Pōhutukawa Coast Times

Issue 1647

27 November 2026

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Our team laced up for the 2026 Runaway Auckland Marathon – and two of them ran away with the fundraising too.

Courtney Gould ran the 21.1km half marathon in a suit, set a new personal best and raised $2,769 for Starship Foundation – well past her $1,500 goal and the top fundraiser across all of Barfoot & Thompson. (Last year, she ran it dressed as a prawn.) Her effort was recognised by our directors and CEO.

Stuart Fitzpatrick was right behind her, raising $1,088 – second in the company – and posting the second-fastest time in his age group.

$22,410 raised by Barfoot & Thompson for a video laryngoscope for Starship's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

That beat our $21,480 goal – helping care for Auckland's tiniest patients.

Well done also to Daniel, Leslie, Jamie and Rachael, who all crossed the finish line.















EASTERN BEACHES REGIONAL AWARDS

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Congratulations to Nicolette Hale and Special Agents 003, recognised at the Eastern Beaches Regional Awards evening as the top sales team at our Beachlands branch over the last six months.





YACHTING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Making waves

Outside the office, our own Vanessa Robson has spent five years as president of the RS Feva Association, playing a key role in growing the class and supporting Maraetai Sailing Club. In November that dedication was recognised nationally with a Yamaha Motor NZ Service Award at the 2026 Barfoot & Thompson Yachting Excellence Awards. We're so proud of everything she gives to our local sailing community.

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Clevedon A&P Show still going strong after donkey's years



The Clevedon A&P Show celebrated 117 years in style last weekend, with crowds turning out to enjoy two days of rural fun. The show was supported by Conmara Estate, Stevensons and Versatile Buildings, with manpower supplied by the Clevedon Lions. More photos on page 6.













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Pōhutukawa Coast Times

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Guest editorial by Franklin Local Board

Progress, persistence and preparing for summer in Wairoa

- by Franklin Local Board members (Wairoa subdivision): Amanda Hopkins, Alix Bonnington and Clare Alder

As we head into another busy summer season, there's plenty happening across the Wairoa subdivision. While some projects are delivering visible results and others are taking longer than we'd like, the Franklin Local Board continues to advocate strongly for our communities and ensure local priorities remain front and centre.

Operation Beaches

With warmer weather approaching, Operation Beaches will once again become a key focus. Our coastal communities welcome thousands of visitors each summer, and it's important we strike the right balance between protecting our treasured coastline, managing congestion, and ensuring residents and visitors can safely enjoy our beaches and reserves. Planning is underway to support another successful season.

Sunkist Bay seawall

Residents understandably continue to ask about the long-awaited Sunkist Bay seawall project, and we know locals are keen for progress. Like many coastal resilience projects, it has involved complex technical, funding and consenting considerations. Site fencing has now gone up, paving the way for construction works to begin.

Whitford Village

In Whitford Village, wastewater capacity remains a significant community concern. The board continues to push for solutions that support both existing residents and future growth, while protecting environmental outcomes. We understand the frustration many residents feel regarding ongoing wastewater challenges.

The proposed Whitford Landfill resource consent remains a key issue for the community. The board continues to monitor developments closely and advocate for community voices to be heard throughout the process. Residents rightly expect robust consideration of environmental, traffic and air quality effects.

Encouraging progress across Wairoa

There has been encouraging progress on a number of projects that improve connectivity and recreational opportunities across the subdivision. The Hūnua Paths Programme is underway, delivering safer and more accessible connections for residents. Momentum is also building on the much-anticipated Ararimu footbridges and pathways project, with progress accelerating on a plan that local residents have championed for years. Work also continues on path improvements behind the church at Te Puru, while planning for the Whitford walkway progresses, helping create stronger connections for our local community.

One practical improvement welcomed by many locals has been the completion of the Kawakawa Bay toilet facilities upgrade. Quality public facilities are essential for our growing communities, particularly during peak holiday periods when visitor numbers place additional pressure on local infrastructure.

The Clevedon Village Playground project is now at the detailed design phase, following the recent close of consultation. Community feedback will help shape the future of this important local space and ensure investments reflect local needs and priorities.

