



The Roundabout

Noema 2025/Putanga 60/09

I whakaputaina e te Komiti Roundabout - Tiamana: Graeme Booth 817 4658

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What's happening in our area?

**To see what our
Volunteers have
had to do this
Month
Check out pages
44, 45 & 50, 51.**

What have our schools been doing?

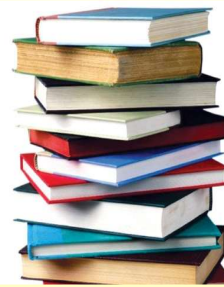
Laingholm see p 16 & 17

Laingholm Kindy see p 36

Steiner see p 8 & 9

Woodlands Park p 20 & 21

*Book Reviews
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***Whats cooking for
November?***
See page 28



**Titirangi
Library**

Programmes In other
areas due to building
work.

See Page 38 for their
facebook link.

**Who's horsing around in our
Community?**

To find out more See page 32

Who & What are growing?

Pages 38 & 40

**Who's story have we found in
Huia?**

Find out on page 12

Kids Day!!!

See page 42!!

Also see p 18 and 51 for more family fun..

MANAGING COMMITTEE FOR THE ROUNABOUT

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Before any letter or article can be printed, the Management Committee for the Roundabout must have the writer's full address and contact details. Only the author's name may be published. Anonymous articles or those with just pseudonyms will not be published.

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As with all newspapers and magazines, we reserve the right to edit where necessary. This is to protect ourselves and you, the contributor, from any action that could be taken, and to keep the tone of our publication high. Editing is done by the

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Including the word 'copy' somewhere in the subject line ensures that your material goes into the current copy folder and avoids accidental loss. It also helps us if you provide contact details for invoicing and to help sort out any problems that may arise. Common formats including *.docx, *.pdf, *.jpg and *.png files are preferred.

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION

The Roundabout is delivered door-to-door, free of charge by volunteers in the immediate Laingholm, Parau, Cornwallis and Huia areas. We are happy to mail copies outside the free delivery area at a cost of \$60 for ten issues (March to December). However, the latest issues can be found at our web-page: theroundabout.org.nz



MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES AND SIZES

FULL PAGE (180 x 267 mm)	\$96
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COVER ADVERT (89 x 54 mm)	\$28
SIXTH PAGE (89 x 88 mm)	\$24
CLASSIFIED (Up to five lines)	\$10
CLASSIFIED (Each additional line)	\$2

OUR NEXT ISSUE

3rd December 2025

The deadline for ALL copy is
Monday 24th November 2025

PAYMENT

Invoices for advertisements appearing in the Roundabout will be sent monthly by the Roundabout Society. They may be paid via internet banking to:
 Kiwibank Account No. **38-9017-0529446-00**
 Prompt payment is always appreciated

ANNUAL REPORT OF ROUNABOUT SOCIETY CHAIRMAN FOR 2025



So here we are almost at the end of 2025, which has been a milestone year for the Roundabout.

- We are celebrating our 60th anniversary
- It's ten years since the present committee took over following the passing of Vic White, a few months after his beloved wife Audrey. Between them they produced the Roundabout for more years than anyone can remember.

Turning first to our 60th anniversary we can be proud that the Roundabout has been an institution in this area for so long. It started as what was meant to be a one-off publication in 1964 to fundraise for Laingholm School. It was so well received that full production got underway in 1965. In those days it was produced on a printing machine called a Gestetner, which many of us who went to school in the post WWII years will remember. Stencils were cut on manual typewriters and then placed on hand-cranked machines. The final pages were readable (just) and always smelled of methylated spirits.

The Roundabout was a success as a communication media, but not as a fundraiser. So in the late 70's the school advised that it was no longer interested in producing the Roundabout and at that point the community took over. The late Joan Jackson, who had previously edited the Roundabout, stepped up. Later Vic and Audrey White took over and continued until Audrey died in 2014 with Vic following her a few months later.

Michael Allen, another previous editor, jumped into the breach, supported by a committee of local residents. We are grateful to Kevin Gill for agreeing to take over the role.

So that takes us through to 2025 and how things have changed in just a decade. There has been what can perhaps be described as a "bloodbath" of small local newspapers. We have witnessed the demise of the Western Leader and most of its sister publications in the Auckland region. The blame is usually laid at the door of online news services which have taken away the advertising that these small publications depended on. Yet the little Roundabout continues to publish ten months of the year thanks to it being produced entirely by volunteer labour. But like the larger publications we too face challenges. Our advertising sales have dropped while the price of paper and ink rises regularly. We are making ends meet but certainly don't have much to spare.

Our greatest challenge is people. The team that has produced the Roundabout in the past ten years are all getting older and the day could come when we can't go on. We need to find younger people, perhaps from the ranks of the newly-retired, who can pick up the baton and take the Roundabout into the future. But in the meantime we need to thank those who provide articles, put the Roundabout together, carry out the printing, come along to collation days and organise the distribution. And of course our morning tea crew of Lorraine Glanville and Christina Howe.

Special thanks must go to our committee. Kevin Gill, Neil and Corrinne Thomas, Gina and Keith Towl, Doreen Sunman, Trish Booth and Frances Rodden.

So with another year almost completed let me wish everyone all the best for 2026.

Graeme Booth M.N.Z.M
Chairman
The Roundabout Society (Inc)

Memories of Mr Heff

In school

It is with deep regret and sadness that we let our community know of the 'passing' of Paul Heffernan (Mr Heff), former principal of Laingholm Primary, last Friday 17 October 2025. He was principal for over fifteen years and during that time the school grew tremendously. Under his leadership he gathered a group of talented teachers who learned to create 'joy' in their teaching and learning.



Paul was a vibrant, extremely creative and zany person who brought fun, laughter and water pistol fights to Laingholm Primary. It wasn't unusual to see him in assembly wearing his captain's hat and coat, or in the playground wearing his elephant cap.

He loved kids, providing challenge and fun which had a profound impact on the lives of many young and old. It wasn't unusual to see students in his office drawing, just having a chat to Paul or rushing in to show him their work.

Water pistol fights on the field were legendary with Paul joining in with students and giving as good as he got. One incident that a staff member recalled involved a Year 1 class where one lad got past Paul's defences (his array of water pistols) and managed to squirt Paul with a fake water watch. The Roundabout article that Paul had been working on with hand drawn cartoons throughout was in danger of becoming a soggy mess. The child scarpered and fled back to class and as he entered, he uttered a joyful yell "he's coming". Paul came tearing down to the room armed with a bazooka type water pistol, primed and ready. The kids scattered behind shelves, under furniture and into cupboards. On his arrival Paul was met with a seemingly empty room. Not for long. Laughing kids rolled out of hiding and were met with a sprinkling of water but they truly basked in the glow of their victory with Paul. Fortunately, the Roundabout article survived the deluge, so all was happy and bright.

An incident recalled by John Walsh while waiting in the old office block to see Paul. Waiting in the old school office were John Walsh and also a husband and wife with their small child. The couple were waiting to enrol their child when a huge commotion erupted as six small pupils ran down the hallway squealing and giggling as Paul chased them with one of his huge water pistols. As they ran through the foyer, Paul dressed in t-shirt, skinny jeans and Beatle boots jumped through the office window, did a Commando roll to ambush the kids. One of the office staff managed to warn Paul about the waiting parents. Five minutes later Paul emerged from his office wearing a suit and tie and spoke in his professional voice saying "Paul Heffernan Principal, how can I help you folks'. The two parents looked at each other, then at Paul, shook their heads and thought no it couldn't be the guy we just saw with the water pistol. They then proceeded to enrol their child.

Marble competitions, enviro schools' events, amazing art exhibitions and especially fun were among a few of the enduring memories.

Outside of School

Sometime after his appointment to Laingholm Primary Paul bought a place at Huia. Many were the fishing trips he took with John Walsh, bacon sammies and deck chairs in hand out to Whatipu and Kaitarakihi. A lot was talked about, but not a lot was caught.

