

June 2025

FREE monthly community magazine for Kumeu  
& surrounding townships

# Kumeu

## Courier

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

**MTF Kumeu 09 399 2478**  
**kumeu@mtf.co.nz**



## Greetings

We've already shifted to higher ground - before the early 2023 rain and floods.

Where we used to live was flooded that year and several houses around us lower down have gone.

I know of people in the Northwest who have moved because their homes were flooded or, like at Muriwai, been at risk from slips.

Is this move out of problem areas a growing trend?

I suspect it is.

Reports suggest that as conditions globally become unbearable due to climate change (including heat), more people might leave a city or area to escape the change.

Climate migration is already happening in some areas.

People want safer places to live and some predictions are this could reshape regions and countries as many shift away from danger zones.

Out here, Future Kumeu has already proposed shifting the town centre to higher ground further west, out of the Kumeu River's reach and the flood plain.

I've seen the flooding around Waitakere, Bethells, Huapai-Kumeu, Taupaki, Riverhead, Woodhill, Parakai, Helensville, Kaukapakapa and Wainui over the years, and I reckon it's getting worse.

The talk is that many areas, especially those in safer zones, need to get ready for new arrivals - including building homes, schools, and providing infrastructure.

Leaving home may be the only option for many people and in some cases their businesses too.

Food production will probably be affected as well. Perhaps we can try growing rice in paddy fields in the flood prone areas and other stuff higher up if the land hasn't already been earmarked for housing.

Maybe I need to change my diet and eat more rice.

Food certainly isn't going to be cheaper - look at butter prices for instance.

I had hoped to move closer to the sea, but rising sea levels, increasing tsunami risks, flooding, access and the cost of properties there squashed that idea.

So I'll stay on higher, safer ground and risk power cuts (until I can get more self-sustainable such as going solar and less grid dependent).

At least I can grow some food here too.

Editor , Geoff Dobson



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

ENQUIRIES / FEEDBACK / ADVERTISING:

Geoff Dobson

P 027 757 8251

E geoffdobson2017@gmail.com

W www.kumeucourier.co.nz

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## People & Places

KUMEUCOURIER.CO.NZ

### Your Local Lending Partner: MTF Kumeu

As winter approaches, it's the perfect time to get your home, car, and finances in order—before the cold really sets in. At MTF Kumeu, we're proud to be part of the local community, helping our neighbours with fast, flexible finance solutions tailored to real-life needs. Whether you're upgrading your home to stay warm and dry, preparing your vehicle for wet winter roads, or investing in energy-efficient solutions like solar panels, we're here to make it happen—quickly and easily.

#### More than finance—real people, real support

At MTF Kumeu, you're not just another application. We're locals ourselves, and we know the pressures families and businesses face in our area. That's why we offer practical advice and same-day lending decisions—so you can take action without delay.

From home repairs and vehicle maintenance to farm machinery or business equipment, we offer a range of lending options designed to support you, your family, and your future.

#### Expert advice, right here in Kumeu

What sets us apart? Local knowledge and personal service. Gerrie Cashmore and the MTF Kumeu team take the time to understand your unique circumstances, ensuring you get the right solution—not just a generic offer.

We're proud to say our commitment to genuine customer care has helped MTF earn the highest Trustpilot rating for a finance company in New Zealand, along with back-to-back Reader's Digest Consumer's Choice Awards. We don't just talk about service—we live it.

#### Prepare now, stay safe later

Need to repair a leaky roof or replace an unreliable car before winter hits? Thinking about solar to cut energy bills? We've got finance options for all of it—and we'll guide you through every step of the process.

So don't wait for the winter chill to set in. Call or visit us at MTF Kumeu today.

Let's have a chat and see how we can help you stay warm, safe, and financially on track



## Winter wellness awaits

### Hydration, warmth, and a gentle welcome at lovesoul



As the crisp winter air settles in, our skin and body begin to crave deeper care. At lovesoul beauty & spa studio in Waimauku, we've crafted treatments that go beyond skin deep—nurturing both the skin and soul.

This season, we're delighted to introduce our newest treatment:

Hydrating Boost Firming Facial - 60 min | \$169

This luxurious facial is designed to hydrate, firm, and revitalise using

our new Janesce Affinite range, rich in silk proteins, hyaluronic acid, and high vitamin C. It's perfect for those looking to restore skin elasticity & firmness, soothe inflammation, and enjoy a radiant, lifted and firming glow - all while being cocooned in warmth and complete serenity.

To celebrate the season of slowing down, we're also offering a Hot Stone Massage special:

**60 min for just \$149 (normally \$175)**

Melt into the warmth of smooth basalt stones and let tension slip away. This treatment is ideal for winter-soothing tired muscles, calming the nervous system, and

**lovesoul**

- Skin Consultations
- Waxing and Tinting
- Massage and Facials
- Manicures and Pedicures
- Gift Vouchers Available

lovesoul.co.nz • 09 411-5286 • hello@lovesoul.co.nz  
8 Waimauku Station Road  
Walk-ins welcome



restoring your energy from the inside out.

We'd love to welcome more locals into our tranquil space.

Whether you're seeking relaxation or support with specific skin concerns, we offer professional skin analysis and tailored recommendations to help you achieve healthy, radiant skin. Walk-ins are welcome, or book online at [www.lovesoul.co.nz](http://www.lovesoul.co.nz) | Waimauku

## Melissa Carr now taking appointments at Lovesoul in Waimauku



Melissa Carr, one of New Zealand's most accomplished cosmetic and medical tattoo artists, is now offering appointments at Lovesoul in Waimauku.

As a Helensville local of 23 years, and with over

26 years in the beauty industry and more than a decade specialising in cosmetic tattooing, Melissa brings a wealth of experience and a reputation that draws clients from across the globe.

Melissa's expertise spans a wide range of services, including:

- Eyebrow Tattooing: Feathered, ombre, and combination styles to suit individual preferences
- Eyeliner Tattooing: Top, bottom, and winged eyeliner for a defined look
- Lip Tattooing: Full lip colour to enhance natural beauty
- Scalp Micropigmentation: A solution for hair loss, creating the appearance of hair density
- Medical Tattooing: Including scar camouflage and 3D nipple and areola simulation for breast cancer survivors

Medical tattooing is an area Melissa is particularly passionate about - 'I love being trusted by my cancer warriors to help them heal after surgeries and treatments.

Medical tattooing is an area Melissa is particularly passionate about - 'I love being trusted by my cancer warriors to help them heal after surgeries and treatments.



Cosmetic & Medical Tattooing by Melissa Carr

Now available at Lovesoul Waimauku by appointment!

To book, email [info@melissacarr.co.nz](mailto:info@melissacarr.co.nz)  
Visit [www.melissacarrcosmetictattooing.co.nz](http://www.melissacarrcosmetictattooing.co.nz)

It's a real privilege,' says Melissa.

To make it easier for that to happen, funding from Te Whatu Ora may be available for breast cancer clients, as well as accessing funding for brow tattooing through the wig subsidy.

ACC quotes for corrective work such as lip deformation, are also available.

Melissa's dedication to continuous learning ensures clients receive the most up-to-date treatments, as she regularly trains with top international cosmetic tattooists and teachers.

Melissa's approach is all about enhancing natural features. She believes that the best cosmetic tattooing doesn't scream "tattooed" but subtly enhances what's already there. For those interested in booking an appointment at Lovesoul in Waimauku,

visit [www.melissacarrcosmetictattooing.co.nz](http://www.melissacarrcosmetictattooing.co.nz) to explore services, view the gallery, and request a booking.

## Meet Zubu - Your local boutique



At Zubu, we believe shopping should be joyful, personal, and community-driven. Tucked in the heart of Kumeu, our boutique is more than just a clothing store - it's a space where style meets soul. Whether

you're on the hunt for something special, needing a little confidence boost, or just want to browse beautiful things in a warm, welcoming space, we're here for it.

Zubu was born from a love of people, problem-solving, and fabulous fashion. I'm proud to be the face behind the boutique - a local just like you, with a passion for helping women feel their best in clothes they actually love to wear. Our team offers honest opinions, zero judgment, and a whole heap of style help. We're friendly, experienced, and genuinely care about getting it right for you.

Shopping local means investing in the character of your community. If you love living in a place with cool,

**ZUBU.**

**WOMEN'S BOUTIQUE**

- 📞 (09) 218 6064
- 🌐 [adminzubu.nz](http://adminzubu.nz)
- 📍 84 Main Road, Kumeu
- 📷 [zubufashionboutique](https://www.instagram.com/zubufashionboutique)
- 📱 [zubu](https://www.facebook.com/zubu)

independent shops - support them. Every purchase at Zubu helps keep our little slice of Kumeu vibrant and unique. Our community is built on loyalty, great service, and real connections - and we're so grateful to be a part of yours.

Never been in? We'd love to meet you. Already a Zubu fan? We've got something special coming up. Our Mid-Winter Christmas VIP Night is happening at the end of the month - a fun night out with treats, laughs, and of course, fashion.

To stay in the loop, follow us on socials or sign up for our e-newsletter at [www.zubu.nz](http://www.zubu.nz). We can't wait to see you in-store soon. Teresa & the Zubu team

## Supporting Your Governance Team



Are you one of the many people volunteering your time on a governance board and have a few questions about how it all works? Are you chairing a board and would like to undertake an internal board assessment but don't know where to start?

Far Sky Consulting is your local governance expert. Wanting to undertake best practice on your board is natural but can be a little daunting. Being able to undertake an honest look at your organisation with a friendly approach is vital and Danielle Hancock can help your board. With a range of techniques to assess how the board works, including self-assessments, we can help set your mind at ease.

Are you struggling with finding the expertise you need on your board? You might be considering an external Chair or Secretary that can provide the advice and expertise you need to meet your Incorporated Societies Act 2022 obligations. Deadlines are looming to update constitutions, re-register with Incorporated Societies and get your Officer Consent forms in. Whatever help and advice you need, ask Danielle Hancock on [danielle@farsky.co.nz](mailto:danielle@farsky.co.nz).

**Danielle Hancock**

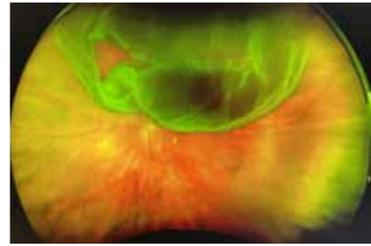
Providing governance advice and services.

**FAR SKY CONSULTING**

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

020 4002 7008

## Are your eyes healthy?



We continue our series on finding eye health problems with the sophisticated equipment at For Eyes. Last month we shared an image of a retinal tear/hole, recorded with our ultra-wide field retinal Optomap scanner which can literally see around the iris to image the peripheral retina.

This month's image is a retinal detachment. If a retinal tear is not treated, then fluid can seep under the retina causing it to peel off the inside of the eye like loose wallpaper on a wall.

A detachment is much easier to see than a small retinal tear or hole that starts it. In this image you can clearly see the hole and the delicate retina ballooning around it. This patient was referred urgently to Greenlane Hospital. Surgery to remove the vitreous gel to prevent it pulling on the retina was combined with the placement of a gas bubble inside the eye to gently lift the retina back into place. Then laser treatment was used to form small, targeted scars around the hole and peripheral loose areas, to prevent the retina from detaching again.

Symptoms of retinal detachment are a loss of vision, or a constant dark patch in your vision. Flashing lights and floaters can precede a detachment.

To book your eye examination appointment with Molly or Matthew at For Eyes in the Kumeu Shopping Village phone 09 412 8172.

- Advanced scanning equipment for early detection of cataract, glaucoma and macular degeneration
- Speciality assessment of child and adult reading difficulties
- Specific-tint lenses for Irlen Syndrome
- Lenses to correct red-green colour blindness

90B Main Road, Kumeu Shopping Village  
 www.foreyes.co.nz foreyes@foreyes.nz 09 412 8172

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## The ingrown toenail, a painful and common complaint



If you have ever experienced an ingrown toenail, you will understand how a seemingly small problem can lead to excruciating pain and even infection. Your podiatrist can help you with diagnosis, education and treatment.

An ingrown toenail occurs when the side of the nail grows into the surrounding skin, causing pain, swelling, infection, and sometimes extra tissue to form. Common causes include injury or trauma to the nail, such as dropping something on your toe or pressure from activities like ballet dancing. Cutting your nails too short or with rounded edges can also increase the risk. Tight shoes that do not allow enough room for your toes to move freely can make the problem worse. In some cases, the cause is genetic, as naturally curved nails are more likely to become ingrown.

Conservative treatment consisting of trimming the nail away coupled with some at home treatments can correct the problem. However, there are often cases where minor surgery is required.

During a minor surgery, a local anaesthetic is injected into the affected toe, then the troublesome portion of the nail is cut out. Optionally, a chemical can be applied to the nail to stop the ingrown nail from recurring. Once surgery is complete, we will carefully dress the toe then provide instructions for aftercare at home that enable healing and prevent infection. We will see you several times after your surgery to change the dressing and ensure everything is healing correctly.

Caring for your feet is vital for overall health and wellbeing. Experiencing pain and discomfort can affect your quality of life. Do not hesitate to contact us at Norwest Podiatry and make an appointment. We are here to help you step into life pain free.

