

18 September 2026

Coastal Treasures finds new home



Takutai Charitable Trust members Stephanie Pollard (left) and Tania Leitch-Heggie outside Coastal Treasures new shop, scheduled to open on 26 September.

After seven years storing donated second-hand items in their garage, Beachlands couple Mike and Tania Leitch-Heggie are finally about to get their garage back.

Tania has been the key coordinator for donations to Coastal Treasures, the Beachlands second-hand store run by the Takutai Charitable Trust, for the past seven years. During that time, people wanting to donate goods have dropped them off at Tania's home, where she sorts through everything, sending the best pieces to Coastal Treasures and passing the rest on to other South Auckland charity shops. About six times a week, Tania has loaded up her car and driven donations to the store, a system that has left her and Mike's garage filled to the brim for years, not to mention taking up a huge chunk of Tania's time.

That's all set to change, with Coastal Treasures securing a new location at 97 Third View Avenue, giving the growing operation plenty of room to expand. The store's mission remains the same as it was in its humble beginnings when it sold clothes out of banana boxes at a monthly outdoor market: providing affordable, good-quality goods for the community.

"We are constantly responding to what the community tell us they need," says Takutai Charitable Trust spokesperson Stephanie Pollard. "Whether that's sourcing baby gear for young mums, costumes for school book character days, or formal wear for balls." The store keeps 95 percent of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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The PC Times 20 years ago:
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Weekly Tide Chart

18 Fri		5:48am ▼ 0.8m	12:17pm ▲ 2.9m	
19 Sat		12:32am ▲ 2.8m	6:34am ▼ 1.0m	
20 Sun		1:21am ▲ 2.7m	7:26am ▼ 1.1m	
21 Mon		2:15am ▲ 2.6m	8:27am ▼ 1.1m	
22 Tue		3:15am ▲ 2.6m	9:32am ▼ 1.1m	
23 Wed		4:16am ▲ 2.6m	10:31am ▼ 1.1m	
24 Thu		5:12am ▲ 2.7m	11:22am ▼ 1.0m	

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Guest editorial by Whitford Residents & Ratepayers Assoc.

The Whitford Ratepayers and Residents Association (WRRRA) has experienced an extremely busy year advocating for our unique lifestyle and protecting the environment.

The recently released resource consent approval which contained numerous compliance conditions for the wastewater discharge of the Whitford Manor, brought hope of a partial closure to this ongoing saga which has been dragging on for the past 18 years.

We are now advised that two of the submitters to the hearing have lodged appeals against the decision with the Environment Court. This will now prolong any resolution of the matter. Whitford Ratepayers and Residents Association will watch this process and if any new evidence is provided will consider its option of joining that appeal process as a Section 247 party.

A key condition of the approval is that once the wastewater system is fully operational, then the consent approval and wastewater system will transfer to the Whitford Manor Residents Society, who will then assume full responsibility for its ongoing operation and management, including deciding which existing property owners in the village can connect, how they will connect and any associated costs.

While its approval was based largely on the applicant’s expert evidence, Whitford Ratepayers and Residents Association still has concerns about the system’s capacity to cater for the existing village properties, as well as the ongoing pollution of the Turanga Estuary.

Accountability for the decision now rests clearly with Auckland Council, so hopefully we will not experience a “Moa Point” incident in Whitford.

Watch this space as there is still a lot of work to be done in respect to the existing village and elimination of pollution in the Turanga Estuary.

This is not the only change facing Whitford. WRRRA is still working through the roading issues such as temporary upgrades to the Whitford roundabouts, and the ultimate provision of a bypass around the village being thrust upon the community by the approval of the Beachlands South Development and other developments in Beachlands and Maraetai.

The primary concern of the WRRRA is for the safety of the Whitford community and all other road users.

A further challenge the community is facing is the new resource consent application by Waste Management to change its method of operation and pollution control at the Whitford Landfill. WRRRA is currently engaging with the applicant and council, sourcing our own expert advice on what is an extremely complex and technical matter.

Unfortunately, these applications impact on Whitford requiring substantial input from our dedicated members and requires WRRRA to source expensive external expertise as we strive to maintain a high quality of lifestyle and ongoing protection of the environment. We are grateful for the support from the Whitford Community Trust.

The association continues to work with council on improving community facilities such as trails, playground upgrades and community buildings.

If you share an interest in protecting our lifestyle and environment, consider joining the WRRRA and its committee as we take on these challenges.

Maurice Hinton
Chair – Whitford Ratepayers and Residents Association



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Council grants consent for Whitford Manor Estate wastewater discharge into Tūranga Creek

Auckland Council’s Independent Hearing Panel has granted resource consent allowing Whitford Manor Estate to discharge treated wastewater into Tūranga Creek, bringing a years-long saga over the subdivision’s wastewater disposal a step closer to resolution.

Last month’s decision follows a hearing held over two days in May and grants Le Coz Limited consent to discharge up to 150,000 litres of treated wastewater per day from the Estate’s existing treatment plant. The wastewater will first pass through newly constructed treatment wetlands (created by modifying existing amenity ponds) before entering the creek. The consent runs for 35 years.

