



The Roundabout

Tihema 2023/Putanga 58/10

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

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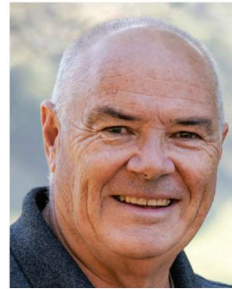
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The Roundabout

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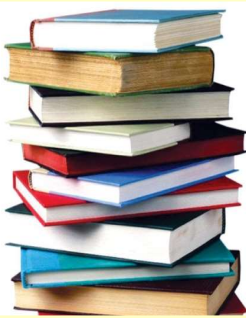
What's happening in our area?

Shipwreck on the Bar!

To find out more See page 16

Hall of Horrors!

Find out on page 42



Titirangi
Library
Programmes
Page 32

Book Reviews

Page 20

Whats cooking?
See page 14

Restoring Nature in Laingholm

Pages 44-45

**To see what our
Volunteers have
had to do this
Month**

**Check out pages
8-9 & 12-13**

What are our schools doing?

Titirangi Rudolf Steiner pages 18-19

Let's all sing together

And don't forget our advertisers!



The Roundabout

Contact Phone No: 817-4658

December 2023 Vol 58/10

MANAGING COMMITTEE FOR THE ROUNDABOUT
Chairman: Graeme Booth 817-4658
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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 Anonymous articles or those with just pseudonyms will not be published.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,

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 of omission 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

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 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



Old MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES AND SIZES

FULL PAGE (180 x 267 mm)	\$91
HALF PAGE (180 x 132 mm)	\$47
THIRD PAGE Tall or wide(180 x 88 mm)	\$36
QUARTER PAGE (89 x 132 mm)	\$29
COVER ADVERT (89 x 54 mm)	\$27
SIXTH PAGE (89 x 88 mm)	\$23
CLASSIFIED (Up to five lines)	\$10
CLASSIFIED (Each additional line)	\$2

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The next publication date is **6th March 2024**

The deadline for ALL copy is
Monday 26th February 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:
 Kiwibank Account No. 38-9017-0529446-00
 Prompt payment is always appreciated

Roundabout Advertising Charges

Unfortunately, The Roundabout has been running at a slight financial loss over the past couple of years. The situation has been made worse following significant increases in paper and ink costs in the past year. This has been eating into the cash reserves which are held for the replacement of the printers as they come to the end of their operating life.

As result, it was decided at the Annual General Meeting in October that, for the first time since the newly incorporated Roundabout started operating in 2015, advertising prices would be increased by approximately 5% to offset these costs from the start of the 2024 year.

The new rates will be:

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
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This decision has not been made lightly and we realise that our advertisers are under similar pressures. Our wish is to keep The Roundabout viable and continue to serve our loyal advertisers while providing local information to the communities around Laingholm, Cornwallis and Huia.

Just like the banks and the supermarkets, The Roundabout has to recover rising costs. However, rest assured that no huge profits are being made and no money is being sent off overseas to avoid tax.



Christine Elizabeth Kannegieter
31 December. 1937 - 23rd. November 2023

It is with great sadness that I feel moved to write about the loss of a very dear friend Chris. It was in the summer of 67/68 that I first met Chris an 'English rose' who spoke with a beautiful 'posh' voice to match.

Those were busy times for us all, and difficult times. We had affordable rental houses to find. Arriving in nz in 1967, Jack and Chris went first to the beauty of a cabin in Takapuna camping grounds. When Jack had to travel to Corban Vineyard Henderson to work, they searched for somewhere closer to live.

That's how they settled on beautiful Laingholm, with bush and sea views, that we all came to know and love. Getting to know the locals was helped by the 'Junior Ladies Social club'. (Always woman's club to me.)

Chris was a formative member of that club. And thus began our long friendship.

Chris and Jack were after some years able to buy the land where their rental house was standing albeit barely standing! If you knew Kauri Point road in those early days, you'll know what I mean. Eventually they had their first home built. Then 20 or so years passed, in the busy activities of babies, then the highs and lows of growing teens, and young men. There was much sadness for Chris too, with the tragic loss of Tim, her youngest son. Chris showed enormous strengths during that time.



The next phase of Chris's life began when the house was sold after Jack went to Indonesia to live.

Chris stayed on in West Auckland and for a short time became curator of the museum in Rose Hellerby House thus giving her a lovely home for a while.

After that Chris returned to secretarial work, including at Auckland University. At this time she studied part-time at The Society of Arts.

Chris carried on working and studying her various arts and getting to know other creatives.

And then to the next phase of Chris's life when she was able to buy her own home in the Waikato.

In the Waikato Chris was to become a very accomplished painter.

It was as an active member of "Art Nexus" a collective of new and established artists that Chris exhibited and sold her paintings as a professional artist. One of her works was commissioned to be hung in the newly built Huntly Library.



In her later phase of life Chris was beset by the 'slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune of poor health. (Sorry Will for the misquote there). But throughout, Chris remained gracious, kind, and with good humour about her life.

Her paintings and pottery remain a legacy many people will enjoy. A testament to a life well lived.

Rest in peace.

Christina Howe



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DRIVE TO ARRIVE

The improvement in the weather has brought with it an increase of traffic through our communities with people looking to enjoy our beautiful coastline.

This increase in traffic has also contributed to local brigades turning out to several Motor Vehicle Accidents. The roads remain damaged after the Auckland Floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. Auckland Transport continue to complete repair work.



We ask that you drive cautiously through these areas as some are unaware of the conditions of the road. In particular between Little Huia to Whatipu where the brigade recently responded to a car that had gone off the side of the road with only a couple of ponga trees saving the vehicle going 50+ metres down the hill side.



GETTING PREPARED FOR SUMMER

Has anyone else’s mood just skyrocketed with the improvement in the weather? It has been fantastic considering the year we have experienced.

During recent trainings, our brigade have noticed just how dry the area has become with the heat and wind playing a significant factor. The year’s high rainfall has also meant the grass height is higher than usual.

The brigade has focused recent training on rural fire fighting skills. In particular the location of water sources in the area.



HUIA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

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TSUNAMI SIRENS DECOMMISSIONED

Auckland Emergency Management tsunami sirens are installed in 14 communities across the Auckland region in Huia, Whatipu, Karekare, Piha, Bethels/Te Henga, Te Atatu South (Bridge Ave), Te Atatu Peninsula, Hobsonville Marina, Herald Island, Waiwera, Orewa, Omaha, Whangateau and Point Wells.

The siren network has been subject to ongoing theft and vandalism meaning it is not currently operating the way it was intended.

