

THE WEEKEND LIFESTYLER

July 3 2020



Tinopai's new beginning
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Little victories for tiniest resident

► by Andy Bryenton

When a small dam was built, apparently without building consent, in a diminutive coastal stream near Mangawhai in 2014, there was confusion over who had final authority over the land, the water it blocked or the very stream bed itself.

Normally, this debate between the Auckland Council, the Department of Conservation, Land and Information New Zealand and the developers of a world-class golf course would have been minor news. However,

that stream was, and is, a primary food source for one of the most endangered creatures in the world; ironically, the namesake for Ric Kayne's masterpiece golf course itself. Tara-iti, the fairy tern.

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Phone: 0800 466 793 Email: info@integrity.nz

Postal Address: PO Box 474, Dargaville Physical Address: 107 River Road, Dargaville

Editor: Deb Wright | 021 639 696

Journalists: 0800 466 793 | Andy Bryenton | Liz Clark | Ann van Engelen

Marketing: Betty Willetts 027 525 8197 | John Pickworth 027 525 8189 | Andy Bryenton 021 439 947

Creative Director: Jessica Keesing Design Team: Sasha Freeman | Gavin Bainbridge | Kelsey Hansen

Accounts: accounts@thelifestyler.co.nz

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Funds confirmed to revitalise main street

► by Andy Bryenton

Revitalisation funds have been announced to improve the function and form of Wood Street, Mangawhai Heads, under the auspices of the Kaipara District Council and the New Zealand Transport Agency.



▲ Mangawhai Heads, site of the town's shopping and cuisine precinct, Wood St; in line for an urbanised upgrade

Waka Kotahi, the New Zealand Transport Agency, has awarded funds to the Kaipara District Council for the next stage in their Wood Street revitalisation project. Last summer, trials were conducted into what to change to make the space better.

The funds are part of the Innovating Streets programme and pilot fund, which supports councils to deliver more vibrant and people-friendly public spaces by employing 'tactical urbanism'; modifying existing spaces to better fit community needs. The grant will fund 90 per cent of an interim treatment, which will inform a permanent future upgrade in Wood Street.

"Mangawhai Heads township has seen unprecedented growth over the past 20 years," said council sources commenting on this funding disbursement.

"The huge influx of summer holiday visitors means that during peak periods, Wood Street shops see bumper to bumper traffic and heavy congestion. The current parking facilities fail to

accommodate the influx of visitors wanting to access the Wood Street shops and has led to people parking anywhere they can fit, often at the expense of pedestrian safety."

The council has been collaborating with the Mangawhai Business Association and community, testing layout and design to create a more people-friendly Wood Street. Mangawhai Programme Delivery manager Tim Manning says the Innovative Streets funding for Wood Street is a big win for the revitalisation project.

"The Wood Street summer trial and collaboration with the community was incredibly effective for laying the groundwork for an extensively tested

permanent change. We're excited to be given the opportunity to continue co-designing with the Mangawhai community to further finetune a permanent solution," says Tim.

Further design workshops with the community will be held during the next two months. Dates and details will be found at mangawhaicomunityplan.co.nz/projects/transport.

“Mangawhai Heads township has seen unprecedented growth over the past 20 years”

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Tinopai's new beginning

► by Ann van Engelen

A new school logo has been created by Tinopai School students with the help of artist and art teacher Erana Fenton as part of their classroom studies.

“The concept was developed as a way to modernise the school and represent the values we have today,” says Erana.

“We had considered our options for a few years and decided to get the children to design it. They came up with ideas from what they appreciate around Tinopai in nature.”

The students created a draft with their symbols which were developed into the final artwork. The previous logo was designed by local family member Abraham Paul and included a fish and tiki.

“Abe’s design was very nice. The children did really well coming up with new ideas including kauri trees, oysters and Pokopoko the taniwha of Kaipara. It is all part of the artistic elements, forms, shapes, colour and style. The key kaupapa acknowledges the iwi Te Uri o Hau and embraces the school’s core curriculum subjects — our ‘Tinopai’ environment.

“We started with a new gateway being unveiled two years ago at a school Matariki celebration. It has birds and nature themes also relating to Tinopai

on it. Each student also created a very colourful panel encompassing a Maori theme. These are placed at the entrance and gives the children a sense of pride seeing their artwork displayed in prominent positions.

“The logo depicts the seed as our foci, symbolic of each of our students, and our intent to support their education pathway with the tools they need to flourish in their life journey.

“The bright vivid colours reflect our school as well and serve as a reminder to us in our role as kaitiaki of our taonga in Kaipara — ahakoa he iti — no matter how small — and all of its natural resources.

“The rising of the sun encourages learning aspirations for each day.

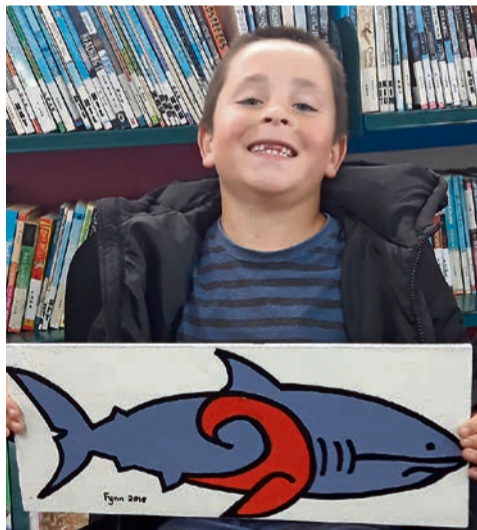
“The pohutukawa, with its striking red flowers, transcending boundaries, all the while, its roots remaining steadfast while it grows along the coastline in Tinopai. The arteries of the Arapaoa connecting with the Northern Wairoa rivers to the entrance of the Kaipara harbour, and the expansive ocean beyond.”



▲ The students artwork is placed at the school entranceway beside the gateway that was unveiled during Matariki celebrations in 2018




▲ Students at Tinopai School Zoey Williams, Nicole Devlyn and Noah Geange with the new school logo which symbolises the natural aspects of the area



▲ Fynn with his shark that is also displayed with the children’s artworks along the school entranceway



▲ Isis with her Pohutukawa flower, which is another symbol of life in Tinopai and the surrounding area



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▲ The summer of '69 — out at the heads at the surf carnival a moment captured in time by the camera



▲ The blue water of the Mangawhai Harbour is the result of the efforts of the Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society's efforts to reopen the original inlet back between 1991 and 1996
photo — Amy Franks

Ripples in time's tides

► by Liz Clark

Everyone has memories of their days on Mangawhai's tranquil harbour, finding a black and white image from a surf carnival resulted in a series of intriguing conversations from past and present residents.

That image we just mentioned captures activities after the official opening of the new Mangawhai Surf Life Saving Club in 1969. Former resident Mark 'Thommo' Thompson a son of the club's first president Derek Thompson says "it all started in an orange corrugated iron shed with a reel". Mark and his family lived at Mangawhai Heads surrounded by ham radio aerials and a sea view. He says his father lived and breathed fundraising for the future club.

"Dad was furiously working to raise money for the club, and it drove mum nuts!"

