

# Onerahi Orbit

Free to you from the Onerahi Community Association

August & September 2021

Covering Onerahi, Parua Bay, Pataua and Whangārei Heads



Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade, 15 June 2021

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*let's go with Jo*

Joanne Stevens

# Haere mai,

Last month Matariki heralded the new year. St Stephen's Church hosted a dawn celebration where kaumatua Fred Tito guided all present through the traditional welcome to Matariki: farewelling the old year, and remembering those who had passed during the previous 12 months. Now spring is around the corner - a time of hope and new growth.

In this issue we introduce the Onerahi Community Association's new committee, thank and farewell others for their past service, and celebrate our wonderful and diverse community.

We also feature several articles about our young people - what they are doing, and activities such as Shackleton Sea Scouts, Sail Northland, and Questionable Research Labs, where they can explore, discover, and have fun.

Please contact me at the email address below if you would like to submit an article for the next edition of Onerahi Orbit.

*Nga mihi from the Orbit team.*

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Electronic version of the Onerahi Orbit also available at:  
<https://www.issuu.com/onerahiorbit>

## OCA Chaiman's Report

Hello there, my name is Nicholas Connop and I am the chairperson of the Onerahi Community Association. Amazingly this wonderful publication has not had a chairperson's report since before 2014 which is when I became chair of the group.

The main role of the OCA is to look after the Community Hall, Community House on Sherwood Park, the Christmas parade/gala day, and we also produce the Onerahi Orbit!

Up until last year the OCA had a WDC Councillor appointed to the board, though any are welcome to be a part of the group. As I am also a Councillor, I am a connection with both organisations.

The group tries to be a hub for different groups, and support our whole area. We have connections with other groups in Onerahi such as the Onerahi Resource Centre and the Onerahi Planning Group.

This group has been working on connecting with people to progress the Community Led Projects with \$100K from WDC. This will be spent on widely used community projects. Please

feel free to get in touch with OCA if you have any great ideas you may like to see in this wonderful area. The OCA is not in charge of this, but would like to help work with any who are interested, and be able to connect with the right people.

In the past OCA helped develop the Onerahi Shopping Centre frontage to be what it is with the mosaics and brick paths.

Recently OCA also supplied a new bench across from the shopping centre; have you seen the poem written by Bob Smith on the plaque on the bench? Have a look next time you are nearby, and have a ponder about what you would love to see in our humble Onerahirahi.



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## Onerahi Community Association AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on 15 June at Onerahi Community Hall.

About thirty people came along to support their community group, meet up with their neighbours, chat and enjoy supper afterwards.

One agenda item was the presentation of three Onerahi Order of Merit Awards (see pages 18 & 19). Everyone was surprised when twelve Onerahi Fire Brigade volunteers in full kit marched in to the hall to support their Fire Chief, Mike Chubb, who received an award - see the cover photo.



Onerahi Jetty at high tide on a winter evening. Photo by Andrew Holgate

## New OCA Committee

- Chair: Nicholas Connop
- Deputy Chair: Angela Gill
- Treasurer: Rose Tantau
- Secretary: Val Scott
- Robert Coates
- Bob Smith
- Julie Dennis
- Wendy Giffin
- Jeff Pipe
- Stephen Beazley
- Grant Harrison
- Heather Bell

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# Parua Bay School

Parua Bay School's Janette Steel has started a journalism club at the school. Here is an article written by two 10 year old budding journalists, about their classmate.

## Cross Country Champion



Parua Bay School student Kaylee Earl, aged 10, ran in the U12 girls cross country race in the North Island Championships in Taupo on Saturday 3rd July. She has been running races since she was 5 years old, and trains by running around the Parua Bay area five times a week. She felt nervous before the race began, but once she got started she really enjoyed the experience. Kaylee ran an excellent race and won at the North Island Champs in Taupo making her the North Island U12 Girls Cross Country Champion. Her family and school friends are all very proud of her achievement – well done Kaylee.



Evalani Tuato'o and Isabella Malcolm



# Onerahi Primary School



Kia ora,

Being a storyteller helps us entertain, share our experiences, and develop empathy for others. We have collected some pieces of writing that were created by Onerahi School writers. They took a risk by putting their stories out there for others to see. They had a small word limit, a short deadline, and were given the theme of overcoming challenges. We had more entries than we could publish in this issue but we will be publishing some in our newsletter during Term 3. We hope you enjoy their efforts. Tu meke tamariki!

Ngā manaakitanga,  
Danny Hamilton

## The Girl and the Wave

12.00am, Smugglers Bay, the booming tsunami siren screamed over the midnight lit beach. A little girl dashes to wake her grandma. While a scream left the girl's mouth, she tried to shake her grandma awake. After five minutes of shaking she retreated to the hill, tormented by the image of her unconscious grandmother. Every night was the same but each night it was harder to wake her grandmother.

She sat down to devise a plan while remembering the torture of her mother being swept away.

When the wave passed by she walked down to the beach and on her way she stopped at the wreckage of her house. She knew that nobody could survive in a wreckage like that. Sobbing, she grabbed her dust coated togs and vigorously pulled them on.

Finally arriving at the beach, she plunges into the icy cold water. She dives deeper while grabbing mountains of mud. As soon as she reaches the deepest depth she could, she saw cracks in the ground the size of two horses. She knew that plugging them up was her top priority.

She began to seal them up with mud. After 45 minutes of going up and down finally all the cracks were clogged up. She swam up to the surface. She was facing out to sea but when she turned around she saw the whole bay's residents on the beachfront screaming her name. On the beach was her loving Grandma and her long lost Mum.

