

March 2026

# The Westerly

FREE monthly community magazine  
for Massey to Hobsonville Point

- Safer communities
- Home & garden
- Health & beauty
- Property market report

**The Trusts**  
[www.thetrusts.co.nz/  
our-funds/](http://www.thetrusts.co.nz/our-funds/)



## Greetings

Summer draws to a close, the routines of our year are becoming established, new patterns emerging in our daily lives.

Looking at our community I was wondering what we feel is our place in it? Years ago, before modern technology, we knew our community because of where we lived, who lived nearby, our reliance on one another and how we communicated as neighbours. Practical, social, personal interaction.

Today the interpretation of community has changed. Social interaction has altered, an electronic message, the buzz, ping, twang of the technological age surrounds us wherever we go in urban situations.

Is our sense of community strengthened by our electronic communication? Or are we losing skills necessary to maintain our connection to the place and time we live in. Have we noticed the closed curtains on a neighbours house? Have we seen them recently? Would a knock at the door by a neighbour to borrow "a cup of sugar" feel like a threat or a welcome interaction in our modern world.

Do we take enough time to look outside our immediate concerns to enjoy our local environment? Finding a place of peace to sit and reflect on our busy routines, what enriches us and enables us to contribute to our community?

Our community magazines aim to help you feel part of your area. Articles, information and the state of the local housing market contribute to the information this month.

As we go forward and enjoy the last weeks before the shorter days make an impact on us all, enjoy!

John. Editor.



## What's inside

- 3 People & Places
- 9 Safer Communities
- 10 Community News
- 16 Food & Beverage
- 17 Property Hub
- 19 Property News
- 24 Property Statistics
- 28 Property Market
- 41 Home & Garden
- 49 Young Learners
- 51 Aged Care
- 54 Health & Beauty
- 57 Area Columnists

Circulation is 12,500 print copies. Advertising starts at only \$100 + gst which includes a business card, editorial and an image. Please get in touch with Gabrielle today [editorial@thewesterly.co.nz](mailto:editorial@thewesterly.co.nz)

ENQUIRIES / FEEDBACK:

John Williamson  
P 021 028 54178  
E [jbw51red@googlemail.com](mailto:jbw51red@googlemail.com)

COVER PHOTO: The Trusts  
PRINT RUN: 12,500 copies, Treehouse Print  
EMAIL DATABASE: Sublime NZ

DISCLAIMER: Articles published are submitted by individual entities and should not be taken as reflecting the editorial views of this magazine or the publishers of the Westerly Limited.

Articles are not to be re-published unless written consent is granted from the publisher (Graham McIntyre).



## People & Places

THEWESTERLY.CO.NZ

### The Trusts open their largest funding round ever



The Trusts (Portage and Waitakere Licensing Trusts) are excited to announce that the 2026 funding round is now open for applications with a funding pool of \$1.5 million, the largest funding round in the organisation's history. The funds support local

projects and organisations that contribute to the wellbeing and development of the West Auckland community.

The Trusts are committed to fostering positive change by providing financial support to a wide range of community-driven projects. Eligible applicants include non-profit organisations, community groups, and initiatives that focus on areas such as youth development, community resilience, and environmental sustainability.

The available funds comprise two separate funds.

The Your West Support Fund of \$1,125,000 is dedicated to supporting established community organisations to facilitate social programmes across The West.

The Your West Innovation Fund was introduced for the first time in 2024 and its \$375,000 funding pool specifically targets new and innovative programmes which need a boost to seed or scale.

#### Key Dates for the 2026 Funding Round:

- Opening Date: February 10th, 2026
- Closing Date: March 15th, 2026

Application Process: Interested applicants are encouraged to visit The Trusts website to review the application criteria and submit their proposals. The Trusts prioritise projects that address inequity and promote long-term positive impacts within the community.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications early to allow for review, error checking, and resubmission prior to applications closing.

About The Trusts: The Trusts are dedicated to giving back to the West Auckland community through various funding initiatives. By supporting local projects and organisations, The Trusts aim to build a stronger, more resilient community.

For more information on the funds, past recipients and to apply for funding, please visit The Trusts website at <https://thetrusts.co.nz/our-funds/>

### Kia ora from Anna Atkinson, Chair of the Upper Harbour Local Board

We are heading into what promises to be a busy and productive year across the Upper Harbour Local Board area. There are many activities planned, so keep an eye on the Out and About Facebook page for updates: [facebook.com/OutandAboutAKL](https://facebook.com/OutandAboutAKL)

#### Upcoming events

On Saturday 14 March, Moana 2 will be screening at Luckens Reserve. Food trucks and entertainment will start around 4.30pm, with the movie starting at approximately 6.30pm. It's always a popular evening for families and neighbours to come together.

#### Local projects

Luckens Reserve will see improvements to the basketball and skate facilities over the next three years. We are continuing to make progress at Te Kori Scott Point.

#### Have your say: Annual Plan consultation

Consultation for the Annual Plan opens 27 February and runs until 29 March. This is your opportunity to share your views. We want to understand which services you value most so that we can make informed decisions for the current budget.

Feedback can be provided online or at upcoming community events.

Stay connected. The Upper Harbour Local Board meets every Thursday. Business meetings - held on the fourth

Thursday of each month – are open to the public, and workshops on the remaining Thursdays are open by default. If you'd like to attend or speak at a meeting, please contact:

UpperHarbourLocalBoard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

And as always, I welcome your thoughts, questions, and ideas. You can reach me directly at: Anna.Atkinson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz. These views are my own and do not represent the official position of the Upper Harbour Local Board.

Ngā mihi nui, nna Atkinson.Chair, Upper Harbour Local Board

## Distance Families: the book series complete

Helen Ellis, a Hobsonville Point researcher and author is a veteran of distance parenting and grandparenting. She is the founder of DistanceFamilies.com. In 2020, Helen completed her master's degree, with a thesis titled: How is distance grandparenting for you? A study of long-haul New Zealand distance grandparents and inter-generational transnational familying.

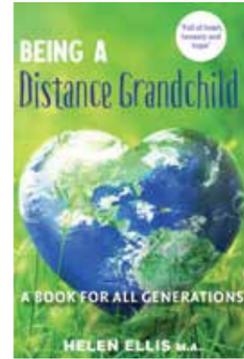
Through her research, Helen discovered that mainstream global resources for intergenerational families separated by geography were limited. Motivated to fill this gap, she embarked on creating a three-book series – each edition exploring the lived experiences of a different generation, alongside gentle practical guidance.

Why three books? Helen explains that much goes unsaid between generations due to limited time and opportunities. Feelings of guilt, grief, and frustration can surface, whether you are the generation left at home or the 'away' generation. Each generation's perspective is distinct and deserves its own space to be heard.

In 2021, Helen published Being a Distance Grandparent, followed in 2022 by Being a Distance Son or Daughter. The series concludes with the recently released Being a Distance Grandchild.

Across all three books, readers will find heartfelt and sincere messages:

-Distance doesn't automatically make relationships distant



-With intentionality, intergenerational connections can thrive despite the miles

-Understanding the experiences of the other generations fosters empathy – and empathy is essential for distance families

Emeritus Professor Paul Spoonley, New Zealand's leading expert on how immigration shapes culture, demographics, and communities, says of Helen's latest book:

"When generations of the same family are geographically distant, how can relationships and connectivity be maintained, and even maximised? Helen aims to 'inform and inspire' and she has certainly achieved both. This topic needs more attention, and this book is an important contribution to our understanding."

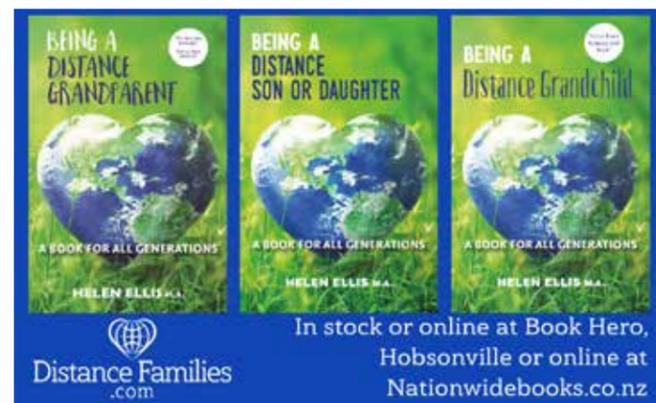
Helen's series is a thoughtful resource for anyone navigating the challenges and joys of intergenerational distance – offering insight, understanding, and hope for families separated by geography.

## Review your hazard controls and SOPs



In 2024, a gas explosion that burned a forklift driver resulted in the Courts imposing a \$300,000 fine on the company involved, even though the company had procedures and controls in place to prevent an incident; they did not review these controls and procedures regularly. Ensuring hazard controls and Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs) are working requires both legal compliance and practical verification in the workplace. Under the Health and Safety at Work Act, employers have a duty to eliminate risks so far as is reasonably practicable, or minimise them using effective control measures. To meet this legal requirement, hazard controls and SOPs must be documented, communicated, implemented, and regularly reviewed every two or three years.

From a legal perspective, effectiveness is ensured by conducting formal risk assessments, developing SOPs that align with legislation and codes of practice, and consulting with workers during their development. Training and competency assessments are essential to demonstrate that workers understand and can correctly follow procedures. Records such as training attendance, inspection reports, maintenance schedules, site audits and incident reports provide evidence that controls are in place and operating as required by law.



In practice, hazard controls and SOPs are monitored through regular workplace inspections, observations, and supervision, as well as a health and safety assessment of the documentation. Managers and supervisors should actively observe tasks being performed to confirm that procedures are followed and that controls are used correctly. Feedback from workers is critical, as they can identify issues such as impractical steps, equipment faults, or emerging hazards that may reduce effectiveness. Toolbox talks and health and safety meetings provide opportunities to reinforce procedures, address concerns and record worker involvement in the process. Incident investigations, near-miss reports, and safety audits are also used to assess whether controls are working as intended. If incidents occur, controls and SOPs must be reviewed and improved. Continuous review ensures procedures remain effective when work conditions, equipment, or legislation change. By combining legal compliance with active, ongoing workplace monitoring, organisations can ensure hazard controls and safe operating procedures are both effective and practical, and avoid costly fines and incidents.

For help with your Health and Safety, contact John Riddell, email [securo4@securo.co.nz](mailto:securo4@securo.co.nz) or check out [www.securo.co.nz](http://www.securo.co.nz).

## Why March is the most important month for your bookkeeping



March is when many business owners realise the end of the financial year is approaching. Usually mid-coffee, mid-task, and slightly too late in the morning.

Suddenly, end of year feels very real.

From a bookkeeping perspective, this is exactly when things should feel steady rather than stressful.

By the time 31 March arrives, your numbers should already be telling a clear story. How the year has gone, where your business is sitting financially, and what still needs attention before the year closes out. EOFY should be a checkpoint, not a surprise reveal.

This is where many small businesses run into trouble. Bookkeeping is often treated as something to tidy up at the end, rather than something that supports the business throughout the year. The result is familiar. Rushed reconciliations, gaps that take time to explain, and conversations that feel heavier than they need to be.

March is the moment to change that tone.

It is the ideal time to pause and sense check your numbers properly. Are your accounts up to date? Are expenses coded correctly? Are owner drawings clear? Does your cashflow reflect the year you thought you were having, or is it quietly suggesting a different narrative?

When bookkeeping is done well, it stops being an admin task and starts doing real work. It supports better planning, clearer conversations with your accountant, and decisions based on facts rather than hopeful assumptions.

Strong bookkeeping also builds confidence. Confidence to invest, to hold back, to hire, or to adjust course early instead of reacting later.

At OnPoint EVA, we see bookkeeping as an ongoing part of running a business, not a once-a-year event. March is simply where good bookkeeping earns its keep.



Businesses must now have an effective Health and Safety culture with an ever-increasing personal liability for Business Owners, Managers, and exposure for Company Directors, Trustees, and members of Governing Entities.

Contact Securo's John Riddell, phone 0274 779 750, for practical advice, tools, and solutions for an effective workplace Health and Safety plan.



[www.securo.co.nz](http://www.securo.co.nz) 0800 55 33 44



**OnPoint**  
EXECUTIVE VIRTUAL ASSISTANT  
**Practical Bookkeeping Support**

Clear numbers. Better decisions. Less stress.

We'll chat. You'll exhale. Your to-do list won't know what hit it.

+64-21-262-3003

[www.onpointeva.co.nz](http://www.onpointeva.co.nz)

[support@onpointeva.co.nz](mailto:support@onpointeva.co.nz)



## Auckland's festival for sampling sustainable living

After three years of offering 300 + events focused on people and planet, EcoFest has well and truly become the time and place to sample sustainability in action. The fourth month-long festival starts on March 22 and is a timely opportunity for everyone living or visiting in Tāmaki Makaurau to experience truly diverse examples of eco-conscious living.

North and West Auckland have a bevy of events to choose from too. Feel like a bike ride and coffee in Hobsonville with cycling locals? What about a coastal clean-up in Whenuapai or Greenhithe? Take a sunset track walk in Piha to learn about coastal birds and how light pollution harms them, or enjoy an after-dark adventure looking for our gorgeous ruru. In Rosebank you can roll your sleeves up to save food that supermarkets throw away, or head to Te Atatu for repair cafes and upcycling workshops. For those who want to learn from home, join a webinar to understand climate change anxiety, or learn to harvest rainwater from your roof.

EcoMatters have been bringing EcoFest to Auckland for

over 23 years, and say these workshops are just a small example of experiences that are often free or low cost. Most only require a couple of hours and are whānau-friendly.

"Delivering this festival has taught us that attending even just one event can create a positive, impactful connection between each other and the environment," says EcoMatters CEO, Carla Gee. "Given the challenges happening in Aotearoa and in the rest of the world right now, we know that it's more important than ever to get involved in fun, light-hearted ways to sample sustainability together. We can't wait to kick-off the festival once more."

To check out and book your events, visit [ecofest.org.nz](http://ecofest.org.nz) today



# Discover, Inspire, Act.

FEST

**22 March – 22 April**  
Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland

**[ecofest.org.nz](http://ecofest.org.nz)**



## Coeliac Disease – more common than you think



Coeliac disease is a common condition where the body's immune system reacts to gluten, causing damage to the gut. Gluten is a protein found in wheat, barley, and rye.

Around 1 in 100 people have coeliac disease. The risk is higher if someone in your family is affected – about 10–20%. Despite this, around 70% of people with coeliac disease are undiagnosed. It is also being diagnosed more often in older adults, with one in four cases found after the age of 60.

### Why is coeliac disease often missed?

Coeliac disease can be difficult to spot because symptoms vary widely. Some people have clear symptoms, while others have very mild symptoms – or none at all.

### Common symptoms include:

- Diarrhoea
- Bloating
- Abdominal (tummy) pain
- Unintentional weight loss
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Poor concentration or "brain fog"

### Why does it matter if symptoms are mild?

Even without obvious symptoms, untreated coeliac disease can cause long-term health problems. These may include:

- Weak or easily broken bones
- Anaemia (low blood count)
- Fertility problems
- An increased risk of certain cancers

### How is coeliac disease diagnosed?

Diagnosis is usually straightforward:

1. A blood test to check for coeliac antibodies
2. If positive, a small bowel biopsy is recommended in adults to confirm the diagnosis

The biopsy is done during a gastroscopy – a quick and minimally invasive test where a thin camera is passed through the mouth into the stomach and small intestine.

# WE

Provide peace of mind with ready access to excellent endoscopy care at your service

With increased capacity, Waitemata Endoscopy offers greater access to a group of experienced Gastroenterologists and Surgeons, providing world class care in our community.

Appointments are available within **7 working days** for most standard Gastroscopy & Colonoscopy procedures so you can plan ahead\*.

Talk to your GP about a referral to the Waitemata Endoscopy Group, or you can self-refer via:

**[www.waitemataendoscopy.co.nz/referrals](http://www.waitemataendoscopy.co.nz/referrals)**

Or call us on (09) 925 4449

// 53 Lincoln Rd, Henderson  
// 212 Wairau Rd, Wairau Valley

\*Visit our website to learn more

Dr Carl Freyer  
Gastroenterologist & Endoscopist  
a joint venture with Southern Cross Healthcare

**How is coeliac disease treated?**

Treatment is simple but lifelong: a strict gluten-free diet. Most people notice an improvement in symptoms within weeks to months, and over 90% will have complete healing of the gut within a few years.

Seeing a dietitian is strongly recommended to manage your diet confidently. Gluten can be hidden in many unexpected foods, and accidental exposure is common.

At Waitemata Endoscopy, we've been working hard to reduce wait times, and can offer most standard Colonoscopy and Gastroscopy appointments within 7 working days of receiving a referral. Our experienced Specialists can guide you through the process of diagnosis and treatment of Coeliac disease, including linking you with our dietitian

To meet the team at Waitemata Endoscopy visit [www.waitemataendoscopy.co.nz](http://www.waitemataendoscopy.co.nz)

**Dr Carl Freyer (BSc, MBBS, FRACP)**

**Gastroenterologist and Endoscopist**

**Waitemata Endoscopy**

## Community nights at Stihl Shop Westgate: supporting local, one event at a time



At STIHL SHOP Westgate, we believe a strong community is built when local people, schools, and groups come together – and we're excited to open our doors for a brand-new way to support the causes that matter most to you. Introducing our STIHL SHOP Westgate: Cut & Kick-Back Events, an opportunity for fundraising groups to host an engaging, informative, and enjoyable evening right here in-store.