**Suffering Foot Pain?**

Take the first step toward pain-free living! Specialising in personalised foot care for all ages. Reach out today for healthier feet!

Norwest Podiatry  
 027 740 4545/09 412 7740  
 www.norwestpodiatry.co.nz

## KC Fit: Free women's fitness class for mums in June



Feel stronger, move better, and connect with a local community that gets it.

If you're ready to feel more like you again – stronger, energised, and supported –this is for you. Join Kirstyn Campbell and the KC Fit crew for a FREE women's fitness class right here in Huapai/Kumeu.

What to expect:

- A fun, tough workout tailored for real women
- Deep core and full-body strength training
- A community of like-minded, no-judgement mums
- Zero pressure. Just show up and move.

Why Kirstyn?

When it comes to women's fitness in New Zealand, Kirstyn Campbell isn't just part of the conversation, she's helped shape it. With specialist qualifications rarely seen in the industry, she's spent over a decade leading the charge on how women, especially mothers, should be trained: with care, safety, and deep respect for the female body. From writing courses that upskill fitness professionals to breaking the fitness myths, Kirstyn's influence runs deep. Her approach has become the benchmark; empowering women to reclaim strength, function, and confidence at every stage of life.

Whether you're starting out, easing back in, or ready to push harder, you'll be met with encouragement, not ego. KC Fit is more than a workout. It's a place to move, laugh, rebuild, and feel like yourself again, alongside a local crew of wāhine who get it.

Limited spaces – book your FREE June class now.

DM @kcfitzn on Instagram or message Kirstyn Campbell on Facebook to grab your spot.

**Kirstyn Campbell**  
 Women's Specialised Fitness Trainer & Educator  
 Pre. Postnatal, Pelvic Floor & Menopause Qualified

Book in for a fun empowering women's fitness class.

022 637 5410  
 kirstyn@kcfit.co.nz  
 kcfitathome.com

REPS Registered

## The power of women coming together



In a world that often pulls us in many directions, the simple act of gathering can be deeply healing. Women's groups offer more than just conversation – they create space for connection, community, and emotional support that many of us are quietly craving.

Whether we are navigating motherhood, burnout, emotional

overwhelm, or life's turning points, sitting in a circle with others reminds us that we're not alone. There's something powerful about being truly seen and heard, without judgement or pressure to perform. It's in these moments that friendships form, confidence grows, and healing begins.

I offer small, supportive groups for women – including mum-specific wellness circles and emotional well-being gatherings – that blend gentle conversation, reflection, and practical tools to support mental and emotional health. They're designed for those wanting something deeper than surface-level connection, yet still held in a relaxed, welcoming space.

You don't need to have it all together. You don't even need to talk much. Just showing up is enough.

So many women tell me they're tired of carrying things alone. These groups are a chance to lay some of it down, reconnect with yourself, and find support among others walking a similar path.

If you're curious, reach out. There's a seat for you.

Kath is a Nurse Therapist specialising in supporting women to reconnect with themselves – emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.

For more information on how to join our groups or book a 1:1 session, follow us on Facebook @paradoxxNZ or visit our website <https://paradoxx.nz>

**Paradoxx Therapies with a Twist**  
 Supporting women in their wellness journey

admin@paradoxx.nz  
<https://paradoxx.nz>  
 FB @paradoxxNZ  
 IG @paradoxx\_NZ

Kath Dr  
 Nurse Therapist  
 Wellness Practitioner

# How to cut firewood - with STIHL SHOP Kumeu

Cutting firewood with a chainsaw may seem straightforward, but our expert insights will elevate your approach, ensuring a seamless experience.

## STEP 1: Ensure your safety

Before embarking on the firewood-cutting journey, take a moment to ensure you have the proper safety equipment to perform the job. Our team can assist with setting you up with a minimum of chaps, helmet/visor/glasses and perhaps some boots. We also recommend you familiarise yourself with your chainsaw operator's manual (not joking) Understanding the manufacturer's guidelines is crucial for safe and effective operation, so this is an important step to ensure you are well-acquainted with your chainsaw's features, safety measures, and maintenance requirements. The chainsaw is a serious piece of equipment and the instruction manual is your friend. And just like any good friend, it'll teach you a few new things and keep you safe.

## STEP 2: Keep your chain sharp

A sharp chain is the heart of efficient firewood cutting. Regularly sharpening your chain enhances cutting performance and reduces the risk of accidents. We recommend investing in quality sharpening tools and making it a routine to inspect and sharpen the chain. Your chainsaw is only as effective as its chain, so look after it and it'll make your life a whole lot easier. Top tip: keep a spare chain on hand, so if your chain gets dull you can swap them over and get the blunt chain serviced. See our team instore for advice on our full range of expert sharpening options.

## STEP 3: Prep and measure your firewood

Preparation is key to a seamless firewood-cutting experience. Begin by gathering the firewood and measuring it to your desired length. As the old saying goes: 'measure twice, cut once'. That way you'll know exactly how big each piece of firewood should be so it fits nicely in your fireplace.

## STEP 4: Cutting firewood

Before cutting, check the wood and remove any nails. Cut through one log at a time, and avoid using the tip of

the blade. If cutting on the ground, to avoid damaging your chain, don't saw into the dirt. Instead, flip the log over and finish it off. If you're using a battery chainsaw, the battery often lasts longer than the chain lube, so don't get caught out. Use a good quality, non-toxic chain bar oil.

With your chainsaw prepped and firewood ready, it's time to cut! Position yourself securely, hold the chainsaw with a firm grip, and make steady, controlled cuts. At STIHL SHOP, we advise starting with smaller branches before progressing to larger logs, allowing you to gain confidence and control. You've done the hard work, now enjoy those cosy nights in front of a roaring fire.

# Kumeu Library



Kumeu Library is your local community library, and we're here for you. We're open six days a week from 9am to 5pm (closed Sundays).

With June comes the start of the winter months, when the weather is wetter and windier and we spend so much more time indoors. Kumeu Library is a great resource for the whole community in winter. Keep your whole family entertained with the huge range of picture books, puzzles, books (print and eBooks) Audiobooks, eAudiobooks, magazines and eMagazines, and DVDs. Don't forget that with our extensive eCollections you can download eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines any time, anywhere.

Are you looking for a new or bestselling book and don't want to wait? Check out our Bestie Collection - if it's on the shelf you can borrow it straight away for two weeks instead of waiting. You can borrow up to two Besties at a time - come and have a look at the selection at Kumeu Library.

Longer winter nights mean cosying up on the sofa with a good movie or binge-watching a TV series. Auckland Libraries' Beamafilm allows you to use your library membership to discover popular and indie movies, documentaries and TV series. Watch in your browser or download the Beamafilm app to your device.

Kumeu Library provides free internet services, offering community members access to information, communication, and learning opportunities. You can use our free public computers or bring your own device and connect. We have spaces where you can work, printing is available (charges apply) and there are power points to charge devices - all very useful in the event of a power cut at your home or place of work.

Follow us on Facebook to keep up with all our news and events ([www.facebook.com/kumeulibrary](http://www.facebook.com/kumeulibrary)).

**STIHL SHOP**

54 Main Rd  
Kumeu  
PH: 412 8592  
OPEN MON-SAT

AT TWO HANDY LOCATIONS  
FOR EXPERT ADVICE & SERVICE

15 Kakano Rd  
Westgate  
PH: 438 9999  
OPEN 7 DAYS

# See a fire before it starts



Every year, as temperatures drop, we see a significant increase in the number of house fires.

At Fire and Emergency over the last 10 years, we have observed a 54% increase in heat source related house fires we've responded to in May-July compared to the rest of the year. The majority of these are caused by or related to the increased use of heat sources in winter, such as heaters, chimneys, ash disposal, electric blankets and dryers. Encouragingly, heat source related house fires have decreased by 7% in the past 3 years (compared with the prior 6 years). This has been a combination of effort by manufacturers and public awareness. Some of these factors include:

- Manufacturers required to have fail safe features
- More rigorous testing of approved heat sources
- A move to safer heating options (away from wood burners)
- More work by FENZ in pre-school and school programs
- More community interaction by Brigades to share safety messages
- More editorials in magazines like Kumeu Courier and The Westerly to get key messages through

## Fire & Emergency's strategy

Our winter fire safety campaign 'See a fire before it starts' prompts people to better identify and decrease fire risks associated with the use of electric blankets, chimneys, heaters, dryers and hot ash disposal.

Using a thermographic imaging treatment, we're able to show unsafe fire scenarios from a new perspective. This shift in focus demonstrates that danger is often hidden from the naked eye, but a fire is easily preventable if you know what to look for.



## Our suggestions:

The Winter campaign encourages some key fire safety behaviours:

1. Check the heat before you sleep - Check your electric blanket for hot spots before first use
2. Chimney alright before first light? - Get your chimney cleaned
3. A metre from the heater - keep everything at a safe distance
4. Cool ash before you stash - soak with water in a metal bucket
5. A clean dryer avoids fire - remove lint before every use
6. A hungry rat can spark - rats eat wires, causing sparking, please bait or trap

Through this change in season please take a moment to ensure your home and your actions are safe and that you are not at risk of a fire that can be avoided. Rats in rural and lifestyle homes can cause significant damage in wiring, use bait, traps or high pitch plug in's to avoid costly damage.

Open fire season means there will be a bit more smoke in the area than usual, if you are lighting up, be sympathetic to neighbours and road users as smoke can be thick and dense with wet vegetation piles.

Stay well, stay warm.

I hope this overview has provided some insights. If you need any advice or suggestions feel free to drop me an email or a call directly:

[graham.mcintyre@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:graham.mcintyre@fireandemergency.nz) or 0276320421.



**Graham McIntyre,**  
Chief Fire Officer -  
Waitakere Fire Brigade

## Kumeu Kennels



Nestled in rural Kumeu just 5mins from the popular Kumeu show grounds and 12 mins from Westgate shopping centre our purpose made, Council consented facility offers a safe and secure environment for your dog to stay, play, run and have fun in.

Original owners since 1996 owners Beverly & Glenn reside on the property and have a wealth of knowledge in the care and safe management of your pet.

Spacious indoor accommodation and outdoor grassed areas to play in. Careful thought goes into which dog goes into each play group. Taking into account their age, nature, size and breed, also whether they are dominant, submissive or neutral, high or low energy players or a senior dog.

We offer Day Care, Accommodation and Hydro baths. We recommend a First day trial so that your dog has the opportunity to become familiar with our facility and daily routine before an overnight stay.

Staff post photo's on Instagram 'stories' so that owners can see their dog enjoying their holiday while they enjoy theirs.

As a facility catering for just a small number of dogs you can be sure your dog will receive the individual attention they deserve.

For reasonable rates and a happy dog contact Kumeu Kennels

Ph 021 744 300 or visit our website

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

## CRE8 Talent Solutions



Hiring the right talent and systems in place can absolutely transform your business. CRE8 tailors our approach to your specific requirements, helping you build a strong, capable workforce, while removing a touch of stress from your day to day.

CRE8's service offering includes a full suite across recruitment, administration, in-house support, executive sourcing and more, we are here for you. Offering

project-based or hourly pricing options to work in with our client base.

Be it administration support, upgrades to your H/S framework, one on one management training for staff retention or marketing strategies, along with our core base of 360 recruitment services. Through in-house, external or project-based commitments, we are a small local business providing exceptional outcomes nationally for our clients.

Think about planning your future resource objectives, think about the time you will have back outsourcing to a business like ours.

### Sectors we specialise in-

Commercial | Interiors | Residential - Construction, Civil infrastructure, Engineering & Design, Corporate Services

### Specialist positions we have placed-

Construction Management & Leadership, Project Delivery, Commercial and Cost management, Business Support & Operations, Specialist Roles (preconstruction), Transport & Logistics, Trades & Services

Visit us at [cre8talentsolutions.nz](http://cre8talentsolutions.nz) or contact our Director Kat Evans to learn more about how we can support you and your business, through the year ahead.

## Community News

### House of Travel



With the European summer in full swing there has been no shortage of clients booking incredible journeys with us. Just like you, each trip is unique, and we can tailor make flights that don't exist

anywhere online or with less experienced travel agents.

We're great at booking multi-stop around the world fares. Some recent trips we have booked are Auckland - Singapore- Germany- Brazil - Chile - Auckland

Auckland - Vancouver - London - Singapore - Auckland

Auckland - Dubai - Barcelona - London - New York - Hawaii - Auckland

Auckland - Budapest (overland) Amsterdam - Singapore - Sydney -Auckland

Most of these examples are not much more than a return flight to London Other examples of a well-planned trip are flying into one place and back from another. This is great for people on a river cruise, backpacking, Mediterranean cruise etc as travelling in one direct saves time and money. A rookie mistake is flying in and out of the same airport and then doubling back at the end costing time and money.

Booking with us is so easy and convenient, whether you have time to pop in and see us in-store, over the phone or in exchange of emails. We are well set up to make the process as easy as possible, no matter where you are. Some of our clients are even overseas. With the security of a physical store, experienced consultants, 100% Kiwi business owner operated, TAANZ bonded and local, who better to be your travel agent wingman? Your ideas + our knowledge = better holidays. Please keep us in mind when planning and booking your next trip.

