

Proposed Housing Development at 31 Ngongotaha Road

You may have noticed a digger on site recently, obtaining additional geotech samples as part of the Resource Consent application.

Watchman Residential applied for a fast-track consenting process for this development and this was approved in June 2023. The Government had a short-term consenting process to fast-track projects to boost employment and economic recovery in response to Covid-19 but this was repealed on 8 July 2023.

Extracts from the approved application to the Ministry for the Environment, subject to Work in Progress, follow.

"The Watchman Residential proposal is to develop an approximately 15.9 hectare site into a residential development comprising approximately 196 residential units and constructing supporting infrastructure including roads and reserves intended to vest with RLC including accessways, carparking areas and 3 waters services.

The project will include the construction of a new intersection with SH36, landscaping and planting of open spaces and the creation of a series of wetlands for flood mitigation on a large balance lot.

From the relevant information sources, we have identified the relevant iwi authorities for the project area, as: a. Te Arawa Lakes Trust, representing Te Arawa Iwi and Hapū b. Te Pūmāutanga o Te Arawa Trust, representing Affiliate Te Arawa c. Te Maru o Ngāti Rangiwewehi Iwi Authority, representing Ngāti Rangiwewehi iwi d. Te Komiti Nui o Ngāti Whakaue Trust, representing Ngāti Whakaue iwi e. Raukawa Settlement Trust, representing Ngāti Raukawa iwi.

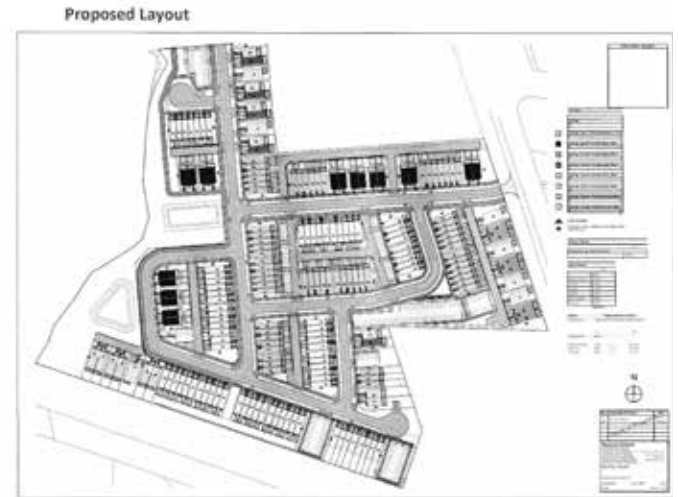
We note BOPRC identified all of the same iwi authorities which we consider to be relevant and Ngāti Ngararanui and Ngāti Tura Ngāti Te Ngākau iwi, which we consider their representative bodies may have an interest. We note LRC identified Ngāti Rangiwewehi iwi which we consider their representative body to be relevant and Ngāti Ngararanui, Ngāti Tura Ngāti Te Ngākau and Ngāti Tuteaiti iwi, which we consider their representative bodies may have an interest.

Pollution in our Lake

Recently, Lynn Benfell mentioned the amount of rubbish in our village which will end up in our lake. Ngongotaha resident, Mike Hodge agrees. He has been picking up rubbish on his 100 metre lakefront - the photo shows his haul of aluminium cans over just 2 days. He says there are other items such as plastic particles which are more difficult to retrieve, but inevitably seriously erode the water quality in our taonga.

Rotorua Lakes Council were approached to see if the pump station in Parawai Drive might have overflowed, but they replied categorically that this was not the case, and the pump station is monitored electronically

So it is up to residents to keep an eye peeled for any cause of pollution to our lake.



We have noted that both local authorities have identified Ngāti Ngararanui (includes Ngati Rautao), Ngāti Tura Ngāti Te Ngākau and Ngati Tuteaiti, however this is not supported by any other available information. We recommend they be included and their representative bodies be identified as an 'other party' which may have an interest.

We have identified the following post-settlement governance entities associated with the Treaty settlements: a. Te Arawa Lakes Trust under the Te Arawa Lakes Settlement Act 2006 b. Te Pūmāutanga o Te Arawa Trust under the Affiliate Te Arawa Iwi and Hapu Claims Settlement Act 2008 c. Te Tāhuhu o Tawakeheimoa Trust under the Ngāti Rangiwewehi Claims Settlement Act 2014 d. Raukawa Settlement Trust under the Raukawa Claims Settlement Act 2014.

