

15 November 2024

Student project shows light pollution a problem for many on the Coast



Maraetai Beach School students have worked with Skylabs on a project measuring light pollution, and are now sharing their findings with the science community. From left: Jake Van Vuuren, Harrison Dent, Lucas Hendricks, Maisy Russell and Arwen Blasco Giaseni.

A research project run by intermediate students at Maraetai Beach School has shone a light on a problem affecting more than half of the people living on the Pōhutukawa Coast.

Students undertook an in-depth study into light pollution on the Coast, in collaboration with Skylabs.

The students used 3D printers to create boxes with acrylic domes to house AllSky cameras. These cameras were fixed in several locations around the Pōhutukawa Coast, and used time lapse and long exposure photography to record the night sky.

The students viewed the footage and helped analyse and record the data. They also conducted a community survey to find out how light pollution affects people.

The results were enlightening. The sky cameras revealed that Beachlands, Pine Harbour and Te Puru recorded the highest levels of light pollution, due to commercial areas and sports field lighting.

At least 60 per cent of those who have responded to the community survey so far said they are bothered by excessive light at night.

During their investigation, the students discovered that light pollution significantly impacts both human and animal health, with emerging studies linking it to a number of serious health

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The PC Times 20 years ago:
 12 November 2004: Hundreds attend Clevedon Guy Fawkes display.



Weekly Tide Chart

15 Fri	12:50am ▼ 0.4m	7:17am ▲ 3.3m	🐟🐟🐟
16 Sat	1:43am ▼ 0.3m	8:11am ▲ 3.4m	🐟🐟🐟
17 Sun	2:35am ▼ 0.2m	9:02am ▲ 3.5m	🐟🐟
18 Mon	3:25am ▼ 0.2m	9:52am ▲ 3.5m	🐟
19 Tue	4:14am ▼ 0.3m	10:42am ▲ 3.4m	🐟
20 Wed	5:02am ▼ 0.4m	11:31am ▲ 3.3m	🐟
21 Thu	5:51am ▼ 0.5m	12:21pm ▲ 3.2m	🐟🐟

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Guest editorial by Hūnua Ararimu Paparimu Valleys Residents Association

Hunua, Ararimu and Paparimu Valley Residents Association plan an exciting year ahead

Movie nights, chainsaw safety training, community consultation for recovery planning — just some of the proposals for the year ahead from Hūnua, Ararimu and Paparimu Valley Residents Association (HAPVRA). Some new faces have joined HAPVRA, and others have taken on new roles, following the recent AGM. Funding from Auckland Council has allowed two part time staff to come on board: a communications manager and a grants facilitator.

One of the first things to be ticked off the list is preparing a new website (hapvra.nz), containing useful community information as well as providing a repository of essential emergency details. HAPVRA co-chair Geraldine Schnauer says the developments mark an exciting new chapter in the association’s history. “We’ve got a great committee, who have huge amounts of energy, enthusiasm and a swag of new ideas.

“We are working closely with Auckland Council and Franklin

Local Board to develop our resiliency planning, which includes engaging a facilitator to talk with residents across the three valleys about their wants and needs following recent major storms, this will help us develop and implement a community-led recovery plan.”

More first aid training for residents, as well as safety courses for quad bike riders and chainsaw owners is also planned for next year.

In recent weeks, CCTV cameras with number plate recognition software, connected to the NZ Police network have been installed in Hūnua. Franklin Local Board and Hūnua Hall provided funding and now HAPVRA is investigating similar systems for Ararimu and Paparimu.

Celebrations to commemorate the Hūnua Triangle have been planned for November. Outgoing HAPVRA co-chair Jane Berney was a driving force behind the project, which saw a piece of formerly derelict land turned into an exquisite planted area, with the Wairoa River represented by a cascading line of boulders.

“Everyone who approaches Hūnua can’t help but admire the Hūnua

Triangle. It’s become a landmark that we’re all proud of. A metal sign was put up some years ago, now we’re finally getting around to adding a plaque to pay tribute to all those who made it happen. It’s also an opportunity to thank Jane for all her hard work for HAPVRA over the past 15 years, as well as Mary Ingle, another loyal past committee member who also donated dozens of daffodil bulbs to the triangle.” HAPVRA has increased its social media presence to keep residents informed of all the developments. There’ll also be a chance for residents to talk to committee members face-to-face when they host a stall at the upcoming Ararimu Hall Christmas Market at the end of November.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

issues, says Skylabs founder and project coordinator Jordi Blasco.

The students recently presented their findings at the Curious Minds conference at AUT, and hope to also share their data at the NZ Astronomical Society Conference in March 2025.

