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## TOITŪ TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

The community gathered in Rarohara / Port FitzRoy on Thursday 6 February to celebrate Waitangi day 2025 on Aotea, led and organised by Te Motu O Aotea, Māori Womens Welfare League.

The day started with a hiko from the Orama turn-off down to the wharf led by Nancy Tait and the Māori Womens Welfare League. Over a hundred people gathered with placards and red, black and white Tino Rangatira flags and He Whakaputanga flags to join the hiko, accompanied by the police, FENZ and health and safety volunteers.

The signing of the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi - New Zealand's founding document, has been commemorated as a public holiday since 1974. A multi-day celebration is held at the Waitangi grounds and smaller events like this one on Aotea are held around the country.

The hiko arrived at the reclamation to a pōwhiri from kaumatua and kuia of Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea. Hope Munro and Loma Cleave performed the karanga (the summon), with five kaikaranga from the league, four of whom stepped up to do the karanga for the first time.

Kaumatua Syd Davies began with an opening karakia followed by a mihi by Jeff Cleave to welcome everyone. We also had a brief kōrero from Fletcher Beazley, the new chair of Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust board and new DOC Operations manager.

The reclamation was bustling, filled with market stalls including skincare enterprise Aio Tallow from Dominique Macdonald, artist works by Jade Beazley, natural healing products and practice Te Ao Haurongo by Fleur Winger and Phoebe Ngawaka, art and jewelry by Maia Jenner, Crystals by Collete, clothes stalls and more.

The kai did not disappoint with the Burger Shack seeing a revival for the day, serving mussel fritters on delicious homemade fresh bread and steak, eggs and onion in homemade rolls.

Tū Mai Taonga, mana whenua lead pest eradication project, had a stand sharing about their work. Toitū Aotea, the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea community lead development project facilitated by Sacha Eddington, were taking ideas from people for new community lead initiatives, enterprises and small business ideas that could benefit the community in the north and the whole of Aotea.

The Māori Womens Welfare League put together an amazing art auction with works gifted from Helen McLorinan, Maia Jenner, Paula Williams, Mairehau Cleave, Jade Beazley, Chrissy Christie, Loma Cleave, Helena O'shea, Joelene Nepia, Lynette Lyttle and Makere Jenner. *Continued inside...*

*Photos: Top left: The hiko begins. Bottom left: The pūkana competition. Right: Rosa & Ellie with a Placard explaining the meaning of the Tino Rangatiratanga flag.*

## SUMMER PRINT SCHEDULE

Looking to make a submission or advertise? Email us on [AoteaAdvocate@gmail.com](mailto:AoteaAdvocate@gmail.com)

Next Submission Deadline: 17 March by 10am

Next Issue Available: 20 March





## TOITŪ TE TIRITI O WAITANGI CONTINUED...

A raffle to raise funds for the board to attend the Māori womens welfare league national conference did not disappoint - with incredible hampers filled with local skincare products, local merchandise and items gifted from NZ made brands.

Kiri Toki, Ōkiwi kura alumni, Indigenous rights lawyer and daughter of Valmaine Toki (previous local board member) alongside Kelly Klink (Cultural historian) took to the stage to kōrero about the basic principles, visions and historical content of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

"It is a beautiful document of hope, it makes Aotearoa unlike any other nation on the planet - it's vision should be celebrated."

"A blueprint for how Māori and the British colony were to work together, setting out a bicultural foundation. We are multicultural, but a bicultural nation which is unique and puts us on the world stage".

"Sometimes people get a little bit scared about what the treaty means to them, Māori grievances are with the Crown, not pākehā, Māori are not trying to take things away from them."

Kiri broke down some of the common misconceptions around sovereignty and rangatiratanga and encouraged people to read more than just the treaty and delve deeper into the kōrero and dialogue that took place across the table on the day of the signing of the Treaty in 1840.

Outlining that the kōrero is highly relevant and the intention clearly was a beautiful vision for the modern state of New Zealand, bringing two people together to create a new country where the strengths of two peoples could be harnessed - a true unification of two peoples.

Kiri's vision for Aotea as a community was clear and heartfelt. Reflecting on examples of where the community and mana whenua have worked and fought together, such as in the case of the marine dumping.

"We have such an amazing community, such amazing potential to create something truly beautiful. We all care for this island. We all care about its wellbeing. We all want to leave it in the best place for our tamariki and our descendants. I truly believe we could be an example for the rest of the country, showing what a treaty compliant community looks like. We are quite different and we have that opportunity".

