



The Roundabout

April 2024/Volume 59/02

Published by the Management Committee for the Roundabout - Chairman: Graeme Booth 817 4658

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See page 4 for details.



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What's happening in our area?

Fun Day

To find out more See page 10

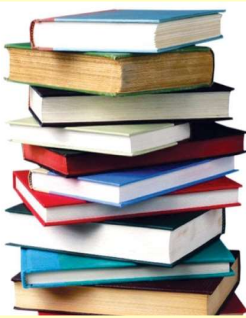
Quiz night

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Whose anniversary?

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Volunteers have
had to do this
Month**

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What are our schools doing?

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The Roundabout

Contact Phone No: 817-4658

April 2024 Vol 59/2

MANAGING COMMITTEE FOR THE ROUNDABOUT
Chairman: Graeme Booth 817-4658
Treasurer: Doreen Sunman Secretary: Frances Rodden
Accounts: Gina Towl Printer: Neil Thomas
Advertising: Keith Towl Production: Kevin Gill
Circulation & Deliveries: Corrinne Thomas 022 319 3995

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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 Anonymous articles or those with just pseudonyms will not be published.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,

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ADVERTISING ARTWORK AND/OR ARTICLES
 We prefer to have artwork and articles submitted electronically wherever possible. The online address is: theroundabout.editorial@gmail.com.

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 \$45 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
HALF PAGE (180 x 132 mm)	\$49
THIRD PAGE Tall or wide (180 x 88 mm)	\$38
QUARTER PAGE (89 x 132 mm)	\$30
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
 The next publication date is **1st May 2024**
 The deadline for ALL copy is
Monday 22nd April 2024

PAYMENT
 Invoices for advertisements appearing in the Roundabout will be sent monthly by the Roundabout Society. They may be paid via internet banking to:
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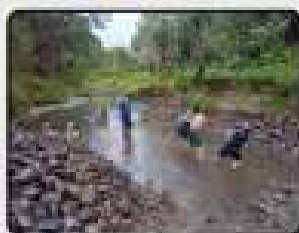
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Year 5 & Year 6 Camp - 2024



Keanu – Flying Fox

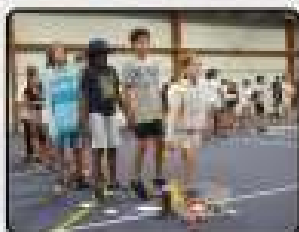
I had my stuff on and I was ready to go – not! (Sighs) Yup, it's time now and I slowly walk up towards the giant tree house. I feel more and more butterflies in my stomach. Once I reach the top, the man there starts laughing and smiling. He can clearly see that I am shaking in fear, which is why he's laughing. The instructor guy buckles me on and there I go. My butterflies EXPAND!! I feel like I'm dead. As I swoop down I'm reaching the end, let's go! I then reach the end and actually it wasn't that bad!



Harry – Confidence Course

I started the course. First when you start, you have to climb over a tyre that's on a rope. Next you have to climb up a ladder. When you get up the ladder you have to slide down a log with little logs in it slowing you down.

It was so fun, I was so happy. After that you had to jump onto wooden platforms and after that you had to go on swinging logs. That was the hardest obstacle so far. The swinging logs were very, very difficult, especially the turn.



Emily – Flying Fox

Today I got to go on the flying fox. It was so fun! When I went on, it went zoom! My hands were really sweaty because of how scary and high it looked, but then the guy behind me said "3! 2! 1! Go!" Woosh, zoom, and I went off and suddenly it felt AMAZING! My hands were not sweaty any more. Then another guy grabbed my legs and got me off the zipline gear and I had to get down the staircase to wait for my turn again.



Stasia – Archery

I was waiting for one of the coolest things EVER... it was archery. I got called for my turn. I stood up, I looked over at a tree swaying in the breeze.

I was at camp doing one of my activities called archery, you should know what it is. I was with my group (Rima) and I didn't miss a single shot 6/6, kinda good at aiming.

I grabbed my bow and arrow, I stood in place and I heard chanting from my team. I started to feel confident.

I aimed in and took a shot and got it!



Hector – Confidence Course

When we finally arrived at the confidence course I initially found it really short. But after adults told us the rules and showed us the course... THE COURSE WAS ACTUALLY HUGE! I was even more excited: my heart rate was then 200,000 beats per minute!

My favourite moment of the confidence course was the black swing. Right after the course I was so happy to have done the course. The confidence course was one of my best experiences in my life.

March's Photo Gallery
Camp - 2024



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

The Greatest Little School in the Universe

Job Vacancy:

The Greatest Little School in the Universe is looking for the Greatest Part Time Cleaner in the Universe.

We are seeking, preferably an experienced cleaner, to work three hours per day, three days a week to carry out our 'after school clean'. The cleaning can start anytime after 2:00pm to allow a 5:00pm finish or it could be an early evening job. So long as the start time is after 2:00pm we are happy to discuss what times might work with a suitable candidate. Initially the work would be just during the terms, but additional hours in the holidays could become available.

The job pays \$26.00 per hour which is the Living Wage for 2024. As we are a school, the successful candidate will need to be police vetted before starting work.

Applications, including a very brief CV noting any cleaning experience, can be e-mailed to Posie or Alison at office@laingholm.school.nz. Applications will close once a suitable candidate has been identified.

Important Notices:

Pre-School Enrolments

If you live in the Laingholm area and have a pre-school aged child it is important – if you want them to attend Laingholm Primary School – that they are on our pre-enrolment lists.

You can check if your child is on our pre-enrolment list by e-mailing the school office – office@laingholm.school.nz or ringing the school office (09) 817-8874.

Knowing how many children we are expecting, and when, is an essential part of our planning process to ensure your child gets the possible start to school life.

75th Jubilee

Laingholm Primary School, 'The Greatest Little School in the Universe' will be celebrating its 75th Jubilee in 2025.

The celebrations will take place around the Matariki holiday weekend with events running from **Thursday 19th June to Saturday 21st June 2025**.

If you would like to help or register your interest in the Jubilee please e-mail the school on office@laingholm.school.nz.



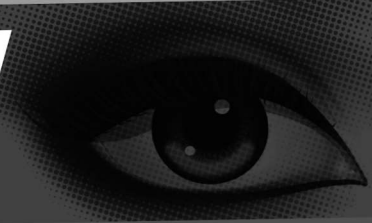
March's Photo-Gallery
"Camp - 2024"



PLAYHOUSE THEATRE INC. PRESENTS THE **tael** business advisors SEASON OF

THE ANNIVERSARY

BY BILL MACILWRAITH



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APRIL

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(Sheetmetal and Light Engineering Fabrication)

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COMMUNITIES

Playhouse Theatre Inc. is excited to present *The Anniversary*, a black comedy that will make you appreciate your own mother a little bit more! The Anniversary will be performed at the historic Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre 13th – 27th April.

The central character in *The Anniversary* is Mum, played by Dorren Kemeys, who gives new meaning to the phrase “possessive mother”. One of theatre’s most monstrous creations, Mum controls her family like a cruel puppeteer – and there are plenty of strings attached to her affection.

Her three grown-up sons are still dominated by their scalpel-tongued, deviously manipulative mother, both in their daily business and personal lives. Every year she manages to get them to come home on the anniversary of her wedding to the husband she despised, and who has now passed away.

