

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



COME FIND US. WE'RE OUT THERE.

Kathmandu launched a new brand concept with Aotea Great Barrier Island locals, landscapes and way of life as inspiration.

Local Barrier residents and landscapes went live this week as part of Kathmandu's new evergreen "Come find us. We're out there." campaign. We've enjoyed seeing Barrier locals in their raw form throughout the advertising.

Kathmandu states, "beyond the untouched landscape, Come Find Us. We're Out There. celebrates the people of Barrier. The locals demonstrate what it means to live truly out there, and because of this, Kathmandu invited them to take part in the campaign."

Continued inside. Photos: ©Kathmandu

Bumper Spring Issue

This issue has additional pages! This was made possible by numerous contributions and advertising. Our issues will vary in size, based on community support. Thank you to everyone who is getting involved.

Looking to make a submission or advertise? Email us on AoteaAdvocate@gmail.com

Next Submission Deadline: 7 October by 10am | Next Issue Available: 10 October



BOOK YOUR AUCKLAND COUNCIL INORGANIC COLLECTION

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/inorganic



EVENTS CALENDAR

SEP Regular Yoga Classes
Gentle Yoga | Mon | 10am | Tryphena Hall
Hatha/Vinyasa | Tue | 5.30pm | Okiwi Kura
Hatha Yoga | Fri | 10am | Glenfern
General Yoga | Sat | 10am | Tryphena Hall

12 SEP SIBI Launch, Episode 2 - Lord Howe Island
at 6:30pm on AoteaFM
Series Launch Details Within

13 SEP Aotea Eco Couture Fashion Show
5pm | Kaitoke School

15 SEP Grow food Aotea Workshops - Summer Gardens Kicking off
Full Details to the right

16, 23, 30 SEP Island Screens
Fallen Leaves - 16 Sep
My Sailor, My Love - 23 Sep
One Life - Special Event - 30 Sep
Barrier Social Club | 7pm

20 SEP Next Gallery Exhibitions
Details to the right

21 SEP Everybody's Market
10am - 1.30pm
Details to the right

21 SEP Sowing and Repair Workshop
Anamata | 10am - 12pm
Details within

21 SEP GBI Coastguard Inc AGM
Claris Club | 10am
Details overleaf

21 SEP Kids Movie Club
Garfield The Movie - 21 Sep
Scary Girl - 5 Oct
Barrier Social Club | 3pm

24 SEP Local Board Ordinary Business Meeting
1pm | Claris Conference Centre

25 SEP Boat Wash Facility Drop In
Feedback Event
Details overleaf

28 SEP Currach Comedy Night
Details to the right

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

FEATURED EVENTS



GROW FOOD AOTEA PRESENTS SUMMER HOME GARDEN WORKSHOPS WITH TUTOR CAITY ENDT



15 SEPTEMBER | 9:30AM - 2:30PM
The Green & Crunchy Summer Salad Garden at Okiwi Passion

13 OCTOBER | 9:00AM-12:30PM
Keeping Happy, Healthy Laying Hens at Okiwi Passion

29 SEPTEMBER | 9:30AM- 2:30PM
The Juicy, Fruity, Flowery Summer Garden at Okiwi Passion

10 NOVEMBER | 9:00AM-12:30PM
The Winter Resilience Storage Crop Garden at Okiwi Passion



Each hands-on, informative gardening workshop covers: best varieties for Aotea, growing from seed/cutting, bed prep, feeding the soil, support structures, companion planting, pests, diseases & seed saving. You will also receive seeds, plants, planting plans & notes, plus CONFIDENCE to get started!



Full details at [Grow Food Aotea FB page](#)
Bookings essential, spaces limited
Contact Caity Endt to secure a spot
Email: info@okiwipassion.co.nz
Call or Text: 021 212 7153

Brought to you by
Anamata Community Enterprise &
Funded by Local Board

SEPTEMBER AT ARTS & HISTORY VILLAGE UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS



Fri 20 Sept | 'Woven' by Jackie P & Jodie A | Opening 4-6pm

Fri 20 Sept | The Aotea Eco Couture Collection by Kaitoke School



Sat 21 Sept | Everybody's Market 10am to 1.30pm



Tues 8 - 24 Oct | 'Sound' by Mary Spacapan



Fri 25 Oct - 12 Nov | 'First Impressions' by Janene Hunsdale



AOTEA ARTS & HISTORY VILLAGE
HONONGA O TOI TUKU IHO

THE CURRACH IS BACK OPEN!

