



APRIL 2024

Pioneer Luncheon

Paparoa Lions Club hosted the 74th annual Pioneer Luncheon in March.

This annual event was started by the Women's Division of Federated Farmers and the Lions took over the hosting of it in the mid-1980s. This year 84 attendees enjoyed the luncheon and the entertainment by Don Rutherford.

Some of the attendees were recognised for various things including the oldest man and woman present. As usual it was a fabulous opportunity for old and new friends to catch up.

During the event a very special recognition was made to one of the regular attendees, Kerry Bonham. Paparoa Lions Club used this event to publicly present Lion Kerry with the highest award in the international Lions organisation - Life Membership of Lions Clubs International. Kerry was a Charter Member of this club and has always been a very active member. He was part of the original team who had the plan to set up the Lions Walkway and was very active in developing the area and maintaining it for a number of years. He has also always been active in the club's fundraising Firewood project, even splitting some at home when his failing eyesight made it too difficult for

him to be onsite with the rest of the team. Kerry served as President of the club on a number of occasions and also worked hard in many other roles for the club. His knowledge and practical mind is always useful for any decision making at our meetings.

We now look forward to and are starting planning for next year's very special 75th annual Luncheon.

Sarolta



Fun Walk Run fun

Paparoa Sports and Recreation Association hosted the sixth annual Fun Walk Run and Family afternoon on Saturday 23 March. Walkers and runners enjoyed the 5km track around the showgrounds and local farms which had a decent hill to climb with a welcome water station at the top.

Those not wanting to do the hill had a 4km flatter option. We had 55 participants plus quite a number of helpers, including marshals and bbq cooks. The Kaipara Play Trailer was a big hit with the younger children and Paparoa Fire and Emergency Service turned up once again with cooling water spray from the fire truck.

The free event was followed by a delicious bbq and the Lions caravan infamous chips. The Paparoa Sports and Recreation Association and Paparoa Lions will be back next year, keen to get as many people as possible active and out enjoying the local countryside.



A big thanks to the landowners- Roger Martin, Vicky and Alan Hilton, Andrew and Ngaire Hames, NKAA, Paparoa Lions and of course all the participants.

Libby Jones

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Publication date 1st Wed of month

At the market

A more recent addition to the Paparooa Famers' Market is Frans Jansen and his dog Mali. Frans has been a regular stallholder since the spring of last year, and he sells a mixture of crafts, vegetables and flowers, all made or grown on a Maungaturoto lifestyle block.

Frans was born and raised in Holland, but after attending his brother's wedding in New Zealand, he fell in love with the place and decided to emigrate. Back in Holland Frans was a land surveyor, but on arriving in New Zealand in 1983 he took a job as a worker on a dairy farm in Ruawai. Frans met and married a kiwi girl (Laurel) and they

now have four children, 11 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

They worked hard, saved their money and were able to buy a herd of cows to go 50/50 sharemilking at Ruawai. After two years they moved on, but the only problem was their cows were in Ruawai and their new farm was next to the dairy factory in Maungaturoto. Back in the late 80's the solution was obvious - simply walk the


in that 25 years that were funny, dangerous, sometimes even a little bit crazy (and we're not just talking about the horses!!) and so Frans decided to write a book about it. He called it 'Of Horses and Men' and has been very happy with the sales.


More recently Frans has cut back his farrier work to two days per week, which gives him more time to create his unique horse shoe crafts, as well as focus on his garden.



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cows along the backroads - maybe not such a practical solution these days!

After some time Frans decided that dairy farming was not going to be his life's work and they sold their cows and he took a job as a cabinet maker. Frans had also learnt to shoe horses and trim their hooves and this hobby eventually turned into full time work, a job that he enjoyed for 25 years. As you can imagine there were many stories

Next time you're at the market make sure you say giddy to Frans, give Mali, a pat and stock up on fresh veges, flowers and check out his clever creations.

Pete

We are deeply saddened to hear, just now, of the passing of Frans' wife Laurel. PPI, Paparooa Press and I'm sure the whole community send our heartfelt condolences to Frans and his family.

A reminder to our contributors!

We need all advertising material by the 15th of the previous month and all editorial copy by the 20th. We cannot guarantee the publication of any material received after these dates.

While we always welcome editorial content we reserve the right to decline or hold over any articles outside our regular columns.

Opinions expressed in Paparooa Press are the author's own and not necessarily those of the editorial team or PPI.



Otamatea HarbourCare

Turning ugly land to bush

The volunteers of Otamatea HarbourCare Society (OHS) are looking forward to planting season as the weather cools, and plants in their Station Road nursery grow ever larger. OHS is taking orders for their well-priced plants from April.

Nearly 30,000 plants have been grown this year from locally sourced seed. Manuka, cabbage trees and flax make up the majority, as they are perfect for large scale regenerative planting. Several thousand Karamu and grass-like sedges are also thriving in the nursery. Plants are sold to farmers and lifestyle block owners in the area of the old Otamatea County Council, and via the Kaipara Moana Remediation scheme, which primarily assists landowners with more than 20 hectares of land to develop sediment reduction projects that improve water quality in the harbour.

Luke and Jenny MacDonald have been planting natives from OHS on their Wairere Valley road property for several years now. Luke

says they're making a real difference to the land. "We started planting a few in 2021, and have now put in nearly 3,000 plants from OHS. We will be putting in another 1,900 this season. It's made a huge difference. We're transforming ugly eroded hillside into native bush."

Plants are available for planting alongside waterways or erosion-prone land in the

Kaipara Harbour catchment whether you have a large farm or a smaller block, (although not to satisfy a resource consent condition). Register for email updates to get information on plants, eligibility, and prices, by visiting the Society's website otamateaharbourcare.org.nz.

Grant O'Neill



Luke Macdonald and OHS Chairman Kenny Finlayson inspect growth on last season's planting.

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It's all go at ORT

Otamatea Repertory Theatre has an action-packed year ahead. Here's what they have confirmed so far.

Taurima Vibes presents *The Sun and the Wind*

April 13th 2pm & 6.30pm. Starring local actor Julie Edwards who won the Dorothy McKegg Actress of the Year award at the 2023 Wellington Theatre Awards for her performance. Prepare yourself for a birthday party you'll never forget.

In the midst of a birthday celebration, Rangi and Hūkerikeri (Keri) are caught off guard when two unexpected guests crash through the door intent on robbing the couple. But things don't go as planned when the older couple mistake the would-be thieves for their deceased son and his wife.

