

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

EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL

Regular Yoga Classes

Yoga for Presence | Tues | 5:30pm | Gallery
Yoga for Tradies | Thurs | 5:15pm | Gallery
Hatha Yoga | Fri | 10am | Glenfern
Okiwi Yoga | Mon | 5:30pm | Okiwi Kura

13, 20 &
27 APR

Grow Food Aotea Workshops

Growing plants for free
The living soil | Feeding the living soil
Making hot compost (1 May)
Full details online

12 - 30
APRIL

Beyond Rural - O'Shea Exhibition

Opening event Fri 12 April 2-4pm
Community Art Gallery
New works from Helena, Patrick, Michaela,
Cieara & Mary Kate

13 & 14
APRIL

Peter Thorburn Workshops

13 April | Kawa Marae | 10am -12pm
14 April | Claris Conference | 10am - 12pm
All welcome

14
APRIL

Community Kiirtan Session

5:30 - 8pm | Old Aeroclub
Shared dinner | Bring a plate
Koha appreciated towards
community harmonium

14, 21 &
28 APR

Currach Quiz Nights

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

15 & 22
APRIL

Island Screens

'The Miracle Club' & 'Up' (Kiwifone)
Kitchen from 5:30pm | Movie at 7:15pm
Entry \$10 | \$15 for non members
Tryphena Social Club

23
APRIL

Local Board Ordinary Business Meeting

1pm
Claris Conference Centre

25
APRIL

ANZAC Day Service

12 midday
Tryphena Hall
Refreshments to follow at BSC

10 - 31
MAY

Painting Workshops

with Helen McLorinan
Community Art Gallery
See details within

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

STAYING ALIVE

Fifteen-years-ago, Adam Johnston was called to Aotea Great Barrier. When holidaying one calm winter day at his beach house on Kawau Island, he thought "this is the day we go to Great Barrier Island".

Adam and his partner came across on their boat, arriving at Tryphena where they found a property that was for sale. "As we looked back at the boat, there were dolphins jumping around it. It was one of those moments where I thought, 'what am I doing with my life?'"

After working as the national event manager for St John, and finishing his MBA, involving working long hours behind a desk, Adam came to the island for a change of pace.

He said that when he came to Aotea he noticed a gap. "This is a very spread out island with people tucked away in remote corners of it. I thought an ambulance would be very handy to convey people comfortably to where they need to be and to provide that initial emergency response. An ambulance provides a different set of skills, equipment, and knowledge, that all fits together into the wider healthcare cog."



Adam kicked off the ambulance service on the island fifteen-years-ago and has spent most of that time on call, saying, "I joke that my ambulance pager is surgically attached to my hip and people often look surprised when they see me not wearing a green uniform."

He explains that a lot of rural and remote areas up and down the country rely upon volunteers for emergency services. "We are incredibly lucky on this island to have paramedic level cover for most of the week," says Adam, and this is because Adam is a rarity. There are less than 20 full time, fully qualified volunteer paramedics in the country.

He says, "it is very volunteer based, here on Aotea we have a small workload, so there is a lot of time on call but a very small emergency workload given our population, so, it is very difficult to get funding to support our service."

The funding pots from St John and the government are empty and we need to think of different ways of doing things if we value having this service on the island.

There are now only three volunteers on the island. Adam says, "we don't have enough people to deliver the service and we're approaching a point where for the first time in fifteen years we're probably going to have some disruption to our 24/7 cover."

This model clearly isn't sustainable. The stark and glaring reality is, as Adam points out "if anything were to happen to me, then our service falls over."

Watch this space - they will be calling a hui to get ideas and help from the community as to how we can make things work.

Adam is looking for new volunteers to join the ambulance service. If you'd be interested, you can give Adam a call, or write to the service at greatbarrierisland@stjohn.org.nz.

