

The Rotorua A & P Show is on 7th December at 141 Western Road, Agrodome, Ngongotaha 8.30 am to 4.30 pm

Equestrian Events
Western Riding
Shearing & Wool handling
Food stalls & trade stands
Sparky the Fire Engine

Alpaca display & fleece show
Axeman competition
Rotorua Symphonic Band
City of Rotorua Highland Pipe Band
King/Queen of the Mountain Race

Horse & Pony rides
Vintage Tractors
Dairy Cattle events
Dairy Goat events

FREE kids area with bouncy castle, Ferris Wheel, large slide, face painting
and Roving Magician/ Balloonist

Ph: 07 357 2979 or 027 311 7010
Email: rotoruashow@gmail.com
You can buy tickets at the gate.
**Adults \$20 Children 15 years and
under FREE!**



Waiteti Stream mouth wetlands project: help wanted!

The wetland is a haven for birds, the flax is about to flower bringing the tui, the karearea spend time flying in figure of eight fashion over the wetlands, they have a very keen eye and pounce once they confirm the 'kill'.

Noxious Willow and Alder are growing back strongly. Two years or so ago, a group of locals volunteered with support from Environment BOP, cut and poisoned vast amounts of willow which have perished. However, nature being what it is, everything down in the wetlands is thriving.

As the evenings get longer, we will be looking for volunteers, whilst other volunteers like an early morning start. Bring a hat, gardening gloves, it's handy to bring a cutting tool, from clippers to saws, sturdy footwear. I have the poison provided by EnvBoP. We work in pairs, sometimes alone, often in groups. The council lent a hand too finishing off the bigger awkward willows.

Martyn Evans Phone 0273540079

Wishing the Ngongotaha community, a happy and safe festive season.

Providing local experience, insights and practical advice to bring balance beyond the books.



Merry Xmas from

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ST. BARNABAS ANGLICAN CHURCH School Road, Ngongotaha

- Sunday: 9.45am Eucharist followed by coffee and fellowship.
Thursday: 9.45am Contemplative Eucharist followed by coffee and fellowship.

No Thursday service 26 December or 2 January.

Bible Study resumes February 2025.

Christmas Eve: 7pm Service for all the family
Christmas Day: 9.45am Christmas Eucharist

A reader reports that dog poo has been left on the ground in bags by dog walkers in the Ngongotaha Stream Reserve! Do we not have enough rubbish bins, or are people just abusing this treasured walkway?

Stand up young people!

Passionate young people who want to play an active role in shaping their communities are being encouraged to apply for a seat on the Rotorua Youth Council for 2025. This is a unique opportunity for young people to give back to the community by sharing their ideas. It's also a great way to grow their skills and ensure youth are heard.

Mayor Tapsell was a member of the Rotorua Youth Council for two years and helped re-establish the popular Youth Council for 2024. (<https://www.rotorualakescouncil.nz/community/youth-council>)



Personal Readings

Monday to Friday,
by appointment only.

Phone Kerry - 027 640 6007

A New Health Hub for Ngongotaha

Calling Health Professionals: from physiotherapists and counsellors to midwives and other consultants

Here's a cost-effective way to look after Ngongotaha residents' health needs without them having to trek into central Rotorua.

John Caldwell, owner of 12 Western Road, has 9 rooms remaining at affordable pricing, starting from just \$150 + GST per week. Flexible rental terms tailored to tenants' needs. All-inclusive pricing: Rates, Insurance, Electricity, Internet, Office Cleaning.

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Located near the village centre, just a short walk away. Rapidly growing area with 230 new homes planned and a rising population. For professionals starting out or ready to grow, this is an opportunity too good to miss!

For local residents, John asks you to:

1. Spread the word: Let your friends, family, and neighbours know about this exciting development.
2. Connect John with professionals: If you know of any small businesses, health consultants, or specialists who might be interested in setting up shop in Ngongotaha, please encourage them to get in touch.
3. Share your ideas: This hub is for the community, so your input matters. What services do you think would benefit our town the most?

Contact John today at Johnc.realties@gmail.com Phone: 027 482 7129



Brigitte Hohepa Counselling

Mobile: 0272706643

Address: Office 2, 12 Western Rd
Ngongotaha
Rotorua

Email: brigittemaryhohepa@gmail.com

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Athletics Day: Our school Athletics was held on Friday 22nd November. It was a showcase of determination and perseverance, with a number of school records were broken in different age groups. A huge thanks must go to Miss Picard, who organised such a fabulous day.

Thank you to the Boys High students, who supported our tamariki at each event. It was great to be able to have our whānau cheer our tamariki on and I'm sure you were all proud of your children as they gave each activity their all. Our 'Can Do Kid' attitudes were certainly on show.



