

# Onerahi Orbit

Free to you from the Onerahi Community Association

August/Winter 2025

Covering Onerahi, Parua Bay, Pataua and Whangārei Heads



Russell Primary School at Pirate Island, Dragonfly Springs Wetland Sanctuary, photo by Rose Tantau

Cohen Ace - our local Youth MP Pg 6 • Tokotoko - A Māori ceremonial walking stick Pg 10  
• An ANZAC Onerahi family Pg 18 • Wastewater challenges in Parua Bay Pg 23



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# Be kind – donate a blanket

**If you can't adopt a pound pooch but still want to do something to help, maybe you could raid your linen cupboard. The Pound Pooch team at our council's animal shelter are keen to receive donations of clean bedding (old blankets, quilts or towels) to keep dogs warm this winter.**

"We are running low on dog bedding to get us through the colder months," says a spokesperson. "We have exhausted our second-hand store sources, so we are reaching out to the public for donations of unwanted bedding. "Duvet covers (without inners), sheets, towels and blankets are all welcome. Please no loose woollens, feathers / fluffy duvet inserts, pillows or sleeping bags as they are dangerous for dogs if consumed. "Items that are ripped, stained or simply not your colour would be perfect!"

If you are looking for a new fur friend, or if you would like to supply some bedding to make life just that little bit better for a dog who is staying with us, please call the Animal Shelter on 09 438 7513 or visit at 26 Radiata Grove, Port Whangārei, Whangārei.

# Learn more about Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people whose primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. The people in the group share their experience, strength and hope with each other. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

There are no dues or fees for AA membership; each group is self-supporting through their own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; it does not wish to engage in any controversy, does not want to control or manage members in any way, and it neither endorses nor opposes any causes. AA does not keep membership files or attendance records. You do not have to reveal anything about yourself. No one will bother you if you don't want to come back. The focus is on helping those who have decided they don't want to drink, and AA avoids any opinion on anything else.

Most AA 'meetings' are open to the public, and those that are not open are flagged in all contact lists as 'closed'. In addition to online meetings (where you can pick days and times that suit you), in the Orbit's distribution area we also have two groups of open meetings - please arrive 10 minutes earlier if you are new to the group:

# Contents

Russell Primary School visit Dragonfly Springs ..... 1, 15  
 Be kind - donate a blanket ..... 2  
 Alcoholics Anonymous ..... 2  
 President's report ..... 3  
 Onerahi Orders of Merit ..... 5  
 Shout out to our school patrols ..... 5  
 Thank you Brent Mawson ..... 5  
 Cohen Ace - Local Youth MP ..... 6  
 Parua Bay Residents and Rate Payers association ..... 7  
 Changes to vaping laws ..... 8  
 Blossoms, bubbles and a touch of magic ..... 8  
 Remember the burning rules ..... 9  
 Rates rebate widened ..... 9  
 Walkers needed ..... 9  
 Tokotoko - a Māori ceremonial walking stick ..... 10  
 Thank you for your generosity ..... 10  
 Parua Bay School visits BHCT nursery ..... 11  
 Individualised tutoring ..... 12  
 Ray White provides ..... 12  
 Onerahi School report ..... 13  
 North Haven Hospice Art Auction ..... 14  
 Taimahi Trust wins Kai Ora Fund ..... 14  
 Hon Dr Shane Reti ..... 15  
 Native birds need our help ..... 16  
 Kauri dieback hygiene protocols ..... 16  
 Voting in the Māori Ward Poll ..... 17  
 IT Talk ..... 17  
 An ANZAC Onerahi family ..... 18  
 LIONS - Discover the joy of giving back ..... 19  
 Tsunami information ..... 19  
 Rates rise ..... 19  
 What is the youth action group? ..... 20  
 Out of the Ocean, into the Fire ..... 21  
 Faith for today ..... 22  
 Speed limit changes ..... 22  
 Emergency numbers ..... 22  
 Venues for hire ..... 22  
 Wastewater challenges in Parua Bay ..... 23  
 Regular and upcoming events ..... 24

Parua Bay: Mt Manaia Bowling Club Rooms, 1347 Whangārei Heads Road, Parua Bay on Mondays 7:30pm

Onerahi: Onerahi Community House, 130 Onerahi Road, Onerahi on Mondays 7:30pm

Find out more about AA on their website - <https://aa.org.nz/newcomers/faqs/> - and If you are struggling and can't find a meeting please call 0800 229 6757 or email AA on [help@aa.org.nz](mailto:help@aa.org.nz)



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

# President's report August 2025



## Matariki dawn celebration welcomes the New Year in Onerahi

As the first light of dawn broke through the still, misty air over Onerahi this morning, 18 June, around 100 people gathered quietly at St Stephens Church to mark the rising of Matariki and the beginning of the Māori New Year.

The 6:00am celebration, led with warmth and wisdom by respected kaumātua Fred Tito, was a moving time of reflection, remembrance, and hope. Held on the church grounds, the ceremony honoured the traditions of Te Ao Māori, acknowledging those who have passed and celebrating the renewal and promise of the year ahead.

Matariki, the cluster of stars also known as Pleiades, has long been a signal of harvest, remembrance, and renewal. This morning's observance at St Stephens was rich with karakia (prayer), waiata (song), and kōrero (reflection), drawing together whānau, community members, and visitors in a shared spirit of unity.

Despite the chill in the air and a gentle blanket of fog, the atmosphere was warm with connection. As Matariki appeared in the eastern sky, voices rose in song, hands held tightly in support, and eyes turned upward with gratitude and expectation.



Kaumātua Fred Tito reminded those gathered of the importance of honouring both the past and the future:

"He wā mō te whakaaroaro, he wā hoki mō te titiro whakamua – a time to reflect, and a time to look ahead."

Following the ceremony, many stayed

to share kai and kōrero, continuing the celebration in the spirit of kotahitanga (togetherness).

As Aotearoa embraces Matariki as a national holiday and sacred time, events like this morning's gathering in Onerahi ground the celebration in community, culture, and aroha.

Mānawatia a Matariki – Welcome the New Year.



## Sherwood Park upgrades

Recent upgrades at Sherwood Park have seen new bollards put up around the park and new tables and seats for parents to sit at while watching their children make use of the facilities. The new rubbish and recycling bins seem to be well used too - with many people finding them convenient. The basketball lines are on track to being completed in July, before the publication of this edition of the Orbit.

The improvements have enhanced the park, adding to the selection of facilities that will make it a more attractive place for people to come and connect with one another.



# OCA Committee elected at the 2025 AGM

**Grant Harrison** - President

**Dee Williams** - Secretary

**Rose Tantau** - Treasurer

**Nick Connop** - Vice President

**Wendy Giffin** - Committee Member

**Neil Pemberton** - Committee Member

**Nicki Powell** - Committee Member

**Heidyn Harrison** - Committee Member

**Sue Guiney** - Committee Member \* new 2025

**Melinda Leslie-Ogg** - Committee Member \* new 2025

Published in April, June, August, October, and December.

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Editor: Margie Kent  
 Email: [onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com)  
**Stories of 400 words or less are due for the next Orbit by 5 September 2025 - share your news by emailing Margie at [onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com)**  
 Advertising: Meg - 022 641 9786  
 Email: [onerahiorbit@megatype-publishing.co.nz](mailto:onerahiorbit@megatype-publishing.co.nz)  
 Design: Megan Lavin-McIsaac 022 641 9786  
 Email: [onerahiorbit@megatype-publishing.co.nz](mailto:onerahiorbit@megatype-publishing.co.nz)  
 Accounts: Rose Tantau 438 5499  
 Email: [ccoca@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ccoca@xtra.co.nz)  
 Deliveries: Allan Westlake 021 437 591

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## Onerahi Orders of Merit

The Onerahi Community Association has awarded Orders of Merit to two of our business community members in June 2025. The recognition went to:



James Varcoe



Elaine Bilski with Louise Taylor and Mary Jones



Steve Phillips

- James Varcoe, for his contribution to the community as the New World store owner - he focuses on the needs of the members of the community by supporting many individuals and other organisations.
- Elaine Bilski, for her contribution to the community as a store owner in the Onerahi Shopping precinct - she provides a second-hand goods sell and exchange service to the Onerahi Community. In the photo with Elaine are her shop workers - Louise Taylor and Mary Jones.

