

August 2026

FREE monthly community magazine for Kumeu
& surrounding townships

Kumeu

Courier

- Safer communities
- Home & garden
- Health & beauty
- Property market report

Archgola Rodney
www.archgola.co.nz



Greetings

Things are picking up!

Experts think New Zealand's economy will move ahead by late 2027.

The Official Cash Rate (OCR) went up 2.25% in July with the Reserve Bank indicating further rises may be needed.

This all comes a bit late for me.

I'm looking to free up some money. Groceries, rates, power and other necessities have all risen.

It's no good blaming our polies (politicians) either, with a general election planned in November.

I do lay some blame at US President Donald Trump's feet though, mainly for the Iran war which pushed up fuel and freight costs globally.

Looking on the bright side, most Northwest Auckland businesses are doing OK.

"On the Mat Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu" has moved across the way in Huapai to the former Carriages Cafe site near the Kumeu Garden Hub, giving landlord John Francis a tenant in his replacement building after flooding affected the earlier cafe.

Others say business is improving too, including in Waimauku and beyond.

Winter is usually when some residents head overseas for a holiday while the rest of us battle on.

It's often a down time for many although I'm seeing little to indicate that.

The hospitality industry continues to take a hit, but again there's not much evidence of that in this area.

Printing and other cost rises mean a small increase in our advertising rates from February next year (up 10%).

But we've managed to hold on until then.

Check out this issue for a mid-winter pick-up.

We profile some of the Surf Life Saving Northern Region award recipients and take a look at how line dancing can benefit you.

There's also massage to free up the jaw (mine has been clenched for a while) from Riverhead Physiotherapy and Pilates, plus the Kumeu Klds' Market at the Kumeu Community Centre, a market at the Helensville Showgrounds, Zash Hair's winter haircuts, and much more.

Enjoy the read.

Editor Geoff Dobson.



Advertising starts at only \$100 + GST which includes a business card, editorial and an image.

Get in touch with Gabrielle today editorial@kumeucourier.co.nz

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People & Places

KUMEUCOURIER.CO.NZ

Get Your Outdoor Space Summer-Ready



Living in Rodney, we're lucky enough to call one of Auckland's most beautiful areas home. From rural outlooks and coastal views to family backyards and sunny decks, outdoor living is a big part of how we enjoy life here.

As the days begin to lengthen, now is the ideal time to start planning how you want to use your outdoor space this

summer.

Archgola has been helping New Zealanders enjoy more time outside since 1998. That means 28 years of experience designing and building canopies for New Zealand homes and conditions. Locally, the Archgola Rodney team brings more than 15 years of installation experience, giving customers the reassurance that their project is in capable hands.

Every home and outdoor area is different, so every Archgola™ is custom designed. Dael will meet with you for a free consultation to understand what you would like to achieve, assess the space, and talk through the options that will work best for your home and lifestyle.

There are several canopy styles available, from sleek, contemporary rooflines to the adaptable Gola Classic™, with different shapes, roof profiles, frame colours and roofing tints to choose from. Outdoor blinds can also be added to provide extra protection from wind, rain and low sun, helping to complete the space and make it more comfortable throughout the year.

Following the consultation, you'll receive a tailored design and clear quotation. Once approved, your Archgola is manufactured in New Zealand and professionally installed by the local team. The process is straightforward, with guidance from the first conversation through to installation and aftercare.

There is still time to get your outdoor area ready before summer arrives, but installation schedules become busier as the warmer weather approaches. Starting now gives you more time to make the right design choices and a better opportunity to have everything completed

before those long summer evenings begin.

Call Archgola Rodney on 0508 272 446 to book a free consultation with Dael and start planning your ideal shade and shelter solution.

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Couples Therapy



Every relationship experiences seasons of connection and seasons of challenge. While disagreements, stress, and life transitions are a normal part of life together, many couples wait until their relationship feels like it's in crisis before seeking support. In reality, couples therapy can be valuable at any stage of a relationship.

Over time, communication patterns can become unhelpful. Conversations that begin with good intentions may end in frustration, leaving both partners feeling unheard, misunderstood, or disconnected. Therapy provides a safe, neutral space where couples can slow these interactions down, gain insight into one another's experiences, and learn healthier ways of communicating.

My approach is informed by foundational training in Imago Relationship Therapy. This model recognises that our early life experiences influence how we relate to those closest to us. Rather than seeing conflict as something to avoid, Imago views it as an opportunity for growth. By learning to listen with empathy and curiosity, couples can move beyond blame and build deeper understanding and connection.

People seek couples therapy for many reasons. Some are navigating parenting differences, work pressures, or changing life circumstances. Others are rebuilding trust after hurt or simply want to strengthen an already healthy relationship. Seeking support is not a sign of failure; it is a sign that the relationship matters.

Healthy relationships require care, intention, and a willingness to keep growing together. If you find yourselves having the same arguments, feeling emotionally distant, or wanting to reconnect, couples therapy can provide practical tools and a supportive environment to help you move forward together.

For further information about couples therapy or to discuss whether it may be appropriate for your circumstances, please feel free to get in touch.

Dr Amanda Perry

THE COUNSELLING COTTAGE

Dr Amanda Perry
Talking Therapy & EMDR

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027 295 5447

Planning your journey to retirement



A common question we hear is, "will I have enough when I retire, and how do I make it last?"

At RIVAL Wealth, we understand that no two situations are the same. Taking the time to get to know you, what matters to you, how you spend your time, and what you want life to look like in the years ahead, is where it all begins.

Retirement planning is about building a future that feels both secure and enjoyable. This involves understanding your income sources, thinking through your future expenses, and putting a plan in place to support your lifestyle. Along the way, we stay alongside you, reviewing and adjusting things as life naturally changes.

As retirement approaches, the focus shifts from building wealth to using it. This is where a well thought out withdrawal strategy becomes important, along with planning for unexpected costs and making decisions about how you want to spend your time. We are there with you through this stage too, helping you feel comfortable with each step.

For many people, it is not just about the numbers. It is about feeling confident in the direction you are heading and knowing you have support when you need it.

Daryl Buckingham - Financial Adviser

Phone 027 911 6656 email daryl@rivalwealth.co.nz

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Dog Vending Machine Arrives at Huapai Domain

We're excited to introduce our very own dog vending machine at the Huapai Domain football club and community park!

This has been a dream of mine for a long time, and I'm incredibly proud to see it finally become a reality. The machine is stocked with a range of handy items for dogs and their owners, including poo bags, treats, balls, leads and toys. As we learn what our customers and their furry friends love most, the selection may vary with each restock.

A huge thank you to Rollercoaster Design for bringing the vision to life—you've done an amazing job! I can't wait for you to spot the machine on your next walk and give it a try.

You can also visit us in store at Pet Patch, 1 Shamrock Drive, Kumeu.



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I was incredibly lucky to have cruised in luxury onboard Oceania Riveria for 3 nights in January from Auckland to Wellington, so from my personal experience I can give you info on what you can expect onboard, and some first hand tips & tricks too - just ask!

You too can experience a luxurious journey across Asia, the South Pacific Islands and Australia with up to 50% off cruise fares on 4 selected Oceania Cruises sailings this October-December.

As one example - we have packaged up a 16 night cruise from Bali to Sydney in November, including your Auckland to Bali & your Sydney to Auckland flights in Business Class

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TMJ Massage For Jaw Relief



TMJ massage is a focused, therapeutic treatment designed to ease tension in the muscles surrounding the temporomandibular joint, the small hinge that allows your jaw to open, close, and move smoothly. When these muscles tighten or become overworked, everyday actions like chewing, talking, or yawning can start to feel uncomfortable. Jaw tension can also contribute to headaches, facial tightness, ear discomfort, and neck strain, making TMJ care an important part of whole-person wellbeing.

During a TMJ massage, your therapist works with the muscles along the jawline, cheeks, temples, and neck to release external tension. For deeper relief, intra-oral techniques may be used to gently access muscles inside the mouth. These approaches help reduce clenching patterns, improve mobility, and support more comfortable, efficient jaw movement.

TMJ massage can be especially helpful for people who grind their teeth, experience clicking or locking when opening their mouth, or feel tightness after long hours at a desk. Stress also plays a major role - many of us hold tension in the jaw without realising it. By calming these muscles, TMJ massage can ease strain, reduce pain, and make daily activities feel lighter.

Our specialist Massage Therapist, Trudy Leighton, has advanced training in Facial Buccal and TMJ techniques. She provides TMJ massage services from our Hobsonville clinic. Her treatments are calm, structured, and tailored to your comfort, offering a supportive way to address tension that often goes unnoticed but has a significant impact on how you feel day to day.

Whether you're managing persistent discomfort or simply want to improve jaw mobility, TMJ massage offers a gentle, effective path toward relief and better movement.

You can book a TMJ massage with Trudy at our Hobsonville Clinic www.hobsonvillephysio.co.nz, email physio@hobsonvillephysio.co.nz or call 09 416 4455.



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Play Therapy



As adults, we often talk about our thoughts and feelings. Children, however, are more likely to express themselves through play. Toys become their words, and play becomes their language. Through play, children can safely communicate experiences, emotions, worries, and hopes that they may not yet have the vocabulary or confidence to share.

Play therapy provides a supportive, child-centred environment where children can explore difficult emotions, process challenging experiences, and develop healthy ways of coping. It can be beneficial for children experiencing anxiety, grief, trauma, behavioural difficulties, emotional regulation challenges, family changes, or low self-esteem.

As a qualified counsellor, child-centred play therapist, and EMDR practitioner, I work with children at their own pace, building a trusting therapeutic relationship where they feel safe, accepted, and understood. Every child is unique, and therapy is tailored to their individual needs, strengths, and stage of development.

Where appropriate, I also integrate Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR), an evidence-based therapy that can help children process distressing memories and experiences in a gentle and developmentally appropriate way. Parents and caregivers are an important part of the therapeutic journey, and I work collaboratively with families to support positive outcomes both within and beyond the therapy room.

My goal is not simply to reduce difficult behaviours, but to help children better understand themselves, build resilience, strengthen emotional wellbeing, and develop the confidence to navigate life's challenges.

If you would like to learn more about play therapy or discuss whether it may be appropriate for your child, please feel free to get in touch.

Amanda Perry



THE
COUNSELLING
COTTAGE

Dr Amanda Perry
Play Therapy & EMDR

www.counsellingcottage.co.nz
027 295 5447

When Did You Last Make Time For Yourself?



For many women, looking after themselves is often the first thing to disappear when life becomes busy. There are children to care for, work to manage, appointments to remember, households to run and the needs of others to consider. It is easy to place your own wellbeing at the bottom of the list continually, reassuring yourself that you will make the time when circumstances become less demanding.

However, life rarely slows down on its own.

Self-care does not have to involve an entire day away, an expensive retreat or a meticulously planned routine. At times it can be as simple as allowing yourself an hour to pause without guilt.

A facial, a massage, pedicure or even a quiet cup of tea can provide an opportunity to breathe, reset and reconnect with yourself. While beauty and spa treatments can enhance your confidence externally, the time taken to slow down can be equally beneficial.

Regular moments of rest can also help you recognise



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when you are becoming overwhelmed, tense or fatigued before reaching a point of burnout. Prioritising your wellbeing is not selfish, nor does it diminish the care you provide to others. In fact, it often enables you to return to your daily responsibilities feeling calmer, more present and better equipped to cope.

This August, rather than waiting for a special occasion or until everything else is complete, consider setting aside time for yourself simply because it is necessary.

At lovesoul, our treatments are designed to offer more than visible results. They provide an opportunity to step away from the demands of everyday life and enjoy a moment that is entirely your own.

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Exciting News for families in the area!

Pippins and Brownies are now in Riverhead, and we'd love to welcome your daughter to GirlGuiding New Zealand!

GirlGuiding is a place where girls can build confidence, make lifelong friendships, develop new skills, and enjoy exciting adventures in a safe, supportive environment.

Pippins is for girls aged 5 to 7, and Brownies is for girls aged 7 to 9½ years.

From crafts and games to outdoor activities, badges, and challenges, every week offers something fun and new to discover.

We'd love to welcome girls from across the North West, including Riverhead, Kumeū, Huapai, Helensville, Waimauku, Taupaki, and the surrounding areas. If you're looking for an activity where your daughter can grow, have fun, and feel a real sense of belonging, we'd love to hear from you.

Send me a message, call or text Kim on 021 711 086, or visit the GirlGuiding New Zealand website to learn more about what we offer.

Come and discover why so many girls love being part of GirlGuiding!



Local Instructor Recognised in National Line Dance Awards



Kumeū's line dancing community has plenty to celebrate, with local instructor Sue Wellesley-Davies named a finalist in four categories at the New Zealand Line Dance Awards: Instructor of the Year, Club of the Year, Personality of the Year, and Choreographer of the Year.

Sue founded Country Heartbeat 10 years ago with

the goal of creating a welcoming, supportive environment where people of all ages and abilities could enjoy line dancing. Since then, the club has grown into one of New Zealand's most respected line dance communities, helping hundreds of people discover a lifelong passion for dancing.

Her contribution extends well beyond weekly classes. Sue has choreographed or co-choreographed 37 dances, written a beginner line dance booklet, provided six months of free online classes during the COVID lockdowns, organised local flash mobs, and mentored dancers who have gone on to become instructors themselves. In recent years she has also taught a line dance to more than 2,000 people at Australia's CMC Festival and opened Auckland Council's 2025 Summer in the Parks programme at Aotea Square.