Our STIHL SHOP Westgate: Cut & Kick-Back Events are designed to be simple, fun, and rewarding. Your school, club, or organisation sets an entry fee and sells tickets to supporters (100% of the proceeds



**Cub Cadet** **HONDA** **HANSA** **Masport**

54 Main Rd Kumeu PH: 412 8592 OPEN MON-SAT

**NOW AT TWO HANDY LOCATIONS FOR EXPERT ADVICE & SERVICE**

15 Kakano Rd Westgate PH: 930 9999 OPEN 7 DAYS



you keep). From there, we take care of the rest. Guests will be welcomed with a drink on arrival and treated to a generous grazing platter to enjoy throughout the evening. Our knowledgeable team will run live demonstrations covering handy tricks,

maintenance tips, and essential safety advice – perfect for anyone who wants to get more out of their outdoor power equipment.

To make the night even more special, attendees will have access to exclusive in-store specials available only during the event. And because these nights are all about giving back, 5% of all sales made during your event will be donated directly to your fundraising efforts.

Whether you're raising money for new sports gear, school resources, community projects, or a cause close to your heart, we're here to help you make it happen in a relaxed, enjoyable setting.

If your group is interested in hosting a Cut & Kick-Back Event at STIHL SHOP Westgate, we'd love to hear from you. Simply chat with our friendly team in-store or email [westgate@stihlshop.co.nz](mailto:westgate@stihlshop.co.nz) to find out more and secure your date.

**Let's build something great together – one community night at a time.**



**VEHICLES WANTED**  
**WE PAY TOP CASH**  
 For any CARS, VANS, UTES, TRUCKS, 4X4  
 Dead or alive, damaged, de-registered  
 Mechanical problems, no WoF, we buy it.  
**Free Pickup**  
 Or text 021 344 449  
**0800 333 398**

Conditions Apply

## Safer Community

### Walking or driving through floodwaters can cost lives



Floods are among the most underestimated natural hazards. Water is dynamic, it can build slowly over hours– or surge through streets and whole communities in minutes. Yet time and again, the greatest risk to life is not the water itself, but the decision to walk or drive through it.

When water begins to rise, hesitation or procrastination can be deadly. Acting decisively and early, while putting safety first is not an overreaction—it is survival.

Floodwater is rarely just rain. It is a fast-moving mix of stormwater, debris, silt, farm run-off, chemicals, sewage and submerged hazards. What looks like a shallow puddle may conceal an open drain, a washed-out road surface or sharp debris capable of disabling a vehicle– or seriously injuring a person.

Many flood fatalities occur when drivers attempt to cross flooded roads. Just a small amount of fast-moving water can sweep a vehicle off its path. Even shallow water can stall engines, disable brakes and trap occupants inside. Likewise flood waters conceal washed out bridges and culverts, entrapping the occupant.

For pedestrians, the risks are equally serious. Strong currents can knock an adult off their feet, and contaminated water poses significant health risks. Any contact with floodwater should be treated as exposure to potentially harmful contaminants. Thorough washing of hands, clothing and any affected property is essential afterward.

The rule is simple and absolute: never attempt to walk, swim or drive through floodwater.

Floods and flash floods can develop rapidly. Waiting for an official warning may cost valuable time. If you see water rising around your property or on nearby roads, move immediately to higher ground. Trust your instincts– if it feels unsafe, it probably is.

Staying informed is critical during severe weather. Keep a battery-powered radio on hand or follow updates from your local Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and emergency services. Conditions can change quickly, and official guidance may include evacuation



instructions at short notice.

If flooding is possible, readiness makes all the difference. Keep your emergency grab bag close and be prepared to evacuate. Authorities may issue evacuation orders, but individuals should also self-evacuate if they feel unsafe. Early movement is always safer than last-minute escape.

Pets and livestock must be part of your plan. Move animals to higher ground as early as possible, and take pets with you if you leave. If conditions are too dangerous for you, they are too dangerous for them.

Inside the home, practical steps can reduce risk and damage. If advised, turn off electricity, gas and water supplies. Move valuable items, electrical equipment and hazardous substances as high above the floor as possible. Store important documents in watertight containers. Lifting rugs, bedding and curtains off the floor can also minimise damage.

And in times of crisis, community matters. Check on neighbours, especially the elderly, disabled or anyone who may need assistance.

**No Shortcut Is Worth a Life**

Floodwaters can appear deceptively calm. But beneath the surface, conditions are unpredictable and often unforgiving. When water rises, the safest choice is always the simplest one: turn around, move to higher ground, and stay out of it altogether.

**Useful Links:**

Get Ready flood information <https://getready.govt.nz/en/emergency/floods/>

State Highway conditions <http://www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/>



Weather warnings and forecasts [www.metservice.com](http://www.metservice.com)

**Contact-** Call Graham McIntyre, Phone 0276 320 421 or email

[graham.mcintyre@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:graham.mcintyre@fireandemergency.nz)

**Graham McIntyre**  
**Chief Fire Officer -**  
**Waitakere Fire Brigade**

# Community News

## Buy smart & sell strong with ABIS building inspection services



Whether you're purchasing your first home, preparing a property for sale, or simply wanting reassurance about your investment, ABIS Building Inspection Services provides the clarity you need to move forward with confidence.

Our extensive range of comprehensive reports cover the full picture, from structure, roofing, cladding, moisture risks, safety concerns and general condition. Every inspection is carried out thoroughly and independently.

Findings are delivered in a detailed, easy-to-read report so you can clearly understand the condition of the home and any areas requiring urgent attention.

For buyers, a detailed building report can uncover issues before they become costly surprises and strengthen your negotiating position. For sellers, a pre-sale inspection builds transparency and trust with potential buyers, helping your property stand out in a competitive market.

Property decisions are significant. The right information can make all the difference.

For a Comprehensive Building Inspection Report You Can Trust.

Visit [www.abis.nz](http://www.abis.nz) to Get Started.

## Tap Doubt: the Whenuapai dancers proving that age is just a number



While most were settling into the new year, a group of determined Whenuapai locals were packing tap shoes for the South. For the fourth time, the Tap Doubt adult team from Dance 24 Seven competed at the New Zealand Masters Games in Dunedin, proving the buzz of competition isn't just for youngsters.

The team is a showcase of inclusivity, with a current age range spanning 20 to 66 years old. Here, adults from all walks of life train side-by-side, united by rhythm and a shared goal. The secret to their precision is teacher Kristie Williams. Locals will recognise Kristie as a professional from Dancing with the Stars. She brings elite standards to the Whenuapai studio, ensuring dancers of all ages learn genuine performance skills.

"Having Kristie is a game-changer," says studio owner Dionne Nicholson. "Despite being beginners, our dancers aren't just 'having a go'; they are mentored by one of the country's best, which showed in the confidence they displayed on the national stage."

The journey to the Masters Games is a year-long commitment to fitness and cognitive health. Beyond the physical benefits, Tap Doubt serves as a vital social hub for the North West community. With the 2026 season underway, now is the perfect time to join. The programme is open to everyone, regardless of experience. "Many adults feel they've 'missed the boat' with dance," says Dionne. "Tap Doubt proves the boat is still at the dock. Whether you're a former dancer or a total beginner, it's about fitness, friendship, and finding your beat."

If you're ready to swap the gym for the dance floor and learn from a pro, the studio doors are open. Ditch the doubt and join the team today.

**DANCE 24 SEVEN**



Sign up for your free trial:  
[www.dance247.co.nz](http://www.dance247.co.nz)

**FREE TRIAL CLASS**

## Community News

## You can't sell a secret



No matter how great your product or service is, if people don't know about you – they can't buy from you.

Creating awareness isn't just about being seen. It's about being remembered. Strong branding, quality signage and professional presentation all play a vital role in how customers perceive your business. Your image speaks before you do – so make sure it says the right thing.

With 32 years of experience, the team at signage. supershop.nz by smashingpromotions.nz know what it takes to help local businesses stand out. From impactful signage to smart promotional solutions, they focus on quality that lasts and looks good – because cutting corners on your image can cost you more in the long run.

Don't skimp on your brand. Invest in it.

Call 412 6235 today and let the marketing experts wow you.



**SMASHING PROMOTIONS**  
Branding Anything Legal



Marketing that delivers  
Fresh ideas, real results

Tel 412 6235 - Super friendly Professional staff  
[SmashingPromotions.nz](http://SmashingPromotions.nz) Est. 1993

**TaxMasters**  
ACCOUNTANTS

New to Hobsonville \* Scott Point  
Your neighbourhood Accounting & Taxation Experts  
[www.taxmasters.co.nz](http://www.taxmasters.co.nz) \* [info@taxmasters.co.nz](mailto:info@taxmasters.co.nz)

On Point, On Time, On Budget  
Call now - New clients welcome: 021 235 7081



**Regular & Emergency Veterinary Care**

in the  of Kumeu

**OPEN 24 HOURS**

7 days | 365 days of the year

48 Main Road, Kumeu | [office@111vetclinic.co.nz](mailto:office@111vetclinic.co.nz)



**Paul Miller**

Freedom Drivers Hobsonville

+64 021 321 869 | (09) 302 2377  
[hobsonville@freedomdrivers.co.nz](mailto:hobsonville@freedomdrivers.co.nz)

- Hospital & Medical Appointments
- Specialist Treatments
- School Transport
- Airport Transfers
- Shopping & Social Trips

ACC Approved • Total Mobility Cards • Eftpos

Comprehensive Building Inspections You Can Trust

Pre-Purchase • Pre-Sale • Residential Inspections



LBP & Accredited Building Inspection Surveyor

027 946 6994

[www.abis.nz](http://www.abis.nz)

Auckland

**QUALITY WATER** SUPPLIES

**7 DAYS PHONE NOW!**  
Bev & Andrew Speedy



Registered by Ministry of Health & Auckland Council  
Fresh Water Supplies

Ph. **411.8116** Txl **027.345.3805**

# Davis Funerals



Davis Funerals' primary function has remained unchanged over the last 90+ years, that being to serve the needs of families across the greater Auckland area and beyond at their time of need. We have been privileged to look after many, many families over the decades, yet we need to continually adapt to changing societal needs and preferences

and the ever-broadening multi-cultural landscape here in Auckland.

We operate in an industry that for many, little is known. Most people, throughout their lifetime, are only ever involved in organising perhaps 1 or 2 funerals, meaning it is something most never really get good at. Such a paucity of involvement however can lead to confusion, and in the information age where anything is available at the click of a mouse, there is a lot of information, floating around, some useful, much of it however misinformed and misleading.

It is here that Davis Funerals plays a significant role in educating the wider community on the need to plan for the final chapter in life; helping people understand the choices and options that they have available to them. We therefore view our community outreach and education programmes as essential. These programmes see us facilitating sessions with retirement care residents and family, a wide array of community groups, sporting clubs, Hospice and even employers looking to broaden their employee benefits package.

Davis Funerals invests and donates significant funding and the offer of volunteer support to trusted pillars in the community across Auckland. Here in the west, we are especially proud to be Hospice West Auckland's gold partner. We care deeply about communities we operate in and want to ensure people really can enjoy the best quality of life whilst they are still alive.

Knowledge and preparedness bring with it comfort which in turn allows people to die knowing their wishes will be honoured whilst equally removing significant stress and burden from family members left behind.

We are given one chance to farewell someone close to us who has died, therefore be it large or small, elaborate or simple, religious or secular, in a church or the family home backyard, we firmly believe a "farewell done well" and a "farewell done right" is an essential first step in learning to live without that person.

# Kumeu Show this month



The popular Kumeu Show is on March 14 and 15, with favourite events and exciting new attractions.

About 30,000 people are expected at the Kumeu Showgrounds which introduces lawnmower racing for the first time. New Show Manager Hannah Burns says the lawnmower racing will be staged by the Rodney and Waitakere (RAW) Mower Racing Club in association with Stihl Shop Kumeu and Westgate.

The freestyle tree climbing competition, Canopy Carnage, returns for the second year after its successful launch in 2025. Canopy Carnage is run by the Hardfell team led by Shaun Hardman of Waimauku and features tree climbing and rope races.

This annual show promises a weekend of family fun, competition, and entertainment for all ages. "The Volunteer Kumeu A&H Show Committee works tirelessly to continually improve the show and deliver a top-class event for the Kumeu community and beyond," says Hannah.

"Visitors can expect a mix of traditional favourites and exciting new attractions."

Highlights for 2026 include sheep dog trials, woodchopping, and shearing competitions.

The Giant Pumpkin Contest, flower and fruit displays, and arts and crafts competitions also feature, the latter in the indoor pavilion. A Farm Zone animal petting area, school calf club, pet lambs and goats, alpacas, equestrian, poultry, and Highland dancing competitions are among favourite attractions.

Mahons Amusements carnival rides, the Kumeu Volunteer Fire Brigade, pony rides, dog agility shows, and the 1pm daily tractor parade are also drawcards.



A wide range of food trucks are available. Live music from local talent, and dance group performances, add to the vibrant community atmosphere.

In addition, the show will host nearly 300 trade and market stalls, along with a Mums and Bubs room thanks to Parent Aid, providing a quiet space for families with young children. A bar will operate next to the shearing competition.

Entry is adults (over 14) \$16 (+fees) early bird online, \$20 at the gate while children 14 and under are free.

Gates open 8.30am-5pm Saturday and 8.30am-4pm Sunday, with ample free parking and traffic management.

Visitors can get tickets online to avoid queues. Sunscreen and visitor information are provided at the Kumeu Show Information Tower. A full event timetable will be on [www.kumeushow.co.nz](http://www.kumeushow.co.nz) in the week leading up to the show.

Visit [www.kumeushow.co.nz](http://www.kumeushow.co.nz) for tickets and more information.



## HUAPAI DENTAL CENTRE

*A healthy smile makes a lasting impression.*  
Take care of your teeth with confidence and take advantage of our **\$199 check-up, xrays and hygiene combo for new patients** for a limited time only.

Whether you need a check-up, need urgent care or are thinking of a smile makeover, our experienced team is here to help.

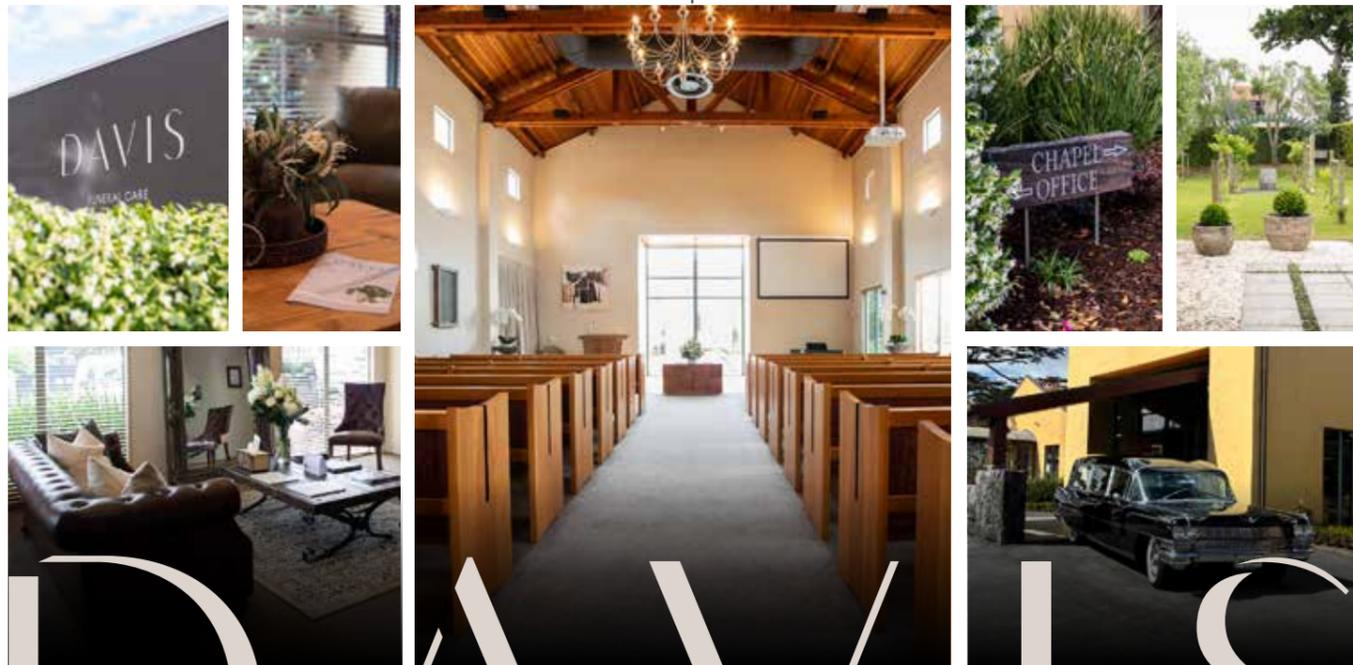
Our services include:

- General and preventive care - checkup & hygiene
- Cosmetic makeovers - veneers, crowns, whitening
- Emergency dentistry - same-day appointments for accidents & toothaches
- Sleep dentistry - IV and oral sedation available for a relaxed experience
- Dental implants, dental bridges, and dentures for tooth replacement
- Free basic dental care for high school children aged 13-17

Contact us below, or book online via our website!  
250 Main Road, Kumeu 0810  
022 412 7155 | [huapaidental@gmail.com](mailto:huapaidental@gmail.com)



[www.huapaidental.co.nz](http://www.huapaidental.co.nz)



**DAVIS**  
FUNERAL CARE  
09 638 9026  
[DAVISFUNERALS.CO.NZ](http://DAVISFUNERALS.CO.NZ)

# Helloworld travel westgate



Fall in love with autumn at sea: Hosted by Carolyn Hedley

This September, join Carolyn Hedley, owner of helloworld Travel Westgate, on an exclusive, limited-places small group journey from New York City to Montreal with Azamara – plus extended stays in Canada’s most exciting cities.

Your adventure begins with three exciting nights in New York City before setting sail. Take in the bright lights of Times Square, stroll through Central Park, explore world-class museums, or indulge in iconic dining – all while enjoying the camaraderie and expert guidance of a fully hosted group.

