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Magazine of Kawau Island New Zealand



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Kawau Island Kookaburra

“To publish the Kawau Island Kookaburra as a means of communication and as an outlet for news and articles written by interested persons”

Kawau Island Residents & Ratepayers Association Rule 3(g)

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2017 - 2018

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Comment

Michael Marris

There is a rhythm to nature. There is a rhythm to our human existence, to our lifespan and the birth and death that is an inevitable part of our fortune. There is also a rhythm to Kawau Island. The four seasons. Each with their own particular characteristics. Each season demanding that we temper our activities and our behaviours to meet the demands of nature.

The other rhythm of Kawau Island is reflected in our community. There are times of excitement and occasions of dissent. There are times of collective defence against the onslaught of mainland bureaucracy. There are moments of concern when gales and strong winds seek to besiege us. There are times when neighbours gather together to help each other and there are rare times when neighbours feel obligated to turn on a miscreant in our midst.

And there are times of regeneration. Our community is fundamentally family-based and reflects any typical New Zealand family values. We are disparate, insofar as we come together from many separate threads of society. We are collective, insofar as we share a common passion for Kawau Island and a singular deep determination to preserve not only the beautiful nature environment that we all enjoy but to shelter it from external threats – be they nature-driven or bureaucratic-driven.

In the last few years it is become obvious that some of the older generation of families on the Island have either ceded their interests to younger generations or have, forced by that inevitable dint of nature, no longer been able to be here. Some families proudly accommodate four generations of their family on Kawau and three generations is commonplace. What is important in this natural rhythm is for spaces

to open up to enable – and indeed, to encourage – incoming and developing generations to take up the custodial responsibilities of Island enrichment and community development.

For our small community, there are a surprising number of organisation structures: KIRRA (our ratepayers association), KIAC (interfacing with the political and bureaucratic mainland tendrils), the Fire and Civil Defence Teams, Pohutukawa Trust, KERT (managing emergency responses), Kawau Boating Club, Music in the Gardens to name but a few. These groups all require dedicated input and often specialist expertise that has to be gathered from within our small community.

This is no easy task. Whilst we are rich in skills and knowledge we are minuscule in number. It is often difficult for people to manage the particular logistics at an island environment demands in order to make meetings or sometimes even take part in training sessions. There is no funding so every position is voluntary and absolutely driven by the concept of community service.

Within the natural rhythm of our Kawau society these multiple roles are frequently difficult to adequately fill. The load of a lot of falls upon the shoulders of a few. But the natural rhythm is also one of regeneration. This is now a time of need for replenishment: new and younger families are moving to the island, either as permanent residents or as part of weekend and holiday family property owners. As a community we need to be reaching out to this new cohort who will bring with them not only new ideas and new skills but, importantly, a freshness of vigor. Resource depletion over time is

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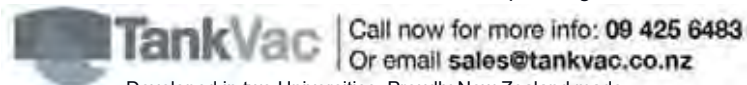
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Comment: Continued from page 3

expectable and is happening. Resource replenishment over time as possible but requires encouragement and nurturing.

This is a time for our community to look to the marvellous opportunities that are presented to us by new faces in our midst. We need to look to them, to welcome and be open-armed to their arrival and to assist them to integrate into our small but highly cohesive society quickly and easily.

On the other side of that coin, it is important for those "new settlers" to learn quickly of

Kawau life: of its beauty, of its difficulties, of its uniqueness and of its threats. It is to then that we, as older generations, are now looking. It is up to them to provide the regeneration of community structure that is critical to our ongoing well-being – indeed, our ongoing survival. Such is the natural rhythm of the world.

As always, this is a collective effort. We are all part of our unique and cherished Kawau community and it behoves us all to work together to gather our generational resources and put them to use to protect, preserve and enhance our magnificent Island environment.

Vivian Bay News

Fay Richardson

The kumara crop is dug up, feijoas, guava and passionfruit are plentiful and the fishing has been exceptional.

Easter and school holidays saw the baches full of families and the children still enjoyed their favourite pastimes of kayaking with the dolphins and jumping off the wharf, then racing into Humes for a warm up spa.

Jarrold made a big sand maze which kept the gang amused for a while.

The Argentine ant team have been and we were very grateful for their work and happy that the wet conditions have kept the ants from spreading.

The big dumpings of rain have caused more waterfalls off the hills; what was once considered unheard of, has become a common occurrence.

A big Thank You to Lin Pardey for organising a great evening of music and also to Peter and Erin for hosting us; it is always good to get our community together.

Dave and I are packing our bags for a holiday in Vanuatu with our neighbours Patria and Trevor which I am very excited about, always keen for more swimming and fishing.

A warm welcome to Allan and Vicki, the new managers at The Beach House, we hope they enjoy our special home.



Pembles Bay News

Andrew Fyfe

A time of renewal

Lachlan was lucky enough to spend Easter in London with his South African Grandmother (Ouma), Aunties (Tannies), Uncle (Oom) and Cousins (Neefs). Two weeks of afrikaans, braais and biltong in Wandsworth. His lack of time at Kawau has his old man deputising for this issue. "Wat 'n lewe my seun!"

The last few months have been a time of renewal for Pembles Bay. Shipworm has taken its destructive toll on the Templeton and Fyfe jetties. Max and Michal have replaced at least nine pylons, essentially ending up with a brand new jetty. Dad's wharf also boasts a replacement boat ramp with more work to come. Hallets have made a small fortune thanks to the relentless appetite of the dreaded 'Teredo navalis'.

In the spirit of renewal and transformation, Max literally went a step further with a hip replacement. His operation and recuperation has largely kept him from the Island. I'm sure it's the calm before the storm. A new improved 'space age' Max is a very dangerous proposition for all in Pembles Bay. A future proofed metal hip to match his iron constitution. His improved ability to get to the fridge is a pleasant but scary thought for all his guests.

Fame and good fortune came to Pembles Bay when William Randall was awarded the title of Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. William's accolade was for his sterling role as a member of and subsequently into thousand nine Chair of the Auckland Museum Trust Board. The museum faced some very troubled governance issues which he has successfully guided into a



stable and strategically innovative position. He has been a key driver of the Future Museum initiative, and has forged a culture of my cultural decision-making with a Maori dimension. Well done William! William and Janice have also largely been absent as they devote their energies to their daughter's showjumping and supporting the talented Alexia Randall and her



Team Tootill. For the time being - horses are taking precedence over boats. Badminton here we come! Nicholson, Paget, Todd... Randall?

Next door we've also missed the company of Julie Bull and her guide dog Coco. Grandson Ben Palmer has also been absent as he navigates foreign waters on luxury boats. (I'm told its hard work, but what a way to earn a living!) His parents Jo and Jeremy and brother Harry enjoyed a 'Pembles Bay Easter' in his absence, before his auntie Billie and her friends and family took over. Their impressive new fish smoker was gainfully employed, suggesting greatly improved fishing.

At the Fyfe compound, big brother Gregor christened his new battery powered Stihl chainsaw and put his wood chipper to good use, as Kirsty and he continue their hard work in creating their Kawau 'Garden of Eden'.

Continuing our theme of renewal - Reuben was good enough to arrange two recycling bins for us. The Fyfe's 'Temperance Society' has joined The Beach House and The Kawau Boat Club in having our empties picked up by the Kawau Kat on Sunday. Emptied by Northland Waste early Monday morning and returned to us on the 10.30am Royal Mail Run. This 'as needed' arrangement has saved us the bother of taking boxes of empties off the Island each and every time. Contact Marie and her team at Kawau Cruises if this service also appeals to you.

Recent weather has seen extreme contrasts. We've enjoyed breathtaking days with the ar-



rival of the autumn easterlies. Flat calm full tides without a breath of wind. Kawau at its most idyllic. Conversely, other days have forced us inside while the heavens opened, filling our water tanks to overflowing. While this has been welcome, you can have too much of a good thing. The water table has yet again seen our paths removed. All before winter really kicks in.

Wood piles restocked, lawns mown, gutters cleared, water tanks full. Pembles Bay is in great shape for Queens Birthday. Once again, we're ready to raise the flags and our glasses.



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North Cove News

Ross West

On Easter Sunday well over twenty folk gathered in front of my place in the upper reaches of Starboard Arm to pull out juvenile mangroves, remove Pacific oysters and pick up rubbish from the inlet. The event was organised by Starboard Wharf chairman Grant Whitehouse who used his advertising industry management skills to bring together property owners, their friends and children. It was a great turnout which included third generation Kawau-user young Oliver Sinclair, the mother of the inlet Joyce Goodhue, and everyone in-between. Grant had checked with Council to establish what could and couldn't be removed and the effort cleared a good hundred and fifty metres of shoreline. The oysters ended up as backfill behind a Whitehouse retaining wall and Doug Marsden and Nikki Porteous, and I took care of the mangroves which will rot down into decent compost for the garden. Afterwards we all wandered down to Jo McKenzie and Paul Lysaght's place for food and drink supplied by the Wharf Company. It was a great community effort and although muddy and sometimes very muddy everyone seemed to be having a fantastic time! We plan to attack another area over Labour Weekend.

The last place to sell in North Cove, in fact on the Island, was Helen and Dave Jeffery's house. Apparently it's been deathly quiet since, frustrating Ross Sutherland who took over from Dave. The new owner of the Jeffery place, Leanne Graham, is giving it a complete refit employing Marcus and Ryan to repaint both inside and out. Both live on their yachts in North Cove so it's an easy commute to work. How far removed their lifestyle is from an Auckland morning slowly inching your way to work on any one of the motorways leading into the city.



'Supervisor' Oliver Sinclair keeps a close eye on proceedings - Grant Whitehouse

Impresario Lin Pardey organised a wonderful event to cheer up the middle of May by bringing the very talented guitar playing duo Loran and Mark to North Cove. Forty six people turned up to the Camp Bentzon event, not only for the music, but also to tuck into a wonderful afternoon tea provided by the Island's caterer of choice Maree.

Last school holidays it was great to see the Dickenson family who took over their place on the north side of Starboard Arm last year making very good use of bach, boat and inlet. Daniel and Nicole's children Alisha, Callum and Jamie were in the water rowing, swimming, on SUPs and fishing whenever the tide was in and

when it was out they were scrambling about the foreshore exploring. They remind me of Daniel and Luke Whitehouse who some fifteen odd years ago were similarly busy and now as young men introduce their friends to Kawau.

Over the past sixteen years I have often faced the question from visitors 'who owns the helicopter' as we walked over the Miller-Wentzel wharf, which is emblazoned with a large H, a legacy from previous owner Rob Wilson. There's something about a privately owned helicopter which excites people. So I was intrigued when the current owner of the property Bruce Stevenson said when inviting me to a dinner party that one of the guests would be arriving by chopper.

