



RUAWAI RAMBLER

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

June 2020

This Issue of the Ruawai Rambler Sponsored by

“The Team at Six O Farms”

From the Editor

Welcome to the June edition of our newsletter. We got the March issue out just before the lockdown and now we are back again. Since our local clubs and groups were unable to meet, there is a bit of shortage of news from those sources. The AGM for Ruawai Promotions had to be postponed and is now rescheduled for 2nd July. So here is your chance to come and voice your ideas. Tell us about your thoughts for Ruawai. We are always open to constructive criticism. We are also looking for new committee members. So whether you are in town, or on the farm, if you are interested in promoting Ruawai and surrounding area, have a chat with our Chairman, Bruce Crompton or with one of our committee members.

A couple of interesting developments in town: Diana at ‘Goodies Galore’ has doubled the size of her store. Tracey and Cilla have opened a Boutique Shop where the gym was. Supporting these ventures as much as possible will help them succeed. A couple of weeks ago I came by the Kaipara Kai office on the corner of Jellicoe Road. The door was open, so I went in to have a look. I met up with a very friendly man called Matt Punter, who is in charge. Matt agreed to supply an article for the Rambler, so you will find that further down. Another interesting article was provided by Jan Bellamy. Jan is a farmer’s wife (married to John Bellamy). Jan is also an amazing photographer. You can see some of her photos in this issue. Another hobby Jan has is Monarch butterflies. She has given me an article about tagging these interesting creatures. Yes, that is right - tagging. Marcus Liddell from Orr’s Pharmacy has sent some information about a new service for those of us needing medications. So have a good look at that. A new local initiative comes from Diane House and her daughter Sarah, who have started a business supplying high quality skincare products.

So, some interesting items in this newsletter as well as the regular ones.

Thanks to our sponsor Six-O farms and our advertisers. We are especially grateful to the businesses that keep advertising, since things have become difficult with the Covid19 lockdown.

Meanwhile, if you have an interesting story you want to share about your hobby or about something that happened to you, please get in touch.

For information or advertising, contact: **J.H.Wessel; Phone: 439 2507; email: jhwessel@xtra.co.nz**



Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group

will be held on: Thursday 2nd July

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Meeting Room, Ruawai Tokatoka Hall

All Welcome

Councillor Mark Vincent has contributed articles in the past and here is another one. I especially like the last couple of sentences. Think about what is good etc.....and share these thoughts at our AGM. **J.W.**

Council Mark says: Ni Hao

No, it’s not because the virus was first discovered in China, but because of a fabled saying that the mandarin word for “crisis” consists of two characters, one denoting danger, the other – opportunity. I agree with that sentiment but Google informed me that while that interpretation may have suited John F Kennedy back in 1959 the actual meaning is more nuanced, and only helps us so far. Albert Einstein takes us further down the road: “In the midst of every crisis lies great opportunity”. Albert may not have encountered Covid 19 but he did know an awful lot more than the theory of relativity. Our future is very uncertain at present, and there are bound to be winners and losers not necessarily as a result of any particular ability other than being able to recognise an opportunity when it presents itself, and being prepared to change. Charles Darwin (another old dead guy) once wisely said: *“It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.”* Think about that.

It is a good time to talk about the world we want for the future. If we give words to the vision it should help to bring about the actions which will make it a reality. Hopefully by now many of you will be aware of the spatial planning exercises which the council has been leading in previous months. These are the building blocks for our new district plan which is one of the main tools for guiding the shape of our district over the next 10 years. I hope you have made the most of the opportunity to contribute at this less formal stage of the process. In my opinion, the current situation has challenged many assumptions about our rate of change and what we aspire to as a community. Think about what is good that we should keep doing as a community, what we should stop doing, and what we should start doing, and share these thoughts with others. And the one rule is: be positive. Kia kaha. **Mark Vincent; Otamatea Ward Councillor; 021 0829 8037**



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Here are the rainfall figures for the first 5 months of the year, provided by Kura Newall.

Jan	4mm
Feb	0mm
March	49mm
April	61mm
May	120mm
June up to the 2nd	28mm

Kura says :”Note February was only the second month since 1975 that we had no rain for the month. The other month was December 1994. Thank you Kura.

As I mentioned above, I met up with Mat at the Kaipara Kai. Here is his article. Mat told me that they are in the process of hiring an admin. person. Once in place, there will be fixed opening hours. **J.W.**

The Kai Hub

The Kai hub is a district-support system focused on delivering economic growth in land productivity and development while addressing sustainability, wellbeing and environmental issues. It is a partnership between Kaipara District Council and Northland Inc., the regional economic development agency.

