

Ngongotahā Volunteer Fire Brigade celebrates 25 years of service

Photos: Tai, Ange and Ngongotahā Deputy Chief Fire Officer Rhys Leekie

On 10th of May 2025, Chief Fire Officer Tai Thompson and his wife Ange arrived in style in a fire appliance, to a guard of honour and family and friends. Ngongotahā Volunteer Fire Brigade held an awards evening to present Tai with his 25-year Gold Star service medal, along with presentations from Auckland Provincial Fire Brigades Assn. and FENZ.

Tai came to Ngongotahā from the Tuakau Volunteer Fire Brigade, where he was also highly regarded and respected as a valued member. These brigades came together, as well as surrounding brigades, family and friends, colleagues, FENZ dignitaries and Rotorua Mayor Tania Tapsell to celebrate Tai's service to communities. Tai was also presented with a life honorary membership of the Ngongotahā Volunteer Fire Brigade and his fiancée Ange an appreciation certificate and 25-year medal for her support over the 25 years.

Tai receives strong support from his co-owned business ITM Rotorua, enabling him to balance his work commitments with his volunteer role as a Chief Fire Officer. Congratulations, Tai and Ange, your continued service to the Ngongotahā community is a testament to your dedication and commitment. Thank you for serving our community and making a difference.



2025 Mamaku School Possum Challenge Results

The weather was great and a total of 1197 possums, 54 wallabies and 123 rabbits/hares were eradicated from our local forests and farms.

With the help of fantastic sponsors, the kura is expecting a profit of of \$11,000.

*Photos courtesy of
Pam Vincent Photography.*

As this was a hunting event, albeit with conservation in mind, please use discretion when viewing the sensitive nature of these animal photos.



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Community Drop-in session

RLC were impressed with the response to the drop-in session on 14 May about Ngongotaha's future (at least 50 attended) and the enthusiasm with which people participated. Thanks to those who joined in.

Rotorua Airshed shakes off "Polluted Status"

On 24 May, Rotorua officially lost its reputation for particulates in our air. For years, monitoring in Rotorua showed the city struggled with poor air quality over winter, primarily due to wood burner emissions being trapped by the city's unique topography.

At its worst, Rotorua was the city with the worst winter-time air pollution in the country, impacting air quality and those vulnerable to respiratory issues. Over the past 15 years, a series of measures have been introduced by Regional Council to address winter-time air quality issues. These include banning older style burners, launching an extensive education campaign, and enhancing compliance efforts.

Source: Bay of Plenty Regional Council



Personal Readings

Monday to Friday,
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Phone Kerry - 027 640 6007

Understanding the 3G shutdown at the end of this year

Mobile network providers in New Zealand and around the world are shutting down 3G networks to make way for faster and more power efficient 4G and 5G technology. This means customers who are still using 3G reliant devices, not just phones, will need to update device settings or upgrade to a newer device before the networks are switched off to retain connectivity. If you are affected, there is support available to make this transition and ensure you stay connected. This page will explain everything you need to know about the 3G shutdown and how it might affect you.

What is 3G and why is it being shut down?

The 'G' in 3G, 4G and 5G stands for 'generation' – the third, fourth and fifth generations of mobile technology. As technology evolves over time, older generation technology types are shut down to make way for newer and faster types. Many operators around the world are shutting down their 3G network.

Shutting down 3G provides more room for 4G and 5G networks, bringing with it increased consumer benefits, ranging from faster internet speeds, improved call quality, and faster media-rich data activities like video streaming.

3G technology was first introduced in NZ in 2006 and while it has been a reliable technology, closing these networks will free up radio spectrum that will be used to increase the availability of more highly capable 4G and 5G services, especially in rural areas.

When is the 3G shutdown happening?

All 3 mobile operators will be turning off their 3G networks in 2025.

- 2degrees will close its 3G service from late 2025.

- One NZ will close its 3G service by 31 December 2025.
- Spark NZ will close its 3G service from late 2025.

What does this mean for customers?

Most customers won't need to do anything as they are already using more recent 4G and 5G capable devices. Customers who are still using 3G-reliant phones may need to either upgrade their phone to a newer device or make changes to their software or settings to make sure their device continues to connect.

