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## EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE

### Regular Yoga Classes

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

9 & 23 JUNE

### Kawa Youth Program

Kawa Marae  
Activities for 9th include waka ama, basketball, table tennis, arts n crafts and fishing

10 & 17 JUNE

### Island Screens

'Language Lessons' & 'Allelujah'  
Kitchen from 5:30pm | Movie at 7:15pm  
Entry \$10 | \$15 for non members  
Tryphena Social Club

11 JUNE

### Local Board Extraordinary Business Meeting

10am | Local Board Office | Enquiries to:  
aoteagreatbarrierlocalboard  
@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

12 JUNE

### Free Community Alcohol & Drugs Services

Every second Wednesday of the month  
Contact the CADS Service directly to make an appointment on 0800 845 1818

14 JUNE

### Lawyers Workshop

10am | St Johns Church Medlands  
Presentation on writing wills.  
Followed by 15 minute one to one sessions

21 JUNE

### Community Kirtan on Winter Solstice

5-7pm | Aeroclub in Claris  
Tea and cake after to share. Entry is koha towards community harmonium

22 JUNE

### Tight Lines Kids Fishing Comp

for Kaitoke School's fundraiser for the Levi Golaboski Pump track.  
Details within

23 JUNE

### Aotea Army Working Bee in Okiwi

10am meet at the Church in Okiwi  
Contact Leon Foster to volunteer  
020 4143 3243

28 JUNE

### Matariki at Kawa Marae

6am Whangai ite te hautapu  
8am Parakuihi Breakfast  
10am Movie 'WHINA'  
with Paula Whetu Jones

All events can be found online at [www.greatbarrier.co.nz/events](http://www.greatbarrier.co.nz/events)

## RANGATAHI IN FULL FOCUS

Two to three times a year, key individuals from community groups, schools and organisations across the island meet to share their successes and challenges.

Several things rang true from the recent community group hui: community spirit and service is still alive and kicking on Aotea, we are lucky to have some extraordinary people engaged in chair, manager and operational roles, who are going above and beyond and driving forwards initiatives for the island, particularly when it comes to our rangatahi. Beverley Slater, General manager of AFSG kicked off the meeting. Bev is six months into her new role and has a background in clinical psychology and aged care. She has worked with the new trust and staff to overhaul the organisation, leaving no stone unturned. AFSG's future is looking bright, with new policies in place, accounting procedures established, renegotiations of key contracts for aged care and more recently, after pulling back to a skeletal service, the youth programme has been reignited, with Ebony Kite-Bell at the Helm and new key staff members back on board.

They still face challenges, including that they are down to a single van which is the life line for all the youth programmes and transporting rangatahi to the Learning Hub. Watch out for AFSG fundraising events!

Jan Piahana, Michelle McGregor and Nancy Tait from Kawa Marae also attended. Last year they were asked to take on the youth club and school holiday program from AFSG. They had nothing but positive sentiment to share about running the programme at the marae, giving kids a chance to be on the marae and engage in activities not normally offered. They have now gathered some exciting equipment for rangatahi, like the Waka Ama from Hillary Outdoors, kayaks and a table tennis table. They are hoping for even more uptake from Southern families

as they begin to understand the programme is easy to access and use. See their upcoming dates in the calendar.



Also in attendance was the Learning Hub's new operations manager, Jo Bourke. She has nothing but passion for education and children who don't quite 'fit inside the box' and finding the thing that makes each rangatahi click. She shared with the group that one of her four children was unmotivated and struggled during his teens. It took a YMCA programme to get him going, rock climbing and engaging in outdoor pursuits; today he hangs on ropes from some of from the highest buildings in Sweden and is a kayak instructor living a full and fulfilling life. Jo knows first hand the importance of outdoor and environmental education.

She also shared that the Hub now has one year of funding left and they are looking at alternatives, like a charter school with NZQA qualifications. This would offer assured funding and stability, with two 10 year rights of renewal. Jo also noted that having a charter school on island would not affect the bursary for boarding that families are eligible to receive, which has always been a concern for the establishment of a secondary school on the island.

It's a tall order, but Jo is keen to get started and judging by the responses in the room, it is recognised across all the organisations that providing our rangatahi with quality education on the island or supporting them in the transition to education off the island is absolutely essential.

