



RUAWAI RAMBLER

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

March 2016

From the Editor

Welcome to the March 2016 edition of the Ruawai Rambler. It seems almost too far into this year to wish you all a Happy New Year, but I will do so anyway. They say "Time flies when you are having fun". Going by that, I must have had a lot of fun; and actually I have and hope you can say the same. My thanks again to those who have contributed to this issue. Some of you are regulars and some are new. There must be others who have a story to tell from the past or present. Would love to hear from you. The Ruawai Promotions and Development Group (RPDG) has no regular source of income. So we decided to try another way of promoting Ruawai and hopefully make some money as well. We are having polo shirts and T shirts made in several sizes with our new logo on them. We hope that both locals and tourists will buy them. These shirts will be sold initially at Ruawai Four Square and should be available by the time you read this. Special thanks to Committee member, Tony King, who has made all the arrangements for this venture. On February 27th a dinner-dance was held in the Ruawai Tokatoka Hall. The main purpose of this event was to raise money for JMB Rugby so our young rugby players can go to play against their Aussie counterparts. It was a very enjoyable evening. An excellent dinner, good musical entertainment and a well known guest speaker, Buck Shelford. Congratulations to the organisers who went to a lot of work to organise this event. Last but not least I want to thank our advertisers who make the production of this newsletter possible. **A special thanks to our main sponsor, "Beds & More" and Nicky Reid, your local Farmlands real estate agent (main sponsor for this issue)..**

Contact for articles and advertising: Jo Wessel, Editor P: 439 2507 email: jhwessel@xtra.co.nz

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group (or RPDG as it sometimes get shortened to!) was held in February. Here is a quick look at what went on. Our Committee is as follows: Chairperson: Bruce Crompton, Secretary: Tina McCullough, Treasurer: Elaine Crompton. Committee members: Tony King, Kevin Hardstaff, Anna Curnow, Jo Wessel, Nicky Reid and Peter Flood. Snippets from the Chairman's report. Gazebo: We have applied for Lottery funding for this and it will proceed if this is approved. Ruawai Rambler: We have completed our first full year and it has been a fantastic success. Christmas Parade: One of our better parades; it was a great day with lots of floats and plenty of people. We have planted a new tree (a blue spruce) on the village green and hopefully this will grow into a tree we can use in future and decorate for Christmas. We have a new logo which features a shag. This has been a major debating point for quite a while. The new logo will be going on our Welcome Signs at both ends of town. We will have T-shirts coming out in the near future with the logo on them. Thanks to all the committee for their efforts during the year. We look forward to another busy year. We are all dedicated to keeping Ruawai going forward into 2016. **Tina McCullough**

Friends of Ruawai

The Ruawai Promotions and Development Group is dedicated to doing just that, promote Ruawai. This is not always a simple matter and requires time and work. The Group has a committee of nine members most of whom have full-time jobs and therefore are busy people. For some of the things we do, a few extra hands would be very welcome. We would like to form a sort of subcommittee we can call "Friends of Ruawai". These "Friends" can help with, for example, folding the Ruawai Rambler newsletter, be in charge of getting advertising, help with maintaining the public gardens around town, etc. If a number of people could give a hand, it may mean only a couple of hours a month. If you think you can help in this way, please contact Bruce Crompton at 439 2221 (or at his engineering shop), Tina McCullough at 021 151 1569, Jo Wessel at 439 2507 or any of the Committee members.

The following is from one of our main sponsors, local Farmlands Real Estate agent, Nicky Reid

Interesting Times!

Charles Darwin, who studied the Theory of Evolution and wrote "The Origin of Species" once said "Its not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can best manage change", and this has been the challenge for everyone involved with the dairy industry this year. For me it has meant a change to Farmlands, where I can now provide more farmer-focused marketing for less cost to my clients. Its great to have an office inside the Dargaville branch and all the networking opportunity such a large company offers. The rural property market was very subdued for the first half of this season, although now things have kicked into gear as people are wanting to make a move before next season. I sold the dairy farm at the end of Parker Rd, Ararua last month. Most of the sales that have happened have been strong. Farm values have not dropped although there have been fewer farms sold. I do have buyers for dairy farms - they are taking a longer term outlook. They see this year as a good time to buy and are supported by their bankers. Autumn is the easiest season to sell a dairy farm and this Autumn they are all looking nice and green so I hope to be able to help a few more people make their next move before the end of this season. I will be sending a fortnightly property comment out by email (recent sales, new listings) - if you would like to receive these please email me on:

nicky.reid@farmlands.co.nz or phone on 0800 100 027.

