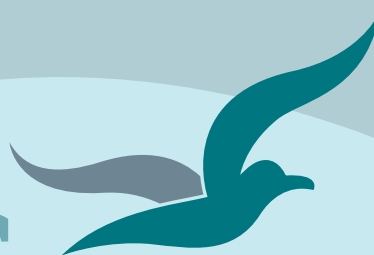


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Weighing up the pros and cons of more public housing

Kāinga Ora has lodged a resource consent application for the first stage of its redevelopment of the state owned houses in the block bounded by Tamingi St, Tiki Place and Peter Snell Rd.

The application is to build 18 new homes – 7 two bedroom and 11 three bedroom houses at the Peter Snell Rd. end of the block. The two bedroom houses will each have one car parking space; while the three bedroom homes will each have two.

Jeff Murray the Regional Director of Kāinga Ora in Northland told a meeting in Ruakākā on Friday night 8 March that the state housing agency hoped to lodge a further application for the next stage of the redevelopment by the end of March.

Kāinga Ora has plans to replace 17 existing homes in Tamingi Street, Tiki Place and Peter Snell Rd. with 50 new homes.

Jo Haunui, Manager of Regional Placements for the state housing agency, said that those living in the houses to be demolished would have first priority for the new homes. Building in two stages would enable people not wishing to move away from Ruakākā to be housed close to where they currently live.

Some of those living at the Peter Snell end of the block have already moved into the new recently completed homes at the racecourse end of Peter Snell Rd. These homes have been built to be wheelchair accessible and she said eventually they would be available to people who needed this.

The meeting was called by a group of Ruakākā Village residents concerned about the proposed development.

Continued on page 3

Lunch time at Ruakākā School



Jessica Hansen, Indie Wawatai and Thea Tuck enjoying the sandwiches provided by the free school lunch scheme at Ruakākā Primary School. David Seymour leader of the Act Party and associate minister of education in the coalition government has called for a review of the free lunches scheme so we took a look at how this operates and what it means to the Ruakākā school community. Ruakākā is the only school in Bream Bay which provides lunches for its children.

*See story and more pictures on pages 8 and 9
Also Editorial on page 2*



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is published by Bream Bay News Ltd. Address : RD 2, Waipu
Phone : (09) 432 0209 Mobile: 027 432 0070 Email : bream-baynews@xtra.co.nz
Website: www.breambaynews.co.nz
Editor: Marilyn Cox . Accounts : Susan McRae. Technical assistance... Geoff Spencer
Advertising design and website maintenance... Megan Lea.
Printed by NZME
We distribute 5900 copies twice a month in Ruakaka, One Tree Point, Waipu, Mangawhai and Maungaturoto

EDITORIAL

Ruakākā Primary sets the bar for Food in Schools programme

I think the free school lunches provided at Ruakākā School are wonderful and the way the school delivers them should become a model for all schools.

I know of other school free lunches that don't work as well. I asked my grandson, who goes to a school in Auckland, what he had had for lunch one day and he replied "compost in a wrap."

I think at his school the lunches are supplied by a commercial operator. They come wrapped in plastic or in tinfoil trays. Parents and caregivers are asked to supply morning tea and parents, being parents, they fill the kids lunchboxes with way too many snacks, many of them saturated with sugar and salt.

My grandson is a popular little guy and he often comes home with wrappers in his lunch box from other children's muesli and chocolate bars and, consequently, he doesn't eat the butter chicken and rice that arrives at lunchtime. He brings most of it home where no-one feels like eating that tomato sauce saturated mixture.

Sadly well intended schemes such as the school free lunch programme often get side-tracked by people who don't share the vision, who perhaps have their private visions of big houses, boats and flash cars. I have observed this happen many times over.

So it was a joy to see those ham and salad sandwiches being handed out at Ruakākā Primary School where the funded service has been enhanced, achieving more not less than what was intended by the hard work, high ideals and aroha of the people who operate it.

The food served to the children at Ruakākā School is made with love and that makes a difference. The children all sit down and eat together in their classes. Everybody's lunch is the same and there doesn't seem to be too much fussing about what they like and don't like eating.

The school also has gardens so the children learn to appreciate where food comes from in a way that most people these days don't.

I am old enough to remember the *Milk in Schools* programme that ran from 1937 to 1967. That programme was a bit misguided. At my school our half-pint bottles of milk sat in crates in the sun on the benches outside our classrooms. When we came to drink the milk at morning play it tasted awful. However, over the winter a group of mothers took turns to come in each morning, tip all those bottles of milk into a pot, heat it up on the stove in the staff room and mix it with cocoa and sugar so our morning milky drink became something we all looked forward to. As we drank that comforting warm chocolate milk we understood we belonged to a community that cared about its children.

But back to today and the school lunch situation and the proposal to conduct a review of this by the Association Minister of Education David Seymour. I agree with Mr. Seymour that there should be a review and changes should be made where the food supplied is not being eaten. The review should also look at where the scheme is running well such as at Ruakākā School. With these best practices it should be extended to all New Zealand public schools with healthy morning snacks provided as well as lunches.

The food should be prepared locally by people who love the children, understand the importance of healthy food and find joy and fulfillment in their work. The meals should be kept simple and sourced from local producers as much as possible. Providing healthy, free morning snacks and lunches is the most effective way I can think of to support young families, to encourage good attendance at school and to lift educational achievement.

Marilyn

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Brynderwyn upgrade work continues through the night

Asked how progress on the work on State Highway One over the Brynderwyns was progressing, Steve Mutton, Director Regional Relationships NZTA said, "We are already in the third week of the closure and despite the weather our recovery operations have continued and are on track at the various work sites. "We are making good progress, and the real advantage of the closure is the ability to work both day and night. We have now inducted over 520 staff to the project and continue to make great headway, having now cut approximately 76,500 m³ of soil. Mr. Mutton said, "The aim of this work is to create additional space on the corridor, which will allow better management for future events on the hill without disrupting traffic. It's important that people understand this additional space is not an extra lane. In case of the next severe weather event we will then have room to clear slips and debris, minimising the need for lengthy, major closures. We're creating extra room on the road and moving traffic lanes closer to the hill away from the more vulnerable side of the hill. Essentially, the work we are doing now will give us a safety zone we currently don't have."

