



Paparoa Press

DECEMBER 2025

Signage update for Paparoa

One afternoon a few weeks ago the 'Welcome to Paparoa' signs at the entrance to our town changed. The previous signs had been there a very long time, and although they still looked good, they had become unnoticed over time.

The new signage was a Progressive Paparoa initiative that commenced around a year ago. It was quite a lengthy process requiring both Council and NZTA approval after the concept had been developed.

Some noticed on day one that the centre section was removable, indicating the signs will change periodically keeping them noticed and interesting. The first batch of 12 have all been approved by authorities involved after first being looked over

by the Progressive Paparoa Committee. The target of these signs is not local residents but rather visitors, hence there has been no secret about the scripts. They are effectively in some way making fun of small-town New Zealand with the view of suggesting to visitors there is something interesting about this place. Hopefully this will encourage them to stop for a coffee, or a bite to eat, or to fuel up. Or, maybe soon, a beer?

The longer visitors stay the more they spend, so this is one very small part of adding vitality to the best little town in Northland (slightly biased opinion). Feel free to take some pics and share them to any TV station you wish - it all helps get us noticed. Feedback to date has been very good and, with the changes to come, we feel they should amuse, or at the least make one take a second glance. Hope you enjoy them!

Luke



Rowie (and helper) maintaining the hanging baskets in Paparoa.



Community Christmas Dinner

All are invited to join us at the Maungaturoto Centennial Hall, View Street around midday on Christmas Day for a shared Christmas dinner. This event is funded by the community and there will be no cost to those attending.

If you joined us last year please come again and tell your friends.

All ages welcome.

If you need transport, please give me a call. We look forward to seeing you.

Eileen- 021 142 0357



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The next Press will be published on January 7th 2026.



Paparooa Press PP

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Quite a coincidence

At the recent screening of 'We were Dangerous' at Maungaturoto Country Club, many of the audience would have been unaware that one of the leading actors, Erana James, is the granddaughter of Joan and Rick Kennaway, founding members of Otamatea Repertory Theatre and namesakes of the Kennaway Auditorium.

James plays Nellie, a girl sent to a School for Delinquent and Incurable Girls in 1950s Christchurch. She is a rising NZ actor who has also starred in The Changeover and the TV series, The Wilds.

Given the recent inquiry into abuse in state and faith-based care the story has particular relevance. The movie, unfortunately realistic, highlights attempts to "reform" a group of teenage girls through rigorous domestic training and punitive religious discipline. Under the control of the matron, played by Rima Te Wiata, they are punished for vices ranging from the inability to read, to dancing and speaking Te Reo. The abuse that is inflicted on the girls is indefensible and culminates in the forcible sterilisation

of chosen girls and the main three girls attempt to rebel.

As a movie it is engaging but to this viewer ultimately unsatisfying as the story thread is left unresolved with only the main protagonists escaping their abusive conditions. There is no reference to what happened to this harsh camp on Quail Island in Lyttelton Harbour nor any future of the girls so cruelly treated. The characters are fictional, but the story is all too close to reality.

However, the experience of movie night at MCC is definitely worthwhile. A casual, relaxing evening out with food! And all at a very reasonable price. Keep an eye out for the advertising of the next film in January 2026.

GT edited by DC



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Watch out, there're thieves about

Kee an eye on your mailboxes!

There have been reports of light-fingered members of our various communities helping themselves to other people's parcels.

If ordering things online please use the tracking so you know when it's arriving. Check your mailbox as soon as possible- or ask a neighbour to check for you.

If you see anything suspicious take photos and notify the police immediately- some of these low-lives will be known to them.

You can also fit an unlocked padlock to your mailbox that the postie can lock when they leave.

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 editor or Progressive Paparooa Inc.



Frankenstein - the Paparoa connection

Costume designer and Paparoa resident Kate Hawley is wowing audiences with her stunning costumes in the newly released movie directed by Guillermo del Toro.

The novel Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus, was written by Mary Shelley in 1818, when she was just 19 years old, but the story is still relevant today.

The gothic mood is far from dark and gloomy, with bursts of vibrant colour in the elaborate costumes. Inspiration came from natural elements, blood, cells, gemstones, beetles and moth's wings, with many fabrics created in-house.

To see these photos in all their colourful glory go to



paparoa.org.nz and click on "News".

Following a limited release in cinemas the movie is now screening on Netflix. PP

STOP PRESS!!!

On November 28th Kate was named the first-ever Costume Designer of the Year at the 2025 Fashion Awards. She received the award at The Royal Albert Hall in London on December 1st. Congratulations Kate!!



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Trees for the Kaipara

Otamatea Harbour Care [OHC] is an Incorporated Society providing local land owners with low cost native plants, sourced from local seed, for riparian and erosion prone plantings.

The nursery is managed by Mark MacKenzie on Paparoa Station Rd with the help from volunteers of all ages, with the intent on reducing the silt that enters the Kaipara Harbour.

Propagation for the 2026 planting season is now underway at the nursery, the local home-school group and other regular volunteers have potted up 12500 plants to date with many more planting days like this to come. Seedlings being planted now will be ready for distribution in May - August 2026.



Now is the time to start thinking about site preparation for your planting project in the 2026 season, potential areas include wetlands, waterways, areas affected by erosion, and any other water prone areas



that may affect the Harbour. For plants to have the best chance at life the planting site should be fenced off from stock, and grass should be cleared from the area, this helps the plants to get established.

