

Dec/Jan 2025

FREE monthly community magazine  
for Massey to Hobsonville Point

# The Westerly

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



**Black & White Coffee  
Cartel**



## Greetings

How about doing something new this summer? People like routine, dislike change, but sometimes it is good to challenge ourselves with the unexpected. New experiences help us grow and give a fresh perspective. If it doesn't work, learn from the experience, use the knowledge to develop new skills. There is value in just trying. We have strengths and capabilities. It may be something small, like looking out for that book we meant to read but never got around to, or listening to some music from a different style that someone might recommend. Is there a place or area you haven't yet visited, or a historic site you have heard about or seen in a documentary? YouTube offers the opportunity to learn about almost anything.

Perhaps it's worth being more ambitious. There are plenty of groups and societies in our local communities that welcome new members, and it would take just a small step to ask to attend a meeting. Maybe you could try a craft or new skill, or challenge yourself with learning a new language. Everyone is a beginner at some point, and there is value in the learning process, and there is the possibility of gaining new friendships. Might you have some time to help out as a volunteer at one of the many local community groups?

Keep an open mind to the opportunities available around us. Please enjoy the ranges of topics covered by this last issue of the year. As the year draws to a close it is timely to think about those in our communities who struggle with situations in their lives that many of us manage without difficulty. Read about the activities of Visionwest and St Vincent de Paul whose work provide much-needed support throughout the year, but especially around Christmas. Living in a community can provide benefits such as social support, shared resources, and a sense of belonging. Responsibilities may include contributing to communal well-being, respecting others, and participating in activities that promote the community as a whole.

We are grateful to all our contributors from the community who have provided the material for you to enjoy reading. Thanks also to our advertisers for their support. Many thanks to Graham, Stacey, Gabrielle, Geoff and Gail for all their work through the year that have made this magazine happen. Our next issue will be in February. Season's Greetings to our loyal readers.

John, Editor



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Circulation is 15,000 print copies and 3371 opened and read email copies. Editorial contributions are free from cost. Advertising starts at \$100 plus gst for a business card size.

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COVER PHOTO: Black & White Coffee Cartel  
PRINT RUN: 15,000 copies, Treehouse Print  
EMAIL DATABASE: Sublime NZ

DISCLAIMER: Articles published are submitted by individual entities and should not be taken as reflecting the editorial views of this magazine or the publishers of the Westerly Limited.

Articles are not to be re-published unless written consent is granted from the publisher (Graham McIntyre).



## People & Places

THEWESTERLY.CO.NZ



### Black & White Coffee Cartel

An exciting opportunity awaits an enthusiastic coffee lover at Maki Centre, Westgate. Black & White Coffee Cartel, NZ's first micro-roasting coffee franchise, is looking for a hard-working owner to join their group and help expand the third wave of coffee throughout New Zealand. With 18 successful cafes around the country, the franchise offers:

- A TURNKEY SOLUTION: Fit-out, equipment, initial training, manuals, recipe books and on-going support. Your store is operational from Day 1.

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- BUYING POWER with suppliers
- COMPETITIVE on-going fees
- Each cafe has its own LOOK & FEEL, no cookie-cutter
- One of the HIGHEST CUSTOMER REVIEWS in the industry

#### Why Micro-Roasting?

We do not operate the traditional New Zealand model where we have a closed off, a centralised roastery that supplies our stores. Instead, we take a hands-on approach. Each full café has an onsite coffee roaster, meaning that the coffee that is brewed in each store, is roasted in that store, in full view of you.

Our stores have cut a key middleman out, what ends up in the cup is higher quality and of course, the guest experience is truly authentic, from raw to roasted under one roof. The European's have been operating like this for years. We have simply implemented it here bringing a richer experience into our cafes.

To know more about this opportunity, contact Tony Yin at [tony.yin@blackandwhitecoffee.co.nz](mailto:tony.yin@blackandwhitecoffee.co.nz) or 022 630 6622. More information is also available at [www.blackandwhitecoffee.co.nz](http://www.blackandwhitecoffee.co.nz).


## Glen Eden Recreation Centre

Twelve Glen Eden Recreation Centre user groups recently welcomed dozens of visitors to the centre's Open Day at Harold Moody Park, 44 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden.



**★ Tony Yin**  
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**Black & White Systems Ltd**  
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[www.blackandwhitecoffee.co.nz](http://www.blackandwhitecoffee.co.nz)



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[autoworxnz@outlook.com](mailto:autoworxnz@outlook.com)

Dance, community care, country music, table tennis, gardening, mahjong, and quilting were just some of the activities the local community was invited to participate in at the Open Day.

Refreshments and food provided by the LMS Pasifika Church flowed thick and fast throughout the day, and some groups have since welcomed both new members and activity interests at the Centre.

"I observed several people who attended the Open Day being surprised about how much goes on down here, right in the heart of their local community, so the Open Day was an excellent opportunity to share what we all do with those who might like to join us doing it," said Stephen Taylor, Director of the Waitakere Table Tennis Association, which is based at the Glen Eden Recreation Centre.

Enquiries regarding user groups or bookings for the Glen Eden Recreation Centre may be addressed to Lynn Brown at (021) 193-4399.

## Family fun



This summer, Connected Neighbourhoods Trust is excited to invite the community to join us for a special series of free events designed to bring neighbours together in a fun and relaxed setting. With lawn games, face painting, giant bubbles, and an ice cream truck, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

These events are not just about having fun—they're about creating connections.

When neighbours come together, it strengthens the bonds within our community, making it not only more vibrant but also safer and more resilient. A connected neighbourhood is one where people look out for each other, share in good times, and come together during challenges.

If you're in Auckland over the summer months, make sure to mark your calendar and join us for the afternoon. From 2:30pm - 5pm.

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Whether you're new to the area or a longtime resident, this is the perfect chance to meet your neighbours, enjoy some lighthearted activities, and create memories that will last all year. Don't miss out—come along and be part of the fun!

Scott Point Family Fun in the Park at Observation Green Park: Sat Jan 18th, Sun Feb 23rd. From 2:30pm - 5pm.

Whenuapai Summer Series at the Parkhouse Park: Sun Jan 12, Sun Feb 16th. From 2:30pm - 5pm.

Check out Connected Neighbourhoods Trust facebook page for more details.

## ZASH Hair: Redefining beauty and confidence



Zash Hair has quickly become a recognised name in the beauty industry, celebrated for its commitment to quality and innovation in haircare and styling solutions. Founded with the vision of empowering individuals to embrace their unique beauty, Zash Hair offers a diverse range of products designed to cater to various hair types and textures.

At the heart of Zash Hair's philosophy is the belief that hair is not just an accessory but a powerful form of self-expression. The brand strives to provide customers with high-quality hair care, colours, and styling tools that enhance natural beauty and boost confidence. Their products are crafted from ethically sourced materials, ensuring that each item meets rigorous standards for quality and sustainability.

Zash Hair also emphasises education, offering a wealth of resources to help customers achieve their desired

*Zash Hair*

HAIR BY CARLA  
77 Waitakere Road, Waitakere, Auckland 0614  
Phone: 021 814 663 zashhair

looks. From tutorials on application techniques to tips on maintenance and care, the brand is dedicated to empowering users with the knowledge they need to make informed choices about their hair.

Additionally, Zash Hair recognises the importance of inclusivity in beauty. The brand actively seeks to represent all hair types and textures, ensuring that everyone can find products suited to their unique needs. With a focus on innovation and customer satisfaction, Zash Hair continues to expand its product line and reach, making it a go-to destination for those looking to elevate their hair game.

By prioritising quality, education, and inclusivity, Zash Hair stands as a beacon of inspiration in the beauty industry, helping individuals embrace their true selves with confidence.

Call/Message Carla today on 021814663

77 Waitakere Road, Waitakere

## Your new Thursday tradition

### Social run, spot prizes & good vibes

Looking for a fun way to spend your Thursday evenings? Come join Hobsonville's Early Bird Run Crew (EBRC) for The Little Loop, a FREE 5km community run/walk happening



every Thursday at Catalina Bay.

### Here's what you need to know:

Start & Finish location: outside Little Creatures Brewery

Time: Runners depart at 6.15pm; walkers can start anytime from 6pm

Meet-Up: Arrive from 5.45pm to drop your bag, warm up, catch up with others and enjoy some tunes

EBRC are a run club that's run by the community, for the community. After the run, stick around to see if you've won one of the spot prizes (simply register to enter!) and enjoy food and drink specials inside Little Creatures with your crew.

The fun doesn't stop there - keep an eye out for our

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**People & Places**

special themed runs with more prizes and surprises. Coming up:

Santa Run - Thursday, 19 December: Gather your mates, work buddies, or family for a festive evening with a difference. Think Christmas-themed costumes, food trucks, and lots of holiday cheer.

Whether you're a seasoned runner or just looking for a social way to stay active, The Little Loop is the perfect way to kick off your Thursday evenings now summer is fast approaching. Lace up your runners, bring your crew, and join in the fun.

MORE INFO:

Register: [runsignup.com/thelittleloop](https://runsignup.com/thelittleloop)

Facebook: Early Bird Run Crew NZ

Instagram: @earlybirdruncrewnz

**Season's greetings  
from the team at  
House of Travel  
Hobsonville**



We want to thank you all for the incredible support we have received this year helping us to become the most awarded travel agency brand in New Zealand. We wish you all a wonderful well-deserved summer holiday and an exceptional New Year for of new adventures that help create lifelong memories.

This is the perfect time to get together with friends and family to plan 2025 travel adventures together. Why not get in contact and let us help you make it happen.

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**Celebrate christmas  
with us at Mitre 10  
MEGA Westgate &  
Henderson**

The holidays are upon us, and there's no better place to kick off the season than at Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson with our festive Christmas event. Bring the whole family to enjoy an array of merry activities, all designed to inspire creativity, foster community, and make holiday memories that last.

Date: 12 December 2024

Time: 3pm to 7pm

Location: Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson

Northside Drive Westgate & Lincoln Road Henderson

Join us for a treasure hunt like no other. Dive into the aisles of Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson to uncover hidden clues to complete the puzzle and go in the draw to win a kids meal voucher from Columbus Café. For all those who love a good adventure this hunt is for you, bring your detective skills, a keen eye, and a spirit for adventure.

Colouring-In Competition. Whether you're a budding artist or just want to enjoy some creative time, we'd love to see what you can create. Choose your colouring sheet and colour it in using your favourite colours and get as creative as you like. Submit your masterpiece for a chance to win a kids meal voucher from Columbus Café. The winner will have their artwork proudly displayed in-store.

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Santa's in-store. Santa himself will be here to listen to holiday wishes and pose for photos, creating magical memories for young and old alike.

Discover our curated selection of holiday lights, outdoor decorations, and seasonal tools. We're offering demonstrations on holiday lighting setups and unique decorating techniques to make your home sparkle and shine. As a special thank you to our loyal customers, we're rolling out exclusive discounts on seasonal decor, tools, and select holiday gifts and all purchase will receive 5X Airpoints on the night.

Join us in spreading joy by participating in our National Christmas toy drive. We're collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Kindness Collective. Every donation helps brighten the season for a family in need.

At Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson, we believe that the holidays are about coming together as a community



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to celebrate, create, and share joy. Whether you're here for decorating ideas, family fun, or simply to soak in the holiday atmosphere, we can't wait to welcome you to this heartwarming event. So, mark your calendar, gather the family, and let's celebrate the season in style. Happy Holidays from all of us at Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson.

**Intuitive Vision Board Workshops**



Intuitive Vision Board Workshop Come on a journey of self-discovery and 'Create Your Life' by experiencing the wonderful intuitive creative process of making your own vision board which shows you a way forward for your life. Take time to pause and spend the day reviewing your life - your dreams, what's enhancing your life or not... and find out what areas need your attention in 2025. This workshop is based on tapping into that still small voice that often gets ignored, and can be the wisest part of ourselves. Tune into your intuition, putting aside the thoughts of what you think you should be, do and have, and allow the space and time to help you discover more about who you want to 'be' before you jump ahead to the doing and having.

When: Saturday 18 January 2025. Time: 10am - 4pm. Where: Hobsonville Point, Auckland. All materials are supplied to make your own vision board, including a pre-workshop visioning sheet. Tea, coffee and biscuits supplied, bring your own lunch. Investment: \$90 +gst.

Let me know if you have any questions, or would like to book your seat.

Terri Gasparich

terri@visionboards.co.nz or www.visionboards.co.nz



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**Safer Communities**



**Fire Safety**

As we progress towards summer there is an increase in risk associated with vegetation fires.

As vegetation dries out the ease of ignition increases and they spread a lot quicker, especially if assisted by wind or slope of property.

Wildfires or bushfires, can cause significant damage to the environment, property, and human life. Being prepared for these fires is extremely important.

Be proactive in an attempt to protect your property from fire spread by maintaining and removing dead

vegetation and fuel from around your house.

Try planting species of plants that are more of a broadleaf variety and have a higher resistance to igniting.

Another important aspect is to ensure gutters are cleared of dried leaves etc. Embers transferring in the wind can easily settle in dry vegetation in a gutter. With these leaves catching fire, a fire can simply transfer into your ceiling cavity where the area is already warm and preheated from the days sun.

Summer is approaching and we all want to make the most of the warmer days. Be considerate of what your activities entail and if they involve any form of fire from a brazier etc, please be prepared and ensure that you have measures to avoid any potential ignition. (this includes the disposal of cigarettes as these too can cause a fire if not extinguished correctly).

Remember for any outdoor fires, please check our website to see what you can and cannot do and also pick up



some additional safety tips to assist in protecting your home.

<https://www.checkitsalright.nz/>

Have a safe and happy holiday from all of us at Fire and Emergency.



