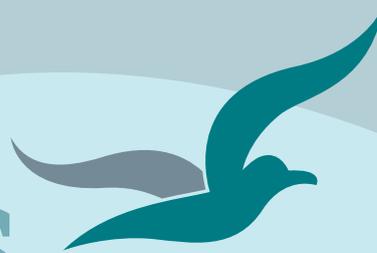


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Channel Infrastructure considering a diesel powered electricity generation plant at Marsden Point

Channel Infrastructure is investigating the viability of building a diesel powered electricity generation plant at Marsden Point.

The project would provide up to 72MW of electricity from fuel already stored at the import terminal and would only be used when back up is needed for New Zealand's electricity network.

Laura Malcolm, Channel Infrastructure communications manager said this project has yet to be confirmed as the company is still undertaking commercial evaluation. Channel Infrastructure is hoping to sign a long-term contract with a supply company. A message to its investors on the NZX website states, "The project will only proceed with a long-term contract."

Asked how a diesel powered electricity plant could be reconciled with the statement on the Channel Infrastructure website – "Channel Infrastructure is proudly part of the Northland community, and we are committed to operating a sustainable business that supports New Zealand's transition to a lower-carbon future."

Laura replied, "Firming or peaking capacity in the New Zealand electricity network is an enabler (and essential) to the construction of additional variable renewable energy generation, which is only possible if there is adequate generation capacity to fill the dark

Continued on page 6

A chance to train with some NRL stars



Manu Ma'u with aspiring young league players

Bream Bay's young league players were given an exciting opportunity last week : to train under the guidance of some NRL stars

Kenny Edwards and Manu Ma'u are part of the League Kings Academy which is based in Queensland, but runs rugby league training academies for children and young people in small and sometimes remote communities around Australia.

The academy was founded by Kenny and states on its website.

"At League Kings Academy, we believe in the holistic development of young athletes. We view rugby league not just as a sport, but as a vehicle for teaching life skills, resilience, and integrity."

Lisa Minhinnick said young Te Tai Tokerau players don't usually get these kind of opportunities. The camp ran for three days culminating in a game on Sunday 25 January between the under 10s and under 12 teams. Forty children took part.

The teams will represent Patuharakeke Maori Rugby League in a junior Maori Rugby League Tournament over Labour weekend.

The academy was organised by Patuharakeke Maori Rugby League with the support of the Patuharakeke Iwi Trust Board, the Takahiwai Rugby League Club and help from Bream Bay College in the form of the loan of some vans, and the Marsden Christian Camp which supplied accommodation.

More photos on on page 8



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EDITORIAL

Banning vehicles from the beach would solve a lot of problems

The weather has been very unpredictable lately. I rode my bicycle into Waipu yesterday. I thought I had managed to get there and back without getting wet but was hit by icy cold rain and wind that almost took me off the road as I was nearing home. This pattern has continued all this Sunday morning – one-minute nice warm sun and then, to catch us out, down comes the rain. I went out to the clothesline with a load of washing but just as I pegged up the last few items felt raindrops beginning to fall.

When I went in to the Waipu Anniversary Street and Park Market I was surprised to see how many people were there given the weather. As usual at these big markets all the car parks were full.

Along with members of the Waipu Residents and Ratepayers I met with Whangārei MP Dr. Shane Reti last Friday to explain how an off ramp from the proposed four lane expressway at The Braign would not be good for Waipu as it would channel traffic through its main street.

I told Doctor Reti, “Waipu just works. People flock here from all over whenever there is a market, a car show or a Christmas Parade.”

It’s an even more pleasant place on ordinary days when the crowd is a bit thinner. We have to preserve this special Waipu ambience.

Recently I overheard a woman come out of the public restrooms exclaiming to her waiting relatives how clean the facility was. I told her “This is Waipu where we take pride in our town.”

Earlier that morning I had been for a swim at Ruakākā Beach and made use of the lovely spacious changing room there built by the Whangārei District Council a few years ago. Some disgusting person had left a pile of KFC food scraps and packaging in the woman’s room. I picked the mess up and put it into a black plastic bag I keep in my car for situations like this. I know how long it took to get that facility and how hard Ruakākā people lobbied the Council for it. There are, of course, no rubbish bins at Ruakākā Beach so I had to bring all that greasy cardboard and chewed chicken bones home to dispose of in my worm farm.

How do you feel about people who camp in the Bream Bay sand dunes? I understand its lovely to go camping and there is a sense of freedom to be doing this in the wild. However Bream Bay is not the wilderness. The dunes are Department of Conservation reserves. We have plenty of campgrounds. Why do they need to park themselves and their ugly big four-wheel drive vehicles in what should be public space for all to enjoy? Then there is the rubbish many of them leave behind and the damage to the dune vegetation and structure. There needs to be better enforcement of this illegal practice.

The simplest thing would be to just ban all vehicles (with the exception of emergency service vehicles) from the beach. This would solve a lot of problems.

The Whangārei District Council is currently inviting people to give their thoughts on its “Control of Vehicles on Beaches Bi-law.” Council staff working on the review will be at Ruakākā Beach, just south of the Ruakākā Surf Lifesaving Club this Saturday 31 January from 10am to 3pm, to explain and to listen.

We got off pretty lightly here in Bream Bay during last week’s heavy rain. There was a bit of flooding but as far as I know no big slips. We haven’t been so lucky in the past so we can feel empathy for the people who live in the Oakura, Helena Bay areas where there have been slips blocking roads and homes flooded.

Nine people in total lost their lives as a result of this latest spell of wild weather. A few years ago after a big storm a vehicle got swept across the flooded bridge at the bottom of Shoemaker Rd. with the driver lucky to escape through a window and make it to the bank. I fully understand how you might find the road flooded but want to get home so you give it a try. After the tragic incident last week when a man was swept away in his vehicle and drowned while crossing a flooded road in Mahurangi, we need to remember how dangerous this can be.

I have a sister who lives in Tauranga and have often walked the tracks around Mount Maunganui and sat in the hot pools at its base so I feel a bit shaken by what has happened there. “The Mount”, as Bay of Plenty people often refer to it, has cafes, restaurants, a beautiful beach, hot pools and its crowning glory - the mountain. It always seemed a vibrant, prosperous and happy, holiday place but now this terrible tragedy.

Marilyn

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Waipu Ratepayer representatives ask Whangārei MP Shane Reti for a rethink on the Four Lane Expressway through Bream Bay

Doctor Shane Reti, Whangārei's Member of Parliament met with members of the Waipu Resident and Ratepayers Association on Friday 23 January to hear their concerns about the proposal to site the interchange from the planned four lane highway at the Braigh.

Neigh McLeod said in the 1980s a bypass was built to move State Highway One away from Waipu and a bypass channeling traffic through the main street of the town would be a step backwards.

