

ACCESS FULL ARTICLES ONLINE AT WWW.GREATBARRIER.CO.NZ/AOTEAADVOCATE

EVENTS CALENDAR

28 MAR
& 4 APR

Yoga for Tradies
with Lucia
Claris Art Gallery
5:15 - 6pm | \$12

30
MARCH

Easter Market
from 10am
Claris Sports Club | 19 Whangaparapara Rd
Food, raffle, plants & more

30
MARCH

Aotea Brewing
Autumn Sessions
12-6pm | \$10
Live music, cold beer, hot food

31
MARCH

Golf Club Easter Family FunDay
Golf tournament - 11am
Easter hunt - 3pm
All day lunch | Dinner 5-8pm

3 & 5
APRIL

Free Dark Sky Evenings
with Enthusiasts Group
3 Apr - Tryphena Social Club
5 Apr - Claris Sports Club
8-9:30pm | All Welcome

3
APRIL

2024 Flu Vaccine
at Claris Club
Bookings essential
Phone Aotea Health: 09 4290 356

APRIL

Grow Food Aotea
Workshops with Caity Endt
Full details within

5 & 12
APRIL

Hatha Yoga
with Sacha
Glenfern Sanctuary
10-11:30am

7 & 14
APRIL

Currach Quiz Nights
with quiz maestro Heidi Mills
Fundraiser for Levi's pump track
Every Sunday in April | 6:30pm

8 & 15
APRIL

Island Screens
'Lost Illusions' & 'The Miracle Club'
Kitchen from 5:30pm | Movie at 7:15pm
Entry \$10 | \$15 for non members
Tryphena Social Club

All events can be found online at
www.greatbarrier.co.nz/events

SOLAR POWER TO THE PEOPLE

In the last year, a staggering 98% of the Currach Irish Pub and Innkeeper's power has come from solar power alone.

When Orla Cumisky took over the pub in 2020, one of her goals was to reduce the pub's reliance on fuel generated energy. Faced with the minor obstacle of no space to set up the required solar panel array, she approached the neighbour over the fence, Peter Blackwell, and presented a proposition. Could he supply the pub with 24/7 renewable power?

As a fourth generation Blackwell, and having spent his lifetime connected to the island, Peter felt it was a natural consideration to be driving towards generating green energy; and shutting down the noisy fuel-guzzling, carbon-emitting generators running 16 hours a day over the fence would be a huge bonus.

With the goal to generate 200kWh per day and a sustainable business model, Peter designed and developed a 50kW solar system. He has installed an impressive 150 solar panels, lithium-ion batteries, and inverter system, and began supplying the pub power over the fence.

Two years into the project, there have been no end of intended and unexpected benefits.

The Currach complex has run on 98% solar power over the past year and slashed its power costs in half. The obvious reduction is carbon emissions and generator noise were to be expected, what wasn't expected was the impact that 24/7 uninterrupted power would have on all the Currach's facilities and systems.

This now means; ice-cold beer (for Paul Pye!) from the moment the pub opens, happy guests enjoying seamless power 24/7, as they expect. The kitchen, refrigeration and water filtration systems have all been upscaled to take advantage of the endless power.

And, well, the pub even gets to enjoy regular evening visits from their 'power company' CEO who is always happy to stay onsite to observe proceedings.

This 'private enterprise' and collaborative microgrid arrangement is testament to the fact the good old Barrier can-do and (more than) make-do attitude, is alive and strong. This illustrates a successful model and significant development in the island's sustainability.

This private enterprise applied for an Auckland Climate grant but were unsuccessful. They wonder if any of the Auckland based recipients have achieved results of this magnitude. They have asked.

At 10:30am, as we sat chatting to Pete, he takes a peek at his solar app, notes that on this sunny morning the batteries are 95% full, he's remarks he's still got ample power to spare throughout the day before the pub's main demand kicks in through the evening and night.

'What do you plan to do with that surplus power Pete?'

Well, that's another front cover story.



INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK COMING UP

2 - 8 April

More details of what's happening inside

HAERE MAI KI AOTEA ADVOCATE

The Aotea Advocate publishes free community news every other week. For the community, by the community. Each issue is available in print, online and to your email inbox. You can sign up online.

