



New Housing Development for Ngongotaha?

15.9 hectares at 31 Ngongotaha Road was bought 8 weeks ago by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, to be developed by Watchman Residential to site possibly 350 homes. The site was previously rejected in 2018 by the Government for a private development of 87 homes due to flooding and congestion concerns.

At a public meeting on 26 January in the Ngongotaha Hall attended by approximately 400 people, Ministry of Housing and Urban development deputy chief executive Ben Dalton, developer director Marcus Jacobson, and contracted engineer James Dufty addressed questions raised by those present. There appeared to be consensus for the need for new housing as evidenced by comments from the floor, and Progress Ngongotaha observed that the infrastructure in Ngongotaha was old and needed upgrading as did many homes.

Jacobsen said the homes would be high density Kiwibuild homes of 130 to 150 sq m. 15-20% would be social housing and 20% affordable housing (priced at approximately \$475,000) with a mixture of single, duplex, terrace and 2 storey buildings, housing an estimated 1000 people, with sales usually done using a ballot system. There would be drop-in centres for further information. Dufty indicated hydraulic modelling, geotechnical, quantity surveying and infrastructure investigations had been completed and they were working to higher standards than in 2018. It was not unusual for developments on swamp lands, and the flood plain would be modified, with no houses built on the final flood plain and no untreated runoff.

Concerns from the floor included that the site was wahi tapu, floods often and acts as a catchment reservoir, the flow into the Waiteti Stream would increase, and this was simply the wrong site. Craig McFadyen, principal of Ngongotaha School said his school of 300 pupils could have 400 more children with no further space and no plans to build another school. There were also concerns that there are insufficient health providers to serve such a large population increase.

Jean-Paul Gaston of RLC clarified it was early in the process, that applications to the Council were yet to be made, and that the sewer and other upgrades would be a cost to the developer. A plan change would normally take 3 years but this could be shortened to 1 year if a fast-track application was consented. Comment raised was that this would limit locals' input. Todd McClay queried what had changed MHUD's view from 2018 – not enough information was provided and a lot of decisions will be made outside Rotorua.

Editor's comment: In view of climate change, the situations with emergency housing in Rotorua, the Western Rd fiasco and unprecedented flooding in Auckland, public meetings on the plans, with much more information and scrutiny, not just drop-in centres, will be needed for better accountability to our Ngongotaha community.

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Best grocery prices website Grocer.NZ

Kiwis can get the best deals by checking which supermarket store has their grocery list for the cheapest.

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The user can then add the item to their shopping list to save it. Once the user is done adding all the items they want, the website will show which supermarket will cost them the lowest total amount for their groceries under the 'plan' section.

The website can only show local supermarket stores that provide online shopping since the price data comes from online stores.



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Summer Food Safety (mpi.govt.nz)

BBQ food safety tips

- Keep your food covered and chilled until you cook it - and cover and chill any leftovers as soon as possible too.
- Make sure your barbecue and cooking tools have been cleaned with soap and water before using.
- Have separate utensils, plates and other equipment for raw and cooked foods. If you only use one set, germs can spread from raw meats to cooked foods.
- Make sure raw meat doesn't touch cooked food or ready-to-eat foods (like salads).
- Barbecue meat until it is steaming hot (over 75°C) all the way through.
- Turn food often so that it cooks evenly.
- Marinate meat in a covered container in the fridge. Cook the marinade before pouring it over cooked foods.

Buying and transporting raw meat

- Separate raw meat from other foods in your shopping trolley or basket.
- If the meat isn't in leakproof packaging, put it in plastic bags to stop juices from dripping onto other foods.
- * When you are transporting raw meat, keep it cool in a chilly bin or bag, especially during summer. Use ice packs on hot days and if you won't be getting home for a while. Also keep meat as far away from car or bus windows as possible.

Storing meat at home

- Don't leave raw meat at room temperature. Store it in the fridge or freezer, ideally at the bottom of your fridge. This stops any leaking juices (which may contain harmful bacteria) from dripping onto other foods.
- Store raw meat away from any cooked food or food that doesn't get cooked (like raw fruit, vegetables, and salad).
- Storing raw meat in containers will catch any juices and save unnecessary cleaning up. Make sure containers are cleaned after use.

Preparing raw meat

- Completely defrost frozen meat before cooking to make sure it cooks evenly. Don't defrost it at room temperature on the benchtop – prepare ahead and defrost it overnight in your fridge. If you forget or are short on time, use the defrost setting on your microwave.
- Do not wash meat (especially chicken meat) before cooking. Washing can create puddles and sprays of raw meat juice that spread bacteria around the kitchen.
- Ideally, use separate chopping boards, utensils, and serving plates for raw meat. If you only have one board or knife, make sure to clean it with hot, soapy water after using it for meat.
- Wash your hands with soap and hot water immediately after handling raw meat to prevent any cross-contamination with other surfaces or foods.

Cooking meat and meat products

- Usually when meat is available in whole pieces, like fillets or cuts, bacteria only sit on the surface. As soon as it is minced, bacteria get transferred throughout the product. Therefore, minced meat needs to be cooked thoroughly.
- Intact steaks only need surface cooking (searing or flame grilling).
- All other meat and meat products need to be cooked through. This includes blade-tenderized steaks (often pre-marinated), poultry meat, and all minced meat products (like beef, pork, chicken, or lamb burgers, and sausages and dumplings).
- Cook meat all the way through, until juices run clear.
- If you can, use a meat thermometer. Insert it into the middle of the thickest part of the meat. It should read an internal temperature of 75 degrees Celsius for 30 seconds after cooking, 70 degrees Celsius after 3 minutes, or 65 degrees Celsius after 15 minutes.