Species available for planting in 2026 include:

- Flax
- Cabbage trees
- Manuka
- Giant wetland grasses
- Coprosma

If you are interested in volunteering in the nursery please contact Mark MacKenzie 021 137 9259.

For further information see: otamateaharbourcare.org.nz or facebook.com/OtamateaHarbourCare

Tania



Paparoa School news

With only a few weeks left in the school year, the countdown is officially on! We were pleased to finally complete our athletics day after postponing it due to bad weather.

It was a fantastic turnout, and the students enjoyed rotating through the different disciplines.

We are now in our final week of polishing our performance for the upcoming Kapa Haka Festival. Our tamariki are excited to put on their costumes and get up on stage to share their hard work with whānau.

Our last group of calves have now been put out to pasture - thank goodness! I am incredibly proud of our older students, who have given up their own time to help feed and care for the calves. It has been a big three months, and I can't thank Ms Harper enough for giving up her weekends to support the feeding roster.

The pool is up and running, and we're hopeful for a smooth season with no issues like we had last year. The students are looking forward to cooling off with afternoon swims next week. We have a limited number of community keys available for families interested in using the school pool over the summer.

Our Preschool classroom (four year olds) is now up and running with six participants. The programme operates on Mondays from 8.45am to 2pm, with Shannon Campbell (ECE teacher) leading this transition class. A current favourite activity seems to be raiding the strawberry patch in our vegetable garden! The

preschoolers also head out with the seniors to feed our baby calf in the paddock and are quickly learning how to write their names. If you are interested in this programme, please contact the school or email me at principal@paparoa.school.nz.



As part of our enviro programme, eight of our students have signed up to be Beekeepers this summer. We currently have beehives at school and the students work with Nanette from Tahī NZ. They run the Bee Friendly Programme which teaches our students about the life of a bee and collecting honey. They were 'buzzing' after their first session!

As we head into the final stretch of the year, I want to thank you all for your continued support of our school, our staff, and most importantly, our tamariki.

Ngā mihi nui
Karyn Taylor
Principal



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Recurrent Herpes Treatment (Cold sores/ Genital herpes)*

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Shingles Treatment (Antiviral tablets)*

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Letters from The Old Post Office...

Floral tributes, an antidote



Dear Reader, by the time this edition reaches you Christmas will be upon us. And, thus bringing an alleged season of kindness, goodwill to all men/persons and festive cheer. Although I am afraid that if one more merry jingle of bells peals out as I enter another commercial premise (at least six weeks before this day of rejoicing) then I may not be responsible for my actions.

At least that will be my plea, I believe there is a legal precedent of pleading temporary insanity or perhaps a more prolonged bout?

However, in order to alleviate all this cloying

spurious Christmas cheer I thought I might write about the language of flowers and herbs. You may want to take notes.

And so, to the garden to compose a floral tribute to anyone that may have been an irritant to you this year.

Dear Reader, first up in this virtual bouquet I thought black roses, four to be exact. Black as it is the colour of my heart and four as it is supposed to mean "Nothing will stand between us". And I mean that in a completely threatening way. Next up would be a lovely spray of wormwood, signifying bitterness. Bitterness that the recipient ever existed. Hydrangea, of course as it means heartlessness (mine) pennyroyal standing for "flee away, quickly", before my better nature can not take the strain. Calendula for contempt will also feature (I so love the alliteration of this phrase that I have been known to hiss it as I pluck another calendula petal for the salad of bitter herbs).

Tansy will make a statement, both visually and in an olfactory sense. It's strident mustard yellow flowers combined with its pungent scent effectively convey its message of hostile thoughts. Hops to communicate the feeling of injustice that

such an irritant continues to survive. And then, Dear Reader, possibly my favourite. The strikingly beautiful belladonna, with its drooping trumpet flowers and shiny black berries. This beautiful lady will be the focal point of this arrangement. Quick and effective in a fairly terminal sort of way. MacBeth found it useful, Romeo and Juliet less so.

All tied up with a garland of kikuyu because as we know nothing gets rid of that sucker.

So Dear Reader, I will leave you with this thought "Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love." – Hamilton Wright Mabie

Wouldn't that be nice.

Ka kite ano, Deb

Note to self: Lamentations 3:1
He has filled me with bitterness,

He has made me drunk with wormwood.

Matthew 23:23

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe the mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.


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Message from Community Response Group (Civil Defence)

From the end of 2025 to beginning of 2026, New Zealand's mobile operators (2degrees, One NZ and Spark) will shut down their 3G networks.

It's important to note that any devices that rely on 3G will stop working after the shutdown, including for emergency 111 calls. These may include:

Phones; Tablets; Smart watches; Medical alarms; Security alarms; Business equipment; Vehicle trackers

Visit: <https://www.3gshutdown.co.nz/resources>



My two cents worth

– I'm still tidying my desk.

Some fun facts about rates (or some light reading if you're having trouble sleeping).



Your rates are made up of several parts - there is a uniform general charge for which everyone pays the same amount. There are also targeted rates that relate to specific services like waste management or stormwater drainage, and then there is the General rate. The amount of the general rate for each property is determined by the property's land value. It is plain and simple, a property tax. It is a blunt tool which takes no account of the ratepayer's income or level of debt, but you can be sure that if your property is worth more in value than your neighbour's, you will pay more in general rates but it will make no difference to the level of service you can expect from that general rate.