To access all issues and articles online visit:

www.greatbarrier.co.nz/AoteaAdvocate

Submissions, advertising and enquiries

Email: AoteaAdvocate@gmail.com

Brought to you by Bree Biederman and Lucy Dixon



All Inclusive
Holiday Package Deal
\$600 for the weekend
Cost per person

Room | Flights | Car Rental
Complimentary Drink

Let us organise your holiday for you



Signature Menu
Live Music & Events

Bookings Recommended

www.currachirishpub.co.nz
info@currachirishpub.co.nz
09 4290 211 | 021 174 1537



GROW FOOD AOTEA PRESENTS

APRIL WORKSHOPS

3 APRIL | 9:30AM - 12:30PM
Seed Swap & Sale at St. Johns

13 APRIL | 9:30-12:00AM
Growing Plants for Free
at Okiwi Passion

20 APRIL | 9:30AM-2:30PM
The Living Soil (and Why it
Really, Really Matters)
at Community Garden

27 APRIL | 9:30AM-2:30PM
Dark Earth Sanctuaries | Part 1
Feeding the Living Soil
at Community Garden

1 MAY | 9:30AM-12:30PM
Dark Earth Sanctuaries | Part 2
Making Hot Compost
at Community Garden

Full details at Grow Food Aotea Facebook page
Bookings essential, spaces limited
Contact Caity Endt to secure spot
Email: info@okiwipassion.co.nz
Call or Text: 021 212 7153

Brought to you by
AoteaOrsTrust &
Funded by Local Board



GIBSON-PARK SIX NATIONS WIN

Island born and bred, Mulberry Grove School alumni Jamison Gibson-Park steered Ireland to a 17-13 victory over Scotland on St Patrick's Day, clinching Six Nations Glory.

Named man of the match for his stellar performance at the Aviva Stadium, Jamison was branded by Plant Rugby as 'incredibly intelligent' stating that "Just about everything good today came through this experienced star".

Jamison's journey from Mulberry Grove School to becoming Ireland's celebrated scrum-half has been remarkable.

Following 10 early years on the motu, his formative years at Gisborne Boys' High School set the stage for a rugby career that took off with Taranaki, soared with the Blues and Hurricanes in Super Rugby, finding its pinnacle when he became Irish qualified in 2020.

Original full article by Aoteagbi.news

WASTELINES

Kerbside Recycling Standards

When recycling bins are contaminated or contain non recyclable items, often the whole bin load: private, kerbside or commercial bins, end up going to landfill.

People mainly strive to do the right thing, however previously recycling standards have been confusing, as they differed across the country, but kerbside recycling has now been standardised nationally (with a few exceptions).

On Aotea, we still need to keep our paper and cardboard separate from other recyclables because we bale all recyclables in separate bundles, to minimise space on the boat.

Check out the rules here:

bit.ly/aotearecyclingrules



CRITTER OF THE MONTH Pūweto (Spotless Crake)

Possibly the first ever photo captured on Aotea, papped in Kaitoke Wetland!



Nickname: Sooty Rail

Kāinga: Freshwater Wetlands

Enemies: Predators, mainly cats and habitat loss

Population: Unknown, but likely to be very small and delicate

Superpowers: Very secretive, feign injury to distract predators

Diet: Omnivorous - seeds, fruit and leaves, worms, snails, spiders, beetles - can catch live prey at 3 days old

Song: Bubbling, 'pit-pit', 'mook', or a long trilling 'purr'

By Ecology Vision Aotea

FROM THE AIRWAVES

Each Monday Tim Higham gets to the heart of island life with interviews and reflections on AoteaFM.

Latest interviews:

Working with clay

Potter Sarah Harrison's island roots run deep and true

Flashes of green

Ōkiwi kākāriki are special says world parrot expert Luiz Ortiz-Catedral

The quiet diplomat

Alex Rogers is leaving the Hauraki Gulf a better place

Wonder women

Good Heavens guides Hilde Hoven and Deb Kilgallon are opening us up to mystery

To listen to these interviews visit:

greatbarrier.co.nz/island-stories-podcast
or listen on Spotify - 'Island Stories'



INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK

On 26 March, Aotea made a "Dark Sky Proclamation" to mark International Dark Sky Week.

