

Onerahi Orbit

Free to you from the Onerahi Community Association

Winter - August 2026

Covering Onerahi, Parua Bay, Pataua and Whangārei Heads

Are you in this photo?

Reunion of new entrants 1961 - Onerahi Primary School

Did you or a family member start school at Onerahi Primary School in the year 1961, or join this class up to and including 1967? If so, then heads up!

This class has a milestone birthday this year, and a reunion is planned for 21 November - with a tree planting at the school followed by a luncheon. Wendy Giffin is contacting people via a Facebook Group Page (search for: Onerahi

Primary School class of 61) and already several people have been found. It's stacking up to be a memorable event, with a buzz already developing.

If you started school that year, but are not in the photo and would be interested in the reunion, please contact Wendy. If you are not on Facebook but would like to come along, Wendy can be contacted by email at wagzrag@hotmail.com



The class of 1961 at Onerahi Primary (the teacher was Mrs Mavis Wilson)

**Onerahi Orders of Merit Pg 4-5 • Onerahi Matariki celebrations Pg 7 •
Giant Wētā released Pg 8**

**FROM FIRST HOMES TO
FOREVER HOMES,
I'VE GOT YOU**

Covered

Roxanne Simpkin

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Haere mai,

Welcome to our winter edition to read in a warm spot as the chilly winter southerly blows over our community. Yet, these shorter, colder days offer a unique gift: the time to pause, reflect, and prepare. Winter provides the perfect environment to brainstorm and organize for the future. Whether you are planning a new backyard garden, thinking about a home clean up, or wanting to gather family together for summer events this Christmas holiday, the groundwork could start now. Planning during the quieter months gives us the space to think clearly, set realistic goals, and gather our resources. Please note the story on page 11. The photos should have been printed in the last edition and we apologise for them only appearing in this one. As always, we look forward to receiving your stories and your news,

Nga mihi from the Orbit team

Letter to the Ed [Abridged]

Education can be a serious business.

Thankfully, at Parua Bay School we have outstanding staff that help make learning fun and engaging. A strong localised curriculum, hands-on learning, trips and experiences, fun and games, opportunities to be curious, agency and exploration - all play a part in enriching the statutory curriculum. Dune restoration and beach trips, camps, sporting events, the 'Colour Run', Intermediate Ball, AIMS Games, planting days, learning through play, are all part of the 'bigger picture' at Parua Bay. I don't have a 'keep it real' or 'bigger picture' app for curriculum rate of change, but I do have amazing students and staff. Just as the 'Merlin' app enables me to pause and enjoy a more focussed and thoughtful experience in the outdoors, making sure we take time to celebrate, discuss and reflect and have fun with our own children, our colleagues

and our community can potentially help us to keep the bigger picture in mind and make the very best of education...

Mark Ashcroft, Principal - Parua Bay School

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



President's report

The below is a summary of the OCA Annual Report 2026

Introduction

OCA is a small volunteer- based organisation of community members who have the community well-being at heart. OCA has established a core purpose and strives towards achieving broad community development goals for Onerahi.

The primary purpose of the Society is to 'Connect the Onerahi community'.

This is achieved by

- Understanding community demographics to provide for those in need
- Enhancing a safe community in which to live
- Promoting the community of Onerahi
- Fostering community well-being
- Nurturing – local leadership across our community
- Recognizing and celebrating achievements of community members
- Embracing diversity within the community
- Enhancing community facilities
- Aligning with the WDC District Plan
- Commitment to the principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi

Activity

1. Managed Facilities (Onerahi Hall and House)

The revenue generated from the users of the Hall and House has been used to meet increased costs of Hall and House operations and provide a funding base for Community Grants.

2. Funding Community Grants

Support has been provided to:

- Xavier Corslaine – UK football academy attendance support
- Otis Langridge – support his studies at veterinary college

Feedback forms, application forms and nomination forms are all available from the website
www.onerahicommunity.co.nz
Through our website we will try to provide information about what is being done and share good stories about our community

- Onerahi Volunteer Fire brigade – Christmas Day Lolly distribution
- OCLAD- restoration and weed eradication work along Waimahanga Track
- Amber Pugh - learning support resources
- Adam Heke – purchase of resources for environmental protection work
- Waiariki Forest Gardens - replacement trees

3. Onerahi Orbit

The Onerahi Orbit continues to be a significant communication and promotional resource; with 4,000 magazines distributed from Riverside Drive to Parua Bay five times a year. The large team of distribution volunteers is a key part of the success of the magazine. Magazines are very popular. Local advertisers report a strong connection with business and advertising in the Orbit - a good example of keeping things local.

4. Community Activities

- Organised and successfully ran ANZAC day celebrations for a second year, attendees exceeded 100 people
- Partnered with Whangārei Community Connect to deliver Whānau Onerahi Sports Festival days
- Supported the Fire Brigade Annual Christmas Lolly distribution to the community
- Supported the Matariki dawn service at St Stephens Church
- Contributed to content and distribution of the Onerahi Orbit to Onerahi households five times in the year.
- Allocated funding grants to community applicants
- Identified and celebrated Onerahi Order of Merit and Community Champion recipients

5. Community Led Projects

The Community Led Projects group oversaw the installation of planter boxes in the shopping centre. The plants are maintained by the Onerahi Garden Group. They installed more sitting benches at Onerahi Sports Park and more for the bottom of Pah Road are being planned.

The Raurimu Avenue swimming pool was opened for tamariki over summer – this initiative was once again supported by the Whangārei Aquatic

Continued on page 4

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

The Onerahi Orbit is a not-for-profit publication owned by the Onerahi Community Association, that reports the good news in Onerahi, Parua Bay, and Pataua. 4,000 copies are printed by JOP and distributed by volunteers throughout this area; readership is approximately 12,500. Opinions expressed in signed articles, or in advertisements appearing in the Onerahi Orbit are those of the author and advertiser and do not reflect those of this newsletter nor its publisher. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the prior written permission of the editor, writers, and owners of Onerahi Orbit.

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Stories of approximately 200 words or less are due for the next Orbit by 4 September 2026 - share your news by emailing Margie at onerahiorbitmagazine@gmail.com

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house & deck piles, fence & retaining wall posts, garden shed & spa pool slabs, patio floors, paths & small foundations etc

Centre lifeguards and pool maintenance team. Planning for next year is to run toddler swimming sessions during the day. *Continued on page 4*

The CLP committee continues to investigate security cameras in the town shopping precinct; and the OCA have approved the installation of cameras in the Onerahi area to address continuing concerns about safety.

