

NGONGOTAHA NEWS

*The Sunny side of the Mountain -
FLUORIDE FREE NGONGOTAHA*

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NEXT DEADLINE: 1 APRIL 21020

MARCH 2020 ISSUE

No one really dies
as long as they took
the time to leave
us with
fond memories



On Monday 24th February 2020 we bid farewell to a very dear friend of Ngongotaha. Charles William Sturt passed away at home with his family on the day of his 64th birthday, 20th February 2020. I would like to share some of my memories of Charles, who was a great supporter of the Ngongotaha News.

I have known Charles for over 40 years. He was my best sparring partner ever, there were times when we could have killed one another but we always seemed to work our differences out.

Differences - the main one being when he refereed any Ngongotaha Rugby games. If the result didn't go our way it was all Charles' fault and we certainly let him know, by probably terrorising Denise in the stand with our antics, or threatening to cancel his passport into Ngongotaha. He even had the audacity to order Hika Reid off in one game, and in that very same game, he "sin binned"

3 players all at the same time. When questioned by the Captain, he replied "I didn't want anybody thinking I was supporting Ngongotaha." In latter years he became the most "one eyed" supporter.

Charles, loved his wife Denise, children Liz, William and Cameron, and their children Charlie, Finlay and Henry (Liz), and his Ngati Pikiao moko Hunter (William) unconditionally. He had two very best girlfriends in Luana Moore and I. When he was first diagnosed with his illness, he contacted us and from then on kept us updated with his progress. We would often be on the phone to one another with "guess what that stupid Charles has said or done now" then we would both tell him off. Whether he listened or not is debateable. We were lucky enough to spend the Sunday night about 10 days before he died with him in the Hospital, he then told us he was tired and wanted us to promise that we would look after Denise and the family, and that I would organise his funeral for him.

I will miss Charles' visits when he was in Ngongotaha and I was home, especially when Matt was ill. He would come in and say to me "I will make my own coffee as it is a known fact that you make the worst coffee in the world" which was true because I hate coffee. He would help himself and moan if I didn't have any baking, and I repeatedly told him that he didn't need it as he was getting too fat. His response "whatever"

I shall never forget Charles' kindness and compassion, especially when we lost our daughter 31 years ago. On the night she died, I had family and friends with me, and Charles turned up at 4am with a box of goodies from his Four Square Shop in Ngongotaha and some cigarettes. Which I abused him about as I had just given up, however I did need them at that stage he knew.

There were lots of funny incidents but the main one that springs to mind, was my daughter had a dog called Chachi and he went with us everywhere after she died, including cricket at Smallbone Park. When Parks and Reserves made all Parks etc "Dog free zones" I wrote a letter to Charles on behalf of Chachi complaining about this and that Charles was to cancel Chachi's weekly ham order at his Four Square Shop. Next minute, I had the Daily Post ringing me wanting to come out and interview me. Charles had taken the letter to Council and presented on Chachi's behalf. The Daily Post then featured a photo of a very sad Chachi telling of his very sad tale. How the NZ Cricket team would suffer without his expertise. Chachi then received a letter from Council explaining their actions and promising him a bone.

We had lots of laughs and lots of tears especially in the last couple of years when he was suffering so much, but he was determined to fight as he so did not want to leave Denise, the kids and his moko.

Last but not least, I did end up organising Charles' funeral and what a send off he got. I must add also that I could never have managed such a huge task without the help of Mayor Steve Chadwick and her Team from Council, the Community of Ngongotaha and of course our Tamariki at Ngongotaha School. So proud of you all. All I had to do was ask and the job was done, great teamwork guys and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Goodbye Charles, go stir them all up in heaven now. You have a great team up there to help you in Maureen Waaka, Johnny Lepper, to name but a few.

