

# Onerahi Orbit

Free to you from the Onerahi Community Association

June & July 2021

Covering Onerahi, Parua Bay, Pataua and Whangārei Heads



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*let's go with Jo*  
**Joanne Stevens**

# Haere mai,

This is the season of Matariki - when the Pleiades star cluster reappears in our skies - and we celebrate the Māori new year by gathering together to share kai, waiata, stories, kite-flying, and games. Please check out the listings on the back page for Matariki events in our neighbourhood.

Winter has arrived, and with it, the season of coughs and colds. After our recent trying times with COVID-19, we're all used to washing our hands, coughing and sneezing into our elbows, and staying away from other people when we're unwell. If we keep these good habits up, our community will have less of these winter ills, which make us feel miserable, and have severe effects on our more vulnerable members.

As well as the above measures, a flu jab helps keep our community safe - it doesn't protect 100% as there are other sneaky strains around, but if you catch one of those flu bugs not covered, you won't get as sick as if you were not vaccinated. And please have your COVID vaccination when it's your turn. We all have to look after each other.

*Nga mihi from the Orbit team.*

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We need delivery people to drop off the Onerahi Orbit in their local area. The Orbit comes out five times a year.

If this sounds like you, or someone you know, please call Bob Smith on 09 436 3681.



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

## Onerahi Community Association AGM at 7.30pm on June 15 at the Onerahi Community Hall



- Election of officers
- Onerahi Order of Merit
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- Admission \$3 which makes you a member of the OCA

If you are interested in standing for a committee position please call Val 021 996 373 email [ccoca@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ccoca@xtra.co.nz)

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## Onerahi Kindergarten Mural Unveiling



Artist Mike Tupaea



Fred Tito & tamariki



Tamariki unveiling

Monday 3 May was a very special day for the tamariki, whanau, teachers and visitors at Onerahi Kindergarten - it was unveiling day for a series of murals created for the kindergarten by renowned Whangārei artist, Mike Tupaea.

Everyone gathered in the carpark for local kaumatua Fred Tito's welcome and speech. He then led us inside and introduced each artwork in turn as it was unveiled. Every panel was touched by all present to share their mauri and receive strength.

Once all were inside, Fred introduced the artist who designed and made the murals - Mike Tupaea - who told us about the meaning of the symbols within his art, how it reflects the natural world around us, and how, in interacting with the murals, the kindergarten tamariki will gain strength, resilience, and knowledge.

After waiata and speeches of gratitude and appreciation, a delicious morning tea was served by local caterers, Harvest Catering. Then we talked to the artist and saw the art up close - a taonga for Onerahi.

Heather Bell



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# Raurimu Avenue School at Dragonfly Springs

**O**n Wednesday 5 May, Raurimu Avenue School teacher Celia Paul and her pupils walked to Dragonfly Springs Wetland Sanctuary for their first Education Outside the Classroom session of the new school term.

Sanctuary guide Stephen led the group around, stopping to show what plants are edible (the red berries on kahikatea, salty samphire on the water's edge) and what are poisonous (kowhai seeds); where to sleep to stay dry and warm if you're lost in the bush, what to use as kindling to start a fire (tied bundles of tī kōuka/cabbage tree leaves), and other useful survival tips. The pupils were keen to learn, especially about what was edible. Three students were the designated Health and Safety team, and they noted and photographed potential hazards on the tour such as pest traps, drains, swampy areas, etc.

Celia plans to return with her students every week so that they can take part in planting and care of the sanctuary, develop a sense of responsibility for the environment, and see how it changes and develops over time.

Heather Bell



Dry bark for making a fire



Sampling kahikatea berries

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# Onerahi School

**K**ia ora e te whanau! We put a challenge to our students to become published writers. Within a short deadline we received many submissions. I would like to acknowledge those students whose tireless mahi saw them complete their pieces of prose. Choosing a few to share here was difficult and we will be looking at various ways (such as our Facebook page, ClassDojo, school website, and newsletter) to get the other entries in front of an audience.

Danny Hamilton, Deputy Principal

"Three...two...one...go!," yelled Duncan as he released the rope. I swung across the muddy brown water like I was on a flying fox. I reached out and grabbed the cargo net. I felt nervous. All my friends had said the yellow course was hard.

I climbed the cargo net, swung onto the two ropes and shuffled down. They started to shake, so I stopped for a few seconds then trucked on. I eventually made it to the log that was supporting some of the first obstacles.

After making it along a balance beam, climbing up a slippery ladder, and swinging on tyre swings, I made it to the final rope. I had the shakes and I felt nervous because I had seen people fall at this part.

I crossed hanging like a koala on the last rope. I swung to grab the cargo net but lost my grip and rolled down it. I felt proud because I first thought I couldn't take on this obstacle course. I tried it anyway and succeeded!

by Bella Salase, Year 6



It was a few minutes until my kapa haka group would go on stage. We were sitting in our lines in the hall at Otangarei Primary School. Quietly, everyone chattered to each other. Just before it was our turn the teachers gave a speech. I was feeling nervous and my heart was pumping like a sewing machine's needle.

As we walked on stage I could see all of the people watching us. We started singing loud and proud. I didn't feel nervous anymore! After we had finished the performance the audience started clapping and as we walked off the stage I felt happy that I had done it.

by Jean Morgan, Year 5

# What would happen if a natural disaster hit Whangārei?

In Room 12 we were inspired to learn about how to survive a natural disaster. Onerahi had a civil defence emergency after an 8.2 magnitude earthquake hit the Kermadec Islands off the east coast. Room 12 wanted to study natural disasters like: floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and more. We worked together to make a poster about Tsunami and created a model tsunami. My class worked for days making posters about different disasters and how we can be prepared at school and at home. Through researching historical disasters, discussing possible scenarios and practising safety procedures we developed a survival kit, and designed a family plan that included meeting points.

by Oscar Woolford and Monty Hall, Year 6



Oscar and Monty learning about natural disasters

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# Diabetes needn't 'suck'!



