

ACCESS FULL ARTICLES ONLINE AT WWW.GREATBARRIER.CO.NZ/AOTEAADVOCATE

EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY

Regular Yoga Classes

Yoga for Presence | Tues | 5:30pm | Gallery
Yoga for Tradies | Thurs | 5:15pm | Gallery
Hatha Yoga | Fri | 10am | Glenfern

MAY

Painting Workshops & Art Exhibition

with Helen McLorinan
Community Art Gallery
Check our online events calendar

11 & 26
MAY

Kawa Marae Youth Program

Activities on 11th include Weaving
Mū tōreere and fishing
More details within

12
MAY

Mother's Day at the Golf Club

Lunch 12:30 - 4:30pm
Dinner 5:30 - 7pm
Bookings essential | Contact 09 4290 800

13 & 20
MAY

Island Screens

'Squaring the Circle' | 'November'
Kitchen from 5:30pm | Movie at 7:15pm
Entry \$10 | \$15 for non members
Tryphena Social Club

18
MAY

Winter Warm Up

8pm til late
Barrier Social Club
Tickets \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door | Sales limited

23-26
MAY

Bushman Walks

with Sam the Trap Man
Sharing knowledge of edible plants,
foraging tips and more
More details coming soon

25
MAY

Bread Baking Skill Share

with Caity Endt, Treena Salthouse & Sue Reusser
Orama | 10am - 2:30pm | \$20 each
Contact Caity to book
info@okiwipassion.co.nz

25
MAY

AFSG Over 60's Lunch

Mulberry Grove Store at 12pm
Book before 20 May. Call 465 or email
donelle.wright@aoteafamilysupport.co.nz

30
MAY

Matt Chisholm Talk

Mental Health Advocate
Claris Club | 5pm | \$10 ticket with
buffet dinner

All events can be found online at
www.greatbarrier.co.nz/events

FROM PIPE DREAM TO REALITY

"After decades in the dreaming and wondering how to go about it, we did it!!!" announced Nikki Watts from the Aotea Education Trust and now Aotea Early Learning Centre (AELC).

The AELC has been running for just over a year, and last week it triumphed in receiving full licensing from the Ministry of Education (MoE).

Once a pipe dream that developed into a mission for the Aotea Education Trust, it took two years of intense work with support from expert Bonnie Henare to push the project over the start line, running on a probationary period over the last year.

Last week this pipe dream turned into a reality for island families when the centre received its full license from the MoE.

Being licensed as an ECE centre in New Zealand means that the centre has met or exceeded the regulatory standards, ensuring that the facilities, curriculum and staffing are all suitable and safe for young children, providing a solid foundation for early learning.

A licensed centre is eligible to receive government funding and must adhere to specific funding rules set by the MoE. Regular reviews by the Education Review Office ensure the quality of education and care remains high.

The centre is licensed for up to 30 children, based on a 1:10 adult to child ratio, but on a normal day is 1:7 which far exceeds the MoE bare minimum requirements.

The AELC has something unique about it though, normally ECE's are run by businesses our ECE is community-owned, run by Aotea Education Trust using the Playcentre building.

A partnership not seen in other areas of New Zealand, but a solution to fit a small rural island community like ours.

The ECE runs Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30am-4:30pm during school terms in the Playcentre building on Kaitoke Lane.

Playcentre still runs on Monday and Friday 9:15am to 1:15pm for parents with children age 0-6 years, and visiting families are always welcome.



After only a year of opening, it's safe to say the centre has had an impact on the lives of young families on the island, including positive outcomes for child development, parent's mental health and easing financial pressures on young families. The centre has also provided skilled jobs and opportunities. "The ECE has enriched mine and my sons life, allowing both of us to grow and develop, providing support and a sense of belonging on the island. It has allowed me, as a mum, to work, which means we have been able to live on the island." says local mum Nichole Lill.

The ECE is a true testament to the community thinking outside the box, utilising existing resources, together with a relentless amount of Barrier volunteer effort, grit and determination.

Thanks goes to an endless list of individuals who contributed through the decades including the Local Board, Nikki Watts, Luke Coles, Fenella Christian, Hannah Gale, Aotea Island Playcentre including Deb Kilgallon and Mallory Thompson, ECE staff past and present, Anna McGoram, Truus van der Wel, Ebony Kite-Bell, Kathy Sutherland, Brooke Green, and Liz Wislang.

For more information please call 09 4290 600 during the opening hours as above.

