



March 2026

FREE monthly community magazine for Kumeu  
& surrounding townships

# Kumeu

## Courier

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

**MTF Finance Kumeu**  
**NEW Location- 49 Main Rd**



## Greetings

Greetings

Sigh! Another year about to fly by.

Parents and kids off to work or school.

The economy is slowly crawling back but the cost of living is still high – just check the latest rates bill.

Economists generally say we're turning the corner this year and forecast better times – I certainly hope so.

Some are even picking one interest rate rise this year, probably after the November general election.

Inflation is around 3%, prompting the Reserve Bank of New Zealand to make more conciliatory moves.

Many major banks have already hiked interest rates for long-term loans anyway, suggesting most want to make money and bringing calls for more support for contributors.

Help is offered for hardship – something we're already considering in light of a main breadwinner's heart issues (not me or my wife I might add).

As autumn moves through (daylight saving ends April 5 this year when clocks "fall" back an hour) and we head for winter I wonder what the rest of this year will bring?

More departures (from both New Zealand and this world), fewer wars, more Trump talk, less State Highway 16 traffic congestion, and an easier lifestyle for all of us?

I hope so – although I could do without the departures and Trump's rhetoric.

Guess we'll soon find out.

The housing market is also expected to ease. That's likely to mean more properties for sale (see our Property section inside).

I had expected a dry late summer and autumn, with possible tank supply repercussions and increased fire risk.

So far I've been proven wrong but high temperatures (we're heading for the fourth warmest year on record) and climate change still worry me.

Sure, some flooding happened in the Kumeu and Waimauku areas earlier this year but it was not as bad as the early 2023 events.

It makes me wonder what the 2026-2027 summer will bring – and even winter this year.

Editor , Geoff Dobson



## What's inside

- 3 People & Places
- 9 Safer Communities
- 10 Community News
- 16 Food & Beverage
- 17 Property Hub
- 19 Property News
- 24 Property Statistics
- 28 Property Market
- 41 Home & Garden
- 49 Young Learners
- 51 Aged Care
- 54 Health & Beauty
- 57 Area Columnists

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## People & Places

KUMEUCOURIER.CO.NZ

### Local lending with heart: Gerrie Cashmore and the MTF Kumeū story



For Gerrie Cashmore, community has always been at the centre of everything she does. Eight years ago, she and her family moved to a farm on the west coast and quickly identified Kumeū as a place they wanted to put down roots.

"We were drawn to the strength of the community and the way people here support small, local businesses," Gerrie says. "There's a real sense of connection. You only need to watch the Christmas parade to understand what community means to the people who live here."

That same community focus is highlighted in her work as owner of MTF Kumeū, a locally owned finance business helping people and businesses access lending solutions tailored to their needs.

Gerrie's professional journey began in the equestrian industry in Europe before she moved to New Zealand in 2006 with her Kiwi husband and young daughter. Her connection to MTF came through family, initially partnering in the Penrose franchise before taking a majority share after learning the ropes.

"It was important to me to run a locally owned finance business so I could be close to the people we're lending to and understand their needs," she says. "It's about relationships, not transactions."

MTF Kumeū supports a wide range of customers,



from young people buying their first car to small business owners investing in growth, and families consolidating debt or managing important life moments.

"Last year we saw an increase in personal lending, particularly people wanting to restructure credit cards into something more manageable," Gerrie explains. "We also work with many small business owners looking to expand, whether that's purchasing assets or securing working capital."

What sets MTF apart is its flexibility and accessibility. Customers can apply online or sit down for a coffee and talk through their options, with many loans approved within the hour once information is provided.

Gerrie recalls helping a local business owner secure a vehicle to expand their rental fleet. "They found the perfect vehicle and didn't want to miss out. We approved the loan while they were driving to view it, and the seller was paid shortly after. That vehicle has been earning income for them ever since."

For Gerrie, responsible lending is about enabling opportunity.

"I love being part of a process that helps people move forward, whether that's growing a business or supporting important family milestones," she says.

As Kumeū continues to grow, Gerrie is excited to grow alongside it. "We're looking forward to expanding our services and introducing new products to meet the evolving needs of this incredible community."

**Gerrie Cashmore**

MTF Kumeū

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Geraldine Cashmore Limited, trading as MTF Kumeū, is a locally owned and independently operated MTF franchise.

## Employer Pro: Practical Employment Law Support Built for Employers

**Navigating employment law in New Zealand is complex. Legislative changes, heightened awareness of employee rights, access to 'no-win no fee' employment advocates, higher financial awards imposed on employers for personal grievance claims and increased regulatory scrutiny mean even small missteps can be costly for employers.**



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Kent Duffy LLB/BA is the Director of Employer Pro. He is an experienced Employment Relations Consultant with over a decade of legal experience focused solely on supporting employers. A graduate of the University of Auckland's Faculty of Law, he combines a deep technical knowledge of New Zealand employment legislation with strong commercial acumen and advocacy to empower employers.

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## People & Places

### Waimauku Kindergarten



Waimauku Kindergarten has a commitment to kaitiakitanga embracing the Predator Free movement. Over several years, kaiako, tamariki and whanau have built up a successful trapping programme with a variety of predators being caught. What began as a connection soon became commitment, learning, and collective purpose for our kindergarten community.

Tamariki quickly became dedicated trappers, showing responsibility for their environment. Together, we embarked on learning why trapping is so important in preserving our native manu, flora, and fauna. Through hands-on experience, our tamariki developed a deeper understanding of kaitiakitanga and the role they play in protecting our ngahere for future generations.

Trapping has now become embedded in our programme with Cam and Boyd from Predator Free Muriwai guiding and supporting our journey toward greater goals. Our kindergarten community shares a strong vision to support Predator Free Muriwai and to one day see the return of kiwi to Te Taiapa, our local ngahere.

To support this vision, we engaged our tamariki to create a Predator Free tea towel as a fundraising initiative. Ngā mihi nui to our whānau and to the Muriwai Deli for purchasing and selling the tea towels on our behalf.



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Through this collective effort, Waimauku Kindergarten was able to purchase two traps. We were also fortunate to receive Neta funding through our Enviroschools programme, which enabled us to purchase two additional traps. These traps have been gifted to Predator Free Muriwai to support their local mahi.

Sharing this journey with our wider community is an important part of our mahi involving whānau, local businesses, and community groups. We welcome you to come and visit and see our programme in action.

## Successful Auckland Folk Festival despite rain



About 2000 people visited the Auckland Folk Festival at the Kumeu Showgrounds on Auckland Anniversary weekend (January 23-26).

Organisers say that's up on previous years despite the bad weather. Fantastic performances across all stages drew spectators, highlights including Mel Parsons, sisters Cassie and Maggie from Nova Scotia, and Bazurka from Wellington.

"People came out ready to have a great time," organisers say. The weather couldn't hold us back. The stages were running and packed all weekend. All ages too."

A dedicated kids' stage with flax weaving, face painting, kids' artist "Simon Stanley" and "Parrot in the Pocket", Earth School activities and a kids' parade, added to the festival. Stalls did a roaring trade in artisan crafts and food trucks kept people well-fed across the weekend, organisers say.

From yodelling workshops to bluegrass sessions there was something to learn for everyone. Waiata workshops were a staple each day and the final showcase opened with a huge group waiata led by Hinekoia Tomlinson and Val Land. The Kunza Chilean group danced through the mainstage Big Shed and the Auckland and Districts Pipe Band paraded through and performed



for us also. It was a huge community effort with nearly 100 volunteers helping to pull it off. A fabulous, beautiful weekend with much music, joy and laughter. image- Hinekoia Tomlinson and Val Land.

## We're delighted to share some lovely news



Leanne Skeates will now be permanently available at lovesoul beauty & spa studio every Thursday from 9.00am to 2.00pm.

Leanne brings a calm, nurturing presence to the treatment room and is known for her attentive care and thoughtful approach. Having a consistent Thursday availability means more flexibility for those

balancing school drop-offs, work commitments and full calendars making it easier to prioritise regular self-care as the year finds its rhythm again.

As the long summer days begin to soften and the evenings cool, March often feels like a quiet turning point. After months of sun, swimming and busy schedules, many people notice their skin feeling dehydrated, sensitised, or simply a little out of balance. Autumn gently invites us inward - to reset, rebalance and create space for ourselves again.

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This season isn't about drastic change. It's about nourishment. It might look like supporting your skin barrier after summer, introducing deeper hydration, or simply allowing yourself an hour to pause and unwind.

At lovesoul, we believe regular care isn't indulgent. It's foundational. As we move into this new season, we're grateful to be able to offer more consistent availability and to continue creating a welcoming space for our local community. Sometimes the most powerful thing we can do is simply make space.

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## Bowel habits change with the seasons- when is it normal and when is it not?



Have you ever noticed your bowel habits change with the seasons? What's normal for summer might not be the same in winter, and sometimes these changes are worth

paying attention to.

Seasonal shifts in bowel habits, influenced by diet, travel, activity levels, and stress are common and often nothing of concern. However, sudden or ongoing symptoms that don't improve with usual habits may point to something more serious, making awareness of early action important.

A Colonoscopy is a safe and effective procedure that allows us to examine the inside of the large intestine (colon) and rectum. It can help identify issues such as

inflammation, polyps, or early signs of bowel cancer. A Colonoscopy can offer reassurance and peace of mind when symptoms persist.

### When Should I Have a Colonoscopy?

Persistent constipation or diarrhoea, unexplained abdominal pain, blood in the stool, sudden changes in your usual bowel habits, or unexplained weight loss can be early signs of bowel cancer. In New Zealand, the incidence of bowel cancer is one of the highest in the world, and early detection often leads to better outcomes, highlighting the importance of understanding these symptoms.

At Waitemata Endoscopy, we aim to make taking a proactive approach to your gut health easy. We accept GP, specialist, and self-referrals via our website. Our experienced Specialists are able to perform most standard Colonoscopy and Gastroscopy procedures within 7 working days of receiving the referral.

Take a virtual tour of the patient journey and our clinic for an insight of what to expect at: [www.waitemataendoscopy.co.nz/locations](http://www.waitemataendoscopy.co.nz/locations)

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## Kumeu college on the way



A Kumeu high school will be built on land just south of Huapai District School.

It will open by about 2029 with a budget set in place, says Building Minister and Kaipara ki Mahurangi MP Chris Penk who announced it at Matua Ngaru School in Kumeu on Friday February 13.

He says the planned new high school is long awaited and “just a stone’s throw from Matua Ngaru School”.

The college is at least double the size of the existing Huapai District School and Chris expects plans for the college should be well underway within about two years.

More details about the Kumeu college are expected later including cost, roll numbers, teachers, classrooms, and more.

“Protecting land through the Resource Management Act 1991 for a new Kumeu high school is a major milestone for North West Auckland,” says Education Minister Erica Stanford.

“We have halved the cost of building a standard classroom while maintaining quality,” she says.

“That has allowed us to build 187 more classrooms, announce and fund 14 new schools and expansions, and purchase land for five future schools.”

Erica says she initiated the process prior to Christmas 2025 and the Auckland Council is reviewing a Notice of Requirement (NoR) for the project.

Meanwhile, Chris officially opened a new two-storey building which about doubles the size of Matua Ngaru School in Gilbransen Road earlier last month (February 2).

Pictured outside a “Quiet Room” with Principal Stephen Grady, Chris says the new building which includes a lift, stairs, decks, kitchens, various spaces and more took over a year to build.

Designed to provide high-quality learning environments, it provides 18 new teaching and learning spaces, the work funded by the Ministry of Education and done by Watts and Hughes.

The new facilities include purpose-built classrooms and collaborative learning spaces that enable teachers to implement innovative teaching practices, says the school.

A dawn blessing was led by Ngati Whatua o Kaipara representatives, attended by the Ministry of Education and school Board members. Community representatives at the opening include local Lions, church groups, the Watts and Hughes team and many more that have supported the school since its opening in 2019.

## Welcome Vanessa



We are thrilled to introduce Vanessa Cormack to the team at Riverhead Physiotherapy & Pilates. Vanessa will be in the clinic on Tuesdays and Thursdays and brings more than a decade of experience supporting people of all ages to move with confidence and comfort.

Vanessa holds a Bachelor of Health Science (Physiotherapy) and has completed advanced training in Women’s Health and Pelvic Floor rehabilitation, Western Acupuncture and Dry Needling, and Clinical Pilates, including equipment-based therapy. Her broad skill set allows her to provide well-rounded, personalised care for each client.

After becoming a mum herself, Vanessa developed a strong interest in Women’s Health, deepening her understanding of the physical changes women experience during pregnancy, childbirth, and recovery. She is passionate about helping women feel strong, supported, and confident in their bodies throughout every stage of life.

At Riverhead Physiotherapy & Pilates, Vanessa combines hands-on physiotherapy with Clinical Pilates to improve strength, mobility, and balance. This integrated approach supports injury recovery, reduces the risk of future issues, and promotes long-term wellbeing.

Vanessa also treats a wide range of musculoskeletal conditions, including joint pain, sports injuries, and everyday aches caused by work, family life, or physical activity. She works closely with clients to set realistic goals and create sustainable treatment plans.

Known for her warm, friendly manner, Vanessa is dedicated to making every client feel comfortable and supported. Outside of the clinic, she enjoys family adventures, visiting local cafés, and exploring creative hobbies.

We are excited to welcome Vanessa to the Riverhead and Kumeu community and look forward to the positive impact she will make.

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## Safer Community

### Walking or driving through floodwaters can cost lives



Floods are among the most underestimated natural hazards. Water is dynamic, it can build slowly over hours—or surge through streets and whole communities in minutes. Yet time and again, the greatest risk to life is not the water itself, but the decision to walk or drive through it.

When water begins to rise, hesitation or procrastination can be deadly. Acting decisively and early, while putting safety first is not an overreaction—it is survival.

Floodwater is rarely just rain. It is a fast-moving mix of stormwater, debris, silt, farm run-off, chemicals, sewage and submerged hazards. What looks like a shallow puddle may conceal an open drain, a washed-out road surface or sharp debris capable of disabling a vehicle—or seriously injuring a person.