Now 70, Mark tells us he's still out surfing after getting the bug back the summer of 1962 when he saw his first surfer.

“Dad was furiously working to raise money for the club, and it drove mum nuts!”

In 1991, after the original inlet became silted up — locals took action. Without the tides to flush it out, the harbour, in the words of Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society's spokesperson Jerry Pilmer "starting turning red from run-off from the farms and developments — it smelt terrible."

In what was called the Big Dig, an army of locals and 30 diggers set to work to clear the silted up entrance despite being at odds with the authorities. All attempts to clear the entrance failed — that year the Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society formed. The harbour entrance was later reopened in 1996 and a small nursery established.

Since then, the society's work has been ongoing with restoring the sand spit by dredging and planting thousands



▲ Volunteers leaving the Mangawhai Sandspit Wildlife Refuge in the Fairy Tern Trust boat Audrey named after its founding patron, Audrey Williams
photo — NZ Fairy Tern Trust



▲ Mangawhai Surf Life Saving Club was officially opened in 1969 — its first president was Derek Thompson
photo — NZ Fairy Tern Trust

of spinifex and pingao plants. Working to save one of the world's rarest sea birds is the New Zealand Fairy Tern Trust. It began in 1993 as an umbrella organisation to support the work of local volunteers, education for school pupils and the general public at events to ensure the endangered bird's survival.

"We get funding and run predator trapping programmes. Since trapping

has been in place a marked improvement with no loss of birds or chicks — quite a record," says convenor Heather Rogan.

"Last year was disastrous, no chicks resulted — it left us all feeling very down. This year, seven chicks resulted, five were fledged on the east coast — big excitement after last year's disappointment."



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... continued from front page

Little victories for tiniest resident

It's a bird that has battled on despite suffering all the knocks colonisation and invasive pests could throw at it.

With a population hovering around just 40 individuals, the fairy tern nests on windblown sand. It never had the need to make nests in pre-human times, when New Zealand was a 'birdland' without egg-devouring mammals. The tiny black and white terns gamely strafe and harry anyone who comes close to their breeding sites, but it's all too easy to miss their perfectly camouflaged eggs and chicks against the sand.

In 1991, DOC began a recovery project, right on the brink of losing these shorebirds forever. Things kicked into high gear in 2008 when the Fairy Tern Trust (a group of locals, ornithologists, environmentalists and caring volunteers) initiated a massive, ongoing campaign of education and advocacy.

There are only five places in the world where breeding pairs can nest; Waipu sandspit, Mangawhai sandspit, Pakiri River mouth, and the isolated Papakanui sandspit. When fairy terns were discovered nesting at the mouth of the Te Arai stream, it was great news for the survival of the species. That's why the dam was so contentious. By blocking fish spawning migration paths,

Fairy Tern Trust members contended that the dam was putting birds at risk, or at the very least robbing them of a chance to build their numbers and spread their habitat.

A prolonged legal argument followed, resolved only two weeks ago, when the dam was torn down and a small bridge planned in its place. Meanwhile, there has been other positive news for the Fairy Tern, after a very good 2019–2020 breeding season saw no less than seven babies leave the nest successfully. DOC's biodiversity ranger, reporting to the Shorebird Trust, said of this year:

"The settled weather during the season resulted in fewer nest losses than last season and overall the birds finished laying earlier. The major challenges this year have been the loss of at least one of the parents of two chicks at Te Arai, and the subsequent loss of one of those chicks; the loss of a fertile egg to a rat at Waipu, and the desertion of a chick by its parents halfway through the dependency period at Mangawhai."

So, for another year, the Mangawhai coast's smallest residents fight on. With growing human awareness of their struggle and the determination of those who speak up for them.

Only five places in the world where breeding pairs can nest



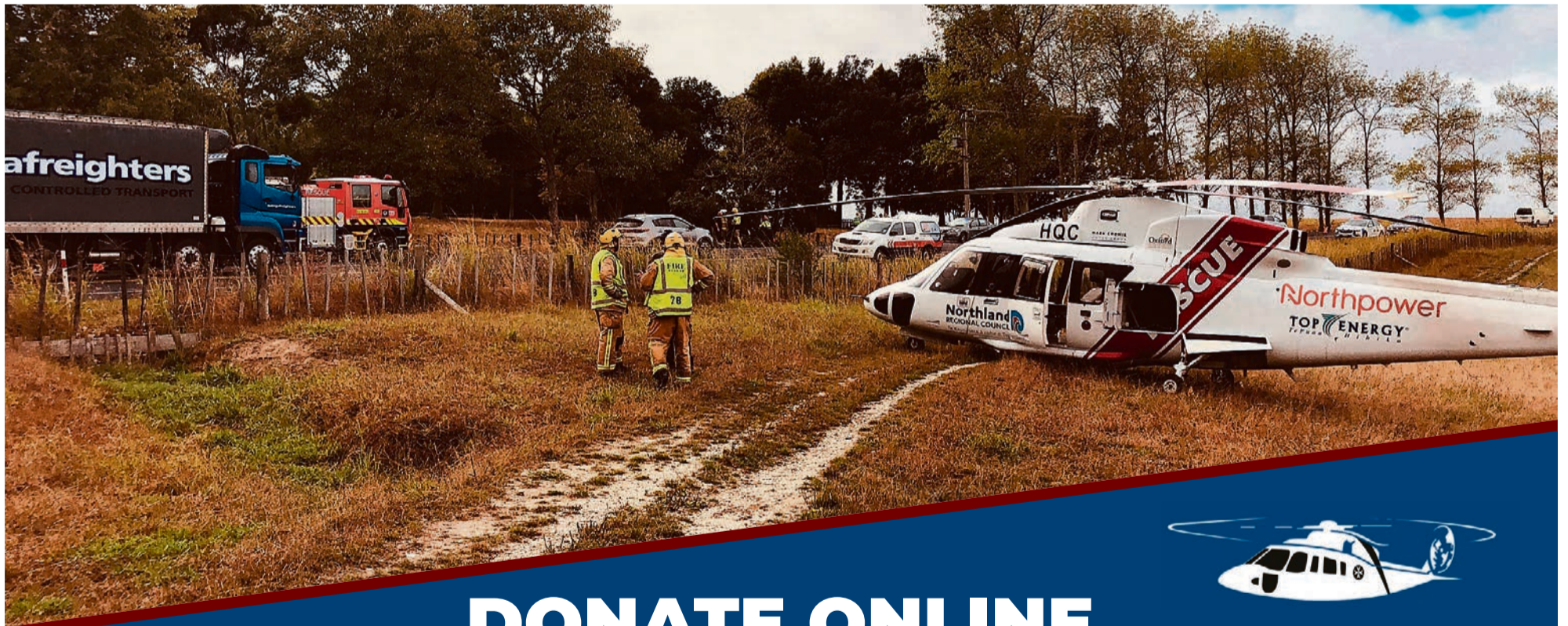
▲ Photos of this rarest of birds were kindly provided by the Fairy Tern Trust, and captured by Darren Markin at Mangawhai



▲ Camouflage is still the only defence for Fairy Tern eggs, which blend into the shells and sand but make a meal for predators



▲ The fairy tern, tara-iti, is one of the rarest birds on earth, and small victories such as the removal of a dam and a strong breeding season make all the difference to its survival captured by Darren Markin



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▲ Marijke Valkenburg and Robert ter Veer's attention to detail has seen their vision come to fruition at Eutopia cafe

Kaiwaka's Eutopia experience

► by Ann van Engelen

Marijke Valkenburg and Robert ter Veer have seen their vision come to fruition with their artistic revamp of Eutopia cafe, which began in April 2014.

