

Kawai Kaimai Community Days attended by over 2600 pupils and adults

Recently, Tura Ngati Te Ngakau held 3 community days to showcase their work in our bush/ngahere and to share hands-on the results of a science and biosecurity project with Scion, The University of Canterbury, Kawai Kaimai and Kaimai Kaponga.

On 8th Feb from 10am to 3pm, 6 schools, kohanga reo and the general public walked through the workshop, with 1500 in attendance.

9th Feb from 10am to 2pm was dedicated to our local school Ngongotaha Primary, staff and general public, 550 attending.

Also, on the Friday a breakaway discussion around eDNA use for biosecurity protection was held at Parawai Marae. This was attended by Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Rongomai, Tura Ngati Te Ngakau, Ngati Rangiwehewi and Ngongotaha community. The session was delivered by Manaaki Landcare DNA, Forestry Science from Canterbury University. The 10th Feb Community day attracted 600 people. (More on eDNA on page 7) More on educational opportunities on page 5.



Mamaku Hall to be demolished

Rotorua Lakes Council is assessing building conditions at all 10 of its community halls. At a Rural Community Board meeting last week, locals from Mamaku and Reporoa heard their community halls were inspected late last year and both closed in December.

The invasive testing report at Mamaku Hall found floor joists “disintegrated with touch ... barely anything holding it together”. Water damage and black mould throughout the hall was beyond repair, it said. The testing concluded asbestos should be removed and the building should be demolished. The council would consider what could be recovered for future use and work to determine “the best course of action”.

Mamaku Residents Association member Rachel Matthews said there was a “complete lack of communication on all levels” around the hall’s closure and any prior issues. Rural ward councillor Karen Barker said she understood there were further reports to come to councillors on the future of either hall as investigations were still under way. This included what options there might be for a hall in Mamaku.



Source: Mamaku Noticeboard, NZ Herald
(More on this on page 19)

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11.00 am Bible Study

EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, 28 March 6pm service at St Lukes (No service at St Barnabas)

Good Friday, 29 March 2pm service at St Barnabas

Easter Sunday 31 March 9.45 Eucharist at St Barnabas
All are welcome.

Correction: Last month's article on Kawai Kaimai's invertebrate project incorrectly spelt Steve Pawson as Steve Dawson - our apologies.

Draft Long Term Plan

Rotorua Lakes Council are planning a public meeting in the Ngongotaha Hall to discuss the Draft Long Term Plan on Wednesday 17th April from 5.00 to 6.30 pm. (More information is on page 9)



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Authorised by Todd McClay,
Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Local Research leads to Tertiary Study for local

Working as an intern scientist with Kaimai Kaponga on an invertebrate study stimulated young local man, Nirai Reuben to enrol at the University of Canterbury.

He worked over 15 months under two knowledgeable gentlemen, Entomologist Bob Cooper and Scientist John Gifford.

He has also been mentored on his journey by:

- Taniele Edwards Exec Admin for the project.
- Stevee Raureti Kawai Kaimai Project Lead.
- Charles Te Kowhai Operations Manager.
- Alison Slade Enabling Research Aotearoa
- Manpreet Dhami Manaaki whenua Researcher Biocontrol & Molecular Ecology
- Steve Pawson Associate Professor for Forest Health and Biosecurity Canterbury University.

Nirai was accepted into Canterbury University and has now transferred from being a Ngongotaha boy to a Christchurch student.

We wish him well on his journey.

*Pictured : Nirai Reuben and TePoari Newton Kaitiaki 2023/24
Tura Ngati Te Ngakau Iwi-Hapu Trust*





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VALUE

A while ago I was talking with a business associate who reminded me of something important. We were deciding which boards to join and where we should be committing our time in our businesses when he said:

" Ngahi, e hoa. You and I are at an age now when we need to be selective as to what we commit our time to. Our time is more limited and precious to us now than it was 30 or 40 years ago. We should be spending our time with people and organisations that value us and our time."

That last part really got me. It made me think of how much people value me or my input but furthermore, how I value myself.... not. What value do I put on myself and how do you value yourself?

If I take another perspective. How do we value our places of Awahou, Hamurana, Mamaku, Ngongotaha and Kaharoa communities and how much of our time and efforts do we spend contributing to them? I am not just talking about buying a feed at the Ngongotaha cafes and dairy to or buying our groceries at the Ngongotaha FourSquare or for that matter supporting any of our local businesses. To be honest, those things should be a given.

Talking value, real estate agents will place a value in dollars on our community properties. Council places a value on water by charging us for the water we drink and use, either metered or not. Electricity companies do the same for electricity. So how do we place a value on our communities? Is it the combination of all these expenses? I think it is much more than that.

What about community safety. How do we value that?

Here is another example. How do our local marae value their premises? Insurance companies will value them to insure them and there are all the other expenses mentioned earlier such as electricity bills, but is that the real value of a place that is the centre of a Maori community? Our marae are way more than that.

How do we value this Ngongotaha newsletter we are reading?

I know I am rambling a bit, but I just wanted us to think about what my friend said to me which I think about often. How do I value myself and furthermore how do the people, businesses, and communities I interact with value me?

My friend also said something else which I will say to all of you. If people and places are not appreciating the value we bring to them, then why are we with them?

As an example of what community value looks like, you all know I am the current chair of Eastern Fish and Game region. I met with our CEO Arash this morning, and he gave me an example of what value looks like for our Hamurana community. So, I want to give a shout out to Kaharoa School, who in conjunction with Eastern Fish and Game staff, took their tamariki trout fishing at Hamurana. Arash told me the kids were even fishing in shorts at the river mouth. Standing in that cold water fishing is certainly placing value on one of our community assets, one of our fishing grounds.

