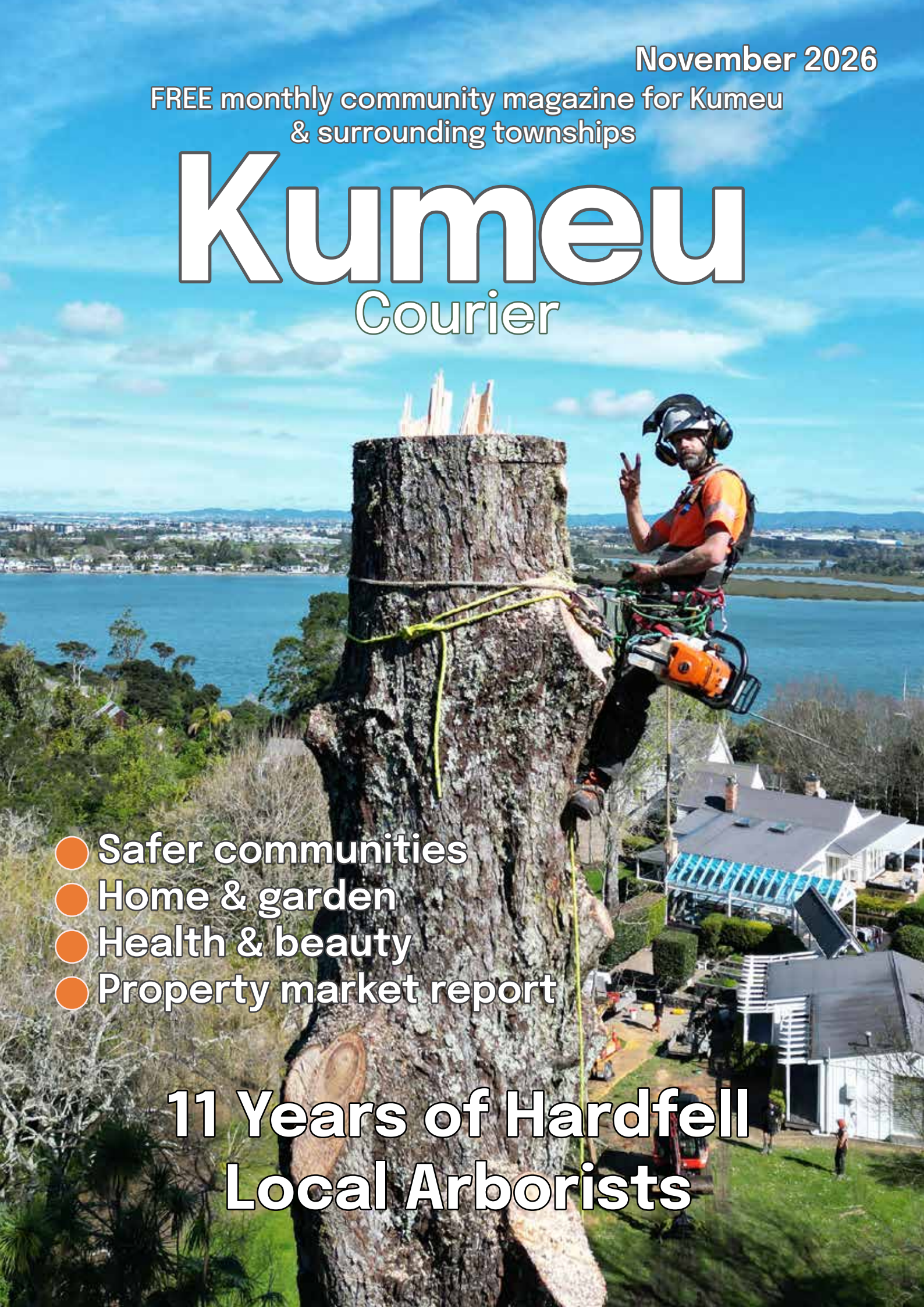
November 2026

FREE monthly community magazine for Kumeu & surrounding townships

Kumeu Courier



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

11 Years of Hardfell Local Arborists



Greetings

With election day coming up on November 7, there is plenty to think about when it comes to choosing who to vote for, including the all-important party vote.

Locally, Chris Penk has represented the Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorate since 2017, following in the footsteps of former Prime Minister Sir John Key, who represented the former Helensville electorate. During his time in the area, Chris has worked on a range of local and national matters, and it will be interesting to see what the future holds for him following recent changes to his ministerial responsibilities.

Chris has also been acknowledging the work of his Kumeū and Parliamentary office staff on social media, highlighting the people who help support his work in the community.

As election day approaches, voters will have the opportunity to consider the candidates, their records and the issues that matter most to them when deciding how to cast their votes.

Meanwhile, there is exciting news from Muriwai, where internationally recognised chef Michael Van de Elzen and his wife, Bee (Belinda), have sold their property and the well-known Good From Scratch cooking school.

After 12 years of developing their 5.2-hectare lifestyle property into a sought-after seed-to-table destination, Michael is ready to take a step back from the hospitality side of the business and enjoy new opportunities.

The property has reportedly been purchased by a couple from the United States who are keen to continue the Muriwai ventures, with plans to carry them forward from early next year.

This Christmas is expected to be Michael and Bee's last at the property, marking the end of a significant chapter in their journey. Michael is hoping to find another home in Muriwai before eventually retiring to Taupō, where the couple also have a property.

Their contribution to food, hospitality and the local area has helped put Muriwai on the map as a destination for those interested in fresh produce, cooking and the seed-to-table philosophy. We wish them all the best as they look forward to their next chapter, and it will be exciting to see what the new owners bring to the property.

There is plenty more to enjoy in this issue, with local stories, news and community updates to keep you informed and connected.

Happy reading

Editor Geoff Dobson.



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

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People & Places

Hardfell - professional arborists

This November marks 11 years since I started Hardfell. Looking back at those early days, it's hard to believe how far we've come.

Like many small businesses, we started with one ute, some climbing gear, a few saws and plenty of long days. We built the business job by job, investing in equipment and bringing good people on board.

Today, Hardfell has three crews working throughout Auckland. Our work ranges from everyday tree pruning and removals to technical rigging, crane removals, commercial projects and emergency tree work.

Along the way, we've reached some milestones we're proud of. Hardfell is an NZARB Registered Master Arborist company, holds SiteWise Gold and is Tōtika prequalified. In 2025, we won the Manufacturing & Trade category at the North West Business Awards. That recognition meant a lot to the whole team.

Our roots in the North-West remain just as important as the work itself. We work with local families, schools and businesses, and support community events where we can.

We also run Canopy Carnage at the Kumeu Show, bringing arborists together for a tree climbing competition that showcases the skill, teamwork and energy of our industry.

But the thing I'm most proud of is our people. Our team includes experienced arborists, apprentices and trainees. Helping them learn, build confidence and progress in the trade is a big part of what makes Hardfell tick.

Eleven years in, we've still got plenty ahead. We're continuing to improve, invest in our equipment and develop our team, while keeping the same practical approach that got us started.

To everyone who has trusted us with their trees or supported us along the way, thank you. We appreciate being part of this community.

For tree pruning, removals or advice across Auckland, get in touch with Hardfell today. We'd love to help.

Shaun Hardman - Director | Hardfell Ltd

Mobile 021 072 0739 - Email - shaun@hardfell.co.nz





HARDFELL
PROFESSIONAL ARBORISTS

Shaun Hardman
Director & Arborist

021 072 0739
shaun@hardfell.co.nz
hardfell.co.nz

Christmas lights at Te Awaroa Museum



Christmas is upon us and the museum is excited to bring back our "Christmas in the Windows" exhibition.

Eight different windows will light up the museum's buildings and in honour of the challenges we face, we hope to "shine a light" on those that voluntarily give their time over Christmas helping people and animals.

The lights will go on the night of December 1st and every night until the 5th of January with the best viewing time after 9pm. All welcome, and it's free of charge - our Christmas gift to you.

We thank the Rodney Community for contributing towards the exhibit and we thank our locals and volunteers for the continued support throughout the year.

From our team at the museum we wish you all a merry Christmas. Remember to be safe during the holidays and to take care of your community and Whānau.

Written by Dante Numa for Te Awaroa Museum.

Events at St Chad's



On Sunday October 4th we celebrated the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. As he is the Patron Saint of animals, we concluded our September series of services celebrating creation with a Pet Blessing Sunday. We had three very well behaved dogs who came along with their owners to be blessed though many others, especially the cat lovers, opted for the alternative of bringing a photo of their pets. We also remembered pets no longer with us and thanked God for all the joy that the animal world brings to us.

In the coming months we, of course, look forward to Christmas. Some dates for your diaries include our family Christmas Communion Service - 10.00 am on Christmas morning. This will be a service for all the family and although Saint Chad's is becoming famous for their morning tea (& coffee!) after their Sunday services, on Christmas morning we realise that everyone just wants to get on with their own celebrations.

In what has now become an annual event, the Pōhutukawa Singers will be at St Chad's on Sunday 29th November for a concert of great music. There will be Christmas music, including some in which they will invite the audience to sing along. But they will also bring us their eclectic taste - a huge variety of music from 16th Century Church music, through some rousing sea shanties, to James Taylor. There is no cost of living crisis in this concert as tickets will be available at the same price as has been for most of the last 10 years -$20 in advance, $25 on the door for adults and for the kids just a gold coin donation. Ticket prices include refreshments afterwards. For tickets see any choir member or email pohutukwawasingers@gmail.

Personal & business finance

Locals helping locals do more.

mtf finance KUMEŪ

Let's chat
09 399 2478
mtf.co.nz/kumeu



Freedom from anxiety



I experienced anxiety as a girl but wasn't aware that's what it was. I self-medicated with food, alcohol, smoking and drugs. When I stopped drinking & drugs at 24, I then suffered extreme anxiety on and off until 40.

I found out about anxiety when I was rushed to hospital in an ambulance at a work conference. This was first misdiagnosed as food allergies (anaphylaxis shock), so I became very food phobic. I was literally scared to eat.

Then I started having these 'allergic reactions' when I wasn't eating and finally understood they were panic attacks. I felt like my throat was closing, I couldn't breathe, my heart was racing, and I thought I was going to die. I would call an ambulance thinking I was dying only to be told it was a panic attack.

I was diagnosed with Generalised Anxiety Disorder, Panic Disorder and Social Anxiety. I was on and off anti-depressants for 16 years and told I would have to be on them forever.

Now I can't recognise the woman that I was to the woman that I am today. I am medication free, living a full happy life, with a man I love. I have ways of managing any anxiety that crops up. I am free from the excessive anxiety and panic that ruled my life.

I love what I do, helping others overcome anxiety to become their most confident and healthiest selves. Using hypnosis, we get to the root cause of the anxiety and change any beliefs deep in the subconscious to help you be more calm, relaxed & confident. Get in touch if you need help with anxiety.

Lorraine Maguire – Rapid Transformational Therapist

www.lorrainemaguire.com

Download my Freedom from Anxiety recording:

https://offers.lorrainemaguire.com/anxietyhypnosis

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wwww.lorrainemaguire.com

Kumeū Arts



November is an exciting month at Kumeū Arts, with the return of the Kumeū Arts Awards, fantastic live music and our popular Makers Market. Visit the Awards exhibition from 2-26 November to explore a diverse collection of original artwork by talented artists from across Aotearoa, discover the prize-winners across adult, youth and photography categories, and perhaps find a special piece to take home.

Kumeū Arts Live also returns with a line-up of outstanding musical performances, celebrating original live music in an intimate setting with affordable tickets. Get a head start on Christmas shopping at our Makers Market on Saturday 28 November, 10am-2pm, where you'll find unique, handcrafted gifts and support local artists and makers. With art, music and creativity all around, there's something for everyone this November.

We look forward to welcoming you. Visit www.kumeuarts.org





Make library life easier with the Auckland libraries app



The digital barcode means you don't have to remember your library card. You can manage checkouts, holds, and renewals, see which shelf your holds are on, and even check out books yourself at the library using your smartphone.

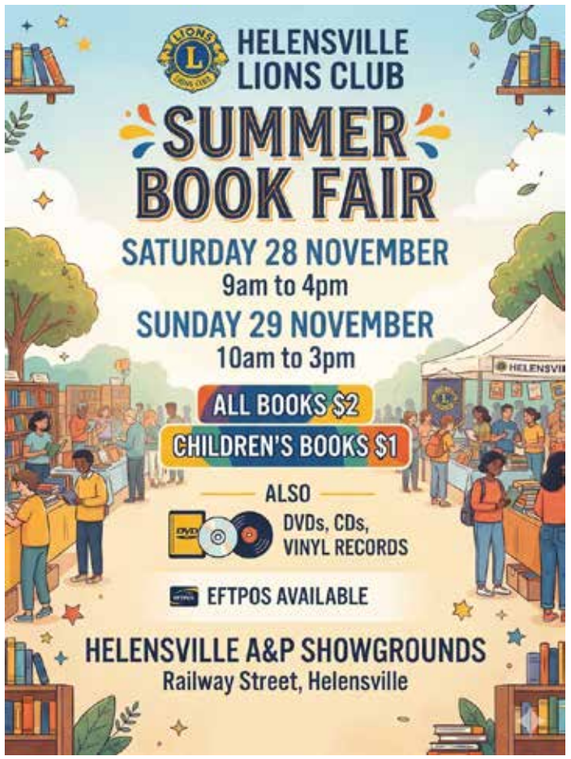
You can search the catalogue, place requests for books, eBooks, audiobooks and more, and use the ISBN scanner to instantly check if the library has a title and reserve it on the spot, wherever you are. The app also allows you to manage multiple library accounts.

Looking for a better way to track your reading? Use My Lists to create personalised book collections and monitor your reading journey over time.

Stay up to date by opting-in to receive notifications for hold pickups, renewals and due dates for returns. You can also choose to receive updates about library events, programmes, and important news.

The Auckland Libraries app is available for Android (7.0+) and iOS (14+) devices.

For the latest news and events from Kumeū Library, follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/kumeulibrary.



Tanya Franklin - The Travel Brokers



If Niue has been sitting on your wish list, I've got some fabulous packages for July and August 2027 – and these really do include a lot.

I was lucky enough to visit Niue myself in March this year, so this is one destination where I can share plenty of first-hand tips and tricks to help you make the most of your time on this very special little island.

Stay 7 nights at Scenic Matavai Resort Niue in an upstairs Ocean Pacific Room, with packages from:

$3,899pp x 2 share twin/double

$6,199pp single occupancy

And just look at what's included:

-Return Air New Zealand Economy The Works flights from Auckland

-7 nights at Scenic Matavai Resort Niue

-Daily à la carte breakfast

-Welcome drink & management orientation

-Niuean tasting platter on arrival

-Return airport transfers

-Free Wi-Fi

-Complimentary Thursday Umu dinner for up to 2 adults

-Half-day Niue Orientation Tour for up to 2 adults

-7-day rental car with unlimited mileage & insurance

-Whale Watching & In-Water Experience with Explore Niue for up to 2 adults

That rental car is a brilliant inclusion too – Niue is an island you'll want to get out and explore.

