

kumeu

Courier

FREE monthly community magazine for Kumeu & districts

EVENTS AND UPDATES

NINJA KIWI PACKS A PUNCH

- Pet tips & advice
- Food & beverage
- Home & garden
- Property market report

COUNTRY SCHOOL FOR HOW LONG?

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Contact Sarah Brightwell on 021 250 7324 or sarahbrightwell022@gmail.com

December 2017

Intro

Congratulations! We have made it to the end of what has been a very eventful year. 2017 has seen many changes for a lot of people with new beginnings and the end of an era for some. As I reach this time of year I like to reflect on the good things that have entered our lives and show gratitude – even for the events that came along unexpectedly, as it is these things that help us to grow as people and learn that whatever comes our way in life there is always a higher purpose. Thank you to our loyal readers and contributors throughout the year, and of course the wonderful people who make this magazine possible. In this last issue for the year we celebrate all that is Christmas and as usual our community is certainly pulling out all the stops. The annual Kumeu Rotary Christmas Parade is on Friday December 8, with State Highway 16 closed through Kumeu and Huapai from 6.45pm to about 8pm. The parade features a wide variety of entries from childcare and pre-school floats to clubs, businesses, bands, community groups and even dogs. Come along with family and friends and enjoy the parade, bring a picnic or buy your dinner from a local takeaway shop as it takes about an hour for the Parade to pass a given spot. Santa will also be doing the rounds in the community and will be at the Kaukapakapa Library which has been themed as his sparkly Santa Cave on Sunday 17th December, 10am to 1pm. A gold coin donation would be appreciated by his elves. The Kumeu Blend Choir will hold their Christmas concert 'Ring out the Bells' in St Chads Church, Oraha Road, Huapai at 7:30 pm, Sunday 10 December 2017. The last Farmers Market for 2017 will be on the 10th December from 9am -2pm at the Kumeu Show grounds. There is free parking for all visitors and of course great food, baking and home-made NZ crafts. The stall holders are some of the finest and they also have Amazing music from some of the top buskers in Auckland. The Kaukapakapa Village market will be on Sunday 17 December 8.30am to 1pm. They have a very festive market planned for December so bring the kids along to see Santa in his grotto plus enjoy the seasonal sounds of the ladies from the Cougar Chorus. Pick up some last minute Christmas gifts with plenty of unique gift ideas from the great range of craft and gift stall holders. In all the festive planning please take time to make sure neighbours and those living alone are looked after this year, I know I say it every year but your presence rather than your presents is what counts to people. Have a fantastic Summer with family and friends and we will see you in 2018 for another 12 bumper editions! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

As always, stay safe, be kind,
Sarah
Editor.



Disclaimer: Articles published are submitted by individual entities and should not be taken as reflecting the editorial views of this magazine or the publishers of The Kumeu Courier Limited. Articles are not to be re-published unless consent is granted from the publisher.

kumeu Courier

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PEOPLE & PLACES

COUNTRY SCHOOL FOR HOW LONG?

Stories by Geoff Dobson.

Taupaki School is still your quintessential country school. But Principal Pete Hall wonders how long that will last – 10 years?

Auckland unitary plan zonings indicate the countryside around the school should remain for quite some time, although there may be a little more subdivision under its countryside living zone over much of the Taupaki area.

The country view from the Cottle Rd school shouldn't change that much, with dairy farms and some large lifestyle blocks close by.

However, Pete's determined to see the school's 'countriness' captured now. An example is its new fundraising cookbook "gather", featuring not only rural recipes but photos of pupils involved in typical country pursuits.

"It's not just a cookbook but a moment in time."

He's keen to see other ways of preserving the area's special appeal too.

"The unitary plan is letting people start to subdivide, although big developments are still hard to do in the Taupaki zone.

"It's a bit like the 'Asterix' comic books – we're the last ones to hold out. We are the Gaulish village in the corner, surrounded

by houses and subdivisions spreading out around us in our surrounding school zones.

"Eventually, we will run out of farms and country around our country school.

"But rather than feel anxious, we have to write about and celebrate it now because in 10 years we might be telling this as an historical story."

Pete would like to "double down" on the school's annual agricultural day, for instance, celebrating the chance for pupils to bring livestock to school for competitions.

He's a believer in schools "finding their story and living it, making it compelling".

Inviting farmers, beekeepers, landscapers, plumbers, builders and other business people and entrepreneurs from the area to the school to speak to pupils, possibly at assembly, or to help create a local curriculum, are other ways of celebrating and capturing the area's essence.

Meanwhile, there's a lot of work to do around the 280-pupil school itself.



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A top priority is to modernise the school's technology suite, which takes in pupils from about six other schools to get hands-on experience with everything from sewing to new technology. Funds from the cookbook and the school's other novel fundraiser, the Monster Fireworks Display and gala at the Kumeu Showgrounds, are geared towards that cause.

The school also won \$10,000 funding for its "Fearless Future" project to build digital technology and leadership skills through the Potentia Future Innovators in Tech (FIT) initiative.

Taupaki School beat out 25 other schools for the chance, five shortlisted for a public vote on Potentia's Facebook page.

The tech block renovation, which will see internal walls removed or changed and more glass to let in light, will also be a place where the community can connect, Pete says.

Up to 70 pupils at a time from six different schools use the technology space, the upgrade expected to be done in the next couple of years.

Other areas around the school are overdue for a revamp.

A roofing project is scheduled during the holidays, and outdoor spaces and links need attention too.

Pete wants to see the school layout eventually rearranged to take more advantage of the countryside outlook and better connect with the land and community.

Pete's particularly impressed with the community's support for the school and the legacy of interaction that has been built. The school's Parent Teacher Association is also a hard-working group which does much of the organising around events like the fireworks display, he says.

"The PTA do incredible work running fundraising, and it lets us focus on the teaching and learning."

It's obvious Pete loves his job, so how did he get into it?

Beginning in Dargaville, Pete came to Auckland aged nine and grew up around Mt Eden. He initially worked in retail but wanted something different. That chance came while helping at a summer camp in the USA nearly 20 years ago.

While instructing students in outdoor activities like mountaineering and mountain biking at Lake Placid in New York State, Pete realised teaching was what he wanted.

After gaining his qualifications Pete taught at Epsom Normal Primary School, Summerland then Upper Harbour where he became deputy principal and acting principal.

Pete joined Network for Learning which connected more than 2400 schools to the high speed managed network, then came to Taupaki School more than a year ago.

He says Network for Learning was "brilliant" and provided a view of digital learning through "a whole different lens". Through his work at N4L Pete published 'Point of Learning', a series of 25 podcasts with educators and leaders from around the world.

Now living on Herald Island with his wife and their two boys, Pete is a strong believer in people being the "core narrative" of a school.

"The only headline a school should be chasing is 'School con-

sults with community, meets student needs"

That would sum up Pete's outlook for Taupaki School.

LAVENDER-INFUSED GIN RELEASED BY LAVENDER HILL



Photo: Trish Delamore with Lavender Hill's new products and a 1947 Ford V8 Jailbar truck which will become a mobile billboard for the Riverhead venture.

A high-quality lavender-infused gin has just been released by Lavender Hill, an unusual product for New Zealand.

Another gin in the South Island includes lavender along with citrus and manuka, but lavender-only gins seem especially rare. Both the gin using Lavender Hill's own lavender and a limoncello made from the farm's spray-free Yen Ben lemons have been professionally tasted by Wine Orbit, which gave them 93 out of 100 and five stars.

Wine Orbit describes the gin as "very seductive and highly attractive" and the limoncello as "an instantly likeable refreshing drink".

Lavender Hill has recently received its off-licence and remote licence, with the lavender gin and limoncello available online or from the farm shop.

Riverhead couple Jason and Trish Delamore featured in the Kumeu Courier February issue about their efforts to establish a tourism business and provide a variety of products.

Lavender Hill has been working hard on product development using ingredients from the sustainable 2.8 hectare farm the Delamores bought in November 2015.

Jason says the lavender-infused gin was inspired by overseas trends where gin is experiencing a renaissance. Augustifolia lavender oil (a culinary oil) is infused with a high-quality triple distilled gin to create the drink.

He's also acquired a 1947 Ford V8 Jailbar truck to help advertise their lavender farm, the largest within two hours' drive of Auck-

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The business includes a high-quality four-bedroom bed and breakfast, a meeting room/workshop/function room for up to 15 people, and produces extra virgin olive oil from 400 olive trees, along with a variety of products sold through their farm shop or online.

Alpacas and sheep help keep the grass down and provide an additional visitor attraction.

Visit www.lavenderhill.co.nz or phone 021 111 6686 for more information.

NINJA KIWI PACKS KUMEU PUNCH

Globally successful Bloons game maker Ninja Kiwi started life in Stephen Harris's spare bedroom at Muriwai Beach about 11 years ago.

Now it's a thriving mobile and online video game company based in its own two-storey building in Shamrock Drive, Kumeu, employing 32 staff there and further 30 in its Dundee office in Scotland.

Brothers Stephen and Chris Harris were heading down different career routes when they came up with the game changer.

"I was working in banks for a while, with an interest in personal financial planning and advice," Chris (pictured) says. "I got a bit disenfranchised with it and decided to try life as an independent advisor, founding a company Moneygym."

Stephen had completed a Masters in geophysics at Auckland University and worked for a geological research company when he also had a change of tack. In town one day he saw a billboard advertising New Zealand's first Post Graduate Diploma in Game Development at Media Design School. He enrolled, and received his diploma in about 2004.

"Everyone in the family thought he should get going on his career, but he did two years of very hard work – doing 70 to 80-hour weeks, working on a game as part of the course with the class of about 12," Chris recalls. "They made a Mad Max style game called Goliath, in which other vehicles had to take out a monster machine called Goliath."

He ended up working with an ad agency's Interactive team, doing Flash games, including some for Griffins on the brand's Cookie Bear character.

"He got in touch with me and said he wanted to try out an idea," Chris says.

Stephen had become interested in a project called The Million Dollar Homepage in 2005 where an English student sold a million pixels for about a dollar each to fund his college fees.

Many others wanted to do something similar, but Stephen went a step further and came up with the concept of a car racing game called Cash Sprint where players raced a ghost car, with the fastest winner each week receiving a cash prize. "We thought advertising and racing would go hand-in-hand, but

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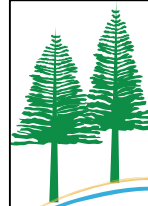
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that's where our naivety showed," Chris says. It didn't attract enough advertising support, so the brothers launched their own web games portal with the plan to build up a collection of their own games, an idea that they then expanded to include a curated selection of games from other developers.

"We started off as Kaiparasoft because I was living with views over the Kaipara Harbour," Chris says, residing at Woodhill at that time.

The brothers liked the country lifestyle, having moved from Westmere after growing up in Wellington.

They changed the company name to Ninja Kiwi Limited and the brothers started working on games from Stephen's spare room one day a week. "Stephen worked pretty much all his spare time. I was busy fitting everything in around three kids. He was doing coding and game design and I was doing the artwork, business and legal side," Chris says.

The original Bloons game was a two-dimensional physics game where you controlled a monkey that needed to pop a minimum number of Bloons to pass a level.

The concept came from Stephen's wife who suggested a game similar to the carnival one where people throw darts at balloons. It became one of the most popular Flash games in the world in early 2007, developed later as an iPhone application by Scottish company Digital Goldfish, quickly hitting the top spot on the app store.

"We thought it would make enough money to allow us to go full-time, until we could make the next smash-hit game," Chris says.

They made a series of Bloons games, interspersed with new game attempts.

"One of the lessons from Cash Sprint was for us to concentrate on what we're good at," Chris says.

He says that meant getting other people to do what the brothers were not good at.

By 2018 the brothers needed to move out of Stephen's spare room, took on an artist as their first employee, and moved to a Kumeu main road location. Rather than thinking up to three months ahead, the brothers found they needed to plan for space several years prior.

"There was very little office space in Kumeu, so we moved to 190 Main Rd and took up the whole top floor, with about seven or eight staff."

The move to Shamrock Drive came nearly four years ago, the building getting a full refit to house the growing team.

Ninja Kiwi acquired Digital Goldfish in 2012 and renamed it Ninja Kiwi Europe.

Now the company is putting out Bloons TD 6 – its sixth TD version - and is working on another new game at the Dundee end. Both are due for release next year.

Chris says they've tried a number of other games, such as SAS Zombie Assault and a naval battle game Fortress Destroyer, but none have had the level of success of Bloons.

Another brother worked for Google for seven years, making all three involved in the tech industry.

"Kids love playing games, including our children, and I'm trying to get them into coding but they're not interested," Chris says. He says there's "something great about working for yourself and giving people jobs in the industry".

"Many dream of getting into games - a lot of the people we hire have always wanted to do it."

Chris expects more change in the business during the next five years than in the past decade. "I think people will always want to play games."



CHRISTMAS PARADE A POPULAR ATTRACTION

The Kumeu Rotary Christmas Parade is on Friday December 8, with State Highway 16 closed through Kumeu and Huapai from 6.45pm to about 8pm. Traffic diversions will be in place. The popular event sees more than 60 entries parading along the main road from the Station Rd assembly site to the Kumeu Showgrounds on Access Rd. The parade features a wide variety of entries from childcare and pre-school floats to clubs, businesses, bands, community groups and even dogs. It takes about an hour to pass a given spot. Dale Wallace is in her 15th year of organising the parade. "It promises to be another great evening," she says. "Come along and enjoy the parade, bring a picnic or buy your dinner from a local takeaway shop. We would like everyone to have great time, but be mindful of small children." The 'lost child station' is at the Kumeu fire station for those who need reuniting with loved ones. Dale urges people not to throw water balloons or lollies at the floats. "These can become missiles and hurt people participating in the parade." Families and others line the roadsides to watch the parade, and organisers hope crowd behaviour remains in the spirit of the season so the event will continue in future years. It's on no matter the weather. Phone Dale on 027 224 4636, Leslie 021 334 401 or email kumeuxmasparade@gmail.com for more information.

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SAFER COMMUNITIES

I am now working full time for Fire and Emergency New Zealand so have stepped down as Officer in Charge of the Waitakere Volunteer Fire Brigade. I still remain committed to supporting the community through the Brigade. Graham McIntyre who has been the 2nd Officer in Charge has taken on the acting Officer in Charge role until the formalities have been finalised.

Rubbish fires are probably the calls we dislike the most. We often find ourselves "dammed if we do and damned if we don't" because, if we find it necessary to extinguish a fire due to a safety concern, we often wind up with a disgruntled person who lit it. If it wasn't breaking the Fire and Emergency New Zealand regulations it frustrates the person who had put the call in because we hadn't extinguished it.

