

Mamaku Blue Finalist in 2026 Primary Industries Awards

These awards, which have been running for 8 years, celebrate leaders, innovators, and organizations driving excellence across the country's food, fibre, and agricultural sectors.

The 2026 awards presentation was held at the Corbis in Auckland on 23 June, with over 500 attendees celebrating achievements across multiple categories.



Respected agricultural commentator Alan Emerson, a judge in multiple PINZ awards, says he was deeply impressed by the calibre of this year's nominations. "The standard has always been incredibly high, but this time it feels like it's gone through the roof." Mamaku Blue were Finalists for the Food, Beverage & Fibre Product Award. They were up against the Webster and Mitchell families of North Otago who founded Topflite, a business built from just two hectares of sunflowers into an enterprise growing and supplying 1,600 tonnes of bird and small animal seed annually.

The winning finalist was T&G Global's premium ENVY apple enterprise, the nation's first billion-dollar apple brand. Harry and Anne Frost (pictured) planted their first blueberry blocks in 1982. At their Maraeroa Road property, they cultivated three blueberry varieties on 2.4ha of netted blocks - Jersey, Burlington, and the Dixi.. More recently they have added Reka, Bluecrop, Brigitta, and Duke.

Blueberries contain anthocyanins that are natural pigments responsible for giving blueberries their blue, purple, violet, and red colours. There is a high antioxidant concentration present in blueberries. Through the eighties and nineties, the farm grew steadily, and with perseverance and a real passion to produce quality blueberries, it has continued to thrive, and includes a café, shop and farm experience.

Now run by son Philip and Michaela Frost, (pictured with their children), the farm has collaborated with Callaghan Innovation, Scion, Massey University and Blueberries NZ, and created blueberry juice, wine, powder and oil and packaging from food waste.



It's Official - Ngongotaha Lions Club have recommenced following a year's hiatus.

Their first joint activity was a well supported bake stall at Bunnings on Saturday 27th June, here attended by some of the newest members (from the left) Susan, Damian, Philippa and Graeme.

In addition to sales, there was a lot of interest from locals in the work of the Club, and some membership enquiries.

If you are interested in what's involved, you can contact Yvette on 021 673 628 or email pres.ngongotaha@lionsclubs.org.nz. The next meeting is on 7 July,

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NGONGOTAHA INDOOR BOWLS

Monday 8th June Ngongotaha/RSA Pairs

It was a great night of fun and fellowship at bowls. Some people say I'm loud, but a few members from the RSA were even louder than me!

To keep things interesting, we changed skips for each game, which added a fun challenge and gave everyone a chance to play in different combinations. A delicious supper was provided, and there were also raffles available throughout the evening.

Congratulations to the winners for the night:

- * James (Skip) – 4 wins
- * Richard (Lead) – 3½ wins

The Booby Prize winners were:

- * Peter (Skip)
- * Janice (Lead)

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such an enjoyable evening.

Monday 15th – Trophy

Numbers were down tonight, but those who attended enjoyed a good evening of play. Congratulations to Greg and Nicole, who were the winners with two wins and a draw.

Monday 22nd – Championship Pairs

The competition was serious tonight, with players battling for qualification spots. At the end of the evening, two teams qualified and will face off in a playoff next week:

- * Kevin and Colin
- * Helen and Nicole

Congratulations to both teams, and best of luck in next week's playoff.

Monday 29th Playoff Championship Pairs/RollUp

There were two teams battling it out for the win in the pairs, while the rest of the players were getting some practice in. I must say, they were a very, very noisy bunch!

Nicole and I had a great night. We were six shots up after the first four ends, but Kevin and Colin fought back and eventually drew level. On the last end, the scores were tied, so we played an extra end to decide the winner.

Winners: Helen and Nicole

Runners-up: Kevin and Colin

It was a fantastic game. Thanks, Kevin and Colin, for a great match!

Anyone looking at playing bowls can contact:

Richard Mills
Kevin Whyte

07 3323623
07 3574766

Mamaku School News

Mamaku School Possum Hunt

I am delighted to inform you that our recent Possum Hunt Challenge raised \$14,377.26. This is an outstanding result for our small kura and I extend my sincere thanks to the community for getting in behind this event. Thank you everyone!

St John in School

As part of the Health curriculum, Hato Hone St John Community Educators are visiting our kura Tuesday and Wednesday next week. They will be in all classes providing our students with the skills and knowledge to 'Respond in an emergency Situation', and how to keep themselves and others safe. It will be highly engaging for our students. Below what is being delivered in the different year levels.

Years 1&2: Explore what an emergency is and identify when 111 needs to be called and learn how to help before the ambulance arrives

Years 5&6: Assess patients using DRSAB (Danger, Response, Send for help, Airway, Breathing) and take appropriate responses to different situations requiring First Aid. Recognising and responding to environmental challenges and dangers.

Years 3&4: How to check for dangers around patients and check for a response. Practice placing unresponsive patients on their side and how to treat severe bleeding.

Years 7&8: Assess patients using DRSAB (Danger, Response,

Send for help, Airway, Breathing) including performing effective CPR on unresponsive patients. Recognising and responding to environmental challenges and dangers.

Rooms 1,2 & 3 Visit to Rotorua Library

Rooms 1, 2 & 3 visited the Rotorua Library on Wednesday to take part in the Tarawera Eruption Programme, facilitated by the Rotorua Museum. The 10th of June also marked the 140th anniversary of the Tarawera eruption, a significant day in Rotorua and New Zealand's history. Sincere thanks to the Rotorua Museum who provided free transport for our students to attend this event.

Student Success

Congratulations to Cooper Fredricksen (Year 8) who achieved 4th place at the Rural Schools Cross Country competition at Kaharoa School and went on to the Bay of Plenty Cross Country competition (21st place). Cooper is also captain of his rugby team in the prestigious Tai Mitchell rugby tournament in Opotiki, along with Mackenzie Murray (Year 8) representing Tai Mitchell girls.

