

Onerahi Orbit

Free to you from the Onerahi Community Association

Winter • June 2024

Covering Onerahi, Parua Bay, Pataua and Whangārei Heads



Awestruck by the Aurora Australis

Many from around the district viewed the Southern Lights over the weekend 11 & 12 May - a bonus Mothers Day gift for all our mums! Brenden Rolston captured the photo above of the lights over Parua Bay from Sapphire Place on Saturday night 11 May. Other locals lucky enough to capture the moment included Shavarn Henwood, Trudy Ross, Melissa Woolford and Renee Clark. Daniel Foote of Whangārei Heads also captured a fantastic view of Bream Head lit up by the lights, which went viral on social media.

The scientific name for the lights is aurora australis - and they are usually not visible from this far north from the South Pole, so the people of Whangārei were very lucky to be dazzled by the display we got - the exceptionally clear skies at

the time and the unusual strength of the solar storm made it possible.

The aurora australis is a natural light display caused by charged particles (the charge is released by a solar flare from the sun) colliding with the Earth's magnetic field. The lights can appear in a variety of colours, including red, violet, pink, yellow, blue and green. The colours depend on the altitude of the collision between the solar particles and the earth's atmospheric atoms or molecules. Lower collisions are expressed as greens and purples, with pinks and reds being seen at higher altitudes. The Whangārei display in May in Onerahi was dominated by pinks and reds at its peaks, which also included vertical rays of light.

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Haere mai,

This edition has to be a thin one because our funding is low. Please support us by advertising in the Onerahi Orbit!

Nga mihi from the Orbit team.

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Update on infrastructure projects

Parua Bay wharf at Wharf Road

The wharf at Wharf Road, Parua Bay is nearly 100 years old. In 2022, the wharf was deemed unsafe by Whangārei District Council after two consultant engineering companies assessed it. In February 2024, council decided to install a new platform over the old deck, extending the life of the wharf for an estimated 10 years. In the meantime, the wharf remains closed to the public until its restoration is complete.

Parua Bay Pontoon replacement

The old Parua Bay pontoon was deemed unsafe and was replaced in December 2023.

New Parua Bay sportsfield

The contractors have completed the civil works - including drains, concrete footpaths, and the gravel maintenance track. As a result of irrigating the field through the summer, the turf is ready for the 2024 football season.

Onerahi Sports Field improvements

The main football pitch at Onerahi has received a complete overhaul with new irrigation, drainage and sand carpet surface. The main pitch will receive new sports lighting, so games and training can be undertaken in low light conditions and at night.

The main "Number 1" football pitch will be closed throughout the season whilst the work and new surface grows in.

Onerahi Football Club senior home games will be at various other venues throughout the 2024/2025 football season while the new field is being established. Once the work is complete, games will be returning to their main pitch.

All home junior and youth games will be unaffected, and the clubrooms will remain open.



- Cultivate and nurture the interests of the community of Onerahi
- Promote the district
- Assist residents
- Develop and administer facilities

President's report May 2024

The last quarter has seen OCA being active on a number of fronts.

Community swimming pool access

The Community Led project of public use of Raurimu Avenue school pool came to its conclusion with 17 days of use involving 190 participants and 90 adults. The final day saw a BBQ as part of the day's activity. Evaluation of the days saw a resounding yes for continuing; from both the tamariki and the adults, they were keen to open more often and appreciated the supervision provided by the Whangārei Aquatic Centre staff.

Upgrading the Onerahi shopping centre

Work is progressing on the planning stages of connecting pieces in the town centre - with seating design continuing, moving the clock and a general tidy up.

Funding grants available

The notification of Funding Grants available to Onerahi groups and individuals as promoted in the previous edition has seen a bit of interest in the various grant categories. Funding has been allocated in the Youth /Education area, Environmental and Hardship and Sport areas. Further information about grants can be obtained by emailing onerahicomunity@gmail.com

The Whangārei District Council provided funding to support the costs of the OCA in terms of power and also funds to support the ongoing replanting of Waimahanga Track.