Now in two locations with our Travel Agency located at 225 Hobsonville Point Road (09 416 0700) and our dedicated Cruise Centre at 144 Hobsonville Point Road. (09 941 3330)

Led by two of the industry's most experienced cruise gurus, Sam and Talita will be here to guide you through the exciting world of cruising whether it's your 1st or 50th they'll have your back every step of the way.

## From my heart to yours: Why I became a vet



I was thirteen when I lost my best friend-Ruben, a one-year-old Cocker Spaniel full of joy, mischief, and love. He was hit by a car and killed instantly. I remember the helplessness, the silence that followed, the ache in my chest. At that moment, I made a promise: I would become a vet so I could save animals like Ruben.

For years, I chased that goal with fierce determination. But life-and loss-taught me something deeper.

Despite all the medicine, the tools, the knowledge... we can't always stop death. But I've come to understand that death is not an end. It's a transformation.

You see, in quantum physics, energy cannot be created or destroyed. It only changes form. Your pet-your beloved companion-was more than flesh and blood. They were energy, light, and love. And that energy doesn't vanish when their heart stops beating. It shifts. It returns to the field that connects us all.

That belief-that experiential knowing-is why I created 111 Vet Clinic and Azur Farm. Yes, we treat illness and save lives. But we also honour the soul of each animal. We care for them in body, mind, and spirit-using everything from Western medicine, acupuncture and herbs to energy balancing and unconditional love.

If you're grieving, please know this: you haven't lost them. Their physical form may be gone, but the bond, the energy, the love-that still surrounds you. Sometimes in dreams. Sometimes in a breeze. Sometimes in the way another animal looks at you.

You're not alone. I've walked this path too. And I'll walk it with you, if you need me.

With love, Dr Fiona Mead. Visionary Veterinarian | Healer | Human 111 Vet Clinic | Azur Farm 09 86 96 111

# The importance of saying farewell



As the country has lived through the grip of the current recession, a key focus for all New Zealanders has been every increasing cost of living. Whether it is petrol and other utility costs, or just the daily

cost of life, everything seems to be more expensive. This has also given rise for some commentary around the cost of funerals, and for some, to even question whether a funeral is even necessary in 2025.

Here at Davis, we firmly believe that a meaningful farewell is an essential step in recognising the end of a loved one's physical life, and to assist that transition to the emotional abyss of life without that person. A funeral helps those close to the deceased to make sense of the grief they are, and will undoubtedly suffer, says Michael Powell General Manager, Davis Funerals.

Whilst there is an inherent cost associated with a funeral or farewell, it is a one time cost, it often accords the wishes of the deceased, but most importantly provides a vital opportunity for family, friends, community connections to give thanks for the life of the the person who has died, to reflect on the impact that the deceased has had on their lives and most importantly to come together, to share stories, comfort and console each

other. At Davis, we have had opportunity to witness the impacts of the inevitable complicated grief state that the absence of a farewell creates from family members who have attended our annual remembrance service we hold every December, says Powell. These people have told us that they have lived with the emotional discomfort of missing out on that final goodbye, and how they had wished they had done something at the time of their loved one's death.

In terms of relative costs, a funeral is considerably cheaper than other life event ceremonies such as weddings and provides a one time only opportunity to honour the life of somebody and say goodbye that final time.

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# Functional approach to eczema & winter skin flares

Sarah Tumulty, your Skin Nutritionist



Eczema, rosacea, and other inflammatory skin conditions are often more than surface-level issues—they're signs of deeper internal imbalances. Chronic inflammation, poor gut health, food intolerances,

and an overactive immune system can all contribute to recurring flare-ups. When the gut lining is weakened, the immune system becomes hyperactive, often targeting the skin. This leads to redness, irritation, dryness, and sensitivity. Winter tends to make these conditions worse, with cold air, indoor heating, and low humidity stripping the skin of vital moisture and leaving it even more vulnerable to inflammation.

At SWAN, I take a functional approach to skin health. Every client begins with a thorough consultation covering their health history, diet, lifestyle, and skin symptoms. I also use tools like skin mapping and hair testing to uncover hidden food sensitivities and nutritional deficiencies that may be triggering or worsening the skin's condition.

Topical support plays a key role in healing the skin barrier, one example is using medical-grade skincare, such as Rescue Epidermal Repair Serum, which contains Trixolane—a stabilised oxygen molecule known to help restore the skin's immunity and reinforce its natural barrier.

I also offer in-clinic treatments such as LED Light Therapy, which is particularly effective for calming inflammation and accelerating healing, especially in sensitive or reactive skin types.

I believe that addressing the root cause of internal imbalances creates lasting balance—not only within the body but visibly through the skin. By working on food triggers, gut healing, immune support, and skin barrier repair, we build a foundation for long-term skin health—regardless of the season. **Book your consultation today - www.swanskinandnutrition.com. Sarah Tumulty - Functional Skincare Practitioner & Nutritionist**

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## TalentMax Recruitment Hiring for good



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is a strong fit, both professionally and culturally.

Olivia, Co-Owner and COO, oversees business strategy, client relationships, and service delivery. She ensures each assignment runs smoothly and that our recruitment solutions meet the needs of NGOS, not-for-profits, and Pacific-led organisations.

Cezanne, Co-Owner and CFO, manages financial operations, risk management, and strategic planning. She ensures the business stays strong, sustainable, and equipped to deliver recruitment solutions that meet client needs.

We're local, responsive and committed to the sector. As one recent client put it: "TalentMax didn't just find us a manager – they helped us clarify what we needed."

If you're hiring—or thinking about it—get in touch: email olivia@talentmax.co.nz or call 021 0829 0062.

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

## Local identity wants her life work preserved

Dawn Kendall turned 90 recently and she has seen many changes in the Huapai area after arriving there in 1990.

Her Station Road property became part of a new housing development near the Country Club Huapai.

Now living at Radius Taupaki Gables rest home, Dawn has done much in her life.

She's lived in and worked throughout Auckland and has travelled widely around the country too, heavily involved in the arts whether photography, sculpting, pottery, poetry, painting (water colours), sketching, etching, gilding, crocheting, modelling, and more.

Dawn taught art at several Auckland schools and recalls her years at Orere College. Her mum was born in Tomarata and her dad at the Dome (Dome Valley).

A fourth generation Kiwi, Dawn says she is descended from an English couple who landed by ship at Pakiri. She married George, an engineer who committed suicide in about 1988 after an economic downturn saw his business fail.

Dawn has done several books featuring her photography, including photos taken at Muriwai. Her interest in photography developed from the age of nine when she found a glass plate her father had. She has also compiled 20 Huapai Journals and is now seeking help from journalists and others to prepare more of her works.

Some of Dawn's work has gone to the Auckland Library and art gallery, and she has many more in storage or that she is readying. A Justice of the Peace, Dawn has a huge amount of her work to pass on and is keen to produce a few more books, including one of her poetry.

She'd rather her works are kept than lost or trashed. If you can help contact Dawn through Radius Taupaki Gables.

## Public notice of application for a club licence.

**Under Section 127(3), Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.**

Full name of the licence holder (e.g. name of the organisation)

Waimauku Bowling Club, 895 State Highway 16, Waimauku 0812, has made an application to the District Licensing Committee at Auckland for the renewal of a club licence in respect of the premises situated at: 895 State Highway 16, Waimauku.

The general nature of the club to be conducted under the licence (type of club e.g. darts club, cricket club, RSA) and its trading name is: Waimauku Bowling Club Inc.

The days on which and the hours during which alcohol is intended to be sold under the licence are (specify days and hours): Monday to Sunday, 8.30am to 11.30pm.

A copy of the application can be requested by emailing alcohollicensing@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Any person who is entitled to object, and wishes to object to the renewal of the licence, may file a notice in writing of their objection. The objection notice must be filed no later than 25 working days after this notice has first been published online.

Any objections must be relation to matters specified in section 131(1) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Address your objection to: The Secretary of the District Licensing Committee.

Mail to: Private Bag 92300, Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142.

## Waimauku rider dominates dressage season



Waimauku-based dressage rider Wendi Williamson has dominated the 2025 equestrian season aboard New Zealand Hanoverian gelding Don Vito MH. She claimed major titles at the Defender Horse of the Year (HOY) in Hastings, the Bates NZ Dressage Championships in Taupo, and the Sydney CDI.

An environmental scientist, Wendi entered 2025 with high expectations after earning the ESNZ Rider of the Year and

the Lowry Medallion in 2024 for top all-round equestrian performance.

Her 2025 campaign began strongly with a sweep of the Grand Prix classes at HOY, defending her Dressage Horse of the Year title. She won the Harrison Lane FEI Grand Prix CDI3\* (71.022%), the Grand Prix Special (72.341%), and the Grand Prix Freestyle (74.780%). These results surpassed her 2024 Freestyle score of 72.96%, signaling new personal bests and edging closer to elite international benchmarks.

At the Bates NZ Dressage Championships, Wendi and Don Vito MH again dominated the Grand Prix division, winning all three CDI3\* tests and renewing their national champion status. While the Big Tour field was small, the pair continued to demonstrate top form. She also won the Elementary title on Furst Klass MH and the Advanced Medium on Danseur MH, showing her range as both rider and trainer.

All three horses are bred by Matthews Hanoverians, reinforcing Wendi's successful partnership with the breeder. She also took home both NZ Hanoverian Society Awards for Don Vito MH and Furst Klass MH.

Wendi concluded her season at the Sydney CDI, repeating her 2024 clean sweep. She won the CDI3\* Grand Prix (67.109%), Grand Prix Special (65.553%), and Grand Prix Freestyle (73.3%), noting improvements in lightness and expression. She self-funded the trip again, joined by ESNZ High Performance Dressage Manager Christine Weal.

Wendi's standout 2025 season has further cemented her status in New Zealand dressage, strengthening her campaign toward future international goals including the World Championships and Olympic qualification.

## Cat lovers we need your help

The NZ Cat Foundation has a sanctuary based in Huapai which houses over 150 cats. We offer safe sanctuary for older, disadvantaged and un-homeable rescue cats where they can live out their lives in safety and comfort. We need regular volunteers to help with routine chores so our cats can enjoy happy, healthy, safe lives. We are looking for volunteers who are mature, have a sense of responsibility, are good team players and dedicated animal lovers. Helping at the sanctuary is a popular way to fulfill community service hours for Duke of Edinburgh, St John's, Scouts, Guides, church, university, animal sciences studies, etc. We are happy to sign off on your hours and provide any needed verification of your service. We rely heavily on volunteers on a daily basis and desperately need more. Financial and food donations are also urgently needed to cover vet and other costs associated with our sanctuary. The NZ Cat Foundation also supports community Trap-Neuter-Return programmes and helps feed and care for many cats living in the community. Please visit our website for more information on volunteering and how to donate at [www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz](http://www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz).

# European River cruises for the Christmas Markets

## ROMANTIC DANUBE FLY & CRUISE PACKAGE

- 10 night package from NZD \$9155per person x 2 twin/double share
- Departing NZ on 05 Nov 2025
- Return Economy Class flights from Auckland (Auckland to Munich, and then from Budapest to Auckland)
- 2 nights pre-cruise in Munich, and 1 night post-cruise in Budapest

- 7 night river cruise, sailing Vilshofen to Budapest, onboard AmaMora

- Includes EXCLUSIVE AMA-Zing savings as listed:

### AMAWATERWAYS CRUISE FARE ALWAYS INCLUDES:

- All meals onboard, with complimentary unlimited wine, beer & soft drinks during lunch & dinner
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- Welcome Cocktail, Welcome Dinner, La Chaine de Rotisseurs exclusive dining experience
- Captains Cocktail and Gala Dinner
- Experienced Cruise Manager, who accompanies you throughout your cruise & land journey
- Wellness Program with dedicated Wellness Host, both on board & on shore
- Complimentary bottled water, with biodegradable Tetra Pak containers for excursions
- Unlimited high-quality complimentary Internet & Wi-Fi on board
- Small guided group excursions with a variety of choices, including immersive special interest tours, and hiking & biking adventures

- Complimentary bicycles, helmets and Nordic walking sticks

- Onboard programs, such as lectures, theme dinners etc.

- Port Charges

- Gratuities

**Cruise only itinerary recommendations below, Christmas markets in Europe:**

Best of Holland & Belgium

- from \$5,755pp twin share

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- SAVE up to \$1,600 per stateroom, US\$100 onboard credit per stateroom, PLUS complimentary stateroom upgrade (on select categories)

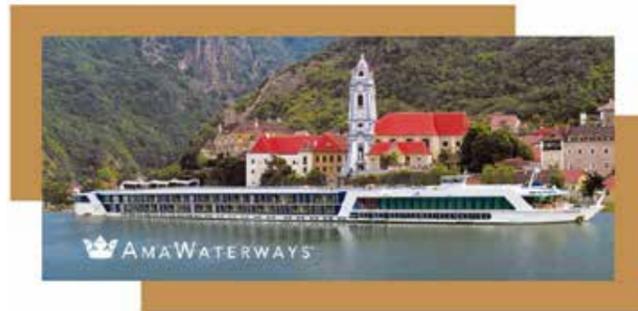
## Magna Christmas on the Danube

- from \$6,109pp twin share
- 7 nights | 20 Dec 2026 | Vilshofen to Budapest | AmaMagna
- SAVE up to \$1,600 per stateroom, US\$100 onboard credit per stateroom, PLUS complimentary stateroom upgrade (on select categories)

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Everything you need to know about property

# Property Hub

## Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson



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Home & Garden



ENQUIRIES / FEEDBACK / ADVERTISING:  
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PRINT RUN: 25,000 copies, Treehouse Print

# Property News

## Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate Unveils Power Tool Department Makeover

Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate has raised the bar with a stunning transformation of its power tool department, setting a new benchmark in retail for both trade professionals and serious DIYers. Already known for its commitment to quality and innovation, the store now boasts the largest trade range in the entire Mitre 10 network—solidifying its status as a true destination for tools and big-name brands.