Staff events at Paul's place in Huia and later Parau were renowned along with epic boat trips down the estuary. The story goes like this. Paul bought a boat and with Brian Hooper the caretaker at the time, they motored down from Silverdale where he bought it, to Westhaven. The boat was then trucked overland to the Manukau Harbour at Onehunga, the two intrepid sailors were chauffeured by John Walsh to Onehunga who commented on the road journey "that that was the fastest that boat was ever going to go". Then both seamen climbed aboard chugged down the Manukau Harbour to the estuary at Paul's place in Parau. Reports were relayed hourly to school where staff members eagerly awaited to hear the progress.

On this boat, Paul along with able seaman Brian would take staff and others on scenic cruises down the estuary occasionally beaching the boat on the sandbanks and rocks he didn't know about until he hit them but always managing to set it afloat again.

Paul had an energy and liveliness of spirit that drew people to him. He met his match in Kathy. The first date according to Paul was the Rainforest Express train trip with a whole lot of people with a picnic at the end a chance to get to know 'his girl'. They got engaged on Kaitarakihi Beach and then were married by Simon Radford in the back garden of his Parau home. An awesome wedding.

Both his and Kathy's family were an important fixture in both of their lives. A party at the Heff's place was a party indeed. Stereo's rocked, songs were sung, stories were told, Paul had the moves and everyone just joined in.

On his retirement, Paul and Kathy moved to Tararu in Thames buying a lovely property by the seaside. It was here that Paul was able to really utilise his creative talents writing and publishing books for kids and creating marvellous ceramic creations that always had a story behind them. Kathy was Paul's right-hand person adding all the colours to his creations and encouraged by Paul she began developing her own artistic skills.

Paul was very competitive in many arenas and his tennis skills were second to none. He joined the local tennis club and was hard pressed when he first began, keeping up with some of the 20-year-olds. Nothing like a challenge for Paul.

He will be sorely missed and respected by so many.

May those who met him, remember him fondly and keep his outgoing spirit and sense of fun always with you.

Heather Walsh
Acting Principal
Laingholm Primary

Mrs Cunningham: Our Handwork Teacher

Last month our school lost a pillar of our community, **Mrs Judith Cunningham**, who passed away during the Spring break. Mrs Cunningham was our **school handwork specialist** for 23 years, and guided much of the spiritual impulse of the school, as well as a much loved colleague, mother and wife.

Over the years we estimate that Mrs Cunningham taught over 500 children how to knit at TRSS, as well as cross-stitch, sewing, doll-making... and endless handwork skills. This excerpt from a piece of Mrs Cunningham's writing, explains the significance of handwork in a Steiner School:

"Handwork is more than just doing and making, more than just knitting, crochet and sewing - its importance as Rudolf Steiner and those who have gone before us state very clearly is the development of thinking – as outlined as both reflective and creative. Free and creative thinking, the ability to create something new that can lead perhaps to - architecture, town planning, furniture all being founded on beauty which is practical and 'good' for purpose.

Creations are not simply utilitarian but equally beautiful. They soothe the soul and please the senses. The sense of taste and sight and are a balm for an often unquiet or agitated feeling life, one's soul is soothed by touch and warmth, whilst the spirit is strengthened through knowing that what has been handmade as a gift is given out of love and understanding. All can be experienced when something both practical and beautiful is created often over many weeks, and perhaps, even more, when created out of the intention to be a gift for someone revered and loved."

Mrs Cunningham, July 2024

On the 5th of October, our community farewelled Mrs Cunningham alongside her family in a celebration of life.

The presence of so many children and adults, each carrying a personal connection, was a beautiful testament to the enduring impact that Mrs Cunningham made on our community.

Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School

We thank Mrs Cunningham for all that she gave to this school, to our children, and the gifts, skills and memories she bestowed upon them.

Her memory lives on in our elaborate costume wardrobe and the joy of many school plays; in 1000s of handwork creations scattered around Aotearoa and the world; as well as in the heads, hearts and hands of the children she taught, and the spirit of this school.



The Advent Fair is nearly here!

Save the date and head up to TRSS on **Sunday 23rd November** for live music, delicious food, field games, Christmas shopping and much more.

This parent-run event is a cornerstone of our school rhythm, and we are so excited to welcome you to our school!



Titirangi
Rudolf Steiner School

ADVENT FAIR

23 November
10am – 3pm
2025

Scrumptious Food • Flying Fox • Wreath Making • Fairy Queen
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A letter regarding Plan Change 120 is causing some anxiety.

Recently, nearly every property owner in Auckland received a letter from the Council regarding Proposed Plan Change 120 - Housing Intensification and Resilience. This letter states that Auckland Council believes all Aucklanders may be affected by the proposed changes, and later it repeats the property address under a heading 'Affected property'.

What the letter does not clearly explain to the recipient is the specific 'Affect' on their property. I am being contacted by people who are worried and anxious about what is or may be happening.

PC120 replaces PC78, which Councillors rejected at the end of last term. The Council's proposed plan changes are in response to changes to central government resource management legislation.

- - The government is in the process of ONGOING changes to RMA legislation.
- - The legislation changes are demanding two main things;
- - We have to identify and map all natural hazards and demonstrate how we are going to mitigate risk to people (and the list of natural hazards seems to grow every time you look at it).
- - Simultaneously with limiting future homeowners' exposure to natural hazards, the Auckland Council must demonstrate how we are going to maintain the capacity to build 2 million more dwellings in the future.

It seems the only answer to this dilemma is for new planning rules to allow for higher and higher multilevel dwelling intensification.

Because of the way the letter is worded, many people are concluding that the affect the letter is referring to is intensification (that's what all the questions I have received are focused on.) But it is just as likely to be a natural hazard issue.

IMHO, there are so many unanswered questions, so many issues to be debated, it is going to be a long time before the councillors vote on any resolution that brings PC120 to life.

I am not saying people should take no notice, far from it, please take this opportunity to engage and give feed back. It's important, but do not be unduly anxious about this letter or the following processes.

Ken Turner

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HINGE HOUSE

John Gibbons purchased the land in 1854 when he and his sons came to mill the kauri.

In 1891 the Manukau Timber bought the land, erecting their mill on the foreshore, and Mill houses for the workers. The managers house was also built and remains in good condition today.

After the closure of the mill around 1899 it was the residence of Mr Ted Kennedy who had been employed as the mill carpenter. Several local families lived in the house over the years including the Turner family after their house in Little Huia was destroyed by fire.

In 1922 Mr William Hinge on the advise of his nephew Colin, bought the property, Colins sister Kathleen, lived in Huia, she had married farmer Bob Gordon in 1914 so this was another incentive.

The Hinge family came from Middlesex England. After purchasing the property they decided the pioneering life was not for them and sold the property to Colin who farmed the land, he also laid down a tennis court which was well patronized by the locals.

Every year a picnic was held on the grounds for all the community, there was also a Gala day with contests for all to particitate, including egg and spoon race, sack races and a grand prestige race to find the fastest man, woman and child in Huia.

On the property for years were some remaining mill houses. These were rented in summer for holidays. There was one building on the grounds known as the dead house this may be because it was used as a mortuary in early times till coffins could be transported to Auckland.

After his parents died, Colin and sister Ivy lived in the house, some of the farmland was kindly given by Colin for the building of the hall. When Colin passed the property was purchased as part of the centennial park.

From the memories of Sam Fletcher.

ARMISTICE DAY

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LAINGHOLM MARKET UPDATE - SPRING MOMENTUM RETURNS!

Spring Activity in Full Swing

After the Reserve Bank's latest OCR decision to hold rates steady, confidence is returning. Across West Auckland, open-home numbers have lifted noticeably, and we're seeing stronger buyer engagement, particularly from first-home buyers taking advantage of improved lending conditions. Several Laingholm properties have now SOLD, a welcome sign that the spring market is gaining real traction.

The KiwiSaver Factor

A growing number of buyers are using KiwiSaver funds to secure their first homes. As a result, a new clause is appearing in most sale contracts stating that the deposit is held in the purchaser's lawyer's KiwiSaver account until settlement, which is a compliance requirement.