**“Diabetes sucks!” is a comment often made by young people who have contracted this illness in their early years.**

That's because they have to have several insulin injections and many more finger-prick blood checks every day. That's for those with Type 1 diabetes. Type 2s are more common, but can usually survive on pills rather than injections. Onerahi's John Ross, though, has a different story to tell about Type 1 diabetes. He got it at the age of five, so along with his 80th birthday celebrations at Bionic Cafe in Onerahi on

February 1st, he also celebrated 75 years as a Type 1 diabetic. And he claims his success as a newspaper journalist happened because of, and not in spite of, having diabetes.

How come?  
 “I always wanted to be a policeman,” says John. “When they wouldn't let me into the police force because of my diabetes I had to find something else that came close, and newspaper journalism seemed to fill the bill.”

John and his Scottish wife sailed for New Zealand in May 1966 on the ship Rangitoto, and spent six months in New Plymouth before moving to Wellington.

What followed in the capital was several years of top news stories for the young journalist, including the disastrous sinking of the Wahine, the religious row surrounding Professor Lloyd Geering, and the almost unbelievable tale of a young Englishman, David Todd, who stowed away on the Wellington-bound Southern Cross, and who claimed to have seen a French atomic bomb escaping from its mooring at Mururoa Atoll.

The Rosses moved to Auckland after John was signed up by the NZ Herald, and in 1976 came the big move to London, where he represented the Herald, the Christchurch Press, the Otago Daily Times and the Evening Post as their correspondent in Fleet Street and Europe. For three years.

“That was one of the top newspaper jobs at the time,” says John, “and we thoroughly enjoyed it.”

Back to Aotearoa in 1979, and John was elected to Rodney District Council for a seven-year term, started up several community newspapers, gained his Diploma in Professional Counselling at age 65, and moved to Onerahi 10 years ago, where he has been chair of the Community Association, coordinator of the local Civil Defence group and, for four years, editor of the Onerahi Orbit. He has also been working as a voluntary counsellor in Onerahi for some years.

So is there a lesson to be learned from all of this for young diabetics? “Yes there is,” says John. “Don't let your Type 1 diabetes hold you back from what you want to do. There are always other options. If your first choice doesn't work out, there are always other choices, and some of them might be more exciting than your first choice!”

John Ross



John Ross on his 80th (75th) birthday



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# MP for Whangārei: Emily Henderson

## Reach for the future with free trades training

Strange to think we're now over a year on from Lockdown. We stayed home and saved lives, not knowing what the impact on our country would be, but now our economy has bounced back faster than expected.

A lot has changed in the past fourteen months, but the Government's top priorities have not: Keeping New Zealanders safe from COVID, minimising the ongoing economic impact of the virus, and building back better.

That means using this global economic shock as an opportunity to start tackling some of Whangārei's biggest long-term challenges, like housing affordability, child poverty and climate change.

One of the keys is investing in training and education for people who lose their jobs, or who want to move into a sector with brighter prospects.

That's why we established the Targeted Training and Apprenticeships Fund, covering costs for learners in targeted vocational programmes and all apprenticeships.

In Whangārei, our training providers include People Potential, NorthTec, Developers Institute, and Ringa Atawhai Matauranga.

As well, the Government is helping employers to retain and take on our new apprentices with the Apprenticeship Boost programme. Since it was rolled out last August, more than 10,000 employers have signed up with over 21,000 apprentices.

It's great to see that the people benefitting include those hit hardest by the economic impact of COVID – women, young people, Māori and Pasifika. And nearly a quarter of new learners are 40 or over!

Numbers of women apprentices doubled from July to November 2020 compared to 2019. It's fantastic more women are entering these traditionally male-dominated industries, and will help recession-proof women in the future. As a mum and an auntie, I'm keen to see us try different options and burst through those glass ceilings.

Of course, supporting New Zealanders into education and training does double duty – not only helping individuals deal with the economic impact of COVID, but ensuring we'll have the workforce to build back better.

Delivering more sustainable infrastructure – whether in housing, health, education or transport – and restoring and strengthening critical public services like health and education, requires a vast and dedicated workforce. Whangārei, with construction booming, is a great example: we'll need all of our new tradies to keep us on track.

We've had several successful local Community Hui over the past months where I've met many of you and heard your concerns. Looking ahead, I'll be out and about at markets, and meeting and chatting on street corners around the district - watch my Facebook page, *Emily Henderson MP*, for places, dates, and times coming up.

Emily Henderson MP



**Emily Henderson**  
 MP for Whangārei

To make an appointment to discuss constituent issues please contact [emily.hendersonMP@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:emily.hendersonMP@parliament.govt.nz)

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## Funding for Cancer Medicines

For several years now I have advocated for a radiotherapy machine in Northland. We know that one of the six machines in Auckland is totally consumed by the 60 Northland patients a week who use it, and that our DHB pays millions of dollars a year for that service. In this column however I want to address the many patients who are grappling with cancer chemotherapy in Northland.



We are very fortunate to have the marvellous Jim Carney Cancer Centre in Northland to administer chemotherapy, but here is the problem I am trying to solve: if you are one of the more than 500 people a year whose cancer medicines PHARMAC will not fund, then you cannot have that medicine administered in a DHB. This seems wrong. When people have mortgaged their homes and taken out loans for \$60,000 for cancer medicines that PHARMAC will not fund, surely they can at least sit in an armchair at their local DHB and have the medicine administered.

