

Merry Christmas

NGONGOTAHA NEWS

The Sunny side of the Mountain -

FLUORIDE FREE NGONGOTAHA

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NEXT DEADLINE FEBRUARY 2017

DECEMBER 2016 ISSUE

My thoughts and prayers go out to the Khan/Marcroft, and Mohi families and all those of you who have lost loved ones recently, your first Christmas with a member of your Whanau missing is very hard, but keep strong.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry christmas and a happy and safe new year. Please drive carefully and enjoy your time with your family.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful advertisers, for without you there would be no newsletter, I urge the community to please use the services offered by these people first. REMEMBER NO ADVERTISERS, NO NGONGOTAHA NEWS. Simple as that.

To my Delivery people, Sally and Michael, a wonderful and sometimes difficult job, but they do a great job. People if you do miss out on getting a newsletter delivered, there are always copies at the Ngongotaha Pharmacy and Ngongotaha Four Square.

Some Security tips from Neighbourhood Watch Mail Drop.....

Bikes, sports equipment, scooters ensure that they are not left lying around outside.

Lock sheds and garden sheds, keep ground floor entrances and windows shut when you aren't in the room

Make your home look occupied where possible - timer switches, CCTV, security lights are all effective deterrents for anyone watching your property.

Keep hedges or fences low at the front of your home so as not to provide a screen for burglars to work behind.

Cancel newspaper and mail deliveries

Have a neighbour drop in and collect junk mail and open and close curtains

Make sure your neighbours know where to contact you in case of emergency

Make arrangements for family pets to be looked after

If you are away for a few days, arrange to have your lawns mown

Consider inviting a friend or relative to house sit for you

Whatever you do, don't leave a message on your answer phone that you are away.

NEW RUBBISH/RECYCLING BINS - WARNING

It has been noted that due to their height that they may be used by burglars to access windows. Please bear this in mind when storing them so that they don't provide access to your windows.

In addition ensure that your windows are secure and if left open for ventilation, particularly at night, they have a security stay or similar to prevent them being opened further. Obtain advice from a recognised business who supply/install insecurity devices for the best/affordable for your situation and the correct installation method.

Put your bins away quickly on pick up day, they can also be a sign that no one is home.



HAVANWANTS

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Letter to Editor.....

Madam, When I was a youngster my mother taught me to remember "That people that live in glass houses do not throw stones". Pity that Cr Sturt's mother did not teach him the same thing. We could ask about the airport expansion that the RDC borrowed some \$60 million. The \$10 million that RDC paid to come here for the Sydney flights to Air New Zealand. The \$4+ million that the airport terminal is getting spent on. This is the third upgrade in the last twenty-five years. Cr Sturt seems to think the ratepayer has got unlimited funds to waste on these wasteful projects. He should think again.

Yours etc, John Cole 188 Kawaha Point Road Rotorua 3010 Phone 3488378

Cr Sturt replies.....Mr Cole's memory is fading as it was Cr Searancke and I who opposed the runway extension as we had no guarantees from Air NZ that the number of international flights as advised by the Councils CEO at the time were sustainable to pay the debt. We also lobbied that flights between Rotorua and Brisbane/Gold Coast be preferred. We both asked what was plan B as the airport companies projected income was unsustainable if the said number of flights did not eventuate. Mr Cole ever the champion of private enterprise will also recall, yes we (Cr Searancke and I also opposed the \$1m promotional levy (so called) every year it was proposed. We were accused of being anti-Rotorua, anti tourism etc etc. So Mr Cole you can't pin that one on me but as I recall prior to council becoming sole owners of the airport we had a National government who refused to spend money as the major shareholder on the airport or its runway to keep domestic flights coming to Rotorua. So under MP Mr Bradford's nose government sold its shares to a private investor who again was happy to get 2-3 per cent return but not spend the capital needed to enhance the asset and runway. So council bought out the private investor to ensure the asset was enhanced. The runway extension for International flights was a must but if you'll recall correctly council except Cr Searancke and myself supported the extension because the \$12m promised to Mayor Winters by Regional council and other funders like RECT never came to pass nor did the Tourism industry come to the party. Having been on council for many years my recollection is real and also Mr Cole the public supported international flights and the runway extension when consulted in the annual plan and I also recall your submissions on this and many other issues Council didn't always agree with you on. *Kind regards, Cr Sturt.*

ps: the terminal upgrade is needed to meet the governments earthquake regulations so he wants us to ignore the government and expose the ratepayers to the risk.

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Sunday: 9.45am Eucharist followed by coffee and fellowship.

Thursday: 9.45am Contemplative Eucharist followed by coffee and fellowship.

Wednesday 1st & 3rd: 1.30pm Games afternoon (Scrabble, Rumikub, 500 etc)

Friday: 9.30am during term time. Music and Movement for preschoolers.

All Welcome, an hour of fun and fellowship

10.00am. Walking Group – meet outside St. Barnabas for a 1 – 1 ½ hr gentle walk.

4th Friday: 7.00pm Games Evening (Scrabble, Rumikub etc)

4th Sunday: 4.00pm – 6.00pm Messy Church – fun time of games, crafts, story, singing, and dinner – from toddlers – 100+.

Come and experience this new way of church. All welcome



The wetland area is attracting more birds. A pair of Pukeko are frequent visitors. Now and again a pair of Kahu, come gliding and hovering over the wetland, with a sharp eye for prey, they dive and pounce, mice I presume. The ever present shags, sitting on tree stumps out in the lake above the water line, wings spread, drying and taking in the warmth of the day, seem not to have a care in the world. The

recently planted carex, flax and sedges are all thriving, it must be the rain. Accretion is the term given to the build up of pumice sand, there is enough pumice sand for a Petanque game or two. Hm, watch this space, Petanquers are everywhere nowadays. The storms we get here, load up the Waiteti stream with water, which in its gushing speed to go downhill, carries debris into the lake some of which deposits in the wetlands and along the lake edge, enough to allow a Petanque game or even volleyball. The willow trees poisoned by the council have all turned black. The newly installed swings at the footbridge get daily use as do the new picnic tables beside the footbridge. The stream water is cold, yet jumping off the footbridge seems to happen whenever the sun shines.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Sunday 18th December 7.00pm Lessons and Carols - Story and Carols we all know

Saturday 24th December 7.00pm Christmas Eucharist especially for families

Sunday 25th December 9.45am Christmas Eucharist especially for families



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Well done Ngongotaha - you've had a good year.

