

# Onerahi Orbit

Free to you from the Onerahi Community Association August & September 2023

**Covering Onerahi, Parua Bay, Pataua and Whangārei Heads**



**Order of Merits Pg 4-5 • Youth Profile Pg 11  
Onerahi Matariki Celebrations Pg 15**

Photo by Roger Kerr-Davis

**RayWhite**

*let's go with Jo*

**Joanne Stevens**

027 536 0369  
joanne.stevens@raywhite.com  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson (REAA2008)

# Haere mai,

## Welcome to this latest edition of the Orbit

Firstly, we wish to thank everyone who has been involved in the Onerahi Orbit over the last year. Thank you all for your support and goodwill. The positive actions taken by all of you, to help build our community, is valued by the Orbit. In the same vein, thank you to all community members who attended the Onerahi Community Association AGM - turning up on a cold and wet evening deserves a medal!

Secondly, we wish to issue a correction notice - Our beautiful front page on the last edition (showing Te Iwa o Matariki) didn't carry a recognition of the source. We apologise to Te Wānanga o Aotearoa for this omission and thank them for allowing the public use of the image of the nine stars of Matariki. Te Wānanga o Aotearoa kindly offer the Matariki Poster as a free to download, online resource - together with other free resources to encourage the celebration of Matariki. If you want to check them out, the link is here: <https://www.twoa.ac.nz/hononga-stay-connected/te-iwa-o-matariki/matariki-poster-te-reo-Māori>

*Nga mihi from the Orbit team.*

# Contents

President's Report . . . . .	3
Order of Merit Awards . . . . .	4-5
Youth Activations . . . . .	6
Onerahi Cemetary Clean Up Day. . . . .	6
Parua Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association . . . . .	7
Parua Bay School Report. . . . .	8
Mayor's Message . . . . .	9
Onerahi Art - Betsie Lombard . . . . .	10
Youth Profile - George Russell, Volunteer Firefighter. . . . .	11
SPCA - Sadie's Story. . . . .	12
Viruses, Malware and Scamming . . . . .	13
Disability SCooter available at the Town Basin . . . . .	13
Australian Outback Adventures Part 6 . . . . .	14
Onerahi Matariki Celebrations . . . . .	15
Raurimu Avenue School. . . . .	16
Onerahi School Report . . . . .	17
Backyard Kiwi Update . . . . .	18
Venues available for hire . . . . .	19
Upcoming and regular events . . . . .	20

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Editor: Margie Kent  
Email: [onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com)

Advertising: Megan Lavin-McIsaac 022 641 9786  
Email: [advertising@megatype-publishing.co.nz](mailto:advertising@megatype-publishing.co.nz)

Design: Megan Lavin-McIsaac 022 641 9786  
Email: [graphics@megatype-publishing.co.nz](mailto:graphics@megatype-publishing.co.nz)

Accounts: Rose Tantau 438 5499  
Email: [ccoca@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ccoca@xtra.co.nz)

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

## President's Report

**The OCA is a small volunteer-based organisation of enthusiastic community members who have the community wellbeing at heart. Meeting monthly, we work towards bettering the Onerahi Community. This year the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle was felt significantly and it has been rewarding to hear about community members stepping up to assist and support others.**

### Community recognition

The Honours Board for the OCA Order of Merit recipients (from 2009) was unveiled and blessed by Fred Tito at the AGM, and is now installed in the Onerahi Hall. The Order of Merit is awarded to members of the community who have devoted their support and services to the community - see page 4 for more on this.

Community Champions are acknowledged monthly and are community members who have made significant contributions to the community well-being through their efforts in response to community situations - see more on page 5.

The OCA has also recognised and acknowledged the Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade's work by providing them Fish n Chips on a training night; and has provided a contribution

towards fuel to Jeremy Busck, the operator of Dragonfly Spring Wetland Sanctuary, to acknowledge the cyclone cleanup costs of this publicly accessible taonga.

### Community Led Projects

The Community Led projects group have consulted with the community for the swimming pool community partnership to provide safe access to water activity in the summer. The next phase involves drawing up the various agreements for the shared project. This involves MOE and the school alongside CLM (the aquatic centre management) who will add their professional support to the proposal.

The next step for the proposal for a community meeting space is a plan drawn up of what it could look like - this will be pursued with WDC Parks and Reserves staff to get some ideas, and to draft up an artist's impression of what it could look like.

### Matariki Celebrations

Onerahi held a dawn service on 14 June led by kaumatua Fred Tito. On 14 July we celebrated Matariki with a hangi - prepared by our local rugby club - followed by a children's movie in the Community Hall.

### Safety and Security

Community safety and security is being investigated with a proposal for lighting and security cameras. Damage to the mural in the town centre has been reported to the council and it is now in their work schedule. We hope to utilise the lady who did the original artwork to supervise its repair. The WDC has been approached about tidying up the Onerahi shopping precinct. Water blasting the foot paths, replacing the bins, new paint, upgrading the seating, tidying the hoarding above the shops, and trimming dead branches off the trees have all been identified as potentially making a difference.

