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OVER AND OUT

After 25 years of service, the Barrier community bid farewell to police officers Roger and Kylie.

On Saturday 29 September the island came together to acknowledge the huge contribution made by Roger (25 years service) and Kylie (21 years service), as we prepare to farewell them as they retire from Policing and move on with the next phase of their lives.

Speeches were made by the various agencies from the

Emergency Response Team followed by Mulberry Grove and Kaitoke Schools prior to open mic from the floor.

For all those who spoke there was strong common themes: The commitment, not just in their Police work, but being active members of FENZ and Coastguard, and delivering both the Hunts course and the Kaitoke School Wharf to Wharf fundraiser.

Continued inside. *Photo: ©Kathy Cumming*

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SUMMER PRINT SCHEDULE

We will be continuing with monthly issues with more pages.

Note, we will be doing two issues in December to kick-start summer.

Thank you for all the support and enthusiasm for this community news resource.

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

Next Submission Deadline: 11 November by 10am Next Issue Available: 14 November



OCT / NOV EVENT CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
06	07	08 Mary Spacapan Art Exhibit 'Sound' Opening 4-6pm Runs Oct 8 - 24 More info inside	09	10 Small Island, Big Ideas Outside In: Maui, Hawaii 6:30pm on AoteaFM	11 Hatha Yoga 10am Glenfern	12 Growers and Makers Market 10am CCC Community Health Trust AGM 10am Community Health Centre
13 Grow Food Aotea Workshop Keeping Happy, Healthy, Laying Hens Full Details Below 	14 Gentle Yoga 10am Tryphena Hall Short Film Festival 7:15pm at Barrier Social Club	15	16	17 Small Island, Big Ideas Outside In: Eigg, Scotland 6:30pm on AoteaFM	18 Hatha Yoga 10am Glenfern Ahu Moana Glen Edney Pre-survey Presentation 5-6pm St Johns Church	19 Yoga 10am Tryphena Hall Ahu Moana Survey (Weather Depend. - Check OME FB page)
20 Ahu Moana Survey Day 2 (Weather Depend. - Check OME FB page) 	21 Gentle Yoga 10am Tryphena Hall Island Screens Stylebender 7pm Barrier Social Club	22 Local Board Ordinary Business Meeting 1pm at CCC 	23	24 Small Island, Big Ideas Outside In at 6:30pm on AoteaFM	25 Hatha Yoga 10am Glenfern 'First Impressions' by Janene Hunsdale Opening 4-6pm Oct 25 - Nov 12	26 Labour Weekend Market 10am at Claris Club Full details below
27 OME Pest Plant Amnesty! 1-3pm Bird Aversion Training Details within OKTOBERFEST 12-6pm Aotea Brewing Tickets at aoteabrewing.co.nz	28 Labour Day Observed Public Holiday	29 ReUpholstery Workshop at Anamata 10-3 Sign-up required to info@anamta.nz	30	31 Small Island, Big Ideas Outside In at 6:30pm on AoteaFM	01 NOVEMBER Hatha Yoga 10am Glenfern	02 Yoga 10am Tryphena Hall Growers and Makers Market 10am CCC Meet the Author Des Casey Details below
03	04 Gentle Yoga 10am Tryphena Hall	05	06	07 Small Island, Big Ideas Outside In: Finale 6:30pm on AoteaFM	08 Hatha Yoga 10am Glenfern	09 Yoga 10am Tryphena Hall Jon TooGood Last of the Lonely Gods Tour Barrier Social Club 4pm
10 Grow Food Aotea Workshop Winter Resilience Storage Crop Garden Full Details Below	11 Gentle Yoga 10am Tryphena Hall Deadline for submissions for next issue of Aotea Advocate 10am	12	13	14 Issue 14 Available	15 Hatha Yoga 10am Glenfern	16 Yoga 10am Try Hall Sun 17 Native Seaweed Workshop w/ Wendy Nelson 10a-2p Email ecologyvisiongbi@gmail.com to sign up

FIND THE FULL EVENTS CALENDAR ONLINE AT WWW.GREATBARRIER.CO.NZ/EVENTS

CLARIS SPORTS CLUB

LABOUR WEEKEND MARKET DAY

SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER 10AM

WEEKEND MARKET DAY

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To make a stall booking phone the Club on 09 4290 260 / 027 0260 9400 OR email clarisclub@xtra.co.nz

