Onerahi Orbit

Free to you from the Onerahi Community Association

Summer - Dec 2026/Jan 2027

Covering Onerahi, Parua Bay, Pataua and Whangārei Heads

Double cup victory!

Onerahi Football Club has ended the 2026 season on a high after both the men's and women's first division teams won their respective divisions for Northland Regional Football cup competitions. Go to page 17 for the full story...





• 2026 Whangārei Civic Honours - pg 5 • Onerahi Kindergarten 46 years - pgs 7 & 16
• Hospice Trees of Rememberance - pg 18



Haere mai,

Summer is here at last! At this stage, we're all hanging out for some sunny, drama free, chill time at the coast. So remember to slip, slop, slap and wrap. Make sure to follow safety procedures on water craft. Wear your life jackets; take water, sun protection and communication devices with you on the water; and make sure your devices are charged up before you leave home. After the holidays, make sure to provide your views to consultations on the 10 Year Plans (both the NRC and the WDC will be asking for your input in March/April for their spending priorities).

The Year of the Fire Goat is something we all need for 2027 - a year of kindness, creativity, compassion, and harmony.

Nga mihi from the Orbit team

OCA volunteer needed

The Onerahi Community Association would LOVE to hear from anyone able to take over the coordination of the distribution of the residential Onerahi Orbit magazines from Alan Westlake, who has now completed 5 years in the role and is ready to hand the role over to the next person.

The job entails picking up the magazines from the printers in Whangārei and then sectioning them for distribution by our team of volunteers. You will also need to keep track of who is delivering to which areas - Alan will train you. If this is something you can help us with, please contact OCA as soon as possible by email on ccoca@xtra.co.nz

OCA Community Wellbeing Grant

Each year OCA has $1,500 grant money available to help support and celebrate happy, healthy, connected communities and individuals.

This is a contestable grant which means we would be unlikely to give it all to one situation. We try to spread it out as much as we can amongst several grant applicants. The intent of the grant is to:

- Support communities to help themselves
- Address disadvantage
- Promote community participation and identity.

We have already spent $650 on two separate community grants in this category this year (at the time of writing) but still have $850 remaining.

The application form is on our OCA website - https://www.onerahicommunity.co.nz/

Contents

Double cup victory . . . . . 1 & 17
OCA volunteer needed 2
OCA Community Wellbeing Grant 2
OCA report 3
PBRRA News 4
2026 Whangārei Civic Honours 5
Onerahi Playcentre thank A&S Flooring Ltd 7
Onerahi Kindergarten 46 years . . . . . 7 & 16
End of Onerahi indoor bowling 9
Onerahi Garden Group fundraiser 9
Kiwi Kids on track 10
Bowling Club - a nail biting finish 10
Summer fun 10
Supporting local talent 10
Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade 11
I have a Dream celebrates 10 years 12
Boost Brokers for Good Ambrose Day returns 12
Do you know about CEW? 12
Onerahi School report 13
A street named Clotworthy Crescent 14
The first wedding in Onerahi 14
CAB public notice 14
Raurimu Avenue School 15
Onerahi Kindergarten continued 16
Online Christmases 16
Double cup victory continued 17
Resource Management Act changes - Tangiwai Baker 18
Hospice Trees of Rememberance 18
Whangārei News 19
Justices of the Peace closed for Christmas 19
Save water for El Nino Summer 20
Dust off those rodent traps 20
NZ 420 Girls Sailing Team wins against Australia 21
Water safety 21
Faith for today 22
Emergency numbers 22
Venues for hire 22
Regular events 23
Upcoming events 24

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*Stories of approximately 200 words or less are due for the next Orbit by **6 March 2027** - share your news by emailing Margie at onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com*

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

Feedback forms, application forms and nomination forms are all available from the website

www.onerahicommunity.co.nz

Through our website we will try to provide information about what is being done and share good stories about our community

Onerahi Community Association update

50 Years of Incorporation

This month the OCA marks 50 years since it was formally incorporated through the Companies Office on 3 November 1985. Efforts are under way to identify the early community members who helped drive the organisation, and a function to honour them is being planned.

Membership

Membership application forms are available from the website. Membership is confirmed by committee approval. Benefits include reduced hire charges and regular updates about OCA activity.

Facility Use

There are up to 70 regular bookings per month and about five casual hire bookings per month, with regular enquiries about casual hire, including festivals, celebrations and activity sessions.

Indoor Bowls Club

Regrettably the local Indoor Bowls Club, regular users of the hall, closed at the end of August. In recognition of the strong relationship built up over the years, the club has offered to leave a generous donation to the OCA.

Community Champion Awards

If you know someone in the community who deserves recognition as a champion, please get in touch. The latest two recipients are Ross MacKenzie and Maureen Dunphy. In December, the OCA will recognise another community member with its Order of Merit, to go alongside the May recipients Kim Webby, Lana Jennings and Tony Gill.

Shout-out

We acknowledge the security officers regularly stationed outside New World Supermarket. They are kept busy managing and defusing antisocial behaviour and helping reduce dishonest activity around the supermarket.

Personnel

Heidyn Harrison is moving to Auckland to study and will hand the Facility Manager role over to Stephanie Saramet.



Both will manage the transition during November. The OCA acknowledges the work Heidyn has done. Dianne Sketchley has taken on the role of treasurer.

OCA Website

The OCA website, www.onerahicommunity.co.nz, shares information about what is being done and good stories about our community. It contains a schedule of activities and is the place to find forms for facility bookings, funding grants, feedback from events and facilities and nominations for community recognition. We are currently looking for a volunteer content creator for this website.

Playweek 2026

The OCA applied for funding to support tamariki play during Playweek in late October. The successful application allowed the OCA to provide outdoor volleyball net systems and balls to both local primary schools. The initiative was driven by students, who identified why they enjoy playing volleyball and what could be done to support it.

Recent and Upcoming Events and Activities

In November, Community Connect ran activities on Wednesdays after school at Onerahi Primary School, from 4 to 6pm. These sessions were popular in December 2025 and early 2026.

Community Led Projects

Community Led Projects continue to respond to community feedback. A key focus for the rest of this year is security cameras: installation across the town shopping area and Sherwood Park is due for completion early in the new year. The project aims to address concerns about safety in Onerahi. Developed in partnership with police, the cameras will include number plate and facial recognition features to help prevent crime. Footage will be stored at the police station.

Grant Harrison
OCA President

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PBRRA News

Kia ora. It has been a busy couple of months in Parua Bay, with everyone gearing up to enjoy the summer ahead.



Civil Defence CRG members at the Parua Bay Market stand on Labour Day

The local Civil Defence Community Response Group, along with neighbouring groups from McLeod Bay and Waikaraka/ Tamaterau, held an information stand at the Parua Bay Markets on Labour Day. It was great to engage with so many members of the community and have conversations about household readiness, in case of an emergency event - tsunami, floods, storms, fires etc. A quick reminder to have a GRAB BAG ready, in case you need to evacuate, and three days supply of food and water in case of serious power outages.

Thank you to all who supported our stand and bought raffle tickets, and to our local businesses for your support and generosity. Congratulations to the winners of our raffle.

You may have noticed some new solar panels on the Parua Bay Community Centre roof. These have been provided by a grant offered to the local Civil Defence Group, from the EECA (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority). This was part of the Community Resilience Programme, to enhance community preparedness and energy resilience on buildings that would be used by the community during a major weather event or disaster. The Parua Bay Community Centre also contributed towards the funding of this project. The PBCC Chairperson, Mark Williamson, says the solar system is up and running well, and they are hoping the energy credits through the summer will help with future energy costs, as well as providing a power supply to assist the community in a major event. Thank you to all involved in bringing this project to fruition.