NEST proposal for the airport

The OCA are aware of on-going concerns from residents regarding the proposed emergency helicopter base being shifted to the airport. This is in particular relation to noise. The OCA will watch the developments; and recognise the appropriate bodies responsible for this decision as they continue to work through the issues.

Sports on the domain

Activity at Onerahi domain outside the Rugby club saw a bit of interest from local residents, enough to suggest this can be repeated. It's great to see the sporting activity starting around the various sports fields in Onerahi - keeping our tamariki active.

Celebrating Matariki

Matariki will be celebrated next month with the dawn service being held at St Stephens Church at 6.00am on 16 June. We note an increase in the range of people hiring the hall and Onerahi House. It's great to see an increase in residents taking up the opportunity to utilise this great resource. Regular activity occurs in the hall catering for the needs of many community groups.

Training Ship Diomedé Navy Cadets

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Retirement celebrations

At the end of April the Fire Brigade put on a celebration function for their three retiring elders, and their wives, to commemorate 25 years of service to the Onerahi community - with all the bells and whistles! Brian Redwood (Julie unfortunately could not attend), Lone and Rusty Cauty, and Tracy and Steve Balks (pictured left to right in the photo above) were all surprised by the pomp and ceremony of the occasion. Rusty had insisted all he wanted was a beer and a sausage roll - but he and his colleagues got a formal reception together with the firefighters dressed in their



formal uniforms, decorations, family and friends, drinks and snacks, speeches, and recognition through the presentation of plaques and flowers. A celebration to remember.



Brian Redwood and family



Lone & Rusty Cauty



Tracy & Steve Balks

Goodbye to Simone



The team at Super Liquor Onerahi recently said their goodbyes to Simone, a valued team member at the store for ten years "We have watched you grow into a beautiful young woman and we wish you and your family the best in your future endeavours."

Simone has been a valued citizen in the Onerahi community. She was raised in Onerahi, attended Onerahi kindergarten and Onerahi

primary school then moved on to Whangārei intermediate and Whangārei girl's high school.

As she grew into a young adult her career led her into the alcohol industry, where she worked to install safety and control into the community around the service of alcohol.

Whilst working in her career Simone has also raised her young family of two boys with her partner. Simone has been fortunate to have her eldest son attend Onerahi Primary school and has also served on the Onerahi Primary School Board of Trustees.



Sarah Mahanga & the Super Liquor Onerahi team

Simone is now, together with her family, making their way over the ditch to Australia but they hope to return in a few years' time to be back on their homeland soil to continue raising their family.

The community wishes you and your whanau well on your new adventures and endeavours. May you continue to be a light in this world!

PBRRA News- Parua Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association

URGENT: New PBRRA members needed! If you live in the Parua Bay area, and would like to contribute to our wonderful community, please step forward to join our friendly, pro-active committee. If you can spare a couple of hours per month, and have some pet projects you'd like to work on, email us at paruabayrra@gmail.com We'd love to hear from you.

A lot has been happening in the Parua Bay area recently.

- We start with great news- the new sports field behind the school is now open for the football season, with kids using it for practice and games. Thanks go to The Ministry of Education and Whangārei District Council for making this a reality.
- The Parua Bay Placemaking Plan has been presented to WDC, and is in the process of being finalised. This will line up with the Long Term Plan and help inform how our area will change, grow, and develop over the next 20 to 30 years.
- We would like to recognise the long process WDC and the NTA (Northland Transportation Alliance) road experts went through prior to Whangārei Heads speed limit changes. We understand that WDC has received a lot of public feedback and reaction to the changes, and are due soon to make recommendations that consider adjusting some of the speeds, locations and times they apply. The initial adjustment was certainly hard for road users and we hope the review brings improvements. We also note that many Parua Bay residents have commented that they do feel the roads feel a lot safer. We therefore hope that any further changes are both practical and do not compromise safety.
- As we start to hunker down towards winter, it is a good time to review your Emergency Plans. Have a look at those

emergency kits -do you have enough supplies to last three days? Do you have a Grab-bag, to take with you should you ever have to evacuate, due to flooding, slips, or tsunamis? Go to the Northland Civil Defence website : <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/civildefence/> for further information about how to Get Prepared!