GROW FOOD AOTEA PRESENTS

SUMMER HOME GARDEN WORKSHOPS WITH TUTOR CAITY ENDT

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

This hands-on, informative workshop covers: what chickens need, costs and benefits, free ranging, growing greens and sprouts for food, chook-made compost, ideas for building a laying box and roosting house

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

This hands-on, informative workshop covers: Kumara, pumpkins, buttercups, cupola squash, and onions; best varieties for Aotea, sowing, pricking out, growing on and planting, bed prep, feeding the soil, using mulch, compost, organic ferds, inoculants, companion planting, pests and diseases and seed saving.

Morning tea and refreshments provided.

Full details at Grow Food Aotea Facebook page
Bookings essential. \$20 each, 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

Nature's Future Our Future

Missing Links and Workable Solutions

MEET THE AUTHOR!
Morning tea with Des Casey
11am Saturday 2 November
Schoolmaster's House, Claris

ESSAYS BY DES CASEY

OVER AND OUT CONTINUED

Their numerous skills and competencies, too long to list.

Always first up and out to any incident whatever the time day or night.

The genuine care and respect they have given to our community is immeasurable.

Their dedication and kindness to our community, always going the extra mile beyond the call of duty.

They will be missed and as sad as we are to see them go, the time is right for them to now retire.

For those of us who have chosen to make the island our home there is an appreciation that although the island can at times be a hard place to live it is an even harder place to leave and with that Kylie and Roger on behalf of Aotea/Great Barrier all the best for what lays a head and Thank you for all the years of hard work and the legacy you leave behind.

Arohanui

Words by Cushla Buchanan & Izzy Fordham



PUBLIC LETTER FROM ROGER & KYLIE BRIGHT (POSTED ON BARRIER CHITCHAT)

"Felt absolutely compelled to publish this heartfelt notice to the best community in the country.

To those that attended our farewell and those who put in their apologies, to those that have approached us on the streets, in the cafes or other local businesses while we have been out and about... thank you so much for all your kind words of thanks and appreciation. Kylie and I have given almost half our lives (which really puts it into perspective for us) to policing and looking after our local friends/whanau/family/acquaintances and community locals and visitors alike.

Can't honestly say we have enjoyed every minute of it because we are that agency that usually ends up dealing with the sad and unpleasant jobs that someone has to do. But apart from those jobs, have really enjoyed helping our community, through thick and thin, through the good times and sad and everything in between.

To have been allowed to become integral parts of so many other groups and agencies, to offer our personal and professional skills to such an awesome community has been our pleasure for the last almost 26 years.

We have learnt so much ourselves and will definitely take those learnings with us as we move on to different things in different places.

I / we have no doubt that the island is being left in very capable policing hands with Andy and Ding starting at various times in October, so please make them feel as welcome as you have made us and our families feel.

If we don't get the opportunity over the next two weeks to personally say goodbye to you all, please accept this posting as that farewell as well.

Take care of each other, stay safe and we will no doubt see some of you at some point when we return to the island in due course for a holiday in order to truly enjoy the beauty the island holds.

Ngā mihi nui ki Aotea

Roger and Kylie"



KAITOKE SCHOOL & AOTEA LEARNING HUB COLLABORATION

Kaitoke School, in collaboration with the Aotea Learning Hub, has received notification from the Charter School Establishment Board that they have been approved to advance to Stage 2 in their bid to become a composite charter school. This initiative aims to provide seamless education for students aged 5 to 18 years.

Charter schools are essentially state-funded schools that operate independently from the traditional education system. They receive bulk funding, allowing them greater flexibility in resource allocation, staffing, and curriculum design to meet the unique needs of their students and communities.

Driven by recommendations from the Ministry of Education, the Board of Trustees for Kaitoke School and the Aotea Education Trust Learning Hub, alongside management, staff, and parents, we have agreed to progress this application.

Importantly, it has been confirmed by the Charter School Establishment Board that transitioning to a charter model will not affect the financial assistance available to families choosing to send their children off-island for secondary education. Consequently, all trustees of the Kaitoke Board and four members of the Aotea Education Trust Board have agreed to support this proposal as sponsors.