A simple guide for this summer:

- As of 1 December 2017 the Auckland mainland goes into a restricted fire season and the Hauraki Islands go into a prohibited fire season.
- You can have an outdoor cooking fire such as a BBQ, hangi or umu or a heating fire such as an approved brazier. However only dry, untreated wood should be used and smoke must not be causing a safety concern.
- If you wish to light a fire in the open air in a rural area during a restricted fire season, you will need to apply for a rural fire permit. You can apply for a fire permit online at <http://temp.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/licencesregulations/ruralfire/Pages/applyforafire-permt.aspx>.

Please use the more environmentally friendly ways of disposing of your rubbish and be aware that all fires should be extinguished by nightfall. If a prohibited fire season is imposed during the summer all fires will be banned.

If in doubt, check before you light

Denis Cooper
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COMMUNITY NEWS

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HELLOWORLD



Japan is best known for the Cherry Blossom season but it is a beautiful place to visit any time of the year. We started in Tokyo and took a Trafalgar Tour from To-

kyo to Kyoto on an 8 day tour. I am glad we did as not that many people spoke English. The Japanese are one of the most polite and hospitable people you will ever meet and we had the chance to experience a lot of the local culture on the Trafalgar Tour and the food was great. After the tour we took the bullet train back to Tokyo and embarked on an 8 night Princess Cruise around Hokkaido. We had one port in Russia and we found that fascinating with guns for sale in glass cabinets in the local shopping mall. You can't wander around on your own in Russia and can't get off the ship without being on an organised tour unless you have organised a Russia Visa beforehand. For more information or to organise your Japan visit come and see us at helloworld in Hobsonville. Phone 09 416 1799 or email hobsonville@helloworld.co.nz.

KUMEU BRASS INCORPORATED



It's Christmas time and you'll soon see and hear your favourite carols being played in malls and on Santa Parades. Many of these will be by one of Kumeu's three very own brass bands. Under the umbrella of Kumeu Brass Inc. membership continues to grow to the extent that their headquarters are too small so your donations will be very acceptable. Kumeu Brass, twice New Zealand champion in its grade in the past three years,

and its apprentices, Kumeu Evolution Brass, will be playing their hearts out for your pleasure as will Kumeu Vintage Band right up until Christmas Eve. Little rest though – KVB are back to rehearsal early January in preparation for their first 2018 performance at Bruce Mason Centre's Morning Melodies in February. This performance alone will draw an audience of well over 700 people. For more information visit: kumeubrass.org.nz/events.php. Kumeu Brass can be heard at Avondale Baptist, Sunday Dec 9, 6-7pm. NorthWest Town Square, Sunday Dec 17, 1-2.30pm. St Chads, Haupai, Sunday Dec 17, 7pm. Kumeu Evolution Brass can be heard at Henderson Baptist on Sunday Dec 3, 6-7pm.

SANTA IN THE HOOD

Sunday 17th December, 10am to 1pm. Santa can't believe it's already time for his visit to the Kaukapakapa Library, which has been themed as his sparkly Santa Cave. Those who visit have the chance to pass on their wish list, take home a souvenir photo and maybe even receive a gift from the man in red if they've been very, very good. The elves would appreciate a gold coin donation to help keep Mrs Claus in thermal pole-dancing outfits. Library is open on the third Sunday every month in conjunction with the Kaukapakapa Village Market. For more information contact Megan, phone 021 959 017 or email threehorses@xtra.co.nz.

WHAT'S ON AT KUMEU ARTS CENTRE

Affordable Arts Sale. Nov 28th – Dec 21st. Your chance to purchase unique and affordable gifts for family and friends while supporting local artists. All art works are under \$400. Journey – The last Ten Years – An Exhibition by Arwen Flowers. Jan 16th– Feb 3rd. This exhibition is intended to present a creative timeline that spans a decade of my life — events includ-

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ing marriage, children, moving house, changing jobs and completing an artist's residency have contributed to changes in my work. Creative Matters at Kumeu Arts Centre - inspiring workshops and classes for children and adults run by the team at Creative Matters will now be available at Kumeu Arts Centre. For information visit www.creativematters.co.nz. Gallery Shop. The perfect place to buy unique, hand-made presents. We sell variety of ceramics, prints, cards, jewellery and other beautifully crafted items at very reasonable prices. Avoid the mall and shop conscientiously this Christmas.

RIVERHEAD GALLERY



The Gallery is bursting with lots of colour and texture to brighten up your living spaces for the summer months. Chloe King's quirky paintings and Janine Whitelaw's iconic Aotearoa series are perfect for the bach or home. We have a selection of lovely ceramics and glass for the perfect Christmas gift. Donna is hard at work in the studio with two exhibitions coming up early in the year... but she is never too busy to stop and talk about the talented artists from all over NZ that are represented in the gallery. She also has

original oils and limited edition prints available of her distinctive bright NZ land, seascapes and pohutukawa paintings. Come and visit us at 1044 Coatesville-Riverhead Highway (opposite Riverhead central). We are open from Wed-Sat from 9.30 til 3.30 until the 23rd Dec then will reopen mid-January. Have a warm sunny restful Xmas and New Year filled with friends, family and good art!

SENIORNET KUMEU INC

Seniornet Kumeu held its final meeting of 2017 on the 1st November. We had an excellent guest speaker, Bruce Reader, who described some very difficult periods of his life and was quite inspirational when describing how he overcame adversity. The AGM was completed at the meeting, which was followed by a superb buffet, to end a very successful year for our club. The club restarts on February 7th 2018, but this will not be at our usual venue, St Chad's Church hall, Huapai, as the church will be closed for a period of months for repairs. We are currently sourcing a new temporary home and will give full details in our next "Courier" report. If you would like to have fun learning how to get the most from your Smartphone, tablet (including iPads) and computer, why not join our friendly and informal club with tutors who teach what you need at a pace that suits you. Contact: Brian Lacey on 022 183 1811 brian@lacey.nz or Nigel Dempster at nigeldem@outlook.com.

KAIPARA CRUISES



Often we don't realise what attractions are on our own back door, here in the

Norwest we have access to New Zealand's largest inland waterway, the mighty Kaipara Harbour. This summer Kaipara cruises are offering a variety of cruises departing from Helensville to explore the Kaipara Harbour. We have cruises available from our river and Harbour cruises to the ever popular one and two day cruises exploring the northern reaches of the Harbour with optional overnight stays in old time riverside hotels.

The Kaipara is a Harbour of contrasts from bush lined rivers to deserted white sandy beaches, it has a unique history where one can almost reach out and touch the past as we cruise past the bays where the early gum diggers camped and whole kauri forests were felled and loaded onto ships for export. Join us this summer retracing the old steamer and sailing ship routes out across the historic Kaipara Harbour. For more information visit our website www.kaiparacruises.co.nz or phone 09 420 8466.

HAVE YOU LEFT THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING A LITTLE LATE?



Struggling with time to get to the shops? Take the hassle out of Christmas and let them choose their Christmas gift by giving them a Precious Imprints Gift Certificate. Available online, so there's no need to wander around the shops aimlessly hoping an idea will jump out at you. Simply jump online, choose the denomination and where you would like the gift

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WHY IS NATURE'S EXPLORERS KINDY DIFFERENT?

At Nature's Explorers we are focused on learning in a natural environment. When you send your child to Nature's Explorers, you send him or her to a centre that is not driven by a bottom line or a corporate head office. Because of this, your child will be sitting on real wooden chairs and working on real wooden tables. They will run through real grass, capture real bugs, pick real fruit from our real trees and even go on nature walks once a week. When you send your child to us, he or she will have every opportunity to experience a programme and learning environment where they will develop a love of discovery, inquiry and problem solving. 2018 is filling up fast and we only have a few spaces available, feel free to pop in to visit us, call us on 09 412 8800 or send an e-mail office.kindergarten@xtra.co.nz.



KUMEU BLEND CHOIR

Our Christmas concert 'Ring out the Bells' will be held in St Chads Church, Ohara Road, Huapai at 7:30 pm, Sunday 10 December 2017. It will be a 'ding-dong' affair, with the odd 'ta-ran-ta-ra' thrown in. Also some beautiful lullabies by John Rutter and Billy Joel, 'Waits carols' and more, and the usual Blend supper after

the concert. Kumeu Blend is a friendly, un-auditioned choir. We sing a wide variety of music from classical choral through to music from shows and modern works. Some is challenging but all is fun. You don't need to read music to join the choir although it helps if you do. Feel free to drop in to St Chads Church, Huapai, at 7:30 any Monday evening, or if you would like to join us please contact Christine Smith on 09 412 8939 g.c.smith@xtra.co.nz or Margaret Lindsay on 09 849 8070 Margaret@lindsays.co.nz.

FANCY FROCKS NZ

Andrea still has a large number of her gorgeous collection of beautiful wedding gowns, ballgowns and bridesmaid dresses for sale after closing down her business. This is a great opportunity to find the perfect dress for your next event or special occasion - wedding, ball, black tie function or gala dinner. You don't have to spend a fortune to look like a million dollars. Andrea will find the one that suits your style and budget. You will look absolutely fabulous. Contact Andrea at www.fancyfrocks.co.nz or www.facebook.com/FancyFrocksNZ.



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IN BRIEF

UPDATES:EVENTS

KUMEU XMAS FARMERS MARKET

Last market of 2017 on the 10th December. Located at the Kumeu Showgrounds and free parking for all visitors. Great food, baking and home-made NZ crafts. Stall holders are of the finest. Amazing music from some of the top buskers in Auckland, child friendly – pony rides and much more. Come rain or shine, the market goes ahead. Over 100 stalls – growing each year. Set-up times for stall holders is from 7am onwards – market starts at 9am – 2pm. If you forgot to get cash, no problem, we have Cash Out available on site. Due to the Kumeu Showgrounds being a working farm, we do not allow dogs and there are hundreds of sheep to view. No market in January, February, and March (Kumeu Show in March). We are back in April.

KUMEU BOUNCY CASTLES

We still have a few spaces for Christmas Day and New Year's Day ...give us a call ... Summer is here and there are many weeks of sunshine to come so why not book one of our fantastic, bright, colourful castles for a fun filled day. Suitable for work functions, parties, school events, etc. Amazing face painter and entertainers - pirate, fairy, clown, magician and balloon twister! All of our bouncy castle hire prices include local delivery, set-up, and collection. No deposits are required to confirm your booking for a bouncy castle. No cancellation fee. Contact: Cindy

021 1192 573 or visit www.kumeubouncycastleles.co.nz or email kumeubouncycastleles@gmail.com.

BRIDGESTONE TYRE CENTRE KUMEU – JOHNNY MEETS HIS IDOL MAHE DRYSDALE



Last month I got the chance to go the Bridgestone Conference in Queenstown – it was great to be amongst like-minded people who take their job very seriously and work every day to keep NZ'rs safe on the road. Bridgestone Kumeu is your locally family owned and operated independent tyre store and we have served this community for over 20 years, we stand by our tyres and are available to you with straightforward honest advice on your tyre needs – whatever your travels plans are during the school holidays we can help. We sell quality tyres and provide quality service; whatever your tyres

needs, feel free to pop in anytime 7.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on Saturday or call us on 09 412 9111. Back to Mahe Drysdale ... his message was about "Self-Belief" his parents weren't too happy about him giving up his accountancy studies to pursue rowing and it was his grandmother who sustained him financially in the early years. He said it was difficult but he never gave up on himself. He was a very humble (and tall) man and I was delighted to get the opportunity to meet him – a NZ idol. We wish to all our customers and locals a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year's and hope you will all be safe on the road.

HAWAII



The airlines are releasing some incredible deals at the moment to Hawaii, so why not take advantage of it now. DARMIC is a NZ family owned (local) business managing one bedroom fully self-contained condos in the Waikiki Banyan, just one block from world famous Waikiki Beach. With more than 20 apartments to choose from, there is a wide variety of categories, views and bedding options and the room you see online is the room you can expect to walk into. You are within walking distance of restaurants, cafés, shops and bus route - so it's easy to decide when to relax and when venture further afield. On-site managers are available to guide you. Contact your local travel agent or visit WWW.DARMIC.COM and chat to Jamie today. Once you have stayed with us,

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IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

Christmas is fast approaching ... again. I can't believe it's here already. It's very much like me to pop my head in the sand and pretend it's still a long time away, and suddenly ... here it is. If that sounds like you and you need some beautiful gifts, maybe you could think about some natural skincare. Especially popular for the ladies that have it all. And lovely little lip balm stocking fillers. Also affordable secret Santa work gifts. Most people can appreciate a massage balm, pain relief balms or body butters. Everything will be custom made for your requirements - so don't delay if it needs to be ready for Christmas. Christmas aside - we also have natural sun screen and insect repellent to protect you over the summer months. Otherwise a happy natural safe summer and 2018 to you all. Pureallies@gmail.com or Facebook Pure Allies NZ.



KAUKAPAKAPA VILLAGE MARKET

Sunday 17 December 8.30am to 1pm. We have a very festive market planned for December. Bring the kids along to see Santa in his grotto plus enjoy the seasonal sounds of the ladies from the Cougar Chorus. Pick up some last minute Christmas gifts with plenty of unique gift ideas from our great range of craft and gift stall

holders plus much more. Then we will see you all again on Sunday 21 January for another great market, live music, great food and coffee, fresh fruit and veg and plenty of bargains from the car boot area. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy 2018. For more information contact Sarah 027 483 1542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

FLIPPIN' FUN PROVIDES AWESOME COMMUNITY SERVICE

With the school holidays around the corner we got to wondering how much energy we released from kids in the two weeks of the October holidays. Based on an average kiddy calorie burn for a one hour trampolining - an astonishing 2,720,000 calories! The upcoming holidays look to be even busier so be sure to check our booking page to avoid full or sold out sessions. Of course it's not just in normal bounce sessions when you can experience the benefits of trampolining. We have a range of skills and activity classes to suit you and your schedule. Check these out for Term 4 (kindly note, except for fitness we suspend classes during the holidays). FLIP FIT classes - with summer on the way it's time to start thinking about getting back that beach bod! FLIP classes - Fly with the best. For age 8 yrs+. Learn new tricks to impress your friends with. JUNIOR FLIPPERS - a fundamental movement's programme for kids aged 5 -7 yrs teaching skills core to many sports. LITTLE FLIPPERS - a super fun toddler session for the 5 & under - no older kids allowed. Need a cool gift ideal for your bounce crazy child? We



have Christmas Gift 10 entry concession cards available in store for only \$100. For pricing and times be sure to check www.flippinfun.co.nz or call us on 09 833 6880. Also follow our Facebook page for summer specials! Flippin' Fun, 19 Fernhill Dr, Westgate.

AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY HORSE TRIAL SET TO BE A CRACKER

This year AESI have combined their spring and autumn horse trials to create one 'super event' and it's set to be their biggest yet. Scheduled for Auckland Anniversary weekend (27th/28th of January) at Woodhill Sands; previous class winners include Jock Paget, Blyth Tait, Heelan Tompkins and Clarke Johnstone. So with two days of jam-packed eventing action catering for CNC65 CNC80, CNC95, CNC105, CNC1* and CNC2* it's one not to be missed. Auckland Equestrian Sports Inc (AESI) is a group of local riders and supporters who have formed a not-for-profit group to run all horse trial events at Woodhill Sands. Entry for spectators is free and the kiosk will be open both days for gourmet eats and drinks so sit back, relax and watch event riders from around the country go head-to-head for some spectacular prizes - This year winners of each class will be awarded rugs as well as a generous array of product prizes and prize money. Riders will have the opportunity to enter via www.equestrianentries.co.nz. Pictured is AESI's 2017 CNC1* winner Megan Finlayson riding Greensleaves.



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PROPERTY

NEWS & ADVICE

BENEFITS OF A COOLING PROPERTY MARKET

Despite some property owners enjoying double-digit price growth in recent years, a cooling property market is not all bad news. A cooling property market may seem foreign to some home owners and investors who are used to double digit growth but it has its benefits. Here's why: It stabilises house prices - While those that own property like to see the value of their asset increasing, the truth is, if property prices increase too much in a short period of time, it can make the market more volatile.

With debt to income levels currently at record highs, a stemming of property growth reduces the risk that property prices will suffer an over-correction. While investors like to enjoy high-returns, they typically like to avoid suffering losses even more.

Investors will diversify their portfolios - With lower capital gains on offer in the big cities compared to recent years, some investors may choose to diversify their portfolios and buy in New Zealand's smaller country towns and cities.

Houses also cost less in the smaller towns, and with investors now requiring a 40% deposit, the lower prices in these areas are likely to make investing here more achievable.

However, investors may also look to other forms of investment, such as term deposits.

First home buyers won't feel as 'squeezed out' - As some investors look for other ways to increase their wealth, first home

buyers may be able to get a foot on the property ladder.

While it is still relatively early days, we can see that first home buyers are taking up part of the slack left by investors.

Home owners can focus on paying down debt - The idea of property price growth slowing makes selling your home or upgrading less appealing, so many home owners will see the next few years as an opportunity to sit tight and pay down debt.

With interest rates still at historical lows, there has never been a better time to reduce your mortgage. For further details or feedback feel free to contact Ivan 027 577 5995 or email ivan.urlich@mikepero.co.nz. Ivan Urlich is a registered Financial Advisor specialising in Mortgages, his disclosure statement is available free of charge on request.

MARKET REPORT

New Zealand Media have an insatiable appetite for news and gossip on Auckland's housing market. It seems that if the market is up it is bad, if it is down it is bad and if a third party (namely Auckland Council) changes the RV data for rates charged, you'd think that some Auckland Land Owners just got a pay-day. Since 2010 when I started contributing and summarizing the trends and the general sales in and around Kumeu I have found that these small individual villages and clusters work independently of one another but share some connected trends and threads. I also find that some areas may be hot while others are not. New homes may be rocketing out due to reserve

bank controls leaving refurbished homes languishing a little due to unfair competitive elements on mortgage lending and the loan to value ratio and the loan to income ratio. Whatever you believe and whatever you read please bear in mind that Auckland has a huge demand for homes, this is not likely to change. Some of these homes will be refurbished, some will be do-up's and some will be new. The market is undergoing a degree of correction, in part caused by years and years of compounding house price increases and in part because confidence is a little low and mortgage funding is a little restricted. This is not new and in the past every 5 years we had a slight correction. Rest assured if you have owned a property for more than three years you will most likely sell the home for more than you paid for it. And if you hold it for another three years it will be worth more again, that is the cycle of wealth created by property. If you would like an independent appraisal on the worth of your home or investment property, without cost nor obligation I would like to meet with you and discuss the market, the value within your home and improvements that could contribute to an increased sale price. Let's take a look at the market: Helensville residential \$650,000 to \$90,000. Helensville lifestyle \$1,150,000 to \$1,160,000. Huapai residential \$890,000 to \$1,035,000. Kumeu lifestyle \$1,200,000. Muriwai residential \$1,065,000 to \$1,235,000. Parakai residential 515,000. Riverhead residential \$808,000 to \$1,280,000. Taupaki lifestyle \$1,740,000 to \$2,800,000. Waimauku residential \$730,000 to \$1,500,000. Waimauku lifestyle \$1,525,000. Waitakere residential \$497,000. Upsizing or downsizing or liquidating, there are a number of things that will be important to you; a) the agent needs to be experienced and highly qualified; b) the process must attract a volume of buyers; c) the advertising plan must attract the right buyers to view the property; and d) you must feel part of the journey and involved in the success of the sale. At Mike Pero Real Estate, we provide a logical and easy solution that delivers peace-of-mind to



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buyers and sellers considering a property change. For more information go to www.grahamcintyre.co.nz or phone 0800 900 700. Mike Pero Real Estate Ltd Licensed REAA (2008).

ROOFING TIPS FOR THE SUMMER



One of the most obvious yet most commonly overlooked parts of your home is the roof. It is seen by everyone who passes by your home and the look of your roof goes a long way in boosting the kerb appeal of your home. When it comes to remembering to take care of your roof, there are some good roofing tips for the summer that can help make things easier all year round, especially if you work with a reputable contractor who can provide local roof assistance. Update Your Roof - Roofs can last 20 or more years if they are well cared for but if the time has come for a new roof, look at it as an opportunity to make improvements not just to the roof but the entire home. Consider different roofing materials or colors. Certain shingles and tiles can make a roof more attractive and lighter colored roofs help keep the temperature down inside the home and can help reduce energy usage. Look at all of your options and see which choices will best serve you and your family in the future. Options For Waterproofing - When it comes to roofing tips for the summer, a lot of it comes down to where you live and the type of weather you experience throughout the year. If you live in a wet climate, an area with a lot of humidity, or near the ocean where the damaging salt spray can be an issue, then getting a waterproofing coating on your roof can be

a great step to take. It protects against moisture damage and keeps water from getting into your home- one of the biggest issues homeowners face with their roofing systems. Get Local Roof Assistance When Needed - To maintain your roof and keep it looking its best and functioning as it should, you need to have somebody inspect it with every change of the season. Biannual inspections are an easy and inexpensive option too for areas without major seasonal changes. The most important thing to remember is that hiring a licensed and experienced roofing contractor is the best way to take care of your roof and to get it back in shape when issues or damage are detected. All of our replacements, restorations and repairs on homes and businesses in Auckland are backed with an exceptional 10 year workmanship guarantee, and manufacturer's warranties also apply on most materials of up to 30 years. Call us today on 0800 00 22 22 email roofingprecision@gmail.com for a free no obligation quote - we would love to hear from you.

HOW TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THESE THE FREE CVS?

Every three years Auckland Council reviews all of the properties and a revaluation notice is sent in the post or via email in November. For property investors with multiple properties, it gives them a chance to look at how their portfolio of properties is stacking up in the current market situation and to reflect if it is time to consolidate their gains with regards to the objective of maximising their return on their investment and/or take utmost care of their portfolio where they think the gains are not as encouraging as they would like it to be. For first home buyers, it is time to assess their situation and also to provide for rates as a part of the regular budgetary expenditure which they might not be used to earlier. As rating valuation is a mass appraisal of properties used to work out property rates and

the council valuers work with independent organisation Quotable Value (QV) to determine property values, every time the revised valuations come many homeowners are not happy with the revision. The council gives such owners up to six weeks' time from the date of the valuation to file their objections to the revision with their reasons for their perceived value of their home. If you are a home owner facing a situation in which you feel that your valuations are not up to the mark, you have a range of options you can consider: 1. Accept the valuations at face value and pay the rates as per the assessment. This may not always necessarily be beneficial to you just in case you realise at a later stage that there was a mistake apparent on the face of it and you did not take any action to address this. 2. Challenge the valuation by filing an objection within the given time frame (normally six weeks from the date of letter informing you of your revised valuations). 3. In case you own multiple properties, you can choose to use revised valuations as a basic tool to examine the trend/direction of your investment and take appropriate action as you deem necessary to achieve your overall long-term investment goals. 4. Lastly, you can keep your bank/lender updated on the current valuation and if acceptable to them, at no extra cost to you, possibly ask for a review of your credit facilities including paying off your higher interest bearing credit Cards, Hire Purchase, etc. subject to lending criteria. If you are feel based on your revised valuations of your investment properties you wish to still generate better returns on your investments based on current higher market rentals which you might not have reviewed in the last over six months, then we can certainly help you. Please contact us for a chat on any of your property management requirements. Contact Quinovic Kumeu's Franchise Owner Virendra Gupta 09 973 5527 or email VirendraG@quinovic-kumeu.co.nz.



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AREA PROPERTY STATS

Every month Mike Pero Real Estate 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. If you would like to receive this full summary please email the word "full statistics" to kumeu@mikepero.com. This service is free from cost.

Suburb	CV	Land Area	Floor Area	Sale Price
Herald Island	800,000	693M2	80M2	978,200
Helensville	450,000	601M2	147M2	700,000
	470,000	1506M2	183M2	650,000
	410,000	641M2	138M2	710,000
	650,000	4060M2	190M2	901,000
	810,000	1HA	266M2	1,150,000
	890,000	1HA	290M2	
Huapai	820,000	606M2	212M2	1,035,000
	640,000	707M2	151M2	890,000
	740,000	664M2	175M2	935,000
Kumeu	860,000	1.7HA	104M2	1,200,000
Muriwai	790,000	2709M2	170M2	1,065,000
	880,000	4213M2	247M2	1,235,900
	910,000	1.2HA	242M2	1,282,500
Parakai	330,000	591M2	140M2	515,000
Riverhead	1,025,000	1499M2	233M2	1,280,000
	705,000	809M2	170M2	830,000
	630,000	809M2	106M2	858,000
	690,000	1214M2	155M2	808,000
	570,000	405M2	101M2	888,000
	1,950,000	7.6HA	290M2	4,500,000
Taupaki	1,400,000	2.1HA	200M2	1,740,000
	1,625,000	5.1HA	332M2	2,800,000
Waimauku	820,000	4085M2	205M2	1,067,500
	840,000	2023M2	216M2	1,200,000
	840,000	1501M2	180M2	1,170,000
	590,000	1964M2	180M2	889,000
	990,000	3106M2	338M2	1,500,000
	520,000	1530M2	103M2	730,000
	600,000	1363M2	90M2	776,250
	590,000	1964M2	180M2	870,000
	1,000,000	2182M2	255M2	1,350,000
	1,375,000	2HA	351M2	1,525,000
Waitakere	340,000	0M2	70M2	497,000
	510,000	5211M2	80M2	725,000

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

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10 Rosella Grove, Waimauku
By Negotiation

Large sheltered outdoor area, complete with in ground pool, is an entertainers delight. Expansive lawn is enhanced by easy-care established gardens bathed in sunshine from sunrise to sunset. Perfect for the long hot summer just around the corner. Built in early 2000 this home offers 4 bedrooms, dressing room, two lounges, two bathrooms (including en-suite) guest toilet and double garage. All on one level floor plan. Tree lined Rosella Grove is in walking distance to school, village, RSA, tennis courts, bowling green, parks and walking tracks and a short car ride to Muriwai Beach and Golf Club. The CV on this property is \$1,050,000. We are happy to supply a list of the last 12 months of transactions in this area. For a complete transaction list please email graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com.

www.mikepero.com/RX1291971



Graham McIntyre
027 632 0421
09 412 9602

graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com



HIGH SPEC QUALITY HOME, SUN-FILLED IN HUAPAI

4 2 2

By Negotiation

11 Hooton Drive, Huapai
By Negotiation

Near new DW Homes showcase - with Master Build Guarantee. Beautifully appointed four bedroom home with study, separate lounge and open plan entertaining with alfresco views through to Riverhead Forest. Flat, fully fenced yard already planted and set for your enjoyment. If you are seeking a life less complicated and want a home that delivers relaxed, comfortable and economic living, you can not go past this impeccably finished DW Home. Solidly constructed in double brick, the unique design angles will excite. A kitchen full of modern F&P appliances and all the comfort of double glazing and a heat pump for warm winters and cool summers. Entertainers style linking seamlessly with patio area onto lawn, ready for summer socialising.

www.mikepero.com/RX1319024



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6 BEDROOMS, 2 LIVING AREAS, ¼ ACRE - WAITAKERE

6 2

By Negotiation

16 McEntee Road, Waitakere
By Negotiation

Welcome to Waitakere Township, a village with a community heart and heritage. If you're looking for space to sprawl out, a home that caters for the family and the extended family, this is a number one choice. Offering six generous rooms over two levels with alfresco through to decking and family flexibility with two living areas and an open plan entertainers kitchen dining area. The home is elevated, with solar panels, enjoying views over grazing land to the Waitakere Foothills. Set on 1195 sqm, the land is peppered with mature fruit trees and lawn while the carport and workshop/ storage area is very useful for tools and toys. In close proximity to Waitakere Primary School, Transport link, Dairy, RSA and Community Hall, it is a community with a history through rail and kauri logging.

www.mikepero.com/RX1323442



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OVER 55 VILLAGE, BRICK AND TILE, IN DEMAND

2 1 1

By Negotiation

18 / 64 Tapu Road, Huapai
By Negotiation

Designed, crafted and maintained for the comfort of Golden Years. Highly desirable and seldom on the market, catering for the over 55 years of age. A brick and tile two bedroom home, open plan entertainers style kitchen, dining, lounge with easy internal access to single garage, and westerly patio looking out to Huapai Domain. Maintained and easy care grounds the environment is a pleasure to stroll through, while the convenience of shopping and safe walking is close at hand, as is, a relaxed chat and a soothing cup of tea. The CV on this property is \$640,000. We are happy to supply a list of the last 12 months of transactions in this area. For a complete transaction list please email graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com.

www.mikepero.com/RX1292166



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FAMILY ON 4,295SQM IN WAIMAUKU

