

Otuhau News

THE TIKIPUNGA COMMUNITY MAGAZINE
Promoting Wellness in Our Community • Edition 37 • Winter 2026

Maranga Mai e te Iwi 2026

Hātea Kapa Haka Trust was formed in the year 2000 from the whānau of Pēhiāweri Marae. The members of Hātea Kapa Haka are drawn from throughout Te Tai Tokerau, united through a shared passion for kapa haka, whakapapa, and kaupapa Māori.

This year, Maranga Mai e te Iwi, Te Tai Tokerau regional kapa haka competitions were held at McKay Stadium. Hātea Kapa Haka, alongside 11 other rōpū, competed for the honour of representing Te Tai Tokerau at Te Matatini 2027.

The leadership of the rōpū is carried by Te Whānau Hopa and Te Whānau Tāpene. The kaitātaki tāne for the campaign was Otene Hopa, while the kaitātaki wahine was Marcia Hopa.

This year's programme sought to herald Pēhiāweri Marae — its history, its kōrero, and its people. The kaupapa of the performance reflected the wider rohe of Whangārei Terenga Parāoa, honouring the identity and histories of the region.

Many of the waiata were composed within the group, with the musical arrangements also developed internally. Hātea has long held a reputation for sweet, melodious, and harmonious singing, and this year's performance continued that tradition with distinction.

Hātea successfully secured one of the three coveted positions to attend Te Matatini 2027. The other successful rōpū were Muriwhenua and Waerenga Te Kaha.

A particular highlight of the programme was a waiata dedicated to their beloved kuia, Mihiora ("Aunt Mary"), who is now in her 90th year and remains a treasured personality, character, and icon of Pēhiāweri Marae. The waiata explored the genesis and meaning of her name, Mihiora, and was composed as a tribute of aroha and esteem. The performance was warmly received by audiences, but most importantly by Mihiora herself, who was humbled and deeply moved by the acknowledgement.

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Aviva: For free 24/7 support line, call 0800 AVIVA NOW (0800 28482 669)

Elder Abuse Helpline: 0800 32 668 65 Open 24 hrs text: 5032, email: support@elderabuse.nz

Family violence info: 0800 456 450

Gandhi Nivas: Supporting men to be free from violence 0800 426 344

Hey Bro helpline: Supporting men to be free from violence 0800 HeyBro (439 276)

Need to talk? Free call or text: 1737 for mental health support from a trained counsellor

Oranga Tamariki: For concerns about children and young people 0508 326 459, email: contact@ot.govt.nz1737

Safe to Talk: Sexual harm helpline 0800 044334, text: 4334, email: support@safetotalk.nz

Sensitive Claims ACC: 0800 735 566

Shakti - for migrant and refugee women: 0800 742 584 Open 24 hrs

Shine domestic abuse services: 0508 744 633 Open 24 hrs Live webchat is also available

Rape Crisis: 0800 88 33 00

Victim Support: support for men and women 0800 842 846 Open 24 hrs

Women's Refuge crisis line: 0800 733 843 Open 24 hrs

Youthline: 0800 376 633, free text: 234, email: talk@youthline.co.nz

Do you have a Tikipunga story or community news to celebrate in the Otuihau News?

Stories of 250 words or less are due for the next Otuihau News by 10 August 2026.

Please get in touch via our TikiPride Facebook page or email margie.kent9@gmail.com

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This newsletter is sponsored by



TIKIPUNGA COMMUNITY TRUST

(Providing for the Promotion of Wellness in the Tikipunga Community)

Whānau at the Falls

Once again the community of Tikipunga and others from further afield turned up to Otuihau/Whangārei Falls, on a Saturday in March, for our annual community day - Whānau at the Falls. The numbers attending (around 1,000 throughout the afternoon) and the relaxed, sociable vibe, confirmed that this is a popular event on the Tikipunga calendar. The numbers were down again on previous years, as there is a lot on in March each year and people are busy. Maybe in the future, we could look at having Whānau at the Falls in February, especially the years when the Regional Kapahaka competitions are on.

A huge thank you is due to all those who worked to make the day a success - the musicians, the stall-holders (several came from Kaikohe this year), those who provided activities for the children, the Summer Safe group, who managed the carpark, and all the others who helped coordinate the event.

Summer Safe at Otuihau Falls

A big thanks to the eight regular volunteers that did shifts at Otuihau/Whangārei Falls for the 15 weeks of this last summer. With their loyal support Lynne Meldrum and her team of Summer Safe Ambassadors were able to provide their service for at least one day of each weekend over the summer. Well done!

Charitable Trust status

Tikipunga Community Trust was established as a Charitable Trust in August 2016 by members of the voluntary community group, Tiki Pride. Therefore the Trust still uses the name Tiki Pride, as an operating name.

This year the Trust Treasurer, Peter Houston, took the Trust a step further by applying to Charities Services for recognition of our Charitable Trust Status, which was confirmed in March this year. Any member of the public can now go onto the Charities Services website and find information about Tikipunga Community Trust: for example, our Trust Deed (constitution), our elected Trustees, and our financial situation.



The Hikurangi School Junior Pasifika dance group



Enjoying the bouncy castle



Bill Allan Downs Whirli-gig in action



Te Kamo Pasifika Dance group

Building better communities

The 2026 Building Better Communities series recently concluded in Whangārei, providing a vital platform for local voices to address the region's most pressing social challenges. Held throughout February and March, the initiative sought to move beyond political rhetoric and reactionary headlines to focus on real local solutions.

Led by Kauriwhore Church in collaboration with St John's Golden Church and The Salvation Army, the series was grounded in data-driven insights from the latest Salvation Army State of the Nation reports. Each weekly session delved into critical topics impacting the community: Children and Youth, Crime and Punishment, Work and Incomes, Housing, Social Hazards, and Māori Wellbeing.

"The initiative was born from our mission to share God's love, create hope, and work for justice, particularly for the vulnerable in our community," says Rosalie Gwilliam, Chairperson of the Kauriwhore Church Parish Council. "By hosting this series, we aimed to ensure that politicians and community leaders hear what truly matters to the people of Whangārei, rather than only hearing from interest groups with large advertising budgets".

The format of each evening featured a local guest expert followed by small-group discussions where the community's own perspectives were the priority. These conversations led to the identification of actionable steps, such as establishing schools as support hubs to provide whānau care, supporting literacy through local organisations, and developing community gardens to foster connection and resource security.