Trout fishing is one of the many skills we can learn which will place value on our communities. Along with gathering other kai such as watercress, puha and pikopiko and playing sports like golf at Hamurana, riding horses, walking, or cycling on the community paths.

We are saying to our whenua, "Hey Papatuanuku. I value you. I appreciate the contribution you make to our community. Thank you."

Also, a big shout out to the many people who make all these facilities available for us to value in our communities. From the cafes and editor of this fine newsletter (Thanks Philippa) to the lawnmowers, FENZ volunteers, fishing rangers and greenkeepers. Thank you. Your value is appreciated and hereby acknowledged by all of us in our rural communities. Nga mihi ki a koutou katoa.

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



NGONGOTAHA INDOOR BOWLS

5th February Roll Up Was a very hot night so not a lot of bowling. Just a catch up for some. Twelve people in attendance.

12th February Opening Night Tonight we had Murray Harris roll up the first bowl for the season. We had a good night of bowling. Lots of laughter from some bowlers. A couple of teams were out to beat each other. We were on the losing end, but we had fun trying. The winning team for the night were John Rayner, Cheryl Wiggins and Bruce Mapson with two and half wins.

18th February Trophy It looks like Bruce Wiggins' team had a good night of bowling. Bruce would have a smile from ear to ear. The winners were Bruce Wiggins, Grahame Turner and Bruce Mapson. We had three new players, Eddie Hagenaars, Neville Nicholson and Piet Nul. Good to have some new members.

26th February Graded Triples There was lots of serious bowling to be had tonight, being our first competition for the season. The winners were John Rayner and Martin Burtling. Runners up were Richard Mills, Cheryl Wiggins and Eddie Hagenaars. Congratulations to those teams.

Anyone looking at playing bowls can contact:

John Rayner 07 5625012

Kevin Whyte 07 3574766

Pictured: Murray Harris rolling up!



What is eDNA?

**"In one drop of water are found all the secrets of the ocean."
Poet and philosopher, Kahlil Gibran**

Environmental DNA, or eDNA, refers to all the tiny traces of genetic material that are left behind as living things pass through water or soil. In your backyard, local stream or boggy field lurks a secret web of co-conspirators. Largely unseen, they slink and swoosh, creep and crawl, helping each other to survive. Sometimes there are many, sometimes there are few. How do we know this? They leave their DNA behind.

From kēreru to kōwhai, and the leaves in the wind, all living things shed genetic information into their local environment. This is called environmental DNA, or eDNA. For example, a bird flies over a lake and drops a feather. Under the surface, a fish swims around and, if it is unlucky, gets gobbled up by bigger fish. Likewise, an insect may fall into the lake, and leaves fall from trees. These plants and animals leave behind 'genetic breadcrumbs' (such as skin cells and faeces) in the environments they live in.

By collecting up discarded DNA and sequencing it, we can get a picture of the plants and animals in a local area. Once it is shed into the water, eDNA sticks around for a few hours to a few days. The time depends on whether it is in freshwater, marine water, stagnant water, the exposure to sun, and so on. Other material that's in the environment can also break eDNA down.

'Environmental DNA is a new and powerful tool, and can be a way to scan environments quickly to detect change. In some applications, eDNA may eventually replace some current survey methods, such as visual counts, netting, and electrofishing. It has the advantages of being non-destructive and doesn't require animal capture.

There can be limitations: environmental DNA can't tell you how big a fish is, or the size of a population. A single water sample may pick up a large piece of skin or scale that contains a lot of DNA, leading you to believe there is a large population nearby, when really all of that DNA just came from one individual.

Conservation biology is the protection and conservation of species and their habitats. In this field, eDNA can both help to detect rare species and identify invasive species. Traditional monitoring to detect rare species is time consuming and often requires work in remote parts of the world, so eDNA provides an advantage.

One interesting example of the use of eDNA comes from the study of rare vertebrates. Finding these rare animals is difficult, but eDNA can be obtained from the stomach contents of parasites like leeches and mosquitoes that feed on the rare animals, and these parasites are easier to find. eDNA can tell scientists which species the parasites have been feeding on, which can tell scientists if rare species are present in the area.

eDNA can also be used as an early-warning system to identify invasive species as they spread into new environments. Because eDNA can detect species even when there are very few individuals in the environment, it can help us respond quickly to the threat of an invasive species. This means there is a greater chance of stopping the spread of an invasive species before it becomes established and potentially harms native species.

It is often less expensive to identify organisms using eDNA than it is to identify them using traditional methods and eDNA samples can often be processed faster. This means that more samples can be taken over a wider range of space and time, allowing for in-depth studies and better knowledge of the species that are present in an ecosystem

Sources: Environmental Protection Authority, Frontiers for Young Minds



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LAKEVIEW GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

As we head into autumn, we can at least say that summer definitely arrived this year which is great for everyone wanting to get out and enjoy outside activities and for those in other parts of the motu who were so badly affected by the catastrophic flooding of last year. Our thoughts remain with those who are still battling the authorities for certainty over their properties. Kia kaha.

The course is looking fantastic at the moment and we have remained busy which is great!

Our club competition opening day was well attended and a good day of all-round fun was had by all. Congratulations to the koro/moko combination of Falani Felise and Americus. Always cool to see generational teams out enjoying quality time together. The Captains Trophy will see the rest of February out with Matchplay Club Champs starting mid March.

Junior sessions have started up again on THURSDAYS after school. Call Josh for more info if you have a junior who would like to give golf a go. Twilight has started on a WEDNESDAY evening from 4.00pm a great way to spend an afternoon relaxing after work and chilling out with friends. Always tasty kai available afterwards!