Mamaku School is now open for enrolments. We cater for Primary and Intermediate Year 1-8, and are located just 12 mins from central Ngongotaha. We also offer a before/after school programme - MSD subsidies available for qualifying families. We would warmly welcome you to drop in and visit our friendly kura. Please contact our office for enquiries - office@mamaku.school.nz or visit our website <https://www.mamaku.school.nz/> for newsletters, information and enrolment forms.

Peter Vos, Tumuaki/Principal at Mamaku School

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Hon Todd McClay

MP for Rotorua

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Authorised by Todd McClay, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



Hon Todd McClay

Member of Parliament for Rotorua



FIXING THE BASICS AND BUILDING THE FUTURE.

Ngongotahā is a community with a proud local spirit and a bright future. Every week I hear from families, workers, businesses, schools and community groups who are doing their bit to make Rotorua an even better place to live, work and raise a family. A stronger future starts with easing pressure on household budgets. The recent drop in fuel prices is welcome relief for local families, tradies, commuters and small businesses. When it costs less to fill the tank, there is more room in the weekly budget for groceries, school costs, sport, activities and the everyday needs that matter most.

Lower fuel costs also flow through the wider local economy. They help reduce pressure on transport, freight and operating costs for businesses, supporting confidence and making it easier for our local economy to keep moving forward. We are also investing in the future of our young people. The Government's investment in school property is about ensuring students can learn in warm, safe and modern classrooms, and teachers have the facilities they need to do their best work. Here in Rotorua, the redevelopment work at Western Heights High School is an important example of that commitment. Investment in better school facilities supports students, families and staff today, while helping prepare the next generation with the skills and confidence they need for tomorrow.

Another part of building a stronger future is helping New Zealanders save. Proposed KiwiSaver changes are focused on encouraging more long-term savings for a first home and retirement, including lifting default contribution settings over time while keeping flexibility for people who need it. These changes are about helping more Kiwis build financial security for themselves and their families. Whether it is relief at the pump, better classrooms for our children, or stronger savings for the years ahead, my focus is on practical steps that make a real difference for households and help grow a stronger future for Ngongotahā and Rotorua. As always, if there is anything my staff or I can do for you, please don't hesitate to get in touch with my office on (07) 348 5871.

Hon Todd McClay
Member of Parliament for Rotorua
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Minister of Trade and Investment
Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs
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LAKEVIEW GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

The shortest day has been and gone so happy days: we are on the move towards summer! There has been a fair amount of rain this past month, testing out the drainage work we got done to prevent temporary lakes forming on certain fairways, and we can happily say it is working. We are called Lakeview but prefer the name to refer to the view of Lake Rotorua! The course is still looking fantastic despite the rain thanks to Kelvin and Duncan.

Club competition for July is the Vice Captains Trophy in-between Matariki weekend and a novelty comp with the green keepers /captains revenge. This should be a lot of fun with unusual obstacles to navigate and greens in strange places! The result of the Handicap Matchplay was unknown at the time of writing but the two contenders were Sean Eapara playing our resident pro Josh Edwards. Watch this space for the result next month.

Our inaugural 9-hole winter series has kicked off and will run every Sunday through to the end of August. This is open to all abilities: you do not have to have a handicap, just like our twilight series. Lunch will be available from 12pm, register from 11.30am tee off from 12.30pm – 2pm prizegiving to follow. Ngongotaha Four Square meat packs up for grabs. For more info contact the pro shop 07 357 2341.

QUIZ NIGHTS.

The next quiz night will be Friday 31st July. Get your team registered at events@lakeviewgolf.co.nz and come and join us for some delicious kai, brain teasers and good times locally in your community.

EVENTS/FUNCTIONS.

July is a busy month with a wedding, 70th birthday, group winter luncheon and some midweek business hui. If you are looking for a peaceful relaxed venue to celebrate that special occasion with views of Lake Rotorua set in a beautiful green space, get in touch, we would love to make your function one to remember!

It might only be July but it is never too early to start thinking about that end of year work function. Given there are only 5 Friday and 5 Saturday options between mid November and Xmas it pays to book early!! Email events@lakeviewgolf.co.nz

If you are looking for something to entertain the kids in the July school holidays, come up for a hit on the driving range or go and play a few holes. Clubs are available for use on the range. Grab a coffee, cup of tea, smoothie or milkshake and some lunch afterwards.

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 start planning those work do's!

Golf shop phone number is 07 357 2341

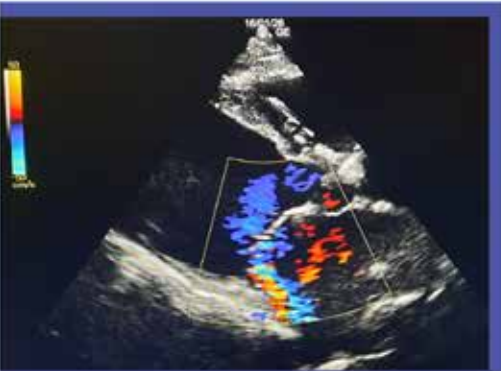


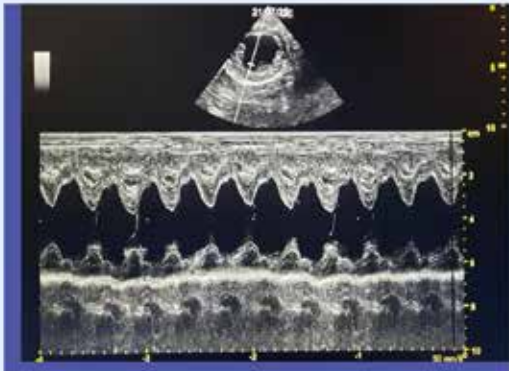
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 073439090

“Our message to councils is simple: lead your own reform, or we will do it for you. Either way, change is coming.” – Minister Chris Bishop

Through its Simplifying Local Government programme, the Government is looking at changes to how local government is organised. The goal is to make the system simpler by reducing the number of city and district councils across New Zealand and moving towards unitary authorities.

