

Local Songbird Back Home

Alayna Powley is probably better known around the world than in NZ, with over 7.6 million streams on Spotify last year, 2 EPs and 7 singles to her credit, not to mention many concerts and an appearance on NZ television on “7 Days”. After time spent in New York, LA and the UK, she is currently back home in Hamurana and Auckland, working on an album.

Alayna’s voice was first “spotted” at the age of 6 by her father, musician and teacher Rob Powley and she began singing locally. Her first composition “Threads” was at age 15 and performed at Western Heights High School where she was a student.

However, it wasn’t until the age of 18 at Auckland’s Music and Audio Institute of New Zealand (MAINZ) that she started studying her voice properly over a period of 4 years. Around this time, she also found her musical style: R&B/Soul.

After MAINZ, she travelled to New York, earning a living as a waitress, but finding New Yorkers very helpful in her goal of making contacts in the music industry. She used the online musical platform Soundcloud to air her song “Bliss”.

From this she was offered a contract with Vancouver-based label 20XX, working with Chad Hillard to release “Falling Autumn” which became a huge Spotify success story and gave her the opportunity to work with some of the world’s top producers. Back in NZ, she recorded the ‘Live’ version of her Sweet Soul EP at Neil Finn’s Roundhead Studios with some of NZ’s top musicians.

Despite her undoubted musical success, Alayna says it is difficult to make a living from streaming music, as a tiny proportion of the profit goes back to the musicians. She is very grateful for the support and encouragement of her parents, Rose and Rob Powley over the years.

Despite impediments to international travel in these Covid-ridden times, she finds the musical community over the internet very collaborative. We would proffer this is partly also due to her genuine, gentle and

dedicated style, not to mention a huge talent.

When asked what advice she would give her 13-year-old self, starting out, it would be to follow her heart and not put pressure on herself.

According to Spotify, Alayna’s music appeals to a younger demographic, but a more mature audience would also enjoy her soulful music, even if less accustomed to via streaming. Look out for her next song, due for release 16 March, “Just So You Won’t Be Alone” on alaynamusic.com.

Photo:Alayna Powley



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You wouldn't think there would be many jokes about war - well, there are plenty!

Vladimir Zelenski is a backwards politician.

Most politicians act like heroes to get elected and comedians while in office.

Ivan from Russia went to an anti-war protest in St. Petersburg carrying a sign that said: "Putin is insane!"

So, the courts sentenced him 22 years in prison. 2 years for treason, 20 years for giving away an official state secret.

A lawyer, comedian and a war hero walk into a bar.

The bartender says, "what can I get for you, Mr Zelenskyy?"

Justin Timberlake announces that he will be joining the war in Ukraine.

Early reports suggest that he will be stationed somewhere along the Crimea River.

We switched from corona virus to the Third World War.

..which idiot changed from zombie mode to multiplayer?

Putin asks a fairy: Where will I be in April?

The fairy answers: I see you in a limo driving through Kyiv, the war between Russia and Ukraine has ended, everyone is cheering.

Putin: Am I waving to them?

Fairy: No, the coffin is closed.

Mossad, CIA and KGB argue which is the best secret service.

They decide to hunt for pigs in a forest. The organization with the most kills after one hour gets the award.

Mossad send in Schlomo, their best agent. After one hour he presents three pigs, all with a clean shot between the eyes.

CIA orders an attack helicopter, spots a sounder and kills it completely with the Gatling.

KGB sends in three agents. However, they don't return after one hour. The others search for them, only to find them on a clearing. Two KGB agents tug a stag at it's horns while the third agent beats it with a stick, yelling: "Now confess that you're a pig!"

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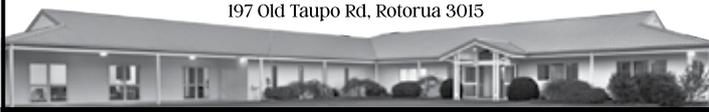
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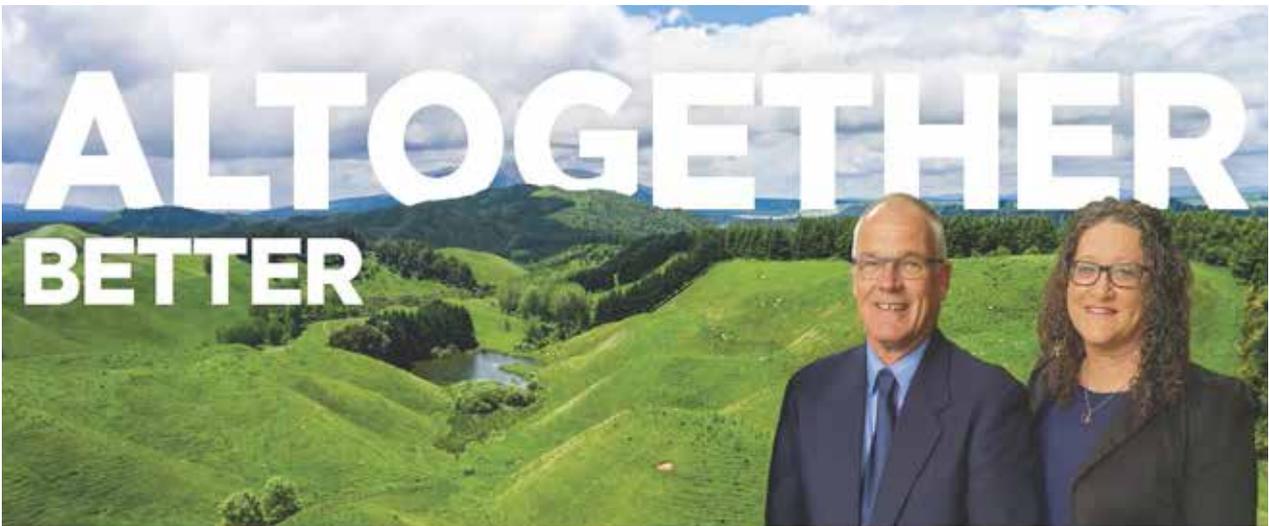
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Ngongotaha School

Kia ora everyone. What an interesting world we currently live in. I hope everyone in our community is safe and well as we navigate these challenging times. Ngongotaha School has been impacted dramatically by Covid. Many of our students have tested positive or were household contacts and several of our staff were too. Due to only having 40% of our tamariki attending school and operating with a 'skeleton staff', we chose to move to online learning for a short period of time to allow people the chance to complete isolation requirements and to reduce the spread of the virus.

Although it was a huge inconvenience, we were well supported by our school community. Teachers planned online work and scheduled Zoom meetings, in addition to providing hardcopy learning packs to those without access to the internet or an appropriate device. I joined in some of the Zoom meetings and I can say the tamariki had a lot of fun. School reopened on Thursday 17th of March for all children to return to learning as usual and it was lovely to see our students again, safe and well.

In 'Non Covid news', our Netball season begins shortly. We have five teams entered into the competition this year and the girls involved have been practicing over the past few weeks getting ready for their first game. Our Golf Academy has enjoyed the first few weeks of working alongside Josh from Lakeview Golf Club. Many of these kids have not ever played golf before but have developed dramatically under his tutelage.

