

Kick for a Cause Charity Football Event Returns to Ngongotaha

A selection of Rotorua's most well-known identities - including CEOs, school principals, and community leaders - will be lacing up their boots and going head-to-head on the football field this month, as Rotorua's annual charity football event - 'Kick for a Cause' returns to Ngongotaha on Sunday March 16th for its third consecutive year.

Held at Ngongotaha Football Club, the action kicks off at 1pm with the men's match - where the likes of hotel manager Awatere Douglas, humanitarian Trevor Johnston, and business owner Shaquille Stone, will all make their Kick for a Cause debuts.

Aaron Lawrence - the President of Ngongotaha Football Club will also be taking to the field, and is looking forward to bringing his passion for the sport to a cause that matters.

The women's match follows at 2:30pm, featuring netballer Erena Mikaere, singer-songwriter Nikau Grace, para-athlete Siobhan Terry, and property manager Carley Rivers.

For many players, this will be their first time stepping onto a football field. Each of the 4 teams will be supported by local football players, ensuring plenty of on-field guidance, and perhaps a few goal assists. Come and enjoy the food stalls, kids' activities, raffles, and spot prizes that will be available throughout the afternoon.

Entry is by koha (donation), with all contributions - whether monetary or in the form of non-perishable food items - going directly to the Salvation Army to support local families with food packages and other essential support.



Kick for a Cause Rotorua, sponsored and streamed by Local Gecko Productions on Sunday March 16 from 12:30pm onwards at Ngongotaha Football Club on Stenbridge Road
Learn more and donate to support: <https://kick-for-a-cause-rotorua.raisely.com/> Photos courtesy of Karina from SilverMoments Photography

Ngongotaha Garden Circle

The Ngongotaha Garden Circle has had a very successful year, celebrating our 70th anniversary in April with a lovely luncheon for members and guests. We have had several garden visits and enjoyed some interesting speakers. Several new members have been welcomed, helping to ensure that the club will continue to grow in the coming years.

We thank the Ngongotaha community for your support. The raffle held at the A & P Show has been drawn and the winners are:

J. Caulfield - large gift basket

N. Willers - small gift basket

P. Jones - Christmas Cake Thank you to those who purchased tickets

The Garden Circle meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Ngongotaha Hall. If you would like to join us please contact Jill Farr 027 4831648 Christine Johns 0272712883 Jane Moore 027 4735708



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School Road, Ngongotaha

Sunday: 9.45am Eucharist followed by coffee and fellowship.

Thursday: 9.45am Contemplative Eucharist followed by coffee and fellowship.
11.00am Bible Study.

All are welcome.

Missing Bus Shelter!

A reader has pointed out that the bus shelter which used to be on SH 36 between Beaumont Road and Dawson Drive has not been replaced for some time. The bus stop is well used by adults and school children. We have approached NZTA about the process to seek reinstatement. You can lend your support to the case to NZTA by emailing ngongotahanews@xtra.co.nz

School Stories

Johnny was at school and the teacher said, "Someone use fascinate in a sentence."

Sally answered, "The zoo was fascinating." The teacher said, "Sorry, Sally, I said to use fascinate in a sentence."

Maria suggested, "I was fascinated at the zoo." Once again the teacher said, "No, Maria, I specifically said to use fascinate in a sentence."

Johnny said, "My sister has ten buttons on her cardigan." Again the teacher said, "Sorry, Johnny, I said use fascinate in a sentence." Johnny replied, "I know, but her b**** are so big she can only fasten eight."

Exciting News: The Ngongotaha Health Hub Opens This April!

Looking for a cost-effective way to grow your health practice? The new Ngongotaha Health Hub is filling up fast! We still have a few consulting rooms available for passionate health professionals looking to start or expand their business.

Why set up in Ngongotaha?

Affordable rental rates – from just \$150 + GST per week

Flexible lease terms – tailored to suit your needs

All-inclusive pricing – covering rates, insurance, electricity, internet, and office cleaning

Modern facilities – full kitchen, shower, wheelchair-accessible toilets

Convenient parking – both on-site and off-site spaces available

Secure premises – alarm systems for peace of mind

This is a unique opportunity to provide much-needed health services locally—saving residents the hassle of traveling into Rotorua.

Help spread the word!

Know a health consultant, specialist, or small business that could benefit? Let them know!

Have ideas on how this hub can best serve the community? We'd love your input!

Don't miss out—contact John today!

Email: Johnc.realties@gmail.com

Phone: 0274827129



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Dr. Kirsten Laurence
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Progress Ngongotaha Kokiri Ngongotaha Incorporated

Kia ora Koutou, Katoa, Hi Everyone,

It is great to be with you all for another year. If you would like to be involved in shaping Ngongotaha for a positive future, please consider joining Progress Ngongotaha Kokiri Ngongotaha Incorporated and check out our easy affordable membership e: progressngongotaha@gmail.com subject Membership.