3 2 2

By Negotiation

21 Buttercup Place, Waimauku
By Negotiation

Great possibilities for the family or extended family. This majestic Queenslander style character brick home stands in easy care grounds, down a private right of way in the heart of Waimauku village. 21 Buttercup Place features a wide formal entrance, an office, 3 double bedrooms (master with ensuite), a formal lounge plus a combined family room/ dining adjacent to the kitchen. This home has a versatile layout providing lots of options for the family and for a work from home scenario. Open plan living area, spacious and light with access to an extended wrap around verandah, allowing you to follow the sun, indoor/outdoor flow at its best. The land has been landscaped, leaving you the opportunity to sit back and enjoy your new home while the kids and or your pets enjoy the space.

www.mikepero.com/RX1286702



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BRAND NEW MADDREN HOME - FAMILY AFFORDABLE

4 2 2

By Negotiation

22 Korako Drive, Huapai
By Negotiation

Don't put things on hold, don't wait another minute, buy today move in tomorrow. Set on 737 square meters this inspired family home presents a benchmark in style, affordability and comfort and is ready for occupation. Delivering four generous rooms, bathroom and en-suite with open plan entertainers kitchen, dining and living leading onto sun drenched patio. The specification and finishing of this crafted Maddren home is at a very high level and the styling, fencing and tree planting is smart, low maintenance and seamless. A short stroll to cafes, parks, shopping, primary school and sports reserve. We are happy to supply a list of the last 12 months of transactions in this area. For a complete transaction list please email graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com.

www.mikepero.com/RX1291303



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BIG EXECUTIVE LIVING WITH STUDIO LOFT

5 2 3

By Negotiation

45 Buckley Avenue, Hobsonville Point
By Negotiation

This inspired five bedroom home commands a corner site with plenty of space, light and urban views. Ground floor entry offers open plan living into a sunny lounge, separate kitchen and dining area, with indoor-outdoor flow. Four spacious bedrooms are found on the two upper levels. Landscaped courtyards at the front and rear of the home add extra space to create a calm, relaxing environment. With 2 car garaging, carport and a studio loft, this property certainly delivers! Look no further for an ultra-modern, future-proofed home, only three years young with a 10 year Master builders guarantee. Life here includes top schools, cafes, restaurants, shops, medical centre, a lively Farmers market, coastal walks and great transport links, including ferry.

www.mikepero.com/RX1303431



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BRICK AND TILE - ONE LEVEL ALFRESCO LIVING

4 1 2

By Negotiation

51 Cloverfields Drive, Waimauku By Negotiation

Set on a private and tranquil half acre, at the end of an exclusive use driveway is this stunning property, a home and a haven, quiet and restful. This quality 200sqm brick and tile home is stunning and style and class are evident throughout. The designer cottage kitchen is the hub of the home. The open plan dining and living leads out to a large sun filled deck ideal for entertaining with pull down blinds and delightful outlook. Two living areas, three double bedrooms and a spacious modern family bathroom complete the main part of the house while a separate wing, gives this home options galore. Here is a large third living area, fourth double bedroom, bathroom and office nook, with internal access to the garage.

www.mikepero.com/RX1330244



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THE PERFECT LIFESTYLE PROPERTY

4 2 2

Asking Price \$1,298,000

87 Zanders Road, Waimauku Asking Price \$1,298,000

This is the most sought after lifestyle property, 1.9HA (5 acres approx.) nestled in a quite rural cul-de-sac in the Ararimu Valley, 10 mins from Kumeu or Waimauku villages. Spacious, Maddren four bedroom, two bathroom brick home with internal access to a large double garage. Large wooden deck accessed by two double bi-fold doors and a ranch slider provide great indoor - outdoor flow. A double bi-fold door opens onto a concrete courtyard, from the large kitchen / family room area. Land is easy to moderate contour and enjoys a pleasant rural outlook. The grounds are neatly laid out, featuring fruit trees and palms. Pasture is divided into 4 paddocks of improved pasture. The fencing is to a good standard. A small dam is at the bottom corner of the block.

www.mikepero.com/RX1323109



Lyndsay Kerr
027 554 4240
09 412 9602

lyndsay.kerr@mikepero.com



CHARACTER BUNGALOW - OOZES CHARM

4 1 1

By Negotiation

104 McEntee Road, Waitakere By Negotiation

Big back yard, big front decking, a family home with the trimmings. Four generous bedrooms, open plan entertainers kitchen that links to dining and lounge with French doors to alfresco, extensive sun soaked decking and spa. The home is fully fenced with a standalone garage and carport as well as sleepout/office, delivering great options for tools and toys while you have easy care grassed lawn with established trees for privacy. Close to Waitakere Primary School, Waitakere Park, RSA and transport links. The CV on this property is \$730,000. We are happy to supply a list of the last 12 months of transactions in this area. For a complete transaction list please email graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com.

www.mikepero.com/RX1330249



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09 412 9602

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BRING THE HORSES AND THE KIDS - WAIMAUKU

5 2 2

By Negotiation

108 Valley Road, Waimauku By Negotiation

Elevated lifestyle property overlooking Muriwai Valley to the West, offering space, privacy and options to play or work from home. The home is positioned for the sunshine and the views offering the Owner to look over the land and get the most out of the country landscape. Five generous bedrooms, two bathrooms and open plan living and entertaining, this home offers the right family mix. In addition an office/gym room and double garage ensures options to work or work-out. Two stables with wash-down concrete pad, round arena and large half round barn does provide ample improvements to cater for tools and toys. This 3.5 hectares (8.7 acres) of gentle-sloping land is a mix of sandy loam and clay base and drains off to provide workable pasture all year round.

www.mikepero.com/RX1289283



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09 412 9602

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HOME & GARDEN

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WEST AUCKLAND BUSINESS LAUNCHES PRODUCT WHICH MAY EASE AUCKLAND'S HOUSING CRISIS

Developments Made Easy is launched to simplify property development for local homeowners. Thomas Consultants LTD, a consultancy based out west, has launched a product called Developments Made Easy "DME". DME is a fresh approach to developments in Auckland, enabling home owners to do more with their land. With recent changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan, which aimed at addressing Auckland's housing crisis, many property owners and small developers have still found obtaining council consents to be hard work. DME offers a one stop shop which provides the right solution for local home owners and ticks the boxes for council to grant consent. DME provides an easy and fast route to getting approved resource consent. A significant number of properties in Auckland are properties that can now be developed, an outcome which will work to alleviate the Auckland Housing Crisis.

TANK WATER

The summer season is almost here. Rainfall has already decreased so there is less water entering your tanks. Try to monitor your levels on a weekly basis so you are aware of your consumption and to prevent being caught out with an empty tank. Bear in mind that if you are low on water many others may be as well. It is not uncommon to be waiting up to a week for a water delivery in the height of summer. The hotter days can also affect the quality of your water. These days many tanks are sited away from the house resulting in underground collection pipes to the tanks. These pipes continually hold water. If it doesn't rain for a week or two, this water can become stagnant, particularly if mixed with organic leaf matter. So when it does rain, this contaminated water ends up in your tank. Try to flush or drain your lines by removing the flush cap on a weekly basis and keep your gutters clean. If you do run out of water and your tank is dirty, allow 2-3 hours for the sludge to settle out after the water delivery. Using the dirty water straight after a fill can result in filters, pump impellers, and domestic appliances blocking up. Sometimes smelly tank water can be remedied by running a garden hose into the tank to recirculate and oxygenate the water. Be careful if the tank is dirty as you could be stirring up the sludge in the bottom making matters worse. Remember





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for summer - clean gutters and regular pipe flushing. I am an experienced owner/operator and happy to provide assistance with any tank water problems. My core business is pump repair/sales, filtration and tank cleaning/repair. Joe Hall, 021 420 9236, www.healthywatersolutions.co.nz.

FOREST FURNITURE

The saying goes: "Good friends, good times, good food and good wine" are all part of celebrations of the season. To help keep your wine at its best before serving, it is well known to store bottles on their sides. This helps to keep the flavour but also horizontal racking is a space-efficient way to store bottles. Forest Furniture has a large range of wine racks which can help organise your wine store over this busy season. There are three main styles: the upright storage stack for 6-12 bottles; a cabinet which can be made any size to suit your space and needs; then a cabinet with a hanging glass-holder. See the full range of wine racks at Forest Furniture Store, Shop D9 Westgate Lifestyle, Maki Street, phone 09 216 7674 or visit our website www.forestfurniture.co.nz. Remember all furniture is solid kauri, rimu and oak; NZ made; with 10 years' warranty.



FLETCHER LIVING'S STUNNING NEW HOBSONVILLE POINT SHOW HOME IS NOW OPEN

Come in and see us at 7 Peihana Road, open 7 days, 10am-4pm. Hobsonville Point is a peaceful and beautiful sanctuary just 25 minutes from the CBD by ferry or 20 minutes by motorway off peak. A growing and sought-after community on the peninsula, nestled between Albany and West Harbour and surrounded by the waters of Waitemata Harbour. A family friendly location with sculpture trail, parks, walkways, brand new schools, shopping facilities and a bustling Sunday farmers market all within minutes of your doorstep. Take a look around our new show home and introduce yourself to our friendly sales team. We have a range of completed homes available ready for you to view today. These homes offer a mix of two level duplex and standalone homes with expansive and light-filled open plan living, on trend kitchens and high quality fixtures. The quality build and well thought



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out design will be sure to impress. You will feel at home and entertain with ease. Perfect for all ages and stages and lifestyles. Get in quick to be one of the first to view our exciting new release of homes. For more information visit fletcherliving.co.nz or call Christina Tubman on 027 334 4752.

CHANGING THE WAY YOU BBQ

We know Kiwis love entertaining outdoors, so Grasslands are proud to release the award winning series of BBQ's from Zeigler & Brown. Distributed in New Zealand by Masport, these very smart BBQ's take the high domed hood system to a new level. The firebox and egg shaped domed hood are die-cast from thick, heavy duty aluminum. Ziegler & Brown offer models from the compact portable grill to the powerful triple grill. With the optional cooking formats, these are the most versatile BBQ we know of. Roast racks, pizza stones, smoker box & skewers are some of the popular accessories. They are backed by a comprehensive 5 year warranty. A key feature is the high output burners with flame thrower easy start ignition which allows for cooking with hood open or closed. See the Ziggy in store now at Grasslands, 20 Shamrock Drive Kumeu - 09 412 7880.



CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST

Christmas is just around the corner – are you ready? We have some helpful tips that will get you get through the silly season. To rain or not to rain – that is the question. Water tank empty, catch you by surprise? Install a tank level Indicator. Water pump noisy? We have a wide range of domestic household,

forest FURNITURE

Wishing you a festive holiday season and a very happy New Year

From the team
Jillian, Lin and April

Store Hours
Christmas Day CLOSED
Boxing Day 10:00am - 5:30pm
New Years Day 10:00am - 5:30pm
2nd January 2018 10:00 - 5:30pm

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submersible, bore hole pumps, pond pumps, pumps suitable for small to large homes. Drinking water safe for the whole family this holiday season? UV filtration for 99.99% protection. Pool green? – test your pool water free at KPL and remove the green. Sprung a leak, toilet blocked and you have friends on their way for dinner – call us. We hold a 24/7 service for any emergency. If it involves water, we have you covered. From the team at KPL we wish you all a very Merry Christmas! Thank you for your business. Kumeu Plumbing Ltd (big blue building) 156 Main Road Kumeu 09 412 9108.

RELATIONSHIP PROPERTY AGREEMENTS AND UNFAIRNESS

Agreements about property between partners are different from normal agreement because there is an intimate relationship which is absent from business arrangements. Accordingly, a property agreement which may be justified as a business arrangement could be overturned by the court even if both parties had lawyers who fully advise each party. Part of the reason for this is that the act requires a lawyer to consider potential future unfairness arising from the agreement. Or, if there is a challenge to a property agreement, the length of time since that agreement was made and the change in the circumstances of the parties due to time. For instance, a change in your health or income earning ability may make it unfair that you have no interest in the family home which was owned by your partner prior to the relationship. These considerations can also be relevant if there is a challenge to the agreement after the death of one of the parties to the agreement. That is, the surviving partner may then challenge the beneficiaries of the estate by

challenging the fairness of the property agreement.

IT'S BEGINNING TO FEEL A BIT LIKE CHRISTMAS AT KUMEU GARDEN HUB!

We are well stocked with lots of Christmas gift ideas and solutions! From all things gardening, to pretty pots and hanging baskets. The giftstore has plenty of ideas for all the family, teachers and friends and we can help with staff gift baskets too.



For gifts that last, such as an avocado or fruit tree, or gifts that don't such as chocolate! We offer free gift wrapping too. Top up your garden and patio pots with our huge range of potted colour ready for the holiday season. Check our Facebook page for specials, competitions and give aways. All the team at Kumeu Garden Hub would like to wish our customers a safe and Happy Christmas. Thank you for your support and for shopping local!

WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE

Gathered at the neighbourhood barbeque, long refreshing drink in hand, enjoying the delicious seasonal dishes... when over the quiet mingling chatter you are subjected to a blow by blow account of a new home building project gone horribly wrong. Entrusting a team to take care of you throughout the build process on your journey to creating your brand new family home is a big decision. The most important decision you will

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make. It will be the difference between having a great experience and having one you can't wait to forget. For 15 years we've been building homes for a variety of delighted NZ families and creating better barbeque stories. Ensure your own personal building story is one you can tell with confidence at your next summer barbeque. If you are motivated to start creating the home you have always envisaged, then this is for you. Talk soon Scott - www.compasshomesrodney.com.

LIVESTOCK REPORT

Large numbers of weaner cattle coming on the market all at once saw prices below recent very strong rates, especially for any badly bred or very small weaners, which there was plenty of! The better quality calves continue to sell very well, and this is always the case as farmers are becoming very quality conscious, which is a great thing for the beef industry. Killable cattle sold strongly in line with recent weeks and hopefully this will continue for some time.

Cattle	Lowest Price	Highest Price
Medium prime steers	\$1,475	\$1,780
Other medium steers	\$1,165	\$1,420
Medium 15 month steers	\$1,120	\$1,290
Medium weaner steers	\$620	\$790
Medium prime heifers	\$1,340	\$1,680
Other 18 month heifers	\$1,180	\$1,240
Medium 15 month heifers	\$910	\$1,210
Plain x bred heifers	\$490	\$660
Good weaner heifers	\$802	
Other weaner heifers	\$520	\$700
Boner cows	\$1,190	\$1,290
Fat lambs	\$116	\$160
Store lambs	\$71	\$102
Hoggets	\$69	\$123
Ewes	\$150	
Ewes with lambs	\$70	
Rams	\$45	\$88.50
Weaners	\$110	
Porkers	\$200	
Sow	\$300	
Store	\$142	
Boar	\$150	

\$85 = EXPOSURE FOR A MONTH

Budgets are tight and advertising is often expensive, but it's nice to know that someone is making it easy and cost effective. For \$85 plus GST you can be exposed to over 22,000 locals for a whole month. That is only \$2.80 a day. For more information email our editor at sarahbrightwell022@gmail.com.