A voluntary fast-track option, called Head Start, allows groups of councils to submit high-level “outline proposals” for how local government could be reorganised in their regions. The deadline for proposals is 9 August 2026. Proposals must be submitted by groups of councils, not individual councils. There is a back-up process for amalgamation that will include direction from government from 2028.

Regional Councillors will not be part of the new proposed structure from 2028, and we will move towards Unitary Authorities that carry out the functions of both local councils and Regional Councils.

On 8 June 2026 Council resolved to continue investigating Head Start and approved six criteria areas to guide further work: financial health; communities of interest; mana whenua views and commitments; economic alignment; local voice and political representation; and ability to deliver the Government’s reform priorities. The following potential configuration options are being assessed at this stage:

(a) A Unitary Authority consisting of all Territorial Authorities in the Bay of Plenty;

(b) A Unitary Authority consisting of Rotorua, and Southern Councils (Taupō and / or South Waikato);

(c) A Unitary Authority consisting of Rotorua and Eastern Councils

(Whakatāne, Kawerau and Ōpōtiki)

(d) A Unitary Authority consisting of Rotorua and Western Councils (Bay of Plenty and Tauranga);

(e) A Unitary Authority following main catchment and iwi boundaries (consisting of Rotorua and the Kaituna catchment portion of Western Bay of Plenty);

(f) Any combination of the above or other configurations that become apparent through the review process. No preferred option has been identified and detailed measures will be used to compare options based on the six criteria areas previously approved by Council.

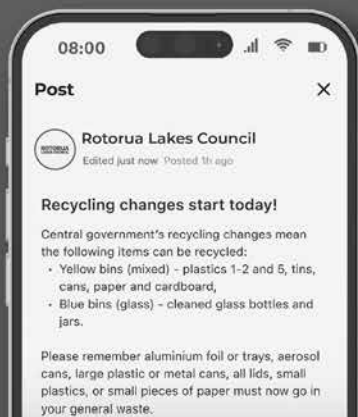
Mana whenua implications remain central. The Mayoral working group material provides a forum through which Te Arawa and Rotorua Lakes Council will work together in good faith to explore governance, representation and boundary options, with explicit attention to settlement protections, statutory rights, partnership and evidence-based decision making.

The principal risks at this stage remain governance and procedural, information-quality, financial sustainability, stakeholder and reputational, tangata whenua relationships, and deliverability/transition. There are also risks related to the limited availability of comparable inter-council information, evolving Government settings, and uncertainty around implementation requirements. These risks reinforce the need for Council to approve a clear and transparent assessment framework at this stage, while avoiding premature selection of a preferred option until the evidence base is stronger. Council will make a decision on whether or not to proceed with submitting a Headstart proposal for amalgamation and with whom, at the Council meeting on 29th July.

Thanks to Karen Barker RLC Councillor

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Progress Ngongotaha Kokiri Ngongotaha Incorporated

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- Ngongotaha Emergency Response Plan
- Ngongotaha Stream Care Team
- Ngongotaha Life Memories Museum
- Ngongotaha Hall Committee

Kia ora Koutou Katoa, Hi Everyone !!

A HUGE Thank You to those who have already made a donation to the new 24/7 Defibrillator (AED) to be placed on the outside wall of the 4Square. Talk about Quick Movers...

This is one thing we really can depend on in our community, that of a quick response to the needs of others. If you have been thinking of donating towards this Community Project please text to Lynn 022 1404391 for the Bank Account details for Progress Ngongotaha Kokiri Ngongotaha Inc. Sam the owner/operator of the Ngongotaha 4Square also has these details. Thanks again for such a rapid response. If you already know our Bank Account details the reference for this Project is DEFIB2. For further details contact progressngongotaha@gmail.com

This months Whakatauki (Proverb)

“Ko koe ki tena, ko ahau tenei kiwai o te kete.”

You take that handle of the basket and I will take this one

Kiwai = Handle

Kete = Basket

ADOPT A DRAIN (Detailed in the June Ngongotaha News)

We did receive a call about this with reference to the Auckland ‘roll out’ by Neighbourhood Support. It is hugely successful. Did anyone (individual, whanau, club) just decide to do this here in Ngongotaha? Is there a whanau/family already doing this perhaps? Others have tried through a couple of local Councils to get this off the ground....If you would like to discuss this further as Catherine did, please get in contact by email as above or text/phone 022 1404391. This is something we can all do to help to diminish the damage caused by flooding in our urban areas. Like everything it is always good to talk with others who are doing this already. You may have some valuable tips.

NGONGOTAHA STREAM TEAM

By the time you read this our Team and many, many volunteers will have completed the planting of the area that they had recently cleared of Blackberry, alongside the Ngongotaha Awa. We would not have such a beautiful place to enjoy, if it wasn't for the hours of time consistently put in by Gavin, Ian, Murray and Keith and the support of so many others. Gavin said last time “it is surely one of Ngongotaha's Gems”. But without you all and your passion for the mahi and the trials that you all keep going through with our extreme weather events, we would not have this ‘Gem’. Thank you all so very much.

OUT AND ABOUT !!

Last month on the 14th June, I decided to go along to the Mamaku Village Community Market. It was raining and things had delayed me, however, I got there. It was lovely, well set out indoors at the Mamaku War Memorial Hall. Plenty of room for prams etc. The displays of goods mostly made with ‘Love and Care’ caught my eyes from stall to stall. Honestly, if on or around August 9th you have a Birthday, or other Special Day that you need that gift for, you will find it at the Mamaku Village Community Market. The Stall Holders Fee goes towards the Maintenance of the Mamaku War Memorial Hall. It's a known fact that “Ngongotaha and Mamaku Folk support each other”...you will find a few familiar faces at the market, no doubt at all. It's well worth a trip out there, maybe take a friend or two. Ample parking is available.

