



RUAWAI RAMBLER

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

September 2020

This Issue of the Ruawai Rambler Sponsored by

Tokatoka Views / B&B / Farmstay

From The Editor

Welcome to our September edition. We have a variety of articles with some interesting topics. Global Warming with rising water levels has been in the news for several years. The talk, if not the actual fact, is now having effect on the Ruawai flats. The article from the Raupo Drainage Committee, written by Ian Beaty, is part of that. Another article, by RPDG Chairperson, Bruce Crompton, touches on another aspect of this, ie. the building codes put in place for our area. The present building codes make building on the Flats very restrictive and RPDG is trying to have these changed. You will know Portstar Plastics on Jellicoe Road but may have wondered what they actually make. The article by owner, Mark Jeffries, will throw some light on that for you. There is another new business in town. The building across from the Memorial Hall, which used to be the Postoffice in days gone by, is now the home for "Funky Creations" and well worth a visit. And Etha Taylor has reopened her Garden Corner to provide us with veggie and flower seedlings. We have some new advertisements in this issue; for cleaning services, fencing large or small properties, and pruning or cutting down trees. I have personally used ArborCare Tree Maintenance and can highly recommend them. Our sponsor this time is Tokatoka Views B&B. This is owned by Peter and Sara Ball. If you want to find out more about Sara and Peter and their business, check out their Facebook page. For information about the Ruawai Rambler or for advertising, contact: **J. H. Wessel; Ph. 439 2507; email: jhwessel@xtra.co.nz**

Report From RPDG Chairman

I'm writing to give an update on what the RPDG have been up to since the last Rambler. Indeed we have been quite busy! As for most of us Covid 19 has disrupted our normal schedule and our AGM, which was to be held in March, was held in July. This has delayed the implementation of change to our Constitution to comply with current not-for-profit requirements. In turn this has resulted in IRD requesting tax returns; which we could not supply until recently because of the inability to hold a public meeting to ratify the financial statements.

KDC Spatial Plan

RPDG have made a submission to this in relation to the effects of global warming, building and investment in the Ruawai area and the need for infrastructure investment.

Global warming

RPDG have been seeking a meeting over this with Council for some time. We met with Mr. Jim Sephton, who is the Infrastructure Manager, and also with representatives from the building consents and global warming areas. It was a positive meeting with a range of matters discussed. These included global warming, current requirements for building consents and the need for continuous upgrade to our Flood Control Infrastructure. Several affected members of the community were also at the meeting and put forward their concerns of the current system. Council have since confirmed that Flood Control will be set as a priority in the Long-Term Plan which will be adopted in June 2021. It is very satisfying to have contributed to this process and to have positive feedback such as this as RPDG's aims and goals are to work for the best interests on behalf of Ruawai and surrounding area. The RPDG are also seeking support from the Candidates and their Parties in the 2020 general elections.

Walkway

We have now sprayed (for the second time) and a good control of growth is being achieved. The surface of the walkway is quite rough in places due to maintenance work by council. The RPDG, with assistance from Council, have built a leveller which we intend to use periodically to keep the surface in good order.

Signs asking dog owners to clean up dog litter on the cycle path / walkway have been erected. These signs have been donated by Craig Jones, Sign-writer.

Our Job description

To promote Ruawai as a clean, tidy and pleasant place to live and visit.

Bruce Crompton ; Chairman RPDG

General Elections: October 17, 2020

Remember to vote. Who you vote for is, of course, your choice - but please do vote.

We are privileged to be in a country where there are several parties, and people within these parties, we can freely vote for. We can praise or criticise our government without fear of punishment. There are many countries where this is not possible. We can keep it this way by using our votes.

J.W.



