



March 2019

RUAWAI RAMBLER

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

**This issue of the Ruawai Rambler sponsored by
the Ruawai Community Church**

From the Editor

Thank you to the Ruawai Community Church for sponsoring this issue of our Newsletter. Again, our appreciation to all sponsors and advertisers.

A special thanks to our "posties" - Wendy Booten and Lorraine Wallace who faithfully deliver the Ruawai Rambler in town and the rural area; free of charge. A great service to our community!

Hard to believe but nearly three months have passed since our pre-Christmas activities. Our Christmas parade was again successful. Thanks to Alex Bickers who did a splendid job as M.C. After several years of work we were able to officially open the Gazebo on the Village Green and the walk/cycle track on the Stop-bank. The AGM of the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group will take place on 26th March. If you have any suggestions for our group, please feel free to come and be heard. Nominations for membership on the Committee have to be in writing to the Secretary, Tina McCullough, at least 48 hrs. before the meeting. Last year we held a community meeting where we discussed the possible effects of global warming on coastal areas in general and the Ruawai Flats in particular. We will be following through on this with another public meeting. This will be announced in due course. Watch this space.

If you have a story to tell, or have an idea we can follow up on, we'd love to hear from you. For this and information about advertising please contact: **J.H. Wessel, Ph.: 439 2507; email: jhwessel@extra.co.nz**



**Annual General Meeting
The AGM of the Ruawai Promotions and
Development Group will be held on March 26th
Time: 7.30pm
Place: Meeting Room, Ruawai Tokatoka Hall**

Councillor's Corner – What an Extra \$27m Means

The big news in the last month has been the granting of \$27 million to Kaipara District Council from the government's Provincial Growth Fund (PGF). This was a milestone moment for Kaipara, not just in the size of the financial input, but also in the recognition that the Kaipara district has been through some tough times which have left a legacy that we are not able to remedy with our usual resources.

By way of background, last year Council engaged the services of consultants to review the operations of our roading team and to examine how effectively we were using the ratepayer dollar. They found firstly that our roading team are operating well and are as productive as they can be with the funding they receive. They also found that our roads were some of the worst in the country and that we were unlikely to be able to rate our small ratepayer base to be able to bring our roads up to scratch.

We were able to use this information for an application to the PGF that asked for help to remedy our roading troubles. In particular, maintaining Pouto Road as an unsealed road that is hammered daily by around 100 forestry truck movements, is costing more than it would if it was a sealed road. (Interestingly, with average levels of traffic it is cheaper to maintain an unsealed road than a sealed one but once the traffic level is as high as Pouto Road the equation reverses.) We also need help bringing the unsealed network back up to a standard where normal maintenance is enough. Happily, government agreed with us and we now have the funding to get the work done. Officers are working with contractors to schedule the work as soon as possible.

Also in the package, is funding for work around rebuilding some of the Kaipara harbour wharves to encourage tourism traffic in particular. Exactly which wharves will benefit is to be decided in a feasibility study.

Finally, we also received funding for a feasibility study around developing Kaipara's food production capabilities, given that we have some excellent soil and are close to Auckland.

In the next few weeks and months Council will be asking for your input on our Dog Management Policy and Bylaw. The existing Bylaw around dogs is not always very clear and we have tried with this new proposed Bylaw to make things clearer and fairer on dogs, dog owners and others in the community. It's a balance, and we look forward to hearing your views on the suggestions we make.

I would like to remind you that you are most welcome to attend our Council meetings and briefings. We try to move these around the community to make it as easy as possible for people to attend. To find out when the meetings and briefings are, please check the website at: www.kaipara.govt.nz and click on the Council Meetings and Agendas link.

Anna Curnow 021 667 124 Cr.curnow@kaipara.govt.nz

Ruawai Stop-bank Trail – Open!



The Ruawai Stop-bank Trail was officially opened on 16 December last year. Those who were there will know it was a great day with over 150 people joining in and coming from as far away as Whangarei. Cyclists, walkers and dogs braved the heat of the day to enjoy the spectacular views along the Trail, with spot prizes from a wide range of local businesses, music from the band 'Otherwise Fine'. Since then locals and visitors alike have been using the Trail. It has become a regular stopping point for people passing through Ruawai on their journey further north or back to Auckland. Local businesses are also benefitting when those visitors stop for a coffee, to browse some second-hand books or grab some provisions for the rest of their journey. Locals are using the Trail sometimes every day and are apparently even looking forward to wrapping up warm for winter walks (something I enjoy too).

