



March 2018

RUAWAI RAMBLER

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

This Issue of the Ruawai Rambler Sponsored by

Kaipara Kumara

From the Editor

Welcome to the March edition of the Promotions Newsletter. Our main sponsor this time is Portstar Plastics. This successful Ruawai business is now under new ownership. I went to see Mark Jeffries and you will find a brief article below.

As you will see, the RPDG is having it's AGM this month, so if you are interested in what we are doing you are most welcome. Nominations for joining our Committee have to be made known to the secretary, Tina McCullough, 48 hrs before the meeting, either verbally or written.

You may have noticed that the new gazebo has been painted. Our thanks to Colin Thompson for doing a great job. By the way, we are still interested in historical photos of Ruawai, from about 1950 onward, to put in the gazebo. If you have any please contact myself or Suzanne Oud, 439 2390.

Our group hosted a very successful meeting with the Mayoral candidates. There was a good turnout and those attending enjoyed meeting the candidates and having the opportunity to ask questions.

Going back a bit further, the annual Christmas Parade did Ruawai proud. We had some wonderful floats. Special thanks to Elaine Crompton for organising this. RPDG also want to thank Broadspectrum for their assistance with the traffic management plan for the float parade.

I also want to thank our advertisers and sponsors for their continued support of the Ruawai Rambler. For information about our Newsletter or advertising, please contact the Editor Jo (Johannes) Wessel; email: jhwessel@xtra.co.nz; Ph.09 439 2507; Mob. 028 411 3027



Annual General Meeting

**The AGM of the Ruawai Promotions and
Development Group will be held on March 27th.**

Time: 7.30 PM

Place: Meeting Room, Ruawai Tokatoka Hall

All Welcome

Council Long Term Plan Consultation

Every three years Council prepares what is called the Long Term Plan. It covers the next 10 years and what infrastructure and levels of service that Council proposes to provide to the community during that time. It also projects what sort of rating income would need to be collected to achieve those goals.

This Council's Long Term Plan Consultation Document will be available for you to review until early April (we haven't confirmed the dates at the time of writing this article). You can download a copy of the LTP Consultation Document from the Council website www.kaipara.govt.nz. You may also like to attend one of the many community consultation meetings that are planned around the district. Again the Council website will have a list of those and they will be publicised across local media.

The LTP is, in essence, a contract between Council and the community so it is important that you read the Consultation Document and provide your feedback. Once we confirm the LTP at the end of June then we are committed to delivering those projects and levels of service.

If you would like to talk to me personally about any questions or feedback you have, please don't hesitate to contact me on 021 667 124.

Anna Curnow; KDC Councillor



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Jan. 2018 - 133mm

Jan.2017 - 19mm

Up to 20th Feb. 2018 - 212mm

Feb.2017 - 78mm

For 2017 - 1189mm

Thank you Kura !

Ruawai Medical Services

The following article is by Debbie Evans, CEO Kaipara Community Health Trust. Many of you may not know Debbie or are aware of the hard work she does for our community. Without her input, we probably would not have a regular doctor's service in Ruawai or the prescription service mentioned in this article. Keep up the good work Debbie!

J.W.

Small Community, Wonderful Services Available

Orrs Unichem Pharmacy Dargaville has been servicing the Ruawai Community for 12 years now from their Pharmacy Depot site on Freyberg Road, known to you all as 'Orrs Health and Beauty'. As you can imagine there are a lot of compliance issues with running a Pharmacy. Orrs have overcome these obstacles to provide the Ruawai Community with a comprehensive prescription supply service. This means once you've seen your Doctor, either in Ruawai or Dargaville, as long as you drop off your script to either pharmacy site before 1pm the team in Dargaville will then process and dispense your completed script. It is then sent back to the Ruawai depot ready for you to collect from 3pm the same day (providing the prescription does not need extra follow-up). Supporting local business ensures that both business and services are continued to be offered locally. Ruawai's an awesome rural community and we're blessed to have health services delivered locally in our town. The delivery of the Orrs Ruawai rural script service has been propped up by rural funding the last few years to assist with the costs involved in providing this service. Without this funding the service would be unviable. May I encourage you all to continue using and supporting all our local services. The Ruawai depot is open Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 4:30pm (with a brief closure for lunch at 1:45pm-2.15pm). It's closed on weekends/public holidays. Did you know that Orrs Unichem Pharmacy in Dargaville is open 365 days of the year? 9am to 1pm every Saturday. 10:30am to 12:30pm every Sunday. Normal weekday hours are 8:30am to 5:30pm and they are open 10am to 1pm on Statutory Holiday Weekdays.

