

Maungaturoto community lunch a big hit

Christmas Day is a time for gathering with family and friends to celebrate whatever it means to us, but for many it can be a terribly lonely time. Last November Eileen Parsons had the great idea of a community lunch for people in Maungaturoto and the surrounding areas, so she put it out to the community to see what interest there was.

Encouragement and offers of help were immediately forthcoming, so the wheels were set in motion.

There were generous donations of food and money from caring locals and businesses. A menu was set and tasks allocated, food collected and prepared.

On Christmas Eve morning a group of us gathered in the Maungaturoto Centennial Hall kitchen to begin peeling, chopping,



cooking and assembling. There was ham, roast pork with crackling, roast lamb, roast chicken and stuffing, roast potatoes and kumara, Italian meatballs, beans, courgettes, a variety of salads, rolls and butter, and a refreshing non-alcoholic punch.

Then, to top it all off there was dessert-pavlova, trifle, meringues, strawberries, fruit salad and cream, and fruit tarts.

Come Christmas day we had no idea how many people to expect but were

confident we had enough food for a small army. Slowly the guests trickled in and we fed over 60 people, including a few home deliveries for those who couldn't get out.

It was a wonderful day of food and companionship and almost everyone took home some leftovers.

Eileen would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who gave up their time and donated to the day. A special thanks to Whakaora Kai Food Rescue Whangarei, Maungaturoto Four Square Social Club, Maungaturoto Opportunity Shop, Delta Produce, First National, and Grow Paparoa Community Garden. Thanks also to the Maungaturoto Centennial Hall for allowing us to use their facilities.

Margie



Restricted fire season now in place

This means outdoor fires can only be lit with fire permits authorised by Fire and Emergency.

As always you must take great care in how and where fires are lit, and that fires are properly extinguished in line with their guidelines.

If you aren't sure what the restrictions are for your location, go to checkitsalright.nz for guidance and to apply for a fire permit if you need one.



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A tribute to the late Trevor Brljevič

13 August 1930 - 26 December 2024

Trevor Brljevič had more than 51 years experience on the frontline of the Maungaturoto St John Volunteer Ambulance Division. In 1955 An ambulance from either Whangarei or Dargaville was a good hour away so, assisted by the driving force of Jack Conway, who had been involved with the organisation in Auckland since 1944, a first aid division was set up in Maungaturoto.

A 24-year-old Trevor pedalled his bike 20 kilometres after milking to attend the weekly meetings of the fledgling St John volunteer brigade. For two years the volunteers, wearing dyed ex-airforce uniforms, which they paid for themselves, attended all local sports and public events around Otamatea. Finally, after much fundraising by the Maungaturoto community, a Ford ambulance was bought in 1957 for £4000 and on February 16, 1957 Trevor took the new ambulance to his first road accident at Kaiwaka.

On February 2, 1963 Trevor attended New Zealand's worst bus accident when 15 people were killed and 21 injured when a bus lost it's brakes and crashed at the base of the Brynderwyns. "The site looked like a war

zone. We set up tents and used a road service bus to transport walking and less seriously injured patients - many on stretchers - to hospital," he said.

Trevor quickly rose through the ranks to become a sergeant (1956), divisional officer (1970) and division superintendent from 1980 to 1993.

Described by his colleagues as "battery charged Trevor," St John was a very big part of his and his family's life. The family, in particular his late wife Yvonne, had to pick up wherever he left off. "Many the times she had to milk by herself while coping with the children," he said. "Without her, (and them) I couldn't have done it." In the days well before pagers, the phone was the vital link. Yvonne would dutifully stand in the backyard waving a tea towel to attract Trevor's attention or furiously bang a pot loud enough that he could hear it out on the farm.

Modest about his contribution to the service Trevor was nevertheless proud of serving the community he knew and loved. But like everybody, Trevor had a work story to tell - the day he 'lost the ambulance'. It became known locally as the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff.

One cold and frosty morning after delivering an elderly patient to hospital a fellow officer called out she was unable to remove the cap from a filled hot water bottle. Clambering out of the 'bus', Trevor slammed the door behind to go to her assistance. Turning around, they were bewildered to find the ambulance had disappeared. Upon investigation they found the vehicle, which usually took two people to push start from the station, had rolled across the road, through a fence and careered happily



down the cattle tracks to the bottom of a steep hill. Remarkably, it was still on its wheels and suffered only a few scratches.


The service averaged around three callouts per week in 1957 and receives many more now, so the importance that volunteers like Trevor provide to communities can never be underestimated.

After retiring from farming, Trevor began growing and breeding Zantedeschia (calla lilies). Never doing anything by halves, Trevor has been recognised internationally for his contribution to the Zantedeschia industry, receiving the Dix Penning Award. Only 14 other people had received the medal in the past 100 years, and Trevor was the first Zantedeschia breeder, and first New Zealander, to get the award - the most prestigious in the world for flower and bulb culture.

Trevor was a consistent winner in the vegetable and flower sections at the Paparoa A&P Show, which he was patron of, and was well known locally for his outstanding dahlias. It doesn't feel that long since we last saw his friendly, smiling face as he sold his vegetables at the Paparoa Farmers Market.

Trevor was a father to Karen and Kevin, a father-in-law, grandad and great grandad.


A local icon who will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



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Council Mark says – It's election season again

In October this year you get to choose who should be your Mayor and your local councillors. I hope that you as electors will have some worthy candidates to choose from. If you think you might have the right stuff to be a candidate yourself, here are some attributes which I think a great candidate would have.