Our annual School Triathlon was due to go ahead but fell within the week that we were closed. We are looking for another date where the children can take part in this awesome event. Our School Production had to be postponed last year but we are planning on presenting it in Term 3 this year. It is something not to be missed. The costumes are simply incredible, the script well written and the kids are so cute performing their songs and dances. Keep an eye on our school app for times and dates of the performances.

Before I go, I would like to sincerely thank our Ngongotaha, Hamurana and Mamaku community. The last few weeks have been extremely hard. Trying to juggle the importance of education with the importance of my students and staff's health in



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the middle of a pandemic. In all of this I have been so impressed with the 'Ngongotaha Spirit' (and I include the surrounding areas in this). I have been inundated with supportive emails and offers to help.

My caretaker had to isolate which meant I needed to mow the school lawns. A few people saw this and volunteered their time..

Corey Giles spent his days off from Bunnings ensuring the school was clean and tidy, my old caretaker Bruce McNaught came to school everyday for 2 weeks to ensure the school pool was safe for our children to swim in, my librarian Lyn Le Lievre spent her afternoons driving around on the lawn mower and Dan from No Limits Slope Mowing came and mowed our top field so the kids could carry on playing.

All out of the goodness of their hearts, to help our children and our school. I would also like to publicly thank my staff who picked up extra duties and responsibilities, happily took on extra students when their colleagues were isolating, and did it all with a smile. I feel privileged each and every day to be a part of this community.

Keep well.

Craig McFadyen
Principal, Ngongotaha School.



Todd McClay Member of Parliament for Rotorua

What Goes Up Needs to Come Down

Kiwis are worse off than they were twelve months ago. The steady rise in basic living expenses, including food, fuel, and housing is an ongoing stress for many Rotorua households. Since Labour came into office food prices are up more than 13 percent, the average rent is up \$140 a week and it costs \$45 more at the petrol pump to fill a standard tank.

Labour is taking Kiwis backwards with a cost of living crisis in New Zealand.

Inflation is the highest it has been for thirty years. One of the side effects of high inflation is ‘tax bracket creep’, where earners get pushed into the next tax bracket simply because of inflation, and end up paying more tax than they can afford. We have the perverse situation where someone on the average wage is now paying a marginal tax rate of 33%. And someone on the minimum wage only has to work a 44 hour week to face a marginal tax rate of 30 cents on the dollar. That doesn’t make sense, and it’s not sustainable.

In addition, this Government has made a name for itself as a big spender. We’ve called this out before, and we are not reassured. Government spending is up 68% since Labour took office, and Grant Robertson has allocated himself a record \$6 billion of spending at the next Budget.

Labour has – when you look at the big picture - a worrying habit of spending up large, then taxing Kiwis to pay for it. We’ve had the regional fuel tax, the proposed light rail tax, the Brightline extension, the removal of interest deductibility on rentals, the new 39 per cent income tax rate and the latest jobs tax proposal.

At the upcoming Budget in May, the Finance Minister should use a portion of his record \$6 billion to adjust income tax thresholds to account for the inflation we’ve seen under Labour.

Someone on \$55,000 a year would get \$800 in tax relief this year. And anyone earning \$88,100 or above would be better off by over \$1,000 a year.

Because NZ Super is indexed to the average after-tax wage, superannuitants would also benefit. The couple rate for NZ Super would increase by around \$520 a year.

The changes aren’t going to make anyone rich. But they would mean a bit of relief for ordinary Kiwi households suffering under the weight of the cost of living crisis, every dollar counts so they would come as welcome relief.

We have pointed this out regularly, and we will continue to call attention to this growing crisis.

Labour believes they can spend your money better than you can. National believes Kiwis deserve some relief from the current cost of living crisis.

We have committed to repealing the new taxes at the next election should we come into office. With a proper overhaul of our tax system, and a responsible attitude towards spending, we could be doing so much better. The cost of living is not going to come down by itself. It needs steady hands and clear planning, both of which are currently in short supply.

Hon Todd McClay
Member of Parliament for Rotorua
Authorised by T McClay, Parliament House Wellington.

Hon Todd McClay MP for Rotorua

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Advice for people with COVID-19

Finding out you have tested positive for COVID-19

If you take a PCR test and return a positive result for COVID-19, you will be notified of your result by text message from the official 2328 number.

If you take a rapid antigen test (RAT), you will have your result in person at the time. If you did this yourself at home, you should record your result in My Covid Record. If you cannot do this, you can call 0800 222 478 for assistance. Once you have done this, you will receive a text message from the official 2328 number.

This text will include a link to a data free online form that you will need to fill out. This form will provide information to your health team about any health needs you may have, such as if you are pregnant or have diabetes.

As a positive case, you should self-isolate if you can, in a separate part of the house and have access to your own bathroom if possible.

You and your household will need to isolate at home (or in other suitable accommodation) for a minimum of 10 days or until you are symptom-free. You must begin your self-isolation from the date you either developed symptoms or were tested (if you do not have symptoms). If you are isolating at home and feel you are getting more unwell, call the COVID Healthline on 0800 358 5453 or your local healthcare provider.

If you have difficulty breathing or feel faint or dizzy at any stage, call 111 immediately. Tell them you have COVID-19 when you ring.

If you get a positive RAT result this does not need to be confirmed by a PCR test, unless you've been advised to do so. After you've tested positive once, you will not need to have another test before you end your isolation period

What to expect within the first 24 hours of getting your test result

Please fill in the online form that was sent to you in the text message confirming your positive test result.

This form will enable you to upload your My Covid Tracer app data and any household contact details. It also includes some health questions to identify any health support you may need, and a link to the Ministry of Social Development if you need help getting kai or other welfare needs.

If you don't have a mobile, you will be contacted by phone.

Everyone else in your home will need to be tested regularly to check if they have a COVID-19 infection. You will be advised when, how and where this needs to be done.

What to expect from 48 hours onwards

Most people who are fully vaccinated with a booster will have mild COVID-19 symptoms. This means most people will safely recover at home without additional health support. Digital tools are available to help you look after yourself during this time. For those who need a bit more help, support will be available.

Your symptoms and speed of recovery will guide how often you receive health and wellbeing checks while you are self-isolating.

If your symptoms get worse or you need urgent medical care, call your local healthcare provider or Healthline on 0800 358 5453.

If you or the person you are caring for develops difficulties breathing, severe chest pain, fainting or becomes unconscious, call 111 immediately.

COVID-19 infection and care

Most people with COVID-19 develop cold and flu-like symptoms that can last up to two weeks.

Most symptoms can be managed with:

- bed rest (if lying down, change position every 30 minutes to two hours)
- taking paracetamol or ibuprofen to relieve headaches, aches and fevers
- keeping hydrated with regular sips of water
- honey or lozenges for a sore throat
- decongestants for a blocked nose.

Continue to take any regular medication. Some people will be prescribed

medication to reduce their chance of needing hospital level care.

It is important to track your symptoms every day in case you become more unwell and need urgent medical care. You may be provided with a pulse oximeter if your local healthcare provider thinks you might need one.