- Steve Phillips was also recognised as a Community Champion at the recent Onerahi Citizens Association AGM. Steve volunteers at Dragonfly Springs, and focuses on leading tour groups visiting the wetlands, so local children and visitors get an informed introduction to the wetland and are therefore able to develop an appreciation for it. Congratulations to all Order of Merit recipients.

## Shout out to our school patrols

Our school patrol students, at all our local schools, show outstanding youth leadership, and the Onerahi Community Association (OCA) believes their contributions merit recognition. School patrols play a crucial role in ensuring student safety by managing vehicle and pedestrian movement at pedestrian crossings outside schools. Each patrol duty is typically two students, one serving as the leader, together with a supervising adult. At Onerahi Primary School, approximately 40 students participate in the traffic patrols. Among them, Liam stands out as an exceptionally dedicated team member. Dee Williams, the OCA Secretary, has noticed that Liam is nearly always on duty after school.



Liam on school patrol, Onerahi Primary School

## Thank you Brent Mawson

The OCA extends our sincere gratitude to Brent Mawson for his dependable service in delivering Orbit magazines over recent years.

Brent has been an active community volunteer for a number of years. In 2021 he received the Onerahi Order of Merit for his work on the 'True Tales Onerahi' and 'More True Tales of Onerahi' books, his work for Onerahi Predator Free and his volunteering to assist the local Weed Groups.

As a valued volunteer for the distribution of the Orbit, Brent's reliability has been greatly appreciated, and he will be missed after his retirement from this role. Thank you for all your help Brent.



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# Cohen Ace - our local Youth MP



**Whangārei MP Shane Reti has chosen 16-year-old Cohen Ace, from Onerahi, as his Youth Member of Parliament.**

Youth MPs are student representatives selected to advocate for their communities and to debate youth-related issues at the Youth Parliament event. The programme runs from Monday 28 April to Friday 29 August 2025, and the two-day Youth Parliament event took place on Tuesday and Wednesday 1 and 2 July in the Parliamentary precinct in Wellington.

A passionate advocate and proven leader, Cohen was also the youngest ever Student Representative on the Whangārei Boys' High School Board of Trustees, a democratically elected office. Cohen graciously did an interview with the Orbit.

**What are your favourite local things to do?** One of my favourite things to do is head out fishing in the harbour at Parua Bay with my stepfather and grandfather. I've always been into fishing - it's something that brings me peace and keeps me grounded. Being out on the water with family is special, and it's one of the things that makes living in this area so rewarding.

**Is there anything about the Onerahi area or our people that you've noticed is special?** What stands out to me most is the strong sense of community. People genuinely care about each other. It's a smaller place where everyone tends to know everyone - and that builds a kind of trust and connection that's really powerful. I think we can use that community strength to do more for our local youth - whether it's mental health support, youth spaces, or simply being there for one another.

**Why did you decide to put your name into the ring to become a Youth MP?**

When I heard about the opportunity to become a Youth MP for Dr. Shane Reti, I knew it was something I wanted to be part of. I saw it as a real chance to give back to the community that's helped shape me, and to be a voice for other young people who might not feel heard.

**What messages are you most interested in highlighting at the national level?** I want to be an advocate for rangatahi who are struggling with mental health. Too many young people feel like they have to go through things alone, or don't know where to turn for help. I believe there's

so much more we can do in terms of accessible support, resources, and creating safe spaces for youth to speak up. I want to help build that change.

**As your community, how would you like us to support you?** Continue to be a caring and supportive community. Keep backing your young people, keep listening to their voices, and stand alongside those trying to make a difference. I'm proud to represent Onerahi - and I know that with your support, we can achieve some amazing things together.



# PBRRRA News- Parua Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association

Welcome to our PBRRRA update.

**Skatepark** - The skatepark is on its way- a karakia was performed by local iwi on Friday 27 June, prior to work beginning. For those not aware of this project, the new skatepark will be built on ground to the north end of the Parua Bay Bowling Club carpark. Thanks to Whangārei District Council, and a Lotto Grant, the park is able to take shape after a lot of planning by the local YAZ organising team (Youth Activities Zone). Bowling Construction have secured the tender for this project, and we look forward to seeing the ground work start, and having a great new facility for our local tamariki /rangitahi (and their parents) to enjoy for years to come.



**Parua Bay Sportsfield** - The winter sports season is underway, and it is great to see the sportsfield getting so much use. The picnic table is also proving popular with the supporters.

**Speed Limits within Parua Bay Village** - As you will have seen, the speed limits have been changed back to 50km through Parua Bay Village, except for the Variable Speed Zone outside the school, which will be set at 30km at times when school children are moving to and from the school - 8-9am, 2.30-3.30pm, 4.10-4.30 pm. Please drive safely through our Village, and be watchful for children crossing the road, even outside of these advertised times.

**Civil Defence** - As we are in the throes of winter weather, and power cuts and weather events are possible, please take

a few minutes to check on your Emergency supplies and Grab Bags. Have at least THREE DAYS worth of food and water on hand for the people and pets in your household; check your torch batteries, and have a battery operated radio in your kit, to keep up with Civil Defence or Power Company updates. Those power banks are a great idea too to recharge your phones if the power is down.

**Have your say...**

We are always keen to hear from Parua Bay locals about any projects they would like to see happen in our community. Please don't hesitate to contact us on [paruabayrra@gmail.com](mailto:paruabayrra@gmail.com)

*Nga mihi,*

*Contributed by Barb Green, PBRRRA Committee*



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# Changes to vaping laws

**Youth vaping in Aotearoa New Zealand rose dramatically following the arrival of cheap, high-nicotine, disposable vapes in 2019. We have among the highest youth vaping rates in the world – almost three times higher than Australia, Canada and the USA, with many young people who vape experiencing adverse physical and mental health outcomes, including addiction.**

New vaping laws took effect on 17 June, introducing measures to reduce youth vaping by limiting product visibility, tightening marketing rules, and ending the sale of disposable vapes.

Tight marketing restrictions and a point-of-sale display ban aligns with the parallel (and successful) tobacco control strategies; these measures are predicted to reduce youth vaping uptake, and support people's efforts to quit vaping.

A change to disallow disposable vapes addresses

environmental concerns, and removes youth-favoured products from the market, but the availability of low-cost reusable vapes may undermine the effectiveness of this measure.

If rigorously enforced, the new measures will reduce vapes' visibility and may denormalise vaping and reduce the availability of cheap vapes, likely reducing vaping uptake among youth. Furthermore, the new measures are likely to support the many people who regret starting to vape and want to quit.

Unfortunately, poor compliance by retailers is widespread, and poses a major threat to the effectiveness of these new measures. To make a complaint about specific retailers fill in the form at <https://info.health.nz/contact-us/make-a-smoking-or-vaping-complaint>

*Based on University of Otago Public Health Communication Centre, article 'Major vaping reforms: Will they deliver on public health aims?' 16 June 2025*

**SPONSORED CONTENT**

## Blossoms, bubbles, and a touch of magic: High tea at Flames Hotel

**Exciting times are brewing at Flames Hotel as their monthly High Tea series continues to delight guests with elegance, creativity, and irresistible treats. Launched on Mother's Day this May, the inaugural High Tea was a resounding success, with a charming Blossoms and Bubbles theme that set the tone for many memorable afternoons to come.**

Each month, guests can look forward to a new and whimsical theme - think Blue Belle, Midnight in Paris, and

Wonderland, inspired by Alice herself. These enchanting experiences offer more than just a meal - they're a feast for the senses.