This was late May with a howling southwesterly gale so I doubted we would be seeing anything flying that afternoon other than kanuka branches. However, by evening the sixty knots at Tiritiri Matangi had eased off and half an hour before dusk a brave little Robinson 22 swooped down the inlet dancing to the tune of a healthy twenty five knot plus breeze and delicately plopped onto Bruce's wharf. At last the H had a machine on it! Next day pilot Dave ferried chef Derrick back to the Boat Club and Leanne back to Moana Creek. As the evening sky turned red Dave, his partner and spaniel, climbed on board and to the chuff of the Lycoming engine and the thwack of rotor blades climbed gracefully out of the Arm and off into the sunset.

Early May I had reason to call long time North Cove resident and Kawau builder Tim Barnes. Unusual for Tim he was extremely quietly spoken which wasn't surprising given he had several broken ribs and a broken collar bone. As well as the broken bones he had plenty of bruises, all which were self-inflicted when he came off his racing Ducatti at Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park. Apparently he "high sided"



Alisha, Nicole, Jamie, Daniel and Callum Dickin-son - Grant Whitehouse

(the bike digs in and flips you over the top) in the middle of a quick corner and to add injury to injury the bike followed him into the tyre wall giving him a final pummelling. At least the bike wasn't too badly damaged.

I was sad to learn that long time Starboard Arm resident Wayne Innes died in early May. Wayne was a legend with his booming voice, very large dory Marl'n Spike, piano playing and opinions which always resulted in robust debate.

These debates would often be fuelled with hard liquor from Wayne's private still. Wayne built what is now the Dickinson bach and planted the property with hundreds of native plants he raised from seed. As the saying goes - "they don't make them like that anymore".



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South Cove News

Andrew Stone

The big autumn storms did some serious damage at South Cove. The deluges tore ruts in the metalled roads, ripped sizeable rocks from gullies, shifted large amounts of shingle and gouged a big channel in the beach alongside the concrete boat ramp. Years of work were upended in the space of a few weeks.

Outside one property, Cyclone Debbie - or was it Cook? - left electricity cables exposed. The lines company has yet to send a crew across to repair the obvious hazard. The same goes for the drains and the roads, though to be fair there's damage in all directions and priorities get imposed. We wait in hope, but not expectation.

There is not a lot you can do when sheets of rain hammer down at the rate of an inch an hour except wait for the weather to pass. In March, it meant waiting for a lot of storms to finish their work and clear out to sea.

In the weeks since, the place has been slowly reassembled. Everyone senses the storms which lashed us with frightening intensity will wreak havoc on our community - and every other for that matter - from here on. It seems that our climate is changing gear, and we need to recalibrate our response.

We are not insulted against these events, and it is difficult to find an agency willing to put its hand up to advise communities how to become more resilient.

The push is coming for places such as ours to stand on our feet and create our own defences.

Fair enough. We can live with that. What sticks in the craw is seeing some communi-



ties get help, and others pushed to the end of the queue. Millions are spent on transport networks, or repairing infrastructure in urban settlements. We get stuck with debris at the bottom of the hill and it's our job to retrieve it.

It is a pleasure to report progress despite this dispiriting outlook. Some clever repairs have been accomplished without any sightings of spending from our rates.

Over the creek which in flood gets charged with runoff and spills out across the beach a grunty little crossing has been laid. Two round posts were placed from bank to bank, which had crumbled a bit after the last monster storms.

Solid planks were nailed to the beams and voila we have a pedestrian bridge which the be the envy of the Department of Conservation. Built to withstand virtually anything na-

Throwtime

We decided it was time to throw
some money at the house

last summer, changed it into fives
to make it go further. And it did.

Summer turned to autumn breeze, and all
those brown notes blew away down the street.

Hands in the air, we could be mistaken
for holdup victims

or trees. Realising our losses,
and clenching too late to make more

than a fist of it, we tell lies
calculated to comfort ourselves.

John Adams

John Adams is a familiar face around South Cove. Recently retired as a Family Court Judge, he is a well-recognised published poet. His whimsical and quirky style often sits over a strong social message – perhaps as we see here.

ture conspires to throw at it, the structure is a thing of beauty.

Down on the beach, Dennis has clocked up the tractor hours reinstating the lost foreshore. [see photo on centre pages]. It was an immensely valuable job because for our permanent people - the Covers - the beach is a driveway to launch their boats. On the mainland

if your public road gets washed away maintenance crews arrive and carry out repairs. We'd be waiting for the next budget cycle before we got a few blokes with shovels to pass our way. That's Denis with his machine. The blade was left behind by a former resident. It was a handy piece of equipment to gift to the Bay, because we don't expect any favours from the folk at City Hall.

Afloat Around Kawau

Lin Pardey

Crash, bang. "Sure are a lot of potholes in this road," someone jokes as Roy throttles back. He pushes the throttle forward again to help the water taxi climb up the face of one wave and pulls back when it threatens to slam into the next. First there are three, then four then five of us plus the driver on the Saturday morning shuttle. The wind is screaming directly out of the west. Tiritiri lighthouse is reporting gusts to 50 knots. I am headed from my North Cove home to a KIRRA Committee meeting at Shelley Futcher's house in Stockyard Bay. But first there are the drop-offs; School House Bay, Mansion House, then the pick-ups to get the whole committee to the meeting; South Cove for Taz Strauss, back to Mansion House for two DOC representatives, on to Swansea Bay for Colin Bright.



This is not the roughest trip I have had on a shuttle. I recall the wintery day, soon after Reuben (then just 18 years old) started the first taxi and shuttle service to Kawau. I got a call from Reuben's dispatcher, his mother, Miriam, "I am worried about Reuben going over alone. I don't think he has done it in winds like these. It is going to be blowing at least 50 knots all day. But he has to get the boat to Sandspit for a survey. I know you have to get to the mainland tomorrow, but wonder if you could go today so he has someone with him."

I was able to change my dentist appointment, the wind and rain had made someone else cancel theirs. Bundled up in my sailing foul weather gear, I was waiting when the taxi pulled alongside the jetty. As we left the relative calm of the inner reaches of North Cove, I remember Reuben saying, "Might need you to keep a bit of a look out if it rains hard!" Meter and a half high waves met us as soon as we reached

the entrance to the Cove. So did a curtain of pounding rain. Throttle back, throttle forward, salt water flying over the bow and right into the cockpit, fresh water raining down to ensure there wasn't a dry spot anywhere except in the very bow of the boat. No lookout could have seen more than a few dozen metres ahead or around the boat. But as the wind gusted to near hurricane force, the taxi was nursed gently over one wave, through the next, so we rarely got moving fast enough to threaten anyone. Still I stood dutifully staring ahead, occasionally checking to port, starboard, astern, trying to be helpful while at the same time, remembering to flex my knees as the boat sank, brace for the upward swing of the bow, relax so I didn't send shock waves through my spine when a particularly steep wave let us drop like a stone into the following trough.

Almost 30 minutes later and just half way across Kawau Bay, Reuben shouted above the

roar of the boat's engine "Worst I've been out in." Wet through, hair plastered around my face, cold beginning to sneak in, I felt a sense of elation because, it might not be the open ocean, but this did feel like an ocean-wide adventure and I was handling it just fine.

As we grew ever closer to the land, the waves let up, our speed increased and of course the rain let up. After 55 minutes "at sea", we ran up the placid seeming river. I felt a bit disappointed as we pulled alongside the Sandspit Wharf.

There wasn't one person there to comment on the strength of the wind, the roughness of the sea outside or the craziness of being "out there" in weather like we'd encountered.

By the time we get to South Cove today, the pulsing waves make coming alongside the wharf a daunting prospect. But, the taxi barely kisses the wharf. Taz is ready to leap on board. Hands reach out to steady him as he climbs down off the rail and we all duck as a particu-

larly steep wave whacks the stern of the boat and sends a shower of spray toward us. But because of the weather, or in spite of it, a sense of camaraderie has grown among the seven of us as we run into the relative shelter of Bon Accord Harbour and up to Swansea Bay.

We've had lots of time together. By the time we reach Shelley's jetty a shuttle that on a calmer day would have taken 30 minutes or so has now stretched to 90. Yet as we reach for the warm drinks we're offered, I listen to the chatter among those who've braved the bouncing seas with me.

None are complaining about the time, "Wasn't worried about being late, couldn't start without a quorum," I hear someone say. Then another sums it all up, "far more interesting way to get to a meeting than just climbing in your car and driving there." Yes, it might not always be comfortable or fast, but be it on my own boat, a ferry, or on a water taxi, it is always interesting to be afloat around Kawau.

KERT First Aid Course

In response to spectacular demand, KERT is sponsoring another three hour first aid course for Kawau Islanders. The initial courses were very well received and viewed as very helpful by participants.

This next course is on **Thursday 6th July**

It will begin at **12 noon and finish at 3pm**

Marie Zylstra has been kind enough to allow the
Mansion House Cafe

to be used for the training so it will be convenient for all.

Please email me directly to reserve a place: therealdenisebarlow@icloud.com

Camp Bentzon Report

Peter & Erin Hyde

What an exciting month!

There was a break in the weather and we were able to reinstate the Camp Bentzon Hill track which now gives us back ATV access to the top, no more carrying 25kg loads up the hill to service our waste water plant. At right is a picture of the new ATV - a Polaris Ranger - many thanks to those on the Island who contributed time energy and money to Music in the Park and donated \$5000 of the proceeds towards this. As you can see we have already used it in some not-so-dry conditions.



This new track was sponsored by Fulton & Hogan they supplied a 5.5 ton excavator with an operator. Wayne who runs Fulton & Hogan on Great Barrier came over to stay for the week and do the job. We were very fortunate to have such a practical fun person to do this project for us and he achieved a great result for the Camp. He was really had to keep up with and still works full time at 72!

Kiwi

After 11 years here we finally saw our first kiwi on Kawau Island. We have been hearing increasing numbers at the camp so Peter download a kiwi call app. We heard a male call around 9pm approximately 100m from the house. Playing the female call we patiently waited. Hearing a rustling sound we directed the light and there was a male kiwi all excited. It was a bit mean of us really, but so cool to see a kiwi that close to your house.

New Wharf

The camp has had financial support from The Lion Foundation, Pub Charities, Ian Hutchin-

son (Hutchinson Consultants), Anzor Fasteners, Crofts Timber, ITM Matakana and Greg Jones (Board member who organised a Postie Bike ride fund raiser). This support is going to enable the Camp to proceed with the wharf in July and replace the whole wharf. Mark Hallett from Hallett's construction is working with us to build the wharf as cost effectively as possible, by allowing us to supply donated materials and working to a very tight schedule.