There are five selected departures between late July and late August 2027, during the time of year when whales are normally visiting Niue's warm, crystal-clear waters. Of course, wildlife sightings can never be guaranteed, but imagine seeing these incredible visitors while you're there.

These packages have confirmed Air New Zealand seats and accommodation, but numbers are limited. If you missed out on Niue for 2026 because you left it a little late, I wouldn't make the same mistake for 2027.

Contact me for the available dates and to secure your Niue holiday. And because I've been there myself, you can pick my brain about what to see, where to go and what I learned along the way.

Tanya Franklin - The Travel Brokers - Kumeu

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Skin health starts with understanding



Hello, I'm Sarah Tumulty, founder of SWAN Skin Wellbeing & Nutrition in Kumeu, a Functional Skincare Practitioner and Corneotherapist. My approach brings skincare and internal wellbeing together, helping clients understand their skin and what may be influencing it.

Corneotherapy is central to how I work. It focuses on protecting and supporting the skin's outermost layer: the barrier that holds moisture in and helps keep irritants out. When this barrier is disrupted, skin can become dry, sensitive or uncomfortable.

Supporting this protective layer provides a foundation for addressing concerns including acne, redness, sensitivity, dehydration and visible ageing. Before choosing a treatment, I consider what your skin can comfortably tolerate and what it needs to function well.

At SWAN, we begin with a consultation and skin analysis. We explore your skincare routine, previous treatments and environmental exposure, alongside nutrition, digestion, hormones, stress and sleep. These conversations help build a fuller picture of your skin and the factors that may affect it.

Where appropriate, functional testing may help explore questions about internal wellbeing. Results are considered alongside your history, symptoms and other findings to guide personalised support.

Your plan may combine facials, barrier-friendly homecare, and nutrition or lifestyle support. Products are selected with attention to skin compatibility and environmental considerations. Changes are introduced gradually, allowing us to observe how your skin responds.

My aim is healthier, more comfortable skin and greater confidence in caring for it. You will understand why each step is recommended, without needing a complicated routine.

In my peaceful clinic, appointments allow time to listen, explain and review your progress. Whether your skin feels reactive, unsettled or simply needs support, SWAN connects skin health with the person behind it.

Based in Kumeu, SWAN welcomes our community by appointment, offering thoughtful care tailored to your needs. www.swanskinandnutrition.com

SWAN
SKIN WELLBEING & NUTRITION
Sarah Tumulty
Functional Skin Practitioner & Nutritionist
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swanskinandnutrition.com
Kumeū | Northwest Auckland
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CORRECTIVE SKIN • WELLBEING • INSIDE-OUT CARE

The Village Market Helensville Showgrounds



Sunday 15th November 8.30am to 1pm

Discover locally made crafts, art, and gifts, along with fresh, locally grown fruit and vegetables, preserves, plants, pet products, and so much more. Brighten your day with a beautiful posy of flowers, savour delicious bites from the market café or the Lions sausage sizzle, and pair it all with a fresh barista coffee. Enjoy live performances by Gillian & Mike, playing a selection of easy listening classics as you browse. Can't make it on Sunday? Join us instead on Friday, 11th December from 4 pm to 8 pm for our festive Twilight Christmas Market, featuring fantastic gift ideas, food trucks, live music, and more–plus a special visit from Santa to see who's been naughty or nice!

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

How acupuncture supports physio progress



Acupuncture and physiotherapy are often seen as separate approaches, but together they create a powerful pathway for easing discomfort, improving movement, and supporting long-term recovery. Each therapy offers something unique, and when combined, they can help people progress more smoothly and confidently through their rehabilitation.

Physiotherapy focuses on understanding how the body is moving, identifying areas that are tight, weak, or working a little harder than they should, and guiding people through targeted exercises to restore strength and ease. It is active, practical, and centred on retraining movement patterns so daily tasks and activities feel more comfortable.

Acupuncture complements this beautifully. By using fine needles to settle irritated tissues and calm protective muscle guarding, acupuncture helps reduce the tension and sensitivity that can make movement feel restricted. Many people notice that after acupuncture, the area they have been working on in physio feels more settled, allowing them to move more freely and get more out of their exercises.

Together, these therapies create a supportive cycle. Acupuncture helps quieten the discomfort that can slow progress, while physiotherapy builds strength and resilience so improvements last. This combination can be especially helpful for stubborn injuries, long-standing tightness, or times when the body feels reactive and difficult to work with.

People often describe feeling lighter, looser, and more confident in their movement when both therapies are used alongside each other. Even small shifts in comfort can make a meaningful difference in how recovery feels day to day.

Physiotherapy is available in our Riverhead Clinic, and acupuncture is offered at our Hobsonville and Whenuapai Clinics. If you are working through tightness, niggles, or an injury that needs a little extra support, this combined approach may help your progress feel smoother and more sustainable.

Phone: 027 313 6036 Email: physio@riverheadphysio.co.nz



Summer adventures are better with a clean pup!



With summer just around the corner, it's time for more beach trips, forest walks, muddy adventures and plenty of outdoor fun with our four-legged friends!

But as much as our dogs love exploring, we all know how messy they can get! Between sandy paws, salty coats and muddy puddles, sometimes a good wash is exactly what's needed.

That's where Pet Patch's 24/7 DIY Dog Wash comes in!

Located at our store at 1 Shamrock Drive, Kumeū, our self-service dog wash makes cleaning up after an adventure quick, easy and affordable.

For just $10 for 15 minutes, you'll have access to everything you need, including regular shampoo, flea shampoo and a dryer. No need to make a booking, and best of all, it's accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

So whether you're heading home from the beach, a bush walk or just need to freshen up your furry friend, pop into Pet Patch and leave the mess with us!

Pet Patch - Locally owned, locally loved.



Safer communities - fire safety starts at pre-school



Firewise: Teaching Children to Stay Safe

The Get Firewise programme is a free fire-safety education initiative provided by Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ). Launched in 2000, it is designed primarily for children aged four to six, helping them understand fire risks, develop safe habits and learn what to do in an emergency.

The programme is delivered through classroom activities, discussions and practical learning, with firefighter visits available to reinforce key messages.

What do children learn?

Get Firewise focuses on three essential areas: understanding the dangers of fire, preventing fires and escaping safely.

Children learn how fires can start, why matches and lighters are dangerous, and the importance of smoke alarms. They also learn what to do when an alarm sounds, how to leave a burning building quickly and why every family should have a safe meeting place outside.

Building confidence and safer habits

The benefits extend beyond fire-safety knowledge. Children develop risk awareness, problem-solving skills and confidence in making safer decisions during emergencies. Through repetition, discussion and practical activities, they become more familiar with the actions needed to protect themselves.

The programme also encourages children to share what they learn with their families, prompting conversations about smoke alarms, escape routes and household meeting places. This helps parents and whānau review their own fire-safety plans.

How does it work?

Teachers can integrate Get Firewise into everyday classroom learning, delivering it over two or three weeks or as part of a longer-term topic. Where available, firefighters or Firewise coordinators provide presentations, usually lasting 30-45 minutes.

Learning can be assessed before and after the programme to help identify improvements in children's knowledge and understanding.



A safer future starts early

Teaching fire safety at a young age helps children recognise hazards, make safer choices and understand how to respond if a fire occurs. It also supports a stronger culture of fire safety across families, schools and communities.

Get Firewise resources and presentations are free for New Zealanders.

If your early childhood centre, primary school or community group would like to learn more, contact Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421. He can connect you with the appropriate local brigade specialist.



If you are within an Early Childhood or Primary School environment and would like to understand more about Fire Wise and how it can be possible within your organisation/ group, please contact Graham McIntyre on 0276320421 and he will direct you to the best possible local Brigade Specialist in your area. FireWise resource and presentation is a free resource for all New Zealanders.

Graham Mcintyre email is- graham.mcintyre@fireandemergency.nz and phone number is 027 632 0421.



Chief Fire Officer Waitakere Fire Brigade.

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Community News

Folk Festival giveaway



This November, we're giving you the chance to win a weekend double or family pass to the spectacular 2027 Auckland Folk Festival.

Held at the Kumeu Showgrounds from Friday 29 January to Monday 1 February 2027, over Auckland Anniversary Weekend, it's set to be a fantastic event for all ages.

NB: The family pass includes 2 adults and 2 children (plus children under 10 are free)

Print giveaway

To enter, simply email editorial@kumeucourier.co.nz with:

- Your full name

- The act or artist you would love to see from the 2027 lineup

Social media giveaway

Head over to the Kumeu Courier and The Westerly Facebook pages to enter our online giveaway!

To enter:

- Tag the person you would love to take with you

- Tell us which act or artist you would love to see from the 2027 lineup

The online giveaway will run during the last week of November and the first week of December.

Winners can choose between a double pass or a family pass.

Good luck, everyone!



Only 8 weeks until Christmas



There's still time to get your smile ready for the festive season.

Whether you're looking for new dentures, need a same-day reline, or require tooth additions or repairs, we're here to help you feel confident in your smile this Christmas.

Our denture services include full dentures, acrylic partial dentures, flexible dentures and chrome partial dentures, alongside relines, additions and repairs.

With Christmas fast approaching, now is the perfect time to arrange your appointment. Depending on your individual needs and appointment availability, there is still time to have your new dentures made before Christmas.

Give yourself the gift of a confident smile this Christmas.

Call our friendly team at DT Denture Clinic on 09 416 5072 to discuss your denture needs and take the first step towards your new smile.



First time in Japan? This one is for you



Japan has long been one of our most beloved destinations, and its popularity with us Kiwis continues to grow. And it's easy to see why.

From castle towns where samurai history and ceramic traditions live on, to neon-lit streets, theme parks, buzzing food stalls, and the bullet train weaving its way across the country, Japan is a destination of fascinating contrasts.

There's so much more to discover which inspired Buzz to team up with the Japan Tourism board and curate a special presentation aimed at Kiwi's planning a first-time trip to Japan.

Wonder to wander session - Japan

We'll be covering all the essentials to help you turn that dream into a plan. From the best times to visit, Japan's geography and festivals, to getting around, choosing between the different styles of accommodation, and discovering the prefectures and must-see spots that make up this incredible country. We'll also explore the different ways to experience Japan, whether independently, on a guided group tour or by cruise. If Japan is on your wish list and you're wondering where to begin, this is an evening you won't want to miss.

Date: 17 November

Time: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Venue: To be confirmed

RSVP essential : Buzz@hot.co.nz

Come along, get inspired and start imagining your own Japanese adventure. We look forward to seeing you there.

Buzz & the team at House of Travel Hobsonville,

House of Travel Hobsonville

225 Hobsonville Point Road

hobsonville@hot.co.nz | 09 416 0700

Cruise Centre: 144 Hobsonville Point Road | 09 941 3330



Tenant of the month – congratulations, Kaye!



This month, we're delighted to celebrate Kaye, a long-standing and valued tenant with West Auckland Property Management, who has received our Tenant of the Month Certificate and a $100 PAK'nSAVE voucher!

Kaye takes exceptional pride in her home and keeps it absolutely immaculate. Her care, effort and respect for the property are a wonderful example of what makes a great tenancy, and we're thrilled to recognise and reward her.

At WAPM, we believe great tenants deserve to be celebrated! When tenants care for their homes, it can help reduce repair and maintenance costs, while giving landlords greater confidence to invest in property improvements. We believe positive, respectful relationships between tenants and landlords create better outcomes for everyone.

Our philosophy is simple: recognise effort, reward care and build lasting relationships. Rewarding tenants financially is one way we can show our appreciation for those who go the extra mile. We're proud to acknowledge Kaye's contribution and thank her for being such a fantastic part of our WAPM community.

Congratulations again, Kaye! We hope you enjoy spending your $100 PAK'nSAVE voucher.

West Auckland Property Management – West Auckland proud. Relationship-focused. Personally invested.

Contact Donna Coxon - Phone: 022 090 1416



Cat lovers we need your help!

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

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

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

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

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

To learn more about volunteering or making a donation, please visit our website at www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz.



CHATHAM ISLANDS ESCORTED TOUR
WITH CAROLYN HEDLEY

20–27 March 2027
Escape the everyday and discover one of New Zealand's most intriguing and remote destinations. Join Carolyn on a fully escorted journey to the Chatham Islands and experience a truly unique part of New Zealand.

YOUR ESCORTED HOLIDAY INCLUDES:
- Return flights between Auckland and the Chatham Islands
- 7 nights Accommodation
- All touring and transfers included
- All meals throughout the journey
- Travel with a knowledgeable local guide
- Comprehensive sightseeing and experiences allowing you to enjoy the rich history, culture and natural beauty of the Chatham Islands.

Optional Pitt Island Adventure Add On Available:
Additional cost applies.

7 NIGHTS FROM $6,450* PER PERSON TWIN SHARE

Helloworld Travel Westgate
Westgate Lifestyle Centre, 57-61 Maki Street, Westgate
carolyn.hedley@travel.helloworld.co.nz 09 416 1799

helloworld TRAVEL
THE TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS

*T&Cs apply. Prices are per person in NZD, escorted cruise only. Deposit required at time of booking. Ask instore for full terms and conditions.

Freedom companion driving



Freedom Companion Driving, Hobsonville, is a pre-booked personal driving service that covers the areas of Hobsonville, Whenuapai, Riverhead, West Harbour, Massey, Taupaki, Huapai, Kumeu, Muriwai, and Waimauku. We provide additional support at the start and the end of each journey and our personalised service offers a caring, reliable and often cheaper alternative to other service providers .

Getting out and about and doing the things you have always done is an important part of keeping your independence. Our local drivers help people recovering from illness or injury, or those seniors with mobility challenges or disabilities get to their appointments on time, in a stress-free and fully supported way. We also help children and teens who need safe and secure transportation to and from school and after-school activities.

Owned by long-time local, Paul Miller, Freedom Drivers Hobsonville offers a safe, trustworthy and caring service that is a lot more than just providing transport.

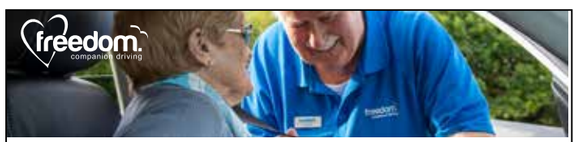
"Travelling with Freedom is like riding with a trusted friend or family member, and you'll build a relationship with a small team of drivers who you will get to know and trust," he adds.

All of our team are Police-vetted, are Health and Safety accredited and regularly attend 1st Aid Courses. They are also fully licensed. Our cars are fitted with CCTV (video only) for your added protection and security.

