

Onerahi Orbit

Free to you from the Onerahi Community Association

April & May 2021

Whangārei Heads Arts Trail 2021

Easter Saturday and Sunday, 3 & 4 April

The Whangārei Heads Arts Trail has become a fixture on the calendars of art-lovers from far and wide over the past decade - artists from Onerahi to Whangārei Heads open their studios and community spaces every Easter to show and sell their fabulous art - a great time to get family and friends along, meet artists, see their creative spaces, and discuss their work: from ceramics to photography, painting to jewellery, metalwork to hot glass - and perhaps take home a special treasure.

Maps for the trail will be available, and all Arts Trail participants will be well signposted for visitors.

After COVID cancelled last year's event, the Arts Trail team set up an online Browse and Buy page on their website for members to show and sell their work - do check this out.

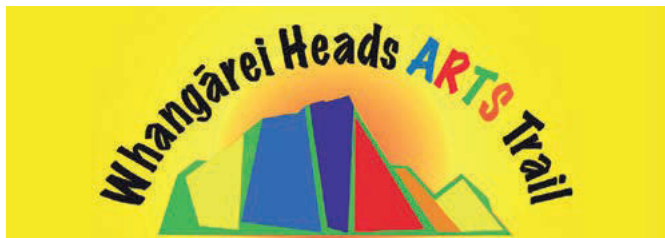
New local artists and artisans are always welcome: please get in touch to join the database for future events.

Also, check the Facebook page and website for the latest information.

Facebook - Whangarei Heads Arts Trail@whangareiheadsartstrail

Website - <http://www.whangareiheadsartstrail.org.nz/>

Email: jolene@creativenorthland.com



Fountain - Jeanette King



Drawing - Zoe Watson



Pottery leaf - Sheila Blackburn



Painting - Viv Ross

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let's go with Jo

Joanne Stevens

The advertisement features a woman, Joanne Stevens, smiling and wearing a colorful patterned jacket. She is standing in front of a scenic view of a lake and rolling hills. The RayWhite logo is in the top left corner. The phone number and email address are in the bottom left. The text "let's go with Jo" is written in a cursive font, and "Joanne Stevens" is in a large, bold font at the bottom right.

Haere mai,

Welcome to the first Onerahi Orbit of 2021 - the year is well into autumn already with shorter days, falling leaves, and daylight saving ending soon.

Our community's response was tested on 5 March with the tsunami alert, and although the event turned out to be minor, Civil Defence kept us informed and everyone did the right thing to stay safe.

This issue of your magazine is full of amazing people and events in our community - our schools, clubs, arts community, environmental groups, churches, Government and Council representatives and

workers, neighbours, and local business people - every single one striving to do their best - thank you all.

One way you can have your say in the region's future direction is by making a submission to Northland Regional Council's Long Term Plan on what projects and areas our rates are spent on - submissions close on 16 April.

Check out the dates on the back page for what's coming up, and let us know if there's anything you would like us to include in the next issue. We want to print your stories, so if you have something to share, please contact the Editor by phone, email, or Facebook at the addresses below.

Nga mihi from the Orbit team.

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<https://www.issuu.com/onerahiorbit>

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Editor: Heather Bell 027 421 7849
Email: onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com

Advertising: Shona Beeston 027 654 3999

Design: Megan Lavin-McIsaac 022 641 9786
Email: graphics@megatype-publishing.co.nz

Accounts: Rose Tantau 438 5499
Email: ccoca@xtra.co.nz

Deliveries: Bob Smith 436 3681

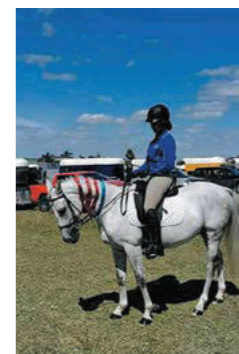
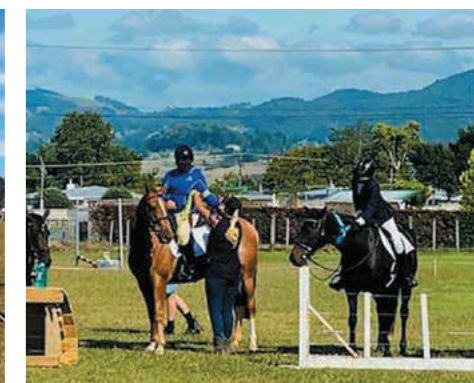
Parahaki Pony Club Ribbon Day

Sunday 21st February was a beautiful day; perfect for our Club's annual fundraiser. We had a great turnout of over 80 riders and their families.

The tombola was so popular that it sold out within two hours, everyone walking away with a smile.

We can't thank our local Onerahi and Whangārei business sponsors enough for their generosity in donating prizes for this, and the show rings.

Emma Costello



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REQUIRED!**



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To comply with NZ Trading Laws, there will be some restrictions on goods available and opening hours over the Easter break.