Building in one go was our goal as doing it in two parts obviously costs more. The budget is tight but fingers crossed nothing unforeseen eventuates. We will still have to save for the ramp and pontoon; however a Board member is kindly lending us his aluminium ramp for a year (Ross) which gives us some breathing space. The wharf is such an integral part of the Camp and the design has been future planned to last a number of years. Whilst the new wharf is under construction our neighbours have kindly offered the use of theirs for fire team, contractors and volunteers that may need access to Camp Bentzon (Lloyd, Michael and Gabby)

Observatory

Larry & Lin Pardey's friend, Kenny Thorall, has donated \$10,000 to create something to honour Larry Pardey. They have decided to put it towards an observatory for Camp Bentzon as it felt like the right project. Larry and Lin did not use electronic technology when navigating their yachts because they used both the sun and the stars to navigate on their many boating adventures around the world. Whilst



in his Kawau home Larry has always enjoyed the laughter from children that were staying

at Camp Bentzon We all felt the project of an observatory for Camp Bentzon was something Larry would feel to be a very appropriate utilisation of the funds. The concept has been one that Peter and I have discussed for a number of years - Kawau being such a unique place to view the stars, we are excited about it coming to fruition.

Welcome

Some other exciting news is we now have a new person working here for six days a month. So welcome to Gavin Brunton who many of you will know as the CFO of Kawau Fire Team. The Camp has continued to grow since we started. Peter and I have increasingly been finding that with the extra people, more health and safety requirements and the facility getting older there are just not enough hours to keep on top of everything. We have been fortunate to find someone with a personality and skill set who will fit in very well here.

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Anzac Day

April 25th bloomed bright and clear, a blessing for the 150-odd people who gathered at the Boating Club to remember with thanks those who gave their lives for the freedom of the ones they left behind. It was grand to see such a number, comprising a good mix of boaties and Islanders

My eldest grandson, Ethan (Et) and I were picked up early by the boat carrying some of the seven Royal New Zealand Navy representatives and Tony Hatton – RSA Warkworth – so that Et could be briefed as to his drumming duties. He handed out poppies and programmes at the front door and I looked after the side one, both of us accepting donations, which by the end of the day totalled \$337. This was presented afterwards to the Warkworth and District RSA Welfare Fund.

The Young People's Team began the ceremony by marching down the wharf for the raising of the flag by the RNZN. Each member was smartly dressed in the uniform of their choice – school, scouts, guides. John Duder then welcomed us all, and we followed with a rendering of our National Anthem.

Next a reading by Vaughan Spurdle after which Tony Hatton spoke of matters relevant to the occasion.

Robyn Lee of the Boating Club read us "Such a Shame" – a poem written by Terry Bennetts and we all contributed in the appropriate places with "Such a Shame".

Simon Dickie offered us the prayer "On Anzac Day" after which we had an address from a member of the RNZN. The Young People's Team, comprising Mukai Duder-Hura, the

Gael Archer



Gilpin kids Christopher and Caroline, Harry Wingfield (friend of the Archer mob), and Kate and Ronin Archer marched out to the flag accompanied by the beat of the drum for the Last Post and lowering of the flag.

Tony Hatton read "Ode to the Fallen" and asked for a minute silence to recall the futility of it all and the sacrifices made. Once again, the youngsters and RNZN reps marched down the wharf to the Reveille and then the raising of the flag. Lest we forget – repeated by all.

Chris Carding introduced guests to lay the Kawau wreath – made this year by Karen Carding – many thanks Karen. Helen and Dave Jeffery did the honours and were then thanked for their many contributions to island life, which will be sorely missed after their departure. The ceremony was closed by John



Duder and we were invited to lay poppies at the wreaths. Robyn Lee and her wonderful staff fed us all with platters of delicious finger food, which were handed around by members of the Young People's Team.

This was a day to remember. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed, especially Jill Hetherington who once again did a splendid job organising the ceremony. Also to John Duder who lead us with his usual calm sincerity.

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Book Review: *Meanderings*

Michael Marris

Our Island hosts some very special talents. One of our most illustrious literary daughters writes by the pen name of lois e hunter, but is better known and loved by us here as Lois Broom. Lois lives in the heart of Schoolhouse Bay and her always smiling, always warm, always pleasant person is a familiar sight on the ferries, on the wharf at Sandspit and occasionally in the supermarket in Warkworth.

Readers will know Lois is a regular and valued contributor of poetry to Kookaburra. Now we have the pleasure of her fifth published book of poetry, *Meanderings*. She describes the consistent theme of her poetry as being

“a witness to life and capturing those special fleeting moments that can too soon be forgotten.”

This book, in particular, is a look ahead to some point, yet undetermined, when she will leave Kawau and return to the mainland.

As with all of her verse there are deep insights embedded in the flowing cadence of her poetry. Her language is so easy to read, her imagery so much of a familiar New Zealand that we all immediately recognise, her first-person perspective so seductively drawing the reader in, that sometimes the deeper messages can be overlooked.

But they are always there. This book, in four parts, reflects on various stages in Lois's life, including coming to Kawau and concluding with contemplation about what as yet unknown pathways may unfold for her, offering a return to the mainland. It is sometimes too easy for the reader to be absorbed by the fluent cadence of her free verse and to delight in the cultural



familiarity of our New Zealand environment – and in those satisfactions to overlook the deeper shades that add so much texture to her poetry. The pleasures for the reader in *Meanderings* exist on many levels.

As with her other volumes there is an introspective quality that is beguiling. Lois unstintingly shares herself in her verse and after sampling the pages of *Meanderings* it is impossible not to develop a somewhat voyeuristic sense. The intimacy of Lois's poetry style and her willingness to reveal herself draws us in. The fluid nature of her poetry demands little effort to read and allows attention to be displaced onto the more meaningful purpose of her writing.

Within New Zealand poetry realms Lois Broom a.k.a. lois e hunter can be seen in the stature of James K Baxter, Fleur Adcock and Dennis Glover – great poets who have defined the New Zealand literary landscape with their frank insights embedded in a readily identifiable New Zealand context.

Meanderings is an important book. Important because it is another great addition to the New Zealand literary landscape. Important because Lois is one of us.

It is listed on Amazon and available there in both paperback and Kindle editions. For Kookaburra readers, Lois is offering a signed copy at a discount price of \$30, plus \$5 for postage. Message her through her blog at <http://loisehunter.blogspot.co.nz>. Or talk to her on the water or on the wharf at Sandspit!

As a gift this is a great book. As a volume to keep for yourself it is a treasure.

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Real Estate News

Ross Sutherland

The one thing about the Real Estate market in New Zealand is that it's forever changing in one way or another and on Kawau Island our market is driven largely by forces we have no control over at all.

It is important that anyone wanting to sell their property is fully aware of these changes and if serious about selling, must take these changes into account when setting their asking price. Unfortunately, what we paid for a property and what we have spent on it since, are irrelevant to any prospective buyer

All the lending restrictions put in place by the Reserve Bank over the last 12 months have taken effect and the result is a nationwide slowdown in sales and a significant increase in listings available for buyers to choose from. On Kawau we have really felt the effect of these restrictions more than most, as banks became nervous about lending on second homes well over two years ago, and the restrictions on our

buyers' ability to borrow has definitely contributed to the ongoing downturn of our market.

On a positive note there are still buyers out there looking for holiday homes, or increasingly as an alternative to suburban living where they can live and work from home if they don't have to turn up at a certain time every day.

Today's buyers are increasingly astute and well informed about market conditions so properties need to be well presented and realistically priced to achieve a sale.

Vendors do have full control over these two key factors and they need to be addressed positively, as the days of buyers turning up with no idea of current market values have long gone.

On a personal note I'm taking over from Dave Jeffery around December this year when he retires and is not renewing his Real Estate License.

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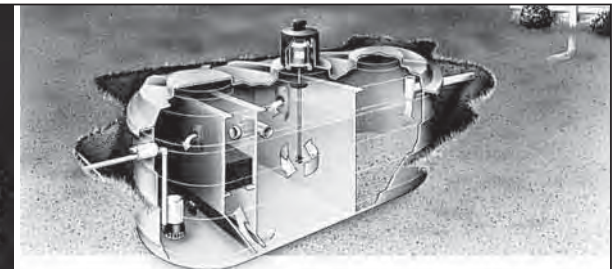
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Fire and CD Report

Chris Carding

Kawau Rural Fire Force and Kawau Civil Defence Team

Who are we and how do we operate?

That stretch of water between us and the mainland brings peace and serenity and makes Kawau Island a great place to live or holiday.

It also means we do things just a little bit different. We adapt and make do, we use what we have and yes, sometimes cut the odd corner to make things happen.

Your First Response team on Kawau have a culture of making it work and accomplishing the best emergency outcomes especially when lives or property are at stake.

Quick thinking and good decision making are paramount when tasked with an emergency situation: knowing where the team are; taking into account weather and sea conditions and deciding on an action plan are all factors influencing a positive emergency outcome.

Kawau relies on a relatively small group of fully trained fire rescue members to attend all 111 emergency calls. These include emergency medical matters, emergency civil defence matters, fire, accidents, in fact anything that is life threatening is dealt with in the first instance by your very dedicated fire rescue team.

We operate voluntarily but are required to meet strict professional standards. So the pay is not great (zero) but the ability to save a life and bring about the best outcome to an emergency situation is very gratifying.

Before you can wear the uniform, there are Police checks, basic fire and medical training

programmes and an ongoing robust training regime which requires a high level of attendance to remain part of the team.

Serving the community, you live in and giving back are the greatest feelings.

Currently the Kawau Island rural fire force has ten fully trained fire rescue members, of whom I am one, with another four completing basic training.

We also have a number of operational support members who are a vital component. These team members do not operate on the front line but carry out a raft of jobs which assist the fire team in emergencies. It would be difficult to operate without this support network.

So, to the future, as of 1st July 2017 a new identity is born. FENZ (Fire Emergency New Zealand) is an amalgamation of the NZ Fire Service and the National Rural Fire Service.

Over the next four years you will see further changes to build a modern nationwide emergency service which will be an integration of volunteers and paid firefighters from rural and urban fire teams.

This new entity will have strong links to the communities which it serves and protects.

Six strategic priorities have been identified:

- An integrated organisation and operation model
- Safety and well-being of members
- Resilient communities

- Volunteerism
- Risk reduction
- Leadership across the sector

In summary, Kawau Island First Response is moving with the times - still needing that ability to think out of the square but now cementing its future with great training and resources.

If you are as excited and passionate about the future of emergency response here on Kawau Island as I am there will be a role for you.

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Chris Carding, Civil Defence Coordinator & Rural Fire Rescue 027 319 4040

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An Appreciation

Heartfelt thanks to:

- The Kawau Emergency Response Team – KERT
- Auckland Helicopter Rescue Trust – Westpac
- and to our Kawau community.

It was a perfectly calm Wednesday evening on April 19th. We had both tried to enjoy the beautiful sunset but Jenny's tummy was too sore. The visit to a doctor earlier in the day had not brought the anticipated relief from persistent abdominal pain. Obviously the doctor's advice to take Panadol and anti-spasm pills, and the "come back if the pain doesn't go away" advice, was not going to be the answer. By 8.30pm that evening it was evident that something was very wrong. Jenny was in considerable pain. The other Jen called the "Healthline" and spoke with the nurse. Lots of questions were asked, answered and within a short space of time the nurse (bless her) made the decision to activate the emergency response process.