I thought it might be helpful to give an overview of what has gone into the development of this lovely resource:

- \$30,000 was raised from a Lotteries grant. This has been used to spray the weeds back, prepare the track surface and lay the limestone. In each case, local contractors (spraying, limestone provider and design work) came to the party with their best deals and we are grateful for the support. The grant also funded the design and printing of the informative and educational signs along the Trail.
- \$1000 approximately was raised in a raffle on opening day. This was used to fund the installation of the signs by Council's contractor Broadspectrum who also did a lovely job of repairing the tyre track ruts left in the grassed area of the stop bank so that walkers and cyclists were safe on opening day.
- Community efforts filling in the gaps. Ian Beattie rolled the length of the Trail after the limestone was laid making sure the surface is safe for everyone. The words and pictures on the signs were prepared by local people (some of whom are on the development committee). The event was planned and organized by the committee with help from Sport Northland. Advertising for the opening event was done by members of the committee and supported by many other members of the community and businesses. Also included here is the installation of the gates and bike gaps which was done by the Raupo Drainage Committee.
- Ongoing events are now underway. In particular, Nicky Reid has been organizing regular events for cyclists using the tracks. Her Sunday afternoon bike rides are joined by people from miles around. She has also been leading a drive to promote cycling in our District with her Bike the Kaipara initiative, and making sure our Trail is listed in all the resources that promote cycle trails.

Maintaining the Trail also falls to our community. The agreement with the Raupo Drainage Committee is clear that it is the committee's responsibility to maintain the surface of the Trail to a standard that is suitable for walkers and cyclists. Maintaining the stop-bank and the floodgates is vital to our community and is done by the Raupo Drainage Committee using money collected from a targeted rate. However, that does not include the maintenance of the surface to a walking and cycling standard. This means that each year the committee will need to raise funds to spray back weeds that are encroaching on the Trail and repair the surface of the Trail, when necessary, so it remains safe for all to use. Local farmers are already coming forward to help with this with calf donations etc. It's also useful to note that the Trail is part of a wider plan to connect the West Coast with the East Coast via a network of walking and cycling trails that take in the highlights of our District including our beautiful Kaipara harbour. In summary, the Ruawai Stop-bank Trail is something our community

can be very proud of. Visitors and locals alike attest to the value that has been created. Thanks to all those who have helped to get this project to where it is. And thanks also to everyone for taking care of our treasure by treating it with care and respect. -**Anna Curnow** Chair, Ruawai Stop-bank Trail Sub-Committee
 Ruawai Promotions and Development Group

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We Remember Gordon Murray



Gordon Murray beside June Weber at a
 Ruawai Lions event

Recently we, in Ruawai, lost one of our most active citizens. Gordon Hugh Murray died on 7th January 2019 in his 100th year. If you have shifted into Ruawai recently you may not have known Gordon. He had a serious accident years ago and was restricted in his activities. His life can be an example to us all. An article in a recent Lifestyler spelled out the many local activities Gordon was involved in. So in this article we'll deal with another part of his life. The Kauri Museum has, for many years, been interviewing people in the area and recorded these interviews as 'oral history' for posterity. Last year I accompanied Colleen Smith as she interviewed Gordon. Following is some of the story Gordon told us.

Gordon was born and lived in Remuera for 20 years. His first job after completing College was on a sheep and cattle station where he was paid 10 shillings (about \$45 in today's currency) for a 6-day week.

He then secured an apprenticeship with the Austin car importers, Seabrook Fowlds in Auckland. They were involved with car racing and Gordon became hooked for life. During WWII Gordon enlisted in the Royal NZ Airforce. He did an 18-months apprenticeship at Ohakea and, as a fully qualified mechanic, was then based at Whenuapai. When Japan entered the war, squadrons were sent to the Islands, first New Caledonia, then the Hebrides. Gordon became a flight engineer on C-47 planes and was also taught to fly them. Since flights were ten and a half hours, he would relieve the pilot; two hours on and two hours off. It included night-flying by instruments and as Gordon said, he got pretty good at it. Once a month they had to fly to Honolulu and would bring back parts and "all sorts of stuff".

It took four days to get there. In the war years, Hawaii was not the place to be. Marshal Law was in force, which meant if you were caught on the streets at night they threw you in jail. You could buy no alcohol. Waikiki Beach was covered in barbed wire. Gordon related the following incident: "The whole crew nearly ended up in jail. On Hawaii you could buy silk stockings and the wives and girlfriends back home wanted these badly because they were not available in NZ. So, we went to Sears-Roebuck, the biggest store I had ever seen in my life. At the door stood a big man in a uniform covered in gold braids, etc. When we came he yelled "Here come the New Zealanders, get out the silk stockings!" Our purchases came to \$800 and we paid with cash. The girl looked at it and we were asked to go up to the Manager's office. In the office was a big cop with guns in his holster. "Where did you get this money?" We laughed and said: "We didn't steal it if that's what you mean". His retort was: "Don't get smart, we can put you in jail for crimes against the USA". Our pilot said: "We've been here eighteen hours and you want to put us in jail. What have we done?" Then the Manager told "When the Japs entered the War they flooded the place with counterfeit money - millions of dollars. We had to withdraw all that money and replace it with good money and stamped each note 'Territory of Hawaii'. Your money is not stamped". In the end we got it all sorted out."



The Douglas C-47 plane.
The type flown by Gordon.