School News

Raurimu Avenue School

Our start of this year has been a busy one. We were straight back into it, with offers of activities right away. We have had the Bike Ready programme, senior students have started Technology classes, our beekeepers were back, and we have also started sailing with Sail Northland. These sessions each week have resulted in very excited tamariki who at first were unsure what to expect and have now flourished in a couple of lessons and cannot wait for the next week to come around.

We have even bigger plans for our gardens this year,

starting with installing a watering system reusing rainwater, and have planted crops that were nurtured over the summer holidays and will be harvested alongside our Matariki celebrations. These gardens also support our cooking programme.

Our only sadness for the new year was losing our beloved Principal to greener pastures. We will have a new Principal at the start of Term 2 to carry on with our vision and values. Until then our Deputy Principal leads us.

Acting Principal, Moutini Bryers



Onerahi School

Kia ora whanau! As I write this I'm supported by the sound of children swimming in the school pool, the gentle hum of cicadas, and peals of laughter from the courts. Onerahi School is at its best in these moments, with children engaged in rich and varied learning. It also helps when Northland's weather flips the coin and it comes up sunny.

Last year we went through a review and refresh of our strategic plan (please see the overview on this page.) This involved consulting with many different groups of people, such as our students, whanau, community groups, local kaumātua, learning professionals, and other schools. What came out was a clear direction for the school. With a focus on hauora (wellbeing) and developing Onerahitanga (the Onerahi way of doing things) we know that our school will continue to meet the needs of our learners.

A key part to developing Onerahitanga and a localised curriculum (what and how we learn) is connecting to the past, present, and future of our area. Trips are planned and if you feel you have a story or place to share, please make contact at the school either by coming and meeting kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) or by phone.

On our next update we will have children weigh in on their experiences, including some of their photography that captures a child's eye view of Onerahi School. From everyone here we wish you safety and success. Kia ora!

Deputy Principal, Danny Hamilton

ONERAHI PRIMARY SCHOOL
TOGETHER WE SHAPE OUR FUTURE

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Meet a Local: New World's James Varcoe



Onerahi firefighter Jeff Pipe with James and Claire Varcoe, New World owners

Last December Onerahi firefighter Jeff Pipe asked me if I'd like to write about local New World supermarket owner, James Varcoe - every Christmas James donates a pile of goodies to the community. He hands them over to the Onerahi Firefighters, who drive Santa around the district in the fire truck on Christmas morning, delivering surprise gifts and treats to people who might otherwise miss out.

New World also supports Food Rescue Northland by donating food and diverting what might otherwise go to waste:

"Anything that's good to eat, we'll give at Christmas," says Varcoe. "As well as food, other donations include beanies, socks and gloves - anything that will make people's lives a little easier."

"We are a small community - there are only two local schools, and we know the kids who come in not wearing any shoes, or the families who are really struggling. We want to make a difference, and support the community that supports our store."

This caring attitude is typical of James - last year during lockdown he constructed an overhead shelter so that people social-distance queuing outside the supermarket didn't have to stand in the sun and rain, and more recently during the tsunami alert the New World team provided sausages and bread to people taking refuge at the Fire Station.

James's first supermarket job was at Eastridge New World in the butchery department, aged 15. After seven years in several departments he left for a career in commercial law. But his love of the supermarket world drew him back - he missed the pace, variety, and interactions with people. His plan was to eventually own his own store. After a few more years of supermarket experience and operator training in Auckland, James found Onerahi New World was for sale, so he and partner Claire moved to Whangarei, and realised James's dream of becoming owner-operators of their own supermarket.

Heather Bell

MP for Whangārei: Emily Henderson

Kia ora koutou, Onerahi! Let me start my first column for 2021 by wishing everyone a happy Easter. 2021 has already had its difficult moments thanks to COVID, so I hope you all have a proper break. To those of you who will work through, my sincere thanks for helping to keep us all going.

The Government is working hard to raise living standards and my colleagues and I, pictured here checking out the Onerahi Secondhand Goods shop, have been building partnerships and gathering local knowledge about how best to achieve change for Northland.

Many Whangārei schools are already benefiting from the free lunches in schools programme. Teachers will be noticing more concentration from kids, and parents are already noticing the difference in food bills. By June, all Whangārei schools will see the rollout of access to free period products, so our young women don't miss out on education due to what is a normal part of life for half of humanity. Removing these barriers to education is an important milestone in building a better future for our kids.

Housing is another complex issue, but we are making progress. In January we announced that Northland is a priority area for new state and transitional housing, and that by 2024 the total number of state houses here will have grown by 688 since 2018.

Our private building sector is also surging, with the highest ever number of new homes consented last quarter, and a record number of jobs in construction currently offsetting the impact of COVID-19.

However, recent community cases, and changes in alert levels, are strong reminders that we all need to continue to play our part to keep COVID at bay. While vaccines offer much hope, and it's great to see them rolling out to our fantastic border workers, it's vital we all follow the Alert Level Rules and continue to do our bit for our precious community. If you are a business affected by COVID-19, don't forget there is financial support available. Learn more at covid19.govt.nz.