Wow! Never has that siren sound on the island been so welcome. By now it was around 10 pm. Within seconds the phone was ringing and minutes later two Kawau KERT people were at our door. Soon after two others from across the Bay arrived. Our relief was overwhelming.

We wish to thank the KERT team for being there so quickly and giving us both the reassurance, support and care that we definitely needed at that time. Jenny was given medication to reduce her anxiety. This proved helpful as then she was then able to describe her pain with a little more clarity. A few abdominal pain stories were swapped, and the numerous possibilities of what the concern could be were considered; appendix, something eaten???? KERT

Jenny Spring and Jen Seel



kept the conversation going with St John's Ambulance via phone and we were kept informed of possible scenarios and what could happen next. This greatly reduced our anxiety.

It wasn't long before the "Code Orange" status was moved to "Code Red" and the Rescue Helicopter was on its way. The "Westpac" paramedic increased the medication and soon Jenny was on the Schoolhouse Bay wharf, strapped on to a stretcher and carried on to the helicopter. The emergency flight to the Auckland City Hospital rooftop took 12 minutes. What a service!

After diagnosis by the Medical team, X-rays and CT scans confirmed that Jenny's appendix had burst. An operation took place that morning.

After five days in hospital we then stayed with Jenny's sister Nicky in Auckland until it was the right time to return to Kawau. Our families and friends have been wonderful as has been the kindness and support of the Kawau community.

Five weeks later both of us are here back on the Island enjoying what all Kawau Island people enjoy-the peace, tranquillity and knowledge that there are wonderful people around us.

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First Aid Courses Success

Ken Wells

Lessons for Kawanu Islanders a big success!

During April, Kawanu Islanders have taken up the opportunity to do a three-hour First Aid course presented by skilled St Johns tutors and funded by the Kawanu Emergency Response Trust. Two courses were run in April, one in South Cove and another at North Shore Hospital. A third course was run on 13 May in East Tamaki. Over 25 Islanders attended and were informed re what to do as a first response to such situations and needs as:

- Priority actions
- Adult & child CPR
- Chest pain
- Stroke
- Allergic reactions
- Bleeding
- Burns
- Falls

Every one of these situations has already occurred more than once on the Island and will no doubt unfortunately occur again in the future. The intention in running these courses is to assist Kawanu Islanders feel confident in their ability to respond to a medical emergency on or around the Island.

Our biggest asset in times of medical emergency is ourselves!!! We will inevitably have delays in getting professional medical assistance due to our location, so it is up to us to take the potentially life-saving first response actions.

The feedback below indicates that the courses hit the spot....

"Thanks so much for arranging that First Aid course. Jackie the Tutor was really excellent. It should be a compulsory course for all Islanders!"

David

"Doug and I really enjoyed it. The trainer at South Cove had a lot of real life experience to share with us and targeted our demographic well....the session on CPR and defibrillators was much appreciated. AND only a week later we pulled out our First Aid book when I had a bad fall so it was already put to good use! This training is a great initiative so I hope we can keep it going. Thanks",

Nikki

"Could you pass on my thanks to all those who made the First Aid course available to Kawanu Islanders. It was first rate, thank you".

David

"Our tutor was excellent and we all gained a lot of knowledge under her instructions.

We appreciated having the opportunity to be able to attend this course and thank you all for making it possible"

from Alison, Kristel, Rob and Alice

"Excellent course, tutor made it fun and interesting yet kept it simple to understand, great opportunity to revise skills and knowledge. Thanks to KERT for providing the opportunity" - Helen

"The course went well beyond what I expected. I especially liked that it was easy to follow and I came away feeling very happy that I made myself participate, and gained a lot of valuable knowledge. Thank you for organising it" - Fay

"Thank you very much it was informative and fun to be with people who all have Kawanu in common ! Thanks to all" - Carole

"I think this is a fantastic initiative. I'm a newbie to the island and the 'what if something happens' had crossed my mind as help is just that bit further away. I felt a lot more confident after attending the course that is something did happen that there are ways to deal with it.

It's been 30 years since I attended any sort of first aid training and there certainly weren't any defibrillators around then! I now know what to expect and when to use them. The time on the course went extremely quickly as it was interesting and great to have a chance to practise. It's the sort of thing that would be great to attend every couple of years just so that it is fresh in your mind. I'd definitely recommend the course to everyone. For me the only missing piece now is where on the island are defibrillators located?" - Katherine

This initiative has been a real success, and we at KERT are thinking of running another mid-week course on Kawanu Island over winter, as

this has been requested. We also ran another course in East Tamaki on 13th May.

We will be sending out the participation certificates later this month after the final session.

Ken Wells, Chairman

Kawanu Emergency Response Trust

PS: We have received three suggestions from participants:

- It would be helpful if Kookaburra could publish the whereabouts of AEDs on the Island, although in practice their use depends on the patient being in the same bay as the AED.
- In the 1980s Westpac Rescue gave me a sticker with a code: RD01666 identifying my property for Emergency Services. I have just rung Westpac Rescue to see if this code is still useful. The answer is no.
- I spoke to one of the pilots who looked at Speedy Bay on Google Earth and gave me the coordinates of the best landing spot for a helicopter.
- I will verify this with my smartphone and place it in a prominent position in the bach, but it would clearly be beneficial if all property owners had their coordinates (from Google Maps on their smartphone) on their fridge or whatever.

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KIAC Status Struggling

Michael Marris

Since the formation of the Auckland “super-city” and the subsequent Unitary Plan, the governance of Auckland Council has gone through some significant changes. One implication for Kawau Island has been that the legislative status of KIAC (the Kawau Island Advisory Committee) was abolished.

Since then there has been a continual struggle to achieve formal Auckland Council recognition of KIAC.

The Kawau Island Advisory Committee was originally formed by an act of Parliament in the 1960s to reflect the particular needs of the population of a small Hauraki Gulf island that was geographically discrete and devoid of ordinary social planning infrastructure such as water supply, wastewater removal, stable electricity, roading, rubbish removal and many other community elements that make up society.

Parliament recognised that a community such as Kawau could not adequately be governed within the ordinary framework that would apply to mainland towns. KIAC was charged with maintaining ongoing consultation with the Island population (not all of whom were members of the Kawau Island Ratepayers Association) by collating that information and providing policy and development advice.

Over the last few years, KIAC has been involved in a number of very important issues including: fighting massive rate increases proposed by Rodney District Council, helping to set up and implement the Kawau Island Vision, examining the method and practise of mooring allocations on the island and many numbers of other policy and practical issues. It has worked very closely with the Kawau Is-

land Residents and Ratepayers Association (KIRRA) and communicates with virtually all Kawau property owners on a regular basis. The Rodney Local Board has generally been very supportive toward Kawau, especially so under its current chairperson Beth Houlbrooke. Lin Pardey recently made a carefully prepared presentation to the RLB seeking to formalise our relationship with Council, and to reinstate the recognition that Kawau Island is a community with articular circumstances and particular needs.

The RLB provided a courteous and constructive forum, but advise Lin that they also had to seek external advice, particularly around the legal issues that may be implied.

Regrettably, at the beginning of June, the Board advised that a formalisation of the relationship was not to be possible, at least at this point. We believe that the primary reason is likely to be political – that the Auckland Council bureaucracy is highly resistant to any exceptions to its “one-size-fits-all” structure, and although we do have a special status as a designated Precinct within the Unitary Plan, Council do not wish to see us being treated as an outlier with the risk that other communities would agitate for similar recognition.

This is not a surprising outcome. It is dismaying. KIAC under the staunch leadership of Lin Pardey will continue to make representations to the RLB about Kawau issues. Fortunately under the current leadership of Beth Houlbrooke we feel we will continue to be granted a fair and understanding audience to promote the special interests, political and administrative in particular, that reflect the needs of Kawau.

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Where Are They?

Kawau Girl

I love walking up through the bush on Kawau - if you're quiet you can see wallabies that scarp-er as you approach, there are wekas scurrying through the undergrowth and overhead the tuis and wood pigeons. We also see minahs: they are more recent to our bush. I never seem to meet anyone.

All I do see are the neglected holiday homes, before you enter the bush, down at the water's edge, unfinished, with building materials lying around the site, builder's rubbish that should have been removed years ago. Dead leaves are piled up on the once beautiful decks.

The undergrowth is creeping into the house.

The building construction started about ten years ago, the builders have changed several times no one has been there to work for three years now.

It is easy to see into the interior as the house has been designed with walls of glass and inside rubbish is piled up in the lounge and bed-

room. In one room the workman's shoes sit waiting for him to come back.

The owner has paid so much to achieve the building so far, it wouldn't take that much to finish.

Further up in the bush you can see the unfinished home that belonged to Max Edkins, peering inside you can see his jacket still hanging off a chair with pencil and paper still on the table where Max had been planning his next project, poor Max he must be so disappointed no one has come along and finished his house.

How long ago did he die? Was it five years? He was a character and we enjoyed his company. We first met Max many years ago when he lived in the shack (the shack is still there close by to his new house) a favourite book lay on the table "How to build a house." Max was very clever and innovative, he also built the railway down to the beach for carrying materials for the construction of his new home. It's covered in spider webs, plants grow over it and it's rusting away.



The undergrowth is getting closer to the house and the courtyard gate is getting harder to push open.

Not far from there is another cottage that is falling down, the house is only a shell unfinished, the vegetation grown very high growing over the house. Will it last much longer, the roof sags and it will collapse soon. I think they have a problem with rats.



What story could there be for such neglect, if you don't want it why not sell it? Does no one want to live in them?

Both of these buildings are within 15 minutes' walk of our house is this a general problem on Kawau Island?

Everything is difficult on this Island, there is no rubbish collection, transporting materials is expensive and access to the Island not cheap.



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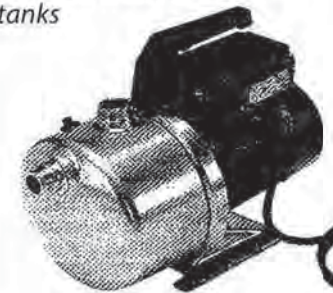
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Gardening Matters

Jane Myhre

Weeds are plants too

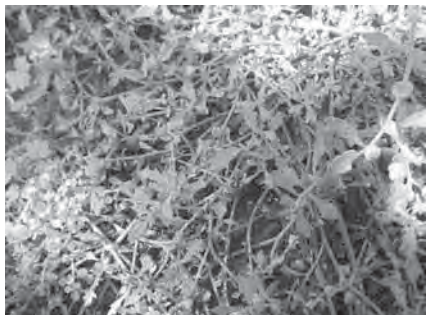
An easy definition of a weed is any plant growing where it is not wanted.