### AGM

At the AGM I spoke about the topics above, and also referred to the change process taking time. We acknowledged some things brought up last year are still to be completed, including a look at the safety (cameras), traffic speeds and rubbish in the town centre. New committee members elected were:  
Grant Harrison - President  
Desarae Williams - Secretary  
Rose Tantau - Treasurer  
Nicholas Connop - Vice President  
Tarquala Whittaker Stone - Committee  
Nick Powell - Committee  
Carren Walker - Committee  
Wendy Giffin - Committee  
Darrin Goodwin/ Sam Davidson - Committee

### Next steps

Moving forward, our focus will be on creating the community connecting space and school community pool partnerships; continue working on getting security camera coverage; and continuing to seek activity for young people in the community.

Grant Harrison  
President OCA



# Order of Merit Awards



Onerahi recognises those that have received the Order of Merit for their selfless community contribution over the years. In 2022, Order of Merit awards were made to:

- Margaret Walters – for her contribution to the support and well-being of individuals and whānau in the community of Onerahi
- Chrissy Stephenson – For her contribution to the environment of Onerahi working with the Onerahi Weeds Group to actively control the Moth Plant

- Tina Withers – For her contribution to the community of Onerahi. Taking care of the After School programme at the Community House for the past 13 years
- Fiona Raymond – Paieka – for her work in developing the Onerahi Rugby Club and clubrooms catering for many young people in the community.
- Spence Penney – For his contribution as a member of the Community Policing Team making Onerahi a safer Community.



## Nick Connop for the Order of Merit Award 2023

Nick joined the OCA in 2011, became the president of the Association in 2014 and stepped down in 2022. He is still an active member of the Association. Most people would know Nick from his time working at Onerahi New World and being the face of the Christmas festivals. Nick is also responsible for the Onerahi sign on the hillside as you come into Onerahi, erected in 2011. Nowadays Nick is largely recognised for his contribution to waste reduction and his presence on social media encouraging people to respect our environment.

Nick hosted CITO (Cache In, Trash Out) in 2013, linking his love of geocaching with his love of the environment. He met his now partner Karen at a Love Whangārei monthly clean up

in Sep 2017. They registered their own charitable trust For Our Real Clean Environment in December 2018. FORCE won the Keep New Zealand Beautiful community group award in 2019. They both received New Zealander of the year local hero award in 2020.

Nick supports the Onerahi community to this day with his work through his charitable trust, as moderator/admin of the OCA Facebook page and Onerahi Community Facebook page, his role as a councillor for the Whangārei District Council, his unending support for local events, assisting the community where he can and being a voice for environmental concerns. We as an association would like to recognise Nick for the time he has put in as a member and president of the Association and acknowledge his ongoing contribution.

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## The Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade for the Order of Merit Award 2023

Over the last 25 years, the Fire Brigade have selflessly supported the Onerahi community - fighting fires, going to motor vehicle crashes, medical incidences, providing help in storms. During storms the fire fighters are sometimes out for hours without going back to the station. At times, when they get back and get off the appliance, they get asked to go back out again without having time to change the crew or to get PPE dry. Calls received during storm situations can vary from flooding, motor vehicle crashes, trees across the road, helping people out of flooding houses and to a safe place. Comforting people going through these situations is a very big part of what they do.

In addition to helping us out during emergencies, the people at the Onerahi Fire Brigade are very community focused. For every year for the last 14 years they have done the Sky Tower Challenge to raise funds for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer (LBC) New Zealand. It is estimated that they would have raised over \$120,000.00 in total for this charity. They also go out and get wood to split up for firewood to sell to the community to raise funding. They go to the farmers market once a month for fundraising, and to talk to people about fire brigade work, the importance of smoke alarms, and how to stay safe. The volunteers also help out the Legionnaires Group on the market gate to control the market crowds. This has come about as the Legionnaires are getting to an age where they need a hand. The fire brigade members are humble - they don't seek awards, they just do their mahi. To the members of the Onerahi Fire Brigade, this award is hugely deserved - we acknowledge, honour and thank you for your contribution.

## Community Champions

The Community Champions acknowledged this year to date are:

- Marcus Bryce – For assistance provided to others during the Cyclone Gabriel flooding - clearing blocked drains, vegetation clean-up and providing food parcels to those in need.
- Kim Kilgour – For coordinating fundraising for a junior netball team to ensure that they could participate in the netball competition.



Our May 2023 Community Champion is **Noah Bowers**. In recognition of Noah's dedication to the Onerahi environment – Noah collects and disposes of discarded items and litter on the way home from school. Thank you Noah for your contribution to Onerahi.

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# Youth Activations

The Onerahi Community Association has recently partnered with Community Connect to deliver 'youth activations' in Onerahi. Community Connect involves a range of community groups from sports groups, schools, the police, ACC, the Salvation Army and Te Ora Hau ... to mention a few of those involved.

The purpose of the activations is to provide an opportunity for young people to interact, try out different sports and become a little active. "We are planning more activations in term 3" said one of the coordinators, Grant Harrison. "As the level of trust in the community grows, and people see that these kids are engaged and supervised, I am confident that the numbers attending will keep growing. We have good support from the community partners, and they also want to see these evenings succeed."