ECOLOGY VISION BUSHMAN WALKS



Aotea Ecology Vision is bringing Tairāwhiti Gisborne's hunter and conservationist Hamiora Gibson to Aotea from 23 to 26 of May (this month!).

Known on social media as 'Sam the Trap Man', Sam is a skilled bushman and educator whose works bring people together to help save the taonga of our environment. A hunter, gather, and conservationist, Sam returned to his home in Tairāwhiti and established a hunter led conservation project that is bringing Whio back from the brink of local extinction. Join Sam on one of a series of walks on Aotea when he will share his bush knowledge, including edible plants and foraging tips, as well as the role many plants and animals play in our natural environment.

More details coming soon.

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Photo by Chris Morrison

Amazing Community Response to Paramedic Fundraiser

The total now stands at \$26,904.00

As a community we have now well and truly covered the short term costs, to employ a Locum Paramedic while Adam is on leave. The funds in excess will go towards a long term solution to support our paramedic service into the future.

Thank you everyone!



LEVI GOLABOSKI MEMORIAL PUMP TRACK FUNDRAISING UPDATE

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE MILESTONE WE'VE REACHED! \$90K!

Together, we are realising a vision for our island's tamariki, a testament to the memory of our remarkable student, Levi Golaboski.

Special thanks to Aotea Local Board, The Currach Irish Pub and customers, and Ferg Foods Limited for their substantial donations. Yet, our true champions are the individuals!

With just \$10,000 remaining to reach our target, let us continue this momentum with upcoming fundraisers. Thank you immensely for your invaluable role in this extraordinary journey! *Ngā mihi nui - Kaitoke School*

Whakaaro whakahaumako

'A thought to help, enrich or enhance'

Whakaaro for this edition comes in the form of a whakataukī (proverb)

"Nāku te rourou, nāu te rourou,
ka ora ai te iwi."

"With your food basket and my food
basket, the people will thrive."



This speaks volumes for the character of the residents on this island. We all thrive with the support and can-do attitude from all to make things happen for the betterment of everyone.

By Nancy Tait, local resident and Te Reo teacher

KAWA MARAE YOUTH PROGRAM

KAWA MARA TAOHI TŪ MĀIA PROGRAM
FORTNIGHTLY ON SUNDAYS
FROM 10AM - 3PM

UPCOMING DATES:

11 (SAT) & 26 MAY

9 & 23 JUNE

7 & 21 JULY

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BOOKING AND MORE INFO CONTACT DETAILS:

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OR THROUGH FACEBOOK MESSENGER

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO ATTENDANCE

FOUR ISLANDS

Local Board chair Izzy Fordham recently had an inaugural "4 Islands" meeting with her counterparts on Chatham, Stewart and Waiheke islands. They ostensibly met to discuss the government's proposed "fast-track" legislation, but conversation naturally veered into other areas.

What did you cover? Health, education, environment, governance, tourism, visitor levies, freight, power sources, transportation and of course the Fast Track Bill.

What are the big issues for the other islands? Freight and shipping costs, passenger fares, broadband/connectivity, and for Stewart and the Chathams, power is supplied by diesel generators and you're charged per unit, so this is a big one. Both those islands are investigating wind power.

Were the other islands for or against the fast-tracking legislation? Waiheke was hoping that we would all support the islands banding together and calling for an exemption. But Stewart/Rakiura and Chathams weren't so supportive. They've both lost big contracts and opportunities due to the constraint of current red tape, which would have benefitted their island economies.

Will you meet again? We hope to - it was so valuable.

Are the other islands as cool as us? Ha! All islands are cool, but your own is always super cool.

Words by Kathy Cumming, Community Broker

IN THE GARDEN IN MAY

Falling leaves, last throes of summer colour, cooling temperatures, fast shortening days and rain. The world of nature responds as always to the cycle of the solar system, whether we are ready or not. But the gardener anticipates and prepares!

Last Chance to Plant!

Now is the very last chance to plant winter veggies- other than garlic and onions. Leave it much longer, and most seedlings will make very slow growth through the winter, then when the soil warms up in August and September, they tend to go straight to flower (bolting).

Mulch

The cooler the soil gets, the slower plants grow, and the myriad of microbes within the soil get a little sleepy too, many going dormant as the plants slow down their stream of liquid sugars into the soil. Applying a thick layer of mulch now around and between your plants while the soil is damp but still warmish will insulate the soil for a few weeks longer and extend your growing window.