Then, as the skyline fades into the open sea, your Canadian Maritime cruise unfolds at the most beautiful time of year. September brings crisp air, smaller crowds, and landscapes ablaze with autumn colour.

In Halifax, discover rich maritime history along the waterfront and visit landmarks linked to the Titanic. Charlottetown charms with Victorian streetscapes and rolling countryside, while Cape Breton Island offers dramatic coastal vistas framed by brilliant reds and golds.

A highlight of the voyage is scenic cruising along the majestic St. Lawrence River, where picturesque villages and rolling hills line the shores en route to Quebec.

Azamara’s destination-focused approach means longer stays in port, immersive shore excursions, and an intimate ship atmosphere. Inclusive amenities and attentive service ensure a seamless blend of comfort and discovery.

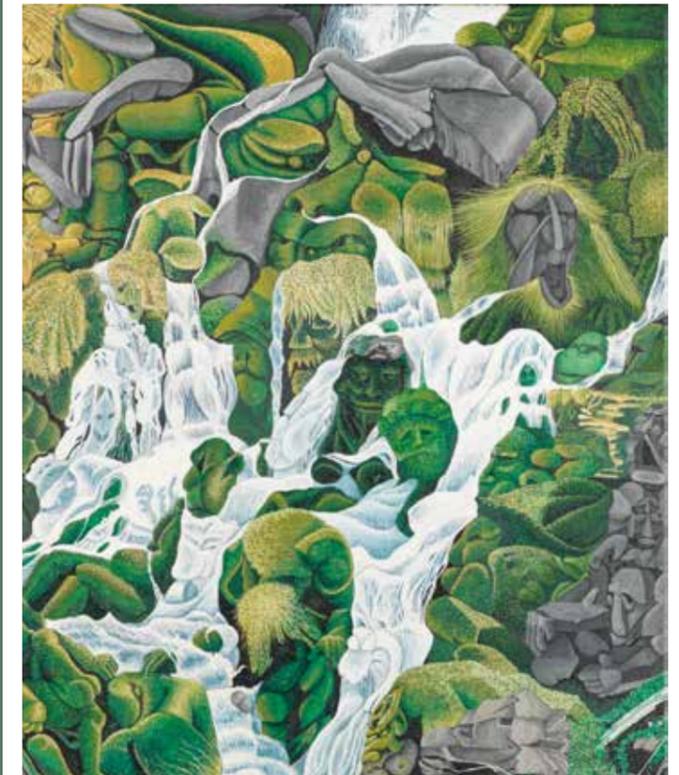
After disembarking, enjoy one night in Montreal, soaking up its French flair and cobblestone charm. Then travel by rail to Toronto for three nights in Canada’s largest city. A full-day excursion to the spectacular Niagara Falls provides a breathtaking finale to your journey.

Places are strictly limited, ensuring a boutique travel experience from start to finish. Secure your place early and experience Canada in its most colourful season.

To find out more please contact Carolyn Hedley at 4161799 or email [carolyn.hedley@travel.helloworld.co.nz](mailto:carolyn.hedley@travel.helloworld.co.nz)

# Arts in action

This March, we’re delighted to present artist Susan Wellm, who, after many years of working privately, now shares her paintings in the exhibition Kaitiaki o te whenua. Susan reflects, “To look is to see, and the reward is often personal,” a sentiment that flows through her layered landscapes. Viewers are invited to slow down, spend time with the works, and discover kaitiaki (guardians) that emerge within them, some deliberately painted, others revealing themselves only once a piece is complete. Children and adults alike can enjoy searching for hidden details through a Gallery Scavenger Hunt. In our smaller gallery, we’ll feature a group exhibition by 11 artists, including three young artists, who won prizes at last year’s Kumeu Arts Awards. The Pip window will showcase an installation by Cobi Booch. Alongside our regular classes, and concerts, join us for Arts in Action on Saturday 28 March, a free, family-friendly arts festival. [www.kumeuarts.org](http://www.kumeuarts.org)



## USA & CANADA IN THE FALL CRUISE & TOUR

WITH CAROLYN HEDLEY,  
OWNER OF HELLOWORLD TRAVEL TAKAPUNA & WESTGATE

Join your local cruise expert Carolyn Hedley on a hosted journey from **New York to Toronto** with an immersive **luxury cruise onboard Azamara Pursuit** followed by a custom tour to experience the stunning fall colours.

4-23 OCTOBER 2026  
19 NIGHTS/20 DAYS

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- 4 Oct: Arrive in New York & Hop on Hop Off Sightseeing City Tour
- 7 Oct: Embark on your Azamara Cruise – New York to Montreal, visiting Rhode Island, Cape Cod, Boston, Main, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Magdalen Islands, Quebec City & more
- 19 Oct: Arrive Montreal & Half Day Sightseeing Tour
- 20 Oct: Travel from Montreal to Toronto by Train
- 21 Oct: Hop On Hop Off Sightseeing City Tour
- 22 Oct: Full Day Tour of Niagara Falls
- 23 Oct: Tour comes to an end

Helloworld Travel Westgate

☎ 09 416 1799 📍 57-61 Maki Street, Westgate 🌐 [westgate@travel.helloworld.co.nz](mailto:westgate@travel.helloworld.co.nz)

THE TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS

\*Terms & Conditions apply: Valid for sales to 31 Mar 2026, unless sold out. Ask instore for full terms and conditions.

## Free Family Arts Festival

Saturday  
28 March  
11am - 2pm

# ARTS IN ACTION

Fun activities  
for the whole  
Whānau!

EVOLVE  
ACCOUNTING

## KUMEŪARTS

300 MAIN RD. KUMEŪ  
behind the library

Pub  
Charity  
Limited

Rodney  
Local Board  
Auckland Council



## Food & Beverage

### Silky aubergine noodles – Jamie Oliver



Crunchy  
toasted  
& mint

veg,  
peanuts

DAIRY-FREE

#### ingredients

1 orange

1 aubergine (300g)

olive oil

1 handful of salted  
peanuts (40g)

2 nests of dried  
egg noodles (140g)

½ a bunch of fresh  
mint (15g)

- 1 clove of garlic
- 5cm piece of fresh ginger
- 1 fresh red chilli
- 2 tablespoons low-salt soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon fish sauce
- 2 teaspoons runny honey
- red wine vinegar
- 4 spring onions
- 160g sugar snap peas
- 1 carrot

**About the recipe.** Sometimes I just want a plate of food that's comforting, vibrant and full of the good stuff. With plenty of bright veg and a punchy dressing, this delivers big on all fronts. And if you're not an aubergine fan, this might just change your mind!

#### Method

1-Halve the orange and aubergine lengthways, then rub the aubergine flesh with the cut-side of the orange.

2- Slash the flesh side of the aubergine in a criss-cross fashion, and place skin-side down in a large non-stick casserole pan on a high heat with 1 tablespoon of olive

oil and a pinch of sea salt.

3-Strip in a piece of orange peel using a speed-peeler, then pour in 1cm of boiling water, pop the lid on and bring to the boil. Cover and cook for 15 minutes, or until all the water has cooked away.

4- Toast the peanuts in a medium pan for 1 minute, then tip into a pestle and mortar and bash so you have a nice mixture coarse and fine. Remove to a small bowl.

5-Half-fill the pan with boiling water and cook the noodles according to the packet instructions, then drain and set aside.

6-Pick the mint leaves, placing the baby ones in a bowl of iced water, and set aside. Roughly chop the stalks and place in the pestle and mortar. Peel the garlic, peel and roughly slice the ginger, and add. Trim and finely slice the chilli (deseed if you like), adding half to the pestle and mortar and placing the other half in the iced water. Bash with a pinch of salt and 4 mint leaves.

7-Remove the orange peel from the pan and add to the pestle and mortar with the soy sauce, fish sauce and 1 teaspoon of honey. Squeeze in the orange juice, add 2 tablespoons of oil and 1 tablespoon of red wine vinegar, then pound and muddle together.

8- Finely slice the green spring onion tops, adding them to the bowl of iced water. Roughly clank the white parts into 4 and add to the aubergine pan along with the sugar snaps, jiggling and tossing the pan regularly for 5 minutes.

9-Scrub the carrot, carefully slice it lengthways at ½cm intervals leaving it intact at the top, then speed-peel into long thin strips. Push the aubergine to one side of the pan and drizzle the remaining honey to the side of the aubergine. Add the carrots, mint leaves and 1 tablespoon of vinegar. After a minute or two, remove the aubergine to serving plates.

10-Using tongs, transfer the noodles straight into the pan, remove from the heat, tip in the dressing and toss quickly to coat.

11-Serve the noodles and veg alongside the aubergine, then drain and scatter over the reserved chilli, spring onion and baby mint. Finish with a sprinkle of peanuts, then get stuck in!

#### Top Tip

Peel the ginger, then pop it in the freezer. This way, it'll be much easier to grate, and will keep for much longer, too. You can also do this with things like chilli.

Everything you need to know about property

# Property Hub



NEW LISTING-

14 Lyon Road, Waimauku

Call Graham McIntyre 027 632 0421



# What's inside

19	Property News
24	Property Statistics
28	Property Market
41	Home & Garden



ENQUIRIES / FEEDBACK / ADVERTISING:  
E [editorial@kumeucourier.co.nz](mailto:editorial@kumeucourier.co.nz)  
W [Property-hub.nz](http://Property-hub.nz)

COVER PHOTO: 14 Lyon Rd Waimauku  
PRINT RUN: 22,500 copies, Treehouse Print

# Property News

## Spotlight February 2026



The good news for New Zealand property owners is that the market outlook for this year is optimistic. According to Cotality, 2026 could deliver potential value gains of 5%. This result, the research house predicts, will be underpinned by easing mortgage rates and a gradual economic recovery.

That said, when Kiwis think about capital growth, many instinctively look to higher-density city locations. However, new data from realestate.co.nz shows that some of the strongest long-term gains over the past decade have been recorded in lifestyle and holiday destinations.

In our blog, The stunning rise in value of Kiwi lifestyle locations, we highlight just how powerful this trend has been. For example, buyers who purchased in Albert Town, east of Wanaka in Central Otago, 10 years ago would have seen values rise by an extraordinary 225%, up from an average asking price of \$553,500 in 2015 to \$1,796,828 by the end of 2025.

A similar story has played out in the North Island, where the Coromandel beach settlement of Hahei now commands an average asking price of \$2,005,000. That's around \$1.3 million more than a decade ago.

We also explore positive regulatory change in our blog: Granny flat development freedom has arrived. From mid-January, homeowners on residential and rural-zoned land can build a single-storey granny flat up to 70 square metres without needing building or resource consent. Government estimates suggest the changes could save homeowners up to \$5,650, in red tape, and eliminate up to 14 weeks of approval waiting times.

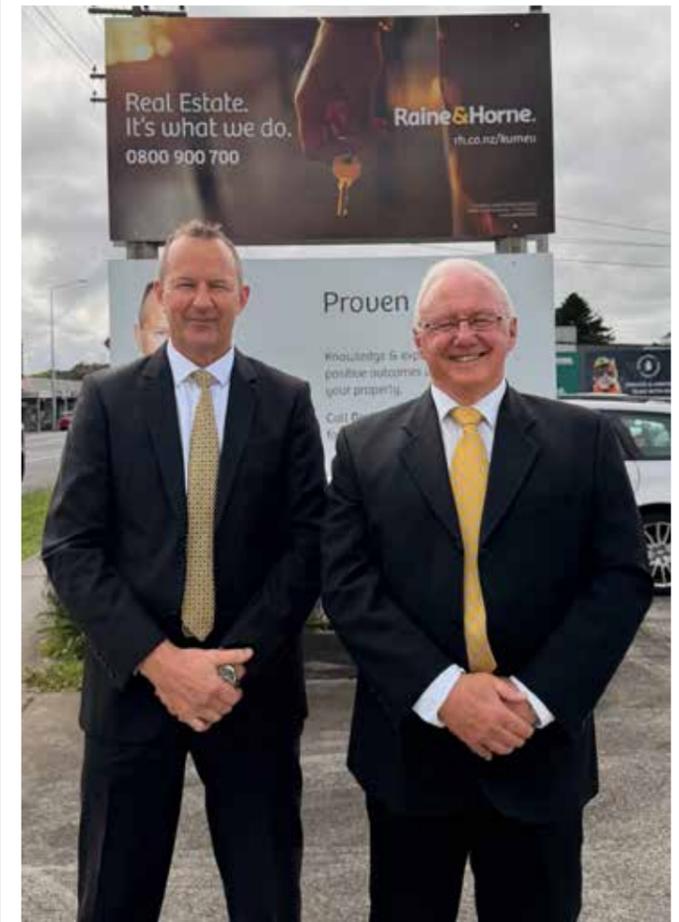
For an expert view of your local property market, talk to your local Raine & Horne property agent today.

If you are seeking to buy, sell, rent or create a rental portfolio in the area, contact

Brendon Hodge on 021 608 234 or

Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421

Country Living Realty Ltd t/a Raine and Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville Licensed REAA 2008





**Brendon Hodge**  
Licensed Sales Person

m 021 608 234  
[brendon.hodge@kumeu.rh.co.nz](mailto:brendon.hodge@kumeu.rh.co.nz)  
327 Main Road, Kumeu, NZ 0810  
Raine & Horne - Kumeu | Hobsonville Country Living Realty Ltd Licensed REAA (2008)





**Graham McIntyre**  
Licensed Agent  
Kumeu | Hobsonville

027 632 0421  
[graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz](mailto:graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz)  
Raine & Horne New Zealand PTY Ltd Licensed REAA(2008)



# Opportunities and challenges as the disputes tribunal's jurisdiction increased to \$60,000



The jurisdiction of the Disputes Tribunal doubled from \$30,000 to \$60,000 on 24 January 2026, creating significant changes for collecting medium-sized debts. The reform aims to improve access to justice and reduce the need for costly District Court litigation for mid-range disputes.

Previously, claimants with disputes between \$30,000 and \$60,000 faced an unenviable choice: either commence an expensive District Court proceeding or abandon part of their claim to fit under the old \$30,000 limit. The increased jurisdiction means claimants no longer need to sacrifice value for accessibility. Many disputes that once required formal court action can now be resolved more quickly, pragmatically, and at lower cost in the Tribunal.

Aside from the new limit, and a higher filing fee for claims over \$30,000, the Tribunal process remains largely unchanged. Hearings continue to be informal and inquisitorial, focused on achieving substantial fairness rather than applying strict legal rules. Lawyers still cannot appear at hearings, though parties may obtain legal advice beforehand. Appeal rights remain narrow and largely confined to procedural issues.

The Tribunal still cannot assist with collecting undisputed debts. In those cases, applying to the District Court for Summary Judgment will often remain the most efficient approach.

What this means for people and businesses

**Local Lawyers, Helping Develop & Grow West Auckland Business & Community**  
 smithpartners.co.nz | 09 836 0939  
**smith AND PARTNERS** LAWYERS

The increased jurisdiction allows many disputes between \$30,000 and \$60,000 to be determined in a forum that is generally faster, cheaper, and more accessible than the District Court. Hearing dates are typically sooner, procedural steps are minimal, and parties avoid the significant legal costs associated with formal litigation.

However, the expansion is not without controversy. Larger and more complex disputes are now entering a forum designed for small claims, where:-

- The Tribunal must have regard to the law but is not required to apply strict legal rights, forms, or technicalities. This flexibility promotes fairness but may lead to unpredictable outcomes.
- There is no formal discovery process, meaning relevant documents may not be disclosed before the hearing.
- Referees are not always legally trained and may be more likely to make errors than District Court Judges.
- Self-represented parties may struggle to present evidence and argue legal issues without the assistance of counsel at the hearing.
- Appeal rights remain very limited, usually only for procedural unfairness, not errors of law.

For small disputes, these trade-offs may be acceptable. But for amounts up to \$60,000, which can be significant or even business-critical, the risks of an unpredictable, informal process may cause concern.

Claims filed before 24 January 2026

If a claim was filed under the old \$30,000 limit and the excess was abandoned to fit under that cap, it cannot be:

- amended later to add the abandoned amount; or
- withdrawn and refiled after 24 January 2026 to claim up to the new \$60,000 limit.

How we can help

Thorough preparation is crucial. Strong evidence, well-structured submissions, and a clear factual narrative significantly improve the likelihood that your case will be properly understood and fairly assessed. For higher-value disputes, mistakes or incomplete evidence can have serious consequences.

Obtaining legal advice before lodging your claim or defence is especially important under the new jurisdiction. A lawyer can help you identify strengths and weaknesses, anticipate challenges, and ensure your submissions address the issues that matter. This guidance can be invaluable in navigating the Tribunal's flexible approach to evidence and procedure while avoiding costly missteps.

If you are involved in a dispute of up to \$60,000 and require assistance preparing your Tribunal claim or response, we invite you to become a client of Smith and Partners. For tailored legal advice, please contact Nathan Tetzlaff at nathan.tetzlaff@smithpartners.co.nz or phone 09 837 6844 to arrange an appointment.

# Blended families and property ownership



Sacha Easton, Legal Executive

When you're juggling kids, work, sport, and everything else that comes with family life, thinking about how your home is legally owned probably isn't high on the priority list. But for blended families especially, that one decision can have a much bigger impact than many parents realise.

Here in New Zealand, many couples purchase their home as "joint tenants". This means that if one partner passes away, their share of the property passes to the surviving partner under the "right of survivorship" regardless of what their Will says. For some families, this arrangement works well and keeps things simple.

However, for blended families, the consequences can be more complicated. If you were to pass away first, your share of what may be your largest asset would go directly to your partner. Your children from a previous relationship may not receive anything from that portion of your Estate. While that may be your intention, it's important that it is a considered decision and not an unplanned outcome.

The alternative option to ownership is known as "tenants in common". Each owner holds a defined share of the property, which upon their death, forms part of their Estate. This allows you to leave your share to your children through your Will and also consider an occupation right for your partner during their lifetime (or for a defined period) before ultimately passing to your children.