For just \$69 per person, guests enjoy a beautifully curated selection of sweet and savoury delights, a choice of premium teas or barista coffee, and a complimentary glass of bubbles to toast the occasion.

Whether you're gathering with friends or treating a loved one, High Tea at Flames is the perfect excuse for an elegant afternoon out. For upcoming themes, dates, and bookings, visit the Flames Hotel website or check out the Flames Restaurant Facebook page.

Don't miss your chance to sip, savour, and celebrate in style!



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# Remember the burning rules

**In a typical year, roughly a quarter of all calls to the Northland Regional Council's 24/7 incident hotline (0800 504 639) involve complaints about burning and/or associated smoke nuisance.**

As shown on the map, much of the area covered by the Onerahi Orbit is in the Whangārei city airshed. People living within this area can only have open fires during the period from 01 September to 31 May, and only if the size of their property exceeds one hectare or if they have a resource consent.

They must ensure that they do not cause a smoke or odour nuisance outside their boundary.

Open burning at industrial or trade premises is not permitted and businesses breaching this rule are now more likely than in the past to receive a \$1,000 instant fine.

For people outside the Whangārei city airshed, open fires must not cause offensive or objectionable smoke or odour to neighbours; and the fire must not obscure vision along a public road.

For all open fires across the region, people are only allowed to burn untreated wood, paper, cardboard, or vegetation, and obviously cannot start fires during a restricted fire season or when fire bans are in place. General information on the rules around backyard burning is available at: [www.nrc.govt.nz/backyardburning](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/backyardburning)



Key: The orange area indicates the Whangārei city airshed which restricts burning activities

## Rates rebate widened

**More low-income and Gold Card-carrying homeowners may be eligible for a government rebate on their council rates this year.**

Changes to the thresholds mean some ratepayers who weren't eligible for a rates rebate in 2024-25 might be eligible in 2025-26.

As well as being available to more people, the rates rebate has also increased. Low-income ratepayers living in their own homes and paying high rates could be eligible for a rebate of up to \$805. Homeowners can check their eligibility and apply for the rebate after 1 July 2025. If you received a rebate in 2024-25, council should have sent you the 2025-26 application form by 20 July. Using this form will make the process easier.

Council is also asking Gold Card holders to include a photo of the back of their card with their application or to show us their card when they visit our offices.

Retirement village residents are asked to hold off on completing their applications until they receive their declaration from their retirement village operator.

If you need help with your rates rebate application, please contact Whangārei District Council staff on 09 430 4200 or 0800 932 463



## Onerahi Orbit magazine walkers needed

**Currently, our Onerahi Orbit distribution team includes 30 highly valued individuals responsible for ensuring we all get an Orbit magazine.**

We want to shout a huge THANK YOU to all our incredible community magazine volunteers! Your dedication in distributing the magazine each couple of months is deeply appreciated. Your efforts ensure that our community stays informed and connected.

We are seeking a few additional volunteers for deliveries within the Onerahi area. If you are able to assist, and would like to help build our community through the delivery of the magazine, please contact Allan Westlake at 021 437 591 or [allanwestlake2@gmail.com](mailto:allanwestlake2@gmail.com).



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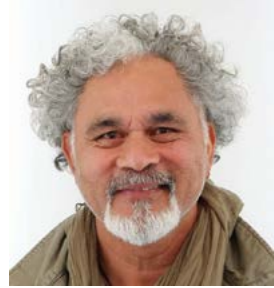
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Authorised by Amy Macdonald - [amymacdonaldpataua@gmail.com](mailto:amymacdonaldpataua@gmail.com)

## Tokotoko - A Māori ceremonial walking stick



**You may have noticed a vehicle sporting the name Tokotoko. You may have noticed that there's been a heap of ginger weed cut down along the Waimahanga, Waverley Tracks. This is the work of the team from Tokotoko.**

The tokotoko walking stick represents strength, authority and status; and is passed on to others in Māori Tradition. Isopo Samu (Samu), the Director of Tokotoko Solutions, dreams of being able to connect with people who need direction in their lives; and to offer them an opportunity to be supported through making changes in their lives. This has been realised through his creation of Tokotoko.

Tokotoko is physically located on Domain Street and Whimp Avenue in Onerahi. There's a lot going on behind the doors. Meetings, chats, negotiations, challenges and positive energy. Tokotoko works with the support of the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), schools, and Work and Income. Each cohort through Tokotoko brings a different set of needs and challenges.

### What Tokotoko is involved in

- Collaboration with MSD and Work & Income: Offering participants an opportunity to be work ready
- Education: Alternative education for young people challenged in the traditional system...providing a transition into education or employment
- Youth mentoring: One to one coaching and support

For the adults in the program who have been working so hard in our community to control our wild ginger, it starts with a referral to a seminar. Some 40 people are offered a 'ticket' to attend a seminar led by Samu. At the end of Samu's talk everyone is encouraged to apply for a 'job' vacancy. Out of all who apply only 10 are chosen. All 10 have to demonstrate a keen desire to change their lives and really offer determination to commit to the Tokotoko program.

The 10 people currently committed to the 5 month program have been VERY busy around Whangārei. You may have seen the difference that they are making at:

- Onerahi: in reserves, roadsides and tracks, the Community Gardens
- Maungatapere Wetlands
- Westland Hills above the Quarry Arts Centre
- Parahaki (trapping pest animals)
- Bream Bay coastal restoration
- Takahiwai Māori Community Marae and Gardens
- Ngururu Pukekopipi

**When you next see the Tokotoko team at work say "kia ora, thanks", and offer a big hello to them.**

## Thank you for your generosity Onerahi!

The Waimahanga and Waverley Tracks have benefited from an additional 55 donated Kahikatea trees, which are being planted by volunteers following the hard work done by the Tokotoko team in removing weeds in the area. The challenge will be to suppress weed growth in the future - to give our new forest a chance to grow as big as their ancestors nearby.

*Both articles contributed by Christine Stephenson, Onerahi Weeds Group*



An area of ginger that has been cut ready for new trees

## Onerahi Pharmacy

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## Parua Bay School visits BHCT nursery – Our biggest group yet!



**The Bream Head/Te Whara Conservation Trust is passionate about inspiring the next generation of environmental guardians.**

Our education programme is designed to give tamariki

meaningful, hands-on experiences in conservation. Over the years, we've enjoyed strong relationships with schools in the Whangārei region, some returning regularly. We encourage schools to stay involved with our programme, so students can strengthen their connection to the natural world over time.

In Term Two, we were thrilled to welcome our largest school group yet: three classes from Parua Bay School, with a total of 67 tamariki. It was a big undertaking and careful planning ensured the day ran smoothly. Our team of rangers and volunteers worked hard to deliver a variety of engaging and educational activities.

Students rotated through six stations, each offering a unique window into conservation work. Activities included seed sourcing, pricking out young seedlings and planting. They followed a predator trap line and learned about the importance of controlling introduced species. They made bird feeders, identified animal pests using tracking and other

clues, and learned about invasive weed species that threaten our environment.

These experiences give students a better understanding of how we protect and restore native ecosystems - and how they can help too.

We are incredibly lucky to have the support of Rupert Newbold, who generously allows the Trust to operate their nursery on his land. Rupert has also planted extensively on his own property, restoring natural habitat for native plants and animals.

Our rangers always enjoy sharing their knowledge with students and we were delighted to be joined by Zeralda from Enviroschools for the visit. Her support helped make the day even more meaningful.

Thank you to the teachers, parent helpers and of course the tamariki from Parua Bay School. Your enthusiasm and curiosity were a joy to see. We look forward to welcoming you back again!

Together, we are growing a community of young kaitiaki, helping to care for the future of Bream Head Scenic Reserve and beyond.



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### Boosting confidence through feedback and encouragement

NumberWorks'nWords believes feedback should do more than point out right or wrong; it should build confidence.