The three-yearly revaluations of properties in each council area can have a bigger

influence on the size of rates bills than the nominal headline rates increase struck by the council. If your land value increased by more than the district average increase, this will show up in your rates bill. It's a property tax.

More fun facts: did you know that KDC's budgeted expenditure on operating and capital expenditure is just a touch under \$108.5 Million for the current financial year, and of that, just over 23% will come from central government funding (mostly roading). Finally, the value of all council assets including stormwater, sewerage and roading is just under a billion dollars. This will change when the new Northland council-controlled-organisation takes over the water and sewerage networks in about 18 months.

Sweet dreams.
Mark

Defibrillators in Paparoa

Paparoa Sports and Recreation Association recently installed an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at the sports pavilion just outside our community gym. Thanks must go to Lissie Cleave who sourced the AED from the Ngatea tennis club, and to Ken Chambers who installed the cabinet to house it.

An AED is a small device that gives a safe electric shock to someone having a sudden cardiac arrest, increasing their chance of survival by 44 per cent.

If someone is unresponsive and not breathing normally:

- Start CPR and Call 111 for an ambulance.
- Send someone to get a defibrillator.
- Turn on the defibrillator, apply the pads and follow the voice instructions.
- Perform CPR until the ambulance arrives.

There are at least three other AEDs in Paparoa, in the foyer of the War Memorial Hall, at the GAS service station, and the Paparoa Rural Fire Force first response truck.

To access the AED at the GAS service station, you must first call 111 to get the code to open the cabinet which houses the AED. The AED

at the War Memorial Hall is inside the main doors so is really only available to hall users, but the one at the sports pavilion is situated in an unlocked cabinet on the outside wall near the gym door, so is available anytime.

It is worth noting that there are also AEDs situated at the Matakohē War Memorial Hall, Hukatere Hall, Waihaua Marae, Tinopai Community Hall, Ararua Hall, Pahi Motorcamp, Paparoa Golf Club, Whakapirau tennis court, and there are several in Maungaturoto. There are also others located at private residences and as time is of the essence when a heart attack occurs, it is good to be aware of where your nearest available AED is located. The app 'AED locations' is worth installing on your phone, even though we hope you'll never have to use it.

Pete

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White Rock Gallery

White Rock Gallery wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a creative New Year.

The gallery extends its heartfelt thanks to the community for their support throughout 2025, making this year the most successful in White Rock Gallery's history.

New Exhibition Opens 1 December 2025

The gallery is delighted to announce the opening of its new exhibition on 1 December, presenting a festive showcase of creativity for the holiday season. The exhibition features a wide range of artwork, handmade decorations, gifts, woodwork and crafts, all created by talented members of the surrounding community. From colourful mosaics to beautifully crafted ornaments, the display offers something for every taste—and every Christmas list. This exhibition will run through to the end of January 2026.

As the holiday season approaches, White Rock Gallery encourages locals to consider shopping local. There is a wide selection of handmade cards from various artists, ensuring visitors can find something special for the important people in their lives.



Supporting local artists not only sustains their work but also keeps creativity thriving within the community. Unique Christmas decorations are also available, including Advent calendars, fridge magnets, gift

tags, buntings, Christmas stockings and beautifully crafted Christmas angels.

White Rock Gallery warmly welcomes visitors to drop in, enjoy the festive atmosphere and explore the new collection at their leisure. We are located at 5 Church Road, Matakoho, in The Post and Telegraph Office, next to the Kauri Museum and we're open 7 days 10am-4pm.

There's something for everyone



The Paparooa Press is also
available online, in colour,
at paparooa.org.nz



At the market

The year has rolled by quickly and Christmas is just around the corner, so we at Progressive Paparoa thought let's celebrate with a Christmas market.

This will be held on Saturday 13th December and we would love to see lots of locals coming along to celebrate with us. We are planning to have a Christmas tree with lots of decorations, we've invited Santa along and we're reliably informed that he will make an appearance around 10.30am. Everyone who makes a purchase on the day can enter their name into our draw for a market voucher with the first name drawn winning a \$100 voucher and second prize a \$50 voucher. Of course, we will still have a market on December 20th when you can get all those last-minute stocking fillers and yummy Christmas treats.

We were delighted with the response to our Youth market held on Labour weekend, so we have decided to run another one on January 24th (Anniversary weekend). That will give all the kids plenty of time in the holidays to plan their stalls and get things ready to sell. Please remember that any food must be carefully and



hygienically produced and be covered on the day.

The Youth market on January 24th will also coincide with us celebrating 20 years of the market in Paparoa. What a fantastic achievement that is for our village, and we will celebrate that on the day. Thanks must go to the founders of the market who had the vision to make it happen back in 2006.

As always parking on the street is at a premium when the market is on, so we ask that if you are able would you consider parking at the Medical Centre/Library or the Landing, especially if you are planning to spend some time at the market or café. This leaves more parking available for the passers-by, who might otherwise just drive on through.

Merry Christmas to everyone, and we hope to see you all at the market. We are planning to be open every Saturday through the summer, so bring your visitors along to enjoy the market atmosphere.