Substantial work is still underway in the Stage 2 application process, with the Charter School Establishment Board actively refining the required policies, processes, and government legislation.

While we anticipate updates on successful applications in early November, we must also prepare for the possibility that our application may not be approved.

Kaitoke School and the Learning Hub have experienced fluctuations in funding and enrolments over the past year, making it challenging to maintain consistent staffing and resourcing.

In response, the Ministry of Education extended the Learning Hub's funding agreement on a short-term basis until March 2025, leaving it vulnerable to closure. After exploring various funding options, the Ministry suggested that a charter model might suit our unique circumstances. Following thorough investigation, we found this approach to be both viable and promising. If approved, the establishment of a composite charter school will be a significant milestone for the island, introducing secondary education and enhancing opportunities for local students.

While the day-to-day operations of Kaitoke School will largely remain the same, the transition to a charter model will allow for more learning opportunities, including the retention of current staff and fully registered teachers. It also opens the possibility of employing additional staff to deliver specialist subjects like Te Reo, The Arts, and Physical Education.

As students advance to the senior school, individual learning pathways will be developed, focusing on delivering the New Zealand Curriculum alongside the necessary NCEA

unit standards. This will include an increased emphasis on both academic and hands-on learning experiences relevant to students' chosen career pathways and passions.

By prioritising the strategic use of bulk funding, under a strong management and governing sponsor team, Kaitoke School aims to enhance its educational offerings, better address unique challenges, and prepare students for success in a rapidly changing world. This model empowers us to create a responsive and effective learning environment for the best possible outcomes for its students.

We will be holding a community hui on Thursday 24 October at 5pm at Kaitoke School.

If you have any questions or queries in the meantime, or that you would like addressed at the meeting, please email

questions@kaitoke.school.nz

Words by Kaitoke School.

Drone Photo: ©Rylie Arnell



COMMUNITY FOCUS

AOTEA FM LAUNCH NEW BREAKFAST SHOW

Aotea fm
GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

BROADCASTING FROM 7AM EVERYDAY

TUNE IN 94.6 | 104 | 107FM

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Introducing Jarvis, Linda and Lynda, your 'Breakfast Show' hosts, getting you up and out of bed every week day morning from 7:15am - 8:30am

Local news, events and updates, along with all the tunes to get you moving and some helpful gardening tips, handy hints & fun facts.

If you would like anything read out on the show, email us on radio@aoteafm.nz, message us through messenger or call 09 4290 945.

See you at breakfast!



MARY SPACAPAN EXHIBITION

Born to US-Canadian Kanien'kehá:ka, Mohawk parents, Mary first immigrated to Aotearoa New Zealand when she was six years old. She returned to the United States with her family, where she later completed a BFA from Columbia, Chicago. Later migrating to California — and finally home to Aotearoa.

E mihi ana ia ki ngā mana whenua. Mary believes it right to acknowledge her place in Aotearoa is upheld by her commitment to te Tiriti o Waitangi and sustained through the friendship of many. Mary operates alongside local and national peacemakers around matters of reconciliation. Her work carefully considers the role and responsibility of the 'witness,' and explores what it means to invoke memory, serve, and tend to the dynamic nature of the whenua, both land and body, with generational vision.

SOUND

In her ongoing exploration of the animated nature of the whenua, Mary Spacapan's new work, reflective of her time at Orama, Aotea, seeks to understand mark making as a visual expression of sound. Sound transports energy from one location to another, without transporting matter. Since sound waves carry a tiny negative mass, when in the presence of a gravitational field their trajectory bends upwards. This is found representationally within her work by the upward slant of her tools.

With her ear to the ground, postured in the way of her tūpuna, ancestral wisdom hums forth a heartbeat from the whenua. In reflection of mutuality, fellow indigenous



North American, Robin Wall Kimmerer in *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*, writes, 'Isn't this the way we love, the way love propels our own unfolding? We are shaped by our affinity for love, expanded by its presence and shrunken by its lack.'

Words by Aotea Arts & History Village

SPEED BY EXAMPLE

For many years now, people in the community, with the support of the local board, have been advocating for safer speeds on our roads. Being essentially an "open rural road", the default limit across the island has always 100km/h, apart from near our two marae (where limits of 30- 40km were put in place in 2022).

Now, some of you may say that's ideal – no rules, no limits; all up to our discretion. But it does mean our roads aren't as safe as they could be.

