

October 2026

FREE monthly community magazine for Kumeu
& surrounding townships

Kumeu

Courier

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

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Financial Advice



Greetings

It's still tough out there for some people.

Which is why a Kumeu car show on October 11 aims to bring tinned food to a Salvation Army food bank.

The "Cars and Cans" event by Rotationals (Westies Deven Solanki and Isaac Western) is at the Kumeu Showgrounds and follows a similar successful March 2026 fundraiser featuring more than 800 cars and producing about \$14,000 worth of 1408kg donated food.

This one is expected to be even better.

Entry is \$10 a car (pre-booked) or \$20 a car at the gate, with spectators and passengers free – plus a can or more of food, please.

The event runs from 11am to 3pm.

Rotationals has run nearly 40 events such as fundraisers for the I Am Hope charity, a summer cruise to Piha, and more.

The October 11 day at Kumeu includes "The Straight Up Westies" motorcycle wheelie rig and simulated racing such as Formula 1 reaction times, food trucks, coffee, and business displays.

CheckRotationals on social media (Facebook and Instagram especially) for details, including any postponements due to weather.

Meanwhile, we have plenty of good, local stories inside to grab your attention.

Take heart – things are improving!

Enjoy the read this month.

Editor Geoff Dobson.



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

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

ENQUIRIES / FEEDBACK / ADVERTISING:
Geoff Dobson -027 757 8251
geoffdobson2017@gmail.com

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People & Places

KUMEUCOURIER.CO.NZ

Could 20 minutes' work double your retirement savings?

Here's a situation we see a lot. A client comes to us with KiwiSaver settings that were perfect for them a few years ago but not so much now. For example, a 30-year-old, earning \$80,000, who has just used their KiwiSaver savings to buy their first home. Their KiwiSaver balance is now near zero, and it's in a conservative fund (sometimes one we've put them in ourselves, to keep the deposit steady while they house-hunted; or because it's still the default fund from their first job).

Leave it there and the balance would grow to around \$500,000 by the time they turn 65. Move it into a growth fund with a strong long-term record, keep the contributions the same, and it could pass \$1 million. This is a projection, not a promise, and it's impossible to know exactly what will happen over the next few decades. But these numbers are cautious, assuming the conservative and growth funds both do a bit worse than similar funds have over the last ten years. The gap between them speaks for itself.

At Lochbrook (formerly Better Borrowing) we do home loan, insurance, and KiwiSaver advice. These are the four key things we look at when someone asks us to check their KiwiSaver savings are working for them, based on their financial goals, and you can do them too in about 20 minutes:

1. The type of fund

Log in to your provider and find the fund name: Conservative, Balanced, Growth, Aggressive, or something unique. If your fund is higher up that list the balance will fluctuate more over time, but historically the returns have been higher too. If you won't need the money for ten years or more, a higher-risk fund is worth considering, because you have time to ride out the ups and downs.

2. The provider

Two growth funds from different providers can end up in very different places over ten years. The number to look at is the return after fees, not the fee itself. A cheap fund that underperforms costs you far more than a dearer one that delivers. Sorted's Smart Investor ([sorted.org.nz](https://www.sorted.org.nz))

lists every fund's after-fee returns side by side.

3. Your contribution rate

Most people are on the minimum contributions, generally set when they started a job and never looked at again. It's a choice, and changing it can make a big difference to your retirement savings. You can see the impact for yourself with Sorted's KiwiSaver calculator (sorted.org.nz/tools/kiwisaver-calculator).

4. What it actually holds

Few people know whether their retirement savings have exposure to weapons, animal testing, fossil fuels, or tobacco. Mindful Money (mindfulmoney.nz) shows what your fund holds. If that matters to you, there are some great long-term performers that leave those out.

If something in your life has changed since your KiwiSaver settings were last looked at, a new job, a new home, a few more years on the clock, book a no-cost KiwiSaver review with us. We'll check it now and keep reviewing it with you as life changes, because the settings that suit you at 30 won't be the ones that suit you at 50. Sometimes the answer is to leave it alone, and we'll tell you that too. If you'd like to meet in person, a coffee at Local Hero is on us.



Book a KiwiSaver review

Scan, pick KiwiSaver Review, choose a time. We'll ring you.

Home loans or insurance? Same link, same team.
Scott does the lending, James does the cover.

020 4009 8944 · hello@lochbrook.co.nz
www.lochbrook.co.nz · Huapai, North-West Auckland

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Introducing Lash Lifts at lovesoul



We are delighted to introduce Lash Lifts to the treatment menu at lovesoul Beauty & Spa Studio.

A Lash Lift is a simple way to enhance your own natural lashes, gently lifting and curling them from the root so they appear longer,

fuller and more defined. The result is a brighter, more open-eyed look without extensions or the need for regular maintenance appointments.

It's a lovely option if your lashes naturally grow straight or point downwards, if you would like to wear less mascara or if you simply want to look a little more polished when you wake up in the morning. Lash lifts work beautifully on both shorter and longer natural lashes, with each treatment tailored to suit your eyes and the look you want to achieve.

Results generally last between six an eight weeks depending on your individual lash growth cycle. You can choose a lash lift on its own or add a tint for deeper colour and extra definition. Together, the lift and tint create beautifully separated, natural looking lashes that can make everyday mornings feel that little bit easier.



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Walk-ins welcome

To celebrate the arrival of this new service, our Lash Lift and Tint is available for \$99 (usually \$123) until 31 October 2026. Use code LASHLIFT99 when booking online at www.lovesoul.co.nz.

We are so pleased to be able to offer this lovely new treatment and look forward to welcoming you into the studio.

Warmly, Lisa & the lovesoul team x

Car show with a twist



Mixing Kiwi car culture with community philanthropy, the team at Rotationals are running a "food drive show and shine" at the Kumeu Showgrounds in October, to gather food for The Salvation Army's local food bank. Titled "Cars and Cans", petrolheads from all over Auckland are encouraged to bring a food item to donate, as they park up for a few hours to chat, check out the other vehicles, and grab a bite to eat.

Rotationals' last event at the Showgrounds held in March managed to amass an impressive 1,423kg of food for those in need, and they're hoping to do even better at this event.

They're not fussy about what kind of car you show up in, whether it's American, European, Japanese or other - it's more about enjoying the sheer car variety that Auckland has to offer, and coming together to do something positive.

How can I get involved, we hear you ask? Well, Sunday October 11th is the day, from 11am - 3pm, and it's just \$20 at the gate per car. There's no charge for passengers or spectators, just a suggestion that you bring a can as well. It sounds like a fun day.



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Mindbody app for pilates

Hidden injuries of everyday life



Most people think injuries come from dramatic moments like a fall, a sports tackle or a wrong move at the gym. The truth is far quieter. Many of the aches, niggles and flare ups physios see each week come from the tiny habits woven into everyday life. They are small, subtle and easy to ignore until they are not.

Take phone usage. Holding your head forward by just a few centimetres can double the load through your neck and upper back. It does not feel like much in the moment but repeat it for hours each week and the tension builds. The same happens with long drives, lifting children onto hips or sitting at a desk without support. These are not big injuries. They are micro stresses that slowly irritate tissues over time.

What makes these patterns matter is repetition. Your body adapts to whatever you do most often. If that is slouching, twisting, gripping or bracing, those muscles learn to stay switched on. Over time, they become tight, tired and less efficient. That is when people start noticing stiffness, headaches or that familiar feeling of waking up sore without a clear reason.

The good news is that small resets make a noticeable difference. Changing how you hold your phone, breaking up long sitting periods, swapping sides when carrying children or adding gentle mobility into your day can ease strain before it becomes pain. These are simple, physio backed tweaks that help your body feel more supported.

Physio is not only for major injuries. It is for the everyday patterns that quietly shape how you move, feel and function.

If any of these patterns sound familiar, our physio team can help you reset them before they turn into something bigger. Phone: 027 313 6036 Email: physio@riverheadphysio.co.nz

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"Let's Dance" needs more dancers and volunteers



We are a wheelchair ceilidh (barndance / formation dance) dance group for young adults with disabilities, who require a wheelchair for mobility. We meet once a month on a Sunday afternoon in

Kumeu, Community Centre. Our group has formed out of a friends group from high school and their parents. We are a private group.

Our focus is fun and friendship and to give people who need to use wheelchairs for mobility the experience of dancing in a group, speed, change of direction, turning and moving to music and rhythm.

At the moment we have 8 dancers and their helpers, but we can accommodate up to 12, max 16 dancers and their support people.

We have a lot of fun and generally dance for 45min., then stop for a cuppa and bikkies.

We have the opportunity to perform at the disability arts festival once a year, for the dancers who like to take part, which is also a lot of fun. which is a good time to chat and catch up, and then do another 45 min. dancing. So 2 hours in total.

If you are interested to join our friendly group either as a dancer (all dancers need to bring a support person), or as a volunteer- to help either push or guide a dancer in a wheelchair, or fill in if we need an extra person dancing, and help set up before and tidy up after the session - please get in touch with me,

Conni Ruff mob: 021 02517705

We'd love to hear from you.

Making climate change an election issue



A screening of the United Kingdom documentary film 'People's National Emergency Briefing' was held at the Muriwai Surf Club on Saturday night September 12 to encourage people to carefully consider and question the climate change policies of all parties before voting in these elections.

And to use people's voice and vote to make climate and nature the election issue on Election Day November 7, 2026.

The film event, organised by the local Frame_ofMind Film Group, had an attentive audience of more than 60, including Kaipara ki Mahurangi candidates Daniel Eb for The Opportunity Party, Jolyon Swinburne for Labour, Adam Powell for the Greens, along with Rodney Local Board Chair Guy Wishart.

National and Act Party candidates, such as National's replacement candidate for Chris Penk, Jessica Rowe, gave their apologies.

A post screening discussion among candidates and the community was moderated by Simon Wilson, journalist, Hopetown blogger and Listener columnist.

The aim was to bring people together from across the community, iwi, MPs, councillors and community representatives. Meteorologists have advised that a "Super El Nino" event is expected this 2026-2027 season. As a community living with the reality of significant weather events, it is time to have climate change addressed nationwide with urgency, the meeting heard.

More than 1000 people live in Muriwai, many of them third and fourth generation family members.

The community has been severely challenged by climate issues, particularly when slips created by Cyclone Gabrielle on February 13, 2013, took out 72 of 537 homes and cost the lives of two local volunteer fire fighters..

It was acknowledged by all parties at the screening that the world is at or near several tipping points with a climate and nature crisis.

As a nation, action is needed to replace apathy. "The big challenge is to get nationwide consistent policy, rather than the current ad hoc practices," says science journalist Paul Gorman in a flyer. The audience were invited to share the film link - <https://www.nebriefing.org/> with whanau and friends, encouraging them to hold screenings.

The screening was preceded by a tribute film of Muriwai and surrounds to Muriwai filmmaker Adam Strange, who died after being attacked by sharks while swimming in early 2013.

For film screening information contact Frame_ofMind Films - Kathleen Thomas kathtm@xtra.co.nz

Overcoming Addiction



I am 25 years sober - over half my life. I'm lucky I found Alcoholics Anonymous at such a young age - I didn't feel lucky at the time but I know that I was. I will always be grateful for all the help I received there. I wouldn't be where I am today without that support.

Today I use hypnotherapy to help people find the root cause and reason for their addictions and help free them. Some of the things clients subconscious minds say under hypnosis:

alcohol helps me connect & be social, drugs numb the pain, alcohol helps me be confident, weed brings relaxation and alone time, it's cool/fun, it helps me belong and fit in, everyone does it (when young their family & friends did it around them hence it is learned behaviour)

Many of these may have felt true when we were younger but when drink and drugs are causing issues in relationships, hurting people and causing pain in our lives they are most likely not true today.

I was shy. I lacked confidence. I believed I was overweight and ugly. Drink and drugs helped me fit in and feel part of it. I felt cooler than I was but they led to blackouts, embarrassing situations, danger and lost relationships. They took way more confidence from me than I ever thought they were giving me.

