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Courier

FREE monthly community magazine for Kumeu & districts

**EVENTS AND UPDATES
NOTHING ADDED**

- Safer communities
- Food & beverage
- Home & garden
- Property market report

HUAPAI TO HOST PRO-AM



Greetings

You may recall that I wrote in July last year about a persistent rumour around a Taupaki development thought to be an 'inland port' proposal. Turns out it's a planned Fletcher Residential 'urban village' on 108.6453 hectares which it hopes to complete in 24 years. Local representatives are aware of the proposal with nearly all of them planning further discussions. Land Information New Zealand documents indicate consent has been granted under the Overseas Investment Act 2005 by Land Information Minister Stuart Nash for Fletcher Residential Ltd to acquire a freehold interest in two parcels of land - 46.7689ha and 61.8764ha – off Waitakere Road in Taupaki. The document says Fletcher Residential proposes to acquire the land and pursue a rezoning for urban use in view of Auckland's fast-growing population. That's consistent with a discussion document 'Meeting Auckland's Growth Challenge: The Innovation City' put out by Infrastructure NZ in October 2017. Fletcher Residential intends to subdivide and rezone the Taupaki land to construct an urban village, together with roads, parks and supporting infrastructure and expects the development to be completed by 2045. Our representatives wonder if Fletcher Residential might be land banking and some also don't rule out an inland port being established there. The land deal is said to cost about \$16 million. Concerns have been voiced by some about the Fletcher Residential proposal involving productive land, part of which may also be flood prone. The land is close to the northern railway and near a proposed SH16 bypass for which notices of a "refined study corridor" have recently been sent out. A detailed business case for the bypass is expected to be submitted to the NZ Transport Agency and Auckland Transport later this year. The 2017 'Innovation City' document concludes the area around Paerata (between Karaka and Pukekohe in Franklin) is the most suitable for an Auckland satellite city of about 100,000 residents (40,000 homes - Paerata Rise is developing 4500 homes on 300 hectares over 25 years). But "Kumeu South" - the Taupaki area in particular - was forecast then as the next most likely candidate out of 14 locations, especially with its proximity to rail in the belief rail electrification could be extended from Swanson (two new stations and an integrated busway estimated at \$340 million in 2017 with SH16 expected to have sufficient capacity until 2046). A four-track line to speed travel times from Kumeu South to Britomart (estimated at 70 minutes on fewer tracks) could cost \$3 billion. Interestingly, the document says Auckland has insufficient homes, increasing traffic congestion and that solving either is increasingly unaffordable. That was four years ago and before the COVID-19 pandemic's impact meanwhile, the Auckland Council has a North West Spatial Land Use Strategy for future urban areas in Kumeu-Huapai, Riverhead and Redhills North to help establish new Auckland communities in 10 to 30 years. Feedback closes February 1. We await further developments on all with interest.

Geoff Dobson, editor



What's inside

- 3** People & Places
- 8** North West Country
- 9** Safer Communities
- 10** Community News
- 12** Flippin Fun
- 14** In brief: Updates
- 16** Property News
- 18** Property Statistics
- 20** Property Market
- 22** Central's Tips
- 24** Hot Property
- 26** Home & Garden
- 28** Solarcraft
- 30** House of the year
- 32** City Botanics
- 34** Pets
- 36** Food & Beverage
- 38** Health & Beauty
- 40** New Sneakers
- 42** Area Columnists
- 44** Traffic Emergency

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People & Places

Huapai to host pro-am

On March 10 the Huapai Golf Club is set to hold the first professional tournament in its 82-year history.

About 140 golfers are expected along with many spectators - a possible field of 96 professionals chasing a total purse of more than \$11,000 under the New Zealand Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) guidelines.

Amateurs are limited to 32 teams of three with each team playing with a professional golfer, aiming for their share of a "significant" amateur prize table while gaining tips and advice from the professional at the same time.

A series of golfing clinics will be run by the professionals from 11am on March 10, with briefings also featured, before all teams tee off in a shotgun start at 12.30pm, finishing the day with dinner and prize-giving in the Coatesville-Riverhead Highway clubrooms.

Hosting a pro-am has been on the club board's radar for some time, says club President Michelle Dee who is delighted that will now happen - with members and visiting amateurs able to play alongside the professionals with key players announced in coming weeks.

"I can't speak to early history as to why the club has not ever hosted a professional tournament, but in my recent time as President it has been spoken about at length and we are thrilled that we will show off our course and recent improvements to a wider audience on



March 10," she says.

"We are a members club with a proud reputation for hospitality and the social side of golf, but we are also a very playable golf course that has for some time been on the improve."

Michelle says that's due to a dedicated team of greenkeeping staff led by Matt Chatterton.

"We have been implementing changes and improvements to the course over the past few years, and on March 10 we will throw open the doors to New Zealand's leading male and female professionals and put that work to the test."

The work has included significant investment in drainage and greens quality, with Club Captain and Director Nigel Clark - pictured on the putting green with Michelle, heavily involved during recent years.

In 1939 the club bought neighbouring land on Harkins Point to build the course that thousands know and enjoy today (with more than 50,000 unique rounds predicted in 2021).

Four years ago, the club's board looked to implement an ambitious plan to improve the course in key areas, notably its playability in winter but also to improve all aspects of the course from tee box to green.

That work is not yet fully completed but the club says golfers who haven't been on the course for a few years are astounded about its quality now.

The club is fully committed to putting on a stunning day on March 10, with General Manager Andrew Dewhurst seeking the support of the local business community in what the club hopes will be a shared effort to welcome visitors to the region.

"I am already busy reaching out to prospective partners on the day,



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from the small boutique operators to the bigger nationally known brands," Andrew says.

"We will be knocking on doors looking to create an event unique to this part of the world and capitalising on our advantage of being a genuine country course 20 minutes from downtown Auckland."

Andrew says the area is blessed with everything from wonderful wineries, food producers and restaurants to a burgeoning retail environment at North West and Westgate to the more boutique business and light industry throughout the likes of Riverhead, Huapai, Kumeu and Waimauku.

"Our goal is to encourage as many as possible to be a part of the day to share their products and services and showcase the wider region."

Huapai's tournament will slot well into a pro-am schedule for the wider Auckland region throughout late February and March.

Dewhurst is delighted to have secured Trueform as naming rights partner, with golfers on the day in with a chance of winning their very own Trueform Spa if they can score a hole-in-one. Trueform have been manufacturing spa pools in NZ for over 30 years and Managing Director Warren Leslie jumped at the chance to support such a high profile local event.

"Trueform has over 50,000 Spas in New Zealand, all proudly made in West Auckland. We can tailor make our spa to suit any requirements from the colour of the spa, colour of the lid and how many jets you want and where to position them.

"Trueform is proud to call West Auckland our home and see this as a chance to support local business and in this case a sport I enjoy, whenever we can."

The local club is part of the area's history which included Harkins Point playing a major role in the Auckland region's development.

In 1871 local Maori and Irish work gangs began building a railway through to Helensville with Harkins Point serving as the Southern



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terminal for what would become a vital link through to the Kaipara communities.

The then Auckland City Council bought land in the area in 1907, which was eventually used to raise and run Clydesdale horses - the council's main transport.

Harkins Point was a link point for the first direct telegraph cable connection between Auckland and Sydney via Bondi Beach, across the Tasman to Muriwai Beach and overland to Harkins Point, down the Waitemata Harbour to Auckland city.

The Huapai Golf Club bought some of this land from the council in 1939, with the railway and cable long gone (the rail link living on as Old Railway Road).

The course can provide a great challenge for all levels of golfers and include wide fairways, four lakes and many gardens and trees.

Carts and clubs can be hired from the club's pro shop.

The club might just have its own Amen Corner (from the fabled Augusta Golf Club, home of the Masters) with holes 11, 12 and 13 having the potential to propel a player up a leader board or leave them staggering home into the prevailing westerly towards the clubhouse.

For more on the Trueform Spa Pools Huapai Pro-Am contact Andrew Dewhurst on 021 535 501.

Kumeu fundraiser supports Special Olympics swim team

A 'Mini Book Fair' on February 13 and 14 in the Kumeu Community Centre will raise funds for the Special Olympics Seals swim team to compete in a swim series later this year. The fair is supported by Huapai-Kumeu Lions and runs from 9am-4pm on the Saturday and 9am-2pm on the Sunday. It will raise funds for the Seals swim team to travel to Samoa to compete in a series of ocean swims scheduled during August. The Seals trio of Troy Rangi, Tate Pichon and Joshua Vegar, pictured, featured on television programme Seven Sharp in December and are under the umbrella of North Harbour Special Olympics. They are extending themselves to competing in mainstream ocean swim events and have swum in events up to 7km so far, training regularly for up to around 20km a week in the pool



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and in the ocean. Lions has provided great support and a book stall has been held at the Kumeu Markets at the Kumeu Showgrounds in recent months for the Seals, team manager Joanne Pichon says. Visit <https://bit.ly/3iA99xb> to see the Seals on Seven Sharp.

Nothing added

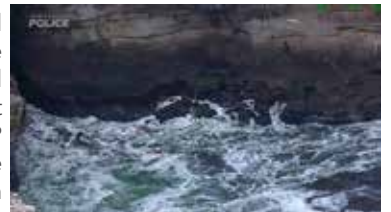
Don Batley of Muriwai Beach started out to make wine as organically and sustainably as possible just for his family's consumption. Eleven years later his hobby has become his full-time passion - the pesticide-free grapes going into wine made without additives now available to others as he produces more than the family can drink. Not that Don will make much from his wine venture, otherwise he would have to charge about \$300 per bottle. "I do it for fun and pleasure - not to make money," he says, establishing a group or wine club so others can share in something a little bit different. The grapes are mainly reds - Saperavi, Syrah and St Laurent with some Chambourcin and white Albarino and a few Petit Manseng - grown in some of the toughest coastal conditions you can get. The 'soil' is predominantly sandstone or a sandstone/clay mix with organic fertilisers (mostly seaweed based) used, each named individual vineyard area protected from salt winds with its own little microclimate. The 'house site' vineyard, for instance, is based on a previous property owner's intended building site and includes rows of several different varieties and ages. Each hole is dug deep in the sandstone (using mainly a trenching tool) and young vines are watered in (using bore water) so roots go deep. Rather than use insecticides, Don uses 'fossil flour', made from the fossilised remains of phytoplankton (diatoms) mined in Nevada, on the grape leaves and vines to kill bug pests through dehydrating them. The fossil flour also contains 15 trace minerals which are good for the plant - and can be consumed without any problem by stock and humans. The grapes are hand-picked then sorted to remove unripe or unsuitable ones - improving quality, then gently foot-crushed or pressed - allowing wild yeasts to do the fermenting. No finings or any other additives are used, nor is the wine filtered, the product hand-bottled and even hand-labelled. Don's labels are another story. Called 'Kawa Grove Wines' (for pohutukawa which line the area), each label has a harrier hawk and rabbit symbol which not only denote resident animals but come from a linocut and poem Don did as a schoolboy in 1964. The wine's individual story of its grapes and how it is made also feature on each label. And Don's wines have been tested and rated very highly by experts. These include the likes of Kumeu River Wines' Michael Brajkovich, wine educator and reviewer Bob Campbell - both holding Master



of Wine qualifications, and wine writer and judge Yvonne Lorkin. Don's not afraid to experiment with his wines - currently trialing a brandy infused one, and he's also produced an 'orange' wine (which Yvonne likes) and a grape and honey mead made from a blend of his organic grapes and coastal bush honey from the property plus a touch of French brandy. Yvonne describes the mead as "darkening and delicious, with butterscotch and vanilla notes complementing the raisin and beeswax flavours, it's a juicy, spicy example". The results of the grapes growing where they are often produces a low crop of smaller but full flavoured berries producing wines of depth and flavour. Colour-coded tags are attached to ripening bunches, enabling hand harvesting many times by selecting the right grapes as they don't always ripen uniformly. Any grapes not up to scratch are removed, the remainder lightly crushed then fermented for up to five weeks as skins which have added their tannins and flavour are removed and new grape batches added. After subtle anaerobic (malolactic) fermentation the wine is left for several months in special small tanks (volume adjustable to prevent air getting in) then allowed to settle and clarify before hand-bottling. Don says many hours of work go into the growing and wine making (he describes himself as self-taught and more a wine grower than a wine maker). He does everything from the grape growing to the wine making as naturally as possible. Don says knowing he and fellow workers are not exposed to toxic chemicals and that they are being accompanied by humming bees, bird song, and frogs croaking in the man-made pond (birds drinking there are less likely to attack covered grapes) make the job a pleasure. Contact Don on 09 411 8069 or email donbatley@extra.co.nz for more information.

Award for Muriwai VLS

Rescuing a surfer washed up on rocks earned the Muriwai Volunteer Lifeguard Service Emergency Call-Out Squad (MVLS ECOS) the BP Rescue of the Month for the winter, it has recently been announced. Shortly before 4pm on October 8, the squad was advised a distressed surfer had





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washed up on the rocks near Sugar Loaf Island between Muriwai and Maukatia (Maori) Bay. ECOS coordinator Glenn Gowthorpe, and volunteer surf lifeguard Shea O'Neill grabbed their fins, tubes, helmets and wetsuits while fellow squad member Neil Reid went to the gannet colony lookout above the rescue scene and established radio contact with the NZ Police Eagle helicopter hovering above.

Muriwai VLS President Jo Cooper says a 2.5 metre swell was smashing into the rocks in front of the surfer, who'd managed to climb the cliff edge out of immediate danger.

Glenn and Shea swam out to the stranded and relieved surfer, reassuring him they'd get him off the rocks as quickly as possible.

"The patient was very cold and reluctant to re-enter the raging surf, particularly on his surf board," Jo says.

"Glenn and Shea discussed their options, factoring in swell and rip conditions, and decided to give the patient Shae's rescue tube and fins for a swim exit through the cave to Maori Bay with Glenn, while Shae would paddle the patient's surfboard and provide floatation assistance if required."

Glenn briefed the surfer then timed the jump into the surf so that the next set would help with the swim into the Maori Bay cave.

The surfer initially assisted by kicking toward the cave, but quickly tired and was concerned the safety of the beach was still quite some way off, Jo says.

With some verbal encouragement and solid swimming, Glenn and the patient eventually made it into the cave.

Once inside, however, the washing-machine action of the water, coupled with periods of total darkness, prompted the surfer to cling desperately to both his rescue tube and the lifeguards, while powerful swells pushed them back and forth.

Through great effort, the trio eventually made headway toward the cave exit before a final large wave bowled them up over the rocky beach at the Maori Bay cave mouth.

Relieved they were now on land, Shae checked the patient again before reuniting him with his board.

The trio then climbed the hill to the carpark where a large crowd had gathered. A few cheers rang out as the onlookers praised the efforts of the surf lifeguards in such difficult conditions.

