Pōhutukawa Times

23 February 2024

Council approves solar farm application



Auckland Council has granted resource consent for a solar farm to be built on the property pictured above in Ardmore.

An application to build a 13-hectare solar farm on land opposite Ardmore School has been given the green light.

The solar farm resource consent application was considered by Duty Commissioner Robert Scott, who weighed up information supplied by the applicant (Kenny Ardmore Limited) and by Auckland Council's reporting planner. Scott concluded that any actual and potential effects from the proposal could be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

The project will see about 18,000 solar panels installed on approximately 13ha of the 16.9ha site at 600 Papakura Clevedon Road, along with ancillary electrical transformer and substation equipment. The solar farm's resource consent application says it will generate approximately 17,488 MWh, enough to meet the domestic power demand of about 2,400 houses in the surrounding communities of Ardmore and Clevedon.

Local residents were not given an opportunity to present their concerns during the decision making process as the application was non-notified, and say they are disappointed about the decision to grant resource consent.

Residents' main concerns about the potential solar farm included: negative visual effects; loss of property value; the impact of the solar panels' impervious surfaces on stormwater runoff, soil health, glare and bird life; and whether potential electromagnetic field exposure could pose a safety risk to school students and neighbouring residents.

Ardmore resident Chris Wise says his neighbours and the local community are "in disbelief that the council not only approved to progress the Solar Farm as non notified, but now have approved resource consent on the basis that all of our concerns are deemed in the council's opinion to have a "less than minor" effect on neighbouring properties, Ardmore School, the environment, native wildlife and the health and well being of the community.

"The council completely ignored all of our written correspondence opposing the location of the solar farm and the 300+ community members who signed our petition. There was no engagement with the community at all.

"We are looking at our legal options via the Environment Court."

Allan Bell, an Ardmore resident whose connection to the area goes back several generations, says he found the non notification to be an extremely unusual decision.

"All the points of concern come down to minor [effects] these include health and safety for humans not mentioned.

"The Paris accord signed by NZ states that green energy projects should not use high food production land. This land is 100 per cent RU2, the second highest soil quality in NZ.

"I have two A4 folders full of reasons not to grant this application," says Allan.



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Guest editorial by Clevedon Community & Business Association

been top of mind recently.

This week, our very own Hūnua Traverse cycle trail is hosting up to 180 cyclists completing the Tour Aotearoa brevet; a 3000km cycle tour of New Zealand utilising a mix of cycle trails and roads. We're delighted to welcome riders through Clevedon; keep an eye out for these riders, identifiable by their heavily-laden panniers. You'll spot them year-round, but the sight of 180 riders travelling through our village over a few days really is something to behold.

Then on 16-17 March we look forward to the Clevedon Art Trail Open Studio Weekend. Art-lovers are invited to come and visit artists' studios, exhibitions and pop ups at private residences and local venues. Visit www.clevedonarttrail. co.nz for more information.

Trails are a fantastic way to bring people together for a common purpose, generating a sense of community. They also give people a reason to visit our corner of Auckland, supporting local business.

As we look towards the upcoming Auckland Council Long Term Plan consultation, we're also reflecting on the role of walking and cycling trails in our community. Currently, Auckland Council has set a budget of \$0 for the

Here at the Clevedon CBA, 'trails' have development of new paths and trails in the trail, linking it to Clevedon Scenic Franklin area. The Clevedon CBA aspires to cycling and walking as the default method of transport in and about the village. Currently, our trails don't support this aspiration, but as Clevedon grows, a network of trails is being constructed by developers. The Clevedon Trails Steering Group, formed by the Clevedon CBA to support landowners in developing these trails, has also identified opportunities for connecting and extending trails beyond what is shown on planning documents, with potential for inter-village connections to Maraetai, Papakura and Hūnua.

> The question for us now is, where developers aren't required to build these trails, how do we fund them?

