November 2026

The Westerly

FREE monthly community magazine
for Massey to Hobsonville Point



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

www.lochbrook.co.nz

Financial Advice



Greetings

As the rhetoric recedes after the general election, we will likely find that our lives will continue largely unchanged. Hopefully there won't be too many regrets over whether our voting choices were wise or wasted. We must trust our elected MPs to do their best for the communities they serve.

In the past, whole communities would gather to make plans about their organisation and the responsibilities of individuals. Although this could not happen today, we should at least support those who spend their time trying to make our lives better. Not only in areas that seem remote, such as parliament, but also those closer to home where individuals work for the local board, or form committees to run the social and leisure activities we enjoy. If we have views about how things could be better, we should get involved. Volunteers play a great part in many aspects of community life.

Climate change concern is evident in this month's magazine and how it affects all communities. There is an opportunity to become involved in a project such as supporting communities to prepare for emergencies, or finding new ways to cut emissions, and you could apply for funding to bring it to fruition. This month's issue covers a wide range of interests for us to choose from and engage with our friends and neighbours.

Look out for advice on fire prevention, and check out Graham"s take on the current state and prospects for the property market. Turn to the back and see the range of ideas from our Area Columnists.

Check out our advertisers, and please let them know that you saw them in The Westerly.

Have a great November.

John. Editor.



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Advertising starts at only $100 + GST which includes a business card, editorial and an image.

Get in touch with Gabrielle today
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People & Places

What does your health insurance cover?

You've probably seen one: a Givealittle page raising money for someone's cancer treatment. Treatment not funded by the public system can cost upwards of $25,000 a month. This simply isn't affordable for most Kiwis.

Pharmac, the government agency that decides which medicines the public health system pays for, works to a fixed budget. That means some medicines aren't funded, even if they're approved in New Zealand. If your specialist recommends one of these, the cost becomes yours.

At Lochbrook (formerly Better Borrowing) we provide Home Loan, Insurance, and KiwiSaver advice. When people bring us a health insurance policy they set up years ago, we often find it covers surgery and specialists but little or nothing for unfunded medicines.

Closing the gap may cost less than you think. The last family we quoted, parents aged 40 and 36 with two kids, came to about $17 extra a fortnight for each adult and $5 for each child. Sometimes it costs nothing extra, because a more suitable policy from another insurer already includes it.

To find out whether you're covered, get your policy out and check these three things:

1. Is cover for unfunded medicines there at all?

Insurers usually call this "non-Pharmac" cover. It can be an optional extra rather than part of the base plan. If your policy schedule doesn't mention non-Pharmac or cancer care, assume you don't have it.

2. How much?

Limits range from $10,000 a year to over a million. At the low end, this might not even cover a month of treatment.

3. What does it cover?

Some policies only pay for cancer medicines. Others only pay when Medsafe, New Zealand's medicines regulator, has approved the medicine for your particular condition.



Timing matters. Health insurance generally won't cover a condition you already have when the policy starts, so check yours before you need it. And don't switch insurers without advice, so any existing conditions stay covered.

If it's been a while since anyone read your policy properly, or you don't have one yet, book a no-cost insurance review with James. He'll find any gaps and keep your cover up to date as life changes. If you've already got the right cover, he'll tell you that too.

Lochbrook

Book an insurance review

Scan, pick Insurance & Protection Chat, choose a time. We'll ring you.

Home loans or KiwiSaver? Same link, same team. James does the cover, Scott does the lending.

021 995 274 · hello@lochbrook.co.nz
www.lochbrook.co.nz · Huapai, North-West Auckland

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Prepare for a hot, dry summer



We're in an El Niño weather pattern, and experts are predicting a hot, dry summer, particularly in the North Island.

Mulch, mulch, mulch! This is my number-one job. Do it now to lock in the moisture still in the soil. I've spread a 10cm layer across my garden. Bark, arborist mulch or compost all work well.

Mulch your veggie garden too. Straw, hay or pea straw will reduce evaporation, suppress weeds and improve your soil as they break down.

Check your irrigation. Look for leaks and make sure everything is working properly. If you don't have irrigation, consider installing some. Also look at options to store water like water butts.

When you water, water deeply and less often. Little bits of water every day encourage shallow roots, which are at risk of drying out. Longer, deeper watering encourages roots to grow down where moisture is more reliable.

Skip the synthetic fertilisers. They encourage lots of rapid leafy growth, which needs more water to maintain. Instead, build healthy soil with compost and organic mulch.

Think about your pots. They dry out much faster than plants in the ground, so consider reducing the number you have this summer. For porous terracotta pots, you could seal them or insert plastic pots inside.

Plant densely to reduce the amount of exposed soil. Leaves shade the soil, reducing evaporation and helping it stay moist for longer.

Finally if you're planning a new garden, consider waiting until autumn. It's a great time to plant; the soil is still warm for root growth, while cooler temperatures and more rain mean less watering.

Louise Shaw is the owner of Shoots Garden Consultancy and offers one-on-one garden coaching, and runs veggie growing workshops. www.shootsgarden.co.nz 021 076 7092 louise@shootsgarden.co.nz @shootsgarden on Instagram



Catalina Bay Spring Series



Throughout November

Enjoy waterfront dining and a range of spring activities, including live music on 8 November, a chalk art trail on 14 November, a self-guided 5km run or walk from 21–30 November, Pilates on 22 November, and a marching band and supercar display on 29 November

Catalina Bay, Hobsonville Point

nzone Financial Services

FREE Consultation

Are you a first home buyer, self-employed, or has a bank declined you for a mortgage?

Our team of expert advisers shall guide you through this complex mortgage maze to get the best-customised solution for your unique needs.

The mortgage lending process can be quite overwhelming and stressful. With access to a wide range of lenders and mortgage products, we can help you find the best deals to suit your budget and financial goals.

Our advisers will help you understand all available options and support you in making informed decisions.

Mortgages: First Home Buyers | Home Movers | Investment Loans | Construction Loans | Business Loans

Additional products: Life Insurance | Trauma Cover | Income Protection | Health Cover | Kiwisaver

If you are looking for unbiased and local financial advice, contact our friendly team NOW.

Our non-obligation consultation is FREE of charge.



Daniel Garbers
022 107 1407
0800 469 637
www.nzonegroup.com

Our Service, your Future



Feel free at Waterford

What if retirement could feel this good?

Life at Waterford has a particular ease to it. You came out for a roll on the bowling green and somehow it's almost lunch. No matter, the café is right there and someone you know is already at a table.

Here, every day is designed by you. Float in a pool that you never need to clean. Follow the coastal boardwalk and stumble on a farmers' market. Then watch the sun set over the bowling green as you perfect your game. And suddenly, you'll wonder where the day went.

With all the perks and none of the upkeep, Waterford is home to a stunning range of beautifully-finished apartments starting from $950,000^. Surrounded by the natural beauty of Hobsonville Point, one of Auckland's most peaceful and picturesque suburbs, this is the lifestyle you've been waiting for.

If this sounds like your pace of life, don't hesitate to get in touch and book a viewing.

09 905 4632
84 Buckley Avenue, Hobsonville, Auckland
waterfordvillage.co.nz

*Retirement Living for residents 70 years and above. Access to care subject to availability and not guaranteed. ^Apartments are available under a licence to occupy.

OCEANIA Retirement. Living.

How acupuncture supports physio progress



Acupuncture and physiotherapy are often seen as separate approaches, but together they create a powerful pathway for easing discomfort, improving movement, and supporting long-term recovery. Each therapy offers something unique, and when combined, they can help people progress more smoothly and confidently through their rehabilitation.

Physiotherapy focuses on understanding how the body is moving, identifying areas that are tight, weak, or working a little harder than they should, and guiding people through targeted exercises to restore strength and ease. It is active, practical, and centred on retraining movement patterns so daily tasks and activities feel more comfortable.

Acupuncture complements this beautifully. By using fine needles to settle irritated tissues and calm protective muscle guarding, acupuncture helps reduce the tension and sensitivity that can make movement feel restricted. Many people notice that after acupuncture, the area they have been working on in physio feels more settled, allowing them to move more freely and get more out of their exercises.

Together, these therapies create a supportive cycle. Acupuncture helps quieten the discomfort that can slow progress, while physiotherapy builds strength and resilience so improvements last. This combination can be especially helpful for stubborn injuries, long-standing tightness, or times when the body feels reactive and difficult to work with.

People often describe feeling lighter, looser, and more confident in their movement when both therapies are used alongside each other. Even small shifts in comfort can make a meaningful difference in how recovery feels day to day.

Physiotherapy and acupuncture are available at our Hobsonville Clinic. If you are working through tightness, niggles, or an injury that needs a little extra support, this combined approach may help your progress feel smoother and more sustainable.

Phone: 09 416 4455 or 027 264 0003 Email: physio@hobsonvillephysio.co.nz

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124 Hobsonville Road (by Woolworths)
physio@hobsonvillephysio.co.nz
www.hobsonvillephysio.co.nz



Repair Café Hobsonville

Repair Café Hobsonville is off to a great start! At our first event, 22 items were fixed, saving 35kg from landfill.

But it wasn't just about the repairs. There was a real buzz in the room with people sharing skills, having a chat over a cuppa and getting to know others in the community.

Our last Repair Café for the year is Saturday 21 November, 2-4pm at Headquarters Building, 214 Buckley Avenue, Hobsonville.

Put aside those things that need fixing and bring them along, or simply pop in for a cuppa and check it out.

We're also still building our volunteer team. Repairers, bakers, hosts, kitchen helpers and everything in between - there's a place for all sorts of skills.

Follow Repair Café Hobsonville on Facebook for updates, volunteer call-outs and upcoming dates.



Marathon around the corner?



With marathon season fast approaching, now is the time to sort out any lingering aches, pains, or footwear concerns before race day.

Whether you're training for your first marathon, chasing a personal best, or stepping up your running, small issues like sore heels, tight calves, Achilles pain, or recurring blisters can become much bigger problems over 42.2 km.

At Hobsonville Podiatry, we help runners with footwear advice, injury management, race-day preparation, and practical tips to keep you moving comfortably and confidently.

You've put in the training. Don't let a preventable issue get in the way of enjoying race day.

It is worth noting you don't want to introduce anything new in the 2-3 weeks prior to a big run; your body needs time to adapt to change. If you have been thinking about seeing a Podiatrist, make sure you do so with plenty of time before your big event.

Book a running assessment at Hobsonville Podiatry and head to the start line with confidence.

Hobsonville Podiatry

Level 1, 124 Hobsonville Road, Hobsonville

(09) 390 4184

HOBSONVILLE PODIATRY Call 09 390 4184 or 022 044 1741
hobsonvillepodiatry.co.nz



Level 1, 124 Hobsonville Rd, Hobsonville, Auckland 0618

Waitakere Forest & Bird 2026 lecture series



Thursday November 19th 7.30 pm

Small but significant: Why New Zealand's lizards matter

Sam Heggie-Gracie is an ecological consultant at Tonkin & Taylor. He will outline our remarkable mokomoko/lizard species, their threats and protection, and showcase methods to survey and monitor lizards. Sam will provide a few case studies from his work at Tonkin & Taylor, he has a personal lizard survey/handling permit and is an advocate for our often-overlooked lizard community. Venue: Ranui Community Centre 474 Swanson Rd, Ranui. Non members welcome, free but koha appreciated to cover hall hire. For further information ph Liz 0274 762732 lizanstey@hotmail.com

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Common questions asked by first home buyers

As a Mortgage Adviser, I've noticed recurring themes in the questions that come through from First Home Buyers, here are my top three:

1. Will vehicle finance affect my ability to get a mortgage?

Yes, vehicle finance absolutely impacts your borrowing capacity, but understanding why helps you plan.

When assessing your application, lenders calculate your debt-to-income ratio. They look at your income minus your existing financial commitments so every other loan or debt you have affects your affordability. It doesn't mean you can't buy a home but needs to be assessed.

2. How long will it take for me to get into my own home?

Securing your first home loan requires patience. Here's a breakdown of typical timeframes and expectations:

Finance Approval & Research phase: 2 weeks getting your pre-approval for finance sorted then 1-3 months learning about the market, neighborhoods, and price ranges.

Active viewing phase: 2-6 months attending open homes (averaging 15-30 properties)

Offer phase: Often requires making multiple offers (3-7) before success

Pre-settlement phase: 2-6 weeks from accepted offer to Settlement (Move in)

The entire process often takes 6-12 months from serious searching to moving in, although it can be shorter with a clear plan and goals.

3. I am planning to purchase a home, should I start cleaning up my bank statements now?

Banks typically review 3-6 months of statements, but forming good habits takes time. Here's a bit of a guide to preparing your finances:

Lenders use software to categorise and analyse your transactions, looking for:

Spending patterns in discretionary categories

Evidence of financial stress (overdrafts, declines)

Regular savings behaviour

Income stability

Remember that lenders want to see that you can comfortably afford your mortgage while maintaining a reasonable lifestyle. By reviewing now, you'll not only improve your chances of approval but also develop financial habits that will serve you well as a homeowner in the future.

Every buyer's situation is unique, and personalised advice makes the difference. If you're ready to start your journey or have questions about your specific situation, call, Stephen Massey – Loan Market 021 711 444 loanmarket.co.nz/stephen-massey



Loan Market

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

Hobsonville Diwali Festival



Saturday 14 November - 5pm-10pm- Free entry

Celebrate the Festival of Lights with cultural performances, Bollywood dancing, live music, food trucks, market stalls and family entertainment at Catalina Bay.

Catalina Bay waterfront, Hobsonville Point, Hobsonville



Safer communities - fire safety starts at pre-school



Firewise: Teaching Children to Stay Safe

The Get Firewise programme is a free fire-safety education initiative provided by Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ). Launched in 2000, it is designed primarily for children aged four to six, helping them understand fire risks, develop safe habits and learn what to do in an emergency.

The programme is delivered through classroom activities, discussions and practical learning, with firefighter visits available to reinforce key messages.

What do children learn?

Get Firewise focuses on three essential areas: understanding the dangers of fire, preventing fires and escaping safely.

Children learn how fires can start, why matches and lighters are dangerous, and the importance of smoke alarms. They also learn what to do when an alarm sounds, how to leave a burning building quickly and why every family should have a safe meeting place outside.

Building confidence and safer habits

The benefits extend beyond fire-safety knowledge. Children develop risk awareness, problem-solving skills and confidence in making safer decisions during emergencies. Through repetition, discussion and practical activities, they become more familiar with the actions needed to protect themselves.

The programme also encourages children to share what they learn with their families, prompting conversations about smoke alarms, escape routes and household meeting places. This helps parents and whānau review their own fire-safety plans.

