



RUAWAI RAMBLER

A Newsletter for Ruawai and Surrounding Area

**This Issue of the Ruawai Rambler Sponsored by
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March 2022

From the Editor

Here we are well into the New Year and so far it is not off to a great start; what with protests around the country and war in the Ukraine. In spite of what some protesters seem to think - "You don't know how lucky you are mate" in our country. At least we have the freedom to protest for better or worse. Did you read the article in the Lifestyler from Lockwood Smith about the proposed lowering of the speed limits? Good on you Lockwood! Let's hope someone is listening!

Welcome to this edition of the Rambler. As you will see, RPDG is having its AGM later this month. This is your opportunity to voice your thoughts about what we have been doing or bring up new ideas for Ruawai. In order to attend the meeting, you have to be double vaccinated against Covid19! The AGM is also the time to elect Executive and Committee members. Anyone wishing to become a Committee member has to submit his/her name to the Secretary (Amanda Bennett) at least 48 hrs before the meeting.

I want to mention here that Bruce and Elaine Crompton have been doing a tremendous job as Chairperson and Treasurer. They have worked hard for our town.

Thanks again to our contributors. We have our regulars as well as some new ones. Included in this issue is another story from Ian Strang; a poem by Anna Curnow (a poet as well as Deputy Mayor); a thank you note to Sue Neal who's retired from the Ruawai Bookshop to mention a few. Also an article by Peter Flood about the CCTV cameras which are already paying off. Wonderful how our town has come together to help pay for it!

**For information about the Ruawai Rambler or about advertising, contact J.H.Wessel;
jhessel@xtra.co.nz; 09 439 2507.**



**AGM of the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group
Tuesday 29th March, 7pm.
Ruawai Tokatoka War Memorial hall**

Report on Mural

At our last general meeting the deterioration of the Mural in the centre of town was discussed.

It was agreed that the RPDG would put in place a project to reprint the existing mural.

Approximate costings had already been obtained; however, there was considerable work still to be done to achieve a final price.

The single biggest cost is the digital re-colouring of the mural after photographing.

The second biggest cost is the laminating onto the panels.

This laminating process has a life of 7-10 years.

The existing painted Mural is 20 years old.

Recently, the name of the original artist who painted the Mural has come to light.

We have contacted him and he will, if desired, produce another original.

This will be cheaper than the reproduction mentioned above and will be painted with long-lasting paint on more durable panels.

At our meeting, in February 2022, the RPDG opted to take this option.

It was decided to apply for funding as soon as possible for this.

As soon as funding is approved, we will be in a position to proceed with this project.


Bruce Crompton

Chairperson RPDG


On the next page are pictures of the mural about 15yrs. ago and the way it is now. The difference is certainly quite obvious




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Sue Neal Retired from Books@Ruawai

A great big thanks to Sue Neal, who has now moved on, but has worked superbly for close to 5 years in the bookshop in Ruawai. It's thanks to her that the bookshop has such a presence in the area. Without her diligent hard work, great customer service and reliable opening hours, the business would never have been the success it is in Ruawai. Being an avid reader, Sue was able to make great suggestions to customers in choosing books for both adults and children. Our online business has made huge progress over the last few years – thanks to Sue's untiring efforts – books are sold world-wide from Ruawai. Sue regularly changed and arranged the attractive window displays and kept the online business smoothly operating; despite the trying times of Covid and lockdowns. Vicki and Pamela have joined the bookshop and are now providing the service. So it's business as usual – with even longer opening hours. **Robyn Dormer; Books@Ruawai**

Ruawai Indoor Bowls

Hi all! We are planning to kick off the new season: Tuesday evening 5th of April - 7.15pm
It would be great to see some new faces come along and have a go. We are more about having fun, although you can take it as seriously as you like.
The only gear you need is a pair of soft-sole shoes.
We normally finish the evening with a cup of tea & small prizes.
If you would like more information, give me a call. **Tony Oud – 021 02333507**



Photo of the camera at the Wharf

Report on CCTV Camera

As I write, the final cameras at the Ruawai Marina car park are being installed. I asked Willie Paniora (our local Police Sergeant), what difference the existing cameras, that were installed before Christmas, had made to Ruawai. Willie's response was that the cameras installed have already far exceeded police expectations! He went on to say there had been multiple warnings with some arrests; and two stolen vehicles identified through the plate recognition camera. That means when a stolen vehicle travels past the camera through Ruawai, all police stations are automatically alerted. This means more victims getting their property back and arrests made. This has been the case for Ruawai already. Willie also made the comment that the behaviour in town has noticeably changed and he's looking

forward to the final installation for further improvement. Ruawai has already become a nicer place to live and work. This was our expectation at the start of the CCTV concept for Ruawai, so we are all very pleased by Willie's comments. None of this could have happened without so many of our locals helping out with their generous donations. There are too many to thank personally so I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of RPDG, to thank each and every one of you that dug so deep.