After the 3G shutdown devices that are 3G reliant in any way will simply no longer connect, so calls will not go through. This includes calls to the 111-emergency number. It is important that you check with your provider directly if you are unsure whether your mobile device is affected.

Some business customers also have other 3G devices that will also be affected, including lifts, vehicle trackers, alarms and other systems which may use 3G to connect. These customers should contact their suppliers to discuss whether they are affected and how they plan to upgrade them. Specific device information is available on all mobile providers' websites, or you can contact your mobile provider directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Will I still be able to make emergency calls on older devices?

Once the 3G network is shut down, phones that are 3G reliant for data or calling will no longer connect. This will affect consumers ability to call 111 emergency services so it is important that consumers upgrade their devices. If you are unsure if your device is 4G capable, contact your mobile provider directly for more information.

How can I check if my device is 4G ready?

Affected models vary but customers can find a list of compatible devices on your mobile provider's website, including those models which are 3G only.

OTHER FAQS:

What if I didn't purchase my phone from my mobile provider?

Some phones purchased overseas or from local importers have different specifications and may not be compatible on your mobile service provider's network. Customers with these devices may need to change the settings to use 4G or 5G for voice. More information about this can be found at 2degrees, One NZ or Spark

Will my mobile work for international roaming?

Operators around the world are shutting down their 3G networks so you will need a 4G or 5G phone for mobile roaming services. For 4G or 5G voice calling when overseas, you will need to ensure that your phone supports both VoLTE (voice over 4G) and VoLTE roaming. Check on your mobile provider's website to confirm that your 4G or 5G phone supports VoLTE and VoLTE roaming.

Do I need to change my SIM card when I upgrade to a new phone?

This may depend on the type of SIM card you have and the type of device you are upgrading to. If your old SIM card fits into the new devices' SIM card slot, then you are sorted.

Can I recycle my old 3G device?

Yes, you can donate your old device easily and for free via the TCF phone recycling scheme RE:MOBILE, with mailing or physical drop off options which are easily accessible. Drop your old device into any mobile store, or one of 480+ other drop off locations across New Zealand, where they will be passed onto RE:MOBILE to make sure all reusable parts are recycled.

Find out more at remobile.org.nz

Source: NZ Telecommunications Forum Website



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Age Concern

Age Concern Rotorua have some funding from Head office to provide some Health Promoting programmes for the 2025 -2026 period. The programmes we have decided to attempt are: Aqua Jogging which is a new programme which will be free to participants and continue with our theme of improving fitness in a low impact environment.

Another new direction is following on from our Innovation win where we supply our members with frozen meals. We hope to be able to erect a glasshouse, some internal raised gardens, and provide some vegetables with our meals. Our frozen meals are a great hit, and we are giving away a lot of meals each day, as well as using a variety of outside charities to provide us with the meals.

The other programmes carry on from the ones we have already successfully started this year: **Steady as you go** which is a dedicated Age Concern balance programme, has now grown to 3 programmes run by volunteers and a new group will start up later this year. **Walkers with Walkers**, after a slow start (excuse the pun) has picked up and we now have some regulars who enjoy the walk and the social connection following.

The Seminar Series has proven very popular with the latest Seminar on Wills and Enduring Power of Attorney attracting 37 participants. We still have the majority to do using last year's funding. These are very worthwhile and desirable so make a point of coming along as they are free and very educational, not just for the elderly.

One of our generous members, who wishes to remain anonymous, gifted Age Concern \$10,000.00 to be used on a project of our choice. In discussion, we have decided that because of the popularity of the Out and Abouters and the minivan being used almost full time, that we may use it to purchase a smaller people carrier vehicle which can carry up to 7 or more members. How lucky are we though, as another of our generous members has donated her vehicle to Age Concern as she is not confident that she will get her driver's license next time around.

Funding for wages and general running costs is becoming more and more difficult as there is less money being generated by the pokie machines and some bars are shutting them down completely. While on the one hand this is making things harder for charities, it is a good thing that less is being generated.

Some good news for the elderly over 65 years

The Government will spend \$7.7 million on upgrading and enhancing the SuperGold card after years of the scheme being "neglected". It will also be shelling out more than half a million dollars to pay for a digital literacy program to give seniors computer skills training. NZ First leader and Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters said the changes to the GoldCard would make it a "super, SuperGold card". Minister for Seniors Tracey Martin who made the pre-Budget announcement, emphasized how important the scheme was for over 65-year-olds in New Zealand. According to the latest figures, there are more than 750,000 SuperGold cardholders across the country.