*With many thanks to the Barrier Bulletin, for sharing notes from the hui.*

## MPI CRAYFISH PERMIT REVIEW

Following the discovery of commercial cray pots from an operator in Leigh in commercial rock lobster potting is not the Controlled Area Notice (CAN) around Schooner Bay, Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) engaged in a review of how the permits were issued. "Essentially examined through the lens of biosecurity risk the review confirms that biosecurity NZ management" concluded Chief Biosecurity officer Peter Thomson. Adding, "However, wrong," says Chris Ollivier Co-chair of the Aotea Caulerpa Response Team, which he believes to be, "completely ignoring the community and the incongruity of having a ban, then permitting commercial fishers to

undertake banned activities".

The review found issuing permits for inconsistent with the intent of the response or purpose of the CAN, that issuing permits was an appropriate thing to do when the review confirms that biosecurity risk management" concluded Chief Biosecurity officer Peter Thomson. Adding, "However, wrong," says Chris Ollivier Co-chair of the Aotea Caulerpa Response Team, which he believes to be, "completely ignoring the engagement with stakeholders and mana

Find the full review: [www.tinyurl.com/MPIReview](http://www.tinyurl.com/MPIReview)

## 1 Aotea Road ([www.barfoot.co.nz/864725](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/864725))

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Fundraiser for The Pump Track  
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# TIGHT LINES KIDS FISHING COMP

Saturday 22  
June 2024

\$20 per ticket - all proceeds to Kaitoke School  
\$10 entry Adults Prize

- 1st, 2nd & 3rd heaviest snapper under 60cm
- Adults mystery weight (limit 1 fish per adult)
- Under 5's Longest Yellow Tail
- Longest Kahawai
- Average Weight
- Mystery Weight
- Spot prizes

Weigh in will be held at  
Claris Sports Club  
1pm - 3pm (No exceptions!)  
Followed by Prize Giving

Tickets are available  
from Kaitoke School,  
Aotea Beauty, Claris  
Sports Club & The Rocks

## CRITTER OF THE MONTH Moko Kākāriki (Naultinus elegans)



Did you know that New Zealand geckos give birth to live young? This makes them super special reptiles, combined with the fact that only geckos can vocalise. Geckos also have teeny tiny hairs on their feet helping them to 'stick' which is why you might find them hanging in precarious-looking places, too!

**Nickname:** Elegant Gecko

**Kāinga:** Mostly arboreal or tree-dwelling, although can at times be found quite low to the ground in ground-hugging vegetation especially when males are travelling between trees in search of mates during the breeding season

**Population:** 'At Risk - Declining', due to a mix of land development/clearance of habitat, and predation by mammalian predators

**Superpowers:** Camouflage and a super bark - these guys are rarely seen when hidden amongst the tree tops of Aotea vegetation. They also have stern warning when in danger by presenting a wide open bright blue mouth and black tongue, which when paired up with their "bark", keeps threats away!

**Diet:** Omnivores - Usually insects are top of the menu, but are also known to feed on the nectar, and small fruits of several plant species, and the honeydew of scale insects when in season

By Ecology Vision Aotea

## ON-SITE SERVICE

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## WĀHINE TOA KI AOTEA

### AIMEE-JANE BROWN CROWNED QUEEN OF THE POINT IN RAGLAN

Aotea's local homegrown surfing legend Aimee-Jane Brown has taken the crown in the Open Women's division at the King and Queen of the Point Surfing Competition in Raglan.

Conditions were challenging and 23 year old Brown faced stiff competition from other top surfers, including Australian Surfer Dimity Stoye and NZ Junior Surfing Team member Alani Morse.

Despite telling Surf NZ, "it was hard out there, I am pretty unfit at the moment," Brown pushed through the close outs and southwest winds and pulled herself from fourth to first with incredible score of 6.83 in her final heat, pushing her total to 12.03 points.

Aimee-Jane has taken a break from competing in recent years and 2024 is the first year competing without her dad Mike who sadly passed away in December last year. She is clearly doing nothing but making him proud, in April she also reached the finals of the Aotearoa Surf pro.

Aimee's win is testament to the sheer determination all the Browns share as a whānau, with her younger brother winning Gold in the Special Olympics Golf in 2023.

Your island whānau are so immensely proud of you Aimee!



### STEVIE MABEY FUNDRAISING FOR NZ ROWING WORLDS

Barrier born and bred Stevie Mabey has been selected to represent New Zealand in the Rowing worlds.

Stevie, 17, attended Ōkiwi school before taking up a place, at Epsom Girls Grammar School. Rowing for Epsom Grammar School and Auckland Rowing, Stevie has now been selected as part of the NZ women's coxless four to compete in the World Rowing Junior Championships, which take place in Canada, 18-25 August.