State Highway One over the Brynderwyns is scheduled to re-open over Easter from 12.01am on 28 March. It will then be closed again at 12.01am on Wednesday 3 April until 12.01 on Monday 13 May.

Photo supplied by NZTA



Weighing up the pros and cons of more public housing

Continued from page 1.

Mandi Brown told Kāinga Ora representatives and Bream Bay Ward Councillors Phil Halse and Ken Couper that while they understood the need for housing and "as a community we embrace our current Kāinga Ora residents. Many of these tenants have lived here for decades and are huge contributors to what makes our village special. This development treats these people like they don't matter and will change the village forever. These are real people with real feelings who built this community and many are very fearful of what is to come for them. There is so much history and whakapapa in our village."

Tui Roman said she was concerned for the wellbeing of the people who would be displaced telling the meeting that they were uncertain about their future and unable to sleep at night.

The group had prepared a submission to Kāinga Ora asking that:

- Existing tenants have their homes renovated rather than demolished and the new homes be built on existing vacant sections

- The density of the planned new housing development be decreased

- An on site tenancy manager or a social worker contactable by phone around the clock be provided
- Surveillance cameras be installed in prominent places.
- Residents of the new two story homes should not be able to look directly into neighbours' yards.
- A discussion be held with villagers about who should be able to move into the new development.

- There be a variety of housing with various sized homes so a variety of elderly, families and single people should be able to live in the homes

An analysis of the threats and opportunities of the proposed new development was one of the requests and Councillor Halse directed that this be done then and there.

He a young woman who had come to support her parents who are tenants of one of the affected homes, to head up a page with opportunities and another with threats.

On the list of threats was the loss of gardens and fruit trees, loss of privacy, disruption and uncertainty, the loss of space for children to play and the ability to host

visiting family and to hold big community gatherings such as for tangi.

In response to this last concern Mr. Murray said there was a possibility that a house could be located on adjacent Council land that people in the community could use for large get-togethers.

The list of opportunities included: new, warm dry and easy to live in homes, better security with the homes designed so that neighbours could watch over each others vehicles parked in allocated spaces. There was an opportunity for surveillance cameras to be installed.

More people coming to live in the village was seen as both an opportunity and a threat depending on who those people are. More people would put strain on already struggling health services and schools although more children on the roll could help schools secure more teachers and resources. A larger population could lead to better services such as more public transport.

Following the meeting Tui Roman told the Bream Bay News the next move might be to start a petition to Parliament to halt the housing development but perhaps first calling a meeting of village residents to see what their thoughts were.



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Open Letter to Our Rural Communities - Request for Vehicle Replacement Funds

This is an open letter to our local communities spanning the Eastern Parts of Kaipara, from the Matakohē area, Paparoa, Maungaturoto, Kaiwaka, through to Mangawhai and up through the Bream Bay areas Linking Hands Incorporated (Health Shuttle Service) has been serving this area with a free shuttle service to and from medically related appointments for the past 16 years. We've grown from utilising volunteers' own cars and one shuttle van to now having a fleet of 8 vehicles spanning a vast rural area.

The service has been sustained by small grants and generous donations from clients, for which we are immensely grateful. Maintaining these vehicles at a high standard of safety and roadworthiness comes at a significant cost. They require periodic replacement due to high mileage and the toll of wear and tear. Sadly, in recent weeks, we've had to retire two vehicles as they are no longer fit for purpose. Additionally, we have other vehicles that will require replacement soon. Securing funds for vehicle replacement is particularly challenging for us, given the limited avenues available for such specific funding.

Therefore, we've chosen to reach out to our communities, including businesses and the public sector, even if you haven't used our service before. Your support now ensures that this vital service remains available

for all, including yourself should the need arise in the future. We are seeking donations specifically for the replacement of vehicles before they reach their 'used by date'.

This free service is indispensable for our area, especially since there is no regular public transport available. With the population increasing across the regions we cover, the demand for our assistance is growing. To ensure we can continue serving our community safely, we've begun the process of replacing vehicles, but our funds are dwindling.

Your support is crucial for us to continue reaching as many clients as possible. If you're able to contribute towards the purchase of a vehicle, you would play a vital role in sustaining this essential service. Donations can be made by either dropping off a contribution at our Maungaturoto office at 131 Hurndall Street or by contacting our office for our bank details to make a donation online. (09 4318969)

On behalf of the Linking Hands Board Members and the Administration Team, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for considering this request. Your support ensures that this vital service remains operational for our community.

*Jayne King,
Chairperson*

Events bring the buzz to Whangārei

The last few weeks have been a whirlwind of events and activities. We've welcomed our first ever cruise ship visitors, celebrated Art Beat along our vibrant waterfront area for the first time, the Northland Pasifika Fusion Festival drew great crowds, and thousands danced the day away at another hugely popular Fritter Festival at Semenoff Stadium. Our 'little big city' is buzzing, and there's more to come with events like the NAZCAR Northland Mega Street Sprint on 6 and 7 April bringing two high-octane days of street racing through the central streets of Whangārei, including a hot-rod and custom car show, street food and markets.

These events are only possible thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, community champions and amazing events coordinators. You make our District a vibrant, exciting place to be: thank you! These events also help attract new people to our District, along with our majestic scenery, our attractive commuting times and our internationally recognised waterfront environment.

Making sure Whangārei can accommodate this growth now and into the future is a major driver of decisions Council has made in its plans for the next 10 years. A key focus for our capital works programme in the Long Term Plan for 2024-34 is making sure that we are ready for the future. Even though times are tough, we need to take a responsible and forward-thinking approach to accommodate growth and pressures on infrastructure. This includes looking after the resources and assets we already have. We'll take on big new projects only when they're needed to support our District's growth, or if they are required by central government.

It means we'll be focusing on replacing and maintaining our existing assets, making sure our roads, footpaths and water pipes and community facilities are up to standard.

We also need to be prepared for the future. Putting affordable infrastructure in the right places to the correct standards helps achieve that. Two major projects in the coming 10 years are the Poroti water treatment plant upgrade, which will secure our water supply into the future, and the Ruakākā wastewater treatment expansion, allowing for growth in the Bream Bay area.