Around the conceptual armchair, of course, are chemo nurses and volunteers but this generally takes anywhere between 30 minutes to 4 hours. I have worked with the Cancer Society, Lung Foundation, Bowel Cancer NZ, oncologists, and other experts to create a private member's bill. This bill then needs to be sent to select committee in order that people can tell their stories.

The "call to arms" is for people to email their MP asking for this to be sent to select committee. I think these people have already paid a high price literally, emotionally and physically. Surely we can at least find them an armchair in a hospital to ease their cancer burden.

*Dr Shane Reti  
List MP based in Whangārei  
National Party Deputy Leader*

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## Onerahi Volunteer Fire Service Roundup: March & April

### March

- 2 March Alarm activated - Boys' High hostel.
- 5 March Tsunami alert, On Standby most of the day. Assisted with welfare of evacuated people, ran BBQ etc.
- 5 March During the above incident - kitchen fire - Ross Street.
- 6 March Pah Road - assist ambulance patient lift.
- 7 March Boat on fire, location uncertain. Had to check Onerahi to Richie Road area.
- 9 March Cat in drain. Children had already rescued it - Commins Road.
- 11 March Clotworthy Crescent - smoke showing from roof.
- 20 March Whangārei Heads Road - truck in a ditch.
- 23 March State Highway 1 Puwera, 2nd alarm call out - house (sleep out) & sheds on fire.
- 25 March Alarm activation - Whangārei Library.
- 28 March Car accident - Whangārei Heads Road.
- 29 March Medical call Cockburn Street - difficulty breathing.
- 31 March Ross Street, house fire - false alarm.

### April

- 1 April Clotworthy Crescent - backyard fire.
- 13 April Onerahi Road (by shops) - car accident.
- 13 April Raurimu/Hodgson Street - backyard fire causing concern.
- 14 April Glover Place - power board sparking.
- 30 April Headland Farm Park - report of smoke (bonfire/rubbish fire).

As you can see, March with 13 calls and April with just 5 is a big difference. But that happens sometimes.

A word on outside fires. We have now moved into an Open Fire Season. That means it is allowed to burn rubbish etc. outside. But that still comes with the responsibility of ensuring it is safe to do so. Precautions such as checking wind direction, exposures for spread, having a charged hose available (if possible) or other means to control spread are just some of those safety measures. Informing the neighbours helps to eliminate them calling in "smoke causing concern" calls. Of course, smoking out the neighbours will be a certain way to get a call made.

You can contact FENZ and notify a fire. This can save some false call outs, especially for fires that can be seen from a long distance.

A not-so-clearly understood rule is the Northland Regional Council rule on smoke pollution. Effectively this puts a ban on outdoor fires within the urban areas of Whangārei. For a fire on any lot smaller than 1 hectare, a permit must be obtained from the Regional Council. Check the Northland Regional Council website for clarification.

*Fire Chief, Mike Chubb*



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# Whangārei Cruising Club's First Century



Sailing in the Town Basin, 1945

Whangārei Cruising Club was established in September 1921 by a bunch of like-minded launch owners. Dinghy sailors were soon added. The first clubhouse was an old hall from Whakapara which had been moved onto half an acre of mangrove swamp at the town basin. The club leased it from the Harbour Board on a 99-year lease for one guinea per year.

In 1924 the Harbour Board started to dredge out the yacht and launch basin, and they pumped the mud into the swamp under the clubhouse. It was on manuka piles and was accessed via an aerial walkway. There was also a walkway down to low water so that dinghies could be pulled up alongside and stored in lockers at the club.

At our first AGM there were about 40 members. Bill (William) Fraser, after whom the park on Pohe Island is



named, was made our first life member in 1923. He was the engineer responsible for the decision to have a winding scenic

channel from Kissing Point to the basin, rather than a straight one. Although tsunami would not have been part of the thinking back then, if we ever do get a serious wave we can thank Bill that it won't get a straight run to the town centre.

In 1937 the club was given the binnacle and steering wheel of the barque Rewa. She had been grounded while being manoeuvred into place at Moturekareka Island where she was to be a floating hotel. Instead she forms a breakwater and snug harbour for small vessels. Her binnacle forms part of the entrance to our Kissing Point clubrooms, and displays the names of our past commodores and life members. The wheel takes pride of place on our wall, next to photos and the story of the Rewa.

Despite upgrading the clubrooms after the war, the club gave up the lease at the basin in 1955 and took up a new lease at Kissing Point. By the end of the 1950s our new clubhouse was built. With subsequent upgrades and additions, we have been on our current site ever since.

Much later, in 1979, the Parua Bay clubhouse was built, to serve the needs of the trailer yacht division and learning-to-sail dinghies. The club now caters to all boaties, from learners to old hands, wee sailing dinghies to big keelers, and, though they have certainly changed a lot over the decades, motor launches. Our membership, now between 300 and 400, also includes social members who just want to soak in the atmosphere, and waka-ama paddlers, who share our space at Kissing Point.