Many flood fatalities occur when drivers attempt to cross flooded roads. Just a small amount of fast-moving water can sweep a vehicle off its path. Even shallow water can stall engines, disable brakes and trap occupants inside. Likewise flood waters conceal washed out bridges and culverts, entrapping the occupant.

For pedestrians, the risks are equally serious. Strong currents can knock an adult off their feet, and contaminated water poses significant health risks. Any contact with floodwater should be treated as exposure to potentially harmful contaminants. Thorough washing of hands, clothing and any affected property is essential afterward.

The rule is simple and absolute: never attempt to walk, swim or drive through floodwater.

Floods and flash floods can develop rapidly. Waiting for an official warning may cost valuable time. If you see water rising around your property or on nearby roads, move immediately to higher ground. Trust your instincts—if it feels unsafe, it probably is.

Staying informed is critical during severe weather. Keep a battery-powered radio on hand or follow updates from your local Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and emergency services. Conditions can change quickly, and official guidance may include evacuation



instructions at short notice.

If flooding is possible, readiness makes all the difference. Keep your emergency grab bag close and be prepared to evacuate. Authorities may issue evacuation orders, but individuals should also self-evacuate if they feel unsafe. Early movement is always safer than last-minute escape.

Pets and livestock must be part of your plan. Move animals to higher ground as early as possible, and take pets with you if you leave. If conditions are too dangerous for you, they are too dangerous for them.

Inside the home, practical steps can reduce risk and damage. If advised, turn off electricity, gas and water supplies. Move valuable items, electrical equipment and hazardous substances as high above the floor as possible. Store important documents in watertight containers. Lifting rugs, bedding and curtains off the floor can also minimise damage.

And in times of crisis, community matters. Check on neighbours, especially the elderly, disabled or anyone who may need assistance.

#### No Shortcut Is Worth a Life

Floodwaters can appear deceptively calm. But beneath the surface, conditions are unpredictable and often unforgiving. When water rises, the safest choice is always the simplest one: turn around, move to higher ground, and stay out of it altogether.

#### Useful Links:

Get Ready flood information <https://getready.govt.nz/en/emergency/floods/>

State Highway conditions <http://www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/>



Weather warnings and forecasts [www.metservice.com](http://www.metservice.com)

**Contact-** Call Graham McIntyre, Phone 0276 320 421 or email

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# Community News

## Buy smart & sell strong with ABIS building inspection services



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## Tap Doubt: the Whenuapai dancers proving that age is just a number



While most were settling into the new year, a group of determined Whenuapai locals were packing tap shoes for the South. For the fourth time, the Tap Doubt adult team from Dance 24 Seven competed at the New Zealand Masters Games in Dunedin, proving the buzz of competition isn't just for youngsters.

The team is a showcase of inclusivity, with a current age range spanning 20 to 66 years old. Here, adults from all walks of life train side-by-side, united by rhythm and a shared goal. The secret to their precision is teacher Kristie Williams. Locals will recognise Kristie as a professional from Dancing with the Stars. She brings elite standards to the Whenuapai studio, ensuring dancers of all ages learn genuine performance skills.

"Having Kristie is a game-changer," says studio owner Dionne Nicholson. "Despite being beginners, our dancers aren't just 'having a go'; they are mentored by one of the country's best, which showed in the confidence they displayed on the national stage."

The journey to the Masters Games is a year-long commitment to fitness and cognitive health. Beyond the physical benefits, Tap Doubt serves as a vital social hub for the North West community. With the 2026 season underway, now is the perfect time to join. The programme is open to everyone, regardless of experience. "Many adults feel they've 'missed the boat' with dance," says Dionne. "Tap Doubt proves the boat is still at the dock. Whether you're a former dancer or a total beginner, it's about fitness, friendship, and finding your beat."

If you're ready to swap the gym for the dance floor and learn from a pro, the studio doors are open. Ditch the doubt and join the team today.

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## Community News

## You can't sell a secret



No matter how great your product or service is, if people don't know about you – they can't buy from you.

Creating awareness isn't just about being seen. It's about being remembered. Strong branding, quality signage and professional presentation all play a vital role in how customers perceive your business. Your image speaks before you do – so make sure it says the right thing.

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# Davis Funerals



Davis Funerals' primary function has remained unchanged over the last 90+ years, that being to serve the needs of families across the greater Auckland area and beyond at their time of need. We have been privileged to look after many, many families over the decades, yet we need to continually adapt to changing societal needs and preferences

and the ever-broadening multi-cultural landscape here in Auckland.

We operate in an industry that for many, little is known. Most people, throughout their lifetime, are only ever involved in organising perhaps 1 or 2 funerals, meaning it is something most never really get good at. Such a paucity of involvement however can lead to confusion, and in the information age where anything is available at the click of a mouse, there is a lot of information, floating around, some useful, much of it however misinformed and misleading.

It is here that Davis Funerals plays a significant role in educating the wider community on the need to plan for the final chapter in life; helping people understand the choices and options that they have available to them. We therefore view our community outreach and education programmes as essential. These programmes see us facilitating sessions with retirement care residents and family, a wide array of community groups, sporting clubs, Hospice and even employers looking to broaden their employee benefits package.

Davis Funerals invests and donates significant funding and the offer of volunteer support to trusted pillars in the community across Auckland. Here in the west, we are especially proud to be Hospice West Auckland's gold partner. We care deeply about communities we operate in and want to ensure people really can enjoy the best quality of life whilst they are still alive.

Knowledge and preparedness bring with it comfort which in turn allows people to die knowing their wishes will be honoured whilst equally removing significant stress and burden from family members left behind.

We are given one chance to farewell someone close to us who has died, therefore be it large or small, elaborate or simple, religious or secular, in a church or the family home backyard, we firmly believe a "farewell done well" and a "farewell done right" is an essential first step in learning to live without that person.

# Kumeu Show this month



The popular Kumeu Show is on March 14 and 15, with favourite events and exciting new attractions.

About 30,000 people are expected at the Kumeu Showgrounds which introduces lawnmower racing for the first time. New Show Manager Hannah Burns says the lawnmower racing will be staged by the Rodney and Waitakere (RAW) Mower Racing Club in association with Stihl Shop Kumeu and Westgate.

The freestyle tree climbing competition, Canopy Carnage, returns for the second year after its successful launch in 2025. Canopy Carnage is run by the Hardfell team led by Shaun Hardman of Waimauku and features tree climbing and rope races.

This annual show promises a weekend of family fun, competition, and entertainment for all ages. "The Volunteer Kumeu A&H Show Committee works tirelessly to continually improve the show and deliver a top-class event for the Kumeu community and beyond," says Hannah.

"Visitors can expect a mix of traditional favourites and exciting new attractions."

Highlights for 2026 include sheep dog trials, woodchopping, and shearing competitions.

The Giant Pumpkin Contest, flower and fruit displays, and arts and crafts competitions also feature, the latter in the indoor pavilion. A Farm Zone animal petting area, school calf club, pet lambs and goats, alpacas, equestrian, poultry, and Highland dancing competitions are among favourite attractions.

Mahons Amusements carnival rides, the Kumeu Volunteer Fire Brigade, pony rides, dog agility shows, and the 1pm daily tractor parade are also drawcards.



A wide range of food trucks are available. Live music from local talent, and dance group performances, add to the vibrant community atmosphere.

In addition, the show will host nearly 300 trade and market stalls, along with a Mums and Bubs room thanks to Parent Aid, providing a quiet space for families with young children. A bar will operate next to the shearing competition.

Entry is adults (over 14) \$16 (+fees) early bird online, \$20 at the gate while children 14 and under are free.

Gates open 8.30am-5pm Saturday and 8.30am-4pm Sunday, with ample free parking and traffic management.

Visitors can get tickets online to avoid queues. Sunscreen and visitor information are provided at the Kumeu Show Information Tower. A full event timetable will be on [www.kumeushow.co.nz](http://www.kumeushow.co.nz) in the week leading up to the show.

Visit [www.kumeushow.co.nz](http://www.kumeushow.co.nz) for tickets and more information.



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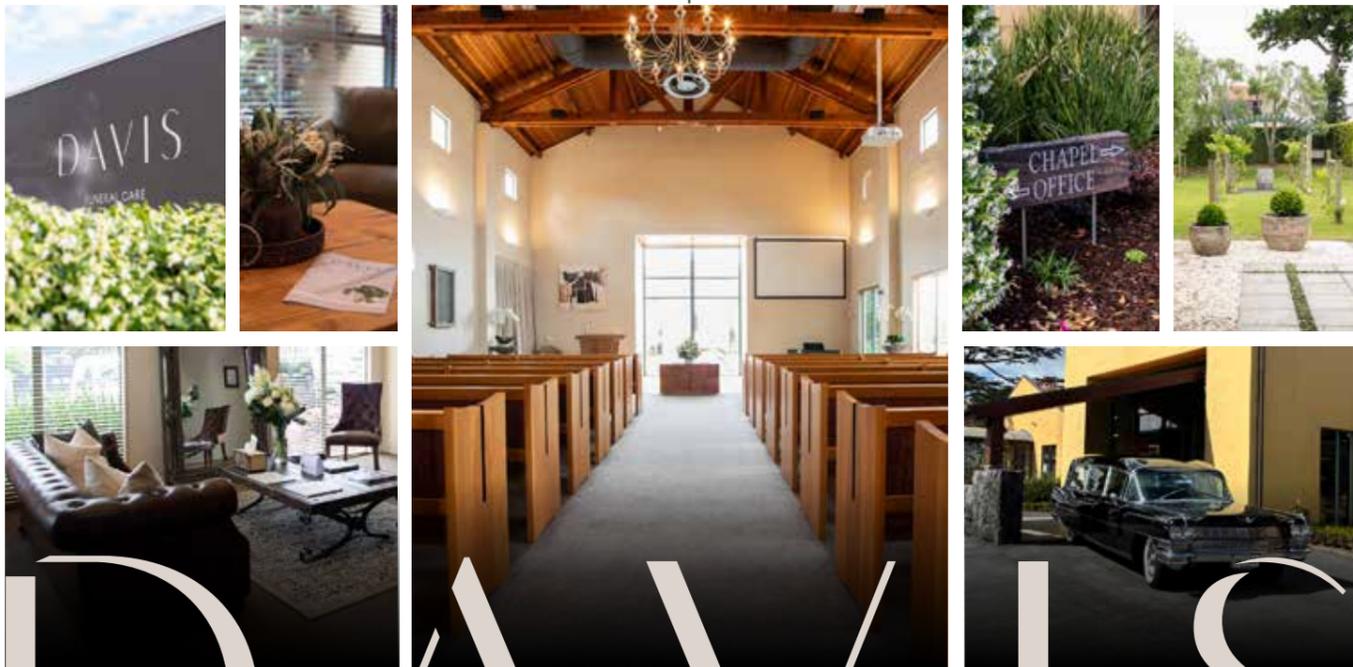
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# Helloworld travel westgate



Fall in love with autumn at sea: Hosted by Carolyn Hedley

This September, join Carolyn Hedley, owner of helloworld Travel Westgate, on an exclusive, limited-places small group journey from New York City to Montreal with Azamara – plus extended stays in Canada’s most exciting cities.

Your adventure begins with three exciting nights in New York City before setting sail. Take in the bright lights of Times Square, stroll through Central Park, explore world-class museums, or indulge in iconic dining – all while enjoying the camaraderie and expert guidance of a fully hosted group.

Then, as the skyline fades into the open sea, your Canadian Maritime cruise unfolds at the most beautiful time of year. September brings crisp air, smaller crowds, and landscapes ablaze with autumn colour.

In Halifax, discover rich maritime history along the waterfront and visit landmarks linked to the Titanic. Charlottetown charms with Victorian streetscapes and rolling countryside, while Cape Breton Island offers dramatic coastal vistas framed by brilliant reds and golds.

A highlight of the voyage is scenic cruising along the majestic St. Lawrence River, where picturesque villages and rolling hills line the shores en route to Quebec.

Azamara’s destination-focused approach means longer stays in port, immersive shore excursions, and an intimate ship atmosphere. Inclusive amenities and attentive service ensure a seamless blend of comfort and discovery.

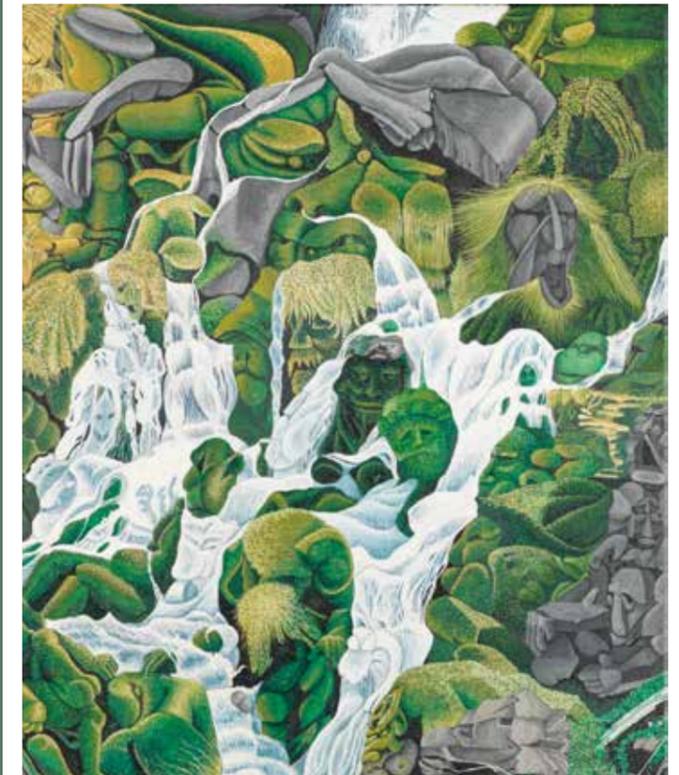
After disembarking, enjoy one night in Montreal, soaking up its French flair and cobblestone charm. Then travel by rail to Toronto for three nights in Canada’s largest city. A full-day excursion to the spectacular Niagara Falls provides a breathtaking finale to your journey.

Places are strictly limited, ensuring a boutique travel experience from start to finish. Secure your place early and experience Canada in its most colourful season.