Administration

With the changes to the Companies Act in 2022, there have been new requirements to re-register under the new act. OCA have completed this successfully to retain their incorporated and charitable status. There is an ongoing review of processes and policies relating to the Health and Safety requirements, hire and maintenance of our facilities.

Membership

OCA continues to actively seek new members and are aligning regular users to membership where we can offer tangible benefits. Membership applications will be available via the website.

Website

During this year, OCA developed a new website designed to improve communication and the celebration of what is good in Onerahi. This resource is designed to give community members access to information, registration forms, calendars etc. It is in the early stages of development. This website can be found at www.onerahicomunity.co.nz

Onerahi Order of Merit

The Onerahi Order of Merit is awarded to members of the community who have devoted their support and services to the community. In 2025 Order of Merit awards were made to:

- Elaine Bilski, June 2025 - For her contribution to the community as a store owner in the Onerahi Shopping precinct, who provided a second-hand goods sell and exchange service to the Onerahi Community.
- James Varcoe, June 2025 - For his contribution to the community as a New World store owner who focussed on supporting many individuals and organisations.

- Stephen Jennings, December 2025 - For his regular and long serving volunteer work with multiple organisations including Coast Guard, Surf Life Saving, Onerahi Football and the Onerahi Fire Brigade.



Rose Tantau and Wendy Giffin

Community Champions

OCA continues to recognise community members who have made contributions to the community well-being through their efforts. Nomination forms are available on the website. The following Community Champions were acknowledged in 2025/2026

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| • Steve Phillips | June 2025 |
| • Francis Guiney | July 2025 |
| • Ian Bowick | September 2025 |
| • Adam Heke | October 2025 |
| • John and Maree Nichol | May 2026 |
| • Robert Coates | April 2026 |

Conclusion

The OCA acknowledges the positive relationship it has with WDC, who are responsive to requests for support, and are a positive partner with CLP.

I would also like to acknowledge the committee who, as volunteers, regularly demonstrate their passion for living in Onerahi and their desire to meet the goals and objectives of the association.

Grant Harrison,
Onerahi Community Association Chairperson

Justice of the Peace – Whangārei Urban Service Desks

MON	Tikipunga Library	10:15am to 12:00pm
TUES	Civic Centre Te Iwitahi	9:30am to 12:30pm
WED	Whangārei Central Library	9:30am to 12:00pm
THURS	Whangārei Central Library	9:30am to 12:00pm
	Onerahi Library	2:00pm to 4:00pm

FRI	Civic Centre Te Iwitahi	9:30am to 12:30pm
	Tikipunga Library	2:00pm to 4:00pm
SAT	Whangārei Central Library	9:30am to 12:00pm
SUN	NONE ON SITE. Look in White Pages under 'Justices of the Peace' or on JP or library website.	

Onerahi Orders of Merit



Kim Webby, Lana Jennings and Tony Gill were awarded Onerahi Orders of Merit for leadership and services in Civil Defense at the recent OCA AGM. Unfortunately Lana was unable

to attend the meeting. Rose Tantau was also celebrated for her lifetime of services to Onerahi.



Rose Tantau and Clr Nicholas Connop

Rose Tantau, the OCA Treasurer for the past 17 years, formally retired from the position at the AGM. She joined OCA in 2009 when Barry Tetley, who was President, asked her to be the next Treasurer. In Rose's time, she has worked with only five Presidents at the helm of the association - Barry,

Sue Baker (2009 - 2011), John Ross (2011 - 2014), Nick Connop (2014 - 2023) then Grant Harrison (2023 -). Over all

that time there has been only one Treasurer - who is treasured for her kindness and consistent prioritisation of the association.

During 2022 the council renewed the toilets and painted the hall. Rose cleans them most Fridays and they still look new. She also applied for funding for the Christmas parades over the past years, worked at the Community House every Wednesday, and did all the invoicing, funding applications and financial management of the Onerahi Orbit magazine.

Julie and Rose did the hiring out of the hall, so they met lots of people in this role. When Julie left, Rose did the job on her own, but had to give it up a couple of years ago. There is nothing Rose has not done for the OCA, from the smallest job to the most important financial ones. An example of her attention to detail was her noticing and then clearing the weeds in front of the hall on Good Friday this year.

Rose wishes the Onerahi Community Association all the best in the future "It's been a great journey." she said, "Thanks so much for the gift from the Committee. Thanks also to Vince Cocurullo for coming out to my farewell."

The words below were contributed by Kim Webby...

Onerahi Civil Defence Community Response Group

When our children were at Raurimu Avenue School, around 18 years ago, there was a call for representatives from both Onerahi and Raurimu Primary schools to be on the Onerahi Civil Defence Group. Being on the school board at the time I somehow drew the short straw. Now the kids have grown up but due to the love of this community, I remain involved.

We are a small diverse group where our roles have included mundane tasks such as the 6-monthly checks on the Tsunami sirens through to opening a welfare centre. Through the Northland Regional Council, *Continued on page 14*

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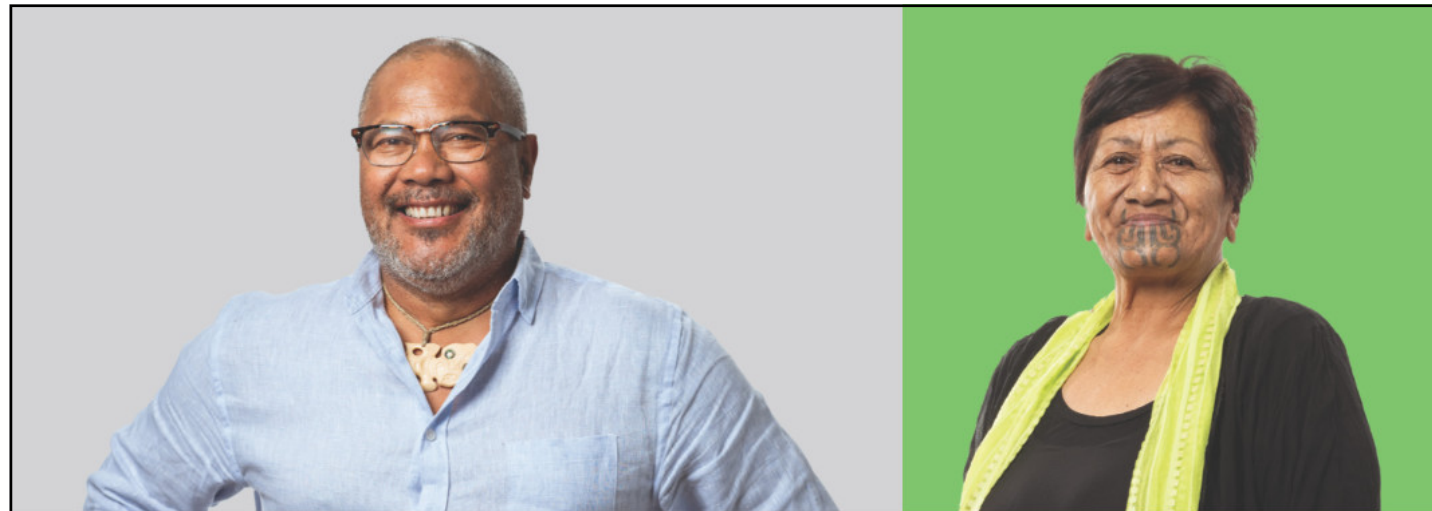
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Onerahi Matariki celebrations 2026

Seventy plus people from the Onerahi community braved the chilly conditions to attend the Matariki dawn event beside the St Stephens Church in Onerahi on Thursday 9 July.

