Editor: Philippa Wills 021283 7006

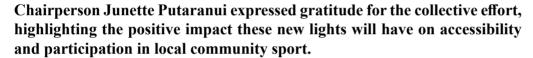
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June 2023

Sponsors Night at Ngongotahā **Sports and Community** Association

The Association has successfully upgraded the training lights for its playing fields, made possible through the incredible support of the community. Funding for this project was generously provided through grants from Rotorua Trust, the Community Facilities Fund (Department of Internal Affairs), and Rotorua Lakes Council. Additionally, Roger Ngatai,

Sefton Electrical and KDB Contracting, Kas Hohneck offered invaluable in-kind support, ensuring the completion of this initiative.



Pictured: Te Whanau Rika & Wharekura are presented with their new shirts at the Sponsors Night on 24 April.

Ngongotaha Four Square co-owner and rugby sponsor Grant Plummer presents Boston Tuhakaraina with his strip at the start of the rugby season.







Elijah Fonotia

The son of Ngongotaha rugby player Daniel Fonotia, Elijah Fonotia is finishing his schooling at Boys' Latin School of Maryland. At 195 cm tall, the 18 year-old is playing basketball and working towards his big goal to play in the NBA or any professional basketball.

His Mum, Julia Fonotia, says he is dedicated: he gets up early to go the gym three days per week, works two jobs to help toward his costs, and trains with three different teams throughout the week. During his break, he will play at home in June for Ngongotaha Prem Mens Team.

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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

Farewell to Ngongotaha Lions Club

Ngongotaha Lions are dissolving due to lack of members. They will hold their Annual Magic Show on 20 May and will be making a presention to Ronald McDonald House with accumulated proceeds. More information will be in the next issue of Ngongotaha News.

St Barnabas OpShop

St Barnabas Opshop (in the heart of Ngongotaha) invited the residents of the Care Village to a morning of bargain hunting. Several of the residents attended and enjoyed a morning of rummaging through the clothes, shoes, books, etc. A morning enjoyed by all.

Te Waiteti Stream Mouth Wetland Project 2025 April 27

A group of us spent a good couple of hours grubbing out broom, gorse, blackberries and lilies last Saturday morning. The water level is too high to walk the peninsula, so grubbing out the simpler plants took up our energy. We will set up a Friends of the Waiteti Stream Mouth Wetland Project on Facebook next... Martyn Evans 0273540079

Invitation from Rotorua Lakes Council

You are invited to contribute to the Ngongotahā Village Development Framework for a shared vision for the village's future—supporting resilient growth, revitalising the town centre, strengthening community identity, enhancing public spaces, and guiding future investment and development.

Ngongotaha Hall Wednesday, 14 May drop in from 1.00 and 7.00 pm

THE BIG MARBLE MEMORIAL AT AWAHOU MARAE

I wrote this article for our Anzac @ Awahou hui ten years ago. I read it at this year's 2025 Anzac @ Awahou and it seemed as relevant now as it was ten years ago. So, I thought I would republish it here today. Feel free to go for a drive up Gloucester Road where the memorial can be seen on our marae. We look forward to hosting you there next year.



Interestingly, as I was reading this article at our 2025 Awahou Anzac service I "had a moment" where I saw my tiny young skinny self, lying on the memorial base trying to get warm after one of my many swims in the river across from the marae. He looked up and smiled at me and I almost lost it while I was reading. We shared a few quick words. I guess we do not know where life will take us or return us to. Enjoy.

The Ngati Rangiwewehi War Veterans committee would like to invite you and your whanau to join us at Awahou marae (Gloucester Road) at 10am on ANZAC DAY, the 25th April 2015, to acknowledge and pay our respects to past and current service people who have represented Ngati Rangiwewehi in the armed forces of New Zealand.

I always wondered what the big marble structure on our marae was. At least, as a tiny skinny youngster it certainly seemed very big to me. I would often lie on the concrete at the base of the monument getting warm after swimming in the Awahou River.

As I lay on my back, I would look up at the big marble structure, thinking why is this on our marae? Why does it have such a prominent place on our marae? Why is it so important that it is one of the first things people see when they come onto our marae?