As they gather for the celebration, two of three sons have something important to tell Mum. Terry, the middle son who is played by Oliver Pownall, wants to leave the family business to emigrate to Canada with his wife, played by Heather Maday. Tom, the youngest and Mum’s clear favourite, played by Lim Wilkinson, wants to marry the latest in a long line of girlfriends, Shirley, who is played by Hannah Pronk. Their problem is to muster the bravery needed to tell her the news, because Mum is used to getting her own way and is willing to resort to the most despicable means and tricks to try to keep them close to her. Add the eldest son Henry (Leroy Clarke) into the mix with his own secrets and the family is set to explode.

What follows is a night where Mum does what she does best, makes everyone’s life a misery.

The Anniversary is being directed by Terry Rutledge who is well known in the local theatre scene, and with such a talented and experienced cast and Director, the play is sure to be hugely entertaining.

What: The Tael Solutions Ltd season of *The Anniversary* by Bill Macilwraith
Where: The Playhouse Theatre, Glen Eden
When: 13th – 27th April 2024
Book at Eventfinda or <http://www.playhousetheatreinc.com>

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 - Vincent Van Gogh

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Karen Clare, Co-ordinator at 027 703 9454

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FAMILY FUN DAY



6th of April 2024



3pm to 6pm

1 Victory Road, Laingholm

- Gladiator Arena
- Cake
- Pulled Pork Buns
- Games
- Bouncy Castle
- Ice Cream
- Nachos & Vege Nachos
- Face Painting
- Sausage Sizzlers

Come and enjoy the last day of summer
before daylight saving kicks in

Eftpos will be available



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WHEN SHOULD I SELL?

If your house is warm and dry, why not hold off until Winter? Property values are driven by supply and demand. If you're thinking of selling in a market where properties are plentiful and buyers have a lot of choice, it may be better to hold off until a time when there are less properties on the market. Of course, this is entirely dependant on your situation and your plans, but the winter months can be a good time to sell your home.

The important thing to remember is that presentation is key. A warm dry home with tidy landscaped gardens, a fresh coat of paint and a warm cosy fire, can be very inviting when it's cold outside and many other neighbouring homes are looking unappealing. We are not for a second suggesting that if your home is hidden in amongst the trees, dark and cold that you should market in winter. All our homes can look untidy in winter because we are cozied up inside keeping warm, not clearing gutters, trimming hedges or continually cleaning up nature's debris.

When you're selling your home at any time of the year, kids toys and school bags strewn across the floor and breakfast bowls in the sink aren't tolerated. What if the same applied to the outside presentation of your home when marketing in Winter?

The key thing to remember in winter is that there are less properties on the market, therefore more buyers to compete over your home. Buyers are not seasonal, vendors are.

If you'd like some tips on presenting your home in winter, we would be very happy to discuss this with you along with our Winter marketing special.



Selling a home is not rocket science

- Less homes on the market
- A large database of buyers from recent sales in the area
- Greater market knowledge
- Better marketing material

- Guidance on impeccable presentation of your home

=

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EASY VEGETABLE RECIPES

By ADRIENNE PEEK

ZUCCHINI & CORN PIE

- 250 Grams Grated Zucchini
- 1 Small Chopped Pepper
- 1 Small Chopped Onion
- ½ Cup Self Raising Flour
- 1 Tin Creamed Corn
- ½ Cup Grated Cheese
- 2 Beaten Eggs
- 2 Tablespoon of Oil



Lightly grease a dish or line with baking paper. Mix the ingredients together. Pour into the dish. Bake for 45 minutes at 160 degrees fan bake. Leave to stand for 5 minutes before cutting.

CAULIFLOWER SALAD

- 1 Cauliflower
- 25 Grams Margarine or Butter
- 1 Tablespoon Curry Powder
- 2 ½ Tablespoons Brown Sugar
- 200 Grams Roasted Peanuts
- 2 ½ Cups Mayonnaise
- 3 Tablespoons Parsley



Melt the butter or margarine. Add the curry powder and cook for 2-3 minutes. Add brown sugar and cook another 3-4 minutes. Do not let it crystallise. Cool and add the mayonnaise, peanuts and parsley and stir in the cauliflower. This will keep for up to a week.

CHICKPEA SALAD

- 1 Can Chickpeas
- Few Chopped Sundried Tomatoes
- 1 Chopped Capsicum
- 1 Tablespoon Lemon Juice
- 1 Tablespoon Olive Oil
- Salt & Pepper to taste

Mix all ingredients together and serve. You can add olives too.





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**TE KITENGA NA DAN - TUATORU /
DAN'S DISCOVERY #3
NORTHERN RATA -
METROSIDEROS ROBUSTA**

Halfway up one of the tracks off Western Road stands a giant Northern rata. I estimate it to be around 25 metres high, but these trees are huge when fully grown and can reach up to 40 metres tall. They are very closely related to pohutukawa and they can even hybridise (cross breed), but rata have pointed leaves and their flowers are similar, but smaller, and come in colours ranging from pink to dark red.

The most amazing thing about Northern rata is that they start life as an epiphyte, which are plants that grow in trees. A seed will lodge in a host tree, and as it grows, it sends out roots like vines that climb down the tree until they reach the ground. Once the vines take root in the ground, they then start to strangle the host tree by wrapping around the whole trunk. Eventually, the roots stop acting like vines and slowly start merging into the host tree to form one large trunk. In most cases, the host tree will be very tall and hundreds of years old, so by now it is already nearing the end of its natural life. Eventually, the host tree will die and the rata is free to grow to full size. Rata are one of the few trees that start life in the canopy exploiting their hosts to reach the sunlight before becoming independent.

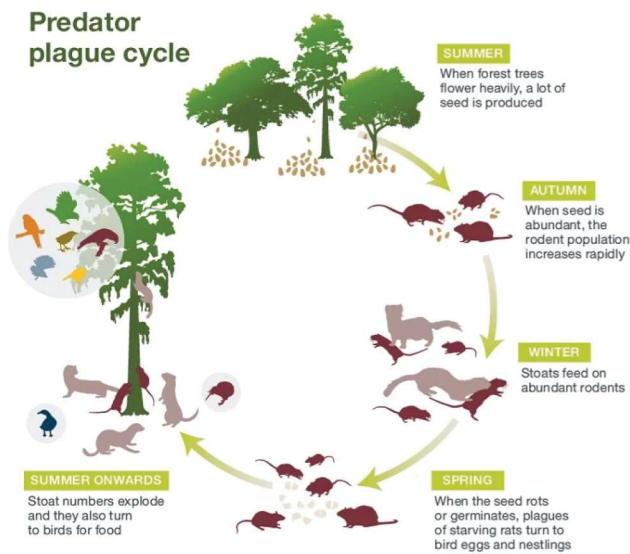
The rata I found is the largest in Laingholm that I have come across. It is one of the only fully mature examples of rata in the area, with a few others only just beginning to enclose their hosts, this makes it very significant and important. It is already supporting a large number of native epiphytes, mainly *astelia hastata* (aka perching lily). They are very important



for the ecosystem because they support many other plants and animals, they provide food in the form of nectar to tui, bellbirds, bats, and native pollinators including bees and moths.

Possoms are a big threat to rata. They are capable of killing even mature trees by stripping the leaves for food. Luckily, the Western Road rata is located on one of the Restoration Ruatuna trap lines, so it has got at least some protection from possums. We are still catching possums near this amazing tree, about one every couple of months. If we weren't trapping to protect it, we could lose it. You can see it on the track just past #43, on the left, going up the hill. When I'm walking the tracks, I always like to look up to see what I can find, happy hunting.