Graham Boulton told Doctor Reti how in 2021 when NZTA had proposed a roundabout at the Braigh intersection members of Promote Waipu and the Waipu Residents and Ratepayers Association had managed to persuade the agency that the Nova Scotia Drive intersection was a better location as traffic on route to Whangarei from the south east would bypass the town. A count taken on 18 March 2021 of traffic travelling through the Nova Scotia Rd. intersection recorded 2766 traffic movements. Looking at traffic counts through Waipu and entering the town from other intersections it was concluded that closing off the Nova Scotia Drive intersection in favour of one on the Braigh would result in 2,000 more vehicles driving through The Centre, Waipu each day greatly increasing congestion there.

Negotiations were underway to purchase land for a roundabout at the Nova Scotia intersection when there was a change of Government and the four lane expressway became the priority.

Dr Reti asked where an alternative site for the interchange could be.

Richard Cole, WRRRA Chairman, asked why there needed to be a four lane expressway through Bream Bay at all. He said many people felt that an upgrade of the current highway is all that is needed.

Dr. Reti said successive Whangarei District Council's have all emphasised the need for the four lane highway. Mr. McLeod said he had served on the Council and was aware how Councillors are happy to ask for things that they themselves don't have to pay for.

Following on from the roundabout meeting Doctor Reti and the Waipu Ratepayer members visited the home of Linda Bryham and heard from Linda, her brother Gordon and sister Heather how the farm, which has been in their family for 60 years would be taken for



Pointing out to Doctor Shane Reti (on the left in the photo) how the proposed interchange from the expressway at The Braigh would channel traffic through the main street of Waipu are Neil McLeod, Graham Boulton and Richard Cole (the Waipu Residents and Ratepayers President).

the proposed expressway. Linda said the family had expected that at some stage more of its farm would be needed to widen State Highway One but they never expected the whole farm would be taken.

Gordon echoed Mr. Cole's view that State Highway One through Bream Bay was one of the best roads in Northland and, while it needed some upgrades, perhaps a few more passing lanes and some resurfacing in places, an entirely new road is unnecessary.

Dr. Reti said the consenting process for the new road over the Brynderwyn Hill would begin early this year

but there is ongoing discussion as to whether that section of the expressway would go as far as Finlayson Brooks Rd. where it would cross over the current State Highway One or if it would go all the way into Waipu. Everyone agreed that an upgrade of the road over the Brynderwyn Hill is needed but the Bryham family members along with members of the Waipu Resident and Ratepayers said they thought the expressway should be built to the base of the hill and then halted for a rethink.

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Update from Whangārei mayor
 + community groups, followed by a Q&A.

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 COMMUNITY
 MEETING**

Monday 2 February @ 7pm
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GUEST SPEAKER:
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 What they do, what their plans are, and how you can help.

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LETTERS

Report to Transport Minister says the benefit-to-cost ratio for Roads of National Significance is “medium to low.”

The release of the August report from the Ministry of Transport to Chris Bishop about proposed land transport projects highlights that it is very much an expensive ‘Wish List’ from this Government. Bishop acknowledged that the Roads of National Significance (RONS) were expensive. He also noted that “not everyone is going to get exactly what they want, exactly when they want it” and “some roads won’t be starting for many years”.

The Ministry stated “the benefit-to-cost ratio for the RONS were “medium to low.” One would therefore question why the proposed expressway in the hills above Waipu is being examined now when it could be 20 years before anything happens. Meanwhile the lives of people in the hills are being upset by receiving letters from NZTA about their land and houses perhaps being required for a possible road. There is only one area that needs to be fixed immediately and that is the weak spot in the road between Te Hana and Whangārei, The Bryderwyns. A new road (apparently already planned) around this weak spot could be built now!

The next area to be fixed can be the previously agreed - the Roundabout at Nova Scotia Drive and SH1. Over the next few years SH1 to Whangārei can have areas widened and the surface fixed (but not with stone chips) to facilitate the journey to Whangārei. We do not need an expressway as defining a road as an expressway limits the number of access points onto it.

I note that there is no reference by Minister Bishop about rail transport. Yet this is land transport and should be used to take large loads to and from Auckland rather than use the interminable lumbering trucks.

We need a plan now and not have this threat of a possible road ruining people’s lives and the environment.

Richard Cole
 Waipu

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
 ARE VERY WELCOME.**

Email them to: breambaynews@xtra.co.nz.
 or drop them off at either the Waipu or Ruakāka Lotto shops

The next issue of the Bream Bay new will be published on
Thursday 12 February.
 Deadline for letters is 5pm on Friday 6 February

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Scores of people illegally camping in the Bream Bay dunes this summer

Scores of people have been illegally camping in the Bream Bay dunes this summer.

David Lourie, who voluntarily looks after the northern side of the Waipu estuary on behalf of the Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust, counted 24 on one morning on 5 January but four-wheel drive vehicles with people sleeping in them or with tents pitched alongside have been present almost every morning when he goes across to the estuary.

David reports toilet paper strewn through the dunes, rubbish left behind and back



dune vegetation such as manuka and kanuka being cut down to use as firewood.

Campers have also been spotted further north just a few hundred metres from the Uretiti campground and in the dunes just north of the NIWA plant at Ruakākā. One campsite in the NIWA proximity consisted of around six vehicle. In another at the same location there were two vehicles camped overnight. Ironically some large pine logs placed there by the Department of Conservation to prevent vehicle access were cut up and used as firewood.

As there is always rubbish at this location it is difficult to say if this was added to by the illegal campers.

Bream Bay Coastal Care members have been taking photographs reporting the campers to relevant authorities but it has been difficult to get effective action. The Northland Regional Council regulates the beach below the mean high water mark but the toe of the dunes and in the dunes where the campers usually set up for the night is the domain of the Department of Conservation. The Bream Bay news has asked DOC for comment on this situation.

A chance to hear Mayor Ken Couper present his vision for The District

A community meeting to be held in Waipu on 2 February has two main aims says chief organizer Graham Boulton:

- To create a format for our new Mayor to talk about his vision for the next three years and in particular matters relating to Waipu. We have allocated 10 minutes for question time after Mayor Couper's Speech. To ensure the meeting covers a variety of subjects. We will only allow one question on a subject.
- The second part of the meeting is to allow Community groups a two to three minute presentation to advise

who they are, and what they do, and how members of the community can become involved.

The meeting is jointly sponsored by Promote Waipu and the Waipu Residents and Ratepayers Association and will be held in the Waipu Presbyterian Church Hall from 7pm.

Supper will be served following the speakers giving participants a chance to network. Graham said, "The aim is to try and foster better community group interaction and communication."

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Channel Infrastructure considering a diesel powered electricity generation plant at Marsden Point

Continued from page 1

lulls. Our proposed diesel peaker would therefore support the significant expansion of renewable electricity generation projects currently underway across New Zealand by providing fast-start firming during long-duration cold, dry and windless periods, thereby moving New Zealand closer to its goal of abundant and affordable renewable electricity supply. Currently, firming or peaking in New Zealand is provided by the coal-fired Huntly power station.”