My lawn has an abundance of unwanted plants upon which I practice the following extermination methods: pull out those that will let go easily, pour hot water on the ones that don't want to let go, and poison the hardcore ones. I regularly practice these tortures on invasive plants and feel very pleased with myself. Such fun!

Lawns should be carpets of rye and fescue, neatly trimmed to an even length, shouldn't they?

This brings me to centipeda minimum subsp minima (see photos), which has infiltrated my piece of clay in here in South Cove.

According to the NZ Plant Conservation Network website, sneezeweed (for that is its common name), is typically to be found in "poorly drained airfields". This is a novel way to think about my less than level property. I guess it means that this plant likes the south-westerly aspect here, open to the sun but not arid.



Having elegantly curved spear-shaped leaves, sneezeweed is a modest but pretty plant, first brought to my attention some years ago by two delightful young Council employees who visited looking for geckos. They found none of those, but they did find centipeda minimum subsp. minima. Because of their youthful enthusiasm for what they claimed to be a very rare plant, I felt bound to protect it. After all, it didn't seem to be causing any harm.

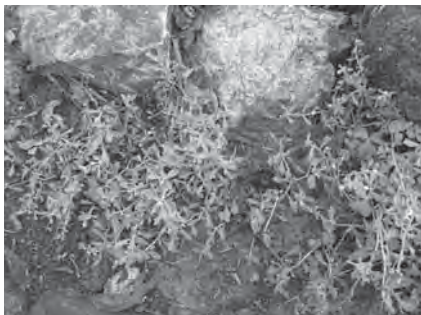
Over the years since, centipeda has settled in, especially in places rye disdains unless given an awful lot of tender loving care.

My 'plantist' self still hankers for that nicely trimmed carpet of rye grass; my free-thinking self urges that the ungrass-like centipeda could make a lawn of sorts. At the very least it is short, and green.

And the w.....s don't like it.

Currently the two, rye and centipeda, are sharing the lawn by my deck. Isn't that lovely?

But it can't last. On Planet Earth life emanates as all against all. Usually. Occasional compromises have been known. Will rye and centipeda tolerate each other? Time will tell.



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Park Notes

As in most properties on our Island, the weather continues to leave its mark on the Mansion House Reserve. Despite earnest efforts to clear slips and tracks, it seems at times it is one step forward and two steps back. Water will inevitably find its way to the lowest points, and when one area is blocked, new streams are carved as the water escapes on a new course. Some heavy machinery has been deployed to rebuild the entry to Lady's Bay where pipes have been washed out. Trees that have fallen into the ponds have been removed and slips stabilised.

Many of you may have seen the sorry sight of a macrocarpa sitting on the kiosk roof. The toilet blocks were closed and visitors redirected to the bunk house bathroom until such time the tree was removed. The kiosk was able to remain open to the public, but Maree and her staff had to operate with reduced equipment until all electricity and gas connections were checked. Macrocarpa are not deep rooting trees and the remaining specimens in the vicinity have been cut and chipped. Other trees of concern around this area are being assessed to see how safe they are.

Once more we extend our gratitude to the teams of volunteers that give their time so freely. These wonderful people keep our gardens well-tended, our tracks clear of weeds and the park clear of fronds and leaves. One of our volunteers keeps the Square Piano in the drawing room at Mansion House perfectly tuned.

Accomplished pianists are invited to tinkle these ivories if they would like, just ask at reception and access will be set up for you. The piano needs to be played in the style of Scarlatti or Chopin, a lighter touch. Many visitors to the

Sue Stoddard, Hemi and Jen



house have taken up the opportunity to play, the acoustics in the drawing room enabling the sound to travel beautifully through the house.

We welcome a new ranger to our team on the island. Hemi brings his experience as a talented individual with many strings to his bow. He's been in the construction industry for 30 years and pest control on Atuanui for four years. Since Hem's appearance we have noticed a significant reduction in rat and possum activity around the buildings. Future plans are to lay more trap lines on the reserve to protect our kiwi. Please ensure dogs do not stray onto the reserve. Say Kia ora when you see Hem out and about (but don't mention fishing - we need him to work).

There have been two or three public meetings regarding the pine trees. Trees will be removed from Wilson Road adjacent to private properties. The Lady's Bay Track and treatment ponds and are being worked on currently and then

the intention is to look at the next projects which include the Redwood Track.

Patrick Clarke is our new Senior Ranger, Community for the Auckland Inner Islands. Those of you who attended public meetings would have had the opportunity to meet him. He is the person you can approach if you have an interest area. He is planning to be at Mansion House at the end of June and available to chat to the public. Contact Mansion House reception if you would like to know the dates.

Mansion House will be closed after Queen's Birthday weekend and reopening for spring. Spring cleaning will be ongoing during this time. Also planned is some more training on care of the chattels with conservator Madeline Abey-Koch.

During winter the house will be open by special request to groups of 10 or more (including school groups).



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Kawau, North Cove, Sam Harvey and us

John Sinclair

For twenty years we had holidayed on our yacht – usually in and around the Bay of Islands, but always spending the last few days in North Cove. We always went home thinking how we must get a bach in the Cove.

Donald McKenzie was Chairman of The St Cuthbert's College Building Committee, for whom my firm was providing architectural services – so we started sharing barbeques ashore. One day, walking back to our dinghy, our son pointed to what looked to be the ideal – “that's what we need Dad”. Surprise! Donald advised us how it was the guest cottage of Hollywood producer Don Chaffey's hilltop holiday house – and he had just died.

After some McKenzie prompting, we followed it up – and ended up buying both, selling off the house on the point and owning our lovely little bach - and meeting Kawau identity Sam Harvey. By giving Sam the large store of Don Chaffey home brew we had found, we became good friends.

Sam was best known as the creator of Channel 2 “Good night Kiwi”, and the Chesdale “We are the boys down on the farm” TV cartoons. Many of his stories I reckon to be worth sharing.

Sam started his career as a 16 year old artist with the J Arthur Rank film studios. His father told him “get a proper job”, so he became a seaman on a tramp steamer. During a layover in Auckland he discovered Kawau. Captivated by it he resolved to come back – so after three marriages, ended up in North Cove.



A typical Sam Harvey whimsical centre piece from Kookaburra Spring 2008 - lamenting the problems in the Sandspit carpark!

It transpired that Don Chaffey also started his career at the same studio – and they met again, 40 years later, in North Cove! Sam, a successful cartoonist, Don the producer of “Mission Impossible” and a real Hollywood personality.

Another time, sitting on our deck listening to music (and having a beer) Sam said “do you mind if I big note?” “Not at all”. “My grandfather learnt the piano from Pieter Tchaikovsky”. Wow! That's worth big noting about. Apparently, Sam's granddad was one of the engineers Tsar Nicholas had invited to Russia to upgrade their infra structure, and had taken the opportunity to learn the piano. What a teacher!

Sam was one of Kawau's many identities – all of whom must have had great stories. Early Kawau people like Don McKenzie will have many. Maybe someday they will be collected and published (Kawau Bookworms?) – they would make great reading.

Jeff Cook Retires

Lyn Hume

It was with much disappointment that I read the following email from Jeff:

“Hi everyone. Just a quick note to advise that as of Friday 17th March 2017 I have resigned from Auckland Council. I have enjoyed immensely working alongside you all and would like to personally thank you for your support over the years on Hauraki Gulf programmes.

“Not an easy decision but a positive one for me as I have so many projects goals and adventures yet to complete before the sun sets on my physical ability to achieve them. Yep still got 30 years at least so I am looking forward to the challenge.

“All the very best to you all. Cheers Jeff”.

I was therefore delighted to receive an invitation to attend his farewell party a few weeks later at the Devonport Yacht Club. For the occasion Jeff was wearing a very special T-shirt, a present to him from his partner Sally, which was the blue of the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park organisation and bearing its distinctive logo.

Jeff is known to many Kawau Islanders not only for his term working for DOC as the ranger at Mansion House but also for his knowledge and enthusiasm for the Hauraki Gulf “Treasure Islands” during his time with Biosecurity at Auckland Council. In particular for us was his introduction of the project to eliminate Argentine ants from Kawau. This project started just on four years ago and with a dedicated team Schoolhouse Bay was cleared fairly rapidly but the Vivian Bay area has been an ongoing and prolonged battle which we are very close to winning.



In attendance at the farewell were many people he has worked with over the years and many spoke of the respect and inspiration they have felt working with him. In particular, Tim Lovegrove from the Biosecurity Department and Brett Butler, Biosecurity Manager recounted many of the areas where Jeff’s skills have made an enormous contribution to the understanding and leadership roles for many to follow.

Jeff started his career as a boat builder and his advice in his craft is often requested and

Myrtle Rust Advice

Ministry Primary Industries

Stephen Hudson and his neighbour were concerned about the appearance of some pohutukawa trees on their properties. They contacted MPI and received this response:

Myrtle Rust (MR) on Kawau Island, thanks for taking the time to inspect the pohutukawa trees out there. From your photos it does not appear to be MR but they were a bit dark and hard to discern when enlarged.

If, as you suggested, your neighbours on Kawau could take more close-up clear photos of the symptoms that would be great. If they see any powdery yellow spores on the leaves tell them not to touch them because the spores are very easily spread.

We do not want any samples brought back to the mainland by members of the public.

We can usually tell from photos whether or not we need samples taken. If we do we would task a field team to travel to Kawau equipped with all the appropriate equipment such as Tyvek suits, gloves, face masks etc. to ensure containment of the spores and infected plant material.

shared. As an acknowledgement his biosecurity team, represented by Brian Shields, presented him with a book which he will always treasure, “Thoughts on Clinker Lapstrake Dinghy Construction” by Peter Peal.

It was good to meet up with many of the people who have worked with Jeff who have also been associated with Kawau: Chris Roberts (former DOC ranger), Jack Crow (former Head of Biosecurity), Frank Visser (Key Industries – suppliers of product and knowledge to the “ant

Concerning any samples you have brought back please bury these on your property to ensure that these samples are destroyed. Although the symptoms do not look like MR we must take all necessary precautions.

Please send any future photos to:

myrtlerust@mpi.govt.nz

I include our link to symptoms and host plants - please access this:

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/myrtle-rust>

Mr Michael Surrey | Senior Technician, Mycology & Bacteriology, Plant Health & Environment Laboratory Diagnostic and Surveillance Services (DSS) | Operations

Stephen adds this useful piece of knowledge:

The other valid point to advise everyone is that the myrtle rust appears on the new younger leaves and it is when the yellow spores appear. Only take photos do not remove the leaves as this can spread it to the mainland.

team”) and Christine Rose (Biosecurity Kauri dieback Advisor), to name but a few.

As the only Kawau Islander present I was grateful for the opportunity afforded me to speak on our behalf to thank him for his wonderful contribution to this particular “Treasure Island”.