We cover the full range of personal transport and companion needs, from assisting people who are elderly and mobility-restricted or non-drivers to get to their appointments and also run errands for them. We will also carry your bags and even put your groceries away if you would like us to.

We take Total Mobility Cards (TM) and we are ACC Registered Vendors.

To find out more, please give Paul a ring or a text on 021 321 869 or email at hobsonville@freedomdrivers.co.nz



Paul Miller
Freedom Drivers Hobsonville

+64 021 321 869 I (09) 302 2377
hobsonville@freedomdrivers.co.nz

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- School Transport
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Arthritis management In older dogs



As our dogs get older, arthritis becomes increasingly common. You may notice your dog taking longer to get up, walking more slowly, hesitating on stairs, or no longer wanting to jump into the car. But getting older doesn't mean your dog has to live with pain. With the right care, many arthritic dogs can remain active, comfortable and enjoy a great quality of life for many years.

One of the most important things you can do at home is keep your dog at a healthy weight. Even a small amount of weight loss in an overweight dog can make a significant difference to painful joints. Regular, gentle exercise is also important. Short, frequent walks are usually better than long walks, while swimming and hydrotherapy can provide excellent low-impact exercise.

There are simple changes you can make around the home too. A warm, supportive bed, non-slip mats on slippery floors and ramps or steps to help with access can make everyday life much easier.

Your veterinarian can also develop an individual arthritis-management plan. This may include veterinary anti-inflammatory pain relief, newer injectable arthritis treatments, joint-support products, physiotherapy, rehabilitation, hydrotherapy or other pain-management options. Often, the best results come from combining several treatments rather than relying on just one.

So, if your older dog is slowing down, don't simply put it down to age. Arthritis can be managed, and helping your dog feel better can give them more happy, active years by your side.

Dr Gary Duggal - Huapai Vet Clinic

Huapai Vet Clinic

Dr Gary Duggal (BVSc)

New Clients Welcome!

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Email: huapaivet@gmail.com
371 Main Road, Huapai

VetClinic HUAPAI

Davis Funeral Care

Where does a year go? With the Christmas and New Year holiday season approaching, for many it will be a time to power down the laptop, put down the tools and enjoy a well-earned break away from the pressures of school, university and work.

Sadly, for some families, the coming holiday season will also be marred by the death of a family member.

In New Zealand today, some 5% of the population have made plans; "pre-planned" their funeral or farewell. Slightly more encouraging, it is estimated that this number increases to some 32% of the population who have some form of instructions in place or have had a discussion with family members.

Put another way, some 65% of funerals taking place in New Zealand today are unplanned at the time of the person's death. These families are left struggling with not only the obvious grief associated with death of someone close, but confusion and doubt as to what to do next, and on top of this, the added pressure of unplanned cost says Michael Powell GM of Davis Funerals. There has been so much information available to the public on death, and death care related topics as there is today; some of it extremely useful, some, sadly, is wildly inaccurate and misleading.

Indications are that more than 80% of the population are prepared to entertain a discussion about death, yet it appears most choose not to do so.

Pre-planning needn't be an activity filled with dread. It is simply a discussion, an opportunity to express your wishes, record some details, then put the plan away somewhere safe where those entrusted to look after your affairs can locate it, and then get out there and enjoy life.

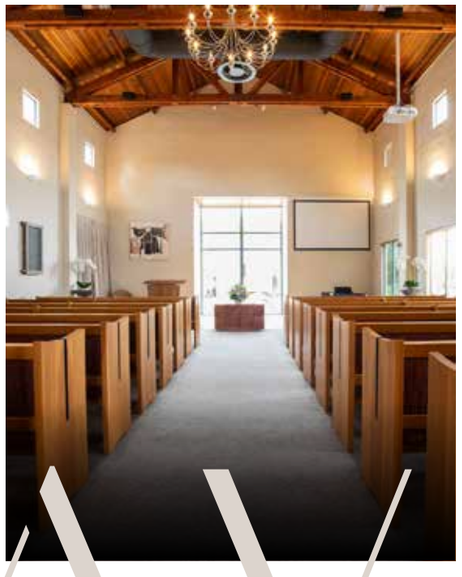
Now is a great time to protect yourself and those you love by preparing your plan. The friendly and knowledgeable team at Davis Funerals, can answer your questions, explain the many options that are available to you and provide a detailed breakdown of the costs associated with your preferred farewell or funeral plans. This is a totally free service.

Of course, if you are not quite ready to take this step, but would like to receive some information, you are welcome to contact us at mike@davisfunerals.co.nz and request we send you our preplanning information pack or even simply ask us a question.



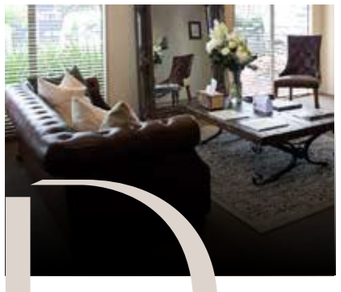














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Back your club



A new way to support local businesses and grassroots sport

As one of the original co-founders of The Food Truck Collective, I've spent much of my career bringing people together through food, events and community. I've always loved finding ways to connect people and businesses, and my latest idea, Back Your Club, brings together a few things I'm really passionate about.

Living in Northwest Auckland, I see how much our local sports clubs contribute to our community. They're where our kids make friends, families connect and volunteers give up countless hours to make it all happen. But we also know how challenging fundraising can be, with clubs constantly looking for new ways to raise money.

At the same time, we have so many fantastic local businesses right on our doorstep, run by people who are part of the very same community.

So I've been working on an idea to bring the two together.

Back Your Club is a new community membership designed to support local sports clubs while encouraging households to discover, shop and spend locally.

The concept is simple. For $99 a year, households will have access to discounts, perks and experiences from participating local businesses, with a portion of their membership going towards a sports club they choose to support.

The aim is to create something that offers genuine value for families, gives local businesses an opportunity to attract new customers and helps sports clubs generate fundraising income all year round, without adding more work to already busy volunteers.

And it's not just about discounts. I'd love Back Your Club to become a way to showcase the people behind our local businesses, encourage families to try new things together and strengthen the connections that make our community what it is.

We're starting right here in Northwest Auckland, and this is where I'd love your help!

Right now, I'm looking for local businesses who'd like to get involved. It's completely free to participate, and you don't need to have a discount figured out just yet. It could be a special offer, a complimentary item or an experience that gives local households another reason to visit and support your business.

I'm also inviting locals to nominate the sports club they'd love to see involved. Whether you're a parent, player, coach, volunteer or supporter, I'd love to hear which clubs our community wants to get behind.

The plan is to build a great collection of local businesses and offers first, then approach clubs knowing there's already a community of people keen to support them.

It's still early days, and I'm very open to ideas, feedback and introductions. Having spent years building community-focused initiatives, I know the best things often come from people getting behind an idea and helping shape it.

I'd love to see what we can build together, right here in our own backyard.

Get involved at www.backyourclub.nz

Local businesses can register their interest for free, and locals can nominate their favourite sports club.

Or reach me directly at info@backyourclub.nz.

Maggie Gray is a Northwest Auckland local, founder of Back Your Club and BRAVA Events & Media, and an original co-founder of The Food Truck Collective.



Raine&Horne.

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Food & Beverage

Eat more, not less this summer

Nutritionist Renee Diment of Beyond the Body encourages women to eat more, not less, to feel their best this summer. After 13 years working with women, she highlights fibre as key to steady energy, gut health, mood and hormones. Build balanced meals with protein, plants, quality carbohydrates and healthy fats.

Fibre booster salad

I make this on a Sunday and eat it through the week. It's great on its own for lunch or as a side with whatever's on the barbie. Makes 5-6 serves.

A fibre booster salad is a great addition to any meal or piece of protein. Have it next to your chicken, steak, fish or eggs and you're getting more plants and more fibre into your day without even thinking about it.

You'll need

- 1 cup quinoa, cooked and cooled (or a 250g precooked pouch)
- 1 x 400g can black lentils, drained and rinsed
- ½ block feta
- 1 red capsicum, diced
- 1 telegraph cucumber, diced
- ¼ cup pumpkin seeds
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Salt and pepper



Method

1. Cook the quinoa. If you're not using a pouch, rinse 1 cup of quinoa well in a sieve. Put it in a pot with 2 cups of water and a pinch of salt, bring it to the boil, then turn it right down, pop the lid on and simmer for 12-15 minutes until the water's gone. Take it off the heat and leave the lid on for another 5 minutes, then fluff it with a fork.

2. Let it cool. Spread the quinoa out on a tray or plate so it cools quickly. If it goes in warm it'll wilt the veg and melt the feta.

3. Prep the lentils. Drain and rinse them really well, then give the sieve a good shake so they're not sitting wet in the salad.

4. Chop the veg. Dice the capsicum and cucumber small, roughly the size of the lentils, so you get a bit of everything in each mouthful. If your cucumber is quite watery, scoop the seeds out first.

5. Toast the seeds (optional). Put the pumpkin seeds in a dry pan on medium heat for 2-3 minutes, shaking the pan, until they start to pop and smell nutty.

6. Make the dressing. Put the olive oil, lemon juice, salt and pepper in a jar, lid on and give it a good shake.

7. Bring it together. Add the quinoa, lentils, capsicum and cucumber to a big bowl, pour over the dressing and toss it through. Crumble the feta in last and fold it gently so it stays in nice chunks. Scatter the seeds on top.

8. Store it. Keep it in glass containers in the fridge for up to four days. If you're prepping for the week, keep the seeds in a separate little container and add them when you eat so they stay crunchy. It honestly tastes better on day two once the lemon has soaked in.

The lentils and quinoa give you fibre and some protein, the feta adds more protein, the veg gives you crunch, and the seeds and olive oil are your healthy fats. Easy.

One thing to try- For the next two weeks, don't cut anything out. Just add something with fibre to every meal. Seeds on your breakfast, lentils or beans at lunch, an extra lot of veg at dinner. Then see how your energy, cravings and digestion feel.

Food should give you more life, not less of it.

If you want more recipes like this, my free Well Fed Woman Starter Kit is on my website at reneediment.com. You'll also find me on Instagram, where I share new recipes every week.

Everything you need to know about property
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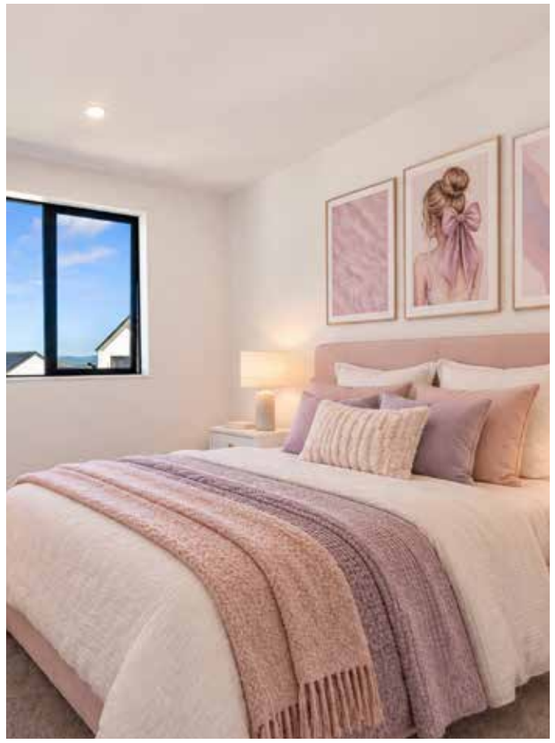
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ENQUIRIES / FEEDBACK / ADVERTISING:
E editorial@kumeucourier.co.nz

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Property Hub:

A home that evolves with you

Our Wake Road Show Home has been refreshed with family living in mind. Warm colours, added textures, and updated finishes bring a welcoming feel to the shared spaces, while each bedroom now has its own distinct character. A refreshed fireplace and new lighting complete the look, creating a modern home with a contemporary feel.

Designed around the way you live

A great home adapts as your family grows and your tastes change. While buying an existing property often means compromising on layout or undertaking costly renovations, building new with G.J. Gardner Homes gives you the opportunity to shape your space from the beginning. Depending on your needs and budget, that might mean extra separation between bedrooms, additional living areas, or a kitchen with a spacious scullery.

Simple updates as life changes

With great design, the look of your home can easily evolve over time. Simple updates like a new colour palette, or soft furnishings offer an easy way to introduce a fresh style. Larger updates to kitchens, bathrooms, or outdoor areas can follow when the time is right.

A fresh look in Coatesville

This approach guided the recent refresh of our Wake Road Show Home. We embraced a new design direction while retaining the functional layout that makes the home work so well.

We invite you to come explore the updated interiors, gather ideas, and talk with our team about creating a home that grows with you.

Visit Us-

Captivating in Coatesville

5 Wake Road, Coatesville









Auckland property market:



More choice for buyers as building costs rise

With Auckland's median property price sitting at $950,000, asking prices dipping below $1 million for the first time in six years, and construction costs climbing again, buyers and sellers are navigating a market where pricing, presentation and timing matter more than ever.

Auckland's property market continues to present opportunities for buyers, but the latest figures highlight a market that requires a considered approach from both buyers and sellers.

The median sale price for an Auckland property stood at $950,000 in August 2026, down 2.31% over the previous 12 months. Meanwhile, average asking prices have fallen to $993,562, dipping below the $1 million mark for the first time in six years.

While prices have eased from their previous highs, the market is offering buyers something that has been in shorter supply during more competitive periods.

Auckland property values remain approximately 24.85% below their record peak in November 2021. At the same time, 13,958 properties were on the market, an increase of 13.8% compared with a year earlier.

Properties are also taking longer to sell. The median time on market has reached 54 days, compared with a 10-year average of 43 days for the same period.

For buyers, this creates an opportunity to compare properties carefully, undertake due diligence and negotiate with greater confidence. For sellers, it reinforces the importance of getting the price right from the outset and presenting their property to stand out from the competition. Working with an experienced, qualified and knowledgeable agent is key.

Numbers in a nutshell:

- $950,000 – Auckland's median sale price, down 2.31% over 12 months.

- $993,562 – Average asking price, now below $1 million for the first time in six years.

- 24.85% – Approximate decline in property values from the November 2021 peak.

- 13,958 homes – Auckland's active housing stock, up 13.8% year-on-year.

- 54 days – Median time to sell, compared with a 10-year average of 43 days.

- $870,000 – Approximate median sale price across Auckland's North West, down 1.7%.

- 29% – Approximate share of national property purchases made by first-home buyers.

- $650–$690 per week – Indicative rental range across Auckland and the North West.

- 1.7% – Increase in residential building costs during the September 2026 quarter.

Figures reflect the supplied market information and reporting periods; regional results and rental figures may vary by location and property type.

The North West:

A market worth watching

For buyers looking towards Kumeū, Huapai, Hobsonville and the wider North West, the market is showing some encouraging signs.