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BUILD

NEW

JALCON OFFERS UNIQUE VIRTUAL TOUR OF ITS LATEST HOBSONVILLE POINT DEVELOPMENT

Seventy-nine new homes are to be built in Sunderland Crescent. Experienced Auckland house designer and builder, Jalcon, has just launched its latest development – consisting of 79 new homes – at Hobsonville Point. And, in a first for Auckland, potential buyers can take a virtual tour of their new home. Known as Sunderland Crescent, the north-facing prime coastal site has views over native bush and the upper harbour and is right next to the coastal walkway. It will include a mix of standalone houses, terraces and apartments. Designed by leading architects Stevens Lawson, prices start at \$650,000 for the two bedroom apartments, \$1.075 million for the three bedroom terraces and \$1.599 million for the individual three to four bedroom homes. To demonstrate the appeal of living in the development, Jalcon



has revamped the display room in their show home at 7 Liquidambar Drive, Hobsonville Point, open every day from 10am to 4pm or by appointment. And, in an exciting new move, the company has created a unique virtual tour allowing potential buyers to navigate around the development and visualise how they would live there. More information visit www.jalcon.co/nz/hobsonvillepoint or call 0800 77 11 11.

ONE PLAN, ENDLESS OPTIONS

Have you ever had a suit or dress tailor made, just for you? Starting with a pre-determined cut or design, the tailor then helps you choose fabric, fit, colour and design finishings to make it unique to you and your needs. An extra pocket here, a cropped hem there, even though your suit or dress came from the same design, the final product can look completely different. Building a new home from a Signature Homes Pacific Collection plan is much the same. Your choice of plan determines specifics such as the number of bedrooms, bathrooms and overall floor plan. From there, you can modify the look and style of your home through your choice of roof shape, exterior cladding and window style, or by adding exterior details such as a feature chimney or covered deck. Take the two houses in the picture above, for example. Both options that can be built from the Marina plan, each exterior has a unique look and feel. House one has a gable roof with brick and weatherboard cladding and feature chimney. House two has a completely different look with monopitch roof and weatherboard cladding, and that's before even considering colour choice and



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joinery. And both homes have changed the location and entrance of the garage. Inside, there are endless options available to tailor a plan. You can add bi-fold or sliding doors to create indoor/outdoor flow, remove wardrobes to create office space or add a kitchen island or butler's pantry to create a dream entertainer's kitchen. Some changes could alter the final cost of your home, and your New Home Consultant can help you work out whether the changes you desire can be made easily and within your budget, or whether you might be better off choosing an alternative plan. Starting with a pre-designed plan doesn't mean you get the same home as others who have started with the same plan, Signature have never built the exact same home twice. A tried and tested house plan means you can relax knowing that the bones are good, and enjoy the process of personalising your home.

G.J. GARDNER HOMES PARKVIEW HOUSE & LAND PACKAGES AVAILABLE NOW

G.J. Gardner Homes Rodney West are delighted to be building new homes in the new Parkview Development in Helensville. Here at G.J. Gardner Homes Rodney West we believe that the key factors in creating a home that is just right for you are communication, understanding and teamwork. We respect and understand our clients' individual needs and unique requirements when building a home. In the local Rodney area GJ Gard-



ner have built more than 1,500 homes which shows our wealth of local building experience and knowledge. We are a committed team who have built a reputation that ensures all customers will receive excellent service, quality workmanship and quality product. We have a strong local focus in the Rodney West area that allows the team to work more closely with our local clients as we continue to bring their new home ownership dreams to life with great quality and value new homes. Please feel free to call in for a coffee and discuss your ideas and dreams to bring your new home in Parkview to life.

TRADIE OF THE MONTH

A great work ethic and an eye for detail have earned builder Edwin (Chook) Smith the Maddren Homes Tradie of the month nomination. Chook's been in the building game a while and his can-do attitude and quality workmanship have not gone unnoticed. It's bringing values like these to the job every day that contributes to a positive culture and houses built to a superior standard; a win-win for everyone. Chook's hard work sees him walk away with a voucher from proud sponsor Western ITM. Keep up the great work Chook, you're one in a million.



Old hands at building award winning new homes

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PETS

TIPS & ADVICE

DON'T RUSH YOUR DOG; GIVE THEM A MOMENT TO THINK

'Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think' – Albert Einstein. Don't rush your dog; give them a moment to think! You will be surprised with how much they can accomplish. As humans we can be very impatient. Think about how annoying you find it when your email takes longer than 2 seconds to update or a video takes forever to buffer (forever being 2 seconds)...I know I get frustrated! The issue is our dogs are not machines being given commands to do things. They are living beings with their own wants, needs, feelings, thought processes and interests. Sometimes distractions around them mean that, something they would normally find easy to do may take a little longer. Quite often we can find ourselves in the position of micro managing our dogs. Telling them exactly what to do in all situations and wondering why they never learn for themselves. We often repeat



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3pm onwards
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ourselves to the point that the words we are saying become white noise with no meaning. When really all we need to do is give them a little time to think. Put yourself in this situation: you're out walking your dog on lead, a bird pops out of the bush in front of you and your dog pulls you towards it. Most people's reaction would be to pull the dog back to them, possibly while shouting 'Leave, Buddy leave!'. You're now flustered, your dog's probably confused as to why you shouted at him and annoyed that he wasn't allowed to go chase the bird. There is a small, but definite, breakdown in communication and the relationship between you and your dog. Nobody has gained anything from the experience. Now instead I want you to try a different way to handle the situation, a way that will involve your dog thinking and learning to make good choices in situations like this in the future. Your dog has seen the bird and is at the end of his leash, he can't go anywhere though; he is still attached to you. Instead of pulling the dog back or shouting something at him, just wait. Simply wait and give your dog a moment to think and make a choice to come back to you. Then if your dog chooses to come back to you have a party; reward them. They have chosen you over the exciting bird so celebrate it; build that relationship. Don't rush your dog; give them a moment to think. Try it in as many scenarios as you can. You will see how quickly your dog starts making good choices and how your relationship grows. Laura, Constructive Canines, www.constructivecanines.co.nz.

DOG AND CO

Summer is an exciting time for pet photographers like myself. I specialise in outdoor, candid images of your four legged pals, so it is always a relief when the sun comes out, the temperature rises, and the mud dries out.



Nothing beats being able to capture the joy which a dog experiences at places like Bethells Beach, and when you book a photo session with me, the choice of location is entirely up to you. Now is the time to get in touch for summer photo sessions. Alongside doing photo shoots outside, I also have a portable "dog photo booth" which I set up at markets and events around Auckland, or in the comfort of your home. Over summer I will be at Te Atatu Night Market on the last Friday of each month, as well as the new Paws in Parnell monthly dog exclusive market. No booking required and super affordable if you are after simple images of your dog against a backdrop. Finally, Pet.Kiwi will be hosting a fun Christmas party on December 16th at their store, 381 Great North Road, Grey Lynn, in which I will be doing a Christmas themed pop-up. A percentage of each photo session sold will be going towards the awesome ARAN Rescue. To book a photo session, don't hesitate to get in touch with Kirsty

SCHOOL'S OUT!

AFTER SCHOOL CARE – SPACES AVAILABLE NOW!

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Based in Room 14 at Huapai School or the Youth Hall, 27 Station Rd, Waimauku, we cater for children aged 5 – 13 years, between 3pm and 6pm daily.

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Check out our website for more information:
<http://www.afterschoolcare.net.nz/after-school-care/>

SHOULD I FEED VEGETABLES TO MY RAW-FED DOG?

It depends. Vegetable fibre promotes gut health in humans. The same effect is seen in dogs when they ingest their prey (especially the joints and skin). For a species-appropriate source of 'fibre', a well-planned raw meaty bone diet is perfect for dogs. Green tripe is a great food for carnivores – full of probiotics and beneficial nutrients. Pet owners who can't access tripe often feed vegetables instead, but we are fortunate in New Zealand with our ready supply of high quality green tripe. Another reason for adding vegetables is to increase the range of nutrients in the diet. This may be necessary if you are unable to access a varied raw diet. Again – in New Zealand we are fortunate to have access to a plentiful wild and farmed prey species, so it is relatively easy to provide a wide range of nutrients. Some dogs may benefit from vegetables, but some may do better without them. Certain vegetables can even be toxic to dogs. If you are considering adding vegetables to your dog's raw diet, chat to our staff first, so that we can help you figure out the best approach for your pet.



KANIKA PARK CAT RETREAT

Enriching Your Cat's Environment - by Dr Liz Bales, Modern Cat magazine. You've gone to great efforts, you've done research - the best food, attend to every physical and medical need. But is your cat happy? Veterinary behavioural science has demonstrated that cats need more than shelter, in short: Improving feline environmental enrichment: Safe Space: In nature, cats are predator and prey, being exposed can make them feel vulnerable. Give them a safe spot to retreat to with beds, boxes, perches, cat trees, and shelves. Multiple/Separate Key Resources: Cats handle conflict by avoidance. They get along best when they don't have to share. Multiple "key resources" litter boxes, scratching posts, water, food sources in separate areas of the living space. Positive and Predictable Human Interaction: Play with your cat daily. Cats benefit from at least 15 minutes of daily play. Kanika Park Cat Retreat has done our homework too, we totally agree with Dr Liz Bales. We have put the above and more into each of our large spacious suites. Phone 09 411 5326, email



SUMMER'S UNEXPECTED DANGER TO YOUR DOG: THE GRASS SEED

Although you wouldn't necessarily think so, grass seeds are one of the most common problems encountered by pets, especially dogs. An unsuspecting owner may not realise the extent to which their pet has been affected, as the only tell-tale signs might be irritation, biting or whining. It is extremely difficult for vets to know how large the problem is, and what treatment is necessary. In some cases, surgery may be the only option of removing the contaminant. You might start to notice grass seeds as they become more prevalent from late spring up to the end of summer. They can become lodged almost anywhere on or in a dog, from their eyes and ears to the pads on their feet, and can move around inside the body. They tend to require removal, as they can't usually be broken down. It is therefore not simply enough to provide antibiotics to eradicate the seeds as although they will initially tackle the infection, it will keep returning as long as the seed remains in the body. What are the signs and symptoms? Nose: Continuous sneezing and rubbing of the nose or face are other signs, and the dog may struggle to breathe. A seed can damage the airways and may even move into the lungs, which is usually considered life threatening. Eyes: The eye will seem swollen, inflamed and red, and may also be watery. Ulcers can appear, and the dog might rub at the site because of the irritation. Seeds can even enter the eye itself. Long-term problems can result in blindness, and the eye may even be removed depending on the severity of the problem. Ears: Your dog may scratch their ears, rub their head



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along the floor, shake it and walk at a tilted angle. The ear might also be sore to touch and the dog may hold their head to one side. Infections can develop at the site, the ear drum could rupture and the dog might even go deaf or lose their balance permanently. They could die if the seed travels from this area into the brain. Skin: The dog may try to remove the grass seed by licking and chewing a specific area. The awn might visibly protrude from the skin, which could appear swollen and red with pus or blood. From here the seed can move into the abdomen or chest, in which case surgery would probably have to be administered to remove it. Feet: Signs of a seed in the feet are swelling, redness and a weeping hole. The dog will try to lick or chew the affected place, and limp or hold their leg up. A seed can travel from the feet up through the leg, all the way up to the chest or joints. Stomach and lungs: It is possible for a dog to ingest and inhale grass seeds in a variety of ways. They might be picked up on food they eat off the ground, when they lick their coats or whilst walking or running through long grass. They can also be inhaled through the mouth and get stuck in the lungs, causing the dog to cough or retch. It is impossible to detect whether a grass seed has become stuck in the lungs until the infection is rather advanced, and the case may be that it is too late to treat. This may manifest itself in the form of a chest infection, pneumonia or collapsed lung. Grass seeds can be digested if they find their way into the stomach, but it is still possible for them to pierce the digestive tract into the surrounding tissues and organs, thereby spreading the infection and travelling to other areas of the body. A grass seed that gets stuck in the throat can cause inflammation and swelling. Reluctance to eat or refusing to eat at all, vomiting and coughing are all signs that are linked to swallowing a grass seed. How can trouble with grass seeds be prevented? It can be very difficult to prevent grass seeds from entering the body, but there are some measures you can take. Try to stay away from walking your dog in long grass as much as possible, and stick to areas where it has been cut short. This includes making sure you cut the grass in your own garden regularly. Excessive hair around the paws, ears and arm pits needs to be trimmed on a regular basis as it can pick up grass seeds more easily. Make sure to check your dog's body thoroughly for grass

seeds after every walk, and take note of anything that looks unusual or any different behaviour your dog may be exhibiting. If you think they may have a grass seed stuck somewhere in their body, or they are displaying some strange behaviour, take them to the vet before it becomes too late to do anything about it. The earlier the problem is identified, the quicker it can be treated before it spreads too far. Info sourced from Animal Friends pet insurance. Country Pets, based in Muriwai, offer small group, daily dog walking adventures. Long haired dogs are checked over after each walk for grass seeds. Contact Lisa on 027 380 0265 to see if there's a suitable group for your dog. See Countrypets on Facebook for photos and testimonials.

WARNING FOR DOG OWNERS AS TEMPERATURES PREDICTED TO RISE

Vets are warning pet owners to be vigilant, following a warmer weather prediction for the first half of February. While the rise in temperature is welcome news to Kiwis looking to finally embrace summer, vets are expecting an influx in cases of heat-related ailments and poisoning. Vet Director Dr Allan Probert from Vetcare Group comments, "Whether heading to the beach, native walks or the local park with your pet, there are a number of potential health hazards to watch out for. "Sunburn can be a major issue so it's important to remember to apply a pet sunscreen when heading outside, and at the beach keep an eye out for algae bloom and jelly fish," says Allan. "The karaka tree is also now in season. The berries remain toxic after they've fallen off the tree which can cause poisoning in dogs. Symptoms are quite often delayed by 24-48 hours, but can be fatal if not treated in time. Slug bait is another watch out. Many pets are attracted to the bait due to the palatable ingredients, but the bait contains metaldehyde which is extremely toxic to animals if ingested." Dr Probert has collated the following tips to help care for pets during the warmer weather:

- 1) Sunburn – pets that have lighter colour fur are more prone to sunburn, but all pets can get burnt if they lie in the sun for too long. Use a pet sunscreen when you know they'll be outside. Be extra cautious if you're heading to the beach or walking on asphalt on a hot day, as both can burn your dog's paws.
- 2) Exercise / swimming - exercise your dog during the cooler parts of the day. If swimming, always rinse your pet with clean water afterwards to reduce the risk of skin irritation.
- 3) Prevent your pet from overheating – try to encourage them to stay in shaded areas and ensure they have fresh drinking water at all times.
- 4) Toxic plants – aside from karaka berries, some types of decorative plants are toxic to dogs and cats. These include lilies, daffodils and poinsettia.
- 5) Travel – when travelling with your pet it's best to not feed them for the 4-6 hours beforehand.