Most people will recover within 10 days to two weeks, but some may have persistent symptoms for months.

Isolating from others

Everyone who tests positive for COVID-19, those who live with them, and their household contacts will need to isolate from the community to help stop the spread of the virus.

After 10 days, and as long as you are not feeling unwell, you will be free to leave isolation. You may receive a text message confirming the end of your isolation. You do not need to wait for an official message or release to leave isolation.

If you become seriously unwell while isolating at home, you will receive hospital care if this is in line with your needs and wishes.

Positive cases

- The isolation period for COVID-19 cases in the community is 10 days. If you are still sick, stay home.
- Start counting the 10 days from day zero (0). Day 0 is the day that your symptoms started or that you received a positive test result (if you do not have any symptoms).
- Your household members will need to remain in isolation with you until your 10 days from Day 0 are complete.
- If another member of your household tests positive, the rest of your household can still end their isolation when you do. However, the second positive case will need to restart their 10 days from their Day 0.

What to do when isolating

- Keep in touch with friends and family over the phone or internet, but don't have physical contact with anyone who isn't isolating with you.
- You can exercise outdoors in your neighbourhood (but not at a swimming pool or gym). You must physically distance from other people but you do not need to wear a mask. Stick to gentle, familiar exercise and not taking on new or risky activities that may lead to a need for you to be rescued
- Get supplies of food/kai and medicine by asking your whanau and friends to shop for you, or by ordering supplies online if possible. Identify a safe drop-off point outside the house for them to leave supplies.
- Please contact your care co-ordinator or the COVID-19 welfare support line (0800 512 337, 7 days a week) if you need help with kai or other welfare support.
- Maintain a 1.5-metre distance from your household members and do not share a bed or bedroom with any member of your household if possible.
- Minimise the time you spend in shared spaces such as bathrooms, kitchens and sitting rooms as much as possible and keep shared spaces well ventilated.

What not to do when isolating

- Don't get vaccinated until you have recovered. If you have a vaccination appointment scheduled, either ring the booking line or go online to change your appointment.
- Don't go out to get food/kai or medicine, don't go to work, school or public places and don't go on public transport or use taxis.
- Don't have visitors, except people providing essential care to you or someone in the household.
- Don't go to work. If you are unable to work from home during this time, your employer

(cont'd on p 9)

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Cont'd from p.8)

(or you, if you are self-employed) may be able to apply for leave support to help support you. For more information, visit the Work and Income website.

Permitted reasons to leave your place of self-isolation

When you are self-isolating, you can leave home if you wear a face mask at all times, to:

- report for, and undergo, any medical examination and testing required
- access an essential health service for treatment that cannot wait until after your self-isolation has finished
- attend any court, tribunal, New Zealand Parole Board hearing, or other judicial institution that you are to attend

- move to another place of self-isolation in order to preserve your own or another person's life, health, or safety
- visit a dying relative who is not expected to live beyond your period of self-isolation
- visit the body of a relative before a funeral or tangihanga, if you will not be able to visit the body after your period of self-isolation.

Tips for keeping your whānau safe

To help reduce the spread of germs, if possible, you should:

- Stay away from others in your home – stay out of rooms where others are and do not share a bed if possible.

Do not prepare food for others.

- Wear a face mask or face covering. It is recommended each household member has a minimum of two face coverings, and that each is washed at the end of the day.
- As much as possible, open windows and doors to allow air to flow through your house.
- Wipe down surfaces shared with others like bathroom taps and kitchen benches with soap, water and a cloth after each use. Do not share dishes and cutlery, towels and pillows.
- Please do your own laundry.
- Wash your hands often and cough or sneeze into an elbow or a tissue. Bag your tissues and put them in a rubbish bin away from people in your household.

What to expect: Release from isolation

After 10 days, and as long as you are free of COVID-19 symptoms, you will be free to leave isolation.

You do not need to be tested. If you were, the result would likely show as positive as you have the virus in your system.

The others in your household will need to return negative tests on the relevant days before they can leave isolation.

Help while you're self-isolating

Many people will be able to self-isolate with help from whānau, family and friends but help is available for immediate and essential things if you need it. You can also get practical support and more from a community organisation near you.

You may be able to get:

- money for urgent costs, like food and groceries, essential items, medicine or bills that are higher than usual, like power.

You have to meet an income and asset test

- help from community, iwi or Pacific organisations to get things done, including deliveries of things you need.

COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme

Your employer must be eligible, which includes:

- registered businesses
- registered charities
- Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)
- the self-employed and sole traders
- incorporated societies
- post-settlement governance entities

Employees must meet health criteria and have been advised to self-isolate for a period of at least four consecutive days for any one of the following reasons (and be unable to work from home for that period):

- they have COVID-19 or
- they are a close contact of a person who has COVID-19 or
- they are the parent or caregiver of a dependant who has been advised to self-isolate or
- they are in the category of people most at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 or
- they have household members in the category of people who are most at risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

Those authorised to advise to self-isolate are:

- a medical officer of health (as defined in the Health Act 1956) or their delegate e.g. the Ministry of Health or a public health unit or
- a medical practitioner (as defined in the Health Act 1956) e.g. your GP or doctors at the hospital or
- the National Investigation and Tracing Centre.

The COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme is paid at the rate of:

- \$600.00 a week for full-time workers who were working 20 hours or more a week.
- \$359 a week for part-time workers who were working less than 20 hours a week.

To be eligible for a one-week payment of Leave Support Scheme employees will have been advised to self-isolate for at least four consecutive calendar days.

If an employee needs to keep self-isolating for at least 11 calendar days or more and can't work from home, employers can apply for a second week payment of the Leave Support Scheme and can apply for third and subsequent Leave support payments for every further seven days of self-isolation.

Source: Covid19.govt.nz

Indoor Bowls NGONGOTAHA INDOOR BOWLS

8th February Roll Up It was a quiet night. Most people seemed pleased to be back bowling. We did not have any new members. The president hoped that this year would run smoothly without any Covid, Delta or Omicron. We just had a couple of fun games mixing with different players.

14th February Opening Night We had Murray Harris roll up the first official bowl for the season because our Patron is keeping safe from Omicron if we get an outbreak. Keep safe Eddie and we definitely will look forward to your return. We had a couple of games then we had prize giving for last year in 2021. Some members had forgotten they had won. Members provided supper. The results are herewith:

2021 Championship Results for Ngongotaha Bowls

Championship Fours

Winners Wayne Hitchens, Cheryl Wiggins, Martin Bertling, Harry Hika

Runners Up John Rayner, Robin Campbell, Richard Mills, Bruce Mapson

Championship Triples

Winners Wayne Hitchens, Robin Campbell, David Fleet

Runners Up John Rayner, Delwyn Hughes, Helen White

Championship Pairs

Winners Wayne Hitchens, Bruce Mapson

Runners Up John Rayner, Nicole Ruthe

Championship Singles

Winner Wayne Hitchens

Runner Up Cheryl Wiggins

Graded Triples

Winners John Rayner, Grahame Turner, Bruce Mapson

Runners Up Wayne Hitchens, Helen White, Nicole Ruthe

Graded Pairs (Curry Cup)

Winners Murray Harris, Delwyn Hughes

Runners Up Bruce Wiggins, Jan Drabble

Whyte Trophy

Winners John Rayner, Nicole Ruthe

International Pairs

Winners Murray Harris, David Fleet

Runners Up John Rayner, Richard Mills

Leads/Twos

Winner Grahame Turner

Runner Up Jan Drabble

Mens Singles

Winner Richard Mills

Runner Up Bruce Mapson

Womens Singles

Winner Cheryl Wiggins

Runner Up Robin Campbell

Most Improved Player

Bruce Mapson



21st February Trophy It was another night of humid conditions to contend with while playing but I think everyone seemed to cope with it. We had our President missing plus three other members absent so it was a very quiet night.