The application has a complicated history. A 2015 consent originally authorised wastewater to be irrigated onto the neighbouring Whitford Park Golf Course. That plan changed in 2019, when a non-notified variation relocated the treatment plant onto the Estate itself and switched to direct discharge into Tūranga Creek. That change proved controversial, prompting Judicial Review proceedings in the High Court from the Whitford Estuaries Conservation Society and Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Tribal Trust. The case was settled on the condition that a fresh, publicly notified consent application be lodged, which led to the latest ruling.

Since homes were built at Whitford Manor, all wastewater generated on the Estate has been trucked off-site for disposal, an arrangement the Panel described as financially unsustainable in the long term.

The latest application drew significant public interest, with 21 submissions received - 13 in opposition, five in support, and two neutral. Opponents, including the Whitford Estuaries Conservation Society, the Whitford Residents and Ratepayers Association, and Whitford Park Golf Club, argued the treatment plant lacked sufficient capacity to service the wider Whitford Village, that Tūranga Creek’s tidal flows would not adequately dilute the discharge, and that returning to the original proposal of land-based disposal on the Golf Club’s land would be a better outcome.

One submitter’s legal counsel went further, arguing the application should be treated as a prohibited activity under Auckland Unitary Plan precinct rules, which would have barred the Panel from granting consent at all. After hearing evidence, the Panel rejected that argument, finding that the proposal satisfied the relevant precinct standards, including a requirement that connections

be made available to neighbouring areas of Whitford Village in future.

The Panel found that the treatment plant, which combines membrane bioreactor technology with UV disinfection, produces wastewater of very high quality. They noted the treated wastewater would be better than the creek’s own currently degraded water. Expert evidence indicated the plant has sufficient spare capacity to eventually serve not just the Estate but also neighbouring parts of Whitford Village, once a piped network is established to connect them, though no such network currently exists.

While acknowledging alternative options such as land disposal on the Golf Club site or connection to Watercare’s network, the Panel concluded neither was a realistic alternative given cost, logistics, and the investment already made in the existing plant.

Consent holder Le Coz Limited must comply with strict conditions covering discharge quality, monitoring, complaints handling and annual reporting. The company is also required to develop, within six months, a formal process allowing landowners in the wider Whitford Village to apply to connect to the treatment plant in future.

Whitford Estuaries Conservation Society spokesperson Barry Wade says the granting of the discharge consent with minimal conditions spelt a very sad day for the wider Whitford community.

“The decision was narrowly focused on the Whitford Manor plight - and has not addressed the cause of the existing pollution in the Turanga River,” says Barry.

“The creation of the Whitford Manor was originally a side issue to give some volume to the wastewater plant to be constructed, in which the Whitford Village was to connect to first.

“The pollution of the Turanga River from the Whitford Village septic tanks was identified as the main issue in 2008 and still is today. The Manor subdivision was secondary to the issue of the pollution.

“With this decision from the Hearing - the Whitford Village will continue to pollute the Turanga River. Recent testing by the Whitford Resident and Ratepayers has proved this pollution still exists, at the hearing. There is no mechanism to connect the Whitford Village to the current wastewater treatment plant, so the pollution will continue until Auckland Council takes ownership of the problem.”

Barry says Whitford residents should wake up. “This is your problem too.”

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Te Puru asks community to show support

Te Puru Community Centre provides an invaluable opportunity for people living on the Pōhutukawa Coast to access a range of sports that they would otherwise have to travel at least 20km to access. But the Centre is beleaguered by a funding deficit that makes it challenging to undertake much-needed repairs and maintenance - and now the centre is asking the community for whatever help they can provide.

The Te Puru sports fields are owned by Auckland Council, while the Te Puru Community Centre building is owned by the Te Puru Community Charitable Trust (TPCCT). Council used to provide funding grants of about \$300,000 per year to keep the centre running, but slashed the budget during COVID.

Trust Chair Angela Mason says: “When COVID hit, quite rightly, people stayed home. They didn’t go to rec centers because they weren’t allowed, and so council cut back our funding to around about \$175,000 the first year, and it’s just kept on being reduced year on year. That was fine while we weren’t really operating at full capacity, but now we are back to our pre-COVID levels, trying to operate on less than \$150,000 per year.”

Angela says that keeping the lights on, staff paid, and keeping the building maintained is a strain.

“We’ve just had tanks leak. We’ve had the roof leak. We’ve had issues with the windows and need major repairs to both balconies. We’ve had to cap numbers of people that are allowed onto the balconies because the structure isn’t up to speed. We’ve also had inflation, so we’ve had staff costs go up. We can’t cut staff because the government requires us to have child to adult ratios for a lot of their activities. So costs are just going up and up. Our costs have gone up and up. But council funding has gone down and down, and so we are continuing to operate at quite a significant deficit annually at the moment.”

“We’ve got some money in the bank, but it’s not going to last forever. So we really do need to do something pretty fundamental.”

Te Puru makes up as much as it can of the funding shortfall through the gymnastics club, holiday programme, sports and recreation activities, facility hire and clubroom takings, but it’s not enough.