Rowing NZ will contribute to the cost of the six week camp and three week international trip, but Stevie has to cover a significant amount more. She will be completing a sponsored Row-a-thon to fundraise for this life changing trip. Stevie is just shy of \$1500 away from her fundraising target.

You can hear more from Stevie and sponsor her for this life changing trip on the link below.

Visit: [www.tinyurl.com/steviemabey](http://www.tinyurl.com/steviemabey)

The island will be cheering you on Stevie!

## REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PLAN

Most of the community care about the quality, efficiency and cost of transport to and from the island.

If you are one that cares, you have between now and Monday 17 June 2024 to provide feedback to the Regional Land Transport Plan 2024, which scopes the 10-year investment plan for Auckland's transport network.

The name of the plan is deceptive, it is not just about land transport, although many would likely also like to comment on the non-existent public transport provision on the island, but it includes plans for decarbonising ferries.

You'll also note that Aotea isn't on any of the maps or mentioned in the plan. Don't let this put you off, you should submit anyway. The island is within the region the plan covers. Stakeholders on the island have every right to provide feedback, and at very least we might get the island on the map the next time this comes around!

Visit: [www.haveyoursay.at.govt.nz/hub-page/rltp](http://www.haveyoursay.at.govt.nz/hub-page/rltp)

## ONION GROWING WITH CAITY ENDT

The next couple of months are the golden opportunity to sow onions and banana shallots. Banana shallots are like a long, large very sweet onion. Incredible roasted, used in chutneys etc or used raw.

Both slow growing, taking at least 6 weeks from sowing to get big enough to plant out, and then another 5 months in the ground before harvest. That's why they need to be sown over June or July.

We were first inspired to grow our own onions after visiting Les and Bev Blackwell's garden about 15 years ago. Les had raised bed which fitted exactly their year's needs of 600 onions! Having followed this pursuit for ourselves the last few years, we can confirm its worthwhile. Most meals start with gently sautéing an onion or two. That's 365 onions already! Then there's chutneys, relishes, pickles and kassundi which use lots of onions too!

### Features of the Onion



> Onions don't take a huge amount of space to plant, can be planted close together and require very little attention if mulched.

> Once harvested around mid January, onions are a great storage crop - they can be plaited and hung in a cool dry spot. They usually store until around mid November when they will start to sprout.

> Organic onions are extremely expensive to buy but are one of the most health giving vegetables in the world.

**Soil needs:** light dressing of compost plus foliar feed with seaweed spray made from kelp

**Water needs:** Damp soil. A critical time is when they bulb up around late November, if denied water the onion will be small and stress can attract thrips and black fly. The key is mulch!

**Preventing weeds:** You need to mulch thickly to prevent weeds that can eventually smother your crop. Use a thick layer of mulch like bamboo leaves.

**Pests:** Thrips & Black onion fly

**Favourite Aotea onion varieties:** Pukekohe Longkeeper, Italian Longkeeper, Red Rambo, California Early Red, WallaWalla, Purplette and Banana Shallot

For full sowing instructions read online article.

Words by Caity Endt, Food Resilience Coordinator



## COUNCIL DEAL ON SEPTIC SERVICING

Aotea's off grid and remote status makes it a special place, but it does mean that all homes and businesses must manage their own wastewater. Leaky and poorly maintained septic systems leach germ laden wastewater into the environment, seeping into streams, coastal creeks, estuaries, and beaches.

Human activity – both on land and at sea – has taken a huge toll on the health and mauri of the Hauraki Gulf, leaving its habitats and biodiversity in a state of dramatic decline. There are complex challenges in addressing this. However, one necessary step is to ensure no onsite wastewater systems are contaminating waterways and the Gulf.

Auckland Council's Healthy Waters is running a campaign on Aotea asking property owners to love their septic tanks, love their environment, love their island. **Council is offering a financial incentive to get wastewater systems checked and making it clear people with failing wastewater systems will be given time to repair them if needed.** Property owners have already been sent a letter from Auckland Council about the rules for maintaining their onsite wastewater systems. These are that they are checked regularly, and that problems are fixed.

Now Council is offering a one-off financial incentive to get this done, available to 30 June 2025.

**The property owner will pay only \$80 for a primary system (e.g. a basic septic tank) or \$130 for an advanced system (e.g. a system with extra aeration and filter treatment) to the service provider. Council will cover the rest of the cost.**

The incentive does not include any necessary repairs or pump-outs. These will be invoiced by the service provider to the customer as per normal processes. The incentive is being funded from the water quality targeted rate.

