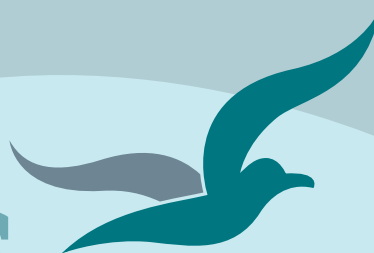


Bream Bay News



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"The weediest city in the world"

Whangārei could be a contender for the title of weediest city in the world Coralie Roberts told a meeting organised by Climate Action Tai Tokerau held at the Ruakākā Recreation Centre on Thursday 11 September.

All candidates relevant to the residents of Bream Bay had been invited but not all attended. Those who showed up were: for the mayoralty- Ken Couper and Brad Flower, for the Bream Bay Ward – Simon Schuster, Shilane Shirkey and Ken Couper, for the Māori Ward of the WDC Deborah Harding, for the NRC Southern Coastal ward: John Hunt, Robert Goodhue and Rick Stolwerk and Arama Morunga for Te Raki Māori seat on the NRC.

Candidates seemed to agree on most issues. For example most, if not all, voiced their opposition to the proposed application by McCallum Brother Ltd under the Fast Track legislation to sand mine in Bream Bay. Councillor Ken Couper in particular said he would do everything in his power to oppose the sand mining proceeding and Shilane Shirkey said she had attended both big public protests on the beach and on the water opposing the sand mining.

The weed issue was a bit more contentious. Councillor Couper said he agreed with Coralie 100 percent and something needed to be done to

Continued on page 6.

A new mural for Waipu



Artist Shann Whittaker began work on the mural last week

A new mural entitled *Windows of Waipu* is underway on the wall of the Waipu Vet Centre facing the Origin North store and shopping complex.

The artist is Shann Whittaker who has designed a series of windows, which depict various views of Waipu.

Jennifer Rodrigue of Origin North said the mural is a collaboration with the Vet Centre and the mural will depict the various scenes and views we all know and love: beach/ocean and islands, the golf course, horses on Uretiti, and livestock on the hillside

Continued on page 14



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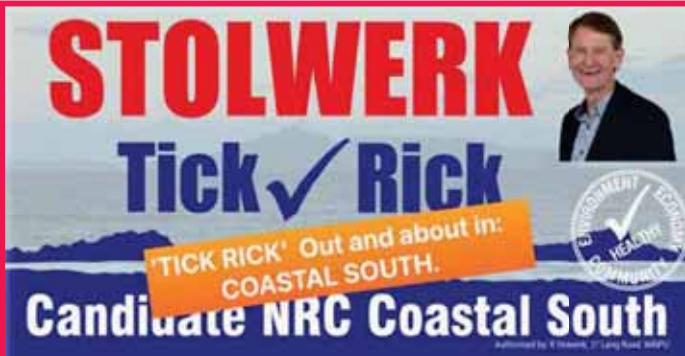
Changes of season brings different colours and hues to the sand dunes, at different times of day. There is always something to watch on the ocean, or on the river.

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Candidate NRC Coastal South
Authorised by R Stolwerk, 17 Long Road, Waipū

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Please make sure you vote and post papers in a mailbox
by Tuesday October 7th
MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

Once again I am asking you to support me for the next three years, as this community has done so well, over the past 3 terms.

Should you have any questions about my policies, my track record while on council, what I am hoping to do if elected, or what you would like me to advocate on your behalf - please pop in and say hello at one of my upcoming:

DROP IN SESSIONS:
Wednesday, September 24th, 6.00 – 7.00pm - Marsden Yacht Club – One Tree Point
Thursday, September 25th, 12.00- 1.00pm - Mangapai Hall
Friday, September 26th, 2.00-3.00 pm - Waipu Coronation Hall
Saturday, September 27th, 11.00-12.00 noon - Mangawhai Library Hall
Sunday September 28th, 11.00 – 12.00 noon - Ruakākā Beach Carpark

Please contact me on 021 823 770 or rjstolwerk@gmail.com

TICK RICK in 2025

Ngā mihi

Authorised by R Stolwerk 021 823 770

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EDITORIAL

Keep eating those Watties canned peaches

I am eating a lot of canned peaches at present. I hope lots of people are. Let's make a concerted effort to convince Watties (a former NZ company now owned by Kraft Heinz based in North America) to keep its Hawkes Bay peach canning plant open. It is a tragedy that all those Hawkes Bay orchardists are now planning to pull out their peach trees at the end of this summer because Watties has terminated their supply contracts saying it cannot compete with imported produce from South Africa. Those big golden Hawkes Bay peaches are beautiful. The cheaper imports are pale by comparison and it makes no sense to be transporting an inferior product from 12,200 kilometres away. The imports are about 60c cheaper a 400g tin, so its understandable that in these straightened times many shoppers choose them over the New Zealand product. However, if you can afford the difference there are a few principals at play here.

So many successful New Zealand companies end up being taken over by international giants. When these sales occur commitment to the New Zealand society and economy often goes out the window.

In this regard we need to recognize and appreciate our local companies such as: Fresha Valley, Northpine, Northland Steel Products, Hansen Drainage. Trigg Construction, Marsden Metals, which have their workers welfare and the well being of our community at their heart.

The liquidation of Obelisk, formerly SPI, then SPIND is a big loss locally. I visited that workshop a few years ago to see the ship simulators its skilled tradesmen had built for the NZ Navy. I am not sure what happened. There was a proud engineering tradition there, which I hope can be rescued by someone.

I have been reading biographical accounts of Sir James Wattie and how he started the Hastings cannery so that Hawkes Bay fruit could be put to good use and no longer left rotting on the ground.

I read in Te Ara The Encyclopedia of New Zealand, "He was prepared to work in any section of the factory where help was needed. Very successful in obtaining and managing workers, for many years he knew them all personally. Even in his last few years he would walk through the factory or sit down in the cafeteria mixing with staff. He appreciated an honest day's work but bawled out any slackers. To him the greatest thing in life was the sense of achievement that went with success."

The idea of "an honest days work" and the gratification of hard earned achievements are lost on many people. It's more about, "How can I make the optimum amount of money with the least effort?"

Sir James liked nice cars and owned a Bentley. Asked why he didn't employ a chauffeur he said this was for two reasons: he couldn't afford one and he enjoyed driving. He also collected stamps, grew roses and bred racehorses – so a pretty busy, interesting and balanced life.