Planned projects in years 10-30 are things like a new indoor courts facility, flood protection options for the city centre and upgrades to the Whangārei wastewater treatment plan. Planning for these investments through the LTP will help refine the scope and timing for delivery. While these projects may seem a long time away, if funding becomes available, we can implement these projects sooner. Look at today's Whangārei waterfront, that was a project that started 30 years



ago. The events run today are only possible thanks to the infrastructure put in place years ago.

It's now time to talk to us about Whangārei's future, so that together we can have a strong, resilient, progressive and community focused Whangārei. Make sure you have your say from 25 March.

*Vince Cocurullo
Mayor, Whangārei District Council*

Projects included in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan:

Roading and transport

- Safety works at Te Maika intersection, Whangārei Heads and Kotata Rise
- Northern growth area (Springs Flat) – bridge, roundabout, cycle lane and wetland
- Business cases for Brynderwyn Detour Route Upgrade and Port Road improvements
- Rose Street Bus Terminal, Bank Street Priority Lane, Raumanga and Kamo shared paths via previous Transport Choices funding
- Completing cyclone repairs across the roading network
- Decisions about a new airport

Parks

- Lake Waro skatepark
- Ōakura sports park development and wetland restoration
- Ruakākā Cemetery development
- Regional Sports Hub – confirm preferred site, land purchase and business case development

Water

- Whangārei Heads replacement
- Poroti water treatment plant improvements
- Trunk main upgrades in Onerahi, Station Road and Poroti
- Te Kamo and Dip Road reservoirs

Wastewater

- Ruakākā wastewater treatment and disposal upgrades
- Tutukaka dump station

Stormwater

- Morningside flood relief via previous central government funding
- Localised flood mitigation and network improvement programme
- Whangārei City Flood Mitigation Strategy

LONG TERM PLAN MEETINGS ; 9 April, 4.30-6.30pm, Ruakākā Recreation Centre, 11 April, 4-6pm, Te Iwitahi civic building, Rust Ave

Bream Bay College head students for 2024

Bream Bay College’s Head Students for 2024 are: Harlem Cooper, Kiiaralee Doak - Smith, Harris Lymburn and Lila McEvoy.

Both Harlem and Kiiaralee are of Patuharakeke and both are former pupils of Ruakākā Primary and have come up through Bream Bay College’s bilingual department. Harlem is the school’s kaikorero (speaker) at important occasions and is a leader of kapa haka. Kiiaralee captains and coaches multiple sports teams and leads house chants and kapa haka.

Harris and Lila are both former pupils of Waipu Primary. Lila is one of the college’s leading academics. She is a member of the Student Health and Wellbeing Council and has coached netball and worked with Riding for the Disabled.

Harris is a football coach, referee and star player and is a member of the Waipu Cove Surf Lifesaving Club.

The college’s house leaders for 2024 are: Sutherland House: Caitlin Agustin, Levi Williams, Aleena Everitt, and Isaac Toovey.

Inverness House: Calem Taiapa, Reuben Showler, Hannah Cross, and Erellyn Lunevich.

Ross House: Troy McKenzie, Milly Robertson, Alessandra Hamilton, and Izaiahs Linton.

Argyll House: Grace Fetelika, Havana Te Pania-Herbert, Waihoroi Ashby, and Cirtus McShane.



Bream Bay College Head Students for 2024, from left, Harris Lymburn, Lila McEvoy, Kiiaralee Doak - Smith, and Harlem Cooper.



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Police Report

Investigation into Ruakākā homicide continues

Police are continuing their investigation into the death of 24-year-old Teina Pickering whose body was found in Peter Snell Rd. in the early hours of 12 October 2023.

Two men aged 28 and 29 were arrested several days after Teina's death and they remain before the Whangarei District Court on firearms offences. One of the men is Ethan Hokai and the second has name suppression.

Detective Inspector Al Symonds, of Northland CIB, says the investigation team are not seeking anyone else in connection with the homicide.

To aid the ongoing enquiry, Police would like to hear from anyone who saw this green 1998 Mitsubishi Lance, which they believe was driven by a man wearing a brown camouflage jacket between Whangārei and Warkworth on the day of the homicide.

Inspector Symonds said, "Please contact us if you are familiar this car, or believe you have CCTV or dashcam footage of it between Whangārei, Warkworth



and Ruakākā. Contact Police on 105 or go online to <https://www.police.govt.nz/use-105>. Please reference file number 231012/4721. Reports can also be made anonymously via Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111

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Crashes on the bypass routes

There have been a number of minor vehicle crashes in the past fortnight, three of these on the State Highway One bypass routes.

- On 7 March there was a two-vehicle collision on Cove Road, which blocked the single lane bridge out of town for approximately an hour. There were no injuries.
- On 5 March a truck and trailer unit crashed into a caged rock retaining wall on SH12 causing debris to be left across the highway. The truck was stopped 3 kilometres further up the road from where the damage occurred. The driver was spoken to and served with an infringement notice.
- On 4 March a vehicle mounted the curb and crashed into a fence and then became stuck over a drop off on Hurdall Street, Maungaturoto. There were no injuries.

Lost control on gravel road

Police attended a single vehicle crash on Waipu Caves Rd. on 3 March after a driver lost control on the loose metal. There were no injuries.

Car crashed through fences and into a cornfield

On 3 March someone crashed their car through several fences and then drove around in a cornfield alongside One Tree Point Rd. The vehicle has not been located but was described as small and grey.

Seven family harm incidents

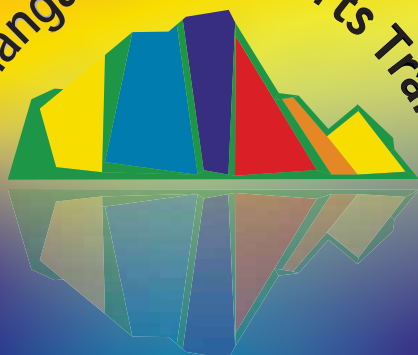
Over the fortnight to Thursday 14 March Bream Bay Police attended seven family harm incidents, four of these in Ruakākā, one in Waipu and two in Maungaturoto.

Over the same period they were called out to just one mental health crises in Ruakākā.

Moderate injuries after motorcycle crash

The rider of a motorcycle received moderate injuries after crashing on Pahi Rd. on 10 March.

