

Stembridge Road housing development started

On 15 May, there was a sod-turning ceremony (Te Kauhuri Whenua ki Okohereki) for the Te Taumata o Ngāti Whakaue Housing Limited 38-home development at Stembridge Road. Officials present included Hon Tama Potaka and Hon Todd McClay. A totara tree was planted on site.

What sets this development apart is who the homes are for and what comes with them. Four of the homes have been specifically designated for rangatahi – as young people are often left behind by mainstream housing systems. Wraparound support services including budgeting advice, education programmes and social support will be delivered on-site from day one, creating genuine pathways toward long-term independence for whānau.



UPDATE: Lions club of Ngongotaha

Following a successful drop-in evening recently at the Ngongotaha Community Hall, we are well on our way to re-activating the Club. We have some fabulous new local members but do still need a few more. We'd love to hear from you if you are community minded and have a minimum of two hours a month to contribute to helping out for the direct benefit of our neighbourhood. Email pres.ngongotaha@lionsclubs.org.nz or call Yvette evenings on. Ph: 021 673 628

HUGE thank yous to Secret Spot Hot Tubs and Ngongotaha Four Square who donated vouchers won by these locals who came along to our drop-in evening. Congratulations to Darrin & Marie who will relax in a hot tub soak at Secret Spot and Andrew and Kim who will enjoy goodies from our favourite Four Square.



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ST BARNABAS ANGLICAN CHURCH

School Road, Ngongotaha

Sunday: 9.45am Eucharist followed by coffee and fellowship.

Thursday 9.45am Contemplative Eucharist followed by coffee and fellowship.

11.00am Bible Study.

All welcome!

Back in bins-ness – FOGO start date confirmed

Rotorua Lakes Council and its waste contractor, Smart Environmental, have confirmed the new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service will begin on 1 October 2026. Current services will continue as usual until then. This comes after manufacturing, shipping, and cost issues were resolved, following delays to the original launch caused by global supply problems.



St Barnabas Opshop Ngongotaha

Your Opshop Needs You!

Do you have some time to spare to help your community?

If the answer is YES, come and see Manager Emily in the Opshop.

We'd love you to join our team!

NGONGOTAHA INDOOR BOWLS

Monday 4th May Open Triples Tournament

Tonight we hosted members from the RSA, St Andrew's, Westbrook, Citizens and Owhata clubs in the triples tournament. It was a great night of bowls. We saw some new bowlers which was good to see. The competition was close. The winners for the night were Karen Te Tamaki, Dennis Benfell and Gloria Moyes. Runner up Allan Henderson and Dot Moses. Booby prize Adalene Hay, Garry Parker and Janice Wyndwood. We must not forget to thank our sponsors Zero to One Hundred Auto Motors, Denise Sturt, Eves Real Estate and Ngongotaha Chemist

Monday 11th May International Pairs

It was a very tiring night of bowls as we had to change ends after every second bowl. Very competitive as we all wanted to win. The winners for the night were Greg and Gail.

Monday 18th May Championship Triples

It was a great night of bowls for some. The winners were Helen and Gail.

Monday 25th May Play off for Runner Up Championship Triples

There seemed to be a few bowlers away tonight but they had the play off for Runner Up for the Championship Triples. The winners were Richard, Robin and Chris.

Just a bit of sad news for our club on the 4th May: sadly we lost one of our valued members Cheryl Wiggins. Cheryl worked tireless hours for Ngongotaha Club plus the Umpires Association and Bay of Plenty Club. She will be missed by all. Our condolences to Bruce and family.

Anyone looking at playing bowls can contact:

Richard Mills 07 3323623

Kevin Whyte 07 3574766

Pictured below:

Gloria, Denis and Karen
Janice

Dot and Alan

Adalene, Garry and





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Authorised by Todd McClay, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Bay of Plenty Regional Council News

- General rates increase set at 2.9%, reduced from 8.4% forecast. Total targeted rates decrease of 2.2%, although individual changes vary depending on the level of service provided. Overall average rates impact of approximately 0.4% increase
- From July 2026, a 3.1% fare increase will be applied across the urban public transport network, reflecting rising operating costs and reduced external funding while supporting the continued delivery of services.
- In Rotorua, the Regional Council will continue work to improve water quality through its purchase of Kererū Farms, a 266ha dairy farm that will be transitioned to low-nitrogen land use to support long-term nutrient reduction targets. \$620,000 in ongoing Kererū Farm land purchase costs was funded from reserves to avoid additional pressure on ratepayers, while enabling the transition of the Rotorua property to low-nitrogen land use.
- Protecting the region's natural assets remains a priority, with funding approved to develop a new 'proof of concept', high-assurance biosecurity approach for the Rotorua Lakes. This work aims to reduce the risk of invasive pests and safeguard lakes of significant environmental, cultural and economic value.
- 250,000 approved for Rotorua Lakes biosecurity system development to support a 'proof of concept' for a high-assurance biosecurity pathway system that's aimed at reducing the risk of invasive freshwater pests, such as freshwater gold clam.

