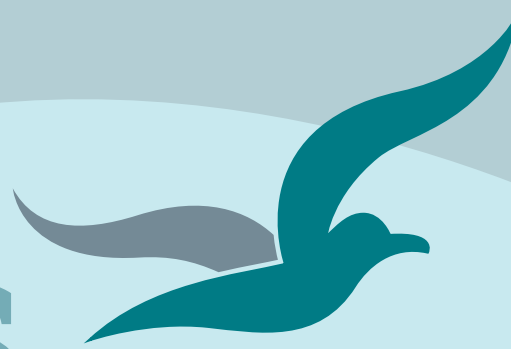


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Meridian Energy gets final consent for its Ruakākā Solar Farm

Subject to final decision by the Meridian Board, construction will begin mid year

Meridian Energy has been granted final consent approval by the Environment Court to build its 120MW Ruakākā Solar Farm on 172 hectares stretching alongside State Highway 15, McCathie Road, Marsden Point Road and Rama Road.

Initial consent was granted by the Northland Regional Council in September, after which an appeal was received regarding some environmental aspects of the development. This was resolved following discussions between Meridian, the appellants and interested parties, and Meridian will now further enhance the protection of natural wetlands and dunelands, and restoration of wetland areas.

Meridian Chief Executive Neal Barclay said "Solar farms and batteries are part of the solution to strengthen and grow our electricity system. Along with our hydro stations and wind farms, they'll build resilience for tough years and help to reduce the cost of electricity for Kiwi homes and businesses."

The solar farm is Stage 2 of Meridian's Ruakākā Energy Park, which also includes a 100MW battery energy storage system that is expected to be fully operational by April 2025.

Subject to final investment decision by the Meridian Board, expected in March, construction of the Ruakākā Solar Farm is planned to start in mid-2025 and to be completed by early 2027.

Biggest car show ever



Ron Cave - classic car enthusiast, Waipu Lion and chief organiser of the big Waipu Car and Bike Show poses with his 1970 Pontiac Transam, a car he has owned for the past eight years.

Ron estimates there were approximately 900 cars at the show as well as a record number of motorbikes. The final count of money made at the event is not yet complete.

The bulk of the proceeds from this year's show will go to the Northland Emergency Services Trust, which operates the Northland Rescue Helicopter. The Trust had a stall at the show and a helicopter flew over the crowd and landed in a field alongside.

More car show pictures on page 3



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disease, as they do in other countries. But the result of an insect bite is frequently intense itching, as the insect injects a small amount of an anti-clotting substance so that the blood may be fed on more easily. This often develops into a raised reddened lump at the site of a bite, and may also blister. The major problem with these bites is that the itching results in scratching the area, causing infections and sores to develop, which may take some time to heal, and may also cause scarring.

In order to treat an insect bite you need to relieve the itch. There are many preparations available from your community pharmacy that will help to treat the itch, as it may continue for several days after the bite if you are particularly sensitive to that insect. Often people that are new to an area may have a more severe allergic response to the insects that inhabits that region. Travellers or those on holiday often have a more severe reaction to insects than those that live locally, as an immunity to the insect appears to develop with repeated exposure or bites in the past.

Preparations that your community pharmacist may advise you to use to treat the itch of insect bites include soothing, numbing or mild steroid creams and lotions. If there are many bites, or your reaction is severe, then antihistamine tablets may also be helpful to deal with extended periods of itching. The itch of bites tends to worsen at night when you are in bed and this is when antihistamine tablets are particularly helpful.

As with all preventable conditions, the best treatment of insect bites is not to get bitten in the first place. Regular flea treatment of cats and dogs and good household and personal hygiene will help to remove fleas and bedbugs. It is also helpful to remove or cover pools of water to deter mosquitos.

Your community pharmacist is also able to advise you of suitable products to use to repel biting mosquitos, sand flies and other insects; as well as advise you about how to discourage insects from being attracted to you or your surroundings.

EDITORIAL

Where do all these cars and people come from?

Where do all those cars and people come from? There were record numbers of vehicles and spectators at the Waipu Car and Bike Show. Driving home took some time with long queues of vehicles backed up at the Shoemaker Rd and Nova Scotia Rd. State Highway intersections. When I saw the queue on Shoemaker, I headed down Nova Scotia but it was just as bad there. Stuck in the line I could see a continuous stream of vehicles southbound on the highway and wondered how long it would take to get home.

A Police officer came to the rescue stopping traffic in both directions on the SH1 and waving us all through. I was very grateful as I was anxious to get home to get back to work on this issue of the Bream Bay News.

I often congratulate myself that I don't have to spend large chunks of time stuck in traffic as the unfortunate residents of our major cities often do, but its getting pretty bad here as well. A fortnight ago I came to a standstill and then crept along at a snails pace for at least half an hour in the afternoon traffic heading south out of Whangārei along Kioreroa Rd. I thought there might have been an accident but I could see no evidence of this once I finally made it to the highway.

The car show was the reason for some of this afternoon's traffic but the highway has been very busy this summer. It seems to be taking longer and longer to get across the road if I am heading into Ruakākā or Waipu from my home to the west. I think we need a tunnel under the highway or a bridge over it. A roundabout at the Nova Scotia intersection as planned by NZTA a few years ago but now scraped while we wait for that four-lane-highway, would have come into its own today.