Richard Smith, who organised the team running the series, emphasised the power of collective dialogue. "Our primary purpose was to create a dedicated space where the

'voice of the rest of us' – those seeking a fairer and more equitable society – could be amplified and heard," he says. "Ultimately, the series underscored that genuine connection and collective caring is the most effective response to the isolation, poverty, and unemployment facing our region. By tackling the systemic causes of insecurity rather than blaming individuals, we can finally break the cycle of despair that has held our community back for too long".

The series concluded with a shared vision grounded in Kotahitanga – a sense of oneness that values diversity and the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. As the community moves forward, the insights captured in the series summary report serve as a record of a community committed to leading its own development and working for a just Aotearoa where every individual is valued.

A summary of the series has been distributed to local politicians and community leaders and can be found via the Kauriwhore Church website (kaurichurch.org.nz).

Contributed by Mike Neilson, Kauriwhore Church



He rau ringa e oti ai – "Many hands make light work"

Many volunteers will tell you that there's something special about joining a group of like-minded people to tackle a project together, and Clean-Up Week with Keep NZ Beautiful (KNZB) is one of those projects, relying on the goodwill of friends, neighbours and community groups to get stuck in and help their communities look a bit tidier.



This year's KNZB Clean Up Week will begin on 18th September, so now's the time to korero with others and choose the public space you'd like to focus on - maybe a local park, a beach near you, the street you live on, or your nearest shopping centre.

Once registrations open in July, hop on the website where you can register your group, and find out information about other groups in your area that you might like to join in with ... <https://www.knzb.org.nz/programmes/clean-new-zealand-beautiful/clean-up-week/>
Let's be a community that cares and keep New Zealand beautiful in clean-up week.

Whangārei Rape Crisis - welcome to a safe space

Whangārei Rape Crisis, welcomes all people impacted by sexual harm.

Their service is safe, respectful, confidential, and grounded in feminist values, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and a strong belief in the ability to heal. They offer emotional support and advocacy to survivors and their whānau and friends. You don't need to be in crisis to reach out. They're an accredited service, monitored by Te Kāhui Kāhui to ensure ethical and professional care. If you share information with them, it will be managed in line with the Privacy Act 2020. You are welcome – just as you are.

<https://whangairepeccrisis.org.nz/about/>



Fruit and vegetables improve your health

Medical professionals and health organisations are urging people to eat more fruit and vegetables because they are packed with essential vitamins, minerals, fibre and antioxidants that help prevent chronic diseases, reducing the risk of hospitalisation because of serious illness.

We're being encouraged to start by introducing a new vegetable into whānau meals each day, and adding one piece of fruit a day into lunchboxes.

Choose what's available in season to keep costs down, bulk up meals with leafy greens, and grate extra vegetables like carrot into soups, stews or spaghetti bolognaise. Another tip is to add homemade coleslaw to a takeaway meal.

Talk to your whānau about why you're making these changes, and encourage them to come up with even more ideas on how to include more vegetables and fruit in everyday meals.

These positive changes really can make a difference in whānau wellbeing.

Q: REAL ESTATE?

A: SHANE BURNS



Most people interested in real estate have questions. If you own property or hope to in the future, ask me anything!

Enter the draw for a \$50 Woolworths voucher by sending me your questions via email, text or messaging app and check my answers over coming weeks on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Prize will be drawn on 20 June 2026.

-  022 435 6559
-  shane.burns@harcourts.co.nz
-  ShaneBurnsRealEstate
-  shane.burns.at.harcourts
-  shaneburnsrealestate
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 Licensed Real Estate Salesperson & Auctioneer
No 1 Individual Salesperson 2023/24, 2024/25
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SPONSORED CONTENT

Not sure? Ask us at the Citizens Advice Bureau

We provide free, confidential, independent, knowledgeable, timely advice. No appointment is necessary - call, pop in or email.

Our team are trained in matters such as:

- Relationships and Family Matters
- Housing (including Social Housing), and Tenancy or Flattening
- Employment
- Consumer Issues
- Health
- Education
- Benefits and Allowances
- Immigration
- Neighbourly Issues
- Community Groups
- Government Departments

Other services we can provide are:

Service	Day	Time	Venue
Family Court Navigator	Every Monday	10am - 1pm	CAB office
Employment Clinic	First Wednesday of the month	12pm - 2pm	CAB office
Legal clinic - phone	Alternate Tuesday evening	5 - 7pm	
Legal clinic - face to face	2nd Tuesday	5:30 - 7:30pm	CAB office
Advocacy clinic	Every Wednesday	9:30am - 12pm	CAB office
Tech help	First Tuesday of the month	9:30am - 12:00pm	Library
Civil Clinic	2nd Wednesday of the month	2 - 4pm	CAB office
Tech Support	Every Wednesday	12:30pm - 4pm	CAB office
Immigration Clinic	Saturday (monthly)	10am - 12pm	CAB office

- Check out our youth tool kete which is for young people from 15-24 years <https://youth.cab.org.nz/>
- View our new directory here <https://whangarei.cab.org.nz/>

Mānawatia a Matariki (Welcoming Matariki)

The appearance of Matariki in the morning sky in mid-winter marks the Māori New Year, or Te Mātahi o te Tau. It signals a time to remember those who have passed, celebrate the present and plan for the future. It's a time to spend with whānau and friends - to enjoy kai (food), waiata (song), tākaro (games) and haka.

Our tūpuna (ancestors) would look to Matariki for help with their harvesting. When Matariki disappeared in April/May, it was time to preserve crops for the winter season. When it re-appeared in June/July, tūpuna would read the stars to predict the upcoming season. Clear and bright stars promise a warm and abundant winter while hazy stars warn of a bleak winter.

Because Māori follow the Māori lunar calendar, not the Gregorian calendar, the dates for Matariki change every year. In 2026, we celebrate Matariki from 9 to 11 July, with a national public holiday on 10 July.

What we know as Matariki has been a prominent astronomical figure for many cultures as far back as 20,000 years ago. Throughout the ancient world, the Pleiades star cluster was associated with changing seasons, death, planting, harvesting, weather, religion, new life, and was embedded into the beliefs and traditions of many indigenous peoples.