The following incidents related by Gordon show how dangerous it all was. "We flew to all the Islands; mostly ocean flying - ten hours at a stretch; no life jackets or inflatables. If you went down, you drowned. We had to fly up to the island of Bougainville. The Marines had put a strip on the beach. The Japs were still on the Island back in the jungle. We were told: "When you come in, go down to five hundred feet three miles out. You'll see a big yellow disc; aim for that. If you fly higher the Japs will shoot you down." Because they were in the jungle they could not depress their guns any further." "One day we took off for one of the Islands - nice day, calm winds - came up to one hundred feet; the plane stalled. We hit the ground at an angle, snapped off one wing. The plane fell back on its wheels and the petrol tanks caught fire. We went straight down the runway - could not steer it; the brakes were gone. Eventually we came to a stop. We jumped out the door and ran out like rabbits. We all got out and then the plane blew

up!" "After the War I was asked if I wanted to stay in the Airforce but decided not to. I went back to work where I was before the War. I met up with an old mate, Dick Batty, and we decided to look for a garage to buy and set up business". Gordon bought a garage in Ruawai and set up a Shell service station and work shop and ran it for forty-one years. His garage is now the office of Sleep Systems and in the back of the building you can still see the old original beams.

J.W.

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A small portrait of Nicky Reid, a woman with short brown hair, wearing a light-colored top.

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To err is human, but to really foul things up you need a computer.

Tokatoka Tavern — Story & photos by Lorraine Littler

Last month I spoke with Catherine Lawrie, who owns Kaipara's iconic Tokatoka Tavern along with her partner, Jeff Wood. Jeff and Catherine bought the tavern in 2010.

The first thing I asked Catherine was "Why did you buy a pub?" Her answer was "My youngest child had started school and we wanted to take on a new challenge – it was something different."

Both Jeff and Catherine grew up in the Ruawai/Tokatoka area and over the years have had fond links to the Pub. Catherine's parents were friends with one of the previous owners (Sam Selak) when she was growing up and, through them, she spent time there. It was Sam who acquired the spit roast machine that is still used now. Then when Catherine was training at dental nursing, even though she could have been placed anywhere in New Zealand, she was told she had to go to Dargaville. So she came back to the area whether she wanted to or not!



Jeff used to drink there with his friends when he was younger; it was a great place to meet for a catch-up. Both of them have only happy memories of 'Toke Pub'. They would never have imagined back then that they would one day own it.

The Tavern was originally situated up the hill behind the present location.

The following information was found on the internet (johnjamesstanaway.com) and gives a good understanding of the history of the tavern: The first Tokatoka Hotel was built by Captain John James Stanaway about 1869 – 1870. Captain Stanaway was the Pilot and Harbour Master of Kaipara. By 1868 he ran a general store and from his store he ran the Tokatoka Post Office. In June 1868, he was issued with a "Bush Licence" – Certificate number 53-1868, which cost him fifteen pounds.

This gave him permission to sell alcohol to the

local population. The term "Bush Licence" was used for a type of country liquor licence in the 1860s. It is assumed that he sold liquor from his general store as planning and building for the hotel had not yet started.

In April 1871, what sounds like a riot broke out inside the hotel causing such extensive damage that John had to close the hotel for his and his family's safety. The population of the area had increased with the amount of work. There were no police in the Kaipara region until 1875. Perhaps it was these events that saw the Tokatoka Hotel be completely overhauled and expanded in 1871. In this year it was added onto at the front and this more than doubled its size. The extension had two storeys and wrap around verandas on each level. Every room in the house was completely overhauled, painted and papered. The hotel contained 12 rooms, a bar, taproom and storage rooms. We can only assume that at this stage, Tokatoka Hotel would have been one of the largest and highly decorated in all of Kaipara if not Northland and may have rivalled most hotels in Auckland. The hardware, paper, and paint would have been purchased probably in Auckland and shipped north. Not forgetting all the furnishings for the number of rooms, the amount spent would have been considerable for that time. The bigger hotel was known as the second Tokatoka Hotel.

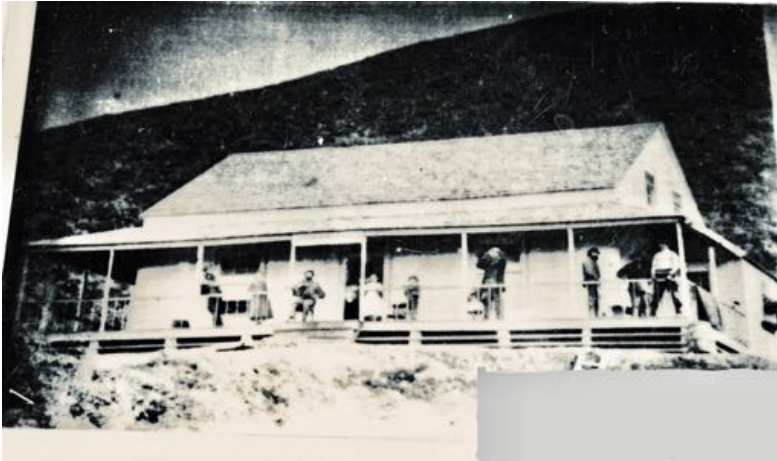
Each year John had to re-apply for a new licence. In 1872 it was recorded that he was refused a Bush Licence. This caused an uproar and letters to the editor were written supporting John even though they opposed the sale of alcohol.