But our goal is not quite yet achieved. RPDG have applied for two lottery grants totalling \$4,500 for the final funds needed to complete stage three at the boat ramp. Normally, these applications would not be a problem. However, because of COVID, the pokey machines are well down on their usage. Since this is where most of their funds come from, this means any applications to Lotteries vastly exceed subscriptions and the reason we were turned down. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to humbly ask if you can dig a little more and support this great Ruawai asset. It doesn't matter how small, it all adds up.

You can make a direct payment to RPDG account - 060421 0035236 00; contact Willie directly, or myself on 021776716 **Peter Flood**

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Council Mark says:

We have 'treemendus' times ahead. Most people who know me know that I grow trees and like to plant them – mostly for the sake of improving the health of our beloved Kaipara Harbour. I acknowledge too that we need the wood that plantation forestry provides for the building industry. That is a way of sequestering the carbon which the trees have absorbed while growing up. However, we need to get the balance right, especially now with the prospect of whole farms being converted to "carbon farming", which is plantation forestry with no intention of harvesting the crop but harvesting carbon credits instead. This has social, economic and environmental consequences. To me, carbon credits work to license polluters to continue with their pollution so they don't have to modify their behaviour, or as Lawrence Yule says: "[it masks] poor gross emissions reductions".

I doubt we can achieve carbon neutrality by planting alone but in the meantime those communities, where large-scale planting takes place, will shrivel up into former farming communities as the farms and their support businesses disappear. Monoculture is the opposite of biodiversity and the lack of active management, which would normally be associated with production forestry, is also a concern. Also, and I love the irony of this, the 'Gummint' has provided \$100 M over the next four years to deal with the wilding pines issue. And that is just from the offspring of production forestry, let alone the 'leave-alone' carbon farming approach which carries with it heightened pest, disease and fire risks. Can you see how one policy (Emissions Trading Scheme) complements the other (wilding pine eradication)? Maybe it's what they call the circular economy; how we save the world by filling our rural environment with pine trees which will ultimately die, rot down and release carbon back into the sky. In our district plan review we are wanting to make sure that, as far as possible, our better soils will be available for more intensive and diversified crops to help with diversifying our local economy. The Plan could be altered to protect these soils from production forestry and carbon farming but there is currently a National Environmental Standard which limits the opportunity to do this. Mind you, the 'Gummint' did promise to make changes to the NES which would allow for controls on Class 1-5 land where planting of more than 50 hectares is proposed. That would help restore the balance. I hope that happens before it is too late for our small rural communities.

The Book Corner.

First up: The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict.

This book fascinated me from beginning to end. It's the true story of Belle da Costa Greene(actually born



Belle Marion Greener, daughter of Richard Greener, the first black graduate of Harvard and well-known advocate for equality) and J.P.Morgan, known to be racist and anti-semitic .

Belle's mother has Portuguese ancestry so Belle herself is enough light-skinned to pass as white. She is hired by J.P.Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts and artworks for his newly-built Pierpoint Morgan Library.

Known for her intelligence and knowledge of art and books, she has heavy responsibilities; and all the time aware that if it becomes known she is black, it would mean dismissal and disgrace.

The book is educational and inspirational, I couldn't put it down.

A Narrow Door by Joanne Harris.

One of my favourite authors who continues to surprise me; this book is

no exception!

It's a clever psychological thriller, alternating timelines from 1989 and 2006.

Set at St. Oswald's School, Rebecca Buckfast is the first female head teacher in the school's history. The school has been rocked by murder and scandal; she is its future success - or is she ?

Superb storytelling and extremely clever.

State of Terror by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny



A novice Secretary of State, a series of terrorist attacks, an American government that's out of touch and power where it counts, sets a scene of complete disarray. Can the new Secretary of State get a team together to unravel the conspiracy?