The club has grown up and out, and is celebrating its first hundred years at the end of October, while looking forward to a corker future. If you'd like to take part, contact the Whangārei Cruising Club office, or email [wcccentennial@gmail.com](mailto:wcccentennial@gmail.com)

Lois Skelton, Secretary, WCC



CLUB PICNIC MANGANESE POINT 1930

# Northland Regional Councillor, Amy Macdonald

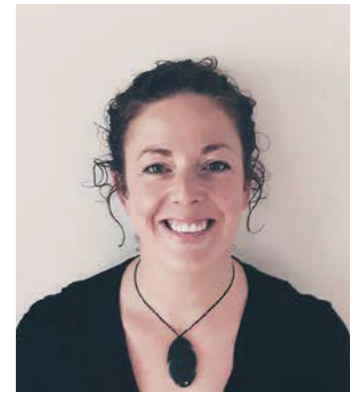
Greetings! Another busy couple of months for me as your Councillor on the NRC. We've been running our 10 year plan (long term plan) process, with public events, online feedback and many Council discussions. It's been great to be out and about meeting with Northlanders and hearing from them about what's important now and into the future. The strong message is that we all want our environment to be healthy and flourishing. Whether it's shellfish in the harbour, birds in the trees, healthy soils, or being able to swim in the local river – Northlanders are keen to make sure NRC keeps on with the work of protecting our environment.

In addition to my role as Chair of the NRC Climate Change Committee, I was recently elected to Chair the Inter-Council Climate Change Adaptation Joint Committee. This committee is made up of Councillors from all four Northland councils and also four appointed Iwi/hapu representatives from across Northland. This is a massive area of work, with growing focus from Government and the general public. I'm pleased to say we are a committed bunch, focussed on consistent and well coordinated governance for climate adaptation in Northland, and that we are guided by a network of excellent staff within the four councils.

NRC's updated coastal hazard maps were released in mid-April: you may have received a letter and info sheet if your property is included. If you have further

questions or concerns please do take up the offer to get in touch. For queries about the maps themselves and regional policy, contact NRC – 0800 002 004, [mailroom@nrc.govt.nz](mailto:mailroom@nrc.govt.nz). For general enquiries about rules in hazard zones contact the Whangārei District Council – 0800 932 463, [mailroom@wdc.govt.nz](mailto:mailroom@wdc.govt.nz).

It's that chilly time of year where we are getting into our winter sports, so I look forward to seeing some of you up at the soccer fields on Saturday mornings. As always, I'm happy to hear from you if you have questions or issues you'd like to raise – [amym@nrc.govt.nz](mailto:amym@nrc.govt.nz), or find me on Facebook: Amy Macdonald – NRC Councillor



Nga mihi,  
Councillor Amy Macdonald  
Northland Regional Council

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# WDC Councillor, Nicholas Connop

We have just made it through the Long Term Plan Cycle; this sets the plan for the Whangārei District Council for the next 10 years. Consultation on the LTP happens every 3 years and the Annual Plan makes sure we are on track. We had almost 3000 submissions! Well done!

There were so many people putting forward wonderful ideas and every submission helped us. The trouble comes in balancing how much the Council can support each project. While WDC needs to make sure basic infrastructure is in place and needs are met, we also must make sure that some of the wants are met too. At the same time, private businesses, Northland Regional Council, and central Government all need to pick up their own responsibilities, which WDC is not able to deal with.

Understanding where the lines are drawn can be a tricky thing to comprehend for anyone.

I always find it interesting when someone says, "No one wants/needs that", or "Councillors are just doing what they want", forgetting that there are almost 100,000 people in Whangārei District, each with a different mindset.

While I am sitting around the chambers, I can assure you that we are all fighting for the many different communities in the Whangārei District.

Recently WDC decided to establish Maori Wards. This brings in a full representation review of the Whangārei District Council. It will allow each of us to have a say about how we are represented. Please keep your eyes peeled for the full consultation later this year. Make sure you have your say to ensure your voice is heard in the best way possible.

We all must find a balance between our lives and everyone else around us.

I will leave you with a word to think about:

Sonder, noun. The realisation that each random passer-by is living a life as vivid and complex as your own (from The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows).

Nicholas Connop  
cr.connop@wdc.govt.nz



## Book review

# The Kauri Trees of Onerahirahi 2021

Research: Sue Mawson; photographs: Wendy Giffin

This 20 page booklet contains beautiful photographs of around 30 kauri trees in Onerahi, labelled with the street names where they are located. Sue told me that she and Wendy wanted to document all the kauri they could, in case they go - many have kauri die-back disease, evidenced by cracked bark with rivulets of gum encrusting their trunks.

Despite the prevalence of this disease, young kauri are being planted - the back cover shows a fine young specimen at Dragonfly Springs.

Only a few copies have been printed so far - Sue and Wendy plan to enlarge the booklet as more kauri are located and photographed - but they said that a reference copy of the current edition might go to Whangārei Library for interested people to view.

Sue has collected a wealth of knowledge about kauri. I would like to see an expanded volume include some of this information about the trees, the disease, and how the public can help combat its spread.

Heather Bell



Sue Mawson and Jeremy Busck with Dragonfly Springs kauri



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PAUL GOSLING – ARBORIST

# 160 traps and counting, towards a Predator Free Onerahi!



Thanks to the efforts of many passionate locals over the last few months, the Predator Free Onerahi project is going from strength to strength, with over 160 traps now recorded within the Onerahi community.

Through the project, free traps (as well as lots of expert advice) are being provided to local Onerahi residents through the Tiakina Whangārei project, funded by Northland Regional Council and the Whangārei Department of Conservation office.

Predator Free Onerahi volunteers ran a stall earlier this month outside New World Onerahi and over 40 free traps were given out to local Onerahi residents in less than three hours. These traps will now all be added to the trap tracking website, TrapNZ, so they can be monitored as part of the wider Onerahi project.

Tiakina Whangārei coordinator, Dr Dai Morgan, says the level of interest and engagement from community members at the recent stall was really positive. "The people we talked to were very receptive to the idea of having a trap in their backyard. We also had a few conversations with people who are already doing some pest control on their properties. It was good to be able to offer advice and talk about the successes that people have seen since starting to trap."