A lot has been happening around the clubhouse rebuild with a large amount of earthworks taking place on the driving range to get fill for the front of the clubhouse. The driving range is now a lot flatter which is awesome for the Archery Club giving them a much better range for their targets and we have now got an awesome landscaped finish in front of the clubhouse. The range will be out of action for a few weeks while it is seeded and grass is re-established.

We reiterate that the clubhouse will be available for community use, so if you are a group/club looking for a space to call home, give us a call!

Our trapping programme continues around the course with a great find of two weasels the other day in a couple of the traps. They cause so much harm to our beautiful native fauna and are the hardest predators to snare so always a great feeling of satisfaction when these are found by our dedicated trap checkers.

A reminder that the Rotorua Archery Club hold their club days on Sundays from 9.30am – 11.00am. Set up is from 9.15am so come up and give it a go everyone is welcome!

Until next month, enjoy the start of autumn.

Golf shop phone number is 07 357 2341.

On finance

*What's the best way to get in touch with your long-lost relatives?
Win the lottery.*

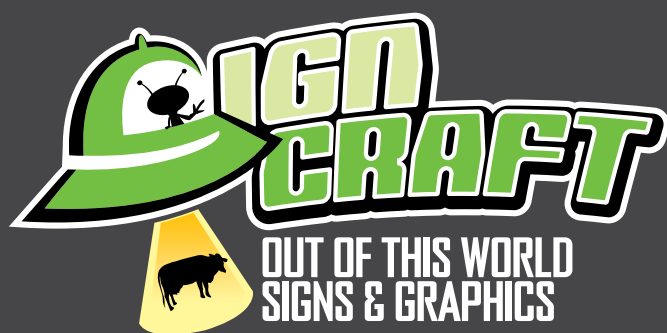
*I'm so good at finance...
Even my bank says my balance is outstanding.*

*What do you call an actor who finished paying off his house?
Mortgage Freeman.*

*A naked man robbed a bank.
Nobody could remember his face.*

*Give a man a gun and he will rob a bank.
Give a man a bank and he will rob everyone*

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Rotorua Lakes Council Draft Long Term Plan

Significant issues

There are a number of significant issues facing our city, which may intensify in future years. RLC, through its Long Term Planning and various Strategies, aims to take active steps to manage and mitigate the foreseeable risks arising from those issues. These strategic issues do influence and impact the Infrastructure Strategy, the services we need to deliver the where and how. In preparing this strategy, we have identified seven strategic issues that need to be at the forefront of infrastructure planning and decision making.

1. Maintaining assets in a stable, reliable, and safe condition
2. Meeting future demands on infrastructure
3. Managing the impacts of legislative and policy change. There are various sector changes with new or proposed legislation that will impact the long-term planning for Council's assets and services network. These include the Resource Management system reforms, Future for Local Government (although these may change with the new Government) the water regulations both in terms of quality and financial plans
4. Embedding cultural values into the way we manage our infrastructure
5. Climate change and environmental sustainability
6. Resilience of critical infrastructure
7. Maintaining institutional knowledge and capability (i.e. people resilience).

Financial strategy – Draft 2024-2034 Council's Long-term plan aims to deliver the following:

- Maintaining existing infrastructure so it is fit for purpose now and into the future
- Providing infrastructure to accommodate a growing district
- Investing in the future of the district to deliver community outcomes
- Being good stewards of our assets
- Balancing delivery with affordability
- Prudent use of debt to support infrastructure and growth
- Maintaining appropriate debt headroom to respond to future opportunities or challenges

The financial strategy is underpinned by the following key elements:

- Maintain affordable rates levels
- Utilise debt to fund key projects that improve the district
- Maintain debt below 250% of revenue

The financial strategy is a cornerstone of the council achieving the goal of living within its means, and ensuring sufficient funding is available for key projects over the coming ten years. The financial strategy outlines key financial parameters and limits which the council will operate within.

Source: Rotorua Lakes Council website

Key Financials

A reporter working on a story about Three Waters' spending implications for council long-term plans had the following questions (which were also sent to other councils). RLC's responses follow: (as per RLC website)

- 1) What is the council's current debt?
Net debt as at 30 June 2023 was \$343 million
- 2) What is the forecast three waters infrastructure spending required over the next decade?
Council's draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan includes \$424 million of 3 waters infrastructure investment over the 10 years (before inflation)
- 3) How many rating units are in the council's boundary?
The number of rating units as at 30 June 2023 was 29,158
- 4) What is the council's current debt limit?
Council has an internally set debt limit of debt being no more than 2.5 x revenue
- 5) What was the council's income for FY 22/23?
\$167.7 million
- 6) What is the council's forecast income for FY 23/24?
\$194.8 million

Ngongotaha School - March Update



The Christmas holidays seem like a lifetime ago. Term 1 is in full swing. The children are still enjoying the heated pool and will be taking part in the annual School Tryathlon shortly (7th March) (depending when the Ngongotaha News is printed). This is always a fun event where the children get to swim, ride and run in front of their parents and whanau. By now, you would have seen some of our students wandering around the village in their new school uniforms. In addition to looking great, they are proving to be warm, hard wearing, and comfy.



Last month, we welcomed the Life Education Truck back into our kura. Harold the Giraffe and Katie haven't visited Ngongotaha School for a while now so it is nice to have them join us. All children had two sessions in the truck learning about healthy choices and taking care of their bodies. I would like to publicly thank the Life Education Trust and all the sponsors, this experience is simply sensational, the kids loved it and I have had dozens of adults tell me about their memories of Life Ed when they were young. I hope this opportunity lasts for a long time to come.

On the 15th of March Te Whanau Maunga, our full immersion Maori unit, will attend the Hatupatu Kurungaituku performance at the Energy Event Centre. This is a special performance as one of our school community has helped put this production together. Matua Hone Tarawhiti, koro of TeAio Tarawhiti, has supported Taki Rua to create this showcase. I know all 48 children will thoroughly love this performance.