Asked why there is nothing about this project on the Channel Infrastructure website she said, “As this project is but one, of many, under active consideration as part of the Marsden Point Energy Precinct, there isn’t a huge focus on it on our website while we are still in the investigation phase. Should we move forward with this, in partnership with an electricity market participant, then of course that would change.”

Asked to comment on this Climate Action Tai Tokerau said it recognises the need for firming capacity in a renewables-dominant electricity system, particularly during extended

dry, cold, and low-wind periods.

“However, proposing new diesel-fuelled generation at Marsden Point, adjacent to a major battery installation intended to reduce reliance on fossil peakers, raises serious questions about long-term alignment with Aotearoa New Zealand’s climate commitments and the region’s transition pathway.

“ While Channel Infrastructure operates within the fossil fuel economy, social licence increasingly depends on demonstrable efforts to reduce emissions and avoid locking in new high-carbon infrastructure. Alternatives such as expanded battery storage, demand response, grid-scale renewables, and lower-emissions firming technologies should be prioritised before resorting to diesel generation that risks perpetuating dependence on fossil fuels at a time when cleaner options are rapidly advancing.

“While we recognise the need for pragmatic decisions we also encourage Channel Infrastructure to make strategic decisions that are more climate friendly”.

Join us at Ruakākā and have your say on Council’s Control of Vehicles on Beaches Bylaw!



We’ll be on site with representatives from key agencies and local hapū chatting to people about safe driving on beaches and we want to hear what you think..

Where: Ruakākā Beach, just south of the surf lifesaving club
When: 10am-3pm, Saturday 31 January 2026

The bylaw is designed to keep people safe and reduce nuisance by managing how vehicles are used on beaches across the Whangārei District.

Currently, Council bans vehicles in these areas:

- Ruakākā Beach immediately north and south of the Ruakākā river mouth
- The western side of Langs Beach
- All dunes under Council’s control

You can also let us know what you think by visiting www.wdc.govt.nz/Have-your-say. Submissions close on 15 February 2026.



Have your say on the Whangārei District Council’s Control of Vehicles on Beaches bi-law

Just before Christmas the Whangārei District Council opened a submission process for its Control of Vehicles on Beaches bylaw.

The review is a statutory process that happens every ten years. The last review was undertaken in 2016.

The by law and the review is for any beach within the Whangārei District. Councillor Dave Baldwin said the Council wants to hear opinions from as many people as possible on any issue that concern them.

” This can include possible new access points or areas for boat launching, disabled access etc. It might also include changes to existing access points, car parking etc. Council will be interested in ideas on how to better control problem areas.”

Councillor Baldwin said, “ It is very important that you indicate whether you wish to be kept informed of the process after submissions close. This may include the ability to make a verbal submission to council if and when Council decides this may be necessary.”

He explained, “Once all submissions have been received they will be collated and analysed by council staff. A full report and workshop will follow where recommendations from staff will be presented to elected members.”

Information on making a submission can be found on the Whangārei District Council website. Google - Whangārei District Council. Control of Vehicles on Beaches bylaw review.

Councillor Baldwin said people should be aware that the Northland Regional Council and the Department of Conservation also control areas of the beach.

The Northland Regional Council has a ban on vehicles driving within a kilometre of the northern edge of the Waipu Estuary and the Department of Conservation restricts vehicles from driving above mean high water mark and in the dunes.

Council staff, along with members of local hapu and representatives of the other relevant agencies will be at Ruakākā Beach south of the surf lifesaving club this Saturday 31 January from 10am to 3pm to talk to people about the review.

The close off date for submissions is Sunday 15 February.

Will Waipu get its requested roundabout ?

As a result of the Waipu Resident and Ratepayer Association presentation, a 1300 signature petition and video shown at the November meeting of the Whangārei District Council Council staff are investigating options for a short-term, low-cost temporary roundabout.

Quoting from the Council meeting minutes, “This will include cost to deliver, assessment of the benefit and risks, relative importance of this request compared to similar requests and what the long-term solution should be.”

Ross Boyd of the Waipu R and R group said, “While this is a positive step forward, the situation will not go away, and with the current rates of traffic movement, a solution will become more necessary. After all it’s road safety.”

Will Waipu Cove be named best beach again this year?

Waipu Cove is in the running once again to be named New Zealand’s best beach. The beach is a finalist in three categories: Best Family Beach, Best Camping Beach and Best Surf Beach.

Last year Waipu Cove won the Best Family and Best Camping Beach spots and was voted the second Best Surf Beach behind Raglan and won the overall title as the best beach in the country.

The competition winners are decided as the result of an online voting run by New Zealand Herald Travel magazine.

Voting in this year’s survey closed last Sunday, 25 January.

Components for Dargaville wind farm arrive at Northport



Giant components for a Mercury Energy wind farm to be built near Dargaville arrived at Northport earlier this month on board the cargo ship. BBC Rhine

Components to be used in the construction of a wind farm near Dargaville have started arriving at Northport. The first shipment arrived on Friday last week (9 January) from the port of Taicang in China, aboard the general cargo ship BBC Rhine. It comprised 55 tower sections weighing about 100 tonnes each, and ancillary equipment.

Other components are set to arrive towards the middle of this month (January 2026) and in the first week of February.

Mercury Energy plans to start transporting the equipment to the wind farm project site in February. The kaiwaikare wind farm will be built 12km north-west of Dargaville and 3km inland from the Tasman Sea, on a site that will best harness the power from the wind currents around Northland's west coast.

Mercury announced its intention to build the wind farm in December 2024. First electricity generation from the site is planned for mid-2026, reaching full generation by the end of the year.

The wind farm will connect to Northpower's substation near Dargaville, and then on to the national grid at Maungatapere. It will have 12 turbines; seven in the northern cluster of the development and five turbines in the southern cluster. These will be the largest and tallest wind turbines in New Zealand.

"Ports don't drive economic growth in their own right but they do facilitate it," said Northport's commercial manager, David Finchett.

"This project is a classic example of that. Northland has huge potential to become an energy exporter and Northport is pleased to be helping with the logistics

of getting the Kaiwaikawe wind farm up and running quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively."

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A chance to train with some NRL stars



Above: Lisa Minhinnick with Grace McLean relives her glory days playing league for Takahiwai and Whangārei when she captained both the Takahiwai and Tai Tokerau women's teams. Lisa said it was great to have the NRL stars running the training camp at Takahiwai as local children don't often get these opportunities.

Left: Kenny Edwards, National Rugby League player and founder of the League Kings Academy poses with eight-year-old Taumauri Carrington,.

Crowds at the Waipu Anniversary Weekend market despite the weather



Waipu Menzshed members took the opportunity to display and sell some of the items they have made. Alongside their standard rat trap boxes there were chicken nesting boxes, sections of trellis, a garden stool, a potting bench.

The Menzshed now has a thriving women's group and members joked the name on their sign needed to be changed.

