



RUAWAI RAMBLER



A Newsletter for Ruawai and Surrounding Area
From the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group

December, 2021

Seasons Greetings from our Sponsor

The Ruawai Community Church

From the Editor

Welcome to the 7th anniversary of the Ruawai Rambler. By the time you read this we will be only 31/2 weeks away from the New Year !! The past year has been somewhat of a mixed blessing with restrictions etc.. We can be thankful that Covid has not hit us as hard as many other countries as far as serious illness and death. We can hope and pray it will not hit us in the next year.

As mentioned in the last Rambler, Carolyn and I (and Holly dog) have moved to Dargaville. We love our new home. It is compact, but enough space for us and plenty of storage cupboards and wardrobes. We are right beside a large park with a great variety of palm trees. The owners grow and sell the trees all over the country. We are at the end of a short road, so very little traffic. I want to welcome to Ruawai Lois and Graeme who bought our property. Unfortunately, but not surprising, the RPDG has had to cancel the annual Christmas parade and BBQ. Hopefully we can return to more or less normal conditions next year. To bring back memories, I have added photos of last years parade and BBQ. Thanks to Lorraine Littler for supplying the photos! Ian Strang, whom we knew in Ruawai, came to see us. Ian has always been interested in history. He wrote an article some time ago about church bazaars. It was published in the NZ Memories magazine. Ian kindly offered the article to use in the Rambler. In September, I included part of an article about Philip Finlayson. In this issue is the second half of the article. Thanks to the Ruawai community Church for sponsoring this issue and to our advertisers. **Also a great Thank You to our Posties who deliver the Rambler both in town and rurally at no charge.** Without you we could not have a newsletter. **For information about the Rambler or for advertising please contact J.H.Wessel; jhwessel@xtra.co.nz**

From RPDG Chairman Bruce Crompton

Firstly, on behalf of the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

It has been a huge year for the Group and, credit to our Committee, we have managed in spite of Covid. At our last Public Meeting we mentioned what we have on the agenda - most of which has already been started and in some cases finished.

- 1) Removal of the stage on the Village Green.
- 2) A divider/partition to make the Village Green next to the Mural more intimate.
- 3) Provide picnic tables and seating for this area also.
- 4) Digitalisation of the Mural for replacement in the near future.
- 5) A website for Ruawai which will be established to complement new Brochures.
- 6) Build and erect the Face Board on the Village Green.
- 7) Update the Events Board.
- 8) A comprehensive plan to brighten up areas that need attention.
- 9) Continued maintenance of the walkway.
- 10) Establish a comprehensive CCTV system for Ruawai. The Public support for this project has been massive.
- 11) On top of this, The RPDG have taken our concerns about the current building and subdivision restrictions to The Kaipara District Council, Regional Council and to Government.

My congratulations to our Committee for the efforts they have made over the last year.

My thanks on behalf of the RPDG for the ongoing support from you, the people of Ruawai. This is what makes it worthwhile.

Street Parade

This is the one disappointing aspect to an otherwise exceptional year.

Reluctantly we have made the decision to cancel the Christmas parade for 2021.

The free BBQ also will be cancelled in December but may be rescheduled later.

The threat of Covid infection, level 2 lockdown requirements and the uncertainty of the pending traffic light requirements all make it unsafe to continue.

Again, on behalf of the RPDG have a happy festive season- but above all stay safe.

Bruce Crompton.RPDG Chair.





**RINGROSE
CONSTRUCTION**

- Residential
- Rural
- Commercial
- Concrete
- Roofing

Cole Ringrose Licensed Builder | 027 493 6300
www.ringroseconstruction.co.nz
ringroseconstruction@xtra.co.nz



The Ruawai Rambler by email

If you find you occasionally miss out on delivery of our newsletter, or you have a friend or relative out of the area, we can send a copy by email. Just supply me with an email address. **J.W.**

Sara Ball - Celebrant



Weddings   gethitchednorthland


Funerals 

Naming Ceremonies 

Contact - Home: 09 4392437
Mobile: 021 0774 947

**Tokatoka Views
B&B/Farmstay**

 Equestrian Interest  Country Lifestyle

80 Tramline Road,
Ruawai, Northland.
Like us on  facebook

Home: 09 439 2437
Sara: 021 0774 947
Peter: 022 405 6439
email: sara.ball@xtra.co.nz