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**DPA Lifejacket Hubs**

Wearing a correctly fitted lifejacket increases your chance of survival if you end up in the water. Borrow a lifejacket from a DPA Lifejacket Hub to help keep yourself and your loved ones safer while enjoying the waters.



[dpanz.org.nz/lifejacket-hub](http://dpanz.org.nz/lifejacket-hub)

## Cat lovers we need your help



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

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

Please visit our website for more information on volunteering and how to donate at [www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz](http://www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz). You can also email - volunteers: [volunteer@thenzcatfoundation.org.nz](mailto:volunteer@thenzcatfoundation.org.nz) donations: [info@thenzcatfoundation.org.nz](mailto:info@thenzcatfoundation.org.nz).

## Dog registration



Dog registrations rocket after Auckland Council sends pre-infringement notices

A successful response to reminder notices issued to dog owners who had not yet registered their pets for the current year has seen registered dogs increase by 4407 within a fortnight. So says Auckland Council's Animal Management team after 22,929 pre-infringement reminder notices were sent to owners of 26,614 unregistered dogs across Auckland.

The response has been both encouraging and impactful, growing registrations as well as giving the Auckland Council more accurate data on the number of dogs living in the Auckland region, says the team. Prior to the notices being sent 132,574 dogs were recorded in the council's database. However, responses indicate 2337 previously unregistered dogs were either dead, sold, or had moved out of Auckland, bringing the number down to 130,237.

"The response has been staggering and very positive," says Animal Management Manager Elly Waitoa.

## Community News

"The number of unregistered dogs in Auckland has reduced by 6744 to 21,411. This has not only updated our records but also contributed significant revenue to support essential animal management services for the community."

The registration drive generated \$767,349 in revenue in the first fortnight of responses - a critical contribution to Auckland Council's budget for maintaining public safety and managing animal welfare, says the council.

"This is money previously outstanding to the council, and we are pleased to see such a great response," says Elly.

"Our goal is for all dog owners to register their pets, rather than face a \$300 fine as the next enforcement step."

Council Regulatory and Safety Committee Chair Josephine Bartley says this initiative underscores the council's commitment to responsible dog ownership across Auckland and aims to ensure all pets are registered and accounted for.

"We want to thank the dog owners who took action on these notices and remind them that continuing compliance helps maintain a safe and enjoyable community for everyone."

## Henderson motorway policing unit targets vulnerable speed transition areas in Kumeu

A wave of public complaints continues to flow to the magazine regarding Henderson Police targeting rural areas in Kumeu that have been subject to speed restrictions that came into effect last year under the Labour Government's road to zero campaign and interpreted and administered by Auckland Transport.

Speed restrictions in some areas saw 100kph and 80 kph speed areas reduced to 60kph and it was only a matter of time that some Police staff saw the possibility of making revenue quota through targeting some of these transition areas. The complaints relate to an unmarked blue Skoda, who regularly targets these transition areas,



parks in areas obscured by hedges and power poles and in side roads like Joseph Dunstan Drive.

One area specifically targeted is Nixon Road, an area that was 100kph, moved to 80kph and is now 60kph. Even more confusing is that roads around it being Red Hills road is 60kph then 80 kph and then back to 60kph entering Nixon Road.

Most motorist can't keep up with the array of differing speeds in the district and having Henderson Police Staff targeting a light traffic rural road in a speed area that is clearly confusing for the public is at best opportunistic and at worst is preying on the public's confusion over road speeds.

One motorist was pulled over and ticketed and then pulled out to join the road with traffic coming to be targeted again by the same Henderson police officer. Showing a lack of sensibility to a vehicle joining traffic shared disbelief and frustration, taking his message to Minister Mark Mitchell.

We have asked Henderson Police, Auckland Transport and Ministers Simeon Brown, Chris Penk and Mark Mitchell for comment and await their responses. In the interim give Taupaki and Nixon Road a wide berth or be super vigilant about what speed you should be doing in that crazy landscape.

Seems this may be the gift that keeps on giving.

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## Te Henga Walkway reopens to viewing point



Photo DOC.

Te Henga Walkway has re-opened to a viewing point after 2023's weather events produced about 20 landslides there.

The northern end of the Te Henga Walkway was officially reopened in November by the Department of Conservation (DOC) alongside Te Kawerau a Maki.

The reopened 1.8km track starts at the northern end of the original track on Constable Road, south of Muriwai Beach.

The 65-minute walk (one way) takes people to the new end of the walkway at Tirikohua Point.

The original Te Henga Walkway, which traversed the cliffs from Te Henga/Bethells Beach to Muriwai, suffered enormous damage in the extreme weather events in early 2023 with major sections of the cliffs collapsing which destroyed large sections of the track, says DOC Tamaki Makaurau Operations Manager Rebecca Rush.

"The new viewpoint gives walkers a destination to reach, and a place to take in the beauty of the rugged west coast of Auckland – the main attraction of the original walkway," she says, adding visitors of all ages and fitness levels should enjoy the shorter track.

Rebecca says the old walkway, from Tirikohua Point south to Bethells Beach is closed and impassable with many large sections wiped out by landslips.

Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust Chief Executive Officer Edward Ashby says giving people the opportunity to experience the west coast's magnificent landscape helps connect people to nature and is a welcome solution for the damaged track.

"While the total loss of large sections of the track was devastating for the iwi and community, particularly given the wider impacts to locals from the 2023 weather events, the solution of a shorter track provides some positive recreation and access for people," he says.

"The area is of immense spiritual significance to Te Kawerau a Maki as a traditional pathway between Muriwai and Te Henga that includes some of our most ancient purakau (stories), major pa, peace-making sites, iwi lands such as Parihoa and Te Henga blocks, and the nearby location of our planned marae at Te Henga.

"We're working with DOC to consider a new name for this shortened walk to reflect the history and beauty of the place."

The Te Henga Walkway lost a bridge at the Bethells Beach end and one on the hillside, DOC saying an average 30,000 visitors used to hike the Te Henga Walkway annually.

DOC says it received \$12.6 million to help fix up nature, heritage, and visitor sites in the North Island damaged by the weather events.

About 89% of visitor sites affected by Cyclone Gabrielle have been repaired.

"Recovery work is still ongoing, and more resources are needed to deal with the loss of plants and animals, as well as damage to cultural, heritage, and visitor sites."

Meanwhile, a World Wetlands Day Festival and open day is planned at Matuku Link, 111 Bethells Road, on Saturday February 1, 2025, 10am-3pm.

Two free family activities are planned every hour including guided tours on bugs, birds, eels, and plants, while local conservation groups will be available, and an all-day market with gifts, food, art, crafts, information, and entertainment is also planned.

Matuku Link says more than 15,000 volunteer hours have been spent improving the site which now includes boardwalks and a Wetland Education Centre.

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## Lavender Hill story



Lavender Hill gets Silver Qualmark rating and four stars for sustainable tourism

Riverhead's Lavender Hill has received a prestigious endorsement from Tourism New Zealand, gaining a Silver Qualmark rating and four-star recognition in the Sustainable Tourism Business

criteria for Boutique Accommodation.

This rating signifies excellence in consistently achieving high quality levels and positions Lavender Hill as a trusted provider for local and international travellers.

The endorsement underscores Lavender Hill's commitment to sustainability and excellence.

"We have always been dedicated to delivering exceptional guest experiences, but the Qualmark recognition further ensures that our guests, particularly those traveling from abroad, can book with confidence," say Lavender Hill owners Jason and Trish Delamore.

"The Silver Qualmark award highlights our leadership in offering world-class, sustainable tourism."

The Delamores say key pillars of this recognition include:

Light Footprint - An environmentally friendly and holistically sustainable experience

Safe and Sound- Where safe principles and practices are part of every experience

Warm Welcome - Where you will always find a genuine welcome and true New Zealand hospitality

"Lavender Hill offers more than just accommodation - we provide a boutique experience that includes farm tours, distillery visits, and our very own award-winning gins" the Delamores say.

Vist [www.lavenderhill.co.nz](http://www.lavenderhill.co.nz) or phone 021 111 6686 for more information.

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Award winning gins & limoncello, olive oil, lavender oil, range of lavender products + farm tours over summer

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## Hospice West Auckland community Trees of Remembrance



Trees of Remembrance will be coming to your local community hotspots during the month of December. Keep an eye out for the friendly Hospice volunteers who will invite you to donate and add a heartfelt message of remembrance to the tree. Every donation,

big or small, helps us to provide free, specialist end-of-life care to our West Auckland community.

2nd - 8th December - New World Kumeū, Pak n Save Westgate, New World New Lynn

9th - 15th December - Pak n Save Lincoln Road, Mitre 10 Lincoln Road

16th - 22nd December - Bunnings New Lynn, Mitre 10 Westgate, Pak n Save Alderman Drive

We hope to see you at these wonderful business supporters during December.

## Massey Birdwood Settlers Association 100-year Celebrations

Did you know some of the signatories to the incorporation certificate signed in October 1925 included names like Luckens and Spargo? These were some of the early settlers of Massey, and roads and parks in Massey are named after them for their contribution to Massey.

If you visit the hall, you can see the incorporation certificate, which hangs on one of the walls in the Den.

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## Community News

The certificate includes 15 names of local residents in 1925, the required number of people needed to form an incorporated society. You may recognise a name, perhaps a relative.

The Massey & Birdwood Settlers Association first met in the then-Massey Birdwood Primary School classroom.

Birdwood Primary School came into being in 1980 and is now situated in Glen Road, and Massey Primary remains on the site of the Massey Birdwood Primary School adjacent to the Massey Birdwood Domain and, of course, the Massey Birdwood Settlers Community Hall. The Massey Birdwood Domain is more commonly known these days as the Massey Domain, on land owned by the Conservation Department. Glen Road is in the Birdwood part of the area known as Massey Birdwood.

In 1954, a gazette notice gave the Massey & Birdwood Settlers Association permission to own and manage a hall for the community on the Massey Birdwood Domain. The hall was built and opened by 1956, and its first regular hirers were the Massey Indoor Bowling Club.

The Massey Primary School, which housed the Association in 1925, still retains the links. The school runs its Housie evenings on Fridays in the hall and raises much-needed funds for the school from the evenings.

If you would like to hire the hall or the Den, send an email to John Riddell [masseybirdwood@gmail.com](mailto:masseybirdwood@gmail.com).

## St Vincent de Paul Massey

St Vincent de Paul is a 17 strong volunteer food bank, which operates with support and donations from St Paul's Primary School, St Paul's Parish, Pak'n Save, Lincoln Rd, Henderson and Baker's Delight in Pt Chevalier.

We deliver and families also pick up food parcels from our shed, we get referrals from several organisations and schools and posts from our SVDP Facebook page.

With the increased cost of food, many families are struggling to keep up after paying for all the other bills or emergencies that come up.



It is a difficult time of year, and you could donate or sponsor a Christmas parcel. We distributed 77 parcels last year.

We get a lot of lovely feedback from families who have received food parcels and that makes our work even more worthwhile and heartwarming.

We are all grateful to be part of this wonderful community and to be able to carry out the mission of St Vincent de Paul providing support and promoting human dignity.

If you would like to support St Vincent de Paul you can contact Tina Vea, President of the Massey Vinnies on [tinavea.tv@gmail.com](mailto:tinavea.tv@gmail.com).

We are a registered charity, so all donations are tax deductible.

Bank details St Vincent de Paul Massey Conference Account No.12 3020 0488828 -00

Have a Happy and Holy Christmas and New Year

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## Food & Beverage

### Good from Scratch turns 5!



As we approach the New Year, Good from Scratch, Michael Van de Elzen's Muriwai based cookery school approaches its fifth birthday! That's 5 years of cookery classes, private events and dinners, 5 years of growing produce in our kitchen gardens for our classes and 5 years of Hector (pictured on the right) being on guest welcome duty.

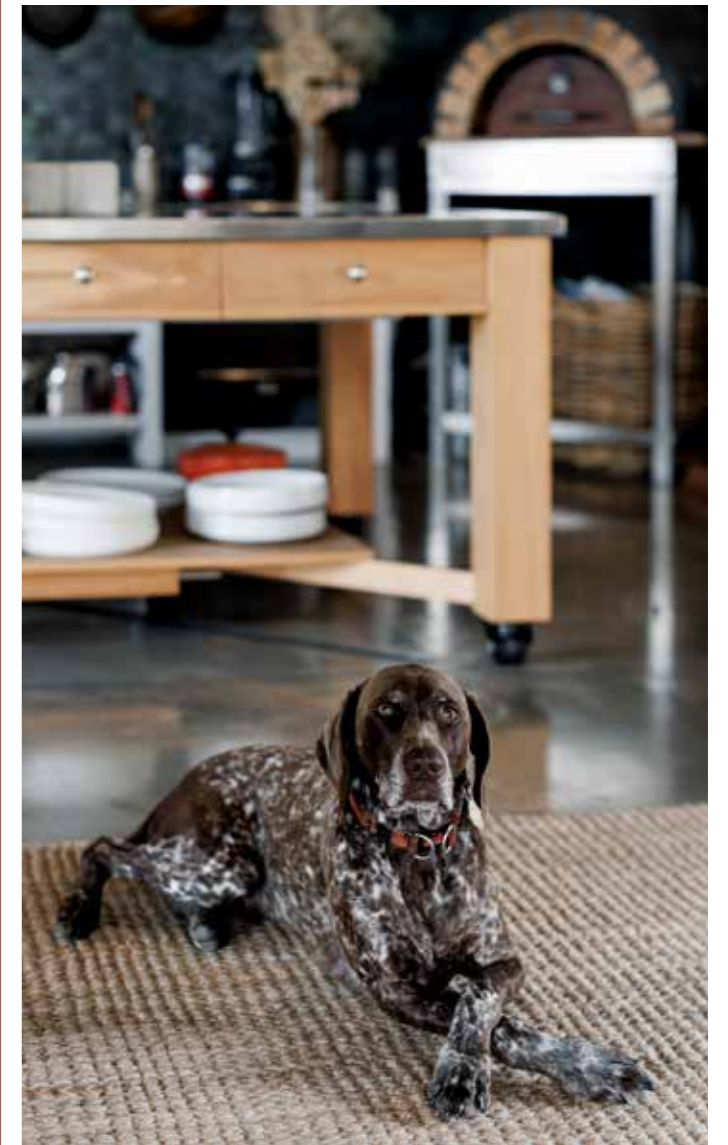
For those of you who have visited us over the last 5 years you'll know that we pour our heart into all that we do. With amazing full day and half day classes and experiences, beautiful evening supper clubs and fun, family friendly farm shops. We love welcoming you all through our doors - Thank you for your ongoing support!