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LETTERS

A Cone, A Cone, My Kingdom For Some Cones

Here's to Self and Hastie (H&S), please excuse my pun
But driving south of Whangarei, isn't really fun
We head to town but once a week, our larder to refill
And blow me down, a row of cones, as you top the hill
Before the workers start their chore, a ceremony must take place
It's called the dance of cones, they fill every available space
Once the tunnel of red and white, has blocked the road complete
The Cone Managers have finished and to their trucks retreat
Once in the safety of the cab, their phones they do extract
They do not move, but maybe asleep, when from town we do come back
I do believe, the cost of H&S in Northland, is close to almost 1/3
No wonder the roading is never finished, the costs are just absurd
I think it's time that NZTA, a closer look they need
The number of cones required per job, or is it really just plain greed.
The workers who fix the road, we really must keep safe
But two trucks of cones, a small job to do, is really in your face.

THE BARD Alias Colin Coutts

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE VERY WELCOME

Email them to: breambaynews@extra.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

Big screen at Waipu Primary



Nobody did a head count but Peter Gibbs Chairman of Promote Waipu estimates around 800 people turned up to the Movies in the Park evening the group ran in conjunction with the Whangārei District Council's event team last Saturday night 16 March.

There were food trucks, the Waipu Primary choir sang, there was Highland Dancing and music by the duo Loose Covers and Whangārei's Mayor Vince Cocurullo came along in his full mayoral regalia.

The feature event the movie itself Brave by Disney and Pixar was a bit hard to watch - something to do with screen being in the wrong place with the sun shining on the screen and the movie itself being too dark but the kids had fun in the school playground if they couldn't follow the movie.

Peter said despite this people commented on the "great community atmosphere", the council team were good to work with and it is definitely something they will try again - maybe with the big screen placed at a different angle.



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Ruakākā School's free lunches "A blessing for our community"



School lunch cooks Toni Birch and Ginny Edwards with Ruakākā School Principal Helen Kinsey-Wightman

David Seymour, ACT leader and Associate Education Minister in the Coalition Government, has said the school lunch programme is "a huge waste of public money and should be gone."

He needs to visit Ruakākā Primary where the free lunches are valued by children, teachers and parents alike.

There are a number of factors about Ruakākā School's lunch programme that help it to be so successful.

Number one: the lunches are made at the school.

Ruakākā school teachers have given over their staff room to be fitted out as a commercial kitchen. The week's menu is posted on the wall and a notice outside lets the children know what they are having for lunch that day. The smell of cooking wafting across the playground sets up appetites for what is to come.

On Tuesday when your Bream Bay News reporter visited it was ham and cheese sandwiches, or hanawiti to the children in the Māori bilingual classes.

The previous day it had been pizza. On Wednesday it was chicken and cranberry wraps, on Thursday - mince nachos and on Friday - "Ruakākā Kentucky Fried Chicken" or chicken with mashed potato and coleslaw. Some form of protein is included in each meal.

Number two: those running the scheme are all whanau of children at the school. They get feed back from the children and teachers and they get to know what works and what doesn't. They also have a heart for the children and go the extra mile. There are a few dietary requirements for the cooks to work around - gluten free, vegetarian, dairy free but Tuesday's cooks Toni Birch and Ginny Edwards say these can be managed. There are no nuts on the menu as in a school with over 300 children there may well be some with dangerous

nut allergies.

Number three: the school provides a mid-morning snack as well as lunch. Principal Helen Kinsey-Wightman said the school lunch providers have managed to stretch the budget to this. Usually this is a piece of fruit and perhaps a mini pizza or small wrap. The children don't bring any food to school from home at all. At some schools where children are given lunch, parents are asked to pack a morning snack. Depending on what the snack is, it can override a child's appetite for the provided lunch.

Number four: the children sit together with their teacher at a set time after play to eat their lunches. Apart from one boy judiciously picking the lettuce and shredded carrot out of his sandwich, the children were all munching away happily and there appeared to be little wastage when your Bream Bay News reporter visited.

A rubbish bin contained banana skins destined for the school's compost bins is all that was left from the morning sack. There were no plastic bottles or food wrappers.

After the lunchtime sandwiches bowls of apples were passed around.

Water is the only drink available. No sugary drinks are to be seen. - so good habits are set.

Teachers report that keeping all those sugary snacks off the menu and making sure everyone is well fed helps with afternoon classroom behaviour.

Principal Helen said it is not just families struggling financially who appreciate the school lunch (and morning snack) service. It takes a burden off all busy parents.

One parent told the Bream Bay News that now that her daughter has moved on to Bream Bay College from Ruakākā school she needs to find another \$30 each week to purchase food for her lunch box.

Father of two Ben Kenobi said he would like to go on



Handing out the sandwiches - Aiden Holland is handed his lunch by Whaea Ash

record in favour of the lunches in schools programme. And parent Chenau Yakas said she wanted to share how great the lunch in schools program is. "Ruakākā school makes delicious food for the tamariki and they often have the left over Kai from lunch for kids to take home, which is fantastic especially for kids who might not have a meal waiting at home as well as reducing food waste.

"The variety of kai has made my child explore more food options and as a result he is less fussy with food choices at home. I'm a mum of three and the convenience of a healthy lunch made for him each day is very helpful. "I hope there is no change to this program being in schools because it really is vital for some tamariki and is a blessing for our community."



The delivery team: Reade Murrie, Jacob Moke and Nat Tanner delivering trays of sandwiches to each classroom

