

February 2025

FREE monthly community magazine for Kumeu
& surrounding townships

Kumeu

Courier

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

**Entangled dolphin near
Riverhead freed**



Greetings

I know a few rewarded for their efforts in the 2025 New Year Honours.

Golfer Lydia Ko has been named a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, while Julie Clare Chapman has received a similar honour for her work with the KidsCan Charitable Trust she founded in 2005, now helping provide food, clothing and health items to more than 60,000 children and 1100 schools and early childhood centres - plus her work with Women's Refuge, Victim Support, the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, and Pet Refuge.

JP and Waitakere Licensing Trust Chair Linda Cooper has been recognised for her services to the community, made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM).

Linda has served on the former Waitakere City Council and was a Waitakere representative on the Auckland Council.

She has also Chaired the Western Refuge and Family Action organisation since 2005, Waitakere Healthlink, and was Chair and a Trustee of Hospice West Auckland (2006-2013).

Dr Karen Ann Colgan is also a MNZM for her services to wildlife conservation and education, particularly for her work with Ark in the Park reintroducing native species to about 2500 hectares in the Waitakere Ranges and her work with predator control.

Karen helped re-establish penguins and petrels at O'Neill's Bay and Te Henga Beach (Bethells).

Meanwhile, I'm gearing up for another full year in the Northwest.

State Highway 16 safety improvements between Brigham Creek and Waimauku continue with more than 5500 tonnes of asphalt laid so far. Expect more work on the SH16 upgrade. Hopefully, this year won't be as economically bad as the last.

Forecasts generally point to greater prosperity, increasing business and consumer confidence and harbingers of better times.

I certainly hope so, with funds now in short supply, so I'll be looking to step up local purchases and see cost-of-living improvements. I spent Christmas with extended family in Melbourne. Australia is popular with many Kiwis but I can see that country going through similar pain to us - some things are already not much cheaper. The weather may play a part too.

Bush fires were raging in northern Victoria (the state which has Melbourne) and temperatures on one day were around 39 degrees Celsius but cold on others during our stay. A long, hot summer is predicted here.

So, check the fire risk and your beach safety - and slap on plenty of sunscreen or stay shady during peak sun.

Geoff, Editor



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People & Places

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Entangled dolphin near Riverhead freed

A juvenile dolphin has been cut free from a net it was tangled in after being seen in the Upper Waitemata Harbour near Riverhead and Herald Island.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) sent its marine mammal disentanglement team to the rescue after the entangled juvenile was seen with a fully grown dolphin in late December and early January.

"The disentanglement team were able to get a working line with grapnel and floats on the animal," says DOC Operations Manager Kirsty Prior.

"This allowed the team to bring the dolphin close to the boat and work carefully with specialist knives to cut it free.

"We monitored the area for several hours and can confirm the dolphin is free of the entanglement and swimming strongly.

"We would like to thank everyone who called the hotline -the public were vital in helping our team do their job successfully."

Jocelin Friend from Te Kawerau ā Maki saw the disentanglement take place.

"Te Wai Roa ō Kahu and Rangitōpuni awa are our ancestral waterways," says Jocelin. "Our duty as kaitiaki is to ensure our taonga species are treated with utmost care.

"I was impressed with how the team worked together

swiftly, carefully and in respect of tikanga Māori to safely free the dolphin."

A rare Hector's or Maui dolphin was also seen earlier in December in the Upper Waitemata Harbour, possibly near Riverhead.

It was seen by a rowing team while training and Kirsty Prior says it's likely to be a Hector's dolphin which is very unusual this far north, while Maui dolphins have only been found on the west coast.

"However, we do get occasional reports, most recently in October 2023 when an adult and juvenile were sighted in the Firth of Thames."

Kirsty says dolphins need plenty of space especially from powered vessels and that drones mustn't be flown over them.

Upokohue/Hector's dolphins are a taonga species and nationally vulnerable, with a population of about 15,700, mostly found around the South Island's coastline and are about 1.5 metres long, says DOC.

"Hector's dolphins, and the closely related Maui dolphin, have a distinctive rounded dorsal fin that looks like one of Mickey Mouse's ears," says Kirsty, adding they have grey, white and black markings on their bodies.

Kirsty says DOC hopes to collect a DNA sample to confirm the species and support vital conservation efforts.

Unusual sightings like Hector's or Maui dolphins in the Upper North Island, or entangled, stranded or dead marine mammals, should be immediately reported to 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

People are encouraged to report other marine mammal sightings through the marine mammal sightings form on the DOC website.

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Kumeu Show has new attraction for 102nd event

The Kumeu Show on March 8 and 9 is shaping up to be another big one.

So says Kumeu Agricultural and Horticultural Society Show Manager Lizelle Westman, adding there are many activities on both days to encourage visitors to the Kumeu Showgrounds.

A tree climbing competition is a new attraction provided with assistance from Shaun Hardman from arborists Hardfell Ltd.

Other drawcards include sheep dog trials, woodchopping, shearing, a giant pumpkin contest, food trucks, a market area, trade sites, indoor events such as an arts and crafts competition, flower and fruit displays, and photos.

Show organisers have tickets to give away for the 102nd Kumeu Show - contact their office on 0800 900 700 for more information.

School Calf Club, pet lambs and goats, equestrian and poultry competitions also feature, while Mahons Amusements carnival rides, an FMX display, tractor parade at 2pm on both days, dog agility displays and giveaways are sure to be popular.

Clydesdale and ponyrides will proceed, and entertainment features The Rumpus Machine, which Lizelle says is a must see.

While the main shearing competition is on Saturday

March 8, a blade demonstration will be provided on Sunday, March 9.

Highland Dancing is back this year.

A designated bar is next to the shearing competition, with all bar proceeds going to grounds maintenance.

Nearly 300 trade displays are expected, plus there's a special area set aside in the showground's shed for caregivers needing to attend to young ones.

Lizelle suggests purchasing tickets online to avoid long queues, with tickets selling online for \$15 and for \$20 at the gate on the day (under 14s are free).

Plenty of free parking is offered and traffic management will be in place.

Sunscreen is available at the Kumeu Show Information Tower.

Gates open 8.30am-5pm Saturday March 8 and 8.30am-4pm Sunday March 9.

A timetable for all events is on the website www.kumeushowgrounds.com in the week leading up to the show.

To be in to win passes to the show head over to Kumeu Courier Facebook and tag a friend in the Kumeu Show facebook post.

www.facebook.com/KumeuCourier

Castle Panelbeating - we are moving

After almost 27 years on the Main Road in Kumeu, we are pleased to inform you that our company is relocating to new premises. This move signifies an exciting step forward for our company as we continue to grow and enhance our services to better serve you for all your panelbeating and spray painting requirements (insurance and private).

Our new address will be 23 Wookey Lane, Kumeu, and we will be operational there effective immediately. This new location allows us to provide you with enhanced services, improved facilities, and a more efficient workspace to facilitate better interactions and accessibility.

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Thank you for your continued support and understanding. We look forward to welcoming our existing and new customers to our new location and continuing to serve your needs with the utmost dedication.

Gear up for adventure with Waimauku Automotive

Exciting news for outdoor enthusiasts and adventurers. Waimauku Automotive is thrilled to announce we now stock a wide range of Thule, Yakima, and Prorack products, making us your one-stop shop for all your



vehicle carrying needs.

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To celebrate this new addition to our offerings, Waimauku Automotive is offering a special introductory deal. For a limited time, enjoy 20% off the entire Thule, Yakima, and Prorack range.

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Camera Red Eye explained by Molly Whittington

When I worked at Dunedin Hospital, our infant patients would have their photo taken and I would use the image to gauge if they had a turned eye (squint). All the photos had camera red-eye, usually unwelcome in baby photos. What causes red-eye in photos? As the light from the camera-flash enters the eye, retinal cells in the eye convert light to electric pulses that travel along nerves to the brain. But if not all the light is absorbed by these cells, some of it bounces back towards the camera. This reflected light illuminates the blood vessels inside the eye, creating a red colour.

The slightly scary light that shines from cats' eyes at night is related to this effect. Cats and many other animals have an extra layer to their eyes. The tapetum lucidum is a layer behind the retina that works a bit like a mirror. Any light that isn't absorbed by the animal's retinal cells will hit this highly reflective layer and send much more of it back out of the eye. The Tapetum lucidum allows these animals to have superior vision in dark situations.

Molly is an optometrist at For Eyes in the Kumeu Shopping Village. Phone 09 412 8972 for appointments.



111 Vet Clinic Kumeu: Compassionate, Comprehensive, and Always Available

A ground breaking veterinary clinic recently opened on Main Road in Kumeu, setting a new standard for pet care in West Auckland. Led by Dr. Fiona Mead, this clinic offers a unique blend of traditional and alternative treatments, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Not only is it a reliable emergency service, but it also provides compassionate care for regular veterinary needs.

What sets 111 Vet Clinic apart is its commitment to integrative care. In addition to standard medical services, they offer acupuncture, rehabilitation, osteopathic & chiropractic techniques, herbal therapies, alongside homeopathy. This holistic approach includes emotional healing with Bach Flower essences and quantum energy therapies, ensuring all aspects of your pet's well-being are addressed.

The clinic also features cutting-edge technology, such as red light ICU cages designed to accelerate recovery and reduce healing times. The calming environment, enhanced by stress-lowering music and aromatherapy, offers a soothing atmosphere more akin to a day spa than a traditional clinic.

Beyond these integrative treatments, the clinic provides comprehensive hospital facilities, including surgery,

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x-ray, ICU, and advanced monitoring, catering to dogs, cats, and small pets. Their philosophy is clear: to treat every animal as if it were their own, bringing "the heart back to veterinary care."

Affordable pricing, including membership options, ensures that busy families can have access to professional care. Standard consultations are available until 8pm, with competitive after-hour rates ensuring emergency care is available at any time.

111 Vet Clinic in Kumeu offers accessible, compassionate care around the clock, providing both physical and emotional support for your pets when they need it most. For more information, contact 09 869 6111 or OW TOWN 111 to experience the difference.

Muriwai becomes muri-waw



Get ready for wave after wave of non-stop fun at your nearest surf beach! Introducing the WAW Handplane - the hottest new way to ride the waves this summer!

Ditch the boogie board and elevate your body surfing experience! Handplaning is easy to learn, suitable for all ages, and provides an incredible core workout. Plus, with a lifetime warranty, you can focus on catching waves, not worrying about your gear.

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Kumeū Community Garden: A Season of Growth and Renewal



The Kumeū Community Garden has been thriving in the recent weather, which means keeping weeds at bay and revitalizing the garden for the weeks ahead.

Our recent focus has been on removing plants that had gone to seed, ensuring the

garden remains productive and vibrant. We've also laid down fresh compost and turned over the remaining beds to enrich the soil and prepare it for new planting. Harvest season has been fruitful, with beetroot, courgette, potatoes, and radishes making their way from the garden beds to our tables. These fresh, homegrown vegetables are a testament to the dedication of our volunteers and the fertility of our shared space.

Looking ahead, we've planted more tomatoes in the freshly empty spaces. The already thriving tomato plants have been carefully staked to provide support as they grow. Proper staking not only improves the health of the plants but also makes harvesting easier when the time comes. The Kumeū Community Garden is more than just a place to grow food—it's a space for connection, learning, and sharing. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, there's always room for more hands and new ideas. In 2025, we welcome everyone to join us in this rewarding journey. Come by, lend a hand, water the beds, and take pride in helping our community grow.

For updates or to get involved, find us on Facebook or email us at kumeucommunitygarden@gmail.com.

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The Village Market Helensville Showgrounds

There will be no Village Market in February but a selection of our regular stall holders will be at the Helensville A&P Show Saturday 22nd February from 9am to 4.30pm, you'll find us in Block D.

Riverside Crafts windchimes and birdfeeders, handcrafted gemstone jewellery by Tony and Lynne, PhotosPast framed historic prints, Kahikatea Haven preserves, Button Up button craft, WindDale Farm art, crafts & flowers, Satherley's Silks and garden art, hand knits by Jenny, TinkersCottageNZ resin designs, Smudges Carvings greenstone jewellery, Stephanie Schellingerhout author & crafts, Abigail's Angels crafts, Jayde Jasmine Crochet, The Craft Girls handmade cards, meat spices, t-shirts and much more.