*"I think what people don't realise is how simple it is - the traps are easy to use and maintain and it's great to be part of a collective community effort."*

"A lot of people are still unaware of the project and the many positive effects it could have in this community. It was really worthwhile to spend some time making the project more visible and having meaningful conversations about backyard trapping which in turn generates more genuine interest."

To create more visibility for the project, visitors to Onerahi will soon be greeted by a welcoming new sign promoting Onerahi's goal to become predator free - the first Whangārei suburb to do so.

Dai says that making traps readily available to Onerahi residents enables the project to create 'clusters' of backyard traps, thus creating safe havens for native birds and other species.

The Predator Free Onerahi project team has a steering group that meets when necessary to discuss the progress of the project and plan future actions. The group is working behind the scenes to get more traps out to people in Onerahi, including applying for small grants. If you are a local business owner or would like to help out, please email [onerahi@tiakinaWhangarei.co.nz](mailto:onerahi@tiakinaWhangarei.co.nz).

A big thank you to New World Onerahi, Department of Conservation Whangārei and Tiakina Whangārei.

**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?**

[onerahi@tiakinawhangarei.co.nz](mailto:onerahi@tiakinawhangarei.co.nz)  
[www.tiakinawhangarei.co.nz](http://www.tiakinawhangarei.co.nz)  
[facebook.com/TiakinaWhangarei](https://facebook.com/TiakinaWhangarei)

**Tiakina**  
WHANGĀREI

# Predator Free Whangārei Update



Community information session

Whangārei Heads landowners between Bream Head and Ody Road can look forward to a visit from the Predator Free Whangārei team over the next few months, as engagement for the project ramps up.

The visits are an opportunity for the team to provide in-depth information to landowners and make sure they are fully informed about the proposed possum eradication plans for the Whangārei Heads peninsula.

The possum eradication goal is part of a wider predator free vision for the whole Whangārei district that involves suppression of known predators such as rats, possums and mustelids. Over the next five years the project aims to completely eradicate possums from Whangārei Heads and work alongside existing Landcare groups to intensify the control of mustelids across the district, including central Whangārei.

With a field team now in place, Predator Free Whangārei is preparing to install extensive trapping networks and bait stations across the peninsula later this year, and seeking land



access agreements from private landowners is a vital part of the plan.

Positive feedback was received from a community information session that was recently held at McLeod Bay Hall, where members of the public were able to drop in to find out more about the project and meet the team.

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

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# The Lions Club of Onerahi and Whangārei Heads - "We Serve"



We need to pick up these balls!



Great participation

Club members continue to serve the Onerahi and Whangārei Heads area with an array of projects including Fostering Kids, the Salvation Army, the Red Puppy, and Child Cancer appeals, and a Scuba Diving Course at Parua Bay School, to name a few.

Each summer Lions joins with City Safe to keep visitors to Parihaka safe, and this year was no different. We also collect used prescription glasses and sunglasses which are graded before being sent to the Pacific Islands, especially Fiji, for people with impaired vision.

Plants we have donated to Beautify Onerahi for planting along the Waimahanga Track and on Beach Road will soon be flourishing, and one of our members puts in many hours mowing lawns near the Scout Den.

Hospice very much appreciates four members who fortnightly valet the staff cars - by all accounts an enjoyable morning out for the workers and valued by the staff.

The highlight of this school term was our support of twenty students, at least three of them special needs students, from Raurimu Avenue School, to attend weekly sailing classes run by Sail Northland Trust at Parua Bay. What an amazing experience for students who had never been on a boat, and they took to it like ducks to water. They travelled out by bus and had a picnic lunch before donning safety gear and launching their yachts - members who visited on these days were touched by what this opportunity meant to the students, some who have shown great promise as future Peter Burlings.

If you are interested in joining us, meeting the needs of our communities extending from Onerahi through to Pataua South and Whangārei Heads, and would like to learn more, phone Maria on 0274 742213.

Maria Goodhew

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# Onerahi to Sark Jules' (mis)adventures Part 3: It's Showtime!

It's a well known fact that I take life and work far too seriously. And maybe Planet Sark's life lesson for me is to lighten up and laugh at situations which actually are quite bizarre.

April 25th is looming and we have no bar staff, so despite the fact that I came to La Sablonnerie as the Administrator, I'm told by Elizabeth to go and set up the bar. I have no idea what 'setting up the bar' means. Elizabeth has an interesting teaching and nurturing style. "I'm sorry if I'm yelling at you, but yelling is the best way for you to learn." An interesting concept ... in feudal times, maybe. Oh wait. Are we still in feudal times? I am no longer sure. You gotta laugh.

It's showtime. I've donned my black and whites. The hotel is open and Elizabeth is manic. I am doing 14 hour days as there is nobody else and it's crazy. I rely on the (dodgy) Internet to provide me with drinks recipes. I've even swallowed my pride and asked patrons how to make their choice of tippie. I offered a Woodpecker as a beer. Turns out it was a cider. But after a few weeks, I'm pulling a pretty good pint and I'm enjoying chatting to the patrons. They love the fact that I'm an (oldish) Kiwi. I'm forever being asked, what are you doing here? and I actually am starting to ask that of myself. They look worried. They know Elizabeth's reputation and they fear for the staff, yet in some strange way, they also come to Sablonnerie each summer to watch her performance, to observe her Basil Fawltyesque behaviour. You gotta laugh.

I think I've finally nailed taking silver service for our fine dining restaurant when I realise I've been wandering around taking the orders with a tea towel over my shoulder. You gotta laugh. Chef Colin spits fire and eats little children. His response when requesting strawberries for my Pimms - "You effing want effing strawberries? We don't have effing strawberries so go eff off". He had strawberries. You gotta laugh.