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FOOD & BEVERAGE

THE HERBALIST CHRISTMAS GIFT PACKS

Are you looking for a stocking filler for Christmas or the perfect host/hostess gift for a barbeque? The Herbalist 3-Bottle Christmas gift packs are available now. These make a great stocking filler or gift for any craft beer fan and are a very suave host/hostess gift when attending barbeques this summer. Presented in a stylish cardboard box with a handle and featuring a selection of three of the four craft beers available from The Herbalist. With no wrapping required, they really are the perfect gift. Available from The Bottle-O Huapai or online at theherbalist.co.nz.



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There is nothing better than a refreshing sparkling wine while relaxing in the sunshine. So visit Soljans and pick up your perfect bubbly off our popular wine selection this summer, ranging



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THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR SOMEONE WHO 'HAS EVERYTHING'

This Christmas, why not consider a gift pack of gorgeous gourmet chutney or relish as a tasty treat? It's always handy to have these on hand in the pantry to liven up some home cooking or serve as part of an antipasto platter when unexpected guests pop in. And if you order online, we'll give you FREE delivery so it couldn't be easier. The NoShortcuts range of artisan chutneys, relishes and jam are all handmade – just like mum used to make, chockful of natural ingredients and contain no nasty artificial flavours, colours or preservatives. Most are non-gluten too. You can select which of the following products you'd like in your gift pack (either 2 or 3 jars); Beetroot or Gherkin Relish, Mustard Pickle, Sambal Ulek, Tamarillo or Old Plum Chutney, Thai Tomato, or the award winning Feijoa & Ginger Jam. Just \$23.50 for the 2 pack and \$32.50 for the 3 pack. To purchase with FREE delivery Auckland wide, go to www.noshortcuts.co.nz.



PEKO PEKO JAPANESE TAKEAWAY

Season's greetings from team Peko Peko. It wasn't an easy year but we met lots more new customers. And thank you so much to our regular customers who have been supporting us over years, some from 2014 when we started our business. We will have completed 4 years of business in Hobsonville after the New Year and we are so glad to keep serving our Japanese food to this lovely



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neighbourhood. All the best wishes to everyone for this festive season and we look forward another exciting year ahead. Please check our Facebook page for trading hours especially over the Christmas and New Year's period. We are a little food truck located on 92 Hobsonville Rd, car park of Passion Produce vegetable shop. 022 431 3462.

ROLLED SUGAR COOKIES

225 g Butter
225 g Sugar
1 large egg plus 1 extra yolk
480g Plain Flour
½ tsp Baking Powder
1 tsp Vanilla Essence



Cream the butter and sugar until light & fluffy. Add egg, extra egg yolk and vanilla Essence and mix in well. Sift together flour and baking powder and beat into butter mixture. Roll mixture into a large ball and wrap in glad wrap to chill until firm. Roll out cookie dough to approx. 6 mm thick and cut out shapes – place on lined oven tray and bake at 190 for 8-12 minutes until they are just starting to colour. You can roll between two sheets of baking paper if necessary. These are great lasting cookies and perfect for your Christmas Cookies designs – ice with royal icing or fondant. Recipes supplied by Wedding and Birthday cake specialists Paula Jane Cakes. Contact Paula on 021 208 8604 or Jane on 021 273 6139, email info@paulajane cakes.co.nz or visit www.paulajane cakes.co.nz.

THE CHIPPY, RIVERHEAD

As part of Riverhead Central, The Chippy based down the lane between the two black buildings has opened. We offer fresh terakihi and gurnard, steak cut fries, beef/chicken/fish or beetroot burgers as well as tasty sides like salt and pepper squid and house salads. To complete your meal we have Dr FeelGood Pops in the freezer and coming soon we will offer milkshakes too. We are a local team, serving locals and doing our best to serve quality food at a decent price. Orders are taken on the phone or in person. Either way, you can pop next door to see the team at Forester and have a drink while you wait. Come and see us Wednesday - Sunday evenings, check our Facebook page for more details whether it's on your way to or from the beach over summer or just as a quality takeaway option in the Nor West area. www.facebook.com/thechippyriverhead.



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- Ph 09 412 5060 - 316 Main Road, Huapai – opposite the Huapai Tavern

Please see our Facebook page for delivery area & Menu
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L'AUTHENTIQUE BEER BANGER CHALLENGE WINNERS

The 2017 Hallertau Beer Banger Challenge was once again fiercely contested by six of Auckland's finest artisanal butchers. More than 200 sausage platters served and with 350+ votes cast in a traditional first past the post system L'Authentique were clear winners with their 'Hop Scotch' sausage. Their winning entry featured Hallertau Number 2 beer, pork scotch, bacon, red capsicum, fresh coriander, fresh garlic and spices. The winning sausage now joins the Hallertau menu and will be available on a limited basis via Farro Fresh and New World supermarkets this summer.



FESTIVE SEASON AT THE FIREPLACE

Enjoy the festive cheer this jolly season at the Fireplace Kumeu. "As the year draws to a close and the festive season approaches, it is a good time for family and friends to spend time together and celebrate. At Fireplace we are having happy hour every day from 4-6 pm right through to Christmas. So come on and be merry and take advantage of our amazing specials: Happy Hour All week (Monday – Sunday) 4-6pm. All bar snacks half price. Tap beer pint \$8.00, House wine selection \$6.00, bottle beer \$6.00. Also don't forget our weekly specials are still on: lunch special Mon – Sun 12-3pm. All Black board meals \$13.99. Hungry Tuesday – All mains 21.90. Porky's Thursday – \$25.90. Pork ribs or pork belly with glass of house wine or pint of beer. Sunday steak nite: Free glass of house wine or pint of beer with every steak meal. For booking call 09 412 6447. 64 Main Road, Kumeu – www.thefireplace.net.nz.



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HEALTH AND BEAUTY

CHRISTMAS MASSAGE VOUCHERS

Struggling to fill those Christmas stockings? Here are three reasons why massage is the best holiday gift ever. The gift of stress relief- massage calms the nervous system and provides an oasis of respite from the holiday frenzy. The gift of pain removal- Christmas is a busy time for gardening, entertaining and outdoor activities. Massage addresses pain and stiffness improving circulation and flexibility. The gift of raised spirits- the holiday period can be stressful with family conflicts, feelings of grief and other mood-stressors can arise. Massage releases the feel-good hormones, therefore boosting the mood. Huapai Massage Therapy has vouchers for everyone! Contact Vikki on 021 755 745 or visit www.huapaimassagetherapy.co.nz.



BENEFIT AS LONG AS YOU WISH

People often ask ... How long do I need to see the Chiropractor for? Well, there are five ways people choose to use chiropractic care in our office. Relief Care – This is where most people start. Our focus is to address the underlying cause of whatever it is that has prompted you to consult our clinic. Corrective Care – With your major symptoms improved, continued visits are designed to strengthen and retrain muscles and soft tissues to make more lasting spinal changes. Maintenance Care – Like regular teeth brushing and flossing, periodic visits, even without the presence of obvious symptoms, are intended to help avoid a relapse. Preventative Care – These visits are less often and comparable to an annual medical examination. Early detection may help catch small issues before they become serious. Wellness Care – With the visit frequency dictated by the unique stresses and health goals of each individual, wellness care is designed to help you be all that you can be. We see our responsibility as offering the best recommendations based on our education, training and clinical experience. Your responsibility is to

decide how far you want to take your care and let us know how we can best serve you. The bottom line? How long you choose to benefit from chiropractic care is always up to you. Give us a call and get started today – Kumeu Chiropractic – 09 412 5536.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT GETTING ANGRY?

If you are like many of my clients, you might dislike it, feel afraid of it, think there is something wrong with you and suppress it. Particularly if you are a woman, you will have been conditioned from childhood to be agreeable, polite and 'not make a fuss'. In the light of the #metoo campaign, we can see how easily harassers get away with multiple offences, as people swallow their anger and choose not to act upon it. When we do that, we fail to protect ourselves and others. I'm not in the business of telling people what to feel, or how to live their lives, but I can help people safely feel their feelings. Long buried or not. It's also quite sad if we are not allowing ourselves to feel our anger, and be informed by it. By limiting the full range of our emotional life we limit how well other people get to know us. As ISTDP couples therapist Marvin Skorman puts it: "After all, emotions are how we connect with one another. Emotional intimacy is simply being aware of and being able to put into words what you are thinking and feeling. Anger should not be the exception. It is just as intimate to say, 'I am angry at you,' as it is to say, 'I love you'". ps Healthy communication of anger is not about venting. I practise Intensive Short Term Dynamic Psychotherapy, an evidence based treatment here in Kumeu. Contact Sarah on 021 477 523 to discuss if it can help you.

PAMPERING CHRISTMAS GIFTS AT SPA DI VINE

Beautiful, natural skincare gift packs by Theravine. These highly concentrated products are now available from \$99 - \$149, including cosmetics travel bag. All Spa Di Vine treatments can be purchased on vouchers, such as Theravine Facials, relaxing massages, reflexology balancing, herbal stamp massages, bamboo and stone massages as well as dollar value vouchers. Our guests love our Half Day Spas and packages for 2 and 4 guests. Spa Di Vine (est 2002) is located in Waimauku, where we offer lovely terrace seating, where you are invited to sit and enjoy a complimentary refreshment after your treatment. All treatments are performed by very friendly and highly experienced spa therapists and are always customised to individual needs. To order a voucher or skincare pack, phone Paula. Phone 09 411 5290, or send an email to relax@spadivine.com.



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A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH WESTGATE OPTOMETRISTS

For the team at Westgate Optometrists, Christmas means a kiwi summer, spending time with loved ones, jandal tan lines, baches in the boon-docks and eating ourselves silly. Every year we embrace Christmas by thanking our loyal clientele. For the entire month of December, all those who purchase a complete pair of glasses will receive a gift from beneath our Christmas tree. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and may your coming year be filled with high spirits and haleness. Phone: 09 831 0202. Website: www.westopt.nz. Facebook: www.facebook.com/westgateoptometrists.



SUMMER HOLIDAYS

That time of the year is fast approaching when we venture out to family and friends and enjoy time away during the Christmas break. This is also a time where all our staff at Waimauku Doctors and Silver Fern Medical take a well-earned break. So like last year, over the Christmas week Waimauku Doctors will be open on the 27th, 28th and 29th with NO Saturday morning surgery on the 30th. Silver Fern will be closed this same week. For the New Year week Silver Fern will be open on the 3rd, 4th and 5th with Waimauku Doctors closed. Silver Fern Village Pharmacy will be operating over this 2 week period and Performance Rehab will also remain open over this time at Silver Fern Medical. This is also a good time to remind our patients to ensure they have enough medication to see them through if they are travelling away.

INJURY REHABILITATION

For an acute injury, proper pain management followed by a rehabilitation and strengthening programme will help to ensure full recovery and prevent your injury reoccurring and will significantly reduce the time it takes for you to return to your sports or recreational activity.



There are 3 stages of rehabilitation: First stage - involves gentle exercise, allowing for the damaged tissue to heal. This stage should not be rushed as it will result in poor quality healing and the site will be prone to re-injury. Mid stage - involves progressively loading the muscles/tendons/bones or ligaments to develop tensile strength, producing a healed tissue that will be able to withstand the stresses and strains of everyday life and exercise. Final stage - is where the tissue adapts and is stressed using functional exercises to ensure the body is ready to return to normal function. Remember - early intervention will get you back to full fitness quicker. For advice or to book an appointment give us a call at NorthWest Physio + on 09 412 2945. www.northwestphysioplus.co.nz.

THE HAND INSTITUTE

The Hand Institute now has in stock low-profile Push thumb splints. These splints support and stabilise the base of the thumb and help alleviate the symptoms of osteoarthritis in this part of the hand. By stabilising the CMC joint of the thumb gripping tasks are made more comfortable, and allow you to do more. Get in touch with us today for more information on having one of these amazing splints fitted. Call The Hand Institute Kumeu - 09 412 8558.



WESTGATE MEDICAL CENTRE

The holiday season is almost upon us and we know that this can be both fun and stressful. We are here to help with the results of both. Injuries and sunburn are a feature of this time of year with the better weather and the celebrations - remember your "Slip, Slop, Slap and Wrap" routine and be careful out there. Happy Holidays from the team at Westgate Medical Centre. We will be open from 8am to 8pm every day except Christmas Day for all your health and injury needs. www.wgmc.co.nz.

DON'T TAKE PETE'S WORD FOR IT

"If you want a trainer who is going to get you results then I couldn't recommend Pete Bristow of B3 Personal Training more highly. Pete works alongside me and pushes me to the level I need to be at to enable me to reach my fitness goals. Pete will always suggest things to improve my results and won't hold back if he feels I am not performing or self-sabotaging by not following my healthy eating habits. Pete is very approachable,

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honest and always up for a good laugh. If you want the best then get in touch with him and chat about your fitness goals." Dee Scott. I train with Pete because he is professional, a good motivator and has a good knowledge base. We have achieved overall strength increases, with the main benefit being that my lower back pain is almost non-existent now. Kent Sulzberger. Call NOW to book a consult and take the first step towards feeling amazing again! Peter Bristow B3 Personal Training 027 359 0976 peter@b3training.com.

HOBSONVILLE OPTOMETRISTS - GLASSES AND GIFTS

We presume summer will come. In anticipation we want to encourage you and your children to wear sunglasses. Even if it is overcast, those damaging UV rays can harm your eyes. We encourage you to start your children wearing good quality sunglasses to avoid cataracts and macular degeneration in the long term. If you have prescription glasses, we can put your prescription into almost any frame - you get to choose the frame, the colour of the lenses, whether they are polarised or whether they change from clear inside to dark outside. We will advise you on what best suits your desires and lifestyle. We have a large selection of Maui Jim sunglasses - once a Maui Jim wearer, always a Maui Jim wearer. Come in and see the difference! And see more about our beautiful gift range at <http://www.hobsonvilleoptometrists.co.nz>. 413A Hobsonville Road, Hobsonville. Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm and Saturdays until 3pm or later. Phone 09 416 3937. We will close on Sun 24 December



2017 and will re-open on Monday 8 January 2018. Have a safe and happy break!

