



June, 2017

RUAWAI RAMBLER

A Newsletter for Ruawai and Surrounding Area

*This Issue of the Ruawai Rambler Sponsored by
Crompton Engineering*

From the Editor

As you can see, this issue of our newsletter has a sponsor. As well as income from advertising, we need sponsors to help pay for the cost of producing the Ruawai Rambler. We are very fortunate to have some generous business people in Ruawai. Our thanks to the following businesses that are each sponsoring one issue of the Rambler: Crompton Engineering, Kaipara Kumara, Portstar Plastics and Sleep Systems. In the last Newsletter we talked about people doing volunteer work. There are some people that work away quietly and almost unnoticed. On TV they are called "Good Sorts". We have an article about Jack Driffill, who is one of these "Good Sorts". If you know of anyone in our area who qualifies for this and should be acknowledged, please let us know. We also have an article about the difficulties kumara growers have faced this year, I have heard from another reliable source that it is indeed a bad year. So if you find vegetables to be expensive this year, please give a thought to the growers of kumara and other crops and the problems they have to face. If you are into growing plants, 'The Corner Place' garden centre is worth a visit. Etha and George have a great variety of both vegetable and decorative plants. See article in this newsletter. **For advertising, articles etc. contact: Jo (Johannes) Wessel, Editor, Phone 439 2507, email: jhwessel@xtra.co.nz**

Kumara 2017

I imagine that most people who have purchased Kumara this season have noticed that they are very expensive when compared to last year. From a 'growing' point of view 2017 has been extremely trying. This comment also is true for most field crops throughout New Zealand. The season started badly in August/September during the process of putting down beds. Weather was cold and wet. This is not usually a problem but these conditions persisted for some weeks with several periods of heavy rain. As a result many growers lost beds causing a later-than-usual start to planting. In fact, ground conditions were still very wet for planting in October and early November. However, as the weather settled down in November no one could have foreseen that the 'weather gods' had not finished for the season. From a flood situation we went straight into a drought until late February followed by more heavy rain at the beginning of harvest. Two downpours of around 100mm in two weeks was enough to make the harvest a very difficult time for all concerned. At the time of writing, I understand that some growers are still finishing off harvesting. The result of this is a much lower yield for 2017. The percentages that I am hearing are about 40-50 percent reduced yield compared to last year. This is borne out by my own crop. All part of the joys of planting. **Bruce Crompton**

Meet Jack Driffill

Many of you will have seen Jack around town on his mobility scooter. What you may not realise is that Jack



does a wonderful thing around town. He picks up rubbish! The Ruawai Promotions and Development Group want to express appreciation to Jack. As he rides around town, Jack picks up paper, bottles etc. which people carelessly drop. Because he has difficulty walking, Jack uses a special stick to pick up the rubbish without having to get off his scooter. We have certainly noticed the difference Jack's efforts make, especially around the wharf and playground area. Jack came to Ruawai from Auckland about three years ago and has become part of the community. He tells me that he definitely does not regret his move. So thank you Jack. **J.W.**

Jack's Family History

Like many New Zealanders, Jack has an interesting family history and he has told me a bit about it. The name Driffill has its roots in France. Jack's ancestors went from France to England. His grandfather, Thomas Driffill was a sailor, who arrived in Auckland on the 23rd December 1864 on the three masted bark called Maori. He decided he liked New Zealand and jumped ship.



Thomas Drifill

He went to Thames to join the gold rush. He invested in a goldmine which unfortunately went bust. He then went to work in a kauri timber mill and must have done alright because in the 1860's he bought Slipper Island which is located off the east coast of the Coromandel. He lived and farmed there for 40 years, sold the island in 1906 and moved to Auckland. Jack's father, Arthur Thomas Drifill was born in 1883. He became a bridge builder and among other things built the twin bridges near Tangiteroria



The Bark "Maori"