How does it work?

Teachers can integrate Get Firewise into everyday classroom learning, delivering it over two or three weeks or as part of a longer-term topic. Where available, firefighters or Firewise coordinators provide presentations, usually lasting 30–45 minutes.

Learning can be assessed before and after the programme to help identify improvements in children's knowledge and understanding.



A safer future starts early

Teaching fire safety at a young age helps children recognise hazards, make safer choices and understand how to respond if a fire occurs. It also supports a stronger culture of fire safety across families, schools and communities.

Get Firewise resources and presentations are free for New Zealanders.

If your early childhood centre, primary school or community group would like to learn more, contact Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421. He can connect you with the appropriate local brigade specialist.



If you are within an Early Childhood or Primary School environment and would like to understand more about Fire Wise and how it can be possible within your organisation/ group, please contact Graham McIntyre on 0276320421 and he will direct you to the best possible local Brigade Specialist in your area. FireWise resource and presentation is a free resource for all New Zealanders.

Graham Mcintyre email is- graham.mcintyre@fireandemergency.nz and phone number is 027 632 0421.



Chief Fire Officer Waitakere Fire Brigade.

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Community News

Folk Festival giveaway



This November, we're giving you the chance to win a weekend double or family pass to the spectacular 2027 Auckland Folk Festival.

Held at the Kumeu Showgrounds from Friday 29 January to Monday 1 February 2027, over Auckland Anniversary Weekend, it's set to be a fantastic event for all ages.

NB: The family pass includes 2 adults and 2 children (plus children under 10 are free)

Print giveaway

To enter, simply email editorial@kumeucourier.co.nz with:

- Your full name

- The act or artist you would love to see from the 2027 lineup

Social media giveaway

Head over to the Kumeu Courier and The Westerly Facebook pages to enter our online giveaway!

To enter:

- Tag the person you would love to take with you

- Tell us which act or artist you would love to see from the 2027 lineup

The online giveaway will run during the last week of November and the first week of December.

Winners can choose between a double pass or a family pass.

Good luck, everyone!



Only 8 weeks until Christmas



There's still time to get your smile ready for the festive season.

Whether you're looking for new dentures, need a same-day reline, or require tooth additions or repairs, we're here to help you feel confident in your smile this Christmas.

Our denture services include full dentures, acrylic partial dentures, flexible dentures and chrome partial dentures, alongside relines, additions and repairs.

With Christmas fast approaching, now is the perfect time to arrange your appointment. Depending on your individual needs and appointment availability, there is still time to have your new dentures made before Christmas.

Give yourself the gift of a confident smile this Christmas.

Call our friendly team at DT Denture Clinic on 09 416 5072 to discuss your denture needs and take the first step towards your new smile.



First time in Japan? This one is for you



Japan has long been one of our most beloved destinations, and its popularity with us Kiwis continues to grow. And it's easy to see why.

From castle towns where samurai history and ceramic traditions live on, to neon-lit streets, theme parks, buzzing food stalls, and the bullet train weaving its way across the country, Japan is a destination of fascinating contrasts.

There's so much more to discover which inspired Buzz to team up with the Japan Tourism board and curate a special presentation aimed at Kiwi's planning a first-time trip to Japan.

Wonder to wander session - Japan

We'll be covering all the essentials to help you turn that dream into a plan. From the best times to visit, Japan's geography and festivals, to getting around, choosing between the different styles of accommodation, and discovering the prefectures and must-see spots that make up this incredible country. We'll also explore the different ways to experience Japan, whether independently, on a guided group tour or by cruise. If Japan is on your wish list and you're wondering where to begin, this is an evening you won't want to miss.

Date: 17 November

Time: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Venue: To be confirmed

RSVP essential : Buzz@hot.co.nz

Come along, get inspired and start imagining your own Japanese adventure. We look forward to seeing you there.

Buzz & the team at House of Travel Hobsonville,

House of Travel Hobsonville

225 Hobsonville Point Road

hobsonville@hot.co.nz | 09 416 0700

Cruise Centre: 144 Hobsonville Point Road | 09 941 3330



Tenant of the month – congratulations, Kaye!



This month, we're delighted to celebrate Kaye, a long-standing and valued tenant with West Auckland Property Management, who has received our Tenant of the Month Certificate and a $100 PAK'nSAVE voucher!

Kaye takes exceptional pride in her home and keeps it absolutely immaculate. Her care, effort and respect for the property are a wonderful example of what makes a great tenancy, and we're thrilled to recognise and reward her.

At WAPM, we believe great tenants deserve to be celebrated! When tenants care for their homes, it can help reduce repair and maintenance costs, while giving landlords greater confidence to invest in property improvements. We believe positive, respectful relationships between tenants and landlords create better outcomes for everyone.

Our philosophy is simple: recognise effort, reward care and build lasting relationships. Rewarding tenants financially is one way we can show our appreciation for those who go the extra mile. We're proud to acknowledge Kaye's contribution and thank her for being such a fantastic part of our WAPM community.

Congratulations again, Kaye! We hope you enjoy spending your $100 PAK'nSAVE voucher.

West Auckland Property Management – West Auckland proud. Relationship-focused. Personally invested.

Contact Donna Coxon - Phone: 022 090 1416



Cat lovers we need your help!

The NZ Cat Foundation operates a sanctuary in Huapai that is home to more than 150 rescued cats. Our sanctuary provides a safe, lifelong haven for older, disadvantaged, and unhomeable cats, allowing them to live out their lives in comfort, security, and with the care they deserve.

Volunteers play a vital role in helping us maintain the sanctuary and ensure our cats enjoy happy, healthy lives. We are always looking for reliable and compassionate volunteers who are responsible, work well as part of a team, and have a genuine love of animals.

Volunteering at the sanctuary is also an excellent way to complete community service requirements for programmes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, St John, Scouts, Guides, church groups, university placements, animal science studies, and more. We are happy to verify and sign off volunteer hours as required.

As a charity, we rely heavily on the support of volunteers and urgently need more people to join our team.

We also gratefully welcome financial donations and contributions of cat food to help cover veterinary expenses and the ongoing costs of caring for our sanctuary residents. In addition, The NZ Cat Foundation supports community Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programmes and assists with feeding and caring for vulnerable cats living in the community.

To learn more about volunteering or making a donation, please visit our website at www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz.





Freedom companion driving



Freedom Companion Driving, Hobsonville, is a pre-booked personal driving service that covers the areas of Hobsonville, Whenuapai, Riverhead, West Harbour, Massey, Taupaki, Huapai, Kumeu, Muriwai, and Waimauku. We provide additional support at the start and the end of each journey and our personalised service offers a caring, reliable and often cheaper alternative to other service providers .

Getting out and about and doing the things you have always done is an important part of keeping your independence. Our local drivers help people recovering from illness or injury, or those seniors with mobility challenges or disabilities get to their appointments on time, in a stress-free and fully supported way. We also help children and teens who need safe and secure transportation to and from school and after-school activities.

Owned by long-time local, Paul Miller, Freedom Drivers Hobsonville offers a safe, trustworthy and caring service that is a lot more than just providing transport.

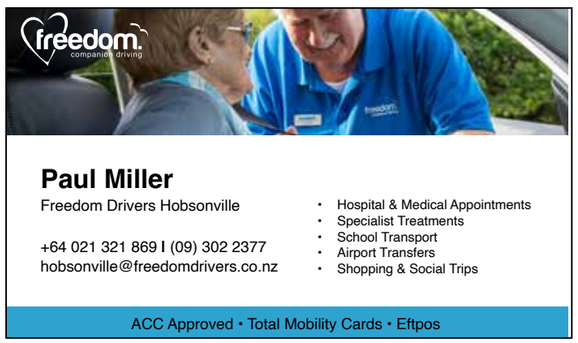
“Travelling with Freedom is like riding with a trusted friend or family member, and you’ll build a relationship with a small team of drivers who you will get to know and trust,” he adds.

All of our team are Police-vetted, are Health and Safety accredited and regularly attend 1st Aid Courses. They are also fully licensed. Our cars are fitted with CCTV (video only) for your added protection and security.

We cover the full range of personal transport and companion needs, from assisting people who are elderly and mobility-restricted or non-drivers to get to their appointments and also run errands for them. We will also carry your bags and even put your groceries away if you would like us to.

We take Total Mobility Cards (TM) and we are ACC Registered Vendors.

To find out more, please give Paul a ring or a text on 021 321 869 or email at hobsonville@freedomdrivers.co.nz



Arthritis management In older dogs



As our dogs get older, arthritis becomes increasingly common. You may notice your dog taking longer to get up, walking more slowly, hesitating on stairs, or no longer wanting to jump into the car. But getting older doesn’t mean your dog has to live with pain. With the right care, many arthritic dogs can remain active, comfortable and enjoy a great quality of life for many years.

One of the most important things you can do at home is keep your dog at a healthy weight. Even a small amount of weight loss in an overweight dog can make a significant difference to painful joints. Regular, gentle exercise is also important. Short, frequent walks are usually better than long walks, while swimming and hydrotherapy can provide excellent low-impact exercise.

There are simple changes you can make around the home too. A warm, supportive bed, non-slip mats on slippery floors and ramps or steps to help with access can make everyday life much easier.

Your veterinarian can also develop an individual arthritis-management plan. This may include veterinary anti-inflammatory pain relief, newer injectable arthritis treatments, joint-support products, physiotherapy, rehabilitation, hydrotherapy or other pain-management options. Often, the best results come from combining several treatments rather than relying on just one.

So, if your older dog is slowing down, don’t simply put it down to age. Arthritis can be managed, and helping your dog feel better can give them more happy, active years by your side.

Dr Gary Duggal - Huapai Vet Clinic

Huapai Vet Clinic

Dr Gary Duggal (BVSc)

New Clients Welcome!

Phone: 09 412 2223
Email: huapaivet@gmail.com
371 Main Road, Huapai

VetClinic HUAPAI

Davis Funeral Care

Where does a year go? With the Christmas and New Year holiday season approaching, for many it will be a time to power down the laptop, put down the tools and enjoy a well-earned break away from the pressures of school, university and work.

Sadly, for some families, the coming holiday season will also be marred by the death of a family member.

In New Zealand today, some 5% of the population have made plans; "pre-planned" their funeral or farewell. Slightly more encouraging, it is estimated that this number increases to some 32% of the population who have some form of instructions in place or have had a discussion with family members.

Put another way, some 65% of funerals taking place in New Zealand today are unplanned at the time of the person's death. These families are left struggling with not only the obvious grief associated with death of someone close, but confusion and doubt as to what to do next, and on top of this, the added pressure of unplanned cost says Michael Powell GM of Davis Funerals. There has been so much information available to the public on death, and death care related topics as there is today; some of it extremely useful, some, sadly, is wildly inaccurate and misleading.

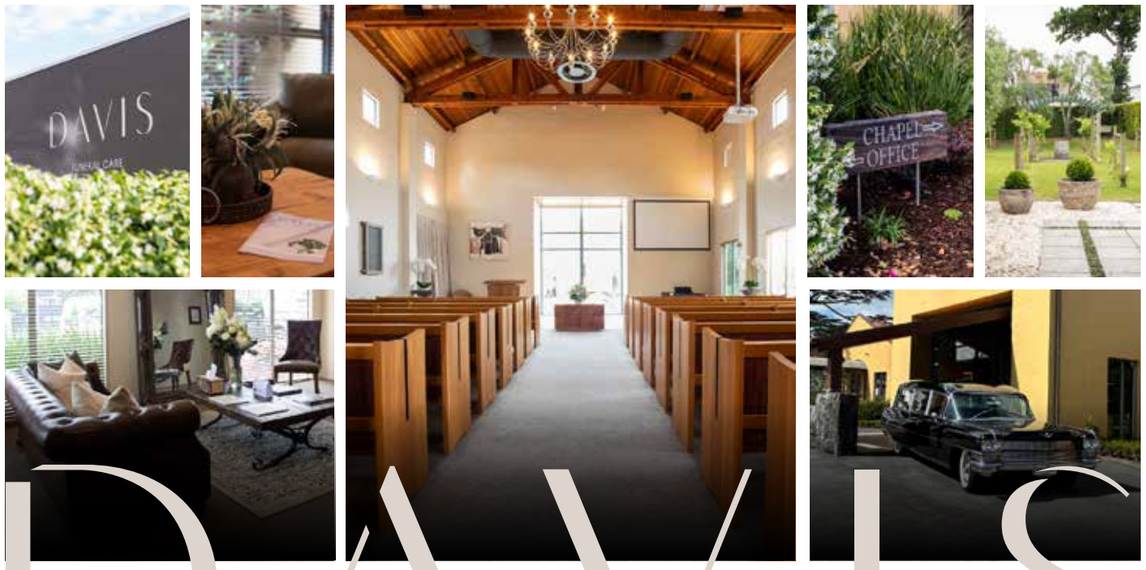
Indications are that more than 80% of the population are prepared to entertain a discussion about death, yet it appears most choose not to do so.

Pre-planning needn't be an activity filled with dread. It is simply a discussion, an opportunity to express your wishes, record some details, then put the plan away somewhere safe where those entrusted to look after your affairs can locate it, and then get out there and enjoy life.

Now is a great time to protect yourself and those you love by preparing your plan. The friendly and knowledgeable team at Davis Funerals, can answer your questions, explain the many options that are available to you and provide a detailed breakdown of the costs associated with your preferred farewell or funeral plans. This is a totally free service.

Of course, if you are not quite ready to take this step, but would like to receive some information, you are welcome to contact us at mike@davisfunerals.co.nz and request we send you our preplanning information pack or even simply ask us a question.





DAVIS
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Back your club



A new way to support local businesses and grassroots sport

As one of the original co-founders of The Food Truck Collective, I've spent much of my career bringing people together through food, events and community. I've always loved finding ways to connect people and businesses, and my latest idea, Back Your Club, brings together a few things I'm really passionate about.

Living in Northwest Auckland, I see how much our local sports clubs contribute to our community. They're where our kids make friends, families connect and volunteers give up countless hours to make it all happen. But we also know how challenging fundraising can be, with clubs constantly looking for new ways to raise money.

At the same time, we have so many fantastic local businesses right on our doorstep, run by people who are part of the very same community.

So I've been working on an idea to bring the two together.

Back Your Club is a new community membership designed to support local sports clubs while encouraging households to discover, shop and spend locally.

The concept is simple. For $99 a year, households will have access to discounts, perks and experiences from participating local businesses, with a portion of their membership going towards a sports club they choose to support.

The aim is to create something that offers genuine value for families, gives local businesses an opportunity to attract new customers and helps sports clubs generate fundraising income all year round, without adding more work to already busy volunteers.