Green Manure

However, in beds which will be completely empty over the winter, sowing a green manure crop into them specifically to feed and protect the soil is the very best option, as it will feed a much wider variety of soil organisms and contribute greatly to creating a friable delicious soil for spring planting. The leafy cover also protects the soil from compaction by heavy rain.

Spreading a light layer of leafy mulch over the green manure seed after sowing helps to keep the soil evenly moist and results in more even germination. Happy gardening!

Words by Food Resilience Coordinator, Caity Endt

FUNDING FOR PROTECTING AND OR ENHANCING THE MOANA

In 2023 Aotea's Kelly Klink, Graham Cleary & Ports of Auckland set up a fund, Te Moananui O Toi, with the purpose of supporting action to protect and restore the Moana within the area of the Sea of Toi (broadly the inner and outer Gulf), definitely Aotea Great Barrier. That is, it is a fund to support groups or individuals financially to carry out meaningful work. It will run for 15 years.

Kelly & I wish that most of this money is to be spent supporting Aotea groups needing funding to undertake work that will support Te Moananui O Toi's purpose. To do so we need as many applications as possible. Projects may be multi year, that is, if you need support for more than a single year, we can look at this in a single application.

If you have a project, please go to the website, www.temoananuiotoi.nz and look at the info there and how to apply. Please feel free to ask us about your application before you submit so we can assist you if you are uncertain.

Often protecting the Moana starts on the whenua, so don't think this needs to be totally water based. It could for instance support wetlands to protect estuaries as is being done in Medlands. It may also support educational or cultural programs with the same focus. It is focused on action. There is also a yearly scholarship to support postgraduate work in this area.

We look forward to hearing about and seeing your applications.

Graham@nathab.co.nz

Kellymoanna@gmail.com



HAPPY AT THE HUB

Maree Munday loves her new job as teaching assistant at the Aotea Learning Hub. "I feel very lucky to work here ... it's the best thing.

"I didn't really know much about the Hub before, but I loved it immediately. It's fantastic; the students are so lucky to have it."

The Hub (on Kaitoke Lane) was founded in 2017. It provides a physical space for the island's correspondence school kids to study, access reliable internet and socialise.

Before it existed, the students needed to self-motivate enough to do their schoolwork at home. Course completion wasn't great, and many struggled to achieve academically. The Hub has helped with both.

Maree compares this to when her husband Travis did correspondence: "He just didn't do the work, because there was no one there to motivate him or help him...some of the work is actually quite hard! He has said he wishes there was something like the Hub back in his day."

Neil Sanderson and Ben Assado are tutors at the Hub and William Park is the manager. Maree says that made things quite "boy-heavy" before she came along. Straight away she found the older girls came to her to talk. "That was an immediate thing."

Local youth worker Ebony Kite-Bell: "Correspondence school can be very isolating, on an already isolated island. After Covid we've been working hard to tackle social anxiety; even just one trip to the Hub each week - that's a win."

Read full article online. Article submitted by the Aotea Education Trust.

CAULERPA RESPONSE TEAM SET UP

A new steering team has been established, led by Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea, to oversee and coordinate the response to exotic caulerpa seaweed on Aotea Great Barrier Island. The Aotea Caulerpa Response Team (ACRT) wants to drive action in the water to stop the spread of exotic caulerpa around Aotea. It is a point of coordination for the community, Auckland Council, MPI, DOC and other exotic caulerpa sites for the response on Aotea. The steering team is made up of four mana whenua members and four community members and has its work cut out.

Unfortunately, exotic caulerpa has now been confirmed at the Mokohinau Islands after a University of Auckland dive team conducting fish surveys reported sightings to MPI late-April. A Department of Conservation specialist dive team will be based at Port Fitzroy in May and with local support will confirm the exact locations of exotic caulerpa patches so that treatment can begin. It's likely that boats have spread caulerpa to the islands on anchors as it is too far for caulerpa fragments to drift.

"It's critical that we learn from the last 3 years and take action to eliminate these patches as soon as possible," says Opo Ngawaka, Chair of the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust and member of the steering team.

The new steering team is co-chaired by Fletcher Beazley and Chris Ollivier. Chris is well known as a member of the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board and operator of fishing charter business Hooked-on Barrier. Fletcher Beazley is a trustee of Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust. He works as a government contracts manager and is committed to the kaupapa.

In February \$5m in national funding to fight exotic caulerpa was announced, of which, \$200,000 has been allocated to a "perimeter control" project on Aotea. This work will get underway in the Port Abercrombie area in mid-May. The announcement followed sustained pressure from community and iwi in exotic caulerpa sites for a faster and more comprehensive response from MPI to the risks.