You know it's officially spring when the Currach is back in action! Head on down for a pint, check out the new seasonal menu and see some friendly faces.

Opening Hours & Specials:

Tuesdays from 4pm

Thursdays from 4pm - Jam Night, always great fun

Fridays from 4pm

Saturdays from 4pm

Sundays from 4pm

Delicious wood fired pizza

Great comedy and music nights coming up

Takeaways and table bookings available

Looking for some great accommodation?

They have wonderful rooms and a great Holiday Package Deal on offer.

Visit www.currachirishpub.co.nz

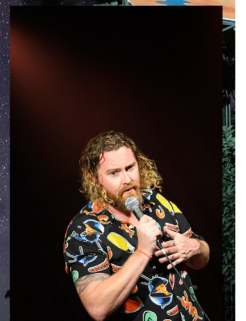
The Barrier Comedy Club

Saturday 28th September 7 pm

\$15 on the door, pre sales **\$10**
Call 09 4290 211
or drop in for a pint and get your tickets



David Stuart
Next Newcomer, NZ Comedy Guild Awards 2022



Alan McElroy
Excellent Irish story teller performing a hilarious night of comedy

Funny Tonight, Melbourne International Comedy Festival

COME FIND US. WE'RE OUT THERE

The campaign highlights the toughness and authenticity of New Zealand's outdoor environments, the satisfaction that humans derive from being outside, and the beauty of New Zealand's wilderness. Completely captured on the island.

In May, the media agency Motion Sickness auditioned 150 locals before choosing nine to star in the commercial. The crew then put up a makeshift studio inside the Claris Conference Centre, where the successful applicants were photographed while dressed in new season Kathmandu gear and complemented it with their own well-loved pieces.

And, as the Motion Sickness crew put it,

"proudly embracing their rich culture and unfiltered personalities".

Locals included the likes of Evander and Destiny Sykes, Jess Page, Paul Hale, Jacob Montgomery, Brad Carde, Lucia Victoria, Julia Burrough, and a couple of part time residents.

Further cementing the campaign's Kiwi spirit is the advert's voiceover, by retired radio icon, Kim Hill, and bespoke music produced entirely by up-and-coming Auckland-based music producers.

Kathmandu's "Come Find Us. We're Out There" campaign is now live across New Zealand's television, out-of-home, online,

and social media platforms, and will run for 12 months, until August 2025.

Kathmandu's all-new Seeker series is now available in-store and online.

Locals are front and centre on the Kathmandu website and Instagram, and others like Paul, Evander, Julia, and Jacob may be found among the professional models in the new 'Seeker' product ranges.

Will people recognize the Barrier?

If people want to know where the gorgeous vistas are captured, they must be more inquisitive and delve a little deeper, as it's not revealed in the ad. Secret's safe with Kathmandu.



Julia Burrough ©Kathmandu



Dawn tents ©Kathmandu



Destiny Sykes and crew ©Kathmandu

A TRACK TO REMEMBER

Levi's Pump Track Grand Opening at Kaitoke School

The grand opening of Levi's Pump Track at Kaitoke School was nothing short of spectacular! Despite a tempestuous storm earlier in the week, the sun decided to make a grand appearance, showering the event with perfect weather—a rare but welcome gift from the weather gods.

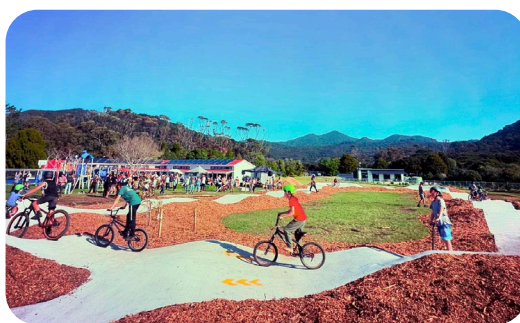
The turnout was nothing short of marvellous, with people flocking from all corners of the island, proving once again that the Great Barrier Island community knows how to show up and celebrate. The day kicked off with live music from the groovy Shaun & Z, and the tunes were expertly handled by none other than MC Willy Park, who kept the energy high and the vibes just right.

Matua Rodney opened the festivities with a heartfelt Karakia, setting the tone for what would be a truly memorable day. Levi's family then took centre stage, scissors in hand, to cut the ribbon and officially open Levi's Track—a moment met with cheers and perhaps a few teary eyes.