All the best! Regards, Nicky Reid



Ruawai Tokatoka Hall News

In the last newsletter we mentioned the new commemorative plaque we put up on the front wall of the Hall. This was the idea of Tony Radich (Tony loves history) and was put up by Tony King. Here is a picture of the plaque. The renewal work on the Social Lounge is continuing slow but sure. Tradespeople are very busy and this has caused some delays. Tony King is doing the carpentry work and doing a first class job. The chairs from the Social Lounge have been re-upholstered and look like new. Hopefully, by the time you read this the painters will be in and when they are done new carpet will be laid. So when the next newsletter comes out it should all be completed. The Social Lounge will be an excellent room for all kinds of occasions and parties. The Hall is also great for children's parties with plenty of room for fun & games. So keep us in mind for your next event.!

Carolyn Wessel, Custodian



From the Ruawai Boating Club

The Ruawai Boating Club held a two day fishing competition the weekend of 20th & 21st of February. This competition was to be held on Waitangi weekend but had to be postponed due to weather conditions. Eighty-five anglers entered. The first day saw reports of good numbers of Snapper landed. Gurnard, Trevalli and Kingfish numbers were low. Sunday was a bit quieter for some of the entrants. Overall it was a fantastic weekend of boating followed by a get-together and dinner at the local Sports Club. The Club's next event "Take a kid fishing" was held on March 6th. See page 10.

Tony Oud.



A nice couple of fish at
4.180 & 4.915 kg



Some of the younger fishermen did pretty good too



The following article is contributed by Hamish Davison from Northash Ltd. Thank you Hamish.

As I write this it feels like an early autumn is upon us. Despite the humidity and heat, we have had some respite in the evenings with a few cooler nights; welcome for us as farmers as well as our animals. The rain at the end of February is, for dairy farmers, a welcome top-up. Although we have had a good summer overall, things on farm were getting dry and

the rain sets us up well for the autumn. Farmers are considering their options to, economically, ensure they get the basics right. Cow condition towards the end of the season is paramount to ensure next season is successful from both a milk production and fertility point of view. With the current financial situation on farm, people will be considering milking once a day, or drying cows off early to hit their targets rather than introduction of purchased supplement. If it is required for cow condition, supplement is still profitable as long as the cashflow can handle it. It is downturns like this that will go down in history as a tough time financially for farmers. The past two seasons have been two of the lowest payouts in the last decade. Next season doesn't look any better. The experts are looking for a trigger in the world to change our fortunes. We will know what the trigger was once it happens and then the experts will surely try to claim the accolades for our recovery. Budget for the worst, expect the worst, and if something better is delivered we will be pleasantly surprised. Sticking together as a community and as farmers will be key to the way we come out at the other side of these challenges we face. And pray that Fonterra can find a solution in the market, and flex their muscles in NZ to support its farmer shareholders.

Talk soon....Hamish



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	Dec - 31.5 - 2015
	Total - 279 for 3 months
2015	Jan - 36.5
	Feb - 65.5
	Dec - 91 - 2014
	Total - 193 for 3 months

Ruawai Indoor Bowling Club News.