If you already own property as joint tenants, thankfully there is the option to sever the joint ownership and convert it to a tenants in common ownership with legal assistance.

If you're part of a blended family and would like to clarify if your property ownership structure is right for you or put Wills in place, ClearStone Legal would be happy to help. We have offices in Kumeu and in Te Atatu Peninsula.

**CLEARSTONE LEGAL**

Call now to discuss your legal needs

**Kumeu Office**  
1A Tapu Road, Kumeu

**Te Atatu Office**  
1/547 Te Atatu Road  
Te Atatu Peninsula

p: 09 973 5102  
w: cslegal.co.nz

**Henderson Reeves**  
creating smart legal solutions

**Property • Disputes • Family • Wills**

Taina Henderson 027 537 9222  
Shelley Funnell 027 537 9221  
Amie Wallwork 021 421 336

www.hendersonreeves.co.nz

**LAND LAW**  
CLIENT CENTERED CONVEYANCING

**CONVEYANCING - SALE or PURCHASE FROM \$899 plus GST & disbursements** Call now 022 1077 800  
office@landlawnz.com www.landlawnz.com

**VODANOVICH LAW**

SALES & PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE  
RELATIONSHIP PROPERTY | BUSINESS STRUCTURES  
POWERS OF ATTORNEY | WILLS & TRUSTS  
COMPANY & EMPLOYMENT LAW

PLEASE CONTACT IVAN | ivan@vlaw.co.nz 09 412 8000  
4a Shamrock Drive Kumeu, Auckland

**Team Terry Jones**

30 years of Experience. Servicing Local & Global.

**Terry and Janet Jones**  
Lifestyle Residential Development  
M +64 27 492 0529  
terry.jones@nzsr.com

# North West Auckland: where sales momentum is defying the broader market slowdown



## A Closer Look at Property Activity in Early 2026

While much of Auckland's property market has entered what commentators describe as a "normalised" phase, North West Auckland is quietly carving out its own story – one defined less by hesitation and more by steady activity.

Across the wider city, 2025 was marked by high listing volumes, with more than 20,000 properties coming to market. Prices softened from their previous peaks and median values drifted slightly lower into early 2026, firmly positioning Auckland as a buyer's market. Choice has expanded, time on market and negotiations have lengthened, and purchasers are exercising greater caution. Yet in suburbs stretching from Hobsonville and Westgate through to Whenuapai, Kumeū and parts of Rodney District, the tone feels a little different.

North West Auckland has emerged as one of the region's more resilient pockets. Where Central Auckland has experienced some of the weakest five-year performance – with values declining at an average annual rate of around 1.8 percent – Rodney District, which encompasses significant portions of the north-west growth corridor, has delivered positive long-term growth averaging 2.1 percent per annum. That relative outperformance tells a broader story about shifting buyer preferences.

Sales activity in this corridor remained robust throughout 2025, contributing meaningfully to Auckland's total of more than 11,000 transactions for the year. Unlike apartment-heavy inner-city suburbs, where stock levels have weighed on pricing, North West Auckland's housing mix – dominated by townhouses, terraces and standalone family homes – continues to attract a wide buyer pool. First-home buyers are particularly active in the \$750,000 to \$1.05 million range, drawn by newer housing stock and improved affordability compared to central suburbs.

The area's appeal is multifaceted. Hobsonville's master-planned community and ferry connection to the CBD continue to generate strong interest, while



Westgate's expanding retail and commercial hub adds convenience and employment opportunities. Kumeū and Whenuapai offer a semi-rural lifestyle within commuting distance of the city, appealing to families seeking space without

sacrificing connectivity. These lifestyle advantages have translated into consistent enquiry levels and relatively steady turnover, even as other parts of Auckland have experienced slower absorption rates.

Inventory levels remain elevated, particularly in newly developed subdivisions. This abundance of choice has moderated price growth and created room for negotiation, but it has not stalled the market. Instead, it has sharpened buyer expectations. Well-presented, realistically priced homes are transacting within typical timeframes of 30 to 60 days, while aspirational pricing is quickly tested by a more discerning audience.

Interest rate movements have also played a subtle but important role. Following the Official Cash Rate peak of 2.25 percent in November 2025, easing expectations into early 2026 have bolstered buyer confidence. While borrowing costs remain well above the extraordinary lows of 2020 and 2021, the sense of stability has encouraged pre-approvals to convert into active offers. In North West Auckland, this renewed confidence has translated into steady open-home attendance.

Investor sentiment across Auckland remains cautious, largely due to compressed yields. However, the north-west corridor continues to attract selective investor attention. Strong population growth, sustained rental demand and ongoing retail, commercial and industrial investment underpin confidence in the long-term fundamentals. New-build properties, in particular, remain appealing due to their compliance advantages and low-maintenance profiles. Dual-income opportunities and minor dwellings in areas such as Kumeū are also drawing interest from yield-focused buyers.

What distinguishes North West Auckland in early 2026 is not rapid price escalation, but balance. It is a market characterised by realistic vendor expectations, informed buyers and consistent transactional flow. The volatility of recent years has given way to a more measured environment – one in which value, presentation and location matter more than ever.

Looking ahead, most economists anticipate gradual recovery rather than any sharp rebound. For North West Auckland, this suggests continued stability through 2026, with modest growth potential emerging as economic conditions strengthen. Infrastructure expansion, commercial development and sustained residential construction will likely continue to underpin demand in the corridor.

Raine & Horne Real Estate has been in the market for 142 years. We offer a cost effective 2.95% commission rate and offer a cash back marketing rebate. In addition talk to us about your editorial four page spread and your Ai

driven Amplify 360 social media and digital package.

If you are seeking to buy, sell, rent or create a rental portfolio in the area, contact Brendon Hodge on 021 608 234 or Graham McIntyre on 0276320421.

**Country Living Realty Ltd t/a Raine and Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville Licensed REAA 2008**

# Estate and probate considerations

What happens with your family member's Will after they pass away? In many cases it is necessary to submit a formal application to prove the will, known as "probate." This results in a Court Order that confirms the validity of the Will. It also allows institutions such as banks and KiwiSaver providers to accept the authority of the named Executor to deal with the deceased's assets.

In small Estates, it is sometimes unnecessary to apply for probate. Recent changes to the regulations under the Administration Act 1969 mean that banks and other institutions may deal with the Executors of Estates with assets that are less than \$40,000, even if there is no probate.

In some circumstances however, it may still be good practice to probate a Will. Particularly in any circumstances where there may be a claim by creditors against the Estate. This is because the grant of probate creates certain protections for Estates and Executors. By way of example, there is a limitation period of one year from the date of probate for any claims against the Estate under the Family Protection Act 1955 and Law Reform (Testamentary Promises) Act 1949.

If you are considering whether to probate a Will, or need other assistance with Estate Administration, feel free contact –

Kemp Barristers and Solicitors at

**info@kempsolicitors.co.nz or give us a call on 09 412 6000.**

# Area Property Stats

PROPERTY-HUB.NZ

25

Every month Raine & Horne Kumeu assembles a comprehensive spreadsheet of all the recent sales in the area that reviews the full range of Residential and Lifestyle transactions that have occurred. To receive the full summary simply email the word "full statistics" to office@kumeu.rh.co.nz. This service is free from cost.

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA m2	LAND AREA m2	SALE PRICE
<b>Helensville</b>						
	Mangakura Rd	\$1350000	5	130	1	\$1365000
	Gow Street	\$840000	3	110	897	\$823000
	Awaroa Road	\$760000	3	91	775	\$775000
	Hand Road	\$740000	3	96	0	\$755000
	St James Ave	\$810000	3	160	814	\$925000
	State Highway 16	\$980000	3	160	4635	\$850000
	Hand Road	\$900000	4	129	1161	\$895000
<b>Hobsonville</b>						
	David Carnegie Rd	\$860000	3	103	0	\$870000
	Walter Merton Rd	\$1125000	3	164	0	\$1067000
	Starlight Cove	\$1150000	3	160	454	\$1180000
	Makete Cres	\$1625000	4	232	450	\$1700000
	Walter Merton Rd	\$1075000	3	141	173	\$1006500
	Settlers Ave	\$990000	3	178	0	\$960000
	Glidepath Rd	\$870000	3	120	129	\$830000
	Grey Warbler Rd	\$850000	3	102	135	\$865000
	La Bella Rd	\$1750000	5	323	300	\$1736000
	Hudson Bay Rd	\$1050000	3	122	152	\$1080000
	Frank Gill	\$940000	3	106	139	\$950000
	Skua Rd	\$1100000	4	161	197	\$1125000
	Hobsonville Pt Rd	\$710000	1	70	0	\$552500
	Kano Way	\$1200000	4	173	221	\$1175000
	Nevill Rd	\$1250000	3	160	0	\$1260000
	Brickworks Bay Rd	\$1550000	4	278	450	\$1605000
	Observation Green	\$860000	2	90	172	\$805000
	Bomb Point Drive	\$1250000	4	187	0	\$1250000
<b>Huapai</b>						
	Matua Rd	\$1125000	4	138	0	\$1215000
	Tapu Rd	\$1225000	4	180	652	\$1292500
	Sunny Crescent	\$1750000	5	275	1540	\$1440000
<b>Kumeu</b>						
	Nellie Drive	\$725000	2	94	113	\$710000
	Tarras Rd	\$1100000	4	163	407	\$1063000
	Kuawa Drive	\$1450000	4	206	590	\$1249000
	Bellamont Street	\$1275000	3	188	0	\$1355000
	Jane Maree Rd	\$1150000	3	160	0	\$1130000
	Broadwood Rise	\$2100000	4	248	10200	\$1900000
	Walter Ruddock Ave	\$1450000	5	251	719	\$1450000
	Konoba Ave	\$725000	2	85	133	\$697000
	Tarara Lane	\$1075000	4	158	400	\$1075000
	Sir Lincoln Drive	\$1450000	4	224	664	\$1525000
	Vinistra Rd	\$1175000	4	217	424	\$1100000
	Lockyer Rd	\$1300000	4	188	669	\$1250000
	Fruitlands Rd	\$1375000	4	228	662	\$1392500
	Nellie Drive	\$1100000	4	160	406	\$1125000
<b>Massey</b>						
	Zingaro Place	\$750000	3	110	309	\$730000
	Faram Place	\$850000	4	130	535	\$868000
	Petrel Place	\$1375000	4	320	607	\$1267000
	Don Buck Rd	\$830000	3	110	1270	\$805000
	Reynella Drive	\$740000	2	72	0	\$545000
	Triangle Rd	\$600000	3	100	0	\$620000
	Kemp Rd	\$600000	2	70	0	\$620000
	Royal Rd	\$930000	3	110	1230	\$1055000
	Tiriwa Drive	\$1130000	4	193	1606	\$930000
	Wharara Lane	\$720000	2	69	83	\$581500
	Widmore Drive	\$910000	3	160	939	\$976000
	Colwill Rd	\$1400000	5	210	1042	\$1190000
	Gallony Ave	\$840000	3	90	634	\$840000
	Allington Rd	\$990000	3	132	652	\$886000

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA m2	LAND AREA m2	SALE PRICE
	Don Buck Rd	\$700000	3	101	1308	\$650000
	Spargo Rd	\$780000	3	120	403	\$780000
	Don Buck Rd	\$780000	4	146	292	\$730000
	Baumea Rise	\$1475000	4	235	300	\$1250000
	Hartley Terrace	\$980000	3	122	675	\$945000
<b>Parakai</b>						
	Aitkenhead Court	\$760000	3	113	498	\$750000
	Parakai Ave	\$660000	2	67	1012	\$650000
	Aitkenhead Court	\$365000	0	0	590	\$210000
<b>Riverhead</b>						
	School Rd	\$1475000	4	236	0.0827	\$1355000
	Mill Grove	\$2025000	4	267	0.1612	\$1440000
	Coatesville-Rhead Hy	\$1630000	4	129	1	\$1450000
	Ridge Rd	\$1050000	0	0	1.19	\$900000
	Pohutukawa Parade	\$1600000	4	224	0.0882	\$1390000
<b>Taupaki</b>						
	Hunter Rd	\$1725000	5	280	21500	\$1610000
<b>Waimauku</b>						
	Solan Drive	\$1500000	4	269	1659	\$1785000
	Sarah Todd Lane	\$1050000	4	150	2204	\$1310000
	Pukemarinno Rd	\$1225000	4	217	804	\$1410000
<b>Waitakere</b>						
	Mildon Rd	\$1590000	9	320	12500	\$2000000
	McEntee Rd	\$900000	3	84	1304	\$860000
<b>West Harbour</b>						
	Whiting Grove	\$1350000	4	230	780	\$1299000
	St Catherine Cres	\$1220000	3	0	0	\$761500
	Oreil Ave	\$1000000	0	100	719	\$1238888
	Cherub Place	\$1350000	3	170	625	\$1381000
	Marina View Drive	\$1250000	3	170	696	\$1356000
	Buisson Glade	\$830000	3	100	392	\$780000
	Buisson Glade	\$740000	2	70	0	\$717000
	Vermeer Place	\$1500000	4	260	752	\$1475000
	van Dyke Place	\$950000	3	150	522	\$820000
	Sailfish Drive	\$830000	3	110	0	\$890000
	Cherub Place	\$1275000	4	240	630	\$1350000
	Westpark Drive	\$1550000	5	230	852	\$1595000
<b>Westgate</b>						
	Whiteywood St	\$910000	4	123	167	\$920000

DISCLAIMER: These sales figures have been provided by a third party and although all care is taken to ensure the information is accurate some figures could have been mis-interpreted on compilation. Furthermore these figures are recent sales over the past 30 days from all agents in the area.

Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421

Brendon Hodge on 021 608 234

Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine and Horne Kumeu  
- Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008).

Raine & Horne Kumeu also provide statistical data FREE from cost to purchasers and sellers wanting more information to make an informed decision. Phone me today for a FREE summary of a property and surrounding sales, at no cost and no questions asked. Graham McIntyre 027 632 0421 \*Available for a limited time. Conditions apply.

## Raine & Horne

This page is sponsored by Raine & Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville  
Phone 0800 900 700 Country Living Realty Ltd Licensed REAA (2008)



## February market wrap

Moving further into 2026, the market continues to feel steady.

The Reserve Bank's February announcement confirmed that the Official Cash Rate will remain at 2.25%. This means changes to mortgage rates will continue to be influenced by global and wholesale (swap) rates rather than the OCR itself.

Inflation is expected to trend back towards 2% over the next 12 months, which should give some relief to the cost of living. We're also seeing economic growth, with lower interest rates supporting household and business spending.

In the property space, Cotality's January Home Value Index shows that the national median property value in New Zealand is \$802,617. Here in West Auckland, the average value is currently \$917,731.

What does this mean for you?

Reviewing your personal circumstances and goals is important when making financial decisions. Many of my clients are currently seeing value in considering 2-3 year fixed rate options.

With wholesale rates trending upwards and the OCR expected to increase over time, it's worth considering where rates may be when short-term fixes expire. Locking in longer could protect you from higher rates and provide stability.

Economists are still predicting a 10% rise in property sales this year, and a potential 5% rise in the national median values. Activity across the market is increasing, creating opportunities for both buyers and sellers, including first-home buyers.

### Right now, I'm helping my clients in three key areas:

- Refix - Could breaking and refixing put you in a better or more stable position?
- Refinance - Are you with the right lender? Cashbacks and product differences can make a move worthwhile.
- Restructure - Is your loan set up to improve your cashflow, reduce interest, and support your goals?

Want me to run your numbers, review your options, or talk through your first or next move? I'm here to help.

Call Ben Konings  
Your Local Mortgage Adviser  
0204 1122 481  
ben@mortgagesupply.co.nz



# Your Local Mortgage Adviser

- First Home Buyers
- Property Investors
- Upsizing & Downsizing
- Repayment Strategies

Ben Konings

📞 0204 1122 481    ✉️ ben@mortgagesupply.co.nz

THE Mortgage SUPPLY CO. LTD.

## A rental market reset



In early 2026, Auckland's rental market has entered a new phase—quieter, more competitive, and noticeably more tenant-friendly. Nowhere is this shift more visible than in the northwest corridor, where rapid development over the past decade has

created one of the region's most dynamic residential landscapes.

Stretching from Massey through Westgate to Hobsonville in the East and Kumeu in the North, the northwest has long been a magnet for families seeking modern homes and better value within commuting distance of the CBD. Today, however, the balance of power has shifted. Increased supply and softer demand are reshaping how the rental market behaves—and who holds the negotiating leverage.

Across Auckland, rental listings have climbed by an estimated 10 to 15 percent year-on-year. At the same time, tenant search activity has eased. The result is a slower market, with properties taking an average of 20 to 40 days to secure quality tenants—significantly longer than during the tight conditions of previous years. In the northwest, this increase in supply is particularly pronounced. New townhouse developments in Hobsonville and Westgate, alongside established standalone homes in Massey, have steadily added to the rental pool. Streets once defined by construction cranes are now lined with completed builds—many of them investor-owned and available for lease.

City-wide rent growth has stalled, and in some areas has edged slightly downward. Central city apartments have recorded modest declines, and parts of West Auckland have seen rents soften by up to two percent.

Yet the northwest is not a uniform story of falling prices. Instead, it highlights what property managers are describing as a widening "quality gap." Well-designed, near-new homes—particularly those in Hobsonville's carefully master-planned neighbourhoods—continue to command strong rents. Properties that are older, less insulated, or lacking in modern finishes are encountering more resistance and longer vacancy periods.

In practical terms, presentation and positioning now



matter more than ever. Tenants have the freedom to compare options, weigh up value, and negotiate terms in a way that was difficult during the market's tighter years.