Progress Ngongotaha Kokiri Ngongotaha Incorporated Annual General Meeting

- **Wednesday 5th August 2026**
- **7.00 pm**
- **Ngongotaha Community Hall ‘Conference Room’**
- **School Road Ngongotaha**

Neighbourly

We also advertise our Annual General Meeting via Neighbourly. This is a Free and Private neighbourhood website for New Zealand. This is a place to connect with your neighbours to build a stronger, safe and friendlier place to call home. To join go to www.neighbourly.co.nz

Until next time continue to be Super Safe out there, Enjoy the School Holidays !!

Ka kite

Lynn, Heather, Lee, Bob and all of our “Wonderful Community of Volunteers”.



Secret Squirrel Strikes Again

The Stream Team, consisting of (from the left) Murray, Gordon, David, Ian, Amy (from BOP Regional Council), Roger and Gavin were surprised by Secret Squirrel with a box of chocolates.

They had just completed planting around 200 native plants (koromiko, karamu, manuka, makomako, phormium tenax and hebe donated by BOP Regional Council) on the walkway, which they had previously cleared of blackberry.

The stream walkway on the Western Road side is popular with dog walkers and fishers, amongst others. Thanks for the Stream Team for all their work. You can nominate a person to Secret Squirrel for doing something great for our community by texting 021 283 7006.



Winter Again

How do you know when a snowman is scared? He's standing in yellow snow.

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? He was picking his nose.

Which is faster, hot or cold? Hot. You can easily catch a cold.

Winter is the season where my jeans mysteriously shrink in the closet.

I'm so ready for winter, I've already put on my 10 layers of sarcasm.

4

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Melissa Choppin and Amy Nick

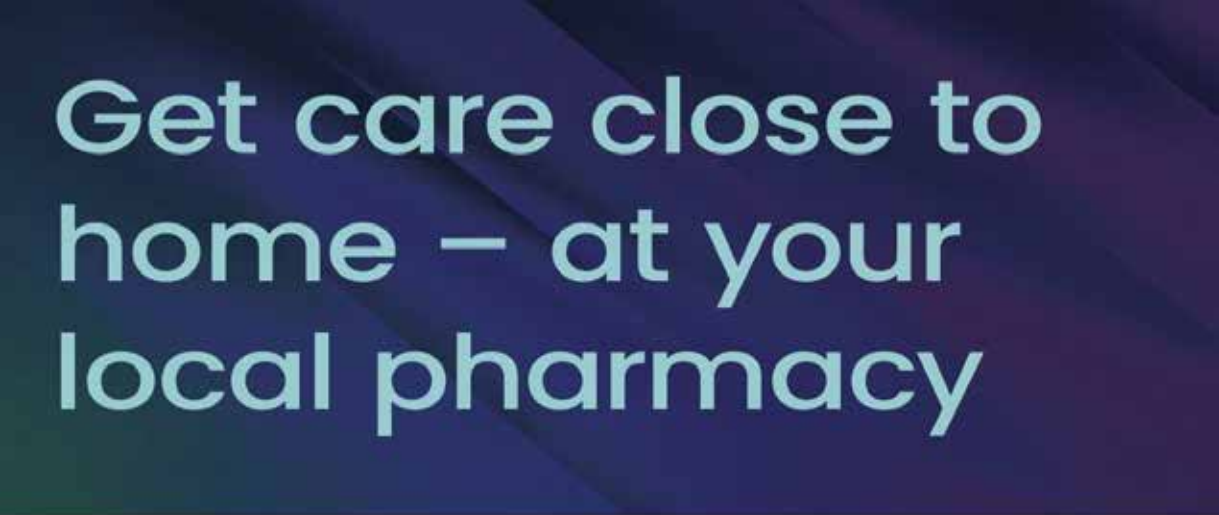
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Crime Prevention is a Community Responsibility

It is widely recognised that crime prevention is not solely the responsibility of the New Zealand Police. While Police play a vital role in keeping our communities safe, it is unrealistic to expect that they have the resources to monitor and prevent every opportunity for crime. This is why community involvement is so important.

Volunteer organisations such as the Rotorua Community Patrol play a valuable role in supporting crime prevention efforts. Our dedicated volunteers patrol the streets of Ngongotahā, Rotorua, and surrounding rural areas, providing an extra set of “eyes and ears” for our community.

You may have noticed our “Be Aware – Community Patrols Operating” signs displayed on power poles throughout the area, made possible through our partnership with Unison. These signs serve as a visible reminder that local residents are actively working together to help keep our neighbourhoods safe. Community Patrols New Zealand (CPNZ) patrols operate independently from Police but receive significant support through Police training, guidance, and tasking.

At our most recent patrol meeting, volunteers had the opportunity to learn more about Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Crash Safety from our local Police Liaison Officers. The session covered the unique risks associated with these vehicles and the safety procedures first responders and community volunteers need to be aware of. It was a real eye-opener and highlighted the value of the ongoing training opportunities available to our patrol members.

The same meeting also provided an opportunity to recognise the commitment of several long-serving volunteers. Service medals were presented in recognition of their dedication to community service, with special acknowledgement given to Murray H and Sharon F, who were awarded their 20+ years of service badges. Their contribution, along with that of many other volunteers, reflects the strong community spirit that underpins the success of our patrol.

Our local patrol is community-run and receives no central government funding for its day-to-day operations. Instead, we rely on grants, business sponsorships, and private donations to continue our work. We would like to acknowledge the generous support of Rotary Sunrise for assisting with vehicle running costs, Temprite Industries, Ngongotahā Pharmacy, and the many local businesses and individuals who make regular contributions. These partnerships demonstrate the power of communities working together for the benefit of all.

Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility. Whether it is reporting suspicious activity, looking out for your neighbours, or volunteering your time, every contribution helps build a safer community. Together, we can help make Ngongotahā – Rotorua an even safer place to live, work, and raise our families. If you would like to learn more about becoming involved with the Rotorua Community Patrol, contact David on 027 4902816 or visit the Community Patrols New Zealand website at www.cpnz.org.nz.