As the year closes out and we head into the holiday season, we can look back on what a great year 2016 has been for communities like Ngongotaha. Local businesses are thriving.

We've seen over \$40 million committed to upgrading our local roads to improve safety and congestion. We've had a lot more international visitors to the region over the last year: visitor numbers are up almost 7%, and they're spending more money when they're here. That translates to more jobs, more profitable businesses, and more opportunities for locals to get ahead. It's not just in tourism either: building consents for houses are up 50 per cent over the previous year. Forestry and primary production are extremely strong too, and making a big contribution to our local economy.

Our kids are doing better at school. As they look back on their school year, over 85% of school leavers have achieved NCEA level 2. By the time they leave school this year, our students are much better placed to take on further education or training, and move into higher-skilled employment.

Families are healthier. Communities are stronger. As a government, we're working hard to invest in infrastructure to keep the momentum going.

The Kaikoura earthquakes have shown us the very best of New

Zealanders and our resilient communities. Ngongotaha has pretty much the same population of Kaikoura. Like Ngongotaha, they are welcoming to visitors from around the world, and surrounded by great beauty and natural wonders. When disaster struck that tightly-knit community, it was its resilience that allowed them to respond quickly and effectively.

Kaikoura is also a reminder of how important it is for individuals and families everywhere to be prepared. Communicate with your loved ones, especially young children, about what to do in an emergency event.

I want to take the opportunity to wish you a safe and happy holiday season. You've earned it. Enjoy your time with your families and friends and look out for each other.

Hon Todd McClay MP for Rotorua

HON TODD MCCLAY MP FOR ROTORUA



Stop by the office or call for a chat

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Things To Say About A Christmas Gift You Don't Like
Hey! There's a gift!
Well, well, well ...
Boy, if I had not recently shot up 4 sizes that would've fit.
This is perfect for wearing around the basement.
Gosh. I hope this never catches fire! It is fire season though.
There are lots of unexplained fires.
If the dog buries it, I'll be furious!

I love it -- but I fear the jealousy it will inspire.
Sadly, tomorrow I enter the Federal Witness Protection Program.
To think -- I got this the year I vowed to give all my gifts to charity.
"I really don't deserve this."



IRISH DOCTOR

A doctor in Ireland wanted to get off work and go hunting, so he approached his first cousin, Denny.

"Denny, I am goin huntin tomorrow and don't want to close the clinic. I want you to take care of the clinic and take care of all me patients".

"Yes, sir!"

The doctor went hunting and returned the following day.

"So, Denny, how was your day?"

Denny told him that he had seen three patients.

"The first one had a headache so I gave him **TYLENOL**.

"Bravo, Mate, and the second one?"

"The second one had stomach burning and I gave him **MAALOX**."

"Bravo, bravo! You're good at this and what about the third one?"

"Sir, I was sitting here and suddenly the door opened and a young woman entered. She undressed herself, taking off everything including her bra and her panties and lay down on the table.

She shouted: "**HELP ME!** For five years I have not seen any man!"

"Thunderin' Lard Jayzus, Denny, what did ye do?" asks the doctor.

"**I put drops in her eyes!**"

Ways to confuse Santa Claus

Instead of milk and cookies, leave him a salad, and a note explaining that you think he could stand to lose a few pounds.

While he's in the house, go find his sleigh and write him a speeding ticket.

Leave him a note, explaining that you've gone away for the holidays. Ask if he would mind watering your plants.

While he's in the house, replace all his reindeer with exact replicas. Then wait and see what happens when he tries to get them to fly.

Keep an angry bull in your living room. If you think a bull goes crazy when he sees a little red cape, wait until he sees that big, red Santa suit!

Leave a note by the telephone, telling Santa that Mrs. Claus called and wanted to remind him to pick up some milk and a loaf of bread on his way home.

While he's in the house, find the sleigh and sit in it. As soon as he comes back and sees you, tell him that he shouldn't have missed that last payment, and take off.

Take everything out of your house as if it's just been robbed.

When Santa arrives, show up dressed like a policeman and say, "Well, well. They always return to the scene of the crime."

Leave out a copy of your Christmas list with last-minute changes and corrections.

Leave Santa a note, explaining that you've moved. Include a map with unclear and hard-to-read directions to your new house.

Leave out a Santa suit, with a dry-cleaning bill.

Paint "hoof-prints" all over your face and clothes. While he's in the house, go out on the roof. When he comes back up, act like you've been "trampled." Threaten to sue.

Instead of ornaments, decorate your tree with Easter eggs.

Dress up like the Easter Bunny. Wait for Santa to come and then say, "This neighborhood ain't big enough for the both of us."



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Kaharoa School

The Cornerstone Value:

Kindness Ngakau aroha Our definition is willingness to help, show concern for and be friendly to others. This means being a friend.

Key Competency: Friendly

A Kaharoa Learner is friendly. They can relate to a diverse range of people in a variety of contexts.

Athletics

Our school athletics day was a great success with the children demonstrating their skills in a range of track and field events. We had a wonderful turnout of whanau who were very helpful and supportive. From this day, a number of our first place getters represented the school at the Rural/Central Athletics day held on 22 November and 12 will now go on to the BOP Athletics Day on 7th December.

Kahawrite

Our Kahawrite magazine will be distributed to the children before the end of the term. This magazine is a wonderful collection of works by all the children in the school and shows growth as the children progress through the school. Our thanks to Advocate Print for supporting us by printing the magazine.

Market day

As part of our homework challenge, a market day was held on 4th November. All money raised from this day was donated to charities selected by the children. We enjoyed a presentation assembly where representatives from some of these charities (St Johns, Wingspan & SPCA) shared in our school assembly and were presented with a cheque of the money raised.