Council Mark says: "Even the longest journey starts with the first step"

You may be aware that Council has recently set itself some targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The comments which follow are not official Council policy, so bear with me. Inspired partly by a programme on the television called (I think) "2040", I gained the following insights: it makes sense to focus on reducing energy consumption and on reducing pollution in our own back yards – these are things we can influence and we can see direct results from. Reducing consumption should result in cost savings but would also mean changing habits. Points I have made at the Council table are that we should be looking at the climate adaptation issue through the lens of saving costs - and also opportunities to make better use of existing resources. It has been said that there's no such thing as waste, just things we haven't found a use for yet. That's the justification I give to my wife for not throwing stuff away and I'll stick with it. Mind you, if you throw veggie scraps away in a heap, you can end up with compost for the garden.

Hot news when writing this column was the discovery that by adding the 'flocking agent' iron sulphate to dairy shed effluent, it separated the polluting solids from the water so the water could be re-used and the solids could still be returned to the paddock as fertiliser. This treatment apparently, also has the effect of preventing most of the methane, which would otherwise enter the atmosphere, from doing so. Maybe this is something which can be applied to our Council sewerage ponds. As an organisation, KDC's single biggest contributor to greenhouse gases arises from our public sewerage schemes. Wouldn't it be great if the resulting sludge was suitable to be used as fertiliser or compost as well? I'll make enquiries.

To be honest folks, I get depressed every Christmas because people seem to feel the need to buy/consume stuff to excess to make them feel happy. The results are so often the opposite. If you can make a choice (and not everyone has that option) please choose quality over quantity.

Just to finish this on the right note I'll call upon Joe Cocker to deliver the message as he did at Woodstock over 50 years ago: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NR-H2uFCQIs> ("with a little help from my friends")



Service for all types of Mowers
and Chainsaws

Pickup & Delivery Service available
Phone 09 439 8881




Cut it!
Chip it!
Grind it!

Qualified & Insured Arborist

Scott FitzPatrick & June Bolton

P. 0800 HOTWOOD info@arborcaretm.co.nz

M. 0274 599 363 www.arborcaretm.co.nz

St. Mary's church in Ruawai was deconsecrated earlier this year and sold a few months ago. Thanks to Alana Ringrose for her suggestion to have an article in the Rambler. Thanks to Ron Warne for his input and to Bev Balcombe for the use of her article which was based on writings by the late Violet McLeod.

Ruawai Catholic Church History



The Trust Church, Ruawai. Built 1913
Looks like there is a wedding taking place



The first St. Mary's church at Raupo.



The church interior in 1937

In the early days, Dargaville had already two fine churches; one at Mangawhare and the other at Te Kopuru. Ruawai did not have a name then and was known only as the "Raupo Swamp in the Tokatoka District". By 1907/08 farmers were settling on this land and it concerned them that there was no place of worship.

In due course the four denominations: Catholic, Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian - formed a Trust. Mr. Mariner donated a half acre of land on his farm and in 1913 a Mission Hall was built on the corner of Te Kowhai Rd. and the Main Rd. The cost, including seating for 100 worshippers, came to 249 pounds and 16 shillings. An agreement was drawn up by Fr. Zanna as to who should have their service each Sunday. People flocked to the church--on foot, horseback and in gigs.

(When the denominations built their own separate churches the 'Trust church' was left empty. It was eventually moved near to the Ruawai Primary school and used as a scout hall. When scouts stopped, it stood again empty for a while until it became home to the Ruawai Art Studio.)

In 1916 the first St. Mary's church was built at Raupo on the corner of Galvin Road. As it was part of the Dargaville Parish at that time, the priest from Mangawhare travelled down by riverboat and would stay at the Casey home while he was in Ruawai.

There were various ways of raising money for the church such as a Bottle Drive, Garden Parties and even a Queen Carnival.

War came in 1939, bringing petrol rationing. To overcome this problem, a bicycle was purchased and kept locked inside the church. Fr. John O'Connor would travel to Ruawai by boat or bus on Saturday morning and spend the day travelling around the district on the bike visiting his parishioners. On Sunday he would celebrate Mass in the morning and Benediction in the evening. He slept in the back of the church and returned to Dargaville on Monday.