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Report from Raupo Drainage Committee

By the time this edition goes to print, you are probably well aware that Minister Shane Jones announced on the 27th of August a funding package of \$16 Million for various infrastructure and development projects in the Northern Wairoa. Significantly, for the residents of Ruawai, Raupo and Naumai \$2.5 million of that package has been allocated to the Raupo Drainage Committee. For over a century this committee (formerly known as the Raupo Drainage Board) have developed and maintained the engineering marvel that is the land drainage system of the Ruawai Flats. A system that has overcome the challenges of the past and allowed the residents of this gem of the Kaipara to thrive and prosper. The challenges of the next century however are not so clearly defined. Climate change, rising sea levels and various regulatory and legislative initiatives by Regional and Central Government are but a few of the challenges the Drainage Committee face. Over the last three years alongside the more obvious work the committee undertakes, members of the committee, council staff and elected members of Council have been working tirelessly behind the scenes on some of these challenges. One hugely significant outcome of this work was to have the Ruawai Flats included as one of only three National climate-change case studies conducted by Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ). The other two studies conducted were Christchurch and Dunedin city councils. So Ruawai is in very esteemed company and our profile and challenges we face now have exposure within the halls of power. Whilst it is hardly riveting reading, I do urge you to have a look at these studies. I'm sure they will give an insight and new perspective to the work the Committee and Council does. Just Google search LGNZ climate change case study and it's very easy to find from there. In June, the committee hosted a meeting with Minister Jones, MBIE and PGF staff to discuss our challenges and strategy. The Minister understood our challenges and appreciated the practical and pragmatic approach we take when solving problems. The funding announcement in August was a direct result of that meeting and represents the most significant funding contribution from the Government in the Raupo Drainage District since the 40,000 pound investment by the Crown in establishing the drainage district over a century ago. There will be more detail on how this investment will be utilised in the coming months. But in the meantime, let's just celebrate the fact that our district has been recognised by central government and our importance to the Northland and National economies has been acknowledged. I will certainly raise a glass to that!

Ian Beattie; Chair Raupo Drainage Committee

New Canopy



Older residents will remember when the Ruawai Kindergarten was located just past the Memorial Hall before a new Kindy was built at its present location. When the old Kindy was removed, RPDG requested they leave the canopy that had been used as a shelter for the children. Later Kaipara District Council placed a picnic table under this. Some time ago wind and weather took their toll and the canopy blew off the posts. RPDG approached KDC about putting up a new one. A few months ago we received a call that our request had been approved and just recently the new canopy was put up and is looking good. So, thanks to KDC for doing this for us.

We also successfully applied for a KDC Communities Grant to help pay for the printing cost of the Ruawai Rambler. We received \$787.50, which is not a lot, but definitely helps. Printing in colour does not come cheap.

J.W.

RUAWAI PLANTS

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What's Happening at Ruawai Plants These Days?

Etha Taylor and Diane Dacombe have been preparing to open their doors for the new spring season at 13 Jellicoe Rd, Ruawai; under the new name "Ruawai Plants". A range of new-season's veggie and flower seedlings and perennials will be available. George and Etha Taylor brought a wealth of market gardening experience to Ruawai with them from their time in Tangowahine. Sadly, George passed away last year and this will be the first time Etha's doors have opened again; this time, with the help of Diane Dacombe. Etha Taylor's plants have served the district for 8 years and have a reputation for not only being top quality, but strong plants which produce good fruit. Because of lockdown, Etha and Diane have noticed more people (particularly families) are now growing their own vegetable gardens; so the veggie plants are in high demand. There is always a lot of support from the community for Etha's plants. So be in early as Etha and Diane have noticed there is generally a high demand for plants and seedlings at the moment. They would appreciate it if you would bring your own box or containers for your plants as boxes are not always attainable during a lockdown. They also accept your punnets and unwanted garden pots for recycling. The doors will be opening on Tuesday, 15 September, from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm - and Saturday, by arrangement. There will be no EFTPOS available. Ruawai Plants will be closing just before Christmas and re-opening in the autumn. Happy gardening! Gardeners are always on the grow. Any enquiries ring Diane 439 2361 or Etha 439 2115.