Principal Leanne Eloff followed with a warm address to the crowd, expressing heartfelt thanks to the many generous sponsors who contributed to this lasting legacy. She emphasized how the entire Barrier community, along with the contractors, banded together to make this dream a reality. It's just another example of what an amazing community we live in, where people rally around a cause with passion and dedication. And let's be honest, Levi would have absolutely loved this track!

Byron Scott of Trailpro, whose team were the masterminds behind the tracks design, took a moment to commend the incredible effort that went into the project. He also noted that this track holds a special place in their hearts as the first all-concrete track they've built, a feat made possible thanks to the expert craftsmanship of Aotea Concrete & Excavations.

Once the formalities wrapped up, the real fun began. The music cranked up, and Riley Neilson-Hall, a pro BMX rider from Tauranga,



dazzled the crowd with his impressive skills, tearing up the track like it was second nature. Then it was the kids turn. They flooded the track, some on bikes, others on scooters, rollerblades, and skateboards. Adam from St Johns was kindly on standby, just in case, but thankfully, he wasn't called into major action — just a few scrapes and grazes here and there!

Not to be outdone by the youngsters, the adults took their turn on the track, showing off their own wheel skills (and perhaps a few more cautious manoeuvres). Meanwhile, the air was filled with the mouth-watering scent of Blackwell sausages sizzling on the BBQ, which had been lovingly prepared from scratch by the students under the watchful eyes of Wayde and Tairone.

Of course, no community event is complete without some exciting giveaways, and this one did not disappoint. The big winners of the day were Finn Daly and Essie Davenport, who each rode away with a brand new Meybo Clipper BMX bike. There were plenty of other prizes too, including the ever-popular classic red and blue three-wheeled trike (there is video evidence of the winner of the pink & white one having fun on theirs!), bike helmets, and scooters.

As the sun began to dip lower in the sky, the track was still buzzing with riders, proving that Levi's legacy will live on through the joy and fun of those who come to ride at Levi's Track.

It was a day filled with laughter, love, and community spirit—a fitting tribute to a young man whose memory will continue to inspire and bring happiness to many.

Levi, this one's for you.

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Supporters

The success of the Levi Golaboski Memorial Pump Track at Kaitoke School is a testament to the incredible support and generosity of our community. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our major sponsors, whose contributions were instrumental in bringing this project to life:

- > Great Barrier Local Board
- > The Currach Irish Pub & Patrons
- > Fulton Hogan
- > Fergburger

We are also immensely grateful to the following sponsors for their invaluable support:

- > St John's Community Church Op Shop
- > Brian Tracey
- > Hamish Walton
- > Pauline Burrell
- > Sealink
- > Aotea Contractors
- > Barrier ITM
- > Scallop from Barrier Habitats & Lift It GBI
- > Nigel Duff
- > Motu Community Nursery
- > Ecology Vision
- > Envirowiki

Finally, a special thank you to the Trail Pro Team, especially Byron and the lads, for taking on the challenge with such enthusiasm. Your support, along with the generosity of the Barrier Community and those beyond, has been vital in creating Levi's lasting legacy. Thank you all for your unwavering dedication and for making this project a reality.



COMMUNITY FOCUS



SMALL ISLAND, BIG IDEAS

OUTSIDE IN SERIES LAUNCHED

From Aotea Great Barrier Island, Aotearoa New Zealand - Welcome to Small Island, Big Ideas, an ongoing festival of conversations and events created to take Aotea, and possibly the world, forward.

Thanks to input from many of those in our own community, we have scoured the globe to find other small islands, similar in size to our own, who've had a big idea that's led to some sort of radical reinvention.

We are interested in how other small islands are facing the future. How have they acted on a 'big idea' that's transformed their island community in a positive way? We will be sharing those conversations and learnings on this podcast for the next few months - one small island at a time.

First, we set off for Samsø, Denmark. We met Søren Hermansen, Director of the Energy Academy on the island. Samsø, located in Denmark's Kattegat Sea, had historically relied on imported fossil fuels for energy. However, in the early 2000s, the island launched an ambitious strategy to achieve complete energy independence and carbon neutrality through renewable energy sources. They met their objectives and became the world's first energy renewable island, and have been carbon neutral for years! They achieved energy self-sufficiency through community-owned wind turbines, solar panels, and biomass facilities. They export 80,000 megawatt hours of natural energy every year back to the mainland, with the proceeds flowing back into their community. We took a deep dive with Søren, a born and bred local, to learn about the island's energy ownership journey and community involvement. Today, they have 45 electric car charging stations, as well as a new hybrid community-owned ferry and another fully electric one coming next year! Samsø is a real-life example of how small islands can thrive and become global leaders.