RAT INVASION : LAINGHOLM'S URGENT BATTLE



Have you noticed rats in your roof, around your compost bin, in the garden shed or even in your house? After a very fruitful seeding season for our native trees, the rat population in Laingholm has exploded and they are having a field day. As the weather cools, all rodents are looking for somewhere warm and safe to spend the winter, and piles of brush/rubbish/debris, sheds, and your home are all favourite places for rats as they try to get in from the cold.

We have three types of rodents in Laingholm; ship rats, Norway rats and house mice. Ship rats, also known as black rats or roof rats, are generally the most common. They are very good climbers and will target both food on the ground and in the trees, including eggs in nests. Norway rats (aka brown rats) are much larger and they cannot climb. They are generally found in more coastal and low-land areas. We also have house mice and we all know about them. It's important to get on top these pests as soon as you see them, even before you see them, because they are definitely out there now, trying to get into your house.

It would make a big difference if we all started baiting and trapping now. If you need help or advice, contact us by emailing our predator control team at rrtrapping@gmail.com. We operate a trap library on Western Road where you can come and borrow a trap and pick up some monitoring tunnels or other resources. There is no charge. You can also scan this QR code and fill out the form, it will help us to make sure we have everything ready for your visit.



WEED OF THE MONTH



Moth plant and ginger are two of Laingholm's most invasive weeds and we're throwing the spotlight on them again this month because they are still going crazy at this time of year. The ginger is still flowering and moth plants are forming pods, so grab those ginger flowers now and throw them in your bin, and if you see any moth plant pods grab those too, and throw them in the bin with the ginger flowers. Don't put either of them in your compost, they will absolutely love it and just grow there instead.

People sometimes confuse moth plant with the edible choko, but once you know how, it's easy to tell the difference. Moth plant leaves are spear shaped and choko leaves are broad and heart shaped.

Moth plant also has a milky sap that can irritate your eyes and skin, while choko doesn't have any sap. You can cut moth plant at its base and leave the vine hanging to die, or you can prevent it from growing back by digging out the roots. If it's too big to dig out, cut the base and treat it with a 'cut and paste' herbicide like Metgel.

Landowners in the Waitakere Ranges buffer zone are required under the Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan to remove moth plant, and that includes both private and council land like parks and roadsides. So if you see it, and can't do anything about it yourself, please report it. You can call the council on 301 0101 to report its exact location and somebody will come and deal with it. You could also join S.T.A.M.P (Society Totally Against Moth Plant) They are very willing to help and you will be amazed by their enthusiasm for elimination <https://www.facebook.com/groups/societytotallyagainstmthplant/>.

Friday Club and CONNECT FC

By the time you read this we will only be 4 weeks away from the start of Friday Club and CONNECT for 2024. We are running both from the start of Term 2. The first session is Friday 3rd May.

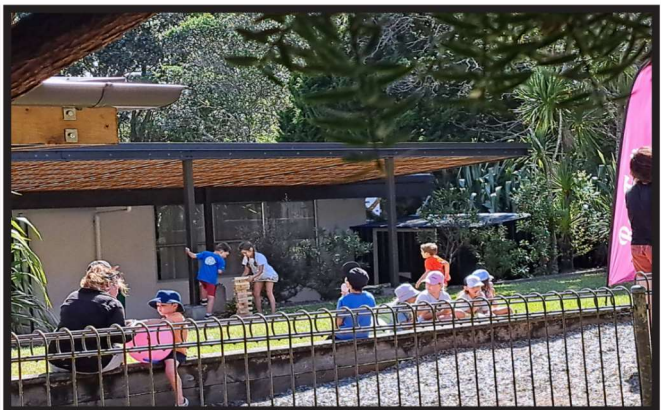
Friday Club is for primary school children and CONNECT is for Intermediates. Both are a lot of fun. It is a great way to get to know other families in the area, and for children and youth to hang out with friends on Friday afternoons after school. We have no charge. So that everyone who wants to can come, we run by donation only.

We run a Walking Bus from Laingholm Primary School, but children attend from many other schools also. Intermediates tend to get off the school buses, which stop right by us.

Children and Intermediates have to be enrolled before they can be left at Friday Club or CONNECT without a parent/caregiver. This is so that we have all the necessary information to care for them safely.

If you would like to know more about Friday Club or CONNECT, or enrol your child, text or ring Alison on 021 141 1483.

Many of our Friday Club children have come up during the last few weeks to do our Easter Hunt on the lawn. We have enjoyed seeing lots of other children and families doing this also. Artists in our community made lots of little Easter Eggs, chickens and rabbits out of a plastic clay, and these are all around on the trees on our lawn. Children doing the Easter Hunt and finding as many as they can, have been enjoying Easter Treat Real Fruit Ice Creams from KauriCones. Here are some photos of our Easter Hunt and the fun we have been having:



One of the purposes of KauriCones, our Real Fruit Ice Cream Social Enterprise is to fund the things we do for children and youth in this area, including Friday Club and CONNECT. During the School Holidays KauriCones will be open every day, and we will be having special theme days, so come and check us out. Our opening hours are: Friday to Tuesday 12.30-5.30pm; Wednesday and Thursday 2.00-5.00pm.

Friday Club (for Years 1-6) and CONNECT FC (for Year 7-8) are run by LBC and adults and youth from our community, to provide children and Intermediates and their families with a safe and welcoming environment to get to know each other and have fun. We also give children and Intermediates a chance to get to know older teenagers in our community - our fantastic group of young leaders; to be mentored and encouraged; to think about and explore life with God and to develop strategies for resilience that will help them with challenges they encounter. There is no charge. We run by donation.

If you would like to enrol your child or get more info about Friday Club or CONNECT or RockSolid ring Alison Diprose on 021 141 1483.



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Open Saturday and Sunday 1.30 – 4.30 pm (until 4.00pm winter)

Enquiries and group bookings: info@huiamuseum.org.nz

Ph: 8118971

Thank you to Friends of Whatipu for hosting the talk at Whatipu Lodge on the 17th March and providing an excellent afternoon tea. Author and Historian Graeme Murdoch spoke on the early Maori history of Whatipu, place names and traditions. Te Kawerau a Maki are the tangata whenua of the Waitakere Ranges and coastline, they are Kaitaki (guardians) of Te Wao Nui a tiriwa (Waitekere Ranges), they are acknowledged as having mana whenua over their ancestral lands. There are several Pa sites, middens, rock shelters, burial caves and earthworks for housing and gardens, evidence of settlement over a long period by Te Kawerau a Maki. Whatipu was originally named Waitipu by early Maori, the Waitipu stream translates as the stream that rises quickly in flood. Graeme talked about the lost land of Paorae. In early times the land of Paorae stretched from the Manukau heads south to the Waikato river mouth, it extended nearly 6 kilometres out to sea. It was a 3 day journey to walk its perimeter. Pohutukawa other coastal trees, harakere and scrub established themselves on this land. There were fresh water lakes and tidal lagoons. Paorae was frequently visited by food gathering parties of Te Kawerau a Maki and their relatives from the Waikato. Older residents of Te Huia told of picnics held on this land and of catching mullet in the lagoons. The last remnant of Paorae vanished in an epic storm in 1936.

References:

Murdoch G .1994: Nga Tohu a Nga Tupuna

Harvey B. 2001: Whatipu

Diamond J & Haywood B. 1979: The Maori History and Legends of the Waitakere Ranges



If you would like to find out more about the history of Whatipu come and visit the Huia Museum.

THE ROAD TO LITTLE HUIA

The last section of the road from Titirangi to Huia was formed and opened in 1896.

