

What's your why?

Have your say on what matters to you by voting in the local elections. The elected Mayor and councillors make decisions that impact many aspects of your life and your local community. So, take time to learn about candidates' aspirations and proposals, and how they fit with your why.



Local elections are held every three years, where the people of Rotorua vote for their mayor and 10 councillors. To vote, you need to be on the General or Māori electoral roll and live in Rotorua or own property here. You also need to be at least 18 years old and be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.

Key dates - 2025 election

28 August 2025

9 September 2025

9 – 22 September 2025

9 September – 11 October 2025

11 October 2025

16 – 19 October 2025

Rotorua Business Chamber Event: Rotorua Mayoral Forum 2025

Rotorua Business Chamber Event: Candidate Connect: Speed Chat with your local Candidates

Voting papers sent to enrolled voters

Voting open

Voting closes at 12 noon (progress & preliminary results published as soon as possible after close of voting)

Final results announced

2025 Candidates

Mayoralty

BARRETT, Haehaetu

FRASER, Takeina

LEE, Robert

PATERSON, Don

TAPSELL, Tania

Te Ipu Wai Auraki General Ward (6 Vacancies)

ADAMS, Jared

ANGUS, Philly

BROWN, Gregg

CHAPMAN, Jenny

COLLINS, Richard

DAVIS, Brendan

DOIDGE, Mathew

FRASER, Takeina

GRAPL, Frank (The Tank)

GRAY, Ryan

KAI FONG, Sandra

LEE, Robert

MACPHERSON, Reynold

MONAHAN, Jason

MORRISON, Mariana

NEILSON, Pam

O'BRIEN, Conan

PATERSON, Don

RAETHEL, Neville

SANDFORD, Ben

SETHI, Rahul

WANG, Fisher

Te Ipu Wai Taketake Māori Ward (3 Vacancies)

MAXWELL, Trevor Horowaewae

RAUKAWA-TAIT, Merepeka

RUPAPER, Harina Rinaha

SKIPWITH, Te Whatanui

TEMARA-BENFELL, Te Rika

WARU, Rawiri

Rural Ward (1 Vacancy)

As the number of nominations received did not exceed the number of vacancies, Karen BARKER is elected unopposed.

Rotorua Lakes Community Board (4 Vacancies)

MACMILLAN, Peter

ROTHWELL, Jennifer

THOMASS, Phill

As the number of nominations received did not exceed the number of vacancies, Peter MACMILLAN, Jennifer ROTHWELL and Phill THOMASS are elected unopposed.

A by-election to fill the remaining vacancy will be held after the triennial elections have been finalised.

Rotorua Rural Community Board (4 Vacancies)

BIDOIS, Rachel

CLARK, Rachel

FORLONG, Karen

GUYTON, Colin

MARSHALL, Tina

ROSE, Tina

A poll will be held in conjunction with the above elections to confirm whether Rotorua Lakes Council electors wish to keep or remove the Māori Ward as part of Rotorua Lakes Council's representation structure. Voting papers are sent out in mid-September to everyone on the electoral roll. To post your vote, place it in the voting ballot boxes placed across Rotorua. Ballot box locations are listed in your candidate profile booklet with your voting papers. If you've lost your voting papers, you can still cast a special vote. Please contact RLC Customer Centre on 07 3484199 or pop into 1061 Haupapa Street. Ngongotaha News requested opinions from all candidates on Ngongotaha issues: responses received are on pages 20-23

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Golf carts are able to be booked directly through the club.
Raffles will be running and will be drawn on the night.

Registration forms are available at manager@equisucceed.co.nz, please submit by Friday 24 October. Available in paper or online form.

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Age Concern

I attended a Regional Manager's Hui in Rototuna, Hamilton, on the 6th of August. Managers from Hamilton, Taranaki, Tauranga and Rotorua were in attendance and the day was about sharing what we are doing in our local area and about problem solving issues we had. They were all amazed at the amount of work, and number of programmes, we were able to sustain with the small staff available and recognised how hard they all work to achieve such a wide variety of programmes.

The common theme was the difficulty attracting sufficient funding to maintain those programmes and staff wages although most of them had National contracts, like Elder Abuse, which gave them a large financial backing for staff and resources.

The event that is taking up most of our time now is preparation for the Positive Ageing Expo which will be held at Parksyde on the 27th of September. To date we have 27 stall holders, of which 5 are businesses that are expected to pay, and the rest are free. Entry to the event is also free and there will be a variety of Not-for-Profit groups and something for everyone to learn from and take away. There will be something for elderly and for those approaching their elderly status.

Some of the stalls at the Expo are Age Concern, SeniorNet, Heart Foundation, Parksyde, Maori Women's Health League, Multi-Cultural Council, Hospice, Lara Lodge, Cantabria, Eye Health Day stay, Resonate Ear Health, Grey Power, Coffin Club, Collingwood Funeral Home, Probus, U3A, Genealogy Society to name a few.

Welcoming Week will be celebrated in New Zealand from 5 to 14 September 2025. It is led by Immigration New Zealand in partnership with the Ministry for Ethnic Communities. In Rotorua, the Rotorua Library is taking the lead in coordinating events being planned by various organizations. The Rotorua Multicultural Council's contribution will include a Welcome to Rotorua

seminar being held at the Library on Saturday, 13 September 2025 from 11 am to 3 pm.

This is an invitation for me to speak at 2.30 pm to welcome migrants to Rotorua and to talk to them about the services available to seniors in our city and what is available to the 55+ or 65+ year old new residents of Rotorua.

About 20% of retirees do not own their own home, a rate expected to double over the next 30 years. What happens to those seniors when they find themselves priced out of retirement villages?