The Kai hub, on I Jellicoe Road, Ruawai, is managed by Matt Punter, who will be based at the hub; he has a wealth of experience in the sector, with almost 20 years’ involvement in commercial post-harvest research and molecular analysis. He described his role as a mixture of listening and taking on board landowners’ questions and concerns, supplying quality advice, garnering networks within the community, encouraging farmers to diversify and grow and “generally connecting the dots for any land-use transformation projects in the area”. “The manager works on the ground to deliver technical industry support to landowners, helping to identify kai opportunities and overcome constraints and some of the common challenges they face – whether that be workforce planning or regulatory uncertainty related to climate change – to achieve their goals,” said Punter, who is employed by Northland Inc. “The physical hub is a collaborative HQ base, where farmers can come to access sector knowledge and resources, industry professionals can meet with clients, informational events will be run, ag-tech companies can display their products, and remote workers and travelling professionals can hot-desk.” Joseph Stuart, Northland Inc’s General Manager, Business Innovation and Growth, said: “We’re excited to be working on what is a national first and fortunate to have the opportunity to partner with Kaipara District Council because of the undoubted benefits this project will bring to the region.

“Delivery, engagement and collaboration are the key functions of our role, and we’ll be working with farmers to strengthen their understanding of land-use diversification and the positive impact this can have on their livelihoods. Diversification of the sector is key, and we are here to help in any way we can.

“We don’t have a silver bullet, obviously, but we’re up for the challenge and, given the success that we’ve already achieved with Extension 350 [a farmer-led, farmer-focused programme], we’ve shown we definitely have the expertise and tools to succeed.”

As well as a resource center for those looking at exploring opportunities for innovation and growth in the food production sector the Kai Hub also offers:

- Hot-desking - Spaces designed for different working styles and maximum productivity.
 - Wi-Fi
 - Video conferencing kit

- Printing and scanning facilities
- Meeting rooms and presentation equipment.

For any information on booking and pricing please contact the Kai hub

M 027 328 3347 E matt.punter@kaiparakai.nz

W <https://kaiparakai.nz/>

F <https://www.facebook.com/KaiparaKai>

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Deputy Mayor and Councillor Anna Curnow has supplied the following article. Thank you Anna.
Town Centre Zoom Meeting Update



The past couple of months have been unprecedented and challenging in ways we could never have expected. But here we are in Level 2 with Covid-19 seemingly under control and an economy spluttering back to life. In our small towns, the main street businesses collectively make up the heart of our communities. The Covid-19 crisis has put these businesses at risk.

The Kaipara Mayor's Taskforce for Economic Support and Recovery (www.kaipara.govt.nz/taskforce) has been hosting a series of meetings with local town centre businesses on the online meeting platform Zoom. We had our Zoom meeting in Ruawai on 21 May. The attendance was small but focussed and represented you well.

Council was represented by the Mayor, myself and Mark Vincent. We heard about some of your experiences as a town centre business during the Covid 19 lockdown and what actions might assist with recovery. In particular, we were asked to help to build links between Ruawai businesses and Whangarei. To this end I have been in conversation with Northland Chamber of Commerce and Northland Inc and we are working on this as an idea perhaps also for the wider Kaipara.

We were also asked for to ensure that Council progressed all infrastructure projects that it could and made information available to the community about those projects. This ensures that local businesses can involve themselves in these projects when possible.

The meeting also discussed the idea of having Ruawai business directory style signs at either end of town. I have raised this with officers to explore and will respond when I have more information.

Finally, attendees felt it would be helpful to continue with the meetings for the time being. If you are interested in joining a future meeting please get in touch with the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group for details.

The intention is to continue to host these sessions for as long as they are useful. We envisage this being a way to connect you with agencies who can do more to support and inform you. But how this unfolds will be entirely guided by you and what the Ruawai community wants.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns or queries that you might have.

Anna Curnow, Deputy Mayor and Otamatea Ward Councillor; 021 667124; acurnow@kaipara.govt.nz

Here is some important information from Orr's Pharmacy

Greetings Ruawai People and surrounding districts,

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding over this trying time with COVID protocols in place. Gail has done an amazing job keeping the Pharmacy Depot "Orrs Health and Beauty" open by using ingenuity and lots of elbow grease. Thank you very much, Gail.