The photo at left shows Tim Lovegrove, at right, speaking to Jeff who was resplendent wearing his special T-shirt.

Captain Bentzon

5 October 1965
Mr C Spanake,
District Advisor,
Physical Education Branch,
AUCKLAND.

Dear Colin
KAWAU ISLAND

The following may be of assistance to you.

MR BENTZON:

He was a retired Danish seaman who landed in New Zealand somewhere in the 1900s. When the Lees, Mrs Horsley's parents, befriended him he was living on his mullet boat.

Later he moved ashore and built a hut on the property you now have. There may be some trace of this building still in existence.

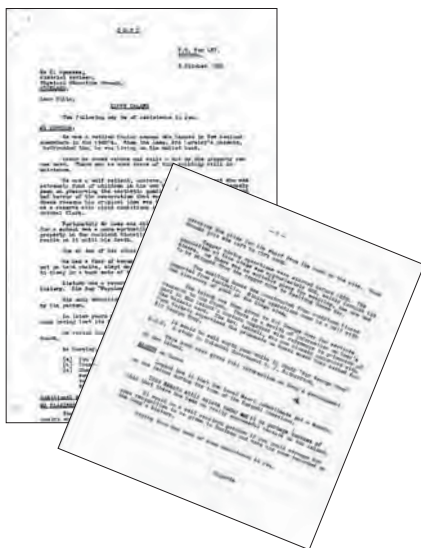
He was a self-reliant, austere, dogmatic introvert who was extremely fond of children in his own bluff way. He was intensely keen on preserving the aesthetic qualities of the native bush and had horror of the desecration that was current on the island. For these reasons his original idea was to leave his estate to the island as a reserve with rigid conditions imposed on the removal of the natural flora.

One or two of his other idiosyncrasies were:

He had a fear of becoming soft and for this reason always sat on hard chairs, slipped on hard floors, but later he condescended to sleep in a bunk made of taut sacking.

History was a revered subject to him, particularly Danish history. His dog "Napoleon" was witness to this.

Bob Ricketts' Letter



His only education was given him by his father, a doctor, and by his parson.

In later years he was forced to row back to front owing to his neck having lost its flexibility.

He vested the property in 1935 or 1936. Check on this with the Board.

Additional Material That May Be Of Interest:

Mr Blamires:

The first teacher took school over as the climate suited his health which wasn't particularly good. Physical education consisted of carrying the piles for his wharf from the bush to the site. Each manuka pile was 14 foot to 15 foot long.

Copper mining operations were started before 1830. The population at this stage was approxi-

Farewell Harry, Welcome Tony

Linda Lewin

Rodney Mooring Services is under new ownership locally owned and operated by a team with a passion of the ocean. Husband and wife Tony and Linda Lewin will be operating the barge. Tony has been in the commercial fishing and the charter fishing industry for the past 28 years, starting his career in Whangaparaoa, with Linda crewing on many of our vessels. Linda is a qualified Padi underwater Scuba Instructor.

We have owned and operated many commercial vessels ranging from 6m crab boats to 20m trawlers. We are skilled and experienced in: vessel surveys, net making, welding, splicing of rope and wire, engine servicing, and maintaining underwater equipment ie, chain, swivels, shackles and wire.

Our family decided on a change of lifestyle as fishing requires a high amount of hours per week with very little family time. We decided to make the move away from Gisborne to Mahurangi, where Tony lived for his high school years and reflects his love for the area. Rodney Moorings and Maintenance came up for sale

and we jumped at the opportunity - the transition from fishing to moorings has been relatively easy as the environment and equipment used is very similar.

We have been working alongside Harry for the past four months and the knowledge he has passed on will be invaluable to us.

We'd like to wish Harry a happy retirement - it's been 77 years coming! Time for him to go tick a few more things off his bucket list.

We look forward to hearing from you soon....

Contacts: Tony 027 459 0006 or Harry's old number 027 4909 299

Email: info@rodneymoorings.co.nz

www.rodneymoorings.co.nz (going live soon)

Captain Bentzon: *Continued*

mately 600, mainly Cornish tin miners. As there was no suitable place for smelting, the ore had to be shipped from the Coppermine to Smelting House Bay.

The smelting house was constructed from sandstone blocks imported from Australia. Mining operations came to a halt with the discovery of gold in the Otago area.

The island was then given to Sir George Grey for services rendered to the Crown. There is a wealth of information on Grey's part in the island's history together with reference to pris-

oners of the Waikato Wars. The Rev Ashwell, who is closely connected with Port Waikato supervise the prisoners on Kawau where they worked for Sir George Grey.

Makutu or curse:

Legend has it that the local Maori inhabitants put a makutu on the island during the time of the Ngapuhi invasions. This makutu still exists today and it is perhaps because of this that there has been no really successful venture on the island.

Bookworms

Karen Carding

Kawau Island Bookworms gets together every 4th Thursday of the month, where we enthusiastically share our books, reviews, conversation and food.

Our March meeting was really special as we went to visit Chic in her new Waipu home. Then in April we were at Jenny's place in Little Vivian Bay.

Phone Karen Carding 027 319 4040, to join us.



Coastguard Kawau

Luke McCarthy

There is not much to report in terms of on the water activity – very quiet in terms of callouts for our unit over the past two months.

But elsewhere in our northern region, Coastguard has been busy enough. One recent callout involving multiple players illustrates the complexity of some of our rescue situations, and the importance of great communications.

On 11th June, Coastguard Radio received a distress call from a launch advising that a woman on board had collapsed and they required urgent medical assistance. She had since regained consciousness but the people on board remained very concerned for her wellbeing.

Coastguard Radio broadcast an urgent call on VHF radio and assigned Howick Rescue One to the task, which responded from Matiatia. Auckland Seaplanes also responded to the broadcast advising they were five minutes from the destination. Howick Rescue One arrived on scene and put two volunteers aboard the launch to assess the patient. In talking with Ambulance comms it was decided that the patient was safe to transfer via seaplane. Auckland Seaplanes were able to land at Mechanics Bay with the patient who was met by a Police RIB with two paramedics on board and transferred to an awaiting ambulance.

Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things'

Our unit features in Coastguard Northern Region's 'Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things' marketing campaign.

Mechanic in his day job, President Luke McCarthy is seen sliding out from beneath a car to answer his pager. Others featured in the video



are shown at their workplaces, then leaving for a callout where they meet up to set off in a Coastguard rescue vessel. Some are shown carrying out various other Coastguard roles such as communications, spotting from the Coastguard aircraft, and fund-raising.

Our new recruits

As a result of this marketing campaign to attract volunteers, we had fantastic interest. Ten new applicants have joined us taking our unit total to around 32.

Our recent focus has been on getting these new recruits trained and up to operational level as quickly and practically as possible. This involves our newbies getting through various training modules including First Aid.

We are always looking out for volunteers and it must be noted that the understanding and flexibility of the employers of Coastguard volunteers is of immense help to our organisation.

Mid-life refit

We are now at the pointy end of finalising what we will be carrying out as the mid-life refit

Continued on page 59

Pohutukawa Trust



POHUTUKAWA TRUST NEW ZEALAND
 To rehabilitate the native flora and fauna of Kāwau Island
 To achieve sustainable land use on Kāwau Island
 Ministry For The Environment
GREEN RIBBON AWARD 2003
 The outstanding leadership and commitment to environmental protection
 Auckland Regional Council
 7 November 2003

Hello supporters.

With the year half over already and rapidly heading into winter, the Island's ecosystems have had to already withstand some tough conditions. The weather patterns that we have been seeing the last few months have thrown some strong winds and heavy rains at us which have taken their toll. There is however one demon that is lurking that I have my fingers crossed that our already fragile flora will not have to endure.

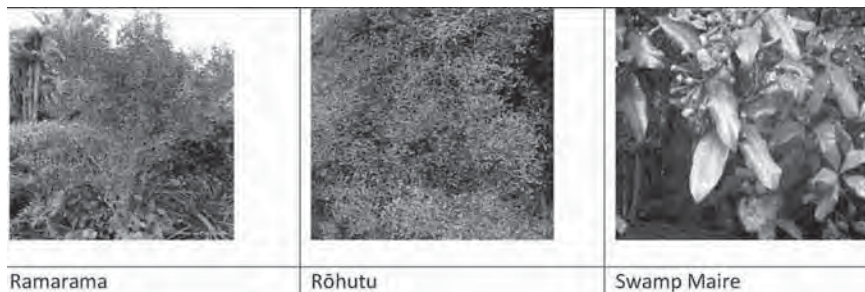
I am of course specking of myrtle rust which we have seen identified in New Zealand for the first time this autumn. Most of the discussion in the media has been on the destruction that it potentially may have on our iconic pohutukawa. The potential is for a noticeable impact on the native forests species on Kāwau if

Carl Weaver

myrtle rust becomes established. Myrtle rust spores are very small, almost microscopic. They can easily be spread across large distances by wind, insects, birds, and unknowingly by us transporting vegetation, machinery, and clothing or even by these coming into contact with vehicles passing through an infected area.

Myrtles are one of the dominant species which may be found on Kāwau and very important to the recovering flora and fauna we are increasingly seeing. Trees and plants in the myrtle family that we may find on Kāwau which we are most familiar with are; pōhutukawa, rata, mānuka, kānuka but some that we may not be so familiar with are as below.

There are also a number of common introduced plants that could be found in a number of gardens on the Island which include feijoa, eucalypts and bottle brushes which are susceptible to myrtle rust. There is an estimated 140 species of plants in the myrtle family in New Zealand that potentially may be affected by this debilitating disease. The most important



thing we can do is be vigilant at this time and report anything suspicious.

Where to look:

It generally attacks the soft, new growth, including leaf surfaces, shoots, buds, flowers, and fruit.

What to do:

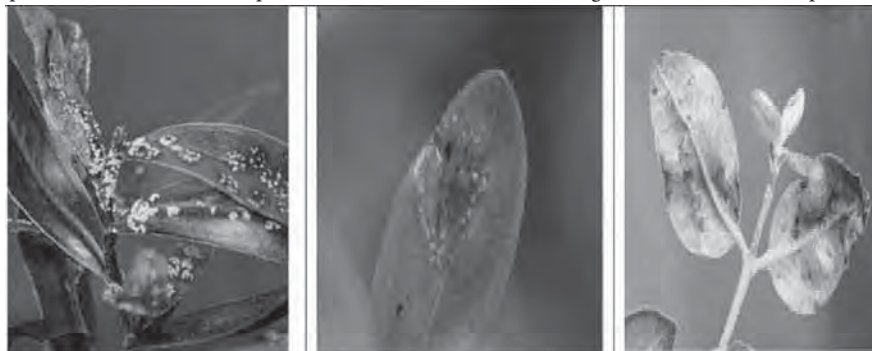
- Be vigilant
- Take a photo of the suspicious area, and also the plant
- Don't touch any of the plant
- Call the MPI hotline on 0800 80 99 66

More information is available on the Trust's website www.pohutukawatrust.kiwi

Thank you to all those who took the time to make contact with us recently to provide your email contact details; we appreciate your support. The Trust will be making available mechanical possum traps on a loan basis in the near future. Details of these and how you can obtain them will be available on the Trust's website in due course.