Abbeyfield Hornby house is a communal living centre for seniors. A resident, a sprightly 92, has called it home for a decade. On this day, armed with her Total Mobility taxi card and walking stick, she is heading out to a doctor's appointment. The cab is on its way. The lounge, kitchen and dining area of Abbeyfield Palmerston North house. The setup is like many other Abbeyfield homes.

Flatting is typically a young person's game, but Abbeyfield is a registered community housing provider offering communal living for over 65s. It targets people whose main income is superannuation but who do not qualify for social housing. It is a style of living that is growing fast as more seniors retire without owning a home and find themselves priced out of retirement villages.

There are now 15 such homes across the country. Nine of them are in the South Island and three in greater Christchurch – Hornby, Wigram and Leeston. The aim is to combat loneliness, and provide a safe, secure home for residents live out their lives independently, with companionship.

Abbeyfield rents are about \$485 a week. This covers the costs of two employees providing cleaning services, three meals a day, and other general expenses. Residents who rely on a standard single-person pension have \$53 a week left over. The homes have individual studios with en suites, a communal lounge, laundry, and breakaway room. The kitchen is off-limits for safety reasons. The rent does not cover healthcare, and residents have to do their own laundry and keep their studios clean and tidy.

About 20% of retirees, roughly 166,000 people, do not own their own home, according to Stats NZ. With the ageing population, this is expected to increase to about 600,000 seniors (40%) by 2055.

Auckland's shortage of quality, affordable rental housing for older people has received a significant boost recently with the opening of Haumaru Housing's new Greenslade Court apartment complex in Northcote – a purpose-built development offering warm, dry homes for seniors in the heart of a revitalized community.

The five-storey building provides 52 one-bedroom rental apartments, designed specifically for older tenants. Demand has been high, with all 55 new residents (including three couples) due to move in by the end of August. Developed in collaboration with Kāinga Ora, Auckland Council and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the construction of the Greenslade Court building was completed in just 12 months. All tenants qualify for the Income Related Rent Subsidy, thus easing their financial burden.

Rory O'Rourke, Manager

About Dad Jokes

I asked my dad if he got a haircut. He said, "No, I got them all cut."

How do you make a fire with two sticks? Make sure one's a match.

What did the pineapple say to the banana? Nothing. Pineapples can't talk.

Why did the chicken go to the séance? To talk to the other side.

I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug.





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LAKEVIEW GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Welcome to spring! The cherry trees are blossoming, the early rhododendrons are blooming, daffodils are making gorgeous yellow carpets and the pine pollen is also making everything yellow! Even though it is still a wee bit chilly, the sunny days are amazing and make for some very busy days on the course which is great. Our awesome green keepers have been busy tidying the course up with the pruning of tree branches, felling of dead trees and general course maintenance before the busy grass cutting season starts. The course is looking fantastic, so pop up and take a look and enjoy a coffee on the deck while you are there!

Club competition for September is Top Dog/Cat. Partners have been found/bribed or stolen and after qualifying which was at the end of August the comp is in full swing for most of September. The last weekend of September Club Champs Stroke Play kicks off. Results of the Managh Cup/ Trophy are as follows- Jeanette Watkins took out the Trophy and John Reid (JR) took the Cup. A big CONGRATULATIONS to both Jeanette and JR and commiserations to Kuru Whiston and Court Marsters who put up a great fight.

Hard to believe but daylight saving starts September 28th which means that Twilight golf also starts the following Wednesday! So, for those who love to get 9 holes in after work with a bunch of mates followed by a burger and liquid refreshment, mark your calendars and get those swings oiled. You do not have to be a member of a golf club to participate.

An exciting event for us this year is our participation in the Rotorua Garden Festival! We are after all a very large parkland garden! We have the added bonus of catering facilities and space for garden workshops etc. So, watch this space as we prepare for this awesome new event in our calendar. On the note of diversification and utilising the course for activities other than golf, we had the pleasure of hosting Martin and his walking group a few weeks ago! They took a walk around the course (no golf was played!) and enjoyed a coffee afterwards. It was super cool to host these keen walkers and have them experience our amazing green space.

Kia ora from Rach at the Lakeview Operations Desk.

It's been a busy old month here with all sorts of groups using the events space and conference room – from local hui and business meetings, training sessions, right through to community pest control gatherings. It's awesome seeing Lakeview buzzing with people doing great things for our neighbourhood. A wee reminder though – now's the time to get organised for your end-of-year functions. Be kind to your future self and book in before your staff or social club make other plans. We'd love to host your Christmas party or community get-together right here at Lakeview!

We're also excited to be setting up a community garden at Lakeview as part of the Rotorua Festival of Gardens. If you'd like to help out, or have time or resources to donate, I'd love to hear from you. Rach - events@lakeviewgolf.co.nz

QUIZ NIGHTS! The final quiz night for the season will be Friday 26th September. Gather your team together, swat up on all those trivia facts and book in for a great night out! Txt Rach on 027 272 0425 to book your spot.

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, savour the joys of spring!

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-Mati & Chris

Hon Todd McClay

MP for Rotorua

Delivering for Rotorua

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

1301 Amohau Street

rotorua.mp@parliament.govt.nz



Authorised by Todd McClay,
Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Hon Todd McClay

Member of Parliament for Rotorua



Interest rates down, more work to do

New Zealand's economy is changing for the better, showing the work the Government is doing to help communities like Ngongotahā is working.

The Reserve Bank in August announced it was reducing the Official Cash Rate (OCR) from 3.25 to 3 per cent and signalled two more cuts this year.

This latest drop means it has fallen from 5.5 per cent to 3 per cent in just a year. For homeowners like many of you it means the easing of financial stresses - when this Government first came in two years ago, one-year fixed home mortgage interest rates were at 7.73 per cent. Now, it's about 4.79 per cent. For a \$500,000, 25-year loan that's a significant saving of \$419 a fortnight.

Things are looking positive going forward, with headline inflation expected to return to around the 2 percent target midpoint by mid-2026.