West Cup Speech Competition

Our Year 7 & 8 students prepared and presented their well prepared, entertaining and informative speech to their peers with nine finalists presenting to parents and judged by Toastmasters. Congratulations to the winner and recipient of the West Speech Cup for 2016, Ashton M.

Tennis

The school tennis championship games are currently being played with the finals to be held in December. Well done to all the students (single and doubles) who participated in this event.

School Dance

Parents and children are invited to our school dance, taken by The Footsteps Dance Group, which will be held at WHHS hall on the evening of 2nd December. It is always such a pleasure to see all the students dress up and show off what they have learned to their families.

Class Trips

As the year draws to a close the children are enjoying the end of year class trips. These have included Migs Gym, Flip Out, Beach trip, Surf School and movies.

Year 8 Graduation

Our Year 8 Graduation ceremony will be held on Tuesday 13th December at 1.15pm. During this ceremony the Year 8 students are given their Graduation Certificate. Cups and Excellence certificates are awarded for academic, cultural, sporting and leadership/citizenship excellence. We always enjoy the speeches given by our House Captain representatives as they reflect on their year.

contd overpage.....



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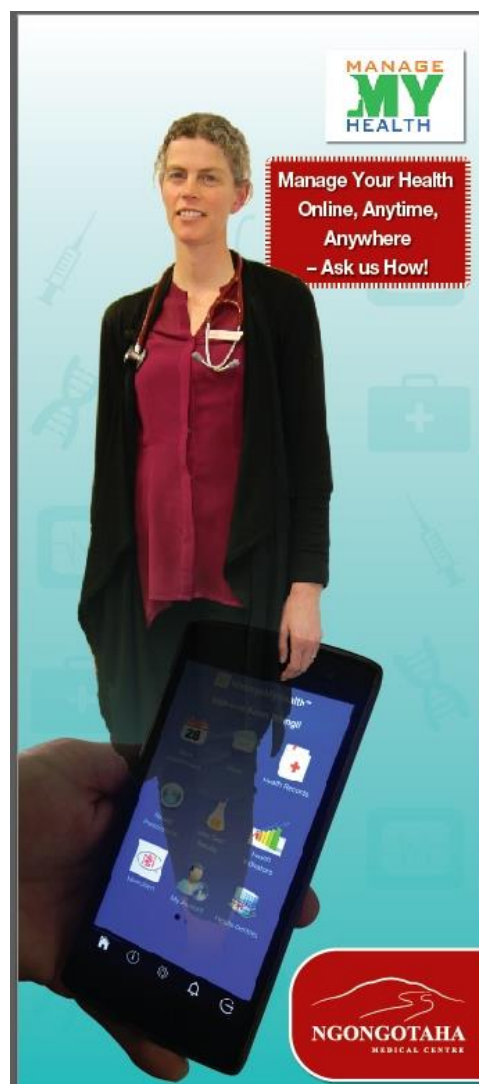


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Kaharoa school contd.....

Every year two past students also come and share their memories and learnings with the Year 8s. This ceremony is followed by an afternoon tea for the Y8 students and their families.

Triathlon/Picnic

Weather permitting our end of year picnic will be held in conjunction with the triathlon, on Wednesday 14 December. We encourage families to bring a picnic lunch and join us for the day.

New Staff 2017

We look forward to welcoming new and returning staff to Kaharoa for 2017. Welcome to Kim Dalton to our Yr 6/7 class. Kim will be working in our new learning environment which is due to open in March. Welcome too, to Kathy Snodgrass (NE) and Christina Clark (job share in Yr 2/3) who are returning to Kaharoa School.

Finally, The Kaharoa Team would like to wish you all a happy and safe festive season. We look forward to an exciting year of learning in 2017.

Christmas Tree Sandwiches

Ingredients:

- 4 slices fresh bread
- 1 tsp peanut butter
- 1/4 small banana, mashed
- 1 tsp avocado
- 1 tsp cream cheese
- 1 tbsp grated apple
- 2 slices cheddar or tasty cheese

You will also need: play dough or Christmas biscuit cutters

Method

On one piece of bread spread the peanut butter, followed by the mashed banana. Press closed with a second piece of bread. Cut out sandwich shapes using a cookie cutter and arrange on a plate.

On another piece of bread spread the avocado, cream cheese and grated apple. Press closed with a second piece of bread and again use cookie cutters to stamp out a shape.

Stamp out more Christmas shapes from slices of cheese, then scatter over sandwiches and serve.

Use bread that is as fresh as possible to make the shapes easier to cut out.

Try different fillings to expand your tastes: Vegemite, cream cheese and lettuce OR cream cheese, sultanas and grated carrot OR ham, cheese and sweet beetroot relish.

You can make this Christmas shortbread if you really like Christmas baking.

If you like chocolate then these Christmas tree brownies are a delicious Christmas table treat.





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Ngongotaha School

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa

As you read this the school will be preparing to close for the holiday break. We have had a busy, full year with lots of learning. The year has also offered personal challenges for many staff who have lost loved ones, family members and friends. As a team we have supported each other through these times and we watch out for each other. Our school is a caring environment to work in.

We offer our deepest sympathies to the Mohi whanau at the recent passing of Koro Mita a truly humble, welcoming man who touched many of our hearts. Our thoughts are with the family at this time. May we all hold onto the special memories we have of loved ones who have passed this year.

We recently held our school athletics and were really pleased with the excellent attendance of family who came to support the students as they ran, jumped and threw with enthusiasm. The day ran smoothly and all children competed with pride. A team was selected, from our day, who represented the school at the central Bay of Plenty athletics. The children enjoyed a hot, sunny day and came back with placings in a number of events. Well done team. We now have students who will represent Rotorua at the Bay of Plenty athletics being held next week.

Last week we held a Wacky Wednesday which saw many of our students dressed in a wacky manner. The day was sunny and warm and a lot of fun was had with many laughs coming from the classrooms. The children were asked to bring along a can or dried goods which we donated to the food bank. We had an excellent response and we thank our school community for their generosity towards those who may need support at this time of year. It is a pleasure to work in such a caring community where we think of others. Our students are a credit to you all.

