

Community day at Tamarahi Reserve (Ngongotaha AFC grounds)

In conjunction with Love Soup and Rotorua Clothing Exchange, Ngongotaha Soccer Club held a successful open day on 27th January to provide free soccer related activities for kids, free ice cream, free food, and clothing stalls. Also, the Miss Rotorua Foundation was ably represented by Miss Te Arawa, Miss Teen Supermodel NZ and Second Runner Up Miss Rotorua 2023.

Ngongotaha AFC are looking for children of all backgrounds and abilities to have a go at football. They encourage folk from 3 year-olds to adults to play soccer in a safe, inclusive, positive and fun environment. If you are interested, you can check out their Facebook page, Ngongotaha AFC, or you can phone Aaron Lawrence, the Club President, on 0277123470.



Controlled Area Notices

You may have noticed signs recently erected in our area near waterways. Biosecurity Act CANs have been issued around all 13 Rotorua lakes because of the menace created by the discovery of Golden Clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) in 116 km of the Waikato River. Golden Clams are out of East Asia and can be found in North America & Europe. They attach to infrastructure and create issues around fouling water pipes, irrigation systems & hydro-electricity facilities. No-one worldwide has eradicated Golden Clams and the plan is to contain them in known areas. They are tiny organisms so thorough cleaning is important.

- CHECK - Check for mud and vegetation.
- CLEAN - Clean the exterior of vessels. Clean life jackets, carpets & interior of vessels with hot water. Freezing items will also be effective.
- DRY - Ensure everything is dry e.g. carpets & wetsuits. Drop outboard motors so they don't contain any water pockets. Remove the boat bung and drain hull to remove any trapped water. Allow to air dry for several days before using elsewhere. Regular cleaning also makes your boat and gear last longer, reduces vessel running costs because you'll use less fuel and reduces maintenance costs.

Deputy director-general of Biosecurity New Zealand Stuart Anderson says "Wash stations are just one tool to help prevent the spread of the clams. It is critical that boaties check, clean, and dry their gear if they have been in the infested part of the Waikato River or lakes and before moving to another waterway. These requirements mean people can enjoy the Te Arawa lakes while keeping the freshwater gold clam out. We thank fishers and boaties for their patience during this time. "The designated wash station is at The Wash Place, 338 Te Ngae Road, Rotorua. This is a commercial facility and there will be a cost. Additional mobile wash stations will be introduced.

Source: Rotorua Lakes Community Board Meeting 11 Dec 2023, MPI Update 10 Nov 2023

Dahlia Day!

Saturday 24th February sees competitors from all over the North Island competing in The Rotorua Dahlia Club Annual Show which is conveniently located at the Ngongotaha Community Hall in School Road. If you love flowers, pop along – we would love to see people bring their blooms to exhibit which is free. There is a 'first time' category as well as an extensive cut flower section so you don't even need to have dahlias! It's all a bit of good old-fashioned fun, kind of like the Ag days at school! You may even leave with a prize or a trophy. We would love to see more children entering, we have a fun section for them where they can show a dahlia bloom, sandsaucer or vegetable animal! Club members are on hand to help. Come and see the intricate blooms of dahlia varieties that can only be explained as 'perfection'.

The show is open from 11.30am (\$2 donation 15 years and over). While you are there, make sure you get a ticket in the raffle kindly sponsored by Curiosity Blooms and individual club members. Tickets will be available on the day and also prior at Curiosity Blooms (opposite Cafe Dynasti). Potted Dahlias, plants and Dahlia bouquets will be for sale on the day. Please bring cash. We really look forward to seeing as many people as possible at the show. For queries, contact Rotorua Dahlia Club secretary Jo Wilke 0274926428