Based on a number of factors, including a change in technology and national alerting methods in 2017 (to Emergency Mobile Alerts), ongoing maintenance, theft and vandalism issues, the sirens approaching their end-of-design-life, and new tsunami evacuation mapping to be released later this year, the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Committee has decided to decommission the siren network (excludes Orewa). The sirens in Orewa were installed in 2020 and have not been impacted by vandalism or thefts and they will not be deactivated or decommissioned. Decommissioning of the network will follow and will entail the removal of all horns and hardware.

Stay informed and prepared.

Sirens are only one way you could be alerted to tsunami threats. You will still receive warnings through other official channels including the Emergency Mobile Alert platform (messages to your mobile phone), radio and television news broadcasts, social media and there are a number of natural warnings you can look out for.

- You can find out further information about Emergency Mobile Alerts via getready.govt.nz/prepared/stay-informed/emergency-mobile-alert/
- If you are at the coast and feel an earthquake which is **LONG or STRONG, GET GONE** and move inland or to higher ground.

Tsunami Siren Decommissioning

Tsunami warnings – what you need to know
We are decommissioning tsunami sirens at this location from 1 December 2023.

Know the natural warning signs and take action
If you are near a shore and experience any of the following, take action. Do not wait for official warnings.

- Feel a strong earthquake that makes it hard to stand or a long earthquake that lasts more than a minute
- See a sudden rise or fall in sea level
- Hear loud or unusual noises from the sea

LONG or STRONG, GET GONE and move to higher ground.

Official warnings
Tsunami warnings are published on the National Emergency Management Agency website at www.civildefence.govt.nz
Tsunami warnings will also be broadcast on radio, television, news media and Civil Defence social media platforms. An Emergency Mobile Alert may also be issued.
Immediately follow the advice of any emergency warning. Do not wait for more messages before you act.
Visit aem.org.nz to make your plan for tsunami preparedness and to check evacuation zones.
Contact us at aeminfo@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

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Laingholm

BAPTIST CHURCH

Over the holiday time we do church a bit different!

Laingholm Baptist Church:

24th December Christmas eve service @ 7pm.

25th December Christmas morning service at 9am.

At Cornwallis Beach – Pine avenue (weather permitted)

31st December 2023 at 10am

7th January 2024 at 10am

Just over the foot bridge you will find us. Bring a picnic basket, your togs and enjoy a swim after our more casual service.

Laingholm Baptist Church foyer/open air (weather permitted)

14th January 2024 at 10am

21st January 2024 at 10am

Visit www.laingholmbaptist.org to see all our events and times or email admin@laingholmbaptist.org for further information.



Laingholm

BAPTIST CHURCH

We are a community-based church that loves seeing people connecting with God and other people. While our Sunday services are the “heartbeat” of our worship focus, we run a host of activities designed to serve the people who live in our local community.

Sunday morning service: 10:00 am

Friday Club – Primary & Intermediate children every Friday after school during school term;

Rock Solid & Connect – High School & Intermediate Students on Wednesday & Sunday’s during school term; **Craft Group** - Every 2nd Wednesday evening;

Coffee & Company Tuesday mornings; **Ladies Bible Study Group** Thursday mornings

Visit www.laingholmbaptist.org to see all our events and times or email admin@laingholmbaptist.org for further information.



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Laingholm Volunteer Fire Brigade

Maybe it was something to do with it being Halloween, but we were called to two crashes not far from each other on Huia Road on October 31. The first happened just before Woodlands Park and saw a car driven by a young woman go over a bank and into a stream. Fortunately she received only minor injuries but one thing led to another and a resident who was rushing to her aid dislocated his shoulder in the process. As St John were very busy at the time it was decided that both would go to medical facilities in private cars for checks and treatment.



A couple of hours later, just as we were showing off our number one fire appliance to kids assembling at the Laingholm Hall the siren at our nearby station wailed into life, calling us to another crash about a kilometre closer to Laingholm. A ute driven by a young man had hit a power transformer, knocking it off its foundation and damaging its casing. We kept people back and directed traffic until the police and a power authority lines gang arrived to shut down the electricity supply and arrange the removal of the vehicle. Thankfully the driver, who was the sole occupant, was unhurt.



Wet weather didn't stop large crowds heading for the Steiner School for their annual gala day. We took our number one fire appliance and a crew there and it was a good chance to hand out fire safety material and advice. Kids are always fascinated by fire engines and here Senior Firefighter Clint Fouche helps fulfil a youngster' dream of being at the end of a fire hose. Maybe a future recruit ?



We wish all Roundabout readers a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe 2024. Yes, we will be taking Santa around the area again, as we have done every year since our formation in 1955. See the next page for details

Santa Makes His Rounds On Sunday December 10



SANTA'S APPROXIMATE TIMETABLE

10.00 AM LAINGFIELD TERRACE
10.15 AM PARAU (Including Rauhuia)
10.45 AM WAIMA (Reserve)
11.15 AM WOODLANDS PARK (Minnehaha and Sylvan)
12.00 PM LAINGHOLM DRIVE (stops at all side streets)
12.30 PM LAINGHOLM BEACH
12.45 PM KAURI POINT ROAD
1.00 PM FIRE STATION

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A team from our station went to Waitakere station for a seminar on rural fire fighting, which they found very valuable. They took our rural 4WD appliance towing our Gator all terrain vehicle with them, so that other brigades could be made familiar with the equipment it carries. The forecasts are for a long hot summer and it's likely that some of our members will be called upon to take part in task forces to other parts of the country where major bush fires have broken out. Our thanks to the Waitakere brigade for hosting the day.



We sent a team of eight, called the Laingholm Gators, to the Firefighters' Combat Challenge event in Gisborne and they came in second overall. Qualified firefighters Matt and Nicole came third in their respective categories. These challenges require high levels of fitness on the behalf of competitors and involve carrying out tasks relating to firefighting. Climbing the tall tower (pictured) wearing breathing apparatus sets is just one of them



EASY CHRISTMAS NIBBLES

By ADRIENNE PEEK

CHEESE BALL

- 250G Tub of Cream Cheese
- 1 Dessertspoon Tomato Sauce
- 2 Teaspoons Onion Stock or Soup Powder Mix
- ½ Cup Cheese – Grated
- 2 Gherkins - Chopped
- 1 Tablespoon Parsley - Chopped
- ½ Cup Walnuts - Chopped



Put all ingredients except the walnuts into a food processor and blitz. Roll into a ball. Spread walnuts on some baking paper and roll the ball onto the walnuts. Refrigerate until ready to serve with vegetables or chips.