Happy New Year from the Ruawai Indoor Bowling Club. With summer drawing to a close we start to prepare for a new season of indoor bowls in the Ruawai Tokatoka Hall. We will be kicking off with a roll-up on 29th of March 7pm to get organised for a 7.30 start. If you are thinking that you may like to play some sort of sport, not too physical and as competitive as you choose (either as teams or single) this sport might suit you. I am writing this assuming that you have never played before. We have a range of players in our club young, old, disabled, all with their own style of playing. We try and keep it interesting with a range of different mixtures of games. Plenty of coaching and help on the night is available as well as leaving you do your own thing. We would love to see you. Even if you think maybe you might come down to the Hall and just watch, you are more than welcome. This is alcohol and smoke-free, followed by a cup of tea, and is family friendly

Tony Oud Ph

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Bus service, Dargaville - Auckland

I have been asked to check into the availability of a bus service between Dargaville and Auckland and a timetable. Unfortunately, there is no daily service. Te Wai Ora Coachlines leave Dargaville on Sunday evening at 5pm, stop in Ruawai at approx. 5.20pm and go on to Auckland. The only return service is from Auckland on Friday evening at 5.30pm. They may do a more regular service if there is enough demand. For more information go to their website: www.tewaioracoachlines.co.nz or phone 439 4975...J.W.

The Great Flag Debate - continued

In the last issue of the Ruawai Rambler I mentioned that we have a chance to vote for a new flag. The choice of flag to go up against the "old flag" was made at the end of last year. Now you have until 24th March to make your final choice: stay with the 'old' or go for the 'new'. In the media, views for both sides have been expressed, sometimes quite vehemently. A number of well-known personalities, including Dan Carter and Richie McCaw, have come out in favour of a change. Whatever your thoughts on this matter, go ahead and vote! Just remember it could be a long time before this opportunity presents itself again.

J.W.

The two flags side by side





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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Dana hard at work

The Moosletter.

Vaccinations are amazing things. Many of you will know the story of how the first vaccination was discovered/invented with the benign cow pox virus used to protect against deadly small pox virus. Since then small pox has been eradicated but there are still plenty of diseases out there that flare up and cause disease (think Ebola for example). In the animal world we are experiencing an outbreak of the canine Parvo virus in Ruawai. This nasty disease can be fatal but is easily prevented by vaccinating puppies and having regular booster vaccinations for adult animals. When most of the animals in the area are protected with vaccination you create “herd immunity” where vaccinated animals stop virus spread and protect the unvaccinated. Unfortunately, in Ruawai we have a situation where there are too many animals that have never been vaccinated and so once the virus arrived it spread rapidly and now it will live in the environment for many years. So when you decide to take on a new pup make sure you factor the cost of vaccinating it into your budget to avoid heartbreak! Call us to see how we can protect your animals.

On the staff front we have a new vet in Ruawai – the first time we have had 3 vets based here! You can’t miss him, he is a big bloke. Dana Marais is a new graduate and he is living in Paparoa with his partner, Byrony, who is also a vet and has started working at the Waipu branch of the Vet Centre. So once he’s learnt to leave the toilet seat down he will be a wonderful addition to our team.

Janine Hames



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Trevor Harris has been a well-known personality for a number of years. We have seen Trevor in various capacities. He agreed to write a short biographical item for our Newsletter. Thanks Trevor and we wish you and Heather all the best.


My Time in Ruawai

I came to Ruawai in 2006 and, along with Heather, purchased and ran Ruawai Farm Supplies for 6 years. During that time we made numerous friends and that helped lift the turnover at RFS from \$760,000 to \$3 million. When Neil Kelly passed away we were offered the buildings and land but we let Heather’s Colin buy them. Colin then became our landlord. Eventually, in 2012 we sold our business RFS to RD1, which made sense as the area is mainly dairy. The only regret was that we were a one stop shop and catered for all farmers including kumara growers, fishermen, other