"A Dark Sky Proclamation is a ceremonial document that a community or organisation signs as an official statement of support for dark night skies," said Aotea Great Barrier Local Board chair Izzy Fordham. "We're thrilled to be doing our bit to promote the dark sky movement and push for less light pollution around the world."

In 2017, Aotea became the third ever place in the world to achieve the status of International Dark Sky Sanctuary, and the first island to receive this honour. To this day, it remains one of very few islands with sanctuary status.

"One of the things that the proclamation highlights is the fact that the night sky is everyone's shared heritage and we need to protect it," says Izzy. "It also points out that light pollution has significant impacts on ecology and human health. Here on Aotea for example, the Takoketai (Aotea Black Petrel) relies on an undisturbed night environment to fledge and thrive."

Dark Sky Tours to Celebrate

Good Heavens has been operating since the start of the Aotea Dark Sky Sanctuary.

Over the last seven years they have carried out hundreds of dark sky experiences and have guided a few thousand stargazers through Aotea's dark starry sky.

"When you spend time in nature, it often takes a little while before nature comes to you" says Hilde Hoven, Good Heavens guide, "it takes 30 minutes for your night vision to adjust before you see the full magnitude of the dark sky and before these treasures truly reveal themselves."

Want to enjoy the magic? To celebrate the occasion, the Dark Sky Enthusiasts group are putting on two free community stargazing events (details on cover). In addition, for the first week of April locals can receive a discount of 50% with code IDSWLOCAL for regular Good Heavens tours on Medlands Beach.

Deb and Hilde, joined Tim in the AoteaFM studio, read the full article or listen to the podcast online. Details to the left.

Managing Food Waste

Green Cone Biodigesters

20 Green Cone food waste biodigesters have been partially funded by the Auckland Waste Minimisation and Innovation Fund and are available at half retail price for \$150.

The Green cone needs to be dug into your garden but after that, they require little maintenance and take all food scraps-cooked, raw, bones, etc, up to approx. 1 ice cream container full a day.

Being sealed above ground, it does not release smell or attract rats. It needs to be sited in a sunny spot with reasonable drainage.

Anamata is taking orders for them now.

Pop into Anamata, go to anamata.nz/wastewise or phone Joanne - 022 314 9346 to see if they're suitable for your place.



Food Scrap Drop off at Anamata

If the Green Cone isn't right for you and you don't have a food waste system set up, we accept food scraps at Anamata.

Since December 2023 our team has processed over 944kg of food waste from households and cafes across the motu!

Share Waste

Free community composting is available at Medlands community garden and Mulberry Grove. Also check out sharewaste.co.nz

Find all information at:

anamata.nz



AGM NOTICE

Aotea Community Radio Trust
4 May 2024 10:30am
Navy Station

QUIZ NIGHT PUMPING

The Currach Irish pub, with quiz maestro Heidi Mill's raised over \$1500 towards Levi's Golaboski's Pump Track, on Sunday 24 March. With an astounding 11 teams competing, 'Will's Angels' came out on top.

The pub is donating \$5000 and has put on the quiz night to raise this to \$10,000 and they are well on their way.

Recruit your team and join Heidi at the Currach every Sunday through April to raise more funds for Levi's track.

If you miss out on the quiz nights but would still like to get behind fundraising for Levi's track contact Tay at Kaitoke school on office@kaitoke.school.nz or make a direct donation to Kaitoke School

Reference 'Levi Golaboski Fund'

Account 12-3011-0815735-50

ACCOMMODATION GST CHANGES

You've likely heard that there are changes with GST for short-term accommodation providers from 1 April 2024, but what does it mean in practical terms?

We've put together some handy tips to help you manage these changes with information sourced from the experts like PWC, KPMG and Beany.

The new rules apply to bookings made through apps and booking platforms. Not to bookings made directly to you, for example through your own website.

Short-stay accommodation booked through an online platform will attract GST at 15%, regardless of whether or not you (the underlying supplier) are GST registered.