This was of course a clay road, and ended at the post office which was part of the Higham property on the present day reserve. The Huia stream adjacent had no bridge so all passing had to wade the stream. It was recorded that two men had drowned trying to cross and there was many near misses. Finally in 1899 a sturdy wooden bridge was built. After the bridge, heading towards Little Huia was easier until you reached Huia school. From there on you had to use an old maori track over the hills or chance the tide and walk along the shoreline. Naturally that once a formed road reached the school, residents wanted it continued. They petitioned the government and in 1902 were given a grant for the work. This to be for a bridle path 6ft wide, the council called for tenders, and received only one. The tender was from Barr and sons, long time residents and was 190 Pounds. This was rejected. In 1903, Tom Barr submitted another for 165 pounds this was accepted.

The work was carried out with a punt and wheelbarrows carrying rocks which were hand packed into road formation. What was done was the bare minimum and the road had to be maintained constantly because of rock falls. Despite pleas to council to employ a road man to keep the road clear it was not until 1905, after members of council visited the site that 75 pounds was granted for upkeep. The road at its widest point was 14 feet wide, it was thought at one point to widen the road past the Barr and Turner properties but the county engineer decided this would leave both residents with very little flat land in front of their homes and sheds. The Barr property being so close to the water, Eliza Barr could throw fishing lines over the picket fence. Most of the road was widened in later times but not outside Barr cottage. Though when the property was put up for sale in 1973, land agents were informed it was to be taken under the ministry of works act to widen the road, to this day this has not happened.

Submitted by **Lyn Boddy, Treasurer, Huia Museum**

HISTORY DAY JUNE 9TH 1.30 pm THE STORY OF THE ORPHEUS presented by Bob HARVEY FOLLOWED BY LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ENTRY \$5



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VEGETATION FIRE – CORNWALLIS

Many of us of remember the Boxing Day Vegetation Fire in Cornwallis a few years ago. There have been smaller fires in the Cornwallis area since then, however memories of the Boxing Day event began when the crew were responding to the area could see smoke as they drove past Huia Point Look Out coming from Cornwallis.

Despite the rain that had taken place earlier in the day, a sizable fire had grown when crews arrived. Crews from Huia, Laingholm, Titirangi and Waitakere were present during the call out. Luckily crews had enough day light remaining to battle and suppress the fire before night fell.

Fighting scrub fires at night is dangerous and crews move towards protecting homes during the night. However, there was just enough time and resource to contain the fire.

It was incredibly disappointing to find used fireworks at the scene of the fire when crews arrived. The immediate response to the incident for Fire crews is to deal with the fire.

Who and what started it is being investigated by Police.

Rest assured the quick call from locals meant a speedy response for your local volunteer fire brigades. A special thanks to our mates at Laingholm Volunteer Fire Brigade, Titirangi Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Waitakere Volunteer Fire Brigade for supporting us as always.





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

JOINT TRAINING EXERCISES

Whilst we see each other of the fire grounds often, our brigade doesn't get the opportunity to conduct joint training exercises often with other local brigades. The primary reason is due to brigades training on different nights of the week.

Volunteering is a big commitment so asking crews to change training nights takes some planning as many of our teams are parents with weekday commitments for kids' sports, music lessons.

However recently we hosted a training exercise welcoming a crew from Laingholm 701 into our area.

The exercise required a Laingholm Senior Fire Fighter to run a Huia Brigade crew as well as the Laingholm crew using the Huia 721 appliance and equipment. Ironically the exercise focused on vegetation/scrub fires.



It's always great working and training with crews from other brigades. We look forward to doing many more of these in the future.

Nga Mihi

(Photo: Laingholm crew using Huia Firemaster Portable Pump, Little Huia)



Book Reviews



GEORGE WADSWORTH & IAN JOHNSON

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese

Chapter 1 Always

19 00 Travancore South India

“She is twelve years old and she will be married in the morning” Thus begins the story, the matriarch and main character, of many, of the woman later known as Big Ammachi. She marries a forty year old widower who has a baby child. The novel ends in 19 77 when Mariamma, Big

Ammanchi’s granddaughter, sets off to find out who she really is. In every generation of her husband’s family, one person drowns and this affliction is known as ‘the Condition’. The author examines the class system in Britain, the presence of the British in India, the Indian caste system and we learn about Indian culture and the group of Christians in Kerala in Southern India.

The author is a Professor of Medicine at Stanford University and his descriptions of diseases and operations is exact and sometimes gory. The novel is a serious read - over 700 pages but it well worthwhile. The characters come across as real people and I could not wait to see how everyone ended up, even though I was reduced to tears at some of the tragic, sad and unexpected situations. It is very popular and there is a queue at the library so order it now.

Mother Country edited by Charlie Brinkhurst-Cuff

Real Stories of the Windrush Children

After the end of the Second World War there was a shortage of workers in the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom government encouraged citizens in Caribbean countries and elsewhere to emigrate to Britain to increase the workforce. Hundreds of thousands made the journey and became citizens when the British Nationality Act 1948 was passed. Over one thousand came on the Windrush ship. They came to what they thought of as the “Mother

Country” - a land where they could better themselves and their families. Many of them were women whose stories have only recently been told. This book chronicles twenty-two real life stories concentrating on women who came to Britain. They suffered racism, abuse, and prejudice. But they survived through sheer determination and in many cases very hard work and were able to keep their culture alive against all odds.

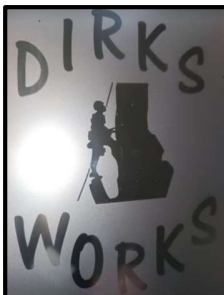
This is a heartwarming celebration of these women. Not one of them expected to be deported but many were. Eventually what became known as the Windrush scandal brought the injustices they suffered to the notice of the public and politicians.

A book to savour for its variety its humour, and its pathos.

Lioness, Emily Perkins (Bloomsbury Circus, 2023) – Therese, who had a humble upbringing and background, married into a very wealthy family - Trevor Thorne, her husband, is 23 years older than her and it is his second marriage. There are also his four adult children who behave as if they have a share of the entitlement to the wealth generated by their father. The wealth is built on a property empire including holiday homes in the Marlborough Sounds and Martinborough. But Therese has also taken advantage of this and has leveraged the family wealth to finance her own homeware business. The ideal life? Rumours of corruption with a new property development, a hotel on the Wellington waterfront, start to gradually expose the family dynamics and Therese’s privilege. Although Therese has a loving relationship, the superficiality of it is gradually revealed. This realisation is primarily through her new friendship with a neighbour Claire. Claire has “downsized” and has divested herself of the privileges of her wealthy life style. Claire’s new found simple life becomes very appealing to Therese as she realises the hypocrisy and veneer of her privileged status. Has the life that she has adopted resulted in her own feelings of powerlessness and has she lost control of her own life. The discovery is made with the gradual unravelling of the plot. Lioness has been short listed for this year’s Ockham Book Awards

Would that be funny?: Growing up with John Clarke, Lorin Clarke (Text Publishing, 2023): Those of us of a certain vintage will recall John Clarke, political satirist, comedian, writer and actor who created the Fred Dagg phenomena of the mid 1970’s in New Zealand. That was before he took his talents to Australia where he remained a household name until his untimely death in 2017. This book is written by his elder daughter and is her telling and reflection of hers and her family life as the daughter of her famous father. He tended to carry his off-beat humour into his family life, indeed, he seemed to live his whole life in this way. It is clear that the author idolised her father and was quietly amused by his quirky humour that he brought to family life but was accepted as normal.