I don't rate myself highly

on all of them. The only legal requirements are that you must be a New Zealand citizen, be over 18 years old and enrolled on the Electoral Roll. You may behave like a petulant child or be a somnolent octogenarian but that does not render you ineligible to stand. In my view, the following attributes (in no particular order) would be useful:

- Your heart should be in the community. That does not mean you have to have lived a long time in the area, but your commitment should be visible.
- You should be able to demonstrate governance skills, be they through corporate or community-based organisations.
- It would really be helpful to have an understanding of

how to get things done in a team environment.

- You should have an understanding of what you want to achieve by being on the council and why you want to achieve it.

- An understanding of how laws are made and the legislation which local government must follow would be useful.

- The better your literacy and numeracy skills, the more useful you are likely to be.

- Staying awake at meetings is certainly desirable but obviously not essential.

- Being able to express a point of view coherently would be useful, as would the ability to learn from others and to understand their point of view.

- You need to be able to make hard decisions and live

with them.

There is some more information available on the Council's website too: <https://www.kaipara.govt.nz/elections>

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OCS February

Hello everyone from the Management and team.

First of all we wish you a very happy New Year and may this year be a good one that brings all the best to you.

Here's our calendar for February which shows the twice-monthly shopping trips to Whangarei in the mini-bus:

Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 26th

The van leaves the parking area at the Maungaturoto Retirement Village at 9am and returns after lunch,

Best wishes from all at OCS

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 Paparoa Press are the author's own and not necessarily those of the editorial team or PPI.

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There's something for everyone

Paparoa School - 2025

The first day of school is always a special occasion but, this year, Paparoa School has extra cause for celebration.

The start of the 2025 year marks not only the return of eager students and dedicated staff but also the opening of our third classroom - a testament to the school's growth and commitment to excellence in education.

As students poured through the gates on Thursday 30th January, the air buzzed with energy and anticipation.

Many were excited to reunite with friends, meet their teachers, and explore their new learning spaces. Parents and caregivers have also expressed their delight, with one parent saying, "It's fantastic to see the school investing in such a wonderful resource for our children. Being able to fund a separate year three and four classroom with small numbers, shows how much Paparoa cares about our children's learning." We welcome Miss Jodi Bevis who will be teaching the year three and four students in the new class this year.

We are also excited to welcome new students and families into our Paparoa

School whanau.

We have another year of exciting opportunities for our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Paparoa Depot Trust who have kindly granted money to enable the school to purchase a garden shed. They have also helped with funding for our year five and six students to attend school camp in June this year. Your contribution makes a significant difference in enhancing our students' learning experiences and opportunities. Thank you for your continued support!

Nga Mihi
Karyn Taylor
Principal



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Pioneer Luncheon 2025

Paparoa Lions are looking forward to hosting the 75th annual Pioneer Luncheon on Friday 14th March at the Paparoa Hall.

Originally put on by the Women's Division of Federated Farmers (WDFF) to honour the pioneer settlers of the area, it has morphed over the years into an event to honour the senior members of the district, both past and present, who have helped make Paparoa such a great place to live. These are the people who built the sports facilities we now enjoy, who supported the schools and churches and who started clubs and support groups such as Lions and Plunket. Also invited are newer members of the area who have moved here to enjoy their retirement years.

It is also a great opportunity for those returning to the district for the Luncheon to

catch up with old friends and neighbours who may be still living in the area or may also have come from afar to be here.

The Lions are proud to subsidise this event so that costs to participants are kept to \$10 per person for which you will get a light lunch, some musical entertainment, spot prizes and more.

If you are eligible to receive a gold card, are living in the Paparoa district (or have lived here), and if you haven't received an invitation by mid-February, but would like to attend, then please contact Pete Hames 021 056 7163 or hames.jones@xtra.co.nz

Paparoa Lions

The Paparoa Press is
also available online
at paparoa.org.nz

At the market

When the Paparoa Farmers Market was first established in January 2006, one of the driving forces was Graham Taylor, together with Mary Stevens and Loraine Rowlands.

At the time Graham and Sally were running a pig farm, as well as a butchery, and they ran a stall selling bacon butties with the bacon sourced from their own pigs.

For many years Graham was the manager of the market, which in those days involved organising the stallholders, setting up and packing down gazebos, traffic management and much more, and it was all done voluntarily. As the chair of Progressive Paparoa, Graham could see the benefits to the local community of having the market right in the middle of the village, and even more so now that the market is held every Saturday morning.

Over the last couple of years Graham has gradually stepped back from the management of the market, as we have been able to recruit a team of helpers to run it.

However, the market seems to be in his blood, and he has now returned as a stallholder selling fresh vegetables, and any surplus fruit from their extensive array of fruit

trees. The vegetables are being grown in one of the old piggery buildings, since Graham and Sally closed down the pork producing side of their farming operation last year.

In recent weeks Graham has also started selling handmade chopping boards and platters, all using recycled timber from their property. The boards are made from a range of timbers including matai, macrocarpa, and other hardwoods, and are sealed with a beeswax cream to make them suitable for use in the kitchen.

Graham said, "As a farmer I get satisfaction from growing food, and the woodworking is a fun way of making something useful from old materials. The grain in wood is really beautiful. Being a stall holder is a great way of keeping in touch".