The new solar panels on the Parua Bay Community Centre roof

The PBRRA AGM was held on 18th November, and our committee looks forward to representing you through this coming year. We are always happy to welcome new members to our association, and discuss any issues or concerns you have. If you have a pet project you'd like to see happen in the community, or just want to meet some of your neighbours, come along and join us. Any questions, please email us on paruabayrra@gmail.com

We are starting to see the predicted El Nino weather patterns, bringing warmer temperatures and wind, increasing the risk of drought and wildfires. Please check if it's safe before lighting any fires this summer – checkitsalright.nz

Report any suspicious fires to 111. AEDs are situated at the PB Community Centre, and at GAS Parua Bay.

Wishing you all a happy and safe festive season,

Barb Green

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2026 Whangārei Civic Honours presented to Brent Mawson

Brent Mawson has a long history of supporting all endeavours Onerahi - The Whangārei District Council has now awarded him Civic Honours.



Civic Honours 2026 recipients (from left to right) Brent Mawson, Angus McCulloch, Karen Thomas and Suzzette Monroe, with Mayor Ken Couper.

Born in Avonside, Christchurch, Brent moved from Hawke's Bay to Whangārei in January 1973. He and his wife Sue raised their daughters, Katy and Melany, here, and the city has been at the centre of his life ever since.

Education has been the foundation of Brent's career. After starting at Whangārei Boys' High School, he spent nearly 20 years at Tikipunga High School as Head of Department for Social Sciences. As Director of the Lighthouse Project, he secured one of only four competitive Government grants in the country, then wrote and implemented a plan that earned the school national recognition.

That work led him into teacher education, and became Associate Dean and Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland's Te Tai Tokerau Campus, retiring in 2016. From 2015 to 2020, he was also a trustee of the Taitokerau Education Trust.

Alongside his teaching, Brent served Whangārei as a city councillor from 1977 to 1989. As Chairman of the Engineering Committee, he played a key role in developing the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Onerahi has been at the heart of Brent's community service. He helped establish the Onerahi Community House in 1978 as its first treasurer and later served again on the Onerahi Community Association committee. Since 2019, he worked with Onerahi Pest Free and other environmental groups. For five years, he also delivered the Onerahi Orbit as a volunteer, until his health no longer allowed it. His contribution was recognised with the Onerahi Order of Merit in 2025.

A love of history runs through much of Brent's work. In 1978, he co-founded the Whangārei and Districts Historical Society and became its first chairperson. Decades later, he joined the core team behind True Tales of Onerahi, which grew from one book into two volumes of local stories, heritage brochures, oral recordings and photographic exhibitions. Brent researched and wrote 11 stories, edited and proofread many others, and promoted the books at community stalls.

At the Whangārei Steam and Model Railway Club, he is Secretary, archivist and a weekly volunteer. For its 50th anniversary, he compiled a history that members say captured both its story and spirit. Brent has also acted with the Whangārei Repertory Society and Onerahi Players, and served on the Whangārei Music Society committee from 2018 to 2021. A keen sportsman, he played senior soccer for Onerahi for more than a decade, and completed 22 marathons and 63 half Marathons.

Through more than 50 years of teaching, governance, heritage and volunteer service, he has helped make the district a better and more interesting place, and one its people are proud to call home.

For this we honour him.

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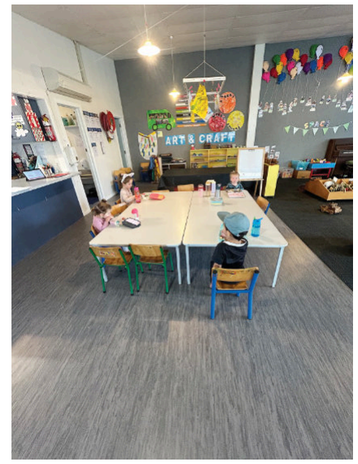
Onerahi Playcentre thank A&S Flooring Limited





Onerahi Playcentre want to say a big "thank you" to Ash and Sophie, the owners and operators of A&S Flooring Limited, for their help in laying vinyl.

Earlier in the year, a member of Onerahi Playcentre put out a call out to the community to see if anyone could lend a hand laying vinyl to replace some of the carpet tiles in the centre. The inside space is multi-functional and gets used as an eating area and as a designated art/messy play zone, so the centre needed something more durable than the existing carpet tiles. A&S Flooring Limited reached out to the centre and said they could donate their labour to lay the vinyl.

"We want to say a big thank you to Ash and Sophie, the owners and operators of A&S Flooring Limited. They were professional, efficient and provided quality workmanship. As a small community-based centre, we are grateful for your generosity. The new flooring will be enjoyed by the many whānau who come to Onerahi Playcentre each week."

Anna Caston, Onerahi Playcentre

Onerahi Kindergarten: 46 years at the heart of the community

Just a few weeks ago while doing puzzles with my son at Onerahi Kindergarten, we noticed that one of the well-loved wooden puzzles had been donated in 1986. "Wow," I said. "This puzzle is older than me!"

It turns out that while so much has changed at Onerahi Kindergarten since it welcomed its first children in June 1980, many of the shelves and tables used for storage and play, and a handful of well-made puzzles date back to those early years.

Former Head Teacher Sue Guiney shared some interesting insights into its history. It was in the mid-1970s that a group of parents formed an establishment committee, supported by the Whangārei Free Kindergarten Association, and spent four years fundraising to raise the amount required to secure funding from the Department of Education.

By the late 1970s, the Association was in a position to negotiate use of the piece of land. Committee members went door-knocking to establish how many preschool-aged children lived in the area, and they also continued fundraising for many years to provide the resources the kindergarten needed.

Onerahi Kindergarten began with five morning and three afternoon sessions each week, compared with today's six-hour session, five days a week. Reflecting the needs of working parents, it now also operates during most school holidays.



A low fence and no surrounding houses at Onerahi Kindergarten in the 1980s.

Continued on page 16....

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The end of Onerahi Indoor Bowling Club

The Onerahi Indoor Bowling Club has sadly made the decision to wind up after a final membership drive was unable to sufficiently boost numbers.

During a special meeting held in August, two key resolutions were formally passed: one to wind up the club, and another to determine what to do with its assets.

The club has always welcomed beginners and experienced players, offering regular social games and opportunities to compete in tournaments. Indoor bowls (played on mats laid out inside the hall) uses smaller, differently weighted bowls to lawn bowls, but it exposes players to the same strategies and decision making needed for outdoor bowls.

The club was one of the largest clubs in Whangārei in its heyday. A prominent fixture in the club's competitive calendar was The annual New World Tournament. This event regularly drew standard indoor disciplines (singles, pairs, and triples) from across the Whangārei district to compete for local ranking points. New World also regularly donated meat packs for prizes. The club also held an annual event for the Onerahi Fire Brigade. Interclub competitions for the Whangārei Indoor Bowling Association's circuit were also played, with members routinely contesting regional titles against other Northland clubs, participating in winter leagues, localized 'club nights', and representative tournaments.

The club is holding a number of trophies won by members over the years and if retired members or their family members would like to claim them, then the club would love to hear from you. **Please email susan.pumfleet@afa.co.nz with the details of the person and the trophy so that arrangements can be made.**



Indoor Bowls 60th Jubilee Celebration Tournament in 2012

The last event using the club's equipment will be held at the end of February 2027, when the Women's Institute will hold a tournament using the club's equipment of mats, scoring boards, kneeling pads, dusters and chalk etc. **From March 2027 the club will donate all their equipment to schools and/or community groups. Any groups wanting this equipment are to please email susan.pumfleet@afa.co.nz so that arrangements can be made for the distribution.**

Marjorie Bowdler, Onerahi Indoor Bowling Club President

Onerahi Garden Group fundraiser *Photos by Rose Tantau*

The Onerahi Garden Group held their yearly fundraiser in the Onerahi Hall on 16 October. Elaine Tobin sold a very large chocolate cake, Max Lambert a number of plants and there were many raffles.