Centre Manager Maia Biddulph says Te Puru’s operational team is working hard to increase revenue and manage costs. “The key issue is that community-generated income and grants cannot replace the dependable operating funding needed to keep the Centre sustainable over the longer term.”

TPCCT has approached the Council and the Franklin Local Board to see if there is flexibility in the Local Board budget and to seek advice on alternative funding pathways. TPCCT would like to undertake a feasibility study, which will look at population growth in the Beachlands Maraetai catchment, and what sort of recreational facilities will be needed to service that growing population. It will also look at what the user groups - including netball, rugby, football, touch and athletics - need both now and in the future.

TPCCT Chair Angela Mason says they are particularly mindful of growth now that the Formosa/Beachlands South plan change has gone through.

“Even without that we are seeing quite a bit of growth in the area, new houses going in, families moving into the area. In terms of user numbers, we’ve seen a steady increase in people using the facility over the past 18 to 24 months, which is fantastic.”

Angela says the Trust regularly applies to community grant funders, but that fierce competition for funding means they haven’t received many grants to date.

She says community support and increased Council funding is now vital.



Te Puru Community Centre’s clubrooms.

“Just come in and sign up for an activity, and maybe have a lemonade or a beer at the bar. Our food and bar area has been tidied up by the sports clubs themselves, so it’s looking great. You can have a great burger from the Dog Father who is here on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

“And keep lobbying for us through the local board process - if there is an opportunity to submit to council, just to write to council and advocate for a bit more help.”

Te Puru is looking at selling signage space opportunities on the balcony, once the current balcony repair is completed. Donations or sponsorship from community members is also welcomed.

To offer support, contact Centre Manager Maia Biddulph on centremanager@tepuru.co.nz

Beachlands to host Pump Track Champs

Beachlands’ new pump track at Intrepid Crescent will host the inaugural Auckland Pump Track Champs this Sunday 20 September, and local riders are invited to get their entries in.

Event organiser Trailpro says it is the first dedicated pump track championship of its kind in the region.



Image supplied by TrailPro.

Running from 10am to 2pm, the event is open to BMX riders, mountain bikers, scooter riders and skateboarders, with age categories spanning under 7 through to over 50. Entry costs \$35 per competitor, with entries currently open. Spectating is free.

Racing will run in timed blocks by category, with competitors aiming to post their fastest single lap during their allotted window. Once category racing wraps up, the ten fastest combined BMX and mountain bike riders from across the day will progress to a Top 10 Showdown to decide the overall Auckland Pump Track Champion.

Trailpro Director Byron Scott, who subsidised the building of the Beachlands Pump Track, says the facility had seen strong use since opening and seemed a good choice for the champs.

“There hasn’t previously been an Auckland Pump Track Champs, so we thought, why not start one? We’re inviting BMX and mountain bike clubs from around Auckland and further afield and are hoping to get a really broad mix of riders taking part.

“The other big thing for us is making it inclusive. Pump tracks are one of the few cycling facilities where a young kid on a BMX can compete at the same event as some of Auckland’s fastest adult mountain bikers. Adding scooter and skateboard categories opens it up even further.”

The event is being run on a non-profit basis. Byron says the format is designed to let competitors of different ages and skill levels.

“We want it to feel like a proper community event rather than just a race. There’ll be spot prizes and plenty happening around the racing, and spectators are absolutely welcome. It should be a great day for families to come down, watch the action and support the riders.”

Riders will need to bring their own bike, scooter or skateboard, along with appropriate safety gear. Entries can be made in person on race day.



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2026 Elections - Candidate Profile

Each week the PC Times will put questions to local candidates* standing in this year's general election on 7 Nov 2026

*those standing in Papakura (for Clevedon and surrounds) and Botany (for the Pōhutukawa Coast) wards

Interview with National Party Candidate for the Papakura electorate, Emma Chatterton.

The rural communities of Clevedon, Kawakawa Bay, Hūnua and Ardmore are quite different from urban Papakura. How will you make sure these communities get real attention from you as MP, rather than being an afterthought to the bigger population centres in the electorate?

Every part of our electorate deserves to be heard and well represented. My promise to you is that I will show up and be available in your community as a local representative. I'm already working hard to deliver on that commitment:

Clevedon: My team and I have door-knocked across Clevedon, run Emma's Community Connect at The Alleyway Cafe and The Corner Kitchen and Bar (11 September). We have an upcoming SuperBlues meeting on 25 September in the Community Hall in Clevedon which members of the public are welcome to attend - please see details on my Facebook page. I recently attended Clevedon School's wonderful production of Alice the Musical and am a regular at the Clevedon Farmers' Market. I'm easy to spot in my blue National Party jacket - please come and say hello!

Ardmore: Getting to know the business and industry that makes up Ardmore Airport was one of the first things I did when I was selected. I enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Ardmore Flight School and attend events hosted here including the All Ford Day and dog show. I am a huge supporter of our local equine, agriculture and horticulture industries and value visiting many of our local trainers, breeders and growers. Recently I went to Strike Won Racing to meet local legend Tony Herlihy and his team, watch a training session and then see them race at Alexandra Park. I visited Ardmore School to hear their concerns about parking and student safety and am working alongside local Councillor Andrew Baker to explore solutions.

