

November 2025

The Westerly

FREE monthly community magazine
for Massey to Hobsonville Point



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

Davis Funeral Care
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Greetings

I write this at the beginning of October wondering how the months have passed so quickly, what have I achieved this year and how can I make the most of the weeks until the New Year.

Our media is full of the news of countries trying to live their lives amidst conflict. As we go forward into our mild spring, our thoughts are with other families just trying to get through another day.

For many of our readers their children will be busy preparing for exams, a stressful time for families. For others it is a time of school activities. Term 4 brings together many new skills learnt, projects nearing completion, better weather to enjoy outdoor games.

We are fortunate with our locality to be able to make use of the many parks, play areas, cycle ways and walking paths. Plot routes to make use of the wide variety on offer. Challenge your children to find different routes and points of interest to keep them motivated to explore their environment. Where can they find the largest and most historic trees in Hobsonville? Where are the best views over certain areas? Discover the many little walkways away from the roads; we look forward to feedback from the best local explorers. Don't forget to include your local library as a resource for ideas as well as a source of reading material. ArtPoint is returning to Hobsonville Point on 8th November, and the exhibition will bring a variety of exhibits in a range of media throughout the area.

Spring clean cupboards. An annual event in past times, now an opportunity to sort and recycle those unwanted but still reasonable items that might find another "home" through a charity shop. That unwanted gift from a past year might be perfect for another person's end of year present idea.

Our magazine this month looks forward to the coming summer. Is your property looking its best? Does your garden need attention? Maybe look for local professionals to get the more difficult jobs tackled. Ideas for gardening, house maintenance, and local activities are covered.

Enjoy November.
John. Editor.



Circulation is 15,000 print copies. Advertising starts at only \$100 + gst which includes a business card, editorial and an image.
Please get in touch with Gabrielle today
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People & Places

THEWESTERLY.CO.NZ

What's it really like being a funeral director?



As funeral directors we get asked a lot of questions, we thought that in this issue we would try to answer some of the more common ones.

- What do people often get wrong or misunderstand

about funeral directors?

A funeral director's role is to take the journey with those impacted by the death of someone close, and to attend to the practicalities of looking after the deceased and ensuring they receive a dignified and respectful farewell. We do not sell funerals. Our role is to take the time to get to know every family we have the privilege of serving, developing an understanding of their needs be it cultural, religious, or just simply their wants. In response we use our experience to present them with options and ideas as to how they can achieve the desired farewell outcome. This allows the family to make an informed decision which will support their mourning and grief journey.

- What drew you into the funeral industry?

In hindsight it was only a matter of time before I acquiesced to the lure of the funeral industry. As a much younger man, and having worked after hours as secondary employment, in a funeral home, aside of being a great part time job then, offering regular work, it certainly made me aware of both the value and fragility of life, but further the significant role funeral directors assume, both looking after the deceased and guiding and assisting those who are left behind.

- Has the industry itself changed, for example with the embracing of tech?

Like any industry, the funeral industry needs to continually adapt and meet the ever-changing needs of its clients. In the backend of the business, we have replaced paper with systems to support us in delivering better service to families, but also to bring together our ecosystem of suppliers and drive efficiency and the reduction of errors. More importantly, we continue to see a shift to the ever-broadening and varied farewells that families want. A key part of this is the growing dependence on technology.

People lead busy lives. The global population has never been so mobile, and technology provides a vital link for those who cannot be present to attend the farewell. I see this trend continuing to grow and we respond by delivering capabilities to enable fully immersive services anywhere.

- What's the most meaningful or memorable service you've been involved in?

Now that takes some thought, although, I can think of a funeral that I looked after for a person who went missing, presumed dead after a number of months of remaining unfound. The family were insistent that they join friends, school mates, colleagues past and present of the deceased to give thanks for the deceased's life. Beyond human optimism and the guilt of holding a funeral when the deceased could still be alive, I have never in my career as a funeral director seen such an outpouring of disbelief and grief.

- Davis is involved in a lot of community support - could you tell us about that and why it's important to you?

Whilst there is no hiding the fact that Davis' primary business is looking after families when they lose someone close, equally we want to ensure that we support communities to help people enjoy the best quality of life they can. We achieve this in a number of ways, notably through financially supporting foundations reliant on fundraising including partnering with Mercy Hospice, Totara Hospice, Hospice West Auckland and The Starship Foundation. In addition to financial support, the Davis team volunteer and engage in community outreach activities including training and awareness. We also financially support a number of sporting clubs, and of course not forgetting, our valued partnership with the Auckland Philharmonia, which in turn provides us the opportunity to give the gift of music through concerts both public and private throughout the year.

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Massey Community Men's Shed: Where tools build friendships



In the heart of Royal Heights Shopping Centre, Massey Community Men's Shed is more than a workshop—it's a place where connection, creativity, and community come together. Open to men of all ages and backgrounds, the Shed offers a welcoming space to learn new skills, revive old ones, and collaborate on meaningful projects.

Whether you're interested in woodworking, electronics, 3D printing, or computing, the Shed is stocked with tools and materials to suit every interest. But the real value lies in the camaraderie—builders mentoring accountants, programmers learning from plumbers, and everyone discovering talents they never had the chance to explore before.

For many retirees, the shift from full-time work to home life can feel isolating. Downsizing often means losing a personal workshop and the sense of purpose that came with it. Massey Community Men's Shed fills that gap, offering a place to tinker, create, and connect—with no pressure, no judgment, and plenty of laughs.

Membership is just \$100 a year and includes access to the Shed, its tools, and machinery. Members work on personal projects and contribute to local early childhood centres, community gardens, and environmental groups—both inside the Shed and out in the community. Participation is always based on each member's comfort and capability.

We also have a small shop, Works End, where refurbished tools and household items find new homes.

Drop by during an open session and see for yourself why Massey Community Men's end

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Sue Kerr: October Volunteer of the Year for Keep NZ Beautiful



"Tony and I moved to Scott Point in July 2021, just before lockdown, and I quickly noticed the potential for improving our local area. As a Christian, I believe we're meant to enjoy and care for the earth. Passionate about gardening, I started collecting native seedlings from undeveloped land and planted them along the path by our house. After months of planting, weeding, and watering, I reached out to

the Council for free mulch. A ranger came to see the work I'd done and connected me with Habitat Hobsonville, who had planted earlier in the area. He also asked me to help with the entire 500m stretch of Nimrod Esplanade.

We've since organised planting days with local schools, posted on Facebook, and handed out leaflets to get more people involved. Since Annette Mitchell took over Habitat Hobsonville two years ago, we've planted over 1,600 native plants, regularly weeded and mulched, and received generous support through free mulch from Mulch King. Students from Scott Point Primary and Hobsonville Point High have helped, along with corporate groups. We're always eager for more individuals and businesses to join in, make a difference and Keep New Zealand Beautiful "

Kiwi Caravans



Suddenly found a waterfall above your bed? Reversed your brand-new caravan into the letterbox? Spotted a suspicious damp patch in your locker? Or just due for a service? Don't worry, we've seen it all.

Whether it's a quick fix or a full-scale repair, the team at Kiwi Caravans is here to help keep your home on wheels in top condition.

Locally owned and operated, Kiwi Caravans proudly offers premium UK caravans ranging from cosy two-berth options to spacious six-berth models – with new arrivals coming in all the time. Our experienced team will help you find the perfect fit and provide ongoing after-sales support, including upgrades, maintenance, and expert repairs.

Founded in 2018 with a dream to bring quality UK caravans to West Auckland, Kiwi Caravans is family owned, operated, and based in Hobsonville. We take the time to understand your needs and find solutions that truly work for you – whether you're buying your very first caravan and need help navigating the technical side of things, or you're a seasoned traveller looking to modify or upgrade.

But we're not just a business – we're passionate campers ourselves. You'll often find us out exploring in our own Swift Sprite, enjoying everything Aotearoa has to offer. We love hearing from our customers too – like one family currently travelling the length of New Zealand who regularly send us updates from the road. Stories like theirs remind us why we do what we do.

So whether you're looking to buy, upgrade, accessorise, or service your caravan, we're here to help every step of the way.

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Email graeme@kiwicaravans.co.nz

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Tips for finding your perfect exercise match

Supporting your journey to freedom in movement

Exercise is essential for both physical and mental wellbeing, yet many of us struggle to stay active. The key? Find an activity you genuinely enjoy and do it often.

Exercise doesn't have to mean running or hitting the gym. It can be anything that gets you moving: dancing, swimming, hiking, or even gardening. When you enjoy the movement, consistency becomes easier and that's where the long-term benefits begin.

Beyond fitness, regular activity can boost self-esteem, support brain health, and connect you with others. Learning new skills or movement patterns helps your brain form fresh neural pathways - a process called neuroplasticity. Physical activity has also been shown to improve memory and may offer some protection against age-related cognitive decline.

Here are three tips to help you find your perfect match:

Know your personality:

Are you competitive or more focused on personal growth? Choosing an activity that suits your style makes it easier to stay motivated and introduces you to like-minded people.

Work with your body:

Injuries don't have to mean giving up movement. If running aggravates your knees or hips, try swimming or cycling. Love adrenaline? Mountain biking might be your thing. A physiotherapist can help guide you toward safe, enjoyable options.

Play to your strengths:

Not everyone excels at ball sports - but maybe your balance or coordination shines in dance or Pilates. Exploring activities that build on your natural abilities makes movement more rewarding.

Hobsonville Physiotherapy: 027 264 0003
physio@hobsonvillephysio.co.nz

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First home buyers – The time is right



There is nothing more exciting than helping people move into their first home.

The role I play as a Mortgage Advisor for my first home buyers is very broad and can include planning, assisting with budgets, property consultant, KiwiSaver assistance, bank negotiator, and of course support. This is all with just one goal in mind, getting my clients into their first home.

Right now, we are seeing most of the banks offering home loans to first home buyers with 10% deposit and often this can be a pre-approval. If you have a 10% deposit it's a great time to take that next step. (There are some more limited options with a 5% deposit call me to find out how this works).

Regardless of what stage you may be at in your planning a good Mortgage Advisor can really help. I work alongside first home buyers every day and have access to over a dozen lenders who may be able to assist.

There are several good reasons why now is a great time to make it happen - firstly, property prices are better than they have been for several years and secondly interest rates are now over 2% less than they were a year ago. My role is to share all this information with you and provide support and guidance, it's what I love to do.

So, if you are just thinking about it, looking for some support to take the next step or ready to buy - let's talk. I am available for an obligation free chat.

Stephen Massey –
Mortgage Advisor and First Home Specialist,
Call 021 711 444, or check out my website
loanmarket.co.nz/stephen-massey



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

Loan Market

The Funeral Director with the fresh approach

Manning funeralcottage

When Martha-Louise was living on a kibbutz milking cows in Israel, the last thing she thought she would be doing years later was opening her own funeral home. An avid traveller who is passionate about animals and caring for people, the vivacious Martha-Louise is not your average funeral director.

Her mother died when Martha-Louise was only eight, exposing her to the emotional journey that comes with death. It is perhaps this innate understanding that attracted her to work as a funeral director in the male-dominated industry 25 ears ago.

To most, the role of the funeral director is perceived as a mysterious and dark vocation, best left to those of a sombre demeanour, who tend to talk in hushed tones. The warm and dynamic Martha-Louise is the complete antithesis, flicking a bright light on the darkness that shrouds this industry.

Martha-Louise believes the role of a funeral director is a true privilege, as she explains. "Being part of such an intimate and fragile time in people's lives, is incredibly

humbling. For me, it is about connecting with people from such different backgrounds, making them feel at ease and ensuring their wishes are honoured". Perhaps, it is Martha-Louise's own battle with cancer on three separate occasions and subsequent treatments, that makes her so attuned to people's needs enabling her to readily empathise with families.

All too familiar with the strain that accompanies grief, she encourages the increasing trend in preplanning funerals. "Knowing what a person's wishes are before they die, makes the planning and decision process for the family so much easier, especially when it comes to details like the type of funeral, who will lead the service, music, or even the option of having an individualized casket".

When asked if working with the dead is scary, Martha-Louise flashes her warm smile and says, "it is not the dead people you should be scared of - it is the living you need to watch out for". It is this open and honest approach to death that sets Martha-Louise and Manning Funerals apart.

If you would like to talk to Martha-Louise about how she can help you arrange a funeral now, or plan one in the future, she is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 09 377 9790, 0272 234 797 or **email** **mla@manningfunerals.net.nz**.

At Manning Funeral Cottage, we understand how rising funeral costs may impact a family who are already grieving.

If you would like to know what options are available to alleviate these costs, please get in touch with Martha-Louise.

mla@manningfunerals.net.nz
0272 234 797

(Or feel free to stop me for a chat on my morning walk with my gang around our beautiful Coastal Walkway.)





Health and Safety in a New Zealand not-for-profit organisation



The Local Government elections will be over by the time you read this. In part, they are all about community and the not-for-profit sector

In New Zealand, not-for-profit organisations have a legal and ethical responsibility to ensure the health and safety of everyone involved in their operations. This includes paid staff, volunteers, contractors, and members of the public. Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, not-for-profits that employ staff are considered Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBUs) and must actively manage risks to health and safety.

Key responsibilities include identifying potential hazards, assessing risks, and taking reasonable steps to eliminate or minimise them. For example, organisations running community events, operating op shops, or delivering food parcels must consider physical safety, manual handling, hygiene, and emergency preparedness.

Even if the organisation is entirely volunteer-run, there remains a duty of care. Volunteers must have a safe environment, clear instructions, training, and support. Health and safety policies should be written, communicated, and reviewed regularly. Incident reporting and emergency response plans should be in place and understood by all.



You're responsible?
Let's get your
H & S sorted

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.



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Regular training ensures that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities. Essential topics include first aid, fire safety, and handling potentially difficult situations (such as working with vulnerable individuals).

Embedding a strong health and safety culture ensures legal compliance and builds trust with the community, funders, and stakeholders. It also helps prevent injury, reduces downtime, and supports the organisation's sustainability.