The winners for the night were Kevin Whyte, Martin Burtling with 26 points. Runners up were Murray Harris, Richard Mills and Nicole Ruthe with 24 points.

28th February Graded Triples A very quiet night as some players were missing, but we had a good night, well at least I did. The winners tonight were Murray Harris, Helen White and Nicole Ruthe. Runners up were Kevin Whyte, Richard Mills and Jan Drabble. Kevin's team tried their best.

Anyone looking at playing bowls can contact:

John Rayner 07 5625012

Kevin Whyte 07 3574766

Age Concern

This year has not started off the way it was supposed to both on the domestic front and the international situation. I think, like me, you were all hoping for a more settled year with no dramas and our ability to live with Covid, not trying too hard to eliminate it.

As I write this, the police are finally moving to evict the protestors on the lawns of our Parliament and while it is unfortunate that it has come to this, I think it is a necessary evil and I think the NZ Police have shown remarkable restraint in the face of mounting pressure. Also, the attack on Ukraine by Russia is in its early days but hopefully that will be contained in Europe and not start WW3 involving the whole world.

Some of our members need a bit of gardening work or some maintenance completed around their home. Often it isn't a huge job, but it was too hard for our members to do. Hoping to get a lead on someone who could do the work, our members approached Age Concern Rotorua to ask the staff if they knew of anyone. We did, and connected our member with a handyman who could do the work. Our members had taken advantage of a service Age Concern Rotorua has been providing for several years which we have called The Supergold Skills programme.

Age Concern Rotorua started the service a number of years ago, in response to a growing number of people seeking recommendations for tradespeople and odd-job people who were trustworthy and didn't "cost the earth".

Some older people were nervous about responding to advertisements for a variety of reasons, such as, not knowing what

the person was like, feeling concerned the job was too small to be of interest, or concerns around how much it was going to cost.

Age Concern Rotorua acted as the "connector" between the client and the provider of the service, and the negotiation of charges and time would be between the handy person and the member. Providers are not employed by Age Concern and once connected, the management is between them and the client. Those providers on the list have been interviewed and vetted by police.

Most of our tradespersons are semi-retired and some have been professionals and want to help other people – they like giving back to the community. As well as being honest and reliable, the providers needed to be "great working with older clients/kaumātua", helping to support them to remain in their home and independent.

Services had a wide range and there were also professional tradespeople such as builders, plumbers and electricians.

Age Concern Rotorua is looking for more people to join the Supergold Skills provider list – people with life experience and skills in a range of areas such as dog walking and pet sitting, cleaning, hanging curtains, general property repairs, clearing gutters, painting, water blasting, moving plants and concreting posts to name a few. If you think that you may be able to help by providing a service and joining our providers team we would love to hear from you.

(Continued on p.12)



Revise the road rules
and learn how to
keep driving safely

Tuesday, 12 April 2022

Wednesday, 11 May 2022

Wednesday, 8 June 2022

9.30am – 2.30pm

Parkside Community Centre



**FREE
ROAD
SAFETY
UPDATE**
for over 65's

Phone Rotorua Lakes Council
on 348 4199 to register



Because we care



(Continued from p. 11)

We do ask, that to take advantage of this service, that you are a member of Age Concern and you are in your own home, not renting or in a rest home.

As baby boomers get on in life, New Zealand faces a whole new range of public health problems. The uneven age distribution of New Zealand's population and an increasing life expectancy means more and more Kiwis are living to a ripe old age.

Fewer than 500,000 Kiwis were over the age of 65 back in 2006. Now that number is over 700,000, or more than 15 percent of the population. And the old are getting older - in 2018, just under 85,000 people were aged over 85. By 2043, this number is expected to triple.

As more of us live further into our golden years, the specific health challenges of being elderly become more and more vital to explore and solve. Despite this, dementia remains under-diagnosed and under-researched. Numbers of people living with dementia are increasing rapidly and they are going to continue to do so as New Zealand's population is ageing at an unprecedented rate.

Around 70,000 New Zealanders are affected by dementia, with that number expected to more than double by 2050. On top of this International data showed 75 percent of

all dementia cases worldwide (over 41 million cases) go undiagnosed, making effective support all the harder to access, meaning the number in New Zealand may in fact be higher.

Dementia is the gradual loss of brain function due to physical changes to the structure of the brain - most commonly experienced by people over the age of 65, but also possible for people as young as 45. While scientists know dementia is caused by some kind of damage to brain cells, they have yet to pin down the exact cause.

Stay safe.

Rory O'Rourke
Manager Age Concern

A man in Moscow buys the morning newspaper; glances at the front page, and throws it straight out. The next day, he does the same again. And again, the following day. Eventually, the newspaper seller snaps, "Why DO you do that?" "Oh, I'm just checking for an obituary," he replies. "But obituaries aren't even on the front page," says the newspaper vendor. "Oh, the one I'm looking for will be!"

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Progress Ngongotaha-Kokiri Ngongotaha Inc.

Out and about...

A catch up with our Stream Team, found John, Gavin and Keith all well and ready to welcome new volunteers to their team. There is a real enthusiasm to maintain the stream for keen anglers, as well as clearing banks, raking paths, for walkers and other users of this beautiful, tranquil oasis.

If you are a keen Angler or walker and have some spare time to assist at the Ngongotaha Stream please give Gavin a call, he will be only too pleased to walk you through some of the opportunities available.

This is also an opportunity for you to join the team, and maybe add something special to this area yourself. I discovered some lovely painted rocks placed here and there along the walk. I know that adding signage is something that has often mentioned over the years, and seating is another. Maybe you have the skills to help in this way?

By the way John, Gavin and Keith wear Hi Viz jackets, but they are not Council workers. They are at the stream weekly, keeping the area tidy and planted and John has been volunteering now for over 20 years. Many of the plants alongside the stream, started life in John's glass house.

As a community we are extremely lucky to have such dedicated people, who are keeping all the nasty prickly plants at bay, and trimming back, preparing shrubs for planting, weeding, pruning, spreading mulch, and clearing banks.

They do have 'time out for a cuppa' and don't work volunteers too hard. It will all be up to you and your ability, health, time available etc. Please call Gavin 021 2263978

I took a wander beyond the car parking area (Tau Street) along the cycle way, towards the pedestrian bridge, and over and under the bridge.

This is an area that desperately needs a working bee. It used to be a really great place to catch fish. There was a wooden platform built for the purpose. I often waved out to parents and their children as they fished; with great success.