We have included the Te Arawa Lakes Strategy Group as a relevant treaty settlement entity. We have identified the recognised negotiation mandate relating to the project area for Ngāti Whakaue iwi. The project site lies within the area of interest for this settlement negotiation."

Watchman Residential plan to hold a drop-in clinic on the proposed development shortly. A tentative date has been set as Wednesday 11th October from 3.00pm to 6.00pm at the Ngongotaha Lawn Bowls Clubhouse in Domain Ave. Check www.ngongotahanews.co.nz for confirmation. Readers may note that the fast-track consent does not apply to the approximately 350 homes originally indicated for the site.



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Ngongotaha resident Rob Bellingham has published 2 books this year. The Bible in Verse (1000) pages and New Testament Profiles in Poetry. Both are written in rhyming couplets and are unique. Available on Xlibris. Congratulations Rob!

Ngongotaha Rail Park have proposed having a Community Garden and Pataka Kai. A meeting of interested persons has been held on 30th September. Further interest is invited.

Forest and Bird's Kiwi Conservation Club (previously in recess) has a new Coordinator who is keen to get things going again. Molly Chattell grew up in Rotorua, has lived and worked overseas and is now back here with her husband and two young sons. She is also a primary school teacher and experienced at running events involving children.



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Member of Parliament for Rotorua



National will get our country back on track starting with Ngongotaha.

This election is important for the future of New Zealand and the implications for Rotorua and Ngongotaha are in the forefront of many voters' minds.

As I've campaigned around the electorate from Te Puke to Broadlands and in Ngongotaha, one thing is clear - local people are struggling under Labour's cost of living crisis. From the escalating cost of food to almost record high interest rates and steep increases in rents (up \$210 per week on average in Rotorua over the last 6 years), local people are doing it tough.

Labour has borrowed and spent more than any government in the history of New Zealand, the country's debt will soon pass \$100 billion with annual interest payments forecast to be \$9 billion. When challenged about why inflation and Government spending is so high, Labour continues to blame Covid and the war in the Ukraine - neither of which explain why Kiwis at home are so much worse off than those New Zealanders who have crossed the ditch.

And then there's the use of homeless motels for emergency housing that has become endemic in Rotorua under this government. Labour's experiments have failed and it's time to get the country back on track.

National has a plan to get government spending and inflation under control while investing more in health and education every year. We will stop Labour's wasteful spending on more bureaucrats and consultants and instead invest in Kiwi households by putting more money in your back pocket.

We'll close homeless motels and instead get families into houses, and jobs and their kids in school, - it will no longer be possible to come to Rotorua for a homeless motel paid for by the government.

This election you face a choice between more of the same wasteful spending and lack of achievement under a Labour-Green-Māori Party government or a strong National-led government under Christopher Luxon that will get our country back on track.

I ask you to Party Vote National and to vote for me, Todd McClay as your local MP.

Hon Todd McClay
Member of Parliament for Rotorua
Spokesperson for Agriculture, Trade, Hunting and Fishing.
Authorised by T.McClay, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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LAKEVIEW GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Spring is well under way with daylight saving now in. The blossoms and fresh new growth on the trees remind us that spring is all about new beginnings. It is an amazing time of year to be on the golf course with the native birds in full voice and very active. The grass is starting to grow and the weather is finally warming up with sunny days. Long may it last!

The winners of Top Dog/Cat have been crowned. A big CONGRATULATIONS to Roy Woodcock and Chris Erskine-Shaw. Also, a big shout out to the (nearly) Top Cats Heather McKenzie and Jeanette Watkins. Well done ladies you put up a great fight and held your end up admirably! Next year maybe we will have Top Cats. Handicap Matchplay Champs are now in full swing, the finals being held on Saturday 14th October. Then we kick into the final competition of the year, the Mamaku Cup. Ham tournaments will start mid-November. The year is rapidly coming to the pointy end with (dare we say it) Christmas really not far away.

Twilight will start on Wednesday 11th October tee off from 4.30- 6.30pm. This is a great way to spend an afternoon after work winding down and chilling out with some mates on the golf course. Always good camaraderie, so make some time and play 9!

This year we are starting a new initiative with the introduction of Business House twilight. This will be on Tuesday evenings tee off 5.30pm teams of 4 playing 9 holes. It will run for 6 weeks from October 24th. This is another awesome way to play a bit more golf and relax after work. More info will be coming so watch this space!

Last year we ran a ladies' twilight on Tuesdays but have decided instead to change this and run some clinics for beginners or ladies wanting to give golf a go. The option to go and play golf as well is still there of course.