Graham enjoys seeing the regulars at the market, both stallholders and customers, and is always welcoming to new faces too. Make sure you say giddyay next time you're there.

Pete



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Important Milestone: Our 10th Anniversary

White Rock artists and artisans past and present gathered together to celebrate this important milestone for the Gallery.

Little did we know that, from our humble beginnings - first opening our doors on 1st February 2015 in what is now the Paparoa Medical Centre - we would have needed to find new premises no less than three times in the ensuing years! We celebrated our continuing success with a garden party for our members and their nearest and dearest to mark the occasion. We hope you weren't inconvenienced by closure of the gallery from 12 noon on Saturday 1st Feb, this very unusual step allowed everyone to attend.

We are of course open 7 days, 10am-4pm, opposite the Gumdigger's Cafe, in The Kauri Museum's Post & Telegraph Office.

New Year exhibition

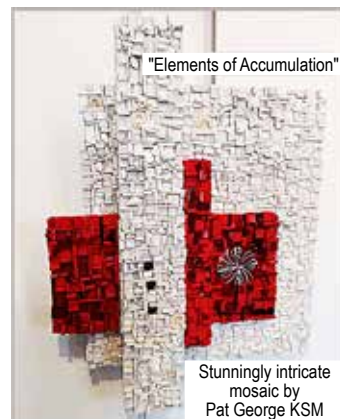
Our first exhibition for 2025 opened on 1st January and will run until 28th February. We love the great feedback from our lovely locals and so many NZ and overseas visitors, so we must be doing something right! If you haven't seen the current exhibition we'd love to see you.

Members take their turn to manage the gallery, so you can talk to the artists and craftspeople in person. Come and see the latest offerings - perhaps its time to shout yourself that special piece of art, or beautifully crafted item you've had your eye on.

Remember - There's something for everyone.

Summer time-out

Grab a great coffee and bite to eat at Gumdiggers, maybe take your visitors and the kids to the magical Kauri Museum, then head over to your very own art & craft gallery showcasing an eclectic mix of work from Kaipara creatives, at very reasonable prices.



"Sculpture is what you bump into when you back up to look at a painting." Ad Reinhardt

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Letters from The Old Post Office...

Fouls, children and other poultry I have known....

Dear Reader, first some thoughts from those more erudite than I....

"The cows shorten the grass, and the chickens eat the fly larvae and sanitize the pastures. This is a symbiotic relation." – Joel Salatin

"Life is the ongoing effort to live. Some people make it look easy. Chickens do not." – Jackie Polzin

An election is coming. Universal peace is declared, and the foxes have a sincere interest in prolonging the lives of the poultry- George Eliot (quite pertinent n'est ce pas?)

Just to add to our general knowledge Dear Reader, according to those who seem to know, the chicken probably descended from the red jungle fowl, *Gallus gallus* from South East Asia and the grey jungle fowl, *Gallus sonnerati* (having yellow skin like many chickens today). Allegedly the red jungle fowl was shy, skittish and given to hiding in trees pecking away at insects and seeds. They were also capable of flying quite well, unlike the cumbersome flapping that most modern-day chooks manage. Of course, not being fed goodness knows what, possibly led to a leaner, more trim-lined version. As a side note "Common feed additives used in poultry diets include antimicrobials, antioxidants, emulsifiers, binders, pH control agents and enzymes. Sometimes diets will also contain other additives used in diets for humans and pets such as flavour enhancers, artificial and nutritive sweeteners, colours, lubricants, etc." Yummy.

And as usual, in a circular fashion I would like you to refer back to that comment from Jackie Polzin, a comment that the sainted offspring fully concur with. Chickens certainly did not make their lives easier (and into the chicken category they would include ducks and geese). Although I would, and do, maintain that my son's athletic ability stemmed directly from his learning to scale a wooden fence at the age of four, at speed and with considerable dexterity, as a quite cross

goose attempted to attach itself to his nether regions.

The younger female child always made a quite unnecessary fuss when tasked with feeding the poultry, claiming that they were vicious and untamed. I simply reaffirmed the instructions regarding the use of the metal feed saucepan and its swift application to the forehead of any attacking goose. A system that had been proved efficacious on multiple occasions.

However, I will admit that returning from a camping holiday to find the one and only bathroom inhabited by approximately 30 baby chickens was a little stressful. The neighbour had kindly thought the tiled bathroom the most secure place for the little ones. But it did make a trip to the toilet quite a slippery adventure, if fast.

The cat was also not best pleased when goslings formed a queue at her dinner bowl and the father of the sainted offspring, quite unfairly I thought, made rather a fuss when discovering a gosling had made use of one of his leather work shoes. Really! He only had to change his sock, although I must admit the green goo was sticky and splendidly widespread. One has to laugh, doesn't one? And we did, even if he did not.

Lastly Dear Reader, to finish this paltry poultry tale, at least my children do remember quite fondly teaching an orphaned black Cayuga duckling to swim in the Kaihu river.

Although the constant family tales relating to geese and chicken misdemeanours are something that they still bring up to berate their sweet mother with. Is it my fault that I found their

little mishaps so amusing? They have grown up strong, resilient and fast on their feet.