Amelie and Hazel – Year 6

The shark was going to eat the baby! I jumped into the ocean. I swam deep and got the baby. I brought the baby up to his mum. The mum was surprised and happy.

Mia – Year 1 – Room 19

Last year I was watching TV and a Noel Leeming ad popped up. It showed a picture advertising a Nintendo Switch for \$539. I wanted it because I really like playing games. In

particular, Super Mario 3D World looked fun and there were lots of goals to achieve. I had only \$20 so I started saving up for it!

To earn money some of the jobs I did were:

- raking the leaves off the driveway
- feeding the chickens
- washing the car
- taking out the compost
- defogging the windows
- unloading the dishwasher
- and many more!

About a year later, it was my birthday and I got lots more money. I counted it all up and found out I had just enough money to buy a Switch. I asked my mum if we could go to Noel Leeming soon and mum said, "yes." We got ready to leave but then mum said it was too late to go. I just sat on the couch and laid down feeling disappointed.

A few seconds later mum came out of her bedroom with a big box. She said, "open it." So I did and there was a Nintendo Switch inside it. I was so happy. All my savings went to mum and I had done it!

Lennox – Year 5 – Room 24



Hazel, Amelie, Mia and Lennox



**onerahi physio.**

**Elsbeth Sugrue**  
Taylor Wilkes - Nicole Dempster  
Garby Smith - Ricky Brijs-Blaak (Locum)

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# Whangārei Girls' High Volunteer Army at Onerahirahi Food Forest



A group of 12 Whangārei Girls' High Volunteer Army members turned up for a morning of weeding and planting at the Onerahirahi Food Forest to help ensure their beds were prepared for the winter. They were officially welcomed to the garden and given a talk about the garden, its origins, and the connections it brings (between people, the land, the environment and our kai) before rolling up their sleeves and getting down to business. Group volunteering is a great way to help give some extra support to small community initiatives that often depend solely on the mahi of volunteers to keep them running.

We are proud to see these youth putting up their hands to be involved, and giving up their weekends to support projects in our community. Way to go WGHS Student Army! Ka Pai! If you have a group (2+) and are looking for a project, now or in the future, do contact Volunteering Northland. They can make suggestions based on size, interest, location and dates or make contact (no obligation) when something that fits your needs comes up. Contact Volunteering Northland on 09-9454984 or info@volunteeringnorthland.nz


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# MP for Whangārei: Emily Henderson Colds, Covid, and Wellington Lessons

Halfway through the year, Matariki season, and although it has been warm we've even seen a frost up our way, and the daffodils are starting to emerge, so it must be midwinter. Meanwhile, the Covid scare in Wellington and the NSW Lockdown are reminders we're not out of the woods yet. I had my own little taste of this because the day after the news broke was also the day I woke up in my little Wellington flat with a cold, and, (even though I knew I had not even arrived down there until after the Sydney couple left), suddenly I was stuck self-isolating and trying to book a test, along with half the capital's population! Even when the (negative) test results arrived back, blessedly quickly, when we headed home, we who had been in Wellington were all "carrying our level with us", which meant more cancellations of events I'd been really looking forward to (sorry Whangārei Girls High!). Re-experiencing all the hassle, and seeing the stress for everyone affected was a good reminder of all we stand to lose if we don't stay vigilant and just do those basic things: Stay home when you're sick (even when your boss is the PM), keep track of where you've been, wash your hands, and wear a face covering on public transport. It was worrying to find out how many Wellingtonians had started loosening up on using the Covid Tracer App too, and I think sometimes in Whangārei we get a false sense of security out of our relative isolation. Please track where you've been and/or use that Covid Tracer App. We can't afford to let our guard down yet. On the bright – or at least the novel - side, this is certainly the first time I've looked forward to getting an injection, although I've still got a bit to go before I qualify (it's also the first time I've ever wished I was over 50!). It is great to know that our vaccine roll-out remains on track, with well over a million doses now administered and almost 450,000 people fully vaccinated. Plus our vaccine supply is set to nearly double this month, with an estimated one million more doses scheduled for delivery. And despite initial hiccups with the booking system, our Northland DHB is doing an excellent job with vaccinations, and community providers like Ngati Hine Health making a huge contribution. I'm thrilled by how many people in Whangārei are getting themselves in there and protected. Meanwhile, there's so much going on right now in the government and local government space. If you have any concerns or queries, please get hold of our office at 66A Bank

Street, 09 4307922, or email me at EmilyHendersonMP@parliament.govt.nz. You can also keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates. May you all stay warm, stay safe, and look out for those first few daffodils.

*Emily Henderson, MP*



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Emily Henderson

MP for Whangārei

To make an appointment to discuss constituent issues please contact  
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# Onerahi Volunteer Fire Service Roundup: May & June

## May

- 3rd May Smoke/fire reported - Beach Road.
- 7th May Car accident - Whangārei Heads Road (Tamaterau).
- 8th May Alarm - Bank Street Whangārei
- 14th May Alarm activation - Onerahi Primary School.
- 26th May Alarm activation - old Money Factory.
- 27th May Smoke logged - house, Onerahi.
- 29th May Shop smoke logged - Whangārei.
- 30th May Alarm sounding at a church camp facility - Whangārei Heads.