Maraetai Beach School teacher Jane Suckling says: "A massive thanks goes to Jordi Blasco from Skylabs, who worked closely with the students throughout this project. His support and expertise have been invaluable in guiding the students' research and helping them make meaningful contributions to our community's efforts to combat light pollution. It's inspiring to see young minds actively engaged in making a positive impact on their environment!"

To help reduce light pollution in our area, the students made several recommendations:

1. Installing shielded lighting: encourage the use of shielded fixtures that direct light downward, reducing glare and light spill into the sky.

2. Using motion sensors and timers: implement motion sensors and timers for outdoor lighting to ensure lights are only on when necessary.

3. Opting for warmer light bulbs: use bulbs with warmer colour temperatures to minimise blue light emissions, which are more disruptive to humans and wildlife.

4. Promote community awareness: educate community members about the impacts of light pollution and ways to reduce it, encouraging everyone to participate in making changes.

Jordi says the Maraetai Beach School students have been "awesome", showing huge enthusiasm for the project.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to take part in the students' community survey on light pollution.

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New map introduces visitors to East Auckland and the Coast

This week East Auckland Tourism launches a new map designed to help visitors navigate their way around East Auckland and the Pōhutukawa Coast's top spots.

"We are thrilled to launch this map as a way to connect visitors with everything East Auckland has to offer," says East Auckland Tourism Chair Andrew Laing. "Our region is full of hidden gems that often go unnoticed. With this map, we hope to inspire exploration, support local businesses, and fuel our community's spirit."

Designed to highlight the region's best-kept secrets, must-visit spots, and stunning sights, the map highlights everything from picturesque beaches, regional parks and hiking trails to local markets, vineyards, eateries and scenic drives.

East Auckland Tourism says that by encouraging locals and visitors to explore and enjoy East Auckland's unique attractions, the new visitor map is also expected to provide a valuable boost to local businesses. Increased foot traffic from both locals and tourists will help to stimulate the local economy and support the area's growth.

The lively topographical map is the work of artist Denise Nel, who has donated her time to the project.

The map will be distributed through the city's tourist hotspots and at various locations around the coast.



A new map, designed by artist Denise Nel, directs visitors to hot spots within East Auckland, the Pōhutukawa Coast and Clevedon.



AUCTION

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Imagine waking up to sweeping sea views & enjoying long, sun-filled summer days in your very own slice of paradise on the Pōhutukawa Coast. This Stunning Fletchers-built home, purchased from new has been thoughtfully designed for both luxury & practicality:

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WHY WAIT?

Pohutukawa Landing Care Home: New standard for aged care

Metlifecare's state-of-the-art care home at Pōhutukawa Landing has introduced much-needed aged care services to the Beachlands community for the first time. The brand-new facility offers a wide range of premium care suites, including 15 purpose built dementia suites, all thoughtfully designed to provide a warm, family-friendly environment that feels like home.

Offering rest home, hospital and secure dementia care - the facility ensures support and comfort is provided as care needs change.

Pōhutukawa Landing's Business Care Manager, Anna Gildenhuys, says the care home helps fill a critical need in the community.

"Until now, there hasn't been a care option for people in Beachlands. The new care home means locals no longer have to leave the community they love to receive the care they need."

While it has that luxurious, premium quality you'd expect from a new building, it's also designed to feel like home, with plenty of spaces for families and friends. "Residents today want comfort and a touch of luxury from a care home, and that's exactly what we offer."

The secure dementia care suites are thoughtfully designed to ensure safety while encouraging residents to thrive. Its unique features include a beautiful courtyard

with raised garden beds and a dedicated kitchen for assisted baking offer personalised experiences, while specialised activities are tailored to meet each resident's needs.

"We take the time to understand each person's passions and support them to continue doing the things they love," Anna adds.

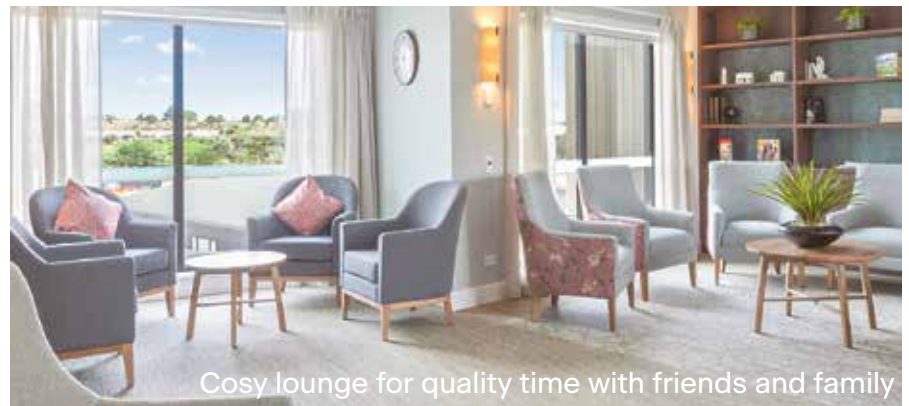
Since welcoming its first resident on 2 October, the care home has generated significant interest from the village's residents and the wider community.