Deb

1. <https://www.poultryhub.org/all-about-poultry/nutrition/feed-additives>



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BOOKS AND BOOKCLUBS

Jojo Moyes became renowned for her two novels, "Me Before You", and "Me After You", the first being made into a movie. In this next one the author shows a growing maturity in her writing-style, with a strong sense of intrigue, surprise and suspense and a whole heap of humour. "Someone Else's Shoes." It is a stand-alone, rags-to-riches and riches-to rags story of two women who accidentally swap bags after a session at the gym. It seems they are forced to change character and personality also as they wear each other's shoes. The rich- (rhymes with ditch) is American (of course), and the down-trodden, under-appreciated, struggling working woman is English (of course), with aging parents, depressed out-of-work husband, and rebellious teenage daughter to keep her down. But things quickly change. Set in London, most of the action takes place in a swanky hotel. I would love to see this one made into a movie.



It has been said that we live in luxury in this country, and, in comparison to many, we do, we take so much for granted. It is good to remind ourselves that place and history are not always so kind. A fiction based on truth is "Kololo Hill" by Neema Shah. Idi Amin's Uganda in 1972 was an extremely unkind place and time to stay alive in, especially for immigrants from India. This is the story of a family comprising a young married couple, his brother, and middle-aged parents. They live on Kololo Hill, a wealthy Indian suburb of Kampala, and run a small but successful shop. They are doing their best to come to terms with armed soldiers and curfews when Idi Amin declares all 55,000 Indian immigrants have 90 days to leave the country – "or else"! The family is split as the young husband doesn't have a British passport. Family dynamics change as they leave everything they have owned and achieved and start again in a refugee camp in England. A thought-provoking novel – how would we cope, how would we behave in such circumstances?

We think the world today is bad, how about America in the late 60s-early 70s? "War, huh! What is it good for? Absolutely nothing." (Edwin Starr.) The TV series M*A*S*H and its soundtrack sanitized the Vietnam war. Kristin Hannah's novel "The Women," is so raw and real it reads like her own experience. This story of a young nurse in 'nam, the ugly truth of the "war that should never have happened," and its aftermath, will break your heart. Its pages scream shame, injustice, neglect, indifference to suffering, midst the politics, fashion, and music of the era. It is a page-turner, and it will stay with you. You will need the support of your Bookclub friends to talk it out with. "These new recruits had barely six weeks of training, came alone and were dropped wherever they were needed, without the support of a platoon, without men they knew..."

And without the wisdom of this next book "Belonging; The Ancient Code of Togetherness," by Owen Eastwood. Owen is a New Zealander of Maori descent, living in England and working as a top sports performance coach around the globe. Wisdom is shared on every page, not just about building a winning sports team, but about how humanity works, about the need to belong, togetherness, and the theme of "whakapapa" which is not just a Maori concept, but acknowledged by many cultures under differing names. Sadly, it has become outdated in our crazy, modern lifestyles. Whakapapa is about carrying the baton, from the past and into the future. This is non-fiction with many references to top sports teams including the All Blacks. Not just for sports-lovers, for everyone who wants to win in life, or win at life, by understanding who we are, how we function, where we fit, knowing what we need for ourselves and from one another. (It also has snippets about an ancestor I have in common with the author so it has a place on my bookshelf amongst other genealogy books.) "He aha te mea nui? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata. What is the most important thing? It is people, it is people, it is people."

Anne Bate

One Morning at the Lights on Symonds Street By Emma Philips (Ararua)

I thought I smelled fresh-cut grass the other day / green smell after the first mow of hay in the summer / sitting inside with all the doors open at night / warm air and mosquitos on my skin / tractors whirring away down the dusty gravel road / at the intersection of Symonds Street and Wellesley Street there is nothing green / except the lights unleashing headphoned students / bent under the weight of backpacks and assignments they should have done last night

I was taken back for a second / as if on the other side of a zebra crossing I could find my old world / as if one can actually follow a road back / to another time and place / where the ground gives way slightly under my feet / no unforgiving concrete / I sit in the armchair at home / it is just a house now / home slipped out of my pocket on State Highway 1 / flew out the window across the Dome Valley / vanished into the K Road night / leaves already dead and orange scatter across the street

I would leave gumboot prints in the mud / the land knew I was there / untrackable I traverse the city / the permanence of concrete and iron and glass against the drifting sky / against me / and the smell is gone and I am here / then I am gone / gone back / to sit awkwardly in a house holding a cup of weak coffee / wishing for the light polluted view of Grafton Bridge at night / as much as I long for empty green horizons / I can't go back home / it is not just a space but a time / autumn leaves on dark grey concrete / I can only move chronologically / already drifting away across the grey city



Passata Day

March 2nd 2025 from 10.30am

We are in full swing trying our best to have lots of tomatoes ready for our Passata Day on March 2nd. Slots are now available, so email Laura at lkateley@gmail.com, or call Jan on 021431724 to book in to make your very own passata out of your tomatoes.

Slots are for 30 minutes during which you will have access to one of our machines to process your toms. We generally have plenty of people available who can assist you.

It is much more fun as a group and we encourage you to bring friends or family along to help and enjoy the wonderful lunch afterwards.

On the day you will need:

- Defrosted or fresh tomatoes – please ensure you defrost your tomatoes for at least 48 hours before the day.
- Sterilised Jars with lids, or a container you can take your passata home in.

Booking is essential for both passata making and lunch afterwards. We look forward to seeing you there.