Despite softer conditions, the northwest retains enduring appeal. Expanding retail and commercial hubs in Westgate, improving motorway connectivity, and ferry links from Hobsonville underpin its long-term desirability. The area offers something increasingly scarce in Auckland: space.

Families continue to gravitate toward larger floor plans, garages, and proximity to schools and parks—advantages that central apartment markets struggle to replicate. This underlying lifestyle pull has prevented any dramatic correction in rents, even as overall growth has paused.

### A January Surge

Interestingly, the start of 2026 brought a burst of renewed activity. January saw a spike in rental applications across Auckland, including in the northwest. While not a return to frenzied competition, it signalled that demand remains present—particularly for well-priced, high-quality homes.

The takeaway is not stagnation, but recalibration. Properties that meet market expectations are leasing efficiently. Those that miss the mark are quickly exposed.

Most analysts agree that 2025 represented a cooling period rather than a downturn. The longer-term trajectory for Auckland remains stable, supported by population growth and enduring housing demand.

For the northwest, the key variable will be supply. Continued development could keep rental growth contained in the short term. However, if construction slows or economic conditions tighten the pipeline of new builds, upward pressure on rents may re-emerge.

For now, Auckland's northwest rental market stands as a study in balance. Tenants enjoy options and negotiating power. Landlords are adjusting to a more competitive environment.

For a better, more engaged Property Management experience delivering strong service values to Tenants and Owners alike give the team at West Auckland Property Management an email or text on 0276320421 or graham@wapm.co.nz

We only charge 6.5% as our base property management fee.

## Personalised Property Management Solutions

Residential rental property advice that's timely, accurate, and measured, to ensure your property gets the attention required. It's a process that builds on 25 years of success and succession.

Ph 09 832 0832





## 14 Lyon Road



Raine & Horne

Disclaimer - For Visual Purposes Only. We Measure Internal Spaces Which Exclude Wall Thickness. Measurements Should Be Verified By Viewer.

## Lifestyle without the big budget - Waimauku

### 14 Lyon Road, Waimauku

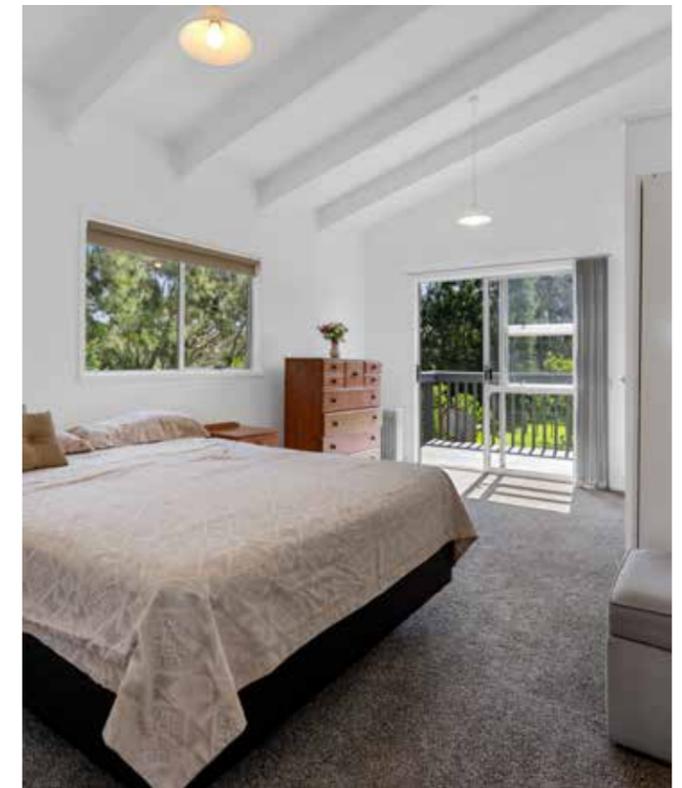
A fabulous lifestyle home with fantastic options, excellent, lovely neighbours, and space to express, explore and entertain. Offering over an acre of land, elevated and flat to gentle sloping, the property offers a discerning buyer the option for the good life. Land to plant, cultivate, create or an excuse to buy that ride-on mower you always wanted. The home built in the 1980's and recently refurbished is split over two levels, internal

access with two lounges, office, six bedrooms and two bathrooms. Options to further separate upstairs and downstairs should the need arise. A full floor plan is within the photo bank for your pursuit. This is a big home, easy care, on a very usable property, within a rural community that takes care of each other. A short drive to school and convenience shopping at Waimauku and a bus stop out on sh16, this property will open opportunity to a more for-filled life, where you enjoy the space.



### Featuring:

- 6 bedrooms
- 2 bathroom
- 2 living, 1 study, 2 toilet
- 2 garage
- Land area 5711 sqm
- Floor area 298 sqm
- Short drive to Helensville, west coast beaches, Waimauku & Woodhill forest
- Build in 1980's, recently refurbished



For more information on this property call:  
Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421  
or email: [graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz](mailto:graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz)

Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine and Horne Kumeu  
- Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008).



## Near new build - Offers over \$755,000

**58 Turret Lane, Hobsonville**

Viewing this property is by appointment call Graham on 0276320421 to book a suitable time/day.

The perfect blend of indoor-outdoor flow with all the comforts of a high spec build. Don't be fooled, it's bigger than it looks offering uncompromised open plan kitchen, dining, lounge alfresco with easy double stack slider opening to decking and storage shed. Upstairs, two toilets, full bathroom and two generous bedrooms.

Exceptional build, earthy tones, carpet, tile and natural wood laminate, this home has been crafted and coloured to provide a seamless buy-move-in experience.

Motivate Vendors graduating North.

**For more information on this property call:**

**Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421**

Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine and Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008).





## Featuring:

- 2 Bedroom
- 1 bathroom
- Land area 99 qm approx
- Floor area 84 sqm approx
- Easy access to SH16 & SH18 motorways
- Close to Bay Farmers market, cafes, restaurants & ferry
- Close to Te Ara Manawa, 5km coastal loop walkway
- Close to Scott Point primary school



# MINOR DWELLING WITH GJ'S

Waitoki 77  
from \$255,000\*

Rodney West Franchise  
09 412 5371 / [gjjardner.co.nz](http://gjjardner.co.nz)

Building a minor dwelling just got a whole lot easier!

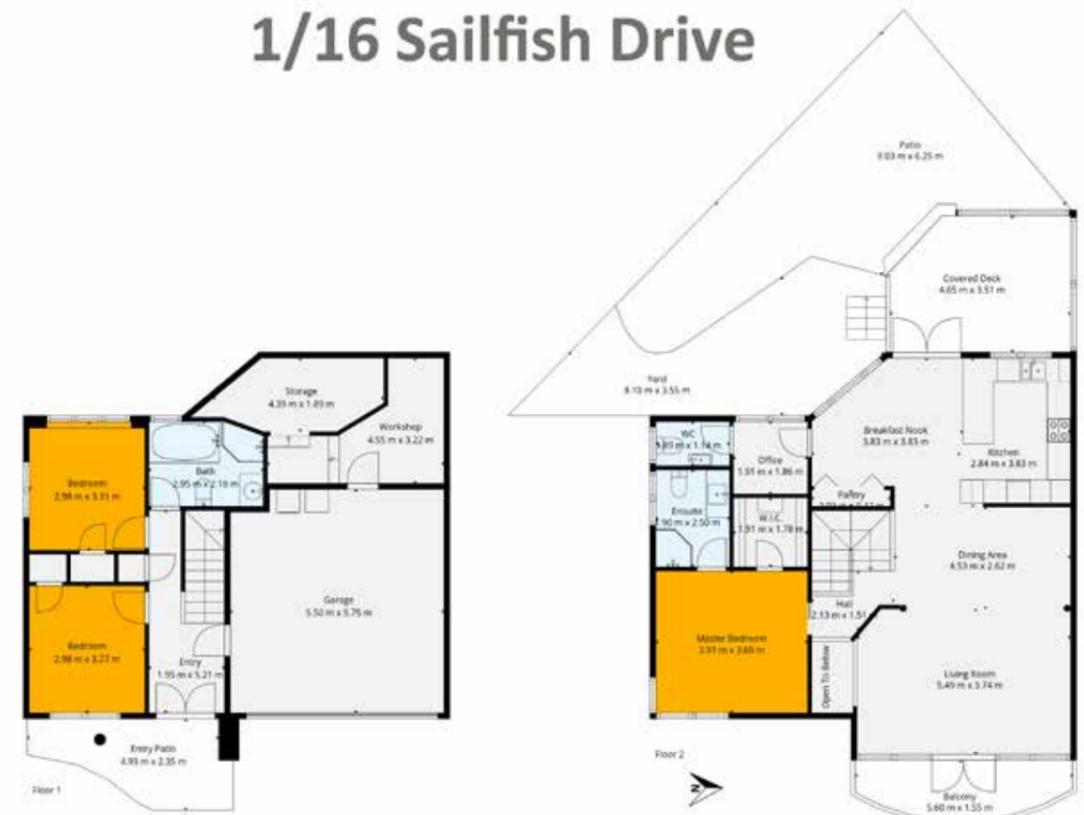
Changes in legislation has made building a minor dwelling easier and faster. GJ's has a range of plans, or can design for your site or needs. Get peace of mind as GJ's will take care of the project from start to finish, including site services, meaning no hidden surprises.

**T&C's apply.** Price is an indication of the build cost only and excludes land and site specific costs. Regional variations may apply. Images are artist's impression only.

G.J. Gardner. **HOMES**



## 1/16 Sailfish Drive



Raine & Horne

Disclaimer: For Visual Purposes Only. We Measure Internal Spaces Which Exclude Wall Thickness. Measurements Should Be Verified By Viewer.

## Marina View Zoning

### 1/16 Sailfish Drive, West Harbour

Viewing this property is by appointment call Graham on 0276320421 to book a suitable time/day.

This beautiful home presents huge potential to add value over time-whether you're seeking a solid return on investment or a long-term family anchor.

On offer is a well-designed two-level character home .

All within a short stroll to the local primary school and the commuter ferry/marina-making daily life as convenient as it is enjoyable.

The Executors have provided comprehensive disclosure documents for your confidence:

- Property file
- LIM report

For more information on this property call:

Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421 . Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine and Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008).



Featuring:

- 3 bedroom & 2 bathroom
- Land area 378 sqm & Floor area 190 sqm
- 1 Study, 2 toilets, 1 ensuite, 1 dining
- Fully fenced
- 2 Garge & 2 Open spaces
- Townhouse
- Close to school & ferry
- Open plan living
- Workshop area in garage





# Autumn Gardening with Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson

**Tui**  
Vegetable Mix 40 Litre



SKU: 142734 **\$16<sup>25</sup>**

**Gardeners Edge**  
Vegetable Mix 40L



SKU: 2060032 **\$14<sup>98</sup>**

**Tui**  
Garden Mix 40L



SKU: 118454 **\$13<sup>98</sup>**

**Yates**  
Thrive Naturals Natural Based Vege & Herb Fertiliser 1L



SKU: 375274 **\$21<sup>98</sup>**

**Tui**  
Seaweed & Fish Fertiliser 1L



SKU: 319083 **\$17<sup>98</sup>**

**Number 8**  
General Garden Fertiliser 5kg



SKU: 243537 **\$14<sup>29</sup>**

**Growfresh Pot**  
Rhubarb 10cm Green



SKU: 181848 **\$5<sup>98</sup>**

**Growfresh**  
Cabbage Little Cutie Pack of 6



SKU: 188453 **\$4<sup>20</sup>**

**Yates**  
Vegetable Seed Lettuce Salad Mix



SKU: 388758 **\$3<sup>98</sup>**



## Home & Garden

### Transform your kitchen with the Kitchen Centre

Is your kitchen feeling outdated? Lacking storage? Or perhaps the layout just isn't keeping up with your busy lifestyle? At The Kitchen Centre we specialise in reimagining spaces to create beautifully tailored kitchens designed around your individual needs.

When you visit our showroom, you'll meet with one of our experienced designers who will take the time to understand your preferences, lifestyle and vision. From the initial consultation through to final installation, our team will guide you every step of the way – making the entire process smooth and enjoyable.

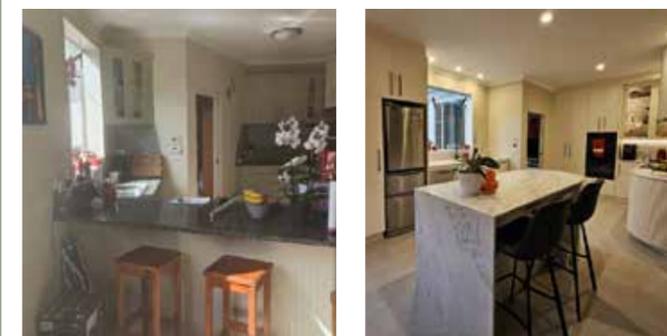
Since 1989, our kitchens have been custom-made on-site at our Henderson premises by our own qualified cabinetmakers. This local, hands-on approach ensures personalised service and exceptional craftsmanship.

Before installation, you'll even have the opportunity to view your kitchen fully assembled at our factory – giving you complete confidence that what you see is exactly what you'll get.

If you're ready to upgrade your kitchen let The Kitchen Centre help you create a space that is both functional and stylish.

**Visit our showroom or get in touch with our team today.**

Before and after images below -



Custom-made Kitchens  
Designed and Manufactured In-house Since 1989  
Family Owned | 100yrs + combined experience | Designer showroom



Contact us today for your free consultation!  
www.thekitchencentre.co.nz Ph: 09 837 0201



### SEPTIC & WATER TANK CLEANING

YOUR SEPTIC TANK SHOULD BE CLEANED EVERY 3 YEARS (AVERAGE FAMILY OF 4)  
WE SERVICE ALL AREAS  
PROMPT, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE WITH 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

**PHONE: 09 412 9210 OR 027 492 4494**



**Big Range,  
Low Price,  
Local Advice.**

Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson  
Northside Drive & Lincoln Road  
Monday to Sunday 7am to 7pm

Mitre10 MEGA Westgate  
Mitre 10 MEGA Henderson  
@megawestgate  
@mitre10.mega.henderson



**WESTGATE &  
HENDERSON**

## Quality exterior painting built on proper preparation



When it comes to repainting your home, proper preparation makes all the difference. Focus On Painting specialises in exterior, interior, and roof repainting for Kiwi homes, delivering quality workmanship and finishes built to handle NZ conditions.

Every project starts with thorough house washing or soft washing, with gutter cleaning where needed. This ensures surfaces are clean, sound, and ready for paint, especially important for materials like cedar cladding.

All work is carried out safely using mobile scaffolding, level ladders, and harness systems. This allows consistent coverage and a high standard of finish across the entire property.

Different homes require different systems. Whether it's weatherboard, cedar, brick, or plaster, the correct preparation methods are applied before premium paints suited to NZ weather are used.

Each job is completed with care and attention to detail, followed by a full clean-up so your property is left tidy and refreshed.

For added peace of mind, all repainting work is backed by a 3-year workmanship warranty, giving local homeowners confidence in the quality and durability of the finish.

To see recent projects and customer reviews, visit [facebook.com/focusonpainting](https://facebook.com/focusonpainting).

Free quotes are available. Call or text Brad on 021 756 890 or email [focusonpainting@gmail.com](mailto:focusonpainting@gmail.com).

### HOUSE PAINTING

INTERIOR / EXTERIOR / ROOF

**FREE QUOTE & 3 YEAR WARRANTY\***

\*Conditions Apply



Brad 021 756 890

[focusonpainting@gmail.com](mailto:focusonpainting@gmail.com)

[focusonpainting](https://facebook.com/focusonpainting)

## Award-winning pool soars to new heights



Narellan Pools Auckland West is proud to be the recipient of the 2025 Gold Award for Narellan's Pool of the Year, recognising exceptional workmanship and a standout installation.

The winning project features a Grandeur 9 in Blue Azurite, known for its generous size, smooth entry steps, and timeless shape. The Blue Azurite finish creates a rich, vibrant water colour that looks

impressive at any time of day.

This installation presented a unique challenge due to limited site access. To achieve the perfect outcome, the pool shell was delivered by helicopter, lifted, and placed precisely into position. The lift was a memorable moment for the homeowners and Richard Pook and the team, showcasing the dedication behind every Narellan Pools Auckland West project.

Set against a stunning natural backdrop and surrounded by thoughtfully planned entertaining areas, the finished pool creates a relaxed yet luxurious space for the homeowners to enjoy year-round. The combination of the Grandeur's clean lines, the Blue Azurite finish, and the property's setting made this installation stand out.

Winning Pool of the Year is a proud reflection of Richard's and the team's commitment to quality and craftsmanship.

To explore the range or discuss your own pool project, contact Narellan Pools Auckland West on 0508 476 657 or visit [narellanpools.co.nz](https://narellanpools.co.nz).

**BRINGING DREAMS TO LIFE WITH NARELLAN POOLS AUCKLAND WEST**



Narellanpools® | [narellanpools.co.nz](https://narellanpools.co.nz)  
0508 476 657

## Whenuapai floral and Garden Circle



First Meeting for the New Year of 2026 was on 12 February and held at the Village Hall when 37 persons attended.

Guest speaker was Dave Shirley whose great passion is the growing and showing of dahlias. He and his wife Kay exhibit at around eight Shows each year with sometimes two in the same weekend. This was the third time a visit to our Club was planned, with the other two not working out for varied reasons, however we were glad he was able

to make it this time. His enthusiasm was infectious and many and varied are the types of dahlias which are native to Mexico.

Dahlia is a striking annual plant and generally grown from dormant tubers, although available in punnets and pots, it is one of the most popular competition flowers among growers. Dave detailed how they prepare the flowers for transport to the venues for showing, as the judges are very critical and examine blooms from every conceivable angle, for colour, form and size. Dahlias are generally considered easy to grow, especially once established. They thrive in well-drained soil and full sun. They can yield beautiful blooms from the middle of summer through until autumn. They do, however, require some care, including staking, disbudding, and digging up tubers each autumn. Overall, with the right conditions and care, most gardeners find growing dahlias to be a rewarding experience.