I think New Zealand school children should study Sir James Wattie – his, character, life, achievements and beliefs. People looking at starting new businesses can find inspiration there as well.

Right now Northland could do with a few entrepreneurs with values like those of Sir James Wattie.

Marilyn



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The godwits are back



Godwits at the Ruakākā estuary

Godwits have arrived back in the Whangārei Harbour and Bream Bay.

A flock was seen circling in the sky above Ruakākā early on Saturday morning 13 September.

Lucina Cumming of Bream Bay Coastal Care said she saw godwits feeding just after high tide that same day at the Ruakākā Estuary.

"They usually come in here just after a hightide. You can see them having a good feed digging around for worms."

The flock has just flown non stop 12,000km from Alaska. Flying at an average of 80km/h they make the journey in six to eight days.

Lucina said for the past few years the flock has been smaller than it had been previously. She wonders if the

godwits are suffering from bird flu and if this poses any danger to our endemic bird species.

Although a new strain of bird flu is known to infect some sea birds a United Nations list of those species affected updated in June 2025 does not include godwits. Also it is likely that any godwits weakened by this disease would be unable to make that long flight and would die before they reached our shores.

Another factor that could be responsible for this decline is habitat loss. On their journey back to the tundra of Alaska in March godwits stopover at estuaries in Korea and China, some of which have been drained and infilled for development.

A higher standard of maintenance needed in Uranga park

The grass has grown long once again in Uranga Park as well as in other blocks of Treaty Settlement held land adjacent to the Ruakākā Village.

The contract to mow the area was given to Downers earlier this year. Previously the work had been done by Bain McGregor of Waipu and Ruakākā Village residents think he should be given the contract once again.

Tui Roman said Bain had kept the grass well mown

and had removed rubbish and fallen branches from trees when these appeared. Once he even brought in a machine to dig out a giant German wasp nest. She thinks it must be very dispiriting for Bain after he took so much pride in keeping the park tidy to see it in its current state.

Eighty six year old Pam Foster says she can no longer walk in the park as the long grass makes it too dangerous.

Seeing the untidy state of the park people are starting to dump rubbish including glass bottles, which will shatter when the park finally gets a mow.

School children used to make their way through Uranga Park to and from school but now can't do this, as their shoes get soaked in the long grass.

They are all concerned about potential fire risk when the long grass dries out in the summer sun.

We approached Downers Whangārei office for a comment and to find out when the next mow of Uranga Park would be undertaken. At the time of going to print on Monday afternoon 22 September no reply had been received.



An overgrown corner of Uranga park

THE UNSEEN IMPACT of HIGH RATES

At the Annual Plan review in April I submitted that council was in a period of unsustainable spending and fiscal irresponsibility that was resulting in exorbitant rating increases.

I continue to stand by that claim.

A recent Official Information Act request to council shows that as of mid August 2025, the following figures relate to the 2024/25 rating year for the Whangārei District.

\$2,955,715	was owing from 1,349 separate rating units
4,502	properties were sent demands for overdue rates
3,417	residential properties were granted rates rebates
614	ratepayers are on payment plans
83	properties are subject to debt recovery action

In our private lives we are expected to live within our means.

My expectation of Council is exactly the same.

No matter your race, age, gender, income earning potential, whether you are a farmer, business owner, property owner or tenant, everyone is affected by uncontrolled rating increases.

Council and councillors must review what they are doing and give more consideration to the people they represent.

BALDWIN for Bream Bay

Facebook: "Baldwin for Bream Bay"

Authorised by D Baldwin: baldwinforbreambay@gmail.com

John Hunt for NRC Coastal South



Hi I'm John Hunt and I'm standing as a candidate for Coastal South on the Northland Regional Council.

Working for the community is what I do. My community experience includes 15 years as CEO of Harbour Basketball, NZ's top basketball association, active involvement in the environmental protection of Bream Tail and as treasurer of the Waipu Tennis Club for the past four years.

Public bodies should always be responsible with other people's money. I will bring sound money management skills to the Council, enthusiasm, and a strong commitment to protecting our environment.

The Bream Bay and Mangawhai ecosystem is one of the most extraordinary in the world and needs to be protected for future generations. We owe this to our children.

Unfortunately the organization responsible for protecting our environment, the NRC, is building a huge bureaucracy in Whangārei with our rates. In 2016 NRC rates totaled \$20 million. Nine years later in 2025 they hit \$55 million. In 2016 staff levels were less than 200. They now have 345 staff members earning an average of \$87,000 per person. They also have more than 20 consultants and lawyers currently engaged to work for them.

The NRC takes \$millions out of Marsden Cove, Ruakākā, Waipu, Langs and Mangawhai every year and this essentially funds head office staff in Whangārei. I am proposing a three year NRC rates freeze and a hiring freeze.

I will also fight to have outstanding local community groups like the Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society, the Piroa Conservation Trust, Bream Bay Coastal Care, the Mangawhai Trackies and the Wairahi Tracks Charitable Trust receive reprioritized funding from the NRC. These organisations are highly effective at protecting our environment and deserve our support.

Vote John Hunt, Coastal South

Letters to the Editor are very welcome

Email them to: breambaynews@xtra.co.nz, Drop them off at the Waipu or Ruakākā Lotto shops

LETTERS

A lesson from the kuaka

E nga kuaka, nāu mai, hara mai, piki mai. No reira, ka mihinui ki a koutou katoa. This morning 2 smaller flocks of kuaka flew over our home on their way to their feeding place at the mouth of the Mangapai river, Kopuawaiwaha. These birds have flown non-stop for 4 days from Alaska to the Whangārei harbour. Their endurance and collaborative work ethic should be a lesson for all of us to live better with and in Nature.

*Dr. Mere Kepa
Takahiwai*

Who funds Democracy Northland's newsletter?

As a resident of Waipu, I receive once a fortnight or thereabouts the Letterbox newsletter put out by Democracy Northland.

These can be expensive undertakings, and it occurred to me to ask the very reasonable questions of who is funding this political pamphlet, and in what kind of amounts?

We are all living in interesting times in terms of political activities in general, and if our votes are still valuable, I think our currency should be openness and complete transparency about who and how much support is given to political groups or influencers. It helps me to understand where and how I should categorise the information.