Whanau/Teacher interviews are coming up. Last year we moved these interviews from term 2 to term 1. The warmer, lighter, dryer weather meant we nearly had a 100% turn out which was fantastic. These interviews are really important as we set goals for the children and discuss how we can work collaboratively to support our tamariki to succeed.

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If interested, please, send your CV to michaela@mamakublue.co.nz



Our senior camp is not to far away. We take all year 5 and 6 children to Totara Springs each year where they take part in dozens of amazing activities such as; abseiling, kayaking, raft building, marshmallow roasting, rock climbing, hydro slides, zip lining and many many more. As a way to fundraise and keep the costs down, we are running our 'Principal for the Day' fundraiser. For \$2 children go in the draw to become me for the day and do all the fun things a principal

does. The prize includes; The chance to sit at the front of school assembly and present the Fish Certificates and School trophy, a photo op and morning of hanging out with me in the Principal's office playing games (because that's what I do all day), the opportunity to present the lunchtime notices over the loudspeaker (if they are brave enough), Lunch at McDonald's with me, the chance to draw the 'Movies with Mr McFadyen' winner of the week and a guaranteed spot to the movies at the end of the term.

Our sports teams are back in action. Our golf academy is up and running and visiting Josh at Lakeview Golf Club each Thursday. Our Mountain bike team have started up again and I managed to join them for a ride a few weeks ago (thank goodness I had an e-bike, those kids are fast!). And our netball teams are back into weekly games with our basketballers and hockey teams starting soon. Lots of opportunities for students to show off their sporting skills.



As always, keep an eye on the school app for up to date information and celebrations.

Craig and the team!

"Ngā mihi

Craig McFadyen

Principal, Ngongotahā Primary School
07 3574531
22 School Road
Ngongotahā 3010

More finance

An engineer major asks...

"How can we build this?"

A business major asks, "How can we finance this?"

A liberal arts major asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

Police: Why didn't you report your stolen credit card?

Man: The thief was spending less than my wife.

Bill Gates has often claimed how hard it is to give away 100 billion dollars.

Then he discovered divorce.

Two things in life are inevitable: death and taxes.

At least death only happens once.

There are 3 types of accountants.

Those who can count and those who can't.

Accountant after reading a nursery rhyme to his child, "No, son. It wouldn't be tax deductible when Little Bo Peep loses her sheep. But I like your thinking."

A madam opened the door to her brothel. to see a rather dignified, well-dressed, good-looking man in his late forties or early fifties. "Can I help you?" she asked. "I want to see Natalie." the man replied. "Sir, Natalie is one of our most expensive ladies. Perhaps you would prefer someone else?" "No. I must see Natalie." Just then Natalie appeared and announced to the man that she charged \$1,000 a visit. Without hesitation, the man pulled out ten 100 dollar bills and gave them to Natalie, and they went upstairs.

After an hour, the man calmly left. The next night, the same man appeared again, demanding to see Natalie. Natalie explained that no one had ever come back two nights in a row (too expensive) and she didn't give discounts. The price was still \$1,000. Again the man peeled off ten \$100 bills, gave them to Natalie, and they went upstairs. After an hour, he left.

The following night the man was there again. Everyone was astounded that he had come for a third consecutive night. But he paid Natalie the \$1,000 and they went upstairs.

After their session Natalie said, "No one has ever used me three nights in a row. Where are you from?" The man replied, "South Carolina." "Really! I have family in South Carolina." "I know. Your father died. I'm your sister's attorney and she asked me to give you your \$3,000 inheritance."

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Ray White Rotorua & Ngongotaha

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

Ray White

FOR SALE



45 Umuroa Street

New double glazing throughout, newly renovated kitchen, modern appeal, 4 bedrooms, open plan living and large bathroom. Double garage with sleepout, a double carport and carport for the boat.

Leanne Leef 021 835 915 leanne.leef@raywhite.com
BE0 \$549,000 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
For Sale \$439,000 rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT31399

FOR SALE



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
By Negotiation rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT31392

FOR SALE



18 Okona Crescent

Nestled on the serene banks of the renowned Waiteti Trout Fishing Stream, this 2-bedroom gem with a single garage invites you to discover a peaceful haven on its 966sqm (mol) section. Direct access to the Waiteti Stream via the back gate.

Chander Sandhu 027 516 1260 chander.sandhu@raywhite.com
By Negotiation rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT31439

FOR SALE



12 Fryer Road

Visual excitement ensues and should be enough to alert your senses into taking action with this property. Golden opportunity provides 5095m2 (approx) section sufficient for the family and a few furry & feathered friends or future land banking.

Jodi Ratahi 021 159 7132 and Kerif Smerdon 021 0233 8882
By Negotiation rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT31436

FOR SALE



197 Fryer Road

Experience spectacular lake views and a country ambience. Nestled on the Hamurana hillside, this home offers a great sense of freedom with the vista stretching out far & wide, high pitched ceilings through the living area and a deck at the front.

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

SOLD



387 Tauranga Direct Road

SOLD

Jodi Ratahi 021 159 7132 and Kerif Smerdon 021 0233 8882
rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT31236

SOLD



73 Mokoia Road

SOLD

Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 tim.osullivan@raywhite.com
rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT31334

Ray White Rotorua & Ngongotaha

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Ray White

FOR SALE



32 Maraeroa Road

This delightfully private lifestyle property seamlessly combines comfort and convenience. 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, nestled on an expansive 2504 sqm parcel of land more or less, ensuring ample space for outdoor pursuits and leisure.