Now that Waipu has been named the best beach in the country will this make the waves and the sand there even more congested? There was nowhere to park this morning when my daughter attempted to take her son to the Waipu Surf Club nippers' class. She gave up and they went to Ruakākā Beach instead.

It's not too bad at Uretiti beside the campground, which is my main track to the sea. I was just this morning thinking that, while most of the year I enjoy the space and solitude, it can be nice to watch and interact a little bit with people enjoying themselves here.

A young couple out for an early morning jog gave me a start as I headed down the Tahuna Track just after sunrise. A little boy and a grey haired grandfather were digging in the sand and looking at the sand hoppers and worm that somehow survive there while they waited for a tug on their fishing rod, an Indian man smiled and nodded as he headed down to the waves with his two little children.

Marilyn

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New Zealand’s best beach



Waipu Cove after the Waitangi weedend crowd had departed

Waipu Cove was voted top beach in New Zealand last week in a New Zealand Herald poll where readers were asked to vote for the Best Family Beach, Best Surf Beach, Best City Beach, Best Camping Beach and Best Hidden Gem. Waipu Cove was voted Best Family Beach and Best Camping Beach as well as the country’s second most popular Surf Beach, just behind Raglan. The was good news for Anton Trist, Manager at Camp Waipu Cove. Asked what he thought Waipu Cove had above all the competition Anton said, “We have a very unique environment here in Waipu Cove unlike most other beaches. We have a patrolled beach by Waipu Cove Surf Life Saving Club, making it safe for families, a great new dairy with everything you need, an excellent restaurant across the road and a surf school for surf lessons. Not to mention our fantastic white sand beach that stretches for kilometres. You can often walk the beach during our quieter months with no one else on it. “I was just thinking today, if you were camping here for two weeks you do not have to leave the Cove as it has everything you need in the one spot. All this only 1.5 hours from NZ biggest population!” Nearby Langs Beach was voted the second best *Hidden Gem* of a beach behind Whale Bay at Matapouri and in front of Matai Bay on the Karekare Peninsula

What is happening here? Waipu Development discussed by the Whangārei District Council “in committee”

A mysterious item entitled “Waipu Development” was listed at the bottom of the Whangarei District Council’s minutes for its last meeting of 2024 held on 12 December. The item was discussed “in committee” meaning away from the public eye, with no description of what was said or decided recorded in the minutes. The Bream Bay News pointed out that under The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act a reason must be given whenever the Council discusses an issue “in committee” and that reason must fit into criteria set out in the act. The Council’s Senior Communications Advisor Ann Midson inquired about this and came back with the explanation that the Council moved into committee to enable it to carry out commercial activities “without prejudice or disadvantage ”which is one of criteria permitted under the act.

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SCAN TO REGISTER

Contractor told to cut back mowing of Uranga Park to just four times a year

Government’s cost-cutting has arrived at Uranga Park in Ruakākā. FBL which contracts to LINZ (Land Information New Zealand), which manages crown land, now wants the park mowed just four times a year and has stipulated the months of March, June September and December when this will occur. Currently the contractor Bain McGregor mows the park whenever it needs it between eight and ten times a year. Bain is concerned that in the spring the grass will grow quickly and then as it dries out in the summer become a fire hazard. After rain or heavy dew students walking through the park on their way to school will arrive with wet feet and the long grass will hide bottles and broken glass which will endanger people walking through the park in bare feet, as they often do. This will also be hazardous for the tractor operator as the bottles shatter in the mower blades. Bain said he usually picks up dumped rubbish when he does the mowing and the situation could get really messy if it is left too long. Ruakaka Village resident Tui Roman said Bain has been mowing the park for many years and takes pride in keeping it tidy. She said the park is well used when it is mown. “There are families out there an children playing ball games together .” She said when the grass in the park is long it is hard to see the hollows and humps and she cannot walk there. She thinks if the grass is left to grow long and the park looks like it is unused and unloved it will be like an invitation for the boy racers to move in with their motorbikes and old cars and for people to dump rubbish.



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LETTERS

Whangārei Distict Council should be held accountable for sewage discharge

I read with absolute disbelief that nobody is held accountable for the discharge of raw sewage into our waterways by the Whangarei District Council. I t seems the only answer,from them, is to close beaches and waterways and let dilution be the solution over time the travesty goes away and life carries on. Northland Regional Council are the governing body that are incharge of making sure these blatant mistakes are sorted and people are held accountable to the letter of the law--- but NO The same personal in the N R C prosecuting team are the very people that seem to be turning a blind eye to these situations that at any hour of the day or night will turn up on a dairy farmer’s property to get a prosecution for an illegal spill from the farm effluent system that has malfunctioned. Furthermore not only the farm owner can be charged but farm staff can also be required to face court action and fined as well. My question is: Why is the W D C immune from prosecution for transgressions of the law and also how are staff from the offending plants immune and untouchable unlike farm staff Isn’t it time we had a level playing field and the darts stick to all who are at fault. It’s not the law that is at fault it is the administration of the law

*Edwin Smith
Retired Dairy Farmer
Waipu*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME

Email them to: breambaynews@xtra.co.nz
Drop them off at the Waipū or Ruakākā Lotto shops
Or post them to: The Bream Bay News, 547 Mountfield Rd. ,RD2 Waipu, Postcode 0582

A photograph of a black mountain bike leaning against a wire fence in a field. The field is filled with tall corn plants and numerous bright yellow sunflowers. The ground is covered in green grass and small yellow wildflowers. In the background, there is a line of trees under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The fence is made of wooden posts and wire, running diagonally across the frame.