Clubhouse progress is slow but a lot sure has happened inside and we are still really hoping to be able to share this amazing facility with everyone by Christmas. We thank all the wonderful Trust funds who have supported us thus far- The Lotteries Board, Aotearoa Gaming Trust, Pub Charity and Grassroots and of course a big paki paki to all the venues who make this possible.

Remember the Rotorua Archery Club is based at Lakeview now and they shoot every Sunday (weather permitting) from 9.30am – 11.00am. They welcome everyone, so if you have always wanted to give archery a go come on up to Lakeview. It is a great sport for all abilities and an awesome whanau activity. We have seen a lot of children giving it a go lately, which is fantastic!

We are still looking for a part-time grounds person. 20-30 hours per week. If you have carpentry skills, experience with machinery and love working outdoors, this may be the job for you. Give Sue a call 027 2010 940.

Until next month enjoy daylight saving and have fun with whanau outside during those longer evenings!

Golf shop phone number is 07 357 2341.



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A BUSY DAY

How was your Tuesday the 26th of September? Today was a busy day for me. But a productive day too.

I know we all have busy days but thought I would give you an insight to one of mine in the hope that it will encourage you to not just be busy, but to be productive and achieve your professional and personal goals, visit friends past and present and make time to develop yourself.



This morning I woke up at 6.15am, answered overnight emails on my phone and after getting ready, travelled from Rotorua to one of my Ngati Tahu Ngati Whaoa marae in Reporoa. I whakapapa to this marae through my mum Doreen Bidois (nee Tanirau) and was there to support a youth camp programme through one of the Maori Trusts I am a Trustee and Director on.

After a brief welcome to the marae which was conducted by the youth as a part of their holiday camp, I along with other Trustees and Directors had breakfast with those youth at 8am.

During that breakfast I sat next to one of our camp leaders who has been attending our camps for 12 years. She is now a lawyer. I also met other leaders and youth who are just amazing young leaders.

Breakfast was followed by a day long strategy planning hui which established the youth we'd just had breakfast with as a part of our "why". This hui included conversations around 100-year plans and diversifying our asset base and portfolios. Throughout the day I also answered more business emails and texts and made more phone calls regarding my other businesses and directorships. The strategy hui finished around 3.15pm.

From there we were off to look at a local housing project development we have and followed that up with taking a fellow Director to the airport by 4.30 so he could return to Auckland at 5.30pm.

On my way home I visited a very ill friend. We talked and prayed and shared precious words. This person was a very good friend of my Papas and I know my Papa would have appreciated me visiting him. I enjoyed my time with him. It was the calm in my storm type day.

Home for a quick change of clothes and dinner at 5.30pm before leaving for our te reo class which started at 6.30pm. Self-development time. The class is held at Awahou marae: the paramount marae I whakapapa to on my Papa's side.

After the class at 8.15pm my wife and I went up to the urupa (cemetery) to say hello to my Papa, tell him I had visited his friend, and look at the new lights on his grave. Ataahua, beautiful. He would be pleased with them. Thank you Raywyn.

Home by 9pm for a cuppa before starting this article which you are reading now. It will take me at least an hour and a half to write this article so I should get to bed by 10.30pm, just over 16 hours after waking up this morning. Busy day but a fruitful day.

Here's the thing. I plan my own days. As a Professional Speaker, Professional Director, businessman, husband and everything else I do, I get to decide what I do each day. Is every day like this? No. Some are even busier. Fortunately, though, most are not.

Tomorrow, I plan to attend a symposium on Fishing Futures from 8.30am to 11 am. From there, weather permitting, I will play a round of golf with friends in the afternoon, before attending another hui with my Fish and Game councillor hat on from 5.30pm to 8.30pm. People often say they see my truck at the golf course "all the time". I like getting that feedback, because I try to have time for me which is on a golf course, even if it is only 4 or 5 times a month if I am lucky.

How was your day in Hamurana, Kaharoa, Awahou or Mamaku? Hopefully you were able to visit unwell friends or those who are now your tupuna, hopefully you made a positive difference in our communities, developed your skills or parked yourself in a space for some "me" time. We owe it to ourselves to do things for ourselves "all the time".

Ngahihi o te ra Bidois is a Motivational Speaker, Professional Director, businessman, author, husband, father. Koro and MBA. A Maori Boy from Awahou. See <https://thefaceofnewzealand.com/>

Kaimai Kaponga (Kaponga is Mamaku's original name)

Te Poari Newton reported on Kaimai Kaponga's activities to the Progress Ngongotaha AGM recently. They cover 150,000 hectares with a crew of 12, all of whom have been through a 3-month training programme.

