Pohutukawa Times Coast Times

Issue 1556

20 December 2024

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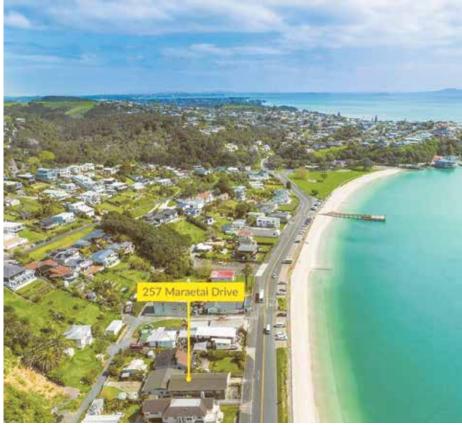
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 $W \ H \ Y \ W \ A \ I \ T \ ?$



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Pohutukawa Times Coast Times

Issue 1556

20 December 2024





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Pōhutukawa **Times**

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The Pohutukawa Coast Times is distributed weekly to 6500 homes and businesses in: Whitford, Brookby, Beachlands, Maraetai, Clevedon, Ardmore, Alfriston, Kawakawa Bay, Orere Point, Hunua and Paparimu

Guest Editorial by Rotary Club of Pōhutukawa Coast president John Stacey

When I first joined Rotary, I had no idea what I was getting into, other than knowing it was a club that did good things in the community. Rotary is an international organisation that started 110 years ago and now boasts 1.2 million members worldwide. Its initial goal was to fight polio, and it achieved great success. Unfortunately, polio and other diseases have seen a resurgence.

Our club serves the communities of Maraetai, Beachlands, Whitford and Clevedon. As well as local members it is a designated passport club. This means that members can join regardless of their location; for instance, two of our members reside in Kenya. Thanks to Zoom, we maintain close contact. They are involved in clean water and sanitation projects. Alongside other Rotary clubs, we have supported their work.

Like many service clubs, increasing and maintaining membership is a challenge. Although everyone is busy, I find that people are willing to help, and we are fortunate to live in a community where volunteering is the norm. but people are not necessarily interested in joining an organisation. Unfortunately, Rotary and many service clubs do not do a great job of communicating what they do. However, our club has gained

greater visibility with the annual Trolley Derby and starting the Fun Run, which now attracts around 500 participants, many of whom come from outside the area. As well as volunteers we are fortunate to have consistent and willing sponsors - without them, we couldn't do what we do.

Our club is project-based, focusing on supporting the community through various initiatives. Some projects are short-term, while others are ongoing. All our members are volunteers, and every dollar we raise goes back into the community. We have funded mental health support, local schools, trusts, food banks, hospice, and new equipment for Playcentre. With funds from the Fun Run and the Trolley Derby, we invite local organisations to submit funding applications. One of our priorities for next year is promoting education. Rotary nationally offers a series of courses to foster leadership, including a weekend course for younger students and a weeklong course for adults. The club funds participants.

Our club is also involved in environmental initiatives such as adopting Adah Platts Reserve in Maraetai, carrying out tree planting and ongoing pest control efforts. A recent project involved clearing rubbish from the reserve. Additionally, we commissioned a local artist to create



an installation of local endangered birds, these are placed (or being placed) in Maraetai and Beachlands schools followed by informative talks from experts in the field. The idea is to encourage youngsters to become guardians of their environment. This is consistent with the great work already done by those schools.

We are an active club. On and off and over the last three years, four club members cycled the North and South Islands. By connecting with other Rotary clubs they raised \$25,000 for a clean water and sanitation project.

We have two meetings a month. One is a club meeting at the Log Cabin, and the second is at the Rowan Muir Centre Maraetai. The second meeting has a guest speaker and follows a theme. Past themes have included sustainability and the environment. Another series is planned for April and will go through to September.

If you would like to know a bit more about the club, or would like to come to one of our meetings contact John, Pohutukawacoastrotryclub@gmail. com.

John Stacey President Pohutukawa Coast Rotary Club Inc

Member of the New Zealand Community Newspapers Association





The PC Times 20 years ago:

17 December 2004: The four stages of life: 1. You believe in Santa; 2. You don't believe in Santa; 3. You are Santa; 4. You look like Santa.