If you're selling a home likely to appeal to first-home buyers, it's worth speaking with your bank or mortgage broker early about arranging a small overdraft facility so you can still pay a deposit on your next purchase before your sale settles.

Listings on the Rise

Listings across Laingholm and Titirangi have climbed in line with the season. Unlike the past two post-COVID years when many vendors waited for February, this year feels more like the traditional pre-COVID market, with a strong spring wave of listings already coming through and another expected in early 2026.

What the Economists Are Saying

According to Tony Alexander's Tony's View (23 October 2025), we may have passed the softest point in the labour market. Businesses are beginning to plan new hires, consumer confidence is slowly improving, and while inflation remains around 3%, conditions are steady rather than worsening. This balance supports ongoing buyer activity without the panic of a rapidly shifting rate environment, creating the steady confidence the market needs.

In Summary

- Open-home numbers are up
- First-home buyers are active, often using KiwiSaver
- Deposits may be delayed under new contract terms, so plan ahead
- Listings are increasing in both Laingholm and Titirangi
- Market tone: confident, not frantic, and trending in a positive direction

If you're considering a move this season, it's a great time to get your property presentation ready and take advantage of the renewed energy in the market.

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Photo Gallery

"The Year in Images"

End of Year – 2025

Kia ora koutou,

What a busy term Term 4 has been already! The whole school have been lucky enough to have a visit to the Life Education Caravan, learning a variety of health and wellbeing concepts. The Senior classes have been extra lucky as they have been able to take part in a variety of 'extra' activities, where outside providers come in to teach us something interesting. More details below!

Coding:

On Thursday the 9th of October, Tatai 15 students from Laingholm Primary school did Coding with someone who was part of the Ministry of Inspiration. His name was Aaron and he showed us how to build an animation called Lost in Space. We had a rocket ship flying to Earth from outer space! It was really fun and inspiring. The class built a balloon popping game where we had to pop balloons. We used the website Scratch to code. It was very fun and amusing.

- Marcus and Samar

Life Education:

At the beginning of Term Four, our class went to the Life Education caravan to learn about change with Vicky and Harold the giraffe. First we talked about how to be positive about change instead of negative about it. Then we watched a video about bullying and name calling. Next it was time to see Harold the giraffe who they use as a mascot. It was cool to see Harold after he had a makeover. It was so fun to learn about change and how to control it. We loved it!

- Poppy and Kaia

Food 4 Thought:

Last term Laingholm Primary school had a lady called Kate come to our school to teach us about being healthy with our food, picking good food choices to keep us healthy and energetic, and reading food labels.

Kate has been to so many schools around the country! When Kate came to our classroom first, she started by telling us all about the different areas of our bodies. Then she told us about different brands and how they can trick us just by their name, like Nutrigrain or Calci Yum. Lots of people think that those brands are healthy, but they lack calcium and have LOTS of sugar.



Students at 'The Greatest Little School in the Universe' will reach the stars.

**The Greatest little
SCHOOL IN the Universe**

Then, the next day Kate came back and taught us how to read labels.

Reading labels is basically just reading the back of food to see what nutrients are in it. She got out some different drinks, and the class had to work together to put them from healthiest to least healthy. It was hard and the class didn't get it all right, but we persevered and got some right.

That was a fun session, and we enjoyed it so much. The class had learnt new things, and we had the chance to collaborate and work together.- Lexi and Emily

Block Party:

At the end of Term Three we had the block party at Laingholm School "The Greatest Little School in the Universe." It was very cool. It was organized and fun for kids. My friends and I had water balloons in a bucket and were throwing them around the school. They were selling fizzy drinks and there was a sausage sizzle too. They had music, a raffle and a face painter. Also, kids were playing football on the field. It was lots of fun!

- Benni

The Block Party was a fun party for the end of the term. It had a sausage sizzle, ice-cream, lollies, fizzy drinks, and a face painter. Lots of people came to join in on the fun, which was good except that it made the queue super long. It was so loud that you couldn't hear the music playing on the speakers. The face painter was the parent of someone who goes to Laingholm Primary, so she understood the hype about K-pop Demon Hunters, and decided to theme some of the face paint designs off it! To get your sausage sizzle, you had to get a popsicle stick as a token from the lolly and fizzy drinks stand, and to get your ice-cream, you had to do the same but with a circular counter instead. It was super fun and I'm sure everyone who went would agree!

- Sivlara and Estee



Photo Gallery

"The Year in Images"



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WOODLANDS PARK SCHOOL

Poipoia te kakano kia puawai
Nuture the seed and it will blossom



Water Testing

Our Year 5&6 whanau had a great time learning alongside the students from Green Bay High School. Together, we explored water quality by testing the pH levels and nitrate levels in different water samples. 🌱

It was exciting to see which water samples were more acidic and which were more alkaline, and to learn what that means for our environment. Students also discovered how nitrate levels can affect water health.

A big thank you to the Green Bay High students for sharing their knowledge and helping make science so hands-on and fun!

Barno's House & Mount Manaia

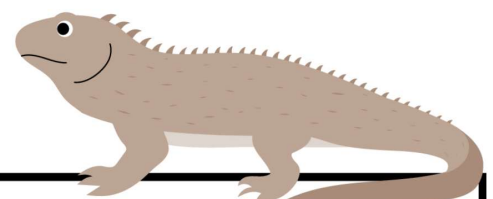
written by Harrison (Year 6)

As me and my sister stepped in the door we saw Barnos, Niko and Dane. Out the window the monstrous mountain loomed over the house. The chickens were still in their pen. After we talked for a bit, Dane decided we would walk up Mount Manaia.

It was raining. As we trudged up the mountain, me and Barnos were telling my sister that we were going to keep going up in the mountains until we did a loopyloop. Finally we were half way up the mountain. Then me, Barnos and Niko did this thing where you have to put a piece of nature on every Kauri tree that was on the opposite side of the path, but Bea didn't do it so she was cursed. When we got to the top there were no fences so you could fall off if you fell. From the top, you could see the blue ocean. It was quite windy. We ate some chocolate and went back down.

Finally we were back at Barnos's house then we started to play penalty shoot outs. First to win 5 mini tournaments would win the big tournament and the cup. In the first final it was me and Barnos and Barnos won. In the second final it was me and Bea; Bea won. In total we played ten mini tournaments. Barnos won with 5 wins, Bea came second with 3 wins, I came third with 2 and Niko lost with 1. In the morning we woke up at 6am and started to play mario kart. At 2pm we left. It took 3 hours to drive back to Auckland.

Overall, it was good to see my friends that I don't see very often.



woodlandspark.school.nz



202 Woodlands Park Rd, Titirangi

THE PUPPET MASTER by Zoe (Year 6)

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! My alarm went off. Light streamed through my window, almost blinding me as I rolled out of bed groaning- I was pretty upset because I was having an awesome dream!

I brushed my hair at the mirror next to the door in my bedroom "LAUREL HURRY UP OR YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!" My mum shouted at me from the kitchen as I pulled my clothes on.

By the time I got down the stairs I was still rubbing the sleep from my eyes. The sound of toast popping echoed through the house. I walked into the kitchen. There were black marble counters and lots of cupboards. And a fridge that looks older than me on the left side of the room. (That means it's pretty old since I'm 13!) Black and white tiles on the floor make my sneakers make a weird sound whenever I take a step.

My brother Zach who's five rushes past and my other brother Jack who's seven follows right behind him. I hear a few mumbles of words from Jack talking and they both burst into giggles as they run up the stairs. "They can be a real handful sometimes but I love them." Mum says making some pan cakes my dad is rushing around looking for his keys before finding them in his pocket. He gives me a hug so tight I think he'll squeeze the life out of me and I can just make out the words I love you through a piece of toast hanging out of his mouth. He rushes out of the door and drives off to work. **TO BE CONTINUED...**

This Month in Pictures



Our gymnastics team took part in the Kelston Cluster gymnastics competition.