Jack's father, Arthur Thomas, in the car in front of the Maungaturoto Hotel

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Books @ Ruawai

This new asset to Ruawai's shops is now open. See advertisement for times. Robyn Dormer, the owner, is assisted by Sue Neal and both have an extensive knowledge about books; so if you want a specific title they can help out. Robyn has moved over 30,000 books from Devonport to Ruawai. Developers were taking over the Devonport shops. Avid readers will love this place. Books under many different topics are available, as well as old LP records, tape cassettes, CD,s and DVD's. The business also sells books online at www.abebooks.com. Robyn is also very good at locating hard to find books from various places. The shop is happy to accept donations of books and music. **J.W.**



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Update from Councillor Anna Curnow - Planning, Planning and More Planning

Your Council has been busy firming up the Annual Plan for the 2017/18 financial year with consultation meetings around the district. At our last meeting we considered the outcomes from that consultation and expect to adopt the Annual Plan at our June meeting.

At the May Council meeting work towards the Long-Term Plan 2018/28 began with a session, facilitated by Council's former Acting Chief Executive Jill McPherson, to identify the collective vision for the District. Some interesting discussions were had but we came to a generally unified view which is being worked up into a draft vision document. This will inform the modelling that officers do to help us set the direction in the LTP. We expect consultation on the LTP to start in some form later in the year or early next year. The LTP must be adopted by 30 June 2018.

Also at the May meeting, Council considered the draft Waste Minimisation Plan which will be circulated to the community for consultation soon. This Plan is of particular importance to Ruawai as our current service provider is Kaipara Refuse Ltd, a Ruawai business that creates employment opportunities for the Kaurilands community members. I encourage you to look out for this plan and have a think about how we might improve our treatment of solid waste (rubbish and recycling).

Work is also progressing towards a Dargaville Town Plan, along similar lines to the approach taken with Mangawhai. However while the critical issue in Mangawhai is managing growth, it would be fair to say that

the key issue in Dargaville is promoting growth and economic activity. Mayor Gent explained at a meeting in Dargaville recently that the Dargaville Town Plan is based on the “hub and spoke” model in which you stimulate one centre with spinoffs benefitting other towns nearby. You might like to consider how Ruawai can benefit from growth in Dargaville.

Finally, the Ruawai Stopbank Walking and Cycleway progresses with a large scale funding application being prepared by the Ruawai Promotions Development Group, Sub-committee. We are hopeful that the project could be well underway by later this year, funding permitting.

I do believe that the west side of the Kaipara District could start to see some increased activity. Real estate activity has already grown dramatically and with the launch of the Ancient Kauri Trail, we should start to see an increase in visitor numbers. These things don't happen quickly but with persistence and commitment they do happen eventually.



The Moosletter.

The big change at the Vet Centre is that our lovely vet, Meredith Love, has moved on. Meredith started working in Ruawai 4 years ago but before that she was at the Maungaturoto clinic so all up has been vetting in the area for nearly 10 years. We will miss her cheerfulness, story telling abilities and her clinical skills. For now Meredith has moved back to the family farm in Palmerston North to try her hand at farming until her next career move reveals itself. It was great having 3 vets working at Ruawai but for now it's back to two until we can convince someone else Ruawai is a great place to be!

The rumours around that the Vet Centre has bought a new section are true. There are plans afoot to build a new clinic which is very exciting - watch this space! Hope the pets don't bring in too much mud this winter! Take care. **Janine**



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Youth Doctor Clinic – Ruawai College

Students have the opportunity to see a Doctor at Ruawai College. Once a week during the School Term a Doctors Clinic is held on Mondays from 12.45pm-1.30pm. Dr. Bev Hopkins from Dargaville Medical Centre is the main person running the Clinics. Students need to book in advance (through the College Office). The appointments are FREE to the students, thanks to funding from the Manaia Primary Health Organisation 'Service to Improve Access Fund'. This is an annual contestable funding pool that competes against other projects. We are pleased funding has been obtained again to keep the Clinics running, but usage is low. Last year Dr. Hopkins had only 28 appointments at Ruawai College with 4 DNA (did not attend). The funding for the Youth Doctor Clinics allows for up to four

appointments per clinic. If your teenager could benefit from a Doctor check-up, this convenient, fully funded service is literally on your doorstep. **Article by Debbie Evans – CEO Kaipara Community Health Trust**



"Set Up for the Good Life!"