The couple bought Kaiwaka's iconic cafe to rejuvenate the unusual building, with all work being done by hand. Officially opening for business last year — what they thought would take 18 months has taken six years.

"We wanted to build something Kaiwaka can be proud of and attract visitors to the town. Due to the labour-intensive nature of the work, unexpected complications and our attention to detail, it took a lot longer," says Marijke.



▲ The detailed artworks, sculptures, carvings and glassworks are all pieces Marijke and Robert have created

"We enjoy a challenge and believe art should be something you can walk on, eat off, look through and generally live in, not just something hanging on a wall.

"We also built our own house, which is very different from Eutopia. It has 240 metres of mosaics and a whole curved roof with a 10-metre tower. We enjoy experimental, innovative building and prefer natural walls with no straight lines."

They have given the cafe a New Zealand feel, incorporating native flora, fauna and wildlife.

"We have incorporated beautiful sculptures and art pieces that we have made ourselves. The steelwork, joinery and stonework were completed by Robert, and I did the mosaics, glass and ceramic sculptures.

"The decor is mixed media, and the idea celebrates New Zealand's natural heritage. There is a lot of unseen detail

that was done in stages, including the foundations, plastering that is thick enough to carve and the painting. We recently added interesting tables and more sculptures.

"We finalised some glasswork and our beautiful entrance wall. The experience has been an exciting exercise that continues.

"We did everything ourselves and are extremely proud of our work.

"The cafe caters for all types of customers, including vegan, gluten-free and organic free-range whenever possible.

"We are designing a funky covered area to host bands out the back with a movable stage and are applying for a liquor licence ready for this summer. Heading into winter, we have revamped the menu to reflect the season. We love having a place for locals to enjoy, and travellers to stop in."



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Hard work brings charity windfall

► by Andy Bryenton

With \$160,000 delivered to worthy causes across the Mangawhai area in just two short years, the Opportunity Factory and the trust, which governs it, have not slowed down in their mission to improve their home town. If anything, they are gaining momentum in year three, according to trustee Dianne Christensen.

That figure has now been bumped up to 77 grants for community projects, totalling \$237,000, thanks to the generosity of locals donating pre-loved goods to the big factory shop just off Wood Street in Mangawhai Heads.

There, a dedicated team working alongside store manager Mandy Hebben sort, price, stack and eventually sell literal shed-loads of goods each week, from homewares and furniture to books, toys, tools and clothing.

Now, there's another reason to celebrate this community-based initiative, which turns

some people's clutter into others' treasure, while at the same time providing funds for projects that enliven, beautify and enrich the Mangawhai area.

"The Mangawhai Community Opportunity Shop Trust (MCOST) is

thrilled to announce its fifth round of grants," says Dianne on behalf of the trustees, staff and volunteers. "Fourteen groups will receive just over \$28,300 in total. Thank you so much to the community over these unusual

times for continuing to donate and shop at The Factory allowing grants to be given, to support not-for-profit groups providing social benefits to our community."

Special thanks are also offered to the volunteer crew who, along with Mandy and two part-time staff, keep the doors open and the till ringing at the Opportunity Factory itself.

That's not to mention those who hit the road in The Factory's van (nicknamed Vanessa) to collect bulkier items and big loads of donations.

"A very big shout to our volunteers," says Dianne. Many of whom are older

“Many of whom are older people and yet continue to give of their time to The Factory”



▲ Opportunities made here — Mandy and her team turn pre-loved goods into cash for community projects at The Factory

people and yet continue to give of their time to The Factory.

"We love your commitment, whether it's sorting goods, pricing, assisting in the shop, driving the van or creating displays. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

The Opportunity Factory is always grateful for new donations of goods to sell, and all money raised is put back into worthy community projects.

If you have something to donate, call The Factory on 09 431 3098 and arrange either a drop-off or pick up.

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TUATARA - ROBYN MITCHELL

Kaipara's business advisers

► by Ann van Engelen

Mangawhai resident Corinne Smith established Altitude Advisors and Accountants Ltd three years ago to provide compliance services around financial reporting and tax returns with a personal approach to support local businesses.

"I believe in providing our families with a quality, balanced lifestyle in our paradise of Mangawhai," says Corinne.

"Alongside my team, Mark Macdonald and Shannen Frear, we upskill company owners and their teams with knowledge and direction to navigate their business journeys.

"I am on the Mangawhai Business Association committee and was a keynote speaker at the recent Recovering from Covid-19 event. I shared all the recovery packages that are on offer and support available. I want to be part of the team that can help and support all our businesses in the area.

"I want New Zealand businesses to be the best they can be, even reaching

and achieving what they thought was impossible. My passion is to work alongside company owners and their staff so they can learn and have the confidence to make sound decisions.

"We love training people to get the full power from Xero software and build efficiency into everything they do. Our reach is Kaipara, up to Whangarei and down to Auckland. This can be done through online meetings, phone calls and visiting where needed."

Corinne believes in using simple language, numbers and reports, so people understand what is in front of them.

"We put simple key performance indicators in place to report on to help decide if people need to change small things or the road they are on to

“We love training people to get the full power from Xero software and build efficiency”



▲ Corinne (right) with Shannen Frear who takes care of the marketing aspect of the business and is also passionate to see local businesses thrive

succeed. It is important to also talk about non-financial values such as sustainability and recycling practices, staff wellbeing and mental health, loyal customers to look after or net promoter scores.

"A walk on the beach or time out can be key in discussing important values. My favourite line for leaders is 'keep your head up and make sure you are working on your business, not in it'."

Mark comes from a corporate background and is trained in Lean practices, which lead to greater efficiency.

"I am passionate about what matters to our clients and ideally help grow their

business to levels they would never have considered," says Mark.

"I love delving into their customer experience to offer great insights and support."

Shannen navigates the marketing and planning with the aim of giving value to businesses.

"We pour passion into what we do and can do incredible things for peoples' businesses," says Shannen.

"Working with Corinne and Mark fuels my fire and motivates me to reach new heights. We express high levels of dedication, drive and care through every aspect of the company."

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Looking south, back in time

► by Andy Bryenton

The excavators are rolling in the swathe of land between Mangawhai Heads and the village, heralding a new development, which is a source of discussion, contention, debate and jubilation in equal measure for locals.

Progress is undeniably here, and what this means for the local real estate market can be glimpsed through the 'crystal ball' afforded by our southern neighbours.

Despite the road bumps of the global financial crisis in 2008 and Covid this year, the old adage about 'them not making any more land' still holds true, except perhaps from off the coast of Hawaii's big island, where the volcanoes pump lava into the sea to make new real estate daily.