And it's not just about discounts. I'd love Back Your Club to become a way to showcase the people behind our local businesses, encourage families to try new things together and strengthen the connections that make our community what it is.

We're starting right here in Northwest Auckland, and this is where I'd love your help!

Right now, I'm looking for local businesses who'd like to get involved. It's completely free to participate, and you don't need to have a discount figured out just yet. It could be a special offer, a complimentary item or an experience that gives local households another reason to visit and support your business.

I'm also inviting locals to nominate the sports club they'd love to see involved. Whether you're a parent, player, coach, volunteer or supporter, I'd love to hear which clubs our community wants to get behind.

The plan is to build a great collection of local businesses and offers first, then approach clubs knowing there's already a community of people keen to support them.

It's still early days, and I'm very open to ideas, feedback and introductions. Having spent years building community-focused initiatives, I know the best things often come from people getting behind an idea and helping shape it.

I'd love to see what we can build together, right here in our own backyard.

Get involved at www.backyourclub.nz

Local businesses can register their interest for free, and locals can nominate their favourite sports club.

Or reach me directly at info@backyourclub.nz.

Maggie Gray is a Northwest Auckland local, founder of Back Your Club and BRAVA Events & Media, and an original co-founder of The Food Truck Collective.



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Food & Beverage

Eat more, not less this summer

Nutritionist Renee Diment of Beyond the Body encourages women to eat more, not less, to feel their best this summer. After 13 years working with women, she highlights fibre as key to steady energy, gut health, mood and hormones. Build balanced meals with protein, plants, quality carbohydrates and healthy fats.

Fibre booster salad

I make this on a Sunday and eat it through the week. It's great on its own for lunch or as a side with whatever's on the barbie. Makes 5-6 serves.

A fibre booster salad is a great addition to any meal or piece of protein. Have it next to your chicken, steak, fish or eggs and you're getting more plants and more fibre into your day without even thinking about it.

You'll need

- 1 cup quinoa, cooked and cooled (or a 250g precooked pouch)
- 1 x 400g can black lentils, drained and rinsed
- ½ block feta
- 1 red capsicum, diced
- 1 telegraph cucumber, diced
- ¼ cup pumpkin seeds
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Salt and pepper



Method

1. Cook the quinoa. If you're not using a pouch, rinse 1 cup of quinoa well in a sieve. Put it in a pot with 2 cups of water and a pinch of salt, bring it to the boil, then turn it right down, pop the lid on and simmer for 12-15 minutes until the water's gone. Take it off the heat and leave the lid on for another 5 minutes, then fluff it with a fork.

2. Let it cool. Spread the quinoa out on a tray or plate so it cools quickly. If it goes in warm it'll wilt the veg and melt the feta.

3. Prep the lentils. Drain and rinse them really well, then give the sieve a good shake so they're not sitting wet in the salad.

4. Chop the veg. Dice the capsicum and cucumber small, roughly the size of the lentils, so you get a bit of everything in each mouthful. If your cucumber is quite watery, scoop the seeds out first.

5. Toast the seeds (optional). Put the pumpkin seeds in a dry pan on medium heat for 2-3 minutes, shaking the pan, until they start to pop and smell nutty.

6. Make the dressing. Put the olive oil, lemon juice, salt and pepper in a jar, lid on and give it a good shake.

7. Bring it together. Add the quinoa, lentils, capsicum and cucumber to a big bowl, pour over the dressing and toss it through. Crumble the feta in last and fold it gently so it stays in nice chunks. Scatter the seeds on top.

8. Store it. Keep it in glass containers in the fridge for up to four days. If you're prepping for the week, keep the seeds in a separate little container and add them when you eat so they stay crunchy. It honestly tastes better on day two once the lemon has soaked in.

The lentils and quinoa give you fibre and some protein, the feta adds more protein, the veg gives you crunch, and the seeds and olive oil are your healthy fats. Easy.

One thing to try- For the next two weeks, don't cut anything out. Just add something with fibre to every meal. Seeds on your breakfast, lentils or beans at lunch, an extra lot of veg at dinner. Then see how your energy, cravings and digestion feel.

Food should give you more life, not less of it.

If you want more recipes like this, my free Well Fed Woman Starter Kit is on my website at reneediment.com. You'll also find me on Instagram, where I share new recipes every week.

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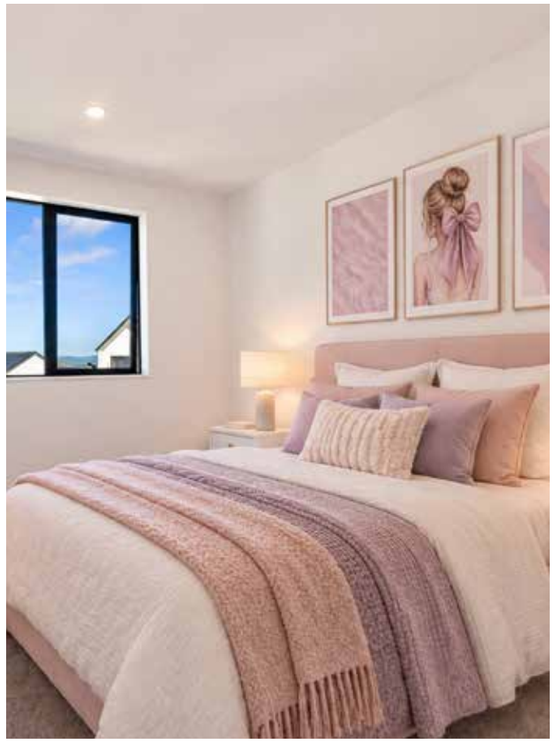
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Property Hub:

A home that evolves with you

Our Wake Road Show Home has been refreshed with family living in mind. Warm colours, added textures, and updated finishes bring a welcoming feel to the shared spaces, while each bedroom now has its own distinct character. A refreshed fireplace and new lighting complete the look, creating a modern home with a contemporary feel.

Designed around the way you live

A great home adapts as your family grows and your tastes change. While buying an existing property often means compromising on layout or undertaking costly renovations, building new with G.J. Gardner Homes gives you the opportunity to shape your space from the beginning. Depending on your needs and budget, that might mean extra separation between bedrooms, additional living areas, or a kitchen with a spacious scullery.

Simple updates as life changes

With great design, the look of your home can easily evolve over time. Simple updates like a new colour palette, or soft furnishings offer an easy way to introduce a fresh style. Larger updates to kitchens, bathrooms, or outdoor areas can follow when the time is right.

A fresh look in Coatesville

This approach guided the recent refresh of our Wake Road Show Home. We embraced a new design direction while retaining the functional layout that makes the home work so well.

We invite you to come explore the updated interiors, gather ideas, and talk with our team about creating a home that grows with you.

Visit Us-

Captivating in Coatesville

5 Wake Road, Coatesville









Auckland property market:



More choice for buyers as building costs rise

With Auckland's median property price sitting at $950,000, asking prices dipping below $1 million for the first time in six years, and construction costs climbing again, buyers and sellers are navigating a market where pricing, presentation and timing matter more than ever.

Auckland's property market continues to present opportunities for buyers, but the latest figures highlight a market that requires a considered approach from both buyers and sellers.

The median sale price for an Auckland property stood at $950,000 in August 2026, down 2.31% over the previous 12 months. Meanwhile, average asking prices have fallen to $993,562, dipping below the $1 million mark for the first time in six years.

While prices have eased from their previous highs, the market is offering buyers something that has been in shorter supply during more competitive periods.

Auckland property values remain approximately 24.85% below their record peak in November 2021. At the same time, 13,958 properties were on the market, an increase of 13.8% compared with a year earlier.

Properties are also taking longer to sell. The median time on market has reached 54 days, compared with a 10-year average of 43 days for the same period.

For buyers, this creates an opportunity to compare properties carefully, undertake due diligence and negotiate with greater confidence. For sellers, it reinforces the importance of getting the price right from the outset and presenting their property to stand out from the competition. Working with an experienced, qualified and knowledgeable agent is key.

Numbers in a nutshell:

- $950,000 – Auckland's median sale price, down 2.31% over 12 months.

- $993,562 – Average asking price, now below $1 million for the first time in six years.

- 24.85% – Approximate decline in property values from the November 2021 peak.

- 13,958 homes – Auckland's active housing stock, up 13.8% year-on-year.

- 54 days – Median time to sell, compared with a 10-year average of 43 days.

- $870,000 – Approximate median sale price across Auckland's North West, down 1.7%.

- 29% – Approximate share of national property purchases made by first-home buyers.

- $650–$690 per week – Indicative rental range across Auckland and the North West.

- 1.7% – Increase in residential building costs during the September 2026 quarter.

Figures reflect the supplied market information and reporting periods; regional results and rental figures may vary by location and property type.

The North West:

A market worth watching

For buyers looking towards Kumeū, Huapai, Hobsonville and the wider North West, the market is showing some encouraging signs.

With the regional median sale price sitting at approximately $870,000, around 1.7% lower than a year earlier, the North West remains below Auckland's wider median. This provides an important reference point for purchasers weighing up affordability, location and lifestyle. However, averages only tell part of the story. Different suburbs, property types and price brackets can perform quite differently, making local knowledge particularly valuable when assessing a property's true market position.

First-home buyers continue to play a significant role in the market, accounting for almost one third of purchases nationally. With more homes available and less urgency in many buying situations, these purchasers may have greater opportunity to compare options and negotiate terms.

The key distinction is that not every property performs equally. Well-presented homes priced realistically against comparable sales are generally better positioned to attract attention and secure a sale than properties that enter the market with ambitious price expectations.

For sellers, this means preparation and pricing strategy are critical. For buyers, it means there may be opportunities to secure a suitable property without the intense competition experienced during previous market peaks.

Rental market stable

Auckland's rental market appears to have settled, with average city-wide rents sitting around $650 per week and indicative advertised rents across the North West and wider Auckland ranging from approximately $650 to $690 per week.

Quality homes in areas such as Hobsonville and Huapai continue to attract tenant interest, particularly where properties offer modern construction, practical layouts and convenient access to amenities.

For investors, rental demand remains an important consideration, but purchasing decisions should be based on the full picture: achievable rent, ongoing expenses, finance costs, maintenance and the property's longer-term prospects.

With property values relatively subdued, investors have an opportunity to assess potential purchases carefully rather than relying solely on expectations of rapid capital growth.

Building costs rising again

One of the most important areas to watch is the renewed increase in building construction costs.

According to the Cordell Construction Cost Index, compiled by property data company Cotality, residential building costs increased by 1.7% in the September 2026 quarter. This was the fastest quarterly increase since late 2022.

The increase lifted annual construction cost growth from 3.5% in the June quarter to 4.8% in September - the strongest annual increase since the June quarter of 2023 and well above the long-term average of 4.0%.

Several factors contributed to the rise, including higher material, freight and fuel costs, alongside increasing residential construction activity. Notable increases were recorded in petroleum-based plumbing products, PVC, sealants, roof and ceramic tiles, reinforcing products and structural steel.

Materials account for approximately 50% of the index, while wages contribute around 40%, with professional fees, consenting and other expenses making up the balance.

Although some builders have absorbed increases on projects covered by existing fixed-price contracts, pricing for upcoming work is beginning to rise. Households planning a new build may therefore face a different cost environment over the coming months.

Four ways rising building costs can affect the property market.

1. New homes can become more expensive. Higher material and labour costs put upward pressure on the total price of building, potentially affecting affordability.

2. Developers may have less room to negotiate. When construction margins tighten, there may be less capacity to offer discounts, upgrades or other incentives to buyers.

3. Some developments may be delayed or reconsidered. Projects that were already financially marginal can become less viable as costs rise, potentially reducing

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future supply.

4. Existing homes may look better value. Buyers comparing the cost, time and uncertainty of building from scratch with purchasing an established property may find the existing-home market increasingly attractive.

This changing equation is particularly relevant while existing property values remain relatively flat and mortgage rates are rising. The decision to build or buy an established home is becoming one that deserves careful financial comparison.

For anyone considering a property purchase in the next six months, rising construction costs are another factor worth keeping on the radar.

Buying an existing home may provide greater certainty around the purchase price and allow you to move in sooner, while a new build can offer modern specifications, personalisation and lower initial maintenance requirements. The right choice depends on your budget, timeframe, location and appetite for construction-related risks.

Meanwhile, higher building costs could influence the future supply of new homes if some developments become less viable. That does not guarantee property prices will rise, but it is a reminder that today's market conditions will not necessarily remain unchanged.

For buyers, the opportunity lies in understanding the numbers, comparing like with like and looking beyond the asking price. For sellers, success increasingly depends on realistic expectations, strong presentation and a marketing strategy that reaches the right audience.

With Auckland's active listings elevated and buyers taking longer to make decisions, the spring selling season may bring more properties to market as homeowners look to attract purchasers before year-end.

That could mean further choice for buyers and continued competition among sellers. In this environment, local market knowledge matters.

For the North West, the message is clear: there are opportunities in the current market, but identifying them requires a realistic assessment of value and a strategy tailored to the property.

Whether you're buying your first home, upgrading, investing or considering selling in Kumeū, Huapai or Hobsonville, now is a good time to understand where your property sits in the market.

After twenty years evaluating the North West Auckland Property Market I'd encourage you to take a proactive approach. With more choice for buyers and building costs on the rise, as a seller or buyer, the right advice can help you weigh up your options and make a confident, informed decision.

Call Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421 for a local market discussion, an assessment of your property's current position, or guidance on your next move.

Graham McIntyre on **027 632 0421**
Graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz

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More buyers, more options, more conversations



With more properties on the market and buyers having a little more time to consider their options, we're seeing increasing interest in family members and friends joining forces to buy a home together.

For many, sharing the cost of a deposit and ongoing expenses can make home ownership more achievable. But before you start attending open homes together, it's worth having some honest conversations.

The first question isn't "What can we afford?" It's "What are we trying to achieve?"

One person might view the property as a long-term home, while another may be looking to move on in a few years. Those differing goals can create challenges later if they're not discussed upfront.

It's also important to talk about future life changes. What happens if someone gets married, has children, receives a job offer in another city, or wants to access their share of the property's value? These are all normal life events, but they can have a significant impact on a shared ownership arrangement.

We often find that the most successful co-ownership arrangements are those where expectations are clearly discussed at the beginning. Having open conversations about finances, maintenance, renovations, and future plans can help avoid misunderstandings and unexpected tax bills later on.

The current market may provide buyers with more opportunities than we've seen in recent years, but buying property remains a major financial commitment. Taking the time to think through the "what ifs" is just as important as finding the right property.