Based on Te Wānanga o Aotearoa public resources



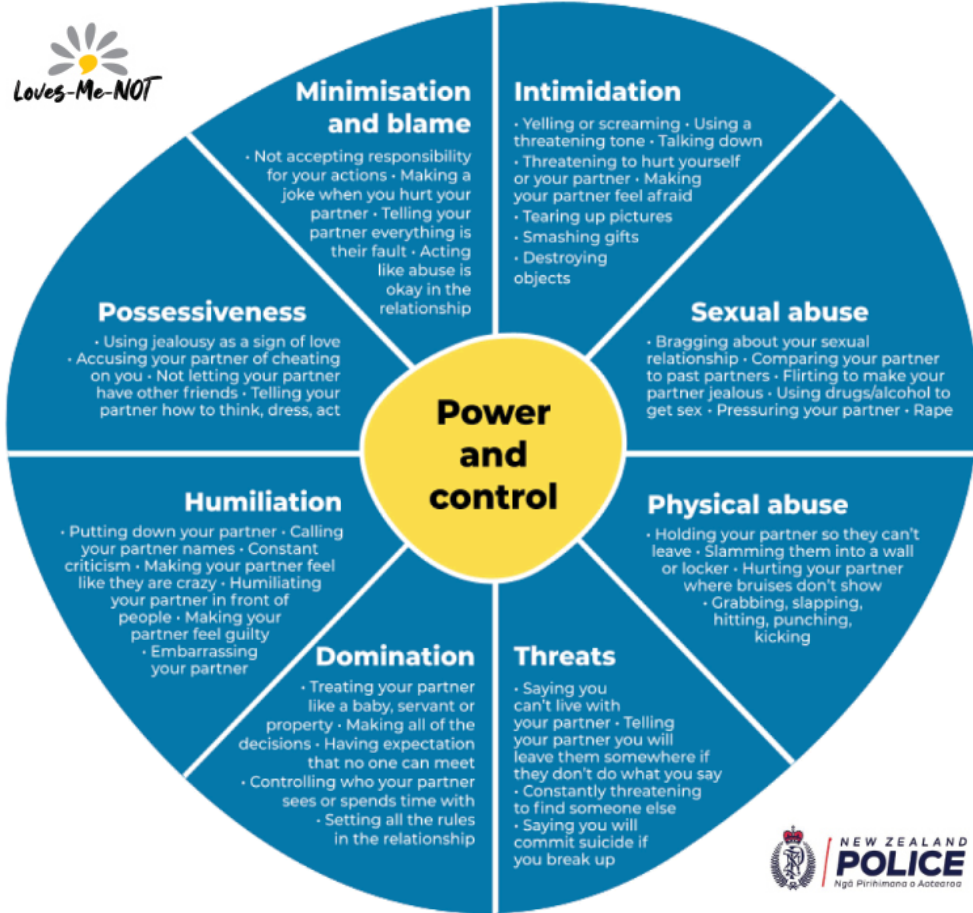
Not sure?
Ask us.

We provide free, confidential and independent information and advice to help you understand your rights and responsibilities.

154 Bank Street, Whangārei
 09 438 8046 • whangarei@cab.org.nz
www.cab.org.nz

Power and Control Wheel

When one person in a relationship repeatedly scares, hurts or puts down the other person, it is abuse. The Power and Control Wheel lists examples of forms of abuse. Remember, abuse is much more than slapping or grabbing someone.



"A relationship full of control is really out of control."

Monday Market at Kaurihohore Community Hall

Mark in your diaries to visit the Monday Market this Labour Day.

The market operates from Kaurihohore Hall, Apotu Road, Kaurihohore on Monday public holidays - open from 9am to 1pm. This is a Community Market with local craftspeople selling their speciality crafts including knitted and crocheted items, patchwork quilts and other items, handcrafted soap, ancient kauri

handcrafted items, leatherwork, greeting cards, baking and preserves etc

Usually available are also products for fundraisers for local schools and organisations. Invite your friends to this country market as a special occasion in the lovely rural setting of Kaurihohore.

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week, 14 - 20 June 2026, honours the collective energies and efforts of volunteers across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Volunteering New Zealand have created a suite of free resources and editable templates to help you celebrate your volunteers and

share the spirit of NVW in your workplace, school, community, or organisation.

See <https://www.volunteeringnz.org.nz/campaigns/national-volunteer-week>



Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu
National Volunteer Week
14-20 June 2026

Thousands raised by 'Golf for Good'

At the recent Golf For Good event, the fairways of The Pines Golf Club were filled with more than just great golf, they were filled with generosity, laughter and a powerful sense of community.

Local business Boost Brokers teamed up with David Mullan, better known to many as @Boldmangolf on Instagram, to host the inaugural Golf For Good Charity Ambrose Tournament, with all proceeds going to the local charity 'I Have a Dream NZ'. By the end of the day, the event had raised more than \$10,000 to support young people in the

region, a result that left organisers and participants equally thrilled.

The day was packed with raffles, auctions and spot prizes and everyone went home a winner in some way. Funds raised will help I Have a Dream NZ continue its work walking alongside young people, supporting their education and helping them realise their potential

Contributed by David Mullan, Club Development Officer - North Golf Association

I have a Dream

The Kupa-Wichman whānau have been part of the I Have a Dream journey since it first began in Whangārei ten years ago. All of Abenzar Wichman and Chrissy Kupa-Wichman's children, Tearii (Year 13), Pahemata (Year 11), and twins Irihapeti and Tapuatua (Year 3), have been enrolled as Dreamers since starting school.

Chrissy values the opportunities they are exposed to that they might not otherwise experience. One of the programme's greatest strengths, Chrissy says, is the way Navigators connect with each child. "I definitely appreciate that the Navigators my kids have had have all found a way to connect with them as individuals on more than just a surface sort of level."



Chrissy Kupa-Wichman and Tearii

They also feature often on I Have a Dream platforms, from Tearii's first interview at eight to now appearing on the new Navigator caravans at Tōtara Grove and Tikipunga Primary Schools.

To learn more about I Have a Dream, visit www.ihaveadream.org.nz



Kupa-Wichman Whānau beside Tearii's picture on the I Have a Dream caravan

A H Reed swing bridge replacement

Regular users of the walking tracks around the A H Reed Memorial Park are being asked for their co-operation and patience while urgent safety measures are in place. The A H Reed swing bridge, located along the walking route near Whangārei Falls, which links through to the A H Reed Park, is currently closed while essential safety maintenance repairs take place.

A temporary detour is in place along the surrounding walkway network and information signage has been placed at access points to the walkway. The Hatea Loop Shared Path and the Hatea River Walkway are two of the alternative routes available, and the Parks and Recreation website has extensive information about those and others around the Whangārei district, on <https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Community/Parks-and-recreation>.



Rahui over A H Reed Memorial Park

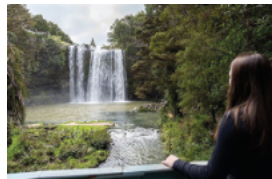
The A H Reed Memorial Park has been temporarily closed to protect one of our most precious taonga, after the pathogen which causes kauri dieback, *Phytophthora agathidicida*, was found in the reserve.

