

Onerahi Orbit

Free to you from the Onerahi Community Association Inc.

November 2019

Saving lives

When Alisha Abbott accompanied her husband to a volunteer firefighter information night, she wasn't expecting to sign up as well.

"I had been trying to get him to join for a while and when we checked it out I decided to give it a go."

Six months down the track and the pair is one of two married couples in the Onerahi Volunteer Brigade and Abbott is only one of five females actively engaged in the team.

According to Onerahi Deputy Fire Chief - Brian Redwood, there is one other recruit; Kyle Mangu and three female firefighters; Carmen Howearth, Korina Preston and Jessica Grey. "Julie Redwood is our secretary and treasurer."

Employed as a dental practice manager during the day, Abbott is fortunate enough to leave if her pager goes off and an emergency arises.

She was part of the team that went out to the fires along Abbey Caves Road and says the Onerahi volunteers spent over four hours

working on extinguishing the blaze, from around 4pm until about 8:30pm. "Once we had finished, we still needed to go back to the station and clean up then we were back in the morning to complete the clean up," she says.

While the brigade currently has a sufficient amount of volunteers in the team, Redwood says that there is always room for more recruits to join the waiting list.

According to Fire Chief, Mike Chubb, while most people expect the jobs to only involve fire emergencies, the volunteer fire service also handles a wide variety of call outs including resuscitation; "We are often able to get out to emergencies quicker than an ambulance and we are trained to perform CPR, while we wait for an ambulance to arrive."



Alisha Abbott and Justin Rankin fight the blaze. Photo: supplied by Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade

If you would like to join the Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade or learn more about how to keep your home fire safe, visit the Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade Facebook page or call 09 436 9001.

INSIDE



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Invites you to our

Christmas CARNIVAL

14 December 2019
9am till 1.30pm
Sherwood Park,
Onerahi

See Page 5

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Local students experience history



The Waka hourua - Haunui sails past Rat Island. Photo: Tony Mullinger



Spirit of New Zealand. Photo: Tony Mullinger



R Tucker Thompson. Photo: Tony Mullinger



The HMB Endeavour replica passes through the channel. Photo: Lucy Mullinger

Tāwhirimātea sent gusts of cold wind across the harbour, prior to the entrance of the Tuia 250 flotilla to Onerahi, which was welcomed by hundreds of local school children.

Students from Onerahi, Whangārei Heads, Raurimu Avenue and Parua Bay Primary School initially braced themselves against the wind, but performed a rousing and emotional haka, once the boats began to turn the corner into the bay.

The Tuia 250 commemorates 250 years since the first onshore meetings, which eventually led to the settlement of Aotearoa.

The flotilla consisted of waka hourua (double-hulled canoes), the Haunui and Ngahiraka Mai Tawhiti, as well as the Fa'afaite i te Ao Mā'ohi, a va'a moana from Pape'ete, Tahiti. Three tall ships were also part of the group, these included; the HM Bark Endeavour replica from the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney,

The R Tucker Thompson and the Spirit of New Zealand.

The Tuia 250 voyage travelled around the country, visiting sites of historic and cultural significance, giving people the chance to learn

more about Aotearoa, New Zealand's vast navigation history. The journey began in Whangaparaoa on September 28 and will conclude in Te Māhia, at the top of the South Island, on December 18.

To find out more about the event, visit mch.govt.nz/tuia250. Alternatively, you can 'like' the Onerahi Orbit facebook page to view videos and more photos.

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The Onerahi Orbit covers the Onerahi, Parua Bay, Whangarei Heads and Pataua South communities. Produced by the Onerahi Community Association every two months, it has a print run of 5000 copies and a readership of about 12,500. Printed by Jeff Oliver Print.

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14 December 2019 • 9am till 1.30pm

Sherwood Park, Onerahi

Santa Claus is coming to town!

It wouldn't be Christmas in Onerahi without Santa throwing lollies from the back of a fire truck - and 2019 is no different.

While the parade has been cancelled this year, due to changes to local government regulations, there will still be a range of celebrations taking place in the township on December 14th from 9am.