Phill Rivers 0276 109 090 phill.rivers@raywhite.com
Auction 23.03.24 (unless sold prior) rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31456

FOR SALE



34 Kauae Place

This stunning 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house is the perfect family home. With a spacious land area of 558 sqm and a building area of 154 sqm, there is plenty of room for everyone to enjoy.

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

FOR SALE



21a Beaumont Road

Set on a lovely flat easy care section, this really cute one bedroom cottage will prove ideal for those seeking that little Rotorua retreat.

John Piercy 027 446 45 49 john.piercy@raywhite.com
By Negotiation rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31449

FOR SALE



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
For Sale \$890,000 rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31327

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
By Negotiation 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
By Negotiation rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31380

FOR SALE

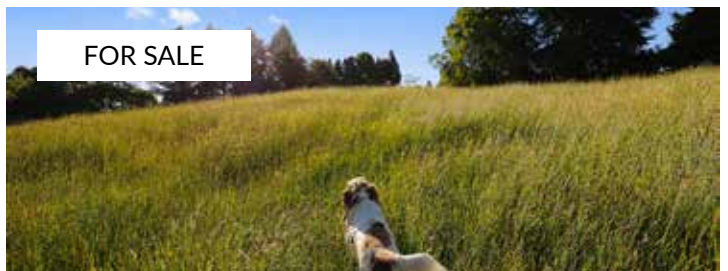


14/60 Tauranga Direct Road

Where contemporary living is nestled amongst a countryside setting, this exceptional property offers a wonderful lifestyle with the appeal of space, expansive lake vistas and a luxurious feeling of freedom.

Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 tim.osullivan@raywhite.com
By Negotiation rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31422

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
By Negotiation rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31381

Age Concern

We are already a couple of months down into the new year and we look forward to 2024 with enthusiasm and a degree of hope that all we plan for comes to fruition.

Our Tiny Homes project has dragged on and on and has lost a bit of its gloss and excitement, especially for the new home renters who have had to wait a whole year while we jump through hoops and over hurdles to get the result. We have one of the houses on site and by the time this magazine goes to print we should have all the houses on site and our long suffering tenants, in the homes.

We have one of our Mobility Scooters returned so it is available for free loan for members if it is useful to you. Generally, these scooters are not that affordable and therefore for some people out of reach, so this an opportunity to use one while you have a change of circumstances, like you are unable to drive for a period. Obviously, there is a limit as to how long you can have it, but if you would like to be considered and are a member, please drop me an email with your details and why you would like to be considered.

The money we received from head office for Technology will be used, once again, for Talking Tech on Tuesday and the Seminars will begin in March, every second Tuesday, for 10 weeks, at Parksyde and facilitated by SeniorNet. These are free and everyone is welcome.

The Drop-in tech sessions will continue every Thursday for members, in our Board room from 10:00 until 12:00 facilitated by SeniorNet. This is an opportunity for one-on-one tuition on any of your devices.

The Rotorua tennis legend, Dame Ruia Morrison's latest honour was being the first Māori person to play Wimbledon and has now been inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. When I first started as Principal of Kaitao Intermediate back in 1992, Ruia was a teacher there and I became aware of her prowess as a tennis player. A pleasure to have known her back then and her latest accolade is well deserved.

The Retirement Commission wants a cross-party political agreement to keep the superannuation age at 65. The Commission has released a paper outlining

its Superannuation (NZ Super) policy recommendations. Commissioner Jane Wrightson said any change to the age would disadvantage certain groups.

Any change to the age of eligibility would disproportionately disadvantage manual workers, carers and those they care for, and those with poor health, due to differences in savings, wealth and ability to remain in paid work after the age of 65. Women, Māori, and Pacific Peoples are overrepresented in those groups.

National wanted to raise the age to 67 from 2044, while Labour was sticking with 65.

General political claims that NZ Super is unaffordable are not supported by independent, publicly accessible analysis. The age of entitlement to NZ Superannuation should remain at 65. Current and projected expenditure does not represent an internationally high proportion of GDP.

Arming older New Zealanders with the skills and know-how to keep themselves safe online, is the focus of a new initiative launched nationwide by Netsafe.

A joint project with Chorus, the Get Set Up for Safety programme includes a toolkit of free guides, videos, and other resources with practical advice on everything from fundamental online safety and security habits through to protection from financial scams and safer online shopping and socializing.

According to research conducted by Netsafe in 2023 as part of the Annual Population Survey, almost half (47%) of over 70s expressed interest in learning more about online safety and how to protect themselves against scams. A similar number (49%) said they require assistance at least occasionally when using digital devices.

Senior sector organizations including Digital Seniors, Age Concern and the 20/20 Trust, who were consulted during the development of the toolkit, echoed this feedback, highlighting the need for better resources on these issues.

Stay Safe
Rory O'Rourke
Age Concern



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How desperate for money?

A man walks into a bar and notices a jar filled with \$10 bills. He asks the bartender what it's for, and the bartender explains, "We have a challenge here. If you can complete three tasks, you get all the money in the jar." Intrigued, the man asks what the tasks are.

The bartender says, "First, you have to drink an entire gallon of hot sauce without crying. Second, there's a pit bull out back with a bad tooth, and you have to pull it out. Finally, our 90-year-old landlady upstairs hasn't had a good time in years. You need to give her an unforgettable night."

The man considers the tasks and then asks about the prize money in the jar. The bartender replies, "Well, there's about \$3,000 in there right now."

The man thinks it over and says, "No way. I'm not going to do all that for \$3,000." A few drinks later, the man asks the bartender, "Where's that jar again?" He looks at it and thinks about the money, then orders a gallon of hot sauce.