Katie Fullerton



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Maungaturoto and Districts Rotary

Even though our numbers were not as great for our closing night, as has been the case in previous years, we still had a fantastic evening. We had a Christmas Trivia quiz which did have some obscure questions that challenged most of us. Among our guests was the new Principal at Otamatea, Todd Malcolm. Todd is very supportive of the many initiatives that Rotary runs for the youth and he has expressed an interest in starting an Interact Club at the High school. He also spoke of RYPEN – Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment – which is a weekend leadership course aimed at Year 12 and 13 students. We are already involved in RYDA – Rotary Youth Driving Awareness, and RYE – Rotary Youth Exchange, and we look forward with eager anticipation to hear from Jamie-Grace about her 2024 sojourn in Belgium.

Because President Tim could not separate the candidates for the President's Scholarship, he has decided to award \$500 to each applicant – Annaliese Allen, Max Bull and Willow Campbell. We look forward to hearing what these young people achieve in their future endeavours.

We were saddened to lose an esteemed community member in Trevor Brljevic, who became a Paul Harris Fellow some years ago. This award is given by Rotary for someone who has given a great deal to their community, and those of you who know Trevor will agree that he was a worthy recipient.

Our Rotary year has begun with a President's BBQ, which is a low key way to start the year. We will continue to meet on alternate Tuesdays but unsure at time of printing if the first meeting will be 28th January or 11th February. There will be a number of us helping in various capacities at the Paparoa show on the first February. This is a great chance for us to work alongside a similar service group, Paparoa Lions. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any Rotarian if you want to know more about what we do. We are looking forward to an exciting new year.

Eileen

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Want to learn more or need our support? Check out our website for all the details: <https://www.parentportnorth.org.nz/>

Let's make parenting a bit easier together!

What's the rush?

On a recent visit to Heatley Rd just off Whakapirau Rd we came across a stunning piece of art designed and built by local farrier and gardener Frans Jansen. The almost life-sized sculpture, made predominantly of used horse shoes, is strategically mounted on the brow of a hill so that there are no obstructions when being viewed.

Frans has always wanted to create a horse from horseshoes and didn't want to live the rest of his life wishing he had, so he set himself the goal of having it completed before the new year. Heatley Rd residents will have noticed the 2024 and 2025 signs at the front of the sculpture, with Frans happy to put a line through 2024 after a very tough year for him and his family.

The horse and chariot sculpture features the word RUSH, and when I asked Frans the explanation for this, he gave me four reasons. Firstly, ever since

the wheel was invented and harnessed to the horse, the world seems to be in a rush. Secondly, he calls the corner on which the sculpture is mounted 'rush corner', as it is possible to hear the traffic rushing past all the way from his house, and Frans often wonders why people are rushing home so that they can relax! Thirdly, many of us are in a rush from the time we are born until the end of our lives and maybe we need to learn to slow down a bit. Finally, Frans has found himself at a stage in his life where he doesn't want to rush all the time and is now

able to spend more time doing the things he enjoys.

Frans is a regular at the Paparoa Farmers Market selling smaller pieces made of horseshoes as well as beautiful flowers and surplus vegetables that he grows.

Pete Hames



Paparoa Community Gym

Paparoa Sports and Recreation Association are excited to have the community gym finally opening.

We have two rooms with a multi purpose weights machine, rowing machines, exercycles, cross trainer and free weights.

Membership is only \$150 per year, \$90 for 6 months, or \$45 for 3 months. This provides for 24 hour access, and induction to the gym and equipment.

Personal training will be available at an additional cost.

An Open Day is being held at 2pm on Sunday 23 February at the gym at the Paparoa

Sports Pavilion at the showgrounds.

For a registration form or further information please email Libby at hames.jones@xtra.co.nz



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Environmental Awards

Applications are now open for the Sixth Northland Regional Council Whakamānawa ā Taiao - Environmental Awards which recognise individuals, groups and organisations helping to protect and improve Northland's environment.

The Environmental Awards are for the work of individuals and organisations who protect and enhance our district's unique environment.

Entries close Sunday 30 March 2025.

To find out more about the categories and eligibility go to: awards.nrc.govt.nz

Community champs

Kaipara District Council is excited to announce that nominations for the 2025 Citizens Awards are now open.

The Citizens Awards are all about recognising those who have given substantial service, usually of a voluntary nature, or beyond normal employment, benefiting Kaipara and its people.

Nominate your community champ now at www.kaipara.govt.nz/funding before 30th April 2025. Let's start 2025 by celebrating the people who make Kaipara an incredible place to live!

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A 24% increase in rainfall

Below is a rainfall summary covering the period since records began at Taylors in 2009.

I've graphed the Annual Rainfall and overlaid it with a five year moving average. The five year average has moved from 1,175mm for the period to 2012 to 1,460mm for 2020 to 2024. This is an increase of 24%, and also recently seems to be a bit more extreme, i.e. some years drier, and others wetter.

Readers can look at the average to decide whether the rainfall/weather has changed over that period. Ideally we should use a base of about 1,000 years, but 15 is a start.

If you were worried about your water tanks in

December you had good reason. Decembers' paltry 20mm contributed to last year being one of the driest on record at 1027mm in contrast to 2023's 1967mm.

However as rural dwellers dependent on rain for our tanks, gardens and livestock it's the annual total that really counts.

The figures show a gradually increasing annual average with more volatility and extremes. A case of being prepared.

Hopefully our tanks, streams and dams give us sufficient storage to get through.