By 1944 Ruawai had become a separate parish, with Fr. Frank Sherrin as the priest for 19 years. There was, at the time, a large Croatian and Dutch Catholic population in the area.

Four acres of land, belonging to the Jeff's property, was acquired. The plan behind the purchase of the four-acre block was so that, in due course, a convent and school could be built. A presbytery was built on the site.


The Ruawai parishioners worked untiringly to raise funds for a new church and finally St. Mary's was opened and blessed by Bishop Liston on 3rd of May 1953.

Over many years, St. Mary's was very well attended. There were times when the church could not hold the number of worshippers; but gradually, coinciding with changes affecting the community as a whole, the local congregation decreased to just the "faithful few".


From 1980, priests came from Dargaville to provide services at St. Mary's. This began on a weekly basis but eventually there was only one priest to cover Dargaville, Ruawai and Kaihu.

On the 6th of February 2021 the church was deconsecrated and then sold.


IN STOCK NOW!



PALM KERNEL TRAILERS




LEVELLERS



ROLLERS

View our website: www.cromptonengineering.co.nz

CROMPTON 
ENGINEERING PUMPS AGENT

31 Jellicoe St, Ruawai • Ph 09 439 2393

BEDS & MORE
FACTORY OUTLET STORE



**BEST PRICED BEDS
IN NORTHLAND!**



**NEW MATTRESS
RANGE INSTORE**



Please follow us
for special
offers & deals.
[@bedsmoreoutletstore](https://www.facebook.com/bedsmoreoutletstore)

22 Freyberg Road, Ruawai
09 439 2243
ruawai@bedsandmore.nz
OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-5PM



Merry Christmas from the Ruawai Church.

Must say it's all very different with masks, lockdowns, traffic lights, and the expectation of catching up with family and friends after Dec.15th. Church has been a time of small get-togethers at home to being able to gather again (all be-it with certain conditions) to the possibility of small groups again. Very understandable that people get tired of it all, yet nothing is better than the challenge of making it all work.

In the community many events are cancelled and hospitality businesses are finding things the hardest. Us farmers sure have it good in comparison. Anyway, as a church, life doesn't stop. Our annual trip to the lakes is still on the calendar (at this stage), our Community Carols is unlikely (unless some bright spark comes up with a way that fits the requirements). Regardless, we still find ways to have fun and enjoy life and be there for each other.

Christmas is one of the important events in our calendar; sure a bit strange us folks getting all excited over a Child born 2000 years ago. But it is totally pivotal to our faith and a totally undeniable historical event. Amazing to have a dating system named after you.

We meet every Sunday at 10am; all are welcome - and if you have any questions, feel free to ring. — **Des Bickers 0212770081 — Alex Bickers 0212770083** *Have a great Christmas and enjoy your families,*



Ruawai Garden Club

Just a small piece this time to let everyone know that the Garden Club has gone into a period of recession until next year because of the Covid situation. It's just become very difficult with cancelled meetings and outings, particularly for some of our oldest folk and their vulnerability to Covid. We have planned a Xmas Luncheon in the Hall and all members will be phoned with the details. So au revoir until 2022.

Merle Jackson

T. GLASS
PANELBEATERS
 since 1984
**Replacement or repair of
 stonechip windscreens**

5 PORRITT ST. Ph.Fax.(09)4392416
RUAWAI email:tgkumara@yahoo.co.nz

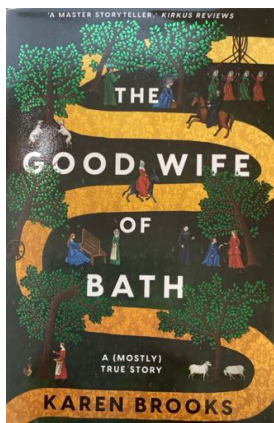
Books @ Ruawai
secondhand books/music
New Opening Hours
Mon. 9am - 1pm
Wed. 10am - 1pm
Fri. 10am - 1pm
Sat. 10am - 1pm
Phone: 027 200 5653
022 073 9752
Shop phone: 439 2044

Sue's Book Corner

As most of you will know, you can find Sue in the bookshop. The books mentioned here are not necessarily available in the Ruawai bookshop. You will however find an amazing number and range of books and Sue can help you find that special book you are looking for. Thank you Sue for your Book Corner articles. J.W.

