Next deadline 6 August 2024

# The Sunny Side of the Mountain NGONGOTAHA NEWS

www.ngongotahanews.co.nz

**JULY 2024** 

# Ngongotaha School Matariki Hangi and Movie night Celebration



Editor: Philippa Wills 021283 7006





The school, with the help of lots of volunteers, fed 800-900 people, and many stayed for the movie night.

Congratulations to everyone involved!

See the story on page 10.







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fellowship.

11.00 Bible Study

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#### Water quality improvement

Toi Te Ora Public Health have lifted health warnings related to cyanobacteria for the Ōhau Channel, the Ōkere Arm of Lake Rotoiti and the Upper reaches of the Kaituna River down to, and including, Trout Pool . A health warning remains for Lake Rotoehu.

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#### **Rates Review**

The average general rates increase for Rotorua Lakes Council Year 1 is 11.42%. Rates increases will differ across and within different rating groups, 11.4% being the average across all rating groups (business, farming, rural residential, urban residential). Revaluations undertaken in 2023 now apply.

#### Water rates issues

At a recent Lakes Community Board it was reported that 104 Hamurana and 77 Okareka residents had advised RLC of issues with their water rates. A form for reporting issues to RLC is available at our website, Ngongotaha News. It is also possible to arrange for a meter check with Council.

#### **Kaharoa School**

#### Tēnā koutou whānau

We are halfway through the year already, and what a busy time Kaharoa School has had.



Our **Rural Cross Country** event took place in early June on a lovely sunny winter's day. All 8-12 year old Kaharoa students competed against visitors from other local schools, then 5-7 year olds from Kaharoa had their turn. We had a BBQ and bake sale to raise money towards bus costs for trips this year and raised over \$1500. Thank you to all families who donated food for the stalls, and to the many people who volunteered their time and helped on the day. The top few competitors for each senior age group then competed in the Bay of Plenty event in Tauranga at the end of June.





**Sports Camp**: A group of intermediate tamariki from Kaharoa, Mamaku, and Selwyn Schools participated in a Sports Camp at Tōtara Springs over the last week of the term. They trained hard for this and competed against other schools from around the North Island in a range of different

sports. Thank you to Lynden Cook, Ryan Porteous, and Shinade Picard, who ran many training sessions throughout the term, and accompanied the Kaharoa students for the duration of the camp.

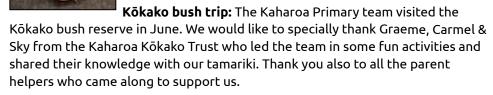
#### Thank you Bunnings Rotorua!

Bunnings Rotorua recently donated soil, compost, seeds, and propagation equipment to the gardening group. We are very grateful and can't wait to start growing these vegetables in our gardens! Gardening is one of the

curriculum rotation groups the year 3-6 students do on a Thursday morning.

Another rotation is music. Year 6 students have been enjoying a range of Music experiences this term with Mrs. Shoebridge.

The whole school welcomed a group of music students from a school in Perth. Their jazz band, cello quartet, and singers performed to us, before joining a larger group for the Rotorua Music Festival.





**Mayor visit**: The Mayor of Rotorua, Tania Tapsell, visited our kura. She attended our

Stepping Up Assembly to celebrate those tamariki who had earned awards. Tania also spent time with our Prefect team to discuss leadership and answer their questions. It was a privilege to have you at Kaharoa School Tania. Thank you for coming!

**Staff vs Students:** A challenging game of basketball was played between staff and students. The

students worked well as a team, but the staff managed to retain the trophy. Congratulations to everyone who played!





The Kaharoa Cull: A hard decision was made by

the Kaharoa PTA to postpone the Cull due to bad weather forecast. This will now be happening on 21st July. For more information please see our school website or email <a href="mailto:pta@kaharoa.school.nz">pta@kaharoa.school.nz</a>.

#### We have space for new students

Kaharoa School is 13 minutes from Ngongotaha and open for enrolments now and for 2025 for both primary and intermediate students (Year 1-8). We will hold an information evening planned for 14th of August for students considering enrolment in 2025.

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



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#### LAKEVIEW GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Mid winter is throwing us a mix of weather with heavy rain, frosts, wind and chilly temperatures but the good news is we are past the shortest day. Hopefully in a month or so we will really start to notice the lighter mornings and evenings. Happy days! The course is still looking fantastic despite the challenge of winter conditions.