We are currently working in The Environment at the Ngongotaha Stream. The Stream Team had their first day back on the 18th January 2025: they report that "Several areas required a general-tidy up and our small team will prioritize the work needed. This year's focus will be on maintaining the existing plantings and structures."

There is a photo on their Facebook page showing "the task of pruning overhanging branches to a clear head height for walkers' safety. Kevin says "There is not so much need for new planting as natural regeneration is evident everywhere along the track." Well Done to our Team of Volunteers who keep this area beautiful for all to enjoy.

Also a 'shout out' to our 'Volunteer Mowing Friend' who keeps the large area of land closest to the Ngongotaha Bridge, mowed frequently for FREE. Thank you for doing this for our community. No, it is not Council who is doing this.

We are also pleased to be supporting the volunteers who are currently working in the Wetland area at the Waiteti Stream. Martyn Evans who is also well known for his volunteer work in Ngongotaha is leading the Wetland Project which we hear is going really well, with the support of

others.

Why are we involved in the community? We want the Best for 'Ngongotaha Our Place', after all we all live here. The following Whakatauki says it all;

**"Eehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini"
"We cannot succeed without the support of those around us."**

Culture and Art

We would like to hear from anyone who is involved in tiling. Our need is not to have a bathroom or kitchen tiled, but we need some more tiles for one of our Art Instalments. In particular you may have noticed the information stand in front of the Log, situated on the far end of the Car Park. This was installed many years ago, way before any of us joined and we are wanting to tidy it up. Over time we have collected some of the tiles that have fallen off, so maybe some copies could be made....somehow??

If this is of interest to you and if you think it could be something you would like to offer to help with, we would like to hear from you please? We will do our best to support you with the resources required. Also, above the Dynasti Cafe stands another artwork which is needing a clean. Maybe you have noticed it too. Please if you are able to help with this task, we would be very happy to hear from you as well.

Pick an Area

Is there an area that you would like to help to keep free of rubbish, and tidy? There may be others of you in our community, who walk regularly and could do a random tidy up as you go. You may already be doing this. If so please let us know.

I used to walk through the Car Park area, picking up rubbish (using a special pick up stick?). After a while, there was less and less to pick up.

I extended my walk towards the Domain over the walk bridge and then under the bridge. I would take note of any repairs that were needed and then Progress Ngongotaha Inc. notified the Council and most of the time, we were not disappointed.

Please contact me if you would like to do this, as your contribution to keeping Our Place Special.

Unfortunately Progress Ngongotaha's computer work has taken centre stage for me and PNKN needs help to keep our eyes open for opportunities for improvement. We need to work together more, as a whole community. Thank you to our members, and those of you who are frequently in contact with us, we love hearing from you.

We focus on:	Currently operating/supporting:
•The Environment	- Ngongotaha Stream Care Team
	Waiteti Wetland Project support
•Local Young People	
•Culture & Art	Forming a Care Team Now
•Ngongotaha History	Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum
•Business Wellbeing	
•Community Safety & Support	- Ngongotaha Emergency Response Plan

We invite you to Join Us and to work with us, to enhance the already great qualities of our community.

**Nga mihi nui
Bye for now
Lynn, Bob, Heather & Lee
progressngongotaha@gmail.com
ph 3574565 or 022 1404391**

Progress Ngongotaha would like to thank Jazz Home Haulage for their valuable assistance. Phone 021 293 5244

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Term 1 for EquiSucceed NZ started back on the 10th Feb and we were delighted to welcome all of our horses, staff, volunteers and riders back after a great break. The 2024 year finished on a high with over 1800 therapeutic rides provided and 75 riders from the community enrolled. We are looking forward to another successful year in 2025.

Our Golf Fundraiser at the tail end of last year turned out to be a stunner of a day at Arikikapakapa Rotorua Golf Club with over \$10,000 raised. A heartfelt thanks to all the teams and sponsors that made this possible. It means we



are able to keep the cost per ride down for those in our community who really benefit from this service.

Our arena and facilities are also now available for private hire. Not just a space for riding lessons but also canine training, children's birthday parties, camping groups and more.

If you would like to find out more about sponsorship for 2025 or arena hire then we would love to hear from you.

manager@equisucceed.co.nz

Registered Charity CC3893

School Stories

The teacher was horrified to hear Little Timmy swear. "I never want you to use language like that again. Where on earth did you pick it up?"

"From my father." said Johnny. "Well, he should be ashamed of himself. And it's no reason for you to talk like that. You don't even know what it means."

I do." said Timmy. "It means the car won't start."

The teacher called Little Timmy to her desk. She said: "This essay you've written about your pet dog is exactly the same essay your brother has written."

"Of course it is." said Timmy. "It's the same dog."