As you will have seen, the new tsunami sirens are being installed around Northland. If you have any questions about these, please contact the Northland Regional Council on www.nrc.govt.nz/sirenproject .

Thank you from PBRRA

Contributed by Barb Green



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Parua Bay School report

During the summer I had the pleasure of travelling on a water taxi in the Marlborough Sounds. The weather was windy and there was plenty of chop. The seating at the stern of the boat, which had previously been ideal in the sheltered harbour of Picton, suddenly became awash, as though buckets full of water were being thrown at the rear bench seats every time the taxi bounced over swell. "That's 'Premium Economy' right there!" came the delighted remark from one customer pointing at the now drenched seats.

It is interesting how we can 'class' events, situations and even pay for what we believe are varying levels of service - First Class, Business Class, Premium Economy, Economy, etc. State education, funded by taxpayers, can be a political football - labelled and kicked around based on the Government of the day. I wonder what our perceptions of an education system would be if we were told regularly that it was First Class, Business Class or Premium Economy? The good news is that we are not simply passengers, we have a say in the provision and outcomes for our children and tamariki. An example of this in schools are Boards of Trustees, giving their time and talents voluntarily to achieve the strategic direction of a school.

In addition to an outstanding Board of Trustees (past and present) at Parua Bay School, we are also blessed with First Class teachers and support staff. The staff team focuses tirelessly on the best outcomes for our students - I know, I'm the Principal, I see the efforts and dedication of the teaching, support, admin, caretaking and cleaning teams every day - no 'Premium Economy' there! We have a phenomenal Before and After School Care team and a creative PTA. Parents constantly give First Class support with events, trips and camps. Political landscapes might vary, perceptions about education may change, swell and chop will always come and go - what matters is how we value and support our local schools and the First Class role they play for our young people.

Ngā mihi mahana, Mark Ashcroft
Principal - Parua Bay School

MP for Whangārei - Hon Dr Shane Reti

We're over six months into the coalition Government's term and we continue to be laser-focused on delivering real, tangible outcomes for New Zealanders and following through on our detailed plans to get New Zealand back on track.

Our priorities are very clear. We want to deliver better public services, rebuild our economy, and restore law and order.

We want to ensure that families can get ahead. We know to achieve this it is essential to rebuild the economy so we can keep improving our health and education outcomes while also easing the cost of living with things like our FamilyBoost policy, which will help parents and caregivers with up to \$75 a week in relief on early childhood education costs. Improving our economy will also allow us to support much-needed road projects for Northlanders, like a four-lane highway between Auckland and Whangārei and the Brynderwyn Hills resilience roading project.

At the end of May, our Government's first Budget will be released which will reduce wasteful spending and take the pressure off inflation. Our Budget will put more money in your back pocket, as we have pre-empted, we will legislate for personal income tax relief so hardworking people can keep more of their own money.

Earlier this year, the Prime Minister announced our Government is bringing back targets, to focus the public sector on driving better results in health, education, law and order, work, housing, and the environment. Having these targets will focus attention, resources, and accountability towards improving the public services that matter most to New Zealanders.

Our targets are ambitious and will not be easy, but we must make tough decisions to reduce crime, shorten healthcare wait times and improve educational achievement, no matter how difficult.

The targets in my own portfolio include reducing waits in emergency departments and for specialist appointments and surgery and lifting our childhood immunisation rate. With winter on our doorstep, it's particularly important that New Zealanders are protecting themselves from vaccine-preventable conditions for the colder months.

I look forward to seeing the impact of our coalition Government's initiatives over the long term, particularly for our Northland community.

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Naval Post No 7

This was the name given to the radar station which you can still find the remnants of at Bream Head Scenic Reserve close to the lighthouse at Ocean Beach. Point 2 on the map below.



During World War 2, the radar station was built on the site of an existing army lookout point in response to the growing threat of invasion. Beside the actual lookout post, which was established in 1939, there were also five small huts. Three served as sleeping quarters, one served as the bathroom and the biggest hut (just over 14 square metres) was the kitchen.