This is a great read. I already love Louise Penny's "Three Pines" / Gamache detective books, though, I confess I haven't read anything by Hillary Clinton. But the collaboration between them works brilliantly.

The Fossil Hunter by Tea Cooper.

Set in 2 different era's, 1847 and 1919, in the Hunter Valley.

Mellie Vale is sent to Wollemi to recover after a fever made her very sick. Anthea Winstanley is an amateur palaeontologist who one day wants to find proof that the great sea dragons - the ichthyosaur and the

plesiosaur - once swam in the vast inland sea that millions of years ago covered the property at Bow Wow Gorge. Soon, Anthea's dream becomes Mellie's too.


Penelope Jane Martindale arrives home after WWI to make peace with her father and commemorate the loss of her 2 younger brothers who died in the trenches.

She had found a fossil in the London History Museum with a connection to her brothers and her home at Bow Wow Gorge. It was to be small distraction from the horrors of war but ends up linking her with Mellie and Anthea's story.

I really enjoyed this; it's well written and links between the 2 tales really well.

All these books can be found online or at good book shops. **Sue Neal**

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My bed is a magical place where I suddenly remember everything I was supposed to do.

Anna Curnow's "Poem" This is called "Free Verse" (an open form of Poetry)

Free verse is an open form of poetry, which in its modern form arose through the French *vers libre* form. It does not use consistent meter patterns, rhyme or any musical pattern. It thus tends to follow the rhythm of natural speech.

To The Wharf In Winter

*Down Wharf Road with its flower gardens
And central avenue of flax beds,
Past the War Memorial Hall,
Staunch since Nash's opening.
It's like taking a sea-breath as you climb
Up and over the stop bank flank
To reach the Ruawai Wharf.*

*A gull calls a blustery cackle
Beneath a steely blue winter sky,
Puffed with shadowy, fretful clouds.
It hovers above, wings outstretched,
Then leans into the wind and arcs away
As a sharp shower flits over,
Eclipsing the faraway bank.*

*Heavy silt-laden river swells
Heave against low-slung rough rubble banks,
Bound taut with fresh grainy cement.
A tight embrace against the tide.
Along the harbour shores, mangroves huddle,
Their twisted trunks tangle thigh-deep,
Branches clasp and fold shoreward.*

*On a better day, boats would launch here,
From the ramp ringed round with slick sea-foam;
The carpark stacked full of trailers.
A place of expecting, waiting;
An open mouth to the harbour that feeds;
A well-worn, watery track;
A birthplace of great and tall tales.*

*Beyond the wire fence and homespun gate,
Two white, thickset, wide-bottomed boats
Sit low in the slapping water,
Trussed tight with salt crusted ropes.
"Stealth" looms over "Jo-Marie", her white bulk
Waiting for moon and fish to bite;
For friends to take friends out.*

*There is an edge to this place; a sting;
A history lived fiercely, recently;
An unfinished mightiness.
The Kaipara needs no finesse.
"Not for navigational purposes"
A weathered Council signboard notes.
Here, you must make your own way.*

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ANZAC Day Service

I have been notified that there will be an ANZAC service (COVID permitting) on Monday 25th April. It will be in the Ruawai Tokatoka Hall. Parade at 10.30 am followed by the laying of wreaths. Inside service at 11.00 am.

We will Remember them.



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Coastguard

Coastguard North Kaipara, (CNNK), received their new vessel, "Tinopai Rescue", just before Christmas.

The new boat is one of 26 high-spec craft that were first used as chase boats in the 2021 America's Cup. With the help of a Lotteries Grant and local Fundraising in the Kaipara area the boats have been reskinned and refitted for Coastguard use and the necessary upgrades to the Rescue Base building completed and their Tractor replaced. Thank you everyone for your generosity during the last 9 months of serious fund-raising.

This is the first vessel CGNK has owned. Their previous vessel Manaia Rescue was on long term loan from Coastguard New Zealand, (GNZ) after the Unit got revamped and the qualification of the 2 original skippers in 2016.

Tinopai Rescue gives the unit the Bar-crossing capability they have not had before and for CGNK's ability to service one of the largest harbours in the world, this is a huge step in the right direction.

The Wet Crew are very grateful to local boaties who have invested time in helping them up-skill for this new capability.

Please give them a friendly wave when you see them out there and Stay Safe.