John died on 17 August 1874, he was sixty one years old and had been suffering from Enteritis. He was buried on 20 August 1874 in the local Tokatoka Cemetery on the bluff overlooking the Wairoa River and close to the hotel.

The running of the second Tokatoka Hotel was continued by his wife Sarah. She put a manager in place to run the day to day operation and within two years of John's death she married the manager – Mr. Saunders. Together they ran the Hotel until 1892. The hotel sadly, burnt down in later years.

Back to Catherine's story: In 1926 the Pub which we have today was built by Mr. Basil Vernon Rope, Snr. Because the swampland of the Ruawai Flats had now been drained, the main road was no longer going to be up the hill (Tokatoka Road) but was built where it stands today. The new Pub was built next to the new main road as the owner thought he would miss out on business if he didn't build there. The photo of the Tavern back then, which is on the premises, was taken in 1930. Although there are similarities to today's building, we no longer see the lovely old cars of a century ago parked outside and the petrol bowlers have disappeared. Tokatoka Tavern is one of the oldest pubs in the area. Walking into this lovely old building is like taking a step back in time. The inside is full of character and history. There are old and new photographs on the walls, currency notes with names and messages on them, a set of deer antlers adorned with various items of clothing, as well as ornaments dotted around which have been part of the pub for many years. It's very homey and, if you're anything like me, you'll relax and enjoy the atmosphere as soon as you walk in the door. We are so lucky to have it in our area as many of New Zealand's country pubs have closed down. Jeff and Catherine are still enjoying what they do. As owners, they can choose when they are open; and currently they open Wednesday to Sunday from 4:00pm. Casual meals are served and bookings can be taken for groups.

They have their regular patrons as well as people passing by -and those who have come to climb Tokatoka Peak a kilometre up the road. Over the years since they purchased the pub, Jeff and Catherine have noticed the effect of our drink driving laws and also the fact that the public can now purchase beer and wine at supermarkets. They appreciate the help that their five daughters have given them. The girls have passed on their 'young' ideas to Mum and Dad which has been of benefit to the business. The girls have gained good skills from helping out. They are competent baristas, have food handling skills and have learned valuable people skills. The older girls have their bar licences. All of this knowledge has been very handy for picking up work when they are overseas and will continue to be useful to them. A regular and popular event now is "Tokafest", held at the pub. This year it took place on Saturday 16 February and is a music festival for all ages. There are also stalls, plenty of food and refreshments, and much more. Let's hope our special 'Toke Pub' continues on for at least another 100 years plus so the coming generations can experience a little of how life used to be. And may it continue to be owned by caring people like Jeff and Catherine who appreciate the history behind it.



Tokatoka pub build by Capt. Stanaway



Tokatoka Tavern - 1930



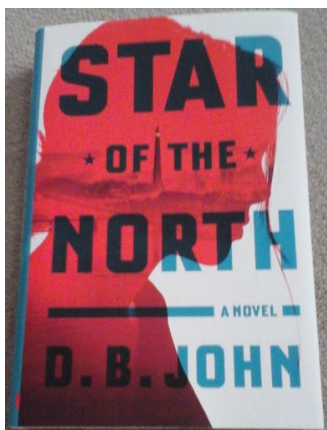
Tokatoka Tavern 1991



Catherine behind the bar

Sue's Book Corner

As most of our readers will know by now, Sue Neal can be found in our local book shop, Books@Ruawai, and is always available if you need to know anything about books.



I Have 3 Very Different Books For You This Time.

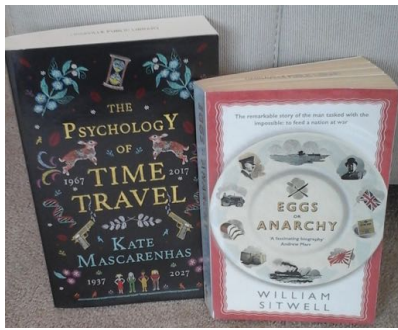
One book I have been very excited to read for a while is:

"Star of the North" by D.B. John.

It's a thriller set in North Korea. Usually I would be sceptical about books set in this country as it's such a closed-off country. But the author has been there and has friends who were born there. So along with his research it makes the story come to life.

The following characters weave through the story. A sister who disappears from a beach in South Korea, believed drowned - but.....! A Colonel, sent from North Korea to negotiate with the USA, makes a discovery that will brand him a traitor if it comes to light so makes his daring plan to escape. Mrs. Moon, who in desperation becomes a black market trader and, if caught, means she will die.

When you finish the book, read the author's notes. What you read there will surely blow your mind and it takes this book onto a completely different level.



The Psychology Of Time Travel by Kate Mascarenhas.

In the 1960's 4 female scientists work together to build a time machine. 50 years on and time travel is big business. This book takes you backwards and forwards in time telling the story of the 4 main characters. There's a murder, but who did it, how was it done, why, in what time and will the killer be caught? A very different read, but I loved it.

