: **bradnam@xtra.co.nz**

Phone: **Ian Bradnam 021-423-144**

Applications close 17 July 2019 with appointments announced at Senior prize giving 26 July 2019 .

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Terrific tuna

This 61kg monster was among those caught on the Waihau Bay Bluefin Tuna Run

Southern bluefin tuna are currently being targeted off East Cape. This annual run is known as the Waihau Bay Bluefin Tuna Run. This year, for the first time, a catch limit has been imposed on recreational anglers. This is set at one fish per angler, per day. Please note that every boat is checked by Fisheries New Zealand for monitoring of the species. On June 12, the season kicked off with a 70kg and a 61kg being landed on one boat. Another boat landed two, lost one and tagged another two around the 70kg mark. As I write, fish are still being caught down Gisborne way, so there is still an opportunity to catch these migratory tuna before they move on up the New Zealand coast, passing East Cape and Great Barrier Island, before leaving our waters until next year around the same time. What makes fishing for them attractive off Waihau Bay is that the deep water is very close in, dropping off quickly to depths far in excess of 500m. These tuna are savored for the best tasting sashimi, ever. No wonder the Japanese are willing to pay huge money for this prized fish.

Locally, the Kaipara Harbour has started to produce some big gurnard again. This time of year it is a good idea to try to target them as they are around in reasonable numbers, quite large and very tasty! The preferred way of catching them is on a ledger rig with two smaller hooks around the 3/0 or 4/0 size and covered in pink flash, plus your favorite bait. There are also some great snapper being caught in the Kaipara so do give it a try if you are not doing so well on the east side. Tight Lines!

Keith and Caroline Marshall have produced some of Wellsford's top athletes.

One more award for Marshalls

Keith and Caroline Marshall received a long service award at the 2019 Northland Secondary School Athletics competition, where they were described as the 'heart and soul' of athletics in Wellsford.

The pair has been involved in and coached Wellsford Athletics and Harriers for over 40 years and are said to have turned up to every event.

They even represent Wellsford on the athletics committee in Whangarei.

Keith is still coaching and his athletes came first and second in the cross country at the 2019 Northland Secondary Sport Athletics competition.

The Marshalls are also the organisers of the Te Hana Road Race, Hoteo Cross Country and the Wilkinson Road Race.

Rodney College sport coordinator Maria Northin, who nominated the Marshalls, said in her speech that after coaching so many generations that have gone onto national success, the Marshalls are irreplaceable.

"They are our chief timekeepers at all events and they continue to encourage and coach our students who need a little extra help with their technique.

"They have a real passion for what they do and never let bad health or bad weather get in the way, and they do it all because they love helping students."

Mahurangi College is fundraising to send 30 players to the underwater hockey national competition with a midwinter swim event this Sunday.

Mahurangi Underwater Hockey

Both Mahurangi College's junior open A team and the junior girls team have qualified to go to the 35th NZ Secondary Schools Underwater Hockey Championships in Wellington in September.

The junior open team qualified for the nationals after placing second in the Northern Secondary Schools tournament in Auckland's West Wave Pool Centre on June 16.

It came down to a gruelling sudden death play-off at full time against Glendowie College.

Their success is due in part to former Mahurangi College student Ryan O'Connor returning to the school to coach the team.

The school has also been able to capitalise on experienced talent with Elliot Sneddon returning to coach the senior team.

Las year, the senior girls team got gold at the National Secondary Schools tournament in their division.

In the wake of that success, the senior girls are again playing with the boys in the senior open team.

They played in the senior regional competition in Tauranga on June 22-23. They came just short of qualifying for the nationals in Wellington, but are hoping to get a wild card slot.

Mahurangi's Underwater Hockey players have gained a strong reputation in recent years, with five women and four men selected to play for the Northern zone representative team, and two players selected for the NZ Under 19 women's world cup team.

Five ex Mahu players, Elliott Sneddon, Recbecca and Samuel Twhigg, Juilianna Panui-leth and Sarah Wilson have also been selected for New Zealand world cup teams. They will compete in Sheffield, England, in August.