The Orrs Team has a new service to offer called "Sachet Packs". The Sachet Packs keep all your medicines in one place and take the headache out of trying to remember if you have taken your medication or not. They are similar to "Blister Packs" in that they are convenient to use, but are cheaper at only \$5 per month for the packaging. They are greener in that they can be composted and they are super easy to use and open.

If you are interested in these, please talk to the "Sachet Team" at Orrs Pharmacy. They will be only too happy to help. From time to time we will let you know of any exciting news from us. Until then we are looking forward to getting back to "Normal". Thank you to our little big community for your support and understanding.

Regards Marcus Liddell and the Orrs Team

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Following is Sue’s book
review. Sue can be found
most days in the
Books@Ruawai shop and
if you want information
about books, Sue is the
one to turn to. The books
Sue reviews are ones she
has read and are not
necessarily in the book
shop. **J.W.**

Sue’s Book Review

I hope you are all coping with the lockdown. I got caught out with no food shopping or library trip! Too busy organising the book shop ready for the shutdown.

Still, I did have one new book,

The Other Bennet Sister by Janice Hadlow.

Mary is the middle of the 5 Bennett sisters; plain and introverted, so often overlooked by her family. She turns to books for company and to help her find her place in the world.

Full of wit and beautifully written, it's a fitting tribute to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. If you loved that, you will love this.

Then, I was left with nothing new to read, so I went through my bookshelves and thought I'd re-read a few things.

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson.

Set in a small English village, the Major is drawn to the local shop owner, Mrs. Jasmina Ali. Their friendship soon develops into more than that. They then come up against his patronising son and interfering neighbours! Can they overcome all this to have some sort of future together?

It's a delightful tale, full of humour; just the thing to lighten up a dull, wet, weekend.

Down Under by Bill Bryson

I'm sure most people have read a Bill Bryson book. I chose this one as it's set in Australia. Told in his own inimitable style, laugh out-loud funny. If you need cheering up this is the book to go for. Or, for that matter, anything he's written; they are all brilliant.

Open:
Monday - Friday: 8.30 am - 5 pm
Saturday: 9.30 am - 1.30 pm

Dianna Simpson
dianna.goodiesgalore@gmail.com
02040062821

Find us on Facebook @ Goodies Galore

Goodies Galore

It is great to be open again after everything that we all have experienced with Covid 19.

I am pleased to say that Goodies Galore is bigger and better as I have been able to expand my premises, thus increase my stock. There are lots of new things in store such as basic stationery, hardware, kitchen utensils - oh, so many more “goodies; too numerous to mention.

And I am happy to say that I am also an Independent Rawleigh’s Distributor.

Dianna Simpson

Tears are words the heart cannot express.

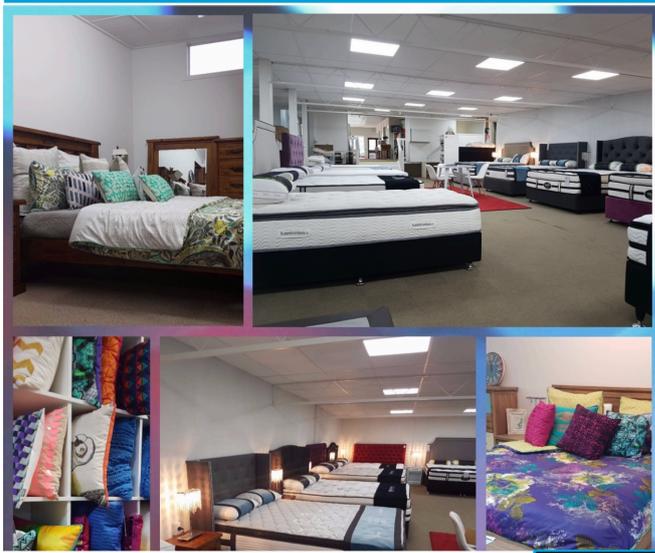


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*I had not heard about tagging Monarch Butterflies until Jan Bellamy approached me to put an article in the Rambler. Keep a lookout for these and contact Jan if you happen to find one. **J.W.***

Tagging Monarch Butterflies

This is a NZ-wide programme to tag the overwintering generation of Monarch Butterflies from the 1st of March every year to find their overwintering sites in NZ. I have tagged 100 butterflies. Thank you to Colleen who boosted my numbers. As I have 25 tags to go, if anyone has any caterpillars or chrysalis in their garden or should you find any tagged Monarch Butterflies, can you please contact me (4392450) or visit www.monarch.org.nz and register the butterfly sighting online. I have often been asked what is the difference between male and female Monarch Butterflies. The male butterflies have a black spot on each of their hind wings, which are scent glands. They also have thinner veins than females. Looking forward to hearing from anyone who has found one of my tagged butterflies, dead or alive. **Thanks, Jan Bellamy**