Handling Chicken Safely

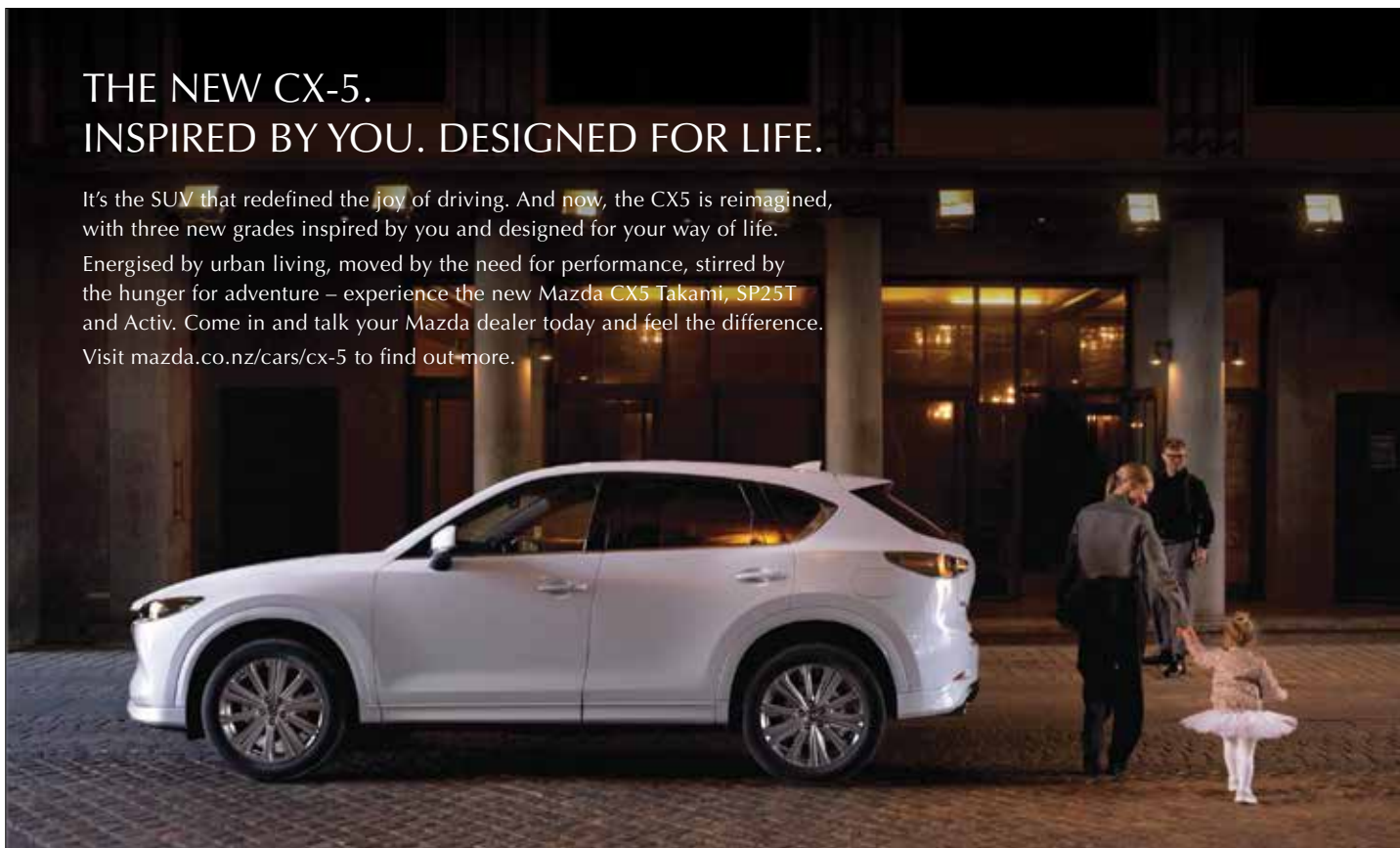
Every summer, there is a rise in people getting sick from food, commonly campylobacteriosis caused by raw or undercooked chicken. So, cook it properly with separate utensils and chopping boards, and don't leave it out in the heat of the day.

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Four rabbis are having a debate

Four rabbis are debating scripture out in the garden, and one of them notices he's continuously outvoted by the other three even though he's absolutely certain he's right.

At a certain point, his frustration gets the best of him and he stands up, raises his hands and and says "My Lord, you must know that this is the right way, give us a sign to let us know!"

As soon as he has spoken, a cloud materializes out of nowhere, moves in front of the sun and dissolves again.

The other three look at him, at each other, go "Well... That was certainly unusual, but the weather's been acting up a bit lately, so this does not really mean anything", and just continue with the discussion unmoved.

The fourth rabbi, increasingly desperate, again stands up and calls out "My Lord, they continue to defy your word, please send another sign to help them see the error of their ways!"

This time, it's not just one cloud, but the entire sky darkens, a thunderclap sounds and a bolt of lightning hits just next to the other three rabbis. They're startled, but after catching their breath conclude that no, you don't see that every day, but it's late summer, thunderstorms can come in surprisingly quickly, we're out in an open garden, there's no lightning rod on top of the synagogue even though there really should be, etc. So this still doesn't mean anything, we'll stick with our viewpoints thank you very much.

Now absolutely livid and still outvoted, the fourth rabbi gets up one final time, stamps his feet, raises his hands and shouts "Oh

Lord, you who created all, for the love of your people and the ways of the world, make your will known, so that it must be clear even to these stubborn mules!"

And a booming voice fills the sky, "***HE IS CORRECT***"

The other three rabbis look up, look down to their colleague, and finally one says:

"That's still three against two".

Summer Olympics

An English athlete, a French athlete and a Russian athlete are all on the medal podium at the 1976 Summer Olympics chatting before the medal ceremony.

"Don't get me wrong" says the Englishman, "winning a medal is very nice, but I still feel the greatest pleasure in life is getting home after a long day, putting one's feet up and having a nice cup of tea".

"You Englishman" snorts the Frenchman, "you have no sense of romance. The greatest pleasure in life is going on holiday without your wife, and meeting a beautiful girl with whom you have a passionate love affair with before returning home back to work".

"You are both wrong" scoffs the Russian. "The greatest pleasure in life is when you are sleeping at home and the KGB breaks your door down at 3 AM, bursts into your room and says 'Ivan Ivanovich, you are under arrest' and you can reply 'Sorry tovarisch, Ivan Ivanovich lives next door'".

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Water water everywhere

Water, water, everywhere, and all the boards did shrink; water, water, everywhere nor any drop to drink. Our rohe (district) seems to be the opposite recently. There is water everywhere and lots to drink.



However, I was in Queenstown earlier this week to present a leadership keynote and upon landing the first thing I noticed was how brown the grass was and how dry everything looked. Everything looked like summer ought to look. Queenstown is experiencing a long dry hot summer. Residents were on water restrictions and even the ponds at the vineyard winery I spoke at were dry. No wastage of water anywhere and I even questioned whether the jetboats, that are built to ride on three inches of water, could operate. Surely the boards on some of those jetboats could be shrinking in the hot weather they are experiencing.

Contrast that with the weather here at home where everything is green and wet. The lake is full to overflowing and if streams are not flooding, they are recovering from previous flooding. Like the name of the band, everything is just wet, wet, wet.

At least we are not as bad as Auckland which is currently experiencing cars and buses floating down roads. Any jetboat would relish such waterways, I mean motorways.

Fortunately, we have had a few patches of dry weather. For example, that golden weather period between Christmas and New Year's Day was to be treasured. I hope everyone made the most of that bit of summer we experienced and went fishing, golfing or swimming. For our whanau it was nice to have Christmas day lunch outside under the gazebo instead of inside.

Speaking of outdoor activities, the local Rotorua stockcar club had one of our big fundraiser events postponed due to weather, but we were able to hold our World 240s championship. Going by the huge crowd that attended it looks like everyone came out to play in the sun including over 120 drivers. The weather really does make a difference to communities such as ours in Rotorua, Hamurana, Awahou, Kaharoa, Ngongotaha and Mamaku.

So how does the weather affect what you do? The clients in Queenstown were planning their next couple of days while I was with them. They were going to be doing cool stuff like parachuting, bungy jumping, lugging, jet skiing and yes, jetboating. Good luck doing those things here at home in our weather. Even jetboating is debatable in rain. Flying downstream in a jetboat at fast speeds just means the rain is flying into your face at fast speeds too. Not my idea of fun.

So, what have you done during our wet weather? Last week someone asked me if I was going to play in a golf tournament during the rain. I replied that I don't play golf in the rain. When they asked why not I replied "because I might get wet". Just like I don't step into a boxing ring either, because someone might try to punch me. The golf tournament was eventually postponed because of the constant wet weather.

Wet weather should not postpone our lives and fun though. On Christmas day there was a shower late afternoon. We had music on and my wife and I started dancing under the gazebo. My daughter and her partner started dancing too...out in the rain. Sometimes it is good to just go with the flow and dance in the rain. Sure, we will get wet, but our memory banks will stay dry and replenished. Let's keep making memories despite the weather. Dancing in the rain makes more sense to me than dancing in a boxing ring.

Ngahihi o te ra Bidois is a columnist, author, motivational speaker, professional director, leader, husband father and koro. See <https://Thefaceofnewzealand.com> for more of his story.