Previous investigations of water quality on Aotea Island found faecal contamination from several sources, including livestock, dogs, birds, and humans. Safeswim monitoring showed those areas with recorded water quality issues were the Awana Stream, Medlands Stream and Garden Road Stream. They had recorded periods of poor water quality even in dry weather conditions, which indicates chronic sources of faecal contamination. A significant step towards reducing contamination and ensuring our beaches don't show as red flagged on the Safeswim website, is to take responsibility for our wastewater. Not only does this protect the environment, but it protects your investment too.

**To find out more go to:**

[www.safeseptic@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:www.safeseptic@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

**When your septic tank report is completed send it to:**

[proactivecompliance@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:proactivecompliance@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) or post it to Proactive Compliance, 135 Albert Street, Auckland Central, Auckland 1010.

## LOCAL & CAPITAL GRANT ROUNDS 2024/25 DATES PENCILLED

**Round 1 - Opens: 8 July 2024. Closes: 30 August. Decision: 22nd October.**

**Round 2 - Opens: 10 March 2025. Closes: 2 May 2025. Decision: 24 June 2025**

Keep an eye on the Auckland Council website grants calendar or follow our Local board's facebook page.



## Love your septic tank, love your beach (aroha ki tōu tātahi) love your island

**We can help pay to find out if your septic tank is working properly. If it isn't, we will give you time to repair it.**

Go to [safeseptic@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:safeseptic@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) to find out more.

Photo by Chris Marton



## THE GENEROUS NGĀHERE

A fantastic time was had by all with Hamiora Gibson aka Sam the Trap Man. Sam hosted three walks over three days with a mix of the community getting involved. Starting with the School walk, followed by the Hunter Gatherers and then finally the Volunteer walk.

So much of Sam's knowledge was soaked up to learn about medicinal and edible ferns, shrubs, vines and trees and their roles in the environment. We also discussed the impact of fruiting times of certain trees on trapping practices and indicators. Fascinating and critical for success.

**Here's some highlights:**

> What is happening in the bush is an indicator of the health of the ngāhere and should be noted to determine pest control. For example if the tawa berries are out, this means there is an abundance of sugar and rats will be looking for protein - a great time to use peanut butter in your traps. If the Puriri moth or cicadas are hatching, there is an abundance of protein, so switch to a sugar source in your traps. Use lure to target what is lacking in their diet.

> Need a great night's sleep? Place 4-5 leaves of Tātaramoa (bush lawyer) in cold water and bring to a boil for 15 mins. Drink for a deep night's sleep (don't mix with alcohol, or if pregnant)

> Tanekaha leaves when boiled produce a beautiful natural orange textile dye.

> Roasted tawa berry seeds taste like almonds and roasted mamaku frond, mashed with a bit of condensed milk tastes just like rice pudding

> Have you ever eaten a rat? Kiore tastes like lamb!

One walk attendant was blown away by the time spent with Sam and said "He showed us dozens of medicinal and edible plants in a short 45 min walk. We learned that the native bush is extremely generous when it comes to kai and medicine, knowledge is power and eating and understanding the bush is a great way to connect with the environment."

Thanks to Windy Hill, Glenfern and the Local Board for funding the Ecology Vision. Give 'Sam the Trap Man' a follow on Instagram, Facebook and Youtube to learn even more.

## FREE & CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH COACH SERVICE

Did you know we have a dedicated team on island to support you with your health and wellbeing? Aotea Health have a team of Health coaches made up of Eunate Puy-Azurmendi (Mon - Wed), Tina Price (Thurs) at Claris Medical centre and Sacha Eddington at the Nurses cottages in FitzRoy (Mon - Thurs).

This service is completely free and confidential, and the team supports people with a wide range of health goals including diet, exercise, sleep, stress, social issues, and management of long-term health conditions.

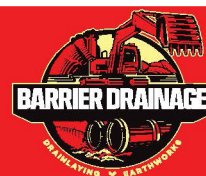
Sessions can take the form of group workshops, one-on-one sessions or they can meet you wherever suits you, at the health centre, your home, out in the community or even over the phone.

Eunate shares that the team sees people for a range of things, like making health plans for weight loss to supporting those with dyslexia to read and write letters.

Tina highlights that "Health 'coaches' are not health 'experts' who tell you what to do. I believe we all have the inherent ability to make positive changes for our own well-being; sometimes we just need a little nudge in the right direction."

The team have already run weight management and diabetes workshops and will be putting on some more group workshops in the coming months. Keep an eye out for dates and details.

Give Aotea Health a call to ask about this service on 09 4290 356 or ask at their reception.



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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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