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Where Laura goes Trouble is sure to follow. "Trouble" is Laura's wee foxy, and Laura is one of the very few track riders at Rotorua. It is dedication for sure that see's her get up in the wee hours of the morning to drive from Pukehina to Rotorua each morning, that and the fact her own horse lives here too. Laura's usual day starts with a few horses with Iain Kennedy, then Michael Murray, Grant Stewart and finally Bill Pomare's. In full season there are horses being walked to the gap left right and center in an effort to get them all ridden before the track closes. Trouble is still in the car hidden under blankets having a nap, oblivious to all the work that has already transpired. After trackwork it's off again to do her other daily chores, breaking in and schooling anyone else's horses that need working, then having ridden her own horse, she is lucky if she walks in her door before 6.00pm.

So how did a girl from Bisley, Gloucestershire end up in Rotorua? Well her Grandfather was a jumps jockey, back in the

days Laura tells me that they used to ride long legged. Her parents both ride, so it was hardly surprising that at the age of about 6 months, she was propped up in a basket and riding her very own pony. Riding hunts in winter, and grooming for Polo ponies in the summer, and then a grooming job in NZ looked like a bit of a change so off she headed to little NZ. Although she enjoyed being a groom, she really wanted to do more riding, so she decided to put up a wee advert in a local store offering her riding services. Who should see this but Suzi Pomare, and that was the start of her track riding at Rotorua. Meeting Leon Pomare was the final piece of the puzzle that has well and truly cemented her stay in NZ, the couple are now engaged and have just bought their first home together.

When I asked Laura if she had ever done any other work other than working with horses, she replied "I hadn't planned to be working with horses, but I tried being a receptionist and it did my head in". We are all so glad it did!

On the racing front it has been a little on the quiet side, I think we had all been so busy and the tracks weren't getting any softer, so a few horses have had a bit of a break. That doesn't mean we haven't had any winners mind you. "Ocean Billy" had another very nice win at Tauranga in the Rating 72 - 2100 with Troy Harris on board. The Pomare's and the Ludgate's are over the moon. "Endean Lass" with Sam Weatherley on board had an awesome win in the maiden 1600 at Counties last week for Iain Kennedy, Andrew Burton and Linda Hunt. Exciting times are ahead for these two horses I am sure, as well as several other Rotorua horses who are all just coming back in to work.



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Sunday: 9.45am Eucharist followed by coffee and fellowship.

Thursday: 9.45am Contemplative Eucharist followed by coffee and fellowship. 11.00am Bible Study

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.) all welcome

MESSY CHURCH: Intergenerational church

Sunday 22nd March 4.00pm – 6.00pm All welcome

LEARN TO PLAY BRIDGE

Lessons to play this great game start April 29th at the Rotorua Bridge Club. Contact Val Honeyfield on 0274826793 for information.

CONDOLENCES

It would be very remiss of me not to mention the loss of Sue Van Dorsser and Colin and his son Mike Brake in the recent days too.

Ngongotaha Indoor Bowls

10th February Roll Up. No new members but most of the old ones were back rearing to go. Was a very hot night but that didn't bother us too much. We just had a fun night to get us back into bowling again.

17th February Opening Night. Tonight we presented Murray Harris with the Certificate for Volunteer of the year 2019 by

President John Rayner. Murray was in charge of the mats and bowls at the Summerset National Championships held in Rotorua last year. Murray was the first to arrive and one of the last to leave. Congratulation to Murray well deserved. We have a new bowler to the club Brian Flett. Welcome to our club. Our President had a special birthday and it also was their wedding anniversary. Our Patron Mr Dibley rolled up the first bowl for our opening night. I must say he is still playing very good bowls. I thought it was meant to be a fun night but some of us bowler took it serious. The winners for the night were Lead Nicole Ruthe, Two's Brian Ruthe and Skip Wayne Hitchens. 24th March Trophy. Tonight three life members of the club were presented with their badges; they were Robyn Campbell, Cheryl and Bruce Wiggins. Congratulations to those three people Our President and his wife Pam were meant to be away on a cruise for their fiftieth wedding anniversary but it was cancelled. John managed to be a winner tonight. The winners were John Rayner and Kevin Whyte with 2 wins and 27 points. Runner up was Cheryl Wiggins and Brian Ruthe.