businesses in Ruawai and the home handyman. RD1 caters for mainly dairy. When we sold RFS we sold our house at Taurikura and I bought a Jayco 23' caravan and a Ford Ranger to pull it. We put our belongings in storage and set sail for the South Island for a few months. Heather got a job as Manager of the Rural Farm Services at Takaka and I, as Manager of Tukurua Camping Ground where we lived in our caravan. We returned to the North Island at the end of 2012 and bought a house back in Ruawai. Colin at this stage bought a dairy farm at Parua Bay so Heather bought the shops so Colin could get his money back. I opened a gift shop in the vacant No. 2 shop between the Accountants and Vets. This shop became known as the "pink" shop and I called it 'Fairys & Things'. Starting from scratch I built up a good business and when Heather sold the shops to Cherie Capey, I looked to sell Fairy's & Things. Eventually, just before Christmas 2015, Natalia Partridge approached me and we agreed on a price and she takes over at the end of February 2016. She was "bullied" into keeping the hardware that I stocked as farmers and others had to drive to Dargaville to get screws, bolts and sandpaper. My hope is that she gets the same support I did. After selling the business, Heather and I have settled in Parua Bay just across the creek from Colin's farm. We run a few hectares and graze some of Colin's stock. Finally, I would like to say how much we enjoyed Ruawai and trust that the area prospers.

Trevor Harris


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Ruawai Quiz - with thanks to Garth Preston and partner Anna Curnow for putting it together.

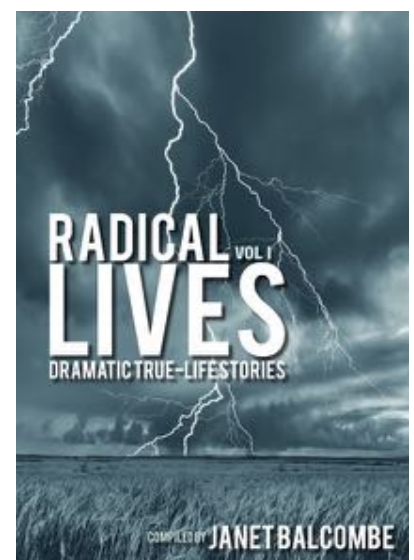
- 1 - In what year did the Ruawai Boarding House burn down?
- 2 - What is the name of the group that oversees the drainage network in Ruawai?
- 3 - What famous All Black former captain spoke at an event in Ruawai on 27 February 2016?
- 4 - Where was the nearest railway station to Ruawai without having to cross a river?
- 5 - What was the name of the company that ran the Helensville-Dargaville steamship service?
- 6 - What was the name of the retail store in Ruawai that was opened in 1936?
- 7 - Which New Zealand Prime Minister had a brother who was Ruawai Primary School's headmaster in the late 1950s and early 1960s?
- 8 - In what year was Ruawai District High School totally destroyed by fire?
- 9 - What is the name of the hill on which Lockwood Smith's silo can be found?
- 10 - Ruawai was named in 1908. In which year was the Ruawai Centennial celebrated?

UPDATE FROM THE WILD SIDE

Well we've hit the ground running in 2016 and there are a few new things to tell you about. Firstly, my memoir Take a Walk on the Wild Side has been revamped and a Collectors Edition is now available which contains some black and white photos. The Kindle eBook version has not yet been updated, however. My new book, Radical Lives Vol I, is available now. Radical Lives is a power-packed collection of true stories from a cross-section of New Zealanders whose lives have been radically changed by God and who now impact the world around them for good. This is a book which also gives hope and encouragement that God is still in the business of healing and miracles today. Ray and I have launched a new Wild Side Publishing website which can be found at www.wildsidepublishing.com We have also launched a new business called Wild Side Design.

Visit www.wildsidedesign.net to discover how we can help you. Books at (discounted prices for Ruawaiians) and Christian Life news magazine (free) are available from Ruawai Four Square or the Challenge Station. Until next time, take care.

Janet Curle





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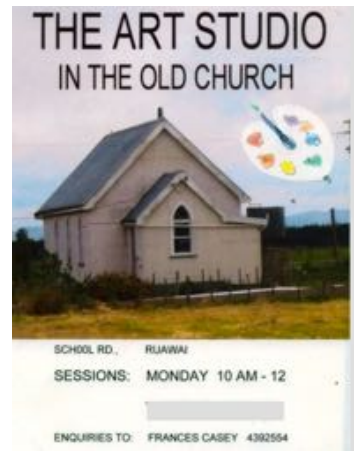
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Art Studio News
Wellcome to another New Year. 2016 has already been busy for members of the Art Studio Ruawai. We have twice visited exhibitions at the new Mangawhai Art Gallery. Both of these were very different but an inspiration to us all.



