Communities · Laingholm, Parau, Cornwallis and Huia

The Roundabout

Hepetema 2026/Putanga 61/07

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

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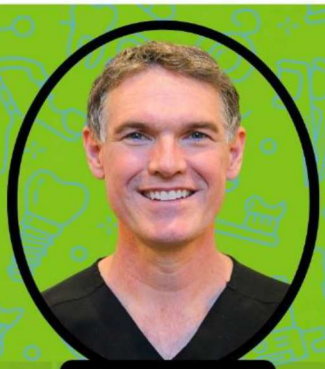
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The Roundabout

Published by the Management Committee for the Roundabout - Chairman: 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 18, 19 & 402 & 41.

What have our schools been doing?

Laingholm Kindy see p 38

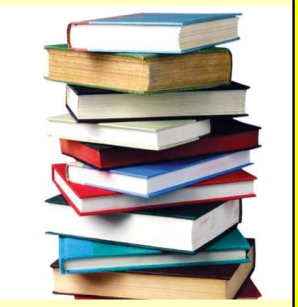
Steiner see p 32 & 33

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Book Reviews

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Titirangi Library

See Page 10

Memories of Laingholm

Reminesce on

pages 6 & 7

Who & What are growing?

See page 42 & 44

Whats cooking for August?

See page 20 for

SPRING DELIGHTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

HUIA CORNWALLIS COMMUNITY GROUP

see pages 14 & 15

Civil Defence · Citizens Advice Bureau · Community News · Plumbers · Schools · Builders · Education · Mechanics · Counselling · Real Estate · Kindergartens · History · Humour · Information · Accountants · Recipes · Massage · Landscaping · Opinions · Veterinarians · Health · Classified Advertisements · Council Information · Electricians · Gardeners · Travel · Crafts ·

Laingholm, Parau, Cornwallis and Huia Communities

The Roundabout

Contact Phone No: 817-4658 September 2026 Vol 61/07

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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We welcome letters to the editor but no longer allow nom-de-plumes, except under exceptional circumstances with each case being considered by the management committee. All letters must contain the name and address of the writer.

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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 Roundabout production team. All political adverts will be reviewed by the Editorial Committee. Advertisers should be aware that the liability of the Roundabout Management Committee for any errors ofomission or commission is limited to the refund of any money which the advertiser may have paid for the appearance of the offending advertisement in any issue of the Roundabout

ADVERTISING ARTWORK AND/OR ARTICLES

We prefer to have artwork and articles submitted electronically wherever possible.

"The online email address for **"Editorial"** is theroundabout.editorial@gmail.com and for **"Advertising"** is advs@theroundabout.org.nz

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

The Roundabout

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CLASSIFIED (Up to five lines)	$10
CLASSIFIED (Each additional line)	$2

OUR NEXT ISSUE

7th October 2026
The deadline for ALL copy is
Monday 28th September 2026

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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Laingholm in the 60's

I still well remember my first walk down Western Road. To my little five year old legs, it seemed like a marathon! It wasn't long after that first walk that my parents bought number 61 Western Road and Laingholm became our community. At that time number 61 was just a bach. It consisted of a big deck which led into a large entrance way/foyer. To the left of the entrance was a lounge – where mum and dad slept, to the right of the entrance way was a kitchen dining room with a built in bunk bed at one end where my brother and I slept. There were stunning views of the beach from the dining room and the deck – especially when the tide was in. The bathroom was off the dining room. No inside toilet for us in those days – we had a long drop in our back section. I hated the nightly trip out there before bed – it was dark and there were always moreporks sounding off. The wash house was underneath where my brother and I slept, but you had to go outside and down about 20 or so steps to access it. It was a few years before we had an extension built. When we did, a door came off the rear of the entrance/foyer and led to a hall and three bedrooms along with a flush toilet. Yeah!! Bliss! By this time I had two sisters as well as my older brother.

My brother and I used to walk to Laingholm primary school. We would cross the road to the Allen's property and walk through their bush track up to what was Lucerne Road – now Warner Park Avenue. It was quite a trek and occasionally we would cut through the bush further up Lucerne Road and come through onto Victory Road, (formerly Croydon Road). That track was not much of a track, and a bit scary so we didn't do it that often, but it did cut off a big chunk of the trip. No wonder I used to have a recurrent nightmare of running through the bush at night with bears chasing me!

I loved Laingholm primary school and still remember many of my classmates names although have not kept in touch with them. We had no dental clinic there in the early days so it was a bus trip through to Titirangi and a walk down to Titirangi Primary at the top of Atkinson Road when you got an appointment to go. My mum took me the first time, and then I used to catch the bus alone and home again afterwards. It was quite an adventure for a seven or eight year old. I also used to bus to Woodlands Park after school once a week to have piano lessons at Mrs Janae's from seven years old.

One of our headmasters (I think it was Mr Bledisloe) at Laingholm primary school was right into theatre and so I remember when I was nine, our school put on a major production. I don't remember the name of it but it was fabulous and so much fun. I was one of the dancers – I think by memory it was set in Turkey and we had wonderful costumes, little satin bikini tops and bottoms with netting baggy trousers over them. Some were in blue and some were in pink. We also had silky scarves that we swirled around. And…..we got to wear real theatre makeup!! Such a big deal! We did the production over two nights and it was a big hit.

Every Sunday, a group from New Lynn Elim Church would drive out to Laingholm beach and hold Sunday School in the Laingholm Beach Hall at the start of Western Road. My brother, myself and two sisters would always go. .. We used to love the prize giving at the end of the year where we were all presented with a book. Because of this Sunday school we knew the gospel of Jesus Christ from a young age and I believe it played a huge part in myself and my siblings becoming Christians in our early adulthood.

Once a week I would go to Brownies – again at the Laingholm Beach Hall. I used to love that. My friends mum, Mrs Wright was Brown Owl – the leader. I used to shine my badge with toothpaste and my mum sewed the fabric badges I earned onto my uniform.

My brother, myself and my friends would often ride around the neighbourhood on our bikes and not get home till dark. George Wilder - had escaped from prison and he was a bit of a local legend as it was believed he was hiding in the Waitakere's and he kept giving the police the slip. If we had been down at the hall for Brownies or some other function until dusk someone would always shout –"here comes George Wilder" and we'd all run helter skelter up the road to home. I don't know if anyone else was, but I was terrified!

The local shop sold most everything, even wool. I remember it used to have little wooden cubby holes and once you chose some wool, you would purchase a couple of skeins and then the rest would go in your cubby, much like a layby. Many times I would be sent down to the shop to buy a couple of skeins or a pound of butter. If I remember right, there was also a little Post Office next door to the shop.

There was no local Doctor in Laingholm and my mum never had a car for a few years, so if one of us needed to visit the Doctor, it would mean a trip on the bus through to New Lynn. We would get off close to the corner of Titirangi and Great North Roads and walk up Great North Road to see Dr Gilbert. His surgery was in a big concrete building that stood for many years. It did eventually become dilapidated though and has now been demolished.

In the school holidays, Mum would take us through to Lynn Mall on one of the big blue Commercial buses that served the area at the time. Sometimes we would travel right into the city. Laingholm pretty much felt like it was out in the sticks in those days and it seemed to take an eternity. Once there, we would always visit Mckenzies, Woolworths and Farmers. Like all kids in that era, we loved our visits to Farmers where after Mum had finished hunting for all the bargains in Bargain Basement, we would head up to the top floor for something yummy to eat and a ride on the toys in the big playground area.