At the heart of the makeover is a trade-focused extended offer, tailored to meet the evolving demands of professionals who rely on performance and reliability. From premium cordless systems to heavy-duty workshop gear, the range has depth, variety, and relevance.

Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate is the only hardware retailer in the country with this new set up; the custom integrated display enhances both functionality and aesthetics. Carefully curated zones make it easier than ever for customers to compare brands, view products, and access information—delivering a seamless shopping experience from start to finish.

What sets this upgrade apart is how it blends the scale of a big-box retailer with the insight of a specialist tool provider. Whether you're a tradie looking for trusted gear or a weekend warrior upgrading your workshop, the Westgate experience caters to all levels of expertise.

Future-focused and built to evolve, the redesigned department is more than just a facelift. It's a strategic investment in future-proofing the store's offer—anticipating trends, integrating new technology, and accommodating expanding product lines.

Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate's revitalised power tool zone doesn't just sell tools—it empowers its customers with choice, confidence, and convenience. With this bold step forward, the store cements its place as the go-to destination for power tools in New Zealand.



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## Cashback basics: What you need to know



Cashback offers are financial incentives provided by banks to attract new mortgage customers. Essentially, when you take out a new home loan, the bank rewards you with a lump-sum payment.

This payment can be used for various purposes, such as covering moving costs, subsidising your first few mortgage payments, or even offsetting legal fees associated with buying a property.

These offers are particularly appealing because they provide immediate financial relief during what can be an expensive and stressful time. It's important to note that cashback offers are usually conditional, requiring you to stay with the lender for a specified period, often ranging from three to five years.

If you break this term, you may be required to repay the cashback amount, so understanding the terms and conditions is important to making the most of these offers.

### Types of cashback offers

Cashback offers can vary significantly depending on the lender and the specifics of the mortgage. Generally, there are three main types; a Flat Cashback Amount, Percentage Based Cashback, or Tiered Offers.

Working with a Mortgage Adviser will help you to understand the types of offers available and ultimately choose the one that best fits your financial situation and goals.

### Common pitfalls and how to avoid them

While cashback offers can be enticing, there are common pitfalls to watch out for.

Major pitfalls include, focusing solely on the cashback amount and overlooking less favourable loan terms, such as higher interest rates or underestimating the lock-in (claw back) period.

To avoid this, a Mortgage Adviser can help you to compare

the overall cost of the mortgage, including interest and fees - not just the upfront cashback.

### Utilising your cashback smartly

Making the most of your cashback offer means using the funds strategically. One smart approach is to allocate the cashback towards immediate home-related expenses like moving costs, or legal fees. This can ease the financial burden during the transition to your new home.

Alternatively, consider using the cashback to reduce your loan principal. Making a lump sum payment on your mortgage can lower your interest costs over the life of the loan, ultimately saving you more money in the long run. Another option is to create an emergency fund. Having a financial cushion can provide peace of mind and protect you against unexpected expenses.

Finally, you might invest the cashback in home improvements that increase your property's value, enhancing your long-term investment. By using your cashback wisely, you can maximise its benefits and improve your overall financial health.

This is where using the services of a Mortgage Adviser really come in handy. We can guide the way, ensuring you secure the best deal and maximise your cashback benefits. Feel free to reach out to start your journey towards a financially savvy home purchase. Stephen Massey - Loan Market, Call 021 711 444 or check out my website [loanmarket.co.nz/stephen-massey](http://loanmarket.co.nz/stephen-massey)

## Property Management Report

Residential rents are dropping around the country, while the number of rental properties being advertised is the highest it has been in more than 10 years.

According to the latest figures from Trade Me Property, the number of residential properties available to rent on the website in March/ April was up 41% compared to March last year, and at its highest point since early 2014.

At the same time, the national median weekly asking rent for the properties advertised on the website declined by \$5 a week in March from February (-0.8%). It was also \$15 a week lower (-2.3%) than March last year, giving tenants a saving of just under \$800 a year.

Auckland posted a -1.4% annual decline.

"Those seeking residential rental accommodation should feel empowered, there's a wider range of options available and tenants have more negotiating power than they have had in years", Trade Me Property Customer Director Gavin Lloyd said.

"With a rental market that's historically favoured landlords, the changing dynamics and cost saving benefits are sure to be warmly welcomed by renters," he said

North West Auckland has been hit with a continuing oversupply of townhouse stock which is compounding

with a lack of garaging and storage options. Therefore rental prices for this stock have reduced significantly in light of competition.

Come 1 July 2025 new laws come into effect administered through Tenancy Services and Audited by MBIE (Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment) reviewing the compliance of Landlords to Healthy Homes Standards. This is categorised into five core areas:

- Heating
- Insulation
- Ventilation
- Moisture ingress and drainage
- Draught stopping

If you have a rental property/ properties and would like to discuss our approach to mitigating your exposure to the legislation please give me a call directly on 0276 320 421 or email me at [graham@wapm.co.nz](mailto:graham@wapm.co.nz)

The time to audit your rental property/properties is now, and work with us to develop a managed plan to upgrade to meet the standard, failure to do so may cost you significantly based on MBIE's auditing framework.

For a no obligation and free rental assessment of your property don't hesitate to get in contact at

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## Can auction results tell us a story

Most Real Estate agents I talk with at the moment discuss the conservative and unconfident nature of the buyer community that are wanting an excellent house at an excellent price. Buyers are generally in no hurry to buy and have been looking for some time. One buyer I was talking with has been shopping for two years, which asks the question "how can auctions work if buyers are generally disinterested in committing, unless all aspects are in their favour to buy. We took a snapshot of auction activity in the North West in early May.

Waitakere District had 9 auction properties which resulted in no sales result. Rodney District had 15 auction properties which resulted in 3 sales resulting (with 1 making RV). Therefore, you have to ask the question, have we entered a new phase in the buyer cycle which follows FOMO (Fear of missing out) called FOC (Fear of commitment).

We are seeing people at open homes, many though are trying to understand the market, getting a sense of value and building a buying profile. This clearly is not possible with the auction process, with buyers wanting to buy on their terms and timeframe.

The next OCR (official cash rate) change is scheduled for 28th May 2025 with many predicting another reduction likely, albeit, measured given the global turmoil over tariffs and warring factions.

Banks are holding the 12-24 month fixed mortgage interest rates at 4.99% with a further reduction due post 28th May 2025.

We stay positive that the prices being paid for North West Real Estate today is at its lowest ebb and the lower interest rates will continue to firm up buyer activity and engagement, albeit slowly.

Call me, Graham McIntyre AREINZ directly 0800 900 700, via text at 027 632 0421, or email at graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz.

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## Refinancing your mortgage



Dulcie Barnes, Principal at ClearStone Legal

If you are looking at moving your mortgage to another bank, we can help you with the legal side of things. Refinancing your residential lending from one bank to another requires a solicitor to be engaged who can discharge the current mortgage on your title and register the new one.

You might consider refinancing your borrowings to a new lender so you can obtain better interest rates or loan terms.

Often a new lender will try to attract new business by offering a cash incentive, which could be in the range of 0.8 - 1.0% of the amount of your borrowings, depending on how keen the bank is to win your business. So if you are borrowing \$500,000 from the bank then they might give you up to \$5,000 as a cash incentive to bring your business to them.

However, free money comes with a catch. If you repay the loan within a certain time, you might need to repay the cash incentive. The Bank will ask you to sign a cash contribution deed, and while each bank is a little bit different, by and large most lenders require you to repay a portion of the cash incentive if you repay your lending within three years from the date you borrowed the money. This might happen if you sell the property, or refinance with a new lender.

If you need our help to refinance your property to a new lender, please reach out as we are offering a discount for new clients during the month of June for refinancing.

Give us a call at ClearStone Legal on 09 973 5102 or make a time to come and see us at either our Kumeu or Te Atatu office.

**Call now to discuss your legal needs**

**Kumeu Office**  
1A Tapu Road, Kumeu

**Te Atatu Office**  
1/547 Te Atatu Road  
Te Atatu Peninsula

p: 09 973 5102  
w: cslegal.co.nz

## Trustee Troubles



Sometimes trustees of a trust could find themselves in a difficult position where

practical necessity requires that they act in a way that may conflict with their trustee

duties under the Trusts Act 2019. This could happen where, for example:

a house must be sold but a weak property market means that the trustees are

unlikely to get the best possible price for that house; or a trustee who is also a beneficiary wishes to be paid out their share of the Trust property, but it is unclear whether doing so could be unfair to other beneficiaries.

The difficulty for trustees is that their decisions could be challenged by beneficiaries

and potentially they could be held personally liable if found that they breached their

obligations as trustees. In these situations, trustees can apply to the Court for

permission to act in a particular way. By doing so, they will avoid any personal liability.

If you need help navigating a difficult trust situation, or if you need other legal advice, feel free to contact

Kemp Barristers & Solicitors on 09 412 6000, or send us an email at info@kempsolicitors.co.nz.

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**Graham McIntyre**  
Licensed Agent  
Kumeu | Hobsonville

027 632 0421  
graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz

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# Area Property Stats

PROPERTY-HUB.NZ

25

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

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA m2	LAND AREA m2	SALE PRICE
<b>Helensville</b>						
	Rautawhiri Road	\$800000	3		0	\$725000
	Taupata Lane	\$840000	3		483	\$750000
	Gow Street	\$890000	3	115	1012	\$890000
<b>Hobsonville</b>						
	Turret Lane	\$1550000	5		328	1425000
	Memorial Park Lane	\$945000	3	146	98	\$915000
	Hiki Street	\$975000	3		128	\$852000
	Nugget Avenue	\$1000000	3		142	\$885000
	Pukeko Road	\$1775000	5	288	379	\$1760000
	Wiseley Road	\$1715000	3		809	\$1448000
	Hobsonville Pt Rd	\$1015000	3		112	\$835000
	Hudson Bay Rd	\$1225000	3		168	\$1050000
	Kearns Drive	\$1010000	2	94	168	\$875000
	Marlborough Cres	\$840000	2	80	0	\$1215000
	Clark Road	\$750000	1	58	155	\$638000
	Jack Seabrook Rd	\$1995000	4	254	700	\$1890000
	Bristol Freighter Rd	\$1375000	5	204	716	\$1322500
<b>Huapai</b>						
	Rheingold Place	\$840000	3	94	772	\$880500
	Tapu Road	\$1525000	3	206	700	\$1540500
	Raymond Grace Ave	\$1475000	4	214	716	\$1390000
	Main Road	\$1125000	3	110	809	\$1035000
<b>Kumeu</b>						
	Tarras Road	\$1225000	4	181	407	\$1171000
	Jeroboam Loop	\$1300000	4	160	525	\$1135000
	Fruitlands Road	\$1525000	5	226	646	\$1485000
	Eric Farley Drive	\$1475000	4		712	\$1425000
	Walter Ruddock Ave	\$1485000	6	286	779	\$1510000
	Aporo Drive	\$1375000	4		602	\$1265000
	Farrand Road	\$1625000	3	278	4596	\$1800000
	Gilbransen Road	\$1350000	4		717	\$1330000
<b>Massey</b>						
	Helena Street	\$1125000	3	90	675	\$825000
	Don Buck Road	\$1375000	4	254	353	\$1040000
	Carling Avenue	\$1175000	4	218	600	\$1200000
	Morus Road	\$1025000	4		244	\$860000
	Puwaha Street	\$940000	3	112	225	\$850000
	Paretao Street	\$880000	3	97	187	\$845000
	Glenfinn Place	\$1025000	4		497	\$920000
	Katrina Place	\$1225000	3		618	\$830000
	Paretao Street	\$880000	3	92	185	\$830000
	Pipitea Place	\$840000	3	111	89	\$710000
	Zingaro Place	\$975000	3	170	979	\$846000
	Landsdale Place	\$1070000	3		725	\$750000
	Katrina Place	\$930000	3	80	383	\$877500
	Ebony Place	\$1175000	3	130	611	\$906000
	Woodside Road	\$830000	3	97	563	\$860000
	Allington Road	\$1100000	4	220	944	\$823800
	Colwill Road	\$1150000	4		423	\$971000
	Zita Maria Drive	\$1130000	3	152	677	\$870000
	Hewlett Road	\$1075000	4	149	198	\$985000
	Colwill Road	\$810000	3	80	0	\$670000
<b>Riverhead</b>						
	Applemoors Way	\$1555000	4		800	\$1320000
	Pohutukawa Parade	\$1700000	4	245	801	\$1720000
	Kaipara Portage Rd	\$1030000	3	91	606	\$976000
<b>Waitakere Township</b>						
	Steed Road	\$1775000	4		50100	\$1375000
	Wairere Road	\$1000000	3	140	1753	\$985000

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA m2	LAND AREA m2	SALE PRICE
<b>West Harbour</b>						
	Suncrest Drive	\$1285000	4	180	582	\$1350000
	Hueglow Rise	\$1375000	3	100	905	\$700000
	West Harbour Drive	\$960000	2	60	238	\$725000
	West Harbour Drive	\$1200000	3	120	632	\$1055000
<b>Westgate</b>						
	Tarapuka Road	\$920000	2	77	167	\$775000
	Kapia Road	\$975000	3	114	150	\$860000
	Manarini Road	\$780000	2		100	\$685000
	Matakohe Road	\$865000	2	73	153	\$780000
	Westgate Drive	\$1625000	4	232	323	\$1240000
	Herekino Street	\$985000	3	98	188	\$810000
	Arlose Place	\$1125000	4	150	453	\$1102000

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.