Ruawai Garden Circle

Hello to all you Gardeners out there. I hope you have all been coping with the vagaries, and difficulties of lockdown. We people, who live in the Kaipara, are lucky because our area has been almost free of the virus. Anyway, for all of our gardeners that are retired, life basically proceeded as normal - except no outings or visits. Obviously, we have not been meeting, so nothing to report on that front. But I'm sure everyone has spent time in their garden over this difficult period. Hopefully, by the next Newsletter there will be news and info aplenty. Best wishes to you all, take care, and look after each other. 😊 Happy weeding. **Merle Jackson**

***“Every day may not be good...
but there's something good in every day” - Alice Morse Earle.***

The Kauri Museum is Open!

The COVID 19 Lock down period has seen The Kauri Museum closed for 7 weeks, the longest closure in the 58 years since the Museum was first opened in 1962. The temporary closure also presented opportunities to come to grips with how the Museum could adapt to the new environment we were to confront once we were able to return to work.

With all possible safety measures in place we opened our doors as soon as the country reached Alert Level 2. Like so many other businesses across the country we rely on people through the door and sales in our shop to fund our day to day operation. I am pleased to report visitors are returning to visit the Museum. Our safety measures are working well and people have been happy for their details to be added to the contact tracing register, keeping to their bubbles and using the hand sanitiser available. The first long weekend after lockdown has seen many families taking the time to explore our galleries. We have also had family groups taking part in our new kauri gum polishing experience, where our resident gum polisher, Thelma, leads a lesson in the finer points of turning rough gum into the shining jewel that lies beneath.

Behind the scenes work continues as we progressively up-grade our storage and catalogue information on our collection. The Kauri Museum holds an extensive collection of photographs including many images of local people and landscapes. One image caught my eye recently. Listed as 'unknown location' I suspect the photo shows Tokatoka in the distance. *If you think you can identify where the photograph was taken please get in touch by email admin@kaurimuseum.com*



Our planned events and exhibitions will see some changes due to COVID 19 for example the Creating With Kauri Jewellery exhibition will now open in September rather than June. Keep an eye on our website www.kaurimuseum.com and our Facebook page for updates and changes. Remember to purchase your Annual Pass to support the Museum, pay once and enjoy your visits all year! Also check out our new online store where you can support the Museum by purchasing items from our store from the comfort of your home.

Dr Tracey Wedge General Manager The Kauri Museum

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How to Change Your Thinking to Change Your Life in 5 Steps:



- 1) Become aware - you can't change what you can't see.
- 2) Ask these powerful questions for events that have happened in the past, or are happening now. You can also project into the future to help you handle something that could happen.

What is happening right now?

What does it mean to me?

What am I going to do about it?

- 3) Reframe the thoughts - "You can't create the solution with the same thinking that created the problem." Albert Einstein.

Use the questions in Step 2 to identify limiting thoughts and beliefs begin to reframe them into something positive. For example, 'Every time I express how I really feel I get rejected'.

In this example, you'll also want to notice the generalisation and ask

yourself – is that really true? And then flip it on its head so it becomes a liberating truth. "Whenever I share how I really feel, I am saying it's okay to be me."

4) Embrace the fear and do it anyway. What's the next, smallest most logical step that will take you to your desired outcome? Make a plan to do it, set a day and time in your calendar and make sure it gets done! Then set the next smallest, most logical step in your calendar, and do that too, and so on... Every time you take action you build confidence and the fear gets easier to overcome. Go you!

5) Rinse & repeat.

The more you build awareness for:

a) Why you are the way you are

b) What you are thinking and doing that's keeping you stuck

c) And taking action that takes you out of the familiar towards what you do want

The more positive changes you'll see happening in your life.

Keep applying these steps and you'll be on your way to smashing your goals and living a life worth living in no time!