Debbie Evans, CEO Kaipara Community Health Trust

Mon-Sat 9am-5pm

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Ruawai Stop-bank Walking and Cycle Trail

Some of you may have noticed that work has begun on our Walking and Cycle Trail along the stop-bank from the Wharf to the end of Simpson Road. The team is so pleased to finally see some physical progress. Thanks to all those on the Drainage Board and at Council who have helped to get this project underway!

Stella Clyde is focussing on how we might achieve the next stage of the trail that would connect it up to Matakohe and we'd love to hear your ideas if you have some thoughts. **Anna Curnow**

The Book Corner

This is a new feature in our Newsletter. It is written by Sue Neal. Sue works in the 'Books@Ruawai' shop and has a broad knowledge about books. If you want a book or information about a book, go and see Sue. So, here is the first article.

Just a few books you can settle down to read on a quiet evening, or afternoon for that matter !



"Sanctuary" by Judy Nunn This is her latest release. It's the story of 9 refugees fleeing war-torn countries - different in culture, religion and strangers to each other when they board a boat in Indonesia. The boat founders near a small island off the Australian coast. How they bond and how locals react when they are discovered makes a riveting up to the minute read. I can highly recommend it.

For the Thriller lovers amongst you, I can say John le Carre is the master of Cold War spy novels. His latest is *"A Legacy of Spies"*. He has written many, many others; if you haven't read him before give him a try.

For the cooking fans, get Nigella Lawson cook books for sheer indulgence, or Nigel Slater if you like something you can whip up quickly after work. I would say though, his books are written like a diary, so are fun to read even if you never cook anything out of them !

For the youngest reader in the family you can't get better than Julia Donaldson, author of *"The Gruffalo"*. Her newest book is called *"The Ugly Five"* and it promises to please as all her other books have.

Sue Neal

Time for Dancing

Sonja King is a dance teacher and comes to Ruawai every Wednesday. She teaches at the Ruawai Tokatoka Hall. Following is Sonja's introduction

Hi, my name is Sonja King and I am the principal teacher for Kings School of Dance, teaching Classical Ballet, Tap and Jazz Style and Hip-Hop, from the school's studio at Aratapu four to five days per week and Ruawai one day per week. The School offers lessons in all of the aforementioned disciplines and operates through the primary school term dates. Students learn set steps and routines for the level and discipline they're studying during terms 1 and 3, and have the opportunity to sit an annual Exam, gaining recognition for their achievement. In term 4 the school places formal learning aside to teach dances to the students that they perform in front of an audience at the Dargaville Town Hall. I am a trained BBO Dancer in Classical Ballet and Tap teaching BBO and TDI, and a Primary School Teacher with a PGDip in Education with an interest in Special Education. I welcome your contact, preferably after 8pm week-day evenings or anytime during the week-end. Ph: 09 439-0280 or 021 2326 966 or e-mail me at kings.sch.dance@slingshot.co.nz



**RUAWAI LIONS CLUB
ANNUAL CHARITY AUCTION
SATURDAY 17 MARCH**

VENUE: Kaipara Kumara Forecourt

TRADING TABLE OPENS: 9.00 am

VIEWING OF GOODS: 9.30 am

AUCTIONS STARTS: 10.00 am

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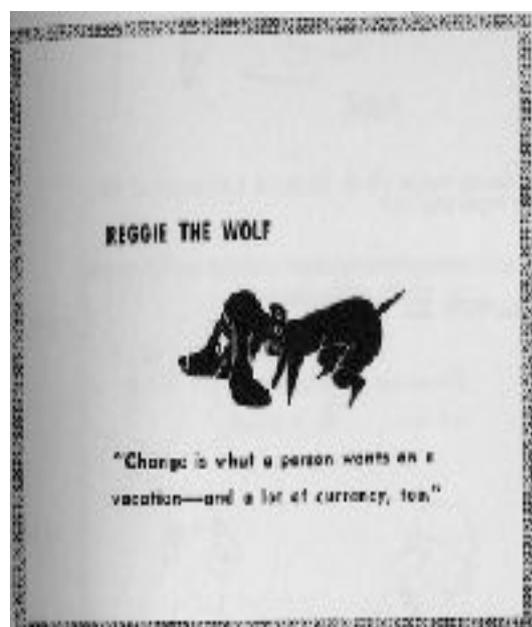
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Water, Water, Everywhere