Eggs Or Anarchy by William Sitwell

This is the biography of Lord Woolton, Minister for Food during WWII. He promised the people of Britain there would be food on the shelves for everyone; no-one would go hungry on his watch. He introduced rationing and

worked hard to limit black market sales. It really became a choice of eggs or anarchy. It may sound a dull read but it's written so well and gives such an insight to that period of history. As I thoroughly enjoyed it, I'd say give it a go,

All these books can be bought from good bookshops or online, or loaned from your local library.

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Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom. George S. Patton

From The Kauri Museum



It has been a very busy few weeks at The Kauri Museum for the Community Outreach team. The Museum has had a presence at two big local events, Pahi Regatta and the Paparoa Show and then, for the first time, a stall in the Treaty Grounds on Waitangi Day. Each stall was themed around the event and very popular guessing games were a big draw. In addition, gum polishing at the Show, run by our stalwart Volunteers, continues to be a favourite with youngsters. For Waitangi, we travelled with Gordon Coates ('The Man from Matakohē', MP for Kaipara 1911-1943, PM of NZ 1925-28) memorabilia which included photographs from a family album taken at the very first Waitangi Day in 1934. Imagine our surprise to find that the Museum's stall was sited on the same spot featured in many of the images! The crowd on Waitangi Day is estimated at 30,000 people and growing every year. The day was such a success we have already booked the same site for 2020. The Collections Department, assisted by the Textiles Volunteers are busy planning the next textiles exhibition. 'The Perfect Accessory', a stunning selection of shoes, handbags and

accessories from the collection will open in March. Don't miss it. Just a reminder that free entry to the Museum ended on 31 December 2018. Although well publicised in all local papers, it seems that many people missed the notice. The new 'Annual Pass' is very good value at little more than the cost of a single admission ticket and entitles the holder to as many visits as they choose over 12 months. Thanks again to the many Volunteers who give up their time to help out at the museum. This month, a special mention to our two gum polishing heroes, Jo Wessel and Peter Newson. **Dr. Tracey Wedge, General Manager**



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Ruawai Garden Club

Hello to all you gardeners. I don't really have any news for you, just thought I would say hi & let you know we had our 1st official meeting of the year on the 21st of Feb.

We are planning a day out in March (carpooling) in the Dargaville/surrounds. We have two, maybe three, gardens to visit but all yet to be finalised. Then in April or May we are hoping to have a coach trip going further afield. Anyway, all in the pipeline. Something to look forward to. Happy weeding all.

Merle Jackson

The best way to teach your kids about taxes is by eating 30 percent of their ice cream. Bill Murray

The Big Ride



Brent and Jason
at the start of the big trip

A few weeks ago three local men went down to Invercargill to watch the Burt Munro Challenge races. In case you don't know, these races are held in memory of Burt Munro, the Kiwi who broke speed records with his Indian motor bike on the Bonneville Flats in the USA. Most of you will have seen the movie "The World's Fastest Indian".

The races are held every year in Invercargill and attract thousands from all over the world. Locals, Brent King, Jason Redward and Peter Flood (being keen bikers themselves) decided to go down and watch the races. They left Ruawai and travelled on their bikes all the way down and back. They were joined by several other 'Northlanders'. Going down was a four-day trip along the East Coast of the South Island. They stayed at the event for four days and took three days coming back up the West Coast. The weather was great for them. They had been warned about insect problems esp. sandflies, but fortunately they stayed away.

The races included beach racing, sprint racing, street racing, hill climbs and drag racing. They enjoyed watching it all. There were about 3,000 bikers from all over the world and of all ages. The average age was probably 40-60 yrs. but some were over 80 yrs.

There were even some amputees. The motor bikes were all different makes and sizes, mostly two-wheelers but some three-wheelers. They camped on a campground the size of 4-5 rugby fields. Everyone was well behaved and the atmosphere was very friendly, even though some people were doing 'doughnuts' at three in the morning. One interesting incident for Brent and Jason was meeting up with the grandchildren of Burt Munro. The Invercargill community loves hosting the event and goes all out to welcome them. A special large area in town is sectioned off for parking of the bikes. Brent and Jason thoroughly enjoyed the trip and hope to do it again. They want to acknowledge the sponsorship of Sleep Systems especially, and also Ruawai T Shirts & Screen Printing (who, by the way, made the T shirts). **J.W.**



A line-up of bikes at the Ferry



All the 'Northlanders' at the beach



A small section of the camp- grounds



All the way down at Bluff

Note: Brent King asked me to mention that there are more photos and videos from their trip on the Sleep Systems Facebook page.



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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 on Tuesday 9th April. 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**

Ahoy From the Ruawai Boating Club!



Just a brief summary of what has been happening. As some of you know we have made a start on the replacement of the poles and walkways at the wharf. One side is almost completed - all done by volunteers to help keep cost down; the price for hardware alone is around 30k. We can only work when we have guys available and the tide is right. We hope you are finding the height of the new product more user-friendly. Another benefit is no sediment to slip on.