My dad was a regular at the Fishing club where he would have a drink or two and a yarn. He was also a bit of a musician so he was often tinkering away on the piano or playing his banjo or ukulele with everyone present singing along. He was well known by all the locals, though I doubt there would be any that would remember him now. I remember he became friends with a family from one of the Pacific Islands who had recently immigrated to New Zealand – they were possibly one of the first Island families in Laingholm and they were a huge novelty to us as they shared stories of life in the Islands. We used to go to their home sometimes and Dad would bring his banjo and we would have a good ole sing a long and the adults would have had a few drinks. Dad talked the Mum of the family (I can't recall her name), into give me hula lessons but I was never much good at it.

A few weeks before Christmas every year, on a Saturday, a fire truck would drive around the neighbourhood carrying Santa who would throw lollies to the children that lined the road. We would look forward to this for months. New Year's Day was always a fun day too. Families would take a picnic and gather at the beach for races for the kids, tug of wars and ice blocks. Again – we looked forward to this day for months!

Sometimes I would see the older kids waiting at the shop at the end of Western Road for the school bus which would take them through to Glen Eden Intermediate and Kelston Girls/Boys. I could hardly wait until I would be old enough to do that too but when I was ten, we moved out of the area. I did get to travel on the bus for a while though because we moved back to our home when I was 14 and lived there for another 18 months or so.

I loved my growing up years in Laingholm – it was a friendly community and you pretty much knew everybody. People were always willing to help out –a cup of sugar when needed, or the minding of children if someone had to go the Doctors in a hurry. Sometimes my husband and I head back that way for a little bit of nostalgia and just recently we enjoyed the most delicious snapper and chips at Laingholm beach. Just yummy! I must say too, I found it hard to believe the 'The Roundabout' is still in circulation. My Mum and Dad used to read it back in the 60's!

Jenny Drew (nee Jennifer Forlong)

Pony Tales

In our two most recent articles, we have introduced all our big grazing horses at Huia Road Horse Club. However, we also have two club club ponies, as well as a final grazing mini. Our club ponies,Paddy and Merlin are a big part ofwhat we do, and they help us teach newcomers about how to care for horses.



Red is the last of the grazers, but he lives with our two club ponies. He used to live at Huia Road Horse Club a long time ago, before he was leased to a few other people. He is now back with us, and he is the cutest little addition to our horsey family. He is always the first to greet you at the club, and loves a good cuddle and a treat. He has been used for a long time as a riding pony for small children, so he is very used to kids. Red is a very curious little guy; probably the cutest we have at the club!



Paddy is the oldest pony at the club, and he has been with us for the longest. He is about 27 years old, and for a long time has been a perfect pony for children to learn with. He is a Welsh pony, and he gets super fluffy during the winter time. He is often very patient with kids, and loves to go for adventures through our paddock. Although he is old, he can get very excited when he gets going, often becoming quite speedy. Paddy loves getting a nice big groom, especially when he is shedding his winter coat, so our club members have a lot of fun making him look handsome.

Merlin is our other club pony, and he is the smallest pony we have at Huia Road Horse Club. He was rescued from a paddock where he wasn't getting much care, and ended up with us. He now helps people learn about how to look after horses, along with Paddy. While he can get a bit nippy at times, he is a really sweet boy deep down. He is around 10 years old, and he also really loves going for a run through our paddocks. He is very curious about what people do, and often follows us around when doing the daily chores. Merlin also really enjoys saying ‘hi’ to the big horses; he sometimes thinks that he is the biggest of them all!



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 at

hrhc.secretary@gmail.com.







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MORE THAN FISHING

Fishing, darts and Pool comps, social sports, special events, and Friday night feeds by local legends, plus space for the kids to run around and meet other local kids.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

10th July, Matariki celebration Bring the whānau for kids activities, delicious hāngī and fried bread, and music from DJ Nigel Love.

1st August Drawn doubles pool and darts

Head to our facebook page for the details.

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Titirangi Library

Titirangi library events for September
September Kids events at Titirangi Library
Regular programmes
Wednesday 9.30 -10.00: Rhymetime -pre-school music, rhymes and Storytime. (Term time only)
Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30: Afterschool Lego Club. Suitable age 5+ (Term time only)
Friday 9.30-10.00: Wriggle and Rhyme: Music and movement programme for babies. (Term time only)

Special Kids Events
Thursday 3rd September 3.30 – 4.30pm: Father's Day Gift Making
Make Dad a special keyring for Father's Day using coloured air-dry silk clay!
Suitable ages 5+
Wednesday 16th September 3.30 – 4.30pm: Make Your Own Poi.
Celebrate Māori Language Week with us.
Learn to make a poi and practise using them! Younger children will need adult help.
Saturday 19 September 10am-2pm Whānau Day - Tiny Art Creations
Create your own Tiny Artwork on canvas using mixed media. Fun for the whole whānau.
Wednesday 30th September 10 – 11am. Lego Fun Hour
Come along, get creative and see what you can build! Suitable ages 5+
Friday 2 October 3-4pm: Mosaic craft For Kids
Make ancient Roman-style mosaics with clay and beads. Suitable for ages 5+ . No bookings required. Though late comers may be disappointed

Adult events:

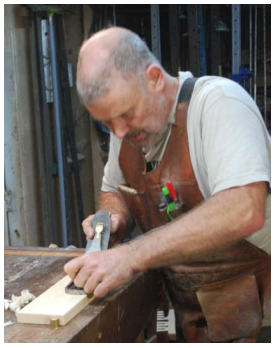
Thursday 10 September 2 -4 pm: Memoir and Life-Writing Circle.
Discover the joy of life writing! Explore simple memory prompts, enjoy quiet writing time, and share your stories if you wish. No experience needed—just bring a notebook and pen or a laptop.

Tuesday 29 September 10.30 – 11.30am: Rationing 1939-1950 The Household Experience.
Researcher Lynley Stone reveals how domestic rationing shaped everyday family life during and after the Second World War. Lopdell House Seminar Room, 418 Titirangi Road. Following the talk, morning tea will be provided.

Thursday 1 October 2-4pm: From black sand to red ochre.
Join Thalia Henry for a creative writing workshop inspired by her novel, Sorry Rock, exploring how the places we know, the objects we cherish, and our experiences can become writing that resonates. Whether you're a memoir writer or simply curious about creative writing, all are welcome.