Whanau Kowhai visited Te Whatu Stardome to learn about our Solar System



Gardens in our Bee Education Area are flourishing!



All classes took part in the Footy Kids taster sessions



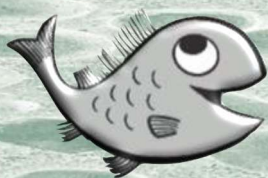
We're excited to announce that Woodlands Park School's "Nothing New" Kids' Secondhand Market is back for another year!



Vision West Can Drive

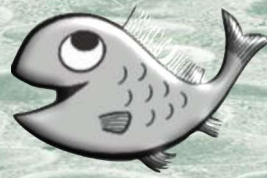
Woodlands Park School community donated over 850 grocery items that will go to the Vision West community kitchen to help families in need!

MANAAKITANGA | WHANAUNGATANGA | RANGITIRATANGA | KAITIAKITANGA



Winnie's Wanderings

(from Winnie the Wharfie)



Let's start with a nautical greeting: Ahoy there me hearties, how's it going out there on the harbour and beyond? From what I've heard the bar has been downright temperamental and unfriendly for quite some time which is a bit odd as we've had unusually calm weather in the harbour. So there's very little to report from 'beyond'. It's been noticeable how few boats have been out on the harbour this winter and early spring. Haven't been out myself for quite some time because the outboard has broken down and despite serious nagging the head engineer has not fixed it yet. Will have to keep up nagging.

There's still a noticeable lack of mullet around. In years gone by we watched them jumping outside our place regularly but I haven't seen one for over a year. It's a mystery. Was yarning with an old fishing mate recently and we got on about 'the good old days' when the fish queued up to take your baits. The 'good old days' are a favourite topic of old timers. Was skimming through an old fishing mag and came across an article by John Moran on best fishing spots in the Manukau. Many of you will remember John as the 'gurnard guru'. He sadly passed away some years ago but there's a map showing the eight best fishing possies in the harbour – six are dotted up and down the edges of the main channels and two are on the sandbanks. He goes into a fair bit of detail about the habits of gurnard – where they lurk and the best rigs to use to catch them. While they appear to be bottom feeders with their comical pre-historic legs John reckons he caught heaps on the top hooks of a paternoster rig. He swore by pink flasher rigs – the tattier the better – and said do not cover the barb with bait. His advice was to put the rod in the holder and leave it there till it bends as gurnard have a habit of beggarising about with the bait. If you are holding the rod, feel a bite and strike you'll scare them off as they are really skitterish. There's all sorts of other info but that's enough to get you started.

Now to a more serious subject. A boat flipped recently on the Waikato Bar and a person drowned. I wonder how many lives have been lost over the years on west coast bars. Sobering stuff.

Ok fishos, that's the nautical stuff over, time for a joke or two.

You know you are past it when you sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there...and when you and your teeth don't sleep together any more.

And finally old fishermen don't die. They just keel over.

Ok, that's Winnie signing off for now.

Tight lines, cheers Winnie.

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The Forgotten Suburb

Browsing through a Laingholm Roundabout from November 1975, I found a New World advertising circular neatly folded and inserted between the pages. (Note: today's Roundabout does not accept inserts of this kind). In the mid-seventies the supermarket in Titirangi was a New World, Laingholm residents would have known it well and shoppers using the free "shoppers' bus" would certainly have called there. But who can remember the prices we paid for our groceries back then? I won't write any more – I'll let the flyer speak for itself. Just remember – these are 1975 prices, don't try insisting on these prices at New World today! P.S. A 1975 pay slip would give balance to this article. Has anyone got one?



Laingholm Local



Cheque, mate

This dates from 1961, at least that far back, but heaven knows how long it has been around, puzzling people. The Ancient Romans had cheques.

A back country musterer has come into town on a spree and when they check into their hotel they write the licensee a cheque for £ 50, saying they will stay until, as they put it, the cheque is cut out.

The licensee puts the cheque in the till, and the bartender, happening by, discovers it and, remembering that they are being pressed for a settlement of a like amount and that their boss owes them £50, takes the cheque from the till and sends it off to a certain bookmaker to pay the debt.

The bookmaker, overjoyed at the settlement of a dubious account, decides to buy another fur coat by way of celebration and rushes off to a furrier, who has a coat conveniently marked at £ 50. The bookmaker hands over the cheque and the furrier, who has been having rather a lean time in the summer, decides to spend the cheque on jewellery. The jeweller — everyone seems to be celebrating in this account—takes it around to the original hotel and orders £50 worth of drinks to be sent to his home. The cheque thus lands back in the same till.

About this time, by an extraordinary coincidence, the musterer receives a telegram instructing them to go back to work and they tells the licensee to return the cheque, which they then tear up. The licensee has not lost £50 because they have fully discharged a £50 debt to the bartender; and no other participant has lost anything. But though a check and recheck of the case reveals no flaw, we cannot but feel that if we were involved in such a set of circumstances, we should finish £50 down.



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Riddle:

Q: What starts with the letter 't' is filled with 't' and ends in 't'?

A: A teapot.

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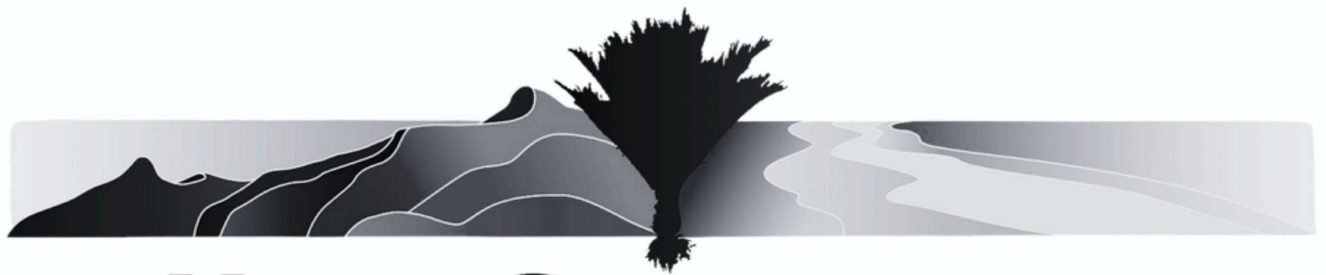
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HUIA CORNWALLIS COMMUNITY GROUP

Huia Happenings for November

It's a busy time out in Huia at the moment, as we gear up for a big couple of months leading up to Christmas.

We've just had our Labour day arts and craft market which was a great success. It is so exciting to see so many new people and products coming out for our markets. If you haven't been in a while, make sure you come along to our Christmas Market on the 29th of November. You'll be able to get some great Christmas presents, and start ticking off the things on your list.

We have our Halloween Party on the 8th of November, with a special treat for the kids at the end of the night. As usual, we'll have lollies and drinks for sale on the night, and prizes for costumes. After that we'll be starting on our Santa's Grotto, keep an eye out for next months newsletter for more details.

We are still actively looking for representatives from Cornwallis to join us, as well as a new person to manage hall hires.

With a new website and booking system currently under development this should be an easy role for someone who is detail orientated. You can find more details on our Facebook page, but if you're keen to give some of your time to the community please get in touch.

Help us design our new T-shirts!

We are getting t-shirts made and need your designs. We want a kids and adults design, and we need your help. Get creative, and send through your ideas to contacthccg@gmail.com.

