

kumeu

Courier

FREE monthly community magazine for Kumeu & districts

EVENTS AND UPDATES
FLOOD OF OPINION



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

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October 2021



Greetings

No surprise this edition is heavy on flood related issues.

I'm impressed by the community's support and reaction during a time of crisis. But then that attitude has also been there in the Northwest during my 40 years or more of covering it, which is another reason I love the area.

Residents and businesses are getting on with the job, continuing the clean up during the Covid-19 alert level restrictions, sorting insurance, assessing and repairing damage, and generally coming to grips with everything under difficult circumstances.

I was impressed with the likes of New World Kumeu which was able to take the flooding on the chin and carry on meeting residents' needs, the staff ever polite and helpful.

Social media has been awash (excuse the pun) with pleas for help and offers of assistance.

An area I used to live in was again flooded, although I'd weathered a couple of flooding incidents before that. The house was high but the back section was a flood plain so I never kept anything down there I couldn't afford to lose. Even our chook house was on stilts.

A neighbour wasn't as lucky as their home was in the floodplain – built before restrictions were introduced.

However, new building in some at-risk areas has flummoxed a few, like long-time resident Derry Faulder whose views feature in this edition.

In earlier days when floods hit I'd visit areas like the bottom of Pinotage Place, lower parts of Matua Road, and Kiwitahi Road on the Woodhill Flats (I once photographed rally drivers forcing their way through floodwaters there).

But the latest incident was far worse, hitting many areas I've never seen floods in before.

Then, not long after, we had further short, sharp storms – lightning briefly blasting out our power and causing some electrical systems to malfunction.

If I had a hat I'd doff it to the many firefighters, power supply workers, rescuers and others who helped us all get through this.

And don't expect floods to be over yet – forecasts are that we can expect more storms at some stage.

Geoff Dobson, editor



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People & Places

Flood of opinion

Recent river flooding in the Kumeu District is nothing new and will happen again, according to lifetime resident Derry Faulder.

He experienced similar flood waters in the family farmhouse at Kumeu in March 1954.

Back then, that rainfall was a cloudburst of 150mm in five-and-a-half hours and was like a wall of water – the latest event was 190mm in 14 hours – much more of a gradual build-up, he says.

After that March 1954 cloudburst, locals all said that won't happen again, but only six months later it rained for three days and three nights, to create a second large flood in the same year, Derry adds.

"I recall walking along the Main Road in knee-high floodwaters to sleep the night in the Kumeu Hall (where Harcourts is now).

"The rail line below the then Huapai Hotel was suspended in mid-air as its supporting ground had been washed away.

Some commentary on that flood is in the history book of the district "Doing It Themselves: The Story of Kumeu, Huapai and Taupaki" by Deborah Dunsford, which Derry helped to compile, available from the Kumeu Library and on Amazon.

After the large floods in 1924 and 1926, the almost annual floods into Kumeu Township compelled the then Ministry of Works to use available Depression labour to build a stop bank on Faulder farmland south of the Kumeu River Bridge, still needed and clearly visible today.

"For over 50 years I've been a party, via several committees, to informing various district planners of historic flood levels," Derry

says.

"And as I sit in lockdown mode watching TV coverage of stricken families being bailed out of flooded urban houses that have been given permits to build on formerly rural flood prone land, I feel the efforts have been in vain.

"I also note with apprehension last year's planning announcement of an urban village of potentially thousands of residential homes on 109 hectares of farmland zoned rural on both banks of the Kumeu River at Taupaki, on a known floodplain!

"Who would insure them?"

You only have to stand on the hill on Riverhead Road looking south over Kumeu River Wines to see a broad valley stretching to the Waitakere Ranges, an area of Auckland's highest rainfall.

The large catchment all feeds into the Kumeu River, then on to the Kaipara Harbour – or underground through Riverhead to the Rangitopuni River and Upper Waitemata Harbour.

While the river has been straightened and cleared of willow trees and other obstacles, the fact remains climate change will bring more rain events and the resulting water has nowhere else to go, Derry believes.

"The good news is that the flood levels should never get any higher than recent high ponding levels, backed up by the Kaipara tide," he says.

"I applaud the praiseworthy services of wonderful volunteers of local Civil Defence, fire brigades and Muriwai lifeguards in these flood times – they may be unable to help the future residents of the Taupaki Village as they will be too busy in the Kumeu area."

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People & Places

"Of course," Derry exclaims.

"It's only a matter of time, and it could be next year!"

The clean-up continues

Residents and businesses are still counting the cost of the August 30-31 flooding after one of the biggest deluges the district has seen.



Nearly 200 homes are estimated to have suffered damage, along with a number of businesses - all during Auckland's COVID level 4 lockdown, although rules were waived for evacuations, emergency repairs, and the like.

Insurance claims are expected to run into the many millions of dollars, a large number yet to be finalised.

Many were cleaning up during the week of September 13-19 which coincidentally was Keep New Zealand Beautiful Clean Up Week.

Relief is being provided through various funds, including the NorthWest Country Business Association which had a dedicated 'Kumeu Flood Support Fund' for affected businesses and families, has also established a Givealittle page which has so far raised nearly \$7000.

The association has a \$1000 quick grant for each business affected by the floods, association chairman Mark Dennis saying one application had been approved.

He expects a few more but says communication has been difficult during the lockdown.

"The timing has been the big issue, the flood happening during the COVID lockdown so people couldn't go door-to-door, otherwise we would have had more people buying local which would help businesses recover."

The association's committee intends dispersing the funds "fairly" to applicants, including families, who are seeking assistance via the email manager@northwestcountry.co.nz from which further information is available.

The business group has also worked with council emergency response teams to distribute a range of cleaning products and tools donated by Mitre 10 Mega Westgate.

Hundreds of gloves, tarpaulins, mops, cleaning products and batteries have been distributed, while the association established a Flood Relief Facebook group to help those in need combine with those wanting to donate items.

Meanwhile, efforts are underway to see if some money can be released from the Auckland Mayoral Fund for the area.

The Auckland Council offers support or advice too, inviting anyone needing to talk to speak to a trained counsellor for free by texting for calling 1737.

Anyone affected by the flood and needing welfare advice and support from Auckland Emergency Management or the Auckland Council can call 0800 22 22 00.

The council did a rapid assessment of buildings during the lockdown involving a team of 90 building consenting and regulatory compliance staff.

It issued red placards to ban re-entry to about five homes due to significant structural compromise and safety concerns, meaning further investigation and remedial work is required before the property is safe to occupy.

About 47 residences and two businesses received a yellow placard restricting entry to part of the building, while more than 100 received a white placard indicating minor damage but otherwise sufficiently safe and inhabitable so that no further council follow up is needed.

Some 30 industrial or commercial buildings were inspected by the council's building inspectors - all in Kumeu with most on the Main Road and Shamrock Drive.

Three farms and a number of lifestyle blocks were also impacted by flooding, according to a council report on September 17.

Unconfirmed reports suggested minimal stock loss with most stock able to be moved to higher ground.

Slip damage reported in the area will require 10 new walls, work estimated to take five or six months and cost up to \$4 million.

Bethells Road was cut by a washout which was repaired by September 10 but only for local residents until alert levels change.

Specialist clearing was instigated on water courses with more than 178 sites identified, and a drone investigation done over four kilometres of the Kumeu River, backed by ground inspections of more than three kilometres, which identified 78 locations.

The government's Unite Against COVID-19 website also has some useful advice on how to look after mental wellbeing, keep children safe and reassured, accessing free resources and where to go for help.

Auckland Mayor Phil Goff says the last few weeks have been tough for Aucklanders.

He says the flooding added an extra level of stress to what was already a difficult time.

"My thoughts continue to be with those whose homes and businesses were affected."

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Auckland Council General Manager Building Consents Ian McCormick says the council's Regulatory Compliance team will be following up with owners who have received a yellow or red placard to provide support.

"It is likely that most of the damage suffered to these homes will not involve remedial work that requires building consent, but our teams will be on hand to let owners know what the next steps are.

"We know that this can be a challenging time, and we want to make it as easy as possible for those that have been affected.

"Anyone who has a question regarding the placards that have been placed on their property, or who needs further assistance can call the council's contact centre and they will be transferred directly to a designated team that has been set up to help them."

Damage is likely to include internal linings, floor coverings and soft furnishings, water risk to building electrical circuitry, particle board flooring damage, plus septic tank and septic system silt and water loading - requiring pump out.

More severe damage may include compromised foundations due to water erosion and slips near homes.

Some people are also concerned about access to building supplies and skilled tradespeople during the COVID restrictions.

West Coast Rangers under-19 girls are on the ball

The West Coast Rangers Football Club under-19 girls' team hopes to finish a COVID interrupted year in style - by travelling to Napier for a Labour Weekend (October 23-25) national under-19 tournament.

The team was selected in July and has been busy fundraising to cover the estimated \$15,000 cost, with New World Kumeu a big supporter - donating a three-minute grocery grab with three raffle prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$200.

Tickets are being sold through the West Coast Rangers Football Club, and through family, friends and the wider community. These were also planned to be available at New World Kumeu in the weekends but COVID levels have put paid to that.

Winners will be drawn on October 16 by the club at the Huapai Reserve then notified to participate in the grocery grab at a time



agreed by New World Kumeu before November 14.

"As we were about to start selling the tickets COVID hit and we all went into lockdown," says Mark Lyon who manages the under-19 girls' team with wife Tanya.

"So we went to plan B - sell raffle tickets to family and friends through email, social media, etc, using the poster we created in August and a commonly used message: 'Hi..... Hope you are well. The girls and I are doing some fundraising for the upcoming under-19s tournament in Napier. We are currently selling raffle tickets and I was wondering if you would be interested? 'I'm trying to sell 100 tickets so I'm asking everyone. Thank you'."

Mark says the uptake to support the girls and the team has been amazing, with many \$50 and \$100 ticket purchases, adding they still have more tickets to sell.

The team is being coached by Andy Dunn, Director of Football for WCRFC, the club newly formed following the amalgamation of the Norwest United and Waitakere City clubs.

WCRFC is in its inaugural year and has nearly 1300 members from four-years-old to senior football level.

Mark says he and Tanja volunteered to manage the under-19s team, which Andy jumped at as Tanja had managed the WCRFC women's premier team that won this year's Northern Region Football (NRF) Championship Senior Women competition, going through the championship unbeaten playing 13 games, winning 11 and drawing two, scoring 48 goals with only 11 against.

The under-19s include eight girls who played in women's team that won the NRF championship, with three of them making New Zealand football age group camps while three players also coached junior teams within the club this year.

"The under-19s are a very progressive team with a mix of youth and experience, and could bring back a trophy from Napier," Mark says.

"Napier City Rover's plays host to the biggest and most prestigious annual under-19 youth tournament in New Zealand," he explains.

"Some of New Zealand's top young football stars have descended on Park Island for more than three decades to compete for the top youth prize.

"Every Labour weekend sees more than 130 games of exciting



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People & Places

football being played at arguably the best footballing venue in the country with some of the biggest clubs from all over New Zealand competing for the trophies. Over the years many young players have played in the tournament and gone on to gain international status."

Mark says he and Andy approached New World Kumeu as they all share similar values and visions; especially in supporting local, the community and having a committed journey towards a more sustainable future.

During the COVID restrictions, under-19 team members offered their support to New World Kumeu which had staff self-isolating while needing to meet increased demand and manage separate work bubbles.

Together with New World Kumeu owners Diana and Wade Brown, the team developed a support plan, with seven girls plus Mark available to help stack shelves to ensure plenty of supplies for shoppers.

Team members were at New World Kumeu by 5am to stack shelves for about three hours before the supermarket opened for the day.

"The happy, friendly culture at New World Kumeu is a credit to Diana and Wade who both roll up their sleeves and are always there to help stack shelves too," Mark says.

"A special thanks to Ross, Rohit, John, Riley and Debbie who are so encouraging and supportive of everyone, you have made our time enjoyable and rewarding."

New World Kumeu will support the WCRFC with a three-year sponsorship agreement and the supermarket has taken on four of the under-19 girls for casual work in future.

Meanwhile, team members have been training as best they can under the alert level restrictions ready for full training at Level 2 and - hopefully - the Napier tournament.

Anyone interested in supporting the team's raffle should email dof@westcoastrangers.co.nz and one of the girls will be in contact to provide more details.

Waimauku School cans October centenary event

Waimauku School's Centennial Reunion on Saturday October 30 has been cancelled due to continuing uncertainty around COVID-19.

The reunion was planned in conjunction with this year's special Agriculture Day in recognition of the Calf Club and Agriculture Days held at Waimauku School since the early 1950s.

The school's history and memorabilia were also to be displayed.

Students and staff earlier celebrated the school's 100th birthday on Friday July 2 (officially July 4) with a full day of games, class discos, party hats and cake for the entire school, including its 756 students.

Every student, teacher, office and support staff member created a 100th birthday hat for the occasion.

At the special full-school centennial assembly, former student and long-time Waimauku resident Bev Speedy shared her memories of Waimauku School from when she attended.

It was evident to everyone how times have certainly changed, in particular the school grounds which Bev said were small, unlike today and - which was hilarious to all the current students - the toilet block was outside!

Free time was spent playing 'hoola-hoop', basketball and tennis (for the girls), while the boys played rugby, with bullrush and rounders also very popular.

Bev added there were only three classrooms and 100 children when she started school, and an annual highlight for the students and their families was the school picnic held at Redwood Park in Swanson.

The school will continue to grow when it welcomes more new entrants. That's incredible growth for a school that started with one classroom and 14 students on Monday July 4, 1921.

To celebrate the centenary the school has installed a series of painted batons along a fence line on the school's back field.

The art installation is a series of 100 painted batons representing every year from 1921 that Waimauku School has been open.

It was undertaken by Waimauku School teacher Helen O'Connor as a class project with each class painting a few batons.

Celebrations for the school's centenary were rescheduled from March following COVID-19 restrictions and level changes.

New look at unsealed roads

A new way of dealing with Auckland's 800km of unsealed roads - mostly in Rodney - is being considered by Auckland Transport (AT).

The new approach will see AT working with local boards to prioritise work on roads.

Auckland Mayor Phil Goff says the new approach will increase the number of unsealed roads that can be improved or upgraded.