Data collected outside our three schools during a 7-day period in June, for example, found people driving near our tamariki's places of learning at anywhere from 70 to NINETY kilometres an hour. This leaves both staff and parents on edge.

As an example of other locations, just past the Burga Shak (heading north), 190 cars were recorded going over 70 km/hr, with 37 travelling over 80 km/hr.

So last week, new limits were signed off for Aotea.

60km/h will be the new base speed limit on all our roads, with a 40 km/h limit in "high pedestrian activity" areas, including Tryphena, Claris, Medlands, Okupu, Okiwi, Fitzroy and Whangaparapara. The changes will come into effect before the end of November.

Local Board chair Izzy Fordham: "Lower speeds through our villages will make it safer for everyone, including pedestrians and those accessing local businesses."

Board member and transport lead Patrick O'Shea: "The roads got sealed, the fleet got larger, and the cars got faster. And the island changed pace. Even if you are against slowing down, I hope that this initiative will make you think 'why am I in such a rush?' And to those cruising around on island time, you shouldn't notice a thing. We hope to keep people safe and prevent tragedy within our small community."

Further details of exactly what speeds will apply where will be released in due course.

Words by Kathy Cumming. Community Broker

HONOURS AWARDED AT FENZ AGM

The New Zealand Fire Brigades Long Service and Good Conduct Medal were awarded at our fire brigade AGM that was held on 26 September at the Claris Club.

New Zealand Fire Brigades' Long Service and Good Conduct Medal is a meritorious and long-service award for operational members of recognised fire services in New Zealand who have completed 14 years of service and whose conduct is of such good standard to warrant the medal.

These awards were presented by Chief Fire Officer - Wayne Anderson and our Group Manager from Counties Manukau - Mr. Chris Delfos

Awarded to:

Murray Willis

Jan Willis

Kylie Bright

Roger Bright

Cushla Buchanan

Wayne Sanderson



Photo: Murray & Jan Willis.

Then there was the honours from the UFBA (United Fire Brigades Association) of NZ – The UFBA NZ represent and provide services to over 690 different brigades from urban, rural, career, volunteer, defence, airport and industry brigades.

This recognises the contribution to fire and emergency services in our communities. Service honours have been awarded since the UFBA was founded in 1878 and are exclusive to our members. They reflect their commitment and our appreciation for what they have achieved.

These medals were presented by UFBA representative David Lattimore.

Murray Willis - 29 years of service - 3 year certificate, 5 year silver medal, 9 bars for silver medal, 25 year gold star

Jan Willis - 19 years of service - 3 year certificate, 5 year silver medal, 6 bars for silver medal.

Cushla Buchanan - 22 years of service - 3 year certificate, 5 year silver medal, 8 bars for silver medal.

Wayne Sanderson - 22 years of service - 3 year certificate, 5 year silver medal, 8 bars for silver medal.

Roger Bright - 22 years of service - 3 year certificate, 5 year silver medal, 8 bars for silver medal.

Kylie Bright - 20 years of service - 3 year certificate, 7 year silver medal, 8 bars for silver medal.

Words by Nick Yates. Photo: Izzy Fordham

COMMUNITY FOCUS

GARDEN PEST MANAGEMENT WITH CAITY ENDT

This article introduces you to a very useful approach to pest and disease management in your home garden - 'Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

This environmentally and ecologically sound approach to pest management arose in the 80's as a reaction against the indiscriminate use of pesticides in agriculture and horticulture. In those days pesticides would be calendar sprayed - meaning on a particular date, the chemical was sprayed irrespective of whether there was a high density or low density of the pest. Often the sprays were broad spectrum, killing and affecting far more living things than were actually causing the problem and in turn caused even more problems. Think DDT.

Sadly, a lot of home gardeners have grown up with the same "spray it/kill it" mentality- just look at the garden aisles in the hardware shops, garden centres and even supermarkets! Full of some pretty nasty chemicals, and the instructions so small you need a magnifying glass to read them.

Although IPM was developed for large scale food production, it is very applicable on the home garden scale too.