Carrie Adlington selfnurture.org



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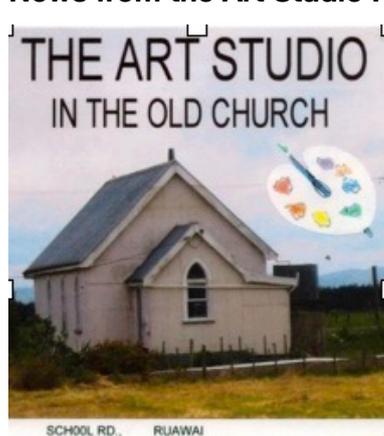
www.challenge.net.nz

I was asked to place the following notice. And that is what our newsletter is for.

Dargaville Friendship Club

Unless there are unforeseen circumstances, Dargaville Friendship Club will emerge from its 'bubble' on Tuesday 14 July when there will be a belated Annual General Meeting, a morning tea and a guest speaker. The club looks forward to its regular programme of monthly meetings and outings, paying attention to any COVID-19 restrictions that may apply. **Enquiries: James Foster 439 5955.**

News from the Art Studio Ruawai

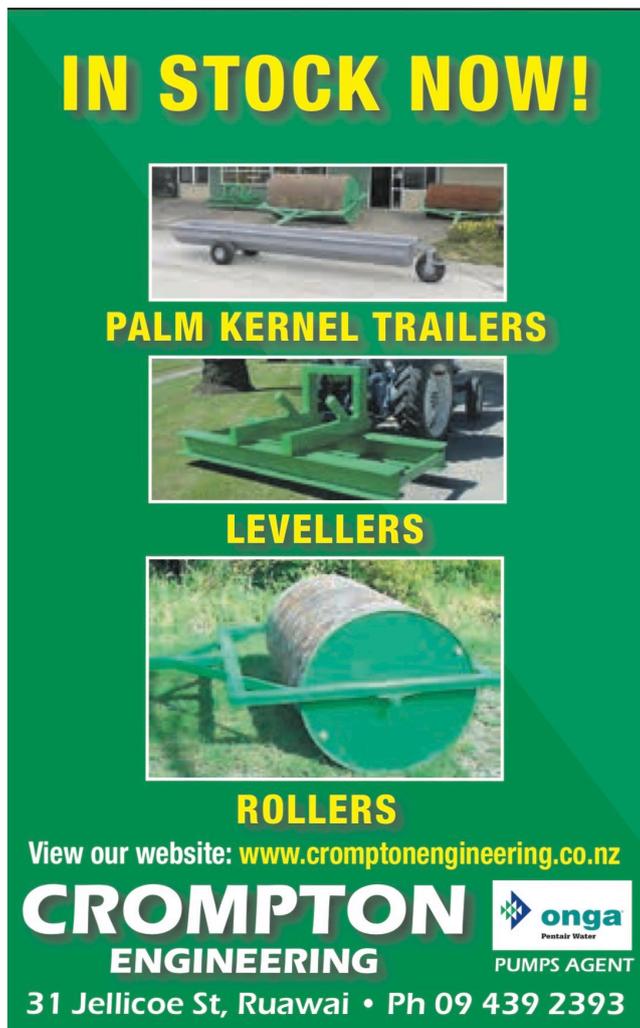


Firstly, our thoughts and sympathy go out to those who have lost loved ones or found it difficult during these trying Covid19 times.

The Art Studio resumed meeting on Wed. 27th May and the morning was filled with catch-up chatter. Also there was a "show and tell" of members' work during the time of lockdown. There was plenty to see and obviously, there had been no time for boredom. After lunch it was down to the serious business of painting. We are looking forward to, what will be, a very enjoyable Workshop in June and we will hopefully have some of the results of this in the next issue of the Rambler.

Our members meet every Wed at 10am at the Art Studio, Ruawai School Rd., Ruawai - should you wish to join this friendly group or have any queries. Please phone me at 09 439 2554.

Frances Casey



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"You know you've reached middle age when you're cautioned to slow down by your doctor, instead of by the police."

Ruawai Traders and Boutique

Hi everyone, I'm Cilla. I have always wanted to do a second-hand shop, so when the opportunity arose I jumped at the chance. I approached Tracy to see if she wanted to do it with me and she didn't take long to get back to me with a YES! I love Art Deco and vintage; I hope you do too.

Hi, I'm Tracy. You will already know me because my husband-to-be is Darren, your local Mechanic. Yes, you heard right. We are not married - but we were due to get married in April this year in the UK. But Covid19 put a halt to that. Cilla and I are both excited to tell you about our new shop "Ruawai Traders and Boutique". We are open Tues.-Fri. 10am - 4:30, and weekends (when able). Just look for the pink flag. We are situated on Freyberg Road between the 4-Square and Hairdressers. We have good quality furniture, clothes and collectibles on offer. We kindly accept donated "in good condition" items. We buy-in as well.