I also know how power costs put strain on your budgets - both at home and at work - and this Government is pushing for affordable, reliable electricity.

The Electricity Authority recently agreed to a new rule that will level the playing field for smaller power companies, boost retail competition to put downward pressure on power prices. It was developed under the Energy Competition Task Force, established a year ago. The new non-discrimination rule will be consulted on later this year.

There is still more to do to make your lives easier and myself and my colleagues will continue to work sensibly, cut costs and lead with strong fiscal management. As Rotorua's MP I value that when locals can thrive, so too do their businesses, employees, families and communities.

My Rotorua office is open five days a week, from 8.30am to 4.30pm at 1301 Amoha Street, or you can call in to Michelle and Tracey on 07 348 5871 - it will be our pleasure to help.

Hon Todd McClay

Member of Parliament for Rotorua

Authorised by T.McClay, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

Article provided to Ngongotaha News by Todd McClay, MP for Rotorua.



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Kaharoa School

Tēnā koutou whānau

It has been exciting to see the learning happening around Kaharoa School. We have all been embracing our school values - and children and adults alike are 'making their mark'.

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

Kaharoa School Orientation Days:

We recently held an information evening, followed by an open day later in the week, for any prospective students considering Kaharoa School as an option in 2026. These orientation events included school tours, information sessions, some fun activities, and a free sausage sizzle. Many students and their families attended and we look forward to welcoming some of them to our kura next year.



Scientist for a Day: This is an experience we started back in 2017 to give our learners an opportunity to see how the world of science is in many jobs and careers. Our parents and community members were invited to share with our tamariki how science is evident in their jobs, and to share the passion and wonderment science brings to their world. We are grateful for the support of the families and organisations in our community who supported this event.



Projects: The PTA have generously funded a revitalisation of the **junior sandpit** in the front corner of the school. As part of this redevelopment, there has been a new fence built along the corner of the playground as this is a dangerous place for children to cross the road, especially when wet.



With council funding we have developed the tree grove and boardwalk (in 2024). The final piece of this project is the **'Tipuna Project'**, where we are having sign boards made that tell the local stories students are learning at school in line with the Aotearoa NZ Histories curriculum.

As part of our school **values** redevelopment, the students created logos and pictures representing each of the values. Some of their ideas will be incorporated into the final designs.

Building of the **Year 8 Legacy Project** - a 'wall ball' court, has begun. Students are looking forward to being able to use this when it is complete (see photo to the left of initial construction).

Disco: The PTA ran a **SUPER HEROES & IDOLS DISCO** at the start of September. There was a lot of fun to be had, with some wonderful costumes and accessories, yummy food, and of course some great dance moves!



Sports Camp: A group of intermediate tamariki from Kaharoa and Selwyn Schools have been training hard in preparation for Sports Camp at Tōtara Springs near the end of this term. They will be competing against other schools from around the North Island in a range of different sports.

We have space for new students. Kaharoa School is 13 minutes from Ngongotaha and open for enrolments 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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Mamaku School

A key element of school life at Mamaku School is to provide 'rich' opportunities for students to learn and participate in a range of experiences outside the classroom. There are opportunities aplenty at Mamaku School, as you can see from the photos.

Tough Guy and Gal Challenge

The annual Tough Guy and Gal Challenge was held at Lakes Ranch, Rotorua. As the name suggests, it is a challenge of perseverance, endurance and fitness, as students run up hills, through waterways and trails of mud. Our school entered 42 students which represents nearly half our school – a mighty effort, all-round !

Year One Visit a Farm

Our Year One students visited a local farm to see calves and put into context some of the learning they have done.

Peter Vos, Principal



Tony Kelly

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NGONGOTAHA INDOOR BOWLS

Monday 28th July Aggregate

Some of us had a very good night and others not so good. The game played by Helen White and Nicole Ruthe against Richard Mills, Bruce Mapson and Cheryl Wiggins was interesting. That team did not score. On one end they had no bowls on the mat. We scored very well on that game which gave us a win for the night with 29 points. Runners up were John Rayner and Chris McGoon.



Monday 4th August RSA Pairs Tournament

What a great night it was for some Ngongotaha bowlers. We had four teams take part in this. We had two teams that did alright. They were Gail and Peit who came third and these two were the winners for the night, Greg and Nicole. The smile on their faces in this photo was enough to say how pleased they were. Well done to all who played. My partner Chris and I played great bowls but the opposition played better. We did have two wins.

Saturday 9th August BOP Interclub

The fours team of Kevin Whyte, Helen White, Greg Chase and Nicole Ruthe. Pairs Richard Mills and Gail Powell and singles John Rayner. All played very well and were runners up to Ohope. Two of our members played for Westbrook Club and played very well together and managed to win against some top Bay players. The Westbrook team won the plate.

Monday 11th August Mystery Night

Another fun night. Members were put into two teams. Players either played pairs or triples. The score from each game carried on to the next game. The winning team for the night were Bruce W, Kevin, Nicole, Greg, Eddie, Richard and Martin. They scored 61 points and the other team scored 60 points so it was very close.

Monday 18th August Trophy The winners for tonight were Greg, Piet and new person Gail.

Anyone looking at playing bowls can contact:

Richard Mills 07 3323623
Kevin Whyte 07 3574766



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3 1 1 1

Set in the heart of Ngongotaha on the sunny side of Lake Rotorua, this charming 3-bedroom home offers village vibes, a north-facing deck, separate garage and workshop, and space to add value. Minutes from schools, cafés, trout fishing and the CBD. Your launchpad for a better way of living.

By Negotiation | rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT31962

Contact Jodi 021 159 7132 & Kerif 021 023 38882



25 Caledonia Road, Ngongotaha

3 1 1 2

Ideal for families, first-home buyers or investors. This well insulated three-bedroom home sits on a flat 1,011m² section with a large garage, double glazing, and compliant woodburner. Fully fenced and close to the lake and shops, with huge potential for development, gardening, or extra vehicles.