Growth pressures continue across the subdivision. The Beachlands South fast-track resource consent application will remain an important conversation for our communities, while ongoing investment in Beachlands wastewater infrastructure will be critical for supporting future development and environmental protection.

Water issues at Te Puru Park continue to frustrate many users of this well-loved community facility. While solutions can sometimes take longer than anyone would like, we'll continue advocating for action and practical improvements.

While not every project moves at the pace we'd hope for, progress is being made across the Wairoa subdivision. As your local board members, we remain committed to keeping communities informed, advocating for local priorities, and working to ensure Wairoa continues to be a great place to live, work and play.

The PC Times 20 years ago:

1 December 2006: Beachlands Fire Chief Ken Parker retires after 41 years.

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27 Fri	3:40am ▼ 0.3m	10:06am ▲ 3.5m
28 Sat	4:30am ▼ 0.3m	10:58am ▲ 3.5m
29 Sun	5:22am ▼ 0.4m	11:51am ▲ 3.5m
30 Mon	12:19am ▲ 3.3m	6:15am ▼ 0.5m
1 Tue	1:14am ▲ 3.2m	7:12am ▼ 0.6m
2 Wed	2:11am ▲ 3.1m	8:11am ▼ 0.8m
3 Thu	3:10am ▲ 3.0	9:14am ▼ 0.9m

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Reg Cook's Bolivia campaign ends with new provisional land speed record

Attempting to set a new world land speed record is not for the faint-hearted, as Cook Motor Racing's (CMR) team of supporters found out last month. Clevedon's Reg Cook (aged 79) and the CMR team wrapped up their 2026 land speed campaign on Bolivia's Salar de Uyuni in late October, coming home with a provisional world record but without the 800km/h run they had hoped for after an earlier attempt in 2025 that was beset by a run of bad luck.

This time around was more successful. The team's older streamliner, Wairua 1, reached 590km/h and is now a provisional FIA world record holder. On its final run, with the boost turned up to 80 per cent, it was on course for about 640km/h before a mysterious ignition cut ended the run.



The Cook Motor Racing team with Wairua 2 on the Bolivian salt flats. Photo / Cook Motor Racing.

Hopes were high that the team's newer streamliner, Wairua 2, could beat the current FIA record of 758km/h for a piston-engined, wheel-driven car. Wairua 2 was built by a volunteer crew in Reg's Clevedon workshop. Almost 11 metres long, it is powered by a twin-turbo V8 producing around 2000 horsepower and drives all four wheels. While the vehicle reached 550km/h with ease, it sadly never completed a full run. The team says the car's overall design, aerodynamics and systems all worked as expected, and even at reduced power they believe it showed it could easily reach 800km/h. The weak link was the gearbox, with minor gear selection problems and failures. Each gearbox change took about four days, and with extremely limited time remaining in Bolivia, the team simply ran out of days.

Like the 2025 attempt, the 2026 campaign was beset by repeated delays, including strong winds causing cancellation, and the late arrival of race fuel that left the team short for testing.

"It's amazing the CMR team achieved anything," says Reg.

"We did not manage to put the icing on the cake, so to speak, of 800km/h, through no fault of the CMR team."

The team chose Bolivia because Bonneville in the United States, where CMR originally set five world records, doesn't offer enough room for those speeds. The Salar de Uyuni is the world's largest salt flat and sits about 3650 metres above sea level.

In 2025, Reg's Nissan coupe, 'Cookie', set an FIA class record, averaging 184.4mph (296.8km/h) over a flying mile, and the team's Mini, built on an original 1959 shell, became the world's fastest Mini at 172mph.

Reg says the team achieved 99 per cent of its goals and should be proud of the "daily miracles" it pulled off.

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Community celebrations planned for Ōrere Hall's 70th

The Ōrere War Memorial Hall has been part of local life for 70 years, and the community is invited to celebrate its birthday on Saturday 5 December.

A group of local women came up with the idea for a district hall in the early 1950s. Muriel McIntosh (née Ashby) was a leading force behind the campaign, alongside Maurice Rowlands, chairman of the War Memorial Hall Committee.

The Ōrere Social Club set about raising money. According to Muriel Du Feu's book *Ōrere: The Story of a Small Community*, funds came from gala days, dances, paddy markets and even cattle drives.