I would often read the names and ask myself why they were the same surnames as my cousins and relatives I knew in Ngati Rangiwewehi, such as Douglas and Mohi. As I grew taller, I would etch my finger in their names on the memorial and read them to myself and ask, who are you? Why are you important enough to our people to have your name engraved into this marble rock for us to remember you for a very long time? What have you done to earn this honour? Why is it important that I remember you?

In later tiny person years, I remember thinking that the memorial structure was made out of the same marble stone as headstones so it must have something to do with our dead people – our tupuna – our ancestors that everyone seems to talk about in whaikorero.

I knew the big marble structure on our marae was important. I certainly knew that it was not put there just to be our base for our games of hide and seek or as a climbing tower to see who could climb it to the highest level or walk around the whole structure while perching on the first ledge. It was not a playing apparatus – but having said that I always felt comfortable using it as such anyway.

And then one day, I do not recall who explained the significance of the big marble structure on our marae to me, or whether I suddenly comprehended the meaning of the writing which read "To the glory of God and in loving memory of all who gave their lives in the Second World War, 1939 to 1945, including members of the Ngati Rangiwewhi tribe whose names appear on this monument," but I never climbed it again. I gave the memorial and those people the respect they deserved.

You see, whenever I was playing hide and seek with my cousins touching the marble memorial without getting tagged meant I had made it safely home. I was at home base. The people on the Awahou memorial did not make it safely home from World War 2. They never made it back to home base. They were tagged.

Their names are etched into the memorial to remind us that they made the ultimate sacrifice to make home base a safe place for us. They gave up their dreams, their futures, their swims in the Awahou river, their wives, lovers and friends. They gave up any future time with their whanau. They gave up their opportunities to do the dishes in the wharekai or carve the meat or speak in our wharetupuna. They never caught another trout at Awahou.

When I was playing hide and seek with my cousins getting tagged meant a gentle touch – sometimes not so gentle – on the back. A tagging to our service people meant they lost their lives. They were killed in action.

The names on the big memorial on our marae and in prominent places throughout Aotearoa are there because they gave their lives for you and for me. They deserve the honour of having their names etched into marble and they deserve to be remembered.

We meet on ANZAC day to remember them and to voice our remembrance of them and other people who represented families, tribes and our nation and served in our armed forces and indeed lost their lives during all armed forces campaigns when we say:

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them."

Ngahihi o te ra Bidois is an author, columnist, Professional Speaker and Professional Director. He holds an MBA – Maori Boy from Awahou. www.ngahibidois.com







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- Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum
- Ngongotaha Hall

Kia ora Koutou, Katoa, Hi Everyone,

We are reminded often about the wonderful place that Ngongotaha is and of the great people who live here. You may recall that we mentioned in a previous article that we needed some help with tiling and not in a kitchen or bathroom. We asked if there was someone out there, who would be able to replace some missing tiles on the information stand situated in front of the 'Beech Log' in the Car Park area. Well within a short time, we had a call from Mac Stafford who was able to replace the missing tiles and tidy things up for us. Mac is an amazing artist and a credit to Ngongotaha. You can find him at Thermalart Decorative and Functional New Zealand Art thermalone.ms@gmail.com

There is something really special about volunteering. Obviously it needs to involve helping with a project, or task that you can relate to, or something that you would like to learn about, or experience. I know that Mac really enjoyed improving the information stand and it gave him great satisfaction doing the job, as well as seeing the end result. Mac, we cannot thank you enough for the wonderful job that you have done. Don Stafford originally designed the tiles for this information stand and Mac created the cast Fortunately Mac still had the cast and after replacing the tiles, gave them a good coat of paint at the same

time. There is still some other work to complete namely the information plate on the top. It needs a 'refresh', this part of the stand was created by Artist Paul Nicolai who has since left the Village. If anyone is in contact with Paul, please can you ask him to call or email us. We have tried emailing him but it looks like he has changed his address.

Waiteti River Mouth Wetland

We are so pleased to have been able to offer our support to Martyn Evans and his team of volunteers, who worked several days in a row removing green waste and planting this area. Thank you all, for your continuing effort to keep this area alive for the past 9 years. We hope you enjoyed your 'time out' BBQ on us, given with grateful thanks. Also a Big Thanks to BOP Regional Council for removing the green waste.

Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum

We want to take the opportunity to thank those of you who are keen to help with this. Please email your contact details to homengongotahamemories@ gmail.com Due to a sudden illness situation, we are experiencing a delay in the progress of this project. This Museum will happen, we have a very determined team backing it.

We get asked about the roof often. Why did we save it? What is the significance of it for Ngongotaha? Simply put it would cost us close to \$100,000 to build it from scratch, it is a significant part of the overall current proposed building. The Roof is from the first Mall in Rotorua. It was built for the Rotorua City Council as the drive through archway recently gifted to our community for the Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum after serving several other purposes on the main Ngongotaha Highway e.g Dry place to sell Firewood.

We are really into repurposing building materials

including native timbers, doors, windows, and items from other significant buildings that have been demolished e.g QE11 Hospital, The Lake Road Tavern, The Rotorua Mens Club. (we own parts of all these Rotorua buildings) We are just trying to make use of what is being offered and what we have been offered for the build is amazing. We are very grateful to all contributors for their generous offers. Don't be shy, please reach out to offer your time.

I had the pleasure of attending the 100+YEARS ANZAC DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE at Ngati Rangiwewehi, Tarimano Marae Awahou Rotorua 25th April: 10 am "Na Ratou Mo Tatou" "Let's Honour Them Together"

It was warm and welcoming with a strong sense of 'one' as we 'Honoured Them Together' It was the first time that I had attended this service. I had thought about it over the years, but never followed through to attend. So if you have been like me thinking about going along, but at the last minute not going. Go along in 2026 - it's a very special personal experience.

Serious Stuff: Our Committee is still working on the re-writing of the Progress Ngongotaha Kokiri Ngongotaha Incorporated Constitution. There are 29,000 Incorporated Societies in Aotearoa NZ and up until now only 2,500 have re-registered to date. This means that as we head towards the cut off time being 5 April 2026, there is going to be a massive congestion. Why am I telling you this? Because volunteers also carry out this work as well, it's a nightmare. If there is a legal person out there who could assist us with this, please get in touch. Thank you. We are only four months into this Year, but already it's been one Out of the Bag!!!

Until next time, Nga mihi nui: Lynn Benfell, Bob Martin, Heather Brake, and Lee

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You are invited to a community drop-in session

Wednesday 14 May 2025 Drop in any time between 1pm – 7pm Tura Te Ngākau Hall, 172 Ngongotahā Road Ngongotahā

We want to hear from you! Your feedback will help refine proposals around infrastructure, economic development, and how public spaces can better serve the people who live and work here.





Kaharoa School

Tēnā koutou whānau

Welcome to term 2. We are looking forward to another busy term, full of fitness training, learning, and exploration of our solar system and beyond.





Colour Fun Run: We finished term 1 with fun and fitness, while also fundraising for the Rotorua Mini-Marathon. Children sought sponsors, and on this gorgeous autumnal day our wonderful tamariki ran as many laps of the field as they could for an hour - a fantastic demonstration of our school motto: Tā Mātou Pai Ake - Our Best Always.

Teachers then armed themselves with coloured powder, and the students ran through sprinklers before being showered with rainbow colours. Many enjoyed a yummy burger or sausage sizzle after their hard work.

Rotorua Mini-Marathon: As part of our school's focus on fitness in term 2, we will once again be participating in the Rotorua Mini-Marathon on May 2nd. Our tamariki have been leading up to this by working hard to complete 40km over the last 2 months, and on the 2nd, all students will travel by bus to the Rotorua Energy



Events Centre, joining in with hundreds of other children from different schools to run the final 2km of their 'marathon'. The running and fitness focus of the Kaharoa Colour Fun Run and Rotorua Mini-Marathon both support and lead into our school cross-country later in term 2.



Rural Cross Country: Once again, Kaharoa School will host the rural cross country event on Monday 16th June (postponement Wednesday 18th June). All Kaharoa children participate, as well as visitors from other local schools. This is another excellent opportunity for our students to demonstrate their physical abilities and resilience while enjoying the great outdoors. Top place-getters in this event will

have a chance to compete in the BOP Cross-Country on Tuesday 24th June.