The raffle Table with many goodies to be won


Elaine Tobin with the chocolate cake


Mac Lambert with his healthy plants


Maureen Dunphy and Aldene McClure

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Kiwi Kids on track

Twice a week, the 'Kiwi Kids' early learning centre go on an adventure on the Waimahanga Track.

"There are so many special places along the way that have become firm favourites, including our beloved Puriri Tree, Gruffalo Bridge, the Mudslide and, of course, the beach! Each visit brings new opportunities for exploration, discovery, imaginative play and connecting with the natural world around us.

We were absolutely thrilled to hear that a picnic table was being donated to the community for us all to enjoy at our much-loved Puriri Tree! What a wonderful addition to our Bush School adventures. We can't wait to sit together, share our kai, and create even more special memories in this beautiful spot. A huge thank you to Chrissie and her hard working team for organising this - it will be enjoyed by our tamariki for many adventures to come!"



Off on a new adventure



The wonderful new picnic table

Bowling Club - A nail biting finish

The finals day of the A/C Drawn Club Championship Triples was held on 21 September - a blustery and therefore difficult bowling day.

Skip Linda Swanson, with Rose Tantau and Lead Peter Noone, eked out a win by one point - beating the highly fancied team of Ann Halls, Amy Little and Danny Ilievski.



Linda, Pete and Rose

Going into the final end and trailing Halls by two points, both Noone and Tantau were holding two shots, one each, however they were not close to the jack. Up stepped their skip Swanson who drew two close shots with her two bowls. Talented Ann Halls managed to take out one of the bowls with a run shot but after a tight measure, Swanson got the three points for the win.

Score: 12-11

Summer fun

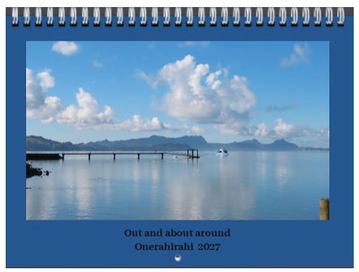
There's no better place than the beach over summer - local and free, your only worry will be to pack what you need for the day.

Don't forget broad-spectrum sunscreen (water-resistant SPF 50+ is best), hats and sunglasses, UV-protective clothing like a long-sleeve shirt or a rash vest, some towels and a shady spot to sit. Check the tides before you leave to avoid the mud. Supervise children closely: especially if they are swimming out to the pontoon.

Remember to take plenty of water with you - freezing a few water bottles overnight gives your whanau ice-cold drinks the next day. Opt for snacks that are easy to eat and can deal with the heat - fruit is good! Remember to take all your rubbish home with you, and most importantly: have fun!

Supporting local talent

Local photographer Wendy Giffin has published a 2027 calendar showcasing her photos of local scenery. Priced at $23 each, they are available from wagzrag@hotmail.com



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Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade Open Day

The Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade recently held its Open Day, welcoming members of the community to the station to learn more about what we do and the role of volunteer firefighters.

Visitors enjoyed getting up close to our fire appliances, meeting brigade members, and taking part in our fire safety activities. A highlight of the day was the fire safety demonstration and Escape My House Challenge, which encouraged families to think about their home fire escape plans and how to stay safe in the event of a fire.

It was fantastic to see so many people attend, and we were especially pleased to meet several locals interested in joining the brigade.

A big thank you to New World Onerahi for generously supplying sausages for the barbecue, and to Whangārei Fire Station for their support on the day. We would also like to acknowledge our hardworking brigade members whose dedication and teamwork made the event such a success.









If you missed the Open Day but have ever wondered what being a volunteer firefighter involves, we would love to hear from you. Whether you are interested in joining, supporting the brigade, or simply finding out more, feel free to get in touch for a chat.

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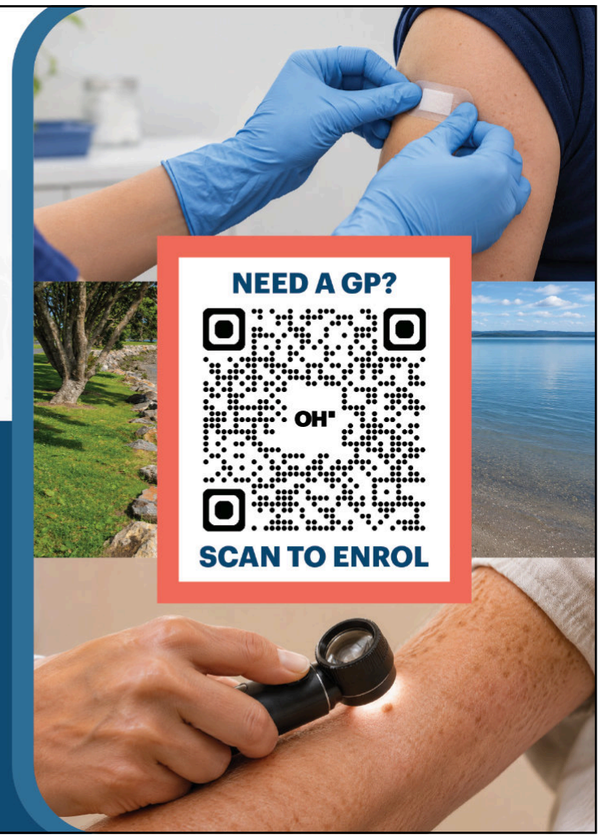

I Have a Dream celebrates 10 years in Whangārei

I Have a Dream has supported more than 2,500 tamariki and rangatahi in Whangārei over the last decade, creating a blueprint for expansion into other communities throughout Aotearoa.

Founded in 2003 by Scott Gilmour as a 50-student pilot in Mt Roskill, the organisation began partnering with Tikipunga Primary, Tikipunga High, Te Kura o Otangarei, and Totara Grove School in 2016, with Navigators providing consistent wraparound support to keep students engaged from primary through to secondary school and beyond.

"When you've been part of a community for 10 years, you get to see young people grow from primary school students into confident rangatahi who are studying, working, and finding their place in the world," says CEO Shane Gorst. "With more than 93% of our senior Dreamers moving into further education, training, or employment, we're seeing what years of trust, encouragement, and having someone consistently in your corner can achieve."



The organisation extends deep gratitude to the Whangārei community for ten years of ongoing partnership and support.

Contributed by Abbey Cameron, I have a Dream

Boost Brokers Golf for Good Ambrose Day returns!



Following the massive success of this year's inaugural event, the team at Boost Brokers has announced they are back for round two!

Mark your calendars for Friday, 19 February 2027, and return to the picturesque Pines Golf Club course to raise funds for a very good cause.

Thanks to the incredible teams who registered, played, and bid generously during the auction at the last event, approximately $10,000 was raised! These funds went directly toward supporting our ongoing work with tamariki and rangatahi across our local community.

Event details & how to register

Whether you're a seasoned pro or picking up a club for the first time, this event is open to golfers of all skill levels. It's the perfect opportunity for a team-building day on the green while giving back to a great cause.

• **Date:** Friday, 19 February 2027 • **Location:** The Pines Golf Club, Whangārei Heads • **Format:** Teams of 3 • **Cost:** $105 per person • **Highlights:** On-course challenges, raffles, prizes, delicious food & drinks available all day, and a $20,000 prize for a hole-in-one! Registrations are open now! Gather your team of three and secure your spot today to support I Have a Dream.

Register at https://ihaveadream.org.nz/golf-for-good-2/

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Onerahi activations

Recent Community Connect activations in Onerahi gave tamariki, rangatahi, and their whānau access to a range of activities through short five-week blocks, including volleyball, touch, cycling, football, and PlayGolf.

Participant feedback shows that more regular opportunities to stay active would be valued by our community.

Do you know about CEW?

Community Education Whangārei was established more than three decades ago. CEW's core purpose remains the same, offering 'Lifelong Learning' under the Adult and Community Education (ACE) guidelines at Te Kamo High School.