By Negotiation | rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT32454

Contact Julie Brake 021 110 0320



FOR SALE

27 Oakland Place, Ngongotaha

4 2 2 2

Immaculate and move-in ready, this modern home features plush carpets, fresh décor, and a stylish kitchen. Enjoy north-facing privacy with mature fruit trees, deck, and mountain views. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, efficient woodfire, double garage, and extra parking complete this low-maintenance, family-friendly cul-de-sac gem.

\$979,000 | rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT32238

Contact Angela Parker 0274 213 619



FOR SALE

6 Oakland Place, Ngongotaha

Build new on a section that's in a picturesque location close to the village, the lake and stream. Sized at 920 m²(more or less) the section is amongst quality homes. Bring your ideas and create the perfect family home for you. Contact Tim for more details.

By Negotiation | rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT32147

Contact Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986

■ We bring the whole team

Ray White.



FOR SALE

7 Arahiwi Road, Mamaku

3 1 1 2

This charming 1940s cottage on 1517m² blends character with modern comforts. Hobby room, cozy lounge with wood burner, and open-plan kitchen. Covered deck, garage, and lush grounds, hothouse, and space for animals.

By Negotiation
rwrotorua.co.nz
ROT31080

Jodi Ratahi 021 159 7132 and Kerif Smerdon 021 0233 8882



FOR SALE

19 Turner Road, Hamurana

5 3 2 2

Lockwood home with separate income-producing cottage. Flat land, lake peeps and mature trees. Envision parklike grounds, lifestyle living, or subdivision. Native timber floors, woodfire, double garage, chook house, shade house, and ample storage.

By Negotiation
rwrotorua.co.nz
ROT32538

Angela Parker 0274 213 619 angela.parker@raywhite.com



FOR SALE

5 Maraeroa Road, Mamaku

4 2 2 4

Versatile property with a 3-bedroom home plus a self-contained flat, and outstanding garaging including a near-new 14m high-stud shed with 3-phase power. Ideal for families, hobbies, or income options. Live in one, rent the other. Lots of options here!

By Negotiation
rwrotorua.co.nz
ROT32230

Angela Parker 0274 213 619 angela.parker@raywhite.com



FOR SALE

13 Ward Road, Hamurana

2 1 1 1

Make your move to Hamurana, close to lake, boat ramp, walks and dairy. This two-bedroom Lockwood offers north-facing living, heat pump, internal garage and low-maintenance section. Downsizers, investors or weekenders, enjoy easy, timeless living near the lake.

By Negotiation
rwrotorua.co.nz
ROT32423

Tim O'Sullivan 0274 974 986 tim.osullivan@raywhite.com

Talk to your Ngongotaha Agent today!



John Piercy
027 446 4549



Phill Rivers
0276 109 090



Muiread Douglas
027 434 9812



Angela Parker
0274 213 619



Kerif Smerdon
0210 233 8882



Tim O'Sullivan
0274 974 986

Progress Ngongotaha -Kokiri Ngongotaha Incorporated

Kia ora Koutou, Katoa !! Hello to you All !!
HELP US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE Haere Mai,
Haere Mai, Haere Mai..
We do, what we do, for the Betterment of the
Ngongotaha Community..
• Ngongotaha Stream Team

- Ngongotaha Emergency Response Plan Draft
 - Ngongotaha Emergency Defibrillator
 - Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum
 - Ngongotaha Community Hall
- Wow !!! Our Stream Team are working wonders at the Ngongotaha Stream... Gavin C. Reports**



"The distinctive structure at the beginning of the Ngongotaha stream walkway needed a tidy-up. Blackberry threatened to overtake the seating. There was the usual amount of broken bottles and rubbish left by people who just don't care enough about their environment. A few hours work, and the site was left neat and tidy."

This area is just down from the main road bridge. This is the same area where I met up with one of our voluntary locals, who keeps this area shipshape. I remember when the grass area was also covered in Blackberry and rubbish. We as a Community owe our volunteers so much...They keep this area more than tidy, they keep it safe from rubbish, and a pleasure for all of us to enjoy.

Ian is pictured in the photo with the 'Brushcutter' that was bought with a very generous donation made by another local. Our Team is so grateful for this donation. Progress Ngongotaha Kokiri Ngongotaha Incorporated is really grateful for all donations we have received throughout this year.

Thank you also to the person who put their hand up after our last month's news item went to print. We Do Need Help at the Stream, but if volunteering at the stream is not for you, we do have other opportunities coming up soon. Please email progressngongotaha@gmail.com or you may like to donate towards this work. As a Community we need to keep succession in mind. What would happen if our volunteers decided to move out of the area, or find the need to step back for a while?

Ngongotaha Emergency Response Plan (Draft)

We have four volunteers working on this project now.

I recently received an email and I thought that we were being offered the help of a group of visitors, who wanted to help our volunteers and wanted to make a difference in our community. However, yes they are visiting Ngongotaha and I think they are wanting to hear more about what we do in Ngongotaha, the successes we have had and if there are any 'tips' that we can offer, that they may take back to their own communities. I may have more about this for you in the next Ngongotaha News. I am still curious.

Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum

We have been fielding many calls regarding the progress of our community museum. Thank you all for stopping us for a chat, offering help and most of all encouraging us as we "keep on keeping on".

Our main lead has been recovering from a big health event over the past nine months, and your best wishes have made a huge difference.

We have received a generous Grant from Lotteries to assist us in setting up our museum for all to enjoy!!

Although we have options of places to set up our museum, we realise that we haven't opened the following question to others in Ngongotaha. Do you have a building, house, land that you have been thinking would be, absolutely perfect for the Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum? You may have an older house with a reasonable land area, that maybe doesn't fit with the Healthy Homes Standard as a rental, but would be perfect for a museum. We do have options, but we don't want to miss out on an opportunity that you may like to offer us.