Community involvement has always been at the heart of Country Heartbeat, with performances and fundraising supporting events including the Kumeū Show, Starship fundraising initiatives, and local Christmas light displays.

Fresh from leading a group of around 30 dancers on a country music tour through Nashville, Dollywood and Pigeon Forge, Sue continues to inspire dancers to perform, compete, choreograph and, most importantly, have fun. Country Heartbeat welcomes new dancers of all experience levels. Classes are held during school terms at Kumeū Community Hall on Tuesdays at 6.00 pm and Wednesdays at 5.30 pm. Cost is \$10 per person, with children under 12 just \$5.



Sue Wellesley-Davies
LINE DANCE INSTRUCTOR



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Email: countryheartbeatdance@xtra.co.nz

Call: 021 99 1717

If you'd like to support Sue in the New Zealand Line Dance Awards, you can cast your vote here: <https://awards.linedance.nz>

Baby Barns Chicken Coops



Backyard chicken keeping has taken off across the Auckland region, where families and lifestyle block owners are rediscovering the satisfaction of collecting fresh eggs each morning. But as interest grows, so does a problem most new chicken owners don't see coming: the

majority of chicken coops sold in big-box stores simply aren't built for our climate.

Imported kit-set coops often look tidy on the shelf, but their thin timber, weak mesh, and lightweight roofing struggle against heavy rain, and the unpredictable winds that sweep through rural Auckland. Many don't last a single winter, and some fail even sooner. For the hens living inside them, that lack of durability can mean damp floors, drafts, predators, and stress – all of which affect health and egg production.

Baby Barns coops are built using quality framing, cladding and the same iron used on your house roof giving each coop the strength to stand up to real New Zealand weather. The difference is obvious the moment you open the door: no wobble, no flimsy parts, no guesswork.

Equally important is the design. Baby Barns coops prioritize hen welfare with raised floors, well-placed nest boxes, comfortable perch spacing, and ventilation that prevents moisture without creating harsh drafts. Predator-proof mesh and robust timber keep rats, dogs, and stoats out – a must for anyone keeping birds in rural or semi-rural areas.

And unlike kit-sets, Baby Barns coops arrive fully assembled or are built on-site, saving owners hours of frustration and ensuring the structure is solid from day one. In a market crowded with disposable imports, Baby Barns stands out by building coops that last – practical, durable, and proudly made for Kiwi backyards

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The people who shape us:

Lessons from a firefighter named JJ

Relationships are one of the greatest influences in our lives. They shape our character, challenge our thinking and often reveal qualities within ourselves that we didn't know existed.

Some people come into our lives quietly. Others leave a mark so deep that their influence remains long after they are gone.

For me, one of those people was John Jull.

John, or JJ as many knew him, was a man's man. He was practical, direct and completely authentic. He called a spade a spade, wasn't anyone's donkey, and had little time for unnecessary fuss. But beneath that tough exterior was a man with extraordinary compassion, strong values and an unwavering commitment to his community.

As Chief Fire Officer at Waitākere Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade, JJ's influence shaped not only how I viewed emergency service but also how I viewed leadership, responsibility and relationships.

JJ was the type of person who asked the right questions at the right time. He listened carefully, considered the situation and then gave you an honest answer. He wasn't interested in popularity; he was interested in doing what was right regardless of the difficulty and the backlash.

Across the New Zealand Fire Service, JJ was respected as someone who was staunch, reliable and solid. The sort of person you could depend on without hesitation—a bit like an old wooden bench seat that had weathered every storm and was still standing strong.

He had his quirks too. JJ was famously a bit of a magpie. He had a habit of collecting spare fire clothing and equipment, often tucked away for a rainy day. Some might have questioned it, but his purpose was simple: he wanted to make sure the firefighters of the brigade he founded in 1984 had what they needed to serve their community, that is how Waitakere Fire Brigade Started, an odd assortment of people and even stranger equipment, and they made do.

That was JJ.

He saw a need, and he acted.

His passion for doing the right thing at the right time sometimes came at his own expense. There were occasions where people took advantage of his generosity, but JJ never seemed bothered. He would simply shrug it off and say, "Ah, it was just a bit of fun."

That attitude said everything about him. He gave without expecting anything in return.

Even in his later years, JJ remained connected to the brigade. He would come to the station, carry out his VHF communications repeater tests and leave with a quiet sense of pride that he was still contributing. He understood something important: being part of a

volunteer organisation was never just about responding to emergencies. It was about belonging.



Pictured, The late JJ and Graham McIntyre, CFO at Waitakere Fire Station, enjoying a story, a yarn and some special camaraderie"

JJ believed that if you joined a fire brigade, you needed to be prepared to roll up your sleeves, get dirty and become comfortable being uncomfortable.

Because that is where growth happens.

When we are uncomfortable, we learn. We focus. We adapt. In emergency services, that preparation matters. When the pressure arrives, hesitation can create risk—not only for yourself but for those relying on you.

The world is changing, and each generation brings new strengths and perspectives. But there is a danger that some may want the badge, the uniform and the recognition without embracing the challenge, discipline and commitment that sit behind them.

JJ understood that the real reward wasn't the logo on your shirt. It was the relationships built along the way—the friendships, the trust, the shared experiences and the knowledge that you stood alongside people who would have your back when it mattered most, and you'd share the dirt, the soot and sometimes the blood.

So next time you drive past a fire station, take a moment to think about the people behind those doors.

Inside every station is a history. A legacy. A collection of stories and lessons passed from one generation to the next.

And somewhere in that story, there is still a little bit of JJ—a can-do attitude, a willingness to help, and someone prepared to ask the right question at the right time.



Those are the people who shape us.

Those are the relationships that define us.

Graham McIntyre

CFO

Waitakere Fire

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A woman with dark hair, wearing a light-colored patterned sweater and blue jeans, stands in a parking lot. She is holding a large cardboard box filled with various items of clothing. In front of her on the ground are several other open cardboard boxes, also filled with clothing items like shirts, pants, and socks. To her left is the front of a silver car. In the background is a store with large glass windows. A sign on the window says 'WASH & DRY' and another sign below it says 'The Best of the Best'. There is also a small sign that says 'WASH & DRY' and 'WASH & DRY'.

- The team at West Auckland Property Management

Bernie Harfleet

Thank you again to everyone who has donated and supported this year's June & July collection. Together, we're making a real difference.

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Community Giving Campaign



This August, we're inviting our community to come together and help families who need it most.

The Kumeu Courier and The Westerly are proud to support Give a Kid a Blanket through our Community Giving Campaign.

Founded in 2015, Give a Kid a Blanket is a registered New Zealand charity whose mission is to relieve the effects of poverty by providing blankets, bedding, warm clothing and other essential items to families in need. They believe everyone deserves to feel valued and supported through the gift of quality new, handmade and excellent pre-loved items. To learn more about the amazing work they do, visit <https://giveakidablanket.co.nz/>.

Every dollar donated through our campaign will go directly towards purchasing the items that are needed most. To make your generosity go even further, the Kumeu Courier and The Westerly will match every dollar donated, up to a combined total of \$1,000, doubling the impact of your contribution. Whether you're one of our readers, a local business owner, landlord or tenant, we'd love you to be part of this initiative. Every donation, no matter the size, will help make a real difference.

Suggested donation amounts:

- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- Or any amount you'd like to contribute.

As a thank you, everyone who donates \$100 or more will be acknowledged in the September editions of the Kumeu Courier and The Westerly, (unless you would prefer to remain anonymous).

How to Donate

If you'd like to support our Community Giving Campaign, you can transfer your donation into the account below:

Account Name: Kumeu Courier Ltd

Bank: ANZ (NZ)

Account Number: 06-0185-0458535-00

Reference: Community Giving Campaign

Particulars: Your name or business name

Once you've made your donation, please email us to let us know your payment has been made.

If you would like to receive an official donation receipt to

claim the 33.33% New Zealand donation tax credit, please contact us before making your donation. We'll provide you with Give a Kid a Blanket's bank account details so you can donate directly to the charity and receive an official tax receipt.

Once the campaign has finished, we'll share the total amount raised, the Kumeu Courier and The Westerly's matched contribution and the impact we've made together through Give a Kid a Blanket.

Thank you for helping us make a real difference for families across our community this winter. Together, we can ensure more people have the warmth and support they deserve.

Warm regards, Gabrielle Fletcher

Kumeu Courier & The Westerly

editorial@kumeucourier.co.nz

Maggs Bags - stitched with love



Maggs Bags is proving that fashion can drive real community change by centering its mission on the "Nurture Companion" bag. Every month, this local brand donates one of these specially crafted bags to a parent or caregiver facing financial hardship, partnering with local charities like Women's Refuge to

distribute them directly to those in need.

Instead of relying on mass-produced materials, each piece is built from unique, repurposed designer fabrics. The inside is thoughtfully designed to handle the chaotic demands of daily caregiving, featuring a built-in key holder, a zipped interior pocket for personal security, a dedicated bottle holder, and large pockets to keep nappies and other essentials organised.

By turning discarded textiles into highly functional support tools, Maggs Bags ensures those facing tough times receive a beautiful, helpful hand when they need it most.

You can contact me at- maggsbagsdesigns@gmail.com

Repair or repower? How to decide

Many powerboat owners hit this fork in the road eventually - your outboard's playing up, and you're staring down a decision. Do you repair or rebuild your outboard or repower with a new or used engine. Here's how to think it through.

Start with the numbers- As a rule of thumb, if the repair



costs more than half of what a new motor would set you back, repowering usually makes more sense.

A one-off fix on a solid, low-hours engine can be money well spent. But if you're throwing cash at repair after repair, those bills add up fast and you're still left with an ageing, unreliable motor.

Consider the age and hours- Outboards are built tough, but

they don't last forever. A motor with plenty of hours on the clock, or one that's simply old, will keep finding new ways to fail. If parts are getting hard to track down, that's another sign the engine's near the end of its run.

Think about how you use your boat - If you're heading well offshore or you take the family out regularly, reliability is a safety issue, not just a convenience one. A repower buys you real peace of mind. If you're a fair-weather weekend cruiser that stays in close, a well-executed repair might keep you going happily for years.

Don't overlook the upside of new - Modern outboards are a different beast. They're quieter, cleaner, far more fuel-efficient, and packed with tech that older motors just can't match. Repowering can genuinely change how your boat feels to run and how much you enjoy your time on the water. It also lifts resale value.

When in doubt, get a proper look - Every situation is different - the repair itself, the make, model and age of the outboard, its history and your budget all factor in. Not sure which way to go? Talk to the team at GT Marine by calling 412 8348, visiting gtmarine.co.nz or calling in at 156 Main Road, Kumeu.

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House of Travel Hobsonville

I just wanted to start this month's article with a huge thank you for all the support my travel agency has received and introduce our amazing team Ellie, Namrata, Talita, Sam, Deepti and Sunny who won six awards

at our New Zealand travel conference ! We love helping to plan your incredible holidays wherever they may take you and appreciate every single person who gives up an opportunity to book a holiday with us.

If your sights are set on Europe for 2027 now is the time to start planning with us. Planning ahead and booking early is the key to get the best choice of Airfares, Tours, Cruise, and accommodation at the best prices.

Demand is super high for 2027 and there is only a limited number of airlines and seats departing NZ each day. Buzz recently returned from Sri Lanka and the Maldives ("Sri Lanka was incredible for culture and food, while the Maldives was pure relaxation.) on a trip he booked in ten months prior to departure. Booking early gave him the best choice of routes, and it was easy to get a well-priced fare and allow for a stopover in Singapore to break up the journey.

This is also a great time to look at South Pacific and Bali holidays for the first part of 2027 while resorts still have rooms available which we have on special including all inclusive deals.

House of Travel Hobsonville is a locally owned and operated Kiwi travel company.

If you want to book with an award-winning Travel Agency, you can trust will be there for you look no further. Pop in and see us in Hobsonville or give us a call - we'd love to help turn your 2027 holiday ideas into a reality. Open 9.00-5.30 Monday to Friday instore. Saturdays 9.00-1PM. House of Travel Hobsonville 225 Hobsonville Point Road hobsonville@hot.co.nz | 09 416 0700

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Community News

The little tin shed and the man who was straight up

Back in 2002, I joined what could only be described as a little tin shed that happened to house a fire brigade. Not just any brigade, the Waitakere Fire Brigade.

It was really three old Skyline garages cobbled together, with sheets of tin flashing doing their best to keep the weather out. The carpet had seen better days—probably decades earlier—and if those walls could talk, they'd tell stories that no official history ever could and are probably best saved for a quiet dram.

Looking back now, the building itself has faded from memory. hat hasn't faded is the man that was the Principle Rural Fire Officer, Peter Barber.

Because when National Rural Fire owned much of the responsibility for rural fire extinguishment, but very little money to do it, there wasn't much to work with. If something needed doing, someone usually found a way to make it happen, by hook or by crook.

That's where I first met Peter Barber.

Pete walked with a limp after being injured on the job years earlier. Speed wasn't really his thing, and that became the source of plenty of good-natured banter around the station.

Whenever Peter arrived at an incident, someone would inevitably say, "Nothing ever phases Pete—you'll never see him running to a fire."