*Paul Shipman
Waipu*

We are totally independent

I agree with you 100% about transparency, which is why we recently published the voting record of our local councillors.

Fortunately, Democracy Northland now has a large number of supporters and many are able to donate their time to distribute the newsletter. The only exception has been the Election Special, when we paid for the printing and distribution of copies to rural areas. We paid for this from donations received from our supporters who have responded to our "please support us" messages that you may have noticed in each issue, the first issue being in April 2023.

This "citizens" model is now quite common, and how most, if not all, groups like ours operate.

Despite what you may read on social media (!), we are not funded by or act in concert with any other group or political party. We are totally independent.

Not sure if you are aware of our history, but we formed about five years ago to facilitate three paper petitions under the Local Electoral Act. Those petitions called on our councils to hold a referendum on the Maori seats, which they created without seeking a public mandate. That petition right to force a binding referendum was removed by the Labour government and made retrospective specifically to undermine our petitions, which were validated by the councils Returning Officer.

Our reason for being is to lobby our local councils so they have greater regard for basic democratic principles, like consulting electors before they change the voting system!

*Frank Newman
Editor Letterbox*

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The Bream Bay Sports Trust Have a Go Festival offers opportunities for all ages

It was a cold showery afternoon on Sunday 21 September when the One Tree Point Bowling Club held its Have a Go session. Braving the weather Donald Kidd turned up for a game and some coaching from the bowling club members who were present.

The Bream Bay Sports Trust's summer Have a Go festival rolls on for the rest of this month and into October and the first week of November

Coming up over the next two weeks:

- A Waipu Bowling Club morning for newbies on 27 September from 10am to 1pm
- A Bream Bay Tramping Club invitation to join its members at 8.45am in the DOC carpark on Cove Rd, approximately 200m south of Bream Tail Road for a hike over the Langsview track. Wear good walking shoes and bring a daypack, rain jacket, lunch, snacks and water.
- A Summer Twilight Netball mixed teams with men and women competition starting on Wednesday 1 October from 6pm in the Waipu Celtic Barn.



Donald Kidd tries his hand at the One Tree Point Bowling Club's Have a go afternoon. A new \$360,000 artificial turf is currently being installed at the club and is expected to extend the playing season there into the winter months.

- Bream Bay Athletics summer season begins in the Bream Bay College Fields on Monday 6 October from 4-5.30pm for ages 3 – 18 and then from 5.30 to 6.30pm for ages 19+.

Te Kauika o Patuharakeke Waka Ama, which was listed in the Have a Go Festival calendar with a date still to be decided, has settled on an opening junior section for children over the age of five on Saturday 8 November.

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LET'S GET TO THE POINT

In case you weren't aware of where I stand

I Stand For

A Rates freeze
Stopping sand mining
Defunding Climate initiatives
Regular updates

A complete plan review
Kiwi's First – Democracy rules
Ending WDC's climate emergency
The Truth

A complete audit of spending
Living within our means
Straight Talk
Common Sense

My Mission

My mission, on your behalf, is to bring about transformational change. That objective is based on a strategy of cutting down the beanstalk of bloated bureaucracy, rooting out bad and non-performing actors, and restoring the Council's core mission with focus, integrity and common sense.

Warranty

My views may (or may not) resonate with yours, but if I'm your man, then I'd be honoured to represent you. We can only hope that the majority around the Council table rules in Bream Bay's favour – that's the reality of democracy in action.

Vote1

Bream Bay Ward
WHANGAREI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Paul
Grace

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Authorised by Paul Grace. Email paulmgraceis@gmail.com

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- Council accountability for rates
- Resilience for rural communities
- Educational youth pathways into employment
- Advocating against sand mining

Vote Simon Schuster— practical leadership for Bream Bay

Simon Schuster
Bream Bay Ward

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“The weediest city in the world”

Continued from page 1.

tidy up the weed invested entrances to Whangārei.

Councillor Rick Stolwerk referred Coralie to the NRC pest management plan and said the problem is largely one of education.

“Many people see those flowering cherry trees alongside the highway and think they look lovely.”

NRC candidates Robert Goodhue and John Hunt both said the NRC should be putting more effort into the control of mangroves.

However, Councillor Deb Harding said that manawa (mangroves) had their place and their spread was the result of problems further inland where more needed to be done to control erosion into waterways.

Waipu Lions paper collection coming to a close

The Waipu Lions Club paper collection is coming to a close. The last day for dropping off papers will be Sunday 30 November 2025.

Dave Bell of the Waipu Lions, who has been running the collection, said the closure is due to “over supply, storage difficulties, new technologies and other factors.”

He said the company he has been selling loads of newspaper to has collected nine containers of newspapers and has been disappointed in missing out on a contract to provide erosion control.

Dave said he has tried to interest Northpine in using newspaper in their kiln. Northpine did an evaluation but this came up negative, as it was difficult to feed the paper into the furnace.

Dave wants to thank all those who have supported the collection over the past few years. He said by the time the collection ends it will have raised close to \$14,000.

He hopes someone will come up with a bright idea on how newspaper can be recycled and will take over the collection.

He also wants to remind everyone that the Waipu Lions is still collecting aluminum cans in a bin outside the Waipu RSA as well as wine bottle tops and sleeves which can also be left alongside the bin.

The money raised from these collections is donated to Kidney Kids, which supports children with kidney disease and urinary tract conditions.

School board election results

The results are in for the board of trustee elections at Bream Bay's three primary and one secondary school.

Successful candidates to the Bream Bay College board election are: Benjamin Marsh, Jules Dewhurst, Shaun Grieve, Ashby Mackenzie, Aaron Bird and Patrick Inglis. Jade George, Daisy Sievwright, Shaun Grieve, Cherith McLennan and Ann Wetera have been elected to the Ruakākā School Board of Trustees.

At One Tree Point School the elected board members are: Benjamin Marsh, Kerri Gibson, Shana Hopper- McCully, Katrina Kendall and Daniel Massey.

Waipu Primary has a different board election timetable with elections for half the board every 18 months rather than every three years. The reasoning for this is it enables new trustees to learn from those who have already had experience in the role. Three new board members: Chris Townshend, Stephen Abercrombie and Jan Proffitt will join Amos Cook and Dave Field, who were elected in the previous mid term elections.

In Bream Bay fifty years ago

An excerpt from the Bream Bay News, September 1975 issue.