This Matariki event, acknowledging the start of the Māori new year, was organised and led by local kaumatua Fred Tito - who was joined by a range of local kaumatua and kuia.

The event followed traditional Matariki acknowledgements:

- **Matariki Hunga Nui.** Remembrance - honouring those we have lost since the last rising of Matariki.
- **Matariki Ahunga Nui.** Celebration of the present - gathering together to give thanks for what we have.
- **Matariki Manako Nui.** Looking to the future - looking forward to the promise of a new year.

Those attending contributed to the event by acknowledging their loved ones who passed in the past year, being thankful for some of the things in their lives and sharing their aspirations for the future. Attendees were warmed initially by the open fire, then by the warm thoughts of those present and finally being served a multicultural breakfast in the Church dining hall.

Contributed by Grant Harrison, OCA President



Vince Cocurullo

Candidate for Whangarei

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Wētāpunga (Giant Wētā) release on Matakoho-Limestone Island

A special occasion for a special island in Whangārei harbour.



An ordinary Tuesday morning in Whangārei. Small groups of people, members of local iwi, taura (school students), volunteers and Friends of Matakoho-Limestone Island (FOMLI) greet and gather on the Onerahi foreshore. We will be barging across the narrow spill of water separating that shore from our destination, Matakoho-Limestone Island.

Motū Matakoho was once a significant and strategic pā site; the remains of extensive kūmara gardens are still clearly evident on its northern slopes. And there's evidence too of its settler history, in the jumble of concrete towers left from cement works that operated from the late 1850s to 1920.

These 37 hectares are now an open sanctuary and District Council reserve; and the past 35 years have seen a transformation of this tiny taiao. Through the steadfast support of Te Parawhau iwi, 1000s of hours of volunteer help, and critical financial support from sponsors, pest animals and plants have been systematically removed, and over 200,000 native trees and shrubs planted. The island is invigorated; it shows in the variety of wildlife flourishing here — young kiwi wander, safe in their island creche, pipits, fernbirds and numerous other bird species fly in and around, geckos, skinks, stick insects, tree wētā...

Manuhiri arrive slowly, carrying heavy cargo, precious taonga. They've travelled from Butterfly Creek in Tāmaki Makaurau, home of the Wētāpunga Breed-to-Release Programme. The wētāpunga was once plentiful around the



north. And today we're able to welcome them back to Te Tai Tokerau. Times like these are opportunities for respect, gratitude, kotahitanga (coming together).

Then comes the time for the BIG reveal: Butterfly Creek personnel present an adult female wētāpunga, to everyone's delight. We all gather round. That heavy-duty body reminds us that these creatures were here on this planet when dinosaurs were lumbering around. We marvel at the long antennae, barbed back legs and the bulky, grooved armour, sporting a sheen of lightly burnished copper.

We turn finally to the bulk of the precious cargo: an incredible 450 nymphs (juvenile wētāpunga) are about to be re-homed across several different sites on the island. Everyone's keen to get to work, placing the nymphs, each snugly nestled in a hollow strip of bamboo, high up on a chosen small branch in the ngahere. So that when they venture out, most likely around dusk, they're able to reach some of the flowers, fruit and leaves they most prefer to eat — broadleaf species like pūriri, karaka and the kohekohe the island was originally named for.

This Tuesday has been anything but ordinary. Thanks to the many years of planning and unstinting hard work from a large volunteer community, the magnificent wētāpunga now resides on Matakoho-Limestone Island, an extraordinary achievement, one the whole community can cherish.

Te tiaki i nga taonga o te taiao. — Help us protect the treasures of nature.

For more information, go to <https://matakohelimestoneisland.nz>

Contributed by Annemarie Florian, photos from Matakoho Island Ranger's Report



The Pines are Northland Champs



The Pines Golf Club are once again the 2026 Northland Men's 9 Hole Pennants Champs. Defending champs from 2025, Robyn East, Phil

Newman and Don Molloy won the competition again in early June, scoring a total of 151 points, with the next best being three Mangawhai teams all scoring 134 points.

Going into the final round, the three Mangawhai teams were all fighting to secure second place. However, in a bizarre twist, all three teams made a clean sweep by winning their final matches and finishing second equal on 134 points to share the Runner-up Flag.

The Pines trio delivered a commanding performance to distance themselves from the rest of the field. While a Mangawhai squad managed a narrow individual match upset against The Pines' number 2 player on the final day, it was not enough to dent the massive points cushion built up by East, Newman and Molloy across the season. Their 17-point lead comfortably brought the Pennants flag back to Whangārei Heads.

Based on Instagram and Facebook posts



Northern Rescue paramedics to the rescue

Onerahi Football Club's proximity to the Northern Rescue Helicopter base proved invaluable, after a player was injured during a Saturday match on 13 June.

"When one of our players dislocated his patella, Hato Hone St John was already responding to multiple high priority calls," says Kyle Harris, Onerahi Football Club President.

The Northern Rescue Helicopter team quickly dispatched two critical care paramedics, who arrived in their Onerahi Airport-based Rapid Response Vehicle.

"The paramedics were able to relocate the player's patella, allowing his family to transport him to White Cross for further treatment," says Harris.

"Everyone involved was so grateful for the skill and genuine care the paramedics provided. On behalf of the Club, I really want to express our gratitude to Northern Rescue for their support. Your dedication doesn't go unnoticed."

Northern Rescue says that having the Rapid Response Vehicle based at the Whangārei Airport alongside the rescue helicopters is all about supporting the local community. When emergency services are caught up with other jobs, the RRB can be deployed to help.

Northern Rescue is a community-owned air ambulance service that has been caring for Northlanders since 1988. The service has transported tens of thousands of patients and is now firmly part of the Onerahi community.

