



RUAWAI RAMBLER

A Newsletter for Ruawai and Surrounding Area
From the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group

March 2020

This Issue of the Ruawai Rambler Sponsored by

Kaipara Kumara

From the Editor

In this issue of the Rambler we will backtrack to events of this past Christmas. Many of you attended the Float Parade; but I think that many missed hearing who the winners were. So we have this information for you. We also have photos, thanks to Lorraine Littler. Ruawai can be justly proud of our Christmas Parade. Mentioning the parade, a few "thank you's" are in order. 1) Organisation takes a lot of work, so thanks to all those involved. 2) Thanks to those who entered a float; it takes time and effort to do this. 3) Last, but not least, money is needed for the prizes. So thanks to all the local business people who contributed so generously.

The Ruawai Promotions and Development Group is having its AGM as shown below. If you have anything involving our community you want to ask about or discuss, this is the time and the place. Nominations for the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group Committee to be received by the Secretary no later than 48 hours before the start of the A.G.M.

An "event" for the Walk/Cycleway is being planned similar to last year's opening. A tentative date has been set for April 26th, which is the ANZAC Day weekend.

An article in the Lifestyler of February 25th mentions the following: "*Community consultations have been held by the Kaipara District Council to seek ideas in the allocation of just under \$5 million to improve services on the Kaipara Harbour, with the funds allocated from an overall \$20.39 million Provincial Growth Fund grant.*" Meetings were held in Paparoa and Tinopai. This begs the question: Why no meeting in Ruawai? Strictly speaking, we are not on the Kaipara Harbour but we are at the head of the Harbour and, in the past, Ruawai was very much a part of traffic on the Harbour. Ruawai commercial fishermen regularly use the Harbour. Should Ruawai not have been included in these discussions?.

Our thanks again to those who contributed articles for this issue. There would be no Newsletter without you. Thanks to our present sponsor, Kaipara Kumara, and our advertisers. Also a great, big thank you to Wendy Booten and her helpers for delivering the Ruawai Rambler in and around Ruawai free of charge.

For information about the Ruawai Rambler or for advertising please contact:

J.H.Wessel; Ph.439 2507, email: jhwessel@xtra.co.nz



Annual General Meeting
The AGM of the Ruawai Promotions and
Development Group will be held on:

Thursday March 26th

Time:7.00pm

Place: Meeting Room, Ruawai Tokatoka Hall

All Welcome

Walk/Cycleway Maintenance.

As mentioned in the last Rambler the Ruawai Walk/Cycleway is unusual in that it runs along the top of a stop bank that has been built for flood protection. The flood protection is managed by the Kaipara District Council and the Raupo Drainage Committee. As the formation of the Walk/Cycleway progressed, it became clear that there was an expectation that any maintenance would be carried out by "Council Approved Contractors." At present this is financially unsustainable for the RPDG.

The project is unfinished and to date has only had one event that contributed towards the maintenance. RPDG approached Council last September; and again late in 2019 about this situation. It has taken some time to work through the Health and Safety issues and the qualifications required. But KDC have now agreed that RPDG can proceed with maintenance spraying of the walkway from 24 February. This is a great result and gives the RPDG the option of saving funds by doing some of the work themselves. We would like to thank both Wayne Crump of the KDC and Ian Beattie RDC for helping make this possible. We would also like to thank the member of the public who mowed the weeds on the track. Great community effort. Thanks, **Bruce Crompton, Chairman RPDG**

The Moosletter

Hi everyone. There have been a few changes at the Vet Centre lately. We have a new technician, Sara, who started recently. Sara has just completed a Veterinary Technology Degree and is keen to put all her study to good use. She is also very tall, unlike most of us in the Clinic, so she is very handy for reaching things on the top shelves. Sue Bellamy, who has been a face in the Clinic for about 18 years, has decided it's time to hand the reins over. We will miss her very much but hopefully, she will still do the odd day when others are away. The 'big dry' means there is a lot of pressure on cows and farms. Water is life and without it we struggle. I guess now is the time to assess your water storage abilities and invest in extra dams or tanks if necessary. Hopefully, Northland will give us a nice autumn to recover. Take care out there.

Building at Kaipara Kumara

You may have noticed building taking place at Kaipara Kumara and like me wondered what is going on So, I asked Anthony Blundell and he supplied the following article. Thank you Anthony for helping out our curiosity!