"Around 80% of Auckland's gravel roads are in the Rodney area, with the rest in Franklin, Great Barrier Island, Waiheke Island, and Waitakere," he says.



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"Working with local boards will enable Auckland Transport to target upgrades to the specific condition of roads needing an upgrade, which will help us get better value for money from our roading upgrades and improve more roads across the region."

Rodney councillor Greg Sayers says the change will help with the longstanding issue of unsealed roads in his area.

"This is mainly a Rodney problem and we need to do something to deal with it as this area continues to grow.

"Sealing just one road every second year simply wasn't good enough. We need to be doing more for rural road users, including sealing, rebuilding the base of over graded roads and getting the water tables right."

Rodney Local Board deputy chairperson Beth Houlbrooke welcomes the change.

"Unsealed roads are a constant issue in our rural community with dust, mud, run-off and potholes," she says.

"We strongly support AT finding a better way to look at these problems so that we can deliver more fixes to more roads."

AT chief engineer Murray Burt says around 10% of the region's roads are gravel.

"The unsealed road improvement budget is now available for a wider range of targeted solutions to address the specific problems identified on each road, so that a greater number of roads can have improvement work completed on them," he explains.

"There is a limited pool of money for sealing roads and we are looking at ways of getting better value. In the past the sealing programme has used a narrow prioritisation approach.

"The new approach considers a wide range of criteria to prioritise unsealed roads for seal extension or other improvements, including strategic importance, safety, public health, natural environment, and climate change.

"We are working with the affected local boards and we've come up with the plan to assess and identify the road issues and then apply an appropriate treatment for a particular road."

The new approach allows for a broad range of treatment options, rather than defaulting to a full seal, including pavement strengthening, road widening, safety improvements, pothole, corrugation and drainage improvements; dust mitigation, and seal extension.

St Martin's Waimauku

Plans are underway for a special public commemorative church

service at St Martin's Church in Waimauku to mark three things: Remembrance Day (Armistice Day), the church building's 100th birthday, and its planned re-opening.

The service will be on Saturday November 13 at 10am, led by a church minister and the Waimauku RSA, with support from the Waimauku Lions.

Armistice Day marked the end of World War I in 1918, introduced 100 years ago on November 11. The commemoration of this at St Martin's will be two days later on the nearest Saturday.

St Martin's, which has a heritage designation, was built for use as a local Waimauku church, and also as a soldiers' memorial - honouring the huge sacrifices of so many in the Great War.

The property was previously vested with the Anglican Church but was later sold to the Presbyterian Church.

Church services there stopped a few years ago.

But it is now envisaged that St Martin's will be reopened and have a fresh beginning with a new church meeting there. This will likely be under the oversight of Massey-Riverhead Presbyterian Church, in partnership with local people.

Rev Dr Stuart Lange of Massey-Riverhead Church says it is recognised that St Martin's is a significant part of the Waimauku community's history.

With all the growth in the Waimauku township and surrounding area it is important for the church to re-establish a strong presence, he explains.

A professional appraisal has indicated that the old building is sound, though it does need significant work. Exploration is also being undertaken about placing a new church hall on part of the property to increase its usefulness to the community.

Grahame Edmonds of Waimauku Lions says the club and the Waimauku RSA are happy to assist with the Armistice Day event at St Martin's Church. It will be known as Remembrance Day, with Lions helping in the property's clean up and event planning prior.

Remembrance Day was first observed in 1919 throughout the British Commonwealth - originally called Armistice Day to commemorate the armistice agreement that ended World War 1 on Monday, November 11, 1918, at 11am - on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. A two-minute silence is often observed at that time to commemorate those who died in the war. New Zealand recalls war fallen and survivors on Anzac Day, April 25, each year. Remembrance Day was first observed in 1919 throughout the British Commonwealth. It was originally called "dedication. The foundation stone of St Martin's Church was laid on August 17, 1921, by then Bishop of Auckland Alfred Walter. It's recorded as the first war memorial church built in the Auckland diocese and was earlier referred to as St Martin's Soldiers' Memorial Church.

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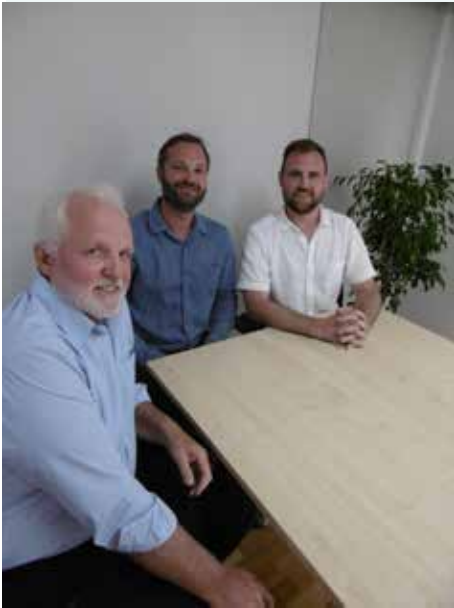
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Speerstra Hart is a property valuation business based in Northwest Auckland.

"We have a passion for people and our clients benefit from in-depth local market knowledge, robust analysis and over 50 years combined experience," says director Daniel Speerstra, pictured right with fellow director Ed Hart and senior consultant Mike Bristow at left.

"Our valuation services are bank approved and we provide bespoke reporting to assist you in unlocking your opportunities," says Daniel who covers the local area with experience in Kumeu and surrounding areas since 2013.

"Our background incorporates experience at both the corporate and small business level, across a broad range of property classes."

Speerstra Hart's services include:

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The Beer Spot turns it on



The Beer Spot - Huapai has decided not to enter the Northwest Country Business Awards this year.

After winning the 'Best Family, Informal Dining and Takeaway' category two years in a row, the business reckons it's time to share the love, just as the local community has with them for the last two-and-a-half years.

"The support from our friends, and the beautiful families in the area, has been greatly appreciated, especially over the past 12 months," The Beer Spot co-founder and co-owner Jason Payn says.

"We're so grateful to see folk walk through the doors every day. It's a real privilege to show people the way to great beer, and to be accepted by this wonderful, growing, community is really something."

The Beer Spot is the home of the 'Tap 40' - 40 ever-changing taps of handmade beer

sourced from all around New Zealand.

"We may not have the best-known beer staples, but we'll find you something delicious, even if it takes a few cheeky samples to get you over the line," Jason says. "We're here to take the fear out of beer because, generally speaking, our greatest fear is of the unknown. We want to show people how amazing great New Zealand beer is."

The welcoming The Beer Spot - Huapai staff are more than happy to guide you through the offerings, which are many and varied.

"There's always something we can start you on," Jason says.

"A crisp, clean lager or Pilsner, then, once you're a bit more familiar, let us show you a delicious, balanced Pale Ale, or something warming like a chocolate, or Imperial Stout.

"The most important thing is to take your time, enjoy the experience, and keep coming back to see what's new."

The Beer Spot - Huapai also offers wines, spirits and mixers, and a strong range of non-alcoholic options.

Each week, there's a different food truck providing restaurant quality eats... 'We love that.' Jason says.

"It's rare to go to a place that has a different menu each week."

Across The Beer Spot group, five food trucks have transitioned from mobile operations to bricks and mortar - the most recent being 'Hapunan', offering high quality Filipino food just across the road now.

"It's a thrill for us to be a part of these businesses successes," Jason says. "Of course, it means we miss out on a great food truck, but plenty more are coming online to fill the gaps. "The quality of the offering has improved out of sight over the past five years."

A Quiz Night is held every Tuesday and bookings are essential.

"It's a no-screens quiz, which means the banter between the tables is hilarious," Jason adds.

You can grab tickets to 'The Beer Festival powered by The Beer Spot 2021', November 26 and 27, at 'The Cloud' in Auckland City.

The Beer Spot - Huapai is open seven days from midday on Main Road, Huapai.

For details on all The Beer Spot sites, get to thebeerspot.co.nz and sign up for the newsletter.

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Safer Communities



Welcome to Spring!

It's a good idea to talk to your children about fire safety, how to avoid starting fires, and what to do if there's a fire in your home.

Children as young as five can learn what to do in a fire emergency. This is lifelong learning that they will take into adulthood. Children also need to understand that fire can be dangerous.

Talking about what to do in an emergency

If a fire starts in a room, a person has about 3 minutes to get out before the room is engulfed in smoke or flames that

will kill them.

Teach your children to get out and stay out if there's a fire. If they see a fire or hear a smoke alarm, tell them to:

- Get out of the house FAST (using your escape plan)
- Shout "Fire Fire Fire!"
- Go to the safe meeting place that you have practiced going to with your children

Talking about fire

When talking about fire, children might ask about people dying in fire emergencies. You should provide truthful answers without making the child afraid.

You can tell your child about firefighters and how they rescue people in fires. However, sometimes firefighters might not arrive in time to rescue everyone. A fire can also be burning so fiercely that it's not possible to rescue people.

That's why it's so important to have smoke alarms and an escape plan to



know what to do in a fire. Remember, get out, stay out.

With the start of daylight savings don't forget to test your smoke alarm by pressing the button to sound the alarm. Remember you can't smell smoke while you are asleep.

Keep safe,



Denis Cooper

Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Waitakere Fire Brigade

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Community News

Kaukapakapa Village Market

Sunday 17 October 8.30am to 1pm. Well known for the relaxed atmosphere and friendly people this market is an excellent choice for a Sunday morning excursion. There's live music and you'll find a tempting selection of stalls selling fresh local produce, artisan food and preserves, handmade crafts, soaps, jewellery, gifts, second hand and collectibles and much more. Get ready for your Labour Weekend planting with locally grown plants, herbs, vegetable seedlings and potted colour. For more information contact Sarah 0274 831542 or email sarah1@maxnet.co.nz.



Petals for Parliament

Welcome and we hope everyone is safe and well. We also hope that other small businesses like us, that were locked out in Covid-19 Level 4 are back to trading as well as being on the mend from the flooding in Kumeu. It was and is a very daunting time for many people in lots of different ways, and it's a time of change and uncertainty as we trade into the future. One thing for sure is we must be strong and courageous to run a small business in these very strange times. We also must come together and support each other where we can. @ Kumeu



Flower Farm we have been lucky to have a voice for us lobbying the government to allow flower farmers to trade safely under Covid-19 at all alert levels.

Petals for parliament is an application from cut flower growers in New Zealand seeking an exemption from the Covid-19 Public health response order at all Alert Levels, to sell and distribute our perishable capital stock. No revenue at Alert-Level 4 seriously disrupts our ability to cover essential production costs, (which is especially high over the winter period), and the viability of our cut flower business. As an industry we operate on low margins, typically 10-20%, meaning that many flower farmers, especially seasonal flower farmers, don't hold large cash reserves to cover sudden or prolonged loss of revenues.

Cut flowers under Alert Level 4 rules must be destroyed and with them the capital value. The destruction of this capital stock without any means of recovering costs of production is threatening the viability of New Zealand's flower producers now, and in the future. You can help support our Petals for Parliament application by sharing your flower photos and stories on Social media with hashtag #petalsforparliament and buying locally grown farm fresh flowers.

We look forward to welcoming everyone very soon for our World Famous U-Pick. Please book online https://www.flowerfarm.co.nz/page/events_Upick.html or give us a call on 09 4127606.

Good sports

Kaukapakapa Historic Library - Sunday 17th October, 9am to 1pm.

Long before the days of virtual reality there were actual families and communities connected by organised recreation. In a time when travelling any great distance was difficult, there was a need to make your own fun closer to home, and make fun they did. Gatherings took place which were as much about socialising as exercising and competing - a way to keep up with the news of village life.



In 1885 the Kaukapakapa Jockey Club was formed and the first race meeting held which was attended by over 300 people. School swimming was a 'boys only' affair, which involved stripping off behind a hawthorn hedge, swimming naked and then running up and down the paddock to dry off. That's until the girls wanted in... Next came a tennis club with courts marked out at the school, the Kaukapakapa Rifle Club in 1914, the Bowling Green in 1929 and the school pool in 1953. Add to this rugby, croquet, horse riding,

Kumeu



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Community News

hockey and cricket to name a few, and you can conjure up an image of a thriving active community.

Come along to the library and view old photos and more from Kaukapakapa's sporting past. If you have any old photos or trophies bring them along, we love to take copies to add to the Library's archives. For more info contact Megan, 021 959 017, threehorses@xtra.co.nz. Library open in conjunction with the Kaukapakapa Village Market.

Photo from the Dye family collection.

The Mobile Car Specialists

We are 4 weeks into lockdown at time of writing... business has come to a grinding halt. We, like every other business who has been taken out at the knees, are chomping to get back to work in order to keep our businesses alive and the NZ economy going. For if that fails... we ALL lose.



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Kumeu Library

Our fantastic free services can be accessed online from anywhere, any time of the day or night - there's no need to actually visit your library in person to make use of what we have to offer. All you need to get started is a library card - and membership is free for Auckland residents. Our eMembership category means you can join the library online right now - all you need is a valid email address. This membership gives you instant access to all our eCollections: eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers - free of charge. Please note that this category of membership does not enable you to check physical items out from the library - you'll need to bring your barcode number and photo identification to the library for this.

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Are you looking for a top agent who can get the job done? Read this review...

When it came to choosing an agent I approached it as I would any other project - get the right people on the team and you end up with excellent results!

I interviewed many agents over a period of time who wanted me to list with them, but Graham was the only one who stood out. Graham put in consistent effort and communication upfront without applying any undue pressure. This was one of the key reasons that made my decision to choose him easier, as it was a very good indication of how he would work with potential buyers. On top of that, he has a wealth of real estate sales & marketing knowledge & experience, and in my opinion, he provides a lot more than the average agent.

Working together we came up with a shared vision, a solid plan, and a strong marketing drive. I was impressed with Grahams skills but most importantly I appreciated how he listened to my opinions and we made decisions as a team, this gave me confidence and built my trust, which reinforced I'd made the right choice.

Once we were ready to proceed Graham swung into action and it was all go. Graham was always alongside me, communication was regular, easy, and we had many laughs along the way. Graham has lots of energy and enthusiasm which is infectious and he is way too humble to admit that under his lightheartedness is a very savvy & smart agent.