Come with us as we explore the dangers of love and secrets. Of loving someone too much, not enough and being starved of it. A truly heart-breaking and surreal theatre experience. Tickets at www.eventfinda.co.nz/2024/the-sun-and-the-wind-na-tainui-tukiwaho/maungaturoto

Short Play Festival

May 17th 7pm & 18th 2pm & 7pm. This will be a great showcase for local talent so keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for updates and ticket details.

The Pirate Queen

This will be performed by children in July. A fantastic tale of bravery based on the life of Gráinne O'Malley (The Pirate Queen) a well-known historical figure in sixteenth-century Irish history. Written by our own Maura Flower this show promises to be a real highlight of the year.

If you would like to receive the ORT quarterly newsletter send an email to: info@ort.org.nz.

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WHEN: April 8th or April 15th 2024. **TIMES:** 9.15-11.30am or 6.15-8.30pm

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**Council Mark says -****Fasten your seatbelts, we're in for a rocky ride**

This column has been written before formal adoption of the draft Long-term Plan for consultation. That's the plan which sets out what your council intends to achieve in the next few years, and what it is likely to cost in rates.

The proposed rates increase is likely to be big and ugly, and if you read my February column you will know that it will hit the people who have had the greatest increase in the land value of their property, the most.

We have been hit by a triple-

whammy - Cyclone Gabrielle, revocation of the 3 Waters reforms, and inflation. Work is still underway with cleaning up after Gabrielle; this could be for another 18 months. To be fair, some of the costs are being fully met by central government, and some is also substantially subsidised, but every bit of local share needs to be met with rates. The salt in that wound is inflation – our engineers tell us that the cost of doing civil works has increased by 42% over the last three years. Ouch!

Regardless of what you may have thought of the Three Waters reforms (and I thought the governance arrangements were unnecessarily complicated), they did help to clearly identify the network upgrades which we should be having over the next 10 years, and how those improvements could be made affordably for the users - as well as disposing of the vast majority of this council's debt. The new government is only doing what it said it would, but KDC would have been one of the big financial winners if they

had remained. The Waters upgrades now proposed have had to be considerably reduced in our revised draft LTP in an attempt to make them more affordable. There is a clear difference between what we should be doing and what we can afford to do.

The draft LTP is our best effort to reconcile all the competing needs and wants across our various communities, and to help us finalise it we need input from Kaipara's citizens. There will be a month of consultation with some specific issues needing a response, but in general terms I want to hear:

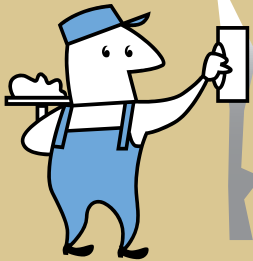
- What you want us to stop doing in order to reduce the cost of rates
- What you want us to start doing or keep doing even it will mean an increase in your rates.

Mark Vincent
Otamatea Ward councillor
021 0829 8037

Disclaimer: the opinions expressed here are my personal views and not official council policy

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The Bitches' Box: Episode 4

Written by: Kirsten Stevenson

'The Bitches' Box fourth live show sees actors Emma Newborn and Amelia Dunbar revisiting some of their most loved dog characters. Set on a High Country station on a day when the sheep are being mustered off the back blocks, the usual chaos ensues. This latest offering once again delivers the hilarious, fast-paced, multi-character comedy they've become "world famous in rural NZ" for.

Start rounding up your mates, neighbours, or team as you don't want to miss out on a great night of laughs and fun.

WHEN: Thursday 11th April

WHERE: Matakohe War Memorial Hall, Matakohe

BBQ Starts: 6.30 pm Show Starts: 7.30 pm

Grab your tickets at:

www.trybooking.co.nz/RFB

All Tickets are \$15 each which includes BBQ.

BYO. Contains adult themes.

All proceeds of the shows go back to the community organisation running the BBQ on the night.

Email: info@farmstrong.co.nz for more information.



Thank you for supporting our school!

On Saturday the 16th March, the school were selling raffle tickets for our Easter Raffle down at the Paparoa Farmers Market. This idea came about as we are fundraising to continue building our commercial kitchen at school.

As people were coming up to buy tickets we continued to explain our reasons for this wonderful asset the school will have. So I thought, why not explain the purpose of our kitchen to you all.

One, our kitchen will enable us to make our own lunches for our tamariki at school. We will continue building on our recycling programme and work towards zero waste from our kitchen. The students will have a voice, working with us to create a menu that is tasty and healthy. We will be able to make food for functions we hold at school, including Matariki and Diwali.

The other important part of the kitchen will be the Garden to Table programme. This educational programme allows us to incorporate authentic learning outside of the classroom. The mantra of this programme is to:



Our students are in the garden once a week, completing and learning all the practical skills necessary to plant and harvest food crops. If the programme is run properly, some of the students would also be in the kitchen learning to cook with different foods and learning a lot of lifelong skills. Tables are set and food is then served to the whole class. This is the part that we are unable to fully complete at the moment. When the kitchen is completed, our students will be in there creating some yummy meals.

Our goal is to enable all our students to grow their own food at home and know how to cook easy, tasty meals for their family.

By the time you read this, our raffle would have been drawn and the lucky winners of the eight prizes will have probably consumed the winnings. I want to thank our Paparoa parents and Paparoa Store for donating goodies for the Easter baskets. Also, a massive, big thanks to Fonterra for the huge range of cheese they sent to the school as well as The WoodSmiths in Maungaturoto for kindly making and gifting four amazing wooden cheeseboards to go with it. My last thank you is to MT Farms in Pahi who are the school's sponsor and always support our school throughout the year.

Ngā Mihi
Karyn Taylor
Principal

Paparoa Teenagers win on the Northland Showjumping Mini Circuit

Local teenagers Stevie-Raye Ball and PJ Powell put their mark on the Northland showjumping circuit this season.

PJ won the rising star pony on Material Girl and had a great season, also winning overall points.

Stevie-Raye, a new comer to showjumping, won the training pony on Million Dollar Bill with PJ coming 2nd on Just a Blur. This was sponsored by Tracey Dalzell from Bayleys Country and with a cover as the prize for the winner.

Stevie also won the Hakaru and Warkworth showjumping



series and was the overall individual winner at North Island Pony Club Show Jumping Champs.

Tina Ball

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Walking sisters

If you're out and about in Paparooa on a Saturday morning, you'll have a good chance of seeing two sisters out walking. They were born and raised in Paparooa as their parents owned Nick's Shop, which was in the building next to the old Post Office.