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Holidays

What do you call an Australian visiting England on vacation?

Returning to the scene of the crime.

What do you call a French guy in sandals?
Phillipe Phloppe.

What kind of tree fits in your hand?
A palm tree!

"My holiday was so long, I forgot all my passwords."

I finally told my suitcases that there would be no holiday this year.
Now I'm dealing with this emotional baggage.

My partner and I can never agree on vacations. "I want to go to exotic islands and stay in 5 star hotels. She wants to come with me."

Summer

My New Year's Resolution was to lose 30 lbs. by the end of summer - I've only got 40 lbs. to go

As a spectator at the last Summer Olympics, I saw a guy walking around carrying a 10 foot long stick...

"Are you a pole vaulter?" I asked. "No," he responded. "I'm a German. But how did you know my name is Walter?"

I love summer in Scotland...This year it was a Wednesday.



Hon. Todd McClay
Member of Parliament for Rotorua

Ngongotaha Housing development decision must be made in Rotorua not Wellington.

A recent public meeting in Ngongotaha with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development about a proposal to build 350 government houses on land beside the Waititi stream, whilst well attended left us with more questions than answers.

The government has quietly purchased land for a reputed \$8m and is looking to fast track approval in Wellington for a new housing development. We desperately need houses in Rotorua, but process is very important - after all the government and their officials don't live here - and long after the builders have gone Ngongotaha residents will be left to fend for themselves.

In 2017 a proposal was put to the Labour government by the private sector to build 87 houses on this land. At the time Labour Minister Megan Woods turned down the application citing concerns about flood risk (the land sits on a flood plain) and congestion.

Five years later they've now purchased this land,(it was worth about \$1m back then) with taxpayer money and could well consent themselves from the Beehive to do the build. Ngongotaha needs urgent answers about how the flood risk will be mitigated both on this land and more importantly for existing property owners downstream. We also need to know why they were concerned about congestion for 87 houses 5 years ago but now think 350 is ok. With 350 houses we could expect as many as 1000 additional people to live there, as many as 600 more motorbikes and cars and upwards of 350 school age children. Ngongotaha school needs guarantees that funding will be provided to accommodate this, the roads need upgrading and desperately needed health and welfare services must be committed to.

At the meeting I said that the government and their agents from Wellington must provide honest and upfront answers to the many questions local people rightly have. They need to bring ironclad commitments to deal with local issues that housing intensification brings. Otherwise, they cannot expect to gain support from the local community.

We do need houses, but the government must work with local residents, include them in the process, not make the decision in Wellington but leave it to Rotorua Council, and make sure local people are fully consulted and have a say. Otherwise, all they're doing is moving the problem that Labour created from Fenton Street motels to Ngongotaha.

Hon. Todd McClay

Member of Parliament for Rotorua

National Party spokesperson for Trade, Tourism, and Hunting and Fishing

Authorised by T. McClay, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



Hon Todd McClay

MP for Rotorua

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Kaharoa School

Ngā mihi o te tau hou

Kia ora everyone. Kaharoa School welcomed our community back on Tuesday 31st January. It was great to see everyone looking so refreshed after a somewhat mixed bag of weather over the summer holidays.



...to our many new students joining us throughout the school. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your whānau.

... new staff members Ryan Porteous (senior school DP) and Tania Yorke (middle and junior school DP). We are looking forward to each of them sharing their wealth of knowledge and experience with our kura.

Key Competencies: Self Manager/Thinker-self-motivated, organised, can manage distractions, and shows perseverance and resilience / to be curious, creative, critical and caring.

Cornerstone Value: Respect- Whakamana- a willingness to treat with courtesy; to hold in high regard; to honour, care about yourself and others. Each class starts the school term with a particular focus on the Cornerstone Value.

Coming Up:

Meet the Teacher: Thursday 2nd February. Teachers/teams will share expectations,

plans, events and general information about their classes and Kaharoa School with families.

Team Totara (senior school, years 6-8) Blue Lake trip: Friday 3rd February.

Family fun evening: Thursday 9th February. Bring a picnic and meet one another in an informal setting. The PTA will organise some fun games and activities. (Bikes may be brought and left at school in preparation for the triathlon the following day.)

Whānau tukake te kaiako / FAMILY meet the teacher Information Evening
Thursday 2nd February

We encourage all families to visit the school for one whole school information meeting, and their relevant class meetings. These meetings are a great opportunity to hear from teachers about their programmes, teacher expectations, camps for Y4-8 students, and how parents can help at home and at school.

Programme:
4:15pm - Whole School Information - Kokako Centre (meet new Deputy Principals, hear about whole school initiatives)
5pm - Year 1-2 class meetings
5:30 - Year 3-5 class meetings
6pm - Year 6-8 class meetings
6:30 - Whole School Information REPEAT session - Kokako Centre (meet new Deputy Principals, hear about whole school initiatives)

INFORMATION EVENING

Family Fun Evening

Pack a picnic and head up to school for some fun & games.
4.30-7pm
Thursday
9 Feb 2023

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Triathlon: Friday 10th February. All children will participate in a swim, bike ride and run (using the school pool and field). Whanau are invited to come along and cheer on their child/ren.

Swimming Sports:

Whole school Swimming Sports - Friday 24th February (week 4)

Rural Swimming Sports (hosted by Kaharoa School) - Friday 3rd March (week 5)

Camps: Camps are always looked forward to with great excitement. Thank you to the many parents who help to make these camps possible. They provide opportunities to experience the outdoors and be involved in activities that are usually not the norm.



- **Years 4-5** at Lakes Ranch: Thursday 16th – Friday 17th March (week 7). Year 3's will come for the afternoon and early evening on Thursday 16th of March, but not stay overnight.
- **Senior School (years 6-8)** at Tui Ridge: Wednesday 29th - Friday 31st March (week 9).

2023 staffing is as follows:

Mr. Lynden Cook Principal
Matua Ryan Porteous Senior school DP and Totara Rakau (year 7/8) teacher
Mrs. Tania Yorke Middle & junior school DP and Miro (year 3/4) teacher
Mrs. Nicky King Rewarewa (year 1/2) teacher and Within School leader
Mrs. Leanne Hale Kowhai (year 0/1) teacher
Whaea Lisa Fell Rata (year 4/5) teacher
Mrs. Maria Shoebridge Totara Rangiura (year 6/7) teacher
Miss Shinade Picard Totara Whakairo (year 7/8) teacher
Learning Assistants: Mrs. Heather McDonald, Mrs. Jackie Cowie, Mrs. Sarah Noel, Mrs. Melanie Allcutt, Mrs. Kylie Johnston
Caretaker: Mr. Vance Shoebridge
Office Administrators: Mrs. Susanne Irwin, Mrs. Sarah Noel (also our Librarian)
Cleaner: Oliver Bridge

Term Dates for 2023

Term 1 - 31 January - 6 April
(Easter 7-10 April)
Term 2 - 26 April (Wednesday) - 30 June
Term 3 - 17 July - 22 September
Term 4 - 9 October - 15 December

We look forward to a productive year full of fabulous learning and fun.

Please refer to the Kaharoa website for further information. www.kaharoa.school.nz

Ngā mihi mahana - The Kaharoa Team



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The Love Our Lakes photo competition is back for summer 2023

The Rotorua Te Arawa Lakes programme works to protect and restore the lakes as a taonga for the future. Bay of Plenty Regional Council love our beautiful lakes, and they'd love to hear why you do too!

Enter their photo competition by showing them how you love to enjoy our lakes and go into the draw to win a paddle board!