The **Kahawrite** is our annual school magazine, in which each child has a published piece of writing. That's a lot of stories to enjoy! The children compete to design the front and back covers, and the winners of each age group are on display. Our tamariki eagerly look forward to these being given out at the end of the school year and seeing their own story in print! They love to share their stories with their wider whānau.

Parent Conferences, Sports Prizegiving: To celebrate our tamariki's progress this year, we will be running student-led conferences for all tamariki and their whānau on Thursday 5th December. Once students have shared their learning and their learning progress with their parents, the pool will be open for a swim. In the evening we will celebrate the achievement of our students at our Sports Prizegiving. Many students are involved in a variety of sports thanks to our wonderful volunteer coaches and managers, so a huge **THANK YOU!** to these amazing volunteers.

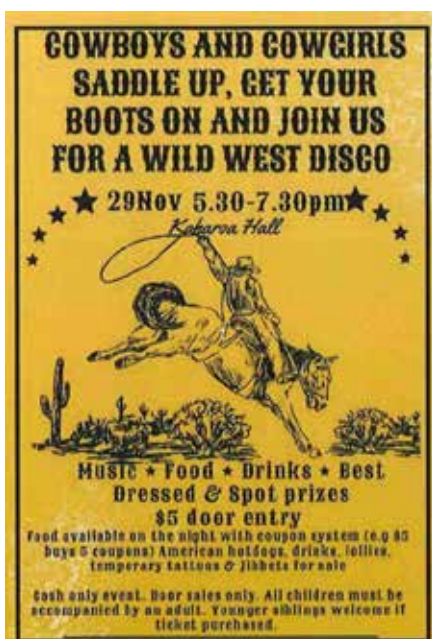


Farewell: With sadness, we farewell Whaea Denise at the end of the term. She has been an outstanding teacher at our kura for many years and we wish her well in her new role at Lynmore Primary School next year.

Welcome: We welcome 4 new teaching staff members in 2025. Julie Andersen will be returning to Kaharoa, and will be teaching in Tōtara Rākau alongside Matua Ryan. Isiah Hamlin is joining us from Auckland, he will be working with year 6 and 7 tamariki in Tōtara Rangiura. Sophia Holland joined us this term and will be continuing on in Room 4 next year. Diane Brown has been teaching intermediate and junior secondary students in NZ and Australia, she will be working in Tōtara Whakairo while Miss Picard is away on maternity leave.

Year 8 Graduation & Prizegiving: It is nearing the time of year when we farewell our year 8s and celebrate their successes throughout their time at Kaharoa. The Year 8 Prizegiving & Graduation is on Tuesday 17th December.

The last day of the term for students is Thursday 18th December.



We have space for new students. Kaharoa School is 13 minutes from Ngongotaha and open for enrolments for 2025 for both primary and intermediate students (Year 1-8). Our pre-school transition visits are held fortnightly on Thursday afternoons with our new entrant teachers (contact the school office for more information if interested).

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

Ngā mihi - The Kaharoa Team



LAKEVIEW GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Unbelievably we have come to the end of 2024! The first month of summer is upon us and the course continues to look fantastic. With the rhododendrons out in full bloom, it is very pretty out on the course. The new native plantings have enjoyed the regular supply of rain since they were planted and the new vista across the lake and out to Mount Tarawera since taking out some trees makes it a very attractive and relaxing environment to be in.

Our Stroke Play Champions have been crowned: a big CONGRATULATIONS to Marcus Lloyd – Seniors; Ropati Fiaola – Intermediates; Chris Erskine-Shaw – Juniors; and Brian Herbert – C Grade. That was our final competition for the year with the Ham Tournaments starting up and going through to club comp closing day on December 14th. It has been a big year for Lakeview with the opening of the new community clubhouse. We are really enjoying the facility and have had some great comments and accolades about how amazing it is. We are super excited to welcome Rachel Beckett to the team at Lakeview as our new Operations Manager! Rachel is a local who many of you may already know. Rachel will help us promote the new facility and all it has to offer. We are really looking forward to working with Rachel. Watch this space for some of her initiatives that sound awesome.

Our trapping programme continues to produce great results with stoats, possums, rats and mice being taken out of the environment so our native bird population can thrive. We thank Melton and Ann Hows for their dedication to this cause checking our traps.

The junior after school sessions are growing in numbers which is just fantastic and Josh now has four school academies running which again is amazing. These will of course take a break over the summer holidays. Josh has been asked to run more ladies' clinics which proved very popular so again next year these will be something to watch out for.

With the holiday season just around the corner we would love to see you at Lakeview for either a game of golf, a session on the driving range, a walk on the course or just to sit on the decking and soak up the awesome atmosphere over a liquid refreshment and some kai.