APRICOT BALLS

- 1/2 Cup Dried Apricots - Chopped
- ½ Cup Desiccated Coconut
- ½ Cup Brown Sugar
- ½ Tin Condensed Milk
- Grated Rind & Juice of 1 Orange
- Packet of Plain Biscuits



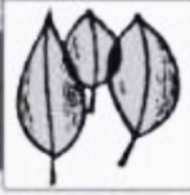
Put biscuits into a food processor and process to a crumb mixture. Add the other ingredients. Place some more coconut on a tray lined with baking paper. Roll the mixture into balls and then coconut. Refrigerate until firm.

MARSHMALLOW ROLL

- 1 Packet Crushed Malt Biscuits
- 6 Glazed Cherries - Chopped
- ½ Tin Condensed Milk
- 15 Marshmallows – Chopped
- ¼ Cup Walnuts - Chopped
- 1 Teaspoon Vanilla
- Coconut – Desiccated or shredded



Pour the condensed milk over the other ingredients. Mix and make a log shape and roll in coconut and refrigerate until hard. Cut into rounds when ready to serve.



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HMS Orpheus

On February 7th 1863, *HMS Orpheus* struck the Manukau Bar and, before dawn broke the following day she had been smashed to pieces by the relentless waves and 189 lives -many of them young lives - had been lost.

She was a British ship carrying sailors and marines from Britain and Australia. She was bringing supplies and reinforcements for the New Zealand wars. Does this disaster get the recognition it deserves? Is this a “Forgotten Disaster”? Well, no. The Huia Museum has its “Orpheus Gallery”. The back wall is a reproduction of the painting, which is in the Maritime Museum, depicting the wreck. There are artifacts from the wreck and items made from timbers that were washed ashore. One of the masts is on display outside.



A video plays on continuous loop that tells the story – and there are copies for sale.

Visitors to the museum come who are fascinated by the wreck of *HMS Orpheus*. How and why did it happen? Find out at the museum! Where is it now? The heavy objects, like its guns, are still out there, on the Manukau bar. Has anyone explored the wreck site? Yes, Kelly Tarleton had a go – but conditions are so treacherous that it’s unlikely that marine archaeologists will ever thoroughly explore it. What happened to the survivors? Officially, they numbered around 70 and presumably picked up the threads of their lives and carried on – some of their descendants came to the 150th anniversary in 2013. But – and here’s an unanswered question: how many men managed to get to shore and then just disappeared? Jack Diamond, the West Auckland historian, claimed to have met old men who’d worked in the bush camps in the Waitakeres alongside survivors from *The Orpheus*. And Ruth Park, in her autobiography, recounts how her grandfather and a mate survived, came ashore further up the harbour and then disappeared into the Waikato. Fascinating! These men kept a low profile and almost certainly changed their names because, technically, they were not survivors, but deserters, mutineers from the Royal Navy, and the penalty was very severe.

The Huia Museum strives to honour those brave souls that perished with *The Orpheus*, to preserve its history and to aid further research into the wreck that occurred at the entrance to the Manukau Harbour on February 7th 1863.



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Joy of Singing Together

We have an amazing singing and choir teacher at TRSS. Recently she wrote in the school newsletter about the benefits of community singing or singing together that we would like to share excerpts with you this month - especially as we roll into the festive season!

I cannot stress enough how important and crucial singing is for our overall well-being and for building a sense of community or oneness with one another!

Most, if not all of us, have experienced that feeling of warmth, glow, elation, being moved, and some even the feeling of being healed just by listening to music or listening to singing. Most of my students, children and adults, tell me that they just feel great after our choir sessions. I also notice that there is an aura or peace, fulfilment, and joy when they're singing and after we've finished singing. Everyone, from babies to incredibly wise old folks, has this innate capacity to sing. Singing is our birthright. If you can speak, you CAN sing!

However, there is a thing called "musical trauma". It varies from person to person, but the gist remains the same. Someone may have told you when you were young that you can't sing or similar. To protect yourself from shame, ridicule or being cast out, your younger subconscious buried that singing voice deep

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TITIRANGI RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL

within, putting it to sleep. As years passed by, your singing voice stayed in its slumber and eventually, you have accepted that you have lost it or do not even possess the ability to sing! Many people have told me they can't sing and they do not know how. I always tell them that their singing voice is inside them, that it has most likely been sleeping for a long time, and that all we have to do is to wake it up!

We can wake our singing voices up in a healthy, joyful way. The Werbeck method of singing is a wonderful technique that will "uncover your voice" and I apply it in my singing/choir sessions as much as I can. The vocal warm-ups wake up your "singing muscles" in a gentle, some would even say, therapeutic way. Singing games and body percussions wake up our bodies (our singing instrument) and help us warm up and open us up to the world of singing. When we are awake, alert and enthusiastic, everything is more enjoyable and we are more engaged IN THE MOMENT. When we are enjoying ourselves, we are lighter and freer than when we have fear or blocks preventing us from doing things. Singing in itself is a wonderful activity but singing with a group brings it to another level.

Many studies show the incredible benefits of communal singing, eg a research project, conducted by the Wellness Promotion Unit at Victoria University (Australia) funded by VicHealth which

examined group singing and its associated health and wellbeing described that:

'group singing is a powerful personal and social health promotion activity. Findings on the improved social as well as personal dimensions of mental health and wellbeing that are associated with singing in groups are strong and consistent. Numerous studies utilising different research designs and methodological approaches have reported the following benefits of singing in groups;

- *increased self-confidence, empowerment, wellbeing and interpersonal skills*
- *a general lifting of the spirits and a sense of joy and accomplishment*
- *lowered feelings of social isolation, depression and anxiety*
- *increased social capital through participation in social, cultural and community activities*
- *denser social and friendship networks.'*

The act of singing engages our mind, hearts, bodies, and some would even say, our spirit or souls. MUSIC IS the language of the soul. Not only do we get to feel good about ourselves, we create a sense of trust amongst the people around us, as well as gift this musical experience to the people watching and listening. We are creating joy within ourselves and spreading it to others too! It is quite infectious, and it is amazing!

I leave you with a verse I say with all my students at the end of each singing and music lesson:

***'Music speaks what cannot be expressed,
soothes the mind and gives it rest,
heals the heart and makes it whole,
flows from heaven to the soul.'***

Author unknown

Our Singing Teacher also leads a community singing group on Thursdays 7:30-8:30pm in the school hall during school terms for anyone and everyone to experience the joy of singing together. No singing experience required! It's all about being together, feeling good, enjoying each other's company and creating lovely music together!

Happy holidays everyone!