Term one is under way at the Studio and will run through until 11th of April. **Term two** will commence on May 2nd.

This year's sessions will be held on Mondays from 10am, unless there is a sufficient number of people interested in doing a Tuesday night course. All enquiries please phone **Frances Casey 09 439 2554**

The following article is from Jan Bellamy. Photography has been Jan's hobby for many years and I have admired her talent for quite some time. With the changes in photography (think digital) Jan has adapted her skills and has recently received some international awards. Congratulations Jan!!

I have been dairy farming on our current farm with my husband, John, for over 25 years, milking 600 Friesian cows. We are currently diversifying our dairying and have started a small stud of Speckle Park beef cattle. We have two children, Danielle who is currently project managing at Opus in Auckland, having gained her degree with Wellington University as a landscape architect and Cory, who is currently studying geology at Christchurch University. My passion lies with photography. My photography adventure started with Norm Robinson, who introduced me to Black and White Photography processing film in a dark room. Now, with the digital age, the dark rooms have been made redundant. So, with my first digital camera, I started to produce Infrared Photos, using only an IR filter, a tripod and shooting blind.

This is a challenge especially when you are thigh deep in water! The weather and tides need to align, no wind, spring tide and amazing cloud patterns; happens only about once a year. The final images are processed through photoshop and it isn't until then that I can see what I have taken. This passion finally paid off with three images being nominees in the 10th Annual Black and White Spider Awards. 7,686 entries from 74 countries and of those, 943 were nominees. I was elated to have three of them. The moral of the story is to photograph your own backyard because someone else will appreciate it. And if you don't photograph it, someone else will!

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PS I am the President of the Dargaville Camera Club and would love to add new members to our very enthusiastic group.
Jan Bellamy



Ruawai Christmas Parade and Activities



Well even though Christmas has come and gone for another year, 2015's Christmas activities and parade deserve a mention. First of all a big thank you to the local businesses who supported RPDG by donating both prizes for the raffle and monetary donations towards the parade. We are so lucky to have wonderful businesses like you. Thanks also to the Ruawai Volunteer Fire Brigade, who not only pick up Santa and take him around town in their big red engine, but also put engines into our parade. Thanks to our local Policeman, Willie Paniora for being present and leading our parade. Our Floats this year were just fantastic. They were well presented and a lot of work had gone into them. It is so lovely to see all the children, both on floats and those standing on the side of the road, getting so excited and looking so happy. We had a fantastic day. The



weather was kind to us, and everyone looked to be having a great time, be it watching the parade or buying quick fire raffles off the JMB Rugby people. We had other activities running over the weeks before Christmas. Santa came to the local Post Shop to visit us and let children have their pictures taken with him. Thank you to Bidy Marychurch for letting Santa take over her shop (I know he enjoyed being there). There was a competition running which was "Name the Businesses". This was won by Odette Hall. The Christmas light displays put on by the Lindsey family are always a delight for both young and old. If you have never been, then make sure you do in December this year because you are missing a display that is just out of this world. Thanks to Julie and Gordon and your family. We hope you enjoyed the Christmas activities and the parade. Put your thinking caps on for 2016's Floats (it's never too early to plan these things). Santa will be making a return visit and there will be some competitions as well.

Tina McCullough

The Vet Centre Float on left

Gordon Murray is a long-time Ruawai resident and has, over the years, contributed much to this community. Gordon sent me the following article. As you can see he was in on the ground floor of the Ruawai Fire Brigade.



The first pump owned by the Ruawai Fire Brigade

After the mention of the Ruawai Fire Brigade I thought readers might be interested in how it all began. At the AGM of the Ruawai Progressive Society, held in the Settlers Hall in June 1952, one of the matters raised was the question "Do we need a Fire Brigade in Ruawai..?" There were five ratepayers in attendance and all voted in favour. After a short discussion it was left to those people to get it up and running.