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 year we wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!

Golf shop phone number is 07 357 2341.

NGONGOTAHA BOWLS


Twilight Bowls

\$5 entry fee Starting **October 17th**

Come join us Thursday nights at 5.00 p.m.
Get a team of 3 or 4 players – we will supply the bowls and show you how.

Have a LAUGH, have FUN, maybe win a prize.
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Club Opening Hours
4pm to 7 pm- everyday
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Contact: nbcbowls@xtra.co.nz 11 Domain Ave, Ngongotaha

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Hon Todd McClay

MP for Rotorua

**Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
and a safe and happy holiday season**

Our office will close on 24th December,
re-opening on 13th January

For urgent matters please phone as
calls will be monitored

07 348 5871
rotorua.mp@parliament.govt.nz
 [toddmccclayforrotorua](https://www.facebook.com/toddmccclayforrotorua)



Authorised by T.McClay, Parliament
Buildings, Wellington.



Hon Todd McClay

Member of Parliament for Rotorua



Merry Christmas Ngongotaha

After a busy year it's time to relax and take some time to enjoy the company of family and friends, enjoy the warm weather and get out and about across the region.

Over the year, significant steps have been taken to re-build our economy, reducing wasteful government spending, delivering much needed tax relief, and reduced childcare cost pressures for hard working families. We promised to restore law and order, and we are delivering on this with four major laws that crack down on criminal activity and give Police stronger powers to tackle gangs.

New targets have been released to achieve better health care, we have replaced the Three Waters reform and introduced a fresh approach to funding and financing necessary infrastructure to rebuild our economy.

I recently attended the opening of the Tiny Homes project steered by Rory O'Rourke from Age Concern. The realisation of this project will help elderly residents live out their lives in specifically

designed units that will meet their needs. Rory was one of three recipients of the Age Concern New Zealand Huia Award for his perseverance and dedication to the project, well-deserved recognition indeed.

A mention must go to our teachers who have worked hard delivering our educational priorities and embracing the new structured literacy programme that will commence early next year to lift student achievement. Also, a big thank you to our emergency responders and health professionals who will be looking after us during the busy summer season.

Please take care travelling over the holiday period, allow extra time to get to your destination and enjoy the journey.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and safe and sun filled holiday season.

Hon Todd McClay

Member of Parliament for Rotorua.

Authorised by T. McClay, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



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Conclusion of the Jobs for Nature Contract: Achievements and Future Directions

Kaimai Kaponga's Three-Year Journey in Environmental Stewardship

Over the past three years, Kaimai Kaponga has successfully completed a highly demanding Jobs for Nature contract, spanning an impressive 30,000 hectares from Ngongotahā to South Road. This initiative has been a vital part of our commitment to the taiao (environment), allowing us to make significant strides in environmental stewardship and kaitiakitanga (guardianship) of the ngahere (forest).

Scope and Achievements

Throughout the duration of this contract, the Tura Ngāti Te Ngākau Iwi Hapū Trust has made remarkable progress in enhancing both capability and capacity in several key areas. Notably, our work in insect and bug studies has been instrumental in assessing the health of Papatūānuku (Earth Mother). These studies, which have included advanced techniques such as eDNA and data sequencing, have been conducted in collaboration with esteemed institutions like the University of Canterbury, Manaaki Landcare Christchurch, and Wilderlab, under the expert guidance of Amy.

Collaborative Efforts and Expertise

Our team comprised an array of experts who brought their specialized knowledge to the forefront:

- Koro Bob Cooper Entomologist
- Steve Pawson Forestry Science
- Manpreet Darmi eDNA Specialist
- Holden Hohaia Manaaki Research Landcare
- Herewini – Insley Scion
- John Gifford Rotorua Lakes Watercare Chairman

These collaborative efforts have not only bolstered our understanding of the ngahere but have also set a precedent for future research and conservation projects. Each member's contribution has been pivotal in achieving the outcomes we celebrate today.

Technological Advancements

A significant portion of our success can be attributed to the integration of cutting-edge technologies. The application of eDNA and data sequencing has provided us with deeper insights into the biodiversity and overall health of Papatūānuku. These methodologies have enabled us to track and monitor insect populations effectively, ensuring that any fluctuations are promptly addressed to maintain ecological balance.

Partnerships and Impact

Our partnerships with the University of Canterbury and Manaaki Landcare Christchurch have been particularly fruitful. These collaborations have facilitated the transfer of knowledge and skills, empowering our team to adopt innovative approaches to environmental monitoring and conservation. Working closely with Amy from Wilderlab has further enriched our understanding, enabling us to harness the full potential of eDNA technology.