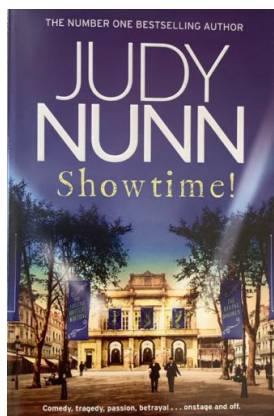
The Good Wife of Bath, A (Mostly) True Story by Karen Brooks.

In the Middle Ages a poet told a story that mocked a strong woman; it became a classic.



But what if the woman in question had a chance to tell her own version? Who would you believe? Eleanor is married at 12 to a man in his 60's; not uncommon for the times. She is told constantly of her many sins and that she should seek redemption for them. She soon realises it doesn't matter what she says or does, or what any poor woman does for that matter. Redemption isn't going to come about. She is an exceptional woman - bright, sensual and brave. We follow her story — 5 marriages, quite a few pilgrimages, many lovers, and fortunes that go up and down. Her enduring friendships with Geoffrey Chaucer and her stepdaughter, Alyson. This is a funny re-telling of Chaucer's "The Wife of Bath" from The Canterbury Tales. Totally loved this book; made me laugh out loud at times. And also to ponder how much, if anything, has changed for women.

Showtime! by Judy Nunn.



Set in Melbourne in the late 1880's, Judy Nunn has once again mixed historical fiction with fact. We follow the brothers, Will and Max Worthing, along with their wives, Mabel and Gertie and their children - arriving from England to improve their fortunes. With only the natural talent as travelling performers we see them rise to become true entrepreneurs. Their rivals, Carlos and Rube, have literally fought their way to the top of the entertainment ladder; from bare knuckle fighting to producers of Big Show Bonanza. The battle commences between them all - but who will come out on top? Amongst it all is tragedy, betrayal, humour, the Depression and WWI. This was a real treat of a book, mixing facts with the fictional story. Thoroughly recommend it.

December - New Releases — Just in time to treat someone or yourself for Christmas.

Go Tell the Bees that I am Gone by Diana Gabaldon

This is the continuing story of Jamie Fraser and Claire Randall. The family are at last reunited; daughter Brianna with her husband Roger and their children, all together on Fraser's Ridge. But it's 1779, the Revolution creeps closer and Claire is wondering how much blood will be spilt among those she loves.

This is a hugely successful and popular series. Sure to be someone you know who will want a copy.

Never by Ken Follett

A shrinking oasis in the Sahara Desert, a stolen army drone, an uninhabited Japanese island and one country's secret stash of deadly chemical poisons . This reads like an action-packed, globe-spanning thriller set in present day, I love Ken Follett so can't wait to read it.



FUELING YOUR SAVINGS!

UP TO 8¢ OFF per litre

Challenge is the only fully owned and operated Kiwi service station network supported by SuperGold. That's why when you fill up at your local Challenge station, you'll save up to **8 cents per litre** on fuel!

Visit Challenge Ruawai your friendly one stop shop for all your motoring and convenience needs.

Ruawai Motors
Jellicoe Road, Ruawai
Open 7 days, 7.00am - 7.00pm

CHALLENGE

www.challenge.net.nz



LOL Lugtigheid Contracting Limited

Mow, Rake, Bale & Wrap

Stack Silage

Discing, Power Harrowing with airseeder & Drilling

Effluent, Lime & Fert Spreading

Digger, Scoop & Trailer Work

Call or email
Glen Lugtigheid 021 439 748
glenlugtigheid@gmail.com

The Moosletter



fluffy cat as well - she is harder to do than the beardie. Have a good holiday period and hopefully lots of fishing will get done once mating is over for the year.