Construction of the top secret radar station began in 1941 and was completed in 1942. It was designed to work in conjunction with the gun battery/emplacement at the harbour entrance. Two generators were installed to power the radar installation. Tractors were used to transport the diesel fuel needed to operate those generators. For that purpose a metal track was created. All in all it was quite the operation.

These stations were very expensive to build and to run as you can imagine and the station was therefore disestablished in 1944.

You can still visit the remainder of this station when walking the Te Whara track (approx 5-6 hours one way) or you can follow the Te Whara loop walk (approx 4 hours round trip).

The latter starts and finishes at the Peach Cove car park, approximately 1 km before Ocean Beach. Both tracks require a high level of fitness. The 360 degree views you'll encounter are rewarding and you will walk through some astonishing native forest. It is actually one of New Zealand's foremost coastal broadleaf forest reserves.

Take your time to listen to the birdsong you'll hear. You might recognize the call of the bell bird, the chirping of the toutouwai/robin and if you are very lucky you can hear a flock of popokatea/whitehead in the canopy.

If you only want to check out the radar station, it is best you start at the Ocean Beach side of the track. A path will lead you uphill through some forest and grassy areas to a picnic area with a table and bench for where you can catch your breath if needed. From there you take a short path downwards which leads you to the radar site (number 2 on the map).

Please make use of the Kauri Dieback Stations when entering the reserve.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



LTP 2024-34: making smart, strategic decisions

Kia ora, hello, and ciao Onerahi!

It's been a busy time at Council as we've continued working on the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-34. We held two days of hearings in Council Chambers. During our deliberations, we reviewed the submissions sent in and discussed the merits of each suggestion and how it could fit into our Long Term Plan. Every voice was heard, every submission read (multiple times!), and every point of view taken on board. It's a long process and takes a lot of time and energy to make sure we're considering every aspect, before committing to the plan that forms the 10-year vision for our District.

The theme for this LTP is growth, particularly how we're planning for sustainable and resilient growth in our District. The fact that we live in one of New Zealand's fastest growing districts means that we need to think ahead, planning for the essential infrastructure our residents will need to maintain healthy, thriving communities.

On Friday 3 May, I welcomed 62 new citizens into Whangārei District. This was just one of six citizenship ceremonies planned for 2024, bringing the current total to more than 550 new citizens welcomed to Whangārei since I became Mayor. When you add in the number of people relocating here from within New Zealand, you can see how our District's population is on track to grow to 140,000 by 2034. This means we need to focus on growth now, with essential infrastructure like a

larger hospital able to service our needs, an airport with a runway long enough to handle regional traffic, upgraded rail connections to support our expanding port and of course, the four-lane Northland expressway from Auckland to improve our connectivity.

These are needs, not wants, and all four councils within our region are united in working together with our government to achieve results.

Last week I had the privilege of attending the launch of the new Kaipara Karrier VII at the Culham Engineering facilities. This is a project they have been working on for at least two years. Aside from the boost large projects of this scale give to our local economy, it also proves that our local businesses are more than capable of matching world standards.

There's a lot to love about living in Whangārei. Our Council's focus is on keeping that vibrant atmosphere alive by having essential infrastructure in place to manage growth, so we can make smart, strategic decisions that will benefit generations to come.

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Restoring Onerahi's green spaces

For over 15 years, local volunteers at the Onerahi CoastLine Action Group (OCLAG) have transformed local public spaces in our suburb into thriving native havens.

Each year, they plant an impressive 500-600 native plants, focusing on areas in Stephens Point, sections of the Waimahanga Track, two sites along Beach Road, and the Pah Road Reserve. Their success has come from planting and a proactive approach to managing invasive species, which are a significant threat to native biodiversity.

Volunteer Valerie Green-Moss has been part of OCLAG since its inception and encourages new members to the group. "If you have a reserve near you and are eager to enhance it, we'd love to join you and can help by clearing weeds and providing native plants," she said. "Many of our volunteers began by wanting to improve their immediate environment, and now they contribute regularly across various reserves."