Pete



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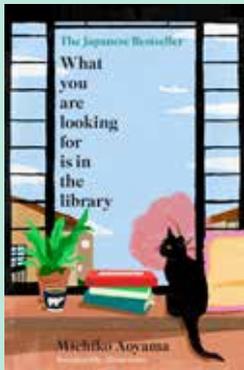


BOOKS AND BOOKCLUBS

Something scientific and utterly beautiful at the same time and not to be classified as Sci-Fi because of its title is "Orbital" by Samantha Harvey. There are several disaster movies with the same name apparently, so not to be confused or put into that category. This novel, if it can even be called that, is almost poetic, almost spiritual, factual, educational, awe-inspiring, stunning, extraordinary, uplifting, genius, there are not enough words. It is "a day in the life of" six astronauts of differing nationalities and gender, working on a space-lab orbiting the earth. They orbit our planet sixteen times every 24 hours, passing through day and night, northern hemisphere, southern hemisphere and back, sending weather information to earth and conducting zero-gravity experiments. Each have their own personal contacts back home with "stuff" going on and each have their own story of how they came to be there. Reading this absorbs you in a truly unique experience as you look down on a typhoon gathering over the Pacific and fly through an Aurora above Antarctica. But none of the above really describes this book. It will change how you think about our planet, it will connect you with our Mother Earth and our common humanity in a way you have never experienced before, and it will not cost you a million dollars, or put your life at risk in doing so. It stirred my very soul, and not only mine going by the cover blurb.



Phew! Back down to earth. A light read but by no means trivial is "The Woman Who Got Her Spark Back" by Fiona Gibson. Not just one woman actually, but two, and a man and his daughter thrown in for good measure. Set in Scotland and the London art scene. If you love growing indoor plants there is an extra bonus as the main character runs an A&E for sick plants, part-time from home to supplement her income, much to her husband's disgust. It is about relationship dynamics, not being true to your authentic self, etc. with that much-needed wake-up call that gets you back on track again. It is never too late.



What I can only call a "sweet" read, is "What you are Looking for is in the Library," by Japanese writer Michiko Aoyama, beautifully illustrated by Rohan Eason. What at first glance seems to be five short stories is actually five chapters, the stories of five very different people of various ages and circumstances who have life-changing experiences just by visiting the community library. But this library has a remarkable Librarian with a story and talents of her own and a young trainee who also has a role to play in the plot. This could be called a self-help book, or a motivational tutorial, and the Universe itself seems to be deeply involved as each book dispensed seems to be uncannily synchronized to each person's place and time of life. Sweet, humorous, "take-a-look-in-the-mirror" reading and quite distinctly Japanese.

This month- Space, Sparks, and Specialities.

Anne Bate

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Maungaturoto and Districts Rotary

In the past month we have lost a long-standing (40years) and esteemed member of our Rotary club - Alex Tetzner PHF. Alex was inspirational in both Rotary and life. Whenever matters were discussed he was both calm and respectful. The hospitality that Alex and Lyn offered was huge. Two Club projects that Alex initiated were The Driver Mentoring Scheme and the fundraising Joker Jackpot. We will treasure the memories we have of Alex.

Our exchange student, Alina, will have a busy couple of months ahead of her. For 10 days in November she will be travelling with fellow in-bound students throughout the central and west part of the South Island where she will have the opportunity to take part in some of the activities that Central Otago is noted for. A week after her return she will be travelling to Norfolk Island to spend the Christmas Holidays there. On her return to New Zealand in late January, Alina will join another host family in Dargaville and will attend Dargaville High School until her return to Belgium in July. Alina certainly made an effort to fit into the school and was able to participate in a number of activities, including Olla Podriga (a student talent quest) by playing her trumpet, both solo and in a band. Her willingness to take part in the Beast (the cross-country run over difficult terrain in the Bay of Islands) showed her resilience. We really enjoyed her presentation about the country and culture of Belgium. Thank you to Murray, Jane and Jaime for the manner in which you have supported her through the last six months. You certainly gave her many chances to be involved in many activities which epitomize our culture.

You may have noticed President Tim at the Paparoa Farmers' Market on a Saturday morning. Tim is not only promoting Rotary (and please talk to him if you would like to be involved in our Club in any way), but also promoting the redwood slabs from his Hawkes Bay property. He is also selling the shavings from the offcuts of shingles he is making. This is like a wooden straw and is ideal for packing and placement in nesting boxes. Eric has also provided Tim with wheelbarrows, ideal for a little person, made from repurposed wood.

We would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday period. Take time to enjoy the simple pleasures that surround us. Merry Christmas.

Eileen



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Merry Christmas



OCS December News

Our hours have changed as at November 1st. **We are now open Monday to Thursday 9am to 4pm.**

The one van trip for shopping etc. to Whangarei is planned for **Tuesday 9th December** – depending on demand, as we know some of you are busy at that time of year and may not go so close to Christmas. Give us a call if you would like to book a seat, on 09 431 9080.

Call in to the Community House to check out **Victoria's free clothing**, there may be something for you or your family. While there you are welcome to stay for a meal.

On Wednesdays **Mike's Dancing Dollars** group gets together to create a tasty lunch at low cost – come and join in.

The **Games Club** meets in Brooks House on Thursday evenings, 6 – 9pm.

Our very warmest wishes to all and may you have an enjoyable Christmastime.

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Church Service on Sunday at 10 30am
6pm for fellowship, prayer and sharing.
Everyone Welcome

Progressive Paparooa Year in Review 2024-25 Chairs report to AGM Wednesday 15 October 2025

The last year has been one of ups and downs for Progressive Paparooa with some great highs but some disappointing outcomes as well.

Highlights of the year for me have been the second biennial Community Showcase and the recent Candidates evening, which were both well attended and well run events. Thanks go to all those who helped with the organising and running of these events and especially to Luciana Orr who did a lot of the organising of the Showcase.