In summary, prioritising health and safety is crucial for New Zealand not-for-profits. It allows them to carry out their mission safely, legally, and responsibly—ensuring positive outcomes for all involved.

If you want to contact John Riddell email securo4@securo.co.nz or check out www.securo.co.nz.

Waitakere Forest and Bird Talk



Thursday 20th November 7:30pm

Hihi genetics, precious ranges, and power rangers

Join us for a talk by Hui Zhen Tan, a PhD researcher from the University of Auckland, on the conservation and genetics of the hihi/stitchbird. Learn about the population history of the hihi and the dedicated conservation efforts that have supported its survival over the years. Hui Zhen will also share her research in exploring how inbreeding may affect hihi survival and reproduction, with an accessible introduction to genetic research included.

Venue: Ranui Community Centre 474 Swanson Rd, Ranui. Non members welcome, join us for supper to chat with like minded people, free but koha appreciated to cover hall hire.

For further information ph Liz 0274 762732

lizanstey@hotmail.com

Safer Community

As Summer is around the corner, so is the risk of Fire



Hazards close to your home

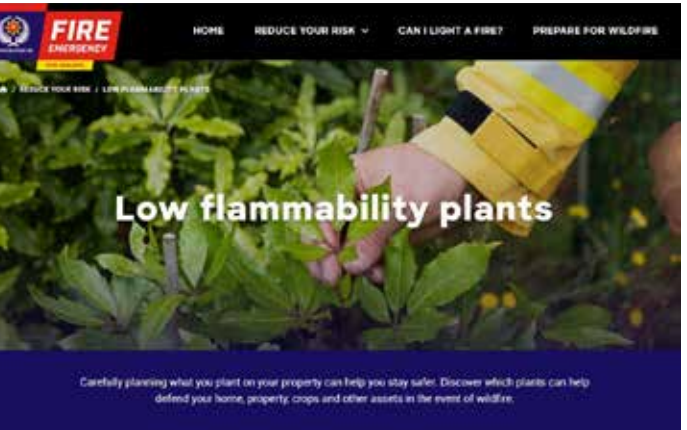
Start with your home and work your way out:

1. Keep grass short, watered and green during the Summer months.
- 2- Keep gutters and areas around decks clear of dead leaves, debris and pine needles.
- 3- Don't store flammable material under or against your house or deck (including flammable doormats).
- 4- Remove highly flammable plants close to your home and other buildings on your property.
- 5- If you have vegetation against your house, consider removing it or replacing plants with less flammable species.
- 6- View: <https://www.checkitsalright.nz/reduce-your-risk/low-flammability-plants>

Around your property

Your home and everything up to 30 meters surrounding it will determine if a fire can burn your house down.

Unlike floods, hurricanes or earthquakes, there are simple and often inexpensive ways to make your home safer and increase its chances of surviving a fire.



Hazards 10-30 metres from your home:

- Put away outdoor furniture covers when not in use.
- Screen vents and enclose decks so vegetation and debris can't collect, and embers can't enter.
- Use stone, cement, tiles and green grass to create a 'clear zone' around your house so surface fires can't reach your house.
- Prune tree branches to a height of 2 meters or more so

ground fire can't ignite them

- Remove all trees, long grass, shrubs and logs branches, twigs and needles within 10 meters of your house, as they are fuel for fire
- Store firewood 10 meters or more from the house
- Thin trees (with 3-6 meters between crowns) for at least 30 meters from house, this reduces how far and fast a fire can spread

Additional tips

- Ensure your house number is easy for emergency services to find.
- Make sure your driveway is wide enough to accommodate emergency vehicles (at least 4 x 4 meters).
- When building or renovating, consider using fire retardant or non-flammable materials, such as corrugated iron roofs, metal fences and double-glazing.
- If you live closer than 30 meters from your neighbor, it will pay to talk to them. What occurs on their property will impact on yours.
- See <https://www.fireandemergency.nz/outdoor-and-rural-fire-safety/protect-your-home-from-outdoor-fires/>

Don't wait until you smell smoke in the air and see flames on the ridgeline to make a plan, because it will be too late. Take steps to understand how fire may affect your property, your home and your buildings. Consider the advice above and develop a plan of action that you can put into effect before an event. If you need to consider a walk through, and a talk through, drop me an email and I will send you the relevant information and then walk you through the considerations.

Contact

graham.mcintyre@fireandemergency.nz

Call Graham McIntyre, Phone 0276 320 421 or email

Graham McIntyre,
Chief Fire Officer –
Waitakere Fire Brigade



Community News

Corporate or Personalised Christmas gifts made easy

With the festive season fast approaching, now is the perfect time to start planning your Christmas gifts – whether for clients, staff, or loved ones. Finding a gift that feels thoughtful, useful, and memorable can be tricky, but Smashing Promotions makes it effortless.

Established in 1993, Smashing Promotions has built a trusted reputation for sourcing and branding just about anything – as long as it’s legal! From elegant corporate hampers and eco-friendly drinkware to quirky novelty items or premium tech gadgets, their team can customise each product with your brand or personal message.

For those looking for quick inspiration or ready-to-order options, visit ChristmasSupershop.nz for a curated range of quality gifts. If you have something unique in mind, simply ask – the team prides themselves on finding exactly what you’re after.

Whether you’re after 10 items or 10,000, Smashing Promotions can deliver high-quality branded gifts that leave a lasting impression. Make this Christmas one to remember with presents that show appreciation, creativity, and care.

Visit SmashingPromotions.nz today and start your festive gifting the smart way.



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Our team works on projects of all sizes – from a homeowner’s dream piece of custom furniture to large-scale architectural pieces for commercial spaces. We regularly collaborate with residential and commercial designers to bring their visions to life, whether that means a sleek modern table, an artistic metal screen, or a sturdy custom frame that ties a space together.

Precision craftsmanship with modern technology

What makes Q Metal Designs different is our focus on personal service, quality craftsmanship, and advanced technology. Every project starts with a conversation about your goals and ideas.

With our in-house CNC plasma cutting service, we can cut metal components with exceptional precision and speed, allowing us to handle detailed designs and large-scale projects efficiently – all right here in our local workshop.

Locally made, built to last. We work with a wide range of materials – including steel, stainless steel, aluminum, and brass – and every job is finished with care and attention to detail. Whether you’re adding a custom feature to your home or need dependable, high-quality metalwork for a commercial project, Q Metal Designs is here to help.

Gareth Quarterman

Director/Owner

Metal Fabrication & Manufacturing

gareth@qmetaldesigns.co.nz

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www.qmetaldesigns.co.nz

751 Sh16, Kumeu, Auckland, 0883, NZ

Q Metal Designs

Community News

At Q Metal Designs, we believe that great design and craftsmanship start right here in our own community.

Get in touch. See more of our work and follow us on Instagram @Qmetaldesigns

Email: gareth@qmetaldesigns.co.nz Phone: 021 959 719

Beyond the Beaten Track – Discover Fiji’s Hidden Gems



If you’ve already explored Denarau’s luxury resorts, the Coral Coast’s golden sands, and the idyllic Mamanuca Islands, it’s time to venture further and uncover Fiji’s lesser-known regions – Vanua Levu and Kadavu.

Vanua Levu, Fiji’s second-largest island, is a world away from the bustle. The laid-back town of Savusavu feels like a step back in time, surrounded by palm-fringed bays and lush jungle. The Great Sea Reef – the world’s third largest – offers incredible diving and snorkelling. Visit J. Hunter Pearls to see rare, sustainably farmed pearls, or Kokomana Chocolate for a tree-to-bar experience. End your day with a soak in a natural hot mud spa or a sunset paddle down the Qaloqalo River.

Kadavu, remote and unspoiled, is Fiji’s wild heart. Dive or snorkel the legendary Great Astrolabe Reef, swim with manta rays, or kayak between island villages for a true off-grid adventure. Hike to hidden waterfalls or fish in pristine waters teeming with marlin and mahi-mahi.

We plan and book travel to everywhere – but some of the most unforgettable experiences are right on our doorstep. So next time you think of Fiji, think beyond the familiar, because paradise often hides off the beaten track.

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Since starting in 2016 with just one tour, Boutique Tours France has grown thanks to loyal returning guests, and now offers fresh new itineraries for every type of traveler. Stress-free, intimate, and utterly delightful—this is France, served boutique style.

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Catherine Flot

021 025 37338

Patsy Sackx

027 490 4321

What is AI?



What is AI? Artificial Intelligence, or AI, enables computers to do clever things that normally only humans can do. It's useful in areas like health, hobbies, and creative activities, making them easier for everyone to get into and enjoy. AI tech isn't brand new; it's been used for a while in our gadgets and online. AI is making life easier in many areas such as web searches, text, writing and research assistance. It can help accessibility for those who are hard of hearing or vision impaired. It may suggest products you might like when shopping, or to detect fraud on your bank account.

However AI can make things up and provide information that sounds accurate or factual but is incorrect. Scammers are now using AI to create very convincing scam stories, create fake videos or convincing-looking photos. Scammers can use AI to write convincing emails or texts that appear to be from a trusted source. Be sceptical and always verify contacts and content carefully via official or trusted channels.

Privacy. AI tools often collect and store your data to improve their functionality. This can compromise your privacy as it could be shared or used without your knowledge. Avoid entering personal or confidential details (like bank information or passwords) into AI tools.

Warning tips. Are you surprised at a message? Is it unexpected, urgent or emotionally changed? Is there controlling behaviour? Are you being pushed to act quickly, click on a link or not consult others? Is access requested? Are they asking for personal details or access to your account or device? Is money requested? Are they asking for payments or gift cards? Stop and seek support. Stop communicating and contact someone you trust, or contact Netsafe on [netsafe.org.nz](https://www.netsafe.org.nz) or call 0508 638 723. Netsafe is New Zealand's independent, non-profit online safety organisation.



Paul Miller
Freedom Drivers Hobsonville

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Calm Starts with Clear Boundaries



By Dr Fiona Mead, Director | Veterinarian, 111 Vet Clinic Kumeu

Anxiety has quietly become an epidemic – not just in people, but in our pets too. Dogs are emotional mirrors: they sense our stress, inconsistency, and uncertainty. When we're frazzled, so are they.

One of the simplest yet most powerful antidotes is healthy boundaries. A fence doesn't just keep things out; it keeps things safe within. Boundaries provide predictability and security – the same way a child feels calmer with bedtime routines and clear rules.

Inconsistent training confuses animals. Without structure, an anxious dog begins making its own decisions, which can spiral into fear-based aggression. Consistency isn't control – it's compassion through leadership.

A routine – same feeding times, daily walks, known bedtime – tells the nervous system: "You're safe." I often teach new puppy owners the art of gentle containment – hold your pup calmly until it relaxes completely, then release. Make relaxation part of their norm. That moment of surrender builds lifelong trust and is far easier to instil in puppies, compared with adult dogs.

A relaxed, confident dog with clear boundaries is a joy to live with and a positive presence in the community. But a confused, anxious, or fearful dog can become a ticking time bomb. Let's make calm, connected, compassionate dog training normal again – and give our pets the leadership and love they need to thrive.

For anxiety help or training tips, visit 111 Vet Clinic, 48 Main Road Kumeu, or call 09 86 96 111.



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Elton John and Billy Joel tribute show coming

Tribute show 'Elton John vs Billy Joel' arrives in Helensville and Henderson on November 21 (Kaipara Tavern) and November 22 (Hangar Bar).

This show, featuring grand pianos, incredible costumes and all the hits from Rocket Man and Piano Man legends Sir Elton John and Billy Joel, had a few years touring to major theatre venues around the country.

It is presented by Wellington based professional Kiwi musicians Cam and Sam (Cam Crawford and Sam Hyde), both with multiple chart hits, TV and commercial radio airplay, numerous music releases and extensive national and international touring.

Since debuting the show in 2022 at the New Zealand Hospitality Eat, Drink, Play Festival—where they won the Best in Play award—Cam and Sam have performed to more than 20,000 people across New Zealand.

Sir Elton's and Billy Joel's music has a combined 30 billion Spotify streams and more than 450 million records sold.

This tribute show honours their legendary catalogue, featuring all the biggest hits, including Rocket Man, Piano

Man, Uptown Girl, Goodbye Yellow Brick Road, Crocodile Rock, Tiny Dancer, Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me, River of Dreams, We Didn't Start the Fire, It's Still Rock 'n' Roll to Me, and many more.

Visit www.camandsam.co.nz/elton-vs-billy for tickets or go to www.camandsam.co.nz, or Facebook: @EltonBillyNZTribute for more information.

Want to win a double pass? Jump onto the Kumeu Courier and The Westerly Facebook pages and enter now for your chance to win!

www.facebook.com/KumeuCourier/

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Community News

Champion racer needs sponsorships



Lee Zeltwanger, 23, of Massey/Taupaki begins racing this month in the Toyota Gazoo Racing NZ Bridgestone GR86 Championship at Hampton Downs Motorsport Park.

The step up comes after he won the inaugural 2025 Toyota TR86 Trophy and Winter Series, taking podium finishes in each of the nine races (five wins, two seconds and two thirds).

Lee’s win earns him free lease of a GR86 car and support from a racing and championship winning engineer and mechanic, backed by CareVets.

He still needs sponsorships to help pay for fuel, tyres, brakes, maintenance, travel, accommodation, ferry fees and other matters, saying sponsorship packages from \$2000 are available which include race car branding and social media.

Every race will be televised on Sky Sport and CRC Motorsport.

Dad Rainer is a mechanic and runs Euro West while mum Edith has a natural skin care product business, Solimara Truly Natural, both supporting Lee.

Other sponsors include NZ Concrete, Timberworld East Tamaki, Skunkworks Racing and Automoves Racing Team.

“I’m looking forward to measuring myself against some very talented competition and turn some heads,” says Lee. He will race over six weekends in the North and South Islands, including Teretonga near Invercargill on January 23-25 and Highlands Motorsport Park in Cromwell on January 30 to February 1 next year.