Sarolta Bernhardt



The Lions Club of Ruawai has been busy over the past few months, quietly behind the scenes and out in our community



Ruawai Information Packs We worked for several months preparing Ruawai Information Packs. These have been hand-delivered to all new residents who have purchased a property in the past three years. The packs include emergence response details, Community Contacts and information about some of the groups and clubs in Ruawai. We are now working on the refresh and will be starting deliveries to the rest of the community. Copies are available at the

White Rock Gallery. Please let us know of anybody who has moved to Ruawai but not purchased a home so we can get a pack to them. Students from Ruawai College were involved in filling and delivering the packs. We are enormously grateful for the support we have received from Nicky Reid of Connections Real Estate with this project

Senior Citizens The effects of Covid continue to impact our capacity to meet in large groups. Once again, we were unable to hold our senior citizen Christmas Lunch. Instead, we hand-delivered chunks of Lions Christmas cake to our senior citizens as an alternative. These were very well received, and we met many of our local seniors and had fun together doing the deliveries.

Ruawai Murals Our murals and art installation project is gaining momentum. We have consulted with local artists and other interested parties, and we are in the process of applying for funding. Please get in touch with us if you would like to be involved in this project. One of our first installations will be the addition of mosaics to the large grey plastic planters in our main street. Also, the creation of some murals to be displayed in and around the village.

Annual Auction Due to the complexities of managing Covid vaccine passes, we have cancelled our annual Charity Auction. We are grateful for the tremendous support that Lions have received from our community over more than thirty years of running the Auction. We look forward to a time when it once again becomes feasible to hold the Auction

Te Kowhai Reserve Project The project has had a lot of time and energy over the past few years. Members care for the trees, keep the grass mown, manage the weeds and prepare for future planting. Most recently the fences and gates have been replaced

The reserve is available for community use. There is a pedestrian access gate and vehicle access by prior arrangement. We welcome any help with weeding, watering and donations of trees. Don't hesitate to get in touch with Jim Simpson 09 4392557 or Rosemary Webb 09 4392 029

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All profits support our community

Young Ambassadors Competition is open to 17-21-year-olds and has cash prizes of up to \$1000.00. Contestants are asked to submit a CV, participate in an interview and present a short speech. This year, we will be running the competition online for the first time. Please spread the word to any young people or organisations you are involved in. Send enquiries to

ourfamily@extra.co.nz

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Club meetings Our business meetings have been via Zoom to manage Covid Red Traffic light requirements. Covid has certainly necessitated the fine-tuning of our online skills !! Our dinner meetings have been outside picnics. We have continued to be creative in the various ways we serve our community.

If you are interested in learning more about our current projects or Lions, give me a call on 09 439 2029

**Rosemary Webb President,
Lions Club of Ruawai**

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Ruawai College Start of Year 2022

We have had a great start to the year being fully staffed and we also have a school counsellor.

Staff enjoyed a Wellbeing Professional Development day on Friday 28 January which was run by Core Education and Sport Northland. We started off at the Wharf and ended up doing a very brisk walk back to the College followed by other fun activities throughout the morning. Other start of year activities included -

- Year 13 & Prefects Peer Support Training
 - Gateway First Aid - a huge number of staff completed this course alongside our senior student- Visit to Parirau Marae - Local History /Civil Defence. We also took our senior leaders with us
 - Senior Student Leadership Programme happened following the marae visit
 - First Day of School for Year 7 and any new Year 8 & Year 9 students - Due to the red setting kaupapa we did not hold a full powhiri however, we were still able to welcome them in song and they were the first to use the new shade area
- We have all settled back very quickly into establishing routines, systems and a positive working/learning environment. It bodes well for another successful and productive year for the College.



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Grandma's 'Lollieshop'

Where: In the Rialto Theatre, Freyberg Road, Ruawai, Northland.

What: A confectionary and soft drink shop.

Date: 1926 - 1940

Proprietor: Annie May Bennett

Ruawai, formerly known as Shag Creek, is a small town situated on what is now called the Ruawai Flats (previously the Tokatoka Swamp) about 30km south of Dargaville.

Ruawai grew slowly. It began as a Creamery and then, in 1906, a wharf was built; plus (thank heavens) the name was changed to Ruawai (meaning "Two Waters"). The primary school opened in 1908 and by 1911 the roll had increased from 13 to 56 pupils. By 1914, house sections had been surveyed and the town grew with the development of the Ruawai Dairy Company (1911). Ruawai became the largest town on the eastern side of the Northern Wairoa River, with a population of about 400 between

1921 - 1945, and the principal service centre for the area.