The patient's joy at being rescued was obvious. He repeatedly thanked the surf lifeguards before also thanking the person who had initially called '111' when she saw him in trouble.

The lifeguards thanked the Police Eagle helicopter crew before it returned to its Onehunga base.

"A key factor in the success of this rescue was the lifeguards' familiarity with the conditions in the rescue area and the deliberate

and on-going risk assessment that accompanied their evolving rescue plan," Jo says. "The rescue process was backed up by great communication between the three surf lifeguards, with the Police Eagle helicopter operating overhead. "This was yet another successful rescue for the Muriwai Volunteer Lifeguard Service ECOS, a skilled team of dedicated and capable lifeguards who willingly give up their time to rescue those in need along Muriwai's challenging coast."

BP NZ Managing Director Debi Boffa says they are "incredibly proud" to have partnered with Surf Life Saving New Zealand since 1968.

"We are continually impressed by the incredible skills and bravery of surf lifeguards all over the country, and this rescue is another great example of the heroism they show in keeping us safe at the beach."

The Muriwai VLS will get \$500 worth of BP gift vouchers in recognition of the award-winning rescue.

SLSNZ, which represents 74 clubs and more than 18,000 members, suggests anyone seeing someone in trouble at the beach should let any lifeguards on patrol know immediately or call 111 and ask for police who have a direct line to emergency call-out squads and Coastguard NZ.

'Olden days' studied before Waimauku School centenary

Waimauku School students have been learning about the "olden days" prior to celebrating the school's centenary on March 18-20. The school and area's rich and unique history will be front and centre throughout the weekend of celebrations. Waimauku School Principal Gary Pasfield says the school



may be significantly larger than it was 100 years ago, but one thing that hasn't changed is that the school remains the focal point of the community. "Our school's history is certainly something to honour, and is something we are immensely proud of," says Gary. "History shows the community at the time lobbied the then Auckland Education Board about the growing need for a school in Waimauku. "Local students had to either take a train to Woodhill or walk the three and a half miles to Huapai - those too young to travel went without schooling. "Finally, approval came for a school, and the school started life as a one headmaster, one teaching assistant,



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one classroom school with a roll of 12 students," Gary adds. "Over time, and with the introduction of bus services in the 1930s, earlier schools such as Muriwai School, Motutara Schools 1 and 2, and Waikoukou Valley School, were then amalgamated with Waimauku School." Gary says the school is incredibly fortunate to have third and fourth generation families attending; with some current students being descendants of those who attended Motutara School (No. 2). Pictured are, from left - top Keira 10 and Jess Sinton 13; Samuel 13, Caleb 11 and Katelin Francis 9 and, front, Arlo 5 and Saskia Franklin 8; Lily Bulman 12. Keira, Jess and Lily are descendants of the Jonas family who attended Motutara School (No.2). Centenary Committee Chair Rocky Roberts says interest in the centennial has been high.

"We've been really pleased with the registrations so far. Many have commented on how much they are looking forward to seeing people they haven't seen in years," she says.

"We are making sure that we include plenty of time during the events so people can have the chance to catch up with old friends and colleagues." Celebrations will be a mix of evening events which are ticketed and age restricted, to a family picnic day open to the community at the school on the Saturday. Waimauku School encourages past pupils, teachers and staff, to register to be a part of the centenary. Visit www.waimauku.school.nz, or email centenary@waimauku.school.nz for more information.

Push needed for Huapai Indoor Courts Centre

The planned Huapai Indoor Courts Centre catering for multiple sports codes risks being delayed if funding for construction is not earmarked this year. Designed to meet the area's continual growth, the centre proposed at the Huapai Reserve is a critical part of the Auckland Council's 10-year budget and annual plan, with public consultation starting on both in February and closing mid-March. A steering group which includes representatives of local cricket, basketball, squash, football and netball clubs has been busy getting the project through its early stages under a One Local Initiative (OLI) 10-year programme. The centre is a key advocacy project for the Rodney Local Board with which the steering group operates

collaboratively. People should use their voices to support and help the centre - especially through the annual plan and budget process - as it will have enormous physical and mental benefits for the community, says Stephen Nobilo, the steering group's Kumeu Cricket Club representative. He fears the project could otherwise be axed with the council facing a massive COVID-related funding shortfall, said to be around \$1 billion. Stephen says the council finance and performance committee is likely to have the final say and that the aim is to bring it in under a \$22 million budget. "The work's been done on the centre project getting to this point but if the council has no money it risks being deferred," he says. "We need public pressure to get this through." Stephen says the Rodney Local Board has been very supportive and even provided for the project from its board allocation. "All the sporting groups support it too and the only thing liable to squash it is the council if it's got no money - so we need people to have their say." A centre concept suggests four netball courts, four squash courts, future cricket lanes, two multi-courts (basketball, indoor football, etc), a gym and associated facilities - but a final design has yet to be done. Stephen says it's time the council stepped up and supported the area's sport and recreation needs. Basketball representative Matt Rhodes says many people are missing out on competitive, organised basketball because there's nowhere to play it in the area. He says the closest basketball venue is Westgate. "We all travel to North Shore, Franklin, Stanmore Bay, etc, just to get game time as even they're full." Rhodes says basketball, like most sports, is ready to explode in this area. "There is just nowhere for it to explode onto as the facilities available are school facilities that are obviously used for school sports that don't always just include basketball." There were six basketball teams in the area from children to adults last year - up four on the previous year. Badminton, racquetball and pickleball are also looking to use the Huapai centre facilities. The benefits of this council-built facility will also enable all members of the community to try their hand at different sports - watch games and participate in activities that benefit the wider North West community, steering group member Gene Paul says. Hopefully this facility will also bring in the regional schools - like Huapai, Waimauku, etc - and let the kids use the facility so that it is getting used to its maximum potential." Initial consultation on the project closed in March last year and a business case is being prepared. Provide your feedback from February 22 to March 22 at akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/10-year-budget-2021-2031.

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opportunity to purchase the business and run it as their own. Both Craig and Margaret – pictured with their recent North West Country Business Award - have had significant years of industry experience and have owned and/or managed previous businesses in the industry. Craig, Margaret and the team at STIHL Shop Kumeu thoroughly enjoy being involved with the local Kumeu community. They are proud sponsors of local sports teams and clubs and have a strong relationship with the Kumeu Volunteer Fire Brigade. In addition, STIHL SHOP Kumeu offers support to local schools and can assist with loan equipment for special projects when required. STIHL SHOP Kumeu is an active member of the North West Business Association and has enjoyed success in the annual business awards. STIHL SHOP Kumeu is open Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5.30pm, and on Saturday 9am-4pm. Call in and see the team for your outdoor power equipment and gardening needs.

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A Smashing New Year

Out with the old and in with the new. Given the recent influx of residents to the Nor-west, Mark Adcock from Smashing Promotions is wanting to encourage



them to move their business dealings local as well with an offer of free artwork and design setup for all new clients in February. Along with a range of super-duper specials available which will be ongoing and updated monthly at www.mashingshop.smashingit.nz. The plan is to make an offer too good to refuse, allowing them to not only save time and money but gain a sense of pride in actively supporting their Norwest community. We have many avenues available supporting not-for-profits and sports groups with sponsorship opportunities. More and more businesses are becoming aware of the ongoing goodwill that can be achieved by supporting local initiatives, let alone the personal sense of pride contributing to society that money can't buy. Mark says this year he has a raft of new businesses keen to assist those in need, and he is also going to promote health messaging to the wider community at the same time. He has just provided the Kumeu Cricket Club with its uniforms, complete with a prostate cancer awareness message inside the yoke of each shirt prompting the wearer to get a health check. Mark has also provided waka ama uniforms with Youthline messaging. Next are netball uniforms with breast cancer messaging, and vaccination messaging using the "be wise - immunise" slogan. Mark says the slogan fits with the advent of the COVID-19 vaccine and anti-vaxxers spreading misinformation, as he wants to seed the need for all to get on board at this critical time and be vaccinated. So many opportunities to reach out and make a difference are offered, with many more initiatives in the wind, says Mark. He and the Smashing Promotions team welcome your call and the opportunity to wow you. Contact mark@smashingpromotions.nz, phone 09 412 6235.

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Safer Communities



YOUR IHU
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ALARM DOES

Waitakere Fire Brigade hopes you all had a Merry Christmas a happy New Year and a great summer break.

We all worked hard in 2020 to ensure we could have a COVID-19 free country and we are reaping the benefits.

Last summer, wildfires destroyed over 10,000 hectares of native bird habitat.

Three of our most loved native birds have been chosen as the stars of our summer wildfire campaign. They will help us to remind people that a wrong decision can

not only endanger life and property, but also our environment and the creatures that call it home. It can take native bush hundreds of years to completely recover from a fire. Working closely with Department of Conservation, we selected our kiwi, tui, and pīwakawaka (fantail) as ambassadors because they are part of our national identity and represent the threat of destruction of habitats by wildfire throughout New Zealand.

The new educational website Can I light a fire? | Fire and Emergency New Zealand (checkitsalright.nz) will walk you through the process of determining if you need a fire permit.

It also has a great information on how to assess the risk, reduce the risk, and if you need a fire permit you can apply from the site.

Also don't forget to install smoke alarms in your house because when you're asleep, you lose your sense of smell. Do not assume your smoke alarms are



working. Press the button to check.

Keep safe



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Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Waitakere Fire Brigade

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Community News

Learn French, Spanish and Italian in Kumeu

Bonjour, Hola, Ciao!

As we can't travel to Europe, now is the time to learn a European language so you are all set to go next year.

Learn French, Spanish or Italian and enrol in one of our language courses.

All language tutors are native speakers. All language classes are @ Kumeu Arts. We offer French, Spanish or Italian at different levels.

Check out the timetable. www.abclanguage.co.nz or call Patsy 0274 904 321.



The Mobile Car Specialists

Welcome to 2021 - fingers crossed for a smoother ride this year.

Plenty of cars are being bought, sold and driven all over the country. With these activities comes unwanted panel dents, scratched paintwork, sunscreen marks and "ahh bugger!" moments - which we can help you with.

Our services include:



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Contact us on 0800 20 30 20 for a quote, or visit www.TMCS.co.nz to see our work and 5 star reviews.

KumeuKnitty

Did you see the KumeuKnitty Crochet Christmas tree outside the Huapai Tavern over the 12 days of Christmas, bringing cheer to passers-by? Behind the iconic creation is a team of happy knitters and crocheters who meet every Tuesday from 10-12 at Kumeu Arts.

While also knitting for new-born and premature babies in public hospitals, and for other loved ones, the women of KumeuKnitty enjoy fellowship ("womanship"), sharing skills, inspiration, and even surpluses from the garden.



They've 'yarnbombed' Matua Road for International Yarnbombing Day, knitted on the street and in the library for Worldwide Knit in Public Day, planted potholes with marigolds to bring attention to poor road maintenance. The group - and its ambitions, just keep getting bigger. Thanks to Anderson Engineering, a steel frame will be constructed to make an even bigger and better crochet Christmas tree for next year. Join in for only \$3 a session, or watch this space!

Bike Kumeunity

Love to ride - February is Bike Month. The weather's good for riding, and this is the time of year to get into the habit of getting places by bike - whether it's to school or to the shop or library, bike is best. You can also join the Aotearoa Bike Challenge - register and log your rides to be in to win great prizes, including physical fitness and good mental health.

Use the weekends to map out safe rides to key destinations so when

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Community News

you're back at school or work it's not so daunting. Check out off-road routes such as through the domain, or cycleway around the back of New World and the new Kumeu Central development. Ride for fun, for fitness and to travel cheaper and faster than by car. The world looks better by bike. Keep an eye on the Bike Kumeu Facebook page for community rides and other events. www.facebook.com/BikeKumeuunity.

Kumeu Children's Art Club

Children's art is innocent and inspiring. Whether it's the simple art of drawing, playing with clay (a firm favourite), origami, construction or painting a rock. Art gives the opportunity to make sense of and express love for the world, and to learn skills at the same time.



Indeed, generations of local children have learned to love art through the Kumeu Children's Art Club since its inception in 1998. Your child could be next.

Join this small-group class at the heart of arts in our community - Kumeu Arts, for immersion in art in a working gallery and workshop space, supporting a creative community and a culture of peace.

With its varied subject matter and mediums, there's something for every child at Kumeu Children's Art Club. Enrolments are open now for classes starting on February 18. Join here: <https://enrolmy.com/kumeu-arts/book-now/11-The-Kumeu-Childrens-Art-Club---Term-1---2021> or call Kumeu Arts at 09412 9480 to book your child's space.

Natures Explorers

This week we made Marmite and Cheese Scrolls with our tamariki. Tamariki are exposed to many different learning opportunities when they are involved in baking. In this experience tamariki learnt about turn taking and understanding how to be patient. They were exposed to gaining a deeper understanding of mathematics through having to measure out



the ingredients, counting following a sequence and using their problem-solving skills. These aspects all contribute to fostering the development of their cognitive ability, which is an essential part in our daily lives. We incorporated science by discussing how baking powder works and what it does to the mixture. Tamariki developed their hand eye co-ordination and they strengthened their fine motor skills - hand and finger muscles. It is an essential foundation for future writing skills to have strong hand and finger muscles, these were developed by rubbing the butter into the flour mixture. They also developed confidence and independence in following instructions and how to problem solve themselves. Baking also fosters literacy skills as the children talk about what they are doing, counting, and associating specific baking terms to different textures and mediums. Most importantly, tamariki had fun making these scrolls and eating them too! This experience not only offers many different learning opportunities, but it also helps children to understand how to take care of themselves for the future.

To enquire about joining our Natures Explorers Family please call Nerys Byford on 09 412 8800 or email office.kindergarten@gmail.com.

New Year, new adventures

The Scouting year is up and running again with a lot of events happening all over the Waitoru Zone.

Scouts is not just an organisation that meets up once a week to do knots, we are very much a community focused organisation as well. We help with all sorts of community events from tree planting to car parking duties. Research has shown a lot of youth that are involved in community organisations such as Scouts tend to continue to support the community later in life, such as volunteer firemen, coastguard volunteers and other organisations in the community.

2021 is a big year for Scouts. We see a brand-new youth programme being introduced across the country. The new programme is youth led and adult supported. What this means is the youth get to decide a lot more what they want to learn and get involved with. Some youth may have a bright idea and suggest they want to go to the moon and the Kaiārahi (Leaders) help them to achieve this, in this instance it may be helping them plan a trip to the Stardome so they can look at the moon through a telescope or somewhere fitting



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Community News

within their ideas and adventurers.