Storage/Insurance

We still have all of your precious items, photos, stories that you have generously loaned or given to us, in safe storage. The storage area is dry and warm. We cannot wait to bring our new space to life and to enjoy a cuppa with you our friends once more.

We can still accept items from you, which you may be waiting to pass onto the Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum once it opens. Also we would love to hear your whanau/family stories. If you have written a memory and would like to share it with us and the community please email or phone Lynn progressngongotaha@gmail.com 022 1404391.

The photo below is of one of our displays that we had in our Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum. It was a part of a Kitchen Display with many of the objects donated.

We had a great time listening to locals and visitors who reminisced about how Granny or Granpa had one of the iron kettles. These items were displayed on a Blue Coal Range.

One of the last items we have received is from the QEII Hospital. What has the hospital got to do with Ngongotaha? Many of the Nurses were from Ngongotaha. We received the Nurses Honours Boards from the 1960's and more recently the

Waikato Hospital Board

Hospital Visitors' Bylaw 1974

Something for another day.....

Until next time Stay Safe and Warm... Lynn, Bob, Heather & Lee



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Te Kaunihera o ngā Roto o Rotorua



Ngongotaha issues: candidates for Mayor and General Ward



Don Paterson Having my roots in Ngongotahā, I appreciate how special it is – a community defined by its strong identity, welcoming spirit, and deep connection to its streams, lakefront, and surrounding countryside. Residents know their neighbours, support local events, and are passionate about protecting their natural environment. These qualities are the heart of the village and must be preserved as we plan for the future. I share the community's concerns about traffic safety, flooding risks, and the pressures of housing growth. Future developments must be carefully managed to protect Ngongotahā's character. Our infrastructure must keep pace, and be matched by access to essential services such as education and health care. I fully support calls for a local health hub, improved public transport, and safer walking/cycling routes – these are investments in wellbeing. The community's aspirations: a vibrant village centre, revitalised lakefront, and youth facilities that provide safe, positive spaces, must be incorporated into any future plans. Council needs strong partnerships with Iwi, Central & Regional Government, and local groups, to ensure development reflects Ngongotahā's identity and values. My commitment is to listen, advocate, and act – protecting what makes Ngongotahā unique while ensuring it thrives as a safe, connected, and resilient community.

Robert Lee While I could speculate as to what issues might be of particular interest to readers of Ngongotaha news, it might be more helpful if you could specify any specific issues you may wish me to comment on. Like other residents of Rotorua I would guess that rates rises would be a significant concern to Ngongotaha residents...

The "partnership" with Ngati Rangiwewehi and how it affects rates might also be of interest given Ngongotaha's water is supplied from 'Taniwha Springs'.

Council's housing policy may be of concern in light of the recent subdivision - particularly the adoption of Medium Density Residential Standards without public consultation.

If there are other issues that I have missed I would be grateful for some feedback.



Candidates for Te Ipu Wai Auraki General Ward



For too long, The Village has been treated as an afterthought by Rotorua Lakes Council. From traffic congestion (area) and unsafe intersections, to stalled infrastructure, your community deserves better.

The council's first thought should be "Ensure Ngongotaha residents are consulted before decisions are made"

Has the previous council ever done this for you? Did their actions reflect the consultation process they keep telling us to attend?

I'm standing for Council in 2025 because I believe The Village is not an inconvenience.

It's a vital community and part of Rotorua. Ngongotaha voices should be heard, respected, and acted upon.

Jenny Chapman Kia ora koutou. I'm married to Eden, Principal of Ngongotahā Primary School. We have five daughters, and I'm a proud primary school teacher with 25 years' experience. For over 16 years Rotorua has been my home, my classroom, and my inspiration. I've also served eight years on Catholic school boards, giving me solid governance experience and a deep commitment to community. I'm standing for Rotorua Lakes Council because I believe our city needs positive leaders who truly listen and act with integrity. In Ngongotahā, I know some of the key issues are managing growth and the infrastructure to support it, flood prevention, traffic congestion, protecting the character of the village, and ensuring the community has a real voice in decisions.

With an approachable style and my commitment to 'Listen, Lead, and Deliver,' I will work alongside residents, mana whenua, and agencies to tackle these challenges. My goal is for Ngongotahā to grow safely and sustainably while keeping its unique identity. My vision is simple: a thriving Rotorua where families feel supported, visitors leave with unforgettable memories, and our children flourish as the city goes from strength to strength. It would be a privilege to represent you.



Brendan Davis The issues I stand for are ensuring that the residents of Ngongotahā are heard and listened to by the council. I would like to be their voice if elected. Known for my honesty and strong work ethic, I aim to use my practical life experiences to drive positive outcomes for all residents.

I have made it clear that I was, and still am, against the new development at 31 Ngongotahā Road for 350 homes. This development has no support in terms of infrastructure or amenities, which will create further problems in the future that council will be forced to address. I am in Ngongotahā most weeks as a keen fisherman, and I support the children who fish the local streams. I see a lack of facilities for schools, kindergartens, doctors, and concerns about the safety of residents. Traffic is another major issue, with speed through the town and congestion, which will only worsen with the additional 700–1,000 residents expected to move into the new development.

In short, I am honest, hardworking, and committed to applying practical life experiences to achieve better outcomes at council. I believe in integrity and democracy. I ask for your support—because I am your man.

Ryan Gray Is Ngongotahā ready for growth? With new housing developments and more people on the way, you might think the answer is "No!" Kia ora, my family has lived around Ngongotahā for generations. It's no surprise to anyone reading this that the main road through our village is busier than ever. With more homes being built and more people commuting to and from Tauranga, that traffic is only going to increase. Growth isn't a bad thing. It means more customers for our local cafes and shops, more players for our football, league, and bowling clubs. But if growth isn't planned or managed well, it also means more cars on the road, longer waits at the doctor, and classrooms that start to feel overcrowded.