Hūnua: It was a pleasure to attend the recent 150th Anniversary celebrations at Hunua School, I thoroughly enjoyed meeting the staff and students. It was great to then attend a Community Resilience meeting in the local hall where I had the privilege of congratulating new volunteers and awarding them their new kit bags. I will be speaking to the Hunua Women's Institute on September 17 and am looking forward to attending a training session with the local volunteer fire fighters. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with HAPVRA and local residents to hear their thoughts about the proposed managed fill on Jones Road. I have a special connection with this area, having attended my first Brownie camp at Camp Adair when I was

seven years old. My family are locals and run a small business in Hunua.

Kawakawa Bay: It was great to attend the recent Kawakawa Bay Market to meet with local residents and stall holders. I've been out door-knocking in the community, spoke at the Residents' Association on 7th September and had an Emma's Community Connect at Moo & Brew on September 12. I spent a lot of time out on these beautiful beaches as a child.

Roading is a constant concern in this part of the electorate - winding, often-narrow rural roads with lots of quarry and fill site heavy vehicle traffic, and growing traffic pressure as development in Clevedon progresses. What would you do to improve rural road safety and maintenance out here?

I understand the challenge of rural roads. The Government recently made decisions that reform the way that transport is governed, planned and delivered in Auckland. The reforms will ensure greater democratic accountability for transport decision-making. Safety on rural roads and heavy vehicle traffic are a concern for many local communities who are experiencing rapid growth. My commitment to you is to listen and to understand the issues and work closely with Local Board members and Councillors to ensure that solutions are delivered and we plan ahead for the growth our electorate is experiencing, rather than play catch up.

Emergency services response times are a concern for residents in this part of the electorate - some rely heavily on volunteer services given the distance from larger urban stations. What's your view on how well these communities are currently served, and what would you push for as MP?

I will advocate in Wellington to ensure the needs of our communities are heard. The Government recently passed laws to strengthen the emergency management system meaning that communities will have a stronger voice in emergency management, through representation on Co-ordinating Executive Groups and greater involvement in developing regional and national emergency management plans. The Government has also announced funding for a new ambulance hub for South Auckland - something that will greatly benefit our community. Volunteers are an asset to our rural communities and I've loved getting to know some of our local teams over the last few months. It was a pleasure to support the Hunua and Papakura Volunteer Fire Brigades at the recent Tailgates and Mates fundraising event in Ramarama. I have met with the Community Resilience team and Community Patrol team to learn about the work that they are doing and the support available to the community.

Given how spread out this end of the electorate is, how do you plan to stay visible and accessible to residents in Clevedon, Kawakawa Bay, Hūnua and Ardmore - will you commit to regular visits or local meetings in these communities, rather than expecting people to come to you in Papakura?

I believe actions speak louder than words. Since becoming the candidate in March, I have endeavoured to be present, committed and available to all parts of the electorate, running Meet the Candidate events, coffee mornings, door-knocking and attending local events. I hugely value our rural communities and I intend to continue in the same way that I have started, by committing to regular visits, local meetings and events.

This area of the electorate is not served by public transport - what steps would you take to convince Auckland Transport to fund a bus service in the area?

These are decisions for Auckland Transport and the governing body of Auckland Council. Our local Councillors and Local Board members will be strong advocates within Council for the systems and services that our rural communities need. I am committed to building good relationships with our Councillors and Local Board, understanding any issues rural communities are experiencing and ensuring those issues are heard and understood by the relevant decision-makers. Discussions about the importance of bus routes, particularly to Clevedon, are ongoing within the local boards of Franklin, Papakura and AT. I will support this work and recognise the benefits of connectivity through public transport for this part of our community.

The need for a secondary school in the area has been on the Ministry of Education's radar for some time now, and they have acknowledged that population growth from Clevedon and Beachlands will trigger the need for a school. However no steps have yet been taken to acquire the necessary land for a school. What are your views on this issue, and what would you do to drive the decision-making necessary to secure a school for the area?

Getting investment for the land and the building of a secondary school in the Clevedon-Beachlands catchment is a clear priority for me given the rapid growth in this area. Beachlands now falls within the Botany electorate and alongside the Rt. Hon. Christopher Luxon I will be a strong advocate for secondary provision to ensure good, local secondary schooling options are available for families in both of our electorates.

Decisions about new schools by the MoE are made through review of national demand and prioritisation, considering population forecasting, materialised



growth, and capacity within the local schooling network.

The Government has already invested substantially into classroom growth in urban Papakura with new classrooms and learning support spaces going into Papakura High and Rosehill College as well as roll growth classrooms into primary and intermediate schools across the electorate. Education Minister, Hon. Erica Stanford, recently announced the funding of Drury Specialist School to cater for students with high-and-complex needs, due to open in 2027.

Why should Papakura voters choose you specifically, and what do you bring to the role that sets you apart from the other candidates standing?