The activations ran on Friday evenings from 4.00-5.30pm and were based at the Onerahi Community Hall and the Raurimu School hall. Bowls and table tennis (June 16); badminton and Volleyball (June 23); and other games were enjoyed. Both evenings involved rangitahi from volleyball and turbo touch programmes leading the activities. The kids were all offered kai, with sausage sizzles run by the local community policing staff. Despite poor weather, there was a small but enthusiastic turnout of 46 young people. "What I love about it is that it is a positive activity for young people run by young people," said Grant, "we look forward to more youngsters joining us in term 3".

Interested? Keep an eye on the Onerahi Community Association Facebook page, the Onerahi Community Facebook Group and the school announcements to find out when the next activations will run.



# Onerahi Cemetery Clean Up Saturday October 7th - 10am

After the initial clean up day in April progress is being made. Stephen Jenkins (Cemeteries and Botanica Manager WDC) has informed the Onerahi Weeds Group that he has "Tasked a Contractor" to tidy up the area at the end of the Cemetery at the Whangārei Heads Road end.

However, we can continue to address weeds and tidy up the cemetery even more.

Please let Chrissie know that you will be there. She is keen to share some more of her famous chocolate squares with anyone who turns up to help with the clean up.

Please express your interest in being involved by contacting Chrissie at Onerahi Weeds Group 021353792 or Onerahiweeds@gmail.com

Put **OCTOBER 7** on your calendar... 10am



Some of the volunteers at a previous Onerahi Cemetery Clean Up Day. Photo by Michael Cunningham - Northern Advocate

# PBRRRA News – from Parua Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association

By Barbara Green

Kia ora from beautiful Parua Bay.

**Skatepark update-** We are very excited to announce that we have had a Lotto Grant funding application approved for the proposed Skatepark in the Village- to the amount of \$241,500.00. This will be added to the Whangārei District Council funding already granted. Progress is underway, with site plans and skatepark designs being prepared. This will be a fantastic facility for Parua Bay, giving our rangitahi and tamariki (and their parents) somewhere to hone their skateboarding skills. Public consultation has identified the need for a Recreational area, and this Skatepark will just be the beginning. Things to look at in the future include walking tracks, picnic areas, and a playground. We are always happy to hear ideas you might have to add to this facility. Watch this space...

**Civil Defence Response Group-** We will be holding a POP-UP Civil Defence Stall at the Parua Bay Shops on Sat 12th August, from 10am to 1pm. We will have Civil Defence information, pamphlets, raffles and giveaways. Please pop by and have a chat with us.

We are also planning a larger scale Community Civil Defence Information Event – to be held Saturday 11th November, at the Parua Bay School Hall. Please watch for further information in future newsletters, or local Facebook pages.

**We are currently looking for new Committee Members. If you are interested in joining PBRRRA, and can contribute a few hours a month towards your community, please contact us on [paruabayrra@gmail.com](mailto:paruabayrra@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you.**



Watersports in the harbour - Photo by Wendy Griffin

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## Parua Bay School Report

**Terms 1 and 2 have been busy for the students at Parua Bay School. We have had our annual camps, sports days, roadshows and so many other fantastic opportunities to support our learning at school.**

This term Parua Bay School hosted Indoor 'ice' skating. It was a huge success with almost all of our 300+ students rotating through sessions to enjoy the ice skating experience, most students trying this type of skating for the first time. Our amazing PTA and volunteer parent helpers organised the event, including the evening and weekend skating discos. Ice skating has enabled our tamariki to have an awesome experience and at the same time raise funds for a significant friendship bench project.

Year 7 and 8 students took part in a gathering of over 2,000 intermediate students at the Kensington sports grounds and other local venues on 17 May, to participate in a major sporting event. All of our teams performed extremely well and showed excellent conduct. Year 5 and 6 students enjoyed a sporting alternative to their canceled WPSSA event with an energetic morning of outdoor competition and

participation in a range of codes.

Multiple teams from Parua Bay School took part in the 8th June Mathex competition held at Whangārei Boys' High School. We were well represented from Year 5 all the way up to Year 8. Tough questions and a highly paced event, mixed with well in excess of 20 teams for each year level, made for a highly competitive afternoon and evening. Our students performed very well even though they did not make it onto the podium.

The Science Roadshow came to Parua Bay School in Term 2. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Roadshow team to showcase fascinating science phenomena and sow the seeds of scientific interest and ambition in our youngsters.

The main event for the Intermediate (Year 7 and 8) students and staff this term was the much anticipated Intermediate Ball - this year's theme was 'Winter Wonderland'. Students had the opportunity to show off their formal (and informal) ballroom dance skills. Along with intermediate students from Whangārei Heads School, the Year 7 and 8 students celebrated being young people in a caring and nurturing environment with all the excitement of the future ahead of them.

Term 2 ended with an amazing Matariki Festival. Students took part in craft workshops including poi making, weaving, tī rākau and waiata. These workshops were run by our tuakana. Our Junior and Senior Kapa Kaka roopu performed for the school and we finished with a community meal in the hall of hāngī and Fry Bread. Thank you to all our kapa haka whānau who helped prepare and cook the hāngī and a massive thank you to Bob and Claire at Parua Bay Four Square for their sponsorship of our amazing Multi Kai cooker!