> In response to Auckland Council's funding shortfall and in response to the community's aspirations for more trails across the district, Franklin Local Board is putting forward the idea of a local targeted rate of \$1/week per household to fund a programme of investment specifically in trails. This targeted rate would last for 10 years and would raise in the order of \$20million. Funds raised by Franklin, for Franklin.

Locally, several important trails have Victoria Richards been identified as beneficiaries of this targeted rate. In Clevedon, these include a connection between the Clevedon North

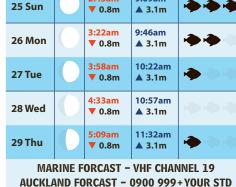
Reserve, and a 2.8km trail along the edge of McNicol Road from the village to Tourist Road. From here it will then link into the proposed Stevensons trail which will connect users all the way to the old trail that connects to Cossey Access Road in Hūnua. In Kawakawa Bay, an 800m off-road connection is proposed to link the two bays, while in Orere Point, a 2.3km pathway is proposed between the village and the school.

A further 23 trails and 12 crossing points have been identified across Franklin with the intention that targeted rates which are collected in the Wairoa Subdivision will be spent in the Wairoa Subdivision.

At the end of February a month-long feedback period on this targeted rate will be included in Auckland Council's Long Term Plan official consultation. In the meantime, the Clevedon CBA is working alongside other local trails advocates and community groups in the Franklin Area to share information about this proposal. Visit www.franklinpathsandtrails.org to learn more.

Chair **Clevedon Community and Business** Association





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Warmer winter ahead for Himilayan villagers thanks to local generosity

"Wow," says Maraetai's Lyn Yeoman, "The Pōhutukawa Coast and surrounds has heartily contributed once again!"

Following an article in the *PC Times* late last year, warm clothing, backpacks and hiking boots have flowed through Lyn's door - all donated by locals. Earlier this month 16 backpacks, stuffed with the donated clothing, embarked upon a journey to the village of Kyanjin Gompa, in Langtang Province, high in the Himalayas.

Kyanjin Gompa was demolished in the 2015 earthquake, and life was made even more difficult for its residents when the pandemic impacted tourism. With their incomes decimated and feeding families the main priority, villagers have found it impossible to pay school fees.

Lyn's husband Chris McMurray says the village is in a valley which is 1500ft. higher than Mt Cook, surrounded by mountains averaging 17,000-22,000ft. Overnight temperatures in January were around minus 16 Celsius.

Lyn says the donations were made by Beachlands-Maraetai folk as well as contributions from as far away as Orere Point, Brookby and from friends of locals in other parts of Auckland.

"The generosity of our communities was amazing; as was the thought that had gone into the selection of clothing; especially the amount of clothing with the 'Woolmark' symbol, indicating that folk here really understood the weather conditions," says Lyn.

"We also thank people for giving us their precious back-packs, filled with their own memories. This was special! The packs make the whole thing possible. With the current owners' generous consent, these packs will be given to the Porters who will make the six day trek to carry the goods up to Kyanjin Gompa."



Lyn Yeoman and Chris McMurray pictured with backpacks loaded with warm clothing donated by locals keen to help out the people of Kyanjin Gompa in the Himilayas.



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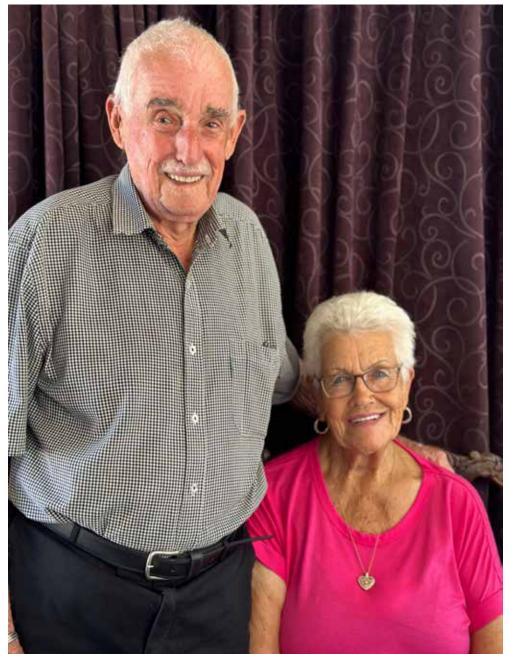
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Maraetai couple celebrate 65 years of marriage