For more information contact sarah@riversidecrafts.co.nz or for more information on the show contact info@helensvilleshow.co.nz

Lions Club of Helensville

The Christmas Book Fair was held in the Helensville A&P Showgrounds. The weather did its best to spoil the weekend, but booklovers are a hardy breed and they still came in numbers despite the rain. Book sales totalled \$12,000, and with the raffles, Christmas cake sales and

BBQ trailer takings it added up to over \$13,000. Not quite a record but a very satisfactory result. All funds raised are deposited into the Lions Club of Helensville Charitable Trust and are used to help the many individuals and organisations in our community who need assistance.

Thank you to all who donated so many high-quality books, without you it would not have been possible to hold the event. Thanks also to Club members and their families who were with us all weekend and the students from Kaipara College who helped in the set up on Friday. Thanks to the Kaukapakapa/Helensville Scout troop and Friends of Lions who assisted in packing up and cleaning the Hall on Sunday. Putting together a book fair is an all-round team effort and we would not be able to do it without the assistance we receive from our community, especially the Helensville A&P Show who gave us the unlimited use of their facilities for the lead up to the weekend. A special thanks to Burmester Realty for letting us use their premises as a drop off point, and Chris Smith who has given the books a home.

The books left over will be re-sorted with damaged or unsaleable books going to the Helensville Recycle Centre. Surplus children's books go to South Auckland for distribution to Play-centres and Kindergartens. Other books are sold at the Lions book stall at the Village Market, which is held on the third Sunday of each month in the Helensville A&P Showgrounds.

The next Book Fair is our Autumn Book Fair which will be held on the last weekend of May, Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th.

As a further service to the community the Helensville Lions will accept books throughout the year. Small amounts can be left with Burmester Realty, Commercial Road, Helensville, otherwise contact Chris at 027 646 3324 or any other member of the Lions Club of Helensville.

Safer Communities



Fire Safety

As summer brings longer days and warmer weather, outdoor activities like camping, barbecues, and fireworks become popular, but they also come with fire risks. To keep your summer safe, here are some key fire safety tips:

1. BBQ Safety

BBQs are a favourite summer activity but can be hazardous. Always place your BBQ (or grill) in a well-ventilated area, away from structures, trees, and flammable materials. Keep the grill on a flat, stable surface, and clean it regularly to remove grease buildup. Never leave the grill unattended and keep children and pets away.

2. Bonfire and Campfire Safety

Bonfires and campfires are fun but

can quickly become dangerous if mishandled. Keep fires small and contained in designated fire pits, and clear the surrounding area of dry grass and leaves. Always have a bucket of water or hose nearby to extinguish the fire completely after use and check www.checkitsalright.nz beforehand to ensure it's safe and if you require a permit.

3. Wildfire Preparedness

In dry regions, wildfires are a risk. Create a defensible space around your home by clearing dead vegetation and maintaining a buffer zone of at least 10 metres between your house and trees. Use fire-resistant plants and stay informed about local fire conditions. Keep an emergency kit ready and familiarise yourself with evacuation routes.

4. Electrical Fire Safety

Outdoor electrical appliances pose a fire hazard. Use outdoor-rated extension cords and avoid overloading them. Unplug appliances when not in



use, and inspect all electrical equipment for damage, especially exposed wires.

By staying vigilant and following these tips, you can enjoy a safe, fire-free summer.



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Cat lovers we need your help



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

Financial and food donations are also urgently needed to cover vet and other costs associated with our sanctuary. The NZ Cat Foundation also supports community Trap-Neuter-Return programmes and helps feed and care for many cats living in the community. Please visit our website for more information on volunteering and how to donate at www.thenzcatfoundation.org.nz. You can also email - volunteers: volunteer@thenzcatfoundation.org nz donations: info@thenzcatfoundation.org.

Music and Movies in Parks



Head to Auckland's parks for free outdoor entertainment.

'Music and Movies in Parks' by the Auckland Council delivers a lineup of concerts and screenings across Auckland this summer.

"With a wider and more diverse range of events than ever before, including performances from top local artists and blockbuster movies, these events reach far and wide across Tāmaki Makaurau and offer something for everyone to enjoy," says Auckland Council Policy and Planning Committee Chair Richard Hills.

"This much-loved series of free events is a fantastic way to make the most of the long summer days and nights with your loved ones and enjoy our beautiful city affordably."

'Movies In Parks' runs from February 21, 2025, until March 15, 2025, with a series featuring a mix of family-friendly films, blockbusters, and fan favourites, with a special surprise mystery movie to be revealed on March 1, 2025.

Bring a picnic or buy a feed from an array of food trucks and get ready for fun pre-movie entertainment for the whānau, before settling in under the stars for a cinematic experience.

This year's lineup includes *Raya and the Last Dragon*, *The War with Grandpa*, and *Wonka* - a prequel to the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory story.

'Music In Parks' started January 11 and runs through to April 6, 2025, featuring a range of New Zealand's top musical talent.

From hip-hop to indie-folk, the series will bring audiences the best of local music under the sun, says the council.

Community News

Aucklanders can hear performances from some of the country's most esteemed artists, including Rei, known for his smooth flow and impactful lyrics that blend Māori heritage with contemporary rap, and Tali, a multi-award-winning drum and bass DJ and vocalist,

Anna Coddington brings her blend of pop, rock, and singer-songwriter influences to the indie-folk scene.

Georgia Lines, who won Breakthrough Artist of the Year at the 2022 Aotearoa Music Awards, performs her indie-pop hits.

Jordyn With a Why, the rising star of New Zealand's R&B scene, will deliver soulful, ethereal sounds that explore identity, culture, and te reo Māori.

As well as returning to St Helier's Glover Park, Opera in the Park is also heading to a new location this summer - the Auckland Botanic Gardens.

For lovers of rhythm and blues and smooth jazz, two iconic events are 'Blues at Blockhouse Bay' featuring Midge Marsden alongside a lineup of New Zealand's top session players.

Meanwhile, 'Jazz at the Rotunda' at Pukekawa Auckland Domain is an annual free jazz event that brings together top local talent.

This summer's one features Lady Larisa, an international jazz and soul singer, and Taylor Griffin, whose debut EP *In Green* reached the top 10 in the NZ Album Charts in 2024.

Visit musicinparks.co.nz and moviesinparks.co.nz for more information.

Intuitive Vision Board workshop

Come on a journey of self-discovery and 'Create Your Life' by experiencing the wonderful intuitive creative process of making your own vision board which shows you a way forward for your life. Take time to pause and spend the day reviewing your life - your dreams, what's enhancing your life or not... and find out what areas need your attention in 2025.

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and allow the space and time to help you discover more about who you want to 'be' before you jump ahead to the doing and having.

When: Saturday 1 March 2025. Time: 10am - 4pm. Where: Hobsonville Point, Auckland. All materials are supplied to make your own vision board, including a pre-workshop visioning sheet. Tea, coffee and biscuits supplied, bring your own lunch. Investment: \$90 +gst.

Let me know if you have any questions, or would like to book your seat. Terri Gasparich terri@visionboards.co.nz or www.visionboards.co.nz

Local fitness wahine shine on the national stage

If you're part of the Norwest community, chances are you've heard the names Kirstyn Campbell (KC Fit) and Renee Diment (owner of PWR Fit Studios Kumeu)-two powerhouses in the world of fitness and women's health. In a proud moment for West Auckland, both women were recognised at the prestigious Exercise New Zealand Awards 2024 this November for their incredible contributions to empowering women through fitness, health, and education.

Kirstyn was crowned Educator of the Year 2024, a recognition of her exceptional expertise and unwavering dedication to advancing women's health. Kirstyn's work focuses on creating educational courses for health professionals and the public, covering key areas like



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pregnancy, postnatal recovery, pelvic floor health, and menopause (with Nikki Williams) nationwide.

The judges described Kirstyn as energetic, passionate, and approachable, applauding her ability to turn complex concepts into accessible and practical solutions. Her teaching style is not only professional but also empathetic and engaging, which has earned her a reputation as a leader in her field and an inspiration to many.

Meanwhile, Renee was honoured for her groundbreaking work in revolutionising women's health and fitness. Known for her empowering coaching style and expertise in cycle syncing, Renee has spent over a decade helping women move better, feel stronger, and thrive.

Clients describe Renee as not just a coach but also a mentor and motivator. Her ability to craft tailored programmes ensures each client achieves their unique goals while building long-lasting confidence in their physical and mental strength. Renee's studio has become a hub for transformation, offering a supportive space for women to reclaim their health and thrive.

West Auckland is fortunate to have these inspiring women leading the charge for health and empowerment. Work with Kirstyn nationwide and online, Renee in Kumeu and online.

Kirstyn Campbell kirstyn@kcfit.co.nz

Renee Diment coaching@reneediment.com



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Why advertising in community magazines is a smart move

If you're looking to grow your business, advertising in a trusted local magazine can be a game changer. While a one-off ad might give you some exposure, the real benefits come from building a long-term presence. Here's why we believe the Westerly and Kumeu Courier magazines offer such great value:

A Targeted, Local Audience

One of the biggest advantages of local magazines is that they're tailored to a specific community. Unlike national newspapers, these publications create a connection to local readers. By advertising in a community magazine, you're not just reaching a broad audience—you're engaging with people in your area who are more likely to support local businesses like yours.

Credibility and Trust

The westerly and Kumeu Courier magazines are well-respected in the community. People trust them as reliable sources of information. This makes ads in these magazines feel more like personal recommendations than typical advertisements. When people see your ad in a trusted publication, they're more likely to trust you and your business.

More Trustworthy than Online Ads

We all know how overwhelming and suspicious online ads can be—pop-ups, security alerts, and overwhelming algorithms that make it hard to know what's genuine. In contrast, when someone picks up a community magazine, they're actively engaging with it. This makes them more likely to notice and trust the ads they see, in a way that's simply not possible with Facebook or Twitter ads.

Lasting Impact

Online advertising moves fast, and it's easy to get lost in the shuffle. Print ads, on the other hand, stick around. People leave magazines on the coffee table and come back to them often. That means your ad gets seen repeatedly, which can help reinforce your message and keep your business top of mind.

If you're considering advertising in a community magazine,

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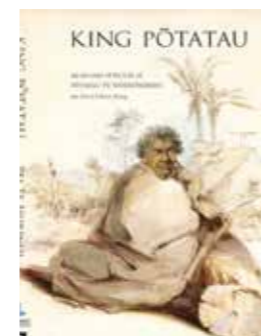
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we'd love to help. Our magazine reach is 25,000 including residential and pick up stands from Massey right up to Waimauku. We have a loyal readership that continually supports local businesses.

Let's talk about how we can help you connect with your ideal customers today.

Editorial@kumeucourier.co.nz or ring 0800 900 700

New books recently obtained by Auckland Libraries



King Pōtatau: an account of the life of Pōtatau Te Wherowhero the first Māori King by Pei Te Hurinui Jones

This book details the background of the Kingitanga and tells the story of the first king, Pōtatau Te Wherowhero. It covers the momentous events of Te Wherowhero's life from around 1775 to his death in 1860, including his status as Lord of the Waikato and the famous battles and conflicts with other tribes.

The rebel witch by Kristen Ciccarelli

Rune makes Gideon an offer he can't refuse. The two must pair up to accomplish dangerous goals. And now he's faced with a terrible choice: sacrifice the girl he loves or let Rune live and watch the world he fought so hard for burn. **Escaping peril:** The graphic novel (Wings of fire, book 8) by Tui Sutherland

Peril has always been loyal. Peril is offered a chance at a completely new life, free of her fire-scales and the pain they've brought her. All she has to do is decide where her loyalty belongs... and whether her own scales might be worth saving.

The Treaty of Waitangi: Te Tiriti o Waitangi by Ross Calman

In **The Treaty of Waitangi**, Ross Calman outlines the Treaty's impact from early contact between Maori and European settlers and signing around the country through to its revitalisation in the twentieth century, the formation of the Waitangi Tribunal and present-day debates about its place at the centre of political and cultural life.

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Helensville Birthing Centre drop-in clinic closure

Te Hā Tama Ariki, a midwifery-led drop-in clinic, closed from January 31, 2025.

Despite the clinic's success and its alignment with Ministry of Health objectives, the Helensville Birthing Centre Trust Board says it is deeply saddened to announce the closure due to insufficient financial support.

"This decision was exceptionally difficult as we know the importance of the clinic to our community," says the board, adding the Helensville Birthing Centre itself will remain open and continue supporting families through pregnancy, birth and labour, breastfeeding, postpartum and early parenting.