Overall it was a great shared journey and we got an outstanding result, far more than any other agent had been willing to commit to which is a testament to Graham's ability to deliver.

I have no hesitation in recommending Graham as the agent you should choose.

I am so grateful to him for what he did for my mother and I as it has set us up for the next phase of our lives - thank you Graham! **Deborah**



Graham McIntyre

027 632 0421 | 0800 900 700

graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com

Community News

on a huge range of subjects, all available to download anywhere, anytime. All you need to do is download the App to your device, enter your library membership details, and start downloading! You can limit your searches in the app to items that are available now, and also browse the highlighted lists on relevant themes.

You can also get your magazine fix remotely with our eMagazine collection. We have over 600 titles that you can access immediately. And you can browse over 2,200 newspapers from 100 countries in your choice of 56 languages with our eNewspaper collection.

Our online streaming service, Beamafilm, enables you to watch New Zealand and international movies, indie films and documentaries for free.

You can also listen to Auckland Libraries' podcasts. Our podcasts include recordings of events, interviews with experts and commentary on our collections - you're sure to find something to interest you here.

You can sign up for eMembership of Auckland Libraries on our website - www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz.

Keep up to date with all Kumeu Library's news and events by following us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/kumeulibrary

Learning through lockdown

Lockdown hasn't stopped our tamariki from experiencing a wide range of meaningful learning opportunities from home.

We have zoom meetings where we get up to all sorts of fun experiences. We read stories which foster imagination, as tamariki create the stories in their heads. Creativity



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increases, allowing them to be open to new ideas. Stories nurture development of communication skills through listening, as well as literacy skills through vocabulary, as they pick up new words. Stories foster different virtues within tamariki as they have meaningful messages and valuable lessons within them.

Tamariki had 'News Time', where they chose something to share with their friends. Fostering communication skills, as they effectively communicate their ideas and feelings, as well as listening to their peers. Leadership skills are nurtured as tamariki take charge of their time and gain confidence in speaking in front of others.

We had a disco, where tamariki dressed up and contributed their favourite songs. This fosters co-ordination, balance, body awareness, self-expression, literacy skills, listening skills and overall health and wellbeing.

There was a 'Wacky Wednesday', where tamariki created their own wacky hats. Fostering creativity, imagination, fine motor skills, communication, confidence to be themselves and express their thoughts and feelings.

Therefore, our tamariki have had a variety of learning experiences available to them from home. All these experiences nurture focus and concentration which are essential skills for their future.

(Tamariki participating in our rainbow challenge - finding as many colours of the rainbow within their environment.)

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

Calling all Kaipara ki Mahurangi and Whangaparaoa youth!

The 10th Youth Parliament was recently announced, and I'm looking for someone to be my Youth MP. Are you involved in your community and keen to push yourself with a new challenge?

As a Youth MP, you will get a unique opportunity to learn about, and take part in, our democratic process, and talk about the issues that matter to you and your community. It's a great opportunity, so make





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Community News

sure to apply by the 29th of October.

Having so many young voices at Parliament and in the debating chamber is very special, so don't pass up the opportunity for that to be YOU.

You can learn more about Youth Parliament here: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/get-involved/youth-parliament-2022/>

Keith Robinson tribute

A pillar of the Northwest community and stalwart of the Kumeu Rugby Club, Keith Robinson has died aged 86.

"For many of us we cannot think of the club without him," the Kumeu Rugby Club says in a Facebook post which brought hundreds of comments and tributes.



A life member of the club, Keith could often be found there helping out, including presenting trophies at the recent senior prizegiving.

He was named North Harbour Rugby Volunteer of the Year in 2002 and had at one time been president of the Helensville Bowling Club and served as a volunteer firefighter in Helensville and Kumeu for a total 24 years.

That included five years at Kumeu fire from 1984 to 1989, and

he participated in the volunteer fire brigade's 50th anniversary celebrations in October last year.

A butcher by trade, Keith had been working with Andy Cummings at River Valley Meats and Kumeu Meat Processors, Andy sharing a photo of Keith with All Black prop Ofa Tu'ungafasi under the heading "two legends".

Keith had a Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for community services and Andy lauded Keith's community work at the North Harbour Business Awards last year.

He and wife Lynn had been married 60 years, the couple having three children, eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Keith was renowned for his sense of humour and was frequently out and about in the local community.

The national COVID level 4 lockdown prevented many from commemorating Keith's life, but the rugby club plans an event in his honour once circumstances allow.

Kumeu Childcare

Kia ora we are celebrating Maori language week 2021 by sharing some of our favourite dispositions with whanau during lockdown. Kia kaha NZ, we send our thanks to all essential workers and our community for helping to keep us safe. We look forward to opening our doors again soon. Nga mihi Kumeu Childcare.



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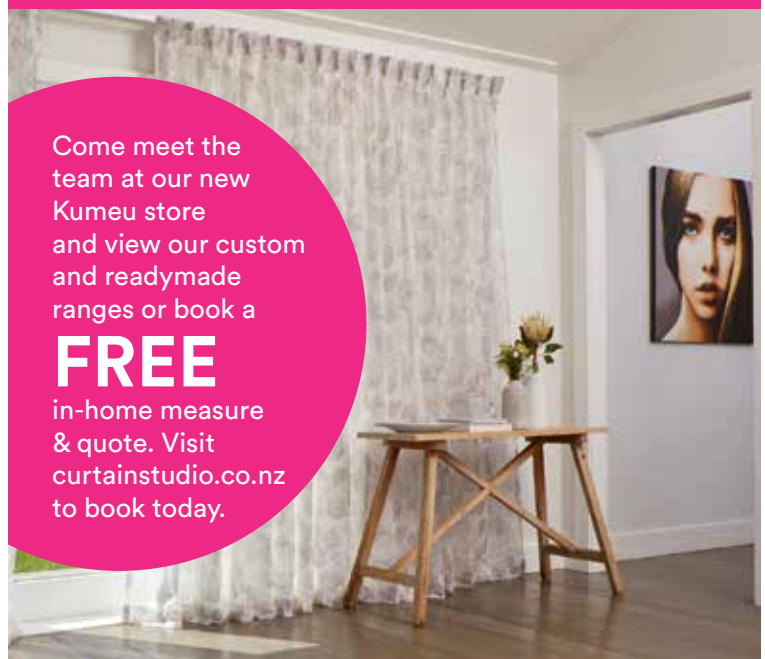


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In Brief

Tennis for kids this summer

Now that the weather is improving with summer just around the corner, have you thought about tennis as a sport for your children? Waimauku Tennis Club situated on State Highway 16 (opposite the Caltex station) offers comprehensive programmes to suit every age and ability. We have small group lessons for ages 5 to 12. We use softer balls and smaller equipment so little kids get the hang of tennis at a faster pace. We also have membership offers of social tennis where larger groups can learn the basics in a fun way and have the opportunity of the use of the courts over a whole year. For those who like to compete we have junior interclub memberships where tennis teams play other tennis clubs weekly, along with group training and yearly use of courts. Eden our coach is happy to discuss your child's needs whether they want a social, fun activity or want to be the next Roger Federer. Contact Eden on 021 043 9383.



Waimauku Lions' new community directory

Waimauku Lions are appealing to Northwest people to provide their mobile numbers for their new community directory due out later this year.

About 8000 copies are printed for distribution in the Riverhead, Taupaki, Huapai, Kumeu, Waimauku, Muriwai Beach areas, also to

Kiwitahi Road in Woodhill near Helensville.

"We've been doing the community directory more than 20 years now," says Grahame Edmonds of Waimauku Lions.

"But fewer people each year use traditional landline phones, most just relying on mobile phones.

"So please let us know by email (directory@waimauku-lions.club), text (021 084 37890) or by scanning our QR code and including your name. We will then call to confirm."

Grahame says last year's community directory was late out because of COVID and a similar fate may befall it this year.

"We're hoping to put it out in October - but it could be later."

Advertisers or sponsors are also sought for the latest directory which is distributed by Lions members to letterboxes around the area.

Flippin' Fun gears up

Looking for a more stimulating environment for your group function or party? Flippin'Fun's huge mezzanine area is an ideal separate space featuring a large screen TV, ample seating and exclusive toilet facilities makes it perfect for large group functions. We're busy taking bookings for end of school year sessions and Christmas parties so for an event your people will talk about for a long time afterwards, contact us now.



Of course the October school holidays are up first and it's sure to be busy with children enjoying fun on the tramps and getting a good dose of energy burning exercise. Make sure you check our booking page for session space availability.

It's not just in normal bounce sessions when you can experience the benefits of trampolining. We have a range of skills and activity classes to suit you and your schedule. Check these out for Term 4 (kindly note, we suspend classes during the holidays)

Flip Fit Classes - with summer on the way it's time to start thinking about getting back that beach bod.

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

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

Little Flippers - a super fun toddler session for the 5 & unders - no older kids allowed.

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In Brief

Need a cool gift idea for your bounce crazy child? We have Christmas Gift 10 entry concession cards available in store for only \$100.

For pricing and times be sure to check www.flippinfun.co.nz or call us on 09 833 6880. Also follow our Facebook page for summer specials.

Transform Your Life

We are living in a time of constant change, just when we feel we have seen the end of lockdowns and community cases of Covid-19, then we are bombarded with the Delta variant. This has been the biggest change we have experienced in many months, not only are we affected by outside changes, we experience changes in our own personal lives. Some of us may have lost a job, suffered financial loss, or even got Covid-19. However, change can be a positive experience such as job promotion, lotto win, getting married, new house, having a baby or overcoming a medical condition or passing an exam.

It is possible for us to make changes in our lives and transform ourselves, despite any negative events happening around us.

At Astramana™ Healing Services we have a philosophy that, "Together we can bring Growth and Change"!

By working together we can help you transform any negative beliefs you may have about changes and turn them around to be a positive transformation. Just as a caterpillar transforms itself into a beautiful butterfly, we can make changes in our lives that will transform us, to have fulfilled and meaningful life, something that we all desire and deserve.

Are you ready to take control and transform your life? Changes that you may want to make to transform your life could be: weight loss, letting go of a fear or a phobia, coping with an illness, stop smoking, talking about the passing of a loved one, coping with stress or even letting go of the past, whatever change you want to make, together



we can support and motivate you to transform into the new you, the beautiful butterfly!

Astramana™ Healing Services, was founded by International Hypnotist, Reiki Master-Teacher, clairvoyant & tarot reader Jason Mackenzie. Visit our website: www.astramana.com to see what we offer and how we can help you transform yourself, or email us at astramana@gmail.com with any questions or make an appointment or to attend a workshop. We look forward to working together with you, so you can see the positive in change and make your transformation.

What are accounts payable?

If your business purchases goods/services and doesn't pay for them upfront, you will receive an invoice from the supplier. These are your accounts payable, i.e. the bills you owe. A payable is an invoice you need to pay: a short-term liability.

Why do you need to manage your accounts payable? Well, it's about having better control and management of your business' finances, especially your cash flow and profitability. Accounts payable aging reports are easily generated by most accounting software packages. They show you who you owe, the amounts due, and how old the invoice is. You can also set up a simple spreadsheet to track this data.

Tracking bills and monitoring your accounts payable aging helps you to:

1. Maintain good supplier relationships and credit history by paying bills on time
2. Prioritise to avoid penalties and interest
3. Take advantage of opportunities like early payment discounts
4. Take action if you know you can't make a payment deadline, such as asking to pay in instalments
5. Budget for bigger purchases

For all of your accounting needs please contact the friendly UHY Haines Norton Kumeu team on 09 412 9853 or email kumeu@uhyhn.co.nz

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Property

Property market report

Activity levels and prices impacted by lockdown

Median prices for residential property across New Zealand increased by 25.5% from \$677,400 in August 2020 to a record \$850,000 in August 2021, according to the latest data from the Real Estate Institute of New Zealand (REINZ). Auckland again underpinned the strength in the New Zealand median, hitting a record median house price in August of \$1,200,000 - up 26.4% from \$949,500 in August 2020. This growth was reflected throughout the region with 5 out of 7 districts reaching new record median prices - Rodney District (\$1,280,000), Manukau City (\$1,157,000), Waitakere City (\$1,120,000), Franklin District (\$950,000) and Papakura District (\$940,000).

House prices have once again risen across the country, with every region seeing a year-on-year increase from August 2020. This latest lockdown has not dampened demand for, or confidence in, the housing market as we saw in early 2020.

Auckland has seen another record median price, the ninth record in the last 12 months - this growth is spread across the region with five of the seven districts reaching new record median prices in August.

While value is up, volume is down, with the number of residential properties sold in August across New Zealand decreased by 26.5% when

compared to the same time last year (from 7,828 to 5,753) - this was the fewest properties sold for an August month since 2014. In Auckland, the number of properties sold in August decreased by 12.8% year-on-year (from 2,689 to 2,346).

With a scarcity of properties available to purchase in this market and the previous limitations of level 4 and level 3 lockdowns, the market is set for a crazy ride of low stock numbers and insatiable demand, so don't hold out for bargains in the next six months, it's the fast and the furious out there. Educations as we come to the end of the current growth cycle.

Let's look at the local sales:

Coatesville	\$2,996,000 to \$3,185,000
Helensville	\$822,500 to \$1,750,000
Huapai	\$845,000 to \$2,588,000
Kumeu	\$1,110,000 to \$2,125,000
Muriwai	\$1,172,000 to \$1,360,000
Parakai	\$720,000 to \$968,000
Riverhead	\$1,187,000 to \$1,900,000
Swanson	\$1,020,000 to \$2,590,000
Taupaki	\$2,750,000
Waimauku	\$1,400,000 to \$2,150,000
Waitakere	\$2,200,000

Whenuapai \$1,180,000 to \$1,760,000

The conversations we are having with all our clients at present is to secure the property you want before you sell, its proving a lot harder to buy than to sell. Use an agent that can navigate both the purchase and the sale, and get your ducks in a row before you get underway. Give me a call today on 0800 900 700 for more information. After 16 years of making people my priority in real estate, you will benefit from unparalleled experience, care and commitment. It costs no more to use a more experienced customer focused agent that puts you, front and centre.

Graham McIntyre phone 027 632 0421 email graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com - Mike Pero Real Estate Ltd Licensed REAA (2008).

