

kumeu

# Courier

FREE monthly community magazine for Kumeu & districts

## EVENTS AND UPDATES

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

## PEST FREE KUMEU-HUAPAI

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February 2022



## Greetings

I certainly hope this year's better than the last two!

Like most, I've had enough of COVID-19 and the associated restrictions but worry about the Omicron variant's arrival - proving more contagious but less virulent than Delta.

I'll have my booster shot by now and have already been showing my vaccination pass and continuing the trend of scanning and physical distancing - whether to get a coffee or to enter events.

It's not just the likelihood of Omicron impacting the health system that I worry about - it's also how long this damn pandemic will continue and its effect on businesses and travel/transport (with many continuing to work from home).

I've never seen so many closed and boarded-up commercial premises in Auckland before, especially in the central city - and what will happen to all those parking buildings?

On the bright side, Northwest development continues with the likes of the international Costco membership warehouse opening this year in the NorthWest Shopping Centre, rezoning of land for commercial use opposite across State Highway 16, and expansion in the Kumeu district.

But all this comes at a price, with housing going everywhere and perhaps at the cost of productive agricultural and horticultural land.

To me, the Kumeu District is beginning to resemble Lincoln Road in Henderson - once vineyards and orchards like Kumeu-Huapai.

There's talk of adding about 3000 more homes in Riverhead, and with open slather allowed on three-storey dwellings in many areas it seems just a matter of time before we're wall-to-wall housing. More in this issue.

The dry start to this year and the Tongan volcano eruption are omens I can do without.

By now I hope it has rained - or our water tanks will be empty - and the ground is cracking, gardens evaporating and the road seal melting while the fire risk climbs.

That's prompting me to think that if 2021 was the hottest year on record then this one is shaping up worse.

Geoff Dobson, editor



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# People & Places

## Pest Free Kumeu-Huapai

Imagine an Aotearoa where native species are safe from extinction and thriving alongside us, says Jeremy Dean who is helping organise a March meeting and encouraging locals to join Pest Free Kumeu-Huapai.

Trap-building workshops are also planned.

"We're now five years into the Predator Free 2050 goal to rid New Zealand of the most damaging introduced predators that threaten our nation's natural taonga, our economy and primary sector," Jeremy says.

"But in spite of Kumeu's reputation as bucolic countryside, we have no local groups dedicated to pest eradication in this area.

"Pest Free Kumeu-Huapai plans to change that with a three-year plan to use community involvement to rid the area of rats, stoats and possums."

Models for pest free groups exist all over the country, including Muriwai, Coatesville, Hobsonville, and Whenuapai.

"Our challenge as a community is to assemble our own group and drive a little change ourselves," Jeremy explains.

"This can be simply having a trap in your own backyard, helping maintain a trapline in a public space like the Kumeu River, participating in a trap building event, or helping with as much or as little time as you can afford to build a Pest Free Kumeu-Huapai group."

Jeremy says the first task is to seek people who want to get involved.

"If you've ever discovered your woodshed is host to a colony of rats,

or a tree in your garden has been stripped by a possum, then you have all the motivation you need to lend a hand," he says. "We're all busy and one of the guiding principles of the group is to be respectful of people's time.

"If we can combine just a little of the talent and enthusiasm of our community we will be able to do this."

Jeremy says one of the distinguishing characteristics of Predator Free 2050 is that it calls across the community from large government agencies to individuals organising in community groups to come up with creative ideas on how to achieve the goal. The model most groups follow is simply to build traps, distribute them and record the results.

"There is usually a small donation to take a trap home, which pays for another trap to be built and helps generate engagement in operating the trap," Jeremy adds.

"To support this activity we need people to help with sponsorship, communications, trap building, art (the traps deserve a groovy logo), tools, community connections and general enthusiasm for the pest free cause."

Jeremy says that as the group is new it can create what it likes.

"Personally, I'd like to see equal focus on pest plants and it may be that we create two groups - one with a focus on rats, stoats and possums, and a second group on gorse, wattle, moth plant, woolly nightshade and all the other nasties that are invading the area."

Details of the March launch will be released soon.

"If this sounds like you and if you'd like to get involved forming a community group from the very start then come along or get in touch now - email [jeremy@jeremydean.com](mailto:jeremy@jeremydean.com) or search for Pest Free



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# People & Places

Kumeu-Huapai on Facebook.

## Kumeu hot rod show a hit

Thousands visited the 28th Repco Kumeu Classic Car and Hot Rod Festival at the Kumeu Showgrounds on January 14-16.

The turnout of people and cars in three days of fine weather has delighted organisers Ken and Desma Galvin of Kumeu.

"Everyone seems happy to be doing something," says Ken, referring to the show being among the few such events to run nationally because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Vaccination passes had to be shown at the gates and visitors were asked to follow the usual pandemic rules, although most displays were outdoors.

Ken was minding Dr John Elliott's 1970s Holden Torana racing car when the Kumeu Courier caught up with him for a guided tour of indoor displays.

The People's Choice award, best Chevrolet and best display prizes went to the late Bob Armstrong's 1956 Chev truck, while Ian Taylor's 1932 Ford Hi-Boy sedan was best Ford and second in the People's Choice category.

The best hot rod was a 1932 chopped coupe with a 390 Cadillac engine from Steve's Speedshop (Stephen and Sarah-Lees), and the best "other" prize went to Bryan and Heather Cartelle's 1936 Auburn 851 boat-tail speedster.

Others to feature at the indoor displays included Brian and Elizabeth Ogle's 1932 Ford coupe "The Blue '32", a 1956 Ford Coe 750 ex-timber truck with a barn-find 1973 XA GT Ford Falcon with a racing history on the back of it undergoing restoration, a 1966 Dodge Charger with Hemi engine, Ryan Sheldon's 1958 Plymouth Fury nitro "funny car" dragster and a "junior funny car" with all the extras and costs met provided for a lucky 7 to 9-year-old to see if they're keen on racing - the car checked out by Caleb Russell, 6, from Wellington.

Kurt Stockman from the Taupo Lakers Hot Rod Club and wife Leayne have been visiting the show for 27 years to join the swap meet and say it's one of the best events they've been to.

Colin Pearce of Glendene regularly attends, usually providing something new he's built.

While family member Kaitlyn Stillman of Glendene tried out his

half-size 1932 Ford "So-Cal" with a 110cc quad bike motor, Colin explained his latest build - a 1959 Chev made into a trailer and carrying a barbecue and a chiller. Last year, Colin showed a bike he made based on the "Men in Black 3" film's gyrobike.

"Ken and Desma do a wonderful job with this show," he adds.

Colin says he camps at the show and enjoys talking to people and showing his hobby creations.

Simi Khiani at the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust stall says keen interest has been shown in the Trust's work and that many took the chance to enter a fundraising raffle lucky draw for a 2022 Shelby GT-H worth more than \$100,000.

West Aucklanders Travis Dunsmore, Toby Duff and Elijah Harrison welcomed the chance to show their motorised chilly bins sporting four-stroke 50cc engines.

Kumeu's Crown Xu had his military collection on display, while various car clubs also had some of their vehicles on show.

The event also includes food, entertainment, the Jack Daniel's National BBQ Championship, a Motor X Spectacular and promotes the upcoming The Very Vintage Day Out.

## Huapai-Kumeu Lions share the love

The Lions Christmas Cheer Drive went very well and Lions thank all those who contributed to the drive to provide gifts and food for local families going through hard times.



The reactions by children and their parents at seeing Santa coming down their streets on the back of his 1939 Ford pickup truck was heart-warming.

Thanks to Gavin and Julie Bertelsen for loaning us their extra special vehicles and to Anna at Compass Collective and Chrissy at The Vintage Shop for allowing presents and food to be dropped off at their shops.

As 2022 kicks off we intend to develop our working relationships with Kindred Family Services, NW Care Trust, the Riverhead and Waimauku Scouts, along with other community organisations.

Huapai-Kumeu Lions have had a long association with the Kumeu Volunteer Fire Brigade and were more than happy to support the making of a caged trailer by local manufacturer Towezy Trailers. The brigade specifically asked for this trailer as they often attend

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# People & Places

accidents and fires where, after their work is done, they have had to drive back to the station in wet, smoky gear, whereas having a trailer would allow them to throw their gear and equipment in the trailer and return to base in relative comfort.

The Vintage Shop at 35 Access Rd is open again and would love you to drop off any items you may be looking to give away. The volunteers at the shop are an essential and highly valued part of Lions fundraising in the area.

There will be a fundraising concert by Kumeu Brass and Kumeu Vintage Brass in the next few months depending on the restrictions that may be in place due to COVID.

Please put May 28 and 29 in your diaries as this is when the next Lions Book Fair will take place at the Kumeu Community Centre. You will be able to drop off any books you would like to donate in the fortnight before the fair.

If any community members would like to join us as we raise funds for projects or do service in the local area, please contact Guy at huapaikumeulions@gmail.com or call him on 021 922 545. We would love to hear any ideas you have for projects as well.

## Tribute to Don Hutchison

A service was held on January 5 for Kumeu Rugby Football and Sports Club life member and former long-time Taupaki resident Donald (Don) Hutchison who died aged 75 at a Helensville rest home.

Don was a life-long St John Ambulance officer - affectionately dubbed a "zambuck" - after joining at a young age and serving nearly 40 years, during which time he held brigade events for Taupaki youngsters.

He was also actively involved in the Kumeu Masonic Lodge for many years, the former lodge building on Kumeu's Main Road now gone.

Through his business providing security systems (Hutchison Dynamic Products, importing and supplying locks and hospital alert systems) and his St John work, Don came to know many of the police and firefighters in the Northwest.

He was friendly with the local firefighters and would also race to fires, often to talk with them or help where he could.

A musician for much of his life, Don played the saxophone and clarinet (along with the piano like his mother who was a piano teacher in Taupaki, and various instruments) with other musicians, including at the Kumeu Show.

Some of his musician friends played a few of his favourite tunes as his service before he was piped out of the Morrison Funeral Home



in Henderson by a bagpiper in recognition of his Scottish heritage. Don performed at many birthday parties (including in the Taupaki Hall) over the years with his musician mates.

Don's daughter Michelle says he would also have enjoyed a Masonic ritual with leaves performed by Chas Holst.

She remembers he liked using terms such as "piece of cake", "okie dokie", and "someone had gone and put his knife and fork away" - a saying for when someone had died as Don took the chance to chat at the many funerals he attended.

Don had a great sense of humour, loved yarning - particularly talking with others - and would rush to help people whether on the rugby field or at an accident, family and friends remember.

Friend Dave Chisholm recalls Don was a good runner who was Massey Amateur Athletics and Harriers Club president when his young daughters attended and who took up rugby as a winger, then moved to the North Harbour Rugby Union after its formation in 1985.

He encouraged children into sports teams and family say he was always revving up his grandchildren to play rugby - "or anything".

Don was in the Henderson High School first 15 and later joined the Golden Oldies at the Kumeu Rugby Club's predecessor Western United.

"Don and I ended up on committees and had various roles," Dave says.

"Both of us became life members of the Kumeu Rugby Club on the same day."

Long-time resident and still serving on many local organisations, Derry Faulder remembers Don as "an integral part of the Taupaki district, particularly in his younger years, a familiar figure in his black and white St John regalia, attending rugby games with Western United - later to become Kumeu Rugby, where he served as president more than one term".

Derry says Don inherited his mother's music teacher skills and was involved with dance band groups in the local district in the 1980s and 1990s.

"To use a Don Hutch saying, 'he has put his knife and fork away' too soon."

Don moved from Taupaki to Helensville, then South Head for five years and Dargaville for a further five before returning to Helensville.



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# People & Places

He is survived by wife Jill, daughters Jennifer and Michelle, and grandchildren Aidan, Trent, Wyatt and Eva.

Don was cremated and his ashes are held at Muriwai until a decision is made where to spread them.

Family say he enjoyed so many places that it's hard to choose.

## JP service reopens at the Kumeu Library

The Justice of the Peace service desk at the Kumeu Library on Saturday between 10am and noon has now resumed.

There is no charge nor appointment needed for this service.

While operating under COVID traffic signal levels Red or Orange, clients will need to present their COVID Passport before entering the library for this service. JPs will be accredited and double vaccinated.

A JP can witness signatures on documents and certify copies of documents as true copies of originals or images viewable on a computer or smartphone screen. They also take declarations for documents requiring a Statutory Declaration and administer oaths or affirmations on court related documents requiring an affidavit.

Some of the documents commonly presented requiring Statutory Declarations relate to immigration matters such as sponsorship, bank documents, change of name, KiwiSaver withdrawals, insurance claims, rates rebate applications, and more. Certification of photos as being a true likeness are common, as is certifying that people receiving overseas pensions are still alive. They can also perform citizenship ceremonies if especially requested.

There are some things people needing a JP need to note. If they want a printed copy of an original to be certified, they must bring that original with them, or be able to show it on their smartphone screen.

For Affidavits or Statutory Declarations, the person making the declaration must be present. You can't do this for someone else. Bring your photo ID, for example a driver's licence or passport with you so the JP can confirm you are the person making the declaration. Make sure the form is fully filled out and avoid signing the form before you come - doing this in front of the JP.

At present under COVID safety requirements, JPs in the Northwest can provide some services at their homes. You must telephone first and make an appointment. They will also probably require double vaccination.

Names and addresses of JPs can be found in the local phone directory and on the website [www.jpfed.org.nz](http://www.jpfed.org.nz) or [jpaukland.org.nz](http://jpaukland.org.nz) - search "find a JP". These sites will also provide listings of JPs who provide online JP services which may assist clients who are not double vaccinated, however, they will require a computing facility

and scanner for this.