Weekly Tide Chart

weeki	y IIO	ie Unar		
20 Fri		5:27am ▼ 0.6m	11:58am ▲ 3.2m	•••
21 Sat		12:23am ▲ 3.0m	6:12am ▼ 0.7m	**
22 Sun		1:08am ▲ 2.9m	6:59am ▼ 0.9m	•••
23 Mon		1:54am ▲ 2.8m	7:48am ▼ 1.0m	•
24 Tue		2:43am ▲ 2.7m	8:41am ▼ 1.1m	-
25 Wed		3:37am ▲ 2.7m	9:37am ▼ 1.1m	•
26 Thu		4:33am ▲ 2.7m	10:33am ▼ 1.2m	•••

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Otau Ridge retirement village welcomes first residents

Metlifecare's new Clevedon retirement village, Ōtau Ridge (pronounced or-toe) has welcomed its first residents.

David and Judy Shearer moved into the village late last week, after saying farewell to the three-acre block on Papakura Clevedon Road where they have lived for the past 27 years.

Both say it was time to downsize to something more manageable, and that they are delighted with their new twobedroom plus study home which "feels like a hotel".

"I keep pinching myself, am I on holiday, am I awake?" says Judy. "The finish [on the unit's interiors] is lovely and the storage is great."

"We're more than happy here," says David.

While it might take the couple time to get used to having neighbours, they say the new village offers many benefits - particularly security, friends and the proximity of an onsite hospital should either of them require it in future.

David initially wasn't keen to move to a retirement village, but Judy talked him around and now he says he is pleased to have made the move. The couple say that having a 'lock up and leave' unit will make it easier for them to visit Judy's children and grandchildren who live in Australia.



David and Judy Shearer (and Santa) are the first occupants of Metlifecare's new Clevedon village, Ōtau Ridge.

Being first to move into the complex means that the Shearers currently benefit from being the sole recipients of the night time security service.

"We've got our own security guard at the moment, who checks in on us in the evening," says David.

Ōtau Ridge has released 38 homes for sale in Stage 1 of the village. Public amenities are expected to be completed in late 2025, including The River Lodge dining and cafe space, activities room, a hairdressing and beauty salon, onsite library and cinema.

HOWICK VILLAGE

Beachlands South objectors withdraw appeals

Appeals against a decision to rezone the land occupied by Formosa Golf Resort, plus surrounding land, have been withdrawn, opening the gate for the proposed 5000-home Beachlands South development.

The private plan change was approved by a panel of independent hearing commissioners appointed by Auckland Council last April, but the decision was appealed by a number of parties.

Auckland Transport, Auckland Council and Whitford Residents and Ratepayers Association (WRRA) lodged appeals objecting to the decision. AT and Council said the development did not align with the Resource Management Act, and that transport, water and future zoning needed further scrutiny. WRRA's objections centred on the impact of increased traffic flow on Whitford Village.

Since the appeals were lodged with the Environment Court, the parties have engaged with Beachlands South Ltd Partnership in an attempt to address concerns. Last week agreements were reached between all parties, and the appeals withdrawn. The Environment Court has given the plan change a green light.

94 Picton Street, Howick





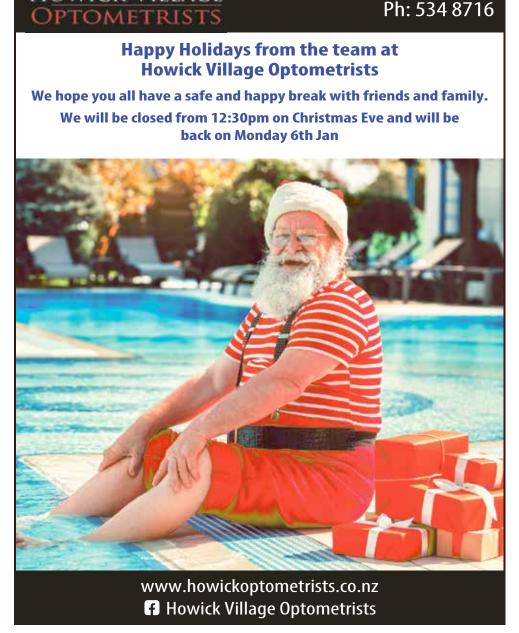


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Youth brush up on community spirit to create Second View mural



The new mural on Second View Ave in Beachlands is a collaborative effort between local schools, home schoolers and pre-schoolers.