Visit www.leezracing.com for more information.

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Cat lovers, we need your help



The NZ Cat Foundation has a sanctuary based in Huapai which houses over 150 cats. We offer safe sanctuary for older, disadvantaged and un-homeable rescue cats where they can live out their lives in safety and comfort. We need regular volunteers to help with routine chores so our cats can enjoy happy, healthy, safe lives. We are looking for volunteers who are mature, have a sense of responsibility, are good team players and dedicated animal lovers. Helping at the sanctuary is a popular way to fulfill community service hours for Duke of Edinburgh, St John’s, Scouts, Guides, church, university, animal sciences studies, etc. We are happy to sign off on your hours and provide any needed verification of your service. We rely heavily on volunteers on a daily basis and desperately need more.

Financial and food donations are also urgently needed to cover vet and other costs associated with our sanctuary. The NZ Cat Foundation also supports community Trap-Neuter-Return programmes and helps feed and care for many cats living in the community.

Please visit our website for more information on volunteering and how to donate at www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz.

You can also email - volunteer@thenzcatfoundation.org.nz info@thenzcatfoundation.org.nz

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West Auckland PropertyManagement



Food & Beverage

Sip your way to better gut health



Introducing Clover Spritz

We’re fizzing with excitement to share the latest addition to the Clover Ferments family, Clover Spritz. A refreshing, naturally sparkling drink made with all the fermented goodness you already know and love.

Available in Turmeric and Beetroot, Spritz is the bright, zesty, feel-good way to support your gut daily. Crafted right here in Aotearoa, it’s made from organic and spray-free ingredients, with no added sugar, sweeteners, or artificial flavours. Just pure, functional refreshment.

So, what exactly is Spritz?

It’s a lightly fizzy, traditionally fermented drink packed with live cultures, made using the same slow fermentation methods as Clover’s well-loved tonics. Think of it as the refreshing version of your daily gut ritual. Something you can sip at midday, take on the go, or enjoy as a mindful alcohol-free alternative that doesn’t compromise on flavour or function.

Meet the flavours

Turmeric Spritz – A golden blend of fermented turmeric root, ginger, and a zing of lemon. Anti-inflammatory, grounding, and deeply refreshing.

Beet Spritz – Naturally sweet beetroot with bright notes of lemon. Rich in prebiotics, nitrates, and colour that’s

CLOVER FERMENTS

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good for you, inside and out. Whether you’re already on a gut-health journey or simply looking for a cleaner, more conscious alternative to soda, Clover Spritz is your new go-to. NZ-made, small-batch brewed, and packed with living cultures, it’s more than just a drink, it’s your new daily ritual.

Ready to give Spritz a go? Find it online at cloverferments.co.nz or at your nearest stockist

The Season ahead at Good From Scratch

The gardens are thriving, the days are getting longer, and the farm’s buzzing as we head into the busy season.

Our next Smoke Fire is on Saturday 8 November, followed by Supper Club on Thursday 13 November, two great events to spark inspiration, learn a few new tricks, or simply enjoy a night out at the farm.

We still have some availability for team celebrations. You can book any of our Good From Scratch cooking experiences as a private event or join us for a private dining experience – a relaxed and memorable way to celebrate the end of the year. Get in touch to chat about what might suit your group best.

And if you’re thinking ahead to Christmas gifting, whether for work or personal, the Farm Shop is stocked with salts, rubs, preserves, and sauces –or we can help put together something special in a gift pack.

We hope to see you at Good From Scratch soon.



Michael Van de Elzen's farm based cookery school. Hosting hands on cooking classes, private dinners and events.

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Food & Beverage

Live music on the lawn: A perfect Sunday escape

There's nothing quite like spending a Sunday afternoon outside, soaking up the sun, the music, and the energy of a happy crowd. Sunday Live on the lawn has become the ultimate way to relax, unwind, and enjoy a little weekend magic with family and friends.

The scene is inviting from the moment the gates open at noon. Families, friends, and music lovers wander in, claiming their spot on the grass or the surrounding deck. Groups of six or more can secure early bookings, while everyone else is welcome on a first-come, first-served basis. Larger gatherings may even be able to reserve a semi-private area, perfect for a relaxed get-together in the fresh air.

Children are welcome and can enjoy the live music alongside adults, making it a relaxed, family-friendly outing. Well-behaved dogs are invited too, on leads, so everyone can soak up the good vibes together. Food and drink keep the energy going all afternoon. From shareable platters and fresh salads to pizzas, burgers, and bar snacks, there's something to suit every taste. Grab a plate, settle on a blanket, and let the music carry you through the afternoon.

Whether it's the live tunes drifting across the lawn, the laughter of children playing nearby, or simply the pleasure of being outdoors with friends, Sunday Live is a Sunday ritual that feels effortlessly joyful. It's a chance to get outside, enjoy the atmosphere, and make memories with those you love. In short, it's more than a day out - it's the perfect way to spend a Sunday.



Sunday Live is back at The Riverhead
Join us for live music on the lawn on selected Sunday's at The Boat House

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Everything you need to know about property

Property Hub



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Property News

Landlord Travelling for More Than 21 Days?



If you're a Quinovic-managed landlord, you can pack your bags and relax – we've got everything covered.

If you are like the majority of Kiwi landlords and do it yourself, appoint Quinovic to manage your property for 12 months, and your first two months are completely free. Every new property signed to be managed by Quinovic before February 28, 2026, also has

a chance to win \$10,000 travel!

If you self-manage your rental property, Section 16A of the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) requires you to appoint an agent before leaving New Zealand for more than 21 consecutive days. This agent can be any trusted person based in New Zealand, though they must be willing and able to take on all landlord responsibilities while you're away.

Failing to do so is considered an unlawful act, with penalties of up to \$1,500 payable to the tenant.

Who Can You Appoint?

Any New Zealand-based individual can act as your representative. However, to manage your property effectively, your agent must understand tenancy obligations and be ready to handle issues that arise in your absence.

Choosing a qualified property manager offers complete peace of mind – ensuring your property and tenants are well cared for while you're overseas.

Keeping Your Tenant Informed

Before you leave, you must give your tenant your agent's name, contact details, and address for service.

If this information isn't provided, your tenant may issue a notice to remedy, requiring you to comply within a set timeframe.

Ignoring this notice is also considered an unlawful act under the RTA.

How Quinovic Can Help

When you're with Quinovic, you're already covered.

We act as your appointed agent under the RTA, so there's nothing extra you need to do before travelling. Let us know your plans, and we'll ensure your property continues to run smoothly in your absence.

Planning an extended trip?

Get in touch with Quinovic West Auckland today – all new 12-month managements signed before February 28, 2026, will be entered into the draw for \$10,000 travel with a bonus – your first two months' fee FREE.

Ian Thomson
Quinovic West Auckland – General Manager
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Trade Me Property listings up 24%

Hopeful vendors surged into the market in September, with the number of new listings on Trade Me Property up a whopping 24% compared to August, and up 5.9% compared to September last year.

That will ensure prospective buyers will have plenty of choice as the spring selling season gets underway. Trade Me Property's figures suggest they are already looking, with property searches on the site also up 24% in September year-on-year.

However, there was also a drop in advertised asking prices. The average asking price of \$835,350 in September being 1.6% lower than September last year.

One of the reality checks is the sales achieved at the latest auctions in the North West area:

Rodney area had 16 listings to auction with 2 selling - representing 13% sell-through with one of those surpassing RV

Waitakere area had 16 listings to auction with 9 selling - representing 56% sell-through with only 44% surpassing RV

Interest rates after the Reserve Bank Announcement have reduced with most rates showing around 4.49% with some more downward movement expected over the next few months.

Certainly a great time to reflect on plans and goals and a great time to invest in tomorrow.

If you are thinking about a change in your property situation, buying or selling, give me a call today. We can run the numbers on where things sit for you and investigate the dollars to move you ahead. After over 20 years in real estate operating at the highest AREINZ level, let's meet and give you the very best advice.

Call me, Graham McIntyre AREINZ directly

0800 900 700, via text at 027 632 0421, or email at graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz. Country Living Realty Ltd, t/a Raine & Horne Kumeu-Hobsonville Licensed REAA (2008)



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Graham McIntyre
Licensed Agent
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Enduring Powers of Attorney

As you age, it can get harder to make important decisions about your welfare and about your property. This can happen because of loss of mental capacity, or even just additional difficulties in navigating banking systems, contracts and the medical system.

An Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) allows you to appoint someone you trust to act as your attorney in certain circumstances and endures beyond any loss of mental capacity. There are two sorts of EPAs under New Zealand law. One for Health (dealing with matters relating to your general care and welfare) and another for Property (dealing with your property affairs). In each case, it is essential that you give your EPA to a person you trust completely to uphold your financial or health interests.

Your EPA must be given before you have lost capacity to understand and appreciate your own property or health interests. It is possible for someone to instead apply to the court to be appointed as your property manager or welfare guardian if you lose capacity without granting an EPA. A property manager or welfare guardian can make many of the same decisions as an EPA. However, that process can take very long and involves significant costs. The court order will also need to be extended every 3 years.

We recommend that you make your EPAs while you enjoy good health rather than assume you will have early warning about losing capacity. For further advice and assistance in preparing your EPAs feel free to contact Kemp Barristers & Solicitors at info@kempsolicitors.co.nz or 412-6000.

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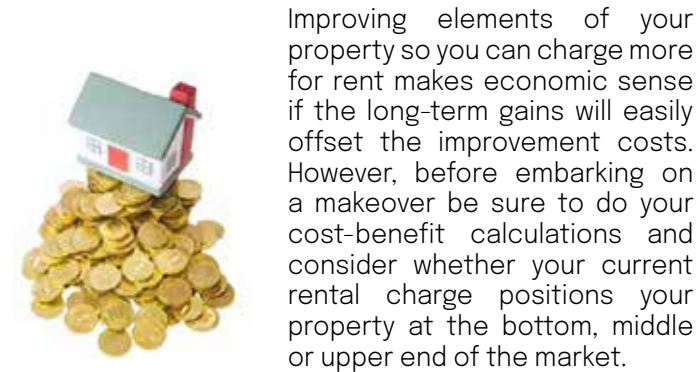
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Rental report



Improving elements of your property so you can charge more for rent makes economic sense if the long-term gains will easily offset the improvement costs. However, before embarking on a makeover be sure to do your cost-benefit calculations and consider whether your current rental charge positions your property at the bottom, middle or upper end of the market.

If you are charging below the average rent for similar age and size units, then it is much more likely that renovating your property will help you make significant gains. Here are some of the best improvement options to add value to your investment property.

Boost first impressions

The outside of your property and front yard are the first things potential tenants see. You can enhance first impressions by enhancing curb appeal. Basic landscaping such as adding plants, laying down mulch, trimming hedges and mowing lawns all make a difference. Enhancing the entrance way with lights, paint and potted plants make it more inviting and upgrading the look of windows with modern but relatively inexpensive blinds will make your property more desirable.

Add a bedroom or separate dwelling

Adding an extra bedroom within your existing property floor plan will allow you to target tenants you might not have previously been able to interest and to charge more. Subject to consenting and district plan requirements, there are a number of ways to do this, from dividing a large bedroom into two to converting a study, dining room or second lounge into an extra bedroom.

In rental properties with large back yards owners can consider building a granny flat or turning a garage into a self-contained unit. This effectively turns the property into a two dwelling residence and when rented out considerably increases cashflow and the property's value.

Refresh the kitchen and/or bathroom

The state and quality of a kitchen and bathroom are

often deciding factors for prospective tenants and usually colour how they perceive the entire property. If either are looking old a renovation may be the best way to increase appeal as well as returns.

Kitchens should be clean, modern and functional, but you don't need to overspend and completely remodel. Small upgrades such as replacing counter tops, installing new cabinet doors and energy efficient appliances as well as a shiny refrigerator and dishwasher can go a long way in transforming your space.

Similarly, a bathroom can be refreshed by replacing fixtures such as taps and showerheads and installing energy efficient modern lights. A new vanity with storage options increases functionality while regrouting existing tiles can make the room look fresher.

Change fixtures and replace flooring

Old doorknobs, ceiling fans, light switches and other aging fittings should not be overlooked. They may seem small but they quickly date and devalue your property. Most of the time, replacing these items is cheap but can quickly add value.

The state of flooring also has a significant impact in your property's appearance. Carpets can be made to look newer with deep steam cleaning and by polishing boards. Floating floors can also be cost effectively installed by DIY landlords.

Paint, if nothing else

Adding a fresh coat of paint is one of the easiest ways to revitalise the look of a property and is something landlords can do themselves or do the preparation for to lower costs.

Alternatively

Give me a call, text or email and we can walk you through a program of work that will deliver constructive value enhancement, delivering a better, sustainable, and attractive rental return over a longer period.

Contact Graham McIntyre today on 0276320421 or email graham@wapm.co.nz for a free no obligation chat

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Understanding all obligations mortgages by Tina White



The word mortgage comes from 'death pledge'. It's not as gloomy as it sounds, but it does hint at the seriousness of what you're signing up for. When you borrow money from a bank to purchase your home, the bank will usually register what's called an all obligations mortgage on your property title as security for the loan.

One of the most common forms of mortgage security; it doesn't just cover the loan you're currently taking out; it secures all current and future debts with that same bank. This includes your new home loan, any personal loans, credit cards, loans you've guaranteed for someone else, joint accounts with others and company loans where you're a director.

We recently acted for a de facto couple purchasing a home together. Their bank required an all obligations mortgage. During our meeting, we explained the implications of this type of mortgage. One client mentioned he already owned another property with his siblings, and it too was mortgaged with the same bank. Because both properties were secured by all obligations mortgages with that same bank, the bank could treat them as connected security. This meant that if the siblings defaulted on their loan, the bank could choose to sell either property to recover its costs—including the de facto couple's new home—even if their loan was in good standing.