Pete would simply smile. "The fire will still be there when I get there," he'd say. "Take your time. Take everything in. Think before you act." At the time it sounded like another one of Pete's one-liners.

Today, I realise it was one of the greatest leadership lessons I've ever learned. Peter had an encyclopaedic knowledge of rural and urban firefighting. More importantly, he genuinely cared about making things better—not for recognition, but because every improvement made the brigade safer, more capable and better prepared for the next call.He challenged the status quo whenever he thought there was a better way.

Back then, we wore silver protective jackets that looked more like something wrapped around a baked potato than firefighting clothing. They were hot, awkward and far from ideal. So Pete sourced a shipment of modern protective clothing from China.It seemed like a brilliant idea. Until they arrived.The sleeves were far too short.

Whenever New Zealand Fire Service crews turned up alongside us, we'd quietly tug the sleeves down and bend our elbows just enough to disguise the fact they barely reached our wrists. It became one of those brigade stories that still raises a smile today.

Pete laughed harder than anyone, but secretly wished he had measured twice and cut once.

His determination extended well beyond uniforms. He was instrumental in convincing Waitākere City Council to invest



in a fleet of Mills-Tui Mitsubishi Fighter fire appliances—trucks so well built that many are still protecting our communities today.

But perhaps Pete's greatest contribution wasn't equipment at all.He believed volunteers deserved to be recognised.

Long before v o l u n t e e r recognition became commonplace in Rural Fire circles,

Peter championed service awards and honours evenings. He even helped create a unique Waitākere City Council service ribbon so volunteers could be recognised for the unique contribution they had dedicated to protecting their Waitakere community.

He understood that people give their time freely, but appreciation should never be taken for granted.

If Pete were a tool in a shed, he'd be a spirit level.

Not flashy. Not complicated. Just dependable, reliable and essential.

You always knew where you stood with him. Every job needed one, and when it was used properly, everything else fell into place. Pete left us in July 2024, but his influence remains.

He spent decades pushing for greater equity between rural and urban firefighters, lifting operational standards and reminding us that professionalism isn't determined by the size of your budget. It's determined by your attitude, your commitment and your willingness to unwaveringly keep improving.

He also taught many of us the importance of history and tradition. Not because we should live in the past, but because understanding where we've come from helps guide where we're going.

Most of all, Peter showed us that leadership isn't about titles or ponse.

It's about leaving things better than you found them.

The old tin shed is gone now. The silver jackets have long since disappeared.

But every time I stop to think before I act, every time I look for a better way with limited resources, or every time I see volunteers recognised for their service, I realise Peter never really left.

His lessons are still quietly at work—in the people he shaped, the culture he built and the standards he refused to compromise. Sometimes a person's greatest legacy isn't what they built. It's the people they built along the way.

Graham McIntyre - CFO - Waitakere Fire

Community News

Preventative Pet Care:



A Small Investment That Can Make a Big Difference

At 111 Vet Clinic, we believe essential veterinary care should remain affordable and accessible for local families. We offer everyday low consultation prices, along with competitively priced preventative services including vaccinations, desexing and routine dental scale and polishing for both cats and dogs.

Preventative healthcare is one of the simplest ways to help your cat or dog live a longer, healthier and more comfortable life. Regular veterinary check-ups allow subtle changes to be identified early, often before your pet is showing obvious signs of illness.

Cats and dogs are very good at hiding pain and discomfort. Weight changes, dental disease, heart murmurs, skin conditions, joint pain and other health concerns can easily go unnoticed at home. A routine examination gives our veterinarians the opportunity to assess your pet from nose to tail, discuss any changes you have noticed, and recommend appropriate care before a minor concern becomes a costly emergency. Dental care is particularly important. Plaque and tartar can lead to painful gum disease, infection, bad breath and eventual tooth loss. Booking a routine scale and

polish before severe dental disease develops is a relatively low investment compared with the cost of multiple extractions and advanced dental treatment later. Vaccinations help protect pets against serious and potentially fatal infectious diseases, while desexing can prevent unwanted litters and reduce the risk of certain reproductive diseases and behavioural concerns.

For added peace of mind, 111 Vet Clinic is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Regular clients can phone at any time with questions about their pets, knowing our team has access to their pet's clinical records directly in front of them. We also offer a membership programme providing additional benefits and discounts to help make ongoing care more manageable.

Ask our friendly team today for details or book your pet's preventative health check. phone 09 86 96 111.



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Food & Beverage

Plenty's cooking at Good From Scratch

There is plenty happening at Good From Scratch over the coming months, with hands-on classes, seasonal events and plenty of good food along the way. Come along and learn from chef Michael Van de Elzen in our beautiful Muriwai setting.

Farm Shop - Saturday 1 August offers the chance to visit the farm and pick up a selection of fresh, locally made and seasonal food to take home.

Pig.Smoke.Fire - Saturday 8 August begins with a butcher breaking down a whole pig and explaining the different cuts. Mike then leads a practical cooking session covering marinades, dry rubs, salsas, smoking and open-fire cooking, finishing with a generous shared lunch.

Bread Making Class - Saturday 15 August is led by Cam and Boyd from Muriwai Deli. Learn the techniques behind focaccia, r wena and sourdough, and leave with the confidence to keep baking at home.

Farm Experience - Thursday 20 August offers a midweek escape to the countryside, with seasonal ingredients, time on the farm and relaxed, hands-on cooking led by Mike.

Supper Club - Thursday 27 August is your chance to take the night off and enjoy three seasonal courses cooked by Mike in front of the fire - with no prep, dishes or decisions about dinner required.

Lamb.Smoke.Fire - Saturday 26 September puts New Zealand lamb centre stage. The day begins with a whole-lamb butchery demonstration, followed by a

hands-on session covering marinades, rubs, smoking and cooking over fire, before everyone sits down to share the results.

Planning a corporate or private event?

Get in touch to discuss a tailored team-building day featuring hands-on cooking classes, chef demonstrations or a friendly cooking competition - or simply relax and enjoy a memorable lunch or dinner at the farm.



Everything you need to know about property

Property Hub

“Design and Build”
With GJ Gardner Rodney West
248 Main Rd, Kumeu
09 412 5371



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Home & Garden



ENQUIRIES / FEEDBACK / ADVERTISING:
E editorial@kumeucourier.co.nz

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Property Hub:

Design and build your home

Building a new home gives you the opportunity to create something that's uniquely yours. Rather than adapting to someone else's layout or compromising on features, you can design a home that reflects the way you live, your personal style and your plans for the future.

At GJ's, we believe every home should be as unique as the family who lives in it. Whether you're inspired by one of our existing concept plans or want to create a completely custom home from the ground up, our experienced design team will work alongside you to bring your vision to life.

Many people are surprised to learn that with GJ's, you can design a completely custom home from the ground up. Whether you want to start with a blank page or one of our concept plans, the choice is yours. Our experienced design team can create a bespoke home tailored specifically to your section, lifestyle and budget. Alternatively, our concept plans provide inspiration and can be customised, reconfigured or adapted to create a home that's uniquely yours.

Every design journey begins with a conversation. We take the time to understand how you live, what matters most to your family and how your needs may change in the future. Our team asks the questions you may not have thought about yet, helping uncover opportunities to make your home more functional, comfortable and enjoyable for years to come.

It's not just about creating a home that looks beautiful. Our designers also consider how your home will perform on your section - making the most of natural light, views, privacy, outdoor living and practical everyday functionality. Often, thoughtful design changes can have a significant impact without adding substantial cost.

With over 25,000 homes built throughout New Zealand over almost 30 years, with every home completed, GJ's combines local knowledge with years of experience to guide you through every stage of the process. From your first ideas through to design, pricing and construction, you'll have the confidence of working with a team that's committed to creating a home that's uniquely yours.

Talk to your local GJ's team today and discover what's possible.



What happens when the receivers come in?



By Elyse Crowther, ClearStone Legal

You have likely seen some stories recently where developers are going into receivership. If you have purchased off-the plans and are waiting for titles and code compliance certificates to issue for your new property this can be scary. So what does it mean? If a developer goes into receivership your position remains the same, you still have a valid contract for the property and are required to meet your obligations under the same. Firstly, you will want to know that your deposit is safe, under the contract this should be held by a stakeholder until settlement and if the receiver validly cancels the agreement then this will be returned to you.

Each agreement will be different but most off the plan agreements have a sunset clause. The sunset clauses can be for the purchasers benefit only, or it might be for the benefit of both parties. If it is for the benefit of both parties then the receiver may validly cancel the agreement when the sunset date comes up or may use this to push for a higher purchase price to meet the rising construction costs. If it is for your benefit only then when the sunset date comes around you can choose to validly cancel the agreement and receive your deposit back – or continue the contract should you wish (it is your choice alone).

The best thing to do is seek legal advice, your lawyer can check the agreement and advise you on the sunset date, any clauses relating to receivership, novation of the agreement (i.e the sale of the project to another developer to complete) and let you know what your position is.

ClearStone Legal with offices in Te Atatu and Huapai can assist you with any questions you have about buying or selling property. Telephone 09-973-5102.

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1A Tapu Road, Kumeu

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1/547 Te Atatu Road
Te Atatu Peninsula

How the bright-line test works



If you are buying, selling or investing in residential property in New Zealand, the bright-line test is an important tax rule to consider. It can make a gain on sale taxable if you sell within the relevant period, unless an exclusion or rollover relief applies.

For property sold on or after 1 July 2024, the bright-line period is two years. For most purchases, the period starts when title transfers to you, usually on settlement. For most sales, it ends when you enter into a binding sale and purchase agreement, rather than on settlement. This can be important when selling close to the two-year mark.

Earlier five-year and 10-year bright-line periods applied to property sold during previous periods. However, even where the current bright-line test does not apply, other land tax rules may still make a sale taxable. This can include situations where the property was bought with an intention to sell, there is a regular pattern of property trading, or the owner is involved in property dealing, development or building.

When does it not apply?

The most common exclusion is for a main home. The test also generally does not apply to business premises, farmland, inherited property or certain transfers that qualify for rollover relief.

For the main home exclusion to apply, more than 50% of the property's area must have been used as your main home, and you must have lived there for more than 50% of the bright-line period. Only one property can be treated as your main home. The rules can become more complex for trusts, co-owners, subdivisions, off-the-plan purchases, gifts, family transfers or properties that have been partly rented.

If you are considering selling, purchasing or transferring property, contact Bret Gower at Smith and Partners before signing a contract – bret.gower@smithpartners.co.nz or phone 09 837 6893. We welcome new clients and can help you understand the tax position, make informed decisions and avoid unwelcome surprises.

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Tenant of the month

Home is so much more than four walls—it's a place where memories are made, families grow, and life happens.

At West Auckland Property Management, we truly appreciate the wonderful tenants who take pride in their homes, communicate openly, and treat each property with the same care they would their own.

Each month, we'll be celebrating one special tenant who embodies what a great tenancy is all about.

Congratulations to our Tenant of the Month - Lisa.

As a small thank you, you'll receive a certificate and a gift voucher as a token of our appreciation.

Thank you for being such an important part of our West Auckland Property Management family. We appreciate you and everything you do to make your house a home.

West Auckland proud. Personally invested. 2 Clark Road, Hobsonville 09 416 9600



Sarah Ball

Senior Property Relationship Manager

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Why use a mortgage adviser?

Buying a home is one of the biggest financial decisions most people will make. While finding the right property is exciting, navigating the world of lending, paperwork, interest rates and bank requirements can quickly become overwhelming.

That's where a mortgage adviser can make a real difference.

As a mortgage adviser (also known as a mortgage broker) I act as your guide between you (the borrower) and a range of lenders. My role is to understand your goals, explain your options and help you find a home loan that suits your unique circumstances - not simply point you towards a one-size-fits-all solution.

Expert guidance when you need it most

The lending landscape is constantly changing, with interest rates, bank policies, and application requirements evolving regularly. I work in this space every day, keeping up with these changes so you don't have to.

From understanding complex lending criteria to explaining the fine print, I can help make the process clearer and give you confidence that you're making informed decisions.

More choice, more flexibility

One of the biggest advantages of working with me is simple: I'm in your corner, searching for the best rates on your behalf. I have access to a wider range of lending options, and rather than approaching just one bank and being limited to their products, I can compare options from multiple lenders to help you find a solution that aligns with your individual situation and future plans.

Whether you're a first home buyer, looking to refinance, upgrading your home, or investing in property, having someone who understands your goals can help you make smarter decisions.

Using a mortgage adviser isn't a requirement, but having trusted expert advice sounds like a smart move.

Call Ben Konings

Your Local Mortgage Adviser 022 077 0101

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Property market - Buyers take their time



The North West Auckland property market continues to stand out as one of the more resilient areas in the wider Auckland region. While much of the city has experienced softer prices and a more cautious sales environment, suburbs including Kumeū, Huapai, Whenuapai, Westgate and Te Atatū Peninsula are showing signs of

stability rather than decline.

The common theme across the region isn't a lack of buyers—it's that buyers are taking longer to make decisions.

With more properties to choose from and less urgency than in recent years, purchasers are carefully weighing up their options. For vendors, that means realistic pricing and strong presentation are becoming increasingly important in achieving a successful sale.