It is not told in strict chronological order but in the form of anecdotes that then lead into various aspects of their family life. John often used his humour to provide wisdom to his children; Lorin recalls that it could be infuriating (in a humorous way) of arguing with him. Lorin’s style gives the reader the feeling that he/she is actually right there observing the story, a sign of good writing. There are hilarious stories about John’s dealings with bureaucracy, some which informed part of his satiric sketches. At the end of each chapter there are lists of observations, behaviours and “rules of life”. But the book does not flinch from the family losses and traumas, particularly John’s fraught relationship with his father and the challenges the author had as a daughter in having a famous father. An honest, hilarious moving account of both John Clarke’s and Lorin’s (and her family’s) life. This is supplemented by some lovely family photographs.



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Titirangi Soldiers Memorial Church is celebrating its Centennial

In May the year and we are looking for families that have been in this historic church over the past 100 years.

The church is a nondenominational memorial to all those that lost their lives and their families that have been affected by war since World War 1.



We are keen to find out more of the history and names of people involved throughout that long history especially photos.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

John Shaw... je.shaw@hotmail.com Beryl Sweeting – Shaw...sweetingberyl@msn.com

We will also be screening the Peter Jackson film

They Shall Not Grow Old

In the evening of 15 of May at Lopdell House



What a change from last year when I had nothing in my garden and my harvest consisted of a handful of tomatoes and one basil plant. This year I'm spoiled for choice with an abundance of tomatoes, chillies and capsicum and I'm hopeful I'll have pumpkins for soup and to share. Once again my potato crop left a lot to be desired. Now is a good time to sow or plant brassicas and beetroot is a good hardy plant for this time of the year although I find they tend to stagnate over winter. Plants like to start in good soil so if the funds allow it can be beneficial to invest in a good vegetable mix or dig in some of your home made compost. Courgettes (or marrows if you leave them too long as I've been known to), cucumbers, pumpkins etc may all now be cursed with mildew and the experts advise spraying this with fungicide but I find ignoring the problem or cutting off the worst of the leaves seems to be just as effective. If you are an organised gardener (I'm not) this is the time to collect and label seeds for next spring. Slugs and snails love this time of the year as well as aphids and white fly so deal to these with your preferred method and you can use companion plants such as marigolds as a sacrificial plant in the veggie garden. Now is also a good time to give the lawn a bit of a boost so dig in for a few more weeks and capitalise on the changing autumn weather before resting up over winter. Enjoy

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Laingholm Volunteer Fire Brigade

A busy time one evening last month. We had four emergency calls within a couple of hours, the first involving a bus and a plug-in hybrid vehicle on Laingholm Drive. The driver of the Mitsubishi was injured and the bus driver and his passengers were unhurt. This was the first time we have attended an emergency incident involving a plug-in hybrid and we needed to find out how to disable its batteries. Fortunately one of our members had donated a tablet which has been installed in our number one fire appliance and the brigade used its own funds to buy a SIM card. We were able to access a site with information on how to deal with these vehicles when they are involved in a crash. It involved removing a panel and disconnecting the main battery, then disconnecting the conventional battery that powers accessories such as lights. After that the vehicle could be removed and we cleaned up the road.



The second call was to a tree on fire after contacting power lines on Victory Road. The fire was out when we got there but we passed on details to the power lines authority so that they could have a look at it.

Then there was a call to Parau where a resident was doing some work on their roof and had inadvertently stood on a skylight which shattered and resulted in her having a fall of about two metres into the house.

We attended with our medical vehicle and looked after her until an ambulance could get to us.

While this was happening there was another call to smoke in a kitchen of a house in Huia Road. We attended to that too with a backup from Titirangi. Fortunately this incident was dealt with quickly and there was no damage to the home

We took our rural appliance and our Gator ATV to The Cloud on the Auckland waterfront as part of the commemoration marking 150 years of



organised fire fighting in the Auckland area. Both proved popular with the many visitors and helped to illustrate that fire fighting vehicles come in all sizes and shapes. Pictures courtesy Grant Manning



The recruiting sign has gone back up outside our fire station as we are looking for some new people to fill a couple of gaps in our ranks. We offer great comradeship and a chance to acquire new skills which could benefit you in your life. Please call our chief on the number in the photo or call to see us on a Monday night after about 7pm when we meet for training



Winter will soon be with us. Have you had your chimney swept ? It' also a good time to check your smoke alarms



ANZAC DAY 2024

*“They would not ask for sorrow
They would not ask for tears
Simply to be remembered
Throughout the coming years”*



*The Anzac legend was born in the blood and carnage of Gallipoli
On Anzac morning (April 25) members of our community will gather
at the flagpole outside Laingholm Hall to remember those who gave
so much. All welcome Organised by the Laingholm Volunteer Fire
Brigade*

Starts at 10.30 am

Morning tea will be served in the hall at the conclusion

The Forgotten Suburb

50 years ago this month the middle pages of the Roundabout contained the plans for a new Baptist Church at the corner of Victory and Huia Roads. The church community had grown to such an extent that it was decided to invest in a new building. Last year, Victory Baptist celebrated its 50th anniversary.

But that was not the only church in Laingholm in April 1974. Carefully turning the pages of that 50 year old magazine reveals an advertisement for St Nicholas Anglican Church, Victory Rd. The vicar was Rev V.P. Robertson and a four digit, Titirangi, phone number was supplied. Communion services were held fortnightly at 10.45 am on Sunday. There is the briefest note on this church on-line, just saying that it was dedicated in 1969.

Further on in that same magazine there is a letter to the editor – unfortunately, it is unsigned. It is about bell-ringing. The letter makes the point that in England the sound of church bells from a distance is charming, but up close can be deafening. The letter goes on to say that W.C. Council (presumably Waitemata City) agreed to the building of an Anglican Church in Laingholm provided it had no bells.

I tried, but failed, to find out what the population of Laingholm was in 1974. Today there are a little over 2,000 residents, so it would have likely been only half that number and many would not have been permanent residents as Laingholm still had many baches. The cost of building a bell tower and then purchasing and importing a peal of bells

would have been phenomenal for such a small community. Those who have English heritage may sigh with nostalgia at the thought of church bells echoing across the Laingholm valley, but the residents of Lookout Drive are probably very relieved that Waitemata City Council made the stipulation that there were to be no bells.

St Nicholas Church was deconsecrated by the 1990s and the third church in Laingholm, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lookout Drive, which held a mass at 5.30 on Saturday evening, also closed its doors to worshippers a few years later. It's amazing that a small community like Laingholm in 1974 could support three churches. Either the population was extremely devout, or these Christian denominations had a lot of money to spend, perhaps by way of legacies. Both the Anglican and Catholic churches have now been converted to houses – and the Baptist Church is the sole provider of spiritual comfort to the residents of the otherwise forgotten suburb.



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West Auckland gastro pub recognised in prestigious awards

The West Auckland Licensing Trusts (The Trusts) is thrilled to earn top accolades for its gastro pub, iTi, Titirangi.

[iTik Drinks & Bites Garden](#) has been recognised as one of the top gastro bars in the country by the Hospitality Association of New Zealand. The eatery in Titirangi Rd is now a finalist in the equally prestigious [New Zealand's Estrella Damm Top 50 Gastro Pubs](#).



CEO of The Trusts, Allan Pollard, says this accolade is a testament to the team's commitment to delivering exceptional experiences and a fantastic slice of West Auckland hospitality.

iTi has gained a magnificent achievement, Pollard says. "West Auckland should be very proud of its community-owned licensing Trusts and the national recognition we are receiving from our industry peers. It is certainly very humbling for me to now hear industry experts looking to West Auckland for ideas and inspiration for both hospitality and retail."