"Moments like this remind us how fortunate we are to have people who show up when it matters most. Emergency responders, whether volunteers or professionals, carry a huge load, often without recognition, and their willingness to help makes a real difference in people's lives," says Harris.

Contributed by Chris Carmichael, Onerahi Football Club

onerahifootballclub@outlook.co.nz

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Funding set aside for the Whangārei Heads wastewater system

Council has approved \$300,000 to investigate long-term wastewater treatment and disposal options for Whangārei Heads. This work will help inform future decisions under the new water services council-controlled organisation.

Pump stations should only operate for around 10 to 18 hours a day in dry weather. However, the pump station at the bottom of Solomon's Point is running 24/7 and still can't fully empty the Parua Bay storage tank, leading to frequent use of sucker trucks to transport wastewater from the storage tank to the Whangārei Wastewater Treatment Plant. Technical assessments show the issue is more about pump capacity, rather than pipe size.

Council has also confirmed \$2.2 million in existing capital funding for new wastewater pump stations and supporting network upgrades, scheduled for the 2026/27 financial year. Together, these steps aim to improve how the current system operates while making sure Whangārei Heads has a more sustainable wastewater solution for the future.

Based on a Whangārei District Council media release

Spring is on it's way!

Our Wai A Ariki community gardens and food forest is flourishing thanks to the hard mahi of dedicated volunteers.

A huge thank you to the person(s) who have come and given it an awesome and much needed mow. It was heartwarming to come and see this done.

The beds are getting prepared for planting so if anyone has some time to volunteer please pop along and join in. Any kikuya weeding is much appreciated. Many of our weeds are very beneficial both as food and medicinally, and people do come to gather them.



Top three in New Zealand

Whangārei Girls High School sailing team finished third overall in the women's division at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Team Sailing Nationals held at Parua Bay recently.

By placing in the top three in New Zealand, the WGHS team qualifies to represent New Zealand at the Interdominion Championships against top Australian school teams. The event will take place in Auckland later this year. The team is coached by Phoebe Buckland and supported heavily by Sail Northland and the Whangārei Cruising Club.

Contributed by Albert Haag, Whangārei Cruising Club

Policeman Sam to represent New Zealand again

Constable Sam Davidson from the Onerahi Community Police station has once again been selected to represent New Zealand as a goalkeeper for the Men's 40s (O40) team at the World Masters Hockey World Cup. The tournament is taking place in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and started on July 22 - it will run through to August 3, 2026. He previously represented New Zealand at the 2024 Masters World Cup in Cape Town.

Hockey New Zealand selected its squads following a highly competitive national trial process involving over 700 players. The Rotterdam leg specifically hosts the younger Masters brackets (35s to 50s age groups), before the older categories move on to Belgium and Breda later in August.

Based on a press release from Hockey New Zealand

Ed's comment:
The Onerahi Orbit team wishes both the Whangārei Girls High School sailing team and policeman Sam the best of luck for their respective competitions - let us know how you do!

As you are aware, sadly the theft of our large pavers has made it a bit tricky walking down the walkway. Please take care here. The theft of our shade sails has left us with no shade over the picnic tables where people enjoyed sitting, talking, eating and playing music.

If you happen to see any suspicious activities at the gardens please ring the police. It's so sad that some people do not appreciate the long hours and hard work done by volunteers to grow food for our community.

Contributed by Wendy Giffin



Whangārei Heads Rapid Response vehicle

In the last edition we ran an article on the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at the Whangārei Heads Fire Station to honour the generous donors for an All Terrain Vehicle for the local fire brigade.

The unveiling was attended by first response personnel, Lions and members of the community and council members.

Unfortunately photos of the unveiling and the vehicle did not come through, and can now be shared with you. This vehicle is of huge benefit to our local area, expediting rapid response in any emergency and enhancing collaboration and coordination with all local emergency teams.

Thank you to Frances Mason, Onerahi Lions Club, for spotting the error.



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Turn a few hours into something meaningful – volunteer for Daffodil Day

Tui and Janet met five years ago when they were paired up to volunteer for Daffodil Day at Mitre 10. They hit it off straight away and have since become close friends, meeting every Wednesday for coffee and returning to volunteer together each year.

Daffodil Day is the Cancer Society of New Zealand’s annual



fundraising and awareness campaign. The daffodil symbolises hope and support for people affected by cancer, with funds helping to provide research, support services, education, and advocacy.

You can be part of it too. The Cancer Society is looking for volunteers to collect at sites across Whangārei. Sign up for a two-hour shift

and help support people in your community going through cancer—while maybe making a meaningful connection of your own. Visit www.daffodilday.org.nz to see how you can contribute.

Keep New Zealand Beautiful

Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week this year falls between 18-25 September 2026.

Often referred to as Clean Up Week, KNZBW is New Zealand’s largest annual community-driven anti-litter event. Everyone gets together to clean up local areas, parks, beaches or streets, fostering environmental stewardship and reducing pollution.

There are often free resources available for those who register on the KNZB site - including free clean-up kits (gloves, bags) for volunteers and free disposal.

Registration forms to get involved open online in July. Go to <https://www.knzb.org.nz/programmes/clean-new-zealand-beautiful/clean-up-week/>

Channel Infrastructure news

Channel Infrastructure is transforming its Marsden Point facility in Whangārei into a future-focused energy hub, accelerating its biorefinery project and expanding fuel storage capacity.



In early June, they carried out dredging at Jetty One to return the channel to its deeper levels. The company has sold a decommissioned unit to clear space for the biorefinery, which now includes a partnership with Ballance Agri-Nutrients for producing eco-friendly fertilizers. Additionally, 120 million litres of new storage have been built, bolstering national fuel security. The fast-tracked development concluded in early June, and the tanks are now fully operational, including 93 million litres of Government diesel storage tanks. The first fuel shipment has already been deposited into the tanks.

Green Sea Turtle in McKenzie Bay

In a biting cold late June storm, a large and lethargic Green Sea Turtle was found washed up in the shallows of McKenzie Bay beach. Using the Auckland Zoo protocols, four of the Whangārei Heads locals carried her on a tarp to a protected and secure spot before contacting the Department of Conservation (DOC), who arrived the following morning to transport her to Auckland Zoo.

Nicknamed Myrtle by bay residents, the turtle was treated by vets at the zoo and was cared for by experts. She was identified as a juvenile female, approximately 15 years old, and most likely originated from a Queensland beach. Unfortunately Myrtle had contracted pneumonia and she died a week later.