If you've missed the episode, find out how to listen below:

Schedule:

Samsø, Denmark - Energy Independence & Carbon Neutrality (5 September)

Lord Howe, Australia - Sustainable Tourism & Pest Free (12 September)

Teshima, Japan - From Garbage Dump to World Class Art & Tourism (19 September)

More to be announced soon!

Where to listen and watch:

AoteaFM Thursdays at 6:30pm

Then, on following Friday morning on:

SmallIslandBigIdeas.co.nz

YouTube @SmallIslandBigIdeas

Spotify @ Island Stories Podcast

Brought to you by Tim Higham, Sandy Burgham & Bree Biederman - the Small Island, Big Ideas team.

Supported by



MESSAGE FROM AOTEA HEALTH

Firstly, we wish to give some clarity around the differences between Aotea Health Ltd and the Great Barrier Island Community Health Trust (GBICHT). These are two completely separate entities.



Great Barrier Island Community Health Trust



Aotea Health Ltd

In July 2023, Darcy and I bought the business - Aotea Health Ltd, from Leonie, Adele and the late Ivan. Aotea Health Ltd has contracts with DHB/Te Whatu Ora (TWO) to provide health services to the residents and visitors on Aotea. The business is partially funded by the DHB/TWO, with the remainder coming from patient fees. (This is not new as it has been this way for many years.)

The GBICHT is a Community Health Trust - that owns and maintains the buildings (Community Health Centre in Claris and the Nurses Cottage in Port FitzRoy) the vehicles and all of the equipment in these buildings to provide healthcare. The GBICHT is governed by a group of Trustees comprised of elected community representatives, Iwi, and Clinical representatives. Aotea Health Ltd (ie: Darcy and Tania Kemp) are leasing the buildings, the equipment and the vehicles and will lease the new premises the GBICHT is currently building.

The second area we want to clarify is around patient fees. We have NOT increased any standard consult fees since buying the business in July 2023.

As you may have read or seen on TV recently, the Government has recommended that General Practices increase their fees by \$10 (\$19.50 to \$29.50) for non-Community Service Card holders (CSC) in order to make up for the increase in costs that they will not cover. We are choosing NOT TO increase fees this year for any of our registered patients. It is likely that we will increase the fee to the recommended \$29.50 next year, but only for registered patients without a community services card.

As it has always been, visitors and non-registered patients pay a higher fee for service than registered patients. Why? Because we get no funding from TWO to provide this care for them. This means that visitors and those not registered with the practice will pay anywhere from \$19.50 - to \$75 for a consult, depending on whether it is ACC, and if they have a community service card, or not. Our fees are available to look at online at www.aotea.health/fees

All debt with Aotea Health that was outstanding at 1 July 2023 (Before the change of ownership) is being wiped, but from that point forward, we are asking people to pay the minimal fee where they are able. This allows us the flexibility NOT to increase fees to try and recoup the debt not paid.

We also encourage regular users of the service to set up automatic payments to keep pace with their accounts. This can be as little as \$5 or \$10 a fortnight, depending on how often they are accessing healthcare.

There are many people on Aotea who have access to FREE healthcare due to their current health conditions. These people come under a scheme called CARE XTRA and we are funded for them for multiple appointments per year. This is why there is NOT one fee for all.

Feel free to ask clinical staff if you are eligible for this.

Words by Tania Kemp (Aotea Health Ltd)

Notice to All Residents & Ratepayers of Aotea Great Barrier



The Great Barrier Island Community Health Trust hereby gives notice that the **Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 12th, 2024, at 10.00 am** at the Community Health Centre, Claris.



Survey time

Head over to the Facebook album at [Aotea Arts & History Village page](#)



FOOD BANK FUNDING THANK YOU

St John's Community Church would like to thank COGS (Community Organisation Grants Scheme) for the recent funding towards our Emergency Foodbank. The Island wide Emergency Parcels are organized by our Foodbank team at the St John's Church depot.

Referrals are made to Aotea Family Support Group Community Worker or St John's Church Council members.