Reflecting on personal and family affairs - wills and EPAs

ClearStone Legal (Debra Barron)

During a lockdown there is rarely a better time to reflect on our personal/family affairs including the opportunity to review an existing Will (or consider putting one in place) and arranging Enduring Powers of Attorney.

EPAs

Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPA's) can be best likened to an insurance policy - you need it in place before you need it. If you or a loved one become incapacitated then having EPA's in place gives the authority, to make decisions on your behalf, to someone you trust. Having these already in place if the times comes, saves time and money at a time when both can be critical. Without this, decisions can't be made without going to court which is costly and time consuming. Not having EPAs is likely to result in delays in action, added stress for loved ones and could lead to undesired outcomes.

Wills

Most of us want a say in how our assets are to be distributed in the event of our demise to family and loved ones as well as who will care for our children. Many issues can come into play including de facto relationships, blended families and family disagreements. Good practical legal advice can help you strategise to ensure your wishes are carried out, and by whom.

If you do not have a Will then the Administration Act 1969 will determine where your assets will go. This may not be what you intended and requires additional steps to administer your estate resulting in delays and additional costs in distributing your assets,





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Property

as well as distress for family members. Also, without a Will you have not specified who will receive particular items, for example jewellery or tools or whom is appointed for guardianship.

Please contact ClearStone Legal (incorporating Kumeu-Huapai Law Centre) on 09 973 5102 for a no obligation chat. In the meantime please take care of yourselves and your loved ones and stay safe.

Selling a property when you're splitting up

I appreciate the end of a relationship is tough on you and those around you. Many find it hard to divide their assets, big and small. If you are struggling to find common ground it's a good idea to get legal, accounting and banking advice so you clearly understand your position, your rights and your responsibilities. Often the real cost is in how you feel and express yourself, so having a strong network around you is a priority. Your team should involve the following



a) Level headed friend or confidant, b) Solicitor, c) Accountant, d) Banker or Mortgage Broker, e) AREINZ qualified Real Estate Agent. These are the individuals that can provide accurate and measured advice and provide structure around you when things don't look right. Many of these people and services look sensible but many may ask why an AREINZ qualified Real Estate Agent? The point is this, you need the best experience and the best advice when you're in a time of change. You may be selling and buying property, you may be renting, and having someone alongside you that can assist in the decision making provides clarity and peace-of-mind. It may be the assurance you need to move ahead. Over the years I have pulled together a checklist for couples seeking clarity on the things to cover off when splitting up. If you would like this checklist please email graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com and for more information within this series on selling a property when you're splitting up, go to www.graham-mcintyre.mikepero.com/blog/. Contact Graham McIntyre AREINZ on 0800 900 700 or 027 632 0421. (Licensed REAA 2008).

Moving under times of Covid-19

As we learn to live life in and out of lockdowns, we are learning how

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to adapt legal issues to deal with our lockdowns. One of the issues that arises is moving house during different lockdown levels. This is particularly relevant to purchase and sale settlements. If the property being purchased is an investment property with an existing tenant, the settlement date should not be an issue and the parties can settle the transaction during any level of lockdown.

The problem arises however when the vendor is required to move out of the property so that the purchaser can move in. If the lockdown restrictions prevent either or both of the parties moving this can be problematic to settling the transaction. This is because settlement often triggers financing with a bank and other issues such as payment of outgoings such as rates and insurances. Some sale and purchase agreements provide for a delay in settlement if we are under a lockdown situation that prevents movement. However some do not. Parties can get around this in one of two ways. Firstly, by going ahead with settlement and entering into a licensing arrangement. This will provide for the vendor paying the purchaser a weekly fee for staying in the property. Secondly, and probably the better option, is for the parties to negotiate a postponement of the settlement date to a time when it will be possible for the parties to move.

We recommend that you discuss these issues with your lawyer before entering into an agreement to either buy or sell property. If you have already signed the agreement, have your lawyer negotiate a position with the other lawyer that is best for all parties. For more information on this or any other legal issues you can contact Kemp Barristers & Solicitors at info@kempsolicitors.co.nz or 09 412 6000.

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Area Property Stats

Every month Mike Pero Real Estate Kumeu assembles a comprehensive spreadsheet of all the recent sales in the area that reviews the full range of Residential transactions that have occurred. To receive the full summary simply email the word "full statistics" to kumeu@mikepero.com. This service is free from cost.

SUBURB	CV \$	LAND AREA	FLOOR AREA	SALE PRICE \$	SUBURB	CV \$	LAND AREA	FLOOR AREA	SALE PRICE \$
COATESVILLE	3,550,000	2.3HA	382M2	3,185,000		990,000	491M2	194M2	1,318,000
	1,900,000	2HA	164M2	2,996,000		940,000	400M2	197M2	1,250,000
HELENSVILLE	560,000	674M2	95M2	880,000		800,000	304M2	164M2	1,110,000
	1,275,000	1.25HA	198M2	1,750,000	MURIWAI	910,000	809M2	114M2	1,172,000
	560,000	503M2	140M2	850,000		990,000	842M2	98M2	1,360,000
	770,000	607M2	195M2	1,045,000	PARAKAI	670,000	1065M2	147M2	780,000
	900,000	2HA	188M2	910,000		840,000	544M2	190M2	968,000
	720,000	530M2	164M2	950,000		560,000	0M2	100M2	720,000
	730,000	460M2	141M2	870,000		560,000	451M2	100M2	780,000
	475,000	527M2	80M2	822,500	RIVERHEAD	1,225,000	800M2	240M2	1,720,000
HUAPAI	750,000	809M2	102M2	1,280,000		1,200,000	653M2	210M2	1,704,000
	780,000	809M2	122M2	1,250,000		880,000	810M2	111M2	1,411,000
	1,150,000	692M2	249M2	1,427,000		860,000	693M2	135M2	1,187,000
	730,000	760M2	113M2	1,200,000		1,325,000	811M2	235M2	1,670,000
	1,225,000	520M2	279M2	1,440,000		890,000	450M2	154M2	1,192,500
	1,900,000	2325M2	220M2	2,558,000		1,275,000	1325M2	165M2	1,900,000
	640,000	0M2	111M2	845,000	SWANSON	1,250,000	3.9HA	240M2	2,590,000
	940,000	503M2	155M2	1,190,000		840,000	351M2	184M2	1,020,000
	1,045,000	750M2	196M2	1,405,000		790,000	816M2	140M2	1,063,000
KUMEU	1,075,000	61M2	208M2	1,460,000	TAUPAKI	2,275,000	4.2HA	510M2	2,750,000
	1,300,000	779M3	272M2	1,655,000	WAIMAUKU	800,000	1151M2	113M2	1,400,000
	1,225,000	1.76HA	104M3	2,125,000		1,525,000	801M2	274M2	1,595,000
	940,000	401M2	197M2	1,312,000		1,600,000	2HA	300M2	2,150,000
	920,000	400M2	196M2	1,300,000		1,375,000	801M2	275M2	1,570,000
	810,000	320M2	151M2	1,230,000	WAITAKERE	930,000	4.96HA	70M2	2,200,000
	1,025,000	600M2	201M2	1,430,000	WHENUAPAI	1,175,000	2270M2	280M2	1,760,000
	910,000	419M2	178M2	1,328,000		800,000	1047M2	90M2	1,180,000
	1,200,000	753M2	262M2	1,530,000		1,150,000	315M2	242M2	1,550,000
	950,000	400M2	196M2	1,300,000					
	950,000	505M2	181M2	1,285,000					

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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3 1

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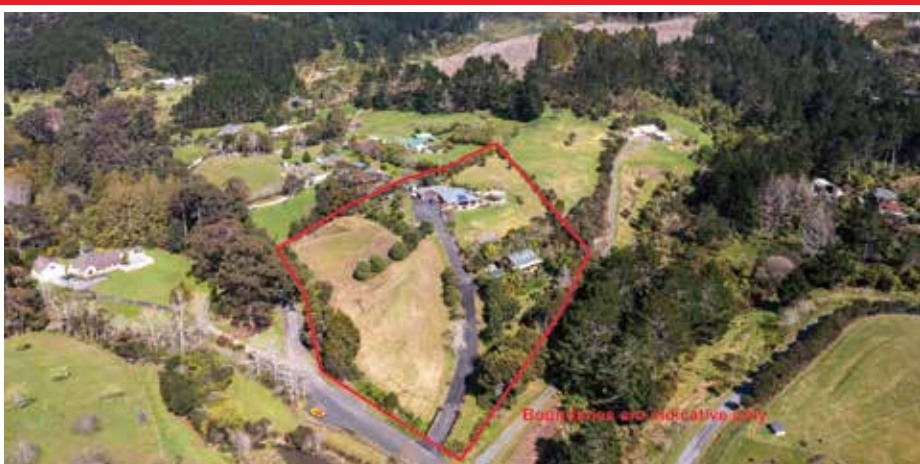
A private and off-street standalone three bedroom, 80 sqm home with an exceptional layout and refurbished to a very high standard. Surrounded by easy care lawn, decking to the east and north and a generous stand-alone storage/office or retreat room. Carport and hard stand parking for multiple vehicles with garden shed and mature orange tree and shade plantings. A short walk to shops, transport links, schools and parks. It doesn't get better than this. Be quick. We are happy to supply a list of the last 12 months of transactions in this area. For a complete transaction list please email graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com.

www.mikepero.com/RX3005825



Graham McIntyre
027 632 0421
09 412 9602

graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com



PERFECT LIFESTYLE - ELEVATED VALLEY VIEWS

4 2 2

By Negotiation

173-177 Anzac Valley Road, Waitakere By Negotiation

Located between Kumeu, Taupaki and Swanson locations, this idyllic, elevated, easy care brick and cedar home enjoys the best of valley views, the comfort of private, tranquil living and has an income derived from the barn style studio on the property. The main home, built in 2003 enjoys extensive open plan living, with media room and office/ hobby room/ teenage retreat away from the entertaining spaces. A clever and easy flowing home of four bedrooms, bathroom and ensuite with integrated double garage and workshop. A home that is clever, easy to live within and flows seamlessly onto multiple patios and spa pool area. The barn style studio, original to the property, offers two bedrooms, bathroom and open plan living, which is cosy, cute and gives options. All this is set on almost 1.5 hectares.

www.mikepero.com/RX2958579



Graham McIntyre
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09 412 9602

graham.mcintyre@mikepero.com



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



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Central's Tips

October 2021



It's time for serious summer vegetable growing, use stakes and plant frames for vertical growth in a small garden, keep up the fertilising and plant an edible hedge.

Spring gardening

Garden work includes picking up fallen blooms from shrubs, waging war on weeds so the plants have room to grow and getting summer flowering plants in; plus give the lawn a pep up.



In the Edible Garden

- **Growing organically?** Start the vegetable garden off with Living Earth organic certified Veggie Mix, a chemical-free mix that is excellent for growing food
- In go the **tomato, capsicum and cucumber plants** – everything in fact for the summer garden!
- Put in **frames or stakes** for fast growing crops such as tomatoes and beans, even capsicum and zucchini can be grown this way, and it saves space
- **Plant pumpkin seeds** in a spacious area that has had plenty of compost dug through it
- **Start a regular liquid fertiliser regime** with Aquaticus Organic Booster. It can be applied as a drench around all edible plants or used as a foliar spray
- **Edibles as a hedge:** use bay or feijoa trees for larger hedges or the NZ cranberry, Myrtus ugni, for a compact area. In vegetable beds curly parsley or the smaller forms of English lavender look great
- **Guava moth can ruin certain fruits:** Try laying corrugated cardboard that has been smeared with vaseline facedown on the ground around feijoa and citrus trees to trap emerging larvae

The rest of the Garden

- **Pick up the fallen petals** of camellia flowers to avoid spreading petal blight spores around the garden
- **Wage war on the weeds** by actively removing or spraying them early in the season, ensuring there's plenty of room for the desirable plants to flourish
- **Plant out summer annuals** such as petunias, impatiens and lobelias in baskets and pots. Liquid feed weekly and water daily until established
- Let the **foliage of spring flowering bulbs die off** naturally, so nutrients in the leaves travel down to the bulb
- **Fertilise established lawns** with Turfmaster Gold. Use a handheld spreader to apply the correct amount evenly. Most lawn fertilisers should be watered in after application to avoid burning
- **Plant a climber** to train along fence or a trellis, or simply to screen out an area. Clematis, rambling roses, and wisteria are very showy. For hardy evergreen types, try Chinese star jasmine or NZ tecomanthe



Project for October

Set the summer vegetables up with a great start

Plant them in Living Earth organic certified Veggie Mix. Tip: always do a liquid feed at the roots of new plants with Aquaticus Organic Booster as this helps them establish well. Water everything deeply, then carefully place Somerset Pea Straw and Lucerne around the seedlings.

For all the products you need to help your vegetables grow visit www.centrallandscapes.co.nz





Don't panic, grow organic.

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Hot Property



Perfect Lifestyle – Elevated Valley Views

Located between Kumeu, Taupaki and Swanson locations, this idyllic, elevated, easy care brick and cedar home enjoys the best of valley views, the comfort of private, tranquil living and has an income derived from the barn style studio on the property.

The main home, built in 2003 enjoys extensive open plan living, with media room and office/ hobby room/ teenage retreat away

from the entertaining spaces. A clever and easy flowing home of four bedrooms, bathroom and ensuite with integrated double garage and workshop. A home that is clever, easy to live within and flows seamlessly onto multiple patios and spa pool area. Additional storage shed and fixed caravan on the property for all your bits-n-bobs.

The barn style studio, original to the property, offers two bedrooms, bathroom and open plan living, which is cosy, cute and gives options.

All this is set on almost 1.5 hectares or 3.75 acres of gentle flowing pasture peppered with mature trees, multiple fruit trees and privacy

Hot Property



that is hard to compare.

A short drive to Waitakere Township, offering Primary School, transport links, convenience shopping, halls, fire station and RSA. While central to Northwest Shopping and Henderson Shopping areas.

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 - Mike Pero Real Estate Ltd Licensed REAA (2008).