Raine & Horne's commission rate:

**2.95%** upto \$590,000

(Not 4% that others may charge)

**1.95%** on the balance

Plus \$490 admin fee.

All fees and commissions + GST

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

**Raine & Horne**

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Graham McIntyre  
Brand & Territory Owner  
027 632 0421





## Family, fenced and fabulous - Royal Heights

33 Ruze Vida Drive Massey

A short drive from Moire Park and West Harbour School, welcome to family living at its best within a cul-de-sac community. Offering premium brick and tile construction, with ample indoor-outdoor flow through to covered

decking and fully fenced yard. Delivering safe space for all the children and pets.

Large double garage and side parking for trailer or boat, the storage in garage and on hard stand is impressive.

Open plan, entertainers kitchen, dining and living with a multi-room that can be bedroom/guest room/ media room, your choice.

Down the central corridor is four bedrooms, bathroom, storage, with the master offering walk in and ensuite. The floor plan is enclosed, highlighting the separation in living and sleeping areas and the short distance from

garage to pantry. This is a well thought out, single level easy home to enjoy. No compromises, and no disappointments.

Don't miss-out on this home that ticks all your boxes, and with a motivated Vendor will likely move through to a sold sign quickly.

**Graham McIntyre, Raine & Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville**  
email [graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz](mailto:graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz)

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4 2 3 279.3m<sup>2</sup>



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\*Price is an indication of the build cost only and excludes land and site specific costs. Images are artist's impression only. Some conditions may apply.

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G.J. Gardner. **HOMES**



33 White Heron Drive, Royal Heights

3 Bed 1 Bath 2 Car

## North facing suntrap, in Royal Heights

So much to love about this home, fresh to market, and in a world of its own, because it is absolutely adorable, offering:

- Brick and tile, • One level home • French cottage windows • Excellent security
- Fully fenced • Internal access single garage • In a quiet street and short walk to Moire Park and walkway • Approx 400sqm section size

A fabulous Northerly aspect, the layout is ideal for an owner that wants easy flow with decking to the east and north, an internal access garage with door remote and fully fenced for pets and children.

As a first home or investment property it ticks so many boxes, a full rental appraisal is available and a tenant prospect list is already available.

**Guide**  
\$925,000



**Graham McIntyre**  
027 632 0421



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421 Kiwitahi Road, Helensville

## 3.9 acres, Views, Offers over \$700,000

Come discover the canvas for your new home at 421 Kiwitahi Road, Helensville. This stunning 1.5-hectare section offers an incredible opportunity to create a tranquil retreat in a picturesque setting, with views North to Kaipara Harbour.

- North facing land
- Quiet environment
- Amazing views
- Title issued
- Deceased estate

1.5 hectares at your disposal, you'll have ample space for a luxurious home, expansive gardens, or even a small hobby farm. The possibilities are endless.

Situated just a short drive from Waimauku and Helensville, you'll have easy access to local amenities, schools, and recreational activities, all while enjoying rural living.

**Guide**  
\$700,000



**Graham McIntyre**  
027 632 0421



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14 Peters Lane, Taupaki

6 Bed 3 Bath 10 Car

## Elevated Family Estate in Taupaki

Perched atop almost 1 hectare of prime North facing land, with views through to Kumeu in the picturesque countryside village of Taupaki, this property offers the perfect blend of large shedding, large home and studio/ accommodation. With a generous building area of 490 sqm, this stunning property is designed for home, extended family, business, hobby, guests, and pets.

Featuring:

- 6 spacious bedrooms • 3 bathrooms • Large basement/ hobby area • Seamless indoor-outdoor flow • Large studio/accommodation • 10-car garaging (yes 10 car garaging)
- Cattle loading ramp • Two paddocks • Almost 1 hectare of land (over 2 acres)

So much on offer here and yet so many choices as to how you use the land, the house, the studio/office/ accommodation, and where you park the cars and toys.

Located in the well sought-after Taupaki area, this home offers a peaceful lifestyle while still being conveniently close to local amenities, Taupaki School and Harry James Reserve. Enjoy the best of rural life and yet close to the NorthWest Mall, Westgate, Kumeu and Henderson.

Guide  
Negotiation



Graham McIntyre  
027 632 0421



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96 Pomona Road, Kumeu

4 Bed 1 Bath 4 Car

## Beautiful, North Facing, Kumeu Lifestyle living

We are viewing most properties on a daily basis and are excited to get you through this home. Text me a time/day that suits you to view on 027 632 0421.

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Negotiation

A short drive to Kumeu and Westgate - one of the best lifestyle addresses in Kumeu.

Cultivate your future in this North-facing opportunity—a sprawling 4-hectare canvas of colour and established plantings that promises a life of endless possibilities. Immerse yourself in the natural kaleidoscope that surrounds a charming four-bedroom traditional bungalow, basking in the warm embrace of full sunshine and showcasing extensive rural views of the valley below. Level to gently sloping, sunny and sheltered, the land offers many opportunities to develop or leave it as is to enjoy your rural idyll. Some potential income streams that only require your effort to exploit. Add to this your very own nature reserve, garaging for 3-4 vehicles and your imagination will take flight.



Graham McIntyre  
027 632 0421



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357 Royal Road, Royal Heights

4 Bed 2 Bath 2 Car

## A Royal Vista - Inner harbour sanctuary

Set in an inner harbour cul-de-sac, elevated and yet meters from the tidal beauty and access to the inner harbour looking North to Hobsonville and Te Atatu Peninsula is this meticulously appointed home on 604 square meters of landscaped lawn, decking and sensible easy-care plantings. Offering incredible views and the best of privacy in a tranquil haven - this really is the complete package. The home is modern, dynamic, and seamlessly flows between well designed spaces bringing the view of the inner harbour and the park into frame, giving you a direct link to the beauty of nature and the relationship between water and land sanctuaries. Access to launch your kayak or tinny is meters away and for the active, the beautiful Moire Park complete with sports clubs and bush walks is a short stroll away. Architecturally designed with private sanctuaries as well as superb family spaces, this is a home that is clever in catering for adults and children of all ages, with multiple living areas and unbeatable indoor-outdoor flow. With easy access from kitchen to pantry and walled vegetable garden along with the wide opening glass doors out onto the large and private hardwood deck, this home will delight all culinary enthusiasts and entertainers alike.

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18 Peters Lane, Taupaki

## Sun kissed, north facing house and land package

A large north facing canvas, with natural water course and established plantings with options to select the best house and land package for you, including home and income options. Elevated rolling land with views to Kumeu and beyond, the houses selected are designed to make the most of the aspect and the outlook. This land is historical and original clay base which has no historical slip effects nor movement lines. In addition much of the area is slowly moving to countryside living which allows for great intensification within this residential lifestyle community. Please survey the house and land package options outlined and book a walk-the-land meeting with leading Taupaki agent and local resident Graham McIntyre.

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Renders and pricing for House and Land Packages provided by:  
GJ Gardner indicative value \$3,479,000 approx. enquire for further information  
Golden Homes indicative value \$3,798,000 approx. enquire for further information  
Signature Homes indicative value \$3,326,500 approx. enquire for further information



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199 Nixon Road, Taupaki

5 Bed 2 Bath 4 Car

## Home, shed, office, sleep out, paddock.

A home where memories are made and fill the void of mediocrity, a home for the whole family through the years of fun, discovery and leisure. Elevated countryside living, with sleepout, barns, sheds, offices, studios and more within this leafy paradise. A nod to the past with this well presented, modernised lockwood home with accents of white to set off the blonde timber. A large five bedroom, three bathroom home, with additional space for offices/ study/ sleepout/ games room. Central open plan living and dining opening to decking and pool area. All the rooms and bathrooms are off the central corridor with easy access to boardwalk decking. Centrally located on the land the house is in an elevated position, the barns and sheds share the driveway providing easy access and storage for a toys and tools, friends and family. Set in a park-like glade, full of established trees and easy care flat lawn with a paddock for play, a tree for a treehouse and room to explore, to craft and create. Life is too short for concrete and tarmac, discover a life with nature's best, so private and tranquil but so close to amenities, schools and convenience stores when you want them.

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26 Squadron Drive, Hobsonville

2 Bed 2 Bath 1 Car

## Exceptional 2 bed, 2 loo, 1 garage

A contemporary, sun filled and private 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom home over 2 levels offering an impressive list of extras, situated off a quiet lane way minutes away from Hobsonville shopping precinct.  
A two level end duplex built by Universal homes, this is a lock up and leave that has been invested in with smart air circulation, drapes and finishing's.

Guide  
Negotiation

Downstairs enjoys an open plan alfresco living environment with patio and grassed area.

Upstairs are two bedrooms (generous size), bathroom and ensuite.  
Come view Mary's Gallery a mix of beautiful artwork and collectables within an easy living environment with garage and parking outside off the private laneway access. So close to Schools, Parks, Shopping and Transport links. Motivated Vendor has another opportunity they wish to pursue and welcome your interest today.



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58 Turret Lane, Hobsonville

2 Bed 1 Bath

## Newly born - Scott Point Harmony

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

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

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

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

Motivate Vendors graduating North.

We are viewing many listings on a daily basis and are happy to meet you on site, call me to suggest a time that suits you on 027 632 0421

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# Home & Garden

## Tree inspections: What to check before winter

As autumn fades and winter approaches, now is the ideal time for homeowners to inspect their trees. High winds, rain, and frost can turn a seemingly healthy tree into a serious hazard if structural issues go unnoticed.

Here's what to look for when checking your trees before winter sets in:

### 1. Dead or hanging branches

These are a common hazard and can easily snap under wind or rain load. Look for branches without leaves, brittle twigs, or signs of rot.

### 2. Cracks and cavities in the trunk

Inspect the main stem for vertical cracks, deep splits, or hollow areas. These weaknesses can lead to sudden



failure in extreme weather.

### 3. Leaning trees

If your tree has recently started leaning or the soil around the base is lifting, roots may be failing. This makes the tree more likely to fall in storms.

### 4. Fungal growth

Mushrooms or conks on the trunk or near the roots are signs of decay. Even if the tree looks healthy above, internal rot could compromise its stability.

### 5. Root issues

Damaged or exposed roots, compacted soil, or signs of heaving around the base can indicate root plate instability.

### 6. Canopy dieback

Thinning leaves or dead sections in the upper crown may signal declining health.

If you spot any of these warning signs, don't wait until winter hits—contact a qualified, insured arborist for a professional tree inspection. Look for businesses that are experienced, well-reviewed, and ideally registered with the Arboricultural Association.

A pre-winter inspection is a small step that can prevent costly damage and keep your home and family safe during the harshest months of the year.

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## Focus on painting



Thinking of refreshing your home's interior? Winter might be the perfect time.

As Auckland heads into a rainy and humid winter, many people assume it's not the right season for painting. But here's the upside: interior painting isn't affected by the weather, making winter an ideal time to get those indoor projects done.

In fact, winter tends to be a quieter season for painting companies – including ours. That means we have more flexibility to work around your schedule, meet your deadlines, and deliver high-quality results with attention to detail.

Whether you're heading away on holiday or staying at home, we can complete the work with minimal disruption – and at a competitive price.

### Here's what we offer:

Small job to full interior painting services

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A 3-bedroom house typically takes 4-5 days

We use premium Resene and Dulux paints

If you're considering interior painting, now's a great time to act. Get in touch for a free quote and friendly, expert advice. With years of experience in home repainting, we'll make sure the job is done right – from start to flawless finish.

You can see their work and read reviews from happy customers at [facebook.com/focusonpainting](https://facebook.com/focusonpainting).

Free quotes are available. To get started, call or text Brad on 021 756 890 or email [focusonpainting@gmail.com](mailto:focusonpainting@gmail.com).

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## Fully Wired Electrical



Hi and welcome to Fully Wired Electrical Ltd.

My name is Core. I am a registered electrician dedicated to providing honest services at competitive rates, with a commitment to excellence. I've been a local my whole life, and I love the community and the strong family vibe that comes with it. When I'm not on the tools, I'm spending time with my partner and 6 year old son. We are often out fishing, playing sports, or at speedway.