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Their tutors give clear, constructive guidance that helps children understand what they're doing well and how they can keep improving. Parents also receive regular updates and progress reports, so they always know how their child is tracking.

#### Learning in a supportive environment

A great tutor does more than teach; they connect. NumberWorks'nWords tutors build genuine relationships with each student, creating a safe and encouraging space where children feel comfortable asking questions, making mistakes, and celebrating progress. That trust can make a huge difference in how a child sees themselves as a learner.

#### Aligned with the classroom, focused on the individual

Their programmes support what children are learning at school, following the New Zealand curriculum to reinforce classwork rather than confuse it. This alignment means children feel more confident in the classroom and see how their hard work pays off.

#### Helping children grow - academically and personally

More than just improving skills, personalised tutoring can help build resilience, motivation, and a lasting sense of pride. From mastering tricky topics to putting their hand up in class, children will start to believe in themselves, and that's something worth investing in.

#### Ready to see your child thrive?

Book a free assessment today by calling 09 4381144 and discover how NumberWorks'nWords can support your child to grow in confidence, skills, and independence - in the classroom and beyond.

Mike Smith, NumberWorks'nWords



## Onerahi School report

Kia ora koutou,



As I write this, a cold winter's day is welcoming the last week of Term 2. Our Matariki celebration is approaching and we are looking forward to connecting with one another, reflecting on the past, and planning for the future. That also makes it the perfect time to reminisce and share stories from our recent adventures. Some of our lovely tamariki have written pieces that do just that. For this issue we have chilly tales from a midwinter swim and an exploration of art via a trip to Hundertwasser Art Centre.

Elise and Willow have thawed out enough to share this: *Splish, splosh, splash! The mid-winter swim was a great experience for everyone, as it gave us a chance to challenge by choice, and dive into some winter water that felt like you were inside a freezer. For those who did not hop in the water, they still had fun by looking under rocks for crabs, and climbing on the beautiful new playground. Watching each other swim was so uplifting!*

Harley and Jayden add: *My favourite part was definitely the playground where there was a pirate ship and people were playing tag and some people were playing a game that involved being pirates. We went in groups taking turns swimming, the water was very cold and the mud felt goeey and weird. I think I can speak for all of Room 3 and Room 6, because by the time we hopped in, it was like an ice bath but just many degrees lower! This experience was just breath-taking.*

From young artists Izzy and Luna we have this report: *This week our class went on a trip to the Hundertwasser Art Centre. Everyone going on the trip felt energetic for the interesting adventure. The bus ride was exciting and it was very tempting to push the red button that stops the bus. We resisted! First, we went to the Whangārei Art Museum. We created underwater scenes in the chalk room and built houses in the building room, which are both open 7 days a week. Best of all - they are free! In the Hundertwasser Centre, we started with a tour looking at his artworks and ended by making clay pots where we rolled spirals and connected them together. The whole class was tired but inspired at the end of the trip, even the teachers. 10/10 and we highly recommend going on this trip!*

With two terms left there are still many opportunities to be had. Thank you to our ākonga for taking the time to



Embracing the cold through a midwinter swim



The drawing room turns into an underwater world



Art enables students to find and lose themselves at the same time



Collaborative building in the construction room

share their experiences. We all hope that you have some adventures of your own lined up for the school holidays. Take care.

Ngā manaakitanga,  
Danny Hamilton - Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal

New Entrant to Year 11

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## Ray White provides Onerahi Playcentre with equipment

Onerahi Playcentre recently received a \$600 'We Can Help With That' grant from Ray White, which was used to purchase some great new outdoor equipment, including new tools for the workshop area. Drop in to visit the playcentre anytime during Onerahi Playcentre's sessions, which run Tuesdays and Fridays, from 9.00am to 12.30pm during school term time.



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# North Haven Hospice launches art auction to raise vital funds



North Haven Hospice is set to bring art lovers and collectors together for a significant fundraising event, hosting an Art Auction supported by Harcourts Whangārei. The auction will take place on Thursday, 14 August 2025, from 5.30pm at the North Haven Hospice Shop in central Whangārei.

Over the past 12 months, the art team at North Haven Hospice has been carefully curating a selection of rare and unique artworks from donations and estates, setting aside significant pieces for this special auction.

The auction will feature an exciting mix of sculptures - including works by acclaimed sculptor Kap Pothan - and a



strong array of early, modernist, and contemporary Northland art. Notable highlights include pieces by renowned artists Rei Hamon, Whites Aviation, Mahy Glass, and John Hoyte.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the community to support hospice services while also acquiring beautiful and significant works of art," said Murray from North Haven Hospice Shop. "We welcome anyone who has quality artworks they'd like to donate to contact us for an appraisal."

Funds raised from the auction will help North Haven Hospice continue providing vital care and support to families and whānau, throughout Whangārei and Northland

For more details about the event, visit [www.northhavenhospice.org.nz](http://www.northhavenhospice.org.nz).

Contributed by Arama Gummer, Events & Fundraising Administrator, North Haven Hospice

# Taimahi Trust wins Kai Ora Fund

Whangārei's Taimahi Trust has received a boost from the 2025 Kai Ora Fund for their herbarium. The herbarium program has expanded Taimahi's model, with interconnected social enterprises providing free, immersive, on-the-job training. This has built on the existing retail and kitchen programs, where trainees develop soft and practical work skills in the central Whangārei Taimahi Fresh+ store and commercial kitchen.

The intention of the herbarium program is twofold - for Taimahi trainees to learn horticultural and other soft skills, and to create a supply of herbs that can be used in the Taimahi kitchen and made available to the community at affordable prices



One of the trainees, Sweetie, at the herbarium harvesting herbs

in the Fresh+ store, with all proceeds going straight back into the program. Taimahi Trust's Strategic Development Coordinator described the program as a great success. "Our trainees love their time out at the hothouses, it's such a great place to develop their skills, all while surrounded by nature. The community can get affordable, nutritious, and sustainably sourced local produce, and our trainees can grow just like their herbs, it's win-win!"

The Kai Ora Fund offers yearly grants of up to \$5,000 per project to support local initiatives that enhance food security and strengthen community resilience. Since its launch ten years ago, the fund has backed over 300 projects led by community groups, whānau trusts, social enterprises, and small businesses.

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# MP for Whangārei - Hon Dr Shane Reti



In celebrating Matariki, I hope you had the opportunity to share time with the people closest to you, and as the stars of Matariki rise, so too does our hope for a brighter year ahead. New GDP data confirms the economy is turning a corner, with growth up, mortgage rates down, and rents at their lowest since December 2023 - all helping ease cost-of-living pressures for Kiwi families.

June was Volunteer Month - a perfect time to give thanks to the many quiet achievers who contribute to the care and wellbeing of our community. A huge shout-out goes to the dedicated volunteers who maintain the Waimahanga Track. Their hard mahi ensures this much-loved path remains accessible and enjoyable for all, through all seasons. Likewise, the tireless team at Matakoho/Limestone Island continue their work restoring native flora and fauna and pest control, for the many visitors and explorers to enjoy. To all the volunteers in Whangārei - whether it being picking up rubbish, taking calls, reader/ writers or driving those less able, your efforts do not go unnoticed, and our community is stronger and more vibrant thanks to you.

In June I had the opportunity to join the Whangārei Rotary club's 100-year celebrations, thanking them also for their tireless contributions. Part of these celebrations included planting 100 Native trees as part of the Raumanga Stream Restoration Project to restore the natural health of the stream and riverbanks.

And finally, I raised concerns directly to Air New Zealand on their performance of the Whangārei - Auckland route, the highest flight cancellation rates to any regional area, particularly during April. Air New Zealand responded and advised that the high cancellation and delay rates that month were largely due to severe weather, including ex-Cyclone Tam, which disrupted flights across the top of the North Island over the Easter period. They noted that 19 flights were cancelled due to weather conditions affecting either Whangārei or Auckland. In contrast, May saw more stable conditions, with the cancellation rate dropping to 2.1% and on-time arrivals improving to 81%.