The use of technology is now very much part of the youth's lives, as we saw during Covid lockdowns, Scouts were one of the first youth organisations to introduce home-based online programmes to keep the youth engaged, this will continue with the introduction of Scouts TV (a weekly YouTube programme for youth) and a digital portal for youths to communicate, complete badge work and share ideas with other Scouts local and nationally.

Scouts has come a long way from supporting soldiers on the front line, to outgoing and confident members of the community. Scouts is an adventure for all ages, not just the youth but adults often become more confident while they share the adventure and learn new skills.

What to know more about Scouts or becoming a Leader? Then visit www.scouts.nz, or email me: zl.waitoru@zone.scouts.nz Craig Paltridge - Waitoru Zone Leader.

Flippin' Fun has a class to suit you

With the holidays gone and a long school term ahead, it's time to look after yourself. Flippin' Fun Trampoline Park has a variety of classes for personal improvement, up-skilling or just plain fun for you and your little ones.



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 1.

Flip Fit Classes - if recent unpredictable weather has kept you from the beach, it's time reclaim that beach bod with the prospect of better weather ahead.

Flip Classes - fly with the best. For age 8 yrs+. Learn new tricks to impress your friends.

Private Flip Class - one-on-one instruction with a qualified instructor accelerates your child's skills learning

Junior Flippers - a fundamental movements programme for kids aged 5 -7 yrs teaching skills core to many sports.

Little Flippers - a super fun toddler session for the 5 & unders - without the older kids.

For pricing and times be sure to check www.flippinfun.co.nz or call us on 09 833 6880.

Waimauku Scouts Horse Race Night

The Waimauku Scouts Horse Race Night will be on Saturday 20 February 2021.

Tickets are just \$20 each, and a table of 8 is discounted to \$140.

We include a casual finger food dinner of pizza, and other hot & cold items, tea/coffee & home baking.

The bar will be open, and if you wish, we can provide a local shuttle transfer home (at additional cost).

The horses are raced on a wooden track, the Scouts roll giant dice, the race caller calls the races; the TV screens will show the races & the odds for the bets.

We will have raffles, auctions & games in between the races, so it is a really fun night, and sells out quickly.

We have all 8 races sponsored by these fantastic businesses, a huge thanks to: Central Landscape Supplies, Greenlight Mortgages - Vanessa Belton, Water to Waste Plumbing, Waimauku Lions, Harcourts North West - Steve Cotter, Alpha Electrical, NJC Equipment Hire, N D Engineering.

And to our wonderful supporters (more to come): Craig Walker Building Removals, Corey Burnett - Burnetts Transport & Earthmoving, Muriwai Golf Club, Hallertau, Tanya Franklin - The Travel Broker, Lucie's Little Bus (van transfers), New World Kumeu, Luma AV, Sand Dunz Café Muriwai, Huapai-Kumeu Lions Club, Coopers Creek Winery, West Brook Winery, Tree Adventures Woodhill.

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Community News

Feel free to contact Tanya on 021 2549169 with any questions or for ticket sales, or email waimauku.scouts.committee@gmail.com

Thank you so much for supporting our youth, and the new hall project of moving our new Scout Den home to the back of Pollard lane; this is a huge project that has been years in the planning and we are so excited that it is finally happening at the end of this summer.

Prada Cup and America's Cup spectator package

3 nights / 4 days package with Race Day Spectator cruise.

Prada Cup - From NZ\$1449 per person share twin.

America's Cup - From NZ\$1569 per person share twin.

Be part of the excitement of the 36th America's Cup racing on Hauraki Gulf, the atmosphere and vibe of Auckland's Viaduct and Britomart precincts, and stunning Waiheke Island.

Contact Helloworld on hobsonville@helloworld.co.nz or 09 416 1799.

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Trainspotting

Sunday 21st February, Kaukapakapa Library, 9.30am to 1pm.

Since the first train came through Kaukapakapa in 1897, the railway has been an integral part of the settlement's creation and development. The Makarau tunnel, a few kms north of the village, was an engineering feat taking eight years to complete using bricks made on site.

Tracking forward, 2020 has been the year of the Northern upgrade from Auckland to Whangarei, with the railway reopening in early 2021 following significant modifications to the tunnel, the line from Helensville and the Punganui bridge.



The library will have on display existing historical and contemporary photos, along with a selection of articles and documents giving an insight into some of the challenges faced, both past and current. Site photography by Colin Lunt has helped us record the next chapter of our local rail system. Come along, there is once again light at the end of the tunnel!

Kaukapakapa Library is open in conjunction with the Kaukapakapa Village Market. For more details, contact Megan Paterson, threehorses@xtra.co.nz, 021 959 017.

Gently Loved Markets

Gently Loved Markets was born of event manager Donna Buchanan's passion for preloved, retro and vintage gems. She couldn't stand the thought of amazing items going to landfill so she turned her preloved clothing obsession into the Instagram page Gently Worn Co. to pass on these amazing finds.

Donna has always wanted to have a preloved market in her community so has created her own event selling clothing, accessories, and homewares just ten minutes from her home, at the Kumeu Community Centre.

There is a wonderful range of people selling at the Gently Loved Markets on Saturday 20 February. To join them, contact Donna at gentlylovedmarkets@gmail.com about a stall.

Grab a coffee from A Sweet Life caravan, bring cash, your favourite fabric bag and come on a preloved treasure hunt with us.

Gently Loved Markets, Saturday 20 February, 10am - 2pm, Kumeu Community Centre, 35 Access Road, Kumeu. FB & IG @gentlylovedmarketsnz.



Chris Penk

MP for Helensville

Stop in, the office is open!

365 Main Road, Huapai
09 412 2496
chris.penkmp@parliament.govt.nz
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Authorised by Chris Penk, 365 Main Road, Huapai, Auckland.

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In Brief

Karate is for everybody

Taupaki Dojo is a long established family friendly place for children and adults to learn traditional Goju Ryu Karate.

Our style of Karate can be practised by anyone, regardless of gender, age or physical condition and no previous proficiency in sport is needed, rather a commitment and desire to progress. We learn together - without judgement, focusing on individual achievement so everyone gets to participate and feel good. Students get plenty of encouragement and you can take it slowly and build up as you become more confident in your abilities and your body gets stronger.

Emphasis is placed on learning practical self defence skills, building strength, co-ordination, endurance and flexibility which will drastically improve your fitness and confidence levels. Students also learn perseverance and resilience. Not just taking a physical hit but coping with a disappointment in real life then GETTING BACK UP.

We are a very friendly Dojo and welcome everyone from the complete novice to those who want to get back into karate after a break from training. Our fees are low to encourage continued participation and there is a two week free trial.

Now that you've read some reasons why you should join us it's time to get started. Drop us an email, call, message us on Facebook or visit our website if you want some more information. Or simply come and join in!

Adult classes have started for the year and junior classes start on Tuesday 9 February. Taupaki Hall (Opposite Harry James Reserve, Taupaki Road, Taupaki). Tuesday & Thursday - juniors (7+) - 6-7pm.



KARATE

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TAUPAKI GOJU RYU KARATE 09 412 9768

Adults (13 +) - 7-8.30pm. Email julia@bwainsolvency.co.nz, phone 09 412 9768 or visit www.taupakikarate.co.nz.

Time for tennis

This beautiful summer weather means it's a good time to learn a new sport. We have a special offer for kids aged 5 to 15 to join our social tennis club day on Wednesdays from 3.30pm to 5.30pm and have some fun, meet new friends and learn a new skill for just \$80 (half price). Starts term 1. This offer also includes that your child can play at the club courts for the rest of the membership year which ends 1 October 2021. We only have limited places to fill, so if you are interested contact our club coach Eden on 021 043 9383. Also Eden runs some great classes for adult beginners, Pump tennis which is a cardio tennis workout (good for those trying to keep fit as a New Year's resolution) and adult twilight sessions over the summer period. Give it a go and have some fun.



As the year gets underway, all Kumeu Library's regular activities are back up and running. Our fun, free activities are a great way to meet new people in the local community, learn new skills, and expand your knowledge - so come in to your local library and join in the fun.

Kumeu Library

As the year gets underway, all Kumeu Library's regular activities are back up and running. Our fun, free activities are a great way to meet new people in the local community, learn new skills, and expand your knowledge - so come in to your local library and join in the fun.

Activities for Children:

Storytime: Mondays and Saturdays at 10.30am - Stories, songs, rhymes and a fun activity for children aged 3 to 5 years - Storytime happens every week, even during the school holidays.

Homeschoolers' Make: Build: Do: Wednesdays during school term at 10.30am, starting 10 February - An hour of constructing, creating and fun for children aged 8 to 13.

Make: Build: Do: Thursdays during school term at 3.30pm for children aged 8 to 13, starting 11 February - What can you achieve in one hour?

Rhymetime: Fridays at 9.30 - 10.00am - for pre-schoolers aged 18 months to 3 years. Rhymetime continues through all the school holidays.

Wriggle & Rhyme: Fridays during school term at 10.30 - 11.00am, starting 12 February - for babies 0 to 2 years.

Activities for Adults:



Grant Castle



P (09) 412 8239
M 027 299 7054

106 Main Road, Kumeu
E castlepanelbeating@orcon.net.nz

In Brief

Book Chat: The first Tuesday of every month at 10.30am, starting 2 February - come and chat about the good books you have read lately while enjoying morning tea.

Crafternoon: The last Wednesday of every month (except December) at 2.00pm, starting 27 January - create something different every month.

Book Club: 7.00pm on the 4th Thursday of each month except December, starting 28 January. Join in our lively discussions - every month we read a different author, genre or theme!

Other Services at Kumeu Library:

Justice of the Peace: Saturdays from 10.00 am to 12 noon.

Computers: Free WiFi, public computer access, and scanning. Printing is also available (cost applies).

There's always something happening at Kumeu Library - follow us on Facebook to keep up-to-date (www.facebook.com/kumeulibrary/)!

Kaukapakapa Village Market

Sunday 21 February 8.30am to 1pm. A great morning out for the family, this lively village market has something for everyone, friendly people, great atmosphere and a tempting selection of stalls. Handmade crafts, soaps & jewellery, new and pre-loved clothing plus everything from locally grown fruit, vegetables & plants to bric-a-brac and collectibles - a great opportunity to pick up something unique or grab a bargain. Enjoy a delicious snack from the market café, freshly baked cakes, doughnuts, barista coffee or a sausage from the Helensville Lions sausage sizzle while you enjoy live music from duo Barry & Maryanne. Plus free face painting for the kids. For more information contact Sarah 027 483 1542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.



Handmade crafts, soaps & jewellery, new and pre-loved clothing plus everything from locally grown fruit, vegetables & plants to bric-a-brac and collectibles - a great opportunity to pick up something unique or grab a bargain. Enjoy a delicious snack from the market café, freshly baked cakes, doughnuts, barista coffee or a sausage from the Helensville Lions sausage sizzle while you enjoy live music from duo Barry & Maryanne. Plus free face painting for the kids. For more information contact Sarah 027 483 1542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.

SeniorNet Kumeu

As we venture into a new year with the thoughts of a better year than last the SeniorNet club looks ahead in what is the future and what we can do for our club members. The club caters for all people 50 and over who would like to know and learn about technology. Whether it is mobile phones, computers or anything to do with the internet you will be made welcome whatever your level of knowledge. We have a full programme this year with meetings, courses, workshops and drop-in days. If you are all interested call me Nigel Dempster on 09 411 9444 or nigeldem@outlook.com. We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 10 am in the St. Chads Church Hall, 7 Matua Road,



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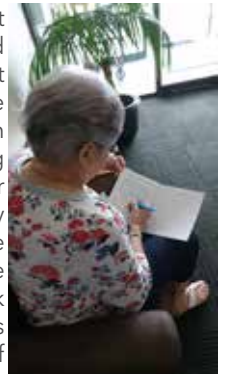
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Huapai.

Writing through the generations

In Taupaki, the local primary school and rest home have a very special bond - created through letters. Radius Taupaki Gables Rest Home has been running an activity programme called Mystery Pen Pals, where students from Taupaki Primary School have been writing letters to the residents. Each student has their own pen pal who is not identified except by a nom de plume, and they are free to write about whatever they feel like. Each week the students write their letters, put them in a book and their teacher drops them off to Radius Taupaki Gables. Receiving the letters is one of the highlights of the week, and the residents love writing back to the students - sharing wonderful memories and experiences. It is a great way for residents to remain connected to the community, especially during the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Radius Taupaki Gables says it will treasure each pen pal book for years to come.



We are lucky in New Zealand

I recently visited some friends who live in a smallish rest home. One lady is a hundred and one years old and looks wonderful. While chatting as a group about different topics, including the world situation with Covid, someone remarked that we are all blessed to live



in New Zealand. She's right, we are. Of course everything isn't perfect, but I am very grateful to live here. I grew up in England, only immigrating to New Zealand in my twenties. I still have family and friends in the UK and Europe, and worry about them in the current circumstances. But for my friends in the rest home, they enjoy the care and love from the caregivers, appreciate good food, and are grateful to be able to receive visitors. Some enjoy knitting, word search puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, colouring-in, and listening to the music they enjoyed in their youth. If you are looking for activity ideas see our website www.mindjig.co.nz or call me, Jonathan, on 09 600 3251 or call/text 022 480 3022

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Property

Property market report

Constrained supply of houses causes a jump in new home consents. Nationally, the number of new homes consented in the year to November 2020 was 38,624, up +4.2% from 2019. The national annual total is the highest since July 1974, when 38,904 new homes were consented.

"Auckland, Hawke's Bay, and Taranaki had record levels of new homes consented in the November 2020 year. These consents are an intention to build, and most home construction is completed within a year or two after a consent is granted, though COVID-19 may have caused delays for some projects.

The peak is being driven by strong consents for townhouses and stand-alone houses, with weak levels for apartments and retirement accommodation.

In Auckland City, consents are up +55% above the year-ago levels. The Unitary Plan seems to be doing its job, with both areas on the urban/rural boundaries being developed faster (with both Manuwera and the Henderson/Massey regions seeing massive increases), and more density in areas like central Waitematā, Ōrakei, and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki seeing very strong increases.

For the full twelve months to November, 16,293 consents were issued in Auckland compared with 14,866 in the prior year. This is a 10% increase, despite the pandemic interruptions.

A look around the development sites provides a picture of demand outstripping supply in all areas of the land and housing sector and one that continues to struggle to find a median that satisfies both audiences.

The number of houses sold nationally in December was up 42% from the same month in 2019, reaching 8935.

But Real Estate Institute of New Zealand claims there was a "lack of choice" in real estate markets nationwide at the end of 2020, resulting in sharply rising prices.

Nationally, prices were up +19.3% compared to the same month a year ago, but the median price was up \$4000 to \$749,000 from November to December, only a 0.5% rise.

In Auckland, 3219 houses were sold in December, up from just 1932 in 2019.