For those who don't wish to try landscaping red hot scoria, however, options are much peachier on the east coast north of Auckland. Arguably, it has ever been this way.

Remember the Ian Mune classic, End of the Golden Weather? When Bruce Mason first wrote the script about fictional Te Parenga, land of tiny baches

and cribs, tall grass and summer holidays, he was talking about Takapuna Beach. That was in the 1960s. Then came the suburbs, the shops and eventually the Sentinel. They say there'll be 140,000 folks using Takapuna Beach as their back yard by 2040.

Of course, this made those in search of proper Kiwi summers and solitude look north. Whangaparaoa went from a place for summer scout camps to hot property. Orewa from a sleepy seaside town to the 'Florida North of the Bridge' we see today, with its massive elder-care infrastructure and high-rise apartments. Cue another piece of local literature; Tessa Duder's 1982 Night Race to Kawau. The sailors on that voyage would not have seen the Matakana, Leigh, Sandspit and Omaha shore lit up like Mission Bay. When they struck trouble in a gale, they were



▲ How we plan our community's development today will dictate the character of our townships

miles from civilisation. Now, there's no place more civilised when it comes to artisanal cuisine, excellent espresso and la dolce vita.

Look south, then, and you look back in time, and forward to the future. Progress, in the manifestation of the ever-advancing new motorway, is just over the hill. The question is, how will we, as Kaipara citizens, adapt, and

how far will we go to accommodate the inevitable. Locals here will want to keep the character of their town, and not become a 'little Takapuna' at any cost. With that in mind, it's important we all have our say on how Mangawhai and the Kaipara develop, to ensure we all get a share of the prosperity that progress will bring, without sacrificing our lifestyle.



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▲ Work space and social space together — Kindred is useful not just for free enterprise, but also as a meeting place and a crucible for fresh ideas. Relaxed minds are more productive!

Balancing life and work on the coast

► by Andy Bryenton

These days, the all-important work-life balance is much discussed, by everyone from psychologists to economists. A town like Mangawhai provides the perfect incubator for experiments in balancing career, family and leisure. Here, the Kindred Co-Working Space is helping blend all three into a harmonious whole for people in different careers and stages of life and business.

“For us, it’s less about balancing your work and life, and more about enhancing our time spent at work and how that fits into our lives,” says Kindred co-founder Siobhan.

“In many professions, your work can (and should) be an enjoyable extension of your life and should enrich it, not something you need to try to switch off from.

“We focus on providing a vibrant culture and fostering an inspired community so that our members actually enjoy coming to the office and get energy from others working around them. Of course, making the decision to live in Mangawhai makes all of this a lot more accessible. It helps when surfing in your lunch break is a reality and not a dream!”

Siobhan’s colleague and fellow Kindred founder Misty agrees that

living in Mangawhai presents challenges for the entrepreneur. However, it also fosters solutions.

“While a small community offers so many benefits for a relaxed way of living, it does have its challenges when it comes to building and developing a business. Being in a city obviously provides a wider range of opportunities to connect with others, so this is what we wanted to provide when we created Kindred.

We want to create a place that fosters collaboration, connection and community with like-minded business owners and entrepreneurs.”

William Tonkin-Howe, a digital consultant with Hunter In The Woods, is one of the aforementioned. Flexibility and the power to work on his own terms are part of his success.

“Working remotely, especially in Mangawhai, provides a great lifestyle balance,” he says. “However, when you work from home, it’s easy to get caught up in the monotony of work, sleep and kids all under one roof.

“Kindred is a great space to work from. It breaks up the routine, gets me out of the house, and the social aspect of a place is a big bonus.”

“Working remotely, especially in Mangawhai, provides a great lifestyle balance”



▲ Former corporate lawyer Siobhan Reid has come to embrace the many benefits of living coastal; now she's helping others rearrange their work-life balance



▲ Misty Sansom's background in marketing and online enterprise lent itself perfectly to developing a co-working space to benefit local entrepreneurs

“Being able to work from Kindred has meant that we can raise our kids in a beautiful place by the beach”

Both Kindred co-founders say that the great thing about having a place in Mangawhai is that it brings together people who enjoy that true balance of relaxed seaside living while still working on interesting and exciting projects. It's created a fun and vibrant culture that you wouldn't see in a bigger city.

“No doubt also being an entrepreneur in a small town can be lonely,” says Siobhan.

“A big advantage of co-working is being surrounded by people who understand the challenges and obstacles you face as a start-up or entrepreneur and who can provide support and a helpful perspective or experience when needed.”

The Kindred team's initial experience with the co-working concept came from their roles juggling work and family, but there's a spectrum of other situations

among their compatriots which lend themselves to this approach.

“Some of our members were commuting to Auckland, but shifted to remote working through lockdown,” says Misty.

“That experience was the catalyst to dropping the commute, something which before then had been only an idea. Others had previously set themselves up to work from home, but found the reality isn't always as great as the idea, and have struggled with distractions in the background.”

One such is Toby Evans, co-founder of innovative tech company Tankful as well as its senior developer.

“Being able to work from Kindred has meant that we can raise our kids in a beautiful place by the beach,” he says. “We still have access to a space that offers interesting conversations,

collaborations, opportunities, connections and a chance to meet new people. It's a warm and friendly space to be in, and I can bike to work!”

That's not the only positive outcome experienced by the folks who are using the co-working space to balance leisure and lucrative business.

“There's also the benefit of referrals,” says Siobhan.

“We have many members who work in complementary industries, and when a client needs work done, the obvious suggestions are others working from within our space. We also think it is only a matter of time before some of our members collaborate on an exciting new project — there're so many exciting conversations and ideas floating around the office.

Hayden Judd, another Kindred denizen and Principal, Founder

and Chief Tactician of Tactic.ly agrees wholeheartedly.

“Kindred is an inspiring place to work, there is a strong community of like-minded driven professionals to banter ideas with.

“Likewise, someone is always up for a midday surf or a bike ride, reminding you work is a byproduct of life and not the point of life.”

Misty and Siobhan are pleased to have dropped the commute and found balance in their work and home lives. They're even happier when they are able to introduce this concept to others.

“We've found that when people shift from commuting to working in Mangawhai full-time, they really get to become part of the community. Their pace of life changes and they really settle into the small beach town vibe of Mangawhai.”

HOME & GARDEN

The Kiwi-made garden solution

► by Andy Bryenton

Getting rid of green waste used to be a task that nobody wanted; either a smoky and inconvenient burn or a trip to the dump, there to pay for the privilege of having nature take care of the business of decomposition. For those with big gardens, or worse, those with big trees to dispose of, the thought was enough to make indoor chores look appealing, even cleaning the shower grout.

Innovation comes from such crises. That's why the engineers at Kiwi company Hansa decided to save their fellow countrymen and women from drudgery by designing a powerful, easy to use and versatile range of wood chippers for the lifestyle block, home or farm.

From units that can be wheeled into place by hand, through to ones which come with their own trailer hitch and transit lights, Hansa decided that every one of their chippers should be built ridiculously strong, to deal with the timber that's likely to be thrown their way.

Starting in the 1980s, the Hansa method is all about power and sharpness.