Kicking off in late 2019, the progress with our new building at Kaipara Kumara is now ramping up – after a long planning period and lengthy consent process. We are looking forward to the completion by early June. Sharing a great relationship with our builders Ringrose Construction and other contractors like; C&C Contract Electrical, SR Wrathall Welding Services, Ruawai Transport Ltd, Sound Drainage and G&V Finlayson Plumbing, is helping the whole process run smoothly and making for an enjoyable one. What we are undertaking is huge for us here at Kaipara Kumara and is a one-off for this generation. Ensuring all parties enjoy the journey through this project will be the difference in the end. The new 480 sq/m building will encompass;

- a visitor entrance and parking area,
- a reception and 2 x admin offices,
- a 30 sq/m meeting/presentation room,
- 3 x bathrooms, including a wheel chair access option,
- a laundry and amenities storage,
- a 150 sq/m open plan kitchen and break-out area,
- a 60 sq/m built in outdoor area

Janine Hames, BVSc

Historically, our visitor/reception area has been around the back of Kaipara Kumara and right next to the truck and despatch yard. While it has functioned without incident for many years, there is still a risk to people making their way across the yard. Along with that, it will be great to have us more accessible to the public and have a presence on the main road. New staff amenities and the open plan break-out area is another key driver for us as well. Currently these are spread out at the site, so having them all in close proximity to each other will mean the team will also have easier access to each other.



Relationships and open communication are critical keys to both life and business success. It is these traits that are at the cornerstone of Kaipara Kumara – now enjoying its 50th year of operation in Ruawai. We are very proud of the business that we have here today and the many people that have contributed to this business since 1970. These people include past and present employees, along with the great team of Kumara growers who have been so loyal and supportive over many years. The addition of this new building to the site – which first opened as the Mid Northland Dairy Company in August 1955 – will be something that Ruawai, and everyone that has contributed to our success, can be proud of and worth celebrating.

Anthony Blundell

‘Council Mark’ says: Your community needs you!

One of the things I stood for in the election was to promote ways of enhancing the contribution to “Kaipara Inc.” which community groups can make. From my own experience in forming Otamatea HarbourCare and being on the board of the Kauri Museum, I have seen the benefits of help with governance training, strategic planning and assistance with funding applications. One of my new roles through Council is, as a trustee of Volunteering Northland, a great fit for me (thank you Jason). I have previously attended a couple of governance training courses arranged by them, and have registered Otamatea HarbourCare with them too. VN acts as an introduction service, matching potential volunteers with volunteering opportunities. To do this, community groups need to register with VN. I have learnt that VN is part of a nationwide network, but something I already knew was some of the benefits of volunteering; the satisfaction and fulfilment from making a worthwhile contribution to your community, and feeling part of something bigger than yourself. The more groups which register, the more successful a service VN can provide. If you want to find out more, check out the website: <https://volunteeringnorthland.nz/> or give me a call.

Mark Vincent Otamatea Ward Councillor

Ruawai Lions Club

We had an awesome time. Excellent entertainment, fine weather, beautiful garden with dahlias, roses and sunflowers and a good variety of food!. Salt River Band, Take 6 singing group and also a combined group when a few men joined in with them, Harmony Day and Jess Mitchell (some young people), Jone Yelcich, Mike Durney and Lance Gleeson were our entertainers. We did end up dancing to some lively well-known 50’s - 60’s songs played by Salt River Band at the end of the evening. So good!! **Dorothy Simpson**



A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on. **Winston Churchill**

Here are the Winning Floats in the 2019 Ruawai Christmas Parade



1st : Te Kowhai Road



2nd: Community Church



3rd: Mainly Music



4th: Boating Club



5th: JMB Rugby Aussie Tour





At Christmas time RPDG also sponsored a "Decorate your mailbox" competition.

The winner of this was Tracey o'Connor at 74 Jellicoe Road.

Orr's Health & Beauty

Gail Battensby organised several competitions here, and the winners were as follows:

1st week: Janet Curle

2nd week: Lynette McMillan

3rd week: Noni Murray

4th week: Chelsea Wells

Winner of the Grand Prize Hamper: Sharon Johnson

Congratulations to all the winners !



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Anthony Martinovich

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Lorraine Littler is an active member of our RPDG committee as well as an artist. Following is a great idea Lorraine had for our town and which she now working on. Watch out for the idea to come to fruition

Idea for Township

For some time I have had thoughts about what else can be done to make people want to stop in our town instead of Ruawai just being a place to pass through on the way to Dargaville or Auckland.

