



RUAWAI RAMBLER

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

September 2019

This Issue of the Ruawai Rambler Sponsored by

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From the Editor

This edition has something different. With local body elections coming up, a few candidates are using our Newsletter to inform you of their ideas. Debbie Evans is standing again for the Northland District Health Board, while Anna Curnow and Mark Vincent would like to represent the Otamatea Ward on the Kaipara District Council. Please take a little time to consider the various candidates and make sure to put in your vote. Our thanks to our sponsor, Crompton Engineering, and to our advertisers.

You have very likely heard on the news about people being wakened in the morning by someone knocking at their door saying they need help. And the advice is: "Don't open the door - and call the police". A variant on this scenario is to have someone coming to your door claiming they are from the police and need information. Again, be careful. Ask which Police Station they're from and confirm with that station.

The Ruawai Promotions and Development Group will be having a public meeting in October. We have two open meetings per year, our AGM in February and another public meeting in October. At these meetings you can bring up ideas you may have to help make Ruawai a better place to live.

Due to circumstances, we were not able set a specific date. Once this has been decided, we will likely advertise it in the Lifestyler. So, keep an eye out for this. And, by the way, if your club or group wants to advertise an upcoming AGM, or other event, you can do so in the Ruawai Rambler at no charge.

For information about our newsletter, or advertising please contact:

J.H.Wessel; Phone: 09 439 2507; email: jhwessel@xtra.co.nz

RPDG Survey

With the June issue of the Ruawai Rambler, we attached a Survey with some questions about Ruawai Promotions and the Stop-bank Cycle/Walkway. Here are some ideas people came up with. Our committee will sit down and discuss these to see what we can do.

Question 1: Have you run, walked or cycled on the Stop-bank Trail? Yes: 22; No: 7

Question 2: Do you think that the Stop-bank Trail will give more people a reason to visit or stop in Ruawai
Yes: 26; No: 3

Question 3: Do you think the Ruawai Stop-bank Trail has made Ruawai a better place to live?
Yes: 27; No: 2

Question 4: do you think RPDG is doing a good job within the Community?
Yes: 25; Maybe: 4; One comment: most definitely

Question 5: "Do you have any other Feedback about the Cycle/Walkway"?

Here are some of the ideas that came up:

- 1) A seat/bench on, or at the end of the walkway so people can have a rest.
- 2) Better signage in some places.
- 3) Several people suggested the cycle/walkway should be extended to Matakoho and Paparoa.
- 4) Do not allow quad bikes and motorbikes on the trail.

Question 6: "Do you have any Suggestions for Future Projects or Facilities for Ruawai"?

- 1) A BBQ area with seating for locals and visitors to use.
- 2) A community cleanup along roads in the Ruawai area, eg. Robertson, Dunn, Jellicoe Road
- 3) The camber of the road outside the Chemist is so deep that, especially elderly people, struggle to get out of their cars.
- 4) Dump station at the Wharf.
- 5) A Gym back in Town.
- 6) Remove signage from the Hotel. Add better signage for the current facilities (Public Toilets, etc.).
- 7) A Traveller's Book Depository by the wharf carpark so travellers can leave &/or take paperbacks.
- 8) A Bike Maintenance Station where bikers can check tyres. Little Allen keys & cheap spanners, etc. to do minor repairs.

- 9) Get rid of the derelict house at the Wharf.
- 10) Increased Policing of the Wharf Area.



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Debbie Evans Bio 2019 Northland District Health Board Elections



Debbie Evans is serving her third term on the Health Board, initially as a Government Appointee and then Publicly Elected. Debbie's an active member whose contributions are valued at the Board table. A logical, critical thinker who is able to analyse and challenge management, she doesn't shy away from the hard questions. Known as a 'voice for the community', Debbie is CEO of Kaipara Community Health Trust and has significant governance training through NZ Institute of Directors. Raised in Ruawai, married to Maungakarama Dairy Farmer Rex Buisman. Debbie is committed to Northland and focused on making sure we have a quality health system that services the needs of Northlanders. Debbie would like to utilise her experience and continue serving the people of Northland. Her mission is to ensure locals have access to the best healthcare as close to home as possible.

Voting Debbie Evans 'Number 1' is a sound investment.