"Our independent living residents are thrilled and gives them peace of mind in knowing that quality care is available right here. They're showing off the facility to friends and family, and many have said they'd be happy to move here if their needs change. There's also been plenty of enquiries from the wider community who are planning ahead."

The location adds to the care home's unique charm. "You drive through peaceful country, coastal scenery and Pine Harbour to get here."

The care home offers a range of accommodation options. The studio suites include an ensuite bathroom, kitchenette with a small fridge and tea-making facilities, and private balcony or patio. For those wanting more space, the larger suites feature the same amenities, plus a separate living area.

Some of the larger



Cosy lounge for quality time with friends and family

suites are big enough to accommodate couples, allowing partners with different care needs to stay together. Residents are encouraged to make their suite their own by adding personal touches and small furnishings.

Anna says she is excited about the new care home team they've built here. "We're all passionate about what we do, and we're committed to providing the very best care."

Setting a new benchmark in both aged care and sustainability, the care home is one of a few in New Zealand to achieve a 6 Green Star Design

certification. The building is designed to minimise energy consumption, water usage, waste generation and harmful emissions.

Unlike the traditional funding method for premium care accommodation, care suites are funded with the purchase of an Occupation Right Agreement (ORA) which gives peace of mind, so you know exactly what you're paying upfront, and you have the security of knowing you can afford to stay here long-term. It removes the guesswork of trying to predict how much money will be needed and for how long.

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Lifestyle

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From fit to function: why sunglasses are a must this summer!

- by **Howick Village Optometrists**

Sunglasses and summer: these go hand in hand. Poor, uncomfortable vision or annoying glasses: that's no fun. These tips from Howick Village Optometrists will help you enjoy wearing your sunglasses this summer.

What good are stylish sunglasses if you aren't enjoying comfortable vision? At Howick Village Optometrists we think that prescription sunglass lenses are a must-have this summer. When purchasing sunglasses, we will make sure that the glasses are a good match for your face and are fitted perfectly.

No one likes to perspire on hot, humid summer days. Glasses that slide down your face, fog up or pinch your nose can stress you out. Come in and see one of our friendly dispensing team to have your sunnies fitted properly!

Are you a bit less careful with your sunglasses? You put them in your bag without a case, tuck them into your shirt or casually put them on top of your head. All these actions can potentially damage the lens coating. Taking care of your sunglasses by using a case and not leaving them in a hot car ensures that your sunglasses will provide you with clear vision for a long time to come.

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Glare reflected off transparent or wet surfaces is not only annoying and distracting – it can also affect your vision. Getting polarised lenses will help with glare while driving, and when out on the water this summer.

We look forward to seeing you soon at Howick Village Optometrists to pick up a new pair of sunglasses to enjoy the upcoming summer!

Top tips for safe summer motoring

- by **Pohutukawa Motors**

Another year almost gone - Christmas is upon us. To get the most out of wherever your road takes you we'd suggest you look at the tips below. They're worth doing, they're easy and they could save you time or money.

If you need help, contact us to book your car in for a holiday checkover or service. We use top quality Shell Oils and Ryco Oil Filters and are confident in their abilities, however we do recommend you have your car looked at before you go away. Modern (2000s) vehicles and modern fluids don't like missing, or going beyond, their service intervals – this can (and has) proven a costly way to "save money".

- Check your oil. Cars can still use oil between services. Check it now and top it up if required.
- With the engine cold, check the coolant reservoir and/or radiator is at the correct level. If the level is extremely low, have the system checked for leaks. A potential leak spotted now may save you paying for a major engine repair later!
- Check the engine drive belts. A very important part of the engine, this simple piece of reinforced rubber is often the only thing pumping coolant around your engine. They run the alternator to charge your battery, power the pumps that drive your power steering, and pump refrigerant through your air conditioning system. If you see a

lot of cracking on the ribbed section or white cords showing, have them looked at by a professional as soon as you can.