Whangārei County Council has now received the Consulting Engineer's report on an ultimate Ruakākā sewerage scheme including the Power Station Village. In this scheme the oxidation ponds are sited on a sand dune area north of the Power Station. This is in place of the proposed designated sewerage site immediately South of the new Racing and Trotting Course.

This proposed new site will still be subject to a variation in the reviewed district scheme.

Local churches co-operate on foodbanks

Four churches that operate or contribute significantly to community foodbanks have begun an initiative to increase cooperation. Representatives from the Anglican Church of Bream Bay, Holy Family Roman Catholic, Lifepoint Baptist (One Tree Point), and Waipū Presbyterian Churches have been meeting over the past few months to develop a common approach to foodbank clients. They have developed a shared intake process, and, with client permission, will share contact information with other local foodbanks.

'In developing a common approach we will standardise the way we support clients' said Mark Henrickson Vicar of the Anglican Church. 'This will mean every client can expect the same respectful services. They may also be asked for other information that will help us develop a profile of needs in the region so we can advocate for additional resources.'

Cooperation will also mean that churches can ensure that scarce resources are appropriately distributed. 'Foodbanks are a resource for urgent and unexpected needs, not a substitute for the weekly shop', he said. Foodbank volunteers report all kinds reasons people have for accessing the service including parents who are unable to work because of childcare responsibilities, workers who are 'rained off' and so are not paid, and recently widowed older men who relied on their wives to shop and prepare food for the household and now have no idea how to do those things.

Those who contact a church outside their immediate rohe (area) may be referred back to a more local foodbank. Vicar Hendrickson said, "This will help address 'foodbank shopping' where clients may ring around to different churches for food throughout the month."

He said, 'We certainly want to be available to clients with a genuine need, but we are aware that there are some regular callers where food shortages may not be the real need.'

Foodbanks rely on food donations from churchgoers, and are often funded from church or denominational budgets, which are also supported by contributions from those same churchgoers. Holy Family Church

contributes significantly to the Anglican Church foodbank, which is also supported by monthly cash donations from the Anglican Op Shop in Waipū. Non-perishable foods are supplemented by fresh foods and produce bought with cash donations.

'Too often churches are asked why they aren't doing anything for their communities, or why their doors aren't open during the week. The reality is that all our area churches are doing quite a bit, but we do it quietly', Vicar Henrickson said.

He said, foodbanks exist as a kind of informal safety net for people in need, based on how Jesus fed people throughout the gospels.

"In light of the many government cutbacks to social services in the last year, we are aware that the need for foodbanks is very high throughout the motu, and likely to get worse. The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members. Foodbanks are only a stopgap response.'

Work is progressing on developing a social media page where clients will be able to message requests for food assistance, and eventually putting in place a centralised phone number. Meanwhile clients who need support should continue to ring their local church for assistance. These churches are: Anglican Church (Ruakākā and Waipū): 022 582 5134 (texts also accepted)

Lifepoint Baptist (One Tree Point): 09 432 7366 Waipū Presbyterian (Waipū and Ruakākā): 09 432 0534 (or by email at waipupresby@outlook.com)

Since these contact numbers are not hotlines and are not staffed full time, clients should be prepared to leave a message with a callback phone number. Clients should also do their best to plan ahead, as calls may not be returned until the next day. Calls are not answered over weekends.

Mark Henrickson said, "Foodbanks are staffed with volunteers who expect to be treated with respect. Any abusive or threatening behaviour will likely mean that the client will be declined services by all area foodbanks."



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THE NEXT PUBLICATION DATE

of the Bream Bay News will be Thursday 9 October
The deadline for all copy is 4pm on
Wednesday 1 October

Tsunami siren testing on Sunday

Northland's six-monthly outdoor tsunami siren test will take place at 10am on Sunday, 28 September, to coincide with the start of daylight saving.

The recently upgraded network of more than 90 outdoor sirens is tested twice a year.

During the test, sirens will sound for around two minutes, emitting the familiar siren tone followed by a

voice message. Indoor sirens will not be tested, but should be checked manually.

Feedback on the test can be provided on the day using a feedback form available on the Northland Regional Council website.

To hear Northland's new outdoor sirens online, visit: www.nrc.govt.nz/tsunamisirens



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Police Report

Mental health related callouts

Mental health related callouts continue. Sergeant Sean Fahy who has been Officer in Charge at the Bream Bay station for the past three weeks said, "Our focus on community engagement is always holistic. Where we identify a referral to an external partner agency would benefit a situation/individual we make it. Often this is mental health services; however, Safe Man, Safe Family and the Bream Bay Community Trust are also utilised at a local level.

He said, "The Bream Bay Police team are very experienced and are entrusted to make these referrals based on their assessment of a situation."

Burglaries in Ruakākā

Several burglaries have occurred where various items have been taken including power tools and household items. Sergeant Fahy said these appear sporadic and not from a particular location. He said crime prevention remains the best option here:

1. Ensuring houses are locked at night and when not home
2. If people are going on holiday for a prolonged period of time it is useful to get a friend/neighbour to clear the letterbox
3. Sensor lights on houses often act as a good deterrent to thieves
4. Keeping a close relationship with your neighbours, a neighbourhood watch/support group is always good, social media allows for quick communication these days.

Also he suggests, "It would be beneficial to police and crime prevention if people who possessed such items could mark/engrave anything of value with their driver licence number as opposed to their name. The reason for this is the number is unique to an individual. Simply writing 'John SMITH' on a power tool doesn't allow us to adequately identify the owner. A search through our intelligence application using someone's license number will immediately allow us to identify and return stolen property"

Road policing continues

Road policing enforcement and prevention activities continue to take place around the area.

Thefts from motor vehicles

There have been several thefts from motor vehicles parked outside/within the boundaries of people's residences where the suspect(s) have entered through an unlocked car. While the Bream Bay area is predominantly a safe area, prevention of crimes is always better than responding to it. A lot of these thefts could potentially have been prevented if people remained vigilant and ensured their motor vehicles are locked up securely when not in use and all valuables removed.

Disputes over boundary fences

Police have been called to several neighbour disputes in Maungaturoto over the issue of shared boundary fences.

Sergeant Fahy said, "A lot of our time is taken up by these matters where we often act as mediators between parties. The best solution we can offer is that people work together in a civil manner to discuss and agree on a suitable course of action that benefits both parties."