Marion Snow

Treasurer, St John's Community church

GOVERNANCE TRAINING REMINDER

Each year the local board, through its annual work programme, funds a one day FREE governance workshop with Carol Scholes.

For those of you who've been to one before, they are great; informative and engaging. Carol really is the best in her field. And for those of you who receive annual (non-contestable) grants from the board, you'll be aware that governance training for your trust members is actually a requirement of your funding.

Even if you went last year, Carol always has new info and advice based on current events, trends and legislation.

The details of the day are:

Friday 20 September 9am - 3pm

Claris Conference Centre

Tea, Coffee And Biscuits Will Be Provided. Byo Packed Lunch

Please RSVP to

Kathy.cumming@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

FROM ANAMATA COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

ZERO WASTE AOTEA: IT'S INTERNATIONAL SECONDHAND SEPTEMBER

Second Hand September is a moment for all of us to come together to choose a planet-friendly way to shop. Aotea proudly embraces secondhand living—not just when it comes to clothing, but throughout our homes, gardens, and everyday lifestyles. Secondhand September is a great opportunity, when many traditionally swap out the old for new season clothing, to celebrate sustainability and participate in some fun events.

During Secondhand September, Anamata will be swapping out its winter collection and introducing a fresh range of spring and summer styles. In-store fashion guru and stylist, Leilah, is available to help you define your style and curate the perfect outfit for any occasion. Whether it's for every day life, a party theme or something more formal, she'll ensure you look your best.

In true Barrier fashion, Kaitoke School is also hosting their annual Aotea Eco Couture event this month. Expect to see innovative secondhand and upcycled creations on the runway.

Anamata sets aside themed and special event wear, so you don't need to buy new—just pop in and ask about a special outfit for that special event.

Plus, we're kicking off a series of workshops this month!

These will focus on teaching repair skills for clothes and tools, giving your items a new lease of life and helping you avoid unnecessary purchases.

For more information, keep an eye on our Facebook page and the Anamata noticeboard.

Happy Secondhand September!

Five Ways To Participate In Second-Hand September

- › Join a repair/alterations/upcycle workshop
- › Have a declutter
- › Host a clothes-swap with mates
- › If you need something source it second-hand
- › Learn a new skill



**Saturday 21/09
10-12pm at Anamata**

\$10 limited spaces
Bookings Essential
info@anamata.nz



GARDEN IN THE SPRING

September!

Busy, busy month ahead in the garden! If you haven't already, you really must prep your beds for planting! Weather has warmed up and is predicted to stay warmer than usual for all of September and into October so you can probably get away with getting in some veggies in earlier than usual, such as zucchini and tomatoes.

Weather

Check Niwa's seasonal outlook for updates.

In the vege garden

Seeds to Sow for planting in October

- › Zucchini (plan on 3-4 succession plantings every 8 weeks or so).
- › Tomatoes
- › Cucumbers (sow in greenhouse/very warm sunny spot)
- › Beans – dwarf beans will give you a quicker crop (about 4 weeks from sowing). Runners count on at least 6 weeks til crop.
- › Start kūmara tipu for planting mid October onwards
- › Peppers, chilis, aubergines for planting out in 6-8 weeks; protect from cold night temperatures and from rats who love the seeds, (sow in greenhouse/very warm sunny spot)
- › All your greens: lettuce, silverbeet, kale, broccoli, pak choy, cabbage etc
- › Herbs: parsley, basil, oregano, marjoram, dill, sage, lovage, bronze fennel, chives, garlic chives

Direct Sowing in September

- › Coriander (soak seed for 24 hrs before sowing, use fresh seed)
- › Dill
- › Rocket
- › Radishes and turnips
- › Peas, including sugar snaps and snow peas (until December latest)
- › Carrots (soak seed for 24 hrs before sowing, use fresh seed)
- › Beetroot
- › Beans (from mid September)



Seedlings to Plant in September

- › All your greens: : lettuce, silverbeet, kale, broccoli, pak choy, cabbage etc
- › Zucchini (plan on succession plantings every 8 weeks or so).
- › Tomatoes (cherry toms often cope with early planting better than beefsteaks),
- › Basil (if it's warm), parsley
- › Cucumbers from end of September (they like really warm soil)
- › Peas
- › Beans (usually mid September on)

Watch Out For

- › Slugs and snails (use beer traps or iron phosphate bait)
- › Caterpillars (use nets or Bt)
- › Aphids (plant alyssum, let your coriander flower!)
- › Birds after your seedlings (use nets)

In the Orchard

- › Prune apples and pears
- › Feed citrus with sheep pellets or chook manure (3x per year but not in winter) too late to prune as borer beetle out and about
- › Mulch fruit trees while the soil is damp

Other Tasks

- › Sort out your watering system for summer. If you have adequate water, set up drip tape. All fittings available at BBS and through Irrigation Express.
- › Collect/make mulch spread thickly as you plant to retain precious moisture in the soil over the coming hot months and reduce weeds.