"Unfortunately Onerahi has no by-pass roads and the traffic flow to and from the Whangarei Heads area has more than trebled in the last few years," says Onerahi Community Association secretary, Leonie Robertson. "With Onerahi Road being the only road to the airport, the decision was made to have one big celebration at the park."

This year, local students will be given the chance to

decorate their bikes and showcase them on a lap around the basketball court, with judging taking place at 11:30am from the Community house. Prizes will also be awarded for the best decorated mobility scooter, so the adults get a chance to win prizes as well.

A wide range of stalls will also be on display at Sherwood Park, next to New World; with everything from arts and crafts, community raffles and face painting. Children will also be entertained by a bouncy castle, merry-go-round and games that will take place throughout the day.

There will be a wide range of food stalls and sausage sizzles, to feed the whole family.



ABOVE: Santa entertains the crowds. Photos: Rose Tantau

Entertainment will be provided by the Kiwi Breeze Band and a performance by Heads Up Adventures on the skate ramp as well as a display by Skatescool, on the Basketball Court.

Onerahi and Raurimu Avenue School students

will also perform kapa haka at 10.30am and 11.30am respectively and Santa will turn up at 12pm.

If you would like to book a stall for the event, contact Leonie Robertson on 09 436 1196.



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Buy local at the Farmers' Markets



Shorty sells delicious locally-made bacon and sausages. Photo: Marnie Muirhead

When Marnie Muirhead moved to Parua Bay with her husband, to start a horticulture business, she soon came across other growers who could see a need for a local farmers' market.

The Parua Bay Farmers' Market, which includes fresh fruit and vegetables,

eggs, artisanal bread and sausages, came to fruition, two years ago, and as it grew, it also began to feature local artisans who sell paintings, pottery, carvings or other wares. "The only criteria to be a vendor is that you must make, bake, grow or sew what you sell."



Starlight Organics with their beautiful fresh produce. Photo: Marnie Muirhead

Any stall that sells processed food is required to display a current food-grade certificate.

There are also several suppliers that sell locally grown organic fruits and vegetables. "One features Cornish pasties, and another artisanal breads and baked

treats. We now have a stall that sells both eggs and laying hens. And of course it wouldn't be a Parua Bay market if Shorty wasn't there selling his locally-made bacon and sausages."

The market operates from November through to May, on the first and third Sunday

of every month. It kicked off, this year, on Sunday 17 November.

"Eventually, we would like to grow into a weekly market during the same seasonal time frame, says Muirhead.

Throughout the season, the market may have as many as 16 stalls and it operates from 2-4pm.

If you would like to set up a stall in the car park, outside the Parua Bay Community centre, contact Marnie at paruabayfm@gmail.com for further information.



A range of delicious food is available at the markets. Photos: Marnie Muirhead

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Welcoming the population increase

Several months ago it was the middle of winter and my mobile office-caravan was out and about, early in the morning, in Tamaterau, Parua Bay and Urquharts Bay. Now, five-months later, the season has changed and spring is upon us, so we can reflect on the past

year and anticipate the year ahead. According to statistics from the census estimate, the population has grown by approximately 2000 people per year and many of them are in the Onerahi and Whangārei Heads area. I recently requested

comparative figures from the parliamentary library, ranging from the 2013 census to last year's census and it shows that Onerahi has grown by 240, Pataua by 290 and Parua Bay by 440 people.

On one hand, this is a good thing because every household spends approximately \$700 or more, per week on food, transport and accommodation and that money circles throughout the local economy.

A city that is growing will therefore encourage new-home builds, which accompany growth and



provide rates' revenue for the council.

The challenge is to provide the infrastructure that needs to follow growth, such as; roads, water reticulation, broadband, school buildings, health funds, pedestrian crossings and

refuse stations.

Many of these services are already a challenge for the Onerahi and Whangārei Heads area. I discuss these issues every week, in Wellington, to help bring the necessary central funds into the region.

As another year ends, it remains my privilege to be your Minister of Parliament and I wish you all the best for an exciting new year.

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Big Changes for the Onerahi Christian Community Church

At the end of November, Pastor Ron and Ann Brewer concluded 14 years of ministry at the Onerahi Christian Community Church. Ron and Ann have worked tirelessly and are commended for their dedication and tenacity. This is a sad time for the church, but also one of expectations as new leaders come in.