The Handicap Match Play Champs are now finished and the winner was Tim Worrall. A big CONGRATULATIONS to Tim and commiserations to Tony Kopae who put up a tough fight in the final. The Mamaku Cup competition starts on 6th July and runs for most of the month with the Managh Cup and Trophy starting on the last weekend in July. Unfortunately the semi-finals of the BOP Handicap Pennants being held at Lakeview had to be postponed due to heavy rain. This is now being held on July 7th, fingers crossed for some better weather.

Junior golf takes a break over the school holidays and recommences in term 3. We are excited to have Mamaku Primary starting up a golf academy like the very successful Ngongotaha Primary academy. They will be bringing a group of students to Lakeview every week for the duration of the term, giving tamariki the opportunity to give golf a go! It is always great to see the hidden potential and talent of tamariki who may not have had the chance to try golf before. The future of golf depends on the younger generation being exposed to golf and given the opportunity to try the sport. School participation is a great way to achieve this.

The gardens have been planted in front of the new clubhouse and look fantastic, all helping to give a more finished look. We are currently organising trophy cabinets and honours boards. The loss of all our history in the fire is one of the many sad aspects of this devastating event so being able to finally start recording our history again for display definitely helps with the healing process.

We will be planting more native plants on the course in August with the help of tamariki from Ngongotaha and Mamaku Primary schools. This is always a great activity which helps enhance our environment and fosters the desire in students to be kaitiakitanga of their community beyond their own backyards.

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 keep dry and warm.

Golf shop phone number is 07 357 2341.





# Hon Todd McClay MP for Rotorua

Delivering for Rotorua If we can help, please give me a call: 07 348 5871

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# Hon Todd McClay MP for Rotorua





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# KEEP SMILING

Manawatia a Matariki koutou katoa. Happy New Year Maori everyone. I hope it is your best yet. Here is something small to help make it so ... A smile.



I have a key word on my golf trundler which I look at occasionally whenever I am playing, wherever I am playing and however (good or bad) I am playing. That key word is SMILE.

Today I was having a particularly bad game of golf. Disastrous actually. I was driving the golf ball okay and hit quite a few greens in regulation but...I could not putt. About halfway through my round I saw that word SMILE on my golf trundler, and it was the last thing I wanted to do. But I did it. I reached down into my belly and conjured up a smile. Anyone who had seen me smiling at that point would have thought I was the joker because it was a totally forced smile. I felt like a robot walking around as though he had done something wrong and was trying to hide it.

However, the longer I forced myself to smile the easier my smile became unforced and eventually my smile turned into a slight laugh at myself because of how serious I had got about my poor golf form. It reminded me of earlier in the week when I was at the driving range (should have been the putting range) and I heard a young woman say to her boyfriend, "You are too serious". Her comment made sense because his golf shots were spraying everywhere, and he was getting more frustrated with every shot. Well, I presume she was talking about his golfing!

Smiling is good for us. Ask Damien McKenzie, the Chiefs and All Black rugby player who smiles during his kicks at goal.

According to Google, smiling increases mood-enhancing hormones while decreasing stress-enhancing hormones, including cortisol, and adrenaline. It also reduces overall blood pressure. And because you typically smile when you're happy, the muscles used trigger your brain to produce more endorphins—the chemical that relieves pain and stress.



Damien thinks so anyway.

I have deliberately written SMILE on my trundler to remind myself that golf is just a game. A game to be enjoyed and appreciated. Playing golf is a pleasure and a privilege, not a right and it needs to be enjoyed and smiled upon, not frowned upon.

Funnily enough today I was playing golf with another golfer who got so frustrated that he threw a golf club after a poor shot. That really made me smile, almost laugh! However, him throwing his golf club was a nice reminder to me of what not smiling could have led to.

For your information, I have never thrown a golf club. Many stress-relieving smiles have prevented me from doing that!

As a Motivational Speaker, I have shared the stage with many amazing people throughout many nations and have learnt from each speaker along the way. One such speaker is Jim Smith who wrote a book entitled "Happiness at the speed of life". This is also the title of one of his keynote presentations. One truth that Jim teaches is that happiness is not a spectator sport.

We need to be active in our happiness and smiling is being active.