Upload your photo at rotorualakes.co.nz to enter. The competition is open from 1 December 2022 until 12pm, 1 March, 2023. Terms and conditions apply.



Tuia 2023 Applications are open now!

Calling all rangatahi Māori who live within the Rotorua District!

Tuia is a programme which looks to build a network for rangatahi to help support them in their contribution to their communities. This is done through developing relationships between a diverse range of rangatahi throughout the country that recognises, accepts and celebrates diversity. The programme is an awesome opportunity to network and enhance their ability to contribute well to the community.

If you're Māori, aged 18 - 25, living in Rotorua and are actively involved in your community, don't let this rawe opportunity slip by – apply now!

Check out the Rotorua Lakes Council Tuia 2023 website for more information and application details – kia kamakama (get moving). Applications close 5pm, Friday 10 February.

School Sustainability and Resilience Fund Open Again for 2023!

Last year Toi Moana provided funding to 18 various education centres across our rohe through our School Sustainability and Resilience Fund.

Following on from the success of 2022, BOPRC are delighted to announce that they will be offering the School Sustainability Fund again in 2023!

Applications will be opening towards the end of February 2023. Email SSRFund@boprc.govt.nz if you'd like to be updated when the fund is open or keep an eye on www.participate.boprc.govt.nz.

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Age Concern

Age Concern has made further changes to staff over the break. Lisa Wilson has left us and is being replaced by a familiar face as Katreece Lewis returns to the fold and will be responsible for the Shopping Service and the Social connection programs, which include the Out and Abouters and The Movie Mob.

Kirsten Harman, who has been the first port of call both on the phone and face to face, is leaving us in two weeks' time and has been replaced by Aroha Wade who will oversee our Supergold Skills program and will be Administration Secretary. I am sure Aroha will be a wonderful replacement just as Kirsten will be missed.

Great news about our Supergold Skills Program as we have received funding from One Foundation which will allow us to employ one person, a Jack or Jill, of all trades, and heavily subsidize the maintenance costs incurred by our members.

We are doing this as the number of retired trades volunteers has dwindled over the past couple of years mainly because of covid. The idea is that we have one person who does all the maintenance, and our members are charged a flat rate of \$20 an hour, no matter what the job, and we top it up to a reasonable hourly rate, depending on the complexity of the job. One of our main objectives at Age Concern is to keep our members in their own homes for as long as possible and this often means keeping on top of maintenance, which is where this programme comes in.

An update on our Tiny Homes project is all good news now with the resource consent granted and the deposit paid, and the building started by Portable NZ. The ballot has not taken place yet but because the building of the homes takes about 3 months, we anticipate having a well-publicized ballot, in late February.

There is a great deal of work to do before they are delivered and we have a long list, which includes foundations, piles, fencing, landscaping, driveways, raised gardens, garden sheds, decks, household appliances, paving, BBQs to mention a few. We will be on the lookout for some sponsorship for many of the items.

Age Concern will be the recipients of the proceeds of another Charity Garage Sale on Saturday 15th April 2023. These garage Sales hosted by Ray White and Tim and Jacquie O'Sullivan have been a great success and have become a regular part of Ngongotaha community happenings. A huge thanks.

Scammers continue to be of concern, not only for our elderly, but all ages can be caught out and left in financial ruin. We hear of many cases where people have been scammed and the ways of scamming are increasing and being more sophisticated.

Banks are asking people to 'take a sec to check' before they part with their money or personal information, in a campaign aimed at raising scam awareness over summer. Everyone is being encouraged to take a moment before making a payment or giving away personal information, just to be sure it's not a scam.

Scams are a form of financial crime. They are constantly evolving and increasingly sophisticated. Scams tend to involve criminals pretending to be a trusted person or organisation who then persuade people to make payments to them or hand over personal information to access their bank accounts. There's no silver bullet when it comes to fighting financial crime.

We also know it pays to be alert, know what to look out for, and how to deal with it. If you take a sec, you might save yourself from being scammed. This campaign will be run over the summer break when people are more relaxed and might take a moment to think about scams and how to keep themselves safe.

Tips to help you stay safe:

Stay alert Be alert to texts or emails. Never click on links in unsolicited emails or text messages. Report and delete suspicious messages. Be wary of cold calls asking for personal details or money. If an unexpected phone call seems suspicious, hang up and call the business back using its publicly available phone number. Keep up to date with the latest scams to help recognize the warning signs.

Be proactive Use unique, long passwords and change these regularly. Keep all passwords and security codes secure – don't disclose these to anyone. Never give a stranger remote access to your computer or device. Safeguard your devices by keeping operating systems and apps up to date.

Take your time If someone is pressuring you to do something, it may be a sign they're trying to scam you. Take your time and check out who you're dealing with before providing your details or sending any money.

Report it Report any suspected scams to your bank.

Rory O'Rourke

Manager

NGONGOTAHA INDOOR BOWLS

Well, here we are in 2023. We are all looking forward to another great year of bowling without Covid. Firstly, I must send our condolences to the Fleet family on the passing of an ex member Graeme.

This year bowls start on the 6th February roll up night so if there are any new members who would like to come along and take part and see what bowls is all about are most welcome.

This year it will be \$4 each club night and subs will be \$53. Anyone wishing to join for the first time will get three free nights.

Look forward to seeing new members as well as old ones.

Anyone looking at playing bowls can contact:

John Rayner 07 5625012

Kevin Whyte 07 3574766

Condolences to Village Shop

You may have noticed that the Village Shop has been gutted by fire. We believe the cause was an electrical lighting fault. We wish the owners all the best in getting back on their feet.

Ngongotaha Motorsport

There's a petition to help gain consent for a skid pad and drift track on private land in rural Rotorua. See facebook Ngongotaha Motorsport.

Ray White Rotorua & Ngongotaha

Amtos Realty Services Licensed REAA 2008 www.rwrotorua.co.nz

FOR SALE



Ngongotaha 34 Kinder Place

Just a stroll away from the lake, this modern home boasts new carpet and paint, and has wonderful open plan living that flows to the outdoors from the lounge and dining area. There are three bedrooms, the master with it's own ensuite, an office nook and the convenience of solar panels. Internal access double garaging, private back lawn with raised vegetable gardens and room to park the motorhome or boat. What more could you want!

For Sale By Deadline: 23.02.23 (unless sold prior) **View** ROT30872
Contact Julie Brake 0211 100 320

FOR SALE



Hamurana 977a Hamurana Road

A magical location with views over Lake Rotorua. Loads of outdoor space and a 4 bedroom Lockwood home. Open plan living flows out to decking, there's a heat pump/air conditioner unit plus a wood fire and the advantage of an internal access single garage. Large land area of 2,843m2 (more or less).

For Sale By Negotiation **View** ROT30793
Contact Mandy Lee 0276 732 331

FOR SALE



Ngongotaha 12a Beaumont Road

Set back from the road ensuring privacy, with off street parking, an internal access single garage, a nice flat section with some citrus trees and a grapevine. Walk to the village, School and park with the cycleway and lake edge nearby. First home buyers, downsizers and investors, must see!

For Sale By Deadline 09.02.23 (unless sold prior) **View** ROT30864
Contact Mandy Lee 0276 732 331

Choose the RIGHT Salesperson!

With an ever changing Real Estate market you need an active salesperson with experience and focus, who is forward thinking and has proven results.

I will be at the Ray White Ngongotaha Office every Friday from 9am to 11am.

Come and have a chat!