I'll continue to monitor the situation closely to ensure better reliability for Whangārei travellers.



# Russell Primary School visits Dragonfly Springs

Teachers Janet Harder and Parag Arya, former teacher from Onerahi School, facilitated a guided tour for the Russell School students of Dragonfly Springs Wetland Sanctuary.

Students have been learning about the Water Cycle and Conservation. "This visit has helped them make important connections to their learning", Janet said.

Skipper Smeath, one of the school's newsletter editors, contributed several sketches of the Springs for the school newsletter.



Contributed by Rose Tantau, Onerahi Community Association



HON DR SHANE RETI QSM

MP for Whangārei

# Working together

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 E | [shane.reti@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:shane.reti@parliament.govt.nz)  
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# Kauri dieback hygiene protocols

**The Northland Regional Council is urging everyone to follow the hygiene protocols protecting kauri from kauri dieback.**

Kauri dieback remains one of the most significant threats to native forests. Despite significant investment by central and local government, including two new hygiene stations installed last year in Mair Park and at nearby Vale Rd, many people are still failing to follow simple biosecurity protocols. Some of the worst offenders are runners. Staff estimate that in places,

as many as seven out of 10 people are ignoring the hygiene stations.

The consequences of kauri dieback are already visible around Northland.

The message is simple: Clean your boots, use the hygiene stations, and help safeguard New Zealand's ancient forests before it's too late. Kauri are integral to our national identity, particularly here in Northland, and it's up to us to ensure their survival. More information about kauri dieback can be found at: [www.kauriprotection.co.nz](http://www.kauriprotection.co.nz)



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## Native birds need our help

**As spring settles across Aotearoa and temperatures rise, native birds enter one of the most vital phases of their year: breeding season. This period is marked by intense activity - nest building, egg incubation, and chick rearing - all crucial for species survival.**

Yet, in areas lacking effective pest control, their chances are slim. It's estimated that over half of all breeding attempts fail annually in unmanaged environments due to predation by introduced species.

Stoats are well known as a major threat, but rats and possums are equally destructive. These predators not only prey on native birds but also compete for food and habitat, placing immense pressure on vulnerable populations.

Possums are often mistakenly thought to be herbivores, likely due to their heavy browsing in native forests - consuming around 21,000 tonnes of vegetation each night. However, possums, like rats, are omnivores. They feed on berries, nectar, and seeds, but also prey on native wildlife including snails, geckos, eggs, and chicks.

Ship rats (*Rattus rattus*) are agile climbers, able to raid nests high in the forest canopy. Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*), on the other hand, are poor climbers but strong swimmers, targeting ground-dwelling and ground-nesting species.

Tragically, breeding females are often the victims of springtime predation, as they remain on nests to incubate eggs, making them especially vulnerable.

While year-round predator control is essential, spring offers a unique opportunity to make a significant impact.

The encouraging news is that community action works. Research shows that if one in five households traps rats,

we could substantially reduce their numbers and improve outcomes for native species. Across the country, more people are setting traps in gardens and reserves, helping restore ecological balance and protect our native taonga.

Locally, Tiakina Whangārei supports pest control efforts in partnership with the Pukenui Western Hills Forest Trust, Parihaka Community Landcare, and others. This spring, pest control across the Parihaka and Coronation Reserves is being ramped up to support bird breeding success.

You can help too. Check your backyard trap to ensure it's in good working order and freshly baited; or pick up a subsidised rat trap for just \$10 from the Whangārei Men's Shed (Mon, Wed, Thu, 9:30-3:00). Tiakina Whangārei also loans possum traps and supports individuals and groups keen to work in urban reserves. Get in touch to find out how you can help protect our native wildlife this spring.

For a more detailed insight into springtime breeding, you can read the story of 'Lucky' the kererū chick here: <https://predatorfreenz.org/stories/one-lucky-chick-the-diary-of-a-kereru/>

Contributed by Jo Skyrme - Tiakina Whangārei Project Lead. Contact her at [info@TiakinaWhangarei.co.nz](mailto:info@TiakinaWhangarei.co.nz)



# Everyone can vote in the poll

**Voting in the Māori Ward Poll is for everyone. At the Local Elections 2025, everyone (not only those on the Māori roll) will be asked via a postal voting process to vote in a poll on whether to keep or remove the Whangārei District Māori ward, and whether to keep or remove the Northland Regional Council Māori constituency. This poll is, in legal terms, a binding referendum.**



This is an important question for all residents and ratepayers, regardless of ethnicity or which electoral roll you are on. The outcome of the poll will decide the future of Māori wards and constituencies for our district and region. The questions for the poll will be simple and easy to understand: 'I vote to keep the Māori ward / constituency' or 'I vote to remove the Māori ward / constituency'.

The result of the poll will decide if Māori continue to be represented on the councils - including both the Whangārei District Council and the Northland Regional Council.

You need to be enrolled as a resident and/or ratepayer to vote in the poll.

When more people participate in elections, our local governments become more representative, fair, and effective.

**Help is available at the Elections Hub**

Council has an 'Elections Hub' open on the ground floor of Te Iwitahi, the council office building on Rust Avenue, until 11 October. The Hub will be accessible to everyone, and has staff available to help anyone with any questions relating to the 2025 local elections - including helping people to enroll and teaching people about what to expect in the process.



**What will happen?**

The local elections are conducted by postal vote. You will receive your voting papers and poll questions for Whangārei District Council and Northland Regional Council in a voting pack addressed to you and mailed to your home address. If you do not receive your voting papers by Monday 22 September 2025, please arrange to cast a special vote by contacting the Electoral Officer for Whangārei District Council, Dale Ofsoske: Phone: 09 973 9212 or 0800 922 822, Email: [dale@electionservices.co.nz](mailto:dale@electionservices.co.nz)

# Avoid digital scams

**These days, it feels like scams are around every corner. Whether it's an email saying you've won the lottery or a text claiming your parcel is stuck in customs, the tactics keep evolving, and the goal stays the same: to trick you out of your hard-earned money.**

We've seen an uptick in scam activity across Whangārei and beyond. And while it's easy to think, "I'd never fall for that," the truth is, these scammers are getting smarter and more convincing. They'll impersonate banks, government departments, even your own family members. It only takes one moment of distraction.

**So, here's the simple advice:**

1. If it smells fishy, it probably is. Never give out personal information unless you're 100% sure who you're dealing with. That includes passwords, bank details, and especially verification codes. Real organisations will never ask for that over email, text or phone call.
2. Take your time. Scammers create a sense of urgency - they'll say things like "act now" or "your account will be closed." Pause. Take a breath. Check with someone you trust, just don't respond straight away.
3. Report it. Let Netsafe.org.nz or CERT NZ know and spread the word to your friends and whānau. The more we talk about scams, the harder it is for scammers to succeed.

Whangārei is built on strong community ties. Let's look out for each other - especially our elderly, who are too often targets. By staying alert and sharing knowledge, we make our town safer for everyone.

**Stay sharp, and don't let the scammers win.**

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## Can you imagine a Predator Free Onerahi?

Tiakina Whangārei can support you in removing pest plants and animals from your backyard and urban community spaces. Get in touch to find out how you can be part of the change.

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# An ANZAC Onerahi family

The next time you go to the Onerahi Cemetery, take a minute to stroll to the Gregory family area. There you will find Grenville Gregory, Molly (Leaf) Gregory and Thomas Gregory. All were in the army, all lived right here in our community, and all are the relatives of Rita Gregory - who still lives in Onerahi.

Rita Gregory's Grandfather, George Henry Gregory, grew up in Tasmania and then moved to New Zealand before joining the New Zealand Army to serve in World War 1 (1914-1918) in both Egypt and Passchendaele (a rural Belgian village in West Flanders). As a brief background, during WW1, Egypt served as a strategic base for British and Allied forces, primarily to defend the Suez Canal and to launch campaigns against the Ottoman Empire. The Battle of Passchendaele, also known as the Third Battle of Ypres, was a major campaign which is notorious for its horrific conditions, high casualties, and the mud that bogged down troops and equipment. The battle, which lasted from July to November 1917, saw Allied forces, primarily British and French, advance a relatively short distance at a tremendous cost to life.