Additionally, Auckland's median house price increased by 17.4% from \$886,000 at the same time last year to \$1,040,000 a new record high, and the fifth consecutive month where Auckland has seen a new record median house price.

Auckland central city area remains New Zealand's most expensive district in the country with December seeing these suburbs reach a new record median house price of \$1,280,000 - hovering extremely close to the \$1.3 million mark. Not far behind, was North Shore on \$1,235,000 and Rodney district on \$1,005,000 showing how unaffordable the Auckland region is becoming - especially for first

home buyers. The only district in Auckland now with a median under the \$800,000 mark is Franklin district with a median of \$790,000.

New Zealand house prices rose at an average of \$332 per day in 2020. They rose at a slower rate in December, gaining a more modest \$129 per day during December at the median level.

With a lack of supply and high property demand this continues to highlight the importance of working closely with a professional and effective real estate agent that can manage the progression of change and understands the most effective process to engage buyers with a view to achieving the best outcome, both financially and mentally. Too many buyers and sellers are frustrated by the lack of transparency afforded them in this market, something that I am working hard to ensure all parties are educated and supported..

Recent sales values are:

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Coatesville | \$1,660,000 to \$2,120,000 |
| Helensville | \$677,000 to \$1,870,000 |
| Huapai | \$890,000 to \$1,270,000 |
| Kumeu | \$890,000 to \$2,180,000 |
| Muriwai | \$1,340,000 |
| Parakai | \$630,000 to \$935,000 |
| Riverhead | \$730,000 to \$1,590,000 |
| Swanson | \$805,000 to \$1,550,000 |
| Taupaki | \$3,200,000 |
| Waimauku | \$949,000 to \$2,300,000 |
| Waitakere | \$795,000 to \$2,100,000 |
| Whenuapai | \$945,000 to \$1,421,000 |

If you would like a better real estate experience from a proven professional with over 16 years in market at the highest level, contact me today, Graham McIntyre, phone 027 632 0421 or graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com - Mike Pero Real Estate Ltd Licensed REAA (2008).

The dawn of a new trusts era

The new Trusts Act comes into force at the end of January 2021. Trustees now have a clear obligation to tell beneficiaries about the assets and investments contained within a trust. The change in law is based on the current policy view that beneficiaries of a trust are best placed to ensure that the trustees are good custodians of the assets held by them. However, in many cases trust deeds include more than just the children of the settlors as potential beneficiaries. It may include siblings of the settlors and de facto partners of the settlor's children all of whom could have remained blissfully unaware of their potential interest in trust assets up to that point. For this reason, it is often necessary to get legal advice about whether your trust deed is fit for purpose under the new Act. That advice can include taking the



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Property

necessary steps to confine the beneficiaries of the trust to children and grandchildren and removing the more remote beneficiaries before they become entitled to such information. It is also important to formulate a disclosure letter suitable to show that the trustees have complied with their obligations under the new Act. For further advice and assistance with your trusts feel free to contact Kemp Barristers & Solicitors at info@kempsolicitors.co.nz or 09 412 6000.

Using Kiwisaver for first home purchase

If you are a first home buyer and you have been in Kiwisaver for more than 3 years then you may qualify to withdraw funds from your Kiwisaver to help buy your first home. The first thing you need to know is that you must have a contract to purchase in place.

There are two scenarios: You need the funds to pay the Deposit to the Real Estate Agent; and/or you need the funds to pay the balance of the Purchase Price on Settlement Date.

In the first scenario you need to get moving on your application as soon as possible after your offer has been accepted. You will need to download an application pack from your Providers website and fill it out. Part of the application form is swearing a Statutory Declaration - you can do this in front of your Solicitor or a Justice of the Peace.

In the second scenario your solicitor can only send your application to your Kiwisaver Provider after your contract has become unconditional. In this case you could wait until you are unconditional to get your application organised. Just remember your Kiwisaver Provider will usually need 10 business days to process the application so this needs to be organised about three weeks before settlement date.

ClearStone Legal incorporating Kumeu-Huapai Law Centre can assist you in buying your first home. Telephone 09 973 5102 if you have more questions about buying property or using your Kiwisaver.

Sharing fence costs with your neighbour

The Fencing Notice - By Nathan Tetzlaff.

The Fencing Act 1978 provides that neighbours must each pay half the cost to do work on an adequate fence. This includes building a fence where there isn't one, replacing a damaged fence, or doing

repairs. Neighbours can often agree on these matters without further assistance. Any agreement is enforceable and may be registered as a fencing covenant on the properties' titles.

Even if the neighbour has agreed, a fencing notice should then be handed to them (or be sent to them by registered post) and should include reference to: The boundary to be fenced; The type of fence proposed; Who and how the fence would be constructed; The estimate of costs; and When the work will be done.

The notice should also be clear that your neighbour has 21 days to serve a 'cross notice' or else they will be deemed to have accepted the terms in the fencing notice, including liability to pay the amount proposed.

Smith & Partners, phone 09 837 6844 or email nathan.tetzlaff@smithpartners.co.nz.

Tile Wright

Happy New Year, we hope you all had a good break! We are now carrying out free no-obligation quotes for your tiling needs; kitchens, splash backs, bathrooms and Laundries. We specialise in all things tiling; we provide high quality services including Auckland Council approved water proofing, bathrooms, kitchens and splash backs.



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4a Shamrock Drive Kumeu, Auckland

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 transactions that have occurred. To receive the full summary simply email the word "full statistics" to kumeu@mikepero.com. This service is free from cost.

| SUBURB | CV \$ | LAND AREA | FLOOR AREA | SALE PRICE \$ | SUBURB | CV \$ | LAND AREA | FLOOR AREA | SALE PRICE \$ |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------|
| COATESVILLE | 3,100,000 | 1.3HA | 377M2 | 2,120,000 | | 970,000 | 750M2 | 131M2 | 730,000 |
| | 1,575,000 | 2.58HA | 200M1 | 1,660,000 | | 1,375,000 | 800M2 | 273M2 | 1,590,000 |
| HELENSVILLE | 1,075,000 | 2.6HA | 90M2 | 935,000 | | 1,375,000 | 810M2 | 304M2 | 1,465,000 |
| | 740,000 | 2HA | 90M2 | 625,000 | | 1,000,000 | 1500M2 | 115M2 | 1,285,000 |
| | 890,000 | 1477M2 | 235M2 | 925,000 | | 1,325,000 | 1469M2 | 272M2 | 1,345,000 |
| | 3,825,000 | 1132M2 | 290M2 | 1,330,000 | | 1,225,000 | 835M2 | 239M2 | 1,280,000 |
| | 1,575,000 | 1HA | 314M2 | 1,870,000 | SWANSON | 645,000 | 562M2 | 110M2 | 770,000 |
| | 830,000 | 814M2 | 153M2 | 875,000 | | 900,000 | 1152M2 | 183M2 | 940,000 |
| | 710,000 | 726M2 | 101m2 | 800,000 | | 1,300,000 | 3968M2 | 215M2 | 1,550,000 |
| | 620,000 | 689M2 | 122M2 | 677,000 | | 1,025,000 | 448M2 | 200M2 | 1,130,000 |
| | 350,000 | 600M2 | 114M2 | 855,000 | | 980,000 | 1424M2 | 266M2 | 1,330,000 |
| HUAPAI | 870,000 | 817M2 | 112M2 | 1,060,000 | | 670,000 | 315M2 | 109M2 | 805,000 |
| | 890,000 | 600M2 | 119M2 | 890,000 | | 1,250,000 | 4.57HA | 270M2 | 2,025,000 |
| | 980,000 | 578M2 | 182M2 | 1,060,000 | TAUPAKI | 4,450,000 | 2HA | 280M2 | 3,200,000 |
| | 1,125,000 | 680M2 | 239M2 | 1,290,000 | WAIMAUKU | 2,100,000 | 5.3HA | 259M2 | 1,900,000 |
| | 1,025,000 | 400M2 | 200M2 | 1,020,000 | | 910,000 | 1HA | 150M2 | 949,000 |
| | 490,000 | 457M2 | 192M2 | 1,070,000 | | 1,375,000 | 2HA | 170M2 | 1,400,000 |
| | 1,125,000 | 690M2 | 242M2 | 1,270,000 | | 1,100,000 | 1HA | 211M2 | 1,350,000 |
| | 970,000 | 1104M2 | 180M2 | 990,000 | | 1,375,000 | 4HA | 580M2 | 1,400,000 |
| KUMEU | 1,075,000 | 731M2 | 207M2 | 1,405,500 | | 1,150,000 | 1000M2 | 199M2 | 1,395,000 |
| | 490,000 | 405M2 | 196M2 | 1,100,000 | | 1,225,000 | 1896M2 | 275M2 | 950,000 |
| | 1,000,000 | 604M2 | 195M2 | 1,138,000 | | 2,450,000 | 6.21HA | 358M2 | 2,300,000 |
| | 1,525,000 | 2HA | 140M2 | 2,180,000 | WAITAKERE | 810,000 | 1666M2 | 120M2 | 795,000 |
| | 950,000 | 425M2 | 180M2 | 1,000,000 | | 690,000 | 1014M2 | 108M2 | 976,000 |
| | 1,725,000 | 9798M2 | 280M2 | 1,675,000 | | 1,015,000 | 4003M2 | 200M2 | 1,290,000 |
| | 800,000 | 222M2 | 160M2 | 890,600 | | 795,000 | 822M2 | 133M2 | 900,000 |
| MURIWAI | 1,475,000 | 835M2 | 245M2 | 1,340,000 | | 1,150,000 | 1.25HA | 320M2 | 1,600,000 |
| PARAKAI | 475,000 | 872M2 | 94M2 | 635,000 | | 1,200,000 | 2.91HA | 281M2 | 1,401,250 |
| | 760,000 | 1774M2 | 181M2 | 935,000 | | 1,400,000 | 1.09HA | 342M2 | 2,100,000 |
| | 530,000 | 1012M2 | 78M2 | 630,000 | WHENUAPAI | 1,075,000 | 300M2 | 236M2 | 1,295,000 |
| | 840,000 | 600M2 | 185M2 | 870,000 | | 930,000 | 827M2 | 141M2 | 1,421,000 |
| RIVERHEAD | 1,350,000 | 801M2 | 266M2 | 1,400,000 | | 1,125,000 | 315M2 | 247M2 | 1,330,000 |
| | 1,025,000 | 535M2 | 178M2 | 1,210,000 | | 1,060,000 | 873M2 | 191M2 | 1,305,000 |

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

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Graham McIntyre
027 632 0421
09 412 9602

graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com



BLENDED THE BEST OF OLD AND NEW - HUAPAI

4 1 1

Auction

16 Tapu Road, Kumeu
Auction - 12pm, Sunday 21st February 2021 (unless sold prior).

The best of open plan living and entertaining with easy access to sunny North facing decking, this home has been renovated to a as new standard to make the most of modern living. Fully functional, and open plan, featuring four bedrooms with two w/c's and central bathroom with laundry all off a central corridor. Traditional but delivering a separation between entertaining spaces and sleeping environments. Fenced and hedged section of 442 square meters (more or less) delivers low section maintenance and easy care, while protecting pets and children at play. Single lock up garage and off-street parking in a compact but complete offering. A short stroll to cafes, transport links, parks, brand new primary school and convenience shopping.

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129A, 131, 133, 135 Colwill Road, Massey
By Negotiation

Yes that's 14311 Square meters of land available for development. offering a big land lot, consisting of 129A, 131, 131A, 133, 135 and 137 Colwill Road, Royal Heights. Included in the offer are three homes offering 437sqm of improvements. The land therefore can provide income while development is underway. An independent development review from Terra Nova Planners is available for review. Significant potential here for the right buyer that wants to make the most of the native esplanade, the beautiful views and the easy accessed flat land. If 2021 is your year of creating opportunity, this is a serious proposition with an absolutely realistic Vendor. Close to schools, parks, shopping, motorway access, northwest mall, transport options and much more.

www.mikepero.com/RX2638864



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TOTALLY AWESOME or my lads might say 'Pawsome experience'

Graham is truly an experienced, fun professional to deal with, he certainly knows his stuff and keeps you fully informed at all times of what is transpiring during the entire process. I felt totally at ease with his easy going manner and it certainly helped to have someone you could share a good laugh with along the way. **Dianne**



Graham McIntyre
027 632 0421 | 0800 900 700
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Central's Tips

February 2021



Summer's in full swing and the summer vegetables are bursting. Pick tomatoes, cucumbers, beans and zucchini daily to keep them producing and make sure to keep those pesky pests at bay! Now's a great time to mulch your fruit trees too.

Use mulch - save water

Help protect your plants and trees by adding mulch, a great way to help retain moisture in the soil and it looks great too!



In the Edible Garden

- **Thin out some of the pip fruit** developing in clusters on your apple and pear trees. This ensures the remaining fruit are a good size
- **Holes in tomato leaves and tomatoes** are caused by **green looper caterpillars** who breed very quickly in the heat. Use an organic spray or Derris Dust to stop them ruining the crop
- **Get ready for autumn vegetables** - directly sow beetroot, carrots and parsnip now
- **Vertical elements** - stake up beans, tomatoes and cucumbers, so that the produce isn't sitting on the soil. These plants are vines, so with strong support, many edibles can be grown vertically in a small garden
- **Ensuring a good harvest:** layer thick mulch around your fruit trees - from citrus to apples, pears and plums, they need access to moisture in the soil. Same goes for feijoas, passionfruit and tamarillos
- **Vegetables in raised beds** - liquid feed weekly to keep nutrients to the plants while they're in full production mode

The rest of the Garden

- **Go troppo for a cool look:** Plant a mixture of lush tropical foliage interspersed with shade lovers that produce bright flowers such as impatiens, alstroemerias and begonias
- **Keep the roses flowering** - pick flowering roses for floral arrangements and dead head old flowers to encourage continued flowering. Spray to combat diseases and pests
- **Cut and come again:** lavenders, hebes and daisies can look a bit shabby at this time, so trim off spent flowers and liquid feed to ensure a good autumn display
- **The best lawn for hot, dry areas is kikuyu** because of its drought resistance - one of the few lawn types that can be mowed low!
- **Early signs of powdery mildew** on hydrangeas, lilac bushes and perennials such as phlox can be controlled with a natural spray of 1C milk to 1L water, adding a 1tsp of baking soda.
- **Turn the compost heap and keep it moist** - dry compost doesn't break down well

Project for February

Add some clean lines to the garden with our sleeper range.

Sleepers are great for raised beds and they look good edging garden and lawn areas. They also make great steps and wider sleepers can provide casual seating in your outdoor space.