An interesting take on an old misconception

All the lonely people — where do they all come from? A famous line from a Beatles track that we all know. If you think they're in retirement villages or living alone in their own home, you're wrong. More likely they're at high school or University, statistics and psychologists reveal.

A deeply ingrained stereotype that old age = loneliness has wrongly led us to believe that grey-haired nana - let's call her Eleanor Rigby - is lonely. Her friends are filling the obituaries, she is afraid to drive so can't get out as much, her family have left town, only a cat and talkback radio fill the void. Perversely, her grandson is more likely than she to report feeling lonely, as he seeks real connection through social media. He is unsure where he belongs, who his real friends are, even who he is or where life is taking him.

Rory O'Rourke, Manager

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Mamaku School

Mamaku School is a small rural kura, set in a beautiful environment, 10 minutes drive from Ngongotaha, with a supportive and nurturing community. We are a full primary catering for 90 children from Year 0 -Year 8. Our strength is our size. Small classes ensure our students receive full attention from passionate teachers. Our staff know every student's name! Our teachers use their knowledge of the curriculum, assessment and student learning to develop a programme that is positive for individualised learning and achievement.

We make use of our unique geographical location, sitting 560 m (1840 ft) above sea level, Mamaku has an environment, history and culture that is reflected in our localised, values-based curriculum. Our Vision, "Like the Children of Tane we Grow" is brought to life through our HEART Values: Honesty, Empathy, Achievement, Respect & Teamwork. Students and staff strive to display these in all aspects of school life. We are about developing the whole child – academic, cultural and sporting opportunities.

While a small kura, our students receive the same opportunities as students in larger schools. Many of our students take part through Central Bay of Plenty Sport (CBOP Sport) in a multitude of inter-school sports

including: duathlons, swimming, mini marathon, and we also offer golf lessons at Lakeview Golf Club, and junior and senior teams represent Mamaku School in netball and golf.

We are an extremely well resourced school and fortunate to have: a modern 25m heated (6 lane) swimming pool, two playgrounds, covered astro-turf, two large playing fields and flying fox, a bike pump track and bikes, and we provide one to one devices for Year 4-8 students.

Community and connection play significant roles at Mamaku School. There are a number of events that bring our community together, including our: Annual Gala, Possum Challenge, Pot Luck Dinner to welcome new families and parent hui on the new curriculum. School and community working together are a priority at Mamaku School.

We also offer a before and after school programme and MSD subsidies available for qualifying families. We would warmly welcome you to drop in and visit our friendly kura.

On Tuesday, 17 June (11.30-1pm) we are having an Open Morning for parents and whānau to see our school first-hand, hear from the Principal and light refreshments to follow. If you would like to attend, please RSVP: office@mamaku.school.nz





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Authorised by Todd McClay,
Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Hon Todd McClay

Member of Parliament for Rotorua



A Budget focussed on Growth.

Driving economic growth to help communities like Ngongotaha get ahead is at the heart of this year's Budget.

It is only through a strong, growing economy that we can create jobs, deal with the cost of living, and invest in the frontline services like schools, hospitals, roads, and Police that Kiwis deserve.

New Zealand's economy is starting to recover. With careful management, inflation and interest rates are down, wages are growing faster than inflation, and growth is expected to average 2.7%, creating 240,000 new jobs over the next few years.

However, we cannot take that recovery for granted, which is why we've delivered a responsible Budget firmly focused on economic growth.

A key part of that is Investment Boost, which gives tradies, farmers, and businesses a tax incentive to invest in new tools and equipment to boost productivity and lift wages.

We're also driving growth through investment in new infrastructure such as roads and schools, growing tourism, improving KiwiSaver to lift savings, and supporting tech startups and the film sector.

Just like your household, we have to live within our means and make tough choices about where we spend money.

By finding savings we're able to invest in frontline services, with a major boost to learning support for children with additional needs, more maths teachers and tutoring, new and improved access for urgent medical care, \$1 billion for hospital upgrades, and more support for Police.