With the regional median sale price sitting at approximately $870,000, around 1.7% lower than a year earlier, the North West remains below Auckland's wider median. This provides an important reference point for purchasers weighing up affordability, location and lifestyle. However, averages only tell part of the story. Different suburbs, property types and price brackets can perform quite differently, making local knowledge particularly valuable when assessing a property's true market position.

First-home buyers continue to play a significant role in the market, accounting for almost one third of purchases nationally. With more homes available and less urgency in many buying situations, these purchasers may have greater opportunity to compare options and negotiate terms.

The key distinction is that not every property performs equally. Well-presented homes priced realistically against comparable sales are generally better positioned to attract attention and secure a sale than properties that enter the market with ambitious price expectations.

For sellers, this means preparation and pricing strategy are critical. For buyers, it means there may be opportunities to secure a suitable property without the intense competition experienced during previous market peaks.

Rental market stable

Auckland's rental market appears to have settled, with average city-wide rents sitting around $650 per week and indicative advertised rents across the North West and wider Auckland ranging from approximately $650 to $690 per week.

Quality homes in areas such as Hobsonville and Huapai continue to attract tenant interest, particularly where properties offer modern construction, practical layouts and convenient access to amenities.

For investors, rental demand remains an important consideration, but purchasing decisions should be based on the full picture: achievable rent, ongoing expenses, finance costs, maintenance and the property's longer-term prospects.

With property values relatively subdued, investors have an opportunity to assess potential purchases carefully rather than relying solely on expectations of rapid capital growth.

Building costs rising again

One of the most important areas to watch is the renewed increase in building construction costs.

According to the Cordell Construction Cost Index, compiled by property data company Cotality, residential building costs increased by 1.7% in the September 2026 quarter. This was the fastest quarterly increase since late 2022.

The increase lifted annual construction cost growth from 3.5% in the June quarter to 4.8% in September - the strongest annual increase since the June quarter of 2023 and well above the long-term average of 4.0%.

Several factors contributed to the rise, including higher material, freight and fuel costs, alongside increasing residential construction activity. Notable increases were recorded in petroleum-based plumbing products, PVC, sealants, roof and ceramic tiles, reinforcing products and structural steel.

Materials account for approximately 50% of the index, while wages contribute around 40%, with professional fees, consenting and other expenses making up the balance.

Although some builders have absorbed increases on projects covered by existing fixed-price contracts, pricing for upcoming work is beginning to rise. Households planning a new build may therefore face a different cost environment over the coming months.

Four ways rising building costs can affect the property market.

1. New homes can become more expensive. Higher material and labour costs put upward pressure on the total price of building, potentially affecting affordability.

2. Developers may have less room to negotiate. When construction margins tighten, there may be less capacity to offer discounts, upgrades or other incentives to buyers.

3. Some developments may be delayed or reconsidered. Projects that were already financially marginal can become less viable as costs rise, potentially reducing

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future supply.

4. Existing homes may look better value. Buyers comparing the cost, time and uncertainty of building from scratch with purchasing an established property may find the existing-home market increasingly attractive.

This changing equation is particularly relevant while existing property values remain relatively flat and mortgage rates are rising. The decision to build or buy an established home is becoming one that deserves careful financial comparison.

For anyone considering a property purchase in the next six months, rising construction costs are another factor worth keeping on the radar.

Buying an existing home may provide greater certainty around the purchase price and allow you to move in sooner, while a new build can offer modern specifications, personalisation and lower initial maintenance requirements. The right choice depends on your budget, timeframe, location and appetite for construction-related risks.

Meanwhile, higher building costs could influence the future supply of new homes if some developments become less viable. That does not guarantee property prices will rise, but it is a reminder that today's market conditions will not necessarily remain unchanged.

For buyers, the opportunity lies in understanding the numbers, comparing like with like and looking beyond the asking price. For sellers, success increasingly depends on realistic expectations, strong presentation and a marketing strategy that reaches the right audience.

With Auckland's active listings elevated and buyers taking longer to make decisions, the spring selling season may bring more properties to market as homeowners look to attract purchasers before year-end.

That could mean further choice for buyers and continued competition among sellers. In this environment, local market knowledge matters.

For the North West, the message is clear: there are opportunities in the current market, but identifying them requires a realistic assessment of value and a strategy tailored to the property.

Whether you're buying your first home, upgrading, investing or considering selling in Kumeū, Huapai or Hobsonville, now is a good time to understand where your property sits in the market.

After twenty years evaluating the North West Auckland Property Market I'd encourage you to take a proactive approach. With more choice for buyers and building costs on the rise, as a seller or buyer, the right advice can help you weigh up your options and make a confident, informed decision.

Call Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421 for a local market discussion, an assessment of your property's current position, or guidance on your next move.

Graham McIntyre on **027 632 0421**
Graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz

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More buyers, more options, more conversations



With more properties on the market and buyers having a little more time to consider their options, we're seeing increasing interest in family members and friends joining forces to buy a home together.

For many, sharing the cost of a deposit and ongoing expenses can make home ownership more achievable. But before you start attending open homes together, it's worth having some honest conversations.

The first question isn't "What can we afford?" It's "What are we trying to achieve?"

One person might view the property as a long-term home, while another may be looking to move on in a few years. Those differing goals can create challenges later if they're not discussed upfront.

It's also important to talk about future life changes. What happens if someone gets married, has children, receives a job offer in another city, or wants to access their share of the property's value? These are all normal life events, but they can have a significant impact on a shared ownership arrangement.

We often find that the most successful co-ownership arrangements are those where expectations are clearly discussed at the beginning. Having open conversations about finances, maintenance, renovations, and future plans can help avoid misunderstandings and unexpected tax bills later on.

The current market may provide buyers with more opportunities than we've seen in recent years, but buying property remains a major financial commitment. Taking the time to think through the "what ifs" is just as important as finding the right property.

If you're considering buying a property with family or friends, we're happy to help you understand your options and put the right arrangements in place from the outset.

Give us a call on 09 973 5102 and make a time to see us at either our Kumeū or Te Atatū office.

What is a caveat?

A caveat is a notice registered against a property's title to protect a person's claimed interest in that property. While in place, the registered owner will generally be prevented from selling, mortgaging or otherwise dealing with the property without the caveator's consent or the caveat being removed. Importantly, lodging a caveat does not create an interest in the property. It records a claimed interest.



Caveats can be an important legal tool, but should not be lodged without careful consideration.

Who can lodge a caveat?

A caveat can only be lodged by someone who has a caveatable interest in the property, such as:

- A purchaser under an agreement for sale and purchase.
- A person with a beneficial interest under a trust.
- A lender holding security over the property.

Determining whether an interest is caveatable can be complex. A property lawyer can assess your circumstances and advise accordingly.

When is a caveat commonly used?

A caveat may be used:

- To protect a purchaser's interest before settlement.
- Where a purchaser is disputing a cancellation of an agreement.
- To protect a lender's security for a loan.
- Where a property owner has agreed that a caveat may be lodged.

How Is a caveat removed?

A caveat may be removed if the person who lodged it voluntarily withdraws it.

If the registered property owner believes the caveat should not remain and the caveator will not withdraw it, legal processes are available to challenge it. This can include applying to the Registrar-General of Land or the High Court.

Need advice about a caveat?Whether you are considering lodging a caveat or have discovered one registered against your title, getting advice early can help you understand your position and options.

Contact Kandice Reilly at Smith and Partners: kandice.reilly@smithpartners.co.nz or 09 837 6884.

Author: Kandice Reilly

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Area Property Stats

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

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA m2	LAND AREA m2	SALE PRICE
Helensville						
	State Highway 16	$1910000	5	260	36000	$1560000
	Porter Crescent	$600000	2	71	390	$652500
	St James Avenue	$1075000	3	118	2830	$905000
	Porter Crescent	$910000	4	150	860	$1050000
	Manuka Grove	$1475000	4	246	12000	$1569000
	Kawariki Road	$1025000	3	134	518	$980000
Herald Island						
	Ferry Parade	$1600000	2	300	895	$1259000
Hobsonville						
	Hobsonville Road	$1225000	4	197	233	$1198489
	Pukeko Road	$2550000	6	435	650	$2413000
	Meteor Road	$1200000	4	182	185	$1115000
	Harakeke Road	$1600000	4	223	360	$1505000
	Bannings Way	$1055000	3	170	508	$1035000
	Scott Road	$1200000	4	195	91	$945000
	Waterlily Street	$1200000	4	206	0	$1140000
	Harvard Street	$1150000	3	163	239	$1180000
	Scott Road	$1225000	4	180	141	$985000
	Mapou Road	$840000	3	93	0	$805000
	Waka Moana Drive	$810000	3	91	106	$750000
	Bomb Point Drive	$950000	2	127	0	$988000
	Boundary Road	$2000000	0	141	0	$1145000
	Warrant Officer Lane	$690000	2	74	0	$665000
	Isitt Road	$1200000	3	160	150	$1195000
	Squadron Drive	$1225000	4	199	175	$1006000
	Irving Place	$1100000	4	165	233	$1050000
Huapai-Kumeu						
	Nobilo Road	$1225000	4	196	501	$1185000
	Matua Road	n/a	0	0	0	$630000
	Remana Crescent	$1425000	4	229	774	$1400000
	Vogwill Road	$1325000	4	188	629	$1207000
	Awa Road	$2375000	4	255	38000	$1765000
	Gemscott Crescent	$1525000	5	230	666	$1397000
	Reserva Crescent	$1200000	4	201	410	$1155000
	Tapu Road	$1300000	3	160	857	$1068000
	Riverhead Road	$880000	3	86	1037	$1000000
Massey						
	Katrina Place	$1050000	3	75	268	$675000
	Lowtherhurst Road	$760000	3	110	0	$730000
	Rehia Road	$760000	3	87	0	$788000
	Biokovo Street	$890000	3	100	180	$760000
	Kearney Place	$910000	3	91	561	$788000
	Royal Road	$740000	2	90	0	$700000
	Lincoln Park Avenue	$1075000	3	70	870	$750000
	Redwood Drive	$1020000	3	120	699	$884000
	Lowtherhurst Road	$890000	3	110	809	$620500
	Lilburn Crescent	$710000	3	87	402	$665000
	Doone Place	$940000	5	118	639	$865000
	Cyclarama Crescent	$980000	4	94	845	$980000
Parakai						
	Aitkenhead Court	$860000	3	95	912	$835000
	Springs Road	$650000	3	93	559	$680000
Riverhead						
	Pitoitoi Drive	$1250000	3	379	0	$1185000
	Pohutukawa Parade	$1450000	4	217	669	$1400000
	Alice Street	$840000	3	95	103	$690000
	Alice Street	$850000	3	88	114	$650000
	Ridge Road	$1975000	4	210	13900	$1650000
Waimauku						
	Solan Drive	$1400000	4	217	1509	$1580000
	Foster Road	$2130000	5	352	17300	$1950000
Waitakere						
	Waitakere Road	$1,075,000	3	280	911	$1075000
	Wairere Road	$980000	3	140	1753	$1005000
	Te Henga Road	$900000	2	124	1113	$955000
West Harbour						
	Hobsonville Road	$860000	3	152	219	$849755
	Wiseley Road	$1510000	4	200	850	$1220000
	Whiting Grove	$1500000	4	300	863	$1312000
	West Harbour Drive	$1000000	3	1000000	667	$1000000
Westgate						
	Whiteywood Street	$900000	3	123	0	$860000
	Octans Road	$850000	4	128	139	$860000
	Wai Place	$1050000	4	184	219	$1030000
Whenuapai						
	Pinefield Road	$450000	4	253	330	$1340000

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

Graham McIntyre on **027 632 0421**

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Quieter days in the North-West rental market



Fewer homes, fewer hopefuls and softening rents in the west, though the city's rural fringe is holding its ground.

For landlords in Henderson, Massey, West Harbour and Hobsonville, spring 2026 has brought a market that feels noticeably calmer than a year ago. Fewer homes are coming up for rent, fewer people are lining up to view them, and in North West Auckland the weekly rent has started to slip.

Figures show the number of rentals available across its Auckland portfolio at the end of September was down 4.2% on August and 10.1% on a year earlier. That is a marked turnaround from the end of 2025, when new rental listings across the region were running more than 8% ahead of the previous year and renters were spoilt for choice.

The wave of new townhouses that swept through the north-west over the past two years has largely been absorbed, and the glut that defined 2025 is thinning out.

Demand has cooled too. Tenant enquiries and applications picked up in September as the season turned, but both remain well below the levels seen in early 2026. Property managers collectively report that much of the recent activity comes from existing renters moving from one rental to another rather than new households entering the market. The quality of many applications is lower than normal, demanding more scrutiny, reference, court and credit checks in a thorough manner. Landlords are being advised to allow four to six weeks to secure the very best tenant, and investor surveys show a net 30% still find it difficult to find a suitable one.

The result of tenant demand and supply of rental properties is pressure on price. West Auckland rents fell 0.6% in September, even as the Auckland-wide average held almost flat at about $699 a week. A three-bedroom home in West Harbour now averages around $676 a week, with gross yields sitting near 3.5%, leaving owners little room.

The exception is the rural edge. Rodney, which takes in Kumeū, Huapai and Riverhead, bucked the trend with a 1.7% rise in September, suggesting larger homes on the city's fringe are still finding willing tenants.

For landlords, sharp pricing and well-presented homes matter more than ever. Many investors say they plan to lift rents by around 4% over the coming year, but with demand this subdued, economist Tony Alexander has cautioned that such increases may prove harder to achieve than owners expect. It is increasingly important to have the very best property management in place to support your asset. At West Auckland Property Management we have one of the most experienced and knowledgeable teams in North West Auckland. Born and experienced in the local area, we can navigate your individual home or your portfolio to ensure great tenants, proactive maintenance engagement and uncompromised communication via telephone, email and text.

For a free no obligation chat about your Property Management thoughts and needs call Graham McIntyre on 0276320421, email graham@wapm.co.nz or Sarah Ball on 021152 8515, email office@wapm.co.nz.

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Bond refund delays:



What landlords and tenants need to know

Tenants waiting for their bond refunds may experience longer-than-usual delays, with Tenancy Services Bond Hub experiencing processing issues as it moves to an online-only service.

For tenants moving between homes, a bond refund can make a big difference when managing moving costs, paying a new bond and getting settled into their next property. Understandably, delays can be frustrating, particularly when everything has been completed at the end of a tenancy.

So, what can you do to help keep things moving?

Tenants and landlords should ensure all required bond refund documentation is completed accurately and submitted promptly. Any outstanding rent, agreed costs or other matters relating to the tenancy should also be addressed to help avoid unnecessary hold-ups.

Property managers can assist by completing and submitting the required paperwork as quickly as possible. However, once an application has been submitted, the time taken to process the refund is largely outside their control.