Blades forged from extremely resilient metal chomp through even the knottiest of branches, rendering timber and scraps down into a mulch that looks great on your garden, and helps promote plant growth for the long-term.

With engines ranging from the kind of units seen on powerful water blasters through to machines driven by a tractor's PTO drive, there's a Hansa for every niche in the garden food chain.

In Dargaville, Trevor from Godfrey's Mowers and Chainsaws has made



▲ Hansa chippers are made in New Zealand for our conditions — that means they are built tough and easy to maintain

one of his towable Hansa models available for local garden professionals and arborists, and they've been impressed by its ability to bust branches and make mulch.

Muddy Thumbs, the garden maintenance experts from the west coast, has placed an order for a large, version of their own after giving the Hansa a go on client's bigger clean-up jobs. Tree-removal arborist Nick Christiansen is also thoroughly impressed after renting the Hansa to obliterate the remains of felled timber and branches. If Hansa

Get rid of those dangerous or precarious trees before storms uproot them

can do the business for the professionals on this kind of scale, their smaller and more compact units will make short work of green waste in your backyard — even if that back yard is an entire farm.

With a Hansa stockist near to you, whether you reside to the east or west of the

harbour, it's a good time of year to take a look at what they can offer.

Get rid of those dangerous or precarious trees before storms uproot them, and at the same time, bed in your gardens with fresh mulch.

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HOME & GARDEN

Tangled up in topiary

► by Andy Bryenton

Back in the first century AD, when the emperor Caesar Augustus was talking to one of his wealthy friends, the discussion came around to gardening. Augustus, ruler of half the known world, had many palaces with gardens and statues, but his friend had gone one better. His own villa's gardens boasted statues made of plants.

It was the first reference to topiary in the western world; the art of training and sculpting living trees and shrubs into shapes, which range from the simple and geometric (like a tidy square hedge) to the fanciful and wild.

Levens Hall, a stately home in Cumbria, England, is the current world-famous monument to this art, having been established in the late 1600s, before even the invention of the steam engine.

Painstaking work has turned the trees there into a green menagerie of shapes, but your own topiary need not take decades or require the skills of a Michaelangelo.

Buxus was and is the topiary shrub of choice; dense and supple, it lends itself perfectly to being cropped and trained into a defined shape.

However, with the advent of a blight afflicting this species, other cultivars such as yew, taxus or juniper have come to the fore, all of which can achieve the kind of infilled growth required to hold a topiary form.

Being densely packed with leaves, all of these species like the sun, so plan accordingly.

Trimming is best accomplished when the first flush of spring growth has come in, so winter is a time for planning. Potted topiary shrubs can look fantastic in simple shapes such as a ball or cone, especially when paired or used to define an area, standing like royal guardsmen on either side of a patch of colour. More ambitious clippers may wish to try a spiral effect.

That is achieved by lightly wrapping a ribbon or tape around a pre-prepared conical shrub and pruning out a shallow 'groove' where the ribbon doesn't



▲ Topiary is an ancient art, which came to Rome in the first century, probably from the Far East by way of trader's tales. It's also a surprisingly easy way to get creative in your own garden

pass. True masters might want to scan YouTube for animal designs to try. Of course, topiary is more forgiving of regular sculpture, as 'mistakes' regrow and can be reshaped.

Remember to use natural oil on your topiary clippers so as not to burn the cut foliage with petrochemicals, and if the thought of clipping by hand is daunting, take a look at some of the modern battery-powered topiary shears on offer from brands like Stihl.

These can take the tendon-ache out of clipping large areas.

However, a good-quality pair of manual shears is recommended for delicate work.

Give it a try, and you might be surprised at how creative you can get with the art of shaping living plants.

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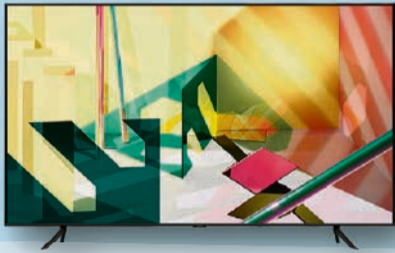
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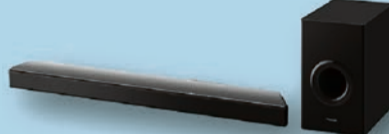
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HOME & GARDEN

Space is the new luxury

► by Andy Bryenton

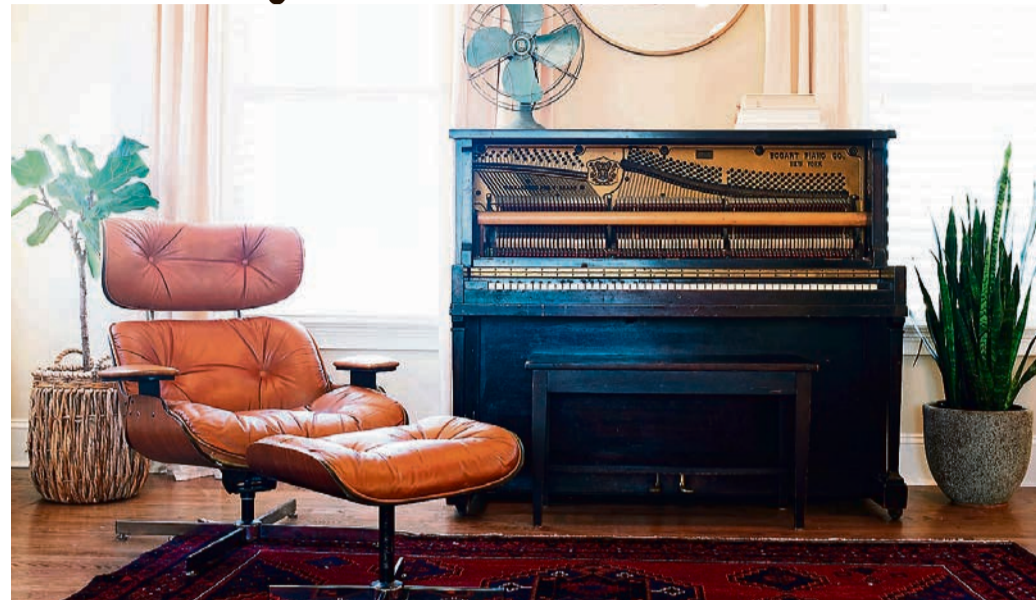
What sets luxurious spaces apart from the commonplace? From the interior of a private Gulf Stream to the back seat of a Rolls Royce Phantom, the answer is space. It's the same in your home; light, airy and open spaces are the ultimate expression of luxury. The good news; you don't need a gigantic home to create the liberating opposite of claustrophobia.

Techniques pioneered by tiny homes are useful in creating more space and less clutter in both the three-dimensional world and the world of design and impressions. Central to this aesthetic is clever use of storage, wherever it may be found, in order to remove non-essential items from view and thus maximise the amount of space available for living in.