Targeted cost of living support is also being delivered. Rates rebates for seniors will increase and be extended to up to 66,000 more SuperGold Card holders. Working for Families payments will increase for 142,000 families. And we're extending prescriptions to 12 months to save time and money at the doctors.

Budget 2025 is focused on making the careful investments Kiwis need now in order to bed-in an economic recovery that will help New Zealanders get ahead.

Hon Todd McClay

Member of Parliament for Rotorua

Minister of Agriculture

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Authorised by, T. McClay, Parliament Building, Wellington



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Candidate Information Evening

When: Monday 23 June, 5pm – 7pm
Where: Council Chambers, 1061 Haupapa Street

E whakaaro ana koe kia tū ki te Kaunihera i tēnei tau pōti? E pīrangi ana koe ki te mōhio he aha tēnā mea te Kaunihera ā-rohe me te mea hoki rā he aha te mahi o te Manu Matārae?

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FOR MORE INFO
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Kaharoa School

Tēnā koutou whānau

Autumn is over, and despite the recent on and off weather we have had a fabulous term so far, exploring the Solar System and beyond.

Our Best Always - Tā Matou Pai Ake			RESPECT
Learning Ako	Care Manaaki	Leadership Rangatira	Guardian Kaitiaki
Can do	Stepping up	Everyone belongs	

Welcome back to our Principal, Lynden Cook. In April he had the privilege of visiting schools and educational institutions in China, Finland, and Cambodia as part of a Professional Learning and Development grant. These visits offered invaluable insights into global education practices and reignited his passion and vision at Kaharoa - for students to be curious, to believe in themselves, to strive toward and to imagine what the world could be with their contribution. Across all three countries, he was continually drawn back to appreciating the heart of Kaharoa School: a place where "Our Best Always – Tā Mātou Pai Ake" is lived through opportunities, inclusion, and striving for our best.

Rotorua Mini-Marathon: Term 2 began with the whole school running in the Mini Marathon, along with hundreds of other children from different schools. Well done to everyone who participated and gave it their best.



EPro 8: Congratulations to our Year 5/6 and Year 7/8 teams who proudly represented our school in the quarter-finals of the EPro8 Challenge. They faced some tough competition but gave it their all and showed great determination.

Kaharoa Cull: A massive thank you from the PTA to everyone who came along to the Pest Cull on Sunday 18th May – what an incredible turnout! It was fantastic to see our community come together with such great energy and support. Your efforts make a real difference to our school and local environment. Thank you also to the Kaharoa Community Association for running the kitchen for us.



Kickstart Breakfast Programme: We're excited to have recently joined the KickStart Breakfast programme! KickStart is a free programme where we receive Sanitarium Weet-Bix and Anchor milk for our students to have access to at school. Our Breakfast Club will be available two days a week at this stage, on Tuesdays and Fridays and we look forward to watching the programme grow in our school.

Whānau Matariki Celebration: On Thursday 19 June, the school will be holding a Matariki evening. This will include an art 'walk around', and a Hangi.



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.

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



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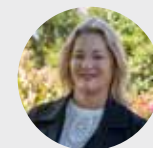
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LAKEVIEW GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

The first month of winter is upon us! With that comes the realisation that we are almost half way through the year! The weather has been great and the autumn colours have been amazing: it is such an awesome time of the year on the course to enjoy the wonderful environment, and get that all important fresh air and exercise before the winter really sets in and keeps us indoors by the fire.

Club competition for June is the continuation of Match Play with the finals on 14th June. Matariki weekend follows that and the end of June is the first round of the Mamaku Cup. A big CONGRATULATIONS to Joe and Court Marsters for winning the Anniversary Trophy. Always good to see new members getting involved in club competition and even better to see them winning!

CLUBHOUSE GRAND OPENING!

Saturday 21st June.

Plans for this exciting event are well underway with invitations being sent out and final details being organised. We are looking forward to celebrating with the community and showcasing this awesome community hub.

From the Operations and Events Desk:

Winter may be settling in, but things are heating up at Lakeview Golf and Country Club! This past month, our venue buzzed with excitement—from a glamorous real estate awards dinner to a surprise western-themed 60th birthday bash (yes, complete with a mechanical bull!) and a hands-on calf-rearing seminar hosted by the Rural Women's Network.