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Hot Property



Blending the best of old and new – Huapai

Huapai was developed in the 1970's as a residential area to support Kumeu's commercial and retail hub that serviced the rural community in the North West. It was a collection of relocated homes from the city, a few new homes and in the later years had executive homes on double sites in cul-de-sac environments with parks, footpaths and curbing. Roll on today and you still have a broad spectrum of

property from old and the very new and everything in between. This home at 16 Tapu Road has the best of both, a classic and traditional 1970's bungalow with a full refurbishment, delivering clean lines and easy living.

The best of open plan for ease of conversation and entertaining with access to sunny north facing decking, this home has been renovated to a as-new standard to make the most of modern living. Fully functional, and open plan, featuring four bedrooms with two w/c's and central bathroom with laundry all off a central corridor. Traditional but delivering a separation between entertaining spaces and sleeping environments.

Hot Property



Fenced and hedged section of 442 square meters (more or less) delivers low section maintenance and easy care, while protecting pets and children at play. Single lock up garage and off-street parking in a compact but complete offering. Fee simple, freehold title, no defects or disclosures on this property.

A short stroll to cafes, transport links, parks, brand new primary school and convenience shopping.

For viewing and more information, contact Graham now on 027 632 0421 or graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com - Mike Pero Real Estate Ltd Licensed REAA (2008).

Home & Garden

Laser Plumbing and Roofing Whenuapai

And just like that, a new year is here. While 2020 was an interesting and rather challenging year, we were thrilled to place as a finalist at the Laser Group Awards for Customer Service Excellence. It is a priority for Laser Whenuapai that we deliver top customer service to our customers so we were very pleased to receive this award. From our team at Laser Whenuapai, we wish you all a happy new year and look forward to better things in 2021.



The New Year is also a good time to start fresh and sort any of those pesky plumbing issues that you have been putting off. Give us a call and we can help you out.

Maintenance Plumbing - for all your plumbing requirements, from basic tap washers, leaking pipes, the dreaded blocked toilet, or gas work, our maintenance plumbers are here to help - 24 hours a day.

Drainage - our qualified drainlayers can perform a full range of drainage repairs and replacements through to new drainage jobs - both storm water and wastewater. We offer a state of the art drain unblocking service, CCTV inspection service and a dedicated tip truck and digger to get the drainage work done.

Roofing - We find and fix roof leaks. We also offer all roofing services...from repairs and gutter cleans right through to full re-roof.

Project Plumbing - We are specialists in new home plumbing, design and installation as well as home renovations. We also have extensive

knowledge and experience in commercial plumbing. Contact us today and we will help manage your project.

Laser Whenuapai has been trading since 1985 - so choosing us means choosing a solid, reliable and experienced company that you can depend on. Not only can we offer you total solutions for all your plumbing, drainage or roofing needs, we stand by all our jobs by offering warranties...and always use quality New Zealand made products.

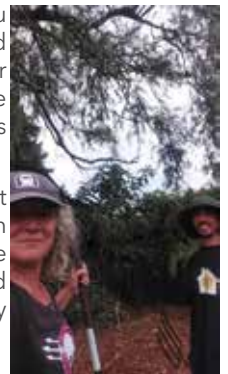
Get in touch with us today on 09 417 0110 or whenuapai@laserplumbing.co.nz. We are open five days a week from 7:30am-4:30pm and are conveniently located at Unit 4, 3 Northside Drive, Whenuapai.

Kumeu Community Gardens

Summer hasn't stopped progress at Kumeu Community Gardens. We haven't managed to secure our watertank and establish our garden beds, but with community support, we have been working hard to get the gardens established.

We have been donated the use of equipment and machinery, and generous piles of mulch to tidy and prepare our planting areas, and we are all set to go when our irrigation is sorted and we can keep plants alive - a struggle in any garden this time of year.

The enthusiastic response from the community has shown us the appetite for community gardening is real. We are still on the lookout for volunteers (mulching is fun!), and for practical assets like a garden shed and tools. Keep an eye on our Kumeu Community Gardens Facebook page for updates about how you can help, get involved and lend support. Thanks to everyone who has offered support so far.



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Mitre 10 MEGA

The extension work is well and truly underway for Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate, with the demolition of the old Palmers building nearing completion. Soon to become to the largest retail-type MEGA in the country, the store will increase from just over 11,000 square metres including trade and garden areas, to over 15,000 square metres. The retail area will see an increase in size of over 3,000 square metres.

Owner operators Dave and Elaine Hargreaves are thrilled with the progress thus far and are excited for what the next couple of

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Home & Garden

years has to offer for the store. "Although COVID-19 has slowed the extension plans down a bit, we're just grateful to see progress and are looking forward to the completion which should hopefully be around the time that Costco is set to open" said Dave. Work on Costco began in October and the retail and grocery giant is hoping to open its first New Zealand store in Q2 of 2022. The Hargreaves are hopeful that the extension will work alongside the extra foot traffic this will generate, and by building closer to the Costco, they expect to see a natural increase in customer numbers.

Although 2020 has thrown its fair share of curveballs, Dave and Elaine also wanted to express their gratitude for the support the West Auckland community had shown their Henderson and Westgate stores. "Without it, we wouldn't have been able to keep over 200 people in jobs, but we're extremely proud of the fact that everyone who was employed by the stores at the start of the year is still employed now" said Elaine.

Tough groundcover plants for tough areas

Most gardens will have an area where conditions are tough, and many plants struggle to grow in these areas. At Awa Nursery we have an area dedicated to these tough zones, and the plants themselves are subject to fairly harsh conditions at the nursery. We have a great variety of groundcovers currently in stock which are tried and true in many a garden to counteract weeds, hold a bank together, or just survive in dry conditions. They also add colour and interest to your garden, and are low maintenance. We have many options, from the firm favourite coprosmas (there are 14 varieties in the nursery) to the mondos, ajugas, dymondia, muehlenbeckias, dichondria Silver Falls, Spanish Shawl, selleria, acaena purpurea, vinca, leptoneilla



dioica, thymus, and hedera, to name a few. Hebes are another great addition to your garden, thriving in many a tough area, and are very easy to maintain. Mostly flowering in summer, they provide nectar for the bees, and brighten up the garden with the long flowering period. Also, consider flaxes, grasses (both NZ carex and lomandras), creeping rosemary, pimelia, Star Jasmine, liriopie and grevilleas, which are all proven tough plants. Remember your garden will always thank you if you mulch your garden especially when conditions are hot as it helps prevent the soil from drying out, suppresses weeds and improves fertility and health of your soil - plus it looks great. Pop along to Awa Nursery and see what we have that can brighten up your tough patch.

Experience the difference an expert makes

It is well understood that trees contribute to the health and beauty of our environment and our properties; they can enhance property value and our sense of place. Well-placed trees reduce energy-use costs by shading during the hot months, while also improving air and water quality. But not all trees are created equal, some are faster growing, some are shorter lived, some may be strong while others are brittle.



Proper pruning ensures trees a long, healthy life and reduces the risk of branch failure.

A skilled arborist, along with specialised equipment, can accomplish even the most difficult tree pruning and removals. Working safely around your landscaping, house, power lines, and other valuable features to get the job done quickly and safely. Make sure you have

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Home & Garden

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Hybrid solar systems - no more power cuts

We know. 2020 is so 'last year'. We just had to tell you about the significant growth of Hybrid Solar installations last year. Battery technology is becoming far more viable due to efficiency, cost effectiveness and manageability.



We've found Australian-made PowerPlus Energy batteries to be a popular choice, due to their flexibility and ease of installation. They are designed to function on their own or as a larger battery system, so they can fit into the smallest domestic application right through to utility sized projects.

Pair these units with Solarcraft's favourite choice of high quality/high output solar panels and you'll have enough battery storage to avoid ever having a power cut again. With the extra-reassurance that you are still connected to the grid.

Sort of similar to having a water tank and being connected to the mains water supply? Sort of... Speaking of water? We'll be featuring the Solar Water Bore next issue.

Happy new year everyone, from the Solarcraft team.

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Mothplant

The mothplant is a very noxious plant pest. It forms a rampant, evergreen vine with poisonous, milky sap and twining flexible stems. Clusters of 2-4 bell-shaped white flowers, sometimes pinkish, are followed by distinctive thick, leathery, pear-shaped chokole-like pods containing kapok-like pulp, which splits open to disperse thousands of black, thistledown-like seeds. It can cause dermatitis and other allergies- protect skin against contact with sap. "Each one of the flowers, when pollinated, could be blowing thousands of seeds around your neighbourhood when they are ripe," says Jacqui Knight.



Now is a great time to get rid of the plant. The easiest way is to cut it off at the stump and apply Cut'n'paste (available from any garden centre, hardware store) to the stump. Then a week later (or when the poisonous sap inside has dried up), remove the vine (flowers etc).

Don't get it confused with the beautiful star jasmine which is also flowering at present. Jasmine has a perfume, mothplant doesn't. And don't get it confused with the choke, which has leaves like grape leaves.

Why not join the FB group and help us make Auckland mothplant free? Society Totally Against Moth Plant (S.T.A.M.P). Go to weedbusters.org.nz for more information. Photo by Carolyn Lewis.

Unlock the value of your property

Do you love where you live, but not the house you're living in? Or perhaps your home is on a larger site and you've been thinking of subdividing and building a new home - whether it's to sell or rent out for extra income. Signature Homes makes it easy with their



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Home & Garden

Subdividing Services and Knock-Down & Rebuild process.

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Right from your initial site appraisal to the handing over of your keys on settlement day, you'll have your own Signature team beside you to guide you through your journey and ensure your home is exactly what you envisioned. There's plenty of pre-designed plans to choose from, or the team can work with you to design something bespoke to your needs and lifestyle.

A range of minor dwelling plans are also available, all below 65m2. These plans allow you to bypass the council's subdividing process and are great if you have a smaller site or just need some extra room for the kids or extended family.

For an obligation-free consultation and site appraisal, contact Signature Homes West & North-West Auckland on 0800 020 600 or visit signature.co.nz.

December, but already January has had a good soaking. So growth is going strong.

The grass is growing well and with frequent mowing on a high setting (probably weekly), taking the top off the grass and helping enhance a tight, dense habit - it'll look fantastic. Those same conditions that help grass grow also are great for weeds So you will need to stay on top of them. Use a specialised broadleaf hormone spray to knock back those dandelions, paspalum etc. and prevent them going to seed and creating a problem for next year.

If not enough rain they will need watering - hopefully you have a full rain tank and are able to use that to help your lawn. La Nina is supposed to give us regular soakings, but if your lawn is drying out, keep the mower very high - this protects the grass and aids its recovery when rain does come, it also protects the soil from baking. Maybe use a mulch mower to drive the clippings down onto the soil to act as a mulch barrier mulch covering and protecting the soil too

So kick back and enjoy your summer lawn, fingers crossed it only rains at night - and does a lot of it. Give Jim's Mowing a call 0800 454 654 or book online at JimsMowing.co.nz.

Summer is here

Time to enjoy that lawn you have been preparing for the past few months. But now that it's the middle of summer we face the classic "lawn tragic dilemma" - loving the sunny days but really wanting it to rain too. Over the past couple of months it's been pretty good in the north-west - November had a good amount of rain, not so much in

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Success for Maddren at House of the Year Awards

When regional results for the Registered Master Builders 2020 House of the Year Awards were announced in November, the team at Maddren Homes were thrilled that all four of their entries had won regional gold awards and two had also taken out regional category wins.



Finding out the next day they had an entry selected in the Top 100 Homes was great news. Then, at the virtual ceremony for the National Final Awards in December, Maddren were crowned the National Category Award Winners for the Builder's Own Home category.

When House of the Year Auckland Manager Julie Stevens arrived with the national award at Maddren Homes' headquarters one sunny morning in December, there was a thrum of excitement as the team gathered together. Presenting the National Category Winners Award to CEO Tony Anderson, Julie Stevens said they could all be very proud of what they'd achieved.

General Manager Rodger Scott says that consistently winning golds each year shows Maddren are committed to excellence, but taking out a national category win is something extra special. 'To think of all the houses from all over the country that went into that pool and we won it, that's pretty cool,' he says.

House of the Year judges made particular note of the winning home's perfect positioning, superbly crafted cathedral ceilings, faultless finishing throughout and the spectacular all-season spaces outdoors.

Tony Anderson, who owns the home with wife Terena, says, 'The big thing for us is having this great space of the kitchen, dining and living all in one and being able to flow outside onto decks the same height, it's great when our grandkids are running about. People say the house it's just out of this world, the whole package.'

In recognition of the vital role subbies play in their ongoing success, Maddren made a presentation of their own that morning. Maddren Trophy for their Subbie of the Year was awarded to Richard Downer from The PC Zone and Joy Tichborne from Shanahans Law to celebrate the fantastic service and support they provided to Maddren last year.

The first big calendar event for Maddren this year is the opening of their new showhome at 68 Maurice Kelly Road, Milldale. It's a striking home with a few cool surprises. Swing by and take a look for yourself.

NZ Biosecurity Services

The spring flush is over and now we get into the hot muggy summer season, and all of those weeds will be starting to seed. If you are struggling to keep up with those weeds that are down the back, or along the side of the stream, or even on the roadside, a good way to manage these is to use a 4WD spray truck. NZ Biosecurity Services can come and help with those 'hard to reach' locations, and apply chemical that is safe for use around waterways. The best way to tackle weeds around streams is to look at periodic control between late summer and autumn, so that the weeds have a chance to die



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Discover our latest showhome at
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Open to view: Wed to Sun / 11am-4pm

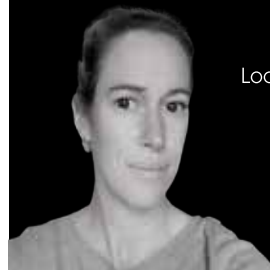


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Home & Garden

down and create a nice layer of mulch which you can then plant into for winter. If you have a weed problem or want help to get a site ready for winter planting, let us know on 09 447 1998.

Arboriculture workshop

Sunday 28th February (9.30am to 11.30am)

Here's an event created especially for Dad - it even includes chain saws.

Trees and large shrubs can be the heart of many gardens but they can also be a challenge if an inappropriate species or incorrect positioning are selected or if they are not properly maintained.

This 2-hour workshop will offer some useful information to help you try to avoid these errors, make choices that will enhance your garden rather than create a problem as well as give you an insight into what an arborist does.

Matthew Priestley from Brotherwood Tree Care, who will be presenting the workshop, holds several Arboriculture qualifications gained both in NZ and the UK and also holds a BSc in Botany & Microbiology as well as having many years' experience within this diverse field.

Topics to be discussed will include:

Overview of Arboriculture and the topics it encompasses

Tree selection, positioning and maintenance

Tree removal and pruning techniques

Equipment required and its safe usage

This event was cancelled last year due to Covid restrictions but was looking as though it was going to be very popular so booking is highly recommended as spaces are limited (see below for booking details). It's OK for Mum to come too of course.