Home & Garden

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Chinese privet

Spring is here and the privet is flowering. This cloying and fragrant plant is often used in hedging and is found along road sides as well as property boundaries. The flowers generate a significant amount of pollen that can make spring difficult for asthmatics and those with sensitive lungs. Due to their tenacious nature, privet are quite tricky to remove. They can easily be felled but their stumps can re-sprout so it is best to have someone come in and remove them for you and place a small amount of chemical on the



stumps. If you want to get rid of these nasties make sure you call NZ Biosecurity Services on 09 447 1998.

Laser Plumbing and Roofing Whenuapai

Lockdown brought about some challenges, particularly for those who suffered great loss during the Kumeu floods, and the resulting plumbing and roofing issues that followed.

Our staff were on hand to help those in the community in need of assistance - with an array of issues relating to damaged pumps, blocked drains and roof leaks. Appropriate PPE, a positive attitude and a winning smile ensured our customers were well taken care of.

There have also been some highs, with two of our staff enjoying lockdown birthdays - happy birthday Dave (our oldest and longest serving plumber) and Liam (our budding roofing apprentice).

For general plumbing maintenance please get in touch and we can arrange for one of our plumbers to attend. Laser Plumbing & Roofing Whenuapai has all your drainage and roofing issues covered too. No job is too big or too small!

Please contact us on 09 417 0110 or whenuapai@laserplumbing.co.nz.

We are open 5 days a week from 7.30am to 4.30pm and are located at Unit 4, 3 Northside Drive, Westgate.

Visit our website whenuapai.laserplumbing.co.nz for more information.



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Solarcraft - solar systems made simple

Hello everyone, we write this editorial in lockdown Level 4 when everyone is focusing more on health, well-being and food security rather than power security.

In saying that, the interest in solar electricity is on the rise and not likely to go backwards from here.

After 11 years in this business, we have gained a good feel for the industry as a whole. There have been peaks and troughs. Some in the biz call it the 'Solar-coaster'.

We have recently witnessed the rapid rise in popularity of Residential Hybrid systems (grid connection with battery back-up), Off-Grid



systems (especially our 'Solarcraft Off-Grid-In-a-Box solution) and Commercial Systems, both grid-connected and off-grid (for the 100% eco-conscious businesses).

It's happening. It's exciting and the Solarcraft team continues to work hard to provide great service, excellent products and education on what the best system will be for your home or business.

We are taking a break from the Kumeu Courier for a spell while we deal with this Covid calamity. We are still right here though, providing the best systems for your budget and custom power requirements.

Contact us for quote any time on info@solarcraft.co.nz Phone 0508 272 389 or visit us at www.solarcraft.co.nz.

Caring for your Japanese maple

Awa Nursery has some stunning specimen size Acer Palmatum (Japanese maples) in stock. Beautiful stunning reds and greens are such an eye catcher in the garden, and these are no exception. The Japanese maples are very versatile and adaptable trees. They thrive in most soils



and climatic conditions. Care and attention at planting time is key to a healthy maple. Japanese maples have a shallow fibrous root system. Be sure to apply a mulch around the tree to help retain moisture. Your planting site must be reasonably well-drained to avoid waterlogging. Your maple will thrive if they are planted in a location where they get sunlight during the day, a small amount of shade in the afternoon, and are sheltered from the wind. Sunlight enables the deep rich colours in the foliage. Major pruning should be done in the dormant season after all the leaves have fallen off. Corrective pruning can be done at any time of the year except between late winter and early spring when the tree is devoting all of its energy into the development of new foliage. Many Japanese maples are well suited to growing in containers. It is important the tree is planted in a mix that drains well to prevent waterlogging of

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Home & Garden

the roots. Looking after a maple is surprisingly easy. Some care and attention at planting time will result in a low maintenance tree for years to come - Japanese maples can live for up to 150 years. Come and visit us at Awa Nursery and see for yourself these beautiful specimen Japanese maples.

Kumeū Community Garden

Firstly, our thoughts in the Kumeū Community Garden crew are with the families who experienced precious losses in the floods. We are also extremely humbled by the community that rose up to get through. As weather events become more extreme and we experience social separation, it's more important than ever to consider how to build meaningful bonds of trust and support around neighbourhoods. Building resilience in food, in community and for the environment; that's what our garden started for and proudly saw continual growth in. Connections blossomed alongside the plants, and in (pre-lockdown) working bees, a supportive network of new friends sprouted. As a community resource, we run by the motto "Give what you can, take what you need", with usually plenty to share. Unfortunately, the flood damage created a major setback. We lost soil, natives, rows of seedlings, and now we ask your support to rebuild. Together we can build resilience to give back, and offer skills and education to our community. Please donate to our Give-a-little page at givealittle.co.nz/cause/kumeu-community-garden. A little goes a long way.



Waimauku Garden Club

In this time of restrictions we've been prevented from going on planned trips till Level 2.

For some of us it's been a time of tidying the garden, planting bulbs, reading more, cooking more.

Time to do an early spring clean maybe.

Time to stop and be thankful for a new day, the sunrise, the clouds the new flowers, the new leaves and especially the increased bird song.

The rhythm of life is continuing on regardless.

So enjoy what we have.

Enjoy your garden and each day in it.

Kia pai, to maara me ia ra i roto.

Contact us for updates.

Ann 021 035 7406 Diana 027 478 8928 Donna 021 233 0974 Judith 027 272 9994 Moira 027 498 9152.

Tank water

Everybody's tank should be full, or close to full this time of year.

When was the last time you cleaned your tanks?

If it was over 2 years ago, then they are probably due for a clean. To check, shine a powerful torch into the tank. If you can't see the bottom, then the tank should be cleaned.



We can clean tanks when they are FULL of water.

This method of cleaning involves vacuuming the sludge from the bottom of the tank, leaving you with plenty of clean water - very similar to cleaning swimming pools.

The advantage is you don't have to dump a whole tank of water to clean the tank.

Having sludge in the water tank can make the water quite unpleasant, especially when the level in the tank is low.

If you do get a water delivery in summer and your tank is dirty, the sludge gets stirred up and can make you ill.

In the busy summer months, it is not always possible to schedule in a clean before a water delivery.

So if you feel you are due to clean your tanks, do it now before the pressure is on.

If you need any assistance with tank cleaning, tank repair, pumps or filtration, give me a call. I have been serving the area for over 15 years. Joe Hall, Healthy Water Solutions, 021 420 936.

Springing out

Hopefully when this column appears we are out of Level 4 and maybe even at Level 2. Mowing and Gardening contractors are usually able to work without contact and at Level 3 will be back on the job. It's been a long lockdown break and we are now into spring. The blooming bulbs are beautiful, and the fragrance delightful for all those people out on their daily walks and bike rides. I noticed many people busy in their gardens, tidying, trimming and re-planting, with many piles of trimmings ready to go to green waste. There is a lot of enjoyment to be had from this activity and it was ideal to have the time to get lawns and gardens ready for the spring flush.

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Home & Garden

Hopefully garden centres have re-opened and you have been able to buy your seedlings, you'll want to get these planted pretty soon to make the most of the warm and wet conditions.

It's time to get ready for the flush of growth coming for your lawns grass too. Keep mowing regularly and keep the mower nice and high for a while yet so you maintain the grass at its best health with strong roots. With all the extra spring growth comes a need for extra nutrition for the grass, so feed it. You'll help get it in the best condition possible by giving it a good boost of slow release fertiliser right now. This'll support that rapid growth and help you to have a lush, healthy, green lawn bursting through and ready for summer.

Blackout Electric

Established in August 2020, Blackout Electric is a local family owned and operated business, run by Sebastian Weaver, a registered electrician with over 16 years' experience in the industry.

After completing his apprenticeship and spending a number of years working for various companies, learning the ins and outs of the industry, Seb decided it was time to go out on his own and build his own business from the ground up - since then, he hasn't looked back.

After being in business only a few months, Blackout Electric had generated enough business to bring on an apprentice, and approached Kaipara College and their Gateway Programme. This is where we found Branden, who is currently enrolled in his first year of an electrical apprenticeship. Seb is incredibly passionate about passing on his knowledge to others who want to be in the trade, and really enjoys seeing them succeed and become successful electricians themselves. Branden has been a fantastic addition to the Blackout Electric family and continues to develop his skills under the ongoing guidance of Seb.

In December 2020, Seb's wife Toni joined the team in a full time capacity running the Office and Administration side of the business.

Since starting Blackout Electric, we have experienced a huge amount of loyalty from local customers and businesses alike. Customers who not only continue to use our service, but refer and recommend us to their own family and friends. This is a testament to the service we provide, and the reason we continue to grow as a business. Blackout Electric are striving to be the number one choice for local electrical services. We hope that as time goes on, when people think of electricians they will think of Blackout Electric.

We specialise in all forms of residential and commercial electrical work. Including new builds and renovations, alarm systems, CCTV

and AV, and general maintenance - From something as simple as a new power point, to an entire house rewire, Blackout Electric is happy to help.

Seb is highly experienced in delivering cost-effective, high quality workmanship - Offering solutions, not problems. At Blackout Electric, we pride ourselves on exceeding client's expectations. We build a relationship with our customers that begins on the first day of contact, and only ends once they're fully satisfied with our work.

Contact Blackout Electric for all your electrical service needs. We can be found at www.blackoutelectric.co.nz or info@blackoutelectric.co.nz.

Moth plant and what to do about it

Moth plant, also known as Araujia Sericifera or Kapok vine, is a highly invasive environmental weed found throughout Auckland and is classified as a National Pest Plant throughout Aotearoa.



It is a climbing vine with a milky sap and scrambling, woody stems. Flowers are white/pale pink and borne singly or in clusters. Fruit is fleshy, leathery and pear-shaped, not unlike a choko. Many of you will have spotted it growing around the West Auckland and Upper Harbour areas.

Why is moth plant a problem?

The vine will grow rapidly, its large canopy smothering other plants, including out native species. It is therefore a massive threat to our native biodiversity. Its milky sap is also an irritant to skin so therefore is also a problem for humans. When clearing this weed it is advised to use protective clothing and gloves.

Moth plant is managed by Auckland Council IF it is within a Council or Regional park area. Under the Regional Pest Management Plan it is a requirement to destroy moth plant if you own or occupy land in the "buffer zones" of these parks. The buffer zones being 500 metres from the Park boundary. That leaves huge areas of private and roadside land not being controlled and moth plant spreading rampantly through our suburbs and large areas of private land.

Moth plant spreads rapidly because of its seed dispersal mechanism through the large pods it produces during the summer months. These eventually open and hundreds of seeds are dispersed by wind over a large area of land. These seeds will then germinate and the vine grow rapidly over the wider landscape.

How is the moth plant problem being addressed?

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Home & Garden

As indicated above moth plant is being managed in park areas by local councils, however this does not address the growing issue of this pest plant getting out of control in other areas of the country.

There are two voluntary community/citizen based organisations doing their best to address this problem:

Society Totally Against Moth Plant (S.T.A.M.P.) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/societytotallyagainstmthplant>

And

The Environmental Weed Coalition, whose aims are to:

- Promote better education in weed control measures amongst a range of groups such as Government and council departments, Property owners and management companies
- Promote changes to policy statements, legislation, pest management plans, policies etc to address the barriers to effective environmental weed control.

These groups plan to work together to support each other to help bring about improvements to the control of this pest plant. They will also work in partnership with local environmental groups, of which there are number in the Upper Harbour:

Herald Island Environmental Group, Living Whenuapai, Habitat Hobsonville and Greenhithe Community Trust.

How can you help?

Moth plant will start to flower in the coming months (Oct - Dec) so it is easy to identify it at the moment. If you live on a property that has moth plant please destroy it NOW - before the pods form later in the summer months. Pull out the roots, or cut the stem close to ground and paste with herbicide gel (<https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/mothplant>).

Wear gloves and old clothes. If you spot mature vines with pods on them please pick them and dispose of them through your Council rubbish bin or a dedicated weed bin - do not put them in your compost bin - they will love to grow there! Obviously it is far easier to destroy the vines before the pods form later on. If the infestation is too large for you to deal with please make contact with

the S.T.A.M.P. Facebook page or contact Living Whenuapai, info@livingwhenuapai.org.nz, and we will do our best to support or help you. ACT NOW!

If we all work on this together we can hopefully prevent the spread of this nasty weed and prevent it from spreading further and into our precious Waitakere Rangers here in Tamaki Makaurau.

Annette Mitchell

Tile and grout cleaning and re-colouring

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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Muriwai tide chart

Date	High	Low	High	Low	High
Fri 01 Oct	05:49	12:08	18:32	-	-
Sat 02 Oct	-	00:57	07:07	13:18	19:37
Sun 03 Oct	-	01:55	08:06	14:12	20:27
Mon 04 Oct	-	02:42	08:52	14:58	21:11
Tue 05 Oct	-	03:24	09:34	15:40	21:51
Wed 06 Oct	-	04:04	10:13	16:20	22:29
Thu 07 Oct	-	04:43	10:52	17:01	23:08
Fri 08 Oct	-	05:22	11:31	17:41	23:48
Sat 09 Oct	-	06:03	12:11	18:24	-
Sun 10 Oct	00:30	06:45	12:55	19:09	-
Mon 11 Oct	01:15	07:31	13:42	20:00	-
Tue 12 Oct	02:05	08:23	14:36	20:58	-

Wed 13 Oct	03:04	09:24	15:40	22:08	-
Thu 14 Oct	04:15	10:37	16:56	23:28	-
Fri 15 Oct	05:37	11:57	18:16	-	-
Sat 16 Oct	-	00:44	06:55	13:09	19:26
Sun 17 Oct	-	01:48	07:59	14:09	20:23
Mon 18 Oct	-	02:40	08:51	14:59	21:10
Tue 19 Oct	-	03:25	09:35	15:42	21:51
Wed 20 Oct	-	04:04	10:14	16:21	22:28
Thu 21 Oct	-	04:40	10:50	16:57	23:03
Fri 22 Oct	-	05:14	11:23	17:31	23:35
Sat 23 Oct	-	05:45	11:56	18:04	-
Sun 24 Oct	00:07	06:17	12:29	18:37	-
Mon 25 Oct	00:40	06:49	13:03	19:12	-
Tue 26 Oct	01:15	07:25	13:41	19:53	-
Wed 27 Oct	01:56	08:07	14:26	20:43	-
Thu 28 Oct	02:48	09:01	15:24	21:47	-
Fri 29 Oct	03:55	10:10	16:34	23:04	-
Sat 30 Oct	05:14	11:28	17:49	-	-
Sun 31 Oct	-	00:16	06:29	12:38	18:54

Source: MetOcean Solutions.