When the maize is harvested the sunflowers will be chopped up and mixed in with the silage.



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Children excited to find new playground on their return to school



On Wednesday 5 February their first day of term the children of One Tree Point School were excited to find a colourful new adventure play structure with a climbing wall, a shop, a twisty slide a swing bridge and many other features.

The playground was a long term fundraising effort by the schools PTA. The new play equipment was blessed at an early morning ceremony on Tuesday 4 February.

Ruakaka School also has a new playground but last week the children there could only look longingly through a high wire fence as the safety surface was still to go in underneath.

Major upgrades continue at Ruakākā School which has five new classrooms, a flash new administration block with a new staff room and a flash new reception. The old rooms are being renovated to become a learning support centre and a new entrant classroom and new entrant classrooms

Ruakākā school lunch scheme remains for another year

The Ruakākā School lunch scheme, where local people are employed to prepare lunch and morning tea for the school's 291 children remains in place, at least for another year. The school has a commercial kitchen set up in what was the staff room especially for the lunch scheme.

The coalition government however has signaled that by next year schools where lunches are prepared on site will receive just \$4 for each child's lunch. At present the allowance is \$6.77 per child.

When the Bream Bay News visited the school last year lunch was a ham and salad sandwich on whole grain bread, an apple and muffins had been served for morning tea. Children sat together to eat and all seemed to be enjoying the camaraderie and the food. Teaching staff reported that the full tummies as well as the ban on sugary drinks and food made a big difference to the children's ability to concentrate and learn throughout the afternoon.

Neither Waipu Primary nor One Tree Point School qualifies for the lunch scheme.

Only the top 25% of schools in what is now called the "equity index" where families face the most socio economic barriers are eligible for the scheme.



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Monthly Resident and Ratepayer group meetings

THE RUAKĀKĀ RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

The Ruakāka Parish Residents and Ratepayers Association meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the new Ruakāka Recreation Centre building in Peter Snell Rd

THE WAIPU RIDING RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

The Waipu Residents and Ratepayers Association meets at 7pm on the last Wednesday of each month in St Peters Church, Nova Scotia Rd. Waipu.
Please email: waipurra@gmail.com if you would like to attend a meeting and address the committee members.

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Local Government Elections coming up in September - Who will be putting up their hand?

Local Government elections are due to be held this year with postal voting from 9 September to 11 October 2025.
Candidate nominations open on 4 July and close on 1 August.
In Bream Bay we get to vote for two ward councillors, the Mayor of Whangarei and a Northland Regional Councillor representing the southern coastal section of Northland.

Those on the Māori Electoral Roll vote for two councillors in a district wide Maori ward and two NRC Councillors in Te Raki Māori Constituency for the NRC.
At the directive of the Government a referendum will be held alongside the election asking if wthe Councils should retain the Maori Wards.

Councillor Phil Halse

“It’s not a part time job. You need to have some governance experience and be able to work with other people”



Councillor Phil Halse

Councillor Phil Halse say it’s too early to have made up his mind as to whether he will stand for election once more in September

He has been a Whangārei District Councillor for a continuous 33 years. If he gets elected again it will be his 12th three-year term. He served three of those years representing the Okara Ward after he and his wife Flo moved to Whangārei but although he still lives in Whangarei, at the last election after the resignation of Councillor Shelley Deeming he was voted in once more as a Bream Bay Ward councillor. He thinks his 33 years might be close to a national record.

He currently holds the position of Deputy Mayor, and is deputy chairman of both the Finance and Infrastructure Committees. He sees these roles as mentoring the district’s future leaders.

Phil says Bream Bay has everything going for it. Four of the biggest industries in Northland are based here. It has a farming community and fast growing residential areas.

The new Ruakāka Waste Water Treatment plant is a big exciting project just getting underway with tenders invited just before Christmas.

Phil said anyone considering standing for election to Council should think carefully.

“It’s a big job. We have over 400 people working for us and we spend about \$50million a year. It’s not a part time job and it is important to have some governance experience under your belt. You need to be able to work with other people and to accept that you are not always going to get your way.”

Councillor Ken Couper

Would like to continue to work on the Northland side Knowledge Hub



Councillor Ken Couper

Councillor Ken Couper also seems to be enjoying his role. He is Chairman of the Strategy Planning and Development Committee and is excited about working to set up what he calls a “Knowledge Hub” based in the central city but with satellite centres to serve the whole of Northland. This involves building facilities and inviting tertiary education providers such as the University of Auckland and Skills NZ to set up branches here.