Jim outlines that "we are emotional beings and whether we realize it or not, we are putting out and receiving hundreds, even thousands, of nonverbal cues each day. We are constantly adjusting to others". So, if we want to be happier, hang out with happier people. If we want to be golf club throwers than hang out with frustrated golfers. And, if we want people to smile, lets smile first at people in our communities of Hamurana, Kaharoa, Ngongotaha, Mamaku and Awahou.

Making a decision to smile is important. I wear a ta moko on my face and my most disarming action whenever I discern any discomfort in people when they meet me for the first time? I smile. Smiling affects interactions, behaviour and communication. Smiling puts people at ease.

At the end of my golf game today, I looked back over my round and the highlight for me was not the fact that I eventually got a putt, and a par, or that the day was stunning and beautiful, or even my mate throwing a golf club. My highlight of my day was the picture of myself walking around for a few minutes (away from my mates) with this stupid-looking forced smile on my face, that eventually became a genuine smile, and made my GAME of golf and in a small way, my life more enjoyable.

I dare you to SMILE.

Forced or not.

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/

Photo thanks to Dynasti Cafe, Ngongotaha

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#### Ngongotaha School

By the time this goes to print, school holidays will be in full swing. I would like to start by thanking everyone for a wonderful Term 2. As always, our community has been extremely supportive; attending trips, sponsoring the children to complete the Walkathon and Jumping June, helping out with our Matariki celebrations, volunteering in classes, and all the other things you do for our school. I would also like to thank my staff. They are an amazing team who never cease to amaze me; organising the hangi and movie night, giving our children the opportunity to attend ePro8, taking the mountain bike skills program, creating engaging learning programs in class, spending hours crafting reports, and all the other things they do for our school. And of course the tamariki, all 403 of them who turn up each morning smiling and ready to learn. I am the luckiest principal in Aotearoa!

Matariki Hangi and Movie night Celebration- wow! That will be a memory I hold for a very, very long time. Thank you to the team who put down the hangi, thank you to our hunters and farmers who brought in meat, thanks to the kids who peeled potatoes and thanks to everyone for making it such an unforgettable night. It was so nice to be able to give back to our community. Thank you to everyone who came down and celebrated with us. We fed between 800 and 900 people and many stayed to enjoy the movie with us. It was the perfect night.

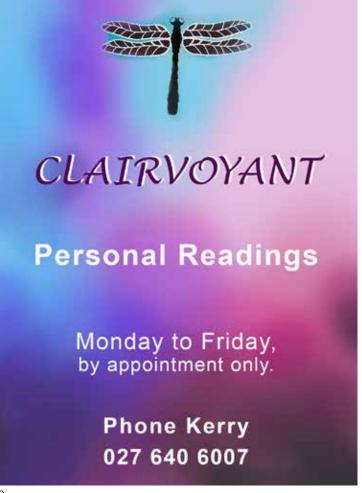
Walkathon- The addition of the Colour Dye to our Walkathon was a hit. The children looked awesome wandering through the village covered in bright pink, purple, blue and orange! Thanks again to our sponsors who supported this event. Congratulations to Barrett Ormsby who raised the most money and won a brand new bike!

Term 3 looks just as exciting. We will hold a whole school Olympics Day, 101 children will compete in the Tough Guy and Gal event, we will host three different schools for Interschool Sports, and of course we will hold our whole school Production! Keep an eye on the school app and our Kidzone (newsletters) for more information.

Photos of our Matariki Hangi and Movie night Celebration (are on the front page of this newsletter - Ed.).

Craig MacFadyen, Pricipal at Ngongotaha School









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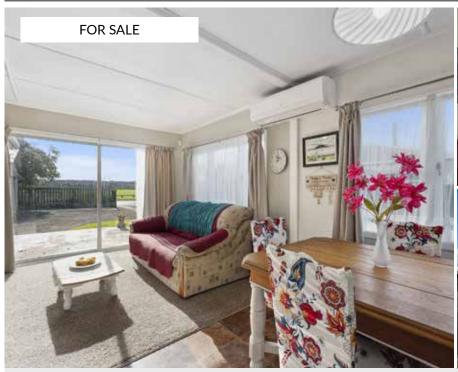
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By Negotiation | Phill Rivers 0276 109 090 phill.rivers@raywhite.com | View rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31517





#### 189 Dansey Road Ngongotaha Valley

This tranquil property basks in a picturesque location with views of Lake & Mountain, stands of bush and lush paddocks that roll down to the stream. The impressive shed with its huge dimensions, soaring ceilings and office & studio areas includes a feature space that captures the sun and views.

