



# Ruawai Rambler

*A Newsletter for Ruawai and Surrounding Area From  
the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group  
July 2025*



## Thank You



The incoming committee wish to thank all of the outgoing committee for all their work, in particular the outgoing chairperson, Bruce Crompton, and outgoing treasurer, Elaine Crompton, for their service. The Cromptons have been members of the committee for many years and have been a significant part of the RPDGs achievements (see the December 2024 for a comprehensive summary).

### Notice of Special General Meeting

**Wednesday, 16 July at the Ruawai Tokatoka War Memorial Hall 7-7.30pm**

#### Agenda

**1 Meeting Opening**

**2 Health and Safety**

**Motion: This meeting adopts the new constitution for the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group Inc.**

Proposed by the RPDG Committee

Please email

[stephen.wood.958@protonmail.com](mailto:stephen.wood.958@protonmail.com) for a copy of the draft constitution.

### Online Ruawai Rambler?

At the last meeting, the committee discussed producing the Ruawai Rambler online and/or by email and then having hard copies in some stores in Ruawai. It costs around \$700-\$800 to print and deliver to all houses in Ruawai at present. With reduced paper copies the advertising might then cover the cost of printing and delivery. We have a website already set up, Ruawai Experience, ([ruawaiexperience.org.nz](http://ruawaiexperience.org.nz)) on which the Ruawai Rambler was being published up until Dec 2021. We are working to access the website again and update the contents. Let us know your views on this in an email to [ruawairambler@gmail.co.nz](mailto:ruawairambler@gmail.co.nz)

### Make Ruawai The Place To Be

#### Advance notice of consultation.

The committee want you to share your thoughts on the way Ruawai should look in the future. We hope to develop a strategic plan to continue to improve the the quality of life and work in Ruawai and to promote it as a place to visit. The wharf, the gardens and reserves, sports facilities, clubs, community spaces, the stop bank. What are your ideas?

### Ruawai Christmas Celebrations

Just some forward notice for your calendars  
Christmas Letterbox Competition  
Decorate your letterbox by Monday 8th December. Judging will take place at some time between the Monday and Saturday 13 December.

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### Community Christmas Barbecue

5pm to 7pm Wednesday 10th December at the Wharf Reserve, including Christmas carol singing. Santa may make a special visit if you're good.

### Christmas Parade

11.30am Saturday 13th September. Enter your float to be part of this annual event. Entry forms from

[stephen.wood.958@protonmail.com](mailto:stephen.wood.958@protonmail.com)

### **Ruawai Garden Club**

Hello to all from the Ruawai Gardening Club. I have missed a couple of outings but we are back on track now. We had a pleasant visit to to one of our members



homes for our May meeting. She put on a lovely morning tea for us and then we had a wander around her delightful spacious garden. After the rain we have been having it was so nice to wander a garden again where the water seems to drain away well. The visit was appreciated by all. On Thursday of this week the Garden Club had a Mid-Year Xmas Dinner, held at the Ruawai Bowling Club and catered for us by Steve and Carole Wood of Two Waters fame, our Ruawai Cafe. What a fabulous meal we had, and served to us so beautifully. The tables and the Clubrooms were all decorated for us by one of our members, Karen Campbell, and it looked like professionals had been in. We all got a little gift each, plus a couple of extras if you were sitting in the right chair. Thanks to all involved in the preparation of this lovely day.

We are holding our AGM on Thursday 17th July @ 10.00 am. If anyone would like to attend and find out if they would like to join us. Happy weeding all.

### **Council Mark says: Voters and volunteers are endangered species**

I am concerned about the poor voter turnout for local body elections – on average well below 50% nationwide. Local Government NZ recently produced a draft paper on election reform to address this problem. They highlighted the problems with the current postal voting system – fewer people have mail boxes, there are fewer post



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boxes and postal services are reducing their coverage in response to less demand for delivery of paper mail. More people, especially younger people generally want to do stuff on line instead. Digital options for voting have been looked into, but the risks of results being corrupted by hackers seem unsolvable. There are also risks with postal voting – there have been rumours of voting papers being “harvested” from letter boxes in the past for the benefit of an individual candidate. One of the 28 recommendations LGNZ is



promoting as a solution is to change to in-person voting at a polling booth as for central government elections, and using national infrastructure to do this. I suspect this will likely come with an extra cost; it would be in the national interest if this cost was met centrally. This has a nice feel to it – so often the Parliament of the day has solved a problem by handing it to local government but without the funding to support it. This proposed voting reform would be an opportunity to return the favour. As Nelson Mayor Nick Smith said: "Reform is needed now to strengthen the democratic mandate local government has to represent communities across New Zealand". KDC did not contribute to the proposal as regrettably, from the beginning of the current term KDC is no longer a member of LGNZ, not something I voted for.