Today, the platform is long gone, all but one vertical post and a horizontal one, hardly visible under the weeds. The path that was cut into the slope and led down to the platform is washed away and overgrown with weeds and other debris. Is this something that you would like to help with? Could you give some time help in this area? Please let me know, we can connect with Council for resources, and their help with such things as the replacement of non-slip strips on the bridge etc.

Phone 3574565 or text 022 1404391

e. progressngongotaha@gmail.com

'Home' Ngongotaha Life Memories

e. homengongotahamemories@gmail.com

We would love to hear about your memories, do you have any newspaper clippings, stories from your past, photographs that you would like to share. Please phone Bob 3489864 or Lynn 3574565.

PS: we would still appreciate any bits 'n pieces that you may have about Fanny Marshes shop, which was situated on the main street where the walk way is today, leading back to the carpark area.

Our little Ngongotaha museum is still looking for a home, but our Team have not stopped.

Talk soon !!

Lynn



Ngongotaha is a progressive village that provides a pleasant, stimulating, safe and caring environment in which people can live and work, and businesses can grow and thrive.

Progress Ngongotaha are a team of local people committed to making Ngongotaha a great place to live, work and play.

We focus on:

- The Environment
- Local Young People
- Culture and Art
- Ngongotaha History
- Business Wellbeing
- Community Safety and Support



PROGRESS

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KOKIRI NGONGOTAHA INC

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Ray White

FOR SALE



Ngongotaha 34 Kauae Place

Escape to this lovely brick and tile home, perfectly positioned in a cul-de-sac setting just a short commute to the city, but far from the urban bustle. With three double bedrooms, bathroom plus ensuite, a modern kitchen, internal access double garage and a lovely private section, this home is sure to appeal to families of all ages. Brand new carpet and views to the mountain, fibre, LED lighting in most places, a fire alarm and an 8kw heat pump. This one owner property is handy to all that Ngongotaha has to offer with its village shopping, trout streams, boat ramp, lake & school.

Deadline Sale 14.04.22 (unless sold prior) View ROT30414
Contact Anita Martelli 027 552 6482

FOR SALE



Ngongotaha Valley 759 Paradise Valley Road

This rare piece of paradise nestles amongst a natural backdrop with the Ngongotaha stream at the foot of the property. Positioned on almost 14 acres, this exceptional lifestyle includes nine paddocks with easy access plus yards and a loading ramp. The architecturally designed home offers open plan living and three bedrooms plus a fourth bedroom or third living space and an office. An impressive entertainment deck is fully equipped and ready to host all year round entertaining. Upstairs, the skylights and balconies bring the outdoors alive and the home features rimu highlights throughout. Double internal access garage, carport and a separate shed. Enjoy the space and privacy, raise some farm animals, fish for trout. Here is a spectacular property that needs to be viewed to be fully appreciated.

For Sale By Negotiation View ROT30342
Contact Anita Martelli 027 552 6482 & Phill Rivers 0276 109 090

FOR SALE



Ngongotaha 23 Oakland Place

Set amongst established quality housing, this 994 sqm (more or less) section will greatly appeal to those wishing to build their dream home. Situated within walking distance of the vibrant Ngongotaha Village shopping centre and handy to city public transport. One also has easy access to the lake and boat ramp, trout streams and cycle trail.

Buyers should explore the potential for more than one dwelling due to generous size of the section. Ring John for further details.

For Sale By Negotiation View ROT30376
Contact John Piercy 027 446 4549

John Piercy

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Ray White

FOR SALE



Ngongotaha 17 Waikuta Road

Basking in the sun with peeps through to the lake and lake access just a short walk away, this charming property projects a holiday ambience with plenty of character and potential to add value. You'll love spending time in this home which has a light and sunny living space with good connection to the outdoors plus a character kitchen, bathroom, separate laundry & toilet and two bedrooms. The large multipurpose space adjoining the living area is the ideal venue for rainy day games or sleepovers. Outdoors there's a wrap-around terrace and a barbeque deck, good room for vehicles including a double carport and off street parking for the boat. The property is beautifully located in Ngongotaha with the start of the cycleway just around the corner. World class trout fishing, scenic walks, water sports and village life are all close by.

For Sale By Negotiation View ROT30368
Contact Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986

FOR SALE



Ngongotaha 9 Egmont Road

It feels like you're already on holiday! Stroll to the lake edge and the picturesque stream from this property nestled amongst an iconic kiwi lakeside community. World class trout fishing, swimming, scenic walks and adventures are all close to your doorstep. This tidy home offers three bedrooms, two with outdoor access to the private garden. A high-pitched ceiling and access to the outdoor patio and garden give the open living space the kind of airy, relaxed feel that complements the setting. A patio overlooks the lawn and garden which is a lovely place to relax in and an ideal space for children to play. Single level living, double garage with internal access - what could be easier?

Buyer Enquiry Over \$750,000 View ROT25958
Contact Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986

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FOR SALE



Ngongotaha 290 Ngongotaha Road

This kiwi quarter-acre dream property is located just a stroll away from the lake, stream and village. Offering three bedrooms, bathroom and a spacious lounge. Nice views overlooking Mt Ngongotaha and double glazing to keep you cosy. There's also a separate double garage plus plenty of veggie gardens and fruit trees. Great trout fishing spots close by. Explore all of your options with this large sized section.

Deadline Sale 30.03.22 (unless sold prior) View ROT30401
Contact Mandy Lee 0276 732 331



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A nun is walking through the church courtyard when a soldier comes running up to her.

The soldier says, "Sister, quickly! May I please hide under your skirt? My lieutenant is looking for me and I know he is going to send me to Ukraine!"

The nun replies, "Why of course, it's an emergency!"

A few moments later, a few soldiers and a lieutenant march into the courtyard. They ask the nun, "Sister, have you seen a soldier pass through anywhere?"

"He went that way!", replied the nun as she gestured towards the building across the road.

"Thank you, Sister."

When the footsteps finally fade, the soldier crawls back out of the skirt.

"Thank you so much, you saved my life and I can come home. You saved me from service in Ukraine! God bless you!" The soldier exclaimed.

"It was no problem, thank you for your service."

"One last thing. I don't mean to be too direct or rude, but you have a great pair of legs!"

"Thank you for the compliment, but if you looked a little further up, you would have seen a great pair of balls! I don't want to go to Ukraine either."

Ngongotaha Medical Centre Limited

Doctors: Simon Firth, Jane Carman, Genevieve Matthews, Kingsley Aneke, Jorgelina Ferreira, Louisa Barter

Testing positive for COVID-19

Isolating when someone in our household tests positive significantly helps to slow the spread of COVID-19. Slowing the spread will protect our vulnerable populations and ease the pressure on our healthcare system.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT)

- Follow the packet instructions
- Results will be visible **20 minutes** after you complete your test
- Support to carry out a test or to understand the results is available on **0800 358 5453** or at [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

If you test negative but have symptoms, stay at home and test again 24 hours later. If you test negative again and still have symptoms, contact a health professional for support.