Source: Regional Council Korero 3 June 2026



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About Petrol

A MAN was driving down the road and ran out of petrol. At that moment, a bee flew in his window.
"What seems to be the problem?" asked the bee.
"I'm out of petrol," the man replied.
The bee told the man to wait right there and flew away. Minutes later, the man watched as an entire swarm of bees flew to his car and into his petrol tank.
After a few minutes, the bees flew out. "Try it now," said the bee.
The man turned the ignition key and the car started right up.
"Wow," the man exclaimed. "What did you put in my petrol tank?"
"BP," answered the bee.

Lulu, a little girl asks her mum, "Mum, can I take Daisy (a dog) for a walk around the block?"
 Mum replies "No, because she is in heat."
 "What does that mean?" asked Lulu.
 "Go and ask your father. I think he's in the garage."
 Lulu goes out to the garage and says,
 "Dad, can I take Daisy for a walk around the block? I asked Mum, but she said the dog was on the heat, and to come ask you."
 He took a rag, soaked it in petrol, and scrubbed the dog's backside with it to disguise the scent. "Ok, you can go now, but keep her on the leash and only go one time around the block."
 Lulu left and returned a few minutes later with no dog on the leash...
 Surprised, Dad asked, "Where's Daisy?"
 Lulu said, "She ran out of petrol about halfway round the block, so another dog is pushing her home!"

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Ngongotahā School Community Update: Shared Horizons and Safer Streets

Kia ora ki te hapori o Ngongotahā! It is a pleasure to share another quick update from Ngongotahā School with our wider community. We are moving quickly through Term 2, and there is an incredible amount of learning, collaboration, and planning taking place within our walls.

The school has been holding 2027/28 Strategic Plan consultation meetings. The feedback and insights from our local community have been incredibly valuable. Following these sessions, our teaching team spent our recent Teacher Only Day diving deep into the upcoming English curriculum changes, collaborating on how we will best deliver these for our tamariki.

We look forward to having a draft document to share with our local hapū. We want to ensure true synergy moving forward, discovering meaningful ways to support each other in our shared goals. As always, Te Tiriti o Waitangi remains at the very forefront of our vision, guiding our identity and personality as a school.

Our tamariki have also been achieving wonderful things. Our Rumaki ākonga have been diving into local history, mapping the geographic footprints of our ancestors, and researching native marine life—including some fantastic expert factsheets on the deep-sea Warehou fish! And we have a bunch of talented students working hard preparing for the upcoming Showquest performance evening on Wednesday, June 17th.

Because of our vibrant school environment and the wonderful growth in our area, our student roll is currently completely full. As a result, we are unfortunately unable to take any new out-of-zone student enrolments at any year level at this time. We must strictly adhere to our Ministry of Education designated enrolment zone to ensure we can continue providing the best possible learning spaces for our current tamariki.

Finally, a very important safety update for everyone who drives through our beautiful township. Beginning this June, new variable speed limits are being introduced directly outside our school entrances to keep our children safe. The speed limit will drop to 30km/h during busy school drop-off and pick-up times (8:00am – 9:00am and 2:45pm – 3:45pm). Outside of these windows, the normal permanent speed limit applies. You will notice a mix of electronic flashing signs and static signs being installed along our school boundaries. As soon as these signs are up, the 30km/h limit becomes enforceable. A slower speed dramatically reduces the risk of serious injury, so please keep an eye out, slow down, and help us keep our precious tamariki safe on their journey to and from school.

Thank you all for your ongoing support of our school and our students.

Nga mihi nui, The Team at Ngongotahā School



Some pets visit us from down the road... others set sail or take to the sky!

At Barrowman Goodman Vets, we're proud to care for pets from all across New Zealand. Every week, families make the journey to our clinic because they know their animals are receiving exceptional care, advanced treatment options, and genuine compassion every step of the way. Every pin on this map represents a town or community where at least one beloved pet has travelled to us for care.

Whether it's a routine procedure, an orthopaedic surgery, a difficult diagnosis, or a second opinion, we are honoured that so many families trust us with their pets.

No matter where you travel from, we're honoured to be trusted with the care of the pets who mean so much to your family.



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SAFER SPEEDS AROUND SCHOOLS

NEW VARIABLE SPEED
LIMITS FROM JUNE 2026



To help keep children safe, a new 30km/h variable speed limit will apply on roads near school entrances.

This is a variable speed limit, which means it only applies during busy drop-off and pick-up times (8:00am – 9:00am and 2:45pm – 3:45pm). At other times, the usual permanent speed limit applies.

You'll see new signs showing when the lower speed is in place:

Static signs: Show set times

Electronic signs: Flashing = 30 km/h • Not flashing = normal speed limit

These changes are required under the Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024, and the 30km/h variable speed limits outside schools have been approved by the Director of Land Transport.

A speed of 30km/h is proven to be much safer in areas with lots of people, especially children - reducing the risk of serious injury and helping keep everyone safe.

ROTORUA
LAKES COUNCIL



To view schools and affected areas scan the QR code or visit rlc.net.nz/safespeeds



A secret squirrel has spotted Simon Aston picking up rubbish around the lake environs and he has earned a box of chocolates from us.

Let us know if you catch someone doing something great for our community. There's a monthly box of choccies at stake.