marriage? Tolerance, according to Maraetai residents Malcolm and Valerie Owens! Malcolm (88) and Valerie (83) celebrated their 65-year wedding anniversary on 14 February. They have a pile of photograph albums which have captured many of their special moments from when they first met at a dance in the Karaka Hall, when Val was just 17. They spent much of the night dancing together, before Malcolm's friend asked if he could have the last dance with Valerie. "My mate wanted to have the last dance with Val, but I told him he was too late!," says Malcolm. It was was a whirlwind courtship, with the pair announcing their engagement within 3 months of meeting each other. They were married 18 months later at the Papakura Catholic Church, two weeks before Valerie turned 19, and moved into their home which Malcolm built himself in Linmore Drive, Manurewa. The pair lived much of their lives in Manurewa and Papakura, with Malcolm working as a builder and Valerie working at the Post Office. Malcolm volunteered for 29 years at the Manurewa Fire Brigade, including some time as Chief Fire Officer, and has carried on his community contribution by volunteering for the Pohutukawa Coast Crime Patrol.

Want to know the secret to a 65-year They have four children, and now speak proudly of their eight grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. But spending 65 years together hasn't always been easy, they both say. "It hasn't all been happy. We've had our rough patches," says Malcolm. "Even today, your demands on each other change with your health. I had a rough year last year, and Val's had a rough time over the last four years." "You just have to work your way through it - don't give up. There's a lot of give and take," says Valerie. "But we have lots of laughs." The Owens moved to Maraetai about 23 years ago and say social connections are what matter most in life. While some of their friends have moved to retirement villages, they are determined to remain in their own home. Malcolm and Valerie marked their 65th wedding anniversary with a "no fuss" gathering of about 100 friends and family at home. Their eldest daughter also celebrated her own wedding anniversary on the same day.

> **Right: Malcolm and Valerie Owens** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with friends and family at their Maraetai home last weekend. Bottom right: Malcolm and Valerie pictured soon after they first met.



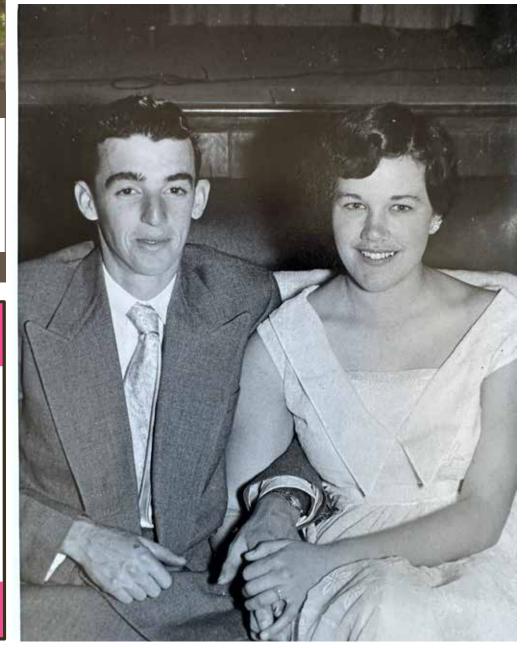


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Shining Some Light



I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see (Amazing Grace).

The writer was a slave trader, far away from God and blinded from the truth.

Then he found Jesus who forgave his sin and opened his eyes to a better way to live.



Get along to the Rotary Trolley Derby at Omana this Sunday!



The Trolley Derby promises a wheely good day out for the whole family, so get along to Omana Regional Park this Sunday to catch all the action!

The Guinness World Record-holding World's Fastest Chilly Bin (built in a Clevedon shed) will officially open this year's Derby.