"The culture we have at Mahu UWH is amazing, and the players are like family with strong bonds," general manager Kyla Wakefield says.

"We travel the greatest distance within the region and yet we always have a large turnout of family members who are often the loudest cheerers.

"It's always interesting watching people when they learn the impact player they've noticed is from Mahu – there's a bit of 'of course they are!'"

Mahurangi Underwater are fundraising with a mid-winter swim this Sunday, July 7.

It starts at 10am at the Omaha Surf Lifesaving Club with options from a dunk to a 100m swim.

Tickets are $10 and include homemade soup and bread rolls following the chilly dip.

Info: kyla.bevan@gmail.com

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Kaipara Flats sports awards

The annual Kaipara Flats sports awards dinner is being held on Saturday, July 13. It will be held at the Kaipara Flats Sports Club, with doors opening at 6pm and proceedings starting at 6.30pm. Tickets are $40 and can be purchased from the club or see the club Facebook page for direct deposit details. The guest speaker is Hayley Holt.

Tomarata RFC

Is seeking player nominations of boys or girls who reside within the Rodney Otamatea sub-union to play in the open weight U13 team at Waipu, held July 18-19 in Waipu. Players must be under the age of 13 as of January 1, 2019 and reside in the Rodney Otamatea area. Send nominations, including name, date of birth, and weight to Alan Brierly at *rojuniorrugby@gmail.com*. Get in fast. The due date was last weekend.

Hooked on hockey in the holidays

Harbour Hockey has holiday programmes for kids from ages 5-10 and 9-13, held July 17-19, 9am to 3pm. The 'hooked on hockey' programme for juniors is $130 for three days and involves group activities, team challenges and a mini-hockey tournament. The Hit 'Em Up programme for the seniors is open to more experienced players, where the focus is on skill development, and costs $130 for two days. *participation@harbourhockey.org.nz*

Table tennis

Table tennis takes place every Tuesday at Matakana Village Hall, 7.30pm. Info: George Anderson 423 0424

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The period from 17 May to 21 June was gazetted by the Minister as the range of dates for the Board of Trustees Triennial Elections for 2019. During this time, school boards across the country prepared for and carried out the process of electing their parent and staff trustees to help govern their schools. The results of the Mahurangi College Board of Trustees election were announced on 14 June. We'd like to warmly welcome and thank Peter Meafou, our newly elected Board of Trustee member, and our re-elected Trustees.

Peter has one child at Mahu and three younger ones to come. He is Managing Director of a software company and is actively involved in a wide range of community organisations. Congratulations also to the other Board members who were all re-elected from our previous Board; Dr Ihirangi Heke, Dean Iversen, Rachel O'Malley and Jason Neely. Nyree Norrington remains our Staff Trustee and Liam Price is our Student Trustee. A special thank you to Steve Garner who has been a Parent Representative on our Board of Trustees for the past 11 years, during which time he has provided excellent governance to our school, with particular expertise in property matters.

On 1 June we held our Senior Ball, this year at the Hilton Hotel. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in organising this annual highlight. It is rewarding to see our Pride values in action at an event like this. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive and actively engaged community helping our young people grow into mindful and responsible young adults. This was also highlighted during the official opening of our new Construction Academy, with a large number of local tradespeople attending and giving their support (below). Students demonstrated projects they are working on and skills they are learning. Our Academy has one Year 12 and one Year 13 class, each for two hours a day, and the students involved have the same expectations as in a business. All product is sold to cover costs, making our Construction Academy self-funding.

We are also very fortunate to have brilliant volunteers from within our community coach and manage our many sports teams. Amongst these volunteers, we have a great bunch of students who willingly give back to their chosen sport through coaching. Our thanks to them, and to Harbour Sport who recently delivered a professional development workshop to add new skills to their coaching toolboxes.