Further testing is being urgently undertaken, in partnership with hapu, Northland Regional Council and Whangārei District Council, and people are urged not to enter the park until the rahui has been lifted.

WDC will provide updates on these projects on <https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Council/Projects> and appreciates your assistance in putting safety first – safety of the people and safety of the ngahere.



Otuhau Whangārei Falls platform upgrades



This project will renew and upgrade the three public viewing platforms at Boundary Road, Tikipunga, by September 2026, following structural assessments in 2022 and 2025 that identified the need for the replacement of some components.

The preferred approach retains the existing foundations, which have an estimated 30 years of remaining life, while upgrading decking and balustrade materials to improve safety, extend asset longevity to approximately 30 years, and enhance the visitor experience.

Local hapū representatives from Ngāti Kahu o Torongare and Pēhiāweri Marae will be involved in site blessings and cultural monitoring during construction.

Local hapū representatives from Ngāti Kahu o Torongare and Pēhiāweri Marae will be involved in site blessings and cultural monitoring during construction.

Snap to it!

Trapping competition

21 April - 22 June

Trap rats and be in to **WIN!**

FREE RAT TRAP with each registration (open to urban Whangārei residents only, while stocks last)

Every rat trapped puts you in the draw to win a \$50 Prezy Card

Prizes for

- ✳ Most rats trapped
- ✳ Biggest rat
- ✳ Longest tail
- ✳ Gnarliest rat

See [tiakinatetaikerau.nz](https://www.tiakinatetaikerau.nz) for more information



Tamariki Time

Wētāpunga (Giant weta) release on Matakohe-Limestone Island



In May 2026, conservationists celebrated a massive milestone by releasing roughly 450 giant wētā (wētāpunga) onto the predator-free Matakohe-Limestone Island in Whangārei Harbour. They were a mix of adults and juveniles, marking the first reintroduction of a native invertebrate (insect) to the sanctuary.

Wētāpunga are the largest of New Zealand's 11 giant wētā species and are among the heaviest insects on earth. Adult females can reach lengths of up to 20 cm (including their antennae) and weigh up to 35 grams—making them heavier than an average sparrow.

They take up to two years to reach maturity, shedding their hard exoskeletons up to 11 times before living another 6 to 9 months as mature adults. That heavy-duty body reminds us that these creatures were here when dinosaurs were lumbering around.

With long antennae, barbed back legs and bulky, grooved armour, sporting a sheen of

lightly burnished copper, they are entirely nocturnal, hiding during the day in tree hollows or dead fronds and coming out at night to feed. They prefer to eat broadleaf species like pūriri, karaka, karamu, mā māngi, māhoe and kohekohe.

Introduced mammalian predators like rats, cats, and mice completely wiped out giant wētā populations on the Northland mainland by the 1800s. Because wētāpunga breed and moult near the forest floor, they are exceptionally vulnerable to pests.

This group of lucky giant insects were transported to Matakohe-Limestone Island carefully inside individual bamboo tubes which were then cable-tied directly to native trees. The island will provide an ideal habitat for them, with an abundance of preferred food sources.

Ask your teachers if you can go and visit them at the island for your next class trip!

Have a go at naming the different body parts of a Wētāpunga

Colour me in!

Head
Leg
Abdomen
Ovipositor
Breathing Holes
Spikes
Palps
Antenna

Overhaul of our public housing system proposed

The New Zealand government has announced a sweeping overhaul of the social and private housing support system designed to shift people out of social housing and into private rentals.

Key changes to the subsidy and assistance models include:

1. Increased Social Housing Rent: From April 1, 2027, the Income Related Rent (IRR) contribution for tenants in social, emergency, and transitional housing will increase from 25% to 30% of their income. This will be phased in over 12 months at each tenant's annual review, increasing rents for about 84,000 households by an average of about \$31 per week.
2. Higher Accommodation Supplement: Funds saved from the IRR increase will be reinvested into the Accommodation Supplement, boosting private rental subsidies by \$10 to \$30 per week for over 100,000 families.
3. Stricter Hardship Payments: The maximum Temporary Additional Support (TAS)—a hardship payment for essential living costs—will be reduced
4. Strict Tenancy Rules: The government is planning a "responsibility framework" for social housing tenants. This includes regular check-ins and future duration limits on how long individuals can remain in

social housing to free up space for more vulnerable applicants. The government detailed these multi-year reforms, pairing policy shifts with broader fast-tracked housing development projects to increase supply.

Officials will hold targeted discussions in the second half of this year with iwi, community housing providers, Kāinga Ora, and social service providers to develop the process of implementation.

For more localized updates on how these future adjustments will impact your situation, you can review the official policy updates on the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and the Beehive.govt.nz portals.

Based on the press release <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/delivering-fairer-social-housing>



Tikipunga Social Housing - photo by Denise Piper

Tikipunga Sports Park upgrade

Between October 2026 to April 2027 Tikipunga Sports Park will be upgraded with a new artificial-turf football pitch, with lighting, aimed at increasing our football field capacity.



This facility will provide consistent, high-quality playing conditions irrespective of weather and will be accessible to all football clubs and user

groups. The artificial turf will replace an existing grass training space located immediately in front of the Tikipunga Football Club.

The artificial turf is to be marked with one senior / full-sized field, and

overlaid with two junior pitches, allowing for a range of user groups, targeted at maximising the usage.

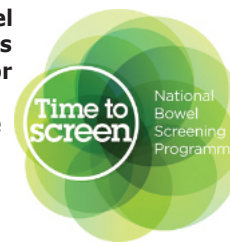
Bowel screening

Returning your completed bowel screening test kit is as simple as dropping it into a NZ Post box or Awanui Labs collection centre.

Free bowel screening is available for people aged 58 to 74, who will be posted an invitation letter and test kit. The test itself can be done at home; is quick, simple and potentially life-saving.

Each kit includes a pre-paid return envelope for NZ Post boxes.

Alternatively, completed kits can be placed in the green bowel screening boxes at Awanui Labs collection centres. The centres closest to Tikipunga are in Te Kamo at 1a Clark Road and at Kensington Health, 8 Kensington Ave.



Elsewhere in Whangārei, they are at 11 Rust Ave (Awanui Labs) and at 116 Onerahi Rd (Onerahi Family Healthcare).