Waitangi Day Fishing Competition turned out to be a great Family day out on the Harbour with Ant & Kerry looking after the weighing of fish. Adam & Beau prepared a lovely meal with a mix of meats and salads for the evening at the Sports Club; followed by prize-giving & raffles.

Just a note here if you are new to the area and not a member. You are most welcome to come to the Club

rooms and join in for the social gathering. "Take a Kid Fishing" is planned for 24th March. The great team at the Fire Brigade are looking after the Kids meals as well as the Adults on the day - as if they don't have enough to do". This is one of the highlights of the year for members and Committee.

I think that's about all from me for now. Might catch you up at the wharf one day or on the water. Tight lines.

Tony Oud

Top Tips From the Financial Markets Authority and Scamwatch:

Investment scams: If you're contacted about an investment opportunity by someone you don't know and promised very high returns with little risk, these promises are nearly always too good to be true.

If you're asked to keep the investment a secret - alarm bells should definitely be ringing, because it means that scammers don't want authorities to know about it. **Email and phishing scams:** Legitimate businesses will never ask you to give out your passwords. Some phishing emails will look genuine - don't be fooled. Don't open unexpected attachments. Don't make payments based solely on an emailed request. Emails with urgent subject lines such as "account suspended" and "unauthorised login attempt" are more suspicious.

Fake tax refund scams: Many scams use the fear of being on the wrong side of the tracks with the IRD. They demand urgent payment. The IRD will never call or email asking for login details or for them to be entered on any third party websites. Communication is only through mail to their registered postal address, or through myIR.

News from the Art Studio Ruawai

The year began with members of our group visiting the One Tree Point Art Exhibition. This was very enlightening & most enjoyable, including the lovely lunch at the Café. We plan to do more visits of this type. Also planned is another PLEIN Air painting day as the one we did late last year was great fun & certainly a different type of experience.

Our normal meeting day is a Wednesday commencing at 10am & finishing at about 2.30pm. Should you wish to know more about our friendly get-togethers, please Phone Frances at: 439 2554. We welcome visitors to the Studio to watch our Artists at work on a Wednesday, But should you wish to visit at any other time, please phone the above number.

Frances Casey



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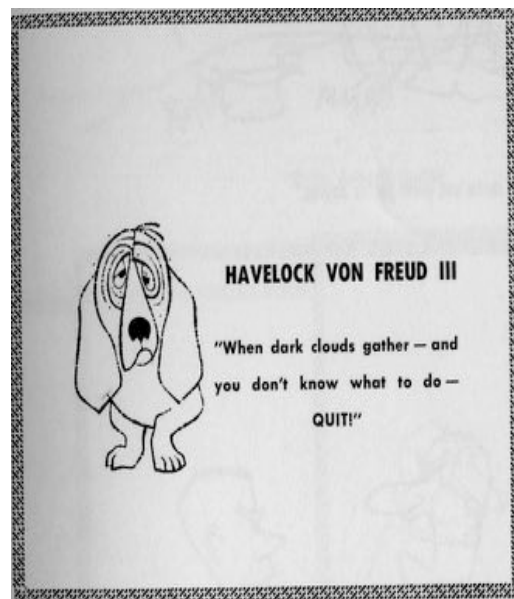
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Gazebo Opening

In December 2018 we officially opened our Gazebo on the Village Green. We had a fantastic turnout of people, who joined in with us. It started with a blessing, then the cutting of the ribbon. The inside of the Gazebo has photo boards that show the history of the Ruawai flats. It is a fantastic pictorial display of the history of Ruawai. The Sub Committee of the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group can be extremely proud of themselves as they have done Ruawai proud. Thank you all. There is usually someone stopped and looking at the display whenever you go past. If you haven't seen it yet, it's well worth the time to stop and enjoy it too.

Tina McCullough



From Ruawai College

Ruawai College Head Prefects

Introducing our Head Prefects for 2019. Alex Rope (Head Boy) and Tyana Fenney (Head Girl)

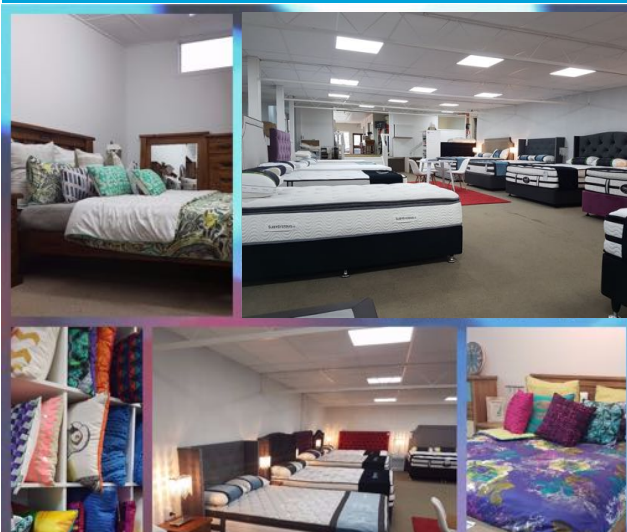
Ruawai College Signage

The bird in the sign is a shag. It represents the nature of Ruawai and Northland. The spiral above the bird represents the Maori wairua of the area. The stars around the white spiral are taken from the New Zealand flag; they represent the Southern Cross. There is a triangle in the middle of the sign that represents strength and also Toka Toka (a local icon).