There'll be fun for all the family including the Wet Azz waterslide, face-painting, a bouncy castle run by Playcentre, a creative station run by Waiuku Recycling where you can create things from cardboard boxes and tubes, the Barfoot & Thompson chocolate throw, and a playdough station run by Beachlands Kindergarten.

There will also be food and beverage providers. Practice runs will start at 9am, with timed races beginning at 11am. At 2pm the grand final race will see the top two competitors battle it out for the 'King of the Hill' trophy.

Details:

GJ Gardner Rotary Trolley Derby Omana Regional Park Sunday 25 February 2024 9am-2.30pm Kids - remember to get your art entries in for this year's Trolley Derby Art Competition. There are six prezzy cards up for grabs!

Draw or paint a picture of a trolley, or the trolley derby event, and hand it in to your teacher before 1 March. Write your name, age, school, email and school year on the back of your entry.

Entry is open to all students of Beachlands and Maraetai Beach Schools.



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HOMPSON Student Voice

LOCAL STUDENTS' NEWS, VIEWS & LITERARY TALENT

This column features news, views and literary talents of students from Beachlands, Maraetai, Clevedon, Brookby, Hunua, Paparimu, Orere and Ardmore Schools.



One student featured each week will be presented with a certificate and a \$20 book voucher, thanks to Barfoot & Thompson's Beachlands and Whitford branches.

This week's voucher sponsored by Wayne Rawson

Willow I am loud and kind I wonder if I could live forever I hear a yeti's cry I see a unicorn trot I want to see my nana again I am loud and kind

I pretend to see the future



I feel the wings of an angel guarding me I touch the mane of the crying unicorn I worry about death to come I cry for people who passed I am loud and kind

I understand that all good things will come to an end I say what goes around comes around I dream about being famous I try to be good at school I hope that I live forever I am loud and kind

Willow Stone, Year 7, Brookby School



Support Local!

SPONSORED CONTENT

Art community hosts Clevedon Art Trail Open Studio Event 2024

With the warm embrace of summer brimming with the creations of local and approaching, get ready for the Clevedon Art Trail Open Studio Event. The Artists, Creators and Makers in Clevedon have been busy creating artwork and gearing up for this popular annual event, now in its eighth year! It's all happening on the weekend of 16 and 17 March 2024. But the fun begins a day earlier with an Art Trail Exhibition Opening on Friday 15 March from 5-8 pm at Hallertau -Clevedon. This preview will tease your artistic senses with a sneak peek of what's in store for The Clevedon Art Trail over the weekend.

The Clevedon Art Trail, situated just a half-hour drive from the bustling heart of Auckland, beckons as an idyllic self-drive journey into the heart of authentic rural New Zealand. Awaiting visitors are Open Studios, free live artist demonstrations, immersive workshops, and captivating exhibitions, all within easy reach in Clevedon.

Let's meet some of the artists and their places:

Art industry: James and Cheryl Wright's gallery in Clevedon Village showcases the unique work of 35 established and emerging artists. A brief stroll up the road leads to Clevedon **Creatives + Co**, where a gallery

5.30 - 6.30pm

New Zealand artists awaits. Throughout the weekend, this space will come alive with demonstrations.

Then head over to Gracie Matthews a Costumier at the Clevedon District Centre, where you can try your hand at vintage hand-crank sewing. For bronze sculpture fans, Frank Watson's studio is a must-visit, and a short drive away, the McNicol homestead showcases the Clevedon Art Group's talent in a historic setting. Up the road a little more is The Wild Fermentary, celebrating the art of wild fermentation. View the exhibition at their soda door and enjoy a refreshing fermented beverage and tasting platter - a great place to refuel between artists. Keep your journey rolling by visiting the home studio of Helen Morrison, an artist known for expressive landscape paintings. She will be running a free Adult Beginners Landscape Painting Workshop at 1pm on Saturday. Limited spaces available, to book email morrison.helen@gmail. com.