Our Junior Underwater Hockey teams recently competed in the Northern Regional tournament with two teams qualifying for Nationals, being held later in the year. Charlotte and Rachel have been nominated to trial for the Northern U18 Women's team, and Finn and Matthew were nominated to trial for the Northern U18 Men's team.

On June 11, students from our Enviro Club and Year 10 Education for Sustainability, took part in community tree planting. The trees were grown by past Sustainability students and were planted at a local farm in Warkworth. Altogether they planted 700 native trees. Well done to all involved.

Our Business Studies students recently held another successful Market Day. The effort and planning put into their business plans for the market is significant. Students are marked on participation, teamwork, problem solving and their individual evaluation of their business; evaluating their contribution and learning, then applying it forward. Our International Student Food Festival was also great success with thanks to our International Students Prefect, Aya Horie.

As I write, our students are starting the first of 7 sold out performances of "The Sound of Music". Based on the talent of staff and students involved, the quality of rehearsals, the live band and our incredible light and sound team - I am proudly looking forward to sharing our place and our people with you in this way.

David Macleod **PRINCIPAL**

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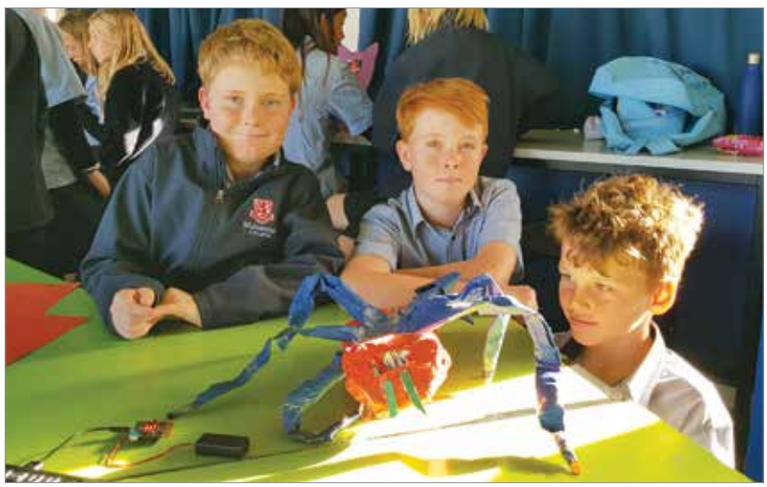
SENIOR 'WINTER WONDERLAND' AT THE HILTON

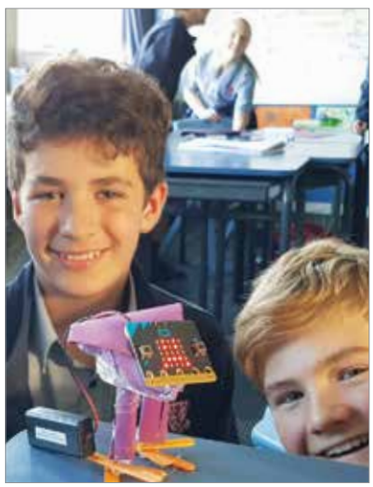
The very first school ball to be hosted by the Hilton Hotel was held on the very first evening of winter, and attended by 235 of our senior students and 33 staff.

Fitting to the theme - 'Paradise d'Hiver' Winter Wonderland - a cold night hung over Mahurangi College as five bus loads of senior students were whisked away to the heart of Auckland's viaduct. Inside the Hilton Hotel we found the perfect respite from the cold, in a ballroom transformed to a wonderland of blue and white. The night quickly disappeared in a flurry of photos and dance moves, capped by a lively prefect dance and the crowning of our 2019 Royal Family. Coco Bone and Samuel Telfer (below) took Prince and Princess, with Rebecca Parkinson taking Queen alongside King Kotua Kotua (above). 'Paradis d'Hiver' Winter Wonderland was a delight, and we were left with but a single thought - we'd won the ball. Special thanks to Mrs Johnston, Mrs Yau and Miss Woodfield for their guidance, and of course to our Head Prefects Jane Wilcock, William Paterson, Francesca Bennett and George D'Urban-Burgess for their work behind-the-scenes - and the countless ornate invitations folded.