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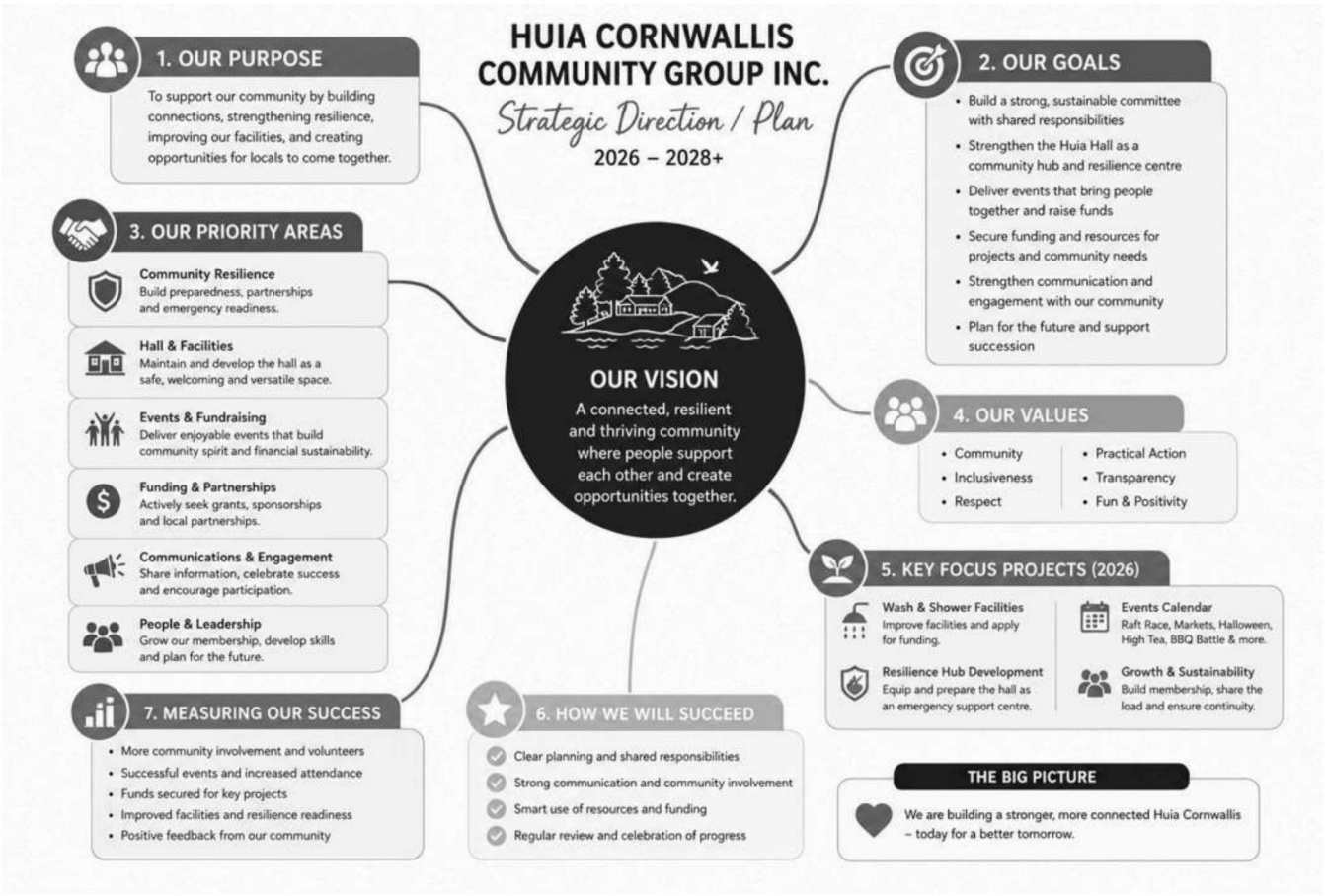
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HUIA CORNWALLIS COMMUNITY GROUP INC.

Strategic Direction / Plan – Steps Per Year 2026 – 2028+

OUR PRIORITY AREAS	2026 – LAY THE FOUNDATION Build | Plan | Prepare	2027 – GROW & STRENGTHEN Expand | Engage | Deliver	2028+ – THRIVE & SUSTAIN Lead | Innovate | Legacy
1. Community Resilience Build preparedness, partnerships and emergency readiness.	• Complete emergency hub plan • Audit current resources & equipment • Build partnerships with key agencies • Hold community preparedness event	• Expand emergency supplies and training • Run more resilience workshops • Strengthen neighbourhood connections • Develop community support networks	• Be a recognised community resilience hub • Ongoing training and capability building • Strong, active support network • Continuously improve preparedness
2. Hall & Facilities Maintain and develop the hall as a safe, welcoming and versatile space.	• Finalise wash & shower facility plans • Apply for funding • Prioritise essential maintenance • Improve accessibility & safety	• Progress wash & shower build • Improve hall amenities & storage • Explore energy efficiency upgrades • Enhance hall for wider community use	• Complete major facility upgrades • Hall fully utilised and well maintained • Sustainability (energy, water, waste) • Venue of choice for community use
3. Events & Fundraising Deliver enjoyable events that build community spirit and financial sustainability.	• Deliver 4 key events (Easter, King's Birthday, Labour Day, Christmas Market) • Review current events and finances • Grow stallholder & volunteer base	• Grow events (increase attendance & income) • Introduce new community events • Improve event systems and promotion • Build volunteer leadership in events	• Signature events established • Financially sustainable events program • Community traditions embedded • Wider regional participation
4. Funding & Partnerships Actively seek grants, sponsorships and local partnerships.	• Identify and apply for priority grants • Build relationships with local businesses • Develop sponsorship packages	• Secure larger grants for major projects • Diversify income streams • Strengthen long-term partnerships • Develop donor recognition program	• Long-term funding strategy in place • Endowment / reserve fund developed • Strong business partnerships • Sustainable fundraising model
5. Communications & Engagement Share information, celebrate success and encourage participation.	• Strengthen social media presence • Regular updates (Roundabout, noticeboard) • Promote membership & volunteering • Celebrate community stories	• Improve website / digital presence • Increase newsletter and email list • Engage with schools and youth groups • Expand community noticeboard	• Highly engaged community • Strong brand and reputation • Digital systems streamlined • Community voice leading decisions
6. People & Leadership Grow our membership, develop skills and plan for the future.	• Review portfolio roles & responsibilities • Recruit and mentor new members • Provide training opportunities • Succession planning for key roles	• Build leadership pipeline • Support member development • Recognise and celebrate volunteers • Review and refresh governance	• Strong, skilled and diverse membership • Leadership roles shared and sustainable • Regular review and improvement • Future leaders well prepared

ENABLERS (ACROSS ALL YEARS)

- **Partnerships** – Work together locally and regionally.
- **Inclusion** – Welcoming, accessible and respectful.
- **Sustainability** – Environmental, financial and social responsibility.
- **Community Voice** – Listen, engage and act together.
- **Good Governance** – Transparent, accountable and future focused.

MEASURING OUR SUCCESS

- **Stronger Community** – More people involved, connected and supported.
- **Successful Events** – Well attended, enjoyable events that raise funds.
- **Improved Facilities** – Safe, welcoming spaces fit for the future.
- **Resilient & Prepared** – Well equipped, trained and ready to respond.
- **Sustainable Growth** – More members, volunteers and future leaders.

THE BIG PICTURE

We are building a stronger, more connected Huia Cornwallis – today for a better tomorrow.

HUIA CORNWALLIS
COMMUNITY GROUP

The dedicated team of volunteers on the HCCG have been busy! We have created a long term plan to start chipping away at as a team to help our beach side community thrive as it deserves too. We have started already, hitting the ground with purpose and pride! Have a look at our plan and long term goals.

We have created roles within our team to help make everything run smoothly

A portfolio lead is the champion and coordinator for an area - not the person expected to do every task. Supporting committee members and volunteers can share projects and actions.

What roles you ask?

Portfolio Lead Roles:
Community Resilience & Emergency Preparedness
Hall & Facilities
Events & Community Engagement
Funding & Grants
Sponsorship & Partnerships
Communications & Promotion
Membership & Volunteers
Community Projects
Finance & Governance

Join our team

We are always looking for more volunteers to help out with upcoming community events, planning general business and ideas! Without help, we can not do as much as we would like - if you're interested email us at contacthccg@gmail.com or contact us via Facebook - HuiaCornwallisCommunityGroup

Welcome!

We would like to welcome Nick and Monique to the team! More hands make light work and means that we can do more of the fun stuff! Our labour day market is next up on the list with more events officially being planned.