Afterwards, you will also be able to stroll around the beautiful 1km nature trail which has over 40 marvellous sculptures created for our 2021 exhibition by local and international artists on display. *

Our knowledgeable and friendly staff will also be on hand to help with any garden related questions.

* Trail is not suitable for wheelchairs or walking frames.

1481 Kaipara Coast Highway (SH16), \$20 per person, To Book: info@kaiparacoast.co.nz or 09 420 5655.

Waimauku Garden Club

Happy New Year to you all. Let's keep planning and taking care of ourselves.

Our November trip and the gardens at Addenbrook and Winsford were enjoyed by us all. Well worth the visit. We finished the year with a Christmas lunch at The Brigham at Whenuapai.

For February 18 we are travelling to Clevedon/Ardmore. Good from Scratch has to be confirmed for March.

Our Committee meeting is not till the 27 January for finalising March onwards, however you can ring any of the committee members to get updates until the February /March editorial comes out.

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Home & Garden

If you hear of any gardens we could visit please let any of the committee know.

Contact: Ann 021 035 7406, Bette 021 145 1854, Diana 027 478 8928, Donna 021 233 0974, Judith 027 272 9994, Moira 027 498 9152, Veronica 027 755 4645.

One stop lifestyle property and farm supplies

Whether you have a weekend project underway, building and maintaining farm fencing/sheds or constructing your dream home, no job is too big or too small for the team at Western ITM in Kumeu.

Our Kumeu store stocks a comprehensive range of Urban and Farm Fencing materials that can add so much value to your rural/lifestyle property. Fencing not only provides you and your animals' security and privacy, but it can also provide shelter from the elements.

Here is just some of the vast range we carry in stock...

Wire and batten fencing - post and rail fencing - strainers and stays - wooden and galvanised farm gates - chain fencing and hex netting - Strainrite & Gallagher electric fencing systems - stock water troughs (round/rectangular) by RX Plastics.

A full range of quality, hard wearing fencing and gate hardware is available instore.

Pine shavings (by PurePine) ideal for domestic animal bedding, commercial stables, and farms - just \$26.00 incl GST per bale.

Do you have a project or plans you would like priced? Then contact our experienced Sales Team today. Email: kumeu@westernitm.co.nz or phone 09 412 8148.

Western ITM. Locals Supporting Locals. 3 Auckland Stores - Open Mon-Sat. Whenuapai | Kumeu | Swanson. www.westernitm.co.nz.

Muriwai tide chart

| Date | High | Low | High | Low | High |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Mon 01 Feb | 01:12 | 07:30 | 13:31 | 19:58 | - |
| Tue 02 Feb | 01:55 | 08:13 | 14:15 | 20:43 | - |
| Wed 03 Feb | 02:40 | 08:59 | 15:01 | 21:30 | - |
| Thu 04 Feb | 03:28 | 09:50 | 15:51 | 22:22 | - |
| Fri 05 Feb | 04:22 | 10:46 | 16:48 | 23:20 | - |
| Sat 06 Feb | 05:24 | 11:52 | 17:52 | - | - |
| Sun 07 Feb | - | 00:26 | 06:35 | 13:04 | 19:05 |
| Mon 08 Feb | - | 01:37 | 07:51 | 14:17 | 20:21 |
| Tue 09 Feb | - | 02:46 | 09:00 | 15:21 | 21:27 |
| Wed 10 Feb | - | 03:46 | 09:58 | 16:16 | 22:23 |
| Thu 11 Feb | - | 04:37 | 10:47 | 17:04 | 23:10 |
| Fri 12 Feb | - | 05:23 | 11:30 | 17:48 | 23:52 |
| Sat 13 Feb | - | 06:05 | 12:09 | 18:28 | - |
| Sun 14 Feb | 00:30 | 06:43 | 12:45 | 19:06 | - |
| Mon 15 Feb | 01:05 | 07:19 | 13:18 | 19:42 | - |
| Tue 16 Feb | 01:38 | 07:54 | 13:50 | 20:17 | - |
| Wed 17 Feb | 02:11 | 08:28 | 14:23 | 20:51 | - |
| Thu 18 Feb | 02:45 | 09:03 | 14:59 | 21:27 | - |
| Fri 19 Feb | 03:23 | 09:42 | 15:40 | 22:08 | - |
| Sat 20 Feb | 04:09 | 10:29 | 16:29 | 22:57 | - |
| Sun 21 Feb | 05:05 | 11:31 | 17:28 | - | - |
| Mon 22 Feb | - | 00:01 | 06:16 | 12:49 | 18:39 |
| Tue 23 Feb | - | 01:18 | 07:37 | 14:06 | 19:58 |
| Wed 24 Feb | - | 02:30 | 08:45 | 15:07 | 21:05 |
| Thu 25 Feb | - | 03:28 | 09:38 | 15:58 | 21:59 |
| Fri 26 Feb | - | 04:17 | 10:24 | 16:44 | 22:45 |
| Sat 27 Feb | - | 05:02 | 11:07 | 17:28 | 23:29 |
| Sun 28 Feb | - | 05:46 | 11:48 | 18:11 | - |

Source: LINZ.

\$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 20,000 locals for a whole month. That is only \$2.80 a day. For more information email our editor at editorial@kumeucourier.co.nz.





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Pets

Kanika Park Cat Retreat

Welcome to Kanika Park Cat Retreat, a boutique country retreat for cats. Run by a family of passionate animal lovers, nestled in the heart of our 10 acre Waimauku property.



Kanika Park Cat Retreat is a cattery like no other, where you can treat your cat to a relaxing holiday in one of our spacious private suites.

It is our mission not only to provide each guest with a personalised, warm and fun place to enjoy, but also to allow owners to be comfortable in the knowledge that their fur babies are safe in a loving and caring environment.

For further information please contact 09 411 5326, 027 530 1406 or email info@kanikapark.nz, www.kanikapark.nz.

Time to update your family photos?

Do you want your pets to be in them?

I specialise in the challenge of photographing animals, both on their own, and with their families. Have you ever considered including your pet in family photos, but you're worried that they won't behave? Don't worry! That is my job. Equipped with plenty of treats, squeakers, toys and patience, I am willing to take on the challenge of any dog, cat, horse, rabbit - you name it. If your pets aren't included, it's not a real family photo. Working with animals is a whole new ball game compared to traditional portrait photography. My experience in the dog care industry has aided me in refining the skills needed to not only position a pet within a portrait, but also work with them to keep them happy, at-ease, and actually looking at the camera (an art form in itself).



We are so lucky in Auckland that we have some of the most gorgeous locations right on our doorstep, especially out West. Whether you want to take photos at Muriwai Beach or Riverhead Forest it is entirely up to you. If you have a regular spot that you love

to take your dog, or somewhere meaningful to you and your family - that's even better.

I have based my whole business around being easy, fun and affordable. My mission is solely to create a memorable experience which results in treasured photographs. So if you are wanting to get some beautiful new family photos up on your wall, or gift a session to someone else, don't hesitate to get in touch and have a chat! I'd love to hear from you. Website: www.dogandco.nz Email: kirsty@dogandco.nz

Cats need care

Sponsors, donors and other help are needed to keep Anne Batley Burton's cat welfare and rehoming plans alive and well.



Anne runs the "Pussy Palace for Pensioners" at her and Richard Burton's "Goose Creek" Huapai property. Anne established and chairs The NZ Cat Foundation (a charitable trust caring for stray and community cats and educating people about cat welfare), is a member of the Community Cat Coalition and is involved in other areas in cat and animal welfare.

But finding funds and volunteers is hard for Anne as costs mount and more cats need treatment and rehoming.

She's even recently broadcast her message through Face TV and YouTube under the "Calling All Cat Angels" programme partly 'narrated' by one of her long-time rescue cats Balthazar and in it she explains why she established the cat sanctuary and what it does.

Some of the cat stories are quite sad as people often give up cats for various reasons - such as a family death, moving to a new address, and being unable to cope with cats anymore.

Anne will take the cats in - ensure they are desexed, microchipped and have any health issues sorted (like humans, cats can get a variety of ailments such as diabetes and teeth problems) before being offered for rehoming.

"We are giving an important community service with not only trapping and desexing cats that have, through no fault of their own, become stray but also helping out people who for whatever reason are unable to continue to care for their cats," she explains.

We featured Anne in our March 2017 issue after she starred in television show "The Real Housewives of Auckland" and she is now




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Pets

appearing in a spin-off called "Get Housewived" which includes a philanthropic theme. It was aired as a pilot just before Christmas and Anne hopes a series will run this year.

She's also recently featured in the Woman's Weekly and continues to run fundraisers for her "pet" cause such as "Pussy Galore" (as in the James Bond film, although the first name for the fundraiser and sanctuary is frowned on now in some circles) cat dress up parties and is planning a fund raising garden party at Goose Creek in about March.

Known as "the Champagne Lady" for her French wine importing business (she imports wine barrels too), Anne says she's spending more and more time involved in cat rescues and rehoming simply because of demand.

She says people think because she's in business she can afford to run the cat sanctuary, but Anne says that in spite of spending much of her own money she couldn't do it without the volunteers, donations and other contributions.

The sanctuary now has about 200 cats and has been expanded to accommodate the increasing numbers (any people with building experience who can help maintain it are welcome), with more than 100 rehomed last year.

Catching, feeding and treating cats - including surgery in some cases - costs a considerable amount in time, efforts and money - so donations that help (including food and time) are welcome.

The sanctuary has about 50 volunteers - some coming from far flung parts of Auckland and beyond - but many can't do weekend work

at the sanctuary.

The work may involve cleaning, feeding, changing water bowls, washing cat blankets (10 loads of washing a day is not uncommon, Anne having to bring in tankers of water to do the job) and more.

Anne pitches in and can easily do up to five hours daily, although she tries to concentrate on the organising and fundraising aspects.

The sanctuary is enclosed, but sometimes a few cats may escape, perhaps after storm damage to the structure, but to remain close by and may be recaptured.

Signs warn visitors to check vehicles before leaving in case cats have clambered aboard, and to drive slowly (not just for cats but also the geese).

Pathways had to be established throughout the sanctuary and even outside to stop people stepping in mud (in winter) and any droppings.

It's a hard job ensuring the cats have a good life, so any assistance is greatly appreciated by Anne and the volunteers.

Donations over \$5 are tax deductible as The NZ Cat Foundation is a recognised charity.

Visit www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz for information and to click on "donate" if you can help.

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Food & Beverage

Westbrook Winery

Westbrook Winery is thrilled to announce the arrival of our brand new Blanc D' bubbly. It is D-for-Delicious! Here is what winemaker James Rowan has to say about the latest addition to the Westbrook family...

Blanc D' is an evolution... wines of the Blanc... a blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Gris, 100% barrique-fermented in neutral French oak, with extended lees ageing and partial malolactic fermentation.

It is all about texture, life, and vitality from bubbles, pressure-sealed under screwcap. With vibrant effervescence... laced with the frills and whistles of lily musk and fronded fennel... lively with the timbre of pleasure, the evocation of excitement, the beat of earthen drum, and finished with a piquant lift of preserved lemon and kawakawa. This is our barrel-fermented reveal of fruits of the Blanc...

Come and try it for yourself. Available exclusively from our Ararimu Valley Road Cellar Door, or buy now at www.westbrook.co.nz/wine.



Herbal tea spritzers for summer

They taste better than a soft drink and are a healthier option... most herbal teas can be consumed either hot or cold and many make refreshing drinks when served over ice and with sparkling water on a hot day. Try this delicious Hibiscus and Elderflower Spritzer recipe this summer:

Ingredients: 2 heaped tablespoons each of Hibiscus Flower tea and Elderflower tea (available from our online store), 250ml boiled water, 4 fresh stevia leaves, 200-300ml sparkling water and ice. Garnishes can include slices of citrus and a sprig of mint.

Method: Add the Hibiscus tea, Elderflower tea and stevia leaves to a heat-proof jug then add the boiled water. Allow to steep for 5



minutes. Strain and allow the tea to cool. Once cooled, to a tall glass add ice, half of the tea, and top up with sparkling water. The recipe makes two glasses.

New Zealand Herbal Brew offers a range of Certified Organic herbal teas which can be purchased from our online store www.NewZealandHerbalBrew.co.nz.

Allely Estate Open Day

If you got engaged over the summer break, congratulations. What an exciting time for you. We'd love to welcome you along to our open day on March 6 at Allely Estate.

It's hard to see when you're driving past our venue just how beautiful our Estate is behind the gates - we have extensive gardens, with clipped hedges, topiary balls and pretty hydrangeas, and gorgeous paths leading to arches, private courtyards and manicured lawns.

Our full-time marquee boasts an extraordinary domed roof, six-metre high ceiling, wrought iron chandeliers, Astroturf flooring and removable clear sides, making it an excellent option, no matter what weather Auckland turns on for your special day. But, as they say, seeing is believing so we'd love you to come along to our March 6 open day to see for yourself.

Entry is free; put it in your diary.

March 6, 10am-3pm, Allely Estate, 393 State Highway 16, Kumeu. www.allelyestate.co.nz.



Soljans Fifth Generation Series Kumeu Chardonnay 2017

We are extremely proud to launch the next vintage of our premium Fifth Generation Series Kumeu Chardonnay. Praised by wine writers across the board including 5 stars reviews from Sam Kim, Wine Orbit and Candice Chow, Raymond Chan Wine Reviews,



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Food & Beverage

this chardonnay is one not to miss. With notes of butterscotch and baked peaches, a rich and creamy style with a toasty oak influence, this wine represents the 5th Generation of our family and we couldn't be happier to have the opportunity to share it with you.

To celebrate its release on the 8th of February we will be having it open for tasting in our cellar door every weekend for the rest of the month. Purchase in store and online from the 8th of February. And of course, enjoy!

Peko Peko

Hope everyone had a good start to the New Year. We have been enjoying having many dine-in customers since we started our new menu. There's more choices of fresh sashimi and sushi with some Japanese beer and chilled Sake on hot summer days. We also continue to have some quick grabs of Sushi boxes for weekday lunch hours. We are now open Tuesday to Sunday. Please check and follow our Facebook and Instagram page for the latest updates. 102c Hobsonville Rd, 09 416 1197.



Natalia's food journey

I am a proud 23-year-old New Zealand Māori. I've worked in hospitality for quite some time now, and time and time again, I love seeing how food can bring people together. My favourite part is always the joy associated with food, and that I can play a small role in someone's day with my food. That is what fuels my passion.

The beginning of 2020 offered a big game-changer for me to chase my passion full time. I was a part of the few that had lost their job due to Covid 19 but now, I am an at-home based business and have an A-grade registered kitchen based in Swanson, West Auckland. I offer special occasion customised cakes, sweet treats, savoury items and can do small catering jobs, so now I'm finally making moves to achieve my ultimate dream of owning my own café. You can find me on



Facebook and Instagram @nataliasfoodjourney or my website: www.nataliasfoodjourney.co.nz.