Winners will receive their design on a t-shirt, and get to see everyone walking around rocking their design! Entries close 31st of January, so get those creative juices flowing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPOOKS & SPARKS

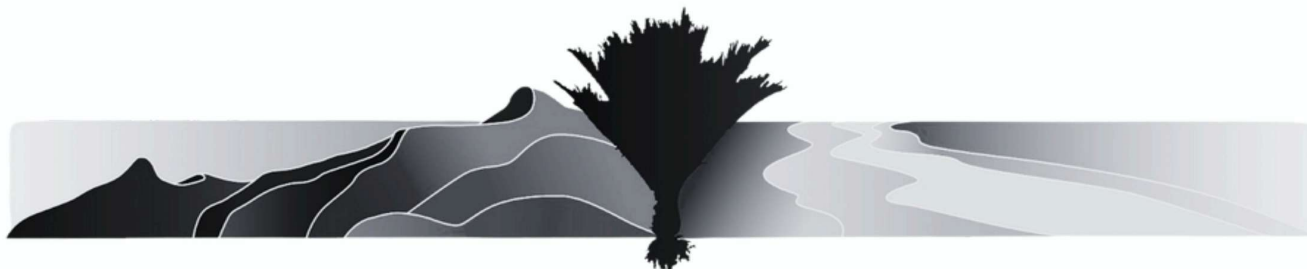
Halloween Party on the
8th of November from
5pm till 8pm

Christmas Market

Our annual Christmas
Market will be held on
the 29th of November
Book your table now!

SANTA'S GROTTTO

Come and join Santa at
our Christmas Grotto
from 16th till 20th of
December



HUIA CORNWALLIS COMMUNITY GROUP

Passing of Peter Dix

The Huia Cornwallis community group as well as the former members of the Huia Cornwallis Ratepayers and residents association would like to take a moment to acknowledge the sudden passing of Peter Dix. Peter served as Chair of the Residents and Ratepayers Association playing an active part in the development of the Huia Bay sea wall and other developments over this time. Our thoughts are with his family.

Hall Manager Needed



The committee have been working on this role for the past couple of years to reduce the work load of this position which has assisted in ease of managing hires and regular bookings and believe now it is a manageable role to hand on to the right person.

If you are local and would like to give a little of your time to the community, we would love to hear from you.

This is not a large role on its own and no specific experience required. You will also continue to be supported by the dedicated HCCG committee.

Please email contacthccg@gmail.com if you would like a bit more info of what's involved in the role of "Hall Manager".

Don't Forget

Book your table now for the Christmas Market - email contacthccg@gmail.com to secure your spot.



IT'S COOKIE TIME OF THE YEAR

by

ADRIENNE PEEK

ORANGE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

200 Grams Butter or Margarine
 1 ½ Cups Sugar
 2 Eggs
 3 Teaspoons Baking Powder
 3 Cups Flour
 1 Teaspoon Vanilla Essence
 Handful of Chocolate Chips
 Grated Rind of an Orange

Mix all the ingredients together and place on plastic cookie sheets or baking paper in spoonful's and flatten. Bake at 160 degrees C on fan bake for about 20 minutes.



CARAMEL COOKIES

100 Grams Butter or Margarine
 1 ¾ Cups Sugar
 1 Tablespoon Condensed Milk or Golden Syrup
 1 Egg
 1 Teaspoon Vanilla Essence
 2 Cups Flour
 2 Teaspoons Baking Powder
 ½ Teaspoon Baking Soda
 1 Cup Desiccated Coconut
 2 Cups Cornflakes or Crushed Weetbix
 Handful of Chocolate Chips or Chopped Dried Apricots or Sultanas

Mix all ingredients together and place on trays as above and cook at 160 degrees C on fan bake for about 20 minutes.

Both of these recipes make just over a large baking tray. They also spread to make a large cookie. I have had the Chocolate Chippie recipe for about 35 years from a friend in Murchison and the Caramel recipe for over 50 years.



WALNUT COOKIES

125 Grams Butter or Margarine
 1/3 Cup Sugar
 1 Tablespoon Golden Syrup
 1 Cup Flour
 1 Teaspoon Baking Powder
 2 Teaspoons Ground Ginger
 ½ Cup Chopped Walnuts

Mix all ingredients together and bake at 160 Degrees C on Fan Bake for 20 minutes.



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Restoring Nature in Laingholm

LEN'S NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

Genus: *Agathis*; Family: *Araucariaceae*

Kauri is a conifer that grows up to 50 m high with a trunk up to 4 m in diameter. However, some tree stumps have been found with diameters up to 7 m. It is the largest native tree species in Aotearoa by volume, but not the tallest.

Kauri forest dynamics

In the past, Kauri dominated forest has usually established after a large-scale disturbance event that has destroyed the previous forest (disturbance events include fire, landslips, cyclones and possibly outbreaks of disease). The first trees to establish after a large-scale disturbance (pioneer species) include flowering trees such as manuka and towai. It takes about 35-50 years before kauri seedlings begin to establish under these pioneers. Young kauri stands are usually densely packed with saplings (called rickers) that have a narrow conical form with short branches in whorls around the trunk. As kauri grow, the lower branches are progressively shed like leaves of other trees are shed. The kauri stand also goes through a natural process of thinning whereby many young kauri die as the decreasing number of survivors get larger. After 100-150 years the young kauri begin to emerge above the pioneer tree canopy. (The canopy refers to the uppermost continuous layer of foliage of a forest. Kauri are regarded as emergent trees because they grow above the canopy but usually don't form a continuous layer of foliage at this higher level.)

The pioneer canopy dies off as it gets shaded by the emergent kauri and other native conifers. It is at this point in the successional process that long-lived, shade tolerant, flowering trees such as tawa, kohekohe, and puriri begin to establish as

seedlings. Kauri continue to thin in numbers as less competitive individuals die and more competitive individuals increase in size. The long-lived flowering trees form a canopy at a lower height than the kauri about 200 to 250 years after the disturbance that initiated the successional process. When the kauri stand is about 400-500 years old the loss of kauri biomass due to kauri deaths begins to exceed the increase in biomass due to growth of the survivors and so the stand begins to decline. None-the-less some individuals continue to survive beyond 1000 years of age allowing plenty of time for a new disturbance to begin the whole process again from scratch. This natural cycle should not, however, be confused with Kauri dieback disease because mortality from the disease is well above normal historic levels. Mature kauri have straight parallel trunks and a broad crown with spreading branches that each sometimes reach up to 1 m in diameter. In the crown of mature kauri many other plants are able to grow including saplings of tall growing trees such as totara. I once had the privilege of climbing into the crown of Tane Mahuta. Here I found an entire forest ecosystem that included a large totara, rimu, puka, *Astelia*, many species of fern, climbing rata, and the epiphytic shrubs *Pittosporum kirkii* and *Pittosporum cornifolium*.

Male kauri cones look a little like short fingers up to 5 cm long. Female cones are up to 7.5 cm diameter and spherical. Male and female cones are both produced on the same tree. The cone is made up of scales each having one winged seed on the upper side. When the female cones shatter the winged seeds fly like single bladed helicopters. Kauri grow in the North Island from sea level up to 600 m in elevation and are found as far south as Kawhia in the west and Te Puke in the east.



TANE MAHUTA LOOKING DOWN FROM THE CROWN

LEN'S PEST PLANT OF THE MONTH



MILE-A-MINUTE

Dipogon lignosus Family: Fabaceae (pea)

Aggressive climber that smothers and kills most plants from ground level to canopy trees and prevents the establishment of native plant seedlings. Its leaves have three heart-shaped leaflets (2-6 cm long). It produces pea-like lavender, white, pink or reddish-purple flowers that develop into boat-shaped seed pods (3-4 cm long) that split to release the seeds. Seeds spread by birds and by water.

How to control it

1. Dig out small plants and dispose of at a refuse transfer station or weed bin.
2. Cut and paint stump with metsulfuron-methyl METGEL CUT "N" PASTE, or picloram cut "n" paste.
3. Spray (spring-autumn) with metsulfuron-methyl (600 g/kg strength) (mix 0.3 g (approximately 0.6 ml of granules) per litre of water and add penetrant).

Community Working Bee

10am Sunday 9th November

@ AT BLOCK opposite 105 Victory Rd

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Pony Tales

What's the most important part of owning a horse? Keeping your horse happy and healthy. And while that includes vet, dentist, and farrier appointments as well as exercise and training, a vital component is having fun with your horse. Doing fun things is great for enriching their lives, working their brain, and building an amazing bond.