Teacher: "Who do you want to be when you grow up?"

Timmy: "I want to follow in my father's footsteps and be a policeman."

Teacher: "I didn't know your father was a policeman."

Timmy: "He isn't. He's a burglar."

In a Catholic school cafeteria, a nun places a note in front of a pile of apples, "Only take one. God is watching."

Further down the line is a pile of cookies. A little boy makes his own note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

Teacher: "Why are you late?"

Timmy: "Because of the sign."

Teacher: "What sign?"

Timmy: "The one that says, 'School Ahead, Go Slow.'"

Ngongotaha Medical Centre Limited

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



2025 – FLU VACCINATIONS

The Flu Vaccine for 2025 is expected to arrive in early April, but as of yet, no definitive date has been advised

- ❖ We are holding Flu Clinics on Tuesdays & Wednesdays throughout April and May, between 8.30 a.m. and 12.00 p.m. and again from 1.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
- ❖ If you meet the following criteria, a FREE flu vaccination may be possible.
 - ❖ You are 65 years of age or older
 - ❖ You are pregnant
 - ❖ You have a chronic condition; Including Heart Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, Diabetes or another specified conditions (check with the Surgery)

Please phone the Surgery for an appointment or if you have any questions



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Hon Todd McClay

MP for Rotorua

Delivering for Rotorua

If we can help, please give me
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1301 Amohau Street

rotorua.mp@parliament.govt.nz



Authorised by Todd McClay,
Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Hon Todd McClay

Member of Parliament for Rotorua



Regional Tourism Boost to grow the local economy.

Rotorua's local tourism businesses are the best in the world.

Ngongotaha has Velocity Valley, Agrodome, and Canopy Tours just up the road and when you have the best, you want everyone to know it.

The Government is investing \$3 million through the Regional Tourism Boost fund to attract more international visitors this autumn and winter.

With Tourism one of the key drivers of economic growth in Rotorua, this fund will help bring more visitors and support local accommodation providers, cafes, tour operators, and retail businesses. More visitors mean more jobs, more opportunities for local people, and a stronger economy for Rotorua.

This \$3 million fund is all about giving regions a boost, it's not just about increasing visitor numbers, but about making sure communities like ours see the real economic benefits. The fund will support regions to work together and show the world what they have to offer, with visitors able to explore multiple parts of New Zealand.

The Regional Tourism Boost contestable fund will open at the end of February for existing or new activities that can be delivered between April and July 2025. The fund is open to groups of collaborating organisations and include at least two Regional Tourism Organisations to increase visitation and promote regional travel over the Autumn/Winter season.

Alongside the recently launched tourism marketing campaign in Australia, this is part of the Governments commitment to economic growth. More international visitors to Ngongotaha will bring more customers for local businesses, more jobs for locals, and a stronger economy.

Todd McClay
Member of Parliament for Rotorua
Minister of Agriculture
Minister of Forestry
Minister for Trade and Investment
Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs

Authorised by T. McClay, Parliament Buildings, Wellington



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OUR SINCERITY

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LAKEVIEW GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Autumn is officially upon us! The summer dry was relieved slightly with a nice lot of rain toward the end of February which gave the course a very light tinge of green although a little bit more rain (at night would be perfect!) is really needed to make the fairways a bit greener. We will make the most of the sunny days though as winter is not far away sadly.

The competition opening day was a great success. Congratulations to Francis Lockwood and Americus Mani on winning the day! Always cool to see the younger players having success. During March the Match Play Championships are played with the Vice Captains Trophy starting at the end of the month. Greens renovations aka coring starts the week of 24th March.

Vets golf is still running every Tuesday from 9.15am. This is open to all ages not just senior golfers and is a social game of golf with meat pack prizes bar and catering afterwards. This is a great chance to meet people and stay connected while getting exercise and having fun. All welcome, register from 9.00am.

The February ladies' clinics were well supported. Josh is running these through March as well. Dates for March are 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd 1pm- 1.45pm. These will be covering the basic fundamentals of the full swing, chipping and putting in an encouraging and relaxed atmosphere. So come on ladies, if your New Year resolution was to try something new, give Josh a call.

The girls only clinics also continue through March. Dates are as follows- March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd from 12pm – 12.45pm. These will teach the basics of golf covering the full swing, chipping and

putting but most importantly social connection while having fun and building confidence. To register email info@fourstripesgolf.com or call Josh 021 072 0379

Venue bookings continue to be very popular which is just fantastic! With the conference season on the way we remind everyone that we not only have the large main lounge space but also two meeting rooms. These are ideal for the smaller meetings but of course have access to the beautiful outlook from the main lounge for break outs and recess activities. Contact Rach to book your meeting/conference or celebration event. Email events@lakeviewgolf.co.nz

QUIZ NIGHTS ARE BACK!!! These will be held at the end of each month starting February so register your team for the March quiz with Rach. Same quiz master new clubhouse! Kai and liquid refreshments are available.