After much discussion about its location, Anthony Rowlands donated the land, and the community's fundraising was matched by the Department of Internal Affairs under its War Memorial Scheme.

The 140-square-metre hall, built largely from native timbers by G.T. Scarlett of Papakura, was officially opened on 8 December 1956, with Harry Ashby among the speakers.

In 1984, the local Country Women's Institute successfully pushed for major improvements, including new toilets, a car park, a stage and dressing room, a new frontage and a new roof.

Over the years the hall has been the backdrop of many fond memories of school concerts, dances and parties. Some locals remember having afternoon tea there after school while their mothers attended monthly Country Women's Institute meetings. Sitting alongside Ōrere School, the hall has even served as a school itself for short periods.

In 2016, residents formed Ōrere War Memorial Hall Incorporated and took over management of the hall in partnership with the Franklin Local Board. Last year the committee added a patio area.

Today the hall is used by Ōrere School, the Ōrere Community & Boating Club, yoga and karate groups and many others, hosting everything from markets and fishing competitions to charity fundraisers, quiz nights and bingo.

Committee chairperson Nicola Schwarz is proud to be part of the volunteer team caring for the hall.

"Our role is simple but important: to look after the building, keep its doors open and provide a welcoming space for others to bring their activities, events and ideas to life."

"Seventy years ago, a group of local women had the determination to build something for their community. Today, we have the privilege of continuing what they started."

The hall jubilee celebrations on Saturday 5 December will include:

8am–9.15am: Yoga (class charges apply)

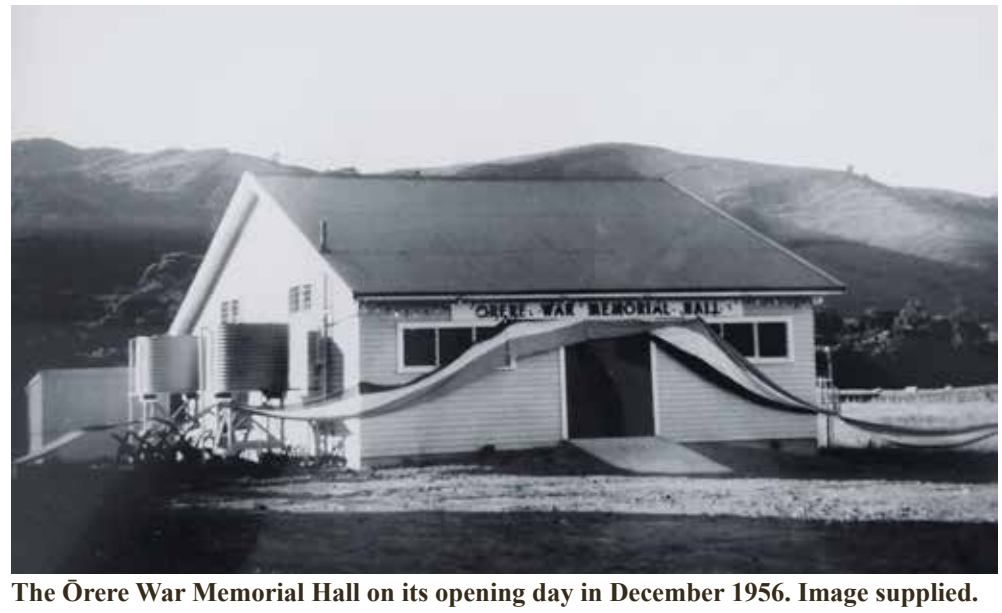
10.30am–11.30am: Indoor bowls, badminton and table tennis

2pm–4pm: Afternoon tea and hall memories. Bring a plate to share.

6pm: Doors open for a 1950s-themed jubilee party (dress-up optional)

6.30pm: Free community meal of burgers and chips, followed by dessert and dancing. Soft drinks provided for children; adults BYO.

The committee is especially keen to welcome back former residents, and would love to see old photos of the hall, its events and family occasions over the years. Photos can be emailed to orerehall@gmail.com or brought along on the day.



The Ōrere War Memorial Hall on its opening day in December 1956. Image supplied.



The hall today. Image supplied.

"A hall is only a building until its community brings it to life. For 70 years, Ōrere has done exactly that," says Nicola.