If you're considering buying a property with family or friends, we're happy to help you understand your options and put the right arrangements in place from the outset.

Give us a call on 09 973 5102 and make a time to see us at either our Kumeū or Te Atatū office.

What is a caveat?

A caveat is a notice registered against a property's title to protect a person's claimed interest in that property. While in place, the registered owner will generally be prevented from selling, mortgaging or otherwise dealing with the property without the caveator's consent or the caveat being removed. Importantly, lodging a caveat



does not create an interest in the property. It records a claimed interest.

Caveats can be an important legal tool, but should not be lodged without careful consideration.

Who can lodge a caveat?

A caveat can only be lodged by someone who has a caveatable interest in the property, such as:

- A purchaser under an agreement for sale and purchase.
- A person with a beneficial interest under a trust.
- A lender holding security over the property.

Determining whether an interest is caveatable can be complex. A property lawyer can assess your circumstances and advise accordingly.

When is a caveat commonly used?

A caveat may be used:

- To protect a purchaser's interest before settlement.
- Where a purchaser is disputing a cancellation of an agreement.
- To protect a lender's security for a loan.
- Where a property owner has agreed that a caveat may be lodged.

How Is a caveat removed?

A caveat may be removed if the person who lodged it voluntarily withdraws it.

If the registered property owner believes the caveat should not remain and the caveator will not withdraw it, legal processes are available to challenge it. This can include applying to the Registrar-General of Land or the High Court.

Need advice about a caveat?Whether you are considering lodging a caveat or have discovered one registered against your title, getting advice early can help you understand your position and options.

Contact Kandice Reilly at Smith and Partners: kandice.reilly@smithpartners.co.nz or 09 837 6884.

Author: Kandice Reilly

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Area Property Stats

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
Helensville						
	State Highway 16	$1910000	5	260	36000	$1560000
	Porter Crescent	$600000	2	71	390	$652500
	St James Avenue	$1075000	3	118	2830	$905000
	Porter Crescent	$910000	4	150	860	$1050000
	Manuka Grove	$1475000	4	246	12000	$1569000
	Kawariki Road	$1025000	3	134	518	$980000
Herald Island						
	Ferry Parade	$1600000	2	300	895	$1259000
Hobsonville						
	Hobsonville Road	$1225000	4	197	233	$1198489
	Pukeko Road	$2550000	6	435	650	$2413000
	Meteor Road	$1200000	4	182	185	$1115000
	Harakeke Road	$1600000	4	223	360	$1505000
	Bannings Way	$1055000	3	170	508	$1035000
	Scott Road	$1200000	4	195	91	$945000
	Waterlily Street	$1200000	4	206	0	$1140000
	Harvard Street	$1150000	3	163	239	$1180000
	Scott Road	$1225000	4	180	141	$985000
	Mapou Road	$840000	3	93	0	$805000
	Waka Moana Drive	$810000	3	91	106	$750000
	Bomb Point Drive	$950000	2	127	0	$988000
	Boundary Road	$2000000	0	141	0	$1145000
	Warrant Officer Lane	$690000	2	74	0	$665000
	Isitt Road	$1200000	3	160	150	$1195000
	Squadron Drive	$1225000	4	199	175	$1006000
	Irving Place	$1100000	4	165	233	$1050000
Huapai-Kumeu						
	Nobilo Road	$1225000	4	196	501	$1185000
	Matua Road	n/a	0	0	0	$630000
	Remana Crescent	$1425000	4	229	774	$1400000
	Vogwill Road	$1325000	4	188	629	$1207000
	Awa Road	$2375000	4	255	38000	$1765000
	Gemscott Crescent	$1525000	5	230	666	$1397000
	Reserva Crescent	$1200000	4	201	410	$1155000
	Tapu Road	$1300000	3	160	857	$1068000
	Riverhead Road	$880000	3	86	1037	$1000000
Massey						
	Katrina Place	$1050000	3	75	268	$675000
	Lowtherhurst Road	$760000	3	110	0	$730000
	Rehia Road	$760000	3	87	0	$788000
	Biokovo Street	$890000	3	100	180	$760000
	Kearney Place	$910000	3	91	561	$788000
	Royal Road	$740000	2	90	0	$700000
	Lincoln Park Avenue	$1075000	3	70	870	$750000
	Redwood Drive	$1020000	3	120	699	$884000
	Lowtherhurst Road	$890000	3	110	809	$620500
	Lilburn Crescent	$710000	3	87	402	$665000
	Doone Place	$940000	5	118	639	$865000
	Cyclarama Crescent	$980000	4	94	845	$980000
Parakai						
	Aitkenhead Court	$860000	3	95	912	$835000
	Springs Road	$650000	3	93	559	$680000
Riverhead						
	Pitoitoi Drive	$1250000	3	379	0	$1185000
	Pohutukawa Parade	$1450000	4	217	669	$1400000
	Alice Street	$840000	3	95	103	$690000
	Alice Street	$850000	3	88	114	$650000
	Ridge Road	$1975000	4	210	13900	$1650000
Waimauku						
	Solan Drive	$1400000	4	217	1509	$1580000
	Foster Road	$2130000	5	352	17300	$1950000
Waitakere						
	Waitakere Road	$1,075,000	3	280	911	$1075000
	Wairere Road	$980000	3	140	1753	$1005000
	Te Henga Road	$900000	2	124	1113	$955000
West Harbour						
	Hobsonville Road	$860000	3	152	219	$849755
	Wiseley Road	$1510000	4	200	850	$1220000
	Whiting Grove	$1500000	4	300	863	$1312000
	West Harbour Drive	$1000000	3	1000000	667	$1000000
Westgate						
	Whiteywood Street	$900000	3	123	0	$860000
	Octans Road	$850000	4	128	139	$860000
	Wai Place	$1050000	4	184	219	$1030000
Whenuapai						
	Pinefield Road	$450000	4	253	330	$1340000

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

Graham McIntyre on **027 632 0421**

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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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Quieter days in the North-West rental market



Fewer homes, fewer hopefuls and softening rents in the west, though the city's rural fringe is holding its ground.

For landlords in Henderson, Massey, West Harbour and Hobsonville, spring 2026 has brought a market that feels noticeably calmer than a year ago. Fewer homes are coming up for rent, fewer people are lining up to view them, and in North West Auckland the weekly rent has started to slip.

Figures show the number of rentals available across its Auckland portfolio at the end of September was down 4.2% on August and 10.1% on a year earlier. That is a marked turnaround from the end of 2025, when new rental listings across the region were running more than 8% ahead of the previous year and renters were spoilt for choice.

The wave of new townhouses that swept through the north-west over the past two years has largely been absorbed, and the glut that defined 2025 is thinning out.

Demand has cooled too. Tenant enquiries and applications picked up in September as the season turned, but both remain well below the levels seen in early 2026. Property managers collectively report that much of the recent activity comes from existing renters moving from one rental to another rather than new households entering the market. The quality of many applications is lower than normal, demanding more scrutiny, reference, court and credit checks in a thorough manner. Landlords are being advised to allow four to six weeks to secure the very best tenant, and investor surveys show a net 30% still find it difficult to find a suitable one.

The result of tenant demand and supply of rental properties is pressure on price. West Auckland rents fell 0.6% in September, even as the Auckland-wide average held almost flat at about $699 a week. A three-bedroom home in West Harbour now averages around $676 a week, with gross yields sitting near 3.5%, leaving owners little room.

The exception is the rural edge. Rodney, which takes in Kumeū, Huapai and Riverhead, bucked the trend with a 1.7% rise in September, suggesting larger homes on the city's fringe are still finding willing tenants.

For landlords, sharp pricing and well-presented homes matter more than ever. Many investors say they plan to lift rents by around 4% over the coming year, but with demand this subdued, economist Tony Alexander has cautioned that such increases may prove harder to achieve than owners expect. It is increasingly important to have the very best property management in place to support your asset. At West Auckland Property Management we have one of the most experienced and knowledgeable teams in North West Auckland. Born and experienced in the local area, we can navigate your individual home or your portfolio to ensure great tenants, proactive maintenance engagement and uncompromised communication via telephone, email and text.

For a free no obligation chat about your Property Management thoughts and needs call Graham McIntyre on 0276320421, email graham@wapm.co.nz or Sarah Ball on 021152 8515, email office@wapm.co.nz.

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Bond refund delays:



What landlords and tenants need to know

Tenants waiting for their bond refunds may experience longer-than-usual delays, with Tenancy Services Bond Hub experiencing processing issues as it moves to an online-only service.

For tenants moving between homes, a bond refund can make a big difference when managing moving costs, paying a new bond and getting settled into their next property. Understandably, delays can be frustrating, particularly when everything has been completed at the end of a tenancy.

So, what can you do to help keep things moving?

Tenants and landlords should ensure all required bond refund documentation is completed accurately and submitted promptly. Any outstanding rent, agreed costs or other matters relating to the tenancy should also be addressed to help avoid unnecessary hold-ups.

Property managers can assist by completing and submitting the required paperwork as quickly as possible. However, once an application has been submitted, the time taken to process the refund is largely outside their control.

At West Auckland Property Management, we understand how important it is for tenants to receive their bond back in a timely manner. We encourage both landlords and tenants to be patient while Tenancy Services works through the transition and any resulting delays.

Our advice: If you are waiting for a bond refund, keep your paperwork handy, check that all required details have been provided, and follow up if your refund is taking longer than expected.

A little patience and clear communication can help make the process smoother for everyone involved.

Sarah Ball - Property Manager - 027 499 8415

Hobsonville Point shapes West Auckland's housing future



Hobsonville Point has undergone a significant transformation over the past decade, evolving from a former Air Force base into a growing residential community.

Auckland Council identifies Hobsonville Point as an example of how planned housing, transport connections and community facilities can work together to support Auckland's growing population.

One of the key projects is The Airfields, a 20-hectare site in the heart of Hobsonville Point, formerly part of the airbase. The development is planned to deliver around 800 new homes, including affordable housing, alongside opportunities for commercial and retail activities.

The wider Hobsonville Point masterplan includes a mix of housing types, parks, schools, community facilities, local workplaces and public transport connections. These features are intended to help create a connected neighbourhood where residents can live close to everyday amenities.

Planning also includes streets and pathways that support walking and cycling, helping residents access local facilities and connect with their community.

The Airfields development includes provision for mixed-use areas, creating opportunities for businesses and employment close to residential areas.

As West Auckland continues to grow, Hobsonville Point demonstrates how former land can be redeveloped to provide new housing while planning for the infrastructure and facilities needed to support a growing community.

Sources- - The Airfeilds & OurAuckland

Sarah Ball
Senior Property Relationship Manager

West Auckland Property Management

Country Living Realty (Hobsonville) Limited
ta West Auckland Property Management

027 499 8415
office@wapm.co.nz
wapm.co.nz

2 Clark Road
Hobsonville, Auckland



Donna Coxon
Senior Property Relationship Manager

West Auckland Property Management

Country Living Realty (Hobsonville) Limited
ta West Auckland Property Management

022 090 1416
info@wapm.co.nz
wapm.co.nz

2 Clark Road
Hobsonville, Auckland



Property News







10/18 Scott Road, Hobsonville

Brand-New Contemporary Living in Hobsonville

Discover the opportunity to own this brand-new, beautifully designed three-bedroom home in the sought-after Hobsonville area. Thoughtfully planned across two levels, this modern residence offers three generous bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms, providing an ideal balance of style, comfort and functionality for families, professionals or those looking for a quality low-maintenance home. The open-plan living and dining area creates a welcoming central space, complemented by a contemporary kitchen designed for both everyday living and entertaining. Large windows bring in plenty of natural light with 3 ranch-slider doors from the living area that flows into a nice decking for that outdoor flow for entertainment. Fully fenced, safe for kids to play in a large backyard or for pets to run around.

For more information on this property call:

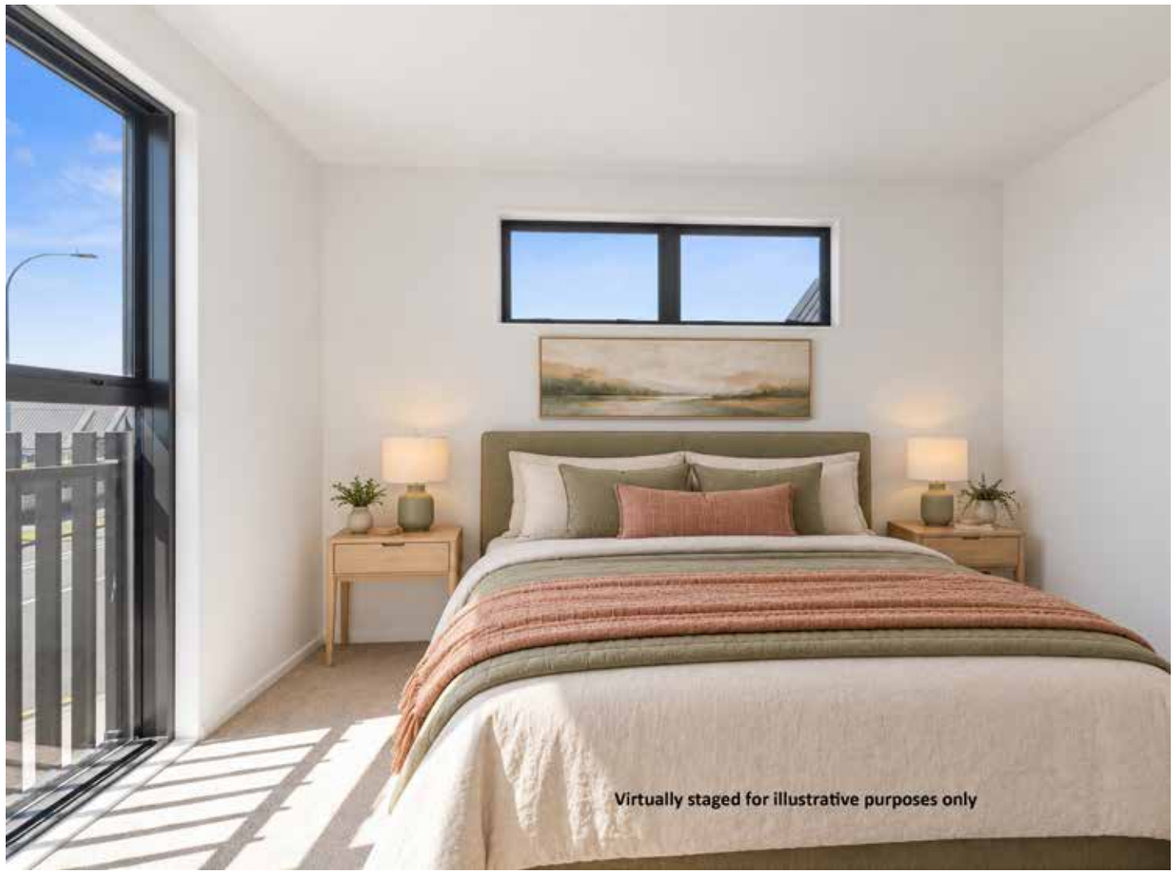
Graham McIntyre on **027 632 0421**
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Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine and Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008).