USING ROBOTICS TO TEACH VALUE OF COLLABORATION

Recently, junior students in 7HEA spent an afternoon designing and constructing creative robotic pets. They attached microbits to the face of their pet to give it the ability to produce two alternating expressions. They had a set time of 40 minutes to complete the task. It was great to see not only their creativity, but also their ability to collaborate.





Samuel Chitty

ACHIEVER OF THE MONTH

Academic Blue Level 1 NCEA
Academic Blue Level 2 NCEA
Members of Writers Club
Member of Debating Team
Orange House Prefect

With Garyth Murray, Store Manager Mitre 10 Mega Warkworth

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Grant Dixon, left, and Craig Brown are aiming for the premier grade in the Auckland darts competition.

Warkworth darts go for Victory

Three Warkworth darts players, from a club of just 20, showed 400 Aucklanders how it was done in the largest non-ranking tournament in New Zealand, the 2019 Victory Darts.

There were more than 300 players in the first round of the singles event. Phil Adams made it down to the last 64, while Grant Dixon beat a previous winner to reach the last 32. Meanwhile, Craig Brown made the last eight before being beaten by former New Zealand representative player Monte Tahua.

Craig Brown and Phil Adams also were runners-up in the pairs competition.

"It was a great effort given it was Phil's first ever tournament and we were competing with more than 200 pairs," club captain Craig Brown says.

Meanwhile, Warkworth continues to dominate the City of Sails dart competition, one of the major weekly Auckland competitions that runs throughout the year.

"Warkworth is the smallest club in the competition, but we have a view to win it this year and be promoted to the premier grade next year," Brown says.

The club is encouraging players of any skill level to come to the Warkworth RSA and give the sport a try.

"If you can throw something, it's an easy enough game to pick up. People can compete on an even level because we use a handicap system.

"We have men and women with ages ranging from 13 to 80. If you're throwing darts around the garage and wondering if there's a social competition, this is it."

Info: Warkworth RSA Darts Club on Facebook.

Kids from Maungaturoto, Mangawhai, Tomarata, Wellsford, Warkworth and Snells Beach were treated to an unforgettable flying experience with Blue Light.

Rodney kids experience first flight

Twenty-one children got to fly in propeller-powered planes with the North Shore Aero Club recently. They flew up to Langs Beach, then across to the West Coast and down to the Manukau Heads, before looping around the sky tower on their way back.

The flight was part of the North Rodney Blue Light and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's 'take a kid flying' event on Sunday, May 26.

Many of the children were able to see their own homes and one family actually got to wave to their kids from their house in Wellsford, branch coordinator Shane Gould says.

Blue Light has provided opportunities to 1200 youth in the last year across various school camps and holiday programmes, including activities such as archery, air rifling, paddle boarding, kayaking, fishing and day tramps, Gould says.

"We are always seeking youth opportunities through our regional Blue Light branches and affiliated networks such as NZ Defence Force, Spirit of New Zealand, Duke of Edinburgh and NZ Coastguard.

"The branch is presently seeking community and youth-minded people to take up volunteer roles on our management committee."

The committee meets monthly on a Tuesday at 5.30pm in Wellsford and comprises police officers, school teachers, students, business owners, and community members.