Bowel cancer is the second-highest cause of cancer death in New Zealand. It often has no symptoms, but the screening test can detect bowel cancer early,

when it can often be successfully treated.

Anyone who has misplaced their bowel screening test kit, or it has expired, can phone 0800 924 432 on weekdays 8am to 6pm to request a new one.

For more information, email info@bowelscreening.health.nz or visit timetobowelscreen.nz

Join Tikipunga Book Club

Joining a book club is a great way to meet people, expand your reading tastes and learn more about what the library has to offer you.

This book club meets from 10:30am to 11:30am on the first Wednesday of each month (except when the first Wednesday is a public holiday, then the book club meets the week later). Tea, coffee and nibbles are provided. If you are interested in taking part in this book club at Tikipunga Library, please register in the waiting list by emailing your name and daytime phone number to: whglibrary@wdc.govt.nz, or leave your name and contact details at the library Information desk.

Location: Tikipunga Library, 83 Paramount Parade, Tikipunga



Every Bite Programme

He taonga ā tātou kai katoa – all food matters

This programme helps New Zealanders to make simple changes at home to waste less food. Every Bite is a month-long facilitated programme, where you will carry out simple experiments at home to better understand and prevent your food waste.

The Every Bite programme has been created by and for the community, providing local solutions that work:

- Learn easy, flexible ways to prevent food waste: small changes that make a big difference.
- Understand your own food waste better. Experiment with food waste prevention tips and tools, and decide what works for you.
- Connect with like-minded peers, and join a growing collective of people who do their bit for the planet by wasting less, and celebrating Every Bite.
- Contribute new evidence that will help us better understand and prevent Aotearoa's household food waste.
- 86% of Every Bite programme participants reported feeling more resourceful and more able to reduce their food waste.

Every Bite is delivered by Zero Waste Aotearoa in partnership with the Ministry for the Environment.

See <https://www.everybite.nz/>

Major Station Road water pipe upgrade

Work along Station Road to upgrade underground water infrastructure is progressing well with approximately 50% of the new, larger 355mm diameter polyethylene piping having been laid at the end of April.

The project involves replacing a 50-year-old, 250mm concrete-lined steel trunk main along the north side of Station Road, as well as a smaller section of water pipe on the south side of the road.

The trunk main is the primary water supply for the eastern side of Te Kamo, as well as Tikipunga, including several water reservoirs that serve surrounding areas.

The upgrade is expected to improve water pressure for many households and businesses, and increase capacity and

reliability for our growing population.

Using horizontal directional drilling (where piping is drilled underground, avoiding the need for trenching), pipes between the State Highway 1 overpass and Gillingham Road have been laid, with residents saying they have enjoyed seeing how it all works. Station Road resident, Keith, told a council representative that the project had been "really interesting to watch" and described the team as doing a "bloody great job."

Construction will continue from the overpass to the Kamo Road intersection and is expected to wrap up in July 2026. A planned water shutdown will be required toward the end of the project when the new pipes are connected to the network. Affected customers will be notified in advance.

Preschool Funtimes sessions



For preschoolers and home-schooled children.

These sessions include stories, rhymes, music and movement. Sessions focus on active participation (children participate in music, movement, and a "lil' boogie"), literacy and learning (group sessions incorporate reading stories and practicing rhymes) and provide resource support. You can find copies of the Funtimes songs or check out digital

Funtimes videos via the Whangārei District Libraries Tamariki Page at <https://www.wdc.govt.nz/library/Visit/Tamariki-children/Preschool-Funtimes>

The sessions are held weekly at Tikipunga Library, 83 Paramount Parade, on Tuesdays, 10-10:45am during each school term. Entry is free. All children attending these sessions must be accompanied by an adult.

RayWhite

Lynne Meldrum

lynnemeldrum.co.nz
 Your local Tikipunga salesperson 021 0267 1787



Fun, friendship and football for everyone

With the 2026 Football season now well underway, a lot has happened at the Tikipunga Football Club, across senior, youth and junior spaces!



Hoskin Civil Senior Women's Team:

Our senior women's team kicked the season off with a hard-fought game against Eilerslie AFC in Auckland, both teams vying for the Dave Alabaster Cup. Eilerslie came away with the win, but didn't dampen the spirit of our wahine too.

Dickson Transport Senior Men's 1st Division Team:

Our premier men took centre stage in their opening match against Lynn Avon United AFC at our home ground, vying for the Federation Cup. Tiki, last year's Federation Plate winners, came away with the win, making it through to the next Cup round.

The official 2026 winter football season kicked off for all Northland clubs on 2nd May. Tikipunga hosted the U10 grades for the junior (U10-U13) festival, and with 21 teams entered it was a day of jam-packed fun! Sausages, a bake sale and a coffee cart kept the whānau well fed.

The First Kicks (U5-U7), Fun Football (U8-U9), Youth Grades (U14-U17) and Senior teams also started their 2026 season that day. A roaring start!



Football Fantails:

If your daughter is aged between 4 and 13 and would like to try football but is not ready to join a club, why not try Fantails Football? Specially catered to first time female footballers, this is a wonderful way to introduce your girl to a safe, friendly space to give it a try! Held on Wednesdays during terms 2 and 3, it's not too late to sign her up today: <https://www.tikipungafc.co.nz/girls-women/milo-fantails-programme>

DON'T FORGET - Like our FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/tikipungaAFC> to stay up-to-date. Contact club@tikipungafc.co.nz for further information.

Contributed by Debbie James, Tikipunga AFC President & Fun Football Coordinator

HON DR SHANE RETI QSM
 MP for Whangārei

Working together

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Funded by Parliamentary Service & authored by MP Dr Shane Reti, 105 Lower Cameron Street, Whangārei

Maranga Mai e te Iwi 2026

Continued from page 1...

A significant item within the programme was the mōteatea, which centred on He Whakaputanga o Te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tireni, the important declaration signed in 1835 and regarded as a precursor to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Through this item, Hātea once again brought forward an important milestone in the history of this nation and reaffirmed its continuing relevance.

Hātea is proudly a whānau-based rōpū, encompassing many generations within its membership. It was especially pleasing to witness the emergence of younger members stepping confidently into the kaupapa, reflecting a strong and successful succession plan that will ensure the continued strength and future of Hātea Kapa Haka for generations to come.

Another memorable highlight was the poi item, which was likened to a bird soaring above Whangārei and observing the many hapū of Whangārei Terenga Parāoa. The performance acknowledged the region from Manaia in the south through to Puketotara

and Parihaka inland of Whangārei, honouring the many hapū and communities throughout the rohe and recognising their enduring presence.