As Dorothy and Stella Nicholas grew up they attended Paparooa School, which was only a short walk up the hill, as in those times the school was situated in what is now School House Lane. However, to visit their friends, they had to walk, as no matter how much they wished for it, their father would not buy them a horse. Stella recalls walking

out to Arcadia Rd, and even further out to Bull Rd to spend the day with friends exploring the farms and bush.

Later, in her 20's, Stella took up running and became a marathon runner. Then in 1980 she and a running partner decided that they would run the length of New Zealand, raising money for charity. They averaged over

50km per day for a month and ran a total of 2044km.

These days Stella (Clyde) lives between Paparooa and Maungaturoto and Dorothy (Simpson) lives in Ruawai. Most Saturday mornings they meet in Paparooa and walk the Lions bushwalk or, if that's wet, do a loop around Franklin Rd. They usually call into the Farmers' market and pick up whatever supplies after their walk, so keep an eye out for them and say hello or, better still, join them on their walk. Despite getting older they are determined to keep active and fit for as long as they can.



If you would like to read more about Stella's epic run of the length of NZ, do a Google search for Stella Cawkwell.

Pete

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AT THE SPORTS PAVILION



First of all an apology. Last month I mentioned that we sold Kauri products. This is not the case and The Kauri Museum is the place to shop for those. The highlight for

March was our participation in the highly successful Festival 24 at the Ruawai Primary School. We managed to keep our gazebo anchored to the ground, in the windy conditions and enjoyed chatting to you all about The Gallery. We hope to see new members join us as a result.



It is such an easy process to become a member. You will enjoy yourselves, talking to people from all over the world and selling your creations. Friends of The Gallery are welcome too. Are there any retired folk out there who can put in a few hours behind the desk? You are not obliged to be a contributor.

Look out for a planned painting workshop that is coming up in the winter months. These always fill up quickly. We will soon inform you of the date, venue & tutor. These workshops are for the benefit of the community. The aim is to encourage creativity.

Our facebook page gets changed daily if you would like to see what art we have to offer and get ideas for what you would like to purchase or contribute. The talent in the North is amazing.

If you have visitors, the Kauri Museum, Gumdiggers Cafe and White Rock Gallery, together, make a great day out. Call in soon and say hi!

White Rock Gallery Committee

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Letters from The Old Post Office... Mischief

Dear Reader, I have been thinking about faces. In particular, the face we present to the world. And, the way you may get stuck in that persona. So Dear Reader, I have a plan. In a way it is almost an addition to the Bucket List.

I am looking forward to implementing it on my next road trip, although I will have a practice run on a more local little outing. I may even take along a fellow imposter.

Mehmet Murat ildan said (Turkish playwright) "Everything you do gives a clue about yourself! The clothes you wear, the books you read, the cars you drive, the songs you listen, the streets you love, everything you do is you!" Therefore, it stands to reason that if we change the clues then we change the way we are perceived. Really, it will be a bone-fide social experiment, but hopefully more fun. Well, for me anyway.

I can see my first action will be to build a variant on my wardrobe. Different personalities, different clothes, hair do, statement jewellery. Don't you love that word "statement jewellery" by the way. This is me it is saying, this vibrant, different character. Look at me! No, no not the face above, oh deary me, no! Just focus on the statement. A great way to divert attention!

Back to my point.

Obviously, will have to work out my "characters."

Perhaps, the earth-mother look. Add muslin, cheesecloth baggy skirt, dangly earrings and some sort of head-wrap to the shopping list.

Oh, hairy legs (my own) and lots of cloth bags, perhaps a dream catcher in the old Toyota? And patchouli oil or sandalwood? Thoughts?

Sweet dodderly older lady look. Yes, may be harder to stay in character, (the sweet bit I mean) but essential in my plan to wind up parking wardens, and other officials. So twin sets, costume jewellery, flat comfort shoes. Stockings? I can not grow hair leg fast enough just for one look so must disguise. And don't you love that long curly leg-hair trapped in beige stocking look. Think these two will be enough to start with.

Sweet old lady plan. Find traffic warden, enlist them in desperate hunt for car. Weep, totter, bless them fervently, then after 10 minutes remember that you caught the bus. That will serve them right for that ticket when I was only 5 minutes late back to my park.

Earth mother will visit high end shoe-store, I think. Spend some time trying on sparkly, high heeled shoes while admiring effect of them with uncut toenails and hairy legs and enjoying looks of horror on the well-maintained sales assistant's face. Am thinking Matakana? So that is the plan for the moment. Minor disruption. And will be plotting further

activities soon. They do say that one should not get stuck in a rut and to keep the brain active.

Voltaire said "The opportunity for doing mischief is found a hundred times a day, and of doing good once in a year". Plenty of scope there then. Any volunteers?

Deb



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Linking Hands seeking funds for a new vehicle

This is an open letter to our local communities spanning the Eastern Parts of Kaipara, from the Matakohe area, Paparooa, 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 eight 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 'use 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.

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.

LH

Roger Price 09 431 4590

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Matakohe Markets and Movies

When: Saturday 13th April with the market happening from 4-8pm and the movie starting at 5.30pm.

Where: Matakohe tennis courts & Community Hall beside the Kauri Museum.

This is to raise funds for replacement fencing for our community tennis courts.

Come along and have some fun with friends, family and the community while supporting this good cause.

Stalls include: food, face painting, massage, plants, jewellery, children's stalls, arts & crafts - all of which are local businesses.

Contact Kate on 027 324 5205



I've been thinking...

This is about to become a political rant, so be warned...

We've had two terms of a Labour Government. During its first term it was in coalition with NZ First and that minor party had influence. Firstly it provided a brake on Labour's far left ambitions, and secondly it achieved some of its own objectives, not least from our point of view, helping provincial areas.

Labour did not need a coalition partner in its second term, but retained the Green's support, especially James Shaw who was able to promote and achieve some Green objectives as a result.

My point is: Minor parties can have an important part to play in MMP Governments. They can achieve implementation of parts of their policies through the initial coalition negotiations and they can have influence on all legislation through work on committees and so on through the Parliamentary term.

Why then, did the Green Party rule out a coalition with National at the last election? (This is where the rant begins)

I suggest that everyone in NZ, definitely including you and me and all MPs, cares about conservation and the environment. That means that a political party prioritising these goals has huge potential support and could be part of every government, in a position to influence all legislation and to achieve some of its own goals.