To find out more please contact Carolyn Hedley at 4161799 or email [carolyn.hedley@travel.helloworld.co.nz](mailto:carolyn.hedley@travel.helloworld.co.nz)

# Arts in action

This March, we’re delighted to present artist Susan Wellm, who, after many years of working privately, now shares her paintings in the exhibition Kaitiaki o te whenua. Susan reflects, “To look is to see, and the reward is often personal,” a sentiment that flows through her layered landscapes. Viewers are invited to slow down, spend time with the works, and discover kaitiaki (guardians) that emerge within them, some deliberately painted, others revealing themselves only once a piece is complete. Children and adults alike can enjoy searching for hidden details through a Gallery Scavenger Hunt. In our smaller gallery, we’ll feature a group exhibition by 11 artists, including three young artists, who won prizes at last year’s Kumeu Arts Awards. The Pip window will showcase an installation by Cobi Booch. Alongside our regular classes, and concerts, join us for Arts in Action on Saturday 28 March, a free, family-friendly arts festival. [www.kumeuarts.org](http://www.kumeuarts.org)



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- 19 Oct: Arrive Montreal & Half Day Sightseeing Tour
- 20 Oct: Travel from Montreal to Toronto by Train
- 21 Oct: Hop On Hop Off Sightseeing City Tour
- 22 Oct: Full Day Tour of Niagara Falls
- 23 Oct: Tour comes to an end

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# ARTS IN ACTION

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## Food & Beverage

### Silky aubergine noodles – Jamie Oliver



Crunchy  
toasted  
& mint

veg,  
peanuts

DAIRY-FREE

ingredients

1 orange

1 aubergine (300g)

olive oil

1 handful of salted  
peanuts (40g)

2 nests of dried  
egg noodles (140g)

½ a bunch of fresh  
mint (15g)

1 clove of garlic

5cm piece of fresh ginger

1 fresh red chilli

2 tablespoons low-salt soy sauce

1 teaspoon fish sauce

2 teaspoons runny honey

red wine vinegar

4 spring onions

160g sugar snap peas

1 carrot

**About the recipe.** Sometimes I just want a plate of food that's comforting, vibrant and full of the good stuff. With plenty of bright veg and a punchy dressing, this delivers big on all fronts. And if you're not an aubergine fan, this might just change your mind!

#### Method

1-Halve the orange and aubergine lengthways, then rub the aubergine flesh with the cut-side of the orange.

2- Slash the flesh side of the aubergine in a criss-cross fashion, and place skin-side down in a large non-stick casserole pan on a high heat with 1 tablespoon of olive

oil and a pinch of sea salt.

3-Strip in a piece of orange peel using a speed-peeler, then pour in 1cm of boiling water, pop the lid on and bring to the boil. Cover and cook for 15 minutes, or until all the water has cooked away.

4- Toast the peanuts in a medium pan for 1 minute, then tip into a pestle and mortar and bash so you have a nice mixture coarse and fine. Remove to a small bowl.

5-Half-fill the pan with boiling water and cook the noodles according to the packet instructions, then drain and set aside.

6-Pick the mint leaves, placing the baby ones in a bowl of iced water, and set aside. Roughly chop the stalks and place in the pestle and mortar. Peel the garlic, peel and roughly slice the ginger, and add. Trim and finely slice the chilli (deseed if you like), adding half to the pestle and mortar and placing the other half in the iced water. Bash with a pinch of salt and 4 mint leaves.

7-Remove the orange peel from the pan and add to the pestle and mortar with the soy sauce, fish sauce and 1 teaspoon of honey. Squeeze in the orange juice, add 2 tablespoons of oil and 1 tablespoon of red wine vinegar, then pound and muddle together.

8- Finely slice the green spring onion tops, adding them to the bowl of iced water. Roughly clank the white parts into 4 and add to the aubergine pan along with the sugar snaps, jiggling and tossing the pan regularly for 5 minutes.

9-Scrub the carrot, carefully slice it lengthways at ½cm intervals leaving it intact at the top, then speed-peel into long thin strips. Push the aubergine to one side of the pan and drizzle the remaining honey to the side of the aubergine. Add the carrots, mint leaves and 1 tablespoon of vinegar. After a minute or two, remove the aubergine to serving plates.

10-Using tongs, transfer the noodles straight into the pan, remove from the heat, tip in the dressing and toss quickly to coat.

11-Serve the noodles and veg alongside the aubergine, then drain and scatter over the reserved chilli, spring onion and baby mint. Finish with a sprinkle of peanuts, then get stuck in!

#### Top Tip

Peel the ginger, then pop it in the freezer. This way, it'll be much easier to grate, and will keep for much longer, too. You can also do this with things like chilli.

Everything you need to know about property

# Property Hub



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# What's inside

19	Property News
24	Property Statistics
28	Property Market
41	Home & Garden



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# Property News

## Spotlight February 2026



The good news for New Zealand property owners is that the market outlook for this year is optimistic. According to Cotality, 2026 could deliver potential value gains of 5%. This result, the research house predicts, will be underpinned by easing mortgage rates and a gradual economic recovery.

That said, when Kiwis think about capital growth, many instinctively look to higher-density city locations. However, new data from realestate.co.nz shows that some of the strongest long-term gains over the past decade have been recorded in lifestyle and holiday destinations.

In our blog, The stunning rise in value of Kiwi lifestyle locations, we highlight just how powerful this trend has been. For example, buyers who purchased in Albert Town, east of Wanaka in Central Otago, 10 years ago would have seen values rise by an extraordinary 225%, up from an average asking price of \$553,500 in 2015 to \$1,796,828 by the end of 2025.

A similar story has played out in the North Island, where the Coromandel beach settlement of Hahei now commands an average asking price of \$2,005,000. That's around \$1.3 million more than a decade ago.

We also explore positive regulatory change in our blog: Granny flat development freedom has arrived. From mid-January, homeowners on residential and rural-zoned land can build a single-storey granny flat up to 70 square metres without needing building or resource consent. Government estimates suggest the changes could save homeowners up to \$5,650, in red tape, and eliminate up to 14 weeks of approval waiting times.

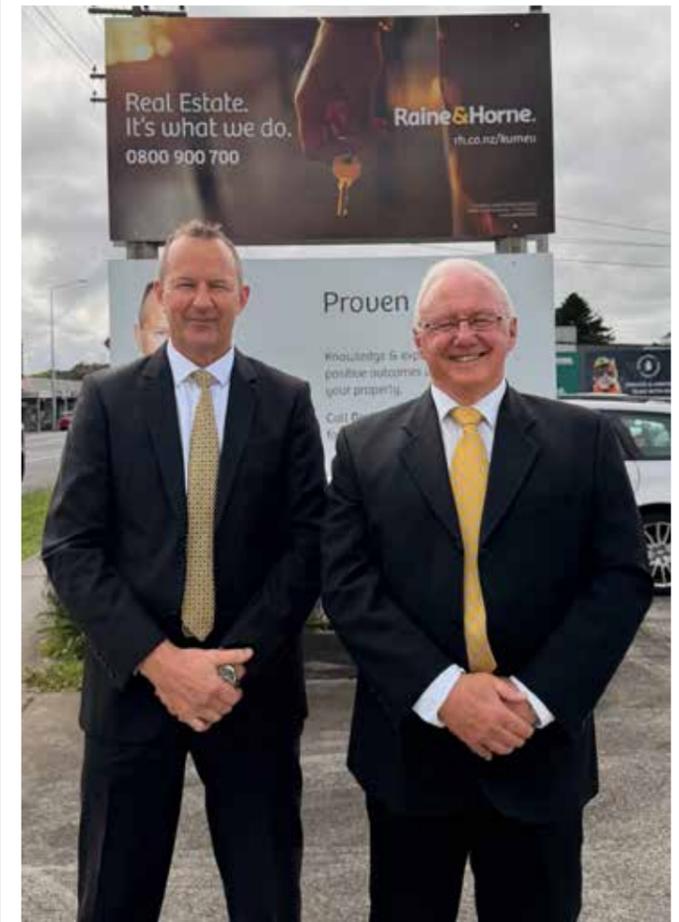
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Brendon Hodge on 021 608 234 or

Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421

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# Opportunities and challenges as the disputes tribunal's jurisdiction increased to \$60,000



The jurisdiction of the Disputes Tribunal doubled from \$30,000 to \$60,000 on 24 January 2026, creating significant changes for collecting medium-sized debts. The reform aims to improve access to justice and reduce the need for costly District Court litigation for mid-range disputes.

Previously, claimants with disputes between \$30,000 and \$60,000 faced an unenviable choice: either commence an expensive District Court proceeding or abandon part of their claim to fit under the old \$30,000 limit. The increased jurisdiction means claimants no longer need to sacrifice value for accessibility. Many disputes that once required formal court action can now be resolved more quickly, pragmatically, and at lower cost in the Tribunal.

Aside from the new limit, and a higher filing fee for claims over \$30,000, the Tribunal process remains largely unchanged. Hearings continue to be informal and inquisitorial, focused on achieving substantial fairness rather than applying strict legal rules. Lawyers still cannot appear at hearings, though parties may obtain legal advice beforehand. Appeal rights remain narrow and largely confined to procedural issues.

The Tribunal still cannot assist with collecting undisputed debts. In those cases, applying to the District Court for Summary Judgment will often remain the most efficient approach.

What this means for people and businesses

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The increased jurisdiction allows many disputes between \$30,000 and \$60,000 to be determined in a forum that is generally faster, cheaper, and more accessible than the District Court. Hearing dates are typically sooner, procedural steps are minimal, and parties avoid the significant legal costs associated with formal litigation.

However, the expansion is not without controversy. Larger and more complex disputes are now entering a forum designed for small claims, where:-

- The Tribunal must have regard to the law but is not required to apply strict legal rights, forms, or technicalities. This flexibility promotes fairness but may lead to unpredictable outcomes.
- There is no formal discovery process, meaning relevant documents may not be disclosed before the hearing.
- Referees are not always legally trained and may be more likely to make errors than District Court Judges.
- Self-represented parties may struggle to present evidence and argue legal issues without the assistance of counsel at the hearing.
- Appeal rights remain very limited, usually only for procedural unfairness, not errors of law.

For small disputes, these trade-offs may be acceptable. But for amounts up to \$60,000, which can be significant or even business-critical, the risks of an unpredictable, informal process may cause concern.

Claims filed before 24 January 2026

If a claim was filed under the old \$30,000 limit and the excess was abandoned to fit under that cap, it cannot be:

- amended later to add the abandoned amount; or
- withdrawn and refiled after 24 January 2026 to claim up to the new \$60,000 limit.

How we can help

Thorough preparation is crucial. Strong evidence, well-structured submissions, and a clear factual narrative significantly improve the likelihood that your case will be properly understood and fairly assessed. For higher-value disputes, mistakes or incomplete evidence can have serious consequences.

Obtaining legal advice before lodging your claim or defence is especially important under the new jurisdiction. A lawyer can help you identify strengths and weaknesses, anticipate challenges, and ensure your submissions address the issues that matter. This guidance can be invaluable in navigating the Tribunal's flexible approach to evidence and procedure while avoiding costly missteps.

If you are involved in a dispute of up to \$60,000 and require assistance preparing your Tribunal claim or response, we invite you to become a client of Smith and Partners. For tailored legal advice, please contact Nathan Tetzlaff at nathan.tetzlaff@smithpartners.co.nz or phone 09 837 6844 to arrange an appointment.

# Blended families and property ownership



Sacha Easton, Legal Executive

When you're juggling kids, work, sport, and everything else that comes with family life, thinking about how your home is legally owned probably isn't high on the priority list. But for blended families especially, that one decision can have a much bigger impact than many parents realise.

Here in New Zealand, many couples purchase their home as "joint tenants". This means that if one partner passes away, their share of the property passes to the surviving partner under the "right of survivorship" regardless of what their Will says. For some families, this arrangement works well and keeps things simple.

However, for blended families, the consequences can be more complicated. If you were to pass away first, your share of what may be your largest asset would go directly to your partner. Your children from a previous relationship may not receive anything from that portion of your Estate. While that may be your intention, it's important that it is a considered decision and not an unplanned outcome.

The alternative option to ownership is known as "tenants in common". Each owner holds a defined share of the property, which upon their death, forms part of their Estate. This allows you to leave your share to your children through your Will and also consider an occupation right for your partner during their lifetime (or for a defined period) before ultimately passing to your children.

If you already own property as joint tenants, thankfully there is the option to sever the joint ownership and convert it to a tenants in common ownership with legal assistance.

If you're part of a blended family and would like to clarify if your property ownership structure is right for you or put Wills in place, ClearStone Legal would be happy to help. We have offices in Kumeu and in Te Atatu Peninsula.

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# North West Auckland: where sales momentum is defying the broader market slowdown



## A Closer Look at Property Activity in Early 2026

While much of Auckland's property market has entered what commentators describe as a "normalised" phase, North West Auckland is quietly carving out its own story – one defined less by hesitation and more by steady activity.

Across the wider city, 2025 was marked by high listing volumes, with more than 20,000 properties coming to market. Prices softened from their previous peaks and median values drifted slightly lower into early 2026, firmly positioning Auckland as a buyer's market. Choice has expanded, time on market and negotiations have lengthened, and purchasers are exercising greater caution. Yet in suburbs stretching from Hobsonville and Westgate through to Whenuapai, Kumeū and parts of Rodney District, the tone feels a little different.

North West Auckland has emerged as one of the region's more resilient pockets. Where Central Auckland has experienced some of the weakest five-year performance – with values declining at an average annual rate of around 1.8 percent – Rodney District, which encompasses significant portions of the north-west growth corridor, has delivered positive long-term growth averaging 2.1 percent per annum. That relative outperformance tells a broader story about shifting buyer preferences.

Sales activity in this corridor remained robust throughout 2025, contributing meaningfully to Auckland's total of more than 11,000 transactions for the year. Unlike apartment-heavy inner-city suburbs, where stock levels have weighed on pricing, North West Auckland's housing mix – dominated by townhouses, terraces and standalone family homes – continues to attract a wide buyer pool. First-home buyers are particularly active in the \$750,000 to \$1.05 million range, drawn by newer housing stock and improved affordability compared to central suburbs.