Words by Georgie Higham. To listen to Adam's full interview with Tim Higham on AoteaFM visit: www.greatbarrier.co.nz/island-stories-podcast

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:

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Painting Workshops with Helen McLorinan | May 2024

Date	Class
Fri 10 May	Tryphena Summer
Sat 11 May	Leathery Landscapes of Medlands
Fri 17 May	Living Force Forests
Sat 18 May	Aerial Awana
Fri 24 May	The Simple Life at Pa Beach
Sat 25 May	Big Sky on Your Horizon
Fri 31 May	Forest Flow

All Classes from 10am - 3pm at Claris Art Gallery
 \$70 per person or 3 or more for \$55 each
 Bookings and payments essential to hold your space
 Contact Helen at 027 740 5549 or email
 artyhelenknaggs@gmail.com for full programme details
 Special thanks to Aotea Local Board & Aotea Arts & History Village

Local Notices - As seen on ChitChat

Opening hour changes:

Stonewall Store
 Mon - Fri 8:30am-5:30pm
 Sat & Sun 9am-4pm

Port Fitzroy Store
 Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm - Closed Sunday

Claris Store
 Mon - Fri 8:30am - 5pm
 Sat 9am - 4pm | Sun 9:30am - 4pm

Pa Beach Cafe
 Tues - Sat 8am - 2pm - Closed Sun & Mon

Gulf Fuels: Shop closed until 18th April
 Pumps and self serve kiosk still available

Transport updates:
 Barrier Air Changes - For all premium flights booked from 1 April 2024 you will now only be able to cancel or change flights up to 24 hours before (previously 2 hours). All existing premium flights purchased before 1 April 2024 will honor booking terms at date of sale

A BARRIER BRAINWAVE

As heard on AoteaFM from Kea kids news producer and serial inventor Luke Nola.

Luke is also a Serial bunny killer.

Shooting, skinning, curing the pelts (skins) and turning them into hats, pillows, skirts and bunnies, using the meat for roast rabbit, popcorn rabbit and more!

"I think rabbits are just such a wasted resource"

Luke highlights that contractors come to cull rabbits, sometimes 600 in one night, and the pelts aren't used.

"C'mon Barrier people, get out there and get those rabbits, they are a resource!"

Could these abundant unwanted pests be the answer to the Barrier's locally sourced home furnishing and meat conundrum?

Catch up on Luke's full interview - 'A kid at heart' with Tim Higham on the Island Stories Podcast, where roast rabbit wasn't the topic on the menu. He delved into his iconic 'Barrier Wave' project, building electric bikes, stepped back in time to Tyler Syke's patented rat traps, and discussed local tamariki talent on Kea kids news from the Manu comp and more.




THE GARDEN IN APRIL

Autumn is a busy time in the garden although it never has quite the excitement that spring gardening has!

Summer crops finishing, some linger on

Peppers and chillis can go right through to August - support them with strings/stakes so gusty winds don't snap the fragile plants. Kumara should be a good size now. The longer you leave them in the soil, the more risk there is of being eaten by rats, pheasants, and damage by wireworms (these are the larvae of click beetles) which tunnel their way through the tubers. Remember to only store perfect kumara - any nicks, cuts, holes will trigger rotting.



Autumn sowing & planting

Any and all of the cool season crops can be planted/sown now, right through April and even into mid May, but then it's too late!

Brassicas - this includes cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, pak choy, tatsoi, mizuna, kale, radishes, baby turnips, rocket, etc. However, be aware these are susceptible to many bugs while it is still warm.

Lettuce - especially cos, leaf lettuce, and little lettuces. Avoid iceberg and butter crunch types as they tend to rot in wet weather.

Sugar snap peas and snow peas - best sow direct into the soil.

Carrots - sow them before a period of rain to encourage germination.

Other greens - such as silver beet, spinach, endive, escarole, corn salad and celery, plus coriander, leeks, red onions and beetroot can also be sown.

No winter garden? Protect your soil

Sow a green manure - this is a bed of plants sown for the benefit of the soil. When you are ready to plant in spring, the green manure plants can be used to make compost or as a mulch.