What to do if you test positive

- If you test positive, you need to self isolate.
 - If you have symptoms**, you need to self-isolate from when they started.
 - If you don't have symptoms**, you need to self-isolate from when you got a positive test.
- Everyone else in your household needs to self-isolate and get tested. Go to [Covid19.govt.nz/household](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/household) for more details. If they test positive, they also need to follow these steps.
- Record your RAT result in your *My COVID Record* or call **0800 222 478**. Note: If your test was at a Community Testing Centre or other health provider, you don't need to do this, as the result will be automatically added to your *My COVID Record*.
- If you have provided your mobile number, you will receive a text message from 2328 within 24 hours with a unique code to access an online form. Complete this form to help us identify if you need additional health or welfare support and any high risk factors.
- Household contacts can end their self-isolation at the same time as you (as long as they haven't tested positive)

How Long do I need to self-isolated for?

To find out how long you need to self isolate go to [Covid19.govt.nz/positive](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/positive)

What to do when isolating

- Food and supplies must be contactless delivery. This can be organised online through many supermarkets and businesses, or ask friends, whānau or neighbours to help.
- Tell people that your household has COVID-19 and is isolating. This includes regular visitors, your work place, education provider or school.
- You can exercise outside your home in your neighbourhood, but not at any shared exercise facility, such as a swimming pool or gym. You must maintain physical distancing.
- Keep surfaces clean, and open windows to increase ventilation and airflow.

Support while isolating

Most people will be able to manage with the help of whānau or friends, but if you need extra support while you are self-isolating, Work and Income may be able to help with:

- money to pay for urgent and essential costs, like food, medicine and some bills
- supplies delivered to you
- Connecting you to support from community groups, iwi and Pacific groups in your area.

For more information, call the COVID Welfare Line on 0800 512 337.

Employment financial support

If you will need to take time off work for isolation, your employer may be able to get **Leave Support** to help them keep paying you.

Mental wellbeing

For information on available support, go to [Covid19.govt.nz/isolationssupport](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/isolationssupport)
 You can speak with a trained counsellor any time: **free call or text to 1737**

What's going on with the housing market?

So, you might have heard a bunch of stuff in the media in the last few months about banks declining lending and the housing market plummeting. So what's going on? Here's my take:

Well, the Government made changes to regulation increasing the obligation on lenders around responsible lending effective December 2021. Without getting too technical for the purposes of this article, the primary focus then went from Loan to Value Ratio (LVR – amount of the loan to value of the property being secured eg a house), to more of a focus on Loan to Income Ratio (LIR – amount of loan to amount of money earned and spent). The objective of the changes was largely to ensure people could afford the loans they were taking out, and not hocked up with unaffordable debt in light of inevitable rise of mortgage interest rates that we're starting to see now - and even more so to keep high-interest third tier or mezzanine lenders in check.

But what's "actually" happened is that banks in particular are trawling through bank account history, scrutinising discretionary spending and spending habits in detail. One client looking at selling her existing house and buying another recently described this as leaving her feeling completely violated and embarrassed. Yep, those media articles you might have read where people are reporting bank scrutiny of cash withdrawals, what you bought at Kmart, and takeaway spending, are very real.

And imagine what happens next! Yep, we're seeing banks declining mortgage applications left, right and centre across all home buyer demographic groups. On top of that finance approvals are taking 3-4 weeks in our experience. Want pre-approval to buy another house on the basis of a sale? Or want to buy at auction? Nup. Both are virtually impossible.

And imagine what THEN happens! Yep, housing sales are taking significantly longer sitting in the conditional agreement stage, and regularly tipping over several weeks later because the finance condition isn't satisfied. And if you're a vendor, it's my view the days of selling at auction could be over: there's a housing stock shortage and it's getting less common for buyers to be cashed up from a previous house sale, and the majority of buyers need a mortgage but can't get finance pre-approval to buy at auction in the first place. It's a catch 22.

Unsurprisingly, bank mortgage lending is reportedly down significantly overall (in the billions), and national house sale numbers are down significantly too. Imagine. So where to from here? Well, one main bank has already publicly stated they believe the regulatory lending changes are being mis-interpreted. And the Government itself has also publicly said the changes weren't intended to be interpreted as they currently are either, and there's going to be a review. I do believe that the situation will sort itself out in the next few months because the country needs the housing market to tick over, and banks need to lend to make money on loans. So watch that space!

Article supplied by Ros Morshead, Solicitor at Lawbox

LAKEVIEW GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

What a great run of weather we have been having as we head into the first month of autumn. The rain that we had in February was very welcome and the fairways greened up nicely, although now it is getting a bit dry again. The perfect world would see rain every night through summer!

Unfortunately, the world is far from perfect at the moment so it makes us grateful for the chance to get out on the golf course in a beautiful environment and de-stress and forget about the world for a while.

Competition in March continues with Handicap Matchplay. Qualifying starts on March 5th and then from 12th March through to the beginning of April, the battle begins to find the victors. Congratulations to Jeanette Watkins for winning the Vice Captains Trophy and runner up Stu Rika! Pennants is underway with competitions every Sunday. Special mention to Hunter Edwards who at the tender age of 14 is playing in the senior men's Pennant team off the blue tees. Well done Hunter great achievement and awesome inspiration for other girls out there "girls can do anything!"

Of course, as the days close in it is a reminder that twilight is nearing the end of its run. The ladies' twilight has been a great success with a core group of new ladies getting out on the course and enjoying each others company and the sport of golf. Good on you ladies, fantastic to see!

Junior sessions have started up again on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. If you have a child looking for a new sport to play, bring them along. All equipment is provided. It is awesome to have started a golf academy with tamariki from Ngongotaha Primary. We hope they are enjoying the sport and look forward to seeing them progress as time goes by.

It was with great sadness that we read of the passing of Steve Smith in Craig's Ngongotaha Primary contribution in the last Ngongotaha News issue. Lakeview send their condolences to Steve's whanau. Steve was a very familiar face out on the golf course. His tenacity to continue playing golf for as long as he could was a huge inspiration to us all. RIP Steve.

Quiz nights are on hold under the red TLF setting given our limited space in the temporary clubhouse. Hopefully we can start these up again in the near future.

Until next month stay safe.

Golf shop phone number is 07 357 2341.



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Kaharoa School

**Ma te huruhuru ka rere te manu
Adorn the bird with feathers so it can fly**



Day Trips

With overnight camps being cancelled this year the middle and senior classes all had fabulous 'Day Out' activities instead. Rooms Rākau & Whakairo headed to Blue Lake for kayaking and water fun on Friday 25 February whilst Room Rangiora went to Waihi to explore the mining history and go swimming. On Wednesday 2nd March Rooms Rata & Rimu headed to Lakes Ranch where a range of activities from slug guns to wall climbing were all tackled. Thank you to the many parents who helped to make these day trips possible. The events organised by the teachers are often ones that children may not have had the opportunity to experience before. It is a wonderful

opportunity to demonstrate our Self Manager Key Competency and all of the Cornerstone Values.