To reduce your exposure under an all obligations mortgage, you could consider using different banks for different loans or financial relationships (e.g. business vs personal) or ask your bank for assurance that they would treat each property in isolation.

Understanding how your mortgage works can make all the difference when it comes to protecting your assets. We are very happy to help - you can reach ClearStone Legal on 09 973 5102.

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Property management



Property management isn't just about collecting rent – not if it's being done properly. Anyone can set up an automatic payment. What separates a professional manager from the rest is everything that happens before and after that money hits the account.

A skilled property manager is your front line of defence – screening tenants, handling maintenance before it turns into damage, keeping you compliant with tenancy law, and dealing with issues swiftly and fairly. It's a balancing act between protecting your asset and maintaining a solid relationship with your tenants. Done right, it means fewer headaches, longer tenancies, and a healthier return on your investment.

Your property is one of your biggest financial assets. Managing it shouldn't be an afterthought or left to chance. Between the Healthy Homes standards, legislative updates, and the general wear and tear of life, property management has become a specialised field. Experience, systems, and accountability matter more than ever.

At Private Residence, we keep our portfolio intentionally small and capped so we can stay hands-on with every property we manage. That means fast response times, consistent communication, and attention to detail. We don't just collect rent – we actively look after your investment. If you want peace of mind that your property is being properly managed, not just processed, we're here to make that happen.

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Area Property Stats

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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
Bethells						
	Bethells Road	\$925000	2	0	875	\$930000
Coatesville						
	Screen Road	\$2,660,000	2	136	32300	\$2050000
	Mahoenui Valley Rd	\$1,625,000	0	0	10000	\$1215000
Helensville						
	Miro St	\$720000	2	60	658	\$570000
	Cabeleigh Dr	\$870000	4	0	720	\$860000
	Amberly Rise	\$860000	4	0	632	\$857000
	Nelson St	\$760000	3	90	702	\$500000
Herald Island						
	The Terrace	\$1875000	4	300	908	\$1340000
	The Terrace	\$1275000	3	105	835	\$960000
	Ferry Parade	\$1100000	3	110	808	\$1400000
Hobsonville						
	Grey Warbler Rd	\$1130000	3	99	243	\$909000
	Myland Dr	\$1400000	5	235	309	\$1446000
	Lockheed St	\$1100000	4	159	189	\$1040000
	Buckley Ave	\$1250000	3	174	0	\$1335000
	Mapou Road	\$840000	3	104	132	\$805000
	Nevill Rd	\$660000	1	67	0	\$715000
	Hobsonville Pt Rd	\$600000	1	60	0	\$585500
	Settlers Ave	\$1050000	3	193	0	\$960000
	Kanuka Rd	\$1025000	3	154	192	\$1070000
	Kerewhenua Cres	\$700000	2	72	88	\$675000
	Oioi Rd	\$740000	2	73	105	\$745000
	Ian Morrison Rd	\$1125000	3	166	0	\$1057000
	Buckley Ave	\$570000	1	51	0	\$530000
	Riroriro Rd	\$1200000	4	164	202	\$1185000
	Frances Bryers Rd	\$1225000	4	173	218	\$1265000
	Ko Nui Place	\$850000	3	141	0	\$862000
	Thomas Rielly Ave	\$1800000	5	320	406	\$1730000
	Dorricott Ave	\$1175000	4	144	231	\$1129000
	Sidney Wallingford Way	\$620000	2	63	0	\$627500
Huapai						
	Rheingold Pl	\$840000	4	98	663	\$985000
	Tapu Rd	\$1275000	3	170	842	\$775000
	Main Rd	\$1,250,000	3	136	809	\$1100000
	Tapu Rd	\$1400000	3	95	860	\$1125000
Kumeu						
	Matua Rd	\$1350000	3	218	884	\$1440000
	McIndoe Rd	\$1,325,000	4	213	600	\$1340000
	Schoolside Rd	\$1100000	4	195	0	\$1090000
	Accolage Boulevard	\$850000	3	103	225	\$871000
	Jeroboam Loop	\$1350000	4	214	0	\$1395000
	Eric Farley Dr	\$1325000	4	206	838	\$1490000
	Kari Lane	\$670000	2	91	91	\$672500
	Weza Lane	\$850000	5	128	905	\$980000
	Weza Lane	\$800000	3	0	832	\$838000
Massey						
	Puwha St	\$950000	4	141	238	\$954000
	Kemp Rd	\$740000	3	110	680	\$700000
	Waimumu Rd	\$1025000	3	130	1158	\$725000
	Birdwood Rd	\$1775000	4	330	14000	\$1500000
	Alidade Pl	\$750000	4	104	656	\$752000
	Sabot Pl	\$640000	2	79	0	\$615000
	Royal Rd	\$950000	4	150	0	\$955000
	White Heron Dr	\$870000	3	150	0	\$700000
	Forsythe Pl	\$1100000	5	385	1021	\$950000
	Royal Rd	\$1150000	3	150	581	\$889000

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA m2	LAND AREA m2	SALE PRICE
	Paretao St	\$1010000	4	139	146	\$900000
	Clyma Pl	\$565000	2	60	0	\$530000
	Puwha St	\$840000	3	85	194	\$815000
	Allington Rd	\$970000	3	90	607	\$980000
	Hewlett Rd	\$600000	2	73	0	\$545000
	Dovey Pl	\$890000	3	122	491	\$683500
	Halloran Pl	\$740000	3	85	403	\$725500
Riverhead	Anich Rd	\$950000	3	160	655	\$870000
	Riverhead Pt Dr	\$1950000	4	276	800	\$1875000
	Pohutukawa Parade	\$1525000	4	211	802	\$1605000
	Wautaiti Dr	\$1375000	5	200	869	\$1435000
	Arthur St	\$870000	3	106	769	\$849000
	Diamond Lane	\$1180000	0	0	10800	\$1290000
	Riverhead Point Dr	\$1575000	4	196	612	\$1810000
Taupaki	Coatesville-Rhead Hway	\$1255000	0	0	11500	\$1060000
	Annandale Rd	\$2400000	5	400	10000	\$2560000
Waimauku						
	School Rd	\$980000	3	136	5183	\$1205000
	Waikoukou Valley Rd	\$675000	5	144	2643	\$978000
	Solan Drive	\$1850000	4	264	1537	\$2000000
	Hamilton Rd	\$1325000	2	130	10800	\$1270000
Waitakere						
	Bethells Rd	\$1550000	1	225	14900	\$1340000
West Harbour						
	Fitzherbert Ave	\$990000	3	190	577	\$716000
	Wiseley Rd	\$1530000	5	227	638	\$970000
	Wiseley Rd	\$1145000	4	220	0	\$1280000
	Cyril Pl	\$1050000	3	200	665	\$870000
	Moire Rd	\$950000	3	181	144	\$970000
Westgate						
	Greenbrier St	\$495000	4	138	168	\$955000
	Whiteywood St	\$1000000	4	123	285	\$1015000
	Berba Lane	\$915000	3	90	318	\$832000
	Cinnabar Pl	\$1050000	3	171	500	\$980000
Whanuapai						
	Whenuapai Drive	\$820000	2	93	168	\$790000
	Dale Rd	\$1350000	5	232		

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.

Raine & Horne's commission rate:

2.95%
(Not 4% that others may charge)

upto \$590,000

1.95%
on the balance

Plus \$490 admin fee.
All fees and commissions + GST

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.

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

Graham McIntyre
Brand & Territory Owner
027 632 0421



Market Wrap – October 2025

As we head into summer, the Reserve Bank has delivered some hot news – cutting the Official Cash Rate (OCR) by 0.50% to 2.5%, with another 0.25% cut anticipated in November.

This is one of the largest cuts we’ve seen in some time, making now the perfect opportunity to review your lending and set yourself up for the months ahead.

What’s Changing Right Now?

Lenders reacted fast. Fixed rates were trimmed in advance of the announcement, and now floating rates are easing too. For anyone due to refix soon, this means real potential savings – but timing and structure matter! The best outcomes come from reviewing your loan early and locking in when rates align with your goals, not just when your bank prompts you.

Behind the scenes, banks are also lowering their “test rates” – the figures used to calculate how much you can borrow. Even a small change here can increase your borrowing power, opening doors that were closed earlier in the year.

What’s Happening With Property Values?

After five months of declines, national values have finally stabilised. September saw a slight 0.1% rise, with provincial areas showing the most resilience. Confidence is gradually returning – particularly among first-home buyers and investors taking advantage of cashflow and full mortgage-interest deductibility.

Head over to our blog for a deeper look at the OCR cut and where property values are heading.

What This Means For You!

Lower rate + lifting borrowing power + flat prices = a window of opportunity. Whether you’re buying, refixing, or restructuring, the next few months could set you up

strongly for 2026.

If you’d like to see how the rate cuts and value shifts affect your position, get in touch for a quick, no-obligations review and make sure you’re making the most of this moment.

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Ben Konings gives financial advice through Fearless Financial Limited trading as The Mortgage Supply Co.

Brendon Hodge



I have lived in the Northwest area for 27 years now, firstly in Huapai from 1998 – 2005 and Waimauku 2005 –2019 and back to Huapai in 2019. I thoroughly enjoy living in this part of Auckland and hope to stay in the area for many more years to come. I have certainly seen some changes over the years as Kumeu Village and Huapai have grown substantially with housing developments, new school, increased retail and fast food shopping plus the industrial area expanding. Kumeu/Huapai has become quite the busy hub however no matter where you are in this area you are only minutes away from rural settings and a great west coast beach and parks and community grounds that attract lots of people every year.

My focus in Real Estate has changed over the last few months as I now have the pleasure of being able to work and represent homeowners and buyers in the local area. Previously for the last 12 years I had the Henderson franchise for Mike Pero Real Estate which although has been successful was not where I wanted to carry on representing, so when the franchise agreement came up for renewal I decided not to renew so I could move to the Northwest and work for Raine & Horne as a salesperson and be much closer to my home and start to serve my local community.

After all the years working for Mike Pero Real Estate which was taken over by Raine & Horne a couple of years ago I am happy to say with the strength of superb in house training with MPRE and R&H plus legal requirements from the Real Estate Authority Act 2008 and the monitoring and updating information from the Real Estate Institute of New Zealand I am happy to consider myself a trustworthy professional in this industry and share my expertise and knowledge to meet the high standards expected from our clients at all times.

I am well versed in marketing various property types, including residential, rural lifestyle and prestige real estate. At Raine & Horne we are happy to discuss

agreeable commission rates and suited advertising costs. We do not offer prizes for signing with us or say we will add a 100% extra effort as we always do our best for you to achieve a successful deal transaction for Vendor and Buyer.

I look forward to serving the area with the utmost integrity and hearing from you in due course for requesting free appraisals on your property and keeping it honest and real.

Brendon.hodge@kumeu.rh.co.nz Country Living Realty Ltd, t/a Raine & Horne Kumeu-Hobsonville Licensed REAA (2008)

Mortgagee Sales Double

A sharp increase in the number of mortgagee sale properties has emerged over the last few weeks.

Interest.co.nz has been tracking the number of mortgagee sales on the market each week since November 2022. Mortgagee sales have hovered between 50 and 60 for most of last year, then began rising again this year. The increase in mortgagee sales has been particularly strong since late September this year. At the beginning of October it went past 90 for the first time since interest.co.nz began collating the numbers. By mid-October, the numbers had surged to 109.

The timing of the increase is surprising because it comes as mortgage interest rates have been falling. However, Reserve Bank data shows the total value of impaired loans held by banks increased by \$15 million in August to \$563 million.

However, the fact the number of mortgagee sales has been rising even as interest rates fall suggests the most likely reason is borrowers have faced an unexpected drop in income, usually due to job loss or business failure.

In such situations, no amount of mortgage restructure can make up for the fact the borrower simply has no money coming in. The borrowers who will be most vulnerable in such a situation will be those who bought during the 2021/22 housing boom, particularly those who purchased their property with a low equity loan at the maximum term available, and then suffered a loss of income.

As well as losing their ability to make their mortgage payments, these people may also have faced the indignity of being tipped into negative equity, as the value of their home declined in the face of a weaker housing market, leaving them with little wriggle room to restructure the loan.

If you are facing financial turmoil and need to assess selling property, give me a call and we can formulate a plan that allows you to retain control of the sale process and seeks to achieve the very best price possible. Having some control when everything around you is out of control can provide a real and tangible quality of life.