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#### 9 Alice Place Hamurana

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#### Kid friendly Winter jokes

What's a good winter tip?

Never catch snowflakes on your tongue until all the birds have flown north for the winter.

What do you call a reindeer with no eyes? I have no eye deer.

What do you call a penguin with no eye? A pengun.

Why did the snowman turn yellow? Ask the dog.

Which one is faster, hot or cold? "Hot. You can catch a cold."

What do you call a snowman without a carrot? Nobody nose.

What did one snowman say to the other snowman? "Can you smell carrot?"

Why was the snowman rummaging through the bag of carrots? He was picking his nose.

What's the best way to scare a snowman? Talk about global warming.

#### About animals

A Canadian psychologist is selling a video that teaches you how to test your dog's IQ. Here's how it works: If you spend \$12.99 for the video, your dog is smarter than you.

My email password has been hacked. That's the third time I've had to rename the cat.

You would think that taking off a snail's shell would make it move faster, but it actually just makes it more sluggish.

Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building? Of course. Buildings can't jump.

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We went to a terrible zoo. There was only one animal – a dog.

It was a shitsu.

What do you call a dog with no legs? Doesn't matter what you call him, he's not coming.

What sound do porcupines make when they kiss? "Ouch!"

Q. What animal has the whiskers of a cat, fur of a cat, a tail of a cat, ears of a cat, but is not a cat?

A. The animal is a kitten!

#### **Ngongotaha Indoor Bowls**

**9th June** Pairs Championship Greg Chase, Richard Mills and Helen White went to Whakatane to play this. Greg and Richard qualified but got knocked out. Helen White was playing with Kevin Birch from RSA and won the plate.

**10th June** Aggregate Great bowling. The winners were Grahame Turner, Chris McGoon :2 wins 26 points.

17th June RSA Visiting Fun Night. It sure was a night to remember. Not sure how many bowls were being played as it was very noisy with lots of laughing and chatter going on. The skip winner first was Warren RSA, second Eddie Ngongotaha, Lead winner was Greg Ngongotaha, Second Robin Ngongotaha. The boobie prizes went to Skip Chris Ngongotaha and Lead Angie RSA.

**24th June** Championship Pairs We had three teams qualify tonight. John Rayner and Sam Reid, Greg Chase and Martin Bertling, Richard Mills and Chris McGoon.



1st July Championship Pairs Play Off The winners for tonight were Greg Chase and Martin Bertling. Runner up Richard Mills and Chris McGoon. Congratulations to those two teams.

Pictured are Helen White and Kevin Birch.

#### Can you help Martyn?

Martyn Evans is interested in gathering any details to do with the planting of the Olive trees above Dynasti.

Back in the 1970's, an Olive tree from Crete was planted in the Remembrance Park at the bottom of Fenton St as a result of the links between the Bay of Plenty Veterans of the Battle of Crete and the people of Crete.

The Olive tree is a symbol of peace and prosperity and was gifted as a sign of the love and friendship between the people of Crete and New Zealand. There are quite a few 50 yr old Olive trees from Crete planted above Dynasti, as well as 50 yr old Olive trees in Whakatane, Te Puke, Tauranga.

Kuru Waaka was the Chair of the Veterans of the Battle of Crete around the time of the plantings.

The original seedlings and seeds were brought to NZ by a Mr E Rogers of Maketu and held in quarantine until ready for planting.

If you can help with further information, please phone Martyn Evans on 0273540079





#### **Ngongotaha Medical Centre Limited**

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

#### **Missed Appointments - DNA**

Recently there has been a marked increase in the number of booked appointments where patient's have failed to attend, and have not provided adequate notice that they are unable to attend. This results a wasted appointment slot that can not be reallocated to another patient and with the current pressure on available primary health appointments, the level of DNA's is unacceptable.

Accordingly, we have been forced to review our policy in respect of DNA appointments in an attempt to reduce the level and effective immediately the following policy will apply;

- Patients who do not attend (DNA) a booked appointment and have not notified the practice of their impending non-attendance will be charged for the normal cost the appointment.
- · If a patient notifies the practice at least 60 minutes before an appointment that they are unable to attend, they will not be charged.
- · On occasions there may be extenuating circumstances resulting in a DNA and these may be taken into account on a case by case basis.