At West Auckland Property Management, we understand how important it is for tenants to receive their bond back in a timely manner. We encourage both landlords and tenants to be patient while Tenancy Services works through the transition and any resulting delays.

Our advice: If you are waiting for a bond refund, keep your paperwork handy, check that all required details have been provided, and follow up if your refund is taking longer than expected.

A little patience and clear communication can help make the process smoother for everyone involved.

Sarah Ball - Property Manager - 027 499 8415

Hobsonville Point shapes West Auckland's housing future



Hobsonville Point has undergone a significant transformation over the past decade, evolving from a former Air Force base into a growing residential community.

Auckland Council identifies Hobsonville Point as an example of how planned housing, transport connections and community facilities can work together to support Auckland's growing population.

One of the key projects is The Airfields, a 20-hectare site in the heart of Hobsonville Point, formerly part of the airbase. The development is planned to deliver around 800 new homes, including affordable housing, alongside opportunities for commercial and retail activities.

The wider Hobsonville Point masterplan includes a mix of housing types, parks, schools, community facilities, local workplaces and public transport connections. These features are intended to help create a connected neighbourhood where residents can live close to everyday amenities.

Planning also includes streets and pathways that support walking and cycling, helping residents access local facilities and connect with their community.

The Airfields development includes provision for mixed-use areas, creating opportunities for businesses and employment close to residential areas.

As West Auckland continues to grow, Hobsonville Point demonstrates how former land can be redeveloped to provide new housing while planning for the infrastructure and facilities needed to support a growing community.

Sources- - The Airfeilds & OurAuckland

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Hobsonville, Auckland



Property News







10/18 Scott Road, Hobsonville

Brand-New Contemporary Living in Hobsonville

Discover the opportunity to own this brand-new, beautifully designed three-bedroom home in the sought-after Hobsonville area. Thoughtfully planned across two levels, this modern residence offers three generous bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms, providing an ideal balance of style, comfort and functionality for families, professionals or those looking for a quality low-maintenance home. The open-plan living and dining area creates a welcoming central space, complemented by a contemporary kitchen designed for both everyday living and entertaining. Large windows bring in plenty of natural light with 3 ranch-slider doors from the living area that flows into a nice decking for that outdoor flow for entertainment. Fully fenced, safe for kids to play in a large backyard or for pets to run around.

For more information on this property call:

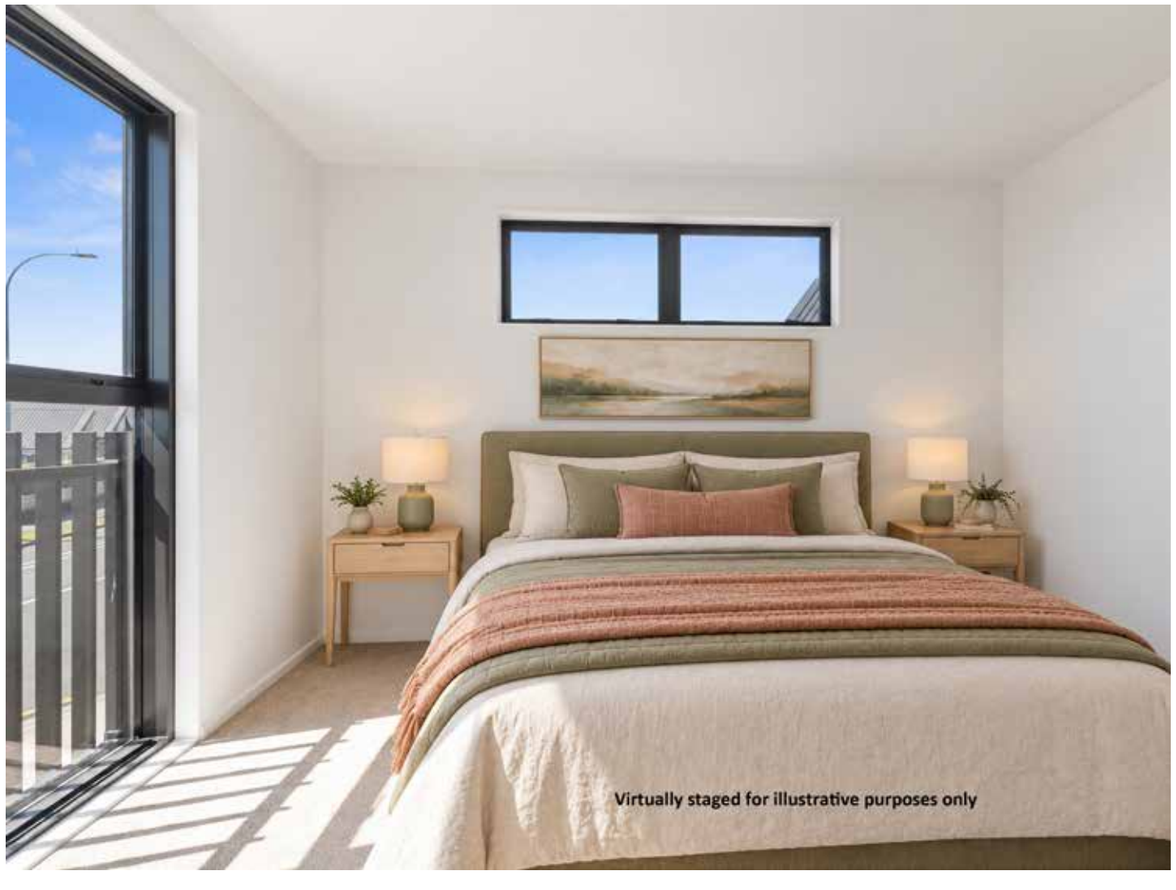
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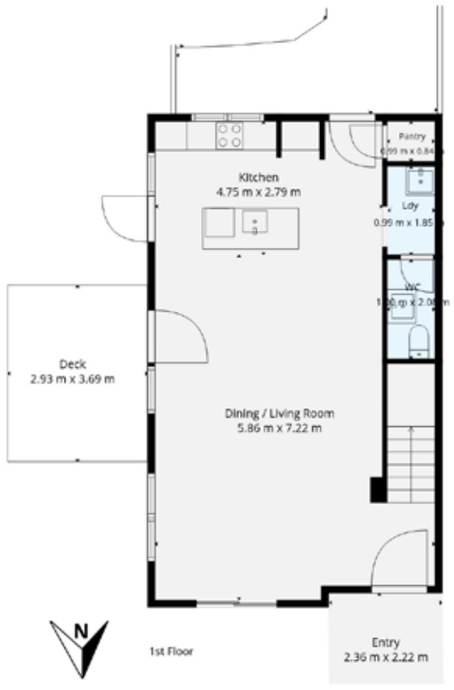


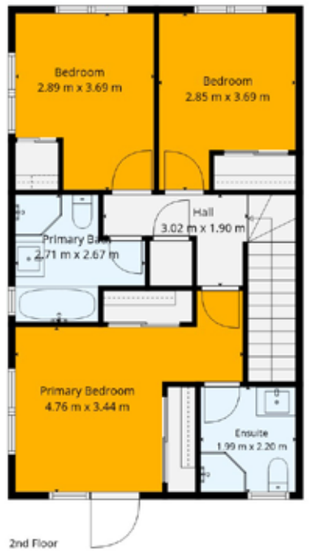




10/18 Scott Road

Raine&Horne.





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



Featuring:

- 3 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- Townhouse
- 3 ranch-slider doors from the living area
- Land area- 227 sqm
- Estate Fee Simple - 1/10 share
- Floor area - 217 square metres more or less
- Popular Hobsonville community
- Asking Price $899,000



9 Maple Lane, Huapai

Lock-Up and-Leave Lifestyle - Bring the Toys

When downsizing doesn't mean giving up the cars, tools and toys you've collected over the years, welcome to 9 Maple Lane, Huapai.

Set privately in a leafy pocket of Huapai, well back from the road and surrounded by owner occupied, quality homes, this beautifully maintained 243m² GJ Gardner single-level residence offers the space, security and ease that makes downsizing genuinely enjoyable.

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Featuring:

- 4 bedrooms including a luxurious master suite
- 2 bathrooms
- 3 Living rooms
- Land area - 724 sqm
- Floor area - 243 sqm
- 3 Garage (internal access) + 6 off street parking
- Pet-friendly peace and quiet
- Price by Negotiation





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Property News





1 Pippen Court, Henderson

Brick & Tile - Corner Site - Summerland Primary

Character infused, soft tone brick construction, on a sunny flat corner site, offering a picture perfect setting, in one of the prettiest neighbourhoods in Henderson's North West. Offering four rooms, comprising of three bedrooms and an office, two bathrooms, double garage with a single opening garage door. A fantastic separation between living and sleeping with two lounges, one being open plan, kitchen, dining, lounge area. Easy indoor outdoor flow to fully fenced entertainers courtyard offering established plantings including lemons and oranges. Motivated Owners are keen to move this asset and welcome interest from Investors and genuine buyers seeking a home that can meet the needs of a growing family. A rental appraisal is available and a purchase with Tenant in place is an option.

For more information on this property call:
Graham McIntyre on **027 632 0421**
or email: **Graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz**

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Featuring:

- 4 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- 2 Living rooms
- 2 Garage & 1 Carport
- Land area- 676 sqm
- Floor area- 180 sqm
- Walk to Summerland Primary school
- Transport links include bus stops and rail stations





Archgola Rodney

Our local volunteer firefighters spend a lot of time looking after the community, so it's been a real pleasure to help make their own downtime a little more comfortable.

Archgola Rodney has recently installed Ziptrak® outdoor blinds onto an existing covered area at the Kumeu Fire Station, creating a more sheltered space for the crew to relax, eat and catch up when they're not out doing the important stuff.

We used a close-knit mesh to help protect the area from wind and rain, while also cutting down the low afternoon and evening sun – something most Kumeu locals will be very familiar with.

The result is a much more comfortable and usable space throughout the year, without closing it in completely.

The Ziptrak® system also keeps things simple. The blinds are smooth and easy to operate, can be left at any height to suit the conditions, and can be lifted quickly when needed – particularly handy when your lunch break can suddenly turn into an emergency call-out.

It's been great working with the crew to create a practical space that gives them a little more shelter and comfort between jobs.

And while this project happens to be at the fire station, Ziptrak® blinds can also be custom-fitted to many existing pergolas, verandas, decks and other suitable covered areas.

To find out whether Ziptrak® blinds could work for your space, contact Dael at Archgola Rodney to arrange a free measure-up.

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Packing hints for smart storage



Good storage starts with good packing. A little preparation now means your belongings come out in the same condition they went in.

Beds: Dismantle your bed frame and tie the rails together with rope or tape. Mark each piece – base, legs, headboard – so reassembly is easy later.

Soft Furnishings: Cover mattresses, sofas, and lounge suites with a sheet or blanket. If using plastic, leave one end open so moisture can escape. Better still, air furniture and bedding in the sun for a few hours before packing – our bodies release more moisture into these items than you'd think.

Books: Keep boxes small – books are heavier than they look. Aim to keep each carton under 13.5kg so it's easy to lift.

Wardrobes: Don't waste the space inside. Use drawers and wardrobes as extra packing containers, filling them with smaller, fragile items cushioned in towels or sweaters.

Chairs and Tables: Wrap chair legs in packing paper to prevent scratches. Leave slipcovers on upholstered chairs for extra protection. Where possible, remove table legs, tying and padding them separately.

Clothing and Textiles: Make sure everything is clean and free of anything that might attract pests before it goes into storage.

At Country Lane Storage, we're always happy to share more tips to help you pack smarter. Come see us in Kumeu – we'll help you get it right.

Ph Elizabeth for your storage needs on 0274 995 471.

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Senior Property Relationship Manager
West Auckland Property Management
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Stihl shop Westgate celebrates three years of community



STIHL Shop Westgate celebrated its third birthday on 17-18 October with a fantastic weekend of prizes, excitement and community spirit, welcoming more than 1,000 local children through its doors.

To mark the milestone, the team wanted to give back to the community that has supported the business over the past three years. Key cards were distributed to students at the store's dozen closest schools, inviting children to bring their key into the shop over the birthday weekend for a chance to unlock the treasure chest and win a prize.

The response was incredible, with more than 1,000 children bringing their keys into the store to try their luck. The prizes certainly created plenty of excitement, with 10 chainsaws, a lawnmower, vacuum kits, a waterblaster and heaps of STIHL merchandise given away over the weekend.

The store was busy and pumping, with excited children, families and customers filling the shop and creating a fantastic atmosphere.

"We wanted our third birthday to be about more than just a sale. It was an opportunity to celebrate with the local community and say thank you for supporting us," says the STIHL SHOP Westgate team. "Seeing so many children come through the doors with their keys was amazing. We loved meeting so many local families and being part of the excitement."

The celebrations also included a competition between participating schools, with every key returned counting towards their school's tally. The school that returned the most keys over the weekend would win a prize package including an in-store gift voucher, STIHL merchandise and other goodies.



Congratulations to Massey Primary School, which took out the winning spot thanks to the fantastic response from its school community.

Three years on, STIHL SHOP Westgate is proud to be part of the local community and looks forward to continuing to support local families and businesses.

The team would like to thank all the schools, children, parents and customers who took part and helped make the birthday weekend such a memorable success.



Whenuapai Floral & Garden Circle October 2026



Forty members attended the meeting at the Village Hall, same place and same day of the week as we have met for nearly forty years. The shivery grass which has appeared in our garden lately reminds me of our founder, Zita Horsley, since it came from her garden and pops up in unexpected places at this time of year. Details of forthcoming trips, including the Christmas luncheon, were discussed. The season is nearly upon us once more and will be here before we know it. Welfare of members was relayed and after the usual formalities like birthdays, blooms and produce then raffles there was a short break for members to purchase from the trading table or chat amongst ourselves.

The guest speaker was Bernadette Stockman who spoke to us about her time volunteering in Sierra Leone aboard the "Global Mercy" ship. She spent seven weeks in 2025 and six weeks this year teaching children of other volunteers. Volunteers pay for their airfares only, all other costs during their service are covered. Some help out for weeks, some for months at a time, while others are there for years.

Patients come with a caregiver and both stay aboard the ship for the length of their time and great care is given to all who need operations and recuperation. The organisation is Christian based and volunteers help out in many different roles, including cooks and cleaners. Photos showed that Bernadette had a busy, interesting and rewarding time while helping in a worthy cause.

Refreshments were available at the conclusion of the Meeting and members were able to compare notes on their gardening endeavours, or places they had visited

and 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

Summer renovations? check what's underground first!

Planning a Summer Renovation? Don't Forget What's Underground!

With summer just around the corner, many homeowners are getting ready to tackle outdoor projects. Whether it's installing a new pool, building a deck, upgrading the driveway or giving the garden a makeover, there's one important thing that's often overlooked – what's hiding beneath the surface!