The area's appeal is multifaceted. Hobsonville's master-planned community and ferry connection to the CBD continue to generate strong interest, while



Westgate's expanding retail and commercial hub adds convenience and employment opportunities. Kumeū and Whenuapai offer a semi-rural lifestyle within commuting distance of the city, appealing to families seeking space without

sacrificing connectivity. These lifestyle advantages have translated into consistent enquiry levels and relatively steady turnover, even as other parts of Auckland have experienced slower absorption rates.

Inventory levels remain elevated, particularly in newly developed subdivisions. This abundance of choice has moderated price growth and created room for negotiation, but it has not stalled the market. Instead, it has sharpened buyer expectations. Well-presented, realistically priced homes are transacting within typical timeframes of 30 to 60 days, while aspirational pricing is quickly tested by a more discerning audience.

Interest rate movements have also played a subtle but important role. Following the Official Cash Rate peak of 2.25 percent in November 2025, easing expectations into early 2026 have bolstered buyer confidence. While borrowing costs remain well above the extraordinary lows of 2020 and 2021, the sense of stability has encouraged pre-approvals to convert into active offers. In North West Auckland, this renewed confidence has translated into steady open-home attendance.

Investor sentiment across Auckland remains cautious, largely due to compressed yields. However, the north-west corridor continues to attract selective investor attention. Strong population growth, sustained rental demand and ongoing retail, commercial and industrial investment underpin confidence in the long-term fundamentals. New-build properties, in particular, remain appealing due to their compliance advantages and low-maintenance profiles. Dual-income opportunities and minor dwellings in areas such as Kumeū are also drawing interest from yield-focused buyers.

What distinguishes North West Auckland in early 2026 is not rapid price escalation, but balance. It is a market characterised by realistic vendor expectations, informed buyers and consistent transactional flow. The volatility of recent years has given way to a more measured environment – one in which value, presentation and location matter more than ever.

Looking ahead, most economists anticipate gradual recovery rather than any sharp rebound. For North West Auckland, this suggests continued stability through 2026, with modest growth potential emerging as economic conditions strengthen. Infrastructure expansion, commercial development and sustained residential construction will likely continue to underpin demand in the corridor.

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# Estate and probate considerations

What happens with your family member's Will after they pass away? In many cases it is necessary to submit a formal application to prove the will, known as "probate." This results in a Court Order that confirms the validity of the Will. It also allows institutions such as banks and KiwiSaver providers to accept the authority of the named Executor to deal with the deceased's assets.

In small Estates, it is sometimes unnecessary to apply for probate. Recent changes to the regulations under the Administration Act 1969 mean that banks and other institutions may deal with the Executors of Estates with assets that are less than \$40,000, even if there is no probate.

In some circumstances however, it may still be good practice to probate a Will. Particularly in any circumstances where there may be a claim by creditors against the Estate. This is because the grant of probate creates certain protections for Estates and Executors. By way of example, there is a limitation period of one year from the date of probate for any claims against the Estate under the Family Protection Act 1955 and Law Reform (Testamentary Promises) Act 1949.

If you are considering whether to probate a Will, or need other assistance with Estate Administration, feel free contact -

Kemp Barristers and Solicitors at

**info@kempsolicitors.co.nz or give us a call on 09 412 6000.**

# Area Property Stats

PROPERTY-HUB.NZ

25

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
<b>Helensville</b>						
	Mangakura Rd	\$1350000	5	130	1	\$1365000
	Gow Street	\$840000	3	110	897	\$823000
	Awaroa Road	\$760000	3	91	775	\$775000
	Hand Road	\$740000	3	96	0	\$755000
	St James Ave	\$810000	3	160	814	\$925000
	State Highway 16	\$980000	3	160	4635	\$850000
	Hand Road	\$900000	4	129	1161	\$895000
<b>Hobsonville</b>						
	David Carnegie Rd	\$860000	3	103	0	\$870000
	Walter Merton Rd	\$1125000	3	164	0	\$1067000
	Starlight Cove	\$1150000	3	160	454	\$1180000
	Makete Cres	\$1625000	4	232	450	\$1700000
	Walter Merton Rd	\$1075000	3	141	173	\$1006500
	Settlers Ave	\$990000	3	178	0	\$960000
	Glidepath Rd	\$870000	3	120	129	\$830000
	Grey Warbler Rd	\$850000	3	102	135	\$865000
	La Bella Rd	\$1750000	5	323	300	\$1736000
	Hudson Bay Rd	\$1050000	3	122	152	\$1080000
	Frank Gill	\$940000	3	106	139	\$950000
	Skua Rd	\$1100000	4	161	197	\$1125000
	Hobsonville Pt Rd	\$710000	1	70	0	\$552500
	Kano Way	\$1200000	4	173	221	\$1175000
	Nevill Rd	\$1250000	3	160	0	\$1260000
	Brickworks Bay Rd	\$1550000	4	278	450	\$1605000
	Observation Green	\$860000	2	90	172	\$805000
	Bomb Point Drive	\$1250000	4	187	0	\$1250000
<b>Huapai</b>						
	Matua Rd	\$1125000	4	138	0	\$1215000
	Tapu Rd	\$1225000	4	180	652	\$1292500
	Sunny Crescent	\$1750000	5	275	1540	\$1440000
<b>Kumeu</b>						
	Nellie Drive	\$725000	2	94	113	\$710000
	Tarras Rd	\$1100000	4	163	407	\$1063000
	Kuawa Drive	\$1450000	4	206	590	\$1249000
	Bellamont Street	\$1275000	3	188	0	\$1355000
	Jane Maree Rd	\$1150000	3	160	0	\$1130000
	Broadwood Rise	\$2100000	4	248	10200	\$1900000
	Walter Ruddock Ave	\$1450000	5	251	719	\$1450000
	Konoba Ave	\$725000	2	85	133	\$697000
	Tarara Lane	\$1075000	4	158	400	\$1075000
	Sir Lincoln Drive	\$1450000	4	224	664	\$1525000
	Vinistra Rd	\$1175000	4	217	424	\$1100000
	Lockyer Rd	\$1300000	4	188	669	\$1250000
	Fruitlands Rd	\$1375000	4	228	662	\$1392500
	Nellie Drive	\$1100000	4	160	406	\$1125000
<b>Massey</b>						
	Zingaro Place	\$750000	3	110	309	\$730000
	Faram Place	\$850000	4	130	535	\$868000
	Petrel Place	\$1375000	4	320	607	\$1267000
	Don Buck Rd	\$830000	3	110	1270	\$805000
	Reynella Drive	\$740000	2	72	0	\$545000
	Triangle Rd	\$600000	3	100	0	\$620000
	Kemp Rd	\$600000	2	70	0	\$620000
	Royal Rd	\$930000	3	110	1230	\$1055000
	Tiriwa Drive	\$1130000	4	193	1606	\$930000
	Wharara Lane	\$720000	2	69	83	\$581500
	Widmore Drive	\$910000	3	160	939	\$976000
	Colwill Rd	\$1400000	5	210	1042	\$1190000
	Gallony Ave	\$840000	3	90	634	\$840000
	Allington Rd	\$990000	3	132	652	\$886000

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA m2	LAND AREA m2	SALE PRICE
	Don Buck Rd	\$700000	3	101	1308	\$650000
	Spargo Rd	\$780000	3	120	403	\$780000
	Don Buck Rd	\$780000	4	146	292	\$730000
	Baumea Rise	\$1475000	4	235	300	\$1250000
	Hartley Terrace	\$980000	3	122	675	\$945000
<b>Parakai</b>						
	Aitkenhead Court	\$760000	3	113	498	\$750000
	Parakai Ave	\$660000	2	67	1012	\$650000
	Aitkenhead Court	\$365000	0	0	590	\$210000
<b>Riverhead</b>						
	School Rd	\$1475000	4	236	0.0827	\$1355000
	Mill Grove	\$2025000	4	267	0.1612	\$1440000
	Coatesville-Rhead Hy	\$1630000	4	129	1	\$1450000
	Ridge Rd	\$1050000	0	0	1.19	\$900000
	Pohutukawa Parade	\$1600000	4	224	0.0882	\$1390000
<b>Taupaki</b>						
	Hunter Rd	\$1725000	5	280	21500	\$1610000
<b>Waimauku</b>						
	Solan Drive	\$1500000	4	269	1659	\$1785000
	Sarah Todd Lane	\$1050000	4	150	2204	\$1310000
	Pukemarinno Rd	\$1225000	4	217	804	\$1410000
<b>Waitakere</b>						
	Mildon Rd	\$1590000	9	320	12500	\$2000000
	McEntee Rd	\$900000	3	84	1304	\$860000
<b>West Harbour</b>						
	Whiting Grove	\$1350000	4	230	780	\$1299000
	St Catherine Cres	\$1220000	3	0	0	\$761500
	Oreil Ave	\$1000000	0	100	719	\$1238888
	Cherub Place	\$1350000	3	170	625	\$1381000
	Marina View Drive	\$1250000	3	170	696	\$1356000
	Buisson Glade	\$830000	3	100	392	\$780000
	Buisson Glade	\$740000	2	70	0	\$717000
	Vermeer Place	\$1500000	4	260	752	\$1475000
	van Dyke Place	\$950000	3	150	522	\$820000
	Sailfish Drive	\$830000	3	110	0	\$890000
	Cherub Place	\$1275000	4	240	630	\$1350000
	Westpark Drive	\$1550000	5	230	852	\$1595000
<b>Westgate</b>						
	Whiteywood St	\$910000	4	123	167	\$920000

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

Brendon Hodge on 021 608 234

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

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.

## Raine & Horne

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Phone 0800 900 700 Country Living Realty Ltd Licensed REAA (2008)



## February market wrap

Moving further into 2026, the market continues to feel steady.

The Reserve Bank's February announcement confirmed that the Official Cash Rate will remain at 2.25%. This means changes to mortgage rates will continue to be influenced by global and wholesale (swap) rates rather than the OCR itself.

Inflation is expected to trend back towards 2% over the next 12 months, which should give some relief to the cost of living. We're also seeing economic growth, with lower interest rates supporting household and business spending.

In the property space, Cotality's January Home Value Index shows that the national median property value in New Zealand is \$802,617. Here in West Auckland, the average value is currently \$917,731.

What does this mean for you?

Reviewing your personal circumstances and goals is important when making financial decisions. Many of my clients are currently seeing value in considering 2-3 year fixed rate options.

With wholesale rates trending upwards and the OCR expected to increase over time, it's worth considering where rates may be when short-term fixes expire. Locking in longer could protect you from higher rates and provide stability.

Economists are still predicting a 10% rise in property sales this year, and a potential 5% rise in the national median values. Activity across the market is increasing, creating opportunities for both buyers and sellers, including first-home buyers.

### Right now, I'm helping my clients in three key areas:

- Refix - Could breaking and refixing put you in a better or more stable position?
- Refinance - Are you with the right lender? Cashbacks and product differences can make a move worthwhile.
- Restructure - Is your loan set up to improve your cashflow, reduce interest, and support your goals?

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## A rental market reset



In early 2026, Auckland's rental market has entered a new phase—quieter, more competitive, and noticeably more tenant-friendly. Nowhere is this shift more visible than in the northwest corridor, where rapid development over the past decade has

created one of the region's most dynamic residential landscapes.

Stretching from Massey through Westgate to Hobsonville in the East and Kumeu in the North, the northwest has long been a magnet for families seeking modern homes and better value within commuting distance of the CBD. Today, however, the balance of power has shifted. Increased supply and softer demand are reshaping how the rental market behaves—and who holds the negotiating leverage.

Across Auckland, rental listings have climbed by an estimated 10 to 15 percent year-on-year. At the same time, tenant search activity has eased. The result is a slower market, with properties taking an average of 20 to 40 days to secure quality tenants—significantly longer than during the tight conditions of previous years. In the northwest, this increase in supply is particularly pronounced. New townhouse developments in Hobsonville and Westgate, alongside established standalone homes in Massey, have steadily added to the rental pool. Streets once defined by construction cranes are now lined with completed builds—many of them investor-owned and available for lease.

City-wide rent growth has stalled, and in some areas has edged slightly downward. Central city apartments have recorded modest declines, and parts of West Auckland have seen rents soften by up to two percent.

Yet the northwest is not a uniform story of falling prices. Instead, it highlights what property managers are describing as a widening "quality gap." Well-designed, near-new homes—particularly those in Hobsonville's carefully master-planned neighbourhoods—continue to command strong rents. Properties that are older, less insulated, or lacking in modern finishes are encountering more resistance and longer vacancy periods.

In practical terms, presentation and positioning now



matter more than ever. Tenants have the freedom to compare options, weigh up value, and negotiate terms in a way that was difficult during the market's tighter years.

Despite softer conditions, the northwest retains enduring appeal. Expanding retail and commercial hubs in Westgate, improving motorway connectivity, and ferry links from Hobsonville underpin its long-term desirability. The area offers something increasingly scarce in Auckland: space.

Families continue to gravitate toward larger floor plans, garages, and proximity to schools and parks—advantages that central apartment markets struggle to replicate. This underlying lifestyle pull has prevented any dramatic correction in rents, even as overall growth has paused.

### A January Surge

Interestingly, the start of 2026 brought a burst of renewed activity. January saw a spike in rental applications across Auckland, including in the northwest. While not a return to frenzied competition, it signalled that demand remains present—particularly for well-priced, high-quality homes.

The takeaway is not stagnation, but recalibration. Properties that meet market expectations are leasing efficiently. Those that miss the mark are quickly exposed.

Most analysts agree that 2025 represented a cooling period rather than a downturn. The longer-term trajectory for Auckland remains stable, supported by population growth and enduring housing demand.

For the northwest, the key variable will be supply. Continued development could keep rental growth contained in the short term. However, if construction slows or economic conditions tighten the pipeline of new builds, upward pressure on rents may re-emerge.

For now, Auckland's northwest rental market stands as a study in balance. Tenants enjoy options and negotiating power. Landlords are adjusting to a more competitive environment.