If you find a sick turtle, immediately call the DOC emergency hotline at 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468). DOC staff will then decide the course of action for you to follow. Please do not put turtles back into the sea; or attempt to care for them yourself. These animals strand because they are too weak to swim or are suffering from hypothermia/illness. Returning them to the ocean can cause them to drown.

For sick turtles, until DOC arrives, you should keep the turtle secure: If safe, wrap the turtle securely in dry blankets or a towel to keep it calm and protected. Do not pull off any barnacles: Allow the specialist veterinary team to handle all cleaning and medical assessments.

If you hook a sea turtle while fishing, you are legally required under the Wildlife Act to report it to DOC. It’s not illegal to accidentally catch them, you just have to report and

release - either by removing the hook or cutting the line as short as possible to the hook. Leaving them with fishing line attached to the hook is a death sentence. If the hook has been swallowed, the animal should be secured and DOC phoned immediately to arrange for vet care - call 0800DOCHOT or email recfishbycatch@doc.govt.nz, or turtles@doc.govt.nz, or use the Protected Species Catch app. Record the date, GPS location if possible, photo (to ID the species), approx length of the carapace/shell and comment on whether it was seen swimming or was caught and released.



The recent influx of marine turtle rescues in Northland and Auckland regions has concerned the Auckland Zoo, as it highlights a growing trend as climate change impacts sea temperatures and currents; drawing tropical and subtropical species like sea turtles into New Zealand waters.

Myrtle the Turtle washed up in Mckenzie Bay on a Saturday night - and there were DOC staff available to help us - a real person answered the DOC hotline and DOC staff arrived on Sunday morning to pick her up. It's worth the effort to take action - you may just save a life.

Contributed by Cindy Woest, McKenzie Bay; Photo by Betsy Duncan, McKenzie Bay

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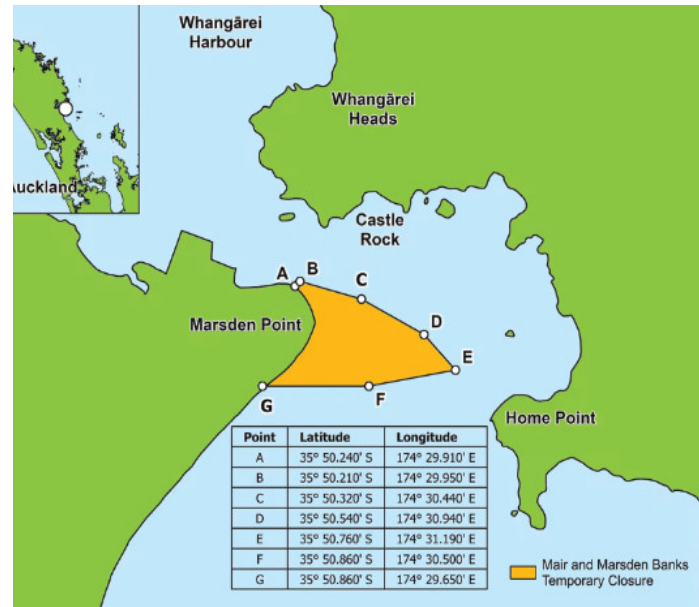
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Whangārei Harbour Shellfish ban extended

The Ministry for Primary Industries has extended the formal shellfish harvest ban on the Marsden and Mair banks to protect depleted stocks and assist with regional ecosystem recovery.



The area in orange is where shellfish gathering has been banned at Marsden Bank and Mair Bank in Whangārei Harbour. Photo / MPI

Continued from page 5

we have built up a basic welfare kit so that in times of need we can open a centre as a place for affected people to drop in to a dry and welcoming place to have a cuppa and moral support. From here extra support may be called on to meet the needs.

Fortunately, none of the times we have opened have been serious- the time when the Tsunami sirens went off for real and we had a buzzing crowd of people and pets converge around the Community Hall and park. Our local New World supermarket kindly offered supplies until the event passed. There have been times we were called to open during cyclones, sometimes when the roads in and on from Onerahi have been cut off. Apart from people dropping in checking out the bright lights at the Community Hall on a miserable night, there was no real need for us! Most people batted down at home fortunately.

Tony Gill and Lana Jennings have almost always been there to set up along with other members when they can. Members Mike Chubb and Jeff Pipe, who are also volunteer firefighters, have always offered support when they have not been involved with callouts; which often happen at the same time.

With the way our weather and world are changing there is certainly a need for our group. If you would like to be involved, please phone Kim Webby on 09 4360185 or Lana Jennings on 021 441 423.



Photo by Wendy Giffin



Raurimu Avenue School

"Poipoia te rito o te harakeke"

**Ko te pae tāwhiti, whaia kia tata. Ko te pae tata, whakamaia kia tina.
Seek out the distant horizons. Cherish the ones you have attained.**

Our first half of the school year has absolutely flown by with term 2 being full of learning that finished with an amazing Matariki whānau day; where we worked together to produce hearty kai and showcase our students' vibrant art work in an exhibition that left caregivers speechless. Having whānau work with their tamariki in preparing kai and sitting down together was a special moment as we watched generations come together and share knowledge with our younger ones.

This culminated our core learning from the beginning of the term where we explored space, planets and the stars. A visit to the planetarium earlier in the term was a great excursion that beautifully tied their classroom learning to the wider universe.

History was brought to life through meaningful, practical community service with hands-on learning, as we made wreaths for ourselves and the volunteer fire brigade to be presented at our local ANZAC service. Our senior students who attended took away a deep, lasting appreciation for the sacrifices made by previous generations.

Physical education took a collaborative turn this term, focusing heavily on



team building, skill development, and cultural games with weekly lessons in basketball from Tuakana Teina Kaiarahi and Ki o Rahi with Mana Ake. Our Ki o Rahi training was put to the test when we joined other schools for a tournament that pushed our competitive spirit and brought an abundance of fun. Morning fitness received an upbeat injection thanks to Matua Oka. His high-energy games and dance moves gave our morning routines an incredibly fun vibe. Matua Oka also runs weekday dance classes right out of our school hall, open to all interested tamariki.

Our middle school students gained knowledge around beekeeping with the tahi honey programme. Through this interactive initiative, students gained comprehensive, first-hand knowledge about the mechanics of beekeeping, hive ecosystems, and the honey extraction process. The ultimate reward for their hard work was a sweet batch of school-produced jars of honey, that are now officially for sale at the school office.

As we head into the second half of the school year, we extend a massive thank you to all the whānau, mentors, and local organisations who help make our school such a thriving place to learn.