A new Menzshed building is under construction at the back of the Saorsa Car Park. Although the occasional blustery shower blew through the Caledonian Park there was the usual large crowd of shoppers and rows of stalls and parking space hard to find in the town.



Levi Costello busked at the main gate into the Caledonian Park to raise money for his trip to Japan in September with the Bream Bay College exchange visit to Hagasashi High School in Osaka.

Official opening for the One Tree Point Bowling Club’s new artificial green “At least 15 years of fun” ahead for bowlers

It’s been in use since September but the new artificial green at the One Tree Point Bowling Club had its official opening on Thursday morning 22 January.

Mayor Ken Couper was there as were representatives of Patuharakeke with Len Namara leading people in a circle around the green as he conducted a blessing. Pastor Simon Currie of the Lifepoint Church in One Tree Point, the President of Northland Bowls Leigh Ogier and veteran bowler and club benefactor Ted Sloane as well as representatives from bowling clubs around Northland.

Simon Currie said the One Tree Point Bowling Club had been in existence for around 60 years and is an important community hub where many friendships are made.

Club President John Wade told those gathered the club now had 55 members and the new green would provide “at least 15 years of fun.”

He said after the old green had been severely damaged in Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023 a decision was made at the AGM later the same year to build a new one.

He welcomed the President of Bowls Northland Leigh Ogier and representative of various Northland clubs – saying that there is “a strong bowls community” in the region.

Club member Ted Sloane who had made a substantial donation towards the project said he had played bowls for upwards of 30 years, to begin with in Waipu and now at One Tree Point. He had been diagnosed with cancer and playing bowls had really helped him get through this.

Mayor Ken Couper said it was appropriate the Whangarei District Council should be represented at the opening ceremony as it had given the club a \$100,000 grant and then an \$80,000 interest free loan towards this project. He said the club with its new green would be an important asset for One Tree Point community for many years to come. He commented that the new turf made the club more resilient.

When it came time to cut the official ribbon he passed the scissors over to Mr. Sloane.

As if to prove Mr. Wade’s words once the formalities were over bowlers wasted no time picking up their bowls and getting out onto the green. Players from Waipu, Mamaranui, Arapohue, Mangawhai, Whangārei, Kamo and Maungakaramea all wearing their club uniforms on the new green made for a colourful picture.

Prior to the ceremony the Club’s Vice President Graham Tregidga pointed out to the Bream Bay News reporter that despite heavy overnight rain the new turf had extensive drainage underneath and remained in perfect condition. The green was installed by Tiger Turf and cost \$368,000.



Len Namara of Patuharakeke conducts a blessing ceremony while club members and visitors circle the new bowling green.



Present at the official opening of the new green were from left: Ken Namara of Patuharakeke, President of Bowls Northland Leigh Ogier, President of the One Tree Point Bowling Club John Wade, Whangārei’s Mayor Ken Couper, Pastor of the Lifepoint Church at One Tree Point Simon Currie and club benefactor and long time bowler Ted Sloane.



Ted Sloane cuts the ribbon to declare the green officially opened. He is assisted by Mayor Ken Couper and watching the proceeding is John Wade, President of the One Tree Point Bowling Club

Waipu Volunteer Fire Brigade needs you !

Waipu Volunteer Fire Brigade is looking for guys and gals to join our close-knit team who are passionate about helping their community in a time of need.

Being a Firefighter is an amazing way to give back to your community and be part of an amazing supportive team at the same time.

For more information pop on down to the station on a Monday night from 7:30 to have a chat with our team or send us a message on our Facebook page.

MARSDEN POINT HIGH TIDES

	AM		PM	
Thu 29 Jan	4.33	2.4	4.51	2.5
Fri 30 Jan	5.41	2.5	5.58	2.5
Sat 31 Jan	6.45	2.6	7.03	2.5
Sun 1 Feb	7.44	2.7	8.04	2.6
Mon 2 Feb	8.39	2.7	9/00	2.5
Tue 3 Feb	9.29	2.8	9.51	2.7
Wed 4 Feb	10.17	2.8	10.39	2.7
Thu 5 Feb	11.02	2.8	11.25	2.6
Fri 6 Feb	11.45	2.7	~	~
Sat 7 Feb	12.08	2.6	12.26	2.6
Sun 8 Feb	12.52	2.5	1.07	2.5
Mon 9 Feb	1.36	2.4	1.48	2.4
Tue 10 Feb	2.23	2.3	2.32	2.3
Wed 11 Feb	3.15	2.3	3.20	2.2
Thu 12 Feb	4.13	2.2	4.15	2.2
Fri 13 Feb	5.14	2.2	5.14	2.2

MAINLY MUSIC

Mainly Music is on each Wednesday at 10.00am in the Waipu Presbyterian Church Hall All welcome Contact Sharon Smith 027 551 1514

TOY LIBRARY

In the Waipu Presbyterian Church Hall. All families and Grandparents welcome. Wednesdays after Mainly Music 11am to 1pm. Contact Lynnette 432 0441 & Julie 432 0388 or 021 072 6710



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THE NEXT PUBLICATION DATE

of the Bream Bay News will be Thursday 12 February The deadline for all copy is 4pm on Wednesday 4 February

Is Artificial Intelligence a colossal waste of energy? A call for public scrutiny

By Lydia Draper

As humans touch every corner of the physical world, we take the online world with us. For better or for worse, the online world has become embedded in our lives. So much so that we cannot simply switch it off. You could say the ‘singularity’, a term coined in the 1960s which refers to the ‘hypothetical event in which technological growth accelerates beyond human control, producing unpredictable changes in human civilization’ has become a reality.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has fast become synonymous with the online world. AI refers to software able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making and translation between languages. In May 2024, AI Overviews became a feature on Google searches in the United States. The Overviews feature provides summaries of information to speed up the communication of data. In one year, AI Overviews was rolled out to over 200 countries and territories (without consent from individual users). The decision to roll out the Overviews feature was made by Google – a company with a net profit of \$307.39 billion – yet if you dig a little deeper, it has ramifications that affect all of us. But why should we care about what is happening in the online world? Isn't it just floating in a ‘cloud’ somewhere, conveniently storing all of our photos, data and digital memories as we make them? Sadly, no. The term ‘cloud’ is misleading. Every little bitty piece of data on the internet has to be stored in a physical location somewhere; it doesn't just float in a cloud above our heads. Data is stored in data centres all over the world. We have 57 data centres currently operating in Aotearoa New Zealand, 28 of which are located in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) with more in the pipeline. Whangārei has one data centre located on Bank Street. Data centres are state-of-the-art buildings, built to store terabytes of data and keep it safe from environmental events such as earthquakes and security threats. They can be bombproof, bulletproof and hopefully hacker-proof. With all of the security and high-tech materials necessary for it to function, it's easy to see why the average price of a data centre can range anywhere from tens to hundreds of millions.