Authorised by: Debbie Evans, 53 Purvis Road, RD8 Whangarei 0178, 027 558 6272

Veterinary Services in Ruawai - A Short History

The first vet in Ruawai was a Mr. John McDonald who arrived in 1947. He was employed by the Ruawai Co-op Dairy Co. He was followed by eight other vets between then and 1967. One "colourful" vet came from the USA and would catch cattle in the paddock with a lasso. At that time the Ruawai Dairy Co. joined the Mid Northland Dairy Co. and the veterinary service from then on was provided by the Otamatea Veterinary Club Inc. The Otamatea Veterinary Club was established in the early 1960's. Running as an Incorporated Society it was established by a group of farmers who got together and formed a Club. They paid an annual membership fee and then employed veterinarians. The Otamatea Vet Club started with one vet working out of his home at Maungaturoto and over the ensuing years grew to include the Waipu and Ruawai areas. More recently the Mangawhai practice was purchased. This expansion has been achieved by a good team of vets and staff, overseen by a dedicated Board of Directors. Some 20-25 years ago it was decided to change the trading name to "The Vet Centre". Local farmers are elected to the Board. The Vet Centre is not owned by the vets; they are employed by the practice.

So, what is a Vet Club? Back in the 1930's-1940's, livestock farming in New Zealand was developing rapidly and farmers were beginning to see the need for qualified vets to deal with the health of their stock. There was no veterinary training available in New Zealand as yet and vets had to come from overseas, mainly from England. However, vets were, understandably, a bit reluctant to come all the way "down under" not knowing what they were in for (keep in mind that commercial air travel was in its infancy and people came from other countries by ship). So a group of farmers in the Taranaki area got together with the local dairy company. They formed a co-operative group - a club - to which they all contributed and advertised in the UK for a veterinarian. The club paid wages and provided a house and a car. This proved successful and other areas followed suit and formed veterinary clubs. Over the years many clubs have become privately owned practices; our local Vet Centre is still a Club.

In the 1970's there was a severe shortage of vets and the local Vet Club decided to advertise in Canada. The first Canadian vet in Ruawai was Don Kolonosky who came in 1970. Don stayed for two years and was followed by Merv Rowan who was here from 1972-1974. He was followed by yours truly, Jo Wessel. I came with my family with the intention to stay in New Zealand. I retired from the practice in 2006. The Vet Centre is, of course, still going strong and planning to build a new clinic in Ruawai.

In the early days the vet's wife was expected to take the "after hours" phone calls at home and pass the information onto her vet husband by means of a radio telephone. She also assisted with emergency surgery if required. For a number of years these services went unpaid, being considered part of the vet's employment until the wives started to "rebel" and received their own well deserved pay packet. As an interesting sideline. In 1974 phone calls still had to go through the 'Exchange' which was located in the postoffice - the building across from the Ruawai Hall. All calls (incoming & outgoing) were connected by the people in the Exchange (mobile phones only existed in the stories by science fiction writers.) **J.W.**



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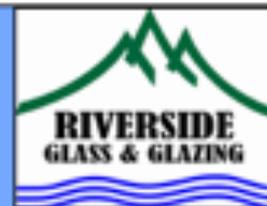
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A few words from Connections Real Estate.

2019 has been an interesting year in real estate.

Residential Sales: Legislative changes for landlords and the potential threat of a capital gains tax put a damper on residential sales for the first half of the year. There were six residential properties sold in Ruawai compared with 16 for the same period last year. Now it seems that we have all moved on from that because I have been rushed off my feet with buyers lately!

Lifestyle Property Sales: The past twelve months has seen the number of lifestyle sales drop by almost 20% across Kaipara District. However, prices have continued on that gentle ever-steady climb that is typical of this market and lifestyle properties are now averaging 20% above their rateable valuations.

Farm Sales: There has been minimal activity in all types of farm sales in Northland this year, especially dairy farms.

There have been five dairy farms reported as sold in Kaipara in the past twelve months compared to eleven in the same period last year. Nationwide, numbers of dairy farm sales are down by 37% which is a reflection of uncertainty in the dairy industry and a tightening of lending criteria. The mean price per hectare of dairy farms has dropped by over 20% over the past twelve months nationwide, which combined with a drop in the value of Fonterra shares means that the debt ratios on dairy farms have swung the wrong way. Although the winter was mild with reasonable pasture growth, conditions are very wet now so we need to be kind to our dairy farming friends!