Classes run between one and four terms each year (the same as school terms). There are anywhere from 40 to 60 classes running each term, with approximately 1,000 to 1,200 learners enrolled at any one time and these numbers fluctuate throughout the year. CEW offers two-part payment plans and discounts for multiple members of the same whānau, helping to make the classes more accessible and affordable to a wider range of learners.

If you want to learn more about the courses offered, or to find out about tutoring opportunities, please visit:

Website: https://www.cew.ac.nz/ or contact them directly: 0274 285 142 or 09 435 0889 or cew@kamohigh.school.nz

Onerahi School report



Kia ora koutou,

It has been said that not having tried at all is the only true failure. The process of learning is one intertwined with failure, success, and continual growth. It is important to build a sense of trust that though something may not work the first time, it will happen if I persevere.

For this issue of the Orbit I wanted to highlight one event recently held at our school that highlighted the importance of trying and persistence. It starts with Dominic (Year 4) and his whānau entering a competition, a competition they won. What was the prize? Dominic's school would be able to host a Weet-Bix TRYathlon!



Under, over, and through

Each student would receive an athletic shirt, a medal for completing an obstacle-strewn course, and a Weet-Bix breakfast at the end. All of this in service of tamariki taking on a challenge and pushing themselves.



Ready to brave the cave

But what did the course look like? The pathway weaved through our entire field with huge inflatable obstacles, a water slide, hydration station, and more to test the body and mind.

It was daunting to look at but each student rose to the challenge. The lessons they learnt around persevering and pushing your limits can be directly mapped to the experience tamariki have in encountering new concepts in other areas of their learning. We shared some writing from our tamariki on the event in our last newsletter (which can be found on our website) and you can hear first-hand the pride they had in their accomplishments.

We would like to thank the team from Sanitarium who came out and ran the event, our staff that helped with the organisation, and our whānau who came out to cheer on tamariki and also take on roles at the different activity stations. Lastly, to the effort and respect our tamariki showed in taking part in this opportunity, thank you. Your efforts inspire me to seek out new challenges.



Hitting maximum speed on the waterslide

Ngā manaakitanga,

Danny Hamilton



The peak of the inflatable obstacles

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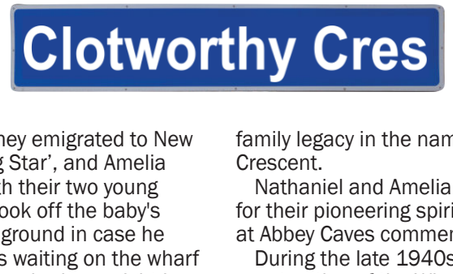
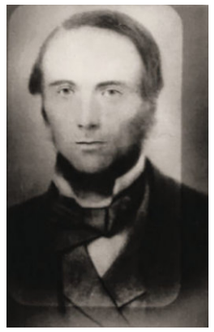
A street named Clotworthy Crescent...





Clotworthy Crescent is named to commemorate the Clotworthy family, who were early pioneers in the area.

Nathaniel Clotworthy was married to Amelia Moore Wilson on 20 May 1856 in Crumlin, Ireland and in 1859 they emigrated to New Zealand. Nathaniel left on the 'Shooting Star', and Amelia followed a month later on 'Shalimar' with their two young sons. Before boarding the ship Amelia took off the baby's bootie and placed William's foot on the ground in case he never returned to Ireland. Nathaniel was waiting on the wharf at Auckland. They had one night in Auckland then boarded a coastal ship to Whangārei.



While clearing the thick bush, they lived in a simple cottage on a 409-acre farm, and Nathaniel farmed cattle. They later built a two-storied homestead for their thirteen children and hosted many guests amidst their busy lives, extensive gardens, orchards and paddocks.

The homestead, called The Abbey, which burned down in the early 1900's was described as having an "Irish Abbey" style to it. It was built near some limestone rock formations that we now call the Abbey Caves.

Nathaniel died in 1913 and Amelia in 1919. Many of the Clotworthy family left the Whangārei district to make their lives elsewhere. Nathaniel and Amelia's son William Clotworthy farmed at Waimahanga in Onerahi, leaving the family legacy in the name of Clotworthy Crescent.

Nathaniel and Amelia are recognised for their pioneering spirit, with a plaque at Abbey Caves commemorating them.

During the late 1940s and 1950s, the construction of the Whangārei Airport forced the relocation of the central Onerahi township, sparking a housing boom. New subdivisions spread across the Sherwood Rise area. Residential homes on Clotworthy Crescent were constructed shortly after, during the mid-to-late 1960s, at which time local authorities honoured the well-known district pioneers by naming the new street after them.

Contributed by Alison Shrigley



The first wedding in Onerahi

Records show the story told of a wedding on 30 January 1888 in a pioneer home in Onerahi. It was complete with guests and food in attendance, except for one essential detail - no clergyman! From the window a rowing boat was seen: it was the Rev JH Hawkes on his way to visit some of the parishioners. He was frantically hailed and when he learned of their dilemma, he obligingly officiated at the wedding ceremony.

Based on a story in The Advocate, 1911

CAB public notice

The Citizens Advice Bureau has changed their opening hours. Weekdays are 9am - 4pm with the exception of Wednesdays which is now 9am-7pm. Saturdays remain 9am - 12:30pm. They are also collaborating with WGHS Volunteer Army and can offer tech support for phones and laptops on Wednesday afternoons between 3:30pm - 4:30pm. Contact them on email Whangārei@cab.org.nz or phone 09 4388046.

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Celebrating Our Tamariki and Community



We are delighted to share the appointment of our new principal, Monique Cassidy (Whaea Monz). We welcome Whaea Monz into this leadership role and look forward to the knowledge, experience and passion she will bring to our school.

Our tamariki have been working hard in preparation for Te Whanga Festival, with our kapa haka group putting in plenty of practice ahead of their performances. Students have been learning and refining their waiata, haka and movements, working together to bring their performances to life. Kapa haka is an important part of our kura, providing opportunities for tamariki to connect with te ao Māori, strengthen their understanding of tikanga, celebrate their identity and develop a sense of belonging. It is also a wonderful way for students to build confidence, teamwork and pride in representing their school. We look forward to seeing all their hard work come together as they take to the stage and share their performances with the wider community.

We are also pleased to share that Raurimu Avenue School will receive the Mauri to host Te Whanga Festival next year. This is a fantastic opportunity and a privilege for our school community. Hosting the festival will allow us to bring together local schools, whānau and the wider community to celebrate Māori culture, kapa haka and the talents of our tamariki.

As we reflect on the year, we would also like to acknowledge and thank the many local businesses, organisations and individuals who have supported our school and tamariki.

A special thank you goes to **Tu Manawa Sport Northland** for a grant towards sporting opportunities for our tamariki, and **Mana Ake** for sponsoring our Matariki celebrations. We are also grateful to the **Onerahi Community Association** for applying for a grant for two volleyball sets. This will provide our tamariki with another opportunity to get active, develop their sporting skills, build teamwork and enjoy playing together.

We would also like to give a very special thank you to **JayCee Electrix Ltd** for their support of our tamariki through our breakfast club. Breakfast club is about more than just food; it provides a welcoming space for students to start their day, connect with others and feel supported. We greatly appreciate JayCee Electrix Ltd recognising the importance of supporting our learners and contributing to their wellbeing.

A big thank you also goes to **Mainfreight** and the **Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade** for their support of our Praisegiving celebrations, helping us recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students.

We are fortunate to have the ongoing support of our website sponsors, **Northland Vet**, **Onerahi New World** and **Community Education Whangārei (CEW)**. Their contributions help support our school and keep our community connected.

Finally, a very special thank you to Maureen, who has continued to show incredible support for our tamariki and school. In particular, her generosity in helping provide clothing has made a meaningful difference to many of our whānau. Her kindness, care and commitment to our school community are truly appreciated.