MUMS AND BUBS PILATES

Pregnancy and labour can take a significant toll on your body, and many pregnancy related pains do not always disappear with the birth. Consequently, your body is probably at its weakest after the birth when you need to deal with the sleep deprivation and constant lifting, carrying and bending a newborn baby necessitates. All in all, an equation that commonly equals pain somewhere – mentally or physically. So to look after your little one, you first have to look after yourself. Clinical Pilates is a safe, low impact form of exercise you can start relatively early after labour. It targets the key muscles that help to reduce abdominal separation and support your spine, teaches postural correction and ideally how to lift and carry your baby. As it requires a certain amount of internal awareness, it assists mindfulness and can act as a de-stressor. Come and try Clinical Pilates at Bodyfix Studio in West Harbour, and you can bring your little one too! See www.bodyfix.nz, call 027 263 9349 or email aimee@bodyfix.nz.

DT DENTURE CLINIC

There is still time to get a new set of dentures or even relines, tooth additions and repairs done before Christmas. If you have been thinking about getting a new set of dentures the good news is we still have time to do this before Christmas. Surprise your family with a new smile. Call us for a free consultation. Don't wait days or even over night for relines, tooth additions and repairs. Here at DT Denture Clinic we offer a same day service. We are able to do this as we have an in-house laboratory. We don't need to send your denture across town or even overseas. It's all done on premises. The great news for you, is that you do not have to wait overnight or even longer for your dentures. How the process works, is you have a morning appointment where our clinical technician will talk you through the process, take impressions if necessary, and prepare the denture for what is needed. From your appointment the denture is given to our experienced dental technicians who will either repair, reline or add the tooth or teeth to the denture. You come back the same day in the afternoon where you will have another appointment with Mark our Clinical Technician who will fit the denture for you, ensuring a perfect fit. Some repairs are straight forward and do not require appointments and these dentures can generally be fixed in a few hours. We understand going without your dentures for a long period of time can be daunting, so if you require a repair, reline or tooth addition to an existing denture call the friendly team at DT Denture Clinic for a same day appointment 09 416 5072 or email info@dt dentureclinic.co.nz.



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WHAT YOUR EYES CAN TELL YOU ABOUT YOUR HEALTH

Our series continues as Natasha Herz, M.D.*, clinical spokesperson for the American Academy of Ophthalmology, explains what your eyes reveal about your health, and how you know it's time to visit your optometrist. Today's tip: Stress can manifest in many ways, one of which is an eyelid twitch. It's more annoying than concerning, but it can be a sign you need to get some more rest and manage your stress levels a bit more, Herz says. A lid twitch can also signify eye strain especially if you read or are on your computer/phone a lot. Visit Matthew and Molly Whittington, at For Eyes in the Kumeu Village Phone 09 412 8172 for top quality eye examinations and for all spectacles, including reading glasses and colour vision correction glasses. (*Acknowledgement: M. Bonner, Marie Claire, 24 March 2017).



KUMEU GYM IS NOW OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK!

Our aim is to provide a convenient, accessible, all-purpose gym to our locals in a place where anyone and everyone's fitness goals can be achieved. At Kumeu Gym we provide a variety of fitness options to suit just about everyone, we currently have 22 Group Fitness classes on our time table to choose from each week, with our Senior Fitness for Function class and our Counterpunch Boxing for Parkinsons classes both being recognised and endorsed by Harbour Sport. Our classes are based around Crossfit style functional movement along with Counterpunch Boxing classes, Spin and Yoga. Classes range from express 30 mins classes for those on the run to one hour classes for those who have a bit more time and want to train hard. We have 7 Qualified Personal Trainers working out of our Facility if you like one on one training, or we have our SMART Personal Training System which enables you to train under the guidance of one of our qualified Personal Trainer's 6 days a week, morning and evening, in a group setting for just \$50 per week, which is less than the cost of a one hour individual Personal Training Session. At Kumeu Gym we run indoor netball three nights a week with our women's league on Monday Nights and mixed teams Wednesday and Thursday night, we are also a training facility for NZ Indoor Netball. When our indoor sports court is not in use for netball our indoor court is available for our members to use for functional fitness, with battle ropes, sleds, tyres and parachutes



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this makes hard exercise a whole lot of fun. In the summer days we have a purpose built frame outside with a huge carpark, we move our TRX's, tyres, battle ropes, olympic bars and bumper plates outside for outdoor training and outdoor classes. Kumeu Gym also offer a free gym membership to all of the volunteer Fire Fighters at the Kumeu Fire Station, these ladies and gentlemen put their lives on the line for our community every day and we see this as giving back from our members and community! We also have Lana and Freya Whiting sisters and owners of The Body Clinic Osteopathy and Massage Therapy running their clinic within our gym, whether you have an injury or need a good massage, The Body Clinic have two Osteopaths and two massage therapists, check www.thebodyclinic.co.nz for more info. We understand that an already busy lifestyle can make it a struggle to fit exercise into your routine, which is why our gym is now open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to give you the flexibility to exercise whenever you want. If you would like to try our gym, email admin@kumeugym.co.nz call 09 412 8932 or go to www.kumeugym.co.nz to obtain a one week free trial.

HOW TO USE YOUR TONGUE TO STRENGTHEN YOUR NECK

I have recently started a new blog series called 'Body Hacks: Simple tips to feel, move and function better'. This is a series of posts which describe some 'body hacks' that I have learnt over the years. They are simple moves, exercises or tips you can do that can have a dramatic effect on your body. One of the first ones was how simply poking your tongue into the roof of your mouth can actually strengthen your neck. This can be used when doing exercises, like sit-ups, or if you are in an awkward position that is straining your neck. To read the full post (it is only short) please visit the blog on our website. Your body will thank you for it. Elevate Chiropractic: Shop 1, 10 Greenhithe Road, Greenhithe. Phone 09 413 5312. www.elevatechiropractic.co.nz.

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NEW PROVISIONAL TAX OPTION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

From 1st April 2018, small businesses with turnover of less than \$5m per year will have the option of using the accounting income method (AIM) to work out their provisional tax payments.

Although you can continue to use other provisional tax calculation options, AIM may be better for many small businesses because it uses new functionality included in approved accounting software to work out the tax payments. This means it can help small businesses to improve cash flow management because provisional tax will only need to be paid when the business makes a profit (as opposed to being based on estimations). If a business makes a loss then any refunds due will be available immediately rather than having to wait until the end of the year. Individuals, sole traders and companies are all eligible to use AIM, and you do not have to be GST-registered. For more advice on using AIM for calculating provisional tax payments, contact Mark Foster and the UHY Haines Norton team at 329A Main Road, Kumeu, on 412 9853 or email kumeu@uhyhn.co.nz.

KERERU KINDY

Kereru Kindy Huapai, was pleased to welcome Emily Standen as our new centre manager last month. We sadly farewell Hayley Wilson, who has been with us since our kindy started 12 months ago, and who helped build the beautiful, nurturing educational environment that Kereru Kindy is today. Emily is a fully registered and very experienced early childhood teacher, and mother of three. She lives locally at Waitakere where



she keeps horses (secretary of the Massey Pony Club), sheep, chickens and two Mini Schnauzer dogs. "I would like to say that I am extremely excited to be the new Centre Manager and Head Teacher at Kereru Kindy, and I am really looking forward to getting to know our wonderful children and families". "I believe in a holistic, experience-based approach to teaching and learning that creates confident, interested learners, creative thinkers and problem solvers" Emily's practice is influenced by a range of educational philosophies including the Reggio Emilia and Forest Schools approaches. Call in and meet her at 10 Oraha Road, between 7.30am and 5.30pm weekdays.

KUMEU LIBRARY

Christmas is fast approaching, and so are the long summer holidays. We have plenty going on at Kumeu Library to help you make the most of the summer break, whether it's relaxing reading material, information to help you plan and complete projects, or activities to brighten up your days. The Library will be open all through the holidays, closed only on Sundays, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and 2 January – come and see us. Our extended loan periods through the holiday season



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mean you can keep items for longer, too! Our free summer reading adventure for children aged 5 to 13 years, Dare to Explore, runs from 9 December until 17 January 2018 – this is a great way to keep kids reading over the summer break. Explore the fascinating world of Koro Kauri and his stories, make new friends, complete awesome challenges, come to fun events, and enjoy a fantastic party. Sign up from 20 November, either online at www.daretoexplore.nz, or come and see us at Kumeu Library. As part of the Dare to Explore programme, Kumeu Library is running free children's events at 10.30am on Friday 22 December (with a Christmas theme), Friday 29 December, and then every day from Thursday 4 January until Tuesday 23 January – come and be part of the fun, and complete challenges for the summer reading adventure at the same time! Adults aren't left out of the reading challenge fun – we have the Great Summer Read. Open to all readers over the age of 14 years, you can try our fun reading challenges and be in to win books, vouchers, eReaders, and tickets to Auckland's hottest shows and attractions. The Great Summer Read runs from 1 December 2017 to 31 January 2018. Follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/kumeulibrary) to keep up with library events and news.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM YOUR AWARD WINNING LOCAL TRAVEL BROKER

It has been a busy year, June/July - a coach tour of the Western Wonders of the USA, Orlando theme parks & a Caribbean cruise. August/September - a fun family holiday with lots of friends in Fiji. A quick trip to Saigon for a taste of Vietnam for The Travel Brokers annual conference, where I came home with two awards, a weekend in Melbourne for the Spring Carnival pre-Melbourne Cup Derby Day, and then the end of November

I am heading off to Fiji for a weekend of reward & relation with The Top 10 Travel Brokers - Travelling is so important, as then I have all of the first-hand information on destinations, and I can give the best recommendations & lots of tips to help you with your own travels. I feel privileged to be able to look after my lovely clients, this year I have sent people off to all sorts of exciting destinations. I really enjoy the planning process of helping you achieve the very best holiday possible. I also love the feedback I receive when my clients get home, it is really beneficial in helping me with advice for my next clients that I send to these destinations, and their 'Thanks' is always appreciated, like a pat on the back for a job well done. It has also been a busy year in the community, with the Waimauku School PTA, our fundraising has achieved not only an amazing new UV Shade canopy from the hall to Room 8 creating an excellent all year round outdoor useable space, and it was perfect in the rain at Ag Day. Plus we have also just installed the new slide in the senior playground which the kids are going to love! The Waimauku Scouts have had another full-on year achieving goals of working towards their new hall project, which will mean that 2018 will be a massive year with not only working on the hall new installation, but also fundraising for those that are attending the Australian Jamboree in Adelaide in December 2018. There are some amazing cruise specials out currently - with On Board Credits, and beverage packages, hundreds on offer! There are still some Earlybird Airfare deals to Europe for 2018 - get in quick - they won't be around for long, and are already sold out for those popular dates around June & July. Airfare credits in conjunction with Coach Tours & River cruises are also available, great discounts for early bookings - if you see anything advertised 'out there' please just ask, as I should be able to match. The next set of specials to be released will be the New Year Sale, look out for the ever popular Kids to Fiji for \$ 199 type of deals - as soon as you see the adver-

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tising - get in touch with me as these deals are amazing. Please contact me: Tanya Franklin, your local Travel Broker, a member of helloworld, on 09 411 9105, or 021 254 9169, or email: tanya@ttb.co.nz. Make an appointment to see me in my home office in Waimauku to chat about your next holiday! See: www.thetravelbrokers.co.nz/tanyafranklin/aboutme.

WHY DADS BABYWEAR?

Are you looking for an unusual Christmas present? Jess and James Williamson from Waimauku have just published a book with 100 reasons why dads carry their babies. Slings and carriers can be a fantastic tool for parents of small children. The reasons fathers use these tools are much the same as why mothers do; it can help comfort our children and give them a sense of security, carried babies tend to cry less and settle more quickly, it can help with reflux and other digestive issues, it saves your back - carrying a child in an ergonomic, well fitted carrier is much better for your posture and spine. For dads specifically though, carriers can help them share the load of a new baby in their family. It can facilitate bonding and can help dads feel the same sense of closeness that the mother has felt during pregnancy. Using the quotes and photos of fathers from around the world a series of images collected online has been put into a book showcasing the reasons why dads babywear. The books cost \$20 plus \$5 postage in New Zealand. Purchases can be made online here - www.babywearingwithjess.com/product/why-dads-babywear-100-reasons-from-dads.



MARKETING MEANS BUSINESS

Q. Why is a Marketing Plan important to your business? A. To identify: your objectives/goals, strategies will you use to achieve these, how you will measure progress or Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) and finally the tactical/action plan which allocates the who, when and where of getting on with the job. We start your Marketing Plan by pulling together some research on your products, Sales and competitors and building from there. The good news is - you carry a lot of this in your own head and what isn't there can be easily found. You need to know where your business is headed, to remain competitive and to achieve your commercial objectives. This is the very best time to begin so call Andrea, MOXY Marketing 022 327 4758 to get started on your Marketing Plan for 2018. A brief word about the (economic) Pareto Principle where approximately 80% of the effects come from 20% of the causes. When applied to a marketing context:



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LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Play is the most valuable learning experience we believe your child will ever have and play is at the centre of our philosophy at Jojo's Childcare. Every child will engage with resources, experiences and environments in different ways and by allowing children the space and the opportunities to play they can begin to piece together their ideas of how the world works. Solitary play, parallel play and group play are all important for children to be part of everyday for us. Our teachers all agree that time and space to discover and learn through play is so valuable for pre-school children in early childhood settings. By taking the time to feed into play, step back and observe play and setup provocations for play we are allowing the children to take control of their learning and engage in ways that appeal to them, individualising the learning for every child by allowing them to access what interests them each day. We have a large group of 5 years olds off to school in Feb 2018 so if you are looking for day care or kindy options for your child please pop in and visit. If you want to talk more about the importance of Play for under



5's come in and see us anytime 09 412 5325, www.jojochildcare.co.nz or find us on Facebook.