Anyone looking at playing bowls can contact:

John Rayner 07 5625012

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Marlene Badger
Mobile 027 357 5702
marleneb@pb.co.nz



Danielle Badger
Mobile 027 554 7359
danielleb@pb.co.nz



Spectacular!



WEB ID RTU74842

BY NEGOTIATION

HAMURANA 97 Turner Road

From the moment you wind up the tree-lined concrete driveway, you know you have entered a very special property. This fabulous 14ha (approx) property, built for the sun and the view, boasts three bedrooms, 2 living areas, 2 bathrooms and has many more features. You can enjoy the beautiful bush backdrop whilst taking a walk to the waterfall which trickles away most of the year. The sheds for big toys just add to the list.



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BY NEGOTIATION

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Escape to your own private oasis set on 1.4 hectares of land. A tranquil setting awaits you in this charming home surrounded by abundant trees. The home will cater for the whole family with open plan living, four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Outside a large covered deck and double garage complete the lifestyle. Have a seat under the majestic trees overlooking the lake and you will never want to leave. Call "The Badgers" to view this outstanding lifestyle home.



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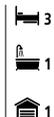
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Lakeview Golf and Country Club.

This month we start with the news of the devastating fire that completely destroyed our clubhouse on Saturday 15th February. Thankfully no one was hurt. We thank all the fire crews from around the region including of course Ngongotaha that came to help try and save the clubhouse. The dedication and professionalism of these people is truly amazing. While this is a very sad event for Lakeview with memorabilia and history lost we have to be positive and look forward to a bigger, better and stronger club and community facility in the future. We thank everyone for their aroha and support.

While we have lost our clubhouse the course, driving range and golf shop are still very much OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

March sees club competition continue with the Men's Handicap Match Play finals, the Vice Captains Trophy and the Bill Mettam Memorial. Pennants continues at various venues around the region.

The vets group play every Tuesday. Remember if you are 50+ for ladies or 55+ for men and fancy some great company while getting some exercise come along and join in the fun. Tee off from 9.30am – ALL WELCOME.

Twilight continues through to the end of March. Wednesday tee off from 4.00pm – 6.00pm again all welcome. There will be a BBQ available after play instead of the usual menu given our lack of kitchen facilities currently.

DRIVING RANGE- Reminder Lakeview has a great driving range which is still open to the public. If you want to hit some golf balls to groove that swing or want to try out the game come on up and see us it is much closer than driving into town. We have clubs available to use if you do not have clubs.

We installed over 50 rat and stoat traps around the course and have had great success catching some of these nasty predators! If there is someone in the community who enjoys walking and would like to walk around our beautiful golf course and check the traps we would love to hear from them.

This month we start our significant landmark story board project with the help of Whaea Ana and some tamariki from Ngongotaha School. We are really excited about this and look forward to seeing their work displayed on the course.

Enjoy the cooler evenings as we head into a change of season and remember we are still in operation and welcome everyone to come and see us!

Pro Shop phone number 07 357 2341.

Two Irishmen were sitting in a four-engined plane flying back from a shopping trip to Paris when the captain's voice came over the loudspeaker. "Ladies and Gentlemen, one of the engines appear to have failed.

There's nothing to worry about but we will be 15 minutes late in landing at Gatwick."

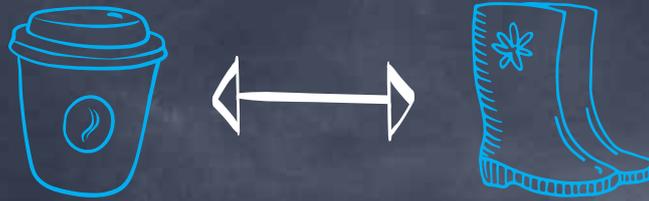
Five minutes later he said, "Nothing to worry about, ladies and Gentlemen, but one of the other engines has failed, and we will now be an hour late."