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Book Reviews



GEORGE WADSWORTH & IAN JOHNSON

The Last, The Least, The Lonely and The Lost by Brian R McAvoy

A memoir of medicine, meanderings and the marginalised. The author, from a working class family in Glasgow, had after progressing through six years of lectures, rote learning, ward rounds and relentless exams emerged with first class honours. Instead of starting on the bottom rung towards a consultancy, he chose "the road less travelled"

This slim volume tells of his career in general practice in five countries. His journeys start from the hardships in Glasgow after World War 2, and end in Australia, Myanmar and New Zealand.

His experiences are alive with anecdotes, clinical encounters, dealing with bureaucracies, and his medical observations from the point of view of a general practitioner.

Here are the five questions he suggest each patient should ask his doctor.

- 1 Do I really need this treatment or procedure?
- 2 What are the risks?
- 3 Are these simple safe options?
- 4 What happens if I don't do anything?
- 5 What are the costs?

This is a fascinating memoir and highly recommend it

The Dorothy Butler Children's Book Shop at 1 Jervis Road Ponsonby is a treasure trove of children's books. There is no better Christmas present for a child than a book. Here are a few among the hundreds for sale at the shop:

Blue, Blue Christmas; This is the first picture book by New Zealand musician Anna

Codrington -which is also a song - all about Santa's experience of a summery Christmas.

The Observologist; A Handbook for Mounting Very Small Scientific Expeditions by Giselle

Clarkson. A highly illustrated and creative scientific guide to the small creatures and natural wonders around us.

Murtagh;The World of Eragon by Christopher Paolini.

This is a stunning epic fantasy where the world is no longer safe for Dragon Rider Murtagh and his dragon, Thorn

Wot Knot You Got ? Mopheads Guide to Life by Selina Tusitala Marsh. With her visual wit

Mophead unravels the knots that keep us up at night. For readers eight to eighty.

The Last Fallen Moon by Gracie Kim. This is a magical adventure blending Korean culture into the modern world

For holiday reading, several books you might want to consider:

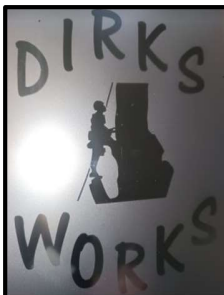
The Seventh Son, Sebastian Faulks (Hutchinson Heinemann, 2023): Talissa Adam is an academic wanting to do postdoctoral study in genetics but to achieve this she needs funds and decides to become a paid surrogate mother for the Parn Institute, an organisation specialising in IVF treatments. She volunteers to carry a baby for Mary and her partner Alaric. The Parn Institute is run by an entrepreneurial and manipulative tycoon, Lukas Parn, who has ulterior motives in supporting this activity which push ethical boundaries. The motives gradually become exposed as the baby Seth starts progressing through childhood. For what happens, you will need to read the book. The story has a flowing style and is generally easy to read. There are couple of parts where the narrative becomes a bit bogged down where the author explains the scientific background about what happens. But other than that, a book worthwhile reading for the plot with a poignant ending and the ethical dilemmas it poses.

A Better Place, Stephen Daisley (Text Publishing, 2023) is about two brothers who served in World War II, Roy and Tony Mitchell. Roy makes it back to New Zealand and returns to become a shepherd but very much a loner. His twin brother Tony is believed to have been killed in an incident in Crete. The story as to what happened and the ensuing fates of the two brothers is told through alternating chapters. The plot takes surprising twists and the prose is very direct and brutal, contrasting the nature and fates of the two brothers. A hard read but a superbly told story.

Better The Blood, Michael Bennett (Simon & Schuster, 2022) is a crime thriller that was a surprising finalist in the years Fiction Book of the Year Awards. Hana Westerman is an Auckland detective with Maori ancestry who becomes involved in the hunt for a serial killer who is avenging an event in the 1860s where British troops celebrated and photographed the execution of a local chief. While the modern killings seem unbelievable, Bennett's style and research of colonial oppression make this story plausible and generates a political and crime thriller with real depth.

Not my usual brief, but reprinted this year is the 50th anniversary edition of **Badjelly The Witch: A Fairy Tale** by comic genius **Spike Milligan**. Nostalgia on the part of this adult, I remember telling this to my children and also have a vinyl copy narrated by Spike Milligan himself (offers!!). Believe it not there are audio copies of this in the library and various recordings on youtube,. "Stinkypoo, knickers, knickers, knickers."

We both wish you a great festive season for 2023 and good reading for 2024.



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The Forgotten Suburb



With the holiday season approaching, many residents of The Forgotten Suburb will choose to forget about the daily commute to and from work, the constant battle with invasive plants and animals, the struggle to dry washing on days when the sun refuses to shine... These residents will pack the camping gear into their car or check they've got their passports and then depart for other places near or far. And happy holidays to every one of you! We look forward to hearing about your travels when you return. Perhaps you'd like to take a copy of *The Roundabout* with you and photograph it in an unusual or exotic place.

But some have to forget The Forgotten Suburb for other reasons. Laingholm is a sloping site. Relatively few residents have flat sections. Pole houses have proved to be well suited to this area and solve some of the problems that confront a prospective homeowner when building on a precipitous incline. Split level dwellings are also common, with internal stairs, and stairs or steeply sloping paths (which may get wet and slippery in our increasingly damp climate) outside. So what happens when the occupier of a property, through

illness or accident, finds that they cannot negotiate these obstacles? If their physical limitations are permanent, it may be necessary to relocate, probably to somewhere outside The Forgotten Suburb. If that person has lived in Laingholm for many years, that can be a very difficult, but necessary, decision to make and involves upheaval and the grief of parting with so much of what they've known and loved. But for some, the separation from their home will be temporary while they recover from whatever afflicted them – their illness, surgery or accident. They may have a stay in hospital or may relocate, temporarily, to stay with and be looked after by family. All the time, they will surely be thinking of and longing for The Forgotten Suburb, their home, and their friends.

So, as the holiday season approaches, we wish those travelling safe journeys and those who are away from us for other reasons, a speedy recovery. As the Scots say, "Haste ye back!"

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Laingholm & District

Community Emergency Response Group

The recent storms, slips, power outages and extreme weather events are reminding us that it is important to be prepared - as families and households but also as a neighbourhood community.

WHAT TO DO IN A SEVERE WEATHER SITUATION

First decision: stay or evacuate? Think of the **four elements**:

WATER: is the water likely to rise to the point of flooding your home? (For low coastal areas: check tide timing because an incoming tide could amplify flooding while an outgoing tide could ease it.)

WIND: Is there a tree or a very large branch in danger of breaking and falling onto your house?

EARTH: are there signs of a potential land slip under or above your house?

FIRE: is there a large fire nearby that could spread onto your property? (Consider effects of wind.)

If it is MOSTLY SAFE TO STAY at home: you should stay at home.