Daylight Saving: Please note that tide times have been corrected for daylight saving time.

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Pets

Cat lovers urgently needed

Volunteers required to help with cleaning duties etc. at a cat rescue shelter in Huapai.

Can you spare two or three hours once a week? Also loving homes needed for some of the friendly rescue cats.

Donations appreciated at www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz. Phone 09 412 2636 or 021 929 999 for further information.



College Students teach Dog Safe 4 Kids

In the past couple of Issues of The Kumeu Courier or The Westerly you will have seen articles on the new programme Dog Safe 4 Kids and the great work they are doing in the community.

To take this one step further, Dog Safe 4 Kids are currently working with two students from Kristin School on Auckland's North Shore. Both Edie and Alicia are in Year 10 and are working on a Community Project. They are developing a 3 Stage Programme that they will be delivering for age 7-8-year-olds teaching them about dog safety. "This is something very close to my heart" says Jo. "I was very pleased when the girls reached out to me for some advice, and we are very happy to assist them. I always hoped that the programme could one day be picked up by college students and then retaught to younger children. Edie and Alicia are doing a great job and they both have huge potential. They have even given us some great ideas for activities for our programme".

The girls ran their first session on Tuesday (just before lockdown). They have broken the programme into three sessions, each session deals with a Golden Rule. They dressed up in Dog Onesies and started by doing a fun quiz that the children all participated in. They then played a game where they gave the children scenarios all relating to the 1st Golden Rule "Always Ask Permission" before touching a strange dog. This encouraged the children to think about how they would feel in the same situation if a stranger approached them.



At the end of the session they gave the teacher three different styles of masks and bone cut outs for name tags so they can have them ready before the next session. At the second session they will talk about the 2nd Golden Rule, where to touch a dog.

"The girls are doing a fantastic job" said Jo Clough the Director of The Dog Safe Workplace. "I am looking forward to seeing the next two sessions".

If you would like to know more about the programme contact jo@dogsafeworkplace.com or call 0508 DOG SAFE

Kanika Park Cat Retreat

Hairballs and should I worry?

As a cat owner, you'll have heard a wet hacking noise coming from somewhere in your house, and you know you're about to find a puddle containing a long hairy sausage



What are hairballs?

The reason for hairballs (or 'trichobezoar') lies in your cat's grooming routine.

Adult cats can spend up to 50% of their day grooming themselves. When grooming, the fur passes through their stomachs and usually comes out with their stool.

Hairballs occur when the hair doesn't pass through the stomach and forms a mass that has to be regurgitated. Their oesophagus squishes the fur into a sausage shape.

Do all cats have hairballs?

Not necessarily! Long-haired cats such as Persians are more likely to have hairballs as they have more hair to groom.

How often should my cat cough a hairball?

One or two hairballs a year is considered normal for cats. Even long-haired cats shouldn't be experiencing more than this.

Are hairballs a cause for concern?

Hairballs can be a cause for concern. If they are experiencing them regularly then it could be a sign of an underlying health problem. So make sure to get any unusual symptoms or behaviour checked out with your vet.

What can I do to prevent hairballs?

- Brush your cat daily to remove loose hair
- Ensure your cat always has access to fresh water so that they can stay hydrated
- Don't give your cat any medication (including laxatives) unless prescribed or advised by your vet



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Dog&Co

During these times of lockdowns and uncertainty, we tend to shift what our true priorities are in life. No more sweating the small stuff, our focus shifts. We remember that what truly matters is our health and our family, and that includes our pets. I know personally that my dogs have kept me in good spirits during this latest Covid scare. They get me up in the morning, they love unconditionally, and they are happily oblivious to the weird times we are facing as a society. They mean everything to me and I'm sure if you are a pet owner you can relate to that! I'm so lucky that as a pet photographer I get to meet so many incredible pets, and see the special bonds that they share with their families. That's why I think it is so special to create forever keepsakes of our pets. What better time than now to book in a photoshoot to update those family photos, and get your pets involved. Or even just a solo portrait session of your pet. I reckon they deserve a spot up on that gallery wall at your home. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, I would love to hear from you. We can create a pet photography experience unique to you either in the studio, or on-location at the beach, forest or a park. Visit my website or flick me an email any time.



Website: www.dogandco.nz Email: kirsty@dogandco.nz Instagram: [@dogandco.photography](https://www.instagram.com/dogandco.photography).

Is it time to say goodbye?

It's one of the hardest questions animal lovers face. If we are lucky we have seen our animal friend go from bouncy youngster, to slightly more sedate adult to slowing down into their later years. We have known this day might come when we have to decide whether to help them on their way, yet so many questions swirl around in our head and heart. Would they like to decide when



to go or prefer intervention to help them on their way? Animal communication can help and I have found most animals are pretty clear on their preferences. They are often concerned about how we feel and can be hanging on until we are ready. Beautiful Polly shared an image of herself tethered to her beloved person like a balloon on a string and was waiting for the release of that thread. She was clear where she wanted to be when she was put to sleep and that she wanted to be positioned with her head in her person's lap. She also gave very clear instructions on where she wanted to be buried and why. Polly's person felt comforted by knowing she had honoured her wishes and treasures the words she shared explaining what their lives together had meant to her. If you are faced with this difficult decision and would like to give the animal in your heart a voice then animal communication can provide comfort and clarity. The connection is done remotely, via a photo. It may help lighten your heavy heart and ease the transition for both of you. Please contact Suze Kenington at [facebook.com/AnimalsInYourHeart](https://www.facebook.com/AnimalsInYourHeart) or AnimalsInYourHeart.com.

Dogs on Point

Dogs on Point is a boutique dog taxi service and home-care, based in Hobsonville Point, covering Hobsonville, West Harbour, Greenhithe and Whenuapai. As dedicated dog owners ourselves, we know just how important they are to their humans and we will always refer to our dogs as a part of our family. We love caring for and connecting with your dogs and creating everlasting relationships. We provide dog taxi services and individual care for your dog as if they were our own, and ensure that they receive the highest quality care while they are travelling with us or while you're away. When you live a busy life, it is hard to consistently provide the attention and care that your animals can demand. With years of dog and cat experience and our own much loved dogs, you can rely on us to care for your animals with our quality in-home pet-minding service or while travelling with us, using our dog taxi services. We do not offer dog walking but we do offer stimulation in the form of brain games and lots of love and cuddles. We offer a service for cats as well. Going on holiday but don't want to put your cat in a cattery? We can visit every day to feed your cat, replace water, clean the litter box and give cuddles. Duration varies depending on your individual needs. Visit www.dogsonpoint.online for more information, pricing and to book. dogsonpointnz@gmail.com and 021 078 4731.



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Food & Beverage

Peko Peko

We turned 2 years in August, and we always have a same question about what "Peko Peko" means. It means "hungry" in Japanese, which is a quite casual way of saying like kids say "I'm Peko Peko!" and we thought it sounded similar to Māori so it'd be easier to remember. Then we found Māori word "pekopeko" is the peppery herb so actually the word connected to the food. Another customer says it sounds similar like "peckish" which also means hungry! It actually is funny how all the words connected and we really adore our restaurant name "Peko Peko". We hope everyone managed to find some ways to be positive during lockdown last month. We had lots of home cooking and baking like everyone and spent lots of quality time with our son too. You can find our home cooking photos and a few recipes as well as our latest post on our Facebook and Instagram pages :) @pekopekonz



Botanical gin infusion recipe

Gin is still the drink of the moment and creating your own gin infusion at home without a still can be fun. Using vodka as the infusing agent, this recipe combines many of the typical gin botanicals along with a couple of additions. Use this recipe as a guide or create your own blend, better yet, divide the vodka evenly into two or four jars and create a series of different variations to see which one you prefer best.

Ingredients:

1 litre vodka, 16g juniper berries, 4g angelica root, 4x cardamom pods, 12g coriander seeds (crush lightly), 3.5g liquorice root, 2g cinnamon (cassia) – either pieces or quills (not powder), 1/6 teaspoon (yes, one sixth of a teaspoon or 1/2 gram) orris root powder, 4 teaspoons fresh grapefruit peel

Method:

Decant the vodka into a large glass jar. Mix all botanicals in with the vodka, stirring well. Place the lid on allow to sit for 48 hours. You can either give the jar a shake (if the lid seals properly) or give it a stir a couple of times during the 48 hours. Strain and enjoy with your favourite tonic or mixer.



Notes: Add some hibiscus flowers to create a lovely pink infusion or perhaps change up the grapefruit for lemon or orange. The combinations are endless.

Certified organic Juniper berries, angelica root and orris root can be purchased through our online store: www.NewZealandHerbalBrew.co.nz.

Hallertau Beer Banger Challenge

Congratulations to the team at L'Authentique who are the winners of Hallertau's eighth annual Beer Banger Challenge. After over 120kg of sausages served and some spirited debate and public voting the L'Authentique Hallertau Feijoa Sour, Chicken, lemon zest & pepper came out on top. The winning butcher gets a keg of Hallertau beer and the winning sausage joins the Hallertau menu. Come to Hallertau for a sausage and stay for a beer.



Successful fundraiser at Allely Estate

When Dr Shalini Karan approached us to enquire about a Think Pink fundraiser for breast cancer, we were immediately 100% on board and committed to helping produce an exceptional day.

Our event's organiser Athina reached out to our vendors and asked them to help by reducing their costs for the event - it speaks volumes that every single one said yes so thank you to our generous partners Event Styling, Let's Celebrate, Lopstream (who offered his live-streaming services for free), and Delectable Cuisine with glassware. Allely Estate offered a reduced rate so we could help Think Pink raise more money for the cause.



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Food & Beverage

Shalini explained that many of the guests would be Indian and vegetarian so our talented chefs included a few Indian vegetarian dishes along with delicious Indian Chai tea to finish the night.

On the day we hosted 310 guests who enjoyed inspiring speakers, comedy, a magic show, auction and raffles. They raised over \$35,000 for breast cancer - an incredible result

What the client said:

"Thank you so much for all your help and support in making our breast cancer fundraiser a successful event. You went above and beyond in helping us secure additional vendors and services. Your attention to detail, your care and concern for guests, and the support you provided the hosts during the event was simply unbelievable."

Dr Shalini Karan

We love helping out with fundraisers so please reach out to our events planner if you're interested in Alley Estate as a venue for your charity event: athina@allelyestate.co.nz, www.allelyestate.co.nz.

It's happenin' at Hapunan

Filipino food truck Hapunan now has a bricks and mortar outlet at 316 Main Road in Huapai.

Owners Laura and Aldrin first met at Farro, brought together by their love of food.

Aldrin's passion for South-East Asian cuisine sparked their food truck idea after he took Laura on a trip to his Manila home capital city where she experienced the variety of food and culture the Philippines offers.

Both have been in the hospitality industry for several years, so the pair decided to get a food truck to spread the taste and love of the Philippines in Auckland.

The Filipino food movement is becoming a topic that everyone is starting to talk about globally, Laura says.

Aldrin and Laura believe Filipino food is very underrated in the Asian food spectrum and often gets overlooked. Even though there is a Pinoy community within Auckland the cuisine is just starting to surface.

The duo wanted to bring their take on traditional Pinoy dishes that Filipinos know and love but adding their own modernised spin.

Filipino cuisine holds a special place in both their hearts and they wanted to put the spotlight on a cuisine rich in culture and diversity.

During three years living the food truck life, Aldrin and Laura were selling out of food wherever they went and knew it was time to expand and level up from the food truck to a permanent location and site.



While 316 Main Road is now that site, they will continue the food truck for private events and weddings with the occasional venture to market days coming into summer.

Drop by their flagship store to try a range of delectable Filipino flair from Tuesday to Saturday, noon till 8pm.

Jesters Westgate - Open during Level 3!

Q: What's worse than being stuck in lockdown for over a month?

A: Being stuck in lockdown without our delicious pies!

Never fear. Jesters Westgate is here and open from alert Level 3. We have opened our store for contactless orders at the door. This will include our full range of pies and frozen take home packs.



There are also many ways to order for contactless pick up or delivery. You can order through:

- o Uber Eats - search Jesters Westgate
- o Menu Log - Jesters Pies Westgate
- o Jesters-pies.co.nz - online ordering
- o 09-832 6060 - Direct phone the store to place an order

Has your team been working hard throughout Level 4? Or do you feel like celebrating opening for business with us? We offer contactless work shouts during Level 3 that can be delivered to your door in our Pie Van. Please call 09-832 6060 to place orders. Payment is available through direct debit or payWave.

We are so excited to see you all again soon.

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Budgets are tight and advertising is often expensive, but it's nice to know that someone is making it easy and cost effective. For \$85 plus GST you can be exposed to over 20,000 locals for a whole month. That is only \$2.80 a day. For more information email our editor at editorial@kumeucourier.co.nz.



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Health & Beauty

Dental emergency?

Over the past year, Covid-19 has brought new difficulties into all aspects of everyone's life, as well as new challenges in dentistry. Kumeu Dental is so happy that we are able to remain open and support our community through this difficult time. We are able to see all our new and existing lovely patients through the level 3 & 4 lockdown for emergency appointments only. We will be able to resume normal routine dentistry in level 1 & 2 onwards.



At Kumeu Dental we are working very closely with the Ministry of Health and the Dental Council to keep our patients and staff happy and healthy. We have worked very hard to outsource the scarce new hospital grade protection gear and antivirus disinfectants, to be able to support our community and be here for emergencies throughout the shutdown period and beyond. This includes N95 mask, face shields, full gowns, surgical gloves and hospital grade cleaning between every patient, with hand sanitiser offered on arrival & departure of all patients.

Here at Kumeu Dental we are very proud to have successfully treated many existing and new patients throughout these trying times while minimising the risk of spread of Covid-19 into the community. If you have any dental concerns please ring 09 412 9507 and one of our friendly receptionists will see how we can help you.