Fully Wired Electrical specialises in a wide range of services including electrical installations, heat pumps, earthworks, lighting and power solutions, data, security, and automation. Proudly serving Auckland, North Shore, Rodney, and Waitakere.

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We use our knowledge and expertise to help clients with air excavation, stormwater issues, cleaning grease traps and converters, cleaning and maintaining wastewater, septic systems and sewer tanks, CCTV services, hydro flushing and drainage, vacuuming, spill cleanup, and hydro excavation.

Our clients include government organisations, leading construction companies and property developers as well as homeowners and hospitality owners.

We'd love to work with you next



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# Drain Ninjas



Effective stormwater management is essential to preserve our environment and safeguard our properties. Amidst the various tools and strategies, the cesspit, also known as a catchpit, is crucial in preventing blockages, water contamination, and potential disasters.

### The significance of cesspits

Cesspits stand guard in the face of nature's challenges, strategically positioned upstream of our drainage systems. They act as gatekeepers from contaminants before infiltrating our stormwater pipes.

Picture a scenario where leaves, litter, and sediment from our gardens and streets are left unchecked,

flowing unabated into our stormwater systems. The consequences could be devastating: blockages, flooding, water backup, and property damage. Cesspits are the lookout for managing surface water effectively in such settings as gardens, driveways, and roadways.

### How to keep cesspits at their best

Cesspits come in various materials, with the sump typically composed of concrete or polyethylene plastic. The top grate of a cesspit is often constructed from robust iron, engineered to endure the elements and stand its ground.

Maintenance is the cornerstone of stormwater management. Neglecting this aspect can lead to blockages, compromised drainage, and the looming spectre of flooding. It is highly advisable to schedule regular vacuuming and hydro-flushing to avert such scenarios.

admin@drainninjas.co.nz

# Whenuapai Floral & Garden Circle May 2025



Once the usual business of welfare, birthdays, trips were dealt with, Dawn welcomed our Guest Speaker who is now a Dame, Julie Chapman. In 2005, she discovered that many children were missing school due to a lack of basic necessities which most families take for granted. Rather than shrug her shoulders and ignore this, she did something about it and Kidscan was born. Essential supplies of shoes, jackets and even food have since been given to more than 900 schools and 500 early learning centres.

This is an ongoing service and Julie went on to establish Pet Rescue once it became apparent to her that many people, mostly women, delay leaving intolerable situations for fear of what may happen to their pets should they leave them behind. Pet Rescue provides temporary shelter for three to four months until their owners get resettled. Many people are involved in supporting each of these enterprising activities.

Flowers were judged, produce admired, raffles drawn and the meeting concluded with refreshments served and s

social time. Should you like to know more about our Club, and/or 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 for a raffle ticket.

Until next time, Happy Gardening from Mary Anne Clark

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At MTP we take the time to get to know you (if we don't already) we want to understand your lifestyle, your family situation and why you want to upgrade and what are the most important aspects of your new kitchen and bathroom to you. We then use of many years of design, project management and installation knowledge to create your dream space ticking of as much of your Wishlist as possible for you.

For MTP the finished product is as important to you and your family as it is to us. It needs to be a high-quality space that has surpassed your criteria for the investment you've made that stands the test of time for as long as you live in your home and beyond to future generations to enjoy.

For me personally it is seeing the dreams and the expectations of my client's become reality that's what makes our company special.

Contact me - Dan at MTP on 0272552381 for a free in-home consultation on your next project.

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## Young Learners

### Children and the outdoors

“Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit” - Edward Abbey

Children and the outdoors go hand in hand. The space, the fresh air, the ability to run as far as they can or the jump in the puddle until your gumboots are full, are all so fun and important for our children to experience. Not only that but, the space to test their bodies, challenge themselves, climb up that tree in the backyard, ride their bike up the hill or make it all the way across on the monkey bars at the park. To have a child grow naturally, they should be exploring in nature. We have had wonderful success with their activities in our outdoor environment.

#### Learning to ride a bicycle

You often hear the saying, “like riding a bike”, however no one talks about how much of our body and mind actually goes into riding, especially when you are learning how to do it. Though, it is something that you will learn and never forget, because of how many links in your brain you make. When researching I found that to ride a bike you are using seven different parts of your brain, as well as the physical components such as balancing the bike, pedaling and turning the handlebars. So all in all a very brain stimulating way to exercise! Luckily we have so many op-shops in our area that always have children’s bikes ready to be taken home, so there are opportunities for every family to take their bikes to the park.

#### Tight-rope walking

There is nothing quite like the endless possibilities of rope, especially when you have the space to tie it between two trees/poles and watch as your children learn the joy of

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balancing. Holding their hand as they place one foot in front of the other is something every child and parent remembers. Simply adding a top rope for them to hold onto gives them the opportunity to explore independently. This is a very low level of risky play as you can decide the height in which the rope is placed. It allows them to really experiment with their bodies' limits and then push those limits, with us ready to encourage them to get back up again when they fall.



**Learning cricket**

All children experience the joys of playing team sports, but with cricket, it can be played anywhere with just a bit of space. Whether it is a backyard, the local park or the beach at low tide, cricket is a sport that adapts to its environment. When we taught the children at Gumboots we found immediately the encouragement they shared for one another, celebrating when their friends hit the ball with the bat and the enjoyment as they raced after the ball or fixed the wickets. The team element of cricket alongside the physical skills creates a fun and exciting environment for the children to play in.



These are just some of the many physical challenges in

the outdoor space at Gumboots that we have found our children adore. We believe "mā te ora ka ako" through living we learn, and we learn so much in our outside environment alongside our tree climbing, skip rope jumping, teachers.

**Tamariki me Rangatahi**

**Children and Teen events at Te Manawa in June**



Our preschool and our regular after-school programmes have restarted for our tamariki and whānau. These run up to Saturday 28 June 2025, the start of the Term 2 school holidays. Stay tuned

for updates on our Matariki events and programmes, including school holiday activities.

Calling all rangatahi! Come to Te Manawa to check out OOTS in our rangatahi | young adult space. We will have a special display to support The Out on the Shelves awareness campaign, held annually in June for rainbow young people.

Further details, including dates and times of all events, will be available on Te Manawa's social media and in our What's On brochure for June.

Auckland Libraries

at Te Manawa, 11 Kohuhu Lane, Westgate 0814.

Facebook: TeManawaAC

Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/temanawa>

**Snow in the Park**



Get your gloves and woolly hats at the ready, as Snow in the Park, one of the most popular events in the Henderson-Massey Local Board event calendar will be back at Royal Reserve on Saturday 14 June between 1pm and 5pm.

This free event will be at Royal Reserve, Carnelian Court / Beauchamp Drive, Massey. This is a great free community event for the whole family.

There will be a snow slide, snow play area, tube run, face painting, hunger ball, goats, a picnic area, community stalls and delicious food trucks. Snow will be provided by Snowplanet, and there will be prizes and competitions, as well as food and coffee stalls.





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**Give a little, help a lot - 'Can by can, together we can make a difference'**

Give a little, help a lot - 'Can by can, together we can make a difference'



**Allen Court Kiddywinkles Owner and Campaign Organiser**

At Kiddywinkles, we're all about people. Yes, we're an early learning centre, but more than that, we're a part of this community. And when someone's doing it tough, we believe it's our job to step in and help where we can.

That's why we've launched our Give a Little, Help a Lot food drive to support the incredible team at The Salvation Army's Westgate Food Bank.

From 19 May to 19 June, we're asking our Kiddywinkles families and the wider community to drop off canned food to our Huapai or Westgate centres. Whether it's one can or a whole box, every single item will go to a local family that needs it.

This isn't just about filling a pantry - it's about showing up for people when life throws them a curveball. Job loss, illness, sudden bills... sometimes good people just need a bit of help to get through a tough patch. The Food Bank offers more than food, they give people support and a way forward.

We've been lucky to have some amazing Kiwis like Toni Street, Simon Barnett, and Joseph Parker help spread the word. They've lent their voices to this because they care,

**Give a Little, Help a Lot.**

*'Can by can, we can make a difference'*  
Allen Court Kiddywinkles' Owner

**Dates:** 19 May - 19 June M-Fr 8am - 5pm

**Collection Points:** Kiddywinkles Huapai: 53 Station Road  
Kiddywinkles Westgate: 19 Fernhill Drive, Massey




just like we do.

So, if you can spare a can (or a few), pop it into the big collection barrel next time you visit. Let's show what this community is made of.

Can by can, together we can make a difference.

**Kiddywinkles Huapai: 53 Station Road (opposite Huapai District School)**

**Kiddywinkles Westgate: 19 Fernhill Drive**

**Why Experts Recommend Limiting Screen Time for Preschoolers**

While screens are everywhere, experts warn that too much tech use in early childhood can hinder healthy development. Here's why it matters:

1. Brain and Language Development

Preschool years are critical for brain growth. Children who spend more than 1 hour of screen time daily show lower scores in language and thinking skills (NIH, 2019).

2. Social Skills

Face-to-face interaction teaches empathy and communication. Excessive screen use reduces these opportunities, limiting development of social and emotional skills.

3. Physical Health

Children under 5 should have at least 3 hours of physical activity daily (WHO), yet screen time often displaces movement. It also disrupts sleep due to blue light exposure.

4. Attention and Behavior

High screen exposure is linked to shorter attention spans and increased impulsivity. One study found preschoolers with more than 2 hours of screen time per day were 5 times more likely to exhibit behavioral problems (JAMA Pediatrics, 2019).

5. Risky Content

Even apps labeled "kid-friendly" can expose children to ads, violence, or addictive design. Without supervision, kids are at risk of seeing inappropriate content.

6. Creative Play Decline

Pretend play builds imagination and problem-solving skills. Screen use often replaces this vital, open-ended activity.

Bottom Line- Moderate, supervised tech use is okay- but young children thrive most through real-world play, movement, and human interaction.



# Aged care

## Craigweil House undergoes an exciting makeover

There's a buzz in the air at Craigweil House, and it's not just the sound of tools and paintbrushes—it's the excitement of transformation. The much-loved rest home is currently undergoing a series of renovations designed to brighten up the space and enhance comfort for residents and visitors alike.

From updated décor to improved communal areas, Craigweil is embracing change in all the right ways. The goal? To create a home that not only looks fantastic but also feels uplifting, functional, and inviting.

"We're seeing changes every week, and it's really exciting," says long-time resident Joanne. "It's like watching our home come to life in a new way."

This is just the beginning. Even more changes are on the horizon, so keep your eyes peeled—Craigweil House is evolving, and you won't want to miss what's next.

If you or a loved one are looking for a welcoming, supportive place to call home, now is the perfect time to visit Craigweil House. Come and see the difference for yourself—we'd love to show you around. PH 09 420 8277



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## Aged Care

### Kumeu Village:

#### Winter warmth, familiar faces, and a home full of heart

With winter beginning to settle in and the air turning crisp, June brings with it a chance to slow down, savour the cosy moments, and celebrate the beauty of community. At Kumeu Village Aged Care, we're embracing the season the best way we know how – with warmth, love, and a few festive surprises just around the corner (yes, we're already dropping hints about our mid-winter Christmas celebrations).

If you've driven through Kumeu lately and noticed the new, oversized sign at the corner of State Highway 16 and Old Railway Road, that's us. Tucked in just 50 metres down Old Railway Road, behind the hedges, you'll find our peaceful, purpose-built home – full of life, laughter, and the kind of care you'd want for your own family.

Here at Kumeu Village, we offer rest home, hospital, dementia, and respite care, all delivered with heartfelt compassion under our "Resident First" philosophy. That means every person matters – and we tailor everything we do around what makes our residents feel seen, safe, and loved.

There's something truly special about the atmosphere here. From the smell of baking on a rainy afternoon to spontaneous music in the lounge, or a friendly wave from our team as you walk in – you can feel the difference the moment you arrive.

We'd love to invite you in to see for yourself. Whether you're considering care for a loved one, or simply curious about the home behind the sign – come by for a cuppa, meet our team, and feel the spirit of Kumeu Village firsthand.

With aroha and a touch of winter magic,  
The Kumeu Village Family  
507 State Highway 16, Kumeu – entry 50m along Old Railway Road. 09 412 9112 | kumeuvillage.co.nz

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# Health & Beauty

## Ask Dr. Heather



I've been wanting to have filler in my lips, but am feeling unsure. How do you make sure they look good? Anon, West Harbour

Luscious lips are something many of us desire, and multiple things should be

considered to ensure they look and feel good. It is natural to feel nervous, as there are a lot of overdone lips out there that are enough to scare even the bravest of souls (Married at First Sight anyone?).

As injectors we firstly have to take into account overall facial proportions and surrounding tissues. Lips should never look stuck on, so there must be adequate support from tissues around the mouth in order to achieve a natural result.

Correct filler choice (softer rather than firmer), injected at the correct depth (close to the skin surface) in the correct amount (not too much) and correct location (only in the pink area, also known as the "pink lip"), will ensure it looks natural.

Specific areas of deficiency, width of your nose and eyes, in conjunction with your own natural lip shape, ethnicity and lip projection will also help yield a lovely result where you look subtly enhanced, but still yourself.

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Very few of us look good with large lips and none of us looks good with sausages. Harmony is key, so always see an injector who will respect this, so you look and feel like the best, most luscious version of you.