Don't miss out on booking your mid-winter event for your social club, group, or workplace. It's also never too soon to secure your spot for end-of-year functions. Take the stress out of the Christmas period by having everything pre-planned.

Our versatile spaces and stunning views make Lakeview the perfect backdrop for any occasion. Whether you're planning a cozy gathering or a grand celebration, we've got you covered. Ready to plan your next event? Contact us at events@lakeviewgolf.co.nz or 027 2720425. Let's make your event unforgettable!

QUIZ NIGHTS!

The next quiz nights are 27th June and 25th July. So, get your teams organized, brush up on all those trivia facts and book in for a great night of entertainment.

TRAPPING PROGRAMME.

We had some very exciting news from our trapping volunteers who during their rounds spotted a North Island Robin. We also had a sighting of a Kaka on the course! These birds are an indicator that our trapping of a Kaka on


the course! These birds are an indicator that our trapping endeavours are working and having a positive effect on the environment. These species are extremely vulnerable to predators, so to see them on the course is fantastic and a testament to Ann and Melton for their dedication in managing our trapping network. If there is someone in the community who is keen to help out in this space, please contact us: we would love to have you on board. It is a great place to get some exercise and do some rewarding mahi for our environment.

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 dry and warm.

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Moses. He had two tablets that were connected
to the cloud.*

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I don't need that. I have a wife.

*What technology company was named after its
founder's genitalia?
Microsoft*



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NGONGOTAHA INDOOR BOWLS

Monday 28th April Aggregate I can't really report on how bowls went tonight as I didn't attend. All in all I think they had a good night. No one would have missed me. A new old bowler has come back to the district and I believe she is a good player. Her name is Gail Powell and she and Bruce Wiggins were the winners for the night.

Monday 5th May Open Triples Tournament It was a very busy night of bowling and lots of fun to be had. Raffles and a lovely spread of supper was put on by the Ngongotaha club. We had members from RSA, St Andrews, Owhata and Citizens' club. The winners for the night were Allen Gordon, Eddie Haggenars, Marge Taare, Citizen's Club. Runners up were Kevin Birch, Janice Winwood, Mason Birch, RSA Club. The booby prize went to members from our Club: Bruce Wiggins, Gail Powell and Martin Burtling. Lastly I must not forget to thank our very valuable sponsors Denise Sturt, Zero to 100 and Ngongotaha Pharmacy.



Eddie, Marge and Allen



Mason, Kevin, Janice



Bruce, Gail, Martin



Martin, Eddie and Bruce

Monday 12th May International Pairs

It wasn't a good night for me. Should have stayed at home. No wins for Martin and Helen but everyone else seemed to be enjoying themselves. The winners were Kevin Whyte and Colin Rolfe. Runners up were Eddie Haggenars and Gail Powell.

Thursday 15th May Westbrook Open Triples Tournament

We had four teams take part in this competition. The team of Bruce Wiggins, Eddie Haggenars and Martin Burtling were Runners up so Martin was very pleased to have his photo taken for the third time this year and not for a booby prize this time.

Monday 19th May Championship Triples

Some of the teams were struggling tonight and hoping to win. But as usual there is only one winner and that was Kevin Whyte and Greg Chase. Runners up were Bruce Wiggins and Nicole Ruthe. (continued on page 17)

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Lisa Thompson

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Monday 26th May Roll Up

Tonight, we opened a Time Capsule that was put down in 2004 and had to be opened in May 2025. Members that were there at the time were Robin Campbell, Cheryl and Bruce Wiggins, Kevin Whyte, Murray Harris and Brian Ruthe. Much joy for them looking at old photos, badges, papers and old letters. One that had been written by Merlene Whyte about how helpful and a great bowler who enjoyed both indoor and outdoor bowls Kevin Whyte's Dad was. Kevin did not know she had written this. We enjoyed nibbles and a light supper to celebrate. Some bowlers enjoyed a practice game of bowls.