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## 14 Lyon Road



Raine & Horne

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## Lifestyle without the big budget - Waimauku

### 14 Lyon Road, Waimauku

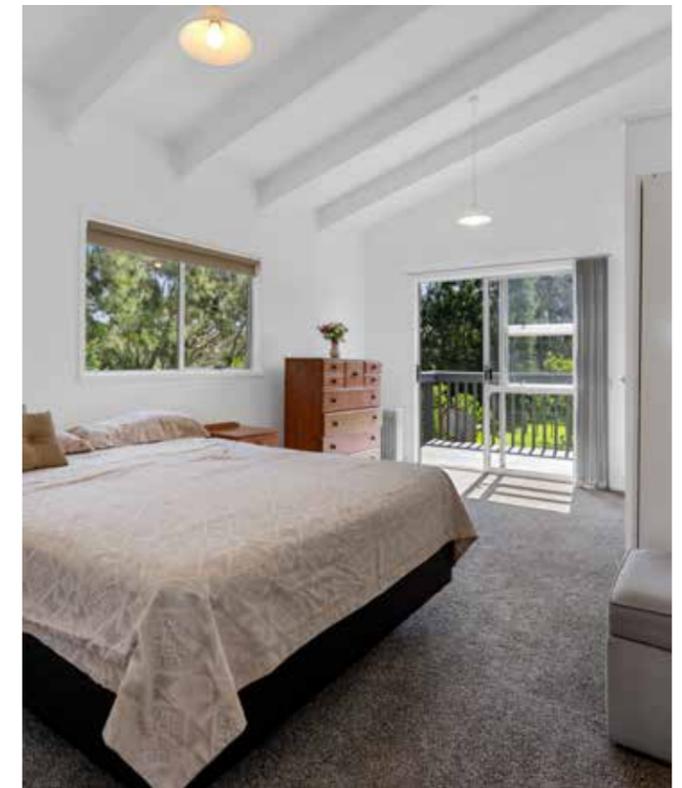
A fabulous lifestyle home with fantastic options, excellent, lovely neighbours, and space to express, explore and entertain. Offering over an acre of land, elevated and flat to gentle sloping, the property offers a discerning buyer the option for the good life. Land to plant, cultivate, create or an excuse to buy that ride-on mower you always wanted. The home built in the 1980's and recently refurbished is split over two levels, internal

access with two lounges, office, six bedrooms and two bathrooms. Options to further separate upstairs and downstairs should the need arise. A full floor plan is within the photo bank for your pursuit. This is a big home, easy care, on a very usable property, within a rural community that takes care of each other. A short drive to school and convenience shopping at Waimauku and a bus stop out on sh16, this property will open opportunity to a more for-filled life, where you enjoy the space.



### Featuring:

- 6 bedrooms
- 2 bathroom
- 2 living, 1 study, 2 toilet
- 2 garage
- Land area 5711 sqm
- Floor area 298 sqm
- Short drive to Helensville, west coast beaches, Waimauku & Woodhill forest
- Build in 1980's, recently refurbished



For more information on this property call:  
Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421  
or email: [graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz](mailto:graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz)

Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine and Horne Kumeu  
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## Near new build - Offers over \$755,000

**58 Turret Lane, Hobsonville**

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.

Motivate Vendors graduating North.

**For more information on this property call:**

**Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421**

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## Featuring:

- 2 Bedroom
- 1 bathroom
- Land area 99 qm approx
- Floor area 84 sqm approx
- Easy access to SH16 & SH18 motorways
- Close to Bay Farmers market, cafes, restaurants & ferry
- Close to Te Ara Manawa, 5km coastal loop walkway
- Close to Scott Point primary school



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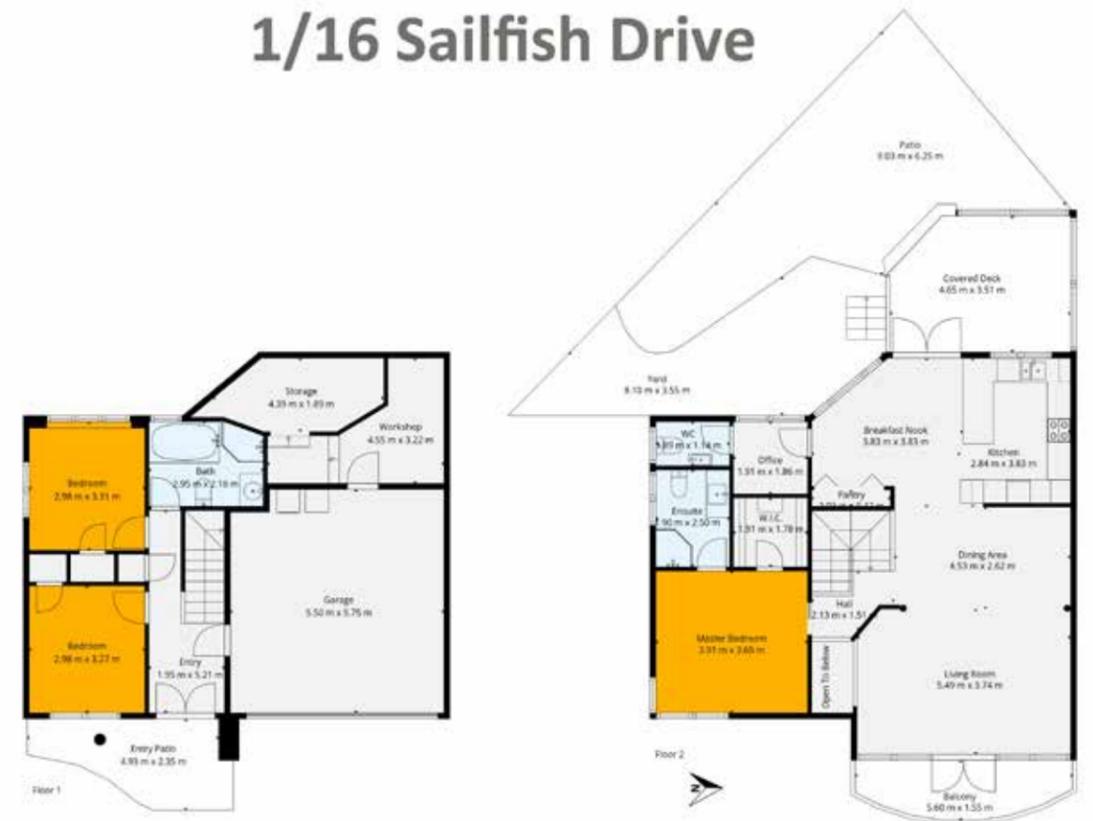
Changes in legislation has made building a minor dwelling easier and faster. GJ's has a range of plans, or can design for your site or needs. Get peace of mind as GJ's will take care of the project from start to finish, including site services, meaning no hidden surprises.

**T&C's apply.** Price is an indication of the build cost only and excludes land and site specific costs. Regional variations may apply. Images are artist's impression only.

G.J. Gardner. **HOMES**



## 1/16 Sailfish Drive



Raine & Horne

Disclaimer: For Visual Purposes Only. We Measure Internal Spaces Which Exclude Wall Thickness. Measurements Should Be Verified By Viewer.

## Marina View Zoning

### 1/16 Sailfish Drive, West Harbour

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

This beautiful home presents huge potential to add value over time-whether you're seeking a solid return on investment or a long-term family anchor.

On offer is a well-designed two-level character home .

All within a short stroll to the local primary school and the commuter ferry/marina-making daily life as convenient as it is enjoyable.

The Executors have provided comprehensive disclosure documents for your confidence:

- Property file
- LIM report

For more information on this property call:

Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421 . Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine and Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008).



Featuring:

- 3 bedroom & 2 bathroom
- Land area 378 sqm & Floor area 190 sqm
- 1 Study, 2 toilets, 1 ensuite, 1 dining
- Fully fenced
- 2 Garge & 2 Open spaces
- Townhouse
- Close to school & ferry
- Open plan living
- Workshop area in garage





# Autumn Gardening with Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson

**Tui**  
Vegetable Mix 40 Litre



SKU: 142734 **\$16<sup>25</sup>**

**Gardeners Edge**  
Vegetable Mix 40L



SKU: 2060032 **\$14<sup>98</sup>**

**Tui**  
Garden Mix 40L



SKU: 118454 **\$13<sup>98</sup>**

**Yates**  
Thrive Naturals Natural Based Vege & Herb Fertiliser 1L



SKU: 375274 **\$21<sup>98</sup>**

**Tui**  
Seaweed & Fish Fertiliser 1L



SKU: 319083 **\$17<sup>98</sup>**

**Number 8**  
General Garden Fertiliser 5kg



SKU: 243537 **\$14<sup>29</sup>**

**Growfresh Pot**  
Rhubarb 10cm Green



SKU: 181848 **\$5<sup>98</sup>**

**Growfresh**  
Cabbage Little Cutie Pack of 6



SKU: 188453 **\$4<sup>20</sup>**

**Yates**  
Vegetable Seed Lettuce Salad Mix



SKU: 388758 **\$3<sup>98</sup>**



## Home & Garden

### Transform your kitchen with the Kitchen Centre

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Since 1989, our kitchens have been custom-made on-site at our Henderson premises by our own qualified cabinetmakers. This local, hands-on approach ensures personalised service and exceptional craftsmanship.

Before installation, you'll even have the opportunity to view your kitchen fully assembled at our factory – giving you complete confidence that what you see is exactly what you'll get.

If you're ready to upgrade your kitchen let The Kitchen Centre help you create a space that is both functional and stylish.

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Every project starts with thorough house washing or soft washing, with gutter cleaning where needed. This ensures surfaces are clean, sound, and ready for paint, especially important for materials like cedar cladding.

All work is carried out safely using mobile scaffolding, level ladders, and harness systems. This allows consistent coverage and a high standard of finish across the entire property.

Different homes require different systems. Whether it's weatherboard, cedar, brick, or plaster, the correct preparation methods are applied before premium paints suited to NZ weather are used.

Each job is completed with care and attention to detail, followed by a full clean-up so your property is left tidy and refreshed.

For added peace of mind, all repainting work is backed by a 3-year workmanship warranty, giving local homeowners confidence in the quality and durability of the finish.

To see recent projects and customer reviews, visit [facebook.com/focusonpainting](https://facebook.com/focusonpainting).

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## Award-winning pool soars to new heights



Narellan Pools Auckland West is proud to be the recipient of the 2025 Gold Award for Narellan's Pool of the Year, recognising exceptional workmanship and a standout installation.

The winning project features a Grandeur 9 in Blue Azurite, known for its generous size, smooth entry steps, and timeless shape. The Blue Azurite finish creates a rich, vibrant water colour that looks

impressive at any time of day.

This installation presented a unique challenge due to limited site access. To achieve the perfect outcome, the pool shell was delivered by helicopter, lifted, and placed precisely into position. The lift was a memorable moment for the homeowners and Richard Pook and the team, showcasing the dedication behind every Narellan Pools Auckland West project.

Set against a stunning natural backdrop and surrounded by thoughtfully planned entertaining areas, the finished pool creates a relaxed yet luxurious space for the homeowners to enjoy year-round. The combination of the Grandeur's clean lines, the Blue Azurite finish, and the property's setting made this installation stand out.

Winning Pool of the Year is a proud reflection of Richard's and the team's commitment to quality and craftsmanship.

To explore the range or discuss your own pool project, contact Narellan Pools Auckland West on 0508 476 657 or visit [narellanpools.co.nz](https://narellanpools.co.nz).

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## Whenuapai floral and Garden Circle



First Meeting for the New Year of 2026 was on 12 February and held at the Village Hall when 37 persons attended.

Guest speaker was Dave Shirley whose great passion is the growing and showing of dahlias. He and his wife Kay exhibit at around eight Shows each year with sometimes two in the same weekend. This was the third time a visit to our Club was planned, with the other two not working out for varied reasons, however we were glad he was able

to make it this time. His enthusiasm was infectious and many and varied are the types of dahlias which are native to Mexico.

Dahlia is a striking annual plant and generally grown from dormant tubers, although available in punnets and pots, it is one of the most popular competition flowers among growers. Dave detailed how they prepare the flowers for transport to the venues for showing, as the judges are very critical and examine blooms from every conceivable angle, for colour, form and size. Dahlias are generally considered easy to grow, especially once established. They thrive in well-drained soil and full sun. They can yield beautiful blooms from the middle of summer through until autumn. They do, however, require some care, including staking, disbudding, and digging up tubers each autumn. Overall, with the right conditions and care, most gardeners find growing dahlias to be a rewarding experience.

Dynamic lifter, an organic slow-release fertiliser made from composted poultry manure, is designed to improve soil health and provide essential nutrients for plant growth. It releases those nutrients slowly, improves the structure and moisture retention of the soil and encourages earthworms and beneficial soil micro-organisms. Lime is also recommended and Novatec Fertiliser, which provides a sustained release of easy to absorb nitrogen, for your plants for about four months.

Forthcoming events were discussed, birthdays acknowledged, blooms judged and competition results from last year announced and prizes given, raffles drawn and afternoon tea enjoyed. 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. Until next time, happy gardening from Mary Anne Clark

## Waimauku garden club

This Thursday we travel north to Omaio Gardens, a large coastal property on the Takatu peninsula created by Liz Morrow and now named a Garden of International Significance by the NZ Garden Trust. Set amongst native bush with old trees there are flourishing clivia, hydrangeas and ferns in the shade along with a vegetable garden, and orchard and garden beds with easy walking tracks. Liz has carefully created a garden which does not compete with nature and has combined sculptures into the landscape and sea views. Morning tea is provided here.

We then travel to Omaha Bay Vineyard, a local vineyard. Here we will have platters for lunch and wine tasting for those wishing to imbibe. Otherwise a non-alcoholic drink will be included with lunch. The estate has views over the sea to Great Barrier Island and an art gallery to browse through also. The coach will drop us off in Matakana Village for a stroll around the village and some free time before heading home at around 2.30pm, hopefully back in Kumeu by 4pm. Looking forward to this trip and sharing about it next time.