The crew currently are on a Government contract to 24 June 2024 for pest eradication but are looking to replace this with other contracts in a sustainable way. Private groups are often targeting selected pests, but Kaimai Kaponga look to eradicate all pests damaging forests, crops and pasture -such as possums, mustelids and wallabies, the last being of huge concern in this rohe. Dama wallabies – one of the smallest – and Parma wallabies predominate in our area. The crew use Garmin GPS's to track their catches- the "solar highway" - uses the animals' heat to track them.

Exciting news: Kaimai Kaponga have discovered a new insect which is undergoing DNA sequencing by Canterbury University.



Hon Todd McClay

MP for Rotorua

I hold constituent clinics every week, and I am here to help.

1301 Amohau St, Rotorua • 07 348 5871
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Authorised by Todd McClay, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Progress Ngongotaha -Kokiri Ngongotaha Inc.

Ngongotaha Community Collective - 'Making a Big Difference'

Hi Everyone, Kia ora Koutou, Katoa

Firstly thank you to those who came along to our Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 21st September. It was a good opportunity to discuss topics of interest including an update on the progress of the Ngongotaha Community Emergency Response Plan (Draft) thank you Heather Brake. This was followed by an interesting thought-provoking presentation by Te Poari Newton from Kaimai Kaponga, (situated next door to Gull Service Station), see Editors article on p 7.

What a Blessing it is that our whanau is looking after our native forest, so that future generations can enjoy what our Tupuna/Elders also lived in and gathered Kai/food from. Kia kaha, John/Te Poari our Aroha is with you and your team.

Out and About:

What do you think about your general safety and that of others, when using our crossing outside the Post Shop? This crossing allows us to 'safely' cross this State Highway from one side to the other, but how safe is it really?

I have been shocked at the number of times that I and others have been nearly collected by a vehicle while using the crossing. I knew by the look on the drivers faces that they were just as shocked as I was. It took all of my balance ability, to stay upright long enough for the vehicle to pass through the painted lines while I stood there. Everything just seemed to slow down, I could take in every little expression on the drivers face as he looked at me with his mouth open wide.

We received an email from a very concerned resident just last week. The concerns related not only to the crossing outside the Post Shop on SH36, but to our other crossing on Western Road the email reads;

"I have contacted the Council on an individual basis on this issue without success. I am very concerned about the pedestrian crossing at the bottom of School Road over Western Road and the pedestrian crossing outside the post office. In both cases, traffic turning left is very occupied checking for vehicles advancing from the right and the crossings are too close to the intersecting roads. In addition, with the downward angle on School Road, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to see a young child wanting to cross the road, perhaps to go to the skateboard park and playground. In both instances, if the crossing were moved - the Western Road one by about 15 metres and the other to opposite Dynasti - the view would be much clearer and more likely that travelling vehicles would stop for walkers crossing." JG

Have you also written to the Rotorua Lakes Council about your concerns? If you have, thank you, we have also done the same. Unfortunately, our main road is and has been a State Highway for quite sometime now. Our Council can consider, make decisions and act on concerns about our ordinary local roads, but not the main Highways. So, what can we do? Firstly, we would like to hear from you as well, email progressngongotaha@gmail.com as one of our focus areas is Community Safety. We are very interested to hear about your experiences, as well.

Until next time Stay Safe out there....

Lynn, Bob, Lee, & Heather ph 3574565 or 022 1404391



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FOR SALE



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Kaharoa School

October 2023



Kia ora koutou

Well the end of another very busy term is upon us. It has been great to see some gorgeous spring days to end the term.



We return for term 4 on Monday 9th October.

Kaharoa Cull: A big thank you to our Kaharoa PTA (Parent Teacher Association) who organised our first Kaharoa Cull. We had 165 hunters in 32 teams with a total of over 1000 pests culled.



Winter Sports: We would like to congratulate all sports players from the winter sports codes and wish good luck to those participating in summer sports. Thank you to the many coaches and managers who took time out of their busy lives to support our young people in a range of different sports.



A special mention must go to our basketball team, The Kaharoa CrossUps, who won the Rotorua Miniball League Intermediate Boys C Grade in a tight 28-27 finish.

A number of basketball players from all ages participated in the Kaharoa Basketball **Great Shootout**. Students rallied around to get as many sponsors as possible and challenged themselves to shoot as many hoops as they could in 3 minutes. A lot of fun was to be had, and students raised over \$1000 for new uniforms and basketballs.