There is also a regular JP service available each weekday 1pm-3pm at the Massey CAB in the Massey Library (Te Manawa) and at the Northwest Mall on Thursday 6pm-8pm and Saturday 10am-noon.

## Kumeu lad's letter delights rest home residents

Eight-year-old Troy Tawa from Huapai District School sent this letter with a colourful drawing to cheer up Radius Taupaki Gables Rest Home & Hospital Care residents during Auckland's COVID-19 restrictions.

Dear residents,

I hope you are all OK. I am sad your family can't visit you.

I want you to be happy.

I hope you like my picture I have drawn and it brightens your day.

From Troy

Age 8



## Red light stops Northwest events

The red-light traffic system introduced by the Government to help combat the spread of the Omicron COVID variant has prompted the cancellation of many Northwest events planned during coming weeks.

The country moved to red just before midnight on Sunday January 23, leading to many festival and event cancellations nationwide - with more expected.

The Kumeu Courier February issue was due to go to print just as cancellations were beginning to be announced, so this issue may include some happenings that have now changed - check with organisers where appropriate.



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# People & Places

The Auckland Folk Festival due at the Kumeu Showgrounds during Auckland Anniversary Weekend (January 29-31) had already been cancelled due to uncertainty around COVID restrictions.

"We are not confident that a safe, fun and enjoyable festival will be deliverable at this point in time," festival organisers said late last year in explaining the cancellation.

A big blow to this area is the cancellation of the 100th Kumeu Show on March 12 and 13. The 100th event celebration will now be held in March next year.

COVID uncertainty forced the popular Kumeu Show to run on one day only last year, and Kumeu Agricultural and Horticultural Society event manager Lizelle Westman says risks remain around the Omicron variant and restrictions applying this year.

She says the show cannot safely operate under the red traffic light alert and rather than wait to see when the red-light restrictions might be lifted it was decided to cancel this year's show.

With little income from events now cancelled at the showgrounds, Lizelle says they will probably have to lease land and buildings to businesses, including for storage purposes.

Visit [www.kumeushowgrounds.com](http://www.kumeushowgrounds.com), check on Facebook or email [info@kumeushow.co.nz](mailto:info@kumeushow.co.nz) for more details.

A fundraising luncheon with former Prime Minister and previous show patron Sir John Key planned last year was cancelled because of COVID restrictions.

The Very Vintage Day Out on Saturday February 12 at the Kumeu Showgrounds has also been delayed.

A new date is being considered for the 10th anniversary of the retro-style celebration of all things past - especially the 1950s.

The red-light restrictions mean the February 12 event can't proceed but organiser Nicole Galvin of Kumeu says the day's Miss Pin-up New Zealand pageant may be held that weekend in a Northwest community hall as an invite-only occasion subject to confirmation and with a live stream of the pageant likely.

The Very Vintage Day Out was first introduced to the Kumeu Showgrounds in April last year when rain curtailed some of the planned outdoor events.

It included dress-ups, a Very Vintage Photo Safari, old time transport and more.

Visit [www.veryvintage.co.nz](http://www.veryvintage.co.nz) for further information.

NorthWest Country Family Festivals due to be held from Kaukapakapa to Huapai during the next three months are also expected to be postponed.

Decisions had yet to be made at time of going to print, with the free events for families including music, children's entertainment, food

trucks and more.

All were scheduled outdoors with the first outside the Helensville Hall on February 20, the next outside the Kaukapakapa Hall on February 27, another outside the Muriwai Surf Club on March 6, one at the Huapai Hub behind the Kumeu Library on March 27 and the last at Parakai Springs on April 3.

Visit [www.northwestcountry.co.nz](http://www.northwestcountry.co.nz) for more information.

Riverhead School's 150th anniversary commemorations initially scheduled for March 19 and 20 have been postponed until November 5. No further details were available at time of going to print.

Market events, fairs and many other functions may also be impacted.

Much will depend on whether Omicron spreads as feared and how long the red-light restrictions last.

## Veterans Affairs

The NZ Government has extended the eligibility for the NZ Operational Service Medal (NZOSM) to include members of the armed forces who served in Malaysia and Singapore, but were not required to deploy into combat theatres such as Borneo or Vietnam. About 4500 veterans who served in South East Asia from February 1959 to January 1974 are now able to be awarded a medal and the Kaipara RSA hopes that veterans and their families take this opportunity to have their service recognised in this way.

You or someone you know, including next of kin of deceased veterans, will need to apply via the NZDF website, [www.nzdf.mil.nz/medal-and-service-records/medal-applications/](http://www.nzdf.mil.nz/medal-and-service-records/medal-applications/).

About 7000 veterans of South East Asia combat theatres are already eligible for the NZOSM, any unclaimed medals can still be issued.

The President of the Kaipara RSA Rex Keane says Veterans and all ex-service personnel should be registered with Veterans Affairs, even if they don't need welfare support at present.

Email- [veterans@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:veterans@nzdf.mil.nz), Phone- 0800 483 8372

Mail- PO Box 5146, Wellington 6140.

Website- [www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz](http://www.veteransaffairs.mil.nz).

Ex-service personnel should join their local RSA for information on welfare support and updates.

Contact the Kaipara Memorial RSA by email [kaipararsa@extra.co.nz](mailto:kaipararsa@extra.co.nz), visit the club at 49 Commercial Road, Helensville, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday from 1600 hours to 2000 hours or phone President Rex Keane 027 293 2768 anytime.

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## Better Borrowing lends a hand



Scott Wombwell started Better Borrowing to help people get the lending that is right for them, make sure it is structured the right way, and have a great experience throughout.

Lending and mortgages can sound like a dry topic, but it's a major gateway to creating a home, and for Scott there is nothing like helping people get into the home they deserve.

Scott is a qualified Mortgage Broker and Financial Advisor with an education in Economics, and a background in Business Banking, and head-office banking product and process roles.

Mid-career he left banking to pursue making a difference in the public sector. After working to transform systems and organisations, he realised his passion was in working with individuals on what personally matters to them and moved back into the financial sector to work with you.

Scott explains on P17 of this issue how lenders are looking much more closely at your expenses and are now treating more spending as regular expenses rather than one-offs. This may affect the way they assess your ability to service a loan, he says.

"Whether you are looking to buy your first home, your next home, refinance, or free up funds for renovations - I would love to help," he says.

"I provide Mortgage Broker services to find the right loan products and providers for you, without charging you fees."

Based in North West Auckland, Scott is always keen to meet with locals over coffee, and can work with clients all over New Zealand online.

Learn more on P17, contact Scott direct on 020 4009 8944 or visit [www.betterborrowing.co.nz](http://www.betterborrowing.co.nz) for more information.

## Sweet AZ drive-through coffee still open under COVID red traffic light



When COVID arrived on the doorstep in 2020 both Kieth and Tea Larsen-Lelisi's income streams were disrupted by the first Level 4 lockdown.

"We found ourselves thinking of ways to have less interruption to our income during this pandemic whilst being of service to our community," Tea explains.

"This is how Sweet Az your local Drive Thru Coffee was born."

Their past professional work and life experiences taught them that if you have a great attitude, kindness, are hardworking and have an open mindset, you can learn and achieve anything.

"In our first year we have faced personal tragedy with the loss of our beloved mum who was killed by a speeding driver on Mill Road Helensville last year and another lockdown," Tea says.

"Through all the adversity we have expanded our small business from our Sweet Az Trailer to now include our Sweet

Az Drive Thru Hut based at 334 Main Rd Huapai in front of the carwash (Autoclean Huapai)."

The Sweet AZ Huapai Drive Thru is now open seven days, and the green Sweet Az Trailer is based outside 42 Mill Rd in Helensville, Monday-Saturday, unless booked for an event.

Sweet Az Drive Thru Coffee remains open under the New Zealand-wide COVID red traffic light rules to slow Omicron, Tea and Kieth asking customers to scan in and wear masks.

During weekends, the Sweet Az Trailer often supports local and some of Auckland City's most iconic events and festivals.

"We have been overwhelmingly grateful for the support our beautiful communities have given to us," Tea says.

"As we head into 2022 we will continue to grow Sweet Az through our mission statement - Treat People with Kindness with Quality on Time."

Sweet Az Drive Thru Coffee serves delicious ethically sourced dark roast espresso coffee, hot chocolate, organic tea, iced blended frappes and iced tea.

Follow Sweet Az on Facebook [www.facebook.com/SweetAz](http://www.facebook.com/SweetAz). CoffeeandCandyFloss and Instagram [www.instagram.com/sweetaz\\_nz/](http://www.instagram.com/sweetaz_nz/) for trading hours, updates and events.



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 RINGS WAIMAUKU MECHANIC COFFEE GYMS KAUKAPAKAPA PETROL FISH'N'CHIPS EQUESTRIAN  
 ENT HIRE PARAKAI HOT POOLS OPTICIAN MOBILE RIVERHEAD CAR HIRE PIZZA PICTURE FRAMING GIFTWARE HUAPAI  
 TANT YOGA STORAGE MORTGAGE BROKERS WAIMAUKU MECHANIC COFFEE GYMS KAUKAPAKAPA PETROL FISH'N'CHIPS EQUESTRIAN  
 RY CONSTRUCTION HAIRDRESSING PARAKAI BEER LAWYER HAIRDRESSING PIES TYRES RIVERHEAD BURGERS ANIMAL FEED VETS  
 WILLE FILM STUDIOS KERABARS ENGINEERINGS WAIMAUKU MECHANIC COFFEE GYMS KAUKAPAKAPA PETROL FISH'N'CHIPS EQUESTRIAN



# Safer Communities



Warmer, drier and windier areas are at higher risk from wildfires but fires are not limited to those areas. A wildfire also doesn't need to be large to be extremely damaging, which is why those living in rural properties, lifestyle blocks, and houses on the urban edge need to be prepared.

The hot weather over December and January has caused very dry conditions. Even with the recent rainfall, grass

and other light vegetation can dry out quickly.

Help defend your home and property from wildfires by keeping grass short and clearing dead leaves and debris from gutters and around decks.

This summer remember these key messages,

- Before you light, always check the local Fire Danger at [checkitsalright.nz](http://checkitsalright.nz).

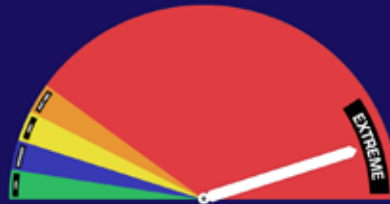
- If the local fire Danger is High, Very High or Extreme, don't light.

- If the Fire Season is Restricted, you will need a permit for most fire types.

- If the Fire Season is Prohibited, there is a total fire ban in place.

- Also remember to check the local council rules, there are often total fire bans on beach areas

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# Community News

## Welcome to 2022. What do you wish to achieve this year?

Astramana™ Healing Services wishes all readers a very Happy New Year!

Many people start the New Year with various goals they want to achieve. However, we often start the year off with good intentions, but then slip as life moves on and we get back into a normal routine, how can we change that?

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

To create a goal, we can use the SMART Goal Setting Guide, our goals should be:

S: Specific M: Measurable. A: Attainable. R: Realistic/Relevant. T: Time- Based

It is important that your goal be specific, identify specific targets you hope to achieve at different stages, make sure your goal is achievable, otherwise you could struggle with success. The goal needs to be realistic and relevant to you and put a time frame on it, as this will help you to move 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.

Later this year, Astramana™ Healing Services will be offering a psychic self-development course where you can join like-minded



people to open up your psychic abilities, please email us to register your interest.

Astramana™ Healing Services, was founded by International Hypnotist, Reiki Master-Teacher and Clairvoyant & Tarot Reader Jason Mackenzie. Check out our website: [www.astramana.com](http://www.astramana.com) or email [astramana@gmail.com](mailto: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!

## Tamariki experiences

As we welcome tamariki (children) back into our centre, we have been thrilled with excitement of hearing all about the special adventures they have had over the Christmas break. We have been fostering their new interests with a variety of different experiences. An example of this was when we had a group



of tamariki working together to create a pond within the sandpit. Tamariki worked as a team and used their problem-solving skills to ensure that everyone had their own little place to dig their own ponds within the sandpit, as well as handing out spades to each other. Two of our tamariki role modelled how to connect one pond to another by digging a pathway in the sand. This enabled other tamariki to follow suit and connect all the ponds together in order to create one massive pond. This experience nurtured problem-solving skills, communication, observation skills and ako (the ability to learn from each other). It also enabled tamariki to reconnect with their old friends as well as initiating and establishing new friendships. It was great to see the joy in their faces when they finally achieved their goal as a team and it was evident that some of our older tamariki were starting to build strong leadership qualities.

To enquire about joining our Nature's Explorers whānau please call 09 412 8800 or send us an email at [office.kindergarten@xtra.co.nz](mailto:office.kindergarten@xtra.co.nz).

## Kumeu Library

The new year is well underway, although things are a little different at Kumeu Library under the Orange Level of the Covid-19 Protection Framework. We are providing services for everyone, but to come inside our libraries, a 'My Vaccine Pass' is required for anyone aged 12 years three months and over. Please have your 'My Vaccine Pass' ready to present to the team when you visit. The vaccination pass requirement will be in place at least until the end of June 2022. We



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280 Main Road, Kumeu, SH 16





# Community News

are particularly mindful of helping protect the health and safety of our most vulnerable communities, of customers who cannot be vaccinated due to medical exemptions, and those under 12 years of age.