Underground sewer and stormwater pipes can be closer to the surface than you think, and accidentally damaging one can quickly turn an exciting project into an expensive headache.

That's where the team at Drain Ninjas and Ninja Group Drainage & Civil come in!

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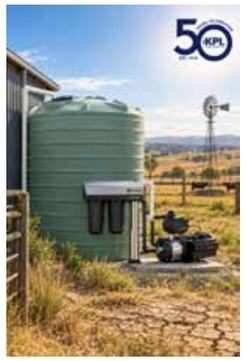
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Waimauku Garden Club



Our September club outing took us to the stunning Eden Garden nestled on the slopes of Mt Eden. Spring was on display, treating us to an unforgettable morning of the seasons finest botanical treasures. The stars of the show were Tulips, rows upon rows of vibrant reds, pinks orange, purple and whites creating a lovely tapestry.

We roamed along the paths to the camellias and magnolias looking beautiful. Also New Zealand's Native collection: Totara, Rimu, Nikau, Tree fern. Bromeliad Collection, Succulents, Palms, Conifer, Vireya, Rhododendron. After wandering through the tranquil paths listening to the Tuis singing. We enjoyed morning tea at the onsite café.

We headed to Joe's Garage for a delicious lunch, providing time to catch up and have a chat.

Our final destination was the Stardome Observatory and Planetarium. We had a very interesting presentation of our galaxy exploring the wonders of the constellation, learning fascinating new facts about the universe we live in.

Looking ahead to our November trip we venture to Jeff Thompson sculptor. Hands in the Dirt gardens Makarau you are welcome to come and join us.

Feel free to contact any of our committee: Gail (021344070), Maree (0274963006), Moira (027489154), Monique (021646220), Sandi (0273184514), Vivienne (0214229889).



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Outdoor living that adds to your home





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In a steadier property market, many homeowners are choosing to invest in the home they already have. The outdoor area is often where a property has the most untapped potential, and covered outdoor living you can use all year helps a home stand out.

Louvre Outdoors is owner-operated and based in Kumeu, designing and installing premium aluminium louvre roofs and outdoor rooms across North-West Auckland and the wider Auckland region. Owner Dan Brown handles every job, from the first site visit and design through to the final install, so you deal with one person who knows your project inside out. Our systems are made in New Zealand by Juralco under the Bask Outdoor Living Systems brand. They're engineered for high wind zones and finished in Dulux powder coat with a 15-25 year surface warranty.

Sun, shade or shelter

Choose our SunPivot louvre roof for complete control of the elements, or our SunFold fully retracting louvre roof, which gives you totally uninterrupted sky views when fully open.

Create an outdoor room

Add frameless Glaslide glass panels, motorised SolarZip blinds, aluminium louvre screens, LED lighting and heating, and a patio becomes a true outdoor room. That's often achieved without the cost and time delay of a consented extension. Roofs under 30m² usually don't need building consent, we have an in-house engineer for those trickier builds, and every roof comes with a PS1 producer statement. Every install is also backed by our own 10-year workmanship guarantee.

Building new?

Outdoor living works best when it's planned at design stage. We work alongside many builders and architects, and you can see one of our roofs installed at the G.J. Gardner Homes Rodney West minor dwelling show home at 248 Main Road, Kumeu.

Thinking about making more of your outdoor space before summer? Dan would love to come and take a look.

Louvre Outdoors | 027 329 9667 | info@louvreoutdoors.co.nz | louvreoutdoors.co.nz

Dan Brown
027 329 9667
info@louvreoutdoors.co.nz
louvreoutdoors.co.nz

Baby Barns custom catteries & catios



– Safe, Stylish Spaces for Happy Cats

A well-designed cattery or catio gives your cats the freedom to enjoy the outdoors while staying completely safe, dry, and protected. At Baby Barns Ltd, we handcraft custom catteries and catios right here in the Greater Auckland region, using premium NZ timber and practical layouts that suit both family homes and lifestyle blocks.

Our units are built for real-world use: strong framing, predator-proof mesh, warm enclosed sleeping areas. Whether you need a compact single-cat enclosure or a full walk-in cattery with shelves, ramps, feeding stations, and multi-bay setups, we tailor every build to your space and your cats' personalities.

A Baby Barns cattery is ideal for breeders, rescues, or anyone wanting a secure outdoor area that keeps cats stimulated without the risks of roaming. Every structure is designed to handle New Zealand weather year-round.

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Built local. Built strong. Built for cats. 09 420 3298 - 022 075 8283 - info@babybarns.co.nz - babybarns.co.nz

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Fresh colour, inside and out





From peeling weatherboards to dated wallpaper, a lasting paint finish starts with careful preparation and a team that understands what each surface needs.

Based in Auckland, Focus on Painting helps homeowners improve their properties inside and out, from a single room to a complete repaint. With more than ten years of experience, Brad and his team combine practical advice, thorough preparation and tidy workmanship.

Interior services cover wallpaper removal, plastering, skim coating and painting of walls, ceilings, doors and trims. Whether you are updating dated rooms, repairing damaged surfaces or preparing a property for sale or rent, the team can handle the preparation and painting together.

Exterior painting covers weatherboards, roofs, fascia boards and soffits. Auckland's changeable weather makes proper preparation especially important. Washing, sanding and priming help create a sound base for fresh coatings, while addressing peeling paint early helps protect the surfaces underneath.

Not every project needs a full repaint. Brad can discuss which areas need attention and suggest a practical approach that suits your plans and budget.

Focus on Painting uses its own team, with no subcontractors, so customers deal with the same people throughout the job. They arrive on time and leave the work area clean and tidy. They use quality paints suited to New Zealand conditions, with attention to the small details that make a freshly painted home feel finished and welcoming.

View recent projects and customer reviews at facebook.com/focusonpainting/reviews. For a free quote, call or text Brad on 021 756 890 or email focusonpainting@gmail.com.

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9a Weza Lane, Kumeu, Auckland 0810



Young Learners

Little Light for little learners



At Little Light Educare in Kumeu, we believe every child is capable, curious and full of potential.

Our approach is guided by Te Whāriki and inspired by the philosophies of Reggio Emilia and Emmi Pikler. We see children as active participants in their own learning, with their ideas, interests and unique ways of expressing themselves valued and respected.

We believe childhood should be unhurried, joyful and full of discovery. Through play, meaningful relationships and hands-on exploration, children are encouraged to explore, investigate, create and develop confidence and independence at their own pace.

Our calm, thoughtfully designed environment is an important part of the learning experience. Natural materials, open-ended resources and inviting indoor and outdoor spaces encourage children to explore, imagine, problem-solve and connect with nature.

Most importantly, we see learning as a partnership with families. We strive to create a place where every child and whānau feels a genuine sense of belonging, connection and community.

If you are looking for an early learning centre where your child will be known, respected and encouraged to shine, we would love to meet you.

Come and visit Little Light Educare at 7 Wookey Lane, Kumeu. Meet our team, explore our learning environment and discover what makes our community special.

Little Light Educare

7 Wookey Lane, kumeu- 09 412 8081

Little Light Educare – where little minds shine.



The Kindergarten Way



Kaitiaki Kindergartens support children through a rich, play-based curriculum, prepares them confidently for school, and empowers them to care for their world as part of our Enviroschool journey.

Waimauku Kindergarten

18 Freshfields Road, Waimauku.

09 411 8890



It's not about what children are doing



What is so special about the Kumeu Village Kindergarten? Research shows that over 80% of what gets noticed about children in Early Childhood Centres is about what they are doing. It might sound simple but five years ago the Kumeu Village Kindergarten shifted from focusing on what children were doing to noticing what they were learning. This required a complete rethink about how children are observed, what children are learning and how this was recorded. This is then turned into a learning record that is shared with parents, that allows for common learning goals to be established for each child.

Teachers now work collaboratively as a professional learning community to build capability and enhance outcomes for children. Leaders and teachers develop and enact the service philosophy and priorities, through enquiry, professional dialogue, shared learning and meaningful changes to teaching practices.

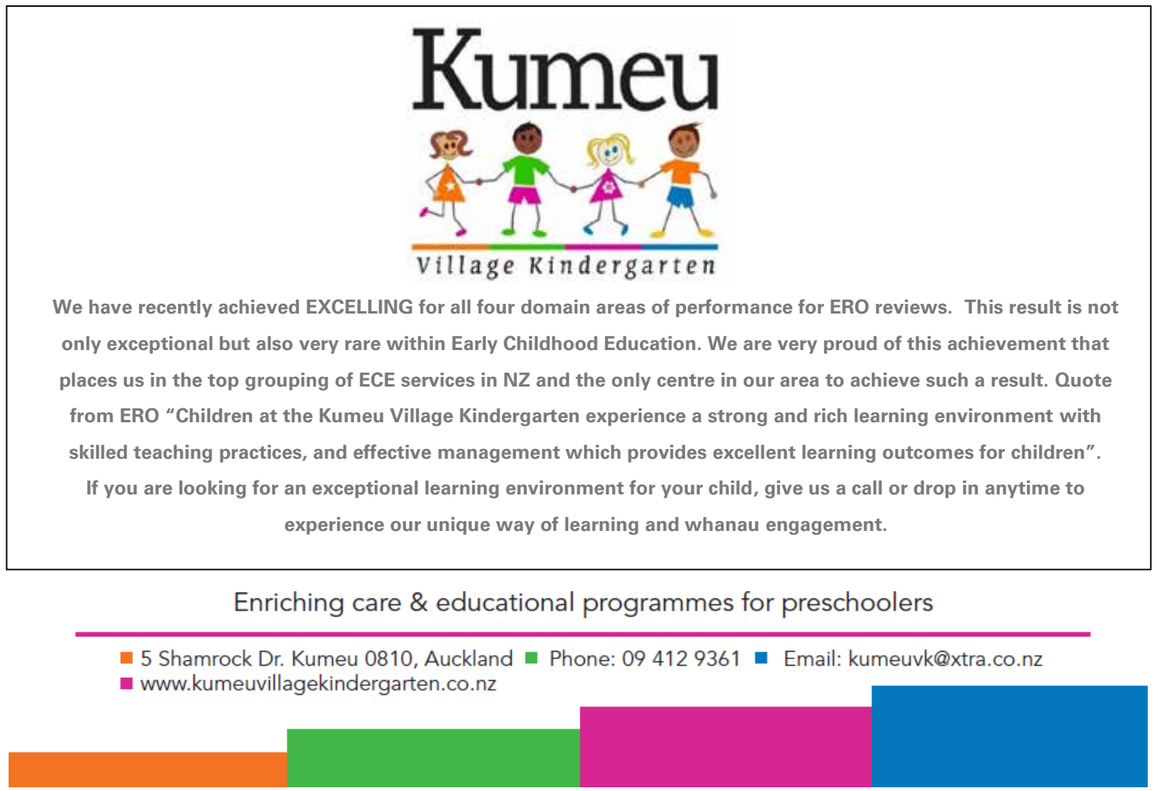
Leaders model and set clear expectations for professional accountability across the teaching team. The centre makes informed decisions about service priorities, resourcing and partnerships that support sustained positive outcomes for children.

Local schools regularly comment on how well children from the Kumeu Village Kindergarten are prepared for school life. This means attending the Kumeu Village Kindergarten is enriching for your child and is providing them with the best opportunity for their future learning needs. The cultural shift sounds simple, it has taken thousands of hours to establish. The resultant excelling across all domains of learning in the centre's recent ERO report highlights the benefits of a focus on learning that brings teachers, parents and curriculum elements together.

Because teachers remain engaged through their own learning, building relationships with children and parents and a shared understanding of goals, the learning environment is highly harmonised and the culture of learning thrives.

Kumeu Village Kindergarden - 5 Shamrock Drive, Kumeu

09 412 9361



From heki to pīpī: the magic of watching life begin



Each year at Gumboots and Farm Friends Early Learning Centre, we look forward to the excitement of our annual egg hatching experience. This year, thanks to one of our wonderful relievers, we were generously lent an incubator along with 29 precious eggs, giving our tamariki the incredible opportunity to watch a new life cycle unfold right before their eyes.

On 8 September, we carefully inspected each egg before placing them into the incubator. We looked closely for cracks, unusual elongation and calcium deposits, learning that even the smallest details can tell us something about an egg. We then settled the eggs into their warm new home, knowing we had approximately 21 days to wait.

While we waited, the learning continued. Our tamariki explored the life cycle of a chicken, learning about eggs, embryos, chicks and adult chickens. Through art experiences, stories, conversations and hands-on investigations, we developed our understanding of how chicks grow and change. There was plenty of anticipation as we counted down the days and wondered what might be happening inside those eggs that we couldn't see.

Then came a wonderful surprise!

When we returned to Gumboots on Monday 28 September, we discovered that many of our eggs had already hatched over the weekend. Instead of waiting until the expected 21-day mark, we were greeted by a beautiful collection



of fluffy little chicks. The excitement was immediate. We have been completely awestruck by these tiny new arrivals, spending time watching their movements, listening to their little chirps and, of course, enjoying lots of gentle cuddles.

Having the chicks with us has created opportunities for learning that go far beyond simply watching them grow. Caring for living creatures encourages children to develop empathy, compassion, patience and a sense of responsibility. Our tamariki are learning to handle the chicks gently, recognise when they need space, observe their behaviour and understand that animals have needs that must be respected and cared for.

There is also something incredibly special about slowing down to watch a chick explore its surroundings, peck at food or settle beneath the warmth of the brooder. The children become deeply engaged, often losing track of time as they observe these tiny creatures going about their day.

Our heki hatching experience has reminded us that some of the most meaningful learning happens when children are given the time and opportunity to wonder, observe, care and ask questions. From 29 eggs carefully placed into an incubator to a group of fluffy chicks filling our centre with chirps, we have been lucky enough to witness a little piece of life's magic unfold at Gumboots and Farm Friends.

Gumboots & Farm friends

1157 Peak Road, Helensville

09 411 9038





Aged care

Discover a community of learners

Join Kumeu SeniorNet This Month.

Are you looking for a productive, engaging morning out where you can learn something new and connect with wonderful locals? Kumeu SeniorNet is actively looking for new members to join our vibrant community of learners. Whether you are a complete beginner who has never sent an email, or someone who knows a little bit but wants to refine their skills, there is a place for you here.

We are a local group run by seniors, for seniors. We know that learning sticks best when it is fun and social. Beyond the screen time and the tutorials, our club is a fantastic place to enjoy a warm cup of tea, have a good laugh, and share stories with your neighbours. We support each other through the learning process, celebrating every small victory–like sending a first emoji or successfully connecting to Wi-Fi.

If you have been meaning to sort out your phone or computer gripes, consider this your official invitation to take that first step.

Where: St. Chad's Church, 7 Matua Road, Huapai

When: The first Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am

What to bring: Yourself, your smartphone, tablet, or laptop, and any questions you have written down!