Ruawai Garden Club



Hello to all the gardeners out there. Hope you are all coping with the rain and the wind. Ah, the joys of winter. I'm sorry, but the Garden Club has not had a get-together for the last few months; mainly because of Covid but also various members have been unwell, etc. So I wish all of those a speedy return to good health and pleasure and enjoyment again in their daily lives. Maybe by the next issue things will start to look a bit clearer. Such a shame that we had to cancel the Camellia Display because of Covid 19 as I have always felt it was so lovely to see all of those beautiful blooms in winter. Never mind, I will just have to look forward to next year's Camellias. Best wishes to all. and look after yourselves and each other. Happy weeding .

P.S. It has been decided that we are unable to have a Rose Show this spring.

Merle Jackson



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Rainfall Figures Supplied by
Kura Newall
June - 229mm
July - 215mm
Aug - 136mm
Up to 2nd June we had
282mm

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Sue's Book Corner

Really excited about this set of books; they are all brilliant reads.

Sword of Kings by Bernard Cornwell

This is a 12-book series in the Saxon Chronicles. It follows the story of Uhtred, born a Saxon (raised a Viking) and set in 10th century Britain at a time when Saxons and Vikings battled for territory. Bernard Cornwell writes about weapons and battle scenes like no other author; he paints such a vivid picture you could almost be there yourself. I was hooked from the first book.

The Lost Gutenberg by Margaret Leslie Davis

I knew I had to read this book the moment I saw the cover !

The Gutenberg Bible was printed in 1452 with moveable type and illuminated lettering. There are fewer than 50 left in existence and this follows "No. 45" as it is known.

From the first owner through to the last (500 years of history) it sees death, bankruptcy and disasters before (after 3 attempts) it is bought by Estelle Doheny, wife of an oil tycoon and devout Catholic and collector. It is kept in a museum she had built and is there until her death.

What follows is extraordinary! You have to read the book to find out, but all I will say is that the book is now in the Keio University, never to see the light of day again.

When it was last sold in 1987, it went for US\$5.4 million. So a unique book in every way.

I'm not sure my review of this book does it justice, it is a gorgeous book to look at and a fabulous story. If you read one non-fiction book this year, please make it this one. It won't disappoint.

Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce

Set in the 1950's, Margery Benson is in a dull, boring job, with a dull, boring life; no real social skills. But she has a passion to discover if a rare golden beetle really exists.

She decides to travel halfway round the world to find out and advertises for an assistant to go with her. From 4 answers to her advert, Enid is the furthest of what she had in mind! But....together they have an adventure that exceeds both their expectations.

This is a story of a mismatched friendship, tragedy, joy, humour, endurance, faith and belief. It makes you laugh, it makes you cry, and is a book you won't forget in a hurry.

This is my very favourite book of the year so far; I can't recommend it highly enough.



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For Our Dairy Farmers

We finally got through the long dry period about 15th June here on the West Coast. The East Coast was away earlier than us and has had a lot more rain recently with the West Coast being considerably less than our normal average. As a result from this, pasture covers at the moment are well up on other years mainly because of minimal pugging damage and minimal standing-off of cows. Growth rates are also above normal and most farms are above target cover. Cow body condition score is about the same as other years and on target. Supplements on farm are behind other years because farmers used up more of their normal winter reserves to get through the drought. I know this is the case for my farm.

Where to from here?

Mating is just around the corner and I am finding, because of last summer, that breeding bulls were culled and are now harder to source.

Have a plan for mating and spring pasture management. Keep monitoring and be proactive when the above are tracking behind target e.g. if you have cows lighter than BCS 4, one option is once-a-day milking at least a month before mating. This option works and is what I use on my farm. Trials have shown that if a cow is on once a day for less than six weeks, the drop in production is small compared to the gains through having these cows cycle and get in calf earlier. It is a hard thing to do if you've never done it before; but I do it now without hesitation. If they are on once-a-day for more than six weeks, it will impact on the overall production for the season. Up to 6 weeks has minimal overall affect. Keep pasture growing for profitable milk by keeping N following cows. This is the cheapest form of feed.