Feel free to contact any of us : Ann (0210357406), Gail (021344070), Maree (0274963006), Moira (027498154), Monique (021646220), Sandi (027318541)



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# Time to replace your irrigation field? here's what to look for



For many homeowners with septic systems, the irrigation field (also called a drainage or soakage field) is very much "out of sight, out of mind" – and that's usually a good thing. But when it begins to fail, the signs can be messy, smelly and expensive. In worst-case scenarios, it can even damage your pump – \$\$\$!

### What does an irrigation field actually do?

After solids settle in your septic tank, the remaining liquid effluent flows out to the irrigation field. It is distributed through perforated pipes into the surrounding soil, where natural filtration processes remove harmful bacteria and nutrients before the treated water returns safely to the groundwater system.

Over time, irrigation fields can clog, compact or simply wear out. When that happens, wastewater can no longer disperse properly.

### Common signs you may need a replacement

1. Slow drains and gurgling pipes
- If sinks, showers and toilets are draining slowly – and your

septic tank has already been pumped – the issue may lie in the irrigation field. Gurgling sounds can indicate wastewater isn't moving through the system as it should.

2. Wet or soggy patches on your lawn

Persistently damp ground above the irrigation area, especially during dry weather, is a clear warning sign. If the soil can't absorb the effluent, it may start surfacing.

3. Unpleasant odours outside

A healthy system shouldn't smell. If you notice sewage odours around your yard, particularly near the irrigation field, it's time to investigate.

4. The system is ageing or under stress

Irrigation fields last around seven years, depending on soil type, use and maintenance. Livestock compacting the ground or roots from nearby plants can all cause damage.

5. Alarms or warning lights

If your alarm keeps sounding or a red warning light activates when you flush the toilet or run appliances, act quickly. Your system is struggling to cope.

### Don't wait for an emergency

Irrigation field problems rarely fix themselves. Acting early can prevent wastewater backing up into your home or causing major damage to your property or pump.

If you're noticing warning signs, seek professional advice. The experienced HydroVac team can assess your system and talk you through your options. Call 0800 493 768 – we're here to help.

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Our hydro excavation and service location solutions are designed with efficiency at the forefront. Simply put – we work faster and smarter. Our modern vacuum trucks are more powerful and efficient than standard units, allowing us to excavate cleaner, expose services quicker, and minimise downtime on site. Less waiting, less mess, and more progress where it counts.

But equipment is only part of the story. What truly sets



Drain Ninjas apart is our team. Our operators are highly skilled specialists who know how to get the job done right the first time. They understand the importance of accuracy when working around critical infrastructure and take pride in operating with care, precision, and professionalism on every project.

Equally important is communication – something our clients consistently tell us we excel at. From clear job scoping to real-time updates on site, we keep engineers, developers, and project managers fully informed every step of the way. No chasing, no guesswork, no surprises.

For developers and engineers looking to reduce risk, protect underground assets, and keep projects moving, Drain Ninjas delivers a smarter hydro excavation and service location solution.

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## Laser Plumbing Whenuapai



February marks the final month of summer, welcoming the arrival of autumn. Autumn is a season of calm and colour. The air cools, mornings feel crisp and the afternoons stay mild. It's the perfect time to enjoy clear skies, changing leaves and everything slowing to a gentler pace.

It is also an ideal time to start thinking about making sure your property is ready for the months ahead.

Drainage - drains should be kept clean and clear for them to work effectively. Drain maintenance goes a long way in keeping your drains in good working condition and reducing the chance of a blockage. Laser Plumbing Whenuapai can provide regular maintenance checks to prevent blockages from occurring. And if a blockage does occur, we have specialist equipment to clear out stubborn blockages.

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## Autumn gardening with Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson



As Autumn begins to roll in and the long, bright days of summer begin to soften. It's a time of transition- when the soil is still warm, the air turns

crisp, and your garden is ready for a little care to carry it confidently through the colder months.

Autumn is ideal for planting hardy perennials, refreshing tired garden beds, and giving your soil a nutrient boost after the demands of summer. Our stores offer a wide range of robust seasonal plants perfectly suited to cooler weather- think colorful winter-flowering favorites, strong-growing shrubs, and reliable ground covers that will put on a show well into the colder months. If you're focused on edibles, now is the perfect moment to get winter greens like kale, cauliflower, broccoli, silverbeet, and spinach into the ground. They establish beautifully in the mild autumn climate and reward you with nutritious harvests throughout winter.

At Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson, we know that the right tools make all the difference. Our selection of high-quality garden tools- both power and hand varieties- takes the effort out of seasonal maintenance. From pruning back summer growth to trimming hedges or turning over garden beds, you'll find reliable equipment to help keep your space tidy and thriving. And if you're not sure where to start, our knowledgeable team is always on hand with practical tips tailored to your garden's unique needs.

Preparing your soil is one of the most valuable tasks you can do during these months. Adding nutrient-rich compost, organic matter, or conditioners helps replenish what summer growth has depleted. Healthy soil sets the foundation for strong winter planting, better moisture retention, and long-term plant vitality. We stock a full range of soil enhancers and mulches to help you build a rich, resilient garden ecosystem.

To give you complete peace of mind we offer a Healthy Plant Guarantee. If your plant doesn't thrive, just bring it back within 12 months with proof of purchase, and we'll replace it. We stand behind the quality of everything we sell - because we want your garden to flourish just as much as you do.

So as the leaves begin to turn and the days grow cooler, take the time to prepare, plant, and nourish your outdoor space. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just getting started, we're here to help you grow with confidence. Visit Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson this autumn-let's create something beautiful together.

Happy gardening, everyone!

## Moth plant season



It's March, which means it's moth plant season. You may have noticed people in hi-vis vests, holding secateurs and bottles of blue paste, diving into bushes in your neighbourhood. They are trying to find the roots of the plant, to chop it off and poison it. They may also be collecting sacks of moth plant pods, to dispose of them safely. Environmental groups are very concerned about this plant. Moth plant grows very fast, and in summer produces pretty white flowers which turn into large green pods that pop open, releasing thousands of fairy-like seeds. These fly long distances, spreading the plant far and wide. In the bush, it grows up other plants and smothers them, while native insects get stuck in the sticky white flowers. At home it can quickly take over a garden, and the latex in the sap irritates skin.

Habitat Hobsonville has a goal of eradicating moth plant in Hobsonville Point. Groups in other areas are also hard at work trying to tackle it. If you find moth plant on your property or street, here's what you can do to help:

- If small enough, pull or dig out the roots (wear gloves)
- If large, cut as close to the roots as possible and paste with a strong herbicide, such as Cut'n'Paste MetGel.
- Collect all the pods and bag them, then put in your rubbish bin. Do not compost them, as the seeds can survive.

There is more information here <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/mothplant/>

If you want to help, you can join STAMP (Society Totally Against Moth Plant) [facebook.com/groups/234572443294360](https://www.facebook.com/groups/234572443294360), or find a conservation group near you like Habitat Hobsonville Habitat Hobsonville | Upper Waitemata Ecol

Credits:

Moth image1 Carolyn Lewis

Moth image2 Auckland Council

Moth image3 Anna Gehrke



## Young Learners

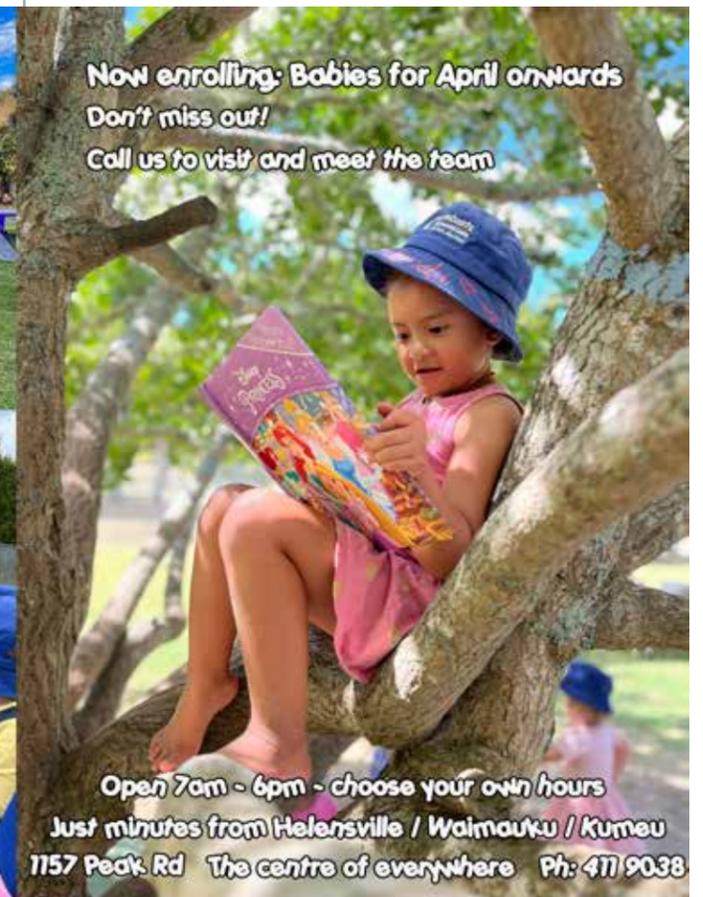
### Sensory exploration: why it matters and how to encourage it

From the very first moments after birth, we begin making sense of the world around us. Every interaction a child has stimulates one or more of the five basic senses: touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing. Through these sensory experiences, children learn how to connect, survive, and thrive in their environments. As each child comes from a unique background, their experiences can shape them in both positive and challenging ways. This is why sensory exploration plays such a vital role in early development.

The outdoors offers endless opportunities for sensory

exploration. And at Gumboots we are so lucky to have such large outdoor areas in all our four rooms. Our children have almost endless opportunities to squelch through mud, crunch autumn leaves, lie on the grass and watch clouds drift by, or pick and smell daisies from the uncut lawn. All activities engage the senses. Nature has a calming effect on minds of all ages. Taking deep breaths, closing our eyes, stretching, or practicing simple yoga movements outdoors allows us to activate our senses in meaningful and restorative ways.

Sensory play activities, such as using playdough or clay, can be both therapeutic and calming. Children can roll it, squish it between their fingers, smell it, and sometimes even taste it (although we don't recommend eating it!). These experiences are all part of learning. Children often spend long periods mastering skills like using rolling pins, cookie cutters, or forming the perfect ball. During this play, you may hear imaginative role-play - making cookies "just like Nana does" or "spreading concrete" for a new



## Young Learners

driveway. At the same time, fine motor skills are being strengthened, language is developing, and relationships with peers are being formed. Baking is another wonderful sensory experience that introduces new smells, tastes, and textures. It encourages collaboration and cooperation between children and adults, while also introducing early science concepts through mixing ingredients and mathematical skills through counting and measuring. While the mess – and clean-up – is a big part of the process, the delicious reward at the end makes it all worthwhile.

Sensory play can also support children who struggle with certain challenges, such as discomfort with squishy foods. By introducing different textures and consistencies through messy play – like cornflour and water, paint, or water beads – children can learn that these sensations can be enjoyable and safe. Over time, this can help them build more positive associations with similar food textures. Introducing new foods is always a gradual process, for children and even some adults, so patience and small steps are key.

A great sensory experience to create at home is sensory bottles. Plastic bottles can be filled with coloured water and oil, beads, rice, glitter, or water mixed with

dish liquid. Choose items that make sound, reflect light, or demonstrate cause and effect – anything that encourages curiosity and discovery. Be sure to tightly secure the lid and add a small amount of glue to prevent leaks.

When it comes to sensory play, you are only limited by your imagination. Have a go and see what sensory experiences you and your children can discover together.

## Tamariki at Te Manawa



Our much-loved pre-school sessions continue throughout March, now starting at 10.30am.

We've also made a small change – Kids Play has moved from Mondays to Wednesdays, right after Rhymetime.

### Weekly sessions (term time only)

Wriggle & Rhyme Tuesdays | 10.30-11.00am | Level 3 Auditorium

Rhymetime Wednesdays | 10.30-11.00am | Children's Area

Kids Play Wednesdays | 11.00-11.30am | Children's Area

Storytime Fridays | 10.30-11.00am | Children's Area

All our pre-school programmes are drop-in sessions – no bookings needed.

Come along for free, fun-filled mornings that are perfect for your little ones.

### Celebrating Chinese Lantern Festival

Join us on Sunday 1 March, 10.30-11.30am, for Paper Lantern Making – a magical, hands-on activity for children aged 5 and over. All materials supplied.

### Looking Ahead

The April school holidays and Easter are just around the corner – stay tuned for more exciting activities and events.

Discover everything happening each month at Te Manawa: <https://linktr.ee/temanawa>



## Aged care

### A simple way to sell your car

If you have a car that is no longer being used, you may be wondering what to do next.

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Kind regards, Tony Wang

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## Aged Care

# Celebrating 11 years of care at Kumeu Village

March marks a special milestone as we celebrate 11 wonderful years of Kumeu Village. From opening The Vineyard Villa and The Ladybug to growing into a trusted name in aged care, we are incredibly proud of how far our community has grown.

Throughout the years, we have remained committed to the highest standards of care, always leading with love, compassion and respect. Kumeu Village is more than a rest home- it is a community where companionship, dignity and heartfelt care remain at the centre of everything we do.

We would love to invite you to pop in for a visit throughout the month of March to help us celebrate.

Kumeu Village - Just behind the hedge on the corner of Old Railway and Main Road. A stunning 100-bed home offering hospital, specialised dementia, and respite care. Our professional and compassionate team provides round-the-clock support, ensuring every resident receives the care, comfort, and dignity they deserve - and giving families the space and peace they need to simply be together.

The Ladybug- Nestled behind beautiful trees in the idyllic Coatesville countryside, The Ladybug is a stunning 15-bed home offering specialised dementia care exclusively for women. Warm, personal, and family-focused, it's a place filled with love, nature, and genuine connection.

Come see for yourself - we'd love to welcome you for a no-obligation visit today.

Bring your loved ones, bring the family, and experience the comfort and compassion that define life at Kumeu Village and The Ladybug.

Finding the right care for someone you love starts here.