Workshops were also held on various topics and the clinic facilitated pop-up car seat safety checks with Auckland Transport. Launched in August 2023, the drop-in clinic provided free services including pregnancy tests, midwifery and postpartum support.

The clinic featured in the October 2023 Kumeu Courier, including the cover photo. "It served as a safe, non-judgmental space for mothers, including hard-to-reach communities," says Board Chair Paula Daye on behalf of the Helensville Birthing Centre.

"A special thanks to midwives Eartha Healy and Tulsi Parsons for your exceptional expertise and compassion.

"Despite community support and successful fundraising efforts, including \$2,100 raised through our Auckland Marathon Givealittle campaign, the clinic couldn't secure sustainable long-term funding," says Paula.

"We explored numerous avenues - including applications to the Lottery Grants Board - but sadly these were insufficient. "Undoubtedly, we are in challenging financial times, and cuts in New Zealand's health sector have affected many similar services," says Paula, adding other ways to support the community are being considered, such as volunteer-led groups. Any new services will continue to be inclusive and accessible, she says.

The board thanks the community for its continued aroha, support and understanding.

Visit www.birthcentre.co.nz for more information.

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of the strain at the end of your animal's journey, Animal Burial Services offer the following:

We provide a range of burial options, including onsite burials at placement of the owners' choosing, or offsite burials where we arrange transportation of the animal to be buried at one of our facilities.

We take care of all the logistics, equipped with diggers ranging from 1.7 ton to 5.5 ton, making the burial process easier and stress free. We can accommodate burials of large animals including horses, cows, sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, pigs, and deer.

Our team has a lot of experience, from high water tables to steep terrain, to cope with all situations encountered in animal burials. We are a local team that is compassionate, reliable, and professional.

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Visit animalburialservices.com



Embrace 2025: Start the year with intention and purpose

As we enter the new year, it's a perfect moment to reflect on the past and set a clear, intentional course for 2025. The start of a new year is not just about resolutions, but about embracing opportunities to grow and evolve. It's a time to reconnect with what truly matters and build a path that aligns with your values and aspirations.

Start by identifying what you want to cultivate in your life—whether it's better health, deeper relationships, or personal growth. This isn't about perfection, but about progress. Think of it as an opportunity to consciously choose how you want to show up for yourself and others.

Setting intentions for the new year means focusing on what you can control. Instead of vague goals, aim for specific, measurable steps that lead you toward meaningful change. For example, rather than simply aiming to "be healthier," focus on incorporating more vegetables into your meals or committing to regular exercise. This way, your goals are not just dreams—they're actionable, and they become part of your daily routine.

Remember, the beauty of a new year is its potential for new beginnings. It's a fresh slate—a chance to learn from the past and make intentional decisions that help you grow. No matter where you are in your journey, 2025 offers a new chance to move forward with purpose and clarity.

So, as you step into the new year, make it count. Start with intention and let this be the year you take meaningful strides toward becoming the person you're meant to be.



Food & Beverage

Halloumi with griddled vegetables

Ingredients

- 100g frozen broad beans
- 225g halloumi, cut into slices
- A small bunch of asparagus spears, trimmed and sliced
- 2 courgettes, finely sliced lengthways
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 shallots, finely sliced into rings
- 200g cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 tbsp capers
- A handful of sweet marjoram or oregano
- A handful of parsley leaves

Dressing

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp honey
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp cider vinegar

Method

1. Put the dressing ingredients in a clean jam jar and shake to combine. Set aside.
2. Cook the broad beans in boiling water for 5 minutes, or until tender. Drain and cool in cold water, then remove

- and discard the thick, white outer skins.
3. Cut the halloumi into slices, trim and slice the asparagus, then finely slice the courgettes lengthways. Toss in the olive oil, then season.
4. Heat a griddle pan over a high heat, then add the asparagus, courgettes and halloumi. Cook until nicely charred, remove and set aside.
5. Finely slice the shallots into rings, halve the tomatoes, then layer up on a platter with the asparagus, courgettes, halloumi, broad beans and capers.
6. Chop and scatter over the fresh herbs and finish with a drizzling of the dressing.

Jamie Oliver



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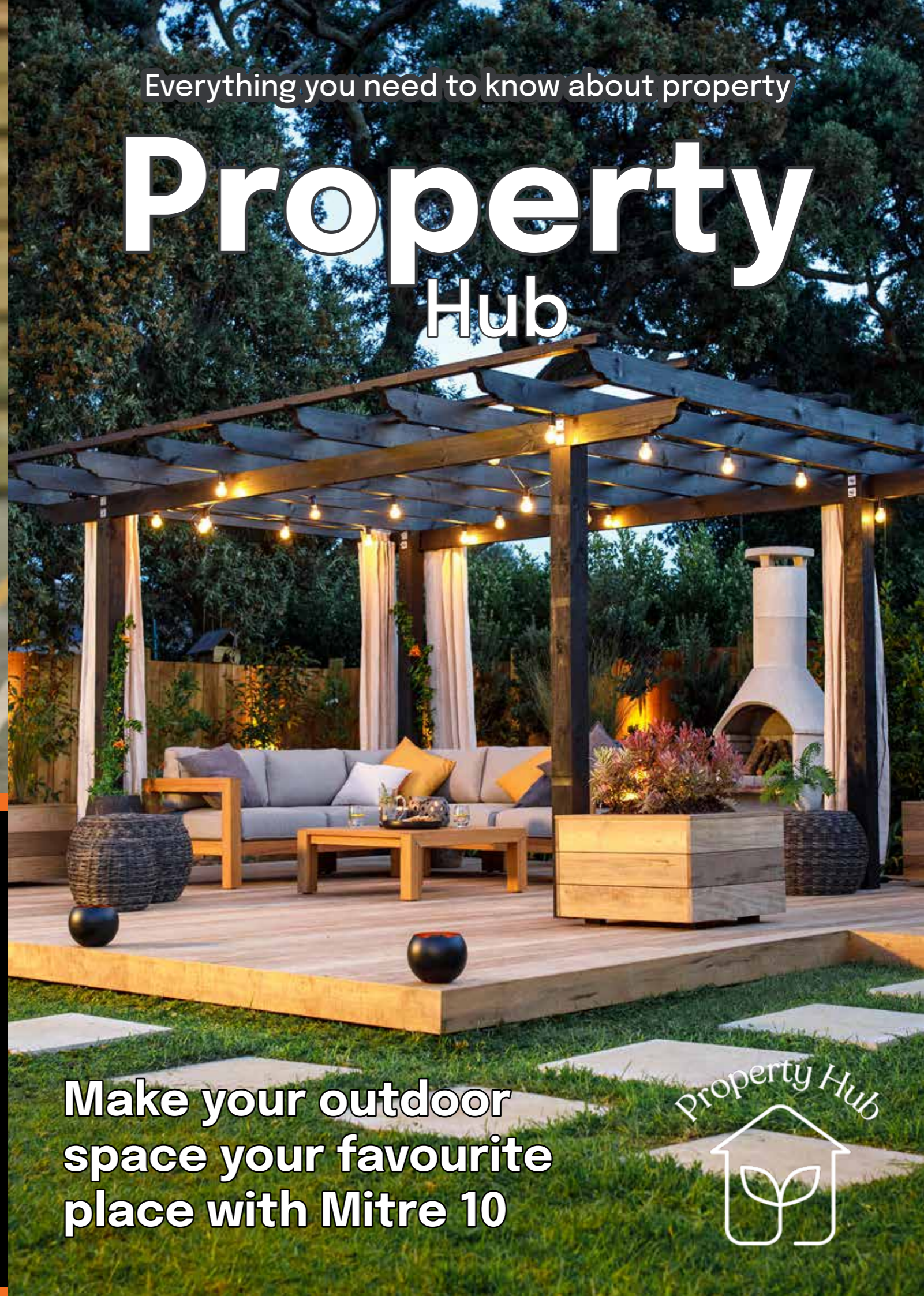
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Got a landscaping project on?

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Property News

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Make your outdoor space your favourite place



Landscaping your backyard or front garden is a fantastic way to enhance your property's value and create a welcoming outdoor retreat. Whether you're planning to tackle a full backyard makeover or just need a simple upgrade, DIY landscaping is an accessible and rewarding project. The key to success lies in having the right materials, tools, and guidance to bring your vision to life.

At Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate and Henderson, you'll find everything you need for your landscaping project. These stores boast an extensive range of hard and soft landscaping products, from durable paving and versatile decking to lush shrubs and premium outdoor timber. Their selection of outdoor furniture lets you complete your space with comfort and style. For fencing, explore their variety of timber, glass, and metal solutions to suit every aesthetic and functional need.

Not sure where to start? Visit Mitre 10 MEGA to pick up your free landscape guide. This helpful resource is packed with ideas and solutions to help making it easier to plan your dream outdoor space. Whether you're reimagining your backyard, adding privacy with fencing, or building an inviting deck or patio, the guide offers plenty of inspiration.

For those who prefer to leave the hard work to the experts, Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate and Henderson can connect you with skilled local landscapers or builders. These professionals can handle everything from design to execution, so you can sit back and enjoy the transformation.

Visit Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate or Henderson today and explore their full range of landscaping supplies. With the right materials and expert advice, your dream outdoor space is just a project away.

Northside Drive Westgate & Lincoln Road Henderson.

Property market report

Lower house prices and lower borrowing costs spark market

Small declines in both house prices and mortgage interest rates during November made home ownership the most affordable it has been for first home buyers since October 2021. And based on the Reserve Banks language the Official Cash rate looks set to decline through 2025.

According to the Real Estate Institute of New Zealand, the national median selling price declined from \$607,500 in October to \$599,000 in November.

That puts it just below where it was in November last year, \$600,000, but still well below its November 2021 peak of \$670,000.

At the same time the average of the two-year fixed mortgage rates has continued to decline, down to 5.63% in November from 5.68% in October and 7.04% in November last year.

The average two-year fixed rate is now at its lowest point since September 2022.

Slow but steady increases in personal household income are also helping.

Interest.co.nz estimates the median take home pay for working couples aged 25-29 has been increasing by about \$3 a month since the beginning of the year.

While none of the above would have made a significant impact on housing affordability levels on their own, when taken together they have made home ownership the most affordable it has been for typical first home buyers since October 2021.

Complete Property Management Solutions

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The mortgage interest rates in play today are:

Bank	Floating	2 Year
Kiwibank	7.25%	5.59%
ANZ	7.39%	5.59%
ASB	7.39%	5.49%
BNZ	7.54%	5.89%
TSB	7.39%	5.59%
Westpac	7.39%	5.49%

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

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

Call Graham McIntyre for a pre-sale check list, a market overview in your immediate area and a no obligation chat on 0276320421 or 0800 900 700. Graham McIntyre, Country Living Realty Limited t/a Raine and Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville

Rental market report

Changing sands in the Northwest rental market.

Firstly, the number of rental listings on market is the highest it's been since 2018.

Rental stock has risen by 40% in Auckland in the last 3 months (REINZ data). This will have the effect of reducing rents. Better Tenants will be looking for good value (ie garaging, outside space, multiple bathrooms, good streets) and are willing to pay a fair rental, however townhouse stock without these aspects will have to reduce their rents to find tenants.

It is a time that good Property Managers do their best work by attracting better tenants and gaining fair rents.

Many new builds coming up for completion, with a portion being for rent and for sale. A flood of new rentals increases the rental pool, and in turn reduces the rental prices, it's all supply and demand.

The median rent in New Zealand is \$600 (September 2024). That's up \$20 a week (3.45%) since the same time last year. In Auckland it remains steady at \$650 a week.

TradeMe data, shows there were 6,120,000 rental listing searches in November 2024. That's down 4% compared to November 2023.

On top of that, there were a total of 12,961 new rental listings that came onto TradeMe. That's up 21% on the same time last year.

So rental demand is down, and supply is up.

The average rental property listing is 22 days on TradeMe to November 2024, while the average in 2023 was 17 days. Indicating a softening of around 30%.

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

Call Graham McIntyre on 0276320421 or visit www.wapm.co.nz for more information. West Auckland Property Management.

The Importance of a Will



By Kristin Sumpter, ClearStone Legal

Although many of us prefer to avoid thinking about death, a will is a very important legal document that provides your instructions for treatment of your assets and final distribution of your Estate after you die. If you own any assets, even if only KiwiSaver initially, you should have a will.