Mandy Lee
0276 732 331
mandy.lee@raywhite.com

SOLD



Ngongotaha 6 Ariki Street

Comfort, character and convenience close to the lake and village. 3 bedrooms plus an office, modern kitchen & bathroom and open plan living with a log fire. Separate garage and carport plus an enclosed outdoor undercover area.

Contact Mandy Lee 0276 732 331

SOLD



Ngongotaha Valley 311 Endean Road

A peaceful haven set on 3.637ha of rustic bliss. This property blends tranquility with function and practicality. Internal access double garaging, an extra height separate garage and 3 paddocks.

Contact Mandy Lee 0276 732 331

Ray White Rotorua & Ngongotaha

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Ngongotaha 23 Kingsley Drive

Enjoy the lifestyle perks this 3 bedroom home offers. Decorated in neutral tones with recently laid carpet, 2 bathrooms, large open plan living and an amazing cobbled courtyard to entertain whilst taking in the rural vista. Double internal access garaging with plenty of space for the toys to safely tuck away.

Contact Leanne Leef 021 835 915 & Arahi Leef 021 022 60359

FOR SALE



Hamurana 53b Kaska Road

Thoughtfully landscaped gardens frame this gorgeously renovated cottage, tastefully decorated in a serene palette. Enjoy a rural aspect through the living room windows or from the substantial decking and entertaining area to use from breakfast to late evening dining. All within an easy stroll to the lake.

For Sale \$939,000 View ROT30730

Contact Leanne Leef 021 835 915 & Arahi Leef 021 022 60359



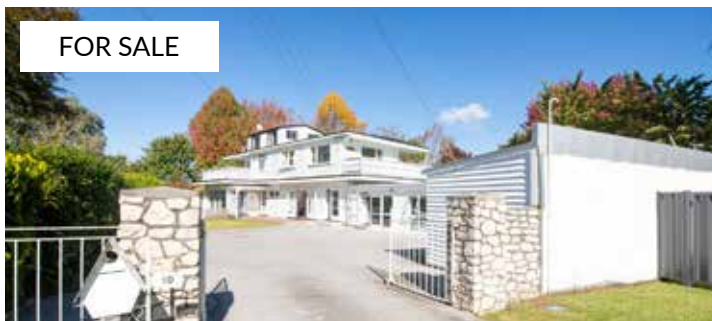
Hamurana 197 Fryer Road

Spectacular lake & country vistas, high pitched ceilings through the living area and decking at the front of the home. Modern decor, 3 bedrooms, open plan living, separate garage and space for the boat. Minutes from the boat ramp and the lakeside walkway. Title to be issued.

For Sale By Negotiation View ROT30793

Contact Mandy Lee 0276 732 331 & Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986

FOR SALE



Ngongotaha 10 Egmont Road

Set up to combine family life with extended family, this home offers seven bedrooms plus five bathrooms, designed into zones to enhance the privacy of its occupants. The home is warm and enjoys two infinity gas hot water systems, a gas fire and 5x heat pumps.

For Sale By Negotiation View ROT30465

Contact John Piercy 027 446 4549

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John Piercy 027 446 4549

john.piercy@raywhite.com

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How to Save on Back to School Costs (Consumer)

Buying devices for school

It can be prohibitively expensive to buy new laptops or tablets for your kids to take to school. Picking up a refurbished BYOD device is a good option for reducing that cost, but there are some caveats.

- **Operating system:** It's vital to check with your school which operating systems are OK for BYOD. If all the school's software is built for Windows 10 and your child has a refurbished MacBook, it'll cause big problems.
- **Weight:** New tech gets lighter every year. Make sure you're not lumping your child with an unnecessary burden by buying an older device, especially if they need to carry it to and from school.
- **Hard drives:** New computers use solid state drives (SSD) for storage, but an older release might use a much slower and more delicate hard disk drive (HDD). SSD is one thing that isn't worth compromising on.

We have some additional tips for different age groups

- **Primary school:** At this age, generally a tablet is better than a laptop. Look for an iPad from the fifth generation or later (you don't need to splash out for a more expensive iPad Air or iPad Mini). If you do want a laptop, try to spend less than \$500 – you can get an acceptable new Chromebook for that price.
- **Intermediate and early high school:** These kids can still afford to be patient, which means you save cash. Unless your school suggests otherwise, pivot away from tablets and grab a sub-\$1000 laptop from the last few years.
- **Upper high school and university:** Shy away from anything old or underpowered. A computer released more than three years ago could truly impact a student's performance at this level. However, it can still be worth getting last year's model at a bargain price.

What's available?

Apple iPhones are the most popular product to buy refurbished. The oldest currently supported iPhones are the 8 and 8 Plus, which can cost

as little as \$300. Or you can save at least \$200 on an iPhone 12 vs new from Apple.


High-end Android phones are also common, particularly from Samsung's Galaxy S series. Samsung phones don't tend to be supported for quite as long as iPhones, so you shouldn't stretch as far back. The S21+, released in January 2021, can still be found on clearance in a few major stores but is also becoming widely available refurbished.

Of course, it isn't just phones. Apple MacBook laptops are also common on the secondhand market due to their longevity. MacBooks built before 2012 have stopped receiving security updates, so don't buy them. Another warning is that MacBooks manufactured between 2015 and 2019 had a design flaw in the keyboard.

In recent years, Apple has emerged as an unlikely pillar of the secondhand tech market. Recent Apple products have had extended software support, which means they become obsolete after a longer period – sometimes allowing three or four owners before a product dies of old age. For example, the iPhone 8 was launched in 2017 with iOS11 and still runs iOS16 today. While the iPhone 8 is much less powerful than the current iPhone 14, it's still a functional and secure device.

Also, Apple runs its own Certified Refurbished service, which offers a narrow selection of returned devices – currently a couple of MacBooks, the Apple Watch Series 6 and a lone iPad Pro – at a small discount from new. Products are backed by the same one-year warranty as new Apple devices. However, the Certified Refurbished programme is hidden away on Apple's website – and you can get better prices from a third-party refurbisher anyway.

Refurbished devices aren't necessarily faulty units that have been repaired – plenty of other situations lead to retailers selling these products. For example, suppose a business decides to upgrade its company phones and trades in the old ones in bulk. Most of the old phones will only need a clean and maybe a new battery before they can be certified for refurb. Others might simply have been in-store display models or box-damaged stock that's never been used.continued on p 15




**SAFETY SKILLS
FOR
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Learn about safety in a rural environment.
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Event registration fee: \$30
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ANZ at Tauranga Crossing. Use Safety Day and surname for reference.





The Rotorua Tractor & Machinery Club invites you to our annual

Tractor and Machinery Working Day

Where: Corner of SH 5 and Oturoa Roads, Mamaku
When: Sunday February 26th 2023
Gates open at 10.00 a.m.



**\$5 CASH ONLY \$5
No eftpos**

The assistance of the Mamaku Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Mamaku Community is greatly appreciated

Entry \$10, children 12 and under FREE Swap Meet Sellers \$20

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Enquiries: David Chatterton 027 675 1147 Noel Blackwell 332 3480
Eric Cullen 332 5886

However, even if a product was once faulty, it shouldn't be sold to you unless it's working as new. If the fault resurfaces, most refurbished products are backed by limited warranties – sometimes, but not always, as strong as the manufacturer warranty on a new product.

Even better, the Consumer Guarantees Act (CGA) applies if you buy from a retailer. That means if something does go wrong, you have the same protection under the 'acceptable quality' clause that you'd get when buying new. It's the best of both worlds – a product that's certified to be in good working condition, but still cheap and sustainable. A certified refurbished product comes with much less risk than a private secondhand sale.