Why, then, has our Green Party opted out?

Think what they may have achieved had they entered a coalition with National.

National's "Fast Track" legislation essentially allows a few Ministers in Wellington

to override all Resource Management and related Acts, to exclude any public consultation, to ignore District and Regional Plans, if they happen to think some development is in the national interest. Granted, existing processes were too slow, but this legislation swings the pendulum too far.

I postulate (somewhat mischievously) the following scenario:

A Kaipara Mayor suggests setting up a huge rubbish burning plant. As it would take Auckland's rubbish, he has huge support from there, and also from an international company called Megabux which will build and operate it. Auckland and Megabux convince the Ministers (one of whom is an Auckland and another has suddenly bought a huge yacht) to fast track the consents and the plant is built at Huarau. Megabux takes the profits overseas. Goodness knows what happens to the Kaipara as a result of the plant's operations.

That suggestion is just to rark you up. Pure fantasy. (I hope)

There has always been conflict between conservation and progress. It is inevitable. The major Parties have to take an overall view. Minor parties can be more focused and that is why they can be a valuable asset in an MMP environment, but most effective as part of the Government. At the very least they can achieve some consideration and consultation of legislation.

Our Greens missed a real opportunity to make a difference. Either they have misunderstood MMP, (Suggest they ask Winston for advice) or they have deliberately set themselves

up to compete with Labour to be the major party of the Left. By espousing somewhat controversial financial and social policies they endanger their core support and lose their focus.

They have chosen to sit on the Opposition benches excreting vitriol. Regrettable.

End of rant.

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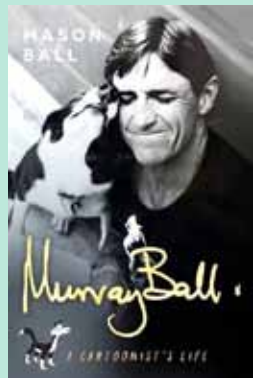
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BOOKS AND BOOKCLUBS

"The Treaty of Waitangi," by William Colenso, his eye-witness account of the events of February 5,6,7, 1840, taken from his notes on that occasion, including annotations by James Busby, and published by the New Zealand Government in 1890, reprinted by Capper Press in 1971. Oh how I wish this could be reprinted again today, in very large numbers, it is the most accurate, authentic and genuine book on Te Tiriti/Treaty ever published (although even that has been questioned) and very difficult to find. Natlib.govt has online access. Everything written since has been added to with bias of one kind or another. Being of both Maori and Pakeha descent I refuse to be confrontational. Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Treaty of Waitangi, although so very badly done, had good intentions. We do well to honour those intentions. "He iwi tahi tatau,"- "We are now one people."



Murray Ball, the cartoonist of "Footrot Flats" fame, often said, "Maori culture and influence, this indigenous heart, is what makes New Zealand unique". I know that because I read it in his biography, "Murray Ball," written by his son Mason Ball. What an awesome read this is, with lots of those famous cartoons and photographs included. Rugby, anti-apartheid protests, farming, we become part of Murray's journey through life and developing fame. Nostalgic Kiwiana. One to keep on your bookshelf for posterity.

For fans of Rachel Joyce, if you and your Bookclub have not already read it, "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry," will give you plenty to talk about. Rather ordinary, newly retired, stultifyingly married Harold does something extraordinary. He decides to go for a walk, and just keeps on walking, the length of England from south to north in the hope that by doing so, he can save an old friend from dying from cancer. Unlikely?! What a strange thing we humans are. This book reminded me of a TV Movie about a Postman who was made redundant, so on his last day he continued cycling across England all the way to Scotland hand delivering his last batch of mail. I also remember in the movie, Forrest Gump in a crisis, running all around America. It seems that some of us, when we don't know

how to handle an unpleasant situation, just keep on walking, peddling, running, until we do. My advice? Keep on reading.

We live in two worlds, the one that we share with everyone else, and the one in our own mind, known only to us and God. In "The Museum of Forgotten Memories," by Anstey Harris, we join the internal dialogue between the main character and herself, a widow with one son, who is forced to live in the ancestral home of her late husband. The Manor House is also a Museum, the legacy of her husband's grandfather. Her thoughts, often wild, imaginative, random, sad, guilt ridden, courageous are what captures the reader, as well as the unexpected unfolding of the world around her. A double narrative. I can't tell you more than that without spoiling your journey. You must read and find out more for yourself. It is worth it.

Anne Bate
ko Ngai Tahu taku iwi

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A bee in my bonnet...

It's been quite a while since I last contributed an article to the 'Press'. However, being a long-time enthusiast for all things Kaipara, both past and present, I thought that attention needed to be drawn to what can only be described as a civic embarrassment.

However, in this case the responsibility lies higher than our local government.

The Kaipara District is unique both in its topography and history. A claim to fame, now seemingly overlooked, is that New Zealand's first 'home grown' prime minister Joseph Gordon Coates was born to pioneering immigrants who settled in our district.

Joseph Gordon Coates was educated at the Matakoho school. He could speak Te Reo, was chairman of the Otamatea County Council and soon entered national politics as the member for Kaipara. WW1 saw him distinguish himself by winning the Military Cross twice and he was also wounded. Returning to New Zealand, he re-entered parliament, taking up several ministerial positions. As minister for what is now Māori Affairs, he settled many grievances, which then greatly helped social reform. He was minister in charge of railways and also public works before becoming prime minister. It is in part, his contribution to critical infrastructure that has become the cause of this 'bee in my bonnet'.

Today, we travel our roads as a matter of course but it was Coates who created the main thoroughfares through New Zealand. Highway One runs through the heart of the Kaipara district. A key junction, is that at Brynderwyn and because of this man's achievements, his once proud memorial was erected there. In later years, it was moved from prominence at the road front to the back of a car park where it has mouldered ever since. Now the bronze plaque and fittings are covered in verdigris, the white stonework blackened with mould, the base surrounded by grass and



weeds. Tagging is the latest indignity it has had to suffer. Perhaps being hidden by parked roading trucks might be as blessing in disguise!

I recently approached councillor Mark Vincent regarding this matter. He took an immediate interest and approached Dr Jason Smith, now director of the Kauri Museum, with the idea of a possible relocation to Matakoho. However, further research by Mark revealed that the original location was chosen to link the memorial to both a man of the Kaipara and his achievement of national significance, which is still only too apparent today, especially to those wishing



to traverse the Brynderwyn hill! Mark also referred the matter to Mayor Jepson, who also shared our concern and referred the matter to those responsible for the upkeep, Waka Kotahi Transit New Zealand. Perhaps when the Brynderwyn recovery program is completed they will pay due respect to the man who started it all.

