



RUAWAI RAMBLER

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

June 2016

From the Editor

Here is the midyear/winter, edition of the Ruawai Rambler. I certainly enjoyed the lovely autumn weather. Thanks again to the people who have contributed to this edition. It takes time and effort to sit down and write something. We like to receive any stories or information that is of interest to our community. All groups, clubs, churches can use this forum to share information. That way new residents in our area can become aware of what its available, and join up if they wish. As mentioned before, if you have a story about a place you have visited, a special book you have read or something funny you would like to share, please let us know. You may have hidden talents as a writer. In our March newsletter we mentioned "Friends of Ruawai" the idea being to have a few people who can help out with some of the things the RPDG is trying to do. I am pleased to say that we have had a few people respond to this. Many thanks to these folks. Earlier this year some Ruawai residents mentioned that it can be difficult for mobility scooters and wheelchairs to get around to some places in town because there were no ramps to get on and off footpaths. RPDG got in touch with Kaipara District Council about this and I am pleased to say they came to check on it and ramps have now been installed. RPDG has been planning for some time to have a new gazebo installed on the village green. In order to help pay for it we applied for a grant from the Lotteries Grant Board. We are happy to acknowledge that we received a grant of \$7,000. It will probably be spring before construction can start. Thanks to Anna Curnow, the Ruawai Rambler will now be available on our website: <http://www.ruawaipromotions.co.nz>. Any friends or relatives living out of our delivery area will be able to read it online. Our thanks again to our advertisers and especially to 'SleepSystems NZ', a Ruawai based business, our main sponsor. For information about articles or advertising in the Ruawai Rambler contact: the **Editor Jo (Johannes) Wessel Ph.: 439-2507; email:jhwessel@xtra.co.nz**

Elections for Kaipara District Council

This October sees Kaipara returning to democracy with our first local Council election in 6 years. The Rambler is pleased to hear of two Ruawai residents standing as candidates. Greg Gent is standing for Mayor and Anna Curnow is standing as a Councillor in the West Coast Central ward. We look forward to hearing from them on the campaign trail.

RPDG Chairman's Report

After such a long, warm and moist summer it is time to settle down for the winter ahead; and for many of us enjoy a few weeks without the routine and pressures of cows, kumara and harvest. Jo has asked me to write a few words to show that we are still active in the Community and making progress on the projects that are on our agenda. First you will all have noticed the new "Welcome" signs that have been erected on SH12 at either end of town. Tony King has taken this project on and he and the Committee have been working on it for about 3 years now. It has taken a lot of time to get the image of the Shag and the background right. Thanks to Janet Curl who has also donated time to this project. Arranging the image to work with our Ruawai/Wairua logo and the size of the sign board that supports the whole image has been quite an exercise. I am sure you will agree that the result was worth the wait. Tony has also been the main driver behind the polo shirts, T-shirts and caps that are now for sale at the Four Square. They are of good quality and of course they have our new logo displayed on them. Thanks to the Four Square for giving them a prominent position in the store. Sales have been encouraging to date.

Gazebo

This is another project that has been ongoing for around 3 years now and is soon to be launched. This has been a slow and drawn out project. We are now at a stage awaiting a few final details from Council before building can start. It never ceases to amaze me how much time it takes to get to the building stage. Concept, visual appeal, structural design, pricing, fund raising, building permits and working with Council to build on public land. These have all taken time and effort and money but we are looking forward to getting started as soon as possible. Council staff have been very helpful during this process.

Ruawai Rambler.

Jo is the prime mover here. This is now going well with people and businesses coming forward to advertise. It was never intended to be a profit making project but the extra advertising helps to cover expenses and it is good to see local businesses and people with a facility for this. Our thanks to 'SleepSystems NZ' who have been subsidising the printing.