Have a safe and warm winter.

POHUTUKAWA TRUST NEW ZEALAND
 Registered New Zealand Charity CC23836
 All donations are tax deductible, gratefully received, and needed.



Bright yellow powdery eruptions on both leaves and stem
 Yellow bumps and brown patches typical of myrtle rust
 Some leaves may become buckled or twisted and die off

Coastguard: *continued from page 57*

Kāwau Rescue. This will be a tidy up/modernisation of the vessel and we have a number on items on our wish list, including an upgrade of our electronic systems.

We must acknowledge the support we have had from the community in terms of donations and purchasing our Christmas raffle tickets, and a special mention to both Music In The Gardens and the Warkworth Ladies Lions for their continued support. The money donated by both these groups will go a long way to keeping Kāwau Rescue up to date in terms of its electronics and in top mechanical order.

For further information, please contact the KVCG president Luke McCarthy on 021 263 1586 or email luke.mccarthy@vodafone.co.nz



Harbourmaster Report

Graeme Kearney

Ahhh The morning frost!

Ice

Either makes you want to leap up and start the day earlier with crisp excitement or if you're like me, grab the cat for extra warmth and think of a good reason to stay in bed and keep warm and not front up for work.

Sadly it's extra clothes and a hot breakfast, then down to the wharf.

Extra care should be taken on the wharves during these cold months as they become very slippery and if wet, the wharves may ice up on the cooler mornings.

Thieves

Unfortunately we are still being told of vessels being broken into, mainly in the Mahurangi River mooring. Lock your boats and don't leave rods and other equipment in easy eye sight or outside the locked boat if you can help it.

Assaults

Also to note are the public that are confronting persons whom are breaching the bylaws.

There has been a couple of assaults that have been brought to the attention of the police and ourselves. This happened when the several members of the Omaha public approached people on a jet ski who were in breach of the speed limit. The police are involved and an assault charge will follow.

If there are bylaws being breached or other unsafe boating activities going on or even if you have doubt of actions of others that may result in an injury or possible accident please look



for support from the Harbourmaster's office or the police.

Sometimes you can talk nicely to people whom generally may not of been aware of the rules, other time it is best to walk away to avoid confrontation.

Non-seaworthy boats

We are in the middle of clearing up derelict and abandon vessels in the Auckland and Rodney area. If you have concerns about a vessel you have seen in poor condition, abandoned or not sea worthy please contact us we will investigate and respond appropriately.

Storage of safety equipment

It is a good time to check flares and safety equipment before some long time storage if you are using you boat less now the weather is changing.

Best that these and your life jackets are dry so they don't go mouldy and will operate when needed.

Remember to check the tide for your area before going out, either by ute or vessel.

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Readjusting

Once again Winter has changed us
from bright summer butterflies into
cold woolly caterpillars hunching
over the fire, shedding more hair
than we did last year.

'When I have time, when I have time,'
we said all Summer long as we danced
over the days, 'when I have time,
come winter I'll do all those things
I promised I'd do the year before

expecting a repeat of the previous Winter

the books are there, the pantry prepared,
only to find life has happened in-between.

There's been a change in the foods we eat,
a change in the books we like to read
- with those new neighbours appearing
as old ones leave, we've even changed
our daily routine – (and whatever were
we thinking when we chose those new
drapes for the lounge last year !)

No, we can't quite go back to who we were.

lois h hunter

Winter Closing KBC

Lin Pardey

With the Queen's Birthday behind us, the doors of the Kawau Boating Club will close for the winter. Those of us who got over there during the last days of the season were greeted by warm hosts and a warm fireplace. The place was buzzing as island residents and holidaying yachties and boaties came in to top up fuel tanks and have just one more taste of Derek's fish and chips, curried mutton shanks and other treats. It has been another great year at the KBC in spite of some really blustery weather over the summer. The new walk-in chiller freezer helped free up much needed space inside the Club rooms. The new tile floor and bookshelves in the library area made this a special place for families and children to relax. And the refurbished ablution blocks drew many positive comments.

In the next few weeks, Hallett Marine will be replacing the damaged western steps on the wharf with a set that is far more user-friendly. At the same time, they will put in the pilings for the new deck to the west of the wharf. Over the winter, the deck will be built and by next summer there should be a floating pontoon in place to make fueling far easier and create a great place for dinghies to land.



The KBC depends completely on membership fees and donations to maintain and upgrade the premises.

Invoices for membership renewals will go out in July. On the invoice there will be an option which lets you choose 1, 2 or 3 year memberships. The Club is a big asset, not only to the boating community of the whole Hauraki gulf but to us Kawau Islanders as well. By joining, Islanders get discounts on bar drinks and on fuel and just as important, you are ensuring the Club continues to thrive.

The Club will reopen in time for Labour Weekend.

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usual maximum is 24 hours depending on pressure

Ken Ricketts

Mr Bob Edwards

Recollections of Kawau Island documented by Mr Bob Edwards who lived on the Island for a number of years. Received by Keith Presland on 19 April 1991. Originally typed by Flo Presland. Many names will be familiar to Kawau people to this day with some families still on the Island.

In 1926 the small island just off Mansion House, the one we call The Happy Jack, (Martello Rock) was used for shelling practice by the HMS Dunedin and HMS Diomedes until stopped by the Marine Department. The small rock was left so it would not be a navigational hazard.

Kawau was owned by a Mr Farmer who went into liquidation and the island was cut up; Lawford Reeves buying Mansion House and I think 10 acres. The Mansion House as I knew it was covered in ivy, there being very little view out of the windows.

On the left of the main building with the servants' quarters, and across the back with the stables and livery rooms. At the back of the house was an old tin shed which was used as a storeroom, and a counter which was used to sort the mail, the mail arriving once a week on a Thursday.

Thursday was the day the steamers arrive from Auckland bringing mail and stores, it was a great day for the islanders who arrived in their runabouts, inboard motors in those days, outboards were yet to come.

The Northern Co. ran the service using the SS I mana commanded by Capt Donovan, and the SS Kawau commanded by Capt Heatley. One week, it was a daylight trip, and the next night trip, as they had to work the tides in the Matakana River.

The trip from Auckland was quite interesting, calling first at Emptage Island (Moturoa),

Emptage coming out in a big punt with his cream, which was taken aboard and stores put into the punt. The next stop was Scandretts at Mullet Point. Same thing there, out in the punt with wool and picking up their stores and mail. Next was Goldsworthys and Algies, then across to Mansion House. From there to Sandspit, unloading mail et cetera.

The farmers came on horseback and sledge as there was no road and they had to cross the creek where the motor camp is now. Also the steamer loaded shark fins and shark oil from the shark factory opposite the wharf, the fins were bound for China.

Mail bags were delivered to the farms up the river, and to the Matakana post office, as there was no service to Warkworth, it being a clay road. But it was noted that Matakana, the steamer sailing the next day or night, calling at Kawau for mail and passengers for Auckland.

On Sundays during the summer months, the SS Duchess ran trips to Kawau carrying about 2200 passengers, the skipper on the SS Duchess was Eddie Wann.

In 1927 the copies for their own boat, the Settler, and ran a service but could not compete with the Northern Co. They went out of business and the Omana and Kawau continued the service.

Lawford Reeves had three daughters, Nora the eldest married a Wilson of Wilson and Horton who owned the Herald, the second Joan,

married flying officer Kirk, the third daughter Mollie, married a Greek, Spiro Andros.

Spiro had a boat, I think it was called Sea Wolf. It was a 42-footer open boat, with the engine forward, covered with a dodger, and a seat running the length of the boat, the steering wheel abaft of the engine.

It was in the 1930s when Spiro started making the odd trip to Sandspit, it was the depression and relief workers had formed the road from Warkworth to Sandspit as far as Mrs Rayner's farm, so anybody going by sea had to walk from there to the wharf.

At about this time a Post Office cable was laid from Mullet Point to Kawau, and a small switchboard was installed at Mansion House, there being three party lines, and one line to Warkworth. Also at about this time Spiro had his boat altered, I think Baileys did the job with Spiro helping, a wheelhouse, deck, sponsons, cabin, bulwarks and a mast were added. When finished, she was renamed the Nancibell.

The Nancibell was powered with an HGM motor, a three cylinder two-stroke, air start, with a compressor to keep two bottles full of air. Only failing with the funnel sooted up after a few weeks running and caught fire, but unnerving to the passengers, as it belched out soot everywhere.

About 1934 Spiro ran a sort of service to the Sandspit, taking guests to the Mansion House, if the islanders wanted the trip he would pick them up or drop them off at the Mansion House, he also ran a trip to Auckland once a week.

The Northern Co. continued running till 1937. Road transport began taking the butter from Matakana to Auckland, the Kawau-Matakana service was axed as it was not profitable, the end of an era for the steamers. Spiro continued

running till 1936, a culvert had been put over the creek at Mrs Rayner's, so it was possible to get vehicles down to the wharf.

Gubbs Motors purchased the Nancibell, and built a block of flats at Schoolhouse Bay, Kawau. They also built a wharf, and installed a skipper, Tui Brooker, who took over the Nancibell and stayed till 1945. Gubbs started a three day service running Monday, Wednesday and Friday from the Sandspit, and to Auckland on Thursday from Kawau.

Two House Bay on the left as you enter Mansion House Bay, was owned by Teddy Nops, a very English gentleman who always wore plus fours. He owned quite a bit of Kawau, a large block in South Harbour, the Fairy Woods, and a block in Muddy Bay (Harris Bay).

Silks was the first house in Bon Accord Harbour, their house being on the hill. Mr Silk would row a dinghy out to meet the boat, later they built a wharf. Next was Fred Lidgard, and then Mrs Calton who had a strong wharf. Round the corner in School House was McGill's, the billiard table manufacturer. He owned a boat, the Inyala, a Brixton trawler, it was never sailed and remained on the mooring until sold to LJ Fisher.

Mr Ingram, a dentist from Auckland was next. He also had a wharf, and then Mrs Mann, her house alongside Gubbs Flats, and the corner of the old school house owned by Stan Sowerby.

Next came Muddy Bay or Harris Bay, where Patsy Butler lived, another English type who always came out in the runabout to meet the boat.

These recollections by Mr Bob Edwards, as prepared by Keith and Flo Presland, will be continued in the next issue of Kookaburra. They reflect an important slice of our history.