We have the biscuits and the tech knowledge waiting for you. We look forward to seeing you there!

Father's day celebrations at Craigweil House

Father's Day at Craigweil House was a lovely opportunity to celebrate the special dads in our community and show them how much they are appreciated.

Our residents enjoyed special treats, thoughtful gifts and personalised Father's Day cards. There were plenty of smiles as our team visited residents, shared a few laughs and helped make the day memorable.





Some residents enjoyed their favourite treats and special drinks while spending time with others. It was wonderful to see everyone getting into the spirit of the occasion and enjoying these thoughtful gestures.

Father's Day reminds us that sometimes the little things mean the most. A friendly chat, a special surprise and a moment of appreciation can brighten someone's day. We hope all our fathers, grandfathers and father figures felt extra special and loved.

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



to.

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

Phone: 09 420 8277 - Happy Father's Day from everyone at Craigweil House!

Redefining aged care in Kumeu wine country



Finding the right care environment for a family member is less about choosing a facility and more about finding a true home. Located in our local wine country, Kumeu Village offers a refreshing approach to senior living, combining a relaxed, scenic setting with comprehensive medical support.

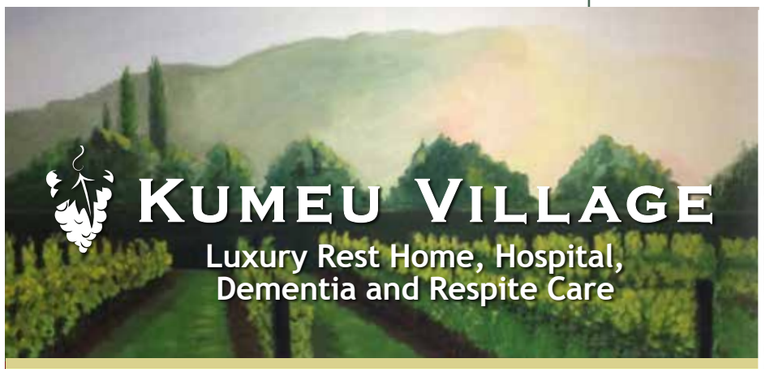
The philosophy here is simple: residents should maintain their independence, stay connected to their families, and keep their beloved pets by their side. The beautifully landscaped grounds and social spaces are designed to encourage active, fulfilling days, fostering genuine connections and daily laughter among neighbours.

As care requirements change, Kumeu Village adapts. By offering a complete spectrum of services – from rest home living and hospital support to specialised dementia care – the village ensures a stable, lifelong journey. Residents never have to face the upheaval of moving to a new facility when their needs increase. Instead, they receive high-standard clinical care from the familiar team they already know and trust.

It is a community built on dignity, comfort, and peace of mind, proving that specialised care can feel entirely natural, welcoming, and complete.

We would love to show you around and let you feel the vibe for yourself. To make sure we can give you our full, undivided attention, we ask that you book a time to come in for a conversation and a look around. That way, a member of our team will be completely free to answer your questions and chat through the best options for your family.

Get in touch today to set up your visit by calling 09 412 9112 or dropping us an email at info@kumeuvillage.co.nz



Nestled in the heart of Kumeu wine country, overlooking Kumeu River Winery and surrounded by picturesque grounds, Kumeu Village is a rest home with a difference. We don't just care for our residents – we're on a mission to provide a true home, rich with experiences and companionship. Kumeu Village is a vibrant community where our residents can live active and varied lives with autonomy and dignity.

Weekly Activities include...

- Singalong Tuesdays - Live music
- Fish & Chip Fridays followed by Happy Hour - Live music
- High Tea Sundays - Live music
- BINGO fun
- Cardio Drumming
- Monthly Church Service
- Van trips

Resident First – Raising the standard of aged care

507 SH16, Kumeu (entry 50m along Old Railway Rd.) | **www.kumeu.co.nz** | **09 412 9112**








Grey Power backs prostate health campaign

Grey Power New Zealand is backing a nationwide campaign encouraging men to take a proactive approach to their prostate health, while calling for progress on a prostate cancer screening pilot supported by both major political parties.

The Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand's "Just a Tick - It could save your life" campaign, supported by All Blacks coaching legend Sir Steve Hansen and comedian Te Radar, encourages men to ask their doctor about a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test.

Grey Power New Zealand President David Marshall says the campaign delivers a simple but important message, particularly for older men who may be inclined to put their health concerns aside.

"Too many men are reluctant to talk about their health or seek medical advice until something is wrong. This campaign is a timely reminder that taking a small step now could make a significant difference to their future health and quality of life.

"Prostate cancer is the most diagnosed cancer in men. It affects thousands of New Zealanders and their families every year. With around one in eight men expected to develop the disease during their lifetime, it is an issue that deserves greater awareness and open discussion."

A PSA blood test measures the level of prostate-specific antigen in the blood. An elevated result does not necessarily mean a man has prostate cancer, but it can indicate that further assessment may be warranted. The test cannot diagnose cancer on its own, and decisions about testing should be made in consultation with a health professional.

Marshall says the campaign also highlights the importance of men looking after themselves for the sake of the people who depend on them. Marshall says Grey Power also welcomes the commitments from National and Labour to support a prostate cancer screening pilot, following their leaders' statements during the election campaign.

Image credit Saad Ali at Unsplash



Waitakere Grey Power



Waitakere Grey Power recently invited representatives from six political parties to members Q&A Forum at Te Atatu South Community Centre. In recent months, there has been public discussions, namely:

Superannuation: need for clear public policy statements on intergenerational sustainability and affordability of superannuation.

Housing: A significant number of elderly people rely on private rentals, making survival on superannuation difficult. There is a need for social housing for the elderly and policies that help downsize to release larger family homes for families.

Healthcare and aged care: rising costs of residential care, the difficulty of finding available aged care placements, and the need for better support for independent living at home. Cost of living: high power bills and living costs are affecting health, leading to increased hospitalisations especially with weather events.

New guidance to GPs on the role of cognitive testing in senior driving licence renewal - older drivers can expect to see a shift away from routine screening for cognitive impairment when attending fitness to drive assessment.

Ministerial Advisory Group report on Aged Care: Aged care reform plan to strengthen home-based care, improve respite and support for family carers, expand rehabilitation and recovery services, improve information sharing and strengthen the aged-care workforce.

Auckland Council's 2026/2027 policy for the postponement of rates payments: help residential ratepayers to defer the payment of rates by using the equity in their property. Grey Power recommends speaking with a financial advisor prior to committing to this process.

It has been a challenging year for most residents and seniors.

Do come to our fortnightly 2nd Wednesday coffee chat session at 10.00am at The Alderman café, Henderson. Our contact number is 09 838 5207, and email address is waitakgp@xtra.co.nz

Our evolving Facebook page and website:

https://www.facebook.com/share/1Xi2Bsaf3v/

https://waitakeregreypower.co.nz/

Take care. Vincent Naidu President – Waitakere Grey Power Association



Health & Beauty

When skincare stops being enough



You have tried the cleanser, bought the serum and followed the routine. Yet the redness keeps returning, the breakouts persist, or the pigmentation barely shifts.

It is easy to assume you just haven't found the right product yet. But sometimes, the next step is understanding what is happening beneath the surface.

Skincare has an important role in keeping skin healthy. However, there are limits to what products alone can achieve. Persistent concerns may need a diagnosis and a treatment plan that goes beyond the bathroom shelf.

For example, skin that seems "sensitive" may have an underlying condition such as rosacea. Breakouts in adulthood deserve proper assessment, just as they do in teenagers. And pigmentation can have different causes, which influence how we approach treatment.

Adding more products can also make things harder to untangle. Strong exfoliants, multiple active ingredients and frequent changes may leave skin irritated, making it difficult to know what is helping.

At Restore Cosmed, we are a medical skin clinic with a skin health first approach. We begin by understanding your concerns, then assessing your skin and diagnosing any underlying conditions. Combining the expertise of our doctor and skin and laser therapist, we offer a 360-degree approach to your skin health and goals. Together, we build a plan that addresses underlying causes and supports lasting skin health and confidence.

Sometimes, the most useful recommendation is a simpler routine. Sometimes, it is recognising that a skin condition needs medical care. Any treatment should have a clear purpose, with realistic expectations about what it can achieve.

If you are spending more on skincare but still feeling frustrated, it may be time to pause the product hunt and seek advice.

Understanding your skin is a good place to start.

Restore Cosmed. www.restorecosmed.co.nz

RESTORE COSMED
SKIN AND MEDICAL
www.restorecosmed.co.nz
contact@restorecosmed.co.nz
20 Matua Road, Huapai.

Whāia te Oranga: Hauora (health and wellbeing)



How hauora is woven into West Auckland's bilingual units.

"Kaiako (teachers) are expected to deliver hauora on top of everything else, without specialist training or dedicated time."

That's the gap Christian Curtis, Systems Innovator at Healthy Families Waitākere, sees in West Auckland. In bilingual units, where tamariki learn in te reo Māori and English, grounded in te ao Māori (Māori world-view), kaiako are already carrying a full kete (basket) of language revitalisation alongside the curriculum. "That absence has been pronounced," he says.

At Rānui Primary and New Windsor School, kaiako and whānau (family) set out what would help. "They told us during wānanga (workshopping) they wanted deeper whānau engagement, consistent access to wellbeing opportunities, and sustainability through local capability building," says Curtis.

Whāia te Oranga was built from that. Local practitioners now bring mau rākau (traditional Māori martial art), kī-o-rahi (traditional ball sport) and mauri tau (the development of a balanced and calm state of being) into the week for more than 150 tamariki, working alongside kaiako and with whānau.

Early signs are positive. Ruka Rangi (Ngāti Tūwharetoa me Te Rarawa), Team Leader of Te Whānau Puāwaitanga at New Windsor School, says tauira (students) are more settled and engaged, whānau are seeing changes at home, and kaiako report increased confidence and capability.

The kaupapa (initiative) runs through 2026, with a sustainability model in development. The Kindness Institute's Brady Polkinghorne looks further: "We hope this initiative opens up the conversation about what hauora in bilingual units could look like across the motu."

Whāia te Oranga is delivered with The Kindness Institute, Taukoea Limited, Toi Mauri Ora and Kī-o-Rahi Tāmaki Makaurau, and supported by Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa (Sport NZ) and the Education Partnership and Innovation Trust. For more information visit www.healthyfamilieswaitakere.org.nz

Christmas hair appointments



Christmas is just around the corner, and now is the perfect time to secure your hair appointment at Zash Hair!

The festive season is always one of our busiest times of the year, with appointments filling up quickly as everyone gets ready for Christmas parties, family celebrations, work functions and those well-deserved summer getaways. If you want your hair looking fresh, fabulous and feeling its best, we highly recommend booking your appointment ASAP.

Whether you're after a fresh colour, beautiful highlights, a stunning cut and style, or simply want to refresh your look before the celebrations begin, our team at Zash Hair is here to help you feel confident and Christmas-ready.

Don't leave it until the last minute! Our December appointments are limited, and once they're gone, they're gone. Booking early means you can secure your preferred day and time without the stress of trying to find a last-minute appointment.

Book your Christmas hair appointment now!

Let's get your hair looking gorgeous, glossy and ready to celebrate the festive season in style.

Zash Hair – your Christmas hair starts here.



Symmetry in Motion Equine



Always a joy to assist horses and humans fine release and ease.

Thank you for the review.

A HUGE thank you to you, my lovely, for coming out today and driving in this dreadful weather. You have no idea how incredibly grateful I am! I feel so relieved and also so blown away with the amazing healing you did today, it was divine (name) looks much happier and so am I. Thank you, thank you, thank you! I would love another session please when you are free. It's an absolute pleasure to meet you, you are a very gifted and beautiful soul xx

You can get in touch via mob on 027 866 2500

or email freya@symmetryinmotion.nz

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Ask Dr. Heather



"Our wedding is in March and I want to look my best. When should I start having treatments?"

Anon, Riverhead

Congratulations on your Wedding! Such an exciting time. The best time to start planning treatments is now. Wedding planning is like having a dress fitted: you would not arrange the final fitting on the morning of the wedding, because alterations need time, just as cosmetic treatments need time to settle.

Botulinum toxin results usually peak around two weeks, however it is best to have your initial treatment four weeks before the wedding in case any top-ups are needed. Dermal filler results take six weeks to settle, so allow at least six to eight weeks beforehand.

Skin treatments need more time because they are planned as a course, rather than one appointment. Sculptra®, Profhilo®, NCTF®, microneedling and chemical peels take time for their full effect to be visible. If improving skin quality is your priority, plan treatments four to six months ahead.

The fortnight before a wedding is no time to experiment. I would not introduce a new peel, a first retinoid or a facial that promises to transform you overnight as these can be sensitizing to your skin, which can cause redness, peeling or swelling.

So, book the consultation once you have the wedding date, so you can formulate a sensible treatment plan. The aim is not to adjust things until last minute; it is to arrive at the wedding looking rested and completely yourself, with everything settled long before the photographs begin.

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



A little starstruck: Poppy's shoes steal the show



It seems optometrist Matthew Whittington has found someone who appreciates his footwear as much as his patients do – his brand-new granddaughter.

Molly captured this adorable moment when baby Mabel lifted her little head during tummy time, apparently captivated by the sight of Poppy's spectacular shoes. Forget rattles, mobiles and brightly coloured toys. Who needs baby entertainment when there's a pair of shiny shoes, complete with gold-trimmed toe-caps and studs, sparkling right in front of you?

We had to laugh as we imagined what's going through her tiny mind. Is it the dazzling shine? The golden details? Or is she already wondering whether Poppy's shoes come in a smaller size?

At For Eyes Optometrists many of our patients have commented on Matthew's distinctive footwear over the years, and it appears his reputation for stylish soles is now reaching the next generation.

Did you know, our For Eyes site was originally a shoe shop? Long time residents might remember the shoe shaped sign on the verandah roof. So perhaps it's fitting that the optometrist's shoes do occasionally attract more attention than his spectacles.

Nevertheless, at For Eyes, we take looking after your eyes seriously, so whether you're due for a routine eye examination, need help choosing new glasses, or simply want to see what all the fuss is about, we'd love to see you.

Come into For Eyes, Kumeu Shopping Village, 90 Main Rd, Kumeu – and see if you can resist slipping a glance at those shiny shoes.

Book online or phone 094128172



Area Columnists

Kumeu christmas parade December 4



The annual Kumeu Christmas parade is on Friday December 4, with part of State Highway16 (Main Road) closing at 6pm.

Co-ordinator Dale Wallace says local entries are still sought although spaces are filling fast.

While Kumeu Rotary withdrew sponsorship this year, Dale says Craig Walker Building Removals were happy to help with the locally-funded parade from the Kumeu Showgrounds to Tapu Road after featuring in it for about 30 years.