At 331 North Road, you will find the Gallery and Studio of Katie Blundell Artist. See her contemporary artwork and creative space. In the same driveway, you will find Riverhaven



Demonstrations at Clevedon Creatives & Co during the Clevedon Art Trail 2023.

Artland. Walk the 40-acre sculpture to take home with you for free. Park guided by the trail map. New to the Clevedon Art Trail is **Ana Ter Huurne**, visit her Home Studio to see her paintings inspired by colour, form and places of meaning. Back in the village, Hallertau hosts the Clevedon Art Trail Exhibition. Grab a bite to eat while you are there. If you happen to be doing the trail on Sunday, check out Pop-Up Printmaking with Toni Mosley at the Clevedon Farmer's Market between 10-12 pm, where you can make a monotype

These are just some of the wonderful, inspiring people and places you can visit during The Clevedon Art Trail. The Opening Exhibition is on Friday 15 March 5-8 pm and the Open Studio event is on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 March 2024 10 am-4 pm each day.

The Clevedon Art Trail is supported and funded by the Franklin Local Board and Auckland Council. For further details and updates please see www. clevedonarttrail.co.nz



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Open Studio Weekend 16th and 17th March 2024 Event Opening Exhibition 5-8pm, 15th March Hallertau - Clevedon



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Franklin Vets' people: meet head veterinary nurse Ariana Corbett

Length of time at Franklin Vets but my favourite thing is definitely how **Beachlands:**

Almost one year!

Work experience before Franklin their families. Vets:

I had been a nurse for four years before moving to Franklin Vets.

When did you decide you wanted to be a vet nurse?

I had always wanted to work with animals and thought I would one day be a vet. After looking into the difference between vets and nurses, I know that for both animals and their owners. I'm definitely more suited to nursing.

What kinds of things does a vet nurse do in a normal working day?

Each day varies hugely! From nurse consultations and helping educate owners, taking blood samples and placing catheters, running diagnostic tests, restraining animals, and administering medications. We also assist in surgeries, monitor anaesthetics, and recover our patients post-operatively.

rewarding the job is. Being able to provide animals with the care they need to be able to recover and go home to

What is your least favourite thing about being a vet nurse?

Saying goodbye to animals that have become more than just patients.

Why should pet owners choose a **Cat Friendly Certified vet clinic?**

Visits to vet clinics can be stressful By meeting certain requirements and earning the cat-friendly accreditation we help to make the visit less stressful from start to finish.

What is the best piece of advice you could give to a pet owner to ensure their pet has a long, healthy life?

Being proactive and getting your pets in for regular health checks to pick up on problems and potential diseases helps to get these under control sooner.



Franklin Vets head vet nurse Ariana Corbett.

What do you like most about living and working on the Pohutukawa Coast?

The standard of care that the owners have for their animals here is amazing. Also, how close it is to the beach! Nothing beats a lunch time swim.



What is your favourite thing about being a vet nurse?

The puppies and kittens are very cute





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BARFOOT NEW LISTING

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24. Tense (2,4)									2	20. Dinghy (7)				

- 24. Tense (2,4)
- 25. Damaging disorder (6)
- 29. Senior churchman (6)
- 31. Common sense (4)
- 32. At no time (5)
- 33. Tomfoolery (6)
- 34. Couch (4)
- 35. Short musical exercise (5)

Answers on page 10

26. Financial return (5)

27. Imbecile (inf) (5)

21. Solidity (7)

22. Storm (7)

28. Typical (5)

30. Long ago (4)





NEW LISTING

BEACHLANDS

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Catch of the Week photo competition

This photo was sent in by Christine Rushton, whose grandson Peter had a great start to his holidays with a fishing trip with Nan on her boat, Midlife Crisis.

Peter was thrilled to catch a shark and had a hard fight with this hammerhead which was returned to the ocean at the Clevedon river mouth.