Seven family harm incidents

The Ruakākā area had four family harm incidents over the fortnight 5 to 19 September. Over the same period there was one family harm incident in Waipu and two in Maungaturoto.

Sergeant Simon Craig, seconded to Whangārei

Sergeant Fahy said he has enjoyed his time in Bream Bay and would be applying for a permanent position here if a vacancy were to come up.

His replacement is Sergeant Nick Miller who has worked in Bream Bay before. Bream Bay's regular OIC, Sergeant Simon Craig, has been seconded into Whangārei for what is likely to be six months.



**Ken
 COUPER**
 for **MAYOR**

KEN'S THE 1

Authorised by Ken Couper
 kencouper.co.nz

Ruakākā Solar Farm Update



Construction is set to begin on Meridian Energy's 130MW solar farm in Ruakākā. The construction will be staged across our three sites along Port Marsden Highway and Marsden Point Road from October 2025 to early 2027.

How will construction affect the community?

During construction, there'll be increased traffic along Port Marsden Highway, Mccathie Road, Marsden Point Road and Rama Road. A traffic management plan will be in place for vehicles to enter and exit the worksites safely.

There'll also be noise around the sites, particularly from piling activity. We'll be monitoring noise levels and keeping in touch with our neighbours, so they are kept informed on progress and when construction activities are planned near them.

What will it look like?

Initially you'll be able to see the solar panels, which will be about 3–4m high, depending on the location. However, in some areas the panels will eventually be screened by planting and/or earth bunds.

Security on site

Security fencing will be installed around each site along with security cameras to monitor site access. There'll also be security patrols throughout the period of construction.

Wetland and habitat restoration

As part of the project, we'll be restoring about 30ha of wetland and native habitat area across several locations, including across the road from Ruakākā Town Centre.

Investing for Northland, and New Zealand

Meridian is investing in new electricity storage and renewable generation to meet Aotearoa New Zealand's growing demand for clean energy.

The solar farm is the second stage of the Ruakākā Energy Park, which also includes a recently completed 100MW battery energy storage system (BESS). Ruakākā Energy Park will reduce Northland's reliance on electricity generated from other parts of the country and help improve the security of electricity supply for all kiwis.

Want to know more or sign up for email updates?

Visit www.meridianenergy.co.nz/ruakaka-energy-park



Construction timeline

October 2025


Construction of the solar farm begins with enabling works, followed by piling and installation of equipment

Mid-2026

Habitat restoration works begin on site 1

Mid-2027

Wetland planting begins on site 3



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2nd THURSDAY OF THE MONTH	TAIPUHA HALL ↳ 171 Taipuha Station Road, Taipuha Starting 14 th August 2025 11AM-1PM
3rd THURSDAY OF THE MONTH	WAIOTIRA VILLAGE HALL ↳ 27 Ararua Road, Waiotira Starting 21 st August 2025 11AM-1PM
4th THURSDAY OF THE MONTH	WAIPU HERITAGE SCHOOL ↳ 41 Halifax Drive, Waipu Starting 28 th August 2025 * 12:30PM - 2:30PM

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www.bbtrust.co.nz

Hato Hone St John 3 steps to life programme

By Carole Mudford



Ruakākā Hospice Shop volunteers participating in the Hato Hone St. John 3 Steps to Life training programme.

Recently, a group of volunteers from the Ruakākā Hospice Charity Shop took part in a 3 Steps for Life workshop at the Ruakaka Hato Hone St John (HHStJ) Ambulance Station. The session was led by local HHSJ Emergency Medical Technicians, Jeff D'Ath and Wendy Faulkner, and welcomed 15 enthusiastic participants. Following an informative presentation, attendees had the opportunity to practice CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and experience using an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) on manikins. The hands-on session helped participants to understand the need for quick and effective action in the event of a cardiac emergency. 3 Steps for Life is one of several community-focused programmes offered in Bream Bay by Hato Hone St John. This free, one-hour workshop teaches the essential steps to help someone in cardiac arrest: calling 111 and asking for an ambulance, performing CPR, and using an AED. With approximately 2,500 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests having occurred in New Zealand last year, these skills can make the difference between life and death.

Since 2018, the number of publicly accessible defibrillators across Bream Bay has grown dramatically. There are now 38 units available 24/7, from Oakleigh Service Station in the north to the Hakaru RSA in the south. While many defibrillators are owned and maintained by Hato Hone St John, some are privately owned but made publicly accessible thanks to the support and collaboration with Hato Hone St John. You'll now find defibrillators at locations including fire stations, pharmacies, sports clubs, childcare centres, fishing clubs, marae, op shops, and holiday parks.

The defibrillator units are stored in external cabinets. If you're ever unsure how to access one in an emergency, just call 111 and ask for an ambulance. The call taker will guide you through everything, including how to access and use the defibrillator. Even though defibrillator models may look different, they all have one thing in common: they talk to you. Each device gives clear, step-by-step spoken instructions. If you can follow instructions, you can help save a life.

If your group would like to build confidence and learn life-saving skills, consider booking a 3 Steps for Life workshop. To arrange a session, email: 3stepsforlife@stjohn.org.nz.

Providing this life-saving equipment and education comes at a cost. Each defibrillator and cabinet setup ranges between \$2,000-\$4,000, with ongoing maintenance and consumable supplies adding to the expense. Thanks to the generosity of New Zealanders, this vital initiative remains possible.

RATES



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- ✓ Careful financial planning to manage rates rises

1

MAYOR

1

URBAN GENERAL WARD



Vote Robert Goodhue for Northland Regional Council

This advertisement is authorised by Robert Goodhue, robtgoodhue@gmail.com

What is Robert Goodhue standing for?

I am standing on one single, clear issue: Restoration of our environment, beginning with our lakes, rivers and oceans

What does Robert Goodhue hope to achieve?

With your vote support it is my mission to take positive action to halt the damage being done that has brought on what is called Climate Change. Should I, Robert Goodhue fail I hope you see the common sense in my mission and rally to support future initiatives.

For more than 25 years I have studied the decline of marine ecosystems and the hidden driver of climate change. My conclusion is that while carbon dioxide is a symptom, the real cause of ecological collapse lies in the widespread use of hormone-type herbicides and other systemic poisons. These chemicals, produced in the millions of tonnes each year, wash into rivers and seas with the rain. Once there, they destroy phytoplankton, the very foundation of the marine food chain and the source of much of the oxygen we breathe. When phytoplankton die, so too does every marine dependent creature – fish birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, mollusca, echinodermata, porifera, and annelida to name a few groups. If phytoplankton are restored they will easily reduce the excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and my grandchildren may not witness the death of the last whale.