Well, I hope my 'bee' has started a buzz, we need to have pride in

our community and its achievements, otherwise we will lose our local identity and become another part of the greater bureaucratic mass, administered by those remote from the area with no care or understanding our history or culture.

Norm Holloway
Whakapirau

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Start time will be 12 midday to play your 9 hole game and then join in with the 18 hole players (10am start) at the end of the day. \$5.00 haggie or \$10 with food. Look forward to seeing you all there.

It is with a sad heart that we have to notify you all that our club patron, Noel

Fulton passed away peacefully on Thursday 21 March aged 93. Noel had been a member of the Paparoa Golf Club since 1957, holding



numerous officer positions within the club including president 1968 and 1969, club captain, handicapper, greens superintendent and committee member, plus being honoured as a life member of the club. He was also Paparoa's delegate to the Northland Golf Association for many years. He became the patron for the club in 2017. In addition he was invited to become a member of the Northland Eagles Golfing Society in 1979, rising to become their president and eventually becoming a life member.

Jas Futter



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OCS April News



The first Community Lunch
We are happy to announce our new exciting format.

Date: Wednesday 10th April
at The Good News Church Hall, 98 Hurdall Street, Maungaturoto. Plenty of off-street parking. Starting at 11am for a cup of tea or coffee and time to chat with your friends. Then enjoy a buffet style lunch which will be ready at mid-day followed by the raffle draw at 1pm.

Our van will be available to pick up residents from the Retirement Village and return back afterwards. Just look for the OCS Community van at the car parking area in the village.

OCS is very happy to join with the Good News Church and share this venture in their smart church hall.

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you all there.

To other things - Our free shopping trips to Whangarei are still happening, regardless of the closing of the Brynderwyn Hills road. It just means that our drivers are having to take the long way around and we are so grateful to them for providing this service for you all.

Remember the dates for these trips:

Tuesday 9th April

Wednesday 24th April

These are the second Tuesday and the fourth Wednesday, the same for each month. The van leaves the parking area at the Maungaturoto Retirement Village at 9am and returns in the afternoon. You can do grocery shopping, have some lunch, ask the driver where you would like to go and he will drop you there.

For information on any of the above please phone us on 09 431 9080.

Take care
From all at OCS



Maungaturoto and Districts Rotary

The Club has decided that we should meet twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesdays from March onwards. This will give members a little more free time to take part in community activities that they choose.

In the middle of February, we had the chance to share a dinner meeting with Paparoa Lions. We feel that there are avenues in which we can support each other, especially as we both have a community focus. At this meeting we were fortunate to hear from guest speaker, Shaun Holland, who is involved in the Pest Free Peninsulas program. Shaun was initially inspired by the work done by Jim Rowlands and fellow workers in the Paparoa area and from that developed a passion for improving the environment. He works with local groups and land owners with support from NRC and KDC. Since 2018 he has voluntarily worked on 400 properties (each requiring a unique approach) and owners are encouraged to be part of the approach. Shaun had on display the common pests that he



was aiming to eradicate. Interesting to note that a pair of rats can produce 2,000 descendants in a year. He did mention that people think a bush area is healthy, but many of these areas are devoid of bird life, something he is hoping to improve. The kereru are hugely important for the regeneration of native bush because of the seeds contained in their droppings. Shaun has also noticed an



increase in the time kaka are staying in the area. In 2018, their stay was only for one month. This has now extended to 9 months in some areas. To continue the work that has been done already, Shaun believes there needs to be long-term planning and good record

keeping. He also said that community voice is important. One hint for keeping possums away from fruit trees is to set traps, baited with flour and brown sugar, on the edge of orchards, as this pest will be attracted to them before entering the orchard.

We have had a further update from Jaime, who has now been in Belgium for two months. Her host family has taken her to Bruges and Ghent where she found the architecture really incredible. She has also visited Binche where there was an orange festival where oranges were thrown into the crowd. Jaime and her host family left the area with two bags full of oranges. In the area where she is living, Bastogne, they have also had a three day carnival which she really enjoyed. Jaime has also enjoyed touching base with fellow exchange students at Rotary meetings she has attended. She is now also involved in Scouts where she experienced her first snow fall. We have been fortunate to have a number of photos that Jaime has sent with her email. She is now looking forward to the days getting longer.

During the past month we have been visited by Grahame from the Mangawhai Rotary Club. It is good to hear about the success of their sailing venture and they now have 24 boats which they can use to train youngsters. Some of our number were able to join them at their Prizegiving on the 17th March.

Our club continues to look for avenues in which we can be involved in our local community. While Piroa Falls is difficult to access at the moment, we do have Nikau Grove which we can continue to nurture. If you haven't visited this area in Whaka Street, it is now a good time to do so. There are a number of native trees in the area, but the Queen of the block is the kauri tree.

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1. Make an assessment and boil the same amount of water as you have whole apples then let it cool overnight.
2. Chopped up apples, cores and all- I put them through a rough chop in the food processor.
3. Place apples in a large jar or crock that has been sterilised with boiling water- it needs to be big enough to hold the volume of apples and water that you have. The apples must be completely submerged, though they will rise to the top. Do not fill to the top as the mixture will expand as it ferments.
4. Cover the container with muslin or double thickness cheesecloth and secure with a rubber band to keep out fruit flies.
5. Store it in a cool place away from direct light.
6. Take off the cloth and stir the mixture every day for 7-14 days. It should be slightly fizzy, have bubbles on the surface and have a good slightly vinegar smell.
7. Strain out the solids and put them in your compost or feed to animals.
8. Rinse out the container with boiling water and pour the liquid back in. Secure the cloth back over it and place it in a cool dark place for 4-6 weeks.



9. You can now decant it into sterilised bottles and use it.

A "mother" may form but this is normal and a healthy sign. It may also form after bottling as your ACV is a living thing.