There is so much work to do, and our new team is raring to go in our Bank Street office. Call, email, drop in, or come to one of our community hui, including our Onerahi Hui on 24 April at the Onerahi Community Hall, we'll be there after the markets from 2 - 4pm. Hope to see you there.

Emily Henderson, MP

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MP for Whangārei

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GP Shortages in Whangārei



Primary care is recognised as the best place for us to make future health interventions that will actually shift the dial. Primary care includes GPs, nurses, pharmacists, iwi providers, NGOs and many other highly skilled community-based people.

For many years now it has been known that we have an aging GP workforce with indications that 50% of GPs over 50 will retire in the next five years. Whangārei is not immune to the GP shortage. Our local workforce is now very stretched and still recovering from the coronavirus front lines last year. Our border settings also add challenges. Normally we would be able to recruit overseas doctors to relieve the pressure and fill some of the gaps, but our border and immigration settings have mostly closed that avenue.

The most obvious sign of stress on the GP system is the difficulty people have in enrolling with a general practice, with sometimes only one or two practices taking enrollments. The perfect storm has come together with an aging workforce, border closure to locums, and more people in the fastest growing region in New Zealand.

Last year we put forward a proposal to train doctors like they do in the US and parts of Australia: that is, they are already graduates who then receive their medical training, turning out high quality medical graduates three years earlier than currently. This, and the accelerated development of nurse practitioners, would help with a system that will soon be asked to undertake the biggest vaccination roll out ever. They deserve our thanks and support.

Dr Shane Reti, MP
National Party Deputy Leader



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Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade Round-up

From 1st December to the end of February we were called out 29 times.

A brief overview...

- False alarm to a motorcycle accident, Raurimu Ave at 1 am.
- Oven fire, Ross Street.
- Medical call, Manganese Point Road.
- Reports of a fire in hotel (false).
- Ute rolled over, Whangārei Heads Road.
- Vegetation fire at Scott's Road.
- Drowning incident, Tamaterau.
- Fire reported, Hodgson Street.
- Meter box fire, Commins Road.
- Animal rescue (cat up tree), Hodgson Street.
- Smoke visible at Parua Bay (nothing found).
- Car vs house, Cypress Gardens Place.
- Vegetation fire, Pataua South.
- Rubbish fire, Grahamtown Road.
- Rubbish fire, Friendship Place.
- Smoke alarm sounding, Arawa Place.
- Car rolled, Whangārei Heads Road.
- Alarm sounding, Parua Bay shops.
- Alarm in building, Town Basin.
- Medical call to boat ramp, Parua Bay.
- Fire at Raurimu School.

- Smell of burning in house, Manganese Point Road.
- Fire on beach causing concern, Tamaterau.
- Hodgson Street, smoke in vicinity.
- Car rolled, Church Street.
- Car rolled (on roof in middle of road), Parua Bay.
- Fire in backyard, Clotworthy Crescent.
- Fire reported at Pataua (was a camp fire).
- Fire in vicinity, Johnson Street.

During the above period there were a few days of Restricted Fire Season in place (fires require a permit), but that very quickly moved to a Prohibited Season (no fires at all with minor exceptions). Calls to smoke or fire seen is often just that. Might not be out of control but they simply are not allowed, and with good reason. The formula that determines the fire season, while complex, is accurate.

It is frustrating to see that fires still get lit, or people somehow think it won't apply to their fire. We have repeat offenders.

Some fires are allowed. A hāngi (cultural) for example but that doesn't mean open licence. Measures must be in place (available and ready) to stop any fire spread. One of the above fires started with a hāngi.

All said, the call numbers are actually down a bit on recent years over the same period. This summer was a bit cooler and some rain fell so that may have played a part. But for all those who do follow the rules – thank you.

Onerahi Fire Brigade Chief Fire Officer, Mike Chubb



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Onerahi's Volunteer Firefighters: Steve Balks



I've been an active volunteer in the Onerahi Fire Brigade since it was established in September, 1998. A group of us turned up to training not really knowing what we were in for, and here we are 22 years later, still growing a healthy and much needed community service.

When we first began, our volunteers trained at the Whangārei Station. After completing our training

we had to find somewhere to house the fire appliance as a location for a new station hadn't been secured yet. During the initial training it was housed at the Whangārei Station. When we were deemed ready one of our members who had an aircraft hangar offered it as a temporary measure to house the appliance at night. When responding to a fire call, we had to first get the appliance out and re-secure the building. Quite a rigmarole, often with the first to arrive missing the truck while they re-secured the building. This so-called temporary arrangement lasted just over four years until the new station was finally built at its current site.

My family has lived in Onerahi for 34 years and we love it here. My interests in fishing, diving and spending time at the beach with my family have kept us close to this area.

Raising our two girls and belonging to the Fire Brigade meant many fun days and activities which were shared with the other Brigade members and their families.

To date, five original members remain actively involved, supporting new and younger firefighters coming up through the ranks. I feel very proud to be part of a team that helps and supports our local community.

Onerahi Fire Brigade Senior Firefighter, Steve Balks

Steve is an inaugural member of the Brigade. He has for many years been our most involved member. No matter what we did or the extra training offered Steve was always the first to step forward.