## June

- 5th June Medical response - Onerahi.
- 5th June Smoke reported - Stevens Point area.
- 7th June Tree blocking road - Sunnyside Street.
- 11th June Alarm sounding - Lower Dent Street
- 13th June Chimney fire - Tamaterau.
- 14th June House fire - Kauika Road (Avenues area)
- 19th June Kitchen fire - Manganese Point

- 19th June Car rolled onto rocks - Waikaraka
- 20th June Alarm at Onerahi New World.
- 20th June Alarm sounding - house at Tamaterau.
- 24th June Home garage on fire - Parua Bay.
- 25th June Fire reported - Addison Road, Parua Bay (was a rubbish fire).
- 26th June Rubbish fire reported - Montgomery Street
- 27th June Church Road - sparks from electrical fitting.
- 27th June Cypress Garden Place - backyard fire causing concern.
- 30th June Medical call - Onerahi.

As you can see we have been quite busy.

I deliberately try not to talk about specific jobs but we can learn from others' mistakes, so I make these comments. One house fire was at a house with no working smoke alarms. (I know we tend to go on about them but they are essential if you want to ensure your safety).

This fire started on the outside wall of the house and actually grew up inside the wall cavity to the ceiling space. Smoke entered into the house and it was the smoke that alerted the occupant to something not right, but only because they were awake and still up. If it was a couple of hours later when asleep, we shudder to think of the possible outcome.

Another lesson is please do not dispose of any ashes near any structure. Even when they appear cold. We have had a few incidents over the years where ashes have ignited and the owners were convinced they were old and cold. Best play it safe and don't trust them at all.

Finally on the 1st July we co-responded to a house fire in Whangārei. The nearest fire hydrant was not available because a car was parked over it. Quite a bit of manpower and time wasted trying to locate the extra hose needed and reach the next nearest hydrant. If that house had trapped occupants that delay could have been critical. Whilst it is true that a hydrant may go unused for years, when we need it, we need it - now.

Hydrants are yellow metal rectangular plates in the road or berm. Please note where they are near your home and keep them clear.

Fire Chief, Mike Chubb



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# Northland Regional Councillor, Amy Macdonald



Kia ora Koutou!

I'm now over halfway through my time as your representative on the NRC, so if you want to discuss an environmental issue or project, or share your perspective on things, please do get in touch - amym@nrc.govt.nz. There's plenty of work to do as we progress towards being a healthy, sustainable and resilient region, and I'm extremely motivated in my councillor role as we tackle the challenges ahead.

NRC's Long Term Plan has been updated, and we've built the 10 year plan to be proactive for Northland in these changing times. Some key focus areas are:

- Protecting our natural environment - freshwater quality, native species, controlling pests
- Looking after our people - tsunami warning system upgrade, civil defence preparedness, sustainable economic development, water resilience, working with Tangata Whenua
- Responding to our changing climate - adaptation planning for coastal communities, NRC emissions reductions, improving public transport, coastal hazards and river flood management

I had a fun (but very chilly) time a few weeks ago, being interviewed by the team at TVNZ Breakfast about the litter trap project that NRC is running with NorthTec, the District Councils, Whitebait Connection and Northland DHB. It's a worthwhile project studying the sources of litter entering our rivers and harbours from our stormwater drains, and to

inform action and education to reduce the problem. You can check out the video on Northland Regional Council's facebook page: <https://fb.watch/6CtLMfpdHt/>

Plastic waste in our environment is a major issue - based on current rates of global plastic pollution, by 2050 there will be more plastic biomass in the world's oceans than fish! So, we've got to change. We have a litter trap here in Onerahi, so we can learn more about the results for our local area when NorthTec have done their analysis - I'll update you all when I hear more.

As always, I'm happy to hear from you if you have questions or issues you'd like to raise - amym@nrc.govt.nz, or find me on facebook: Amy Macdonald - NRC Councillor

Ngā mihi nui,

NRC Councillor Amy Macdonald

Disclaimer - this is my personal opinion and not that of the Northland Regional Council

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### The Community

**13+** landcare groups  
**1845** landowners

**3400+** traps already in place from community groups  
**885** kiwi up from a population of just 50 in 2000 thanks to community efforts

### The Project

**5<sup>th</sup>** mainland possum eradication project in NZ  
**360** detection devices to be installed

**9190** eradication devices to be installed

**5** years to success

### The Environment

**9190** hectares, including...

**5040** ha forest/scrub

**90** ha dunes

**3840** ha pasture

**220** ha urban

### The Taonga We're Protecting

**Native Birds**  
**3** plants endemic to Whangārei Heads

**9** lizard, **5** skink & **4** gecko species

**Our Native Forests**

Over the next five years, the Predator Free Whangārei programme aims to completely eradicate possums from the Whangārei Heads peninsula and support the expansion and intensification of mustelid control across the Whangārei district.

So far, the Predator Free Whangārei team, alongside key Landcare Group leads, have gained over 100 landowner agreements in support of the Whangārei Heads possum eradication.

The possum eradication goal is a major collaborative project that builds on years of existing success by community groups across the area. Over the coming months, the project will continue to ramp up. The team is preparing to install the possum eradication trap and bait station network between Bream Head and Ody Road. This is in preparation for the initial stage of the possum eradication which is due to commence later this year.