Another positive is the ongoing publication of the monthly Paparooa Press, ably led by Margie Baker, who continues to produce a quality publication, which is a credit to our organisation and community. We really appreciate all Margie's efforts, as well as all the regular columnists, proof readers, advertisers and other contributors.

The Print shop based in Skelton's Drapery continues to provide a great service for the district under the management of Robyn Skelton. In the last year we have entered a new lease arrangement, and now have a new Canon printer, which is proving to be more reliable and less stressful for Robyn

when the big print runs are done for the Paparooa Press and Maungaturoto Matters.

Our website paparooa.org.nz is still a work in progress, but we are grateful for the upgrades that have been made, and the time and effort that Paul Edlin and Alistair Gordon have put in to keep it current.

The Farmers' Market continues to flourish with good stallholder numbers and a reliable team helping set it up and pack it down every week. The market has become a destination attraction, and never fails to bring a vibrant atmosphere to the village. Thanks to all the stallholders who have supported the market, the helper team and especially to Alistair Gordon who organises the stallholders.

The Lions walkway, which Progressive Paparooa helps maintain in conjunction with the Lions club, is also a destination attraction. Unfortunately this past year we have seen several incursions of stock from a neighbouring farm which have caused some

Continued next page...

Depot Trust awards scholarships

Paparooa County Depot Trust has recently awarded two Primary Industries Scholarships worth \$1500 each to Jess Ewen and Conor Alcock.

Jess and Conor are students from Otamatea High School and are planning to study for an agricultural qualification next year. The scholarship is designed to support those intending to pursue a career in any of the primary industries including general agriculture, horticulture, animal science (veterinary), research and other related fields.

Jess is planning a Bachelor of Animal Science (genetics and breeding) from Massey University while Conor is also planning to study at

Massey for a Bachelor of Agricultural Science.

Both expressed their gratitude for the assistance this scholarship will give them. The trustees felt that both were worthy recipients and are pleased to be able to assist in this way. Trust chair, Graham Taylor, commented that as we live in a rural environment it is appropriate to assist young people intending to follow a path that gives back to the rural sector. The scholarship is awarded annually.

PCDT



considerable damage, but we hope that this has now been remedied with some new fencing and better management. We are grateful to Graham Marks and Ken Chambers, our contractors who maintain the track, and to the Lions who organise working bees when required. Unfortunately our environmental sub committee never got off the ground, but it is something that I think could still be developed in the future.

On the disappointing side of the ledger are two things that are council related. For several years now we have been trying to expand the playground at the Village Green, which has been problematic to say the least. In this past year we have spent approximately \$6000 on planning, design and engineering reports, but, despite the best efforts of Vicky Hilton, we have been unable to progress the project to the ground-breaking stage.

Secondly, after six years of meetings, consultation, reports and delays, council decided that Paparoa would not be getting a community wastewater scheme, leaving it to individual landowners to work out a solution to their wastewater problems. Progressive Paparoa does have some concerns about what this could mean for some property owners whose land areas are too small to install a viable system that will meet current wastewater discharge standards, and how this will affect the future of the village.

Progressive Paparoa is grateful for the ongoing support we have had from Gail Fotheringham and Anika Tierney-Lemisio who have been our Community and Engagement Advisors from the Council.

We have formed a new subcommittee this year known as Paparoa Identity and they have been working on a couple of projects

including new signage to replace our well worn Welcome to Paparoa signs at either end of the village. Watch this space!

We are once again thankful to have received funding from both COGS and the Lottery Northland Community fund. The latter was used to employ our community activator, Luciana Orr, who resigned after the Community showcase and has not yet been replaced. Many thanks to Luciana for all her input while she was with us.

I also want to sincerely thank all the members of the committee who have put in huge numbers of volunteer hours on the various projects, events and sub committees. We are a small group of volunteers with busy lives, and being a member of this committee can be challenging at times, so I thank you all. Thanks also to other members outside of the committee who serve on any of our sub committees.

Big thanks to Sally Taylor who has done a great job as our somewhat reluctant, but efficient treasurer.

Special thanks to our outgoing secretary, Lissie Cleave, who has given countless hours of her time over the last three years, and done her absolute best to bring us into the 21st century using Google Drive and getting us organised into subcommittees.

I also want to particularly thank Vicky Hilton, who resigned part way through the year, after giving several years of service to our organisation, including a stint as treasurer and vice-chair of Progressive Paparoa. Looking ahead, we still want to progress the Playground project and we would like to see Progressive Paparoa forge stronger links with the business community in the village.

We look forward to another year progressing Paparoa.

Pete Hames
Chair 2024-25



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Grow Paparoa Inc

A Busy Time of Year

It's been a bustling season at the Paparoa Community Gardens, with plenty of activity both above and below the soil. As summer progresses, our volunteers have been hard at work harvesting and maintaining beds.

This year's cabbage and broccoli crops have been particularly successful, and we're pleased to have completed the harvest. Not every crop thrived, however—our leeks struggled to grow in the newer garden beds, suggesting the soil conditions may not have been quite right for them. We also made a second attempt at growing brussels sprouts, but once the heat and humidity set in, they stopped developing. Gardening always keeps us learning.

One exciting new project is our dedicated asparagus bed. Although we won't see a harvest for a couple of years, we're looking forward to watching this develop.

GROW
WHAKATIPU
Paparooa Inc

A highlight of the season has been the involvement of the kids from Paparoa School. They've been enthusiastically harvesting potatoes, and it's wonderful to see their excitement as they dig up each crop and discover the fruits of their labour.