Finally

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Tony King. He will be leaving us in the near future to take up a new career in Brazil. Tony has been a stalwart member of our group for some years now and we are sorry to see him go. However we wish him well in his future endeavours. **Bruce Crompton; Chairman,RPDG**





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The Moosletter

After being spoiled with such a long lovely summer it is a bit of a shock to have rain and mud again. Isn't it amazing how far the cats' and dogs' paws can carry mud down the hallway! Well we seem to have had a run lately on dogs with broken legs. There were the more usual 'hit by car and kicked by a bull' fractures but we also had a little more unusual case. The dog was dropped into the clinic not walking on his hind leg with the foot being very swollen and covered in skin wounds. History was possibly caught his foot in barbed wire. As the foot was so swollen we decided to take an X-ray. They say a picture is worth a thousand words and this one surely was. Diagnosis was not too difficult - it is not only people who get shot at duck shooting time! We will blame the mud for this one, causing a slip at a crucial moment. So, dogs and people take care out there!

On the cow front hopefully some of you are having a quick break as the cows are dry for a wee while. I know a few of you are milking through to keep some cashflow coming so it might be a bit hard to get enthused about calving time rocking around again. I'm not sure how you will manage to keep your motivation and energy levels up but eating well, sleeping well and having something to look forward to always helps. Best wishes from the team at The Vet Centre. **Janine Hames, BVSc**



X-ray showing the shotgun pellets in the dog's leg. The round white spots are the pellets.

The Vet Centre Ruawai
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2016	
March	- 34
April	- 38
May	- 108
Total for year to end of May	
	428mm
2015	
March	- 72
April	- 59
May	- 160
Total for year to end of May	
	393mm

ANZAC Day Service

The annual ANZAC service took place in the Ruawai Tokatoka Memorial Hall on the 25th April. The turnout, although not as large as other years, was still very good for a small town like Ruawai. The number of local RSA members is decreasing every year, but under the leadership of Alex and Mary Stewart we still had a good service.



As usual in Ruawai we had lots of singing, assisted by the local choir under the guidance of Carolyn Wessel. The guest speaker was Garth Preston, who gave an interesting talk about visits to graveyards of the service men who gave their lives in the war in Europe. He also included details of a tour through Auschwitz Concentration camp by himself, and members of his family, which left a deep impression on them. After the service, a lovely luncheon was put on by the RSA ladies. Photos courtesy of Dorothy Simpson



After the service, a lovely luncheon was put on by the RSA ladies. Photos courtesy of Dorothy Simpson **J.W.**

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CHALLENGE !

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What is it?

This item landed in our backyard with one of the recent storms. It looks useful for something, but we have no idea what for. If it is yours and you can still use it, please come and collect it. If nobody needs it, we are still curious what in the world it is for.

Jo & Carolyn Wessel

Nicky Reid, Farmlands Real Estate

The world of Real Estate is a busy one just now in Ruawai. In the past twelve months there have been at least seventeen house sales in Ruawai, compared with eleven last year and nine the year before. That's a lot of house sales for a small place! Last year, houses in Ruawai sold for an average of 90% of their government valuations, and this year they sold for an average of 13% above their government valuations, so that is a significant jump in value as well. The flow-on effect from the Auckland housing market bubble is finally filtering through to us. The market for lifestyle properties is also buoyant, being 30% up in the number of sales. Forestry land is in demand due to the strength of the export market and I have buyers wanting to buy mature trees, with or without the land. Horticulturalists are being squeezed out of the Auckland Region by the strong residential and lifestyle markets and are moving further afield, driving a change in land use in some areas. Good finishing country is also selling well at present with bull farmers often being the strongest buyers. The number of sales of good grazing farms of all sizes is up significantly on the past few years and value has strengthened a little as well. I have had record responses from advertising in the Herald - for all types of property, so if you have a property to sell and would like some help tapping into this market, give me a call and I can show you what we can do. If you would like to receive my regular property newsletter please contact me. Keep warm! **Regards, Nicky Reid** Licensed under the REAA 2008 0800 100 027 nicky.reid@farmlands.co.nz .