Kumeu Village - Corner of Old Railway & Main Road, opposite BP Kumeu

The Ladybug - 798 Coatesville-Riverhead Highway

09 412 9112

[info@kumeuvillage.co.nz](mailto:info@kumeuvillage.co.nz)

[www.kumeuvillage.co.nz](http://www.kumeuvillage.co.nz)

## A heartwarming February at Craigweil House



February was a meaningful and heartwarming month at Craigweil House, as residents and staff came together to celebrate both Waitangi Day and St Valentine's Day, each observed on its own special day but united by the same spirit of connection and community.

For Waitangi Day, we took time to acknowledge and reflect on the partnership, history and shared future of Aotearoa New Zealand. The day was marked with learning,

## Aged Care

discussion and a strong sense of togetherness. Some residents and staff wore black to commemorate the occasion, while others helped prepare the space with decorations, taking pride in creating a welcoming and meaningful setting. Activities included Poi, a New Zealand history quiz, and watching a video about the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, all of which sparked conversation, curiosity and shared memories. Staff also performed Māori Poi and Waiata, which was warmly received and enjoyed by everyone.

Later in the month, St Valentine's Day brought a lighter and creative celebration. Residents enjoyed colouring heart themed designs, filling the room with bright colours and cheerful conversation. In the afternoon, we made the most of the remaining summer days with a lovely garden tea, sharing sweet treats and warm drinks outdoors. It was a beautiful way to relax, laugh and appreciate one another's company.

At Craigweil House, moments like these reflect the care, connection and sense of belonging we value every day. If you are considering aged care options for yourself or a loved one, we warmly invite you to drop by, meet our friendly team and see what Craigweil House has to offer. PH 094208277



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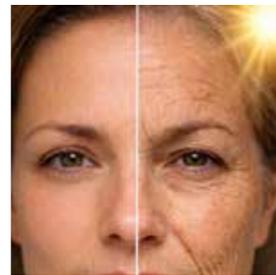
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# Health & Beauty

## Ask Dr. Heather



Is sunscreen really that important?

Anon, Whenuapai

When we look at someone's skin and try to guess their age, what we're really seeing is sun exposure over time. Fine lines, pigmentation and uneven texture are far more

influenced by ultraviolet radiation than by the passage of time. That's why sunscreen sits at the top of my anti-ageing list. Not serums, not injectables, not treatments. Sunscreen.

Ultraviolet radiation quietly damages the skin, even when it's cloudy. UVA rays penetrate deeply and break down collagen and elastin, the structures that keep skin firm. UVB rays cause surface damage and sunburn. The result? Long-term DNA injury, leading to wrinkles, brown spots and skin cancer.

Sunscreen works differently to most skincare. Rather than trying to repair damage, it prevents damage from happening in the first place. Used consistently, it protects collagen, stabilises pigment production and minimises skin cancer risk. Sunscreen also allows the skin to age more slowly. This is why people who wear sunscreen daily tend to have smoother, clearer skin, regardless of other products they use.

That doesn't mean other factors aren't important. Skincare, skin treatments and injectables all have their place. But without daily sun protection, it's like constantly mopping up water while the tap is still running.

The best sunscreen is one you'll use every day. Broad spectrum protection and an SPF of at least 30 are good starting points. Apply it as the final step in the morning, including your neck, chest and back of your hands.

Dr. Heather Anderson is a Cosmetic Medicine and Emergency Doctor who practises in her own clinic at ALLOR Cosmetic Medicine in Whenuapai and features in the All or Nothing Podcast (available on Spotify, Youtube and iHeartRadio). If you have a question for Dr. Heather you would like answered anonymously, please email [askdrheather@allor.co.nz](mailto:askdrheather@allor.co.nz)

## Start now: boost your immunity for winter

As the warmer months fade, March is the perfect time to prepare your body for winter. Supporting your immune system now can help prevent colds and flu later.

Focus on the basics:

- Sleep well: Aim for 7-9 hours per night to give your immune system a boost.
- Eat for health: Plenty of fruit, vegetables, fibre, and fermented foods support gut health – a key part of immunity.
- Key nutrients: Vitamin C, D, and zinc help keep your body resilient.
- Move daily: Even short walks improve circulation and immune response.
- Manage stress: Take time to relax, reduce screen time, and enjoy outdoor activities.

Small, consistent steps now mean a healthier, stronger winter ahead.



## Health & Beauty

# Take the first step toward your peak performance today



Football has shaped my life for as long as I can remember giving me both structure and challenge.

Over time, I realised the game was teaching me more than technical skills. It taught me discipline, resilience, and the value of being part of a community working toward something shared.

I am an OFC/NZF C Licence coach and a Level 4 qualified Strength and Conditioning coach, and I have spent the past six years coaching at our local football club West Coast Rangers.



Coaching feels like a natural progression of my journey in the game. I believe development takes time. It is built through consistency, honest feedback, and environments where players feel supported but also challenged.

From August 2018 to November 2019, I spent time in the United States in a high performance football environment. I played two collegiate seasons in Oregon

and supported the junior development programmes at the Eugene Timbers. That experience shifted my perspective.

The physical difference stood out immediately. I noticed it not only within the Timbers' junior programmes but also at the collegiate level where I was competing each week. Technically, the standard was similar to what I had known in New Zealand. The real gap was in strength, speed, and athleticism. What made the difference was structure. Strength and conditioning was embedded into the culture and treated as essential.

That realisation shaped my coaching philosophy. I am intentional about integrating physical preparation with technical development so players build foundations that last.

I value community because growth does not happen alone. I value consistency because progress is built daily. And I value balance because long term success depends on joy, both on and off the pitch.

Get In Touch - [www.theprogressiveathlete.co.nz](http://www.theprogressiveathlete.co.nz)  
021 226 0055

# Is your child shortsighted?



Myopia, or shortsightedness, is becoming increasingly common in children, with more young people needing stronger glasses at earlier ages. Beyond blurry distance vision, worsening myopia can increase the risk of serious eye problems later in life. Traditional corrective spectacles

are no longer recommended due to the myopic progression that may occur with them. Myopia control is now a key focus in children's eye care.

Spectacles lenses for myopia control have a special zone of peripheral de-focus which helps slow the rate of growth of the eyes, and these are proven to be effective whilst solving the problem of distance blur.

Contact lenses have also been designed for myopic children. Unlike standard contact lenses that simply correct vision, MiSight lenses are clinically proven to slow the progression of myopia while providing clear, comfortable vision throughout the day. Large international studies have shown they can significantly reduce how quickly myopia worsens when worn consistently.

One of the biggest advantages of MiSight lenses is their child-friendly design. They are soft, easy to handle, and thrown away at the end of each day, making them a hygienic and low-maintenance option for families. Children can wear them during school, sports, and outdoor activities without worrying about broken or lost glasses. Children from age 8 can usually insert and remove them unaided.

Optometrists Matthew and Molly Whittington fit both myopia control spectacles and MiSight contact lenses. Or they can refer your child to a specialist for medical intervention.

Have your child's eyes checked now to set them up for the school year. Phone 09 412 8172 or call into For Eyes Optometrists, 90 Main Rd in the Kumeu Shopping Village.

## What I wish I could tell my younger self about skin - from a Cosmetic GP



If I could go back 20 years and give my younger self some skin advice, it wouldn't involve complicated routines or expensive products. It would be surprisingly simple- but it would make a big difference to the skin I have today.

First, I would say: wear sunscreen every single day. And no, the moisturiser with SPF 15 isn't cutting it. The sun

exposure you are getting now is directly determining your future signs of sun damage and your lifetime skin cancer risk. It's okay not to be a bronze goddess, it isn't in your DNA. And please, for the life of you, don't forget your neck, chest, arms, and hands.

Secondly, I would tell myself to take acne seriously and seek help early. Cystic acne can cause scarring that is very difficult to treat. In fact, it can take many years to improve. Acne is rarely caused by "dirty skin" or not cleansing enough. More often, people are over-cleansing, over-exfoliating, and stripping away their skin barrier, which only makes things worse.

I would also remind myself that factors like diet, sleep, stress, and hormones all influence skin health- and these can't simply be "washed away."

Finally, I would say this: focusing on improving your skin rather than covering it with heavy makeup will help in the long run. Simple, consistent habits work. And it's okay that you don't have all the answers on your own. There are people who genuinely want to help you get to the point where you can look in the mirror with kind eyes.

Dr. Cherie Wyatt-Hutana. Restore Cosmed.

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## Local wellness guide helping you reconnect



Lauren, founder of Sustainable You Wellness Immersions, is a yoga, Pilates and meditation teacher, wellness guide, trail runner and fur baby mama. She brings 10 years of teaching and wellness experience at gyms and studios around the region. Competing at an NZ level in athletics and cross-

country, then in NZ and overseas trail races including the Great Wall of China Half Marathon, taught her strength, endurance (and how to rehab injuries).

Speaking of, she endured a broken neck while horse riding on day two of her honeymoon. The journey back has been one of slowing down and rebuilding, informed by many modalities. In particular, she spent a year learning to teach meditation, as well as studying craniosacral therapy for her own healing, plus somatic feminine embodiment after recognising a disconnect with her female system. These all deeply supported her in slowing down, restoring and reconnecting to her inner world. When it comes to horses, rather than exiling them, she realised they have a lot to teach her (and us) and has, in parallel gone on a journey of natural horsemanship and reconnecting with horses literally from the ground up. She studied Equine Assisted Learning, where she partners with horses to assist people in various challenges, from connection, grounding and regulation to leadership and more. She now works at Whisky Meade Farm in Kumeu, providing equine assisted learning services and partners with Wild Horse Project horse Dancer for "Dancing with Dancer".

These experiences manifest in her community wellness offerings, infusing her passion for helping people rejuvenate their bodies using craniosacral therapy at her clinic in Swanson and home in Titirangi, as well as Equine Assisted Learning in Kumeu together with her horses. When not teaching or treating, you'll find her adventuring with her hubby and rescue doggos, or at the farm taming her Kaimanawa and foal, Dawn.

Whatever your wellness challenge, Lauren can help you on a journey back to you - to heal, reconnect and resource your body. She specialises in life transitions, feminine embodiment and nervous system regulation, grounding and resourcing tools. Contact her to discuss what will work for you. 30% of all March/April income will go towards ocean plastic research as part of a sailing trip with Expedition. [www.sustainableyouwellness.co.nz](http://www.sustainableyouwellness.co.nz)



# Area Columnists

## Column by Chris Penk, MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi



It was such a delight to announce last week that Kumeu is getting a new high school!

In the previous edition of the Kumeu Courier I was able to hint that good news in this space was imminent. And last Friday afternoon, at Matua Ngaru School, I was so pleased to be joined by local parents, local school and other community leaders to share some of the detail. Admittedly there are still some details that we don't yet have, including (mostly importantly) confirmation of when the school will be built and students accepted. It would be ideal if the answer to this question proves to be "2028" but I am wary of making timebound promises that may not be fulfilled exactly as planned - given the complexity of construction projects - as I'm conscious that local families will be making plans on the back of this information.

The key point for now, however, is land has been identified and the Ministry of Education is in the process of finalising its purchase. The site is adjacent to Huapai District School.

By way of background, I have been advocating strongly for increased secondary schooling capacity to serve families across Kumeu, Huapai, Riverhead and the wider northwest. With population growth continuing at pace, many parents have rightly expressed concern about long travel times and limited local options for their young ones. Access to quality education close to home is not a luxury - it is an essential part of building strong communities.

That is why I am so pleased that the Government has now confirmed plans for a new high school to serve our growing northwest population. This is a significant milestone and one that reflects the voices of local families, educators and community leaders who have made the case so persuasively.

The new school will help ensure that young people in our area can learn, grow and thrive without needing to travel long distances each day. Of course any moves that reduce congestion on northwest Auckland roads are important for this reason alone. Having a school closer than either Kaipara College or Massey High School - both of which are excellent schools, I want to emphasise - also

supports families in the Kumeu area by strengthening community connections and providing opportunities for students to participate more fully in sports, arts and cultural life close to home.

I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to share their views and experiences with me as we have worked towards this outcome. We've done petitions, news stories, letters, questions and Official Information Act requests together over several years. To be clear, community advocacy has played an important role in getting us to this point.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Minister of Education (my friend and colleague Erica Stanford), local schools and the community as planning progresses. This investment in education is an investment in the future of our young people - and in the continued success of northwest Auckland. Bring it on!

**Chris Penk - Member of Parliament for Kaipara ki Mahurangi**



**Chris Penk**  
MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

**Here to help**  
134 Main Road, Huapai • [christopherpenk@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:christopherpenk@parliament.govt.nz) • 09 412 2496

**National**  
Authorised by Chris Penk, 134 Main Road, Huapai.

## Auckland Film Studios sold



The Auckland Council has sold its Auckland Film Studios (AFS) to Auckland Film Studios Limited, part of the Xytech Group.

It doesn't include the privately owned Kumeu Film Studio.

The sale protects \$30 million of government funding for reinvestment into new screen infrastructure.

"Paired with Auckland's stunning scenery it will increase the appeal of Auckland to a global screen industry," says Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown.

"I've some experience here developing movie theatres and film studios, I know the industry and this is a good move that also delivers for ratepayers," he says.

AFS has been the base for many New Zealand and international high-profile productions from Hercules: The Legendary Journeys and Xena: Warrior Princess through to Lord of the Rings - The Rings of Power, A Minecraft Movie, The Wrecking Crew, Predator - Badlands and Brad Pitt's Heart of the Beast.

Xytech, founded by chief executive Stephen Pryor (pictured) in 1997, is the owner and operator of X3 Studios - a 24,000 square metre studio and production facility in Wiri which opened in 2020 and hosted large scale productions including the Netflix success and Emmy award winning Sweet Tooth, and the fifth installment of the Spartacus series for Lionsgate/Starz Entertainment.

"My earliest connection to Auckland Film Studios goes back to 1992 and in the years since then Xytech has been a major supplier to almost all of the projects that have filmed at AFS," says Stephen.

Xytech is the Southern Hemisphere's largest lighting supplier to film and high-end television, the council says.

AFS has been owned by the Auckland Council and operated by Council controlled organisation Tataki Auckland Unlimited (TAU) since 2017.

The sales price remains confidential.