- Pump your tyres up. Check the manufacturer's specifications for your vehicle (a tyre decal is usually on the driver's door pillar). Low tyre pressures don't just mean increased wear/decreased tyre life, they can also mean increased fuel consumption and poor handling. If you're loading up the car with gear or piling it all in the boot (check you're not overloading your boat and/or vehicle towing capacity) – make sure you increase the tyre pressure to the correct setting. If you have a spare tyre check it is inflated or that you carry a can of tyre sealant (available instore at Pohutukawa Motors Repco reseller shop).
- If you can jack a trailer wheel up, give it a spin – if it's noisy you may need the bearings or other components checked. A boat left on the side of the road isn't as much fun!

We shut our doors at 11am Friday 20 December and will reopen at 8am Monday 13 January. Like all of you we are looking forward to a decent break this year, soaking up the sun, splashing around in the sea, and enjoying some long evening BBQs!

The Pohutukawa Motors team wish you all a merry and safe Christmas and New Year.

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NEW LISTING

BEACHLANDS

10 KESHVARA ROAD



TENDER
12:00pm 29 Nov 2024 (unless sold prior)

VIEWING
Saturday & Sunday
1:00 - 1:30pm

barfoot.co.nz/901772

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Mike Deverell
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Nadine Bryant
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NEW LISTING

BEACHLANDS

6 ARAMINTA PLACE



TENDER

4pm Thursday 28th November (unless sold prior)

VIEWING

003 OPEN HOME: SAT & SUN 1:00 - 1:30PM

barfoot.co.nz/902201

GREEN HAVEN

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- First time on the market in 25 years!
- Watch our 003 property video online

SPECIAL AGENTS 003

Ian Boswell 027 285 9314

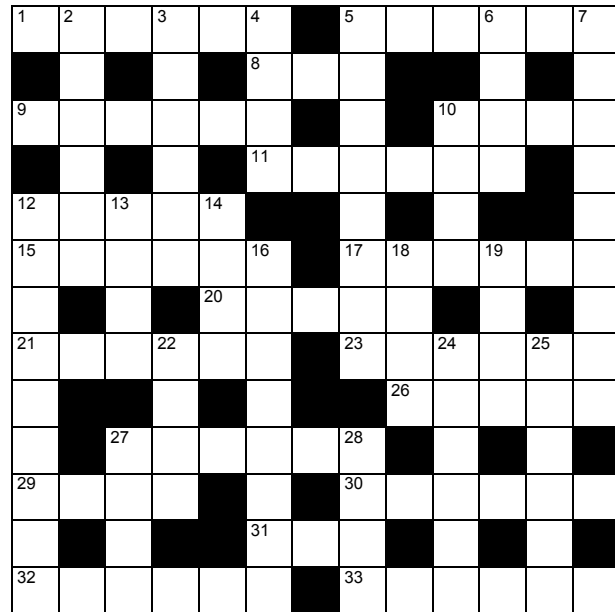
i.boswell@barfoot.co.nz

Nicolette Hale 027 702 9157

Jenny Chandler 0204 000 2564

Clare Dower 021 206 6822

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Brianne Bignell

021 400 979

brianne.bignell@raywhite.com

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Across

- Slowly (music) (6)
- Group within a group (6)
- Check (3)
- Antelope (6)
- Heavy iron block (5)
- Employee of touring band (6)
- Pithy principle (5)
- Battered sausage (3,3)
- Heart (colloq) (6)
- Romantic rendezvous (5)
- Study (colloq) (4,2)
- Test (4)
- Hang around (6)
- Second person pronoun (3)
- As a consequence (6)
- Plot (6)

Down

- Game tile (6)
- Pregnant (6)
- Egg shaped (4)
- Order to go faster (4,2,2)
- Footwear (4)
- Be encouraged (4,5)
- Entangle (4)
- Designer (9)
- Huge (4)
- Luxury car (abbr) (4)
- Keen vision (5,3)
- Leave out (4)
- Very dark (4)
- Terrible fate (4)
- Process large quantities of data (6)
- Regard (6)
- Naked (4)
- Additionally (4)

Answers on page 11



Floor Plan © G.J. Gardner Homes 2024

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Maraetai 3B2 Whenua Trust & Ngāi Tai Umupuia Te Waka Tōtara Trust

E ngā uri o Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, nau mai haere mai ki tēnei o ngā huihuinga mō tō tātou Marae, arā ko Umupuia.

Sunday 1 December 2024, 11am-2pm, Umupuia Marae, 153 Maraetai Coast Road, Auckland

AGENDA:

1. Karakia and mihi
2. Apologies
3. Chair's Report
4. Financial Report
5. Appointment of Auditor
6. Confirmation of Maraetai 3B2 Whenua Trustee Appointments
7. General Business
8. Karakia whakamutunga

For more information or if you have any questions please contact marae@ngaitaitamaki.iwi.nz

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