Don Hargrave

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Rainfall Paparoa

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Annual Rainfall	1,315	1,153	1,321	1,135	1,129	1,380	875
5 year moving average				1,175	1,211	1,223	1,168



Annual Fun Walk Run on again

The Paparoa Sports and Recreation Association will be hosting the seventh annual free Fun Walk Run and Family afternoon on Saturday 22 March.

Walkers and runners can enjoy a 5km track around local farmland, arriving back to the showgrounds. There is also a 4km flatter option. The committee are wanting to better the number of 55 participants from last year. The Kaipara Play Trailer will be there again for kids while they wait for the adults to

finish. There's some great spot prizes, and it will be followed by a delicious bbq with the Lions caravan infamous chips, for only a gold coin donation. We look forward to seeing you there.

Registrations from 3pm.

Libby
021 208 0093

Kaiwaka Athletic Club

The Eves Athletics Whangarei ribbon day was held in late December, and these young Kaipara athletes achieved great results, making their families, friends and coaches proud. Pictured (left to right) are Alva-Dane Van Coller, Alexi Van Coller, Ben Patterson and Joel Oliver-Browne. Our club will recommence on Wednesday 5 February at 4.30pm at Otamatea High School. We encourage youngsters of all ages to become involved.

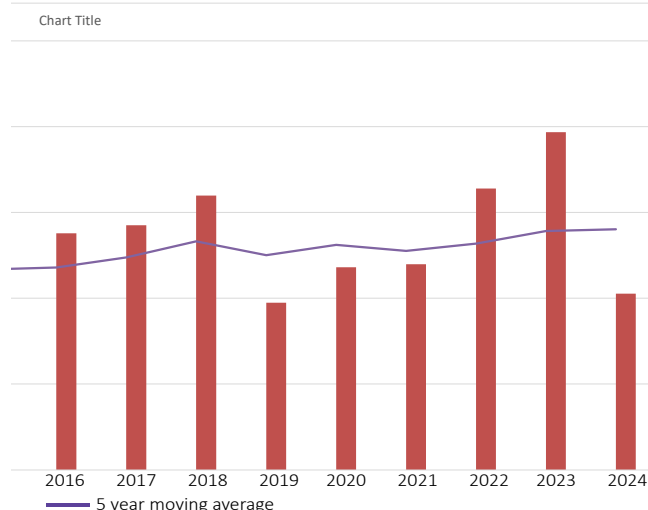
Eileen



2009 to 2024

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1,378	1,425	1,599	974	1,181	1,198	1,639	1,967	1,027
1,179	1,237	1,331	1,250	1,311	1,275	1,318	1,392	1,402

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Paparoa Pride 2025

22nd February 2025, Paparoa Sports Pavillion, 4pm til late.

Paparoa Pride is excited to announce the date for the Paparoa Pride 2025 festival, taking place at the Paparoa Sport Pavilion starting at 4pm till late.

The event will include a Pride Parade, afternoon fun and games including Doggie Dress Up competition and Tug of war, an Art Tent, Music, Kai, Circus Kumarani, Bouncy Castle and much more on the day.

In the evening there is an exciting entertainment schedule including DJ

Dan, and Drag Acts Miss Kerry Berry and Medulla Oblongata as well as prizes, and raffle draw! All proving highly successful last year; we expect a good crowd from the region on the night.

The purpose of the Paparoa Pride annual event is to celebrate our local LGBTQ+ community, and to promote inclusion and diversity for all in Paparoa, led by the local Rainbow community.

Since the first Paparoa Pride event in 2021, there have been annual events (with a small break over COVID). These events are a celebration of diversity and inclusivity, and bring visitors from the Kaipara

and beyond to celebrate and come together as an LGBTQ+ community and allies.

Paparoa Pride achieved its Charitable Trust status in 2024. The purpose of the community group is to support the wellbeing of the Rainbow community across the Kaipara and Te Tai Tokerau. We aim to provide support, events, information, and a community hub for this region, supporting diversity, inclusion and social connection for the Rainbow community.

For more information contact Mel Badenhorst 027 2786 5500 (Paparoa Pride Trustee).

Mel

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Photo from Paparoa Pride Parade, March 2021



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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)

Paparoa Volunteer Fire Brigade to the rescue!

In the early hours of Sunday morning, 26th January, parts of Mangawhai were hit by a devastating tornado. Trees were toppled and ripped from the ground, roofs torn from houses, cabins blown over, and debris and belongings scattered for hundreds of metres.

It's a miracle there weren't more serious injuries, or worse. The community sprang into action and there were neighbours and strangers out in force to help come daylight. Offers of food, hot showers, and even accommodation flooded onto the local Facebook page.

Tradies made themselves available to help with emergency repairs and shops that would normally be closed were open to help with supplies.

The clean-up operation took

a huge effort from various agencies, businesses and individuals and must've seemed insurmountable to those first on the scene.


Paparoa Volunteer Fire Brigade were among the agencies on the scene and put in huge hours helping clear the many trees fallen on Molesworth Drive.

Their bright yellow 8171 fire truck/skidder was put to work dragging trees out of the tangled heaps and helping to clear an access track through the mess.

Once again, the amazing

team who make up the Paparoa Volunteer Fire Brigade have done their community proud. You should all be immensely proud of yourselves and of the wonderful, selfless work that you do.

If you would like to join them, contact Ken Ogilvy on 021 129 4042.



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The new shared path on Molesworth drive, buried.