IPM rests of four principles:

- (1) Maximising plant health and therefore improve pest/disease resistance by paying attention to how, when and where you grow your crops.
- (2) Use of barriers and mechanical prevention
- (3) Use of biological control
- (4) Using chemicals only as a last resort in very specific situations

Observation

IPM relies on first of all being observant in your garden. Notice pests - are they causing significant damage? That means actually

being able to recognise those pests and understanding their life cycles! Once you understand their life cycles and also know about their natural predators and parasites in the environment that already exist, or the conditions that favour that pest or disease, you can already start to change things in favour of the beneficials/health. Keeping a garden journal can also help you to keep track of things you have done and their effects.

Step 1: Maximise health!

The first principle is to grow healthy plants. Healthy plants are more resistant.

Seasonality: Know when and where to plant each type of vegetable. Remember that different varieties of the same vegetable can be suited to different times of year.

Where to plant: Full sun? Partial sun? Full shade? Aspect? Shelter from wind? Use companion plants to create the right environment.

Spacing: Especially important in a wet/humid season: overcrowding your plants can encourage foliar diseases.

Watering: Too much or too little can kill plants - especially important in a greenhouse situation.

Understand & work on your soil: Some crops need much richer soil. Use of compost will both feed and inoculate your soil with beneficial microbes.

Right variety: Use varieties of plants that are resistant to pests and diseases that are prevalent in your garden and area.

Step 2: Habitat manipulation & mechanical barriers

For example, planting shelter will reduce wind stress. Insect mesh can be used to protect vegetables susceptible to psyllids.

Mulching under fruit trees can disrupt the

life cycles of the bronze beetle. Beer traps for slugs, rat traps and bird netting are other interventions.

Step 3: Biological control

Encourage natural predators and parasites of the pests that bother us, such as aphids, caterpillars and green vegetable bugs. Plant flowers who offer easy access to nectar to attract parasitic and predatory wasps. The added bonus is that flowers are beautiful, often edible and smell amazing - food for the soul!

Organic matter mulch will encourage beneficial fungi in the soil which will protect the plant roots from pathogens.

Beneficial predators can also be added directly such as Tamarixia wasp for controlling psyllid.

Step 4: The very last resort - Chemical control - but there are natural options available.

Neem has an active ingredient called azarodactin which discourages sucking insects such as the green vegetable bug, aphids and whitefly. Homemade soap & oil sprays can be used too.

Caution: just because a chemical is natural doesn't mean it is necessarily harmless.

Pyrethrum: Broad spectrum insecticide - will kill every insect that comes in contact with it so should only ever be used when it is guaranteed that no other beneficial will come in contact with it. Spraying it at dusk is generally more safe.

Other examples of "natural" pest control products which have a broad spectrum effect include derris dust, nicotine based products which paralyse the nervous system of insects, and Yates "Success" based on spinosad. My recommendation: Do not use.

Words by Caity Endt, Food Resilience Coordinator

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE

Anamata has been working hard to expand the range of construction materials we can divert away from landfill and into recycling.

Below is a current list of what you can drop off to us at Anamata.

Small charges for:

- ◇ GIB off-cuts: new, dry. \$0.20/kg
- ◇ Garden/green waste: no stumps or soil. Various fees.

And the following at no charge, if in acceptable, clean condition:

- ◇ GIB whole: large, dry pieces
- ◇ Timber/ply: clean, de-nailed, over 500mm
- ◇ Building wrap: no4 (LDPE)
- ◇ Plumbing fittings
- ◇ Cardboard & paper: dry, unmixed
- ◇ All metals: rust okay, includes electrical cable/wire
- ◇ Insulation: large pieces, dry, good condition
- ◇ Carpet: wool, all conditions. Synthetic - large, good quality only
- ◇ Polystyrene: white polystyrene - tape removed
- ◇ Food waste: not mixed with other waste
- ◇ Household recyclables

Anamata is now accepting



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Anamata
RESOURCE RECOVERY

For recycling, it is really important not to put coffee cups, food wrappers, or leftover food in the same bin as your building waste - please keep these in a separate bin or bag.

If you have a building site and would like a food scraps bin to keep food scraps separate, please contact us at Anamata.

If you are building on Aotea, and we haven't been in touch with you yet - please reach out! We are here to help make things easier for you on your building/demolition site, and we'd love to keep you in the loop with any updates.