Kumeū and Huapai continue to benefit from their unique blend of lifestyle living and urban convenience. Property values have remained relatively stable over recent months, with lifestyle blocks and semi-rural sections still attracting interest from buyers seeking more space while remaining within commuting distance of Auckland.

Further east, Westgate and Whenuapai continue to evolve as major growth areas. The demand for modern

townhouses and new developments remains steady, although the pace of large-scale subdivision activity has eased as developers respond to changing market conditions. Buyers are proving selective, but well-designed homes in established developments continue to attract solid enquiry.

Te Atatū Peninsula also continues to perform consistently. Family homes remain the backbone of the local market, with well-presented three and four-bedroom properties commonly selling between the high \$900,000s and around \$1.3 million, depending on location, land size and condition.

The rental market is also showing encouraging signs of balance.

Some industry observers believe an increasing number of homeowners heading overseas and to the South Island are choosing to rent their properties rather than sell them, helping maintain rental supply while allowing owners to retain their long-term investments.

The broader economic picture is also evolving. Reserve Bank Assistant Governor Karen Silk has recently highlighted the importance of New Zealand broadening its sources of wealth beyond residential property. As housing supply gradually improves and the economy diversifies, the housing market is expected to become less cyclical, creating a more sustainable environment for both buyers and sellers.

For local real estate professional Graham McIntyre, who has worked throughout North West Auckland for more than 20 years, today's market is one that rewards knowledge and experience.

"Markets like this are all about understanding the local area," says McIntyre. "Every suburb is behaving a little differently, and buyers have become much more informed. Good advice, accurate pricing and a clear strategy are making all the difference."

Whether you're buying, selling or simply wondering where your property's value sits in today's market, understanding local trends has never been more important. In a market that's balanced rather than booming, informed decisions remain the key to achieving the best possible outcome.

For a free no obligation consultation give Graham a call on 0276320421

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Area Property Stats

Every month Raine & Horne Kumeu assembles a comprehensive spreadsheet of all the recent sales in the area that reviews the full range of Residential and Lifestyle transactions that have occurred. To receive the full summary simply email the word "full statistics" to office@kumeu.rh.co.nz. This service is free from cost.

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA m2	LAND AREA m2	SALE PRICE
Helensville						
	Minerva Avenue	\$1125000	3	172	600	\$1050000
	Rautawhiri Road	\$680000	3	0	1104	\$908000
	Mangakura Road	\$1100000	0	0	25800	\$1050000
	Mangakura Road	\$1460000	0	0	14100	\$1261000
Herald Island						
	Duncan Rise	\$1225000	3	150	839	\$1300000
Hobsonville						
	William Stratton Lane	\$950000	3	137	110	\$870000
	La Bella Road	\$1550000	5	251	302	\$1410000
	Bannings Way	\$1670000	6	308	539	\$1570000
	Squadron Drive	\$800000	2	93	117	\$735000
	Mapou Road	\$1250000	3	190	275	\$1241000
	Bannings Way	\$1775000	4	240	939	\$1741000
	Buckley Avenue	\$1250000	3	181	187	\$1100000
	Hobsonville Point Rd	\$1100000	4	174	128	\$910000
	Kerewhenua Crest	\$530000	1	46	0	\$480000
	Bomb Point Dr	\$1125000	3	171	137	\$1155000
	Scott Road	\$1225000	5	179	140	\$1001888
	Treloar Crescent	\$750000	2	70	85	\$743000
	Station Street	\$1225000	4	219	262	\$1125000
	Clark Road	\$1150000	4	143	179	\$1000000
	Mantis Lane	\$1425000	5	209	333	\$1340000
	Plover Road	\$1100000	4	138	265	\$1155000
	Greenfinch Road	\$1375000	5	234	330	\$1180000
	David Carnegie Rd	\$850000	3	96	146	\$810000
Huapai-Kumeu						
	Accolage Boulevard	\$1150000	3	169	400	\$1050000
	Fred White Drive	\$1375000	4	212	697	\$1440000
	Vinistra Road	\$1200000	4	361	361	\$1155000
	Jeroboam Loop	\$1350000	4	211	525	\$1240000
	Sir Lincoln Dr	\$1325000	4	207	601	\$1310000
	Dida Park Dr	\$1350000	4	220	639	\$1260000
	Aporo Drive	\$1250000	4	212	626	\$1335000
	Oraha Road	\$820000	0	86	0	\$595000
	Jane Maree Rd	\$790000	2	104	129	\$740000
	Hooton Drive	\$1275000	4	197	725	\$1205000
Massey						
	Tiriwa Drive	\$1010000	4	164	475	\$1038000
	Lanham Lane	\$930000	3	150	513	\$915000
	Birdwood Rd	\$1730000	4	290	12000	\$1730000
	Forsythe Place	\$1100000	3	100	751	\$1065000
	Waimumu Road	\$1200000	5	236	520	\$1225000
	Cedar Heights Ave	\$950000	3	82	648	\$815000
	Keegan Drive	\$750000	3	130	0	\$635000
	Raelene Place	\$910000	4	130	607	\$850000
	Royal Road	\$1400000	6	295	809	\$957000
	Ginders Drive	\$790000	3	117	358	\$845000
	Woodside Road	\$540000	3	90	0	\$582000
Muriwai						
	Domain Cres	\$1125000	1	55	812	\$925000
	Motutara Road	\$1050000	4	137	1130	\$980000
	Waitea Road	\$1825000	4	220	842	\$1450000
Parakai						
	Parkhurst Road	\$730000	3	153	989	\$870000

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA m2	LAND AREA m2	SALE PRICE
	Springs Road	\$520000	2	56	282	\$555000
	Parkhurst Road	\$590000	2	79	506	\$525000
Riverhead						
	Pohutukawa Parade	\$2025000	5	355	906	\$1875000
	Alice Street	\$840000	3	93	102	\$690000
	CoatesvilleRhead Hwya	\$630000	2	59	19	\$520000
Taupaki						
	Nelson Road	\$2150000	3	132	45900	\$1950000
Waimauku						
	Gavinike Place	\$1425000	4		1500	\$1385000
Waitakere						
	Burnham Road	\$950000	4	135	911	\$930000
West Harbour						
	Hobsonville Rd	\$995000	4	247	356	\$1141000
	Rubens Lane	\$1350000	3	270	724	\$1305000
	Marina View Dr	\$1300000	4	200	616	\$1200000
	Buisson Glade	\$920000	4	141	157	\$940000
	Elizabeth Drive	\$770000	3	110	0	\$810000
	Reflection Drive	\$1475000	0	0	673	\$710000
	Bernleigh Terrace	\$780000	3	200	0	\$475000
Westgate						
	Westgate Dr	\$670000	2	74	64	\$520000
	Westgate Dr	\$730000	3	99	60	\$650000
	Octans Road	\$850000	4	125	139	\$848000
Whenuapai						
	Whenuapai Drive	\$910000	3	142	146	\$925000

DISCLAIMER: These sales figures have been provided by a third party and although all care is taken to ensure the information is accurate some figures could have been mis-interpreted on compilation. Furthermore these figures are recent sales over the past 30 days from all agents in the area.

Graham McIntyre on **027 632 0421**

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Raine & Horne Kumeu also provide statistical data FREE from cost to purchasers and sellers wanting more information to make an informed decision. Phone me today for a FREE summary of a property and surrounding sales, at no cost and no questions asked. Graham McIntyre 027 632 0421 *Available for a limited time. Conditions apply.



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North West Auckland rental market update – July 2026



After several years of significant change, the rental market across North West Auckland is beginning to settle into a more balanced pattern. While tenants have a little more choice than they did this time last year, good-quality homes in suburbs such as Hobsonville, Westgate, Kumeū, Huapai and Te Atatū continue to attract plenty of interest.

Across Auckland, rents have largely stabilised, with the median advertised rent sitting at around \$660 per week. Rather than the volatile increases and decreases seen over the last two years, we’re now seeing a market where realistic pricing and well-presented properties are making all the difference.

According to Graham McIntyre, Director of West Auckland Property Management, landlords who understand today’s market are seeing the best results.

“Renter engagement remains well ahead of where it was this time last year. Affordability is playing a big part in the decisions tenants are making, so properties that are priced correctly from the beginning are attracting stronger enquiry and leasing more quickly.”

That reflects what we’re seeing every day. Homes that are clean, well maintained and presented professionally are still leasing well, while properties that are overpriced or need attention are taking longer to find the right tenant. Features such as Healthy Homes compliance, modern and efficient heating, storage, parking, updated kitchens and outdoor living spaces continue to be high on tenants’ wish lists.

North West Auckland remains a popular place to live, thanks to its growing communities, improved transport links, expanding retail centres and access to schools and employment hubs. These factors continue to support steady demand for rental homes, particularly for families looking to settle in the area for the longer term.

McIntyre says there are also signs that uncertainty in the

housing market is encouraging some would-be buyers to continue renting.

“We’re finding that many people who had planned to buy are choosing to wait a little longer before making that move. That means demand for quality rental homes is remaining steady, particularly in the North West where people want to put down roots while they consider their next step.”

For landlords, the focus has shifted from simply achieving the highest possible rent to securing and retaining quality tenants. A realistic rental appraisal, regular property maintenance and good communication all play a part in reducing vacancy and protecting an investment over the long term.

For more than 25 years, West Auckland Property Management has specialised in managing residential properties throughout West and North West Auckland, building its reputation on personal service and strong relationships with both landlords and tenants.

“It’s not what we do—it’s how we make people feel,” says McIntyre. “Taking the time to communicate well, carry out thorough inspections and genuinely look after both landlords and tenants creates better outcomes for everyone.”

As the market continues to find its footing through the second half of 2026, landlords who stay informed and adapt to changing conditions will be best placed to make the most of the opportunities ahead.

Whether you’re purchasing your first investment property or growing an established portfolio, our experienced team is here to help you maximise returns while protecting your asset.

Contact the Team-



Graham McIntyre
027 632 0421
Sarah Ball
027 499 8415
Visit www.wapm.co.nz

Proudly Northwest Auckland

Ugg boots, tassels, and black jumpers... ahhh, Northwest Auckland.

The fashions may have changed over the years, and our communities have grown beyond recognition, but somewhere deep in our collective consciousness the values that have always defined the Northwest remain. Humility. Humour. Hard work. Practicality. A willingness to lend a hand. Happiness. And above all, a genuine desire to live in harmony with our neighbours.

These aren’t marketing slogans—they’re the character of the place.

When you work across Northwest Auckland every day, you become part of the communities that make this region so special. From Henderson and Massey to Westgate, Hobsonville, Kumeū, Huapai, Riverhead, Swanson and beyond, every suburb has its own personality, yet they all share a strong sense of community, resilience, and respect for people.

When you live and breathe Northwest Auckland, you can’t help but love it.

At West Auckland Property Management, we’ve been part of that story for more than 25 years. We’ve watched families grow, neighbourhoods evolve, and investment properties become homes. We’ve helped landlords protect their investments while helping tenants build stable, successful tenancies. In our own way, we’ve been making lives a little better—one property, one conversation, and one relationship at a time.

We believe that good property management creates more than well-maintained homes. It creates trust. It reduces stress. It encourages respectful relationships. It creates harmony within individual homes, which in turn contributes to stronger neighbourhoods and healthier communities.

Great property management is rarely about one big decision.

It is the accumulation of hundreds of small decisions, made thoughtfully, communicated clearly, and delivered consistently over time. Returning a phone call. Following through on a promise. Resolving maintenance before it becomes a problem. Treating everyone with fairness and respect. Explaining the “why,” not just the “what.”

These seemingly small moments build confidence.

For landlords, they provide peace of mind that their investment is being cared for professionally and with integrity. For tenants, they create certainty, stability, and a home where they feel respected. Over time, those small decisions produce better relationships, longer tenancies, fewer disputes, and stronger investment outcomes.

As a proudly independent, family-owned property management company, we know our business is ultimately about people. The houses matter, but the people living in them matter even more.

After more than 25 years serving Northwest Auckland, our purpose remains simple: to make property management personal, to create harmony wherever we can, and to continue supporting the communities we are proud to call home.

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Sarah Ball
Senior Property Relationship Manager



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ta West Auckland Property Management

027 499 8415
office@wapm.co.nz
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Hobsonville, Auckland





Brick & Tile – Corner Site – Summerland Primary

Character infused, soft tone brick construction, on a sunny flat corner site, offering a picture perfect setting, in one of the prettiest neighbourhoods in Henderson’s North West.

Offering four rooms, comprising three bedrooms and an office, two bathrooms, double garage with a single opening garage door. A fantastic separation between living and sleeping with two lounges, one being open plan, kitchen, dining, lounge area.

Easy indoor outdoor flow to fully fenced entertainers courtyard offering established plantings including lemons and oranges.

Motivated Owners are keen to move this asset and welcome interest from Investors and genuine buyers seeking a home that can meet the needs of a growing family. A rental appraisal is available and a purchase with Tenant in place is an option.



A short walk to Summerland Primary school and a short distance to secondary school options. Transport links include bus stops and rail stations a short distance away.

Never a better time to buy, while the market is a little sleepy.

1 Phippen Court, Henderson

For more information on this property call:

Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421 or you can email: graham.mcintyre@hobsonville.rh.co.nz

Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine and Horne Kumeu – Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008).