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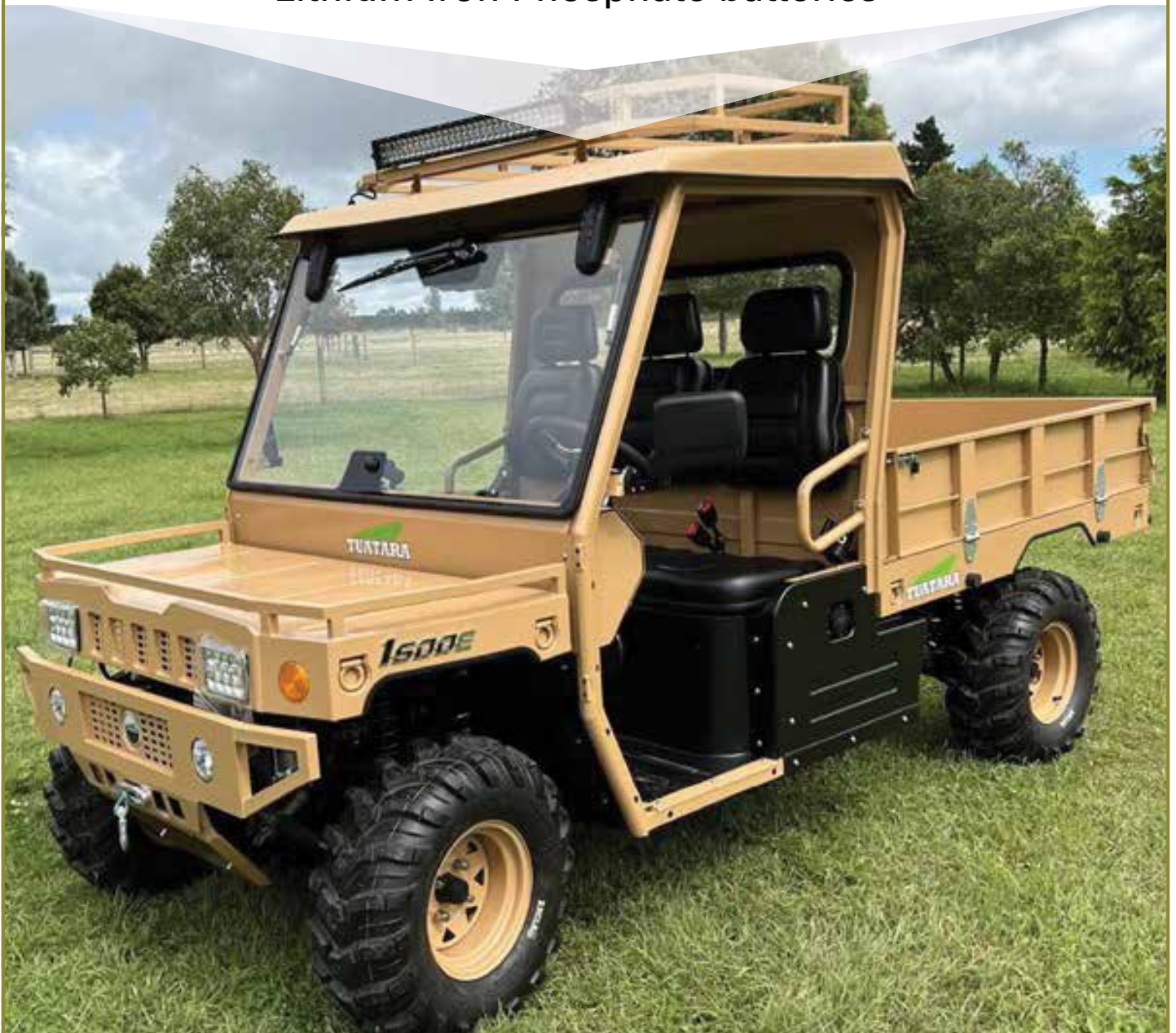
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MP for Rotorua

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Authorised by Todd McClay,
Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Hon Todd McClay

Member of Parliament for Rotorua



Delivering in 2024

There is a lot of work to be done and the Coalition Government has been working hard to deliver on the 100-day plan we announced at the beginning of December last year.

The "UTE Tax" has now ended. The previous governments scheme offering subsidies to individuals buying electric vehicles, whilst imposing taxes on hardworking farmers and tradies who have little choice about the type of vehicle they need for work, was inequitable and financially irresponsible. The scheme paid out more in rebates than it received in charges making it the taxpayer who footed the bill to cover the costs.

Blanket speed limit reductions have now been removed. Instead, Transport Minister Simeon Brown will implement a new rule to ensure that when speed limits are set economic impacts including travel times, and the view of road users and local communities are taken into account, alongside safety. This will include the implementation of variable speed limits on roads approaching schools during pick up and drop off times to keep our young people safe.

Our new school year has commenced, and our Primary and Intermediate school students will spend at least an hour each day on reading, writing and maths preparing our young people for greater academic success. Schools have also been preparing to implement the cellphone free learning environment. The policy will enable increased student engagement,

greater concentration, and better wellbeing.

I was pleased to recently announce that all New Zealand dairy products are able to enter China tariff free, with the end of safeguard duties on milk powder starting. This is good news for our dairy sector with the removal of these tariffs expecting to deliver additional annual tariff savings of approximately \$350 million.

33 new graduate Vets have been accepted into the Voluntary Bonding scheme for veterinarians. This will see them work in rural communities across New Zealand including Rotorua. Each recipient receives funding to help pay off their student loans providing a significant head start to their career, whilst boosting much needed veterinarian support in our rural communities.

There is much more work to do. Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has restarted the parliamentary year early so that the government can get on with the work that needs to be done to get New Zealand back on track.

My office is now open and if I can be of any help please contact my staff on (07) 348-5871, we are here to help.

Hon. Todd McClay MP

Member of Parliament for Rotorua

Authorised by T. McClay. Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



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2024

Happy New year. I hope this year of 2024 is the best year ever for you and your whanau.

For me it will be the first year without my friend, mentor and Rangatira. My papa Tommy Bidois. I miss him heaps.



So, I want to especially acknowledge all of you who have lost loved ones including parents, wives, husbands, whanau and friends in 2023 and wish you a healing, safe and prosperous 2024. Let's not underestimate the influence of grief and give ourselves time and space to heal.

Just the other day I was at a kapa haka practice and a song triggered my aroha for my Papa. I had to leave the room to find space and a place where I could have a tangi and quiet time between me and him. It's okay to not be okay.

I heard a great quote the other day while I was watching the Australian open tennis men's final. The commentator said, "They say life is 10% what happens to you and 90% what you do about it."