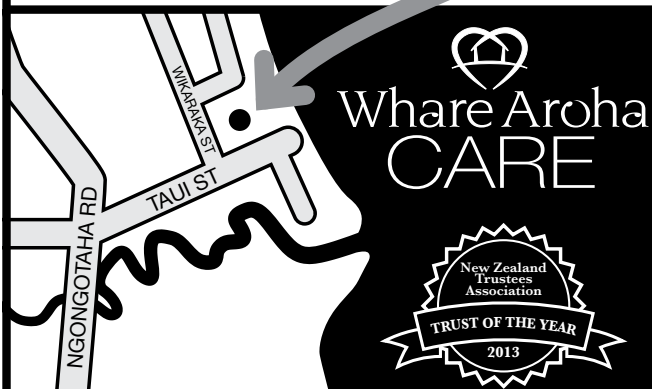
Last week our rumaki students, from all three classes, performed on stage at the Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre. This was for the annual Maori Cultural Festival (Ahurei) which has been running for 41 years. Many of you will remember your time on this stage, a chance to shine and put smiles on the faces of your whanau. Our students were great, they thoroughly enjoyed their performance and took to the stage with pride and enthusiasm. I really enjoyed hearing their singing and seeing them perform as a whanau. Well done to the team of tutors who put in the time to work with our students and to prepare them for the performance. Your creativity and dedication were rewarded by the students. On Friday 2nd December the students who have been carrying out road patrol all year will have a day of celebration with the NZ Police. These students have been very dedicated and have carried out their role in all types of weather each morning before school and each afternoon at the end of school. This can be a difficult task, at times, due to the parking of some people. The children are charged with the safety of those crossing the road and we implore you to think about this when you are parking in front of the school. The students need to have good visibility to carry out this important role. I thank all the children and hope they have a great day on Friday. Our current year 5 children are training, at present, to carry out this role in 2017.

Next week we have a group of 27 students who will attend the annual 100% attendance celebration which will be held at Kaitao Intermediate. This is a great achievement for these children. We know many children work towards this and are disappointed if they get sick. Remember there is always another year and we all set goals that we can change as we go along in life. Your health is the most important thing and we encourage you to stay home if you are unwell.

CONTD OVERPAGE.....

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Ngongotaha School contd.....

Our end of year prize giving will be held in two sessions on Thursday 15th December in the Community Hall. The first prize giving is at 9.30am and will be for Rooms 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17. These are our junior classes. The second session will be at 1.15pm and will be for Rooms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. This is the last day of school for the children.

This year we farewell a group of 42 Year 6 students as they move onto their intermediate schooling. We wish you all the very best. Take all you have learnt at Ngongotaha and apply it to the new challenges you will meet. Continue to "Aim High and Stand Proud" as Ngongotaha students. We look forward to following your continued schooling. "Iti rearea teitei kahikatea ka taea"

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many community members who have supported the school during the year. We are a very proud community and are very proud of our school and the work we do together. Thank you for all you do to support us.

Have a safe holiday, enjoy the time with family and a chance to recharge the batteries ready for 2017.

Please keep an eye on the school during the holiday break so it is ready for the children on their return.

Finally, we wish to pass on a big thank you to our editor, Ann Henderson, for the excellent work she does getting the Ngongotaha Journal out each month. We appreciate the work you do to keep us all informed about our community. Many Thanks

Term four will end on Thursday 15th December for the students.

The 2017 term dates, for Ngongotaha School, are listed so you are able to plan for the 2017 year.

Term Dates for 2017

Term One	Monday 31st January to Thursday 13th April
Term Two	Monday 1st May to Friday 7th July
Term Three	Monday 24th July to Friday 29th September
Term Four	Monday 16th October to Friday 15th December

Cathryn Naera and staff of Ngongotaha School
Iti rearea teitei kahikatea ka taea - Aim High, Stand Proud

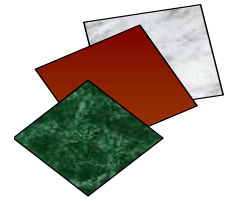
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Council and Community briefs

Obituaries

It is with deepest sympathy and love to the families involved that we acknowledge two people who had an impact on our lives either directly or indirectly over the past 40-50 years.

Mita Mohi QSM master of the Taiaha, Rangitira, respected elder of Ngati Rangiwewehi, Whakapapa expert, Koro, Dad, father in law, mate and friend to whoever he met. A true gentleman of the highest integrity and who had one's total respect but he never asked for it. He served on the Parole Board, Rotorua district council, Trustee on school Boards etc etc. This was evident by the 800 odd people who attended his burial at Awahou. Haere atu ra e Koro haere haere haere

Betty Marcroft (nee Khan) or Bet as we fondly called her is one of the famous Ngongotaha Khan sisters, she and Rex and family lived in Hood st for many years and had moved to Melbourne to be with Mokos and family about 8 years ago, passed recently. Waiteti was where her tangi was held and tributes flowed for a lady who spoke her mind, upset a few here and there, was stubborn at times and can't we all be. Betty shared a love of Horse racing /breeding, as it is in her families DNA. Goodbye Betty farewell RIP.

Fiasco in Court

Mr Reynold McPherson, secretary of the RDRRs and Mayoral candidate indulged in his own ego and as a result of a fanciful notion thought he deserved to be elected Mayor, even after the voters of Rotorua spoke loud and clear. He believed that a 400 person Council NRB performance survey and so called Biased Information impacted directly on the result of the Mayoral and election of 10 Councillors amongst a field of 35 candidates. McPherson contended in his petition, in his claim to the Rotorua district court; alleged bias and undue influence of electors by Councils Chief Executive Officer, Mr Geoff Williams and had influenced the Elections Result. The counter claim to his petition was signed by all except Cr Bentley and Kent.

The presiding Judge threw out his claim against the elected councillors as McPherson was not a candidate for Council, but upheld McPherson right to a claim against the Mayoralty election result on the grounds in his petition and set aside four days to hear the evidence. However after several days McPherson withdrew his claim under the veil of an agreement with the parties concerned.