If you do not have a vaccination pass or are not yet comfortable visiting a library, we are still committed to assisting you. If you want to borrow books, audiobooks, magazines or DVDs, you can either choose your own via our online catalogue or the Auckland Libraries app and we will bring your holds to the door already checked out for you to take away, or you can ask us to select books for you to suit your reading needs. You can ask the staff member at the door of Kumeu Library (there will be a short wait for this service) or fill in the form on our website ([www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz)), and we'll select five items just for you from our shelves. We'll add the books to your library account and you'll receive an email notification to collect them - be sure to have your library card number ready to order your Ready-to-Go Reads pack. Also, our eCollections and online resources are all available 24/7, and you can still access our free WiFi outside the library. You can also get virtual book-a-librarian help from our Te Māpuna Library Connect team on 09 377 0209 or fill out the contact us form on our website.

There are still restrictions around in-person events at Kumeu Library, and at present we are only able to hold adult events due to size constraints for social distancing in the children's area. But we have started making small steps into the online provision of children's services - follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/kumeulibrary](http://www.facebook.com/kumeulibrary)) to see what we are up to.

## The Mobile Car Specialists

Welcome to 2022. We're back on board for all services except dent removal. Dent removal will begin from 8th February.

Hopefully you've had a chance to get away and enjoy this epic weather! If your car has been scuffed, dented, or just needs a general tidy up after the holiday thrashing, then make sure you get in touch with us.

"We make cars look awesome again."

Our services include:

- Dent removal - small to large
- Yellow / foggy headlight restoration
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- Contaminant removal (cement, metal grindings, sunscreen)

We are a fully mobile operation, meaning we come to you to make your life easier.

Contact us on 0800 20 30 20 for a quote, or visit [www.TMCS.co.nz](http://www.TMCS.co.nz) to see our work and 5 star reviews.

## Win a date night at NorthWest

You could WIN\* a meal out at your favourite NorthWest restaurant for you and your Valentine, plus surprise them with flowers and a bottle of perfume or aftershave. Simply fill out your details on the form available at customer service and pop it in the draw from 1 - 10 February 2022. Our Customer Service Kiosk is located by the escalators between Pascoes and Walker and Hall.



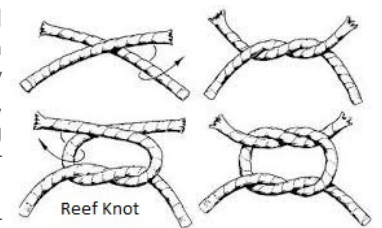
## It's knot hard

While many relaxed and unwound as they welcomed in 2022, the Scouting community was already planning events, fundraisers and exciting programmes for the year ahead.

There have been several major events in Auckland over the Christmas break, such as the Hot Rod show in Kumeu in January.

Without needing much thought, we simply turn up, get directed to a place to park and enjoy the show, then jump back in the car and head for the exit. But what does this have to do with Scouts you may ask?

A lot of planning goes into running these shows, and this is where the Scouts come in. It will be parents and Scouts turning up at 5am to prepare the parking areas or setting up tents to provide some shade etc. Often it requires large teams to make this happen and to ensure the public are kept safe as possible, without the teams assisting you with parking, it would be really unsafe having children walking around large volumes of moving vehicles. The next time you find yourself being guided to a parking spot, please make sure you thank them for helping you, as it's very likely they were up long before you were, so that you could have the very best experience



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# Community News

possible.

This is just one of the many ways that Scouts help the community, as like you, we are also part of the community and want to make it as an enjoyable as possible place to be.

In Scouts, 'knots' are still very much something that we teach the youth to do. It might be a simple knot such as a reef knot, or a lashing to secure several parts together.

The reef knot is one of the simplest of them, all you need is 2 pieces of rope (you can do this blindfolded if you want to try) with a piece of rope in each hand, it's as simple as left over right, then right over left as in the picture (or google it, as there are lots of knot tying videos). You should then get 2 loops that tie into each other creating a strong knot, give it a try and see how well you can do (you can use shoe laces if you want, but don't tie them to tight, or you may have trouble untying them).

If you would like to know more about Scouts in the North West Auckland region, please visit [www.scouts.nz](http://www.scouts.nz), or drop me an email: [zl.waitoru@zone.scouts.nz](mailto:zl.waitoru@zone.scouts.nz). Craig Paltridge. Waitoru Zone Leader.

## Pop-Up Book Fair

The Lions Club of Helensville is excited to announce that they have received confirmation from Auckland Council to hold a one-day Pop-Up Book Fair on Saturday 12 March, in the Helensville War Memorial Hall. Starting at 9.00am and closing at 4.00pm. This event can be held under Red or Orange Covid Protection Framework, but it is of course dependent on any further restrictions that may be put in place to limit the spread of the virus.

There are several conditions applying for entry. Patrons must be double vaccinated (Vaccination certificates will be inspected), and there is also a limit of 83 persons allowed in the Hall at any one time. Social distancing must be observed, and masks worn.

There will be our usual selection of good used books available, both fiction and non-fiction with nothing over \$2, and heaps of children's

books at 50c. There cannot be as many books displayed as at our regular Book Fairs, but patrons can be assured that there will be enough to keep them reading until our Autumn Book Fair which is scheduled for the last weekend of May.

As a service to the community, we accept all donations of books. Small amounts may be left at Burmester Realty, Commercial Road, or for larger amounts contact Chris on 09 420 8527 or any other member of the Helensville Lions Club.

## New tennis coach at Waimauku

Starting February 2022 Tennis Waimauku have a new tennis coach. We are excited to introduce to the local community, Tabitha Porter (known as Tabi). Originally from the UK, Tabi moved to New Zealand with her family when she was 6 years old and grew up on the North Shore taking up tennis as a sport when she was 12. She trained at the Tennis Northern Tennis Academy, played Chelsea Cup and at 18 moved to Denver, USA



to play college tennis and junior ITF tournaments overseas. If you are looking for your child to start tennis lessons or are an adult wanting to brush up on your tennis, Tabi will be happy to work with you all. Junior group lessons will be up on the Tennis Waimauku website shortly and junior Wednesday club days for social and interclub members will recommence mid-February. Get in touch with Tabi on 021 090 47333 whether you're a little budding tennis champion in the making or an adult taking up tennis for the first time.

## Drowning Prevention Auckland

A hot start to the summer has driven more Aucklanders out to the beaches. A quick dip in water that may seem safe can turn disastrous in a matter of seconds.



Drowning Prevention Auckland would like you to remember these key water safety messages:

- Be prepared - check the weather forecast, the Safeswim website ([www.safeswim.org.nz](http://www.safeswim.org.nz)) and know the local environment.

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# Community News

- Always swim between the flags on a beach patrolled by lifeguards.
- Always wear a lifejacket when on the water fishing, boating, kayaking.
- Always actively supervise your children in, on and around the water. This means being able to see, reach and hear them at all times.

Drowning Prevention Auckland urges everyone to think about water safety to keep yourselves and loved ones safe in, on and around the water. For more information, contact us at [info@dpanz.org.nz](mailto:info@dpanz.org.nz).

## Wanted: Quality childcare

At A Child's Place we pride ourselves on our low ratios. Research shows that children who are cared for in ECE settings with lower child-staff ratios receive more stimulating and responsive care.

Relationship is key to our philosophy it is a matter of life to a child. Our settling in processes are such that all our families are amazed at how quickly their children are happy to leave them in the mornings.

If you are looking for that special 'home



away from home' then look no further. We offer authentic teaching practices with large play areas, uninterrupted play, partnership in learning and a range of sessions for your infant, toddler or preschooler.

You will find us at 1A Tapu Road, Huapai, contact us for more info on 09 412 8117 or visit us at [www.achildsplace.co.nz](http://www.achildsplace.co.nz). We would love to hear your aspirations and hopes for your child.

## Storage King Kumeu

Thank you to all our local customers, your support has enabled us to expand.

We have been operating for 18 months and have just completed our Stage 2 build.

To celebrate we are giving away the second month's rental on any size unit for a limited time.

Storage King Kumeu - 167 Riverhead Road, Kumeu, phone 09 412 8713.



# In Brief

## Kaukapakapa Historic Library

Sunday 20th February, 9am to 1pm

Here lies.....

Find out more of Kaukapakapa's local history from the photographic collection created by the late Alan Jordan and the amazing research completed by Bruce Shanks. Learn about who lies in the historic All Saints Kaukapakapa cemetery dating from 1864, and discover the details of the seventy unmarked graves. We know who they are, we know where they lie, but they remain forgotten. Are you their whanau?



For more details contact Megan, [threehorses@xtra.co.nz](mailto:threehorses@xtra.co.nz) or 021 959 017. Library open in conjunction with the Kaukapakapa Village Market.

## Happy New Year from Craigweil House

This New Year, Craigweil House is happy to be welcoming back their varied line-up of regular entertainers including all service providers. Craigweil House residents will be joined by Retts van Dam of Mapu-I-Musika Music Therapy; Charlotte of Pets Assisting Therapy; singer and pianist, Joe Fingers; Sally the Yoga and Tai Chi teacher; as well as by other groups and artists for unique events over the coming weeks.



Last year's annual Christmas party at Craigweil House was bright and twinkling with Christmas decorations and cheer. Health care assistant, Julius Ong, and Facility Coordinator, Deb Presland dressed up as Mr and Mrs Claus making a surprise appearance to give out lollies. Dixeland jazz singer and pianist, Joe Fingers, provided live music for the event.

St Francis Church then teamed up with music therapist Retts van Dam to sing Christmas carols to the residents. Due to the Covid precautions in place at the time, the group got creative by setting up on the lawn while residents were seated on the decks and along

bifold windows. St Francis Church generously gifted fresh fruit and Christmas goodies to the residents.

Happy New Year everyone from Craigweil House! May your year ahead be filled with lots of happiness, peace, and abundance.

Photo: Health care assistant, Julius, and Facility Coordinator, Deb, dressed up as Mr and Mrs Claus giving out lollies.

## Kaukapakapa Village Market

Sunday 20 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, knitting, spinning, sewing, crochet, soaps & jewellery, pre-loved, bric a brac and collectibles, locally grown fruit and vegetables, plants, preserves, books and much more - a great opportunity to pick up something unique or grab a bargain. Plus - enjoy live music from duo "Take 2" Gillian & Mike.



For more information contact Sarah 027 483 1542 or email [sarah1@maxnet.co.nz](mailto:sarah1@maxnet.co.nz).

## Don't shoot the messenger

Community groups and organisations are often run by volunteers who want to make a difference by helping others.

As they aim to respect their clients, so they deserve respect.

Board secretary and volunteer Rani Timoti says the Citizens Advice Bureau Helensville is no exception.

She highlights the old saying "Don't shoot the messenger" which is a metaphoric phrase to unfairly blame a person who has given you bad news or information.

"The frustration and anger around Covid-19 issues, including showing vaccine passes, can be as rough as the Kaipara Harbour bar, but don't take it out on volunteers."

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# In Brief

All volunteers are protected and follow a Health and Safety plan and take instructions from their national office.

This includes the legal requirements around Covid-19 including vaccine passes for face-to-face interaction and the NZ Covid Tracer QR code poster or the paper contact tracing form for sign-ins.

"The values I've been brought up with, as many of my South Kaipara whānau have too, include respecting your elders. As most of our volunteers are in this age bracket, they are also the ones more prone to health risks. Consider this when you visit us- we could be your grandparents, great-aunts and uncles or parents," says Rani.

The CAB Helensville office at 27 Commercial Rd is now open and welcomes face-to-face interactions, Monday to Friday from 10am to 1pm. Other options include by phone 09 420 7162 or email: [helensville@cab.org.nz](mailto:helensville@cab.org.nz) or go to [www.cab.org.nz/](http://www.cab.org.nz/) for our national website. "We have all methods of contact for the vaccinated and un-vaccinated so no-one is left out and everyone is fairly and respectfully treated. We simply ask the same in return."

## Netsafe

Netsafe has created the Online Gaming Whānau Toolkit to help parents and guardians get to a place where they are confident to engage with their children on the world of gaming. With eighty percent of children in New Zealand aged 8-17 having played games online, it's important that parents and whānau are equipped to understand and help tamariki have safer experiences.



Netsafe's Online Gaming Whānau Toolkit is a practical and straightforward seven-step framework to help parents whose tamariki use devices to play games and with digital parenting generally. The downloadable version of the Toolkit offers easy-to-understand practical tips that will help you talk to your child about online safety, focused explicitly on online gaming. It includes:

- Quickstarter tips for parents, whānau and young people
- How purchasing within games occurs and how to avoid unwanted surprises on your credit card
- Information to enhance your digital parenting knowledge
- Details about the online risks and challenges your child may face
- Advice about how you can help your child

It's essential that parents feel confident to have ongoing conversations with their children about their online activities, as these conversations have been proven to minimise the harm that can occur if things do go wrong online. As you come to understand

the risks that apply to your child in line with the games they play and the experience they've developed, you'll be able to focus your energy where it makes a significant impact.

To download the Toolkit, go to [netsafe.org.nz](http://netsafe.org.nz) and search for "gaming whānau toolkit"

## Finding an accountant to fit your business

How do you find an accountant that is right for you and will add value to your business?

Firstly, decide on the accounting services you need. Do you want an accountant to do all accounting tasks, or will you do some such as GST returns? Do you need payroll services? Would management accounting services such as cashflow forecasts and a business budget be useful?

Secondly, what are your software requirements? Some accountants specialise in certain accounting software, while others are more versatile. Your accountant should be able to advise which software (and app integrations) will be most useful to your business.