Then, for the fun finale of the day - the infamous pūkana competition. The line up was strong, with a guest appearance from ex TV3 presenter Mike McRoberts, tamariki making their pūkana debut, ever the competitor Evander Sykes and pūkana competition expert Jeremiah Ngawaka.

And of course, all great days at Rarohara are concluded with excited, joy-filled tamariki doing manu's off the wharf - getting in some good practice for the AFSG Manu comp on the 22 February!

Kiri Toki also joined Tim Higham on Aotea FM on Monday morning and explained more about how Te Tiriti and the history of Ngāti Rehua provide the Island with an exciting future.

**You can catch up on this interview on the Spotify Island Stories podcast:**

[tinyurl.com/aoteafmislandstories](https://tinyurl.com/aoteafmislandstories)

**or on the Aotea FM website:**

[www.aoteafm.nz](http://www.aoteafm.nz)



Māori Womens Welfare League leading the hīkoi



Art auction



Kuia Hope Munro & Loma Cleave

## KAIĀRAHI RANGATAHI PROGRAMME: THE HANGOUT CREW

### What is the Kaiārahi Rangatahi Programme (KRP)?

The Kaiārahi Rangatahi Programme (KRP) is an initiative from the Aotea Family Support Group, dedicated to empowering young people (12-21 years) on our island.

We take a holistic approach to support rangatahi in building confidence, finding a sense of belonging, and fostering mental well-being. Our focus is on encouraging education engagement, strengthening healthy relationships, and providing pathways to employment and life skills.

### How We Run the Programme

At KRP, our Kaiārahi (youth leaders) work closely with rangatahi and their whānau, offering one-on-one outreach, guidance, and support. We hold weekly activities outside of the Learning Hub hours—these include youth group meet-ups, sports, art sessions, community volunteering, and group workshops focused on Hauora (health and well-being). We also offer transport to make sure rangatahi can join in.

### Meet Our Aotea Youth Workers for 2025: Ebony Mercedes Kite-Bell and Bryce McKenzie



### Got Questions?

If you'd like more info about the programme, feel free to reach out to our Youth Coordinator, Ebony Kite-Bell at [ebony.kite-bell@aoteafamilysupport.co.nz](mailto:ebony.kite-bell@aoteafamilysupport.co.nz) or call (09 4290 465). For general queries, you can contact our AFSG General Manager, Beverly Slater at [beverly.slater@aoteafamilysupport.co.nz](mailto:beverly.slater@aoteafamilysupport.co.nz).

### Looking Ahead to 2025

We're thrilled to continue this amazing mahi into 2025! We'd love to collaborate with local projects, activities, and events.

Any external support is always welcome.

If you'd like to support rangatahi on their journey through life, donations are gratefully accepted.

Donations can be made to Aotea Family Support Group. Bank Account:

12-30110476796-00

with Reference Code: KRP.