For more information please visit [www.nrc.govt/pfwhangarei](http://www.nrc.govt/pfwhangarei) or email [pfwhangarei@nrc.govt.nz](mailto:pfwhangarei@nrc.govt.nz)

## National Party list MP based in Whangārei

## Deputy Leader of the Opposition



Dr Shane Reti

The roads around Onerahi and into Whangārei are becoming more congested and in need of maintenance as the city grows. It has long been recognised that roading is a key element for a growing city where infrastructure such as roads, water, broadband, schools and health services need to follow the population. Of late there have been three big roading announcements relevant to Whangārei. The first was a game stopper, the decision a month ago to cancel the four lanes to Marsden Point. This is the single biggest economic driver for Northland and a major influence on road safety for what was recently the #1 police hot spot for road deaths. The second was Whangārei District Council joining other councils in their concern that their road maintenance budget, the budget that covers all the local roads apart from highways, had been reduced from what they were asking Waka Kotahi (nee NZTA). Across the country this has been reported at a \$420M reduction. The third roading announcement was that progress on the Loop Rd roundabout at the south of the city would not meet a mid-year 2021 completion date but is now scheduled for 2023. This affects tens of thousands of motorists each day. As I said on my Facebook page, this is a circle in the middle of the road, how hard can this be! All of this just might be palatable to the good people of Whangārei if it wasn't for the \$700M cycle bridge over the Auckland Harbour. That is quite simply a bridge too far and I will continue to work with you for integrated and appropriately funded freight and traffic pathways here in Whangārei and Northland.

[www.facebook.com/DrShaneReti](https://www.facebook.com/DrShaneReti)

**DR SHANE RETI MP**  
Based in Whangārei

# Working together

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# Questionable Research Labs

Questionable Research Labs is "An idea incubator for experiments in science, technology, and design" says the website Questionable.org.nz. It's a place where curious people can play with sciency stuff.

It all began in 2015 in the Tikipunga Rugby Club rooms, and has outgrown several different venues; now QRL is housed in a large temporary space on the ground floor of Manaia House, Rathbone Street.

More than 60 members between the ages of 9 & 17 regularly attend 7 different after-school groups on weekdays: Girls' Lab, Science & Tech Group, Robotics Group, Coding Group, and the older Girls' Lab Game Design Group; and there are weekend activities and school holiday sessions as well. Adults are also welcomed into the space, for workshops on making cheese, kombucha or beer and more.

On a recent Monday afternoon, Girls' Lab members were making, gluing, and soldering robots, and working on computers and games with the help of facilitator Verena Pschorn.

QRL coordinator Dr Kevin Waugh showed me around - fungal growth experiments in progress; 3-D printers and their creations - some that worked and some disasters; sealed plant growth environments; robotic projects and more. A team of tired teens had just returned from Auckland University where they took part in "a weekend of creative mayhem" at Terrible Ideas Hackathon

- full on and exhausting, but fun, Kevin said. The emphasis at QRL is on playing, finding out "what if ..." and learning through trying things.

Find out more at the website above, or email kevin@questionable.org.nz



# Onerahi Friendship Club

It is with a real sense of sadness that I write of the closure of the Onerahi Friendship Club after 47 years of being there for the people of Onerahi.

The club was co-founded in 1973 by Margaret Anderson and Kay Middle-Platts, on a voluntary basis, to meet a need in the community for friendship for the elderly, lonely, and those new to the district.

Members enjoyed entertainment, activities, and in earlier times, outings and picnics.

For a good part of these years we have been indebted to the Onerahi Lions Club, who have provided our annual Christmas party: a great finish to the year.

Through the years we have had several coordinators and many helpers who have contributed their time and energy to the Club.

However, with the Covid interruptions, less attendance, the need for helpers, and an aging membership, it was sadly decided to close down.

The Committee decided to use their existing funds to place a seat with a plaque, for folks to rest on, under the magnolia trees in Sherwood Park. The remainder of funds would be gifted to the Lions Club for community use.

The Club had created several scrap books and photos since its commencement; these will be stored at Onerahi Community House for anyone interested to view.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the running of the Club down the years - Onerahi Community Centre Coordinators, helpers, committees, Onerahi Lions Club, and the people of Onerahi, for your support. A final thank you to the out-going committee for all your help - so appreciated - June, Jenny, Marjory, Lorraine and Marie.

God bless you all, Betty Dixon



Betty Dixon and June Dowling



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## Onerahi and Whangārei Heads Lions Club

'We Serve'

June and July are quiet times in the Club as 30th June is the end of our Lions year.

We have a new President – Teddy Kewene, and he is looking forward to his term leading the Club.

We have sponsored a young student who attends Whangarei Girls' High to experience a life changing youth development voyage on the R. Tucker Thompson - building confidence, developing teamwork and leadership skills. She

will sail for seven days, leaving Opua in mid-October. We look forward to hearing of her experiences on her return.

Starship Hospital in Auckland is experiencing a shortage of beds so is undertaking an extension programme and launched a fundraising challenge. Lions Clubs in our district are committed to raising \$406,700 to fund one fully equipped Intensive Care Unit. Our Club has donated \$1000 to this cause.

Initial planning is underway to run our Christmas Trailer Raffle again this year – due to the uncertainties around Covid we had to drop it last Christmas. The funds raised from this raffle are returned to our community to help those in need. We appreciate and value the support we receive from those who buy our raffle tickets.

Child Cancer is one of five areas we serve and we will again be promoting Wig Wednesday for the Child Cancer Foundation on September 8th. The four schools in our area have been invited to participate by wearing a wig, shaving their hair or sporting a funky hair style. Our members will also adopt the cause at our September dinner – look out for photos in the next edition.

We enjoy regular social events (potluck lunches, social outings), and leadership programmes are offered to those who wish to grow their leadership or presentation skills.

If you feel you have something to offer as a Lion and would like more information, phone Maria, 0274 742213.

Maria Goodhew

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## Can you imagine a Predator Free Onerahi?

This exciting project is now taking shape with some fantastic community action projects underway. If you're keen to get involved to help birds and other native species in Onerahi thrive, we'd love to hear from you!