Ruawai Lions Community Shared Lunch – 22 May



Kim Jenyns, Alex Bickers, Kyla Johnson, Jo Forsythe and Debbie Menzies chat at the Lions Community Shared Lunch

“This is just great; don’t change a thing when you have it next year. “ An encouraging comment from a guest at the Ruawai Lions Community Shared lunch. Local businesses, groups and churches were represented and took advantage of the opportunity to speak about what they offered - venues and times. It was really interesting to find out the myriad of ways that our community offers to bring people together. A common theme was the need for new members. Hopefully by raising awareness of what’s out there, more locals will become involved. Comments such as “Wow, I never knew there were so many active groups in our community” confirmed the Lions were on the right track with this project. Many animated conversations were held in between the clusters of presentations. The event was deliberately informal and guests turned to face speakers in various parts of the hall. Entry was by a gold coin donation and a hamper was raffled. A delicious cake, which was part of the hamper was won, re-donated, won again this time by the member who had baked it, who also re-donated it and finally it found a new home on the third draw! Spot prizes were given to the couple who had the most recent wedding anniversary and to the most recent arrivals. An area set

up to provide entertainment for the children proved to be very popular with colouring in and games keeping them happy for a couple of hours. Guests enjoyed a wonderful spread for lunch. Several local businesses set up stalls and had a few items for sale. We certainly do have some creative, committed, caring and capable people in our little community. Everyone was offered the updated list of community groups. This is a valuable resource and will be available from Orr’s Health and Beauty if you don’t yet have one. Thank you to all who attended and all who worked so hard to make this project such a success. **Rosemary Webb; Ruawai Lions**

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The following article contributed by Peter Flood - Thank you Peter

The 2015/2016 season has drawn to a close and despite the low payout, we have had a pretty good season climatically which has put milk in our vats at a much lower cost. Ruawai and Dargaville were a little drier here on the West coast this late summer. But rain has finally arrived and it is still warm for this time of year so we are achieving good pasture growth rates to set us up for the new season. Dairy farmers budgets are extremely challenged at the moment and I have calculated the average farmer producing 120,000 milk solids will lose 75 cents/kg of ms from now until October. That equates to \$25 for every hour of every day until October 20. When I prepared my budgets for the new season I thought I was making some kind of mistake, but it was no mistake. If you are split calving or milking some cows through, the loss may not be as great but costs may be higher. So if you are seeing your bank balances declining like my own, you are not alone. I attended the Farmers Forum conference in Hamilton in May. There were two main areas of focus that I came away with and they were: firstly, improving pasture eaten per Ha by 1.5 tons and how to do that. And secondly, how to reduce costs to sub \$3.00/kg/ms and still maintain the same production. There is a direct correlation between the two to achieving a long term sustainable and profitable business. The sentiment from the Forum for payout for this season is much the same as last season with maybe a small lift to \$4.25/kg/ms. I have seen many ups and downs over the years and I believe this downturn is cyclical but we still have a wee way to go before payout returns to a more sustainable level. I think we will have a clearer view by Christmas for the rest of this season. So hang in there and talk to your banks, talk to your farming friends, or talk to Dairy NZ - they are there to help.

Your local research farm in Dargaville has just finished it’s first year of a new “Reducing Reliance on Imported Feed” three system trial. There are three farmlets with three different herds: 1) grass only, 2) cropping and 3) imported feed, e.g. PKE. Results so far show that the grass only with no imported feed and no cropping is the most profitable at these low payout levels. The trial will go for another 2 years minimum to capture the effects of different climatic conditions and fluctuating payouts. Our first field day was held on the 24th of May and was very well attended by farmers interested in the results so far. You can Google nddt.nz or narf.nz to see the results so far and also proceedings of the field day just held and much more. This farm is your farm and owned by all Northland Fonterra shareholders and is trialling regional work for you. I encourage you to follow the new trial and come along to the next field day. This is your farm and your trial.

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RD1**RD1****Ruawai Rugby**

The 2016 Ruawai NOMADS Senior Rugby team has had good start to the season, with one draw, three wins and five losses. Two of these have been 2 point losses. We are currently in 5th place on the leader board. We had the pleasure of hosting our Annual Sponsors Day lunch with the afternoon's entertainment being the Ruawai Nomads vs. Tomarata RFC. We have a strong dedicated team with a lot of young blood coming up through the ranks. A big thank you to our loyal sponsors and supporters who help to make the team a success. A huge congratulations to Bradley Beattie for making the Northland U19's training squad. **Carol Thompson**