Another Trusts' venue has also been honoured. Liquorland Hobsonville won the prestigious Franchise of the Year award at the Foodstuffs Liquorland conference.

A promotional banner for Freshchoice Titirangi. The background is blue. The text 'SHOP ONLINE FOR PICKUP or DELIVERY' is written in large, bold, yellow and white letters. To the right of the text are illustrations of a carrot and a beetroot. At the bottom, the Freshchoice logo is shown, followed by 'freshchoice titirangi' and the website address 'titirangi.store.freshchoice.co.nz'.

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408 Titirangi Road 09-8177658 Hours: Mon-Fri 830am-6pm, Saturday 9am-130pm



Kia ora and gidday fishos, well at the time of writing we are having a spell of amazing weather. Dead flat calm, small tides, perfect conditions for an enthusiastic fisho. But make the best of it – these Indian summers end abruptly. Went fishing the other day and the snapper were rampant! They were taking any old bait that had been in and out of the freezer so often it had lost its sense of identity. However apart from one at 38cm and one at 48cm the rest were ho-hum. Could have had a boatload at 27/28cm but at that size by the time they're filleted and boned you end up with fish fingers so I tried not to keep anything under 30cm. I must have reeled in at least 50 snapper – often two at a time – and it was arm-aching stuff but worth it.

It's amazing what mayhem can occur in a 10ft dinghy, especially when you're using sabikis. Gobsmaacking things happen that even outdo 'sod's law'. Hooks have the amazing ability to attach themselves to the most unlikely things like towels, the hole in my croc shoes, the bit of rope that's tied onto the engine for extra security, the aluminium strips in the floor – the list is endless and most require major surgery to free them. How could a hook tangle with my knife and deposit it overboard? On it went! Well things can't get any worse I thought but dream on. I had a berley bag down with a frozen lump of berley in a plastic bottle with the top cut off which didn't seem to be working so I hauled it up and decided to turn the bottle upside down. It then fell out of the berley bag and into the murky causing an outburst of profanities. A couple of snapper I reeled in then went ballistic and knocked the carton of very bloodied bait onto the floor. More profanities but surely nothing else could go wrong...but wait...there's more! I was reeling in the 48cm snapper when the reel packed up and simply spun around helplessly while the snapper was taking line. So I had to handline him in and lift him into the dinghy. Just as I got him over the side of the boat he fell off the hook and ... wait for it... into the boat. Maybe there is a God after all. When I got home I started complaining to the old man about all the 'goings on'. "Well," he said, "this fishing is obviously too stressful for you, maybe you need a more sedate hobby."

Anyhow fishing in the harbour and beyond is hit and miss. Several fishos have reported good catches of snapper at 10m over the bar. A mate went out to 50m, did no good, and proceeded to 80m (halfway to Oz!) and got only gurnard and was brassed off. Can't imagine why. Gurnard is a lot nicer than snapper but of course they don't grow to the huge size that snapper do and of course size does matter to a fisho. Another mate was telling me they got good snapper up the Purakau but when I pressed him for details he got all vague and waved his arm in the direction of Onehunga. The Purakau channel goes from Puponga Point up to Onehunga but he wouldn't be specific. I can't understand this secrecy about fishing possies. The fish are where the food supply is and the harbour is in a constant state of flux so the food supplies move. It's largely trial and error in most cases.

he recent West Coaster competition was manic I believe with boats queueing up to get in and out of the water. I was told 17 marlin were caught. A mate said to me recently you are losing direction on this fishing page and rambling. Oh, I said, then maybe you would like to take over and become Willie the Wharfie. No need for sarcasm, he said.

That's the rambling over with, now jokes.

You are charged with habitual drunkenness, said the judge to the fella in the dock, what's your excuse? Habitual thirst, your worship.

Fisho says to his mate: "I got a fantastic fishing rod for the wife yesterday." Great trade said his mate.

Cheers Winnie



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Laingholm Craft Mkt

Where: Laingholm Baptist Church 1 Victory Rd, Laingholm

Date: Saturday 6th April Time: 10am to 1pm

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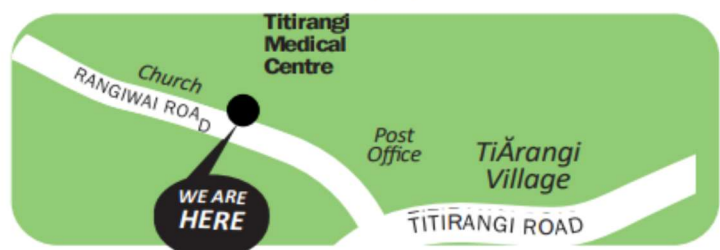
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Titirangi Library events for April

Wednesday 17th April 9.30am – 10.00am Under the Sea Rhymetime

Dive into adventure at our underwater Rhymetime with singing, dancing, stories and bubbles galore! Suitable for ages 18+ months.

Thursday 18th April 10.30am – 11.30am Shipwreck Craft

Craft your own shipwreck! Get creative with recycled items to build a unique maritime scene. Let your imagination run wild and turn ordinary materials into a captivating creation! Suitable for ages 7+.

Friday 19th April 2.00pm-3.30pm Movie at Titirangi Theatre

Come along to the theatre for a free family movie! The perfect way to spend a chill afternoon, complete with chocolate fish snacks. Suitable for ages 5+. Brought to you by Titirangi Library and Lopdell House.

Tuesday 23rd April 3.00pm – 4.00pm Underwater Creatures Drawing Workshop

Calling all young artists! Come along to draw some underwater creatures, big and small. Cute turtles, happy jellyfish and scary sharks, maybe even your own terrifying sea monster creation! Get creative and up your skills. Suitable for ages 7+.

Wednesday 24th April 3.00pm – 4.00pm Aquarium in a Jar

Create your own aquarium in a jar! Fill a jar with stones, gems and other little treasures and decorate it however you like. Suitable for ages 6+

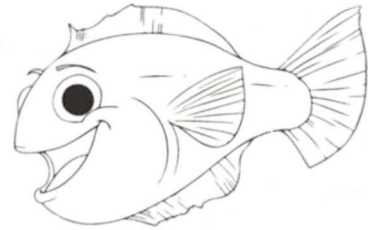
Saturday 27 April 10.30am – 1.30pm Drop-in Green Clinic

Knowledgeable advisors from the WasteWise team will be on hand to answer your queries about waste management, reduction, recycling, and waste disposal options.

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Rain Forest Express, we have the keys.

Last month, I and two others completed a Watercare safety induction, which is a requirement for access to the Rainforest Express Station building and Engine House.

On 4 th April 2023, Watercare’s Board Resolved that Watercare was happy to engage with interested parties to dispose of their Tramline assets.

I have been championing the efforts of a small group of rail enthusiasts to get the Rainforest Express operational again.

After months of drawn-out discussions and tediously long waiting periods, we now have our first foot in the door, so to speak.

With common sense and help from Section 85 of the Railways Act, Watercare has accepted in principle our proposal for owning and operating this little historic railway that people so loved.

Thank you to Watercare’s CEO, Board of Directors, and staff for sharing the group’s vision.

Watercare’s lawyers are preparing a written agreement that needs to include a lease for the land on which the rail line is installed. A Trust is being established to ensure these heritage assets stay in public ownership. While allowing commercial investment, management, and operations in complete separation from Watercare.

In a generous act of good faith, Watercare is allowing access to the station building and rolling stock so that further deterioration of the engines and carriages can be prevented.

This is an interim stage with no set guarantees. A renewed operation of this little railway will require a Rail Licence and Safety Case, a lot of theoretical and practical work, not to mention maintenance and money.