For those of you we haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet. Come along! Book yourself or a loved one into one of our wide variety of classes, pop into a farm shop or dine with us at a supper club.

Head on over to our website for more details or give us a call on 094118808.

<https://www.goodfromscratch.co.nz/>

P.S. Not sure what to buy that foodie in your life this Christmas? Head on over to our website and grab them a voucher!





## Food & Beverage

### The Food Vault- Kumeu



New seating, fresh flavours & catering at The Food Vault Café

Exciting news from The Food Vault Café. We're not just serving up delicious, freshly prepared meals – we're also now offering catering for small groups (up to 20 people), perfect for your next celebration, meeting, or get-together.

Catering Set Menus:

#### \$20 Set Menu

- Slices or Muffins
- Date or Vegetable Scone
- Coffee, Tea, or Bottle Cold Drink

(Pre-order 1 day ahead, dine-in or delivery)

#### \$25 Set Menu

- Slices or Muffins
- Frittata, Quiche, or Pie
- Coffee, Tea, or Bottle Cold Drink

(Pre-order 1 day ahead, dine-in or delivery)

#### \$32 Set Menu (Dine-in Only)

- Any Cook to order dish on the menu
- Any Sweet Item
- Coffee, Tea, or Bottle Cold Drink

(Pre-order 1 day ahead, dine-in only)

Our signature Plumber's Breakfast and daily-made meals continue to be a hit with guests. Whether you're after a quick snack, a full meal, or a hot coffee, there's always something delicious waiting for you. We've also added a new outdoor garden area for those who want to enjoy their meal in the fresh air, but our cosy café inside is always ready to welcome you.

We're open 7 days a week, from 7am to 2pm, at 8/10 Matua Road, Huapai. For inquiries or catering bookings, contact Afsana at 021-214-3242 or email [thefoodvaultcafe2023@gmail.com](mailto:thefoodvaultcafe2023@gmail.com).

We can't wait to serve you.



8/10 Matua Road,  
Huapai

09- 412 5085

Open 7 days

7am- 2pm

### Festive Sangria Recipe



#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 cup ginger ale (sparkling or sprite is also a good option)
- 1 orange
- 1 apple
- 1 lemon
- 1 Punnet of strawberries

#### Instructions:

Grab a big pitcher or a large vessel that you have floating around. Pour your orange juice and ginger ale into the pitcher and mix.

Slice all your chosen fruit into wedges and drop these into the mixture. Pop your virgin sangria into the fridge prior to serving, this is best chilled.

Just before you are ready to serve, add in ice and strawberries either into your glasses or the large pitcher.

### Frosted Blackberry Bourbon Mule



#### Ingredients:

- 2 oz bourbon
- 1 oz blackberry purée
- 4 oz ginger beer
- Frosted blackberries (for garnish)
- Pine sprig (for garnish)

#### Instructions:

In a glass with ice, combine bourbon and blackberry purée; stir gently.

Top with ginger beer, and garnish with frosted blackberries and a pine sprig.

Everything you need to know about property

# Property Hub

## Raine & Horne®



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business



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W [Property-hub.nz](http://Property-hub.nz)

COVER PHOTO:  
PRINT RUN: 25,000 copies, Treehouse Print

## Property News

### Raine & Horne open for business in Kumeu and Hobsonville as rapid expansion across Auckland continues

Leading Australasian real estate group Raine & Horne continues its rapid growth, with a dozen new offices across the Auckland region joining the super brand this month. Among them is Raine & Horne Kumeu/Hobsonville, led by the dynamic husband-and-wife duo Graham and Gail McIntyre.

This follows the significant development in the New Zealand real estate market of Raine & Horne completing the acquisition of the Mike Pero Real Estate group from Liberty Financial Group on 28 March 2024.

This milestone further solidified Raine & Horne's standing as a leading force in the Australasian real estate industry. The super brand is currently transitioning offices from Mike Pero Real Estate, including the highly successful Raine & Horne Kumeu/Hobsonville team under the leadership of Mr and Mrs McIntyre.

In 2023, the Kumeu and Hobsonville team led by Mr and Mrs McIntyre were recognised at the annual Mike Pero Real Estate Nationwide Conference, winning the Best Marketing Campaign in New Zealand for 2022-2023 and the Best Practice Franchise.

"We are honoured to welcome Graham and Gail and the other MPRE offices into the Raine & Horne family," said Mr Angus Raine, Executive Chairman, Raine & Horne. "This acquisition not only expands our network's footprint across the Auckland region but also reinforces our commitment to providing exceptional service and expertise to vendors, buyers, investors and tenants."

Mr Raine continued, "I'm looking forward to seeing what Graham and Gail are able to achieve with our groundbreaking AI and social media marketing tool, Amplify, and our online sales and property management appraisal platform, DigiKitPlus, which is proving to be a game-changer for our principals and their teams."



#### Seamless transition for clients and future-focused innovation

Mr McIntyre, a former publishing manager with the New Zealand Herald and owner of an integrated marketing agency, expressed enthusiasm for the seamless transition to the Raine & Horne brand for his clients. "People understand my approach and the empathy I bring to my client relationships, ensuring this transition feels like business as usual."

"The move to Raine & Horne underscores a commitment to the future, offering the same great conversations and honest outlook we've always provided, enhanced by a technology suite and communication integration that is leading edge."

"We recognise that real estate is fundamentally a people business, but technology and innovation enable us to better manage client relationships and opportunities to the best effect."

"It transitions us to be more efficient and effective and ultimately enhances the feelings and the experience that a buyer and a seller have with us. Raine & Horne has the best innovative technology solution I have seen in real estate that integrates around the relationship and enhances the experience for all parties involved in buying and selling real estate."

With over 19 years of experience in the real estate industry and his previous sales and marketing experiences, Mr McIntyre brings a wealth of expertise and a personal touch to every real estate transaction. Trained to the highest Real Estate AREINZ standard, Mr McIntyre's commitment to open and honest communication underlines his customer-first approach to real estate.

#### Growth in sales and buyer interest sets stage for a positive 2025

For Rodney District property owners living in Kumeu and Hobsonville, there is positive news. The Real Estate

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Institute of New Zealand reported price growth of 1.7% year-on-year in September. Sales were down almost 8.9% over the year but stronger in September than in August as the spring selling market starts to collect speed and rate cuts start to take effect.

Mr McIntyre noted that the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's decision in August and again in October to cut the official cash rate (OCR), by 25 basis points and 50 points respectively, had an immediate and noticeable impact on activity. "Within days of the August cut, we achieved more sales than we had for the whole year."

However, he added, "The novelty of the OCR cuts does wear off, with buyers back to window shopping and carefully considering their options."

"The reality is that the OCR in October was very timely, and hopefully will give our market a kick for the rest of the year."

One property that is bucking the trend is a spacious four-bedroom, two-bathroom property at 2/10 Javelin Place, West Harbour. "Where we'd only see a couple of groups at open for inspections, we're seeing seven to eight couples - mostly upgraders - transiting through this beautifully presented home," said Mr McIntyre.

"Located just a short stroll from Marina View School, parks and local shops, it's attracting significant interest."

Nestled in a quiet, mature, Tahitian Pohutukawa-lined cul-de-sac street surrounded by substantial properties, the property offers vibrant colour and abundant bird life. With a CV of \$1.230 million, it also features sweeping views over Auckland city, making it appealing to buyers, Mr McIntyre added.

Looking ahead, Mr McIntyre and the Raine & Horne Kumeu/Hobsonville team are preparing for a bright 2025. "We are gearing up in anticipation of next year's market direction and will be hosting seminars for aged care and first-home buyers—initiatives designed to engage and activate these key buyer communities," said Mr McIntyre.

"We have strong relationships with Ryman Healthcare, MetLife Care, Summerset and Hopper Development. A range of retirement villages along the Northwest Corridor are eager to engage the market in conversations about transitioning people into these supported living environments."

**Family, firefighting and footy**

Outside of work, Mr and Mrs McIntyre are proud parents to two sons, Jack and Ben. Mr McIntyre also serves as the Chief Fire Officer for the Waitakere Fire Brigade, where he has served for more than 20 years. In addition, he was also seconded as part of an international task force to help Australian firefighters during the deadly bushfires that swept much of Australia's east coast in the spring and summer of 2019/20. Mr McIntyre was deployed to Grafton in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales to help contain the fires.

As part of joining Raine & Horne, Mr and Mrs McIntyre have purchased a property management company and look forward to taking over West Auckland Property Rentals in October. Mr McIntyre said, "The Raine & Horne model allows us to grow our sales team, and we are excited

about future opportunities."

For all your sales and property management needs in Kumeu, Hobsonville and surrounding areas or to organise an inspection of 2/10 Javelin Place, West Harbour, contact Raine & Horne Kumeu-Hobsonville at 09 412 9602. Or alternatively feel free to visit the office at 2 Clark Road, Hobsonville, Auckland.

For further information contact:

Graham McIntyre, Principal, Raine & Horne Kumeu-Hobsonville on 027 632 0421

Gail McIntyre, Principal, Raine & Horne Kumeu-Hobsonville on 027 532 0420

**Property market report**

Residential property values are bouncing along the bottom and are showing little or no growth, according to Quotable Value (QV).

The latest QV House Price Index shows average home values decreased by 0.8% nationally over the three months to the end of October compared with a 1.6% average decline in the three months to the end of September, and a 2% drop in the three months to the end of August.

The country's average dwelling value is now \$902,231, just 0.3% (\$2839) less than at the start of the year.

New Zealand's housing market remains largely flat overall, with essentially no growth to speak of during the month of October itself, neither up nor down, and only a slight decline nationally this quarter of less than 1% on average,

Home values have flattened out again after some more sizeable yet still relatively modest reductions throughout the winter months, but they are still showing no signs of taking off anytime soon,

This is reflective of a housing market that is still severely constricted by strong economic headwinds, despite recent interest rate reductions, which will take some time to phase through.

Likewise, the latest housing data from QV also show that home values have continued to level out across most of New Zealand's main urban areas, with the average three month rolling rate of reduction slowing in Auckland at -0.8%, Christchurch -0.2%, Hamilton -0.6%, Tauranga -1.6% and Dunedin -0.1%."

**Raine & Horne**

**Graham McIntyre**  
Licensed Agent  
Kumeu | Hobsonville

027 632 0421  
graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz

rh.co.nz  
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Heightened job insecurity is being more keenly felt in City centres.

Refer to the prices achieved in the area property statistics page for all sales over the month by all agents.

If you are considering listing your property for sale it costs no more to use an experienced agent with a proven track record. At Raine & Horne Kumeu-Hobsonville we offer a very sensible 2.95% commission starting point and an excellent and tailored advertising programme to ensure your satisfaction.

Call Graham McIntyre for a pre-sale check list, a market overview in your immediate area and a no obligation chat on 027 632 0421 or 0800 900 700. Graham McIntyre, Country Living Realty Limited t/a Raine and Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville

**Rental market report**

Signs emerged of a possible softening in the residential rental market into 2024 with the national median rent flat and many regions showing a decline in median rents.

The latest bond data from Tenancy Services shows the national median rent for all residential properties newly tenanted was neutral at \$600 a week.

It has remained unchanged at \$600 a week since December 2023, apart from January when it blipped up to \$608 a week before dropping back down to \$600 in February.

Essentially that suggests there has been no upward pressure on rents overall, so far this year.

While there was some downward movement in rents in the regions, the total number of properties tenanted mirrors 2023 actuals.

That, and the latest rent data, suggests supply and demand of rental properties is probably well balanced overall.

Bond lodgement information for Hobsonville show the following:

House	2 Bedroom	Rent range \$ 620 to \$650pw
	3 Bedroom	Rent range \$670 to \$753pw
	4 Bedroom	Rent range \$813 to \$894pw
Apartment	5 Bedroom	Rent range \$819 to \$1,088pw
	1 Bedroom	Rent range \$530 to \$570pw
	2 Bedroom	Rent range \$625 to \$650pw

If you have an investment property and are seeking a smart and sensible property management solution which is customised to your situation and requirements, we will welcome the opportunity to chat. We offer a more sensible management fee and accountable asset protection schedule which will make you feel right at home.

Call Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421 or visit www.wapm.co.nz for more information. West Auckland Property Management.

**The Gift of giving:  
Giving your assets away**

**By Debra Barron, Principal of ClearStone Legal**

Rumour has it that the fifth biggest lender in New Zealand is the Bank of Mum and Dad. There are three popular products this Bank is able to offer their customers.

1. A Loan (usually interest free and the loan is to be repaid on the sale of the property the customer is purchasing);

2. Jointly purchase property together. Since the Brightline rules has come down to two years this option has become more popular. This investment can provide a return to the Bank on the increase in equity on their share of the property and usually the customer pays all the rates and insurances in exchange for sole occupation of the property.

3. A gift.

This sometimes comes with a condition that the customer signs a relationship property agreement with their partner to prevent the gift becoming matrimonial property.