If you or someone you know is struggling with drink or drugs please send them my way because I really can help. With hypnosis we can find the subconscious beliefs causing the addiction and create new beliefs and habits. Some people choose to be sober and others become moderate drinkers.

Contact me if you need help overcoming addiction.
Lorraine Maguire - Rapid Transformational Therapist
www.lorrainemaguire.com

Kumeu Library



It's October and we're in the middle of our school holiday programme at Kumeu Library. We have a free activity for school-aged children every day at 10.30am, providing a fun and engaging way to keep young minds active - details of activities are available on

our Facebook page or at the library.

With exam season fast approaching for high school and university students, Kumeu Library has everything you need to study more effectively. Make use of our public computers, printing, scanning and photocopying services, or settle into one of our study spaces. We offer study guides covering NCEA and Cambridge subjects, helping you review key concepts and strengthen knowledge ahead of exams. Our extensive online resources are available 24/7, including access to academic databases such as ProQuest Research Library and Gale Academic OneFile, as well as Gale In Context for trusted information on science and current global issues. And remember, balancing study with downtime is just as important. Kumeu Library has something for everyone, whether you're preparing for exams or simply looking to relax and recharge.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/kumeulibrary to stay up to date with the latest Kumeu Library news and events.

Kyra Shaw-Toomey
Community Facilitator - Kumeu & Surrounds
kyra@rodneycommunity.org.nz

Community activities: Oct - Nov

TAI CHI CLASSES

Thursdays 1pm-2pm | Term 3 & 4
Kumeu Community Centre | *\$10 per class

LEGO CLUB

Sundays 1:30 - 3:30pm (except 1st Sunday of each Month)
Riverhead Citizens Hall

BIODYNAMICS WORKSHOP

Sunday 8th November 10:00am - 1pm
Wild West Organics Waimauku

FREE school holiday activities!

PICNIC & PLAY: WILD STREETS OF PLAY
Friday 2nd October 10am-2pm
Huapai Hub

K-POP DANCE LESSON
Weds 7th October - 10am - 2pm
Kumeu Community Center

SEWING AND PAPER WEAVING WORKSHOPS
Thurs 8th October - 10am - 2pm
Kumeu Community Center

HUAPAI TRIANGLE COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAY
Sat 17th October 9am - 2pm
Meet at Huapai School, 40 Station Rd

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

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

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The challenges of retirement



In our previous articles, we discussed having enough money for retirement and transitioning to a flexible retirement lifestyle. Life doesn't stop at retirement, and there are a few important aspects to keep in mind as you move into this next stage of life. Here are some points to consider as you prepare for this next chapter.

- Don't relocate on a whim: Before making a move, take time to consider the long-term implications. While being closer to family can be appealing, their circumstances may change over time due to career opportunities, lifestyle changes, or other commitments. Consider how your decision will support your own needs and goals in retirement.
- Don't fall for too-good-to-be-true offers: It's tempting to jump at opportunities that seem too good to pass up, but it's important to ensure your money lasts throughout retirement. Take time to do your research and seek advice when needed.
- Don't neglect estate planning: Money and family dynamics can be complex. Having a well-considered estate plan in place can help reduce uncertainty, minimise the potential for conflict, and ensure your wishes are carried out.
- Don't put all your eggs in one basket: Diversify your investments to help support your long-term financial wellbeing. Capital growth can play an important role if you're planning for a retirement that may last 20 years



Expert advice in your neighbourhood





Daryl Buckingham
Financial Adviser
027 911 6656
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or more.

- Don't forget about your own future: It's your retirement and the savings you've worked hard to build. While it's natural to want to help your children and loved ones, it's important to balance that generosity with your own financial needs and long-term security.

RIVAL Wealth are experts in helping you navigate your retirement planning. We're here to support you every step of the way. For personalised advice and more information contact your local Financial Adviser - Daryl Buckingham.

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

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Community rallies for Huapai Triangle cleanup day



Residents of Huapai are being called on to roll up their sleeves for a neighbourhood cleanup event this spring, aimed at tidying up the local area while bringing the community closer together.

The Huapai Triangle Community Cleanup will take place on Saturday, 17 October 2026, from 9:00am to 2:00pm, with a rain date set for Sunday, 25 October if the weather doesn't cooperate. Volunteers are asked to meet at Huapai District School, 40 Station Road.

Organisers say the event is about more than just picking up rubbish. After two hours of cleanup work around the Huapai Triangle, participants will be treated to a free picnic and barbecue lunch, complete with live local music. Bouncy castles will keep younger children entertained throughout the day.

"Let's look after our neighbourhood and get to know one another," organisers said, encouraging families to come along, meet their neighbours and pitch in to care for the shared community space.

Gloves and rubbish bags will be supplied, though attendees are advised to wear closed shoes and bring a drink bottle.

The event is being supported by Rodney Community and Rodney Local Board.

Those interested in joining a cleanup team can contact Leonard Bloksberg by phone or text on 027 290 7891.

Contact Kyra for more information. kyra@rodneycommunity.org.nz

Spring into fire safety



Spring has arrived, bringing longer days, warmer evenings and plenty of jobs to tackle around the garden. It's also a good time to give some thought to fire safety before summer arrives.

After a wet winter, it can be easy to forget how quickly things can dry out. Once the grass turns golden, garden waste starts piling up and the barbecue comes back into action, a few simple precautions can make a big difference.

Have a look around your property

Spring cleaning isn't just for inside the house. Clear away dry leaves, dead branches and other garden waste, particularly from around your home, sheds, decks and fences. Keep gutters clear and trim back vegetation that has grown close to buildings.

If you have a lifestyle property or a larger section, now is also a good time to think about how a fire could move across your property. Keeping grass and vegetation managed around buildings can help create a safer space.

And don't forget access. Make sure your driveway is clearly accessible for emergency vehicles, particularly if you live on a long or shared driveway.

Planning a burn? Think first

Garden clean-ups can leave plenty of material to get rid of, but before lighting an outdoor fire, check the current fire conditions and local rules. What may seem like a harmless little burn can become difficult to control surprisingly quickly, particularly when there's wind.

Never leave an outdoor fire unattended and always make sure you have the means to put it out properly.

If conditions aren't right, consider other options for disposing of garden waste rather than taking the risk.

Time to dust off the barbecue

There's nothing quite like the first spring barbecue. Before firing it up, give it a good clean and check that the gas bottle, hose and connections are in good condition.

Keep the barbecue well away from buildings, fences, trees and anything else that could catch alight. And, as tempting

as it is to wander off while the sausages are cooking, never leave a barbecue unattended.

Give the fireplace a spring check

If you've been using a wood burner through winter, spring is a good time to make sure everything is clean and in good condition. Have chimneys and flues checked as recommended, and make sure ash is completely cool before disposing of it.

Never put hot ash into a plastic rubbish bin or somewhere it could ignite surrounding material.

Be careful with batteries

More and more homes have rechargeable batteries, from power tools and garden equipment to e-bikes and scooters. Damaged or poorly maintained batteries can present a fire risk.

Use the correct charger, don't charge damaged batteries and avoid charging devices on beds, couches or other soft surfaces. If something looks damaged, swollen or unusually hot, stop using it.

Check your smoke alarms

While you're doing the spring clean, take a minute to test your smoke alarms. Make sure they are working properly and that everyone in the household knows what to do if they sound.

It's also worth talking through your escape plan. Make sure everyone knows two ways out where possible, and choose a meeting point outside the house.

For families, this can be a great time to involve the kids. Ask them what they would do if they heard the alarm and practise getting outside safely.

A little preparation goes a long way

Fire safety doesn't have to be complicated. A few simple jobs around the property now can help protect your home, your family, your animals and your neighbours when summer arrives.

So enjoy the longer evenings, get stuck into the garden and make the most of spring – just keep fire safety on the list of things to do.

Graham McIntyre
g r a h a m . m c i n t y r e @ fireandemergency.nz
or 027 632 0421.
Chief Fire Officer - Waitakere Fire Brigade.



Community News

Five signs it's time to replace your old dentures

Dentures are designed to restore comfort, function and confidence—but they don't last forever. As your mouth changes and your dentures wear, small problems can gradually become bigger ones.

Here are five signs it may be time for a new set:

1. They keep slipping

If your dentures move when you eat or speak, or you're increasingly relying on adhesive, the fit may have changed.

2. They're uncomfortable

Dentures shouldn't be something you simply learn to tolerate. Recurring sore spots, irritated gums and tenderness can all signal that your dentures are putting pressure on areas they shouldn't. While an adjustment or relining may sometimes help, persistent discomfort deserves professional attention rather than being accepted as part of wearing dentures.

3. Eating or speaking has become harder

If you've developed a new lisp, noticed a whistling sound when you speak, or find yourself avoiding foods that were once easy to eat, changes in your dentures could be responsible. Wear, movement or changes in your bite can affect the way your dentures support your mouth.

4. They're visibly worn

Dentures endure a lot of daily use. Over the years, teeth can become visibly worn, while the acrylic base may develop cracks, chips or other damage. Worn denture teeth can also affect your bite and chewing efficiency.

5. They're getting old

Even well-maintained dentures eventually wear out. Changes in your mouth over the years can also affect how well they fit.

Don't wait for them to fail

If your dentures no longer feel comfortable, secure or natural, it's worth having them professionally assessed. An adjustment, relining or replacement could help restore the comfort and confidence you've been missing. Call through to the amazing team at DT Denture Clinic for a free consultation 09-4165072

What should we feed our dogs?



With so many choices available, deciding what to feed our dogs can be confusing. Raw, home-cooked, wet and dry foods all have their supporters, but the most important question is not simply "raw or processed?"—it is whether the

diet is nutritionally complete, balanced, palatable and suitable for your dog's individual needs.

Raw feeding can be appealing because it uses fresh, minimally processed ingredients and many dogs love the taste. Some owners report improvements in coat condition, stools and overall wellbeing. However, raw meat can carry harmful bacteria such as Salmonella and Campylobacter, creating risks for both pets and people. Homemade raw diets can also be deficient or excessive in important nutrients, while bones may cause dental fractures, constipation or intestinal obstruction.

Quality commercial foods have the advantage of being carefully formulated to provide consistent nutrition. They

Huapai Vet Clinic

Dr Gary Duggal (BVSc)

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371 Main Road, Huapai



Community News

are convenient, easy to portion and store, and there is considerably less risk of bacterial contamination. Wet food can also provide additional moisture, while dry food is convenient and can be useful for maintaining dental hygiene when specifically designed for that purpose.

Home-cooked diets can be an excellent choice for some dogs, particularly those with specific nutritional or medical needs, but they should ideally be formulated by a veterinary nutrition professional rather than simply consisting of meat, rice and vegetables.

So, what do we recommend? For most dogs, our first choice is a reputable, nutritionally complete commercial diet appropriate for their life stage and individual needs. Raw or home-cooked food can be considered, but it needs careful nutritional planning and food-safety precautions. Ultimately, the best diet is the one that your dog is able to digest well, maintains an ideal body weight and provides complete nutrition throughout their life.

Gary Duggal - Huapai Vet Clinic

Cat lovers– we need your help!

The NZ Cat Foundation operates a sanctuary in Huapai that is home to more than 150 rescued cats. Our sanctuary provides a safe, lifelong haven for older,



disadvantaged, and unhomeable cats, allowing them to live out their lives in comfort, security, and with the care they deserve.

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

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

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

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

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



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Auckland Folk Festival 2027 lineup



Auckland Folk Festival announces a huge, globe-spanning lineup for its 2027 festival, running from Friday, 29 January to Monday, 1 February at the Kumeu Showgrounds.



Aotearoa's largest Folk festival is back for 2027 with an incredible lineup of musicians from Aotearoa and around the world. An annual destination for families and friends for over 50 years, the three-day spectacular, held over Auckland Anniversary Weekend, is a chance to step out of the hustle and bustle of daily life and step into a world of music, dance, food, workshop and camping fun for the whole family. Take your pick from five stages, under cover with marquees (including a dedicated kids' stage).



Festival Programme & Artist Coordinator, Emily Roughton, says, "2027 is going to be a magnificent celebration of our creative community! There is a place for everyone, and space for young and old to enjoy a wonderful blend of

tradition and discovery."