The remainder of the year is looking busy for our students at Parua Bay School and we are looking forward to another exciting two terms.

Mark Ashcroft - Principal



# MAYOR'S MESSAGE



## Passionate about sport? Thank your ref!

**Ciao, kia ora, and hello to everyone in Onerahi!**

I'm always impressed by the hive of activity on our sports fields every weekend - especially in winter, with the freezing winds and rain! From the Oakura Sportspark and Hukerenui Domain in the north of our District, across to the Mangakahia Sportspark and Maungakaramea Recreation Reserve on the west and down to the Takahiwai Sportspark and Ruakākā Recreation Grounds in the south, Whangārei District Council maintains a total of 23 sports grounds and recreation facilities across our District, and it's obvious our need for sports facilities just keeps growing.

Northlanders are passionate about sport. Whether it's in a supporting role or being in the team, it's a key part of our social (and family!) life up here in the North. What strikes me most about our sporting community is the number of people volunteering their time and efforts in volunteer roles. I'm talking about our umpires, coaches, referees, kitchen volunteers and support crew. The people who show up at every training session, game and organisational meeting to make sure our sports season goes off without a hitch. These are the people our sporting community rely on, sacrificing their free time with no thought of reward or recognition.

Without them, we wouldn't have the muddy, wet, happy, healthy, and exhausted kids we see every weekend - so thank you to you all.

Making sure we have the right sporting and recreational facilities for our communities is an important part of our future planning at Council. Our communities need to have the right facilities in the right places, and to make sure we get it right, you need to let us know what you need, and where you need it.

We'll be asking for your feedback on sports facilities (along with many other things), to help shape the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan (that's the larger, 10-year plan that directs Council decision-making). Now that Council's Annual Plan process has wrapped up, the Long Term Plan consultation is next in line, and I'll be sharing more information about this as we get closer to consultation time.

For now, I just wanted to acknowledge the people who volunteer to help, and the whānau, caregivers, educators and sports club members who enable kids and adults alike to play the games they love. Your support helps build pride in our District, strengthens communities and gives our young people a chance to be part of our fantastic sporting culture here in Whangārei.



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# Onerahi art - Betsie Lombard

By Ann Freeman

Onerahi is a wonderfully diverse place with a mixture of town, country and waterside; and within its boundaries lives an equally diverse and exciting creative community. There are glass workers and jewelers, potters and painters, metal workers, wood workers and amazing textile workers.

Betsie Lombard has lived in Boeing Road, Onerahi, for six years and loves to call it home. Betsie is a lifelong creative force. She enjoys painting, stained glass work, making collages with mixed media and most of all working with clay. For her, being creative and making things has been a lifelong preoccupation, always her 'happy place' and something she has returned to.

Betsie started life in Swaziland and her earliest memory of 'making things' is being taken down to the river side to harvest clay and using it to make coil pots which were fired for days in the open fires used for cooking. Her mother supported the family by sewing beautiful garments and up-cycling discarded furnishings from richer families. She feels these early experiences helped form her passion for creating beautiful things from the materials available to her.

For Betsy the inspiration for her work comes from many sources. She visits the 'Ceramic Arts Network' website or Facebook pages on her computer or she chats to fellow potters who share their knowledge and ideas. Sometimes ideas come while she is working in her garden and, once a



project starts, one idea leads to the next and a new piece of work is born.

Like many others, Betsie sees her creative time as a way to escape the pressures of job and family life. She notes that in the beginning it created its own pressure because she felt she should have a purpose in mind when making something. It should be made to sell or exhibit or have a function! But gradually she became more relaxed, and she is now comfortable keeping painting or sculpting for her own pleasure, with no other outcome necessary. If she does want to sell, she uses local outlets like Whangārei Heads Arts Trail or Reyburn House Gallery.

It was inspiring to talk to Betsie. She has clearly found her creative 'Happy Place' here in Onerahi and hopes to continue to produce the work that she loves for many years to come.

I would love to hear from all you local creative people - if you love making things contact Ann Freeman at heartsheads@hands@gmail.com

# Youth Profile - George Russell, Volunteer Firefighter

George has for a long time had an interest in cars, trucks and machinery. Some three years ago he got the opportunity to explore this passion by going along to the Fire Station and jumping on the Fire Truck for a bit of a ride. Recently, after a discussion with the local Fire Chief, he had the opportunity to apply and be accepted into the Onerahi Volunteer fire brigade.

He enjoys the Fire Brigade; it gives him a sense of pride to be contributing to his community. He enjoys the physical activity of training, the camaraderie and the opportunity to meet others. He currently works part time at Trucking Workshop; so being around adults is not foreign to him. "Being around adults helps keep me in line", says George, "they don't let you get away with kids stuff". Being a member of the Brigade is a great leveller. "I am one of the team, they don't treat me any differently, the expectations are pretty much the same as anyone. I enjoy the discipline and structure, it's all very organised", he says.