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Tour Highlights

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- Ride a chairlift to Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, with panoramic alpine views
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- Discover the towering Leshan Grand Buddha from the water
- Meet Giant Pandas in Chengdu
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Have you seen counterfeit notes?

The Team from New Zealand Police (Source: Neighbourly)

Eastern District Police have seen an increase in counterfeit \$50 notes being used within their community.

We would like to warn retailers and those accepting cash to be extra wary of counterfeit cash, and to educate themselves on how to identify counterfeit money.

Police will be out and about engaging with local retailers to provide guidance on how to identify counterfeit money and what key features to check.

If you believe someone is trying to pass you a counterfeit note, do not accept it.

If you find you have already received a counterfeit note, put it in an envelope to avoid handling it further and get in touch with Police.

Police are making enquiries into reported counterfeit notes.

You can contact Police online or by phone via 105, or you can provide information anonymously through Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand has a clear guide outlining security features of New Zealand bank notes and how to spot counterfeit notes.

The Weather

On a weather forecast in Russia reporter said it was -50C in Yakutsk.

A guy from Moscow says to his wife:

Guy:- They are overreacting, I'll call my cousin who lives there, and he'll tell me the truth.

He calls his cousin and asks,

Guy:- What's the weather like where you are?

Cousin:- It's around -20C I would say.

Guy:- I knew the news were lying, they said it was -50C.

Cousin:- Oh, well it might be outside.

"Don't knock the weather; nine-tenths of people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while".

Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days? Because then the children have to play inside.

Q: What do you call two straight days of rain in Auckland?

A: A weekend.

There's a technical term for a sunny, warm day which follows two rainy days. It's called Monday.

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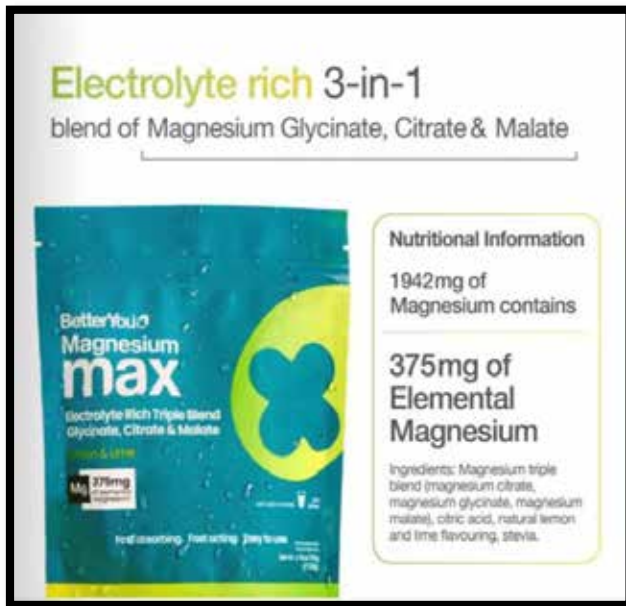
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LAKEVIEW GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

The first month of winter is upon us: the firewood is stacked up ready to keep everyone warm and cosy in the clubhouse over the next few months! The grass growth has definitely slowed down allowing the green keepers to get on with other jobs around the course. The course is looking fantastic and on the sunny days the fairways are busy.

Someone commented on the incredible noise that the tui were making as they played their golf the other day. We love getting this sort of feedback as the bird life is definitely an aspect of Lakeview that makes it special. The trapping programme we continue to undertake is making a difference and that sort of feedback confirms this. We thank Ann and Melton Hows for their dedication to this cause. Thanks also to Helen and Danny Moloney who are the reserve monitors when Ann and Melton are away!

Club competition for June is the continuation of the Handicap Matchplay rounds with the finals on Saturday 20th. The Captains Trophy starts on the last weekend of June. The Mamaku Cup was won by Kuru Whiston. CONGRATULATIONS Kuru!

Vets golf is on every Tuesday (weather permitting): registration from 9am, tee off 9.15am. A great way to connect and socialize while getting some exercise and enjoying some laughs!

QUIZ NIGHTS

The second quiz night of the season was held on May 29th. It was fantastic to see new teams and of course awesome to have our regulars supporting us. The winners were a new team from Mamaku. Well done to them and we look forward to seeing them again. Mark your calendars for the next quiz on Friday 26th June. Register at events@lakeviewgolf.co.nz. for some fun, laughs and a really good night out where you don't have to cook or do the dishes, and it is local!

EVENTS/FUNCTIONS

Lakeview Golf & Country Club is pleased to announce the appointment of Charlie Windell as our new General Manager. Charlie started with us on Monday 18th May.

We are excited to welcome Charlie to the Lakeview team and look forward to the experience, leadership, and energy he brings to the role. Charlie has strong connections within the Rotorua community and a genuine passion for building relationships, enhancing member experiences, and supporting the continued growth of the club. Please join us in welcoming Charlie to Lakeview Golf & Country Club as he begins this exciting new chapter with us.

If you are thinking of having a function and are looking for a venue with a difference Charlie would be more than happy to discuss options with you. Email events@lakeviewgolf.co.nz

Conservation as mentioned above is a passion of Lakeview and we are thrilled to be teaming up with Trees For Survival this year! This is a charity that works with schools around NZ with the aim of planting a total of 2 million trees by 2030. They have planted over 1 million trees in the last 10 years, so are well on their way to achieving their goal!