Grading systems

You'll get an even better deal if you don't mind a few cosmetic imperfections. Refurbished devices are sorted into various grades of physical condition as in 'like new' down to something like 'average' or a number or letter grades. We've tried to summarise a rough scale.

Like new/A/Grade 1: Mint condition, or very close to it. Some may even be unused and on discount because of damaged packaging.

Very good/B/Grade 2: A handful of imperfections, such as light scratches or nicks on the back. You'd probably only notice them if you were looking.

Good/C/Grade 3: Reasonable wear and signs of use, especially on the back and sides. The screen should still be free of significant blemishes.

Average/D or below/Grade 4: Budget-friendly buys that have clearly been pre-loved. These are rarer to find because many shops recycle them or strip them for parts. However, they should be fully functional unless stated otherwise.

The 2 problems with refurbished

Unhealthy batteries

Most rechargeable consumer electronics are powered by lithium-ion batteries. They're a big improvement on yesteryear, but they still have a fixed lifespan.

With each recharge, lithium-ion batteries lose a tiny bit of capacity. You can expect a battery that's been depleted and recharged 500 times to last for about 80% as long as when it was new – and it'll continue to degrade from there.

It's a limitation but it's not a life sentence for the device itself. It only

costs \$100-\$250 to replace a battery. When shopping for an older model, ask the retailer what condition the battery is in. Sometimes a replacement is part of the refurb process but if it isn't, factor that in as a potential maintenance expense.

If the model is more than three or four years old or from an obscure brand, it might be hard to find a technician to do the replacement for you. And you're out of luck if you want to replace the batteries in many wireless earbuds, including Apple's AirPods, as they're designed to be unrepairable.

Lack of software support

The date your refurbished device stops getting security updates might as well be the day it's dead for good. It's important to differentiate between feature updates and security patches. The average device will be automatically upgraded through at least one major version of its operating system, which adds new features and revises some visuals. New versions are great, but they're not really what we're talking about here.

The smaller updates that come in between are mostly about fixing security vulnerabilities to keep you and your device safe online, and they generally continue for a year or two after you stop getting feature updates. The existential threat to a device comes when those security updates end. Once that happens, we recommend you stop using the product altogether, lest you open yourself up to privacy leaks or malicious attacks. Frustratingly, consumers aren't always given good information on how long security support will last for certain models, which makes buying a phone or tablet more than two years old a bit of a gamble.

Keep it local (if you can)

Retailers selling refurb products tend to be on the smaller side – local repair shops, outlet stores and the like. Because of the nature of refurbishment, any one store is unlikely to have a steady supply of the exact model you want. You might need to shop around a bit.

If things go wrong, it's much easier if the retailer is in New Zealand, and even better if it's a physical store you can visit in person. Local companies we've tried and heard good things about include GoodTech in Auckland and The Apple Guy in Wellington. There are a couple of larger companies in the market as well. PB Tech is the closest to a high-street retailer that refurbishes products, while Reebelo is an online marketplace that aggregates refurb listings from many retailers. Try to make sure that whoever supplies the device is based in Aotearoa.

Ngongotaha Medical Centre Limited

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



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How to save on back to school costs

School uniforms

- Name everything. Lost items are far more likely to be reunited with their owner if a name is visible on the front cover or written on the tag.
- Ask the school office if it sells secondhand uniforms. Many schools offer a buyback programme, selling on behalf of other parents at a lower price.
- Talk to other school parents. Uniforms are expensive and once kids have grown out of them, there's not much use in keeping them. Seek out parents of kids a year or two older than yours who may have uniform that's now a size too small.
- Keep an eye on both the school and local community's noticeboards or Facebook groups like Rotorua Noticeboard.
- If the school isn't too strict about uniforms, look for generic alternatives like unbranded polo shirts, plain trousers and PE gear. These are usually easy to find in stores such as Kmart, The Warehouse and Postie.

School shoes

Keep an eye on shops offering deals. Take advantage of 'buy one, get one half price' promotions if you have multiple kiddos. Or if you're buying for just one kid, buy a pair for now and a pair one size bigger for next year.

What to look for

- Kids need firm and supportive shoes. The bones in their feet don't fuse together properly until puberty. Their feet can also lack muscle strength and their bones can be prone to hypermobility, which means they have more flexible movement in their joints. A good pair of shoes will help prevent problems developing, such as flat feet, sore knees, shin splints and even back pain.

The fit checklist

How the shoe fits is critical. Dr Daniel Poratt, Auckland University of Technology programme leader in podiatry, recommends using a Brannock Device (a metal ruler you place your foot in) to measure the length and width of your child's feet.

- If the store doesn't have the device, ask your child to raise their big toe (while wearing the shoe) and put your thumb on the tip of the toe. If there's a thumb width gap between your child's big toe and the end of the shoe, then the length is about right.
- Dr Poratt also recommends checking the shoe's flexibility. To test this, pick it up, and bend it by pushing the toe upwards. If it's a good shoe, it'll bend at the ball of the foot, but no further. That said, make sure it's not too bendy — if it is, it won't be supportive enough.

Look for a small heel in a school shoe — this will help keep your child's foot in a neutral position. If the shoe is too flat, your child may "claw" their feet while walking.

- Make sure there's plenty of toe room. Can your child wiggle their toes and is the "toe box" — the empty space at the front of the shoe — deep?
- Is the material used for the heel of the shoe firm enough to support your child's heel?
- Look for leather uppers. They last longer and allow your child's feet to breathe.
- The insole should be soft, comfortable and made of an absorbent fabric to reduce sweating. And check whether it can be removed easily, in case you need to replace it with an orthotic.
- Avoid slip-on shoes because they can't be adjusted. Laces, buckles and Velcro are equally good.

- And not too heavy, either. Heavy shoes can cause muscle pain and foot aches, especially for younger kids.

Six steps to make sure your kids' shoes fit

1. Both feet forward — always get both of your child's feet measured.
2. Rule of thumb — make sure there's a gap of about half the width of your thumb between your child's longest toe and the end of the shoe.
3. Go wide (and deep) — make sure the shoes are wide and deep enough for your child's foot. If you can see the outline of their foot, walk away.
4. No pain — your child should be comfortable in the shoes straight away, without feeling any pain or pressure points.
5. Shop in the PM — kids' feet tend to swell throughout the day.
6. "They'll grow into it" — don't be tempted to buy a larger size. Shoes that fit well will support and protect vulnerable and growing feet.
7. High quality, or cheap 'n' cheerful?

We've seen shoes advertised for as low as \$6, but will they last the distance and be comfortable to wear? It all depends on how they're made.

Keep these four things in mind when you're weighing up what pair to buy:

- Higher-quality shoes tend to be stitched rather than glued.
- Cheaper shoes often have cardboard running through the sole of the shoe to help keep its shape, while more expensive pairs use a harder-wearing polyurethane material.
- Better made shoes have well-padded lining made from breathable fabrics. The soles of some shoes may be "blown-out", which means there are air pockets inside the sole. Blown out soles make for lighter shoes and have cushioning, but they can make the sole wear out and sink down more easily.

Time for a new pair?

It's not just when your child's toes are touching the end of the shoe that it's time to get a bigger size. Other signs it's time to upgrade are:

- When the tread of the shoe has gone. This can make them slippery.
- If the shoe has lots of side or scuff marks. It may mean the shoe is too tight.
- When the heels are worn down.