Boric Tangelo Witbier 5.5%

Hallertau's latest seasonal release is a Belgian-style wheat beer spiced with tangelos from the Boric Orchard. Crazy fruity esters of banana courtesy of the yeast and aroma of delicious tangelos, light soft body with a tart finish. It's the perfect summer drop and available on tap at Hallertau Biergarten, their website or from the Boric store.



Jenna-Maree Cakery

Our Cakery in Hobsonville has a cabinet full of delicious sweet treats. Here you will find our popular cabinet cakes which are ready to go; cupcakes, macarons, slices, cookies, fudge, scones and donuts.

Our specialty areas are our custom made celebration cakes, wedding cakes and for corporate events. From our 7-Tiered Cakes down to our 4" Baby Cakes, each one is made from scratch in our kitchen with only natural ingredients. All our fillings, like our popular salted caramel sauce, lemon curd and raspberry coulis are all house made. We are passionate about bringing these two things together because what is better than a cake that not only looks amazing but also has the flavours of nature to back it up.



We have an extensive range available within our online shop to make it even easier for our customers to order. Here you will find many of our offerings such as custom cakes, cabinet cakes, cupcakes, donuts, cheesecakes and macarons and they are all available with just 24 hours' notice. You can then just pop in store to collect it on your chosen date and time.

Visit our website www.jennamareecakes.co.nz/online shop to place your order online or pop instore anytime to discuss options. We look forward to seeing you soon. Jenna-Maree Cakery - 102c Hobsonville Road, Hobsonville. www.jennamareecakes.co.nz.



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You will learn how important it is to brush your teeth twice a day, floss regularly and eat a well-balanced diet. This is a great time to develop good habits which will benefit you greatly for the rest of your life.

Here at Kumeu Dental, we can look after all your needs in our modern, friendly premises. Late night, Saturday and school holiday appointments are available to fit your schedule.

Call us on 09 412 9507 to book in with one of our trusted and friendly oral health therapists; Ashley, Andy or TK. Our lovely team will arrange everything for you to keep your teeth healthy and achieve a beautiful straight, white smile.

Live Chiropractic

Live Chiropractic would love to introduce Kumeu to the latest chiropractor to join the District - Dr. Aimee Strickett.

Dr. Aimee graduated Chiropractic College in 2015 and had been working in Hobsonville since then until joining Live at the end of 2020. In practice Aimee loves the range and diversity of people and cases she works with from young to old, trades to office workers. She especially enjoys working with children, babies and supporting women



through their pregnancies and motherhood journey. Aimee's two young children keep her busy when out of the office but she loves the flexibility that her job provides so that she can be a part of those precious childhood years while still getting to practise her passion working part time as a chiropractor. Dr. Aimee is found working at Live Chiropractic- 306A Main Road, Huapai, Kumeu on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Appointments can be made online at www.livechiropractic.co.nz or by emailing reception@livechiropractic.co.nz. Live Chiropractic has also set up new social media sites. This is a place where you can stay up to date with everything happening, a place to learn, be inspired and to connect with us. We would love for you to follow along, you can find us on Instagram and Facebook @live_chiropractic.

Posture: The window to health

Many problems such as spinal pain, headaches, moodiness, respiratory complaints among others, can be attributed to poor posture, so an improvement in posture can help alleviate or eliminate these problems.

One common postural problem which effects adults and children alike, is the Forward Head Posture. This can be attributed mainly to an increase in time spent in front of a computer, at a desk, prolonged periods watching TV or playing computer games, but may also result from trauma such as whiplash.

For every inch the head is translated forward, the load on the spine, discs and muscles is THREE-fold. The head should sit directly on the neck and shoulders like a golf ball sits on a tee. If the head is held forward from normal alignment, it places tremendous strain on the joints and the muscles of the neck and shoulders. This may cause fatigue, pain, headaches, and may even cause arm pain. If allowed to go unchecked for long periods of time, damage may occur to the discs in the neck and uneven wear, as found with arthritis.

Children carrying heavy backpacks to school often have to adopt a forward leaning posture to compensate for the weight on their backs. This forward leaning posture from a 'neutral' upright position places an uneven weight bearing load on their maturing skeletal framework and contributes to many musculo-skeletal problems.

Maintaining good health requires long term commitment and good posture is an essential part of that. So, if you sit for long periods of your day, move your body every 20-30 minutes. Sit up straight, pull your head and neck back so your ears are over your shoulders, or better still, go for a brisk walk at lunchtime if possible. Joints and muscles love to move, and exercise is one way to disperse physical and emotional stress.

The Chiropractors at Kumeu Chiropractic understand the connection between posture and healthy function of the spine and nervous

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Health & Beauty

system. Call us on 09 4125536 for an examination and assessment of your spine.

Fit tip: Make one workout your extra

Find an activity you like and/or enjoy that gets your body moving. It can be anything from hiking, jogging, badminton, tennis, soccer, touch rugby, bike riding ... literally whatever you like & enjoy.

Use your planned workouts as a way to help improve your fitness/energy/strength so that you get better at your 'extra' workout - set it as one of your fitness goals.




Example: If you want to be able to get out & ride the bike as family fun time. Use your planned workouts as a way to strengthen your legs, butt & tum, while strengthening your pelvic floor muscles too. Also add some cardio into your planned workouts as this will help to increase your fitness level. Combine this together and it will help you to feel fitter, stronger & more confident to go out on those longer bike rides for quality family time and loads of memories too.

Need a little help to get started on your fitness goals? Sign up for our 4 week 'Strong, Fit & Lean' package & get 4 weeks of personalised 1-on-1 training plus access to small group sessions & online fitness videos for just \$299 (valued at \$399) PLUS mention this article in The Westerly & you will also get one of our popular 'Be Stronger' tank tops & snack pack (valued at \$80) for free. Contact Melissa on 021 798 435 or email melissa@benefityou.co.nz to get started on a stronger, fitter & leaner you today! (Ps can also check out our website www.benefityou.co.nz for more details on our private female fitness studio).

Joint pain: An alternative view

Joint pain causes more misery than any other condition, affecting 80% of people over the age of 50. That is heaps of "us". The common view is that osteoarthritis is caused by the breakdown of cartilage from wear and tear associated with getting older.

News Flash!



Gillian Wiltshire D.O.
Registered Osteopath
ACC Accredited

36 Sunny Crescent
Kumeu
Auckland 0810
Ph/Fax (09) 412 5977
0212330413
gill.wiltshire@gmail.com

Osteoarthritis is not a disease of wear and tear, it is a disease of inflammation, hormone imbalance and for some people unhealthy lifestyle choices. Hormones (like insulin) play a big part in joint pain. High insulin levels occur when a person eats too many sugary foods or drinks and is usually associated with carrying excess weight especially around your tummy. Did you know that 45% of cases of osteoarthritis of the knee are related to being overweight? That is great news because it is something that can be reversed.

Fun fact: Losing 5% of your body weight (so about 3 to 5kg) over 5 years will reduce your risk of getting osteoarthritis by 70%. Even if you already have osteoarthritis, losing 5% of your body weight will reduce your pain symptoms by 30%. This may mean you can use less pain killers and avoid any possible side effects.

Natural pain killers like Boswellia, MSM and curcumin are gentle on the stomach and your liver and provide short term relief from pain for many people. My favourite strategy is to look to fix any underlying causes such as hormone imbalances, inflammation, and excess weight. When you fix these underlying causes, you lower your risk of many diseases. You start to truly feel radiantly well from the inside.

Chat to our Pharmacist Health Coaches for advice on natural pain relief. You can also book in to see one of our clinic practitioners to get your own personalised plan to achieve radiant wellness. Full-service pharmacy that you deserve is available from the team at Massey Unichem Pharmacy. Martin Harris. 396 Don Buck Road, Massey. 09 833 7235.

Is rounding your back bad for you?

Our backs are designed to move and bend. We should be able to bend over, round the back and touch the ground. However,



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bending over and picking up something with a rounded back is not recommended. This increases the stress on the back and can increase your risk of injury.

An alternative movement to try is called the 'hip-hinge'. This is where you bend forward keeping the back straight. All of the movement occurs in the hips and pelvis (where it should go). This takes the stress of the lower back and can help protect you from an injury. Want to learn more? Head over to our website and watch the video series I created on this movement. Your body will thank you for it.

www.elevatechiropractic.co.nz. Any other questions? Call us on 09 413 5312.

Buying a new pair of sneakers?

Here are 5 top tips to help you out:

1. Wear the same socks to the store that you wear while you are walking or running.
2. Check if the shoe is appropriate for the type of surface you will be walking/running on.
3. Try on at least three different pairs of shoes, make sure you put both shoes on and lace them up.
4. Always check if the length and the width of the shoe is comfortable.
5. Try on new sneakers after you have been for a walk (your feet tend to swell throughout the day).



We always find the team at Shoe Clinic very helpful.

If you need further guidance, head to www.hobsonvillepodiatry.co.nz and book an appointment with one of our podiatrists.

Make dental care affordable in 2021

Smilesaver is a dental savings plan that helps make your dental care more affordable. You simply choose a plan to suit your needs and budget, then set up small weekly payments which accumulate and help you to afford the dental care you need. You'll even receive a \$50 credit to your Smilesaver account to help you get started. It's perfect for all ages - from 18 year olds who are no longer eligible for the government's free dental services through to older adults on retirement budgets. Studies show that people who visit the dentist regularly develop fewer oral health problems, which ultimately saves on dental bills. Smilesaver is a convenient and effective way to protect your oral health and avoid unexpected dental bills.

For family, general and cosmetic dentistry, orthodontics, dental implants, tooth extractions, oral surgery and more, contact the friendly Fraser Dental team on 09 416 5050.

Trueform Spa: Benefits to your health & general wellness

We all know how great we feel soaking in a spa after a hard day's work, but did you know that there are a number of other, well documented, and scientifically proven benefits? Here are several that you might not be aware of:

1. Assists recovery & rejuvenation:

Hydrotherapy power - the combination of warm water and jets - can help to stimulate endorphins which combats physical pain, and speeds up recovery time for your aches and sore muscles.

2. Increased blood circulation

Immersing in warm water aids the cardiovascular system, allowing the muscles to relax and the blood vessels to open up, which in turn, lowers blood pressure and promotes greater blood flow.

3. Helps with better sleep

The rising and cooling of body temperature helps us to fall asleep more readily, and stay asleep. A simple ten-minute soak is enough

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to raise your body temp and then relax you as your body cools down post-spa.

You can find out more benefits to your health & wellness with a Trueform Spa here: <https://www.trueformspas.co.nz/health-wellbeing> otherwise give us a call on 09 420 7515.

The Doctors Massey Medical

The Doctors Massey Medical is a family friendly, welcoming medical practice providing a full range of general practice services. We continue the Christian tradition of caring with compassion and skill for those in our local community. We work in partnership with our patients to prevent ill health and promote well-being for all those registered with us. We are also proud to be Cornerstone Accredited. Our practice is owned by Dr Joy Stevens, Dr Jane Renwick and Dr Stuart Monk who are all Fellows of the Royal NZ College of GPs. We welcome Dr Janice Lee (Mandarin-speaker) back from maternity leave. We also welcome two new doctors, Dr Tomos Byatt and Dr Trihn Write, who are both accepting new patients.

Our large practice space means we can offer treatment of minor accidents and wound care, so our local community don't need to travel for these services. We offer disease prevention & promotion of healthy lifestyle, multi-ethnic patient care, continuity of care, informed choices, responsive to the special status, health needs and rights of Maori, disabled access, working with other agencies and

community services, refugee care and assisting with psycho-social issues. We are at 394 Don Buck Road, Massey. See our website www.thedoctors.co.nz/The-Doctors-Massey-Medical for further details.

Now open Sundays

The team at Westgate Optometrists are now available for all of your eye care needs 7 days a week. Specialising in comprehensive eye examinations, contact lenses, dry eye therapy, myopia control, low vision and occupational eye care - we pride ourselves on our informative and experienced attention to detail whilst focusing on each of our clients' individual needs. Make an appointment to see one of our therapeutically endorsed optometrists via our website: www.westopt.nz, phone us on 09 831 0202 or pop in to see our friendly team. Located at 4/46 Maki Street. Opposite NorthWest Shopping Centre and the Kiwibank, and just around the corner from Goode Brothers Restaurant.



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Phelan's Local Board Update

Your Voice is Important - 2021 Budget Community Feedback Needed.

Due to budget constraints brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, your feedback will be crucial when Auckland Council seeks feedback on its next Long-term Plan (LTP) from 22 February to 22 March 2021.

The LTP sets out funding for council's activities, services and investments for the next 10 years. It is reviewed and consulted on every three years. As part of this, council also adopts an annual budget each year. The Rodney Local Board Plan, which is the guiding document for our local board's decisions, informs the LTP and annual budget.

Budget constraints brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to restrict council's capacity to deliver services as well as our Rodney Local Board projects. There is a \$1 billion hole in council's budget this financial year and the next three. This shortfall will affect many areas, from maintaining community facilities, to funding transport and environmental work. There will need to be some tough decisions and trade-offs.

This is why providing your feedback is so crucial. It helps us to understand what matters to you. Even if you agree with our priorities, we still want to hear from you because many voices help us make a strong case to councillors for funding.

As a local board we receive a set budget each year that we can allocate based on our community's needs and preferences. Some of the areas where we have decision-making over budgets include local parks, libraries, looking after the environment, and maintaining and upgrading town centres and halls.

However, there are many other areas that are important to our community but that are beyond our decision-making responsibility. These include rates, regional parks, state highways and road sealing. Other bodies make decisions on these.

Below are our three proposed priority areas that we will advocate to councillors to allocate funding for as we don't make decisions on these areas:

- Safe, well-maintained roads: enough funding for Auckland Transport to renew and maintain 12 per cent of Auckland's roading network each year to ensure safe, well-maintained roads.
- Improvements to unsealed roads: \$121 million in funding for Auckland Transport's Unsealed Roads Improvement Programme to improve unsealed roads through strengthening and other methods.
- Sports provision: funding to continue progressing the delivery of the Kumeu-Huapai indoor courts facility.

There are initiatives where we have direct control over budgets. These are some of the items that we propose for the Rodney Local Board area for 2021/2022:

- Continuing to deliver improvements to our village and town centres.
- Continuing our focus to improve water quality in our waterways by restoring freshwater ecosystems through riparian fencing and planting, and through initiatives to reduce sediment.
- Improving our local biodiversity and natural environment by eradicating pests, carrying out restoration work and mitigating kauri dieback.
- Supporting the community, and community resource recovery and recycling centres, to minimise waste, turn waste into resources, and to promote education on waste reduction.
- Progressing the outcomes identified in the Green Road master plan.
- Progressing renewals or construction of key community facilities.