302 Te Kowhai Rd, Ruawai

There is plenty of room for everybody on this pre-loved two acre lifestyle property. It is all set up to provide you and your family with your dream country lifestyle – and it's only 5 minutes from town!

The charming three-bedroom villa has been re-roofed, it offers open-plan living, a sunny porch and is wheelchair-friendly. There is also a six-year-old skyline garage, plus a detached three-room studio with floor area of over

45m². There is an orchard, a free-range hen enclosure, several animal shelters and there is still room for a pony for the kids.

This place has been home to happy souls (both human and animal) of all shapes and sizes for many years – come and continue the tradition!

Contact : Nicky Reid; 021 103 6277

Ruawai Garden Club Doings.

Hi to all you gardeners out there in Ruawai land. Here we are heading into another winter, with all the duck shooters pop, popping off at the ducks. We didn't have a trip in March, as we were busy farewelling one of our very long serving members. Betty Waterson, & her husband Colin, have moved to Whakatane to a retirement village. This is to be closer to family, and they are loving it. Betty said they should have done it years ago. Okay, first up we have our AGM on June 15th @ 10 am at the Bowling Club. All welcome, including new members. Next, we are going to have a little ramble round some of our local gardens in Ruawai on Thurs. July 20th. (Approx 4 gdns) then lunch at The Well. We will meet at the Four Square at 10am for that. Sat. 29th of July we are holding our Camelia Display at the Hall. Opening times, lunch info. etc. will be displayed round the township closer to the event. Thurs. Aug 17th we are going on a garden trip, visiting a garden, then on to Whangarei Town Basin for lunch. We will call in at a nursery before heading home. Bus will leave the Four Square promptly at 9am so don't be late. Non members are most welcome, & the cost to them would be \$25. Contact Noelene on 4392071. Lastly, we are tentatively planning a day trip to Helena Bay on Nov. 16th, but more about that next time. Happy weeding all.

Merle Jackson.

Bruce Crompton supplied the following item.

Look what Jess dropped in for our morning tea. Tasted great. Next month Jess leaves her job at Brian Madsen's to take some time out after 20 years. We at Crompton Engineering wish you all the best for the future.

About Jessica

Many in our farming community will know Jessica Clemow and know what a hard worker she is. Jess has been running Brian Madsen's farm for many years. Jess tells me that she is taking a break and going on a trip to the USA. One of the things she is going to do is horse back riding. **Have a great time Jess!!** **J.W.**



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Rugby Tour to Australia

Kia Ora Community. After 2yrs. of hard work fundraising and trainings, our Ruawai Under 13's rugby team made the familiar trek across the ditch for the 37th year of the Ruawai vs Northern Barbarians (formally Cherrybrook/Beecroft) rugby match. We had a 3- game 9- day tour which was a lot to squeeze in!

We had started out with a team of 18 but due to unforeseen circumstances we were left with 15 boys to take on Tour. We had 3 boys come down from Dargaville being Daniel Grbin, Rico Connelly and Phillip Hutchinson. These boys fitted in well with the local boys and really knitted as a team. Our coaches, Chris Hickey and Jeremy Hutchinson, did a great job in

training our boys and getting them fit through this year's summer; proving to be a real catalyst in the team's performance in Australia. We had a great first day sightseeing around Sydney and taking in the sights and getting a tad wet on the Jet boat ride around the Harbour! We then headed off to the Blue Mountains to stay for a couple nights. Our 1st game of the tour against the Blue Tongues Rugby Club was a fierce match against a strong team that had several league ring-ins making us play against 22 to our 15. But our boys went toe- to- toe very well and the game came down to the final seconds with the Blue Tongues just pipping us on the whistle. Game ending up 31-36 to the Blue Tongues

Our 2nd game saw us come up against our rivals Northern Barbarians, who currently hold the long standing trophy. Our boys were being billeted out with them. After some morning entertainment we set out for the big match and were informed they had 24 players, which wasn't agreed on. But never-the-less we had 15 boys that fought damn hard and put in a lot of effort with the half-time score 17-22 to the Barbarians. 2nd half the boys stepped up and were rewarded with a try to tie it up 22 all. Barbarians came back with a try and so did we before full time to tie it up at 27 all. A decision to carry on 5 mins. each way to get a result was agreed upon and with the opposition constantly rolling the subs, our boys slotted in for a try 32-27. 2nd 5mins all the boys were tiring out but still gave everything they had, with the Barbarians scoring 2 converted tries and taking the game 32-41. Our 15 boys did not only themselves proud but our whole community proud, coming away with playing 80 mins of rugby with no subs battered and bruised. Who wouldn't be proud of them right?