I find the very issues McPherson campaign was based on ie transparency, accountability, openness, no confidential meetings etc have been used by withdrawing his claim which many believe he should at the very least apologise to and withdraw the allegations against Mr Williams for impugning or attempting to impugn Mr Williams' integrity, Pay the court costs and the legal costs of council and Mr Williams. This is the least Mr McPherson should do and I will be asking if this has been attended to in the settlement. I would also ascertain if Mr McPherson has been billed for and paid the Legal costs (est \$8500-00) incurred by the ratepayers prior to the election when McPherson apologised to staff members alleging they had been given job favours by the Mayor. He apologised for this action. I sincerely hope this sordid episode can be put in the past but reading the comments of the RDRRs AGM reported in another publication recently its back to business as usual and the tone of letters to the editor indicates we have another three more years of the innuendo, misleading spread of information and negativity Mcpherson and his gang of letter writers embarked on in 2015-16.

contd overpage.....



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I'm so pleased the people of Rotorua saw through the Maze and litany of misinformation perpetrated by this small but vocal minority. While they deliberately targeted Dave Donaldson, Karen Hunt, Janet Wepa and myself at the last election I'm pleased that democracy and Logic won the day, as the people had their say and McPherson and co couldn't fool all of the people all of the time.

Personal

Elizabeth and James Coppard are the proud parents of our new grandchild who arrived at Rotorua Hospital on 9 November 2016. As Grandparents, Denise and I, Sandra and Garry Coppard are delighted to welcome Finley Victor (After my dad) and George (James's granddads name) into our families. Finley is a brother for Charlie who is three in January. Everyone is doing well. Our William is getting married in June 2017 to Crystal Hohepa in Brisbane. Crystal is a granddaughter of renowned orator Hiko Hohepa.

Recently I broke my leg and have been out of action for some time. I fractured the Tibia just below the knee and did a great job of destroying the cartilages and cruciate ligaments as well. Thanks to our family doctor Simon Firth, the team at Ngongotaha medical, the chemist staff (who are always happy), the hospital and nurses (they are unsung heroes who are run off their feet and grossly underpaid), QE, ACC and Ambulance staff who helped me at various times. Denise was in Australia when I broke my leg. I was putting on a sock to go to Shannon and Margaret Haehae's wedding, which I didn't get to when it happened. Operations in store can't wait to get back driving.

It looks like Fluoride is inevitable unless you the public stand up to the government.

My family join me in wishing you all a Joyous and Happy Xmas. Be safe and regardless of how you celebrate it, take time out to share what is important to you as a person a family and a community. Wouldn't it be nice to invite someone you know will be on their own for the first time on Xmas day, maybe it's a new Neighbour, and ask them to join you and your family. We are and we are looking forward to the day.

Editor

To you Ann Henderson, I know you have been abused in emails, ridiculed, sworn at over the phone as editor etc by people who have a moan. Its great to be popular Ann, but I'm sure I speak for the vast majority of Ngongotaha and district people and say thank you for your years of service via this publication. Being an Editor is like being a politician you can't please all of the people all of the time, we try but have to learn to say NO and people don't like it. I'm sure you'll spend some time up in your beloved North over the holiday period so enjoy the break Ann and a VERY VERY MERRY XMAS to you and Yours.

Charles Sturt

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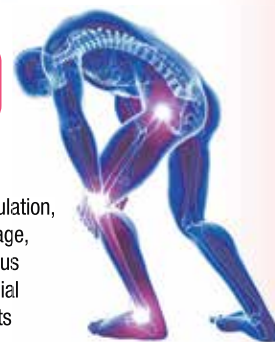
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CURRY CONTEST

Judge #3 was an inexperienced food critic named Frank, who was visiting from America.

Frank: "Recently, I was honoured to be selected as a judge at a Curry Cook-off. The original person called in sick at the last moment and I happened to be standing there at the judge's table asking for directions to the beer garden when the call came in. I was assured by the other two judges (Natal Indians) that the curry wouldn't be all that spicy and, besides, they told me I could have free beer during the tasting, so I accepted".

Here are the scorecard notes from the event:

CURRY # 1 - SEELAN'S MANIAC MONSTER TOMATO CURRY...

Judge # 1 -- A little too heavy on the tomato. Amusing kick.

Judge # 2 -- Nice smooth tomato flavour. Very mild.

Judge # 3 (Frank) -- What is this stuff? You could remove dried paint from your driveway with it. Took me two beers to put the flames out. I hope that's the worst one. These people are crazy.

CURRY #2 - PHOENIX BBQ CHICKEN CURRY...

Judge # 1 -- Smoky, with a hint of chicken. Slight chilli tang.

Judge # 2 -- Exciting BBQ flavour, needs more peppers to be taken seriously.

Judge # 3 -- Keep this out of the reach of children. I'm not sure what I'm supposed to taste besides pain. I had to wave off two people who wanted to give me the Heimlich manoeuvre! They had to rush in more beer When they saw the look on my face.

CURRY # 3 - SHAMILA'S FAMOUS "BURN DOWN THE GARAGE" CURRY...

Judge # 1 -- Excellent firehouse curry. Great kick.

Judge # 2 -- A bit salty, good use of chilli peppers.

Judge # 3 -- Call 911. I've located a uranium spill. My nose feels like I have been snorting Drain Cleaner. Everyone knows the routine by now. Get me more beer before I ignite. Barmaid pounded me on the back, now my backbone is in the front part of my chest. I'm getting drunk from all the beer.

CHILLI # 4 - BABOO'S BLACK MAGIC BEAN CURRY...

Judge # 1 -- Black bean curry with almost no spice.

Disappointing.

Judge # 2 -- Hint of lime in the black beans. Good side dish for fish or other mild foods, not much of a curry.

Judge # 3 -- I felt something scraping across my tongue, but was unable to taste it. Is it possible to burn out taste buds? Shareen, the beer maid, was standing behind me with fresh refills. That 200kg woman is starting to look HOT...just like this nuclear waste I'm eating! Is chilli an aphrodisiac?