Rita says "War was not a topic of conversation when I was a child, so I don't know a lot about Grandfather's army life. I have not been able to access to date the information regarding his medals. My long term memory of my Grandfather was of him smoking a pipe, which was a constant part of him." George Henry Gregory rests in Thames.

Rita's father Grenville Gregory grew up in Thames and her mother Molly Leaf grew up in Whirinaki. Her parents met in the army - her mother was a nurse and her father in general army service. They married and moved to Pangaru where they had eight children. They then moved to Mackesy Rd, Onerahi in 1960.

Rita had three brothers - Thomas (Army), Bryon (Navy) and Clifford (Police Force). Her brother, Sgt Thomas Francis Gregory, served in Signals, NZ Army. He enlisted as a cadet



Rita's brother, Sgt Thomas Francis Gregory



Rita's mother in uniform

in 1967. Thomas served actively in Rhodesia and in total served for 20 years before retiring in 1987.

Thomas's medals are (Left to right in the photo below):

- 1) NZ Operational Service medals
- 2) General Service Medal
- 3) General Service Medal (Warlike/Non Warlike Ops)
- 4) NZ Defence Service Medal
- 5) Long Service in NZ Armed Forces



Rita's parents wedding



Sgt Thomas Francis Gregory's medals



Rita's grandfather - George Henry Gregory



Rita's grandfather in Egypt.



Rita's grandfather - George Henry Gregory's medals

# Discover the joy of giving back: Join the Lions

Do you want to make a difference in your community? Meet new people? Be a part of something meaningful? The Onerahi and Whangārei Heads Lions Club is looking for people just like you.

We are part of the global Lions Clubs International network - the world's largest service organisation - our local club is made up of friendly, everyday people with a shared commitment to service. Whether it's supporting local youth, addressing blindness, hunger, diabetes, child cancer, the environment, running fundraising events, or lending a hand in times of need, we believe in turning small acts into big impacts.

Over the years, we've helped improve countless lives across Whangārei and beyond - From a HeliPad at Whangārei Heads for NEST, substantial support for an all terrain vehicle for Whangārei Heads Fire Brigade, a Composting toilet on Limestone Island for visitors, collecting eye glasses for the Pacific Islands, support for the Whangārei Mariners with a purpose built trailer for Camps, to fundraising for essential medical equipment - we're proud to be a part of it all.

But to continue this work and more, we need fresh energy and new hands.

We're inviting people from all walks of life to come along, get involved, and help shape the future of our community.



Whether you have a few hours a month or a passion project in mind, there's room for you here. No experience needed - just a desire to serve and a willingness to get involved.

Being a Lion isn't just about giving - it's also about connection. You'll make friends, learn new skills, and enjoy the sense of purpose that comes from doing good together. We work hard, but we have a lot of fun along the way too.

Come See for Yourself

We meet regularly and welcome guests to attend a meeting or event, with no obligation. It's a great way to get a feel for who we are and what we do.

If you're ready to be part of something bigger, now is the perfect time to join.

To learn more or express your interest, contact us - Maria 0274 742213.



Toilet at limestone island built by Lions Club members

# A tsunami isn't just a big wave

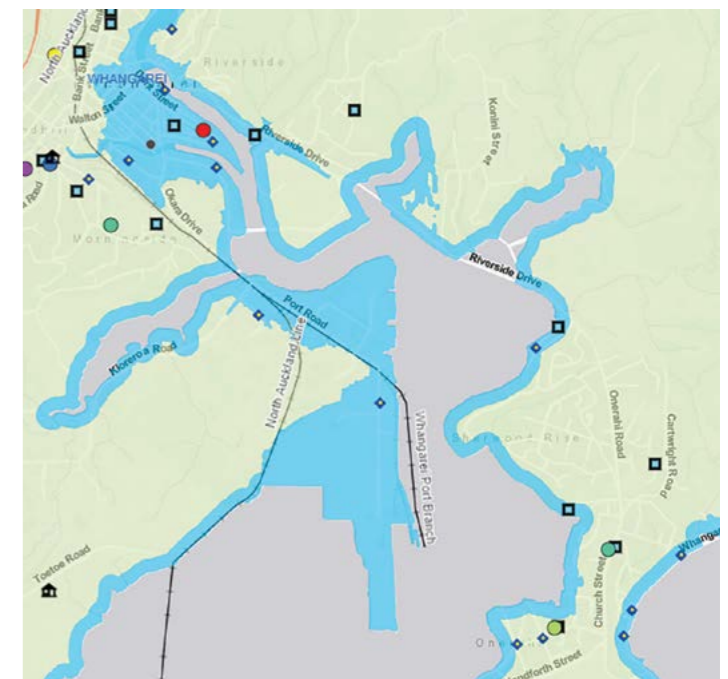
When people hear the word "tsunami", they often picture a single towering wave crashing onto the shore, but a tsunami is far more complex - and far more dangerous. And we need to be prepared for them.

A tsunami is a series of powerful waves with strong currents that can race across the ocean at over 800 kilometers an hour, about as fast as a jet airplane. Even once a tsunami reaches land it keeps going, moving across land at the same speed as a car (around 30-50km per hour). A 50cm tsunami may not seem like much, but that small tsunami is a river of water surging faster than you can run. Surges come in non-stop and then recede just as fast for a similar time, acting more like a very rapid tide than a wave.

## Updated Tsunami Evacuation Maps

Northland's tsunami evacuation maps have been updated with more accurate modelling and information. These new maps better reflect how tsunamis are expected to behave as they travel across the ocean and reach our coastline. Find them at <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/civildefence/tsunami-evacuation-zones/>

The Tsunami Evacuation Zone is called the Blue Zone - This evacuation zone shows the areas that should be evacuated in the event of a tsunami warning. It represents where the water could reach in a tsunami. Familiarise yourself with tsunami zones relevant to your home, workplace or holiday destination. Create and practice a household emergency plan - find information at: [getready.govt.nz/prepared](http://getready.govt.nz/prepared). Have a getaway kit or grab bag in case you need to leave in a hurry.



The 'Blue Zone' evacuation areas in a tsunami



## Parua Bay Childcare

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# Rates rises for 2025-26

Whangārei District Council has adopted its Annual Plan 2025-26, which comes with a general rates increase of 9.7% for property owners. It has also introduced a new stormwater targeted rate. Northland Regional Council's Annual Plan 2025-26 has also been adopted, with NRC rates rising 3.54%. Both increases are applied from 1 July 2025.

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# What is the Youth Action Group?

Where do you go with a great project idea for positive change in your community? For young people, finding a good cause to volunteer for can be a challenge - and finding support for your own ideas for a better community can be even trickier. That's why the Whangārei Youth Action Group was created in late 2023.

With guidance from Volunteering Northland, a number of enthusiastic Whangārei youth decided to take matters into their own hands and form a youth volunteer group - the goal was to provide a space for young community leaders and volunteers to kickstart positive change in our community.

Together, the group organises events and projects for young people like the Youth Creators Market and Puāwai Festival for Youth Week. Over the past year, the group also ran Youth Volunteer Holiday Programmes with local organisations, trips to volunteer events like the Festival For The Future, working bees and beach clean ups, the Amazing Youth Volunteer Races and more.

A youth volunteer from Onerahi, Frankie Johns (17) is one of the founding members of the Whangārei Youth Action Group. Born and raised in Onerahi, he was brought up in a creative family and has been involved in theatre and stage tech since childhood. His passion for community, combined with his love for music and performances, inspired him to join the group and create projects that showcase specifically youth performers and artists - which is why he volunteered to manage the stage and logistics for the Youth Creators Market. "I've volunteered most of my teens - with Northland Youth Theatre, for the school's tech team and other



Frankie (left) with the winner of the Goldfish Tank

performance projects. It has helped me turn my passion into paid work for the event tech company Belltech, the Fringe Festival and WDC."