To enter the Catch of the Week photo competition, email your photo and details about your catch (where it was caught, name of the boat, what you did with the fish, plus any other special details) to liz@gasmaraetai.co.nz. The weekly winner will receive a \$50 Top Catch voucher from GAS Maraetai, and the season winner will receive a fishing rod and reel.



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STAMP out moth plant infestation

An invasive vine is strangling its way around warm avocados. These pods will areas of the North Island and the Pohutukawa Coast is dry out this year, producing not immune, says the founder of STAMP (Society Totally Against Moth Plant).

The moth plant, a vigorously growing vine with milky sap and twining flexible stems, is the target of weed busters around the country at this time of year.

Native to South America, the vine smothers native vegetation and kills off plants in the canopy. Moth plant kill the vines now, and then has potential to catastrophically impact forest structure with its rapid growth and devastating effect on the establishment of native plants.

It may look like a pretty jasmine-type flower, says STAMP founder Richard Henty. However, the plant's pinky-white flowers grow into green pods the size of

hundreds of seeds which travel long distances in wind currents, thriving in almost any frost-free habitat.

Moth plant pods like the Henty says it is best to one pictured above produce hundreds of seeds. remove pods before they

burst. If you see one, at least cut the vine. There is no need to remove the cut vine,

but pods should be bagged up and thrown in the rubbish. The plant contains a milky sap which can irritate the skin, so gloves are recommended.

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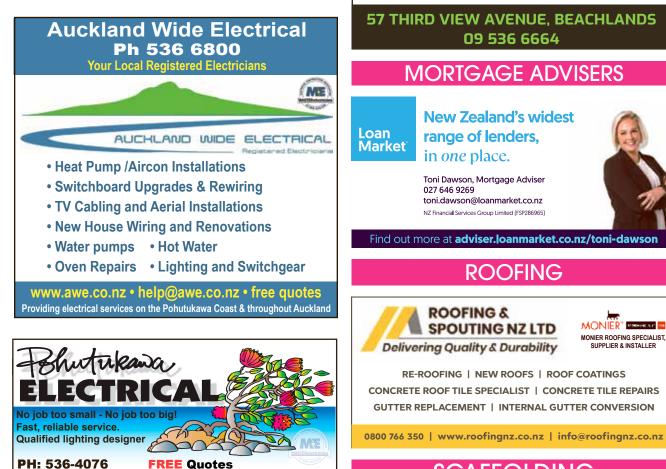


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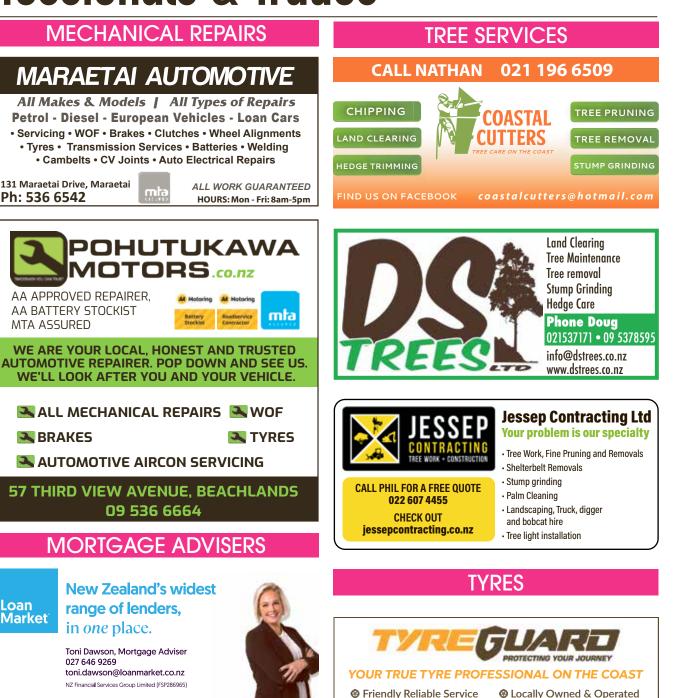
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