Murray Cheryl and Kevin



Grahame, Brian and Kevin



Life members Brian, Robin, Kevin, Murray, Cheryl and Bruce

Anyone looking at playing bowls can contact: Richard Mills 07 3323623 Kevin Whyte 07 3574766

Technology blips

Letter to a neighbour

Hi, George. This is Richard, next door. I've a confession to make. I've been riddled with guilt for a few months and have been trying to get up the courage to tell you face-to-face. At least I'm telling you in this text. I can't live with myself a minute longer without your knowing about this. The truth is, when you're not around, I've been sharing your wife, day and night. Probably much more than you. I haven't been getting it at home recently. I know that's no excuse. The temptation was just too great. I can't live with the guilt & hope you'll accept my sincere apology and forgive me. Please suggest a fee for usage and I'll pay you. Richard

George, feeling enraged and betrayed, grabbed his gun, went next door, and shot Richard dead. He returned home, shot his wife, poured himself a stiff drink and sat down on the sofa. George then looked at his phone and discovered a second text message from Richard, as follows;

Hi, George. Richard here again. Sorry about the typo on my last text. I assume you figured it out and noticed that the darned Spell-Check had changed "wi-fi" to "wife." Technology, huh? It'll be the death of us all.

A yellow advertisement for 'Mr 4 Four Square Ngongotaha'. It features a large red '4' in a green box, the text 'FOUR SQUARE NGONGOTAHA', and 'OPEN 7 Days!' in large red letters. At the bottom, there is a cartoon character of a man in a green shirt and white apron, giving a thumbs up. The address '1 Hall Road, Ngongotaha' and phone number '07 357 4475' are also listed.

A blue advertisement for 'Rotorua Cleaning Services'. It features a circular logo with a house and the text 'ROTORUA CLEANING SERVICES'. Below the logo, it lists 'OUR SERVICES' including: Short term help, Spring Cleaning, Oven/Window Cleaning, Commercial Cleaning, Long-term help, AirBnB cleaning, One-off clean up & tidy jobs, and Holiday house cleaning. At the bottom, there is a 'BOOK NOW' button, the phone number '0800 264 357' and '07 332 5415', the email 'rotoruaclcleaningservice@gmail.com', and the text 'Previously Wendy's Angels'.

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- Ngongotaha Emergency Defibrillator
- Ngongotaha Stream Care Team
- Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum
- Ngongotaha Hall

Kia ora Koutou, Katoa, Hello Everyone !!!

These months are flying by, aren't they? What is on our radar this month? We have noticed that we have some empty shops appearing again. The Hairdresser in the Hub Dairy Block has closed down and the Fruit and Vegetable shop next door to Wheat Sheaf has gone as well.

Several years ago ex Cr Bob Martin noticed the same thing happening and was very proactive in establishing a shop, which sold second hand goods (moving into the shop vacated by Cottage Flair). He also made a space for Progress Ngongotaha Inc to set up their very first community accessible office. This service was called 'The Village Focus' and some of you will remember how convenient it was to visit 'The Village Focus' to engage with a Justice of the Peace and to have him or her to witness something important for you.

You could also talk with any of our visiting Rotorua Lakes Councillors, about things Council i.e. Long Term Plan, rates, future developments and the like. You will also know that it was where our Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum began its life nearly nine years ago.

I know that 'James and wee Kiwi' (Big Teddy and little teddy) sitting outside on a chair delighted many of our visitors and locals alike. There was a dog called 'Charlie' who was walked by his Mum on a regular basis past our shop. Charlie's Mum would stop, while she caught up with the happenings of the week. Charlie simply flopped onto the footpath for a well-earned rest.

On other occasions both Bob Martin and Colin Brake were outside, large as life sitting very comfortably in large arm chairs situated out on the footpath. People stopped and talked about all sorts of really 'important stuff.' we often made a cuppa to go with the chat. Really great Community Building Fun!!

People don't stop outside of empty shops, there is very little life outside of empty shops. There is definitely no life inside either. It leaves those passing by with questions as to why the shop is shut? Is this the sign for potential future closures? But more importantly, we are losing some of our most important community minded people.

For example, I know that Pervinda (sp?) who ran the vegetable shop with her husband, was very keen to be involved in our community. Her interest was to become involved in the environment, she could not get involved immediately, as they were working really hard to set up and strengthen their business. However, she expressed an interest to become involved at the Ngongotaha Awa (river). In particular she wanted to help with any planting Working Bees.