Whats going on in Huia:

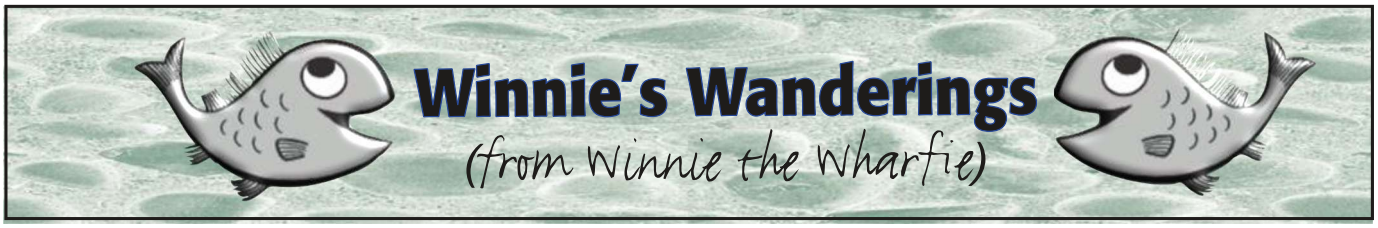
Spring is knocking! Our birds are nesting & lambs are incoming - be mindful when walking around outdoors and keep an eye on your pets to not disturb nests and babies.

Septic tank letters - If you received a letter from the council and need to get your tank checked contact Gerard At West Coast Custom Tanks who lives locally for a quote on getting this sorted 0276636145

Labour Day Market - Monday 25 October 10am - 2pm at the Huia Hall 1253 Huia Road Huia. With heaps of stalls, Coffee, tea, and yummy food come on down! If you're interested in having a table contact us!

Hall Hire - with longer days and events lining up make use of your local hall and book with us! It has a fully stocked kitchen, event tables, glasses plates & cutlery for up to 100 people! Email us bookinghuiahall@gmail.com

Check out our website
www.welcometohuia.org



Gidday fishos, how's it going out there, hope you're having a few 'tight line' moments. Was yarning with a couple of old fishos recently and, as always, got on about the 'good old days'...how the fish were bigger and more of them etc etc. How we did just as well with our beaten up old reels and handlines --- in fact better than our modern counterparts with their posh reels and fancy jiggles and juggles. But is it just nostalgia, fertile imaginations and fond memories? Ah well, dream on. Don't let's forget the netting either. Long gone are the days when I could set the net out from the bottom of the drive and get all the mullet we needed for bait and smoking. We used to supply the neighbourhood with smoked mullet, the flavour of which is a deep distant memory now.

Oh dear, getting into moaning mode so moving on to fishing news, not that there is much to report. Despite day after day of perfect fishing weather there are noticeably few boats going out in the harbour. Was driving out to Little Huia recently and saw these fellas getting a big flash boat onto a trailer. Here's a bit of fishing news I thought so I stopped and yelled out “you fellas been over the Bar?” Yes, they replied without looking up. How did you go, I asked. Okay they said. This was not news so I persisted and asked what did you get. Fish, said one as they carried on getting the boat on the trailer. I hung on a minute but they obviously thought I was some senile, lonely old tart escaped from a rest home. I gave up.

So time for a fishing tip: How to catch gurnard (Fishing News, April 2023). It's not rocket science but you may find it's useful. Light, soft baits work best in shallow water as a light braid produces less vibration in the current. Use s/o recurve hooks with pink flasher rigs and tie the sinker close to the hook to accommodate gurnards' mud-loving nature. You need to get the bait on the bottom. So go forth and experiment.

Ok fishos that's the nautical stuff done with, so joke time.

There's no point burning gas going five miles out to fish when you can be just as unsuccessful nearer home.

How many men does it take to get the top off the beer? None. It should be off when she brings it in.

Cheers Winnie

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HUIA HOTSPOT

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

Thank You, QFF Jason

After over 10 years of service to our community, QFF Jason has made the decision to resign from the Huia Volunteer Fire Brigade.

While we are sad to see him leave the brigade, we want to take this opportunity to recognise his commitment, friendship, and the countless hours he has freely given in service of the people of Huia, Cornwallis, Whatipu, and the surrounding area.

Being a volunteer firefighter is about much more than responding to emergencies. It means giving up family time, attending training nights, maintaining equipment, supporting community events, and always being prepared to answer the call when someone needs help. Jason has been an important part of that commitment and has helped shape the culture and camaraderie that makes the Huia Volunteer Fire Brigade such a special team.

What many people do not see are the moments between the callouts. The laughs at training nights, the good-natured banter in the station, and the friendships built through working together in challenging situations. These are often the memories that stay with us the longest.

Jason will always be a steady and supportive teammate who led by example rather than seeking recognition. Those qualities earned him the respect and friendship of those who served alongside him and have left a lasting mark on the brigade.



On behalf of the Huia Volunteer Fire Brigade and the wider community, we extend our sincere thanks to Jason for his service. Volunteers like Jason are the backbone of communities such as ours, and the impact of that service reaches far beyond the incidents recorded in brigade logs.

We wish you and your family all the very best for the future and hope that once a Huia firefighter, always a member of the Huia family.

Ngā mihi nui, Jason, and thank you for everything you have done for our community.

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HUIA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

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In an emergency dial 111

Celebrating Father's Day with the Huia Volunteer Fire Brigade

As Father's Day approaches, it is a wonderful opportunity to recognise the fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, and father figures who help make our community such a special place. At the Huia Volunteer Fire Brigade, many of our members proudly balance family life with their commitment to serving others, often leaving the dinner table, family celebrations, or a quiet evening at home when the pager sounds.

Father's Day reminds us that behind every volunteer firefighter is a network of family members who support the commitment required to protect our community. Whether it's attending weekly training, participating in community events, maintaining equipment, or responding to emergencies at all hours, our families are an essential part of what makes the brigade successful.

This Father's Day, we would like to extend our thanks to all the fathers and father figures within the Huia Volunteer Fire Brigade family. Your dedication, leadership, patience, and willingness to serve set a powerful example for future generations. We also acknowledge the families who support our firefighters every day, making it possible for them to answer the call when the community needs them most.

From all of us at the Huia Volunteer Fire Brigade, we wish every family in Huia, Cornwallis, and Whatipu a happy Father's Day. May you enjoy time with those closest to you and create memories that will be cherished for years to come.



SPRING DELIGHTS

by

ADRIENNE PEEK

SAUSAGE AND LENTIL STIR FRY



1 Tablespoon Olive Oil
6 Pack of Sausages
1 Red Pepper - Chopped or 2 Sticks of Celery - Chopped
1 Sliced Leek
150 grams Frozen Peas
100 grams Chopped Walnuts
Pouch of Lentils
2 Teaspoons Grain or Plain Mustard

Heat the oil and cook the sausages. Remove from the pan and set aside. Cook the pepper and leek for about 3 minutes. Thickly slice the sausages and put back in the pan with the leek mixture with the peas, walnuts and lentils. Cook for 3 minutes and add the mustard.

LIME MADELEINES



2 Eggs
90 grams Sugar
90 grams Butter or Margarine (Melted and Cooled)
Finely Grated Rind of a Lime
90 grams Flour
1 Teaspoon Baking Powder

Mix all of the ingredients together and place about a tablespoon in greased Madeleine tins. Bake about 15 minutes at 170 degrees Fan Bake. Remove from the tin after about 3-4 minutes once they have cooled. You can also add 50 grams chocolate chips to the mixture. If you want to decorate melt another 100 grams of chocolate chips and dip or drizzle the melted chips over the Madeleines. Enjoy.