Ken said the Hub would bring together education, job training and creative activities all in one place. He is concerned that many of Northland’s young people never undertake tertiary education of any kind and are consequently stuck in low paying jobs for the rest of their lives.

He understands that many young people will need to be supported to succeed at their chosen field of study and proposes to have people in place, camp mothers to provide pastoral care.

Ken said he would like to serve a third term on Council so he can see this project through.

More photographs from the Waipu Lions 2025 Car and Bike Show



This 1932 Ford V8, owned by Dave Coker and Cynthia Cotton of Dargaville drew a lot of attention at the Waipu Car and Bike Show on Sunday 9 February in the Caledonian Park. They bought the car in bits from Nelson three years ago and Dave re-assembled it.



Lynne Kirk of Te Kamo with her Tropical Turquoise Ford Mustang 1965 convertible. She was visiting an uncle in Christchurch just prior to Christmas and went to Muscle Cars on Moorhouse with him when she saw the car in the yard. The number plate Dorie sold it to her as Dorie was the name of her Nana who brought her up after her parents separated. She has no regrets apart from she and her husband getting sun burnt on the drive home. She said the car is popular with their grandchildren who they take out for icecreams.



Harry Currell of Maunu with his well travelled 1955 Citroën, which he has owned for the past 28 years. Harry purchased the car from a work mate who had to return to his home in Yugoslavia when he was living in South Africa in 1979. He paid just 300 rand, equivalent to around 180 British pounds. Harry, a mechanic by trade, took the car back to his birth country the UK with him and restored it there. Twenty years ago he came to New Zealand and the car came with him. Harry and his Citroën go on weekly outings together to the local Classic Car Club.



Kim Shine with his built motorbike which he has named Chevistor Bulldog. The bike received a red rosette as winner of a class at the show but Kim was not sure which this was. Kim said it took him around a month working full time to assemble the machine. The headlights are from an almost rusted away 1939 Chevrolet, the speedo is from a 1966 NZ Trekka Ute, the seat is an old bar stool covered in ostrich skin and the engine is from a 6hp Lister portable generator.

**Phone the BREAM BAY NEWS 027 432 0070
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At the Ruakākā Estuary

Photos by Kevin Wigmore



A group of Cape Barren Geese were recent visitors



Waka ama paddlers from Tutukaka getting in some practice at the Ruakaka Estuary



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Police Report

Car burglaries and thefts in Ruakākā

There has been a space of car burglaries and thefts in Ruakākā. A vehicle was taken from Tamure Rd., Ruakākā and then recovered in Station Rd. Another vehicle taken from Ruakākā was later found in Onerahi. Vehicle break ins have been reported from Bermuda Place in One Tree Point and Bream Bay Drive in the Ruakākā south area.

More fraud incidents reported

More fraud incidents have been reported. One person had money taken from their bank account after handing over their bank access codes to a fraudster who had phoned them to ask if they had recently made a purchase at Mitre 10. The answer was no so the fraudster told the victim he would close down their account and to do this needed the account access numbers. Sergeant Simon Craig said this is a common scam and warns people to never hand out bank passwords to anyone.

There have also been more cases of people losing their deposits on items that seem to be incredibly cheap on Facebook Marketplace. Sergeant Craig warns people not to hand over any money until they have seen the item they intend to purchase.

Thirteen family harm incidents

In the fortnight Monday 27 January to Monday 10 February Bream Bay Police attended 14 family harm incidents.

Bream Bay Police back in force after deployment at Waitangi

Over the same fortnight just one person was apprehended for drink driving. A 19-year-old Whangārei man has been issued with an infringement notice after

he returned a reading of 320 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath when stopped by Police on State Highway One at Waipu.

Sergeant Simon Craig warns that after being deployed for the Waitangi Day celebrations Bream Bay Police are back in full strength and will be carrying out patrols on local roads stopping speeding and drunk drivers as they try to keep everyone safe.

Just four minor crashes

Despite heavy volumes of traffic on State Highway One Police are aware of just four minor crashes, including a nose to tail crash on the Ruakākā roundabout and a vehicle crashing into the centre barrier wire. There were no serious injuries.

Tickets now on sale to the Bream Bay Sports Awards

Tickets are now on sale for the Bream Bay Sports Award which will be held on Friday 21 March from 5.30pm in the Waipu Celtic Barn.

Former All Black, Frank Bunce and former New Zealand Rugby League Player Lui Anderson will be guest speakers. Both recently appeared on the Television Show Match Fit and footage from the show will be played during the evening.

To date 33 nominations have been received for the Awards across a range of categories.

Tickets can be purchased on line at: breambay-sportstrust.co.nz

The price \$60 for adults and \$30 for under 18s covers the cost of a buffet dinner as well as entertainment. Raffles will be run throughout the evening.

Proceeds from the evening will be used to support and promote sport in Bream Bay.

Bream Bay Sports Awards

Evening

Friday 21 March 2025
5:30pm | Celtic Barn, Waipu



FRANK BUNCE



LUI ANDERSON

MATCH FIT

CATEGORIES
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Frank Bunce, former All Black, and Lui Anderson, former New Zealand Rugby League player, recently starred in TV Series *Match Fit*.