Dr. Heather Anderson is a Cosmetic Medicine and Emergency/Urgent Care Doctor who practises in her own clinic at ALLOR Cosmetic Medicine in Whenuapai. If you have a question for Dr. Heather you would like answered anonymously, please email askdrheather@allor.co.nz

## How alignment affects your health and movement



Posture is one of the first things people notice, and it affects far more than just your spine. Good posture is linked to better breathing, reduced muscle tension, improved joint function, and increased confidence. Many people believe ideal posture means standing stiffly with shoulders pulled back, but this is unnatural and hard to

maintain. True ideal posture allows the spine to rest in its strongest, most comfortable alignment, forming a gentle 'S' shape when viewed from the side.

There are several common variations from this ideal. These include an exaggerated curve of the upper back, an excessive inward curve of the lower back, a loss of natural spinal curves, and a posture where the pelvis shifts forward and the upper body leans back. Each of these patterns can create muscle imbalances and joint stiffness, leading to discomfort or injury. A physiotherapist can assess your posture, identify contributing factors, and guide you through exercises to improve spinal strength and mobility.

Movement is just as important as posture. Staying in one position too long, whether sitting or standing can cause muscle fatigue and joint stiffness. The spine is designed to move, and regular motion is key to keeping it healthy. Stretching and shifting positions throughout the day helps reduce tension and improve circulation.

# Health & Beauty

Posture also affects your ability to breathe. When the upper spine is rounded for extended periods, the rib cage becomes restricted and can't expand fully. This limits lung capacity, reduces energy levels, and may contribute to neck or lower back pain.

Your physiotherapist can provide tailored strategies to improve your posture, restoring balance, flexibility, and strength. Helping you move, breathe, and feel better each day.

We have two branches, feel free to get in touch:

Riverhead - physio@riverheadphysio.co.nz

Hobsonville - physio@hobsonvillephysio.co.nz

## Grace Munro Medispa

### Advanced skincare in the heart of the village

Nestled on Churchouse Road, in the heart of Greenhithe village, sits the most idyllic cottage which is home to the Beautiful Grace Munro Medispa. A private, discreet sanctuary right on your doorstep where you can be pampered and relax whilst benefiting from professional advanced skincare treatments that are non-surgical but results focused.

Debbie's 30 plus years' experience in the beauty industry will deliver the best facial treatments in the business by using the latest technology and working with the premium and loved brand Medik8®.

"Making a difference to a woman's appearance is a powerful motivator for me. Over the years I have specialised in several techniques to aid drainage and cell production, and I'm really thrilled with the outcomes. I can see the skin's immediate response, confirmed by great feedback from clients" says Debbie.



"Your Medispa experience aims to deliver results, but we want you to feel pampered and relaxed. We know how precious time for ourselves is, so for us it really is beauty for skin and Soul".

Grace Munro offers a range of treatments, from Medik8® peels and facials, to microneedling, nano fusions and curated skincare packages. "Being one of the few Medik8® stockists in the area gives

my clients access to this professional grade skincare range and allows the skincare journey to continue at home", says Debbie.

The '10 week wonder package' continues to be a huge client favourite and includes 3 micro needling sessions, 2 Medik8® peels, 1 nano fusion treatment, and a Medik8® post care kit all for just \$599. The package is valued at over \$800 and is designed to transform skin without injectables or fillers.

Complimentary treatment on your first booking mentioning this publication. Choose from a lash tint, brow tint or brow shape. We look forward to welcoming you to Grace Munro Medispa.

www.gracemunro.co.nz

debbie@gracemunro.co.nz

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## Redness, rosacea and reactive skin: What can help?



**By Dr. Cherie Wyatt-Hutana, GP and Cosmetic Doctor at Restore Cosmed.**

If you're someone who flushes easily, battles persistent redness, or reacts to even gentle skincare products, you're not alone. Red or reactive skin is incredibly common, but that doesn't mean you have to put up with it.

At Restore Cosmed, we often see patients who have spent years trying to "calm down" their skin with products that promise

results, but don't get to the root of the issue. Whether you're dealing with rosacea, broken capillaries, or just sensitive, easily irritated skin, there are evidence-based solutions that can help.

What causes red or reactive skin? There's no one-size-fits-all answer. Redness can be caused by:

- Rosacea - a chronic condition causing flushing, broken capillaries, and inflammation
- Sun damage - especially common on the cheeks and nose
- Thin or sensitised skin - sometimes due to over-exfoliation or harsh skincare
- Genetics and hormones

So what can be done? The first step is getting a proper diagnosis. Rosacea, for instance, is often underdiagnosed or mistaken for acne or sensitive skin. As a doctor-led clinic, we assess your skin with a medical lens- because it's not just about appearances, it's about supporting skin health.

Treatment options might include:

- Prescription Medication: Issues like rosacea commonly need prescription medication to keep this chronic and progressive skin condition under control. We can utilise topical, injectable and oral prescription only medicines to help.

- Intense Pulsed Light (IPL): This light-based therapy targets visible vessels and diffuses general redness. It works particularly well for rosacea-related flushing and sun damage. Most people need a series of treatments, and winter is an ideal time to start when sun exposure is lower.

- Medical-grade skincare. We can guide you toward gentle, active products that support the skin barrier without causing further irritation, as always using an evidence based approach.

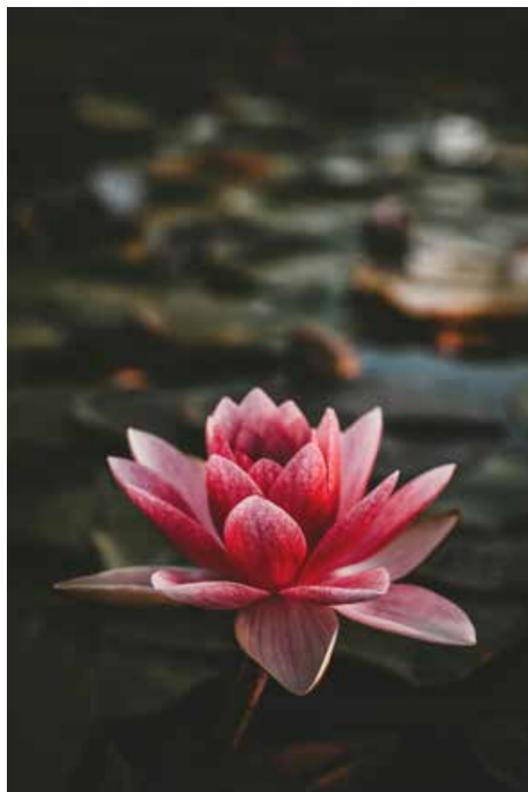
- Lifestyle support. Avoiding known triggers (like spicy food or alcohol) and protecting your skin from wind and sun can make a big difference.

- Ongoing care. Redness-prone skin often needs consistent, long-term support. At Restore Cosmed we can work with you to create a treatment plan that's realistic, sustainable and effective.

You don't need to live with redness. If your skin feels constantly angry, flushed or sensitive- it's not "just how it is." There are ways to calm, strengthen, and restore your skin.

At Restore Cosmetic Medicine, we believe in combining medical expertise with proven cosmetic treatments, so you get care that's tailored, effective, and results driven.

Book a consultation today to learn what's going on beneath the surface-and what we can do to help.



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SKIN AND MEDICAL

www.restorecosmed.co.nz  
contact@restorecosmed.co.nz

20 Matua Road,  
Huapai.

# Area Columnists

## Laser Plumbing Whenuapai



Winter is here, bringing with it chilly temperatures and wetter days. As we settle into the season, it's important to ensure your home is ready to handle the change in weather. With a few simple checks and routine maintenance, you can avoid winter woes like leaks, water damage, and unexpectedly high water bills.

### Hot Water Cylinders

There's nothing worse than being caught without hot water on a cold morning. Make sure your hot water cylinder is heating efficiently and not leaking. A dripping cylinder can lead to dampness, water damage, and wasted energy.

### Gutters

Blocked gutters are a common culprit for roof leaks in winter. Clear out leaves and debris to ensure rainwater flows freely and away from your roof and foundations.

### Drains

Slow-draining showers or basins can be early signs of a blockage. Don't forget to check outdoor drains as well-backed-up drains can quickly lead to flooding during heavy rain.

### Leaky Taps & Toilets

Even small drips from taps or toilets can add up to

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significant water loss and higher bills. Check both indoor and outdoor fixtures for signs of leaks, and repair them before they become costly.

At Laser Plumbing & Roofing Whenuapai, we're here to help keep your home warm, dry, and running smoothly this winter. From plumbing and roofing to gas and drainage, our skilled professionals have you covered. With 24/7 service, we're just a phone call away-day or night.

Call us today on 09 417 0110 or email whenuapai@laserplumbing.co.nz to book a visit from one of our trusted experts.

Stay cozy this winter-with peace of mind that your home is in good hands.

## The Village Market Helensville Showgrounds

**Sunday 15th June 8.30am to 1pm**

A monthly event that takes place on the third Sunday of every month (except for February) at the Helensville A&P Showgrounds. A lively and friendly market that offers a variety of stalls. This month we have live music from Mike Lea, free hair plaiting for the kids and you can find fresh local produce and plants, artisan food and preserves, handmade crafts, gifts, collectibles, pre-loved items and more plus delicious food and coffee. If you are looking for a fun and relaxing way to spend your Sunday morning, you might want to check out this Village Market.

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

## Kumeū Arts Update

This June, Kumeū Arts is proud to take part in the Auckland Festival of Photography with two exhibitions. Our main gallery showcases a diverse range of work by Kumeū Arts Members and the Kumeū Photography Group. In the Pod Gallery, Annie (Jong) Park presents a striking collection where everyday moments are reimagined through her unique lens. Later in the month, don't miss Connection-a group show featuring over 70 artists who've all been interviewed by Mandy Jakich for The Creative Matters Podcast, which explores the journeys and creative processes of Aotearoa's artists. We're also marking Matariki with two special raranga (flax weaving) workshops. Discover more about these and more upcoming exhibitions, concerts, classes, and events at www.kumeuarts.org or in person behind Kumeū Library.

## Country Club Huapai goes pink

For the past four years Country Club Huapai has hosted a Pink Ribbon fundraiser in its cafe.

This year a subcommittee comprised of Roni York, Maureen Maessen, Cathy Smith, Glynn Jones, Lee Pearson and daughter Kirsty Thorburn was formed to gain sponsorships from local businesses and the wider community.

The event raised more than \$11,000.

Country Club Huapai operator Hopper Living provided the High Tea and Constellation Brands provided a glass of bubbles for everyone who attended.

This event has evolved from a small gathering of friends, neighbours and work colleagues in Lee's garage to a packed cafe with 120 attendees.

"We are also hugely grateful for the services of our local real estate super star Jayne McCall of Barfoot and Thompson who has acted as auctioneer for the past two years to take our event to the next level," says Lee on behalf of the Pink Ribbon team at Country Club Huapai.

"This year our guest speaker was retired local doctor Dr Angela Tovey who gave us a wonderful insight into the awareness of breast cancer symptoms and being vigilant in self-care," she says.

"As a two-time survivor of breast cancer I am hugely passionate about raising funds for the BCFNZ and for the one in nine women diagnosed with breast cancer every day in New Zealand.

"We are incredibly grateful to the local businesses in the Kumeu, Huapai, Westgate and Northwest region who so generously support us each year," says Lee, adding the Country Club Huapai is the ideal venue to host such an event.

"I am so grateful to the management team who were on hand to provide their support and encouragement.

"We are immensely proud of this year's result being in excess of \$11,000 and sincerely thank everyone who played a part in this incredibly successful event."



## News from St Chad's

We are very excited to welcome the Pohutukawa Singers back to St Chad's at 4.00pm on Sunday 15th June. On their last visit to St Chad's we had a full house for their excellent Christmas concert. For this concert "Stories in Song" the choir returns with an exciting and varied programme of music from around the world. In addition to American Jazz classics and songs by James Taylor and Billy Joel they will be singing music from Hungary, South Africa, Europe and Canada There really is something for everyone. Tickets \$25 on the door or \$20 pre sales (children are a gold coin donation). The choir's famous post concert refreshments are included.

For pre sales contact Colin Newel at candcnewel@gmail.com or Geoff Collins on 021 170 6590.

Don't forget that on the 1st Saturday of every month we have our board games evenings. These run from 4pm to 6pm with the option to stay on afterwards and enjoy some pizzas together. Bring your own favourite game or come along and learn some new ones - all ages are welcome.

On the 1st Sunday of the month we also have our "All Age Communion" service - a shorter less formal worship when we encourage KidZone members to be more actively involved.

Some of you may have noticed that we have, reluctantly, had to close off the entrance to the Church from Matua Road. This was being used as, on occasions, a very high speed cut through to Oraha Road and there were simply too many near misses. With young children and some of

the older generation using St Chad's, the Op Shop and Jojo's we could no longer ignore the callous disregard for the safety of others shown by some car drivers. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused to the vast majority who used the car park respectfully but are sure you will understand.

## Gently Loved Markets

Gently Loved Markets is back in Hobsonville Point for Gently Loved Markets Just Kids! on Saturday 14th of June from 10am until 1pm at The Sunderland Lounge - Te Rere. Free entry. All stalls indoors.