Joining the Whangārei Youth Action Group will give you the opportunity to organise and take part in events and programs you find meaningful. "We are a big group of excited people, passionate about doing something positive", says Verena Pschorn, Volunteering Northland's Community Connections Coordinator and facilitator of the Whangārei Youth Action Group. "We can support you with learning new skills and have fun while helping the community."

Contact Volunteering Northland by visiting [volunteeringnorthland.nz](http://volunteeringnorthland.nz) online, or go to Level 1, Civic Arcade 37-41 Bank Street, Whangārei, Monday to Thursday (9:30am to 3:00pm or by appointment). Phone 09 945 4984 or 0800 865 268 or email [info@volunteeringnorthland.nz](mailto:info@volunteeringnorthland.nz).

**For questions specifically about youth volunteering, contact Verena on 027 607 3711 or [verena@volunteeringnorthland.nz](mailto:verena@volunteeringnorthland.nz)**

# 'Out of the Ocean, into the Fire' A geological tour of Northland by locals Libby & Peter Urbahn - Part 5



Having reached Cape Reinga, the northernmost accessible point of Aotearoa New Zealand, we began our journey southward down the Aupōuri Peninsula. This narrow stretch of land, flanked by the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean, is steeped in history - once home to vast kauri forests that have waxed and waned over millennia.

Near Awanui, we visited Gumdiggers Park, an authentic gumfield over a century old. This site offers a vivid glimpse into the lives of early settlers who extracted kauri gum - a fossilised resin once dubbed "New Zealand's amber." The gum, aged between 46,000 and 150,000 years, was a significant export commodity, used in varnishes and linoleum. Walking among the preserved gum holes and massive ancient kauri logs, some over 100,000 years old, we were reminded of the cataclysmic events - climate shifts and volcanic eruptions - that buried these giants beneath the earth.



Libby with gum digging equipment

Continuing our exploration of kauri history, we arrived at Lake Ohia, northeast of Kaitiāia. More swamp than lake, this area revealed 30,000-year-old kauri stumps and logs protruding from the lakebed - a testament to the region's dynamic geological past. Well worth a visit.

Well worth a visit.

Venturing east to Cape Karikari and Whatuwhiwhi, we encountered more remnants of Northland's volcanic heritage that extends down the east coast. The landscape is dotted with ancient volcanic formations, including the majestic St Paul's Rock / Ohakiri overlooking Whangaroa Harbour. Rising 166m from the farmland, this formation is the eroded remnant of the Whangaroa stratovolcano (steep sided conical volcano), active between 18 and 21 million years ago.



St Paul's, Whangaroa

Our journey through Northland offered us a profound connection to the region's geological, and some of its cultural, history. From ancient forests preserved beneath our feet to volcanic remnants sculpted by time, every place we visited told an interesting geological story of transformation and resilience.



Viewing a 120,000 year old kauri log at Gumdiggers Park

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# YEAR 7/8 2026 Enrolments

The Parua Bay School Board of Trustees invites Out of Zone Enrolment applications from parents/caregivers who wish to enrol their children at Year 7/8 for 2026

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# Faith for today

A sliver of comfort to face the unknown

Many would remember that in our summer of 2009, a large passenger aeroplane made an emergency landing in New York's Hudson River. The pilot, Captain Chesley Sullenberger, who landed the plane safely with no casualties, was later asked about those moments in the air when he was faced with a life-or-death decision. "One way of looking at this," he said, "might be that for 42 years I've been making small, regular deposits in this bank of experience, education, and training. And on that day the balance was sufficient so that I could make a very large withdrawal."

Most of us will at some time face a crisis. Perhaps it will be a job termination or the results from a medical test, or the loss of a precious family member or friend. It is in those times that we must dig down into the reserves of our spiritual bank account. And what might we find there? If we have enjoyed a deepening relationship with God, we've been making regular "deposits" of faith. We have experienced His grace, we trust the promise of scripture that God is just and faithful. God's love and grace are available when His children need to make a 'withdrawal'. God says in Ephesians 2v4-7 "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

"Remembering God's faithfulness in the past strengthens us for the future"

Rich blessings

Contributed by retired Onerahi Pastor Ron Brewer

## Speed limit changes

A variable speed zone has been implemented by Whangārei District Council to replace the 30km/h zone which used to apply to Whangārei Heads Road and Lamb Road in Parua Bay village.

The speed limit has been reversed to the previous speed limit of 50km/h, with a variable 30km/h operational during school start and finish times within the school zone. Kiteone Road and Ritchie Road signage is updated to reflect the approaching speed limit on Whangārei Heads Road.

**Normal hours: 50km/h**

**School activities: 30km/h:**

- 8:00am to 9:00am
- 2:30pm to 3:30pm – Parua Bay School
- 4:10pm to 4:30pm – High School drop-offs.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS	
Aviva	For free 24/7 support line, call 0800 AVIVA NOW (0800 28482 669)
Elder Abuse Helpline	0800 32 668 65 Open 24 hrs text: 5032, email: support@elderabuse.nz
Family violence info	0800 456 450
Gandhi Nivas	Supporting men to be free from violence 0800 426 344
Hey Bro helpline	Supporting men to be free from violence 0800 HeyBro (439 276)
Need to talk?	Free call or text: 1737 for mental health support from a trained counsellor
Oranga Tamariki line: for concerns about children and young people	0508 326 459, email: contact@ot.govt.nz1737
Safe to Talk sexual harm helpline	0800 044334, text: 4334, email: support@safetotalk.nz
Sensitive Claims ACC	0800 735 566
Shakti - for migrant and refugee women	0800 742 584 Open 24 hrs
Shine domestic abuse services	0508 744 633 Open 24 hrs Live webchat is also available
Rape Crisis	0800 88 33 00
Victim Support - support for men and women	0800 842 846 Open 24 hrs
Women's Refuge crisis line	0800 733 843 Open 24 hrs
Youthline	0800 376 633, free text: 234, email: talk@youthline.co.nz

Venues available for hire in Onerahi, Parua Bay and Whangārei Heads area		
Whangārei Cruising Club	Clare O'Donnell	wccinc@xtra.co.nz   09 438 9043
Onerahi Community Hall & Community House	Heidyn Harrison	onerahicomunity@gmail.com   022 085 8286
Onerahi Bowling Club	Roger Kerr-Davis	027 390 7185
Onerahi Rugby Club	Fiona Raymond-Paieka	onerahirugby@yahoo.com. The Onerahi Rugby Club has had a recent facelift and renovation, and is available to other clubs and sports groups to use - please call us on 021 228 5982.
Onerahi Soccer Club	Fiona Ellis	onerahifootballclub@outlook.co.nz
Hope Church	Secretary	09 438 1667
Raurimu School Hall	School Office	09 436 0820 Ext. 2
St. Stephen's Church Hall	Paul Doherty	021 189 4797 or 09 436 0207
Tamaterau Hall	Jane Kippenberger	021 463 330
Parua Bay Community Centre	Kirsty	bjandkirsty@slingshot.co.nz
McLeod Bay Hall	Jos	027 315 6490
Taurikura Hall	Meg Mclsaac	09 434 0096
<b>Whangārei District Council Hotline: 0800 932 463</b>		
<b>Onerahi Police (09) 436 0222</b>		

## Wastewater challenges in Parua Bay

**In the last edition of the Orbit, we highlighted a lack of council action in addressing sewerage overflow incidences. Whangārei District Council reached out to us, and we hereby note that the last report was out of date, apologise for the inaccuracy and record here the actions taken recently by council to address the situation:**

Pilot study to identify the sources of stormwater inflow  
 Stormwater in the wastewater system has caused issues at the Parua Bay wastewater storage tank, with flows of over eight times more than average being recorded during rainfall events. A pilot study on the area immediately upstream of the wastewater storage tank (on the corner of Ritchie Road and Whangārei Heads Road), was therefore undertaken. Issues within the public network, as well as on some private properties, were identified. Smoke testing revealed remedial work is required at various manholes on public and private land, particularly those located in low-lying areas that are susceptible to flooding. Evidence of H<sub>2</sub>S attack has also been found, which is where a build-up of hydrogen sulfide causes corrosion of a manhole's walls, making them vulnerable to stormwater and groundwater intrusion.