We are fortunate to have a walkway/cycleway, wharf, children's playground, a lovely mural, a gazebo with historic photos, picnic tables and colourful gardens and planter boxes to enhance the township. However, I got to thinking – we need something bright and happy-looking to attract the attention of children and to catch the eye of adults as they're passing. Who knows? They may actually stop and make purchases, which support our shops!

So. . . on my travels to different towns and tourist spots in New Zealand and overseas, I closely observed to see what caught my eye as interesting or attractive. One, that particularly caught my attention, was the attractive painted "face-in-the-hole" board so people can put their heads through for a photograph to be taken. Both adults (including myself) and children seem to like posing in these boards and the photos bring a smile and are an excellent memory memento.

I presented my idea to the Committee of the RPDG at a meeting about a year ago and everyone was in favour of the idea. At the next meeting, I presented a very basic drawing of what I was thinking of and got the okay, from all in attendance, to go ahead with my idea. I also presented my idea at a public meeting last year. My drawing includes the Northern Wairoa River, Ruawai wharf and boat ramp, a cyclist, kumara, cow, farmer, marlin and Tokatoka mountain.

The next event to happen was that I noticed KDC's advert for funding applications for Community Grants in the local paper. I then got busy gathering information and filling in forms and applied for funding for my project (under the umbrella of RPDG). In September of last year, the Grant was approved by KDC's Funding Committee and since then I have been working to complete the design. I have been painting the figures for the sign myself, have employed a graphic designer for the lettering and border, and a sign-making business is going to put our design onto a large piece of aluminium composite. The whole process has taken quite a while and included a lot of trial and error; but I'm getting there. I'm refining the artwork. I'm confident that this will be another positive attraction for Ruawai. I would like to thank Kaipara District Council and Ruawai Promotions and Development Group for making this project possible. My plan is to have the project completed in the next 2-3 months. I am open to any other ideas and help; so you are welcome to give me a call on 021 250 8613

Lorraine Littler

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Art Studio Ruawai



The first term of the new year is underway &, despite the warmth of the weather & extremely quick paint drying times, members are making good progress with their art works. We have several projects planned & in the current one we are experimenting on the effects of using cling wrap in a painting [see photo]. This is great fun as the effects may be controlled to some extent; but the outcome is not guaranteed. Surprise, surprise! At the beginning of next term, thanks to a Grant from The Creative Arts, we will be holding a Workshop with Elena Nickelova, a well-known Artist. Elena has done workshops with us before & everyone has enjoyed her lovely, friendly nature & the knowledge she is able to impart. Our group meets on a Wednesday from 10:30am to 2:30pm at the Art Studio School Road, Ruawai. We would welcome new members &, should you have any further enquiries, please Phone: **Frances at 439 255**

Sue Neal writes about books she has read and enjoyed. If you want information about a special book or books in general, go and see Sue at the shop: Books@Ruawai.



Sue's Book Corner

Great excitement these last few weeks! I have finally gotten and read 2 books I have waited so long for; thank goodness for Christmas presents!

The first one is: *The Starless Sea* by Erin Morgenstern. Erin wrote "Night Circus", which I absolutely loved. Very quirky, very different — a love story; but like no other I have ever read. That was written 8 years ago and finally she has written something new. How to describe it to you? Well, the main character is Zachary; there is a bee, a key and a sword. There is a door that leads far beneath the earth to the most magical world of mystery, books and a puzzle to be solved. It's a book for people who like quirky, imaginative stories. I loved it - it was worth waiting for.

My next book is *Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister* by Jung Chang, who also wrote "Wild Swans". Its non-fiction - about 3 women who are famous sisters in China but relatively unknown elsewhere. Red Sister married Sun Yat-Sen and became Mao's Vice Chair. Little Sister married and became Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, First Lady of pre-Communist Nationalist China. Big Sister became Chiang's unofficial main advisor and made herself one of the richest women in China. From Canton to New York — love, bravery, glamour and treachery — the sisters interwoven lives are told

brilliantly in this book. A truly great read.

I'm Travelling Alone by Samuel Bjork. This book, says Jo Nesbo, "watch out ", which always makes me wary as he is such a good thriller writer. For once though, it's true. This had me on the edge of my seat with its twists and turns. I read it over 2 days and, honestly, begrudged going to work, making a meal or anything that interrupted reading it! I'll say no more; don't want to spoil it for you. If you like thrillers, buy it, read it — it's fabulous!