Call me today on 0276320421 or email me on graham.mcintyre@kumeru.rh.co.nz

Brendon Hodge
Licensed Sales Person

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

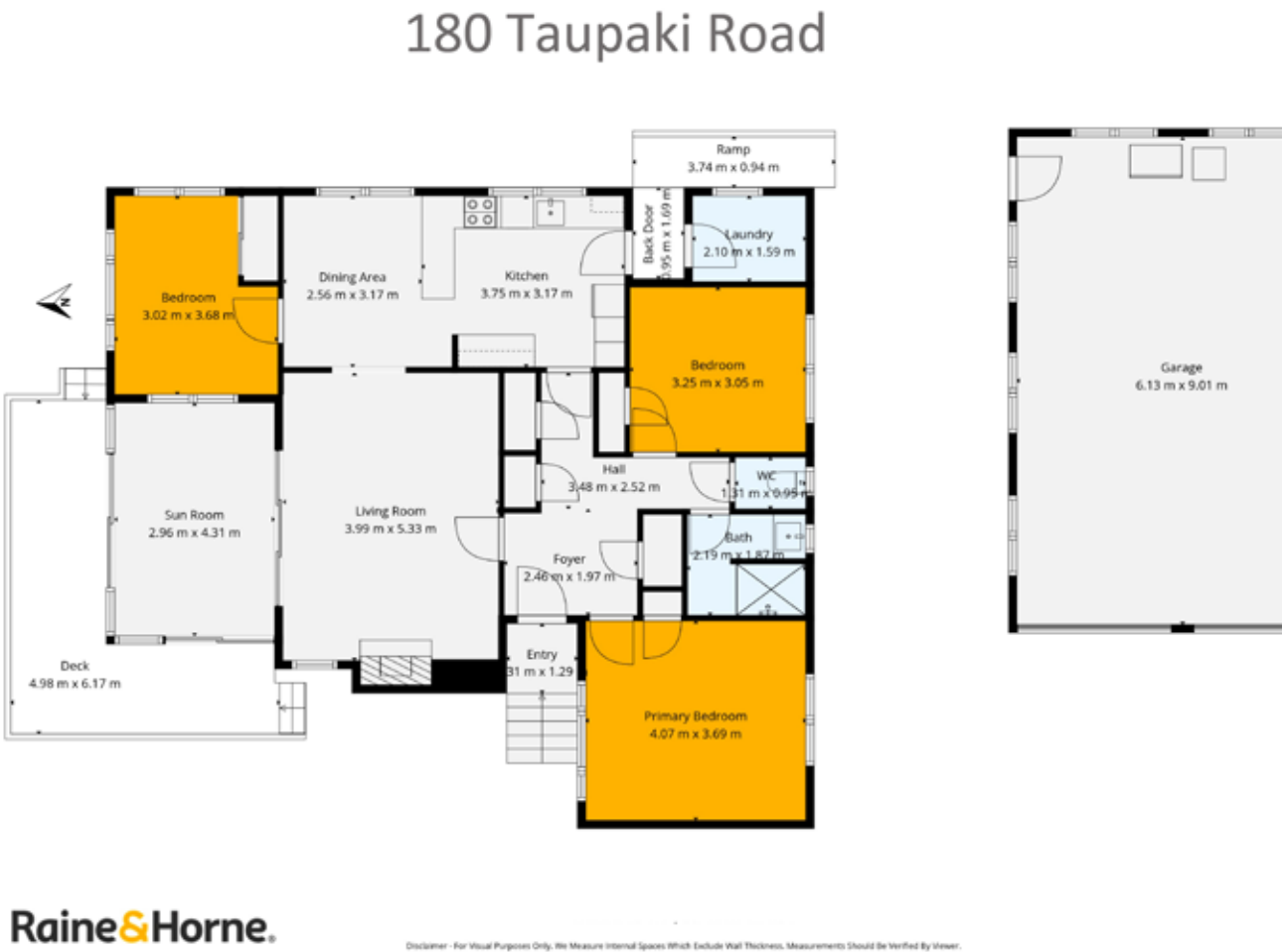


Land, 2 houses, sheds, subdivision options

180 Taupaki Rd, Taupaki

Over 4 hectares (10 acres) of flat to gentle sloping land, where you look over your estate providing ease of management. The house sites are elevated away from any superimposed flood mapping by council and within a countryside living environment. Subdivision is a possibility and a letter in support of this is available. Two houses, shedding and double garage are linked by

the drive and offer a window into the past, but provide a great opportunity for the future. This cluster of old and newish, provides a canvas to develop and to label your future, with character and possibility a-plenty. Shedding is a mix of old and new with options for the new owner to consider what is important to them and their future on the land. This is the first time in 55 years that this block has been offered up to market. We welcome your inspection and your feedback on if it may fit within your future plans.



Featuring:

- 3 bedrooms
- 1 bathrooms
- 1 dining
- 1 living
- 4 garage
- Land area 4.3313 Hectares
- Floor area 110 sqm
- Lifestyle Property
- Two houses



For more information on this property call:
Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421
or email: graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz
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- Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008).



Project with a purpose, position and potential

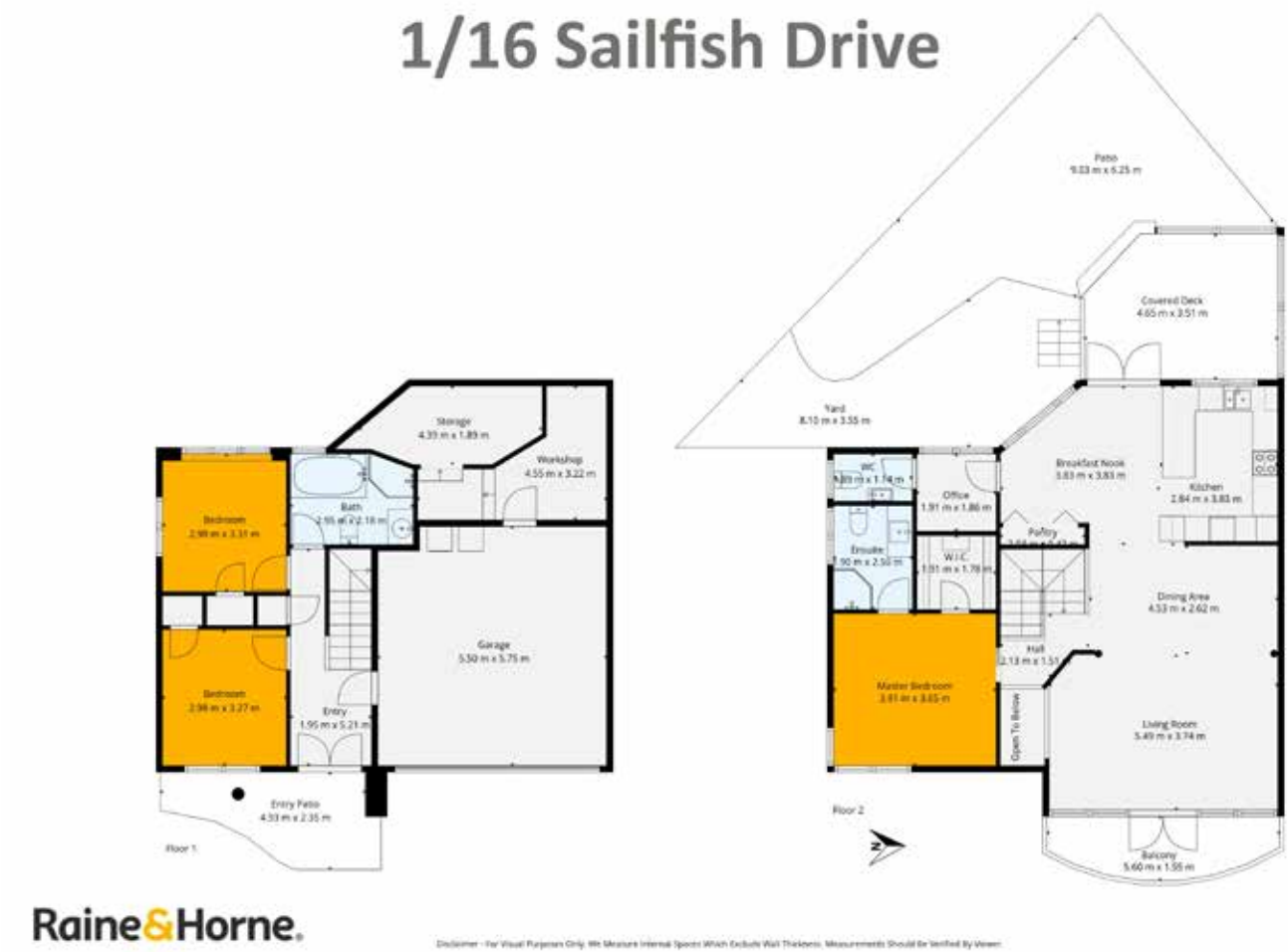
1/16 Sailfish Drive, West Harbour

If you're looking for a project that offers both opportunity and lifestyle, this is the one. Rarely available, 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 featuring: Three bedrooms plus office, Two bathrooms and three W/Cs, Master suite with en-suite and walk-in wardrobe, Open-plan living with seamless flow, Sun-filled alfresco living from dawn to dusk.

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:

Graham McIntyre on **027 632 0421**
or email: **Graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz**
Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine and Horne Kumeu – Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008).





- Featuring:
- 3 Bedroom
 - 2 bathrooms
 - 1 Study, 2 Toilets, 1 ensuite, 1 dining
 - Land area 378 sqm
 - Floor area 190 sqm
 - 2 Garage & 2 Open spaces
 - Townhouse
 - Close to school & ferry
 - Open plan living



Feature
Lighting

Gable
Windows

Hidden
Scullery

Custom
Island



Create a statement
lounge with vaulted
ceiling, fireplace and
ambient lighting.

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home that we can all be proud of!

Bring us your wish list to start your new
home journey today.

09 412 5371 / gjgardner.co.nz

G.J. Gardner. **HOMES**



802 Waitakere Road

Quintessential Kiwi Dream - Cottage on ¼ acre

In a rural setting, surrounded by equine and viticulture, in a sun-bathed north west position is this beautifully presented 3 bedroom home.

Offering open plan living with renovated kitchen, breakfast bar and lounge with separation to generous bedrooms and bathroom.

It's beautiful in it's presentation and it's simplicity, delivering easy living, rural vista's and privacy.

The land is flat and wire and baton fenced, providing options to overlay pet fencing should you wish.

A planted frontage provides additional privacy from the road, with simple access to good off-street parking.

For more information on this property call:

Graham McIntyre on **027 632 0421**
or email: **Graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz**
Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine and Horne Kumeu
- Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008).



Featuring:

- 3 bedroom
- 1 bathroom
- Land area 1038 sqm
- Floor area 110sqm
- North west position
- Plenty of parking
- Expansive lawn area for kids & pets
- Close to Kumeu & Taupaki





Create Your Dream Outdoor Space This Spring.

Nouveau

Cantilever Umbrella 3m Stone



SKU: 2054021

\$399

Nouveau

Market Umbrella 2.7m Black



SKU: 2054108

\$219

Nouveau

Cantilever Umbrella 3m Taupe



SKU: 2054017

\$99⁹⁹

Nouveau

Santo Outdoor 5 Piece Bar Setting



SKU: 2054032

\$1099

Nouveau

Baha Outdoor Bistro Pods 3 Piece



SKU: 2027652

\$1699

Nouveau

Canzo Outdoor Wicker Lounge Setting 2 Piece



SKU: 2028687

\$1299

Meteor

Kaidun Gas BBQ 4 Burner



SKU: 335923

\$259

Weber

Q2600N+ Gas BBQ LPG Black



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Iron Forged 28inch Omnivore Griddle with Hood



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**WESTGATE &
HENDERSON**



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Home & Garden

Empowering women one project at a time: Ladies' Night at Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate

In an industry traditionally dominated by men, Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate is breaking stereotypes and creating a space where women can embrace their inner DIY enthusiast. The upcoming Ladies' Night event promises an evening that's not only about shopping, but also about learning, empowerment, and fun. Whether you're an experienced craftswoman or someone who's never picked up a hammer, this event is designed to make every woman feel at home in the world of tools and home improvement.

One of the highlights of the event is building your own planter box. With the assistance from the Massey Men's Shed representatives and Mitre 10 MEGA staff to help guide you, these skills will help you, covering the basics of home repairs and woodworking. It's not just about education—it's about creating a supportive environment where questions are encouraged, and confidence grows with every new skill learned.

But the evening isn't just about skills—it's a celebration. Guests will be treated to complementary drinks and snacks, making it easy to mix and mingle with fellow attendees. Special in-store discounts will offer exclusive access to tools, décor, and home improvement materials, so ladies can stock up on everything they need for their next big project.

And what's a special night without prizes? Throughout the evening, participants will have the chance to collect giveaways and enter to win fabulous prizes.

For those who want to step into the world of home improvement with confidence, make connections, and walk away with both new skills and friendships, Ladies' Night is an opportunity that shouldn't be missed.

Join us for Ladies' Night on Wednesday 19 November 2025, from 7pm to 9.30pm, at Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate, Northside Drive Whenuapai.

Entry \$10 per person with proceeds going to Hospice West Auckland. Register in store or online for Ladies' Night at mitre10.co.nz/mega-westgate



LADIES' NIGHT

Get the Girls together for a fabulous night out at
Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate

**MITRE 10
MEGA**

WESTGATE

Wednesday 19 November 2025
7:00 to 9:30pm
Northside Drive Whenuapai

\$10 ENTRY
PER PERSON
Proceeds go to
West Auckland Hospice

West Auckland
hospice
Living Every Moment
Hei ki hoki, he oranga ngahau

REGISTER HERE

Blocked drains? CCTV drain inspection can help



Blocked drains that won't clear with traditional methods are a common headache for homeowners. That's where Drain Ninjas steps in with a smarter, more effective approach. Our expert team uses advanced hydro jetting technology to clear stubborn blockages with precision and power. But if there's any sign of damage in the pipes, we switch to CTV drain inspection system.

CCTV drain inspections are a modern, non-invasive way to diagnose drainage problems. We insert a high-definition, waterproof camera into your drains, delivering real-time footage from inside the pipes. This allows us to identify the exact cause and location of the issue – no digging, no guesswork.

Benefits of CCTV drain inspections

CCTV inspections quickly pinpoint issues, saving you time

and money. They provide detailed information, such as the depth and distance of a blockage or crack. With this data, we can offer accurate quotes and tailored repair plans – no surprises.

The best part? Peace of mind. By spotting issues early, you can avoid costly damage and emergency repairs, keeping your drains flowing smoothly and your property protected.

Common drainage risks. Drainage systems face several risks:

- Blockages & overflows can damage property and pose health hazards.
- Pipe damage from wear, tree roots, or ground shifts.
- Inefficient drainage leading to standing water and pest problems.
- Sewage leaks, risking contamination of soil and water.
- Unknown drain layouts, especially in older buildings, make repairs difficult.

How CCTV inspections mitigate these risks

Drain Ninjas' CCTV technology helps:

- Spot blockages and structural issues without digging.
- Map out full drain layouts for better planning.
- Support preventive maintenance by catching problems

Home & Garden

early.

- Deliver accurate diagnoses for efficient repairs.
- Minimise disruption and avoid unnecessary excavation.