They will discuss the challenges of retiring from professional sports, and transitioning to new careers and everyday life in New Zealand. Highlighting how staying active builds resilience, supports mental health, and helps tackle life's challenges head on.

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Sat 15 Feb	10.31	2.5	10.51	2.5
Sun 16 Feb	11.08	2.5	11.29	2.5
Mon 17 Feb	11.41	2.5	~	~
Tue 18 Feb	12.06	2.5	12.20	2.5
Wed 19 Feb	12.45	2.4	12.57	2.4
Thu 20 Feb	1.26	2.4	1.37	2.4
Fri 21 Feb	2.12	2.3	2.21	2.3
Sat 22 Feb	3.04	2.2	3.11	2.2
Sun 23 Feb	4.03	2.2	4.08	2.2
Mon 24 Feb	5.05	2.3	5.10	2.2
Tue 25 Feb	6.05	2.3	6.13	2.3
Wed 26 Feb	7.00	2.5	7.12	2.4
Thu 27 Feb	7.51	2.6	8.07	2.5
Fri 28 Feb	8.39	2.7	8.59	2.7

Concern for the survival of Ruakākā Forest’s beech trees

Robyn Armstrong of the Ruakākā Forest protection group is raising concerns about the survival of the forests regionally significant hard beech trees.

Robyn said We are concerned that while the Kauri up there are regenerating really well and producing heaps of seedlings so far we have only managed to find 16 hard beech trees, one came down in cyclone Gabriel, another one that was struggling has since died and we are unable to find any beech seedlings in the immediate vicinity. This does not bode well for the future of hard beech in Ruakākā Forest.”

Robyn said the mix of kauri, podocarp, broadleaf and beech found in the forest is “apparently quite a threatened system and one of only 2 in Northland.”

“This is a treasure unique to Ruakākā and we need to nurture it before sometime in the future the last hard beech in the forest falls into the gully.”

Possum trapping efforts by the protection group have helped the survival of the remaining beech trees.

This particular tree is looking much healthier since this work began.





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THE NEXT PUBLICATION DATE

of the Bream Bay News will be Thursday 27 February

The deadline for all copy is 4pm on

Wednesday 19 February

In search of coastal maire



Coralie Roberts, Manager of the Waipu Community Nursery, is keen to get hold of some seed of the Coastal Maire from shrubs or trees growing in the Waipu area Coralie said she knows of only two trees growing in Waipu and neither of these have produced any seed.

Coastal Maire can be found in the exposed margins of coastal forest, on exposed ridgelines and rocky slopes. It is a stocky spreading tree or shrub growing up to 10 metres in height. It has leathery, wavy, glossy dark green leaves that are pale green on the underside. Its flowers are pale or yellowish green and 2.5 to 2.9cm in diameter and are without petals. The trees botanical name Nestegis apetala refers its paired leaves and the apetala (no petals). Fruit are oval shaped and yellow or purple when ripe. Rats love to eat them, which is most likely why the New Zealand Plan Conservation Network lists this plant as an “at risk” species.

To let Coralie know about any local specimens please call: 027 432 0293.

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The Ahuroa

By Lydia Draper

The Ahuroa River begins its journey along Waipu Gorge Road, flowing from the foothills of Piroa (the Brynderwyns) and tumbling down a 20 metre drop at Piroa Falls. Piroa Falls is more than a scenic waterfall. It is a sacred place. It was once an important ceremonial site for Māori, where ancient rituals were performed to prepare warriors for going to battle as well as welcoming them home. This is evidenced by the significant pā site in the upper reaches of Piroa called Te Tau-mata Tirohanga.

The water quality of Piroa Falls is frequently monitored by LAWA (Land Air Water Aotearoa) during the summer months. The results reflect the levels of E. coli in the water. At Piroa Falls the long-term grade is 'poor' as the majority of its results are in the red zone. This means it doesn't meet national guidelines for swimming and there is a high risk of illness.

Visit the LAWA website for more information: <https://www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/northland-region/swimming/ahuroa-at-piroa-falls/swimsite>

According to LAWA, 'E. coli is a type of bacteria commonly found in the guts of warm-blooded mammals (including people) and birds. E. coli can survive for up to four to six weeks outside the body in fresh water, making it a useful indicator of faecal contamination and the presence of disease-causing organisms. Common sources of E. coli bacteria are human wastewater discharges, animal waste, bird droppings and stormwater run-off.'

Further downstream, the Ahuroa River is siphoned into the treatment plant that supplies water to the Waipu township. The Whangārei District Council has confirmed that the water is treated using chlorine (1.5g per cubic metre) and caustic soda to make sure the pH level is 7.2 (which is alkaline). Caustic soda, also known as sodium hydroxide, is an industrial chemical with multiple uses. It is used in water treatment to stabilise pH levels, remove heavy metals and soften water by removing calcium and magnesium ions. It is also used to remove organic pollutants and bacteria, and to prevent pipe corrosion. The Ahuroa water treatment plant also uses a 'multi-barrier approach' to manage risks, which includes a filtration system with stones and UV light, as required under the Water Services Act 2021.