The Spy and the Traitor by Ben MacIntyre. True life espionage at it's best. Colonel Oleg Gordievsky is chief of the KGB's London Station; he is summoned back to Moscow. He fears for his life as he was a secret British spy. This is his story; how he was interrogated in Moscow but, unbelievably, how MI6 arranged an operation to get him out alive. It's a remarkable story and if it was fiction you'd say it was too far-fetched to be believable. Well worth reading.

Sue Neal

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Peter Flood has written articles for our Newsletter in the past and here Peter shares his thoughts about coping with the present conditions.

For our Farmers

By the time you read this I hope we have had some well-needed rain. Conditions on farm are very dry and giving stock enough food is becoming very difficult. Our plan on our farm is to reduce stock numbers early by culling, to reach next season's core animals numbers now. This will reduce demand on pastures and supplements to enable the core animals to be milked through to when the autumn rains and pasture growth do arrive. Ring-fence this season's dry to this season only. Doing this will protect next season's production and reproduction. Cow condition score 5 at calving is paramount to achieving this. To achieve this, cow condition needs to be protected now by once-a-day milking along with further use of supplements to stop further condition losses. I hear farmers saying they are drying off younger cows now; but in doing so they need to be put somewhere and still need to be fed. Supplements will still be needed for these animals. It is my view that there would not be a lot more supplement needed to keep them milking without losing condition. She is paying for the extra supplement with milk. A dry cow is a total cost with no income and remember, we are still early in the season and still trying to have cows milking to when it does rain.

A longer round now of 40 days plus will bring us out of the feed shortage two to three times faster than a shorter round; because remember we need to not only keep milking, but build feed for winter as well and get that all-important cow condition back on those cows. Also a longer round length will protect pastures (ryegrass) by putting less stress and over-grazing on daughter tillers. This will safeguard future growth rates and viability of the sward for next season.

Be mindful of the roughly 2-week rot-down period and ensure enough feed is on hand for when this occurs. Young stock can easily be forgotten about too. These will do very well on ad lib PKE; don't be mean here with your future herd. These animals are our future and also need prioritising.

I endeavour to prioritise Grass silage for the milkers to help with the FEI.

We didn't plan on this costly dry so I endeavour to keep my bank fully informed with production and financial cashflow changes. At the 15th of each month it is not hard for me to work out the rest of that month's production changes. And at the end of each month we know how much extra costs were spent on food and what extra is needed for next month. These then are put into Cash Manager and the cash flows are living and usable for the bank to keep them fully up to date if and when assistance is needed.

Remember the three D's how farmers lose their land,

DEATH — too late to do anything about that.

DIVORCE — we could have previously done something about that.

And DE BANK — we can do something right now about this.

You are not alone in the current situation. We are all going through this together.

There are many avenues of assistance out there, eg. DairyNZ, your Accountant, your Banker, and your fellow Farming friends. A problem shared is a problem halved!

Peter Flood



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Ruawai Boating Club News



Cory Bellamy caught this 129.5kg Striped Marlin

Hi to you all. Hope you have had a great time over the summer break. As most of you will have noticed, the walkway on the other side of the ramp has been installed with the help of volunteers.

I am sure that anyone using the walkways would feel a lot more sure-footed now and the height suited to most vessels. We still have a couple of poles to place at the far end on both sides. Once again, tide and time are the key to this.

As mentioned at other times in the Rambler, thanks and appreciation go to the work of the volunteers who have given up their time for the upgrade. In particular, Jenyns Contractors for the use of their excavator at no cost to the project, Kaipara Kumara for the support in carrying the cost of the poles in the interim, Luke Oud for the use of the tools and time spent on working out the height & pole spacing and to everyone who purchased poles. This is the sort of "working together" that makes our little part of the world a great place to live in. Thank you all!

We still have a couple of events on the calendar. The first will be too late to appear in the Rambler but TAKE A KID FISHING will have taken place on Sunday March 15. This is run in conjunction with the Fire Brigade. It is free for the children of members and their friends.

At the end of March we are planning another competition - Sunday 29th. To keep it simple there will be fresh Fish and Chip meals for the evening. We would like to use this night as a "thank you" to the donors of poles. So if you are one, please come down with your family and join us at the Sports Club, just

beside the Ruawai Hall. We would love to see you.