We had a fun student vs staff Netball game with our Year 7 & 8 students. It was cool to see everyone getting involved and having a good time. The score was 10-1 for the Staff. 🥳

On the 26th October year 5/6 students will participate in a **sports exchange** with Ngongotaha Primary School.

Athletics Day: Wednesday 8th November. Our children will spend the first half of term 4 training for our annual Athletics. Every year we keep the records for each event in each age group (girls and boys). The children will be aiming to beat these to have their name listed as a new record holder.



Ag Day: Many Kaharoa children have adopted and are helping to raise lambs, calves, chickens and kids (baby goats) in preparation for Ag Day - to be held on Friday

13th October. For children who are unable to look after an animal at their home, there is an option of growing and caring for plants.

This spring, our classes will visit our local bush areas as a part of our studies of birds, their habitats and pests. We will also be looking at the work that the local Kaharoa Kokako Trust does, and senior classes will have members of the library visit to run their Digital Literacy and Research Skills Programme.



Our House Captains are organising **Wheels Day** on Friday 3rd November. The students will be able to use their 'wheels' supervised during Morning Tea and Lunchtimes.

Please refer to the Kaharoa website for further information and school newsletters.

www.kaharoa.school.nz

Ng ā mihi mahana - The Kaharoa Team

On the subject of Nature

While admiring some dinosaur bones in the Museum of Natural History, a tourist asks the guard, "How old are they?"

The guard replies, "They are 73 million, four years, and six months old."

"That's a rather exact number," says the tourist. "How do you know their age so precisely?"

"Well," answers the guard, "The dinosaur bones were seventy-three million years old when I started working here, and that was four and a half years ago."

A man was trying to understand the nature of God, and asked him: "God, how long is a million years to you?"

God answered: "A million years is like a minute." Then the man asked: "God, how much is a million dollars to you?" And God replied: "A million dollars is like a cent."

Finally the man asked: "God, could you give me a cent?" And God said, "In a minute."



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"Dad, can you explain to me what a solar eclipse is?"
 "No sun."

Lion: "You're late. We said meet at sunset."

Giraffe: "I can still see the sun."

*You might have read about nature photographers disguising their cameras as herd animals to photograph lions...
 Don't believe it.
 Fake Gnus*

Why does a Time Magazine survey state only 85% of Americans think global warming is happening?
 The other 15 percent work for the oil industry!



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NGONGOTAHA INDOOR BOWLS

28th August President Night Another fun night but some good bowls played. The Skip winner for the night was John Rayner. Runner up was Wayne Hitchins. The skip that tried the hardest was Richard Mills. The lead winner was Martin Burtling and Runner up was Jan Drabble. The Booby prize went to Chris McGoon.

4th September Mens and Womens Singles It was a very interesting night and results were close. Winners for the women were Helen White with 3 wins and runner up Robin Campbell with 2 wins and a draw. Winners for the men were Richard Mills and runner up Greg Chase. Both Greg and Richard had a good battle but Richard's skills played off.

11th September RSA versus Ngongotaha It was a very busy night with members of the RSA visiting to challenge us yet again and taking the trophy home. Not lack of trying from the Ngongotaha teams but I really think it was RSA luck on the night. RSA 40 points and Ngongotaha 33 points. A nice supper was had at the end of bowling.

18th September Trophy Night There were some good battles and challenges tonight and the winners only won by one point and that was Kevin Whyte and Helen White with 26 points. Runner up was Cheryl Wiggins and Greg Chase.

25th September Fun Night & Prize Giving It was a bit of a wet cold night but all members were there to receive a prize or join in the fun. We had our usual punch and nibbles to keep us going but it seemed most people were happy to enjoy the food and have a catch up on the gossip. We did play a couple of games before the prize giving. Most players took home a certificate or a trophy

and were pleased with the year of bowling. No Covid to upset the programme this year.

This will be my last report for the year so I will now wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you all back in February 2024.

More on Nature

"Give a man a fish and you will feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will spend a fortune on gear he will only use twice a year."

"What's worse than finding a worm in your apple?"
"Finding half a worm."

*"The swordfish has no natural predators to fear from.
Except the penfish, which is supposed to be even mightier."*

On Hiking in Nature

- The closer you are to nature the further you are from idiots.
- Never hike alone in bear country. Always hike with someone you can outrun.
- I don't get it. The trail looked so flat on the map....
- "Bring a compass. It's awkward when you have to eat your friends."*



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Uh-oh!- when my wife asked when I knew I loved her.