The green koru symbolises new life and learning. The three stripes down the side of the triangle represent our three houses: Rimu, Kauri and Totara. Beside the three lines are three circles which symbolise science (one of our subjects) and inside there are leaves from our three house groups. Under the bird runs the Wairoa river. The river is on the back door step of our school and provides enjoyment for many people in the form of fishing and swimming. The green patterns are a representation of the local kumara fields. A large percentage of all kumara grown in New Zealand comes from the local Kaipara area. The figure at the far right of the sign is Tane Mahuta (the guardian of the forest). He represents strength and perseverance.



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LOTO



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Shop phone: 439 2044

Sunday
Five O'Clock
Bike Ride

Ruawai
Stopbank
Trail



Every Sunday.
Suitable for all ages and abilities
All welcome - see you at the Ruawai Wharf at 5pm

Ruawai Tokatoka Hall

Over the last few years the Hall has undergone many, very necessary, renovations both inside and outside.

The last big job was the painting of the outside. The Hall Committee has a wish-list of more 'things to do' such as cleaning and painting indoors of the Main Hall, and renovating the Men's Toilets. We are saving up to do these things in due course. Meanwhile, the Hall is available for meetings (large or small) and parties (again large or small). The Hall has a large kitchen with all facilities and it has health certification.

So, if you are planning an Event or Meeting, the Ruawai Tokatoka Hall is a great venue. For bookings information contact Carolyn Wessel Ph.: 439 2507; Mob.: 027 439 2028; email: carolynwessel@icloud.com



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Cross Stitch Get-Together

Every month we have a Show n' Share LionCross Stitch Get-Together for those who enjoy this craft. We have some who do embroidery and knitting as well. At the end we have a cuppa' and small sweet. If you would like to come along and have a friendly evening in this way, you are very welcome. It is in Carolyn's home and

the phone number is: (09) 439 2507 or 027 439 2028



Naumai Haere Mai

We warmly invite you to come along and immerse yourself in our awesome Early Childhood environment.

We cater for children in Ruawai and surrounding communities aged between 2-6yrs, 5 days a week (9am-3pm).

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**RUAWAI
KINDERGARTEN**
4376A SLIPWAY 12
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09 4392415

ruawai@nka.org.nz

Facebook: Ruawai
Kindergarten

RUAWAI KINDERGARTEN OPEN DAY

FRIDAY 26TH
APRIL 2019
10-2PM

NKA

LIONS CLUB OF RUAWAI ANNUAL CHARITY AUCTION SATURDAY 16 MARCH

VENUE: **Kaipara Kumara
Forecourt**

TRADING TABLE: **9.00 am**

VIEWING OF GOODS: **9.30 am**

AUCTION STARTS: **10.00 am**

Sponsors' products for auction

*Antiques, furniture, electrical appliances,
toys, books, household goods, bric-a-brac etc*

Food and refreshments available Cash only

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LIONS CLUB OF RUAWAI invites you to...

MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

At Dorothy & Jim Simpson's garden at 82 Simpson Road, RUAWAI

On **Sunday 31 March** Time: **2pm**

Proceeds go towards the upgrade of the **First Response Vehicle**

Admission Adults: \$10 5-16 yrs \$5

Under 5 free family \$25

Food and refreshments for sale

Raffles BYO alcohol

Bring a chair/rug Cash only

Further info: ph Jim or Dorothy 09 4392557

Email: jdsimpson@slingshot.co.nz



The Matakoho brides alignment is progressing nicely. The above pictures were supplied by Melanie Norris from Fulton Hogan. The left picture shows: Pavement construction looking west back across Bridge 1; on the right: Looking west from Zone 5 across Bridge 2 where barriers are being installed.

The following article appeared in the North Auckland Times in 1935

Traces of ancient kauri, totara and maire forests are to be found on parts of the Ruawai plains. Mr. W.H. Ovens has found on his farm several decomposed kauri logs, the presence of gum nearby indicating that they had been growing and had not floated there. Some pieces of gum had been found at a depth of nine feet so it must have been a long time ago that the kauri was there.

Some time in the past also totara and maire were very thick on the plains and their almost complete disappearance, together with the fact that kauris will not grow on land as wet as the flats were until recently, would seem to indicate that at some time in the past the Northern Wairoa area was subjected to some drastic changes, either climatic or in contour. A change in the contour and level of the country would have meant a consequent change in the wetness of the soil and might have been responsible for the disappearance of most trees, other than the moisture-loving kahikatie.

Another, and even more interesting link in the geological history of this district, was found by Mr. Ovens. Deep in the interior of a limestone rock in a private quarry, he found a small quantity of bone and a single tooth, over an inch long, curved and still sharp and of a dark pearly-grey hue. He believes it is a shark's tooth and its presence, so deep in a limestone rock many feet above sea level, leaves room for many interesting speculations.