Ultimate Angler is running again this year. Get in quick if you would like a ticket available from the Challenge Service Station. Some of the keen fishers around have been over the bar looking for elusive Marlin; with a few weighed at the ramp. If you are new to town, come down to the Weigh Station. They're a sight to see!

I think that's all from me now. Catch you at the Wharf or the Sports Club; your shout 🤔.

(Before you know it, it will be Prize Giving)

Tony Oud, Secretary

Justice of the Peace Service Offered to General Public

This free service has been shifted from the Dargaville Library to the Whau Focus Centre. Every first and third Thursday of the month there is Justice of the Peace available in the Whanu Focus Centre in Dargaville. This is next to the Bake House and was the Regional Council building. Whau Focus Centre is an office hub of many community groups. If you have need for the service of a J.P at any time you can contact: Bruce Crompton (09 4392 221) or Sara Ball (09 4392 437) **Sara Ball**

Clay, gum and busy fingers at The Kauri Museum.

There's always something new happening at The Kauri Museum and it's a great place to spend a few leisurely hours out of the hot sun. It's been an active summer season for us, with lots of tour buses, club visits and locals dropping in to enjoy the Museum. If you have visitors staying remember, The Kauri Museum is open every day from 9.00am until 5.00pm. It is always a great place to bring friends and family.



Totara House had a great turn out recently with hundreds of folk visiting the gardens for the Dahlia's for Dementia Fundraiser. Well done to all those who participated as the target for the project was reached! It's great to be part of such a caring community who pull together for projects like this. **Guided tours of Totara House** are available for \$10 per head. By taking a tour you are contributing to the upkeep of the house. You will also hear some great stories along the way, as you enjoy this important treasure for the district. Contact us to book you tour. admin@kaurimuseum.com



Have you ever polished kauri gum from a raw lump into a shining golden nugget? The Kauri Museum has a new 'hands on' gum polishing experience for visitors to enjoy. Our kauri gum polisher Thelma can show you how it's done. If you want to have a go yourself you can book a gum polishing workshop with Thelma for \$15 a head. Gum polishing packs are available in the Museum shop for \$15. These make great gifts for kids.

Big shouts out to all you vibrant 16-24 year old creatives. Have you signed up for the **FREE** NYSAF digital workshops which show you how to do animation, digital projection mapping and live VJ mixing. **Dates are 21 and 22 March at The Kauri Museum.** Places are limited so book now. For more info check out creativenorthland.com or register by emailing maggiebuxton@gmail.com

Clay Modelling Workshops at The Kauri Museum. Yes, the kids have just gone back to school but the next holidays will come around

quick enough. Back by popular demand we will be running two children's workshops on Wednesday 15th and 22nd of April. Families welcome. \$20 per child. Contact us to find out more and book now as these fill up quickly. admin@kaurimuseum.co.nz

Luciana Orr; Marketing Coordinator, T.K.M.



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REGGIE THE WOLF



"The reason so many good card players lose at the track is you can't shuffle the horses."

Navy Visit

On Tuesday the 4th of February we had three very special visitors arrive at Ruawai College via a Seasprite Helicopter. They were representatives of the Royal New Zealand Navy, Six Squadron. These officers came to personally acknowledge and highly commend the artwork of one of our students, Nina Partridge.

Nina and some of her peers, entered a competition last year to design the cover of the Navy magazine. They had to show the partnership between the Navy and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. As you can see by Nina's artwork she certainly did that.

We were privileged to be able to have the officers speak to the whole school and answer questions from the students. I spoke with them on our way back to the helicopter and they were very impressed with the calibre of questions asked.

The students and staff then got to look around the helicopter which was possibly the only time this opportunity would be available to them. Because Nina was being acknowledged, she was able to climb aboard and sit in the machine.

After a good look around for the students, the officers were acknowledged by a hearty school haka. The crew felt honoured by this display of thanks.

After approximately fifteen minutes of warming up and going through the take off procedures the Seasprite lifted up and made its way north.

It was an awesome experience and a real buzz to have this happen for Nina and the whole school. This is another example of the talent students have here at Ruawai College and another example of our "can-do" attitude. We may be challenged geographically at times, but we can certainly represent on the national level. Well done Nina and thanks for bringing the Navy to us! **Kimberley Rope eDean**



Swimming Sports

An action packed day was held for all at our annual swimming sports. A phenomenal number of records were broken, 19 in total, some dating back to the early 1970's. The carnival atmosphere truly demonstrated house spirit through song, dance and support. This positive vibe radiated into our swimmers performance, so congratulations must go to all. Congratulations to the overall house winner, Totara.