Contributed by Nicki Powell, Administrator, Raurimu Avenue School

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Kia ora Koutou,
Ngā mihi o Matariki, te tau hou
Māori – I hope you have all had
a wonderful reflective and
restorative Matariki. The sunny
winter days have certainly
helped keep spirits up in our
household as we moved
through the shortest day! I'm
sure many families are similar
to ours, with winter sports
keeping everyone very busy.
The school holidays will be a
welcome break from the hectic routine!

Changes to Local Government and the RMA: A suite of rapid legislative changes are coming through from central government. Simplification of Local Government is pushing toward combining councils in Northland. NRC is committed to ensuring important environmental monitoring, biosecurity, biodiversity protection, and Civil Defence programmes are maintained through this change. The new Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill (together replacing the Resource Management Act) are also bringing massive changes and on a tight timeline for implementation. NRC is working closely with the district councils to get spatial planning for the region underway.

Finding Balance and Inspiration: With the heavy political workload, I've been appreciating a sense of balance when attending Matariki events across our community. Planting, coming together to reflect, and sharing food and plans for



the new year ahead provides a welcome mid-winter re-set. It's really been reminding me of what's important, and has renewed my commitment to serving my community, and building a healthier environment to pass on to our kids and grandkids.

I'm always happy to hear from you, please just get in touch - amym@nrc.govt.nz, or find me on facebook: Amy Macdonald – NRC Councillor.

Ngā mihi nui,

Councillor Amy Macdonald

www.nrc.govt.nz

Disclaimer – this is my personal opinion and not that of the Northland Regional Council



Onerahi School report



Kia ora koutou,

As I write this we are wrapped in the embrace of Matariki. It is a reflective time of year, an opportunity to look back at all we have achieved, to remember those that have passed, and to set our eyes to the future. A question we've been exploring with our tamariki is, "What do you want to achieve this year?" Finding meaningful purpose in our actions means that the journey we set out on, no matter how challenging, is both rewarding and achievable.

We hosted two special events for Matariki this year. Our Matariki evening saw the juxtaposition of a school wrapped in darkness with the warmth of shared kai and community. Classrooms were open for people to mingle, enjoying some of the Matariki inspired art that our tamariki had created and filling our bellies with delicious soup.

At 7:00pm, we all gathered outside Te Whare Hikingia Ngā Reorua for kapa haka performances from across the school. From the newest members to our kura all the way through to Te Taihu (our performance group), you could see and hear the understanding and love fostered for Te Ao Māori. It was one of those moments where you felt lifted as a community.

On an early Thursday morning a dedicated group of people gathered at the very same locations for our hautapu ceremony. Same level of darkness, different end of the day. As we released the steam into the dawn air, sounds of waiata and

karakia surrounded us. Some people chatted, others gazed reflectively into the fire, and again kai was there with us.

As I said at the beginning, Matariki has put us all in a reflective frame of mind. It is a good time to ask ourselves some questions as a community. What do we want to achieve in the coming year? How can we help each other as a community reach those aspirations? What's important for us to remember as we move forward? Thank you again for your support and take care.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Danny Hamilton

Tumuaki Tuarua / Deputy Principal



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CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Eighty people turn up for Bream Head planting day

Thank you to everyone who turned up for the hard mahi of last month's planting day. We had a great turnout with



about 80 people on the tools. With all those hands it only took two hours to get 1700 trees in the ground.

The Onerahi community has always been a strong supporter of the Bream Head / Te

Whara Scenic Reserve and it was great to see so many of you turn up on the day.

On the subject of turning up, this year we have had a significant increase of a different kind of local fauna - visiting school students. Some 203 so far this year from four schools. Our prior record was 469 in 2019. Of course COVID led to a decline in student prevalence on the reserve, but it's good to

see numbers bouncing back. The Trust has some funding for a school bus and can support large groups. Please reach out for details, as training up young conservationists is essential for the restoration of our beautiful country.

Finally, we captured images of a Grey Faced Petrel chasing a stoat away from its burrow in May. At the start of June, a ranger rechecked the cameras and they had captured no further stoat presence. This is an immense achievement for our long-running anti-muselid campaign. "Vigorous GFP activity" was reported (feel free to read between the lines on that one).

See you on the Hill

Ngā mihi, The Bream Head Conservation Trust Team



Be aware of Taiwan Cherry Trees

Take action now to save more work later. The pink flowers of the Taiwan Cherry Tree are currently showing up in gardens, on roadsides and in reserves. It's an ideal time to get out the loppers, chainsaw and paste to arrest this fast growing invasive tree. Birds carry the seeds. Some hillsides are a blanket of pink at the cost of our native trees.

When I am out and about I notice many small Taiwan Cherry Trees in gardens. They quickly become dominant and more difficult to remove. By taking action now, money and time can be saved; less slash and less work. But, remember to treat the stump with a chemical to stop it popping up again next year. A gel is a handy safe and effective way to kill the root system. Metgel, Roundup or similar pastes are available from garden centres.

If anyone wants to deal with just one or two please contact Waimahangatrackactiongroup@gmail.com We can provide small amounts of gel in a returnable bottle. Of course, we always welcome anyone who joins us along the track so please be in touch if you're keen?

Contributed by Chrissie and the team



Pam Stevens spots a Taiwan Cherry sapling that is ideal to cut and paste

Whangārei catch-up

Recent news on Whangārei developments...

The Whangārei Hospital redevelopment secured a rare win in the national budget, with funding officially cleared for a new 158-bed tower block, alongside an already approved acute services building, which was funded in the 2022 budget (and is still in the design phase).

Another win in the budget was the four-lane Northland Expressway project. The project is 26km long, and the indicative design includes an 850m long twin bore tunnel in the Dome Valley and three interchanges located at Warkworth, Wellsford and Te Hana. The road connects to SH1 at Warkworth. The new highway will be located in a separate valley, to the west of the existing SH1, until it reaches the Hotoe River where it will head eastwards crossing over the existing SH1 and Wayby Valley Road, with an interchange proposed at Wayby Valley Road. The highway then continues generally parallel to Wayby Valley Road, before turning northwards and crossing Rustybrook Road. As the highway heads north it will cross local roads including Whangaripo Valley, Farmers Lime and Silver Hill roads, bypassing both Wellsford and Te Hana townships. A further interchange is proposed near Mangawhai Road, with the new highway then connecting back into the existing SH1.

The Northland Regional Council has approved a 0% rates increase, while the Whangārei District Council has locked in a 5% general rates increase. The WDC has also introduced an extra \$50 charge to explicitly build a new storm damage reserve fund. Nearly six months after the massive summer

landslides blocked Russell Road at Helena Bay Hill, hundreds of homes remain cut off or are hard to access. Local campgrounds in areas like Ōakura and Whangaruru have reported losing nearly \$100,000 in cancellations because detour routes are completely unsuitable for campervans and holiday travelers.