While others have experience, George is a team player, reliable and unafraid of hard work. His mentor, Brian Powell, reflects on the additional attributes that George brings. "George has a good head on his shoulders, and I certainly wouldn't bother with someone who wasn't going to give it 100%" says Brian. Brian also notes that it is important that George is prepared for the demands of the firefighting role. "Being aware of the risks associated with the job and the often unpleasant things that this entails. You must be well grounded to handle some of that stuff; we operate as a team here in the Fire Brigade, ensuring everyone is supported."



George is proud of his position as a volunteer firefighter - it has potential to be a career path for him; but for now he enjoys being able to give back.

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# Sadie's Story

By SPCA Whangārei



Almost wasted away, but still providing for her babies.

This darling girl was found living as a stray on a beach in Northland. Absolutely emaciated, we don't know how she was still managing to nurse her five newborns, but somehow, she was. Luckily for all of them, they were rushed into our SPCA Centre in Whangārei, where our team was heartbroken to see the state she was in. In testament to her care for her babies, the puppies, aged about 3 weeks old at the time, were all in amazing health despite being born as strays.

This sweet girl has been named Sadie by our team, and she and her five babies remain in the care of our Centre. We're delighted to share that Sadie is slowly but surely gaining weight, and her puppies are developing into bouncy, playful and high-energy cuties! They're still feeding with

mum, but it won't be long until they're able to be weaned, and start the journey towards finding a forever home of their own.

As for Sadie - unfortunately her story is all too common, especially in Northland where too many dogs are born into a life of neglect. The most powerful way we can tackle this and save dogs like Sadie from suffering is by desexing. Without actively curbing the breeding cycle, the demand for shelter spaces will continue to outstrip the available resources and overwhelm those trying to help, perpetuating the cycle of stray and abandoned animals.

That's why we've just launched an exciting desexing initiative in partnership with local vets in Northland which you can read more about at [www.sPCA.nz/northland-partnership-2023](http://www.sPCA.nz/northland-partnership-2023) or give our centre a call and have a chat with our team. Let's tackle this head on, and stop suffering before it has a chance to start.

As for Sadie and her babies, they're safe now. We know these images are hard to see, which is why we don't share these sorts of pictures often, and often animals in such dire conditions come in as part of investigations which we cannot share either. But the reality is we're heartbroken daily by stories like Sadie's at SPCA.

SPCA Whangārei Centre | 09 438 9161



Sadie when she was found



Sadie today

# Viruses, Malware and Scamming

By Vince Cocurullo

**Viruses, malware, and scamming seem to be part of our everyday life. The biggest thing is how do we deal with such issues when they arrive.**

Here is a list of stats that you might find interesting:

- Every day, 560,000 new pieces of malware are detected.
- There are now over 1 billion malware programs in existence.
- Trojans account for 58% of all computer malware.
- Every minute, four companies fall victim to ransomware attacks.
- Nearly every second computer in China is infected with some form of malware.
- Iran has the highest mobile malware infection rate at 30.3%.
- Over the past decade, there has been an 87% increase in malware infections.
- The cost of cybercrime is predicted to reach \$8 trillion (USD) in 2023.

Some of these may make you concerned, or even think "how can I protect myself?". The most important aspect that I tell all my clients is to be prepared.

**Be prepared means:** make sure that you have up-to-date anti-virus software on your computer, and there are loads out there, and always remember that the free antivirus software generally has ads (please don't click on these). Also try to only use genuine websites, yes this can be hard when you are searching for things, yet clicking on the website drivers.com

when you are looking for updates of your printer software is not the best way, use the website that is associated with the printer eg: HP.com, Brother.co.nz etc.

Another very helpful point is to never store your passwords on your computer. If someone was to get access to your computer, by having your passwords stored on it, will allow them to then access your bank accounts and other private information that you don't want accessed.

Yet the biggest thing I say to all my clients is - if in doubt, contact your local IT person, they are more than happy to help.

## Disability Scooter Available at the Town Basin

Whangārei District Council's bright yellow mobility scooter is back at the Town Basin and ready to offer rides to those who would like to enjoy its colourful services to get around the Town Basin and the Loop. Buttercup has enough power to complete the entire loop, and visit all the experiences the area has to offer. To use the scooter, call the Art Museum between 10:00am and 4:00pm seven days a week or call in as you are passing.

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# Australian Outback Adventures

## Part 6: Six Stones

with Libby & Peter Urbahn

On a rocky ledge in north-western Queensland, six stones lie in a circle looking out to a vast plain of mulga scrub. We placed them there years ago while on one of our Outback trips. They are all different shapes, sizes, textures, and colours and, for us, represent the uniqueness of each of our six beautiful grandchildren. One day, when our grandchildren are older, we hope they will travel to Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park in Outback Queensland, and trek up the Constantine Range to view the stones their nana and poppa placed for them all those years ago.



Boodjamulla is a National Park in the Gulf Country of north-western Queensland, 340 kilometres northwest of Mt Isa and 1830 kilometres northwest of Brisbane. The park has massive red boulders, ochreous bluffs, deep canyons slicing into vast sandstone ranges, and limestone plateaus holding ancient fossil fields. The rivers



Six stones at Boodjamulla NP

run crystal clear and are ideal for canoeing, with no danger from the resident freshwater crocodiles. We camped at Boodjamulla for a few days while on our North of Capricorn trip, our time among the sandstone bluffs one of the many highlights of our Outback holiday.