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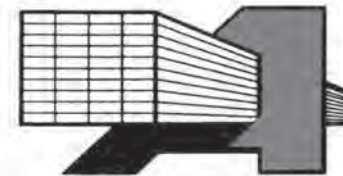
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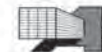
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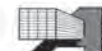
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Motuketekete Reef Proposal

M and DL Hampson

New Zealand is inadequately served with an embarrassing lack of marine reserves. Despite the importance of our seas and fisheries there is negligible initiative in breeding programs to replenish fish stocks. The Tiritiri Island marine reserve proposal was doomed by demanding too much. An important historic locality to the fishing community and an area necessary for safe anchorage. The Great Barrier Island proposal replicated the same scenario- it too lost support and failed by ignoring provision for local use and safe anchorage. Uncompromised by issues, Motuketekete could provide a catalyst for revisiting these.

Motuketekete is a more suitable marine reserve, one that became obvious to many of us long ago as we watched the degradation of the gulf escalating. There is hesitancy in proposing the gazettement of a unique area due to the focus it would then receive. Exposing this small area will result in rapid destruction should it fail to gain protected status.

A Marine Reserve at Motuketekete Reef.....

- Does not interfere with existing fishing use
- Is close to Auckland and readily accessible to the public
- Is tenable in winds south through west to north-east with safe overnight anchorages nearby
- Has good water clarity and quality as while most tidal flow in Kawau Bay is via Kawau's North Passage- this area is in the east/west tidal stream south of Kawau
- The unusually complex reef structure allows accommodation of a surprising

concentration of life. The immediate surrounding water provides additional natural protection to flora and fauna.

Most importantly, this is an area of exceptional underwater seascape and habitat, begging for protection and re-population.

Motuketete Reef - A brief description:

The whole reef system is deeply fractured with narrow sheer-sided chasms and honey-combed with interlinking tunnels, walls bright with sponges, fan corals, and with thick kelp forest above. With shallow areas ideal for youngsters on snorkel on the north side, to the south drop-offs to 60' and pinnacles.

This reef, a perfect nursery system, was once and should be again, packed with crayfish.

On our last dive there, the ubiquitous shoals of sprat goatfish maomao and demoiselle, octopus, eagle and stingray on the sand surrounds, [that until recently supported a large scallop bed]- and we not only had a stately grand-daddy snapper following us hopeful of a handout, but kingfish escort also.

Contact:

M & DL Hampson & family
28 Gails Dr, RD2 Albany, Auckland 0792
09 473 7724
buoyracer@xtra.co.nz

We cannot stop humans behaving badly

We CAN create marine reserves

DRAFT Minutes of the KIRRA Executive Meeting

20th June at Shelley Futcher's

Due to extreme winds, the meeting did not start until 10:30

Present – Colin Bright, Peter Buckton, Shelley Futcher, Paul Strauss

Also in attendance, Carl Weaver, Patrick Clark, Senior Community Officer – inner Hauraki Gulf Islands, DOC, Lin Pardey as KIAC

Apologies – Helen Jeffery, Pam Dallow, Gael Archer, Ian Henderson, Alan Marshall, Andrew Fyfe

Resignation – Simon Pirie due to serious health issues

Minutes of Previous meeting – no matters arising.

No Correspondence

Financial Report – accounts accepted

KIAC report – DOC has decided to suspend idea of overall harvesting of Pines until such time as pests are eradicated from the island. DOC is going ahead with clearing dangerous pine trees from the area near the café, the sewage ponds, on the Redwood track, and School House bay boundary and if funds permit, along the margins of Mansion House Bay. KIAC has given a deposition to the Rodney Local Board asking that the position of KIAC be formalised and future proofed.

KIAC will track the progress of the claim by Kiharoa Menhira Gilbert Parker on behalf of Mahurangi, Ngati Awa and Ngapuhi for customary rights on all the foreshores and waters

surrounding Kawau Island (and all other islands of the Gulf.) Auckland Transport is currently creating a plan and applying for resource consent to repair the seawall surrounding the outer end of Sandspit, upgrade the road in this area and consider upgrading the wharf buildings.

General Business – Patrick Clark DOC, presented a report on the current plans for Mansion House Reserve and his ideas for improving communications between the Kawau Community and DOC. Discussions took place regarding the plan to invite people to use bicycles on the reserve tracks.

It was made clear that this would present a hazard during peak periods. Also discussed was improving the opening hours of Mansion House, allowing for other commercial activities on the reserve such as a kayaking concession. The report, which will be available on line, is a start towards improving relations. But it was made clear that the DOC funding for Mansion House has been severely curtailed. A vote of thanks was made by KIRRA committee

Carl Weaver spoke on behalf of the Pohutakawa trust. Owners have given permission to cull pests and rodents from approximately 80% of private land. The trust has been invited to work along with DOC on pest control.

A vote of thanks was made by KIRRA Committee

The meeting adjourned at 12:15

Minutes of the KIRRA Executive Committee Meeting

Held Saturday 11th December 2016 at Beach House, Kawau Island

PRESENT: Helen Jeffery, Andrew Fyfe, Les Mellars, Gael Archer, Shelley Fitcher, Colin Bright, Peter Buckton, Pam Dallow, Paul Strauss, Ian Henderson, Alan Marshall, Martine Fernandez, Michael Marris, Lin Pardey, Beth Holebrooke – Rodney Councillor

APOLOGIES: Simon Pirie, Greg Sayers

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes had been circulated it was moved by Peter B and seconded by Shelley F that they are true and correct.

CORRESPONDENCE: Inwards: mooring invoice, email re conflict of website name – it was moved by Shelley and seconded by Pam that Taz to sort this and purchase kawauisland.nz

Outgoing: no outgoing correspondence

TREASURER'S REPORT: financials were presented and approved by Helen J and seconded by Peter B

ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Nothing to report from Auckland Transport. General discussion took place about who should keep the area between the Kawau Cruises office and toilet block clean and tidy, also the waiting room on the jetty.

Beth H will look into this for us but the best way for everyone is to log into the website report a complaint – this way it will get onto the list and be actioned, it's the way the system

works. You can download Auckland Council app if you have a smart phone, report the problem, attach a photo and request a service. Beth to also talk to the Sandspit R&R and get their co-operation re this area.

The left side of the road between the Kawau Cruises office and the jetty is collapsing – need to put in a complaint. Discussion also took place about overflow parking on the grass area at end of the carpark.

Lin along with Michael M also met with the new regional director of DOC, Keith Gill. DOC have had another reconstruction and Kawau Island is now park of the "Inner Islands" administered out of the Auckland office.

This meeting also included the Wintle Trust and Coatsville Garden club who look after the gardens.

They want to get the Kawau community on-side (invite Mr Gill to AGM), pine tree project is not happening, too expensive but assured us that they would mow the lawns more frequently and tidy up the fallen pines around the seashores in Mansion House Bay, Ladies Bay and Schoolhouse Bay.

General feeling that Mansion House needs to be under different ownership, DOC have no money and are just not interested anymore. It was moved by Colin B and seconded by Shelley F that Michael M will be coopted onto the committee as "Special Project Coordinator" to look into the future of DOC – Mansion House.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Sunny Bay: Colin B will present his findings at the AGM.

Kookaburra: Summer issue posted pre Christmas and as usual well received.

Civil Defence – the Civil Defence team will present their proposal to the community at the AGM on the 28th January 2017.

GPS Beacon Proposal – Westpac Helicopter – good explanatory article in Kookaburra. After general discussion it was moved by Andrew F and seconded by Martine F that a special resolution is required to allow KIRRA to underwrite the first \$8,000 for this project. Colin will write the resolution and send through to Michael M for distribution via the KIRRA database and then it can be put to the vote at the next AGM.

Congratulations to Beth Houlbrooke on her appointment as Chair of the Rodney Board and also to Greg Sayers on his appointment onto the Auckland Council.

Kawau Website: there have been 670 individual new hits on the site. Parts of the site still require updating, especially the KBC information, also good feedback from the Kawau information board at the I Site in Warkworth.

AGM: date set for Saturday 28th January 2017 10am at the Kawau Boating Club, lunch will be provided. Notice of Meeting in Kookaburra and to be sent out via database 6 weeks prior and Agenda etc. to be sent out early January 2017.

Meeting closed 12.40pm

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usual maximum is 24 hours depending on pressure

KIRRA MEETINGS 2017 - 2018

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 12th July at Ponsonby
Saturday 2nd September at Kawau
Wednesday 25th October at Ponsonby
Saturday 9th December at Kawau

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Printed by: ExPress Communications Ltd
Next Issue: 15 September 2017

Emergency Numbers

FIRE	111 (Service will alert DOC & Rural Fire and will activate the siren)
CIVIL DEFENCE	Chris Carding 027 319 4040
ST JOHN AMBULANCE	111 Kawau Island First Response
Non-Urgent	0800 4 AMBULANCE (0800 426 285)
HEALTHLINE (24 hours)	0800 611 116
POLICE Warkworth	425 8109
COASTGUARD Auckland	09 303 1303
FAULTS	Vector 0508 832 867 Telecom 120
MEDICAL	Warkworth Medical Centre 425 1199 Kowhai Surgery 425 7358 Mahurangi Medical 425 5055 Kowhai Coast 425 6666
AUCKLAND COUNCIL	09 301 0101
SANDSPIT WHARF	425 7315
SANDSPIT CAR PARK	425 7039
MANSION HOUSE	422 8882
KAWAU KAT BOOKINGS	425 8006
WARKWORTH TAXI	425 0000
WARKWORTH INFORMATION CENTRE	425 9081
RODNEY MOORINGS	0274 909 299
CAMP BENTZON	422 8807



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LOW-SEASON SHUTTLE TIMETABLE 2017

1st May 2017 - 13th OCTOBER 2017

note: Summer Timetable applies for Queens Birthday long weekend

ADULT	\$55 return	\$240 ten-trip ticket
CHILD (5-15)	\$31 return	\$120 ten-trip ticket
UNDER 5		no charge

TIMES FROM SANDSPIT

MON - THU	8:00am	10:30am	3:00pm	no sailing	6:00pm
FRI	9:00am	10:30am	2:30pm	4:00pm	6:30pm
SAT - SUN	8:00am	10:30am	2:30pm	no sailing	6:30pm

TIMES FROM KAWAU

	SOUTH COVE	BON ACCORD	NORTH COVE	VIVIAN BAY
DEPARTURES DAILY	7:20am	7:05am	6:50am	6:40am
	9:05am	9:20am	9:35am	9:45am
	2:05pm	1:30pm	1:00pm	12:50pm
MON - THU	4:05pm	4:20pm	4:35pm	4:45pm
FRI, SUN, PUB HILLS	5:05pm (Fri ONLY)	5:20pm	5:35pm	5:45pm
SAT - SUN	4:35pm	4:10pm	3:55pm	3:45pm

Please ensure bookings are made at least two hours before departure

All times given here are for departure only

Kawau Boatshed (Ltd) reserves the right to amend timetables, substitute plant or equipment at any time

* Ten-trip tickets, or concession cards are valid on shuttles & private taxis

info@kawauwatertaxis.co.nz ~ www.kawaucruises.co.nz ~ (09) 425 8006