Calving is a stressful time for stock and people and regular positive communication is important to reduce the stress. All indications are pointing to an early spring so be flexible with management so that pasture quality does not get away on farm. Continue to stick to your rotation planner and if ahead of cover can speed up 5 days for every 100kg DM/ha above target. And same thing if lower than target cover - slow down by 5 days for every 100 below. When you have passed balance state and residuals start to rise above 1600, this is the time to miss paddocks out for silage. I am very aggressive with this approach because after Christmas silage is one of the best and cheapest tools to use (when grass is short) to lessen the affect of FEI over the summer months.

Morale is high on farm at the moment because of this wonderful spring we are experiencing. And secondly, because of lockdown, food producers of New Zealand have become once again acknowledged, valued and appreciated. This is a big thing for me because I am once again proud to be in the industry that I'm in (dairy farming). And that industry is producing the finest quality milk and meat products for New Zealand and the rest of the world. All the best for the rest of spring.

Peter Flood



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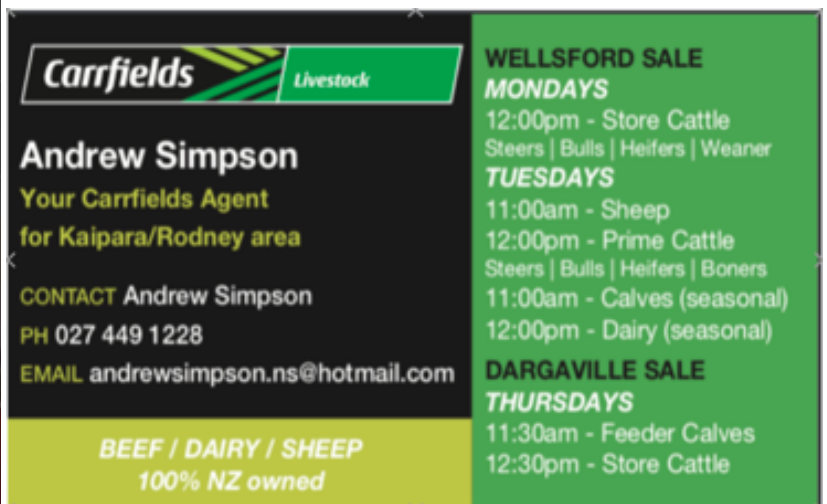
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Justice of the Peace Service Offered to General Public

This free service has been shifted from the Dargaville Library to the Whau Focus Centre. Every first and third Thursday of the month there is Justice of the Peace available in the Whanu Focus Centre in Dargaville from 11am to 1pm. This is next to the Bake House and was the Regional Council building. Whau Focus Centre is an office hub of many community groups. If you have need for the service of a J.P at any other time you can contact: Bruce Crompton (09 4392 221) or Sara Ball (09 4392 437)

Going back quite a few years, there was a Jaycees Chapter (Junior Chamber of Commerce) in Ruawai. They owned a building on Jellicoe Road for their meetings. The building is still there, across from Kaipara Kumara. **J.W.**



Stu Duval at work

Jaycee's Donation to Ruawai Schools

Otamatea Jaycees were able to leave a financial legacy to both the Ruawai College and Primary School. Over twenty years ago the Otamatea Jaycees folded and the building was sold. The money was put on term deposit and managed by Mr.'s Peter Ball and Paul McCullough (ex-members of the Chapter). For many years the interest from the term deposit was annually allocated to both the schools to be used in supporting their school Prize- Giving events. It was decided to close the investment and donate the funds equally to both the schools with the intention of having a project in mind. The Primary school decided to focus on extending and inspiring young readers by making the Library more interesting. A mural was painted on the existing concrete wall, depicting native birds, flora and fauna. Designed and

designed and painted by Stu Duval, a NZ author and artist. The donation was also used to buy outdoor furniture, new books and shade sail. The Library has been well organised by Fleur Simpkin, who has until recently been the Librarian for the past eight years. Lyvia Fitzgerald, the newly appointed Librarian, is continuing with the project.