"Our company has been part of the Kumeu community for over 30 years, and during that time, we have watched our little corner of the world grow from a quiet farming town into the thriving, bustling rural community it is today," says Craig's daughter and the company general manager Kylie, adding that being part of a close-knit community like Kumeu is something truly special. "Over the years, we've built wonderful relationships with local businesses, cafés, shops, schools, and community groups.

"It's about more than just living and working here - it's about supporting one another, celebrating together, and being proud of the place we call home.

'Christmas is a magical time of year, and being involved in a celebration that brings our community together is something we genuinely treasure.

"From the beautifully decorated floats to the festive atmosphere, there's nothing quite like seeing the smiles, excitement, and pure joy on everyone's faces - especially the children."

"We are so proud to play a small part in keeping this wonderful local tradition alive and helping bring the magic of Christmas to our community."

Dale says plenty of public parking is available at the showgrounds in Access Road and she hopes parade spectators will spread out along the route.

More information is available on the Kumeu Christmas parade Facebook page, or ring Dale on 027-224-4636.

KMR addresses nature and business symposium



Five years since its formation, Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) says looking after the whenua is an investment in future prosperity and resilience, as much as it creates positive environmental outcomes.

That was the message delivered by KMR's Amo-Rauora Kōawa, Catchment Remediation Manager Lisette Rawson when she was a panel member at the Sustainable Business Network's Nature and Business Symposium.

The annual SBN event in Auckland was a chance for like-minded organisations to delve into a raft of topics including taking and accelerating action for nature through meaningful partnership, te ao Māori and mātauranga insights, creating business cases for nature and more.

Lisette was also part of a panel discussion alongside senior representatives from the Climate Change Commission, Zespri and Beca.

She believes that starts with recognising healthy business depends on healthy ecosystems.

Emma Doré, KMR Acting Pou Tātaki, says the symposium highlighted the growing recognition that investing in nature is no longer simply an environmental responsibility, but a fundamental business imperative.

"The Sustainable Business Network continues to play an important role in bringing together organisations committed to creating a nature-positive future. Healthy ecosystems underpin resilient communities, productive landscapes and long-term economic prosperity," says Emma.

"In te ao Māori, people are part of nature, not separate from it. If the whenua is healthy, eventually our communities and economies will feel that too," says Lisette.

"Through KMR' s journey since signing our memorandum of understanding in 2020, we have seen first-hand many times that when organisations start seeing nature as a core dependency, they move from short-term thinking to long-term stewardship.

"That's when their focus moves to how they can leave the land, water and communities stronger for those who come after us. That is certainly core to KMR's kaupapa and is the reason why so many people have joined us on our journey to help protect and restore the mauri of Kaipara Moana by reducing sedimentation flowing into the moana by protecting waterways flowing into the catchment. The Moana connects communities,

livelihoods and ecosystems and what happens upstream affects everyone downstream, says Lisette.

Emma says KMR offers a unique opportunity for businesses and investors to contribute to one of Aotearoa's most significant landscape-scale restoration initiatives.

"We acknowledge the leadership of landowners, funding partners and delivery partners, whose collective commitment has created real momentum and measurable outcomes.

"We look forward to welcoming new collaborators who recognise that investing in nature is an investment in resilience, prosperity and future generations," says Emma.

"As mana whenua, farmers, landowners, councils and communities have come together around a shared place, we have increasingly seen opportunities that aren't visible from any one property or organisation. Building relationships and collective responsibility for the health of Kaipara Moana has been critical to the success of KMR," says Lisette.

In just five years KMR's growth has resulted in almost 1000 projects within the Auckland and Northland Kaipara Moana catchment being completed; more than 161,000ha managed under KMR plans; around three million plants in the ground (or contracted to be planted); close to 2000ha planted or regenerating into native forest; and more than 1000km of fencing completed to protect waterways, wetlands and erodible hillsides.

One of the key lessons KMR has observed is that no single organisation owns the problem, and no single organisation owns the solution.

Lisette believes KMR's 10-year initiative to address degradation in NZ's largest harbour will pay dividends.

"Our goal of restoring the mauri of Kaipara Moana can only be done by bringing people together to grow relationships, stewardship and collective action and a shared responsibility.

"When we invest in the health of the whenua and moana, we're not only reducing risk but we're also strengthening communities, supporting productive land use and creating opportunities for future generations," says Lisette.

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It's hard to believe, but the countdown to Christmas is on - and there's no better time to get those lingering plumbing jobs sorted before the festive season kicks into full swing.

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Sayers says it



By Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers.

As of 1 October, one of the biggest changes to Auckland's local government structure since 2010 has taken effect, with significant transport responsibilities transferring from Auckland Transport to Auckland Council.

For most residents, the immediate change should be relatively invisible. However, responsibility for many decisions behind the scenes has changed.

Auckland Transport will focus primarily on operating public transport, including buses, ferries and trains. Auckland Council has taken over road and footpath maintenance and improvements, transport planning, project delivery, public parking, walking and cycling infrastructure, and other transport functions.

Councillors and Local Boards will have greater involvement in transport governance, policy and decision-making. The Mayor and Councillors will oversee arterial routes, while Local Boards will be responsible for local roads.

For Rodney, I see this as an important opportunity for our communities to have a greater say in transport decisions, with elected representatives more directly accountable for outcomes affecting local roads and transport networks.

Rodney has very different needs from Auckland's urban areas. We have an extensive rural road network, unsealed and sealed roads, growing communities, increasing traffic pressures and significant connectivity challenges. Our priorities are different from the inner city.

It also creates opportunities to improve value for money through standardised designs, lower traffic management costs, greater efficiency and increased use of local contractors, while ensuring communities are properly consulted on significant changes.

There will inevitably be some teething issues as the new arrangements settle in. Residents should now contact Auckland Council to report problems with roads, footpaths and street lighting. Auckland Transport remains responsible for public transport services.

Transport is one of the biggest issues facing our communities. Balancing the maintenance of existing infrastructure with investment in future needs will be critical.

The reform gives Auckland Council a greater role. Now we must ensure it delivers better value, better decisions and better transport outcomes for every Auckland community – including Rodney.

Got council issues? ...
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Strawberry season in full swing



A "Super El Nino" shouldn't impact the strawberry season too much.

So says Phil Greig of Phil Greig Strawberry Gardens in Kumeu, noticing the "Super El Nino" is expected to bring hotter and drier than average conditions, peaking late December.

He's been growing strawberries for sale locally and export about 38 years and has mainly Camarosa, Monterey and Ventana varieties.

Phil has three areas in strawberries (two in Kumeu and one in Taupaki), adding prices are dropping from mid-October and that he also sells about 24 varieties of home-made gelato which are popular too.

Irrigation should help strawberries handle the drier months, says Phil.

Meanwhile, plentiful supplies of the delicious red fruit should be expected for Christmas.

Check Phil's farm on Facebook -

https://www.facebook.com/philgreigs/

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A Little luxury for the festive season

As the festive season approaches, there's no better time to slow down, indulge in a little self care and find thoughtful gifts for the special people in your life.

At lovesoul Beauty & Spa studio we're getting ready for the Christmas season with beautiful gift ideas, luxurious treatments and some exciting new additions to our shelves.

We're delighted to introduce Davroe haircare to lovesoul! This Australian-birn range offers salon-quality haircare with a focus on gentle, plant-based ingredients. Whether you're looking to nourish dry hair, enhance shine or give someone a little everyday luxury, Davie makes a wonderful addition to any self-care routine.

We're also putting together a selection of gorgeous Christmas gift packs, making it easier to find something special for everyone on your list. From skincare and haircare to little indulgences there's something to suit a range of budgets and preferences.

If you're not quite sure what to choose, a lovesoul gift voucher is always a lovely option. Give someone the opportunity to unwind with a relaxing massage, enjoy a rejuvenating facial or simply take some much needed time for themselves.

A little reminder to book ahead! December is one of our busiest times of the year and appointments are filling quickly. Whether you're preparing for Christmas celebrations, planning a little pampering or simply keeping up with your regular beauty treatments, we recommend securing your preferred appointment early.

This festive season remember that looking after yourself is just as important as looking after everyone else.

We look forward to welcoming you into lovesoul and helping you celebrate the season feeling relaxed, refreshed and beautiful.

Warmly, Lisa and the lovesoul team xx



Westgate Mega Mitre 10 reps visit Ross's Riverhead home

Dave Hargreaves and Donna Killian from Westgate Mega Mitre 10 visited "foundation customer" Ross Minifie's (pictured) Riverhead home to see what he'd bought from them.

Ross showed the two his statues, pots, signs, furniture, plants and other things he bought over about five years from Mega Mitre 10s in Henderson and Westgate.

Ross reckons he spent thousands of dollars getting gear for his home and garden.

His purchases impressed both Dave and Donna who are keen to return later to see what Ross adds.

Dave and the late Elaine Hargreaves featured in the Kumeu Courier's sister magazine The Westerly in July 2022 in the aftermath of the 2014 official opening of the Mitre10 Mega Westgate.

Mitre 10 Megas are "big box" distribution stores offering retail and trade ranges and include garden centres, landscaping, kitchen and bathroom showrooms, timber yards, trade drive-through facilities and more.

Ross's Riverhead retirement project was mentioned in the July 2026 Kumeu Courier.



Wild streets festival of play



Saturday 14 November 10am-2pm at Huapai reserve.

A family-friendly day of outdoor games, playful activities and imaginative fun for children, teenagers and adults. Bring a picnic and enjoy time together outdoors.

Free event

Kumeu Market



Sunday 15 November 9am-2pm at the Kumeū Showgrounds

Browse local crafts, gifts, handmade goods, food stalls and more. A relaxed outing for families and a chance to support local businesses.

Free entry





Local author brings Christmas magic to Kumeu



Huapai children's author Chelsea Cresswell shares Kiwi Christmas memories, family inspiration and what made her fall for the Kumeu community. We caught up with her to talk about her book, Poppa's Workshop: A Christmas Surprise, life in the area and her plans for the festive season.

Hi Chelsea, tell us a little about yourself.

I'm a children's author, and I live in Huapai with my husband and our three children. I have always loved writing stories and poems, and I find real joy in the magic of words. I published my first book, Poppa's Workshop: A Christmas Surprise, in 2025 while on maternity leave. It was a busy year.

What is Poppa's Workshop about and where did the idea come from?

It's a heartwarming, beautifully illustrated story that takes you behind the doors of Poppa's toy workshop, where magic awaits. Poppa's Workshop is inspired by my time tinkering in the garage with my Dad (Poppa) and the clever things he made. I think many Kiwi families relate to it because they recognise the workshop, craftsmanship and creativity that can come from the shed or garage. The smell of sawdust is a core memory for me, and you'll see that mentioned in the story, along with other references to my childhood and the toys we made.

Who is the book for?

It's for the whole family: parents, grandparents and children. It captures the magic of Christmas in a way that has universal appeal, but it's also a classic New Zealand story at heart. Children will love the rhyme and the fold-out pages.

The illustrations are a big part of the book. What should readers look out for?

Jessica Twohill created the beautiful, bright, playful illustrations, and of course there's the fold-out page surprise, where you can open the workshop doors and take a look inside.

What do you love most about children's books?

I love reading to children. There is so much joy in reading children's stories – we should all do it, no matter our age. I've had the privilege of reading at schools, daycares, libraries and other events, and the feedback is so lovely. There's nothing quite like a mat packed with children and grown-ups, listening to the story and soaking up the magic of Christmas.

You moved to Kumeu this year. What drew you here?

We moved earlier this year. We'd always loved it out here, and we'd been looking for a while before we found the right spot. We love the community feel. Although we'd visited the Kumeu Christmas lights before, we didn't connect the dots when we found our new home. What are the chances of a Christmas author finding a spot in the very heart of the Christmas lights neighbourhood?! We're really looking forward to bringing a bit of Poppa's Workshop magic to the Christmas lights this year.

Favourite spots in the area?

You'll find me grabbing a coffee from Urban Flair or shopping at Compass Collective – so many great finds.

You can follow Chelsea on Instagram @chelsea_cresswell





New community defibrillator at Franklin Farm



A potentially life-saving resource is now available to the Waimauku community, day and night.

A new publicly accessible defibrillator has been installed at Franklin Farm, at 145 Taha Road, Waimauku, providing another important emergency resource for the local community.

After looking into the availability of defibrillators in the surrounding area, the family discovered there were only a couple that could be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With Franklin Farm sitting roughly between these locations, they saw an opportunity to help fill the gap.

With support from their grandparents, Lucy and Graham Franklin the family purchased a St John automated external defibrillator (AED) and installed it in a roadside location where it can be accessed by anyone who may need it.

The AED features both video and voice instructions, guiding users through what to do during an emergency. It is designed to be straightforward to use, even for people without first aid training.

A defibrillator can be a vital piece of equipment when someone experiences a sudden cardiac arrest. Having one nearby and accessible at any time could make a significant difference while emergency services are on their way.

The family hopes the wider community will spread the word about this new facility so locals know where to find it if an emergency occurs.

Importantly, the defibrillator is not just for people visiting Franklin Farm. It is available to anyone in the surrounding area who may need it, at any time of the day or night.

This is a wonderful example of local people taking practical steps to support the safety and wellbeing of their community.

Safety improvements planned for Old North road

New road markings and electronic warning signs aim to make a high-risk stretch of road safer for everyone.**

Motorists travelling along Old North Road near Kumeū could see new road-safety measures introduced in 2026, with Auckland Transport planning improvements designed to reduce the risk of crashes along the rural route.

The proposed work covers the stretch between Inland Road and Terry Smyth Drive, where Auckland Transport identifies the road as high-risk for crashes, including head-on collisions and incidents involving drivers losing control.

The plans include installing rumble strips along the centreline between Inland Road and Ararimu Valley Road. These raised markings create noise and vibration when a vehicle drives over them, alerting motorists if they begin drifting out of their lane.

Electronic warning signs are also planned for the tighter curves and bends between Ararimu Valley Road and Terry Smyth Drive. The signs are intended to encourage drivers to slow down and take extra care when navigating these sections.

The improvements aim to help protect everyone using the road, including drivers, passengers, cyclists and pedestrians. The additional warnings could be particularly helpful at night and in poor weather, when visibility and road conditions can make driving more challenging.

For residents who regularly use Old North Road to travel between Kumeū and surrounding rural communities, the planned changes are an important reminder of the need to drive to the conditions and remain alert on winding rural roads.

Auckland Transport says it will contact local residents before work takes place, with any changes to the plans to be published on its project website.

The community can find further information about the proposed improvements through Auckland Transport's Have Your Say* website.

More information: [Auckland Transport – Improving road safety along Old North Road]

(https://haveyoursay.at.govt.nz/old-north-road) Note- Info taken from the site as of 20/10/26 (subject to change)



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