The Ahuroa River then wends its way towards the centre of town where it joins the Waihoi and Waipu rivers in a three-pronged fork part-way along the Waipu River Walk. The Waipu River then flows past the Waipu Boat & Fishing Club, Waipu Cemetery and out to Te Moana Nui a Kiwa (the Pacific).

The Waipu Cemetery offers a restful outlook of the Waipu River. There are approximately 1,700 people interred there, including my grandparents Walter and Noeline Draper. Unfortunately burials and cremations can have a negative impact on the environment. Burials leach embalming chemicals into the soil and groundwater, including formaldehyde, arsenic, ammonia and chloride. While a single cremation produces an average of 534 pounds of carbon dioxide – roughly a quarter of the amount the average petrol-powered car emits in a year. In some parts of the world alternatives to cremation are starting to gain momentum, such as resomation (water cremation) but we are yet to see this available in Aotearoa. There is a natural burial option offered at Maunu Cemetery where the body is either wrapped in a cotton or silk shroud or placed in a casket made of organic material such as wood or willow, with no metal joinery. The burial is in a shallow grave where the humus is active in a bush-clad section of the cemetery. Waipu's rivers contend with human-induced hazards at (almost) every turn. But thankfully Waipu Waters



Above photo by Peter Blanch



Volunteers at the Waipu Community Nursery: Nursery Manager Coralie Robers on the left with: Michelle Babe-Vercoc, Gail Edmiston, Pav Stacey, Justine Tapper and Bruce Sinclair.

Community Nursery is working hard to bring hope to the situation. With support from the Piroa Conservation Trust, Waipu Waters has started a nursery which, thanks to dedicated volunteers, has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 2022. The nursery nurtures native plants from seed to sapling and produces 20,000 plants annually for riparian margins,

wetlands and the restoration of migratory paths. New volunteers are always welcome! If you're interested contact Coralie Roberts (nursery manager): 027 432 0293 or Graham Matthews (catchment coordinator): 027 432 1016.

Phone 432 0900

Waipu community garden uses regenerative gardening methods

Waipu 2000 is a Charitable Trust, which keeps Waipu looking clean and tidy and develops and funds community projects often in partnership with other groups. Alan Nordich, who mows and weed eats many of the towns public spaces, empties the village rubbish and recycling and provides a cheery smile and chat for many residents is employed by Waipu 2000. Despite losing some its Whangārei District Council mowing contracts the Trust continues to use funds to complete community projects and assist with others. The Community Orchard next to the Fire Station is one such project, using the nutrient dense food crops method based on regenerative farming philosophy.



The garden uses regenerative methods without sprays or constant mowing

Some people have voiced concern that it looks a bit messy without mown lawn under the however, under the guidance of Tony Robinson, a nutrient dense food crops practitioner with 30years experience, the orchard has been designed to grow all year round sustainable and nutrient dense tree crops without the use of toxic chemicals. With the use of cover crops and companion planting the community garden should be self-sufficient with minimal inputs required by local volunteers. As cover crops protect the soils and fix soil nutrients, the Trust has planted lupins, mustard, wildflowers, and herbs such as borage and calendula. The cover crop has been cut down and left to mulch. Compost and natural fertilisers have been used to enrich the soil. Tony believes over cultivation destroys soils, causing the loss of active soil biology and killing off worms. This method soaks up the rain and retains soil moisture, very important for this area, as there is no water on site. The trust is grateful to neighbours Bevan and Margaret Holmes who have assisted over very dry patches.



Already some very young trees (have produced some fruit although tin this first year these may not fully mature. In the future it is hoped there will be an abundance of produce to share with the community. The trust invites people to enjoy this garden and to let them know when something might need attention but “don’t expect it to look like orchards you see elsewhere where weeds are controlled by constant mowing or the use of herbicides.

WHAT’S ON IN BREAM BAY

- **ONE TREE POINT ARTISAN MARKET** Next on Sunday 16 February 9am - 1pm. One Tree Point School quadrant and field. Fundraising for Whangārei Hospital Children’s Ward.
- **MARSDEN COVE MARINA MARKET.** Next on Sunday 23 February 9.30am - 2pm
- **MARSDEN COVE SUNSET MARKET** Friday 7 March then on Friday 4 April from 4pm to 8pm. In conjunction with the Marsden Cove Fishing Club’s Fishy Friday held on the first Friday of each month.
- **WAIPU BOUTIQUE SUNDAY MARKET** Next on Sunday 9 March From 9am to 1pm in the Coronation Hall
- **TOP OF THE ROCK FUN RUN AND WALK** Sunday 9 March. 9am start. 5km and 10km options. Pakeho Rd., Kaiwaka. \$25 entry. Registration forms from Kaiwaka 4 Square or on line at www.kaiwakasports.co.nz Fundraiser for the Kaiwaka Sports Association. Kids bike race at the Sports Association at 11.30am.
- **BREAM BAY SPORTS AWARDS** Friday 21 March at 5.30pm itn the Waipu Celtic Barn. Thirty three nominations for awards to date. Guest speakers Frank Bunce and Lui Anderson. Buffet dinner. Ticks on line at breambaysportstrust.co.nz
- **EVENTS AT TAHAMOANA FARM:**
- Opera in the Garden. March 22, 3-6pm. 566 Cove Rd. Tickets from Eventfinda, Hammer Hardware or at the gate.
- **WAIPU MUSEUM** 36, The Centre, Waipu. Open seven days 10am- 4pm
- **THE KAURI MUSUEM.** . The Kauri Museum is open 9am-5pm every day