We sometimes go up to the nearby real fruit ice cream store, to get a delicious treat. Recently Tink, Marlo and Beau rode up, being super brave and sensible around all the cars and slightly spooky situations. While ice cream is not the best treat for horses, as it is very sugary, they really enjoy a few licks occasionally and it is a super fun outing.



At first, Marlo was unsure about the cold and began doing the flehmen response. This involves horses peeling their upper lip back to smell unusual scents. However, after a while he decided that it was very yummy and happily ate some more.



Tink thinks that ice cream is the yummiest thing in the whole world and did not struggle with the cold at all. She shared with her owner, but managed to get the most ice cream in the end!



Beau was a very patient boy waiting for his ice cream to be ready! It was hard to wait but he was a very good boy and when his was ready, he shared very politely.

Our Community Pony Rides run most first Sundays of the month, from 3-4pm, but check our Facebook page for any changes. We are always open to new members. There are plenty of opportunities to be involved as much as you would like and in plenty of different ways. For any further enquiries, see our [Facebook page](#) to send a message or feel free to contact the [secretary](#).





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Laingholm Fishing Club.

Welcome to our monthly newsletter

It been a busy month for us at the Club with pool Competitions, starting Jag the Joker on Friday nights and the Coastguard from Titirangi visiting last weekend.

The presentation from the Coastguard was informative and timely too, reminding us as the weather starts to warm up and we all either head out on the Manukau to swim, kayak ,fish or going boating, just how dangerous our harbour can be. If you are taking a boat out on the Manukau this summer then ensure you have either your Coastguard membership up to date or obtain one, as the Manukau is New Zealand's most dangerous piece of water. Also have two forms of communication available.

But don't forget one of the most important items....LIFE JACKETS.....

We continue to welcome new members to the club and it's heartwarming to see our local community supporting this Laingholm icon. We continue to provide full meals most Friday evenings and always have other options available.

Check out our noticeboard outside the Club for the Friday night menu.

It feels timely to give out a big shout to our volunteer bar staff who give up their time on Fridays and Sundays to run the bar until closing time.

Upcoming Events

We are planning to have working bee inside and outside the Club in November to give the Club a re-fresh for the summer.

That's it for now and as usual we welcome anyone who would like to pop in have a drink or a meal or both! See you soon.

Andrea

Laingholm Fishing Club

6 Sandy's Parade | Laingholm |
Auckland 0604



Fridays 5:30 – 11pm

Sunday 4- 8:00pm

Sandys Parade, Laingholm Beach.

Find us on Facebook for event and dinner details.

New faces always welcome,

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Any questions please contact the Secretary

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Diwali

At Laingholm Kindergarten, we celebrated Diwali the Festival of Lights. Tamariki learnt the meaning of this special occasion through stories, dance, and creative art, making colourful firework paintings, creating rangoli and shaping their own diyas from clay. We listened to whānau share how their families celebrate Diwali, helping us build understanding and connection. We were gifted treats from our wonderful cleaners, a beautiful reminder of the light we all bring to our kindergarten community.



Librarian visit

We were delighted to have a special visit from the Titirangi Library librarians, Elaine and Rachel, who joined us for a fun and engaging mat time. Tamariki listened with excitement as she read a selection of wonderful stories, sparking imagination and laughter. The fun continued outside with the colourful parachute and bubbles floating through the air, creating moments of joy and teamwork. It was a lovely reminder of how stories and play connect us and inspire a love of reading and learning.





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A three day weekend at the end of October is a bonus for gardeners with the extra day allowing for some serious spring preparation. As well as a general tidy up such as weeding, dead-heading and feeding the soil with some nutrients, several crops can now go directly into the ground.

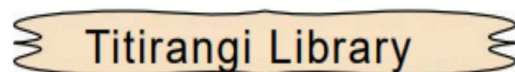
Beans, carrots and salad greens should go well but young seedlings and other spring staples still need careful nurturing and protection from the elements. I find it's a bit early to plant chillies and peppers despite them looking healthy in the garden centres. Of course tomatoes can also be planted now but again I find it's better to wait a bit longer especially as the self-seeded ones begin to pop up all over the garden in places you really don't want them.

This is a good time to freshen up the herb patch, cutting some back to encourage new growth. Unfortunately slugs, snails and other creepy crawlies also enjoy the spring weather and love to dine out on young seedlings so deal with them in your preferred way.

Roses are blooming at the moment but might like some fertilizer and keep an eye on them for pests and diseases. Marigolds can help with this because as well as providing some colour they help keep away aphids.

So keep weeding, bug off those slugs and snails, protect yourself from the elements and watch your garden spring to life with the warmer weather.

Lady Greenfingers



<https://www.facebook.com/titirangilibrary/>

Thursday 4th December 7-8pm: 'How to Cook Your Life' launch event with Jade Reidy.

Free community event launching "How to Cook Your Life" with a live theatre performance of local contributors' global food stories. Supporting Fair Food in their mission for a more just and sustainable food system. Books for sale \$40. Secure your seat at www.humanitix.co.nz 'how to cook your life'.

Saturday 6th December 2-4pm: 'New Heaven & New Earth' concert and book launch of two new books, "Palabra Ancestral" and "Songs for Dylan" by Ron Riddell (poet), with

Martin Sercombe (filmmaker) and Raul Pierard (cellist). Titirangi Theatre (Lopdell House), 418 Titirangi Road. Koha appreciated.

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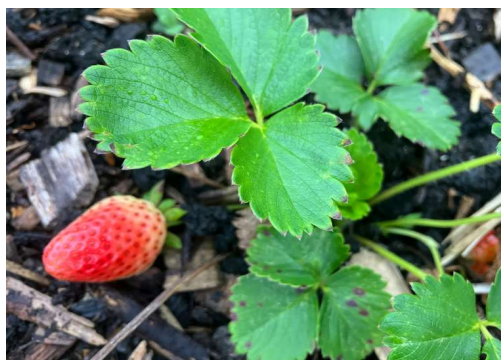
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Goodness Gardens.



Sowing seeds and tasting strawberries have been our happy tasks lately. We've planted peas, beans, tomatoes, brassicas, courgettes, pumpkins, radishes and herbs. The garlic is looking healthy and our spring onions have enormous flowers full of seeds. Bumble bees love to sleep on them.



Sunflower seeds are in, they were stunning last year so we'll keep planting them regularly to extend the display. Fashionable dahlias have put on a colourful display for the past few years. Generous local people have donated tubers to us so there will be some fun surprises to enjoy in summer.

Tree dahlia cuttings have sprouted which is very exciting. We'll need to build a very strong frame as they can grow past 2metres tall.

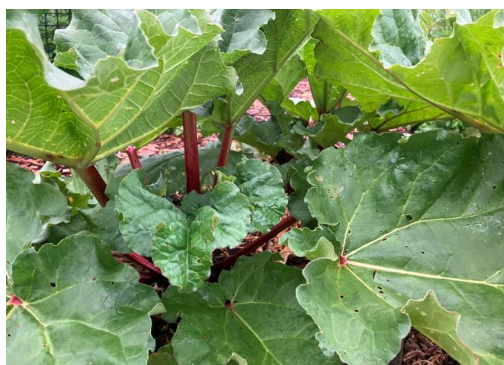
At present our ubiquitous orange calendula and annual blue echiums are putting on a bright show while other small flower plants establish.

Puha goes to the horses and other local pets.



Statice (everlasting flowers) are being picked and dried for the Quakers' Christmas Posies for Prison project. Hopefully we'll have suitable fresh flowers to donate as well.

All sorts of fruit trees have been planted. The usual suspects, citrus and feijoa. peach. and pear. Some unusual sub-tropical specimens, mulberry and figs too. It's fun to see their new growth emerge, flowers and even little fruits. The pukekos are watching too. They think it's kind of us to tend to their pantry.



Wire netting, wire hanging baskets, old bird cages, anything we can use to keep these pest birds off the plants is useful and greatly appreciated.

Public Social Gardening for Health - Thursday and Saturday mornings from 10am - please join us at Owen's Green to work or to chat - The more, the merrier.