Rotokawa School tamariki will be planting trees at Lakeview that they have grown from seedlings. It is awesome that they will become a part of the Lakeview conservation journey. We are looking forward to working with Trees For Survival this year.

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 keep warm and dry!

Golf shop phone number is 07 357 2341



The logo for RotoWorks Property care & trade services is displayed on a dark blue background. On the left is an icon of a house with a wrench and a screwdriver. In the center, the word "RotoWorks" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, with "Property care & trade services" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. On the right are two smaller icons: a tractor and a backhoe loader.

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FOR SALE

4 1 1 1

977a Hamurana Road, Hamurana

This four-bedroom Lockwood home offers a picturesque lakeside lifestyle. Featuring open-plan living, a modern kitchen with a scullery, and a large deck, it's built for comfort with double glazing and a wood fire. Includes a dedicated office, kids' nook, and internal garage. The expansive 2,843sqm section boasts fruit trees, veggie patches, and room for animals. Enjoy captivating views and serene country living.

\$875,000 | rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT33236

Mandy Lee 0276 732 331 and Kat Flavell 027 494 4646



FOR SALE

Lot 2

Lot 3

Boundary lines are indicative only

Lot 3 - 1.8543 ha Lot 3 - 1.8543 ha

Lot 3 414H Dalbeth Road, Hamurana

Peaceful, private, and secluded, these prime lifestyle blocks offer stunning views of Lake Rotorua, Mokoia Island, and surrounding mountains. A tree-lined driveway leads to the elevated, fully fenced sites featuring native plantings, power to the gate, and a water tanks. Covenants protect your investment, with title expected late June 2026. Buy one or both - Your choice.

Lot 2 \$635,000 | Lot 3 \$649,000 | rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT33529

Mandy Lee 0276 732 331 | mandy.lee@raywhite.com



FOR SALE

4 3 2 3

1/73 Ward Road, Hamurana

This luxurious, private residence offers effortless modern living and features open-plan zones, a premium kitchen with scullery, and seamless flow to private outdoor spaces. Four spacious bedrooms and three bathrooms, including a master retreat with lake views. With triple garaging, boat parking, and low-maintenance grounds, it is perfectly positioned just a five-minute walk to the lake, moments from the boat ramp, and 15 minutes from Rotorua CBD.

\$1,600,000 | rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT33377

Jodi Ratahi 021 159 7132 & Kerif Smerdon 0210 233 8882



FOR SALE

4 2 3 2

4/73 Ward Road, Hamurana

An architectural masterpiece delivering luxury and lake views. Ultra-modern, with four bedrooms, office, media room, and two expansive living areas. A designer kitchen boasts a walk-in pantry and premium appliances, while a ducted climate system ensures year-round comfort. The master retreat offers a private deck and ensuite, complemented by a separate guest studio. Set within lush grounds, just moments from the lake and Golf Course.

\$1,700,000 | rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT33187

Jodi Ratahi 021 159 7132 & Kerif Smerdon 0210 233 8882

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AI

Artificial intelligence has become a bit of a buzzword these days, a thing that suddenly appeared out of nowhere. But the funny thing is, AI has been around for decades, it just wasn't called that. Before the label became trendy, most of what we now call "AI" was simply known as automation or a plain ole Google search. It was already running in the background of industries like banking, manufacturing, transport, and even farming. The difference now is that people are noticing it because they have access to it, it's talked a lot about online and in the media, and is showing up in places where we interact every day.

Think about it: every time you type something into Google, you're using AI. When you chat with a customer service bot on any website, that's AI. When your phone suggests a reply to a message or your email quietly filters out spam, that's AI too. Even modern DNA testing relies on AI-driven data analysis, and new model cars have AI systems, too. It's learning and adapting every day, and has been woven into daily life so quietly that many of us were using it long before it exploded into public consciousness in around late 2022 when ChatGPT's consumer-facing generative technology launched and was quickly followed by several others.

And there's been plenty of hype (and a fair bit of angst) about privacy, data protection, and AI taking jobs, including in the legal world. But even with all that noise, I don't think the world is going to wind AI back. It will keep learning and advancing, just as George Orwell imagined in his dystopian novel 1984 when he warned about technology creeping further into everyday life along a theme of mass surveillance from an all-seeing and all-knowing 'Big Brother'.

But I don't think AI is about to replace lawyers or magically fix access to justice any time soon. Why? Because the legal world is messy in a deeply human way. People don't see lawyers for fun. They come in because something has gone wrong. They're stressed, scared, confused, grieving, angry, or dealing with issues where they don't fully understand their rights and obligations or what to do. That's not something a machine algorithm can sit with.

I regularly have people walk into my office armed with the "answers" they've pulled from ChatGPT or another AI tool. Nine times out of ten, the advice is off track, usually because it's based on a completely different legal jurisdiction, or it gives a black and white answer to something that's anything but legally. There's already reports of lawyers overseas relying on AI to find case law for their court case submissions, only to discover in court that the cases were completely fabricated and never existed in the first place. And of course, ChatGPT might say, "Yes, you can write your adult child out of your will." Technically true. But it won't tell you about the body of case law mirroring your exact situation that means your child can challenge your decision and will very likely succeed.