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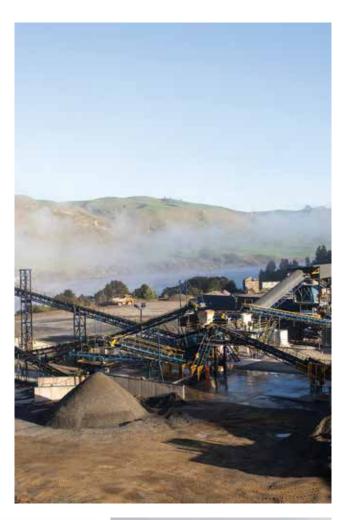


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#### Age Concern

An update on the Tiny Homes saga. I have had a meeting on site with the RLC and the builder of the Tiny Homes and we may have come up with a simpler solution than the one proposed, where the buildings had to be lifted and the remedial work done. Here's hoping this proposal can be actioned and the CCC issued which will allow our tenants to move in.

We are looking to have a community working bee to tidy up the section and do some planting, with plants which were donated by Bunnings over a year ago now and have been kept alive by one of my staff. We also have some garden sheds, donated by Bunnings, and some raised gardens that need assembly and filling. If you are interested in being involved, subject to date, please leave your name and phone number on 07 347 1539.

Members of Age Concern recently attended an Elder Abuse Conference put on by providers of Elder Abuse Services in The Bay of Plenty. Age Concern, Rotorua does not have the contract for Elder Abuse but can refer on, if people come to us for help. One of the Keynote speakers at the conference was Hanny Naus who is responsible for Elder Abuse and Neglect nationwide for Age Concern.

Elder abuse is not just something that happens to people far away or in institutions. It happens to members of our community in the over-65 age group, to people who deserve to be respected, yet are harmed by people they know and trust. That is why the name 'Elder Abuse'. Elder abuse happens in our very own community, in fact three-quarters of cases happen in our own family.

It can start as something as simple as a family member helping grandma get her groceries and then over time they take control of her finances, and her card starts to be used for their own personal items by the family member. While a lot of people will think of elder abuse being physical, in most cases it is more mental abuse.

Abuse such as denying them the basics they are entitled to such as a warm, clean, and safe home, a warm bed and being fed.

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There are warning signs that we all must be aware of. Some are quite subtle but are often an indication of underlying problems happening.

Physically: Physical change, loss of weight, lack of concern for grooming/dress and overall appearance.

Economically: Bills not paid, insurances not being paid, home maintenance being forgotten, lawns not mown, rubbish piling up.

Demeanour: The person's mood changes and they experience depression. They do not go out, not pulling up blinds and are generally isolating themselves.

If you feel someone may be being bullied or neglected, don't leave it. Contact Age Concern, or in Rotorua, Family Focus and talk it through. You can be anonymous and just seek advice, but if you suspect something, don't feel you have to wait until you have proof. Trained staff know how to manage these situations and they have the contacts to put checks in place.

Being vulnerable does not mean that you should be taken advantage of. Everyone needs to be accountable for their dealings with the older population whether a friend or family member. Choices for the older person should be paramount. For some people, they do not know that elder abuse is actually happening to them and sometimes when they do, guilt and shame play a big part in them not speaking up. Especially if it is happening in their own family. They don't want to rock the boat, so they don't say anything to anyone.

Remember: Keep an eye on what is happening in your community and if you are concerned about anyone ... make that call.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers to join our visiting service and our shopping service and we always try and celebrate our volunteering by holding events they can come to. In the future we are having a day when new volunteers are invited to join up, and food, drink and a welcome gift pack will be available. Dates for the event will be advertised on Facebook.



Age Concern have joined a partnership with ANZ to provide a series of Scam Awareness publications.

Waka Kotahi have been funding our free Staying Safe Courses for elderly drivers but have withdrawn much of the funding, like many government agencies, and we are now restricted in the number of courses we can supply.

Age Concern, Rotorua have been granted some funding from Age Concern National to provide five health promoting programmes. The programmes are a Healthy Ageing series of ten Seminars, Cook4 Healthy Ageing with the NZ Nutrition Foundation, our Positive Ageing Expo, Walkers with Walkers and Steady as you go balance programme.