Words by Caity Endt, Food Resilience Coordinator

Summer Home Garden Workshops

See events page for details and how to book



DOES AOTEA NEED A BOAT WASH FACILITY?

Have your say via the online survey - Visit: www.surveymonkey.com/r/56T7PBM and/or drop-in at the Community Boat Wash Facility: Feedback Drop-In Event at the Claris Conference Centre, 25th September from 5 – 6.30pm

Vessels that are cleaned on beaches and tidal areas are a biosecurity risk to Aotea, which is relatively marine pest free. This is one of the main reasons for finding out if some form of boat wash facility is feasible. The haul-out would aim to be a community-led facility to reduce this risk - and provide a place for regular boat maintenance to residents of Aotea.

An invasive marine pest Mediterranean fanworm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) was found at Port Fitzroy in 2017 and since then Auckland Council's marine biosecurity team have been doing in-water surveillance at Aotea to remove fanworm, monitor for new fanworm sites as well as look out for the arrival of any other new marine pests. Early detection is key when dealing with underwater pests. There have been multiple times where the fanworm has arrived and it has been controlled. But unfortunately, it has now taken hold in the Wairahi Arm/Smokehouse Bay area spreading in Port Fitzroy.

The very low visibility in the Wairahi area limits divers' ability to find them, and we currently lack tools to manage it now. This area is now considered to be high biosecurity risk and potentially a source of spread to other locations. Two new-to-New Zealand marine pests are also present at Aotea – the ascidian *Clavelina oblonga* - which was picked up by our team in 2019 and is still the only known location in NZ (Smokehouse Bay & Port Fitzroy vicinity) - and the efficient invader exotic *Caulerpa* (multiple locations).

An on-island boat cleaning facility has been highlighted as necessary as Aotea is now red flagged to other areas where locals have traditionally taken their boats for hull cleaning service, such as Whitianga or Whangarei.

So, we are in a sticky situation.

Read more online

If you have any questions or feedback you can contact the council's marine biosecurity team on 09 301 0101 or marinebiosecurity@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Aotea Great Barrier Community Boat Wash Facility

Community Feedback Drop-In

Aotea is free from many marine pests. While we have *Caulerpa* to deal with, we need to protect ourselves from further invasions. Have your say on the protection of our marine ecosystem with the provision of a public boat maintenance facility.

5:00pm - 6:30pm | Wednesday 25th September 2024
Claris Conference Centre - Claris Club
19 Whangaparapara Road

Take the survey:

By following this link, you can give your feedback in a survey that will inform the discussions at the open day.



Find out more about marine pests: marinepests.nz

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Te Kaitiaki o Tamaki Raukawa



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Mike Jensen 021 825 826
Karen Lombard 021 765 776

m.jensen@barfoot.co.nz
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BARFOOT & THOMPSON



Scan for listings

NOTICES

Notice of Annual General Meeting

COASTGUARD

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

Great Barrier Island Coastguard Rescue Inc.

The AGM will be held at 10am on Saturday 21st September at the Gt Barrier Sports & Social Club in Claris

Nominations are sought for the office holders - President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and committee members.

Please contact Graeme Harrison on 4290237 for further information.

Also, There will be a rescue flare demonstration on Friday 20th at Mulberry Grove Boat ramp at 6:00 pm.

Welcome to the public, and boating fraternity, to come and see and experience how rescue flares work.

Graeme Harrison, President

LOOKING TO ADVERTISE YOUR TRADE/SERVICE/PROPERTY/JOB/AGM'S?

Send us an email on AoteaAdvocate@gmail.com

NATURE & ENVIRONMENT NOTICES

LOVE YOUR COMPANION CAT, LOVE NATURE!

Spring has sprung, which means many of our native birds will be breeding soon. A perfect time to check the health of your pet routine.