Last month we had a special moon appearing in the night sky. The moon was closer to us than usual and it also had a different colour. As we all know, the moon controls the tides of the sea and by being closer to us we had some very high king tides. Here are a few photos showing the effect of this high tide at our Ruawai Wharf. Thanks to Anthony Blundell for the pictures!

J.W.



New owners for Portstar Plastics



Portstar Plastics is a thriving local industry. It was started by James Lucas. James is a Ruawai 'native'. He went to Australia and was trained in plastics manufacturing. He came back to Ruawai, started Portstar Plastics and developed it into a very successful business. Last year James decided to sell the business. The new owners are Mark Jeffries and his partner Zelda DeVilliers. Mark and Zelda both have a background in business. They were

looking to buy an existing business that had been operated by friendly owners and had a staff culture that was strong and positive. They found this in Portstar Plastics. James is acting in a supportive capacity so Mark and Zelda can become familiar with the business. Mark and Zelda have sold a property in Hamilton and are at present living in Pahi. Mark says they like the Kaipara area and have enjoyed the friendly people. James has always been a strong supporter of the Ruawai Community and Mark says they are happy to continue supporting Ruawai Promotions and the Ruawai Rambler, for which we are very grateful. **J.W.**



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From the Art Studio



'En plein air' painting

The New Year for the members of the Art Studio Ruawai began with a visit to the Art Expo at One Tree Point. It is always a joy to look and admire the work of other creative artists.

Last year the change to having our Art Day on a Wednesday worked well and we will continue with this. Our challenge for this term will be to try "en plein air" painting, which is painting outdoors. We have a lovely venue in mind and will attempt this when the weather cools. Also our agenda for the coming months features Art Trails, Sculpture Exhibitions and Workshops. Should you wish to visit or join us at the Art Studio, on School Road, Ruawai, we are open Wednesdays from 10am until 2pm. Groups are also welcome.

For appointments or for further information please phone Frances at 09 439 2554

COMMUNITY SUPPORT: MAN UP AND LEGACY, RUAWAI by Paul Rawaho

These highly successful support programmes for men and women have started in Ruawai: Man Up for men, and Legacy for women. They're helping people become better people from all walks of life, and whatever problems you have. I run the Man Up, and Adelaide runs Legacy.

Man Up strengthens men to become better fathers, husbands and leaders in their home and community. Overcoming domestic violence, anger, depression, divorce, drug and alcohol addiction, suicide and more.

Legacy is a program designed to help women become better mothers, partners and contributors to society. The aim is to encourage, empower and help women to have the freedom they need in their lives through making a commitment to one another and taking responsibility for their decisions and actions.

Both Man Up and Legacy observe a strictly confidential environment for people to open up to difficulties they may be facing in life. There are over 200 Man Up and Legacy meetings being held all over NZ each week, and now include Australia and Tonga.

Man Up and Legacy meetings are currently being held on Saturday mornings from 10-12pm, and it pays to ring me on 021 154 0649 to double-check where the meetings are being held as they do change from time to time.

Take care, Paul Rawaho



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Ruawai Indoor Bowling Club News.