A deeply moving tribute was also paid to those members of Hātea Kapa Haka who have passed on — those who are now stars in the night sky. This tribute formed part of the Waiata Tira, a section that Hātea went on to win. The composition held particular poignancy for the rōpū following the passing of one of its members in recent months.

Hātea now turns its focus toward resetting, rebuilding, and preparing for the next stage of the journey as they head toward Te Matatini in February 2027.

We extend our warmest wishes to Hātea, alongside fellow Te Tai Tokerau representatives Muriwhenua and Waerenga Te Kaha. Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui.

*Parihaka te maunga
Hātea te awa
Pēhiāweri te marae
Ngāti Hau te hapū
Ngāpuhi te iwi.
Tihēwa Mauri Ora*

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We service both residential and commercial customers doing one-off jobs as required (getting a house ready for sale?), but we also have huge uptake on our annual maintenance plans. This is a custom, complimentary service that we offer to all of our customers where we send you a no-obligation, friendly reminder each year (or as regularly as you like) when your maintenance is due. Whether anything is required at that stage or not is up to you, we either do the work or we just pop you back in the calendar for another reminder down the track. We know life gets busy so let us take that one task off your to-do list.

Quality and longevity are at the forefront of everything we do. We are Master Painters, Dulux Accredited, Porter's Applicator Guild Members (for those fancy features like rust walls, French washes, Limewash etc) and we also hold SiteWise Gold, which is more for the commercial market, but our residential customers can also rest assured that health and safety is a priority. From heritage villas to modern new builds, and everything in between, Allens Group will ensure superior communication and workmanship throughout the project.

2026 is our tenth year in business servicing Whangārei and the surrounds, and we're celebrating by giving away \$200 credit with us EVERY MONTH for the whole year. Just 'like' us on Facebook and you'll see the promo come through each month. You can enter yourself or someone you know who may need one of our services. Facebook also has a huge array of 'before and after' photos, and our website has more detailed information on all the services we offer, for those doing their homework.

Your home and/or properties are your biggest investments. Maintain them - it will save you money in the long run. Talk to us.



PUANGA MATARIKI Festival
Whangārei Takiwā
Arohātia! 15 June to 17 July
Whangareī District Council
PIPIRI 2026 • wdc.govt.nz/Matariki

The do's and don'ts of AI made simple

Artificial Intelligence (AI) might sound complicated, yet it is really just smart computer tools that help us do things faster, like writing, searching for answers, or even creating pictures.

Do use AI as a helper, not as a replacement for your brain. For example, you might use it to help write a project, yet you should still check the facts and add your own ideas. Think of AI like a calculator, it helps, but you still need to understand the answer.

Do be careful with what you share. Don't type in private information like your passwords, home address, or business secrets. Once it's online, you don't always know where it goes.

Do keep learning. AI is changing quickly, and the more you understand it, the better you can use it.

Now for the don'ts

Don't believe everything AI tells you. Sometimes it can get things wrong or make



things up. Always double-check important information.

Don't use AI to trick people, like creating fake stories or pictures, or pretending something is real when it's not.

And most importantly, don't be scared of AI. When used the right way, it's a powerful tool that can make life easier, just like any tool, it works best when used responsibly.

While AI is a great tool, always remember your local IT professional are there to help, and when things break, we are always there for you.

Contributed by Vince Cocurullo

A taste to remember



This year, Monday 22 June to 17 July, North Haven Hospice invites you to honour those memories through "A Taste to Remember", a heartfelt fundraising initiative that celebrates meaningful dishes while supporting compassionate hospice care in our community.

Taking part is simple and personal. Choose a dish that means something to you. Gather friends, family or workmates to share it in exchange for a donation to North Haven Hospice. This could be a staff morning tea, a bake sale, a shared potluck, a family gathering, a dinner party or even a cooking class.

However you choose to participate, you'll be helping ensure hospice care remains available to those who need it most. Your taste. Your story. Your way to give back.

To find out more and learn how to turn your "Taste to Remember" into a special and unique fundraiser, visit www.northhaverhospice.org.nz/taste

Contributed by Beth Dawson, North Haven Hospice

Northland Waters CCO now incorporated

Northland's three district councils have jointly established a single, region-wide water services company called Northland Waters Incorporated as a separate legal entity. On 11 May, this council-controlled organisation (CCO) will manage all drinking water and wastewater services across Te Tai Tokerau (Northland).

Stormwater services are excluded from Northland Waters and will remain under local council control. To ensure fairness during the rollout, financial assets and water charges will be "ring-fenced" by district councils for the first three years. Uniting these services into a single regional CCO aims to increase borrowing capacity for future infrastructure upgrades.

The next phase will see the beginning of transitional and operational activities that are required to establish a standalone business and ensure it is fully prepared to assume service delivery and responsibilities by July 2027.

The previous Establishment Advisory

Group, appointed to provide independent advice through its planning phases, has been approved as the first Board of Directors for the new water organisation. Its first meeting will take place on Tuesday 9 June 2026 at The Orchard in Whangārei and will be open to the public.

Looking for ways to unwind?

- ✔ Tackle a new project in an upholstery workshop
- ✔ Take time out in a yoga session
- ✔ Sign up for a wellbeing class
- ✔ Discover a new language
- ✔ Learn a new craft
- ✔ Unleash your creativity in an art class
- ✔ Tikanga & Te Ao Māori Classes
- ✔ Book in for computer lessons
- ✔ Enjoy a cooking class
- ✔ Get gardening!



Join a class today... try something new!

Creating fundraising meals

The best meals to cook for fundraising are universally crowd-pleasing, appetising, and can be as large as you like. Depending on your crowd, choose between these two approaches:

1. Large scale cook-ups like a classic spaghetti dinner, a giant pot of chili, or a pancake breakfast. These work because the ingredients are cheap when bought in bulk, allowing for a good profit margin. These comfort foods easily appeal to all ages and allow you to scale up to feed many people.
2. An intimate dinner party or a highly organized tasting menu of slightly unusual foods - these meals create a relaxed, conversational environment that build personal connection. Prepare elevated but accessible courses (e.g., roasted duck, a seasonal risotto, or fresh seafood). Keep it elegant but unfussy, ensuring you have time to step away from the kitchen.

Volunteering Northland

VOLUNTEER TODAY!
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Grace & Inspiration

A feel good story - the donkey in the well



One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal brayed piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he gave up. The animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway - it just wasn't worth all the effort, time

and cost to try and engineer a way to get the donkey out.