February 15th saw our FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY since the old clubhouse burned down!! Incredible to think that it has been five years but all the hard work and stress was worth it when we look at what we have managed to achieve, which is absolutely amazing. We are planning a GRAND opening in April and will be involving the whole community in our celebrations. So, watch this space for more info. Spoiler alert a community photo competition will be happening!

Rotorua Archery Club hold 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 last of the summer garden harvest!

Golf shop phone number is 07 357 2341.

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
MAMAKU SCHOOL TWILIGHT GALA

54 TARENA STREET MAMAKU
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Local girl appearing in Shorty!

Madison Southall, a former pupil at Kaharoa School, has had her first screening on Shortland Street as patient Isla Goodwell. She has a feature role on the series, lasting about 6 weeks.

From a young age, Madison's love for the screen began with a passion for movies and filming.

At just 11 years old, her dedication and talent drove her to refine her skills through acting classes, workshops, and studying renowned actors and directors.

Despite her youth, she approaches each role with a dedication beyond her years, immersing herself in characters and becoming a captivating storyteller.

Madison's commitment to authenticity and joy in acting make her performances truly memorable, infecting those around her with enthusiasm. (Courtesy TMH Management)

Congratulations Madison!

School Stories continued

*A little 10-year-old girl was walking home, alone, from school one day, when a big man on a black motorcycle pulls up beside her.
After following along for a while, turns to her and asks,*

"Hey there little girl, do you want to go for a ride?"

*"NO!" says the little girl as she keeps on walking.
The motorcyclist again pulls up beside her and asks,*

"Hey little girl, I will give you \$10 if you hop on the back."

*"NO!" says the little girl again as she hurries down the street.
The motorcyclist pulls up beside the little girl again and says,*

"Okay kid, my last offer! I'll give you 20 Bucks "and" a Big Bag of lollies if you will just hop on the back of my bike and we will go for a ride."

Finally, the little girl stops and turns towards him and Screams Out...

"Look Dad" "You're the one who bought the Honda instead of the Harley ...YOU RIDE IT!!".....

At a girls' boarding school, a WW2 flying ace has been invited to give the Prize Day address. "I was flying along in my Spitfire, and visibility was poor, but all of a sudden the fog lifted, and I saw these fokkers coming up behind me. I dived on them and shot two of the fokkers down, then did a quick roll, but there was a little fokker right on my tail, and I had to ..."

At this point, the Headmistress intervenes. "Girls, Fokker was a manufacturer of aircraft, used by the Luftwaffe."

"Very true, ma'am!" says the RAF pilot. "But these fokkers were Messerschmidts."



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Being a dedicated and goal orientated athlete, Lisa knows that to win, you have to work hard. Having worked alongside a high performing agent as a licensed personal assistant, Lisa has developed exceptional organisation skills, together with well-honed negotiation skills. Understanding no two days in real estate are the same and being able to change gears swiftly without missing a gear, is important. Lisa is honest to the core, caring and has a 100% go-the-extra-mile personality; it's simply how she is built. Her own family values perfectly align with that of the Bayleys' family and indeed the brand - *He tangata* - it's all about the people.

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lisa.thompson@bayleys.co.nz

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Ngongotaha Under 13's 2025 Rugby Team.

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We even have a "make an offer" table full of trinkets and treasures!

The Rotorua Night Market is just around the corner, so bring the family, grab a bargain then grab some dinner after the auction!



Plus loads more - Ask us for a copy of the auction catalogue or pop into our office to view the items!
07 348 8333 | rotorua.nz@raywhite.com

COME ALONG AND BAG A BARGAIN!

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Ray White

FOR SALE



23/60 Tauranga Direct Road Road Hamurana

Nestled in North Riding estate, this home offers peace, privacy, and stunning views of Rotorua Lake and Mokoia Island. Ideal for a retired couple, it's the perfect size for easy living and entertaining. Immaculately maintained with sunny, spacious living areas, off-street parking, and a garage, it offers excellent value.