I thought that makes sense when you have a tennis ball coming at you at over 100 kms per hour and have split seconds to react. That's a great metaphor of life too, though. We just must deal to stuff that comes our way. The tennis context also reminded me that negative things can happen real quick and what I do about negative stuff is my choice and my decision and 90% dependent on my reaction to whatever is happening.

I have no doubt that with everything negative that is happening around the world it would be easy to get a bit negative too and think why bother? That same tennis commentator near the end of the match also said "He is standing on the edge of success or the edge of a precipice."

It reminded me of times I have stood on banks overlooking deep water in lakes or rivers trying to pluck up the courage to jump after many already safely have. Talking percentages, I think I am about 90% yes and 10% no. Funny how I keep thinking of the times when I did not jump though, and want to still go back and have another go.

One of my good friends Ian Scott used to always remind me to eliminate the negative stuff in my life, accentuate the positive and not mess with Mr In-between. The positive can be as small as being grateful I woke up this morning. All over the world people did not wake up. Being positive can be stopping and smelling flowers or taking in the beautiful scenery in Awahou, Hamurana, Ngongotaha, Kaharoa.

Our communities of Awahou, Ngongotaha, Kaharoa, Mamaku and Hamurana need to be safe places where people can have a go. Whether that is jumping off riverbanks (safely), swimming, fishing, golfing, smelling flowers, enjoying the scenery or just enjoying waking up for another day.

So hopefully you have set your 2024 goals, have already achieved some of them and are feeling confident about 2024.

When people on quiz shows do not know the answer, then one of their options is to phone a friend. I hope that if that tennis ball comes at you too fast in 2024 and you have no answer to that overwhelming problem, then you phone a friend. Apparently, that depends on you 90% of the time. Kia kaha, kia maia.

Finally, I want to acknowledge my Papa and all of those we lost and wish them a safe journey in the afterlife. Haere, haere, haere atu ra. They say people die twice. The second time is when their names are mentioned for the last time on earth. Let's keep saying their names and speaking well of them in 2024. People like Tommy Bidois. Thank you Dad.

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/>

NGONGOTAHA INDOOR BOWLS

Firstly, Happy New Year to everyone who reads this. Who would believe we are into a new year 2024? This means for the keen bowlers that we will be back on a Monday night bowling or whatever we do. Maybe just to be able to catch up with members and have a yarn or two.

This year bowls start on the 5th 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, they 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.

I must wish Jan Drabble all the best. We will miss your baking and will miss you on the bowling mat.

Anyone looking at playing bowls can contact:

John Rayner 07 5625012

Kevin Whyte 07 3574766

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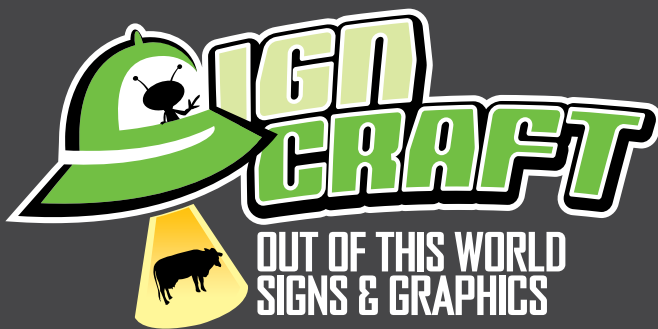


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Lakeview Golf and Country Club

Happy New Year to all - we hope everyone managed to have a break and spend some time with whanau and friends and that the batteries are recharged and ready for a great 2024!

The course is looking fantastic. The rain we have been getting is keeping things from drying out. The flip side of that is of course the grass is still growing at a great rate so the greenkeepers are flat out trying to keep up with it! We have been really busy over the holiday period which is awesome - a lot of whanau out enjoying some exercise and quality time together.

Club competition starts up again on 17th February with Captain's Trophy. Opening day is the weekend before on 10th February. The format for opening day is Canadian Foursomes - always a lot of fun and a great way to start off the year.

Pennants has started and with teams in all grades including for the first time Championship grade, it is set to be a busy season. Twilight has also started again on Wednesday evenings from 4.00pm - 6.00pm tee off. 9 holes of golf with a meal available afterwards. This is an awesome way to spend an afternoon after work with your mates.

Vets have started up again on Tuesday. 9.30am tee off with registration at 9.00am. Great social gathering while getting exercise with meat packs for prizes.

Junior golf sessions will recommence once school is back and settled usually mid February. Contact Josh in the shop for more information.

The clubhouse rebuild has made huge progress and we are getting extremely excited about the prospect of actually getting in there and enjoying all it has to offer. The decking is being built and what an amazing space this is! People will be able to sit and take in the views looking out on the relaxing peaceful environment while enjoying some delicious food and liquid refreshments from the café.

The clubhouse will be an amazing venue for functions: there are also two meeting rooms that will be available for hire A reminder that the

clubhouse will be available for community use, so if you are a group looking for a space to operate out of this could be your answer! Give Sue a call 027 2010 940.

The Rotorua Archery Club has started up their club days again for 2024 Sundays from 9.30am - 11.00am. Set up is from 9.15am. They have been getting some great turnouts with several new people trying out the sport including juniors, which is always good to see! They welcome everyone so pop up and have a go!