The farmer asked his neighbors to come over and help him. They began to shovel soil into the well. When the donkey realized what was happening he became frantic. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down. The

farmer looked down into the well to see what was happening. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take another step up. Pretty soon, the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

Moral Of The Story: *Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest well by changing our perspective, taking opportunities and never giving up! Shake it off, and take a step up.*

Based on a story from theshineblog.com

How to spot sepsis

Sepsis is causing concern among New Zealand health officials, who estimate that nearly 50,000 kiwis will contract it annually.

Hospitalisations between 2000 and 2019 increased by 78%, and sepsis survivors can be left with serious ongoing disabilities.

Often referred to as blood poisoning or septicaemia, sepsis is a life-threatening condition caused by the body's immune system overreacting to infection, causing damage to its own tissues and organs.

Although sepsis can affect perfectly healthy individuals, people at a higher risk of developing the illness include pregnant women, babies under a year old, adults over 70, anyone with an impaired immune system or diabetes, Māori and Pacifica people.

Symptoms include feeling cold and shivery, or very hot with a high temperature, aching muscles, fatigue, upset stomach, feeling ill, slurred speech or being confused.

Early recognition of the illness, rapid treatment and antibiotics can be key to a good outcome. If you are concerned, please contact your nearest medical provider and ask the question, "could it be sepsis"?



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Influenza vaccination: an effective way to prevent heart attacks and strokes

Strong evidence has shown that the seasonal flu vaccine doesn't just reduce our risk and severity of the illness, but can also offer substantial cardiovascular protection.



Heart attacks and strokes account for around a third of all deaths in New Zealand, approximately 12,000 people each year. We urgently need to lift our vaccination numbers, as only around 60% of New Zealanders over 65 receive the 'flu vaccine annually. Vaccination rates are significantly lower among Māori, Pacific and deprived communities, precisely the groups with the highest cardiovascular risk.

This season's vaccine is widely available from many pharmacies and medical centres, free if you're over 65, or if you're under 65 but have a listed medical condition.

You can also book an appointment online on <https://app.bookmyvaccine.health.nz/>

Funding received for new knowledge hub

New national funding has been confirmed for NorthTec's proposed relocation into Forum North, which will become Whangārei's Knowledge, Education and Arts (KEA) Hub.

This will make a meaningful difference to young people across Northland.

Around 2,000 young people leave school across the region each year, and approximately 19% do not continue with education, employment or training. The Hub aims to change this, to help strengthen youth pathways to jobs, keep more young people in Whangārei and ensure training is targeted to the workforce gaps and opportunities that exist here.

The CBD location helps create a visible and accessible education presence that will benefit learners and the heart of the city.

Based on a WDC media release

Young artists shine in Te Tiriti T-shirt competition



Te Waipuna



Ellie

Children from across the district shared their creativity and thoughts about Aotearoa's founding document in a special Te

Tiriti o Waitangi T-shirt design competition at the Central Library.

The event, open to tamariki aged 5 to 14, asked young people to illustrate what Te Tiriti means to them. Entries featured themes of unity, peace, aroha and kotahitanga.

The competition was hosted within Te Puawānanga, a space at the Central Library that houses fiction and non-fiction works by Māori and other indigenous authors.



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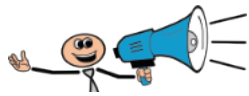
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Whangārei news and updates

Welcome 'Sail' restored



The restored Sail sculpture is back in position at the southern entrance to Whangārei city.

Installed in 2002 by local artists Chris Carey and Justin Murfitt, the structure is a well-known landmark

for people entering the city. The renewed corten-steel weaving looks amazing, thanks to the crew at Culham Engineering, the Whangārei firm that also fabricated the Camera Obscura on the Hātea Loop. The sculpture at the southern entrance to Whangārei had been removed for scheduled restoration after vandalism left it in poor shape.

Working together on our CBD

A Mayoral Inner City Taskforce has been established to bring together key agencies, community partners and business leaders to support a city centre that is safe and thriving socially, economically and aesthetically. The taskforce provides a coordinated forum for organisations already working in and around the city centre to align effort, reduce duplication and focus on practical actions that make a visible difference.

The taskforce is structured around six workstreams, each led by a senior representative with the authority to drive progress within their area and across organisations. Each workstream is expected to work collaboratively with others, recognising that issues such as safety, homelessness, parking and access to services cut across multiple areas.

Workstreams are now confirming priorities, identifying early actions and quick wins, and agreeing how progress will be measured and reported back to the full taskforce. Whangārei Council says public interest in the taskforce is welcome and expected.



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REGULAR COMMUNITY EVENTS & SERVICES

Please contact the editor margie.kent9@gmail.com for FREE notices or to update existing notices.

Otuhau News is not responsible for any events or service cancellations

Baby and toddler needs - Te Ora Hou at 104 Corks Road provides holistic support for your whānau, from ante-natal care through to parenting courses. Call (09) 438 5556

Basketball Courts are available at Te Ora Hou 104 Corks Road, Tikipunga, at no charge, use at your leisure, 24/7

Church services are held at:

- **Hope Church** every Sunday at 10am, located on the corner of Kiripaka Road and Otuhuiwai Crescent
- **Pehiāweri Marae historic church**, 99 Ngunguru Road on the 3rd Sunday of every Month from 9.30am
- **Tikipunga Adventist Fellowship** every Saturday at the Hope Church, (corner of Kiripaka Road and Otuhuiwai Crescent) at 11 am
- **Tikipunga Baptist Church**, cnr Kiripaka Rd and Heretaunga St, Tikipunga on Sundays 10.00am - Worship, Fellowship, Teaching, Morning Tea. Community Kai, Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. Friendship, fellowship and meal provided.