Moving around during strong weather could result in an accident.

If it NOT SAFE TO STAY at home: evacuate and find the safest way to go to a safer location.

- 1) Take your grab-bag (which you have hopefully prepared by now - read the earlier articles),
- 2) Be sure to quickly turn off gas and electricity (reduces the risk of fire while you are away),
- 3) Notify the emergency services (either before or after you relocate depending on the level of risk),
- 4) Relocate to the closest safe location (decide whether it is safer to move in a car or on foot):

First location to consider is your neighbours: is their house safe or is it under the same risk as yours?

Second is your friends who are living close by: if their home is safer and you can get there safely.

Third is your local community venue:

- **Laingholm Village Hall - 69 Victory Road**
- **Laingholm Church - 1 Victory Road**

If you are in another area: try your nearest community hall, school, church or fire station.

- If you are able to phone emergency services - don't hesitate to ask for their help and advice.
- Tune in to National Radio (**101.4 FM**) for latest updates. If the power is out use your car radio.
- If your access to online social media is still working, check your local area's facebook group for information and post a message saying where you are and what you need.
- Tell someone where you are going - **someone should always know where to find you.**

This is Article 4 in our preparedness series. Cut this page out and collect the other issues to make a small prep booklet you can keep for handy reference.

by Valera Koltsov

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At last the rain has relented a bit and there have been clear days in which to get into the garden and start planting those delicious summer staples. There are still weeds to pull and ground to prepare but it's satisfying to actually get some new life into the veggie patch.

Soon we could be reaping the benefits of our hard work with summer salad essentials such as beetroot, lettuce, radishes etc. But slugs, snails and birds also love these very tasty seedlings so you'll need to use your gardener's cunning to deal to these pesky critters.

And young veggies need plenty of water to keep them flourishing. While there's still a fair bit coming down from the sky at the moment it doesn't take long for the garden to dry out and for the plants to start to wilt. And the weather forecast is for sun and wind which will dry the ground out very quickly. Water is precious so try to use it wisely and collect it when and where you can for those dry times. One way to retain moisture is to mulch around plants and it's preferable to give them a good soaking every couple of days rather than a little a lot.

Meanwhile the roses are blooming and to keep them healthy, dead-head the finished flowers and watch out for aphids on new growth. Unfortunately the best remedy for black spot appears to be a commercial spray or you can just let it happen.

But this really is a great time in the garden so enjoy the fruits of your labour and remember to give yourself a pat on the back when eating produce you've grown yourself. It tastes just that little bit better.

Happy Christmas everyone.

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Giddy fishos, Well I vowed I would not do any more moaning on this fishing page but in truth I've almost forgotten what it feels like to reel a fish in. Every time the weather's been right the tide's been wrong and vice-versa. What's a thwarted fisho to do? All is woe and misery but with the onset of summer it must surely improve. No news of harbour fishing but a mate went over the bar recently with four people on board and complained long and loud that they'd only got 16 snapper between them – a lot around 7lb. Well with snapper at nearly \$50 a kilo they didn't do too badly! (This mate has a great sense of humour and gave me two good gurnard.) And talking of the price of fish - \$8 for a snapper head in the supermarket!

Now another moan. MAF (or whatever they call themselves these days) have surreptitiously moved the net ban further up the harbour past Laingholm. Too far for a little old lady in a dinghy to go to set a net. It's on account of all the Maui dolphin in the harbour you see (or more to the point you don't see!). But getting into controversial waters there so change of subject. A mate said recently you're repeating yourself a lot on that fishing page, time you were pensioned off! Well that does a lot for an aging fisho's ego so better find something new and interesting to say.

Fishing has become a highly sophisticated and expensive pastime but according to Peter Jessup in his book 'Fisherman's Tales' Maori in the Far North used to end a day's haymaking by fishing from local bridges using baling twine and bent nails for hooks. He doesn't say what they used for bait but goes on to say that fishing once up in Whangaroa Harbour every snapper was full of crickets. They'd been blown onto the water and sitting shaking their legs, attracting the fish to what must have looked like a smorgasbord. He has another little anecdote about an English cop on his early morning beat many years ago in Norfolk. It was about 3am when the cop turned a corner and walked into a swarm of crabs scuttling up the street towards the river. Turns out they'd escaped out of the back door of a local fish market that someone had accidentally left open. So there you have it fishos. I'm pretty certain I have told these yarns before.

Most fishos would agree that fishing is a lottery yet there are those, like the legendary 'gurnard guru' John Moran who almost always had a successful fishing trip. You've just got to work out where the gurnard lurk, he said. Well in all my fishing years gurnard territories have remained a mystery to me. They are inconsistent, sneaky and elusive. Where they are supposed to lurk – on banks, edges of channels etc – there is not a sign but they will mysteriously turn up in the most unlikely places at the most unlikely times of the tide. But all good fun.

Ok fishos, that's the nautical stuff dealt with, must be joke time (forgive any repeats).

Reflections on age: I was taught to respect my elders – now there's no one left to respect.

Sometimes I wake up grumpy, other times I let him sleep.

Fisho boasted: I'm glad the fish got away, there wouldn't have been room in the boat for both of us.

That's Winnie signing off till next time. Enjoy summer fishing.

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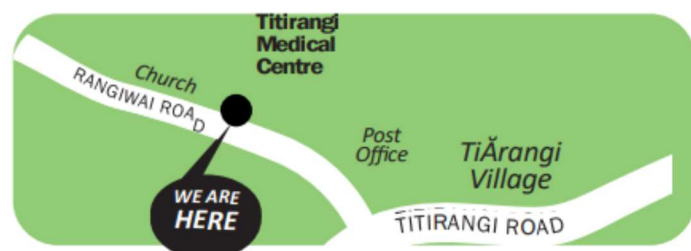
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Titirangi Library and Titirangi Community House events for December/January

December

Saturday 9th December 1.30 – 2.30pm Westside Sounds will be performing traditional carols in the library while you visit.

Sun 17th December 10am – 2pm (during market hours) Titirangi Community House is running free children's events on a drop-in basis – craft, face painting, balloon artist, sausage sizzle and more.

Monday 18th December 2 – 3pm Christmas plywood decorations suitable 5+ years. Bookings required visit Humanitix, search Titirangi Community House

Tuesday 19th December 1 – 2pm Make and decorate paper Christmas wreaths suitable 5+ years. Bookings required visit Humanitix, search Titirangi Community House

Wednesday 19 December 9.30 – 10.15am Christmas Rhymetime with Santa, music, songs and stories. Suitable for preschool but all ages welcome.