**Keen to find out more?**

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## Onerahi to Sark Jules' (mis)adventures Part 4: Working for Royalty

**My Onerahi pal, Astrid, and I have agreed that it's time to leave the circus that is La Sablonnerie. In desperation to keep us, we were offered double our wages, which would have taken us to 4 pounds an hour. But what to do and where to go? I had a cunning plan.**

On one of my rare nights off, I dined with royalty at La Seigneurie. Essentially, Sark is its own kingdom with a king and queen. Christopher, the king or lord is called Le Seigneur. So Christopher and his delightful wife Sarah had invited me to dinner as they were worried about my working conditions. Going to dinner on Sark is an adventure in itself, with the only transport being my bike. Dining with royalty made me anxious, so I stopped off for a wine at the local on the way. By the time I left La Seigneurie – the palace – at about 2.00am, it's fair to say that I was quite merry. Biking on dirt roads with no bike lamp and no street lights came to be problematic. After the 3rd time falling off, I gave up and walked home. But I am digressing from the main point of this royal dining tale. At the end of the evening, Sarah said that if ever I needed a bed, to just let her know. So this was just a wee hope for my cunning plan. Both Astrid and I loved Sark and didn't want to leave, but if we couldn't get work, we would have to.

So I called Sarah, and a visit to La Seigneurie was organised. "Come for bubbles." After a few, Sarah looked at me with a sly grin. "Can you cook?" "Hmm, errr, yes, sort of." It turns out poor Sarah and her sister Annie had been left in the lurch with their cafe, Hathaways, which is in the palace grounds. (Yes, all palaces in the UK have cafes.) And the alcoholic chef had to be dispensed with, leaving Sarah and Annie to make scones and wash dishes which wasn't part of either of their career plans.

You know, there are times in your life when you wonder if you are jumping out of the frying pan into the fire and you know that you should take time to make a decision, but you just have to have faith that things can't get any worse. This was one of those moments. The whole deal came with the use of a very cool flat in the palace (free) until we got ourselves sorted. A few glasses of bubbly under my belt and suddenly my cooking skills were excellent and scones would be a push-over. At this point I'm thinking Astrid's cooking skills are also excellent and between the two of us, we'd muddle along. Naturally, I needed to consult with Astrid, but the poor soul was still in shock with being at Sablonnerie, I knew she'd agree to anything.

So the La Sablonnerie chapter closed, not without some nasty, nasty consequences. But we were sad to leave our colleagues and that special bond that transpires when you are all thrown into a place where caring for people comes way below making a profit.

Oh my goodness. We are living in a palace with a very cool king and queen, and making cream teas with varying success. And we have a life. No more 14 hour days, 7 days a week. We can now start to enjoy Sark. But there is that element of jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire which we have to overcome. Astrid and I are learning how resilient we are and the fire needed extinguishing before we could really start to enjoy ourselves. We are learning to fight back. Don't mess with the Kiwis.



Kiwis in the kitchen. We faked it until we made it

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# Dragonfly Springs Wetland Sanctuary News

## Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) with Raurimu Ave School, 24 June

I am so pleased to see the changes in these pupils from Raurimu School in 8 weeks of EOTC at the Sanctuary, from initial reluctance to full on helping and some wanting to be here more days in the week.

Today the children were full on helping our volunteers planting & mulching trees.



Adults and students mulching together

It's great to enjoy their energy and see them so happy and learning new skills. Teacher Celia Paul is noticing the changes too.

Young Stephen keeps on dreaming up new ideas for the children to harness their energy.

Education Outside the Classroom in Dragonfly Springs Wetland Sanctuary's great environment is a winner!

### August activities at Dragonfly Springs

Raurimu Ave School continuing to come every Thursday through Term 3 for EOTC.

Whangarei Intermediate School, Tuesday August 10th for EOTC.

And on a Thursday in August, 20 staff from Kāinga Ora for team bonding, and work in the gardens.

As well, the ongoing planting, development, and maintenance, with our volunteers - if you'd like to join them please contact Jeremy Busck, 021 232 6525 [www.dragonflysprings.co.nz](http://www.dragonflysprings.co.nz)

Jeremy Busck

# Onerahi Garden Group

Good gracious, is the Onerahi Garden Group still in existence? Indeed yes!

Alive and well thirty years on from humble but enthusiastic beginnings, our group continues to meet once a month in the local Onerahi Community Hall and enjoys the support of a loyal following of long time gardeners, newer ones too, and interesting speakers.

Gardening methods have changed very little over the intervening years though plant fashions have come and gone in the garden nursery business. Remember the 'Silver Dollar' anyone? Perhaps the current passion for palms will follow suit eventually.

The manner in which we garden may also change as we age, move house, change districts, climates, or as our health and circumstances dictate. Garden plots shrink as we downsize our properties and we begin to think more about gardening in small spaces, pot culture, balcony gardens, raised beds, green living walls and hydroponics. So it has been for our members, with a growing awareness of our place in the natural world reminding us that we can quite happily live alongside insects, bees, butterflies and birds, as did our grandparents and those before them, even in a small urban, or suburban space. Some of us can and do grow small fruit trees, herbs, salad greens, a range of our favourite vegetables and fragrant flowers in tubs and containers. Others have larger spaces and grow all manner of exotic subtropical plants and a diverse collection of exhibits appears on our competition table each month.

Speakers open up the wider world for us as they discuss conservation issues such as re-wilding the landscape (this is happening in pockets of Europe, the UK, Africa, Central America, and China, but also right here in Onerahi - think Dragonfly Springs and Matakoho (Limestone) Island), pest eradication, community gardens, kiwi conservation, and water and sewage treatment. Commercial growers allow us a glimpse of their world, an appreciation of their care of the land, and an enlarged view of our district. We have found that a field trip can enrich our understanding and add another dimension to a talk, and so we try to arrange a few each year.