Under your will you must appoint at least one trusted person as your executor, to be responsible for seeing that your will instructions are carried out and for administering the assets of your Estate until they are fully distributed to your beneficiaries. Your executor will generally require a lawyer to assist them with this process.

Your will specifies who you want to benefit from your Estate and what you intend that they receive. If appropriate you can appoint testamentary guardians who are responsible for decisions about your children's upbringing after your death. If you have a family trust or own shares in a company then relevant instructions should be included for these. Your will can also include funeral wishes.

If you already have a will it is important to review it about every 5 years, to make sure it is still fit for purpose. You should also update it for any significant life changes such as marriage or separation, or on the death or loss of mental capacity of anyone named in the will, or the formation or winding up of a trust.

Many people do not know that getting married invalidates

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their existing will unless it is made "in contemplation of marriage". It is also not well understood that a will does not deal with property owned as "joint tenants" with another person (such as your spouse or partner), as this passes to them by survivorship and bypasses the will

If you die without a valid will the person who will administer your Estate and those who will benefit from it are defined by law, determined by which family members survive you. If you want to have control and decide what happens to your assets and who you trust to look after your Estate after your death, then you should make a will.

There can be complex issues to consider when preparing a will and it is important to get it right. A poorly drafted or out dated will (or no will at all) can create problems that are costly to resolve. By having a well-crafted will in place, you will save your family a lot of additional stress, expense and delay at a time that they least need it.

Please contact us for further advice if you would like to have a will prepared or to update your current will to reflect a change in circumstances. Give us a call on 09-973-5102 or make a time to come and see us at either our Kumeu or Te Atatu office.

Your Local Builder: GJ's Rodney West



It's great to see an increase in enquiry with many now exploring the option of building as we continue to see large reductions in the Official Cash Rate. The banks have

been proactive in launching attractive packages tailored specifically to building.

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

Our showhomes continue to be popular, particularly our bespoke lifestyle showhome situated at 5 Wake Road, Coatesville. We are very proud to announce this beautiful home picked up the GJ Gardner International Showhome of the Year, amongst some outstanding competition from New Zealand, Australia and America.

If you haven't popped in yet, it's open 7 days a week from 12-4pm. And finally we have moved to new premises at 248 Main Road, Kumeu, be sure to pop in and say hi and meet our team, it's open 5 days a week or outside of this by appointment.

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

Proven Performance is about time and knowledge.



I recently completed a RYC qualification and an ICC qualification to allow me and my family the opportunity to charter yachts around the world and have a different kind of experience. To date we have chartered yachts in Thailand and Croatia.

I write about this because it highlights a few significant factors about proven performance that may be important to you. These factors apply in a yachting context but can easily relate to selling your property. Sailing and Real Estate are the same in that you make the best of external factors:

- In sailing we consider the wind, the direction and the strength. In Real Estate we consider the buyers in the market, the ability to get money and the strength of buyer engagement.
- In sailing we plan the route, time over distance and destination. Real Estate has a process, a course, and a time to achieve a result.
- In sailing we understand the principles of our vessel and it's capability. Real Estate has clear principles but a variable tide and changes that we must acknowledge and act upon.
- In sailing the conditions may force us to change our destination. The same in Real Estate, where you may want to sell, but the price you may achieve may force us to consider renting for 12 months until a better price can be achieved.

Raine & Horne.

Graham McIntyre
Licensed Agent
Kumeu | Hobsonville

rh.co.nz

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

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Proven performance therefore is not about the act of sailing or selling a home it is about understanding all the elements that co-exist, making the best decision at the best time and showing strength and patience in the eye of the storm or in the lull of the buyers decision making.

Having an agent that can make the decisions around selling or rentin your property is unique and invaluable.

I like to think that I apply all my skills and experience to my role selling homes as I do on the water keeping my family safe and ensuring the journey is smooth.

For me, the journey you experience in selling your home should be well planned and executed well, ensuring a great outcome.

Call me today: Graham McIntyre, Raine & Horne Real Estate, 0276320421 or email graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz

What's that neighbour planning?

A new property owner moved into their house, only to have their sea views blocked by a barn built on the neighbouring land – days after moving in.

We recommend that you only sign a Sale & Purchase agreement with a due diligence clause that allows you to withdraw from the agreement if you find out something which you are unhappy with about the property. Council LIM reports are a good starting point for finding out about major resource consents in the area, as well as any covenants that protect the property's views or prevent unsightly land use nearby.

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25 Orahā Road Kumeu



Constructions like barns often require a Resource Consent from the local council. If you are concerned about what a specific property owner might be planning, you can make a request to the relevant council for information on any Resource Consents or applications for the relevant property.

If you are looking to buy or sell a property, and are wanting more information on this or any other legal issues, you can contact Kemp Barristers & Solicitors at info@kempsolicitors.co.nz or 09 412 6000.

Are You Mortgage Ready?



So you or someone you know have decided that 2025 is going to be your year of owning your own home!

It's important to understand what the banks look for in the mortgage approval process – are you Mortgage ready?

4 Things That Will Help You Prepare

1. Check Your Credit Score.

Your credit score provides banks with valuable insights into how you manage your debts. A clean credit history increases your chances of a successful application as it demonstrates responsible borrowing behaviour.

Before applying for a home loan, obtain a copy of your credit file to check for any negative marks that could impact your application.

The most popular sites to do this are Centrix, Equifax, or ClearScore.

2. How Is Your Bank Account Looking?

Good Account conduct is essential when applying for a home loan.

The banks will want to look at the last 3 months of your bank account statements to make sure you are managing your money responsibly.

If you go into overdraft on your accounts regularly this can be seen as a negative so you will need to watch this closely.

Loan Market

Stephen Massey
Mortgage Adviser
stephen.massey@loanmarket.co.nz
021 711 444
Let's chat.

3. Clear The Debt Decks.

Having outstanding short-term debts, such as credit cards, BNPL (Buy Now Pay Later) or personal loans, can definitely impact your borrowing eligibility.

Before applying for a home loan, it's beneficial to try and pay off any existing debts.

Prioritise paying off high-interest debt first to minimise your ongoing interest charges which will help to free up more funds to pay down your other debt or boost your deposit!

4. Talk to a Mortgage Adviser Upfront

The best time to involve a Mortgage Adviser is the moment you decide that you are going to buy your own home.

A Mortgage Adviser can assess your financial situation upfront and highlight the things you need to clean up or concentrate on first, which will save you a lot of time and hassle.

To get Mortgage ready, Stephen Massey – Loan Market, Call 021 711 444 or check out my website loanmarket.co.nz/stephen-massey.

Welcome!



Introducing Trina Offenbaker as the newest face of West Auckland Property Management.

Trina has recently returned to NZ from nearly 13 years abroad in Perth. Before jetting off to Australia Trina spent most of her youth and early adult life in Whenuapai with her immediate family still living or working close by today.

Trina predominately comes from a background in Accounts and Office Management so money talk and the need to get the job done is right up her alley. When not at work you will find Trina in nature with her two school aged children in tow, if not in the bush she'll be at the ice rink watching her son play ice hockey and most recently achieved her long-standing



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dream of upcycling her first piece of furniture. With a friendly, warm and empathetic personality mixed with a fierce determination to succeed in every role she takes on we think she is the perfect addition to our team here at WAPM.

Wecome, Trina Offenbaker

Property Manager, West Auckland Property Management

A: 2 Clark Road, Hobsonville T: 09 832 0832 M: 0274 998 415 E: office@wapm.co.nz

Real Estate - why choose lower fees



When you make the decision to sell your property you may think about a range of options. At this point it is helpful to think about all the

elements including fees and charges.

At Raine & Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville we have a lower fee structure which starts at 2.95% and further reduces to 1.95%. It also includes exclusive marketing options not available anywhere else and a very handy marketing rebate of up to \$3,000 on any marketing upgrades you undertake.

It is our way of supporting your real estate journey to ensure it is fair, transparent and adds significant value to you.

Likewise, we are happy to negotiate our fee and costs at point of sale to ensure we are an active participant in the process.

If you are seeking more value for your real estate experience and would like to understand the value that is delivered to you, please call

Graham McIntyre, Raine & Horne Kumeu - Hobsonville on 0276320421 or email graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz

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4a Shamrock Drive Kumeu, Auckland

Area Property Stats

PROPERTY-HUB.NZ

25

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

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA	LAND AREA	SALE PRICE
Bethells	Tasman View Road	\$970,000	3	110	830m2	\$970,000
Coatesville	Coatesville Riverhead Hwy	\$1,600,000			12000m2	\$1,700,000
	Robinson Road	\$4,000,000	5	554m2	17500m2	\$5,300,000
Herald Island	Ferry Parade	\$1,299,000	4	150m2		\$1,695,000
Helensville	Cabeleigh Drive	\$840,000	3	105m2	537m2	\$775,000
	Inland Road	\$1,250,000	4	132m2	10300m2	\$1,500,000
	Hutchinson Road	\$2,850,000	3	425m2	719000m2	\$2,400,000
	Mahi Road	\$1,150,000	4	217m2	571m2	\$1,158,000
	Mangakura Road	\$1,550,000	4	135m2	45600m2	\$830,000
	Minerva Avenue	\$1,000,000	4	155m2	600m2	\$965,000
Hobsonville	Bomb Point Drive	\$1,705,000	4	226m2	311m2	\$1,460,000
	Eyton Kay Road	\$1,065,000	4	138m2	257m2	\$1,149,000
	Eyton Kay Road	\$1,065,000	3	413m2	153m2	\$987,500
	Eyton Kay Road	\$1,175,000	3	147m2	222m2	\$1,175,000
	Hobsonville Point Roa	\$715,000	1			\$565,000
	Kotuku Lane	\$1,235,000	4	176m2	222m2	\$1,195,000
	Limestone Drive	\$1,300,000	5	178m2	192m2	\$1,180,000
	Marine Parade	\$1,118,000	3	178m2	115m2	\$1,150,000
	Mollusc Road	\$720,000	1		156m2	\$620,000
	Rangihina Road	\$625,000	1	66m2		\$630,000
	Raranga lane	\$925,000	3	109m2		\$750,000
	Sidney Wallingford Way	\$915,000	3	97m2	149m2	\$810,000
	Te Aho Matua Road	\$1,085,000	3	138m2	176m2	\$1,050,000
	Treloar Crescent	\$825,000	2	70m2	92m2	\$790,000
	Walter Merton Road	\$110,5000	3	132m2	168m2	\$1,010,000
	Wiseley Road	\$1,420,000	4	218m2	541m2	\$1,420,000
Huapai	Croatia Avenue	\$1,375,000	5	215m2	426m2	\$1,238,000
	Huarahi Pai Road	\$1,250,000	3	176m2	515m2	\$1,059,000
	Oraha Road	\$1,175,000	2	103m2	1080m2	\$1,160,000
	Orchard Lane	\$1,575,000	4	211m2	1510m2	\$1,665,000
	Paihere Street,	\$1,200,000	4	168m2	483m2	\$1,175,000
	Pinotage Place	\$1,075,000	3	170m2	809m2	\$1,041,000
	Station Road	\$1,475,000	4	226m2	1854m2	\$1,400,000
	Tapu Road	\$1,350,000	4	188m2	604m2	\$1,230,000
Kumeu	Jane Maree Road	\$790,000	2	110m2	165m2	\$782,500
	Nellie Drive	\$1,000,000	3			
	Papa Orchard Drive	\$1,350,000	4	208m2	448m2	\$1,203,300
	Podgora Avenue	\$980,000	3	159m2	178m2	\$950,000
	Ropere Street	\$1,200,000	4	183m2	361m2	\$1,170,000
	Sauterne Road	\$5,200,000	4	194m2	40000m2	\$4,800,000
Massey	Cityview Place	\$1,175,000	4	157m2	454m2	\$1,054,000
	Cushla Place	\$1,050,000	3	90m2	674m2	\$835,000
	Cyclarama Crescent	\$720,000	2	70m2	91m2	\$615,000
	Forsythe Place	\$1,200,000	4	220m2	946m2	\$1,239,000
	Jammen Drive	\$1,275,000	4	200m2	509m2	\$1,025,000
	Royal Road	\$1,050,000	3	140m2	400m2	\$1,000,000
	Sunline Avenue	\$1,060,000	3	130m2	605m2	\$850,000
	Waimoana Close	\$1,125,000	4	182m2	225m2	\$995,000
	Woodside Road	\$1,525,000	2	100m2	939m2	\$880,000
Muriwai						No Sales
Parakai	Parkhurst Road	\$465,000	1	65m2	0	\$410,000