The Onerahi Christian Community Church has shone its light for many years now. After the 24th

of November there will be a change of leadership as my wife, Tam, and I take over the pastoring role. Church services take place every Sunday at Raurimu Avenue School.

If you would like to learn more about joining the church or you would like to convey your best wishes to Ron and Ann for their farewell, please email me at whangareiregionalministers@gmail.com.

Pastor Wayne Johns



Farewell to Ron and Ann Brewer. Photo: supplied by Wayne Johns



Welcome to Wayne and Tam Johns. Photo: supplied by Wayne Johns

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The year that was!

From a three-day scrub fire in March, to the first Kiwi to be given a NZ sign-language name and everything that has happened in between; 2019 has been full of interesting events taking place in and around Onerahi and the Whangarei Heads.

We look back at just some of the great things that make our beautiful slice of heaven special and look forward to 2020.

If you would like to have a look at Onerahi Orbit editions, ranging back as far as May 2011, visit www.issuu.com/onerahiorbit.



ABOVE: Mayor Sheryl Mai joins in with Raumatī Chapel Sit Fit class. Photo: Lucy Mullinger.



LEFT: Jane Barr looks on at Tamaterau Reserve, during a clean up. Photo: Lucy Mullinger.



Kai Whakairo, Te Kaurinui Parata. Photo: Lucy Mullinger.



Heralding the beginning of Matariki 2019, with the sound of music. Photo: Lucy Mullinger.



TOP LEFT: Fire - Onerahi fires. Photo: Ashley Lowe.

ABOVE: Welcoming Darren Gash and his family on to Matakohē/Limestone Island. Photo: Lucy Mullinger.



LEFT: Farewell to Jono, Emma, Quincy and Charlie from Matakohē/Limestone Island. Photo: Lucy Mullinger

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Money raised for Kiwi habitat



Robert Webb holds Sparky.
Photo: Lucy Mullinger



From left to right Pub Charity CEO Martin Cheer, Area Manager Karl Hunter, Robert Webb, holding Sparky and Onerahi Tavern owner, Vic Hill. Photo: Lucy Mullinger

Sparky the kiwi and his mate Robert Webb from the Whangārei Native Bird Recovery Centre surprised a few locals last month, when they visited the Onerahi Tavern.

Thanks to money raised by Pub Charity, Sparky and his avian friends at the centre

will be well fed and can enjoy more visitors, thanks to an upgraded disability access walkway that will be built. Landscaping around the

retaining wall underneath Sparky's home will also be updated.

Pub Charity is run by the proceeds of gaming

machines at taverns and pubs around the country, with this particular donation made possible thanks to the takings from both Onerahi Tavern and The Grand Hotel, which are both owned by Vic Hill.

Donations from Pub Charity to local businesses have totalled \$446,441.69, in the last three months, with local community organisations such as the Onerahi Central Cricket and Rugby Football club benefiting from the fund.

Sparky has lived at the bird recovery centre for 16 years, after a local found him, as a chick, injured by a trap. Sadly Webb could not save the chick's leg and the decision was made to amputate it. Fortunately, Sparky doesn't let the disability hold him back and can run and walk by hopping on one foot and using his stump to propel himself forward.

Kiwi receives Te Reo Māori NZSL name



Todd Hamilton holds Pikiake. Photo: Lucy Mullinger

A kiwi from Matakoho Limestone Island has recently been given the honor of being the first to receive a Te Reo Māori and New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) name.

Honour of being the first kiwi went to one of the kiwi being transferred from the island to Ruakaka. Pikiake (as she is now known) was joined by Sarah, Prudence and Kia Ora, on a journey from the island to their new home.

The event was also attended by Kiwi Action, Backyard Kiwi and NZ Deaf Action representatives; with

an announcement made that a Māori sign language school is soon to be set up in order to teach hearing te reo speakers to translate between the hearing and deaf world.

The tri-lingual language hub will be held within the Hihiaua Centre and there will be eight weeks of NZSL classes throughout summer - which began in mid-November.