Headlining the festival this year is Ny Oh. Fresh off touring with Harry Styles and taking home Best Folk Album at the 2026 Aotearoa Music Awards. Also joining the top of the bill is Yurt Party, the beloved Christchurch-based street party band known for turning festival crowds into one big dance floor.

From across the Tasman, the festival welcomes three exciting Australian acts. Apolline, The Inadequates and The Borough! Representing Ireland is four-piece Tulua, and Ghanaian musician Yaw Asumadu, brings his WOMAD-honed sound to the festival stages.

Returning for the 2027 Festival, via Nashville, is Cy Winstanley, and US singer-songwriter Jeff Davis. Award-winning folk songwriter Nicola Mitchell (Waikato/Tainui Ngāti Maniapoto) will present a set with her acoustic trio, alongside Auckland-based soul-food singer-songwriter dân dân. Plus Hinekoia Tomlinson (Ngāti Hine, Whakatōhea, Ngāti Awa), returns to run her much loved waiata workshops.

The much loved, dedicated Kids Stage is in good hands once again this year, with returning favourite Cy Winstanley's alter ego Simon Stanley and the talented Niccolo Piccolo.

With much more to be announced.

More info & Earlybird tickets are now on sale, until Dec 31st. from: www.aucklandfolkfestival.co.nz and Moshtix. Day passes and full weekend passes are available.

What's happening at Kumeu SeniorNet?



Exploring practical skills for everyday life.

While we love helping our members get comfortable with the absolute basics of their devices, Kumeu SeniorNet also dives into practical, everyday tools

that make modern life much easier and more enjoyable. We don't just teach technology for the sake of it; we teach things that have a real, positive impact on your day-to-day routine.

For instance, our most recent workshop focused heavily on mastering communication apps like WhatsApp and Messenger. Attendees walked away knowing how to securely message their circles, share life's moments, and block unwanted spam. In future sessions, we plan to look at other highly practical topics—such as how to organise digital photos so they don't get lost, how to search the internet safely to avoid scams, and how to use handy everyday features like calendars and reminders.

We constantly tailor our club activities around what our members actually want and need to use their phones or computers for. If you are curious to see what we are learning next, or if you have a specific tech issue you've been dying to solve, join us for our main meeting. We meet at 10:00 am on the first Wednesday of the month at St. Chad's Church in Huapai.

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EcoTreats NZ is also supporting Sea Cleaners, with 5% of the commission from every sale donated to support their work helping protect New Zealand's oceans and waterways.

Whether you're looking for branded giveaways, event treats, promotional products or something a little different, EcoTreats offers a delicious way to get your message out there while making a more thoughtful packaging choice.

But it doesn't stop at lollies. If you're looking for other sustainable gift ideas, there are plenty of thoughtful options available through Keepsake, helping businesses find more environmentally conscious choices for corporate gifts, campaigns and special occasions.

Swap to ocean-friendly packaging. Be part of the solution, not the problem.

Find out more about EcoTreats: ecotreats.nz

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Davis Funeral Care



As many will be aware “Dying Matters Week” took place during the week of 7 September, and this year saw numerous events throughout the country, all aimed at encouraging people to openly talk about and start planning for their future. Yes, that bit, “what are my wishes for when I die”.

I had the opportunity to attend a number of events across the city, including an open discussion with patients facing end of life

discussions, a wonderful evening event at the beautiful Eden Garden hosted by Auckland Philharmonia, who between amazing performances of movements from Mendelsohn and Bach provided an opportunity for a panel discussion focusing on financial planning, wills and estate planning and funeral farewell planning.

For the Davis team, we were delighted to have the opportunity to stand side by side with our partner, Hospice West Auckland, to bring to life an Interactive Community Artwork event; a creative and engaging initiative, going well beyond the usual seminars and talk, instead providing shoppers at the Northwest Shopping Centre the opportunity to express artistically and through messages, their wishes of what they was to do before they die. A simple and fun activity, providing a soft

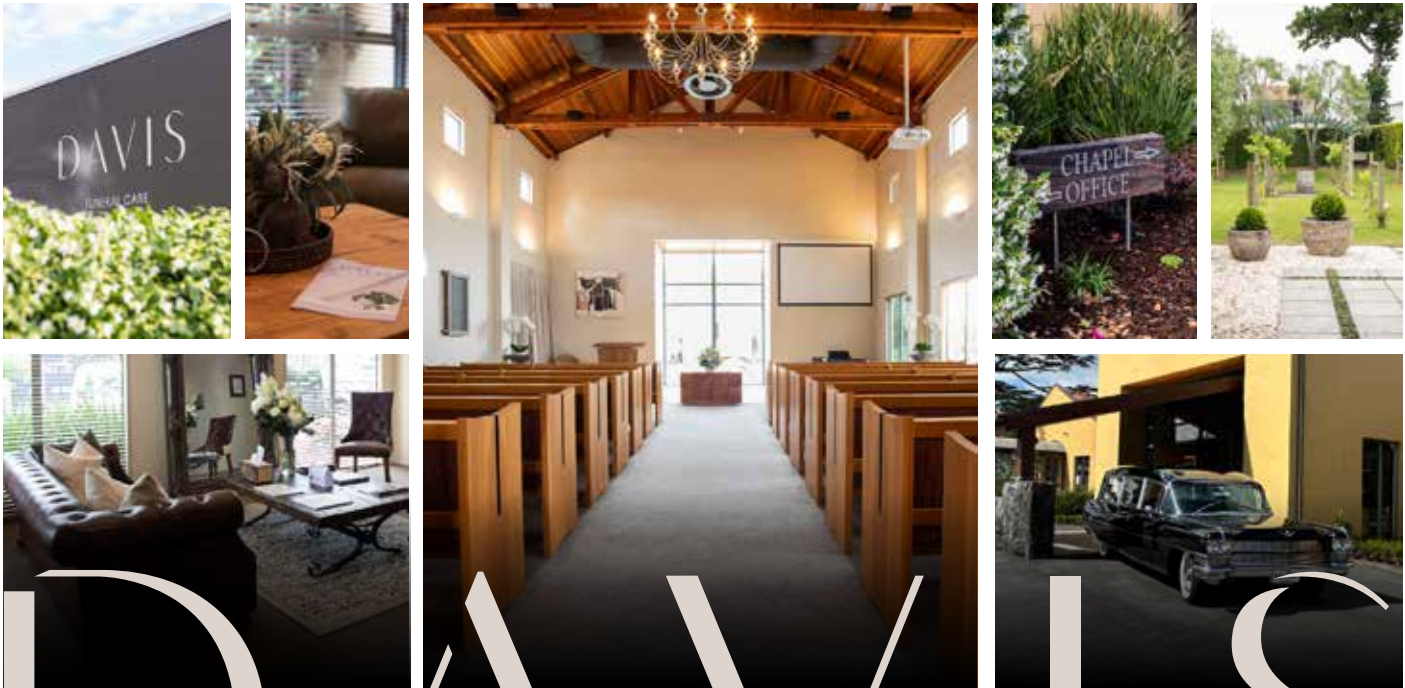
introduction to a topic that many people find hard to broach, and which further allowed people to learn more about Hospice West Auckland, and that fact that it is so much more than that place you go to die, and further that it is okay to seek free-of-charge, no obligation advice from a funeral director.

Older or younger, sick or healthy, religious or not, and regardless of culture, whilst we should not be fixated on death, we must equally recognise that death is a certainty. It is after all a part of life. As a funeral director myself, it is my belief that everyone should have the right to die with dignity, to die at peace in the knowledge that their wishes are known and will be honoured, and that the unnecessary stress that those that they are leaving behind will be lessened through clear and careful planning.

Of course, end-of-life planning goes beyond the immediate practicalities of what to do with yourself when you die, it is also about your estate planning. Hospice West Auckland provides an invaluable service to patients and their families every day of every year and as a totally free service. We openly encourage people to support the ongoing work of Hospice West Auckland, whether through donation or support of the Hospice shops, or even a bequeathment in your will.

All it takes is one conversation. We invite you to drop in for a coffee and have a chat with one of the friendly Davis team, or feel free to email us at mike@davisfunerals.co.nz.

- Mike Powell – Davis Funeral Care General Manager



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As we start to near the end of the year we still have a few dates left in December for end of year functions before Xmas. We offer a range of different options to suit your Booking, email Bee at info@goodfromscratch.co.nz for more

details and enquiries we would love to host you!

Spring has certainly sprung on the Farm with beautiful blossoms that the Tuis in particular are enjoying! The potatoes we planted a few weeks ago are already starting to show their foliage ready for classes we have available to book and in time for Xmas.

Some of the last remaining classes we have for the year are dates as follows

Saturday October 17th "Taste of the Farm"

Saturday October 24th "Farm Experience"

Saturday October 31st "Smoke Fire Class"

Wednesday November 25th "Bread Class with Cam and Boyd"

We also have our Farm Shop on Saturday the 7th of November and Supper Club dinners. Do keep a look out on our website and Social pages www.goodfromscratch.co.nz

Spring Into Something Delicious



Spring has arrived, and it's the perfect time to freshen up your food and drink routine. As the days get longer and warmer, it's out with the heavy winter meals and in with lighter, brighter flavours.

Load up on colour. Spring produce is bursting with goodness, so add plenty of fresh greens, berries, tomatoes, asparagus, peas and herbs to your plate. A colourful

meal is not only good for you – it looks fantastic too!

Bring back the salad. Forget boring bowls of lettuce. Try adding roasted vegetables, grains, fresh herbs, nuts, feta or grilled chicken. A good dressing can turn a simple salad into the star of the meal.

Get fruity with drinks. Swap some of those winter hot chocolates for refreshing homemade drinks. Try sparkling water with fresh lemon, lime, mint or berries. For something special, make a fruity iced tea and serve it over plenty of ice.

Eat outside. Spring is your excuse to dust off the outdoor table. Even a simple lunch tastes better in the sunshine!

And finally, keep it local. Visit your local farmers' market, bakery, café or food producer and see what seasonal treats are on offer. You never know – your new favourite spring flavour might be just around the corner.

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Old Highland Estate - 5 Dysart Lane, Kumeu

Where countryside serenity meets modern luxury

Nestled in an idyllic rural setting, Dysart Lane presents an exclusive boutique development featuring four premium 1 hectare (approx. 2.5-acre) flat plots. Designed for those who seek space, privacy and refined living, each parcel offers gentle contours and sweeping views, providing the ideal canvas to construct your exceptional forever home.

Tailored house and land packages

To make your build process completely effortless, Orange Black Developments has partnered with G.J. Gardner Homes to offer exclusive house and land packages tailored specifically to these sites. Combined with easy-build terrain designed to maximise natural light and outdoor living, you can move forward with complete confidence in both site functionality and master-crafted design.

The Northwest lifestyle

Dysart Lane seamlessly bridges peaceful rural seclusion with convenient urban connectivity. Positioned with easy access to major commuting corridors, this location serves as your gateway to the very best of the Northwest. Spend your weekends exploring iconic black-sand surf beaches, esteemed forest trails, championship golf courses, horse-riding tracks and award-winning local vineyards, all just minutes from your front door.



About Orange Black Developments

With over 30 years of hands-on construction and land creation experience, Orange Black Developments specialises in crafting distinctive neighbourhoods that blend artistry with practical functionality. Transitioning from master builders to land developers gives us a unique technical understanding of construction from the ground up. Through proactive project management, transparent communication and meticulous attention to detail, we ensure every development is executed with precision, delivering exceptional quality on time, every time.

Upcoming Open Day

Date: Saturday, 17th October

Time: 1-2pm

Location: 5 Dysart Lane Site Entry

Join us on-site to walk the sections, review site plans and discuss tailored house and land packages with representatives from both Orange Black Developments and G.J. Gardner Homes.

Contact our team today to register your interest or request an advance information pack.

Buy with confidence



The value of a builders report
By Elyse Crowther, Senior Registered Legal Executive

Buying a property is exciting, but it's also one of the biggest financial commitments most people will ever make. Before you go unconditional, it's important to understand exactly what you're buying.