There are multiple ways for people to get involved, whether joining working bees or propagating plants at home. "For those who prefer to be hands-on, our working bees can be quite the adventure, some of our sites can be hilly and rugged," Valerie adds. "And for those who might not be able to join in physically, we always welcome donations for more plants and materials."

The community group collaborates closely with the Whangārei District Council, Northland Regional Council and Tiakina Whangārei. These efforts are bolstered by grants which help purchase native plants, ensuring the sustainability

of their projects. Valerie says, "Our group's annual trip to Tawapou Coastal Native Nursery is always a highlight, followed by a lunch where we all share our experiences and plan for the future."

Whether by monitoring invasive weeds in your backyard or joining OCLAG in their next efforts, every small action contributes to a larger impact. As Valerie says, "Each plant we put in the ground is a step towards a richer, more vibrant ecosystem. It's about making our community a sanctuary for wildlife and a beautiful place for us all."

Get involved with Onerahi CoastLine Action Group

Contact Valerie Green-Moss
valeriegreenmoss@gmail.com
or 0210672760



Valerie Green-Moss at the Waimahanga Track



OCLAG members at Stephens Point



Elsbeth Sugrue
Taylor Wilkes - Nicole Dempster
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The waiting place (Psalm 70)

Waiting for the fish to bite or waiting for wind to fly your kite. Or waiting for Friday night to come round.... Everyone is just waiting"- or so Dr Seuss, author of many children's books, says.

So much of life is about waiting, but God is never in a hurry—or so it seems. "God has His hour and delay," suggests an old, reliable saying. Thus, we wait.

Waiting is hard. We twiddle our thumbs, shuffle our feet, stifle our yawns, heave long sighs, and fret inwardly in frustration. Why must I live with this awkward person, this tedious job that I do, this embarrassing behaviour, this health issue that will not go away? Why doesn't God come through?

God's answer: "Wait awhile and see what I will do"

Waiting is one of life's best teachers for in it we learn the virtue of...well, waiting while God works in us and for us. It's in the waiting we develop endurance, the ability to trusts God's love and goodness, even when things are not going our way (Psalm 70v5)

But waiting is not dreary, teeth-clenched resignation. We can "rejoice and be glad in Him" while we wait (verse 4) We wait in hope, knowing that God will deliver us in due time - in this world or in the next. God is never in a hurry, but He's always on time.

Remember .. God is with us in our waiting.

Retired Onerahi Pastor Ron Brewer

Devices and winter

Wintertime for computers and technology is a real interesting time. Having had over 30 years working within the world of computers, I have found that there are a few things that computers, and most technology, do not like.

Wet weather – Yes, computers, phones and tablets do not like getting wet despite what the advertising campaigns try to tell you. More to that, your devices do not like alcohol or fizzy drinks either. Sugar and Salt are highly corrosive towards electronic parts, and I would encourage you to keep them away from these things.

High humidity – Just like wet weather, electronic devices do not like it when there is a lot of water in the air. Best solution is to always keep your electronic devices in a dry location.

Extreme heat – To the other end of the scale, electronic devices do not like getting too hot either. How hot is too hot? Anything over 50 degrees is too hot. They like cool dry airflow, so keep your devices in a well-ventilated area.

And lastly, **Power surges** – During winter, there are a lot of power supply issues. These can be caused by storms, power poles being hit or knocked over or even by birds. It is always recommended during large storms, to disconnect any electronic devices from the power sockets, or even make sure that you have good surge protectors between the power socket and the electronic device.

If you have any questions or concerns about what I have said, please talk to your local IT professional, we are all here to help.

Vince Cocurullo

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Manaia Tigers players have a kick on the new Parua Bay sports field on Kiteone Road (what a view!)



Kia ora Koutou!

As we head into winter, I've been enjoying the cool evenings - there's something quite delightful about snuggling up in front of the fire with a hot drink and snug slippers on my feet. Kids' winter sports are all well underway, so at home it's a fun and hectic time as the short days are full of practices and games and I seem to be running a full-time taxi service.