A H Reed Memorial Park was closed with a temporary freedom camping ban and restricted access after kauri dieback disease was officially recognised within the forest earlier this year. In June, the council reported that, since kauri dieback was identified in the park, a coordinated programme of work had been underway to help protect the ngahere and limit further spread of the disease. Further testing has now identified a second positive site within the park, reinforcing the need to keep the forest closed to public access while this work continues. Work completed to date includes the application of rongoā treatment (traditional remedies) across affected areas, along with targeted testing and site assessments to better understand the extent of the disease. Ngāti Kahu o Torongare and Council thank the community for their patience and understanding while this work is underway. Further updates will be shared as the situation progresses.



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PBRRA News

Kia ora, from the Parua Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association.

Major changes to local government in Northland are on the horizon, and the Whangārei Heads community will have an important opportunity to help shape the outcome.

An outline proposal for the future structure of local government in Northland is expected to be released in August, with formal public consultation beginning in October. This will be your chance to have a say on how local services are delivered and how decisions are made in our region.

One option that could emerge is the creation of two separate unitary authorities. While there are differing views on the merits of reform, this approach would split Northland into two

gift to North Haven Hospice, although the option is there if that feels right to you.

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Contributed by Lyn Cheyne, www.northhavenhospice.org.nz



administrative areas and bring the likelihood of reducing the effectiveness of services that work best across the whole region. These include environmental monitoring, flood and coastal hazard management, transport planning, and programmes that support communities to care for nature, such as pest control and habitat restoration.

The decisions made through this process will affect our communities for decades to come. We encourage residents to take the time to understand the options, participate in the consultation, and ensure that the voices of Whangārei Heads and coastal communities are heard.

When the consultation opens in October, please make sure you have your say (check WDC and NRC websites).

Nga mihi, James Griffin, President PBRRA

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Unwanted emails and pop-ups can be annoying, confusing, and sometimes a bit scary. The good news is that there are some very simple ways to keep your laptop, phone, and tablet safe and tidy.

Where these messages come from - Most of the time, they come from websites you've visited, mailing lists you didn't mean to join, or scammers trying to get your attention. Once you know that, it's easier to deal with them.

Unsubscribe from real emails - If the email is from a real company, scroll to the bottom and click Unsubscribe. If it looks strange or pushy, don't click anything, just use your email app's Report Spam button.

Use simple email tools - Most email apps let you block senders or send certain messages straight to the junk folder. Helpful tools include: block sender, move to junk, or filter by words you don't want to see. These small steps quickly clean up your inbox.

Stopping pop-ups - On laptops, turn on your browser's pop-up blocker. On phones and tablets, check your app notification settings and turn off anything you don't recognise.

Be careful with 'free' downloads, many pop-ups come from free apps or clicking on ads. If a website suddenly says 'Your device is infected', close the page. Real warnings come from your device, not from a website. Keep your device updated, because updates fix security problems. Turn on automatic updates so your device stays protected.

Contributed by Vince Cocurullo



Vince Cocurullo
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Nickle longs for nothing more than a walk followed by a quiet cuddle, while sweet **Zinc** simply needs someone patient enough to help her confidence blossom.

Contributed by Sue McDonald, Whangārei SPCA, <https://www.sPCA.nz/adopt>



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The leverage of prayer



I came across a short story about an old farmer who ploughed around a large rock in his field year after year.

He had broken one cultivator and two ploughshares by hitting it. Each time he saw that obstacle, he grumbled about how much trouble the rock had caused.

One day he decided to dig it up and be done with it. Putting a large crowbar under one side, he found to his surprise that the rock was less than a foot thick. Soon he had prised it out of the ground and was carting it away in his wagon. He smiled to think how that "big" old rock had caused him so much needless frustration.

Not every trouble can be removed as easily as that stone. But prayer is an effective way to handle difficulties of all sizes. Paul told us in Philipian's 4 verse 6 "In everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God"

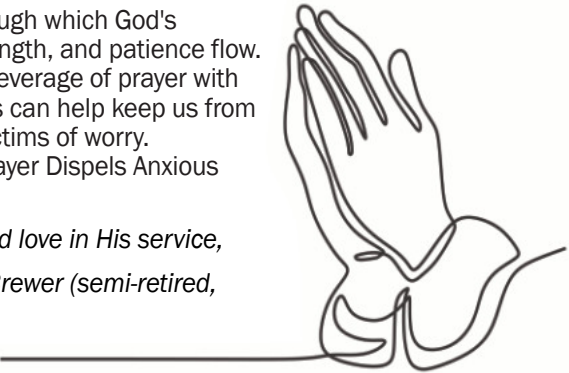
Sometimes when we pray, God dispels difficulty as easily as the sun burns off a morning mist. At other times, He shows us that our problems are much smaller than we had thought. But some obstacles are immovable, and we must learn to live with them. Prayer then becomes the channel through which God's wisdom, strength, and patience flow.

Using the leverage of prayer with our problems can help keep us from becoming victims of worry.

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Pastor Ron Brewer (semi-retired, Onerahi)



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	onerahicommunity@gmail.com 022 085 8286
Onerahi Bowling Club	Roger Kerr-Davis	027 390 7185
Onerahi Rugby Club	Fiona Raymond-Paikea	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
Onerahi Yacht Club	Dave Cochran	024 438 8911
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	Richard Burgoyne	bookings@paruabaycommunitycentre.org.nz
McLeod Bay Hall	Jos	hallbookings@whca.nz
Taurikura Hall	Pearl Newman	021 545 087

Whangārei District Council Hotline: 0800 932 463
Onerahi Police (09) 436 0222

ONERAHI COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sundays 10am Raurimu Ave School Hall

... the name of Jesus ...
there is no other name ...
by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:10-12

Contact: hello.onecc@gmail.com

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

Community Adult Ballet - Beginner 6-week courses available Tuesdays on demand. Silver Swans: Tues 10:30am, Wed 5:30pm, Sat 4:50pm. Adult & teen open classes: Tues 5:30pm (basic), Wed 6:40pm (improver), Sat 2:10pm (intermediate). Floor barre: Sat 1pm. Repertoire: Sat 3:50pm. St. Stephen's Church Hall. Contact www.balletnorth.nz

Community Education Whangārei (CEW) at Kamo High School - Website: <https://www.cew.ac.nz/> Email: 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@mwheg.org.nz

Green minded events - a website that updates all upcoming eco events is <https://www.ecosolutions.org.nz/pages/upcoming-events>

Jolly Dodgers Scooterers group - If you are keen to join this local Onerahi group, 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>

Make & Meet - fortnightly weekend sessions at Reyburn House Art Studio. Every workshop is a surprise—one week it's crochet, the next clay. Bookings essential. Find us on Humanitix (search: Make & Meet Whangārei)

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

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

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 Marjorie on 021 217 9061

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

Onerahi Garden club - Meets the third Friday of the month, 9.30 til 12.00 noon, at the Onerahi Community Hall. Speakers each month, and garden visits. New members warmly welcomed. Contact Maureen on maureen101@hotmail.com

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 Lions - Guests or interested persons welcome. Meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month (business meeting) and 3rd Tuesday of month (dinner and social night). Both held at Onerahi Bowling Club, Alamein Avenue, 6:30pm. Contact Maria Goodhew 027 474 2213

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

Onerahi Silver Swans - For more information about Silver Swans and other adult and teen ballet classes, please visit balletnorth.nz.