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Ph: 8118971

Have you noticed a new addition to the outdoor area by the museum? Hector, the train previously owned by Watercare, was used to help build our Waitakere dams. It was installed by Ken Turner (Councillor for Waitakere), and the surrounding retaining wall, made from old rail sleepers and train track, was also completed by him. The products have been donated by KiwiRail (sleepers & rail) and Stevensons (ballast). Watercare will provide an information sign and funding towards costs.

We wish to thank everyone involved in this new display. An official opening will take place soon. More details will be coming shortly.

If you'd like to learn more about this history in the Waitakere Ranges, come along to our history talk below.

Fundraiser Event

Huia Settlers Museum – Oral History talk and film

"Rails in the Ranges"

The water supply dams and tramlines in the Waitakeres

By Harvey Stewart – Author of the book 'Water from the West'

Sunday, 20th September at 2 pm

Huia Hall – 1253 Huia Road, Huia

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All welcome

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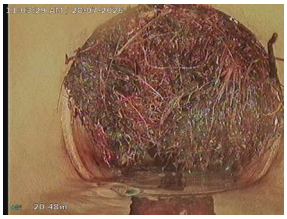
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RESTORATION RUATUNA

Restoring Nature in Laingholm

WAEWAE ADVENTURES ON THE TRACKS OF RUATUNA
TAKING A WALK IN LAINGHOLM



Warner Park Walk

This track is a favourite, showcasing many beautiful native trees and providing glimpses into our deep history.

Laingholm Beach is sheltered by two headlands. Looking out to sea, the Council sign indicates the headland on the left as Warner Park. Land transfer records from the 1950s indicate Harold Warner was an engineer instrumental in dividing up much of the Laingholm estate, and I suspect this is where the name comes from.

A gravelled track climbs the small headland. The steps rise steeply, winding between Pūriri, Kānuka, Karaka, Kohekohe and Totara. At the top, a less obvious track leads towards the apex of the point, where there are views to the south-west and back across Laingholm Beach. On this ridge there are various midden – showing us what whanau had for tea centuries ago. The forest is dominated by several surprisingly large Totara. Totara is a taonga tree species, prized by Māori for waka building due to its long, straight timber, and natural oils in the wood that help prevent rotting. The wood is red in colour and because it resists splitting could be drilled with chert or obsidian points to make holes near the edges of the timber to enable sections to be laced together with flax rope. The durable wood was also historically used for fence posts, floor pilings, and railway sleepers. There are, or were, two Mangeao (see plant of the Month) on this point but unfortunately one of them has been cut down, presumably by the kids that hang out here.

Returning to the main track, the path continues down past more large Totara to a small secret beach facing across the Waikumete (little Muddy) towards South Titirangi. This beach has had several names, often associated with local residents. These include Elliott's Beach and Teresa's Beach. According to Ed Hatch (past resident who grew up in Laingholm), it was known as Cart Horse Bay or Whare Bay, after the colonial Laing family, who are said to have left their horse and cart here in the 1860s. Earlier, the area was significant for waka building and local place names reflect this history, including Te Tō o Parahiku, the dragging place of semi-finished canoe hulls, and Maramara-Tōtara, the chips of tōtara wood. If anyone can tell me exactly where these place names relate to, I would be grateful, otherwise I imagine when I take the low tide walk back around to Laingholm Beach that this may have been the perfect spot for waka building with the protection of Te Tokaroa pa (now Tokoroa point) above to the south.

On my walks I am always looking out for environmental weeds, with a view to telling you what you can pull out and take with you in your doggy doodoo bag, and the two to focus on in this walk are the many Phoenix Palm seedlings and Climbing Asparagus (see pest plant of the month). Thankfully there is not much Climbing Asparagus here due to a concerted effort by Auckland Council, but there are small patches remaining and if you spot any remove it, taking care to take all the root. The many Phoenix Palm seedlings are difficult to identify when they are young because they look very much like Nikau.

LEN'S PEST PLANT OF THE MONTH



CLIMBING ASPARAGUS

Asparagus scandens

Family: Liliaceae (Lily)

Climbing Asparagus is a slender scrambling and climbing plant with tuberous roots, and long thin, wiry stems (2-4 m long). What look like leaves are actually flat leaf-like stems. Young plants can be mistaken for kahikatea seedlings. Climbing Asparagus produces tiny whitish flowers followed by small round berries that ripen from green to orange-red. It is spread widely and rapidly by birds. It forms a continuous layer on the ground and on trees, smothering and killing native plants. It is one of the most serious pest plants in the Waitakere Ranges.

Control options:

1. Pull up small plants and remove from the site.
2. Larger plants are difficult to dig out because of their extensive mass of tubular roots; if any bits of these break off and are left behind the plant rapidly regrows.
3. Spray foliage with glyphosate (360 g/L strength) (mix 10-15 ml/L of water or 15-20 ml/L of water in winter and add penetrant. Most native plants are fairly resilient to Glyphosate at low concentrations but are smothered and killed by Climbing Asparagus and so it is better to get rid of the pest rather than worry too much about damaging native plants while spraying. However, be as careful as possible by pulling the weed off tree trunks and spraying it on the ground away from native plants if you can. Avoid getting spray on trunks of native trees when using penetrant.

LEN'S NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH



MANGEAO

Litsea calicaris

Family: Lauraceae

Mangeao is a delightful canopy tree found in lowland forest in the northern half of the North Island usually on dry ridge sites. It is abundant on limestone soils. It's in the Laural family along with the native trees Tawa and Taraire, and exotic species such as Avocado and Cinnamon. I have only seen two Mangeao in Laingholm, both on the Warner Park Point. Mangeao generally reach a height of up to 18 m with a trunk of up to 80 cm diameter, but one planted tree reached 92 cm diameter after about 120 years. The leaves (5-15 cm long) of Mangeao have purple midribs and are semi-transparent with obvious veins, especially when viewed from beneath with light from above. Small (6 mm) cup-shaped flowers are cream, white, pale yellow or greenish and occur in clusters of 4-5 on stalks that radiate from a central point. Fruit (15-20 mm diameter) ripen to black. The wood of mangeao is white, strong, very elasticity and light weight. Māori used it for canoe building.

f www.facebook.com/groups/ruatuna/

restorationruatuna@gmail.com

Laingholm Primary School is a great place to be.
This month we are excited to share some of the many experiences that have made our school such a vibrant place to learn. You'll read about the restoration of our outdoor classroom, our students' involvement in a range of sporting events, the inspiring visit from the New Zealand Warriors, and the special relationships our older students continue to build with our younger learners through tuakana–teina.
The accompanying photos capture these moments and reflect the enthusiasm, teamwork and sense of belonging that are such an important part of life at Laingholm Primary School.







Sports News

This term, Laingholm Primary School students have proudly represented our school at two cluster sporting events.
Our hockey teams put in outstanding performances. The boys' team reached the semi-finals, while the girls' team battled their way to the final, narrowly missing out in a thrilling golden goal decider.
We were also invited to compete in the Blockhouse Bay Intermediate Mixed Football Tournament. Mr Cox was incredibly proud of the way our students represented the school. Their encouragement of one another, positive attitude and commitment to excellence were evident throughout the day, making them wonderful ambassadors for Laingholm Primary School.

The senior students at Laingholm Primary School have had a busy and exciting term so far.

Following the severe weather events a few years ago, our much-loved outdoor classroom had to be closed. We are delighted to share that our senior students have taken the lead in restoring this valuable learning space. Their enthusiasm, hard work and commitment to improving our school environment have been fantastic to see, and we look forward to seeing the project continue to develop.

Tātai 10 also discovered the power of taking initiative. Wanting the New Zealand Warriors to visit our school, the class wrote letters inviting the team to Laingholm Primary. Their efforts paid off, and the Warriors accepted the invitation, providing our students with an unforgettable experience. It was a wonderful reminder that with initiative, perseverance and confidence, great opportunities can become a reality.