Enjoy the rest of summer and remember to slip slop slap and wrap!

Golf shop phone number is 07 357 2341.

Ngongotaha Garden Circle

Happy New Year Gardeners!

It's very hot and humid for gardening at present, but everything is growing well, including weeds. Watch out for bugs and blights on your plants.

The Ngongotaha Garden Circle is back on Wednesday 28th of February. Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month from February to November, based at the Ngongotaha Community Hall. We have between 30 - 40 members and new members are always welcome. It doesn't matter what sort of garden you have, you just need a basic interest in gardening.

We like to get out and about, visiting gardens around the district, especially during the warmer months, and when it is cold and wet, it is warm in the hall and we have guest speakers to talk about their gardening specialities. Discussions amongst our own club members can be very interesting and helpful, sharing ideas and tips.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the Ngongotaha Garden Circle and we are planning some celebrations. We would like to include some past members if possible and also get some historical information about the club and photos too, if anyone can help. Please contact Jane Moore 0274735708 or Christine Johns 0272712883.

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Revelations in our Bush/Ngahere

20,000 previously unknown insects discovered in Kaimai-Mamaku!

Kawai Kaimai's invertebrate project is working with Steve Dawson from the University of Canterbury, Scion entomologists and summer interns from Toi ki Tua to monitor insect life in the Kaimai-Mamaku bush. The process of monitoring involves the use of a high-tech malaise electronic tool on various sample locations and comparing over time.

The purposes of the study are multiple: checking whether overseas insects have migrated from the Port of Tauranga, and observing whether pest eradication of possums, rats, wallabies and deer is helping to increase the population of insects. Also, the 6 interns from Toi ki Tua are on a scholarship, which will enhance their academic credentials for future endeavours, and University of Canterbury and Scion are furthering their scientific knowledge about newly discovered insects.

Furthermore, this knowledge will be shared with schools in workshops on 8 and 9 February, culminating in community engagement sessions for Ngongotaha School and Ngongotaha residents. Further down the track, Aorewa Creative are planning a documentary on the work being done.

Find out more at the Community Engagement session at Ngongotaha Community Hall on 10 February.

What you can no longer put in your recycling bins

From February, all district and city councils will accept only glass bottles and jars, cans, paper and cardboard (including pizza boxes), and plastics numbered 1, 2 and 5 in their recycling collections.

Plastics 1, 2 and 5 include milk, soft drink and juice bottles, large yoghurt containers, 2L hard ice cream containers, cream cheese, sour cream and cottage cheese containers, some dip containers, and some tomato, BBQ, and mustard squeeze bottles. It also includes meat trays and some takeaway containers.

New items excluded from kerbside recycling are items less than 50mm, aerosol cans, liquid paperboard, plastics 3, 4, 6 and 7, aluminium foil and trays, all lids and items over 4 litres.

Plastics 3, 4, 6 and 7 include small yoghurt/sour cream pottles, styrofoam, PVC pipes, polystyrene, biscuit and cracker trays, pill packets, some dip containers, soft plastics (plastics you can scrunch in your hand such as biscuit and cracker bags and trays, packaging from bread, rice, packaged vegetables and fruit, shiny gift wrap) and some tomato sauce, mustard and BBQ squeeze bottles.

Source: Newstalk ZB

(Ed) Soft plastics such as bread bags can be recycled at most Countdown Supermarkets.

Saving money on fruit and veges

Frozen and canned produce - these are just as good for you as fresh. Frozen/canned produce generally maintain nutrition levels because they are usually packaged soon after harvesting. They are often cheaper, plus they last way longer and allow you to eat your favourite produce out of season. When you're buying canned, check there's no added sugar or salt.

Rejected or 'imperfect' produce. - An alarming amount is wasted because it doesn't look good enough for supermarket shelves. Online initiatives such as Perfectly Imperfect, Misfit Garden or Wonky Box are combatting this issue by selling reject veges at affordable prices. Countdown has also introduced The Odd Bunch range with the same idea: funny-looking produce for less.

Local farmers' markets or greengrocers - often these have lower prices than supermarkets, as they focus on what's in season and locally available. As a bonus, you'll be supporting agriculture and small businesses in your community.

Community gardens and vege co-ops - you may have access to a community garden in which you can care for a plot and grow produce eg at Ngongotaha Rail Park. Or check out public boards or Facebook groups to find out whether gardeners have excess produce that might otherwise go to waste.

How unit pricing can keep your grocery bill down

For most of us, working out which supermarket item is the best value requires some tricky head maths that we simply don't have time for at the supermarket.

Enter unit pricing - it's when we can see the cost per unit. For example, how much we're paying per 100g or 100ml. This also helps us decide whether a "special" price is really the best price.

From 31 August 2023, mandatory unit pricing regulations made under the Fair Trading Act came into force. Supermarkets have a year's grace period before they must comply with the regulations. They get another year - until 31 August 2025 - before their websites must display unit pricing too. Smaller stores, under 1000sqm, don't have to display unit pricing - but if they choose to, they'll have to stick to the unit pricing rules.

Source: Consumer (Ed.) Also Grocer app helps you decide which supermarket is cheaper for which items.