Call the experts

If you're facing a stubborn blockage, don't just guess – get the best. Drain Ninjas offers fast, accurate, and safe CCTV drain inspections to restore your drainage system. Call 0800 4 NINJA (64652) today and let us keep things flowing

Pole Specs Limited



For more than 50 years, Pole Specs Ltd has been a trusted name in New Zealand construction, specialising in pile foundations, retaining walls, and slip repairs. With decades of experience behind every project, the team brings reliable skill and care to each site.

No matter the size or complexity of the job, Pole Specs works closely with builders, engineers, and developers to deliver practical, lasting solutions. Their hands-on approach

and attention to detail help ensure projects are completed safely and efficiently.

Pole Specs has built a strong reputation for quality workmanship and dependable service. From residential builds to larger developments, they focus on providing results that homeowners and contractors can rely on.

When it comes to foundations and retaining work, having a team with experience you can trust makes all the difference – and that’s exactly what Pole Specs delivers.



pole specs

SECURING THE EARTH SINCE '72

OUR SERVICES:

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- SLIP REPAIRS
- FOUNDATIONS
- PILING

Pole Specs delivers an all-encompassing array of services and expertise in this specialised field.

dan@polespecs.co.nz www.polespecs.co.nz
 09 426 5035 82 Foundry Road, Silverdale



The image block contains three photographs. The top photo shows a modern retaining wall with a metal railing and greenery. The middle photo shows a red excavator working on a construction site near a body of water. The bottom photo shows a close-up of a retaining wall with a pile of rocks in the foreground.

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The advertisement features the company name 'Burnetts' in a large, white, cursive font with a black outline, set against a yellow and green background. Below this, the text 'SEPTIC & WATER TANK CLEANING' is written in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. Further down, three lines of text provide service details: 'YOUR SEPTIC TANK SHOULD BE CLEANED EVERY 3 YEARS (AVERAGE FAMILY OF 4)', 'WE SERVICE ALL AREAS', and 'PROMPT, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE WITH 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE'. The phone number 'PHONE: 09 412 9210 OR 027 492 4494' is displayed in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom, a photograph shows a green and yellow Burnetts service truck parked outdoors. The truck's tank is labeled 'WATER & SEPTIC TANK CLEANING' and 'Burnetts', with the phone number 'PH. 412.9210' also visible. The truck is a large, heavy-duty vehicle with multiple axles and wheels, typical for industrial cleaning services.

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



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- Garden tidy ups
- Garden maintenance
- Planting
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- Waterblasting

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On To It Garden Services Ltd

Calvin Bates

0272 111 075

ontoitgardenservices@gmail.com



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PH: 412 8592
OPEN MON-SAT

AT TWO HANDY LOCATIONS
FOR EXPERT ADVICE & SERVICE

15 Kakano Rd
Westgate
PH: 930 9999
OPEN 7 DAYS

Waimauku Garden Club

Our visit for September was spring inspired even though the weather was still a bit iffy. We traveled to Gordonton, stopping on the way for morning tea and a comfort stop at Autobahn Papakura. We went to see the daffodils at Clandon Daffodil Farm, a family run business, Ian and Marion Riddell manager/owners. Ian has over twenty five years experience growing daffodils. He shared with us a year in the life of growing daffodils - very informative. It is a commercial daffodil farm growing bulbs for sale in March and cut flowers in spring. They grow over a million and have a huge collection of over 1,000 varieties. We were able to have a walk through the fields before all receiving a bunch to take home. We enjoyed a delicious lunch at Woodland estate surrounded by exquisite Victorian themed gardens. Another wonderful outing.

Feel free to contact any of us: Ann (0210357406), Gail (021344070), Maree (0274963006), Moira(027498154), Sandi (0273184514).



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IS HAPPY TO HELP WITH:

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT

Home & Garden

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Tackle Plumbing

Richard started Tackle Plumbing Limited in 2004. At Tackle Plumbing we offer a comprehensive approach to sorting out your plumbing by a highly experienced certifying plumber who has over 30 years plumbing experience in the Auckland region.

Tackle Plumbing is here to remedy a leak, help with your plumbing renovations or install plumbing in your new build.

Tackle Plumbing specialises in maintenance to gutters, downpipes, roofs, toilets, water pumps, hot water cylinders and water filtration systems. If you need new, we replace with the best to suit your home and budget.

When you call Tackle Plumbing, you can rest assured with a plumbing solution you can trust. Tackle Plumbing is a WINZ Registered plumber.

Call Richard today for a free quote or to get the job done by a certifying plumber. 021 581 703

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Field Homes: Building Better Futures

Field Homes is a Registered Master Builder with a strong reputation for quality, efficiency, and integrity. Managing Director Kevin has worked in the building industry for over a decade and founded Field Homes with a vision to create smarter, more sustainable construction practices. His focus on resource efficiency and minimising waste has shaped the way Field Homes approaches every project, ensuring that each build is delivered with both care and responsibility.

The company specialises in delivering high-quality building services for clients, relocatable housing solutions, and subdivision projects. Field Homes has built a loyal base of clients who value clear communication, timely delivery, and homes crafted with attention to detail. This reputation is reinforced by strong testimonials and industry recognition: the very first Field Homes development was honoured with two prestigious awards – House of the Year and a Property Industry Award – setting a benchmark for the standard of excellence that continues to guide every project.

With a proven track record and a clear commitment to quality, Field Homes approaches each new development with confidence, innovation, and a dedication to building better for the future.



FieldHomes

Award-winning Master Builder

creating sustainable, high-quality homes for modern living at affordable price.

Our Services:

- ✓ Design & Build
- ✓ Subdivision
- ✓ Relocatable Home

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sales@fieldhomes.co.nz

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Whenuapai Floral & garden circle October 2025



More than forty members were welcomed by President, Dawn, at the Village Hall, where we have been meeting regularly now for nearly forty years. While checking our garden for blooms to take along, I noticed that our “shivery grass” was waving in the wind, reminding me of our founder and first President, Zita Horsley, who shared this around, and it seems to be most predominant around the time of her death anniversary. It is like a little hello from a dear friend.

The guest speaker was a return visitor, Lynda Cartwright, who spoke about the history of gardening and heirloom tomatoes. She brought along some plants she had grown from seed to sell us, and a few other plants which she couldn't resist starting despite having reduced space. A self-confessed tree hugger, Lynda has retired from Kings Plant Barn however has recently given talks there on three consecutive Saturdays, the subjects being Citrus, Tomatoes and Orchids.

Her gardening education began early when she was put out in the garden with her grandfather in England as a baby in her pram. As she became mobile, she helped him and gradually absorbed so much about growing things from being there with him. After emigrating from her native land in 1964, Lynda continued to garden, and it has been a constant throughout her life. She enjoys sharing knowledge of plants and their growth with others whenever possible. Fragrance is an important feature in our gardens and can be so evocative of memories from decades ago.

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





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Flaking paint or soft, rotting timber can be early signs that your home's exterior needs some care, and taking action now can save you from bigger repair bills later. Auckland's mix of sun, wind and rain can be harsh on paintwork. Once the paint film breaks down, it stops protecting the timber underneath, allowing moisture to get in. That's when boards start to swell, crack or rot.

Focus on Painting can help restore and protect your home for years to come. With more than ten years of experience, Brad and his team know how to prepare surfaces properly and use quality paints made to stand up to New Zealand's weather.

Whether you need a full exterior repaint or just a few touch-ups, they will make sure your home looks fresh and stays protected.

What makes Focus on Painting different is their hands-on approach. They don't use subcontractors, so you deal with the same reliable team from start to finish. They arrive on time, keep the work area clean, and always deliver a professional result.

You can view their work and read customer reviews at facebook.com/focusonpainting/reviews.



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Alongside our wide selection of SED poles, outdoor timber, fencing supplies, pony jump poles and decking timber, Pole Yard Ltd makes it simple to source everything you need for your next project in one place.

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Founded in 2022, Crea Construction Ltd. is a Kumeu-based construction company dedicated to delivering high-quality residential building services with honesty, precision, and care. The company was founded by Massimo Sabini, who brings over 10 years of experience in the construction industry and a strong commitment to craftsmanship and client satisfaction.

Crea Construction specialises in home renovations, extensions, maintenance, repairs, and outdoor living projects. Every project is managed with meticulous attention to detail and a focus on creating durable, functional, and beautifully finished results. Massimo's approach is grounded in open communication and reliability – ensuring that clients always feel informed, respected, and confident throughout the entire building process.

Crea Construction stands out for its transparent pricing, professional standards, and customer-first attitude. Clients appreciate the team's efficiency, cleanliness on site, and friendly collaboration, which make the entire building experience smoother and more enjoyable.

As part of their commitment to the local community, Crea Construction is currently offering a 10% discount and free quotes for Kumeu and the surrounding areas – a way to thank the neighbourhood for its support and help more homeowners bring their projects to life with confidence and quality.



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The Kitchen People: more than just kitchens



With Rodney West experiencing a wave of new builds, at the core of every home is exceptional, custom-built cabinetry, and that's where The Kitchen People excel. We bring over 30 years of industry experience to every project, ensuring you receive quality, reliability, and innovative design.

Riverhead based owners Mark and Leanne Gallagher took over the Stanmore Bay business in December 2022 with a clear vision: to streamline processes and optimise what they call 'The Kitchen People experience' for every customer. They understand that renovating or building can be stressful, and their goal is to make the cabinetry part of the journey seamless and enjoyable.

While our name highlights the heart of the home, we want people to know we are a full-service custom cabinet maker. We design and build high-quality solutions for every room in your house, not just the kitchen.

- Our comprehensive services cover your entire project, including:
- Kitchens and Sculleries
 - Laundries
 - Built-in Wardrobes and custom Home Offices
 - Vanities and storage solutions

This end-to-end service is powered by our dedicated in-house designers. Your personal journey begins at our Millwater Design Centre, where you can meet our design team. They'll guide you through the entire process, from initial concept sketches and material selection to the final installation, ensuring the outcome perfectly fits your style, needs, and budget.

Furthermore, we are proud licensees of Mastercraft Kitchens. This strong partnership gives us access to cutting-edge materials and construction techniques, allowing us to offer clients an industry-leading 10-year guarantee on all Mastercraft kitchens. This is our promise of enduring quality and peace of mind.

Whether you're building or planning a renovation, trust our three decades of experience and the Mastercraft guarantee to deliver cabinetry that transforms your home.

Visit our website portfolio for your next project inspiration www.kitchenpeople.co.nz





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Young Learners

The Joy and Power of reading with young people: A playful path to vocabulary and understanding

Reading with young people is a little bit like planting a magical seed—you never quite know how it will grow, but with care, imagination, and a few good storybooks, something wonderful always happens. For educators, reading is much more than a quiet classroom activity. It's a teaching superpower that sparks curiosity, builds vocabulary, and boosts understanding in fun and

meaningful ways.

Big Words, Little Ears

Young children are like word sponges—soaking up language from everything around them. But while everyday conversation is great, books take vocabulary to a whole new level. Where else will kids hear words like “enormous,” “glistening,” or “invisible” all in one sitting? Whether it's a tale about a grumpy bear or a brave little robot, stories are packed with rich, expressive language that helps children learn new words naturally.

Educators use reading time to sneak in vocabulary lessons without it ever feeling like a lesson. They might pause during a story to ask, “Hmm, what do you think tremendous means?” or use silly voices to bring big words to life. Repeating and playing with new words helps children understand them deeply—and remember them long after the story ends.



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Adventures in Understanding

Books aren't just about words—they're about ideas, feelings, and big "aha!" moments. Through stories, children explore new worlds, meet interesting characters, and learn to see things from different points of view. Educators use reading as a way to guide young learners through these adventures, helping them connect the dots and make sense of what they're hearing.

Comprehension grows when teachers ask thoughtful, playful questions like, "Why did the princess leave her castle?" or "What would you do if your lunchbox started talking?" These conversations get children thinking, imagining, and piecing together meaning in their own way. Suddenly, reading becomes an interactive journey instead of a quiet sit-and-listen time.



Reading All Around

In a playful, language-rich classroom, books are everywhere—and not just on the shelf. Educators use stories to kick off science lessons, explore new cultures, or inspire art projects. A book about the weather might turn into a rain dance; a story about baking cookies could lead to a pretend bakery popping up in the dramatic play corner.

Reading also helps build social-emotional skills. A story about friendship, bravery, or feeling left out opens the door to big conversations about emotions and relationships—all in a safe and gentle way. When children see themselves in a story, or learn about someone different from them, it sparks empathy and connection.

The Magic of Shared Stories

Reading with young people is a joyful, powerful tool that weaves together learning, language, and laughter. It's how teachers grow vocabularies, stretch imaginations, and build the foundation for strong understanding. Best of all? It's fun. Whether it's five minutes with a funny picture book or a long adventure through a chapter story, every reading moment is a chance to learn, bond, and discover the magic in words.

Te Manawa Library – November fun for Tamariki & Rangatahi!

Our regular term programmes are running all through November – free, fun, and perfect for your little ones!

Kids Play – Mondays, 10:30–11:30am (Children's Area)

Wriggle & Rhyme – Tuesdays, 11:00–11:30am (Level 3 Auditorium)

Rhymetime – Wednesdays, 11:00–11:30am (Children's Area)

Storytime – Fridays, 11:00–11:30am (Children's Area)

Plus, for our older tamariki and rangatahi:

Maths with Means – Free drop-in tutoring!

Mondays, 3:30–4:30pm (Level 1, Pūrerehua – at the table)

Come along, connect, learn, and have fun!

Check out everything happening this month: <https://linktr.ee/temanawar>



Aged care Asian fusion pop-up restaurant at Craigweil House

Craigweil House recently turned up the flavour with an exciting Asian fusion pop-up restaurant. Our dining area was completely transformed into a beautiful restaurant-style setting, complete with themed decorations that set the perfect mood for a special culinary experience.

Residents were treated to a mouth-watering menu featuring miso soup, fresh vegetable sushi, a delicious Asian-style chicken main, and a creamy cheesecake to finish. The atmosphere was filled with laughter, smiles, and plenty of happy taste buds! Everyone enjoyed this unique dining experience and are already looking forward to the next pop-up restaurant, with a brand-new theme to discover and savour.