At Laingholm Primary School, we value the concept of tuakana–teina, where older and younger students learn with and from one another. Each lunchtime, our senior students demonstrate this by choosing to sit alongside our younger tamariki to eat their lunch, chat about their day, and build positive friendships.

The Forgotten Suburb

Many parents will have fond memories of visits to the Plunket nurse to have their baby weighed and measured and progress recorded in the child's Plunket book. Laingholm had its very own sub-branch of the society back in the 1970s, with a very active committee.

These were the days of door-to-door collections. Envelopes would be delivered and then volunteers would visit a few days later to collect them, hopefully with a money donation inside. The Plunket Society appeal had recently taken place when the September 1976 issue of The Laingholm Roundabout was published, and $154.70 had been raised in the area. The nationwide total was $75,000 that year. There was a note in the report that Plunket received nothing from the TV2 Telethon that had taken place in July.

Also, in the Plunket report that September was an invitation to anyone interested in starting a Baby-sitting Club. The person to contact was Mrs Doreen Sunman. (It's interesting how the titles "Mr" and "Mrs" were routinely used back then!) Exactly how the club worked has faded into the mists of time, but the basic principle was that one half of a couple would baby sit another's children while they had an evening out. The baby-sitter was "paid" with points (double points after a certain time), thus accruing points of their own that they could then "spend" when they needed an evening out together. Records were kept in a simple accounting format.

The club was very successful and continued to support Laingholm's many young families into the 1980s. Those babies have now grown up, of course, and now have babies of their own. In fact, some of their babies have had babies!! Some of the parents and some of the children still live in Laingholm and enjoy reminiscing about the Baby-sitting Club.



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Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School

The Importance of Handwork and Will Intelligence

The following piece comes from our Handwork & Art Specialist Teacher, sharing a glimpse into the rich and enduring role of handwork in Steiner education.

My own handwork journey began as a student in a Waldorf/Steiner classroom much like the ones our students learn in today. I remember the quiet unfolding of wet-on-wet painting with colours meeting gently, green appearing as if by magic. Handwork sat alongside this world of colour and ***taught me early that the hands can think, feel, and imagine.***

Now, as I guide students through their own making, I see how these small movements matter. When a child winds wool, ties a slip knot, or knits a first row, something purposeful awakens. In Waldorf/Steiner education, we call this ***will intelligence****: meeting the world through action and shaping material with intention and care. Modern research affirms what Steiner recognised, that* ***working with the hands strengthens fine motor skills, supports memory and focus, and builds healthy neural pathways.***

Handwork also offers a gentle ***breathing-out moment****. As the hands lead, the senses settle, and a steady rhythm emerges.* ***Social warmth*** *grows naturally with children sitting together, helping one another, sharing stories, and experiencing the companionship of making. Even simple skills* ***nourish the foundational senses, like touch, movement, balance, and the sense of life, laying the ground for later clarity, empathy, and confidence****. Steiner's picture of the twelve senses helps us see how this work supports the whole human being.*

Temperaments *appear in the handwork lesson too. A sanguine child may be drawn in by colour; a choleric child meets challenge with energy; a melancholic child finds comfort in careful detail; and a phlegmatic child thrives in shared, gentle activity. These are not fixed, simply small ways of seeing that help us meet each child with care.*

Each class follows a thoughtful progression of skills: ***finger games, winding wool, knots, finger knitting, and learning knitting; then more complex knitting, crochet, cross stitch, sewing, and embroidery****; and later opportunities for more complex projects, such as* ***leatherwork, machine sewing, spinning, and weaving.*** *This sequence mirrors the students growing capacities and strengthens perseverance and focus at each development stage.*

In these small, steady movements, we see ***will forming, purpose awakening, and the quiet joy of creating something real and beautiful with one's own hands.*** *Most of all, we hope you can see who your child and young person is when they bring home what they have made; the pride, the patience, and the gentle unfolding of their growing will.*

Spring Open Day - 19 September

See our school in bloom this Spring! With open classrooms across **nursery, kindergarten, primary, intermediate and and high school,** come along to meet the teachers, view classrooms and student work, and see for yourself the magic of a Steiner education! Register via the QR code on the next page, and we look forward to welcoming you to our school!

Class 12 Play: The Playboy of the Western World - at Lopdell House Theatre this September!

Class 12 students of Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School present *The Playboy of the Western World by J. M. Synge*, a lively Irish comedy following a mysterious young stranger whose extraordinary story captures the imagination of a small rural community. Full of wit, rebellion and larger-than-life characters, the play explores storytelling, reputation and the surprising ways we can become the person others believe us to be. Adapted and directed by Sasha Matthewman.

Wednesday 9 September | 7pm
Thursday 10 September | 7pm
Friday 11 September | 7pm

Get your tickets today!



Titirangi
Rudolf Steiner School

Spring Open Day

Saturday 19 September

11am | Spring Festival
12:30pm | Introductory Talk
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Laingholm
BAPTIST CHURCH

THINGS HAPPENING AT OUR PLACE

EVERY WEEK A LOT GOES ON AT OUR PLACE THAT YOU MIGHT ENJOY. HERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER.



H O M E M A D E

HOMEMADE?

Not anymore. It was a traditional name for this ministry, food for the community. Nowadays, all the food is brand-new, says Lorraine. She pushes a trolley with 29 meals on it. "Nothing is secondhand or left over."

A team of workers, men and women, come in to Laingholm Baptist Church when needed, to prepare meals to go into the freezer. The meals go out frozen.

Go out to whom? I ask.

People who would appreciate a bit of cookery done for them, Lorraine tells me.

Who pays for it all? I ask, looking at another trolley-load of meat and vegetables. This stuff is not cheap.

I don't really know, donations come in, says Lorraine. I do a big order, sometimes weekly. I check the account beforehand, and it's always there. We are, of course, a church. God provides.

You don't have to be a churchgoer. A virus or a slippery road can ruin anybody's week. Anyone can put their hand up for themselves or for a neighbour.

How long has this been going on?

Lorraine cudgels her memory. The early 2000s here at No.1 Victory Road, she says, and the decent kitchen dates from 2021.

If you or anyone you know needs support, please phone Lorraine on 027 779 6077 or email lorrainejg@xtra.co.nz to arrange getting meals to them.

.

Lorraine Glanville speaks to Ken McAllister who is checking out Homemade for you!



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Hello everyone to our monthly newsletter.
Thanks to everyone who attended our highly successful Pub Quiz night with Quizmaster Luke who once again put on a fine quiz night. It was a bit chaotic to begin with and thanks for your patience too. We will, well I certainly did, learnt about things we can do to improve our next pub Quiz. We are hoping we can do this in February 2027.
Thanks also to those who brought plates of food for supper.
Also, a big shout to the teenagers Quiz team as well. Please come back for another quiz!

The winning team from Titirangi



We have also had Warwick, a Laingholm local come and play his guitar and entertain us with his singing, a few Sundays ago. Despite the rain, it was great to see people come down to listen have a few drinks too.
As the weather improves, we hope to continue having musical Sunday afternoons with our recent musicians and of course new musicians. So, if you would like to have a go, get in touch.

A busy pub Quiz night!



I believe at the moment, fishing is somewhat scarce and once they become more available, we will start our fishing competitions. I think, that last sentence demonstrates my lack of fishing knowledge!
We have though had an indoor event instead with one of our regular pool competitions.
As you can see, we are quite a versatile Club and enjoy welcoming our regular members as well as new members and we looking forward to seeing you on the weekends.