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Plant descriptions deciphered

"A favourite of birds" means to avoid planting near cars, sidewalks, or clotheslines.

"Carefree" refers more to the plant's attitude than to your workload.

"Vigorous" is code for "has a Napoleonic compulsion to take over the world."

Knee: a device for finding rocks in your garden.

"Annuals" mean disappointment once a year.

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Leanne Leef 021 835 915 leanne.leef@raywhite.com
rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT31400

FOR SALE



5a Domain Avenue

This charming 2-bedroom unit offers cozy, low maintenance living close to the bowling club and trout fishing hot spots. Open plan living creates a spacious and versatile layout.

Leanne Leef 021 835 915 leanne.leef@raywhite.com
rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT31399



19 Mohi Crescent

This exceptional home has 3 bedrooms, open plan living, dining, kitchen, an ensuite and a bathroom on one side of the home. On the other are 2 bedrooms, a lounge, kitchenette and bathroom with a separate back access option for extended family or airbnb.

Chander Sandhu 027 516 1260 chander.sandhu@raywhite.com
rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT31392

FOR SALE



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.

Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 & Mandy Lee 0276 732 331
rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT30818

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10 Egmont Road

Nestled along the banks of the world famous Waiteti Stream, this magical property comes with Riparian Rights and much potential. Combining family living with guest accommodation designed into zones to enhance the property.

John Piercy 027 446 4549 john.piercy@raywhite.com
rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT31191

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10 Stemberge Road

A living space with mount views, awesome outdoor living areas plus a big triple bay garage. Ultra-spacious lounge, log fire, recently updated kitchen and master bedroom with a walk through wardrobe and ensuite.

Mandy Lee 0276 732331 mandy.lee@raywhite.com
rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT31258

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FOR SALE



FOR SALE



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Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 tim.osullivan@raywhite.com
rwrotorua.co.nz ROT30818



34 Kauae Street

This beautiful home boasts a modern kitchen, open-plan dining, and a family room for entertaining. Brick exterior and fenced yard. Features a double garage with off-street parking. Set in a sought-after neighbourhood, near shops, streams and Lake Rotorua.

Phill Rivers 0276 109 090 phill.rivers@raywhite.com
rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31419

FOR SALE



89 Fryer Road

Lifestyle property with lake views and potential to add value. Featuring some updates and some elements are a work in progress, here's an opportunity to complete the work and reap the rewards. Set on just over an acre.

Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 tim.osullivan@raywhite.com
rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31353

FOR SALE



9 Alice Place

This leafy lifestyle property offers a Lockwood home with some nice updates, a separate double garage with a hobbies room and good space to roam outdoors. The adjoining 1 acre (more or less) section is also for sale. Close to the lake, reserve & boat ramp.

Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 tim.osullivan@raywhite.com
rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31380



196 Parawai Road

Modern and private with a rural atmosphere, close to Ngongotaha Village and lake access. Great entertaining areas, spacious section, double internal access garaging plus a standalone workshop/garage. There's also a substantial Vortex Swim Spa.

John Piercy 027 446 45 49 john.piercy@raywhite.com
rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31327

FOR SALE



Lot 2 Alice Place

From its elevated platform, this 4132m² (more or less) section has some lovely countryside vistas and there are no covenants. Build your dream home and keep some chickens or raise a couple of lambs. Close to the reserve and a quick drive from the boat ramp.

Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 tim.osullivan@raywhite.com
rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31381

Ngongotaha School - February Update

Kia ora koutou. I trust you have all had a wonderful start to 2024. School is back and as exciting as ever! In comparison to this time last year, it is wonderful to see the sun and enjoy time outside with our friends and whanau. I would like to officially welcome the 45 new enrolments and their whanau to our school. We also welcome Whaea Deb Carroll and Whaea Gracen Soloman into teaching positions and Whaea Ange Tamata into a TA position here at school. It is lovely to have you all join Te Kura o Ngongotaha.



Our numbers are always climbing which has a direct impact on the number of out of zone enrolments we are able to take. If you are living outside of our zone, I urge you to get enrolment forms in asap (we even have enrolment forms for children who are currently 2 years old!, now that is prepared). We are still able to take children from out of zone but there is a different process to go through. If you are living in zone, please ensure you bring proof of

residence with you when you enrol your child- power bill, phone bill, etc. Something with your name and address on it. We will also be doing home visits to ensure that all children who are enrolled as 'in zone students' are indeed living in our zone.

We have had several exciting things happen over our break;



Probably the biggest change would be our school uniform. Last year we looked at a new supplier and spent a long time planning and ensuring that we got the new design right. Prior to school starting back, all children were given a free school uniform which they wore with pride on the first day of school. The new uniform remains the traditional Ngongotaha colours but are now more modern, more practical and look absolutely amazing. The design on the sleeve of the polo shirt

has been gifted to us by Ngati Tura Te Ngakau and encompasses all of the important parts of our community. Check out the photos below.



Our swimming pool is back up and running. As we live close to so many lakes and rivers, we see learning water safety skills as vitally important. We have installed a heat pump system to ensure our pool stays at a lovely 28 degrees throughout term 1, we've painted some nice murals on the walls of the changing rooms and even installed turf around the outside of the pool. It is such a lovely place to learn, I might even bring my togs!!