All this technology puts data centres high on the list of power guzzlers. Large-scale AI data centres consume between 50 and 300 megawatts (MW) of electricity continuously. According to Statista website: ‘Newly constructed hyperscale data centers require power capacities of at least 100MW, which amounts to an annual electricity consumption equivalent to that of more than 400,000 electric vehicles.’ Statista goes on to state that: ‘AI applications are significantly more energy-intensive than traditional online services such as Google search, with ChatGPT queries needing almost 10 times the amount of processing power to run.’ This processing power has to be sourced from somewhere, and the demand for it is only increasing, expected to grow by 30–50% annually as AI technologies become more integrated into our everyday life.

From a local perspective, Te Ākau (Bream Bay) has its own energy source on the horizon. Construction of a Ruakākā Energy Park is underway, with phase one already complete: a battery energy storage system enabling a maximum output of 100MW. With a battery storage capacity of 200MWh, that's enough to power around 60,000 average households during winter, sustaining them for two hours.

The second phase of the Ruakākā Energy Park project will see Meridian Energy constructing its first grid-scale solar farm in Aotearoa. The \$227m investment will cover about 163ha and produce up to 230GWh of energy per year from about 250,000 solar panels, enough to power over half of Northland's homes in an average year. Meridian Energy plans to create a new 5ha wetland, enhance 4ha of existing wetland, and undertake 22ha of restoration planting as part of the development.

From an environmental perspective, there is also what the solar panels are made of to consider. Glass makes up almost 80% of a typical monocrystalline solar panel. Glass which is made from a finite, non-renewable resource that we often take for granted: sand. But not just ordinary sand; the sand used for producing solar panels must be solar-grade silica sand. This is quartz sand that is specifically processed, distinguished by its exceptional purity, with minimal iron and aluminum oxides (which can affect the quality of solar cells). Silica sand is obtained through mining at certain locations around the world, including Southland (Aotearoa), which hosts some of the world's highest grade alluvial silica deposits.

No matter which way you look at it, AI is environmentally dubious. But not all hope is lost. If you want to green-up your searches on the internet, there are AI-free alternatives out there. Ecosia, a search engine that plants trees and sinks 100% of its profits into the planet, offers the option of switching off AI. Since launching in 2009, Ecosia has planted 244,167,786 trees and dedicated €97,631,190 to climate action. I used Ecosia instead of Google to research this article with zero help from AI. I have been using Ecosia for over ten years and can attest to it being every bit as good as Google. Here is a link: <https://www.ecosia.org/> With AI hurtling through the online world at breakneck speed, we need to get savvy with how we use it. If used strategically, AI could be beneficial to society (its ability to swiftly analyse huge sets of data, for example). The problem is that considering its colossal impact on the environment and its huge demand for energy, if no measures are put in place, we may be forced to power AI searches using counter-productive methods, such as burning fossil fuels.

Writing this article took 1.5 charges of my MacBook Pro (purchased secondhand in early 2015) and six hours of research using Ecosia.

Phone the BREAM BAY NEWS 027 432 0070 or email:breambaynews@xtra.co.nz

if you know of something interesting going on in Bream Bay

January rainfall more than double that of January 2025

We got off lightly compared with the north eastern communities of Whangarei District and other parts of the North Island of New Zealand where there were floods and land slips with some tragic consequences but we did get a lot of rain last week.

Malcolm Sandford of Waipu, who keeps daily rainfall records, measured a total of 240mls in his gauge for January 2026 to Monday 26. Most of this (214mls) falling in the previous week, from January 18 to January 25.

The January 2026 total is already more than double what he recorded for January 2025 - 112mls and more than three times the rainfall of January 2024, which was just 75mls.

It was nowhere near, however, the January 2023 total, which was 408mls.

The rain is helping to promote good pasture growth for farmers. Malcolm said that looking out his window at some paddocks, which were mown for silage, a few weeks ago, the grass is greening up already.

“For farmers any rain from the end of September to the beginning of April is good rain”, Malcolm said although he agreed that the extreme wet weather over the summer of 2022/2023 was a bit too much.

So far this year the rainfall has been useful though as can be witnessed by the many healthy fields of tall, green maize.



Flooding on the Waipu river flats on Wednesday 21 January receded by the next morning

WAIPU TENNIS CLUB REPORT

By Paul Ramsay

Tennis has really been to the fore over January with the ASB Classic (Women and Men) and the Australian Open filling our TV screens. I saw some of the Men's tennis first hand and it really is time we had a decent stadium with a roof on so players can have a continuous game and spectators don't have to run for shelter when it rains or sizzle up in the heat when the sun is out!

Waipu Tennis has started but will be in full swing over February with lots happening.

Our Tuesday night social tennis has already started and will continue at 6.30pm each week. This night is a great time for new people who have played before to join as matches are put together on the night. Junior and Intermediate tennis start after school on Tuesday nights as well so make sure you get along and take advantage of professional coaching.

February sees the start of Interclub. Our A grade team Waipu Raiders will be keen to maintain their lead. Waipu Black are leading the B grade so they too will want to continue their winning streak. Waipu Yellow have just learnt how to win and will be keen for more victories.

Thursdays see the start of the Sawmill competition on February 12. Teams are made up and there is always fierce competition for the \$500 of Sawmill sponsorship where the winner takes all. Contact Sean if you are keen as there may be a few spaces in teams left.

A new initiative is the Friday Family Fun tennis over the month of February. This starts from 4.30 pm onwards and is a chance for the whole family to come down and enjoy a night at tennis. If it proves popular we aim to keep it going into March.

Club Champs will be part of our programme in this half of the season so sort your partner for the doubles and combines and be ready to enter.

Tournaments are in full swing with our "One Set Wonder" on Saturday 21 February. Entries for this should be in by 19 February. All abilities are catered for. The Janet Agnew Tennis Carnival is on 14/15 February for keen players. On 28 February is the Salmon Memorial Combines tournament out at Springfield.

As part of the "Bream Bay Have A Go" sports promotion the club will be running a morning on 28 March from 9-12 for anyone interested in tennis. Put this date in your calendar.

Of course the Davis Cup round between New Zealand versus Bosnia and Herzegovina is on the 7/8 February. Davis Cup is the World Cup of tennis and this is a rare chance to see some high calibre players at the McKay Stadium in Whangarei. You can have a day at the tennis for around \$15

Remember to check our Facebook page for what is going on at the club and watch for featured committee members.



Justices of the Peace

Ruakākā

Paea Paki	021 149 1625
Darrell Trigg	09 432 7256/021 332 901
Ken Orr	09 432 8215
Wayne Buckland	022 644 5376.

One Tree Point

Jules Flight	0274 777 210
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 your documents completed. A service desk also operates 10am to 11am on Saturdays in the Ruakākā Library.

Learn to Sail Week at the Marsden Yacht and Boat Club

By Grant Crombie

Ten Junior sailors took part in Yachting New Zealand's Learn to Sail Week, at the Marsden Yacht and Boat Club.

The course is comprised of sailing and seamanship including knots, water safety and boat parts and functions.