Hi from the Vet Centre. What a great month for life-giving rain – not always convenient for getting silage made or crops in but great for grass growth. Hopefully, this will extrapolate into good in-calf rates. We recently completed our Farm Dog Vaccination Runs which is a great way to catch up with people and their working dogs. We had several cup-of tea stops with muffins and scones; so not the worst way to spend a day or two. Now is the time for clipping our hairier companions for the hotter months ahead. We get a lot of satisfaction from removing knots and trimming long dense coats into sleek summer models. Not all animals enjoy the process but most of them are a lot happier afterwards. I must get organised and do my

Best wishes from us all, Janine Hames, The Vet Centre



White Rock Gallery, 8 Freyberg Road, Ruawai

The move to Ruawai's main street is proving very successful. It's lovely to welcome local visitors and people driving through. Some visitors have driven from Dargaville and Whangarei to browse in the Gallery and purchase their presents. The new signage is looking very bright and colourful. Thanks to Ruawai Lions for helping towards the cost of the signs. The Christmas tree is now up with lots of ideas for gifts and decorations. All arts and crafts in the Gallery are handmade by local Kaipara artists and crafters. Do call in and check us out and do your bit to support a local business. You will be surprised at what is on offer.



There will be a new Exhibition of art and mosaics by White Rock members, opening on 1st December. This will be on display until the end of January 2022. Tickets for the White Rock Christmas Raffle will be on sale in the Gallery from 1st December. New members are very welcome; call in and pick up a membership form. The main criteria is that you must live, or be a ratepayer, in the Kaipara. If you think you would like to be a 'Friend' of the Gallery' i.e. you're willing to man the desk one half day per month (3 hours) and enjoy meeting and chatting to people, we would love to have you on our team. Any enquiries may be made to 021 250 8613 or email: whiterockgallerynz@gmail.com **Sue Taylor**



**EARTHMOVING ON THE
KAIPARA**

DIGGERS R US LTD
Nelson Stanley-Hunt

PH: 021 423 506
www.diggersrus.co.nz

The Well Cafe

Open Hours
Monday to Friday 8.30 am - 2.30 pm
Saturday 9 am - 2 pm
23 Freyberg Road, Ruawai
P: 09 4392 703

Broken Windows
Cat Doors
Ranch Slider Rollers
Latches and Catches
Caravan Windows
Rubber Seals
Table Tops; Lead-light Repairs
Phone Kyle: 021 137 6353

**RIVERSIDE
GLASS & GLAZING**

The Bazaar

A mouth watering tale from Ian Strang

Who remembers the church bazaars? Hugely organised affairs of large proportions with trading tables to die for. I can remember helping my sister, nieces and nephews to make baskets for the sweets table of which my sister was in charge. This was back in the 1950's and early 1960's. We seemed to be making baskets for weeks; hoarding old cocoa, starch, custard powder containers - in fact any small boxes we could lay our hands on. If there were not enough boxes we would make them up out of bits and pieces of cardboard. They were cut in half, handles made and glued or stapled on. On the floor in the lounge we were surrounded by heaps of crepe paper in every colour of the rainbow.

Each of us, armed with a pair of scissors, tape and stapler, would start cutting, trimming, winding to make the bland little boxes into articles of beauty. The gaudier the better; purple and orange, bright pink and lime green; daring colours to put together in those days. Fringes and tassels added next to see who could make the most outlandish basket.

My sister would be out in the kitchen toiling over a red-hot stove cooking the sweets. Coconut ice in pink and white, Turkish delight coloured red and green, fudge and chocolate made with Kremelta, slightly fatty to tastebud; chocolate nevertheless. A small scattering of foil and cellophane-wrapped lollies were donated just to add a bit of glitter to the selection. Then it was time to fill the baskets and of course sample the selection; a reward for our creativeness. How beautiful the baskets looked when loaded up with their goodies.

Ours was only one of many households in the district who toiled. My brother-in-law's mother and sister were hard at work across the paddocks in their farmhouse baking up a storm, their forte was the cake stall: cup cakes, sultana cakes, seed cakes, Madeira cakes along with slices, biscuits, shortbread and loaves, - ginger, sultana and date. Their stall used to positively groan with the weight of all those mouthwatering goodies. If that wasn't enough, the matriarch of the family also spent hours making aprons, peg bags, oven cloths out of newly-bought jute material and edged with colourful bindings. Or she would tackle the decorated coat hangers. It was all go at Bazaar time.

Many ladies in the district were burning the midnight oil - sewing, knitting, crocheting and tatting, raiding gardens to pot up /seedlings, taking cuttings, digging up tubers and bulbs to sell on the plant table. The preserve and produce stall always staggered under the weight of bottled jams, fruit, pickles and chutneys. Even knick-knacks were gathered up for sale on the jumble table.