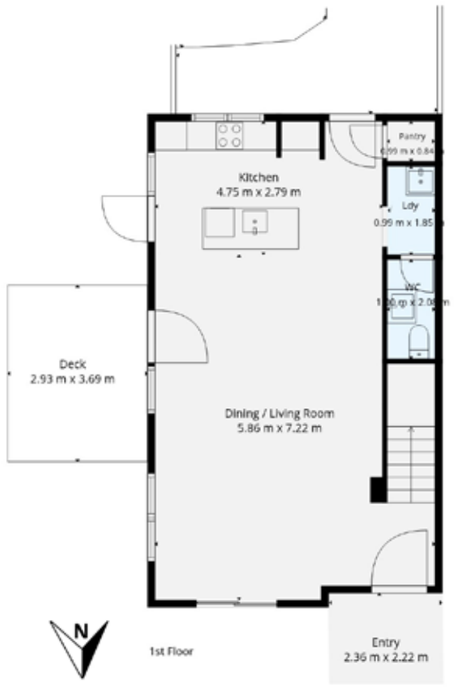


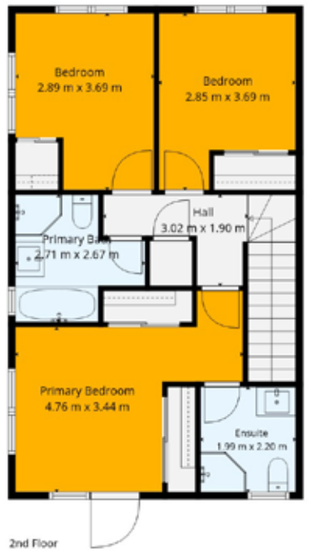




10/18 Scott Road

Raine&Horne.





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



Featuring:

- 3 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- Townhouse
- 3 ranch-slider doors from the living area
- Land area- 227 sqm
- Estate Fee Simple - 1/10 share
- Floor area - 217 square metres more or less
- Popular Hobsonville community
- Asking Price $899,000



9 Maple Lane, Huapai

Lock-Up and-Leave Lifestyle - Bring the Toys

When downsizing doesn't mean giving up the cars, tools and toys you've collected over the years, welcome to 9 Maple Lane, Huapai.

Set privately in a leafy pocket of Huapai, well back from the road and surrounded by owner occupied, quality homes, this beautifully maintained 243m² GJ Gardner single-level residence offers the space, security and ease that makes downsizing genuinely enjoyable.

Quietly tucked away in Huapai, this is a rare opportunity to simplify your life without selling your life's work. Available today.

For more information on this property call:

Graham McIntyre on **027 632 0421**
Graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz

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Property News





Featuring:

- 4 bedrooms including a luxurious master suite
- 2 bathrooms
- 3 Living rooms
- Land area - 724 sqm
- Floor area - 243 sqm
- 3 Garage (internal access) + 6 off street parking
- Pet-friendly peace and quiet
- Price by Negotiation





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G.J. Gardner. HOMES

Property News





1 Pippen Court, Henderson

Brick & Tile - Corner Site - Summerland Primary

Character infused, soft tone brick construction, on a sunny flat corner site, offering a picture perfect setting, in one of the prettiest neighbourhoods in Henderson's North West. Offering four rooms, comprising of three bedrooms and an office, two bathrooms, double garage with a single opening garage door. A fantastic separation between living and sleeping with two lounges, one being open plan, kitchen, dining, lounge area. Easy indoor outdoor flow to fully fenced entertainers courtyard offering established plantings including lemons and oranges. Motivated Owners are keen to move this asset and welcome interest from Investors and genuine buyers seeking a home that can meet the needs of a growing family. A rental appraisal is available and a purchase with Tenant in place is an option.

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:

- 4 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- 2 Living rooms
- 2 Garage & 1 Carport
- Land area- 676 sqm
- Floor area- 180 sqm
- Walk to Summerland Primary school
- Transport links include bus stops and rail stations





Archgola Rodney

Our local volunteer firefighters spend a lot of time looking after the community, so it's been a real pleasure to help make their own downtime a little more comfortable.

Archgola Rodney has recently installed Ziptrak® outdoor blinds onto an existing covered area at the Kumeu Fire Station, creating a more sheltered space for the crew to relax, eat and catch up when they're not out doing the important stuff.

We used a close-knit mesh to help protect the area from wind and rain, while also cutting down the low afternoon and evening sun – something most Kumeu locals will be very familiar with.

The result is a much more comfortable and usable space throughout the year, without closing it in completely.

The Ziptrak® system also keeps things simple. The blinds are smooth and easy to operate, can be left at any height to suit the conditions, and can be lifted quickly when needed – particularly handy when your lunch break can suddenly turn into an emergency call-out.

It's been great working with the crew to create a practical space that gives them a little more shelter and comfort between jobs.

And while this project happens to be at the fire station, Ziptrak® blinds can also be custom-fitted to many existing pergolas, verandas, decks and other suitable covered areas.

To find out whether Ziptrak® blinds could work for your space, contact Dael at Archgola Rodney to arrange a free measure-up.

rodney@archgola.co.nz | 0274 713 417









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Book a free consultation

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Home & Garden

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Re-colouring Xmas and Festive Season Specials

Spruce your showers and tiles and grout and silicone – Interior / Exterior

Are you tired of looking at your tiled floor and walls only to be disappointed by the dirty stained grout lines? Traditional cleaning methods leave your grout dirtier and bacteria laden than before you started?

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We can replace the porous cement grout with an epoxy grout which too is stain resistant and waterproof. We offer shower glass restoration and apply a durable protective coating afterwards.

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Packing hints for smart storage



Good storage starts with good packing. A little preparation now means your belongings come out in the same condition they went in.

Beds: Dismantle your bed frame and tie the rails together with rope or tape. Mark each piece – base, legs, headboard – so reassembly is easy later.

Soft Furnishings: Cover mattresses, sofas, and lounge suites with a sheet or blanket. If using plastic, leave one end open so moisture can escape. Better still, air furniture and bedding in the sun for a few hours before packing – our bodies release more moisture into these items than you'd think.

Books: Keep boxes small – books are heavier than they look. Aim to keep each carton under 13.5kg so it's easy to lift.

Wardrobes: Don't waste the space inside. Use drawers and wardrobes as extra packing containers, filling them with smaller, fragile items cushioned in towels or sweaters.

Chairs and Tables: Wrap chair legs in packing paper to prevent scratches. Leave slipcovers on upholstered chairs for extra protection. Where possible, remove table legs, tying and padding them separately.

Clothing and Textiles: Make sure everything is clean and free of anything that might attract pests before it goes into storage.

At Country Lane Storage, we're always happy to share more tips to help you pack smarter. Come see us in Kumeu – we'll help you get it right.

Ph Elizabeth for your storage needs on 0274 995 471.









Stihl shop Westgate celebrates three years of community



STIHL Shop Westgate celebrated its third birthday on 17-18 October with a fantastic weekend of prizes, excitement and community spirit, welcoming more than 1,000 local children through its doors.

To mark the milestone, the team wanted to give back to the community that has supported the business over the past three years. Key cards were distributed to students at the store's dozen closest schools, inviting children to bring their key into the shop over the birthday weekend for a chance to unlock the treasure chest and win a prize.

The response was incredible, with more than 1,000 children bringing their keys into the store to try their luck. The prizes certainly created plenty of excitement, with 10 chainsaws, a lawnmower, vacuum kits, a waterblaster and heaps of STIHL merchandise given away over the weekend.

The store was busy and pumping, with excited children, families and customers filling the shop and creating a fantastic atmosphere.

"We wanted our third birthday to be about more than just a sale. It was an opportunity to celebrate with the local community and say thank you for supporting us," says the STIHL SHOP Westgate team. "Seeing so many children come through the doors with their keys was amazing. We loved meeting so many local families and being part of the excitement."

The celebrations also included a competition between participating schools, with every key returned counting towards their school's tally. The school that returned the most keys over the weekend would win a prize package including an in-store gift voucher, STIHL merchandise and other goodies.



Congratulations to Massey Primary School, which took out the winning spot thanks to the fantastic response from its school community.

Three years on, STIHL SHOP Westgate is proud to be part of the local community and looks forward to continuing to support local families and businesses.

The team would like to thank all the schools, children, parents and customers who took part and helped make the birthday weekend such a memorable success.



Whenuapai Floral & Garden Circle October 2026



Forty members attended the meeting at the Village Hall, same place and same day of the week as we have met for nearly forty years. The shivery grass which has appeared in our garden lately reminds me of our founder, Zita Horsley, since it came from her garden and pops up in unexpected places at this time of year. Details of forthcoming trips, including the Christmas luncheon, were discussed. The season is nearly upon us once more and will be here before we know it. Welfare of members was relayed and after the usual formalities like birthdays, blooms and produce then raffles there was a short break for members to purchase from the trading table or chat amongst ourselves.

The guest speaker was Bernadette Stockman who spoke to us about her time volunteering in Sierra Leone aboard the "Global Mercy" ship. She spent seven weeks in 2025 and six weeks this year teaching children of other volunteers. Volunteers pay for their airfares only, all other costs during their service are covered. Some help out for weeks, some for months at a time, while others are there for years.

Patients come with a caregiver and both stay aboard the ship for the length of their time and great care is given to all who need operations and recuperation. The organisation is Christian based and volunteers help out in many different roles, including cooks and cleaners. Photos showed that Bernadette had a busy, interesting and rewarding time while helping in a worthy cause.

Refreshments were available at the conclusion of the Meeting and members were able to compare notes on their gardening endeavours, or places they had visited

and enjoyed.

If you would like to know more about our club, and wish to join us, please phone Judy Garrity on 8335592. Meetings are held at 1 p.m. at 41 Waimarie Road, Whenuapai Village, on the second Thursday of the month with trips usually on the fourth Thursday. Entry fee is $4 with another dollar per raffle ticket.

Until next time, Happy Gardening from Mary Anne Clark

Summer renovations? check what's underground first!

Planning a Summer Renovation? Don't Forget What's Underground!

With summer just around the corner, many homeowners are getting ready to tackle outdoor projects. Whether it's installing a new pool, building a deck, upgrading the driveway or giving the garden a makeover, there's one important thing that's often overlooked – what's hiding beneath the surface!

Underground sewer and stormwater pipes can be closer to the surface than you think, and accidentally damaging one can quickly turn an exciting project into an expensive headache.

That's where the team at Drain Ninjas and Ninja Group Drainage & Civil come in!

Using specialised CCTV inspection and locating equipment, we can help identify where your underground drainage runs before you start digging. Our hydro excavation units also allow us to safely expose underground services using high-pressure water and vacuum technology, reducing the risk of damage compared with traditional excavation methods.

And if your project requires drainage alterations, repairs or new installations, our experienced team has you covered from start to finish.

A little planning now can save a whole lot of hassle later!

Before you dig, call the Ninjas!

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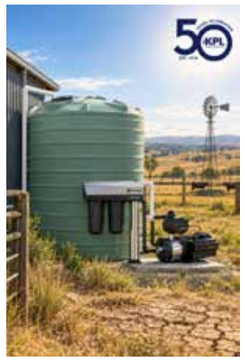
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Waimauku Garden Club



Our September club outing took us to the stunning Eden Garden nestled on the slopes of Mt Eden. Spring was on display, treating us to an unforgettable morning of the seasons finest botanical treasures. The stars of the show were Tulips, rows upon rows of vibrant reds, pinks orange, purple and whites creating a lovely tapestry.

We roamed along the paths to the camellias and magnolias looking beautiful. Also New Zealand's Native collection: Totara, Rimu, Nikau, Tree fern. Bromeliad Collection, Succulents, Palms, Conifer, Vireya, Rhododendron. After wandering through the tranquil paths listening to the Tuis singing. We enjoyed morning tea at the onsite café.

We headed to Joe's Garage for a delicious lunch, providing time to catch up and have a chat.

Our final destination was the Stardome Observatory and Planetarium. We had a very interesting presentation of our galaxy exploring the wonders of the constellation, learning fascinating new facts about the universe we live in.

Looking ahead to our November trip we venture to Jeff Thompson sculptor. Hands in the Dirt gardens Makarau you are welcome to come and join us.

Feel free to contact any of our committee: Gail (021344070), Maree (0274963006), Moira (027489154), Monique (021646220), Sandi (0273184514), Vivienne (0214229889).



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In a steadier property market, many homeowners are choosing to invest in the home they already have. The outdoor area is often where a property has the most untapped potential, and covered outdoor living you can use all year helps a home stand out.

Louvre Outdoors is owner-operated and based in Kumeu, designing and installing premium aluminium louvre roofs and outdoor rooms across North-West Auckland and the wider Auckland region. Owner Dan Brown handles every job, from the first site visit and design through to the final install, so you deal with one person who knows your project inside out. Our systems are made in New Zealand by Juralco under the Bask Outdoor Living Systems brand. They're engineered for high wind zones and finished in Dulux powder coat with a 15-25 year surface warranty.

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Choose our SunPivot louvre roof for complete control of the elements, or our SunFold fully retracting louvre roof, which gives you totally uninterrupted sky views when fully open.

Create an outdoor room

Add frameless Glaslide glass panels, motorised SolarZip blinds, aluminium louvre screens, LED lighting and heating, and a patio becomes a true outdoor room. That's often achieved without the cost and time delay of a consented extension. Roofs under 30m² usually don't need building consent, we have an in-house engineer for those trickier builds, and every roof comes with a PS1 producer statement. Every install is also backed by our own 10-year workmanship guarantee.

Building new?

Outdoor living works best when it's planned at design stage. We work alongside many builders and architects, and you can see one of our roofs installed at the G.J. Gardner Homes Rodney West minor dwelling show home at 248 Main Road, Kumeu.

Thinking about making more of your outdoor space before summer? Dan would love to come and take a look.

Louvre Outdoors | 027 329 9667 | info@louvreoutdoors.co.nz | louvreoutdoors.co.nz

Dan Brown
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A well-designed cattery or catio gives your cats the freedom to enjoy the outdoors while staying completely safe, dry, and protected. At Baby Barns Ltd, we handcraft custom catteries and catios right here in the Greater Auckland region, using premium NZ timber and practical layouts that suit both family homes and lifestyle blocks.