Apart from exploring Adels Grove of beautiful trees planted by some settler long ago, we walked all the tracks in the National Park starting with the Wild Dog Dreaming Track parallel to the river, raucous birdcalls echoing around us as we observed Aboriginal rock art secreted under massive rock overhangs. Next, we took the steep climb to a plateau beside the river known as The Stack. Astounded how nature always survived even in the most barren of landscapes, we spent hours marvelling at the arid plateau, observing how scrubby vegetation and small trees had found ingenious ways of anchoring themselves into the sunburnt rocks where summer temperatures could easily burn the soles of your feet. Enjoying the 360-degree view, we watched a couple of kayakers far below on the river quietly paddling while tiny Honey Bee-eaters flitted around the sheer red cliffs waiting to snaffle unwary insects that had miraculously ascended to such lofty heights.

Finally, we took the Constantine Range Walk with its wide expansive views stretching to the horizon. What an incredible feeling it was to stand on top of a massive red bluff where the horizon was limitless, the majesty and scope of the surrounding landscape daunting. That was why we paid tribute to our grandchildren there among the commanding ochreous bluffs of Boodjamulla. Boodjamulla gets into your soul, the National Park revealing an ancient place, permitting you rare glimpses into the enormity of Queensland's current beauty and geological past. We hope our grandchildren will one day climb the rugged Constantine Range to enjoy the grandeur and history of this wonderful place. Maybe they will discover the individual stones we placed for them with such love and care so long ago.



Path to Wild Dog Dreaming



On top of The Stack looking down into the gorge

# Onerahi Matariki Celebrations



Dawn ceremony at St Stephens Church



Fred Tito gives the blessing and Grant Harrison welcomes all

Matariki celebrations in Onerahi began on 14 June with a dawn ceremony at St Stephens Church. The dawn service was led by kaumatua Fred Tito and attended by a good number of the community.

The Onerahi Community Association also hosted an event on Matariki public holiday with a hangi - prepared by our local rugby club - followed by the movie 'Boy' in the Community Hall.

Wendy Giffin let the Orbit know that "Friday evening started off with Fred Tito blessing the gathering and Grant Harrison welcoming everyone to our Matariki hangi and film evening at the Onerahi community centre." The evening went off very well "150 delicious hangi were prepared by Fiona and her team from Onerahi Rugby.

We had travellers from South Africa and Ireland join us - all experiencing hangi for the first time (group photo). There were BBQ sausages as well. The evening was well received, with the hangi disappearing very quickly. The evening finished with watching the movie 'Boy' with popcorn and hot drinks."

The photos were provided by Grant Harrison, Rose Tantau and Wendy Giffin. Thank you for sharing the good news with us. Please send in your photos of future events in Onerahi and Parua Bay, so that the Orbit can celebrate them with you!



Queuing for the hangi



South African and Irish visitors



Watching the movie 'Boy'



Family feast

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# Raurimu Avenue School

## "Poipoia te rito o te harakeke"

### Tēnā koutou katoa.

Another term over, which brings us halfway through the year. Some nasty winter illness has hit both staff and students in the second half of the term. The colder mornings are making for some beautiful foggy and frosty sights on our field.

This term saw a refresh from the Te Tai Tokerau Tamariki Mental Wellbeing Project, such a fun and engaging group. Our seedlings have sprouted and have been transplanted to our vege pod, Road Safety week saw us out at the Hatea Loop where our students opened the community walk with karakia and waiata. As part of safety week, the team from Northland Rescue Helicopter came in and talked about their work and answered some well thought out questions. This was a highlight for our students who hear the helicopter come over the school and some who have even had first hand experience of a family member requiring it.

Another highlight was the Blake NZ-VR programme. Students experienced being under the water with VR headsets. Students were awestruck at how real the

experience was. The sounds of gasps of amazement filled the library. Staff also highly rated the education surrounding this.



Native birds were studied by our senior students with some incredible sketches adorning their class walls. We have a lot of native and non-native birds that visit us on a regular basis enjoying our field, especially pukekos and herons.

Ending the term with a visit from our Mayor to present our Duffy Books in School, which were sponsored by the government this term, was a nice way to finish and opened up discussion around community engagement and expectations of us as community members.

Thank you to those community members who have been phoning us with donations of craft items, toys for our younger students and clothing. We appreciate you thinking of us and we always find good homes for these.

Nga mihi nui,  
Moutini Bryers  
Tumuaki/Principal



# Onerahi School Report

### Kia ora e te whānau,

As I write this the last day of Term 2 is unfolding outside. It has been quite an eventful first half of this year. Together we have continued to grow and learn, hold events, and participate successfully in across school competitions. Some highlights include: our Matariki Festival, our Year 5 Math-Ex team taking first place in this year's competition, our Showquest performers also taking first place, and our Jumping June event which managed to raise over \$18,000 for the Heart Foundation. That is not to mention the many varied learning experiences and school trips that occurred.

I thought for this issue we could hear from our tamariki about their favourite experiences so far this term. They are the taonga that bring us all together. A big thank you to our community for their continued support and here's to an action packed second half of the year.