Despite our successes, the journey has not been without its challenges. One of the most significant adjustments involved reducing our staff to better align with the evolving needs of the project. This decision, though difficult, was necessary to ensure the continuity and sustainability of our efforts. By streamlining our operations, we have been able to maintain focus on our core objectives and optimize resource allocation.

As we conclude this phase of the Jobs for Nature contract, we look forward to building on the foundations we have established. The knowledge and experience gained over the past three years will serve as a cornerstone for future projects, allowing us to expand our reach and impact. Our ongoing commitment to kaitiakitanga and the health of Papatūānuku remains unwavering, and we are eager to explore new opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

Continued partnership

We plan to strengthen our existing Iwi partnerships with Ngāti Whakaue Ngāti Raukawa Ngāti Ngararanui and seek new alliances with organizations that share our vision for environmental stewardship. By fostering a network of like-minded entities, we aim to amplify our efforts and drive collective action towards sustainable environmental management.

Community Engagement

Engaging with the community and raising awareness about the importance of environmental conservation will be a key focus moving forward. We intend to develop educational programs and outreach initiatives that highlight the significance of kaitiakitanga and encourage active participation in preserving our natural heritage.

In conclusion, the completion of the Jobs for Nature contract marks a significant milestone in Kaimai Kaponga's journey. The achievements of the past three years serve as a testament to our dedication and resilience. As we embark on the next chapter, we do so with a renewed sense of purpose and a steadfast commitment to safeguarding the taiao for future generations.

The outstanding outcomes for our Iwi have been a source of immense pride and inspiration for our community.

Tura Ngāti Te Ngākau

A special mention must go to the Iwi team for their unwavering dedication and exceptional contributions. Mr. Rice has kept a steady ship as chairman, providing strong leadership and guidance. Mr. Edwards, as the senior kaumatua, has been an invaluable source of wisdom and cultural insight. The NTNT have played a crucial role in steering our initiatives towards success.

We are particularly proud of Nirai Reuben, who has completed his first year of a four-year Forestry Science degree, showcasing the bright future of our youth in environmental stewardship. Steve Raureti's completion of the Treaty of Waitangi insect and bug



guidelines for DNA sequencing marks a significant achievement in our commitment to scientific advancement and cultural preservation. Our Kaimahi, who navigate the native and exotic bush have all achieved Conservation Level 3, demonstrating their skill and dedication to safeguarding our natural heritage, implementing the Te Kupenga Trapping system which has increased our biomass opossum quantum.

The support and involvement of our kura, Ngongotaha and Mamaku, as well as the broader community, have been instrumental in our success.

Most importantly, our marae, Parawai and Tarukenga, have been the heart and soul of our endeavours, embodying the spirit of kaitiakitanga and community resilience.

As we celebrate these achievements, we do so with gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility to continue our work for the benefit of future generations. Together, we will forge ahead, inspired by our shared vision and commitment to the wellbeing of our taiao and our people. **TePoari Newton Kaitiaki 2023/24**

Tura Ngati Te Ngakau Iwi-Hapu Trust
Ngati Whakaue ki Ngongotaha
NTNT Holdings - Kaimai Kaponga -
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The Christmas Season Is Upon Us!!



We wish to take the opportunity to thank all of our Patients and the wider Community of Ngongotaha for supporting the Practice throughout 2024 and the Team wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Over the Christmas period the Surgery will be closed on the Statutory Holidays so please remember to order prescriptions well in advance or alternatively you can order your prescription by using My Indici.

On Monday 23, Tuesday 24, Friday 27 December and Monday 30, Tuesday 31 December, Friday 3 January, we will be running all day "Phone First Urgent Clinics" for acute issues. So if you feel you need to be seen the same day, don't come down to the Surgery, simply call our reception from 8.30 a.m. and ask to be put in our "Phone First Urgent Clinic". We will arrange for a doctor or nurse to 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 the practice. Please note that there will only be a single consultation charge whether your issue is resolved by telephone consultation or face to face.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL - The Surgery is once again collecting food and gift items for the Salvation Army to distribute to families in need over the Christmas period. If you would like to contribute – please bring your gift items into the Surgery, and place them in the box in the reception area.



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FOR SALE



5H Preston Road Ngongotaha

This modern home offers a serene, private setting with seamless indoor-outdoor living. Featuring five bedrooms, open-plan living, a wood fire, heat pump, and 12 solar panels, it's both cozy and energy-efficient. A separate shed provides ample storage for vehicles and projects. Close to the lake and bike trails, it's perfect for relaxation or adventure. Spacious, versatile, and beautifully designed, this property is a must-see. Don't miss out - call now!