Winter Sports: This term we start winter sports and it is wonderful to see team practices happening around the school at lunchtimes and after school. Thank you to our wonderful parents who help in so many ways; from coaching and managing teams to running practices, and even turning up on cold winter mornings and evenings to help tamariki participate in weekly games.





EPro 8: The EPro8 Challenge is a science and engineering competition. Students participate in a series of events: firstly within our school (in week 1), and then the winning teams compete against other schools later in the term (May 21st for year 5/6, and May 27th for year 7/8).

Upcoming PTA events:

Scrap metal collection: Start saving up your unwanted metal items and these can be deposited at school in the designated area of our main car park between 16-23 May.

Kaharoa Cull: 16-18 May. If you would like to be the first to hear the details, please register your interest by emailing Michaela at michaela.p.pta@kaharoa.school.nz If you're not a hunter, come along to our weigh-in/count up on Sunday, 18 May.

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

Age Concern

Age Concern Rotorua are the recipients of an Innovative Award from the Head office in Wellington and it enables us to purchase a large freezer to store our frozen meals. We have joined in a partnership with LOVE SOUP who are supplying us with the meals, and with the Sallies, who have partnered with Do Good Charity Trust who provide us with 50 meals a week. The meals are for anyone who would like to pop in and see us and there is no means test - you can take all you need. We appreciate that it is difficult sometimes balancing the fixed costs with other expenses. Food is always a large part of the budget so hopefully we can reduce that by providing those meals.

We also started this week our Just Cook4 Healthy Ageing group and this is generally for those men and women who are living alone and find it hard to cook a nutritious, healthy and cheap meal for themselves. Not everyone loves cooking, but this is an effective way to get into it and we are also using the cookbook we developed to take the recipes from. We are also making some extras to add to our freezer.

It is with a huge amount of sadness that we farewell Katreece Lewis, who is going to work where she has more hours so she can make ends meet more easily. Katreece has been with us, off and on, now for a long time and has shown a huge amount of empathy towards our elderly members and with her vivacity and kindness, she is always popular with our regulars. She has been involved in our Out and Abouters, Just Cook4 Healthy Ageing and a variety of Social Connection Activities and as a caterer she is second to none. She will be missed.

The Seminar Series at Parksyde are proving very popular. These are free seminars, sponsored by Age Concern and the remaining seminars are 19th May Wills and Enduring Power of Attorney, 16th June All you Need to Know About Strokes, 30th June Independent Living, 21st July Keeping Safe in our Community, 18th August Grief and Loss, 15th September Signs of and tips on Dementia, 29th September What Support can MSD Give you, 20th October All About Macular Degeneration, 17th November Signs of Elder Abuse. Just phone Parksyde to book in to any of these informative Seminars.

More than 900 thousand superannuitants and almost five thousand veterans are among the New Zealanders set to receive a significant financial boost from April, an uplift which will help support them through cost-of-living challenges

Older New Zealanders are cutting back on food to pay the bills. Pre Covid-19, research in the Journal of Primary Health showed that out of 174 people going into residential care, 93 percent were either malnourished or at risk of malnutrition.

Now, Age Concern fears the situation could be getting worse as it hears about older people who are reducing the amount of food they are buying as one of the only ways to pay the bills. Age Concern CEO Karen Billings-Jensen told Nine to Noon things have reached a tipping point. She said she has heard "horrific stories" from pensioners that are making frozen meals last three days, skipping meals, or not eating at all to pay the bills.

Research shows 40 percent of New Zealanders aged 65 and over have no other income besides superannuation, while 20 percent only have a little more. Those fixed costs, the rent, the power, the mortgage, the rates, the insurance, with them increasing the only movable bit of a budget is often that food spending.

While eating less can happen with age, the risk of malnutrition for older people is greater.

Rory O'Rourke Manager Age Concern Rotorua 5 Tarewa Place [Rotorua] [3010]

Occupational jokes

How many programmers does it take to change a light bulb? None, that's a hardware problem.

What do you call a doctor who fixes websites? A URLologist.