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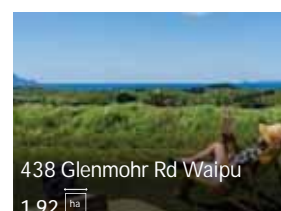
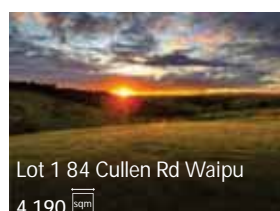
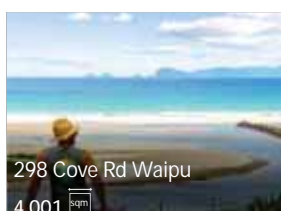
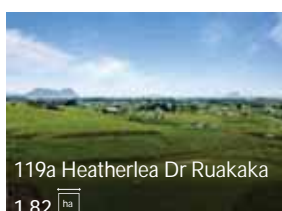
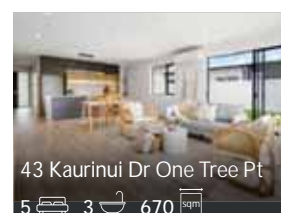
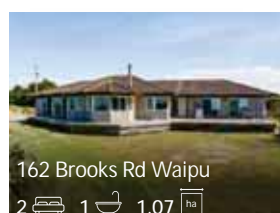
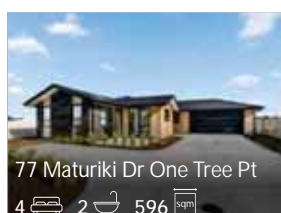
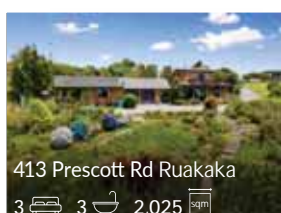
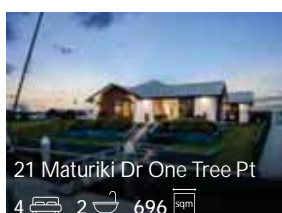
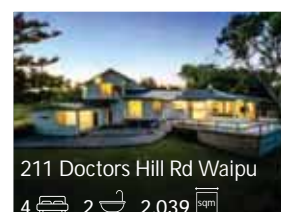
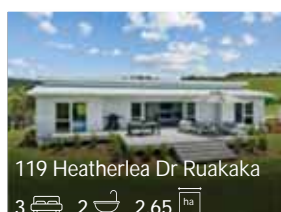
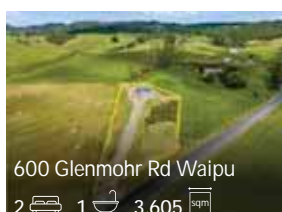
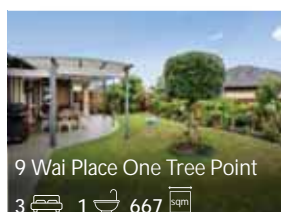
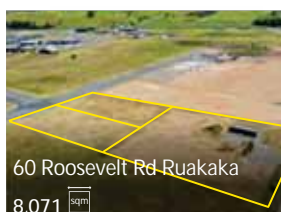
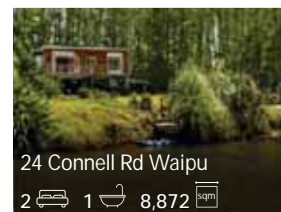
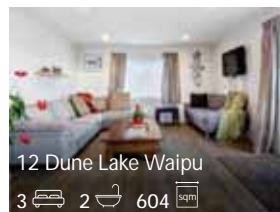
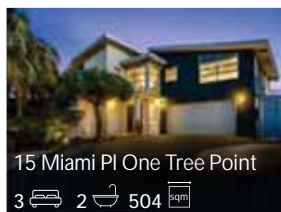
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Geoff Spencer completed his 3,011km cycle ride from Cape Reinga to the Bluff in the annual Tour Aotearoa Brevet last Friday 15 March. He completed the journey in 26 days 11 hours, 5 minutes and 27 seconds, three days ahead of the scheduled 30 days.

In his 71st year and having undergone a heart attack followed by lymphoma cancer Geoff had doubts about his ability to keep up with the other riders. He did find some days difficult, particularly when it was cold and wet and there were multiple hills to climb and long kilometres to cover, so he was very pleased to arrive at the Bluff in such good time.

Along the way he collected \$2116 in donations for the Northland Branch of the Cancer Society and is grateful to everyone who made donations and to all those who sent him messages of support.

Back home he plans to do a lot of sleeping and thinks it will be some time before he gets on his bicycle again.

Starter packs available for riparian planting on the Waipu Estuary and Waihoihoi River

Twenty free starter packs of 50 native plants for landowners whose properties are alongside the Waipu Estuary or the Waihoihoi River are available from the Waipu Waters community nursery.

The plants include: manuka, kanuka, flax, karamu, harakeke, cabbage trees and the jointed rush oioi and are all grown from plants growing naturally in the Waipu ecological area.

The planter packs come with advice sheets on how to go about planting suggesting that kikuyu be sprayed out before the plants go in the ground.

Landowners interested in applying for a pack of trees need to fill out an online form at: <https://forms.office.com/r/Jgu5TG5A3i?origin=prLink>

The successful landowners will also be invited to attend an information meeting in March and a planting workshop in May.

Coralie Roberts who manages the nursery said ongoing care and maintenance are crucial during the five years after planting including weed management and pest control to ensure the best outcomes for the plants.

Talk on riparian planting tonight at Waipu Central Café

John Burke a farmer and environmentalist from the Bay of Plenty will give a talk on cost effective riparian native planting techniques at Waipu Central Café tonight March 21 at 7pm.

Mr. Burke has been invited to speak in Waipu by the Piroa Conservation Trust. He will be sharing practical tips for farmers on how to optimize farm income and achieve positive benefits for the environment.

Northpower

Latest news & updates from around your network

Keeping You Connected

A key part of keeping Northpower customers connected in Kaipara and Whangārei is our regular capital works programme.

This year, we're gearing up for significant upgrades to the Kaiwaka and Kensington substations. Expanding their capacity and increasing safety and reliability is all part of Northpower's increased investment in our network.

To keep the network reliable, we're replacing assets as they reach end of life. As an example, recent work in the Helena Bay, Whangaruru, Bland Bay, Ōakura area replaced assets like poles, cross arms, and insulators, alongside upgrading the 11kV conductor.

Below is an update on two other recent projects.

Mangawhai central substation

The new substation at Mangawhai Central is complete and being lived in this month, adding capacity for 7,500 homes. Fast growth in the Mangawhai area means this project is important for increasing security of supply and allowing for future growth.



Poroti substation on track

The Poroti substation upgrade remains on schedule for completion by May, effectively doubling capacity to support future expansion and enhance reliability. This will also improve safety for people and the environment.