With the proposed LTP, council is seeking feedback on regional priorities and levels of funding across many areas, such as:


- Rates levels
- Protecting the environment and responding to climate change
- Maintaining and renewing community assets
- Transport infrastructure
- Stormwater, drinking water and wastewater infrastructure

You can find more detail on the proposed LTP, including supporting documents, here:


our.auckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/articles/news/2020/12/recovery-budget-proposal/


Please provide your feedback from 22 February to 22 March 2021.


For more information and to have your say: akhaveyoursay.





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Area Columnists

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/10-year-budget-2021-2031.

The role of a teacher

Country Bears philosophy emphasises play as crucial to all aspects of learning for children. It is the teacher's role to see through the eyes of a child. For example, when a child approaches a teacher with a worm or spider in their little hands, it might be the very first one that they have found all by themselves. You can just imagine how proud and excited this child could be, so it's important for us teachers to respond in such a way that honours their experience. Teachers can be great actors for the sake of the child, even though teachers may be squeamish inside when a child walks up to us with a cockroach or spider, we can pretend that it's the most amazing thing we have seen!



Do you remember what it was like to play as a child when you were younger? It's like what it was for some of us, growing up in the 80's, when we could go out and play all day, and we had to come home when the street lights came on. There were no adults to supervise us or to help us negotiate conflict, we somehow managed to just resolve and get through it.

We need to place trust with the children, as when the children 'feel' that they are not being watched or listened to, the children just seem to explode with wonderful and amazing play and conversations that just melt the hearts of we teachers.

We understand that in an Early Childhood setting, supervision is very important for safety, but we can still give the children the perception that no adults are around, giving them the sense of freedom. Even by placing our back to children, or just sitting behind the fort or fence, they think we are unable to hear or see them, so their play can change. It is in these experiences that teachers can really appreciate the uniqueness of each child.

A beautiful quote from a four-year-old boy when asked what play is, he replied: "Play is when adults stop telling me what to do". Again, it is up to the experience of a teacher to know when to watch with wonder as to how the play might unfold or to know when to intervene. It has been said that when a child is interrupted with their play, it takes about 20 minutes for them to regain that level of focus and concentration. Teachers here at Country Bears know each and every child, so this level of knowledge helps the teachers to know when a child or a group of children may need the assistance of a teacher. It is through experiences that challenge children, where the learning happens, as they negotiate their way around their peers needs, thoughts and opinions.

If you would like to visit our wonderful Centre, designed to provide the children space and time to develop at their own individual time, give us a call on 09 412 8055 to arrange a suitable time. In the meantime, check out our facebook page: www.facebook.com/



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Country Bears Early Childhood Centre, 79 Oraha Road, Kumeu 09 412 8055.

Declaring a traffic emergency

Happy New Year! I hope that 2021 has begun really well for you all.

No doubt over the Christmas-New Year period you will have been reflecting on a crazy past 12 months, as I certainly have been. Hopefully we're in for a bit less rough a ride.

Among all the significant political and real world events of last year was a declaration of a "climate change emergency" by the government. No one disputes the importance of our natural environment so it was fair enough as far as it went. There was a healthy degree of scepticism, however, about the value of merely stating the existence of a problem where such statements are not accompanied by much meaningful action to solve the problem.

While it's right to be cynical about the value of emergency declarations made merely for the sake of appearance, therefore, I am thinking about issuing a declaration of "traffic emergency" for our area.

Simply put, the situation on our roads has become intolerable. There are major implications for quality of life, where parents spend hours travelling that they could be spending raising their kids and so on. There is a huge effect on our productivity too, given how much time we spend driving that we could better spend making or doing things. And, of course, the most important implication is the danger to life and limb that we encounter daily, just getting from A to B.

For all these reasons, I intend to announce early in 2021 that a state of emergency exists in Auckland's west, northwest and rural north where traffic is concerned. I will be proposing a number of specific

measures to address this issue - bearing in mind my own injunction against vague virtue-signalling - and hoping that the central and local government decision makers get onboard.

The powers that be need to know what's needed (although they've been told many times before, it should be noted) and I'll keep doing my job of letting them know all about it. Please join me in demanding better out here. After all, it's an emergency.

Chris Penk MP.

Tanya Franklin - The Travel Broker

Whilst I am really looking forward to the day when you can confidently plan international travel again, in the meantime we have our beautiful country right on our door step, and now is the perfect time to travel around New Zealand and support our own tourism industry without the crowds.

We spent 8 days in Wanaka & Queenstown, my boys loved the mountain bike trails on Cardrona & Coronet Peak, we had morning tea with wekas & wetas after a cruise to 'an island with a lake, on an island in a lake' with Eco Tours Wanaka which was fascinating, we also caught salmon at "Hook - Lake to Plate", and did Puzzle World, the Transport & Toy Museum, and the boys chased zombies whilst Mum & I climbed Mt Everest at Realm VR.

The Nomad 4WD UTV tour up Queenstown Hill had the most fantastic views over the lake, airport & town & Remarkables mountain range. We managed to do three different gondolas over the 8 days. We had a leisurely 90 min cruise on the Million Dollar boat around the lake, and a fast 60 min thrill ride with 360 spins on the Kawarau River with Go Orange Jet Boats. Our winery tour through Gibbston valley just topped off a fantastic week away. I stayed in & also inspected various hotels, apartments & resorts whilst there, from 3 star to 5 star, so have a good feel for the variety on offer. There is so much to do & see, please let me know if I can put together a package for your next trip.

Next time we head down we will also do Te Anau & Milford & Doubtful Sounds.

The Prada Cup and America's Cup - how about a fantastically affordable 3 night 3 star package, starting from \$589 per person which includes three nights in a central city hotel, including breakfast daily, one afternoon out on the water to watch the racing, and then, in keeping with sport, a guided tour of the brand new All Blacks experience. Why not upgrade to the brand new QT Auckland Hotel located right on the Viaduct Harbour, and add on a Waiheke Wine & Zipline tour, just ask.



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Area Columnists

If you would like some pampering, how about Solitaire Lodge, just outside Rotorua. Including all meals, a complimentary mini bar and a special thermal experience, this comes with a massive saving of \$1000 per couple, enquire with me with your preferred dates & I can check availability & rates.

The Chatham Islands are from NZD \$3649 per person

A special part of the world. A unique part of New Zealand's heritage, natural environment, plants and animals.

New Zealand's most eastern islands located over 800 kilometres east of southern NZ. Only about 600 people live on the two largest islands, Chatham and Pitt and we have officially been part of New Zealand since 1842. These magical islands sit astride the legendary Roaring Forties and are surrounded by the pristine and unspoiled waters of the Southern Pacific Ocean

The natural beauty and the unique and spiritual energy of these islands are the perfect setting for a holiday full of laughter, adventure, discovery and relaxation.

The islands are volcanic in origin and have a rugged and windswept vista with delicate habitats that can be easily damaged by the elements and mankind. With diverse landscapes and fascinating history, the Chatham Islands are renowned for its bountiful seafood industry and conservation efforts protecting many rare and endangered species.

NZD \$3649 per person includes: 7 nights' accommodation at Awarakau Lodge (maximum capacity 12 guests). Return airport transfers on Chatham Island. All meals - continental Breakfast,

picnic lunches, buffet dinners. All sightseeing and entry fees as per itinerary. Daily guided tours - exclusively for the guests of Awarakau Lodge (8 - 12 passengers only). (Flights ex Auckland are additional).

Tour highlights: Ocean Mail scenic reserve, Dendroglyph Grove, Skirmish Bay, Seal colony, Basalt Columns and a visit to the Port Hutt fishing village.

Stone Mission House, Henga Farm, Kopinga Maree, The Statue of Tommy Solomon, Nikau scenic reserve.....so much more

Option to add-on pre/post nights & flight to/from Pitt Island

Please just let me know if there is any domestic travel that I can assist you with, I have some fantastic deals on offer, just ask.

We are all just waiting to hear if the Cook Islands residents' trial is successful, then soon after hopefully they will open Raro to the holiday makers.

My hope would be in time for the April school holidays. As soon as it the dates will be announced, the rush will be on.

Tanya Franklin - The Travel Broker - Waimauku. Phone 09 411 9105 or 021 254 9169, email: tanya@ttb.co.nz, www.thetravelbrokers.co.nz/tanyafranklin/aboutme.

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brendon@quinovic-wa.co.nz

Area Columnists

will be based in the successful Harcourts real estate office in Kumeu. Business Owners Stephen Theobald and Bob Howard are delighted to have Martin join the experienced team that is Loyal Realty. After a successful 22-year career in the Royal Air Force, an opportunity arose for Martin to immigrate to New Zealand to continue with his military service but this time in the Royal New Zealand Air Force. After a further 13½ years' service, he has now decided on a change of direction and embarked on a new career in real estate. Martin and his wife Alison have lived in the area since 2007 and now live locally on a lifestyle property. During his two military careers, Martin has accrued a number of skills and qualities which enable him to assist clients to fulfil their property aspirations. Attention to detail, integrity, enthusiasm, and a sense of humour are just a few of the traits which contribute to his ability to help his customers navigate the selling or buying processes and to support them on their next Real Estate Journey. Give Martin a call, you will be pleased you did.

How can we help?

Whatever your issue, problem or question, Citizens Advice Bureau Helensville is there for you.

This could range from a neighbour dispute or coping with a relationship break-up to finding a local fencer or public transport in the nor-west.

Our friendly volunteers are trained in providing information researched from their vast database which is current and relevant.

Practical support includes refreshing your CV, photocopying and providing computer and phone use.



Kumeu



Village Kindergarten

Looking for exceptional childcare & learning opportunities for your child? Talk to us.

We offer sessional and day care options for 2 – 5 year olds, Monday to Friday 8am to 4.30pm. 20 ECE hours available. Our dedicated, highly experienced teachers, strong focus on literacy and numeracy skills will give your child the best start to meet their future learning needs. Come and see us or give us a call to find out how we can help.

Enriching care & educational programmes for preschoolers

5 Shamrock Dr, Kumeu 0810, Auckland Phone: 09 412 9361 Email: kumeuk@village.co.nz
www.kumeuvillagekindergarten.co.nz

Book one of our community window displays for a local event in 2021.

Our free budget clinic is on Tuesdays, 10am to noon, by appointment and most days we have a JP on roster or we can access one for you.

This year our organisation celebrates 50 years in New Zealand and will hold an awareness week from March 8 to 14.

Volunteers are always welcome with the buzz of helping others one of the many benefits. Our CAB office covers Kumeu to Wellsford. Pop in and visit us at 27 Commercial Rd, Monday to Friday, 10am to 3pm. Or call 09 420 7162, email: helensville@cab.org.nz or go to www.cab.org.nz/ for more information.

Marja Lubeck

Happy New Year. As the rest of the world remains gripped by awful strains of Covid-19, we are privileged to be able to spend real time with friends and family and at the beach. Our 'community Covid-free' status came with sacrifices during 2020, and the freedom of a normal summer has been our reward. But, we know that businesses and families are still suffering from economic consequences, and all our success could be at risk with a new community outbreak. That's why experts are reminding us we should continue to use the Covid Tracer App which will make managing a response much easier. We have the tools to keep people safe as long as we keep using them.

Meanwhile, it's busy season at our Showgrounds, and I hope to see you (safely) out and about enjoying hot rods, folk music, the A&H show and more of our local attractions.

Have a clear direction for your business

You may have returned from your Christmas break fresh and full of new ideas. Now is the time to develop those ideas into an action plan. If possible, it is best to have these discussions with your team. For each idea: What are you trying to achieve? Does this idea increase sales, reduce costs, or improve efficiency? Does the idea align with your business vision? How does the idea affect other parts of the business? What resources (financial, people etc) do you need to put the idea into practice? What will be the financial benefit of implementing the idea? What are the timeframes for implementation and return on investment? What do you need to be working on in the next 90 days? Who is responsible for implementation?

By discussing this with your team, you aim to get their buy in to the



Marja Lubeck

Labour List MP based in
Kaipara ki Mahurangi

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5/62-64 Queen Street, Warkworth



Authorised by Marja Lubeck, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Area Columnists

idea. This will make the process of change easier as they will feel like they are part of the process and will understand the benefits. Include the financial effect of these ideas into your budget that you are preparing for the March 2022 financial year. Ann Gibbard is a Business Success Partner with Oxygen8 Consulting. For help with growing your business or improving its profitability, preparing your business for sale, or for a free Business Diagnostic, contact Ann at ann@oxygen8.co.nz or 021 682 014.

OneDaysGrace celebrates 20 years making rosaries

Hi - I'm Deborah. My sister Kati and I own OneDaysGrace, making traditional & contemporary Catholic and Anglican rosaries and prayer beads. For 20 years our small Auckland business has been making rosaries, chaplets and faith jewellery, available to you online at www.onedaysgrace.co.nz.

We also make renaissance style paternosters, prayer beads for 12 Step recovery fellowships, and delight in creating special custom orders.

As well as handmade rosaries, we make beautiful faith-based jewellery, a range of gifts for celebrating special occasions and NZ's largest range of patron saint medals.

After all the talking, prayer is a language in itself. We hope our beads of praise will become useful companions in your life's journey - from our hands to yours. Our "hello" special - when purchasing from our website, please use our 15% discount coupon code: YEAR20 email: onedaysgrace@gmail.com.

What are your goals for 2021?

Many people start the New Year with various goals they want to achieve. We often start the year off with good intentions, but then our goals tend to slip as life moves on and we get back into a normal routine.

Goal setting is part of our daily lives. By setting ourselves small easily achievable goals on a daily basis, this will help us to successfully achieve the larger goals we have in life such as stop smoking, weight loss, saving money for a holiday.

In order to create a goal, we can use the SMART Goal Setting Guide:

S - Specific

M - Measurable

A - Attainable

R - Realistic/Relevant

T - Time- Based

It is important to have a specific goal, identify specific targets you want to achieve at different stages, make sure your goal is achievable, otherwise you may struggle with success. Make sure the goal is realistic and relevant to you and put a time frame on it, as this will help you to continue towards success.

Astramana™ Healing Services can help you achieve your goals. We can't do it for you, as only you can, but we can help you through the various services we offer. We offer hypnosis, energy healing workshops or just one on one motivational support or tarot reading.

Astramana™ Healing Services, was founded by International Hypnotist, Reiki Master-Teacher and Clairvoyant & Tarot Reader Jason Mackenzie. Check out our website: www.astramana.com or email astramana@gmail.com with any questions or to book a session, workshop or a Tarot reading. Let us help you with achieving success with your goals!



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LOOP



THE TASTING SHED