# FEB/MARCH EVENT CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
09	10	11	12	13 Somatic Movement Jam Night at The Currach	14 John Williams Celebration of Life 5:30pm at The Currach Moon Walk with Good Heavens   Details Online	15 <b>Everybody's Market</b> 10am-1pm   Arts & History Village   Claris
16 <b>James Malcolm</b> Lead singer of Cosha & Barefeet live at Aotea Brewing 3-6pm	17 <b>Island Screens Returns!</b> "Aftersun" 7:15pm   BSC Moon Walk with Good Heavens   Full details at goodheavens.co.nz	18 <b>Art Exhibition On</b> Peter Edmonds & Fenella Christian "New Works" Claris Art Gallery Runs till 2 March	19 Yoga with Linda Powers   9am Tryphena Hall or 1pm Claris Conference <b>Look Up &amp; Get Lost</b> with Good Heavens Book at goodheavens.co.nz	20 Somatic Movement Jam Night at The Currach	21 Hatha Yoga   10am Glenfern <b>Look Up &amp; Get Lost</b> with Good Heavens Book at goodheavens.co.nz	22 <b>Devonshire Teas</b> St. Johns Op Shop 10am-2pm Details inside <b>Manu Comp 12 pm   Port Fitzroy</b> Full details below
23 <b>Raupō Taranga</b> with Rodney Ngawaka at Glenfern   10-3pm Bring a picnic Full Details Inside	24 Gentle Yoga 10am   Tryphena Hall <b>Island Screens</b> "Lee" Biography of Lee Miller 7:15pm   BSC	25 <b>Local Board Ordinary Business Meeting</b>   1pm   CCC Any enquiries to: AoteaGreatBarrierLocalBoard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz	26 <b>Look Up &amp; Get Lost</b> with Good Heavens Book at goodheavens.co.nz	27 Somatic Movement Jam Night at The Currach	28 Hatha Yoga   10am Glenfern <b>Look Up &amp; Get Lost</b> with Good Heavens Book at goodheavens.co.nz	1 <b>MARCH</b> <b>Growers and Makers Market</b> 9:30am CCC
02 <b>Look Up &amp; Get Lost</b> with Good Heavens Book at goodheavens.co.nz	03 Gentle Yoga 10am   Tryphena Hall Iyengar Yoga 5:30pm   CCC with Linda Powers <b>Island Screens</b> "Touch" 7:15pm   BSC	04 <b>Look Up &amp; Get Lost</b> with Good Heavens Book at goodheavens.co.nz	05 Yoga with Linda Powers   9am Tryphena Hall or 1pm Claris Conference	06 Somatic Movement & Mantra Meditation with Eunata   1.30-2.30   Tryphena Hall Jam Night at The Currach	07 Hatha Yoga   10am Glenfern Volunteer Morning 10am   Community Garden Medlands	08 Yoga   9am Try Hall
09	10 Gentle Yoga   10am Tryphena Hall Iyengar Yoga 5:30pm   CCC with Linda Powers	11 Yoga for Presence 5:30pm   Art Gallery Yoga 5:30pm at Okiwi kura	12 Yoga with Linda Powers   9am Tryphena Hall or 1pm Claris Conference	13 Somatic Movement & Mantra Meditation with Eunata   1.30-2.30   Tryphena Hall Jam Night at The Currach	14 Hatha Yoga   10am Glenfern Volunteer Morning 10am   Community Garden Medlands	15 Yoga   9am   Try Hall <b>Barrier Bush Pigs vs Katikati Stags Rugby Game</b> 2pm   Claris Sports Club
16	17 Gentle Yoga   10am Tryphena Hall Deadline for submissions for next issue of Advocate 10am	18 Yoga for Presence 5:30pm   Art Gallery Yoga 5:30pm at Okiwi kura	19 Yoga with Linda Powers   9am Tryphena Hall or 1pm Claris Conference	20 <b>Issue 18 Available</b> Jam Night at The Currach	21 Hatha Yoga   10am Glenfern Volunteer Morning 10am   Community Garden Medlands	22 Yoga   9am Try Hall

Yoga Class - details same as above or below

**WANT TO SUBMIT AN EVENT? EMAIL US AT AOTEAADVOCATE@GMAIL.COM**

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

**ISLAND SCREENS RETURNS FOR 2025**

**MONDAYS | 7:15 PM**

Entry is \$10 / \$15 cash on the door  
**ALL WELCOME**  
Come early for yummy meals from 5:30pm

WEEKLY FILM DETAILS ON CALENDAR AND ONLINE  
FACEBOOK: GBIISLANDSCREENS

**BARRIER SOCIAL CLUB**

**THE MANU COMP**

**22nd FEBRUARY 2025**  
**PORT FITZROY WHARF**  
**12PM ONWARDS**

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY  
**AOTEA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP**  
**KAIARAHU RANGATAHI**

THIS IS A WHANAU DAY OUT TO RAISE FUNDS TO FOR AN OFF ISLAND TRIP FOR OUR LOCAL YOUTH CREATING MEMORIES, NEW EXPERIENCES AND FOSTERING WHANAUNGATANGA!

**5\$ ENTRY**

**CATEGORIES**  
KIDS UP TO AGE 12  
YOUTH 12 - 17  
ADULTS 18+  
VETERANS! 50+  
BIGGEST SPLASH

**KAI AND MARKET STALLS**

BEST COSTUMES, CREATIVE JUMPFREESTYLE

PROUDLY AN ALCOHOL FREE AND ZERO WASTE EVENT!