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER

By Rodney councillor Greg Sayers. An Auckland Council wage blow-out should have ratepayers concerned. For another consecutive year since the supercity came into being in 2010, the council's staff numbers are up, as is the wage bill - from \$615 million in 2011 to \$853m this year. This time the bill has blown out by \$42m. Where's the control and accountability? This \$42m overspend has wiped out the \$37.5m the council gained through the recent 2.5 percent rates increase. That's a disgrace. It means the council no longer has the extra money it planned to have to deliver more for the North West. This sustained and reckless waste of ratepayers' money has to be reined in, and the trend means ratepayers cannot be sure the budget won't blow out again next year. The previous three years has seen the wage budget exceeded by \$32m, \$63m and \$50m. In June, I tried to have a cap placed on wages during the annual budget process, but was out-voted after the council chief executive Stephen Town advised Councillors he was unable to achieve such a budget without cutting front line services. I disagreed and argued that by removing duplicated services, trimming bloated departments, and stopping wastage and overspending, the council would actually be able to increase front line services. I called for the Mayor and Councillors to hold council management to account. Until that happens ratepayers will continue to distrust the council's ability to make good decisions and keep costs down. I've asked what was responsible for the increased wage bill and have been told that it's in part due to paying more holiday pay because of a software issue and also included some



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redundancies. A 2.5% rate increase might provide some money but where will the council get more? I suspect there might be various targeted rates, perhaps for water quality, environmental matters, food waste, a non-commercial bed rate to target Airbnbs, BookaBach and the like. We also need to be watchful about what's planned by the new coalition government. Auckland Council salaries, excluding council controlled organisations (CCOs). About 6054 staff earn less than \$100,000 per annum, 1092 earn more than \$100,000 per annum, 74 earn more than \$200,000 per annum.

ALL THINGS BERNINA

Is now located at 3/7 Westgate Drive, Westgate Outlet Centre. We offer a comprehensive range of both Bernina and Bernette sewing machines and overlockers. There is an onsite technician who services and repairs all Bernina's and Bernette's and some other models and makes. Currently we have our Christmas sale on with Bernette sewing machines from \$199.00 and includes a 5 year warranty plus we will show you how to use your machine. Bernina sewing machine start at \$999.00 and include a 10 year warranty, 2 free services and a lesson on how to use the machine. Next year we will be offering sewing classes as well as patchwork and quilting classes, so call in and sign up for the newsletter to be kept informed. Or give us a ring on 09 832 6994.

PHELAN'S LOCAL BOARD UPDATE

I've yet to meet anybody who greeted the prospect of new Government taxes or Council rates with enthusiasm. For the last few terms voters have put in place Mayors who

promised keeping average rates increases to 2.5% and promising anything else is political suicide. Council politicians promising rates increases find their re-election chances drastically reduced even if it is the honest position to take. Ratepayers have for decades voted to ensure rates are kept low and as a result investment in infrastructure has followed the same minimum level.

Ancient stormwater drains discharge sewerage into our harbours, roads can't cope with the growth, and council agencies sweat assets well beyond their useful life. Sooner or later the game of political musical-chairs ends and we will have to face the fact that many decades of underinvestment has left a mess and the only way to deal with it is to find more money.

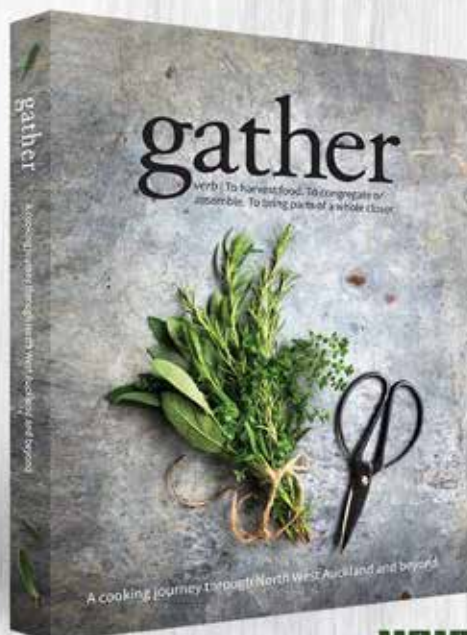
Council absolutely has an obligation to manage our money properly and the effectiveness of services should be monitored and costs kept under control. But suggestions that budget savings are some magic bullet that can plug the growing gap in capital spending, avoiding increases in tax, don't match up with the reality.

Auckland Transport now faces a \$7 billion gap in funding for its 30 year program of work. Given the necessity of roads and public transport in a rapidly growing city it's obvious that this situation can't continue. Neither can we continue to damage the environment making our most popular beaches unswimable because of failing infrastructure. Getting rid of staff not only won't make much difference to the billions of dollars needed, it will also mean reduced levels of service which will be seen on our streets and parks.

Aucklanders will be asked to make some tough choices next year as part of Council's Long Term Plan budget consultation. A fuel tax is on the horizon and we'll be asked if we are prepared to pay a range of targeted rates to prop up budgets that aren't keeping up with the growth in our city. It will be an interesting

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discussion for the New Year!

Finally, on an equally sober note, I saw some statistics in an Auckland Transport report that had Rodney with the worst Death and Serious Injury rates in Auckland, this figure has gone up over the last year. As a firefighter who's seen then horrific result of car accidents 'Serious Injury' does not begin to explain the lifetime of pain and suffering accident victims and their families have ahead of them, many never recover.

I would plead with people to exercise patience and tolerance with each other on the roads over the Christmas break. In our growing urban areas traffic is here to stay, dangerous overtaking, road rage, drink driving and speeding puts everyone at risk and in reality, only saves a few minutes of travel. Summer's here, chill out, enjoy the views of our wonderful district and get to your destination safely!

If you need assistance with council related matters please call me on 021 837 167 or email phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH HAS MOVED PREMISES!

Abundant Life (a Christian non-denominational church), headed by Pastor Reuben Baker and wife Shelley have been well established for a number of years at the Waimauku School hall. However due to the growth at the school the hall has been needed for extra space for further classrooms. Therefore, effective from this December, services will be held in the building at 25 Waimauku Station Road.

Abundant Life are a modern day Christian church with services every Sunday starting at 10 am with a welcoming morning tea. The church's foundation is to connect, equip and serve the community. They have an active singing worship programme along

with children's church and an out of church programme known as Ignite for the older children run every two weeks. Come along for a visit to see what we are all about - visitors are warmly welcome! For further information on Abundant Life visit website: www.abundantlifenz.org.

HAPPY HEARTS - RIVERHEAD

At Happy Hearts Riverhead, we've focused on celebrating our families' identities into our early learning centre activities. Last month we invited our toddler children's parents and whānau to help us create a classroom quilt, representing who they are as a family. Each child took home a square of material and was asked to 'represent themselves' in any way they wanted on the material. Some families painted pictures of the things they like to do together, some families drew flags of their heritage and others sewed photos of themselves on their squares. All the squares were collected in and sewn into a big quilt that is now hanging on the wall. We loved involving family/whānau in this process affirming the values and aspirations of each family. Ultimately, we are all teachers and learners, learning together, working together and sharing pieces of ourselves to build new shared understandings and experiences that are relevant to us in our centre and as a bonus we have a cool kiwiana quilt as a decoration. This is a special piece of work which all involved are very proud of.



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REASONS WHY YOUR CHILD SHOULD BE AT COUNTRY BEARS

Here at Country Bears, we believe in a high-quality programme that suits your child and family. We want you to feel assured that your child is well cared for, is enjoying activities, making friends and building the knowledge, skills and confidence to do well in school and life.



Every Early Childhood Centre in New Zealand has guidelines that are set by the Ministry of Education. The Education Review Office ("ERO") is a separate organisation that works with the Ministry of Education and assesses each Early Childhood Centre to make certain that Centres are promoting positive learning outcomes for all children. This includes the governance and management, health and safety, curriculum, learning and development, environments and inclusive practices.

Back in July, Country Bears was up to be reviewed. Two very experienced ERO officers spent two days within the Centre, watching teaching experiences, observing the children and discussing practices, and at the end of the visit, discussed their observations and findings. ERO were very pleased that the core values that Country Bears aspire to were visible to ERO. Some of their comments were: "infants, babies and toddlers are very settled with a strong sense of belonging to the centre"; "children are valued and respected and they are connected strongly to the centre, the environment and to the living world"; "teachers are calm, gentle, attentive and nurturing, creating a sense of safety and fun for the children. Teachers encourage risk-tak-

ing in a safe environment"; "management have good systems in place to ensure smooth operation of the centre. They have a transparent, open leadership approach promoting relational and collegial trust".

Based on ERO's findings, Country Bears received a "Very Well Placed" and a four-year review which is the best any Centre can receive. Country Bears are constantly striving to provide the best learning outcomes for all children. If you would like to read a more detailed report, you can visit ERO website on www.ero.govt.nz.

Country Bears - a friendly and engaging family atmosphere, reflected by our beliefs. Our whakatauki (core statement) since 1993 is "A Good Beginning Lasts a Lifetime". With over 20 years' of experience, Country Bears is the name in childcare that you can trust. We are proud of who we are and how we got here, and we are committed to continue to provide this Country Bears quality for another generation.

Please feel free to come and have a look at our beautifully placed centre and our professional and caring team of teachers. www.facebook.com/cbearsecc.

HEART SAVER NZ

We were blown away at the recent Westpac Auckland Business Awards (West) when we were announced as winners of the Best Marketing and Excellence in Strategy & Planning awards. What a night! To top it off, we were also named supreme winner of the David Awards 2017, which champions small businesses taking on the big guys. Wow! When



Remember adventuring everyday in a diverse natural environment, immersed in nature; playing confidently amongst the trees, paddocks, vege gardens & treehuts?
..It IS all still possible for your child at Country Bears
Join us in providing the best wholesome beginning for your child



Locally owned and operated with 20+ Years experience

Contact Angela: 09 4128055
www.countrybears.co.nz
www.facebook.com/cbearsecc



Perfectly located on the best detour route during SH16 peak hours! Nestled amongst the trees at 79 Oraha Road, Kumeu

we started this business five years ago, we never imagined we would one day be accepting awards like this. In fact, while we love these awards for the acknowledgment they give us that we are on the right path, we're most appreciative that our customers and suppliers have supported us on this journey. We are really proud to supply first aid training, AEDs and event medic cover to some of the biggest companies in NZ - and the smallest. We appreciate them all equally. Thank you for your support!

MURIWAI TIDE CHART

Date	High	Low	High	Low	High
Fri 1 Dec	-	02:30	08:35	14:59	20:55
Sat 2 Dec	-	03:26	09:31	15:54	21:50
Sun 3 Dec	-	04:18	10:23	16:45	22:42
Mon 4 Dec	-	05:08	11:13	17:35	23:33
Tue 5 Dec	-	05:57	12:01	18:24	-
Wed 6 Dec	00:22	06:44	12:49	19:12	-
Thu 7 Dec	01:11	07:32	13:38	20:02	-
Fri 8 Dec	02:02	08:21	14:28	20:54	-
Sat 9 Dec	02:56	09:12	15:23	21:49	-
Sun 10 Dec	03:53	10:08	16:21	22:47	-
Mon 11 Dec	04:54	11:08	17:22	23:47	-
Tue 12 Dec	05:56	12:12	18:23	-	-
Wed 13 Dec	-	00:48	06:58	13:16	19:22
Thu 14 Dec	-	01:47	07:56	14:16	20:18
Fri 15 Dec	-	02:42	08:50	15:09	21:09
Sat 16 Dec	-	03:31	09:39	15:57	21:54
Sun 17 Dec	-	04:16	10:21	16:39	22:36
Mon 18 Dec	-	04:56	11:00	17:19	23:13
Tue 19 Dec	-	05:34	11:35	17:55	23:48
Wed 20 Dec	-	06:09	12:09	18:31	-
Thu 21 Dec	00:22	06:44	12:42	19:06	-
Fri 22 Dec	00:57	07:19	13:16	19:42	-
Sat 23 Dec	01:33	07:55	13:53	20:21	-
Sun 24 Dec	02:13	08:34	14:34	21:03	-
Mon 25 Dec	02:57	09:18	15:20	21:51	-
Tue 26 Dec	03:47	10:08	16:12	22:45	-
Wed 27 Dec	04:44	11:08	17:11	23:46	-
Thu 28 Dec	05:48	12:14	18:14	-	-
Fri 29 Dec	-	00:51	06:55	13:24	19:20
Sat 30 Dec	-	01:56	08:02	14:30	20:25
Sun 31 Dec	-	02:59	09:07	15:32	21:28

Source: LINZ. Daylight Saving: Please note that tide times have been corrected for daylight saving time. Disclaimer: MetService and LINZ accept no liability for any direct, indirect, consequential or incidental damages that result from any errors in the tide information, whether due to MetService, LINZ or a third party, or that arise from the use, or misuse, of the tide information contained in this website.

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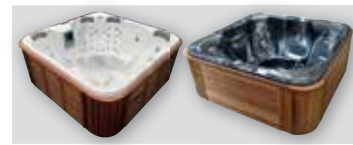
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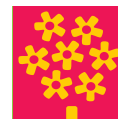
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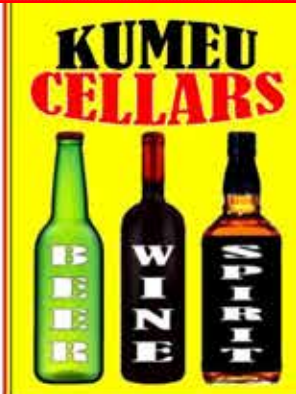
Drambuie 700ml



Cointreau 700ml



Jagermeister 1L



* Under 25, No ID - No Service
** Intoxicated - No Service

CRAFT BEER SALE



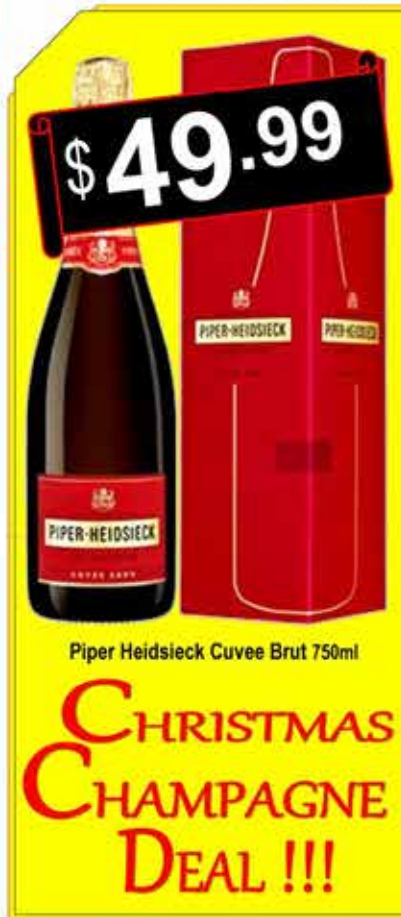
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