Ngā manaakitanga,  
Danny Hamilton  
Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal

### What is your personal highlight from the first half of this year?

"I liked the Jumping June event. It was cool to get out and take part in a whole school activity. When I first started skipping, I couldn't even do one skip. Now I feel like I could do it for ten minutes in a row!" **Zayne, Year 6**

"Learning new games because we learn new skills. My favourite new game was Tapawae because everyone gets a turn at holding the ball. In some games not everyone gets to touch

the ball and can feel left out. In Tapawae everyone has a role and is needed." **Ruby, Year 5**

"I like performing and getting in front of an audience. My highlight is Kapa Haka. I am one of the kaea of our roopu, which means I stand in front and lead. I am able to sing in the right key and when I am performing I feel nervous and brave."

**Jade, Year 6**  
"I loved making new friends. I do this by being nice to people. I like to make sure that my friends are alright."  
**Caitlin, Year 1**

"Having fun! What I have learned is that when we play and learn together, we need to make sure everyone gets a chance to win and feel good. I first thought about this when I learned to play a new maths card game called Double Card." **Riley, Year 5**

"I like using the laptops to go on Matific. Matific is a maths learning website where I learn to solve new maths problems. Maths is my strongest subject and when I use Matific I find new challenges." **Aurora, Year 4**

"Fun! I was really, really, really, bad at skipping but I kept practising and I am now a lot better. From that I learned that if I am bad or can't do something, I can keep practising and I will get better." **Liam, Year 4**



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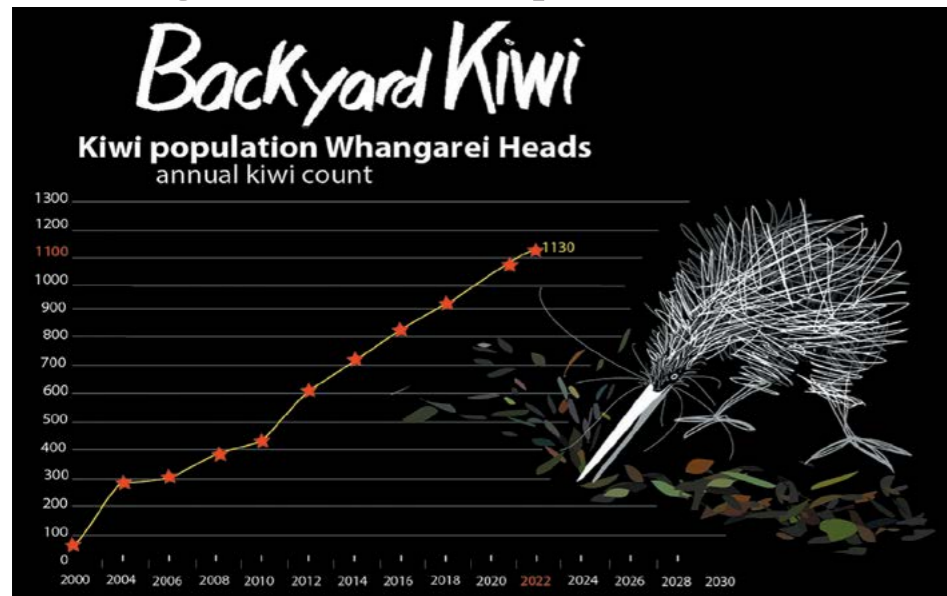
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# Backyard Kiwi update



Monitoring our kiwi population to measure the effectiveness of our ongoing stoat control and dog owner dog control is crucial, so each year we use 20 sites across the Heads and count the kiwi calls at each over four nights. We have been doing this since 2001 and have seen the kiwi population at the Heads grow from just 80 to 1130 last year. One of the most successful kiwi recovery projects in NZ! The weather has made kiwi counting challenging this year but the kiwi have still been calling well, so much so that a few locals have complained about the racket!

### What your Parua Bay radio monitored kiwi have been up to:

- **Hope** – She has settled for the moment in the pampas and pines at the North end of Martins' block on Owhiwa Road.
- **Fish** – He has once again headed north and is now at the Halses' block at the end of Ross Road.
- **Chookie** – He has started nesting.
- **Teina** – He is still in his usual haunt of pampas and pines at the north end of Martins' pine block on Owhiwa Road. If he doesn't start breeding soon he is going to have a serious weight problem.
- **Beach Girl** – Keeps moving between the pines by Teina and the native bush of Halses' place at the end of Ross Road.
- **Pepi** – Found him! Over 2 months since his last signal I found him well north of Pepi Road, now at the end of Te Rongo Road. Locals are very excited to have him there and I'm very pleased to track him down.
- **Wally** – Usual area, pine block at the end of Campbell Road.
- **Pakipaki** – In the pampas at the top end of the McLeod Bay Horse paddock. Found her with a mate in a pampas bush there. He is a wild hatched and grown kiwi. He has been named Waewae - footprint.



### March released kiwi- These guys have been moving around checking out the local territory and kiwi.

- **Murdoch** – He keeps working his way north and is now between the end of Owhiwa and Ross Roads.
- **Feta mama** – He has crossed Rukawai stream and headed to the NW end of Martins block at Owhiwa Road. 12 hours of activity.
- **Om** – Has also headed further north to the Halses' block at the end of Ross Road.
- **Maia** – She has returned from Ross Road and is hanging by the Martins' hut.