Looking ahead, a community favourite, **Passata Day**, will be held on 1st March. We're already looking forward to the fun and teamwork that event brings.

November also marked the second anniversary of Aladdin's Cave, our second hand shop. This is a treasured space that continues to grow thanks to the generosity of our community. We are incredibly grateful for all the recent donations and for the dedicated volunteers who keep everything running smoothly.

Our doors remain open to everyone:

- **Aladdin's Cave: Saturdays, 9am - 1pm**
- **Community Gardens: Thursdays and Fridays, 9am - 12pm**
- **Saturday Harvest: from 8am**

Thank you to all who support the Paparoa Community Gardens. Your time, enthusiasm, and kindness help our gardens flourish.

Katie Fullerton



Paparooa Community Library

(Behind the Medical Centre)

Opening hours:

Monday & Wednesday 2pm - 4.30pm

Tuesday 10am - 1pm

Thursday 10am - 4pm

Friday 11am - 1.30pm

Saturday 10am - 12midday

Out of hours books can be returned to the returns box inside the door to the right at Skelton's Drapery. Library Manager 09 431 7555 (During library hours)

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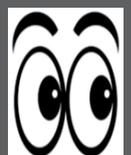
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BE SEEN...
LIGHTS ON
In fog or rain





I've been thinking...

Tui has a lot to answer for...



It made me laugh the first time I saw the 'Paparoa where the pub has no beer' sign. And I briefly wondered who was the clever clogs who thought of that.

The next few times I managed a wry smile.

Now I find it purely cringe-making.

If the creators are going to refresh every week or so, I'm happy to applaud their humour. If that sign stays longer than that I will have to fight the temptation to act destructively in the interests of bodily comfort and sanity. Yeah right.

RS



Otamatea St John Area Committee Annual reflection

Thank you to all of you who have supported our St John Area Committee over the past year. 2025 has seen a few changes but the highlight of the year was the Trash and Treasure organised by a small group of dedicated committee members and their partners and friends. We cannot thank you enough for all you have done for us.

Our St John Shop (Op Shop), in Kaiwaka continues to be supported and provides us with a steady income. All the proceeds from this go back into the community or to support, in a small way, our local ambulance.

This year we are proud to share what our committee uses these dollars for:

- Christmas Food Parcels to: Kaiwaka, Maungaturoto, Paparoa, and Tinopai. \$4k
 - Scholarships for Training / Study / Apprenticeships x 4 \$6k
 - Xmas day lunches for those without families at Maungaturoto
 - Free hall hire for community groups at Maungaturoto and Kaiwaka
 - Free sessions of 3 Steps for Life
 - AED installations and Maintenance across the Otamatea area Tinopai to Hakaru.
- These cost around \$2k each and we have put up around 20 over the years in this community
- Sponsored First Aid Course
 - Repairs and Maintenance of buildings
 - Small asset purchases for Operations staff
 - Cleaning of both the Maungaturoto and Kaiwaka station and halls.
 - Treats for our volunteers and operations staff
 - Subsidy for the Linking Hands foundation at Maungaturoto.

As you can see, this is quite a list and there will be some I have forgotten about.

We are a small committee of six with our focus on our community and how we can help. We cannot do this without your support. Thank you once again for all you have given. Let us know if we can help further.

Eileen

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Science Corner

Wild cats! – just some of them

Asian Golden Cat (*Catopuma temminckii*)
An elusive cat that plucks its bird prey before eating it!
Lives in dense Asian forests - Thailand, China, Nepal and NE India - but rarely seen.
Weighs only about 16kg and usually eats rodents, hares, reptiles and birds, yet kills prey as big as buffalo calves.
It can be found in a variety of colours: golden brown, grey, pale cinnamon and patterned.
It was thought to be nocturnal but recent hidden camera evidence shows the cats prowling at different times, though more common at twilight.



Population is decreasing and at risk of extinction due to hunting and habitat loss.

Pallas's Cat - or Manul (*Otocolobus manul*)

Looks like grumpy cat and features on the Russian two-ruble coin reverse.

Lives on high elevation grasslands or near rocky areas in Tibet, Himalayas, Mongolia and China. It is legally protected in all countries except Mongolia.



It weighs about 3kg and is small with long light grey fur, rounded ears and a fluffy tail. It has been seen keeping its feet warm by sitting on its very fluffy tail!

Eats rodents- squirrels, voles, insects.

Threatened by human activity and it has been hunted for its fur. It's now protected in some countries but has been affected by poaching, and loss of habitat due to infrastructure and mining.

It has been kept in zoos since the 1950s.

Chinese Mountain Cat (*Felis bieti*)

A small wild cat found only in China and is considered vulnerable.



Sand coloured fur with dark tips.

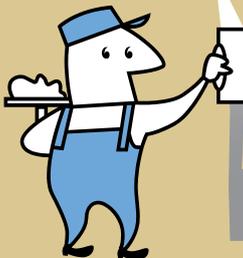
Usually lives in burrows and eats rodents, pikas (small mountain dwelling mammals a bit like a small rabbit with big ears but no external tail), and birds.

Has been seen killing marmots and then using their burrows as homes.

It is threatened due to man poisoning of pikas which has led to a loss of prey, and unintentionally being poisoned.

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From our family to yours

Literal Darkness

While I write about the two power cuts recently, from 29th September and 28th October, you may have a flashing thought, I don't remember any power cuts. Unless you live on Pahi Road.