Guests leaving

At the end of our long days, at around about 10.30pm, I usually eat my meal with Rob, the lovely young chef from Birmingham. His motto is one team one dream, which doesn't quite work with bullies like Chef Colin.

We sit around the table in our pink house kitchen and we laugh. We laugh at Chef Colin, we laugh that we are eating Chicken Kiev for the zillionth time this week, we laugh at Elizabeth's manic behaviour and the dramas that has caused, and we laugh at the number of glasses I've broken today. We laugh because, if we didn't we'd be off this island quicker than you can say, did you enjoy your meal sir?

But as the summer season progresses, I'm wondering how long I can sustain this. It's a crazy place and almost to the point of unsafe. There are no human rights laws on Sark and I'm seeing things that are ethically and morally wrong at Sablonnerie. I'm learning that Elizabeth has no moral compass and she is enticing young, vulnerable people over to the island to work for us, only for them to scurry back home a few days later. My friend Astrid, also from Onerahi, is coming to work with me and I'm worried what I'm bringing her to. So I'm hatching a plan and I think it's a good one.

If you are interested, read the next installment, or my blog [julesfromnewzealand.com](http://julesfromnewzealand.com)



Rob as waiter

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## Tech Advice: Printers today



From time to time I get calls from people asking for my help installing their printer. I'm more than happy to; however here are some basic points that may help you when choosing and installing your own printer.

- Printers don't last forever. This fact, for some of us, is rather hard to swallow. However, once you have got over the initial shock we can continue.
- Beware of cheap printers. The cheaper the printer typically means the more expensive the cartridges.
- Budget to replace. Replacing a printer is not something to worry about: typically if you replace the printer cartridges twice, it is usually time to think about replacement.
- How much paper do I use? 0-50 pages a month - inkjet; 50-500 pages a month - laser, 500+ pages a month - photocopier
- Software. Always install the software that comes with the printer before plugging the printer in to the computer, especially for older operating systems. Windows 10 is rather smart now, however the software that comes with the printer is better as it has come from the manufacturer.
- Opening the box. Always check to make sure that when you get the printer home, you have everything that you need to install - that includes the USB cable. Many suppliers don't include USB cables with new printers.

Going forward, make sure you get the right printer for you. If you have any questions, please do ask your IT support person as the world is changing and we are all doing less and less printing, so what worked for you 10 years ago might not be the best option now.

Vince Cocurullo

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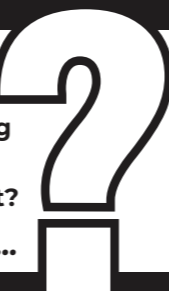
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## SPCA's first Whangārei Snip 'n' Chip campaign a huge success

**SPCA**  
NEW ZEALAND

When it comes to stray and unwanted animals, New Zealand has a widespread problem. Unfortunately, Northland is significantly overrepresented in this regard and animal welfare charity SPCA has been tackling this issue at its core.

SPCA's Snip 'n' Chip programme has seen the organisation partner with local participating vets to offer discounted desexing and microchipping for cat owners in Whangārei. Vouchers offered both services together for just \$10, a fraction of the full cost, with the majority of expenses being covered by SPCA.

It's the first time the animal welfare charity has brought its established desexing programme to Northland. The initiative set out to offer desexing and microchipping procedures to 3,500 cats in the Northland region, with the majority of these being taken up in Whangārei.

SPCA's Northern Area Manager, Margaret Rawiri, says the programme's performance in the region has exceeded all expectations.

"Right from the beginning, we realised the local community was extremely receptive to it," she told us. "After an overwhelming response early on, we substantially increased the number of vouchers, making an additional 500 available for Northland residents. Even so, these were all snapped up in no time."

Tasked with protecting the welfare of abandoned, abused, and neglected animals, SPCA has always had a remit around animals with no owner to look after them. The Snip 'n' Chip campaign allows them to go beyond this.

"At SPCA we see first-hand the devastating effects of the lack of desexing companion animals. This past summer, we saw thousands of dumped, stray, and unwanted kittens at our Northland Centres... and they were the lucky ones. Snip 'n' Chip is the most effective way we can prevent these tragic stories.

"We are future-proofing the welfare of countless vulnerable animals by helping local communities avoid unwanted litters. We recognise how hard it is for so many to prioritise this cost in what's been a really difficult year, and we're here to help make doing the right thing an easy choice."

Vouchers are all being redeemed but the programme is currently on hold while vets work through the backlog. With such encouraging results, the charity hopes to bring the programme back to Whangārei later this year.

Rachel Cunningham



High five from one lucky cat



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# The Local Property Market

As the seasons change, so does the market. In the previous edition of the Orbit, I mentioned some of the changing conditions that were coming to the property market – especially those that affect investors: changes to the LVR (loan-to-value ratio), lending rules, new tenancy laws, as well as the Healthy Homes regulations. In addition, the Government has now changed the treatment of tax on investment properties. All of these changes seem to have had a cooling effect – on investors and perhaps also, on first home buyers as well. Here's a look at what we are hearing and seeing...

## Investors

There seems little doubt that investor interest is easing. Reports from real estate and lending agents are that there is markedly less interest from investors over the past few months. Given that they have been specifically targeted by Government rule changes, this was to be expected. I spoke to one investor who has decided that now is a good time to sell and get out of the landlord business.

## First home buyers

Over recent months, there are indications that first home buyers may be starting to hold off. Late last year and at the start of this year the sentiment of FHBs was FOMO (fear of missing out). Now, as prices have become, in some regions, stratospheric, the FHB sentiment may be changing from fear of missing out to fear of over paying (FOOP?). We are seeing fewer first time buyers attending open homes and auctions.