A builder's report can help identify issues that may not be obvious when you're walking through an open home. Moisture problems, structural concerns, roofing defects, drainage issues, borer, rot, or signs of deferred maintenance can all be costly surprises if they're discovered after settlement.

Knowing about these issues before you commit gives you options. You may be able to negotiate repairs, request a price reduction, budget for future work, or decide that the property isn't the right fit for you.

Builder's reports aren't just for older homes either. We've seen buyers assume that a newly built property will be problem-free, only to discover defects after settlement. Even where a property has a Code Compliance Certificate, a builder's report may identify incomplete work, workmanship issues, or maintenance concerns that are worth investigating further.

In one recent matter, a client discovered significant flooring defects in a newly built home after settlement. While warranties and repair processes were available, dealing with the issue still created stress, delays, and uncertainty that may have been identified earlier through a pre-purchase inspection.

A builder's report is a relatively small investment compared with the cost of buying a property. It is a simple due diligence step that can help you avoid expensive surprises and make an informed decision with confidence.

If you're thinking about buying a property and have questions about the process, the team at ClearStone Legal is happy to help.

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North-West Auckland property market



The North-West Auckland property market is heading into spring with a sense of stability, as buyers and sellers continue to adjust to a more measured market.

Across Kumeū, Huapai, Whenuapai, Hobsonville, Westgate and surrounding areas, buyers are taking their time and looking carefully at value, quality and location. Rather than the urgency seen during the property boom, there is now greater choice and more opportunity to compare homes before making a decision.

Current September figures show a median estimated value of around \$1.27 million in Kumeū, with values down 1.8 per cent over the past year. In Whenuapai, the median estimated value is approximately \$1.2 million, with annual growth down 0.8 per cent. These figures reflect a market that is relatively steady, rather than experiencing significant price movements.

Kumeū and Huapai continue to attract buyers seeking a combination of lifestyle, space and access to Auckland. Larger properties, lifestyle blocks and semi-rural sections remain appealing, particularly to families looking for more room while maintaining connections to the city.

Further towards Hobsonville, Whenuapai and Westgate, ongoing residential development continues to change the area, bringing new homes, amenities and infrastructure. The growing communities are attracting families and buyers looking for modern housing within an expanding part of Auckland.

For sellers, realistic pricing and presentation remain important. With buyers having more choice, properties

need to stand out and meet current expectations. For buyers, the slower pace provides more time to research, compare properties and consider long-term value.

Conditions can vary considerably between suburbs, property types and individual streets, so local market knowledge remains valuable.

As spring progresses, the North-West appears to be settling into a more balanced property environment. While the rapid growth of previous years has eased, the region's combination of lifestyle appeal, ongoing development and strong community growth continues to shape its property story.

Thinking about selling this spring? If you're considering putting your North-West Auckland property on the market, contact Graham McIntyre for a confidential conversation about your plans, current market conditions and how to prepare your property for sale.

Graham McIntyre - 027 632 0421
graham.mcintyre@hobsonville.co.nz
Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine & Horne Kumeu-Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008)

Disclaimer: Market information is general in nature and should not be relied upon as a property valuation or financial advice. Information current as at September 2026.

Raine & Horne

Graham McIntyre

Licensed Agent

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Thinking about subdividing your property?



With land becoming more valuable across New Zealand, many homeowners are considering whether they can make better use of their section – whether that’s creating an extra lot for the family, building a new home, or unlocking the value of their land.

Can your property be subdivided?

It depends on factors such as:

- Property size and zoning
- Council planning rules
- Access and driveways
- Water, wastewater, stormwater and power connections
- Flooding, soil conditions or other land constraints
- The location of existing buildings

A good first step is to speak with a surveyor, who can assess whether subdivision is possible and identify any potential challenges. We can also refer you to surveyors we regularly work with.

What does the process involve?

A typical subdivision may include:

- Assessing feasibility
- Obtaining council resource consent
- Completing required works, such as services, driveways or drainage
- Preparing legal documents and easements, and obtaining any bank consents
- Applying for new titles through Land Information New Zealand (LINZ)

What does it cost?

Costs vary, but may include surveyor, council, legal,

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infrastructure, LINZ and accounting or tax advice fees. It’s important to budget carefully and allow for unexpected costs.

How long will it take?

Even a straightforward subdivision will usually take six months or longer, depending on the property and council requirements.

Is it worth it?

Subdivision can create space for family, unlock value from unused land or provide future development opportunities. However, every property is different.

Thinking about subdividing your property? Talk to Jennifer Edmonds at Smith and Partners early in the process to understand the legal requirements and what you’ll need to consider – jennifer.edwards@smithpartners.co.nz or phone 09 837 6889.

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Hot water cylinder theft



A warning for West Auckland property owners

Most landlords probably don’t give their hot water cylinder a second thought.

But right now, this is something West Auckland property owners should be aware of.

We have been informed by local Police officers that there has been a lot of hot-water-system theft happening in the area at

the moment, including an incident involving a vacant property that we manage.

Unfortunately, this type of theft can cause far more damage than simply losing the hot water system.

When a cylinder or external hot-water system is removed, pipes can be cut or disconnected, potentially allowing water to run into the property. This can result in serious flooding and damage to flooring, walls, cabinetry and other parts of the home.

What can landlords do?

If you own an investment property, particularly one that is vacant between tenants, it’s worth taking a few simple precautions.

Check how accessible your hot water system is

If it is outside and easily accessible from the street or a neighbouring property, consider whether additional security could be added.

Consider protective security

A suitable cage or enclosure may make an external system more difficult to access and remove.

Keep records

Take photos and record the make, model and serial number of your system. These details can be useful if the system is ever stolen.

Think about security around vacant properties

Good lighting, cameras, alarms and regular visits can all help deter opportunistic theft.

Check your insurance

It’s worth speaking with your insurer to make sure you understand what your policy covers in relation to theft and any resulting water damage.

The damage can be much bigger than the theft

The cost of replacing a hot-water system is one thing.

The potential damage caused by water running through a property can be a completely different level of expense.

This is why prevention is so important, particularly when a property is vacant and there is no tenant there to notice

a problem quickly.

At West Auckland Property Management, we believe good property management is about being proactive and keeping an eye on the things that could potentially affect your investment.

If you own a property with an external hot-water system, now is a good time to check how secure it is.

And if your property is going to be vacant, talk to your Property Manager and insurer about additional security measures that may be appropriate.

West Auckland proud. Personally invested.

This is general information only. We recommend speaking with your insurer, Police and a suitably qualified tradesperson about the security requirements for your individual property.

West Auckland Property Management

2 Clark Road, Hobsonville | 327 Main Road, Kumeu.

09 832 0832



Sarah Ball
Property Manager
office@wapm.co.nz



Donna Coxon
Property Manager
info@wapm.co.nz

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						
	Miro Street	\$810000	2		0	\$810000
	Manuka Grove	\$1400000	3	196	1.3	\$1450000
Hobsonville						
	Makete Crescent	\$1175000	4	151	0.0323	\$1199000
	Wiseley Road	\$1500000	4	300	0.0683	\$1450000
	Landing Path Drive		0		0	\$678000
	Onekiritea Road		4	138	0.0257	\$1250000
	Pukeko Road	\$2250000	5		0.0386	\$1850000
	Boundary Road		0	97	0	\$1450000
	Bomb Point Drive	\$1450000	5	216	0.0302	\$1370000
	Rangihina Road		2	80	0	\$695000
Huapai-Kumeu						
	Blatina Drive	\$1225000	4	165	0.089	\$1070000
	Trigg Road	\$1150000	4	130	0.0964	\$1395000
Massey						
	Holmes Drive South	\$840000	4		0.0359	\$810000
	Tatyana Place		3	200	0.0609	\$1073000
	Lowtherhurst Road		3	130	0.0381	\$762000
	Alidade Place	\$970000	3	80	0.063	\$787000
Riverhead						
	Elliot Street	\$1450000	4	212	0.0608	\$1345000
	Kaipara Portage Road			0	0.0637	\$750000
	Ridge Road	\$2125000	3		2.67	\$950000
Waimauku						
	Hamilton Road	\$1875000	7		1	\$2025000
	Muriwai Road	\$1450000	3		2.63	\$1450000
West Harbour						
	Cyril Crescent	\$780000	3	80	0	\$696000
	Kerlin Crescent	\$925000	2		0	\$850000
	Hobsonville Road	\$730000	2	89	0.0105	\$680000
Westgate						
	Pukewhero Rise		3	105	0.0121	\$750000
	Rush Creek Drive	\$1125000	3	139	0.0464	\$1080000
	Oma Hoiho Place	\$790000	3		0.013	\$750000
	Toetoe Street		4		0	\$920700
	Fred Taylor Drive		0		0.0175	\$395000
	Fred Taylor Drive		0		0	\$395000
	Fred Taylor Drive		0		0	\$395000
	Fred Taylor Drive		0		0.0203	\$395000
	Westgate Drive		4		0.0152	\$793000
Whenuapai						
	Totara Road	\$1025000	4	192	0.0198	\$1055000

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA m2	LAND AREA m2	SALE PRICE
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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

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

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

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



October Rental Market Report



West Auckland Property Management

A Competitive Rental Market with Increased Choice for Tenants

As we move into October, the West Auckland rental market continues to provide tenants with a

good level of choice, with a healthy volume of properties currently available.

With increased rental stock, tenants have more opportunities to compare properties based on location, presentation, weekly rent, amenities and suitability for their individual circumstances. As a result, we are seeing some properties take longer to secure the right tenant.

For landlords, this highlights the importance of ensuring a property is competitively positioned, well presented and marketed effectively. Understanding the current market and responding to tenant demand is an important part of achieving a successful rental outcome.

Families Planning Ahead for 2027

We are also beginning to see families looking further ahead to the 2027 school year.

School zoning can be an important consideration for families when choosing their next rental property, particularly for those planning around the next school intake. This can influence both the location tenants are looking at and the timeframe in which they need to secure a property.

For landlords, understanding who the likely tenant market is for your property and what factors are important to them can assist in positioning the property appropriately.

Property Security Alert: Hot Water Cylinders

We have also been made aware of an increase in hot water cylinders being stolen from vacant properties across West Auckland.

Local Police have advised that there have been a number

of incidents occurring in the area, including properties that are vacant or between tenancies. We have also experienced this issue with a vacant property under our management.

Vacant properties can be particularly vulnerable, so we encourage property owners to consider appropriate security measures while their property is unoccupied. Regular inspections, secure access points and ensuring the property does not appear vacant can all form part of a wider property security plan.

At West Auckland Property Management, we continue to keep a close eye on properties between tenancies and communicate with our owners should we identify any concerns.

If you own a rental property that is currently vacant, we recommend taking the opportunity to review its security and ensure appropriate measures are in place.

What We Are Seeing

At West Auckland Property Management, we continue to closely monitor enquiry levels, viewing attendance, applicant numbers and feedback from prospective tenants.

Where a property is taking longer to rent, regular communication with our owners is essential. We discuss market feedback and, where appropriate, consider whether changes to pricing, presentation or marketing strategy may assist in attracting suitable tenants.

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 **West Auckland Property Management**

Our focus remains on finding the right tenant for each property while working to protect our owners' investment and achieve a sustainable rental return.

Introducing Donna Coxon

We are pleased to welcome Donna Coxon to the West Auckland Property Management team.

Donna is a valued new addition to our growing team, and we are delighted to have her join us.

At WAPM, we place a strong emphasis on relationships, communication and providing a genuinely personal service to our owners and tenants. As our team continues to grow, we remain committed to maintaining the high level of service and individual attention that our clients expect from us.

Please join us in welcoming Donna to West Auckland Property Management.

West Auckland Proud. Personally Invested.

As a locally owned and relationship-focused property management business, we understand that every property and every tenancy is different.

Our role is not simply to manage a property. It is to communicate, provide sound guidance, respond proactively and work alongside our owners to protect their investment.

If you are considering a change in property management, reviewing your current rental strategy or simply wanting an up-to-date understanding of the West Auckland rental market, our team would be happy to have a conversation.