The first event was a powerpole toppling into the Paparoa River, creating a wave (haha) of hilarious online comments about electric eels, etc. Our children were forced to rejoin the family from their screens, wailing about how unfair life is (honestly) and asking every ten minutes to check the Northpower website to see when power would return. Miraculously, we survived to the next day, power resumed and life carried on.

So when the power flicked off on the 28th of October the wild wind seemed a very good excuse. Naturally, the first cry from a certain person (Mr 14) was to check the Northpower website to see how long he would have to SUFFER these third world conditions (inside, warm, dry and well fed). The map looked surprisingly familiar, and after being updated, once again ONLY Pahi Rd was without power in the district! This time a tree had fallen on power lines.

My commendations to Northpower for how swiftly each time they got power reconnected! And my lamentations to this poor, poor generation of teenagers who do not know what to do without access to an electric screen. Try, books! Board games! Oral history by candlelight! Just three of many things one can do without power. Or, my personal favourite, go to bed as soon as it's dark. Bliss.

(Note : As of November, for the astute watchers among us, there was 1 further powercut but as it was just in the day time, it doesn't count.)

Have a wonderfully bright December!

Blessings, Jenny



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Christmas Cheer Tournament



Sunday 7th December

11.30am start

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Derek Birt, Mareretu
4316847

Karen Weber, Matakohe
431 7087 or 027 272 6676

By appointment.

WHAT'S ON - DECEMBER 2025

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

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

Rubbish Competition - For 8 - 11 year olds. Open until Dec 15. Cash prizes!
Queries to stella.clyde@gmail.com or paparoadeb@xtra.co.nz. See p15.

A Vaudeville Of Flowers - Sat Dec 6, 2.30 & 6.30pm. Paparooa War Memorial Hall. Presented by Company of Giants. Tickets through Eventfinda.

Paparooa Golf Club Christmas Cheer Tournament - Sun Dec 7, 11.30am. At the club, Golf Course Rd (off Golden Stairs Rd) See p17 for more info.

Paparooa Golf Club AGM - Sun Dec 7, 10am. At the club, Golf Course Rd (off Golden Stairs Rd). All welcome.

Rotary Seniors Afternoon Tea - Fri Dec 12, 1.30pm. Maungaturoto Centennial Hall. See this page.

Christmas Carols - Sun Dec 14, 6pm. Taipuha Church 177 Taipuha Station Rd. All welcome. See this page.

Community Christmas Dinner - Sun Dec 25, midday. Maungaturoto Centennial Hall. All welcome. See front page for more info.

Rotary Seniors' Afternoon Tea

This will be held on

Friday 12th December around 1.30pm,
at the Maungaturoto Centennial Hall, View Street
(above the Fire Station)

Once again we are privileged to have Maura Flower's
singers perform for us.

After the performance, afternoon tea will be served.

If you need transport, please call either:

Stella: 021 1490 877 or Eileen: 021 142 0357

OUT & ABOUT AROUND TOWN

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

Grow Whakatipu Paparooa Community Garden. Drop in for a chat, hands on experience, or a cuppa. Every Thursday & Friday 9am-12pm. Op Shop open Sat 9-1. Next to the showgrounds.

Paparooa Golf Course Twilight Golf every Friday from October 31-December 19 2025. 4.30- 6pm tee off. \$10 entry fee, includes food. All welcome Eftpos available. Enquiries Joe McLeod 027 246 8637.

91 Golf Course Rd, Maungaturoto (off Golden Stairs Rd).

Ballroom Classes Classes over the school term on Tuesday evenings from 6.30- 7.30pm, \$12 per person. Practice sessions on Monday evenings from 6.30 - 7.30, \$3 per person. At the Paparooa War Memorial Hall. Contact Lisa (preferably by text or leave a message) on 021 828-531.

Lynn's Ukulele Group (L.U.G.S.) Tuesdays 1.30- 2.30pm, Paparooa Sports Pavilion. \$10. New players welcome. Also beginners guitar class 1pm. Ph Lynn 0274 583 691.

Paparooa Beats 88.3fm Community radio based right here in Paparooa. 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.

Tea & Talk Come and enjoy good food and some activities on the first Saturday of each Month at the Footprints Room behind the Anglican Church, 132 Hurdall st East, Maungaturoto. Dec 6 High Tea Theme : ChristmasCost \$8. Contact Kirsten to book a place on 021 1807 321.

As Days Pass

Winter fell and the clouds darkened
But they were not as dark as last year
The rain belted the country but not as hard
The wind blew but the trees did not bend to its will

Spring arrives and the flowers bloom
But they are not as bright as they once seemed
The grass seems less vibrant than years past
The birds sing yet their songs seem sadder

Summer will soon come
But the sun will not seem as pleasant and bright
The sky not the same brilliant blue
And the joy of being outside seems less

Autumn used to be my favourite
Yet the colours of the leaves will be duller
Nature shutting down in preparation for the cold
The season I lost you will never be the same

But the nighttime brings the stars
Brighter than ever with you up there
The moon shines as a beacon to me
That you are still here
And I am not alone

Coryn Yorke



*Condolences to the Poyner family
on the recent passing of*

Hilery Poyner

*Hilery was a longtime resident of Paparooa and a
valued member of the Community Church
and the Toy Library.*