Thursday 21 December 10 – 11am Air-dry clay Christmas decorations suitable 5+ years. Bookings required visit Humanitix, search Titirangi Library

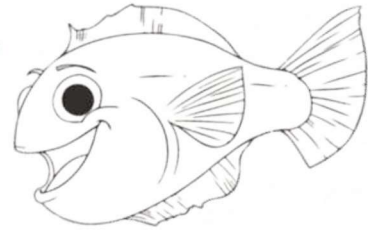
January

Titirangi Library is offering our usual summer reading programme over January to keep the kids connected with books during the holidays. Drop in or visit our Facebook page for details of accompanying events.

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These Christmas holidays mark the completion of my first year as one of your Waitakere Ward councillors. It's been a busy and eye-opening 12 months.

I've gained enormous insight into how and why the council operates as it does. I feel I'm getting better and more effective in challenging for what the public wants and has elected me to achieve.

I no longer feel like I am bashing my head against a brick wall but can now place the point of my jackhammer for best effect.

It's hard from within the council environment to measure yourself against the delivery of your objectives.

My end goal has not changed, I want fewer potholes, fewer blocked drains, and better core services.

What's hard to comprehend is the complexity of the causes that are leading to simple problems.

Council knows the problems just as the rest of us but seems incapable of dismantling their drivers. In many cases, Government legislation is forcing council's hand.

Sometimes the only practical action is to say stop.

I voted against a Congestion Charge.

It's clear that 'congestion charging' can change traffic behaviour. The problem is you don't know for sure what the behaviour change looks like until after its introduction.

I fear that installing congestion charging technology (cameras) on our motorways will force traffic back into the very city streets we built motorways to bypass.

But this highlights the first problem, Auckland Council doesn't own the motorways. They are built, owned, and maintained by NZTA/Waka Kotahi.

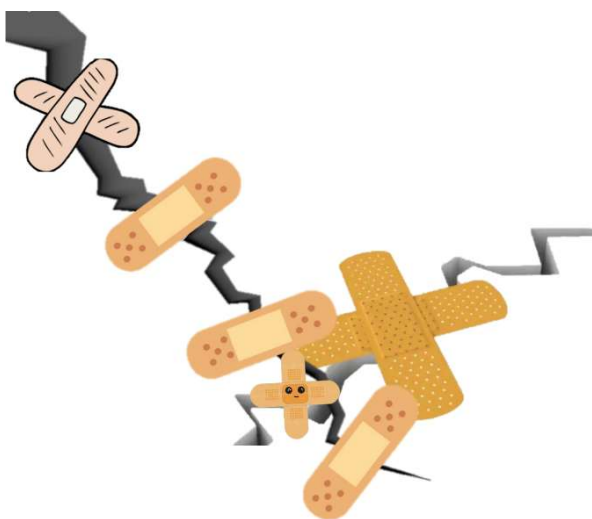
Therefore, I presume the congestion charge fee will be determined and collected by central government.

We can't 'Charge' for traffic congestion if the public transport option doesn't offer a workable alternative.

But this highlights the second problem, we have trapped ourselves into a 'subsidized' PT model. Council set Auckland Transport targets for increasing public transport patronage. AT is doing a good job of increasing PT usage, but we have subsidized every ride (on average) to help achieve this.

So, every extra passenger means the Council must find more money, not less.

The wording of the resolution to be voted on said:



“ENDORSE the creation of a joint Auckland Transport/ Auckland Council programme team to implement time of use charging”.

I wasn't about to endorse putting another sticking plaster over another crack, we need to recognize the root problems and address them.

In my opinion, areas like ours (outer Urban) of which there are many within this Supercity, need a hybrid public/private transport option.

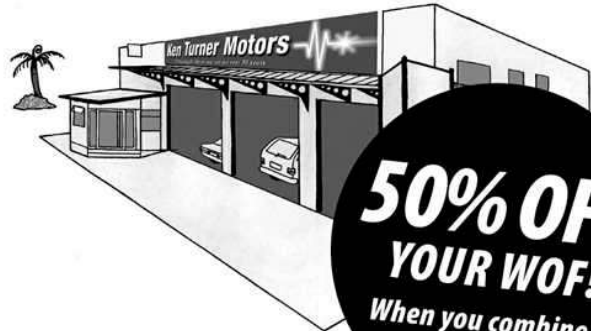
E.g., Large park-and-ride hubs from which Public Transport options run that are convenient and useable for people and thus can operate full cost recovery services.

From myself and the WestWards Team, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ken Turner

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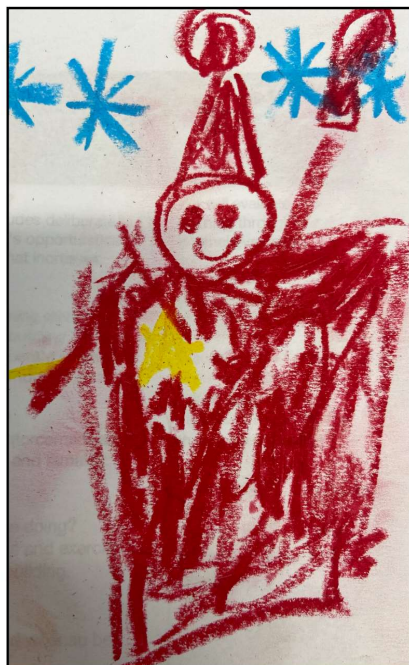
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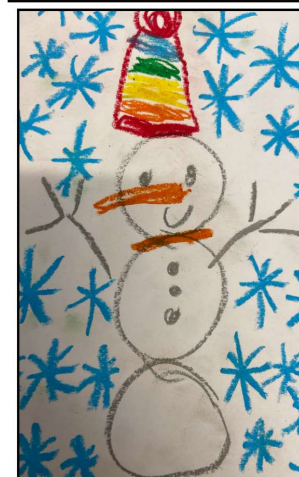
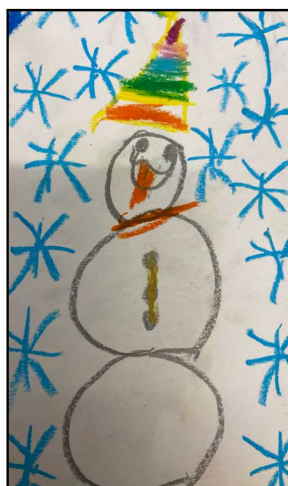
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A big thank you to our little artists; Alana, Eliana, Pieta, Kobi and Lola.



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Friday Club and CONNECT FC

Christmas fun begins early at Friday Club and CONNECT. Last session we enjoyed the fine weather playing soccer on the lawn. We also iced Christmas Gingerbread Biscuits. Next week we will be enjoying some of these Gingerbread Biscuits along with other Christmas treats at our Christmas Party.