How does Robert Goodhue hope to achieve this?

Northland Regional Council's mission is to create a healthy environment, strong economy and resilient communities, so to have them remove the poisons from our environment should not be more difficult than pushing water uphill with a rake, and with just a little common sense education it is a goal that can be achieved at minimal cost. Getting the message across to the IPCC, who have held patent on the problem for 37 years will be a little harder, as will be tackling the industry that has created the problem.

I want to bring this common sense to the council table, and on to the rest of the country and the world. I was going to use this space for an inspirational photograph of myself Robert Goodhue, standing beside my little truck with the big "Vote Robert Goodhue" sign near the river, but as I drove there I noticed the short mowed grass on the verge dying from a recent dose of herbicide, and on my travels the roads from Kaiakohe to Mangawhai have been similarly treated. Knowing how wet the weather has been this year, that dose of poison, washed into our waterways has already killed the plankton food for all the fish that spawn in our harbours this spring, and I am predicting a very poor whitebait season.

Why is Robert Goodhue doing it?

I am standing not for personal ambition, but for future generations. I want my children, grandchildren, and yours to inherit a Northland and a planet where the seas are alive, the land is cared for, and the economy is built on fairness and sustainability. This is bigger than politics – it is about survival, stewardship, and common sense.

I am ready to bring my experience, my voice, and my determination to the council. I ask for your support to make this vision a reality. If you have any questions please email me, robtgoodhue@gmail.com

Vote Robert Goodhue for Northland Regional Council



"Chase the moments that light you up"

By Lisa Jones

An interview with Kirsty Halliday of Athletics NZ



Kirsty Halliday

• How did you first get involved in your sport?

I started in Athletics at school and found a love for running and jumping and loved the thrill of competition. This followed me into competing at club, regional and National level by the time I was 16 years old.

• What does playing [your sport] mean to you personally?

Athletics is such an individual sport which means you have to hold yourself accountable to do the hard mahi, be disciplined and show up. Through athletics I have not only found a sport I love but it has built such good attributes in me as a person.

• What has been your proudest moment so far?

A year ago I would have said breaking the Oceania record for my age in weight throw but a year on I can say it has definitely been the aftermath that I proudest of. It sparked a fire in me to find a way to develop these opportunities for our tamariki and rangatahi and since then I have been employed by Athletics NZ and helped establish five new athletics clubs in Northland and grown participation by 70%. This is my proudest moment.

• Have you won any awards or titles you're especially proud of?

2024 Sports Women of the year – Bream Bay

• What personal goals have you set for yourself this season?

Currently recovering from my second knee surgery this year so my main goal is to be able to make it back to competition level and compete without pain.

• What does a typical week of training look like for you?

When I'm in competition season/phase: gym 3x a week, pool 1x a week, track/field 3x a week, 5km run 2x a week. 1 rest day and Lots of food! Food is fuel!!

• What's the hardest part of your sport that people don't see?

How hard the setbacks effect you mentally. Coming back from injuries is the hardest part and requires not only physical strength but a truck load of mental strength and perseverance.

• How do you stay motivated during tough times or losses?

Set goals, small achievable ones that will keep you on track to your main goal and give yourself time to process, rest and recover.

• Have you ever had an injury or setback? How did you overcome it?

Lots. Over my sporting career I have had multiple injuries, some minor and some very serious. In the past 5 years I have had a fractured vertebra, herniated

discs, ruptured hamstring, complete tear of my glute medius (twice!) and a ruptured ACL and torn meniscus. Three of those required surgery but through all of those, each time I have come back mentally stronger, more focused and learnt something about myself. My advice would be; make sure you have a good support system for the hard days and focus on the end game: where do you want to be after this injury and how are you going to get there.

• **What would you say to young people thinking about joining [the sport]?**

Athletics has something to offer everyone. Give it ago and find something that you love! Our top Olympians didn't wake up one morning and throw their gold medal distance, they found the love and passion first then built on their talent and trained hard.

• **Do you have any pre-game rituals or lucky charms?**

I like to talk to God and ask for protection, courage and focus before a big competition.

• **What do you do to relax when you're not training or competing?**

Swimming at the beach, football with my kids!

• **Who is your biggest supporter in your family or circle?**

Oooow that's a hard one! They each have their special ways of supporting. My husband is always at my bigger competitions and helps calm my nerves.

• **What's something about you that people might be surprised to learn?**

Hmmm another hard one! I'm sponsored by Sony as a professional photographer. I worked on Mt Ruapehu as a lift operator for three seasons in my late teens and that's where I met my husband.

• **Where do you see yourself in five years with your sport?**

Thriving in my role with Athletics New Zealand, competing internationally and coaching the next national representatives.

• **Do you have any big competitions or goals coming up?**

Nationals in March 2026

• **How would you like to give back to your sport or community in the future?**

Always love coaching! - whether its football or athletics. Coaching is something I see myself doing well into the future.

• **What's your advice to young aspiring athletes**

Find a sport that makes you smile just thinking about it, something that fills you with pride and gives you a true sense of belonging. No matter where life takes you, the lessons and friendships you gain through sport can't be taken away. Chase the moments that light you up, stay open to learning, and remember that the journey itself is where you'll find your greatest strength.



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www.wdc.govt.nz/SilverFestival

A personal message from Marie...

Thank you to everyone who has already voted – and an extra thank you if you gave me your first preference!

I've really enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many people who share a positive vision for the future of our district. I am optimistic too. We can be a proud and prosperous community, but that requires focus, vision, and hard work.

I've given a lot of thought to what makes a good mayor and a good council. Sadly, the current council has been divided because seven councillors have pursued their own agendas. That has made it difficult for council to represent the wishes of our community.

My hope is that you will not only elect me as mayor, but also choose councillors who are prepared to work together – people willing to put their personal views and political ideologies aside.

Council's role should be simple: deliver the basics well so households receive efficient services at a reasonable cost, and create sensible regulations that allow those with energy and ambition to succeed. Too often, council just gets in the way. Councillors must set clear direction for the Chief Executive, and ensure measurable performance standards are in place. It's the CEO's job to achieve the targets we set.