Email: info@anamata.nz

Text/call: 0220944951

SMALL ISLAND, BIG IDEAS

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EIGG, SCOTLAND - COMMUNITY BUYOUT
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WHERE TO LISTEN:

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NEW GARAGE DOOR SERVICING

Greetings,

Recently, I had the wonderful pleasure of visiting Great Barrier Island for the first time, this visit left me with an absolute feeling of relaxation, isolation, and an idyllic picture that I hold in my head for those mental holidays back at the office!

Coincidentally, there was a gentleman that needed some advice/ work on his garage door/ automation. I visited his property and offered some friendly advice and was stunned to find the amount of corrosion present that had effected the operation and cycling of his garage door. I also visited another friend of his who had installed a couple of roller doors himself... some more friendly suggestions were offered! Needless to say, there was a need for a service I thought.

Bad door hardware can have detrimental effects on the operation and automation.

We (The Chamberlain Group) design and manufacture brands such as Merlin and Grifco and know firsthand the effects of badly balanced doors and the effects of air borne salt on our electronics. Our gate automation electronics are especially vulnerable to the elements and insect infestations.

A typical sectional door has parts that need replacing / servicing at certain intervals such as: Cables, Torsion Springs, Bearing plates, hinges, tracks, torsion poles and more. These items require professional know how and expertise.

We are happy to provide you with a professional service for the supply, installation, and service of all your garage door and gate automation requirements. We would be happy to visit the Island bi monthly if the work was there. (and the fish obviously!), to carry out any necessary repairs and servicing as required.

As this would be a new service for our company, the idea would be that you contact us and we would schedule that work within a specified week that fits.

Rodger Bowring

Country Manager - New Zealand
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BIRD AVERSION SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER

9 - 10AM OKIWI AIRSTRIP

11.30 - 12.30PM OKUPU BEACH

1 - 2 PM MEDLANDS CAMPGROUND

2.30 - 3.30PM SUNKEN ROCK SAILING CLUB, PURIRI BAY



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Send us an email on AoteaAdvocate@gmail.com

NATURE & ENVIRONMENT NOTICES



JEWELS OF AOTEA

Conservation week is over for 2024, but the treasure is still out there! If you are looking for a fun activity leading into summer and beyond, this could be just the ticket for both young and old. No better reason to spend some time outdoors.

'Jewels of Aotearoa', is a project created for the Aotearoa community and island visitors to record the native and endemic species they see. Part citizen science and part education, this project aims to connect people with nature and showcase the incredible taonga species that call Aotearoa home.

In particular, species like korimako (bellbird), kākārīki and pekapeka (long-tailed bat) are species that are either visitors or present in small pockets on the island but are not known to be widely spread.

Long term, the observations from this project could help to map species re-establishment and dispersal across the motu and provide valuable guidance for conservation and restoration projects. GIS-based ecosystem tools are increasingly used to protect and enhance biodiversity, and now you can be part of it.

Nature treasure hunts are a fun learning activity for young and old, as they create a sense of adventure while building knowledge and helping people engage with the environment in their own backyard.

Visit <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/jewels-of-aotearoa> and join the project to start recording your observations.

Before exploring Aotearoa, remember to check your gear for pests, and clean your footwear to remove dirt and seeds.

Good luck on your treasure hunt.

WAR ON CLIMBING ASPARAGUS



A reminder to for locals and visitors to keep an eye out for Climbing Asparagus also known as Asparagus fern, *Mesophyllum scandens* which is starting to come into flower. There are now 4 known infestations on Aotearoa and it's a weed we want to keep out. It smothers native vegetation and prevents seedling establishment. Reduces native plant abundance and species richness and facilitates weed invasion. It may also increase erosion through canopy loss. With Aotearoa's regenerating nature this weed poses a huge threat to the Island.

WILDING PINES

Aotearoa is renowned for its stunning landscapes and unique biodiversity, but the spread of wilding conifers and other pest plant species poses a significant threat to its natural ecosystems. If you want to play a part in the fight against wilding pines and other pest plants on the Motu, Auckland Council has the tools and resources needed to protect and enhance your piece of paradise. We currently have everything from electric drills and drench packs for drill and fill control, a variety of manual tools including weed bags and cut and paste options. We are happy to give you onsite advice on how to get started.

You can find more about the Aotearoa Conifer Programme story in the video link:

www.tinyurl.com/AotearoaConifer

Contact: pestfree@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz for more info.