Our 3rd game took us up to the central coast to the Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club; a new club for Ruawai to play. They have a rugby field right on the beach front and an amazing view. The boys, again being billeted out by the hosts, got great feedback! Game time came and, still feeling effects of the last game plus the heat, we started off slow and found it hard to get into the groove and were down 26-nil at halftime. Some inspiring words from our coaches lifted the boys for the 2nd half and we put down 26 points. But this just wasn't enough to contain a big strong Trojans team, of again 24 players rolling the subs, going down 26-44. The score did not reflect how our boys played and the warm reception from the Trojans after the game was very welcoming. A lasting touch with



Team Photo: Echo Point, Blue Mountains NSW

Team List

Michael Fenney

Mahia Neho-Poutai

Jacob Burton

Daniel Fenney

Luke Bracey

Hayden Sanford

Rico Connelly

Zac Hopkins

Brent Hicks

Phillip Hutchinson

Laine Hickey

Ryan Hassall

Daniel Grbin

Cameron Bracey

Malakai Neho-Poutai

being at Terrigal, we attended the Anzac Dawn Service on the beach front and it was certainly an experience for us all est. 6,000 people in attendance. Laine Hickey and Hayden Sanford laid a wreath on behalf of the Club and represented a kiwi dynamic to the ceremony. It was a special moment for these boys, and then the whole team performing the Haka at the end of the service before a huge crowd. On behalf of the Team and Committee, I would like to thank everyone that has helped us out and sponsored us these past 2 years. A life experience like this for all of the boys couldn't have happened without the support from you, our community! I wish all the best for the next Tour coming in and, please, once again get behind the next group and keep this awesome tradition going!

Corey Hopkins ; Secretary/Tour Manager

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Community

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Saturday 1st July 2017

Teams of 6 - \$60 per team - First question at
 7:30pm

Senior Rugby

Unfortunately, the senior team of Ruawai Rugby has had to finish their season early due to lack of player numbers. The club would like to take this opportunity to thank the players who offered their commitment, the coaches and management for their time, the committee for their support, and of course the sponsors who gave in many ways to aid the team with their season. We hope to regain numbers and come back stronger than ever next year. **Carol Thompson; Secretary Ruawai Rugby.**

Indoor Bowls Update

The pairs have been played with the final tussle going Brooklyn & Joshua's way by two points over Dave & Kerran. Three junior players in this line-up. Ruawai was well represented at the Northland centre Junior Singles tournament with Kerran Bellamy bringing home the Trophy. "Well done". He now has the opportunity to represent Northland in the National Junior Singles Sat. 26 August, played in North Wellington. His airfares

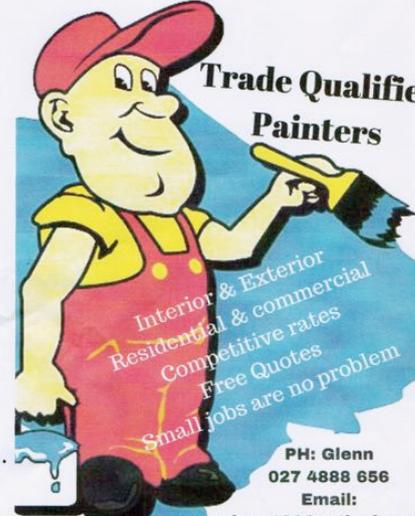
Ruawai Community Sports Club

Thank you to all those community members who have supported the community dinners that we have already held. Below is a list of the upcoming dinners/events to be held at the Ruawai Community Sports Club.