Sara Ball

Council Mark says: Sorry it's boring, but it's Important

By the time you read this your council will have decided whether or not to sign up to a share of the \$761 M being offered to help with works programmes related to "The 3 Waters"; that is water supplies, sewerage and stormwater. Central Government proposes, over the next three years, to aggregate these operations into four or five agencies nationwide. The initial amount of the inducement for KDC is about \$2.35 M, which will help, but not go very far. There are a lot of "3 Waters" networks around the country which are getting old to the point that maintenance will be an increasing cost, unless proper upgrades are undertaken. The problem in my view is chronic underfunding of renewals/provision for depreciation. I don't think rates are an adequate way of dealing with this problem; but I have concerns about the way these changes are being proposed. If the result is better service with greater efficiency and reduced cost to consumer, then I am all for it. The bit that sticks in my craw is the irony that Local Government has been given about a month to sign up for this initiative. At the same time, we at KDC, are consulting with our communities about the review of our Significance and Engagement Policy. This will set out the circumstances under which we will consult with our citizens about proposals which affect them before making a decision. We are required, by law, to have a Significance and Engagement Policy; but apparently it doesn't apply to a decision which could lead to the end of Local Government as we know it. So, assume KDC will not have responsibility for the 3 Waters any more. Bear in mind also that the head of the panel, which recently reviewed the Resource Management Act, commented on the need to rationalise Local Government along regional lines, ie no District Councils. The question remains: Is there anything left for Local Government to do? My answer for now is contained in two words: community resilience. This is not something which can be given to people or communities; it has to be grown from within. There is a role for a local entity which will support and assist building the capacity and capability of local communities to fulfil their needs, to achieve citizenship in the highest sense. We have a couple of excellent staff operating in this space already; they may well be the face of Local Government in the future. Song for the day: "For What It's Worth", by Buffalo Springfield 1967. Just saying...

Mark Vincent Otamatea Ward Councillor 021 0829 8037

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Portstar Plastics

Portstar Plastics makes a range of rotationally moulded products. Last year they made over 25,000 products for the electrical, wastewater, building, agricultural, marine and retail industries. The name, Portstar Plastics, comes from the original owners, James and Sandra Lucas. James established the company with

moulds he had made to manufacture nautical marker buoys. Hence the name from Port and Starboard. James had considerable success in making buoys for the Northland Regional Council, the Auckland HarbourMaster, and the Ports of Auckland. You can see the large buoys in the Auckland shipping lanes, all made in Ruawai 14 years ago. Many of the Northland waterways and the Whangarei Hātea River have buoys which were made in Ruawai. Since Mark Jeffries and Zelda de Villiers purchased Portstar Plastics nearly three years ago, they have continued to develop the business, taking on new clients and products. Today 14 staff are employed at their Ruawai factory. While continuing to service their original clients, Portstar has been successful with new buoys being installed at NorthPort. Recently they have been contracted to supply buoys for the Americas Cup Event company. Portstar has quite a presence in the Auckland Harbour region. The cone caps, sitting on the top of the marina piles at Westhaven, were all made by Portstar. Last year we provided over 100 very large pile caps for the Auckland Maritime Museum. We make Pile Caps for many marinas around the country and in the last 12 months supplied caps to American Samoa, Australia and Vanuatu. By November a transit lane will be laid out with Ruawai-made buoys under the Auckland Harbour Bridge to direct commercial and recreational boats away from the entrance to the Viaduct - and the America's Cup racing village. So Portstar Plastics have become proud suppliers of nautical markers to the 36th Americas Cup to be raced 6-21 March 2021. When you drive over the Harbour Bridge between November and March, and see our markers, you might think of Ruawai and its Portstar Plastics team!