My connection to this part of South Auckland runs deep. My family has lived and worked here for generations as farmers and growers across South Auckland. I was born in Pukekohe, Dad served as a Police Officer in Papakura, and Mum taught Early Childhood Music in Bombay. This is home and I'm committed to representing the Papakura electorate with pride in Parliament, being a strong advocate for the investment we need in our services and infrastructure and being a relatable and present local representative.

My experiences on the frontline of education as a teacher, in the private sector working in a data and technology start-up company specialising in social investment analysis, and most recently working in Government as a Senior Advisor have given me an excellent combination of skills to be the local representative Papakura needs. I'm able to understand and advocate for this community, am experienced in the design and delivery of policy, and know how to navigate the complexity of central Government decision-making. I am someone who is focused on outcomes and results for Papakura and have the skills and experience to get results.

As a wife and mum of four school-aged children, I understand the pressures families face every day. We all want safe neighbourhoods, great local schools, quality healthcare, reliable infrastructure, and an economy that creates opportunities for the next generation. These are the priorities I'll be working hard to deliver for Papakura.

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Auckland Heritage Festival features Clevedon Village

Clevedon Village will be featured as part of this years Auckland Heritage Festival with the inclusion of two programmed events in this year’s official program

The first is the Clevedon Village Heritage Trail, which opened in July. The trail will be promoted as a free activity throughout the duration of the two-week festival, which coincides with the school holidays (26 September to 11 October).

The second inclusion is a ticketed event at McNicol Homestead on Sunday 11 October, “The Valley That Fed a City”. The event, presented by The Clevedon Association and Clevedon and Districts Historical Society, is a ‘talk then walk’ event that traces how one river valley fed a growing city, and how a community grew as a result. Celebrating the 10-year anniversary of Voices of Belonging: A History of Clevedon–Te Wairoa, author Jessie Munro will share stories of Ngāi Tai cultivation, early settlement and the river-based food trade that transported produce to Auckland. Guests will enjoy a heritage morning tea before setting out upon the Clevedon Village Heritage Trail, concluding at the Clevedon Village Farmers Market. The event aligns with the Heritage Festival theme Tastes of Tāmaki: A Heritage Feast.



One of the 18 trail markers helping people learn more about Clevedon’s history.

Tickets are strictly limited to 25 and are priced at \$20pp (morning tea included). Visit Clevedon.co.nz to learn more or pick up a copy of the Heritage Festival Brochure from around Clevedon Village.

BROOKBY SCHOOL AG DAY

20 SEP - 10AM - 2PM

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AG DAY TIMETABLE	
9.00am – 11.00am	JUDGING OF AG DAY ANIMALS
10.30am (onwards)	QUICKFIRE RAFFLES
11.45am	AG DAY FLASH MOB
12.00pm – 1.00pm	LIVE AUCTIONS
1.15pm – 1.30pm	LIVE RAFFLE DRAWS
1.30pm – 1.45pm	THE GRAND PARADE AND CHAMPIONS
2.00pm	AG DAY FINISHES FOR THE PUBLIC

**EFTPOS AND CASH OUT ONSITE**



Please support the businesses who support your local paper!

Ag Day Photo Competition entries



Evie Meldrum, age 10, Brookby School, with Acorn.



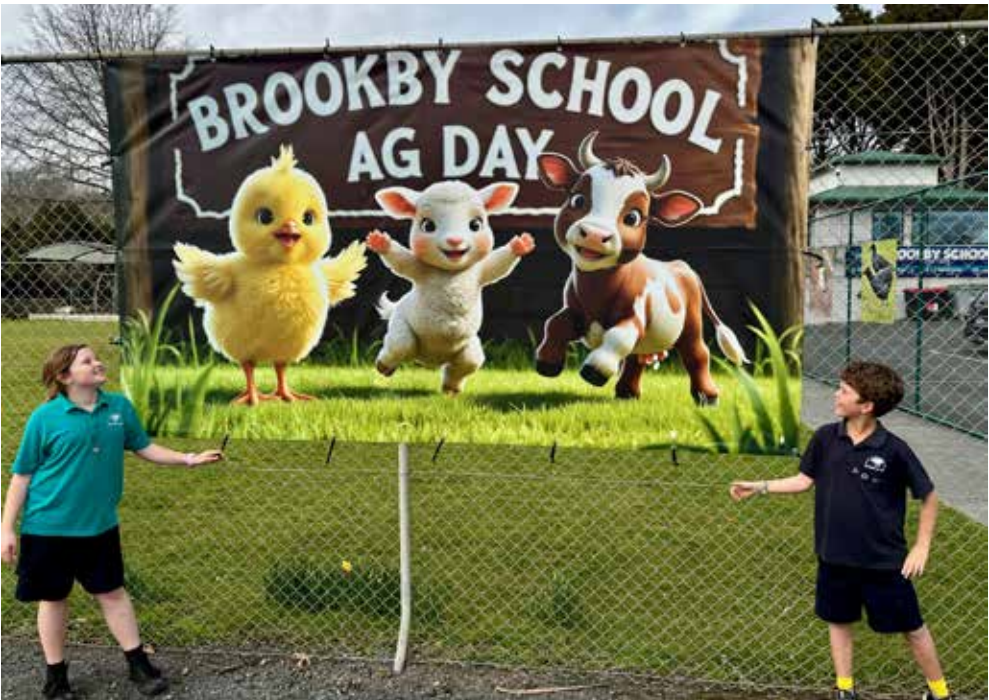
Madix Williams, age 8, Clevedon School, with Cookie.

email us a photo of you and your ag day pet: info@pctimes.co.nz

include: **Your name, age, school and your pet’s name**

entries close: **11 October 2026**

Brookby Ag Day offers great day out for the whole family



The excitement starts to build as Ag Day approaches for Brookby School students Heidi Hughes (left) and Jude Milne.