By Sharon Fleet



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Mandy Lee 0276 732 331 and Kat Flavell 027 494 4646

FOR SALE



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

Thinking of Selling?

We Have Active Buyers Looking for Ngongotaha

We still have a list of buyers looking to purchase their forever homes in the beautiful Ngongotaha area. With its vibrant village community and convenient location, it's no wonder demand remains so high.

If you want to take advantage of this active market and achieve a premium result for your property, reach out to our team for a confidential chat.

Let's talk today!

Mandy Lee 0276 732 331 | Kat Flavell 027 494 4646

mandy.lee@raywhite.com | kat.flavell@raywhite.com

FOR SALE



4 2 1 5

585 Tauranga Direct Road, Hamurana

Warmed by a woodfire, this functional home features a renovated character kitchen and a lounge adjoining the open-plan dining area. The lower level includes a large office/fourth bedroom, bathroom, and laundry. Upstairs holds three double bedrooms, including a main with a walk-in wardrobe, plus a family bathroom. Set on two acres with two paddocks, yards, and two multi-vehicle garages, it's perfect for livestock.

By Negotiation | rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT33543
Angela Parker 0274 213 619

FOR SALE



4 2 1 2

214 Central Road, Hamurana

Minutes from Ngongotaha, this stunning, fully renovated home sits on a flat 4.12-hectare lifestyle block with panoramic views. The modern, insulated, double-glazed interior features an open-plan kitchen, lounge, and a private master suite. Outside, a generous covered entertainment area overlooks the paddocks. Dual driveways provide separate access to the internal double garage and a massive 16x20m2 approx shed.

By Negotiation | rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT32926
Angela Parker 0274 213 619

 *We bring the whole team*



4011 

13 Leonard Road
NGONGOTAHA

Dream Lifestyle Living

John Piercy 027 446 4549
rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT33224



3  2  3  1 

609 Hamurana Road
HAMURANA

*Lake and Boat Ramp
in View!*

Angela Parker 0274 213 619
rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT33165



FOR SALE

5  3  2  5 

371 Central Road
HAMURANA

*Lake Views, Luxury
and Lifestyle*

Angela Parker 0274 213 619
rwrotorua.co.nz/ROT32985



FOR SALE

4  2  2  4 

91F Turner Road
HAMURANA

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Panoramic Lake Views*

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569 Paradise Valley Road
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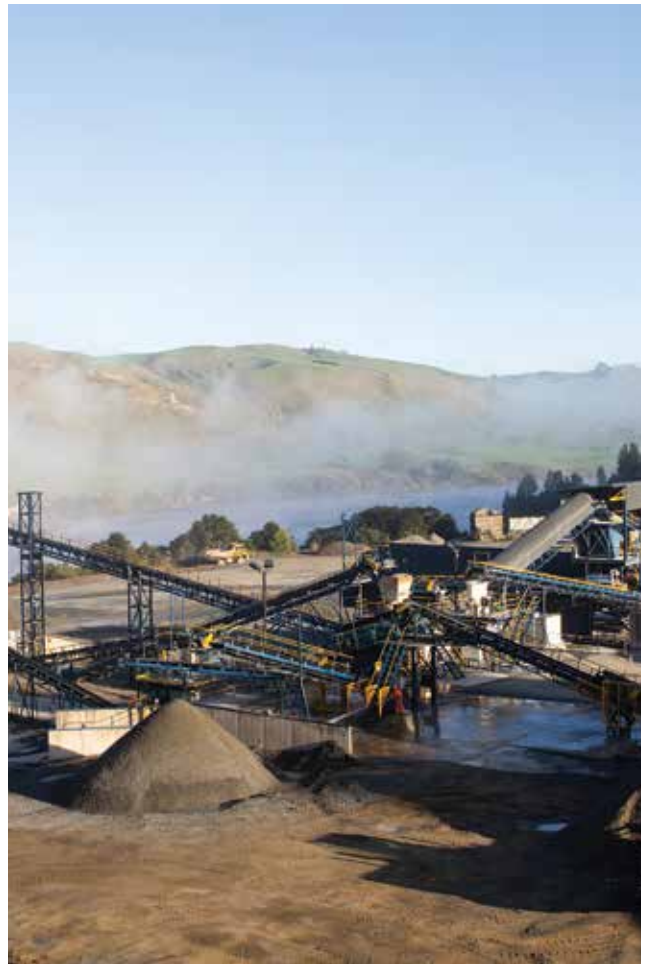
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Honesty, Truth, and the Trade-Offs We Don't Like Talking About Come Voting Time

It's that tri-annual time again where we head into government election season and various topics like public services and welfare get bounced around like political footballs. I think if we're honest with ourselves, we generally vote to support the party with policies that benefit us personally. We arguably consider our own immediate circumstances first – job security, rent, mortgage, childcare and health needs, cost of living, retirement - rather than what might be best for the country's longer-term financial stability. And we all like free or subsidised stuff, even if we don't need it, right? The trouble is the pressure on the money we all put in as taxpayers to pay for public services and welfare isn't enough to keep up with demands on it, and fast becoming unsustainable if not already.

New Zealand has been having the same conversations as other countries about the long-term sustainability of public services and welfare – particularly the long-term viability of our superannuation welfare system - for a while. The underlying tensions are all similar: demand for support continues to increase with demographic shifts, international political instability, housing pressures, healthcare pressure, and economic stagnation all contributing to increased reliance on government support. At the same time, governments face limits on how much revenue they can squeeze out of taxpayers to run the country without placing even more strain on us or the wider economy.

Public services and welfare debates always tend to surface during election cycles when politicians roll out campaigns promising policy cuts or spending priorities of all kinds to woo certain cohorts of voters. Welfare systems were designed to be safety nets, but as more and more people rely on welfare for longer – and we're all living longer - the financial pressure on welfare income support and public services like health care and housing grows. This doesn't mean the system is failing; rather, it highlights the ongoing challenge of balancing compassion, financial responsibility, and realistic expectations of what any government can sustainably provide us from our taxpayer dollars. The upshot is that when voters prioritise immediate personal gains, there's always a trade-off somewhere else. I think we all have a part to play in acknowledging and reflecting on that trade-off.