A moment later, "Er...sorry about this ladies and gentlemen, but the third engine has also given up and we will now be two hours later than expected.

One of the Irishmen tapped his friend on the shoulder. "Good heavens, Patrick, do you realise that if the other engine fails, we'll be here all night"

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It was with great sadness that we farewelled Charles Sturt. I first met Charles as a parent when his children were at Kaitao and I was the Principal so our association goes back a number of years. He was always supportive of the school and gave up his time to be involved. Amongst other things Charles was a regular judge at the Kaitao Lip Sync and other talent shows. More recently we have worked alongside Charles to ensure that the Lakefront Reserve is a place people want to go.

Well the first of our major events for the year is done and dusted and what an event it turned out to be. The Charity Garage Sale put on by Tim O'Sullivan and his awesome team at Ray White Real Estate was for us a huge success and our sincere thanks go out to Ray White, the community who donated so generously and those who came and purchased items. We managed to make over \$3,000 which will be used to support the purchase of a minivan with a wheelchair hoist so we can provide more outings and social connection activities for our members. Tim is looking to hold a Charity Garage Sale once a month with a different Charity being supported each time so please support these and if our sale is anything to go by there are some real bargains to be had.

At the end of February, we provided some training for recognising and dealing with Elder Abuse. The Elder Abuse Coordinator from National Age Concern office provided training for a variety of people including our staff, 2 counsellors, staff from Dementia Lakes, staff from Family Focus and some others. What it means for us is that from the end of February Age Concern will have the funding and the personnel to deal with incidence of Elder Abuse rather than pass it on to other agencies to deal with.

The next major event for us will be the Positive Ageing Expo which will be held on the 29th March at the Events Centre from 9:30 to 3:00. This will be an opportunity to come and see what is available to support older adults as they move into retirement and beyond. We will have up to 40 stalls with organisations that deal with older adult health, finances, housing, rest homes, quality of life, transport, healthy eating, wellbeing and much more. Set aside the date and I am sure you will not be disappointed.

In April I will be attending the Vision for Ageing in Aotearoa Conference in Wellington which is a joint conference being put on by Age Concern New Zealand and the New Zealand Association of Gerontology. New Zealand is on the brink of societal change that will have an impact on us all. In a period of 40 years there will be a 700% increase in the population in the 95+ age group, a 283% increase in the 80+ and 108% in the 65+ age group as people are healthier and live longer. We will also be more ethnically diverse as Maori, Pacifica and Asian populations increase significantly.

Some disturbing statistics surfaced recently regarding the suicide rates among elderly men. While there has been rightfully a focus on reducing the suicide rates among young people it can be misleading as a recent study shows us. For every 100,000 people, there were 23.5 deaths among 15 to 19 year olds annually, 29 deaths among 20 to 24 year olds, 27 deaths among 25 to 29 year olds but 27.9 among those aged 85 and over and most were males. The main cause of this is thought to be poverty and loneliness. The statistics are higher for men in this age group as it is thought the women who lose a partner are more able to continue social connection than men who rely more on their partner for social connection. While there needs to be an emphasis on younger persons' suicide, this age group still have a lot to contribute, are an underutilised resource and it is ageist to just have campaigns that highlight the younger age group.

Contd overpage.....

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If you know someone who is living alone and needs some social interaction just pop in and say hello. At present, we have about 80 volunteers who visit lonely and socially isolated people for just one hour a week initially so if you would like to join our volunteers please give us a ring at the office. Housing continues to be an issue for many and one of the interesting things that is happening with a nationwide boom is the retirees and pensioners are taking up the option of Reverse Mortgages. Low interest rates and high house prices are prompting more retirees to take out Reverse Mortgages against their homes. Primarily offered in NZ by Heartland Bank it allows people to borrow money against their houses. They do not have to make any repayments until the house is sold but interest accrues and compounds while the loan is not being repaid so the amount that finally falls due can be a lot bigger than the original sum borrowed.