Dynamic lifter, an organic slow-release fertiliser made from composted poultry manure, is designed to improve soil health and provide essential nutrients for plant growth. It releases those nutrients slowly, improves the structure and moisture retention of the soil and encourages earthworms and beneficial soil micro-organisms. Lime is also recommended and Novatec Fertiliser, which provides a sustained release of easy to absorb nitrogen, for your plants for about four months.

Forthcoming events were discussed, birthdays acknowledged, blooms judged and competition results from last year announced and prizes given, raffles drawn and afternoon tea enjoyed. If you would like to know more about our Club, and wish to join us please phone Judy Garrity on 8335592. Meetings are held at 1 p.m. at 41 Waimarie Road, Whenuapai Village, on the second Thursday of the month with trips usually on the fourth Thursday. Entry fee is \$4 with another dollar per raffle ticket. Until next time, happy gardening from Mary Anne Clark

## Waimauku garden club

This Thursday we travel north to Omaio Gardens, a large coastal property on the Takatu peninsula created by Liz Morrow and now named a Garden of International Significance by the NZ Garden Trust. Set amongst native bush with old trees there are flourishing clivia, hydrangeas and ferns in the shade along with a vegetable garden, and orchard and garden beds with easy walking tracks. Liz has carefully created a garden which does not compete with nature and has combined sculptures into the landscape and sea views. Morning tea is provided here.

We then travel to Omaha Bay Vineyard, a local vineyard. Here we will have platters for lunch and wine tasting for those wishing to imbibe. Otherwise a non-alcoholic drink will be included with lunch. The estate has views over the sea to Great Barrier Island and an art gallery to browse through also. The coach will drop us off in Matakana Village for a stroll around the village and some free time before heading home at around 2.30pm, hopefully back in Kumeu by 4pm. Looking forward to this trip and sharing about it next time.

Feel free to contact any of us : Ann (0210357406), Gail (021344070), Maree (0274963006), Moira (027498154), Monique (021646220), Sandi (027318541)



**Andrew Shone.**

**Carpentry & Building Services.**

**Small alterations , Fencing , Decking & General Building repairs.**

Free quotes

Ph 021 999 542 or 412 6213

Email [shonebuilder@xtra.co.nz](mailto:shonebuilder@xtra.co.nz)

# Time to replace your irrigation field? here's what to look for



For many homeowners with septic systems, the irrigation field (also called a drainage or soakage field) is very much "out of sight, out of mind" – and that's usually a good thing. But when it begins to fail, the signs can be messy, smelly and expensive. In worst-case scenarios, it can even damage your pump – \$\$\$!

### What does an irrigation field actually do?

After solids settle in your septic tank, the remaining liquid effluent flows out to the irrigation field. It is distributed through perforated pipes into the surrounding soil, where natural filtration processes remove harmful bacteria and nutrients before the treated water returns safely to the groundwater system.

Over time, irrigation fields can clog, compact or simply wear out. When that happens, wastewater can no longer disperse properly.

### Common signs you may need a replacement

1. Slow drains and gurgling pipes

If sinks, showers and toilets are draining slowly – and your

septic tank has already been pumped – the issue may lie in the irrigation field. Gurgling sounds can indicate wastewater isn't moving through the system as it should.

2. Wet or soggy patches on your lawn

Persistently damp ground above the irrigation area, especially during dry weather, is a clear warning sign. If the soil can't absorb the effluent, it may start surfacing.

3. Unpleasant odours outside

A healthy system shouldn't smell. If you notice sewage odours around your yard, particularly near the irrigation field, it's time to investigate.

4. The system is ageing or under stress

Irrigation fields last around seven years, depending on soil type, use and maintenance. Livestock compacting the ground or roots from nearby plants can all cause damage.

5. Alarms or warning lights

If your alarm keeps sounding or a red warning light activates when you flush the toilet or run appliances, act quickly. Your system is struggling to cope.

### Don't wait for an emergency

Irrigation field problems rarely fix themselves. Acting early can prevent wastewater backing up into your home or causing major damage to your property or pump.

If you're noticing warning signs, seek professional advice. The experienced HydroVac team can assess your system and talk you through your options. Call 0800 493 768 – we're here to help.



## SOLVE YOUR SUMMER STENCHES!

Our friendly and professional wastewater team can help you with:

- Irrigation field remediation
- Wastewater treatment system services
- Septic tank empties and services
- Septic tank inspections for council

Our fleet of vans are fully equipped with stock and tools to allow our techs to tackle virtually any task on site and, if not, we can usually source the required parts within 24-48 hours.

Call for any wastewater enquiries - we know our stuff!

0800 493 768  
www.hydrovac.co.nz



**wallerprojects**  
**MARK WALLER**  
 M: 021 802 845  
 E: mark@wallerprojects.co.nz  
 A: The Hangar, Catalina Bay,  
 2/2 Boundary Road, Hobsonville Point  
 W: wallerprojects.co.nz  
**AWARD WINNING DESIGN & BUILD**

**On To It Garden Services Ltd**

**Calvin Bates**  
 0272 111 075  
 ontoitgardenservices@gmail.com

# Why engineers & developers choose Drain Ninjas for hydro excavation & service location

When precision, speed, and reliability matter, the right hydro excavation partner can make or break a project timeline. At Drain Ninjas, we understand the pressures engineers and developers face – tight programmes, complex underground services, and zero room for costly surprises. That's exactly why our clients trust us to deliver.

Our hydro excavation and service location solutions are designed with efficiency at the forefront. Simply put – we work faster and smarter. Our modern vacuum trucks are more powerful and efficient than standard units, allowing us to excavate cleaner, expose services quicker, and minimise downtime on site. Less waiting, less mess, and more progress where it counts.

But equipment is only part of the story. What truly sets



Drain Ninjas apart is our team. Our operators are highly skilled specialists who know how to get the job done right the first time. They understand the importance of accuracy when working around critical infrastructure and take pride in operating with care, precision, and professionalism on every project.

Equally important is communication – something our clients consistently tell us we excel at. From clear job scoping to real-time updates on site, we keep engineers, developers, and project managers fully informed every step of the way. No chasing, no guesswork, no surprises.

For developers and engineers looking to reduce risk, protect underground assets, and keep projects moving, Drain Ninjas delivers a smarter hydro excavation and service location solution.

**Fast. Efficient. Precise. That's the Ninja difference**

# EVERYTHING TO DO WITH DRAINS 24/7

- ✓ Vacuum loading/suction ✓ Septic tank empty & council inspection
- ✓ Cesspit cleaning, pump chambers, grease trap cleaning
- ✓ Hydro excavation, pile holes ✓ Drain unblocking & root cutting
- ✓ CCTV locating & fault finding ✓ Drain repairs & maintenance



# DRAIN NINJAS

**LOCALLY FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED**  
**drainninjas.co.nz**

**0800 4 NINJA** 0800 4 64652  
 Email: admin@drainninjas.co.nz



- ◆ Different design options available.
- ◆ Options to suit your budget.
- ◆ Follow current legislation.
- ◆ Builders guarantee.
- ◆ Money locked in and secure.
- ◆ Solar power options.
- ◆ Screw piles for foundations or timber piles.
- ◆ Lodging with council processing if you need.
- ◆ Options to build on site or off site and delivery. (delivery costs tbc)



**Get in touch today for a free quote, no commitments necessary.**



Lock in the job and your payments.



Protect your build and your back pocket.

Our fully customizable tiny homes are built specifically to suit your needs, wants & budget.

Whether you're seeking a cozy retreat in the countryside, a versatile backyard studio, air b and b for secondary income or a granny flat for family, our tiny homes offer endless possibilities.

We collaborate closely with each client, ensuring that every aspect of their tiny home aligns seamlessly with their vision and budgetary constraints. With options available for every budget.



Phone: 021 378 277

www.smallbuilds.co.nz

info@smallbuilds.co.nz

## Laser Plumbing Whenuapai



February marks the final month of summer, welcoming the arrival of autumn. Autumn is a season of calm and colour. The air cools, mornings feel crisp and the afternoons stay mild. It's the perfect time to enjoy clear skies, changing leaves and everything slowing to a gentler pace.

It is also an ideal time to start thinking about making sure your property is ready for the months ahead.

Drainage - drains should be kept clean and clear for them to work effectively. Drain maintenance goes a long way in keeping your drains in good working condition and reducing the chance of a blockage. Laser Plumbing Whenuapai can provide regular maintenance checks to prevent blockages from occurring. And if a blockage does occur, we have specialist equipment to clear out stubborn blockages.

Our qualified drainlayers can perform a full range of drainage repairs and replacements, from new drainage through to storm water and waste water works.

Plumbing - dripping taps, a slow draining sink, blocked toilet, low water pressure, clogged waste disposal, backflow issues. These are just some of the common plumbing problems you can experience in your home or business. We have a great team of maintenance plumbers who can easily remedy these frustrating issues, on time and hassle free.

We also offer full plumbing solutions for new builds as well as renovations.

Roofing - We find and fix roof leaks. Here at Laser, we



● PLUMBING	● DRAINAGE	● ROOFING
Renovations Waste Disposal Leaking Taps High Water Bill Hot Water Cylinder Back Flow Prevention New House Plumbing Burst Pipes Maintenance & MORE	Septic Tank Council Inspections (Auckland Council Approved) Septic Tank New Installations Septic Tank Repairs New Drainage Drain Repairs / Replacements Drain Unblocking Stormwater / Sewer Systems Cesspit Installation / Repairs & MORE	Long Run Roofing Downpipes Flashing Work New Roofs Roof Repairs Roof Maintenance Gutter Replacements Gutter Repairs

09 417 0110

whenuapai@laserplumbing.co.nz

specialise in all your long run/iron roofing needs... from roof repairs to complete roof replacements, gutter cleans, repairing and replacing gutters, spouting and downpipes. Whatever your needs, one of our experienced roofing team will get you sorted.

We are excited to share that we offer a Supergold card discount. Just let us know you have a Supergold card when you book in your plumbing job, and we will give you 20% off your first hour of plumbing labour.

Contact Laser Plumbing & Roofing Whenuapai today for all your service needs on 09-417-0110 or whenuapai@laserplumbing.co.nz. We are open five days a week from 7:30am - 4:30pm and are conveniently located at Unit 4, 3 Northside Drive, Westgate. For more information, visit our website www.whenuapai.laserplumbing.co.nz



**SERVICE CENTRE**

**E O I N S T U A R T**

Phone 09 412 5900 | Mob 022 639 0274  
 338 Main Road Huapai - Kumeu, Auckland 0810  
 autoworxnz@outlook.com



**ANYTIME PEST CONTROL**

FLIES, ANTS, COCKROACHES, FLEAS

RATS, MICE, SPIDERS, WASPS ETC.

WEEDSPRAYING

**KEVIN MORRIS** REGISTERED TECHNICIAN

PHONE: 09 411 7400 MOBILE: 027 277 7143

## Autumn gardening with Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson



As Autumn begins to roll in and the long, bright days of summer begin to soften. It's a time of transition- when the soil is still warm, the air turns

crisp, and your garden is ready for a little care to carry it confidently through the colder months.

Autumn is ideal for planting hardy perennials, refreshing tired garden beds, and giving your soil a nutrient boost after the demands of summer. Our stores offer a wide range of robust seasonal plants perfectly suited to cooler weather- think colorful winter-flowering favorites, strong-growing shrubs, and reliable ground covers that will put on a show well into the colder months. If you're focused on edibles, now is the perfect moment to get winter greens like kale, cauliflower, broccoli, silverbeet, and spinach into the ground. They establish beautifully in the mild autumn climate and reward you with nutritious harvests throughout winter.

At Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson, we know that the right tools make all the difference. Our selection of high-quality garden tools- both power and hand varieties- takes the effort out of seasonal maintenance. From pruning back summer growth to trimming hedges or turning over garden beds, you'll find reliable equipment to help keep your space tidy and thriving. And if you're not sure where to start, our knowledgeable team is always on hand with practical tips tailored to your garden's unique needs.

Preparing your soil is one of the most valuable tasks you can do during these months. Adding nutrient-rich compost, organic matter, or conditioners helps replenish what summer growth has depleted. Healthy soil sets the foundation for strong winter planting, better moisture retention, and long-term plant vitality. We stock a full range of soil enhancers and mulches to help you build a rich, resilient garden ecosystem.

To give you complete peace of mind we offer a Healthy Plant Guarantee. If your plant doesn't thrive, just bring it back within 12 months with proof of purchase, and we'll replace it. We stand behind the quality of everything we sell - because we want your garden to flourish just as much as you do.

So as the leaves begin to turn and the days grow cooler, take the time to prepare, plant, and nourish your outdoor space. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just getting started, we're here to help you grow with confidence. Visit Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson this autumn-let's create something beautiful together.

Happy gardening, everyone!

## Moth plant season



It's March, which means it's moth plant season. You may have noticed people in hi-vis vests, holding secateurs and bottles of blue paste, diving into bushes in your neighbourhood. They are trying to find the roots of the plant, to chop it off and poison it. They may also be collecting sacks of moth plant pods, to dispose of them safely. Environmental groups are very concerned about this plant. Moth plant grows very fast, and in summer produces pretty white flowers which turn into large green pods that pop open, releasing thousands of fairy-like seeds. These fly long distances, spreading the plant far and wide. In the bush, it grows up other plants and smothers them, while native insects get stuck in the sticky white flowers. At home it can quickly take over a garden, and the latex in the sap irritates skin.

Habitat Hobsonville has a goal of eradicating moth plant in Hobsonville Point. Groups in other areas are also hard at work trying to tackle it. If you find moth plant on your property or street, here's what you can do to help:

- If small enough, pull or dig out the roots (wear gloves)
- If large, cut as close to the roots as possible and paste with a strong herbicide, such as Cut'n'Paste MetGel.
- Collect all the pods and bag them, then put in your rubbish bin. Do not compost them, as the seeds can survive.

There is more information here <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/mothplant/>

If you want to help, you can join STAMP (Society Totally Against Moth Plant) [facebook.com/groups/234572443294360](https://www.facebook.com/groups/234572443294360), or find a conservation group near you like Habitat Hobsonville Habitat Hobsonville | Upper Waitemata Ecol

Credits:

Moth image1 Carolyn Lewis

Moth image2 Auckland Council

Moth image3 Anna Gehrke



## Young Learners

### Sensory exploration: why it matters and how to encourage it

From the very first moments after birth, we begin making sense of the world around us. Every interaction a child has stimulates one or more of the five basic senses: touch, taste, smell, sight, and hearing. Through these sensory experiences, children learn how to connect, survive, and thrive in their environments. As each child comes from a unique background, their experiences can shape them in both positive and challenging ways. This is why sensory exploration plays such a vital role in early development.

The outdoors offers endless opportunities for sensory

exploration. And at Gumboots we are so lucky to have such large outdoor areas in all our four rooms. Our children have almost endless opportunities to squelch through mud, crunch autumn leaves, lie on the grass and watch clouds drift by, or pick and smell daisies from the uncut lawn. All activities engage the senses. Nature has a calming effect on minds of all ages. Taking deep breaths, closing our eyes, stretching, or practicing simple yoga movements outdoors allows us to activate our senses in meaningful and restorative ways.

Sensory play activities, such as using playdough or clay, can be both therapeutic and calming. Children can roll it, squish it between their fingers, smell it, and sometimes even taste it (although we don't recommend eating it!). These experiences are all part of learning. Children often spend long periods mastering skills like using rolling pins, cookie cutters, or forming the perfect ball. During this play, you may hear imaginative role-play - making cookies "just like Nana does" or "spreading concrete" for a new



Great outdoor playgrounds



100% Qualified teacher ratios

Music Lessons in the Sun

Now enrolling: Babies for April onwards  
Don't miss out!  
Call us to visit and meet the team

Open 7am - 6pm - choose your own hours

Just minutes from Helensville / Waimauku / Kumeu  
1157 Peak Rd The centre of everywhere Ph: 477 9038

## Young Learners

driveway. At the same time, fine motor skills are being strengthened, language is developing, and relationships with peers are being formed. Baking is another wonderful sensory experience that introduces new smells, tastes, and textures. It encourages collaboration and cooperation between children and adults, while also introducing early science concepts through mixing ingredients and mathematical skills through counting and measuring. While the mess – and clean-up – is a big part of the process, the delicious reward at the end makes it all worthwhile.

Sensory play can also support children who struggle with certain challenges, such as discomfort with squishy foods. By introducing different textures and consistencies through messy play – like cornflour and water, paint, or water beads – children can learn that these sensations can be enjoyable and safe. Over time, this can help them build more positive associations with similar food textures. Introducing new foods is always a gradual process, for children and even some adults, so patience and small steps are key.

A great sensory experience to create at home is sensory bottles. Plastic bottles can be filled with coloured water and oil, beads, rice, glitter, or water mixed with

dish liquid. Choose items that make sound, reflect light, or demonstrate cause and effect – anything that encourages curiosity and discovery. Be sure to tightly secure the lid and add a small amount of glue to prevent leaks.

When it comes to sensory play, you are only limited by your imagination. Have a go and see what sensory experiences you and your children can discover together.

## Tamariki at Te Manawa



Our much-loved pre-school sessions continue throughout March, now starting at 10.30am.

We've also made a small change – Kids Play has moved from Mondays to Wednesdays, right after Rhymetime.

### Weekly sessions (term time only)

Wriggle & Rhyme Tuesdays | 10.30-11.00am | Level 3 Auditorium

Rhymetime Wednesdays | 10.30-11.00am | Children's Area

Kids Play Wednesdays | 11.00-11.30am | Children's Area

Storytime Fridays | 10.30-11.00am | Children's Area

All our pre-school programmes are drop-in sessions – no bookings needed.