If the Government and Council have a plan to prepare for this growth, they've been awfully quiet about it. In my view, we need greater investment in public infrastructure—roads, public transport, schools, health services, and public spaces—to make growth work for us, not against us. We can welcome new people, enjoy more jobs and opportunities, and keep building on the strong, vibrant community we already have. Many of these big decisions sit with Central Government, but Rotorua Lakes Council has a key role to play. Council needs to understand what Ngongotahā needs—and fight for it. That's why I'm standing for Rotorua Lakes Council again this year. I have my own ideas, but I think listening comes first. You can reach me anytime at iamryangray@gmail.com.





Frank The Tank Grapl

The roads infrastructure needs to be improved with the roundabouts and four lane roads added or something similar.

It concerns me that the extra homes and people coming in are going to be more than Ngongotaha can handle currently with the road system the way it is and possibly create overcrowding and imbalance in regard to space in the Ngongotaha centre especially congested.

There are a whole raft of more issues there but I don't feel Ngongotaha are being listened to often enough.

Reynold MacPherson 6 Issues Highlighting the Need for Better Planning 1. Flooding and Stormwater Risks – The Village remains exposed to flooding, with outdated stormwater infrastructure below the Waiteti Bridge. This shows the urgent need for long-term planning and investment in resilient flood protection. 2. Infrastructure and Traffic Pressures – Growth is outpacing roads, schools, and essential services. Without integrated planning, Ngongotahā risks becoming overburdened and unsafe. 3. Limited Public Consultation – Decisions on housing and development have lacked transparency. Stronger, community-driven planning is needed to rebuild trust and ensure local voices shape the Village's future. 4. Environmental and Cultural Concerns – Soil contamination on the Ngongotaha Housing Development site, impacts on waterways, and protection of culturally significant sites highlight the need for planning that safeguards both the environment and cultural heritage. 5. Housing Development Challenges – While new housing is essential, projects are being pushed through without adequate safeguards, fair land costs, or proper integration with infrastructure—clear evidence of weak planning. 6. The Ngongotahā Development Framework – Though some consultation has occurred, there is widespread concern over the Village's direction. A truly robust, locally supported plan is required to balance housing, industry, environment, and community needs.



Mariana Morrison Rotorua is at a crossroads. Our community faces deepening social and economic challenges, including housing stress, deprivation, and declining youth engagement. These issues affect everyday whānau and threaten the city's long-term resilience. If elected, I will focus on practical, people-centred solutions. I support targeted increases in local social services and investment in community hubs that bring together housing support, youth programmes, and wellbeing services. I also back strategic infrastructure investment, particularly in water, wastewater, stormwater, and housing-related projects, ensuring these long-life assets are funded responsibly, including through prudent debt for inter-generational benefit.

Housing must be addressed through greater intensification within urban areas, while preserving Rotorua's natural and cultural spaces. I support enhancing walking, cycling, and public transport networks to improve accessibility, safety, and sustainability, while maintaining core roads efficiently.

Council spending must prioritise essentials while reviewing discretionary projects, focusing on value for the community. I support prudent revenue strategies such as accommodation levies, central government partnerships, and charging rates on Crown land to reduce the burden on ratepayers.

In all decisions, my focus is clear: build a thriving, resilient Rotorua for everyone, now and for future generations.

Neville Raethel

As an Ambassador for Keep NZ Beautiful, I have organised regular clean-up events over the years in and around Ngongotaha and on Mount Ngongotaha. As a local fisherman who enjoys the Ngongotaha Stream, I have noticed that rubbish is becoming a bigger problem each year, especially on our beautiful mountain. This litter often finds its way into the local stream and eventually ends up in our lake. If elected, one of my top priorities will be to improve water quality in our area.

Additionally, the frequent floods that have cut off Ngongotaha during heavy rain are extremely concerning and are becoming more common. Something must be done to prevent this from happening again, so that our community can feel safe and secure in the future. If the council does not act soon, these problems will only get worse.



Ben Sandford

If elected to Council one of my main priorities would be that we genuinely engage with communities such as Ngongotaha so that we understand what issues are affecting residents and can jointly develop plans to deal with those issues. We need to enable residents to have a better say in what they want for their own communities and then Council can become a facilitator to achieve this.

Whether this is flood mitigation, roading and infrastructure, new housing, recreational and sports facilities, environmental initiatives, we need to work together to create cost effective, resilient long-term solutions that are supported by the community. This is also key in allowing Ngongotaha the ability to determine its own identity and feel. If elected I commit to working with Ngongotaha residents on the issues that they're facing.

Candidates for Te Ipu Wai Taketake Māori Ward

Merepeka Raukawa-Tait Ngongotaha is unique to our city. It has a lively village feel, is poised for growth, with many whanau having lived all of their lives in the area. It's keeping, and to a certain extent protecting, that uniqueness that will require early and frequent communication between RLC and Ngongotaha ratepayers when changes impacting their lives are on the drawing board. Already new housing projects are developing at pace. While I'm not against development, we know adequate housing that suits the needs of whanau is critical to their wellbeing, but it should be thoroughly planned with current and future infrastructure needs kept in mind.

Ngongotaha Ratepayers tell me annual rate increases are causing them concern, as is storm water capacity in times of extreme weather events, prudent spending by council on essential services and now the long term viability of RLC (to merge or not to merge with other councils is being mooted in some quarters). As a Councillor of 11 years, I know the job is not about being popular. It's about doing what's best for Rotorua and district, including Ngongotaha. Institutional and background knowledge counts in this time of significant change in local government. Thank you for your vote.