For more information, see the Ōrere War Memorial Group on Facebook.

RABBITS A PROBLEM?



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Smart signs to warn Clevedon drivers of flooding

Drivers on Papakura-Clevedon Road will soon get advance warning when the road floods, with a trial of electronic flood alert signs expected to begin this month.

Auckland Transport began trialling electronic flood alert systems after the extreme weather of early 2023. Flood warning systems using a range of technologies have since been installed at nine flood-prone sites around Auckland.

Papakura-Clevedon Road is the final site in the programme, and will be used to trial Auckland Transport's computer vision technology.

Auckland Council programme director for flood recovery Jeremy Pellowe says the Franklin Local Board was told the road was chosen because it is a high-speed, high-volume route that is prone to flooding.

He acknowledges that other roads in the area are also affected.

"It is understood the wider area is vulnerable to flooding, with multiple roads which can potentially be affected at the same time, so a much wider system would need to be operational to address this area fully," says Pellowe. "And the board acknowledges there are numerous alternative locations where this system could also be useful and has provided feedback."

For now, Papakura-Clevedon Road will be the only Clevedon location with the system, allowing the council to assess how well the technology works.

The system uses CCTV cameras with AI-powered flood detection to monitor water levels in real time. When the water reaches set markers, electronic road signs are switched on automatically.

Several signs will be placed well before the flood zone, on every approach, so drivers can take another route rather than having to turn around close to the flooding.

The signs can also be controlled manually. If floodwaters recede but debris still needs to be cleared, the closure signs may stay on after the weather has cleared until the road is safe.

Pellowe says the aim is to give road users advance warning of flooding and possible road closures, helping them make safer travel decisions and avoid affected areas.

Work is continuing on how the wider public could be kept informed and get flooding updates, and how the alerts could be used by Auckland Transport's Operations Centre.

If the pilot proves reliable, any wider rollout would depend on further assessment, organisational direction and funding approval.

Clevedon A&P Show photos









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Hedges a growing problem for Beachlands residents

Hedges and trees are meant to make a property feel private and green, but when they grow out of control they can become a headache for the people next door. It's a headache some Pōhutukawa Coast residents know well.

Beachlands resident Dion Dollimore has a neighbouring hedge that has grown to about six metres tall. Its leaves regularly drop onto his property, creating a mess, and its height blocks light from that side of his house. Because the hedge is on the other side of the boundary, Dion (aged 88) has to pay a professional to trim it from his side.

Just down the road, Dion's neighbour Yuri is dealing with tree issues on three sides of his property. On one side is a very high hedge, and on another there are tall trees that drop leaf debris across his lawn and roots that have grown two metres into his section. On a third side, tall palm trees are damaging his fence as they grow.

Under the Property Law Act 2007, a District Court can order a person to trim or remove a tree that is causing problems for a neighbouring property. The owner or occupier of the affected land can apply, and if the tree is on tenanted land, the owner must be included in the case. The court must be satisfied that an order is fair, reasonable and necessary to deal with problems such as a risk to life, health or property, an undue obstruction of a view, falling leaves, flowers, fruit or branches, shade or loss of light, or blocked drains and gutters. It must also be satisfied that refusing the order would cause the applicant more hardship than granting it would cause the tree's owner.

Trees protected by a heritage protection requirement can't be ordered removed, except where there is a risk to life, health or property.

Court claims will likely need a lawyer and can be expensive, and the applicant normally pays the reasonable cost of the work unless the court decides that the neighbour should pay all or part of it. The court can also attach conditions, such as requiring damage to be made good or compensation paid, and can order security for expenses. Work must be completed within 20 working days unless the order allows longer, and an order can require a tree to be kept trimmed at regular intervals. If the neighbour doesn't comply, the applicant can enter the land and do the work, with the neighbour's agreement or the court's leave, and then recover the reasonable cost.

Further details can be found online by searching Property Law Act 2007 - look at sections 333 to 338.

Local lawyer's advice

Lawyer John Wiltshire, from Beachlands law firm Base Law, says the key thing to **not** do is lawyer up and contemplate Court action.