He downs it without shedding a tear, his face turning bright red in the process. With determination, he stumbles to his feet and heads out to the back. The bar patrons hear growling, snarling, and yelping, followed by a long, painful scream. The man stumbles back into the bar, his clothes torn and covered in dirt and blood. He gasps for breath and asks, "So, where's that old lady with the bad tooth?"

My local Chinese takeaway is struggling with power bills. They don't want to turn all the lights off, but they do dim sum.

I went to the bank to deposit a cheque, and they asked me for ID. I said, "Are you telling me other people are trying to put money into my account and you're telling them no?"

Money isn't everything, but it certainly keeps you in touch with your children.



Ngongotaha Medical Centre Limited

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

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

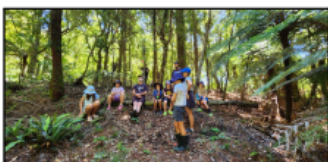
Tēnā koutou whānau

What an awesome start to the year we've had - the sun has been shining and the children have had many outside learning experiences already.



We began the year with the year 8s and all staff working together to make connections, prepare our food forest spaces, and plan various activities and opportunities for the rest of the school over the next few weeks. This was followed by a chance for whānau to meet teachers, set goals, and a whānau picnic and swim.

The senior school spent the next two days experiencing lots of team-building activities, aimed at welcoming our many new children and setting up a great school culture. This included a sleepover at school and a trip to the Blue Lake.



Community Services Day

Kaharoa School called the day before Waitangi Day a 'Service to Community' day. Everyone spent the day helping out at school or in our nearby local areas. Some students helped to clear the Kokako Bush track that the school has adopted. Thank you to Graeme (a member of the Kaharoa Kokako Trust) who helped us with this. Another group walked along the Hamurana Lakefront, picking up any rubbish found. The rest of the students remained at school, helping with the Food Forest garden preparation, weeding around our citrus trees, helping with the painting of the community hall, and setting up the triathlon tracks for the following Wednesday.

Triathlon

We held our school triathlon on Wednesday 7th February. Making the most of yet another gorgeous summer's day, children gave their very best competing in a swim, cycle and run. Well done to all the tamariki who participated and to all our parents and whānau who came along to support our athletes.



Volleyball

Paige from Youthtown Sports has been working with the senior classes, teaching them a range of volleyball skills, and encouraging great use of our amazing outdoor volleyball court.

Swimming Sports

Our School swimming sports were held on Friday 23rd February. Senior students competed in a range of events in the morning (including the much anticipated House race), and our smaller tamariki showed off their swimming prowess that afternoon.



Kaharoa School hosts the Rural Interschool Swimming Sports on Monday 11th March. This is always a great day where our rural school tamariki get a chance to compete against one another and also meet each other. It is wonderful to see each school cheering on their schoolmates as they give it their all.



Camps

Year 6-8 students will head to MiCamp Taupo in week 6 (Tuesday 5th - Friday 8th March).

Year 4 and 5 students will be going to Tui Ridge in week 8 (Monday 18th - Tuesday 19th March). Year 3 students will join them on the Tuesday, for the day.

School camps are always looked forward to with much excitement by the children. A huge thank you must go out to the many parents who help to make these camps possible. The activities organised are often ones that children haven't experienced before and they provide fabulous opportunities to demonstrate our Self Manager and Friendly Key Competencies and all of the Kaharoa values.

Thursday Activity Rotations

Year 3-6 students have the opportunity over the year to experience a range of different learning activities on Thursday mornings while the intermediate students are at Manual (technology sessions at Western Heights High School). Mrs Keepa will be introducing different art activities related to the school's topic for



the term, Mrs. Shoebridge is taking music, Whaea Lisa will be focusing on gardening (in particular the food forest nests), and Miss Picard will be introducing different skills with textiles. The first rotations (on Thursday 15th February) were enjoyed by all - see attached pictures of music & gardening.



Please refer to the Kaharoa website for further information and school newsletters. www.kaharoa.school.nz
Ngā mihi - The Kaharoa Team

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The Rotorua Dahlia Club held it's Annual Show in the Ngongotaha Community Hall on Saturday 24th February.

Competitors from around the North Island showed a wide range of dahlias and other flowers. The day was very well attended.

9:03

facebook

Mamaku Notice Board
Ashley Mclean · 2 h ·

This is really hard to put out there but this is from the council about the Mamaku community hall really sad for our community this will be a huge loss 😞😞

PUBLIC NOTICE
Rotorua Lakes Council has been forced to permanently close Mamaku Community Hall due to safety risks resulting from structural issues and mould.

The hall will need to be removed and plans for this are underway. Further work is then needed to determine any future course of action.

Anyone who has booked the hall for an event will need to find an alternative venue.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

For further inquiries, please contact
Rotorua Lakes Council
on (07) 348 4199
or via email: info@rotorualc.nz

ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL
Te Kaitiaki o ngā Rau o Rotorua

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Prices valid till the 1st of April
262B Ngongotaha Road, oposite the skate park.

Progress Ngongotaha -Kokiri Ngongotaha Inc.

Ngongotaha Community Collective- Making a Difference
Kia ora Koutou, Katoa, Hello Everyone.

Over recent times, you may have heard of the situation that the Mamaku Village Community is facing regarding the future of the Mamaku War Memorial Hall. (See page 18)
I thought this would be a good opportunity to bring our Ngongotaha Community Hall to the forefront and for many of you, this may very well be the first time, in a long time, that you have given our hall any thought.

Why should you be thinking about our Hall?

Would it mean anything to you or your whanau if suddenly the Rotorua Lakes Council decided to 'demolish it'?

Well, this is what the Mamaku community is facing right now; The Demolition of their War Memorial Hall.

Did the community know this was going to happen? No !!!
Neither did the Reporoa Community, that's right - their hall is up for Demolition as well.

What has this got to do with us?