Monday 5 January started out with light winds, ideal for junior sailors, with the wind increasing as the week progressed.

As the winds increased through the week so did the boat handling skills of the sailors and by Friday, the last day, the sailing was fast and furious, but handled well by the sailors.

All the participants passed the course and received their certificates.

Thanks to the assistance of parents and coaches everyone had a great time.

With their certificates from left to right are: Skylar Escondo, Alec Uy, Maverick Newman, Cate Field, Meghan Field, Rowan Rosandich, Finn Rosandich, Neo Sherwin, Alayna Bell and Avalyn Bell. Also in the photograph are Holly Paterson (coach) and David Field (Parent Super Helper).



Bream Bay

HAVE A GO SPORTS FESTIVAL

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February <small>(see over for more events)</small>		
WED	EVERY SAT	MON
<p>Bream Bay Basketball 4</p> <p>Fun basketball games. Trial / register for the new Term 1 Kaipara Basketball comp. Sign up for Term 2 and 3 school comp. Years 5-9. 3.30pm – 5.30pm Wendy Rowsell 021 039 9555 Bream Bay College Gymnasium, entry through Marsden Point Rd by bridge</p>	<p>Waipu Run Club</p> <p>All ages, all paces. Walk, run or bike. Paws and pram friendly. Every Saturday in Feb & March 8.00am Grace 021 080 09977 Waipu Cove grass reserve</p>	<p>Athletics Bream Bay 9</p> <p>Give it a go for Rangatahi. Sprints, shot put, high jump and long jump. Ages from 10 - 18 years old. 3.45pm – 5.00pm Kirsty Halliday 022 011 4916 Bream Bay College fields</p>
WED	THUR	THUR
<p>Bream Bay Cricket Club 11</p> <p>Cricket skills and games for kids aged 5 - 10 years old. 4.30pm – 5.30pm Dean Gillingham 021 191 5769 Bream Bay College fields</p>	<p>Hold Down Brazilian Jiu Jitsu 12</p> <p>Classes covering the fundamentals and basic movements of jiu jitsu, using games and drills. Ages 4-7 3.30pm Ages 8-13 4.15pm Tom Alderton 021 104 9231 3 Princes St, Ruakākā</p>	<p>Bream Bay Hockey Club 12</p> <p>All ages welcome. Basic hockey skills. Dribbling, passing and small games. 5.30pm – 7.00pm Kathy McCully 021 046 4096 Bream Bay College turf, entry through Marsden Point Rd by bridge</p>
SAT	SUN	MON
<p>Waipu Croquet Club 14</p> <p>Introduction to croquet for adults, led by club members, followed by a game. Mallets provided. Wear casual clothes and flat shoes. from 9.00am Kerry Godkin 021 170 7211 Croquet Green at Caledonian Park, off St Marys Rd</p>	<p>One Tree Point Bowling Club 15</p> <p>All welcome, including new bowlers. Learn the basics, enjoy a few fun games. Bowls provided. Wear flat sole shoes. 1.00pm – 3.00pm Liz Tregidga 027 435 9421 35 Pyle Rd West, One Tree Point</p>	<p>Waipu Squash Club 16</p> <p>Ladies squash night. No experience needed. Racquets and balls can be provided. from 6.00pm Nikki Mrsich 027 663 6703 Waipu Rugby Squash Club, 9 St Marys Rd</p>

Supported by

What's next for Denika Clooney who has just returned from competing at the World Cross Country Championships in Florida?

Young cross country runner Denika Clooney of Waipu has returned from the World Cross Country championships held at the Apalachee Regional Park in Tallahassee, Florida in the United States.^{[1][12]}

Denika, who is 17 years old, was the second finisher of four New Zealanders to compete in the under 20 women's race. She ran the six kilometre course in 22.51 minutes and placed 55th out of the world class field of 66.

We asked her how she felt about her race.

She said, "The World Cross Country Championships was really cool! But definitely a very challenging race.

"To begin with I was a little disappointed with my placing in the race, as I went into it with different expectations, but after some reflection I'm actually very pleased with the effort I put into it.

She continued, "The event was definitely a learning experience for me, considering that I was part of a team environment, with athletes who were at different stages in their running career, and then also, regarding the actual competition, I was racing with top tier athletes from around the world, and so I learned what it's like to be part of such a big field of incredibly talented athletes both ahead of me and behind me.

She is grateful for donations she received from the community to help get her to Florida.

"This experience wouldn't have been possible for me if it weren't for the incredible support I received from local organizations, individuals, and friends and family. What are the next races in Denika's sights?

"Now that I'm done with focusing on World XC, I will be moving on to the summer series for track season. The next couple weekends, I have some mile races, and moving forward, I will have some other track races with 1500m, 3000m, and 5000m, before moving onto Cross Country season again in May."





Bream Bay

HAVE A GO SPORTS FESTIVAL

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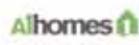
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Feb	TUES/THURS	Feb	SAT	CONTACT FOR DETAILS
	Zampitas Zumba 17/19 A fun Zumba® session with easy to follow dance routines, uplifting music. No experience needed. Suitable for ages 16 and over. 5.30pm – 6.30pm Milena & Roxanna 027 483 3405 Waipu Primary School hall, 6 Argyle St		Waipu Bowling Club 21 Introduction to bowls and games. Gear supplied. Flat soled shoes required. All non bowlers welcome. Ages from 16 - 85 year olds. 10.00am – 12 noon Shelley Morison 021 115 0726 Waipu Bowling Club, 4A South Rd	To Kauika o Patuharakeke Waka Ama Inc Have a go at waka ama. Toilet facilities available. Coffee cart will be there. Ages 5 - 20 years old. 1st or 2nd weekend in March Hollie Kereopa, 021 082 66998 Beach at Ralph Trimmer Dr, Maraden Pt
March				
THUR	SAT	MON - THUR		
Waipu Badminton Club 5 Fun games of social badminton. Shuttles provided. Some racquets available to loan. Suitable for ages 15 and over. from 6.30pm Sharyn Chow 021 966 295 Coronation Hall, Waipu	Bream Bay United Football 7 Small sided games and basic skill activities. Kids aged 5 to 10 of all abilities are welcome. 10.00am – 12.00 noon Merama Cribb 021 486 783 Ruakākā Recreation Reserve Football fields	Mohr Fitness 16-19 23-26 Anyone keen to try a new fitness class. Fun guaranteed! Functional body movement, +/- weights, raising the heart rate, suitable for everyone. 6am, 8.30am and 5.30pm Gilbert Costello 021 027 63496 The ShrED, 270 South Rd, Waipu,		
TUES	WED	SAT		
Ruakākā Indoor Bowls 17/24 Open to anyone with Tuesday mornings free. Learn how to play indoor bowls. Wear flat soled shoes. 10.00am – 12 noon Sue Smith 021 850 286 St Pauls Church Hall, 25 Karawai St, Ruakākā	Waipu Golf Club 18 Practice range and putting green open to try out golf. Suitable for adults and kids. 4.00pm – 6.00pm Mike Foster 09 432 0259 Waipu Golf Club, 3229 SH1	Waipu Tennis Club 28 Fun games, mini comps, sausage sizzle. All ages welcome. 9.00am – 12.00 noon Hayley Pyle 021 059 3438 Waipu Tennis Club, 9 St Marys Rd		















Supported by One Tree Point Motel Reym & Bryant Daltons Bream Bay News Waipu Liquor Centre Smooth FM

Hoping the weather will play its part at this year's Waipu Lions Classic Car and Bike Show



An aerial view of the 2024 Waipu Car and Bike show. The annual show is the largest of its kind in Northland

"We have the sponsorship, the advertising in place and plenty of volunteers. All we need now is the weather to cooperate", said Ron Cave chief organizer of the Waipu Lions Classic Car and Bike Show which will be held in the Waipu Caledonian Park on Sunday 8 February from 10am to 2pm.