Hence, the modern trend for clever furniture such as couches with hidden storage space inside, ottomans, which can accommodate magazines and books, and fireplaces that come with their own wood stowage, obviating the need for a separate basket. Shelves are underutilised in many homes, except where books are concerned. Interestingly, the thermal insulation properties of a wall of books are

incredible when viewed through an infrared camera. Kitchens and bedrooms especially can benefit from additional shelving. Homes with high ceilings may need a step ladder, but by stowing things on the walls and out of the way, more space can be made in living areas. Shelves beat cupboards as there are no doors to open and close.

The ideal, say, design gurus, is a living area with only six items in it. A large, comfortable couch that can seat three. Two armchairs or recliners. A coffee table with storage space inside. The main television, ideally wall mounted (media such as DVDs is now redundant; there's no need for CD or movie space) with a soundbar to also fulfil the role of hi-fi and a small unit to house entertaining accoutrements. Pick a palette for this space, from



▲ Less is more — feature furniture and artworks shine when given space to breathe, free of technological clutter

flooring to curtains to wall coverings, and one favourite artwork for each wall. Suddenly, even a smaller living area appears larger and more designed, less thrown together and cluttered. In a region like ours where views of ocean, farmland and forest are the norm, let the eye be drawn to French doors, picture windows and light, rather than to a 'busy' interior space.



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▲ The outstanding New Zealand developed hybrid Jury's Yellow is a must-have for any camellia enthusiast

The empress of winter flowers

► by Liz Clark

Thirty years ago as an amateur gardener, I fell in love with the elegant camellia. Like myself, lovers of this beautiful evergreen shrub will be quietly rejoicing as the dull grey of winter is replaced by an array of colourful blooms.

These versatile, attractive plants make an excellent choice for hedging, topiary, espalier, ground covers, containers and bonsai. The flowers too can be cut and used in floral arrangements to bring long-lasting colour inside during cold winter days. The petals make perfect confetti substitutes for weddings and special occasions.

The most commonly-grown types for the garden are *Camellia sasanqua*, *Camellia japonica* and hybrids of these. Less common, but no less attractive, is the *Camellia reticulata*, one of the tallest-growing of the species reaching a height of up to 15 metres if allowed to grow unchecked.

Sasanqua varieties are faster-growing plants and make perfect choices for hedging and standards. With slightly smaller leaves and flowers, they bloom prolifically from autumn until midwinter growing well in sun or partial shade. Flowering from winter into late spring the *japonica* cultivars have larger leaves and blooms and make spectacular specimen trees for the larger garden. *Japonicas* are slower growing than the *sasanqua* and thrive in part-shade or full shade conditions. Hybrids, however, gain the best of both worlds and can be grown in a variety of situations.

Although many cultivars are wind and frost-tolerant, blooms can be damaged easily by strong wind conditions. If growing for flower display, choose a well-sheltered area to prevent petal discoloration.

Flowering commences from late autumn through until early spring, bringing a rainbow of colours to brighten up the garden during the duller months. Blooms come in six different forms — single, semi-double, anemone form, peony form, rose form and formal double.

Camellias are hardy, easy-care plants thriving in free-draining acidic soil

Camellias are hardy, easy-care plants thriving in free-draining acidic soil preferably around pH5–6. If planting in clay, it's advisable to use a raised mound to prevent 'wet feet'. Add in plenty of organic matter to keep the leaves and blooms bright, healthy and to

promote vigorous growth. Planting time for camellias is during autumn and early winter.

Some of the must-have cultivars are Jury's Yellow, Waterlily, Elegant Beauty, Richard Nixon, Night Rider, Cinnamon Cindy, K Sawada and Dreamboat — to name just a few. All of these will make a stunning addition to your garden or patio. You can find them online or at your local nursery.



▲ Camellias have six recognised flower forms — this stunning red cultivar is a peony form

HOME & GARDEN

Welcome to the century of the sun

► by Andy Bryenton

We're often told by self-appointed 'experts' that it's a terrible idea to be an early adopter of technology. Wait until they work the bugs out, they will say. Wait until the efficiency improves, or the price goes down. That is fine advice if you're discussing buying a berth on a commercial space flight, but it's past its use-by-date when you're talking solar.

First up, the technology itself was discovered in the 1830s. That's correct; a French man named Alexandre-Edmond Becquerel managed to get a current from silver chloride back before Queen Victoria sat on the throne. His work was improved on by Aleksandr Stoletov in an era when the Tsar still ruled Russia, and communism was considered 'trouble on the horizon'.

Modern solar cells were brought to the public's attention by Albert Einstein in 1904, as part of the proof of his world-changing theories involving light itself. It wasn't until the Soviets and Americans began to race for the moon that solar panels were really cranked up a notch.

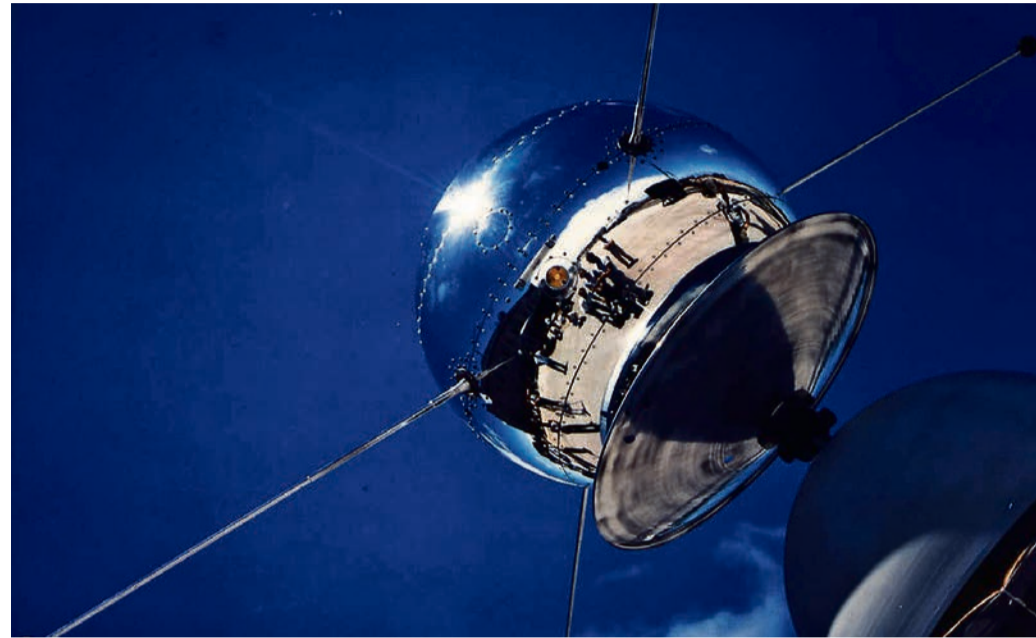
In space, sunlight is plentiful and free, so Bell Labs bolted panels to the Vanguard 1, America's answer to Sputnik. Soviet premier Khrushchev called it 'a flying grapefruit', but it worked; the solar panels fed power to

the US machine as it hurtled around the world, putting it ahead of the Soviet example with its bulky batteries.

How does this affect your home, you may ask? 1950s space flight hasn't been part of earthbound architecture since the days of George Jetson, surely? Well, it's all about efficiency, and how far we've come.