Finally, a shout-out to the volunteers in our community. The 15th -21st of June was officially the Week of the Volunteer. As I have said before, there are a lot of facilities and services which in larger, wealthier areas would be provided by the local council, but here in the Kaipara District are being provided only because local volunteers have stepped up. In small communities it usually comes down to a few key people who make these things



happen. If you are one of those people, give yourself a pat on the back. If you know one of those people, give them a hug and/or a cuppa and treat them with respect like an endangered species. We need to cherish them. I should point out that I am a trustee of Volunteering Northland, an organisation which acts as an introduction service between volunteer organisations and potential volunteers as well as providing a training resource. See: [volunteeringnorthland.nz](http://volunteeringnorthland.nz)

Mark Vincent  
Otamatea Ward councillor  
021 0829 8037

### UPDATE: RUAWAI RUGBY

The rugby fields in Ruawai have recently had new lights installed. A massive thank you to the following: Ruawai Rugby Seniors for paying for the new lights, Kevin Reid Contracting for lending and transporting the scissor lift, Cole Ringrose from Ringrose Construction and Laser Electrical.

Come down on 19 July, starting at 10.30am U14 Ruawai vs Waipu. And then Southern Seniors vs Onerahi, kick off at 2.30pm Plus JMB Aussie Tour Auction 5.30pm at the Ruawai Community Sports Club.



Welcome to Ruawai Darryl and Shane. Many will have noticed the stunning new signage on Books@Ruawai. Robyn still owns the shop, but the shop has new managers who are really sharpening the look of the shop both inside and out. They have also had a makeover of the bookshops online presence and you must check it out at [www.booksatruawai.com](http://www.booksatruawai.com). Just wow!

### Pink Ribbon Afternoon Tea

The Lions Club of Ruawai hosted a Pink Ribbon event at the Bowling Club on 17May. The event was well received, with 79 participants comprising of men, women, and

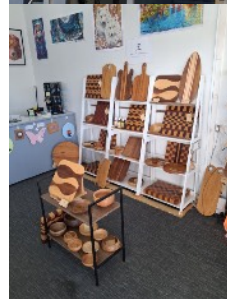
children from the local community and further afield. Adorned in various shades of pink, whether in groups or individually, attendees were welcomed with a pack of cards on each table to be the first table to have used all their cards to build a card castle.



The table decorations followed the Pink Theme, contributing to a lively and cheerful atmosphere. The event featured an array of pink-themed food, three raffles each raffle being a first and second prize, and a & "guess the weight of a large kumara" competition, ensuring the afternoon passed quickly and enjoyably. Gratitude is extended to the Bowling Club for providing the venue and the local Fire Brigade for use of their chairs. A donation of \$1,000 was made to the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation. Thank you to all our supporters and we look forward to another event being held next year

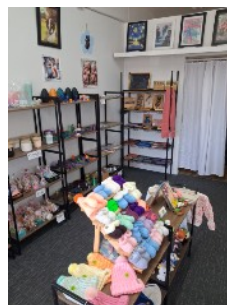


Goodies Galore is back in Ruawai's shopping area, rebranded as Gifts and Goodies and looking fabulous. Keep up with them on Facebook to stay current with the new goodies



coming in every week.

Diamond art, Pepper & Me spice rubs and sauces,



Himalyan salt lamps, Another Turn Wood Products and so much more. Pop in and check it out.

### Carboot Crop Swap

On the first Sunday of each month there is a Crop Swap at the Ruawai wharf are at **1pm**. **Next meeting on 3rd August.** So park up and swap your homegrown fruit, vegetables, herbs, cuttings, seedlings, seeds, eggs, and honey and your homemade bread, preserves baking etc. No Money Required. Bring and swap. Follow Crop Swap Ruawai on Facebook for updates.



### Ruawai Community Bowls

The Bowling Club decided to try community bowls post Christmas for 2025 given the success and participation that we experienced in the annual November event. It was the right decision as we had a field of ten teams playing each of the four Wednesday nights. Should you wish to be part of this event when it next runs in November just get in contact with Malcolm Joynt (on 0274436140) or the Bowling Club to receive an invitation to play. As always, no experience is required and the club can provide bowls on loan. Cost is usually \$10 per team (of 3) for each night. 50% of this is returned in prizes each night and the remainder is put aside for over all winners on the final night. The main purpose of this event is to get the community through the doors so that the club can show what a great facility we



offer with very reasonable membership costs and bar prices. Also, don't expect the game of bowls to be taken too seriously on these occasions, as it doesn't happen.

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## Festival 25




For the second year running the Festival committee ran a very successful festival which looks to me to be well on its way to becoming an annual event.

For Festival 25 we headed indoors to the Ruawai Tokatoka War Memorial Hall which was full of stall holders offering a variety of




crafts and produce. There was something for every one who attended, and many did. Funds raised by this event were evenly distributed around various voluntary organisations in our community. On stage

entertainment featured through out the entire day thanks to a generous grant from the KDC's Arts fund which of course freed up more money to be distributed amongst the community. Looking forward to Festival 26, .



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## Raupo Drainage Committee Update

Hello ratepayers and residents. Well, the dry spell certainly ended in a rapid fashion with tap going from seized shut to full open!