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Guest Presenter: **Pete Fairclough 2pm**

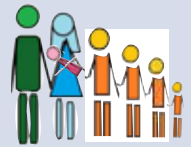
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From our family to yours



Patience Shelved

I mentioned last month the wait of ten years to have our driveway planted, and it got me thinking about other things I've been waiting a while for. Such as, a shelf in the laundry. Our laundry is not a room, its a cupboard, but I'm not complaining. I have been waiting for fourteen years for a shelf in my laundry cupboard, and I wont lie, this is a wee complaint. Every few years I joke about it, how nice it would be to have a shelf- but no shelf ever arrives. You see, we have a history in our house of issues with stud finding. Now I know what you're thinking- Jenny, your husband IS a stud, and you aren't wrong- but the stud finding I'm referring to is the masses of holes in our walls and roof where we have tried to find a firm lodging for a screw but missed. We've bought fancy stud finders, we've knocked and knocked, we've ruined more than one object by trying to hang it only to find it wasn't secure. So hence, the laundry shelf is a hopeless dream that may never come to fruition. I can practically hear readers screaming their practical solutions to this problem as they read this, but save your breath, its just simpler to not have a shelf.

For six years we didn't have a deck. We had broken pallets and slippery clay, and eventually, a deck got built. It was a miracle, really. But my sturdy husband is pretty good at building decks, it seems, and all good things take time, as we know. After the deck was complete, we wondered how we had lived without it. Such is progress.

Contentment is a spectrum- some people are happy to go without objects, yet another may find life unlivable without the same object. Is my joy in life based off decks and laundry shelves? Certainly not. Wherever I base my pleasure off the worldly objects of comfort that surround me, the more I set myself up for misery should they fail, break, die or implode. If it's there, I appreciate it. And if not-well, patience is a virtue but I wont hold my breath waiting- I think the idea's been shelved.

Jenny

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April in the Garden

It's busy in the garden this month. Harvesting should be well underway with beautiful apples, peaches, pears, pumpkins and quince.

If you have more than you need, there is a fabulous Paparoa Sustainable Swap Facebook page where you can swap goods with one another - a nice way for our community to support each other.

It is getting colder so now is a great time to make basil into pesto (freeze before adding cheese) - a great addition to winter soups.

Its also time to pull out your summer vegetables as they should be mainly finished with the ground starting to cool.

Feed the old soil with goodies - compost, blood and bone, grass clippings, lots of manure and fertiliser. This way you are going to give your winter vegetables what they need to be fabulous for a winter harvest.

Plant now

Winter soup staples (carrots, parsnips, celery and onions) plus all the brassicas (cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage and kale) can all go in. Plant more parsley and spinach for those winter salads.

Make comfrey tea for liquid fertiliser before the leaves dry off for winter - or just use as mulch on your garden.

Rhubarb

Give your plants a really good manure feed now, it loves rich soil so dig in lots of manure or even bury road kill under the plant. Water well for thick juicy stems, nothing beats rhubarb crumble in winter.

Take advantage of the season's bounty and rake those wonderful carbon rich autumn leaves into a pile, cover to create a good compost or simply add to existing beds.

White Butterflies! White Butterflies!

Wow the conditions must be perfect this autumn, they are en masse everywhere.

My advice would be to cover your vegetable beds entirely in fine netting - old net curtains work well. Just make sure there are no holes for them to get in.

I also make cut-out butterflies out of old milk bottles, add a few black dots & put on a wire.

The theory is they are territorial so keep to their own area. I think it works although my partner thinks I'm nuts (ha ha).

Or get the kids involved, an old badminton racket works well!

Happy gardening

Smiles, C

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Why is it called gloomy? Because it has large white eyes that give it a gloomy expression.

Where does it live? In sub-tropical waters off Sydney, Tasmania and possibly Northland?

What other features does it have and what does it eat? It has 1000s of suckers, each of which can move independently and grip very tightly to get its food. It has

a rasping tongue which it uses to open the shellfish and crabs that are part of its diet.

- It can change colour and do round spot bumps and spikes faster than we can blink, using the 3 layers of their colour changing skin cells.
- With no bones it can escape through very small gaps in the rocky areas it lives in and if this doesn't work, it uses jet propulsion to fire sand and shells as well as black ink.
- It is nocturnal.
- It can have an arm span of up to 2 metres.
- It usually only lives about 11 months.

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Stella



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Pets in the Valley



Well it definitely is autumn now - the horses are changing their coats for winter. It was a great summer for growing grass so most stock are looking really good. If you are short of grass now then you have a stocking rate problem!

In the vet world I have had another example of not seeing



something for ages and then having two cases in the same week. Two little dogs had bladder stones that required surgery to remove them. Spot the difference in the x-rays. One had one very large golf ball-like stone and the other had a massive amount of "gravel" with hundreds of varying size stones. The golf ball was much easier to remove as it came out in one piece whereas the gravel had to be "shovelled" out and then all the smaller sand pieces flushed out.

Both dogs were much happier once they had recovered from the surgery and are now on special diets to minimise the formation of further stones.

Enjoy the lovely autumn weather, Janine

Pangokereia or Hochstetter's Frog

- our tiny local inhabitant in the Brynderwyns

At the moment there is a dedicated local young lady (among others) who is spending her days working in the bush near the road works searching for this tiny rare native frog - as well as looking for tiny native bats and geckos. This group is working to save, and shift, these amazing little creatures to a safer environment.

Some Hochstetter's Frog facts (it is named after Ferdinand von Hochstetter - a German/Austrian geologist who was the first European to discover them).

It is one of four surviving species of endemic frog - the three other species are now extinct.

It is tiny and fits into the palm of a small hand.

It eats- invertebrates like insects, worms and snails, that live by the stream where it lives, which it catches using its arms.

It is considered one of the most ancient of all living amphibian genera but is very vulnerable due to introduced predators (cats, rats, hedgehogs, possums, and habitat destruction) and a pathogenic fungus. Hochstetter's frog is listed as vulnerable on The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

It is earless and voiceless as it has no voice-sac- so it can't croak, it just squeaks.

It is the only NZ native frog

with a tadpole stage. They are semi aquatic and nocturnal, and their young need to have water.

Hochstetter's Frogs are speckled and match their mossy gravel environment, favouring seepages with good rock coverage, leaf litter and under-water cavities. They cannot survive in dirty, silty stream water.

They have no webbing on their fore legs and a little on their hind legs.

They have been observed as living over 18 years and do not breed until about three years old.

They once lived from Punakaiki in the South Island right through to Waipu but are now only found in the North Island and have been seen in - East Cape, Waitakare, King Country Coromandel, Waipu and Great Barrier Island.

Let's hope the team working to save them have a great deal of success.