As we look forward, we're also excited about the upcoming opening of our extended Hospital Level of Care

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wing. If you or your loved one are interested in learning more about what Craigweil House has to offer, feel free to drop by for a visit or give us a call on 09 420 8277.



Aged Care

Caring for a loved One? You don't have to do it alone



October was a month full of heart at Kumeu Village and The Ladybug.

From Fiji Day celebrations, baking afternoons, and beach outings to Orewa, to raising awareness for World

Alzheimer's Month and wearing pink for Breast Cancer Awareness, our homes were alive with colour, laughter, and compassion.

Residents and staff came together to honour those living with memory loss and those impacted by cancer – and when cardio drumming filled the lounge, the energy was electric! It was a month that reminded us of all that kindness, connection, and community truly make every moment count.

Now, as we head toward the Christmas season, we're delighted to share something special...

Kumeu Village has opened two beautiful new rooms, lovingly designed to offer warmth, peace, and a genuine sense of home. Thoughtfully furnished and softly styled, these rooms provide comfort and dignity for residents and families alike – ideal for short-term respite, long-term care, or when a loved one needs the assurance of 24-hour professional support and compassion at life's most delicate stage.

Every detail has been considered – from the calm, welcoming environment to the dedicated team who bring heart to every moment of care. You're warmly

invited to book a private, no-obligation visit at either of our beautiful homes:

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 Dementia Care Home – Nestled behind beautiful trees in the idyllic Coatesville countryside, The Ladybug is a stunning 15-bed home offering specialised dementia and respite care exclusively for women. Warm, personal, and family-focused, it's a place filled with love, nature, and genuine connection – a home that truly lives up to its name.

Both homes are places full of heart – where people come because they genuinely care, and stay because they make a difference.

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

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Aged Care

Kiwi Rehab



Keeping Kiwis moving – one repair at a time

Recently, we received a call from a lovely gentleman who had an unexpected adventure – he'd jumped his mobility scooter off a curb to avoid a cat. Unfortunately, the landing didn't go quite as smoothly as planned, leaving his scooter with a nasty grinding sound and refusing to move. Not a problem for our team. After pulling it apart, we discovered a bent drive shaft. A new part was quickly ordered, installed, and the scooter was soon back with its owner, good as new.

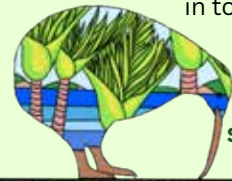
At Kiwi Rehabilitation, we're proud to be your locally owned and operated one-stop shop for all rehabilitation needs. From new products to expert servicing and repairs, we're here to keep you moving. Based in West Auckland, we've been supporting our community for over 15 years with quality equipment, genuine care, and practical solutions that make everyday life easier.

"He Tangata – it is people" sits at the heart of everything we do. As a family-owned and operated business, we take the time to understand your unique situation. Our director, Graeme, brings over 30 years of experience in the rehabilitation industry, working with people of all abilities, ages, and lifestyles.

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Retirement living with a coastal vibe



Keith Park Village is a thriving retirement community perfectly located next to Te Kori Scott Point Park in Hobsonville. Our residents enjoy relaxed retirement living on the coast, with charming eateries, shops, the Catalina Bay farmers' market, lush green spaces, and the fabulous Coastal Walkway nearby.

The village is on flat ground, so it's a breeze to get around on foot or by cycle. It's the best of both worlds – an idyllic coastal lifestyle with easy access to Auckland city.

Village amenities include a indoor heated swimming pool, spa, library, gym, café and shop, hair and beauty salons, bar, and movie theatre.

Independent and assisted living

Enjoy the best of independent retirement living with brand new two bedroom and three bedroom apartments, built to the highest specifications and with an abundance of light. They're spacious, with seamless indoor-outdoor flow to a covered patio or balcony, and many have glorious views.

Assisted living apartments come with support that makes life easier, such as housekeeping and a chef-prepared meal every day. They're light and spacious with a high-spec kitchenette, a tranquil bedroom and ensuite, call bells, and a living area perfect for entertaining.

A range of care options

Keith Park Village offers a range of care options including rest home care, hospital care, specialist dementia care, and respite care in our state-of-the-art care centre. Ryman residents always have priority access to the care centre over non-residents. Should a space be unavailable at the time of your transfer, we will do our best to accommodate you at another Ryman village that provides the level of care you need* until a space becomes available at Keith Park Village.



Health & Beauty

Hear 4U Ltd “Hearing help at home: It’s more than just convenience”



Did you know that hearing care at home isn’t just easier—it’s often more effective?

When audiologist Lisa visits clients in their own homes, she’s able to see how hearing aids perform in real-life settings: whether it’s the TV volume, phone clarity, or conversations around the kitchen and dining room. This means adjustments are more personalised, and support is more meaningful.

Lisa’s mobile audiology service brings professional care to your doorstep, helping older adults, including people in care facilities, busy families, and anyone who finds travel difficult. With over 25 years of experience, she offers everything from hearing tests, hearing aid fittings and support, to wax removal –all in the comfort of home.

If you or someone you care for could benefit from hearing help at home, reach out to Lisa today 021 209 2687.

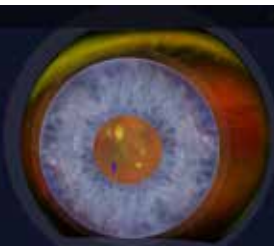
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Are your eyes healthy? Case history of a lump in the retina



For Eyes Optometrists are sharing a range of case histories detected with their specialised examination equipment.

Today’s patient had no symptoms, but his Optomap wide-field scans showed a subtle dark patch just under the left optic nerve (marked with an arrow in the image 1). The blood vessels crossing the area suggest it is raised, so optical coherence tomography (OCT) scans were performed to provide a cross-section view of the retina and confirm this. A raised lump can be clearly seen in image 2.

This patient had seen an eye specialist 5 years prior and there was no record of a lump, suggesting it could be of recent onset (although being subtle, it may simply not have been observed on that occasion). Optometrist Molly Whittington sent a report to the original eye specialist who referred the case on to an oncology ophthalmologist at Greenlane Hospital for specialised tests, as a dark, raised lump of recent onset is suspicious for an early melanoma.

The diagnosis was good news: a choroidal hemangioma. These are not cancers and never metastasise. Typically, they are reddish to orange coloured but can have areas of increased pigmentation like this one, which can make them difficult to differentiate from choroidal melanomas.

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Health & Beauty

Hemangiomas can grow within the blood vessel layer beneath the retina called the choroid. If located in the macula (centre of vision) or if they leak fluid which causes a retinal detachment or cystic changes in the retina, they can affect visual acuity. However, many choroidal hemangiomas never grow or leak fluid and can be observed without treatment. This one will be monitored annually, with referral made if any changes occur.

Are your eyes healthy? To book your appointment at For Eyes, phone 09 412 8172 or call to see us 9-5 weekdays, 90B Main Road, Kumeu Shopping Village.

Ask Dr. Heather



Is Botox® reversible? Anon, Kumeu

No. It is understandable to want reassurance that if you try a treatment and don’t love the result, there’s a way back, but Botox® isn’t reversible the same way dermal fillers are.

Most fillers are made of hyaluronic acid, and if needed, can be dissolved instantly with a special enzyme called Hyaluronidase. Botox® is different. Once it’s placed into a muscle, it binds to the nerve endings and blocks their signals. This relaxation is what softens expression lines and prevents new wrinkles from forming. There is no medication that can “erase” Botox® once it’s there.

That doesn’t mean you’re stuck if you don’t like the look. The effect is temporary. Your body naturally breaks down the toxin over time, and the nerve endings regenerate, returning to full function once it wears off gradually over three to four months. In some cases, if there is any imbalance, a small adjustment can be made with additional units to restore symmetry.

If you’re nervous about trying Botox®, the best approach is to start with a light dose and build up gradually. That way you can ease into the treatment and feel confident about how your face responds.

The key takeaway? Botox® isn’t reversible in the moment, but it’s never permanent. With careful, conservative treatment, the results should feel natural and reassuring.

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Dr. Heather Anderson
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And if you decide it isn’t for you, your face will always return to its normal movement as the effects wear off.

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

Your Summer Skin Prep Starts Now

With summer just around the corner, now is the perfect time to refresh your skincare routine and prepare for warmer days ahead. After months of cold weather and indoor heating, skin can feel dry, dull, and in need of a reset. Start with gentle exfoliation to remove dead skin cells and promote a brighter, smoother complexion. Look for natural exfoliants like sugar scrubs or fruit enzyme masks, which help renew the skin without irritation.

Hydration is key to restoring balance. Swap out heavy winter creams for lightweight, water-based moisturisers that lock in moisture without feeling greasy. Keep up your water intake too – aim for at least two litres a day to keep your skin plump and healthy from within.

No summer skincare routine is complete without sun protection. Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher every morning, even on cloudy days. Reapply regularly if you’re outdoors, swimming, or exercising. Don’t forget easily missed spots like your ears, neck, and the backs of your hands.

Finally, protect your glow with simple lifestyle choices. Eat antioxidant-rich foods such as berries and leafy greens, get plenty of sleep, and include regular movement in your day.

By taking these small but effective steps now, your skin will be ready to face the New Zealand summer – radiant, protected, and healthy from the inside out.

Note: Everyone’s skin is different. The tips in this article are general in nature – check with a skincare professional if you’re unsure what’s right for you.



LED face masks. What’s all the fuss about?



By Dr Cherie, Restore Cosmed

If you’ve been scrolling through social media lately, you’ve probably seen someone relaxing in a glowing face mask that looks straight out of a sci-fi movie. These are at-home LED masks, one of the fastest-growing trends in skincare. But what are they, how do they work, and are they really worth the hype?

LED, or light-emitting diode therapy, isn’t new. It’s been a trusted part of dermatology and aesthetic medicine for years. Different wavelengths of light penetrate the skin at varying depths, stimulating beneficial changes in skin cells. Unlike lasers, LED light doesn’t damage the skin, instead, it encourages natural repair and renewal.

Red light: boosts collagen and elastin for firmer, smoother skin. Near-infrared light: reduces inflammation and promotes healing. Blue light: helps to target acne-causing bacteria, reducing breakouts. Other colours like green and yellow show promising results in pigmentation and overall rejuvenation.

Professional LED treatments in-clinic are more powerful and precisely targeted, but at-home LED masks are an excellent way to maintain results between sessions. When used consistently (around three times a week) they can help with many skin concerns: calm acne and rosacea, reduce redness, stimulate collagen production and give the complexion a healthy, radiant glow.

However, not all LED masks are created equal and a higher price point does not necessarily mean a better device. Effective devices use the correct wavelengths for your skin goals, provide sufficient light output to achieve results, and include integrated eye protection. LED masks aren’t just a passing beauty fad, but a scientifically backed way to support long-term skin health. At Restore Cosmed, we’ve sourced LED masks that meet safety and performance standards at an accessible price. Shop online at www.restorecosmed.co.nz/store and use the code LEDME for a special discount and tick off your Christmas list. (offer expires 30 November)

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SWAN Skin Wellbeing & Nutrition



By Sarah Tumulty - Your Skin Nutritionist

Perioral Dermatitis: Healing from the Inside Out

Perioral dermatitis is an increasingly common skin condition that appears as redness, rash, or small bumps around the mouth, nose, and chin. While it often looks like acne or eczema, it’s actually a sign of an impaired skin barrier – the skin’s natural protective layer that keeps moisture in and irritants out. When this barrier becomes disrupted, the skin becomes more reactive, inflamed, and prone to flare-ups. What many people don’t realise is that perioral dermatitis is not only a surface issue. It is often linked to internal digestive imbalances such as imbalanced stomach acid, H. pylori infection, IBS, diarrhoea, constipation, or haemorrhoids – all signs that the gut lining may be inflamed or struggling to absorb nutrients properly. When the digestive system is under stress, toxins can accumulate and inflammation can travel through the bloodstream, showing up on the skin.

The most effective and lasting way to treat perioral dermatitis is through an inside-out approach. Healing begins with repairing both the skin barrier and the digestive barrier. Holistic, medical-grade skincare products – rich in barrier-restoring lipids, antioxidants, and oxygen-infused repair complexes – can calm inflammation and rebuild the skin’s strength.

At the same time, supporting the gut with targeted nutrition, supplements, and anti-inflammatory nutrients helps reduce internal stress that fuels recurring skin conditions. When both systems are restored together, the results are not just clearer skin, but stronger overall health.

At SWAN Skin Wellbeing & Nutrition, I focus on this dual approach – combining advanced facial treatments and barrier repair products with internal digestive support – to help clients heal their skin naturally, safely, and for the long term.

Contact SWAN Skin Wellbeing & Nutrition for your appointment today! Located in Huapai, Auckland

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Area Columnists

Let’s not put all the hard work at risk next year



By Cameron Brewer - MP for Upper Harbour

Last month the Reserve Bank reduced the Official Cash Rate (OCR) by 50 basis points to 2.5% - the eighth OCR reduction since August last year.

This could mean a saving of more than \$400 a fortnight compared to the middle of last year for a family making minimum repayments with a 25-year, \$500,000 mortgage.

We celebrate OCR reductions for those with mortgages, because they do flow through to falling interest rates – which are good news for growth, jobs and investment. It also means more discretionary income in the hands of many local families.

The Government is doing its bit. We’ve stopped wasteful spending and inflation is under control – now at 2.7% down from 7.3% under Labour.

We are singularly focused on growing our economy by backing our farmers and growers, promoting tourism, investing in infrastructure, and chasing trade deals and making New Zealand a great place to do business.

The next OCR announcement – and the last one for 2025 – is on 26 November.

It has been a tough six years for Kiwis, with Covid-19, a cost-of-living crisis, and a big economic hangover. Sadly, we’re not out of the woods yet, but we can now at least see some light.