Thirdly, give some thought to the future. If you want your business to grow and evolve, you need an accountant who will support your future needs, not just your current ones. Business valuations, business improvement services, strategic planning and succession planning are just some areas of accounting expertise that could prove invaluable in the future. For all of your accounting needs contact the friendly UHY Haines Norton Kumeu team at 329a Main Road, Kumeu on 09 412 9853 or email [kumeu@uhyhn.co.nz](mailto:kumeu@uhyhn.co.nz).

## Waitemata Scottish Country Dance Club

Do you feel like meeting up with people and even dancing? We certainly do, after the time spent in lockdown and all the restrictions we have adhered to! Waitemata Scottish Country Dance Club members are looking forward to meeting up again and sharing the fellowship, the super music and of course the dancing. If you're looking for something new to try, we would love you to join us. Starting on March 1st and every Tuesday until the end of November, we meet in the Kelston Community Centre 6.45 pm. - 7.45 pm for new folk, and 7.45 pm - 10.00 pm. for regular club members. We are part of a worldwide family and you can be involved in as little or as much as you choose. For further information please phone Esther 09 838 7263.

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# Property

## Property market report

Rising interest rates, high deposit requirements, Loan to Income Rules and a new Credit Act are pushing home ownership further out of reach for purchasers.

Hopeful first home buyers had little to cheer about in December's home loan affordability figures.

The Real Estate Institute of New Zealand national lower quartile selling price declined by almost \$11,000 at the end of last year, dropping from \$670,000 in November to \$659,000 in December.

However that brought almost no relief to prospective first home buyers because the benefit of slightly lower prices at the bottom of the market was almost entirely eaten up by higher mortgage interest rates.

The average of the two year fixed rates offered by the major banks increased from 4.08% in November to 4.21% in December, marking the seventh successive month of mortgage rate increases since they bottomed out at 2.52% in May last year.

There may be little relief in sight for first home buyers struggling to afford a home of their own, because although housing prices are expected to soften over the next year, mortgage rates are expected to rise, which means any benefit of lower prices may be eaten up by rising mortgage interest rates.

The situation for first home buyers at the end of last year was compounded by the fact that although the national lower quartile price declined in December compared November, it actually increased in eight of the 12 REINZ sales regions, setting record highs in seven regions (Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wellington, Canterbury, Otago and Southland), while the lower quartile price in Auckland was unchanged from November's record high.

The situation of first home buyers was starting to look quite grim for first home buyers on average incomes in most parts of the country at the end of last year, as the unaffordability issues that have plagued Auckland for many years spread to many other parts of the country.

Unfortunately home ownership is increasingly becoming the preserve of the highly paid or those who have access to capital from other sources.

But for most young people on average wages, saving for a home of their own is increasingly looking like the impossible dream.

Let's look at the local sales:

|             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Coatesville | \$3,500,000 to \$6,000,000 |
| Huapai      | \$1,740,000                |
| Kumeu       | \$1,042,000 to \$3,170,000 |
| Muriwai     | \$950,000 to \$2,225,500   |
| Riverhead   | \$1,705,000 to \$2,260,000 |
| Swanson     | \$1,050,000 to \$1,625,000 |

Waimauku \$1,565,000 to \$2,156,000

Waitakere \$980,000 to \$1,455,000

Whenuapai \$930,000 to \$1,590,000

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## Disclosure about trust assets to beneficiaries

Trustees now have a clear obligation to tell beneficiaries about the assets and investments contained within a trust. A further issue is the extent to which many trust deeds provide for not just the children of the settlor but more remote categories such as charities and the de facto partners of the settlors' children. These provisions were intended to ensure that there was a broad range of people or organisations who could benefit from the trust. Usually, however, those beneficiaries beyond close family will be oblivious to their mention in a trust deed. Against this, most modern trust deeds try and make sure that the only beneficiaries are the settlors' children and grandchildren.

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 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. For further advice and assistance with your trusts feel free to contact Kemp Barristers & Solicitors at info@kempsolicitors.co.nz or 09 412 6000.

## How to own a title of the family home (between spouses)

When purchasing a property and registering the title in your individual names you will need to decide how you would like your individual names to be registered on the title.

Joint tenants is most common and this is where two or more individuals own the property. On the death of one party, the property passes to the survivor/s, irrespective of any provisions in a Will. Spouses may wish to have this option, particularly if they have



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# Property

a large mortgage together.

However if either party has a child, or children, from a previous relationship then joint tenants might not be the preferred option as it would mean children of a prior relationship might not inherit their parent's share in the property.

The alternative is tenants in common and this means you own a specified share in the property, in equal or unequal shares. You can leave your share in the property to the beneficiaries named in your Will.

It is not uncommon to have blended families and special consideration should be given to the situation that could arise when one party dies. You might wish for your children to inherit your share of the property you jointly own with your spouse, but at the same time you don't want your spouse to have to sell the property or to take out a new loan to buy your children's interest in the property. A right to occupy the property for an agreed period of time might be a suitable option, or alternatively life insurance.

Careful consideration should be given to how you own the title of your family home, or any property, and follow this through in your estate planning. This is best done when you purchase the property but it is also possible to change the way your names are registered on the title later.

ClearStone Legal incorporating Kumeu-Huapai Law Centre can assist you with your estate planning and advise you on your family's needs. Telephone 09 973 5102 if you have more questions.

## Will your home loan really be declined?

Will your home loan really be declined because of your Netflix subscription or buying too many coffees?

There have been a lot of articles recently about lending applications being declined for seemingly silly reasons like a one-off shopping trip, your Netflix subscription, or buying too many coffees each week. Are banks and other lenders really declining loans for these reasons?

Under the new rules, lenders are looking much more closely at your expenses and are now treating more spending as regular expenses rather than one offs - affecting the way they assess your ability to service a loan. They may, therefore, assess your regular expenses as being higher now than they did before.

To get the level of lending you are seeking it is important that your application aligns with the banks' way of assessing these expenses.

You need to:

- 1) Ensure your loan application accurately describes your spending.
- 2) Find the right bank/lender for you (they really aren't all the same).

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ivan@vlaw.co.nz 09 412 8000  
4a Shamrock Drive Kumeu, Auckland

3) Make sure your spending behaviour aligns with the banks' requirements.

If you'd like help putting together a strong application, I'm available free of charge; and if you want to meet in person: the coffee is on me.

Scott Wombwell, Managing Director & Financial Advisor, Better Borrowing 020 4009 8944 | [www.betterborrowing.co.nz](http://www.betterborrowing.co.nz)

## What happens when you don't have a Will?

When someone dies without a Will, that person is said to have died "intestate" and the distribution of their assets will be determined by the law.

If the person has \$15,000 or more held by any one financial institution, or own any real estate, their family will have to apply to the Court for "Letters of Administration".

To get the estate administered, it will take much longer and cost a lot more than applying for "Probate" (when there is a Will). Applying for "Letters of Administration" generally takes between four to six months and costs twice as much than applying for "Probate". Sometimes much longer which means long delays in accessing any funds from the estate.

The process for managing someone's estate when there is no Will is more complicated than if the person had left one. Ease the burden on your loved ones and make a Will today.

To get started on your Will, call Kimberley Brown on 09 837 6847 or email [Kimberley.brown@smithpartners.co.nz](mailto:Kimberley.brown@smithpartners.co.nz).

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09 412 6000

25 Orahua Road, Kumeu



# 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 | 1,550,000 | 1HA       | 200M2      | 3,500,000     | MURIWAI   | 800,000   | 1671M2    | 56M2       | 950,000       |
|             | 3,660,000 | 4HA       | 390M2      | 6,000,000     |           | 1,125,000 | 1014M2    | 130M2      | 2,225,500     |
|             | 2,425,000 | 1.6HA     | 436M2      | 4,900,000     |           | 910,000   | 926M2     | 80M2       | 1,715,000     |
| HELENSVILLE | 630,000   | 589M2     | 103M2      | 875,000       | RIVERHEAD | 1,375,000 | 859M2     | 259M2      | 2,130,000     |
|             | 465,000   | 0M2       | 80M2       | 865,000       |           | 1,350,000 | 801M2     | 261M2      | 1,705,000     |
|             | 770,000   | 500M2     | 163M2      | 1,037,000     |           | 1,700,000 | 2044M2    | 254M2      | 1,980,000     |
|             | 1,950,000 | 46.3HA    | 150M2      | 2,850,000     |           | 1,350,000 | 608M2     | 263M2      | 2,260,000     |
|             | 590,000   | 460M2     | 90M2       | 743,000       | SWANSON   | 870,000   | 3511M2    | 115M2      | 1,360,000     |
|             | 610,000   | 828M2     | 91M2       | 855,000       |           | 780,000   | 211M2     | 157M2      | 1,215,000     |
|             | 640,000   | 751M2     | 75M2       | 930,000       |           | 860,000   | 369M2     | 181M2      | 1,345,000     |
|             | 750,000   | 735M2     | 134M2      | 950,000       |           | 700,000   | 640M2     | 130M2      | 1,050,000     |
|             | 1,750,000 | 4.73HA    | 322M2      | 2,000,000     |           | 945,000   | 533M2     | 240M2      | 1,400,000     |
|             | 820,000   | 659M2     | 250M2      | 1,200,000     |           | 1,025,000 | 460M2     | 202M2      | 1,280,000     |
| HUAPAI      | 1,215,000 | 1707M2    | 245M2      | 1,740,000     |           | 960,000   | 483M2     | 192M2      | 1,220,000     |
| KUMEU       | 1,800,000 | 1.23HA    | 236M2      | 2,500,000     | WAIMAUKU  | 1,025,000 | 1235M2    | 240M2      | 1,800,000     |
|             | 2,050,000 | 4.14HA    | 227M2      | 3,170,000     |           | 1,250,000 | 1HA       | 196M2      | 1,619,000     |
|             | 830,000   | 819M2     | 120M2      | 1,810,000     |           | 1,225,000 | 804M2     | 217M2      | 1,565,000     |
|             | 1,125,000 | 2023M2    | 109+M2     | 1,500,500     |           | 1,700,000 | 6.4HA     | 170M2      | 2,156,000     |
|             | 1,725,000 | 3790M2    | 307M2      | 2,515,000     |           | 1,350,000 | 1.47HA    | 285M2      | 1,700,000     |
|             | 680,000   | 231M2     | 103M2      | 1,042,000     | WAITAKERE | 770,000   | 2054M2    | 200M2      | 1,455,000     |
|             | 900,000   | 820M2     | 136M2      | 1,232,000     |           | 745,000   | 809M2     | 133M2      | 980,000       |
|             | 1,150,000 | 788M2     | 240M2      | 1,916,000     | WHENUAPAI | 1,125,000 | 315M2     | 235M2      | 1,475,000     |
|             | 1,075,000 | 641M2     | 210M2      | 1,630,500     |           | 710,000   | 183M2     | 93M2       | 930,000       |
|             | 1,050,000 | 518M2     | 226M2      | 1,410,000     |           | 1,200,000 | 359M2     | 265M2      | 1,590,000     |
|             | 1,325,000 | 1HA       | 1278M2     | 2,050,000     |           |           |           |            |               |

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



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# BBQ SEASON IS UPON US!

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**Weber**  
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318399

**\$949**



**Weber**  
Q 3100 LP BBQ  
Titanium (also in black)  
239459

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**Weber**  
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MEGAWestgate  
MEGAHenderson

**MITRE 10**  
**MEGA**

**WESTGATE &**  
**HENDERSON**



**DO UP - DETONATE - DEVELOP**

3 1

**By Negotiation**

### 2 Forest Hill Road, Henderson

Whatever your persuasion, if you are looking for an opportunity to add value to a do-upper and have ideas to better use a 617sqm (more or less) section opposite Corban Park Development this is the one. The home is tired but true to its era. The land has been left to breath and ramble. And once all is said and done, it does extend an unparalleled opportunity for a buyer looking to secure potential, promise and purpose. The three bedroom, single bathroom home may be refurbished for rental or you may seek other land use via Ak Council. Make the most of 2022 and secure this prospect. Close to Henderson Valley's commercial hub, transport links, schools and parks.



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**AS NEW - DESIGNER TOWNHOUSE IN HOBSONVILLE POINT**

3 1 2

**By Negotiation**

### 5 Eyton Kay Road, Hobsonville By Negotiation

A spectacular 2018, modern, townhouse with simple white and grey tones providing the best of lock-up-and-leave and easy care, with schools, restaurants and transport around the corner. With an eye for clean lines and simple colour palette, this 168sqm three bedroom attached townhouse offers the very best of modern living with the extras that come with a home that has been invested in, meticulously cared for and made for living. Over three levels the home offers garaging and laundry leading to outside courtyard downstairs, with open plan living/dining on the first level and bedrooms upstairs. Heat pumps and upgrades make this townhouse stand out from the crowd and certainly worth investigating.



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**SWIMMING POOL, CABANA, PLAYGROUND, WAIMAUKU'S BEST**

5 2 3

**By Negotiation**

**8 Cloverfields Drive, Waimauku**  
By Negotiation

The complete family package within a fully fenced family safe backyard offering the perfect summer for children and parents alike. The very best of outdoor living, playing and relaxing and all within a short stroll of shopping, parks and primary school. Make life a whole lot easier in 2022. This is one of Waimauku's best finds and it won't last long. An expansive five bedroom, three bathroom, three lounge home with study and integrated double garage and workshop. Freshly renovated and presented to its best, the home gives generous bedroom space and living spaces for the entire family. In addition a seamless flow from lounge to patio, lawn, pool and cabana ensures your summer will reach a completely new level of fun and entertainment. Close to Waimauku Primary School, convenience shopping and parks.