SUBURB	STREET	CV	BED	FLOOR AREA	LAND AREA	SALE PRICE
Riverhead	Albert Street	\$1,650,000	4	222m2	810m2	\$1,825,000
	Pohutukawa Parade	\$1,400,000	4	209m2	601m2	\$1,475,000
Swanson	Forbes McCammon Drive	\$1,015,000	4	156m2	194m2	\$895,000
	O'Neills Road	\$1,825,000	5	282m2	40300m2	\$1,880,000
	Pooks Road	\$1,000,000	4	140m2	695m2	\$722,000
	Puketaha Road	\$1,025,000	2	90m2	1274m2	\$896,500
Taupaki						No Sales
Waimauku	Solan Drive	\$1,650,000	4	224m2	1600m2	\$1650,000
	Mahana Road	\$2,350,000	5	208m2	52900m2	\$1,800,000
	Waikoukou Valley Road	\$1,250,000	5	268m2	1558m2	\$1,150,000
	Waimauku Station Roda	\$1,125,000	4	200m2	1246m2	\$950,000
Waitakere	Bethells Road	\$1,250,000	3	200m2	1600m2	\$1,089,000
	Gregory Road	\$1,325,000	3	114m2	42100	\$1,430,000
	Mokoroa Valley Road	\$2,225,000	4	315m2	11000m2	\$2,800,000
	Northfield Road	\$1,000,000	4	103m2	809m2	\$800,000
	Waitakere Road	\$1,070,000	4	234m2	21500	\$1,070,000
West Harbour	Ballial Place	\$1,050,000	4	167m2	201m2	\$1,070,000
	Bluefin Way	\$1,480,000	4	230m2	674m2	\$1,515,000
	Connemara Court	\$1,235,000	4	210m2	597m2	\$1,295,000
	Crosby Road	\$1,000,000	4	140m2	160m2	\$844,000
	Horizon Way	\$1,575,000	5	320m2	725m2	\$1,300,000
	Kerlin Crescent	\$1,420,000	4	210m2	451m2	\$1,265,000
	Moire Road	\$870,000	4	93m2	411m2	\$838,000
	West Harbour Drive	\$1,350,000	4	240m2	742m2	\$1,100,000
	West Harbour Drive	\$1,555,000	4	180m2	770m2	\$1,202,000
	Woodman Place	\$1,375,000	4	170m2	758m2	\$900,000
Whenuapai	Harewood Street	\$1,080,000	4	170M2	213M2	\$1,080,000
	Oyster Drive	\$779,000	2	84M2	103M2	\$779,000
	Riverlea Road	\$1,205,000	2	84m2	809m2	\$1,005,000
	Samuel Marsden Place	\$830,000	2	85m2	104m2	\$774,000

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

Raine & Horne's commission rate:

2.95% upto \$590,000

(Not 4% that others may charge)

1.95% on the balance

Plus \$490 admin fee.

All fees and commissions + GST

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

Raine & Horne

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

Graham McIntyre
Brand & Territory Owner
027 632 0421





Paradise in Hobsonville - 3 bed stand alone

7 Meteor Road Hobsonville

Seldom found this is a freestanding brick home set in a quiet environment well off the main roads and opposite a park.

Offering wonderful open plan living with sliders opening up to North facing patio. If you crave the sunshine this home has it in abundance.

A single garage for car or storage with downstairs guest toilet.

Upstairs the footprint comes to life with three generous bedrooms, light filled and two bathrooms.

This home shows at an extremely high standard.

Space and light are in abundance within this well presented home, uncompromised and unencumbered, this is truly the jewel in the Hobsonville Crown. Such a rare option for buyers to purchase a home with good privacy, excellent parking around it, sunshine everywhere and green spaces out the window.

Get in touch today to view

Graham McIntyre 027 632 0421

Graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz

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



A modern kitchen and dining area featuring a dark grey dining table with a marble top, set with green dishes and glasses. A large vase with dried flowers sits on the table. In the background, a kitchen island with a sink and a dark grey cabinet is visible, along with light wood cabinetry and a glass-paned door.

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G.J. Gardner. HOMES



319 Don Buck Road, Massey

3 Bed 1 Bath 2 Car

Best in the West - Brick and Tile

Stop the Press:

- Brick and Tile, (well maintained and presented)
- 4 rooms (3 bedrooms and a hobby room or 4th bedroom)
- Generous Living flowing to outside patio
- Entertainer Kitchen with Views to the Skytower
- Decking, home opens to the East
- Amazing 1123 sqm section
- Double tandem garage and workshop
- Motivation and enthusiasm

It's going to sell, a one of a kind, first time on market in over 25 years, an absolute gem, in the middle of everything an yet quiet, removed and remote when your on the deck or patio with the sun on your shoulder and the view as far as the eye can see. Come and join us, view this amazing home and property and see if you have what it takes to take the reins of this idyllic stately home. CV has no relevance, our Vendor instructions are to sell.

By Negotiation



Graham McIntyre
027 632 0421



421 Kiwitahi Road, Helensville

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

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

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

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

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

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

Guide
\$829,000



Graham McIntyre
027 632 0421





29 Sunny Crescent, Huapai

4 Bed 2 Bath 2 Car

Hinuera stone on 1/2 acre - Beautiful setting

Seldom found this is an outstanding mini-lifestyler in an urban setting, offering the best of urban and lifestyle living. Offering the good life in so many ways, the home has been meticulously crafted to deliver functionality and beautiful form. Clad in Hinuera split face, kiln fired stone, it offers a special exclusive style that merges seamlessly decking and patio entertaining. Extensive sliders deliver the outside in, enjoying open plan lounge-dining and kitchen-cozy meeting the dynamic needs of family living. Hardwood flooring that takes your breath away. All bedrooms, bathroom and laundry off a central corridor. Master, ensuite and walk in wardrobe also enjoys slider access to north facing decking. Smart and sustainable services with solar hot water, wet back, ventilation and heat transfer systems, uncompromised insulation, and significant loft storage space which could see further development. Over 500 square meters of raised bed gardens, fruiting trees, delivers an orchard and market garden at your doorstep. A short stroll to shops, schools, park and transport links. So if you're a family looking for the good life - you've just found it.

Guide
By Negotiation



96 Pomona Road, Kumeu

4 Bed 1 Bath 4 Car

Beautiful, North Facing, Kumeu Lifestyle living

We are viewing most properties on a daily basis and are excited to get you through this home. Text me a time/day that suits you to view on 027 632 0421.

Guide
Negotiation

A short drive to Kumeu and Westgate - one of the best lifestyle addresses in Kumeu.

Cultivate your future in this North-facing opportunity-a sprawling 4-hectare canvas of colour and established plantings that promises a life of endless possibilities. Immerse yourself in the natural kaleidoscope that surrounds a charming four-bedroom traditional bungalow, basking in the warm embrace of full sunshine and showcasing extensive rural views of the valley below. Level to gently sloping, sunny and sheltered, the land offers many opportunities to develop or leave it as is to enjoy your rural idyll. Some potential income streams that only require your effort to exploit. Add to this your very own nature reserve, garaging for 3-4 vehicles and your imagination will take flight.





A home where memories are made

199 Nixon Road, Taupaki, Auckland

Elevated countryside living, with sleepout, barns, sheds, offices, studios and more within this leafy paradise.

A nod to the past with this well presented, modernised lockwood home with accents of white to set off the blonde timber. A large five bedroom, three bathroom home, with additional space for offices/ study/ sleepout/

games room. Central open plan living and dining opening to decking and pool area.

All the rooms and bathrooms are off the central corridor with easy access to boardwalk decking.

Centrally located on the land the house is in an elevated position, the barns and sheds share the driveway providing easy access and storage for a toys and tools, friends and family.

Set in a park-like glade, full of established trees and easy care flat lawn with a paddock for play, a tree for a treehouse and room to explore, to craft and create.

Life is too short for concrete and tarmac, discover a life with natures best, so private and tranquil but so close to amenities, schools and convenience stores when you want them.

Get in touch today to view

Graham McIntyre 027 632 0421

Graham.mcintyre@kumeu.rh.co.nz

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



24/ 18 Williams Road, Hobsonville

2 Bed 1 Bath 1 Car

Sun filled Brick & Tile, over 55's Sanctuary

This boutique and well appointed over 55's village provides an excellent environment, community and sun filled quiet home, out of the hustle and bustle but close enough to walk to convenience shopping, parks and bus stop. The land is flat but elevated, out of flow paths and out of flood plains. Built to last, this brick and tile two bedroom home with single garage has been refurbished and is presented to a very high standard, with new kitchen and new carpet. Generous space inside and out side that will allow you the canvas to create your home and garden, just the way you like it. The home has been invested in, with attic stairs to access ceiling storage area, a moisture reduction system and heat pump, all designed to make the living environment the best possible. The neighbors are engaging, fun and the community is inclusive which allows you to have time for yourself or shared with activity and events. A great time to view, a fabulous option to invest in.

Guide
Negotiation



18 Peters Lane, Taupaki

Sun kissed, north facing house and land package

A large north facing canvas, with natural water course and established plantings with options to select the best house and land package for you, including home and income options. Elevated rolling land with views to Kumeu and beyond, the houses selected are designed to make the most of the aspect and the outlook. This land is historical and original clay base which has no historical slip effects nor movement lines. In addition much of the area is slowly moving to countryside living which allows for great intensification within this residential lifestyle community. Please survey the house and land package options outlined and book a walk-the-land meeting with leading Taupaki agent and local resident Graham McIntyre. Renders and pricing for House and Land Packages provided by:
GJ Gardner indicative value \$3,479,000 approx. enquire for further information
Golden Homes indicative value \$3,798,000 approx. enquire for further information
Signature Homes indicative value \$3,326,500 approx. enquire for further information

Guide
Negotiation





22 Zingaro Place, Massey

3 Bed 1 Bath 2 Car

2 Car Garaging, Big Workshop, Sunny, Elevated

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

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

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

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

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

Guide
By Negotiation



Graham McIntyre
027 632 0421



26 Squadron Drive, Hobsonville

2 Bed 2 Bath 1 Car

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

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

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

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

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

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

Guide
Negotiation



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Home & Garden

The Rise of Customized Tiny Homes: Small Builds located in the heart of Kumeu.



In today's fast-paced world, the demand for simple, efficient, and affordable living spaces is skyrocketing. A rapidly growing sector that's helping turn dreams of sustainable, customized tiny homes into reality. These compact, efficient homes are redefining how we approach living space and Small Builds are at the forefront of this transformation.

Tiny homes are much more than a passing trend; they represent a lifestyle shift toward minimalism, environmental responsibility, and financial freedom.

With housing prices on the rise, many individuals and families are choosing to downsize, seeking homes that offer the essentials without the burden of excess. What makes tiny homes even more appealing is the ability to fully customize every aspect, from the layout to the materials used, allowing owners to create a space that perfectly suits their needs.

Small Builds specialize in delivering personalized tiny homes that reflect the unique tastes and preferences of our clients. We take the time to understand each customer's vision, working closely with you to create designs that maximize space and functionality while incorporating sustainable features. Whether you're seeking a cozy retreat in the countryside, a versatile backyard studio, air b and b for secondary income or a granny flat for family, our tiny homes offer endless possibilities.

Sustainability is often at the heart of these tiny homes. With a focus on energy-efficient designs, eco-friendly materials, and off-grid capabilities, Small Builds are ensuring their homes have minimal environmental impact.

As the tiny home movement gains momentum, Small Builds are helping to make sustainable, customized living a reality for many. Our dedication to creating unique, well-crafted spaces is shaping the future of housing in a world that values efficiency, sustainability, and individuality.

Located at 869 Waitakere Road Kumeu Ph Paul on 021378277 Email info@smallbuilds.co.nz for a no obligation quote.

www.smallbuilds.co.nz

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Onsite Building Inspections



Onsite Building Inspections is a professional Building Inspection service based in Auckland, New Zealand, dedicated to providing comprehensive evaluations for both home buyers and sellers. Recognizing that a property transaction is often one of the most significant investments individuals undertake, their mission is to ensure clients are fully informed about the condition of a property before making decisions.

Services Offered:

- Pre-Purchase Inspections: Designed for prospective buyers and their lenders, these inspections offer a thorough assessment of a property's current state, ensuring transparency and confidence in the purchasing process.
- Pre-Sale Inspections: Tailored for vendors, these evaluations identify potential issues before listing a property, facilitating smoother transactions and informed pricing strategies.