Planned power outage in your area? Here are some tips to help you prepare:

- Charge your mobile phone before the power goes out.
- Be aware that your internet is likely to also be disconnected without power.
- Turn off sensitive electronic equipment and unplug from the power sockets to protect them from possible power surges.
- Check you have gas for your BBQ for cooking.
- If you have an automatic garage door opener, park your car outside prior to the outage.
- If you are on pump water, ensure you have enough drinking water and fill buckets for toilet flushing.
- Ensure you have a backup battery supply for security alarms and personal medical alarms.
- If you are medically dependent on power, make sure you have a backup plan.

Ray Wassell - From “the dumb little kid at the back of the class” to production manager and board chair



Ray with one a stainless steel egg cups - a momento from the 20 years he spent as foreman in a metal polishing workshop

Looking back over his long and eventful life 85 year old Ray Wassell comments “I didn’t do too badly for a dumb little kid.”

Ray grew up in Mt Roskill where he spent his entire life before moving to Takahiwai

in 1980. He was the middle child of five. His parents were divorced and his mother did factory work to provide for her family.

He has memories as very young child hearing the milkman, who was also the local dairy farmer driving around each night with a truck loaded with cream cans and pouring milk with a dipper into the family’s billy left outside in a box. It was late at night, around 10 or 11pm and Ray would hear him go first to the neighbour’s box and then to his house. It seems like a very long time ago.

Ray thinks he was around five-years-old when his father, who was in the navy and often away from home, left the family permanently to start a new life with a woman who had been his mother’s best friend.

“These things happen” says Ray who bears no grudges against his dad who he never saw again for many years. How the divorce played out is all a bit vague in his memory as around that time Ray came down with Scarlet Fever and was hospitalized, at first for several weeks and then for a much longer time.

“When they sent me home after the first time in hospital my whole family came down with Scarlet Fever. Everywhere I went people caught it. Although I no longer had any symptoms I was a carrier of the disease and had to be kept in isolation.”

He can still remember the long lonely days as he was sent around various Auckland hospitals to give him a change of view.

The only people he saw were nurses coming in to give him a daily injection. He remembers they all wore white hats and black stockings. He recalls doctors holding discussions about what they could do with him and considering sending him to an uninhabited island in the Hauraki Gulf. For a five-year-old child this prospect was terrifying.

Having missed so much school, when he got back to class Ray was sent to the back of the room as the dumb kid who couldn’t read or write. In retrospect he thinks he is a bit dyslexic, as he has always had trouble with spelling.

He taught himself to read with penny westerns and by the age of 12 years he was taking on part time jobs to help his mother out. He had a paper round delivering the Auckland Star; he worked in tomato gardens and picked plums in Rosebank Rd. where there were once

Share your thoughts Shape our future

Northland Regional Council is creating a new plan for our region's future. It's about the mahi needed to care for our environment and people, and what our communities can afford to pay. [For our environment, for our mokopuna - have your say on our 10-year plan by 19 April at nrc.govt.nz/futureplan](https://nrc.govt.nz/futureplan)

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ONLINE Info and Q & A session

Wednesday 27 March

6.30pm - 8pm

Register online at nrc.govt.nz/futureplan

See the full list of hui and information sessions on our website

orchards. Sometimes he would get up early and offer to caddy at a nearby golf course. It was hard work for a 12-year-old with the golf bags weighing nearly as much as he did but at two shillings and sixpence a round it was good money.

He left school to take up an apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner. He would have liked to train as an engineer but that would have needed three years secondary education and Ray's mother couldn't afford to keep him in school.

He built houses at various locations around Auckland. Sometimes these were big flash homes for wealthy people and often what he calls "group housing," similar to state houses for "regular kiwi families."

He shakes his head at the time it takes and the expense of building houses today.

"We could build one of those houses in just 12 weeks."

When he was refused a pay rise Ray moved on to work for a friend who had set up a metal polishing business.

He stayed in this job for 20 years and became production manager sometimes in charge when the owners traveled overseas.

He helped develop new machinery, including a polisher that could shine up a stainless steel eggcup in around two seconds and then be adjusted to do the same job on a four-litre bucket. He recalls how he would be covered with black metal dust. "Even my teeth were black and when I took off my goggles there would be these two white rings around my eyes."

Ray married Mary, ne Johnson, who had grown up with her adoptive mother, Auntie Koha in Takahiwai. Mary asked Ray about his father saying that their children should get to know their grandfather so Ray hunted him down and developed a relationship with him and his new wife. He says the children benefited from having an extra grandmother.

As a young man Ray had sometimes taken the Devonport Ferry to a favourite fishing spot off the Devonport wharf and unbeknown to him his father had worked as a stoker on the same ferry..

At around 37 years-of-age Ray suffered a heart attack. "I came home and said to Mary I felt crook and had better go up to the emergency department. She came along and the doctor there took one look at me and sent me to Greenlane Hospital."

On his release from Greenlane he was referred to the "Cardiac Club." Club members were encouraged to exercise and Ray got into a vigorous regime, going to the gym three nights a week after work and running around the streets of Auckland. Just months after his heart attack he took part in the Around the Bays fun run.

In 1980 Mary's whanau land was put up for sale by a cousin. Ray and Mary decided to sell up two houses they owned in Auckland in order to buy this block. Ray

said the cousin drove a hard bargain and he thinks he could have done better financially if he had stayed in Auckland but he felt it was more important to keep the land for his children and grandchildren. He hopes they appreciate it.

With four children Ray could not afford to waste time in finding a job after the move north. He saw an advert in the local paper for a carpenter by the company Brown and Doughty to work at the Marsden Refinery expansion.

"I told them I hadn't

worked in the trade for 20 years. They asked, 'Have you still got your tools? When I said I did they told me to start work on Monday morning'"

The job involved building boxing for concrete for the building known as the North South wing. Perhaps because of his strong work ethic, Ray rose to the position of leading hand.

When the early building stage of the expansion was completed Ray got a job as supervisor with the company Ross Insulation, overseeing a team looking at sheet metal work and insulation for the refinery *Point Forward* project.

To begin with Mary, Ray and their children lived in Auntie Koha's little one bedroom house with a bathroom out the back in a tin shed but in the weekends and after work in the evenings Ray built them a new home alongside.

He has always been a hard worker and over the years he has run a number of side businesses. He operated a rabbit farm on the Takahiwai land supplying an abattoir in Auckland. He dived into goat farming and with his son Shane, kept free range hens. While in Mt Roskill, he built avaries and bred budgies. He also had a big vegetable garden until the back yard was taken over by his bird cages

Ray has also held voluntary positions, serving for a time as Chairman of the Patuharakeke Iwi Trust Board and on the Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust.