We have lots of exciting learning opportunities coming up this term. The Life Education Truck will arrive soon and the children will have sessions in their learning about health and making positive choices for their bodies. We will also hold our annual School Triathlon within the next few weeks and will begin our summer sports including our mountain bike team and golf academy. The fun never stops!



That's it for another month. As always, keep an eye on the school app for information about or upcoming School Production, Whanau/Teacher interviews, Senior School Camp and all the other fun things that happen here at Ngongotaha School

Craig and the team!

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Progress Ngongotaha

Kia ora Koutou, Hi Everyone, Happy New Year !!!!

At this, the start of 2024, we are sure that some of you may have decided as a 'New Year's Resolution' to make the move to become involved in our Ngongotaha Community, you may even have decided to join our local Gym, Anglers Association, Scouts, Ngongotaha Garden Group, Ngongotaha Lions to name just a few.

You could even join us on Progress Ngongotaha-Kokiri Ngongotaha and become a part of the 'Ngongotaha Community Collective' participating in one of the projects that we are working on now. You may have other ideas yourself to add something special to increase the vitality in Ngongotaha and inject some general pride and care into our Village. The Pride and Care in the Village is the responsibility for all of us, not just the Shop Owners and staff, not just local community groups volunteers, but all of us who call Ngongotaha Village Our Place. Please come and join us. For further information email progressngongotaha@gmail.com or ph 3574565 or 022 1404391.

1. The fire-damaged Store- Can anyone throw any light on the current situation with this please? (this is not a pun) Progress Ngongotaha is prepared to help if required, contact us by email as above.

One of our major concerns is that young people and children are already using this burnt-out shop as a regular hang out, and tagging is on the increase. It is essential to have all shops operating again, which will encourage people to return for the financial benefit of all the businesses in this area. The Laundromat Shop owners have already reopened their business and the shop looks amazing, it is so bright and shiny...Well done to you !!! Unfortunately there are three shops still vacant.

The owners of the Mr India store still fully support their Ngongotaha clients by carrying out deliveries of their tasty food, from their other shop on Old Taupo Road. Thank you for going the extra km's.

2. The Jetty is now showing a Beware of Danger sign. Catherine, one of our members has kept contact with Rotorua Lakes Council from March 2023 until December 2023, requesting that this Jetty be repaired and available for use.

Rotorua Lakes Council have a notice up at the Beaumont Road Jetty stating that larger boats need to use the Reeme Street Jetty, however this

is the Jetty that is in a huge state of needing repair or replacing and is sporting a DANGER and DO NOT USE sign and is now fenced off and no longer operational. Catherine is continuing to follow up with this situation, she is one of our volunteers who we fully support and agree with, including her follow up work with RLC.

3. Rubbish Dumped and Tagging around the Village - You may have adopted an area yourself to keep clear of rubbish. If you have, we would love to hear from you, as others may be keen to join you. We want to thank you for caring and doing your bit to help, you are one of our unsung heroes.

Tagging is a different matter and one place that stands out is the side wall of the Ngongotaha Village Cafe. The wall is a blue colour, does anyone have any paint close to the colour? We are prepared to help out. If this tagging is left, it is like a virus and will end up 'staining the whole village'. We look forward to hearing from you.

NewsFlash !!

Rotorua Lakes Council are planning their Long Term Plan Consultations for April 2024. They will be coming out to Ngongotaha.

Projects on the Go !!!

- The return of our 'Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum' is programmed for the near future.
- Ngongotaha Emergency Response Plan (Draft) still being formed in collaboration with the Rotorua Lakes Council.
- Ngongotaha Stream Project – Volunteers Welcome !!

Let's Make it Happen Ngongotaha

Until next time stay safe out there

Lynn, Bob, Lee, Heather, Catherine, and Team
progressngongotaha@gmail.com

Gardening

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Phone First Urgent Clinic

As previously advised, we've redesigned our traditional morning "Drop-in Clinic" to a "Phone First Urgent Clinic" system. So If you feel you need to be seen the same day, instead of coming down to the Surgery, simply call our reception before 11am and ask to be put in our "Phone First Urgent 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).

Benefits for you are:

- ☐ No more long waits in waiting rooms with sick children
- ☐ Less exposure to waiting room bugs from other sick people
- ☐ Stay in the comfort of your own home.

Quick Guide to the Phone First Urgent Clinic



- ☐ Minor issues only
- ☐ 5 minute consultation time
- ☐ Ideal for children who need to be seen at the last minute
- ☐ Health issues that have developed very quickly



- ☐ Multiple issues
- ☐ Complex problems
- ☐ WINZ Certificates, Drivers Medicals or other Medicals need to be booked with your regular Doctor



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Kaharoa School Enrolments Open

Kaharoa School is 13min from Ngongotaha and open for enrolments for both primary and intermediate students (Year 1-8).

Responsive and challenging learning experiences with a focus on the rural environment, sporting and artistic pursuits, and New Zealand's diverse cultural heritage.