**RUAWAI INDOOR BOWLING CLUB**

We are well into our season of indoor bowls. As you read this newsletter, we will have played the pairs championship. As this is the only club with junior players, we will hold the Northland Junior Singles here over the next couple of weeks in order to save the trip to Whangarei. The winner of this event has the option to travel to Wellington to compete as a rep player in the Nationals. If you are at a loose end on Tuesday nights, come on down to the Hall for a game or just to watch. You are most welcome. We try and kick off at around 7.30. You never know, you might enjoy yourself. For more info on this don't hesitate to give me a call. **Tony Oud Ph 4392390.**

Ruawai Boating Club

Just a quick update from the Boating Club Committee. Recently we held our Ultimate Angler Prize Giving where members and sponsors enjoyed a nice meal and all entrants in attendance walked away happy with a prize or two. Congratulations to Raymond Marychurch our overall winner this year and Steven Wrathall who was runner-up. Thanks also to the sponsors of this competition. Our Annual Club Trophy Prize giving is on Sunday 19th June at the Ruawai Community Sports Club. Doors open 4:30pm; meals are available for purchase. New season memberships are due on 1 June 2016. These can be paid at Ruawai Motors Challenge. **Glenn**

Citizens Advice Bureau offers a free, friendly, confidential service on

a wide range of topics including Consumer issues, Housing & tenancy problems, Local & general information, Employment disputes, Personal & family matters.

Immigration & Passport forms, and application forms for mobility parking permits are available from the Bureau, 37 Hokianga Rd, Ph 439 6100, 10am – 1pm (excl. public holidays)

Want to help your community? If you are interested in people, information and issues, able to listen, open minded, keen to learn, eager to help others and interested in a bit of detective work then you are a potential CAB volunteer. Call in at the Bureau, 37 Hokianga Rd, for an application form and find out more about the training programme.



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The Collective

I felt it was about bringing together passionate like minded people that are motivated, innovative and enthusiastic. Each bringing their own personal expertise to create The Collective, being professional, loving what we do and achieving a great quality result. So I would like to introduce:

Tinelle Langdon, our new Personal Assistant whom has been a cog behind the wheel for Bayleys, Whangarei for the past two years in an admin role. She totally knows and understands systems and procedures and is always looking for ways of implementing good structure that is simplistic.

Indy Herman, whom is magic behind the camera is our photography lady, videographer and now drone pilot. Her innovative approach to capturing that special photo, knowing how important quality is to our clients and also portraying their properties in such a manner.

Yours farming



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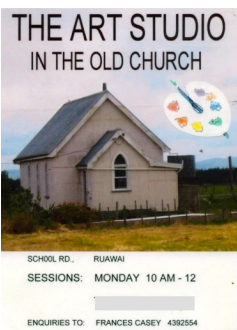
Catherine Stewart

Rookie Extraordinaire of the
Year 2015/2016

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News From the Art Centre

The 2nd term has been much quieter than usual for the Art Studio. Attendance numbers have been low for various reasons. Illness (Iris we are thinking of you and wish you well), Maria and her family who are leaving to make a new life in Australia and others who have had commitments elsewhere. Chrysanthemums are in full bloom at this time of the year and recently members used these beautiful flowers as a theme for a 'Still Life' project. Each painting was very different with everyone agreeing they had a very enjoyable time, which is really what art is all about. Should you wish to try your hand at art, or are an already accomplished artist and would like to meet with like minded people, our friendly group meets on Mondays at 10am. at the Art Studio; School Rd. Ruawai

Contact: Frances Casey 439 2554



Farewell to Bruce and Myrna Flanagan...

Bruce came to Ruawai in 1955 when his family purchased the 'Ruawai Hotel'. In the first week here he joined the Ruawai Fire Brigade and ended up serving for 35 years. He has a Gold Star with 5 bars! Bruce and Myrna also ran a local taxi service. After 10 years in the hotel (and 6 o'clock closing was finishing) he bought Iris Bennett's stationary shop which he owned for 31 1/2 years before retiring. He is remembered for always having a sign at the shop reminding us of how many days to Christmas! Bruce met and married Myrna in 1958. Myrna taught for a total of 33 1/2 years at originally the District High School and then Ruawai Primary School. They had 2 children, Shanley and Ross and now have 5 grandchildren. Bruce joined