BREAM BAY link EVERY THURSDAY

MORNING

9.00am	Departs	Kaiwaka Kaiwaka Hall
9.15am	Departs	Mangawhai Village Village Shops Bus Stop (by restrooms)
9.20am	Departs	Mangawhai Heads I-Site
9.35am	Departs	Langs Beach Corner of Wairahi and Cove Roads
9.40am	Departs	Waipu Cove Beach Car park
9.50am	Departs	Waipu Monument Bus stop
10.10am	Departs	Ruakākā Peter Snell Road (opposite Takutai Place)
10.50am	Arrives	Whangārei Rose Street Bus Terminus

*For travel within Whangārei see CityLink Whangārei timetable www.citylinkwhangarei.co.nz or get your timetable from the Rose Street office.

AFTERNOON

3.00pm	Departs	Whangārei Rose Street Bus Terminus
3.40pm	Departs	Ruakākā Peter Snell Road (opposite Takutai Place)
4.00pm	Departs	Waipu Monument Bus stop
4.10pm	Departs	Waipu Cove Beach Car park
4.15pm	Departs	Langs Beach Corner of Wairahi and Cove Roads
4.30pm	Departs	Mangawhai Heads I-Site
4.35pm	Departs	Mangawhai Village Village Shops Bus Stop (by restrooms)
4.50pm	Arrives	Kaiwaka Kaiwaka Hall

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Mangawhai Heads	\$7.00	\$10.00
Langs Beach	\$7.00	\$10.00
Waipu Cove	\$6.00	\$8.00
Waipu	\$6.00	\$8.00
Ruakākā	\$5.00	\$7.00

ROUTE DESCRIPTION Kaiwaka/Mangawhai Road, Molesworth Road, Mangawhai Heads Road, Cove Road, The Centre Waipu, Nova Scotia Drive, SH1, Marsden Point Road, Peter Snell Road, Marsden Point Road, SH15A, SH1, Otaika Road, Maunu Road, Walton Street, Rose Street Bus Terminal.

If you would like to be picked up elsewhere along the route, please phone Leabourn's to arrange this on the Wednesday before you want to travel.

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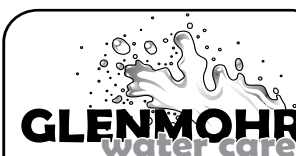
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Chris Martin	027 367 2947
Mary Abercrombie	021 598467

Make contact with a Justice of the Peace (on any day) and make an appointment to have your documents completed.
A service desk also operates 10am to 11am on Saturdays in the Ruakākā Library.

KW SINGERS PRACTISE

At Ranburn Care Home.

Tuesdays 1.15 - 2.45.
an un auditioned community choir with a vacancy for a tenor, a bass and a first soprano.
Also an accompanist
Anne Connolly - Munt
0274847576

Local people read
THE BREAM BAY NEWS
It is an effective place
to advertise

NORTHPINE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

This committee meets periodically to review the environmental performance of the Northpine timber manufacturing plant in Waipu, in consultation with representatives of the local councils. Any Waipu resident with concerns about the environmental effects of the Northpine plant should notify the Northpine office (432 1155). Concerns will be recorded, considered and subsequently reviewed by the liaison committee. The Independent chairperson of the liaison committee is Steve Goldthorpe 0274 849 764.



seniornet
Confidently connecting
with technology

SeniorNet Bream Bay is offering these courses/workshops this term:

W11 Basics, Basic Computing Skills,
Using Word
Photos off devices,
Android phone basics,
Gmail, Google Calendar, Facebook,
Basic Apple iPhone/iPad,
Advanced Apple iPhone/iPad,

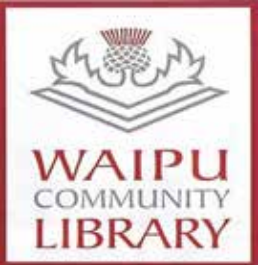
More workshops on demand
Coffee & Tech & Camera Group
To register, phone 4327692
(leave a message)
oremail – seniornetbb@gmail.com

LIBRARY HOURS



RUAKAKA COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Takutai Place, Ruakaka
432 8406
Mon - Fri 9:30am-3:30pm
Sat 9am-1pm

JP Service available
Saturdays 10am - 11am.




WAIPU COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday &
Saturday 10am - 1pm.
Tuesday 10am - 4pm.
Phone 432 0375

THE NEXT PUBLICATION DATE
of the Bream Bay News will be Thursday 27 February
The deadline for all copy is 4pm on
Wednesday 19 February


VOLUNTEERS SWANTED



Bream Bay Community Patrol

Working with the Police to reduce crime in the Bream Bay area.