CHILLI # 5 LALL'S LEGAL LIP REMOVER...

Judge # 1 -- Meaty, strong curry. Cayenne peppers freshly ground, adding considerable kick. Very impressive.

Judge # 2 -- Average beef curry, could use more tomato. Must admit the chilli peppers make a strong statement.

Judge # 3 -- My ears are ringing, sweat is pouring off my forehead and I can no longer focus my eyes. The contestant seemed offended when I told her that her chilli had given me brain damage. Shareen saved my tongue from bleeding by pouring beer directly on it from the pitcher. I wonder if I'm burning my lips off. It really annoys me that the other judges asked me to stop screaming.

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CHILLI # 6 - VERISHNEE'S VEGETARIAN VARIETY...

Judge # 1 -- Thin yet bold vegetarian variety curry. Good balance of spices and peppers.

Judge # 2 -- The best yet. Aggressive use of peppers, onions, and garlic. Superb.

Judge # 3 -- My intestines are now a straight pipe filled with gaseous, sulphuric flames. I am definitely going to *&^% myself if I fart and I'm worried it will eat through the chair. No one seems inclined to stand behind me except Shareen. Can't feel my lips anymore. I need to wipe my bottom with a snow cone ice-cream.

CHILLI # 7 - SELINA'S "MOTHER-IN-LAW'S-TONGUE" CURRY...

Judge # 1 -- A mediocre curry with too much reliance on canned peppers.

Judge # 2 -- Ho hum, tastes as if the chef literally threw in a can of chilli peppers at the last moment. (I should take note at this stage that I am worried about Judge # 3. He appears to be in a bit of distress as he is cursing uncontrollably).

Judge # 3 -- You could put a grenade in my mouth, pull the pin, and I wouldn't feel a thing. I've lost sight in one eye, and the world sounds like it is made of rushing water. My shirt is covered with curry which slid unnoticed out of my mouth. My pants are full of lava to match my shirt. At least, during the autopsy, they'll know what killed me. I've decided to stop breathing - it's too painful. I'm not getting any oxygen anyway. If I need air I'll just suck it in through the 4-inch hole in my stomach.

CHILLI # 8 - NAIDOO'S TOENAIL CURLING CURRY...

Judge # 1 -- The perfect ending. This is a nice blend curry. Not too bold but spicy enough to declare its existence.

Judge # 2 -- This final entry is a good, balanced curry. Neither mild nor hot. Sorry to see that most of it was lost when Judge #3 passed out, fell over and pulled the curry pot down on top of himself. Not sure if he's going to make it. Poor man, wonder how he'd have reacted to really hot curry?

Judge # 3 - No Report.

There were two blondes who went deep into the frozen woods searching for a Christmas tree. After hours of subzero temperatures a few close calls with hungry wolves, one blonde turned to the other and said, "I'm chopping down the next tree I see. I don't care whether it's decorated or not!"

*The Santa Claus at the shopping mall was very surprised when a Emily, young lady aged about 20 years old walked up and sat on his lap. Now, we all know that Santa doesn't usually take requests from adults, but she smiled very nicely at him, so he asked her, 'What do you want for Christmas?' 'Something for my mother, please,' replied Emily sweetly. 'Something for your mother? Well, that's very loving and thoughtful of you,' smiled Santa. 'What do you would you like me to bring her?' **Without turning a hair Emily answered quickly, 'A son-in-law.'***

Fletcher Tabuteau NZ First MP

Sadly, while I was away in Wellington and Australia on a Future Political Leaders Delegation, Te Arawa lost three treasured kaumatua, local icons who impacted hugely within their whanau, hapu and iwi. To hear of their passing and acknowledging the huge legacies they left behind was very sad and sobering for us all. It was with great regret that I was not able to attend any of the tangi.

My heartfelt sympathies to the families of those who have left lasting memories with us all. I want to acknowledge, also Betty Marcroft from my own hapu of Ngararanui who passed away in Australia and returned to be acknowledged and remembered in Ngongotaha by family and friends. He mihi aroha Betty and whanau.

The Reverend Te Napi Waaka OBE, who gave a huge contribution to the performing arts, oratory, Te reo and music will always be remembered for his goodwill to all men and wonderful wise korero. He was described as the "Son of the Nation" and I am proud of what he represented to us all. To our much loved kaumatua, Mita Hikairo Mohi MBE from Ngati Rangiwewehi, farewell. Mita was a local hero to countless young men of Te Arawa, well known throughout NZ for coordinating and running the Mokoia Taiaha Wananga where he impacted the lives of over 20,000 young men over a 30 year period. Mita was a wise and determined man but selfless, humble and most assuredly a positive role model.

Also to Frederick Whata from Mourea, farewell. Fred, whose career spanned many years at the Rotorua Courthouse looking after people and serving his community at Mourea, leaves a huge gap for many of us as we remember his dedication to his whanau, community and loved ones. Fred made a positive difference to Court practises for Maori and he is remembered fondly by the Courts and Judiciary.

As a recently nominated White Ribbon Ambassador for NZ. I am immensely proud to be part of a men's awareness campaign with many other Kiwi men who are proudly standing up in their communities raising awareness of men's violence against woman. To be an ambassador to challenge and change men's behaviour and attitudes towards women is special to my heart especially now as we farewell these local icons who have stood out in their communities and achieved and impacted many lives with integrity, wonderful principles and values which so brilliantly guided us all.

I am proud to acknowledge their contribution to our region as men and I want to acknowledge their families and loved ones with aroha. I also wish to convey to all those fathers, uncles and brothers to treasure and enjoy a safe and happy Christmas and New Year with your loved ones as we look ahead to 2017.

Fletcher Tabuteau

"Here's a Christmas request I can't give," Santa said to Mrs. Claus. "Why not?" asked Mrs. Claus.

"Here, read the letter."

Dear Santa,

Will you please bring me some crocodile shoes for Christmas?

Thanks,

Pete

"But you have lots of crocodile shoes," said Mrs. Claus. "Why can't you give him a pair?"