- > Saturday 24th June - Ruawai JMB Rugby Community Dinner
 Contact Jewelle Sterling 0212775871
- > Saturday 1st July - Ruawai JMB Netball Community Quiz Night
 Contact Kyla Johnson 0211738956
- > Saturday 5th August - AIMS Netball Team Community Dinner
 Contact Kyla Johnson 0211738956
- > Sunday 3rd September - Ruawai Junior Cricket Community Dinner
 Contact Anissa Thompson 0210458301

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and accommodation paid for by the Northland centre and some financial help from Northern Wairoa Association. If you would like to come down to the Ruawai Hall on Tuesday evening for a game, you are most welcome. From 7pm, followed by tea & coffee.

Contact: Tony Oud; Ph. 439 2390

RUAWAI BOATING CLUB

Ahoy! Welcome to this edition of what's happening on and off the water. The Ultimate Angler is over for this season with prize-giving scheduled for Sunday June 11. This incorporates a fishing competition on the day (weather permitting), open to members and non members. So feel free to come down to the Sports Club for a great meal and a few social drinks. The AGM, is a few days later, 14th June at 1900hr. Club prize-giving combined with another competition to be held July 2nd (weather dependent). The way fishing on the harbour has been there should be plenty getting weighed. Anyone who has been up at the wharf lately will have

noticed it is in need of a few repairs. The nails holding down the planking are rusted through which will add to the work that is scheduled to be done on the walkways down the slipway. We are trying a new product that, hopefully, will not be as slippery as the current timber walkway. On that note I would like to remind you that the wharf and slipway are totally maintained and funded by the Boating Club members, so please do the right thing when you use it, thanks. **Tony Oud**



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CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Rainfall reported by Kura Newall

Feb - 78mm

Mar - 195mm

Apr - 123mm

So far this year up to 17th
May 502mm

Out of interest in January
1976 there was 949mm of
rain.



An Awesome Accomplishment

Three young women, who are members of our Ruawai Volunteer Fire Brigade, completed the Sky Tower Stair Challenge. Congratulations!!!! **J.W.**

The 2017 Firefighter Sky Tower Stair Challenge was something we, Renee Gatehouse, Natalia Partridge and Jo Forsythe, were keen to give a go. The local mountains (we are so spoilt) provided us with some great training and certainly got us ready for this challenge. We met up on Saturday 13th May with around 900 fellow firefighters (from around the regions and also overseas) to give this our "best shot". So, with nerves aplenty, kit on and the timer counting down, before we knew it we were heading for the top.

With no expectations, but just the determination to finish, we all completed the challenge in under 20 minutes and even had air left over in our tanks. 51 Flights of stairs, 1,103 individual steps, up to 25kg on our backs and we did it! A worthwhile cause. The 2017 Firefighter Sky Tower Stair Challenge raised a record-breaking \$1.25 million for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand. Ruawai Community, family and friends contributed to a total of \$2,665 for which we are really grateful. Special thanks to Ruawai Volunteer Fire Brigade, Kaipara Kumara, Portstar Plastics, Kaipara Refuse and Sleep Systems for their kind support to this worthwhile cause. It never ceases to amaze us how supportive our community is. We are all keen to give this "a go" next year and to get some of the 'fellas' from the Brigade to join us - no pressure guys! **Jo Forsythe**

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25th Anniversary



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28TH JULY 2017

10 AM—4 PM

DARGAVILLE TOWN HALL

Drop in for a bite to eat and music

Everyone welcome



Our run was held on Sunday 14th May from Dargaville to Paparoa via Tinopai. There were approximately 48 vehicles and a total of 73 people registered. The weather played its part too! This is the 4th year it has been held to mark the start of Hospice Awareness Week. The cars stopped at the Ruawai Rugby Club for lunch prepared by Noelene Gatehouse and her wonderful team. Everyone thought the food was lovely. A big thank you to the Rugby Club, Noelene and her team for their part in making this a memorable day. We would also like to thank our other hosts – Kaipara Vintage Machine Club, Tokatoka Tavern, Tinopai Camping Ground and the Paparoa Tavern as well as those providing the lovely prizes.