Stay Safe Rory O'Rourke, Manager

#### Progress Ngongotaha-Kokiri Ngongotaha Inc.

Ngongotaha Community Collective-Making a Difference in Our Place

- Ngongotaha Emergency Response Team (Currently creating a 'Draft Plan')
- Ngongotaha Community Defibrillator AED (Donations for maintenance very welcome)
- Ngongotaha Stream Care Team (Ngongotaha Awa)
- Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum
- Ngongotaha Hall Committee (needing support with Fundraising)

Kia ora Koutou, Katoa, Hello Everyone, This is very much an 'In Brief' this month.

Huge thanks for the continuing support that we are receiving for our projects; we recently received a donation towards the Defibrillator, this is very much appreciated. We also received a donation towards curtains for the Hall. As we said in the last Ngongotaha News, we like all other organisations are facing the possibility of reduced funding, it is great to have your help.

So I am here thinking!! What else can we say? I then started to wonder about what others in our community are doing? I am sure that they will be just as busy as our team is, and have news to share, or are facing a few challenges. The thing is we all need to contribute to our free community paper. This way we can all support each other and the community will know how they can support us as well.

It was awesome to attend and to share in the Ngongotaha Garden Circle 70th Celebration and Ngahihi Bidois what an Inspiration you are: If it is to be, it is up to me. I read every one of your articles.

I don't have Mokos attending any Early Childhood Centres or Schools in Ngongotaha, but I love reading about what our tamariki are involved in and learning. Both the Ngongotaha and Kaharoa Schools did our community proud with their involvement at the recent Ngongotaha Garden Club Celebration. Tino Rawe it was excellent.

It is always great to hear from our Ngongotaha Bowls Club, please keep it up and the photos past and current, are invaluable for our Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum, for future generations.

I am convinced that there are groups in our community that we don't even know about. I know that Facebook is great for those who can access wifi but there are many places in our Rohe where they are living in an area without a signal. I know it's 'hard to believe' but it is true. So these whanau/families cannot find out about you, or offer any support to you, or join your group.

Thank you Philippa for our FREE community Ngongotaha News, delivered to many of us each month and also available free at various

locations in the Village. You are making a big Difference!!

This is our 'In Brief' bit from our Ngongotaha Stream Care Team at the awa. Thank you Gavin, Keith, Ian, Lois and friends who volunteer to keep this special place available for all of us to enjoy!! The following is from Gavin:

"For the volunteers who make up the stream team, this month's focus has been safety and a surer footing for those enjoying the walking track.

A combination of wet winter weather and the clay surface of sections of the walkway makes for a slippery slope

Work has been concentrated on constructing a series of steps, where needed, to lessen the risk of a fall.

Personnel from Lakes Council have also visited the site, and discussions are underway as to how the council might help within the budget being set for the coming financial year." Gavin

From our Volunteer Admin Team;

We have had a busy three months applying for Grants, Writing Reports for the same, taking care of our Annual Accounts, handling enquiries, and generally being the Happy Team that we are.

We, like all other Incorporated Societies in Aotearoa, are faced with some big changes ahead including the need to rewrite our Constitution in order to meet the legal requirements under the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Up until now we have all been under the old 1908 Act. We are all still legal under the 1908 Act for the time being, but we have to rewrite our Constitution and then Reregister before April 2026. It sounds such a long time off, but it isn't. Fortunately there is a Constitution Building Tool online...Yay!! There are also changes to Reporting to Charities. It's all go behind the scenes. If this appeals to you as a potential volunteer spot, please contact me. Lynn 3574565 or 022 1404391

Thank you Heather Brake for your support with stuff that would require more learning for me, and Lee Jansen for your continuing support of many years, what would I do without you as well? Thank you Bob Martin for your knowledge and backing throughout and Catherine Stewart for your 'eyes and ears' on current concerns. We have a growing number of volunteers helping us and to each of you thank you so very much.

Until next time stay safe out there, keep warm and continue to enjoy Our Place!!

Lynn, Bob, Heather & Lee progressngongotaha@gmail.com





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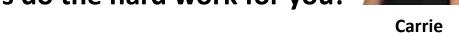


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## Rotorua Rail Cruising track opens in time for Matariki

Rotorua Rail Cruising opened its new Ngongotahā Rail Station in Hamurana Road on Friday, 28 June 2024. Before it was one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most unique visitor experiences, the original rail network to Rotorua was developed to support the city's growth as an international spa and Māori cultural tourism destination.