Teamwork is important; it helps to put the blame on someone else.

What's a team? A group of people who share the coffee machine.

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

What's a remote worker's favourite outfit? A mullet outfit – business on top, pyjamas on the bottom.

Hard work never killed anyone, but why take the chance?

I don't mind coming to work, it's the eight-hour wait to go home that's a bother.

A clean desk is a sign of a cluttered desk drawer.

I asked the librarian if the library had any books on paranoia. She whispered, "They're right behind you."

I have a joke about time travel, but you didn't like it.



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Ngongotaha School

Well - an eventful start to 2025 and now Term 2. Last term we had our school Tryathalon, our Superhero and Villains Disco and of course the gala and parent interviews.

Firstly, I would like to thank Craig for his awesome leadership and work at Ngongotaha School over the last 6 years. I hope I can fill his shoes until we appoint a new principal. Hopefully this will be the start of Term 3.

The gala was a great success, raising around \$22,000. The weather was a lot better than last time. This money will be spent on playground equipment over the next few terms - so make sure that you come up and have a look at what we have done. Thanks again to all our supporters, this could not have been possible without you and your generosity. Every time we organise this event I am overwhelmed with how much our community and town give.

Thanks to the children and whanau who came and spent their money and the staff who worked tirelessly to make the evening such a success. It really means a lot to us and the children.

We welcome a new teacher aide, Kiri Wilson to our school and also lots of new children and whanau.

This term our focus is on Technology - Making and Breaking. Designing something that we can make, review and redesign to make it even better. So get ready to learn and see some exciting things that the children have made.

What's coming up this term? Mini Marathon in week one. Cross Country in week four, Tackle 5 rugby tournament, a disco, and reports are due out in the last week of term. So, already a full calendar of events. Hockey/ Netball/ Basketball and rugby academies are starting again this term for Year 3-6 children who play these sports already.

We will also be having our Girls Puberty talk in Week 3 for Year 5 and 6 girls and another CAKE Night to talk about Maths Whizz - the computer maths program in the seniors on the 19th June - so make sure that you keep these dates free if you are interested.

Hopefully this term will provide us with cool sunny days so that we can get outside as much as possible. We have lots of exciting things planned for this term. Make sure you download the school app if you haven't already as we no longer send home notices on paper.

I look forward to seeing you all at our school events.

Ngā mihi, Alison Astwood, Acting Principal 07 3574531, 22 School Road, Ngongotahā 3010 T: 07 357 4531

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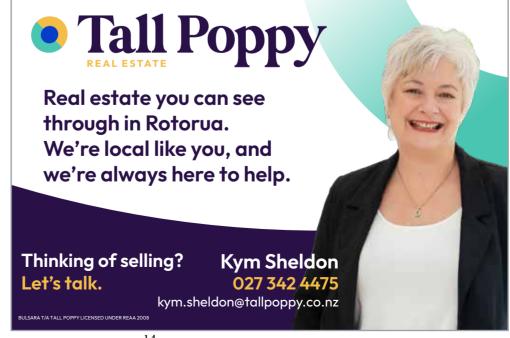
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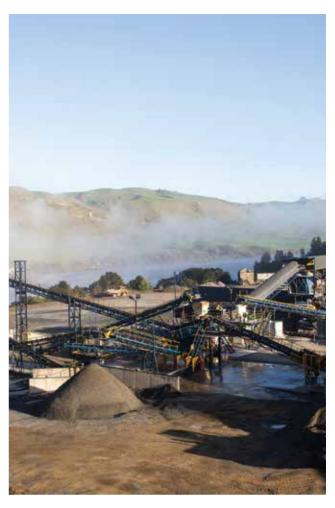
An international school teacher asks a question: "What's your own opinion on food scarcity in other countries?"

- **An African student:** What's food?
- **A European student:** What's scarcity?
- **An American student:** What are 'other countries'?
- **A Chinese student:** What's 'my own opinion'?



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NGONGOTAHA INDOOR BOWLS

Monday 24th March Roll-up It was a very noisy night. Lots of fun bowls being played, so lots of laughter going on. No winners tonight. I think Robyn and Trevor left all their good bowls to the last game.