A massive thanks to all supporters, timekeepers and PTA who provided us all with some much needed kai, it is always great to have our community come and support our school events.

Once again thanks to all who participated and supported this event.



Ruawai Garden Club

Hello to all you gardeners out there. Sorry I haven't had any snippets for you to read in the last couple of Ruawai Ramblers. Never mind — I have had my hip replacement, Jo has had his knee op and I hope many others in Ruawai have had their problems fixed. We have had our first meeting of the year a week ago, and it was great to see the influx of new members; the majority of those being new people in town. It is great when a club gets fresh blood, just what every organisation needs. At this stage we have not yet arranged another trip, but I'm sure that is not too far away. We just have to survive this drought and then wallow in the beautiful weather that autumn can bring. So looking forward to that - and happy weeding all.

Merle Jackson



For information about the Garden Club contact Noelene Gatehouse; 439 2071

I finally realised that people are prisoners of their phones..that's why it's called a cell phone. Anonymous



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‘Council Mark’ says: The Show Must Go On!

We’ve just had the Paparoa Show (more correctly the North Kaipara Agricultural and Pastoral Show). A great turnout on a beautiful day, enhanced by the presence of the Northern Regional Young Farmer of the Year competition. It was a very successful event. I made a modest contribution to the Indoor section so I can speak from experience – it’s a great way to feel part of a great event and part of your community. I need to acknowledge the years of commitment shown by Elizabeth Metcalfe, recognised through her being awarded a Royal Agricultural Society medal; and the first to congratulate her was Trevor Brljevich, a previous recipient. I think the word “legend” might have been devised for Trevor; such a humble, gracious man who is among other things a fantastic baker and a grower of veges. and flowers who puts in so many entries, not for the glory of winning (although he does a lot of that) but to contribute to the occasion. He needs more competition from you and me, we can’t all leave it up to Jan Robertson and a few others. So here’s my proposition: we have lots of new people coming into the North Kaipara area, including refugees from Auckland who may not be so tuned in to participating in their community at a grass roots level. One easy way to feel part of things is enter something in the Show. This means thinking now about what you might be able to enter. The classes are many and varied; so if you are capable of growing something in the garden, baking something in the kitchen or even taking a photograph, there will likely be a class for you. This will also give you another incentive to come along on Show day and see what else is on offer outside. Council Mark says: The Show must go on!

Mark Vincent, Otamatea Ward Councillor



Cross stitch

At a recent meeting of our local cross stitch group, Marie Martinovich showed this completed work.
Framing by Deborah van Leeuwen at AD Focus in Dargaville.
Marie used to live in Ruawai and enjoys coming over for cross stitch.

Well done Marie!

Carolyn Wessel



Another Big Fish

Not quite a Marlin but a big fish nonetheless. Felix Glass (Tony Glass's grandson) had a lucky morning catching this 16.2kg Snapper. It was caught on 7th March at 9am just opposite the Ruawai wharf. Tony says he has been waiting all his life to catch a big one like this, but no success so far. I have heard old-time residents of Ruawai say they used to catch a meal of Snapper just from the side of the river. Are those days coming back?

Kaipara Kai

The building next to the Gazebo has been spruced up and is home to 'Kaipara Kai', "a one-stop-support-base for locals looking to get the very best from their land". The website states that "20 new crops have been identified that could thrive in the Kaipara". An article in a recent edition of the Kaipara Lifestyler gives more detail. It looks good and is another 'plus' for Ruawai.



Thank you and farewell

Thank you from Waka Kotahi, NZ Transport Agency and our contractors Fulton Hogan for your support over the past two years as we have completed the Matakohe Bridges realignment project. We appreciate the support of the community for the two-lane bridges, realignment of the road, the shared path and wahi toanga/lookout area. All the best, The Matakohe Bridges Team; **Melanie Norris**

Dawn Blessing

About 60 people attended a dawn blessing on Monday 9 December 2019 for the wahi taonga and shared path on the SH12 Matakohe Bridges realignment project. The dawn event blessed the wahi taonga area, including the pou which shows the manu (the white tui) weaving all the people together. The wahi taonga area is located between the two bridges, Piringiatahi and Te Ao Marama Hou.



The stunning pou which depicts Manu weaving all the people together

The shared path and boardwalk