But we’re underway on a practical level. It’s a big credit to the people who have been working on this for the last six years, and a special thanks must go to Mr. Harvey Stewart, a retired Watercare civil engineer who, along with Councillor Mike Lee, got the Rainforest Express going in 1998.

Harvey was one of our small group inducted and the most excited about the possible rebirth of this little train after more than a decade of silence.

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Love to work and learn

For the Class 1 children, they are at the beginning of a 12-year school journey. Their teacher recently wrote this article for the school newsletter as an insight into their first steps of this new world of learning.

One of the lines in the morning verse that the Class 1 children will speak every school morning for the next 5 years goes like this:

‘That I, with all my might, may love to work and learn’.

The key word being ‘love’.

The Steiner/Waldorf curriculum aims to mirror the developmental stage of the children and meet them where they are. In Class 1, the child is transitioning from being in the stage of learning by imitation to that of recognising the being of the teacher as a loving authority figure. The teacher’s authority is based on his or her ability to lead the children to apply their ‘might’ (will forces) to a new sense for learning based on a love of that learning. The teacher is challenged to model that love in all that he or she does.

To achieve this, the morning circle activity in Class 1 involves a lot of joyful movement underpinned with images. We have moved like horses who firstly walk deliberately and then trot enthusiastically and finally gallop with great gusto. When we stand, we are straight tall kauri trees, rooted in the ground. When we sit, we try to do so with a consciousness that embodies the quality of Consideration for the teacher and each other.

You may be wondering why the children speak the same morning verse for 5 years.

Steiner talks about the threefold human being as a being of willing, feeling and thinking.

In the model of human development based on growth taking place in 7-year cycles, the child between birth and seven years old lives predominantly in the will. During the 7–14 year phase the child’s feeling life unfolds and this is the reason our content during these years is intimately connected with the arts: drawing, painting, drama, speaking, modelling, and movement.

Steiner tells us that the will is strengthened by conscious repetition. Repeating something consciously at the same time each day over a long period of time will have this effect. While traditional education has the three R’s of ‘reading, writing and ‘rithmetic’ - those of

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We live in a time which undermines the will forces. Many modern children are less active than children once were. A healthy young child loves to move, loves stories and the imaginative world and relishes the opportunity to use their hands to model with clay and wax and to draw or paint.

Our first lessons this year came under the umbrella of the subject unique to Steiner schools called Form Drawing. During very first lessons the children drew a straight and curved line - the archetypal components of all form. If we see all form as movement come to rest, then moving the forms first makes a lot of sense. Various forms were walked, run, skipped and hopped and then drawn in the air, before being transferred to a chalkboard and finally onto paper using our beautiful beeswax crayons. These drawings were then placed in their folders – providing a portfolio of their ‘work’ that they could be proud of – and which their teacher can refer to as a record of their ‘achievement’, reflecting their individual capabilities at this point in time.

The images for some of our continuous line forms came from a Hungarian story called ‘Fine Friends Together’. After the story had been repeated a few times, the children then retold the story by each contributing what they remembered. It was then presented as a puppet play, and they then volunteered to be the puppeteers. Out of this experience the wave form was found in the ‘egg rolling this way and that way’ and the zig zag line discovered in ‘the lobster side stepping this way and that way’.

This process happened over several days in acknowledgement of the role of sleep in the process of learning...

TRSS - upcoming events

BUSH CRAFT HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

For children aged 7 - 13 years

Bush craft programme based in the outdoor classroom and bush at TRSS.

Children will experience a variety of bushcraft skills such as fire lighting, foraging and cooking on the fire.

There will be a **main craft theme** for each day as well as plenty of time for nature play and other free crafting.

Mon 15 April - Leather Patches

Tues 16 April - Copper Wire Bracelets

Wed 17 April - Kōauau Ponga - Clay Flutes

Thurs 18 April - Whittling Porotiti - Humming Buttons

Friday 19 April - Earth Day

Cost: \$65 per day per child.

Limited to 18 children per day.

For bookings and any questions
email - Fern: fernreidnz@gmail.com

Open Days Kindergarten Information Afternoon

Monday 13 May 1:15pm

Tuesday 11 June 1:15pm

Come along and learn about the education philosophy and practice for Early Childhood.

Visit the Kindergarten & Nursery rooms and gardens including Ngahere, our bush base, for Kindergarten and beyond.

Kindergarten & School Tours

by arrangement

Learn about the underlying philosophy of this education and overview of the curriculum.

To register for an
Information Afternoon
or arrange a School Tour
Contact School
office 817-4386 or email
enrol@titirangi.steiner.school.nz



Titirangi Village Market

Last Sunday of the Month

February to November
+ 2nd and 3rd Sunday of December

10am - 2pm

Titirangi War Memorial Hall
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Titirangi Rudolf Steiner Pēpi Aroha - Playgroup

**Monday - Friday mornings
9:30am - 12pm**

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Open to all parents and caregivers with an interest in Steiner/Waldorf education for their children.

'the highlight of our week.'

Limited spaces available.

For more information email Carlene:
pepiaroha@trss.nz



Sea week

Ko au te moana, ko te moana ko au – I am the sea,
the sea is me.

National Sea Week had arrived, bringing with it a wave of enthusiasm for marine conservation and biodiversity. There was a sea of creativity as the children immersed themselves in sea creature art, crafting colourful fish, majestic Jelly fish, and even a giant shark that towered over the room. The learning didn't stop there. Our kindergarten community ventured to Cornwallis for our annual beach clean-up, where our children and their families joined forces to tackle the rubbish. With determination and teamwork, they combed the sands, filling bags with litter and debris. Back at the kindergarten, we laid out our collection, examining each piece with curious eyes. Together, we discussed the importance of proper disposal and the impact of pollution on our precious oceans. With sea creature art adorning our walls and a cleaner beach to show for our efforts, we embraced the spirit of Moana, guardians of the ocean, ready to continue our journey.

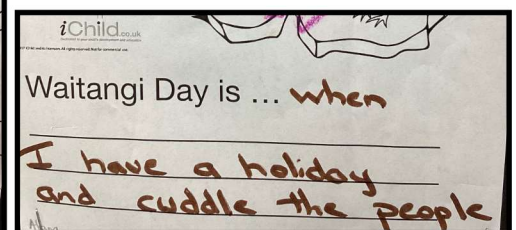
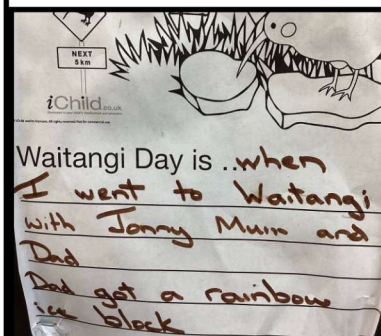


Beach clean up



Kindergarten Treaty

While celebrating Waitangi Day, our children came up with their own Treaty for Laingholm Kindergarten; Inspired by the spirit of unity, respect and friendship. Our children wanted their Treaty to include things like; being kind to others, using nice words and taking turns. We spoke about what we did to celebrate Waitangi Day; having a holiday, cuddling our loved ones, and having ice blocks while laughing and playing in the sun, were all ways in which our children celebrated.