Mary died in 2012. Ray recalls how right up until the end she would be sitting on the couch with a cat on each side, phoning people who were lonely for the John Ambulance Caring Caller service.

"That's the kind of person she was."



Ray with his Ross Insulation Point Forward team. As team supervisor he stands in the middle with the white hat

For a while Ray was lost. A friend would come around to keep him company and they played board games together.

"We would get through three bottles of wine in a morning. My children started to get worried about me." He attributes Lucy, his new partner, to saving him.

"She really spoils me. I am very lucky."

Ray has hip problems and walks with a crutch. He spends a lot of time sitting at his living room window looking out across an expanse of mangroves at Whangārei Harbour. He says when he first came to Takahiwai this was a beach of beautiful white sand.

"I know mangroves have their place but I can't go down there and get a feed the way I used to."

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EVERY THURSDAY

BREAM BAY
Link

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

9.00am

Departs

Whangārei Rose Street Bus Terminus

9.40pm

Departs

Ruakākā
Peter Snell Road
(opposite Takutai Place)

10.00pm

Departs

Waipu Monument Bus stop

10.10pm

Departs

Waipu Cove Beach Car park

10.15pm

Departs

Langs Beach
Corner of Wairahi and Cove Roads

10.30pm

Departs

Mangawhai Heads I-Site

10.35pm

Departs

Mangawhai Village
Village Shops
Bus Stop (by restrooms)

10.50pm

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| Waipu Cove | \$6.00 | \$8.00 |
| Waipu | \$6.00 | \$8.00 |
| Ruakākā | \$5.00 | \$7.00 |

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A big year for the Bream Bay United football club

Morgan Cullen (aged seven) and Tama Wilson (aged five) setting up a goal in a practice game for under eight-year-olds at Bream Bay United Have a Go morning on 9 March under the watchful eye of coach Evan Bucherer.

There were lots of enthusiastic young footballers at Bream Bay United’s Have a Go morning held on Saturday 9 March. With close to 300 members, Bream Bay United is one of the biggest sports clubs in the area.

This was one of the last events in the Bream Bay Sports Trust’s Have a Go Sports Festival and one of the most popular. BBU Club President, Hayden Green, estimating that around 50 children dropped in during the morning with many signing up to play in the club’s junior teams.

The club is offering a discount in fees for players who register before 31 March 2024. Those who register by this date can pay last year’s prices but, after that, fees will be increasing to reflect the club’s rising costs. The full list of fees is on the club’s web page under ‘Registrations’.

The first games of the year are on Saturday 4 May and the first junior training session of the year is on Thursday 21 March (training for senior teams has started already).

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Bream Bay United and the club will be holding a gala dinner at the Celtic Barn on Saturday 27 July (more details to be announced) as well as various other events throughout the season.

The club is also looking forward to opening two brand new fields in the coming weeks. This project was a top priority in the Council’s previous long-term plan and has been nearly a decade in the making. The new pitches are looking fantastic and will be ready for play by the start of the season. The club intends to hold a formal opening ceremony to ‘cut the ribbon’.

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The Waipu Easter Carnival - the last big summer event

Below: A file shot taken at a previous Waipu Easter Carnival



The Waipu Easter Carnival will be held in the Caledonian Park on Easter Saturday 30 March from 9am to 2pm. Entry is by koha donation. There will be free entertainment, food for sale, games, a White Elephant stall, tractor rides and this year more activities for older kids such as a dunk tank, a climbing wall and surfboard challenge.

Carnival coordinator Dee Field said, "While the situation with the closure of the Brynderwyns in the lead up isn't ideal, we are grateful that it will be open for Easter weekend. This is the major fundraiser for Waipu Primary School and it's an awesome event for the wider community and visitors from further afield." Over its sixteen years the Easter Carnival has become one of the biggest events on the Waipu calendar. The carnival is run entirely by volunteers with Waipu

Primary School parents, grandparents, teachers, kids, and helpers from the community providing the entertainment and running the sideshows and stalls. More volunteers are always needed and anyone who would like to help for a few hours on the day please email: waipucarnival@gmail.com

Proceeds go towards improving opportunities and resources for children at Waipu Primary. Previous carnivals have funded the structured literacy programme, new chairs and a stage for the hall, scooter tracks, plus a whole range of smaller projects. More information on this year's Carnival can be found at www.waipucarnival.com or by searching on Facebook

WHAT'S ON IN BREAM BAY

- **ONE TREE POINT ARTISAN MARKET** Next on Sunday 17 March. 9am - 1pm. One Tree Point School quadrant and field. Fundraising for Whangārei Hospital Children's Ward.
- **MARSDEN COVE MARKET** Next on Sunday 24 March 9.30 -2pm at the Marsden Cove Marina
- **COMMUNITY PUBLIC BINGO** Last Wednesday in each month (Except December) Club open to public Calling starts 7.30 pm Restaurant open 5.30 pm All Welcome. Next on Wednesday 27 March
- **WAIPU EASTER CARNIVAL** Saturday 30 March. 9am -2pm Caledonian Park
- **REELING DANCING IN WAIPU CORONATION HALL** Every second Friday of the month, 7.30 to 9.30pm. \$5.00, under 12-year-olds free. All ages and families welcome. Live-ly dancing to Scottish jigs and reels. Easy to pick up. Bring water bottle, something cold and small to share for supper. Air conditioned hall. Next night: Friday 12 April
- **WAIPU BOUTIQUE SUNDAY MARKET** Next on Sunday 14 April From 9am to 1pm in the Coronation Hall
- **WAIPU MUSEUM** 36, The Centre, Waipu. Open seven days 10am- 4pm .
- **THE KAURI MUSEUM.** . The Kauri Museum is open 9am-5pm every day except Christmas Day. 5 Church St., Matakōhe. See more at www.kaurimuseum.com

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THE NEXT PUBLICATION DATE


of the Bream Bay News will be Thursday 4 April
The deadline for all copy is 4pm on
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SOCIAL SERVICES**Safeman Safe family
Men's Centre**

Safeman Safefamily offers a safe place for men to talk privately without judgement and with complete confidentiality. We are peer led and professionally supported and offer a range of services and support for men and their families.