Your one stop beauty spot in Huapai

No longer do we need to travel all over Auckland to get high quality beauty services. Project Beauty in Huapai consists of a few wonderful beauty businesses. We have Fresh & Flawless, covering a wide range of services; Hair & Makeup, Spray Tanning, all Nail Services including Extensions, Nail Art & Pedicures, Brow



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Lauren Barry www.freshandflawless.co.nz

Tips for lockdown

It is so hard to keep up exercise and healthy eating in lockdown. Studies have shown that we are exercising 20% less because of it. Exercise boosts our immune system, strengthens our heart and bones, helps lift our spirits, improves our gut and mental health, regulates our sleep and stops us putting on weight - that and eating more mindfully.



Here are some tips to get you moving your body and eating carefully without adding more stress:

1. Stand on 1 leg for as many seconds as you can - time yourself and challenge yourself to get better.
2. Do 10 star jumps or 10 squats - do this whilst you watch TV or at the end of every hour of work (set an alarm to remind you).
3. Run or cycle or walk up and down your drive or around the block every day
4. Play with your fur babies or kids - get outside and kick a ball 50x/day
5. Dance - put on 1 track per day and dance your socks off. There are also plenty of free dance and Zumba classes on YouTube.
6. Track your eating - What are you really hungry for? What are you feeling just before you snack?
7. Write a list of non-food based rewards that you could do to treat yourself instead of chocolate or biscuits.
8. Have a glass of water or peppermint tea before you snack on that bag of chippies or cinnamon scroll.
9. Lock snacks away in the boot of your car. Research suggests that when it takes longer to grab a snack we're more likely to not bother.

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Out of sight out of mind!

10. Get a small snaplock bag and allocate 3 small treats per day - e.g. 1 biscuit, 1 mini chocolate, 1 small bag of chippies etc. - that's all you can have for the day.

Remember WHY you need to move your body and eat healthily. Remember what will happen if you don't. When you say NO to the snack you are saying YES to a healthy waist and healthy gut. When you say NO to sitting on the sofa all day you are saying YES to a happy mind, happy heart and happy immune system.

Come and join my Women's WellBeing Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/thewomenswellbeingcircle> and join the 3 day 'Mindful Eating' and 3 day 'Move your Booty' challenge.

Hypnosis for a healthy immune system

We want to be healthy. If we get sick, we want to be able to recover quickly, and bounce back to good health. We want this even more with the current Covid situation. To do this we need a functioning immune system. Some ways to strengthen your immune system include:

- Eat a healthy balanced diet high in fruits and vegetables.
- Exercise frequently.
- Don't smoke.
- Drink alcohol in moderation.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Get enough rest and relaxation.
- Minimise stress.



Another way to improve your immune system is through the power of your own mind and hypnosis. Your mind is one of the most powerful tools available for health. With the belief that you have the power to improve your health and boost your immune system, you can experience excellent well-being and health.

To experience this through hypnosis you can download (using the web link below) my free recording to boost your immune system to maximum efficiency. The recording also embeds new habits and behaviours to ensure your immune system functions effectively.

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Energy and vitality: Time for a self-audit

I suspect there are lots of people who aren't sick or unwell, but who want a little more oomph in their life. By oomph, I mean having lots of energy and vitality. The ideal picture is waking up feeling refreshed and eager to start your day. Moving through your day able to face all your challenges with effort but also with ease. Powering through your afternoon without a 3pm slump, having time for exercise or fun, and enjoying your evening time with family before going to bed and falling asleep within 5 minutes. And repeat.

Just a pipe dream?

If this ideal picture is not you, then you have energy leaks somewhere. If we can identify these energy leaks, then we can fix them, and get you living your best life. I am living proof of this.

When I was diagnosed with ankylosing Spondylitis, I had to drag myself through my day. I would need an afternoon sleep most days, which was tricky on workdays. What I didn't realise is that my underlying inflammation was sapping my energy and my health. Eventually, the pain of my arthritis gave me the incentive to change my diet and lifestyle and start taking key supplements. Not only am I now pain-free, but my day is close to the ideal picture described above. It would have been smarter if I had of paid attention to the warning signs earlier. Not only would I have avoided the arthritic pains, but I suspect those years of inflammation have damaged my cardiovascular health.

What Are Your Energy Leaks?

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It can be a tricky process trying to discover where your energy leaks come from. It may be genetic like my arthritis. It may be stress. It may be nutrient imbalances. It could also be not enough or too much exercise. Everyone is different. While I thrive on high levels of omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin K2, you may need extra vitamin D and vitamin B12. Gene testing is now available to help you know what diet and lifestyle practices are best for you. Ask the Health Coaches at Massey Unichem Pharmacy about Ingeneous Gene Testing. Martin Harris, Massey Unichem Pharmacy 396 Don Buck Road, Massey. 09 833 7235.

Dr Alisi Keppler

Dr Alisi Keppler has now started with us, replacing Dr Joy Stevens who retired earlier this year.

Alisi was born and raised in West Auckland in a bicultural environment with a Tongan Mother and a German Father. Alisi attended Massey High School, before completing her Medical studies at the University of Auckland in 2013. After medical school she worked 3 years in the Auckland regional hospitals rotating through different specialties, mostly at North Shore Hospital but also Waitākere and Auckland Hospital. While working in the hospital Alisi completed further studies gaining a Postgraduate Diploma in Obstetrics and Medical Gynaecology in 2016. Alisi moved into General Practice in 2020. Her special interests are women's health and improving health inequalities amongst our Pacific Island and Māori communities.

Alisi is married with one child. When she is not working she likes to spend time with her family or keeping active in the outdoors. Alisi's



hobbies include surfing, walking and snowboarding.

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Brushing and flossing boosts your immune system

No this isn't just a myth that your dentist would have you believe. Good brushing and flossing habits really do boost your overall immune system. With Covid-19 once again rearing its head in our community, having strong immune systems has become more important than ever before. A good step towards strengthening your immune system is to start (or keep!) taking good care of your teeth and gums. Many health professionals consider your mouth to be a window to your total health: it's the gateway to your digestive and respiratory tracks, hence it's strong connection to your overall immune system. If you drop the ball on regular brushing and flossing and don't see your dentist regularly it can quickly lead to tooth decay and gum disease, which can cause infections that affect your entire body. If you have a weakened immune system, even recovering from a common head cold, it's possible for oral bacteria to cause you to develop an infection in another part of your body. So keep up the good oral health habits, don't indulge too many sugary treats and make sure you maintain regular dental appointments to keep any problems in check.

If you are due for a dental check-up or oral hygiene appointment,

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contact the friendly Fraser Dental team at 1 Wiseley Road, Hobsonville on 09 416 5050 or email info@fraserdental.co.nz today.

Spring is in the air

Which means allergies are too. Common symptoms of eye allergies include watery/ itchy eyes, redness and even a burning sensation and can be caused by:



- Outdoor allergens, such as pollens from grass, trees and weeds.

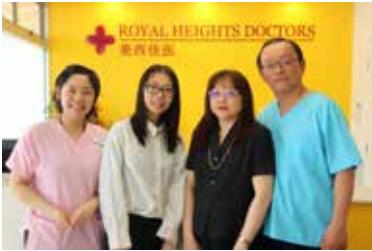
- Indoor allergens, such as pet dander, dust mites and mould.

- Irritants, such as cigarette smoke, perfume and diesel exhaust.

The good news? All of these symptoms are treatable here at Westgate Optometrists. Simply phone us on 09 831 0202 to arrange a consult with one of our therapeutically endorsed optometrists. Located at 4/46 Maki Street, opposite the Kiwibank and NorthWest Shopping Centre and just around the corner from Goode Brothers Restaurant.

Keeping safe in a time of uncertainty

It's a difficult time for many, fraught with anxiety and uncertainty. Many are unsure if their next trip to the supermarket may cause their phone to ring with a COVID notification.



So here's some advice to keep your immunity up: Eat healthy

- remember your vegetables and fruits, Hydrate - plain water is best, Rest well and sleep early, Don't over-exert yourself - don't do vigorous exercises you are not used to, Keep warm - cold reduces immunity levels, Before you meet anyone outside your bubble, ask if they are unwell - delay meeting up if they have cold or flu-like symptoms, Avoid excessive alcohol / smoking, Always wear a face covering when you are out of your home, Sanitise your hands often, If you have cold or flu-like symptoms - get a FREE COVID test early.



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Long Covid: the facts and the figures

What is long Covid? Long Covid has been defined as the presence of signs and symptoms that develop during or following an infection consistent with Covid-19 which continue for 12 weeks or more.

Who does it affect? 1 in 10 people will exhibit Covid symptoms lasting more than 12 weeks

Long Covid affects people who have been hospitalised with acute Covid-19 and those who recovered at home. Individuals who have experienced either mild or severe Covid-19 can go on to have prolonged symptoms or develop Long COVID.

What are the symptoms? There are over 200 listed symptoms which occur in variable combinations

The most common symptoms of long Covid are: Extreme exhaustion (fatigue), Post-exertional symptom exacerbation (PESE), Problems with memory and concentration (brain fog).

How can physio help?

Physiotherapists are crucial in early and ongoing rehabilitation. They can help with: early mobilisation and getting moving again, simple exercises, getting back to the activities of daily living, lung recovery, managing breathlessness, coping with fatigue, finding the balance between being active and taking rest.

It takes time to recover from a severe illness. A physiotherapist can help people manage their symptoms and work with them to support their recovery. Hobsonville Physio - phone 09 416 4455 or email physio@hobsonvillephysio.co.nz, www.hobsonvillephysio.co.nz.



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Let's get you better!

Area Columnists

Staying vigilant against Delta

I know it's been a challenging few weeks for everyone here in Kaipara ki Mahurangi.

My heart goes out to all those whose homes and businesses were flooded out in Kumeu. I have been keeping the Minister for Social Development, Carmel Sepuloni, informed about the problems people are facing in the area and the assistance needed.

The community spirit shown by the Muriwai Life Guards and local Service Groups who stepped up to help stranded families and the clean-up deserves a huge thank you from us all.

The challenges that Covid-19 has created are huge but we're starting to see that mahi pay off. I want to say thank you, again, to everyone who's doing their bit to stop the spread of Covid-19. It's a mammoth effort, and it's not going unnoticed.

A lot of people are already doing it tough here in Auckland, and the attack in New Lynn came at a time when we weren't able to gather together to support each other. But even if we can't meet up, we can give our friends and whānau a call, or try to arrange a virtual coffee catch up or hui. If you're having a really hard time, or know someone who is, you can call or text 1737 at any time for free to speak with a trained counsellor.

Recent case numbers show we're heading in the right direction, but we're not quite out of the woods yet. There are things we can all do to make sure we keep our communities safe.

If you have any cold or flu-like symptoms, or if you've been identified as a contact, please get a test as soon as possible and self-isolate in your bubble.

Our vaccination programme is continuing safely at Alert Level 4 - and getting vaccinated is the best way you can protect your community and your loved ones. If you haven't booked yet, I strongly encourage you to do so by visiting bookmyvaccine.nz or by calling 0800 28 29 26.



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Everyone in Auckland has been asked to step up and do their bit to keep the whole country safe. Thank you for all of the ways you're reducing the risk of spread and helping each other stay safe in Alert Level 3. It's making a huge difference.

Marja Lubeck MP.

After the flood

By Christine Rose for Kumeu Community Action (Kumeu-Huapai Residents and Ratepayers Association)

The Kumeu floods of August 30, 2021, will go down in history.

We were shocked.

Our homes and those of our neighbours and friends, our local shops and factories, were flooded. Countless animals drowned. Vehicles were damaged - much was lost.

For many it was a terrifying night, full of tragedy. But it was also a night of heroism, from the volunteer fire brigade, to surf lifesavers, to locals.

They rescued people stranded in floating cars, from the roofs of flooded houses, from sheds. Roads in and out of Kumeu were blocked. The railway line embankment was breached.

We're lucky no one was killed. We're still cleaning up the mess.

We have been left wondering; How did this happen? Who is responsible? What can be done about it? How can we avoid this happening again?

At the same time, people who have lived in Kumeu for a long time can remember previous floods and are not surprised. People concerned about climate change, and development in the flood plain, aren't surprised either.

The Kumeu River sits within the Kaipara catchment, and its headwaters run from Anzac Valley above Waitakere village along the Taupaki plain through Kumeu to the Kaipara River and harbour.

The fact is we have developed that flood plain and put our houses, farms, roads, railway lines and our shops and factories in its lowest points.

We've chopped down the trees that would slow the water's flow and increased impervious surfaces - roofs, concrete and roads - that stop floodwaters from being absorbed, and speed up its flow. We've not maintained enough of the stream channel or flood plain to mitigate for increased flows, development or weather.



**Thank you to our
Local Heroes**

Helping those who need help during Lock-down

Hearfelt thanks to the essential workers, local food banks and volunteers who are providing help to all who need it in Kaipara ki Mahurangi and Whangaparaoa.

Marja Lubeck
Labour List MP based in
Kaipara ki Mahurangi



Area Columnists

And we got a month-and-a-half's rain in one night.

Who is responsible?

Is it the council, for neglecting river and flood management? For allowing development in the flood plain?

Is it developers - who told the council they'd engineered solutions to mitigate flooding?

Is it the council and developers for allowing high value activities such as shops and service industries in flood prone areas when previously the tin sheds of Kumeu were kept less intensive so if floods happened damage would also be less?

Are landowners responsible? Because buyer beware, Kumeu floods, and it always has, though never like this.

How could newcomers be expected to know?

Is it the council's fault for not signaling flood maps clearly enough on Land Information Memoranda and District Plans? Or is it previous landowners' fault for resisting such notes lest they affect property values?

The floods themselves may well affect property values and also drive-up insurance premiums.

Some houses are uninhabitable, some houses were uninsured.

If the council should buy flood prone properties in Kumeu to clear the flood plain, as they have done elsewhere in the region, rates will go up as well. Especially if we expect them to conduct any physical reconstruction of the river channel and flood berms to increase

capacity.

The council already did some of that down near Weza Lane, and the developers of the ex-Maddren block 'Kumeu Central' did too.

But apparently landowners elsewhere resisted further flood channel development, it was hugely expensive, and the project stalled. Can we hold anyone to account for that?

Material from all sorts of industrial activities and toxic chemicals in drums stored along the river bank have now been distributed throughout the catchment, along with sewage from overflowing private and public systems.