[www.mikepero.com/RX3136557](http://www.mikepero.com/RX3136557)



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**VIEWS, NORTH FACING, HOME WITH INCOME OPTIONS**

5 10 3

**By Negotiation**

**14 Peters Lane, Taupaki**  
By Negotiation

Big home, with a little home, double garaging on both buildings and four-bay shed with high stud. So much on offer here that will make you excited about the prospect of a very large five bedroom, two living area, three bathroom home. Also delivering an office and extra-large rumpus/ games room with extensive alfresco to patio and decking facing North to get the most sunshine and ambient light. An elegant horseshoe drive with oversized double garage ensures you'll never need to reverse your car again. Extensive easy care garden and shrubbery delivers the perfect backdrop for privacy, and peacefulness. A separate two bedroom home with open plan kitchen/dining and living with double garaging also North facing with generous decking is located to the West.

[www.mikepero.com/RX3042415](http://www.mikepero.com/RX3042415)



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## MIXED HOUSING SUBURBAN WITH VIEWS

4 2 1

By Negotiation

### 24 Widmore Drive, Massey By Negotiation

Nestled on a north east aspect offering uncompromised views down the inner harbour and easy access to services, with a very tidy two level brick and block home that would suit a buyer looking to release its full potential. Treasured within the family for over 30 years this is a home that has a generous 290sqm (approx) footprint on a 700sqm section (more or less). The home is open and light with a north east aspect and generous kitchen, dining and lounge looking through to the inner harbour while three bedrooms and bathroom are all off the central hallway. Downstairs offers easy access double garage, rumpus, games room and office with laundry and guest w/c. Significant fruit and character trees, shrubs, flowering annuals and perennials make this property pop with colour and vibrancy.

[www.mikepero.com/RX3115217](http://www.mikepero.com/RX3115217)



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## AS NEW - WITH DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS - MIXED URBAN

4 1 1

By Negotiation

### 29 Hewlett Road, Massey By Negotiation

Beautifully presented to a high (as new) standard offering exceptional buying with four bedrooms and large open plan entertainment living, linking to expansive private decking ensuring you have the best of indoor and outdoor living this summer. Hard to find, this home represents a high standard of finishing and hardware found in a new build and with the development option extended under the mixed urban classification which this property sits. Three bedrooms, bathroom and laundry with open plan entertainers kitchen, dining and lounge upstairs and bedroom with walk-in or nursery downstairs, all linking to decking and stepping down to lawn and single garage and workshop. Fully fenced with electric, sensor gate.

[www.mikepero.com/RX3074419](http://www.mikepero.com/RX3074419)



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## LARGE SECTION - DIY HOME - MOVE IN TODAY

3 1

By Negotiation

### 54 McEntee Road, Waitakere By Negotiation

Beautifully original, character Bungalow, raw and true to its 1950's pedigree offering a step back in time, but also, the very best opportunity to create the most amazing home incorporating a blending of old and new imaginable. If you are seeking the romance of native wooden floors, old world trims and skirting's and the opportunity to put your mark on it, this is your gold-mine. A 1950's classic bungalow offering three bedrooms and open plan dining and lounge leading onto north facing decking. A petite kitchen and separate w/c will give you a lot to talk about, while the expansive 809 square meter section seems to roam forever. Peppered with fruit trees and shrubs, the property is cleverly developed to give you a large secure play area for kids and pets.

[www.mikepero.com/RX3115211](http://www.mikepero.com/RX3115211)



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## LARGE LAND LOT 1156SQM SITE - MIXED

3 1

By Negotiation

### 56 Makora Road, Massey By Negotiation

A significant offering with a generous ¼ acre site and a range of improvements on site delivering a generous income should you seek to purchase, rent, and submit plans for council approval. The main home is a lockwood and has been refreshed through the years, while the ideal two bedroom home was invested in around three years ago. A historical rent summary is available to the purchaser and the tenants would like to stay in place. Ideal location close to Motorway access, Royal Road Primary School, convenience shopping and transport links. Plan your future and book a viewing today.

[www.mikepero.com/RX3137015](http://www.mikepero.com/RX3137015)



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# Hot Property



## The pool, the cabana, the playground = Happy Children

The complete family package within a fully fenced and family safe backyard offering the perfect summer for children and parents alike. The very best of outdoor living, playing and relaxing and all within a short stroll of shopping, parks and primary school.

Waimauku offers a semi-rural enclave with larger sections and easy access to parks, walkways and convenience shopping. The school

has been a center-piece and hub to waimauku's appeal and is a cornerstone to the community.

This property is one of Waimauku's best finds and on 2330 sqm (more or less) it won't last long. An expansive five bedroom, three bathroom, three lounge home with study and integrated double garage and workshop. Freshly renovated and presented to its best, the home gives generous bedroom space and living spaces for the entire family. In addition a seamless flow from lounge to patio, lawn, pool and cabana ensures your summer will reach a completely new level of fun and entertainment. In addition the home has a chapel in the upper level which adds a whole new level of peace and



# Hot Property



enlightenment.

Close to Waimauku Primary School, convenience shopping, parks and walking tracks and a short drive to some of the best outdoor activities around Auckland's North West.

For more information on this property or a discussion on your next property change, call Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421 or 0800 900 700 or [graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com](mailto:graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com) - Mike Pero Real Estate Ltd Licensed REAA (2008).





## READY FOR SUMMER BBQ'S - WEST HARBOUR

3 1 1

By Negotiation

### 100 Moire Road, West Harbour By Negotiation

A sizzling hot option for you to have a great BBQ area, and a relaxed option to buy and move right in, no fuss, no bother. If you've been searching for a smart and simple three bedroom home in West Harbour this property may top your list. A genuine standalone home on 354 square meters of land (approx) with established gardens and secure fencing. The landscaping is contrasting and modern which integrates with the home through north facing decking and generous slider. An open plan lounge, dining and kitchen with central hall to three good sized bedrooms and bathroom. Downstairs has storage, double garage and laundry. Built to last with Palisade weatherboard system and decromastic tile roofing.

[www.mikepero.com/RX3136972](http://www.mikepero.com/RX3136972)



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## WATERFRONT, 3 HOUSES ON 2908SQM (APPROX)

4 2 1

By Negotiation

### 131 Colwill Road, Massey By Negotiation

On offer is three house on one site spanning over 1/2 an acre and an idyllic waterfront and bush accented paradise. If you wanted to bring the entire extended family this is the offering that will house you all. 131A is an attached three bedroom one bathroom home with double garage over two levels offering high stud and sunny aspect. 131B is an attached three bedroom one bathroom home with single garage over two levels, also delivering a great aspect. 131 is a character four bedroom home with two bathrooms and two lounges and balconies that ensure the alfresco living is never compromised. A very unique offering for the big family that wants a collective haven but individual sanctuaries. A short walk to the water, convenience shopping primary school, parks and transport links.

[www.mikepero.com/RX3136994](http://www.mikepero.com/RX3136994)



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## COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS WITH INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

6 6 3

By Negotiation

### 911 Old North Road, Waimauku By Negotiation

The property is available for purchase however is tenanted with any settlement incorporating the tenancy term or negotiating terms that may suit the Tenant. Set on one of the highest points in Waimauku with commanding views to the North and the South East / West. A near new, quality, commercial-style two-story, build with high-end features, well insulated and double glazing. Downstairs offers a sunny open plan lounge, spacious modern kitchen and dining flowing out onto a large covered patio (with a set-in BBQ) and lawn area. It has the master bedroom (with en-suite and walk-in wardrobe), which opens out onto another courtyard area with a fire pit and concrete dining table, two further bedrooms, separate bathroom, two toilets and the laundry. Internal access to the extensive six-car carpeted garage.

[www.mikepero.com/RX2769416](http://www.mikepero.com/RX2769416)



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## WAIMAUKU - ELEVATED GOOD LIFE ON 6 ACRES

4 3 2

By Negotiation

### 1616 State Highway 16, Waimauku By Negotiation

Nestled between Woodhill and Waimauku rests this idyllic 2.5 hectare (more or less) grazing block offering easy access to a dozen gentle sloping paddocks off a central drive. High on a small hill sitting proudly overlooking the land is a 300sqm two level home offering three-four bedrooms, two lounges, two bathrooms and open-plan entertainers kitchen/dining leading to formal lounge and wrap-around decking. Uncompromised alfresco, garaging and laundry. Additional office/study/ storage room and carport leading through to large half round barn shed. Generous hard stand areas and horse shoe turn-around.

[www.mikepero.com/RX3074121](http://www.mikepero.com/RX3074121)



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# Central's Tips

## February 2022



The vegetable garden is in full swing, harvest frequently to keep plants producing, water morning and evening and keep an eye out for insect damage. Harvest the summer berries and thin out developing autumn fruit to ensure a better quality crop.

### Water regularly

It's been a hot, dry summer, make sure to water plants regularly in the morning and evening when it's cooler and conserve water by saving your grey water for watering.



### The fruit and vegetable garden

- **Thin out fruit developing in clusters** on young citrus, apple, and pear trees. This ensures the final fruit are a good size and that healthy plant growth occurs as well
- **Pick summer fruit:** blueberries, raspberries, apricots and peaches regularly. If necessary, cover with bird netting
- **Get ready for autumn vegetables** – directly sow beetroot, carrots and parsnip from now on
- **Layer thick mulch around your fruit trees** – from citrus to apples, pears and plums, they need access to moisture in the soil for growing fruit. Same goes for feijoas, passionfruit and tamarillos
- **Turn the compost heap and keep it moist** - dry compost doesn't break down well
- **Green looper caterpillars** hatch quickly in the heat and start to decimate tomatoes, lettuces and any summer brassica plants. Control with an organic spray such as Bugtrol or Derris Dust to stop them ruining crops
- **Place pea straw or plastic** under pumpkins and melons, to avoid them rotting if they're sitting on damp ground

### The ornamental garden

- **Planning a late summer celebration?** Modern roses should be cut back 8-10 weeks before the date. Deep watering, fertiliser and a layer of mulch is helpful to encourage growth and flowers
- **Cut back the tired foliage of shrubs and perennials.** Some, such as daisies and lavenders, will re-bloom in autumn. A liquid feed and they're on their way
- **Seek out some different shrubs for the garden** – luculias for fragrant flowers, the native Hibiscus trionum for its unusual colour and abutilons (Chinese lantern bushes) with their bright flowers
- **Rejuvenate tired pots and hanging baskets:** remove annuals that are finished, tidy up and deadhead the rest and fill in the spaces with new plants. Liquid feed to get everything underway
- **Mow lawns on a high setting** to prevent stressing grass during the hotter months
- **Now is a great time to take photos** – this will help you to recall what was good about your summer garden so that you can plan it all again in late winter!

## Project for February

### Planning on Paving?

There's a great range of pavers in modern colours and styles at your local Central Landscapes yard. Try a mix of black and natural pavers laid together, or mix and match different sizes to add interest to the surface area.

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# Home & Garden

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## 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 many varieties in the nursery) to the Mondos, Ajugas, Dymondia, Muehlenbeckias, Dichondria Silver Falls, Selleria, Acaena purpurea, Vinca, Leptonella 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, Star Jasmine, Liriope 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.

## Laser Plumbing and Roofing Whenuapai

And just like that, a New Year is here! While 2021 was another interesting and rather challenging year, we are looking forward to a better 2022.

The New Year is also a good time to start fresh and sort any of those pesky plumbing issues that you may 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-roofs.

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Get in touch with us today on 09 417 0110 or [whenuapai@laserplumbing.co.nz](mailto: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.

## Practising regenerative solutions in my garden

Gardening is a great way to relax and be with nature. It provides positive mental well-being and the growing over the seasons builds wisdom about our beautiful earth. As a climate activist, I promote the growing of veggies but also native planting where you can. We live in Waitakere Township on a rural section and this article is dedicated to the 7 years of learning on our section.



**Chook Management** - Our family have had chooks for 14 years. While they drive me nuts when they escape and scratch through my veggie garden, they are also a beautiful part of my circular garden. They eat my weeds and their poo goes into my soil bacteria or compost heap.

**Soil Bacteria - Fertiliser** - The Weedy Garden on Youtube is one of my favourite gardeners to watch. David Trood is a prize-winning photographer who uses his videography talents to produce the most beautifully crafted videos around permaculture. Episode 6 is devoted the making of Soil Bacteria. Not only is this fun to make

but cost effective and reducing the need for commercial fertilisers in your garden.

**Weed Matting** - Cardboard and mulch are best for weed suppression. It's simple, just put a couple of layers of cardboard down on the weedy area and heap the mulch in top. Leave for 6 months and you will have lush soil underneath.

**Wildflowers & Lavender** - Propagating lavender and rosemary is about the easiest thing in the world to do. Lavender loves company and doesn't do well when you plant on its own so plant in a large pot with lots of sprigs together.

Doing all the above inspires me to learn more and more about regenerative practices. I am not keen on talk without action and gardening allows me to put my beliefs into practice. It's healthy in terms of fitness and diet, and it is cost effective and hugely beneficial for our environment.

Ger (Geraldine) Tew, Founder & CEO - The Re-Creators Board Member & Events Manager - Social Enterprise Auckland.

## Ponds

We are now in full swing with summer and anyone with a pond will know that the smallest amount of aquatic weed will explode and cover everything.



While it is good to get shade on ponds to keep the water oxygenated, having a pond covered in weed can be detrimental and reduce its effectiveness and amenity.