Solar, far from being the undiscovered country, is a well-travelled roadmap of advancements. Those original panels Einstein was excited about turning one per cent of all captured sunlight into power. Vanguard, with every dollar President Eisenhower could throw at it, managed 10 per cent. Modern panels used for homes today have taken that figure up to 25 per cent.

Bear in mind that 100 per cent conversion of sunlight to energy would resemble a small nuclear explosion, and you can see how we've reached a point of sensible use. Those panels



▲ Vanguard 1 is the oldest satellite in space, thanks to its solar panels

should last for two decades, as well, instead of rapidly degrading.

Even better solar system costs have dropped by 60 per cent since 2008 while increasing in output and reliability. If cars had done the same, your hatchback would be capable of running flat out at 400km/h for a year and would cost about \$15,000. The

only modern equivalent is the drop in computer prices from the late 80s to the early 2000s. Of course, back then, there were people who said that home computing was a fad that would never take off as well.

Now; well, I didn't type this on an Atlantic. It's about time to give solar a proper, dollars-and-sense look.

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PUZZLE TIME

Jumbo crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Evolve (7)
- 4 Indirect and long (10)
- 9 Compressed roughly (7)
- 13 Food grain (4)
- 14 Keep (6)
- 15 Scruffy, threadbare (6)
- 16 Went off course (7)
- 19 Lively interest (10)
- 20 Withdraws (8)
- 21 Bunches of hair, feathers, grass (5)
- 24 Throttled (6)
- 25 Burlesque (6)
- 27 Round (9)
- 32 On cloud nine (8)
- 33 Attraction (6)
- 34 Musical instrument (7)
- 38 Thunderous verbal attack (8)
- 39 Penetrate (6)
- 40 British peer (4)
- 41 Bypass (5)
- 42 Finger or toe (5)
- 45 Absolutely secure (2,4,2,6)
- 52 Metal bar (5)
- 55 Void (5)
- 56 Scoff at (4)
- 57 Do a favour for (6)
- 58 Carried out (8)
- 61 Sulphuric acid (7)
- 62 Quirk (6)
- 63 Enumerated (8)
- 66 Exalted (9)
- 68 Accident (6)
- 69 Sharp (6)

- 73 Fronded plants (5)
- 74 Divert someone's attention (8)
- 76 Robot-like (10)
- 81 Contemptuously disregarded (7)
- 82 Banished (6)
- 83 Large lizard (6)
- 84 Indication (4)
- 85 From Stockholm (7)
- 86 Blameworthy (10)
- 87 Heighten (7)

DOWN

- 1 Mournful song (5)
- 2 Calling (8)
- 3 Summary (6)
- 4 Paint layers (5)
- 5 Ladder step (4)
- 6 Sudden increase (7)
- 7 Characteristics (6)
- 8 Darkest part of a shadow (5)
- 10 Duty roster (4)
- 11 Bladed utensil (7)
- 12 Votes in (6)
- 17 Government official (10)
- 18 Guide (5)
- 22 Impishness (8)
- 23 Fainthearted (5)
- 24 Congested (7)
- 26 Well-ventilated (4)
- 28 Tableland (7)
- 29 Anxiety disorder (6)
- 30 Address (6)
- 31 One lacking pigment (6)
- 33 Blood vessel (5)
- 35 Assembly of witches (5)
- 36 Long tooth (4)
- 37 Strong desire (4)
- 43 Spoil (6)
- 44 Bring upon yourself (5)
- 46 Outbuilding (4)
- 47 Brigade (anag)(7)
- 48 Titillating (6)
- 49 Saline (5)
- 50 Keyboard player (8)
- 51 Group of six (6)
- 52 Growing (10)
- 53 Hinged barrier (4)
- 54 Larval frog (7)
- 59 Squirrel away (5)
- 60 Girl's name (4)
- 64 Attach to (5)
- 65 Intersection (8)
- 67 Lacking energy, spirit (7)
- 68 Bullfighter (7)
- 70 Jaundiced (6)
- 71 Sickly-looking (6)
- 72 Accidental (6)
- 75 Poison (5)
- 77 Give the slip (5)
- 78 Pointed rod (5)
- 79 House animals (4)
- 80 Appendage (4)

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9	1	14			
2	10			8		2		11		2	15			
12	13	3	14		8	15	15	3	16	17	11	18		
11		16		19		11		2		3		8		
1	20	11	21	15	8	16	22	3	3			23		
		16		2		6				9		3		
9	11	6	2	13	3		9	5	5	24	3	17		
5		19				9				14		5		
13			8	1	1	11	17	3	16	23	8	24		
3		19		8		8				17		11		5
8	19	23	3	13	11	19	25			12	24	5	1	
13		3		13		1					24			8
21	2	21	21	26		5	8	25			8	24	24	

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Sudoku

	2	3		9		1		
9	8			1				
7	4			6		2	5	
	5		9		8	4	6	
			6	2	4			
	7	6	3		1		2	
	9	7		3			4	1
				4			7	5
		4		8		3	9	

EASY

Last week

8	6	1	9	4	5	2	7	3
9	3	5	2	7	8	1	6	4
7	4	2	3	6	1	5	8	9
4	7	9	1	8	6	3	5	2
6	2	3	7	5	9	4	1	8
5	1	8	4	2	3	7	9	6
3	5	4	6	9	7	8	2	1
2	9	7	8	1	4	6	3	5
1	8	6	5	3	2	9	4	7

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Last week's CodeCracker

1	C	2	N	3	U	4	R	5	A	6	D	7	G	8	H	9	T	10	O	11	E	12	M	13	B
14	S	15	L	16	P	17	Q	18	Z	19	W	20	J	21	Y	22	F	23	I	24	V	25	X	26	K

Last week's crossword solution

ACROSS: 1 Muggy, 4 Thin on the ground, 14 Rough, 15 Genie, 16 Brightness, 17 Unite, 19 Cur, 20 Lengthy, 21 Stressful, 22 Hearth, 25 Wrongdoer, 27 Steady, 28 Gantry, 33 Falsehoods, 35 Hoe, 36 Poetic, 37 Emit, 39 Car, 41 Pep talk, 42 Alkali, 43 Desperado, 44 Flora, 45 Lacerate, 50 By, 51 Thirties, 55 Gorge, 58 Sanctuary, 59 Droops, 60 Schemes, 61 Nod, 63 Rout, 64 Carafe, 65 Inn, 66 Copenhagen, 68 Checks, 69 Seeing, 71 Irascible, 76 Author, 77 Teardrops, 79 Archaic, 81 Imp, 84 Nicer, 85 Accustomed, 86 Elate, 87 Aping, 88 Get away scot-free, 89 Deeds.