Jaycees when he was 30 and had to leave when he was 40 receiving a Senatorship. He is a Charter member of Ruawai Lions joining in 1978 and contributing much in many different ways during the 38 years he has been a member with 100% attendance throughout that time. He was President twice and was on Lions Cabinet for a short while as a Zone Chairman. For all his good service he was honoured with a 'Lloyd Morgan Trust Life Membership'. After closing his shop Bruce enjoyed being a volunteer at Matakohē Kauri Museum. Bruce and Myrna have contributed greatly in many ways to our local community and they will be sadly missed as they shift north to Kaitiāia to live near their daughter Shanley at Pukenui. **Dorothy Simpson**

Test your knowledge about Ruawai, past and present with this quiz. Thanks to Anna Curnow and Garth Preston

Answers on page 8.

1. Who is the current Chair of the Raupo Drainage Committee?
2. Name the four locations of tsunami sirens in Ruawai.
3. Who is the current Chair of the Ruawai Hall Committee?
4. Where can you find the wooden sculpture of a drain digger that was created at the Ruawai Centennial?
5. What bird is featured on the new Ruawai Town-signs?
6. Which Ruawai fireman and farmer has just moved to Brazil to run a restaurant?
7. Where was the first Ruawai School built in 1908?
8. There was a previous school built in 1903 on the site of the current Ruawai High School. What was the name of this school?
9. In what year was the current Ruawai Kindergarten built?
10. In what year did Ruawai first get internet access?

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Ruawai Kindergarten



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Here at Ruawai Kindergarten we believe that children develop best in a natural home like environment where we actively support children's transitions in an environment where holistic development is underpinned by the early childhood curriculum, Te Whariki.

We are a unique rural kindergarten situated within the Education Hub of the Ruawai, licensed to carry 30 children and offer 20 free hours.

Our vision is to support experiences and opportunities, which lay strong foundations for future learning to occur. We have an open door policy and welcome families in Ruawai and the surrounding communities to call in and have a look around our fantastic modern facility.

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

The teachers are Teresa Robertson (Head Teacher), Chanelle McLaughlin, Lisa Matthews, Bonnie Lindsay & Kyla Johnson (Office Administrator).

Nau mai haere mai

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

Matariki at The Kauri Museum

“Seven Stars, Seven Stories”. 6 June-19 July

The cluster of stars that we call Matariki, and astronomers call the Pleiades, are known all over the world and through history. Although there are many stars in the cluster, only six or seven can be seen without a telescope. In common with Maori, the rising of these bright stars heralded the turning of the agricultural year for many different cultures, and many explanations of their origin are attached to them. This year, each of the seven schools in the old Otamatea District will help to co-curate our Matariki exhibition “Seven Stars, Seven Stories” by accepting a Matariki/Pleiades story, and interpreting it using a range of artistic media for display.

Lisa Tolich CEO



Northland's Legendary Axemen From 29 June

In its first dual 'online' and 'onsite' exhibition, The Kauri Museum explores Northland's Legendary Axeman in a unique series that highlights the origins and evolution of the sport. Become acquainted with some of Northland's well known sporting personalities and families as they share with you their stories and achievements as well as a few tall tales. Both exhibitions will be free with Museum entry.

Lisa Tolich CEO

Awards for The Kauri Museum

The Kauri Museum has won two awards at the Grand Pacific Annual Awards:

2015/16 Best Attraction Affordable Coach Tours

2015/16 Best Attraction Cruise & Luxury Coach Tours

This means success for the Museum across both areas of the

tourist spectrum. Well done and congratulations to the Board, CEO, Staff and Volunteers. We can all be proud of this amazing attraction right on our own doorstep. Make sure and pay a visit if you have not done so. Admission is free for residents of the old Otamatea area, which is more or less the area from Tokatoka to Mangawhai.

J.W.

Proposed Kaipara Cycle Trail through Ruawai - by Stella Clyde

I would like to initiate a cycle trail from Kaiwaka through to Dargaville to join up with the trail that goes north of Dargaville. At present the trail follows the Pouto Rd and cyclists then have to ferry across to Helensville.