To inquire about joining,
contact Senior Constable Jordan White
Waipu Police Station – 432 4030



BREAM BAY SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Presbyterian Camellia Ave, Ruakaka: 8.45am. The Centre, Waipu: 10.15am. Prayer Service: 7pm

Encounter 223 Marsden Pt. Rd, Ruakaka, 10am.

Anglican - ST PAUL's Church, 25 Karawai St, Ruakaka 1st and 3rd Sundays 9.30am
ST. PETER'S CHURCH, 8 Nova Scotia Dr., Waipu 2nd and 4th Sundays, 09.30am


Catholic Holy Family Church, Ruakaka, 10.30am. Mass or Liturgy of the Word

Lifepoint. 300 OTP Rd, 10.30am.

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YOUR TRUST OUR PEOPLE



Harcourts Waipu



438C Glenmohr Road, Waipu WAI2687
\$1,150,000


Discover rustic charm and modern comfort in this 4-bedroom barn style house, fully insulated and consented, nestled on 6.17 rolling hectares of tranquil countryside.

Ideal for equestrian enthusiasts, the property comes complete with stables enhancing this rural lifestyle.

There is a chicken coop all set up for your free-range eggs and vegie garden to cultivate your own fresh produce.

Only a 7-minute drive to Waipu on the tar-seal.

Roger King 0277 555 001



3436 State Highway 1, Waipu WAI2734
Deadline Sale (unless sold prior)
Closes Thursday 6th March at 12.00pm


A versatile lifestyle property where you have room for the kids, pets, horses, chickens and an amazing near new barn/workshop, perfect for tradespeople or a home-based business.

The three-bedroom house has a wood burner and sunroom.

The separate single garage contains a rumpus room.


There is 2.5 hectares (6 acres) of flat grazing pasture. Only 3.2 km to Waipu, and an easy commute to Whangarei and local beaches.

Christine Tierney 027 488 1883



Harcourts Waipu | 7 The Centre, Waipu | 09 432 4000
Waipu Real Estate (22) Licensed Agent REAA 2008

Harcourts Waipu




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WHANGAREI


WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



KIM BROWN

I am thrilled to join the Bream Bay Realty Team. With a solid background fostering community growth and driving economic development in the rural sector, I bring a distinctive perspective to the real estate market. Lifestyle properties are in hot demand in your area, contact me for a specialist advice and a free no obligation, comprehensive appraisal.

Mob: 0275 451 208




OPEN HOME—SUNDAY 12.45—1.15pm
12 Seaview Road, Ruakaka

WAKE UP TO BREATH-TAKING VIEWS OF BREAM BAY

Tucked away in a quiet cul-de-sac, just minutes from the beach, this solid, light filled home with 3 spacious bedrooms, is ideal for families, or those seeking a holiday retreat. Set on a peaceful section surrounded by established gardens, the outdoor space is perfect for relaxing or entertaining.
Price \$769,000 | [#4219](http://bbrealty.co.nz)

JOANNE DEWSON AREINZ
Mob: 021 780 622




OPEN HOME—SUNDAY 12.15—12.45pm
16 Maturiki Drive, One Tree Point

SUPERLATIVE IN MARSDEN COVE

Beautiful brick Platinum Home built in 2020. Tasteful refreshing colours, this spacious three bedroom, two bathroom is all about refined living. Easy flat walk to the Marina, surrounded by canals and desirable homes. Bring the boats and boards - access to waterways has never been so easy!
Price \$1,090,000 | [#4204](http://bbrealty.co.nz)

FRANCIE STOKES
Mob: 022 656 0165

New Listing!




2/8 Mokai Place

LOOKING FOR AN ENTRY LEVEL HOME???

This 3-bedroom, 1-bathroom home has an easy layout, with open plan living & dining, a galley style kitchen and laundry combo. The single garage is detached, with space around it lending itself to replacing this structure with a double garage, storage shed or even a sleepout. Walking distance to beach & shops.
Price \$599,000 | [#4221](http://bbrealty.co.nz)

JANINE GOLDSMITH AREINZ
Mob: 021 432 793




OPEN HOME—SUNDAY 11.00—11.30am
370 One Tree Point Road, One Tree Point

SUPERB, STYLISH, SPACIOUS

Perfectly positioned for young families with a park next-door, this near new home A1 Home offers modern living at its finest. Spacious layout with four bedrooms and two stylish bathrooms. Premium fittings and lighting upgrades throughout. Fantastic easy-care gardens with young fruit trees already in fruit. Close to harbour and boat ramps.
Price \$945,000 | [#4218](http://bbrealty.co.nz)

FIONA SOUTHERN MNZM
Mob: 021 317 775



OPEN HOME—SUNDAY 12.00—12.30pm
90B Marsden Point Road, Ruakaka

ASTONISHING VIEWS

You would be hard-pressed to find a more dynamic outlook from the Ruakaka Ridge. This 3-bedroom+ home features a modern kitchen with both living and dining rooms leading outside to a wraparound North facing deck. A secure fenced flat yard overlooking the Ruakaka Estuary and beyond is a great place for the tents, dogs and children to play.
Price \$915,000 | [#4217](http://bbrealty.co.nz)

FIONA SOUTHERN MNZM
Mob: 021 317 775