Andrea

Laingholm Fishing Club

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,
come down and try us out!! Visitor fee $3.00

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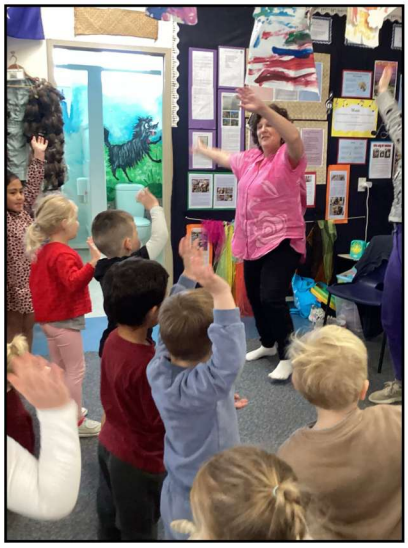
436a Huia Road, Laingholm. 09 817 4372

"Whiria te tāngata"
Weave the people together

We are so lucky to have such a wonderful connection with Titirangi Library, with our friendly librarians visiting us regularly at kindergarten. These visits are always a highlight for our tamariki, who eagerly join in with stories, songs, bubbles and lots of joyful interaction. Our librarians engage so beautifully with the children, creating opportunities for connection, communication, imagination and a genuine love of books and storytelling. It is wonderful to see our tamariki becoming familiar and confident with our librarians and sharing in these special experiences together. We feel very fortunate to have this ongoing relationship with Titirangi Library and look forward to welcoming them back for many more magical visits!









We are so lucky to have the ponies in the paddocks right next to us, our tamariki love looking at them and interacting with them.



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Laingholm Volunteer Fire Brigade

It was with great regret last month that we received the resignation of Deputy Chief Officer Duncan Milne. Duncan joined the brigade in November 2002 and rose through the ranks, becoming a Station Officer and recently deputy chief. In those roles he was often in charge of our crews at calls. His calm, unflappable nature stood him in good stead at incidents and he was an excellent training officer. His skills as a health professional were greatly appreciated at medical first response calls.





Here are some pictures marking Duncan's considerable service to the brigade

In the first he had just received his white helmet after being promoted to deputy chief. In the second he's taking part in a medical first response exercise. But he also took part in many training courses and inter-brigade competitions, such as fire appliance driving which was about to get underway when the third picture was taken.



Thank you Duncan for all you have done for the brigade and special thanks to Rachael and family for the support you have given him

Chief Fire Officer Paul Shaw last month delivered his annual report to the brigade. Here are some of the points:



- From what I can tell, last year was a record year for callouts for Laingholm, and this year we are currently on track to potentially beat that again. This reflects not only the changing demands on our brigade but also the commitment of our members who continue to make themselves available when the siren goes.

- This year has also seen us supporting the industrial action by maintaining availability and turning out during periods of reduced career staffing. This has given our crews some valuable experience outside our normal patch, including longer responses and attending structure fires. These opportunities have been great for developing our firefighters and giving members experience they may not normally get operating solely within Laingholm.

- Our appliance fleet continues to hold up well. 701 has certainly been kept busy with the number and variety of calls we have attended this year but continues to serve the brigade well. Looking ahead, we will need to consider what the future looks like for 7033 and 7071 and what our operational requirements will be in the coming years. For now, however, both vehicles are holding together well and, thankfully, have not caused us too many problems.

- Personnel-wise, Laingholm continues to be in a strong position. Our establishment is 23 members, and for much of this year we have been sitting at around 26 members. This is a great achievement, particularly at a time when many volunteer brigades around the country are struggling with recruitment and retention. Having good numbers is only part of the picture, though. What has impressed me is the willingness of our members to turn up, whether that is for calls, Monday night training, brigade events, community activities or simply helping around the station.We have also continued bringing new people into the brigade and developing our existing members. Maintaining that pipeline of new firefighters and future leaders is going to be important for Laingholm as we look beyond this year and towards the future of the brigade.

A lot of people have been affected by influenza lately and that has impacted on hospitals and emergency medical services. It has increased our medical first response call numbers as well but an unexpected side affect is our crews having to spend more time at such incidents. St John staff have been extremely busy and can't always respond an ambulance immediately. So we have been making up the shortfall by looking after patients until they arrive. Our picture shows our number one fire appliance, Laingholm 701 and our medical vehicle, Laingholm 7033 at one such incident with an ambulance.



Access to properties in this area can been challenging and in a few cases it's not possible to take a vehicle right up to the home to load up the patient. Some are accessed by footpaths only and one call last month was to one of the very small number of residences reached by monorails. We were pleased to wait and assist St John staff get the patient to their waiting ambulance



Spring has officially arrived but the winter weather has been very mild compared to last year and the days have already often been sunny and warm. If I was a dedicated gardener I would be starting my salad crops from seed and would have needed to water them given the dry conditions, but I cheat and buy healthy seedlings from garden centres. Top of my list at this time of year is digging in the wintering over plants and then preparing the soil for the next crops. With the clay soil in this area, I try to dig in some gypsum along with worm wee, seaweed, compost and a generic fertiliser. Weeds need to be pulled along with any winter failures. Slugs and snails love this time of year so if you've still got some winter staples such as broccoli, cauliflower and brussel sprouts you will need to deal to them by either the search and squash method or using bait. I've had more success this year with broccoli and my other brassicas are finally starting to heart up so they'll be taking up space I want for other crops. Beans, peppers, sweet corn and beetroot can be sown or planted now and your seed potatoes should be sprouting nicely ready for planting in deep, well composted soil. Crops that prefer it to be a bit warmer such as capsicum, chilli and tomatoes and basil can be started off indoors. Watch for brown rot in fruit trees which can be treated with a fungicide. Most flower seeds can now be sown and September is a good time to spruce up the lawn.

Happy spring gardening!

Waitakere Forest & Bird 2026 Lecture Series

Forest & Bird
TE REO O TE TAIAO | *Giving Nature a Voice*

Thursday 17th September 7.30 pm

Josh Campbell and Dan Borja – Moth Monitoring at Matuku Link

Josh Campbell and Dan Borja are both master's students in Biological Science at the University of Auckland. Josh's research focuses on lepidoptera (the moths and butterflies) and the behaviour associated with their camouflage. As part of his research, Josh has been undertaking moth monitoring using light traps at Matuku Link Reserve, recording their diversity and phenology. Dan's research focuses on camouflage of wing patterns of moths. This stems from psychological studies which demonstrate the importance of symmetry as a tool for quick visual object recognition and identification. He aims to provide evidence for this in animals by looking at how wing patterns of moths are observed by birds.

Venue: Ranui Community Centre 474 Swanson Rd, Ranui. Non members welcome, free but koha appreciated to cover hall hire. For further information ph Liz 0274 762732 lizanstey@hotmail.com

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Goodness Gardens



Orange and Purple

-These two colours feature all around us in the garden at the moment.



Jaffa coloured Calendulas are scattered about in most corners. So cheery and strong.

They have flowered through the whole winter and have stayed true to their original stock from a garden further along Huia road. First planted here 10+ years ago.





We planted soft yellow Calendulas more recently. With the aid of the Bees, nature has produced a range of flowers in many shades of Apricot and Peach.. Magic.

Purple Sprouting Broccoli is our most successful Brassica crop. It has become a perennial plant because the Pukekos don't seem to like it. That's a win.



African Daisy, Osteospermum is a sunny little bush of purple centred, orange flowers from the Torrance's garden in Karen road.