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board

It's almost time for

**COUNCIL'S ANNUAL BUDGET CONSULTATION**

FEEDBACK OPEN 28 FEB - 28 MARCH

FREE BBQ AT GROWERS AND MAKERS MARKET 1 MARCH | 10AM AT CCC

**AK HAVE YOUR SAY**

Come & talk to local board members about regional & local priorities for the year

More details soon at akhaveyoursay.nz or call into the GBI service centre

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board



## DOG ACCESS RULE CHANGES

You'll have read in the last Advocate about proposed changes to Auckland Council dog access rules on the island. The proposals aim to strike a better balance between wildlife protection and fun times for mutts.

At the risk of oversimplifying them, they are:

1) to no longer allow any dogs south of Blackwell Drive on Pah Beach,

2) to extend the off-leash area of Gooseberry Flat up to Pah Point Reserve headland (so the off-leash zone will run from the playground north to the Pah Point headland), and

3) to establish an off-leash area in the Sandhills Reserve in Medlands.

Map of current rules in the Policy:



Map of change request:



Sound like a bit of you? Or not? Then please have your say.

The in person drop-in session with the local board has already happened, but you still have time to provide feedback online (just google "Have Your Say Auckland dog access rules") or grab a hard copy form at the service centre. The team at the service centre can also help you use the library computers to complete the online form. **Consultation closes 23 February.**

## CONNECTIVITY SURVEY

Back in 2018, the local board ran a survey about connectivity (phone and internet) on the island. The results of that survey fed into a report which showed the stark reality of living on Aotea - that we are plagued by black spots and bad connections. At the time, most of us had some sort of issue with connectivity, but many people had absolutely no connectivity at all.

We've come quite a way since then, with Starlink dishes now in place on many local roofs and lawns, and slightly improved cellular coverage, but the problem is far from solved.

Especially with the upcoming retirement of copper landlines, the local board wants to get a sense of where we are now. Have things improved? Has Starlink made a difference? Can we make calls and text from more places? Is summer still challenging in terms of internet speed? It has launched a new survey, and is encouraging everyone to fill it out, whether you're a one-time visitor to Aotea, part time

resident or here all year round. The results will inform the board about where it needs to put its focus.

The link to the survey is:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/5XLW3DR](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5XLW3DR)

It closes on Friday 21 February



## Have the control switch at your fingertips

Enjoy the benefits of a fully off-grid solar energy system

Find out more at [greenwoodenergy.co.nz](http://greenwoodenergy.co.nz)



### Need to talk?

Free in-person, phone or online counselling sessions are available for you and your whānau.

For appointments, please contact:

Youth & Whānau Counselling

Sam Grimshaw - 021 029 78608  
Margie Matthews - 021 496 620

Adult Counselling

Dione Davies -  
dione@aftertherain.co.nz  
Margie Matthews - 021 496 620

If you are in crisis, call 111 or text/call 1737

**Aotea fm**  
GREAT BARRIER ISLAND



BROADCASTING FROM 7AM EVERYDAY

TUNE IN 94.6 | 104 | 107FM

STREAM ONLINE @ AOTEAFM.NZ

FIND WEEKLY SCHEDULE ONLINE



560 Blind Bay Road **\$675,000**

4.2997ha with stunning views and quartz crystal vein. [www.barfoot.co.nz/897317](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/897317)

BARFOOT & THOMPSON

Call Mike or Karen, 021 825 826 / 021 765 776





## WHERE CAN I GET MY CAFFEINE FIX IN FEBRUARY?

As we shift out peak summer, here is a mini update of where and when you can grab a coffee...



### Pa Beach Cafe

Enjoy a coffee, brunch, pies and pastries in Pa Beach cafe's beautiful mini cottage garden.



Sunday & Monday: Closed

Tuesday - Saturday: 8am-2pm

\*Note: Closed from 15 February back open 21 February\*



### My Fat Puku

Also serving fresh fruit icecream, iced coffees, smoothies and a range of shakes.



Monday - Friday: 8:30am-2pm

Saturday & Sunday: 9am-2pm



### Aotea Roast - There's a new cuppa in town

Aotea Roast has opened their coffee roastery and café in Medlands at The Village alongside Aotea Brewery, Good Neighbours Food Truck & soon-to-be opened Motu Community Native Plant Nursery.

The roastery is firing freshly roasted beans throughout the week and serving up delicious coffee at their beautiful, central, outdoor location. Stop in and check it out, grab a morning snack from Good Neighbours and fill your cup. Coffee subscriptions are available at aotearoast.nz



Monday & Tuesday: 7am-11am Wednesday: Closed.