Rory O'Rourke
Manager

So let me get this straight. I go to the Grocery store and buy a pound of sliced ham wrapped in plastic, a loaf of bread in a plastic bag, a litre of milk in a plastic container, a pack of napkins wrapped in plastic, a Greek salad in a plastic container, a plastic bottle of mustard and a plastic bottle of sauce, and they won't give me a plastic bag to carry it home because it is bad for the environment

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Dublin's Patrick O'Shea called his lawyer and asked, "Is it true they are suin' dem der cigarette companies for causin' people to git cancer?"

"Yes, Patrick, sure is true," responded the lawyer.

"And now someone is suin' dem fast food restaurants for makin' dem fat an' cloggin' their arteries with all dem der burgers an' fries, is that true,?"

"Sure is, Patrick."

"And that a lady sued McDonald's for millions when she burned her tongue with that hot coffee that she ordered?"

"Yep."

"And that a football player sued that university when he graduated and still couldn't read?"

"That's right," said the lawyer. "But why are you asking?" "Well, I was thinkin' . . . What I want to know is, can I sue Guinness for all dem ugly women It made me take home."

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By Negotiation View rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT24935 Anita Martelli 027 552 6482 and Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986



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Mandy Lee 0276 732 331

mandy.lee@raywhite.com

Licensee Salesperson Amtos Realty Services Ltd REAA 2008



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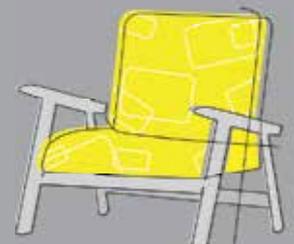
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Ngongotaha School

The Christmas holidays seem like a distant memory but the sun's still out, the pool's still warm, kids are happy and the teachers are too. Ngongotaha School is a GREAT place to be!!

Term one is flying by and we are enjoying having the children back at school. Our new enrolments are over their initial fears and are now enjoying making new friends and experiencing what Ngongotaha School has to offer. This year we have enrolled over 50 new students so I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them and their families to our school community. I really enjoy getting the chance to meet these new children and their families. I also love it when children pop in and share their learning with me in my office. Teachers often send their kids over with GREAT work. It's so exciting to see their progress in such a short time.

Whaea Amy has started her GREAT start classes for the 4-year-old children who will be turning 5 and are starting school this term. Each Tuesday afternoon, the children visit Room 14 and become familiar with the class, the school and prepare for their first day. If you have a child at home who is due to start school later this year please come in and pick up an enrolment pack. Our spaces for out of zone enrolments are very, very limited at this point. If you are thinking about joining the Ngongotaha School team and are living out of the Ngongotaha School Zone please come and see me now to avoid disappointment.

So far this year we have had many exciting events. Our Meet the Teacher evening was a huge success. I want to thank everyone who took the time to come and eat with us and hear about the exciting plans for the year. Our school Tryathlon was a great day and I was so proud of all the children who took part. Our school Gala was a brilliant day too. I am still amazed by the support and generosity of the community. Local families and businesses helped out by providing bikes, food, stock cars, fire trucks, baking, crafts, zorbs, and so much more. Thank you all once again. All the money we raised will go into more playground equipment for our children.

On Friday the 6th of March, our swimming team competed at the Country Swimming Sports competition held at Kaharoa School. It was a great event and our children excelled. They showed great sportsmanship and could be heard cheering each other on at all times. We are so proud of our students when they take their GREAT values outside of the school. Thank you to Mrs Ngatai who prepared our athletes and the team at Kaharoa school for a brilliant event.

Finally, I would like to pass on our love to the whanau of Charles Sturt. Charles was a great man and his heart firmly belonged in Ngongotaha. I thought his funeral was a wonderful service highlighting how kind and caring he was. Our tamariki were honoured to be a part of it.