Words by Nik Erikson, Senior conservation advisor. Auckland Council



BIRD COUNT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Take part in Aotearoa'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.

HAWKSBILL TURTLE BEACHED ON AOTEAROA

A hawksbill sea turtle found alive on Ōkupe beach, Aotearoa/Great Barrier Island, has been urgently flown to Auckland Zoo for medical attention, where it remains critically ill. Locals Karen Lombard and Fraser Munroe came across the live sea turtle and alerted the DOC staff member Sarah Dwyer, who sprang into action for the protected species.

"Sea turtles forage around New Zealand but do not nest here. We hear about sightings in the water every summer around Aotearoa, but their presence on land is normally an indication of poor health. That's why we don't try to refloat turtles, but instead take them into care for a medical assessment.

"A huge thank you to Karen and Fraser for their quick response and transporting the turtle to us at the airport. We ensured it was dry, to avoid any further heat loss, and comfortable in a crate. We got it on the first flight to Auckland mainland and into the expert care of Auckland Zoo's veterinary team," says Sarah. "While this hawksbill has no external injuries, it is extremely underweight and remains in a critical condition, so its future remains uncertain," says Auckland Zoo vet, Dr Adam Naylor.

"We are administering supportive treatments, such as intravenous fluids, and given its low body temperature, slowly and very carefully increasing the water temperature of its tank to the preferred optimal temperature range for this species."

Rodney Ngawaka, a kaumatua of Ngāti Rehua-Ngātiwai ki Aotearoa says spring brings in many species, but a turtle is unusual for Aotearoa.

"We see tohorā (whales), whai repo (rays), manu (birds) all moving into these waters, Te Moananui ō Toi Te Huatahi, through the mauri of our currents and winds during this time of year. These invisible lines guide relationships that are thousands of years old, but it's unusual to see a honu (turtle). It has possibly come into this beach from the water space of the Waitemata, Tikapa Moana. "This taonga is a gift and it's our responsibility to stay connected to it's future."

If you spot turtles on the beach or see beached whales or dolphins, call 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468) and follow the advice. Words by Department of Conservation

BIRD AVERSION TRAINING LABOUR WEEKEND

Bird Aversion Training is taking place on Aotearoa this Labour Weekend on Sunday 27 October in Ōkiwi, Ōkupu, Medlands and Tryphena. Bird Aversion Training can minimise the threat of dogs injuring or killing native birds. Like people, some dogs learn faster than others... You can teach an old dog new tricks – but it may take a little longer, so even if your dog has had training before, we encourage you to put them through again this session.

It's nesting time!

With the arrival of Spring, shorebirds like our northern NZ dotterels, banded dotterels and variable oystercatchers are starting to nest on our beaches. When nesting, our shorebird populations are even more vulnerable to disturbance and predation.

As the weather warms up and as families and sometimes pets head off to the beach, now is a good time to remember that dogs – even the smallest family poodle – can be a deadly threat to birds. An exploratory grab can crush the fragile bones of a bird's chest, even if the dog is 'retrieving' rather than trying to kill. So, what can we do to protect our feathered friends?

Stay below the hide-tide mark

A simple but also extremely important tip; nests are often hard to see, and usually consist of little more than a scrape in the sand. Keeping below the high-tide mark

eliminates the risk of trampling them or having your dog disturb or destroy them.

Stay outside fenced off and signed areas

You might find that some areas around our shores are fenced off. This fencing is to make people aware that shorebirds are nesting within the area and to avoid any disturbance. This is an easy way to play your part in protecting these birds.

Bird behaviour

Nesting parents often display signs of a 'broken wing' and attempt to lure you away from the nest. This display is usually accompanied by loud alarm calls to get your attention, and some species will dive-bomb intruders. It is best to retreat from the area until the birds stop reacting, watching carefully where you step.

Follow dog access rules

There are many Aotearoa beaches that allow dogs on or off lead.

Visit: www.tinyurl.com/AotearoaDogs to find out where you can and can't take your dog. Even a dog's presence within 200 metres of a nest can cause distress, so if you can, it is safer to keep your dog on a leash.

For more tips about responsible dog ownership on Aotearoa visit:

www.tinyurl.com/AotearoaDogOwnership

See advert to the left for details.

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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!

1. FIND IT
2. RECORD IT



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