Happy New Year from the Ruawai Indoor Bowling Club. With summer drawing to a close we start to prepare for a new season of Indoor Bowls In the Ruawai Tokatoka Hall. We will be kicking off later this month (date not available at time of publishing). If you are thinking that you may like to play some sort of sport, not too physical and as competitive as you choose (either as teams or single) this sport might suit you. I am writing this assuming that you have never played before. We have a range of players in our club - young, old, disabled, all with their own style of playing. We try and keep it interesting with a range of different mixtures of games. Plenty of coaching and help on the night is available as well as leaving you do your own thing. We would love to see you. Even if you think maybe you might come down to the Hall and just watch, you are more than welcome. This is alcohol and smoke-free, followed by a cup of tea, and is family friendly. For more information contact: **Tony Oud Ph 439 2309**



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Gone Fishing

The Ruawai Boating Club held a successful fishing competition last month. At least successful as far as participation was concerned. Twenty-two boats went out on a beautiful morning. The water became a bit choppy as the day went on, but nothing serious. The day was not so successful as far as catching fish was concerned. Quite a few boats came back with no catch at all, and fish that were caught were nothing to later brag about over a couple of beers. However, people enjoyed the day out and as someone said "It beats working". In the evening many of the fishermen (and women) gathered at the Sports Club venue for prize giving and a three course dinner.

J.W.

Winners were:

Open Section

Kahawai - 1st Jake Tana

Trevally - 1st George Madden

Kingfish - 1st Bronson Wrathall

Snapper - 1st George Madden

Snapper Junior Section

1st Koaria Bristow

2nd Sasha Tunnicliffe

3rd Blake Jenyns



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Ruawai TokaToka War Memorial Hall

The Hall has undergone a number of renovations over the last few years and is now in renewed condition. The Meeting Room was the first project. The roof over this room had been leaking which caused a lot of damage. Next the Ladies Toilet block was totally redone. It looked quite shabby and some ladies were reluctant to use it at all. Next, the Hall Committee applied for and obtained a Lotteries Grant to put a new roof over a large part of the Hall and at the same time upgrade the kitchen which included the installation of a steriliser/dishwasher. Last year we were lucky enough to get another Grant which was used to renovate the Social Lounge (used to be called the

Supper room). It was completely refurbished and we had a air-conditioning unit installed for heating or cooling. A new stove in the kitchen replaced the old one which was unreliable. The kitchen has passed health inspection. The Hall Committee has organised the repainting of weathered and damaged portions on weather boards, doors and windows on the outside of the Hall. The outside was last painted in 2007. The Meeting Room is good for small meetings. The Social Lounge is used for larger meetings, dinners and birthday parties. It can seat up to 100 people for a meeting and at least 60 people for dining. For larger events, such as Socials, the whole complex can be used. **For more information contact Carolyn Wessel , Ph: 439 2507; Mob.:027 439 2028 or go to the website: ruawaipromotions.co.nz and click on Ruawai Hall.**

J.W.

"If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving is definitely not for you"



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The Disappearing 'Wows'



You may have noticed that back in January the 'Wows' on top of the roof at Kaipara Kumara had disappeared. This was rather puzzling and unexpected. I also was a bit saddened to see them gone for they have become quite an icon for Ruawai. Question: where had they gone? So, I put on my Sherlock Holmes hat, lit my pipe and did some sleuthing. I quietly snuck around the premises of Kaipara Kumara. They were not in the lunch room or the secretaries office. They were definitely too big to fit in Anthony's office. So, I started exploring some of the sheds and eureka, there they were!! Turns out they were not being thrown on the junk pile, but were being cleaned and repainted. Once restored to their former glory they were going back on the roof top where they are replaced now. "Thank you" Kaipara Kumara for keeping the 'Wow' factor going in Ruawai!!

J.W.

"No one is perfect... that's why pencils have erasers."



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Holiday Fun at the Kauri Museum

For the last few years the Kauri Museum has held Workshops for kids during the school holidays. The workshops have included kite making, woodblock printing, and chair building. Run by Museum Staff and Volunteers the Workshops have been very popular. These coming holidays the kids are going to make upholstered stools using recycled materials. The Workshop will be on 18th April and is suitable for ages 7 to 12yrs. It is a great way for kids to learn some basic wood working skills, and have a wonderful day out.