There are many among us who can remember the days of the late Des Craig IGA, Andy Burnett, Charles Sturt, Satesh Patel, and the difference that they each made to our Village community. Each of these business people and retailers were a positive influence on Village Life. Like us at the 'Village Focus' they were never too busy to chat and to find out what was on the minds of those in our community. They worked quietly at times, sponsoring some of our rangatahi/young people in their sports and academic lives. Some even made sure that our seniors with special needs were catered for. We have retailers and local business people today, who are very much the same.

The last Ngongotaha News May 2025 shared that the Ngongotaha Sports and Community Association "had successfully upgraded the training lights for its playing fields, made possible through the incredible support of the community." It also mentioned Grant Plummer the co-owner of our Four Square and rugby sponsor and the difference he is making to our community. We have businesses and retailers in Ngongotaha whose owners are very much involved and generous towards our community and they don't ask much in return. Let's support them and hopefully save them from the need to close their door for the last time. We can make a difference.

I don't know about you or your whanau, but I do try to support as many businesses and retailers as I can in Ngongotaha. Please can I encourage you to do the same? I recall Satesh known affectionately by many as 'Sitting Bull' (ex Four Square owner) saying to me once "Lynn, all I need to keep going here is

(continued on page 20)



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for everyone to buy a bottle of milk and a loaf of bread. It doesn't have to be a lot." This was the beginning of my habit of supporting as many local shops and businesses as I could, even if in a small way. Let's keep our Village Buzzing and Beautiful !!!

Good News!!!

We are so grateful to have received an offer of assistance towards the further development of Ngongotaha Emergency Response Plan. Please feel free to put your hand up to come on board.

If you see a need for something in Ngongotaha, an improvement that could be made, please let us know. We have someone asking this very question now and it would be good to 'share your voice' from our community with him. It was great to see so many of you at the recent Rotorua Lakes Council 'Drop In Sessions' advertised in the last Ngongotaha News.

Until next month stay safe and warm

Lynn, Heather, Lee and Bob

progressngongotaha@gmail.com text 022 1404391

Ngongotaha School

Well, a busy and productive term so far. Although the weather is getting colder and wetter, we have still been able to go out most playtimes. The Cross Country was a huge success with all children running the course after many weeks of practise and most of them finishing with a smile on their faces. There is a team of children who are training most mornings for the interschool Cross Country race at Kaharoa later this term.

Now we head into practising our Winter Codes; Netball, miniball, rugby, football and hockey. It is wonderful to see so many children participating in these sports outside of school time. Our sport academies have been a great success again - so our thanks go out to our volunteers for these and all the coaches and managers for our winter codes. This term has seen our Tackle 5 rugby team compete at tournament.

A group of our Year 5 & 6 children have competed in the EPRO8 tournament - which is a technology challenge where they are given a

problem to solve and have to build items out of gears, levers, metal rods etc. This year they had to make an electronic shopping trolley that could go around the supermarket by itself.

Duffy theatre came to our school again. This is the programme called "Duffy Books in Schools". The school and Mainfreight sponsor books for the children to choose and take home for free and once a year produce a fantastic show for our kids to watch. This year it is about the importance of reading and writing letters to whanau who might be overseas. Thanks to Mainfreight for their continued support of this initiative. I know the children get so excited about choosing their own books and taking them home to keep.

We are also gearing up for our Matariki Breakfast, a Matariki sleepover for our Year two children, hangi lunch from Ka pai kai and celebrating Matariki in our classrooms. We always look forward to celebrating this special time.

We will welcome our new principal Eden Chapman (Matua Eden) to our school and community with a powhiri later in the term. He is married to Jenny, has four girls and is currently the principal of Sunset Primary School. The staff and children are looking forward to meeting him. We will have a powhiri for him and his family later in the term. I have already told him how lucky he is to come to such a wonderful community and school. I have no doubt that he will love it over on the sunny side of the mountain.

Ngā mihi

Principal, Ngongotaha Primary School

07 3574531

22 School Road

Ngongotaha 3010

T: 07 357 4531

E: principal@ngongotaha.school.nz

www.ngongotaha.school.nz

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20 MINUTES FROM ROTORUA

Happenings

14 June Matchplay Finals at Lakeview
16 June Kaharoa Rural Schools Cross Country, (Postponement 18 June)
17 June (11.30-1pm) Open morning at Mamaku School. If you would like to attend, please RSVP: office@mamaku.school.nz
19 June Kaharoa School Matariki evening with hangi and art
21 June Lakeview Golf and Country Club Official opening
27 June Lakeview Quiz Night
25 July Lakeview Quiz Night

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 Tauī St
Sunday 9.30 to 11.00 Rotorua Archery Club at Lakeview.
Last Sunday Farmers Market at the Agrodome.