Come along for free, fun-filled mornings that are perfect for your little ones.

### Celebrating Chinese Lantern Festival

Join us on Sunday 1 March, 10.30-11.30am, for Paper Lantern Making – a magical, hands-on activity for children aged 5 and over. All materials supplied.

### Looking Ahead

The April school holidays and Easter are just around the corner – stay tuned for more exciting activities and events.

Discover everything happening each month at Te Manawa: <https://linktr.ee/temanawa>



## Aged care

### A simple way to sell your car

If you have a car that is no longer being used, you may be wondering what to do next.

At AJ Motors, we buy cars directly and pay cash on the spot. The process is simple, clear and designed to make things easy for you.

It starts with a phone call. We ask a few basic questions and arrange a convenient time to view the vehicle. After assessing its condition and current market demand, we provide a fair offer. If you're happy to proceed, we complete the paperwork and arrange payment promptly. If not, there is no obligation.

There's no advertising, no strangers visiting your home and no ongoing negotiations. Just a straightforward

conversation and a clear outcome.

If you're considering selling your car, call Lee at AJ Motors for a friendly, no-pressure chat.

Kind regards, Tony Wang

Mobile: 021 2362 719

0800 566 789 | [www.ajmotors.co.nz](http://www.ajmotors.co.nz)



**AJ MOTORS**  
GREAT CARS, GREAT VALUE

**When the Time Feels Right,  
We're Here to Help.**

- ✓ No obligation / No pressure
- ✓ Paid on the spot

We buy and trade in cars – simply and respectfully.

**AJ Motors Henderson 09 355 8888 | West City 09 835 2917**  
visit us at [www.ajmotors.co.nz](http://www.ajmotors.co.nz)

## Aged Care

# Celebrating 11 years of care at Kumeu Village

March marks a special milestone as we celebrate 11 wonderful years of Kumeu Village. From opening The Vineyard Villa and The Ladybug to growing into a trusted name in aged care, we are incredibly proud of how far our community has grown.

Throughout the years, we have remained committed to the highest standards of care, always leading with love, compassion and respect. Kumeu Village is more than a rest home- it is a community where companionship, dignity and heartfelt care remain at the centre of everything we do.

We would love to invite you to pop in for a visit throughout the month of March to help us celebrate.

Kumeu Village - Just behind the hedge on the corner of Old Railway and Main Road. A stunning 100-bed home offering hospital, specialised dementia, and respite care. Our professional and compassionate team provides round-the-clock support, ensuring every resident receives the care, comfort, and dignity they deserve - and giving families the space and peace they need to simply be together.

The Ladybug- Nestled behind beautiful trees in the idyllic Coatesville countryside, The Ladybug is a stunning 15-bed home offering specialised dementia care exclusively for women. Warm, personal, and family-focused, it's a place filled with love, nature, and genuine connection.

Come see for yourself - we'd love to welcome you for a no-obligation visit today.

Bring your loved ones, bring the family, and experience the comfort and compassion that define life at Kumeu Village and The Ladybug.

Finding the right care for someone you love starts here.

Kumeu Village - Corner of Old Railway & Main Road, opposite BP Kumeu

The Ladybug - 798 Coatesville-Riverhead Highway

09 412 9112

[info@kumeuvillage.co.nz](mailto:info@kumeuvillage.co.nz)

[www.kumeuvillage.co.nz](http://www.kumeuvillage.co.nz)

## A heartwarming February at Craigweil House



February was a meaningful and heartwarming month at Craigweil House, as residents and staff came together to celebrate both Waitangi Day and St Valentine's Day, each observed on its own special day but united by the same spirit of connection and community.

For Waitangi Day, we took time to acknowledge and reflect on the partnership, history and shared future of Aotearoa New Zealand. The day was marked with learning,

## Aged Care

discussion and a strong sense of togetherness. Some residents and staff wore black to commemorate the occasion, while others helped prepare the space with decorations, taking pride in creating a welcoming and meaningful setting. Activities included Poi, a New Zealand history quiz, and watching a video about the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, all of which sparked conversation, curiosity and shared memories. Staff also performed Māori Poi and Waiata, which was warmly received and enjoyed by everyone.

Later in the month, St Valentine's Day brought a lighter and creative celebration. Residents enjoyed colouring heart themed designs, filling the room with bright colours and cheerful conversation. In the afternoon, we made the most of the remaining summer days with a lovely garden tea, sharing sweet treats and warm drinks outdoors. It was a beautiful way to relax, laugh and appreciate one another's company.

At Craigweil House, moments like these reflect the care, connection and sense of belonging we value every day. If you are considering aged care options for yourself or a loved one, we warmly invite you to drop by, meet our friendly team and see what Craigweil House has to offer. PH 094208277



COME VISIT US!  
WE ARE LOCATED NEXT TO PARAKAI SPRINGS

Discover a warm and caring home, nestled within the Kaipara Coast and Parakai's geothermal waters.  
Rest Home • Hospital • Day Stays

**Craigweil House**  
Home & Hospital  
FEEL AT HOME WITH FAMILY

**HENRIKWEST**  
CARE GROUP

09 420 8277 | 143 Parkhurst Rd, Parakai | [info@craigweilhouse.co.nz](mailto:info@craigweilhouse.co.nz)

## Your one stop rehab shop



Looking to upgrade but not sure what to do with your old scooter? Or searching for a cost-effective first option? We've got just the solution for you.

Did you know that Kiwi Rehab buys, refurbishes, and resells pre-loved mobility equipment? It's a practical, affordable, and sustainable way to keep quality equipment in use. Give us a call, we might have the perfect solution

waiting for you.

Already love what you have? We also offer servicing and repairs to keep you moving with confidence. Whether it's a flat tyre on your wheelchair, a broken scooter headlight, or simply routine maintenance, our experienced team will have you back up and running quickly and safely.

Ready for something new and shiny? Don't worry, we've got that covered too. We stock a wide range of mobility scooters, wheelchairs, lift chairs, walkers, walking sticks and more, all available to hire or purchase. You'll be rolling in style in no time.

Discover how we can help you live more comfortably, confidently, and independently.

Visit our website or contact our friendly team today - because at Kiwi Rehabilitation, "He Tangata - it is people" and people always come first.

[www.kiwirehab.co.nz](http://www.kiwirehab.co.nz)

027 244 2443

[sales@kiwirehab.co.nz](mailto:sales@kiwirehab.co.nz)

Your Local One-Stop Shop For New or Used Products, Servicing & Repairs

Give us a call, send us an email or scan the QR code and get in touch today!

[sales@kiwirehab.co.nz](mailto:sales@kiwirehab.co.nz)  
027 244 2443  
[www.kiwirehab.co.nz](http://www.kiwirehab.co.nz)

**He Tangata, It Is People**  
**KIWI REHABILITATION LTD.**

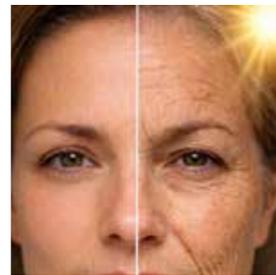
**KUMEU VILLAGE**  
Luxury Rest Home, Hospital,  
Dementia and Respite Care

09 412 9112  
[www.kumeuvillage.co.nz](http://www.kumeuvillage.co.nz)



# Health & Beauty

## Ask Dr. Heather



Is sunscreen really that important?

Anon, Whenuapai

When we look at someone's skin and try to guess their age, what we're really seeing is sun exposure over time. Fine lines, pigmentation and uneven texture are far more

influenced by ultraviolet radiation than by the passage of time. That's why sunscreen sits at the top of my anti-ageing list. Not serums, not injectables, not treatments. Sunscreen.

Ultraviolet radiation quietly damages the skin, even when it's cloudy. UVA rays penetrate deeply and break down collagen and elastin, the structures that keep skin firm. UVB rays cause surface damage and sunburn. The result? Long-term DNA injury, leading to wrinkles, brown spots and skin cancer.

Sunscreen works differently to most skincare. Rather than trying to repair damage, it prevents damage from happening in the first place. Used consistently, it protects collagen, stabilises pigment production and minimises skin cancer risk. Sunscreen also allows the skin to age more slowly. This is why people who wear sunscreen daily tend to have smoother, clearer skin, regardless of other products they use.

That doesn't mean other factors aren't important. Skincare, skin treatments and injectables all have their place. But without daily sun protection, it's like constantly mopping up water while the tap is still running.

The best sunscreen is one you'll use every day. Broad spectrum protection and an SPF of at least 30 are good starting points. Apply it as the final step in the morning, including your neck, chest and back of your hands.

Dr. Heather Anderson is a Cosmetic Medicine and Emergency Doctor who practises in her own clinic at ALLOR Cosmetic Medicine in Whenuapai and features in the All or Nothing Podcast (available on Spotify, Youtube and iHeartRadio). If you have a question for Dr. Heather you would like answered anonymously, please email [askdrheather@allor.co.nz](mailto:askdrheather@allor.co.nz)

## Start now: boost your immunity for winter

As the warmer months fade, March is the perfect time to prepare your body for winter. Supporting your immune system now can help prevent colds and flu later.

Focus on the basics:

- Sleep well: Aim for 7-9 hours per night to give your immune system a boost.
- Eat for health: Plenty of fruit, vegetables, fibre, and fermented foods support gut health – a key part of immunity.
- Key nutrients: Vitamin C, D, and zinc help keep your body resilient.
- Move daily: Even short walks improve circulation and immune response.
- Manage stress: Take time to relax, reduce screen time, and enjoy outdoor activities.

Small, consistent steps now mean a healthier, stronger winter ahead.



## Health & Beauty

### Take the first step toward your peak performance today



Football has shaped my life for as long as I can remember giving me both structure and challenge.

Over time, I realised the game was teaching me more than technical skills. It taught me discipline, resilience, and the value of being part of a community working toward something shared.

I am an OFC/NZF C Licence coach and a Level 4 qualified Strength and Conditioning coach, and I have spent the past six years coaching at our local football club West Coast Rangers.



Coaching feels like a natural progression of my journey in the game. I believe development takes time. It is built through consistency, honest feedback, and environments where players feel supported but also challenged.

From August 2018 to November 2019, I spent time in the United States in a high performance football environment. I played two collegiate seasons in Oregon

and supported the junior development programmes at the Eugene Timbers. That experience shifted my perspective.

The physical difference stood out immediately. I noticed it not only within the Timbers' junior programmes but also at the collegiate level where I was competing each week. Technically, the standard was similar to what I had known in New Zealand. The real gap was in strength, speed, and athleticism. What made the difference was structure. Strength and conditioning was embedded into the culture and treated as essential.

That realisation shaped my coaching philosophy. I am intentional about integrating physical preparation with technical development so players build foundations that last.

I value community because growth does not happen alone. I value consistency because progress is built daily. And I value balance because long term success depends on joy, both on and off the pitch.

Get In Touch - [www.theprogressiveathlete.co.nz](http://www.theprogressiveathlete.co.nz)  
021 226 0055

### Is your child shortsighted?



Myopia, or shortsightedness, is becoming increasingly common in children, with more young people needing stronger glasses at earlier ages. Beyond blurry distance vision, worsening myopia can increase the risk of serious eye problems later in life. Traditional corrective

spectacles are no longer recommended due to the myopic progression that may occur with them. Myopia control is now a key focus in children's eye care.

Spectacles lenses for myopia control have a special zone of peripheral de-focus which helps slow the rate of growth of the eyes, and these are proven to be effective whilst solving the problem of distance blur.

Contact lenses have also been designed for myopic children. Unlike standard contact lenses that simply correct vision, MiSight lenses are clinically proven to slow the progression of myopia while providing clear, comfortable vision throughout the day. Large international studies have shown they can significantly reduce how quickly myopia worsens when worn consistently.

One of the biggest advantages of MiSight lenses is their child-friendly design. They are soft, easy to handle, and thrown away at the end of each day, making them a hygienic and low-maintenance option for families. Children can wear them during school, sports, and outdoor activities without worrying about broken or lost glasses. Children from age 8 can usually insert and remove them unaided.

Optometrists Matthew and Molly Whittington fit both myopia control spectacles and MiSight contact lenses. Or they can refer your child to a specialist for medical intervention.

Have your child's eyes checked now to set them up for the school year. Phone 09 412 8172 or call into For Eyes Optometrists, 90 Main Rd in the Kumeu Shopping Village.

# What I wish I could tell my younger self about skin - from a Cosmetic GP



If I could go back 20 years and give my younger self some skin advice, it wouldn't involve complicated routines or expensive products. It would be surprisingly simple- but it would make a big difference to the skin I have today.

First, I would say: wear sunscreen every single day. And no, the moisturiser with SPF 15 isn't cutting it. The sun

exposure you are getting now is directly determining your future signs of sun damage and your lifetime skin cancer risk. It's okay not to be a bronze goddess, it isn't in your DNA. And please, for the life of you, don't forget your neck, chest, arms, and hands.

Secondly, I would tell myself to take acne seriously and seek help early. Cystic acne can cause scarring that is very difficult to treat. In fact, it can take many years to improve. Acne is rarely caused by "dirty skin" or not cleansing enough. More often, people are over-cleansing, over-exfoliating, and stripping away their skin barrier, which only makes things worse.

I would also remind myself that factors like diet, sleep, stress, and hormones all influence skin health- and these can't simply be "washed away."

Finally, I would say this: focusing on improving your skin rather than covering it with heavy makeup will help in the long run. Simple, consistent habits work. And it's okay that you don't have all the answers on your own. There are people who genuinely want to help you get to the point where you can look in the mirror with kind eyes.

Dr. Cherie Wyatt-Hutana. Restore Cosmed.

[www.restorecosmed.co.nz](http://www.restorecosmed.co.nz)

**RESTORE COSMED**  
SKIN AND MEDICAL

[www.restorecosmed.co.nz](http://www.restorecosmed.co.nz)      20 Matua Road, Huapai.  
contact@restorecosmed.co.nz

# Local wellness guide helping you reconnect



Lauren, founder of Sustainable You Wellness Immersions, is a yoga, Pilates and meditation teacher, wellness guide, trail runner and fur baby mama. She brings 10 years of teaching and wellness experience at gyms and studios around the region. Competing at an NZ level in athletics and cross-

country, then in NZ and overseas trail races including the Great Wall of China Half Marathon, taught her strength, endurance (and how to rehab injuries).

Speaking of, she endured a broken neck while horse riding on day two of her honeymoon. The journey back has been one of slowing down and rebuilding, informed by many modalities. In particular, she spent a year learning to teach meditation, as well as studying craniosacral therapy for her own healing, plus somatic feminine embodiment after recognising a disconnect with her female system. These all deeply supported her in slowing down, restoring and reconnecting to her inner world. When it comes to horses, rather than exiling them, she realised they have a lot to teach her (and us) and has, in parallel gone on a journey of natural horsemanship and reconnecting with horses literally from the ground up. She studied Equine Assisted Learning, where she partners with horses to assist people in various challenges, from connection, grounding and regulation to leadership and more. She now works at Whisky Meade Farm in Kumeu, providing equine assisted learning services and partners with Wild Horse Project horse Dancer for "Dancing with Dancer".

These experiences manifest in her community wellness offerings, infusing her passion for helping people rejuvenate their bodies using craniosacral therapy at her clinic in Swanson and home in Titirangi, as well as Equine Assisted Learning in Kumeu together with her horses. When not teaching or treating, you'll find her adventuring with her hubby and rescue doggos, or at the farm taming her Kaimanawa and foal, Dawn.

Whatever your wellness challenge, Lauren can help you on a journey back to you - to heal, reconnect and resource your body. She specialises in life transitions, feminine embodiment and nervous system regulation, grounding and resourcing tools. Contact her to discuss what will work for you. 30% of all March/April income will go towards ocean plastic research as part of a sailing trip with Expedition. [www.sustainableyouwellness.co.nz](http://www.sustainableyouwellness.co.nz)



# Area Columnists

## Northwest busway now up for fast-tracking



By Cameron Brewer MP for Upper Harbour

Auckland generates 38 per cent of GDP, and is set to reach two million people by 2033 - just seven years away.

The Northwest is of course one of the fast-

growing parts of Auckland, with infrastructure obviously failing to catch up in the past 20 years.

In fact, the likes of Redhills, Westgate, and Whenuapai will experience one of New Zealand's largest urbanisation programmes, with forecasts expecting up to 100,000 extra people heading to the Northwest in the long-term.

Good news: The dedicated Northwest Busway has been ear-marked for fast-tracking. NZTA has lodged applications for statutory approvals for the project under the Fast-track Approvals Act. The consent application documents are now available, with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to appoint an independent panel to consider the applications this month.

Running alongside State Highway 16, the busway project is being delivered in stages, with a major park-and-ride near the Brigham Creek roundabout (between Fred Taylor Drive and SH16), as well as several stations, including at Westgate, Royal Road and Lincoln Road.

Westgate will be a major hub for the project, with the bus station now under construction and due to open around June this year.

The Northwest Busway project is major, and the good news is, it's starting to happen before our very eyes. For further information, please email [nwbusway@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:nwbusway@nzta.govt.nz) or phone, 0800 469-727.

Of course much more work is required in the Northwest to cope with all the growth, but the good news is after much talk about the busway, we are now seeing action.



**Cameron Brewer MP for Upper Harbour**

✉ [UpperHarbourOffice@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:UpperHarbourOffice@parliament.govt.nz)  
☎ (09) 416 3249  
📍 15/102c Hobsonville Rd

Stay in touch!

Funded by the Parliamentary Service. Authorised by C Brewer, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

# Why now is one of the best times to plan your travel with New Zealand's most awarded travel brand



House of Travel Hobsonville.

March is one of the busiest periods of the year for us as a local travel agency. During this month we consistently see strong forward bookings – and yes, we already have clients securing travel for December 2026 and beyond!