For more information on this property call:
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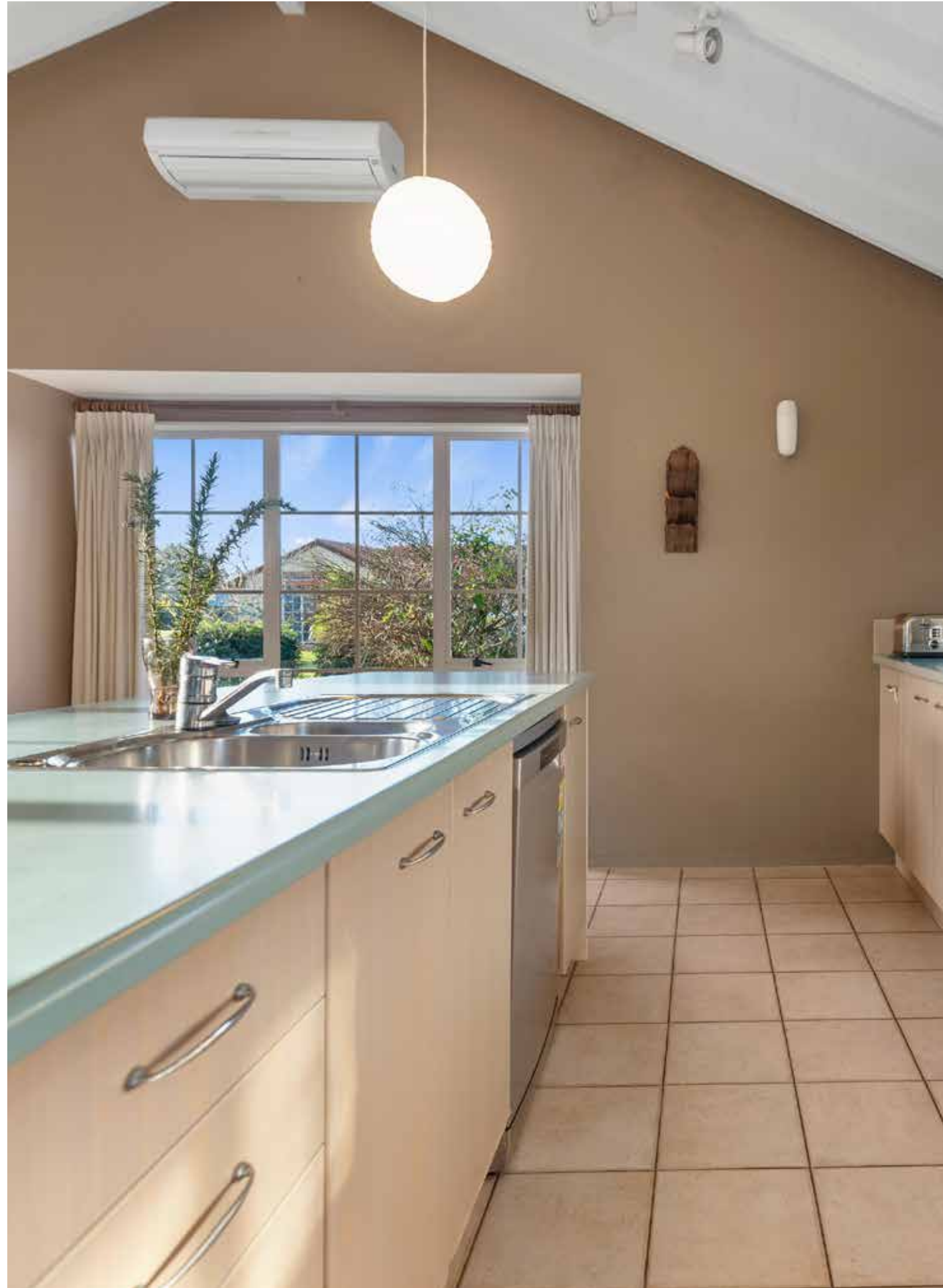


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- Free Hold
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- 2 Bathroom
- 2 Living areas
- 2 Internal garage
- Brick
- Land area 676 m2
- Healthy homes compliance
- Price by negotiation

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58 Turret Lane, Hobsonville

Near new - Book to view - Available

Viewing this property is by appointment call Graham on 0276320421 to book a suitable time/day.

The perfect blend of indoor-outdoor flow with all the comforts of a high spec build.

Don't be fooled, it's bigger than it looks offering uncompromised open plan kitchen, dining, lounge alfresco with easy double stack slider opening to decking and storage shed.

Upstairs, two toilets, full bathroom and two generous bedrooms.

Exceptional build, earthy tones, carpet, tile and natural wood laminate, this home has been crafted and coloured to provide a seamless buy-move-in experience.

Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421

Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine and Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008).



Featuring:

- Negotiation
- Freehold
- Floor area 84 m2
- Land area 99 m2
- 2 bedroom
- 1 bathroom
- Townhouse



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and independent agency, we have the freedom to put our clients first. There are no corporate scripts or one-size-fits-all marketing plans. Instead, we take the time to understand every client's circumstances, listen to their goals, and tailor a strategy that gives them the greatest opportunity for success.

Real estate is one of the biggest financial decisions most people will ever make, but it's also deeply personal. Behind every sale is a story. It might be a family's next chapter, a first home, a growing business, an investment for the future, or saying goodbye to a property filled with years of memories. We never lose sight of the trust our clients place in us during these important milestones.

At Burmester Realty, we're proud to call North West Auckland home. We live here, work here, and are passionate about supporting the communities that make this region such a special place to live. Our local knowledge, combined with innovative marketing and strong negotiation skills, allows us to consistently achieve outstanding results for our clients.

We're also proud to offer a complete property service. Whether you're buying, selling, investing, renting, or requiring professional property management, our experienced team is here to guide you every step of the way. It's this full-service approach that has earned us the reputation of being a true one-stop property shop.

Our success has never been measured simply by the number of properties we sell. It's measured by the relationships we build, the referrals we receive, and the confidence our clients have in recommending us to their family and friends. As the property market continues to evolve, one thing will never change at Burmester Realty: our commitment to honesty, integrity, exceptional service, and delivering the best possible outcome for every client. Because at the end of the day, real estate isn't just about property - it's about people.

Home & Garden

Whenuapai Floral & Garden Circle July 2026

Winter is here again so hope that you are keeping warm and dry. Perhaps time to take special care of those indoor plants which may dry out because of our indoor heating systems. Hanging plants especially may be neglected as they still need regular watering, not heaps but enough to put moisture in for the roots, so once a week should do quite nicely. Cyclamens and Peace Lilies seem the most popular choices for indoor plants. Peace lilies are reasonably hardy while cyclamen need a little more care.

When grown as an indoor plant, Cyclamen prefer an area of high light, but away from heat sources like fires or heaters. You might like to put your plant outside for a few days each week to help develop a stronger, sturdier plant and promote flowering. Overwatering kills more Cyclamen than any other cause.

Although the temperatures have been rather low, close to freezing in fact, it is encouraging to see some spring flowers out already. We have paperwhites, erlicheer and even daffodils, so spring is on its way and time to consider what to plant as soon as the ground is ready to start producing edible abundance for our tables. Seedlings can be raised indoors, or in a greenhouse if you have one, in readiness for planting out once they reach a good size.

If you would like to know more about our club, and wish to

join us, please phone Judy Garrity on 8335592. Meetings are held at 1 p.m. at 41 Waimarie Road, Whenuapai Village, on the second Thursday of the month with trips usually on the fourth Thursday. Entry fee is \$4 with another dollar per raffle ticket. Please note our club is currently in recess for winter with the next meeting in September.

Until next time, Happy Gardening from Mary Anne Clark

Are you affected by a compulsory land acquisition, designation or a notice of requirement?

- + Have you been notified that some or all of your property may be required for transport projects now or sometime in the next 10 to 30 years?
- + Thorn Law Limited is a specialist legal practice with extensive experience acting for land & building owners facing compulsory land acquisitions under the Public Works Act 1981.

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Winter is here and the temperature is certainly starting to dip. Winter brings the magic of roaring fires, warm soups, and cosy nights in – but it also comes with wetter days and chilly temperatures. So, how can you be plumbing smart this winter?

Hot Water Cylinders - There's nothing worse than waking up to no hot water on a cold winter morning. Make sure your hot water cylinder is heating efficiently and showing no signs of leaking. Even a small drip can lead to dampness, water damage, and wasted energy.

Gutters - Blocked gutters are one of the most common causes of roof leaks during winter. Clear away leaves and debris regularly so rainwater can flow freely and safely away from your roof and foundations.

Drains - Slow-draining showers, sinks, or basins can be early warning signs of a blockage. Don't forget to check outdoor drains too – backed-up drains can quickly lead to flooding during heavy rain.

Leaky Taps & Toilets - A dripping tap or leaking toilet may seem minor, but over time they can waste a surprising amount of water – and increase your water bill. Check both indoor and outdoor fixtures for leaks and repair them before they turn into costly problems. A little maintenance now can help prevent bigger plumbing headaches later – and keep your home warm, dry, and comfortable all winter long.

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drainlayers who can help with any of these issues. We offer no obligation quotes, so give us a call today!

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Contact Laser Plumbing & Roofing Whenuapai today for all your service needs on 09-417-0110 or whenuapai@laserplumbing.co.nz

When a blocked drain needs more than a plunger



The shower's draining more slowly than usual and the bathroom sink takes forever to empty. Your first instinct is usually to reach for a plunger or pour a drain-clearing product down the pipe. Sometimes that works... but if the problem keeps returning, it's often a sign that there's something more serious happening further down the line. While plungers and chemical cleaners can help clear minor blockages close to the surface, they can't remove lost toys, heavy grease and hair build-up, tree roots, collapsed pipes, or other issues hidden underground. In these situations, no amount of plunging, hot water, or drain products will provide a lasting solution.

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Call for any wastewater enquiries - we know our stuff!

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Many drainage issues start small and gradually worsen. What begins as a slow-draining shower can eventually become a complete blockage, resulting in unpleasant overflows, property damage, smells and, eventually, costly repairs.

That's where a CCTV pipe inspection comes in.

Using specialised cameras, our HydroVac technicians can inspect the inside of your underground drainage system without any digging or guesswork, for a less intrusive method of finding the issue. The camera travels through the pipework, providing a clear view of exactly what's causing the blockage or restricting flow.

Instead of repeatedly spending money on temporary fixes, a CCTV inspection can give you a clear diagnosis of the problem BEFORE any digging, so you can make an informed decision about the best course of action.

If you'd like to take guesswork out of the equation and solve that slow-draining sink, get in touch with the friendly HydroVac team for a CCTV pipe inspection: 0800 493 768 or service@hydrovac.co.nz

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At Western ITM, we're proud to supply quality farm, lifestyle and commercial pole sheds designed and built for Auckland conditions.

No two sheds are the same. Whether you need a hay barn, livestock shelter, equine stable, vehicle storage, workshop or even a livable dwelling (IL2), our sheds are fully customisable to suit your property-and more affordable than you think, with budgets to suit all sizes



and requirements.

In many cases, a single-level pole shed may not require building consent if it is:

- Under 110m²
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Western ITM can supply everything needed to bring your project together, from the shed package through to the building materials required for completion. If required, we can also connect you with trusted local builders for installation.

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Looking for inspiration? Visit the Pole Shed section of our website to view previous projects, or try the ITM 3D Shed Designer to create your ideal shed online. Prefer pen and paper? Our simple planning form makes it easy to sketch out your ideas.

From open-bay farm buildings to fully enclosed storage facilities, you can design a shed that works for you. Once measurements are confirmed, we'll prepare the plans* and provide a formal quote and delivery timeframe. *A deposit may be required.

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Don't wait for spring to find your winter drainage problems

Winter has a sneaky way of putting your property's drainage system through its paces. But this year, with a noticeably drier winter than we often experience, some drainage problems may be quietly developing underground - because unfortunately, drains are very good at keeping secrets until they're not.

As we start looking ahead to spring, now is a great time to check what winter may have uncovered before small warning signs turn into full-blown drainage dramas.

Start with your stormwater system. Cesspits, channel drains, catchpits and outdoor drains can still collect leaves, silt and debris, even during a drier winter. If these become restricted, the next decent downpour can quickly result in overflowing drains, surface flooding and water heading exactly where you don't want it.

One thing to be particularly mindful of after a dry spell is tree roots. When the surrounding soil is dry, roots naturally search for reliable sources of moisture - and a tiny crack or poorly sealed joint in a sewer or stormwater pipe can provide exactly that. Once roots find their way



inside, they can continue growing and create a perfect net for toilet paper and other debris to catch on, eventually causing a blockage.

If you've had a sewer blockage over winter - especially more than once - it may be worth investigating further. Repeatedly clearing a blockage without finding the cause is a bit like hitting snooze on your alarm: the problem usually comes back. A CCTV inspection can help reveal root intrusion, damaged pipes, displaced joints or sections of pipe holding water.

For homes with septic or wastewater treatment systems, now is also a good time to check pumps, alarms, filters and disposal fields for any signs of trouble.

A little maintenance now can prevent a much bigger headache later. Winter may have already given you the clues - you just need to know where to look.

And if the problem is hiding underground? Well, that's where the Ninjas come in.

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Planning to give your home a fresh new look this summer? Now is the perfect time to book your house repainting project.