I said "We were in Rome, the way you knew so much about the city like it was second nature to you. But I never felt you were condescending to me when I'd ask stupid questions. I saw how much you knew, how passionate you could be. I'd been bored by all the old buildings, but you brought it all to life. I think that weekend, was when I realised you could be the best thing about my life."

She didn't speak for a while, just looked at me until she said four words.

"On our tenth anniversary?"

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Kaharoa Community Garage sale Kaharoa Hall on Saturday 7th October from 9am-12noon

Remember to bring lots of small change & \$\$\$ - No eftpos.

Please spread the word, we have a huge amount of goods, now we need lots of people to repurpose it!

All sorts of goodies on sale, garden plants, books, crafts as well as the usual bric-a-brac.

We have had a great response from people wanting tables and the hall will be filled to overflowing.

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Government Recommendations on Mask Wearing



From August 2023 the government has made mask use by visitors to healthcare settings recommended.

However we still ask if you could please wear a mask if you are feeling unwell – this is to protect staff and other patients while you are in the clinic

We have masks available at reception as well as FREE boxes of RAT tests

Phone First Acute Clinic

If you have any respiratory symptoms (cough/cold/fever/sore/throat/runny nose please call our reception from 8am and ask to be put in our "Phone First Acute Clinic". A doctor will call you back promptly. If we can sort your problem with a telephone consultation we will, however if we do need to see you in person we will arrange for you to come in to be seen.

(Please note that there will only be a single consultation charge whether your issue is resolved by telephone consultation or face to face).



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Age Concern

This is a photo of Age Concern staff at the Positive Ageing Expo.

At the Expo we were able to attract about 20 new members and 4 new volunteers.



In September we held our annual Positive Ageing Expo which attracted about 28 different organizations and over 300 attendees. Our thanks go out to The Lion Foundation, who funded the Expo, and Parksde who hosted the Expo. Another annual event which we have yet to finalize details of is the Volunteers Xmas Party.

The saga of the Tiny Houses continues, and they are now almost complete and only waiting for a final Code of Compliance before delivery. The site preparation has had delay after delay with the latest issue concerning the lack of fall from the stormwater collection to the road. This issue has required an application for a variance in the Building Consent and this has meant further delays but will be solved eventually.

A new event that we will be holding, nearer to Xmas, will be a car boot sale which will give our members an opportunity to get a little bit of extra money before the festive season. For those members who do not have a car, there will be space available on tables in a marquee we will provide. This will be an opportunity for you to sell any crafts or any unwanted items. The Car Boot Sale will be held on the 2nd of December from 8:00 until around 2:00, in the car park, nearest to our offices, at Parksde. There will be a fee to sell stuff and we will ask for registration nearer to the event. In the meantime, members could begin to gather items for sale. We hope to have food and entertainment and make it a Xmas party vibe. In the meantime, members could begin to gather items for sale. We hope to have food and entertainment and make it a Xmas party vibe.

Another event that we will be celebrating is The International Day of the Older Person. It is on the 1st of October each year and this year it is on a Sunday so we will be celebrating on our first day back at work, on the 3rd of October. Watch this space for more details of what we will be doing. The day is celebrated annually to recognize the contributions of older people and to examine issues that affect their lives. This day provides an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution, wisdom, dignity and needs of our senior citizens and to rededicate our efforts to ensure their well-being.

2023 Theme: Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of

MACULAR DEGENERATION:

Early Detection Saves Sight

MD is three times more prevalent than Dementia and about half as prevalent as Diabetes.

Macular Degeneration (MD) is a chronic eye disease that is currently the leading cause of blindness in New Zealand. One in 7 people over 50 years of age have some evidence of it and the incidence increases with age with 1 in 4 people aged 80+ experiencing vision loss which affects their quality of life. Alarmingly it is estimated that the number of people with MD will increase by 70% by 2030.

Macular degeneration (MD) affects the central vision and this impacts on a person's ability to drive, read, watch television, undertake hobbies requiring fine work, access websites and even recognise faces. Loss of vision impacts lifestyle and independent ageing and is associated with risks such as: falls and fracturing hips; developing and increases in depression; inability to access health services and earlier admission to nursing homes. Consequently, people with macular degeneration experience significant emotional harm while the country incurs incalculable financial costs.

Human Rights for Older Persons: Across Generations. Seventy-five years ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, a monumental document in the history of human rights.