Our contractor team have been going flat out getting all the pre-winter works completed and I am pleased to say it is mission accomplished on that front. The G canal floodgate project is nearing full completion, with just the flap gate lifting and sluice gate mechanisms to be installed. All going well this should be achieved by mid-July. Our work during the winter months involves floodgate inspections and preparations for next seasons busy work schedule.

With local council elections approaching, the committee is also up for election and by now you may have received your voting papers. I wish to acknowledge the long service to this community of Brian Madsen. "Maddy" will not be seeking re-election this time around and



Come on in and enjoy some breakfast, lunch or a snack and a cup of coffee this summer.

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has finally, hung up his culvert cleaner. Mad' has given many, many years of dedicated service to the cause including a number of years as Chair of the committee. Although Maddy is no longer actively participating in the



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governance of the Raupo Drainage District, something tells me his advice will not be far away, and that too, is appreciated. It is that drive to serve our community that epitomises the spirit within every current member of the RDC. No one can reasonably explain to me why land drainage gets into your blood, but it does. It is even more unfathomable considering it is a largely thankless task. It has been said that most people don't appreciate what the committee does until they don't do it. That's probably a little harsh, but complacency can creep in when the drainage and flood protection system in Ruawai works so well. It is no accident it works so well; it is the experience and dedication of a small group that ensures our system is maintained for the "now" and developed for the "future".

It has been an honour serving this community alongside a diversely talented group of individuals, who each bring different skills and experience to the table for the benefit of the district's ratepayers and residents; not only managing the drainage system, but navigating the machinations of KDC, NRC and the Government, ensuring your voice is heard and your needs are considered.

In recent years a significant amount of central and local government funding has been obtained by the RDC to allow our future proofing program to continue apace whilst limiting the financial impact to you, our ratepayers.

I would like to personally thank our current committee members Mrs Grace Le Gros, and Messrs Greg Gent, David Hart, Ross McKinley and Joseph Dragecivich for their outstanding efforts. It is worth noting Joseph's efforts for the last year and a bit. Whilst not an official committee member he has attended almost every public meeting of the committee and worked alongside the operations working group, serving his apprenticeship if you like. Joseph will be a welcome addition to the team and bring yet more knowledge diversity. It is my hope that the team that has served you so well is given the opportunity to continue the

upward trajectory we are on, to continue to build the increased resilience required to ensure Ruawai's prosperity into the future and beyond.

That is my hope, but it is your decision.

Please utilise your democratic right to ensure that the stability required, remains, in turbulent times.

Ian Beattie.

Chair –

Raupo Drainage Committee.

## RUAWAI VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY RESPONSE GROUP

**Ruawai Response Plan – Update**  
**Monday 4 th August 4.30pm – 7pm**  
**Venue - Two Waters Cafe**

Following the update of the Tsunami Evacuation Zone it is time that we look at the current plan and update where needed.

**Play Your Part in keeping Ruawai Safe** and join this planning group.

Further Details from  
[stephen.wood.958@protonmail.com](mailto:stephen.wood.958@protonmail.com)

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## Ruawai Volunteer Fire Brigade Honours Night

(information from Facebook)

It was a great brigade honours night during the weekend at the Ruwai-Tokatoka War Memorial Hall with many medals and trophies presented.

### 25 Year Gold Star Medal

DCFO Tim Johnson  
SO Anthony Blundell  
FF Dennis Sheehan

### Long Service & Good Conduct 14 Year Medal

QFF Scott Wallace

### 5 Year Medal

FF Errol Fenney

### 2 year Silver Bars

FF Karina Hemmington - 7 years  
QFF Jo Forsythe - 11 years  
QFF Renee Gatehouse - 19 years  
SFF Corey Hopkins - 11 years  
QFF Kelvin Bristow - 17 years  
SFF Wayne Robinson - 15 years  
SO Lance Panoho - 15 years  
SO Kris Gatehouse - 23 years

### 2 year Gold Bar

CFO Kevin Evans - 31 years

### Brigade Trophies

QFF Kelvin Bristow  
FF Errol Fenney

Volunteers are presented with a medal after 1 year then a bar every 2 years after that.

At 25 years there is a significant award of a gold star medal, recognising amazing dedication and service to the community. On stage their significant family accompany them and are also award a medal, in recognition of the support and sacrifice the families make.

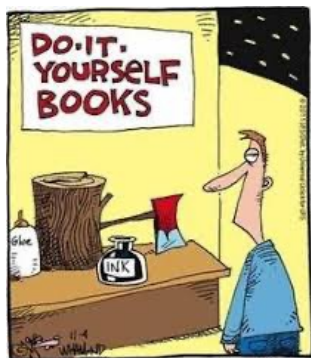


Congratulations to all.

The brigade have a group of new recruits at the moment which is fantastic, but with anywhere up to 160 call outs a year, they can always do with more, so go along to the next training if you would like to join. Training nights are the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7pm.



Pictured here L to R Gold Star recipients Tim Johnson, Skippy Sheehan and Ant Blundell





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