Be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, tolerant of the weak, because someday in your life you will be all of these. ~George Washington Carver~

I found this poem in the archives of The Kauri Museum. It is a dedication to the gum diggers who came from overseas. They worked hard under difficult conditions and became a success story for themselves and our country.

The Gumdigger

We are the Dally peeples, from Podgora we come,
We come to norderen Wairoa to look for kauri gum
When Tony write to Mama back in old contree
He say he getting all his gum from climbing up a tree.
We don't feel to climb a tree so we don't feel to come,
But even on Island Brac all talking is kauri gum
Mate send some money he living in a camp
This place they is digging he calling it Black Shwamp.

We packing up our clothes and come, we bring dat and dis,

I say goodbye to Kata, I give her great big kiss.
We told to see Mate when we get to Dargaville,
He give us tocker, spade and a spear, our gum will pay the bill.

We dig four sacks and take it in, he look at it and say,
"Price is down, sorry boys, four more sacks to pay"
We can't speak much of English; we feel to smash him down,
We pick empty sacks and go, no uze to stay in town.

We go back to camp and learn to speak and about cash,
If he play his game next time, his face we bleddy smash.
The gum she running out down here and up at Scotty's too,
Looks like we got to pack our bags and go up to Kaihu.

They washing one big shwamp up there in place they call Aranga,
You work for wages on that job for Franich and Marriner,
Dig the trenches, wash the dirt, stack chips ina heap,
Work all day, gamble a bit, better get some sleep.

Save some cash, buy bit land, maybe piece you dug,
Have to fill all the holes you dug, just a bleddy mug,
Buy you couple of cows to milk, maybe dig some drains,
Cows go dry, lanfd too poor, where's you bleddy brain.

Keep working hard, make some cash, dend home for my Kata,
Build good shanty, palnt some grapes, cabbage and tomato
Kata here now, couple of kids, manure make grass grow,
Thing is looking pretty good, plenty things to show.

When I go pay my tax, they look at me and say,
Just like bleddy Mate, "You got some more to pay".
When I leave Pogora, they say I must be brave,
I been here bout forty years, I still a bleddy slave.

We been here for long time now, we dig a lot of holes,
But one thing sure in New Zealand we Kings when come to bowls.
In fours, in pairs in singles too, we bound to striek ti rich,
If you full up of Dally blood and your name ends in ich

In North we got lawayers, doctors, some dentist too,
All full up of Dally blood, what better can you do?
When counting up our peeples, I know my latest tallies,
Although you jails they overflow, they don't hold many Dallies.

So here's to me and here's to you, we drink this gglass of wine
I'm here to stay and going to say, "The Wairoa suit me bleddy fine".



A photo of the people on the RPDG sub-committee for the Stop-bank cycle/walkway



A couple of happy cyclers on the stop-bank

Rainfall figures supplied by
Kura Newall

Dec. 2018 - 59mm

Nov. 2018 - 179mm

Jan. 2019 - 25mm

Feb. 2019 - 74mm

Thank you Kura.



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PROUDLY PRINTING RUAWAI RAMBLER

Several years ago now the Ruawai Volunteer Fire Brigade celebrated their 50th anniversary. Ian Beatty wrote the following poem, which appears here with Ian's permission. Although this poem is written in comic style, it doesn't take away from the great job our Volunteer Fire Brigade is doing. Thank you to all those involved!!

Ode to the Ruawai Fire Brigade

It was way back, in '53
A small town was in need of aid.
A band of hardy souls emerged
And formed a fire brigade.
Way back in those early days,
Fighting fires was tougher than it oughta'
We had the pump, we had the men,
But Ruawai had no bloody water!

In 50 Years there've been many calls,
Too many for just one page.
But then one day in Sixty-one
The brigade did come of age.

The call went out, they needed help;
The situation was quire dire.
The Fargo and men did thunder north
Because Dargaville was on fire!

On a cold spring night, the siren roared
The boys turned out, with much hubbub.
They responded with renewed enthusiasm
Because they were off to save the pub!

Perhaps the most famous of all fires,
Was in nineteen eighty-five,
When the contents of Smith's silos,
Became very much alive.

The reinforcements arrived in their shiny pumps -
Full of importance and much ado.
When a rocket scientist from Auckland said,
"We'll fill her with CO2".

Those permanent men in their shiny gear,
They had to go home for tea.
Well we were there for 4 bloody days
And we were there for FREE!

Now, trees and scrub and pampas grass
Are treated with some resentment.
So when the bush on Tana's Road went up,
We were gonna need refreshment!

We ran out every hose we had,
The hills and heat were taking their price.
The wind changed, and things took a turn
for the worse,
Coz', we had to do it twice!

In times of need
There have been pleas
For firefighters of any gender,
But it took 'til 1990, before we got a sheila!

Every brigade has rescued a cat,
It seems it's part of the deal.
In '99 we went to "Toke"
To save a stranded seal!

Now fifty years have passed us by
And we reminisce with good friends made.
So would you please be all upstanding
And toast to the Ruawai Fire Brigade.