Monday 31st March Whyte Trophy A very challenging night of bowls. There were very serious bowls being played. Not a good night for my team as we had the lowest score. The winners for the night were Richard, Greg and Chris. I think it was a jack up. Well done.

Sunday 6th April BOP Championship Triples We had four players who took part. Bruce who played with two RSA players and Greg, Helen and Nicole who played in a team together. We had some tough games, lost three and won one. We did not qualify so we played in the plate and ended up winning. Thanks to my two team members.

Monday 7th April Championship Fours It was a good night of bowling especially for our winning team of Bruce Wiggins, Eddie, Nicole and Martin. Bruce was smiling all the way home. Runner up was John, Grahame, Greg and Piet.

Monday 14th April Roll Up It was a practice night for some of us. We all changed positions on each game Lead, 2nd and skip. Lots of laughter and fun was had. We were all winners tonight.

Wednesday 16th April Owhata Triples Three teams from our club took part. Was a good night of competition. One team from our club was on fire and I think it surprised Robyn how well she and her team played. They were the winners for the night with four wins: that team was Robyn, Martin and Nicole (pictured). Congratulations!

Anyone looking at playing bowls can contact:

Richard Mills 07 3323623 Kevin Whyte 07 3574766



School jokes (apologies)

At school one day, Little Johnny's teacher asks the class to use the word "contagious" in a sentence. Cindy answers, "I was at the dentist's office with my mom, and she said not to play with the toys in the waiting room because the other kids were contagious."

"Very good, Cindy!" the teacher said, "Anyone else want to try?" Samantha raises her hand. "My dad tells me not to yawn because then everybody else yawns. He says yawning is contagious."

"Very creative," the teacher praises. "Okay, one more volunteer." Little Johnny raises his hand. "Yes, Johnny?" she says with trepidation.

"Well," he says, "last week, Dad and I saw the neighbour painting his house with a small brush, so I asked my dad why? He said, 'I don't know son, but it's gonna take that contagious."



Lives local, helps locals

As a proud resident of Ngongotahā and an active member of our community, I believe it makes all the difference when it comes to providing exceptional service in selling local property. I'm passionate about our village and always eager to highlight Ngongotahā as one of the best places to live and invest.

If you have been thinking of selling, don't hesitate to contact me.



Lisa Thompson

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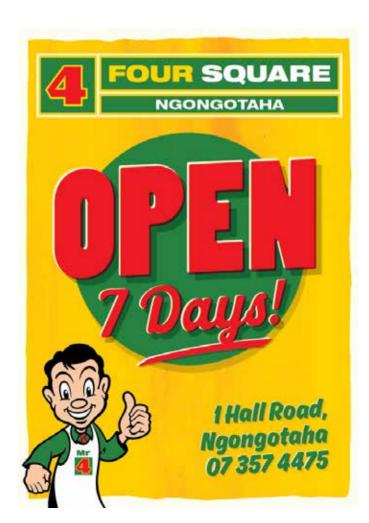
Fish and Game News (Both Barrels)

Over the majority of eastern region we've been in drought with our wetlands water levels low and farm ponds dry, or very close to dry. Those places with good water, we are seeing good numbers of ducks and other waterfowl. The recent rains (cyclone) have not really seen a great increase in water in the ponds and wetlands, but those areas with some additional water will see a rise in ducks arriving as the freshly flooded grasses and weeds in the ponds area are a great feeding source.

Just a reminder, there are other game birds to target throughout the season - it's not all about mallards. Swan and parrie meat is great for salamis with the other mainstay being "coat'n cook" bites, lightly fried in the pan. A great morning walk chasing pheasant and quail can result in a change of flavour at the table. And don't forget to target pukeko, as the breasts are delicious, they are fun and challenging to hunt (to get a daily limit), and the region's numbers need thinning out.

On a serious note for this season, firstly make sure you are safe, both in the water and handling guns. Secondly, make sure you are legal, both in terms of having a game bird hunting licence and complying with the hunting regulations, and undertaking gun and ammo travelling and storage laws (rangers will be out and about). Thirdly, don't dump your carcasses in public places, this creates a bad image, and generates unnecessary work for staff. Lastly, utilise your licence value – get out there more than just opening weekend, hunt other regions and target different species.