A collective effort between Beachlands School, Maraetai Beach School, members of the local home schooling community and Pōhutukawa Kidz pre-schoolers has resulted in a colourful new mural on Second View Ave in Beachlands.

Coast Kidz to see what sort of things the little children wanted on the mural."

After discussing ideas with the pre-schoolers, the primary students created on rolls of paper, which were eventually translated onto the fence. Paint and particularly translated onto the fence.

The early childhood centre partnered with the Takutai Charitable Trust's youth programme, which worked alongside primary school students to design the mural.

"Each school, or homeschool group, was given a section of fence," says youth programme coordinator Paula Browne. "Then the older children visited Pōhutukawa

Coast Kidz to see what sort of things the little children wanted on the mural."

After discussing ideas with the pre-schoolers, the primary students created designs on rolls of paper, which were eventually translated onto the fence. Paint and painting supplies for the mural were provided via a project grant from the Beautification Trust's Tiaki Fund. The Beautification Trust also covered the cost of protecting the bright and cheerful mural with an anti-graffiti coating.



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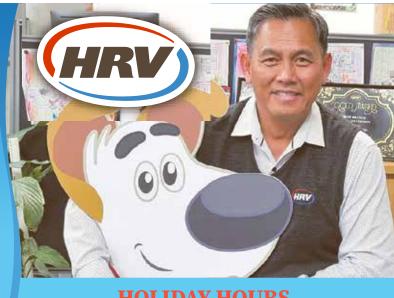
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HOLIDAY HOURS
We close on 20 Dec & open 6 Jan 2025

Siblings challenge schoolmates to have plastic-free lunchboxes

Each year, the world produces plastic waste equal to the weight of 15 million elephants. It is facts like these which inspired Hūnua School students Eden (10) and Ryan (8) Fearnside's mission to let everyone know the effects of plastic pollution.

After finding hundreds of pieces of plastic washed up on a local beach, Eden and Ryan created a challenge for their school - to have no plastic waste in their lunch boxes for 10 days.

Every day for two weeks there was a buzz of excitement as plastic-free lunchboxes were proudly revealed and ticked off.

"We had great help from our principal,

Each year, the world produces plastic student leaders, Enviro Group monitors vaste equal to the weight of 15 million and especially our mum," said Eden.

Throughout the challenge, the majority of Hūnua School students were on board and plastic waste was a rare thing at break times.

Both Eden and Ryan say they are delighted at the outcome of their idea.

"Everyone in my class was plastic-free for the second week. I liked it when a student told me that we had made a real difference and that his family are now all plastic-free!" said Ryan.

Eden and Ryan hope more schools will adopt the same challenge. They want to teach everyone about the effects of plastic pollution on marine animals and the



Ryan and Eden Fearnside with the mascots they created to encourage their school to be plastic-free.

Hūnua School students show off their plastic-free lunch boxes

environment. Through their plastic-free campaign, they hope that families will think more about how much single-use plastic they are buying and find ways to reduce it.

Eden says: "Outside many supermarkets are soft plastic collection bins, where you

can recycle your soft plastic."

Ryan suggests doing the scrunch test. "Soft plastic can be scrunched up. Rinse it out and recycle."

Find out store locations at for soft plastic Recycling NZ website for store locators. https://www.recycling.kiwi.nz/

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So, what is new with the Razor Double Barrel? For a start this machine is on steroids compared with its predecessors with a wash time of 7 minutes for our top wash. The blue wash arch that tracks around your vehicle is guided by sensitive laser beams following the exact shape of your car offering more precise coverage with its two-step hot chemical application. The combination of chemistry and hot water far out-performs conventional high pressure car wash machines.

When it comes to the washing cycle, within the arch is a dedicated manifold that delivers water blasting at 1200 psi via 10 turbo nozzles and 5

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SPONSORED CONTENT

Te Puru celebrates a big year of community cheer

- by Te Puru Community Centre

2024 has been an incredible year of growth for the Te Puru Community Centre. We've been excited to see our gymnastics and basketball programmes thrive and expand, with even more plans for growth in 2025. Our community activities including badminton, senior circuit, table tennis, mahjong, and the newly introduced pickleball sessions, have seen a surge in participation. It's been wonderful to see the Beachlands and Maraetai community come together at the centre for active, fun-filled moments.