I feel, after having ridden many other trails in NZ, that our small towns could do with the boost that trails give to local businesses and farmers. The Otago Trail now is the top earner for the area - greater than farming. Farmers that were initially against the trail are now hosting cyclists in backpacker or bed and breakfast accommodation. Cafés have about 100 bicycles outside while their riders enjoy local food and drink.

Ruawai to Matakoho seems to me to be the easiest place to try and form a trail. Riding (or walking) the stop banks would be an excellent trail and interesting as well. The back roads may be able to form the next link to Matakoho - although it would be much better if a trail could be made across farmland. Cycles and trucks and cars do not mix well - especially if the road has many sharp bends and is hilly. Trails are mainly used by families with children so safety is a big issue. State Highways are usually avoided unless there is a separate pathway as traffic moving at 100k plus is too dangerous. I would like to have a group of keen Ruawai locals to help me make this happen. There is funding available for cycle trails. KDC is keen to help out where possible. It would also provide a safe place for local families to ride bikes or walk for recreation. If you are keen to be part of this initiative please email stella.clyde@gmail.com

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Answers to the Ruawai Quiz:

- 1) Ian Beattie
- 2) SH 12 at Ruawai College; Freyberg Rd. at the Ruawai Dairy, Jellicoe Rd. opposite the Challenge station, 84 Freyberg Rd.
- 3) Carolyn Wessel
- 4) Crompton Engineering
- 5) A shag/cormorant/kawau
- 6) Tony King
- 7) On the corner of Creamery Rd. and State Highway 12
- 8) Raupo School
- 9) 2012
- 10) In 1995 through dial-up connection at the High School

PERCY PRATTLE

"It's what you learn after you know it all that really counts."

News from Ruawai Primary School

You have probably read in the Lifestyler about Ruawai Primary School winning the 'Wall Worthy' competition. Like me, you may want some more information. What is "The Tale of Five Brothers" about? So, I went to see Janiece McPherson at the school. The tale has been depicted in the school hall for a long time, but I have never noticed it.

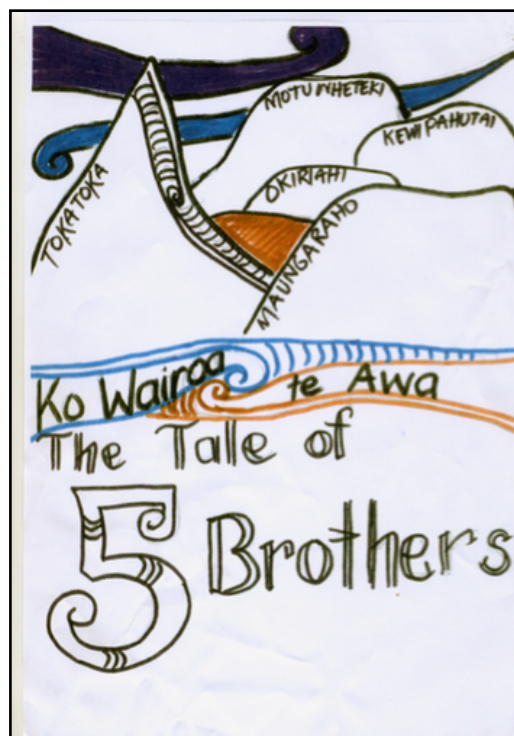


The 'Five Brothers' are mountains that are situated along the Northern Wairoa River. See picture for the names. These mountains once lived elsewhere. The local tale tells us how and why they stand in their current positions. There are 6 metal panels along the school front. The idea is to use these panels to depict the mountains and the story. The panels will also be used to assist in promoting the schools values of 'Responsibility, Respect and Resilience'. Before painting can start, the old paint on the panels has to be partly scraped off, so the undercoat can be painted on. If someone has a good sander and a bit of time to do this, the school would much appreciate your assistance

.J.W.



This shows the panels along the school front that will be used for the murals and need to be sanded



The 'Wall Worthy' competition is sponsored by Keep New Zealand Beautiful. For more information about the competition or KNZB got to their website: <http://www.knzb.org.nz/events>

Clubs

For a couple of years, the school has been running a program called 'Clubs'. On Tuesday afternoons the kids get a chance to do various activities such as cooking, knitting, agriculture, etc. 'Clubs' will be running again next term. If you have ideas for such activities please contact the school. One activity someone mentioned is woodworking. If you enjoy woodworking/carpentry and would like to share your activity with the kids, again, contact the school.