Project manager at Backyard Kiwi Todd Hamilton, took the opportunity to remind attendees of the event that Kiwi were incredibly vulnerable to



From left to right, Interpreter Hanna McGuire, Kim Robinson, chairperson of the NZ Deaf Action NZ, Todd Hamilton, Fred Tito and sign language teacher Eddie Hokianga. Photo: Lucy Mullinger

attacks from dogs. While many Kiwi are expected to live for 50 years. "In Northland, the kiwi life expectancy was down to 13 years when DoC conducted surveys in the early 2000s," he said.

Thanks to effective pest control, the survival rate has

increased since then, but it is important that dog owners keep their pets under control.

To find out more about kiwi, visit www.backyardkiwi.org.nz or www.kiwicoast.org.nz. To find out more about NZSL, visit www.deafaction.org.nz.

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OCCC keeps up with the play



Premier captain, Todd Beehre, batting. Photo: supplied by Sam Walker



Onerahi player, Henry Cooper, who is contracted to Northern Districts. Photo: supplied by Sam Walker

Onerahi Central Cricket Club (OCCC) has been known to produce excellent players throughout history, and it seems nothing has changed.

Contracted out to Northland Districts, Henry Cooper played the star-turn on day one, scoring a career best of 149 in day one of the Plunket Shield match, which was held in November against the Otago Volts at the University of Otago Oval in Dunedin.

He is one of many top players from the club, including two recent additions from the United Kingdom, Ben Allcock and Jack Ellis, who have travelled across the globe,

in order to be a part of the club.

The OCCC has a rich and successful history. It was initially founded as the result of a meeting between Central Cricket Club and the Onerahi club, in 1954. The decision was made to help the fledgling Onerahi club, which had gone into recess due to a lack of players.

As part of the meeting, the club moved to the Onerahi Domain but would later move to Kensington Stadium, once the club expanded.

By 1958, a turf wicket had been laid by club members and supporters. The first game was played on the new strip, a year later.

Once the OCCC had gained traction, it became a very competitive club and during the next fifty years, a large amount of players would go on to make waves in New Zealand cricket. In fact, by the 1980s, it was the largest club, outside of Auckland.

The club has maintained its momentum and is now one of the biggest clubs in the area. The club offers cricket for all ages and abilities; with two senior sides and 10 junior sides; across a variety of different grades.

"We are lucky enough to have a fantastic executive committee, making the club a great environment

to be a part of," says club representative, Sam Walker.

If you would like to give cricket a go or require any more information, visit the club facebook page or email 123samwalker@gmail.com.



Club badge. Photo: supplied by Sam Walker

Tennis with a view



Tennis courts - complete with a beautiful view. Photo: supplied by Onerahi Tennis Club

Keeping our youth fit and healthy is very important and the Onerahi Tennis Club's new Hot Shots' Starter Programme is a hit with students from Onerahi Primary School.

Funding for the programme was raised by Pub Charity and the coaching time was paid for with the help of Oxford Sports' Trust.

Grant van Dalsum from Mangawhai took on the coaching role, giving each child a chance to learn more about what tennis is about, with the hopes that they will make this a

future sport choice. The programme includes a range of equipment, specially designed for young people. This includes shorter, lightweight racquets, soft balls and small nets.

The club has also benefited from some new recruits, for our regular coaching which we run on Tuesday night for both summer terms.

You might also have seen our new bright, yellow roadside tennis ball advertising junior coaching. Our Junior Convenor Gerry Hess welcomes everyone and he is currently managing about

25 children; across three classes different coaching groups.

Of course, this is only one aspect of the Onerahi Tennis Club. Another new innovation includes the commencement of a Monday night men's doubles league. In this format, all four players in the selected group proceed to play three sets of tennis, with all three player combinations.

With the players grouped on ability; this format produces some competitive but enjoyable tennis and is proving very popular.

The club also has floodlights and new LED lighting for two of the courts which allows for extended hours playing - especially useful for that game after work.

This feature is only available to members although the courts are not locked and we encourage public use of the courts; we only ask for a small donation to assist with maintenance costs.

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Staying safe over summer



Ocean Beach, home to Whangārei Heads Volunteer Surf Life Saving. Photo: Lucy Mullinger

It's summer time and everyone knows to slip on a shirt, slop on some sunscreen and slap on a hat, but there is a lot more to take under consideration when you're heading to the beach.