The committee would like to extend an invitation for new members. If you enjoy gardening and are free on the third Friday of every month, 10 - 11.30am, come and join us. President - Max Lambert, 09 5533403 Secretary - Aldene McClure, 09 4361139



Rose from Max Lambert's garden

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# Mike Chubb: Onerahi Order of Merit 2021

Originally from the Waikato, I left school in 1976 and entered the aviation industry, learning to fly and manufacture new aircraft. I moved to Whangārei in 1988 to be Chief Engineer of Northland Aviation Ltd. We bought Northland Aviation shortly after arriving. In the 1990's we were very busy maintaining private and club owned aircraft, several top-dressing operators' aircraft, and both Air NZ's and the opposition's (Ansett [Tranzair]) aircraft - I would get called out at any time, so as we lived in Raumanga I soon tired of travelling back and forth. In 1995 we moved to Onerahi to live next to the airport. Not being one to not get involved I became a leader at the Onerahi Sea Scouts and later, Group Leader for several years. I also served two terms on the Onerahi School BOT and then joined the BOT at Whangārei Girls High. I became Chair of WGHS for about 6 years. In 1998 the NZ Fire Service decided to form a brigade in Onerahi and were calling for volunteers. I phoned to enquire and was immediately visited by the Whangārei Fire Chief and signed up within an hour. Still not sure how that happened. However, it has been a very enjoyable and satisfying decision, though very hard on my wife and young children, especially the first two years when it seemed I was on a course each weekend. After basic training we got our first Fire Appliance in December 1998 but had nowhere to park it. I offered the Northland Aviation hangar as an interim location, thinking it would only be 6-8 months. Over 4 years later we moved to our new station, on leased airport land. During those 4 years

it was a childhood dream come true to have a plane and a tractor and a fire engine at my disposal. I won a tender for the Airport Management contract in July 2000 and have kept that to the present day, the job itself having grown in size considerably - in 2000 we were an uncertificated airport. I got the airport certificated in 2006 and that has enabled us to have larger aircraft here and seen annual passenger numbers more than triple. With the Fire Brigade I quickly climbed the ranks and was soon Deputy Officer in Charge under Rusty Cauty. Rusty stepped down in 2016 and I stepped up. Shortly after, the newly formed Fire and Emergency New Zealand decided to make Onerahi its own fire district. That meant a rank change to Chief Fire Officer. Our brigade averages about 120 calls per year and because I live and work near the station, I probably ride the appliance on at least 80% of those occasions. Our brigade is now in its 23rd year and 5 of the originals are still active members. We have achieved and done a lot over those years, and all while holding down our normal jobs and raising our families - sleeping, eating, family occasions: all have been interrupted. We also attend community gala days, schools etc. Even Santa has looked a bit like me some years. But it has to be said, it is we not me. Without the whole team of brigade members, co-workers and a supportive family, little of it would have been possible.

Mike Chubb

# Onerahi Order of Merit awards 2021

These awards were presented at the Onerahi Community Association's AGM on 15 June. Unfortunately Sue Mawson could not be present.



## Sue Mawson

For her work in the Onerahi community, True Tales Onerahi book, documenting, photographing Kauri trees in Onerahi, and Onerahi Weed Group.

## Brent Mawson

For his work in the Onerahi community, True Tales Onerahi, and More True Tales of Onerahi books, Onerahi Predator Free and Weed Groups

## Michael Chubb

For his work in the community, including attending gala days and schools. Services to Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade and services to Airport Management.

## Russell Robertson

In support of his late wife, Leonie Robertson's service as Secretary for Onerahi Community Association from February 2017 to September 2020.



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# History - Did you know ....

## Onerahi's Sweet Factory

Did you know that Onerahi used to have its own lolly factory?



Onerahi resident and World War Two soldier Ray Cockfield had a dream - if he made it home to Whangārei from the war in Italy and the Middle East, he planned to build a factory and make sweets. When he did come home to his family in 1945, he expanded a shed beside the family home, and Northland Sweets Company was born.

At first, sugar rationing limited the size of the operation, but once restrictions were lifted the family business grew, and took on employees. Staple products were boiled sweets, hokey pokey, and toffee, with marshmallow Easter eggs in season.

The business thrived until 1951 when Auckland wharf strikes stopped the factory's sugar supply, so Ray and wife Mavis gave up making sweets, and instead, took over the local bread and postal delivery service.

Thanks to Barbara Herman. From True Tales of Onerahi (toffee apple recipe on p95).

## Mt Manaia Gondola Scheme

Did you know about the plans for a gondola to the top of Mt Manaia?

In 1966 an engineer, Fritz Battig, who had immigrated to Whangārei and bought a farm at McLeod's Bay, saw a potential development opportunity in waiting - installing the gondolas of his homeland, Switzerland, for tourists to ride to the rocky heights of Whangārei Heads.

where he considered the terrain was ideally suited to cable cars.

He drew up plans for a 'tourist playground' - a revolving restaurant, tearooms, hotel, marina, conference centre, cruise ship facilities, ferries, and more.

However public opposition to the ferry, a lack of investors, and storm damage to the land meant that the project was abandoned in 1971.