From all of us at Raurimu Avenue School, thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the year. It takes a community to create opportunities for our tamariki, and we are incredibly grateful to be part of such a supportive Onerahi community. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

Kerry Campbell







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Continued from page 7...

Onerahi Kindergarten



The high fort playground at Onerahi Kindergarten in 1984

Now led by Head Teacher Jody Giles, Onerahi Kindergarten has a roll of 40 students, with a team of five fully-qualified teachers and a great group of regular relievers. The team has also been supported for the last 18 years by administrator Roanne Bryce. And what began as a 1 teacher to 15 children ratio in 1980, now sits at 1:10.

After 46 years embedded in the Onerahi community, Onerahi Kindergarten continues to play an important role in the lives of our youngest citizens. The fences may be higher, the sessions longer and the teacher-to-child ratios smaller, but some things have stood the test of time – including, apparently, a very sturdy wooden puzzle.

If you would like to join the Onerahi Kindergarten waiting list, please visit www.nka.org.nz/kindergartens/onerahi-kindergarten or drop in for a visit during opening hours.

Contributed by Natalie Carmichael



Onerahi Kindergarten kids play on the playground in 2026

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Online Christmases

Christmas is nearly here again! It's a wonderful time to catch up with family, share a meal, exchange presents and enjoy the company of those around us.



Technology has changed how we celebrate Christmas. We can video-call family living overseas, send Christmas greetings in seconds, and even do our Christmas shopping without leaving home. But with all this technology comes a few things we should remember.

Firstly, watch out for Christmas scams. Scammers love this time of year. You might receive a text saying your Christmas parcel is waiting for delivery, or an email offering an unbelievable bargain. Remember, if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Secondly, remember to put the phone down. While taking photos and sharing Christmas moments is great, don't forget to enjoy the people sitting right beside you. Sometimes the best memories are made when we're not looking at a screen.

Thirdly, help someone with technology. Perhaps an older neighbour would love to learn how to video-call their grandchildren, or someone needs help setting up their new phone. A little assistance can make a big difference.

Finally, remember that technology is simply a tool. It's the people we connect with who really matter.

From my family to yours, I wish everyone in Onerahi a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy New Year. Enjoy the technology, but most importantly, enjoy each other!

Vince Cocurullo

Vince fix it man
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Continued from page 1 . . .

Double cup victory

Onerahi is celebrating a double cup victory with both the women's and men's football teams winning their respective divisions for 2026.

The Onerahi McKenzie Contracting Women's 1st Division team took out the 2026 Christina Taylor Cup 2-0 in the final over Bream Bay, with player Storm Edwards scoring both goals.

This followed a cup win in 2024 and a runners-up finish in 2025. "It was quite a different team this season and a great development year, with a lot of youth players coming through the ranks," says Kyle Harris, Onerahi Football Club President. "The future is in good hands, with some outstanding talent shining through."

Following suit, the Onerahi McKenzie Contracting Men's 1st Division team won the 20 26 Stafford Choat Cup. For the first time in club history, the team won the cup two consecutive years.

The men's team won 3-1 over FC Whangārei, with player Kieran Hamilton scoring twice in the second half to clinch both the Golden Boot and the win.

"While it was a shaky start to the year, we turned it around in the second half of the season, losing only one match in the league/cup combined," says Kyle.

The Men's 1st Division team scored their place in the final after winning their semi-final game against the Onerahi Football Men's 2nd Division team. "It was a great result for the club to have two teams make the semi-finals," says Kyle.

The club also hosted its annual senior prizegiving in October, celebrating the achievements of players and volunteers.

Women's 1st Division winners:

- Players' Player of the Year and Coach's Player of the Year - Bella Piper-Jarret,
- Most Improved - Sylvie Hermans and Teagen Carvell,
- Sportsperson - Joy David.

Men's 1st Division winners:

- Players' Player of the Year - Cullem Morgan,
- Coach's Player of the Year - Daniel Hanmore,
- Most Improved - Ross Weddle,
- Sportsperson - Calum Coenra.

Men's 2nd Division winners:

- Players' Player of the Year - Dylan Duff,
- Coach's Player of the Year - Glen Dey,
- Most Improved - James Owen,
- Sportsperson - Anwar Shaheen.

Men's 4th Division winners:

- Players' Player of the Year - Cory Mackay,
- Coach's Player of the Year - Adam Rzepecky,
- Most Improved - Joe Prisk,
- Sportsperson - Mark Adam.

Club Awards:

- Volunteer of the Year - Chris Carmichael,
- Club Personality - Kyle Harris,
- Junior Coach of the Year - Andrew Glen,
- Senior Coach of the Year - Jaime Duder,
- Young Players of the Year - Jade Marris and Adam Rzepecky,
- Golden Boot - Kieran Hamilton.

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Resource Management Act changes



In September, new laws were introduced to replace the Resource Management Act, which has governed how we use resources. The RMA remains in place while we transition to the new system, but a few changes have already taken effect.

Councils can no longer consider certain matters when assessing residential building proposals. These include factors such as the size of a dwelling, the amount of outdoor living space provided, and the effect of a development on views from neighbouring properties.

For example, under the current District Plan in some residential areas a studio unit must have a minimum floor area of 35m². Under the new legislation, this minimum size requirement will no longer apply, meaning studios may be built smaller than this.

Council is now working through how the changes will be applied and identifying rules in the District Plan that will be impacted by the changes. Council intends to use a streamlined process to incorporate the changes into the District Plan, making the new rules easier for everyone to understand and apply. For more information go to wdc.govt.nz/Services/Planning/RM-Reform.

The new Planning Act also requires the preparation of a new spatial plan for Te Tai Tokerau. This plan will help set the strategic direction for growth and change over the next 30 years and beyond. Work is already underway to begin this process, building on work completed in previous years and ensuring we hear from as many people as possible. Community input will play an important role in shaping a plan that reflects the aspirations and needs of our region.

Tangiwai Baker WDC Councillor for Whangārei Heads Ward
09 955 0122 | cr.baker@wdc.govt.nz

Trees of Remembrance

Since the 1990s, North Haven Hospice has held its much-loved Trees of Remembrance tradition, inviting people to write a message to someone they love who is no longer with us. Messages are written on a star or heart, which can be hung on one of the Christmas trees or taken home to place on their own tree.

Christmas is a special time of year, and often one when those we have lost are especially present in our thoughts. Sharing a message or speaking their name can help people feel connected and offer a small tribute in their memory. For the first two weeks of December, from 9:00am to 4:30pm, the Trees of Remembrance will be cared for by volunteers, organisations and businesses supporting North Haven Hospice at PAK'nSAVE Whangārei, Mitre 10 Whangārei and New World Regent.





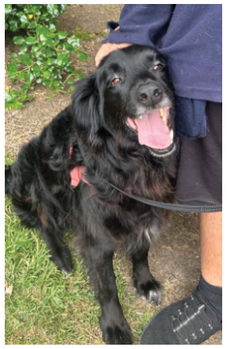
Also taking place throughout December is the Farmers Tree of Remembrance, where you can remember someone special by making a donation at the counter. The sought-after Christmas baubles will also be available to purchase in store, with proceeds from every bauble purchase and Tree of Remembrance donation passed on to North Haven Hospice.

North Haven Hospice



Whangārei news

Whangārei SPCA needs HELP



1. Afternoon Dog Volunteers needed

Volunteers needed for shifts from 1.30pm–4.30pm, weekly or fortnightly, with help needed most days of the week. Working alongside our friendly team, you'll help with feeding, cleaning kennels and runs, walking, enrichment and socialisation. Volunteers must be aged 18+, reliable, committed and willing to learn.



2. Foster Homes for Mums and Kittens

Foster families needed to provide a safe, loving space where feline families can grow and thrive until they're ready for adoption. SPCA provides food, bedding, medical care and everything you need. You provide daily care, monitor their wellbeing and, of course, plenty of cuddles and love!