Molesworth Drive after clearing

A memory from 1950s

Mrs M.M. Skelton - piano teacher.

This lady taught me to play the piano, insisting I practiced and did everything correctly. Her writing in my notebook was copybook perfect. Something I never achieved. Her piano smelt of eucalyptus (not sure why) and occasionally a chook wandered down the hallway. For me she was a kind but particular teacher.

Having the ability to play music has been a true gift - a way of letting off steam when frustrated - a way to cope with tough or sad times, and a joy to be able to "jam" with other musicians or on my own for fun.

Thank you Mrs M.M. Skelton.

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Our bodies have evolved for 1000s of years to spend time in the natural world, but our new dependence on the digital world is moving us away from the natural world and into spending more and more time on computers, phones etc indoors.

It is a fact that spending time in a natural environment reduces stress and helps the body relax. Being in the outdoors also increases serotonin levels. Serotonin is a natural chemical, produced mostly within the body's gut, which helps your mood improve.

So, when you are feeling blue or stressed don't reach for the chocolate, or alcohol, or scroll through the internet on your phone. Go for a walk!

We are lucky that we are spoilt for a choice of walks in and around Paparoa. The bush track from the Twin Streams subdivision to SH12 (and soon up to the show grounds) is a short, beautiful, mostly flat track where trees and bird life are plentiful. Or the show

ground circuit if you want to exercise your dog - or the beautiful bush walk over the bridge opposite the dairy (no dogs) which can be a short, flat walk to the bridge and back or a loop walk - or out to Pahi Road. The longer walk is great for fitness and you usually have plenty of birds singing, depending on the time of day.

All are free and after you have finished the longer walks you will feel full of those wonderful endorphins which de-stress and calm your brain after exercise.

Thank you to the wonderful Lions and other Paparoa volunteers who have made these tracks.

Stella

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Kaipara Wellbeing Hub

Hi Everyone, just taking the opportunity to let you know about our Kaipara Wellbeing Hub, which is part of the Peoples Health Alliance (PHA). We look forward to seeing you on Saturday Feb 8th from 12- 3pm at the Sports Pavilion. There's lots of information regarding health practices, practitioners offering therapeutic sessions, and others with products and information available. We will also be having a talk about Orgones with the lovely Alexandra, plus a sound circle which you may participate in or not as you feel on the day. Hope you can make it.

This is a free event but we are always very grateful for donations as we are solely self funded. (See ad page 4).

Yours in good health

The Kaipara PHA team

Lynn, Natasha, Rebekah & Jacqui.

Obituary: Tony Plunkett

*On 12th January 2025 at home with family around him
after a courageous battle.*

*Loved eldest son of Rose and the late Brian Plunkett.
Late of Paparoa.*

*Dearly loved husband of Pam, loved father and
grandfather.*

*Tony was a respected member of the Southland
community and was Southland Farmer of the Year 2015.*

*Tony will be remembered for his many contributions
to farming in Southland, including initiating a Cadet
Training course that he administered from his farm.*

*He was a talented, gentle, man who will be mourned by
both friends and family.*

Rest in Peace Tony.

February in the Garden

February is the hottest month of the year, so add thick layers of compost or pea straw mulch to your beds to conserve water, reduce weeds and add nutrients to the soil. Add a good tonic every 2-4 weeks, liquid seaweed, comfrey, manure or whatever beautiful smelly brew you have.

Tomatoes: Continue to remove bottom leaves to allow light into the lower fruit.

Strawberries: Give them a good feed, remove old leaves, and water well. This will provide another flush of berries.

Corn: These are now tall so protect them from strong winds and provide support.

Flowers: Dead head summer flowers to promote a fresh batch.

Sow now: Beetroot, carrots, lettuce, onions, blueberries, rhubarb, beans, leeks, cabbage and herbs.

Seeds: Plant winter brassicas now so they are ready to plant out in March.

Bulbs: These can be planted as soon as the soil cools. Now is the time to buy new NZ bulbs, so get online and look at what's available. Have a look at Clandon daffodils - one of my favourite growers.

February is also the biggest harvest time. Now is the time to pick, pickle, relish, freeze, dry and store all that beautiful bounty we have all worked so hard to create.

I had great success with gherkins this season. Two plants gave me 45 jars of gherkin relish that has been shared and enjoyed by friends and family. For me, this is why I garden - to enjoy and share homegrown food at just a small cost.

So happy gardening everyone. Let's hope February brings some much needed rain.

Happy Gardening
Smiles, C



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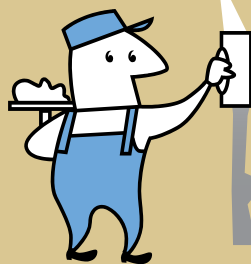
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WHAT'S ON - FEBRUARY 2025

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

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

Kaipara Wellbeing Hub - Sat Feb 8, 12 - 3pm, Sports Pavilion. See ad p4.

Paparoa Pride - Sat Feb 22, 4pm til late. Sports Pavilion. See p14 for more info.

Coming up in March:

Grow Paparoa Passata Day - Sun March 2, from 10.30am. email Laura at lkateley@gmail.com, or call Jan on 021431724 to book. See p11.

Pioneer Luncheon - Fri March 14. For Paparoa District Gold Card holders. Contact Pete Hames 021 056 7163 or hames.jones@xtra.co.nz. See p4 for more info.

Fun Walk Run - Sun March 22. More info to follow next month.