Opening weekend to many is a tradition with a social component to it – be it always bacon and egg pie (no peas) for lunch, a few beers that evening (after the guns are put away), or a wee dram to acknowledge those who have passed (both dogs and family) who made duck hunting and opening weekend what it is to you. Enjoy your opening weekend and season. Remember, the joy should be in the doing, not the getting!!



Consumer News

Results from Consumer's NZ Grocery Survey, carried out in mid-April:

Low confidence in government action

The nationally representative survey shows most New Zealanders don't believe the government is doing enough to keep food affordable.66% of people said they have low confidence in current government policies, while just 9% expressed high confidence in government action.

Distrust in supermarkets also rising

These results provide valuable insights into more recent trends in public trust in supermarkets and the government, as shown in Consumer NZ's Sentiment Tracker. Shoppers also report limited or declining trust in supermarkets to price and promote products fairly — an issue that raises additional concerns about consumer protection.

Strong support for government regulation

When asked in the Grocery Survey what could be done to keep food accessible, hundreds of respondents said food is simply too expensive and urgent action is needed. Many supported stronger regulation and clearer rules to stop misleading promotions, not just more competition in the sector. "Consumers want the government to take a harder line — not only in promoting competition, but also in actively regulating how prices are set and how promotions are run," says Consumer NZ chief executive Jon Duffy.

Shoppers adapt to high costs

Consumers are increasingly turning to cost-saving strategies, such as shopping around and buying in bulk, to deal with rising food prices and growing pressure on household budgets. More than half of respondents said they compare prices across supermarkets - most commonly through supermarket websites or apps, rather than in-store checks. This behaviour signals the need for unit pricing and easy price comparison across retailers.

Loyalty programme perceptions are mixed

"Our research found 84% of New Zealanders use loyalty cards, but the so-called 'specials' don't always reflect the lowest prices available at the checkout," says Duffy.







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Happenings

3 May Duckmas i.e. start of duck season

14 May RLC community session to help shape the future of

Ngongotahā Village. Drop in to Ngongotaha Hall between

1:00 PM - 7:00 pm

16-23 May Scrap metal collection at Kaharoa School

16-18 May Kaharoa Cull

19 May Free Seminar on Wills and Enduring Power of Attorney.

Phone Parksyde to enrol

25 May Mamauku's Marsupial Madness

30 May Next Quiz night at Lakeview Golf and Country Club
16th June All you Need to Know About Strokes Seminar, Parksyde
16 June Kaharoa school Cross Country (postponement 18 June)

24 June BOP Cross Country

21 June Lakeview Golf and Country Club Official opening

30th June Independent Living Seminar, Parksyde

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 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 Taui St
Sunday 9.30 to 11.00 Rotorua Archery Club at Lakeview.

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LAKEVIEW GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Somehow our one-year anniversary for moving into the new clubhouse has rolled by! Amazing but true – it does not seem like a year since we started enjoying all that the awesome facility offers but the saying "time flies when you're having fun" certainly applies here. With a year rolling by we are really excited to finally celebrate in style a GRAND OPENING!

Save the date: Clubrooms Grand Opening on Saturday, 21st June! We'll be cutting the ribbon in style with none other than Mayor Tania Tapsell joining us for the big moment. It's going to be a day to remember, with plenty of other guests and activities so watch this space for more details.

Club competition for May will be the final rounds of the Anniversary Trophy followed by qualifying for Handicap Matchplay. The Vice Captains trophy was won by our club captain Andrew (Stretch) Jensen. CONGRATULATIONS Stretch!

Junior golf will start up again for term two. Thursday 8th May 3.45pm-4.45pm is the first session. These sessions have seen a huge increase in numbers which is super cool! Josh has Beau helping now and also his daughter Hunter when she is available. If you have a junior who may want to have a go, give Josh a call in the shop.

FROM THE EVENTS DESK.

We were thrilled to recently host the lovely Ngongotahā Garden Circle Committee—what a blooming great bunch! And Easter brought extra joy as we welcomed 60 residents from the new Lakes Lifestyle Village for a delightful morning tea filled with treats, laughter, and plenty of friendly faces.