Thursday & Friday: 7am-11am Saturday & Sunday: 8am-12pm



### Baked on Barrier

Adrienne is back! Grab your early morning Claris coffee fix and fresh take out lunch options for the day.



Monday to Friday: 7:30am - 2pm

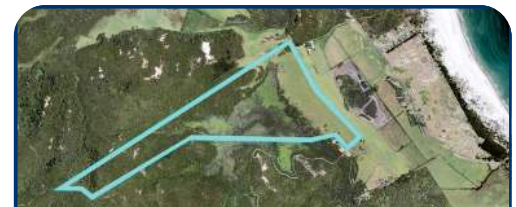


### Mulberry Grove Store

Coffee served all day. Fresh donuts from Pete Adams every Sunday.



7 days a week. 7am - 7pm



### For Tender - Lot 32, Kaitoke Lane

74.45 hectares: Location, beach views & subdivision potential. [barfoot.co.nz/902200](http://barfoot.co.nz/902200)

BARFOOT & THOMPSON

Call Mike or Karen, 021 825 826 / 021 765 776

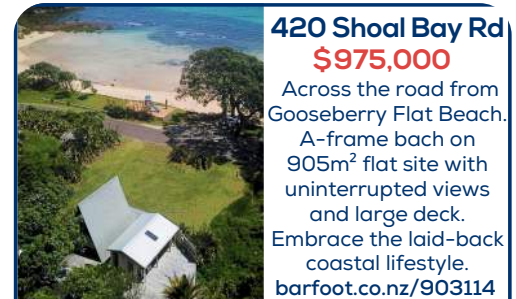
### Lot 2, Gray Road: Auction 5 March

10.9ha with direct access to Palmers Beach. Just breathtaking! [www.barfoot.co.nz/905010](http://www.barfoot.co.nz/905010)



BARFOOT & THOMPSON

Call Mike or Karen, 021 825 826 / 021 765 776



### 420 Shoal Bay Rd \$975,000

Across the road from Gooseberry Flat Beach.

A-frame bach on 905m<sup>2</sup> flat site with uninterrupted views and large deck. Embrace the laid-back coastal lifestyle.

[barfoot.co.nz/903114](http://barfoot.co.nz/903114)

BARFOOT & THOMPSON

Call Mike or Karen, 021 825 826 / 021 765 776

## DEVONSHIRE TEA CONTINUES AT MEDLANDS

Devonshire tea mornings at St John's Church and Opp shop in Medlands continue on Saturdays from 10am-2pm throughout February (and hopefully longer!)

Funds raised by from the mornings are going towards church maintenance and Opp Shop donations continue to be returned to groups and charitable trusts in the community. Volunteers are always needed - contact Caity Devey to find out more.



MEDLANDS  
ST. JOHN'S OP SHOP

*Thank you  
to everyone who  
donated items!*

We made \$5,517 over  
summer, which will go  
directly back to our  
community groups.



TENDER

### GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

1 ROSALIE BAY ROAD



### TENDER

2:00pm 27 Feb 2025 at 386 Beach Road,  
Mairangi Bay (Branch Office) (unless sold prior)

### VIEWING

Phone For Viewing Times

[barfoot.co.nz/905132](http://barfoot.co.nz/905132)

### Escape to Paradise on Great Barrier Island

Discover the ultimate coastal retreat where breathtaking views and outdoor adventures await. This unique property offers not one, but two incredible dwellings set on an expansive site with spectacular views over the bay, perfect for boating and laid-back island living.

Nadja Court  
021 777 690  
[n.court@barfoot.co.nz](mailto:n.court@barfoot.co.nz)



## A BIG THANK YOU FROM KAREN WALKER, GBI BIRD RESCUE

"A very big thank you to the community for the generous donations you have made to bird rescue. The money will be used to provide food and other necessities for sick, injured and baby birds brought to me."

*Karen Walker, GBI Bird Rescue.*



The Aotea Great Barrier Island Environmental Trust have set up a page for donations to be made to Karen to support her work across the island.

Funds go directly to pay for food and expenses to support Karen's volunteer work.