By Negotiation | Niki Neal 021 348 677 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT32029

FOR SALE



5h Preston Road, Ngongotaha

5 Bedrooms | 2 Living | 2 Bathrooms | 2+ Garaging
Spacious, Superb & Serene

By Negotiation

Anita Martelli 027 552 6482 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31900

FOR SALE



5/60 Tauranga Direct Road, Hamurana

4 Bedrooms | 2 Living | 2 Bathrooms | 2 Garaging
Lifestyle Living at its Best

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FOR SALE



13 Operiana Street, Ngongotaha

4 Bedrooms | 1 Living | 2 Bathrooms | 2 Garaging
Sophistication in the Right Location

Sale By Deadline: 13.03.25 (unless sold prior)

Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT32035

FOR SALE



180 Parawai Road, Ngongotaha

3 Bedrooms | 1 Living | 2 Bathrooms | 2 Garaging
Private and Idyllic

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Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT32016

FOR SALE



77 Mokoia Road, Ngongotaha

4 Bedrooms | 2 Living | 3 Bathrooms | 2 Garaging
Lakeside Luxury, Mokoia in View

By Negotiation

Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31952

FOR SALE



263 Central Road, Hamurana

6 Bedrooms | 2 Living | 3 Bathrooms | 2 Garaging
Lifestyle Home With Cottage

By Negotiation

Anita Martelli 027 552 6482 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31911

Ray White Rotorua & Ngongotaha

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Ray White

FOR SALE



36 Hall Road Ngongotaha

This 4 bedroom home has the appeal of modern updates with a deck for summer & a pellet fire for when it's cooler. The huge shed with its mechanics pit offers the ultimate space for vehicle enthusiasts or as a games room. Set on a large section close to the city and Ngongotaha Village.

Sale By Deadline: 20.03.25 (unless sold prior) | Anita Martelli 027 552 6482 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT30592

FOR SALE



322 Ngongotaha Road, Ngongotaha

4 Bedrooms | 1 Living | 2 Bathrooms | 2 Garaging
Too Many Options to List

Sale By Deadline: 20.03.25 (unless sold prior)
Anita Martelli 027 552 6482 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT32040

FOR SALE



85 Ngongotaha Road, Ngongotaha

3 Bedrooms | 1 Living | 1 Study | 1 Bathroom | 3 Garaging
Quarter Acre, Plus Extras

By Negotiation
Jodi & Kerif 021 159 7132 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31964

FOR SALE



9 Kinder Place, Ngongotaha

4 Bedrooms | 1 Living | 2 Bathrooms | 2 Garaging
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FOR SALE



43 Tauhi Street, Ngongotaha

4 Bedrooms | 1 Living | 1 Study | 1 Bathroom
Anglers Dream on the Stream

By Negotiation
Jodi & Kerif 021 159 7132 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT31996

FOR SALE



10 Bruce Street, Ngongotaha

3 Bedrooms | 2 Living | 1 Bathroom | 2 Garaging
Stepping up to Self Sufficient

\$795,000
Leanne Leef 021 835 915 | rwrotorua.co.nz ROT32048

Another
SOLD



15 Ranginui Street, Ngongotaha

4 Bedrooms | 2 Living | 2 Bathrooms | 1 Garaging

SOLD
Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986

Age Concern

Denis Arnott, one of our valued members, was awarded a Dignity Champion Award from Head Office for his valuable contribution to the elderly of Rotorua. Denis used to be a shopping volunteer until he could no longer drive so he purchased a Mobility Scooter which he had for about six months and then felt the need to upgrade to a sleeker, faster machine. He donated his original Scooter to us to be loaned, at no cost, to any member who had a need for a short term, or a long-term ability to get around and do shopping or join in social connection groups. Besides that, he belongs to a Social Wellness group which meets on a Thursday, and it is not uncommon for him to do some baking for the group. Denis is a deserving recipient of the Award, and he receives 20 to 30 frozen meals donated by Frozen Fresh group. We still have 2 mobility scooters for indefinite loan at no cost to any members of Age Concern. If you would like one just join Age Concern for \$20.00 and apply.

Our Garage Sale, held at the Hindu Heritage Hall, was a great deal of hard work for the \$1,000.00 we made. There were an awful lot of goods left which we gave to Love Soup to give away for free.

We have formed a partnership with Love Soup, and we are the recipients of the leftover School lunches which are frozen and we give out to our members in need. Our next project is to build some raised vegetable gardens so we can send out some vegetables with our frozen meals.

I have several single and married members who would be happy to downsize to a tiny home which they would purchase. We could set up a Pocket Neighbourhood of like-minded elderly if we could find some land to be gifted to Age Concern or, at the very least, leased to the householders who would pay a minimal lease. If you are in a position to do this, please ring me and make someone's day.

A growing number of over-65s are reliant on NZ Super. In fact, 40 percent have virtually no other income and 20 percent have only a little more. Even with NZ Super as it stands, only 43 percent of New Zealanders are confident they will have a financially comfortable retirement. NZ Super can provide a higher level of financial security than some may have previously encountered. It's particularly significant for individuals with disabilities, carers, those who have experienced irregular employment periods, or have received low pay throughout their working lives.