We will be stocking ballgowns, shoes and jewellery so you won't have to travel too far to get kitted out for those special occasions. We look forward to seeing you in our shop and hope you will follow our Facebook page.

Cilla and Tracy



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Connections  **Real Estate**

Hi everybody. I hope you are safe and well.

Prior to lockdown and in the short time since Level Two, the residential and lifestyle real estate market in our area has been strong. It's not often we see multiple offers happening in Ruawai, so it is good to be experiencing a time of buoyancy when so many other things in our lives are not going so well!

During lockdown, buyers could complete their due diligence, and agreements were still able to go unconditional because most solicitors and our District Council were working from home. I had strong buyer enquiry during levels 3 and 4, especially from Aucklanders wishing to escape the city to somewhere they could plant fruit trees and grow their own food. I was seeing lots of website views from overseas (often ex-pats wishing to return home), and even had a couple of Australian buyers ready to purchase property "sight unseen"! I am getting noticeably more enquiry from investors for rentals which is interesting because this market segment was very slow prior to the pandemic. Any market is driven by supply and demand and as a result the residential and lifestyle markets are still very active, evidenced by the sale of a house in Ruawai in level 2 already.

A few facts and figures:

There were 13 house sales in Ruawai township in the past twelve months. Eleven of them (84%) were transacted by Connections Real Estate. Of these eleven, the average sale price was 24% above the average rateable value.

There were 12 lifestyle blocks sold and Connections Real Estate transacted six of these. Of these six sales, the average sale value was 28% higher than the average rateable value.

If you are thinking of selling some time in the next year or so, I recommend taking some action sooner than later. The market is strong right now, but these are uncertain times.

Take care! **Nicky Reid, Connections Real Estate, 021 103 6277** nicky@connectionsrealestate.co.nz

The Moosletter.

Hello everyone. Hopefully, Covid hasn't made people look at everyone else as a potential threat! The great news is so far, apart from Chinese bats, there is no evidence of animals being involved in virus transmission. In households, with people infected with the virus, some animals have been found to be carrying the virus but have no signs of disease. Thankfully, vets were classed as an Essential Service so during the lockdown we kept coming to work. It was great driving around with little traffic and no road works. It was also great to see all the Kaipara Kumara workers next door coming to work as well; along with the farmers. It makes the Ruawai area high in essential workers. Hopefully, that will help keep the local economy moving along – I guess there are advantages in not being a town of hotels and airports.

It was a bit odd having the animals in the Clinic to examine (with the owner out in the car waiting) but it worked. Horses are probably the most difficult to work with; it is impossible to keep two meters apart when you are injecting horses. Hopefully, it is behind us now – it will be interesting to see what happens in the world over the next few months.

Take care out there. Janine Hames



The Vet Centre Ruawai

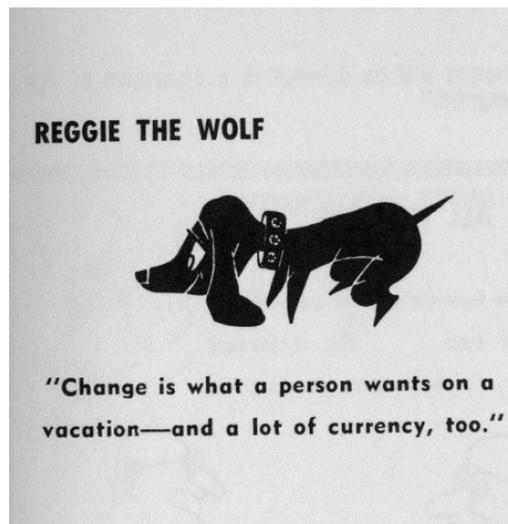
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We Care:
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Mother Daughter Duo, Diane and Sarah of Bokah Skin, in Business Together

Bokah Skin was founded out of a passion to create natural organic skincare products by mother-daughter duo, Diane and Sarah.

Diane moved to Ruawai 6 years ago from the North Shore, Auckland. It all started over ten years ago when beauty therapist, Diane started making lip balms and body butter. Back then, there was little in the way of non-toxic and natural products. Soon enough Diane was making moisturisers, serums, scrubs, and masks for not only herself but her close friends and family too.