On Saturday 2nd December we will be re-opening our LBC social enterprise: KauriCones, making Real Fruit Icecreams all summer long. One of the big reasons for establishing KauriCones is to fund the things we do with children and youth in our community - Friday Club, CONNECT and our RockSolid Wednesday DropIn and Dinners. To ensure all children and youth in our area, who want to attend can, we run by donation only - not a set charge. However it takes regular income to care for children and youth safely, and provide food and fun. We hope that KauriCones will provide this. So, every Real Fruit Icecream you buy, supports children and youth well-being in our community.



KauriCones is also about paid employment of youth and young adults in our community. We have some exciting new possibilities that we are developing in this space, so stay tuned as we grow and develop. Come and enjoy our ice-creams, relax and enjoy the summer with us, give us your feedback and ideas, and join us in the journey as we seek to develop KauriCones into a local place of connection for our community to enjoy.

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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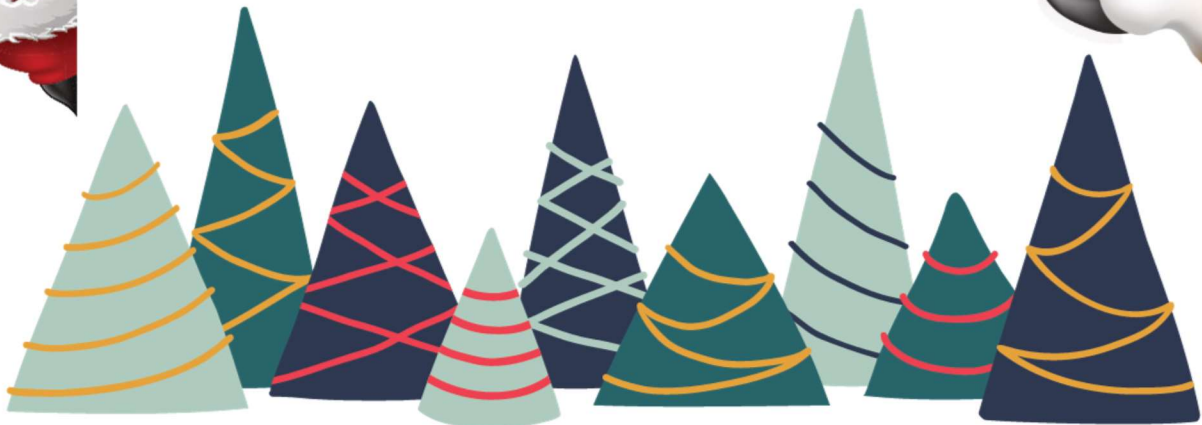
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**We wish you all a safe and
 happy holiday season!**

**Bronwyn Scott-Woods,
 Adrian Gomez and Sarah Smith**



Making a move in 2024?

While we are all counting down the days until the festive break and dreaming of relaxing days, sunshine (fingers crossed) and backyard BBQs, it's easy to forget that in the blink of an eye it will be 2024.

If you are considering a move sometime in the New Year, we recommend getting in touch with us before Christmas. We can discuss your time frame and make suggestions of what maintenance or tidying needs to be done over the holidays to get your home market ready.

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If you would like to join our team of volunteers to help with MEALS ON WHEELS please telephone

Karen Clare, Co-ordinator at 027 703 9454

Between 10.00 and 1.00 pm weekdays.

Laingholm's Halloween Experience

What a fabulous Halloween experience our local community had on 31 October, with fantastic costumes adorning the streets, enthusiastic residents greeting trick or treaters, plenty of smiles and a free Hall of Horrors event at Laingholm Hall. It was a wonderful evening to catchup with friends and family, especially those we mean to connect with but our busy lives often get in the way.

The Hall of Horrors was a non-stop hype of activity where young, and not-so-young, braved the Boo Crew hiding in the cobwebs, or families simply enjoyed a magical walk through the glow-in-the-dark Enchanted Forest. One of the highlights was certainly Sid in the Butchers Morgue ... or perhaps it was Kirsten the Wicked Witch hovering over her cauldron? Gaston, our Graveyard Skeleton made an appearance at the end, but he seemed a bit freaked out by Cleetus the Zombie who tried to take over his graveyard patch. Then poor Tinkerbell and Rani kept hiding in the treehouse to keep as far away as possible from the Torture Chamber!

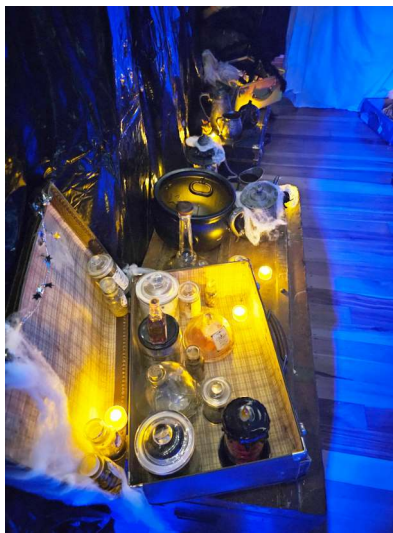
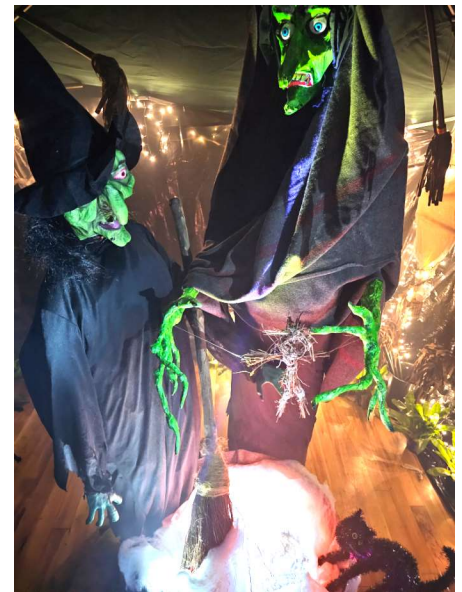
Of course, we couldn't have pulled off such a fun event without the help of so many local volunteers including our Scream Director, Fiendish Facilitators, Ghoul-Friends, Boo Crew, Grill Ghouls, The Old Ball & Chain and about 90 Laingholm Primary School children who helped decorate the forest. This mammoth effort consumed over 1,200 volunteer hours, 460 sausage sizzles, 8 trailer loads of props and a fair bit of blood and sweat (literally), but thankfully no tears.