AI is great for admin tasks or quick legal research, for sure. But when it comes to legal issues, for example, it can't sit with someone's emotions or understand the nuance behind a decision that can significantly affect a real person's life and emotional wellbeing. It can't yet map out the chain reaction of consequences such as: "if A, then B becomes a problem, and if B becomes a problem, then C and D suddenly matter too." In my experience people just want to feel heard. They want to know they matter. A machine can't do that. Undoubtedly, our lives will gradually change with the increased adoption of AI in everyday life. And some jobs and industries will change or even disappear, too. But that's what's happened with every major technological shift throughout history. And new jobs and industries will appear, including ones we can't even begin to imagine yet. When the internet arrived for the masses around 1990 (fun fact), no one could have predicted jobs attached to things like day-to-day use of email, social media, websites, banking and business automation using software and so on. AI will be the same. It'll close some doors, but others will open.

At the end of the day, AI is just another tool but still only as good as the humans guiding it. And just for the record, I don't recommend anyone rely on AI answers for answers to their legal questions and problems.

Article written by Ros Morshead, Solicitor at Lawbox

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ROTORUA LAKES COUNCIL

Mamaku School News

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 a-plenty at Mamaku School as you can see with the Possum Hunt.

Sincere thanks to students, parents & whānau who took part in last week's Possum Hunt Challenge which culminated at Sunday's prizegiving. As well as achieving the primary goal of raising significant money for the school, the event was also about having an enjoyable community event. It also achieved another goal of educating our ākongā/learners about forest conservation.

We wish to thank local businesses for giving generously of both vouchers and products that were auctioned off - please continue to support our sponsors. I can share with you that \$5045.00 was raised from the auction on Sunday, but we are still counting!

Year 7&8 Basketball Competition

Congratulations to our Year 7 & 8 Mixed Basketball team who competed at the CBOP schools basketball competition for the first time. The team won two and lost two games against quality opposition. School Cross Country Our School Cross Country was held last Wednesday, 24th June.

For the first time, the students ran the course within the school, which made for great viewing for parents and whanau. It was a fantastic day with the vast majority of students participating and giving 100%, lots of family support and topped off with a celebratory ice-block and BBQ for our students.

Peter Vos, Tumuaki/Principal at Mamaku School



Ngongotaha Medical Centre Limited

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



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May Market Snapshot

Ngongotaha: 8 sales (6 last month), 743k average sale value, 40 days to sell, 52 current listings (43 last month)

Hamurana: 4 sales (2 last month), 952k average sale value, 53 days to sell, 52 current listings (48 last month)

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ARIZTO

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Happenings

17 June Ngongotaha School represented at Showquest in Tauranga
 18th June Elder Abuse Week Event held by Family Focus and Age Concern- Sala Street 21 Sala Street, Lunchtime BBQ and expo style 11am-1pm
 26 June Lakeview Golf and Country Club Quiz night
 26-28 June Kaharoa Cull

Regular Events

Monday Indoor Bowls 7.00 pm Ngongotaha Community Hall
 2nd Monday Mamaku Garden Circle 1 pm at Fire Station. New members welcome.
 Tuesday Vets Golf 9.30am, Junior golf after school at Lakeview
 Talking Tech on Tuesdays at Parksyde
 2nd Tuesday Lions club meeting 5.30 at Ngongotaha Hall
 2nd Wednesday Rotorua Collectibles Club: Do you collect anything? Share your passion at St Barnabas ph 0272923579
 2nd Wed Ngongotaha Social Club 2026 10.00 -11.30 St Barnabas Church Hall Ph Raewyn 027 4792893
 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
 Thursdays Rotorua Scrabble Club 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Parksyde
 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.

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 It's a place to provide support for new parents, there is free L4 education available for those interested.
 Be part of an organisation looking after children's education and whānau wellbeing for the last 85years.
 Come for a no obligation visit and see what you think, the kettle will be on.

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Kaharoa School

Tēnā koutou whānau

Autumn is over, and what fabulous weather we had leading into the start of winter. Now that the school production is over, all Kaharoa classes have been delving into various aspects of health and wellbeing.

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



Rural Cross Country: By the time this goes to print, Kaharoa School will have once again hosted the rural cross country (planned for Friday 5th May, postponement Monday 8th May). All Kaharoa 8-13 year-old students participate, as well as many competitors from other local schools, all demonstrating 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 later on this year. Kaharoa junior students had their own event in the afternoon.

EPro8: EPro8 is a science, mathematics and engineering challenge. Congratulations to the many year 4-8 students who participated in the school EPro8 competition. The winning Year 5/6 and Year 7/8 teams have the opportunity to represent our school in the quarter-finals of the EPro8 Challenge on June 9th and 10th.



Tipuna Project: Our signboards with local history and student artwork have now been installed which completes our 'Tipuna Project'. This included the planting of a new tree grove and extension to the board walk through the gardens. The school met to share a karakia, and our school Pātere followed by a scavenger hunt for students using information from the boards. Community members are invited to walk through and read the signboards at any time outside school hours. Thank you to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Environmental Enhancement Fund, and our local Treeline Nursery for your support for this project.