Stella



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At the gardens we have been closing many of our garden beds for a well earned rest. This allows us to plant cover crops to help build soil to help with future crops. This means our harvest for the food banks is low so if you have any unwanted produce from your garden that you'd like to donate please get in touch (via Facebook or on kfullerton25@gmail.com) or drop off to the gardens, we're open Thursday and Friday 9-12.

There will not be a harvest on Sundays until further notice.

Katie Fullerton

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School Holidays

April 13-29

So watch out for
kids in strange
places!

And kids,
have fun!

WHAT'S ON - APRIL 2024

The Kauri Museum - open 7 days, 9am-5pm

White Rock Gallery - 5 Church Rd Matakohē (Kauri Museum) Open 7 days 10 - 4

The Bitches' Box - Thurs April 11. BBQ 6.30pm, show 7.30pm. \$15 incl BBQ. Matakohē War Memorial Hall. See p4 for booking info.

Matakohē Market & Movies - Sat April 13. Market 4-8pm, movie 5.30pm. Matakohē War Memorial Hall. See p8 for more info.

The Sun and the Wind - Sat April 13, 2pm & 6.30pm. Otamatea Repertory Theatre. See p3 for booking info.

White Rock Gallery AGM - Mon April 22, 7pm. Matakohē War Memorial Hall.

Ceremony of Ease - Cacao & Yin ceremony. Sat April 27, 1.30-4.30pm. Paparoa Sports Pavilion. See ad p7 for more info.

OUT & ABOUT AROUND TOWN

Paparoa's Farmers Market happens every Saturday morning, 9am - 12 at the Village Green. Fresh fruit & veges, sweet treats, plants, olive oil, fish, preserves, live music and so much more. A great place to catch up with friends or make new ones.

Artisan Market - Quarterly. Paparoa Memorial Hall 10am-2pm. Next market June. Email artisanmarket.paparoa@gmail.com or ph Steph 027 452 7124 or Ruth 021 433 969.

Grow Whakatipu Paparoa Drop in for a chat, hands on experience, or a cuppa. Every Thursday & Friday 10am- 1pm.

Paparoa Golf Course Winter Sunday golfing. 18 holes (\$20) tee off 10am, 9 holes (\$10) 12 midday. Includes food afterwards. Enquiries to the club secretary on 022 678 1474.

Paparoa Beats 88.3fm Community radio based right here in Paparoa. A "Beautiful Resistance" to the mainstream. Also available online at paparoabeats.radio12345.com. If you would like to get involved and play your own tunes you can contact them on paparoabeats@gmail.com.

**BE
SEEN...
LIGHTS
ON**
In fog
or rain



Local JPs

Robyn Skelton, Paparoa
4317306 or 0272922787
Business hours only

Val Faulkner, Paparoa
021687226
Evenings and weekends

Graham Withers, Tinopai
2809552 or 02102545799

Derek Birt, Mareretu
4316847

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Stay safe on the road...

The repairs to SH1 at the Brynderwyns are progressing well and they are on track (at time of print) for a re-opening date of May 13. Fingers crossed.

The trucks on Paparoa Oakleigh Road have been mostly very courteous, staying on their side of the road (better than many locals), and pulling over to let following traffic past. Of course exceptions - there always is.

Then there's the impatient drivers. The drivers of utes towing loaded trailers who are obviously late for an appointment and need to pass everything. The drivers who think that sitting right up the backside of the car in front, who's in a line of cars behind a truck, will somehow make the truck go faster. The drivers who, instead of slowing down and giving way at one lane bridges, speed up and force vehicles with the right of way to take evasive actions. Or the drivers who think that anything

less than 140kph is too slow and that corners were made for passing on. This drongo passed me, then two trucks on three separate blind corners in quick succession, and missed a milk tanker by about five seconds. These drivers are putting the lives of us all at risk and are not the skilled drivers they think they are. They're a bit deficient in the brain department and we should all be driving like one of these idiots is just around the corner... because they quite possibly are.



REGULAR EVENTS, MEETINGS AND ORGANISATIONS

- Anglican Church St Marks** Hook Road, ph 431 8193 or 431 6224 for services info
- Ararua Church** 10.30am every Sunday. All welcome Ph 431 6622
- Art Studio, Ruawai** Wed 10-12noon ph Frances 439 2554
- Badminton** Thursdays 7pm Paparoa Hall \$2 students, \$3 adults, Pete 021 056 7163
- Farmers' Market** Every Saturday 9-Noon, Village Green, Linda 021 362468
- Grey Power** Last Wed in month, 1pm, Anglican Church Hall, Maungaturoto
- Grow Paparoa** Thur/Fri/Sun 10am to 2pm at the Community Gardens
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church**, Maungaturoto, All welcome. Ph 431 8193 for services information.
- Kaipara Marching Team** Weds 4-5.30pm, M'gto, Ph Lyn Hutchings 022 070 8674
- Line Dancing** Thurs 10am-noon Paparoa Hall Ph Jackie Cornes 027 368 7298
- Paparoa Mah Jong Group** 1st & 3rd Tues, Paparoa Hall 1.30-4pm, Sara 021 0774947
- Mainly Music** Wed 9.30am Paparoa Comm Church, Lynaire Porteous 431 7520
- Matakohe Garden Circle** 1st Weds each month, 1pm, J Mackinnon 431 6689.
- Maungaturoto Opportunity Shop** Open Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 10am-3pm. Alternate Sat mornings 10am-1pm.
- Maungaturoto and Districts Rotary Club** Maungaturoto Centennial Hall, Tuesday evenings 6pm, Ph Stella 021 149 0877
- Otamatea Quilters** 1st and 3rd Mon month 10am, Paparoa Hall 09 439 2262
- Outdoor Bowls** Maungaturoto Green Ph Tony 431 6026 or Brian 431 6884
- Pahi Hall** available for hire Ph Tina 0210335128
- Paparoa Community Church** Sundays 10.30am, 4 Hook Road, 431 6795 or Dave Porteous 0274 180 676
- Paparoa Box Fit** Every Wednesday 6-7pm, Stretching/Cardio/Boxing \$10, Paparoa Hall, Stacey Watson 09 283 9931
- Paparoa Dance to Music** Every Tuesday 10:30-11:30, Stretching/Balance/Resistance/Bands/Zumba, \$5, Paparoa Hall, Stacey Watson 09 283 9931
- Paparoa Garden Circle** 2nd Wed of month. Contact Raylee Over 021 2565 893
- Paparoa Hall** Functions venue Ph Robyn 431 7306 or a/h Loraine 431 7290
- Paparoa Library** Mon, Wed 2-4.30, Thurs 10-4, Fri 11-1.30, Sat 10-12. Library Manager 09 431 7555 during library hours. Returns Box at Skeltons
- Paparoa Lions** Dinner Meetings 3rd Mon in month 6.30pm, Sports Pavilion
- Paparoa Playcentre** Tuesday and Thursday 10am-1pm Visitors Welcome Ph Kirstin 431 7373 txt 021 525 425 or Jane 431 6148 paparoa@playcentre.org.nz
- Paparoa Primary School** 2023 Term 1 2024 starts 31st Jan Ph 431 7379
- Paparoa Toy Library** Wed 10.30-1pm, Paparoa Comm Church, Hilery 431 7330
- Paparoa Volunteer Rural Fire Force (VRFF)** 1st and 3rd Monday of the month 6.30pm Depot Rd ph Ken Ogilvie 021 129 4042
- Plunket Ready Steady Wriggle** Mon 10am Sports Pav. Tina Ball 021 033 5128
- Selwyn Centre** Thurs 9.45am for over 65's, St Marks, Hook Rd, Ph Sue 431 6224
- Sports Pavilion** Functions Venue Bookings ph Jane Bailey 431 6148
- St Mary's Catholic Church** Maungaturoto 10am Wed, 4pm Saturday
- Table Tennis** Tues 7.30pm, Sports Pavilion \$2 Pete 021 056 7163
- Tennis** Tues Junior from 4pm, Adult 5.30pm, Ph Sue 431-6224, Pete 0210567163
- Yoga For Everyone** Tuesday and Friday mornings 9.30am Paparoa Sports Pavilion. Ph 027 294 4855
- Yoga/Pilates** Wed 10am, Thurs 5.45pm. \$111 for the term, \$12 casual. Paparoa Sports Pavillion