During last year's lockdown he kept us greatly amused with daily postings of staged photos of how he was passing the time.

No party is complete without someone being the life of it; Steve certainly filled that position.

Onerahi Fire Brigade Fire Chief, Mike Chubb

Northland Regional Councillor, Amy Macdonald



Kia ora koutou, I hope 2021 is treating you all well! At the NRC it's a busy time of year, with staff out monitoring on farms and in our forests, wetlands, rivers and coastal environments. From checking water quality at swimming spots and measuring river flows to killing pests and protecting rare species, the work NRC does is interesting and important. If helping protect our environment sounds like a good job for you, then keep an eye on the NRC website for job vacancies - there are new opportunities coming up regularly.

In addition to the work NRC does, a huge amount is done by Northlanders who put time and effort into their own local environmental projects. As a chance to celebrate and say thank you to these champions, we have our annual Whakamanawa a Taiao Environmental Awards. We are seeking 2021 nominations now, closing in early April, so if you know a group doing good work for the environment please put them forward. One of last year's winners was Dragonfly Springs Wetland - a great project restoring wetland biodiversity here in Onerahi and protecting Whangārei Harbour from sediment.

Planning ahead has been a big focus of Council workshops for several months; we have now prepared a draft Long Term Plan (10yr plan) for our communities to consider and provide feedback on. It sets out

proposed work priorities and essentially plans how we spend your rates over the next decade. We want the plan to reflect what is important to the people of Northland, so please take some time to check it out and let us know what you think. There are options for online feedback on the NRC website, and there will be face to face events too (COVID permitting).

As always, I'm happy to hear from you if you have questions or issues you'd like to raise - amym@nrc.govt.nz, or find me on Facebook: Amy Macdonald - NRC Councillor

*Nga mihi,
Councillor Amy Macdonald
Northland Regional Council*

*Disclaimer - this is my personal opinion and not that of the Northland Regional Council
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Tenants

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Migrant Connect

TOPICS: Te Taitokerau Community Law presents on NEW tenancy rights

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WHEN: Thurs April 8 10am - 11.30am

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NRC predator free project staff

Predator Free Whangārei Progress Update

A great deal of work has been happening behind the scenes over recent months and we're excited to be building up our project team to help deliver on this mahi!

Our current focus is to engage with mana whenua and the 1845 landowners in the Whangārei Heads area, to make sure they're fully informed about the project and how they can be involved.

A community information session is planned for Wednesday 21st April at the McLeod Bay Hall.
Drop in any time between 5.30 - 7.30pm.

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We are just about mid-term of this Council and what an eventful one to date.

Council has signed off our LTP (ten year plan) consultation document and it is not too late for you to get involved and put in submissions to Council. What are your thoughts on an Onerahi bypass? It's in the plan. What about an extension to the riverside beach development with high amenity value? More parking in the village?

Passing lanes on the Heads road? I hope many of you have attended public meetings and put forward your ideas.

COVID-19 has had a big impact on many of us. Councillors are very conscious of the effects COVID has had on businesses and individuals and we are doing our best to address this issue. Everything we do at Council needs to be well considered and balanced. To keep business and employment up, Council embarked on bringing forward a number of projects already in our long term plan, to help stimulate the economy; some projects funded in part by Government subsidies.

Major developments are underway at William Fraser Park on Pohe Island - new and exciting cycling tracks, a new skateboard park, the completion of the Northland Rugby

building, this on the area that previously was our district's tip. Previously I was Chair of Council's Works and Services Committee that closed the landfill down and had the vision to create this wonderful recreation area alongside the very successful Hatea Loop Walkway.

Driving over Te Matua a Pohe Bridge you will see the massive new lights installed at Semenoff Stadium. This along with a big screen, upgraded speakers in the stand, field drainage works, and changing room upgrades, will see Whangārei ready to host next year's Women's Rugby World Cup games. We are the only provincial region in NZ to host games.

Early this term I was asked to form a committee with our local hapu to allow for better decision making for Māori. Now I chair the Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum Standing Committee of eight Māori reps and eight Council reps including our Mayor and Deputy. This is working well, with the members committed to advancing relationships and priorities. This before the Government confused everyone with their announcement on Māori wards. Council will now be undertaking a representation review.

Water reform is seriously being considered by Government. This is a major concern to Councillors as your Council has provided an excellent water (drinking) supply, storage dams, and upgraded treatment plants, with a \$30m plant nearing completion at Whau Valley. I feel we are being forced into a Northland Unitary Authority with this and we will be asked to subsidise others.

Thank you for this opportunity to report to you. Keep well, and enjoy our great district and country.

Whangārei District Okara Ward Councillor, Phil Halse
cr.halse@wdc.govt.nz

Book review

Whangārei. A photographic journey through Whangārei and its glorious coast by Alan Squires

Reading this book reminded me of the title New Zealand Artist Colin McCahon gave to one of his Northland panels - 'a landscape with too few lovers'.

"I've spent many a day on the sand at the height of summer and not seen a soul, and I like that." says Squires.