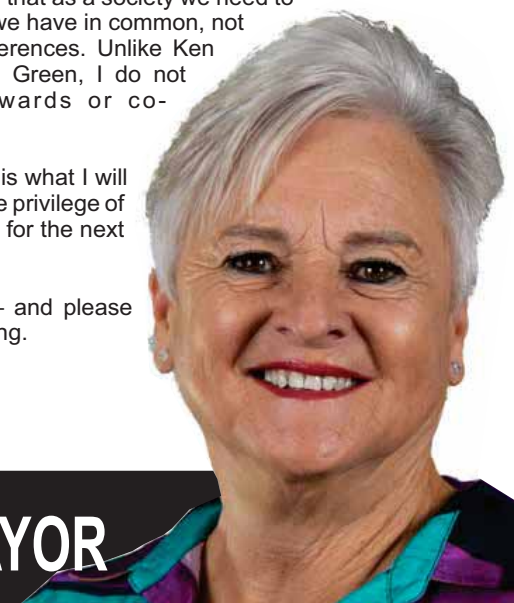
Throughout this campaign I've been clear about what I believe the public want from their council:

- An end to excessive rate increases.
- Equal and fair treatment for all.
- Openness and honesty in decision-making.
- A return to prioritising essential infrastructure.

I've also been clear that as a society we need to be united by what we have in common, not divided by our differences. Unlike Ken Couper and Fiona Green, I do not support Māori wards or co-governance.

That, in a nutshell, is what I will focus on if I have the privilege of leading this council for the next three years.

Thank you again – and please take care when voting.



MARIE OLSEN VOTE 1 FOR MAYOR

Authorised by Marie Olsen, marieformayor25@gmail.com

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Ken Orr 09 432 8215
Wayne Buckland 022 644 5376.

One Tree Point

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Sir John Goulter 021 612 442
MM Jolley 027 415 9486
Ian Bogue 0274 300 418
Grant Brown 027 248 7126
Sharon Carroll 0272653227

Waipu

Trevor Vaile 021335 075
Doug Scott 027 229 9752
Ken Couper 027 292 0524
Angela Stolwerk 021 823 966
Chris Martin 027 367 2947
Mary Abercrombie 021 598467

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

A new mural depicting Waipu scenery

Continued from page 1.



paddocks living their best lives. The stone wall background mimics the real stone facades around us at the museum and toilet block, giving our buildings a little more Scottish charm, while “off script” animals in the foreground bring our rural landscapes into an urban village.”

Emily Bushwell of the Vet Centre said at first it was hard to imagine how the Vet Centre, which is about farms and gumboots, could combine with a boutique food store but the artist had managed to do this.

She said the centre was happy to contribute to something, which will benefit the town and be enjoyed by the community.

Shann has a small art gallery in Mangawhai and is an artist and designer as well as a muralist and was able to come up with a design on his computer to show to Emily and Jennifer.

“It was a collaborative effort and I think we have come up with something everyone is happy with.”

He is hopeful to have the mural finished by Labour Weekend (25-27 October) but said this would be “weather dependent”

Bream Bay Learning Community holiday fun

The Bream Bay Learning Community is once again running free fun days for children in the September school holidays.

On Thursday 25 September from 10am to 1pm, there will be: face painting, kite making, angel wings decoration, three legged races, catch a fish competitions, a tug of war, origami, book giveaways, a jiu Jitsu display, free sausages (BYO drinks) at the Ruakākā Village Green, alongside the playground.

On Tuesday 30 September, weather permitting; children over the age of seven will be able to go for a ride in a truck or a classic car. Children over the age of ten will be able to go for a ride in a clas-

sic car to the Marsden Cove Marina and then go on a boat ride (perhaps even through the lock) down to North Port and back again. The pick up point is the Ruakākā Library from 9.30am

Parents or Grandparents are asked to make themselves available if needed to go on the boat with the children, as a ratio of one adult to three children is needed. This is also a free activity.

Sharon Booth of the BB Learning Community said, “We hope you will all be able to come along and enjoy a couple of hours of free fun and laughter. See you all there.”



Vince Cocurullo

VOTE 1 FOR MAYOR

votevince.co.nz

approved by Vince Cocurullo, 8/11/2014 AG 4th margin

A Real Vision for Whangarei

Who can grow, the most, the heaviest and the biggest potato?



Alana McCarthy of Waipu Hammer Hardware with one of the seed potatoes her shop is handing out to competitive potato growers

There were 36 entries in the Waipu Hammer Hardware potato growing competition as of last Wednesday 17 September.

The hardware store is handing out black plastic bags and seed potatoes to contestants who have until Saturday 6 December to see what they can do with these items. Prizes will be awarded: for the biggest potato produced, the most potatoes produced and the heaviest weight of all the potatoes grown in a single bag.

Potato growers can call in for their bags and seeds but if you want to be competitive you will need to get started ASAP.

WHAT'S ON IN BREAM BAY

- **WAIPU PRIMARY CALF CLUB** Saturday 18 October 9am - 2pm . Fund family day. All welcome
- **WAIPU ART IN MOTION (WAM)** Wearable Art and short video show, which will be held in the Waipu Coronation Hall on October 31 at 7pm as well as on 1 November at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets cost \$45 and are available from www.trybooking.com/nz. The show is a fundraiser for NEST The Northland Emergency Services Trust, which operates the Rescue Helicopter.
- **BREAM BAY MUSIC GROUP** First Monday of every month starting at 7pm At the new Rec Centre in Peter Snell Road, Ruakaka Contact Ross or Fulco on 0274 410 584
- **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS** Fridays 10.30 -12noon, Bream Bay Community Trust Hall, Takutai Place, Ruakākā
- **COMMUNITY BINGO** every last Wednesday each month (except December) Every one welcome. Raffles, restaurant and Bar open from 5 pm. Calling starts at 7.15 games and 2 jackpots open to the public. At the Waipu Citizens and Services Club
- **WAIPU MUSEUM** 36, The Centre, Waipu. Open seven days 10am- 4pm
- **THE KAURI MUSEUM.** . The Kauri Museum is open 9am-5pm every day

Waipu Rugby Squash Club presents

WAIPU TOUCH 2025

Thursday 16 October - Thursday 4 December
at the Caledonian Park, Waipu

JUNIOR MIXED TEAMS

- Year 1 – 3 grade
- Year 4 – 6 grade
- Year 7 – 8 grade
- 4pm – 6pm
- \$10.00 per school student per team