Every helping hand and every foster home makes a difference. Together, we can give animals the care, comfort and second chance they deserve!

Find out more and apply at https://www.spca.nz/how-you-can-help/volunteer

Onerahi Lions Christmas cakes



The New Zealand Lions Christmas Cake has become an annual nation-wide favourite. Moist, fruity, delicious. Enjoy it now, at Christmas, next year or the next.

Our cake has a shelf life of no less than two years. Did we say it tastes delicious? Of course! Lions Christmas Cakes are available mainly from https://lionschristmascakes.org.nz/ OR Onerahi Lions Club members.They are 1kg fruit cakes. These are $25 each.

The Onerahi contact person to order from is Maria Goodhew 027 474 2213



Kauri dieback

Kauri dieback has been confirmed at A H Reed Memorial Kauri Park earlier this year.

Please observe the rules as sign posted:

- stay on marked tracks;
- clean footwear and equipment;
- keep dogs on leashes;
- avoid disturbing forest floors;
- follow any hygiene measures in place.

Staying on marked tracks is a small thing we can all do to protect these taonga. Every small action helps to protect our kauri.



Bleeding resin ("kauri gum") associated with collar-rot of lower trunk

Local Government reform delayed

During the year, the last Government announced its Simplifying Local Government programme, which included core structural changes such as council amalgamations, the removal of regional councils, the establishment of Combined Territories Boards (CTBs) to coordinate local operations, and reforming the Resource Management Act.

The Northland Head Start proposal, which proposed a staged transition to new unitary governance arrangements in Northland, was originally planned to be finalised and consulted on in October 2026.

Head Start proposals will now be considered by Cabinet in early 2027. The outcome, timing and final form of any local government reforms remain uncertain at the current time.

Justices of the Peace closed for Christmas

Justices of the Peace closure period for Christmas 2026: The last day the service will be available is Wednesday 23 December 2026 at the Central Library from 9:30am to 12 noon.

The JOP desks will reopen again for normal services starting at Te Iwitahi (the new Council building) on Tuesday 5 January 2027, at 9:30am. If members of the public need a JP in the interim, they can go onto the JP or MOJ website to 'find a JP'.

Whangārei Urban Service Desks

MON	Tikipunga Library	10:15am to 12:00pm
TUES	Civic Centre Telwitahi	9:30am to 12:30pm
WED	Whangārei Central Library	9:30am to 12:00pm
THURS	Whangārei Central Library	9:30am to 12:00pm
	Onerahi Library	2:00pm to 4:00pm
FRI	Civic Centre Telwitahi	9:30am to 12:30pm
	Tikipunga Library	2:00pm to 4:00pm
SAT	Whangārei Central Library	9:30am to 12:00pm
SUN	NONE ON SITE. Look in White Pages under 'Justices of the Peace' or on JP or library website	

Save water for this El Niño summer

Northland Regional Council Monitoring Manager Jason Donaghy says the region is already experiencing widespread 'meteorological drought' conditions. This has led to lower river levels, less groundwater recharge and lower soil moisture levels compared to normal. "Small steps taken now can make a real difference if the dry conditions develop as forecast."

Now is a good time to review water use, both to manage costs and to conserve water.

- **Your water system -** Regularly check tanks, pumps, pipes, toilets and taps for leaks. Keep gutters and tank inlets clear so you can efficiently capture rainfall. Follow any water restrictions if they are notified.
- **Bathroom -** take shorter showers and turn off taps when they are not needed; avoid leaving water running while brushing your teeth or shaving; reduce flush volume or use dual-flush options or displacement bags to reduce the water used per flush.
- **Kitchen and laundry -** run the washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full; plug the sink rather than leaving the tap running; reuse cooled vegetable-steaming water or water used to rinse produce on indoor or outdoor plants.
- **Outdoor and garden care -** Use collected rainwater or suitable household greywater for gardens where it is safe to do so; water lawns and gardens in the early morning or late evening; apply a layer of mulch around garden plants to reduce evaporation; sweep instead of hosing to clean driveways, footpaths and patios. More water-saving ideas are available from bewaterwise.org.nz

Dust off those traps: Help protect native species

With spring nesting season underway, rat control is crucial for protecting our vulnerable native species.

Here at the Bream Head/Te Whara Conservation Trust, we have been challenged by an increasing rat presence this year. Thanks to years of hard work, we have achieved a significant drop in stoats. While this is fantastic news for our wildlife, fewer stoats naturally means less predation on rats.

The good news? Rodent control works. We recently participated in the Bream Head Flax Snail/Pūpūharakeke survey, and results show a significant increase in this rare native snail's population over time—a direct result of effective rat control.

Your backyard efforts play a vital role. If you have old rat traps sitting in the shed, now is the ideal time to dust them off and set them. Every bit counts. Every rat you capture at home is one less predator entering the native bush to target our native invertebrates, lizards, and nesting birds.

The Bream Head Conservation Trust Team



Let's help nature thrive, Onerahi

Tiakina Whangārei brings communities together to tackle pest plants and animals, protect native species, and create thriving backyards and neighbourhoods.
Get in touch to find out how you can be part of the change.

For more information or pest control advice email
tiakinawhangarei@nrc.govt.nz or visit **tiakinatetaitokerau.nz**

Tiakina WHANGĀREI

Northland REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau



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NZ 420 Girls Sailing Team wins against Australia

The Interdominion Nationals Championship was decided by the combined wins of the NZ schools versus Australian schools - this year NZ were the clear winners. WGHS finished 3rd equal in the female division.

WGHS finished level on wins with Moreton Bay (Australia), just behind Westlake Girls and Nelson College for Girls, with Australian teams Ascham and Fahan close behind - a fantastic result in a very tight female division. A massive congratulations to Aria, Cara, Amber, Selma, Becky, Anouk and Bo.

A special thank you to their amazing coach, Phoebe - a former WGHS student and team sailor herself, now coaching the WGHS team. A massive thank you to those who backed our girls:

• All Marine Whangārei • Dockland 5 • Hawthorn Geddes Engineers & Architects Ltd • Busck Prestressed Concrete Ltd • Kamo Kitchens • Sail Northland • Whangārei Cruising Club • Whangārei Marina

And to everyone who bought a fundraising carpark, donated - including the WGHS PTA - shared our posts or simply got behind the girls, thank you! The team are now preparing for the 2027 Nationals which will be held in Christchurch. If you are interested in sailing, visit: www.sailnorthland.org.nz





Water safety

If you get into trouble in the water – float to live.

Tilt your head back, with ears submerged. Relax, and try to breathe normally. Move your hands to help you stay afloat. It's OK if your legs sink. Spread your arms and legs to improve stability and call for help. Drowning Prevention Auckland offers a free platform about water safety and strategies https://www.dpanz.org.nz/e-learning/

Many people have drowned while trying to save another person. Your safety comes first – rescue from the shore or a craft is the safest. Throw a rope, or wade out to waist depth with an extended branch/paddle/pole – only go further than waist depth with some form of flotation for yourself.

Only enter the water to assist another person if you have some form of flotation. Ask another person to call 111 before entering the water. Use a flotation aid as a barrier between yourself and the person in trouble so they don't grab hold of you. If you can safely return to shore do so, otherwise wait for help to arrive. If they are breathing, place them in the recovery position. The person may require first aid/CPR when you get back to shore. Make sure an ambulance has been called. Stay with the person until help arrives.

Sourced from WaterSafe Auckland



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'Use it or lose it' - Contact Bev Harvey 021 208 6719
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(during school term). By donation. Contact Nancy Dodds - 4361444
Christmas services: *Services between 27 Dec to 31 Jan 2027 will be held at HOPECentral – 1 Hunt Street, Whangarei*
Carol Service Christmas Eve 9.30pm • Christmas Day Service - 9.30am

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The rhythm of our streets



As the summer sun settles over our neighbourhoods, a familiar excitement fills the air. Our evenings are long and bright; the school holidays are beckoning and our calendars are filling up. Yet, this summer energy brings something else with it: the approaching joy of Christmas.