Our school holiday programme has expanded significantly this year with the addition of sport-specific offerings, including rugby and netball. The Te Puru programme has introduced a range of exciting new activities for kids, ensuring each day is a fresh adventure. With the summer programme just around the corner, we're eager to welcome everyone back to the centre to make the most of

their summer holidays!

Our bar and clubrooms have been buzzing throughout the winter sports season, thanks to the continued support from the Beachlands-Maraetai Rugby Club, Pōhutukawa Coast Netball Club, and Beachlands-Maraetai Association Football Club. More recently, Pōhutukawa Touch has brought thousands to the park and centre every Wednesday this summer.

We've also had the pleasure of hosting a wide range of large events, from birthday celebrations to the Beachlands Community Fundraiser Ball. As we move into 2025, we are excited to continue growing as a community hub and hosting even more events for everyone to enjoy.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff and the unwavering support from the local community, for which we are deeply grateful. Thank you, 2024 — we can't wait for what 2025 has in store!





Support Local!

SPONSORED CONTENT

Franklin Vets urges pet owners to fur-get the festive treats

- by Franklin Vets

It's coming up to the festive season which means lots of delicious treats for us humans. Unfortunately, these treats are NOT good for our pets!

Sasha is a 6kg, 8-month-old puppy who has presented 3 times in the last few months to our Hamilton clinic for eating things she shouldn't! The first and third times it was sanitary products. The second time was for eating an irresistible caramel slice with a chocolate biscuit base and topped with dark chocolate.

Luckily, her owners knew to bring her to us straight away for assessment and treatment. We administered apomorphine in tablet form under her lower eyelid which rapidly caused her to vomit up her stolen treat! As she had recently eaten the slice Sasha did not require further treatment which may have included IV fluids, anti-nausea medication or activated charcoal to bind toxins.

Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine in the form of cocoa. These can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, panting, tremors, rapid heart rate, seizures and even death. In general, the smaller the dog and the darker and more bitter the chocolate, the higher the risk of toxicity. Other ingredients like nuts and raisins are also toxic to dogs. White chocolate has minimal amounts of cocoa (if any) but does have high amounts of sugar which can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, flatulence, and bloating. It's important to keep foodcontaining decorations or presents out of reach of our furry friends. If your dog ingests any toxic foods, drugs, plants, or other household items over the holiday period please call your vet or the after hours clinic for advice - and be ready for an urgent visit to the vet!

Right: Sasha gets help from the team at Franklin Vets.





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Tuesday	17 December 2024	OPEN 8.15AM-5PM			
Wednesday	18 December 2024	OPEN 8.15AM-5PM			
Thursday	19 December 2024	OPEN 8.15AM-5PM			
Friday	20 December 2024	OPEN 8.15AM-2PM			
Saturday	21 December 2024		CLOSED		
Sunday	22 December 2024		CLOSED		
Monday	23 December 2024	OPEN 8.15AM-5PM			
Tuesday	24 December 2024	OPEN 8.15AM-2PM			
Wednesday	25 December 2024		CLOSED		
Thursday	26 December 2024		CLOSED		
Friday	27 December 2024		CLOSED		
Saturday	28 December 2024		CLOSED		
Sunday	29 December 2024		CLOSED		
Monday	30 December 2024	OPEN 8.15AM-5PM			
Tuesday	31 December 2024	OPEN 8.15AM-2PM			

1 January 2025 - 5 January 2025 CLOSED. Usual Business Hours from 6 January 2025 NO LATE NIGHTS until Tuesday 11 February 2025 Emergencies: Phone 111 Ambulance or contact

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Refurbishments by Scouts lend Camp Sladdin a new lease of life

It has been five years since Camp Sladdin was last used as an overnight venue, but a dedicated group of volunteers from Clevedon Scout Group is working hard to breathe new life into the building.

Camp Sladdin was closed down in 2019 after an inspection carried out by a qualified professional revealed the building was no longer fire compliant.

While Council owns the land, the NZ Scout Association has held the lease for the building since about 1969.

Given the level of work involved in making the building compliant, Clevedon Scout Group spokesperson Pennie O'Connor says it would have been easy for the Scouts to give up the idea of overnight camps.

"But we have had so many people who are involved in Scouts telling us about their fond memories of staying there," she says. "The community deserves to have it reopened."

With support from Scouts NZ, Clevedon Scouts have "slowly but surely" ticked off all the items on the fire compliance list, achieving a basic level of compliance earlier this year - enough to allow their own group to use the building for overnight camps.