Ruawai Kindergarten

Ruawai Kindergarten celebrated our 5th Birthday in our new Early Learning Environment on 31st May 2017. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Ruawai and surrounding communities for their continued support of our Kindergarten.

Photo: Ruawai Kindergarten trip to Kaipara Kumara.



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News from The Art Studio Ruawai .

This second term of the year has been a busy one for the Art Studio. As well as our normal Monday sessions we have had three workshops. The first tutorial on the use of Pastels was by Jean Sircombe of Dargaville. As most attending have not tried Pastels prior to this, they found it very challenging but also enjoyed the chance to extend their repertoire in the use of painting mediums. This workshop was partially funded by a grant from KDC Creative communities NZ. The second workshop by Frances Casey was using black paint over rainbow colours and while still wet erasing some of it to create a painting. Messy but fun. The third tutorial was on behalf of White Rock Gallery Paparoa and was on Compilation by Elana Nicolaeva. Elana has taken several workshops at the studio and, as always, they have been very informative; enjoyed by all and have produced beautiful work. We have also had a busy time selling raffle tickets. Fund-raising too is a challenge, so a big thank you to those who gave of their time to help with this; and an even bigger thank you to those generous people who not only bought tickets but to those who gave donations as well. The Painting was won by a Ruawai ticket and the Ceramic Dog found a home in Dargaville. For our third term we will possibly be trialling a different day to meet, in an attempt to attract more people to join our studio. This will be advertised in the Lifestyler at a later date. However, for the remainder of this term our sessions will still be Mondays at 10am. Enquiries to Frances Casey; phone 439 2554. Finally, to our Treasurer who has recently resigned, thank for your loyal support and expert bookkeeping over the last seven years. It has really been appreciated.

Frances Casey

Hats and Gloves exhibition at The Kauri Museum 14 June - 6 September 2017.

Hats and gloves were an essential part of the wardrobe for men and women through the 19th and early 20th centuries. Residents of the Otamatea County were no different to the rest of New Zealand. They needed hats and gloves for a myriad of purposes including going out, attending church and weddings, sports events, or as part of a uniform. Hats and gloves both had a protective function, were often extremely decorative and assisted in establishing the wearer's identity. This exhibition will show some of the highlights of the Kauri Museum hat and glove collection. **Tracey Wedge; Collections Manager.**

"Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark. Professionals built the Titanic."

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COMPUTER VIRUS - HOW TO PREVENT AND RECOGNISE

A necessary evil of computer systems is having to install protection against virus attacks. There are lots of choices for different products that will do the job; some are good, some are not. Most generally work well but if they have been installed by the average person or from the shop, you will usually find that everything possible has been installed on your computer. Half of it you will not need or want and generally will slow your computer down drastically.

A virus usually arrives through an attachment on your emails. Hence **DO NOT OPEN** any email attachments from anyone you do not know or aren't expecting. OR if you get a phone call from an unknown person stating they work for Microsoft/Windows – **DO NOT** under any circumstances do anything they say. Tell them you don't have a computer and they will leave you alone. The upside is: if you are running Windows 7,8, or 10 or any version of these, an antivirus programme is already installed on your computer. This is called Windows Defender which you should find in your control panel. If you suspect your computer has a virus, turn off immediately and call a computer person. **Ross MacDonald**

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THE CORNER PLACE GARDEN CENTRE

Hello Ruawai. It's Etha Taylor here. First, I'd like to thank everyone who has visited The Corner Place Garden Centre and bought plants. George and I couldn't do it without you. To those who haven't yet visited us at