If you would like more information about either of the first two options, please get in touch, and in the spirit of Christmas we want to touch on this last option and how giving your assets away works.

If you have a family trust, giving the asset away can be relatively simple provided the recipient is a beneficiary of the trust. If you wish to give away your personal assets there are some greater implications. In October 2011 the IRD abolished gift duty - so this means there is no tax to pay (the threshold was previously \$27,000 per person, per year) for gifting.

Depending on your age and stage in life, the Residential Care Subsidy may be a consideration before giving away your assets. This government funded Subsidy provides for long-term residential care in a hospital or rest home. The application is means tested, which means if you have more than \$155,873 of assets (i.e. money in the bank, shares, investments, property) - or \$284,636 including your home and vehicle - then if your assets exceed these sums you will not receive government funding (there are some other options in this case).

Part of the application process requires you to disclose any gifts that you have made over the last five years.

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1/547 Te Atatu Road  
Te Atatu Peninsula

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Debra Barron, Principal at ClearStone Legal

A single person is allowed to make a gift of \$8,000 per year (a total of \$40,000). Anything longer than five years ago you are allowed to gift up to \$27,000 per year. The sums are also different if your spouse died in the last five years, or if you are a couple. So, it is a little bit tricky to know when, or if, you will need to apply for the Subsidy and which threshold will apply at the time of

and a lot of fun. Our show homes continue to be popular, particularly our bespoke lifestyle showhome situated at 5 Wake Road, Coatesville. We are very proud to announce this beautiful home picked up the GJ Gardner International Showhome of the Year, amongst some outstanding competition from New Zealand, Australia and America. If you haven't popped in yet, it's open 7 days a week from 12-4pm. And finally, we have moved to new premises at 248 Main Road, Kumeu, be sure to pop in and say hi and meet our team, it's open 5 days a week or outside of this by appointment.

Matt and Rachael Lelean - GJ Gardner Homes Rodney West Franchise Owner's

## How much is my house worth?

This is perhaps the most common question asked by vendors upon the decision to sell their home.

The best way to decide what you should sell your home for is by obtaining a free property appraisal.

According to Agent Finder New Zealand, a Comparative Market Appraisal is the best way to determine your property's value, or price range.

This is determined by reviewing other properties in your area where land size, the number of bedrooms or bathrooms are compared against other homes in the suburb. Keep in mind the method of sale recommended to sell your property, as this can help create buyer competition, and might secure you a higher sales price in the end.

Also, it is vital your appraisal has been provided in writing, with the data used also included. In addition to this, it must be backed up by a property inspection. It is best to choose an agent who has specialist knowledge of the suburb or type of property you are selling.

For example, if you are a landlord selling a tenanted home, or an apartment, or a deceased estate, you need an agent who has specialised knowledge in these sectors.

Your local Raine & Horne agent, who has experience with your suburb and property type can help prepare your appraisal. Whether you want to sell buy or rent a property, don't hesitate to contact

Graham McIntyre 027 632 0421 [Graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz](mailto:Graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz) [www.raineandhorne.co.nz/kumeu](http://www.raineandhorne.co.nz/kumeu)

## Your Local Builder: GJ's Rodney West

It's great to see an increase in enquiry with many now exploring the option of building as we continue to see large reductions in the Official Cash Rate. The banks have been proactive in launching attractive packages tailored specifically to building. We continue to see some beautiful sections and stunning lifestyle properties coming on to the market - plus our sales team often gain advanced notice of upcoming new properties. If you're not sure what to build we have pre-designed a home that suits the particular aesthetics that maximises the best of living. Or meet with our experienced consultants who can take your ideas and turn it into a great plan just for you. The recent launch of VR technology has exceeded all expectations with people able to walk through and experience "real life" spaces and design renders. We can also turn your own plan into VR reality so you can understand the spaces prior to building. Have a chat with the team, bring along your plan or have a look at ours and experience VR for yourselves - it really is exciting

## High Profile Office/ Retail Space in Waimauku



Take advantage of this exceptional and rare opportunity to own a flexible commercial space in the heart of Waimauku Village. Spanning approximately 192m<sup>2</sup>, this well-appointed open-plan unit offers a variety of potential uses. While currently configured as an office, the layout can be easily adapted for retail purposes, making it an ideal investment for a range of businesses.

Located just moments from a supermarket, Waimauku School and other local amenities, this property enjoys high visibility and excellent foot traffic in a thriving community. With easy access to State Highway 16 and the added benefit of prominent signage, your business will be front-and-centre in this vibrant area, ensuring maximum exposure. Whether you're a business owner seeking a prime location to establish your retail brand, a convenient space for your office or an investor looking to add to your portfolio this property offers both convenience and potential for growth.

For further information or to schedule a viewing, contact our West Auckland property experts today. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to secure a flexible commercial property in one of the region's high growth areas.

Caroline Cornish - 021 390 759

Benson Tarm - 021 536 861

## Loan Market

Why it pays to have a Mortgage Adviser on your side.


When it comes to home loans, not all banks view and assess an application in the same way. They all have varying



policies, pricing and services. Things like self-employed income, rental income and multi ownership structures may be treated differently, affecting the amount you can borrow. Additionally, banks have tools to gauge the suitability of an applicant such as stress test rates and UMI (uncommitted monthly income) calculations which differ across all the lenders.

The UMI is a calculation that the bank does to assess how much uncommitted income you will have left over at the end of the month - No two banks have the same calculation, a Mortgage Adviser can quickly test this for you. With the recent relaxation of the Loan-to-Value ratio restrictions, banks are now able to open up the doors to more low deposit borrowers. It can be quite tricky trying to navigate the options as there are many, so my job is to make sure that I find every dollar possible for my clients in this ever-changing market. This could be the difference between you securing the property you want or not. So how do you know if you are getting the most out of your borrowing power? You really need to be casting the net wide and looking at what every bank has to offer. This is where having a Mortgage Adviser on your side really counts. The expert help of a Mortgage Adviser can make all the difference. From navigating the lending landscape, to getting your mortgage application shipshape, we are here to support you at every step of the way. If you would like some advice around your particular situation, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me for an obligation free chat.

Stephen Massey - Mortgage Advisor, Call 021 711 444, or check out my website [loanmarket.co.nz/stephen-massey](http://loanmarket.co.nz/stephen-massey)



Loan Market

**Stephen Massey**  
Mortgage Adviser  
[stephen.massey@loanmarket.co.nz](mailto:stephen.massey@loanmarket.co.nz)  
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[Let's chat.](#)

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



Caroline Cornish  
021 390 759  
[caroline.cornish@colliers.com](mailto:caroline.cornish@colliers.com)



Benson Tarm  
021 536 861  
[benson.tarm@colliers.com](mailto:benson.tarm@colliers.com)

# Area Property Stats

PROPERTY-HUB.NZ

Every month Raine & Horne Kumeu assembles a comprehensive spreadsheet of all the recent sales in the area that reviews the full range of Residential and Lifestyle transactions that have occurred. To receive the full summary simply email the word "full statistics" to office@kumeu.rh.co.nz. This service is free from cost.

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA	LAND AREA	SALE PRICE
Bethells	Tasman View Road	\$1,325,000	3	120	40,000m2	\$1,493,000
Coatesville	Waymau Lane	\$2850000	4	327m2	9910m2	\$2,900,000
	O'Brien Road	\$3,075,000	5	305m2	30,000m2	\$2,000,000
Herald Island	Ferry Parade	\$2,450,000	5	230m2	685m2	\$2,450,000
Helensville	Ararimu Valley Road	\$2,675,000	4	254m2	84000m2	\$2,700,000
	Awaroa Road	\$780,000	3	83m2	0	\$720,000
Hobsonville	Bannings Way	\$1,650,000	4	227m2	388m2	\$1,365,000
	Onekiritea Road	\$1,160,000	4	138m2	257m2	\$1,149,000
	Hobsonville Point Road	\$1,650,000	4	229m2	261m2	\$1,410,000
	Hobsonville Point Road	\$1,275,000	4	162m2	0	\$1,150,000
	Hobsonville Point Road	\$1,000,000	3	115m2	120m2	\$851,000
	Hobsonville Point Road	\$690,000	2	83m2	0	\$648,000
	Hobsonville Road	\$1,285,000	4	170m2	567m2	\$1,110,000
	Lockheed Street	\$1,200,000	4	153m2	202m2	\$1,116,000
	Lockheed Street	\$1,680,000	5	247m2	431m2	\$1,377,000
	Kanuka Road	\$1,470,000	3	182m2	333m2	\$1,285,000
	Oioi Road	\$1,180,000	4	185m2	180m2	\$1,162,000
	Rangihina Road	\$1,445,000	5	216m2	302m2	\$1,340,000
	Sidney Wallingford Way	\$640,000	3	100m2	0	\$1,200,000
Huapai	Sunny Crescent	\$1,425,000	4	180m2	1535m2	\$1,350,000
	Malbec Place	\$1,475,000	4	212m2	661m2	\$1,380,000
	Tapu Road	\$870,000	3	129m2	0m2	\$975,000
Kumeu	Taupaki Road	\$5,200,000	4	194m2	40000m2	\$4,800,000
	Aurea Terrace	\$1,650,000	3	135m2	10000m2	\$1,740,000
Massey	Don Buck Road	\$920,000	4	134m2	0	\$835,000
	Don Buck Road	\$850,000	2	120m2	0	\$715,000
	Don Buck Road	\$1,200,000	3	90m2	706m2	\$882,000
	Don Buck Road	\$820,000	3	160m2	289m2	\$820,000
	Don Buck Road	\$1,375,000	5	290m2	913m2	\$1,110,000
	George McWhirter Ave	\$1,075,000	3	162m2	246m2	\$915,000
	Glenbervie Crescent	\$1,175,000	3	157m2	0	\$825,000
	Helena Street	\$895,000	3	120m2	733m2	\$895,000
	Lowtherhurst Road	\$1,050,000	3	114m2	809m2	\$1,018,000
	Neretva Avenue	\$880,000	3	99m2	190m2	\$870,000
	Pipitea Place	\$815,000	3	100m2	598m2	\$870,000
	Taitapu Street	\$1,050,000	4	200m2	613m2	\$1,191,000
	Woodside Road	\$770,000	3	91m2	413m2	\$758,000

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA	LAND AREA	SALE PRICE
Muriwai	Ngatira Road	\$1,475,000	3	155m2	0	\$1,653,000
Parakai	Rere Place	\$565,000	2	0	0	\$565,000
Riverhead	Arthur Street	\$1,430,000	4	164m2	809m2	\$1,350,000
	Cambridge Road	\$900,000	4	180m2	688m2	\$1,255,000
	Pohutukawa Parade	\$1,825,000	4	222m2	1556m2	\$1,750,000
	Princes Street	\$1,230,000	5	170m2	637m2	\$1,115,000
Swanson	Bradnor Meadows	n.a	4	n.a	558m2	\$1,029,500
	Crows Road	n.a	4	n.a	798m2	\$1,190,000
	Swanson Road	\$1,005,000	2	63m2	712m2	\$700,000
Taupaki	Nixon	\$990,000	0	0	11500m2	\$1,150,000
Waimauku	Cane Road	\$910,000	3	126m2	941m2	\$985,000
	McPike Road	\$1,150,000	2	130m2	10000m2	\$1,285,000
Waitakere	Wairere Road	\$1,650,000	4	185m2	41500m2	\$1,320,000
West Harbour	Garcia Place	\$1,175,000	3	104m2	644m2	\$1,000,000
	Javelin Place	\$1,710,000	4	278m2	726m2	\$1,628,000
	Marina View Drive	\$1,360,000	3	180m2	654m2	\$1,170,000
	Oreil Avenue	\$960,000	3	140m2	502m2	\$940,000
	Soling Place	\$1,680,000	6	215m2	647m2	\$1,643,000
	West Harbour Drive	\$1,300,000	4	115m2	626m2	\$949,000
	West Harbour Drive	\$1,200,000	3	81m2	645m2	\$1,070,000
Whenuapai	Dale Road	\$1,425,000	4	209m2	395m2	\$1,352,000
	Kauri Road	\$1,260,000	3	128m2	1273m2	\$1,055,000
	Kopuru Road	\$1,605,000	5	285m2	418m2	\$1,500,000

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

Raine & Horne's commission rate:

**2.95%** up to \$590,000

(Not 4% that others may charge)

**1.95%** on the balance

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

Raine & Horne Kumeu also provide statistical data FREE from cost to purchasers and sellers wanting more information to make an informed decision. Phone me today for a FREE summary of a property and surrounding sales, at no cost and no questions asked. Graham McIntyre 027 632 0421 \*Available for a limited time. Conditions apply.

**Raine & Horne**

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Phone 0800 900 700 Country Living Realty Ltd Licensed REAA (2008)

Graham McIntyre  
Brand & Territory Owner  
027 632 0421





## Hinuera stone on a 1/2 acre section

### 29 Sunny Crescent Huapai

Seldom found this is an outstanding mini-life-styler in an urban setting, offering the best of urban and lifestyle living.

Offering the good life in so many ways, the home has been meticulously crafted to deliver functionality and beautiful form.

Clad in Hinuera split face, kiln fired stone, it offers a special exclusive style that merges seamlessly decking and patio entertaining. Extensive sliders deliver the outside in, enjoying open plan lounge-dining and kitchen-cozy meeting the dynamic needs of family living.

Hardwood flooring that takes your breath away. All bedrooms, bathroom and laundry off a central corridor. Master, ensuite and walk in wardrobe also enjoys slider access to north facing decking.

Over 500 square meters of raised bed gardens, fruiting trees, delivers an orchard and market garden at your

doorstep. A short stroll to shops, schools, park and transport links. So if you're a family looking for the good life - you've just found it.