Mark Jeffries

Sara Ball - Celebrant

Weddings   *gethitchednorthland*

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Contact - Home: 09 4392437
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The Kauri Museum - Supporting our team and community.



When Hukatere local, Thelma, took on the role as gum polisher for The Kauri Museum in March 2020, she was keen to expand her own knowledge of rocks and local taonga. The first 'lockdown' saw her honing her skills in polishing and working kauri gum. Five months on, she is continuing the museum's interactive practice, of showing visitors how to polish kauri gum and educating those who have an interest in knowing more.

"Visitors are always surprised at how light the kauri gum is, they expect it to be heavy like a rock. Some pieces in the museum's collection, are 43 million years old. This ancient gum was embedded in coal which made the carbon dating possible."

Some of the local Māori used to chew the kauri gum fresh out of the tree, along with pūhā which is rich in vitamin A. Thelma said she was not sure if this was for enjoyment or as a rongoā (medicine). Under supervision, one keen visitor tried chewing a small nugget of gum. It took him a bit to get going, but he liked the taste and laughing said, "It sure fills the gaps in my teeth!"

Though things have been tough this year, the museum is pleased to be able to continue offering professional development to their team. Thelma has started a NZ Certificate in Museum Practice - Level 4, which will enable her to work in the collections department and contribute to some exhibitions. Another new staff member Mandy, has started studies with a focus on retail.

It's really great to be able to support members of our community, and create meaningful job opportunities. Apart from the personal benefit of gaining a new qualification, these studies will both enrich their knowledge around museum practices, and support them in providing a more comprehensive experience for our visitors. You can book a gum polishing experience with Thelma most weekends and some week days. Give us a call or see our website 'What's On' page for more details. <https://www.kaurimuseum.com/whats-on-item/gum-polishing-book-now>

If you have questions about this region or family histories, give our collections team a call on 09 431 7417. We ask people to make an appointment, so we can make sure someone is free to give you time to discuss your interests, and investigate our collections. See you soon.

News From The Art Studio Ruawai

In our last newsletter, I wrote about an upcoming workshop using Gold Leaf. This was held in June and was tutored by Elana Nicolaeva.



A really enjoyable and fun time was had by those who attended. Amazing effects can be achieved by using Gold Leaf, either as the main medium or by adding it to a painting.

Another two 'fun days' have been held since then. The first day, practising using a credit card to create a painting. The second day, everyone using the same subject as their reference completing the painting using only the credit card as their tool. There were many cries of "can we use a paint brush now?" However, brushes were banned in spite of the pleas. Very interesting and different works were produced. The ART STUDIO is open every Wednesday from 10am until 2pm. And should you wish to join our friendly group or obtain further information, please

phone: **Frances at (09) 439 2554**

Above: painting with credit card

.Right: Using Gold Leaf



ASB Matariki Art Competition



Earlier this year ASB Bank ran a competition inviting students to submit either a digital poem, piece of writing or art depicting what Matariki means to them.

Matariki is the Maori name for the cluster of stars known as the Pleiades. Rising in midwinter, within the Maori culture it signifies the start of a new year.

Ruawai College Year 13 student Nakisha Blackburn not only won the Age 16 - 18 Division, but also the overall prize out of over 100 entries New Zealand wide! Congratulations Nakisha!

Please read Nakisha's description of her artwork below:

"In the painting the woman to the right with the moon is the representation of Matariki herself and on the 6 stars to her right are her children. The babies represent the Maori New Year / rebirth / new beginnings as well as the sisters. The boat down below is there because before we had compasses and better ways to navigate, the stars were used as guides for travelling the ocean. Overall Matariki is a time when people typically remember those who have passed on and celebrate new beginnings; so Matariki to me is a reminder of family no longer on earth."



We are extremely proud and excited to announce that we have once again received a GOLD Healthy Heart Award from the Heart Foundation for the amazing things we do to promote healthy food and physical activity. We are helping our tamariki to have healthy habits and healthy hearts for life.