Presently, many older New Zealanders are working beyond the age of eligibility to NZ Super, some because they choose to but many because they need to cover remaining mortgage payments, rental obligations, or have insufficient savings. Many will need to fund 30 years or more past the pension age. Every day about 80 people turn 65 and 20 people turn 85. By 2050, these numbers will be 95 and close to 60. With an ageing population, it's no secret that expenditure on NZ Super will increase as more people become eligible. But while an aging population is important to understand, it can't be considered in isolation. Housing affordability is a growing concern for the over-65 population. Growing numbers of people over 65 are facing high housing costs or do not have access to housing wealth they could

draw down to support themselves. There are significant disparities in income and wealth among the over-65 population – particularly between people in work and those not in work, and between people who have accumulated housing and other wealth and those who haven't been able to.

And it's not just the population over 65 we need to think about. There is a growing generation of people – sometimes called the sandwich generation – caring for both their children and their ageing parents which is likely to impact their own retirement saving. So, imagine the implications if NZ Super did not exist, or if it were changed so it no longer provided an adequate buffer against pension poverty.

NZ Super is a taonga to be treasured, not a burden.

Rory O'Rourke, Manager



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Community Halls: Feedback to be sought on Long-term strategy

Community input will be sought to aid the development of a long-term strategy for Rotorua district's community halls for consideration in the next Long-term Plan. Rotorua Lakes Council members have received a briefing on community halls that included background, the condition of halls, known usage, financial status and current known issues.

Background

Rotorua has 10 halls, in Kaharoa, Ōkāreka, Mamaku, Ngakuru, Ngongotaha, Reporoa, Rerewhakaaitu (2), Waikite Valley and Reporoa, built by the various communities they serve between 1945 and 1980 and vested with council in the mid-1980s.

The halls serve about 9,390 residents in total and are used for social and community activities.

Currently, each hall is overseen by a committee which is responsible for, among others, the following tasks:

- managing bookings and usage;
 - reporting to council quarterly on usage and identified issues;
 - collecting and depositing booking revenue into council accounts;
 - notifying the council of any identified maintenance issues;
 - overseeing facility cleaning.
- Council uses preferred suppliers to carry out compliance checks and undertake building maintenance and renewals, within the limits of allocated budgets.

Continued on p17

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11 Domain Ave, Ngongotahā

Hall assessments

Last year, council conducted initial structural assessments of all community halls, resulting in the interim closure of the Reporoa and Mamaku halls due to identified structural compliance issues. Interim interventions on these two halls are now in progress.

Remedial work has begun on Mamaku Memorial Hall with completion proposed for approximately February 2025.

The council is now working on developing a long-term facility management plan for all halls to address required interventions for critical structural elements, such as frames and foundations

and other essential internal components, including electrical, plumbing, and painting, to ensure appropriate maintenance of the halls to fit their purpose and usage. The economic lifespan of a building is approximately 75 years.

Community insights

Feedback from communities to date indicates they highly value their halls as central hubs for social interaction and community activities and want to see better coordination between use and maintenance. The council will continue to gather public input regarding all community halls.

Council will look to go out to communities to seek their feedback on the long-term plan for halls. Input from the public will help to determine the ideal number of halls needed for the district and whether to upgrade, maintain, or replace current facilities.

Local community halls statistics

Ngongotaha 3816 people Usage hours 2023 approx 950 H & S priority for action: cladding and roof; non-critical, remedial action needed within 12 months: window/door, drainage, internal lining, walls/doors. Balance general maintenance OPEX \$28,036, Revenue \$22815

Mamaku 1107 People Usage hours 2023 approx 200 H & S priority for action: window/door, structural, roof, drainage, internal linings, walls/doors, flooring substructure, ceiling. Balance general maintenance OPEX \$44883, Revenue \$3170

Kaharoa 549 people Usage hours 2023 approx 375 General maintenance only OPEX \$28,899 Revenue \$2,003

Sources: Rotorua Rural Connect – Karen Barker Dec 2024 and RLC

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Ngongotaha School Update

The much-anticipated Ngongotaha School Gala is just around the corner! On Friday, March 21st, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, the school grounds will come alive with exciting activities, stalls, raffles, and entertainment. This is a fantastic opportunity for the whole family to come together, and we'd love to see everyone there!

A heartfelt thank you to the many local businesses who have generously supported the event. We'll be displaying their names on the school noticeboard, so be sure to check it out. We truly appreciate the community's support in making this event possible!

We're also looking forward to our annual school Tryathlon on March 5th! This fun event gives our students the chance to swim, bike, and run around the school in a friendly and exciting competition. It's always a highlight of the year, and we can't wait to see the kids in action!

In education news, Ngongotaha School continues to make great strides in literacy and numeracy. Through the Government's refreshed curriculum, we're dedicating an hour each day to reading, writing, and maths. Over the past two years, we've seen impressive progress with our junior students using the Better Start Literacy Approach, and we're now building on that success with structured programs like The Code for reading and writing, and Oxford Maths to strengthen numeracy skills.