"Because he didn't tell me what size his crocodile wears."



New Zealand First

Rotorua Office

Fletcher Tabuteau List MP

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You know what would have happened if it had been three wise WOMEN instead of men don't you? They'd have asked directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole and bought disposable nappies as gifts.

Childbirth at 65

With all the new technology regarding fertility recently, a 65-year-old friend of mine was able to give birth. When she was discharged from the hospital and went home, I went to visit.

'May I see the new baby?' I asked

'Not yet,' She said 'I'll make coffee and we can visit for a while first.'

Thirty minutes had passed, and I asked, 'May I see the new baby now?'

'No, not yet,' She said.

After another few minutes had elapsed, I asked again, 'May I see the baby now?'

'No, not yet,' replied my friend.

Growing very impatient, I asked, 'Well, when can I see the baby?'

'WHEN HE CRIES!' she told me.

'WHEN HE CRIES?' I demanded.

'Why do I have to wait until he CRIES?'

'BECAUSE I FORGOT WHERE I PUT HIM, O.K.?'

Paudie goes into a bar and orders seven shots of tequila and one Guinness.

The barman lines up shots and goes to get the Guinness.

When he comes back with the pint, all seven shots are gone.

The barman says: "Wow! You sure drank those fast."

Paudie explains: "You would drink fast too if you had what I have." The barman asks:

"What do you have?" The guy reaches into his pocket and says: "Fifty cents!"

Mick and Paddy are walking along when Mick falls down a manhole. Paddy shouts down: "What shall I do?" Mick barks back: "Call me an ambulance!"

Paddy then jumps up and down screaming: "Mick is an ambulance, Mick is an ambulance."

If you see a fat man who's jolly and cute, Wearing a beard and a red flannel suit, And if he is chuckling and laughing away, While flying around in a miniature sleigh, With eight tiny reindeer to pull him along, then let's face it... your eggnog's too strong!

HELLO FROM MAMAKU

Mamaku's over-sixties have recently enjoyed a Christmas Dinner provided by the Mamaku Residents' Association and what a feast it was - from the selection of meats and salads through to the Christmas pudding, and multiple desserts. Held in the Mamaku Memorial Hall which had been decorated both inside and out for the occasion. Entertainment was provided by Mamaku Primary School pupils; singers and comedians kept the elderly audience entertained and the kapa haka party went through an exhibition of taiha wielding. Altogether a thoroughly enjoyable occasion which the organisers can be sincerely thanked for their generosity and commitment of time and resources.

Earlier in the month of November a clean-up of Dansey Road was organised by the Residents' Association. Around fifty locals and R.L.C. staff gathered on an overcast morning and distributed collection bags, gloves and hi-viz clothing. Participants organised their own transport and set about cleaning the road choosing their own sections and going about the clean-up with enthusiasm and alacrity. Most people were engaged for around one and a half hours on the clean-up and another hour on the lunch provided by Council and prepared by the Mamaku School Committee.

It was stated by a RLC employee that over eight tonnes of refuse was collected. It shows just how careless people are with their rubbish. The ongoing despoliation of one of the North Island's most attractive routes is a sad commentary of modern mores.

While the near-incessant rain of winter and early Spring has moderated considerably the temperatures on the high Plateau are still low, fires continue to be lit in the evenings and firewood supplies have either run out or run very low. The cooler days make outside work easier but they can make for lower levels of enthusiasm too. Some of us are feeling a trifle run-down with so little sunshine to energise us and late colds and sore throats are affecting people.

To all the people of Ngongotaha, Rotorua and beyond and all the visitors who have come from near and far to the beautiful Community of Rotorua, Lakes and District, we the citizens of Mamaku greet you all and wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



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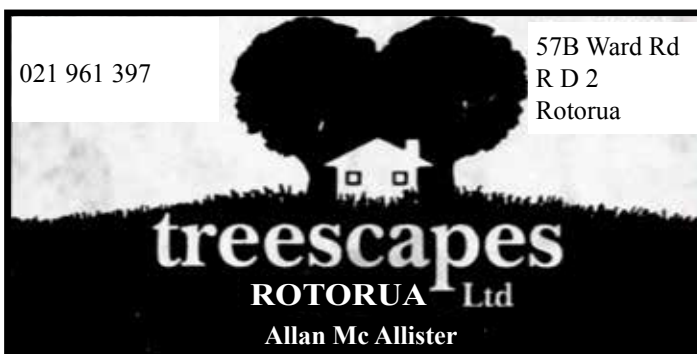
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Ngongotaha Community Patrol - Have a Safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

By Sharon Fleet

With Christmas just around the corner, many criminals see the holiday season as their opportunity to cash in. Your Community Patrol want to help make sure you don't become a victim of crime over this coming festive season.

Burglary, personal safety and road safety are just some of the areas that seem to increase over this period.

Luckily there are some simple things you can do to help protect you, your family and keep your home safe. Below is a list of quick questions relating to home safety.

Do you have secure locks on all your entrance doors and windows?

• Yes • No

Do you always lock your windows and doors when you go out (even to the back yard etc)?

• Yes • No

Do you have an alarm system at your home?

• Yes • No

Do you put your valuable items out of sight from anyone looking into your house, garage or shed when you go out?

• Yes • No

Is your place hidden by large fences, hedges or trees?

• Yes • No

Do you have chains on your doors?

• Yes • No

Do you belong to a neighbourhood support group?

• Yes • No

Do you always keep your garden shed and/or garage locked when you're not using it?

• Yes • No

Have you recorded (and saved) the serial numbers of expensive electronic items in your house and photographed your other valuables?

• Yes • No

Have you registered your serial numbers on www.snap.org.nz?

• Yes • No

Remember when out and about with festive activities it is also important for you to ensure you are also doing what can to prevent crime by keeping your car safe from break-ins and thefts

1. Park in well-lit, travelled area
2. Keep valuables and gifts out of site in the boot, and do not leave them in the vehicle for long periods of time
3. Don't leave your keys in the car while it is running
4. Use a steering-wheel lock and/or car alarm to make your vehicle less attractive to thieves
5. Ensure your doors are locked (and windows on child-lock) once everyone is inside to avoid unwanted visitors from entering your vehicle.