With further work, the group has now lodged their application for a building

Warrant of Fitness with Auckland Council. Once approved, this will allow the Scouts to hire the building out to others.

"Initially we will open the building up for use by Scout groups only for the first year. Then after that, we will open it up to Girl Guides and sports groups in 2026," says Pennie.

Bringing Camp Sladdin into line with fire compliance regulations has involved a lot of hard mahi, and Pennie says they are indebted to a number of local businesses who have provided free or heavily discounted labour to help. Scouts Aotearoa has also been helpful in guiding them through the process, while Scouts Counties zone leader Mike Smith has provided invaluable support. Parents, volunteers and Scout leaders have also helped get the project over the line.

The work is not done yet though.

"Our priority until now has been fire compliance," says Pennie. "But the building does require other maintenance which we might tackle as a community working bee," she says.

Scouting remains a popular pastime for Clevedon youth, with the groups Cubs (ages 5-7) and Keas (ages 8-10) memberships fully subscribed. Scouts still have spaces, says Pennie, and the group looks forward to launching a new



The Scouts-owned building at Clevedon's Camp Sladdin will once again be available for hire.

Venturers chapter for 14-17 year olds in

The group is looking for a volunteer to take on the role of Camp Sladdin warden, helping to manage venue bookings. To find out more, email clevedon@group. scouts.nz.

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- 2. Off the the straight and narrow (6)
- 8. Dusting powder (abbr) (4)
- 9. Relating to a common cultural tradition (6)
- 11. Perceived by touch (7)
- 12. Smallest particle (4)
- 13. Myth (6)
- 14. Repeat mechanically (6)
- 16. Allocate (6)
- 18. Meritorious (6)
- 20. Allure (6)
- 23. Money maker (6)
- 26. Conundrum (6)
- 27. Casualty (6)
- 28. Spring (4)
- 30. Decline to vote (7)
- 31. Remove impurities (6)
- 32. Malevolent (4)
- 33. Become less dense (6)

- 1. Layers (6)
- 2. Lowest female singing voice (4)
- 3. Lobster, crumbed and fried (6)
- 4. Profit (6)
- 5. Craven (6)
- 6. Swallow (6)
- 7. Caustically (6)
- 10. On the wagon (8)
- 15. Agricultural (8)
- 17. Take small mouthfuls (3)
- 19. Garden implement (3)
- 20. Promotion (abbr) (6)
- 21. Mollify (6) 22. Flexible (6)
- 23. Top journalist (6)
- 24. Respite (6)
- 25. Wavelet (6)
- 29. Jealousy (4)

Answers on page 10

Auckland Council investigates fireworks ban

- by Laura Kvigstad, Auckland Council reporter. Funded by New Zealand on Air.

Auckland Council is investigating a potential local fireworks ban amid rising concerns over public safety and animal welfare.

At the council's Regulatory and Safety Committee on 3 December, chair Josephine Bartley updated the members on how the council was proceeding with regulating fireworks.

In February 2019, the council advocated for a ban on the private sale and use of fireworks in New Zealand. Public consultation with Aucklanders in 2018 on the issues garnered strong support with 89 per cent supporting a ban.

"Now we are trying to see what else we can do as the government didn't put it through – whether we can try and just ban them in Auckland," Bartley said.

Councillor Sharon Stewart played audio of fireworks going off in the early hours of the morning, and pointed to Australia where fireworks are limited to public displays. Stewart said the public could pay to attend fireworks displays and it could raise funds towards causes like animal management.

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Across: 2. Astray, **8.** Talc, **9.** Ethnic, **11.** Tactile, **12.** Atom, **13.** Legend, **14.** Parrot, **16.** Assign, **18.** Worthy, **20.** Appeal, **23.** Earner, **26.** Riddle, 27. Victim, 28. Leap, 30. Abstain, 31. Refine, 32. Evil, 33. Rarefy. Down: 1. Strata, 2. Alto, 3. Scampi, 4. Return, 5. Yellow, 6. Ingest, 7. Acidly, 10. Teetotal, 15. Agrarian, 17. Sip, 19. Hoe, 20. Advert, 21. Pacify, 22. Limber, 23. Editor, 24. Relief, 25. Ripple, 29. Envy.

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Please Phone For Holiday Period Viewing Times



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PREMIER



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