Diane has qualifications in natural skincare and horticulture and has worked as a beauty therapist for the last 20 years. She is a green thumb at heart, and uses her knowledge of horticulture to grow and harvest herbs and wildflowers for making infused oils and herbal extracts for Bokah Skin's wildcrafted skincare range. Diane does the research, formulation and production side of Bokah Skin. Using her knowledge as a beauty therapist, Diane has hand selected only the best quality, active ingredients. She hand-makes every individual product in small batches to ensure freshness. Diane's focus is on anti-aging, helping others age gracefully by keeping skin looking young and radiant.

The mother-daughter duo envisioned a brand that was all natural and organic that did not use fillers, fancy marketing or ingredients you can't pronounce. It's been a long road, and the pair have been working hard behind the scenes, to bring their skincare range to fruition. They are pleased to announce its opening and you can enjoy their skincare range for yourselves.

Bokah Skin is a real family run business, the products are made here in Ruawai. If you would like to order and collect from Diane to save shipping email hello@bokahskin.com or call 0212930542 or online at www.bokahskin.com. They have your essential skincare products available now – and in product testing – and also have four to five more to come! A gentle cleansing scrub, vitamin C and hyaluronic serum, glycolic acid peel, bentonite and dead sea mud mask, and lip balm.

Diane House



Last year we entered in the Dalton's Sunflowers in Kindergartens competition held for participants throughout New Zealand. Each plant was grown from a seed, nurtured in pots as seedlings then planted into our sunflower shaped garden bed. The tamariki had such a passion for tending to their garden and caring for the flowers, growing some very impressive flowers, such that we took out first prize for the tallest stem in

Northland and the widest flower head in Northland and New Zealand. We were rewarded with Dalton's and Warehouse vouchers which have been put towards purchasing new resources and gardening products. We are settling back into life here at Ruawai Kindergarten post Covid-19 lockdown; the children are settled and happy to be back in their learning environment, rekindling friendships and rediscovering all there is to do here.

Our teaching team would like to extend a huge thank you to our families for embracing the 'new normal' routines we have implemented here at Kindergarten to ensure we continue to keep everyone safe now and into the future.

Our hours are Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm.

The teachers are Teresa Robertson (Head Teacher), Chanelle McLaughlin, Lisa Matthews, & Kyla Johnson (Office Administrator/ Lunch Cover Teacher).

4376A SHWY 12 Ruawai (09) 4392415 Email: ruawai@nka.org.nz or visit the Ruawai Kindergarten Facebook page.



Ruawai College

With the challenges presented during the lockdown period, teachers moved to online platforms to stay connected with each other and their students. Applications like Zoom and Google Meets allowed members to assemble, plan, share and develop ideas around teaching and learning.

Lions Club of Ruawai Charity Auction – Saturday 14 March at Kaipara Kumara Forecourt



What a great day! Starting before 6 am the goods were transported to Kaipara Kumara Forecourt in Ruawai. Marquees were erected and the trading tables were filled with all sorts of goods ready for the sale at 9 am. Items for auction were then available for inspection for when the auction started at 10 am. There was a huge variety of goods – a jet ski, a mobility scooter, gates, fertiliser, limestone, farming goods, a rotary hoe, firewood, artwork, bicycles, a Coleman lantern, lots of furniture, fridges and beds, knitting wool and much more.

Paparoa Lions came with their food caravan selling hot chips, hot dogs and drinks.

Very soon the forecourt was very busy and after an intense day buyers were packing up their goods and heading for home. Even one person with a couch on top of their car!!

The weather was perfect, lots of bargains, lots of bidding and yummy food to sustain the busy buyers – all to help the Lions Club of Ruawai top up their finances to enable them to benefit our local Community, supporting our students, budding athletes, young achievers, the elderly and other worthwhile causes.

A very big thank you to all those that sorted through their possessions to recycle to new owners. ‘One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.’ Also thank you to everyone who helped in many ways - including collecting a massive quantity of goods from our community and then helping run the whole event; a special thank you to Kaipara Kumara and the Vet Club for the use of their facilities.

Massive thanks to all the business sponsors who donated quality products to be auctioned. Kevin Reid Contracting, Ravensdown, Ballance Agri-Nutrients, Farmlands, Carters, PGG Wrightson, Farm Source, FarmShop Dargaville, Simpson Gardens, Dave Bentley and Silver Fern Farms.

We are so grateful for the support of our wider Community for their considerable contribution to the success of this fundraising event. Thank you everyone!! We made just over \$4000!