Those interested email Shane Gould at *bluelight_wellsford@xtra.co.nz*

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Ray White Sea Watch

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	Jul 3	Jul 4	Jul 5	Jul 6	Jul 7	Jul 8	Jul 9	Jul 10	Jul 11	Jul 12	Jul 13	Jul 14	Jul 15	Jul 16	Jul 17	Jul 18	Jul 19
Tide Times	1:05am 0.7 7:26am 3.2 1:29pm 0.5 7:56pm 3.4	1:55am 0.6 8:19am 3.3 2:18pm 0.4 8:46pm 3.5	2:47am 0.6 9:11am 3.4 3:08pm 0.3 9:36pm 3.5	3:39am 0.5 10:03am 3.4 3:58pm 0.3 10:28pm 3.5	4:33am 0.5 10:56am 3.4 4:50pm 0.4 11:21pm 3.5	5:27am 0.5 11:49am 3.3 5:44pm 0.5	12:15am 3.4 6:22am 0.6 12:44pm 3.2 6:41pm 0.6	1:10am 3.3 7:19am 0.6 1:41pm 3.2 7:41pm 0.7	2:06am 3.2 8:16am 0.7 2:42pm 3.1 8:43pm 0.8	3:03am 3.2 9:15am 0.7 3:43pm 3.1 9:44pm 0.8	4:00am 3.1 10:13am 0.7 4:42pm 3.1 10:41pm 0.9	4:56am 3.1 11:09am 0.7 5:38pm 3.1 11:35pm 0.8	5:51am 3.0 12:01pm 0.7 6:30pm 3.2	12:25am 0.8 6:43am 3.0 12:50pm 0.7 7:18pm 3.2	1:12am 0.8 7:33am 3.0 1:34pm 0.7 8:03pm 3.2	1:57am 0.8 8:19am 3.0 2:16pm 0.7 8:45pm 3.2	2:40am 0.8 9:02am 3.0 2:56pm 0.7 9:26pm 3.2
Sun	7:34am 5:17pm	7:34am 5:17pm	7:34am 5:18pm	7:33am 5:18pm	7:33am 5:19pm	7:33am 5:19pm	7:33am 5:20pm	7:33am 5:21pm	7:32am 5:21pm	7:32am 5:22pm	7:32am 5:22pm	7:31am 5:23pm	7:31am 5:24pm	7:30am 5:24pm	7:30am 5:25pm	7:29am 5:26pm	7:29am 5:26pm
Fishing Guide	Best At 12:07am 12:38pm	Best At 1:08am 1:39pm	Best At 2:09am 2:39pm	Best At 3:08am 3:37pm	Best At 4:05am 4:32pm	Best At 4:58am 5:24pm	Best At 5:49am 6:14pm	Best At 6:38am 7:03pm	Best At 7:27am 7:52pm	Best At 8:17am 8:42pm	Best At 9:07am 9:32pm	Best At 9:58am 10:24pm	Best At 10:50am 11:16pm	Best At 11:42am	Best At 12:08am 12:33pm	Best At 12:58am 1:22pm	Best At 1:46am 2:10pm
Moon	New Moon Rise 7:38am Set 5:37pm	Rise 8:37am Set 6:43pm	Rise 9:29am Set 7:54pm	Rise 10:15am Set 9:05pm	Rise 10:55am Set 10:16pm	Rise 11:31am Set 11:25pm	First Quarter Rise 12:04pm	Set 12:32am Rise 12:37pm	Set 1:38am Rise 1:10pm	Set 2:43am Rise 1:45pm	Set 3:46am Rise 2:23pm	Set 4:48am Rise 3:05pm	Set 5:48am Rise 3:52pm	Set 6:43am Rise 4:42pm	Full Moon Set 7:33am Rise 5:36pm	Set 8:17am Rise 6:32pm	Set 8:56am Rise 7:29pm

*Not for navigational purposes. Good Fishing Fair Fishing Not So Good www.tidewiz.com www.tidespy.com www.ofu.co.nz Graphic supplied by OceanFun Publishing Ltd.

Mick Fay Licensee Agent **Snells Beach** 021 544 769 E. mick.fay@raywhite.com W. **mickfay.raywhite.com**

What's on

See **localmatters.co.nz/whats-on.html** for a full list of upcoming events

July

Jul-Sept 30 **Creating with Kauri exhibition**, The Kauri Museum (see brief p)

3 **Warkworth Area Liaison Group** for all interested in Warkworth community issues. RSA basement meeting room, 7pm. Info: Steve Haycock 0274 963 711

3 **Farms, Trees & Carbon workshop**, Wellsford Community Centre, 10am-1pm. Registrations essential. Info: *Rachel.Jukes@beeflambnz.com*

6 **Country dance 'Ceilidh'**, Ranfurly Hall, Kaipara Flats, 7.30pm. Dancing to Twisty Willow, proceeds to Kaipara St John Cadets. Tickets $20 including supper, from Hart's Pharmacy, Warkworth. Children free.