West Auckland Property Management 09 832 0832

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Tenant of the month

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

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

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

Congratulations to our September Tenant of the Month Linda!

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

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

West Auckland proud. Personally invested.





Sarah Ball
Senior Property Relationship Manager

Country Living Realty (Hobsonville) Limited
t/a West Auckland Property Management

027 499 8415
office@wapm.co.nz
wapm.co.nz

2 Clark Road
Hobsonville, Auckland





Donna Coxon
Senior Property Relationship Manager

Country Living Realty (Hobsonville) Limited
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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.

Key features to enhance your life:

Triple-car internal-access garage - fully carpeted, with attic storage and plenty of room for classic cars, tools, bikes, hobbies and toys. Expansive off-street parking - space for the extra vehicle, boat, trailer or motorhome when required. Airy open-plan living - a beautifully proportioned kitchen, dining and living environment



designed for relaxed everyday living and effortless entertaining.

Sunny westerly courtyard and covered alfresco - the perfect place to enjoy afternoon sun, entertain friends or simply unwind at the end of the day.

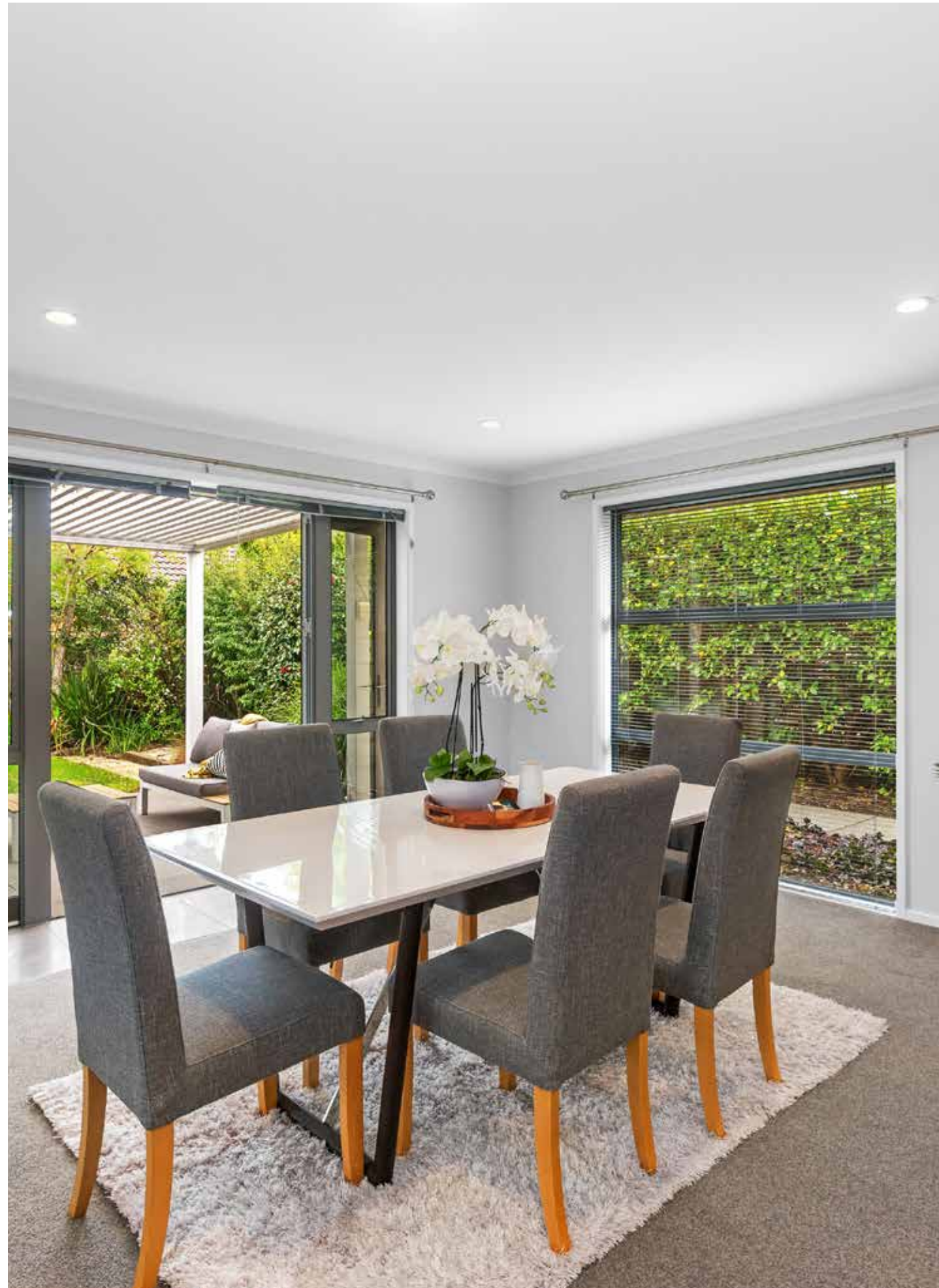
Leafy, private 724m² setting - mature landscaping and a position well off the road create a genuine sense of sanctuary.

Pet-friendly peace and quiet - a calmer environment for smaller dogs and cats, away from the noise and traffic of busier urban streets.

Four bedrooms, including a luxurious master suite - plenty of flexibility for guests, hobbies or visiting famil

Quietly tucked away in Huapai, this is a rare opportunity to simplify your life without selling your life's work. Available today.

Please note: The property has been photographed with staging furniture for marketing purposes. The furniture and furnishings are not included in the sale and may be removed prior to open homes. The property may therefore be vacant when viewed.



Featuring

- 4 Bedroom
- 2 Bathroom
- 2 Living rooms
- 3 Garage + 6 off street
- Floor area 243 sqm
- Land area 724 sqm
- Freehold
- Price by Negotiation

For more information on this property call:

Glenn Savery on 027 599 8415

or

Graham McIntyre - 027 632 0421

graham.mcintyre@hobsonville.rh.co.nz

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



9 Maple Lane, Huapai



For more information on this property call:
Glenn Savery on 027 599 8415
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1/19 Lilburn Crescent, Massey

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1/19 Lilburn Crescent



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



- Featuring:
- 3 Bedroom
 - 1 Bathroom + guest toilet downstairs
 - North-west facing, capturing wonderful natural light and sunshine
 - Fully fenced, private with easy-care lawn and plantings
 - Carport plus additional off-street parking
 - Low council rates with no body corporate, no laneway, no resident or ratepayer fees
 - Price by Negotiation



Spring is here, refresh your home



As we head into spring, it's a great time to give your home a good check after the wet winter months. A few simple things can make a big difference to keeping your home warm, dry and looking its best.

Let the fresh air in

Open windows and doors when you can to help air the home out and reduce moisture. Good ventilation is one of the easiest ways to help prevent condensation and mould.

Keep bathrooms and kitchens ventilated

Use your extractor fans when showering or cooking and leave them running for a little while afterwards. Remember to keep them clean and free from dust too.

Keep on top of mould

If you notice small amounts of mould starting to appear, don't leave it until it gets worse. Clean it promptly using an appropriate mould cleaner and let us know if you notice a recurring or larger issue.

Give the outside some attention

Keep gardens tidy and make sure plants, weeds and trees aren't growing against the house. Clear leaves and debris from areas around the property and let us know if you notice anything that could cause a problem.

Check your gutters and drains

If you notice overflowing gutters, slow drains or water not draining away properly, please let your property manager know. Don't wait until you have a major blockage or leak.

Make the most of the warmer weather

Spring is also a great time to wash windows, clean window tracks, check for cobwebs and give those areas that may have been neglected over winter a good clean.

And remember – tell us about maintenance issues early.

We would much rather know about a small issue before it becomes a big one. Whether it's a dripping tap, leaking gutter, damp area, blocked drain or something simply not working as it should, communication is key.

At West Auckland Property Management, we're here to help you look after your home. We're all human, and we understand things happen – just let us know so we can work with you to get things sorted.

Look after your home, and it will look after you.

West Auckland Property Management- 09 832 0832

2 Clark Road, Hobsonville | 327 Main Road, Kumeu.



Home & Garden

Thinking about improving your home?



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As a family-run building company, we pride ourselves on reliability, honest communication, transparency and experienced craftsmanship from start to finish. We work closely with our clients to understand their vision, provide practical solutions and deliver work we're proud to put the Rebicon name behind.

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Home & Garden

Stihl Shop Kumeu & Westgate



Many locals know STIHL SHOP as the go-to experts for chainsaws, line trimmers, blowers and all things STIHL. But did you know they're also your neighbourhood specialists in ride-on lawnmower sales, service and repairs?

As premium dealers for trusted brands such as Cub Cadet, Walker and Gravely (Masport), the teams at STIHL SHOP Kumeu & Westgate have matched hundreds of ride-ons with proud Norwest property owners. When you purchase your ride-on through either store, you'll receive FREE delivery, an introductory lesson, and your first service FREE.

Not sure which model suits your land? No problem. Contact Craig for a FREE, no-obligation site appraisal or demonstration. He'll visit your property, assess your terrain, and recommend the most suitable machine for your section – and your budget.

Already own a ride-on? STIHL SHOP Kumeu & Westgate have expert technicians and a fully equipped workshop ready to keep your machine in top condition. Their dedicated pickup and delivery service removes the hassle of transporting your mower for servicing.

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Waimauku Garden Club



This August, members of our garden club boarded our bus for a fantastic trip to the Arataki Visitor Centre in the stunning Waitakere Rangers. It was a great opportunity to catch up, connect with nature. It started with a nice cuppa and treats. Once refreshed we gathered for an interesting educational talk by local experts. We heard about the history of the regional park and the vital conservation work being done, the ongoing fight against kauri dieback disease.

Following the talk we enjoyed browsing the lovely gift shop. We finished by going outside for a short walk through the surrounding native bush. It was a nice time of friendship and fresh air. Then heading into Titirangi township, our next stop was the historic Lopell House where we also had an interesting talk on the history of the building. We spent time exploring the art centre admiring the current exhibition. To wrap a wonderful day we gathered at a local cafe for a delicious lunch before heading home.

Looking ahead to September we venture to Eden Garden and the Stardome, you are welcome to come and join us.

Feel free to contact any of our committee: Ann (0210357406), Gail (021344070), Maree (0274963006), Moira (027489154), Monique (021646220), Sandi (0273184514)



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Council septic inspections

Know What You're Paying For

If your septic system is due for its Council inspection, it can be tempting to choose the cheapest price you see advertised. However, not all septic inspections offer the same level of service, so it pays to ask exactly what is included.

Be mindful of advertising that may give the impression certain services are included when they aren't. For example, photos of CCTV cameras, hydro jetting equipment or vacuum trucks don't necessarily mean those services form part of the inspection.

At Drain Ninjas, our Council septic inspections are \$195 + GST, which includes completing the inspection and submitting the required report directly to Council.

But we don't simply open the lid and tick a box. We inspect the system, check sludge and solids levels, clean accessible filters, check the disposal field for pooling or drainage issues, and flush/check field drainage where required.

If we identify something that needs attention, we can also provide a quote for the repairs to be completed by our certified drain layers. And if your septic tank needs emptying, we operate our own vacuum trucks, meaning we can take care of that too.

That's the advantage of using a full-service drainage company. From the Council inspection, through to septic cleaning, maintenance, repairs and drainage work, we can manage the job from start to finish rather than referring you elsewhere.

A proper inspection can identify small problems before they become costly failures.

So before choosing based on price alone, ask: What does my septic inspection actually include?

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Painting project?



Start with the right preparation

With summer approaching, many homeowners are thinking about freshening up their properties. Painting can make a big difference to the appearance and value of your home, but good preparation is the key to a lasting finish.

Smaller projects such as fences, decks and basic staining can often be handled by homeowners. With the right tools, suitable products and enough time, these areas can be completed to a good standard.

However, exterior surfaces such as weatherboards, wooden windows, doors, soffits and high walls usually require more experience. Old paint may need sanding, damaged timber may need repairing, and bare areas must be correctly primed. If preparation is rushed or the wrong paint system is used, the new finish may peel, blister or allow moisture to damage the timber.