Community Connectors are available at Te Ora Hou - they can connect you to the support you need. Contact Leewyn on 021 287 7078 or Michelle on 021 389 661

Community Education Whangārei (CEW) at Kamo High School - Website: <https://www.cew.ac.nz/> Email: cew@kamohigh.school.nz; Phone: (09) 435 0889; Class venue: Unless otherwise stated all classes are held at Kamo High School

Junior Golf Coaching - Denby Golf Club offers FREE coaching for juniors on Sundays. 8:30-10am for players, and 10:30-12 noon for beginners

Love Whangārei Monthly Clean Up - Check LWMCU Facebook page for upcoming events. <https://www.facebook.com/LWMCU>

Maara Kai Roopu welcomes all to join them at the mara (garden) behind the marae buildings at Pehiāweri Marae every Monday (weather permitting) during term time; from 9.00am

Men-Tall mental health support - Monthly support group for men dealing with everyday struggles - every third Monday of the month, from 6:30pm, at Brothers Barbers in Te Kamo. Contact Josh MacFarlane, 021 0255 1594 or josh.macfarlane@mentall.org.nz

Multicultural Whangārei - Are you a newcomer or migrant to Whangārei? Our mission is to promote positive race relations and ensure everyone feels welcomed and supported. Location: 37 Bank St. Civic Arcade - Upstairs, phone: 09 430 0571, email: info@mwhg.org.nz

New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc - Whangārei Branch. Meets 1st Saturday, February to December, 9am - 12 noon in the May Bain Room, Whangārei Central Library. Contact Kathy 021 263 7358 or Whangarei@genealogy.org

Repair Cafe Whangārei - Volunteers repair most things for a koha. Every third Saturday of the month, 1.30 - 4pm, Reyburn House at the Town Basin. For more information, refer to the Facebook page or email karen@force.org.nz

Te Roopu Hauā / Disability club - meets on the second Friday of the month at 6 pm. Board games, card games, and a laugh at the Hope Church Hall in Tikipunga, c/r Kiripaka Road and Otuhuiwai Crescent. All welcome. Contact Adam White at adamnoelwhite@gmail.com

Tikipunga Community Trust - Next meetings 2026: 13 April, 8 June, 10 August, 12 October and 14 December; starting at the new time of 4.45pm at Te Ora Hou, 104 Cork Road. (unless advised otherwise on Facebook). Please feel free to join us

Tikipunga Sunday Market - 8am to 11am at Tikipunga High School every Sunday morning. Garage sale bargains, local arts and crafts, plants, seasonal produce, seafood, kai and hot coffee! For stall bookings and enquiries contact Lynne via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/TikipungaMarket>

Waiata Joy is at 6.00-7.00pm at Pehiāweri Marae, 99 Ngunguru Road. Held every Tuesday during school term

Whangārei Budgeting Service - FREE Financial Mentoring: Our financial mentors have the skills to negotiate debt repayments and discuss debt solutions with creditors

Whangārei Choral Society - Do you love to sing for pleasure? We meet Mondays, 7-9pm, at St John's Golden Church. No auditions. Our friendly welcome to men and women, all ages. More Info - Meg - 027 337 9072 or email Whangarei.choral@gmail.com

Whangārei 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. Free to enter. Go 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

Whangārei Philatelic Society (Stamp collecting) - meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, except January. Meetings start at 1:30pm doors open at 1pm. Whangārei Theatre Company's premises on Reyburn House Lane, Town Basin, Whangārei. Interesting guest speakers each month. For more info contact Barry Jones, Secretary, on 0212144140, cjnzbj@yahoo.com

Whangārei Scale Modellers Group - meets third Tuesday evening of every month, 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Northland Hobbies, 10 John Street. Open to all with an interest in all types of scale modelling, irrespective of age and skill level.

155 Whare Āwhina Snack Packs - Every Monday during term, one per child, all you need to add is the sandwich. Request through Facebook messenger OR come to 155 Open Arms (Corner Robert and Walton Sts) OR 155 Kamo Rd on Monday mornings between 8.30am and 9am

155 Whare Āwhina Food Bank - 155 Open Arms, 102 Robert Street, Whangārei. Call us on 09 437 0185 Ext 4 or freephone 0800 120 926 to request your parcel. Whānau can receive two parcels per month

Old Municipal Building renovations completed

Whangārei's Old Municipal Building – one of the city centre's oldest and most cherished landmarks – has reopened following an extensive restoration after fire damage.

The Old Municipal Building was officially reopened on Wednesday 22 April 2026.

The land is the former site of Pihoihoi Pā, where the first European settler to Whangārei, William Carruth, was welcomed in 1839. Officially opened on 22 May 1913, the Municipal Building originally housed a reading room, library and ladies' restroom on the ground floor, with Borough and County Council offices above. Adjoining it was a large Town Hall with a stage and seating for 1,000. Classified as a Group B heritage building, its distinctive features include the elegant clock

tower, ornate facade, decorative mouldings, and the gold-embossed District Coat of Arms that still graces the exterior. The \$7.4 million project faced significant delays due to insurance negotiations, Covid-19 disruptions, and the engineering challenges typical of century-old structures.



WINTER DIARY

Please contact the editor margie.kent9@gmail.com for FREE notices or to update existing notices. Otuihau News is not responsible for any events or services cancelled for any reason. Please check with local event organisers

Tuesday 9 June - Northland Waters CCO first Board of Directors meeting will take place at The Orchard in Whangārei and will be open to the public.

Sunday 14 - 20 June - National Volunteer Week - honours the collective energies and efforts of volunteers across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Monday 15 June to 17 July - Puanga Matariki Festival - A special celebration with a series of cultural events happening within the Whangārei District for people to come and celebrate together. Find out more on the WDC events page

Now until 22 June - Tiakina Whangārei Backyard Trapping Competition. Register at tiakinatetaiokerau.nz and receive a rat trap kit (while stocks last)

Monday 22 June to 17 July - Taste to Remember - a fun fundraiser for Northhaven Hospice, visit www.northhavenhospice.org.nz/taste and see page x for more information

Wednesday 24 June, 10 July & 5 August - Key Workshops on 'Self Esteem and Confidence Building', 'Take Charge of your Life', and 'Stress, Health and You'. Presented by Gwendolyn Needham, 10-1pm, \$10, register 09 437 7183 or e-mail be.free@xtra.co.nz

Friday 10 July - Matariki Public Holiday. See page x

Wednesday 15 - 18 July - Quarry Festival of Light!
- An immersive experience for the whole family. Tickets are allocated in 15 minute entry sessions: \$10 adults (16+) \$25 family (2 adults and 2 under 16s) Children under 3 are free

Friday 28 August - Daffodil Day - Check out <https://www.daffodilday.org.nz/aboutdaffodilday> to see how you can contribute

Saturday 29 August - Stamp and Coin/Banknote Fair at St Johns GoldenChurch, Kamo Road, Whangārei from 9am. Dealers for all things philatelic will be present. Children's corner. Further details available from Barry Jones, Secretary, on 0212444140, cjnzbj@yahoo.com or 612 Three Mile Bush Road.

Friday 18-25 September - Keep New Zealand Beautiful week. See page 5

Thursday 1 October to 14 October - Whangārei Silver Festival

Monday 26 October - Labour Day Monday Market at Kaurihohore Public Hall, Apotu Road, Kaurihohore. Open from 9am to 1pm