And while the railway has existed for 120 years, the history of the land it sits on goes back much further. In honour of Matariki, and to celebrate the reopening of the section of the railway from Ngongotahā to Tarukenga, Rotorua Rail Cruising held a one-off event over the weekend.

The event, named Matariki Rising, gave manuhiri (visitors) the opportunity to ride the new section that hasn't been used for more than 20 years. Even better, guests could experience the cruise after dark for the first time in its 13 years of operation. Manuhiri experienced the entire 13.5 km of track, light displays, and heard from local iwi about Matariki and the history of the whenua.

Rotorua Rail Cruising Rail Guide and Ngongotaha local Chaylse McLeod says it was a great feeling to get the community and local iwi together to celebrate the opening, including local MP Todd McClay, Joe Edwards from Ngati Te Ngakau and Ngati Tura and Co-founders Aidan Ashmore and Helen Nicholls.

"The team have forged a good relationship with local iwi Tura Ngāti Te Ngākau and Ngāti Whakaue ki Ngongotahā, and firmly acknowledges the history of the land. It's been a busy few months clearing the old track and getting everything ready for the opening, but it's been worth it. The cherry on top has been working closely with iwi, learning about stories from the Ngongotahā area, and

creating a meaningful event that honoured our heritage, celebrated new beginnings, and brought the community together."

Te Poari Newton, Ngati Tura Ngati Te Ngakau Hapu Trust General Manager, says the hapu have been more than happy to play their part in supporting the developments. "We're fully supportive of activities that will boost the economy in Ngongotahā, not just for our people, but for the wider community. Whether it's economic development, social housing, providing renewable energy, pest eradication, or bringing in manuhiri and telling our story — like this event did, it's our duty to do what's best for the rohe. "Building lasting partnerships with businesses in our rohe, like Rotorua Rail Cruising, is a positive step towards achieving all of these things and more," says Te Poari.

While the event may be over, this is just the beginning for the team at Rotorua Rail Cruising. The new Ngongotahā station and 13.5km of new track are now open to all manuhiri looking to experience an authentic adventure like none other, right here in Ngongotahā.





#### Happenings

13 July Mamaku Community Market 9.00 am at Mamaku School

21 July postponed date for Kaharoa Cull

24 July Rotorua A & P Association AGM 7 pm Barclay House, Western Road (The Agrodome). New members welcome.

30 July at Kahukura Rugby Club: Jase Williams speaking on neuroscience, mindbody connection awareness for ECE and mainstream education through a Te Ao Māori lens. Details at Western Heights High School

4 August Mamaku Crop Swap 1.00 pm Citz Club next to Mamaku Hall. Bring surplus produce, baking etc (plus \$1 for the hall) and swap with others.

8 August Every Bit Counts: Kim McGrouther, Sustainability Lead at Scion, is passionate about making the most out of the resources we have. Kim will present on the ways she does this at work and in her life. Held at the Netherlands Society Hall, Neil Hunt Park, Tarawera Rd at 7:30pm. Supper provided. Koha appreciated but not essential. Linda Johnson Ph: 027 358 1467

23-25 August NZ Fishing, Hunting and 4x4 Expo

#### 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

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 of the month Rotorua Collectibles Club: Do you collect anything ie marbles tools, cars, China bottles, you name it. Come and share your passion with a friendly group at St Barnabas hall next meeting ph 0272923579

2nd Wednesday Friendship Club 9.45 am St Barnabas Church Hall

4th Wednesday Ngongotaha Garden Circle at Ngongotaha Hall 1 p.m.

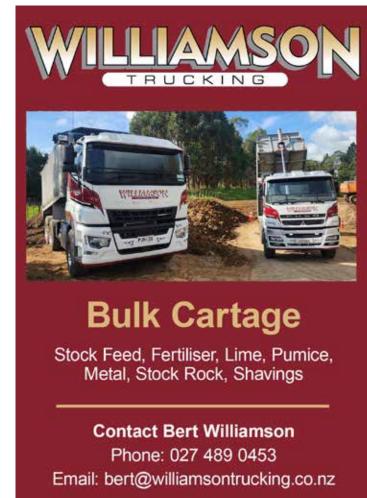
Every Thursday Junior Golf after school at Lakeview Golf and Country Club

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

3rd Saturday of each month The Care Village Market Day in Taui Street Sunday 9.30 to 11.00 Rotorua Archery Club at Lakeview.