You're also welcome to complete the easier areas yourself and leave only the high, difficult or hard-to-access sections to us. We're happy to work with homeowners on partial painting projects and provide advice on the best approach.

If you're planning a painting project this summer, Focus on Painting offers free quotes across Auckland.

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Getting ready for self storage



Putting your belongings into storage is a lot like moving house, and the same golden rule applies: a little planning goes a long way.

Start early: Book your mover well in advance and allow for hold-ups like traffic or bad weather. Give yourself plenty of time to pack carefully – rushing is when breakages and lost items happen. It's also the perfect

opportunity to sort through your things and cull anything you no longer need. Stock up on supplies before you start: Sturdy cardboard cartons, packing paper, strong sealing tape, and a permanent marker for labelling. When taping boxes, avoid stretching the tape, as it can weaken over time and let the box come apart.

Take special care with fragile and valuable items. Lamp bases pack well inside drawers or empty appliances, with shades boxed and padded with paper. Mirrors and paintings should always be wrapped in thick paper, labelled fragile, and stored standing on edge – never flat.

For electronics, use original boxes where possible and store them upright; otherwise, wrap well in bubble wrap and mark the box clearly. Fridges, freezers, and other whiteware must be fully defrosted, cleaned, dried, and drained before they go into your unit.

Please note: hazardous, illegal, stolen, flammable, explosive, environmentally harmful, perishable or living goods – or anything posing a risk to people or property – cannot be stored with us. This includes lithium-ion batteries or items containing them.

A little preparation now saves a lot of hassle later, and ensures your possessions come out of storage in the same condition they went in.

At Country Lane Storage, we're always happy to help you prepare for your move. 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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Whenuapai Floral & Garden Circle

September 2026

More than forty members attended the recent meeting at the Village Hall and were welcomed back after the winter break. For what may be the first time ever in nearly forty years, no ill members were reported, whether because we are all in reasonable health, or a case of no reports being passed on, who knows. Details were shared of forthcoming trips including a visit to Jack Hobbs' garden, which should prove popular.

Our guest speaker was Belinda Hope of Remuera who began growing dahlias and found she loved them so much that she dug up ALL her lawn to grow many more! She now has a mini dahlia flower farm. The Pom Pom dahlias (sometimes spelled pompon) are distinguished by their miniature, globe-shaped blooms with petals that curve inward to form a dense, ball-like flower head, typically less than 2 inches (5 cm) in diameter. This variety is her favourite as she believes the blooms last the longest with all their beautiful shaded petals.

Belinda now has around 600 different dahlia plants and enjoys photographing her flowers in all their glorious hues. She has entered competitions as well and has a website called Belinda's Bloomers. Her hobby has turned into a business which she loves. Propagating the plants by both tuber, which produces a cloned plant, and by seed, which gives a new and different plant, has increased her stock manyfold.

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



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We can also source a range of exotic hardwoods and leading composite decking brands, including TimberTech, BiForm, and Eva-Last, direct from suppliers upon request. In addition, Western ITM responsibly sources hardwood decking timbers from New Zealand's leading suppliers and producers. Plus, our stores stock a complete range of accessories, fixings, and timber products to help you get the job done right.

Need a hand getting started? We have a handy How-To Guide available in-store and online that covers all the steps to help you with planning and building your deck, including some useful information on planning and building consents.

Or perhaps it's time to give your existing deck a little bit of TLC or a safety check? How are the stairs, rails and balustrades holding up? Western ITM also stocks a range of maintenance products, including 30 Seconds Outdoor Cleaner, Spray & Walk Away, and the Watty! Forestwood range of deck and timber cleaners and decking oil stains, to help keep your deck looking its best. Talk to the team at Western ITM today. We'll see you right when it comes to getting your deck sorted in time to enjoy all summer long. Don't have a builder lined up? No problem. We can put you in touch with a trusted local professional. **Contact Us**—Kumeu: 09 412 8148- Whenuapai: 09 416 8164. Email: info@westernitm.co.nz Website: westernitm.co.nz. Or visit us in-store today- Proudly local. Proudly West.

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Young Learners

Chasing rainbows: a journey of wonder, colour and discovery

Have you ever tried to catch a rainbow?

For young children, a rainbow is so much more than a beautiful splash of colour in the sky. It is a mystery, a scientific wonder, an invitation to create and a reason to stop, look and say, "Wow!"

Rainbows have been inspiring lots of curiosity and excitement in our early childhood environment. Children have been wondering where rainbows come from, whether they can catch one, what colours they can see and whether they can make their own.



Can we make a rainbow?

Our rainbow investigations have turned into little science experiments. Using sunlight, water, bubbles, paint, mirrors and crystals, children have been exploring what happens when light meets water and different surfaces.

Children have chased rainbows around our Booties indoor and outdoor area, reached out to touch them and tried to stand right in the middle of one. Of course, catching a rainbow is tricky—but the excitement of trying is part of the magic!

Our rainbow discoveries have also inspired lots of creative experiences. Blocks with coloured centers and bottles of different shapes filled with different coloured water along window sills, and pictures stuck on the

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windows, have been creating beautiful patterns when the sunlight shines through.

We have ribbons and strips of colourful fabric, and love to watch them dance and swirl as we shake, twirl and play peek-a-boo with them.

Painting offers great opportunities for exploration. Instead of simply painting a traditional rainbow, children can experiment with colour

mixing, sponges, rollers, natural materials and our favourite tool, our hands. What happens when red and yellow meet? Can we make a new colour? What happens when we add more water?

We have also created rainbow mobiles, collages from natural materials, rainbow weaving, colourful playdough creations and rainbow constructions using blocks, loose parts and recycled materials throughout the centre.

Our rainbow journey can even continue at the kai table! Children can explore a “rainbow on a plate” using colourful fruits and vegetables. Red tomato, orange kumara, yellow bananas, green kiwifruit, blueberries and purple cauliflower provide opportunities to talk about colour, taste, texture, smell and healthy food choices.

Perhaps the most important part of our rainbow exploration is not finding all the answers. It is encouraging children to wonder.

“Where did it go?”

“What colours can I see?”

“Can I catch it?”

“How can we make more?”

These questions are the beginning of scientific thinking. They encourage children to predict, investigate, experiment, notice changes and share their ideas. A rainbow can become a science experiment, a painting, a construction, a story, a song, a delicious snack or an outdoor adventure.

Sometimes, the best thing we can do is simply pause together, look up at the sky and experience that wonderful feeling of awe and excitement. Because childhood is full of rainbows—and sometimes the greatest discoveries happen when we simply stop to wonder, “What if?”

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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.

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Aged care

Warbirds flyover Keith Park Village in tribute to wartime hero



Residents, families and visitors gathered at Keith Park Village in Hobsonville to honour the legacy of the village’s namesake, Sir Keith Park, ahead of Battle of Britain Day which was on 15 September.

The special commemoration celebrated the life and contribution of the New Zealander whose leadership of RAF fighter defences played a pivotal role during the Battle of Britain, while giving residents an opportunity to connect with the history behind their village’s name.

A highlight of the day was a flyover by three NZ Warbirds Harvard aircraft. Residents and guests watched as the aircraft swept across the sky three times before breaking into applause following the tribute.

Across the village, visitors also enjoyed displays of vintage cars and motorcycles from the Patriots Defence Force Motorcycle Club. A coffee cart and ice cream cart helped create a lively atmosphere, with residents enjoying the chance to share stories and memories with family members and visitors.

“It brought history to life,” said a Keith Park Village resident. “Watching the aircraft overhead and seeing so many people come together to remember Sir Keith made it a very special day.”

The event was made even more meaningful by the attendance of Sir Keith’s great-nephew, Brian Park, who helped organise the commemoration and remains passionate about preserving his great-uncle’s legacy. Members of the wider Park family also attended, alongside Sharon Corban, daughter of fellow Ryman namesake Miriam Corban.

For many residents, the occasion offered a deeper connection to the story behind their village and the man whose name it proudly bears.

Keith Park Village Manager Kim Dawon said the event was a fitting tribute to a remarkable New Zealander.

“Seeing residents, families and visitors come together

to honour Sir Keith’s legacy was incredibly special,” she said. “The flyover and displays created a memorable experience, while also giving people the opportunity to reflect on an important chapter of New Zealand’s history.”

Distance families: Books connect distance families



Saturday 10 October is NZ Bookshop Day. Bookshops don’t just sell books. They put stories into people’s hands – and stories have a remarkable ability to connect families who aren’t necessarily in the same place.

I regularly hear from grandparents who read to their distance grandchildren by directing an iPad camera onto the book and reading along. Others buy two copies of a special children’s book – one for the grandchild overseas and one to keep in New Zealand. I have done both.

Here is one successful – and funny – reading out loud story from ‘Being a Distance Grandparent’:

“Once, my American-based daughter was trying to potty train her two-year-old. We convinced him to sit on the potty outside on the deck and she propped up the phone. I read a storybook with my phone camera focused on each page. Miraculously, he sat still, didn’t interfere with his mother’s phone and produced the goods. It was a red-letter day to be a distance grandmother.”

I have given dozens of New Zealand-authored children’s books to my family. Betty Gilderdale’s ‘The Little Yellow Digger’ series achieved cult status with my American grandsons. A subsequent visit was dominated by “must-see” stops at building sites and roadworks – anywhere there was a yellow digger.

And of course, everyone loves Lynley Dodd’s ‘Hairy Maclary’ series.

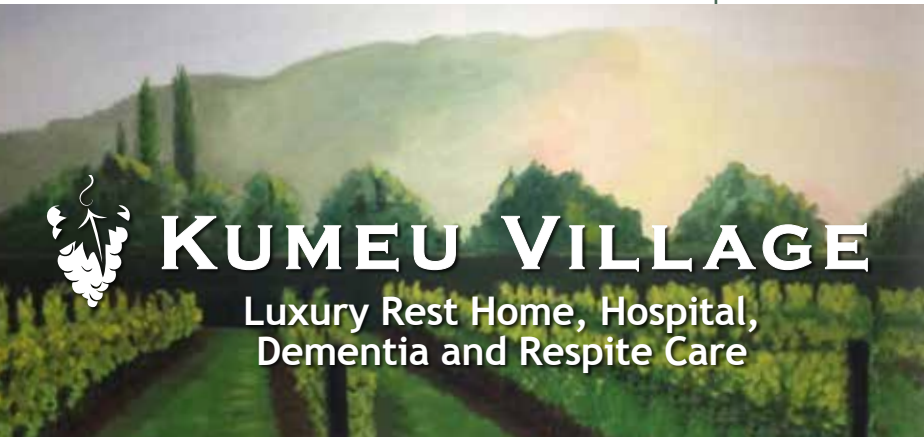
Even the adults join in. Ben Brown and Helen Taylor's 'Pukeko Counts to 10' made an appearance at a Vancouver World Cup game when my American-based son personalised his All Whites supporter T-shirt with "Pukeko Count 10". Apologies to No. 10, Sarpreet Singh.

So, on Saturday 10 October, if you happen to be passing a local independent bookshop, perhaps go inside. Ask the bookseller which books might help you connect with someone you love.

Helen Ellis is a Hobsonville Point researcher, anthropologist and veteran of Distance Parenting & Grandparenting. Helen is the Founder of DistanceFamilies.com and author of 'Being a Distance Grandparent', 'Being a Distance Son or Daughter' and her latest edition, 'Being a Distance Grandchild'.

Welcome to the family at Kumeu Village

Picking the right care for someone you love is a big decision, and it is completely personal. It is all about finding a spot where they can feel safe, respected, and 100% at home. Tucked away in our gorgeous local wine country, Kumeu Village gives you that total peace of mind. We are a relaxed, pet-friendly, family-first community



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.

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- BINGO fun
- Church Service every third Thursday
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home and hospital support to specialised dementia care. This means your loved one gets steady, professional backing from the same familiar faces in a place they already know and trust.