The operator of the platform will be the one responsible for paying the GST to inland revenue and issuing taxable invoices to the customer.

Quick tips for what you need to do:

Not GST Registered?

If you are not registered, you do not need to account for the GST, the platform does this. You will receive 8.5% of the GST exclusive price of your accommodation. However, you'll still need to monitor whether you reach the GST reg threshold - \$60k. If you do, you will still need to register for GST and ensure you tell the platform.

GST registered?

You need to ensure booking platforms are aware that you are GST registered. You will no longer account for GST on 15% on your accommodation booked through the platform - report this income as xero-rated. You won't need to issue tax invoices- the platform does that. You can still claim GST on your costs, but will not receive the flat rate tax credit back like non GST registered accommodation.

Read the full article online, where we share some helpful mapped examples for visual learners, and direct you to other information to help manage this change.

PĀTEKE PROGRESS

DOC along with volunteers from Ngāti Rehua and the community, count the numbers of pāteke (brown teal duck) gathered in flocks.

The numbers are looking pretty good: Our highest count was 665 pāteke (7 Feb 2024), similar to our highest count in 2023 of 652 birds.

Most (440) of these pāteke counted were in the Whangapoua catchment. The biggest flock this year was in the waterway/old drain through the saltmarsh vegetation known as Burrill's Drain flock site with 257 birds counted at this site.

Pāteke were listed as "Nationally Endangered" until 2008, when the conservation status was changed to "At risk-recovering", meaning that there are now many small but increasing populations around the country. This status change was driven by considerable effort to halt the extinction of pāteke including many releases of captive-reared birds to new sites and intensive predator control.

We know that the flock counts do not count the entire population of pāteke in an area. However, they do give us a rough measure of the population and how it's doing.

We're always keen to know if new flock sites are establishing on Aotea. If you've seen a flock of pāteke somewhere new, contact greatbarrier@doc.govt.nz

Thank you to Ngāti Rehua and the community who helped with counts.

Words by Department of Conservation

A FRIENDLY RUST FIND

Tradescantia Yellow Spot Fungus *Kordyana brasiliensis* has found its way to Aotea! Tradescantia Yellow Spot Fungus is known to be an effective Biocontrol agent against the very aggressive pest plant Tradescantia fluminensis better known as; 'Wandering Willie' or 'Trad'. Below is a photo of the recent discovery made by Senior Conservation Advisor Niklas and Motairehe Ltd team members while doing Pest Plant mahi on the island. Two locations have been recorded in the north of Aotea, with hopefully more to come!



Yellow spot fungus. Photo credit: Nik Erikson

The fungal pathogen, native to Brazil, is host-specific meaning it only impacts tradescantia and is no risk to other species. Yellow spot fungus, in conjunction with the tradescantia leaf beetle which is not currently recorded on the island, make the dream team Biocontrol duo in the fight against Tradescantia.

Bring on the beetle!

If you see any observations of Yellow Spot Fungus on Tradescantia please record it on the I-naturalist 'Aotea Biocontrol Project'.

Read this full article and about this Biocontrol dream team online.

Words by Nik Erikson. Auckland Council Senior Conservation Advisor

Claris Sports Club hoppin' on Easter Weekend



Easter Market

Saturday from 10am



CandyShell's New Kitchen

Wednesdays, Fridays &

Saturdays from 5:30

RAT PROBLEMS?
Are the rats moving in at your place?
Come see us at the Claris Easter Market to pick up your free traps
Various lures also available

EMAIL: AOTEATRAPLIBRARY@GMAIL.COM
PHONE: 029 770 8111
FACEBOOK: AOTEA TRAP LIBRARY

Aotea Trap Library

Aotea Community
NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

OPEN DAYS:
OPEN SATURDAY'S
FROM 10AM - 2PM

OR BY APPOINTMENT
CONTACT: AOTEANURSERY@GMAIL.COM

END OF GARDEN RD, MULBERRY GROVE

SUPPORTED BY AUCKLAND COUNCIL &
AOTEA/GREAT BARRIER LOCAL BOARD

GET INVOLVED

Auckland Council is working towards eradicating and keeping out a number of high risk pest plant species from Aotea. We need your help to hunt these plants out.