By the time this is published the NRC long-term plan consultation process for 2024 will be finished. We received a lot of submissions this year, so we have LOTS of feedback to consider thank you. My diary is currently full of hearings dates, and then finally we move to deliberations meetings where we make our decisions. I'll be paying close attention to the community voice on all the key issues.

I recently attended a great community talk on bittern conservation, organized by the Whangārei Heads Landcare

Forum. If you've got land with wetlands or are simply a bittern enthusiast (like me), check out the kiwi coast website for more information about what's happening for bittern in our area - there's a local monitoring project being developed: kiwicoast.org.nz

This year I'm on the executive committee for the Manaia Tigers Football Club. I've got three kids playing for the club and have spent many happy mornings at the Onerahi football fields with the littlest ones over the years. The Tigers are so pleased that the new Parua Bay Sports Field is ready to go. Many thanks to Parua Bay School, Whangārei District Council and everyone who helped to achieve this new field for our area. The Manaia Tigers are very excited to host grade 9 - 12 games at home this season, and look forward to seeing our mates from Onerahi football club there!

Always happy to hear from you - amym@nrc.govt.nz, or find me on facebook: Amy Macdonald - NRC Councillor.



Onerahi School report

Kia ora koutou,
As the long summer days fade into memory, we have wrapped up warm and embraced a fantastic start to Term 2. Schools are constantly evolving places and the opportunities our tamariki have access to make my younger self quite envious. With manawa reka (curiosity) as one of our school values, students have been taking risks on a range of new experiences. We would love to highlight some of these moments today.

Matua Parag and Room 17 have set the goal of making Dragonfly Springs an extension of their learning environment. This is part of our ongoing relationship with this amazing local resource. We would like to extend our thanks to Jeremy for being so welcoming and accommodating. The children have explored the space and learnt how the wetlands function. Room 17 will be making regular weekly trips to the wetlands to learn more about being a kaitiaki (guardian) of our environment.

After an internal competition earlier in Term 1, we identified two teams to compete in the across school EPro8 Challenge. The event was focused on students solving technological building challenges. Mr Blithe and Tess had been running training workshops with our teams and you could see the benefits in action. I was lucky enough to visit them on the day and the collaboration and creative problem solving on display was fantastic. When the dust had settled one of our teams was 1st and the other team was 2nd overall, which meant they would represent our kura in the finals. It was an action-packed event, filled with challenging technological problems and students developing clever solutions. Well done to our two teams, you kura and community is very proud of you!

Lastly, one of our incredible community volunteers, Mark, has been running an Onerahi School Modelling Club (this is its second year). Not only would we like to acknowledge the opportunities he provides our tamariki around model building and through that process exploring history but we would also like to celebrate the club being featured in an international magazine. Each week a team of dedicated students meet during breaktime to work on their creations. What is especially heartening is that some of the students who took part last year have remained on to teach the skills to the next generation of model builders. Truly tuakana-teina in action!

One of the things that makes working with tamariki so rewarding is being surrounded by people constantly trying new things. Their actions provide a wero (challenge) to us, that we also keep growing and exploring all this world has to offer. I for one appreciate the reminder.



Ngā manaakitanga,
Danny Hamilton
Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal



One of the two teams from Onerahi School competing in the EPro8 Challenge



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Raurimu Avenue School

"Poipoia te rito o te harakeke"

'Iti noa ana, he pito mata.

From a withered tree, a flower blooms'

E mihi mahana ki ngā rau rangatira, te hāpori o Onerahirahi! Tēnā koutou katoa.

Ko Celia Paul tōku ingoa

Nō Te Tai Tokerau au

I have had the honour of stepping into the role of Acting Principal for Raurimu Avenue School in recent weeks and I am loving being back with the tamariki in this small but mighty kura.

So many positive things have happened at Raurimu Avenue School this term! From the breakfast club re-opening, serving up a kai and a kōrero to kick start the day for learning, to learning our new school song 'The Raurimu Way'.

We have had a visit from the children's show What Now! As you can see, I had fun spraying our tamariki while Eruera and Cheque battled it out on the quiz mat. Eruera took the win but the real winner of the day was the smiles and laughter had by all!