Swimming Sports

Our Junior Swimming Sports were held on Monday 21 February with our 5, 6 & 7 year olds showing off their swimming prowess. Our Senior Swimming Sports were held on Tuesday 22 February. This is always a wonderful time for our school tamariki to compete against one another and to cheer each other on. Unfortunately we could not host the Rural Interschool Swimming Sports due to Covid.continued p 19



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Hours 9am - 4pm Tues to Sat and 9am - 2pm Sun

.....from p 18

Covid

Like many other schools throughout the country, Kaharoa is experiencing household contacts or positive cases in both students and teachers. It has been heartening to see the way our community has all pulled together to ensure everyone can continue 'as normal'. This has been seen in people reaching out to neighbours to ensure they have all the groceries and medicine they need. Our staff have also been taking on extra duties and/or extra students when a reliever is not available. Wearing a mask all day when indoors and on the bus for Year 4 and above is not pleasant but the responsibility is on all of us to ensure we do the very best we can to look after others as well as ourselves.

We continue to remind the children and adults each day to practice good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene. This includes reminders to:

- * wash your hands often with soap and water or hand sanitiser before leaving the classroom for breaks and again when entering the classroom after breaks as well as after attending the toilet.
- * cover coughs and sneezes with clean tissues or elbow.
- * put used tissues in the bin.
- * to stay home if unwell.
- * to keep hands/fingers out of mouths, noses and eyes.

Some links for your information. Ministry of Health website. World health organisation (WHO) website <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Go Buses

Special thanks to Stu and Steve, our Go Bus drivers, who ensure our children are safely transported to and from school. 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. Take care everyone. Please refer to the Kaharoa website for further information. www.kaharoa.school.nz

Ngā mihi mahana - The Kaharoa Team



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We are here for you, and we're happy to help.

- We can **deliver prescriptions** if you are unable to get to the pharmacy.
- We are now a collection site for **Rapid Antigen Tests** for people who have symptoms or household contacts. Tests can be ordered online (we can help you do this, just bring your mobile phone with you to the pharmacy if you have one or just call in anyway and we can help) or you can order yourself by going to:
requestrats.covid19health.nz or by phoning **0800 222 478** choose option 3 (8am to 8pm, 7 days a week) and bring your RAT order number with you.
- We also have **single RAT** kits available for sale for **\$9.50** each, while stocks last.

Please remember to be patient and kind to one another as we all get through this together.

Find us at 17 Taiui St, Ngongotaha Ph:3574240

A Finnish joke from the Cold War

During the Cold War, a foreign journalist asked a Finnish general what Finland would do if the USSR and NATO would fight a war in Finland.

He replied "first we would beat NATO, and then the Soviets".

The journalist was surprised about the order and asked why.

"We are civilized people. Work comes before pleasure", the general replied.

A Soviet War joke

It is 1939 and a Soviet army is marching on Finland. As they pass the border, they hear a Finnish voice over the hill;
"One Finnish soldier is better than 10 Soviet soldiers!"

The Soviet general laughs, as he sends 10 men on the hill to capture it.
There is gunfire for a minute and then everything goes silent for a moment, and they then hear the same voice;
"One Finnish soldier is better than a hundred of yours!"

Annoyed, the Soviet general sends hundred men to capture the hill. There is gunfire and bombs going for ten minutes, and everything goes silent again.

Suddenly, the same voice yells out;
"One Finnish soldier is better than a thousand Soviet soldiers!"

Enraged, the general sends a thousand men, accompanied with tanks, artillery, mortar teams, and tells them to not return until the hill is theirs. For half an hour hell breaks loose, bombs and explosions, gunfire, screams and death all around, and then it goes silent again.

One Soviet soldier crawls back, severely wounded and battered.
Before the general could say anything, the soldier says;
"Do not send more troops, comrade general, it's a trap! There is two of them."

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NKBA
NEW ZEALAND KITCHEN & BATHING ASSOCIATION

It's the time of year when you have surplus courgettes and tomatoes, amongst other items. Here's some recipes to help use your abundance up. And check out the Mamaku Crop Swap in our Happenings column.

Zucchini Slice

400g zucchini	1 level cup flour	2 tsp baking powder
\half cup grated cheese	salt & pepper/ paprika	1 onion
2 rashers bacon	1 tbsp butter	3 large eggs
half cup oil	red capsicum (optional)	parmesan cheese

In a bowl, combine grated zucchini, flour, baking powder, cheese, salt and pepper. Saute in butter, finely sliced onion and bacon.

Beat together the eggs and oil. Add the eggs to zucchini, onion/bacon mixture, then add finely diced red capsicum. Combine.

Pour into a greased 23 cm dish. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese and paprika. Bake at 180C for about 35 minutes.

A great lunch dish with a salad. Can be made a day ahead and stored overnight in the fridge, reheat to serve.

Courtesy of Ynes Fraser and Volcanic Kitchens Cookbook.

Pickled Vegetables

12 shallots or pickling onions	1 red pepper sliced	1 cucumber, diced
1 cup sliced celery	6 tablespoons salt	500ml spiced vinegar approximately
1 cup sliced green beans	2 cups cauliflower florets	

Prepare vegetables so pieces are of similar size. Put onions, cucujmber and celery in one non-metallic bowl, the beans and cauliflower in another, and the red pepper in a third. Sprinkle red pepper with 1 tablespoon salt and divide the remaining salt between the other two bowls. Cover and leave to stand 12 hours. Next day, drain off liquid formed. Rinse in cold water and drain again. Put the cauliflower and beans into a sieve and blanch in boiling water for 2 minutes. Drain well. Mix all vegetables together and pack into hot, clean, dry jars. Pour spiced vinegar over to cover. Seal with non-metallic lids. Keep for a minimum of 3 weeks before using. Makes about 2 x 500 ml jars.

Courtesy of Edmonds Cookbook

Tomato Sauce

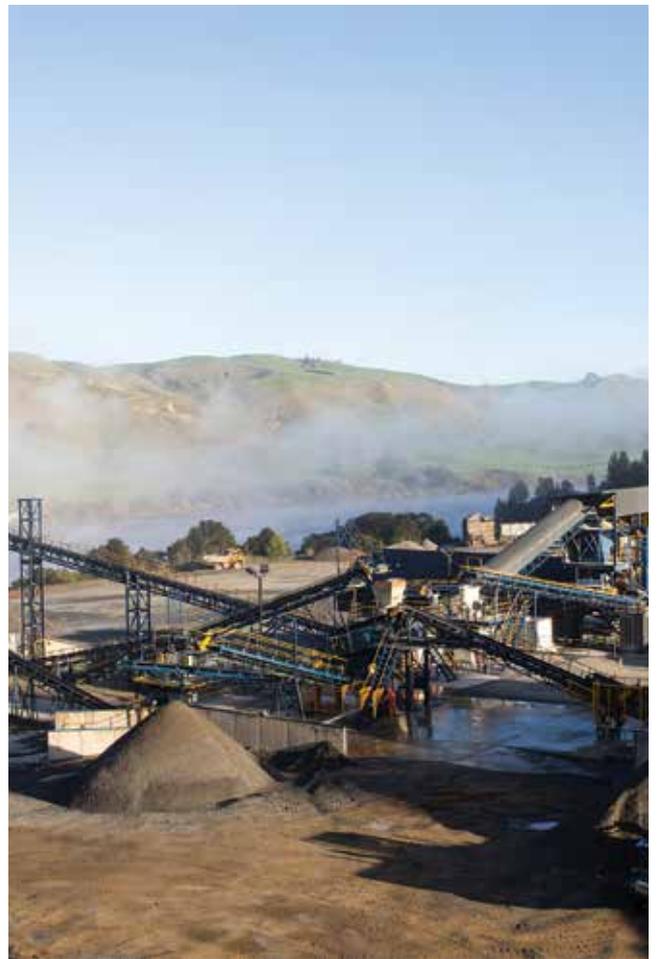
3.5 kg tomatoes, chopped	2 tablespoons salt	1 kg apples, peeled and chopped
half to 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper	6 onions, chopped	1 teaspoon black peppercorns
3 cups sugar	1 tsp whole allspice	4 cups malt vinegar
2 teaspoons whole cloves		