On top of high clinical standards, we put a lot of heart into keeping our community happy and connected. Life here is built around staying active and having fun. Our beautiful, leafy grounds are perfect for a quiet stroll, while our lounges and shared spaces are always buzzing with chats, laughs, and genuine connection. We keep things lively and supportive so everyone can hold onto their dignity and enjoy great company every single day.

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 chat 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.

Capturing the moment: world photography day at Craigweil House

World Photography Day was a wonderful opportunity at Craigweil House to celebrate the joy of capturing memories, sharing stories and, of course, having a little fun in front of the camera.

Residents and staff embraced the occasion with a colourful photo session filled with playful props, quirky hats and plenty of laughter. From a fearless pirate captain complete with a dramatic sword to a lucky leprechaun spreading smiles, everyone enjoyed stepping into character and creating memorable moments together.

Our team joined in the fun too, making sure every resident had the chance to shine in front of the camera. The smiles captured throughout the day were a beautiful reminder that some of life's happiest moments come from simply spending time together.

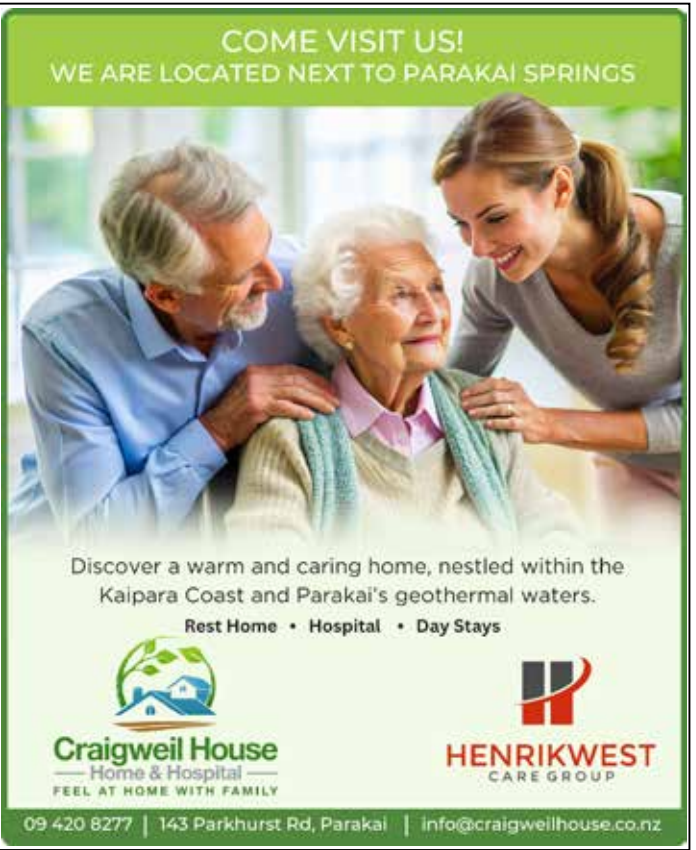
Photography is about more than taking a picture. It preserves treasured memories, sparks conversations and tells the stories that make our community so special. These snapshots perfectly captured the warmth, friendship and wonderful personalities that make Craigweil House feel like home.

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.





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Ask Dr. Heather



"Someone told me that once you start having Botox®, you can't stop. Is this true?"

Anon, Kumeu

No, you can stop having Botox® whenever you like. Botulinum toxin temporarily paralyses muscles that crease the skin and having it once does not mean you have signed up for a lifetime of treatments. A good analogy is colouring your roots. While you keep colouring them, you become used to seeing your hair without greys, but if you stop, the colour grows out and your natural hair reappears. Having coloured it hasn't somehow created more grey hair underneath, just as pausing Botox® treatments does not accelerate your normal background ageing.

The funny part is that once we get used to seeing something look smoother, we often notice when it returns. Just as those first grey roots can seem obvious after years of colouring your hair, lines can seem more noticeable when Botox® wears off.

So when people say, "Once you start, you can't stop", what they usually mean is that they like the way they look with regular treatments. Wanting to continue Botox® is different from needing it to continue and you should be wary of injectors who tell you to keep going at all costs as it will likely be a marketing ploy to keep you having regular treatments with them.

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

Effortless hair - made simple



Great hair doesn't have to mean spending hours in front of the mirror. At Zash Hair, we believe the key to effortless, beautiful hair is understanding what works for you - your hair type, lifestyle, face shape and personal style.

Our 45-minute styling consultation is designed to give you practical, personalised tips that you can easily recreate at home. Whether you want to master soft, natural waves, create volume and movement, achieve a sleek finish, or simply make your everyday hair look more polished, we'll show you how.

During your consultation, we'll take the time to understand your current routine, talk through what you love about your hair and identify any areas you find challenging. Our stylists can then recommend techniques, tools and products that suit your hair and make styling feel simple rather than overwhelming.

You'll leave with a better understanding of how to work with your natural texture, plus easy styling tricks designed around your everyday routine. We can show you how to prep your hair, where to apply product, how to use your styling tools effectively and the little finishing touches that make all the difference.

Think of it as your personal hair lesson - practical, relaxed and completely tailored to you.

Book your 45-minute consultation at Zash Hair and discover how a few expert styling tips can transform your everyday hair into effortlessly beautiful hair

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Brisk Start for New Optometrist



Optometrist Sushmita joined Matthew, Molly and Anna at For Eyes in August and is already making a strong impression on patients and colleagues alike. In her first month, she identified three retinal tears, along with a case of central serous retinopathy and a corneal scratch - a reminder that a routine eye examination can uncover much more than changes in vision.

"It's definitely keeping me on my toes!" she says. After taking a year away from optometry to welcome a new baby, she is now excited to be back doing what she loves, and is impressed that her clinical skills have already been given such a work out.

"From such a lovely, supportive team and wonderful patients to seeing an interesting variety of ocular pathology, it's certainly been an exciting first month," she says.

The access to fantastic clinical technology, a supportive team and a welcoming community of patients has given Sushmita a tremendous welcome back into optometry and just one month into her new role, she says she couldn't have asked for a better start.

"I'm feeling incredibly grateful to be here and excited for what's ahead."

Sushmita is now welcoming both new and longstanding patients from the local community.

To book an appointment with Sushmita, Molly or Matthew at For Eyes in the Kumeu Shopping Village, phone 094228172

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Treating Hair Loss Early



Hair loss is one of those things people often put off seeking help for.

“I didn’t know what could be done.”

“I thought it would settle down.”

“I thought I had more time.”

The difficulty is that, with many common forms of hair loss, the earlier we intervene, the more hair there is to preserve, and the better the outcomes we can often achieve. This is true for both men and women. In practice, people frequently present later than we would have liked.

Hair loss can have many causes, including genetic pattern hair loss, hormonal changes, nutritional deficiencies, illness, stress, inflammatory scalp conditions and some medications.

That means the first step is not simply choosing a shampoo or supplement. It is working out what type of hair loss is occurring and whether there is an underlying cause that needs addressing.

At Restore, Dr Cherie completes our hair-loss consultations. We assess the pattern and progression of hair loss, examine the scalp, review medical history and, where appropriate, arrange further investigations.

For common pattern hair loss, treatment usually involves prescription medications aimed at slowing further loss and supporting regrowth. Depending on the individual, we may also recommend microneedling, exosomes or LED therapy alongside medical treatment.

Hair restoration is gradual. The aim is to slow progression, preserve and strengthen existing hair, and improve density over time. In pattern hair loss, hairs gradually become finer and shorter as follicles miniaturise. Once this process becomes advanced, the potential for meaningful regrowth becomes much more limited.

The best time to seek advice is at the first sign of thinning, a widening part, increased shedding or a changing hairline.

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Osteopathy for all



Freya Scollay is a registered human and animal osteopath and founder of Symmetry in Motion. Working with humans, horses, hounds and animals of many kinds, Freya combines scientific knowledge, extensive practical experience and an intuitive understanding of the living body.

Osteopathy recognises that the body functions as an interconnected whole. Muscles, joints, fascia, circulation and the nervous system influence one another. When one area becomes restricted, injured or strained, compensations can develop elsewhere. Freya gently identifies these patterns and supports each individual's natural capacity for healing, movement and balance.

Whether treating a person, horse or dog, Freya begins with careful observation. Posture, movement, breathing, behaviour and subtle changes in expression provide valuable information. Hands-on assessment then helps her understand how the tissues are moving, where tension is held and how the whole body is adapting.

Freya is particularly known for treating complex and sensitive cases, including persistent or unexplained pain, injury recovery, restricted mobility, behavioural changes, reduced performance, and rehabilitation before or after surgery.

Her treatments are gentle, individualised and respectful of the nervous system. She places strong emphasis on avoiding the fight-or-flight response. When a person or animal feels safe, the body can relax, participate in treatment and become more receptive to change.

Animals communicate throughout a session through their breathing, posture, movement and expression. Freya uses these responses to guide the pace and direction of treatment rather than imposing techniques upon the body. Her knowledge of human and animal biomechanics also helps her understand the connection between animals and the people who ride, handle and care for them.

At the heart of Freya's work is a simple philosophy: every living body deserves to be heard. Through gentle osteopathy, thoughtful movement and respectful connection, she helps humans and animals move towards greater comfort, confidence and wellbeing in daily life.. Thank you, Freya Scollay

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Forward planning needed

By Graeme Hammonds

I remind our communities of Kumeu, Huapai, Riverhead, Taupaki, Waimauku and Muriwai that once again our current government (central and local) has essentially overridden our joint desire to see a comprehensive council/community driven forward planning process that leads the way for our district.

The problem of forward planning was previously tackled by the then Rodney District Council and it was decided after working with our communities that we should plan for a resilient community of up to 10,000 people handling its own water and sewerage. But on the arrival of the National-led coalition government we got the Auckland City Act and in turn we got the Unitary Plan, says Kumeu resident Graeme Hammonds, previously a transport advocate for the Kumeu Huapai Community Association.

“This Act, written by the coalition, has virtually isolated our communities and the local boards by not giving them the power and the budget to ensure they meet their responsibility of ensuring the local communities’ voices are democratically upheld along with being advocates for us.”

The Act does not mention communities, says Graeme.

“We now have a joint population of our surrounding communities in the vicinity of around 25,000 – this number is the size of Ashburton yet we have very few public amenities.

“The National Party holds a huge majority in our electorate and has treated our area unfairly in terms of providing the necessary infrastructure! We got Special Housing Areas (SHAs) forced on us with no provision of the necessary infrastructure.

“We suffered under the NZ Transport Association (NZTA) telling us what they had decided for State Highway16 and failing to provide the necessary timely transport upgrades to avoid the chaotic SH16, which is set to get worse in the future due to proposed fast-track developments.

“We have a railway line ready to go but unsupported by NZTA and Auckland Transport (AT). “Now the government is giving us fast track development with little or no ability of the affected communities, the Rodney Local Board or the Auckland Council to have a real say.

“They seem more supportive of developers having the right to decide our futures than us and to reap the benefit of zone change valuations.

“We must question our prospective political candidates, as well as board members, Rodney ward councilor Greg Sayers, the NZTA and Auckland Council carefully to get a commitment to support our communities, otherwise we will get more of the same,” says Graeme.

“It’s time our communities were given a direct involvement

in planning for our futures and not have our futures decided for us by governments and developers.

“We in the West need a fair go and a train service!”

Jessica Rowe: standing for Kaipara ki Mahurangi



Jessica Rowe says growing the economy in the northwest, committing to no new taxes, infrastructure, safer communities and support for local businesses will be among her key priorities as National’s candidate for Kaipara ki Mahurangi.

Rowe was raised on her family’s farm in Riverhead, attended Coatesville Primary School. She lives in Riverhead.

“I’ve always called Kaipara ki Mahurangi home. This is a community where people understand hard work, look out for one another and get stuck in to get the job done,”

she said.

Rowe’s family has run an Auckland haberdashery business for more than a century, while she has also developed business interests in New Zealand wool.

She says recent population growth has placed increasing pressure on local infrastructure, particularly roads, transport connections, schools and essential services.

“Our communities are growing quickly, but infrastructure has not always kept pace. We need better roads, safer intersections and long-term investment that supports growth rather than constantly playing catch-up.