As always, if you would like to see me, please feel free to call or pop in, my door is always open.

Craig McFadyen and the team at Ngongotaha School.



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This is a plan that Rotorua families sorely need.

The Government has consistently failed to deliver on its promises, has piled on the tax, cost and red tape and made things more uncertain domestically at a time of global uncertainty. As a result New Zealand has become a country of missed opportunities.

The cost of living is going up and New Zealanders are paying more in rent and petrol tax. The economy is in decline falling from a growth rate of nearly four per cent a year under National to now almost half of that and continuing to decline.

Job growth has dropped from the 10,000 new jobs a month under National to barely 1000 a month.

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your back pocket. Tax relief is one part of how your family can get ahead. We need to raise incomes and get people into jobs and we need to attack the cost of living.

In the coming months we will announce our full tax plan that will see people on the average wage better off and keeping more of what they earn.

We will cut red tape and build both the transport and social infrastructure our country needs. We won't be afraid to partner with the private sector to deliver projects that matter to us all. We believe in infrastructure and have the competence and track record to do what we say we will, to actually deliver.

Only National will introduce policies that will put more money in

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Kaharoa School

Ngā mihi o te tau hou. We welcomed our school community, new students and a new teacher back to 2020 on Monday 3 February with karakia and assembly. It was great to see everyone looking so refreshed and raring to go.

Farewell and thank you

It was an honour to attend Mr Charles Sturt's funeral last Monday 24 February. William and Cameron both attended Kaharoa School in their latter years with both Charles and Denise contributing in many ways to the Kaharoa School community. Charles was always very supportive of Kaharoa School and continued this after his boys had left. Charles was always vocal in making sure that the needs of the Kaharoa/Hamurana/Ngongotaha areas were heard. This was never more so than in 2007 when Kaharoa was elected to have the proposed Youth Justice Centre built. The Kaharoa and Hamurana community came together to protest against this. Charles was an active contributor in successfully preventing this facility being built in Kaharoa. Our thoughts and prayers are with Denise, Elizabeth, William, Cameron and their families during this time and into the future.

Term focus: Key Competency: Self Manager- 'Manage Me' Ready, organised and raring to go!

Cornerstone Value: OBEDIENCE- (Aronga Taringa) – 'Willingness to obey rightful authority.' This means doing what you are asked to do by those who care.

Meet the Teacher: This was held on Tuesday 2 February-It was wonderful to see so many parents attend. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet as a collective group who are both wanting the best outcomes for our tamariki. Teachers outlined the term topics and expectations regarding home learning.

Our Junior Swimming Sports were held on Monday 2 March with our 5, 6 & 7 year olds showing off their swimming prowess. Our Senior Swimming Sports were held on Tuesday 3 March from 10:00pm.

Kaharoa will host the Rural Interschool Swimming Sports on Friday 5 March 10:00am. This is always a great day where our rural school tamariki get a chance to compete against one another and also meet each other. It is always great to see each school cheering on their school mates as they give it their all.

Camps: Rms Rata, Rimu, Tawa and Tōtara have already enjoyed their annual camps. Rm Rata at Lakes Ranch, Rm Rimu had Waihi and Rms Tawa and Tōtara at Micamp, Taupo. These are always looked forward to with much excitement by the children and thank you to the many parents who helped to make these camps possible. The events organised for camps by the teachers are often ones that children may not have the opportunity to experience before. It is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate our Self Manager Key Competency and all of the Cornerstone Values.

Buses

A reminder to parents; with roads getting busier it is important to ensure children are met at the bus door and children are supervised at bus stops. Our roads seem to get busier every year.