There is likely to be an element of wait and see from some first home buyers as they watch what happens in the investor sector. Will more investors sell and therefore increase the supply of houses? Will the lack of investor interest create less demand? Will both of these things help to ease price increases?

## So what does this mean for homeowners?

We are likely to begin to see a calming down in price increases. House prices will likely continue to increase in value over time, as they always have, but the recent

Mar & Apr 2021

# MARKET REPORT

## Onerahi



18 Properties Sold



Average Days to Sell 34



Average Sale Price \$587,097



Source: REINZ



rocketship price gains may now be coming to an end.

If you were considering putting your home on the market this year, there is still a lack of available listings and, for the time being, good competition from buyers. If you want to take advantage of these current conditions, then the earlier the better is reasonable advice. Always ensure you have a comprehensive marketing campaign that will reach every available buyer. Even in a hot market you want as many people as possible to see your property.

If you have any questions related to real estate, get in touch by text, email or calling. All conversations are treated with strict confidentiality.

Neil Campbell, Bayleys Real Estate

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## WHANGĀREI

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### JUNE 2021

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

Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m
<b>1</b>	0019 3.1	<b>9</b>	0047 1.0	<b>17</b>	0021 2.8	<b>25</b>	0130 0.6
	0617 0.7		0705 2.7		0631 0.9		0751 3.0
Tu	1236 2.8	We	1306 0.8	Th	1241 2.7	Fr	1354 0.4
	1831 0.7		1938 2.8		1842 0.8		2030 3.2
<b>2</b>	0113 3.0	<b>10</b>	0130 1.0	<b>18</b>	0109 2.8	<b>26</b>	0225 0.6
	0711 0.8		0746 2.7		0722 0.9		0846 3.1
We	1331 2.7	Th	1347 0.8	Fr	1333 2.7	Sa	1445 0.4
	1925 0.9		2018 2.8		1935 0.9		2123 3.2
<b>3</b>	0208 2.9	<b>11</b>	0212 0.9	<b>19</b>	0200 2.8	<b>27</b>	0318 0.6
	0807 0.9		0826 2.7		0816 0.8		0939 3.0
Th	1428 2.7	Fr	1427 0.7	Sa	1430 2.7	Su	1536 0.4
	2023 1.0		2057 2.9		2033 0.9		2214 3.2
<b>4</b>	0302 2.8	<b>12</b>	0253 0.9	<b>20</b>	0256 2.9	<b>28</b>	0410 0.6
	0902 0.9		0906 2.7		0912 0.8		1031 3.0
Fr	1527 2.6	Sa	1506 0.7	Su	1532 2.8	Mo	1626 0.5
	2122 1.0		2135 2.9		2134 0.9		2305 3.1
<b>5</b>	0355 2.8	<b>13</b>	0334 0.9	<b>21</b>	0355 2.9	<b>29</b>	0502 0.6
	0956 0.9		0945 2.7		1010 0.7		1122 2.9
Sa	1624 2.6	Su	1546 0.7	Mo	1637 2.8	Tu	1715 0.6
	2219 1.0		2213 2.9		2236 0.8		2355 3.1
<b>6</b>	0446 2.7	<b>14</b>	0416 0.9	<b>22</b>	0455 2.9	<b>30</b>	0553 0.7
	1047 0.9		1026 2.7		1108 0.6		1212 2.8
Su	1718 2.7	Mo	1626 0.8	Tu	1740 2.9	We	1805 0.7
	2313 1.0		2253 2.9		2336 0.7		
<b>7</b>	0535 2.7	<b>15</b>	0459 0.9	<b>23</b>	0555 3.0		
	1136 0.9		1109 2.7		1205 0.5		
Mo	1808 2.7	Tu	1708 0.8	We	1839 3.1		
			2336 2.9				
<b>8</b>	0002 1.0	<b>16</b>	0544 0.9	<b>24</b>	0034 0.7		
	0621 2.7		1153 2.7		0654 3.0		
Tu	1222 0.8	We	1753 0.8	Th	1300 0.4		
	1854 2.7				1936 3.2		