There are only a handful of distant figures in these stunning landscapes, though there are quite a few birds. The photographs are a mix of black and white and colour images that capture the drama and beauty of Northland's coastal and rural scenes. Alan's artist's eye and connection to the land shows in each careful image, timed to capture the light, the mist, the mood.

Squires has been immersed in photography since before he took his first photograph aged six. His father loved photography, and through him Alan knew the work of New Zealand's great landscape photographers. Not fond of the darkroom and chemical developing processes Alan says he only dabbled in photography, until he later discovered the immediacy of digital photography, and was hooked.

"What really kick started my photography was a desire to celebrate Whangārei's landscape environment in a way that had not really been achieved before."

The map at the front of the book is a nice touch, as is the author's use of local printers for the limited print run of 200 hand-bound copies, most of which are sold. See details of where to buy on alansquires.co.nz. Copies are also available to borrow from Whangārei Library.

Heather Bell



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Predator Free Onerahi builds new connections, expands network

Plans to build predator defences around Onerahi are ramping up following the latest steering group meeting for Predator Free Onerahi.

Tiaki Whangārei identified Onerahi as an ideal location to become predator free because as a peninsula it can be defended against reinvasion, and there are already strong community efforts underway to tackle predators. There are also significant areas of forest around the suburb, meaning the conservation outcomes for biodiversity would be very high.

Following the second steering group meeting last month, action plans are underway to increase traps in green areas throughout the community and also increase the number of backyard traps in the suburb.

Tiaki Whangārei coordinator Dai Morgan says an important aim of the project is to connect Onerahi residents to their local environment. Research has proven that when people contribute to environmental projects (such as predator eradication), it makes them feel part of a worthwhile cause, especially when the outcomes result in more native biodiversity:

"With support from the Department of Conservation in Whangārei and Tiaki Whangārei, we are making more traps available at no cost throughout the Onerahi community to build 'clusters' of backyard traps so we can start creating safe havens for native birds and other species. This is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbours by setting traps together and seeing the direct result of your efforts as native bird numbers grow around the suburb."

Onerahi residents Peter Maguire and Agnes Hermans have lived in the same home for 33 years and Agnes says joining the Predator Free Onerahi project has given them a chance to connect with a wider group of neighbours.

"It's given us a great opportunity to connect with neighbours we hadn't yet met, through a community project and shared interest."

"Conservation brings real value through sharing and our collective efforts really do make a difference," says Agnes. *"It's*



A group of dedicated volunteers

great to swap notes and data with neighbours to find out what they're noticing. It ultimately means we can work at a much bigger scale and really make a critical difference.

"There's a lot of untapped potential with Predator Free Onerahi because a lot of people aren't yet aware of the project and they don't realise it's so simple to get started. It's easy to use the traps and it's great to be a part of the collective community effort."

A plan is being put in place to establish bait stations in Onerahi's green spaces like parks and reserves, and Whangārei District Council has given approval for the first targeted areas around the Onerahi Scout Den and the Waimahanga Track, with signage and information to ensure visitors are aware of the traps. The project will also link in with the work being done by the Friends of Matakohē Limestone Island to build a mainland 'buffer zone' to help protect the predator free island.

Predator Free Onerahi needs support from the community for its vision to be realised. Anyone interested in getting involved with the project, either by setting up a backyard trap, joining the steering group, or sharing information through businesses or community clubs, can contact info@tiakinawhangarei.co.nz or via the Facebook page TiakiWhangarei

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Onerahi to Sark Jules' (mis)adventures Part 2: Bloody freezing week 1

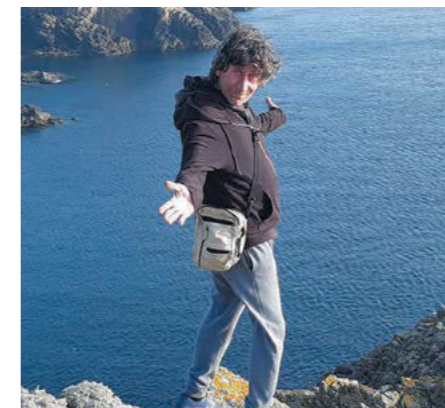
It's my first week at La Sablonnerie and I'm settling into my groove. I share my cottage with Sergi who is usually called Barcelona because, hmmm, he's from Barcelona, but I like to call him Serge, and Nick the gardener from Sussex. Nick can't understand why we have to have guests staying at La Sablonnerie because they walk on his manicured lawns and their children ruin his precious bedding plants when they retrieve their balls. We are three of only a handful of staff because it's winter and the rest of the staff will arrive just before April 25th, the start of the summer season. As time goes on I look upon this date with anticipation and then dread.