How did you fair? Hopefully by reminding you of a few simple precautions we can reduce those chances of anything untoward happening to you and your family and help you have a Safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

DON'T WAIT FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN - JOIN OUR PATROL AND HELP PREVENT IT!

For more information Contact David on 357 4734 or check out our National Website: www.cpnz.org.nz

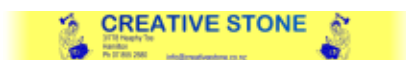




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**...and last but not least a huge thank you to the local community
for your support!**



Angela & Nicole Parker

*Wish our clients, past & future a
fantastic & safe Christmas and New Year
Should you be interested in finding out what is happening
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Jodi & Kerif are excited to be in the Real Estate industry and bring with them fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to both of you for the way you conducted the recent sale of our property. We have been extremely pleased with your attentiveness, communication, honesty and advice throughout the entire process. Your warm, professional and friendly approach was particularly appreciated.

- Wenarata & Awhimate Paul Port Hedland, West Australia

If you would like **FREE ADVICE** on how to get your property ready for market, and a free appraisal, then get in touch because we're just a phone call away!

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Bucket lists

What is on your bucket list? You know, the list of things you would like to do before you pass over. It could be a dream, a goal or just a thought. I am sure that uncle Mita Mohi and Auntie Betty Marcroft (nee) Khan had many things on their bucket lists.

People have all kinds of activities and dreams on their bucket lists ranging from doing a parachute jump, walking on the Great Wall of China, visiting Disneyland, climbing Mount Everest or sailing across the Pacific. That got me thinking about a bucket list of things created in Ngongotaha, Awahou or Hamurana. For example you may set a goal of swimming from the bridge on Hamurana

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road down to the Awahou river mouth. Despite the fact that kids and older kids do it every summer, if the challenge of 20 plus minutes in that freezing cold water sounds too difficult then perhaps you could try doing the same thing further up the road in the Hamurana river. I reckon you could easily swim from the bridge at Hamurana Road to the Hamurana river mouth in around two minutes. If you can't do that then don't even consider the Awahou river!

If golf is your thing then you could play 36 holes of golf at Hamurana Golf course or Lake View golf course in one day. Water sports anyone? Try paddling the Kaituna river, kite surfing or wind surfing from Hamurana and circumnavigating Mokoia Island before returning back to Hamurana. Fishing your thing? Try catching and releasing 50 + trout in half a day. All of these things would be possible with the right advice, resources and support.

Uncle Mita and Auntie Betty had ample, advice, resources and support to achieve the many things that have already been spoken and written about in their lives and outstanding achievements. Things such as owning race horses, moving to be with their tamariki, looking after other peoples tamariki and their contributions to the Ngongotaha, Waiteti, Awahou and Hamurana communities as well as their nationwide and international influences.

contd overpage.....

Considering their lives lead me to an interesting discovery which I am sure has been observed and spoken of by others. Uncle Mita and Auntie Betty passed within days of each other and what I found interesting is that they both passed around two or three weeks after significant milestones (possible bucket list items) had been achieved in their lives.

When I was preparing to receive my ta moko on my face over ten years ago I remember asking uncle Mita if he would ever receive a ta moko on his face. His reply was a definite kao or no. However that was followed by him glancing into the distance, as he often did, before saying that he thought one of his children or grandchildren might one day receive a ta moko. Uncle Mita not only saw Hohua receive his gift of ta moko, but a week later Uncle Mita was also present with his whanau when Hohua received his beautiful wife Phillipa at Awahou marae. We were told that uncle Mita passed over with a smile on his face. That is an

appropriate gesture for a man who brought joy and a smile to so many other people's faces.

So what was auntie Bettys significant event and possible bucket list item? Around the same time uncle Mita was attending Hohuas wedding with his whanau, Auntie Betty was celebrating her 70th birthday in Australia with her whanau, including my aunts Zorah, Marilyn, Veronica and my uncle Sardiq.

Uncle Mita and Auntie Betty had amazing lives, fulfilling final days and outstanding farewells. They left our community together and leave us with many messages including the importance of whanau and community in our lives. For example I was told that even though Auntie Betty lived in Australia she made it clear that she was always coming back to Waiteti. It goes without saying that wherever Uncle Mita passed he was always coming back to Awahou. When they passed they were both coming back to the community that they and many of us are pleased and privileged to call home. That's a great bucket list item right there. Moe ra korua, moe ra, moe ra. Ma Te Atua korua e manaaki e tiaki. May you both rest in peace.

Ngahihi-o-te-ra Bidois is an author, Speaker, Bsinessman, Husband and Father. Read more about him at www.ngahibidois.com.



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Tequila Christmas Cake

1 cup water

1 tsp. Baking soda

1 cup sugar

1 tsp. Salt

1 cup of brown sugar

Lemon juice

4 large eggs

Nuts

1 bottle tequila

2 cups dried fruit

Sample the tequila to check quality.

Take a large bowl, check the tequila again. To be sure it is of the

Highest quality, pour one level cup and drink.

Repeat.

Turn on the electric mixer.

Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.

Add one teaspoon of sugar. Beat again.

At this point its best a make sure the tequila is still OK. Try another cup...just in case.

Turn off the mixerer thingy.

Break 2 leggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit.

Pick the fruit up off the floor.

Mix on the turner.

If the fried fruit gets stuck in the beaterers just pry it loose with

a drewscraver.

Sample the tequila to check for tonsisticity.

Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something.

Check the tequila.

Now shift the lemon juice and strain the nuts.

Add one table.

Add a spoon of sugar, or some fink. Whatever you can find.

Greash the oven.

Turn the cake tin 360 degrees and try not to fall over.

Finally, throw the bowl through the window.

Finish the tequila and wipe counter with the cat.

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From Team Sturt!

Wishing every one a Happy Christmas and safe travelling during the holidays. We will be available by phone for any real estate inquiries during the holiday season.

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