"It's important that neither party rushes to polar opposite ends of the argument and the garden. No matter how annoyed you have become, cracking peanuts with sledgehammers will not solve things," says John. "It's a very expensive exercise and the least likely road to a mutually acceptable result. Spoiler alert - the Judges do not appreciate these types of spats coming before them."

John suggests that anyone troubled by a neighbouring tree or hedge should start by taking two cups coffee next door. "Sit on the steps in the sunshine, and have an initial chat.

"Hopefully you have noticed the problems unfolding early. Nip the hedges and trees issue in the proverbial bud (excuse the pun!) as soon as you notice yourself getting irritated. The greenery is smaller and less invasive, and that is the time to trim the offending branches back.

"Over that coffee agree how to approach the solution. You may decide to jointly complete a Do It Yourself solution. If DIY is not your thing, then suggest a contractor, preferably an arborist expert, and get another coffee for him or her too at that first round table. It could end up being an informal type of mediation meeting where he or she makes suggestions and weighs up the pros and cons you each outline."



Dion Dollimore's hedge headache.

John advises avoiding starting the job on your side prematurely.

"Nothing incenses a neighbour more than a badly hacked favourite hedge or tree. Trust me, it will look unattractive from the other side too!"

If a civil chat fails, John suggests looking to the Small Claims Tribunal.

"A word of warning. No lawyers are allowed near that hearing, so very practical justice is dispensed. Often a call is made to split responsibilities and desired results down the middle. So are you really much further ahead?

"So go and grab those couple of cups of coffee, put your big boy or girl pants on, then tidy up the issue and the boundary line and the neighbourhood!"



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2 large apples

3 tsp cinnamon

1 Tbsp maple syrup + more to top

Greek yoghurt

½ cup blueberries (fresh or frozen)

Method:

1. Peel and dice apples into around 1-2cm cubes.
2. Combine the quinoa, oat milk and apples in a large pot. Bring to boil then cover and reduce heat to a low simmer. Cook for 20-25 minutes, until the quinoa is fully cooked, apples are soft and all the milk has been absorbed.
3. Stir in the cinnamon and maple syrup.
4. Divide between bowls, top with blueberries, greek yoghurt and a drizzle of maple syrup.

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Down: 1. Uganda, **2.** Arid, **3.** Bureau, **4.** Unsure, **5.** Tomcat, **6.** Punter, **7.** Street, **10.** Cellular, **15.** Estrange, **17.** Cab, **19.** Eve, **20.** Autumn, **21.** Shrill, **22.** Dugout, **23.** Ponder, **24.** Mailed, **25.** Result, **29.** Rave.

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The overall season winner will win a brand new rod and reel sponsored by GAS Maraetai.



Jack Donegan (age 10) caught this hapuka off Aotea/Great Barrier Island on a Tiagra 16. It was a delicious fish that was shared with whanau!

TO ENTER, EMAIL YOUR PHOTO TO LIZ@GASMARAETAI.CO.NZ
include your full name, plus details about your catch (where the fish was caught, boat name, special gear used, what you did with the fish after it was caught etc).

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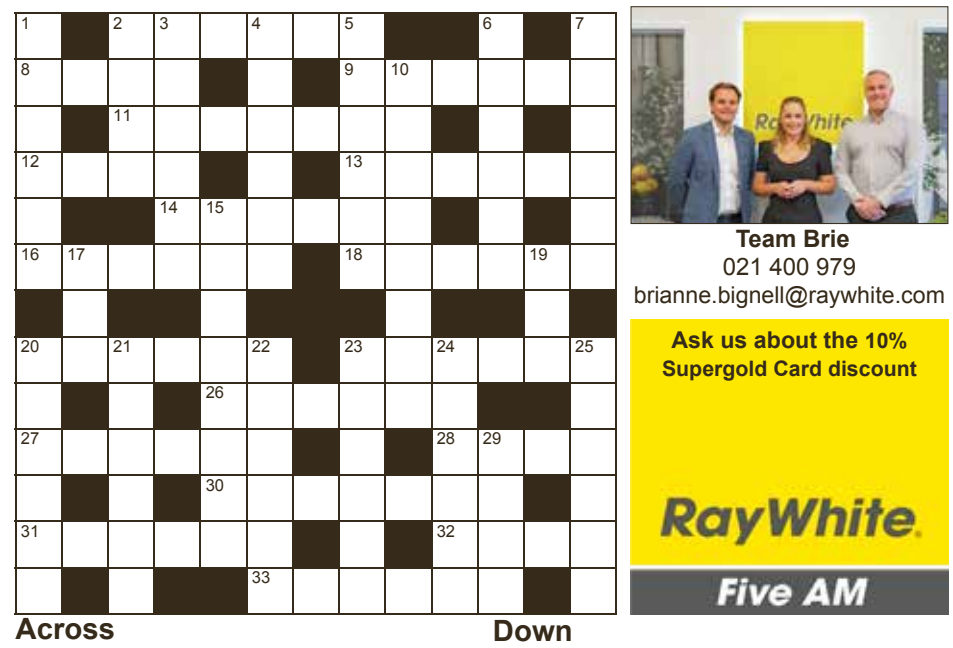