Ngā mihi mahana - The Kaharoa Team



Travel
 Kia ora from Canada. I travelled here overnight and time wise I am 3 hours ahead of you on the day after you. In other words I am 21 hours behind you. I travelled here “with the sun” so I left New Zealand at 8.15 pm on Monday and arrived here in Canada at 11.55am on that same Monday. Funny thing is, I don’t look a day younger. Mind you that is a good thing because I lose a

day when I fly back to New Zealand and leave here at 6.30pm Wednesday and arrive in New Zealand at 5.25am Friday after spending 13 hours and 55minutes in the air. Good thing I enjoy flying.

So why all this gobbledegoog korero about travelling? The Monday I flew out here to Canada I went to the Awahou river and I got to tell you that getting back to our home, which is now in town, was worse than flying to Canada. At least I can watch a movie on the plane! Allow me to explain. When I came out to Awahou the queue of traffic to get into town was already at Keith Road where we used to live. So after my visit to the river the traffic was backing up to the Awahou turnoff and moving slowly so thinking I was being smart I turned right and went through Hamurana and around the lake to get back into town, only to find that the traffic on the other side of the lake was backed up to past the airport and moving even slower!

I will say what has probably been said a million times by now. Who’s stupid idea was it to do roadworks between Ngongotaha and Mitai Maori Village when Crankworx was on? Not good planning and from what I am reading here in Canada it is now taking people an hour longer to get from the paradise of Awahou, Kaharoa and Hamurana into town. At least the Aucklanders who have moved into Paradise will be feeling at home, aye Daryl. Life can be like that at times though. Things can happen that you have no control over. You just wake up one morning and someone has decided to do something that has added stress to your life. In this instance someone decided to do those roadworks and they are responsible for using up more of your precious time that you will never get back. But imagine the poor person who was told off by their boss the day before about being 5 minutes late to work and then they walk in an hour late the very next day! Or the lawyer who was an hour late to court that morning let alone the rubbish collector, school busses, judge, dentist, boss and all the other people commuting from Paradise.

Living in paradise does have its disadvantages but they are few. So you have to get up an hour earlier to get to work, here’s something you can do in paradise that others can’t. Get up two hours earlier and go fishing or golfing for an hour. Otherwise you could ask the boss if you can start earlier and finish earlier to beat the traffic and then spend more time fishing, golfing or swimming or whatever you do in Paradise that afternoon. You would be creating your own extra daylight saving routine.

The moral of the story is make the most of your stress free life that Paradise offers and don’t take anything for granted because you never know when road works are due to come your way. But remember this, there are no roadworks in the rivers, on the golf course or on the lake in Paradise. Enjoy.

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Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge the passing of friend and colleague, Charles Sturt. He was a devoted family man, an avid sports fanatic and an advocate for many. As you all know, he championed the Ngongotahā community at every opportunity whether it was on the sideline of the rugby field or inside the council chambers.

I have always been grateful for the Charles' support. Charles was a New Zealand First supporter, having once stood as a candidate in the Rotorua electorate. As a Councillor, he lived and served with conviction and was never afraid of a challenge. A champion of many community initiatives such as the sinking homes on Western Rd, Rotorua's racecourse and a great supporter of council's partnership with Te Arawa. My thoughts and condolences to his wife, Denise, children and grandchildren. Charles, may you rest in peace and may your ideas and passion live on.

I am proud that we, in the Coalition Government, will spend \$14 million improving the regular peak-hour bottleneck at Ngongotahā roundabout. Living in the area I know personally how congested that is, especially during the morning rush. This investment will help ease traffic, enhance safety and accessibility of the highway on SH 5 Tarukenga to Ngongotahā.

This upgrade is part of a wider \$88.25m roading investment project.

A huge win for our community.

This election year, I'm looking forward to seeing the progress of Provincial Growth Funding investments made in Rotorua. Projects that have received funding have included the revitalisation of the lakefront, our mountain biking infrastructure, investment in forestry and research, Te Uru Rakau, the Ministry will be based in Rotorua and the Rotorua Museum — with more to come.

Rotorua has seen great support and has benefited more from this Government than it has in two generations.

Fletcher Tabuteau NZ First List MP

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