### Get in touch today to view

Graham McIntyre 027 632 0421

Graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz

For more information on this property call Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421 or graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz. Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine and Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008).





**NOW'S A  
GREAT TIME  
TO BUILD**

A modern kitchen and dining area featuring a dark grey dining table with black chairs, a central island with a sink and cooktop, and light wood cabinetry. The space is bright and airy, with large windows and a vase of dried flowers on the table.



## **We can make your new home unique to you!**

Now's a great time to build, so make sure you're putting yourself in the safest hands by choosing the right builder with a proven track record.

GJ's has built almost 23,000 homes throughout NZ for over 25 years, with every home completed. It's just one of the reasons they are New Zealand's Most Trusted Home Builder year after year.

So whatever you're looking for, bring us your ideas and we'll work with you to create a home that fits you and your lifestyle.

So make the wise choice and call your local GJ's team today.

0800 42 45 46 / [gjgardner.co.nz](http://gjgardner.co.nz)

**G.J. Gardner.** HOMES



209 Motutara Road, Muriwai

2 Bed 1 Bath 1 Car

## Kereru Homestead - A peaceful retreat

If you seek a truly peace-filled environment that entwines the full character of yester-year with the green leafy native canvas of tropical rain forest and a beach micro-climate you have found your haven.

Set off the road, not affected by slips or debris is a simple cottage over two levels offering open plan alfresco living bringing the outside in.

Downstairs has two rooms, laundry cupboard and bathroom with broad french doors opening to the sun-filled courtyard.

In addition a small railway store sits proudly onsite for storage/ office or hobby room.

A small distance to shop, café, beach and regional park. Come enjoy a simple place, that speaks of easy living and peaceful space.

**Guide**  
Negotiation



**Graham McIntyre**  
027 632 0421



421 Kiwitahi Road, Helensville

## 3.9 acres, views, offers over \$829,000

Land with no covenants, services in place, title through.

Discover a rare opportunity on this expansive 15,860 sqm (approx) piece of land, offering a diverse range of contours, from flat to gentle slope.

With a North West facing orientation, this plot provides the canvas for crafting your own private paradise.

Breath taking views and flat to sloping landscape offering excellent options to build or relocate.

Tucked away from the road, on a sealed driveway with services within easy reach. Unlock the potential for a harmonious lifestyle by exploring house and land package opportunities tailored to your vision for a dream home in this idyllic setting.

**Guide**  
\$829,000



**Graham McIntyre**  
027 632 0421







4 Waimarie Road, Whenuapai

4 Bed 2 Bath 2 Car

## Inner Harbour Views, Sunny and alfresco

318 square metre (approx.) home on 1012 square metres (approx.) of land in a cul-de-sac Whenuapai Village inner harbour location, with boat ramp, park, reserve, shops and School close by.

This home has been renovated to a premium standard with the vision of ease of living, offering fabulous, family friendly living/ entertaining areas.

Set within an established treescape, with large decking, all weather pergolas and wide double sliders to seamlessly flow outside to inside.

If you have a mixed family, blended family or enjoy the freedom of big-home space within quiet surrounding, look no further.

**Guide**  
Negotiation



6 Wharara Lane, Massey

2 Bed 1 Bath 1 Car

## Views to City, affordable duplex with carpark

This near new GJ Gardner build with Master Build Warranty provides an excellent opportunity to jump on the property ladder with lock-up and leave options, public transport at the gate and convenience shopping a short stroll away.

A beautifully presented two bedroom home with bathroom and guest toilet, alfresco to patio and small grassed lawn.

An outstanding option for a discerning buyer looking for pedigree and performance.

Earthy colours and upgrades, this home is one that will be on top of your watch list. Don't dilly-dally, great homes like this don't last.

**Guide**  
By Negotiation





## Best in the West - Brick and Tile

319 Don Buck Road, Massey, Auckland

Stop the Press:

- Brick and Tile, (well maintained and presented)
- 4 rooms (3 bedrooms & a hobby room or 4th bedroom)
- Generous Living flowing to outside patio
- Entertainer Kitchen with Views to the Skytower

- Decking, home opens to the East
- Amazing 1123 sqm section
- Double tandem garage and workshop
- Motivation and enthusiasm

It's going to sell, a one of a kind, first time on market in over 25 years, an absolute gem, in the middle of everything and yet quiet, removed and remote when you're on the deck or patio with the sun on your shoulder and the view as far as the eye can see.

Come and join us, view this amazing home and property, and see if you have what it takes to take the reins of this

idyllic stately home. CV has no relevance; our Vendor instructions are to sell.

Auction 14th December 2024 at 12pm.

**Get in touch today to view**

Graham McIntyre 027 632 0421

Graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz

For more information on this property call Graham McIntyre on 027 632 0421 or graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz. Country Living Realty Limited T/A Raine and Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville. Licensed REAA (2008).





24/ 18 Williams Road, Hobsonville

2 Bed 1 Bath 1 Car

## Sun filled Brick & Tile, over 55's Sanctuary

This boutique and well appointed over 55's village provides an excellent environment, community and sun filled quiet home, out of the hustle and bustle but close enough to walk to convenience shopping, parks and bus stop. The land is flat but elevated, out of flow paths and out of flood plains. Built to last, this brick and tile two bedroom home with single garage has been refurbished and is presented to a very high standard, with new kitchen and new carpet. Generous space inside and out side that will allow you the canvas to create your home and garden, just the way you like it.

The home has been invested in, with attic stairs to access ceiling storage area, a moisture reduction system and heat pump, all designed to make the living environment the best possible.

The neighbors are engaging, fun and the community is inclusive which allows you to have time for yourself or shared with activity and events.

A great time to view, a fabulous option to invest in.

Guide  
Negotiation



Graham McIntyre  
027 632 0421



18 Peters Lane, Taupaki

## Sun kissed, north facing house and land package

A large north facing canvas, with natural water course and established plantings with options to select the best house and land package for you, including home and income options. Elevated rolling land with views to Kumeu and beyond, the houses selected are designed to make the most of the aspect and the outlook. This land is historical and original clay base which has no historical slip effects nor movement lines. In addition much of the area is slowly moving to countryside living which allows for great intensification within this residential lifestyle community. Please survey the house and land package options outlined and book a walk-the-land meeting with leading Taupaki agent and local resident Graham McIntyre.

Renders and pricing for House and Land Packages provided by:  
GJ Gardner indicative value \$3,479,000 approx. enquire for further information  
Golden Homes indicative value \$3,798,000 approx. enquire for further information  
Signature Homes indicative value \$3,326,500 approx. enquire for further information

Guide  
Negotiation



Graham McIntyre  
027 632 0421





22 Zingaro Place, Massey

3 Bed 1 Bath 2 Car

## 2 Car Garaging, Big Workshop, Sunny, Elevated

Set on 979sqm (approx) this is a big section with a big home.

Offering extensive garaging and off street parking with storage options galore, work from home, or develop an additional guest wing.

Upstairs enjoys extensive gated lawn and gardens with mixed alfresco settings to enjoy sunshine or shade with easy access to kitchen, dining and lounge areas.

All the bedrooms and bathroom off a central hall, this is a home that will deliver peace and ambience upstairs and hobby, work and workshop downstairs, certainly a ying and a yang for all buyers.

The CV on this property is \$975,000. We are happy to supply a list of the last 12 months of transactions in this area. For a complete transaction list please email

**Guide**  
By Negotiation



26 Squadron Drive, Hobsonville

2 Bed 2 Bath 1 Car

## Garage, Park, Grass, Views Ooo La La - Hobsonville

A contemporary, sun filled and private 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom home over 2 levels offering an impressive list of extras, situated off a quiet lane way minutes away from Hobsonville shopping precinct.

A two level end duplex built by Universal homes, this is a lock up and leave that has been invested in with smart air circulation, drapes and finishing's.

Downstairs enjoys an open plan alfresco living environment with patio and grassed area.

Upstairs are two bedrooms (generous size), bathroom and ensuite.

Come view Mary's Gallery a mix of beautiful artwork and collectables within an easy living environment with garage and parking outside off the private laneway access.

**Guide**  
Negotiation



# SMALL BUILDS



- ◆ Different design options available.
- ◆ Options to suit your budget.
- ◆ Follow current legislation.
- ◆ Builders guarantee.
- ◆ Money locked in and secure.
- ◆ Solar power options.
- ◆ Screw piles for foundations or timber piles.
- ◆ Lodging with council processing if you need.
- ◆ Options to build on site or off site and delivery. ( delivery costs tbc )



**Get in touch today for a free quote, no commitments necessary.**



Our fully customizable tiny homes are built specifically to suit your needs, wants & budget.

Whether you're seeking a cozy retreat in the countryside, a versatile backyard studio, air b and b for secondary income or a granny flat for family, our tiny homes offer endless possibilities.

We collaborate closely with each client, ensuring that every aspect of their tiny home aligns seamlessly with their vision and budgetary constraints. With options available for every budget.



## Home & Garden

### Small Builds

Based in Kumeu, New Zealand, we specialise in building tiny homes, granny flats and holiday retreats that redefine comfort, functionality, and style.

We can build onsite or offsite nationwide or International.

With a focus on quality craftsmanship, attention to detail, and personalized service, we ensure that every project reflects the unique needs and preferences of our clients. From initial design concepts to final touches, we guide you through every step of the construction process, making it seamless and stress-free.

Experience the difference with Small Builds - where small spaces lead to big possibilities.

At Small Builds, we stand behind our craftsmanship. From the foundation to the finishing touches, we ensure the highest standards of quality in every aspect of our work. Your satisfaction is our priority, and we are committed to delivering excellence Why choose us?

Whether it's providing extra accommodation for loved ones, crafting a cosy retreat away from the hustle and bustle, or offering a smart investment opportunity, we're here to bring your vision to life.

#### Council and building consents

We look after all council requirements if required.

#### Eco-friendly designs

We prioritise eco-friendly design, incorporating sustainable materials and practices to create healthier homes and a greener future.

#### Electrical & plumbing

We handle all aspects of electrical and plumbing, guaranteeing top-tier solutions for seamless functionality and safety across your entire project.

Call us for a no obligation quote or visit us at our showroom in Kumeu Auckland

Christine 02108114305

Paul 021378277

Showroom Address 869 Waitakere Road Kumeu Auckland

### SURE Bathrooms



SURE Bathrooms is a trusted bathroom renovation company based in Helensville, serving the North West Auckland and wider Rodney regions. We specialise in full-service bathroom transformations from concept to completion, focusing on blending function and style to create bathrooms that exceed expectations. Our goal is to design spaces that are not only visually stunning but

**wallerprojects**  
**MARK WALLER**  
 M: 021 802 845  
 E: mark@wallerprojects.co.nz  
 A: The Hangar, Catalina Bay, 2/2 Boundary Road, Hobsonville Point  
 W: wallerprojects.co.nz  
**AWARD WINNING DESIGN & BUILD**

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 info@surebathrooms.co.nz  
 www.surebathrooms.co.nz

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 www.instagram.com/surebathrooms

The Auckland Bathroom Specialists

also practical, ensuring every detail serves your lifestyle. We manage all aspects of the renovation process, starting with a free, no-obligation consultation to understand your vision and requirements. Our expertise extends beyond bathrooms, including laundry and shower renovations, as well as mobility-accessible bathrooms tailored for ease and independence.

Dan Pakenham, Director of Sure Bathrooms, is a qualified and licensed builder with 30 years' experience in new builds, including architectural homes, renovating old style homes and commercial buildings. He has extensive experience in bathroom and laundry renovations and prides himself on a high standard of workmanship.

We proudly work with a local team of fully certified, registered tradesmen, ensuring the highest standard of craftsmanship every time.

Our commitment to careful planning, where we discuss products, design ideas and advise on selecting materials and fixtures that will last longer, results in cost-effective solutions that require less maintenance and make your bathroom stand out.

At the end of every project, we provide all necessary certificates and documentation for your peace of mind.

Let SURE Bathrooms create a stylish, functional sanctuary in your home—one that combines elegance, comfort, and quality.

Contact us today - [www.surebathrooms.co.nz](http://www.surebathrooms.co.nz)  
[info@surebathrooms.co.nz](mailto:info@surebathrooms.co.nz) 021 044 2484

## Bestie Bin

Bestie Bins is a small privately owned skip bin business that became Bestie Bins from Westie Bins in May 2023.

Based in Airdrie Road Ranui, they pride themselves in providing fast & friendly service to their loyal regular customers and new customers alike, and they try to provide a more relaxed approach to hire duration when they can if the weather might be changeable a longer hire



term bin hire is required.

From small domestic clean-ups to large commercial projects, they offer a variety of skip bin sizes to suit your needs. Bestie's bins come in a range of sizes, from 3 cubic meters all the way up to 9 cubic meters & with Bestie you only pay for what you need. Need a skip bin urgently? they've got you covered! & they offer

fast delivery and collection, with same-day or next-day service in many cases.

Booking your skip bin is simple and hassle-free. You can book online, over the phone, or by email. The team will work with you to choose the best bin for your project and provide a polite & friendly service from start to finish.

Their team is experienced and professional, and they take care to listen to your instructions on bin placement and preferred pick up dates, and they'll also take time to discuss with you the right bin at the best price for your clean-up projects.

Bestie Bins are the best choice! perfect for a wide variety of waste, including:

- Household rubbish
- Renovation debris
- Green waste
- Construction materials
- Office clear-outs
- And more!

If you are unsure about hazardous materials like chemicals, asbestos, tyres, paint, oil or toxic waste, just give Bestie a call and they will advise you.

**CLEAN OUT YOUR GARAGE, THEN YOUR FISH BIN & FREEZER!**

Bestie Bins are offering a Pre-Christmas Summer Special! Every bin hire before Christmas gets a FREE top quality Starrett 200mm Filleting Knife Set valued at RRP\$49.95!