If you would like to register your child for the Workshop, please phone The Kauri Museum at 09 431 7417 for more information about time and cost. Dr Tracey Wedge; Collection Manager, Curator



Kids learning woodblock printing and furniture made with recycled wood

Your Local Community Sports Club

The Ruawai Community Sports Club Committee and the affiliated clubs continue to maintain this fabulous community facility. We are continuously looking at ways of updating the Sports Club and ensuring its availability and practicality. Most importantly the Sports Club has recently installed a heating and cooling air con system – providing a very comfortable environment for both functions and meetings. This year, we will continue to look at replacing the carpet and furniture to create an updated and modern environment as well

The 2018 RCSC Committee is:

Chairpersons:

Jenny Dallison & Sara McKinley

Vice Chairperson:

Pete Wilson

Secretary

Michelle Beardsall

Treasurer:

Anthony Blundell

Events Manager:

Jewelie Sterling

Bar Manager:

Paul Gatehouse

Committee:

Paula Crosbie

Jo Forsyth

Chris Bellamy

Craig Mitchell

as adding a fresh coat of paint to the outside. The Ruawai Community Sports Club currently have 8 affiliated clubs and welcome more to join. Our annual fee is \$100 and for this very reasonable cost, each club is able to use the Club Rooms for all their fundraising and prize giving needs. Become our 'friend' on facebook to keep up to date with RCSC happenings and club events.

We wish you all a great 2018.

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I long for a cow of modern make
That milks five days for leisure's sake
That sleeps on Saturdays and rests on Sundays
To start again on Monday

Oh for a herd beyond suggestion
Or staggers, bloat or indigestion
That never bothers to excite us
With chills or fever or mastitis

I sigh for a new and better breed
That takes less grooming and less feed
That has the reason, wit and wisdom
To use a seat and flushing system.

I pray each weekend long and clear
Less work to do from year to year
And cows that reach production peak
All in a five day working week

Oh, why don't the scientific bods
Primly entrenched in their cushy jobs
Show these ignorant breeders how
To propagate a five day cow.

RUAWAI KINDERGARTEN OPEN DAY FRIDAY 27TH APRIL 2018 10-2PM



WILD SIDE UPDATE by Janet Curle (nee Balcombe)

Greetings all. My husband, Ray Curle, and I stepped out from producing the Christian Life national news magazine in November. We've launched a service to help authors self-publish their books both in New Zealand and internationally on 39,000 online outlets. We've been so busy we're literally getting plastic burns from the keyboard over here! We're meeting so many interesting Kiwis with fascinating stories. We've recently re-released local Ruakaka resident, Neville de Villiers gripping memoir, *Doumar and the Doctor*, tracking his white-knuckle adventure sailing a 31ft sloop from England to NZ. We're helping Dutch ex-pat, Ingrid Coles from Havelock North publish her inspiring memoir, *Two Slices of Bread*, her story of surviving being interned in a Japanese concentration camp in Java at 3 months old. At three years old she and her surviving family members returned to Holland, then Ingrid immigrated to New Zealand to train as a nurse. What a story!

Another fantastic book we've worked on is *The Unforgotten Babies* by Marina Young. She is the founder of the Buttons Project which helps support people affected by abortion. Check out www.wildsidepublishing.com/wsp-authors.html and see the excellent authors we've had the opportunity to help in some way, and their stunning books (under the Self-Publishing Help tab).

I'm pedal to the metal trying to get some space to get my next book, *Radical Lives Vol 2* to the printers. It's almost there! This is a collection of 19 fascinating Kiwi true stories to encourage and bring hope. Contributors include: Andrew Stroud - NZ motorcycle racing legend, Tania Butler - widow of Chris Crean who paid the ultimate price making a stand against gang violence in Taranaki (of the movie RESOLVE), Tuhoe 'Bruno' Isaac - ex-Mob leader of True Red, and ... well, you get the picture. Heaps of other legends.

We're getting more and more feedback from readers of *The Wild Side* as my memoir silently but surely permeates through society, including letters from prisoners who have been greatly encouraged. Check this out, just this week: **"Some feedback regarding your books *Radical Lives* and *Wild Side*: They are being well received by the inmates at Mt Eden and are in high demand at the moment."** Also, **"I am writing to share how your book (*The Wild Side*) changed my life and really encouraged me during a very difficult time. Every day I read a chapter and I really looked forward to it despite other situations going on at the time & it gave me something to look forward to & helped my spiritual walk and fight."** Makes the endless hours chained to the keyboard getting a writers tan worthwhile. Almost.