Our students have also been enjoying daily swimming lessons in our school pool, which is currently a comfortable 29 degrees. It's been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm and progress in the water!



Sport is in full swing, with touch rugby and netball teams already underway, and our Tuesday afternoon mountain biking rides are proving popular. Students are also getting involved in a weekly golf academy at Lakeview Golf Club, where they're learning new skills on the course with the guidance of Josh.

We're excited to host our first GREAT Start session for nearly 5-year-olds on February 28th. This is a fantastic opportunity for the new students to meet their teacher, see their new class, and make some new friends ahead of starting school later this year.

Mrs. Ngatai has been organizing a Water Safety Program in collaboration with Te Waiariki Pura Trust. All our senior classes have participated in two days of water-based activities that teach essential safety skills in a fun and engaging way.

We hope to see you at the Gala on March 21st and at the Tryathlon on March 5th! Thank you for your continued support in helping our school and community thrive.

Craig and the team at Ngongotaha School



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Kaharoa School

Tēnā koutou whānau

What a busy start to the year we have had!

Making the most of the fine weather, Kaharoa School has held a triathlon, competed in our school swimming sports, and the seniors

enjoyed a trip to the Blue Lake. And of course, our tamariki are enjoying regular swimming lessons in our now very well-heated pool.



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Blue Lake trip: The senior school spent the first few days welcoming many new students and working together to set our school culture. Activities included lots of team-building fun, house tabloids, and a day spent at the Blue Lake.



Triathlon: We held our school triathlon on Wednesday 5th 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.

Swimming Sports: Our School swimming sports were held on Friday 21st 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 skills in the afternoon.

Kaharoa School hosts the **Rural Interschool Swimming Sports** on Friday 7th March. This is always a great day, when our rural schools have the chance to compete against one another. It is wonderful to see each school cheering on their schoolmates as they give it their all.



Team Tōtara: Maketū Beach Camp 2025: Our senior students have a Beach Camp at Maketū in week 7. This camp is designed to build team unity, student character, and offer students a fun and engaging experience.

Dates: Year 7-8 students: Monday 10th March - Wednesday 12th March 2025

Year 5/6 students: Wednesday 12th March - Friday 14th March 2025

Where: Maketū, Mount Manganui, Tauranga (staying overnight at Whakaue Marae in Maketu)

We will be doing a variety of fun activities, including:



Beach Education Course: This programme is organised by Surf Life Saving New Zealand and includes clubhouse, beach, and water activities.

Students use critical thinking in order to learn life-saving knowledge; including how to identify and escape from rip currents and how to practice safe, fun ocean activities.

Rocktopia: Rock climbing, vertical slide, and leap of faith.

Waimarino Adventure Park: We are doing the 3D Team Building Programme.

Other: May include visiting the rock pools, swimming in the estuary, and beach activities (sand-based).



Madison has her first TV appearance!

Madison Southall, an ex-Kaharoa student, had her first screening on Shortland Street as patient Isla Goodwell, earlier this month. She has a feature role on the show lasting around six weeks.

Maddison is a very talented actress with a bright future ahead of her, a huge congratulations Madison and best of luck for your future acting career!



Well done to Kyra for volunteering at Cubs. In term 4 2024, Kyra helped the cub scouts by running part of the night's activities and helping the cubs get more badges by sharing her knowledge.

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). 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

Happenings

7 Mar Rural Interschool Swimming Sports at Kaharoa School
9 Mar Open Garden Lux Organics: koha to a cause. Register at www.openfarms.co.nz
10th - 12th Mar Team Tōtara Maketu Beach camp Y7/8 Kaharoa School
12th - 14th Mar Team Tōtara Maketu Beach camp Y5/6:Kaharoa School
21 Mar Ngongotaha School Gala 4-7 pm
23 Mar Early Morning Chorus with the Birds - Kaharoa Kokako Trust: free, register events humanitix.com/early-morning-chorus-with-the-birds
27 Mar Forest & Bird AGM 7.30 Netherlands Society Clubrooms, Neil Hunt Park, Tarawera Rd. Speaker: Gary Coker, Open Spaces Operations Advisor, Rotorua Lakes Council. For other Rotorua Sustainable Backyards, go to www.envirohub.org.nz

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? Come and share your passion 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 Thurs Junior Golf after school Lakeview Golf & 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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NGONGOTAHA INDOOR BOWLS

Monday 3rd February Roll Up. For the start of the bowls season we had very hot conditions for our first night. Most of the players were back plus a new player Trevor Powell. Welcome to our club. Let's hope he stays because I can see him becoming an excellent bowler. Was good to be back and I think Bruce Wiggins was pleased to see me as he likes a challenge against me. No real winners for the night we just had a fun night getting back into bowls.