For the team that makes up Whangārei Heads Volunteer Surf Life Saving patrol, the summer season began at Ocean Beach, on Labour weekend and runs until Easter weekend next year.

During the previous six-month period, the team of volunteer lifeguards rescued 24 people. "Each of these people's day at the beach could have ended very differently, without the help of the volunteers,"



Santa image - Christmas 2018. Photo: supplied by Whangārei Heads Volunteer Surf Life Saving Patrol

says co club-captain Jason Ackroyd. With this in mind, the volunteers want those who visit the beach over the summer, to make sure they stick to the three golden rules, no matter how fit or confident in the water they are.

- Know your limitations and don't push yourself further than those limits.

"The beach and surf conditions change constantly and it's important to learn how to read the beach and figure out the safe spots (ie how to spot a rip)," says co club-captain Hazel Buchanan.

- Make sure you swim between the flags.
- Wear appropriate swimwear.

Thankfully, the volunteer lifeguards are well versed on where the rips can be found



Swim between the flags. Photo: supplied by Whangārei Heads Volunteer Surf Life Saving Patrol

and where it is dangerous to swim, which is why staying within the flags is so important. "If you need help about this, please speak to the lifeguards. They're a friendly bunch and love helping. That's why they volunteer their time," says Ackroyd.

For those interested in getting involved in volunteer lifeguard duties, the Whangārei Heads Volunteer Surf Lifesaving club includes a junior surf and rookie programme. This begins with the basics - such as getting to know more about the beach and the ocean and how to navigate the surf. The programme completes with training towards passing your surf-lifeguard examination, at the age of 14. Once a lifeguard has completed their qualifications, they can go on to complete a range of awards to enhance their skills further.

"We aren't a very competitive club, we have more of a family atmosphere

but aren't opposed to sending our kids to competitions if they wish to," says Buchanan.

Not only do the lifeguards keep an eye on our safety, they also have a lot to do with keeping the beach and surrounding areas tidy. "We live in the most beautiful place we could ask for and it's nice when people keep the beach and the car park free of litter and safe for everyone," says Buchanan. This includes taking rubbish in the car, to dispose of when you get home.

"Every guard on patrol at weekends or public holidays is a volunteer. They are ordinary people with ordinary lives but a passion for helping the community, keeping them safe and having fun in an amazing environment. We are always looking for more people to train up and join, get in touch if you think it sounds like you," says Ackroyd.

To find out more, call the club-house phone on (09) 434 0565.

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Memorial match for keen sportsman



Keeping up with the play. Photo: supplied by Fiona Raymond

A “mad-keen fisherman, diver and rugby player,” was how his mates at the Onerahi Rugby Club (ORC) remembered Casey Smith.

A memorial match, between Onerahi Rugby Club and Whangarei Old Boys took place on the 23rd November at the club grounds, to remember the local rugby stalwart, who passed away seven years ago.

All past and present players, and their families, were welcome at the event,

which was followed by speeches at the Onerahi Tavern and a spin-the-wheel fundraiser for the rugby club, which helped purchase uniforms for the 2020 season.

During the event, memories were traded of the much-loved player, who grew up in Parua Bay with his two sisters and two brothers. Most of the stories surrounded his great sense of humour.

“Friends nicknamed him Irwin after Steve Irwin - due

to his similar crazy antics. The Onerahi Rugby Football Club has recently come out of recess and we are excited to kick it off with this meaningful event,” says club representative Fiona Raymond.

At the last AGM it was decided to relaunch the club with the mission being “To provide a safe, enjoyable and inclusive, quality rugby experience”.

Over the years, the club has provided junior and senior mens’ and women’s

rugby to the community. “Despite being first incorporated in 1957, there is evidence the club existed long before this date,” says Raymond.

Rugby season will kick off after muster day, which is held in February and junior and senior players will be encouraged to sign up to join the team soon after. Meanwhile, the senior mens’ team will begin preparing for the under 18 season soon.

The Onerahi Rugby Club



Memorial match carving for Casey Smith. Photo: supplied by Fiona Raymond.

consists of an under five and under seven rippa rugby team, as well as an under eight through to under-18 rugby teams and seniors over 18.