The services we provide are as follows:

- Advocacy Navigator
- Court support
- FGC Support
- Probation Community Service Provider
- Legal Advice
- Marriage Celebrant
- House and property blessing
- One to one counselling
- Drug and Alcohol support
- Anger management group sessions
- Supervisor for court ordered access
- Work brokers/ help with employment opportunities.

No appointments are necessary, we have an open door policecu - if you need help or know someone that does just come on down to: **9 Takutai Place, Ruakākā**. We are right next door to Jimmy's Barber Shop or I can be reached by phone 021 121 0763 - Phil Paikea

**Bream Bay Community
Support Trust**

Takutai Place, Ruakaka Phone: 09 432 7197

Services we provide:

- Registered Social Workers
- Family Support Workers
- Youth Workers
- Youth Hangout Space (watch this space...)
- Community Connectors
(Connecting community to various services)
- Free Whanau Ora Medical Clinic with Ki A Ora Ngatiwai. Wednesday mornings 10am-12noon, by appointment only phone 09 435 4586
- Free Budgeting Service – Tuesdays 10am-12pm by appointment
- Mana Wahine Ki Wahine Toa, women's group
- Ha Tane – men's group
- Listening Ear – need to talk? Mon-Fri 9am-4pm no appointments necessary, cuppa and a listening ear available

Waitata Sessions 12:30pm every Wednesday, in our hall, come along for a sing along. Last Session for 2023 Wednesday 20th December

Community Connections 10:30am-12pm every Friday in our hall. Hot soup and cuppa available. The purpose of these sessions is for the community to get together and partake in different activities together, getting to know one another, sharing talents/hobbies/passions creating connections in the community, building friendships. The session topics are driven by interests of participants.

- Friday 22 March – Hot Cross bun workshop
- Friday 29th March NO SESSION GOOD FRIDAY

Follow us on social media - Facebook and Instagram for updates on what is happening

here during the week.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

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MISSION DISTRICT
EASTER SERVICES**


- Palm Sunday, 24 March
9:30 am St Peter's Church, Waipu
- Maundy Thursday, 28 March
7:00pm St Paul's Church, Ruakaka
- Good Friday, 29 March
10:00am Ecumenical walk beginning at St Peter's Church, Waipu 2:00pm Good Friday Liturgy, St Paul's Church, Ruakaka
- Easter Eve, 30 March
7:00pm Lighting of new fire, baptism and first Easter Eucharist, St Paul's Church, Ruakaka
- Easter Day, 31 March
9:30am Easter Eucharist, St Peter's Church, Waipu

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

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 Darrell Trigg 09 432 7256/021 332 901
 Ken Orr 09 432 8215
 Wayne Buckland 022 644 5376.

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 Sir John Goulter 021 612 442
 MM Jolley 027 415 9486
 Ian Bogue 0274 300 418
 Grant Brown 027 248 7126

Waipu

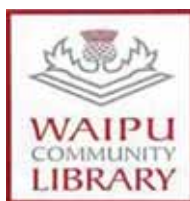
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CHURCH SERVICES**

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

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

Anglican - All services at ST PAUL's
 Church, 25 Karawai St, Ruakaka 9.30am
 until further notice.

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

Lifepoint. 300 OTP Rd, 10.30am.



Waipu River Walk working bee is on every Thursday from 530pm. We will be meeting at the entrance of the Waipu River Walk to weed the area and tidy up the path surrounds.

We would love as much help as possible! Please join us, bring your friends and/or whānau, some gloves, your weeding and trimming tools and skills.


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| | AM | | PM | |
|--------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Thu 21 March | 5.46 | 2.4 | 6.06 | 2.3 |
| Fri 22 March | 6.39 | 2.4 | 7.01 | 2.3 |
| Sat 23 March | 7.26 | 2.4 | 7.49 | 2.4 |
| Sun 24 March | 8.08 | 2.5 | 8.31 | 2.4 |
| Mon 25 March | 8.46 | 2.5 | 9.10 | 2.5 |
| Tue 26 March | 9.22 | 2.5 | 9.46 | 2.5 |
| Wed 27 March | 9.57 | 2.6 | 10.22 | 2.5 |
| Thu 28 March | 10.32 | 2.5 | 10.59 | 2.6 |
| Fri 29 March | 11.08 | 2.5 | 11.36 | 2.5 |
| Sat 30 March | 11.47 | 2.5 | ~ | ~ |
| Sun 31 March | 12.17 | 2.5 | 12.28 | 2.5 |
| Mon 1 April | 1.01 | 2.5 | 1.14 | 2.4 |
| Tue 2 April | 1.52 | 2.4 | 2.05 | 2.4 |
| Wed 3 April | 2.49 | 2.4 | 3.03 | 2.4 |
| Thu 4 April | 3.52 | 2.4 | 4.08 | 2.4 |
| Fri 5 April | 4.56 | 2.5 | 5.16 | 2.4 |



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- Constructed with durable materials for low maintenance living
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9 Dune Lake Place, Ruakaka

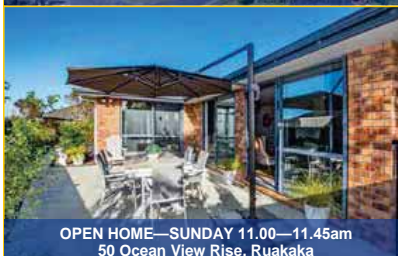
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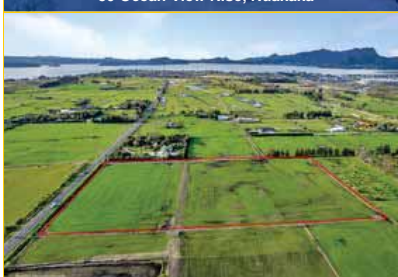
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- 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 living areas
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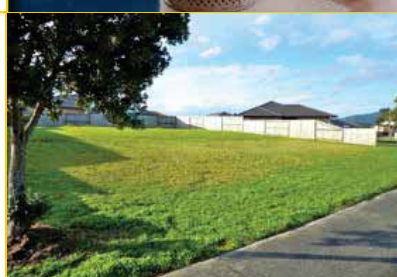
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