Buses depart Ngongotaha daily at 7:30am returning at 4pm (\$15 per week) and from Jackson/Central Road daily at 7:54am returning 3:10pm (no charge)



Contact Kaharoa School to express your interest in enrolling

- Visit www.kaharoa.school.nz and click on 'Expression of Interest Regarding Enrolment'. Complete the simple Google Form
- OR email office@kaharoa.school.nz
- OR phone 07 332 3444

Visits Welcome

- School tours can be booked via the office
- New Entrant visits Thursday afternoons*
- Informal Principal get-to-know-you chat

Enrolment Zone Abandoned

The Ministry has concluded that there is no longer a continuing need for an enrolment scheme at Kaharoa School. Families can enroll their children at the school regardless of their home address with immediate confirmation of enrolment.

* Note: New Entrant visits are for students who have completed the enrolment process, and must be booked with the office.

Upcoming Events



31st January	First Day of School for Year 8 students
31st January	Goal Setting + Whānau Picnic 2024 An opportunity for families to come in with their child and meet their teacher and share an initial goal. Year 8's first day of school with a focus on leadership development and planning activities they will lead later in the week.
1st February	First Day of School for Year 1-7 students
1st and 2nd of February	Overnight Orientation Stay Year 6,7,8 only Building quality relationships to start the year is a priority in our team. To enhance this, we are staying a night at school and going on a trip to the Blue Lake.
5th February	Year 1-8 Service To Community With Waitangi on Tuesday 6th of February - we anticipate a number of families will take a long long weekend and may not be at school on Monday 5th of February. We will use this opportunity to keep the school open, and get students together in groups to engage in community service projects. We will need parent volunteers to support this. Examples include gardening around the school, a trip down to the lake front to pick up litter, caring for our Kokako Trust 'adopt-a-track', and local jobs sent to us via community members. IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP please email principal@kaharoa.school.nz
7th February	Triathlon Our annual triathlon is back and sure to be a fun event. Students need helmets and shoes, as well as their bike, togs + towel, and can dress in house colours to support their team.
8th February	First Day of Manual (Tech at WHHS) Year 7 and 8 students head to WHHS for art, cooking, woodwork, and music. Remember to bring footwear.
23rd February	Swimming Sports We are hoping for good weather to cheer on our swimmers as they race. Remember togs, and two towels.
1st March	House Sports Day Our Year 8 leaders will organise activities for the whole school to join in their house teams for fun, to build connections, and celebrate half way through the term!
5th-9th March	Mi Camp Year 6,7,8 only - This is our annual senior camp.
18th-19th March	Tui Ridge Camp Year 4,5 only (Year 3 attending on Tuesday 19th) This is our annual primary school camp.



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Age Concern

Another year is upon us, and it is a blessing each day to wake up and look forward to each new challenge with renewed energy. Our population is getting older year by year and the roles of organizations, like Age Concern, are becoming a more vital link and support to the elderly.

We are looking forward to the final completion of the Tiny Homes which have now taken over two years and have been fraught with delays and hold ups, causing a great deal of frustration and angst, and I feel for the winners of the draw who have been waiting since last March.

Our new Chairperson, taking over from the long serving Glenys Searancke, is Kath Henderson who was elected at the last Council meeting of last year. We wish Kath the very best for the future as she takes the helm of a charity that has its sights set firmly on the future of our elderly, growing old in an environment that recognises the huge contribution they have made, and continue to make, to society. Age Concern have re-signed the lease with Parksyste, so it looks as if we will be in our present premises for a while yet. Although we have become very busy and almost outgrown the office space.

We drive on our roads every day. For many of us they are our lifeline – driving is a means of independence, social connection to family and friends and access to essential services. With the generous support of Waka Kotahi (NZTA), Age Concern offers free Staying Safe: Refresher Courses for Older Drivers all over New Zealand to help keep older people safe on the roads.

The theory-based refresher course is an opportunity for people to re-familiarize themselves with traffic rules and safe driving practices in a friendly and relaxed environment with other older drivers. The course includes information on other transport options available to help keep you mobile for as long as possible, whether behind the wheel or when you stop driving.

How to register for a Staying Safe: Refresher Course for Older Drivers

To register for a Staying Safe Refresher course for older drivers, contact your Age Concern Rotorua, 07 347 1539 and ask for Karyn. All of our staff are trained assessors for Total Mobility, which is designed to help people who can no longer drive, and it gives them up to 75% off taxi fares. Age Concern have just formed a partnership with Driving Miss Daisy which has the same conditions. There is an up-front cost involved but you do not need to belong to Age Concern to be eligible so just give us a ring to get a time to be assessed.

Once you turn 75 there are a few changes to the process for renewing your driver licence:

- Your new licence will be valid for only two to five years.
- You need to present a medical certificate each time you apply.
- If recommended by your doctor, you will have to sit a 30-minute On-road Safety Test.
- The renewal fees are lower – because you are renewing your licence more often.

A free lunch is also provided as the courses generally are run in the morning at different venues and you do not have to be a member of Age Concern to join in.

The first major activity Age Concern will be running for 2024 will be a Member's Big Day Out which will be a Garden Party to welcome our new and old members to 2024. While many people have been enjoying the balmy weather, the heat could be hard on elderly people. It can really exacerbate some health problems that are just made worse by heat-related things. So, for older people, it's just important that they find ways to keep cool.