As part of the Auckland Council's Natural Environment pest management program on Aotea, Auckland Council contractors are continuing feral cat control in and around areas with significant ecological value. The program aims to reduce predation by feral cats on protected species such as pāteke, bittern, petrel, dotterel, and lizards and ensure the long-term viability of threatened ecosystems. There are also community groups carrying out feral cat control across the island to help protect our native species.

Many people in our community own companion cats, and they are a valued part of families, so as a responsible pet owner, how do you care for and keep your companion cat safe?



As a first step we encourage companion cat owners to **keep their cats inside at night**. Along with desexing, this helps to reduce the possibility of your cat wandering and preying on our native taonga. It also reduces the risk of your cat getting harmed in fights or spreading/catching diseases from feral cats like toxoplasmosis. While our roads on Aotea aren't high speed, keeping your cat inside at night also reduces the chance of your companion cat getting injured or run over.

If you do choose to let your cat roam, ensure it is easily identifiable by placing a collar on it. Brightly coloured collars are more effective than bells at protecting birds from cats (42-54% reduction in prey capture). Cats can still catch rats when wearing these collars because rats don't have the same good colour vision.

Is your companion cat microchipped? Microchipping gives your cat a better chance of being reconnected with your family if it strays too far. Even owned cats can roam large distances, and on the mainland have been recorded wandering more than 2km in a night and tom cats even further! Microchipping and desexing are free services provided for cat owners on Aotea. Simply book your companion cat in with Anne Kernohan at GBI Vets in Claris, phone (09) 4290 0463 or 021 797 538.

Take a picture! Send a photo of your feline friend to Auckland Council along with their details so your companion can be entered into the Aotea 'Cat-ologue'. The Cat-ologue is a successful online tool used by contractors in the field, and along with the visual of a cat collar helps them quickly identify owned cats during feral cat operations and release or reunite them with their owners.

Another great tip is to **feed your cat a high meat diet**. A high meat diet with no grains can help to reduce prey capture and a nutritious diet will also help keep your cat healthy. Take home message: a high meat diet is good for cats and wildlife, especially when cats have access to the outdoors.

The community's ongoing support for this project has been fantastic, we are all doing our part to protect Aotea's taonga species.

For more information or to enter your cat's details into the Aotea Cat-ologue email annamarie.clough@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

SEXTONS BRIDE/RHAPHIOLEPIS UMBELLATA: THE WEEDY WEDDING CRASHER OF AOTEA

Sexton's bride is a perennial shrub up to approximately 3m tall. Flowers are borne in clusters of about 20 from July-December. Petals are white, stamens and sepals pink/red. Fleshy, purple to black fruit approximately 6-12mm diameter, ripen during March-April. Its seeds are dispersed by birds, it is tolerant of salt spray, wind, and drought, grows well in coastal areas and forms thick stands that crowd out other species. One to keep an eye out for and help eradicate from the Motu.



Photo: Jeremy Warden. Words by Nik Erikson, Auckland Council Conservation Advisor

ARGENTINE ANTS

It's that time again, Argentine ant work takes off once more this month on Aotea. This project has been ongoing since 2006 and has seen a high level of success. Intense monitoring and control have enabled the eradication of four sites covering over 55 ha, including Mulberry Grove, one of the largest areas successfully eradicated of Argentine ants in New Zealand. This achievement has only been possible with the collaboration and willingness of the community, so a big thank you to residents in the work areas for enabling this mahi to be carried out on their properties for the duration of the programme.

In line with previous years, operational work will start in October. Firstly, targeting the warmer/drier east coast sites and progressively moving across the motu to include all known sites. You may have seen that as part of the programme, we now have an island based Argentine ant dog and handler team carrying out surveillance work. This capability enables a greater number of sites to be quickly checked for the presence/absence of Argentine ants. This is a timely reminder that to eradicate Argentine & Darwin's ants from Aotea, the support and participation of all island residents and visitors is crucial. The risk of new incursions of ants into the areas eradicated still exists so to safeguard against re-establishment we will be conducting periodic surveillance.

Please be careful not to transport ants to new sites. Argentine and Darwin's ant queens do not fly, so transferal and establishment at new sites occurs by moving materials that contain at least one queen ant and several workers. In relation to public roads where Argentine ants are being managed, signs have been positioned at either end of the infestation to alert everyone that there are Argentine ants present. Argentine ants can be transferred to new sites in car wrecks, garden waste, potted plants, topsoil, firewood, mulch and building materials. Please double check all goods you are moving from your property and if you do identify ants or require assistance with inspecting equipment or materials, please contact us.