Pink Shirt Day (Friday 17th May) coincided perfectly with the school-wide learning topic about friendships this term. We aim to become upstanders not bystanders to bullying, and teach our tamariki the fundamentals of being a good friend and always being kind.

Road Safety Week was super exciting for our school as our students were asked to design the t-shirt art that was

worn by many community members, promoting road safety awareness.

While the design was top secret, it was unveiled to our tamariki who were able to see their hard work come to fruition and I could not be more proud of our tamariki and the collaboration of their hard work. Keep an eye out for those tees and take a closer look, you will be amazed at the detail! In addition, we had Whangārei Girls High School visiting us to do road safety activities with our students and attended the Hatea Heroes Loop Relay at Pūtahi Park.

As the days get colder, we are reminded that Matariki is nearing. This year, our celebrations included coming together with whānau and celebrating with whanaungatanga, fun activities, and a hearty kai. While we remembered our loved ones who have left us in the past year, we look ahead to what the following year will bring us, planting our hopes and dreams in the depths of our hearts and minds.

Well, that's me signing off and wishing everyone a warm winter in the winterless north! Don't forget your gloves and a good cup of lemon and honey a day, to keep away the winter sniffles.

"Poipoia te rito o te harakeke"

Nā Whaea Celia

Acting Principal - Raurimu Ave School



Scale Modelling - the excitement is building

There can't be too many people of a certain age who haven't spent winter evenings hunched over bits of plastic or balsa wood sticking them together to create a scale replica of a famous aircraft, tank or ship.

Whangārei has its own modelling group, Whangārei Modellers' Club, established for over 30 years. Members meet on the third Tuesday evening of every month at the Reyburn Art Studio in the Town Basin to share skills and knowledge as well as show their latest creations. Meetings are open to anyone with an interest, irrespective of age or skill level. Aside from native Kiwis at least one American and three expat Britons, one of them a former model maker at Weta Workshop, form part of the membership. A high proportion of the membership lives in Onerahi. The club holds scale model workshops during school holidays and one member organises term time Airfix model groups at Onerahi Primary School, now in its second year.

Whangārei Modellers Club also organises its annual ModelEx show in town. The show has been held over the past seven years. This year ModelEx will be part of the Sandbox Fandom Festival in Forum North on July 27th. ModelEx covers a wide range of model disciplines. In the past the show has featured an impressive velociraptor skeleton, created entirely from scratch as a school project. Other projects have included a collection of aircraft flown by Kiwis in WW2, scifi and rockets, figure dioramas and modern 1/35 scale military models, many of which would not look out of place on an international competition table or museum. Live Airfix demo builds also run over the day that the show

is on. In addition you'll find Lego, Warhammer, dolls houses, wargaming and flying models on display. It is worth dropping in to see it. It might rekindle a long-lapsed interest or help create a new pastime.

Once your passion is rekindled, where next? Outside of Whangārei there are a wealth of mail order and online options. YouTube is awash with instructional videos for everyone from the novice to the seasoned enthusiast. The town library has a good selection of model magazines. Social media has hundreds of groups dedicated to a vast number of hobby interests. And the joy of it is that much of it is free to all.

Put July 27th in your diary. If you can't wait that long, find Whangārei Modellers Club on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/749801359970164> and come along along to one of our meetings, or simply drop into Craniums. With winter outside, the time could not be better.

By Mark Peacock, Whangārei Modellers Club, Onerahi



Hawker Hurricane flown by Roald Dahl in 1941 By Mark Peacock



Onerahi school - diorama bases joined together



Model by Brian Taylor

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UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