Back to my first week. My day starts at 8.00, but I'm the lucky one as the others start at 7.00. I work 6 days a week and they work 7....for a pittance. At 10.00 Serge cooks us breakfast, which is whatever can be taken out of the freezer or a tin; bacon, sausages and hash browns and usually baked beans. This is a girl who likes her home made muesli and yoghurt, so I started a mental shopping list for myself. No greasies for this girl. Serge eats in his room as he and Nick don't get on. Nick hates all foreigners who don't speak English well and while Serge speaks English, it's not good enough for Nick. I will come to learn that Nick also has an anger problem. So Nick and I eat breakfast listening to the BBC music quiz. Serge cooks us more greasies for lunch using the same criteria as for breakfast. Note to self, put lentils and greens on the shopping list. We do our own thing for dinner, thank goodness, but as I didn't know this, I have no provisions. Can't wait to get to the general store.

Simple, isn't it, go to the general store. Or go for a coffee. But not in the winter on Sark. I learn that on my one day off (Sunday) the general store is only open until 1.00 and there are NO cafes open in the winter. My backup plan was to go over to Guernsey on my first Sunday, get off the island, wander around the shops, feel normal and free. Ferries don't run on a Sunday in the winter. Things are starting to look a bit grim.



Nick the gardener




Serge

And it's bloody freezing. I am not allowed a heater in the office as electricity is so expensive, so I wear thermals, top and bottom, a thick coat I had bought in London, a hat, scarf and gloves, 2 pairs of socks and tramping boots.

Elizabeth has this deliberately annoying habit of coming into the office just before I finish at 5.00 to set me a task which she needs done immediately and will take at least an hour. After the 4th day I was finally able to say no as I'm out for a run. It's dark by 5.00, but I HAVE to get my running shoes on, along with thermals, beanie and head torch. I pass the same person with her dog each evening and say hi. Maybe we will become friends? (We do). My running route is 8km from one end of the island to the other and back and it's the best thing. It's keeping me sane on Planet Sark. (I've come to think that I am the only sane person at Sablonnerie and that's a scary thought).

Bloody freezing week one is over and I'm determined to dig deep into my resilience. This is not going to beat me. I'm a kiwi from Onerahi after all.

Jules Urbahn



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Tech Advice: How Important is Your Data?

Throughout 20 years working with computers and in the IT industry, the common thread with my clients is that nobody realises how important their data is, until they can't get it back.

We forget so quickly that our computers or electronic devices don't last forever, and we assume that because we have had them for five years without problems, our data should still be fine. This is not always the case, and it is typically when we are unable to recover something that we realise how sensitive our data storage is.

What is "data"?

Your data could be anything from your photos, Word documents, spreadsheets or even your emails or personal family tree. There are many options now out on the market for backing up your important information, from Cloud-type storage (Apple, Google, Microsoft or various other providers), to an external device (NAS drive, USB stick, hard disk drive). All options have a cost and have various positives and negatives, such as Internet speed and the amount of data that needs protection.

If you have questions about your data and protecting it, talk to your local helpful IT person, not to a salesperson, as there are many possible options that could be applied to your situation.

A 64GB USB memory stick costs approximately \$50. Only you know how much your data is worth.

Vince Cocurullo, WDC Okara Ward Councillor



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The Local Property Market

You're probably well aware of what has been happening in the property market in the last ten months. If not - here's a quick recap:

March 2020 - COVID hits and the country goes into lockdown. House sales almost entirely stop for April and May. After lockdown the Government announces new low interest rates. These, combined with the pent-up demand from the two "missing months" causes huge demand. Prices trend upwards (the median house price in Onerahi for all of 2020 was \$525,000 - an increase of 21.8% over 2019 - beating the national median increase of 15.3%). Demand outpaces supply (fewer houses available) and days on market reduces as the available homes are snapped up.

Phew! Now that you're up to speed, where are we now? The picture hasn't changed a great deal. The property market is still running hot and buyer demand continues to outstrip supply.

What next? Over the next few months we should see if the new LVR (loan-to-value ratio) lending rules have any effect to slow down purchasers - particularly investors that now have to come up with a 40% deposit. This recent change may help to cool buyer demand, but it is a little too early to tell. Interest rates are likely to remain low for the foreseeable future, which will continue to stimulate buying activity.

If you are entering the market, here are some thoughts to consider.

First home buyers: start by getting your financial "ducks in a row". Before you begin shopping, speak to your lender or mortgage broker about what you can borrow. As I write, banks are experiencing huge demand, and getting a loan application processed is often taking more time than usual. Don't be caught short - start this process early. This is particularly important if you want to attend an auction - you need to be approved for finance before you set foot on the auction floor.

Moving: if you are moving - consider selling first, then buying. I realise this is not an option for everyone, but some vendors are receiving multiple offers for their properties. If you can be "cash, unconditional" you may give yourself an advantage when buying your next home.

Vendors (sellers): is your home suitable for a first home buyer? If so, consider a go-to-market campaign that will allow time for those buyers to arrange finance (see above). Otherwise, ensure you have a comprehensive marketing campaign that will reach every available buyer. Even in a "hot" market, you want as many people as possible to see your property.

If you have any questions related to real estate - get in touch by text, email or calling. All conversations are treated with strict confidentiality.