With stalls selling preloved baby to kids' 0 - 10 years clothes, toys, accessories, nursery items and more. There will be a wide range of prices at the market so it's great for everyone's budget. Grab a bite to eat from the cake fundraising stall, your favourite fabric bag and have a preloved treasure hunt with us. Please bring cash to pay each seller directly for your bargains.

This market day is fully booked for stall holders, to go on the waitlist or to be notified about upcoming market days contact Donna on gentlylovedmarkets@gmail.com

Gently Loved Markets hold different styles of market days - from everything preloved, Curvy (size 16+ / XL+), Teens (8-16 year olds) and a Flea Market. Keep an eye on their Facebook and Instagram for the market day announcements @gentlylovedmarketsn

## Kumeu's first-ever Kids' Clothing Swap: Shop, swap & support local families

The secret's out... Kumeu's very first Kids' Clothing Swap is officially on the calendar, and it's shaping up to be an event you won't want to miss. Held at the Kumeu Community Centre, this exciting new initiative invites local families to refresh their children's wardrobes, connect with others in the community, and support a fantastic cause—all at the same time.

Event Details:

- Kumeu Community Centre
- Drop-off Day: Friday 13th June, 11am-7pm
- Swap & Shop Day: Saturday 14th June, 10am-3pm
- First hour is exclusive to swappers. From 11am, everyone is welcome to shop

Whether you're a seasoned swapper or just love a bargain, this is the perfect chance to upsize your kids' clothes, snag a few essentials, or get prepared for a new

arrival. Families can bring along used kids clothing and shoes (sizes newborn to 10 years) and swap them for "new-to-you" items. No clothes to donate? No worries. From 11am onwards, everyone is welcome to shop - with all items just \$2 each.

In addition to clothing, we're also accepting a limited number of high-quality larger baby items—think prams, port-a-cots, bassinets, bouncers, breast pumps, baby carriers and more. These will be available for sale at incredibly reasonable prices, making this event a one-stop-shop for parents and parents-to-be.

All proceeds from the event go to Parent Aid North West, a local charity that provides practical, in-home support to families with children under five. They're a lifeline for many in our community, offering help when parents need it most.

"This is our first children's swap, but we've hosted annual women's events for years and seen firsthand the power of community coming together," says event organiser Bex Holland. "We'd love to see as many local families as possible come along—whether you're swapping, shopping, or donating. It all goes to an amazing cause."

Calling All Local Businesses

Want to support local families and get involved? We're currently looking for local sponsors and donations of family-friendly products or services to help make this event even more special. It's a fantastic way to give back and show your support for Parent Aid North West and the families they serve.

Leftover clothing will be donated to local charities to ensure nothing goes to waste.

Let's swap, save, and support each other—because every family deserves a helping hand.

Invite your friends, spread the word, and join the fun!

-Follow us on Facebook & Instagram: @kumeuclothingswapandshop

- Want to volunteer or sponsor? Contact Bex at bex.holland@outlook.com

- Learn more about the cause: parentaidnorthwest.org.nz



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## Decisions, decisions!

By local MP Chris Penk. As the local MP for the area served by Kumeu Courier, I'm keen to see the continuation of recent progress of transport planning in northwest Auckland.

First, though, I thought this column would be a good opportunity to confirm to my constituents that I am prioritising this advocacy as local MP. This is because I also have a role in government as "Minister of Land Information" and it's important that I remove any perception of a conflict of interest. That ministerial role involves signing off decisions for the purchase of land for projects - sometimes as compulsory acquisitions - on behalf of the Crown.

For this reason, I have removed myself from that level of decision making in Wellington, meaning that another minister will be making those calls, on behalf of government. Helpfully, this leaves me free to advocate on behalf of Kumeu and surrounding areas without fear or favour.

Examples of projects in this area that could require the acquisition of land in the near future (whether by mutual agreement or otherwise) include the Alternative State Highway, also known as the "Kumeu Bypass". This is planned to be a new dual carriageway motorway extending from Brigham Creek Road to State Highway 16 east of Waimauku. This project aims to alleviate congestion and enhance safety, recognising housing development in the area.

Another project is the Northwest Busway, which is a dedicated busway alongside SH16 between Brigham Creek and the city centre. Ground was recently broken for this new transport route, which will be completed in stages.

And of course "Stage 2" (ie the Brigham Creek to Kumeu end) of the SH16 upgrade works - currently underway as Stage 1 at the Waimauku end - will need land to be acquired as well.

Further afield there are projects at the northern end of my large electorate, such as the motorway extension between Warkworth and Te Hana, for which I'm taking the same approach.

In summary, I fully support these initiatives as I know that the area desperately needs investment in infrastructure that will see our people get to and from work, school and

leisure much more quickly and safely. To ensure that I can keep advocating for these projects and those most directly affected, I've decided to keep wearing my hat as local MP and recuse myself from decision making under the Public Works Act to avoid any potential conflicts of interest. Together, we can build a more connected and prosperous northwest Auckland!

Chris Penk MP [chris.penk@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:chris.penk@parliament.govt.nz)

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MP for Kaipara ki Mahurangi

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

## Waitemata Endoscopy is right behind Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

June marks Bowel Cancer Awareness Month in New Zealand—a timely reminder of the importance of early detection, screening, and open conversations about a disease that claims the lives of more than 1,200 Kiwis each year. With one of the highest rates of bowel cancer in the world, New Zealanders are urged to take bowel health seriously.

So let us break the taboo about talking about poo, as one is less likely to die of embarrassment, than from bowel cancer. Bowel cancer, or colorectal cancer, affects people of all ages, hence Bowel Cancer NZ's 'Never Too Young' campaign to challenge this myth. Visit [www.bowelcancernz.org.nz/never-too-young](http://www.bowelcancernz.org.nz/never-too-young) to learn more.

Bowel cancer often develops silently, with no symptoms in the early stages. Key signs to look out for include:

- Changes in bowel habits
- Blood in the stools or poo
- Unexplained weight loss, or
- Persistent abdominal or stomach discomfort.

Some patients may notice reduced energy levels and a sense of fatigue due to blood loss.

If you, your family or friends notice any of these symptoms, don't sit on it, get checked out right away, as the awesome good news is that bowel cancer can be curable if caught early. The best way to assess for bowel cancer is through a Colonoscopy (a flexible camera assessment of your colon or large bowel).

During this procedure, we also take great care to look for polyps. These are often small growths that form on the inner lining of the large bowel (colon). They do not usually cause symptoms. They are benign but some polyp types can be thought of as pre-cancerous, meaning they can slowly turn into cancer over time if they aren't removed. Thus, removing these types of polyps via a Colonoscopy is the best way to reduce your risk of bowel cancer.

Small changes can also lead to big benefits. Here are five everyday tips that can help you take control of your bowel health and reduce your risk of colorectal cancer!

1. Focus on increasing physical exercise
2. Reduce your intake of processed and red meats
3. Reduce your alcohol intake
4. Quit smoking
5. Take in plenty of dietary fibre and wholegrains.

Your health is worth it. Don't just sit on your symptoms, get checked, and make change happen.

Waitemata Endoscopy is proud to support Bowel Cancer Awareness Month and to be part of the solution – offering expert care, state-of-the-art facilities, and a compassionate team dedicated to your wellbeing.

Dr Sam Seleg, Gastroenterologist & Endoscopist, MBChB 2014, FRACP 2021

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## Sayers Says It



There are no plans to manage the retreat of Kumeu due to flooding by relocating it.

However, the Kumeu River does need to be proactively maintained rather than be reactively maintained.

Better river maintenance was the message given 'loud and clear' by locals at an Auckland Council public meeting on February 17.

At the meeting a report was presented outlining the history of flooding in Kumeu-Huapai stretching back to 1926, where the Kumeu Post Office flooded to a depth of 1.2m. Since then there have been five notable floods, more recently in August 2021 and two in 2023. The Council said a second shopping centre is planned to cope with future growth, although this was decades away.

Auckland Council concluded an upstream dam, or a drainage tunnel bored from the river across to the Waitemata Harbour, both costing hundreds of millions of dollars, were not feasible to stop future flooding.

Locals suggested Council was missing a vital and cost effective solution by not keeping the river clear of dead trees, weeds and other blockages. They said that before the Super City the legacy Rodney District Council would regularly carry out work along the Kumeu River removing materials that could potentially cause blockages and increase the risk of flooding. Since the establishment of the Supercity this proactive work has stopped and been replaced by a policy of reactive maintenance work which is they said is often too little too late.

According to the industrial landowners with businesses along the river edge, as well as the affected residential land owners, the lack of river maintenance is resulting in unwanted build-ups of debris restricting water flows during high rainfall events. These restricted areas are acting like 'giant plugs' backing up the water and eventually spilling over stop banks flooding the low lying land.

The strong feeling from the meeting was that if the river was better maintained, and obstacles were removed in

advance of storms, this would improve protection of the township from flooding.

Hearing this, I promised those attending I would 'go in to bat for them' with Auckland Council to get the proactive maintenance programme reinstated.

Furthermore, local contractors at the meeting spoke up asking if the new maintenance work could be tendered locally, rather than automatically given to a Council preferred supplier, giving the town greater transparency over the work being done through channels like Facebook, as well as allowing them to use local knowledge to better pinpoint the 'real work' that is needed.

The positive outcome has been that Council has listened, and agreed to trial all of the above. This is a great win for the flood prone property owners along the Kumeu River.

Auckland Council has positively stated it will tender out a new proactive maintenance contract this year exclusively to local contractors as a pilot scheme for Kumeu. This is a double win. Not only will the river be proactively maintained, but the work will be carried out by a local contracting firm. If the trial is successful for Kumeu the same concept may be able to be rolled out to other areas of Auckland.

It is impossible to stop flooding occurring during extreme weather events, especially if rainfall is over 100mm within a 7 hour period. By law Council is still obligated to keep the town's flood plain maps updated to show what properties will flood in an extreme rain event. These maps show the worst case scenario of 200mm falling within a 7 hour period - and this amount of rainfall will be very rare. Unfortunately the insurance companies do not seem to be willing to acknowledge this rarity when assessing the insurability of properties.

So what does this all mean? Most importantly it means the township will be safer from flooding. Property owners, real estate agents, banks and insurance companies will be able to tangibly see an improvement in the river's maintenance. With the improved protection from flooding local landowners and investors will hopefully have an improved feeling of optimism about Kumeu and Huapai's future.

## KMR grows freshwater farm planners

Kaipara Moana Remediation is doubling down on its investment in rural professionals as it encourages farmers to prepare their land for planting natives around waterways and on erodible hillsides this winter.

With more than two million natives planted throughout the Kaipara Moana catchment in three years, KMR Pou Tātaki Justine Daw says 2025 will be another busy year for her team.

Her message follows a recent workshop at Rural Design, one of KMR's accredited nurseries.

As part of KMR's investment in on-farm advisors, the cohort of KMR Field Advisors came together to upskill in the technical aspects of preparing for - and maintaining - planting projects around freshwater and on steep, erodible hillsides.

"The training covered both technical skills and hands-on learning through field visits to plantings of different ages and plant survival challenges," says Justine.

"This type of training is central to KMR's commitment to upskilling a cohort of 50 freshwater farm planners across the catchment. These skills are critical for good environmental outcomes and support forthcoming government policy.

"In addition, if you are dairy farming, through our support for on-farm planting, KMR can help you make the most of the opportunities from the recently announced Fonterra Cooperative Difference emissions incentives from 1 June. Our Field Advisors provide technical advice and grants to support farmers to maximise the opportunities from on-farm carbon sequestration."



During the KMR workshop, Rural Design Director Heath Worsfold mentioned the importance of seasonal timing critical to the preparation of planting sites.

"At this time of year, we are at the optimal time to conduct site preparation for winter planting," says Heath.

"However, you do not want to prepare sites too far in advance of your planned planting as that can create further weed invasion and then you have a battle on your hands from the outset. Likewise, you need to leave enough time for site preparation applications to take effect before you plant - leaving site preparation until too late in the season and into winter can impact on weed kill rates and success, affect plant survival and make planting difficult and more labour intensive for the planting teams," he says. "Once planting has been done, the ongoing maintenance effort over years one to five is dependent on the level of weed invasion and rainfall, so encouraging landowners to self-monitor and consistently manage the release of weed and grass regrowth around stems is important to ensure plants survive. KMR advisors can help you understand what is needed, and when."

"Working with a community of practice is increasingly important, which is why we are always keen to collaborate, share our learnings and learn from others in KMR," says Heath. "Between us all, there is so much knowledge and experience to draw on without reinventing things unnecessarily, as one size does not fit all when you are dealing with different landscapes and soil types."

Justine says that through KMR's support for training, mentoring and technical career development, KMR is supporting its Field Advisors to gain the necessary expertise to effectively co-design and support projects led by farmers, other landowners, catchment groups, and other groups in the community.

She says KMR can also provide support to plant up waterways, protect wetlands and retire, plant or regenerate into natives on steep, eroding hillsides.

The KMR team, which can help pay up to 50% of costs, invites people to contact them early if interested in planting this winter email - [ono@kmr.org.nz](mailto:ono@kmr.org.nz)

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