Connections Real Estate is "branching out" into an additional office located in the main street of Paparoa, so you will see my properties up in their LED lights there very soon. Give me a call for a confidential chat about your property aspirations any time and I will do my best to help you. **Nicky Reid. 021 103 6277**

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Lions Club of Ruawai Report

Lions Club of Ruawai has some coming events!

Quiz Night: On Friday 18 October at 7.30 pm at the Sports Clubrooms

Proceeds to Northland Rescue Helicopters

Teams of 4 - \$10 a head - Raffles and prizes - supper

To enter phone 027 2102 008 or 4392557

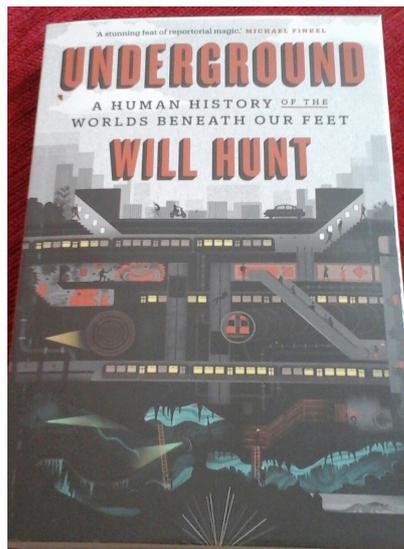


Lions Senior Citizens' Christmas Function is on Sunday 1 December at the Memorial Hall. If you are new to the area and are 60+ do let us know (ph 09 4392557) so that we can give you an invitation. Our Christmas Raffle tickets will soon be on sale.

We are having a special Lions Orientation night where one can learn all about what Lions Clubs do – Thursday 19 September at Ruawai Sports Clubrooms at 6 pm with soup and buns (\$10 a head) and information session starting at 7 pm. For further information please contact ourfamily@xtra.co.nz or ph 4392557

The Lions Club of Ruawai focuses on serving all sections of our community through many projects and also provides an opportunity for like minded people to meet socially. If you would like to know more about our Club and are interested in coming to a meeting please contact Rosemary 027 2012 008 or Dorothy 4392557

Sue's Book Corner



These books kept me company on some very cold, wet winters evenings. Hopefully you'll like one or two of them as well.

Underground by Will Hunt

Will Hunt became interested in subterranean worlds as a teenager when he broke into an abandoned railway tunnel near his home in Rhode Island. It left him with a lifelong obsession of the world beneath his feet. It took him to 20 countries, into caves, sewers, mines and tunnels. This is a fascinating insight into a world most of us never even think about, let alone realise is there.

A truly good read.



The Nanny by Gilly Macmillan

Jocelyn's nanny disappears one night when she is 7, without saying goodbye. 30 years later Jocelyn returns to her childhood home with her own daughter and human remains are found in the grounds of the house. Is Jocelyn's memory of her childhood and her nanny an accurate account or is it something more sinister ?

A real page turner with great twists and turns, I love this author anyway and her new book doesn't disappoint.

Sentinel by Matthew Dunn and Slow Horses by Mick Herron

Two authors I have just discovered.

Matthew Dunn writes spycatcher / espionage books and he, himself, worked in Intelligence; you can tell by reading his books. If you like Spy novels this is a one for you.

Mick Herron has several different series of books but I have only read this one; the first of a trilogy set in Slough House. It's about a group of Intelligence Officers who have all failed in their respective careers. They are in Slough House to push paper until they either get so bored they

leave or until they retire. Then a boy is kidnapped and the kidnappers are going to live-stream his beheading. It suddenly makes them realise they aren't just going to watch it happen and let someone else take the glory. But can they redeem themselves and save the boy?

Great writing, dry humour - I really enjoyed it.