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Across

2. Kidnap (6)
8. Expert (4)
9. Supernatural practices (6)
11. Annoying (7)
12. Unclothed (4)
13. Outfit (6)
14. Antenna (6)
16. Allege (6)
18. Small tower above a building (6)
20. Ridiculous (6)
23. Spoil (6)
26. Dawn (literary) (6)
27. Large crowd (6)
28. Coloured part of eye (4)
30. Venetian taxi (7)
31. Surroundings (6)
32. Demonic (4)
33. Verbal attack (6)

Down

1. African country (6)
2. Very dry (4)
3. Writing desk (6)
4. Lacking confidence (6)
5. Male moggy (6)
6. Gambler (6)
7. Road (6)
10. Mobile phone (8)
15. Alienate (8)
17. Taxi (3)
19. First woman (3)
20. Season (6)
21. High-pitched (6)
22. Bunker (6)
23. Muse (6)
24. Sent by post (6)
25. Outcome (6)
29. Talk wildly (4)

Answers on page 8

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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.

Clouds

I can see dark clouds banging to make sweet rain
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I can smell wet grass.
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I can taste a cold breeze and the rain droplets falling
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- by Erin Bennett, Year 3, Ardmore School

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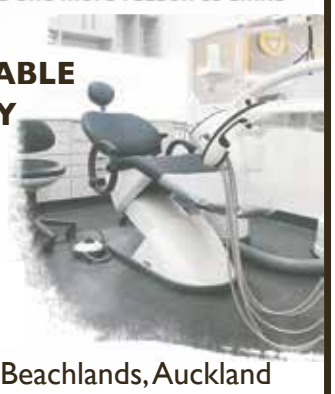

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We were proud to sponsor the race bibs for this year's Rotary ALLFIT Coastal Fun Run – a great day out for runners and walkers of all ages.

SETTING THE SCENE

Beachlands School Twilight Gala

Spotted our deck chairs at the Beachlands School twilight gala? We loved helping set the scene for a fantastic evening with local families.











SPONSOR & BBQ CREW

People's Triathlon

Barfoot & Thompson sponsored the People's Triathlon, and our team rolled up their sleeves on the BBQ to keep competitors and supporters fuelled.



Bigger than our backyard

The generosity starts here on the Pōhutukawa Coast, but it travels a long way. This spring, our team and our community got behind two national causes close to our hearts – Starship Foundation and Breast Cancer Foundation NZ.

Turn over to see what you made possible.

Starship Foundation

Breast Cancer Foundation NZ

Thank you, Pōhutukawa Coast!

You made it possible.

Our Pink Ribbon raffle raised **$2,403** for Breast Cancer Foundation NZ, with close to 500 tickets sold. The whole thing was organised by Debbie Mustill, Vanessa Robson and Jessie Stewart – and the four prize hampers were filled entirely by the generosity of these local businesses:

Ambrosia



Kerry Manning - Intimo

Rydges Formosa Resort Nineteen Restaurant

Huski

DMH - Do My Hair



Caci Clinic Beachlands

Core Strength Pilates

Browned NZ

Hair Dos At Maraetai

Sunkist Bar and Kitchen

The Franklin

Frankie and Bob Beachlands



Linda Dixon - LD Recruit

East Auckland Painting Ltd

Wax Baby Maraetai

Whitford Merchants

BARFOOT & THOMPSON

LICENSED REAA 2008

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