## WHANGĀREI

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### JULY 2021

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

Time	m	Time	m	Time	m	Time	m
<b>1</b>	0045 3.0	<b>9</b>	0101 1.0	<b>17</b>	0047 2.9	<b>25</b>	0207 0.6
	0644 0.8		0714 2.7		0658 0.7		0829 3.0
Th	1303 2.7	Fr	1316 0.8	Sa	1313 2.8	Su	1426 0.5
	1856 0.9		1950 2.8		1913 0.8		2104 3.2
<b>2</b>	0134 2.9	<b>10</b>	0145 1.0	<b>18</b>	0137 2.9	<b>26</b>	0259 0.6
	0734 0.8		0758 2.7		0750 0.7		0921 3.0
Fr	1355 2.7	Sa	1358 0.8	Su	1409 2.8	Mo	1516 0.5
	1950 1.0		2031 2.9		2010 0.8		2153 3.2
<b>3</b>	0224 2.8	<b>11</b>	0228 0.9	<b>19</b>	0231 2.9	<b>27</b>	0349 0.6
	0826 0.9		0840 2.7		0846 0.7		1011 3.0
Sa	1450 2.6	Su	1440 0.7	Mo	1511 2.8	Tu	1604 0.6
	2045 1.1		2111 2.9		2112 0.9		2241 3.1
<b>4</b>	0314 2.7	<b>12</b>	0310 0.9	<b>20</b>	0330 2.9	<b>28</b>	0437 0.6
	0917 0.9		0923 2.8		0945 0.7		1058 2.9
Su	1546 2.6	Mo	1521 0.7	Tu	1617 2.8	We	1650 0.7
	2142 1.1		2151 2.9		2215 0.8		2327 3.0
<b>5</b>	0404 2.7	<b>13</b>	0353 0.8	<b>21</b>	0432 2.9	<b>29</b>	0524 0.7
	1009 0.9		1006 2.8		1044 0.6		1144 2.8
Mo	1641 2.6	Tu	1604 0.7	We	1721 2.9	Th	1737 0.8
	2236 1.1		2232 3.0		2317 0.8		
<b>6</b>	0454 2.6	<b>14</b>	0437 0.8	<b>22</b>	0535 2.9	<b>30</b>	0011 2.9
	1059 0.9		1050 2.8		1143 0.6		0611 0.8
Tu	1733 2.6	We	1647 0.7	Th	1822 3.0	Fr	1229 2.8
	2328 1.1		2315 3.0				1824 0.9
<b>7</b>	0542 2.6	<b>15</b>	0522 0.8	<b>23</b>	0016 0.7	<b>31</b>	0055 2.8
	1147 0.9		1135 2.8		0636 2.9		0657 0.8
We	1822 2.7	Th	1733 0.7	Fr	1240 0.5	Sa	1316 2.7
					1919 3.1		1912 1.0
<b>8</b>	0016 1.1	<b>16</b>	0000 3.0	<b>24</b>	0113 0.7		
	0629 2.6		0609 0.8		0734 3.0		
Th	1233 0.9	Fr	1222 2.8	Sa	1335 0.5		
	1908 2.7		1821 0.7		2013 3.2		

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# Sail Northland: Term 1 Roundup

**Term 1 Sailing Courses:** Sail Northland has wrapped up a busy first school term at Parua Bay.

**Junior Sailing:** on Monday and Tuesday nights after school - Racing Ninjas developed racing skills, and had fun on Thursday nights sailing Optimists, RS Feva, RS Quest and Open Skiffs. Whangārei Cruising Club's six Open Skiffs are exciting boats for our learners to sail and race.

**High School Sailing:** on Wednesday nights 31 local secondary school students formed racing and adventure sailing teams in 420s, RS Quest, and yachts. We took three teams to the North of the Bridge Team Sailing Regatta in March. Whangārei Boys' and Whangārei Girls' High Schools' teams both attended the NZ Team Sailing Regatta in Algies Bay from 25th to 30th April. The boys finished 9th in the Gold Fleet, and the girls, 5th in the Bronze Fleet. *Photos are from the NZ Team Sailing Secondary Schools national event.*

**Adult Sailing:** our Adult Learn To Sail lessons have had a lot of bookings and we added a few extra classes. The Extended Learn To Sail group combined sessions with the Whangārei Cruising Club Trailer Sailer racing fleet. This trial worked well; hopefully we will build on this next season. The Twilight Sailing group on Thursday nights is slowly growing. We added this group for our beginning adults to practice their sailing and have fun!

**School Groups:** we are a provider of Yachting New Zealand's Kōkōkaha Programme for schools, where classroom activities are backed up with on-the-water and practical sessions. Schools taking part included Whangārei Heads Primary, Waiotira School, and Whangārei Girls' High School. We also



Whangārei Girls' High School team



Whangārei Boys' High School team

ran our traditional Have-a-Go days for schools on Thursdays - most Thursdays had schools attending.



Aerial view of Algies Bay

Raurimu Avenue School joined us on Wednesday afternoons this term. We enjoyed meeting a great bunch of children, parents, and teachers, and seeing them become confident on the water and sailing. A big thank you to Onerahi and Whangārei Heads Lions Club for sponsoring Raurimu Avenue School and giving students the opportunity to try out this awesome sport and have fun on the water.

We hope to do some winter sessions, particularly in the Open Skiffs and RS Feva with our junior and youth sailors. Any news will be on our Facebook page and on [www.sailnorthland.org.nz](http://www.sailnorthland.org.nz)

Thanks to all our helpers, supporters, parents, and sailors for contributing to a great sailing season over the summer of 2020-21.

We are looking for volunteers to join our team of sailors willing to share their skills.

Interested? See [www.sailnorthland.org.nz](http://www.sailnorthland.org.nz) or phone Angela Smith, 021 2111 5779



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## Church Services

### HOPEONERAHI

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

135 Onerahi Road • Office: 438 1667

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



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# Coming dates & events

5 June	NZ Arbor Day, World Environment Day - plant a native tree
7 June	Queen's Birthday
15 June	Onerahi Community Association AGM 7.30pm, Onerahi Community House
19 June	Matariki dawn, 6am - 8am, Planetarium North, <a href="http://www.planetariumnorth.co.nz">www.planetariumnorth.co.nz</a>
21 June	Winter solstice - shortest day of the year
30 June	International Asteroid Day
2 - 10 July	Matariki
9 July	School term 2 ends
10 July from 6am	Matariki celebration, St Stephen's Church, Whimp Rd, Onerahi. Breakfast after. Check Wai A Ariki Food Forest Onerahirahi on Facebook for details
June & July 7pm every Saturday	Matariki viewing at Planetarium North, 500 S.H.14, Maunu - bookings essential
20 July	World Chess Day
26 July	School term 3 begins
30 July	International Day of Friendship

## 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 Gallan	09 436 3093 or 021 190089
Parua Bay Comm.Centre	Kirsty	bjandkirsty@slingshot.co.nz
Taurikura Hall	Meg Mclsaac	022 641 9786

*Your Onerahi expert*

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