All these books can be gotten from good bookshops, online or at a library

A few words from Mark Vincent, Candidate for Otamatea Ward



The Kaipara is a great place, and I think we can make it better. I want to contribute my skills and experience to the Kaipara District Council for the challenges ahead. Some people will know that I was a manager for the KDC for quite a number of years. This means that I understand how local government works, what it does and doesn't do. I know that getting best value out of our roading dollar is a major issue, especially maintenance of our unsealed roads.

I have learned a great deal about governance in not-for-profit organisations in recent years through forming a land care group called the Otamatea HarbourCare Society, and by leading the Board of the Kauri Museum through a difficult period of financial adjustment. Working as a team, the Board reversed the six-figure losses of consecutive years in less than 12 months. We made the hard decisions for the good of the Museum.

My wife and I have lived in the area for more than 35 years. In addition to the HarbourCare plant nursery we graze dairy heifers for a Ruawai farmer here on our harbourside property.

I would like to meet more people from the Ruawai area and have the chance to hear their issues and concerns, and to discuss my ideas too. Give me a call on 09 431 7353 or 021 0829 8037.

Authorised by Mark Vincent, 145 Petley Rd, Papanoa.

Why are many Coin Collection Jars shaped like Pigs?

Because: Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of a dense orange clay called 'pygg'. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as 'pygg' banks. When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a container that resembled a pig. And it caught on.



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Authorised by: A Curnow, 130 Galvin Road, RD2, Ruawai. Ph: 021 667 124

Anna Curnow – Standing for Kaipara The Council elections are coming up and yes, I’m definitely standing for re-election. Here’s why.

I have really enjoyed the opportunity to represent my community at the Council table. Each time Council meets I keep the people that I meet each day in the front of my mind. What matters to you, the residents of our historic District, is what matters to me.

A Council that Listens

Our District has done the hard yards, pulling itself out of a very difficult time. Now Council needs to focus on lifting the whole community, not just segments, but all of us. That means working in an inclusive, grass roots way, creating opportunities to interact with all our communities and listening and responding carefully to what we are told.

Better Roads

Kaipara has one of the highest percentages of unsealed roads in the country and years of underinvestment to correct.

This means Council has to get better at maintaining unsealed roads; a lot better. If re-elected, I commit to keeping the pressure on and that includes better reporting on what Council is delivering; so we all know what's happening.

Diversifying Industry

At Kaipara's heart is agriculture, in particular dairy and beef farming. However, as our community evolves and we face the growth caused by Auckland migration, I believe need to encourage a broader view of the world and look to opportunities such as tourism, digital technologies and diversification of agriculture. Which is not to say we should turn our back on tradition. Generations of Kaipara farmers have made this District what it is and should be supported in their continuing efforts.

Sensible Financial Management

Thankfully, Kaipara is now well and truly mid-pack with its debt and other financial ratios. That means Council can afford to do some infrastructure development by spreading the cost of the work over a longer period. However, as with any sensible budget, Council must live carefully within the means of its ratepayers.

Planning for Climate Change

Council needs to be leading the way with communities to understand what the impacts of climate change are likely to be and what plans need to be put in place to address those impacts. You have my commitment that I will fight for the rights of Kaipara ratepayers and residents as Council moves into this work.

If you'd like to know more, please visit my website www.voteforanna.co.nz or get in touch on 021 667 124 or anna@annacurnow.co.nz

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From the Kauri Museum

It's been a busy couple of months at The Kauri Museum. In late July, entries opened for the two competitions we had organised; poetry and photography. The Poetry Competition concluded on National Poetry Day, 23 August, with a very well-attended Open Mic Night and prize giving. Following later this month is the awards function for The Kauri Museum's Northland Photography Award; and a performance night and prize-giving for our Student's Poetry Competition.

Planning is ongoing for our annual **Settlers Day**, to be held on **Saturday 5 October**. The theme this year is **Hearth and Home**, with all the old favourite activities returning, along with some new and surprising activities to enjoy. Put a ring around the date in your calendars now!

Another big event happening in October is the return of the remainder of the Rintoul Collection from Auckland War Memorial Museum. On loan since the 1920s, more than 160 Māori taonga will be returning to the area where many were collected. Going first to Waihau Marae at Arapaoa for a welcome home from Te Uri o Hau, they will then come to the Museum for display before becoming the focus of a major research project.