Expertise and Qualifications:

The team at Onsite Building Inspections comprises qualified, licensed building practitioners with extensive experience in current building codes and practices. Founder Justin Mackay, a Licensed Building Practitioner with a Bachelor of Business Studies from Massey University, brings years of hands-on experience in building and renovating houses across the Auckland area.

Technology and Tools:

Utilizing advanced technology, Onsite Inspections employs digital devices, moisture detection meters, thermal imaging cameras and drones when necessary to detect and analyze potential issues accurately.

Availability:

Understanding the time-sensitive nature of real estate transactions, Onsite Building Inspections offers services seven days a week, ensuring clients can proceed with their property dealings without unnecessary delays.

For more detailed information or to schedule an inspection, visit their website at <https://www.onsiteinspections.nz>.

Engaging with Onsite Building Inspections ensures that both buyers and sellers have a clear, professional understanding of a property's condition, facilitating informed decisions in the real estate market.

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At North West Cabins we believe you should have it all.

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Contact us today to learn more or come see us at 9/17 Mill Road Helensville

ONSITE BUILDING INSPECTIONS

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- Pre-Sale Building Inspections
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DIY landscaping with Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson



Welcome, garden enthusiasts and DIYers. Dreaming of a beautiful outdoor space doesn't have to mean hiring a pro or spending a fortune. With the right tools, materials, and some creativity, you can transform your backyard into a stunning oasis.

Here's a step-by-step guide to start your landscaping journey with essential items found at Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson.

1. Planning Your Dream Yard

Start by sketching out your vision:

- **Measure and Mark:** Use a tape measure to size your space accurately and mark boundaries with landscape marking paint or chalk.
- **Plot Your Path:** Consider pathways, planting areas, patios, or water features. Flag stakes and string can help visualise your layout.
- **Pick a Style:** Decide if you want a modern, cottage, tropical, or desert vibe—this will guide your plant and material choices.

2. Preparing the Groundwork

A clean foundation is key:

- **Weed and Clear:** Grab a rake, hoe, and pruners to remove weeds, rocks, and debris. A good pair of gloves will protect your hands.
- **Level and Grade:** To ensure proper drainage, level the ground and add a slight slope. Levelling tools or a basic level work well here.
- **Soil Prep:** Enrich your soil with compost or topsoil for better plant growth. Use a garden fork or tiller to mix it in evenly.

3. Building Pathways and Patios

Hardscaping gives structure to your space:

- **Path Materials:** From pavers to gravel or stepping stones, you can find all options at Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson. Start with landscape fabric to prevent weeds.
- **Edging for Structure:** Landscape edging keeps paths neat and prevents plant overgrowth. Edging tools and mallets will help create clean lines.

- **Install Pavers:** Place sand or gravel as a base layer, then add your pavers in the desired pattern, ensuring they're level and stable.

4. Planting the Essentials

Plants add life and colour:

- **Trees and Shrubs:** Begin with larger elements like trees and shrubs for height and privacy. Be sure to grab mulch to keep roots cool and retain moisture.
- **Perennials and Ground Cover:** For a low-maintenance yard, choose hardy plants. Ask the garden professionals at Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson for region-friendly plant suggestions.

- **Raised Garden Beds:** Building a raised bed? Stock up on untreated lumber, soil, and hardware to construct a simple frame. Raised beds help protect plants and offer easier access.

5. Adding Accents and Features Make it uniquely yours:

- **Lighting:** Solar or LED pathway lights create ambiance while ensuring safety after dark.
- **Water Features:** Small fountains or ponds are surprisingly easy to DIY. Grab a fountain pump, waterproof liner, and decorative rocks to get started.
- **Seating & Décor:** Outdoor benches or garden art can be a nice touch. Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson carry weather-resistant paint for updating old furniture.

6. Mulching and Maintenance

Complete your landscape:

- **Mulch for Beds:** Lay down a generous layer of mulch around plants to reduce weeds and retain moisture.
- **Maintenance Must-Haves:** A basic toolkit—pruners, a watering can or hose, and plant food—will help keep your landscape healthy year-round.
- **Seasonal Cleanup:** Leaf blowers and rakes make cleanup easy, while weed barriers and pre-emergent herbicides prevent seasonal invaders.

With these basics, you're ready to transform your outdoor space. Stop by Mitre 10 MEGA Westgate & Henderson for expert advice, tools, and supplies to make your landscaping dreams a reality. Dive in, get your hands dirty, and watch your dream yard take shape.



New Year, New Home: Why 2025 Could Be the Perfect Time to Build



As the new year begins, many of us take the time to reflect on the year that was—and what we want for the year ahead. For some, this means rethinking their living situation. If your home feels outdated, too small, or no longer suits your needs, it could be the right moment to consider a change—perhaps even building a new home that better fits your lifestyle.

For those thinking about a fresh start in 2025, Signature

Homes West & North-West Auckland could be an option worth exploring.

They specialise in custom-built homes, helping clients create spaces that truly fit their lifestyle. Whether you're after a new design or a home that reflects your unique style, the process of building from scratch offers the freedom to create a home that's entirely your own.

Why now? New Zealand's building standards are globally recognised for energy efficiency, durability, and liveability. A new home offers lower maintenance costs, modern features, and the peace of mind that comes with guarantees like fixed pricing and no hidden costs. Plus, with the recent drop in the Official Cash Rate (OCR), securing a mortgage or increasing your borrowing potential has become more achievable, making the dream of building more accessible. Additionally, new builds are tailor-made to your specific needs and lifestyle, allowing you to avoid the compromises often required with pre-existing homes.

Starting the journey towards a new home can feel daunting, but there's no harm in simply asking questions and gathering information. Reaching out to Signature Homes West & North-West Auckland is a chance to explore what's possible—whether it's house and land, subdivide, knock down and rebuild, or design and build.

Call 0800 020 600 to find out more it costs nothing to enquire, and you might discover more options than you thought possible.



New Year New Home?

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Your seasonal garden



In February and March, New Zealand transitions from summer to autumn, bringing a variety of fresh vegetables to enjoy. Here's a guide to the best veggies, how to grow them, and some easy tips:

- Tomatoes: Plant in full sun with well-drained soil. Space 45 cm apart and provide regular water and support. Prune regularly to improve air circulation and prevent disease.
- Capsicum (Bell Peppers): Start indoors or buy seedlings. Grow in sunny spots with well-drained soil, spacing 45 cm apart. Keep warm and water regularly. Mulch to retain moisture and protect from cold winds.

- Pumpkin: Sow seeds in rich, well-drained soil in a sunny location, leaving space for spreading (2-3 meters). Water deeply and mulch to retain moisture. Harvest when the skin hardens and the stem dries.

- Carrots: Directly sow seeds in loose, sandy soil. Space about 30 cm apart and thin seedlings as they grow. Keep soil moist and weed-free. For sweeter carrots, harvest after light frost.

- Cabbage: Plant seedlings in rich soil with plenty of sun. Space 30-45 cm apart and keep consistently moist. Mulch and monitor for pests like caterpillars and aphids.

- Spinach: Sow seeds in partial shade or full sun in well-moist soil. Space 25 cm apart. Keep the soil moist and harvest outer leaves first to allow inner leaves to grow.

- Broccoli: Start seeds indoors or buy seedlings. Grow in well-drained soil, spacing 45 cm apart. Water regularly and mulch. Harvest the main head before florets open.

- Cauliflower: Like broccoli, grow in cool weather with fertile soil. Space 45-60 cm apart. Water consistently and blanch heads by covering them with leaves.

- Beetroot: Sow directly in well-drained soil, spacing 10 cm apart. Water regularly and thin seedlings to allow space for roots to grow large.

- Kale: Space 30 cm apart in fertile soil. Water regularly but let soil dry between waterings. Kale is hardy and can tolerate light frost, enhancing its flavor.

These vegetables thrive in February and March, providing a delicious, seasonal harvest.



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Young Learners

Science experiments- Gumboots Early Learning



Arthur C Clarke said "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic" and children love the magic that science reveals for them.

As children start their educational journey, science fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving. At Gumboots, we conduct simple experiments with everyday items to spark engaging discussions.

One recent experiment was "Invisible Ink," using just a few basic materials.

Invisible Ink Experiment

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup warm water
- 1 tablespoon baking soda
- 6 squirts hand sanitizer
- A pinch of turmeric
- 1 container

Method:

1. Dissolve baking soda in warm water.
2. Let children use the mixture to paint or print handprints on paper, then let it dry.
3. While the paper is drying, mix the hand sanitiser with the turmeric.
4. Paint over the dried paper with the turmeric mixture to reveal the handprint.

The Science Behind It: The baking soda creates an alkaline



environment that changes turmeric's colour from yellow in acidic conditions to reddish orange in alkaline conditions, revealing the hidden design.

Children's Learnings: This experiment helps children understand concepts like cause and effect - how turmeric is affected by the baking soda and causes the

colour change. It also introduces the difference between "visible" and "invisible" and shows how things can shift between the two states.

Elephant's Toothpaste Experiment

Another great experiment, if you're willing to visit your local pharmacy, is "Elephant's Toothpaste." This experiment uses mostly ingredients you likely already have at home, with just one ingredient you'll need to pick up.

Ingredients:

- 125 ml (3%) hydrogen peroxide
- A squirt of dishwashing liquid
- A few drops of food colouring
- 2 tablespoons warm water
- 1 teaspoon fast-acting yeast

Method:

1. Place a clean bottle in a tray to catch overflow.
2. An adult will use a funnel to add hydrogen peroxide to the bottle.
3. Add dish soap and food colouring and gently swirl.
4. Mix yeast and warm water in a separate container.
5. When you're ready for the experiment, have an adult pour the yeast mixture into the bottle and step back to watch the eruption.

The Science Behind It: The eruption occurs because yeast acts as a catalyst (something that speeds up a chemical reaction), breaking down hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen, producing bubbles that create an exciting foamy reaction.

Learning Outcomes:

This experiment effectively teaches children safe practices in science. It's crucial to emphasize that some chemicals can be harmful, so we wear gloves when handling them. Additionally, it demonstrates gas formation and how soap traps gas to create bubbles, while clearly showing the cause-and-effect relationship when the mixture erupts.

Why Experiments In General Are Great for Kids:

These experiments are great for young children because they are visually engaging and use simple materials that are often found at home or nearby stores. Their hands-on nature promotes active learning, fostering curiosity and involvement in education. Additionally, they encourage children to ask questions like "How?" or "Why?", leading to further exploration and experimentation.



Kumeu Library



The year is well underway, and Kumeu Library's regular activities are also starting up for the year - it's a great time to try something new for 2025!

Activities for Children:

Storytime: Mondays and Saturdays at 10.30am - Stories, songs, rhymes and a fun activity for children aged 3 to 5 years - Storytime happens every week, even during the school holidays.

Homeschool Make: Build: Do: Wednesdays during school terms at 10.30am, starting 5 February - An hour of constructing, creating and fun for children aged 8 to 13.

After-School Make: Build: Do: Thursdays during school terms at 3.30pm for children aged 8 to 13, starting 9

February - What can you achieve in one hour?

Rhymetime: Fridays at 9.30 -10.00am - for pre-schoolers aged 18 months to 3 years. Rhymetime continues through all the school holidays.

Wriggle & Rhyme: Fridays during school terms at 10.30 -11.00am, starting 7 February - active movement for babies 0 to 2 years.

Activities for Adults:

Brain Charge for Adults: Tuesdays at 2.00pm during school terms, starting 4 February - give your brain a weekly workout to keep it active!

Book Chat: The first Tuesday of every month at 10.30am, starting 4 February - come and chat about the good books you have read lately while enjoying morning tea.

Book Club: 7.00pm on the 4th Thursday of each month, starting 23 January. Join in our lively discussions - every month we read a different author, genre or theme!

Other Services at Kumeu Library:

Justice of the Peace: Saturdays from 10.00 am to 12 noon.

Computers: Free WiFi, public computer access, and scanning. Printing is also available (cost applies).

Council Services

There's always something happening at Kumeu Library - follow us on Facebook to keep up-to-date

www.facebook.com/kumeulibrary



Don't miss out-come along and be part of the fun!

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

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

Check out Connected Neighbourhoods Trust facebook page for more details.