There aren't many good solutions to pond weed other than manual removal or the application of safe agrichemicals by environmentally-minded experts. NZ Biosecurity Services are a specialist in pond weed control and we have a range of ways that we can use to get the best results for you. We can make sure we remove the weed in

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# Home & Garden

stages to protect the quality of the water without damaging fish or wildlife. If your pond is suffering, give the friendly team a call on 09 447 1998 or email us at [administration@biosecurity.net.nz](mailto:administration@biosecurity.net.nz).

## City Botanics

Staying home, renovating the home, and working from home are all becoming the norm for most Aucklanders, and it's evident that the more time we spend in the confines of our home spaces, the more value we want to get out of them. With the entire garden industry buzzing with enthusiastic and ambitious green fingers, it would seem that for most of us, the garden has become a place where this value can truly be appreciated. Morning coffee in the sun surrounded by lush plants can be really grounding and help to shift your mindset into focus for the day ahead. Taking your lunch break on your balcony can feel like a real privilege and benefit to working from home, especially when that balcony is surrounded by flowers and foliage that keeps you calm yet motivated to continue your day. Then, at the end of the day or even the end of a long week, your garden once again provides a place of disconnect as you wind down and prepare for some well-deserved time out. For support and ideas visit [citybotanics.co.nz](http://citybotanics.co.nz) Martin Steel-Brown helps design and transform small gardens into thoughtful, livable green spaces for urban dwellers.



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## Sculpture Gardens – grand opening

Sunday 27th February 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

A key attraction of the Kaipara Coast Plant Centre is our beautiful Sculpture Gardens. Each year the 40 sculptures, created by local and overseas artists, are replaced and remain on continual display for the following 12 months. This normally occurs in November but had to be postponed last year due to Covid restrictions.



Some of the artists should be available to discuss their works and pieces are also for sale if something really takes your fancy.

Pieces are displayed along our recently extended 3.4 Km nature trail set in the lovely Kaipara countryside and placed so as to blend sympathetically with their surrounding environment

This is a great way for all the family to spend a fun and relaxing afternoon as we also have an extensive kids play area plus BBQ area within the gardens.

There is also our cute little coffee shop on site plus of course the Plant Centre for you to browse through.

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

\* Please note: Trail not suitable for wheelchairs or walking frames.

\*All relevant Covid precautions will of course be in place although this is an outdoor event so maintaining social distancing is relatively

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# Home & Garden

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Venue location: 1481 Kaipara Coast Highway (SH16), 4km north of Kaukapakapa

Tickets: Adults \$15. Children (5-13) \$7.50 (under 5's free). Families (2A + 3C) \$35. Groups (10+) \$10.

To Book: info@kaiparacoast.co.nz or 09 420 5655.

## Tile and grout cleaning

Are you tired of looking at your lovely tiled floor and walls only to be disappointed by the dirty stained grout lines? Traditional cleaning methods actually leave your grout dirtier and more bacteria laden than before you started?



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## Waimauku Garden Club

Hoping that 2022 brings freedom for group trips, Waimauku Garden Club is lining up a range of gardens to visit for the new year. We aim to view both known and new gardens each month that are in range of a day return trip from Huapai. In winter when the weather is less suitable we arrange indoor activities of interest. Morning coffee and lunch is included.

Plans for this year include visiting some West Auckland gardens, a trip to Howick and East Auckland, another to Clevedon in the south and hopefully off to Maungaturoto later in the year.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us, you don't need to be an avid gardener, just interested in visiting the creations of others and the company of like-minded people. Our next trip is February 17th, please contact one of the committee members listed to arrange to join us.

Ann 021 035 7406, Diana 027 478 8928, Donna 021 233 0974, Moira 027 4989 154.

# Thinking of building?



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or by appointment

### Office

80 Main Road, Kumeu.  
Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm



# Pets

## Cat lovers we need your help!

The NZ Cat Foundation has a sanctuary based in Huapai which houses over 150 cats. We offer safe sanctuary for older, disadvantaged and un-homeable rescue cats where they can live out their lives in safety and comfort. We need regular volunteers to help with routine chores so our cats can



enjoy happy, healthy, safe lives. We are looking for volunteers who are mature, have a sense of responsibility, are good team players and dedicated animal lovers. Helping at the sanctuary is a popular way to fulfil community service hours for Duke of Edinburgh, St John's, Scouts, Guides, church, university, animal sciences studies, etc. We are happy to sign off on your hours and provide any needed verification of your service. We rely heavily on volunteers on a daily basis and desperately need more.

Financial and food donations are also urgently needed to cover vet and other costs associated with our sanctuary in Huapai. The NZ Cat Foundation also supports community Trap-Neuter-Return programmes and helps feed and care for many cats living in the community. Please visit our website for more information on volunteering and how to donate at [www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz](http://www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz). You can also email [info@thenzcatfoundation.org.nz](mailto:info@thenzcatfoundation.org.nz).

## Warning on karaka berries and their seeds

Karaka trees (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) are native to New Zealand and are prevalent in many parks and forest areas. The berry kernels, however, contain virulent poisons that are yet to be fully described in terms of their individual effects on dogs and humans.

Most warnings online will show only photos of the berries, brightly coloured and hard to miss. In reality, it is hardly ever these bright yellow/orange/green berries (labelled 1 and 2) that you will see on the ground, but the rotting or decaying outer husks (labelled 3 and 4). These can sometimes be partially covered in some remaining



orange flesh, but more often than not they look very dry and seemingly dead.

The powerful neurotoxins are in fact contained in the inner kernel/seed, shown here (label 5) inside the soft outer husk, and at label 6, removed from the husk. Even when the outer husks seem dry and old, the toxin will still remain strong. The outer husk is very thin and can easily be chewed through by a small dog.

If your dog ingests ANY part of a karaka berry, fleshy fruit, husk or seed, take them to a Veterinarian immediately and without delay. If taken soon enough, the dog can be made to vomit and hopefully the effects reduced.

Hopefully these images will help dog owners to identify the husks on the ground, as well as the fleshy fruit that most people associate with toxicity. Lauren Prior, lecturer at the School of Environmental and Animal Sciences at Unitec.

## Dog&Co

As an on-location photographer I have had the pleasure of going to some really stunning spots around Auckland for photo shoots with dogs and their families. From Muriwai to Riverhead Forest to the Auckland Domain and more. I get to explore and capture special photos in the most incredible places...most of which are right on our doorstep. It always feels like an adventure.



I recently had a shoot in Riverhead forest with a little pack of four dogs and their awesome mum. We met at our secret forest spot in the evening which meant that we had gorgeous golden light streaming through the trees, creating the most magical scene. There are remnants of huge fallen trees which lend themselves nicely as posing spots, not to mention the wispy long grass which makes it look a bit like a scene from a fairytale. The dogs were in heaven getting to explore such a magical place, and so was I. The photos turned out beautifully.

If you were to book a photo shoot for your dog or family, where would you go? Keep in mind that I also sell gift vouchers through my website just in case there is anyone in your life who you think would love some professional photos of their pets.

All of my pricing and session information is on my website. Let's create some magical memories for you to treasure forever!

[www.dogandco.nz](http://www.dogandco.nz).



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# Pets

## Kanika Park Cat Retreat

Why are cats the best pets?

**Cats are clean:** Cats spend much of their time grooming. They won't go outside and roll in yucky things.

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**Super easy to potty train:** Most kittens already know how to use the litter box.

**Protect your home from pests:** The mere presence of a cat is usually enough to keep rodents away. If not, your cat's predator instincts will kick in.

**Cost less than dogs:** Cat supplies and vet care are generally cheaper than dogs. Cats are usually perfectly happy with "toys" that don't cost anything, cardboard boxes, milk bottle rings etc.

**Ideal apartment pets:** You are more likely to be allowed a cat than a dog.

**Excellent companions:** Cats like to be where their favourite humans



are. Cats can be just as affectionate and loving as dogs but aren't as high maintenance. Kanika Park Cat Retreat - Phone 027 550 1406 or email [info@kanikapark.nz](mailto:info@kanikapark.nz).

## Dog safety

Covid was very messy for everyone and unfortunately, the charity 'Kids Safe with Dogs' could not afford to keep running. So as one of the founders of the charity we decided to purchase the IP and we are now looking at putting a package together for Early Childhood Education Centres.

We at the Dog Safe Workplace have been involved in educating our communities about dog safety since 2014.

Prior to COVID Kids Safe with Dogs instructors visited primary and intermediate schools to pass on this knowledge. Now, after talking to various parents and early childhood centres we realised that there is a large group of children that are missing out on learning how to stay safe when they interact with dogs.

Each year we see thousands of New Zealanders bitten and starting to teach children about dog safety from a very young age does make the difference. To solve this, we have made a few changes to the programme, and we will be offering a Centre Run package. This means that every early childhood education centre will be able to teach all the children in their care about "The Three Golden Rules" for interacting with dogs. There are lots of fun activities as well like models of each of the characters to make, colouring in, join the dots



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# Food & Beverage

## Herbal Shortbread recipe

Based on the shortbread recipe from the 1986 version of The Edmonds Cookbook, the possibilities for shortbread flavour creations are endless by adding herbs (fresh or dried), spices, nuts, seeds, peppermint candy canes or other boiled lollies.



Recipe ingredients: 225g butter, 125g icing sugar, 125g cornflour, 220g flour.

Variations: 1) Elderflower: 7g of dried and ground elderflowers. 2) Rose & Blackcurrant: 3g of dried and ground roses (calyxes removed) and 5g of blackcurrant powder. 3) Hibiscus & Orange: 6g dried and ground hibiscus flowers (hibiscus sabdariffa) and 1 teaspoon of fresh orange zest. 4) Spearmint: 3g of dried and ground spearmint. These are really lovely plain, but also very tasty sandwiched together with spearmint icing using fresh or dried spearmint or spearmint essence. 5) Pistachio & Lime: 35g chopped pistachio nuts and 1 teaspoon of fresh lime zest (these are great iced with white chocolate and sprinkled with fresh lime zest). 6) Gin Flavours: 6g Juniper berries dried and ground, 1g Angelica root dried and ground, 1 teaspoon fresh lemon zest. Roll in caster sugar before baking.

**METHOD:** Cream the butter and icing sugar until light and creamy. Add the cornflour, flour and any fresh or dried herbs, spices etc. and mix until well combined. Use your hands to shape the dough into a round or square sausage. Cut into 1cm slices or thinner if

desired. Roll or coat in any coatings if using, such as caster sugar, hundreds and thousands, crushed peppermint candy canes etc. or press patterns into them using a fork or other patterned tool.

Bake at 150C for approximately 25-30 minutes. Remove from oven and transfer to a wire rack to cool.

Shortbread can be iced or glazed or sandwiched together with flavoured butter cream icing or simply enjoyed plain. It makes a great accompaniment for desserts and can be used as the base for individual cheesecakes, served as an ice cream sandwich, or crumbled over a dish to add a crunchy component. The biscuits can be stored for a month or so at room temperature if not iced or frozen for up to six months.

All of the dried herbs listed in the above variations can be purchased via our online store: [www.NewZealandHerbalBrew.co.nz](http://www.NewZealandHerbalBrew.co.nz).

## Berba Harvest Festival

Berba Harvest Festival at Soljan's is back. We have brand new dates of Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th of March, fitting in perfectly with our Kumeu harvest and taking full advantage of the great weather. We'd love to have you come and celebrate the season with us. With wine tours hosted by Tony and Tyler Soljan, wine tastings, live music, grape stomping, and a fill-your-own session, what better way to ring in the harvest. A great day out for adults and kids alike - come, sip, enjoy! More information is available on our website and Facebook page.



## Jesters Westgate

Happy New Year from the team at Jesters Westgate. We would like to thank all of our amazing local customers for supporting us throughout 2021, we feel so lucky to be part of such a wonderful community. Wishing you all the best for 2022, we will be looking forward to sharing the joy with our scrumptious pies. Visit us at Westgate



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# Food & Beverage

Shopping Centre, arrange for one of our pie vans to stop in at your workplace, or get our pies delivered through your UberEats and Menulog apps.

We will also have stands at the Very Vintage Day Out Show on the 11th and 12th of February and the Kumeu Show on the 12th and 13th of March. Contact Tony on 021 510138 or email [amljesters@gmail.com](mailto:amljesters@gmail.com) for more information.

## Peko Peko

What a year it has been. Again, it was a roller coaster like 2020. It has definitely been a challenging and tough year for everyone with the lockdown and many restrictions. Thank you for your continuing support through this difficult time. We are really grateful to have huge support from the community. And we try to play our role in keeping the community safe. We hope it will be a good summer season and everyone can meet their loved ones if like us, some haven't done so for a long time. We are open as much as we can for any level with restrictions. Please check our Facebook and Instagram page for the latest updates. You can find us @pekopekonz and [www.pekopekojapanese.nz](http://www.pekopekojapanese.nz) Location 102c Hobsonville Rd, 09 416 1197.



## Westbrook Winery

Summer time at Westbrook Winery is simply stunning. The grapevines are covered in intensely-green leaves and the small-but-perfectly-formed bunches of grapes hint at the delicious wine to come. The vines and their precious cargo are safely tucked up under the netting so now we just need the sunshine to work its magic and ripen the fruit. Lots of sunshine equals a spectacular vintage. There are many great places to sit and enjoy the view of the vineyard, from beside the pond under a big brolly, or on a leafy terrace, open deck or covered patio. The Cellar Door has been busier than ever, and the team is enjoying hosting groups of all sizes for family gatherings, celebrations and



long-awaited catch-ups with friends. Speaking of celebrations, it's been a year since we released our delicious Blanc D' bubbly and it has added some sparkle to many a gathering. Planning a visit? Bookings are highly recommended for weekends and public holidays. Book online [www.westbrook.co.nz/book-now](http://www.westbrook.co.nz/book-now) or call the friendly Cellar Door team on 09 411 9924.