September heralds the return of spring and also of our tourists. The first coach tour for the new tourist season arrives on the second day of the month. We look forward to welcoming them to the Museum and also to seeing many Ruawai residents here in the coming months. Thank you for your support.



Above: three photos of Settlers Day activities and one of the "Open Mic Poetry Night"

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From Diane House



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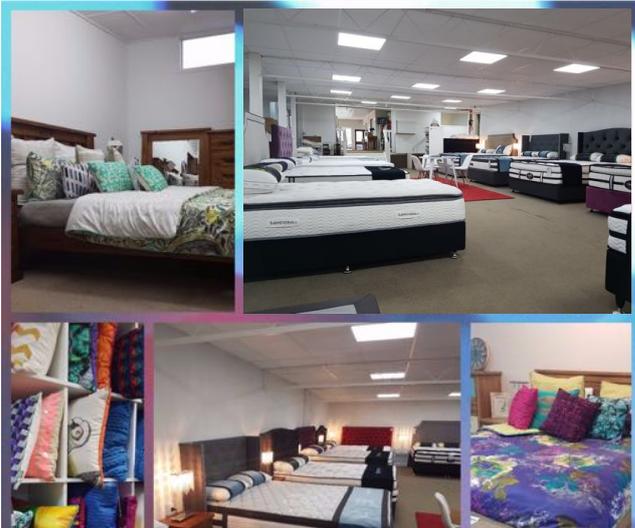
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Ruawai College Students in Action

Melbourne Basketball Trip

On 1st July, five of our students embarked on an amazing basketball journey to Melbourne. These students were Mokoia and JZ Llewellyn, Bekks Coll, Emma Ashford, Kayla Llewellyn-Huriwaka and myself. I was the assistant coach of the U14 Girls team that Kayla, Emma and Bekks were on. We arrived in Melbourne not knowing what to expect. We managed to secure a venue to get in some training to help the girls be prepared for what lay ahead in their upcoming games. There were seven teams in our pool and as a result of all the hard work that was put in by our students and us coaches, we came home as Bronze medalists. It was Cameron Academy's best results in this annual tournament. We were 1 of 5 teams that travelled and we all had success in what was to be the highest standard of basketball I have ever seen.

A huge thank you to our Cameron Basketball Academy and Blake Worsfold for the opportunity of being a coach in their ranks; and to the Melbourne Basketball Community for exposing us all to quality basketball at all levels. Also like the thank Rachel Ashford and Dianne Povey for being hair specialists and our shopping assistants. And lastly, to all of our kids and their families for trusting us with their taonga to represent our school and its values on an international stage.

Nga mihinui kia koutou, nga whanau o nga hau e wha! Mauriora

Raymonde Huriwaka



Bee Bush Road Science Trip

On the 31st of July the Ruawai College Year 8, 9, and 11 Agriculture and Horticulture students were involved in developing a wetland. This involved travelling to Mark Fletcher and Teresa Taylor's dairy farm on Bee Bush Road, Arapohoe. They are creating a wetland with Imogen Field (Northland Regional Council), Andrew Kirk (Department of Conservation) and Jaque Knight (Enviro School Guru). The purpose of the wetland is to filter water before it ends up in the Manganui River which connects to the Northern Wairoa and the Kaipara Harbour.

We planted 6 different species of wetland plants, manuka, kanuka, cabbage tree, flax, karamu and carex. As a result of this, we have been offered the opportunity to name and support the development of this wetland.

We would like to thank Mark, Teresa, Imogen, Andrew, Jaque, Mrs Dammers and Mr. Humm for arranging this trip and allowing us to have this experience.

Year 8 class



An interesting story

Outside England's Bristol Zoo there is a parking lot for 150 cars and eight buses. For 25 years, its parking fees were managed by a very pleasant attendant. The fees were for cars about \$1.40; for buses about \$7.00. Then, one day after 25 years of never missing a day of work, he just didn't show up. So the Zoo management called the City Council and asked to send them another parking agent. The council did some research and replied the parking lot was the Zoo's own responsibility.