If you would like to donate, please visit:

[www.gbiet.org/donate-karen-walker](http://www.gbiet.org/donate-karen-walker)



## FOLLOWING OUR KĀKĀ

For most of us on Aotea, Great Barrier Island, regularly seeing kākā is par for the course, but this is not always the case. North Island kākā are considered 'at risk' (recovering), while South Island kākā are 'nationally vulnerable'. We are extremely lucky to be one of the remaining strongholds for this bird in New Zealand.

Over the last two years Windy Hill Sanctuary has teamed up with Landcare Research scientist, Neil Fitzgerald, to undertake a study on kākā dispersal and movements. The study is looking into how far kākā move from the nest they hatched in to where they themselves first breed (natal dispersal).



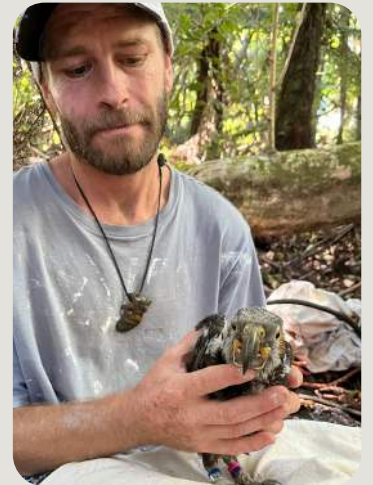
Ex-Windy Hill employee Henry Cookson with his dog Chase spent many hours locating new nests and using data from previous years nesting sites. He then marked the routes to each nest, established the time the birds are likely to fledge, and reported to Neil so that Landcare research could come in, which they did on two occasions, to band and put the transmitters on, with the help of Henry and current employee Paul Lee.

Nine chicks have been banded and fitted with 8 transmitters. While it may look uncomfortable for the bird, great care is taken to ensure minimal disturbance, and they are handled very gently. The linen thread that attaches the transmitter will eventually rot and allow the transmitter to fall off.

The transmitter pack is fitted with 4 tiny solar batteries that power the unit. Once the birds leave the nest the sun will charge the batteries, and the birds track logs will pop up on Neil's phone. They are hoping to track the birds for at least 3 years to see where they start breeding.

So where to from here? That is the question.

*Words by Windy Hill Sanctuary*



FOR SALE



FOR SALE

### GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

9 HARPOON HILL



FOR SALE

By Negotiation

VIEWING

Phone For Viewing Times

[barfoot.co.nz/904235](http://barfoot.co.nz/904235)

### Unique Family Home with Stunning Harbour Views

This extraordinary three-level octagonal home is nestled in a serene setting with wrap-around deck and breathtaking views of Whangaparapara Harbour. Incl a two-story cottage on the same title.

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[n.court@barfoot.co.nz](mailto:n.court@barfoot.co.nz)

### GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

167 SANDHILLS ROAD



FOR SALE

By Negotiation

VIEWING

Phone For Viewing Times

[barfoot.co.nz/898650](http://barfoot.co.nz/898650)

### Best Beach Front!

Medlands Beach, the most coveted location on Great Barrier Island, captures the very essence of summer. With its sparkling white sand, crystal-clear waters, and a world-class surf break, this is the ultimate setting for both adventure and relaxation.

Nadja Court  
021 777 690  
[n.court@barfoot.co.nz](mailto:n.court@barfoot.co.nz)



## MOTU KAIKOURA UPDATE - KĀKĀ COMMENTS NEWSLETTER

2024 was always going to be a challenging year for the Motu Kaikoura Trust.

Happily, thanks to support from DOC, Foundation North, Auckland Council and the Lottery Grants Board – and excellent team work by trustees and our dedicated ranger Clint Stannard, we came through. I might add – came through with flying colours.

Our major funding challenge, worrying as it was, turned out to have a positive side. The crisis was motivation for the Trust which has always preferred to keep a low profile – to get out and actively make our case, highlighting the conservation gains of our island restoration work over the past 20 years. Now conservation managers have a much greater awareness of the strategic value of ship-rat free Motu Kaikōura – and the negative consequences if this hard won achievement were allowed to become undone.

Our relationship with the tangata whenua Ngāti Rehua has always important for the Trust. Last year I met with old friend and the then chair of the Ngāti Rehua – Ngāti Wai ki AoteaTrust Board, Opo Ngawaka to brief him on our work. Opo has since stepped down to focus more on his conservation role so we greet the incoming NRNWKA Trust Board chair Fletcher Beazley and look forward to meeting him.