DOWN: 2 Uneven, 3 Going, 5 Hurl, 6 Nightie, 7 Nutmeg, 8 Heeds, 9 Gesture, 10 Opus, 11 Noises, 12 Bunch, 13 Therapy, 14 Retreat, 18 Chinchilla, 23 Idiot, 24 Addenda, 26 Rosette, 27 Specify, 29 Timpani, 30 Camera, 31 Phial, 32 Kitsch, 34 Silk, 36 Proof, 38 Tools, 40 Seer, 45 Laser, 46 Consume, 47 Rate, 48 Teabag, 49 Prone, 50 Bedding, 52 Incendiary, 53 Toenail, 54 Eyelet, 55 Gyrated, 56 Joins, 57 Epic, 62 Spasm, 67 Skating, 68 Cynical, 70 Ikebana, 72 Reproof, 73 Touché, 74 Fresco, 75 Tilted, 76 April, 78 Rocks, 80 Halve, 82 Aria, 83 Fête.

5x5

A	L		R	
	I		G	
S		A		S
	G		E	
T	N		S	

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words — five across the grid and five down. More than one solution may be possible.

F	L	U	S	H
A	L	P	H	A
M	A	S	O	N
E	M	E	N	D
D	A	T	E	S

Last week

CLASSIFIEDS

PHONE 0800 466 793

Closing date for classified advertising for the 10 July 2020 edition is Tuesday 7 July 2020

FOR SALE

CARPET, VINYL and hard flooring. Full supply and installation service. Mobile showroom. Free measure and quote. Phone Christine - Kaipara Flooring Co 021 515 415.

CALF FEEDER, mobile milk bar 80. \$7500 incl. Phone 09 439 1876.

SEPTIC TANK SERVICES

EFFLUENT REMOVAL, just give us a call, we remove it all. 'Magic Property Services'. Phone Chris 027 480 0110 or Mary 027 459 1544. 7 Days. WE ARE THE ONLY CODE COMPLIANT OPERATORS IN THE KAIPARA.

MAGIC PROPERTY Services, effluent & septic tank cleaning. Servicing the Kaipara. Phone Chris 027 480 0110 or Mary 027 459 1544. 7 Days. WE ARE THE ONLY CODE COMPLIANT OPERATORS IN THE KAIPARA.

TRADES & SERVICES

WATER TANK Cleaning. Phone Pete 027 444 3053 or 09 405 9510.

TREE SERVICES

TREE REMOVAL, pruning, chipping & stump grinding. Qualified & Insured. Phone Scott 0800 468 9663 Arborcare Tree Maintenance.

WORK WANTED

PROFESSIONAL FULL time working mother of two, intermediate and high school aged children. Looking for rental in or around Dargaville. I have absolutely glowing references and we are all very house proud. I mow my own lawns and do my own gardens. I am very handy with a paint brush or any small diy jobs. Please contact me on 021 264 9205.

GARAGE SALE

Mid Month Market
Saturday
4th July
Community Hall
Hokianga Road
Dargaville, opposite
the Anzac Theatre.
8am till noon,
Something for
everyone.
09 439 7243

**SMOKE
ALARMS
SAVE
LIVES**

WORK WANTED

HOMEKILLS

WAYNE & ANNETTE
Ph 09 439 2020
Dry Aged Beef Specialists
Traditional Manuka wood smoked
Bacon & Ham
TOKATOKA

THANK YOU

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Dargaville Bobcat Services
**Any job big or small.
We do them ALL**

- Stump & Tree Removal
- Driveway Prep & Regrading
- Post Hole Borer
- Calf Shed & Stockyard Cleaning
- Tip Truck Available
- Trencher

**Phone or Txt Paul
027 271 2022**

LIVESTOCK

**TE PUNA POLLED
HEREFORD STUD**
51ST ANNUAL SALE

UNDER COVER
Monday 6th July 2020
Sale starts 12.30pm

- 13 2yr Hereford Bulls
- 8 18mth Hereford Bulls

Big beef sires and low birth weight stud and dairy sires
Yearling paddock sales and inspections (Welcomed anytime)
BVD and EBL Tested and Vaccinated
Light luncheon/refreshments

For Further information please contact
Cam on 09 405 9736 or 021 032 8281
Email: cgerrard@xtra.co.nz

BUY, EAT, WORK, PLAY

Local

**THANK YOU
FOR CHOOSING LOCAL**

FOR LEASE

**OFFICE SPACE
AVAILABLE**

Dargaville office space to rent.
WiFi, controlled entry, kitchen facilities
and reception services included.

CONTACT JOHN | 027 525 8189

PUBLIC NOTICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS both Dargaville A-A Meetings are held at the church, crn Parore and Normanby Sts. Use Parore St entrance. Monday 4.30pm & Thursday 7.30pm. Phone Bernie 027 212 2148, Debra 020 4082 1373, Murray 09 439 5248.

LOVE REMEMBERS my holy Sabbath, Romans 3:31, Matthew 5:17-19. 1 John: 2: 3-5.

**MAUNGATUROTO
PUBLIC LIBRARY INC**

AGM
Wednesday 8th
July 2020
1.00pm
Library Building
150 Hurndall Street
(opp Tulips cafe)
Public welcome

**FIREHOUSE
MUSEUM**

Open 7 days
22 Rankin Street
Kaikohe
027 630 8638
Adults \$10.00
Children \$5.00

Te Kopuru School
Tika Aroha Pouna

**New Enrolments
for 2020/2021**

Te Kopuru School is a high achieving school, Year 1-8
We offer mainstream and bilingual (English / te reo Maori) classes.
Bus subsidy for town based students.
New food technology room.
**Visit our website
www.tekopuru.school.nz**
**Enquiries, or to make an appointment
phone 09 439 1802**
Email: jessica@tekopuru.school.nz



KCHT Health Shuttle
We look forward to helping you
get to your health appointment
We have a wheelchair hoist
Bookings:
Phone Te Ha Oranga 439 3013
Proudly supported by Kaipara Community Health Trust

**THANK YOU
FOR CHOOSING LOCAL**

SITUATIONS VACANT
TE PUNA O Te Reo Kohanga Reo. We are looking for 1 part-time worker & 1 casual worker. All enquiries to 09 439 0545.

THANK YOU

SITUATIONS VACANT

Want to make a difference?

At Property Brokers we're committed to the provinces. We believe rural New Zealand is the cement that holds us together and are passionate about keeping these communities thriving. With our strategic partnership with Farmlands Co-operative we have a vacancy in Dargaville-Helensville and Whangarei for people truly committed to servicing Client and Shareholder Rural and Lifestyle property requirements.

If you are ready to make a difference in your career please send your CV to recruitment@pb.co.nz

Property Brokers Proud to be here Property Brokers Licensed REAA 2008

PUBLIC NOTICES

BAYLEYS

**WESTERN SHARKS
VS
HORA HORA**

Premier Reserves VS Hora Hora - 12:30 pm
Premiers VS Hora Hora - 2:15 pm

Saturday, 04th July 2020
Hora Hora Rugby Club, Whangarei
Proudly sponsored by **Catherine Stewart & Todd Skudder - Bayleys Real Estate**
MACKYS REAL ESTATE LTD, BAYLEYS, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

BUY, EAT, WORK, PLAY

Local



Do you need a cover over your boat? Your caravan? Your deck?

Custom made canopies to suit what you need.

Made right here in Northland, keep it local!

Make the most out of your outdoor space, rain, hail or shine.



Ag-Tech Industries

E solarshields@ag-tech.co.nz

P 0800 782 3763 | W www.solarshield.co.nz