Neil Campbell, Bayleys Real Estate



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MARKET REPORT
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Source: REINZ

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- Easter Sunday – dawn candle procession – 6.30am, 4th April
- Te Ra Aranga – Easter Sunday Communion – 9.30am, 4th April

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Sail Northland - Term 1 on the Water



Breakaway Holiday Programme

We are back into another busy first term, after holding three successful Break-Away school holiday programme weeks over the summer break. This Government-funded Kiwi Sport programme is free to youth in the community.

Our Term 1 sailing courses include Junior, High School, and Adult sailing. New to our programme this term was the Adult Sail Faster Programme where we partnered with the Whangārei Cruising Club Trailer Sailer Group.

We have had a lot of interest and bookings from schools for our Have A Go days, including far away schools like Waiotira and Hikurangi. We are looking forward to Whangārei Heads School attending for the first time this term.

Sail Northland is a provider of a newly launched Yachting New Zealand programme, Kokokohaha, where students explore theory and practical experiences of sailing.

Raurimu Primary School has been able to join us on Wednesday afternoons this term. A big thank you to the Onerahi and Whangārei Heads Lions Club for help with sponsoring Raurimu School and giving students the opportunity to try out this awesome sport and have fun out on the water.

A successful junior regatta was held in partnership with Whangārei Cruising Club in November, with sailors from Tutukaka, Kerikeri and Whangārei clubs attending. Conditions were very windy for some of our starting sailors, but everyone coped well; we hope to hold this regatta annually.

If you would like to know more about our courses, how we can best help you to participate in a course that suits your needs, or have any queries, please contact us at sailnorthland@gmail.com or visit our website.

High School Sailing

The weather was wet and we were definitely soggy when we got in, but it was a great start to Term 1 - thirty sailors on the water; it was good to meet all our new sailors.

Roger had our fleet sailors in the Fevas with the crews swapping in and out.

There were lots of good skills learnt with sailing around a course, windward leewards, some starts practice, and racing, and some fun picking up the balls out of the water.

Hana and the team did a great job with the team sailors. Lots of the new skills learnt last term and at our Kawau Training showed though. All ten 420s were rigged and

out sailing. They made an impressive sight with the mist hanging over Mt. Manaia in the background.

We had a great surprise of hot chocolate and delicious cheesy pasta when we came in off the water. Big thank you to Margi and Matilda, our Whangārei Girls' High School team managers, for the food. A big thank you to our instructors, Roger and Hana, and as always thank you to our loyal crew of parents, grandparents, teachers and volunteers.

Sarah Ihaka and the Sail Northland team



Freya Temple and three '420s' during High School Sailing

High Tide

WHANGĀREI

Lat. 35° 46' S Long. 174° 21' E

APRIL 2021

N.Z. LOCAL TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m
1	0514	0.4	9	0553	2.8	17	0503	0.9	25	0556	2.9
Th	1138	3.2	Fr	1148	0.9	Sa	1115	2.7	Su	1204	0.7
	1741	0.4		1815	2.7		1721	0.8		1827	2.9
							2338	2.8			
2	0008	3.2	10	0010	0.9	18	0544	1.0	26	0026	0.6
Fr	0604	0.5	Sa	0643	2.9	Su	1153	2.7	Mo	0650	3.1
	1228	3.1		1238	0.8		1801	0.9		1257	0.5
	1830	0.4		1906	2.8					1923	3.1
3	0100	3.1	11	0100	0.8	19	0019	2.7	27	0119	0.5
Sa	0657	0.6	Su	0729	2.9	Mo	0628	1.1	Tu	0743	3.2
	1319	3.0		1325	0.8		1236	2.6		1349	0.4
	1921	0.5		1952	2.8		1844	0.9		2016	3.2
4	0154	3.0	12	0145	0.8	20	0105	2.7	28	0211	0.4
Su	0652	0.7	Mo	0813	2.9	Tu	0717	1.1	We	0835	3.2
	1313	2.9		1408	0.7		1323	2.6		1439	0.3
	1914	0.7		2035	2.9		1933	1.0		2107	3.3
5	0153	2.9	13	0227	0.8	21	0157	2.6	29	0303	0.4
Mo	0751	0.8	Tu	0853	2.9	We	0812	1.1	Th	0926	3.2
	1410	2.8		1449	0.7		1417	2.6		1529	3.3
	2012	0.8		2114	2.9		2028	1.0		2159	3.3
6	0255	2.8	14	0307	0.8	22	0256	2.6	30	0355	0.4
Tu	0852	0.9	We	0930	2.9	Th	0911	1.1	Fr	1017	3.2
	1512	2.7		1528	0.7		1518	2.6		1618	0.3
	2113	0.9		2151	2.9		2129	1.0		2250	3.2
7	0358	2.8	15	0346	0.8	23	0358	2.7			
We	0954	0.9	Th	1006	2.8	Fr	1011	1.0			
	1616	2.6		1606	0.7		1624	2.6			
	2216	0.9		2226	2.8		2231	0.9			
8	0458	2.8	16	0424	0.9	24	0458	2.8			
Th	1053	0.9	Fr	1040	2.8	Sa	1109	0.8			
	1718	2.7		1643	0.8		1728	2.8			
	2316	0.9		2301	2.8		2330	0.8			