It’s almost time to dust off the gumboots and get ready for one of Brookby’s much-loved community events - Brookby Ag Day!

The Brookby School PTA and staff are busy putting the finishing touches on what promises to be another fantastic day of fun, food, animals, rides and good old-fashioned community spirit.

Come along on Sunday 20 September, from 10am to 2pm, and enjoy a great day out for the whole family. There will be plenty happening for children of all ages, including giant bouncy castles, go-karts, a teacup roundabout and lots of other fun activities.

No great community day is complete without plenty of delicious food, and there will be a fantastic selection available throughout the day, including the ever-popular LJ’s, making sure no one goes home hungry.

The raffles and live auctions are always a highlight, with plenty of fantastic prizes, great bargains and the excitement of not knowing quite what might come up next!

Ag Day is also a wonderful opportunity to showcase the special rural character of our community, with animals, families and the Brookby community all coming together for a day of fun and celebration.

Ag Day is Brookby School’s one major fundraiser for the year. The money raised goes directly towards supporting the students and providing extra opportunities and resources for the school.

Brookby School Principal Wayne Gillard says a huge thank you goes to the many generous sponsors, families, volunteers and community members who help make the event possible. “Their support, along with the hard work of the PTA and school staff, is what makes Brookby Ag Day such a special day on the local calendar,” he says.

Brookby Ag Day
Sunday 20 September, 10am–2pm.
Great food. Great fun. Great community.

LIFESTYLE

SPONSORED CONTENT

Menopause is a new beginning - let's change the way we eat and move

- by Debbie from Excelsa Life Health Coaching

Menopause is not an ending but a powerful transition - an opportunity for women to reclaim strength, vitality and confidence. I believe menopause is a time to thrive, flourish and transform when you are given the right tools. It is a natural biological shift that simply requires a smarter approach to how we nourish, move, sleep and manage stress.

As estrogen declines it affects everything from metabolism and muscle mass, to mood and blood sugar regulation. Women experience so many varying symptoms and the key point to note here, is these symptoms are not a signal for us to accept and give up - they are a call to us to adapt and make changes.

Movement becomes one of the most powerful tools for navigating peri and post- menopause with vitality. Research suggests cardio (low intensity and short bursts of high intensity) along with resistance/weight training should form the foundation of your exercise programme. Together these improve body composition, maintain muscle mass and bone strength, boost metabolism and keep cortisol and

insulin regulated. We all have different starting points so it is important to start at your fitness and strength level and build up from there step by step, with consistency.

Nutrition is equally transformative. It is about nourishing our bodies with the right food at the right time. All meals should be built around whole real foods most of the time (80/20 rule) and each meal should include enough quality protein, the right carbohydrates and small amounts of healthy fats. Together they balance blood sugar levels, sustain energy, repair muscle, maintain a healthy body composition and support hormone, heart and brain health. It is also essential that you eat enough of these nourishing foods in menopause for all the nutrients your body needs for strength and vitality.

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Baby Sensory comes to Beachlands and Maraetai!

- by Baby Sensory

A new sensory adventure for local babies and their grown-ups!

I'm excited to bring Baby Sensory to the Beachlands & Maraetai community, giving local families with babies aged 0-13 months the opportunity to enjoy fun, interactive and developmentally enriching classes right here in their local area.

Baby Sensory is much more than simply a class for babies. Each session combines music, signing, movement and sensory exploration to encourage your baby's development through play, while giving parents and caregivers a wonderful opportunity to connect, have fun and create special memories together.

From bubbles, lights and colourful props to textures, sounds, music and movement, every week offers something new to discover. Babies are encouraged to explore at their own pace, with activities suitable for different stages of development from newborns through to active crawlers.

Term 4 is going to be full of exciting adventures! Families can look forward to a Beach Party with sand play, a gentle Baby Pumpkin session celebrating the fun side of Halloween, painting while listening to beautiful classical music, a

visit to Old MacDonald's Farm, a Space Adventure, Teddy Bears' Picnic and even a squishy Jelly Party!

Our local class is held at Pōhutukawa Coast Presbyterian Church, 5 Jacobs Way, Maraetai, providing a welcoming space for families to meet, connect and enjoy this special stage of their baby's life together.

Following the success of our introductory mini-term, I'm delighted to announce that Term 4 bookings are now OPEN!

Whether you're a first-time parent looking for something fun to do with your little one, new to the area and hoping to meet other local families, or simply wanting to give your baby more opportunities to learn through play, we'd love to welcome you.