The forecasts point to growth strengthening next year, which will help wages, job opportunities, and we’ll start to see house prices rebounding too.

I personally believe that when things start to improve, Kiwis will positively respond and really rally to the more exciting times ahead. Afterall, it has been a hard-fought grind by everyone to get the country back on track.

I also believe that despite the tight political polls, Kiwis won’t want to risk such progress at next year’s election.



Cameron Brewer MP for Upper Harbour

UpperHarbourOffice@parliament.govt.nz

[\(09\) 416 3249](tel:(09)4163249)

[15/102c Hobsonville Rd](#)

Stay in touch!

National N

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ArtPoint announces Art Trail 2025

Explore the creative pulse of Hobsonville

ArtPoint is excited to present Art Trail 2025, happening Saturday 8 November, 10am-4pm. This year's trail invites art lovers to connect with a diverse group of local artists across Hobsonville and surrounding areas. Join us for open studios, exhibitions, performances, and community showcases, ArtPoint Announces Art Trail 2025 – Explore the Creative Pulse of Hobsonville. Exhibition maps and artist locations will be available via ArtPoint's website artpoint.co.nz

Explore a rich variety of art forms – from ceramics and printmaking to dance, digital art, photography, sculpture, visual art, craft, literature, and theatre.

Since its launch, the ArtPoint Art Trail has become a highlight of Hobsonville's cultural calendar, drawing hundreds of visitors each year to explore local studios, community spaces, and performances. Past trails have showcased the talents of painters, sculptors, writers, and musicians, building a reputation for accessibility, diversity, and community connection. Art Trail 2025 builds on that success with new features, including immersive installations, astrophotography, literary events, and expanded student showcases from Hobsonville Point Secondary School. This year promises fresh opportunities

to meet artists, engage with innovative works, and experience the vibrant creative spirit of our community.

Art Trail 2025 isn't just about viewing art – it's about meeting artists in their studios, participating in performances, discovering new voices, and celebrating creativity in our community. Whether you're curious about digital art, inspired by sculpture or stirred by literature, there's something for everyone.







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“300 sets of eyes from Kaukapakapa to Avondale”

Collectively the nine patrol units across the Waitematā West Community Patrol district have 300 volunteer members operating over 60 patrols each morning until the early hours of the morning each week.

Each patrol takes the guidance of where to concentrate their patrols from the regular NZ Police Deployment Plan. This may include areas of increased car thief, burglary, vandalism, new build constructions, to just name a few. Patrols will also conduct reassurance visits and patrols of areas which may have been affected by recent crime.

The nine patrols are all self-funded which includes supplying their patrol vehicles, registration, insurance and fuel. Patroller uniforms, training and specialty equipment. Many are very grateful to receive grants from their Auckland Council Local Boards and in some cases generous sponsorship from local west Auckland businesses such as Mitre10 Mega Westgate. Thanks to the West City Auto Group, vehicle servicing costs are covered by them for all nine patrols irrespective of the vehicle brand or purchase history.

A combination of Waitematā West Community Patrols are part of the newly formed “West Auckland Safety Network” along with the NZ Police, Auckland Transport, Pacific Wardens and Auckland Councils Compliance Wardens. Collectively the Network works in unison to make the Henderson and New Lynn shopping districts and surrounds a safer place to shop, work and visit.

“ It's not rocket science” says John Cowsill – District Support Officer for CPNZ. “The more volunteer patrollers each patrol can recruit, the more patrols we will have out and about in the community”.

If you are 18 years or older and can clear a Police vetting check, we would love to hear from you. The nine patrol bases are South Kaipara, Nor-West, West Harbour, Ranui-Swanson, Henderson, Waiatarua, Glen Eden, Te Atatu-Glendene and New Lynn-Kelston.

Email Waitematawest@cpnz.org.nz and we will put you in touch with your local Community Patrol. Visit cpnz.org.nz for more details.



Connecting through stories at the ArtPoint Art Trail



One of the great joys of being an author is meeting people who share an interest in your writing topic or genre. There's a special spark when I meet members of intergenerational families spread across continents – even if our circumstances differ, we immediately get each other.

I'm excited to be part of the Literary Circle at the 2025 ArtPoint Art Trail in Hobsonville on Saturday, November 8. This vibrant, free community event is now in its third year, and it just keeps growing in popularity.

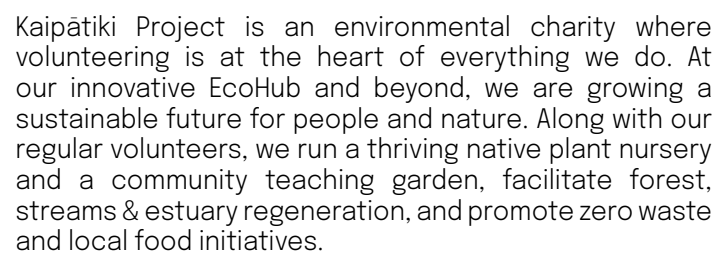
As the ArtPoint website describes it:

“Wander through open studios, exhibitions, and performances featuring painters, sculptors, ceramicists, photographers, writers, and more.”

I'll be joined by two talented local fellow authors:

- Lindsey Dawson, who will share her newly published West Auckland true-crime story Poisoning on Parker Road alongside her novel Scarlet & Magenta. Lindsey is also full of encouragement for aspiring writers looking to publish their work.
 - Elaine King, whose book Can't Miss It is a captivating collection of short stories guaranteed to keep you guessing until the very end.
- Lindsey, Elaine, and I, along with many other artists, will be at the Sunderland Lounge on Cinema Road, Hobsonville Point. Free parking is conveniently available across the road. You'll find a full list of venues on the ArtPoint website (artpoint.co.nz) – why not make a day of it?
- We can't wait to share our stories, our passions, and our books with you.
- HelenEllis is a Hobsonville Point researcher, anthropologist and veteran of Distance Parenting & Grandparenting. Helen is the Founder of DistanceFamilies.com and author of 'Being a Distance Grandparent' and 'Being a Distance Son or Daughter'.
- She will publish 'Being a Distance Grandchild' in early 2026.

Waitakere Grey Power



We have welcomed 51 new members since the end of June 2025 which is a sign that our over 50s are feeling the impact of increases in the cost of living. In October we advocated for Blue September for men's prostate cancer awareness with the Prostate Foundation. In conjunction with Auckland Council, Te Atatu Peninsula Library and Vision West we celebrated the International Day of the Older Person. We plan to print our newsletter in late November. Our Office in the Te Atatu South Community Centre is open Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm. Phone 09 838 5207. Pre-Christmas Lunch will be at the Swanson RSA on Thursday 11th December at 12.00 pm, cost \$26 a person. Please phone our Office if you are coming to join us for our Pre Christmas lunch on 09 838 5207. Written by Mate Marinovich, President Waitakere Grey Power Association, Office Te Atatu South Community Centre, 247 Edmonton Rd, Te Atatu South 0652 Auckland.

- the person named on the ticket

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Photo credit Caspar Rae at Unsplash

Auckland Council's General Manager Parks and Community

<https://hobsonville.werun.nz/enter/>

An advertisement for West Auckland Property Management. The background is white with a blue border on the left and top, and a green border on the bottom and right. The text 'Fast & Free Rental Appraisals' is in large, bold, black font. Below it, a paragraph in black font states: '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.' In the center, there is a green-outlined box containing the phone number '09 832 0832' in large blue font, with 'PHONE:' in smaller black font above it. Below the box is the website 'www.wapm.co.nz' in black font. At the bottom left is a logo consisting of three stylized houses in blue and green. To the right of the logo, the text 'West Auckland Property Management' is written in bold black font.

Inclusive Beats Christmas: Music & Market Fest



Rifle Range Amphitheatre, Opp 6 Catalina Bay Drive, Hobsonville Point, Hobsonville, Auckland

Saturday 15 November 2025 12:00pm – 4:00pm

This event is powered by A Supported Life and aims to create a positive atmosphere as well as positive public awareness around disability support and disability inclusion within the community.

It’s our goal to bring together people of all abilities and backgrounds to connect in the wider community.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Live Music – Bands and DJs
- Food & Drink Vendors
- Christmas Stall & Market Vendors
- Raffle Prize Draws
- Giant Games

This is our THIRD year running and set to be our biggest so make sure to mark it in your calendars and come along!

Auckland’s De-sexing Clinic



Auckland Council’s first in-house desexing clinic making strides in dog desexing programme.

Auckland Council’s first-ever in-house dog desexing clinic is starting to show real impact in the city’s battle against dog overpopulation, with 475 desexing procedures already completed in just under five months.

The clinic, led by veterinarian Dr Roz Holland, has so far desexed 229 male dogs and 246 female dogs free of charge, with a waitlist of around 140 more dogs currently being assessed. The team is also preparing more targeted desexing campaigns in high-need areas, and numbers are expected to climb as processes become more streamlined. This is one of Auckland Council’s many

steps it is taking to tackle the roaming dog issues and to help keep Aucklanders safe from attacks from unwanted dogs. The programme is funded through infringement fees collected from owners of unregistered dogs, ensuring the cost burden does not fall on responsible owners.

Dr Holland, who joined council’s Animal Management team earlier this year, says the results so far show the programme is hitting the mark.

“Everyone involved in dog control and dog welfare knows the key issue is overpopulation, and desexing is vitally important to addressing that issue. Unfortunately, the barriers, cost and transport, are just too high for many people. This role appealed to me because it directly addresses those challenges and has the resources to make a real impact,” she says.

The scale of the problem in Auckland is clear. The council receives more than 15,000 reports of roaming dogs every year, with incidents rising by 50 per cent since 2020. More than 1,300 dog attacks on people are recorded annually, with a similar number of attacks on other animals.

This campaign highlights the benefits of desexing and containing dogs, connecting with owners on a personal level. It is focused particularly on south and west Auckland, where roaming and dog attacks are most prevalent.

Mobile extortion scams



As AI makes fake voices and videos sound and look real, high-pressure plays like sextortion (threatening to leak nude photos or videos, or expose pornographic search history), deepfakes, and virtual kidnapping feel more believable than ever before, tricking even the most digitally savvy users. Scammers sound convincing, talking as though they know you, trying to help you in some way to fix something, but are just fishing for more information. Young men are particularly at risk, but these threatening tactics target anyone with a smartphone. The attitude “I’m more likely to click a link on my phone than on my laptop” can play a big role in overall risk. Almost all of the victims of this type of extortion experience emotional harm after falling for a scam. Many of us use our phones to shop, find deals, and pay—and we deserve to be able to do that safely.

Many victims are overconfident and under protected, by failing to use appropriate security measures, such as security software, checking app permissions, using strong passwords, regular data backups and software updates. Stay alert by using appropriate strategies. Don’t let urgency or pressure push you into action. Take a breath before responding. Legitimate businesses like your bank or credit card don’t push you to immediate action. If you answered the phone and are feeling panicked about the situation, perhaps involving a family member or friend, ask

a question only the real person would know—something that can’t be found online. If it feels off, hang up or end the conversation. You can always say the connection dropped. Confirm the person is who they say they are by reaching out yourself through a trusted number, website, or method you’ve used before.

The criminals behind extortion scams pour time and money into targeting their victims, constantly evolving their tactics to make the scams more believable and hard-hitting. For more detail, visit malwarebytes.com

Christmas on the Point is happening on Dec 7th.

Come along to the Rifle Range Amphitheatre on Sunday 7 December from 4:30 – 6:30pm. It’s a fun and festive community event with performances as well as a chance to join in singing Christmas Carols. There will be a bouncy castle, a visit from Santa + Santa photo booth, food trucks, and lawn games. The event is free, just bring money for food purchases or your own picnic and something to sit on. Keep an eye on Connected Neighbourhoods Trust Facebook page for further details. <https://www.facebook.com/connectedneighbourhoods.nz>



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C’mon Hobby

“C’mon Hobby, Let’s Reconnect” is being facilitated again by Connected Neighbourhoods Trust and runs from December 2025 through to June 2026. They provide \$100 local food vouchers to any streets, laneways or blocks in the Hobsonville area that want to get together for a neighbours’ gathering. Super easy and great way to connect with your neighbours and embrace community. Minimum of 10 households (although a \$50 voucher available for between 5-10 households). More info at neighbourhoods.nz/connect

Good things happen when we connect!

C'mon Hobby, Let's reconnect
Get your street together!

December - June

A photograph showing a group of people, including children and adults, standing outdoors at what appears to be a community event. They are gathered around a table or stall.

\$100 food voucher available!

A square QR code used for more information.

Scan for more info
To book your street,
scan the code above

CONNECTED
NEIGHBOURHOODS

HOBSONVILLE
COUNCIL

HPRS

Upper Harbour
Local Board

Local elections

In the Upper Harbour Local Board elections, the successful candidates were Anna Atkinson (8222 votes), Uzra Baluch (7336 votes), Kyle Parker (7120 votes), Sylvia Yang (6636 votes), Rebecca Huang (5853 votes), and Selena Wong (4775 votes).

The results for the Waitākere Licensing Trust (Ward No. 2 – Lincoln) were Ben Bergin (5826 votes), Linda Cooper (5777 votes) and Richard Ormiston (4921 votes).



RYMAN
HEALTHCARE



KEITH PARK VILLAGE

FINAL PARKSIDE APARTMENT RELEASE

VIEW PLANS TODAY

If you've been considering a move to Keith Park Village, now is the time – the plans for our final release of parkside apartments are available to view.

These two and three bedroom apartments will offer seamless indoor-outdoor flow to a covered patio or balcony. You'll be able to enjoy a range of outlooks over beautiful Te Kori Scott Point Park, out to the Waitematā Harbour or of the landscaped village gardens.

These apartments are ideally located to provide easy access to amenities and the vibrant community lifestyle.

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To find out more call Nicolle on 09 416 0750 or visit rymanhealthcare.co.nz/keith-park

KEITH PARK VILLAGE

3 Scott Road, Hobsonville



Artist's impressions.