The themes also appear internationally. For example, Elon Musk during his early tenure in Trumps' cost cutting initiative 'DOGE' reportedly said in response to public controversy over funding cuts that 'America must stop spending money it doesn't have' referring to concerns about their national debt and deficit spending (eyewatering trillions). While his comments were about America, the underlying sentiment - that governments can't keep spending beyond their taxpayer means forever - is relevant to us, too. I have heard similar comments from our politicians from time to time, just not as stark.

Political cartoons often capture these tensions in sharp and simple ways. One American news outlet cartoon shows a reporter asking a protester upset about funding cuts: "Given the government has an infinite demand on finite resources, what are you willing to give up to pay for your cause?" The next frame shows the protester with a look that clearly showed they'd not considered the point that if they wanted government to continue funding their cause, something else would need to be reduced or reprioritised – i.e.: what trade offs were they prepared to accept?

Ultimately, discussions about overall public system sustainability, voter behaviour, and government spending are messy and complex. It's about compassion, economics, values, and differing views on what a fair society looks like. But everything comes back to one simple reality: all public services have limits, and every choice we make - whether at the ballot box or in government - carries a trade-off. We all have a role in being honest with ourselves about the future we want for New Zealand, not just what we hope to gain for ourselves in the now.

Article supplied by Ros Morshead, Solicitor at Lawbox Solicitors

Amanda King and Anna Murray
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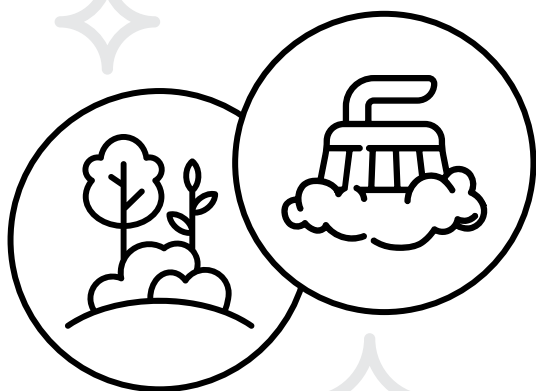
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MAMAKU MARKETS

Second Sunday of the Month

More info on Mamaku Community Events FB page

Sunday 9th August | 9am to 12pm

**Mamaku War Memorial Hall
Mamaku St, Mamaku**

Next dates: 11th October, 8th November, 13th December



Ngongotaha Medical Centre Limited

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



Kia kaha tāne mā – get your heart health checked

For many Māori men, looking after whānau comes first — but your own health matters too.

Heart disease, stroke and diabetes can affect Māori earlier than other groups, often without any warning signs. That's why Māori men are encouraged to have a **cardiovascular risk assessment from age 30**.

What is a cardiovascular risk assessment?

It's a simple free health check with your GP or nurse to look at your risk of heart attack or stroke.

It may include:

- blood pressure
- cholesterol and blood sugar checks
- weight and waist measurement
- smoking, exercise and whānau history

Why get checked?

You can have **high blood pressure, high cholesterol or diabetes and feel completely well**. A check can pick up problems early, before they become serious.

Looking after yourself means looking after your whānau

Getting checked is one small step that can make a big difference — helping you stay well for your partner, tamariki, mokopuna and wider whānau.

Book your check

If you are **Māori, male, and aged 30 or over**, talk to our reception team and book your cardiovascular risk assessment with the GP or nurse.

Know your numbers. Protect your manawa. Be here for your whānau.



KATHRYN MCALONAN

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June Market Snapshot (as of 24th June)

Ngongotaha: 5 sales (8 last month), 740k average sale value, 65 days to sell, 37 current listings (52 last month)

Hamurana: 3 sales (4 last month), 2 high value lifestyle sales, 54 days to sell, 48 current listings (52 last month)

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Happenings

19 July Mid-Winter Farmers Market at the Agrodome from 9.00 am
31 July Lakeview Quiz. Register at events@lakeviewgolf.co.nz
5 Aug Progress Ngongotaha AGM 7.00 p.m. Ngongotaha Hall
9 Aug Mamaku Market 9-12 am. War Memorial Hall Mamaku St.
13 Nov Equisucceed Golf Tournament at Arikapakapa. Contact manager @equisucceed.co.nz

Regular Events

Monday Indoor Bowls 7.00 pm Ngongotaha Community Hall
2nd Monday Mamaku Garden Circle 1 pm at Fire Station. New members welcome.
Tuesday Vets Golf 9.30am, Junior golf after school at Lakeview
Talking Tech on Tuesdays at Parksyde
2nd Tuesday 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.
ST BARNABAS ANGLICAN CHURCH School Road
Sunday: 9.45am Eucharist followed by coffee and fellowship.
Thursday 9.45am Contemplative Eucharist followed by coffee and fellowship.
11.00am Bible Study

All are welcome.

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Equisucceed

We wanted to start by saying a huge thank you to some of our supporters this term. The Lion Foundation, whose generous funding will go towards equine dental and vaccinations for our wonderful team of horses and ponies. Secondly to both the Rotorua & Bay of Plenty and Waikato Hunt Clubs for their donations the morning of the Holdem Hunt Farm in Mamaku. It was a great morning and we loved watching you all ride out for the day.

Our riders have been developing their jumping skills and it has been fantastic to see the progress made. From building confidence over poles and small obstacles to improving balance, control and rider- horse communication. All of our riders should be very proud of their efforts as they are making great improvements.

Save the Date- Craigs Investment Partners Golf Day in support of EquiSucceed will be held on Friday 13th November

at the Arikapakapa Golf Club. Not only will be a fun afternoon of golf and networking but a chance to support a worthy cause in your community with prizes up for grabs.