What about sneakers?

If the school's uniform policy allows them, sneakers can be a good choice. So long as the sneaker isn't super flexible, quality sports shoes are very supportive and light, and help keep the foot stable.

(cont'd on page 17)

lawbox

Your Rotorua Solicitors

1285 Fenton Street PO Box 2056, Rotorua
office@lawbox.co.nz

Call us first and get the right advice
for your estates, estate disputes,
separation and relationship property,
small commercial & business.



Stationery tips

- Most schools have a stationery list and some even have a very handy link to a supplier's website with all items ready to go in your basket. But it's worth comparing prices online before choosing which store to shop at. Some stores offer a payment plan or free delivery.
- Chances are you have pencils, pens, and maybe even glue sticks strewn in a bottom of a drawer somewhere. Sift through what you already have – you might be surprised by what you can tick off the list from what's lying around home.
- If you have half-used exercise books, cut out the used pages and reuse them for the new year. There's no point in wasting good paper.
- Leave the kids at home (if you can) while shopping. I remember pleading with my mum for the funky fruit-scented pens and bright book covering to dazzle my school gear. But in reality, I didn't need any of those things. Leave the kids behind if you don't want to be waylaid and instead opt for the bonus of keeping them busy tasked with decorating their own workbooks using their imagination.
- Buy in bulk to cut costs. Team up with other parents to make a group purchase, then split the supplies and the discounts.

Shop lunch smart

- Look at unit pricing. Online shopping websites usually tell you the price per 100g as well as the overall cost. This can be eye opening when you realise that a sale can offer less value than a full-priced product from another brand. Don't be fooled by sale stickers.
- Consider switching to supermarket home brands. These cost less but can be just as good as their pricier counterparts. Buying in bulk (if you can) saves you money in the long run and takes the stress out of planning next week's lunches.
- Join your local fruit and veg co-op, or opt for canned or frozen produce.

- Ditch the single-use plastic to save money and the environment. By buying reusable wraps and food pouches, you're spending once instead of buying a new roll of cling film every few weeks.
- Single-serve portions (bought in multipacks) are convenient but can be pricey. Fruit, popcorn and crackers can be repackaged into leak-proof containers or other reusable packaging. This saves you money and you won't be buying lots of unnecessary packaging.
- Don't get too comfortable shopping at your local. It pays to shop around. Look online and see what deals different stores have each week, to snap up a bargain when you see it.
- Check whether your school is participating in the Ka Ora Ka Ako Healthy School Lunches Programme.

Financial support

- Talk to your school office. It might offer payment plans for purchasing uniforms to help spread out the cost.
- If you're on a low income or receive a benefit, you can apply for support from Work and Income towards school uniforms and stationery costs. If you don't meet the criteria, you may still be able to access this support, but you'll have to pay the money back.
- If you're caring for someone else's child and need help with school-related costs, you may be able to get the School and Year Start-up Payment. See Work and Income.
- If you need help with budgeting or managing debts, you can search for a financial mentor in your area.
- Out of School Care and Recreation (OSCAR) Subsidy is a payment through Work and Income which helps families with the costs of before- and after-school programmes, and school holiday programmes. It helps with the costs of before- and after-school programmes for up to 20 hours a week, and school holiday programmes for up to 50 hours a week.

For recycled sports equipment, try replay.org.nz.

Source: Consumer/Ministry of Education

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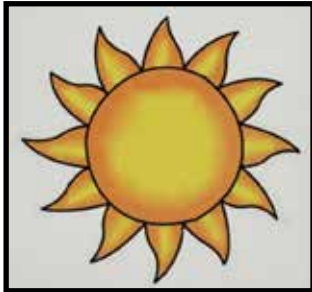
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3 guys from Northland go to Hell

Three guys from Northland die and go to Hell. Satan, being the kind of guy who takes his job very seriously, always checks on new arrivals personally to make sure that they are uncomfortable and their eternal torment is going smoothly and so on.

So he arrives at their cell and listens in for a few minutes. He hears the guys talking. "Man, Hell really isn't as bad as I expected!" "I know, right? Sure, it's hot and all, but it's dry heat." "Yeah, no humidity whatsoever! This has nothing on a Northland summer!"

Satan hears this and smirks. "Not so bad, huh? OK then." He grabs the thermostat for their cell and cranks it all the way up, from "hot" to "incinerate". "There. Let's see how you boys like that." And he leaves them there.

The next day, Satan stops by the cell again. To his shock, the guys from Northland are having a great time. "This is fantastic! The fire killed all the mosquitoes!" "I haven't been bitten since we got here! This is great!"

Now, Satan is a bit annoyed that they aren't suffering, but he can fix this. "Ok, so if hot won't cut it, let's see how you like cold." He turns their thermostat all the way down, to 50 below zero. "That'll fix them for sure."

That night, Satan gets a very nervous call from one of his minions at two in the morning. "Uh, sir... It's the guys from Northland, sir. They're, uh... partying, sir."

Satan goes tearing back to the office. He charges down to the Northland guys cell, practically tearing his hair out with frustration and rage. "WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU PEOPLE?! You are in HELL! What does it take to make you suffer?!"

One of the Northland guys answers him. "Satan, you don't get it! Hell froze over! There's only one explanation! The Warriors won the NRL!"

Who changes the season when Summer is over? No one, it happens Autumnatically.

One good thing about summers in America.....They get 2 whole months without a school shooting!

Which is the most desired summer body this year?.....The antibody



Lakeview Golf and Country Club

As we head into a new year, we hope everyone managed to get a break and spend some time with friends and family. After an extremely wet start to the year, we are hoping that summer has finally decided to make an appearance and bring some sun with it! Grass growth has been phenomenal and the green keepers are very busy trying to keep up with the mowing of fairways and rough. The advantage is of course everything is still very green for this time of the year.

Competition season started again on 21st January with our opening day. It is all hands on deck for our annual signature tournament the Helix Lakeview Classic. This will be held over Anniversary weekend with Sponsors Day Friday 27th and then the two days of competition Saturday and Sunday. Again, it is a full field of 130 players and should be a great two days of competition full of fun laughs and catching up with friends from different clubs.

There will be a junior tournament again which is specifically for those junior players starting their golfing journey and is a great opportunity for them to experience the competition environment without too much pressure. All juniors are sponsored so there is no cost involved for their whanau.

Pennants has started again with teams in all grades. It is really cool to see a couple of our rangatahi in the junior Pennants team well done Milan Stephens and Teina Taare!!

Twilight has started up again every Wednesday evening 4.00pm – 6.00pm tee off. A great after work activity played over 9 holes with meat pack prizes and the option of a great meal afterwards. Ladies twilight is Tuesday evenings tee off as above and is a fantastic option for those ladies new to golf or those who want to try the game! A no pressure, supportive welcoming environment. So, if that sounds like something you might be interested in come and give it a go!

After school junior sessions start up again on Thursday February 9th 3.45pm -4.45pm all welcome and all gear is provided.

In 2023 we welcome the Rotorua Archery Club to Lakeview. They will be based at Lakeview and will be operating from the driving range. This is an exciting opportunity for both clubs to work together to grow each others sport and share facilities.

It will be great for the community to have another sporting option in their backyard! Watch this space for more detail on when they start operating out of Lakeview.

CATERER!!

We are looking for a caterer to provide catering this year and then of course in the new clubhouse where options are huge for functions, public café and golfing groups etc.

Please contact Sue 027 2010 940.

Until next month stay safe in the sun and enjoy the summer!