The council confirms that - as a result of the agreement that supported the opening of two sound stages at AFS in 2022 - the New Zealand Government's \$30m contribution towards those stages will come back to the council to be held in a fund and reinvested in further new Auckland screen infrastructure.

The AFS sale agreement guarantees the site will remain a studio and the cornerstone of West Auckland's screen heartland for at least the next decade.

Sale settlement was on February 27, 2026.

## Horses & Us book launch Thursday March 12



Pony Club Secrets author Stacey Gregg, who features in Coatesville's Jo Emeny's new book *Horses & Us*, will do a question and answer session with Jo at her book launch on March 12, 2026, at the Takapuna Library, 6.30pm.

"So not only will horsey teens and tweens be able to come along and get a copy of *Horses & Us* signed, but they'll also be able to listen to Stacy and I chat about the book beforehand," says Jo.

Jo's 200-page book was mentioned in the December/January Kumeu Courier. Jo says it's a "feel-good book" with an environmental theme, designed for young people.

It has plenty of colour illustrations and photos. *Horses & Us* follows her 2022 book *Sylvia and the Birds* about "Bird Lady" Sylvia Durrant who retired at 85 and closed her Rothesay Bay bird sanctuary in 2018 after 35 years.

Jo says her new book, *Horses & Us*, focuses on the human-animal bond and resilience people learn through their horse interaction. She hopes to see a good turnout at the book's launch.

Jo Emeny and pony Billy who got a life-threatening illness which featured in Jo's book. Photo: Maria Gobbie

## Successful Kumeu hot rod show



Kumeu hot rod show was successful despite the Sunday washout.

image- Morrisons' Lazarus Sovea polishes a 1959 Chevrolet Bel Air "mourning" car

Friday and Saturday January 16 and 17, 2026, were great for the Repco Kumeu Classic Car and Hot Rod Festival - but the weather packed in on Sunday January 18 leading to its cancellation at the Kumeu Showgrounds for the day.

Paddocks were turning into a mud bath on the Sunday and many cars couldn't get in, says festival Co-Director Desma Galvin, who runs the event with daughter Nicole (who does The Very Vintage Day Out, again successful

although no beauty pageant was held for the second successive year), and Desma's husband Ken. They opened the show with free admission on the Sunday but Desma reckons few came because of the rain. She says the show made enough to pay its bills but had little left over for their wages.

Now she's hoping good weather returns for the 33rd annual Kumeu Classic Car and Hot Rod Festival next year, with planning already underway.

Desma was happy with the Friday evening and Saturday, saying more than 20,000 people came to the Saturday events and at least 3500 cars were displayed indoors and out.

Repco People's Choice awards went to Ryan Dunn's grey Holden HK (large), a white 17 HG Holden from Pete and Delilah Schimanski (medium) and a 1967 Chevrolet Camaro (small) owned by Matt and Jenna Munro.

The Repco Best Ford award went to Sam Levien's 1934 Coupe and John Gambell took the Shock Shop's Best Chev prize with his 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle.

The NZ Rodder Best Hot Rod award went to "Uncertain" from Martin and Marion Bennett and the Auto Magic Best Australian honours went to a 1970 AZ Holden panel van.

The Classic Cover Insurance Best Commercial prize was won by Kruzin Kustoms for a Chevrolet station wagon and Shane Stewlin won the NZ Petrolhead Best Street Machine with his 1964 Nova (white).

Mothers Show Shed got the Repco Best Presentation award, while the Mothers Best Other prize went to Aaron Grieves' 1937 Hudson Terraplane.

Steve Barker won the Very Vintage Market Best Vintage award for his A35 Auburn boat tail, and Battery Town's Best Muscle Car award went to a purple GTR.

The Kumeu Car Show Vintage Caravan award was won by Karen Smith.

Morrisons Funerals showed its classic car collection at the show for the first time. Lazarus Sovea was polishing a few of them when we stopped by, the collection including a 2006 Harley-Davidson "Heritage Softtail" sidecar hearse in white pearl which joined the fleet in 2024.

Others included a 1959 Chevrolet Bel Air "mourning car" to transport family, a 1973 black Cadillac Superior and 1961 Dodge Seneca hearses.

Kumeu Showgrounds sheds featured a variety of hot rods and classic cars, including a green Studebaker, a 1932 Ford Roadster, various Ford Coupes, and a 1969 Oldsmobile. Outside, rides were given in different vehicles, such as Palmerston North's Daniel David's Monster Trucks.



## Sayers says it



By Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers. Ratepayers in Rodney should not be required to fund the operating costs of the City Rail Link.

This is not opposition to the project or to Auckland's growth. It is a question of equity. Should

a largely rural district, with no passenger rail services and limited public transport infrastructure, be compelled to fund a multi-billion-dollar inner-city rail tunnel?

The CRL's projected annual operating cost is approximately \$235 million - equivalent to a 7.9 per cent residential rates increase. That comes on top of last year's significant hikes, which in some cases reached 30 to 50 per cent. At a time when households are absorbing higher insurance, food and fuel costs, another large rates increase is not sustainable.

Rodney residents derive little direct benefit. There are no local train stations. Many communities rely on private vehicles because viable public transport options do not exist. Some rural roads remain unsealed, and long-promised township upgrades have been deferred and SH 16 will remain congested.

Rodney ratepayers already pay a targeted rate to maintain basic bus services.

Supporters argue that all of Auckland benefits indirectly through reduced congestion and economic stimulus. But indirect gains cannot reasonably be equated with direct, daily usage. For a commuter stepping onto a central city train platform, the benefit is immediate. For a farmer navigating an unsealed rural road, it is not.

Excluding Rodney from contributing to the CRL's operating costs would not derail the project. Spread across Auckland's urban base, the additional cost per household would be thirteen cents a week. For Rodney, the relief would be substantial.

Rodney should not be penalised for infrastructure it neither uses nor meaningfully benefits from. Excluding Rodney from a 7.9% rate increase is not divisive - it is responsible governance.

Please have your say online at <https://akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/> or pop into a library for a submission form before 27 March.

Got council issues? ...

# Say it to Sayers

Online video, over the phone, or one-on-one bookings available

Greg Sayers - Rodney COUNCILLOR

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## Kumeu Library



School and university have started up again – and Kumeu Library can help you work smarter, not harder. You can make your student life easier by getting to know the free resources and support available from your library. All

you need to get started is a library card. Unlock a world of free resources with just a click of the button or by coming in to visit Kumeu Library. Join online and receive your unique number to gain immediate access to our extensive eBook collection, online learning modules, research databases and other digital resources, then bring photo ID to the library to complete your membership and borrow physical resources.

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Your library card also unlocks free access to LinkedIn Learning courses on technology, business and creative topics, as well as support for grammar, writing and English language learning. Specialised databases like ProQuest Research Library and Gale Academic Onefile provide access to scholarly articles and journals, while BWB Texts Collection Online, the Treaty of Waitangi Collection and Kura Heritage Collections Online offer unique resources for research and heritage projects.

Gale in Context provides balanced information on science and current global issues, making complex topics easier to understand – browse videos, statistics, recent news and academic articles. This site features a topic finder tool so you can find articles closely related to your assignment. World Book Discover's 6-step research guide, developed for students with learning difficulties or English as a second language, has a user-friendly database of audio and video content, plus tools developed with students' needs in mind.

Follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/KumeuLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/KumeuLibrary)) to keep up with all Kumeu Library's events and news.

## The Village Market Helensville Showgrounds

Sunday 15th March 8.30am to 1pm

Enjoy live music from Emilie while you browse our tempting selection of stalls. Rest and relax with a coffee and a tasty treat while you catch up with friends and neighbours. All your favourite stalls will be there – local crafts & art, pet health care, jewellery, candles, soaps,



preserves, pre-loved, hand knits & spinning, indoor & outdoor plants, locally grown fruit and vegetables, flower bouquets, eggs and much more.

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](mailto:sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz)

## Cat lovers - we need your help



The NZ Cat Foundation has a sanctuary based in Huapai which houses over 150 cats. We offer safe sanctuary for older, disadvantaged and un-homeable rescue cats where they can live out their lives in safety and comfort. We need regular volunteers to help with routine chores so our cats can enjoy happy, healthy, safe lives. We are looking for volunteers

who are mature, have a sense of responsibility, are good team players and dedicated animal lovers. Helping at the sanctuary is a popular way to fulfill community service hours for Duke of Edinburgh, St John's, Scouts, Guides, church, university, animal sciences studies, etc. We are happy to sign off on your hours and provide any needed verification of your service. We rely heavily on volunteers on a daily basis and desperately need more.

Financial and food donations are also urgently needed to cover vet and other costs associated with our sanctuary. The NZ Cat Foundation also supports community Trap-Neuter-Return programmes and helps feed and care for many cats living in the community. Please visit our website for more information on volunteering and how to donate at [www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz](http://www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz). You can also email - volunteers: [volunteer@thenzcatfoundation.org.nz](mailto:volunteer@thenzcatfoundation.org.nz) donations: [info@thenzcatfoundation.org.nz](mailto:info@thenzcatfoundation.org.nz)

## Zash Hair

At Zash Hair, we believe special occasions deserve hair that feels just as memorable as the moment itself. Styling your clip-in hair extensions with us is the perfect way to elevate your look for weddings, birthdays, school balls, photo shoots, race days, or any event where you want to feel confident, polished, and camera-ready.

Clip-in extensions are an amazing option for adding instant length, volume, and fullness without the commitment of permanent extensions. When styled professionally at Zash Hair, they blend seamlessly into your natural hair, creating a flawless finish that looks and feels effortless. Our experienced stylists take the time to customise the placement, curls, waves, or sleek styling to suit your hair type, outfit, and the overall vibe of your occasion.

Clients are welcome to provide their own clip-in hair extensions for their appointment. Whether they are extensions you already love or ones purchased elsewhere, we will assess them on arrival to ensure they are suitable for styling and blending. Our team will then work carefully with your natural hair to achieve a cohesive, long-lasting result that holds beautifully throughout your event.

At Zash Hair, it's not just about styling hair – it's about creating confidence. From soft romantic waves to glamorous volume or smooth, modern finishes, we'll help you feel your absolute best for every special moment worth celebrating



## Age well - glow longer



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If your skin feels dull, thin, reactive or uneven, March is the perfect time to reset.

Book your Skin Health Consultation this March and receive a complimentary LED upgrade with your first treatment. Or experience our Anti-Inflammatory RevitaPen Facial.

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By online appointment in Huapai / Kumeū

## SeniorNet Kumeu



SeniorNet Kumeu is all about making technology friendly, fun, and accessible for older adults in our community. Whether you've just picked up your first smartphone or want to master your laptop, we're here to help – no judgment, no rush. Every month, locals gather at our

friendly sessions to learn everything from online banking to staying safe on the internet, all with patient support and plenty of laughs along the way.

We believe technology should open doors, not close them, and age should never be a barrier to learning something new. At SeniorNet Kumeu, you'll find more than just tech advice – you'll meet new friends, share stories, and gain confidence to use digital tools in everyday life.

Curious? Come along and see what we're about. Membership is affordable, and the welcome is always warm. Join us and discover just how much you can do. We meet at 10.00am on the 1st Wednesday of the month at St. Chads Church, 7 Matua Road, Huapai. We would love to see you there.

## Stihl Shop Kumeu proud to support exciting attractions at the 2026 Kumeu Show



STIHL SHOP Kumeu is thrilled to once again be part of the Kumeu Show, one of the region's most iconic community events. As long-time supporters, the Kumeu Show is a highlight on our social calendar and a fantastic opportunity to connect with the people who make this community such a special place to live and work.

This year, we're proud to be sponsoring not just one, but three crowd-pleasing events. The ever-popular woodchopping returns with all the power and precision spectators love, while lawnmower racing makes its high-octane debut at the Kumeu Show – a first we're excited to help bring to life. We're also delighted to continue our support of Canopy Carnage, the freestyle tree-climbing spectacle that made its first appearance last year and quickly became a fan favourite. With incredible athleticism, creativity, and a touch of daring, it's an event that truly celebrates the spirit of the outdoors.

We're also excited to be hosting alongside one of our favourite suppliers, Masport, who will be showcasing a range of their high-quality outdoor power equipment. Visitors will be able to get up close with their impressive



Gravely ride-on mower range, a standout for anyone looking to take their lawn care to the next level.

Of course, it wouldn't be a STIHL SHOP Kumeu event without a bit of fun. Our popular Excalisaw game will be back! If you can pull the chainsaw from the stump, you might just walk away with a

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lucky prize. It's always a hit with families and friendly competitors alike.

We're proud to support the Kumeu Show and the community that supports us year after year. Come find us, say hello, enjoy the action, and be part of a weekend that celebrates everything great about Kumeu.

See you at the show , 14-15 March 2026.

## Why now is one of the best times to plan your travel with New Zealand's most awarded travel brand



House of Travel Hobsonville.

March is one of the busiest periods of the year for us as a local travel agency. During this month we consistently see strong forward bookings – and yes, we already have clients securing travel for December 2026 and beyond!

Booking early has real advantages. Travellers gain better pricing, more flight availability, preferred seating, and the ability to properly compare options rather than settling for what is left. In today's changing economic climate, it can also protect you from sudden airline tax and surcharge increases, something we have seen repeatedly over the past year.

This is also the season when many travel suppliers release their strongest offers.

In the cruising world this period is known as Wave Season, typically running from January to March. Cruise lines launch their biggest promotions of the year. While base

fares are not always the absolute lowest, the value is excellent – often including cabin upgrades, onboard credit, Wi-Fi, drinks packages and reduced deposits.

Guided holiday companies within the TTC family – Insight Vacations, Trafalgar, Cost saver and Brendan Vacations , also release key promotions around this time, particularly for Europe departures. Airlines such as Air New Zealand and Qantas often introduce their global fare sales as travellers begin planning the year ahead.

Even if you are not ready to confirm immediately, early planning makes a significant difference. It allows time to explore options, secure availability and organise a trip that suits both your schedule and your budget.

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# COUNTRY CLUB HUAPAI

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***Everyone is welcome - we'd love to see you there!***

**Saturday, 28 March | 11:00am – 3:00pm**

**Country Club Huapai, 23 Vintry Drive, Huapai**