### Programme of works

Council has prepared a programme of works to address the issues above, and remediation is expected to take place over the coming months. Some gully traps on private property are damaged, incorrectly sealed or set too low, making them susceptible to stormwater inflow (some properties even have stormwater being directed into gully traps via downpipes). Council is following up and working with property owners on how to fix their issues, and is also working to seal all damaged public system manholes at the same time (including repairing the pipes feeding into them). This remediation is expected to be completed by the end of September 2025.

### Review of the Whangārei Heads wastewater system

A planned review of the wastewater system will consider projected growth rates and inform a longer-term strategy to ensure the system caters for population growth in the area.

### Addressing recent sewerage spills

As of 1 January to 1 July 2025, there

have been only three spills from the wastewater system in the wider Parua Bay area, all occurring in June 2025 and all have been resolved. Two of these were the result of a third-party contractor hitting a wastewater pipe and disrupting a manhole while working on other underground infrastructure. A third, minor spill took place near the Parua Bay Cruising Club public toilet on 26 June which occurred after its pump was blocked with wipes.



Two examples of non-compliant gully traps

Thanks goes to Sam Smith, WDC, for assisting with this notice.

**WHISTLE NOISE POLLUTION**  
 Do you have concerns about the Shift Changeover Whistle Sound from Culham Engineering impacting the George Point Road and Mackesy Road areas (among others)?  
**Please Contact 021 105 0894**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Friday 8 August - Getting Out There Expo

An Expo to shape a more inclusive and accessible Northland. Forum North will come alive with businesses, organisations and community leaders coming together to connect with disabled people, their families, carers, service providers and advocates. 9 - 4pm, Te Kotahitanga Expo Hall at Forum North, 7 Rust Avenue. Free event

### Tuesday 12 August - Hui

Whangārei District Council hosts its last Welcoming Plan - Community Engagement Session to discuss maximising economic development, business and employment. Register on [www.eventfinda.co.nz](http://www.eventfinda.co.nz). Central Library, 3:30-5:30pm

### Thursday 14 August - North Haven Hospice Art Auction

North Haven Hospice is hosting an Art Auction from 5.30pm at the North Haven Hospice Shop in central Whangārei.

### Saturday 7 September - Multicultural Day

**Wednesday 3 and Saturday 6 September - Meet The Candidates public meetings**  
Meet your potential elected members at a public meeting at Parua Bay Community Centre, 1347 Whangārei Heads Road, Parua Bay. Hosted by Parua Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association 6:30-8pm on Weds, 3-4:30pm on Sat.

### Monday 22 September - Local government elections

If you have not received your voting papers by this day, please arrange for a special vote by contacting the Electoral Officer for Whangārei District Council, Dale Ofsoske: Phone: 09 973 9212 or 0800 922 822, Email: [dale@electionservices.co.nz](mailto:dale@electionservices.co.nz)

### Wednesday 1 October until 15 October - The Silver Festival

A celebration for those in the older generations. An information booklet will be available from Whangārei District Council closer to the time, and check out their website anytime for listed events <https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Events/Festivals/Silver-Festival>

### Saturday 11 October - Local government elections close at noon

## REGULAR EVENTS

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

**Community Education Whangārei (CEW) at Kamo High School** - Website: <https://www.cew.ac.nz/>; Email: [cew@kamohigh.school.nz](mailto:cew@kamohigh.school.nz); Phone: (09) 435 0889; Class venue: Unless otherwise stated all classes are held at Kamo High School

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

**Jolly Dodgers Scooterers group** - If you are keen to join up call Wendy on 021 031 7781 or Denise on 022 087 4955

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

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

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

**Men-Tall mental health support** - Monthly support group for men dealing with everyday struggles - every third Monday of the month, from 6:30pm, at Brothers Barbers in Te Kamo. Contact Josh MacFarlane, 021 0255 1594 or [josh.macfarlane@mentall.org.nz](mailto:josh.macfarlane@mentall.org.nz)

**Miniature Train Running Days** - The track is open to the public every 3rd Sunday of the month, School Holiday Wednesdays, and all Museum Live Days. Join us for school holiday fun train rides at the Miniature Railway at Heritage Park, Maunu, Whangārei. Only \$2 per ride

**New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc - Whangārei Branch** - Meets 1st Saturday, February to December, 9am - 12 noon in the May Bain Room, Whangārei Central Library. Contact Kathy 021 263 7358 or [Whangarei@genealogy.org](mailto:Whangarei@genealogy.org)

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

**Onerahi Indoor Bowling Club** - Every Friday 1pm to 3.30pm in the Onerahi Community Centre Hall. All are welcome. If you want to know more, contact Susan on 021 248 9989

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

**Onerahi Hall market** - First & third Saturdays of every month and all other Saturdays unless otherwise advised. 8 am-12 pm. Plants, garden produce, jams/pickles, art/craft, 2nd hand goods etc. Inside stall fees \$13; Outside stall fees \$10; Kids stall fees - inside \$6, outside \$5. Phone Jenny (09) 436 0009 (preferably in the evening) to book a space - or just turn up!

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

**Onerahi Strength and Balance Classes** - Mondays 8:45-9:45am and 10-11am, and Wednesdays 8:45-9:45am and 10-11am held at St. Stephens Church. \$2.00 donation please

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

**Repair Cafe Whangārei** - Volunteers repair most things for a koha. Every third Saturday of the month, 1.30 - 4pm, Reyburn House at the Town Basin. For more information, refer to the Facebook page or email [karen@force.org.nz](mailto:karen@force.org.nz)

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

**Whangārei Budgeting Service** - FREE Financial Mentoring: Our financial mentors have the skills to negotiate debt repayments and discuss debt solutions with creditors

**Whangārei Choral Society** - Do you love to sing for pleasure? We meet Mondays, 7-9pm, at St John's Golden Church, 147 Kamo, to rehearse for 3 annual concerts. No auditions. Our friendly welcome mat is out to men and women, all ages. More Info - Meg - 027 337 9072 or [Whangarei.choral@gmail.com](mailto:Whangarei.choral@gmail.com)

**Whangārei parkrun** - a fun event where you can "run, walk or roll" every Saturday. It's a 5km course starting and finishing under Te Mate A Pohe Bridge in Port Rd. It's free to enter by going to <https://www.parkrun.co.nz/register>. We are there by 8am, come and join us. Open to all no matter what speed or age you are

**Whangārei Scottish Country Dance Club** - The Scottish Country Dance Club meets every Thursday at the Onerahi Community Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome. If you want to know more before arriving, call Fiona on 437 1817

**155 Whare Āwhina Snack Packs** - Every Monday during term, one per child, all you need to add is the sandwich. Request through Facebook messenger OR come to 155 Open Arms (Corner Robert and Walton Sts) OR 155 Kamo Rd on Monday mornings between 8.30am and 9am

**155 Whare Āwhina Food Bank** - 155 Open Arms, 102 Robert Street, Whangārei. Call us on 09 437 0185 Ext 4 or freephone 0800 120 926 to request your parcel. Whānau can receive two parcels per month

Want your free community or sporting activities highlighted here? Notice something is still advertised here but is no longer offered?

Email: [onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com).

Onerahi Orbit is not responsible for any events listed here that are cancelled for any reason. Please check with local event organisers for confirmation.

## WINTER TIDE TABLES

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

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