FOR SALE | Anita Martelli 027 552 6482 | anita.martelli@raywhite.com | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31900

FOR SALE



5/60 Tauranga Direct Road Hamurana

Nestled in the exclusive North Riding Estate, this lifestyle property offers stunning lake and countryside views, lush landscaping, and seamless indoor-outdoor living. With four bedrooms, a glamorous ensuite, alfresco spaces, and a pétanque court, it combines comfort and charm. Enjoy fruit trees, a veggie patch, and a paddock for extra space. Private yet accessible, it's the ultimate retreat. Call Anita today!

BY NEGOTIATION | Anita Martelli 027 552 6482 | anita.martelli@raywhite.com | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31914

FOR SALE



24 Hall Road Ngongotaha (St Barnabas Close)

This lifestyle village offers affordable studio and one or two bedroom units, ideal for secure, independent retirement living. Just a short walk from Ngongotaha's shopping center and services, it's perfect for those seeking a low-maintenance, park-like environment. Explore this unique opportunity today!

By Negotiation
John Piercy 027 446 4549 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31916

FOR SALE



2 Oakland Place Ngongotaha

This modern home offers spacious living, a large kitchen, and seamless flow to a sunny wraparound deck with farmland views. Featuring four double bedrooms, including a master suite, plus double garaging and a shed, it's just 10 minutes from the village. A perfect blend of comfort and lifestyle!

\$995,000
Anita Martelli 027 552 6482 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31839

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Ray White

FOR SALE



263 Central Road Hamurana

This ideal lifestyle property features a four-bedroom brick home with lake and countryside views on a 1.9785 ha section. The home includes open-plan living, a modern kitchen, two bathrooms, a rumpus, and a double garage. The separate cottage offers two bedrooms, a bathroom, and a wood fire. With paddocks and ample space for children, it's perfect for family living. Located near Kaharoa School and Ngongotaha Village.

BY NEGOTIATION | Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 & Anita Martelli 027 552 6482 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31911

FOR SALE



3 Bedwardine Ngongotaha

This lakeside property offers three bedrooms, a sunroom, and a mudroom for easy lake access. A separate two-bedroom cottage awaits restoration or modernization. With a double tandem garage, carport, and storage shed, the property provides ample space. Enjoy easy access to the lake and nearby boat ramp. Just a short stroll to the village and close to Rotorua amenities, it's perfect for a holiday home, permanent residence, or renovation project.

Auction Onsite: 12pm Sat 7th December | Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 | tim.osullivan@raywhite.com | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31888

FOR SALE



3a Operiana Street Ngongotaha

This lakeside property offers stunning views, a three-bedroom home with a sunroom, and a separate two-bedroom cottage ready for restoration. With a double garage, carport, and storage shed, it's ideal for easy lake access, fishing, and village strolls. Close to Rotorua amenities, it's perfect for a holiday home or renovation.

BY NEGOTIATION

Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31912

FOR SALE



2 Preston Road Ngongotaha

This solid Lockwood offers a spacious lifestyle on flat land, perfect for children, pets, and gardening. It's just meters from the lake and an easy walk to Ngongotaha village. The home features 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and two living areas, with recent upgrades including new Nu-wall cladding, double glazing, a new roof, and gutters.

BY NEGOTIATION

Niki Neal 021 348 677 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31836

AGE CONCERN

Steady as you go balance classes have been going well and are very popular. This is a well-researched course developed specifically by Age Concern and running throughout the country, with some of the main centres having up to 25 groups operating. They are being held at the Hindu Centre on Malfroy Road and we have two volunteers who are happy to continue with that group while our staff coordinator starts another group. Initially the sessions are free as we have some funding from Age Concern National, but as we create more groups there will be a small Koha going towards paying for the venue.

This year we are doing something different to celebrate and show our appreciation to our volunteers. We are going to visit the Enchanted Storybook Nook at Oturoa Road. Those volunteers who wish to dress up as a storybook character can do so but it is optional. The Enchanted Storybook Nook is a place for whimsy lovers of all ages to escape the real world, through the wardrobe, along the Yellow Brick Road and down the rabbit hole into childhood wonderment again.

The latest census data released in early October offered a statistical glimpse at the changing face of New Zealand. Captured in 2023, the census showed signs of a few extra wrinkles with a staggering 1.1 million New Zealand residents now aged older than 60 – the latest reminder of how quickly our population is ageing. We also now have a smorgasbord of languages and cultures in our communities as almost 30 percent of usual residents in the country were born overseas.

Population projections released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development last year suggest these trends aren't slowing and we can expect to have as many as 1.5 million New Zealanders aged over 65 within the next 30 years.

Our longevity in New Zealand continued to increase even through Covid when life expectancy went down in the rest of the world.

We are now at a critical place in our demographics, where the number of people aged over 85 is growing fast. That's the baby boomers who are transitioning through into older age.