On a very different note, our healing and recovery initiative, the *Wild Side Trust* became a fully incorporated charitable trust and has been granted full charitable status. The *Wild Side Trust* is a communications hub helping connect people with the help they need, and is working towards seeing a new healing and recovery centre established in the Kaipara. See more on www.wildsidetrust.org

Our website www.wildsideministries.com is there, loaded with solid podcasts free to stream or download to help bring healing and clarity on a range of issues... eg. Healing for the Traumatized, The Difference between Christianity and Other Religions, Hindrances to Healing, There is Hope, Signs of the End Times, Unmasking the Cults & Counterfeit Christianity and much more. I've just uploaded a new blog which you can find here as well... *'The ugly truth about relationships... and God's original plan for them'*. If anyone is struggling with anything and would like support, feel free to contact Ray or I privately for healing prayer.

If anyone wants to keep in touch with our email newsletter, email me your address at janet@thewildside.net. Anyway, I'll love you and leave you. All the best for the journey. Peace out, Janet

The Newest Business in Town

"*Connections Real Estate*" is the newest business in Ruawai. Nicky Reid has started her own business after completing her Diploma in Real Estate and obtaining a real estate agency license.

"*Connections Real Estate*" is located opposite the Four Square, in Shop 2 of the block of shops next to Farm Source.

Although Nicky specialises in selling farms between Wellsford and Whangarei, she will also be listing residential and lifestyle property around Ruawai as she is a great advocate of this area.

Self-employment is a natural progression for Nicky as she has been self-employed for most of her working life. As a veterinarian she owned her own practice in Wellsford for nine years, before going farming for a few years, and is now settled in Ruawai doing what she loves - helping people make their next property move. Call in next time you are passing by.

What's the Real Estate Market Doing?

Residential sales in and around Ruawai have slowed down although the market is still quite active with 12 sales reported to REINZ in the past year as compared to 27 the previous year. Values have strengthened and most residential property owners found their new rateable valuations were lifted last year to reflect the lift in this market.

"Supply and demand" is having an effect on the dairy farm market, as there are a large number for sale and less interest from buyers. The average sale value of dairy farms per hectare is not much different than it was five years ago, although grazing land has lifted significantly in value over that period. From now through to winter is usually the most active time for the rural real estate market, so give me a call now if you are thinking of selling.

Nicky Reid

A Bit of Ruawai History

I do some volunteer work in the Collections Department of the Kauri Museum and I come across some interesting material. Just recently I noticed a booklet published by an Auckland firm in 1939/1940. It was a kind of travel guide. In it I found some interesting information about Ruawai in those days. As you can see it was quite a thriving community. I have heard about Shepherd's tearooms from some of our senior citizens and they were quite famous in those days. They were located on what is now Wharf Road, just before you get to the Ruawai Hall. That area was then the business centre of the town. The Picture Theatre was where Connections Real Estate, the accountant's firm and Dargaville Vet Clinic are now. I have been told that the 'Central Garage' was located where the 4square supermarket is now.

When we came to Ruawai in 1974, there were two banks (BNZ & NATIONAL), three service stations (Shell, Caltex & BP), a panel beater shop, a men's clothing & shoe store, a high quality ladies fashion store, a hardware store, two electrical supplies shops, a butcher shop, two supermarkets plus a Post Office which was also the telephone exchange. Thankfully, Ruawai is still a thriving community even though there have been many changes.

J.W.

RUAWAI.

Ruawai is the centre of a rich farming district. It may be reached from Auckland by service car, or by rail to Paparoa Station, thence by daily service car (19½ miles) by metalled road via Paparoa and Matakoho. It may also be reached by regular steamer from Helensville or Dargaville.

Ruawai is quite a business centre, with post-office, District High School, several stores, two garages, boarding-houses, baker, butcher, picture-theatre with dancing floor, public hall, two banks, etc. There are excellent tea-rooms opposite the post-office. The principal industry is dairying, there being a large factory near the township.

There are Tennis, Croquet and Athletic clubs. Also ladies' rest-room and a branch of the Plunket Society.

Lodge Ruawai, 207 (Masonic) meets monthly.

TOKATOKA.

Tokatoka was the first European settlement on the Wairoa. It lies on the main road between Dargaville and Paparoa, service cars passing through each way daily. It is about 22½ miles from Paparoa by road and 10¾ miles from Dargaville. Steamers call in on their way from Helensville. The township lies near the foot of Tokatoka Mountain, t

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