Upcoming PTA events:

Kaharoa Cull: Friday 26th - Sunday 28th of June. This is an annual competition for all hunters, trappers, and everyone who is interested in protecting our wonderful Kaharoa area from unwanted pests. Entries are open to teams of up to six adults plus as many children as wanted (entry link found on the Kaharoa School website).

Hunting starts at 7am on Friday, 26th of June and goes until 9am on Sunday, 28th of June. Count-up / weigh-in will be done on Sunday, 28th between 10am-11.30am at Kaharoa School. If you are not a hunter, you are very welcome to come along to the weigh-in / count-up part of the event, and food and drink will be available.

We look forward to a great turnout for a successful and entertaining event!

PTA are looking for donations of hay and calves: Our PTA is asking local farmers who are raising calves to consider putting aside a weaned calf to be donated to the school. These are then cared for by a dedicated PTA team and subsequently sold to fundraise for the school. The PTA is also keen to receive donations of hay to either be used for feeding calves, or to sell as a fundraiser. If you can help, please email pta@kaharoa.school.nz

AIMS Games 2026: We have two swimmers, some mountain bikers, and a hockey team going to AIMS Games this year. The competition is being held 5-11 September in Tauranga. We wish them all the very best in their competitions and look forward to hearing the results!

We have space for new students in some areas of the school:

Kaharoa School is 13 minutes from Ngongotaha. Our pre-school transition visits are held fortnightly on Thursday afternoons with our new entrant teacher (contact the school office for more information if interested). We currently have 15 students in our new entrant class and would love you to join us. Our Year 6-8 classes are very full this year, but we have spaces in our Primary classes.

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

Ngā mihi - The Kaharoa Team



Progress Ngongotaha Kokiri Ngongotaha Incorporated

Help Us To Make A Difference !!!

- Ngongotaha Emergency Response Plan
- Ngongotaha Community Defibrillator (AED)
- Ngongotaha Stream Care Team
- Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum
- Ngongotaha Hall Committee

Kia ora Koutou Katoa, Hi Everyone !!

What if we could all do a little to help to diminish the damage caused by flooding in our urban areas. Here's an idea which came from an article written by Jules Older for the Listener March 28 2026.

Commentary Upfront; Going with the flow An idea embraced by San Franciscans has merit for easing NZ's stormwater drainage problems, Jules says "Here's one way: it's free, it's fast and it works." Jules knows it works "because it's long been working in San Francisco. There, it's called Adopt-a-Drain', and adoptees are known as "drain heroes". With the weather that we experienced, over the last weekend in May, I think it would be a good idea to 'Adopt a Drain' and become a 'Drain Hero' here in our own community.

Prior to that horrible weekend in May, I had been personally checking our street drains, for potential blockages, as I drove past them. Most of them were clear of rubbish which otherwise consisted of mainly leaves, paper and the odd thing that should have found its way to a household bin. But generally, the Drains and Gutters that I looked at were all clear. Great!!! and it's all I needed to do. If the drains were clogged up, I would have moved the debris into a bucket to dispose of its contents in my general rubbish. I'd need some gloves, and perhaps a small coal shovel or similar. I also gave a passing thought that there may be others, who may think it a good idea as well to 'Adopt our Drains' on our local street/s. Some 'Drain Gangs' are happening under Neighbourhood Support in some parts of Auckland. What do you think? We would like to know if you already do this? You could become a 'Drain Hero'. Email progressngongotaha@gmail.com if you would like a copy of this one-page article. Thank you Philippa for spotting it.



24/7 Defibrillator AED (Number 2)

The subject of purchasing another AED to be positioned on the outside wall of the Ngongotaha 4Square has been raised recently, by one of Sam Waddell's (Owner Operator of 4Square Ngongotaha) customers who suggested the need for an AED at the 4Square and a Fund Raiser to buy it. More recently, a medical event that happened at the 4Square saw the need for someone to rush down to the Ngongotaha Gull Service Station to grab the 24/7 AED situated on the outside of the Gull wall. We see a very real need for another 24/7 Defibrillator in Ngongotaha. We are currently forming a team and working with Sam to make this happen. If you would like to come on board to help, or sponsor this Project in some way, please email progressngongotaha@gmail.com with your name and contact details. Or leave your details with Sam at the Ngongotaha 4Square. Thank you for your support.



Ngongotaha Stream Team:

The last group to donate to the Ngongotaha Stream were the Ngongotaha Lions Club. This donation was given to support the ongoing maintenance of the Ngongotaha Stream and it has made a huge difference to the Team, being able to continue with their work. Their next purchase is a battery for their Brushcutter. Thank you again Ngongotaha Lions for your generous donation and we do hope that you can keep going for the future of our community. If you would like to join the Ngongotaha Lions Club and you are over 18 years old please contact Yvette on 021 673628 evenings or email pres.ngongotaha@lionsclubs.org.nz. Let's put some Rangatahi/Youth strength, mahi behind progressing our community. We need you !!!