The Zoo advised the Council that the attendant was a City Employee. The City Council responded that the lot attendant had never been on the city payroll. Meanwhile, sitting in a villa somewhere on the coast of Spain (or some such scenario) is a man who'd apparently had a ticket machine installed completely on his own; and then had simply begun to show up every day, commencing to collect and keep the parking fees; estimated at about \$560 per day - for 25 years. Assuming seven days a week, this amounts to just over five million dollars! And no one even knows his name.

Ruawai Kindergarten



We were recently visited by the Education Review Office, and as a result we received a 'Very Well Placed' which is the best review you can receive from ERO. Some of the stand out feedback we received is as follows:

"Children are confident and engaged in learning, and demonstrate a strong sense of belonging".

"Teachers are respectful and responsive in their interactions with children and whanau".

"Children access a thoughtfully prepared environment that fosters their learning and development".

"Teachers skilfully integrate te reo, tikanga and te ao maori into the programme. The curriculum reflects the unique context of the local community".

(If you would like to read the full report please visit the NKA website, Ruawai Kindergarten page.)

We have an open door policy and welcome families in Ruawai and the surrounding communities to call in and have a look around our fantastic modern facility.

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

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

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



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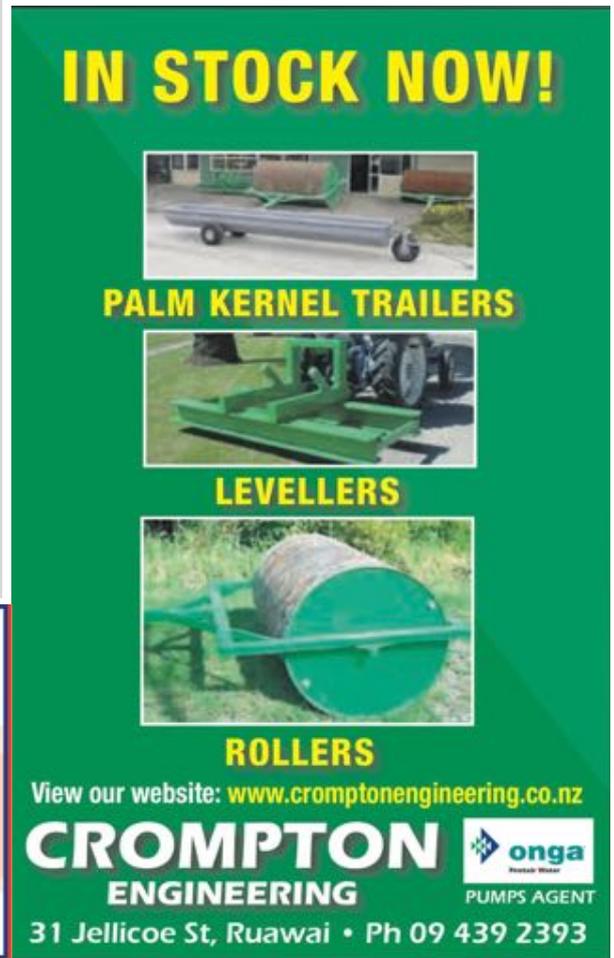
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.Feel The Fear and Do it Anyway

That was the theme of the Public Speaking Group I attended a few weeks ago. Whenever we do something for the first time or puts us in a situation of feeling discomfort, it can make us feel like holding back, not moving or freezing. It's our wonderful inbuilt protection mechanism kicking in! But that same protection mechanism is what stops us from living life fully.

Yes, we don't want to be hurt. But take a good look at the situation. What's the worst that could happen to you really? And what's the best thing? If you're really not sure it's worth the leap, it's okay to step out of your comfort zone - but stay in your safety zone. If you'll be safe, but uncomfortable, it's most likely worth the risk.

This week I'd like to invite you to go beyond at least one fear and see how it feels. Perhaps you are afraid of starting something new? Perhaps you are afraid of how you'll be perceived if you speak your truth? Perhaps you have to speak in front of people? Perhaps it's asking for help? Whatever it is, I invite you to step beyond it, to "Feel the

Fear and Do it Anyway".

If you'd like more inspiration, check out the book "Feel the Fear and Do it Anyway" by Susan Jeffers. And if you're interested in joining a public speaking group, they meet fortnightly around Kaiwaka area, please contact Wayne 022 406 8095. **In bliss, Carrie Marie Adlington**