Get in touch to register your team or sponsor a hole

- manager@equisucceed.co.nz

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Kaharoa School

Tēnā koutou whānau

We finished a very busy term 2 with the removal of many pests in our region in the Kaharoa Cull, and by celebrating the learning that our tamariki have achieved so far this year with their whānau in parent-teacher interviews.



Rural Cross Country: A huge effort from all of our runners at the Cross Country event on the 8th May. Congratulations to the students who placed in the top 6 and qualified for the BOP Cross Country Championships in Tauranga on 30th June. Thank you to the sponsors of the Kaharoa School Cross Country medals: Shape Homes and Caroline Edmonds. Thank you also to the families that contributed baking or their time to help on the BBQ and bake sale supporting our Sports Camp team.



EPro8: EPro8 is a science, mathematics and engineering challenge. A large number of year 4-8 students signed up for the internal competition and the winning teams had the opportunity to represent our school in the quarter-finals. Congratulations to the Techno Builders for their success in the interschool competition and making it into the semi-finals. Special mention must go to Baz and Kayden who designed a prototype fishing rod and attempted to reel in some fish; and to Brooklyn, Charly, and Olive who used a free moment to construct the perfect child-sized horse jump for a mid-session fitness routine!



Anthony - SWMXC

<< Well done to Anthony (left) for representing Kaharoa at the South Waikato Schools MX Challenge - coming 9th place overall!

>> Thank you to Eddie, Hollie, Quinn & Fiona (right) for initiating and running the Breakfast Club Lolly Jar fundraiser - they raised \$145.20 to allow the club to have milo - perfect timing with the cold weather! Four square Ngongotaha matched this to double the supplies for the club!

GIANT SIZE MILO

PTA request: 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

Kaharoa Cull: This annual competition for hunters, trappers, and everyone interested in protecting our wonderful Kaharoa area went from 26th - 28th June. The event concluded with a count-up / weigh-in on the 28th, and games, activities, competitions, food, and drink all added to a fun community day.



House sports and students vs teacher games: To add some excitement to the end of the term, our house leaders ran another fun set of games - cone wars and dodgeball. The following week our staff versed the intermediate team in a game of basketball - congratulations teachers!

AIMS Games 2026: We have swimmers, mountain bikers, and a hockey team going to AIMS Games this year. The competition is being held 5th-11th 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 16 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

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

Kaharoa School Events Fridge Poster - Term 3, 2026 -

Monday, 20 July - First day of Term 3
(10 week term)

Monday, 27 July PTA Meeting, 4:30pm
Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend. Meetings are held in the school staffroom.

Friday, 31 July Red Nose Day
Cure Kids annual fundraising appeal towards child health research. Bring a gold coin and put on a red nose, paint one on, or wear red!

27-31 July Sports Camp
Our year 7/8 Sports Camp team will represent Kaharoa at Tōtara Springs.

Friday, 7 August Teacher Only Day - no school today
This TOD means an additional day is added to the school opening dates at the end of the year. Teachers will use this day for further PLD on the new mathematics curriculum and our "Maths - No Problem!" resource set being used this year.

Monday, 10 August Kaharoa School Board Meeting, 5:30pm
Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

Wednesday, 19 August Western Heights High School Open Day
Year 8 students will travel by bus to WHHS for their Open Day.

Kaharoa Parent Information Evening
Information evening for parents considering enrolling their child at Kaharoa in 2027. 6:30pm in the Kokako Centre.

7-11 September AIMS Games
We have students representing Kaharoa in swimming, mountain biking, and hockey at AIMS Games in Tauranga.

Monday, 7 September Kaharoa School Board Meeting, 5:30pm
Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

Friday, 25 September - Last day of Term 3
The first day of Term 4 is Monday, 12 October.



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- From **Monday 5 October**: Red-lid waste bins will move to fortnightly collection, alternating with your yellow-lid recycling bin.



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Age Concern

We recently recognized Elder Abuse Awareness Week by holding a BBQ at Family Focus rooms on Sala Street. Age Concern Rotorua does not hold the contract for Elder Abuse, unlike most Age Concerns around the country, in Rotorua it is held by Family Focus, who we work closely with. The morning was an opportunity to network with all of the organisations that work with the elderly and be more aware of the many types of elder abuse that are prevalent in our society.

We also celebrated Volunteer month by recognizing all our most valuable volunteers with a morning tea and a certificate. For us our volunteers are the lifeblood of our organisation and if you are able to spare an hour a week to visit a lonely member or take them shopping, just let us know. Recent research shows that there are about 52% of people over 65 volunteering in some capacity or other which is a red flag for the future as our volunteer force gets older. Like all organizations, we would appreciate some younger volunteers.

I was privileged to be invited to attend the official opening of the new social housing complex in Victoria Street near St Johns which has 36 one and two bed apartments with the exciting part being that they hope to have as many elderly as they can on the ground floor of each three-level building. To be considered, you need to register for Social Housing through MSD and you will be assessed. We have about three of our members already allocated but you do not have to be a member of Age Concern to qualify. They are beautiful inside and if you get one, you will be extremely lucky.

Age Concern, Rotorua is the grateful recipient of \$10,000.00 from the Helen Stewart Royle Charitable Trust who give out grants to support women and the elderly to reduce and relieve poverty. As our frozen food school lunches are no longer viable, we will use the money to pay our partners to make up elderly specific food parcels, and give out a finite number each week to different people.

There is escalating support for dental care to be absorbed by New Zealand's public health system and to be made free for adults, new research shows. More than 1000 New Zealanders took part in a recent Talbot Mills Research survey, commissioned by advocacy group Dental For All. Participants were asked whether they supported dental care being brought into the public healthcare system. In findings released recently, 83 percent of participants said they supported the move. Twelve percent opposed the move and 5 percent were unsure. The report said the move was endorsed across the political spectrum, including 88 percent of Labour-voting participants supporting the move, alongside 78 percent of National-voting counterparts.