They were:

- Ted Dane - RDC Engineer
- John Comer - Truck Operator
- Frank Clow - Rawleighs Rep
- Vince Matich - Grocer

Gordon Murray - Garage Proprietor

Dick Mitchell Secretary of the RPS was appointed Secretary and Ted Dane Chairman. The locals treated it as a joke. John Comer and Gordon Murray joined up to show they were serious. Our first training was done by the CFO of Dargaville "Skinny Hayward". Our first Chief was Ernie Derby "Ex Dargaville Fire Brigade" and our "Fire Station" for 6 Years was Batty & Murray's Garage, We bought our own fire-boots.

Used uniforms and helmets were obtained from the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board. How many of today's firemen would join up under those conditions? In May 1953, when we became officially recognised, the O.C.C. gave the Brigade an annual grant of 150 pounds. Luckily the business people of Ruawai were very generous and made substantial donations. When the Marine Dept. subdivided Well St., The Brigade were given the corner section which the R D C wanted for a Managers house so we swapped it for the two sections The Brigade now occupies **Gordon Murray**



The Fargo Fire Engine was purchased in 1957

ANZAC Day 2016

25th April, ANZAC Day, falls on a Friday and during School holidays this year but I am sure we will uphold the Ruawai tradition of having a surprisingly good turnout to honour those who died for us in two World Wars and countless conflicts throughout the world.

The Ruawai RSA will as usual form up at 10:30 am on Wharf Rd to march to the War Memorial Hall to honour the fallen.

The Guest speaker will be Mr. Garth Preston and the service conducted by Mr. Bill Simpkin.

I encourage the Schools to participate and for parents bring their children. Remember that sons and daughters can wear the medals of their departed parents. (Medals to be worn on the right)

Alex Stewart, President, Ruawai Returned Services.



Brain Injury Association

The Brain Injury Association Northland is an organization that assists those that have suffered a traumatic head injury through accidents, strokes etc.

The contact details are: B.I.A. Northland, PO Box 4001, Kamo.Whangarei. Phone 0800 4595013 Support group meetings are held every third Thursday of the month 10am to 12noon Dargaville Hospital.

Local contact : Alex Stewart 09 4392737

ANZAC CHOIR
Every year a group of people who enjoy singing, come together to sing at the ANZAC service.
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Practices start in early April

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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 and Kyla Johnson is the Office Administrator.

Nau mai haere mai

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

We recently purchased 2 Gazebo's to provide some more shade outdoors during these hot summer months.

Thanks to Jason and the team at McCoy and Thomas Hunting and Fishing Dargaville for helping us out with these. Next month we are off on a day trip to the Matakohe Kauri Museum. We look forward to sharing our photos with you in the next edition of the Rambler.



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Answers to the Ruawai Quiz

- 1 -1925
- 2 - Raupo Drainage Committee
- 3 - Buck Shelford
- 4 - Paparoa
- 5 - The Kaipara Steamship Company
- 6 - Ruawai Co-operative Dairy Ltd.
- 7 - Sir Keith Holyoake whose brother Oscar was headmaster
- 8 -1935
- 9 - Rogan's Hill
- 10 -2014 (a few years late)

Music in the Garden

Ruawai Lions Club recently put on a 'Music in the Garden' event in the garden of Evan and Brenda Robinson on Dunn Road. The afternoon went very well following a Valentine's Day theme and there was a good attendance. Performers were Ronnie Antonio, Kate Cotching (aged 10 from Whakapirau), Rivertown Singers, Take Five (singing A cappella), Sax 'n' Sister Act Two (sax, piano accordion and drums), Allan (on harmonica) and Pat Mortensen, and Peter Martin. They put on a great show providing an enthusiastic audience with a great variety of popular songs and involving a variety of instruments. The profit from this successful event goes towards Northland Cancer Society for Skin Cancer Awareness and patient care.

Dorothy Simpson Secretary Ruawai Lions



Kate Cotching, a talented young singer



Ron Antonio in fine voice

"A Partridge In a Pear Tree"

A new business has opened in town. Well more like a rebirth of an old business. Earlier in this newsletter Trevor Harris wrote that he had sold his shop "Fairy's & Things". It has been bought by Natalia Partridge. She has named it "In a Pear Tree". It is a family boutique and Natalia plans to sell a variety of items such as candles, skin-care products, toys, clothing, etc. She has also kept a range of nuts, bolts and screws that Trevor was stocking. We want to wish Natalia all the best with her new venture and encourage all our readers to pop in, say "Hi" and have a look at what's in store. Open daily from 9-5. Closed on Sunday.