- Mixed-age class: 0-13 months
 - Friday 2 October to 4 December, 10:00-11:00am
 - Pōhutukawa Coast Presbyterian Church, 5 Jacobs Way, Maraetai
- Spaces are limited, so book early to secure your place!

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Most babies learn best when they see, hear, feel, touch, taste and smell.

Maraetai couple rallies local support for Nepal

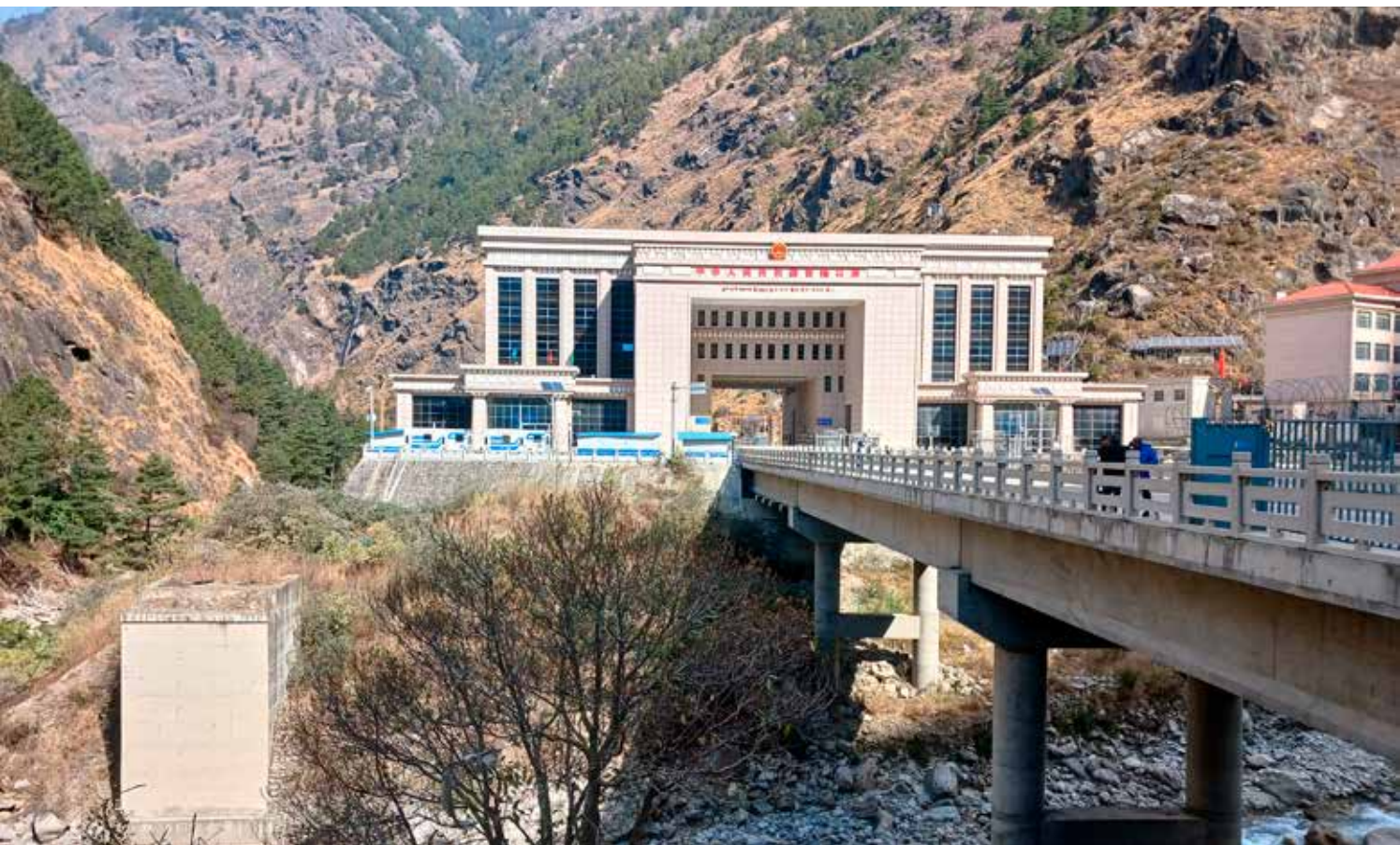
A Maraetai couple with longstanding ties to Nepal is calling on the community to dig deep after devastating flash floods tore through the Himalayan nation late last month, killing hundreds and leaving thousands more missing.

Lyn Yeoman and Chris McMurray are regular visitors to Nepal — Lyn lived and worked there for several years, and the couple have built many close friendships in the country over time. They regularly organise fundraisers to support Nepali communities, and are now urgently appealing for donations following the disaster.

On 26 August, a massive flood surged down the Trisuli River valley from the Tibetan Plateau, believed to have been triggered by a glacier collapse near Langtang Lirung. Chris McMurray says it was like a forty-foot tsunami tearing down Hunua Gorge, flipping dump-trucks, bulldozers and buildings “like toys” as it obliterated everything in its path.

The border town of Gyirong, along with villages including Timure and Syapru Besi at the confluence with the Langtang River, bore the brunt of the disaster. Chris says only the higher streets of Syapru Besi survived.