.J.W.

Recipe from Anna Curnow

Healthy bliss balls are a delicious treat ideal for after school or with a cup of tea after dinner. Packed full of minerals and fibre they are super good for you too.

1 cup raw cashews
1 cup desiccated coconut, plus extra to coat the balls
½ cup dried dates
Zest of 1 lemon
1 teaspoon pure vanilla essence
2 tablespoons firm honey
¼ cup crystallised ginger
½ cup unfrozen or fresh feijoas
¼ cup dark chocolate drops
2 teaspoons coconut oil

- 1 Place all ingredients (except the chocolate drops) in a food processor and blitz until the mixture comes together and is smooth.
2. Add in the chocolate drops and blitz one last time to just mix. You want to keep the chocolate drops reasonably intact so you get nice crunchy bits of chocolate in each bite.
3. Place extra coconut in a bowl. Take about a tablespoon of the mixture at a time and roll into balls, then coat in coconut.
4. Place in fridge to firm up.

Enjoy!

Mealbook

Do you enjoy entertaining? Do you like to talk to overseas tourists?

Here is your opportunity to do just that and make some money at the same time

Mealbook is an exciting new concept that provides a local dining experience for travellers, no matter where they are staying. Guests staying over this past summer were caught out with limited dining options especially in more remote locations and inquired about where to eat when they visited these places. This concept is not new or unique globally, but there is nothing quite like it in NZ. Social dining is becoming quite popular and travellers relish the chance to have a home cooked meal in someone's home to deepen their travel experience. Mealbook allows you to make an income from your home by providing a quality dining experience to travellers. Mealbook covers all of the costs involved in bringing the customer to you, so all you have to cover is the cost of the food and your time. Mealbook will offer the traveller an option to book either a 2 course meal or a 3 course meal at your home. Meals are a set rate per person of \$45 for 2 courses and \$60 for 3 courses. A 2 course meal may be either an entree and main, or main and dessert. A 3 course meal would be entree, main and dessert. Meals are pre-booked so you will know how many courses you need to provide. You might be hosting just one person, a couple or a maximum group of 10. This depends on your capacity as a host. To cover the costs of marketing, advertising and development Mealbook receives a commission of 15% to help provide this service. If a cancellation occurs within 24 hours of the meal, guests will receive a full refund. If no cancellation is received you will still receive payment. Meals are pre-booked through

the Mealbook website. Guests confirm their booking with a secure online payment. As soon as the meal takes place you can email your invoice to Mealbook where payment will be made to your pre recorded bank account. Mealbook was set up to provide more local dining availability in a growing tourism industry. To realise the potential of Mealbook as a unique travel and dining experience, we need hosts as committed as we are. To do this, MealBook requires that hosts be available on a regular basis to cook a quality home cooked meal. During peak travel periods (November - March) our preference is that you be available 2-3 nights per week. Shoulder seasons, you may be available for only 1 night a fortnight, or more if you wish. We are flexible and essentially it comes down to how much you want to earn from this and how much you enjoy meeting new folk. If you like this idea, go to the website mealbook.nz and register your interest.

Ruawai Tokatoka Hall

Well, the refurbishing of the Social Lounge is almost finished. As mentioned in the March newsletter, trades people are very busy so we have had to wait our turn. As this newsletter goes to print, the carpet is being laid and then it is all completed. The new heat pump in the Social Lounge is being appreciated on the cool days as it warms the room up very quickly. We have become aware, that many people do not know about the lovely Meeting Room in the Hall, which was refurbished a few years ago. This is an excellent room for all kinds of meetings either business or social. Tables can be moved aside to accommodate more people. A small kitchenette can be used for a cup of tea. With different sized rooms, including the Main Auditorium, the Hall is an excellent venue for all sorts of occasions. This is your community Hall and welcomes your support **For bookings or information contact:**

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Any man who can drive safely while kissing a pretty girl is simply not giving the kiss the attention it deserves. Albert Einstein