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Sunday 7 December 2025

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- Fire brigade and displays
- Face painting
- Roskill Rovers marshmallows
- Bouncy Castle
- Sausage sizzle (cash only)
- The Eel Whisperer
- Waicare water monsters... and more!

Parking: Kids Day parking is at 221 Scenic Drive with a free shuttle running to and from Arataki. Thanks to Montana. Parking is limited, please carpool when possible.

For more information visit facebook.com/aratakivisitorcentre



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ORAKEI SEA SCOUTS

Recently we had to pleasure of hosting some amazing youngsters from the Orakei Sea Scouts. The Sea Scouts were in the area completing some fun activities and asked if they could visit our little station.

A special thanks to the crew who took time out of their weekend to show these future firefighters what we are about.



Many of these children live in urban areas and had little idea of what volunteer firefighters do. This includes hearing the emergency siren activating.

A great experience and a real pleasure to show these youngsters (and their parents) the great role we play in the community.

QFF PAUL PASSES ERD QUALIFICATION

We like to acknowledge the recent achievement by one of our crew. QFF Paul was successful in passing this Emergency Response Driver (ERD) course and now adds another fully qualified driver/pump operator to our brigade. This role is vital in ensuring we are operational and able to respond to emergency situations.

A special thank you to Paul for taking time away from your family to complete this course over the weekend period.

Well done, Paul.



HUIA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

Contact us for any enquiries - Fire Station Ph: 8118885 or message us through our Facebook page.
In an emergency dial 111

WHATS GOING ON WITH THE CHOPPER?

We understand that when the Westpac Rescue Helicopter or Police Eagle Helicopter spends a considerable amount of time hovering over our area it creates some real interest from the community.

During any emergency event we will publish information on our Facebook page if there is information that you should know. This will mainly relate to road closures or other information that may be of public interest.

We often are asked “Why did the siren go off?” which is a natural question to ask. However, many of our calls are non-fire related including emergency medical responses. Some of these calls can be delicate to deal with. Therefore, there are times we won’t publish what we responding to.



Armistice Day, Sunday 9th November 2025

On Sunday November 9th, the Armistice Day Service will be held at the Spragg War Memorial, Kaitirakihi. This will be hosted by the Huia Settlers Museum with members of our brigade attending.

The service will begin at 10:55am so people attending are asked to assemble at 10:30am at the site.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Nga Mihi



Book Reviews



GEORGE WADSWORTH & IAN JOHNSON

Berserker, An autobiography, by Adrian Edmondson

The author came to prominence as Vyvyan Bastard in the Young Ones and has never looked back, Married to Jennifer Saunders for 40 years, they have three daughters, However his story starts when he was a young boy and because of his father's teaching at various overseas places he went to four primary schools and by the time he went to boarding school he knew very little. He was for the first two years hit with the bottom of a slipper until he cried and then with a rattan cane (six of the best) by the headmaster. All told about sixty-six times during his years at secondary school. No wonder he came out and enjoyed the violence of The Young Ones. He always wanted to be an actor - much to his father's disgust, and he has achieved a huge amount over several decades. His writing is uniquely witty and full of references to the latest music of the time. So many stories, so much fun, some sadness. All in all a great read and an insight to the comedy scene in Britain over the last half of the 20th Century.

The Story of a Heart by Rachel Clarke

The author is a palliative care doctor at the NHS.

We are introduced to Keira, a nine year old vivacious girl who, while traveling in a car with her mother and brother, was involved in an accident on the 10th worst road in the British Isles.

41 years earlier, Dr James Stymer crashed his plane with his wife and four children on board, His wife was killed instantly. He was appalled at the chaos in the small rural hospital where his children were. As a result, with colleagues at the Lincoln Hospital, he developed a system to manage trauma,- which he named ATLS (Advanced Trauma Life Support) It follows the structure A B C D E. Airway before Breathing, Breathing before Circulation, Circulation before Disability, and Disability before Exposure.

Dr Nick Hillier with his friend Sam were returning on Nick's motorbike from a holiday when they came across Keira. So he commenced CPR until the air ambulance arrived after 30 minutes.

Seven months after Keira's accident, Emma Johnson found herself sitting in a paediatric intensive care unit opposite a cardiologist, Dr Salem Rabuna who told her that the problem

with her son Max's heart was a condition that had a 33% chance of resolving, a 33% chance of needing a heart transplant and a 33% chance of death.

Max was admitted to Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and his condition continued to worsen. Then he was taken to ward 23 of the Newcastle Freeman Hospital which cares for critically unwell children with heart and lung conditions from the whole of the UK and Ireland.

Meanwhile it became clear that Keira would not live and so the specially trained staff raised the question of organ donation with the family. A consultant contacts the UK's Organ Donation and Transport Hub advising that they may have a prospective pediatric donor. The family emotionally agree to Keira becoming a donor.

The author not only tells the personal stories of the two families involved in the heart, which themselves are riveting and bring tears to the eyes but also the medical innovations going back a century involving nurses, doctors, scientists and others which have enabled transplants of human organs today.

As a result of a campaign orchestrated by the Mirror newspaper and whole heartedly supported by the families of Keira and Max, the UK have passed a law that people have to opt out of being a Donor. The result has been many more transplants take place. In New Zealand, donors have to opt in.

The book is a loving testament to the heart, Keira and her family and Max and his family. And the wonderful people involved in enabling transplants to take place.

A must read.

Air, John Boyne (Doubleday, 2025): This is a story that focuses on victims, what has happened to them in the past and the impact on their lives. It is told by the gradual revelation and recalling of past events. The story covers three generations of a family and is told through Aaron Umber. He is on his way to Ireland with his teenage son, Emmett, to meet Rebecca, Aaron's ex-wife and Emmett's estranged mother – this is all unbeknown to Emmett. Aaron and Rebecca are victims of traumatic and distressing early life experiences from their own childhoods. These of course have had consequences and has had an impact on Emmett. Those past events are gradually revealed as Aaron relates them to

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his son who slowly learns to understand his 'weird' parents. The several threads are gradually brought together. This is done deftly, skilfully and realistically. In the context of the brutality and cruelty (which is divulged but not described in any graphic detail) of the events, it provides the understanding and a chance of healing for Emmett and his parents. This is actually the final book in a quartet named after the four elements – Water, Earth and Fire were the first three. All the books are connected although but it is not necessary to have read the previous books. 'Air' does in fact bring the series together with many twists and turns leading to an ending which some may seem as a bit contrived but is done with compassion. Like the other books, "Air" is in a novella form around 150 pages.

A Mouth Full of Salt, Reem Gaafar (Saqi Books, 2024) is told in two parts. Initially set in northern Sudan in the 1980's villagers seem to lead a simple but happy life. A series of shocking events threatens this – a search for the body of a boy drowned in the waters of the Nile which flows through the village ('It took as much as it gave them and more. The river

brought them life. But the river was not their friend'). Then most of the village livestock is killed by a mysterious illness, a fire destroys the village's date gardens, a young girl dies just before her planned wedding. The villagers have their own theories and suspicions but there is no revealed cause of these troubles. The second part takes place thirty years earlier just as Sudan is becoming independent from the British. This part focuses on Nyamakeem who is the sole support for her only child, Kheir Alseed. She struggles to make a living to provide that support. She had been married to Hassan who has disappeared and died. She is effectively disowned by both her and Hassan's family – he was an Arab from the north, she is a dark-skinned Southerner. Prejudices and the consequences run deep. There is a connection between the two parts and that is for the reader to find out. It is all revealed through this engaging storytelling experience, the background description of religion, inheritance and customs in a changing world and description of village life provided by the author in her stunning debut novel.



Waitakere Forest and Bird Talk:

Thursday 20th November 7:30pm

Hihi genetics, precious ranges, and power rangers

Join us for a talk by Hui Zhen Tan, a PhD researcher from the University of Auckland, on the conservation and genetics of the hihi/stitchbird. Learn about the population history of the hihi and the dedicated conservation efforts that have supported its survival over the years. Hui Zhen will also share her research in exploring how inbreeding may affect hihi survival and reproduction, with an accessible introduction to genetic research included

.