What the data doesn't fully capture is the fact that many New Zealanders are now living far healthier lives into their golden years, remaining active and engaging in hobbies that long kept them on the move.

Older Kiwis shouldn't give up on this just because they're getting older.

It is encouraging to see people who choose a retirement village sticking with the bowling club, the local library and find reasons to go out. Those activities that make you drive or walk – and all those things keep you connected.

- The Breaking Barriers study, commissioned by Age Concern, showed 59% of Kiwis aged 65+ had recently felt lonely or socially isolated.
- Māori in rural areas face unique challenges and this report underscores the need for equitable access to healthcare and support services for all older adults, particularly Māori kaumātua in rural areas who often face greater barriers to social connection.
- Brazil had the highest percentage of people experiencing loneliness, with 50% of respondents declaring that they felt lonely either often, always, or sometime.

The impact of loneliness and social isolation on the health outcomes of older New Zealanders has reached epidemic levels, according to a new study.

And the report's findings have led health advocates to call on the Government to establish a Ministerial Lead for Loneliness,

similar to ones in the United Kingdom and Japan.

The health burden of loneliness is as damaging as many chronic medical conditions.

A Minister for Loneliness would focus on addressing and reducing social isolation through policy development, community engagement, and mental health advocacy to tackle this "hidden" epidemic.

Older people want to maintain connections with their family and with society.

Staying local means that the elderly aren't isolated and lonely. They still have access to all the things that have always kept them connected, which numerous studies have shown is integral to living a healthier life in your older age.

As the population ages, we will see more people eventually reach the stage of needing care due to medical emergencies or failing health.

This move can be traumatic for some as they confront the reality of having to leave their home.

Planning well in advance and having honest conversations means elderly have choices that suit their lifestyle and desire for the future. No matter what happens, they remain in control of the choices about where they live.

Immigration has always been part of the history of New Zealand, and that continues to be the case as indicated by the proportion of our population born outside the country. This growing diversity is exciting in terms of the evolving concept of what it means to be a New Zealander, but it also comes with challenges.

Merry Xmas - Rory O'Rourke

Tony Kelly

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



What an interesting year I have had.

One of the outstanding features of 2024 has been how much I underestimated the grief of losing my papa last year and the consequences thereof. I now understand how grief can be a real stopping force. There were times the grieving process stopped me from being with groups of people at functions I usually flourish in, it stopped me from being the action man I see myself as and turned me into the invisible man.

Not writing for this newsletter or other publications was also a symptom of that. Grief flipped my world upside down and when I would usually stay after speaking at a large conference, if there was a choice, I left the venue, just like Elvis. Furthermore, if I had a choice of attending in person or being able to attend a board meeting or hui online then I chose online 99% of the time.

So, if you are in the grieving process I understand you and encourage you to take time out to get through that process in your own time and in your own way. Bless.

The other side of that process in 2024 was the awesome friends and whanau who understood where I was at and continued to drag me out for coffee and kai, conferences and korero, golf and goofing around or hui hopping together. We certainly made lots of positive memories throughout 2024 clothed in laughter, peace, aroha and fun. Thank you all.

In just over a month's time on December 1st 2024, I will celebrate my 40th wedding anniversary to my wife, whaiaipo, sweetheart, business partner and life partner Carolyn. This year has been a special year in our marriage on many fronts with her being one of the main instigators of getting me out and about again. I have

also reached my annual quota of "30 dates" which has been one of my annual goals for many years. The key being to declare it as my date because I initiated the event before Carolyn claimed it as one of her dates, because she happened to be paying for it, even though we share all our accounts.

Speaking of sharing, one of the many highlights we shared in 2024 was travelling overseas for a month for business. We added more wonderful memories to our marriage album and have already secured more overseas business ventures and hopefully lots of "dates" for 2025. We have more freedom to do these sorts of things now that our kids have left the nest.

I am looking forward to 2025. Even the number has a good ring about it and my new year's resolutions will start with the same Number one goal I have had for nearly forty years...To stay married to Carolyn. Number two Goal? 30 dates with Carolyn. With her paying for some of them.

Whatever you are doing for Christmas and whatever you plan to do for 2025, I wish you all the best. Wherever you find yourself, whether you are in Awahou, Hamurana, Mamaku, Kaharoa or Ngongotaha I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and enjoyable New Year.

My month overseas showed me that we certainly live in a piece of Paradise on planet Earth. Enjoy!

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>

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A New Years Resolution to help our environment

Let's work together to reduce waste to landfill. The Rotorua Repair Café is a free pop-up event for locals to bring in broken or damaged belongings with local volunteer experts doing their best to repair them. Held on the third Saturday of each month (December excepted), 10am – 12pm @ The Arts Village (Studio 2)

You can register for this repair event on Facebook or by emailing rotoruarepaircafe@gmail.com

What kind of things can I register for repair?