Based locally, Focus On Painting has more than 10 years of experience helping Auckland homeowners with professional house repaints, including interior and exterior painting, roof painting and renovation repaints. The team focuses on quality preparation, attention to detail and a long-lasting finish.

A successful house repaint starts with the right preparation. From repairing damaged surfaces and careful sanding through to professional paint application, Focus On Painting ensures every stage is completed to a high standard.

With no subcontractors, homeowners work directly with the same experienced and tidy team from start to finish. This means clear communication, reliable service and confidence that your home is in good hands.

Summer is the busiest season for house repainting, so bookings can fill quickly. Reserve your place early to secure your preferred timing and have your home looking its best for the warmer months.

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Country Lane Storage is a privately-owned family business with 20 years in the storage industry, and a proud member of the Self Storage Association of Australasia. With over 75 units in a range of sizes, we've built our reputation on doing storage properly – clean, dry, and secure.

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Meet Your Local Business: Blackout Electric



Behind every great local business is a story, and for Blackout Electric, it's one built on hard work, family values, and a genuine passion for helping people.

Based in Waimauku, Blackout Electric is a family-owned electrical business servicing West Auckland, Rodney and surrounding areas. Owner and registered electrician Sebastian Weaver started the company with a simple goal – provide honest, reliable electrical services while treating every customer's home as if it were his own.

From replacing a light fitting to wiring new homes, installing EV chargers or creating stunning feature lighting, no job is too big or too small. The team takes pride in finding practical solutions and delivering workmanship that stands the test of time.

What makes Blackout Electric different isn't just the quality of their work—it's the relationships they build. They know that inviting a tradesperson into your home requires trust, so they focus on clear communication, turning up when they say they will, and leaving every job clean, tidy and completed to a high standard.

As a local family raising their own children in the community, supporting local means everything. Whether it's backing local sports clubs, supporting community initiatives, or simply helping neighbours with expert electrical advice, Blackout Electric believes strong communities are built by local businesses looking after local people.

For the team at Blackout Electric, every project is more than just another job—it's another opportunity to help make someone's home or business safer, brighter and ready for the future.



www.blackoutelectric.co.nz
info@blackoutelectric.co.nz
022 500 5856

Huapai Hub Comes Alive

Community Spirit Shines at Family Fun Day

Kyra Shaw-Toomey
kyra@rodneycommunity.org.nz

On June 20th, 2026, the Huapai Hub hosted its inaugural Family Fun Day, a vibrant event designed to foster local connection and play. Organized by the Rodney Community Team, the afternoon successfully brought neighbors together to celebrate our community and envision the future of the Hub.

In the afternoon, the area behind the Kumeu Arts Centre was filled with laughter and activity. The event featured a diverse range of entertainment for all ages, including Hungerball, Junk Play, face painting and a scavenger hunt hosted by the Kumeu library. Inside the art centre, families got creative with rock painting and a doodle table, with many parents joining in the fun alongside their children. The day was rounded out by a free sausage sizzle, courtesy of Green by Nature.

The success of the day was by a collaborative effort from local partners, including the Kumeu-Huapai Lions Club, Kumeu Arts, Kumeu Library and Green by Nature, with funding provided by the Rodney Local Board.

Beyond the activities, the event served as a platform for residents to voice their vision for the area. Community feedback highlighted a strong desire for more local initiatives, including:

- Community markets, dance classes, and cultural/food festivals
- Huapai playground, community kitchens, shared benches, and improved stage lighting
- Ongoing community-led classes for children

The Rodney Community Team expressed their appreciation for the turnout and the constructive input from the community. As the community continues to grow, the feedback gathered during this afternoon will help shape the future of the Huapai Hub as a shared community space.

Have ideas or want to be involved in our next community event? We’d love to hear from you. Please contact your local community facilitator, Kyra Shaw-Toomey, at kyra@rodneycommunity.org.nz



Riverhead Community

LEGO Club to Open Doors on August 23

Kyra Shaw-Toomey
kyra@rodneycommunity.org.nz

Riverhead is set to welcome a new community hub this spring, with the launch of the Riverhead Community LEGO Club – a free, locally run space designed to bring together builders of all ages through the shared joy of LEGO.

The club will hold its first session on Saturday, 23 August, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm, and organisers say the response so far has exceeded expectations.

“It is incredibly exciting to see how much appetite there is for a community LEGO space right here in Riverhead,” organisers said.

The club aims to be a warm, inclusive and sensory-friendly “third space” for the community – an alternative to the town’s well-established sports clubs. While Riverhead has plenty of options for young athletes, organisers say they wanted to offer something different: a calm, low-pressure environment where tamariki, especially neurodivergent builders, and their whānau can socialise and create without the overwhelm often associated with busier group activities.

Sessions will be open to everyone, from primary school children to teenagers and adult fans of LEGO, and will include thousands of bricks for building, alongside opportunities for parallel play, problem-solving and meeting neighbours. Organisers say the club will double as a low-key way for children and adults to develop STEM skills while forming new friendships.

A key focus for the founders is accessibility. Club sessions will be completely free to attend, ensuring cost is never a barrier for local whānau wanting to take part. However, running a club does come with ongoing expenses – including venue hire, heating, storage and expanding the club’s LEGO collection – so organisers say any koha, while entirely optional, would be gratefully received to help keep sessions running.

More session details will be announced via the club’s social media pages in the lead-up to opening day.

FB: @ Riverhead Community LEGO Club



Young Learners

Matariki at Gumboots

Matariki is a special time of year here at Gumboots, where our kaiako and tamariki come together to celebrate, reflect, create, and connect. It is a time to honour the Māori New Year, remember those who have passed, celebrate the present, and look forward with hope to the future.

One of our favourite ways to celebrate Matariki is through art. Creativity provides a wonderful opportunity for meaningful conversations, allowing our tamariki to explore the stories and significance of the Matariki stars in ways that are engaging and age appropriate. With paintbrushes in hand, our tamariki eagerly create beautiful stars using vibrant colours, shimmering glitter, and plenty of imagination. Every masterpiece is unique, reflecting each child’s creativity and personality.

These sparkling stars are proudly displayed throughout our classrooms, creating a colourful celebration for everyone to enjoy. Friends, whānau, and visitors are welcomed by these beautiful displays, which often spark conversations about what Matariki means and why it is such an important celebration in Aotearoa.

The fun doesn’t stop there. Our tamariki love extending their learning through play, and one of their favourite activities is hiding their glittering stars in the sandpit for friends to discover. The excitement of finding a hidden star brings smiles, laughter, and a sense of wonder. It encourages teamwork, curiosity, and kindness as children excitedly help each other search for these special treasures. These simple moments remind us that learning can happen everywhere and that joy is often found in sharing experiences together.

At Gumboots, we believe Matariki is also about bringing people together, which is why one of the highlights of our



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celebrations is our annual Matariki Disco. This much loved event is an opportunity to strengthen the relationships we have with our families and wider community. It is always wonderful to see our centre filled with music, dancing, laughter, and smiling faces.

Our disco is open to everyone. We warmly welcome siblings, grandparents, aunties, uncles, cousins, friends, and neighbours to join us for an evening of fun. Seeing multiple generations dancing together creates a real sense of belonging and reminds us how important strong community connections are for our tamariki. Whether it's showing off some impressive dance moves, sharing a laugh with friends, or simply enjoying time together, the disco is a celebration of togetherness.

Matariki reminds us to pause and appreciate the people around us, celebrate our achievements, and look ahead with optimism. At Gumboots, we feel incredibly fortunate to share these experiences with our tamariki and whānau each year. Through art, play, music, and community, we create lasting memories while nurturing an understanding of the values that Matariki represents.

As another Matariki season comes to a close, we are grateful for the connections we have built and strengthened. We look forward to continuing this treasured tradition for many years to come, celebrating not only the stars above us but also the wonderful community that shines so brightly here at Gumboots.



Community Spotlight: Waimauku Kindergarten



For local families, W a i m a u k u Kindergarten is more than just an early learning centre—it is a place where children grow, friendships are formed, and whānau become part of a welcoming community.

Located in the heart of Waimauku, the kindergarten provides a safe, caring and inspiring environment where tamariki are encouraged to learn through play, explore their surroundings, and develop confidence in their own unique way. Each day brings opportunities for creativity, discovery and connection, helping children build the foundations for a lifelong love of learning.

The passionate teaching team is dedicated to creating an environment where every child feels valued, supported and encouraged to shine. A strong focus on caring for our natural environment is woven into the kindergarten's everyday learning, and the team is proud to be actively involved with the Predator Free Muriwai movement. Through this connection, tamariki gain hands-on experiences learning about native wildlife, conservation, and the important role we all play in protecting our local environment.

Waimauku Kindergarten is proud to be a part of the local community, bringing families together and creating memories that last a lifetime.

If you would like to see what makes our kindergarten so special, we would love to welcome you for a visit. Come and meet our team, explore our beautiful environment, and experience the Waimauku Kindergarten difference for yourself.

18 Freshfields road, waimauku.



Spaces available

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Aged care

Celebrating five years of care-



that's 'good enough for Mum and Dad'

Recently, Keith Park Village celebrated a special milestone: five years of Kim Dawson as village manager. It's a milestone that captures everything Ryman's founding ethos is all about – providing care that's

'good enough for Mum and Dad'.

Kim joined the Keith Park team in June 2021, not long after the first residents moved in, and has been there ever since, helping shape the village from its earliest days into the close-knit community it is today. Ask her what she loves most about the job, five years on, and the answer is the same as it's always been: the people.

In fact, Kim's own parents, Zoelien and Brian, live right there in the village, in a three-bedroom apartment not far from her office. "It's a really busy job, and it's nice to be able to finish work on a Friday and pop in to see them for a G&T before I head home," she says.

Kim has always lived close to her parents, and that strong family bond was part of what led Zoelien and Brian to join the village themselves in early 2023. Brian quickly took to village life, enjoying the atmosphere and the freedom from home maintenance. Zoelien, a keen gardener, took a little longer to settle in – but now she's thriving.

"She's replaced the gardening with baking," Kim laughs, "so now we're all getting fat."

Several long-time family friends have since moved into Keith Park Village too, helping recreate the same close-knit community Kim's family enjoyed for decades before the move. Having her parents as residents has also influenced the way Kim leads. "I could see it through their eyes – how they were perceiving the whole move-in experience, and the information I was giving them. It gave me a whole new perspective on how I deliver it," she says. "That 'good enough for Mum and Dad' message holds true meaning to me."

Five years in, that's exactly the standard Kim continues

to hold herself to – not just for her own parents, but for every resident who calls Keith Park Village home.

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Grey Power backs Katikati pilot to help older homeowners downsize locally



Grey Power NZ Federation is supporting a proposed local pilot aimed at helping older homeowners downsize into warm, dry, accessible homes while remaining connected to their communities. The initiative responds to

a growing problem for seniors in their late 70s and 80s who own mortgage-free homes that are now larger than they need and increasingly difficult to maintain, but who cannot access bridging finance to subdivide, build, or commission a smaller local home.

Grey Power's research indicates that major banks are generally unwilling to consider bridging finance for retirees who rely mainly on NZ Superannuation.

As a result, many ageing seniors remain in poorly accessible three- and four-bedroom homes that are costly to heat, difficult to maintain, and increasingly unsuitable as their mobility changes. These homes could instead be made available for younger families to buy and renovate, while enabling retirees to stay in affordable, accessible homes close to their existing networks.

Grey Power raised the issue with Paul Gilberd, Chief Executive of Community Housing Aotearoa, who developed a pilot for Katikati, a rural town of about 5,500 residents where close to 40% of the population is aged over 60. The first stage will identify seniors who want to downsize and have a section that could potentially be subdivided. If initial valuations and costings are approved, the project would be managed without requiring any upfront financial contribution from the homeowner. Once completed, the retiree would move into a new accessible two-bedroom dwelling.

David Marshall, National President of Grey Power NZ Federation, said: "I am delighted that many senior homeowners who have previously found no way to downsize to an accessible home in their own communities may now have a viable option to live independently while remaining locally connected".





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Aged Care

Netsafe are running a scam workshop



Come along to Netsafe's Scam Workshop. Learn how to spot a scam before it happens and discover simple, practical ways to protect yourself and others from being scammed. We'll cover common scam tactics, warning signs to look out for, and what to do if something doesn't feel right. You'll also have access to free resources you can take away and use at home. Everyone is welcome – bring a friend or family member along. Stay informed, stay safe online.

This will take place on Wednesday 26 August from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the Meeting Room at Sunderland Lounge, Cinema Road, Hobsonville Point. Mandarin support will be provided.

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Matariki Celebrations and a Special Seaside Outing

Craigweil House residents embraced the spirit of Matariki with a week of celebration, connection and fun.

Residents and staff came together for a lively Matariki celebration filled with music, dancing and laughter. Everyone got on their feet for the Matariki Macarena, while staff delighted the audience with a special presentation song that had residents singing along and clapping to the beat. The afternoon continued with fun games, plenty of smiles and a delicious Matariki afternoon tea shared by all.

As part of the Matariki celebrations, residents also enjoyed a special van trip to visit our sister facility, The Beachfront Home & Hospital in Stanmore Bay. Blessed with beautiful weather, they shared a lovely afternoon tea with residents and staff before spending time admiring the stunning beachfront setting. The visit provided a refreshing change of scenery, an opportunity to make new friendships, and a chance to enjoy the peaceful coastal views together.