31 May - 30 June	Puanga Matariki Festival - a special celebration marking the beginning of the Māori New Year - a time for families and communities to celebrate together. Get more information from council and brochures which will be available
Monday 3 June	The King's Birthday Public Holiday
Thursday 6 & Friday 7 June	Showquest Northland 2024 - a nationwide performing arts competition and a platform for youth voices to be heard. Capitaine Bougainville Theatre, Forum North
Thursday 6 June	JP services at the Onerahi Library - From today, JP services will be available every Thursday afternoon at the Onerahi Library, 2-4pm
Friday 7 June	Free native plants - Free native plants will be available from Council and it's distributors from Sat 8 June. Check Council's website today for locations and details. Two plants per property available
Sunday 16 June	Matariki Dawn Service - St Stephens Church, Onerahi, 6.00am
Friday 28 June	Matariki Public Holiday
27 July	Sandbox Fandom Festival in Forum North - a space for the community to meet and share our mutual love for everything geek! Includes ModelEx by Whangārei Modellers Club. Live Airfix demo builds will be run. In addition you'll find Lego, Warhammer, dolls houses, wargaming and flying models on display. 10-4pm, Forum North, General Admission \$12. Family Pass \$40.

REGULAR EVENTS

Jolly Dodgers Scooters group	If you are keen to join up call Wendy on 021 031 7781 or Denise on 022 087 4955
Love Whangarei Monthly Clean Up	Check our FB page for upcoming events. https://www.facebook.com/LWMCU
Matakohe/ Limestone Island Volunteers	Volunteer day is on the first Wednesday of every month. The group leaves from the Onerahi Jetty at 9 am. Volunteers work on a variety of jobs to suit whatever volunteers feel like doing. Bring your lunch. Home by 2 pm
Men-Tall mental health support	Monthly Barbershop chats - every third Monday of the month, from 6 30pm, at Brothers barbers in Kamo. A support group for men dealing with everyday struggles. Contact Josh MacFarlane, 021 0255 1594 or josh.macfarlane@mentall.org.nz
Onerahi CoastLine Action Group	Volunteers meet for an hour a week on Sundays (Summer: 7-8pm; Winter 4-5pm.) Would you like to help us regenerate neglected council reserves? Contact Valerie Green-Moss 0210672760 or Brian McLachlan 4363660
Onerahi Indoor Bowling Club	Every Wednesday 6.45pm to 9.30pm in the Onerahi Community Centre Hall. All are welcome. If you want to know more, contact Susan on 021 248 9989
Onerahi Sit-Fit	At Hope Onerahi Church, 137 Onerahi Road, Mondays 10.30 am
Onerahi Hall market	First and third Saturday of the month, 8 am-12 pm. Plants, garden produce, jams/pickles, art/craft, 2nd hand goods etc. Inside stall fees \$11; Outside stall fees \$8; Kids stall fees - inside \$5, outside \$4. Phone Jenny (09) 436 0009 (preferably in the evening) to book a space
Parua Bay Village Farmers and Crafters Market	Open every second Sunday between 9am - 1pm; Parua Bay Community Centre, 1341 Whangarei Heads Road, Parua Bay
Repair Cafe	Volunteers will repair most things for a koha. Every third Saturday of the month, 1.30 - 4pm, Reyburn House at the Town Basin. For more info, look at the Facebook page or email karen@force.org.nz
Whangarei parkrun	A fun event where you can "run, walk or roll" every Saturday. It's a 5km course starting and finishing under Te Mate A Pohe Bridge in Port Rd. It's free to enter by going to https://www.parkrun.co.nz/register . We are there by 8am, come and join us. Open to all no matter what speed or age you are
Whangarei Scottish Country Dance Club	The Scottish Country Dance Club meets every Thursday at the Onerahi Community Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome. If you want to know more before arriving, call Fiona on 437 1817

Venues available for hire in Onerahi, Parua Bay and Whangārei Heads area

Onerahi Community Hall & Community House	Rose Tantau	ccoca@tra.co.nz 021 157 0980
Onerahi Bowling Club	Roger Kerr-Davis	027 390 7185
Onerahi Rugby Club	Fiona Raymond-Paikea	onerahirugby@yahoo.com. The Onerahi Rugby Club has had a recent facelift and renovation, and is available to other clubs and sports groups to use - please call us on 021 228 5982.
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 Community Centre	Kirsty	bjandkirsty@slingshot.co.nz
McLeod Bay Hall	Jos	027 315 6490
Taurikura Hall	Meg Mclsaac	09 434 0096

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WINTER TIDE TABLES

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