Keeping hydrated was key. Maybe just sipping water slowly through the day or having just some cool treats that are low in sugar but have got that high water content.

Rory O'Rourke, Manager.



Ngongotaha Pharmacy

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3: REMOVE

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4: CLEAN

home and personal items.

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Happenings

10 Feb Lakeview Golf and Country Club opening

17 Feb Captain's Trophy at Lakeview Golf and County Club

17 Feb Mamaku Outdoor Market 8.00am to 11.00am at Mamaku School. BBQ, drinks, second hand items, home made goods, food, vegetables, art & crafts

24 Feb Rotorua Dahlia Club Show Ngongotaha Community Hall from 11.30 am \$2 entry

28 Feb Ngongotaha Garden Circle resumes in Ngongotaha Community Hall from 1 p.m.

28 Feb Taoist Tai Chi lessons start at Ngongotaha Community Hall ph Sheryn 027 217 5700

13 Mar Forest and Bird AGM Speakers will include Cameron Moore, a young local lad who has developed a wallaby trap

Regular Events

Monday Indoor Bowls 7.00 pm Ngongotaha Community Hall

2nd Monday Mamaku Garden Circle 1 pm at Fire Station. New members welcome.

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

Talking Tech on Tuesdays 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 1 p.m.

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

Drop-in technology 10 am with SeniorNet: Age Concern 5 Tarewa Pl.

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

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Whats happening with real estate now

I've written a few times about what's going on in the residential real estate market from a lawyer's perspective in the last 12 months.

Now the election is behind us and the holiday season largely over, there seems to be a definite increase in confidence and activity in the market so far in 2024. But with bank finance still not being that easy to get, coupled with high interest rates, it's still not all roses out there.

The activity I'm seeing includes an increase in my reviewing agreements for clients before they sign in multi-offer situations (ie: multiple buyers making offers on the same property at the same time), and an increase in reviewing auction agreements, too. And virtually every conditional contract includes what's called a 'vendor escape clause' of 3 or 5 working days.

This means a seller can accept a second contract on the same property and lawfully give notice to a first contract buyer to confirm unconditional or be cancelled on within the specified number of days.

But the biggest change is people selling only if they can find a suitable replacement property, and on-buying a replacement property only if they sell their existing property (among other due diligence conditions). And that's where the worth of a good lawyer and real estate agent come in: getting all the dates right and lined up can be crucial.

Here's a hypothetical scenario: Sue is selling her home and moving to Australia. Tim and Lou make an offer to buy Sue's property subject to finance, LIM, building report, and the sale of their existing home within 12 weeks. Sue is concerned about timeframes, so on advice from her lawyer and her real estate agent Sue adds a short 3-day vendor escape clause in case a better offer comes along.

Over in the agreement for the sale of Tim and Lou's existing home to their buyer John (subject to finance, LIM, and Building Report

within 3 weeks), Tim and Lou are concerned they don't inadvertently unconditionally sell without having found another property.

On advice from their lawyer and real estate agent they also add a clause that their sale to John is subject to their securing a replacement property (hopefully Sue's) within 12 weeks. The upshot is multiple conditions across multiple agreements where if one agreement falls over on issues arising from LIM, building report, title, or sale and on-purchase, the rest could also potentially fall like dominoes.

A few weeks later it turns out Sue gets a much lower cash offer with a quick settlement from David. Sue gives Tim and Lou 3 working days' notice to confirm all their conditions, or the agreement will be cancelled.

Tim and Lou can't meet Sue's notice because John can't confirm his finance that soon (he's finding the bank being tougher than expected on his finance application) and he's also raised building report and LIM issues. Sue cancels. John's agreement is separate and continues regardless though.

In a more buoyant market, a potential buyer might have been dissuaded from looking at a property any further if it was already under contract, or in a chain like the scenario above. But as we see here, literally anything can happen along the way.

My takeaway from this article is if you're in the market to buy a house and find a property that's already under contract, don't be put off - talk to the listing agent about making a conditional back-up offer in case the other agreement falls over.

Anything can happen in the current market for a myriad of reasons and people's personal situations can change significantly during the sale process too. Who knows, you just might be surprised and find yourself being David with the better offer after all!

This article was written for Ngongotaha News by Ros Morshead, Solicitor at Lawbox Solicitors.

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Gardening

A woman goes for a job picking citrus. The farmer is surprised at her CV.

"You seem a bit overqualified" He says "I see you have a PhD! Have you ever picked lemons before?"

"Yes." She replies. "I've had three husbands and I bought a BMW last year."

"Little 8-year-old Nancy was in the garden filling in a hole when her neighbour peered over the fence.

Interested in what the youngster was doing, he asked, "What are you doing there, Nancy?"

"My goldfish died," Nancy sobbed. "And I've just buried him."

The obnoxious neighbour laughed and said condescendingly, "That's a really big hole for a little goldfish, don't you think?"

Nancy patted down the last heap of earth with her shovel and replied, "That's because he's inside your cat."

The only way to ensure rain is to give the garden a good soaking.

I probably wouldn't kill so many houseplants if they could scream for food and water the way my pets and children do.

To ensure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant, pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it was a valuable plant.



Rotorua

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