Clothing, Bikes, Small electrical appliances, Laptops, Chainsaw Sharpening, Soft Toys, General items

Where is it?

Studio 2, The Arts Village, 1240 Hinemaru Street, Rotorua

How does it work?

1. Pre-register your item online, you will receive a confirmation email.
2. Bring Parts: If your item requires parts, you need to purchase these and bring them with you to the event.
3. Attend / Sign in: you'll be paired with one of our volunteer repairers who will work with you to identify the issue and potential solution.
4. Be Patient & Kind: our volunteers will do their best to repair or advise next steps but we can't guarantee everything you bring in will be able to be fixed.

What else will be there?

A kid's tinker table is available to keep little ones busy, colouring in and often repair demonstrations.

Is there a cost?

The Rotorua Repair Café is free to attend. Koha is encouraged to enable this service to continue. You can koha during registration or find our white donation bucket on the day to help us continue this service.

Do you have some handy skills to share?

We are always looking for repair volunteers and would love to have you on board. Get in touch via the email rotoruarepaircafe@gmail.com or Meghan on 027 206 9551.

Rotorua Repair Cafe is an event run in partnership with EnviroHub BOP.

'Tis the Season

Why is Christmas like your job?

You do all the work and a fat man in a suit gets the credit...

I think Christmas should be moved to January.
The stores are less crowded and everything is on sale.

My great grandmother got me a PS4 for Christmas
My so-so grandmother got me socks

We can't let Elon get his hands on Christmas.
What's he gonna call that, Xmas?

How did the Jedi know what he was getting for Christmas?
He could sense their presents.



Ngongotaha School


As we reflect on the year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to our entire Ngongotaha community for your unwavering support throughout 2024. This year has been an exceptional one, full of incredible learning opportunities, memorable class trips, and exciting events. We couldn't have achieved everything without the generous contributions of our families and volunteers.

Thank you to those who have supported us by attending class trips, lending a hand with gardening, coaching sports teams, and attending our Matariki Hangi and movie night. Your involvement in the Ahurei kapa haka festival was invaluable, and we appreciate your efforts in making the transition to our new school uniform so seamless and easy. It's been a busy year, but one that has been truly enriched by the collective spirit of our community. We are so lucky to have such a supportive network of parents, caregivers, and friends here in Ngongotaha.

Looking ahead, we are excited for 2025 and all that it will bring. Our last day of school for 2024 will be Thursday 12th, where we will celebrate with our end-of-year prizegiving. After a well-deserved break, we will return on Wednesday 29th January 2025, ready for another wonderful year.

Thank you once again for everything you do to make Ngongotaha School such a special place. Have a restful holiday season, and we look forward to continuing our journey together in the new year. Warm regards,

Craig McFadyen and the team at Ngongotaha School.




*Merry Christmas
& Happy Holidays*

From Progress Ngongotaha
Kokiri Ngongotaha.

Stay safe and we look forward to seeing
you in the New Year.

From Lynn, Bob, Lee, Heather, our volunteer teams
and members of Progress Ngongotaha
Kokiri Ngongotaha.



'Tis the Season

Wife: I regret getting you that blender for Christmas
Me: *sipping toast* why?

Why is it so easy to track Santa on Christmas Eve?
Because he always accepts cookies

What's Donald Trump's favorite Christmas song?
I'm dreaming of a white Christmas 🎵

How to get out of buying your kids Christmas presents
Explain to them that due to Global Warming that the North Pole melted and that Santa and the Reindeer drowned.

What's every parent's favourite Christmas carol? Silent Night."



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'Tis the Season

On Christmas morning, a man is enjoying opening presents with his family but every time he opens a present, he checks to be sure that everything is there...

"Cool, 4 steak knives. 1, 2, 3 and 4!"

"A dozen wrenches? 1, 2, 3, 4....10, 11 and 12! Awesome!" Four wine glasses, neat. 1, 2, 3 and one more makes 4."

This continues on for some time and his family is growing increasingly annoyed with him. Yet he continues on.

"Fifty fishing lures, oh my. 1, 2, 3, 4..."

It is then that a family member finally interrupts him.

God yells at him "Adam! It was one rib and it was years ago. Let it go!"

What's the first thing Mrs Clause did when Santa got home on Christmas morning ? Emptied his sack.

(Compliments of my 7 year old son)

Editor - No he did not understand what he was saying and Yes we did tell him not to repeat it.

What's the most popular Christmas wine?

"I don't like Brussels sprouts!"

A few years ago, I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift.

The next year, I didn't buy her anything.

When she asked me why, I replied, "Because you still haven't used the one I bought you last year!"

And that's how the fight started.

What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense?