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- We now have **Rapid Antigen Tests** available in store for purchase.
- Flowflex COVID-19 box of 5 tests \$23



- Healgen COVID-19 /Flu /A&B /RSV combo 1 test \$11

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Migration and Asylum

It would be fair to say the world is currently in a state of deep unrest, driven by politics, war, and the relentless struggle for power and control. International media reports highlight tragic and heartbreaking events, with the poor and vulnerable often impacted the most. In the last decade in particular, millions have sought better lives or safety in other countries, sparking diverse perspectives on immigration and asylum.

For decades there has been significant migration of people to new countries, particularly after World War II where people from Europe and the United Kingdom migrated to places such as Australia, New Zealand and America to build new lives. From Government perspectives, this is a win-win as it brings skilled workers and expertise, and often foreign money and investment.

Asylum also sees migration of people to other countries seeking safety from poverty, war, persecution and so on. International agreements addressing asylum largely took shape in the aftermath of World War II.

The 1951 Refugee Convention, expanded by the 1967 Protocol, became the foundation of international asylum law we see today, along with other international agreements protecting civil and political rights among ratifying countries. In addition, the European Union has the controversial Dublin Regulation which requires asylum seekers to register in the first EU country they enter to prevent 'preferred asylum country shopping'.

Broadly, the international agreements recognise the right to seek asylum or protection on certain limited grounds (although asylum is not guaranteed) and protect against forced return to home countries while a claim is being heard through the courts. The basic rules of asylum are where a person faces a real chance of harm in their home country due to race, ethnicity, religion, political opinion, nationality, membership of a particular social group (EG: LGBTQ+), torture, arbitrary deprivation of life, or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

But times have changed over the last decade and arguably so has the global political and public appetite toward immigrants, due to actual and perceived abuse by overstayers and asylum seekers. Why? Because a new migrant cohort has emerged: the so-called 'economic migrant' - those who leave their home countries in hope of better economic opportunities elsewhere, then claim refugee status but don't meet the refugee or protected person criteria in the first place. Claimants simply arrive, then rely on the length of time, often years, to process large numbers of claims through the courts in the hope they will get to stay. Others simply overstay any visa or disappear and live under the radar.

The key issue for Governments is people risking their lives trying to get to UK and Italy on small or unsafe boats organised by human smuggling networks (with passengers tragically regularly dying) or trying to cross into America from South America in similar dire circumstances.

A secondary key challenge for host countries and their taxpayers is the government's responsibility to fund support for new arrivals, especially when taxpayer-funded social services—such as legal aid, housing, healthcare, education, and welfare—are already under strain meeting the needs of their own citizens.

It has been reported these cost countries billions per day. Governments in the UK, Europe and America are right now actively clamping down on arrivals to try and deter illegal migration and disrupt human smuggling and other criminal networks.

New Zealand has overstayers and also receives asylum seekers at its borders, though in far smaller numbers compared to other countries. New Zealand operates under the same international conventions and protocols as other ratifying nations or follows applicable immigration policy for visas etc. Interestingly, New Zealand also resettles up to 1,500 refugees annually through the Refugee Quota Program, with an additional quota of up to 200 for large-scale emergencies, such as conflicts.

This article is intended to give readers a broad but interesting overview of international law behind migration and asylum, including relating to New Zealand, which we're perhaps not as familiar with on a day-to-day basis.

This article was prepared for Ngongotaha News by Ros Morshead, solicitor at Lawbox.

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Technology blips

There's a University called the National University of Science and Technology

It's not called the National University of Technology and Science, because that would be NUTS.

Two guys... Hey do you think that someday technology will replace paper?... Well I think it will be quite hard to wipe with a tablet...

It's a lot of rubbish when people talk about "how good" modern kids are these days with technology. My grandson is staying for the weekend, and he looks absolutely clueless with my VCR and VHS tapes.

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