**BONUS KNIFE SET!** RRP\$49.95

Starrett 200mm Filleting knife and sharpening steel

**bestiebins.co.nz | 027 474 7161 | 11 Airdrie Road, Ranui, Auckland 0612**

## Blackout Electric



Light up your lifestyle. Us Kiwis are known for our laid-back lifestyles. Spending summer nights enjoying a BBQ with friends, and winter evenings huddled around firepits and pizza ovens - we make the most of our outdoor spaces. Which is why it's so important to ensure that lighting around the exterior of your home does exactly what you need it to do.

**Garden Lighting:** Transform your garden and entertaining area with lighting that highlights details and shows your property off at night. Landscape lighting can really help to bridge the gap between an indoor living room and an outdoor living room, and it's a great way to not only extend the hours you can utilise your outdoor living space, but it also enhances the ambiance and safety of your backyard.

**Security and Driveway Lighting:** Security lighting helps to add an extra layer of defence to your home. It provides enough illumination to clearly see and identify people or objects outside your home. Not only is it a deterrent to criminals, it also ensures safety for your loved ones when coming and going from your home at night. Whether you're looking to light up your outdoor living area, or boost the level of security around your home, there are plenty of outdoor lighting options to suit every house and every budget. If you'd like to discuss outdoor lighting options for your property, get in touch with the team at Blackout Electric today.

022 500 5856 [info@blackoutelectric.co.nz](mailto:info@blackoutelectric.co.nz)

## Laser Plumbing & Roofing Whenuapai

Your plumbing, roofing & drainage experts in West Auckland

Here we are knocking on the door of Christmas. This year has certainly flown by.



If you have any niggling plumbing issues that you just haven't got around to fixing, then give us a call and we can get it sorted before Christmas.

Dripping taps, a slow draining sink,

blocked toilet, low water pressure, clogged waste disposal, backflow issues. These are just some of the common plumbing problems you can experience in your home or business. We have a great team of maintenance plumbers who can easily remedy these frustrating issues, on time and hassle free.

Here at Laser we also specialise in all your long run/iron roofing needs, from roof repairs to complete roof replacements, gutter cleans, repairing and replacing gutters, spouting and downpipes. Whatever your needs, one of our experienced roofing team will offer you the right solution.

Our dedicated and knowledgeable team is focused on providing excellent service to our customers. No job is too big or too small for Laser Plumbing Whenuapai, so give us a call today on 09-417-0110 or email us on [whenuapai@laserplumbing.co.nz](mailto:whenuapai@laserplumbing.co.nz)

We are open five days a week from 7:30am-4:30pm and conveniently located at Unit 4, 3 Northside Drive, Westgate.

Visit our website [whenuapai.laserplumbing.co.nz](http://whenuapai.laserplumbing.co.nz) for more information.

Ph: 09-417-0110  
[whenuapai@laserplumbing.co.nz](mailto:whenuapai@laserplumbing.co.nz)

**ROOFING PLUMBING DRAINAGE**

Proudly providing reliable, affordable plumbing, roofing and drainage services to our community for over 20 years!

WINNER 2024 FINALIST 2024 FINALIST 2024 FINALIST 2024

# Roy Gibson Builders: Crafting quality with integrity



At Roy Gibson Builders, we believe that building or renovating your home is more than just a project—it's an investment in your future. With over 15+ years in the industry, our team has built a reputation for delivering top-tier construction services that combine quality workmanship, competitive pricing, and a commitment to fitting your dreams within your budget.

### Quality Workmanship You Can Trust

Our primary focus is always on delivering superior results. Whether it's a new home, a renovation, or a small-scale project, we approach every job with the same level of care and dedication. From the foundation to the finishing touches, we use only the best materials and proven techniques to ensure that every detail is perfect. With Roy Gibson Builders, you can expect craftsmanship that stands the test of time.

### Competitive Pricing for Every Budget

We understand that construction projects can be costly, which is why we work closely with each client to create a plan that fits their budget without sacrificing quality. Our transparent pricing and no-surprise estimates mean that you'll always know exactly what to expect, and we'll do everything we can to deliver the best value for your money.

### Your Vision, Our Mission

At Roy Gibson Builders, we know that every client has unique needs and desires for their home. That's why we

focus on understanding your specific wants and work tirelessly to incorporate them into a design that aligns with your budget. Our collaborative approach ensures that your project is as functional, stylish, and cost-effective as possible.

### Honest and Trustworthy Service

Integrity is the cornerstone of our business. From the initial consultation to project completion, we are committed to being open, honest, and reliable every step of the way. With Roy Gibson Builders, you can rest assured that your project is in good hands.

Choose Roy Gibson Builders for your next project—where quality, value, and trust meet.

Kind regards, Daniel Gibson 021 0838 4636

Managing Director, Roy Gibson Builders Limited.

info@roygibsonbuilders.com

# Whenuapai Floral & Garden Club



Margaret T was back with us to lead the Meeting however she has reluctantly tendered her resignation, along with two other Committee members, which means we need a few others to step up to helping in this capacity. A new President will be required from February next year. The Club was established late 1986 and it would be such a shame to see it go into decline for want of a few dedicated persons to give time and effort to the community. I am assured these are not onerous positions, just need shared around.

Welfare of Members was discussed along with trips, both past and future, also the Christmas celebration has been

arranged and is very local. This should please those who live locally and some may even be able to walk to the venue if they wish.

Our Guest Speaker was Diane de Bois whose passionate interest is in growing Irises. There are many different types and some are scented. A lovely array of colours exists in this flower family. Diane showed us pertinent details about how they should be planted, some to stand with part of the root proud above the ground while others require deeper planting, particularly in swampy areas.

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

Until next time, Happy Gardening and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from Mary Anne Clark.

# Discover the benefits of tiny homes



Thinking about downsizing or simplifying your lifestyle? Tiny homes offer incredible perks that go beyond a cosy, minimalist space.

Here are some reasons to consider making the switch:

Eco-Friendly Living - With a smaller footprint and

fewer resources needed, tiny homes are perfect for sustainable, low-impact living. Imagine less energy use, lower emissions and a greener lifestyle.

Financial Freedom - Tiny homes come at a fraction of the cost of traditional homes, letting you save more and spend less on maintenance, utilities and upkeep. It's a great way to live mortgage-free.

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Ready to explore the benefits of going tiny? Call Cameron today for a no obligation chat or visit our website [www.northwestcabins.co.nz](http://www.northwestcabins.co.nz)

# Hauraki Property Services



Add a touch of character to your home with a feature wall



Sometimes, it's the small changes that can make a big difference in how a space feels. A feature wall, with its pop of colour or interesting texture, can bring out the personality of a room, giving it warmth, vibrancy, or a calming touch, depending on the mood you are after. Unlike a full repaint, a feature wall provides just enough contrast to make a room



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feel refreshed and unique without overwhelming the space.

At Hauraki Property Services, we know how meaningful these touches can be in making a home feel like, well, home. We're passionate about creating spaces that reflect the style and character of those who live there, and we love working with clients to choose colours and finishes that feel just right.

To celebrate our local community, we're offering something a little special for the readers of this newspaper. For the first five orders of a full interior repaint, we'd like to add a feature wall on the house—using the beautiful range of Porter's Paints by Dulux. These paints have a unique richness to them, and we think they can help bring out the best in any space, whether it's a cosy nook or an open living room.

If you've been thinking about a refresh or want to explore how a feature wall could brighten up a room, give us a call at Hauraki Property Services. We'd be happy to chat, share ideas, and see how we can help bring a new warmth to your home.

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## Signature Homes



Signature Homes West & North-West Auckland is excited to announce the opening of their latest showhome at 38 Vintry Drive, Huapai. Recognising the need for a home with a smaller footprint, this new build caters to those embarking on their journey into homeownership, professionals, downsizers, and anyone looking for a


modern, efficient design that maximises space without compromising on quality.

The new showhome offers a chance to walk through and experience firsthand the thoughtful design, quality craftsmanship, and versatile layout that Signature Homes is known for. With everything fully customisable, this home can be adapted to suit the unique needs of every buyer, making it an ideal choice for those wanting to create a home that truly reflects their vision. The Signature Homes team is on hand to guide visitors, offering insight into how they can personalise the space to fit their lifestyle.

With build costs starting from \$399,000 (excluding land and site costs), Signature Homes makes building new more accessible. Whether it's a house and land package, knockdown and rebuild, subdivision, or bringing your own plans, Signature Homes works closely with clients every step of the way. Their goal is simple: to help people build the home they have always dreamed of, with full support and guidance throughout the journey.

Signature Homes offers the added reassurance of NZ's best building guarantees, giving clients peace of mind that their dream home will be completed with confidence, quality and to a given timeframe.


For more information or to book a viewing, contact Signature Homes on 0800 020 600 or visit their office at 80 Main Road, Kumeu. The team is ready to help bring your dream home to life.



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# Waimauku Garden Club

This month we travelled to Ardmore Airfield to tour the hangars of the NZ Warbirds Association, a unique collection of original and replica aircraft from WW1, WW2, through to the present, over two hangars. There is a collection of airworthy and static aircraft on show. Displays showing the history of NZ squadrons' participating in the Pacific and the European theatres of war. It is a stark reminder of the cost of war for the freedom we enjoy today. We had lunch at The Limetree Cafe which was a lovely spot before heading to Ayrilies Garden and Wetlands. One of NZ best known gardens established by Bev McConnell since 1964 the NZ Gardens Trust has awarded Ayrilies a six-star certificate as a Garden of International Significance. It is over 4 acres of rolling terrain with large lawns, ponds, and waterfalls. Areas of roses, clematis perennials also lush



tropical plants and Rhododendrons. We had one of the most wonderful days.

Feel free to contact either of us: Ann (0210357406), Diana (0274788928).

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# Young Learners

## Empowering tamariki through a comprehensive School Readiness Programme at Oma Rāpeti

At Oma Rāpeti Early Learning Centre, the Preschool Room's **School Readiness Programme** has been a huge success this year. Thoughtfully designed, the programme focuses on preparing tamariki with the essential skills they need to confidently transition to kura.

The programme reflects the structured elements of local new entrant classrooms, providing a smooth transition while addressing key areas of development. It goes beyond numeracy and literacy to nurture **emotional and social development**, independence, resilience, and self-confidence. A key focus is supporting tamariki to develop self-regulation skills, empowering them to identify and manage their emotions calmly and positively. This builds emotional awareness and enhances resilience, laying a strong foundation for lifelong learning.



Our tamariki engage in enriching, fun-filled experiences, including numeracy and literacy games, storytelling, story writing, and caring for our environment. By fostering collaboration and teamwork in maintaining our classroom and outdoor spaces, children gain valuable life skills that prepare them for the expectations

of a structured school environment.

### Individualised Goals for Lifelong Success

Each week, tamariki are supported to work on their personal learning goals, helping to build their confidence, strengthen friendships, foster independence, and develop responsibility. A highlight of the programme is Lunchbox Fridays, where tamariki bring their own healthy lunchboxes. This activity teaches them to ration their kai throughout the day, make healthy choices, and take

## Oma Rāpeti

Inspiring Young Minds

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- 🌐 [www.omarapeti.net.nz](http://www.omarapeti.net.nz)
- ☎ 09-213-4292

responsibility for their belongings. It also provides a great opportunity for kaiako to support tamariki as they practise these skills, which will help them immensely at school.

**Creative Expression Meets Literacy Development**

Story writing and drawing have become a treasured part of the programme. Tamariki use their storybooks to express themselves creatively, develop gross and fine motor skills, and build early literacy. Whānau have shared wonderful feedback about how these activities spark a love of learning at home, with tamariki eagerly practising letters, numbers, and reading. Many parents have noticed a growing interest in books and visits to the library, as tamariki proudly sound out words and point out letters in their environment.

**Parent Feedback: A Testament to Success**

The overwhelmingly positive response from whānau reflects the programme's success. Parents often share stories of tamariki extending their new skills and enthusiasm into their everyday lives, deepening their readiness for kura and their passion for learning.

At Oma Rāpeti, we believe every tamaiti deserves a strong start to their educational journey. Through our School Readiness Programme, we are proud to help tamariki grow into confident, capable, and caring individuals, ready to thrive in their next stage of learning.

<https://www.omarapeti.net.nz/>

371 Main Road, Kumeū 09 213 4292

**Gumboots Early Learning Centre**

Using natural resources for children's art and play offers an invaluable experience that combines creativity, environmental awareness, and sensory exploration. When children create with items like leaves, rocks, twigs, or flowers, they engage with the natural world in a meaningful way, fostering a deep connection to their environment.

One of the key benefits of using natural materials is the enhancement of sensory development. The varied textures, colours, and shapes of natural objects provide a rich tactile experience, helping children improve their fine motor skills and develop a keen sense of observation. For example, arranging pebbles into patterns or weaving with twigs encourages children to experiment with different forms and structures, stimulating their creativity and problem-solving abilities.

As children collect materials from nature, they learn to appreciate the beauty and diversity of the world around them. By understanding the source of their materials, children begin to value natural resources. Through experimenting with these materials, they can also discover how to create natural, eco-friendly colourants.

You can try these natural ingredients at home, which are excellent for painting or colouring play dough:

- Onion skins produce shades of yellow, gold, or orange. Boil onion skins in water for about 30-60 minutes



until the water is deeply coloured, then strain out the skins.

- Turmeric is a spice that yields a vibrant yellow. Dissolve a couple of tablespoons of turmeric in boiling water and simmer for about 30 minutes.
- Beetroot can produce a reddish-pink hue. Cut beets into chunks and simmer in water for about an hour, then strain the beets to consume and use the juice.
- Tea and coffee both create earthy brown tones; brew a strong batch of either.
- Paprika spice creates orange shades. Dissolve paprika in water.
- Spinach gives a soft green shade when boiled in water.