13 Jellicoe Rd, Ruawai I'd like to share a bit of background about George and myself. When I asked George what he'd like to say in the Ruawai Rambler article, (typically) he said, "Tell them I'm a top notch polo player and a first-class cricketer..." lol. Well, OK there you go - I've told you. Now you know that when you talk to George you often get a good laugh, and God knows we all need more of those. Our background is dairy farming and market gardening from up the Valley Rd at Tangowahine. As farming back in the 80s was so rough we had to diversify to survive. We ran a vegetable truck (pictured) around Dargaville and a fruit and vegetable shop (Riverside Gardens) after that. George and I have over 40 years combined experience in market gardening. We've just completed some new additions to the nursery including a brand new shade house. At the moment we have a wide variety of citrus, feijoa, tamarillo, passionfruit and guava trees. The stone fruit will be arriving early July. We also have a large range of vegetable and flower seedlings, and potted colour; as well as a selection of flowering shrubs. EFT-POS is available and our opening hours are Monday to Saturday, 9am-5pm. Please visit us on Facebook (The Corner Place Garden Centre) and LIKE our page to keep up with specials and new arrivals. We look forward to



serving you. **Etha Taylor**



STARGAZING AT THE KAURI MUSEUM

June is shaping up to be a very busy month at The Kauri Museum with three events planned; all of them celebrating the stars and sky in different ways. On the shortest day, Wednesday 21 June, the Director of Planetarium North will be at Matakoho Hall for an evening's programme entitled "Clocks, Calendars and Compasses"; an exploration of the reasons we have seven days a week, why the metre is exactly so long, and many other aspects of daily life that originate from our place in Space. If the weather permits, there will be an opportunity for attendees to look at the night sky with expert guidance. So bring your own binoculars or telescopes and keep the fingers crossed! For several years The Kauri Museum has encouraged the seven primary schools in the old Otamatea district to participate in a students' art exhibition to mark Matariki. This year the theme of the exhibition is 'E Whitu ngā Whetu, ngā Rākau e Whitu: Seven Stars, Seven Trees". Each school has been assigned a whakataukī, or proverb, featuring one of seven native trees, to illustrate using any media, in any way. The students' work will be on display at the Museum from 26 June. Following closely after is the visit of Starlab Astronomy on 29 and 30 June. Starlab is a portable planetarium, described by some as a 'blow-up igloo'. Air is blown by a fan into a tunnel at one end which keeps the dome inflated. Students then crawl through an opening at the other end and sit on the floor inside the dome where the night sky is displayed. This is a school curriculum-based programme which covers common astronomical concepts; day and night, seasons, moon phases, eclipses, planets, comets, night sky recognition, constellation positions, space exploration and myths and legends. Setting up in Matakoho Hall, Starlab is a free-of-charge educational experience provided by The Kauri Museum for primary school students. Many local schools have already booked a session. Starlab will also operate after school hours, so if your child would like to experience Starlab and has missed a school visit, there will be after-school sessions at 3.00pm and 4.00pm on both days. Please contact the Kauri Museum via admin@kaurimuseum.com to register your interest. **Lisa Tolich CEO Report**

From Ruawai College

We are pleased to report that after a visit from the ERO team earlier this year, Ruawai College has received an excellent review highlighting some very pleasing and unique attributes that this school has to offer The

Education Review Office (ERO) is responsible for ensuring that your children are receiving a high quality education.

ERO reviews the performance of every school on a regular basis investigating how effective the school's curriculum is at promoting student learning, engagement progress and achievement, including a special focus on Maori and Pacific students and students with special needs.

Here are just a few passages from the rWhat are the important features of this school that have an impact on student learning?

"Values of respect, resilience and responsibility, developed with the school community, define the expectations of staff and students at every level of the school."

How well does this school use achievement information to make positive changes to learners' engagement, progress and achievement?

"The school makes effective use of achievement information to make positive changes for learners."

How effectively does this school's curriculum promote and support student learning?

"The school's broad curriculum is well aligned with The New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) and is very effective in engaging students in learning."

How effectively does the school promote educational success for Māori, as Māori?

"Trustees, leaders and teachers strongly support and accept shared responsibility for educational success for Māori students, as Māori."

How well placed is the school to sustain and improve its performance?

"Relationships with parents, whānau and the wider school community are constructive and positive. The school continues to foster these relationships and build learning-focused partnerships with whānau and community, for the benefit of students in their learning and future pathways"

So, it is official. We are an outstanding College. We have strong values, high expectations, an excellent academic record, a proud sporting tradition, a very supportive community, hard-working staff, wonderful

students, we are a safe school, have a committed Board of

Trustees... the list could go on. When you have an external agency review the school and they confirm all of the above - we can indeed be very proud.