Thanks to Jan Boyes. From True Tales of Whangārei Heads

## High Tide

### WHANGĀREI

Lat. 35° 46' S Long. 174° 21' E

AUGUST 2021

N.Z. LOCAL TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m
1 Su	0139	2.7	9 Mo	0201	0.9	17 Tu	0210	2.9	25 We	0325	0.6
	0744	0.9		0816	2.8		0822	0.7		0948	3.0
	1405	2.6		1414	0.7		1453	2.8		1540	0.6
	2004	1.1		2045	3.0		2053	0.9		2213	3.1
2 Mo	0225	2.7	10 Tu	0245	0.8	18 We	0310	2.8	26 Th	0410	0.6
	0833	1.0		0901	2.9		0922	0.7		1031	2.9
	1459	2.6		1458	0.6		1600	2.8		1624	0.7
	2059	1.2		2127	3.0		2157	0.9		2255	3.0
3 Tu	0314	2.6	11 We	0329	0.7	19 Th	0415	2.8	27 Fr	0453	0.7
	0924	1.0		0945	2.9		1024	0.7		1113	2.9
	1556	2.5		1542	0.6		1706	2.9		1707	0.8
	2155	1.2		2209	3.1		2300	0.9		2335	2.9
4 We	0406	2.5	12 Th	0414	0.6	20 Fr	0520	2.8	28 Sa	0535	0.7
	1017	1.0		1030	3.0		1125	0.7		1153	2.8
	1654	2.6		1626	0.6		1807	2.9		1750	0.9
	2250	1.2		2253	3.1						
5 Th	0500	2.5	13 Fr	0459	0.6	21 Sa	0000	0.8	29 Su	0013	2.8
	1109	1.0		1116	3.0		0622	2.8		0617	0.8
	1747	2.6		1713	0.6		1223	0.7		1233	2.7
	2342	1.1		2338	3.1		1903	3.0		1834	1.0
6 Fr	0552	2.6	14 Sa	0546	0.6	22 Su	0056	0.7	30 Mo	0052	2.7
	1159	0.9		1204	2.9		0720	2.9		0700	0.9
	1835	2.7		1802	0.7		1317	0.6		1317	2.6
							1955	3.1		1922	1.1
7 Sa	0031	1.1	15 Su	0025	3.0	23 Mo	0149	0.7	31 Tu	0133	2.6
	0643	2.6		0634	0.6		0813	2.9		0746	1.0
	1245	0.9		1255	2.9		1408	0.6		1406	2.6
	1920	2.8		1854	0.8		2043	3.1		2014	1.2
8 Su	0117	1.0	16 Mo	0115	2.9	24 Tu	0238	0.6			
	0730	2.7		0726	0.7		0902	3.0			
	1330	0.8		1351	2.8		1455	0.6			
	2003	2.9		1951	0.8		2129	3.1			

### WHANGĀREI

Lat. 35° 46' S Long. 174° 21' E

SEPTEMBER 2021

N.Z. LOCAL TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m
1 We	0220	2.5	9 Th	0304	0.6	17 Fr	0402	2.7	25 Sa	0420	0.7
	0836	1.1		0924	3.1		1005	0.8		1041	2.9
	1504	2.5		1519	0.5		1650	2.8		1637	0.8
	2111	1.2		2145	3.2		2245	0.9		2258	2.8
2 Th	0314	2.5	10 Fr	0349	0.5	18 Sa	0508	2.7	26 Su	0559	0.7
	0931	1.1		1010	3.1		1108	0.8		1218	2.8
	1607	2.5		1606	0.5		1749	2.9		1817	0.9
	2210	1.2		2230	3.2		2344	0.8			
3 Fr	0414	2.5	11 Sa	0435	0.5	19 Su	0609	2.8	27 Mo	0033	2.8
	1028	1.1		1057	3.1		1206	0.8		0638	0.8
	1706	2.6		1654	0.5		1843	3.0		1255	2.7
	2306	1.2		2317	3.1					1859	1.0
4 Sa	0515	2.5	12 Su	0523	0.5	20 Mo	0038	0.7	28 Tu	0109	2.7
	1122	1.0		1146	3.0		0704	2.8		0718	0.9
	1759	2.7		1744	0.6		1259	0.7		1335	2.7
	2358	1.1		1933	3.0					1944	1.1
5 Su	0611	2.6	13 Mo	0005	3.0	21 Tu	0128	0.7	29 We	0149	2.6
	1214	0.9		0612	0.5		0755	2.9		0801	1.0
	1847	2.8		1238	3.0		1348	0.7		1421	2.6
				1837	0.7		2019	3.0		2033	1.2
6 Mo	0046	0.9	14 Tu	0057	2.9	22 We	0215	0.6	30 Th	0235	2.5
	0703	2.7		0704	0.6		0841	2.9		0850	1.1
	1302	0.8		1335	2.9		1433	0.7		1514	2.5
	1932	2.9		1935	0.8		2103	3.0		2129	1.2
7 Tu	0133	0.8	15 We	0153	2.8	23 Th	0259	0.6			
	0751	2.9		0800	0.7		0923	3.0			
	1348	0.6		1438	2.8		1516	0.7			
	2016	3.0		2037	0.9		2143	3.0			
8 We	0219	0.7	16 Th	0255	2.7	24 Fr	0340	0.6			
	0838	3.0		0901	0.8		1003	2.9			
	1434	0.6		1545	2.8		1557	0.7			
	2100	3.1		2142	0.9		2222	2.9			

Information courtesy of LINZ • www.linz.govt.nz

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# Shackleton Sea Scouts

Shackleton Sea Scouts offers fun and friendship, challenge and everyday adventure to boys and girls aged 5 - 18. We have a long history of having a positive impact on the young people of Whangārei. We meet at The Den, 52A Riverside Drive.