In January 2024, the Pōhutukawa Coast community generously donated second-hand boots, packs and warm clothing, which Chris and Lyn flew to survivors of the 2015 earthquake living in a gorge



Gyirong Border Post - easily the biggest building in the district, flattened by nature’s forces. Photo by Chris McMurray.

below Syapru Besi — the area now feared to have been hit hardest.

This time, Chris and Lyn are seeking cash donations, which they will pass on to trusted friends who have lost nearly 40 relatives, and are already involved in recovery efforts.

“This will by-pass donations “leaving a residue in official fingers”, and hopefully yield a more productive result,” says Chris. “We will suggest the purchase of tents, rice, and petrol for searchers and survivors. Any donations will be gratefully and honourably respected.”

Donations can be made to bank account: Lama Support, 01–0129–0080435–03, until 30 September. (Note this is a direct personal appeal by named local residents, not a registered charity.)

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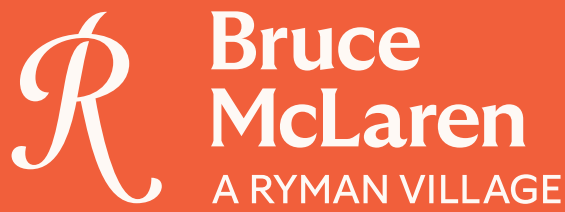
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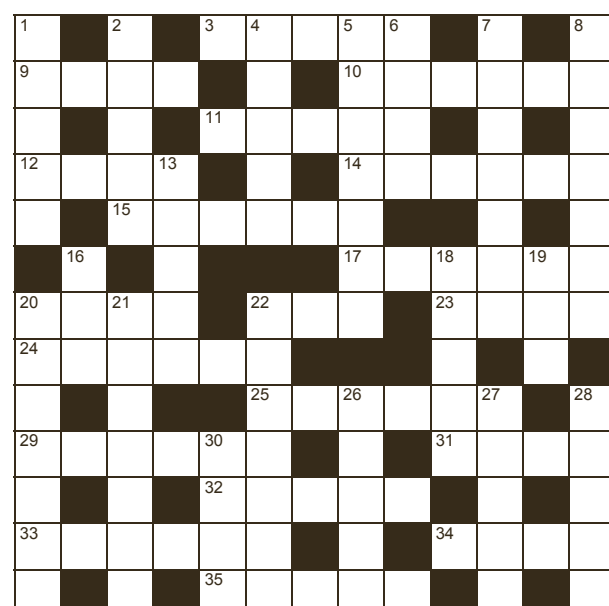
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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 1. Opprobrium, 8. Aged, 9. Near misses, 10. Also, 11. Vestal, 13. Arty, 14. Educated, 18. Paradigm, 23. Tuft, 25. Adhere, 26. Bunt, 27. Ill-treated, 28. Memo, 29. Now and then.

Down: 2. Prefer, 3. Rarity, 4. Bridle, 5. In situ, 6. Masala, 7. Lessee, 11. Vamp, 12. Stir, 15. Dug, 16. True, 17. Date, 19. Amused, 20. Action, 21. Inflow, 22. Matron, 23. Thwart, 24. Freeze

TEAM BRIE RAY WHITE CROSSWORD





Brianne Bignell
021 400 979
brianne.bignell@raywhite.com



Across

1. Scorn (10)
8. Matured (4)
9. Close shaves (4,6)
10. In addition (4)
11. Pure (6)
13. Pretentiously creative (4)
14. Learned (8)
18. Typical example (8)
23. Bunch of threads (4)
25. Stick to (6)
26. Butt with head (4)
27. Abused (3-7)
28. Short note (4)
29. Occasionally (3,3,4)

Down

2. Favour (6)
3. Unusual event (6)
4. Restrain (6)
5. In original position (2,4)
6. Indian spice paste (6)
7. Renter (6)
11. Seductress (4)
12. Rouse (4)
15. Shovelled (3)
16. Authentic (4)
17. Romantic appointment (4)
19. Tickled (6)
20. Atonic (anag) (6)
21. Stream of money (6)
22. Chief nurse (6)
23. Foil (6)
24. Ice up (6)

Answers on page 13



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.

As I wander...

As I unintentionally cross over the unclear border into the whispering woods, I hear the whisper of leaves rustling ominously. The taste of crisp fresh dew filled the air. The feel of jagged bark chills my spine.

I stumbled along the moonlit path, the trees seemed to sing melodies of mysteries. The path growled with every step I took. The moon danced with the fiery red stars high up in the dark sky. The air tasted alive almost like smoke. The fog watched me with devil-like eyes. Every step I took was like walking into a living nightmare.

As I push further I discover a stone arch way as tall as a cathedral door. I push through the ferns blocking the way like a rugby player in a scrum. As I make my way around the arch I see something beautiful. I stand in front of the waterfall, sapphire blue water rushing down the stream as fast as a race car. The sounds of birds are a symphony of hope. A fruit scented air greets my taste buds like sweet orange juice.

- by Liam Pothan, Year 8, Beachlands School



This week's voucher sponsored by Stuart Fitzpatrick

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