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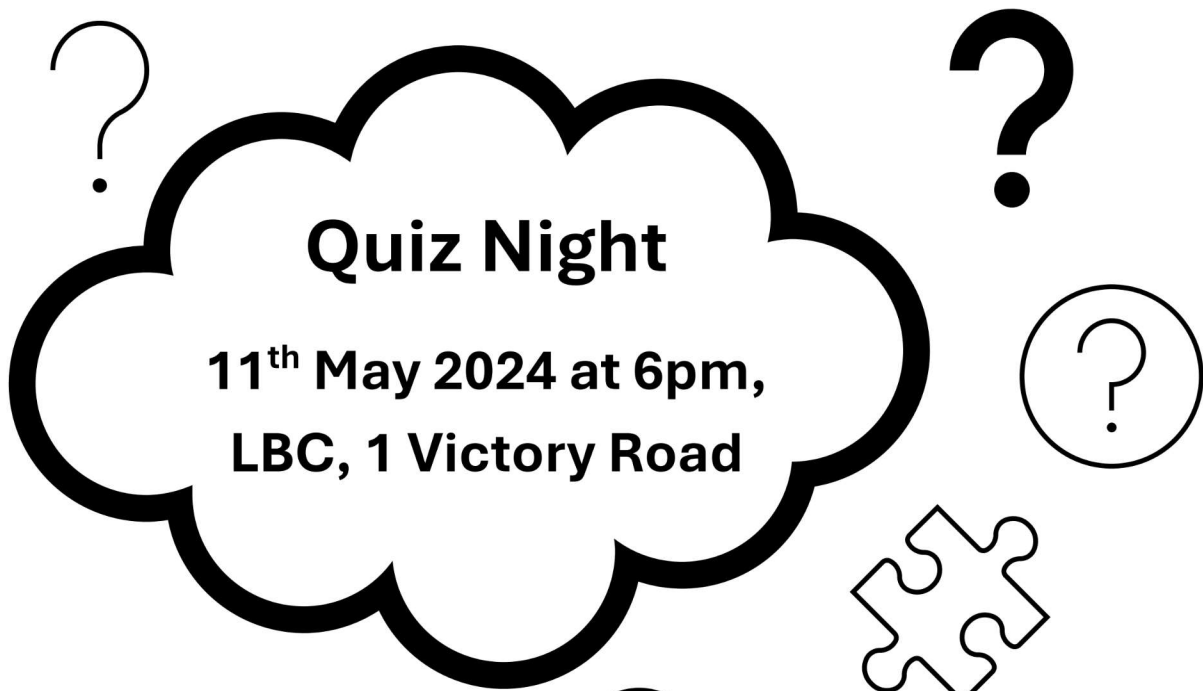
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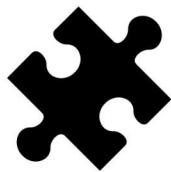
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Our Stories, told by us

Inside this report

Triathlon recounts

Creative writing inspired by class novel

Summer league football recount

School triathlon

When school ended, I rushed home to get ready for the triathlon. When it was 5 pm I hopped on my bike and rode up to school while mum hopped into the car to start selling drinks. When I arrived I could not find my mum because she went to the dairy to get some ice, so I just hung out with Beau and Lewis. All of a sudden, Nick said "9 year old boys please come to the tent". I felt nervous and my heart was pounding. As soon as the year 8 girls finished, I went to the starting line. I hopped on my bike and got ready. As soon as Lance said "On your marks, get set, GO!" I rushed as fast as I could and when I went past the tree the kid next to me slipped and fell on top of me which made me fall over. Because of this, Luke rode over me, which made me and Luke in last place. But that did not stop us and we all did it, even though I came third to last. After the rest of the races were done, me and Beau went to our places for the team event. Lewis was on his bike ready to go. Lewis started, he came around the corner in 1st place. When he was done, he hopped off and touched me and I ran into the pool and did 3 laps and we came out 1st place. I touched Beau and immediately slipped over. Beau ran as fast as he could and we finished our team event in first place!

by Brayden, Year 5, Room 17



9-year-old Girls Race

Last Friday was the triathlon. Me and my family drove down the road. We were running a bit late, my Dad quickly parked. We jumped out of the car, and I hurriedly wheeled my bike down to the starting line. Once I did that, I raced up to the hill where everyone was sitting, trying not to waste energy before my race. I frantically looked around for my friends. There they were up in the tree! I waved out to them and they came down to where I was standing. "Hi," I said. "Hi," they replied.

"5 year olds," I heard Nick yell out. 6 year olds... 7 year olds... 8 year olds went by and finally 9 year olds were called up. Me and my friends ran down to the field, trying not to waste any more energy. Then Nick explained the rules and the boys were off! We cheered them on, and then we went. "On your marks, get set, GO!" said Lance. Off we went. I was in the lead. I pulled up at the pool, took off my helmet and ran into the pool and began to swim. I looked behind me. They were catching up to me so I kept pushing. I got out of the pool and started my run. First loop. Second lap. I looked over at my friends. They were all cheering, I couldn't help smiling.

Before I knew it, I had come first! My family came running over to me. They were very happy for me. They gave me and my friends a biscuit each and then we left. I was very tired.

By Tallulah, Year 5, Room 17

Charlie Tangaroa

By Jack, Room 17

Based on the novel by Tania Roxborough

BOOM! The earth trembles beneath my feet again as Ruaumoko walks the face of the earth. "WEEEEEEEEEOOOOOOOWWWW!!!" The tsunami warnings are going off now. Fear rumbles around my stomach like a charging rhino. BANG! A massive strike of lightning and thunder shoots to the floor of the horizon.

The sound of people screaming and shouting gets fainter as I rush closer to the forest to warn Tāne about the oncoming war. I can hear my grandad chanting karakia at Tangaroa. I start chanting as well. It's no use. Send me and my granddad back to the shed. The distant howling of wind rushes around me. Splash! The massive sound of crashing waves hitting the rocks echoes around the shed. "That's Tangaroa! He's near!" my grandad exclaims. We both rush out of the shed running in opposite directions. I quickly pop over to the house to check on Pōnuia. Grandad runs down the hill cautiously to the beach.

As I open the front door to the house Jenny comes out of nowhere. "Ummm, Charlie?" "What!" I shout impatiently. "Pōnuia's gone!" An angry and disturbed feeling charges through my stomach like a Football Player running for a touch-down. "She escaped." says Jenny meekly. I quickly rush out of the door, Jenny follows. We start running to the forest. On the way, we see a bus leaning off the hill where mum crashed. The windows had been shattered and there were shards of glass everywhere. Dark thoughts shot through my mind. Oh no, what if that was the people from the camps bus!?

As we reach the bush, two fantails start fluttering around me and chirping at me. I realise they are warning me about something. We ignore the warning and keep running. BOOM! Another massive strike of lightning hits a tree right near me and the tree starts to tumble. "AHHHHHHH!!!" In moments, the tree lands straight on my prosthetic leg.

Summer league football game

As my team and I warmed up we felt a lot of emotions. We were anxious and excited for the challenge. You see, the Thunder caps, which were the team we were about to play, hadn't lost a single game in the summer season. I was excited and felt my team could rise to the occasion.

After we warmed up, it was time to play some football. The ref blows his whistle. As we kick off I get a pass in from the left wing and the gaffer [manager] shouts "RUN." A defender pops out of nowhere. He stops me in my tracks, the defender passes it down the pitch and a counter attack is on. A midfielder runs through the holes in our defence and crosses it to their striker. Goal!! My heart sinks. we are one nil down.

The rest of the game followed suit. Two nil, three nil, four nil, five nil, six nil, seven nil, eight nil. The ref blows the final whistle. It's over. We have lost but we didn't as well because we had fun. I guess the Thunder Caps really were the undefeated team.

By Arie Year 5, Room 17



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