Having a will is one of the most important things you can do for your family. Some people think assets and special possessions will automatically go to your spouse or your next of kin if you don't have a will in place, but this isn't always the case. Wills help make sure that your wishes are carried out and the people and things that matter most to you are looked after once you're gone.

If you die without a will, the process for administering your estate – or dividing your assets and possessions – can be longer and more complex for those you leave behind and may involve the court. Wills form a key part of planning for a more secure future and need to be put in place while you're of sound mind and memory, otherwise they may not be valid. If you already have a will, that's great news. Around half of all Kiwi have one, which is excellent. But it's important to make sure it's up-to-date and reflects your current situation. We recommend reviewing your will every five years, or if you've had a significant change in your life. Maybe you've experienced a death in the family, a divorce or you have a new partner, grandbaby, or fur baby.

We encourage conversations with family when making or updating your will. It can be confronting to have conversations about death, money and the future but having them early with your loved one's benefits everyone. Research reveals an increasing interest in and value placed on 'emotional' legacies, which are less about money and assets and more about passing on values, taonga and heirlooms to the next generation.

Remember that professional trustee services organizations like Public Trust are here to help guide your conversations with empathy and expertise if needed.

Rory O'Rourke Manager Age Concern Rotorua

Tarewa Place Rotorua Phone : 07 347 1539 Mobile : 0275609956

Local man Grahame Turner tells how he attended the Rotorua Eye Clinic after failing the eyesight test for his driver's licence. "After tests it was discovered that I had one eye with dry macular degeneration and one with the wet type. There is as yet no current help for the dry type, but fortunately there is help available for the wet condition. The treatment – the eye is numbed in a regular theatre and then an injection is used to instill a liquid which has the necessary ingredients to attack the problem. I was having the procedure done about every six or seven weeks, but now the eye appears to be quite stable and therefore I have not needed the injection as frequently as at first."

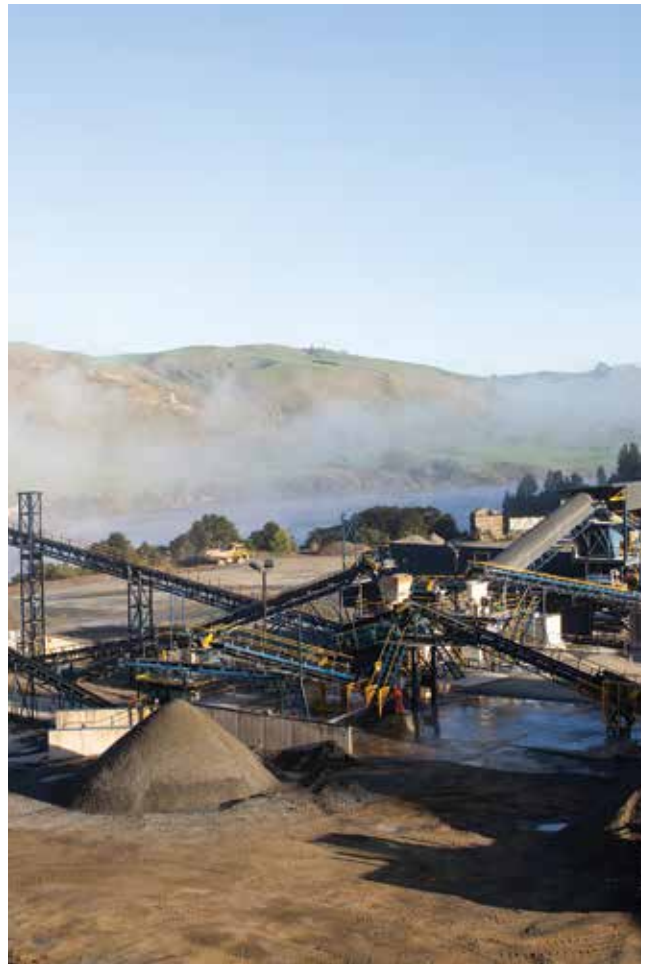
Macular Degeneration New Zealand (MDNZ) is a Charitable Trust is conducting a free public seminar, where Local Ophthalmologist, Dr Malcolm Naudé will present information about macular degeneration and its treatments, how to reduce the risks and best manage the disease. There will also be displays of low vision aids and information packs will be available on the day.