OUT & ABOUT AROUND TOWN

Paparoa'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 Paparoa Drop in for a chat, hands on experience, or a cuppa. Every Thursday & Friday 9am - 12pm. Next to the showgrounds.

Paparoa Golf Course Twilight golf, Fridays from 5pm. Everyone is welcome to come and play a fun, friendly, 9 hole round of golf for just \$10. Food available. Enquiries to club secretary on 022 678 1474.

Ballroom Classes Saturday evenings at the Paparoa Memorial Hall, 6.15 - 7.45pm. An hour of tuition (social foxtrot, waltz, cha cha, rumba, slow jive etc) followed by a half hour of free time to practice, laugh and socialise. \$15pp. For more info ph Lisa on 021 828-531.

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

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.



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Obituaries

Condolences to the families of the following:

Eddie Coates, 24th December

Leo Trepels, 19th December

Bob Sterling, 9th January

Tony Plunkett, 12th January

Paparoa and Mangawhai Parishes Anglican Services coming up

There will be services at 9am each Sunday at Christ the King, Mangawhai. Other services:

February 2nd - 11am - St Pauls, Kaiwaka.

9th - 11.30am - St Albans, Whakapirau.

16th - 10am - Holy Trinity, Café service
11am - St Pauls, Kaiwaka.

23rd - 11.30am - St Marks, Paparoa.

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, 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 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, 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 Playcentre Tuesday and Thursday 10am-1pm. Franklin Rd. Visitors welcome. paparoa@playcentre.org.nz

Paparoa Primary School 2025 - term 1 starts Thursday 30 Jan, ends 11 April.

Term 2 - 28 April - 27 June. Term 3 - 14 July - 19 Sept. 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. At playcentre. 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 Tues and Fri, 9.30am, Sports Pavilion. Hatha yoga & more. \$15.

Equipment provided. Beginners welcome. Ph Luciana for more info 0221896496

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LOCAL TIDES for FEBRUARY 2025

TIDES - CALCULATED for PAHI-WHAKAPIRAU

DATE	LOW	HIGH	DATE	LOW	HIGH
1st	7.40	14.06	17th	8.33	14.58
2nd	8.22	14.48	18th	9.06	15.32
3rd	9.06	15.33	19th	9.43	16.10
4th	9.54	16.22	20th	10.27	16.56
5th	10.48	17.17	21st	11.24	17.54
6th	11.52	18.20	22nd	12.40	6.34
7th	13.08	7.06	23rd	14.04	8.00
8th	14.28	8.30	24th	15.14	9.17
9th	15.39	9.46	25th	16.08	10.14
10th	16.36	10.45	26th	16.54	10.59
11th	17.23	11.32	27th	17.37	11.41
12th	18.05	12.13	28th	18.19	12.21
13th	18.43	12.49	March		
14th	6.57	13.23	1st	18.58	12.59
15th	7.30	13.55	2nd	7.15	13.40
16th	8.02	14.26	3rd	7.58	14.22

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 Chambers09 4317443

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 10-1, 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 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

North Island Pony Club Show Jumping Championships Incorporating Taste of Champs 80cm

On the weekend of the 17th and 18th January the 39th NISJC were held in Kihikihi.

This is an event set up so riders can experience what championships is like as an individual rider, with three classes over the two days.

Erika Savage-Serrano and her pony Charlie attended for the first time to give the Taste of Champs a go and had an amazing weekend getting a first and fourth place, and third overall rider.

Erika says, "I had an eventful start doing my first ever overnight show with Charlie's asthma playing up and having to retire during my first round. We then had a very successful rest of the show and I'm so proud of our results. The help and support all the team members and their families gave me was amazing, managing to support us all in different rings at the same time was awesome. Thank you to all who were involved".

Stevie-Ray Rawaho-Ball and her pony Million Dollar Bill (Billy) were selected as part of the Wellsford District team jumping in the 100cm class. The Team is made up of two x 90cm riders, two x 100cm riders and two x 105cm riders but,

unfortunately, Wellsford District only had five team members.

Stevie has just come back to riding after breaking a couple of facial bones in a fall in November, so is still taking things slowly. Stevie and Billy exceeded all expectations by jumping four amazing rounds, getting a first, second and seventh. The last round is a jigsaw, where you ride a series of jumps with your team mate, and they achieved sixth place.

Stevie was first equal in the 100cm class and fourth overall rider in the Champs classes.



Stevie-Ray Rawaho-Ball and Million Dollar Bill (Billy)



Erika Savage-Serrano and Charlie

Wellsford also came an amazing fourth overall for the Champs Team.

Stevie says, "I am so proud of Billy and his confidence. He was a star out there especially jumping the 120cm joker that only two horses cleared. I am also so proud of our riders, with everyone overcoming challenges and improving so much over the weekend. All our hard work paid off.

Thank you to all the parents who made our weekend one to remember and to our

amazing coach Jo Bullock, who is so invested in all her riders, supporting us from start to finish

I would also like to thank my amazing Sponsor, Simone from Feed2U for providing the best feed any horse could ask for, and keeping us in the best shape for our competitions".

Stevie has just been selected for the Waitamata/Rodney Pony Club Horse of the Year team after winning the Northland Area Jumping Open pony class, sponsored by Wrack Electrical, this season. There are only two pony and two hack riders from the whole area selected to compete in the Horse of the Year, which will be held in March.

Tina Ball

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