Golf shop phone number is 07 357 2341.

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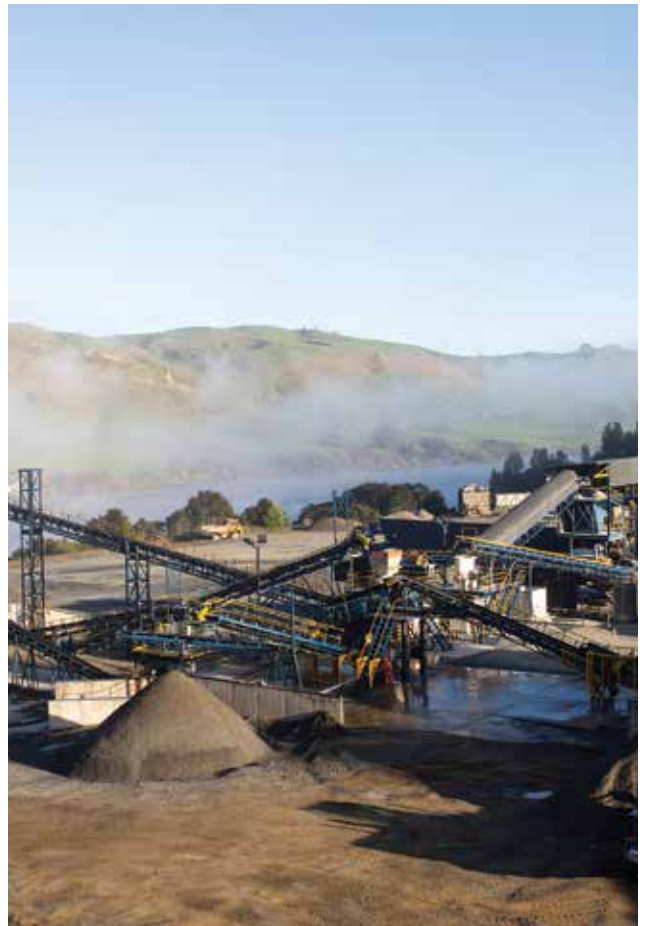
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Happenings

7 February: 7:30 PM Nikau Harp Trio (harp, violin, cello) Arts on Tour NZ at Rotorua Rotorua Bowling Club in the Government Gardens. Tickets: \$30 cash only at the door

9 February: Kaharoa School Family Fun Evening

10 February: Kaharoa School Triathlon

12 Feb: CropSwap at Mamaku Hall

24 Feb: Kaharoa School Swimming Sports

26 February: Tractor and Machinery Working Day, corner SH5 and Oturoa Roads, Mamaku. Entry 10.00 am \$10, kids under 12 free, Swap Meet Sellers \$20 Contact David 027 675 1147 or Noel 332 3480 or Eric 332 5886

3 March: Rural Swimming Sport Day hosted by Kaharoa School.
Coming up: March Mullet Day for Mental Health. Go to themulletmatters.co.nz to find out more.

Regular Events

Monday Indoor Bowls 7.00 pm Community Hall

Tuesday Vets Golf 9.30am, Junior golf after school during school term at Lakeview

Tech on Tuesday at Parksyste

Tuesday Twilight Golf at Lakeview 4.00 to 6.00 pm

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 during school term at Lakeview Golf and County Club

Last Thursday of the month 2.00 pm Poetry Appreciation Society. Contact Kay myfairykay@gmail.com or 0274 982 787

Ngongotaha Rail Park

Come ride the only steam train in Rotorua, here at Ngongotaha Rail Park.

The park has a hobby supply shop retailing model trains, model cars and planes, alongside other modeling accessories.

For fundraising we sell shavings for poultry and horse husbandry. The park also sells boxed wood.

All proceeds go toward further developments at the park.

OPERATING HOURS
Weekends and public holidays
10am - 2pm (weather permitting).



For inquiries please email:
admin@rotoruarail.co.nz

Ngongotaha Garden Circle

This year has not been very kind to gardeners and I imagine many gardens are struggling as much as mine.

However, the Ngongotaha Garden Circle is going strong and we will be starting our year on Wednesday 22 February. Our first get together will be a visit to the garden of one of our members, and we are hoping to do some more garden visits throughout the year.

The garden circle meets every 4th Wednesday of the month at 1pm and we are based at the Ngongotaha community hall. When we are not visiting gardens we have guest speakers, as well as our own flower show in October.

The Ngongotaha Garden Circle will be celebrating its 70th birthday in 2024 and we hope to have some events to commemorate this. We would like anyone who has previously been a member, or who have family members who have been involved, to come forward with any information they may have regarding the club. There is a gap in the records during the 1990s where some information was lost.

If you have any information, or if you are interested in joining the club, we would love to hear from you.

Please phone Jane Moore 027 4735708 or Christine Johns 027 2712883



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• OPEN 7AM TO 3PM •

Thieves thwarted by Neighbourhood Support member in Papamoa

A person walking their dog in a reserve spotted by chance a stash of items hidden in the bushes. The Neighbourhood support coordinator they advised checked the spot and found a haul worth 3 to 4 thousand dollars.

"It was clearly stolen very recently, and most likely the thief would have been returning after dark to collect the haul," says Bruce Banks.

"We helped Police recover it all. It amounted to two full patrol cars of stuff, mainly mowers, garden tools and power tools. Police have now reunited the rightful owners with their property."

Bruce says if the person out walking with their dog had turned a blind eye thinking they'd do something about it the following day, it probably would have been too late.

"I think it was stashed ready for collection that night. I was there by 5pm and the Police were there by 5.30pm. They had to bring another car down because there was so much there."

Bruce says it only took a few enquiries before Pāpāmoa Constable Adrian Oldham tracked down the owners.

"They are from two properties that backed onto the waterway in Pāpāmoa," says Bruce. "The thieves pinched it and stashed it all into one spot within a couple of hundred metres in each case."

He says when people return home and check their tools and find they only have a battery and not the mower, just go and have a look in the nearest bushes. "It might be there waiting to be collected later."

He says the two break-ins could have been preventable by simply having a padlock on the two sheds.

Source: Sunlive/Neighbourhood Support

One hot summer afternoon a police officer stops at a rural house.

The police officer gets out of the car, and asks an old gentleman, "Who owns the property?" The old man tells the officer that he does, and asks what he can do for him.

The officer, "I'm here to inspect your property for illegally grown drugs." The old gentleman says, "Well, you go right ahead, but whatever you do, don't go into that field over yonder," pointing out a fenced parcel of land.

The officer, "Sir, I'm a law enforcement officer authorized by the Government." Reaching into his pocket, he removes his badge and shoves it right in the old boy's face. "You see my badge, mate? This badge means that I'm allowed to go wherever I wish, anytime I wish. Do you understand me? No questions asked." The old gentleman nodded his head yes politely, softly apologized, and went about his work.

A short time later, the old gentleman heard someone screaming in absolute terror – coming from where he'd told the officer not to go. He looked over at the pasture and saw the officer running for his life, chased by a very angry bull. With every step the bull was gaining ground on the officer, and it appeared likely that the policeman would be gored by the bull's horns before he could reach safety.

Realizing the horrible danger that the policeman was in, the old gentleman ran to the field's fence as fast as he could, determined to do whatever he could to help. Reaching the edge of the pasture, the old gentleman quickly climbed to the top of the fence, waving his arms frantically and screamed at the very top of his voice, "Your badge, officer, show him your BADGE!"

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Please email aaron9@xtra.co.nz





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