## Jenna-Maree Cakery

LOVE is in the air this month at Jenna-Maree Cakery.

Valentine's Day is one of our busiest days of the year creating original sweet selections for your valentine.

The Valentine's Day range is now live in the online store, with options to suit all, whether its indulgent, decadent, romantic or a cute little love bug - all available to collect on or before Monday 14 February.

All of our usual delicious treats will also be available instore or to order online, Cabinet cakes, cupcakes, macarons, slices, cookies, donuts, along with a variety of Gluten Free / Dairy Free & Vegan options.

Order online now (only 24hrs notice required) or pop instore anytime to discuss options for something more personalised, we look forward to seeing you. 102C Hobsonville Road, Hobsonville. Phone: 021 088 53559. [www.jennamareecakes.co.nz](http://www.jennamareecakes.co.nz).



## Summer at Allely Estate

Our gardens are looking amazing, which is perfect timing because summer is when events at Allely Estate really hit full swing. As well as gorgeous weddings each weekend, we also have other celebrations already booked...a 60th birthday lunch, a 21st birthday party, a 50th wedding anniversary and numerous Christmas parties. We love seeing what personal twists people put on their celebrations - how about a gourmet BBQ, a long lunch under the trees, a bouncy castle for the kids or a musician playing live for your guests? It's so rewarding for us to see our expansive gardens being used well, with people milling around outside socialising, sitting under the trees, or taking photos in front of our manicured hedging and fountain. If you're looking for somewhere special for your next celebration or team building event, please feel free to call us to look at our venue - we'd love to help. [www.allelyestate.co.nz](http://www.allelyestate.co.nz).

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# Health & Beauty

## New year, new school, new smile

Jump for joy! Get FREE dental care until your 18th birthday.

Don't wait for problems to develop, let us teach you how to take care of your oral health and keep your teeth strong and beautiful for life.

Visit your dentist for your annual examination, which includes X-rays, scale & polish, preventative health education and treatment.

As all students from Year 9 onward until their 18th birthday are FREE - why wouldn't you?

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. We will arrange everything to keep your children's teeth healthy and achieve a beautiful straight, white smile.



## Walk away

Everyone knows the benefits of exercise, if it ever gets done - especially in the summer heat.

Here are some tips on how to walk for your health and wellbeing:

1) Walk, don't run - as you get older, the impact of running is bad for the leg joints

2) Keep track of your number of steps using your phone or watch or Fitbit

Did you know that if you walked 10,000 steps a day at 0.5 m a step, you would have walked a marathon in 8.4 days?

3) Walk with a companion and talk - if you are able to carry out a



conversation while you walk - you won't be huffing or puffing or over-exerting

4) Wear well-padded sports shoes!

5) Keep well hydrated - bring a drink bottle and use it to exercise your arms while you walk

6) Be sun-safe - that means sunscreens, caps and light clothing

7) Choose a nice level path and enjoy the views (good example at Hobsonville Point)

8) Always tell your family where you are walking, especially if it's in the bush

Here's to you feeling better for 2022

Dr Frederick Goh - Royal Heights Doctors. Phone 09

www.rhdoctors.nz.

## Seasonal allergies linked to gut health

Strange but True - The health of your gut lining and the quality of the bacteria residing in it can make a big difference to allergies, even seasonal allergies like hay fever. Most people think that allergies are simply a reaction between pollens and your nose and eyes. But the frequency and severity of allergies has a lot to do with the baseline state of your immune system. And that is where gut health comes into play.



Knowing this link, we have the power to improve the quality of life of lots of people. After all, allergic rhinitis (hay fever) affects between 10 and 30% of the world's population. That's a lot of sneezes and watery eyes.

How do the bugs in your gut affect your nose?

Fun fact: 70% of your immune system resides in your gut. And it is your immune system that reacts to pollens which then results in allergies. Improving your gut bacteria influences your immune system which may reduce allergies. Studies have been done to test this. One study showed a reduction in allergic symptoms after treatment with a probiotic (good bacteria).

How do you optimise your gut bacteria?

I have developed a total gut restoration programme designed to restore gut function and the microbiome. Using state of the art Sporebiotics, specialised prebiotics, dairy-free immunoglobulins,

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# Health & Beauty

and state of the art flavobiotics, you can nourish and repair the lining of the intestines and restore the balance of bacteria.

Will Fixing My Gut Cure Allergies?

I wouldn't like to claim that optimising gut function will cure your allergies. But as the study showed, there can be significant improvements. This means that instead of having to take nasal sprays and antihistamines every day, you may only need them once a week. Or maybe only after an intense cuddling session with the cat.

If you are sick of seasonal allergies, come and talk to the health coaches at Massey Unichem Pharmacy about fixing the problem from its source with my total gut restoration programme. Martin Harris, Massey Unichem Pharmacy 396 Don Buck Road, Massey. 09 833 7235.

## The Covid effect on Distance Families

"My own sense is that people, in a way, don't change that much emotionally but our lives are run by what happens around us... which we've felt very much with Covid. We've all had to adapt to a very different way of life".

Jenny Agutter, (Actress - Sister Julienne from Call the Midwife)

Do you remember those merry-go-round, whirly gig playground fixtures that have all but disappeared from neighbourhood landscapes? Being a member of a Distance Family separated by oceans and time zones while navigating Covid-19 has been, and still is, a forced whirly gig ride with no chance of hopping off.

The pandemic has constrained the ability to feed, or 'top up' the part of our being that yearns for the occasional face to face, physical connection with family and all that our home country means. The intensity of this yearning has taken some by surprise.

As borders open and close, global Distance Families are not all in the same boat. Some have been able to reconnect more easily than others. New Zealand Distance Families are at the back of the queue.

"For us, it's not about wanting to jet set around the world for holidays: it's about wanting to cook a meal for my parents, sit down with a bottle of wine, and really find out how they are. It's about wanting to watch a film with my best friend and laugh until my ribs



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hurt. It's about living through some truly distressing times in history, and just wanting a hug from my mum."

George Fenwick, New Zealand Journalist abroad

Helen Ellis, M.A. is a researcher, author, anthropologist, veteran of Distance Grandparenting and Founder of DistanceFamilies.com. She is the author of Being a Distance Grandparent - a Book for ALL Generations, the first of a three part generational book series highlighting the 'how it is' of Distance Families. Her book is available online and at selected bookstores. Also available at the Hobsonville Point Pharmacy.

## Hobsonville Chiropractic Centre

Hobsonville Chiropractic Centre is celebrating 23 years of helping our awesome community and we would like to thank our fabulous client base for your support and understanding throughout 2020 and 2021, which have been interesting and at times difficult years. We would love to help you start your year off right, by offering Free Spinal checks to those who have not been to our clinic before to determine if Chiropractic is the best option for you, with the added option to book in an initial consultation with adjustment for 50% off our normal appointment price. Start your 2022 right by getting your spine checked to learn how we can help you to function at your best. 295 Hobsonville Road, Phone 09 416 7589.

## Meet our new chiropractor

We'd like to introduce the newest Chiropractor at Kumeu Chiropractic, Dr Mackenzie Looker.

Growing up, Mackenzie was keen to get involved in as many different



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# Health & Beauty

sports as her weekly schedule would allow, and it was a particularly bad basketball injury that made her hobble into a Chiropractors office to get her spine checked. She was amazed at how quickly her body healed after being adjusted and was back out on the court in no time.

With regular Chiropractic care she noticed a major improvement in her performance, recovery time, and overall wellbeing. At that point she was hooked and knew she wanted to join a profession where she was able to help people, while also getting to work with athletes and children.

So, with the support and encouragement from her family and Chiropractor, she completed her studies at the New Zealand College of Chiropractic.

She has spent the last two years practising in Wellington, and is constantly amazed (yet not surprised) at the changes people experience when under Chiropractic care. She is particularly passionate about helping whole families to thrive together, helping to create a much happier & healthier community.

When not in practice, she will most likely be hanging out with her family, attempting to have a green thumb or learning how to surf.

She is excited to come on board with the team at Kumeu Chiropractic and is loving the opportunity to be part of such a great community in the NorWest.

For an appointment, please call Kumeu Chiropractic. Phone 09 412 5536.

## Time to be strategic about 2022

Well, I think most of us were glad to see the back of 2020 and as for 2021, I think we would like to give it a long, hard kick come 31st December.

But what about 2022? Let's face it, new year's resolutions don't last because they are short term and superficial.

Businesses create strategic plans for the year so why don't we do that for our personal life too? My annual strategic plan now covers all aspects of my life and it works! This is how I create a personal strategic plan for my year:

1. Think of the areas of your life at the moment - health, money, work, social relationships, family, spirituality, personal development, environment, our purpose in life. How are you doing in each area? Give it a score out of 10. What would make it one point higher?



2. Choose 4 goals based on the areas that need some attention.

3. Then think about WHY you want to improve in each area? Why do you want to achieve this goal? What is in it for you? Go deep with this, this isn't about fitting in your jeans, this is about the real stuff - longevity, quality of life...

4. Focus on what you will gain rather than what you will lose. Write out the gains and stick them up on your wall. When I say no to THIS I am really saying yes to THAT! Focus on the pleasurable experiences and not the negative.

1) Focus on all the new learnings, friendships, experiences that you will gain rather than what hard work the change will be.

2) Focus on the possibilities - What could go right rather than what could go wrong?

3) Focus on solutions to any barriers. If money is a barrier to eating healthily then look at your spending habits - Are you wasting money on something you don't need? Consider buying in bulk. There are always solutions if your WHY is strong enough and you really want to make the change.

Whatever happens in 2022 - choose to make this as good a year for you as you can. If you want support with this then join my free Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/thewomenswellbeingcircle](http://www.facebook.com/groups/thewomenswellbeingcircle) where we will be doing some activities around this in the new year or if health is an area you want to improve then go to [www.sarahbrenchleynaturopathy.com/links/](http://www.sarahbrenchleynaturopathy.com/links/) to find out the ways to work with me. Wishing you a restful Christmas and a better 2022.

## Create a better love life

As it's the month of love here are some behaviours you can use to see positive change in your relationship.

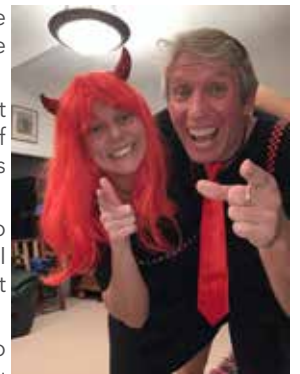
**Communication:** The most important thing for a successful relationship. If there are issues, talk about them. Voices are better than texts.


**Care:** Show your partner you care. Do something they enjoy, cook a meal, say I love you, be there more, or create an act of kindness.

**Consideration:** Go out of your way to make your partner feel loved. When you consider your partner, your actions speak louder than words.

**Compromise:** If you need to have it all your way, nothing will please you. Work toward compromise. You may not get all you want, but you might get what you need.

**Comfort:** Do all you can to give each other a comfortable life. Do





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# Health & Beauty

things you know make your partner feel comforted.

**Cherishing:** Feeling cherished, that you are the most important person in your partner's life, will keep you close. Value and validate each other.

**Cheerleading:** Life is easier when your partner lifts you up and tells you that you can reach your goals.

Need help with your relationship? Get in touch.

Lorraine Maguire - Rapid Transformational Therapist. [www.lorrainemaguire.com](http://www.lorrainemaguire.com).

## The biggest mistake with New Year resolutions

The biggest mistake people often make with New Year's resolutions is they don't have a big enough 'why', as in, why is this resolution important?

It is often said that you can overcome any 'how' if you have a big enough 'why'.

For example, if you wanted to lose 5kg, why is this important to you? What will you gain from achieving it? For example, will it enable you to play with your kids more? Or will it allow to get out of bed in the morning with less pain?

If you have struggled with New Year's resolutions in the past, this could be the reason.

If your resolution involves reducing neck or back pain then maybe chiropractic care can help. Feel free to call the clinic on 09 413 5312 and we can discuss it with you.

Elevate Chiropractic: [www.elevatechiropractic.co.nz](http://www.elevatechiropractic.co.nz).

## Summer sun care for your eyes

The sun supports life on our planet, but its life-giving rays also pose dangers. The sun's primary danger is in the form of ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Most people are aware of how harmful UV radiation is to their skin. However, many may not realise that UV radiation can harm your eyes and also affect your vision. What can I do? When outside, there are three key things



you can do to protect your eyes and that of your family.

1) Wear a hat - a broad-brimmed hat can reduce the amount of UV radiation reaching the eyes by 50%.

2) Wear UV protective sunglasses - make sure your sunglasses provide UV protection. The level of protection against UV radiation will depend on the type of lens. Be sure to ask for polarised lenses.

3) Apply sunscreen regularly when outdoors to protect the sensitive skin surrounding your eyes.

Phone: 09 831 0202 or visit [www.westopt.nz](http://www.westopt.nz).

## Kick off 2022 with a bright, white smile

Teeth whitening is an extremely popular dental treatment - people love the confidence boost that having a bright, white smile gives them. There are a number of reasons why your teeth become stained or discoloured over time, including drinks like coffee, tea, red wine and cola, and foods like curries and tomato sauce. Having poor oral hygiene is also a leading cause of discolouration. A tooth injury, grinding your teeth, aging and some types of medications can also contribute to causing the enamel to wear down and turn yellow.