As the big day loomed closer, the local community hall was commandeered. Protesting husbands and sons were pressured into helping set up the trestle tables. Goods were priced and artfully displayed, ready for the big rush through the front doors of the hall. And a big rush there usually was! These events were well patronised and usually held prior to Christmas; tempting those looking for gifts.

A group of ladies provided lunches and cups of tea for the hungry hordes at a small fee. Lettuce leaves crammed with a mixture of beetroot, peas and carrots set in gelatine flavoured with mint, ham or corned beef (drizzled over with homemade salad dressing), club sandwiches, savouries, spikelets and scones - to provide sustenance to get the customers back out to the stalls.

In some country areas, outside events and competitions were incorporated into the Bazaar; gumboot throwing contests, coconut shies, nail hammering competitions, sack races, egg and spoon races. In fact anything that would raise money and create enjoyment for the crowds. Local talent was invariably brought to the fore at the church Bazaars. I remember them as wonderful community affairs; bringing all and sundry together for an enjoyable day.

It was not just a fundraising day but also a social event, time to catch up with friends and relatives and, daresay, catch up on the local gossip. Big sighs of relief were certainly expressed though at day's end, with another successful Bazaar over. There never seemed to be much left to load back into the cars. Never any lollies, that's for sure.

News From The Art Studio Ruawai



It is great to once again be able to have our weekly Wednesday meeting with our artistic friends. Catching up with what each has been doing & then spending a few hours employing our creative minds is wonderful.

Since our last Rambler report, the Studio has been host to the Dargaville Friendship Group. They spent time looking at the paintings on display, listening to a talk on the history of the Studio from its origin as a church, to then a Scout hall & then finally (after being derelict for several years), taking on its new life as the Art Studio. They then enjoyed morning tea before visiting other venues in Ruawai.

In October our members visited the Kaipara Art Awards which were held in the Muddy Waters Gallery in Dargaville. It is always inspiring to see other artists work & we were especially delighted that one of our group had won the Judges Award. Congratulations Geoff! Later we enjoyed lunch together before returning home.

We are now nearing the end of another strange & disturbing year so it is time to wish a safe & happy Christmas & New Year to everyone.

The Studio is open every Wednesday during school term from 10am to 2:30pm. Should individuals, or group, wish to visit at other times, this can be arranged by phoning Frances at (09) 4392 554. For enquires re becoming part of our Wednesday group, also phone Frances at the above number.





CHRIS HICKEY 027 561 1719
email: fencingspecialists.nz@gmail.com

ALL ASPECTS OF FARM & LIFESTYLE FENCING INCLUDING:
Entrances • Post & Rail
Stock Yards • Custom Gates
Riparian Lots • Netting
Post & Batten • Retaining Walls



FENCING CONTRACTORS NZ
MEMBER

Find us on 

I am not a dentist but I just want share the following information for your interest.

Clean teeth

We are all aware that keeping our teeth clean is important, not only for the teeth but for general health. Brushing teeth is something we all do to a greater or lesser degree. We are also advised to use dental floss regularly.



Personally I don't like flossing very much. So, to clean between my teeth I have been using interdental brushes. These come in various shapes and sizes and according to research done are as good as dental floss. I prefer the angle brushes. interdental brushes are available online from www.smilestore.co.nz and several other sites. And, no, I do not have shares in the company. If nothing else, they are a quick easy way to remove food particles from between your teeth. **J.W.**



For all things automotive
See the best in town!

CALL US NOW!
09 439 2424
23 Freyberg St, Ruawai

DIESEL TUNING CHIPS AVAILABLE HERE NOW - FOR TRUCKS, UTES, TRACTORS AND MORE!



Philip Alexander Finlayson; Part 2

By now Philip's business interests had expanded. A gum-washing venture in partnership with Fairley Marriner proved a costly disaster. He was also in partnership with his brother-in-law, William "Bill" Brown, working timber for several years. Bush was worked at Kaihu and on the Oneriri Estate at Kaiwaka. By 1920 he had acquired the Parahi Block of some 1,500 acres of rolling kauri clay country and was steadily developing the property, - farming sheep and cattle. A trucking transport business was well established which had a milk cartage contract with the Ruawai Dairy Company and contracts carting metal for the extensive roading development in the area. Other properties were acquired at Ruawai, another at Mapau and a 700-acre hill property at Puriri near Thames; bringing his land holdings to over 3,000 acres. The 1920's were a prosperous and expansive period.