Looking ahead, the calendar is starting to buzz again with luncheons and birthday parties galore! From little ones turning five to fabulous 60th celebrations, Lakeview is the place to be for marking special moments.

Now, let's talk about something near and dear to many of our hearts... coffee. Big thanks to the amazing Lakeview Vets, we're nearly ready to serve up delicious hot coffee in the clubrooms—yes, real espresso! Whether you're fueling up for a round or just popping in for a chat, your caffeine fix is coming soon.

So spread the word—tell your friends, your coworkers, and anyone who loves great company, good coffee, and a beautiful setting. Lakeview really is something special.

Got a question or want to book your next event with us? I'm just a call or text away—Rach on 027 272 0425 or events@lakeviewgolf.co.nz

QUIZ NIGHT!

A reminder that the next quiz night is Friday 30th May 2025. Get your teams together and contact Rach to register. This is always a great night out with delicious kai, plenty of laughs and some real brain teaser questions.

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 Stay well from the upcoming winter ills and have fun raking up all the leaves!

Golf shop phone number is 07 357 2341.



Financial traps when buying and selling property in the current market

Last month I wrote about how the depressed property market is moving along, and how all the different policies and players in it are impacting a lot more positivity in the market in general. While my views are that the property market is much more active than it has been for a while, it's worth sharing some of the unexpected bank and lender traps buyers and sellers have been facing for some time now.

Buving

Be very sure when you are buying to ask exactly what the lender wants or expects from you as part of the sale process. As well as the usual credit check and financial application process, be aware that all banks approach lending pre-approval as being based on indicative finance approval to fit your budget, not the particular property you are buying, which is usually the final step in the approval process. So, while you might have pre-approval, it might not extend to the property you want to buy – say, if your offer is too high for the property value, for example.

Added to that, be sure to ask upfront whether the lender requires to approve title, LIM, Building Report or other reports as part of the finance approval process. Unfortunately, for years one particular main bank has taken it upon themselves to peruse and approve or disapprove LIM, Building Reports and Title (e.g. a cross lease) if those are included as conditions in the agreement. I have had several experiences where they have declined to lend on a particular property on the basis of the contents of a LIM, Building Report, or Title.

No other bank gets themselves involved in the conveyancing process to the same extent, generally considering any issues (unless major) to be between customer and their lawyer as they rightfully should be. The point is customers are not buying new: they're buying housing security and typically an older home they can afford. All homes need ongoing repairs and maintenance, particularly at the lower end of the market.

What about getting the vendor to attend to any repairs etc before settlement I hear you say? Nice in theory, but totally unrealistic. If the vendor wanted to do the work, they would – and increase the sale price for the money spent!

Sure, there's a big difference between some minor roofing iron repairs vs the cost of a whole new roof (i.e.: not setting customers up with big costs they may not be able to afford in the process), but in my experience it's the general repairs and maintenance combined leading to this particular bank declining lending.

The upshot is once customers find out this hurdle, they are choosing to either take their business to another bank, or at the very outset deciding to not include due diligence conditions such as LIM or Building Report etc in their sale and purchase contract at all. A counterproductive lending policy in my opinion because it's always recommended buyers do proper due diligence so they know what they're buying and can plan financially accordingly.

Selling

The other lending trap for the unwary applying to all banks at the moment is where customers are selling a second property. Typically, customers don't realise that the two properties are secured between them to the bank and haven't approached their bank before selling to ascertain the bank's requirements for releasing the second property from the mortgage lending.

Once the sale contract is unconditional, banks are generally requiring customers complete a whole new statement of financial position of assets, liabilities, income, employment etc. Sometimes they also require a valuation of the remaining property to ensure the bank is adequately secured between remaining debt v property value even for well-capitalised customers. This is because property values are all over the place at the moment and it can become highly stressful for sellers who end up in this situation, committed to a sale they can't legally back out of.

So, while things are moving along a bit better than they have done in the past few years, be sure to find out what your bank's requirements are upfront - whether buying or selling.

Article prepared by Ros Morshead, solicitor at Lawbox for Ngongotaha News











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