6 **Great Warkworth Scone Bake-off**. At selected cafes and bakeries. First Saturday of every month. See posters and voting slips around Warkworth.

7 **Tawharanui Regional Park planting day**, follow the signs, 9am start.

7 **Midwinter plunge** at the Omaha Surf Lifesaving Club, 10am. Tickets $10 and include hot soup and bread afterwards. Proceeds go to Mahurangi Underwater Hockey Club trip to Wellington Nationals. *kyla.bevan@gmail.com* (see story p51)

8-20 **Mahurangi Festival of Lights** (see story p18)

9 **Kowhai Festival special general meeting**, Warkworth RSA committee room, 7pm. Presentation and acceptance of proposed changes to constitution. Info Murray Chapman 027 496 6550, *murray@mchapman.co.nz*

10 **Snells Beach Garden Circle** celebrates its 35th anniversary, Mahurangi East Community Centre, Snells Beach, 1.15pm. All past and present members welcome. Info: Helen 425 5516

11 **Matariki Stargazing**, Old Masonic Hall, Warkworth, 6.30pm. Interactive presentation and chance to view stars through telescopes with Auckland Astronomical Society. Wear warm clothes. Info: 09 427 3920 (see story p20)

12 **Light up Leigh**, Mahurangi Winter Festival of Lights event at Leigh (see story p19)

12 - 14 **Mururoa Nuclear Veterans Group AGM**, Warkworth RSA starts Friday 12, 1pm. Support and information for those suffering from the effects of the Mururoa Atoll nuclear test. Info: Bob 027 481 9568. (see brief p43)

13 **Atiu Creek Regional Park planting day**, Run Road, Tapora, 10.15am-2.30pm. Bookings essential on 0800 567686 or email *info@cvnz.org.nz*

14 **Ukulollo**, the ukulele maestro, Warkworth Town Hall. Workshop 1.30pm, concert 3.30pm. Bookings *musicmakerdiannem@gmail.com*

14 **Classical Indian concert**, Absurdistan Hall, Kaiwaka, 3pm. $20 at the door, $15 early bird. Info: Yatra 021 237 7678

18 **Forest & Bird winter talks**, Tony Enderby will talk about Opisthobranchs - the butterflies of the sea, Totara Park Retirement Village hall, Melwood Drive, Warkworth, 7.30pm. All welcome.

18 **Lanterns and Lightcatchers**. Mahurangi Winter Festival of Lights event at Snells Beach for tots (see story p19)

19 **Mount Felix Tapestry talk**, Old Masonic Hall, Warkworth, 2pm. Hosted by Red Cross and Women's Institute. Tickets $10 at the door, or from Cunitia Wilkinson on 425 5800 (see story p20)

19-20 **Mahurangi Winter Festival of Lights**. Illuminated parade, laser light show, ice-skating, snow, foam cannon and more. *facebook.com/mahurangiwinterfestivaloflights* (see story p18)

List your event by emailing the details to **online@localmatters.co.nz**

WHATS ON THIS MONTH AT THE

Warkworth RSA

LIVE BANDS EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT, NO COVER CHARGE

Friday 5th July — John McGough
Friday 12th July — Gerry Lee
Saturday 13th July — Sam Taylor for Navy Reunion
Friday 19th July — Sandy Duo
Saturday 20th July — ABBA BIG SHOW
Friday 26th July — The Damage
Friday 2nd August — Kane Steves

Tuesday Night Poker at 6.30pm
Thursday Cards at 1 pm
Snooker Wednesdays at 12 noon
Ladies Pool Thursdays at 1 pm

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SUNDAY 07.07 | 3:00PM | $KOHA
BASE FM SUNDAY SESSIONS
GUEST DJ ANDY HEART THROB
FROM THE MIGHTY BASE FM PLAYING IN THE COURTYARD FOR A LOVELY LAZY SUNDAY ARVO FOOD & BEV SPECIALS TOO. FAMILY FRIENDLY.