Esther's health was a constant worry; she suffered from severe attacks of asthma. By the early 1920's Philip was making plans to build a home in Auckland, hoping her health would improve. Sadly, in August 1924, Esther died (after a short illness) leaving Philip with a young family ranging from five to twenty years of age. His plans for retirement in town were shattered. A community meeting turned down a proposal to build a new community hall and Philip, ever conscious of the needs of his maturing young family and the lack of social life in the district, decided to build a cinema, theatre and dance hall in Ruawai using the timber set aside for his home in Auckland. The Rialto Theatre, built in 1926, had a fine dance floor built of solid matai timber. The theatre was the focal point for community activities for many years. Cinema nights were a popular meeting place. Balls and local theatrical and musical evenings would cater for several hundred guests. On 31st December 1930, Phyllis Annie, the second daughter, died at the age of twenty three after a tragic accident. A benzine iron exploded causing fatal burns. The tragedy was a terrible blow. The depression of the 1930's hit hard. Wool remained unsold for several years. Capital was lost on loans with were not honoured. By the end of the decade the trucking business was disbanded but the land holdings remained intact. Despite the hard times, the education of the younger children was not neglected. All the family were sent to boarding school in Auckland for their secondary schooling.

In about 1935 Philip decided to divide his assets among his children. Sons and daughters were treated alike, each being given a home and an economic farming unit. Each was as near as possible of a similar value. Ethel had a dairy farm at Ruawai and 76 acres at Rehia, Rory the Naumai farm and 100 acres at Rehia and Walter received the Mapau dairy farm and 130 acres at Rehia. Ken and Jack each received 90 acres of the homestead block and the Parahi farm and May 90 acres of the Ruawai farm and 90 acres at Rehia. The homestead was dismantled and materials saved and used in the construction of new homes for the three younger children. For several years Philip lived at Thames taking care of the property at Puriri and allowing the family a free rein to establish themselves and their families without interference. He lived a frugal bachelor's existence there, tending the livestock, burning off timber and stumps and indulging his passion for reading. When the Puriri farm sold in about 1947, Philip built a small collage on the corner of Ken's farm at Ruawai where he lived until his death.

I well remember him settling there. He was over eighty years, well-built and lean. He dug the whole of his quarter acre section by hand and had it all planted in potatoes and vegetables. It was sufficient to keep several families well fed. He walked over the paddocks daily to milk Ken's house cow. It was a great pleasure to him to observe his numerous young grandchildren grow and develop.

By this time the depression and war years were over and it was with great satisfaction that he saw the family enterprises he had established expand and flourish once again. Philip was a man of few words but had a wealth of knowledge and a great faith in the future of the land he had spent a lifetime conquering. He expected his men to give their all to their work and the greatest compliment he could give was to say "he is a good worker". His judgment of character was not always as good as his judgment elsewhere and this led him at times to put his trust in those not deserving of it. His love of his family and dedication to their future well-being was paramount in his life. The greatest gift to those of his descendants (fortunate enough to inherit) was the ability to dream impossible dreams and the pertinacity to make those dreams come true.



Kaipara Cleaning Co.

Tim & Sharlene Lord

- Pest Control
- Carpets & Upholstery
- Interior and Exterior Home Cleaning

e-mail - kaiparacleaningco@farmside.co.nz
 Facebook - www.facebook.com/kaiparacleaningco

Phone 021 114 6729
www.kaiparacleaningco.co.nz

Rainfall figures supplied by Kura Newall

June	139mm
July	90mm
Aug	119mm
Sept	170mm
Oct	180mm
Nov	109mm up to 24th



Ruawai Boating Club
 Welcome to Ruawai new Boaties. As we are coming into Summer and our fishing season, please register your boat at Challenge petrol station and become a member of the Boating Club. This pays for the upkeep of the wharf and landing ramp. \$30 Boat and family - \$5 daily. PARKING — please ensure you don't block the turning circle for other boaties. Reminder, when inside the ramp don't attempt to do a 3-point turn; your propeller will hit on the submerged walkway.
 Tight Lines. Tony 021 02333 507
Boating Club shirts available — great Christmas presents. Kids and adult sizes .