August 2020 to 2022

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

TEACHERS: Teresa Robertson (Head Teacher), Channele McLaughlin, Lisa Matthews, & Kyla Johnson.

Nau mai haere mai

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How To Change The Moments That Shaped You...



Can you think of a time where you had an experience that changed the way you viewed yourself or the world forever? Perhaps it was a joyful moment of holding a newborn baby. Or maybe it was a more traumatic event, that you would rather forget and leave in the past, that never-the-less keeps haunting you. Most people have 5-8 such moments; moments that often happened in childhood where we didn't know any better than to feel hurt by the people we cared about and that they must be right because they were bigger, older, stronger, wiser... They are often moments rarely thought about... and yet shape our lives today. For example, I had a client who was blind from birth. When teachers saw her "disability" before her "abilities", she told herself that she would have to do her work to perfection to prove to others that she was capable and smart. This meant that she placed her self-worth in what she did and not on who she was. And even though she was top in her class, it led to feelings of low self-worth and low self-esteem; as a result she told herself "I'm not enough".

Going through the process of discovering the moment where she told herself that she would have to prove people wrong, led to a profound shift in my client's perspectives about her beliefs, thoughts and behaviours. This insight helped her to make powerful new choices in her life.

Now you know what a defining moment is, the type of effect it can have on your life and the power of re-defining it. You might like to download the pdf workbook to go through the process of re-defining your world yourself:

<https://www.selfnurture.org/go/redefine-your-world>

Or, to make it easier for you, I would love to assist you in this journey, where we can go even deeper and create more profound change;. The session is worth \$297. But to help our local Kaipara Marchers team go to the Nationals in 2021, I'm offering sessions for as little as \$50 until 30/9/20. Here's how to claim:

- 1) Donate \$50+ to Kaipara Marchers Givealittle page: <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/kaipara-marchers>
- 2) Send the receipt to Carrie@SelfNurture.org and request a "Redefine Your World Discovery Session".
- 3) Book your preferred time, show up and Redefine Your World!

Love your life!

Carrie Marie

HELP US IN OUR QUEST TO REPRESENT THE KAIPARA

LEISURE MARCHING NATIONALS 2021

[HTTPS://GIVEALITTLE.CO.NZ/CAUSE/KAIPARA-MARCHERS](https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/kaipara-marchers)

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FREE COMMUNITY TALK ON LIVING WITH GRIEF AND LOSS.



ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Hospice Kaipara warmly invites you to attend this free, session looking at:

- Grief influences and common reactions experienced.
- Supporting Family and Friends with Grief.
- Self Care.
- Children's Grief – ways to help families before and after.
- Living with Grief through special and significant dates.

PLACE: Dargaville Boating Club.

DATE: Wednesday October 7th.

TIME: 1-4pm (afternoon Tea provided)

FACILITATOR: Josie Scott. MA. MNZAC.

RSVP or any enquiries to:

Hospice Kaipara (09)4393330 ext. 6716.

Or Lisa: office@hospicekaipara.org.nz

Sharyn: support@hospicekaipara.org.nz

Please register your interest to attend by Friday 2nd October



*Warmly invites
you ...*

Hospice Kaipara warmly invites you to attend these free community sessions on Grief Talks.

A weekly session of 2 hours over 4 consecutive weeks talking about grief, what it is, how it impact us, how we can find support or support ourselves, types of grief.

Date: Tuesday 20th, 27th October and 3rd November 2020. The final session will be

Wednesday 11th November 2020

Time: 5.00-7.00 pm

Venue: Dargaville Boating Club

Facilitator: Josie Scott MA, MNZAC

All welcome to attend and light refreshments – sandwiches, rolls, savouries etc

You are welcome to arrive around 4.30pm for a cuppa prior to the start of each session

RSVP or any enquires to: Hospice Kaipara Phone 09 439 3330 ex 6716

Email office@hospicekaipara.org.nz

Sharyn:

support@hospicekaipara.org.nz

Please register your interest by Thursday 15th October 2020



Post Office Reflects Ruawai Development

In 1945 there was one switchboard in the Ruawai Post Office exchange and only operator. The service was from 6 a.m. until midnight. Now there is 24-hour service—started three or four years ago—three switchboards (two local and one toll) and three operators. Telephone subscribers have increased from 251 in 1945 to 455 today.