**Free seminar 7th October 2023 at the Suncourt Hotel,
14 Northcroft Street, Taupo from 10.00am-11.30am.**

To register phone 0800 MACULA (622 852) or email info@mdnz.org.nz

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Happenings

7 October Kaharoa Community Association community garage sale at Kaharoa Hall, 9 am to noon.

7 October Macular Degeneration public seminar see p16

9 October School Term starts

11 October "Austen Found: The Undiscovered Musicals of Jane Austen" at Shambles Theatre \$30

14 October Election Day. If you don't vote, don't complain about the Government for the next 3 years!

21 October Rotorua Collectors Club Garage Sale at Ngongotaha Community Hall, 8.30 to 1.00 Household goods and collectibles.

3 November Wheels Day at Kaharoa School

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 Parksyde

Tuesday Twilight Golf at Lakeview 4.00 to 6.00 pm

2nd Tuesday of the month: Lions Club of Ngongotaha Business meeting at 5.30 pm in the Ngongotaha Hall.

4th Tuesday of the month: Lions Club of Ngongotaha Social meeting at 5.30 pm at venues to be advised.

Contact person: Jamie Ph: 07 3322818

2nd Wednesday Friendship Club 9.45 am St Barnabas Church Hall

4th Wednesday Ngongotaha Garden Circle at Ngongotaha Hall

Every Thursday Junior Golf after school during school term at Lakeview Golf and Country Club

Thursdays 5pm Twilight Lawn Bowls, Clubhouse Domain Rd

Last Thursday of the month 2.00 pm Poetry Appreciation Society.

Contact Kay myfairykay@gmail.com or 0274 982 787

Brickbats and Bouquets for Rotorua Lakes Council

Ngongotaha community advocate Catherine Stewart points out the closure of the mens toilet block in Hall Road (previously also mentioned by Progress Ngongotaha) and the state of the Reeme St jetty.

Catherine is advised the toilets will be relocated, no report yet on the jetty's status.

However, she also congratulates RLC for a fine new seat at the Arawa Street bus stop for those destined for Ngongotaha.



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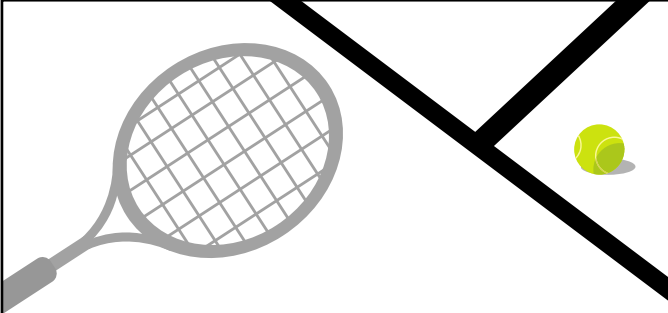
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Ngongotaha Lawn Bowls

Just a reminder Twilight bowls is on Thursdays from 5.00 pm . All welcome ! Three ladies teams went to centre triples 23 Sept (don't know results yet). We will be having a 4's tournament in memory of Simbo (Reg Simms), a very good player and personality of the club who passed away recently. That will be on Sunday 8 Oct. The next Sunday 15 Oct will be balls'n'bags tourney. Over the long weekend there will be BOP centre mixed 2's. I will have some results for next edition.

Paul Graham.



KAHAROA TENNIS CLUB

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An electrical engineer, a mechanical engineer, and a civil engineer are discussing the nature of God.

"God is an electrical engineer" says the electrical engineer. "Look at the body's nervous system! It's all electrical impulses."

"Nonsense," says the mechanical engineer. "God's a mechanical engineer. Look at the muscles and bones. That's mechanical engineering."

The civil engineer demurs. "God is a civil engineer. Who else would put a waste disposal pipe through the middle of a recreational area?"

By nature, Jason was very intelligent but a bit shy. One day he went into a bar, and he saw a stunningly attractive woman sitting alone at a table drinking a white-wine spritzer.

Jason couldn't take his eyes off this lady, and eventually, he gathered up the courage to walk across and speak to her.

"Hello, I'm Jason. Would you mind if I sat with you and chatted for a while?" asked Jason quietly but politely.

The woman responded by yelling at the top of her voice, "No! I will not sleep with you tonight!"

Jason blushed, beetroot red with embarrassment, and everyone in the bar looked over to see what was going on.

So he walked back over to the counter where he'd been sitting, reflecting on how he might have handled the situation and intending to leave the bar as soon as he'd finished his drink.

However, a couple of minutes later, the attractive woman walked over to him and apologized.

"I'm really sorry," she said. "I'm actually a Ph.D. student at Harvard and I'm researching how people respond in embarrassing situations."

To which Jason responded, yelling loudly at the top of his voice, "What do you mean you charge three hundred dollars minimum?!"



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