Thank you everyone for your continued faith, support and commitment to this wonderful school.

The complete report is available via the following link:

<http://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/ruawai-college-21-04-2017/>

UPDATE FROM THE WILD SIDE

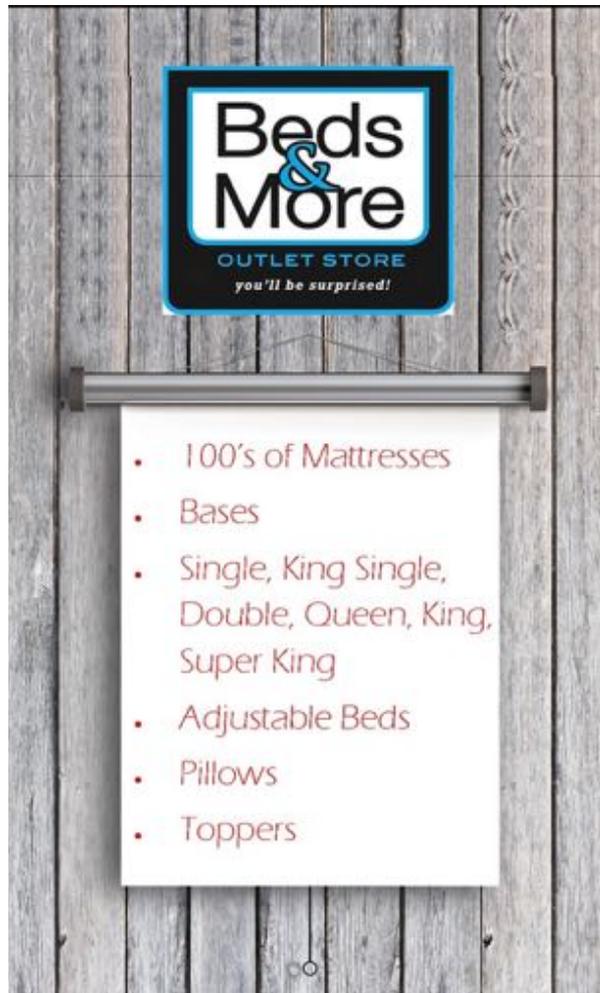
Hello wild westies. I have finally recovered from a successful 5-city tour promoting the new-look version of my memoir, "The Wild Side" in March. Note to self: "never do that again" lol. We had some great media interest, most of which can be found at www.wildsidepublishing.com/media if you missed it and want to see the Seven Sharp crew drag their camera up Tokatoka with me :)

The Wild Side Trust (wildsidetrust.org)

We continue to receive calls and emails, from people making contact after reading "The Wild Side" seeking help and advice. In response to that, my husband (Ray Curle) and I are setting up a trust to help connect addicts with a recovery centre that suits them and supports families wanting advice and encouragement. The Wild Side Trust is in the formative stages and can be found on the web at www.wildsidetrust.org.

Wild Side Ministries (wildsideministries.com)

Some of you may remember the healing evangelist Bill Subritzky who travelled widely praying for people. You may not know that my husband, Ray, was Bill's campaign organiser for 13 years and was part of the founding team of the men's ministry, Promise Keepers NZ. He is now the advertising manager for Christian Life news magazine and speaks once a



month at Ruawai Community Church. We have just built a new website to host Ray's messages (and a couple of mine) under the name "Wild Side Ministries", which simply formalises what Ray and I have been doing for some time. Our talks are now online as free podcasts available for downloading or streaming at

www.wildsideministries.com and features topics such as Hindrances to Healing, Is There More Than One Way to God?, There is Hope (from Ray) and Overcoming Fear & Anxiety (by me) and much more. The newest message is The Coming Convergence - about the signs of the end times from a biblical viewpoint. As you may have noticed, things are really heating up in the world - and it's not just your imagination! But take heart, there is hope in the midst of all the bad news.

Peace out, **Janet Curle (nee Balcombe)**