Using natural resources in art is cost-effective and accessible. Unlike commercial art supplies, which can be expensive and sometimes harmful to the environment, natural materials are readily available and free of charge. This inclusivity ensures that all children, regardless of their background, can participate in creative activities, reducing barriers to artistic expression.

Overall, it provides a holistic learning experience that nurtures creativity, enhances sensory development, and instils a lifelong appreciation for the environment, making it a valuable approach in early childhood education.

[www.gumboots.ac.nz](http://www.gumboots.ac.nz)

1157 Peak Rd | RD2 Helensville

**Christmas & Summer holiday fun for children at Te Manawa**



Our regular pre-school programmes will finish for the year on the following dates:

Tuesday 10th December Christmas Wiggle & Rhyme - enjoy Christmas songs, movement and bubbles with your baby. For toddlers Kid's Play will be on Level 1.

Wednesday 11th December Christmas Rhyme time - bring your toddlers and preschoolers to join in for Christmas fun, music and a story.

Friday 13th December Christmas Storytime - a fun Christmas event for preschoolers with stories and music.

In December we will also have family Christmas movies and craft activities. Pick up one of Te Manawa's What's On guides or check out our social media for more information.

Don't forget to also pick up your Raumati Reads Activity Guide from the 16th of December to keep your children reading over the summer break.

11 Kohuhu Lane, Westgate 0814.

**Discoverers**



For the last three years Discoverers informal church has hosted a children's Christmas decorations workshop. This free event will be for children aged 5-12 years. Sunday 1st December 3-30pm to 5-00pm in the Sunderland Lounge Cinema Road, Hobsonville Point.

**Celebrate with Discoverers**

Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on the 25th of December each year. In northern hemisphere countries Christmas is celebrated in mid-winter. Hence the many images associated with Christmas that feature fir trees, candles, snow, carollers wrapped up warm.

However, here in the southern hemisphere, Christmas is celebrated mid-summer. The New Zealand 'Christmas tree,' the Pohutukawa is ablaze with its bright red blossom, people wear casual clothes to keep cool, barbecues often feature as a place around which people gather to enjoy what is being cooked, beaches are crowded with people swimming or relaxing in the sun.

The noted New Zealand hymn writer, Shirley Murray wrote a carol, which affirms the significance of Christmas for us who live in Aotearoa. The title of her carol is "Upside down Christmas."

"Carol our Christmas,/ an upside-down Christmas;/ Snow is not falling and/ trees are not bare./ Carol the summer, and/ welcome the Christ Child,/ warm in our sunshine and sweetness of air."

At its meeting on Sunday 15th December, the Discoverers informal church will be exploring and celebrating a New Zealand Christmas. Discoverers meets in the Baffin Lounge, Headquarters building 214 Buckley Terrace, Hobsonville Point from 3-30pm to 4-30pm.

For further information contact Barry Jones, Phone 0220683873 Email [beejaynz05@gmail.com](mailto:beejaynz05@gmail.com)

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**Are we racing to the Boat or the Gumboots School Bus?**



# Aged care

## Celebrate the season of togetherness at Kumeu Village Rest Home

As the holiday season approaches, Kumeu Village Rest Home warmly invites you to experience the spirit of togetherness and joy we share within our community. At Kumeu Village, we believe that meaningful connections and a vibrant environment are at the heart of exceptional care. Every resident is embraced not only by our compassionate team but also by a supportive community that values each resident's unique story.

Our range of care options includes luxurious rest home accommodations, hospital-level support, respite services, and our renowned specialised dementia care. We are especially proud of our personalised dementia care programmes, where every resident's wellbeing is our top priority. Designed to foster dignity, comfort, and purpose, our approach ensures a safe and supportive environment where those living with dementia can thrive.



This festive season, our Residents First philosophy shines brightly. We focus on reducing loneliness, helplessness, and boredom by creating opportunities for engagement, joy, and community connection. From our cosy, decorated interiors to planned holiday events and gatherings, Kumeu Village Rest Home is

a place where residents can celebrate the season surrounded by warmth and companionship.

We welcome families to join in the celebrations and take part in the journey with their loved ones. Whether through shared holiday activities or quiet moments together, you'll always feel part of the Kumeu Village family.

To learn more or to arrange a tour, please visit our website at [www.kumeuvillage.co.nz](http://www.kumeuvillage.co.nz), call us at 09 412 9112, or email us at [info@kumeuvillage.co.nz](mailto:info@kumeuvillage.co.nz).

## Aged Care

### Christmas cheers from Craigweil House



As the year draws to a close, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have supported Craigweil House this past year. Your kindness and encouragement have made a difference in the lives of our residents and staff alike. We look forward to another year filled with care, community, and connection.

If you haven't visited us lately, we welcome you to come by and see all the wonderful updates we've made to our facility. There's always something special happening here, and we'd love for you to be part of it.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a New Year full of blessings and warmth. Merry Christmas from all of us at Craigweil House Home & Hospital.

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NEXT DRIVEWAY

## Rymans

Keith Park residents road safety efforts recognised by local kids

Residents of Ryman Healthcare's Keith Park Village who volunteer as school crossing patrols received a thoughtful gift from Year 6 students at Hobsonville Point Primary School (HPPS)—new high-visibility vests featuring a special Hobby Heroes logo. The students, motivated by a social responsibility project, presented the vests along with homemade cookies to show appreciation for the residents' efforts in promoting road safety.

Emily, an 11-year-old spokesperson for the project, shared that their initiative aimed to enhance community awareness about road safety, particularly as it relates to the crossing used by students from nearby Scott Point Primary School. "The residents have inspired more road safety around our school," she said.

HPPS teacher Jody Curran noted that the students had previously engaged with the residents to learn about their crossing patrol, leading to the decision to create matching high-vis vests. This effort has also contributed to additional crossing points being established near their school.

Auckland Transport's Community Transport Coordinator, Laressa Tanner, announced plans for a formal crossing with safety arms and footpath upgrades next year, currently in the design phase.

Resident Don Bennington, who initiated the crossing patrol, emphasised the importance of the new safety measures for the community, particularly for schoolchildren navigating the area. He expressed gratitude for the students' initiative, saying, "We are all impressed that they have taken road safety so seriously."

Keith Park Village Manager Kim Dawson praised the students for their proactive approach and highlighted the residents' commitment to community safety. She called the volunteers "heroes" for their dedication, reinforcing the importance of community involvement in ensuring safer environments for all.

If anyone wants to join the residents in manning the crossing in the New Year they can ring the village on 09 416 0751





# Health & Beauty

## Tips for keeping kids active this summer



As summer approaches, it's essential to ensure that our children stay active and healthy. Many kids today struggle to meet their daily recommended levels of physical activity, which can lead to chronic diseases. Physical activity is vital for growth, impacting bone strength, muscle, and tendon health. Here are some tips to keep your child moving this summer.

### 1. Choose activities that suit your child's personality

Every child is unique. Those who excel in competitive environments might enjoy team sports, boosting their fitness and self-esteem. For others, team settings can feel daunting. Look for activities like surfing, yoga, martial arts, or dancing that allow personal growth without the pressure of competition.

### 2. Address any injuries promptly

Kids are resilient but may struggle to express pain. A lingering ache might lead them to say, "I don't like sport." If they have a previous injury, they might avoid activity out

of fear. Consulting a physiotherapist can help address these concerns and rebuild their confidence.

### 3. Set fun and engaging goals

With fewer children walking or cycling to school, incorporate extra physical activities into their routines. Start a daily long jump competition in the garden or create a fun pre-bedtime exercise routine with star jumps, hopping, and running on the spot.

Consulting a physiotherapist can provide further insights on boosting your child's activity levels. Finding age-appropriate activities is key to keeping them active and happy this summer.

If you believe your child could benefit from our services, please reach out to our Hobsonville or Riverhead clinic to schedule an appointment. You can call us at 094164455 for Hobsonville or 0273136036 for Riverhead, or book online today. Let us support you in discovering the joy of movement.



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# Health & Beauty

## Don't let a common bug ruin your holidays

Are you feeling bloated, nauseous, fatigued, or have a burning pain in your stomach?

You may have a common bacterial infection - Helicobacter Pylori (H.pylori).

H. pylori is extremely common and infects the stomach lining of roughly half the world's population. In NZ it is estimated to be present in nearly 20% of New Zealanders. Patients can range from being symptomless, to suffering from stomach pain, bloating, nausea, weight loss, fatigue and low iron levels. Severe forms can include bleeding or burst stomach ulcers, and even stomach cancer. In fact, H. pylori is the leading cause of stomach cancer worldwide and is recognised by the World Health Organisation as a carcinogen (proven to cause cancer).

So, if you have symptoms, or are a close contact of someone who is infected, you should strongly consider getting tested. Luckily, the diagnosis is usually straight forward and can be arranged by your GP, or directly through us.

The diagnosis can be made in three ways:

- A stool antigen test detecting parts of the bacteria directly (most common)
- A blood test looking for levels of antibodies to H. pylori (less common)



• Via a Gastroscopy - biopsies taken from the stomach to detect the bacteria directly.

These tests are fairly accurate, but the sensitivity can be decreased if you are taking proton pump

inhibitors (Losec, Panzop, Lanzol), or antibiotics. The stool test is the most common method, but if you have concerning symptoms such as severe pain, a low blood count, or weight loss, you may be advised to proceed straight to a gastroscopy to assess the stomach lining. This procedure is minimally invasive, takes around 10 minutes, and the biopsies are painless and safe.

If you have the infection, treatment consists of taking a course of medications antibiotics and acid suppression for 10-14 days. Treatment side effects are mostly mild. They can usually be easily managed and rarely result in treatment failure.

So, if you are concerned you may be H. pylori, have a chat to your GP or come and see us at Waitemata Endoscopy.

**Dr Carl Freyer (BSc, MBBS, FRACP)**

Gastroenterologist and Endoscopist

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Unwind and gift tranquility: The benefits of reflexology facial and massage

Reflexology and massage therapy are effective, holistic approaches to managing stress, particularly during the hectic holiday season. Both practices focus on promoting relaxation, reducing tension, and enhancing overall well-being.

Reflexology involves applying pressure to specific points on the face, hands, or ears, which correspond to different organs and systems in the body. This therapy stimulates the nervous system, improves circulation, and promotes the release of endorphins, the body's natural pain relievers. By targeting stress-related reflex points on the face, reflexology facials can alleviate anxiety, enhance skin health, and restore balance, making it an ideal remedy during the busy Christmas period when stress levels can peak.

Massage therapy complements reflexology by providing deeper muscle relaxation. Various techniques, such as Swedish or aromatherapy massage, can ease physical tension and release emotional stress. The soothing effects of massage lower cortisol levels, the hormone associated with stress, while enhancing feelings of

SWAN SKIN WELLBEING & NUTRITION

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Just as picking a scab or spot can prolong healing and lead to further irritation on your skin, continuously aggravating your gut with unhealthy foods or habits can hinder its recovery and overall health - including your skin. Both actions interfere with the body's natural healing processes, leading to more discomfort and potential long-term issues. It's important to nourish and protect both your gut and your skin to promote healing and well-being.

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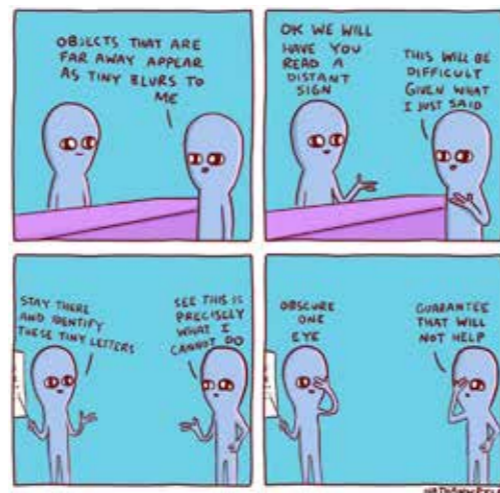
Sarah Tumulty  
Functional Skincare Practitioner & Nutritionist

calm and relaxation. This is particularly beneficial during the holidays, when emotional and physical demands can lead to burnout.

To lower stress levels during Christmas, consider incorporating both reflexology facials and massage into your routine. Schedule regular sessions to give yourself dedicated time for relaxation. Alternatively, engaging in mindfulness practices, such as meditation or yoga, can further enhance relaxation and prepare your mind for the festivities. Lastly, prioritise self-care. Set aside moments for yourself amidst the holiday hustle, ensuring you recharge and maintain your well-being.

In addition to personal benefits, these therapies make ideal gifts for loved ones. A gift certificate for reflexology or massage can provide your friends and family with a much-needed escape and a chance to unwind. Contact SWAN Skin Wellbeing & Nutrition for your appointment or gift voucher: swan.skinandnutrition@gmail.com.

## For Eyes Optometrists



Merry Christmas

Our Christmas Hours: For Eyes will close for the Christmas break at 5pm on Wednesday 18th December and reopen in the new year at 9am on Monday 6th January.

A warm thank you to everyone who has supported us this year and to all of you who have been bringing your eyes to For Eyes over the years.

To book your eye examination online visit For Eyes Optometrists website and click on Menu to find the book online box.

Best wishes for the festive season and Happy New Year from Anna, Matthew and Molly

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# Area Columnists

## 2025 looking brighter for locals



By Cameron Brewer - MP for Upper Harbour

I always enjoy getting out around Upper Harbour, meeting with constituents and talking to some of our local businesses.

Thankfully, we are starting to see some signs of recovery. The Reserve Bank has started lowering the Official Cash Rate, meaning mortgage holders can look forward to lower interest rates and more disposable income. Lower borrowing costs will also make it easier for businesses to invest and innovate.