Ruawai peaked in the 1950-1960's, then started to decline with the closing down of the Dairy Company, Banks, Postoffice and other businesses. The Rialto Theatre, an imposing wooden and corrugated iron structure opened in 1926, was considered the best picture theatre and dance hall in the north. Three shops were built in the front of the theatre underneath the projection room and verandah. The centre shop was occupied by Mrs. A.M. Bennett, fondly known as 'Grandma Bennett' by most of the town's adult residents and especially by the children.

Grandma and Grandpa Bennett settled on a farm at Raupo, Ruawai in late 1913, having previously lived in Taranaki's Inglewood. By 1925, tired of farming, they sold the property to family members and moved into Ruawai township - but what to do? At ages 53 and 56, they still needed to make a living.

Grandpa George William became the Ruawai wharfinger (until he died in 1936) and Grandma saw the opportunity of Ruawai having a "Lollieshop", as it became known locally. After a number of years of successful trading, the centre wall between the neighbouring shop was removed and Grandma enlarged her premises. Both Grandma and Grandpa made chocolates to be sold in the shop, and ice cream came down from Dargaville, packed in ice in metal containers. This was before electricity came to Ruawai.

Ice cream was a treat and usually only came down for special occasions, such as the big Mapau Domain Sports' Days. Grandma would pack up part of her shop and transport it to the sports field. There it was unpacked and her lollies, chocolate, drinks and ice cream was sold to participants and the visiting public.



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Granddaughter, Gladys can remember working for her Grandma in the “Lollieshop”. As she needed to be ready at the countertop to serve customers during interval and prior to the end of the screening, Gladys never ever saw a complete film. Another Granddaughter, named Joy, always thought Grandma was stingy when handing out lollies to her grandchildren. Can you blame Annie May though? There were thirty-five of them clamouring for lollies; her whole stock would

have been consumed by the grandchildren in an instant.

An old Ruawai identity remembered prices: a media cake of chocolate was either five or sixpence (5-6 cents), the largest bar was one shilling (10 cents), bottles of drink were again five or sixpence and a 4-pack of PK chewing gum was a penny (1 cent)...for two pennies you could buy a big bag of lollies.

Grandma began to suffer ill health in 1939 so her youngest son, George and his wife, Iris ran the shop until Easter 1940 when it was sold and turned into a milk-bar.

Grandma Bennett died in 1940.

The Rialto Theatre serviced the Ruawai and outlying community extremely well until the building of the Ruawai - Tokatoka War Memorial Hall in 1958 and the advent of television. The theatre was finally demolished in 1978/79 and replaced with modern shops. Ruawai's main street had lost part of its identity forever.

Ian Strang



New Year Honours 2022

The New Zealand Order of Merit; MNZM


To be a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit:

EVANS, Mr Kevin William


For services to wildlife conservation and the community. Mr Kevin Evans is the Captive and Reintroduction Coordinator for the Department of Conservation's Pāteke (brown teal) Recovery Group, a voluntary position he has held since 1998. Mr Evans has played an integral role in the Pāteke's recovery from 'endangered' to 'recovering' status, as the population has increased from just 700 birds to more than 3,000 over 20 years. He manages the network of 16 volunteer captive breeding facilities across New Zealand which is the largest and most successful “bred for release” program in the southern hemisphere. He has led new initiatives developing reintroduction techniques while working with landowners to create predator free environments. He is the co-author of the Pāteke Husbandry Manual

and has created online and social media resources to increase the awareness and education of the Pāteke. He has presented internationally and nationally on the Pāteke recovery project. He has also served 13 years on the Northland Conservation Board, been a Councilor for the Northland Fish and Game Council, and a warranted Firearms Safety Instructor for the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council for 20 years. Mr Evans is currently the Chief Fire Officer of the Ruawai Volunteer Fire Brigade and has served 27 years.