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LOCAL TIDES for April 2024

TIDES - CALCULATED for PAHI-WHAKAPIRAU

DATE	LOW	HIGH	DATE	LOW	HIGH
1st	10.09	16.35	17th	12.14	6.10
2nd	11.20	17.46	18th	13.20	7.23
3rd	12.40	6.28	19th	14.13	8.19
4th	13.58	7.52	20th	14.57	9.03
5th	15.04	9.03	21st	15.35	9.40
6th	16.00	10.00	22nd	16.09	10.14
7th	15.49	9.50	23rd	16.43	10.47
8th	16.37	10.37	24th	17.15	11.18
9th	17.21	11.22	25th	17.48	11.50
10th	18.05	12.06	26th	6.03	12.24
11th	6.26	12.41	27th	6.39	13.00
12th	7.12	13.36	28th	7.20	13.42
13th	7.59	14.23	29th	8.08	14.31
14th	8.51	15.15	30th	9.05	15.30
15th	9.51	16.14	1st	10.11	16.46
16th	11.00	17.24	2nd	11.23	17.57

Community Directory

EMERGENCY: FIRE ■ POLICE ■ AMBULANCE dial 111

COAST TO COAST HEALTH CARE

Maungaturoto Medical Centre: 8am-5pm Mon-Fri 09 431 8576
 Paparoa Clinic: Open Tues and Thurs 8am-5pm..... 09 431 7222
 For urgent after hours medical service (Wellsford)..... 09 423 8086

DISTRICT NURSE Dargaville Hospital 09 439 3330
 Healthline - 24 hour service..... 0800 611 116

HOSPICE KAIPARA Dargaville Hospital 09 439 3330

KAIPARA DISTRICT COUNCIL Helpline 0800 727 059
 Mangawhai Office..... 0800 100 388

KAIPARA PHYSIOTHERAPY Lyndsay Bargh/Lynne Rhodes...09 4391656

LINKING HANDS Health Shuttle Service, Maungaturoto.09 431 8969

LIONS CLUB PAPAROA President Jim Rowlands..... 09 431 7290

MAUNGATUROTO PHARMACY 09 431 8045

MAUNGATUROTO REST HOME 09 431 8696

OTAMATEA COMMUNITY SERVICES Community House 09 431 9080

PAPAROA LIBRARY Free Membership. Ph 09 431 7555 (Bus hours)
 Mon, Wed 2-4.30, Tues closed, Thurs 10-4 Fri 11-1.30, Sat 10-12

PAPAROA PLAYCENTRE paparoa@playcentre.org.nz

PAPAROA PLUNKET .Plunket Nurse Louise 027 2823987 or 09 438 2508

PLUNKET Helpline 0800 933 922

PAPAROA PRIMARY SCHOOL 09 431 7379

PROGRESSIVE PAPAROA INC (PPI)Pete Hames 021 0567163

PARENT PORT Inc. free help for families Linda 09 425 9357

Arctic adventures

Seeing the Northern lights was an absolute highlight of our recent trip over the Christmas holidays when we visited Tromso, northern Norway. Daytime temperatures were around minus 14 degrees and the land was covered in snow and ice.

The northern lights are stunning, dancing bands of coloured light that have captivated people for millennia and they enthralled us as well.

The lights are created when energized particles from the sun slam into Earth's upper atmosphere at speeds of up to 72 million kmph, but our planet's magnetic field protects us from the onslaught. As Earth's magnetic field redirects the particles toward the poles the dramatic process transforms into a cinematic atmospheric phenomenon



that really are an awe inspiring sight.

We were so lucky to go to northern Norway in the winter to seek out the amazing lights. Our youngest daughter Maggie was studying in Denmark and our oldest Rita was working in London so we headed to visit them both and travel to Norway together.

There is no guarantee that even in winter you will see the lights, so we were indeed very fortunate to see them on three of the five nights we were in Tromso. Ideal conditions are dark and clear nights, preferably with little light pollution and the best images are obtained with a steady hand and long exposure.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the phenomenon is called the northern lights (aurora borealis), while in the Southern Hemisphere, it's called the southern lights (aurora australis).

Another exciting adventure we had was husky dog sledding. After a short briefing we were let loose driving our team of five dogs with our main responsibility being to work the brakes so as not to crash into the sled in front of us. The dogs were enthusiastic

to run through the snow and it was an absolute joy for us to see them and the snow covered countryside with the stunning winter light of pink and orange reflecting in the snow. There is only three or four hours of light at that time of year so while we didn't actually see the sun, the light in the sky was stunning, like a perpetual sunrise or sunset.

Now that Maggie is living back in Dunedin we are keen to go south and see if we can spot the southern lights, but we're not expecting to be able to go dog sledding.

Libby and Pete



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