Harina Rupapera I have a great hope for Rotorua city in general, and do look upon the different suburbs with the intent that we can deliver relevant, fair and equivalent support services to all. My current research on the Parawai pipeline looks efficient thus far, and I hope that we can make sure to keep providing secure waste water pathways as well as fresh drinking water access as well.

Water is a big issue, and I hope that we keep protecting and focusing on conserving and enhancing the Ngongotaha river catchments and surrounding landscapes as well. I am an advocate for safe and educational recreational spaces, so I would be looking into what the reserves and playgrounds have to offer and how we might enhance them, for creativity and inspiration for the children and adults who use them. I want to tackle the homeless state of our people, that will mean understanding the health and safety of our community as well. I will be available to come and listen to your individual issues as well at a community level.

Te Whatanui Leka Skipwith Ko wai au: I'm a husband and Pāpā, a son, brother, uncle, Matua to many, and an advocate and friend to others. Much of my childhood was spent with whānau in Whakarewarewa, and Rotorua has always been home. Ngongotahā holds a very special place in my heart, with my own whānau living there today. Supporting our local businesses, protecting our waterways, and promoting health and wellbeing are key priorities for me. I believe that when we work collectively, we strengthen our community for generations to come. My policies are Te Tiriti-centred and focused on creating positive change for all. Tōku whakaaro & initiatives:

- Local businesses: Backing our Ngongotahā village shops, supporting community markets, and encouraging "buy local" initiatives.
- Environment & waterways: Protecting the Ngongotahā Stream, leading community clean-ups, riparian planting, and pushing for stronger stormwater management.
- Health & wellbeing: Supporting kura and kōhanga, backing our sports clubs, improving access to whānau health services, and creating safe hubs for rangatahi. I would be absolutely open to hui and kōrero around these key initiatives, and any other whakaaro our community have.



Te Rika Temara-Benfell I'm a husband, pāpā, and mokopuna, immensely proud to have been born and raised right here in Rotorua. I have many connections to the community of Ngongotaha and have many whānau members that call Ngongotaha home.

I strongly believe in creating a future where we are honouring Te Tiriti and working in partnership with mana whenua, creating a thriving community, protecting our taonga and taiao, and empowering our future generations. I have woven each of these threads into each of my priorities for my first term on council, which are outlined in more detail on my social media page 'Te Rika for Rotorua Lakes Council'. Based on kōrero I have had with members and leaders of the Ngongotaha community, these are the core kaupapa I would advocate for in Ngongotaha:

1. Improved resourcing for key community facilities in Ngongotaha.
2. More opportunities for young people in the community particularly with regards to employment and community initiatives.
3. More council supported community initiatives to protect the health and wellbeing of the Ngongotaha stream and Lake Rotorua.
4. Opportunities to sustainably develop Ngongotaha's water infrastructure to keep up with a growing community. For example, projects outlined in RLC's most recent long-term plan. As a candidate for Rotorua's Māori Ward, I welcome any conversations regarding these kaupapa, any other issues affecting our community, and positive ideas that will support Ngongotaha and the wider city of Rotorua to thrive now and into the future.

Candidates for Rotorua Rural Community Board

Rachel Bidois Since being intricately involved with saving our Mamaku War Memorial Hall from demolition, I have gained a wider appreciation for issues facing ALL our Rural communities. Every community has its unique 'feel' to it. And Ngongotaha has always had a semi-rural feel, even though it's mainly classified as Urban. The village is an absolute gem, and I can only imagine the concern of the residents to try and keep this gem as it is faced with a housing development of 320 new homes. Issues arising from this that are obvious concerns are:

Infrastructure - how is the village roading going to cope? It's a bottle-neck through the centre already.

Schools - more traffic means more risks for the children. Classroom capacities and physical space requirements are a concern.

Medical facilities - can they cope with such an influx of new population?

In other areas, more work needs to be done with core infrastructure to help alleviate and prevent flooding. For some, this is a constant worry.

Where at all possible, I will add my voice to ensure the views of Ngongotaha are heard.



Karen Forlong Should I be successful in my endeavours to join the Rural Community Board I recognise that there will be issues and concerns facing the residents of Ngongotaha and its wider community that I am not familiar with, however my focus would be to ensure this quickly changed. I would see my position as one where 'my ears would be open and my phone always on'! In so doing, I would endeavour to quickly come up to speed with any matters that needed representation or advocacy through the Board to our Rural Councillor Karen Barker.

The purpose of the Board is to be a conduit between Community and Council. I believe skills honed through governance roles within Dairy Women's Network and Vetora BoP will allow me to deliver in this area. Connection is the cornerstone of our rural communities. Its people, their halls, schools and services are all a vital part of this tapestry. I have resided in the Atiamuri area for 30 years, Dairy farming and raising my family. Rural New Zealand is a passion, with Rotorua and the surrounding areas being first and foremost.

Tina Rose 1) Infrastructure. This is becoming a major problem. The road in and out of Ngongotaha has become so congested during rush hours. It is also a safety issue for school children especially when crossing the main road. This should possibly be a 30km whilst there is so much traffic going through the village.

2) With the new housing development of about 320 new houses this problem will increase, roads will come under more pressure and deteriorate more frequently.

The school will not have the capacity to accommodate all the children who are likely to move into the area, and HEALTH Facilities will become even more stretched. I do not believe adequate planning and discussions were undertaken before the project began.

3) Ngongotaha Floods. This is another major risk to some areas of the community. Flood banks need to be worked on as does the flow out to the lake and in extreme weather the lake level needs to be controlled better with the use of the lake stop logs at the Ohau Channel weir.