There have been no major alterations to the post office building in the past years, but tenders will be called in the near future for extensions to the telephone exchange, which, it is stated, is "horribly cramped." The post office buildings have just been cleaned up inside and repainted in pastel shades.

The past few years have seen big developments in mail and telephone services in Ruawai and district. A big boon to country residents was the stepping up of rural mail deliveries in October, 1953. Up till that time there had been only one delivery—on the flats which served 90 boxes. Most farmers had to travel into Ruawai to collect their mail.

With 127 boxes covered by the service started in 1953 and the extension of the other delivery almost every part of the district, flats and hills, now has a regular mail service. The total number of boxes stands at 244.



'Ye Olde Postoffice'

This building, which was the Ruawai Postoffice and Telephone Exchange in a previous life, has had a change of colour. It is also undergoing a change inside. As mentioned in my introduction, it is now the home for "Funky Creations". At present it is only open for a few hours on Saturday, but that will change. So keep an eye on this new business in town and have a look inside if you get the chance.

J.W.

* On the left: An old newspaper clipping. Well before mobile 'smart phones'



Cross-stitch

Some of our Ruawai residents will remember June Weber. June lived in Matakohe but was in many ways also a part of Ruawai. June is now in a Retirement Home in Whangarei. She recently finished this cross-stitch. Framing was done by Deborah VanLeeuwen at AdFocus in Dargaville

The following item comes from a book called 'RUAWAI DAYS' by Basil Widdup Burgess and Davis Burgess. The Burgess family lived on the Ruawai Flats from 1907 to 1961 and owned a farm on what is now called Burgess Island at the end of Whakatu Road.

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Radio and Electricity Come to Ruawai

We got our first radio in 1994 when, quite out of the blue, a salesman selling "Sheffield" radios called at the house late one Friday, and said we could trial one over the weekend and he'd collect it on Monday if we didn't want to keep it. Well, you can guess what happened, when Monday came we just had to have it. It was a 6 valve dual wave console radio and a big advance on anything I'd seen or heard up to that time. It ran on batteries but was designed to be easily converted to run on the 230 volt electric power which was scheduled to be coming our way soon. Many of our previous forms of relaxation soon went by the board as the impact of a good radio on a household at that time was at least as great as when TV arrived over 30 years later. I remember several features from those early listening days such as "Dad and Dave", "Eb and Zeb Country Storekeepers" and Aunt Daisy's cheery "Good morning everybody". Dad loved listening to the wrestling matches that were broadcast. The big rugby matches were always broadcast, especially the Springboks when they toured NZ. Much later when the 2nd WW came along, the "news" became the no.1 priority, especially when our NZ boys were involved in the desert campaigns. At such times Dad would sit up half the night to get the latest news.

The next big change on our farm was getting the 230 volt mains electricity installed in the house after its arrival in the Ruawai district in 1936. As we had no previous experience of this modern convenience, it was all a great novelty when the power was connected. Of course the "Sheffield" radio was soon converted to run on the power supply, thus doing away with the batteries which seemed to have a habit of going flat just when you wanted to listen to something. An early investment was a "Beatty" washing machine which Mum reckoned was the best thing that ever came into the house. Small appliances such as an immersion heater (forerunner of the electric jug) a smoothing iron, etc. were bought quite soon. But larger things such as an electric stove and hot water cylinder came along later. The electric lights were a great boon and much safer than kerosene lamps and candles.

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 James Stewart — Audie Murphy
 In
NIGHT PASSAGE
 SATURDAY, 23rd AUGUST

A couple of newspaper clippings from 1955. The time when taking your girl to the movies made a great outing!