- ✓ Visit inaturalist.org
- ✓ Join project 'Aotea High Risk Weeds'
- ✓ Identify and record your weedy find!

**1. FIND IT
2. RECORD IT**

aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Auckland Council



NEED SEPTIC SERVICING?

Barrier Drainage are your on-island drainage experts for PRIMARY & SECONDARY SYSTEM SERVICING.

Over 17 years drainlaying experience
Endorsed by Auckland Council

Call today to keep your system compliant and running optimally.
Our fully-qualified service technicians protect your investment.

Tel: 021 127 9190

septicsservicing@barrierdrainage.co.nz



GREEN CONES FOR SALE

Solar digester
Food waste system
Takes all food waste
Doesn't attract rats

50%
OFF

\$150

Funded by
Auckland Council
Waste Minimisation Fund

Drop in to Anamata to see if its right for you
Or visit: www.anamata.nz/wastewise
Or Call Jo - 022 314 9346

WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?

DRY MĀNUKA FIREWOOD
DELIVERY AND STACKING AVAILABLE
TRACK/SECTION CLEARING
HEDGES & TRIMMING
DIGGER WORK
LANDSCAPING
PLANTING
MOWING
GARDENS

CALL BARNEY SCOTT
027 274 3664



Mulberry Grove General Store

EST 1974

Indoor/outdoor seating
Bottle store
Extensive wine collection
Ice, fishing gear, bait
Gt. barrier Island honey
Gifts and souvenirs
Fuel - petrol & diesel
Garden supplies

Cafe/restaurant - open 7 days
Takeaways by the seaside
Authentic Thai cuisine
Award-winning gourmet pies
Great location - fabulous views
Groceries
Fresh fruit and vegetables
Full tavern and off license

1 MULBERRY GROVE ROAD, GREAT BARRIER ISLAND 0110
PHONE 09 4290 909 WWW.MULBERRYGROVESTORE.NZ
OPEN 7 DAYS 7AM - 7PM (LATER BOOKINGS WELCOME)

AOTEA GAS & GARDEN

Organic Fertilisers
Dalton Soils

AUTUMN SPECIAL
Buy 5 bags & get the 6th Free

Open 10am - noon | Monday - Friday
Txt: 027 4290 968



Open 7 Days

Monday - Friday
8.30am - 5pm
Saturday & Sunday
9am-4pm

09 4290 852

info@clarisstoreaotea.nz

clarisstoreaotea.nz

Clariss Store

Fresh milk, bread, fruit and vegetables. Cold beverages including beer and wine. Ice and ice cream. Locally made products. Bait, fishing gear and all other grocery and general needs

Extended hours in summer
Closed Xmas & Boxing Day

PEOPLE & POST

NORTH TO SOUTH SHUTTLE SERVICE

OPERATING MONDAY - SATURDAY

TRYPHENA - PORT FITZROY, DEPARTS - 10AM
PORT FITZROY - TRYPHENA, DEPARTS - 11AM

\$30 PP



FREE
TO AOTEA CAR
RENTAL CUSTOMERS

AOTEA
CAR RENTALS

0800 426 832
gbbuses@xtra.co.nz



AOTEA ROAST



Come see us at the Easter Market!
New merch and fresh coffee

Locally Roasted
Fresh Organic Beans
Local Stockists
Subscriptions Available

Get Your Fix

aotearoast.co.nz
hello@aotearoast.co.nz

SKY LAND + SEA

GLENFERN SANCTUARY

Let's get away..
to our own backyard

Go off-grid to chill, get active, and explore local trails. Tune into our native ecology and conservation work. Come visit or stay at Fitzroy House and Glenfern Cottage
Glenfern Regional Park is free for all visitors.

20 Glenfern Rd Port Fitzroy
09 4290 091 | info@glenfern.org.nz

SEALINK®

20% off travel to Aotea
for trips between
15th April - 30th June

Bookable from 1st April
Use promo code
LOVEBARRIER

Visit www.SeaLink.co.nz
to book your trip
See website for terms & conditions