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Happenings

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7 Sep Fathers' Day
14 Sep Ladies Golf Clinic at Lakeview ph Josh 021 072 0379
21 Sep Forest & Bird trip to Awahou Stream Project. Contact Linda: 027 358 1467
24 Sep Free Hauora Clinic 10-2 Tarimano Marae at Awahou (Health screenings, Rongoa etc)
27 Sep Positive Aging Expo at Parksyde
28 Sep Daylight Saving starts
1 Oct Twilight golf starts
17 Oct Mamaku School Ag Day
24 October Registrations close for Equisucceed Golf Fundraiser
31 Oct Equisucceed Golf Fundraiser at Arikapakapa

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
Tuesday Night Pickleball at Tui Ridge 6.30pm to 8.30pm equipment and coaching provided. Free first time,
2nd Wednesday Rotorua Collectibles Club: Do you collect anything? Share your passion at St Barnabas ph 0272923579
2nd Wed Friendship Club 9.45 am St Barnabas Church Hall
4th Wed Ngongotaha Garden Circle, Ngongotaha Hall 1 p.m.
Every Thurs Junior Golf after school Lakeview
Senior Net Drop-in technology 10 am: 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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07-3571030

For further information about Blue September, including free resources please visit
blueseptember.org.nz





11 October 2025

Reynold Macpherson for Council



About me

- Chair of the Rotorua District Residents and Ratepayers, 2015-2025
- RSA Vice President, PhD and international experience in organisational reform
- Former Councillor with proven record in governance and financial turnarounds

Why I am standing, again.

- To provide principled, steady and inclusive leadership for all Rotorua Residents and Ratepayers- businesses and beneficiaries alike
- To bring fairness, integrity and determination back to Council decision making

My Vision for Rotorua

- Rotorua has great potential -but we need a better council to realise it
- A council that listens respectfully, debates thoughtfully and acts decisively with integrity -not political theatre

Core Priorities

- Restore openness, honesty and full public accountability
- Cap rates closer to inflation and focus on reducing debt
- Free parking with time limits, and events to restore vibrancy to the CBD
- Focus on legislated core business: infrastructure, regulatory services, community facilities and democratic governance

Community and Economic Recovery

- Support recovery by improving Council services and cutting waste
- Ensure safe, reliable infrastructure to underpin growth, opportunity, civic pride
- Campaign for: Inclusionary leadership, Expert planning, Prudent action, Demonstrated progress

Authorised by Reynold Macpherson, 484 Pukehangi Road, Rotorua. 07 346 8553. 027 723 708. Email reynoldmacpherson.ac.nz

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When behavioural tendencies impact legal conflict or disputes

I've written a few pieces this year about the human element when it comes to disputes or conflict in the legal arena. In my last article I wrote about how hard it is to let go after legal conflict and how sometimes people are unable to consider other perspectives or realise their part in conflict, may engage in denial and deflection (and sometimes rage), and place blame everywhere else but at their feet to preserve their view of things and themselves.

Sometimes these behaviours also appear in other areas of people's lives such as domestic relationships, family violence, custody, and workplaces. The behaviours are also increasingly recognised in 'power roles' such as law, politics, media, celebrity, people who run companies, leaders and managers. Ultimately, this is about preservation of self, and power and control over others. Today I'm writing about what I refer to as the 'phenomenon of narcissism' and how it shows up in legal conflict or disputes.

Also known as coercive control, narcissism is a popularised term unofficially describing a common group of emotional and manipulative behavioural tendencies masking underlying insecurity and a deep need for admiration, power and control over others or a particular situation. It shows up as overt or covert manipulative, intimidating, and isolating behaviour (eg: physical, verbal, financial, emotional) that aims to dominate and control. The behaviour is essentially bullying by a sustained pattern of subtle and gradual abuse that chips away at a person's autonomy and self-worth and makes the abuser feel more powerful.

Note it's important to distinguish between the loosely used term "narcissism" describing broad common behavioural traits as I have here, with a clinical diagnosis of Narcissistic Personality Disorder which is a serious psychological disorder well beyond my expertise or this article. Note, too, reference to the word 'narcissism' isn't used in the public arena (eg courts, media), more the behavioural traits themselves.

Unfortunately, when someone with narcissistic behavioural traits is involved in a legal dispute the whole process can become another platform for manipulation, control, and emotional 'lawfare' that continues the abuse and trauma cycle. However, understanding and recognising the

dynamic can help keep you grounded through the process, particularly when you start seeing strategic power imbalance tactics like any or all of the below:

- Using the legal system to punish or exhaust the other party emotionally and financially, may engage in excessive court filings or counter-parenting tactics
- Engages in reputational attacks, nasty snipes, passive aggressive comments cementing and escalating conflict
- Twisting facts, creating false narratives or manufactured scenarios to distort reality and gain an advantage (anecdotally known as 'gaslighting')
- Stonewalling or won't budge on trying to resolve some of the issues
- Accusing or blaming others of behaviours they are guilty of engaging in themselves (e.g., dishonesty, manipulation, psychological violence)
- Flat out denial of their previous words or actions aiming to self-preserve and cause confusion and self-doubt in others' recollections
- Engages in 'rage' responses to self-preserve when presented with facts or the truth (must be right and seen to be right, cannot be wrong)
- Enlists enablers who vicariously help manipulate, control, or punish by spreading gossip, creating drama, and acting as 'spies' that report back (anecdotally known as 'flying monkeys' hailing from the winged monkeys in The Wizard of Oz)
- Painting themselves as the 'wronged party' to gain sympathy and deflect accountability for their actions (while painting the other party as 'bad')
- Ignores or drags out complying with court directions, makes unreasonable demands
- Triangulates random issues or allegations to shift focus away from their behaviour
- Appears calm and cooperative in court to contrast with the other party's emotional distress.

Unfortunately, these sorts of behaviours can have a significant emotional and financial impact on parties to the conflict, not to mention impacting the trajectory and escalation of the dispute and court time and resources. I have no doubt the court also recognises the behaviour, too. My advice? Watch your behaviour, don't engage in like for like, stay grounded, and don't be 'that' person.

Article written for Ngongotaha News by Ros Morshead, Solicitor at Lawbox

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