Our units are built for real-world use: strong framing, predator-proof mesh, warm enclosed sleeping areas. Whether you need a compact single-cat enclosure or a full walk-in cattery with shelves, ramps, feeding stations, and multi-bay setups, we tailor every build to your space and your cats' personalities.

A Baby Barns cattery is ideal for breeders, rescues, or anyone wanting a secure outdoor area that keeps cats stimulated without the risks of roaming. Every structure is designed to handle New Zealand weather year-round.

If you're ready to give your cats a safe outdoor lifestyle with a custom-built cattery or catio, we're here to help.

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Fresh colour, inside and out





From peeling weatherboards to dated wallpaper, a lasting paint finish starts with careful preparation and a team that understands what each surface needs.

Based in Auckland, Focus on Painting helps homeowners improve their properties inside and out, from a single room to a complete repaint. With more than ten years of experience, Brad and his team combine practical advice, thorough preparation and tidy workmanship.

Interior services cover wallpaper removal, plastering, skim coating and painting of walls, ceilings, doors and trims. Whether you are updating dated rooms, repairing damaged surfaces or preparing a property for sale or rent, the team can handle the preparation and painting together.

Exterior painting covers weatherboards, roofs, fascia boards and soffits. Auckland's changeable weather makes proper preparation especially important. Washing, sanding and priming help create a sound base for fresh coatings, while addressing peeling paint early helps protect the surfaces underneath.

Not every project needs a full repaint. Brad can discuss which areas need attention and suggest a practical approach that suits your plans and budget.

Focus on Painting uses its own team, with no subcontractors, so customers deal with the same people throughout the job. They arrive on time and leave the work area clean and tidy. They use quality paints suited to New Zealand conditions, with attention to the small details that make a freshly painted home feel finished and welcoming.

View recent projects and customer reviews at facebook.com/focusonpainting/reviews. For a free quote, call or text Brad on 021 756 890 or email focusonpainting@gmail.com.

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Little Light for little learners



At Little Light Educare in Kumeu, we believe every child is capable, curious and full of potential.

Our approach is guided by Te Whāriki and inspired by the philosophies of Reggio Emilia and Emmi Pikler. We see children as active participants in their own learning, with their ideas, interests and unique ways of expressing themselves valued and respected.

We believe childhood should be unhurried, joyful and full of discovery. Through play, meaningful relationships and hands-on exploration, children are encouraged to explore, investigate, create and develop confidence and independence at their own pace.

Our calm, thoughtfully designed environment is an important part of the learning experience. Natural materials, open-ended resources and inviting indoor and outdoor spaces encourage children to explore, imagine, problem-solve and connect with nature.

Most importantly, we see learning as a partnership with families. We strive to create a place where every child and whānau feels a genuine sense of belonging, connection and community.

If you are looking for an early learning centre where your child will be known, respected and encouraged to shine, we would love to meet you.

Come and visit Little Light Educare at 7 Wookey Lane, Kumeu. Meet our team, explore our learning environment and discover what makes our community special.

Little Light Educare

7 Wookey Lane, kumeu- 09 412 8081

Little Light Educare – where little minds shine.



The Kindergarten Way



Kaitiaki Kindergartens support children through a rich, play-based curriculum, prepares them confidently for school, and empowers them to care for their world as part of our Enviroschool journey.

Waimauku Kindergarten

18 Freshfields Road, Waimauku.

09 411 8890



It's not about what children are doing



What is so special about the Kumeu Village Kindergarten? Research shows that over 80% of what gets noticed about children in Early Childhood Centres is about what they are doing. It might sound simple but five years ago the Kumeu Village Kindergarten shifted from focusing on what children were doing to noticing what they were learning. This required a complete rethink about how children are observed, what children are learning and how this was recorded. This is then turned into a learning record that is shared with parents, that allows for common learning goals to be established for each child.

Teachers now work collaboratively as a professional learning community to build capability and enhance outcomes for children. Leaders and teachers develop and enact the service philosophy and priorities, through enquiry, professional dialogue, shared learning and meaningful changes to teaching practices.

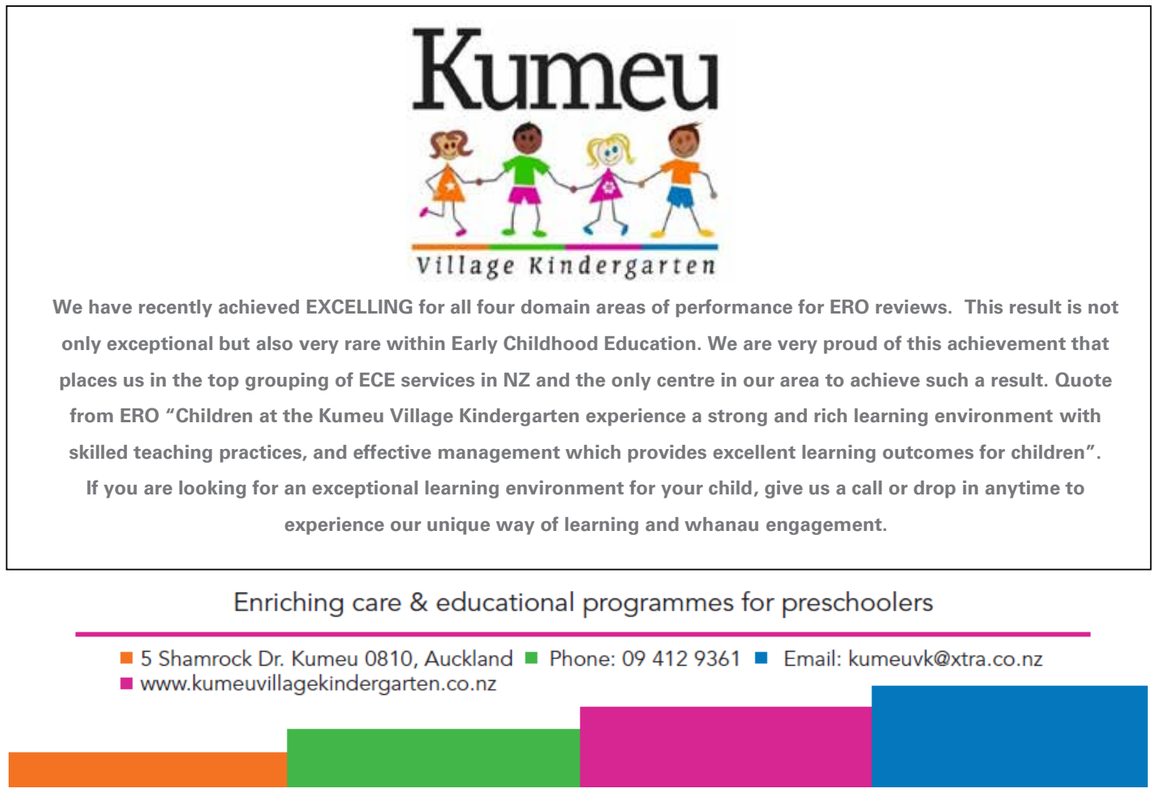
Leaders model and set clear expectations for professional accountability across the teaching team. The centre makes informed decisions about service priorities, resourcing and partnerships that support sustained positive outcomes for children.

Local schools regularly comment on how well children from the Kumeu Village Kindergarten are prepared for school life. This means attending the Kumeu Village Kindergarten is enriching for your child and is providing them with the best opportunity for their future learning needs. The cultural shift sounds simple, it has taken thousands of hours to establish. The resultant excelling across all domains of learning in the centre's recent ERO report highlights the benefits of a focus on learning that brings teachers, parents and curriculum elements together.

Because teachers remain engaged through their own learning, building relationships with children and parents and a shared understanding of goals, the learning environment is highly harmonised and the culture of learning thrives.

Kumeu Village Kindergarden - 5 Shamrock Drive, Kumeu

09 412 9361



From heki to pīpī: the magic of watching life begin



Each year at Gumboots and Farm Friends Early Learning Centre, we look forward to the excitement of our annual egg hatching experience. This year, thanks to one of our wonderful relievers, we were generously lent an incubator along with 29 precious eggs, giving our tamariki the incredible opportunity to watch a new life cycle unfold right before their eyes.

On 8 September, we carefully inspected each egg before placing them into the incubator. We looked closely for cracks, unusual elongation and calcium deposits, learning that even the smallest details can tell us something about an egg. We then settled the eggs into their warm new home, knowing we had approximately 21 days to wait.

While we waited, the learning continued. Our tamariki explored the life cycle of a chicken, learning about eggs, embryos, chicks and adult chickens. Through art experiences, stories, conversations and hands-on investigations, we developed our understanding of how chicks grow and change. There was plenty of anticipation as we counted down the days and wondered what might be happening inside those eggs that we couldn't see.

Then came a wonderful surprise!

When we returned to Gumboots on Monday 28 September, we discovered that many of our eggs had already hatched over the weekend. Instead of waiting until the expected 21-day mark, we were greeted by a beautiful collection



of fluffy little chicks. The excitement was immediate. We have been completely awestruck by these tiny new arrivals, spending time watching their movements, listening to their little chirps and, of course, enjoying lots of gentle cuddles.

Having the chicks with us has created opportunities for learning that go far beyond simply watching them grow. Caring for living creatures encourages children to develop empathy, compassion, patience and a sense of responsibility. Our tamariki are learning to handle the chicks gently, recognise when they need space, observe their behaviour and understand that animals have needs that must be respected and cared for.

There is also something incredibly special about slowing down to watch a chick explore its surroundings, peck at food or settle beneath the warmth of the brooder. The children become deeply engaged, often losing track of time as they observe these tiny creatures going about their day.

Our heki hatching experience has reminded us that some of the most meaningful learning happens when children are given the time and opportunity to wonder, observe, care and ask questions. From 29 eggs carefully placed into an incubator to a group of fluffy chicks filling our centre with chirps, we have been lucky enough to witness a little piece of life's magic unfold at Gumboots and Farm Friends.

Gumboots & Farm friends

1157 Peak Road, Helensville

09 411 9038





Aged care

Discover a community of learners

Join Kumeu SeniorNet This Month.

Are you looking for a productive, engaging morning out where you can learn something new and connect with wonderful locals? Kumeu SeniorNet is actively looking for new members to join our vibrant community of learners. Whether you are a complete beginner who has never sent an email, or someone who knows a little bit but wants to refine their skills, there is a place for you here.

We are a local group run by seniors, for seniors. We know that learning sticks best when it is fun and social. Beyond the screen time and the tutorials, our club is a fantastic place to enjoy a warm cup of tea, have a good laugh, and share stories with your neighbours. We support each other through the learning process, celebrating every small victory–like sending a first emoji or successfully connecting to Wi-Fi.

If you have been meaning to sort out your phone or computer gripes, consider this your official invitation to take that first step.

Where: St. Chad's Church, 7 Matua Road, Huapai

When: The first Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am

What to bring: Yourself, your smartphone, tablet, or laptop, and any questions you have written down!

We have the biscuits and the tech knowledge waiting for you. We look forward to seeing you there!

Father's day celebrations at Craigweil House

Father's Day at Craigweil House was a lovely opportunity to celebrate the special dads in our community and show them how much they are appreciated.

Our residents enjoyed special treats, thoughtful gifts and personalised Father's Day cards. There were plenty of smiles as our team visited residents, shared a few laughs and helped make the day memorable.





Some residents enjoyed their favourite treats and special drinks while spending time with others. It was wonderful to see everyone getting into the spirit of the occasion and enjoying these thoughtful gestures.

Father's Day reminds us that sometimes the little things mean the most. A friendly chat, a special surprise and a moment of appreciation can brighten someone's day. We hope all our fathers, grandfathers and father figures felt extra special and loved.

At Craigweil House, creating meaningful experiences and lasting memories is part of everyday life. Whether celebrating special occasions or heading out on community outings, there is always something to look forward



to.

If you are looking for a warm, welcoming place for yourself or a loved one, we invite you to come and see Craigweil House for yourself. We'd love to show you around.

Phone: 09 420 8277 - Happy Father's Day from everyone at Craigweil House!

Redefining aged care in Kumeu wine country



Finding the right care environment for a family member is less about choosing a facility and more about finding a true home. Located in our local wine country, Kumeu Village offers a refreshing approach to senior living, combining a relaxed, scenic setting with comprehensive medical support.

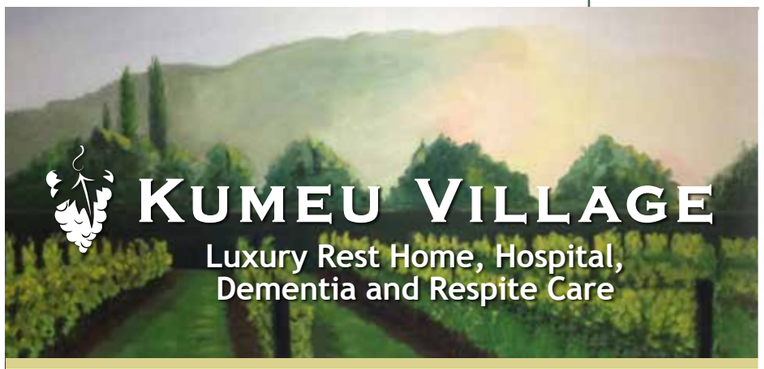
The philosophy here is simple: residents should maintain their independence, stay connected to their families, and keep their beloved pets by their side. The beautifully landscaped grounds and social spaces are designed to encourage active, fulfilling days, fostering genuine connections and daily laughter among neighbours.

As care requirements change, Kumeu Village adapts. By offering a complete spectrum of services – from rest home living and hospital support to specialised dementia care – the village ensures a stable, lifelong journey. Residents never have to face the upheaval of moving to a new facility when their needs increase. Instead, they receive high-standard clinical care from the familiar team they already know and trust.

It is a community built on dignity, comfort, and peace of mind, proving that specialised care can feel entirely natural, welcoming, and complete.

We would love to show you around and let you feel the vibe for yourself. To make sure we can give you our full, undivided attention, we ask that you book a time to come in for a conversation and a look around. That way, a member of our team will be completely free to answer your questions and chat through the best options for your family.

Get in touch today to set up your visit by calling 09 412 9112 or dropping us an email at info@kumeuvillage.co.nz



Nestled in the heart of Kumeu wine country, overlooking Kumeu River Winery and surrounded by picturesque grounds, Kumeu Village is a rest home with a difference. We don't just care for our residents – we're on a mission to provide a true home, rich with experiences and companionship. Kumeu Village is a vibrant community where our residents can live active and varied lives with autonomy and dignity.