This has grown from a tiny cutting and seems quite comfortable here with its companion family of Blackberry Cream Violas smiling out at us as we enter the garden.

Violas and Pansies have the happiest little faces in the middle of Winter.



Other happy faces are always seen on Thursdays when our OakTEC Whanau arrives.

Louis and Jaycob harvested the last of our very late Pumpkin crop in August.

The whole group has been reducing the huge Honeysuckle pile by chopping it up with their new tools, to break it down without spreading back into the stream area.



For a few days each month we have the loveliest view of the Gold and Orange Full Moon rise over the Harbour, So Special.



Weekly Weeders, Seeders and Feeders are systematically clearing out the unwelcome greenery, manuring, mulching,.transplanting Spring Onions, Silverbeet seedlings and Strawberries. We are generally preparing for the planting season ahead. Watch this space,

It will Boom and Bloom.

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Winter soup lunches 2026



Sunday September 13th Lindsey Dawson will do a presentation on her book "Poisoning on Parker Road" One Family, Two Deaths and All the Secrets In Between, is a true-crime New Zealand tale that began in a house called Sunnydale, in Parker Road, Oratia. It centres on the shocking death of a young settler, William Thompson, in 1892.

All soup lunches are held in the Lecture ro noon. Donation for soup lunch would be appreciated.

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Book Reviews





GEORGE WADSWORTH & IAN JOHNSON

Islands Ever After and other stories, Majella Cullinane (Quentin Wilson Publishing, 2026): A book of fourteen short stories which blew me away. The book is best summed up in an interview with the author: as a "collection of short stories, spanning the 18th century to the present day. Primarily set on islands across Ireland, Scotland and New Zealand, my stories explore the experiences of outsiders, immigrants, eccentrics and outcasts in search of connection, understanding and belonging." Majella was born, raised and studied in Ireland, coming to New Zealand nearly 20 years ago. I will mention 2 of the stories.

"End of the Rope" is based on Betty Sugrue who was a public executioner in Ireland in the late 1700's. She herself was convicted of stealing and murder and was due to be hanged, but circumstances changed – the haunting atmosphere in this story is told through Betty's voice.

The final story, **"Pull For The Shore"**, relates Maggie Corrigan's journey from Sydney to New Zealand aboard the SS Wairarapa in the 1890's. Within the 25 to 30 pages it takes the reader from Maggie's preparations for the trip to the actual voyage which culminated in the wreck of the ship in a storm off Great Barrier Island. I was mesmerized and pulled into the story, living the moments as the ship was hit by a storm and fog and slowly sinks.
The historical background for these stories has been well researched without the facts intruding on the story telling.

Some of the best NZ short stories I have read over the years include those by Katherine Mansfield, Frank Sargeson and Owen Marshall – these by Majella are right up there – she has a quirky and absorbing style which totally engages the reader as if he/she is actually there.

And for the token crime recommendation from my brother (who shall remain nameless) is to try exploring the DS Roy Grace books written by Peter James. He has written about 25 books in the series, I tried the first one: **Dead Simple, Peter James (Pan Books 2021, first published MacMillan, 2005):** "Four bodies, one suspect, no trace... It was meant to be a harmless bachelor party prank. A few hours later four of his best friends are dead and Michael Harrison has disappeared. With only three days to the wedding, Detective Superintendent Grace - a man haunted by the shadow of his own missing wife--is contacted by Michael's beautiful, distraught fiancée, Ashley Harper. Grace discovers that the one man who ought to know Michael Harrison's whereabouts is saying nothing. But then he has a lot to gain - more than anyone realizes. For one man's disaster is another man's fortune.

"Dead simple" PR from the Library website.
It is a classic British police procedure crime novel similar to the Vera Stanhope stories by Ann Cleeves. But the style differs. In pace and the telling. This is a fast-paced psychological thriller whereas as the Vera stories are more slow-burning. I would suggest you try both. Peter James books have been made into a TV series "Grace" and can also be streamed.

Ethel Rosenberg: An American Tragedy by Anne Sebba

Some of you may remember when in June 1953 Ethel and her husband Julius were electrocuted after being convicted of spying for the Soviet Union. This was at the time of the Cold War and of Hoover and others in power in America obsession to convict anyone they could of communist sympathies

The author realised that Ethel's story had not been told and the result is this biography

Ethel was born in New York in 1915. Her mother, Tessie who spoke very little English, and along with the rest of her family did not love her. In 1922, David was born and he was the family favourite. Ethel adored him. The family were poor and lived in cramped conditions Ethel loved acting and wanted to become an actress but the Depression intervened. 'She taught herself shorthand and obtained a job. But she also taught herself to play the piano and read music and she took singing lessons as she had a lovely soprano voice. She became active in trade union affairs .On New Years Eve 1936 she was due to be the lead performer at the International Seaman's Union. She had an attack of nerves but overcame those with the help of an eighteen year old engineering student- Julius Rosenberg, whom she had just met. He walked her home and from then on they were inseparable.In June 1939 they were married and eventually had two sons, Michael and Robert. There is no doubt that Julius was a spy who recruited others, including his brother in law David. David confessed to the FBI and Julius was arrested. Later the same fate awaited Ethel.

Psychological torture was used against Ethel and Julius in an attempt to get them to give the FBI names of other Communists involved in espionage. David lied when giving evidence at Ethel's trial. The prosecuting lawyers and the judge were corrupt and Ethel was sentenced to death by electrocution. Despite many attempts by appeals and representations to politicians and other influential Americans, no clemency was shown and Ethel who this book shows clearly, did not commit any criminal offence, was cruelly killed

Stiff Upper Lip Jeeves and The Mating Game by P G Wodehouse

Book Review continued next page





Book Review continued.

When your daughter knows you like the occasional laugh while reading and gets you three books featuring Bertie Wooster and the unflappable Jeeves you feel obliged to alert the Roundabout readers to their existence, even though one has been going since 1949,

In the first Bertie finds himself (as a result of his friend "Stinker " Pinker needing his help) at Tortleigh Towers, infested by the former magistrate Sir Watkyn Bassett and his ghastly daughter Madeline. Then there is the Brazilian explorer, a black statuette, the local Bobby, and the horrors of a school trip. But of course Jeeves, posing as Chief Inspector Witherspoon sorts out the problems and gets Bertie out of the soup.

The Mating Game is more complicated particularly as Gussie Fink-Nottle (don't you love the names) is caught at 5.am chasing newts in the Trafalgar Street fountain. Bertie is perturbed by this because Gussie's betrothed, no one less than one Madeline will ditch Gussie and ambush Bertie into matrimony when she finds out about Gussie's highjinks, Although the course of love runs far from smoothly, Eventually, Esmond, Corky, Gussie, Madeline, police officer Dobbs, Queenie, Catsmeat and Gertrude find happiness, despite the many objections of the five spinster Aunts..What's not to like?

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A large team often meet at the Laingholm Baptist Church to cook a large batch of frozen meals for the community. This is a vital ministry of the church to the surrounding areas, usually on a as need is known about basis but at this time of stress for all of us, if you let Lorraine know on 027 779 6077 that you have a need, she will meet you at the Church to select your requirement. Selection of both meat and vegetarian.



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The Roundabout

September 2026/Issue 61/07

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

A peaceful homestay in Laingholm

Little Dog Retreat



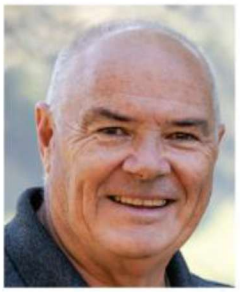
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