The flood has been a social, economic and environmental disaster.

So what can be done about it?

Firstly, Kumeu Community Action is cataloguing peoples' experiences and creating a file of information about flood levels and effects.

That's so in the future when we attend development hearings we have proof of the flood zone.

We have presented information in the past, have warned the council and developers that the area floods, but to little avail.

This might help. We encourage you to share your story, so email info@kumeucommunityaction.org.nz to do so.

We will also hold a public meeting and invite local politicians and the council's Healthy Waters team to talk.



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We will advocate for improved early warning systems - as many people had no idea a flood was on its way down the catchment until it was too late.

We will advocate for improved river management, and a conservative approach to development in the floodplain, including managed retreat of buildings and infrastructure from the flood risk areas where possible.

We will support an improved Civil Defence response, because on the night of the flood people were unsure where to go.

We will support community resilience, because the support of the community in the wake of the flood provided physical, emotional and economic lifelines to those many affected.

Please join us at Kumeu Community Action - visit <https://www.kumeucommunityaction.org.nz/> for more information.

Cruise Fiordland National Park

This really is regarded as one of the most beautifully scenic parts of the world, if you have never been there, or even if you have only done the popular Milford sound cruise for a couple of hours, then I can highly recommended for you to go back, - and experience this thoroughly with a minimum of at least one overnight on the Sounds, this is a bucket list tick trip that you really have to do, and this is the summer to do it, without the tourist crowds.

Doubtful Sound Cruise Package 4 days, Queenstown return
Regular departures from Oct 2021 - Apr 2022 from NZD \$1799 per person x 2, share twin



Includes: 4 days car hire ex Queenstown, 1 night Te Anau incl breakfast, Glow Worm Cave tour, coach & boat transfers ex Te Anau return, & 1 night Fiordland Navigator on the Doubtful Sound incl meals & activities, 1 night at the Heritage Queenstown, with Skyline Gondola & Buffet Dinner included. Discover the breath-taking, pristine wilderness scenery of Doubtful Sound deep in the heart of Fiordland National Park. Reconnect with nature, beautiful in any weather, and feel the silence. The fiord is long and wide and an overnight cruise is a great way to experience some of New Zealand's most stunning scenery

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Begin your journey with an amazing included scenic helicopter flight over the mountain tops, to land you directly on the brand new luxury yacht "The Island Escape" waiting for you in Doubtful Sound. Our crew will greet you with a chilled glass of champagne.

After 10 nights onboard, we depart the ship by Helicopter for a once-in-a-lifetime flight out of Milford Sound to intriguing Glenorchy. The final night is at the Heritage Hotel in Queenstown where you are free to enjoy the lakeside town and surroundings at your leisure.

Peter (PJ) Montgomery, the noted NZ Americas Cup Sailing guru is hosting the inaugural departure on 01 February 2022. PJ will share some of his experiences and knowledge of these waters. Be in quick for this departure!

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Area Columnists

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As a self-employed local business owner, I support Waimauku's School, our Scouts, and the Lions club, and I just love being a part of our fantastic community.

Tanya Franklin - The Travel Brokers Waimauku, email tanya@ttb.co.nz, phone 09 411 9105 or 021 254 9169.

Phelan's Local Board Update

The recent flooding in Kumeū & Huapai have hit families and business at the worst time possible. With next to no warning, late at night, people had little to no time to move animals and belongings, then being in level 4 lockdown meant the recovery was made more complicated. For businesses this has come at a particularly bad time having been closed for weeks with no sales to then be faced with additional expenses and delays in reopening is a hard blow!

Council will be reviewing the response, recovery efforts and investigating measures such as an early warning system of future floods on the river.

Part of any review should also include consideration of Neighbourhood Response Plans and whether is community interest in developing these to help with local resilience. I have been approached by groups interested in discussing these and there was a lot of public support and assistance offered so having a plan in place to constructively channel this might be useful for the future. Unfortunately, we are supposed to be having more adverse weather events due to climate change so now is a good time to investigate this.

To help the Local Board consider the best route to assist with this I have put together a survey to help us look at this in our upcoming

annual budget process. This will only take a few minutes and will help us advocate on your behalf...

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rodneysurvey01>

During level 4 lockdown there was a large quantity of asbestos waste dumped on Ararimu Valley Road and School Road in Waimauku. This got spread along both roads creating a public health risk at a time when people were more likely to be walking. The cost of clean-up to ratepayers has been considerable, over \$90,000.

Dumping of rubbish seems to come in waves in the area, sometimes it's household waste, I've seen truckloads of gardens waste dumped in the middle of quiet rural roads, tyres dumped down banks and other waste like oil drums have been dumped. Some of this waste appears to be from businesses avoiding tip fees and they are simply putting the cost on ratepayers and creating health and environmental risks along with it.

Some of the asbestos that was dumped was distinctive, the sheets on School Road contained pieces with blue and white paint on them, while others were corrugated roof material some of this was in plastic hazardous waste bags.

If you know anything about this or see dumped material or dumping happening, please contact 0800 NO DUMP immediately.

Phelan Pirrie, Rodney Local Board Chair. phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Chris Penk MP

This time it's different. As I write, Auckland is about to cross the threshold of the previous longest lockdown, albeit intended, advertised and certainly hoped to be "short and sharp".

18 months ago, the novelty of Covid-19 restrictions outweighed the burden of restrictions as far as many Kiwis were concerned. Stuffed toys adorned the windows. This time around, it's not just the teddy bears that are stuffed.

The mood of my constituents has changed significantly lately, as an entirely predictable state of affairs has come to pass. With vaccine rollout having been so slow, it was only a matter of time until a variant that's been around for some months would escape from the ad hoc MIQ facilities - barely modified hotels - in New Zealand's largest and most densely populated city.

In early 2020 I could see the effect that the very first lockdown was already having on some constituents. And even though I would cop some criticism for calling for a more nuanced approach (for instance, that butchers, greengrocers and bakers should be allowed to trade during Level 4, provided they could do so safely), I stand by my advocacy to this day.

Since that time, as your local MP I have become all the more aware of various other adverse effects that lockdowns can have. These aren't always reported in the nightly news, possibly because they

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Chris Penk
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Stop in, the office is open!

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National 
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are so personal to the individuals concerned and are "slow burn" problems by their nature.

A key category of difficulty is education, for example, with those already on the margins inevitably becoming marginalised further. Irregular, unpredictable and therefore stressful situations arise during lockdowns particularly for those with special learning needs. And "learning from home" is not easy when you're living in a rural or remote area that still has poor internet connectivity. Even more to the point, such stresses and strains don't end when the lockdowns do. I've sat with these families, so I know.

I fear for many people in this area and can only hope that we soon see an end to the restrictions. That way, we can start trying to rebuild all the local lifestyles and livelihoods affected in this way. Please follow public health advice to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe.

Flood reflections

Kumeu Community Action Chair Guy Wishart's view of flooding on his property on August 30-31.



The weather on Monday evening August 30 was unusual.

We were at home in Boord Crescent, Kumeu, my wife and daughter watching a movie.

The rain was relentless, driving hard against our lounge doors. The dogs refused to go outside at 10pm.

We monitored the rain radar during the evening with a low-pressure system stationary over the Northwest, being fed by warm wet air from the north.

Intense, sustained rainfall like this doesn't usually last for hours. We expected the paddock to the back of our house to be full of water in the morning, as it does about two times a year.

We are familiar with this event as our property and others are part of the flood protection area that moves flood water that spills over the Kumeu River banks further upstream. This water is directed back into the Kumeu River where it travels through Kumeu and later meets the Kaipara River, travelling north to Te Awaroa-Helensville.

There were no severe weather warnings from the MetService as we went to bed that night. We shone lights into the paddocks to see if the water was rising, but they were still at about stream level.

At 1.30am on Tuesday August 31 we were woken by a phone call from our next-door neighbour. His pump trip switch had woken him

and as he looked out the windows, flood water was at deck level. He assumed we would already have water in our house as we were at a lower level.

With the lights now on, flood water was quietly rising everywhere - through the outside doors, walls, bath and shower. The water level outside was about 20cm higher than inside. Soon the bed bases, couches, chests of drawers, shoes, kitchen, and power boards were becoming wet.

We were all trying to prioritise what was important to save, what could handle the water and what couldn't.

We were slipping over in the water-filled hallway, trying to move belongings to an area of the house 60cm above the rest of the dwelling. If that too was breached, there was a ladder to the ceiling that would be our next refuge.

The water was rising fast enough to make anything possible. We carried beds, clothes, TVs, computers, speakers as quickly as we could. Our three dogs and two cats were locked in a bedroom so they would not rush back into the floodwaters.

We walked to the barn with flashlights to see how our pigs were coping. The water was moving very fast at thigh height, with the constant worry that a submerged object may cause serious injury. Sadly, one of our two family pigs had drowned. Sugar, a kunekune, was unable to get her head above the rising water in the barn, while Gucci, a Captain Cooker, was able to. We opened the enclosure and tried to encourage Gucci to follow us to the deck area around our house but she continued to walk through the floodwaters for another eight hours before levels dropped enough for her to find ground to rest on.

The odd thing about waking at 1.30am to rising flood waters is that you think you are dreaming for a spell. I remember hoping that this was a particularly vivid dream that I would suddenly wake from. After five minutes, the stark reality was apparent.

When we were exhausted and had carried all the things we thought

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we could, we lay awake on our makeshift beds listening to the sound of fast moving water only inches below the floorboards.

It was an anxious wait in the dark, with the expectation of more heavy rain. Facebook was full of messages asking for help from families and animals in much worse circumstances that we were in. The enormity of the situation was becoming clear and with it a set of questions such as why warnings weren't forthcoming.

No emergency response plan appeared ready to roll out.

Where should flood victims go for shelter, who was supplying food and organising support?

So much of what happened that night was the result of closely-knit communities performing acts of exceptional bravery and support. One of our Kumeu Community Action committee, Laila Alkamil (Kumeu Volunteer Fire Brigade) rode a jet ski to a severely flooded house to rescue two children. She worked from early evening till early morning rescuing people and animals as part of her team.

It became blindingly obvious that night we needed an early warning system for flooding across the plains, from Waitakere through to the Kaipara Harbour.

For many there was no time to save their stock, pet animals, cars, utes, garage equipment and household contents. The trauma associated with this event for many will be significant and long lasting. Allowing time to respond to the likelihood of severe flooding would have made a huge difference.

A severe flood in the 1970s spurred the council at the time to raise the roads in several areas, add deeper drains and channel the water in a way not done before. Much of that system has not been maintained well and needs to be reviewed given the significant increase in housing and business in the area.

So what would we do differently in response to this serious flooding? Build higher where we can for any future builds. Consider lifting existing houses on piles up by 40cm? Only buy furniture made from solid wood as nothing else survived? Keep all expensive, damageable objects 50cm or more off the ground? Seal all surfaces in the kitchen to stop water getting into them, causing expansion? Buy a kayak and waders and keep them handy? See if doors and drains can be more effectively sealed? Keep cars, tractors, movers and tools on higher ground?

We managed to fill five large skips with damaged carpet, underlay, vinyl flooring, plasterboard, household items, garage and barn materials and machinery.

It is made worse by the fact that everything is affected at one time, so it can be confusing to know where to start.

At level 4, we were unable to get help from friends with the clean-up but formed slightly enlarged bubbles to allow some help.

The prepared meals and supplies that were given in the first few weeks were greatly appreciated.

A close friend, Tania, set up a Givealittle page that enabled people to contribute what they could. Our friends were so kind, it was humbling.

The worry a few weeks into the process of drying the walls out and removing kitchens to access damage is that it may take a long time for things to return to normal.

The cost of reinstatement and contents is likely to be around \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Still, we are grateful to be alive and well. The grass and trees are growing like nothing ever happened, the birds are as busy as ever, and we are thankful to our community and friends for looking after us at such a testing time.

Sayers Says It

By Rodney councillor Greg Sayers

New Zealand continues to go through difficult and unprecedented times with the outbreak of the COVID-19 Delta variant.

I know many of our people in Rodney may be feeling overwhelmed.

In addition, many families in the Kumeu area have the additional pressure of having had to deal with the aftermath of flooding.

If you are at all feeling overcome by these developments and you need help, advice or reassurance, please contact me directly on 021 285 9900.

I am not happy with how central Government is overriding the Auckland Council and its ratepayers by not allowing consultation on important matters.

This is unconstitutional.

I would like to bring your attention to a growing concern around the lack of public consultation with Aucklanders regarding major changes impacting the Auckland Council and its ratepayers.

The first is the Government's proposal to radically change Auckland Council's ownership of its drinking, wastewater and storm water services - called the "Three Waters Reform".

The "Three Waters Reform" proposes amalgamating all of Auckland's water services with the Far North, Whangarei and Kaipara District Councils (all of Northland) to create a new regional corporation which will take over all of the water services.

It is concerning the Government is not seeking public consultation with Aucklanders.

Auckland Council is being asked if it wishes to "opt in" or "opt-out". This lacks open and democratic processes, weakening transparency by ultimately circumnavigating the ratepayers who have paid for,



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and own, all of Auckland's water infrastructure.

Surreptitiously, the Government has retained the right to make this amalgamation compulsory, with the ability force the new water corporation on councils regardless of 'opting in or out'.

It all seems to be bit of a sham - they can still strip Auckland of its water assets regardless of public sentiment.

The Government has also created a rule banning a referendum on this proposal. This lack of engagement with Auckland's residents and ratepayers is of great concern.

Another huge concern is the Government's announcement to force the Auckland Council to remove a minimum number of off-street parking spaces without any public consultation with residents and ratepayers by February 20, 2022, from its Unitary Plan.

This is unconstitutional - residents and ratepayers are being removed from having their say on this too.

This includes all townships and suburbs across the entire Auckland region, including Kumeu and Riverhead.

The Government's solution to leave it up to developers to provide off-street parking - essentially means the provision of parking is now market led by entrepreneurs, not by council rules.

Aucklanders already have a glimpse into the future of what will happen to our public streets.

Have you seen the width of the roads in new suburbs like Millwater or Milldale north of Auckland?

Imagine the houses having no off-street parking?

Developers make more money from adding another bedroom than

providing off-street parking and garaging.

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