Weekly Activities include...

- Singalong Tuesdays - Live music
- Fish & Chip Fridays followed by Happy Hour - Live music
- High Tea Sundays - Live music
- BINGO fun
- Cardio Drumming
- Monthly Church Service
- Van trips

Resident First – Raising the standard of aged care

507 SH16, Kumeu (entry 50m along Old Railway Rd.) | **www.kumeu.co.nz** | **09 412 9112**








Grey Power backs prostate health campaign

Grey Power New Zealand is backing a nationwide campaign encouraging men to take a proactive approach to their prostate health, while calling for progress on a prostate cancer screening pilot supported by both major political parties.

The Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand's "Just a Tick - It could save your life" campaign, supported by All Blacks coaching legend Sir Steve Hansen and comedian Te Radar, encourages men to ask their doctor about a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test.

Grey Power New Zealand President David Marshall says the campaign delivers a simple but important message, particularly for older men who may be inclined to put their health concerns aside.

"Too many men are reluctant to talk about their health or seek medical advice until something is wrong. This campaign is a timely reminder that taking a small step now could make a significant difference to their future health and quality of life.

"Prostate cancer is the most diagnosed cancer in men. It affects thousands of New Zealanders and their families every year. With around one in eight men expected to develop the disease during their lifetime, it is an issue that deserves greater awareness and open discussion."

A PSA blood test measures the level of prostate-specific antigen in the blood. An elevated result does not necessarily mean a man has prostate cancer, but it can indicate that further assessment may be warranted. The test cannot diagnose cancer on its own, and decisions about testing should be made in consultation with a health professional.

Marshall says the campaign also highlights the importance of men looking after themselves for the sake of the people who depend on them. Marshall says Grey Power also welcomes the commitments from National and Labour to support a prostate cancer screening pilot, following their leaders' statements during the election campaign.

Image credit Saad Ali at Unsplash



Waitakere Grey Power



Waitakere Grey Power recently invited representatives from six political parties to members Q&A Forum at Te Atatu South Community Centre. In recent months, there has been public discussions, namely:

Superannuation: need for clear public policy statements on intergenerational sustainability and affordability of superannuation.

Housing: A significant number of elderly people rely on private rentals, making survival on superannuation difficult. There is a need for social housing for the elderly and policies that help downsize to release larger family homes for families.

Healthcare and aged care: rising costs of residential care, the difficulty of finding available aged care placements, and the need for better support for independent living at home. Cost of living: high power bills and living costs are affecting health, leading to increased hospitalisations especially with weather events.

New guidance to GPs on the role of cognitive testing in senior driving licence renewal - older drivers can expect to see a shift away from routine screening for cognitive impairment when attending fitness to drive assessment.

Ministerial Advisory Group report on Aged Care: Aged care reform plan to strengthen home-based care, improve respite and support for family carers, expand rehabilitation and recovery services, improve information sharing and strengthen the aged-care workforce.

Auckland Council's 2026/2027 policy for the postponement of rates payments: help residential ratepayers to defer the payment of rates by using the equity in their property. Grey Power recommends speaking with a financial advisor prior to committing to this process.

It has been a challenging year for most residents and seniors.

Do come to our fortnightly 2nd Wednesday coffee chat session at 10.00am at The Alderman café, Henderson. Our contact number is 09 838 5207, and email address is waitakgp@xtra.co.nz

Our evolving Facebook page and website:

https://www.facebook.com/share/1Xi2Bsaf3v/

https://waitakeregreypower.co.nz/

Take care. Vincent Naidu President – Waitakere Grey Power Association



Health & Beauty

When skincare stops being enough



You have tried the cleanser, bought the serum and followed the routine. Yet the redness keeps returning, the breakouts persist, or the pigmentation barely shifts.

It is easy to assume you just haven't found the right product yet. But sometimes, the next step is understanding what is happening beneath the surface.

Skincare has an important role in keeping skin healthy. However, there are limits to what products alone can achieve. Persistent concerns may need a diagnosis and a treatment plan that goes beyond the bathroom shelf.

For example, skin that seems "sensitive" may have an underlying condition such as rosacea. Breakouts in adulthood deserve proper assessment, just as they do in teenagers. And pigmentation can have different causes, which influence how we approach treatment.

Adding more products can also make things harder to untangle. Strong exfoliants, multiple active ingredients and frequent changes may leave skin irritated, making it difficult to know what is helping.

At Restore Cosmed, we are a medical skin clinic with a skin health first approach. We begin by understanding your concerns, then assessing your skin and diagnosing any underlying conditions. Combining the expertise of our doctor and skin and laser therapist, we offer a 360-degree approach to your skin health and goals. Together, we build a plan that addresses underlying causes and supports lasting skin health and confidence.

Sometimes, the most useful recommendation is a simpler routine. Sometimes, it is recognising that a skin condition needs medical care. Any treatment should have a clear purpose, with realistic expectations about what it can achieve.

If you are spending more on skincare but still feeling frustrated, it may be time to pause the product hunt and seek advice.

Understanding your skin is a good place to start.

Restore Cosmed. www.restorecosmed.co.nz

RESTORE COSMED
SKIN AND MEDICAL
www.restorecosmed.co.nz
contact@restorecosmed.co.nz
20 Matua Road, Huapai.

Whāia te Oranga: Hauora (health and wellbeing)



How hauora is woven into West Auckland's bilingual units.

"Kaiako (teachers) are expected to deliver hauora on top of everything else, without specialist training or dedicated time."

That's the gap Christian Curtis, Systems Innovator at Healthy Families Waitākere, sees in West Auckland. In bilingual units, where tamariki learn in te reo Māori and English, grounded in te ao Māori (Māori world-view), kaiako are already carrying a full kete (basket) of language revitalisation alongside the curriculum. "That absence has been pronounced," he says.

At Rānui Primary and New Windsor School, kaiako and whānau (family) set out what would help. "They told us during wānanga (workshopping) they wanted deeper whānau engagement, consistent access to wellbeing opportunities, and sustainability through local capability building," says Curtis.

Whāia te Oranga was built from that. Local practitioners now bring mau rākau (traditional Māori martial art), kī-o-rahi (traditional ball sport) and mauri tau (the development of a balanced and calm state of being) into the week for more than 150 tamariki, working alongside kaiako and with whānau.

Early signs are positive. Ruka Rangi (Ngāti Tūwharetoa me Te Rarawa), Team Leader of Te Whānau Puāwaitanga at New Windsor School, says tauira (students) are more settled and engaged, whānau are seeing changes at home, and kaiako report increased confidence and capability.

The kaupapa (initiative) runs through 2026, with a sustainability model in development. The Kindness Institute's Brady Polkinghorne looks further: "We hope this initiative opens up the conversation about what hauora in bilingual units could look like across the motu."

Whāia te Oranga is delivered with The Kindness Institute, Taukoea Limited, Toi Mauri Ora and Kī-o-Rahi Tāmaki Makaurau, and supported by Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa (Sport NZ) and the Education Partnership and Innovation Trust. For more information visit www.healthyfamilieswaitakere.org.nz

Christmas hair appointments



Christmas is just around the corner, and now is the perfect time to secure your hair appointment at Zash Hair!

The festive season is always one of our busiest times of the year, with appointments filling up quickly as everyone gets ready for Christmas parties, family celebrations, work functions and those well-deserved summer getaways. If you want your hair looking fresh, fabulous and feeling its best, we highly recommend booking your appointment ASAP.

Whether you're after a fresh colour, beautiful highlights, a stunning cut and style, or simply want to refresh your look before the celebrations begin, our team at Zash Hair is here to help you feel confident and Christmas-ready.

Don't leave it until the last minute! Our December appointments are limited, and once they're gone, they're gone. Booking early means you can secure your preferred day and time without the stress of trying to find a last-minute appointment.

Book your Christmas hair appointment now!

Let's get your hair looking gorgeous, glossy and ready to celebrate the festive season in style.

Zash Hair – your Christmas hair starts here.



Symmetry in Motion Equine



Always a joy to assist horses and humans fine release and ease.

Thank you for the review.

A HUGE thank you to you, my lovely, for coming out today and driving in this dreadful weather. You have no idea how incredibly grateful I am! I feel so relieved and also so blown away with the amazing healing you did today, it was divine (name) looks much happier and so am I. Thank you, thank you, thank you! I would love another session please when you are free. It's an absolute pleasure to meet you, you are a very gifted and beautiful soul xx

You can get in touch via mob on 027 866 2500

or email freya@symmetryinmotion.nz

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freya@symmetryinmotion.nz
www.symmetryinmotion.nz

Ask Dr. Heather



"Our wedding is in March and I want to look my best. When should I start having treatments?"

Anon, Riverhead

Congratulations on your Wedding! Such an exciting time. The best time to start planning treatments is now. Wedding planning is like having a dress fitted: you would not arrange the final fitting on the morning of the wedding, because alterations need time, just as cosmetic treatments need time to settle.

Botulinum toxin results usually peak around two weeks, however it is best to have your initial treatment four weeks before the wedding in case any top-ups are needed. Dermal filler results take six weeks to settle, so allow at least six to eight weeks beforehand.

Skin treatments need more time because they are planned as a course, rather than one appointment. Sculptra®, Profhilo®, NCTF®, microneedling and chemical peels take time for their full effect to be visible. If improving skin quality is your priority, plan treatments four to six months ahead.

The fortnight before a wedding is no time to experiment. I would not introduce a new peel, a first retinoid or a facial that promises to transform you overnight as these can be sensitizing to your skin, which can cause redness, peeling or swelling.

So, book the consultation once you have the wedding date, so you can formulate a sensible treatment plan. The aim is not to adjust things until last minute; it is to arrive at the wedding looking rested and completely yourself, with everything settled long before the photographs begin.

Dr. Heather Anderson is a Cosmetic 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 you would like answered anonymously, email askdrheather@allor.co.nz



A little starstruck: Poppy's shoes steal the show



It seems optometrist Matthew Whittington has found someone who appreciates his footwear as much as his patients do – his brand-new granddaughter.

Molly captured this adorable moment when baby Mabel lifted her little head during tummy time, apparently captivated by the sight of Poppy's spectacular shoes. Forget rattles, mobiles and brightly coloured toys. Who needs baby entertainment when there's a pair of shiny shoes, complete with gold-trimmed toe-caps and studs, sparkling right in front of you?

We had to laugh as we imagined what's going through her tiny mind. Is it the dazzling shine? The golden details? Or is she already wondering whether Poppy's shoes come in a smaller size?

At For Eyes Optometrists many of our patients have commented on Matthew's distinctive footwear over the years, and it appears his reputation for stylish soles is now reaching the next generation.

Did you know, our For Eyes site was originally a shoe shop? Long time residents might remember the shoe shaped sign on the verandah roof. So perhaps it's fitting that the optometrist's shoes do occasionally attract more attention than his spectacles.

Nevertheless, at For Eyes, we take looking after your eyes seriously, so whether you're due for a routine eye examination, need help choosing new glasses, or simply want to see what all the fuss is about, we'd love to see you.

Come into For Eyes, Kumeu Shopping Village, 90 Main Rd, Kumeu – and see if you can resist slipping a glance at those shiny shoes.

Book online or phone 094128172



Area Columnists

A busy month of milestones for the Northwest

By Cameron Brewer

Recently, I helped to cut the ribbon on Tranzit Group's new electric bus depot in Whenuapai. Tranzit are the contracted providers for the WX1 bus service into the central city which is enjoying huge patronage. The biggest news, however, is that the dedicated $4.9 billion Northwest Busway has secured fast-track approval!

It was exciting to join our Minister of Education Erica Stanford last month and visit Whenuapai School. She has announced another 10 replacement classrooms, a library, and resource space for the popular primary school next to airbase.

Thanks also to Tuia Waitakere (formally Sport Waitakere) and others here in the Northwest for helping to get my lifejacket bill passed into law.

For two years, I pushed compulsory lifejackets for Kiwis on boats less than six metres, after years of confusion, regional variation, and ultimately skipper discretion deciding.

When my Member's Bill was drawn last year, it implicated kids under 15, but I publicly pushed that most fatalities were middle-aged men! When I became a Minister, I passed the bill onto Hon Shane Reti who finished the job with all Kiwis on small boats compelled to wear lifejackets. Last month, the new law took effect!

Another recent highlight was visiting West Auckland's first ever intensive care unit (ICU) and the now operational 30-bed general medicine ward, Karekare Ward.

Earlier, Waitakere Hospital's stunning facilities were officially opened by Health Minister Simeon Brown. It was a real privilege to then join CEO of Well Foundation Ruth Morse and very generous Westie philanthropists, Jeff Douglas and Pat Heron (pictured). The new additions are an amazing outcome!

To contact my electorate office, please email: upperharbouroffice@parliament.govt.nz



Inclusive beats music & market fest



Saturday 14 November - 12pm-4pm- free entry

A community celebration of inclusion, featuring live bands and DJs, food vendors, Christmas market stalls, giant games, face painting and raffle prizes. A great family outing supporting disability inclusion.

Rifle Range Amphitheatre, Hobsonville

Hon Cameron Brewer MP for Upper Harbour

UpperHarbourOffice@parliament.govt.nz
(09) 416 3249
15/102c Hobsonville Rd, 0618

Stay in touch!

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



Critical risks



Identifying critical risks is becoming essential for small PCBUs, as the proposed HSW Amendment Bill changes how risk duties apply. Under the new framework, small PCBUs are only legally required to manage critical risks. Anything they classify as non-critical falls outside their statutory obligations. This makes the act of identifying critical risks not just a safety exercise, but a legal threshold that determines whether a PCBU must act at all.

If a small PCBU misclassifies a hazard – for example, treating a serious manual handling risk, a fatigue-related hazard, or a violent-behaviour risk as "non-critical" – they may unintentionally expose workers to harm and themselves to reputational or contractual consequences. Larger PCBUs sharing the workplace may also be forced to absorb unmanaged risks, creating tension, cost shifting, and compliance gaps. In short, accurate identification protects workers, maintains commercial relationships, and ensures the PCBU can demonstrate due diligence.

Securo Ltd's new system directly supports PCBUs in navigating this higher-stakes environment. The system provides a structured, evidence-based method for identifying critical risks using consistent criteria aligned with legislative definitions and industry best practice. It guides PCBUs through likelihood and consequence assessments, flags hazards that may meet the "critical" threshold, and highlights areas where cumulative harm or foreseeable serious incidents could occur. This reduces subjective judgment errors and ensures classifications are defensible if questioned by regulators or business partners.