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FROM 5:00PM EVERY THURSDAY

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DINE-IN OR TAKE-AWAY
THURSDAYS FROM 5:00PM
HALF PRICE PIZZA OFFER DOES NOT APPLY TO SPLITS OR KIDS PIZZA

FRIDAY 12.07 | 8:00PM | FREE
BEATS BY BINGO
HOSTED BY COMEDIAN DARREN JARDINE

SATURDAY 13.07 | 9:30PM | $17*
GLASS VAULTS
TOURING SOME FUNKY NEW TUNES WITH SUPPORT FROM MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST A.C FREAZY
*TICKETS: UNDERTHERADAR /DOOR SALES $20

MONDAY 15.07 | 5 - 7:30PM | $5
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FUNDRAISER DISCO!
FUN, GAMES, PRIZES AND DANCING
+ DELICIOUS BBQ MANNED BY THE PTA
*FOR PRE AND PRIMARY SCHOOL AGED KIDS

SATURDAY 20.07 | 9:30PM | $35*
NADIA REID & HER BAND
REVERED FOR HER INTIMATE SOUNDSCAPES AND UNIQUE VOICE, WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE NADIA BACK TO THE MILL WITH SUPPORT FROM MOTTE (ANITA BAKER) TICKETS: *EVENTBRITE

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Tomarata's players kept their composure despite some questionable antics from Pipiwai.

Solid season puts Tomarata in good stead for semi finals

Tomarata RFC has cemented its place in the Northland Rugby Union South Zone Championship semi-finals after a 51-5 victory over Pipiwai at the Tomarata club on Saturday, June 22.

Pipiwai came onto the field with a fire that quickly turned to fury as Tomarata maintained an unbreakable line, holding them scoreless until half-time.

Despite clear technical skill from senior players, such as Richy Lockington, and younger ones, like Danyon Tana, Tomarata coach Philip Tana modestly puts the team's superior performance down to just hard mahi.

He says as a smaller club with fewer players, Tomarata's play style relies on being fitter and faster to tire their competition out before the end of the game.

"The boys are farmers and tradies from Wellsford and Mangawhai, so they are used to hard work," he says.

The team has benefited from eight skilled premier division players from Wellsford, who have dropped down a grade because of the more relaxed commitments.

Tomarata is fourth in the standing tables but the difference in points among the top teams is negligible.

"The tables in the round robin are irrelevant – it's how you play in the finals," Tana says.

Tomarata is most likely to play table leaders Mid Western in Maungakaramea for its first game of the semi-finals, which may be a challenging match.

"Mid Western are training twice a week, treating it like it is prems, and it shows in their performance."

Tana says Tomarata is struggling for numbers in both its junior and senior grades, and busy lifestyles mean training sessions are not always well attended.

"Everyone likes to play rugby matches, but they're not necessarily keen on training," he says.

"I like winning, but I understand people exit the game because there is too much of an emphasis on winning when the socialising is just as important."

Coach Tana believes the team is capable of winning the championship and he might just have a surprise up his sleeve.

"Mid Western play a similar game to us, so we are going to have change up our style. It will be a challenge, but we have the capability."

Dodgey knee, shoulder?

Introducing: Mr Brendan Coleman MBChB FRACS Orthopaedic Surgeon

Brendan Coleman is a graduate of the University of Auckland, becoming an orthopaedic surgeon in 2006. He specialises in joint replacement and reconstruction for knees and shoulders, some of which he successfully undertakes as day surgery.

Brendan spent two years in Australia and the UK before returning to Auckland. He consults at Rodney Surgical every fortnight and undertakes day stay surgery for shoulders and knees. He also sees patients for their first assessment for any orthopaedic referrals.

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