Monday 10th February Opening Night. Tonight we had our new Patron Denise Sturt roll up the first bowl for the night. It was good to see her stay and join in, I think she enjoyed it so maybe she will come back and play. We had another new bowler tonight Colin Rolfe who does outdoor bowls so he could be someone to watch out for. The winners for tonight were Kevin Whyte and Grahame Turner. Kevin's team was hard to beat. Runners up were Richard Mills and Colin Rolfe. Booby prize went to Greg Chase and Denise Sturt.

Monday 17th February Roll Up. As I was not there I was told it was just a normal night of bowling. There were no winners for the night. Anyone looking at playing bowls can contact: Richard Mills Kevin Whyte 07 3323623 07 3574766 Photo: Patron Denise Sturt



School Again

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high-school reunion...

And I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table.

My wife asked, 'Do you know her?'

'Yes,' I sighed, 'She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since.'

'My God!' says my wife, 'Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?'

Vladimir Putin, wanting to get on the good side of voters, goes to visit a school in Moscow to have a chat with the kids. He talks to them about how Russia is a powerful nation and how he wants the best for the people.

At the end of the talk, there is a section for questions, Little Alina puts her hand up and says "I have two questions"

"Why did the Russians take Crimea? And Why are we sending troops to Ukraine?"

Putin says "Good questions" But just as he is about to answer, the bell goes, and the kids go to Lunch.

When they come back, they sit back down and there is room for some more questions. Another girl, Tatiana, puts her hand up and says "I have Four questions"

"My Questions are - Why did the Russians invade Crimea? Why are we sending troops to Ukraine? Why did the bell go 20 minutes early? And Where is Alina?"

I asked my son why he started doing so well in math after we sent him to a Christian school.

He said he didn't want to end up like the guy they nailed to the plus sign.

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Undue influence/ duress/coercion

One of the less pleasant aspects of lawyering are situations where a vulnerable person is impacted by undue influence, duress or coercion (UDC). When boiled down, UDC centres around someone else holding the balance of power or trying to manipulate or exert coercive control over another person or a situation in one way or another.

When speaking with clients I often chat about unrelated things looking out for possible mental incapacity as well as any signs of UDC. Some common examples of vulnerability might include one of the partners in a domestic relationship and elderly people but could also be any relationship where there is a stronger party that is or could exert power or control over another. Two instances of UDC have occurred in my office fairly recently.

A long-standing elderly client makes an appointment and advises he's bringing in his son with him. Sadly, I already know why the son is coming in: he's been pressuring his vulnerable elderly parent about preserving inheritances. And so it was. My client shares his significant health deterioration and has likely only months to live. His second wife of 30+ years is in dementia care already. Any estate is going to be modest in the vicinity of \$200k.

The son starts talking over his father that he's come in to sort out his father's share of the estate, so he and his siblings don't get disinherited by it all going to my client's wife by survivorship and spent on her dementia care and likely not being told by her children when she eventually passes away.

Things become a bit heated with the son, and my client points out that it is me that acts for him, and that he wants to make sure that his estate is used for his wife's ongoing care before any inheritances. It was evident to me the purpose of the appointment was so the son could hear what my client's wishes were and to get the son off his back. My client knew I'd back him up. The son packed up in a huff and left.

The other incident that occurred recently is one of those situations where someone tries to elicit information about the contents of an elderly person's will. In this case my elderly client has advancing dementia but is still mentally capable.

She got her affairs in order a couple of years back with an updated will and powers of attorney to a daughter for personal care and welfare (with whom my client owns a share in a house where they both live), and the husband of another daughter (who both live overseas) appointed for property. Neither document comes into effect until my client is deemed incapable by her doctor. There have been several attempts over the years by the husband to find out the contents of my client's will.

Reading between the lines, his underlying concern is whether my client has left her share in the house in her will to the daughter who owns the other share in the house - and looks after my client - effectively disinheriting the husband's wife. I have found his manner to be quite domineering and manipulative with a view that because he is the property attorney he's entitled to it: he's absolutely not while my client still has capacity, or until she instructs me to provide him a copy.

Notably, I haven't ever had an approach from either of my client's own daughters for the same information. I politely indicated that I can only provide a copy of my client's personal documents on her instructions and suggest that perhaps my client could call me if she wanted a copy, or I can arrange a home visit with it.

By now I am very concerned my quite vulnerable client is being pressured by the husband over releasing a copy of her will. I had resolved to go and see her in person with a copy if it became necessary.

Still pushing, he casually emails me a week later and says that everyone has gone out and he is sitting with my client who can't recall what is in her will and could I email a copy through to his email address ... Unbelievable! The answer was, of course, reiterating the same as I had relayed previously.

The takeaway from this month's column is that UDC is alive and well everywhere, and to think twice when trying to pressure anyone or their lawyer for information because it does not reflect well.

This article has been prepared for Ngongotaha News by Ros Morshead, solicitor at Lawbox Rotorua.

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