Special thanks goes to Auckland Council and the Waitakere Local Board who provided a fabulous grant and use of our amazing hall, plus a huge thank you to gold-class loyal supporters - ProAgent Titirangi, Fuzed, Aussie Butcher and New World – who helped turn the event into something so much more professional and fun. Then add in another nine local organisations who didn't hesitate to offer help along the way, put this all together, and we have a recipe for an incredibly generous and talented group of local people.

I know I'm speaking on behalf of many in saying that we are proud, and grateful, to live amongst such a wonderful community. What a night!

By Kate Marsh
The 'Ghastly Director'







RESTORATION
RUATUNA

Restoring Nature in Langholm

TE KITENGA NA DAN - TUARUA / DAN'S DISCOVERY #2 LANES' CICADA (*kikihia laneorum*)



As summer heats up the forest begins to roar with the obnoxious clicking of thousands of cicadas (kikihia), and the one you will likely hear the most through summer, and the one almost everyone knows, is the chorus cicada. Cicadas are insects and part of the order hemiptera, or bugs with sucking mouthparts. Few people know that officially New Zealand is home to 42 unique species of cicada, and the number rises to 50 if you include subspecies. If you add all the undescribed species to the list, then the total is about 80 different species and subspecies.

The Lanes' cicada (*kikihia laneorum*) is our rarest cicada species. It has only been seen officially 23 times since scientific records began, so imagine my surprise when I was walking up Western Road and heard it singing in a kanikataa tree! There's not much to say about this species, other than it is very rare, so to hear one in Langholm is a pretty special discovery. You can check out my sound recording on the Naturelist app (6/6/23)

Most cicada species in NZ spend 3-5 years underground as nymphs, they feed on tree roots, and eventually they crawl out of the ground and the males start screaming their heads off, trying to attract a mate. The males have special structures on their undersides called tymbals, and each species makes a unique sound by squeezing and relaxing them. The females lay their eggs in trees, and when the young cicadas hatch, they

drop to the forest floor, burrow into the soil looking for tree roots, and the cycle repeats

Langholm is home to 10 of these completely unique and colourful flying drum sets, possibly even more, and some of them can be hard to find. Apart from the rare Lanes' cicada, some of the more interesting ones found in Langholm are two closely related species, the April green cicada (*kikihia ochrina*) and the dugdale's cicada. The ochrina emerges from March through to July and the dugdale's cicada is active from September to (I'm sure I would say that you'd be able to hear them during these times, but that depends how good your hearing is. Both species sing between 13-50 kHz, which means most adults can't hear them, and children are likely to lose the ability to hear them from about the age of 18.

Those are just some of the valley's cicadas, but there's so many more that you can find!

I'll be writing about a few of Langholm's other cicadas in the New Year. I hope this has inspired you to go out and look for the little critters that will be making a racket this summer. A good place to find them is in the grassy verges near the bush like the roadside along Warner Park Avenue. If you get good enough you can even tell them apart by the sounds they make. It is does take some time to learn though, I did it by listening to their calls online. My advice is to search for cicadas with calls that sound different and have fun. Happy summer!

NAVIGATING THE STORMS: LAINGHOLM'S ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND RESILIENCE



Victory Road during the January floods; this large stand of wild ginger clipped during the floods. See how the clip steps when it reaches the native flax in the foreground? This is why our roadsides need to be planted in natives.



Western Park - community planting day, winter 2023.



Planting flax on the roadside, Warner Park Avenue.

Another year is almost over, and it's been a big one for Laingholm's environment. It started in January, when a massive amount of rain caused floods and slips all throughout the suburb. Our rain gauge on Warner Park Avenue recorded 311 mm of rain in January, compared to about 8 mm the year before, so that's an increase of more than 3000%!

The valleys flooded and banks slipped, taking out houses and closing roads. And it didn't stop there; it kept raining, and in February, cyclone Gabriel hit with high winds, more rain and more damage. It made a lot of us think about how we can act more quickly to protect ourselves from future climate-related events. We do know that restoring our natural environment by removing weeds and planting natives reduces the risk of damage caused by floods and erosion, and it's something a lot of us are already doing.

In 2023, our weeding and planting work focussed on two pieces of public land; the big block on Warner Park Avenue (a large, steep roadside site) and Western Park on Western Road (a public park that runs through the valley's flood zone). We've been hugely encouraged by the support the community has shown us for these two projects, whether you just stop to say thanks as you're walking by, or you turn up in your boots on planting days, it's all really appreciated.

In 2024, we want to do more to help people in their own backyards. Laingholm is famous for its weeds, so if you've moved here recently, especially if you've taken on a very overgrown garden, you might be feeling a bit overwhelmed. We are ready to help with local knowledge and practical advice, whether it's ginger, jasmine, Phoenix palms or any of the other dozens of pest species you're likely to be tackling, get in touch and we'll help.

We also have traps to lend and advice to give on animal pests like rats and possums, so if you want help with those, get in touch. In 2024, we will be making a big effort to help control predators on Laingholm's headlands. It would be wonderful if we could make the old grey-faced petrel / oriole nesting sites safe again.

Thanks to everyone for all the support, we hope you all enjoy a fantastic summer holiday, see you in 2024.

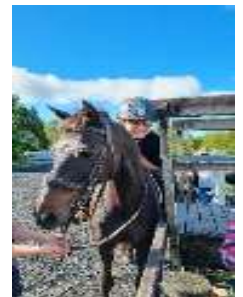
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Pony Tales

Summer is well and truly here! The mud is gone, the grass is growing, and the sun is (mostly) shining! At Huia Road Horse Club horses and humans alike have been really enjoying the weather. We are getting stuck into some land maintenance and paddock repair jobs – including a blitz on gorse, honeysuckle, blackberry, bracken and buttercup. It's really hard work, but will mean more room and grass for our paddocks and horses, and more protection for our native bush. We are also planning to do some replanting in our paddocks and wetland areas. If you have any spare native seedlings – maybe a cabbage tree trying to grow in your gutter – please consider bringing it to us at HRHC.



We'd like to say a big thank you to all our fabulous club members. Thank you for all the effort you put into caring for our ponies and helping at club events. Our Club Days this spring and summer have been a lot of fun.

If you have a pony-loving member of your family and would like to learn more about caring for these incredible creatures, come along and meet us at Huia Road Horse Club. All are welcome, regardless of experience. Or if you are keen on gardening or land care, we'd also love to have you involved with our super special space here at the club.



On behalf of all our members, horses, and ponies, we'd like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Summer Break!

Our Community Pony Rides run most first Sundays of the month, from 3-4pm, but check our facebook page for any changes. No rides January, but we'd love to see everyone in February. For any further enquiries call Louise on 0274991732, or see our facebook page.



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The Roundabout

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