The current committee is determined and passionate to make the club an asset to the community but, according to Raymond, there is still a lot of work to do.

“The clubroom is run down, so we are currently in the process of renovating the kitchen with the assistance of grants plus fundraising and are pushing to have this completed before the season starts. We also need to paint the exterior and interior, upgrade the lights and replace the roof on the deck.” says Raymond.

Without the help of local sponsorship, the club would not be able to continue running as it does. The Onerahi Tavern, Pub Charity, Oxford Sports Trust, Onerahi Community Association, Can Train NZ Ltd and Bang on Roofing have all contributed towards helping the club continue to operate.

“Any help from the community would be greatly appreciated. We also have a sponsorship proposal available for those who would like to support our mission.”

If you would like to get involved, either check out the Onerahi Rugby facebook page or email onerahirugby@yahoo.com.



Awarua Wihongi closely followed by Raphael Paikea Kaio. Photo: supplied by Fiona Raymond.



Onerahi players huddle during a game. Photo: supplied by Fiona Raymond

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Delving into Onerahi's history



Compilers of the Heritage Trails brochures, from left, Agnes Hermans, Brent Mawson and Kaylee Kolkman hold up a panoramic photograph of the early township of Onerahi and Beach Rd.

Whether you have an interest in the history of Onerahi or you often wonder how some of the streets got their names, *More True Tales of Onerahi - He Kōrero Tonu Ana Ngā Pūrākau Ō Onerahirahi* should have the answer.

The follow up to *True Tales of Onerahi* will be available from Onerahi New World and the Onerahi Book Shop as well as on the NZ auction website Trade Me from mid-December. For those who want to get in quick and buy a piece of history for their family member just in time for Christmas, the book launch and heritage photo exhibition will take place at the Onerahi Airport on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December.

Compiled by Agnes Hermans from the Onerahi Resource Centre, with the help of Kaylee Kolkman,

Brent Mawson, Lucy Mullinger, David Boyes and Wendy Giffin. *More True Tales of Onerahi* includes 106 stories and over 400 photographs of Onerahi.

However, it took a community to write the book; with various interviews held with local family members and descendants of historic Onerahi locals, to obtain a

wide range of interesting stories about the local area. To find out more about the launch, visit www.facebook.com/onerahiorbit.



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Halloween antics on Ross Street



Anita (right) escorts visitors into the 'Nightmare on Ross Street'. Photo: Lucy Mullinger

Over 300 bags of lollies were handed out from one house in Onerahi for this year's Halloween celebrations.

The family at number 90 Ross Street made a huge effort to entertain the local children and their families, with a Halloween themed house of fun, which they aptly named 'A nightmare on Ross Street.'

Dave Bradley, his wife Megan, daughter Anita and sons Miller and Roman decorated the family home with a giant spider on the

roof and various Halloween-themed decorations inside the house.

This was not the first year the family had set up a Halloween-themed party local families could enjoy. In fact, the Bradley family has been handing out sweets for four years and in the last two years, they have invited local people in to the house, to witness the decorations.

"This year was great but we are planning on making it even bigger and better next year," says Bradley.



Giant spider decoration. Photo: Lucy Mullinger

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School News

ONERAHI PRIMARY

Located at the back of the school, overlooking our beautiful harbour, the Onerahi Primary School

butterfly garden is home to many different plants and animals.

In term one, a worm farm was also established and children have taken responsibility for collecting worm urine and selling it from the school office, as fertiliser. This has led to students researching insect life cycles and worm-farm care. Some students enlisted the help of Anton Bowker, from Eco Solutions, for guidance with this project.

The butterfly garden is also home to Onerahi Primary's bee population. Honey, from the bees, is



sold at the school office. While the garden produces these gifts for the students, it also provides a beautiful learning environment. As the days heat up, you can find classes out learning in the shade of its many trees and the produce taken from the gardens, is sold by students

at the Friday market held at school.

From everyone at Onerahi School, have a fantastic break and we look forward to seeing you again next year. Poipoia te kakano kia puawai - Nurture the seed and it will blossom.