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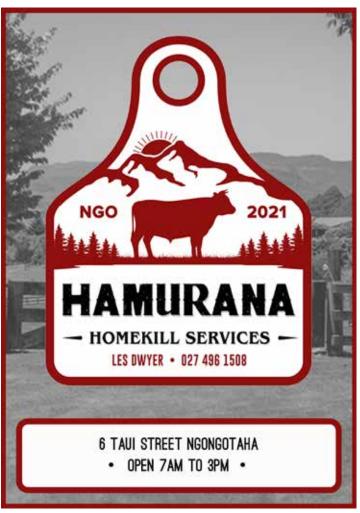
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#### Buying a house and building reports

Sometimes when buying or selling a house either the LIM or Building Report throws up a bunch of curve balls about building or other work done to a property over the years. There have been a bunch of iterations to building laws over the decades, and breaking them down can be confusing, but it's important to put them in context.

Up until the early 1990's building work was dealt with by bylaw and not as stringently as it is today. The process was mostly manual with paper documents, and over the years many councils across the country have had records lost or destroyed by things like fires, earthquakes, or simply documents getting misfiled or lost. This means many property files are incomplete. I often already know from the age of a property what the LIM or Building Report will look like and in my experience most houses built before the early 90's never had their final building sign off, or a good portion of the records are missing. After the early 90's, most do.

Building permits or consents (depending on the era) are the thing applied for to build a house or other structure. But there is no ability to retrospectively get them signed off if they are historic and/or incomplete. In modern times, Councils issue a final sign building or project sign off called Code Compliance Certificate. However, over the years, properties may have had work done that should have had building consent but didn't.

We typically see this sort of work being removing internal walls, retaining walls, garages, decking, extensions, bathrooms, turning areas into or installing laundry/bathroom/toilet, wet-area tiling, recladding, replacing stairs and so on. Many owners blindly go ahead with this sort of work thinking it'll be okay or doing it under the guise of "it's just repairing or replacing what was there", when in fact it's not okay. Was the internal wall structural? Is the retaining wall load bearing thereby increasing risk of collapse? Are any alterations or 'repairs' built to code? Where does that toilet flush to and is it sanitary? Where does the shower/laundry drain to and did that tiling have proper waterproofing when laid? Was that re-cladding done properly to prevent moisture ingress and damp? All of these things are about health and safety and ensuring people and property aren't adversely impacted in some way.

Sometimes it is possible to apply for a 'Certificate of Acceptance'. This is akin to applying for a retrospective consent for recent work done that should have had consent at the time but didn't. It is an expensive and lengthy process usually requiring plans, inspections, builder reports, possibly re-doing work etc. Sometimes they can't be issued because the work can't be properly inspected or the work didn't meet building code in the first place. And a Certificate of Acceptance will always be a much lesser thing and a blight on the property file in the eyes of future buyers.

I often see reference in buyer building reports of recommendations to get a thing called a 'Safe and Sanitary Report' - typically for properties that didn't have their original sign-offs back in the day. Buyers get scared and think they should make a vendor get one to confirm that any work done (often decades ago) is both safe and sanitary. What I can tell you is these 'reports' costs a bunch of money for someone to say a house seems 'safe and sanitary' and are virtually worthless in my opinion. There is no such thing under building law, they have no legal status, they do not rectify lack of historic building permits or consents, there are no qualification requirements or standards around such reports, and I understand that Rotorua and Tauranga Councils will only accept them for placing on property files in extremely limited circumstances.

Why? Well, at a very broad level (and not speaking for Councils of course), Councils had no part in and cannot verify the work undertaken, and there are no regulatory standards for the report writer, content, or scope of such 'reports'. Anyone wanting the Rotorua Council explanatory sheet about this is free to email me (ros@lawbox.co.nz) and I'll forward you the publicly available pdf.

Buyers obviously need to seek their own legal advice when these issues crop up, but my takeaways from this article are to keep it in context: it's not a new car, and often a buyer price bracket or suburb will have similar issues no matter the property because it all depends on the era and building laws of the day.

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





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