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. \$5.00 per person or \$5.00 per couple

Onerahi Tennis Club - for all age groups and abilities. See facebook and website: www.clubspark.kiwi/OnerahiTennisClub. Casual court use available - place \$10 in the honesty box if you use a court. Call 0210 8442023, or email wkthomas99@icloud.com

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

St Stephen's Church - Strength and Balance Classes 8.45 or 10am Mondays and Wednesdays. Quilting and crafting - Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30-12.30; Knitting without Borders - second Thursdays 1-3pm; middle Saturday of the School Holidays 'Celebrating Youth' Pizzas and games, Saturday 5-8pm

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? We are a non-auditioned community choir based in Whangārei. We sing a wide range of songs from traditional classical choral works through to musical theatre & modern songs. We welcome adult singers of all ages to join us. Please contact Whangareichoral@gmail.com or just turn up on a Monday night, 7pm, St. John's Golden Church, 147 Kamo Road.

Whangārei Flying Club - Sunday Social 12:30pm every Sunday, Hangar 10, Whangārei Airport, Handforth Street, Onerahi (access via Gate 4, Handforth Street). Come for home-cooked burgers and home-made cake for only \$10 and talk to our friendly team of pilots and instructors. You can even go for a trial flight if you want. www.Whangareiflyingclub.com

Whangārei Green Drinks - An eco-conscious networking event held on the third Tuesday of every month 6-7:30pm. A joint initiative by EcoSolutions and the Tai Tokerau Timebank. Held at the He Awhi Rito Envirohub (located at 8 First Avenue) unless a special field-trip location is announced closer to the date. Attendance is free and includes complimentary light drinks and snacks

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 Philatelic Society - For those interested in stamps, coins and bank notes - contact Barry Jones 021 214 4140 (Club Secretary)

Whangārei Scale Modellers Group - Meet third Tuesday evening of every month, 7-9pm at Northland Hobbies, 10 John Street Whangārei. Open to all with an interest in all types of scale modelling irrespective of age and skill level

Whangārei Scottish Country Dance Club - The Scottish Country Dance Club meets every Thursday at the Onerahi Community Hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome. For more information, 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

Citizens Advice Bureau

Not sure? Ask us.

We provide free, confidential and independent information and advice to help you understand your rights and responsibilities.

154 Bank Street, Whangārei
09 438 8046 • whangarei@cab.org.nz
www.cab.org.nz

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www.joyatthebay.com
Phone 436 5002

Mon 9am - 4pm
Tue 9am - 5pm
Wed 9am - 7pm
Thurs 9am - 5pm
Fri 9am - 6pm

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 5 August - Key Workshop on 'Stress, Health and You'. Presented by Gwendolyn Needham, 10-1pm, \$10, register 09 437 7183 or e-mail be.free@xtra.co.nz

Saturday 8 August - Punjabi Teeyan Mela 2026: A vibrant cultural festival celebrating traditional Punjabi dance, music, and community heritage. Whangārei Intermediate School, 5:30pm, entry tickets required

Sunday 16 August - Vande Mataram - Indian Independence Day Celebration. A festival hosted by the Northland Indian Association alongside the Consulate General of India, featuring cultural dances, music, and community food stalls. Forum North (7 Rust Avenue, Whangārei) at 2 - 5pm. Free admission & family-friendly

Saturday 22 August - Whangārei Choral Society "Sound of Music" concert. 2:30pm at St. John's Golden Church, 147 Kamo Road. \$20 cash/eftpos door entry. Come along and enjoy "Sound of Music" favourites - you can also sing along! - as well as other songs which speak of youth, love and adversity. Whangārei Choral is always looking for new members. If you love to sing or just want to give singing a try, come along to one of our Monday rehearsals. Please contact us at Whangareichoral@gmail.com

Friday 28 August - Daffodil Day - Check out <https://www.daffodilday.org.nz> to see how you can contribute. See page 12

Saturday 29 August - Stamp and Coin/Banknote Fair hosted by the Whangārei Philatelic Society at St Johns Golden Church, Kamo Road, Whangārei from 9am - 3pm. Dealers for all things philatelic will be present. Children's corner. Further details available from Barry Jones, Secretary, on 021 244 4140, cjnzbj@yahoo.com

Tuesday 1 September - Latin American Fiesta: A high-energy cultural festival highlighting Latin American heritage through regional foods, traditional dances, and live music. Forum North (7 Rust Avenue, Whangārei) at 2pm. Public entry event

Sunday 6 September - Father's Day

Friday 18 - 25 September - Keep New Zealand Beautiful week. See page 12

Thursday 1 October to 14 October - Whangārei Silver Festival: two weeks of celebrating older adults with workshops, sports tasters, social gatherings, and creative events. Details available from the council website <https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Events/Festivals/Silver-Festival>

Fake Cash Warning

Retailers have been asked to stay vigilant following a sudden spike in counterfeit \$50 notes circulating through Whangārei businesses.

Police are investigating eight reports of counterfeit banknotes received over the past two months after several Whangārei businesses raised the alarm. Some of the fake notes include hologram windows cut from genuine lower-value notes.

Police are encouraging people to use the 'look, feel, tilt' test to verify banknotes. When looking through the holographic window, the edges should appear smooth and display a bird's silhouette, a map of New Zealand and a three-dimensional denomination feature. Genuine notes should also have raised ink on the words 'Reserve Bank of New Zealand Te Pūtea Matua' and on the denomination. Tilting the note should reveal a bright bar moving across the bird silhouette, while colours in the holographic window shift and change.

Anyone who finds a counterfeit note should report it to the police as soon as possible. If you find you've already received a counterfeit note, put it in an envelope to avoid handling it further and get in touch with police. Reports can be made online through the 105 service or by calling 105. Information can also be provided anonymously through Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.



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

Email: 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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