Put tomatoes, apples, onions, sugar, vinegar, salt and cayenne pepper int a large pot.. Tie peppercorns, allspice and cloves in muslin and add to tomato mixture. Boil steadily for about 2 hours or until completely pulpy. Discard whole spices. Press through a colander or coarse sieve. Return to pan and boil for 2 minutes. Pour into hot, clean dry bottles and seal. Makes about 1.75 litres.

Courtesy of Edmonds Cookbook

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*If women ruled the world, there would be no wars...
Just a bunch of countries not talking to each other...*

The war in Afghanistan ended after 20 years, who won?

Raytheon, General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, Boeing and Lockheed Martin

How do you turn lead into gold? Start a war.

Visiting Afghanistan for a second time, a war correspondent noted that since the fall of the Taliban, wives who used to walk ten paces behind their husbands were now walking ten paces in front. The journalist asked one of the men if this was a sign of growing equality. "No", the man replied. "Land-mines."

During World War II, four prisoners are captured and brought back to a German base, set to await the death penalty in their cells. The prisoners are a Scotsman, an Irishman, a Welshman and an Englishman. One morning, a German officer comes in and tells the prisoners, "You are to be lined up and each shot in turn, but before you are shot you get a final wish."

The Scotsman says, "Before I'm shot I'd like to hear Highland Cathedral played on the bagpipes once again, to remind me of the old country." The German nods, "That can be arranged."

The Irishman says, "Before I die, I'd like to hear Danny Boy sung, in the style of Daniel O'Donnell, with Riverdancers skipping gaily to the tune to remind me of the old country." The German nods, "That can also be arranged."

The Welshman says, "After them, before I die I'd like to hear Men of Harlech once again, sung by the Treorchy Male Voice Choir, to remind me of the old country." The German nods, "Yes. That can be arranged."

Hearing all this, the Englishman bursts out laughing.

When the German officer asks "And what is your wish?", he laughs even harder and says; "Can I be shot first?"

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3 Apr Crop Swap 1.00 pm Mamaku Hall.
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14 Apr Maundy Thursday service at
Trinity from 6pm lead by Rev Cate
Williams. There will be an Easter Egg
Hunt for the children prior to the service
and we will be serving Hot Cross Buns
as refreshments afterwards (pandemic
permitting).

Regular Events

(Check for pandemic restrictions)

Monday Indoor Bowls 7.00 pm
Community Hall

Tuesday Vets Golf 9.30am , Ladies
Twilight 4.30 pm, Junior golf after school
at Lakeview

Tuesday 7 pm Waiteti Stream Mouth
Wetland Project ph Martyn 027 3540079

Every Wednesday Twilight Golf for
everyone 4.30pm at Lakeview

2nd Wednesday Friendship Club 9.45 am
St Barnabas Church Hall

4th Wednesday Ngongotaha Garden Circle
meet at Ngongotaha Hall

Every Thursday Junior Golf after school at
Lakeview

Every Sunday Pennants competition at
Lakeview

*No one should have been surprised by the rise of the USSR after World War II.
I mean, there were red flags everywhere.*

After World War II, as part of an exercise in comparative doctrine, three mid-ranking officers were asked...
"Please give your response, in the context of your wartime service, to an infantryman's query "what happens if we run out of ammunition?"

The British officer gave some nonsense about maintaining a stiff upper lip and leading a singalong.

The German officer explained that he would have taken the question-asker aside for a stern talking-to, for indirectly questioning the
Führer's plan.

The Russian officer replied "Please explain the meaning of the symbol immediately following the word 'ammunition'."

*The Deadliest Job in WW2 - My high school assignment was to ask a veteran about World War II. Since my father had served in the
Philippines during the war, I chose him. After a few basic questions, I very gingerly asked, Did you ever kill anyone?*

Dad got quiet. Then, in a soft voice, he said, Probably. I was the cook.

Through the pitch-black night, the captain sees a light dead ahead on a collision course with his ship. He sends a signal: "Change your
course ten degrees east." The light signals back: "Change yours, ten degrees west." Angry, the captain sends: "I'm a Navy captain!
Change your course, sir!" "I'm a seaman, second class," comes the reply. "Change your course, sir." Now the captain is furious. "I'm a
battleship! I'm not changing course!" There's one last reply. "I'm a lighthouse. Your call."

War doesn't determine who is right, war determines who is left.



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An Englishman, an Irishman and an Italian are taken prisoners of war...

They take the Englishman back and hogtie him, whip him, and beat him senseless. After two hours of being brutally tortured, he spills all of his secrets.

Then they take the Irishman back and hogtie him, whip him, and beat him senseless. After four hours of being bashed bloody and bruised, he tells his captors everything he knows.

Finally, they take the Italian and hogtie him, whip him, and beat him senseless. The other two men could hear him crying out in pain for nearly ten hours as he was tortured, but his captors couldn't get him to tell them anything, so they let him go.

When the three men regrouped outside, the Englishman took a sip of whiskey from a flask and set his hand on the shoulder of the Italian, asking, "So, how'd'ya go so damn long and not say anything?" To which the Italian replied, "How could I have talked with my hands tied behind my back?"

In Jerusalem, a female CNN journalist heard about a very old Jewish man who had been going to the Wailing Wall to pray, twice a day, everyday, for a long, long time. So she went to check it out. She went to the Wailing Wall and there he was!

She watched him pray and after about 45 minutes, when he turned to leave, she approached him for an interview.

"I'm Rebecca Smith from CNN. Sir, how long have you been coming to the Wall and praying?"

"For about 60 years."

"60 years! That's amazing! What do you pray for?"

"I pray for peace between the Christians, Jews and the Muslims. I pray for all the hatred to stop and I pray for all our children to grow up in safety and friendship."

"How do you feel after doing this for 60 years?"

"Like I'm talking to a wall."

A man in Amsterdam feels the need to confess, so he goes to his priest.

"Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. During world war II, I hid a refugee in my attic."

"Well," answers the priest, "that's not a sin."

"But I made him agree to pay me 20 guilders for every week he stayed."

"I admit that wasn't good, but you did it for a good cause."

"Oh, thank you, Father. That eases my mind. I have one more question."

"What is that, my son?"

"Do I have to tell him the war is over?"



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