J.W



These are a Few of our Favourite Things

18 January 2016 - 10 April 2016

Every day, the staff at The Kauri Museum work alongside approximately 100,000 individual items that make up the collection. Over time, we have all established our favourites and have brought some of these together in a special exhibition to share with our visitors. We hope you will enjoy them as much as we do and encourage each of you to share with us some of your favourite things. Go into the draw to win a gift from our Retail Store simply by sharing with us your favourite thing. Visit our exhibition and pin a note on our "Favourite Things" wall or take a photo with your favourite museum thing and upload to @kaurimuseum.

Lisa Tolich CEO

The Kauri Museum goes Digital: Tall Tales and Short Stories @ #KauriMuseum

We are proud to announce the award-winning Kauri Museum has embarked on a new digital age. As of this week, visitors to Matakoho will be able to enjoy the Museum digitally, as they explore the galleries. The Museum now offers free WiFi, a mobile app, an exciting new audio tour, extra video footage and much, much more. The Kauri Museum has always been a hands on experience, but now that interaction can be digital too. With the Museum's new digital tour, visitors will find entertaining opportunities to interact with the Museum, such as jumping in the bath for a selfie or learning how to scratch and sniff kauri gum and share their experiences with friends and family on social media. This state of the art digital tour is called 'Tall tales and short stories': the Kauri history, told in a local voice. As visitors move through the galleries, the Museum's audio tour encourages new ways of experiencing the Museum alongside extra multimedia snippets, such as a behind-the-scenes video tour, pioneering cooking demonstrations and a hidden art trail. The Kauri Museum's digital tour includes something for the whole family: while engine enthusiasts will enjoy never seen before footage of the Museum's Engine Boys starting up the old CAT60. Those that enjoy quieter activities can venture into behind the scenes footage from the Museum's significant textile collection, including a look at a local wedding dress collection. Kids will enjoy having Mate the Gum Digger jump into their tour and tweeting activities with #KauriMuseum. Those who have visited The Kauri Museum before will experience a whole new side to the history of the Kauri and its pioneers. The Museum's app, called PingX, is suitable for modern Apple or Android devices and is free to download to the visitor's own device. With the app, visitors can access digital content, bookmark their favourites to view again from home and share on social media. Alternatively, the Museum has iPod Touch devices available for a \$5.00 hire. . The Museum is open daily from 9.00AM to 5.00PM (except Christmas Day). **Admission is free for residents of the Old Otamatea District. (This includes the Ruawai/Tokatoka area).**

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A delicious looking recipe from Anna Curnow

Stone Fruits with Macaroon Topping

This recipe is a great way to turn a glut of plums, peaches or apricots into a delicious dessert.

One peach or two plums or apricots per person

1 cup cream

1 cup sugar

3 cups shredded coconut

½ teaspoon of vanilla extract

Heat the oven to 160 degrees.

Wash the fruit and cut each in half. Remove the stones (carefully to avoid breaking the halves).

Pack closely in a single layer in a backing dish with the cut side up.

Place the cream and sugar in a saucepan and heat. Stir until the sugar is dissolved and the cream just starts to boil. Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla extract and coconut.

Divide the mixture over the fruit piling it on top of each piece of fruit.

Bake until the topping is golden and crispy and the fruit is soft (approx. 40 mins).

Serve hot with whipped cream or ice-cream.

Serves up to 10 people with this recipe. It keeps well in the fridge for a few days.

Enjoy!!

PERCY PRATTLE

"Enough people take the right train—but not enough get off at the right station."



More about Fishing

The Boating Club held a very successful "Take a Kid Fishing" day. Twenty-one boats went out resulting in quite a few participants. It must have been a good day, because while I was there, everyone had caught something. Here are some of the 'fishermen' (boys and girls) with their catch.

J.W.