Here is an update from the Stream Team;

I can report that the Stream Team is functioning quite well. Ian, Murray, Keith, and I, on average, put in twelve man-hours per week. We each have our particular strengths, and may well be working on different or individual tasks on any one morning. There is always a sense of satisfaction when we can look back on the morning's work, and comment, "Well, you can see where we have been". The emphasis of our work has changed from developing new areas and planting out, to more of maintaining what we already have.

The growth in planting from previous years is very evident, and a real bonus is seeing natural regeneration almost everywhere you look. Young seedlings of every variety are showing themselves. We have excellent communication channels with both the Rotorua Lakes Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Saskia was instrumental in getting council budget funding for the grading, forming, and metalling of a particularly slippery section of the track. Aime has always supplied any plants that we require. We have two hundred or so being delivered in early June for planting out on an area we have cleared of blackberries. We continue to get regular comments of praise from the various walkers that we meet on the track. It is surely one of Ngongotaha's gems.

Regards, Gavin

Thank you so much Gavin, Ian, Murray & Keith. Please contact progressngongotaha@gmail.com if you would like to help with the planting this month.

Until next month 'Stay Super Warm, and Safe !!!' Keep an eye on our Drains, become a 'Drain Hero' or Help to put an AED on the 4Square wall.

"Whiria te tangata" Weave the people together. Highlights the strength that comes from Unity.

Lynn, Heather, Lee, Bob and all of our wonderful Volunteers !!!

Age Concern

We have a date for our annual Positive Ageing Expo for this year. The Expo will be held on 03/10/2026 subject to finding the funding which we are seeking at present. As per usual the stallholders will be free, if they are a charity, entry is free and \$250 plus GST for businesses.

An up-coming event is Elder Abuse Week, and we will partner with Family Focus for an Event to recognise the importance of this week. Age Concern Rotorua, unlike most Age Concerns around the country, do not hold the contract for Elder Abuse, which is held by Family Focus. All are welcome at no cost.

Elder Abuse Week Event to be held in Partnership with Family Focus

- Lunchtime BBQ and expo style 11am-1pm – Thursday
18th June Family Focus and Age Concern- 21 Sala Street, BBQ
- Sausages, bread -Age Concern will do the food
- Plates and Bowls organised
- Gift bags
- Elder abuse week support
- Raffle and register

We have secured some funding for our Annual Positive Ageing Expo which will be held on the 3rd October 2026 at our usual venue of Parksyde. This is an Expo for all ages but with an emphasis on stalls related to the elderly. Last year we had over 30 stalls and over 500 visitors

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has confirmed his party will campaign on lifting the age of eligibility for superannuation at this year's election, although he declined to mention specifics. Luxon confirmed the policy and National had previously said it would run on some kind of policy to make superannuation more affordable, although it had not yet confirmed that policy.

National will go to the election with another election policy around superannuation and lifting the retirement age. Asked when National would want to implement the policy, they said that they would want to do it as soon as they get back in the second term. This quite likely does not mean National will campaign on lifting the super age next year but in 2037, phasing the age increase over a period of time.

National described the current system as “unworkable and unaffordable”. Treasury’s December forecasts estimated the annual cost of superannuation will hit \$30 billion by the end of the decade, up from \$15.5b in 2020. Multiple Treasury briefings have warned that superannuation spending is becoming unsustainable and is squeezing out spending on other essential services like health and education. National said while they wanted to lift the age, they needed Labour and NZ First to come on board.

Grey Power New Zealand is reaffirming its long-standing support for universal New Zealand Superannuation (NZS), following recent comments from Labour leader Chris Hipkins indicating openness to discussing possible means-testing. Grey Power said while the organisation welcomes constructive debate about the future of retirement income, it remains firmly opposed to any move toward means-testing.

“New Zealand Superannuation provides certainty, dignity and independence for older New Zealanders. Undermining that certainty risks eroding confidence in the entire system for future retirees. For four decades, Grey Power has consistently advocated for a universal, non-means-tested system and continues to oppose any change to that principle.

Seven out of 10 New Zealanders say they want to remain in their current homes for the rest of their lives - and would only move if their health declined severely or a partner died. These people represent a significant proportion of New Zealand’s population. By 2028, more than one million Kiwis will be aged 65 or over, raising important questions about how we support them to live safely and confidently in the homes they are keen to remain in.

Those living alone are among the most vulnerable. Ensuring the right support is in place will be key to enabling older Kiwis to keep the independence they want and deserve. New research from Hato Hone St John highlights the challenge. More than half of respondents live alone, a seven percent increase since 2016.

Women are disproportionately represented: 62 percent of older women live alone. At the same time, 84 percent of those surveyed take medication for an ongoing condition, and one in four has experienced a fall or an unplanned hospital stay in the past 12 months.

Rory O’Rourke-Manager

We've just learned...

The Kaharoa Community Association & Kaharoa School community AED (automated external defibrillator) is in a cabinet located in the bus shelter outside the school.

In an emergency, the process to follow is: Call the 111 services, ask for the Ambulance then explain that we have an AED at Kaharoa School and we need the code to the padlock on the AED box.

If you have any questions about the procedures, how to use the device or the padlock number as a community member, please phone the school 07 3323444 or a KCA member www.kaharoa.co.nz and leave your details and someone will return your call.