The good news is that professional whitening treatments provide excellent results that are long-lasting and well worth the investment. Unlike many over-the-counter whitening products, professional whitening either in-clinic or with a take-home kit, actually strengthens your teeth. The results can last for at least one year and in some cases up to three years, making it a very cost-effective way to invest in your smile.

To find out more about our professional teeth whitening treatments, contact the friendly Fraser Dental team at 1 Wiseley Road, Hobsonville on 09 416 5050.



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# Area Columnists

## 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 us 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/cbearsecc](http://www.facebook.com/cbearsecc)

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

## Chris Penk, MP

Happy New Year! I hope 2022 is off to great start for you, wherever you find yourself. It's certainly been a well-deserved break for many. For those of you who have continued to provide essential services through the holiday break, I personally thank you for your service - we just couldn't be without you.

As your local MP, I want to highlight the importance of thorough policy making that ensures government legislation does not lead to unintended consequences for those living in our area.

Unfortunately, the recent traffic-light legislation was dashed through parliament at lightning speed late last year. And so it's proving a prime example of law-making that has caused more confusion than clarity, in some areas at least, and created as many problems as solutions.

In another example, my electorate office and I have recently been contacted by numerous constituents about the Automobile Association requiring that anyone who sits their practical driver licence test must be double vaccinated against Covid-19. To be clear: negative Covid-19 tests are not being accepted.

The unintended consequence of this could well be that unvaccinated teenagers end up driving on our roads without the appropriate licence, which of course only creates more risk for other road users.

One alternative approach could be that if it's good enough for unvaccinated individuals to board a flight with a negative Covid-19 test, then it's good enough for our young people to sit their driver licence test that way, perhaps while wearing a mask. That's got to be better having unlicensed youngsters risking their own lives and others' on our roads.



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# Area Columnists

As this example of unintended consequences from sketchy policy development shows, we simply cannot afford to rush our democratic law-making processes this year as we saw all too often in 2021.

I'm really looking forward to being back in Parliament soon to represent my favourite electorate, as your local MP, getting stuck into challenging the government on key issues. Until then, I will continue to be out and about in the electorate of course.

Please feel free to say hi and let me know your hopes and dreams for this year.

Cheers, Chris.

## Tough year forecast by Kumeu Community Action

By Guy Wishart, Chairman Kumeu Community Action (aka KHRRA)

As 2022 gets going, there are still many uncertainties that face us in the Northwest and throughout New Zealand.

The fight against a seriously harmful mutating corona virus continues, fighting misinformation about the virus and its control will continue, interest rates are set to rise, inflation is taking off, loans are being



scrutinised to a much greater level, the cost and supply of materials and imports is increasing at a dramatic rate with fuel prices possibly topping \$3 at the pump this year.

These are worldwide issues, but they do affect us in the Northwest as these pressures will likely have consequences on the delivery time of large scale infrastructural work scheduled to go ahead and the work we would like to see added to the NZ Transport Agency/ Auckland Transport schedule.

Along with this, an extreme housing shortage is motivating central government, left and right, to likely bypass parts of Auckland's Unitary Plan to run rough-shod over the deep frustration of the local community.

Residents have been screaming out for many years about the infrastructure we should have had five to 10 years ago. At this point, Waka Kotahi NZTA will work on the Huapai to Waimauku safety upgrades to SH16 this year, with the Brigham Creek to Kumeu section of SH16 not starting for two or three years.

The SH16 bypass (Alternate Route) is always 10 years away and has no funding. The updated Structure Plan for Huapai-Kumeu will not start till 2025, so not much is guiding the future development in the township at present, although the flooding of most of the lower areas of Kumeu and Huapai in late August 2021 will no doubt affect the thinking of planners.

The August flooding showed several glaring deficiencies in our community's ability to cope with large scale weather events. As a result, a plan is being developed that will allow a faster and more targeted response.



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# Area Columnists

In February, Auckland Council community resilience staff will be working with Rodney Local Board members and locals to start developing this plan.

Healthy Waters (Auckland Council) has done a report on the August 2021 flooding event and said that they will be reporting the findings to our community early in 2022. We will advise locals of the timing of this meeting when it is confirmed.

They have also said that they will implement a more robust early flood warning system.

If you would like to support Kumeu Community Action and become a member, visit our website and find the membership tab.

## Phelan's Local Board update

We're about to enter Auckland Council's Annual Budget consultation process and this brings the often passionate debate about what the level of rates should be set at.

Because this is an election year you can expect the debate to be slightly sharper and that means the sort of short, snappy, headline grabbing, where complex issues are condensed down to one line of text and difficult decisions are presented as simple binary ones.

Remember Boris's Brexit Bus? It proclaimed that the UK was sending 350 million pounds to the EU each week and this could be used to fund their health system, the NHS. This was a great political stunt. Unfortunately, it wasn't entirely correct or what has happened post Brexit.

We have a similar annual debate about rates. Some say they could be zero percent, some say they need to be higher. Many politicians make firm political promises about what level of rates they will or won't support and these promises are often made without knowing the financial position the council will be in when the decisions need to be made. This is against a backdrop of no ratepayer being happy to have annual increases for a variety or perfectly legitimate reasons. And so we find ourselves in a challenging situation. By now everyone

will know that council faces significant challenges with its budget due to Covid19. But in a way our current situation may be one that was going to happen anyway. For years council staff have quietly pointing out to politicians that there needs to be more money invested in repairs, maintenance and renewals of our existing assets from roads to community halls & libraries. We can only go on sweating assets for so long before we start seeing serious issues with some of our key infrastructure.

We also have been cutting spending to keep with the Covid19 driven constraints on our budgets and this is proposed to continue for the coming year. This means there are now less staff in key areas such as compliance, planning and consenting. The effects of this can now be seen and this is not a great outcome for our community. While council must constantly be looking to work more efficiently and giving value for money to ratepayers, increasingly elusive cost savings are a drop in the bucket to what's needed.

Add to this our rapidly growing population which is tipped to hit 2,000,000 residents in about eight years. We are not investing enough each year in new facilities, parks and transport infrastructure to meet the demand. Every time council has approved a Regional Land Transport Plan the list of unfunded projects has increased, it is now many billions of dollars.

Putting off spending in these areas of our core business comes at a cost. Not only are the assets we have slowly worsening, some need to be totally replaced and to meet the needs of more residents, likely expanded and improved. Construction costs have been steadily rising, and as they say, it's never cheaper to do this now, and that is very true for the sorts of capital investments we need to make in Auckland.

As seductive as the low or zero rates message may be, there will, inevitably, be a reckoning. Councillors and Local Boards have been warned for years about the risks and consequences of delaying the hard decisions around the required level rates and investment. We will all ultimately end up having to pay for this either with significant rates increases or through general taxes to government if they need to come in and bail out Council.

Phelan Pirrie, Rodney Local Board Chair. [phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

## Development concerns continue

On December 22 Allan McLean, who is on the Riverhead Ratepayers, sent me plans and details of the Riverhead development.

He advised that the information is public knowledge, so some of the information is known to the community, especially the NZ Transport Agency details on the road upgrading from Brigham Creek to



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# LANI ALLARD REAL ESTATE

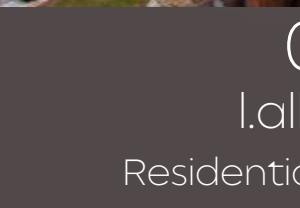
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# Area Columnists

Kumeu.

The zoning maps (included) are as per the Unitary Plan decisions. You will note that the zoning maps show the 'Future Urban' land is all west of the Riverhead-Coatesville Highway.

The landowners sheet shows the following developer orientated ownership pattern:

1. Matlin Group - about 10ha - it's planning a substantial 'Retirement/ AgeCare' facility south in the south/west of the block. Planning is underway. Burnette O'Connor a Warkworth planner, has confirmed they are 'well advanced' with a concept for the 10ha block.

2. Neil Housing has 13ha approximately adjacent to the Matlin block. This is about 1400 house sites.

3. Fletcher Residential has about 20ha, shown in dark green. The areas are split but it is expected that adjacent blocks will be acquired by Fletchers (estimate 1600 dwelling sites) to make their development viable.

After discussions with Burnette and Allan, the following is known:

(a) The three landowners are collectively working together to produce a 'structure plan' for the area to co-ordinate development.

(b) The costs are being borne by the landowners so they will produce a plan that potentially has a development bias towards the developers.

(c) O'Connor has confirmed that the Auckland Council forward planning staff are not involved and the council has no funds to support a 'structure plan'.

(d) Contact with the local community has been done but some of the developers have done so without council staff being on board.

(e) The 'Structure Plan' is well advanced with issues of traffic, sewerage disposal, roading layout density being looked at from the development point of view.

(f) A Scheme Change is to be done for the whole Riverhead area after the 'Structure Plan' is complete.

(g) There is a general indication that the 'Structure Plan' will take all of 2022 to complete.

(h) It is likely that the Scheme Change will follow and be used under the Labour Government fast track legislation where there is no community involvement.

From my perspective, now that the above is public knowledge, I have the following concerns:

1. The council planning staff are not being involved representing the wider public interest in the planning of the 'Future Urban' area for Riverhead.

2. If about 3000 dwellings are anticipated in Riverhead then the resulting increase in traffic on the Riverhead Road will have an adverse impact on the SH16 and motorway end. That work is of wider interest to the Kumeu and Taupaki areas.

3. The increase in housing density for Riverhead should be decided by and in conjunction with the local community.

4. There is, given the Labour Government declared intention to legislate so that there can be an increase in density in the 'Urban Zone' without community involvement, the possibility that the Minister can, and I believe will, approve a 'Structure Plan' without the need for a formal notification.

5. The current Riverhead changes are following a similar pattern to the Huapai Triangle and Oraha Road Special Housing Areas (SHA) under the National Government (Nick Smith). The result of that process resulted in limited SHA community involvement with no substantial change to the density or layout.

6. The Auckland Council is not leading the changes in the community by outlining its vision for the Riverhead area, that is its legal responsibility.

7. Managing "change" and handling growth need all of the community's input and acceptance.

Pete says this article is not necessarily the opinion of the Kumeu-Huapai Residents and Ratepayers Association (aka Kumeu Community Action).

Contact Pete Sinton on 021 637 772 or email petesinton@townplanner.co.nz for more information.

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## Sayers Says It

It's been a rough ride for Auckland.

As we regroup as a city in 2022 it is time to act responsibly.

Yet the Auckland Council will continue to swell into a bloated, cash sucking, employee-thickened, debt-laden beast.

Under the Goff administration the rates grab has accelerated at pace. Auckland Council is now harvesting over \$5.3 billion a year from Aucklanders. This is not demonstrating kindness post lockdown.

### TROUBLESOME TRENDS: AUCKLAND COUNCIL

|                        | L. Brown: 2010/11      | P. Goff: 2015/16 | P. Goff: 2021/22  |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Rates & fees collected | \$1.9 billion          | \$3.7 billion    | \$5.3 billion     |
| Total staff payroll    | \$443 million          | \$603 million    | \$963 million     |
| Total subsidies        | \$5 billion            | \$9 billion      | \$9 billion       |
| Debt per household     | \$1101                 | \$23,404         | \$23,811          |
| Interest payments      | \$700,000/day          | \$13 million/day | \$1.2 million/day |
| Staff numbers          | 10,857                 | 11,391           | 12,328            |
| Staff wearing \$1000+  | 1,885 (17.5% of staff) | 2,048 (17.7%)    | 3,157 (25.6%)     |

Source: Auckland Council Annual Report 2019, 2016, 2021. Reported by Dr W Sayers



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# Area Columnists

This intake increase has been achieved through a combination of general rate increases of over 16% per annum in the Kumeu/Huapai region, significantly increased council fees, a fuel tax, and the introduction of an extensive number of targeted rates.

Auckland Council is sitting on \$16 billion of total liabilities, including the council's borrowings along with its interest rate hedging, which is an increase in debt of \$5 billion under Goff.

Furthermore, despite all the spending, Auckland still has gridlock, unaffordable housing, empty 'ghost buses', and most roads no better than they were pre-amalgamation.

There are now more than 12,000 staff at the Auckland Council. Since the Super City was created the payroll bill has more than doubled and is running just shy of \$1 billion a year. One in every four staff members earns more than \$100,000 per annum. Middle management overkill in my book.

A scythe needs to be taken to peel the council back to core business. It has taken on too many projects and agendas that are actually the domain of central Government - from climate change, business development, to promoting various social agendas.

Such a cost cutting exercise must simultaneously not harm the customer's interactions with the council but instead greatly enhance them by driving for customer service excellence - including the removal of red tape, greater public transparency over spending, further empowering local boards, and an unwavering commitment for delivering core council services.

My instructions are that the Auckland Council's CEO, who is earning

\$630,000 and has an army of staff, should prepare an alternative budget for Aucklanders - reflecting the council better delivering on core council services and axing of the nice-to-haves. However, the mayor and the majority of councillors oppose me on this.

Instead, Mayor Phil Goff is proposing a 6% overall average rates increase for this year. This has to be openly challenged as a broken promise. Last year he guaranteed Aucklanders rates would not increase by more than 3.5%, following last year's 'one-off 5% emergency' rates increase.

Part of the 6% rates increase is a proposed 2.5% climate change tax. This is on top of the council's existing budget of \$152 million which is for tackling climate change. Surely this money should be directed into flood prevention measures in places like Kumeu and Parakai, the building of seawalls, or proactive council planning to alleviate stormwater runoff from all the new housing.

So let's call this new climate tax what it really is - a disguised rates hike designed to fill Auckland Council's financial hole after Covid.

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