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The Kauri Museum - Virtual Tours

Did you know that you can now make virtual tours around parts of the Kauri Museum? On your computer, go to the Museum's website and then to "Events and Exhibitions" and next to the "Sawmill". Click on 'More' and then on the 'play' button. This will open the 3D virtual tour around the Sawmill. On the left bottom of the screen you can click to see a 'dollhouse' version of the sawmill and a 'floor-plan'. You can do the same for most other parts of

the Museum as well as Totara House, the Pioneer Church, the Postoffice, and the School House. Once you play around with it a bit, you soon catch on to how to do it. Next best thing to 'being there'. **J.W.**



White Rock Gallery

Have you checked out our local Gallery in Ruawai? White Rock Gallery is a collective of local artists and craft-people; everything created in the Kaipara district. Well worth having a look-in, for that special gift or art for your home. Handmade cards also available.

Great to be able to shop local.

New members very welcome so if you would like to find out more, call into the Gallery or contact Lorraine whiterockgallerynz@gmail.com - or phone 021 250 8613 We have a new Art and Mosaic Exhibition every eight weeks and new crafts coming in all the time.

Opening hours now Monday to Saturday 10.00am to 4.00 pm (closed Sundays)

Dargaville Hospital Blooming

Story by Debbie Evans CEO Kaipara Community Health Trust



Patients, whanau and staff now have a special space to enjoy on a daily basis, thanks to volunteers working with the Kaipara Community Health Trust.

We've embarked on a project to create a beautiful cottage type garden, featuring mass heritage rose plantings, that patients in the Dargaville Hospital and Hospice Kaipara Kowhai Room can enjoy, from their rooms, veranda or inside the new wheelchair friendly Kaipara Hospice Tranquil Space Structure in the gardens.

Pauline Hilliam KCHT Volunteer and Project Lead worked tirelessly with John and Margaret Bishop preparing and developing the site. Pauline recalls navigating extreme weather conditions and of course the roller coaster of COVID-19 restrictions, but she

brightly said 'we just went with flow and adapted, we were determined to be blooming by Christmas 2021'.

No stone has been left unturned in this garden spruce-up. The old rose bed soil has been removed and replaced with six truckloads of beautiful Glinks Gully soil, that was generously donated and carted in by Chick Transport.

Olga Yuretich, Convenor for Heritage Roses Northland read about the project in the Kaipara Lifestyler and reached out to offer assistance, as their organisation looks after the Heritage Rose Collection at the Kauri Museum, and help at Reyburn House at the Town Basin in Whangarei. Olga was “thrilled to read of the plans for the Dargaville Hospital Gardens and your love and enthusiasm of our much loved special “Old Roses”, which through-out history have brought so much pleasure to so many”. This led to sixty Heritage Roses being donated from Heritage Roses Northland and Heritage Roses NZI and extra special thanks to Tasman Bay Roses who directly donated heritage plants to support this worthy community project.

We’re harvesting our own water and storing in a new 25,000 water tank, to ensure we can be self-sufficient and not be affected by water restrictions. Ryan Bricknell from Sprayshop will be installing an automated irrigation system to ensure the heritage roses can flourish in their new environment.

‘The Kaipara Hospice Tranquil Space Structure, is a six sided Gazebo, it’s double opening allows for easy wheelchair access and has built-in seating for four people, creating a beautiful space for patients and whanau to have a quiet moment and enjoy the gardens’ said Annette Olsen Kaipara Hospice Manager. Volunteer and retired Engineer Johnnie Bishop created the Gazebo at his home, designed in two parts so it could be transported back to site and easily re-assembled. “We were conscious of the extra traffic movements for Covid Testing up on the Hospital grounds, so we tried to time our work around peak times” said Johnnie.

Jen Thomas Operations Manager Dargaville Hospital is delighted with the results, and acknowledges the enormous efforts of volunteers who generously invested 100’s of hours of their time, and came prepared, even with their own machinery and tools, she said they graciously overcome many obstacles, determined to create a garden as beautiful as many people in the community remember they used to be.

Margaret Bishop said “We were thrilled to help out, the project was extra special as we also got our 8 year old Grandson Jack Curel to help, it was a wonderful opportunity to share with the younger generation the values of volunteering, and the WHY? Well, we do it because we're community minded and it's good for our community” Margaret said.

Donations for ongoing upkeep and continued improvements to the gardens are still gratefully received by Kaipara Community Health Trust Account No. 02-0308-0023161-001.



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This clipping from 1982, shows Mr. Allan Brooker (left); charge nurse Gerard VanderHarst and Dr. M.D. Match in the rose garden as it was then



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View of garden when the Spruce-Up project started 2021