"It is a drop in the ocean in terms of what we need here to stop this pest," says Chris of the perimeter trial. The Steering Team is seeking a meeting with the Minister or Primary Industries to discuss its proposed approach and funding.

Continue reading the full article online.

For more information contact the ACRT: info@acrt.co.nz or 021 470 401



NOTICE OF MEETING

Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee

The next meeting of the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee will be held at Barrier Social Club, Tryphena, Great Barrier Island
May 17, 2024, from 10.00am to 1.00pm

Public Forum is at 10.10am to 10.30am

To express your interest to attend the public forum, please email adminacpac@doc.govt.nz for an invite. A copy of the agenda will be available from 13th May and may be obtained by contacting:

Department of Conservation
Aotea/Great Barrier Island
Private Bag 96002
Email: adminacpac@doc.govt.nz

CLUBHOUSE PROJECT UNDERWAY

We are so excited to finally announce the first stages of the ABC clubhouse build are underway!

On Saturday 20 April, despite the pouring rain, a volunteer team assembled to fell two macrocarpa trees, remove the stumps, and truck them off site. Thanks to Joel from Aotea Contractors for the loan of the truck and digger and Aotea Arb for loan of the Arb equipment, truck and chipper.

Massive thanks to Sid and Benny as arboricultural crew, Evander on the digger and Manuka on clean up. Spirits were high even as the rain came down, on seeing this project become a reality on the land after all these years! Momentous!

Last week Manuka was busy attending pre start meetings with Cushla, Bow on build, Roger on earthworks and Steve on survey. Manuka and Bow from Sustainable Aotea met again to lay out the lines for the foundation placement. The first holes were drilled and inspected, filled with concrete from Aotea Contractors and foundation



ABC Clubhouse volunteers. Photo: Ella Higham

NO EX-GOOSE FOR CANADIAN GEESSE

Some of us are lucky enough to wake up to the sound of Kākā or Cook's Petrel. Imagine waking up to loud honks, barks, and cackles, even hisses of Canadian Geese... unfortunately it is a reality for some.

Canadian Geese are taking hold on the mainland, with populations ballooning. They are a risk to human safety, causing airstrike with planes, imagine having to dodge geese returning and leaving the Motu. They can be very aggressive towards other birds, leading to displacement and mortality.

They over-graze pastures, contaminate waterbodies, can carry diseases such as avian influenza, campylobacter, Escherichia coli, and salmonella and are known to produce more than a kilogram of faeces a day, that's a lot of poo!

Canadian Geese are classified as exclusion under the Regional Pest Management Plan, meaning they are not known to be established in the Aotea / Great Barrier Island group but have the potential to establish widely and cause adverse effects to the island's ecological, economic, and cultural values.

Early intervention to manage the ways pests can travel to Aotea and quick response in the event of incursion is a cost-effective approach to prevent their establishment on Aotea. Canadian Geese have arrived here in the past and have either been dispatched or left. We don't want populations establishing.

If you see a Canada goose on Aotea/Great Barrier Island group, please report it to Auckland Council.

Words by Niklas Erikson, Senior Conservation Advisor

posts. Thanks to a mostly volunteer crew, RG Contracting with Craig, Mark and Roger, Steve from Harrison Grierson, Aotea Arb with Sid, Juan and Jake, Bow from Sustainable Aotea, Clayton from 360 Construction and Manuka working tirelessly as usual.

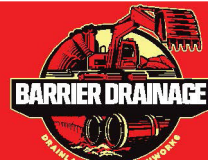
We can't fathom how we would have managed to fund this little club room project without the generous assistance, time and expertise of our local contractors who support ABC activities! Thank you, thank you all! Going forward, the build will be largely undertaken by paid contractors. But, the foundations of the club, literally and figuratively, were for the most part built on volunteer hours, contributed services and equipment.

There was a meeting for supporters and members on the 8 May to discuss next steps and timing of the project completion.

If you were unable to attend but would like to support the project email

abc.aotea@gmail.com

Words by Eve Bellerby



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GET INVOLVED

Auckland Council is working towards eradicating and keeping out a number of high risk pest plant species from Aotea. We need your help to hunt these plants out.

- ✓ Visit inaturalist.org
- ✓ Join project 'Aotea High Risk Weeds'
- ✓ Identify and record your weedy find!



pestfree@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz





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