Source: Kaharoa Community News

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ANZAC AT AWAHOU MARAE 2026

This year's 2026 Anzac Day at Tarimano marae started with the news that the main road from Ngongotaha to Awahou was blocked due to an accident at around 5.30am. We then received the very sad news that one of our Ngati Rangiwewehi kaumatua Uncle Dinny Mohi was killed Moe mai ra e te Rangtira, and his daughter Wendy was badly injured in said accident on their way to the ANZAC dawn service at Ohinemutu, Rotorua.



After consulting with Ngati Rangiwewehi leadership, including our Ringawera, we made the decision to still hold our Anzac service at Awahou. However, we delayed the start time from 10am to 10.30 am. This was to give people time to travel around the accident scene as the road would be closed all morning. People had to travel around the lake or via Oturoa road. With this change and considering the very high price of fuel we therefore were not expecting many people to attend. However, we were truly humbled and blessed at the numbers that turned up, estimated about 250 people in attendance including locals, visitors from out of Rotorua, and our Ngati Rangiwewehi whanau.

The event is now clearly back on the annual calendar of ANZAC day events for many people who attend the various commemorative services. Once again there was a notable presence of iwi, including some for the first time.

The 2026 Anzac @ Awahou commemorations were organised by the NRWVC now comprising of Ngahihi-o-te-ra Bidois, Johnnie Jones, Kato, Bubba and Carolyn Bidois with assistance from the Te Arawa Maori Returned Services League, the 28th Maori Battalion Veterans and the Rotorua RSA.

The Parade Marshall for the day was conscripted on the day. Nepia Takiura – Mita fondly known as Mr Morgan fulfilled that roll very well. His parade included ex-service people including a Kiwi father who had served in the NZ Navy and his 7-week-old son, along with the mother, his partner, who had served in the Australian Navy. There were also those who were marching for the first time representing previous service people who had passed and members of the Ngongotaha Scouts who contribute to our day in many ways. The Minister for our ANZAC dedication was Ben Cameron who travelled all the way from Taumaranui to be with us. Ben takes the monthly services at the Awahou marae church. Ben led our service and the several hymns we sang. Thanks Ben!

Others who contributed to the events of the day were the Ngati Rangiwewehi Paepae and Kaikaranga, the Ngati Rangiwewehi Ringawera (Cookie Bears), the Ngati Rangiwewehi Office who have made a permanent ANZAC booking for us for future years. They also provided the Ngati Rangiwewehi gazebos and helped with our media to iwi. Our Ngati Rangiwewehi caretakers mowed the lawns and ensured our marae was looking sharp as always, Uncle Ted provided the marquee, Missy, our Maori Wardens' person also organised our photos of past soldiers and we had others who hosted us at the Ngati Rangiwewehi Activities club afterwards.

Once again, the local Scouts supported the day with marching and giving the reading of Flanders Fields poem, which had been learnt off by heart. The scouts and their families are a welcome and important part of the commemoration. Thank you for being all hands on deck with the clean-up and dishes afterwards. Nga mihi. The ANZAC @ Awahou marae programme includes the Ngati

Rangiwewehi 'Roll of Honour'. Our thanks to Te Ururoa Flavell for his reading of this and many thanks to our excellent guest speaker, namely Aramoana Mohi, who spoke about being a Mama who has a son that is currently in active service in the NZ Navy. Her address was very well received and tugged at the heartstrings, especially given her son Te Teira was unable to attend our service as per usual, because he was in Gallipoli. The 'Roll of Honour' was on display along with photos of our soldiers and the large cross covered with individually hand knitted poppies (made by Raywyn Bidois).

Kato made our wreaths which represented the various armed services and groups attending. As a part of the ceremony these were laid on the marae War Memorial Monument which also has all the names of our Awahou Veterans permanently engraved on it. These names include our fallen soldiers from WW1, WW2, and other theatres of war service. Later, the wreaths were taken to Puhirua and laid on some of the graves. As a sign of our Ngati Rangiwewehi pouritanga and respect to recognise the passing of our iwi kaumatua uncle Dinny Mohi earlier that morning, a last wreath was laid by his niece Aramoana Mohi.

Our hakari kai was held in our dining hall Te Aongahoro. We had a sit-down meal with everyone highly appreciating their kai. The meal prepared by our Cookie Bears and Ringawera was delicious and our wharekai was full. Following the hakari some people moved over to the Awahou Activities Club to socialise. This also helped to make a memorable day.

It is with much gratitude that the Ngati Rangiwewehi War Veterans committee thank you all for attending and acknowledge the Mangorewa Kaharoa Te Taumata Trust for their ongoing financial tautoko. We would also like to thank the MKTT Trustees Katerina and Te Rangikaheke for their attendance at our day. We also received apologies from trustee Geoff Rice. To the members of our local Hamurana, Kaharoa, Ngongotaha and Mamaku communities who attended Anzac @ Awahou marae it was an honour to host you all. We look forward to hosting more of our community in 2027. Please mark your diaries for April 25th 2027 Anzac at Awahou marae. 10am start time.

Ngahihi o te ra Bidois is a Motivational Speaker, Professional Director, businessman, author, husband, father. Koro and MBA. A Maori Boy from Awahou. See <https://thefaceofnewzealand.com>



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