For more information:

www.tiakitamakimakaurau.nz/protect-and-restore-our-environment/pests-in-auckland/pest-search/linhum/

Alternately contact:

Jeremy Warden, 09 4290 258 or 021 811 463, jeremy.warden@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or Annamarie Clough 0272052498 annamarie.clough@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Aotea Bird Count

Friday
6 December
2024

BIRD COUNT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Take part in Aotea's biggest citizen science project for 2024. Full training provided, you just need a good level of fitness and some keen ears and eyes.

Email: contact.gbiet@gmail.com for more information.

Public Notice

Oruawhoro Medlands Ecovision (OME) has received permission from DOC to begin using diphacinone, a first-generation anticoagulant, to control rats on DOC land in the Medlands catchment. The pesticide will be pulsed in safe Philproof bait boxes.

The blocks we have permission for are:

- Tryphena Scenic Reserve
- 3 blocks within Aotea Conservation Park, two are contiguous with and to the south west of Tryphena Scenic Reserve, one is off the north west corner of Tryphena Scenic Reserve
- Medlands Wildlife Management Reserve
- Oruawhoro Creek Government Purpose Reserve

The first area we are targeting is the Medlands Wildlife Management Reserve, the wetland, where rat numbers are consistently high. Once tracks have been marked we will commence with this work in other permitted areas. This work will be carried out between 1 October 2024 and 1 January 2026



Kind Regards



GET INVOLVED

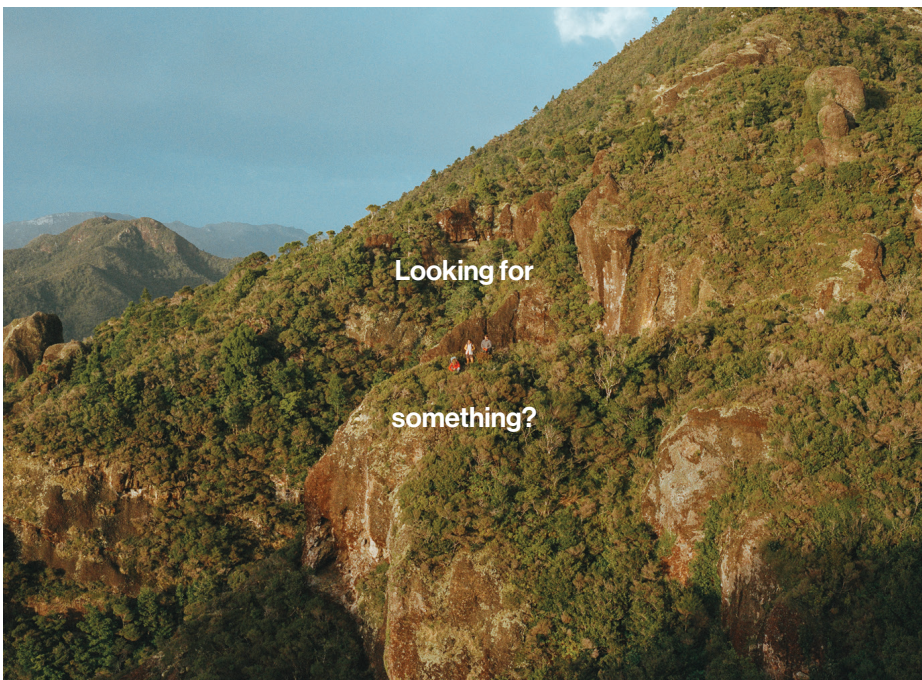
Auckland Council is working towards eradicating and keeping out a number of high risk pest plant species from Aotea. We need your help to hunt these plants out.

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



pestfree@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz





Looking for

something?

It's not over the horizon, at the bottom of the valley or around the bend. It's out there, but you won't find it on a map.

It's not the trees, the rocks or the streams. But rather, that thing that happens inside, when we go outside.

Out there, we're morning people. We prefer taking the stairs.

We eat strange food, with strangers. Storms are fun, especially in a rain jacket. Maybe we're all better people with mud between our toes.

And a dry pair of socks.

Thanks to the locals of Aotea for featuring their faces and their land, and re-igniting the Kathmandu spirit of being out there. We look forward to the next visit.

**Come find us.
We're out there.**



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