Tips for Easing Preschool Kids Back to Daycare

1. Re-establish Routines: Gradually adjust sleep and morning schedules before daycare starts.
2. Talk Positively: Highlight the fun aspects of daycare and talk about it in an excited way.
3. Visit the Daycare: Familiarise your child with the daycare environment before the first day.
4. Create a Goodbye Ritual: Develop a consistent, comforting goodbye routine to make parting easier.
5. Provide Reassurance: Reassure them that daycare is a fun and safe place, and you'll return to pick them up.
6. Keep Drop-offs Short: Make goodbyes quick and calm to avoid long emotional moments.
7. Give Them Something to Look Forward To: Plan something fun after daycare to keep them excited.
8. Be Patient: Allow time for the adjustment and celebrate small victories along the way.

This approach will help ease the transition back into daycare smoothly for both kids and parents!



Family fun



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

These events are not just about having fun—they're about creating connections. When neighbours come together, it strengthens the bonds within our community, making it not only more vibrant but also safer and more resilient. A connected neighbourhood is one where people look out for each other, share in good times, and come together during challenges.

In the summer months, make sure to mark your calendar and join us for the afternoon. Whether you're new to the area or a longtime resident, this is the perfect chance to meet your neighbours, enjoy some lighthearted activities, and create memories that will last all year.





Aged care

A pillar of dedication at Craigweil House

At Craigweil House, we are proud to introduce you to the incredible people who make our facility so special. One of them is Pipak Smith, whose loyalty and dedication over the past 13 years have made her an integral part of our team.

Pipak's journey began in Nakae, Thailand, where she discovered her passion for healthcare. After years as a registered nurse, she moved to Parakai, New Zealand, in 2005. In January 2012, she joined Craigweil House, where she found her true calling as a caregiver.

Her unwavering commitment to Craigweil House and its residents has been a cornerstone of her career. For Pipak, working here is more than a job—it's a vocation and a privilege.



She looks forward to continuing her work, strengthening the community she holds so dear.

If you'd like to discover what makes Craigweil House so special, call us at 094208277 to arrange a visit. We'd be delighted to welcome you and share our story.

Come to Country Club Huapai's Village Alive Market Day



You may have noticed the Country Club Huapai evolving beautifully over the past few years. Maybe you've savored a meal at the stunning café or visited family

and friends lucky enough to call this neighborhood gem home. For those who haven't had the pleasure, here's your chance to explore a truly exceptional place. Nestled on 6.3 hectares of what was once the Nobilo vineyard, this modern lifestyle village is a luxurious retreat designed for the young-at-heart aged sixty and above, where life is all about indulgence and fun.

And now you too can come and have fun with family and friends at Country Club Huapai's 2025 Village Alive Market Day.

It's an open invitation to immerse yourself in a day packed with excitement, community spirit, and delicious delights. Whether you're already familiar with the Country Club or a curious first-timer, there's something for everyone to enjoy:

Aged Care

- Food Trucks Galore - Satisfy your cravings with a smorgasbord of mouthwatering options.
- Market Stalls - Shop to your heart's content and discover unique treasures.
- Bouncy Castle and Face Painting - The kids are in for a treat (sorry, grown-ups, this one's just for them!).
- Explore the Club - Sip a drink at the gorgeous bar, enjoy a coffee at the café, check out the gym and pool, or try your hand at the games areas.

But wait, there's more! Enter our exciting competition to win a free weekend in our luxurious Hospitality Suite, where you can experience the ultimate Country Club lifestyle. Simply stop by our onsite show home on the day or book a viewing with Chris Brittenden (P. 021-982 583) to be in the draw.

So, mark your calendars for Saturday, 15 February, from 11am to 3pm. Bring your family, bring your friends, and join us for a community event that promises fun, laughter, and memories to treasure.

Save the date - we can't wait to see you there!

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23 VINTRY DRIVE, HUAPAI



Health & Beauty

Easy ways to stay pain-free while travelling this summer

Summer travel is an exciting time for many in New Zealand, whether it's a road trip, flight, or scenic adventure. However, long hours of sitting can lead to discomforts like back pain, neck stiffness, and headaches. Here are some simple tips to stay pain-free during your travels.

Lower Back Pain: To avoid lower back discomfort, follow these tips:

1. **Adjust Seat Angle:** Tilt your seat slightly downward so your knees are level with or slightly lower than your hips. A footrest can help.
2. **Keep the Seat Upright:** Maintaining an upright seat helps support the natural alignment of your spine.
3. **Raise the Seat Height:** Elevating the seat prevents excessive hip bending and helps you sit upright for longer periods.
4. **Use Lumbar Support:** If your seat lacks lumbar support, a pillow or rolled towel can relieve pressure on your lower back.

Neck Discomfort: Once your lower back is supported, address neck discomfort with these tips:

1. **Use a Travel Pillow:** Wear your pillow backward or sideways to support your head and reduce strain.
2. **Practise Chin Retractions:** Every hour, perform 10 "chin tucks" by pulling your chin straight back to relieve neck tension.



3. **Incorporate Gentle Neck Movements:** Rotate and tilt your head to ease stiffness and tension from holding a still posture.

Remember, these tips are not a replacement for medical advice. Always consult a healthcare professional for personalised recommendations. For expert assistance in improving mobility, contact us at 0272640003

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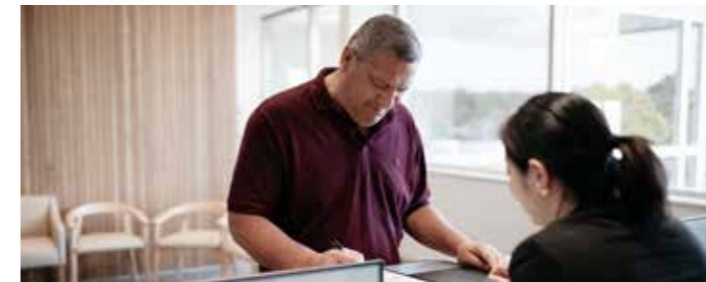
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Health & Beauty

Myths and Facts, and Red Flags about Haemorrhoids



Haemorrhoids are often the butt of jokes, but for many, they're no laughing matter. These swollen cushions in the rectal area can cause discomfort, itching, and bleeding—but they're more common than you might think. Let's bust some myths, share some facts, and highlight red flags you shouldn't ignore.

Myths and Facts:

Myth: Haemorrhoids only affect older people.

Fact: Haemorrhoids can affect anyone, regardless of age. While more common in middle age and beyond, factors like constipation, pregnancy, or heavy lifting can lead to haemorrhoids at any age.

Myth: Spicy food causes haemorrhoids.

Fact: Spicy food may irritate your digestive tract, but it

doesn't directly cause haemorrhoids. The real culprits? Chronic constipation, prolonged sitting, and straining during bowel movements.

Myth: Surgery is the only solution.

Fact: Most haemorrhoids improve with lifestyle changes like a high-fibre diet, proper hydration, and over-the-counter treatments. Surgery is only needed in severe cases and there are numerous options that can be offered by a Colorectal Surgeon.

Red Flag Symptoms:

While haemorrhoids are usually harmless, some symptoms warrant a visit to your doctor:

- **Persistent bleeding:** Bright red blood during bowel movements can indicate haemorrhoids, but ongoing or heavy bleeding could signal other conditions like anal fissures or colorectal cancer.
- **Severe pain or swelling:** Extreme discomfort may suggest a thrombosed haemorrhoid or fissure, which might need medical intervention.
- **Changes in bowel habits:** If you experience unexplained diarrhoea, constipation, or weight loss, it's time to see a doctor.

Remember, haemorrhoids are nothing to be embarrassed about. If in doubt, seek professional advice—it's better to be safe than sorry when it comes to your bottom line!

At Waitemata Endoscopy, we can support you to take a proactive approach to bowel issues and can facilitate rapid access for a gastroscopy or colonoscopy.

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URGENT APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE



Bounce Into Fitness: The Rebounder Revolution for 40+

As we age, maintaining joint health and improving cardiovascular fitness become essential. For those over 40, finding a low-impact yet effective workout is crucial, and the rebounder— a mini-trampoline—is the perfect solution. Not only does it provide an enjoyable, fun exercise experience, but it’s also backed by solid research.

NASA research has shown that rebounding can be up to 68% more effective than running in improving cardiovascular health, while being gentler on the joints. This is because the vertical movement on the trampoline reduces impact stress on the knees, hips, and spine, making it ideal for individuals with arthritis or joint pain. As we age, maintaining joint health and preventing injury is vital, and rebounding provides just that— a full-body workout without the strain of traditional high-impact exercises.

The benefits of rebounding go beyond joint protection. The rhythmic bouncing engages your core, legs, and arms, improving balance, coordination, and muscle tone. Rebounding also helps with lymphatic drainage, boosting circulation and detoxifying the body, leading to increased energy levels and overall well-being.

Starting an exercise plan with a rebounder is an excellent way to kickstart your fitness goals for the year ahead. Begin with 5-10 minutes of gentle bouncing daily and gradually increase to 15-20 minutes for optimal results.

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Taina Henderson 027 537 9222
 Shelley Funnell 027 537 9221
 Amie Wallwork 021 421 336

www.hendersonreeves.co.nz

The rebounder is compact, easy to use, and accessible to individuals of all fitness levels. Whether indoors or outdoors, it’s a convenient way to stay active.

Incorporating rebounding into your routine offers a fun, effective way to stay fit, improve cardiovascular health, and maintain vitality as you age— making it a must-have for anyone over 40 looking to bounce into a healthier lifestyle.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is for general informational purposes only and should not be construed as medical advice; always consult with a healthcare professional before starting any new exercise regimen.

Creating a hair plan for 2025

Creating a hair plan with your hairdresser is an essential step in achieving your desired hair goals while maintaining hair health. Start by discussing your lifestyle, hair type, and any challenges you face, such as dryness or breakage. Be clear about your vision—whether you’re looking for a dramatic change or subtle adjustments. A good hairdresser will offer professional advice on what will work best for your hair, considering factors like face shape, texture, and maintenance.

Set realistic goals by considering your hair’s current condition and how much time you’re willing to dedicate to upkeep. If you’re aiming for colour or cuts, ask about maintenance schedules and the necessary products to maintain your style. Together you can create a plan that involves both short-term steps and long-term care. Regular check-ins with your hairdresser will help adjust the plan as your hair evolves.

Rebooking your next appointment is a fantastic way of staying accountable to your hairdresser and it gives you great looking hair every 6-8 weeks. A reminder txt is always an effective tool in remembering when your appointment is, and any good salon will automatically do this for you.

Zash Hair, 77 Waitakere Road Waitakere

Phone 021814663

Zash Hair

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Area Columnists

Planning your journey to retirement – we understand life



A common question we are asked as financial advisers is, “Will I have enough money when I retire, and how do I make it last?” At RIVAL Wealth, we get it. We take the time to understand your unique situation, your goals, your hobbies, your family, and what matters most to you.

Retirement planning is all about making sure you have a secure and enjoyable future. We help you figure out your long-term financial goals, identifying your income sources, factoring in your future expenses, and setting up an investment plan. By managing your assets and regularly reviewing your plan, we help you stay on track.

As you get closer to retirement, we shift focus from saving to spending. We develop a withdrawal strategy to make sure your money lasts. We also help you plan for unexpected expenses, like healthcare costs, and think about how you want to spend your time.

Our goal is to give you peace of mind as you approach and enjoy your retirement. We’re here to help you every step of the way, guiding you and looking ahead. You’re not alone; we’re in this together!

Expert advice in your neighbourhood

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 Financial Adviser
 021 422 001
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Happy New Year

I hope that 2025 has begun well for everyone reading this edition of Kumeu Courier.

I'm one of those slightly strange people who takes the opportunity at the start of each year to reflect on how I can improve myself in the following 12 months.

In that same spirit of New Year's resolutions, then, I'd like to take a moment to focus on what the northwest Auckland community needs in 2025 to be the best version of itself.

I am particularly hopeful of meaningful progress on three projects in particular, all of which are "in the pipeline" to a greater or lesser extent. (Obviously there are others too but these are the big fish to fry.)

The first is an additional secondary school in the northwest area, again respecting the excellent existing nearby schools but acknowledging that huge additional capacity is needed given population growth.

The second is SH16 works, which are underway at the Waimauku end and which are also needed at the Bringham Creek end. Self-explanatory really.

The third is an alternative route for SH16, often referred to as the Kumeu Bypass.

None of these will be completed overnight but the key will be to ensure that we don't lose momentum on any of them.

In the case of the school, it's past time that the Ministry of Education merely tells us that they are negotiating to purchase land.