“National’s plan to replace the RMA will make it easier to get things built, while creating jobs and boosting wages.

Rowe previously worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and as a Ministerial Advisor to Hon Louise Upston. She says that experience has given her an understanding of how government decisions are made and how local priorities can be advanced in Wellington.

Other priorities include community safety, healthcare access and reducing unnecessary red tape for farmers, tradies and small businesses.

“My focus is on connecting with the communities that make up this electorate. I want to be an engaged and effective local MP.”

Rowe is asking for your support on 7 November so she can use her skills and experience to represent her community in Wellington.



Jessica Rowe

for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

★ ★ ★
National

Authorised by J Rowe, jessica.rowe@national.org.nz

“Dangers of the Kaipara Harbour” – written by Dante N.



The Kaipara Harbour entrance holds a record number of shipwrecks becoming what is well known as ‘The Graveyard’. The bar is only 6-7km wide, with white wash, shifting sand bars and large swells brought by gales. Over 100 ships have wrecked in the Kaipara Harbour, and it still very much feared today, despite new technology.



In the sailing era, captains had to navigate through these dangers, relying on local knowledge, maps, and tools such as lead lines. These lines had leather markers attached measuring the depth of the water and the lead weight at the bottom was covered in wax catching sediment to understand what lay on the ocean floor. Later steam boats

would help tow sail boats through.

Although large gales wrecked ships, the lack of wind could also fail them like the ship ‘Aurora’, which could no longer sail and was then driven by waves onto a bank in 1840.

In some cases, the captains judgement was questioned. The ship named ‘Lady Franklin’ was anchored in the harbour but the cable had parted while there was no anchor watch and the ship was driven ashore, she was refloated but became stranded again in 1876.

In 1902 the ‘May’ became wrecked. Its tug boat named the ‘Pilot’ captained by Johnny Harrison could no longer control the barquentine in a westerly gale. They agreed to part ways saving the lives of those on the ‘Pilot’ but leaving the ‘May’ to break into pieces. When the ship went down a sole survivor named Wati Dunn had managed to swim ashore. He was the Northern Wairoa swimming champion.

Shifting sands and tides are still uncovering wrecks, most recently in Pouto Point in July this year, and the importance of preserving them allows the world to discover their stories and honour the lives that were lost.

“The breakers were dashing on several sand bars in an awful manner, about three miles from the land. The late westerly gale caused the fearful commotion of the rolling waves to bound on these sea sand-spits, dashing the surf to an unusual height. No vessel, of any size or shape,

could at this time have entered the Kaipara; instant shipwreck, into a thousand pieces, would have been the result.” –Samuel Polack’s warning of the Kaipara Harbour 1831.

The Village Market Helensville Showgrounds



Sunday 18th October 8.30am to 1pm

With a variety of great stalls to explore and live music from Mike Lea, our market makes for a perfect family morning out. Enjoy a coffee while browsing an array of fabulous goodies – local art, crafts and gifts, jewellery, hand-knits, collectibles, preserves, plants, fresh fruit and veggies, pet health products, pre-loved treasures, books, and more. There’s truly something for everyone, along with delicious food from our market café and the Lions sausage sizzle. No dogs please with the exception of assistance dogs. Gold coin donation for parking – proceeds to the Helensville/ Kaukapakapa scouts and St John youth.

For more information contact sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz



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October at Kumeū Arts



There’s plenty happening at Kumeū Arts this October, with exhibitions, workshops and performances alongside our regular programme of classes and groups. In the Main Gallery, Jia Rui Sun presents Quiet Distance, a collection of watercolour and gouache landscapes exploring moments of stillness, light and feeling. In the Pip Window Gallery, New Beginnings showcases two recent works reflecting a fresh direction from painter Diane Scott. Try something new with Julie Moselen’s Experimental Printmaking Workshop on Saturday 10 October, exploring colour, texture and found materials. Or join our Make Your Own Beer Stein pottery workshop on Friday 16 October, 6–8pm (\$95), with the first fill at the Hallertau included.

On Saturday 3 October, 6:30–8:30pm (\$10), Perth-based Whiskey & Boots present Leave The Light On – Stories of Home, combining real stories, music and headphone verbatim performance (\$10).

For full details visit www.kumeuarts.org.

Koraha Road– new path and trees



Have you noticed the new trees recently planted between the new footpath and the road on Koraha Road, Kumeū?

14 new trees have now been planted,

with 12 directly beneath the existing overhead power lines. Many also sit immediately beside the roadside swale.

Auckland Transport’s project page includes a September 2024 Stantec drawing titled “Plan for Koraha Rd Footpath Affected Driveways”. That detailed drawing shows the existing power poles, the overhead power alignment through the berm, and proposed trees along the same corridor. It also identifies proposed species including Jacaranda and Gleditsia.

The later November 2025 consultation plan still shows the replacement tree planting, but the overhead power-line layer and species labels are no longer shown. That may simply reflect a cleaner consultation drawing, but it also makes the conflict far less obvious.

What is now on the ground appears to follow that later planting arrangement closely.

In front of number 61, Google Street View shows a



maintained hedge beyond the property boundary in the road reserve. That hedge has now been removed for the footpath alignment, which is understandable.

What is less clear is why removing that hedge then became justification for planting a row of individual trees in its place. This was not the removal of a line of mature canopy trees requiring like-for-like replacement. It was a maintained hedge.

Further down Koraha Road, close to Weza Lane, there is already a mature tree growing into the same overhead power corridor. Its branches are amongst the conductors and it does not appear to have been proactively maintained clear of them. So we already have a local example of the exact maintenance problem

being created again further up the road.

While it is worth noting that this project has been a long time in the making, my question is what information was actually put in front of the Rodney Local Board before the works commenced.

In the period leading up to construction, whether this was the current sitting board or the previous board, were members shown a more detailed design that clearly identified the alignment of the overhead conductors in relation to the proposed trees? Or were they only presented with the same simplified consultation drawing that omitted the power-line alignment?

If the more detailed information was available to the board, then it raises the question of why nobody identified the obvious long-term conflict and challenged it before construction. If it was not put in front of them, then the question becomes why such a significant constraint was omitted from the material used to inform local decision-making.

Credit- Material Impact

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pieces to one-off finds that make every visit worth exploring.

You’ll also find clothing, homewares and plenty of unexpected treasures, with new donations arriving regularly.

Do you have furniture you no longer need? The Kumeū team offers free collection of good-quality furniture donations, making it easy to clear some space while supporting a good cause. Smaller items can be dropped off directly at the shop.

Whether you’re shopping or donating, your support goes further than giving pre-loved items a new home. When you support Habitat for Humanity, you are helping build homes, communities and hope for local families – creating warmer, drier, and safer housing in Aotearoa.

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Authorised by Rob Salmond, 2 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington.

Sayers says it



By Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers.

A high-stakes clash between local community aspirations and rigid council bureaucracy is unfolding across Auckland’s rural towns, exposing the limits of bottom-up democracy. The debate highlights a stark division in how growth is planned, pitting grassroots decision-making against the financial and legal realities of urban development.

While Auckland Council embraces community-led planning for social, environmental, and disaster recovery initiatives, it draws a hard line at major housing development. When Kumeū residents proposed the community-led Future Kumeū Concept Plan to relocate parts of their flood-prone town centre, they hit a bureaucratic wall. Large blueprints—officially known as Structure Plans—remain strictly council-led. Because they bind council budgets and dictate millions in infrastructure investment, law prevents any New Zealand council from using a community-led model for them. Instead, councils rely on statutory public consultation.

The hesitation to activate a Structure Plan for Kumeū/Huapai stems from a fear of signalling to developers that the town is ready for growth. Auckland Council opposes further development in the area until after 2050, citing a critical lack of infrastructure, flooding, and traffic congestion.

This cautious approach reacts to past central government interventions. A decade ago, the National-led government fast-tracked 2,000 unplanned houses in the Huapai Special Housing Area despite council warnings. Today, the signalled flooding and traffic congestion issues have worsened. History threatens to repeat itself with the Waimauku West development, where the government is again using fast-track legislation to override council opposition.

Auckland Council prefers the proactive model used in Warkworth, where \$500 million in infrastructure was built via a Structure Plan ahead of housing growth. For now, Kumeū/Huapai remains stuck. The Council must process consents on land it never wanted developed, while simultaneously resisting private plan changes and fast-



Got council issues? ...

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Greg Sayers - Rodney COUNCILLOR

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tracking applications. Infrastructure catch-up will take until 2050, requiring significant NZTA roading investment. Meanwhile, I am fighting to extend the train service to Huapai and Helensville.

St Francis day pet blessing



This St Francis Day, paws, claws, feathers—and favourite cuddly companions—are all welcome on Sunday 4 October 2026, 10am, St Chad’s Church, Huapai.

In 2026 we mark 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi, whose feast is celebrated on 4 October. Stories of his kinship with birds, animals and the whole created world have inspired generations to cherish every living thing.

Join us for a warm, family-friendly service celebrating the animals who share our homes and enrich our lives. Bring your pet to receive a blessing—or, if travelling would be difficult or stressful, bring a photograph. Children are especially welcome to bring a treasured stuffed toy for blessing too.

Come as you are, bring the creatures you love, and celebrate the goodness of creation together.

Kia Ora Kumeu

What are you doing on the 5th & 6th of October?

Can you help?

NZBlood is back in Kumeu on the 5th & 6th of October from 1pm-7pm.

There’s no alternative to blood.

Thousands of donations are needed every week to help patients in Aotearoa.

We are reaching out to Incredible lifesavers past and present to help get our blood bags full, by donating at the upcoming blood drive.

We need 2,500 Blood Donations each week to meet demand, red cells only last for 35 days, which is why there is a constant need for blood

If you’re able to help, please book your appointment today.



Book your appointment



Check your eligibility



KICK BACK AND SAVE LIVES

AT KUMEU BLOOD DRIVE

Kumeu Community Centre, 35 Access Rd
Mon 5 & Tue 6 October, 1pm - 7pm



Working together for northwest Auckland



One of the great privileges of having been the local MP for this area was the opportunity to work alongside the community. There’s been no shortage of issues to tackle together!

Since 2017 (at first as MP for Helensville and then the re-named Kaipara ki

Mahurangi electorate), I’ve been fortunate to hear what’s needed from many residents, businesses, community organisations and local government representatives.

So I want to take this opportunity now to thank every

Kumeu Courier reader who has taken time to raise an issue, offer an idea, share a concern or simply explain what they would like to see improved in our part of the world. And of course I’m grateful to this excellent publication for being so generous as to publish my updates, along with other news from across northwest Auckland of course.

Some of these issues have proven relatively straightforward but most have taken years of persistence and advocacy. And more remains to be done when it comes to almost all of them.

A good example is the long-running campaign for an additional high school in the Kumeu-Huapai area. This has been a priority for me for a number of years, and I was delighted when the Government announced that a new local high school will be established, adjacent to Huapai District School. Thanks to everyone who signed a petition, joined me at a meeting or got involved in some other way. Obviously we need to keep working to get it established. I will quietly support the next MP for the area with thoughts about its construction, school zones and timeframes.

Transport is another issue where we’ve made progress but we’re clearly not there yet. Congestion on State Highway 16 will reduce once those widening works are finally done (and they’re now funded), the Kumeu Bypass is constructed (and the “designation” is now in place) and we have improved public transport connections via a dedicated busway (the stations for which are being built as we speak).

As for flooding, this ongoing concern for many households and businesses needs constant clearing of stormwater facilities, along with an end to ad hoc development. Council is getting the idea now and we just need to ensure that complacency doesn’t set in, when it comes to the clearance activity that continues to be needed.

Progress into the future on all these issues will depend on residents speaking up, local organisations getting involved, councils and government agencies listening, and elected representatives making the case for our community. On that note, thanks again to everyone who has worked collaboratively with me - in my time as local MP - to contribute towards the progress that we’ve made.

And those who follow will have my best wishes and support, whenever needed, so that we can keep moving and finally get the job done.

Cheers, C.

Chris Penk MP



Chris Penk
MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

Your local MP

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