At Craigweil House, creating meaningful experiences and lasting memories is part of everyday life. Whether celebrating special occasions or heading out on community outings, there is always something to look forward to.

If you are looking for a warm, welcoming place for yourself or a loved one, we invite you to come and see Craigweil House for yourself. We'd love to show you around. PH 094208277





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Health & Beauty

Ask Dr. Heather

FACIAL VOLUME LOSS



"I've lost weight on Wegovy and I'm happy with my body, but my face looks older. My cheeks look flatter, my under-eyes look hollow, and my skin feels looser. What is happening? Can anything help?"

Anon, West Harbour

You are not imagining it, and you are certainly not alone.

The phrase "Ozempic face" gets thrown around online for GLP-1s (glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists) such as Wegovy, but the medicine itself is not damaging your face.

Fat pads in the cheeks, temples and around the eyes shrink when you lose weight, so the skin sitting over them has less support, making folds, hollows and laxity more noticeable. It is the same volume loss we associate with ageing, just arriving faster. Your face is simply sharing in the weight loss with the rest of you.

It can feel unfair. You do something good for your health and your face decides to have an identity crisis. Helpful? No. Common? Increasingly, yes.

The reassuring part is that there are treatments that can help. Carefully placed filler by a skilled injector can restore structure and volume without adding puffiness. Skin treatments such as Profhilo®, Radiesse®, Sculptra® and microneedling can also help, depending on whether your main issue is volume loss, laxity, texture, or a mix of all three.



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Dr. Heather Anderson
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www.allor.co.nz

The goal isn't to undo your weight loss. It is to celebrate your weight loss wins and help your face look supported, rested and like you again.

Dr. Heather Anderson is a Cosmetic and Emergency Doctor who practises in her own clinic at ALLOR Cosmetic Medicine in Whenuapai and features in the All or Nothing Podcast where she discusses self-worth and other aspects of cosmetic medicine (available on Spotify, Youtube and iHeartRadio). If you have a question you would like answered anonymously, email askdrheather@allor.co.nz

Winter Hair Revitalisation at Zash Hair



Winter elements inflict severe damage on your hair. Freezing outdoor air combined with intense indoor heating strips away natural moisture. This leaves your strands brittle, dull, and highly prone to breakage. While regular conditioners only coat the surface, a professional deep conditioning treatment at Zash Hair penetrates deep into the hair cuticle to restore core health.

Our specialised winter treatments deliver intensive hydration. We use premium, nutrient-rich formulas



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packed with essential oils, proteins, and vitamins. These ingredients target dry zones, repair structural damage, and lock in moisture for weeks. You will notice an immediate transformation in texture, elasticity, and shine.

Additionally, winter weather creates static and stubborn frizz. Deep conditioning seals the hair cuticle, eliminating static and making your hair incredibly manageable. It also shields your hair from future environmental stress and heat styling damage.

Do not let the cold weather ruin your hair. Visit Zash Hair this season to give your locks the deep nourishment they deserve. Our expert stylists will customise a treatment perfectly suited to your specific hair type. Mention our ad on booking your next appointment to receive a complimentary treatment on us!

We look forward to seeing you in the salon soon.

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The power of skin infusions



SWAN Skin Wellbeing and Nutrition, Kumeu

Sarah Tumulty - Functional Skincare Practitioner

Imagine giving your skin the ingredients it needs exactly where they're needed most. That's the power of a skin infusion.

A skin infusion is an advanced facial treatment designed to help professional ingredients penetrate far more effectively than simply sitting on the skin's surface. At SWAN Skin Wellbeing & Nutrition, I use the Osmosis Beauty RevitaPen Pro to gently create temporary pathways through the skin's outermost layer, enhancing the delivery of customised active ingredients—without needles, damage, peeling or downtime.

Unlike treatments that rely on removing layers of skin or creating inflammation, Osmosis Infusions work with your skin, supporting its natural barrier while helping it



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become healthier, stronger and more radiant over time.

Because every skin is unique, no two infusions are the same. Whether you're concerned about the visible signs of ageing, pigmentation, acne, rosacea, scarring or a compromised skin barrier, your treatment is tailored specifically to your skin's unique needs.

Professional infusion options may include Exosomes to support skin renewal, Liposomes to enhance ingredient delivery and Retinaldehyde (Vitamin A) to encourage healthy cell renewal and collagen production. Each treatment is further personalised with customised serums, facial massage and professional masks to complement your infusion.

At SWAN, you can choose from three customised Infusion treatments: Essential (one infusion), Advanced (two infusions) or Complete (all three infusion technologies combined).

Every treatment begins with a comprehensive consultation so we can understand your skin, lifestyle and goals before creating your personalised treatment plan.

If you're looking for a gentler, science-backed approach to healthier skin, I'd love to help. Book your consultation today and discover how a personalised SWAN Skin Infusion can help your skin look and feel its very best.

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When redness is more than sensitive skin



Many people with rosacea do not come in saying, "I think I have rosacea." More often, they say their skin is sensitive, easily irritated, flushed, dry, bumpy, or that it reacts to everything.

That is one of the reasons rosacea can be so frustrating. It can look different from person to person, and it is often mistaken for acne, sensitivity, sun damage, eczema, or simply "bad skin". People may spend years changing products, stripping back routines, trying stronger actives, or avoiding everything, without ever feeling like they are getting on top of it.

Rosacea is not caused by poor skincare, and it is not something you can simply exfoliate or "active ingredient" your way out of. It is a chronic inflammatory skin condition involving the skin barrier, immune system, blood vessels and environmental triggers. For some people, it mainly shows as redness and flushing. For others, it includes visible capillaries, stinging, dryness, swelling, texture changes or acne-like bumps.

The important part is working out what pattern is showing up in your skin, because rosacea care is not one-size-fits-all.

At Restore Cosmed, like everything we do, we take a doctor-led approach to redness and rosacea. That means looking properly at your skin, your history, your current routine, your triggers and your goals before deciding what will help. For some people, the first step is calming the skin barrier. For others, prescription treatments, LED, IPL or vascular laser may be appropriate.

Our focus is always on helping you understand your skin, reduce flare-ups, build a realistic long-term plan that feels manageable and help you get skin you are happy in.

If your skin feels constantly red, reactive or unpredictable, you do not need to keep guessing. A consultation is the best place to start.

Restore Cosmed is located at 20 Matua Road, Huapai. Book at www.restorecosmed.co.nz.

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A Warm Welcome to For Eyes' New Optometrist



For Eyes Optometrists in Kumeū is delighted to welcome experienced optometrist Sushmita Chinchankar to the practice.

Sushmita completed her secondary education at Lynfield College before graduating with a Bachelor of Optometry (Honours) from the University of Auckland.

Sushmita brings a wealth of experience to For Eyes, most recently working alongside ophthalmologists at the Eye Institute. This specialist background has given her extensive experience with the advanced diagnostic technology that For Eyes use in the management of a wide range of eye conditions. Additionally, Sushmita is therapeutically endorsed, so can prescribe a range of eye medications.

Patients will also appreciate Sushmita's warm, friendly nature and genuine commitment to providing personalised care. Her natural NZ accent and welcoming manner are sure to be a hit with everyone she meets.

Following maternity leave, Sushmita was looking for an opportunity closer to home in Te Atatū and is excited to become part of the Kumeū community.

"We're thrilled to have Sushmita join our team," says founding optometrist Matthew Whittington. "Her clinical expertise, caring approach, and passion for helping people make her a wonderful fit for our practice. We know our patients will enjoy getting to know her."

Sushmita is now welcoming new and existing patients at For Eyes Kumeū; phone 094128172 to book an appointment.

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Area Columnists

Sayers says it



By Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers

By Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers. We must keep Muriwai's recovery moving. When I spoke at Auckland Council recently, I called for staff to accelerate projects that will help Muriwai

continue its recovery from the devastating 2023 storms.

While much has been achieved over the past three years, many residents are still living with the trauma and practical impacts of that devastating event.

Muriwai has endured more than most communities could imagine. The landslides devastated homes and neighbourhoods, and we tragically lost two volunteer firefighters who gave their lives trying to help others. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Many property owners who accepted voluntary buy-outs have now been able to move on. However, many others remain in the community and continue rebuilding their lives.

The message I've consistently heard is that Auckland Council was not adequately prepared for an emergency of this scale. The initial response was too slow, communication was poor, and confidence was shaken. While significant improvements have been made, Council must now focus on the practical steps that will help Muriwai recover faster.

Two priorities are rebuilding the Sand Dunz Café, which closed because of safety concerns, and reopening the gannet colony walking tracks.

The Sand Dunz Café is far more than just a building. It is a community meeting place, a destination for visitors, and an important symbol that Muriwai is rebuilding. Every effort is being made to accelerate this project.

Fortunately, the Council has been working constructively with the local community on the café's redesign. For more details please feel free to contact the Muriwai Community Association via the email: muriwaicommunityassociation@gmail.com

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All of the gannet colony tracks will reopen to the public well before summer, with the refurbished café anticipated to be open by summer next year. Temporary food vendors will continue to operate until then.

Recovery is about more than replacing buildings and infrastructure. It's about restoring confidence, rebuilding community spirit, and showing the people of Muriwai that Auckland Council stands alongside them.

I will continue advocating for practical measures that help Muriwai, and our other communities, recover ensuring they receive the attention and investment they deserve.

August at Kumeu Arts



August brings two compelling exhibitions that explore our connection to place, culture and the natural world. In the Main and Pip Galleries, Leigh Munro's Basalt and Breakers draws inspiration from the dramatic landscapes of Muriwai and rural North Auckland. Through expressive abstraction and vibrant colour, Munro captures the energy,

movement and emotional resonance of the land, sea and sky. In the Pod Gallery, Jaine Rubine's Conversations (A Fusion of Spirit) creates a dialogue between the fibres of her two homes—Fiji's Masi and New Zealand's Muka. Woven through story, memory and cultural connection, these works explore the shared spirit of materials, people and place. Complementing the exhibitions is an exciting programme of creative workshops. Learn ceramics in our beginner-friendly Two-Day Wheel Throwing Pottery Course, or explore painting and self-expression in Unlocking the Artist Within, an inspiring oil painting workshop.

Join us this August to experience, create and connect through art. www.kumeuarts.org

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Kumeū Kids Market Returns This August



The Kumeū Kids Market is back this August for its fourth year, celebrating the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of local children.

Last year's event was a huge success, with amazing handmade products, music and lots of fun. This year promises to be even better, with around 40 stalls selling everything from candles, scrunchies, jewellery and crochet items to 3D-printed creations, plants and recycled toys.

There will also be plenty of delicious treats—cupcakes, cookies, slices, cotton candy, nachos and drinks—all run by kids.

Organised by Elisabetta Tamburini (14) from Taupaki, the market is a Lions Club sponsored event aims to raise money for the Child Cancer Foundation charity through the stall fees and raffles, while helping children build confidence, develop business skills and make some money for themselves plus have fun selling from their stalls.

Entry is free, come along and support our talented young locals!

Sunday 16 August, 10am–1pm. Kumeū Community Centre, Access Road

Line dancing’s hidden power



By Helyn Corric who says her background as a counsellor indicates line dancing reduces isolation, builds confidence and supports emotional wellbeing.

Line dancing looks like fun. People gather, music plays, and everyone moves together in rhythm.

It is an activity that nourishes both body and mind, creating friendships, boosting confidence, and strengthening communities.

Dancing encourages the brain to concentrate on remembering steps, coordinating movements, and keeping time with the music. This mental engagement

helps improve memory, attention, and cognitive flexibility. Learning new dances also provides a sense of achievement, giving participants confidence that they can continue learning at any age.

Music stimulates the release of feel-good chemicals in the brain, helping reduce stress and lift mood. Many dancers describe leaving a class feeling happier and more relaxed. For people experiencing loneliness, anxiety, or low mood, line dancing can become a valuable part of maintaining emotional wellbeing.

Line dancing creates a sense of community. It doesn't matter whether you're young or old, experienced or a complete beginner. People dance side by side, encouraging one another and celebrating each other's progress. Friendships develop through shared laughter, conversation, and regular attendance.

For older adults, line dancing provides an opportunity to stay socially connected. Research has shown that strong social relationships contribute to better mental health, reduced loneliness, and longer life expectancy. Many people who initially join for the exercise continue because of friendships.

Line dancing is an excellent low-impact exercise, improving cardiovascular fitness, balance, coordination, flexibility, and leg strength. Better balance and coordination can reduce the risk of falls, particularly among older adults.

A psychological benefit also comes from moving together as a group. When people dance in synchrony, they often experience a stronger sense of belonging and connection.

You don't need a partner, expensive equipment, or previous experience. Beginners quickly discover mistakes are part of the fun, and more experienced dancers are usually eager to help newcomers feel comfortable.

This welcoming atmosphere builds confidence and encourages people to keep coming back.

Line dancing is exercise for the body, stimulation for the mind, nourishment for the spirit, and a bridge to meaningful friendships. Every class offers an opportunity to laugh, learn, move, and belong.

Lions’ book fair successful



A Huapai-Kumeu Lions Book Fair on May 23 and 24 was successful despite a sudden venue change.