As for the SH16 works, it will be for me to argue that high priority is needed for these works, particularly given that it will be some time until the entirely new road that is Kumeu Bypass gets completed. And on that note, last year saw the most tangible progress towards the Kumeu Bypass that we've seen in a long time, with the proposed route formally designated a "Road of National Significance" by the incoming government.

If I can add a proposed New Year's Resolution for us all, it'd be to support great local businesses whenever possible. Many have found the past few years tough and if we look after them, as best we can afford, they will be with us for many more years yet.

Together, we can make 2025 a year of progress, opportunity and unity. Let's embrace these resolutions for northwest Auckland and work together to make our region even better.

Chris Penk MP chris.penk@parliament.govt.nz

New Year, New Lawnmower

Choosing the right lawnmower is the first step in caring for your lawn. Head in and see our team at STIHL SHOP Kumeu for expert advice on selecting the best mower for your property. They have a great range of STIHL battery, petrol and robotic mowers and petrol options from Masport and LawnMaster available in-store. STIHL SHOP Kumeu is also a premium dealer for quality ride-on brands such as Cub Cadet, Hustler and Walker.

If you've just returned from holiday and your grass has grown tall, you might need to do a couple of passes with your lawnmower, starting with the highest blade height setting and then at a lower setting during the second pass. This reduces the risk of damaging your lawnmower (especially ride-on mower belts, which are a top selling item at this time of year).

Kiwis like to cut right down low to the ground, however taking too much off the top can be detrimental to the health of your lawn. Mowing at a recommended height of 4 - 6 cm helps prevent yellow blemishes and unsightly scorch marks from popping up across the surface of your lawn, and reduces its susceptibility to damage from pests and disease.

EXPERT TIP: Always use sharp lawnmower blades for nice, clean cuts that won't damage your grass. If you notice your blades have become blunt and dull - simply drop your lawnmower into our team for a quick and easy sharpening service.

Craig and the team at STIHL SHOP Kumeu look forward to seeing you in-store. They're your local experts for all things sales and service for lawnmowers. And if you're unsure about which lawnmower best suits your property, we can arrange a no-obligation on site appraisal.

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Tanya Franklin – The Travel Broker Kumeu



I have been a Travel Agent for over 30 years, with the last 13 of these years as your local Travel Broker.

A big part of being a Broker is experiencing as many destinations as I can so that I can pass on my first-hand knowledge & tips so that I ensure when I organise your trip, it is the best that it can be.

In November, Fiji Tourism hosted me to the Yasawa Islands, we visited 11 resorts over 7 days, and experienced all that the Yasawas have to offer, snorkelling in marine sanctuary protected coral reefs, seeing turtles, squid, and a huge range of fish & beautiful coral life.

We had marine biologist talks, snorkelled with reef sharks, and swam into the famous Blue Lagoon cave. I have now added some fabulous resorts to my portfolio for firm favourites for recommendations for your holidays to Fiji.

I can confidently offer these, regardless if you want deluxe adults only, or family friendly, or just want somewhere to get your Padi dive certificate in one of the easiest, most accessible & the most beautiful places on earth.

Early December we were hosted by Anaheim Tourism, for the Travel Brokers Top 10 Reward trip, experiencing all the best that Anaheim has to offer, 3 days at Disneyland & California Adventure Park, Universal Studios VIP Express, Knotts Berry Farm, and a Ducks Ice Hockey game, it was a fabulous week with my Travel Broker buddies, celebrating a very busy year.

This was my 3rd visit to Anaheim, and I have also

experienced Orlando's incredible Disneyworld parks and attractions, so please get in touch if you'd like me to put together a fabulous family holiday with a Disney focus, and I can give you my first-hand tips and tricks.

For more detail on these recent trips, please see my Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/tanyafranklin.12> Tanya Franklin

Welcome back to Kumeū Arts!



We start the year with our summer member's exhibition 'Our Aotearoa'. The huge range of art on display celebrates Aotearoa in all in its glory with paintings, drawings, ceramics, and weaving. Come and be amazed at the local talent and

support artists right here in your community. Our gallery shop has also been restocked with beautiful smaller handmade art and crafts for sale.

Many of our courses are starting up again this month with options in painting and ceramics for all ages, including free courses for teenagers and subsidised rates for low-income families. We're gearing up for our biggest annual event 'Arts in Action' our free family festival, which is on Saturday, March 1st. Lock it into your calendar and join us for this fun, educational, interactive experience for everyone. You can find more information on our website @ www.kumeuarts.org or follow our socials.

Free Family Arts Festival

ARTS IN ACTION

Saturday 1 March 2025
11am - 2pm

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Kaipara Moana Remediation reaches new environmental heights



Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) has been recognised nationally and internationally for its positive impact on the environment.

KMR has been named a finalist in the 2024 Sustainable Business Awards and has been named on the 'Next 95' list by the Sustainable Business Network. The 'Next 95' list recognises innovators, entrepreneurs, projects and organisations that can help make New Zealand a global beacon of sustainable business.

KMR Pou Tātaki Justine Daw says she is humbled that she and the KMR team have been selected for their leadership as part of this new national list. She is even more humbled that KMR has been nominated for the 2025 Earthshot Prize, an initiative inspired by President John F Kennedy's 'Moonshot' challenge in 1962 to land a man on the moon within a decade.

The Earthshot Prize was launched by Prince William in 2020 to search for and scale the most innovative solutions to the world's greatest environmental challenges.

The 10-year global initiative aims to identify and support programmes and initiatives that can accelerate and

scale the environmental innovations needed to repair and regenerate our planet across five categories.

Every year, the winners with the best chance of helping achieve the identified 'Earthshots' are awarded significant funding each to scale their solutions, with all finalists receiving tailored support from a global alliance of partners.

Justine says on-the-ground advice and guidance from the KMR team right from the start ensures that KMR projects are delivered successfully, and that landowners and groups have the knowledge they need to take action right away. "If you are working with KMR, our trained field advisors 'walk alongside' you and provide wrap-around support to ensure your project meets our funding criteria and can be delivered time and cost efficiently," she says.

"Our experts co-design your project with you, targeting 'hotspots' in the landscape. Through the project, KMR specialists collaborate with you to ensure your project achieves the best environmental outcomes on the ground.

"If you are outside the Kaipara Moana catchment, KMR freely shares our resources, in line with our role as a national exemplar for best practice in environmental restoration" says Justine.

"KMR is also a supporter of Tūhono Taiao, a national digital platform created for environmental projects and programmes to share their resources. Through the platform, we have made available many of our underpinning documents (such as KMR's popular Planting Guide) and other information of value to communities, landowners and groups taking environmental action across New Zealand."

The significance of KMR's positive impact on the environment - in partnership with farmers - is being acknowledged by National Party Northland MP and Blue Greens Co-Chair Grant McCallum.

The Maungatūroto farmer attended a hui with KMR where he was given an overview of progress in the KMR kaupapa. That was followed by a tour of Mandy and Rob Pye's Kōkopu beef farm at Ruatangata West, near Whangārei, where Grant was shown extensive native plantings and an associated fencing programme supported by KMR to keep livestock out of waterways.

"I really appreciated meeting the Kaipara Moana Remediation team and being briefed on a unique initiative.

They are clearly doing great work," says Grant.

"KMR is providing an outstanding opportunity for landowners in the Kaipara Moana catchment in Northland and Auckland to shift the dial on reducing sedimentation into the Kaipara Harbour."I encourage all farmers to get on board and make a difference.

"It's a real privilege having this national funding available, so it is important to keep up the good work. I will do what I can to support the KMR team and farmers to make the most of the opportunity on offer and really optimise the investment," says Grant.

"I congratulate KMR on their success to date and the deserved accolades they have received of late."

KMR invests in projects to restore wetlands, fence off rivers and streams, plant trees and regenerate forest on erosion-prone land. It supports thriving biodiversity, mahinga kai, local jobs and training, greater connectivity to local waterways, and resilience to extreme weather across 600,000 hectares in both Northland and Auckland.

KMR offers free advice, funding, planning and support, and support for engagement and project costs for a community group, marae, iwi/hapū or other collective.

Contact hono@kmr.org.nz if your land is in the Kaipara Moana catchment, you are thinking of fencing this summer, and/or planting next winter (2025), and you'd like to know more about how KMR can support you.

Photo caption: Northland MP Grant McCallum, second from left, next to KMR Pou Tātaki Justine Daw and leading Kōkopu beef farmer Rob Pye (centre), surrounded by some of the KMR team.

SeniorNet

In December we had a combined AGM and Christmas party. We all agreed it was the end of another successful year and especially as our membership grew 33% which is very heartening. Members are coming from as far afield as Hobsonville and Henderson up to Kaipara so we are



well spread out. This year we are continuing to look ahead in both membership and technology. At our meeting in February, we are lucky enough to have a lawyer who will talk to us about preparation for your will.

All welcome to our next meeting which will be held on the Wednesday the 5th of March at the main hall in St. Chads Church hall, 7 Matua Road, Huapai at 10am. We hope to see you there.

All Saints Kaukapakapa Cemetery



It is with some pleasure and satisfaction that the All Saints Kaukapakapa Cemetery Committee can advise that after four years all the headstone repairs have been completed. Several years ago, an old wooden headstone (148 years old) was found under the Church, and as no corresponding plot could be found, it was passed into the care of the Te Awaroa Museum in Helensville. There it stayed until the decision was made to return it to the church. Wooden headstones are not often still found as they rotted at the base, but in 1875 timber was the available material!

> Moving forward to the last repair - the headstone for Fanny Johnstone was over and broken, (died 27 August 1898, aged 50), wife of Henry de Harcourt Johnstone and mother of Sydney (died 1876, aged 1 year and 10 months). Now completed, Fanny's headstone is upright, and the wooden headstone of her beloved son Sydney is attached to the reverse, once again safely within his

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mother's embrace. Sadly, Sydney's father passed by suicide two and a half years after the death of his wife and he is buried nearby.

Our thanks to Steven, Valu and Isea from Monumental Headstones and Plaques Ltd for their care and respect.

Sayers says it



By Rodney Councillor Greg Sayers.

When Wayne Brown campaigned to become Auckland Mayor in 2022 he stood on a platform which included "taking back control of council organisations".

On arriving in the Mayor's office, he was confronted with the Auckland Council's

budget hole of \$295 million.

It took a bit of work but Mayor Brown came up with a plan that was supported by councillors to address this shortfall and to get things back on track without imposing huge rate increases on property owners.

Now it is time to get on with restoring democratic accountability over the very organisations (Council Controlled Organisations or CCOs) Auckland Council is supposed to run - Auckland Transport, Eke Panuku (property development), and Tataki Auckland Unlimited (economic development).

In this year's council budget setting process this is exactly what is being proposed to Aucklanders - bringing back democratic accountability while tackling inefficient decision-making and wasteful spending.

There are long-standing issues with the CCO model that have allowed these organisations to make decisions, and spend money, in a way that causes concern and confusion among those picking up the bill - the ratepayer - with very little scrutiny.

We need to make structural and cultural change to remove inefficiencies, poorly aligned strategies and to strengthen democratic accountability.

This will improve public trust and confidence, cost

effectiveness and overcome the duplication of services funded by the ratepayer.

CCOs absorb over half of Auckland Council's annual operating budget of around \$6.4 billion and control two-thirds of the region's publicly owned assets, valued at almost \$47 billion.

They are funded, in part, by 40% of all the rates collected. There is no plausible argument for the people elected by the public to not have proper oversight of these organisations.

Mayor Brown is proposing Auckland Transport (AT) to be put on a short leash while he continues positive discussions with the Government about the legislation required to make the desired changes.

Meantime, he has proposed immediate steps to begin the process of taking back power from AT. These measures include for Auckland Council to assume control of AT's back-office functions.

This means Auckland Council taking back responsibility for all regulatory, policy and strategic planning functions for which AT does not have a statutory role controlling.

Eke Panuku would be disestablished, with urban regeneration and property management coming back in-house under council control.

All policy, strategy and planning functions would also return to the council, with local boards having greater decision-making power over local urban amenity projects, like playgrounds and street improvements, so there is a community-focused approach.

Tataki Auckland Unlimited would be retained to manage regional facilities, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland Zoo, theatres and stadiums.

However, economic development, destination marketing and major events would be consolidated within the council.

These are sensible changes that allow representatives elected by the people to have proper oversight of what is happening with public money.

This will all be happening early this year.

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