Last year the show drew 900 cars and 200 motor-bikes and is the largest car show in Northland.

For the first time this year the Auckland Classic Car Club will be coming and once again the Austin Healey Club will be making a day of it.

But most of the time Ron has no idea of who will show up until the day itself when cars and bikes miraculously arrive from all directions.

There are 25 prizes to give out as well as prizes for the best-dressed man, woman and child. There will be "a surprise stage act" and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter will fly in.

Once again this is where proceeds from the day will go. After last year's car show, the Waipu Lions were able to make a \$34,000 donation to the Northland Emergency Services Trust, which funds the helicopter.

The helicopter had flown 48 rescue missions to Bream Bay the previous year so Ron believes the service is an appropriate recipient for funds from this year's show as well.

Have a Go Sports festival Opportunities for all ages to try something new



First Kicks with Bream Bay United

The Bream Bay Sports Trust's bi-annual Have a Go Festival is on again offering local people of all ages the opportunity to try out and perhaps take up a new sporting activity.

Eighteen local sports groups or clubs have set aside dates and times to welcome newcomers and to give them a taste of their sport.

Many of the opportunities are aimed at youngsters such as: basketball, athletics, Cricket, Jiu Jitsu football and waka ama (5-20 years)

Some are restricted to those over the age of 16 years: Waipu bowls, zumba,, badminton (over the age of 15 years) while others are open to all comers.

Clubs are given \$250 to help fund their Have a Go sessions. The festival is sponsored by local business.

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Treatment room for hire

Very reasonable rates

Activities at the Ruakaka Recreation Centre

Activity	Day and Time	Location	Cost	Contact
Zumba	Monday 8.45am to 9.45am	new centre	\$10	Ali 021592228
Pacific Culture Group	Monday 4pm to 6pm	new centre		Finemoka mokafotu@gmail.com
Fit for life Ruakaka class	Monday 10am to 11am	new centre	\$5	AnnMarie 0211693115
Yoga with Julie	Monday 6pm to 7pm	old Centre		Julie 02102904695
Music club	1st Monday of month 7pm to 10pm	new centre	\$5	Fulco 0274718428
Zumba Gold	Tuesday 9 am to 10 am	new centre	\$9	Roz rozhzumba@gmail.com
Fit for life Ruakaka class	Wednesday 11am to 12pm	new centre	\$5	AnnMarie 0211693115
petanque or indoor bowling	Wednesday 1pm to 4pm	new centre		Sue 021850286
Drama class with Debi	Wednesday 3.30pm to 5.30pm	old centre		Debi 021324707
Zumba	Wednesday 5.45pm to 6.45pm	new centre	\$10	Ali 021592228
Zumba Gold	Thursday 9am to 10am	new centre	\$9	Roz rozhzumba@gmail.com
Stretching classes	Thursdays 11am to 12pm	new centre	\$5	Lu 0226541979
Bream Bay United Soccer Club	Thursday 3.30pm to 6pm	old centre		Ken 021 361 375
Sit Fit	Friday 10.15am to 11.15am	old centre	\$6	Christine 027 573 6346
Zumba	4th Friday of month 4.45pm-5.45pm	new centre	\$10	Ali 021592228
Zumba	all other Fridays 9.15am - 10.15am	new centre	\$10	Ali 021592228
60's up	4th Friday of month 10am to 4pm	new centre	\$20 annually fee	Joy 021491887
Casual gym	Mon to Fri 8am to 2pm, Thur to 6pm	new centre	\$2	RRC 4327962
Unisex & Ladies gym	24/7 gym	new centre	\$10 per week	RRC 4327962
New centre address	3 Peter Snell Road Ruakaka	Old centre address		9 Takutai Place Ruakaka

We are also home to Bream Bay Squash club and Bream Bay United Association Football club - old centre

Shakespeare in the Garden this Saturday at Tahamoana Farm

Sixteen-year-old Noah Hewlett - Coffey of Mata is excited to be heading to London in July to train with the Shakespeare Globe Theatre New Zealand (SGCNZ) 2026 Young Shakespeare Company.

Noah is a Grade 7 Honours Student at Making a Scene Speech and Drama Academy in Whangārei.

His interest in Shakespearean theatre was sparked from a young age when he attended several performances at the Pop-up Globe in Auckland as well as reading storybook versions of Shakespeare.

It was ignited again when he took part in the Northland Regional Shakespeare Festival where he was awarded "Outstanding Performer" which gave him automatic selection for the "National Schools Shakespeare Production" in September. From those opportunities Noah was selected with 23 other young New Zealand actors, from a total of 5,000 participants, for the Young Shakespeare Company opportunity. In London he will train for 10 days with the Company culminating in a performance on stage at the Globe Theatre.

Noah is home schooled. He is taught by his mother, Sarah, who has a love of the arts.

Noah says he would like to become a professional actor on both the stage and screen. Three years ago he appeared in several episodes of Shortland Street, so he has had a taste of what this life could be like.

This Saturday 31 January from 5pm to 7pm we get an opportunity to see Noah in action at Shakespeare in the Garden at Tahamoana Farm.

Noah and some of the other young actors from Making a Scene will present a collection of excerpts from Shakespeare's plays.

Veteran actor and theatre director Stuart Devenie is also lending his support to the event and will be performing several pieces.

Noah will recite Sonnet 18 –

Shall I compare thee to a Summers Day

Thou art more lovely and more temperate ...

Then by way of contrast, he will perform one of Shylock's monologues from The Merchant of Venice, and "To be or not to be" from Hamlet.

Tickets for Shakespeare in the Garden are available from Waipu Hammer Hardware or from Eventfinda and Humantix. Proceeds go towards Noah's expenses for his trip to London.