In December another comprehensive biological survey was undertaken by volunteer scientists, following on from the successful 2023 survey. These have added significantly to the records of the island's biota. Over the past year, thanks to generous grants from the Aotea – Great Barrier Local Board, ranger Clint Stannard has replaced the barn roof guttering thereby boosting the island's gravity-fed water supply, complementing our solar powered pump system. Clint has also comprehensively renovated the toilet and shower block and also added the finishing touches to the new Lodge by crafting his own stone-work steps at the main entrance. And as well as managing our rat control operation, including ongoing intensification, Clint has also upgraded the island's main walking tracks. Having come through a most difficult 18 months, we are greatly encouraged to begin 2025 with the island's built infrastructure in arguably the best shape it's ever been – and very ready to welcome visitors. Moreover armed with an inspiring plan to accelerate ecological restoration, work on the island (the 8th biggest in the Hauraki Gulf) which is already underway, we are beginning 2025 with a flying start.

*Motu Kaikoura Trust Chair, Mike Lee*

### Dropping in on the neighbours: meeting with Tū Mai Taonga

In November Motu Kaikoura Trust chair Mike Lee and island ranger Clint Stannard paid a courtesy call on the Port FitzRoy offices of Tū Mai Taonga and it's inspirational lead Makere Jenner. Tū Mai Taonga is a new conservation organization on Great Barrier proceeding under the leadership, guiding vision and tikanga of Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea. The project aims to protect and restore native species and ecosystems on Aotea through feral cat

removal and intensified rat control, initially in the Aotea Conservation Park and Northern Aotea area. It is also removing rats from the neighbouring Broken Islands. The meeting was a valuable opportunity for information sharing. Makere, Clint and Mike had a useful discussion on our common cause – island restoration. The Trust fully supports Tū Mai Taonga. A ship rat-free Motu Kaikōura is vital for safeguarding the success of Tū Mai Taonga's rat eradication work on the Broken Islands.



*Meeting with board members of Tū Mai Taonga in November. From left to right, Izzy Fordham, (chair Aotea-Great Barrier Local Board), Mike Lee (Motu Kaikoura Trust), Jim Wii, Maryilyn Stephens (Chair), Sue Daly, Kate Waterhouse & Opo Ngawaka (photo Makere Jenner)*

### Ablutions block transformed after major do up.

Visitors to Motu Kaikoura tend to be impressed with our rather splendid Lodge, built by the Trust and formally opened by former Minister of Conservation Hon Chris Carter in 2019. Alongside it, the ablutions block dating from the early 1980s has looked rather tired – and in need of a major upgrade. The spacious building, subdivided into female and male sections, featuring four showers and four toilets in each, plus a laundry area, is a very important visitor amenity. After a day volunteering or exploring the island, a hot shower is always appreciated.



Thanks to a generous grant from the Aotea-Great Barrier Local Board, a major renovation organized and to a large part carried out by our talented, multi-skilled ranger Clint Stannard in September. The building was gutted, its plumbing, fittings and fixtures, showers, toilets, hand basin replaced or renewed, re-lined and repainted, with new custom made vanities and benches installed, so as to transform it into a gleaming as-new facility – a fitting partner to the Lodge. Speaking of which as noted, Clint also crafted two large stonework steps at the Lodge entrance. Both facilities are ready to welcome our summer guests.

### Accommodation Rates:

15 years and under: \$20 per person per night.  
16 years old and older: \$40 per person per night.  
Children under 5: Free  
To book:  
[www.motukaikoura.org/index.php/accommodation/](http://www.motukaikoura.org/index.php/accommodation/)  
You can find the full newsletter with more details about the island's rat management and bio survey from 2024 at  
[www.motukaikoura.org](http://www.motukaikoura.org)

## 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](http://inaturalist.org)
- ✓ Join project 'Aotea High Risk Weeds'
- ✓ Identify and record your weedy find!



pestfree@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



## Raupō Taranga

Sunday Summer Series  
at Glenfern Sanctuary

with Rodney  
Ngawaka

10am-3pm

on the last Sunday of each month

Next Sessions:

Sun 23 Feb | Sun 30 Mar

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f Glenfern Sanctuary  
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# Kia ora Aotea!

## Let's talk about our community.

Get in touch about any local issues or if you need support. I'm here to help and would love to hear from you.

**Chlöe Swarbrick** MP for Auckland Central  
 chloe.swarbrick@parliament.govt.nz | 09 378 4810

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