### Have respect – Do what is right – Be positive!

We have four age-based sections:

- Keas (ages 5 - 8) meet on Wednesday evenings during school terms, from 5.15 - 6.15pm. *Keas is the youngest section of the Scouting Movement. At Keas, children have fun, go on awesome adventures, have new experiences, play games and make lots of friends.*
- Cubs (ages 8 - 10.5) meet on Thursday evenings from 6.30 - 8pm. *Cubs enjoy a wide variety of activities including hikes, orienteering, camps and water-based activities including kayaking and swimming skills.*

In Term 2, our Cubs focused on staying safe in the outdoors and how to respond in an emergency - with lots of practical experiences including a night hike, first aid training, lifesaving skills at the heated pools, and a visit to the emergency helicopter base. A fun overnight camp weekend was a highlight.

Term 3 will be action packed, with something to appeal to everyone, including a campfire night, and joining other Northland Keas and Cubs at a Hobby Show.

- Scouts (ages 10.5 - 14.5) and
- Venturers (ages 14.5 - 18) meet on Monday evenings from 6.30 - 8.30pm. *Our older groups enjoy a range of adventures, from sailing and rowing to tramping and rock climbing. Group camps, as well as regional and national regattas and jamborees, create memories and friendships that last a lifetime.*

### Leaders

Rewarding opportunities are also available at all levels for adults. Leadership and practical skills training through Scouting New Zealand help our leaders to guide and grow our youth into positive, well-rounded citizens.

**New members welcome – please contact Jo on 027 494 1001 or shackleton@group.scouts.nz**



# Sail Northland: Term 1 Roundup

### 29ers Squad

Two 29ers have been kindly lent to us by the Kerikeri High School Sailing Academy while they have no international experience has started training, and was visited by Andy Childs, Kerikeri coach, on Saturday 29th June to give a few pointers.

### Winter Sailing Squad

Sailing RS Feva and 420s.

### Team Sailing 2v2 Series

On the first Sunday of every month, Matthew, one of our high school coaches, has put together a great opportunity for teams of four to work on their team racing skills and have some fun.

### We are looking for volunteers to join our awesome team...

It would be great to meet up with any interested sailors who would like to be involved - it doesn't matter how much time you think you can donate (large or small) - we appreciate it all. Our main gap is for capable sailors who are happy to sail a centreboard (we use RS Quests) with 3 - 5 kids on board; with our Kōkōkaha programme; or for Have-a-Go Sailing days for school groups (ages 8 -18).

We usually run our school programmes on Wednesdays 12 - 3pm and Thursdays 9.30 - 2.30pm through the first (February to April) and fourth (October to December) school terms, out of Whangārei Cruising Club at Parua Bay, Whangārei Heads Road, just before Parua Bay Tavern. Check out [www.sailnorthland.org.nz](http://www.sailnorthland.org.nz) for more information. We have a lot of fun and it's a great chance to be part of the community, share your skills, and learn new ones. Give me a call - we look forward to meeting you soon! Angela Smith 021 21115779 or email [sailnorthland@gmail.com](mailto:sailnorthland@gmail.com) and keep an eye on our Facebook page to keep up to date with our latest news.

Sail Northland Charitable Trust would like to take this opportunity to extend a big thankyou to all our sponsors: we really appreciate your ongoing support to help get our sailors (young and old) out having fun on the water.

Sail Northland Charitable Trust Secretary,  
Sarah Ihaka



Winter sailing with a group of keen high school sailors every second Sunday in Terms 2 and 3

## Services

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Sunday Worship @ 9.30am. All Welcome!

Mainly Music in the Church Hall – Every Wednesday 10am (during school term). \$4 per family

Contact Nancy Dodds - 436 1444

**RAUMATI CRESCENT CHAPEL**

**SUNDAY** 10.00am Teaching Ministry

**MONDAY** 10.15am Sit Fit

**WEDNESDAY** (2nd) 10.30am Ladies' Bible Study  
(4th) 10.30am Ladies' Friendly Hour

**THURSDAY** (every 2nd) 1.30pm Knitting Group  
wool donations gladly accepted  
contact Maureen at 436 2355 for info.

## ONERAHI COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sundays 10am Raurimu Ave School Hall

... the name of Jesus ...  
there is no other name ...  
by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:10-12

Contact: [hello.onecc@gmail.com](mailto:hello.onecc@gmail.com) - 021 023 897 01



# Coming dates & events

1 August	Friendship Day
8 August	Olympics closing ceremony
12 August	International Youth Day
28 August	Daffodil Day
1 September	First day of spring
1 September	Random Acts of Kindness Day
5 September	Father's Day
8 September	International Literacy Day
19 September	Talk Like a Pirate Day
21 September	International Day of Peace
23 September	Spring equinox

## Venues available for hire in Onerahi & Parua Bay area

Onerahi Community Hall & Community House	Julie Dennis	09 436 4439 or 021 034 9943
Onerahi Bowling Club	Roger Kerr-Davis	027 390 7185
Onerahi Rugby Club	Fiona Raymond-Paikea	onerahirugby@yahoo.com.
Onerahi Soccer Club	Fiona Ellis	onerahifootballclub@outlook.co.nz
Hope Church	Secretary	09 438 1667
Raurimu School Hall	School Office	09 436 0820 Ext. 2
St. Stephen's Church Hall	Paul Doherty	021 189 4797 or 09 436 0207
Tamaterau Hall	Dorothy Gatland	021 119 0089
Parua Bay Comm.Centre	Kirsty	bjandkirsty@slingshot.co.nz
Taurikura Hall	Meg Mclsaac	022 641 9786

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