Todd Hamilton  
Backyard Kiwi Project Manager,  
Whangārei Heads Landcare Forum,

M 021 1145 385,  
E todd.hamilton64@gmail.com  
W www.backyardkiwi.org.nz

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Sit Fit \$5 – Monday 10.30am - Hope Onerahi Church Hall  
'Use it or Lose it' - Contact Bett Harvey 021 208 6719

Mainly Music in the Church Hall – Every Wednesday 10am (during school term). By donation  
Contact Nancy Dodds - 436 1444

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

Onerahi Community Hall & Community House	Rose Tantau	ccoca@extra.co.nz   021 157 0980
Onerahi Bowling Club	Alan Westlake	021 437 591
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 Polman	027 315 6490
Taurikura Hall	Meg Mclsaac	09 434 0096

**Whangārei District Council Hotline: 0800 932 463**

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Download your own copy of tides tables for Northland at <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/resource-library-summary/publications/coast/northland-tide-tables/>



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**TOPIC: Current Events & the Bk of Revelation**

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## Upcoming dates and events

Thursday 10 August	Oceania Cup 2023 - The NZ Black Sticks are thrilled to be playing for Olympic qualification in Whangārei. 5:05pm: Vantage Black Sticks Women vs Australia Women; 7:05pm: Vantage Black Sticks Men vs Australia Men. Location: ITM Hockey Centre, 45 Park Avenue, Kensington. Cost - Adult \$30, Kids (5-15 Years Old)\$5, Family (2x Adults, 2x Kids) \$60
Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 August	Oceania Cup 2023 - 2:05pm: Vantage Black Sticks Men vs Australia Men; 4:05pm: Vantage Black Sticks Women vs Australia Women
Tuesday 22 August	CommUnity After 5 - WDC Event waste minimisation training. How to minimise waste created from your event, how to effectively manage waste and why it is important. Location: Cafler Suite, Forum North, 7 Rust Avenue
Thursday 24, 27 August & 24, 28 September	Sewing Jamboree - Come along for a social sewing session where we will help you mend your clothes to extend their life and give them a refresh. 2-4 pm. Location: Hundertwasser Art Centre, 81 Dent Street
Wednesday 27 September	Heritage Talk Series - A local speaker presents on a topic. Speaker not yet confirmed - please check with the Whangarei Libraries. Location: Cafler Suite, Forum North, 7 Rust Avenue
Saturday 7 October	Onerahi Cemetery Work Hour - A clean up of the cemetery starting at 10am. Please express your interest by contacting Chrissie at Onerahi Weeds Group 021 353 792 or Onerahiweedsgroup@gmail.com

## Regular events

Repair Café Whangārei	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.
Jolly Dodgers Scooterers	The Jolly Dodgers scooter 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	We love Whangarei and we love living in a clean environment. Come with us and help keep it that way! Check our FB page for upcoming events. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/LWMCU">https://www.facebook.com/LWMCU</a>
Matakohe/ Limestone Island Volunteers	Matakohe/ Limestone Island 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. A happy bunch! 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 <a href="mailto:josh.macfarlane@mentall.org.nz">josh.macfarlane@mentall.org.nz</a>
Onerahi CoastLine Action Group	Volunteers meet for an hour per week (currently on Sunday evenings, 7- 8 pm). Would you like to join us? Contact Valerie Green-Moss 021 067 2760 or Brian McLachlan 436 3660.
Onerahi Sit-Fit	Hope Onerahi Church, 137 Onerahi Road, Mondays 10.15 am
Onerahi Hall market	Saturdays 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.
Onerahi Family Fishing Club	Held at Onerahi Tavern (Beach Road). Contact Pete Codlin at the tavern.
Onerahi Darts Club	Ages 14+ welcome. Held at Onerahi Tavern in the Portland Lounge on Tuesday nights (contact Kelly Codlin at the tavern)
Whangarei parkrun	A free, fun, and friendly weekly 5 km community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate - it's up to you! Saturdays at 8:00 to 9:30am, start from Port Road (under Te Matau A Pohe bridge). See <a href="https://www.parkrun.co.nz/whangarei/">https://www.parkrun.co.nz/whangarei/</a> for details
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

**Want your free community or sporting activities highlighted here? Let us know when and where by emailing [onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com)**

**Onerahi Orbit is not responsible for any events listed here that are cancelled for any reason. Please check with local event organisers to see if the event is confirmed or cancelled**

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**WHANGAREI**

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Email: [contact@naturestherapeutics.co.nz](mailto:contact@naturestherapeutics.co.nz)  
Website: [www.naturestherapeutics.co.nz](http://www.naturestherapeutics.co.nz)

### COVID FLU & COLD

respiratory conditions



4 sizes  
from  
**6.90**

### ARTHRITIS RHEUMATISM

deep tissue / joint pain



100ml  
**23.90**

100% NATURAL

### ECZEMA DERMITITIS

skin conditions



3 sizes  
from  
**11.90**