- 7-a-side (minimum of 2 females on field)
- 30 minute games
- Each team must provide a referee for their own game
- Each team must provide a Touch ball for their own game
- Children 8 years and under must be actively supervised by a caregiver 14 years of age and over

SENIOR MIXED TEAMS

- Social grade
- Open grade
- 6pm – 8pm
- \$200.00 per team
- 13+ year olds only

- 7-a-side (minimum of 2 females on field)
- 30 minute games
- Each team must provide a referee each week as per draw
- Each team must provide a Touch ball for their own game
- This is a fun, family friendly, social event.
- Alcohol is not permitted on the Caledonian Park (only upstairs in clubroom)

BISTRO AND BAR WILL BE OPEN

Register your team at waiputouch@gmail.com or 021 163 0237

BREAM BAY

link



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EFFECTIVE 1ST AUGUST 2025

Bream Bay - Whangārei

Bream Bay to Whangārei (Morning - AM)

THURSDAY ONLY

Depart Kaiwaka (Bus stop below St Paul's Church)	9:00
Mangawhai Village (Village Shops Bus Stop Outside Bennetts)	9:15
Mangawhai Heads (The Club)	9:20
Langs Beach (Corner of Wairahi and Cove Roads)	9:35
Waipu Cove (Opposite Beach Car park)	9:40
Waipu (Vet Centre Bus Stop)	9:50
Ruakākā (Peter Snell Road - opposite Takutai Place)	10:10
Arrive Whangārei (Rose Street Bus Terminus)	10:50

Whangārei to Bream Bay (Afternoon - PM)

THURSDAY ONLY

Depart Whangārei (Rose Street Bus Terminus)	3:00
Ruakākā (Peter Snell Road - opposite Takutai Place)	3:40
Waipu (Vet Centre Bus Stop)	4:00
Waipu Cove (Opposite Beach Car park)	4:10
Langs Beach (Corner of Wairahi and Cove Roads)	4:15
Mangawhai Heads (The Club)	4:30
Mangawhai Village (Village Shops Bus Stop Opposite Bennetts)	4:35
Arrive Kaiwaka (Bus stop below St Paul's Church)	4:50

Fares	ONE WAY	RETURN
Kaiwaka	\$7.50	\$11.00
Mangawhai	\$7.50	\$11.00
Mangawhai Heads	\$7.50	\$11.00
Langs Beach	\$7.50	\$11.00
Waipu Cove	\$6.50	\$9.00
Waipu	\$6.50	\$9.00
Ruakākā	\$5.50	\$8.00

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TO ADVERTISED TIMES

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

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

ALTERNATE STOPS

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

Bream Bay Link is operated with support from Northland Regional Council, NZTA and Leabourn to help Northland grow.

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Fri 26 Sept	10.20	2.5	10.27	2.4
Sat 27 Sept	10.57	2.4	11.05	2.3
Sun 28 Sept	~	~	12.37	2.4
Mon 29 Sept	12.45	2.2	1.22	2.3
Tue 30 Sept	1.30	2.2	2.12	2.2
Wed 1 Oct	2.21	2.2	3.08	2.2
Thu 2 Oct	3.18	2.1	4.08	2.2
Fri 3 Oct	4.20	2.2	5.06	2.3
Sat 4 Oct	5.22	2.2	6.01	2.4
Sun 5 Oct	6.22	2.3	6.52	2.5
Mon 6 Oct	7.17	2.5	7.41	2.7
Tue 7 Oct	8.09	2.6	8.29	2.7
Wed 8 Oct	8.59	2.7	9.17	2.8
Thu 9 Oct	9.48	2.8	10.06	2.8
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THE NEXT PUBLICATION DATE
of the Bream Bay News will be Thursday 9 October
The deadline for all copy is 4pm on
Wednesday 1 October

SOCIAL SERVICES

Safeman Safe family Men's Centre

Safeman Safe family offers a safe place for men to talk privately without judgement and with complete confidentiality.

We are peer led and professionally supported and offer a range of services and support for men and their families.

The services we provide are as follows:

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

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

BREAM BAY COMMUNITY SUPPORT TRUST

Takutai Place, Ruakaka Phone: 09 432 7197

Services we provide:

- Registered Social Workers
 - Family Support Workers
 - Youth Workers
 - Youth Holiday Programme
 - Counsellors
 - Community Connectors
- (Connecting community to various services)
- Free Whanau Ora Medical Clinic with Ki A Ora Ngatiwai. Fortnightly Wednesday mornings 10am-12noon, by appointment only phone 09 435 4586
 - Free Budgeting Service - fortnightly on Thursdays 10am-1pm, by appointment
 - Mana Wahine Ki Wahine Toa & Ha Tane groups
 - Community Gardens behind our main building please help yourself
 - Pataka Kai/ Food Pantry located outside our reception door.

Follow us on social media - Facebook and Instagram for updates on what is happening here during the week.

www.bbtrust.org.nz

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PUBLIC NOTICES



The Anglican Church of Bream Bay invites you to the annual

Blessing of Animals

Sunday, 5 October, 9:30 am
St Paul's Church, 25 Karawai St., Ruakākā
On the Feast of Francis of Assisi,
patron saint of animals and ecology

All people and animals (live and stuffed) are welcome!

(Animals must be on lead, or in cages or bowls.)

Our guest speaker is Brenda Leeuwenberg, a leader in the local response to the Bream Bay sandmining project

MARKETS

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Marsden Bay Garden Club

Monthly Meetings held
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– Sandford Rd
Contact – Secretary –
0210515581

NORTHPINE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

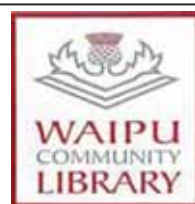
This committee meets periodically to review the environmental performance of the Northpine timber manufacturing plant in Waipu, in consultation with representatives of the local councils. Any Waipu resident with concerns about the environmental effects of the Northpine plant should notify the Northpine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

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Course venue: Learning Centre,
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BREAM BAY SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Presbyterian Camellia Ave, Ruakaka: 8.45am. The Centre, Waipu: 10.15am.

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

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

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

Lifepoint. 300 OTP Rd, 10am.

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WAI2848

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