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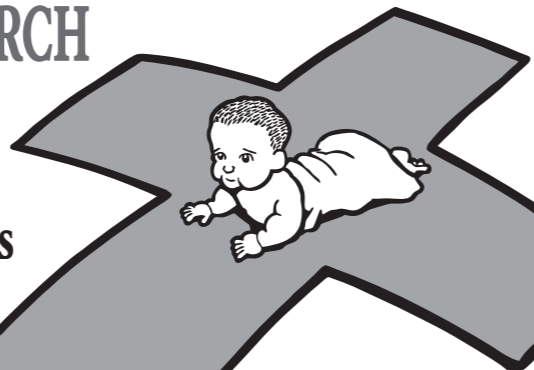
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RAURIMU AVENUE

During term four students from Raurimu Avenue School, along with the three other local schools, were asked to perform on the Onerahi waterfront for the arrival of the Tuia 250 flotilla. This was an amazing event for the students to be a part of.

Our senior kapa haka team travelled to Whangaruru School's cultural festival and the junior kapa haka team headed out to Whangārei Heads school for the local Te Whanga festival.

The dedicated group of student environmentalists have also been working with Dragonfly Springs this term. All of these activities, along with end-of-year class trips, make for a very lovely way to complete the school year.

The staff and students at Raurimu Avenue School wish everyone a safe and happy summer break.



WHANGĀREI HEADS SCHOOL

Students at Whangārei Heads School proudly hosted the 2019 Te Whanga Festival; kicking off the event with an outstanding kapa haka performance.

With lightning, thunder and rain in the early hours of the morning, it was a soggy start to the day, but the sun shone brightly on time for the pōwhiri.

Members of the Te Whanga community came together to celebrate with strong kapa haka performances by Whangārei Heads, Raurimu, Onerahi and Parua Bay Schools.

During the lunch break, there was a real festive atmosphere with some delicious kai on offer, and a chance for the adults to chat together, while the children played.

Whangārei Heads students also recently displayed artwork at the bi-annual art exhibition at Reyburn House. The focus for the artwork was 'Out and About' and included Manuka walking sticks, animal and plant mosaic, garden ornaments

and printed t-shirts and bags.

Almost every item has now been sold, with Reyburn House members commenting that the standard of work was exceptional.

Each of the students visited Taurikura beach or

the Reotahi Marine Reserve as part of the Experiencing Marine Reserves programme. This visit included various beach activities and the opportunity to go snorkelling.

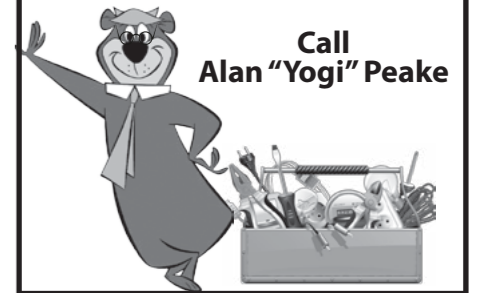


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FORCE wins award



FORCE - Community Group Award. Photo: Sourced from FORCE Facebook page.

Newly-elected Okara Councillor Nicholas Connop and his partner Karen Lee have taken home an award on behalf of volunteers from around Whangārei.

The award was given to a group run by the couple, known as For Our Real Clean Environment (FORCE), which was set up two years ago, in order to enthuse volunteers to clean up local areas. In this time, the organisers say 13 tons of rubbish have been collected.

The Keep New Zealand Beautiful Community Group award was awarded in October at a gala dinner held at the Toitu Otago Settlers

Museum in Dunedin. Lee and Connop were also finalists in the Tidy Kiwi award, which was won by Alan Pope of the Hutt City Council, who collected 22,000 tons of rubbish over 22 years.

During the same event Whanganui was awarded Most Beautiful City as well as winning the award for Best Street and the winners for Most Beautiful Large and Small Town awards went to Cambridge and Waihi.

“The selected finalists have each demonstrated bold leadership in implementing innovative sustainable projects that help reduce their



Karen Lee, Steve Phillips, Shari-Lee Dearn and Nicholas Connop at the Dragonfly Springs community plant-a-tree day. Photo: Lucy Mullinger

environmental footprint and build resilient towns and cities,” said Keep New Zealand Beautiful CEO Heather Saunderson.

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