The Totara House Garden
 In mid-November the Matakohe Garden Circle had its monthly get-together at the Kauri Museum's Totara House, giving the gardens a thorough tidy up for summer. Around 25 gardeners (many of whom were familiar with the Category 2 Historic property and gardens from previous visits - including members of the Smith family, who owned and lived in the house since it was built in 1896), spent the morning freeing dahlias and heritage roses from over-enthusiastic cineraria and privet, trimming the hedges, and weeding paths and garden beds.

The house was open for an airing, and the gardeners were able to have a tour after their toil - and enjoy tea and pikelets in the shade of the Puriri on the front lawn. The time and enthusiasm of the volunteers was very much appreciated by The Kauri Museum, which was bequeathed the house by the late Mavis Smith.

Covid and resultant low-visitor numbers has played havoc with Museum volunteer activities. Volunteers are an important and valued part of the Museum, helping with keeping the Museum looking good, assisting the curators, fixing and operating machinery and lots more. Please contact the Museum if you are interested in finding out more.

Ruawai Kindergarten

NKA

Northland Kindergarten Association

Ruawai Kindergarten are increasing their numbers! That means now is the chance for your child to be part of a fantastic kindergarten.

Ruawai Kindergarten is a fantastic rural Kindergarten providing Kaipara tamariki with the opportunity to explore, share and learn alongside their, teachers, and families.

We believe that children develop best in a natural home like environment, supporting children's transitions in an environment, where holistic development is underpinned by the Early Childhood Curriculum, Te Whāriki. Ruawai Kindergarten is also part of Enviro schools, which is guided by five principles, these are Sustainable Communities, Maori Perspectives, Learning for Sustainability, Respect for Diversity of People and Culture & Empowered Students.

Also remember all Northland Kindergartens are FREE! 48 weeks per year – 30 hours per week FREE.

To enquire about enrolling click the link:

<https://www.nka.org.nz/kindergartens/ruawai-kindergarten#>

Or email ruawai@nka.org.nz | call (09) 439 2415

Our hours are Monday to Friday 9am – 3pm.

The teachers are Teresa Robertson (Head Teacher), Chanelle McLaughlin, Shanda Vaile & Kyla Johnson (Office Administrator)

4376A SHWY 12 Ruawai (09) 4392415 Email: ruawai@nka.org.nz or visit the Ruawai Kindergarten Facebook page.



CCTV Cameras in Ruawai



For some time now, Ruawai Promotions and Development Group have been working on getting CCTV cameras installed in Ruawai. With help from Willie Paniora, our local Police Constable, and from local businesses and Community, CCTV for Ruawai is a now a welcome reality! Two of the three-staged projects were commissioned on 22 November 2021. The third stage at the Marina Carpark area is being commissioned as I write. CCTV Northland, based in Kerikeri, have provided the high definition IP camera system. This same system has successfully been installed in other towns around Northland. It will be linked to the Police vehicle database and this can help alert them to stolen vehicles in Northland. The system has a UPS backup in the event of a power outage. And all footage is stored and can be retrieved at a later date.

This project is making Ruawai a safer community for us all to live in. Thank you to everyone involved.

We have almost reached the financial target for completion. Any contributions, towards the final few dollars required, will be greatly appreciated.

Here is the RPDG account number: ANZ - 060421-0035236-00

Peter Flood

Our local Police Station and the screen for the CCTV camera



Four Clinics proudly servicing the Kaipara and surrounds
Ruawai: 09 439 2506 23 Jellicoe Road

We Care Animals People Community

Your Local Painting Company



McCONCHIE Painting
RUAWAI

glenn McConchie
TRADE QUALIFIED
0274888656

glenn123@outlook.co.nz
FREYBERG RD RUAWAI

Christmas lights



For many years now the Gordon Lindsay and Mike Bellamy families have delighted young and old with amazing displays of Christmas lights. Unfortunately, with Covid around, they have made the decision to cancel for this year. Thank you guys for the pleasure you have given us and hopefully, we can see you next year.



Pictures of Christmas Past