FYI: Our Hall is one of the most used halls in Rotorua. It has regular weekly use by our local community and others who have weekly/fortnightly/monthly bookings. Yes, that's right.

These groups actively keep the Hall clean after their use.

Q: But Council have cleaners to do that don't they?

A: No they don't, they used to.

Q: But we pay rates to support the upkeep of our Hall, don't we?

A: Yes, we do but the 'upkeep' is NOT happening at this level.
Take a look at the downpipes hanging in mid air.....

Should it become a Ratepayers commitment?

Our groups pay to use the Hall and this revenue is given to Rotorua Lakes Council after cleaning costs.

Nothing is made available to the Ngongotaha Hall Committee from the revenue.

Yes, we have a Hall Committee. The committee is made up of regular users of the Hall. This has many benefits to our community asset, in that it is used regularly, it may deter people from hanging around and the areas used are given a clean and tidy after use (not a working Bee type of clean).

The revenue collected goes to Council and is used across all of the Halls. The Rural Halls (Ngongotaha no longer fits under this category) also have the opportunity to ask for funds through the Rural Board and Devolved Funding Allocations.

Those who regularly use our hall are;

- Ngongotaha Indoor Bowls
- Ngongotaha Lions Club
- Progress Ngongotaha-Kokiri Ngongotaha Inc.
- Ngongotaha Garden Club
- Ngongotaha Primary School

For your interest, Ngongotaha used to be a Rural Hall and then it was re classified as an Urban Hall when it was shifted across Hall Road to its present site.

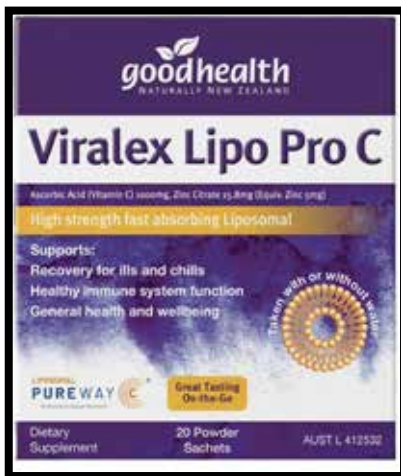
What are your thoughts? We are very interested to hear.

Until next time take care out there....

Lynn, Bob, Heather, and Lee

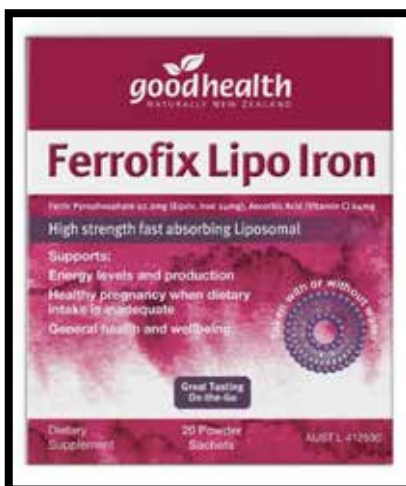


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Over \$1000? April power price rises are a shock for some customers - Consumer

Consumer NZ's Powerswitch has been crunching the numbers and found some power users will face price hikes up to \$1000 a year. "1 April is traditionally the day power companies put their prices up, but this year is shaping up to be a real doozy," Powerswitch manager Paul Fuge said.

Recently, several factors have snowballed to affect annual price rises. "It's kind of like a perfect storm – there are four ways the price rises are hitting consumers. One would be bad enough.

First, the industry is phasing out low-use power plans, which has given companies permission to double how much they currently charge low users for having electricity supplied to their home. Those who pay low fixed charges will see that charge rise every April, until 1 April 2026, when the maximum will be \$1.80 a day or \$657 a year, up \$547 from the 2022 rate.

"Second, people with a gas connection will also be affected by gas companies getting the green light to charge more for supplying gas, to recoup some of the cost of their infrastructure," Fuge said. "The biggest losers will be low-use dual-fuel consumers – consumers who use lower than average amounts of electricity who are also gas users."

"Finally, the actual prices of both power and gas used is also going up for a lot of people, as we've seen in letters notifying consumers of prices changes taking effect from 1 April."

Power prices are the latest cost increase to slam consumers. The latest data from Consumer's Sentiment Tracker shows the soaring cost of living is New Zealanders' top concern. Switch to save on your power bill.

Consumer chief executive Jon Duffy shared his notification from his retailer, which shows it's not just a matter of a few extra dollars each month. His family's bill for their Wellington home is one hit by a quadruple whammy of rises.

Their power company will put up the daily charge for supplying power and gas as well as the cost of the power and gas they use. Within a year they will pay about 25 percent more, which works out as \$850 in total or about \$70 a month.

"The extent of the price rise this year has caught me off guard. I'll be checking Powerswitch to see much I can save by switching to another company," Duffy said.

"By switching providers, you keep the power companies on their toes, and they can give you competitive rates to nab you as a customer," Fuge said. "Unfortunately, there are no incentives to being a long-term customer, so you are best to switch and save yourself the dollars." Check how much you can save by switching on Powerswitch. You can also check out internet offerings on broadbandcompare.co.nz

Is there a cost?

It is normally free to switch. However, check with your existing and new retailer. For example, your existing retailer may have fees for disconnection, breaking a fixed-term contract, or organising a special meter read. Ask your new retailer if they require a bond.

Source: Consumer

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Finance again

A doctor and a lawyer were talking at a party. However, their conversation was constantly interrupted by people describing their ailments and asking the doctor for free medical advice.

After an hour of this, the exasperated doctor asked the lawyer, "What do you do to stop people from asking you for legal advice when you're out of the office?"

"I give it to them," replied the lawyer, "and then I send them a bill."