For many of us, this season is a beautiful, busy collision of beach trips, backyard barbecues, and festive preparations.

As a retired but still active pastor, I love seeing how the spirit of Christmas naturally amplifies our call to love our neighbours. Beneath the tinsel and the frantic gift-shopping, the heart of the Nativity story is remarkably simple: it is about hope, peace, and the ultimate expression of unconditional love breaking into our world. “This is where the rubber hits the road." Christmas reminds us that we are all deeply valued and meant for connection. As we celebrate under the summer sky, let's wrap our community in kindness and good-will.

Community isn't defined by grand gestures or major headlines. It is built in the shared, everyday moments. It's the casual wave to a neighbour watering the garden, the brief chat with the barista as they prep your iced coffee, and the shared smiles at a bustling weekend market. We face plenty of modern distractions, but the true heartbeat of where we live remains distinctly human. It is found in our shared spaces, our mutual respect, and our willingness to look up, smile, and acknowledge one another. As we dive into these brighter, longer months, let's keep that community warmth thriving right on our own doorsteps.

A blessed Christmas to you all and a rich prosperous New Year,

Pastor Ron Brewer

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

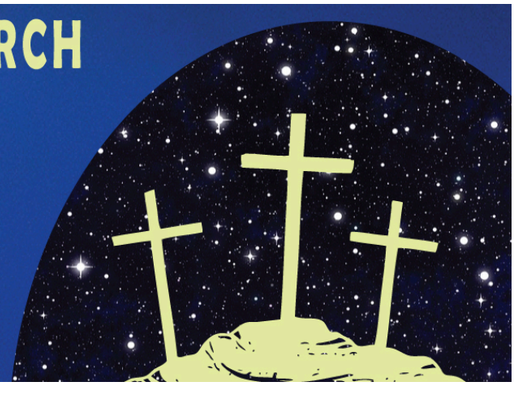
Alcohol Drug Helpline	Provided and maintained by Whakarongorau Aotearoa – a partnership between Pegasus Health and ProCare 0800 787 797 or text 8681 Māori line on 0800 787 798 and a Pasifika line on 0800 787 799 0800 METH HELP (0800 6384 4357)
Aviva	For free 24/7 support line, call 0800 AVIVA NOW (0800 28482 669)
Elder Abuse Helpline	0800 326 6865 Open 24 hrs Email: support@elderabuse.nz
Family violence info	Are you okay programme under the Ministry of social development 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 line: 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

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

Whangārei Cruising Club	Clare O'Donnell	wccinc@xtra.co.nz | 09 438 9043
Onerahi Community Hall & Community House	Stephanie Saramet	onerahicommunity@gmail.com | 022 085 8286
Onerahi Bowling Club	Roger Kerr-Davis	027 390 7185
Onerahi Rugby Club	Fiona Raymond-Paikea	onerahirugby@yahoo.com. The Onerahi Rugby Club has had a recent facelift and renovation, and is available to other clubs and sports groups to use - please call us on 021 228 5982.
Onerahi Soccer Club	Fiona Ellis	onerahifootballclub@outlook.co.nz
Onerahi Yacht Club	Dave Cochran	027 438 8911
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	Jane Kippenberger	021 463 330
Parua Bay Community Centre	Richard Burgoyne	bookings@paruabaycommunitycentre.org.nz
McLeod Bay Hall	Jos	hallbookings@whca.nz
Taurikura Hall	Pearl Newman	021 545 087

Whangārei District Council Hotline: 0800 932 463
Onerahi Police (09) 436 0222

ONERAHI COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sundays 10am Raurimu Ave School Hall
... the name of Jesus ...
there is no other name ...
by which we must be saved.
Acts 4:10-12
Contact: hello.onecc@gmail.com



REGULAR EVENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous - Fellowship available at Onerahi Community House, 130 Onerahi Road, Onerahi on Mondays 7:30pm; and at the Parua Bay Mt Manaia Bowling Club Rooms, 1347 Whangārei Heads Road on Mondays 7:30pm. See - https://aa.org.nz/newcomers/faqs/. If you are struggling and can’t find a meeting please call 0800 229 6757 or email AA on help@aa.org.nz

Community Adult Ballet Classes: Beginner 6-week courses available on demand. Silver Swans: Tues 10:30am, Wed 5:30pm, Sat 4:50pm. Adult & teen open classes: Tues 5:30pm (basic), Fri 1:00pm (improver), Sat 2:10pm (intermediate). St. Stephen’s Church Hall. www.balletnorth.nz

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

Creating with Love Art Workshops - adult colouring-in workshops, held on Thursdays 11-12 noon. Please RSVP with Multicultural Whangārei (09) 430 0571 or email info@mwhg.org.nz

Green minded events - a website that updates all upcoming eco events is https://www.ecosolutions.org.nz/pages/upcoming-events

Inspire For Life Key Workshops are held monthly on the third Friday of the month, 10am – 1pm. Venue is Mahitahi Hauora, 28 Rust Ave, Opposite Iwitahi Civic Centre. $10.Held by Gwendolyn Needham, be.free@xtra.co.nz 09 4377183

Jolly Dodgers Scooterers group - If you are keen to join this local Onerahi group, call Wendy on 021 031 7781 or Denise on 022 087 4955

Justice of the Peace - For all your certification needs visit the JP Service Desk at the Onerahi Library on Thursday afternoons (between 2-4pm)

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

Make & Meet - fortnightly weekend sessions at Reyburn House Art Studio. Every workshop is a surprise—one week it's crochet, the next clay. Bookings essential. Find us on Humanitix (search: Make & Meet Whangārei)

Matakohe/ Limestone Island Volunteers - Volunteer day is on the first Wednesday of every month. The group leaves from the Onerahi Jetty at 9 am. Volunteers work on a variety of jobs to suit whatever volunteers feel like doing. Bring your lunch. Home by 2pm

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

Onerahi CoastLine Action Group - Volunteers meet for an hour a week on Sundays (Summer: 7-8pm; Winter 4-5pm.) Would you like to help us regenerate neglected council reserves? Contact Valerie Green-Moss 0210672760 or Brian McLachlan 4363660

Onerahi Sit-Fit - At Hope Onerahi Church, 137 Onerahi Road, Mondays 10.30 am

Onerahi Garden club - Meets the third Friday of the month, 9.30 til 12.00 noon, at the Onerahi Community Hall. Speakers each month, and garden visits. New members warmly welcomed. Contact Maureen on maureend101@hotmail.com

Onerahi Hall market - First & third Saturdays of every month. 8 am-12 pm. Plants, garden produce, jams/pickles, art/craft, 2nd hand goods etc. Inside stall fees $14; Outside stall fees $10; Kids stall fees - inside $6, outside $5. Phone Jenny (09) 436 0009 (preferably in the evening) to book a space - or just turn up!