Co-ordinator Jack Hayes says a cat show and other functions meant the Kumeu Community Centre was booked out so the book fair moved to the old Signature Homes venue at the Kumeu

Village (Signature Homes is now in the former Harcourts Realty premises at the village),

Jack says book fair attendance was great despite the venue change with many families calling in to take advantage of \$1 books for children with all the rest \$2 each.

A few were even free.

A “pop-up” book fair continued for about a week.

Massey High School netball team members helped with the book fair to raise funds for their trip to England and Wales, October 4-12, this year.

Pictured with Jack are helpers (from left) goal keep and goal defence Paige Andrew and wing attack and wing defence Dakota Pegler, both of Riverhead, centre and wing attack Lyla Deros, wing defence and goal shooter Xanthia Pasene, and centre and wing attack Helena Whyte.

About 20 netball girls have to raise about \$6000 each and have further fundraisers at their school.

Visit the school's Facebook page for more information.

Keeping in Touch with the Grandkids:



How Kumeu SeniorNet Bridges the Gap

Distance doesn't have to mean growing apart, especially in an era where we can connect with loved ones at the touch of a button. However, if you aren't quite sure which button to press, that digital gap can feel incredibly wide. At Kumeu SeniorNet, we are passionate about using technology for what it does best: bringing people closer together. Lately, our club has placed a special focus on helping members stay connected with family and friends, whether they live just down the road in Auckland or halfway across the world. In our recent interactive workshops, we walked

through the ins and outs of popular modern messaging apps like WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger. Our members learned how to navigate these platforms safely, send beautiful photos of their gardens and pets, make crystal-clear video calls, and type replies into the family group chats with ease.

Learning these skills opens up a whole new world of regular contact with grandchildren and old friends. If you would love to feel more confident using your phone to chat, video call, or share memories, we would love to welcome you into the fold. Our main monthly meeting is held at St. Chad's Church in Huapai at 10:00 am on the first Wednesday of the month. Why not drop in for a chat, a cuppa, and a chance to take control of your phone?

The Village Market Helensville Showgrounds



Sunday 16th August 8.30am to 1pm

With over 50 stalls we have something for everyone - a barn for your garden, preserves to top up your pantry, fresh fruit & veg, some artwork for the home, something gorgeous for yourself and delicious treats from the market café, fresh coffee, Lions sausage sizzle - we have you covered. Plus enjoy great music from duo Gillian & Mike while you browse. Can't wait to see you all there - a great morning out for the family

No dogs please with the exception of assistance dogs. Gold coin donation for parking - proceeds to the Helensville/Kaukapakapa scouts and St John youth.

For more information contact sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz

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Four women in dark blue shirts standing in front of a yellow car.

A case of mistaken identity



Recently Te Awaroa Museum had an enquiry regarding the founder of Helensville, John McLeod and a lady named Agnes Brown. There were historic records showing that Agnes

Brown had married John McLeod in 1862, but it is known that the founder of Helensville married Helen Alexander.

The confusion possibly stems from the Henderson Mill in the 1850’s where two men named

John McLeod were both employed by the mill’s owners Thomas Henderson and John McFarlane.. Before he was the founder of Helensville, John McLeod was employed at the Henderson Mill in 1854 as the Manager of the Mill.

Then in 1857, Thomas Henderson cleared the land around the Mill to create Delta Farm. He employed a Shepherd named John McLeod to manage the farm and animals. Then to avoid confusion he was nicknamed “Shepherd John”.

The founder of Helensville, the manager of the mill was nicknamed “Long John”. “Shepherd John” was married to Agnes Brown in 1862 at the Henderson Mill and they are buried together in the All Saints Cemetery in Kaukapakapa with one of their daughters Frances.

“Long John” sailed back to Nova Scotia in 1861 to retrieve his wife Helen Alexander and their children, returning to NZ aboard the Seagull, and settling in Te Awaroa, renaming it Helensville in 1862.

The mill is believed to have ceased production in 1868. “Shepherd John” in 1873 was granted the license for the Oratia/Falls Hotel in Henderson. In 1876 he left for Henderson with Agnes for Kaukapakapa where they remained until their passing.

“Long John” is buried in Rhode Island, and his wife Helen Alexander is buried at the Waikumete Cemetery.

Written by Dante Numa for Te Awaroa Museum.

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Area Columnists

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6Fs of Anxiety

Many people are aware of the 3Fs of anxiety – fight, flight & freeze. As a therapist I see 6Fs. When we are stressed, overwhelmed, frightened or our mind perceives something as a threat, real or imagined, it will go to one of these responses, if there is no help available.

Fight – irritability, anger at partner/family/work colleagues, aggression, resentment, outbursts, controlling, bullying, stubborn & can’t hear other’s points of view.

Flight – fearful, panic, avoid, worry, leave jobs, end relationships, leave where you are, rush around, always on the go, busy, overachieving, can’t sit still or relax, micromanaging situations, sick days & avoidance of stressors.

Freeze – stuck, worry but not act, watch tv or scroll phone, do nothing, procrastinate, overthink stressors, withdrawal, isolation, low energy, spacing out, couch potato, brain fog, difficulty making decisions.

Fawn – people pleasing, avoid conflict, prioritise others’ needs over your own, difficulty saying no, not setting boundaries, scared to say what you really think or feel, flatter others to avoid conflict, convince attacker not to hurt you by going along with them.

Faint – faint completely (play dead), dizzy & lightheaded, blurry vision, apathy, tired/fatigue, weak, unmotivated, & sleeping more than usual.

Fix – try to change or fix yourself, self-help books, Google searches, therapy, perfectionism, stop doing or saying things, try to ‘fix’ or change other people.

Some of us have ones that we regularly go to, and others cycle through them all. Using hypnosis I help people overcome anxiety. If you need help get in touch. I also run The Joy Club (Dark Dancers). Thursday night 7:30pm, Waimauku War Memorial Hall. Come along & experience the joy of dancing in the dark. This helps me shake out the built-up energy of anxiety.

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Penk’s Pen – steady progress with strong communities

Chris Penk – MP for Kaipara Ki Mahurangi

It is fantastic to be able to spend an extended time in the beautiful Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorate after a few busy sitting weeks in Wellington and a

recent trip to the NATO Summit in Turkey. I have thoroughly enjoyed being back and driving around our local winter landscapes and catching up with constituents—even if I’m a bit harder to spot right now in my unmarked car!

Speaking of getting around the electorate recently, it is great to see so much activity and earthworks up and down the electorate, even if it means navigating the inevitable “stop/go” signs. While inconvenient for the daily commute, they are ultimately welcome signs of tangible progress laying the foundation for our future. And as such I am delighted to confirm that the next stage of vital SH16 upgrades are fully funded and moving ahead, and the Mill Flat Road Bridge is finally receiving its finishing touches (see cheesy photo!). While we might all quite understandably wish these projects were completed faster, steady progress wins the race and allows for the vital community engagement that keeps our democracy robust and grounded.

This activity is also a welcome reminder that, despite recent economic hurdles and fuel shocks, our local businesses are getting back to basics, and I remain quietly confident in a bright future for our great corner of the country.

There is still much more to be done though, of course, so please keep the conversations coming and I look forward to seeing you out and about or hearing from you through the electorate office in Kumeū soon.

Chris Penk

MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

Here to help

134 Main Road, Huapai • christopherpenk@parliament.govt.nz • 09 412 2496

National

Authorised by Chris Penk, 134 Main Road, Huapai.

Cat lovers we need your help



The NZ Cat Foundation operates a sanctuary in Huapai that is home to more than 150 rescued cats. Our sanctuary provides a safe, lifelong haven for older, disadvantaged, and unhomeable cats, allowing them to live out their lives in comfort, security, and with the care they deserve.

Volunteers play a vital role in helping us maintain the sanctuary and ensure our cats enjoy happy, healthy lives. We are always looking for reliable and compassionate volunteers who are responsible, work well as part of a team, and have a genuine love of animals.

Volunteering at the sanctuary is also an excellent way to complete community service requirements for programmes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, St John, Scouts, Guides, church groups, university placements, animal science studies, and more. We are happy to verify and sign off volunteer hours as required.

As a charity, we rely heavily on the support of volunteers and urgently need more people to join our team.

We also gratefully welcome financial donations and contributions of cat food to help cover veterinary expenses and the ongoing costs of caring for our sanctuary residents. In addition, The NZ Cat Foundation supports community Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programmes and assists with feeding and caring for vulnerable cats living in the community.

To learn more about volunteering or making a donation, please visit our website at -

www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz.

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SLSNR awards of excellence



Surf Life Saving Northern Region (SLSNR) commemorated a season of challenges at the annual 2025-26 Toyota Financial Services Northern Region Awards of Excellence at Shed 10 in downtown Auckland on Saturday, July 4.

Northern Region General Manager Zac Franich says the night showcased the tremendous work of clubs and individuals, celebrated the year's achievements and honoured the exceptional contributions of the surf lifesaving community.

"We are incredibly proud of all the awardees this year and the fantastic achievements of our surf lifesaving community," he says.

Zac says the scale of the service reflects both rising beach demand and the dedication of the lifeguard community.

"West coast clubs in particular patrolled through relentless surf and fast-changing conditions, and we saw a significant rise in after-hours and high-risk activity," he says. "We wouldn't be a successful organisation without the long-standing commitment of these individuals who have put in years of dedicated service to keep our coastlines safe."

The BP Rescue of the Year went to the Muriwai Volunteer Lifeguard Service's Paid Lifeguard Service and Search and Rescue squad for a resuscitation on Monday evening, December 8, 2025.

A swimmer got into difficulty in a dangerous section of surf as patrol members were packing up. Lifeguards took rescue equipment into the water while teammates mobilised first aid resources and prepared for a critical patient response, says Zac.

The patient regained a pulse and began breathing independently after multiple rounds of CPR and coordinated advanced patient care, before being handed to emergency services. Evelyn Michael of the Muriwai Volunteer Lifeguard Service won the Junior Surf Contribution of the Year award, while Bryce Pearce won the BP Outstanding Contribution to Powercraft.

Catherine Nankivell was a finalist in the Aon Developing Surf Sports Official of the Year and Charlotte McIntyre was a finalist in the Under 14 Sportswoman of the Year

Kumeu Library



Celebrate the stories of our city this August with Auckland Libraries' reading and writing festival, We Read Auckland, with quick-access books, free author events and writing workshops featuring top writers from Tamaki Makaurau. The Bestie collection will have fantastic books written by Auckland authors. Selected titles will also be available on Libby and Overdrive. Full details are on our website (www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/en/we-read-auckland.html).

Kumeū Library is hosting a free Falls Prevention Workshop on Thursday 13 August at 10:30am. Maintaining strength and balance is essential for staying active and independent, and many falls can be prevented with the right knowledge and support. Led by a Harbour Sport Community Strength & Balance Trainer, this practical session will provide simple, effective tips to help you stay steady on your feet.

August is Poetry Month, and Kumeū Library is holding a Book Spine Poetry Contest – simply select between three and eight books, audiobooks or DVDs and create an original poem from the titles on the spines. At least one of the titles must be an Auckland Libraries' item. There are two sections: 13 years and under, and over 14 years, with great prizes. Competition closes 28 August. Details on (www.facebook.com/kumeulibrary).



award. James Kendrick from the Bethells Beach Surf Life Saving Patrol was Duty Officer of the Year and the club's Daniel Harvey Instructor of the Year and a finalist for Examiner of the Year. Bethells Beach was a finalist in the Search and Rescue Squad of the Year while Isabella Barrowman was a finalist for the Rookie Lifeguard of the Year award.

Mairangi Bay claimed 10 of the 34 awards and swept senior sporting honours. Red Beach was named Yamaha Club of the Year with a strong season that also delivered four awards. Piha gained five awards with Karel Witten-Hannah named DHL Lifeguard of the Year, while United North Piha Lifeguard Service won two awards.

RODNEY COMMUNITY

Kyra Shaw-Toomey

Community Facilitator - Kumeū & Surrounds

kyra@rodneycommunity.org.nz

I hope you had a great Matariki, gathering and connecting with whānau and friends. Our team just delivered over 25 free school holiday activities thanks to support from Rodney Local Board and our partner organisations. Here in Waimauku & Kumeū we had two free Circus Kumarani programs, Adaptive Skateboarding lessons and Kids Woodworking Classes.

Last term, our free Tai Chi Community classes at Kumeū Community Centre were a hit and I was so touched to hear how much people enjoyed them. This term, they're back with a small fee of \$10 per class. Every Thursday, we have Everstrong Senior Group Fitness. I recommend you register asap with Racheal: ptwithrach@gmail.com or 021 146 6410

Upcoming projects I am working on include a series called She Connects, Community Chats and a Biodynamics Workshop. Catch me at Kumeū Market on August 16th where I'll have a table and kids crafts. Come say hi and let's talk about what we can do together!

Community activities: Aug - Oct 2026

TAI CHI CLASSES

Thursdays 1pm-2pm | Term 3 & 4

Kumeū Community Centre

\$10 class

EVERSTRONG SENIOR GROUP FITNESS

Thursdays 10:30-11:30am until Sep 24th

Kumeū Community Centre

WILD STREETS OF PLAY

Friday October 2nd 10am-2pm

Huapai Hub

Visit our website:

www.rodneycommunity.org.nz/whats-on/

Find out what's on in Kumeū and surrounding areas.

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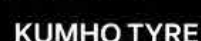
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