By combining clear criteria, automated prompts, and expert-informed risk logic, Securo's system helps small PCBUs confidently identify their critical risks – ensuring compliance, improving safety outcomes, and preventing harmful blind spots.

Contact Securo Consultant John Riddell securo4@securo.co.nz or check out our website www.securo.co.nz



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

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



www.securo.co.nz 0800 55 33 44

securo

Advice from teenage climate activists



As a parent of teenagers, I've often found it hard to talk about climate change. Is it best to avoid the topic, and let them enjoy their young lives?

Through my work, I recently heard a panel of young people speak. Smart and articulate, they told us clearly what they expect from the adults in their lives. Their messages are worth sharing:

Don't say "It will be up to your generation to fix this mess."

The young people explained it is not fair to make it solely their responsibility. They want us to work on solutions together.

Don't "sugar-coat" what is happening.

They have access to the same information as we do, they do not want to be protected from the truth, and they want honest conversations.

"Show us what YOU are doing".

They want to see us taking action, whether it's voting for a party with strong climate policies, buying an EV or installing solar, planting trees, saving energy and water at home, or eating less meat.

"Support us to do what we want to do."

These young people want adults to support them to take action – whether it be going to protests, writing to MPs, becoming vegetarian, or joining a group of activists.

Do say "We can build a better future together".

They said this makes them feel like adults have their backs, and are hopeful.

Climate change is here, and our kids will live with it for a lot longer than we will. It's also an opportunity for generations to work together to make a better, more sustainable world.

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Distance Families



Thanksgiving, far from home

A few years ago, I visited my daughter and her family during November, when they were living in Bangkok. She had made many expat friends, quite a few of them American, and when Thanksgiving came around, we were invited to join a gathering.

Everyone made a wonderful effort to recreate this quintessential American celebration – albeit in Thailand's steamy, tropical heat.

A turkey was acquired at considerable expense, and we watched as a young couple nervously carved the bird while following a YouTube "how-to" video. I suspect Mom back home had always taken care of that job.

National celebrations, whether it's our Matariki public holiday or Australia's Melbourne Cup, can become important anchors for people living both at home and far away. They provide a connection to familiar traditions, a sense of belonging and, perhaps most importantly, to others who understand what those traditions mean.

My same daughter now heads to a Kiwi-run pie shop in Atlanta, Georgia, on ANZAC Day. She isn't pining for home. Rather, she is embracing all parts of her identity, relishing the opportunity to chat with others who share a Kiwi accent – and devour a meat-and-cheese pastry delight.

Here in New Zealand, many Americans will celebrate Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 26. In the U.S., it is a major public holiday. Here, it's a regular workday, making it a little more challenging to recreate the celebration. And when it's the 26th here, it's still the 25th there.

If you know someone from America, perhaps take a moment to acknowledge Thanksgiving. Being asked about a "home" tradition can mean a great deal when you're living on the other side of the world.

And what happens the day after Thanksgiving?

Black Friday.

Thank you, America, for giving us this new "holiday" tradition.

Helen Ellis 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', 'Being a Distance Son or Daughter' and her latest edition, 'Being a Distance Grandchild'.

E-scooters hit the cycle lanes



New rules were recently applied to e-scooters, affecting where they can ride and how road users must share the space. Aucklanders are being urged to scoot smart, cycle carefully and keep an eye out for each other as the new road rules have come into effect.

New cycle lanes have recently become a feature of many roads in this area. The new rules allowing e-scooters to use the cycle lanes have given riders greater certainty about where they can ride and making the rules easier for everyone to understand. While many Aucklanders will have welcomed the introduction of e-scooters into cycle lanes, it also means that everyone needs to be aware of their surroundings and show a bit of courtesy, says Veronica Lee-Thompson, Auckland council's special operations manager, Licensing and Environmental Health.

"Whether you're driving, cycling, scooting or walking, taking a little extra care, slowing down and looking out for one another can make a real difference. Everyone has a part to play in keeping Auckland's roads and paths safe."

The rule changes are a positive step for people using e-scooters and other forms of micromobility. E-scooters are a convenient, affordable and low-emissions way to get around Auckland. The new rules make it clearer

where e-scooters can go, but the basics of safe riding haven't changed. Wear a helmet, give pedestrians plenty of room, use your bell when passing and, importantly, never drink and ride.

With more people using different ways to get around Auckland, the message from the council is simple: know the rules, keep your eyes open and give each other a bit of space. A safer road is one where everyone – whether they're behind the wheel, on two wheels or on two feet - looks out for everyone else.

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Wanted: ideas to reduce climate impacts



Got an idea that could help your community tackle climate challenges, and cut emissions? Auckland Council wants to hear about it.

Applications for reducing our climate impact opened on 12 October 2026, as part of the next round of the Te Ara Urutau Climate and Emergency Ready Fund. This funding round makes $380,000 available to support community-led projects focused on reducing Auckland's climate impact. The fund is part of Te Ara Urutau, Auckland Council's flagship community resilience fund, which supports projects that help communities respond to climate change and prepare for future challenges.

Whether it's helping people get around differently, using a lower carbon footprint, connecting communities to adapt to climate impacts, supporting communities to prepare for emergencies, or finding new ways to cut emissions, Aucklanders know best how to support one another. Te Ara Urutau is about giving those ideas a helping hand. Don't assume your project is too small. Some of the biggest changes start with a handful of people deciding to do things differently.

Last year, the fund supported over 70 projects across Tāmaki Makaurau, from emergency preparedness initiatives and climate adaptation planning through to emissions reduction projects led by local organisations and community groups. The fund is open to all groups with a climate-related solution. You don't need to be a climate scientist to apply.

The first funding round, Reducing our Climate Impact, opened on 12 October and closes on 16 November 2026. Funding decisions will be announced in March 2027. A second funding round, focused on Community-led Adaptation and Emergency Preparedness, will open in January 2027 with $1.4 million available.

So, if you've ever thought, "someone should do something about that", this could be your chance to be that someone. For more details, visit aucklandclimateaction.nz

Kauri seedlings return to their ancestral roots



Nearly 2000 kauri seedlings have been planted across five sites in the Waitākere Ranges, representing a major milestone for the protection and restoration of one of Auckland's most treasured forests.

The seedlings were propagated from seeds collected from healthy kauri in the Waitākere Ranges as part of the Healthy Trees, Healthy Future programme led by Scion (scionresearch.com) now part of the Bioeconomy Science Institute Maiangi Taiao . The seedlings were then carefully nurtured at the institute's Rotorua nursery before being returned to their ancestral home.

Kauri dieback has been one of the biggest threats facing New Zealand's forests including the Waitākere Ranges in recent decades. The pathogen attacks kauri roots, preventing the trees from taking up water and nutrients. There is no known cure, and the pathogen can be spread through contaminated soil.

The work in the Waitākere Ranges, undertaken in partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki and with methods that respect the rāhui placed over the forest by Te Kawerau ā Maki in 2018, includes upgrading tracks to kauri-safe standards, installing and improving hygiene stations, monitoring and surveillance, scientific research, public education, compliance and closing high-risk tracks. Auckland Council and Te Kawerau ā Maki have also worked together on long-term kauri health monitoring.

The Waitākere Ranges Regional Park contains one of the region's largest remaining areas of indigenous vegetation and is home to a significant population of kauri.

The return of the seedlings does not mean the threat of kauri dieback is over.

Protecting healthy kauri, reducing the movement of contaminated soil and maintaining kauri-safe practices remain critical to the future of the forest.

The return home to Te Wao Nui o Tiriwā is a significant milestone. Safeguarding these iconic trees supports the long-term health of the ngahere (forest) for future generations.

Massey Birdwood Settlers and city impact gift shop



The City Impact Church runs annual Christmas Gift Shops as part of its Community Impact initiative to provide free Christmas presents to families and households in need.

The hall will be once again hosting the event on 28 November.

The last time the event took place, Massey saw lots of vehicles around the local streets.

What the Christmas Gift Shop offers

-Free Christmas Presents: Attendees and registered households can choose free gifts for themselves and their families while stock lasts.

-Broader Support: Part of a seasonal outreach that also includes community dinners, blankets, pajamas, and the "Here to Help" programme (which offers meals, clothing, household essentials, and car seats).

How to get help or refer someone

-Complimentary Service: The programme is 100% free.

-Eligibility: Open to families, grandparents raising grandchildren, the elderly, and disabled individuals who need a helping hand across various regions (including Auckland areas from Dairy Flat to Papakura, and Henderson to Eastern Beaches, plus select South Island locations).

-Referrals & Contact: You can submit a request or find details via the City Impact Church Community Impact Referral Page.

-Get Involved: Donations of gifts or volunteering to help stock and run the shops are coordinated directly through the City Impact Church Community Initiatives Portal.

If you would like to hire the hall for your event, email John Riddell at masseybirdwood@gmail.com. Please provide your physical address, your phone number, who the event is for and what it is for, and the date and time you would like to hold the event.





What do you remember about Harold?

For generations of West Aucklanders, Harold the Giraffe brings back fond memories of school days in the mobile classroom. Many remember the excitement of stepping aboard, the lessons that stuck with them long after primary school, and of course, the twinkling stars on the classroom ceiling.

Life Education has been helping young people learn and grow since 1987. While the technology and learning experiences have evolved over the years, Harold's message has remained the same: every person is unique, everybody is magnificent, and everyone deserves respect.

Today, Harold is still visiting schools across West Auckland, helping children learn about health, wellbeing, relationships and making positive choices. Each year, Life Education Trust Auckland West works with thousands of local children, supporting them to build confidence, resilience and the skills they need to thrive.

One of the most rewarding parts of our work is hearing from adults who remember Harold visiting their school decades ago. Many are now parents themselves, watching their own children meet Harold for the first time.

What do you remember about Harold?

Was it the mobile classroom? The stars on the ceiling? A lesson that changed the way you thought about something? Or simply spending time with the world's most famous giraffe?

Whatever your memories, Harold is still out there, helping the next generation of West Auckland children learn, grow and thrive.

About Life Education Trust Auckland West is a charity, delivering health and well-being education programmes to thousands of children across West Auckland schools each year, supported by Harold the Giraffe. www.haroldthegiraffe.co.nz



Te Manawa during November



Getting ready for Kirihimete/Christmas

At Te Manawa this festive season, we're inviting our community to come together to support local whānau and celebrate the spirit of giving.

Te Manawa's Kai and Toy Drive starts on the 18th of November and runs until the end of December. Donations of non-perishable kai and new, unwrapped toys will help local organisations support families and individuals in need during the holiday season.

Join us again on the 5th of December for our Christmas Catch-Up in the Square at Te Pūmanawa Square, outside Te Manawa Community Hub. Enjoy a free day of festive fun featuring live music, workshops, games, face painting, and activities for the whole whānau.

We look forward to seeing you there and thank everyone in advance for helping make this festive season brighter.

Regular programming

Our preschool programmes continue, so be ready to wiggle, giggle, and dive into stories together.

Wriggle & Rhyme Tuesdays at 10:30am (term time only)

Rhymetime Wednesdays at 10.30am (term time only)

Storytime Fridays at 10.30am (term time only)

Digital Drop-In Mondays 10:30-12pm

Need help with your personal device? Drop in to our sessions with a tech query for one-on-one digital coaching.

BrainCharge

First Tuesday of the month 11:30am-12:30pm – our next session is on the 3rd of November.

Specially created for adults, BrainCharge is all about boosting brain health, building connections and supporting mental wellbeing.

Home book delivery

Our delivery service caters to people who are unable to visit a library due to mobility, access, or other special circumstances. Volunteers deliver library items to your home.

For vulnerable people in need of reading material but unable to visit the library, we can help. To request a home delivery, phone 09 377 0209.

11 Kohuhu Lane, Westgate, Auckland aucklandlibraries.govt.nz

Discoverers church counts down to christmas



Discoverers informal church focuses on Christian faith which is relevant in today's world. We have an informal format of faith, food, fun and friendship with a strong focus on community needs.

We have continued to connect with the community with an all age Kites and Community programme on 1 November in conjunction with Connected Neighbourhoods Trust.

The highlight of our community events will be:

· The Children's Christmas Gift Decoration Workshop Sunday 6 December 3.30pm to 5.00pm at the Sunderland Lounge Cinema Road, Hobsonville A fun afternoon of children of all ages. We had 100 attend last year's event-shown in the photo.

· Community Carols BBQ Sunday 20 December 5.00pm – 6.00pm at the Catalina Room (or on the deck, weather permitting) Headquarters Building 214 Buckley Avenue, followed by a sausage sizzle and shared dinner.

With so many expensive events challenging family budgets, this Christmas we're very pleased to offer these free events to our community.

Discoverers informal church meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month at the Headquarters , 214 Buckley Terrace Hobsonville Point from 3-30pm to 4-30pm. All are welcome.

For further details contact Richard Small.

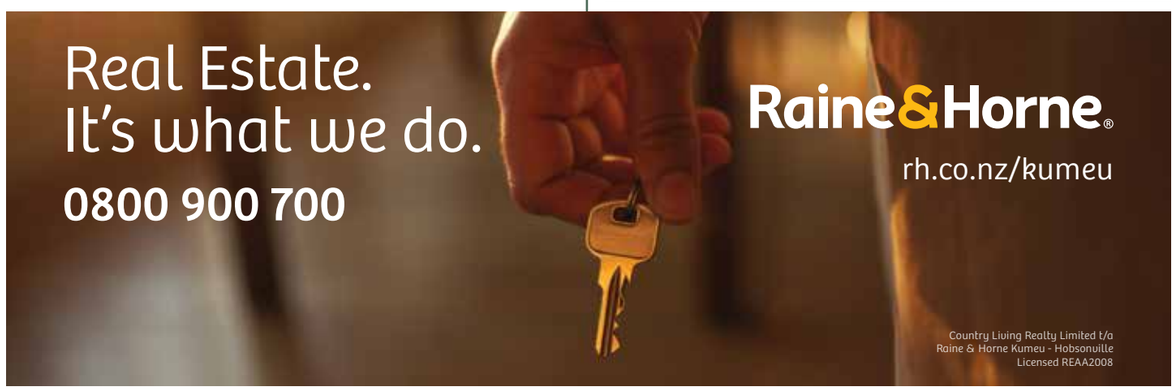
Email richard.sm@methodist.org.nz or phone 021 385-748.

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Find a home you'll love

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

Our two and three bedroom homes have been thoughtfully designed with seamless indoor–outdoor flow, leading to a covered patio or balcony with stunning views of all the action at Te Kori Scott Point Park or out to the beautifully landscaped gardens.

- **Brand-new homes priced from $745,000*.**

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





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