REGULAR EVENTS, MEETINGS AND ORGANISATIONS

- Aladdin's Cave Op Shop** At Grow Paparoa Community Garden open Sat 9am-1pm
- Anglican Church St Marks** Hook Road, ph 431 8193 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 8.30-Noon, Village Green, Alistair, 027 525 4782
- Grey Power** Last Wed in month, 1pm, Anglican Church Hall, Maungaturoto
- Grow Paparoa** Thur/Fri 9am to 12pm 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 Comes 027 368 7298
- 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, Tues, Wed, Fri 10-3, Thurs 10.30-3. Alternate Sat mornings 10am-1pm. Check FB on Sat.
- 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 Community Gym** To join email Libby at hames.jones@xtra.co.nz
- Paparoa Hall** Functions venue. For bookings ph Robyn 431 7306
- Paparoa Library** Mon, Wed 2-4.30, Tues 10-1, 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 Mah Jong Group** 1st & 3rd Tues, Paparoa Hall 10-noon, Sara 021 0774947
- Paparoa Playcentre** Tuesday and Thursday 10am-1pm. Franklin Rd. Visitors welcome. paparoa@playcentre.org.nz
- Paparoa Primary School** 2025 - Term 3 - 14 July - 19 Sept, Term 4 - 6 Oct - 16 Dec Ph 431 7379
- Paparoa Toy Library** Wed 10.30-1pm, Paparoa Community Church, 4 Hook Rd
- 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. At playcentre. Tina Ball 021 033 5128
- Selwyn Centre** Thurs 9.45am for over 65's, St Marks, Hook Rd, Sue 027 417 4626
- 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 Jnr 3.30 & 4.30pm, adult 5.30. Juliet 021 143 2560, Pete 021 056 7163
- Yoga For Everyone** Tues and Fri, 9.30am, Sports Pavilion. Hatha yoga & more. \$15. Equipment provided. Beginners welcome. Ph Luciana for more info 0221896496

Paparoa Press PP CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Storage Available

In Paparoa: Secure 20 foot Containers - contact Gary Dallas 021 431 712 Paparoa County Depot Trust



Maungaturoto Op Shop Christmas Hours

December late nights - Tuesday 9th and 16th 3pm to 7.30pm
The last day before Christmas/New Year break will be Tuesday 22nd December, opening again on Monday 5th January.



Buy Local

Support Local

Help your community thrive and businesses survive

LOCAL TIDES for DECEMBER 2025

TIDES - CALCULATED for PAHI-WHAKAPIRAU

DATE	LOW	HIGH	DATE	LOW	HIGH
1st	14.12	08.17	17th	16.13	10.19
2nd	15.12	09.17	18th	16.55	11.01
3rd	16.07	10.13	19th	17.34	11.41
4th	17.00	11.06	20th	18.12	12.17
5th	17.52	11.57	21st	06.28	12.53
6th	06.16	12.47	22nd	07.04	13.28
7th	07.06	13.37	23rd	07.40	14.04
8th	07.56	14.27	24th	08.17	14.42
9th	08.45	15.18	25th	08.56	15.23
10th	09.35	16.11	26th	09.39	16.08
11th	10.28	17.07	27th	10.28	16.59
12th	11.25	18.05	28th	11.24	17.56
13th	12.27	06.34	29th	12.29	06.32
14th	13.32	07.35	30th	13.38	07.39
15th	14.32	08.36	31st	14.27	08.49
16th	15.26	09.31			

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
- LINKING HANDS** Health Shuttle Service, Maungaturoto..09 431 8969
- LIONS CLUB PAPAROA** President Ken Chambers 09 431 7443
- MAUNGATUROTO PHARMACY** 09 431 8045
- RIVERVIEW 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 10-1, Thurs 10-4 Fri 11-1.30, Sat 10-12
- PAPAROA PLAYCENTRE** paparoa@playcentre.org.nz
- PAPAROA PLUNKET**Appointments/enquiries 0800 184 803
- PLUNKET Helpline 0800 933 922
- PAPAROA PRIMARY SCHOOL** Principal Karyn Taylor.....09 431 7379
- PHYSIOTHERAPIST**At Paparoa Medical Centre, Mon, Tues, Wed Book on 431 9062 or email admin@maungaturotophysio.co.nz
- PROGRESSIVE PAPAROA INC (PPI)**.....Pete Hames 021 0567163
- PARENT PORT Inc**free help for families 425 9357 or 027 280 5093



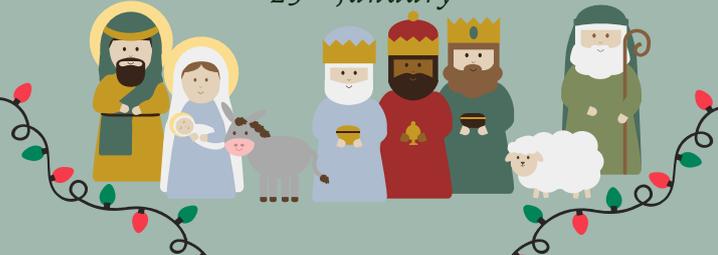
Women's coaching at Paparoa Golf Course is going well under the watchful eye of coach Athol Cartwright

ANGLICAN CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Trinity, Maungaturoto services 10am:
 7th December (Communion service)
 14th December (Café service)
 25th December (Christmas service)
 4th January
 11th January (Café service)

St Albans, Whakapirau services 10am:
 21st December (Morning Prayer) 
 18th January 

St Marks, Paparoa services 10am:
 25th January








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