Venue: Ranui Community Centre 474 Swanson Rd, Ranui.

Non members welcome, join us for supper to chat with like minded people,

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Laingholm Volunteer Fire Brigade

Laingholm Fire Team The Gators Shine at World Firefighter Challenge Championships

Nicole and Matt proudly represented the Laingholm Gators at the 2025 World Firefighter Challenge Championships in Dallas, tackling one of the toughest courses yet. After both completing their first individual runs on Monday, they briefly held the world record, an incredible achievement before it was broken later in the day. Matt held his own in a fiercely competitive category, putting in a strong performance on the track.

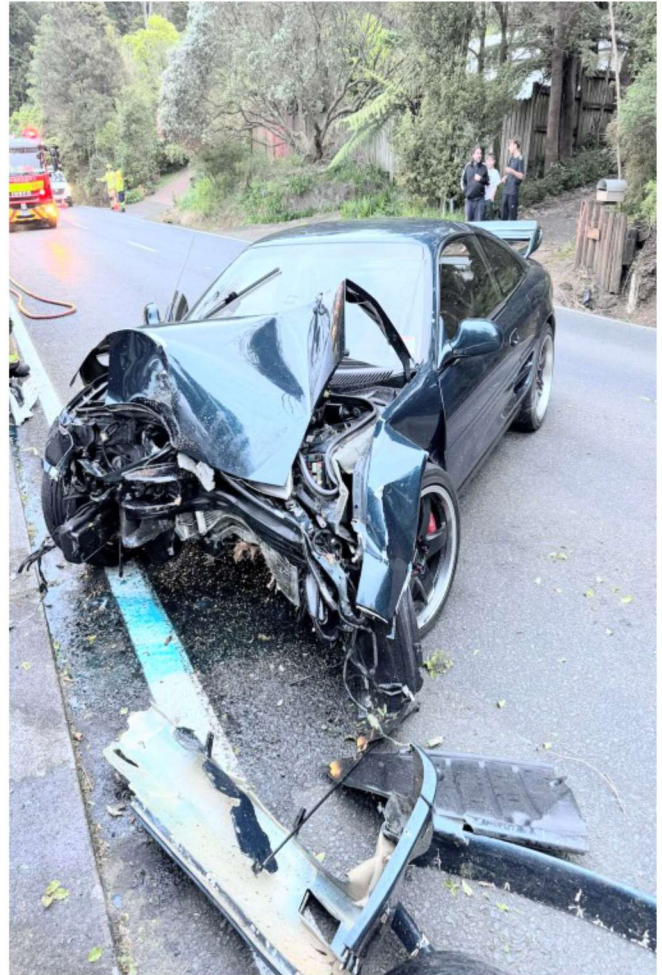


Together, Nicole and Matt teamed up in the Under 40 Coed Tandem, showcasing true teamwork and representing the Gators with pride. Nicole also had an exceptional championship, qualifying for the finals in her individual category in 6th place and finishing 5th overall in the 30–34-year-old female division.

Adding to her impressive run, Nicole was part of the Fire Department Showdown female team that took out the overall gold medal and world championship title — with the New Zealand female team winning by a full minute when combined individual times were tallied.

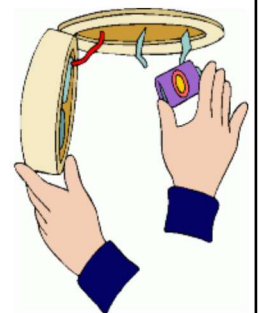
Nicole also joined forces with Jodi Reymer (Pirongia Fire Brigade) in the Under 40 Female Tandem, where the pair stormed into the finals and claimed second place. To cap off an incredible week, Nicole helped her Under 40 Female Relay Team secure first place in the National Fire Department category and second overall, narrowly edged out by Martin County in a thrilling final.

A phenomenal effort from both Nicole and Matt — and an outstanding showing from the Laingholm Gators on the world stage!



Thankfully the driver and sole occupant of this Toyota MR2 escaped unhurt after it hit a tree on Huia Road last month. What surprised us was the reaction it received when we placed this picture on our Facebook page. It received 284 comments, the most we can recall. It appears the car was well-known in the enthusiast community and the unfortunate owner had it for only three days

Daylight saving is with us but have you checked your smoke alarms ? If an alarm is defective and you're having problems replacing it please give us a call on 817 5475. Chances are we will be able to help.



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ranging from our very first fire truck to those we have today.

We will have lots of fun activities to take part in and here are some pictures of previous open days.

Tracks and kauri dieback

In 2018 the Waitakere Ranges tracks system was closed due to the spread of Kauri dieback. At the time I fully supported this action because it was suspected that people were spreading the disease along tracks to adjacent kauri.

However, the science suggests this is not the case. The Waitakere Ranges Kauri Population Health Monitoring Survey undertaken by Auckland Council in 2021 failed to find any evidence of an association between tracks and kauri dieback.

The published report from this survey used statistical analysis of many different variables (see <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/2021-waitakere-ranges-kauri-population-health-monitoring-survey/>) and found that the prevalence of dieback was higher in larger trees and at lower elevations, but that there was no evidence of a relationship between dieback and proximity to tracks. This means there is no justification for closing tracks or for spending money on converting tracks to urban footpath standards for the purpose of protecting kauri.

So how has the Auckland Council responded to their own finding that there is no evidence of a relationship between tracks and dieback? Well, they haven't responded. They have not reviewed policies on dieback or tracks – most tracks remain unnecessarily closed and any tracks that have been opened since 2021 have been upgraded to urban footpath standards at huge expense.

The money spent on these track upgrades should have been spent on researching kauri dieback or on pest control.

Loss of wilderness

When I have lamented the unnecessary upgrades of tracks to urban footpath standards to friends the response is sometimes, "well it must be good that the upgrades have made the tracks accessible to more people". However, greater accessibility to even more people could be achieved if all tracks were upgraded to sealed roads. Most people can understand that converting tracks into roads represents a loss of wilderness that we ought not to tolerate in parks, despite the increase in accessibility that they would offer. Maximising access cannot therefore be taken as the only criterion for decisions on building infrastructure in our wilderness areas.

Degrading the wilderness values with urban footpaths does not make the wilderness more accessible because the hundreds of steps, handrails and boardwalks that in some areas cover 100 % of the track takes away much of the wilderness experience that many people valued and appreciated.

The binary policy of either upgrading tracks to an urban footpath standard or entirely closing tracks has largely removed the availability (especially for children) of important wilderness experiences including:

- Walking on uneven ground. This is important for balanced muscle stress and co-ordination. It is especially important for both children's development and aging well for older people. By contrast, walking on flat even surfaces and evenly spaced steps is a major cause of knee problems;

- Tactile engagement with nature through touch. The upgraded urban footpaths have removed much of the opportunity for people to engage with nature by such things as holding onto a piece of rock or a tree to negotiate obstacles. The loss of opportunity for people to engage mind and body in navigating obstacles is far more important than you might think. Navigating using your own senses has been proposed as a key factor for people living longer, healthier lives;

- The opportunity to get wet from stream crossings and overhanging vegetation is not a bad thing. It is an important component of engaging with nature rather than just observing from a disconnected position.

- Challenge. Mind/body challenge is a critical component of building resilience among children. And challenge is an important motivation for many people who want to experience wilderness. The upgraded tracks present no greater challenge than walking a suburban concrete footpath.

Much of the increase in the use of the urbanised tracks that has occurred since they have been reopened would likely have occurred without the extra infrastructure because they are taking all the traffic that was once spread across a much larger network of now closed tracks. There has also been an increase in awareness of the health benefits from walking in nature, especially since the Covid lockdowns.

All the closed tracks in the Waitakere Ranges should be reopened with minimal upgrades only where the tracks cross kauri root systems.

by Len Gillman BSC. PHD (Auck) . Formerly Head of Science at Auckland University of Technology, and Professor of Ecology and Biogeography



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