There was a similar level of support among other political allegiances (NZ First and Greens 82 percent, ACT 85 percent, Te Pāti Māori 80 percent). Women (87 percent) were more likely to support a move than men (79 percent), the report said. Dental for All campaigners said the poll showed growing public momentum behind plugging the gap in the healthcare system that leaves out dental care. Dental is carved out of our public healthcare system because some dentists lobbied in 1938 to keep dental out. More and more people in New Zealand recognize that our mouths are part of our bodies, oral health is health, and it makes no sense for our healthcare system to keep excluding dental.

Dental care is free for children and teenagers under 18, but it is largely privatized for adults. Essential dental care was subsidized for people on a low income or benefit. through Work and Income.

Rory O'Rourke
Manager Age Concern Rotorua
5 Tarewa Place | Rotorua || 3010 |
Phone : 07 347 1539 Mobile : 0275609956
Email : manager@acrotorua.nz
Email : orourker123@gmail.com
Web : www.ageconcernrotorua.org.nz
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The Joys of Winter

What's a snowman's dating profile?

Chill guy, no baggage.

It's so cold... even the ATM shows minus.

I'm not saying it's cold, but my coffee needed a jacket.

If procrastination were snow, I'd have my own blizzard. My to-do list is buried somewhere under ten inches of denial.

The company party theme is "Winter Wonderland." Guess we're celebrating our frozen salaries.

Why did Princess Elsa fall off her sled?

She let it go.

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TWO VERY DIFFERENT CANADA TRIPS

Last month I attended the 2026 World Geothermal Conference in Calgary, Canada. The last time I was in Canada was for a Professional speaking engagement with an education group based one hour's train ride from the Vancouver airport. That first trip was at the start of the worldwide Covid outbreak.



These two Canada trips were very different.

For the latest trip I was there on business with one of the Boards I sit on. The trust has very strong geothermal interests. I attended with other members of the board and it was a fantastic trip with excellent business opportunities, meeting key clients and our Trust being represented on the conference speaking platforms in various forms.

The weather was superb with beautiful warm conditions and the Canada seasons moving from Winter to Spring but already feeling the effects of the unusually warm weather on that side of the planet. We were there for a week and only had one day of light showers. It made a change from the unpredictable wet and cold weather we were experiencing here at home before we left.

We all enjoyed our conference and the travel to and from the event was almost perfect. However, we were welcomed back to NZ weather with our flights from Auckland to Rotorua being cancelled and we were put on a bus. I was ten minutes late to a 70th birthday for Missy from Awahou, but that was the worst of it. Beside one of our board members having the flu before leaving NZ, everyone was well and healthy. Most people in Canada were also well and healthy, including conference delegates.

A totally different story to that first trip. The signs started when I arrived in Canada and the local Canadian news was reporting on a new virus known as Covid 19. The country was on tenderhooks from a few days before I arrived with cases being reported. People were wearing face masks everywhere. No one talked.

I had arrived a day before my speaking engagement and knowing I was only an hour's train trip from Vancouver, pre-trip I had planned to catch the train to Vancouver and spend that day looking around. However, upon my arrival at my hotel, I decided just stay put. I had a quick brisk walk around the huge shopping mall opposite my hotel, with a mask on and that was it. I decided to just stay as isolated as I could, get my speaking engagement done as safely as I could and get out of the country as soon as I could. On the train trip back to the airport many people in Canada were very concerned for their health and all the incoming news reports from around the world were confirming their concerns. New Zealand was shut down within 6 weeks of my arrival home.

It is amazing how fast we can forget those times. This second trip to Canada had no signs that a pandemic had even occurred, besides people sneezing into their elbows instead of the hand they met people with. Life was back to pre-Covid days with around 1,300 people from around the world packed into a conference venue. No one was wearing a mask.

This latest trip to Canada made me grateful. Pleased that I had survived the pandemic for starters, when many worldwide did not. I was also grateful to just be back in Rotorua, despite the lousy weather, celebrating an awesome cousin and her 70th birthday with whanau and friends and just being happy to be home. I hope you are happy wherever you call home in Hamurana, Ngongotaha, Awahou, Mamaku and Kaharoa too. There is no place like a safe, healthy home.

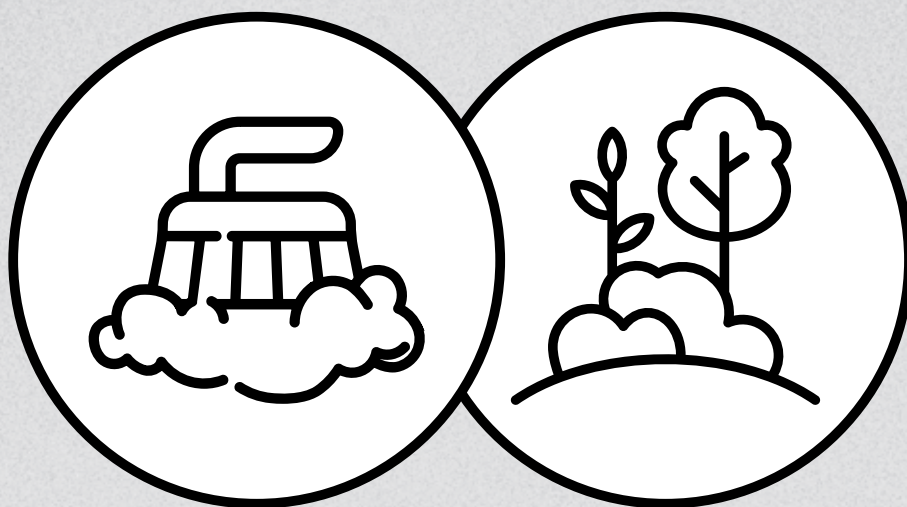
Ngahihi o te ra Bidois is a Motivational Speaker, Professional Director, businessman, author, husband, father. Koro and MBA. A Maori Boy from Awahou. See <https://thefaceofnewzealand.com/>



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