The doctor was shocked, but agreed to give it a try. The next day, still feeling slightly guilty, the doctor prepared the bills.

When he went to place them in his mailbox, he found a bill from the lawyer.

Happenings

5-8 Mar Kaharoa year 6-8 camp in Taupo

7 Mar Ngongotaha School Tryathlon

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

18-19 Mar Kaharoa year 4 & 5 camp at Tui Ridge

29 Mar-1 Apr Easter

15 Mar Hatupatu Kurungaituku performance at the Energy Events Centre

17 April Rotorua Lakes Council meeting at Ngongotaha Hall to discuss Draft Long Term Plan, from 5.00 to 6.30 pm.

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 myfairkay@gmail.com or 0274 982 787

Sunday 9.30 to 11.00 Rotorua Archery Club at Lakeview.

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The ole rest home care subsidies fallacy

Time and time again I hear the common belief that family trusts, wills or house titles can be used as tools to leverage entitlement to rest home care subsidies later in life while preserving a main home asset for eventual estates.

Usually, this view is held by older people who've anecdotally thought that's how it works, typically promoted by adult children waving around something they've found on the internet and wanting to talk to their parents' lawyer about how to preserve as much as possible of their parents' estates from getting sucked up by possible rest home care fees in the future (they've often also apparently talked to their own lawyer who says this can be done, or heard from someone else that their lawyer said it can be too).

Firstly, no. That's not how it works. Why? Because *fun fact* New Zealand is part of the United Nations and a signatory to a bunch of international covenants recognising and protecting citizen rights to an adequate standard of living which is how we became a welfare state in the first place - which we enjoy by virtue of our taxpayer funded social welfare system. Yep, that's me and you.

So when people come to see me about altering their wills, transferring house titles into shares or to their children, or moving assets into a trust etc as mechanisms to get out of paying rest home care fees so they effectively have less assets to be absorbed by the Government (and thus preserving their estate), my response is pretty blunt: so what you are saying is that you want to limit your asset pool to protect your eventual estate, then expect the tax payer to pay for or subsidise your rest home care fees? Hmmm ... if it were that easy, everybody would be doing it.

Granted, back in the day the political landscape was quite different to now. Various historic political initiatives such as means testing almost certainly contributed to the burgeoning family trust 'industry' where for decades ordinary people were charged lots of money to 'hide' assets in trusts (usually just the family home) and do the annual \$27,000 gifting regime (also chargeable) so there technically wasn't anything for the Government to take in the future if it came to it. The other asset-limiting phenomenon of bygone eras was putting the house title into shares to attempt to achieve a similar outcome, then mirror wills providing a life interest in the deceased's half share to the survivor.

However, none of that will wash now. It has become much harder for people to hide or technically give away an entitlement in assets (even if done decades ago), then expect the Government to meet care or other support costs that a person could have met from their own financial resources. Also, any life interests in property titles will almost certainly be taken into consideration in rest home care assessments because the survivor legally does have the benefit and use of the value of that asset for the rest of their life.

As for the adult children who insist otherwise? My advice to them is to ask that lawyer to put that advice in writing. Funnily enough that's never been forthcoming.

Article written for Ngongotaha News by Ros Morshead, Solicitor at Lawbox.

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TAKING IT WITH YOU

Lying on his deathbed, the rich, miserly old man calls to his long-suffering wife. "I want to take all my money with me," he tells her. "So, promise me you'll put it in the casket."

After the man dies, his widow attends the memorial service with her best friend. Just before the undertaker closes the coffin, she places a small metal box inside.

Her friend looks at her in horror. "Surely," she says, "you didn't put the money in there."

"I did promise him I would," the widow answers. "So, I got it all together; deposited every penny in my account, and wrote him a cheque. If he can cash it, he can spend it."

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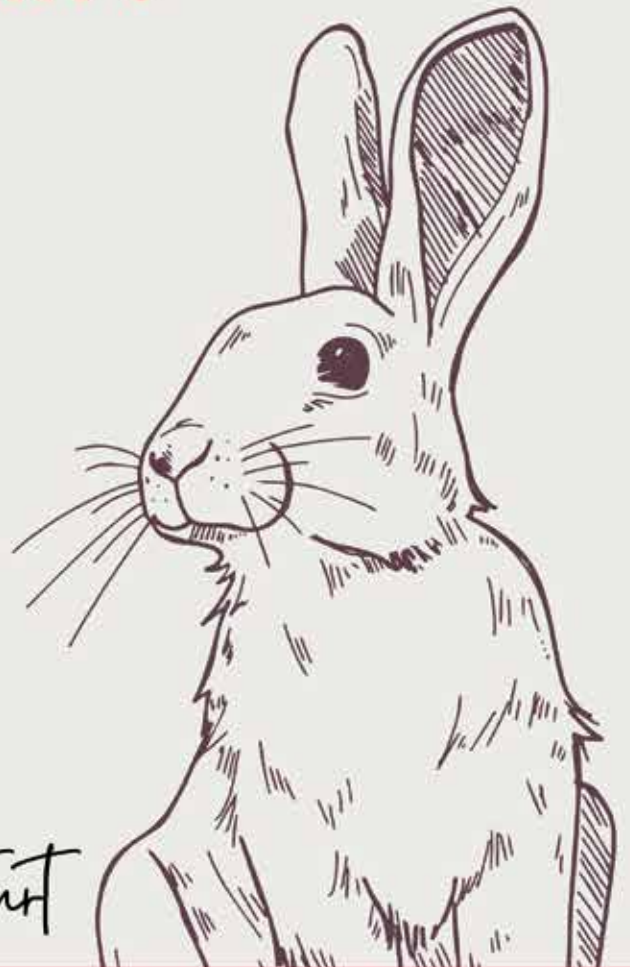
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