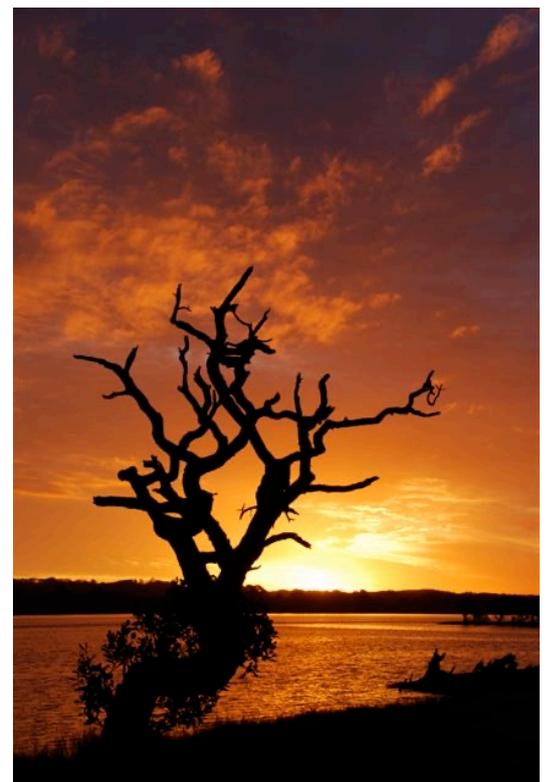
Winners of the Silver Fern Farms Meat Raffle were Kaipara Kumara, Janice Radich, Penny Read and Raymond Marychurch.

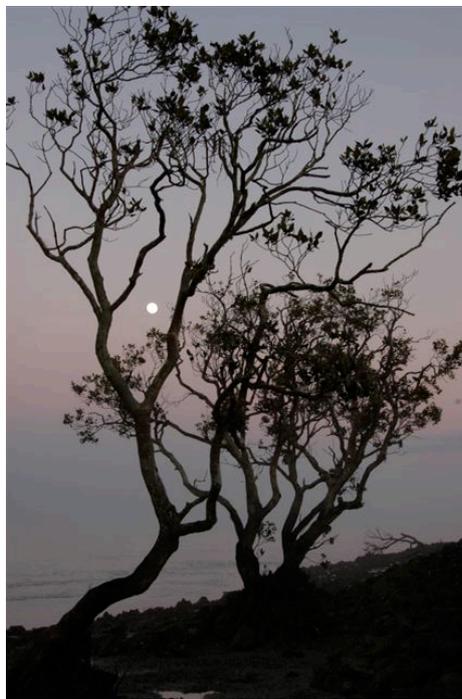
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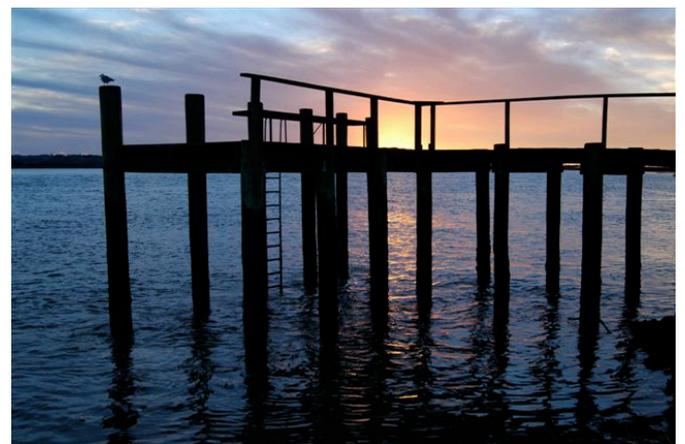
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Here are a few more photos from Jan Bellamy



An Irish Story

Father O'Malley rose from his bed one morning. It was a fine spring day in his new west Texas mission parish.

He walked to the window of his bedroom to get a deep breath of the beautiful day outside.

He then noticed there was a donkey lying dead in the middle of his front lawn. He promptly called the local police station.

The conversation went like this: "Good morning. This is Sergeant Jones. How might I help you?"

"And the best of the day te yerself. This is Father O'Malley at St. Ann's Catholic Church.

There's a donkey lying dead in me front lawn and would yer be so kind as to send a couple o'yer lads to take care of the matter?"

Sergeant Jones, considering himself to be quite a wit and recognising the foreign accent, thought he would have a little fun with the good Father, replied, "Well now Father, it was always my impression that you people took care of the last rites!"

There was dead silence on the line for a moment.....

Father O'Malley then replied: "Aye, 'tis certainly true; but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin first, which is the reason for me call."