Booking early has real advantages. Travellers gain better pricing, more flight availability, preferred seating, and the ability to properly compare options rather than settling for what is left. In today's changing economic climate, it can also protect you from sudden airline tax and surcharge increases, something we have seen repeatedly over the past year.

This is also the season when many travel suppliers release their strongest offers.

In the cruising world this period is known as Wave Season, typically running from January to March. Cruise lines launch their biggest promotions of the year. While base fares are not always the absolute lowest, the value is excellent – often including cabin upgrades, onboard credit, Wi-Fi, drinks packages and reduced deposits.

Guided holiday companies within the TTC family – Insight Vacations, Trafalgar, Costsaver and Brendan Vacations, also release key promotions around this time, particularly for Europe departures. Airlines such as Air New Zealand and Qantas often introduce their global fare sales as travellers begin planning the year ahead.

Even if you are not ready to confirm immediately, early planning makes a significant difference. It allows time to explore options, secure availability and organise a trip that suits both your schedule and your budget.

**NOW OPEN MON-FRI 9AM-5.30PM  
+ SATURDAYS 10AM-3PM**

**NEW ZEALAND'S MOST AWARDED TRAVEL GROUP**

Cnr Hobsonville Point Rd & De Havilland Rd  
09 416 0700 • hobsonville@hot.co.nz

**HOUSE OF TRAVEL**  
HOBSONVILLE

And let's face it, nothing gets you through a hump day like having a holiday to look forward to!

Buzz & the team at House of Travel Hobsonville,  
House of Travel Hobsonville

225 Hobsonville Point Road

hobsonville@hot.co.nz | 09 416 0700

Cruise Centre: 144 Hobsonville Point Road | 09 941 3330

## Housie friday nights Massey Birdwood settlers hall



The whole hall on Friday nights at the Massey Birdwood Settlers Hall is in support of Massey Primary School.

Massey Primary School Housie has been using the hall for over 45 years.

Friday nights starting at 7 PM, buzz like a beehive. It is Housie Evening – the most serious, competitive event of the week.

Long tables are lined with bright paper cards; each covered in neat rows of numbers. Mrs Patel (not her real name) stood at the front, holding the shiny silver cage filled with little numbered balls. Every time she spun it, the balls rattled loudly, and everyone leaned forward in their seats.

"Eyes down!" she called. Beside Maia, her best friend Josh whispered, "I'm going to win. I can feel it."

Maia grinned. "You said that last time."

Number after number was called. "B-12!" "G-55!" "O-71!" The hall echoed with groans and cheers. A few people walked around checking cards carefully, making sure no one got too excited too soon.

Maia needed just one more number for a line. Her heart thumped so loudly she was sure Josh could hear it. Mrs Patel reached into the cage again. Everything went quiet.

"Under the B... B-4!" Maia stared at her card. Top row. First column. She had it.

"Line!" she shouted, jumping up so fast her chair scraped loudly across the floor. The whole hall turned to look at her. Josh's jaw dropped.

Mrs Patel hurried over, checking each number carefully. The seconds felt like hours.

"Well done, Maia! That's a winning line!"

The hall burst into applause. Maia walked up to collect her prize – a giant chocolate bar – feeling like she had just won the Olympics.

Best Housie Day ever. Every Friday night in the Massey Birdwood Settlers Hall.

If you want to hire the hall on a permanent basis, email John Riddell, masseybirdwood@gmail.com. If you want to find out more about the Housie email david.dwayne11@hotmail.com.

## Scott Point school celebrates five years of growth and community

Scott Point School marked a major milestone at the beginning of the 2026 school year – five years since opening its doors. To commemorate the occasion, students, families, and staff gathered for a special celebration filled with fun, laughter, and a sense of shared pride.

After wrapping up the first week of learning, the school community came together for a day of exciting activities, team games, and reflection on how far the school has come. The event provided an opportunity for everyone to celebrate both the growth and the strong sense of community that has developed since the school's



opening in 2021.

In just five short years, Scott Point School has experienced remarkable growth – expanding from 100 learners to 900, and from 12 staff members to 83. This rapid

development mirrors the growth of the surrounding neighbourhoods, with new housing bringing more families to the area and adding to the school's vibrant community spirit.

The day's celebration highlighted not just the numbers but the school's commitment to nurturing learning, connection, and fun. Through house team challenges, games, and shared experiences, students and families celebrated the school's journey and looked forward to an exciting future ahead.

As Scott Point School continues to grow alongside its community, one thing remains clear – the heart of the school lies in its people: the learners, families, and staff who make it a thriving place to learn and belong.

**keeping it local** *بقيته محلياً*

**The Trusts support schools in The West.**

**\$180,000**

**back to our tamariki & rangatahi in 2025.**

Find out more here.  
thetrusts.co.nz thetrusts

## Successful Wetland festival



Matuku Link at Bethells had a successful Wetland Festival on Sunday February 1 to celebrate World Wetlands Day.

About 600 visitors were welcomed by Te Kawerau ā Maki representatives and some 20 stalls offered a variety of help.

Volunteers who baked, managed the shop, sold cakes, looked after the games and parking, gave walks, welcomed visitors, sizzled sausages, showed the eels, took photos, entertained children, and did everything that needed doing, were praised by Matuku Link.

The group also thanked the Bethells Fire Brigade, Christine Rose Ceramics, Muriwai Environment Trust, Pest Free Waitakere Ranges Alliance, Ark in the Park, Predator Free Swanson/Waitekere, Friends of Whatipu, Frazer the Biodiversity Guy, Birds New Zealand, Te Henga Tuturiwhatu and Penguin Protectors, the Department of Conservation, Kauri Rescue, Auckland Council Tiakina Kauri, Auckland Zoo, Entomological Society, Mountains to Sea, EcoMatters, and Brandy Davis.

“It all felt like a big birthday party for wetlands.”

A donation from The Trusts Supporters Club Fund toward the food to keep volunteers going during the day was much appreciated, Matauku Link says.

It hopes to see an even bigger and better festival next year.

## Before you refinance your mortgage

Before considering a refinance, it's important to evaluate your current mortgage to determine whether it's still meeting your needs:

### Interest rate

Check if you're still paying a competitive interest rate on your mortgage. The best place to start is by reaching out to your Mortgage Adviser who will have all the latest information.

### Loan term

Is the length of your mortgage term appropriate for your financial situation, or would you benefit from extending or shortening the term?

### Repayment flexibility

Does your current mortgage allow for extra repayments, lump sum payments, or other flexible repayment options that suit your financial goals? Not all banks are created equal when it comes to flexibility around repayments.

Costs associated with switching lenders

This one can catch you out if you haven't done your homework.

While refinancing can lead to significant savings, it's important to consider the associated costs, which may include:

### Break fees

Breaking a fixed-rate mortgage early, can result in early repayment fees (AKA break fees), we need to find out.

### Legal fees

When you refinance your mortgage there will most likely be legal fees involved, but there are a couple of banks that can handle this in house for you which will save you money. Again, have a chat with your Mortgage Adviser to see which option is going to be right for you.

### Repayment of incentives

If your original mortgage included incentives, such as a cash contribution, you may need to repay this if you refinance before the specified loyalty period ends. It's important to find out up front.



**Stephen Massey**  
Mortgage Adviser  
stephen.massey@loanmarket.co.nz  
021 711 444  
Let's chat.

Loan Market

Working with a Mortgage Adviser to refinance your mortgage will open up the door to a wide range of loan products enabling you to secure the best terms for your needs.

For obligation fee support call Stephen Massey - Loan Market 021 711 444 or check out my website loanmarket.co.nz/stephen-massey

## “Big Buddies”



Tapan and Donny Mukerji emigrated from India as teenagers and now work and live in West Auckland, and give back through Big Buddy, New Zealand's mentoring programme for boys without a father in their lives. Both brothers are now mentors to

13-year-old boys, “Little Buddies”.

When Tapan Mukerji signed up to mentor a boy without a father in his life, he didn't expect the decision would ripple far beyond one relationship. His Little Buddy “Jayden” (name changed) is of Maōri descent. Tapan is a keen musician and when Jayden first played on Tapan's drum kit, Tapan thought he must have played before, but pretty much straight away he played a song he'd heard. He seems gifted. Two years on, the Auckland-based IT professional has inspired his brother to do the same, brought their families into the fold, and helped generate corporate support for Big Buddy.

Donny and his wife Jenny thought having a “Little Buddy” could be a way of experiencing time with a child and giving back to someone who needed a father figure. Big Buddy proved to be the answer he was looking for to give

him a sense of fulfilment. His Little Buddy “Kaelen” is of Chinese descent, and he has been mentoring him for 18 months. He found that effective mentoring wasn't about activities or advice - but consistency and connection, just about spending time with him. His mum now says he's not scared to go to sleep on his own in his room anymore and he's learning new skills and looking after himself. The strength of the relationships moved Jenny to take action. She nominated Big Buddy for Coca-Cola's Support My Cause initiative, and her pitch resonated across the company, resulting in a \$10,500 donation to Big Buddy. There are currently more than 100 boys waiting to be matched with a Big Buddy. Visit [www.bigbuddy.org.nz](http://www.bigbuddy.org.nz)




**★ Tony Yin**  
Business Development Manager (Director)  
m. +64 22 630 6622  
e. [tony.yin@blackandwhitecoffee.co.nz](mailto:tony.yin@blackandwhitecoffee.co.nz)

**Black & White Systems Ltd**  
The Franchise Organisation Of Black & White Coffee Cartel  
[www.blackandwhitecoffee.co.nz](http://www.blackandwhitecoffee.co.nz)



**PLUMBER/  
GASFITTER**

All repairs & maintenance.  
Hot water cylinders,  
watermains, gas water  
heating and gas hobs.  
Affordable and reliable.  
No callout fees.  
**Phone Mike**  
**0800 82 83 85**

**Westgate**   
MEDICAL CENTRE  
Westgate Shopping Centre, Maki street

**Urgent Care  
Clinic**

**Open 7 Days  
8am to 8pm**

**For all urgent medical  
and trauma needs**  
Xray, Pharmacy, Physio on site

**833-3134**  
[www.wgmc.co.nz](http://www.wgmc.co.nz)

## Welcome Vanessa



We are delighted to welcome Vanessa Cormack to the team at Hobsonville Physiotherapy. Vanessa joins us with over 10 years of experience and will be available in the clinic on Mondays, bringing a wealth of knowledge and a genuine passion for helping people move and feel their best.

Vanessa holds a BHSc (Physiotherapy) and has completed advanced training in Women's Health and Pelvic

Floor physiotherapy, Western Acupuncture and Dry Needling, and Clinical Pilates, including equipment-based rehabilitation. Her approach is centred around treating the "whole person," recognising that physical health is closely connected to lifestyle, wellbeing, and confidence.

Her special interest in Women's Health developed after becoming a mum to her first daughter. This personal experience inspired her to support women through pregnancy, postnatal recovery, and all stages of life. She understands the physical and emotional challenges many women face and is passionate about providing care that is both professional and compassionate.

In addition to Women's Health, Vanessa treats a wide range of musculoskeletal conditions, including back and neck pain, sports injuries, and workplace-related discomfort. She works closely with her clients to develop personalised treatment plans that focus on long-term results and injury prevention.

Vanessa is committed to creating a welcoming, supportive environment where clients feel listened to and empowered. Outside of work, she enjoys café coffee, family adventures, and exploring new creative projects.

We are excited for the Hobsonville community to meet Vanessa and experience her caring, expert approach to physiotherapy.

To book an appointment, call 027 264 0003 or 09 416 4455, or email [physio@hobsonvillephysio.co.nz](mailto:physio@hobsonvillephysio.co.nz).

## Waitakere Forest and bird talk: thursday 19th march 7:30pm

Waitakere Branch Projects, AGM and the latest from Ark in the Park.

Want to know the latest on all the Forest & Bird projects happening in the Waitakere area? This is your chance. A short AGM then a presentation by each organiser on "their" project - from Tai Haruru Lodge in Piha to Orangihina in Te Atatu and everything in between.

The main presentation will be on Ark in the Park, where lots of changes have happened the past year with new staff members and a new methodology for rat control trialled. Join project manager Daria Erastova to hear about these exciting changes and what's in the pipeline for the future.

It's a great opportunity to learn about these projects if you're new, or help celebrate the wins if you've been part. Have a chat to everyone afterwards over supper about what we do and, if interested, how you could become involved as a volunteer. All are welcome. Venue: Ranui Community Centre 474 Swanson Rd, Ranui. Non members welcome, free but koha appreciated to cover hall hire.

For further information ph Liz 0274 762732 [lizanstey@hotmail.com](mailto:lizanstey@hotmail.com)

## Waitakere Grey Power Association



Waitakere Grey Power Association Office in the Te Atatu South Community Centre, 247 Edmonton Rd, Te Atatu South has been open from 9th February. Our telephone number for any inquiries re membership or advocacy

matters is 09 838 5207. Our Office is o

pen Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm.

Our first General Member's Meeting is being held on Friday 20th March at 12.30 pm at the Te Atatu South Community Centre. Our Guest speaker is Peter Dickens, Chief Executive of the Prostate Cancer Foundation. We invite all members and friends to this interesting meeting on the topic of prostate cancer and research. Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the meeting. Mate Marinovich, President, Waitakere Grey Power Association, Office 247 Edmonton Rd, Te Atatu South 0652.



- ACC ACCREDITED PROVIDER
- SPORTS INJURIES
- PRE/POST SURGICAL REHAB
- ACUPUNCTURE / DRY NEEDLING
- MASSAGE AND LYMPHATIC DRAINAGE

09 4164455 | 0272640003

124 Hobsonville Road (by Woolworths)

[physio@hobsonvillephysio.co.nz](mailto:physio@hobsonvillephysio.co.nz)

[www.hobsonvillephysio.co.nz](http://www.hobsonvillephysio.co.nz)



## Bethells beach Surf life saving club



The Bethells Beach Surf Life Saving Club has been protecting the community for swimmers and other visitors to Bethells Beach since 1958. The lifeguards live and breathe surf safety, and every year they give hundreds of hours

of volunteer time to ensure beachgoers can safely enjoy everything our beautiful Bethells Beach has to offer. With the growing population they'll need 1000 volunteers and supporters over the next three years. Battered by years of ocean spray, wind and rain, the Club Building is still standing, despite half of it being washed away during Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023. The club house was a community hub that attracted volunteers, but now it is a shell of its former self. The club received \$5 million to go towards the club's rebuild from the government's cyclone rebuild fund, but they still need to fundraise an additional one million dollars in order to restore the building.

During the hot summer weather people came to the beach for a dip after work, coming to the beach a lot later in the day. The lifeguards are off the beach Monday to Friday at 7pm and a lot more rescues happened after 7pm. The conditions on Auckland's west coast aren't like some beaches. The raging surf sweeps people off their feet before inescapable rips drag them out to sea. After Cyclone Gabrielle, more underwater holes and troughs appeared along the black sand coastline creating new, often stronger currents.

The Bethells lifeguards are also kept busy by people who go fishing off the jagged rocks that jut out into the Tasman sea. They often underestimate the size of the swell or are hit by freak waves.

Visit the website at [bethellsbeach.org.nz](http://bethellsbeach.org.nz) or the Bethells Beach Surf Life Saving Patrol Facebook page for more details, and for the opportunity to make a donation.

## Post office closures undermine access for seniors



As NZ Post moves forward with plans to close more than 140 post office counters across the country, Grey Power is raising serious concerns

about the impact on older New Zealanders - particularly those in rural and small-town communities. Grey Power National President Gayle Chambers voiced concern not only over the growing inconvenience but over the deeper implications of this nationwide downsizing:

"NZ Post quoted in their justification for closing yet another 140 post outlets that there would be an outlet, at the furthest away from the closure a 4 km distance. In practice, this is not always the case, especially for seniors with limited transport options. While being interviewed by Radio New Zealand a dairy owner in Paekākāriki who had their postal agency closed relayed that the next available outlet was Paraparaumu which is approximately 9 kms by road. I predict that there will be no postal service in 10-15 years and this is just a start to the long line of closures that will continue." At the same time, banks are quietly reducing staffing levels and face-to-face services in rural branches - with many closing altogether or converting to "digital-only" services. Seniors, who often rely on in-person support for financial transactions, are increasingly finding themselves disconnected, disadvantaged, and disempowered by decisions made without adequate community consultation. Grey Power believes these closures are not just a matter of inconvenience - they pose a serious threat to seniors' access to essential services, financial independence, and social inclusion.

The organisation urges NZ Post, banks, and central government to pause further cuts, reassess the true impact on communities, and develop a fairer, more inclusive plan for service delivery that respects the needs of older New Zealanders.

Real Estate.  
It's what we do.

0800 900 700

rh.co.nz/kumeu

Country Living Realty Limited t/a  
Raine & Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville  
Licensed REAA2008

ERIC & GLYNNE  
Ryman Residents



# ENJOY THE EASE OF COASTAL LIVING

BRAND-NEW APARTMENTS READY THIS MONTH

Set close to the beautiful Waitematā coastline and beside the wide green spaces of Te Kori Scott Point Park, Keith Park Village blends coastal calm with modern convenience in the heart of Hobsonville.

The last of our parkside apartments will be ready to move into this month, with plans available to view now.

These two and three bedroom apartments have been thoughtfully designed with seamless indoor-outdoor flow, leading to a covered patio or balcony with views over Te Kori Scott Point Park, the Waitematā Harbour, or the beautifully landscaped gardens.

**Apartments priced from \$699,000\*.**

**Discover the Ryman lifestyle.**

To find out more call Nicolle on 09 416 0750 or visit [rymanhealthcare.co.nz/keith-park](https://rymanhealthcare.co.nz/keith-park)

## KEITH PARK VILLAGE

3 Scott Road, Hobsonville

*\*Reflects the lowest available price at time of publication. Availability and pricing subject to change.*



*Artist's impressions.*