Wait, there's myrrh.

What do you call Santa's little helpers? Subordinate clauses.

What does a man who's had a vasectomy and a Christmas tree have in common?

Decorative balls

A man was shopping in town with his wife on Christmas Eve. They got separated so she called him on his phone and said: "Where are you?" The guy said, "Do you remember that little jewellery store we went to last year where you saw the diamond bracelet that you loved but I didn't have enough money to buy it?" She said "Yes! Yes! I remember!" So the guy said, "I'm drinking in the bar next door to that place."



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MERRY Christmas

I would like to wish all my current, past and future clients a fantastic Christmas and safe new year!

Should you be interested what's happening in today's market don't hesitate to contact me!

Angela Parker

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Happenings

12 Dec Last school day at Ngongotaha School
14 Dec Lakeview club competition closing day
14 Dec Mamaku Community Market 8am to 12pm at Mamaku School
29 Dec Agrodome Farmers Market
4 Jan Eastern Fish and Game talk/demo on boat fishing, see their Facebook page
29 Jan First day at Ngongotaha School

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 Jamie Ph: 07 3322818
2nd Wednesday 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 ph 0272923579
2nd Wednesday Friendship Club 9.45 am St Barnabas Church Hall
4th Wednesday Ngongotaha Garden Circle, 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 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 Tauī St
Sunday 9.30 to 11.00 Rotorua Archery Club at Lakeview.
Last Sunday Farmers Market at the Agrodome.

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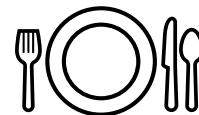
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Keep up to date with ideas/tips, sales, etc

Seasons Greetings from Ros Morshead, solicitor at Lawbox

The festive season is almost upon us. It is one of the best times of the year filled with gorgeous weather, long summer days, family gatherings, and a time for rest and relaxation. However, for many families, the financial stress and expectations, as well as the dynamics of being together day in-day out for several weeks isn't as rosy and can be extremely challenging. Sadly, as any lawyer will tell you, domestic violence, separations and custody/access disputes are rife during this period across all walks of life. Financial pressure can be a contributing cause. Here's some thoughts on managing the dynamics of holiday season finances and relationships

Financial management during the holiday season can be a key source of tension. If things were financially tight beforehand, navigating the balance between spending and maintaining a responsible budget only adds to strained relationships. It's easy to get carried away on food, drink, gifts, travel, socialising etc, causing miscommunication and tension about spending and financial priorities. For New Zealand in particular there is little time for a financial breather before the cost of the new school year (and tax time for some) rolls around barely a few weeks later.

What is evident to me is that often the main breadwinner in the family works long hours during the year, their holiday pay gets paid out, and they simply want to buy some nice things for their children and relax and socialise over the break. Meanwhile, the partner who works equally as hard in often taking on more of the family responsibilities and/or who may earn less money, struggles to keep the finances on track to hold everything together. In some relationships one partner may also control the finances (earning it or spending it), so things are sometimes more complicated. Suddenly, the family is all together for several weeks, there's increased spending on food, gifts, alcohol, gambling, or going away: tension and resentment build, and the relationship snaps.

Coping strategies

While the impact of holiday season finances on relationships can be challenging, here are some coping strategies readers may find useful:

Open communication – try and have an open and honest conversation about holiday season finances, limitations, and priorities early on. See if you can set a realistic budget for gifts, socialising, alcohol, and other holiday spending. Ensure you are both on the same page: it's not about NOT spending, it's about making what you do have go as far as possible.

Mutual understanding - encourage mutual understanding of each other's financial views and be willing to acknowledge and compromise with the other. Recognise that the value of a gift lies in its sentiment, not its monetary value.

Refocus - focus on meaningful traditions and gifts that recognise sentiment and memories, not monetary value or excessive spending. Maybe this year the priority is family time or saving up for a family trip away next year, or some other big expense coming up. There are meaningful ways to enjoy the holiday season without financial strain.

Manage expectations - be realistic about needs, wants, and expectations, including children's. Managing expectations and avoiding the pressure to fit societal norms or succumbing to Christmas 'yell and sell' telly ads can help reduce financial stress and tension. Ensure any gifts are meaningful and avoid getting into debt to pay for them. Gifts don't have to cost a lot of money and can be homemade.

Seek professional help- seeking budgeting advice or relationship (or other) counselling ahead of time can be beneficial if you are both agreeable. Professional guidance can help with a structured approach to managing finances and resolving or preventing underlying issues.

By encouraging open communication, managing expectations, and prioritising meaningful experiences over material gifts and excess spending, it is easier to cope with stress and tension over the holiday season, as well as setting up your finances and relationship for a prosperous New Year. I wish you all a peaceful and happy 2025.

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