This has been enabled thanks to inflation falling, with data out recently showing inflation has dropped to 2.2 percent. Let's not forget in 2022, inflation reached 7.2 percent. It's also the first time inflation has been back

within the Reserve Bank's target range of one to three percent since March 2021.

This is great news for New Zealanders, and another sign our economic plan is working.

Our Government is laser-focused on growing our economy so you and your family can get ahead. In the past year, we've worked hard to stop wasteful government spending and get rid of the thicket of red and green tape that stifles investment.

Business confidence is also at its highest level in 10 years, which shows businesses believe our economy is turning the corner.

As you know, we've delivered income tax relief for hard working New Zealanders for the first time in 14 years and, combined with FamilyBoost childcare payments and falling inflation, many families are seeing their cost of living move in the right direction.

There's more work to be done, but locals can be confident we're on the right track.

Authorised by Cameron Brewer MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

## NZ Post cuts

Ministry Of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) have put out a discussion document on further cuts to NZ Post delivery service. The document outlines the proposed future obligations moving forward. These include:

Decreasing delivery days to urban and rural households, Post office boxes and Private bags. There is also a suggestion of having communal delivery points where members of communities can go to collect their mail.

Grey Power NZ Federation national president, Gayle Chambers, says

**You are warmly invited to celebrate some Christmas Cheer at my office!**

**13th December, 4.30pm**

Upper Harbour Electorate Office  
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"NZ Post have cut back on their postal outlets, put postage costs up, and already have a reduced mailbox delivery service. It won't be long before home delivery is abolished and we have to go to a 'collection' point to receive mail. For many seniors mail delivered to their letter box is a critical way of communicating and staying in touch with the outside world. They may not have the ability to collect their mail from the suggested 'collection' point" – these were known in most communities, and were called Post Offices.

If you want to have your say, by putting in a submission to MBIE you can see the discussion document at [www.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.mbie.govt.nz) or phone 0800 20 90 20 for a pack. Submissions close on Tuesday 10th December 2024.

## Motorsport the best advertisement for good health and safety

Why, you ask, is it not the most dangerous sport out? Yes, motorsport is dangerous, and I love the sport; I have competed and still have a competition car.

Let me explain. Health and Safety, in a way, is about trust, the only way your business will be caught out is if you get something wrong, if you do something wrong, if you submit your Paye late or miss submitting the G.S.T. return with the IRD, you will be fined.

All of us are probably enjoying F1, watching New Zealander Liam Lawson battle with Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton.



The cars they race are beautifully presented, the drivers wearing P.P.E., with fireproof overalls that cause you to perspire just wearing them, crash helmets that are worth over \$1000 and balaclavas, special gloves, and helmets. The driver is strapped into the car with a six- or seven-point harness no more than ten years old.

The F1 car and every race is checked for safety features before a race. Within the past few years, single-seaters have supported a "halo" introduced after a comprehensive accident investigation following an accident that resulted in the death of a Japanese GP in 2014. Prevention: use a "halo".

Before and after a race, the track is checked to ensure crash barriers are in place, marshals are on standby and have fire extinguishers on hand. Also, that first aid and medical assistance is able utilised at a moments notice.

Following a major shunt in F1, the driver is automatically checked by a doctor before being cleared to continue racing.

Compared with the decades gone by, especially the 1960s and 1970s when the likes of well-known names like Jim Clark and Bruce McLaren were killed; drivers, circuit owners, car owners, and car manufacturers came

together to sort out safety issues.

Now pre-race briefings (Toolbox meetings) to discuss dangerous corners or conditions, and races will be stopped or slowed down depending on the circumstances not only for the driver's sake but also for the safety of spectators.

In the workplace, however, we do not like investigating an accident wearing our PPE, or even replacing the safety harness if it is more than 10 years old or has a small cut in it.

The excuse is the cost of a new safety harness. I find many companies feel or their staff believe it is okay to place goods in front of the fire exit, and they do not have a trained first aider. The \$200 training cost that St John's charges are far too much.

Do you know when an accident will happen in your workplace, such as a fire breaking out or someone falling off the roof?

In motorsport, you cannot compete with out-of-date P.P.E., in the workplace, it would appear as if anything goes or is it just that no one checks?

For your health and safety requirements, email John Riddell from Securo, [securo4@securo.co.nz](mailto:securo4@securo.co.nz), or check out the website [www.securo.co.nz](http://www.securo.co.nz).

## Distance Families: Seven tips for geographically distanced siblings

It never fails to amaze me how two sets of genes produce offspring who are vastly different in personality and outlook. Families where all the siblings get along and thoroughly enjoy each other's company are the exception. Most are a motley bunch of good intentions, mixed-up emotions and blurred respect.

When a sibling moves abroad and geographical distance comes into play, it adds another layer of complexity. The 'left behind' sibling/s ruminate about the future. Overnight, shared responsibilities become a solo gig. "Who looks after Mum and Dad when they decline?" they're asking themselves.

Geographically distanced siblings can be fertile ground for many emotions and mental turmoil. Siblings make rookie mistakes that unnecessarily strain and stain their relationships.

Here are seven tips for those who are leaving:

- Address a planned move with your in-country sibling/s earlier than later, even if it's still not definite
- If your sibling/s are excited for you, be pleased, but remember that their lives have been turned upside down, through no choice of their own, even if they don't voice it.
- Assure your sibling/s that as your parents age



you'll do your best to support both parents and siblings from afar. However, acknowledge that in practical terms your sibling/s will probably carry the greater day-to-day load.

When visiting home, never be the 'out-of-town expert with the briefcase'. That's my term for the sibling who rushes home when a parent is unwell or there are some crises and immediately bosses everyone about – frequently a coverup for a bunch of guilt. It's always worse if the expat is the oldest in the family. Acknowledge that the in-country sibling/s have lived through what's happening in a hands-on way that you haven't and likely they have a deeper understanding of the situation.

Know that compassionate visits are not a vacation, and catching up with old friends should be a bonus extra. Ask your sibling/s in advance to list or think about ways you can best help and support them and your parents. This is a time for 'being there', as boring, humdrum, disturbing and confronting as it might be. Give your sibling/s a well-earned break if you can.

Never infer that living 'at home' is second rate or

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

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



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lacking in ambition.

In general, treat your siblings like gold as they can make or break an overseas move.

An awareness of these issues will help ensure geographically distanced sibling relationships are based on mutual respect and appreciation of your different roles and responsibilities.

Helen Ellis, M.A. is a Hobsonville Point researcher, author, anthropologist, veteran of Distance Parenting & Grandparenting and Founder of DistanceFamilies.com

## Christmas can be cracker

Christmas is a busy season filled with joy but also challenges. To truly enjoy it, consider these tips:

- **Manage Expectations:** Aim for an enjoyable Christmas rather than the "best ever." Be realistic about what you can do and pace yourself throughout the season.
- **Enjoy Free Activities:** Explore local Christmas decorations, go window shopping, or take a drive to see festive lights.
- **Help Others:** Invite someone without family to join your celebrations. Christmas can be a lonely time for many.
- **Stay Active:** Go for walks, dance at parties, or visit parks and beaches. Take the time to explore what Auckland offers.
- **Be Generous, But Sensible:** While it's great to give, avoid overspending. Consider making gifts or offering services like babysitting. Organise a lucky dip or Secret Santa to keep it manageable.
- **Limit Excess:** Enjoy treats in moderation. Too much food or alcohol can lead to irritability and fatigue.
- **Avoid Perfection:** Don't overcommit. Set boundaries and prioritize self-care. Ask for help-sharing tasks can lighten the load and enhance enjoyment.
- **Minimise Screen Time:** Spend quality time with loved ones instead of being glued to screens.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Ultimately, it's about fun and connection. Cherish moments with family and

friends--these memories last longer than gifts.

Season's Greetings from Citizens Advice Massey! For assistance or information, contact us at 833-5775 or massey@cab.org.nz.

## Five myths about foodbanks and who uses them

There are several myths surrounding foodbanks and who relies on them for support. Here are five common misconceptions:



### 1. Only Homeless People Use Foodbanks\*\*

Reality: Foodbank users come from diverse backgrounds, including full-time workers, retirees, and those experiencing temporary financial crises. Many struggle with low wages, rising living costs, or unexpected expenses.

### 2. People Who Use Foodbanks Are Lazy or Don't Want to Work\*\*

Reality: Many foodbank clients are employed but earn too little to cover basic expenses. Others may face illness, disability, or temporary hardships. For example, Daniel and Lilly, both working, faced financial strain after the premature birth of their second child, which led them to seek emergency food support.

### 3. People Use Foodbanks as a Permanent Crutch\*\*

Reality: Most people use foodbanks temporarily, during times of crisis such as job loss or unexpected bills. With proper support, many regain financial stability. Mike and Dani, who turned to Visionwest after Covid disrupted their incomes, have since become self-sufficient again.

### 4. Food Insecurity Is Just About Food\*\*

Reality: Food insecurity is often linked to broader financial struggles, including unaffordable housing and medical costs. Foodbanks like Visionwest also provide access to

social support services, including budgeting assistance.

### 5. Foodbanks Can Solve Hunger on Their Own\*\*

Reality: While foodbanks provide vital short-term relief, they cannot solve systemic issues like poverty or high living costs. Addressing these requires structural changes, such as affordable housing and living wages.

Foodbanks, like Visionwest's Whai Manaaki Kai, provide essential support, but long-term solutions require systemic change. Last year, Visionwest distributed over \$1.9 million worth of food, helping thousands in crisis.

Visionwest Pataka Kai, at 97 Glendale Road, Glen Eden, is open for emergency food parcels on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between noon and 2pm.

## Taking the guess work out of mixing fuel

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If you operate two-stroke equipment, you will be fully aware (or should be) about the importance of using a quality lubricant and mixing fuel to the correct ratios. At STIHL SHOP Westgate many of our customers are now enjoying the benefits of using STIHL's Motomix in their equipment, and here's why:

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## Probus Club of Hobsonville

In October the Probus Club of Hobsonville celebrated their 5th Anniversary and 50 Years of Probus in the South Pacific.



The event commenced with guest speaker, James Duncan from MOTAT, with his second instalment of trams in Auckland titled 'Always a Tram in Sight'.

Following the presentation from James Duncan, President Ralph Martin presented on how Probus was formed, and how Probus

commenced in the South Pacific. The first Probus Club in the South Pacific was Kapiti Coast, which was officially formed on 4th November 1974.

The Probus Club of Hobsonville commenced with a public meeting in October 2019 to gauge interest and was organised by the combined Probus Club of Milford and the Rotary Club of Milford. Over 50 people attended the meeting which indicated that there was a good interest in forming a Club. Another meeting soon followed where a committee was formed, with John Jury being elected as President. On 9th December 2019 the Hobsonville Probus Club was officially formed with the signing of its Constitution.

At the celebrations, Life Memberships were given to the Foundation President John Jury, Avis Jury, Lyn Pushong and Carolyn MacDonell. Certificate of Appreciation were given to Gene and Don Irwin, Keith and Gwen Giles, and

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## Area Columnists

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Heini and Anke Duensing.

The Club has flourished with its membership now standing at 102.

The Club would like to thank Hobsonville businesses who have supported the Club over the 5 years, in particular Ryman Health Care (Keith Park Retirement Village), New World Hobsonville, Hobsonville Hearing, Hobsonville Bowling Club, Hobsonville Optometrists, Oceania (Waterford Retirement Village) and Hobsonville Toyota.

Probus is a Club for fun, fellowship, and friendship for active retirees; people who have reached the age where they have retired from working, or are semi-retired, and would like to meet with other like-minded people.

Probus Hobsonville members and guests meet monthly at a meeting which includes club business, morning tea, guest speaker, and a raffle drawer. The meeting is held on the third Monday of each month, commencing at 10am, at the Hobsonville Bowling Club.

For further information please contact the President, Ralph Martin on 022 600 5730.

## Grey Power

Now in the lead up to Christmas 2024 and New Years Day 2025, Waitakere Grey Power Association, President Mate Marinovich, and Committee extend season's greetings to all our members and friends and wish you a healthy and safe festive season.

Our Office will close on Friday 20th December 2024 and will re-open on Tuesday 28th January 2025. If you have any urgent enquiries please phone 09 838 5207 and leave a brief message. Our Office Manager, Peter Harvey will contact you.

Make sure you visit your doctor for your regular check-ups and book your appointment at least three weeks in advance.

Have you applied for your rates rebate to Auckland Council? Make sure you do so soon.

If you have a Community Services Card you get cheaper doctors' fees and avoid paying for any general X-rays after an accident or fall.

If your arthritis is getting worse you can apply for lawn mowing and gardening expenses assistance with Ministry



of Social Development, Seniors division, on a form signed by your doctor.

Problems with your teeth, lost fillings, chipped teeth or toothache? Please contact The Atatu Dental in Te Atatu Rd, near Glendene and they will give you 15% off all dental work.

If you need AT half-price taxi fares please see your doctor or Communicare.

In March 2025 we intend having a Senior staff member from Ministry of Social Development Seniors division come to talk to us about all the services that MSD can offer Seniors on National Superannuation. If you are struggling with bills before Christmas visit the Ministry of Social Development Seniors division office in Sel Peacock Drive, Henderson, and you might be eligible for a food grant to assist you at this stressful time of the year.

We wish all our other five Grey Power Associations in the Northern Region a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2025. We are your advocacy organisation and we have had a busy year - take care of yourselves.

Written by Mate Marinovich, President Waitakere Grey Power Association, Office 247 Edmonton Rd, Te Atatu South Community Centre, Auckland. Phone 09 838 5207 and leave a message on the answer phone.



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