WHANGĀREI

Lat. 35° 46' S Long. 174° 21' E

MAY 2021

N.Z. LOCAL TIMES AND HEIGHTS OF HIGH AND LOW WATERS

Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m	Day	Time	m
1	0447	0.5	9	0611	2.8	17	0520	1.0	25	0000	0.7
Sa	1109	3.1	Su	1209	0.8	Mo	1129	2.7	Tu	0621	3.0
	1708	0.4		1839	2.7		1732	0.8		1230	0.5
	2343	3.2					2356	2.8		1900	3.1
2	0540	0.6	10	0033	0.9	18	0605	1.0	26	0056	0.6
Su	1201	3.0	Mo	0657	2.8	Tu	1213	2.6	We	0717	3.1
	1800	0.6		1255	0.8		1816	0.9		1323	0.4
				1925	2.8					1955	3.2
3	0038	3.0	11	0117	0.9	19	0042	2.7	27	0150	0.5
Mo	0636	0.7	Tu	0740	2.8	We	0653	1.0	Th	0811	3.1
	1256	2.8		1338	0.7		1301	2.6		1415	0.3
	1853	0.7		2007	2.8		1905	0.9		2048	3.3
4	0135	2.9	12	0159	0.9	20	0132	2.7	28	0243	0.5
Tu	0733	0.8	We	0820	2.8	Th	0746	1.0	Fr	0905	3.1
	1353	2.7		1418	0.7		1354	2.6		1506	0.3
	1950	0.8		2046	2.9		1959	0.9		2141	3.3
5	0235	2.9	13	0239	0.9	21	0226	2.7	29	0336	0.5
We	0832	0.9	Th	0857	2.8	Fr	0842	1.0	Sa	0958	3.1
	1454	2.7		1457	0.7		1453	2.6		1557	0.4
	2050	0.9		2123	2.9		2059	0.9		2233	3.2
6	0333	2.8	14	0319	0.9	22	0325	2.8	30	0429	0.6
Th	0931	0.9	Fr	0934	2.8	Sa	0940	0.9	Su	1050	3.0
	1555	2.6		1535	0.7		1557	2.7		1647	0.5
	2152	1.0		2159	2.9		2201	0.9		2325	3.2
7	0430	2.8	15	0358	0.9	23	0424	2.9	31	0523	0.6
Fr	1027	0.9	Sa	1010	2.7	Su	1038	0.7	Mo	1143	2.9
	1654	2.6		1613	0.8		1701	2.8		1738	0.6
	2251	1.0		2236	2.8		2302	0.8			
8	0522	2.8	16	0438	0.9	24	0523	3.0			
Sa	1120	0.9	Su	1048	2.7	Mo	1135	0.6			
	1749	2.7		1652	0.8		1802	2.9			
	2344	1.0		2314	2.8						

Information courtesy of LINZ • www.linz.govt.nz

ONERAHI COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sundays 10am Raurimu Ave School Hall

If you confess Jesus is Lord and believe God raised Him from death, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

Contact: hello.onecc@gmail.com - 021 023 897 01

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Hatea dredging barge at sunset. Photographer: Rose Tantau

Onerahi Gala Day 2021

Sunday 11 April, 11am - 2pm at Sherwood Park.
Please contact Bob Smith (09)436 3681, about stalls etc.

Whangārei Cruising Club Centennial late 2021

Enquiries to wccinc@xtra.co.nz

Coming dates & events

2 April	Good Friday
3 & 4 April	Whangārei Heads Arts Trail (see front page for more info)
4 April	Daylight Saving ends, 3.00am (turn clocks back 1 hour).
4 April	Easter Sunday
5 April	Easter Monday
11 April	Onerahi Gala Day, 11 - 2pm Sherwood Park.
16 April	Primary School Term 1 ends
16 April	Last day for submissions to NRC Long Term Plan
24 April	Onerahi Hui 2-4pm, with local MP Emily Henderson, Onerahi Community Hall
25 April	ANZAC Day
3 May	Primary School Term 2 begins
9 May	Mothers' Day
25 May	CollaboratioNZ open day, McGregor's Bay
29 May	CollaboratioNZ art auction, Forum North, Whangārei

Venues available for hire in Onerahi & Parua Bay area

Onerahi Community Hall & Community House	Julie Dennis	09 43 64439 or 021-034 9943
Onerahi Bowling Club	Roger Kerr-Davis	027 390 7185
Onerahi Rugby Club	Phiona Raymond	onerahirugby@yahoo.com.
Onerahi Soccer Club	Fiona Ellis	onerahifootballclub@outlook.co.nz
Hope Church	Secretary	09 43 81 667
Raurimu School Hall	School Office	09 43 60 820 Ext. 2
St. Stephen's Church Hall	Paul Doherty	021 189 4797 or 09 43 60207
Tamaterau Hall	Dorothy Gallan	09 43 63 093 or 021 190089
Parua Bay Comm.Centre	Kirsty	bjandkirsty@slingshot.co.nz
Taurikura Hall	Meg Mclsaac	022 641 9786

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