Onerahi Lions - Guests or interested persons welcome. Meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month (business meeting) and 3rd Tuesday of month (dinner and social night). Both held at Onerahi Bowling Club, Alamein Avenue, 6:30pm. Contact Maria Goodhew 027 474 2213

Onerahi Playcentre - Tuesdays and Fridays, from 9.00am to 12.30pm during school term time. 1B Church Street, Onerahi, Phone: 027 880 3894

Onerahi Silver Swans - For more information about Silver Swans and other adult and teen ballet classes, please visit balletnorth.nz

Onerahi Strength and Balance Classes - Mondays 8:45-9:45am and 10-11am, and Wednesdays 8:45-9:45am and 10-11am held at St. Stephens Church. $5.00 per person or $5.00 per couple. 021 287 8335

Onerahi Tennis Club - for all age groups and abilities. See facebook and website: www.clubspark.kiwi/OnerahiTennisClub. Casual court use available - place $10 in the honesty box if you use a court. Call 0210 8442023, or email wkthomas99@icloud.com

Onerahi Yacht Club - Come sailing with us -Twilight Tuesday dinghy sailing / racing. Free entry and all welcome! Dust off your old boat & join us, any sailing dinghy will do... OK Dinghy, 420, Jolly, P Class, Opti, Starling, Sunburst, Laser etc.
Sailing Starts: 5:45pm - Tuesdays - Daylight Savings (excluding the Christmas Holiday Break) Email: sailing@oyc.org.nz

Parua Bay Village Farmers and Crafters Market - Open every second Sunday between 9am - 1pm; Parua Bay Community Centre, 1341 Whangārei Heads Road, Parua Bay

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

St Stephen’s Church - Strength and Balance Classes 8.45 or 10am Mondays and Wednesdays. Quilting and crafting - Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30-12.30; Knitting without Borders - second Thursdays 1-3pm; middle Saturday of the School Holidays ‘Celebrating Youth’ Pizzas and games, Saturday 5-8pm

Tiki Market - For local arts and crafts, garage sale bargains, plants, seasonal produce, car boot, seafood, kai and hot coffee! The market is now situated at 17 Water St opposite Domino's in the growers market carpark, every Sunday 7am-11am. For stall bookings and enquiries contact Lynne via Facebook - the Tiki Market page

Wai A Ariki Food Forest Gardening Group - meets 10am on Fridays - everyone welcome

Whangārei Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc - Meets 1st Saturday, February to December, 10am - 12 noon in the May Bain Room, Whangārei Central Library. Contact Kathy 0212637358 or Whangārei@genealogy.org

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? We are a non-auditioned community choir based in Whangārei. We sing a wide range of songs from traditional classical choral works through to musical theatre & modern songs. We welcome adult singers of all ages to join us. Please contact us at Whangāreichoral@gmail.com or just turn up on a Monday night, 7pm at St. John's Golden Church, 147 Kamo Road

Whangārei Flying Club - Sunday Social 12:30pm every Sunday, Hangar 10, Whangārei Airport, Handforth Street, Onerahi (access via Gate 4, Handforth Street). Come for home-cooked burgers and home-made cake for only $10 and talk to our friendly team of pilots and instructors. You can even go for a trial flight if you want. Www.Whangāreiflyingclub.com

Whangārei Geneaology Group - Whangārei Branch - Meets 1st Saturday, February to December, 10am in the May Bain Room, Whangārei Central Library. Contact Kathy 021 263 7358 or Whangārei@genealogy.org.nz

Whangārei Green Drinks - An eco-conscious networking event held on the third Tuesday of every month 6-7:30pm. A joint initiative by EcoSolutions and the Tai Tokerau Timebank. Held at the He Awhi Rito Envirohub (located at 8 First Avenue) unless a special field-trip location is announced closer to the date. Attendance is free and includes complimentary light drinks and snacks

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. It's free to enter by going to https://www.parkrun.co.nz/register. We are there by 8am, come and join us. Open to all no matter what speed or age you are

Whangārei Philatelic Society - For those interested in stamps, coins and bank notes - contact Barry Jones 021 214 4140 (Club Secretary)

Whangārei Scale Modellers Group - Meets third Tuesday evening of every month, 7.00pm to 9.00pm at Reyburn Art Studio, Reyburn House Lane, Town Basin, Whangārei. Open to all with an interest in all types of scale modelling irrespective of age and skill level

Whangārei Scottish Country Dance Club - The Scottish Country Dance Club meets every Thursday at the Onerahi Community Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome. For more information, call Fiona on 437 1817

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

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www.cab.org.nz

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 28 November to Friday 25 December 2026 - Whangārei Christmas Festival: events like Christmas-themed markets, carol-filled concerts, arts and crafts, merry workshops, parades, twinkling light displays and so much more! Look for the details at https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Events/Festivals

Tuesday 1 to 25 December - Ray White Christmas Lights Trail: This is a free community initiative celebrating the festive displays residents and businesses have created. There is an official trail map and prizes up for grabs for the best residential and commercial displays, as well as voting prizes and a VIP Christmas Lights Tour experience for lucky participants. https://rw.co.nz/

Sunday 13 December - Christmas Carols: Bring the family and share in a fun sing-a-long of Christmas carols (old and new) at the Kaurihohore Hall (16 Apotu Road) 6:30pm. Supper will be provided. All are welcome. This is an initiative of the Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish - for more information visit kaurichurch.org.nz

Tuesday 22 December - Christmas Twilight Market: 4-7pm at the Onerahi Hall

Friday 25 and 26 December - Christmas Day and Boxing Day public holidays

Friday 1 January & 2 January - News Years Day and day after New Year's day public holidays

Friday 1 January - Wednesday 31 March - Whangārei Endless Summer Festival: Celebrate summer with a vibrant programme of art exhibitions, concerts, sporting events, competitions, markets, performances and more. Look for the details at https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Events/Festivals

Saturday 23 January - The Z Manu World Champs Whangārei Qualifier: takes place at the Whangārei Aquatic Centre (3 Ewing Road, Whangārei). Registration opens at 9:15am. Free admission to watch and free to join the Push Play sessions. For all the details see https://manuworldchamps.com/events/-styles/

Saturday 6 February - Waitangi Day public holiday

Saturday 6 February - Chinese New Year

Saturday 6 & 7 February - Janet Agnew Carnival Doubles Tournament: Northland's Annual Tennis event running for 41 years - held at Thomas Neale Memorial Park, 42-56 Winger Crescent, Te Kamo. Men's and Ladies Graded Doubles (Sat) Mixed Graded Doubles (Sun). Spectators are welcome (no charge). Enter online at: https://clubspark.kiwi/tennisnorthland/Compete/JanetAgnewCarnivalDoubles or email admin@tennisnorthland.org.nz

Tuesday 16 February 2027 - Green Drinks 'The Refillery': come along and learn about eco-friendly cleaning products and home delivery refill services. At He Awhi Rito, 8 First Avenue, next to Botanica Fernery; 6pm - 7.30pm. Free Snacks/refreshments

Friday 19 February - Boost Brokers Golf for Good: Ambrose format with all proceeds going to I Have a Dream. Teams of three face on-course challenges, with raffles, prizes, delicious food & drinks available all day, and a $20,000 prize for a hole-in-one! At Pines Golf Club, Whangārei Heads. Cost: $105 per person. Registration is open now at https://ihaveadream.org.nz/golf-for-good/

Saturday 20 March - Whanau at the Falls: This popular community day celebrating our diverse Whangarei community runs from 1-4pm. Please contact Kathryn; email - tikipride@gmail.com, or 027-276-6957, if you would like a stall or provide an activity.

Friday 26 & 27 March - 2027 TNZ National Masters Teams Event: Hosted by Northland Masters - Men's and Ladies Doubles / Age group categories. At Thomas Neale Memorial Park: 42-56 Winger Crescent, Te Kamo. Meet and Greet on Friday, Dinner and Prizegiving function on Sunday, both at the Kamo Club. Spectators are welcome (no charge). To Enter a Northland Team contact admin@tennisnorthland.org.nz

Saturday 27 March & Sunday 28 March 2027 - Whangārei Heads Arts Trail



Photo by Wendy Giffin

Want your free community or sporting activities highlighted here? Notice something is still advertised here but is no longer offered?
Email: 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 for confirmation.

SUMMER TIDE TABLES

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

Planning a summer escape? Don't forget to arrange a luxurious holiday for your cat at ***Delorraine Cattery***, where they'll be pampered in a bespoke, serene setting. Our exclusive cat hotel offers individual suites, plenty of play, and relaxation time in a safe, comfortable environment. Spaces are filling up fast, so book now to secure your cat's spot! Contact us today and give your cat the ***purr-fect*** holiday at

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