Noah Hewlett Coffey will train for ten days with the Young Shakespeare Company in London

WHAT'S ON IN BREAM BAY

- **SHAKESPEARE IN THE GARDEN.** 31 January from 5pm to 7pm. at Tahamoana Farm. Fundraiser for Noah Hewlett -Coffey to help him attend Young Shakespeare drama school in London. Tickets at Waipu Hammer Hardware or at Eventfinda.
- **SUNSET MARKET AT MARSDEN COVE** First Friday of the month 4pm to 8pm. Next market 6 February
- **JAZZ ON A SUMMERS DAY** 8 February 3pm to 5pm at Tahamoana Farm Tickets from Eventfinda or from Waipu Hammer Hardware.
- **WAIPU BOUTIQUE SUNDAY MARKET.** In The Waipu Coronation Hall.9am to 1pm Second Sunday each month. Next on Sunday 8 February.
- **THE WAIPU LIONS CLASSIC CAR AND BIKE SHOW** Sunday 8 February 10am to 2pm. In the Caledonian Park.
- **BREAM BAY MUSIC GROUP** First Monday of every month starting at 7pm At the new Rec Centre in Peter Snell Road, Ruakākā. Contact Ross or Fulco on 0274 410 584
- **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS** Fridays 10.30 -12noon, Bream Bay Community Trust Hall, Takutai Place, Ruakākā
- **COMMUNITY BINGO** Last Wednesday each month (except December) Every one welcome. Raffles, restaurant and Bar open from 5 pm. Calling starts at 7.pm 15 games and 2 jackpots open to the public. At the Waipu Citizens and Services Club - The RAZZA
- **WAIPU MUSEUM** 36, The Centre, Waipu. Open seven days 10am- 4pm

BREAM BAY

link



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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

THESE ARE APPROXIMATE TIMES AND WE SUGGEST ARRIVING 5 MINUTES PRIOR 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, Otaika Road, Maunu Road, Walton Street, Rose Street Bus Terminal.

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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E office@leabourn.co.nz



SERVICE INFO www.buslink.co.nz

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We are a small group who meet every second

Tuesday of the month at 10am at the Archie Bull Hall in Kaiwaka.

We knit various items for the children in Ward 2 and dialysis patients at Whangārei Hospital. Although we have had generous amounts of yarn already we need more in any quantities Should you be able to help please phone Gale 09 431 4827 or leave donations at the Apple Basket on SH1 at Kaiwaka.

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SOCIAL SERVICES

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.



Safeman Safe family Men's Centre

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

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

The services we provide are as follows:

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**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.

**SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE
WAIPU RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS
ASSOCIATION**

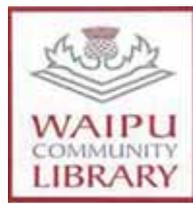
To approve a draft updateing our constitution.
Wednesday 25 February at 7pm.
In St Peters Church, Nova Scotia Rd, Waipu
A copy of the new draft constitution will be emailed on request to:
waipurra@gmail.com
Please read this through and come to the meeting with prepared drafts of any changes you propose.

THE NEXT PUBLICATION DATE

of the Bream Bay News will be Thursday 12 February
The deadline for all copy is 4pm on
Wednesday 4 February

**Local people read
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PUBLIC NOTICES



Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday
& Saturday 10am - 1pm.
Tuesday
10am - 4pm.



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Monday - Friday: 8.45am - 5pm

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New patients welcome

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Waipu Golf Club Annual General Meeting will be held at the Clubrooms on
Monday, 9th February 2026, at 7 pm.

Agenda:
Welcome and Opening
Review and Confirmation of Minutes of the 2025 AGM
Annual Report
Conflicts of interest on the Board
Treasurer's Report and Annual Financial Statements
Any Proposed changes to the constitution
Election of the Board
Any Other Business
Close

Any enquires please email: Manager@WaipuGolf.co.nz



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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.

FOR SALE



LOTS 1, 2 & 5, 1067 COVE ROAD, LANG'S BEACH

- Oceanfront, residential zoned land
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- Buy one site, or all three - totalling 11.59 acres
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Deadline Sale: Closes 4:00 p.m. Wednesday 25 February 2026 (unless sold prior)



23 STACE HOPPER DRIVE, ONE TREE POINT

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- Direct pontoon and mooring access
- Sheltered harbour location
- Generous site with flexibility to build or enhance
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Harcourts Waipu



16 Granada Lane, Langs Beach
Auction 13th February at 11am (unless sold prior)

- Architecturally designed, exceptional home
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Expansive open plan living upstairs
- 3 spacious living areas
- Designed for relaxed outdoor living
- Dreamy views to the bay
- Walk to the beach

Lyndie Mullins 021 101 6389
Maxine Suvalko 021 032 6333



78 Wairimu Way, Waipu
Auction 13th February at 11am (unless sold prior)

- Calling all poets, musicians and authors!
- Peace, privacy and tranquility
- Character filled 2 bedroom, 2 storey home
- Beautiful rural and sea views
- 4.3 hectares of land suitable for grazing
- Additional cabin adds versatility

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142 Massey Road, Waipu
Price by Negotiation

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- 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom home offering scope to refresh
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PACIFIC PANORAMA
This 1970's character filled home has been cherished and well maintained over her life span. Built and tightly held by the present owners it is now time for a new chapter, for a new family to benefit from this home's many charms. Located in a no exit street, elevated to capture Bream Bays magnificent seascape. Generous spaces throughout, being 240m2 over two levels, sited on an 847m2 section. The upper level has the living area with an office nook, and a separate dining room, with both rooms accessing the expansive deck. The kitchen has been upgraded. Three roomy bedrooms, the main bathroom and a laundry complete this level. Downstairs has the rumpus with two bathrooms providing flexibility for extended living.
Deadline Sale—4pm, 19th February 2026 | [#4272](http://bbrealty.co.nz)
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Mob: 021 432 793
FRANCIE STOKES
Mob: 022 656 0165



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Deadline Sale—27th Feb 2026 | [#4275](http://bbrealty.co.nz)
JANINE GOLDSMITH ARENZ
Mob: 021 432 793



HIDDEN GEM AT ONE TREE POINT
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Price by Negotiation | [#4273](http://bbrealty.co.nz)
FIONA SOUTHERN MNZM
Mob: 021 317 775



SHARING IS CARING IN KAURINUI
Built in 2023 and surrounded by other quality homes, this immaculate and spacious property is perfect for those wanting room for extended family, or a separate space for teenagers and grandkids to hang out. Comfort and practicality are well covered with double glazing, a heat pump, internal access garage, excellent roof storage, and fully completed landscaping.
Price \$975,000 | [#4269](http://bbrealty.co.nz)
FRANCIE STOKES
Mob: 022 656 0165



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A recent complete refurbishment throughout, including new carpet. New paint - walls, ceilings, doors & trim, front door, garage door & gates. New roller blinds, light fittings, oven & rangehood. So, it is totally move-in ready with nothing needing to be done. A large deck off the pool is fully covered, well-lit with pull-down screens. Great for entertaining.
Price \$945,000 | [#4271](http://bbrealty.co.nz)
FIONA SOUTHERN MNZM
Mob: 021 317 775