Or mulch your gardens with any organic material you can get your hands on: autumn leaves, grass clippings, chipped banna grass/bamboo. You need a thick layer at least 5 cm deep.

Sowing green manure will be covered in the 'Feeding the Soil' workshop on 27 April at Medlands Community Garden hosted by Grow Food Aotea an AoteaOra initiative.

Words by Caity Endt, Food Resilience Coordinator

DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENSING

Mobile Unit's 2024 scheduled visits to Aotea Great Barrier Island

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May: 17 Friday
August: 16 Friday
November: 15 Friday

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NAVIGATING OUR NIGHT SKY

In this stargazing snippet let's gaze at Orion and his dogs before they set in the west.

Look west and find Orion's belt and sword, commonly known as 'The Pot'. Orion is finishing his cartwheel through our southern hemisphere sky. His bright left foot, named Rigel, sticks out towards the west. Rigel is a blue-white supergiant star. That means it is both hot and huge! While it's 860 light years away from us, it's the seventh brightest star in our night sky.



Diagonally across Orion is Betelgeuse. Betelgeuse is a red supergiant star which represents Orion's shoulder or armpit. This star appears distinctly orange in colour to our eyes, so it's easy to spot. The orange/red colour indicates that this star is cooling down. It has used up all the hydrogen it has in its core and is fusing helium into carbon and oxygen, and onwards to higher elements like neon and silicon until it reaches iron. Betelgeuse will then collapse and explode as a supernova! Some astronomers believe that Betelgeuse may explode in the next thousand years. Or maybe it's already exploded and we are just waiting to see it? At a distance of around 500 light years, maybe the supernova is traveling towards us right now?

Above Orion is his big dog, Canis Major. This constellation contains the brightest star in the night sky, Sirius, or the 'Dog Star'. It's bright because it's close to us, the fifth nearest star to our sun at only 8.6 light years away, plus it's around twice the size of our sun and 23 times as luminous.

Look across the Orion Spur of the Milky Way to the little dog, Canis Minor. This contains the bright yellow-white star Procyon. Another close star, it's the 14th closest star to our sun at 11.4 light years away and comes in at the 8th brightest star in our sky.

Enjoy these distinctive stars we see so well above Aotea!

Did you know that birds can be disrupted by lights? The Taiko / black petrel is fledging soon (typically in May) and we really want to give them the best start possible. So please, turn your lights off when they're not required and choose warm coloured bulbs. 1800K is ideal - it's written on the bulb. We think a dark sky is the best sky and we hope you do too!

To know more about how to keep our night sky dark, and why, contact your local Dark Sky Coordinator, Deb Kilgallon (deborahkilgallon@gmail.com).



FAECAL MATTERS

If you're a property owner on Aotea Great Barrier Island, you likely received a letter from Auckland Council about the 'new' septic servicing compliance rules.

Auckland Council now require wastewater systems to be serviced, maintained or fixed if there is a serious problem that could affect public health or the environment.

The Auckland Unitary Plan states, "It is your responsibility to ensure your wastewater system operates to a safe and satisfactory standard."

Our off grid and remote status, makes us a special place, but means all our homes and businesses manage their own wastewater. Leaky and poorly maintained septic systems leach germ laden wastewater into the environment, seeping into streams, coastal creeks and our beautiful beaches.

Previously, sampling in several streams in the Tryphena Catchment area frequently had levels of faecal indicator bacteria elevated above the alert level of the water quality guidelines for recreational activity.

A report in 2017 set out to determine the source of faecal matter in the streams. Several key sources of contamination were found including livestock, horses, dogs, cat, birds and humans. This contamination can run downstream to our favourite swimming spots.

One step towards ensuring our beaches don't pop up red flagged on the Safeswim website, is to take responsibility for our wastewater. Not only does this protect the environment, but it protects your investment too.

Whether you have an older 'primary' system, high tech 'secondary' or 'tertiary' system or using a natural alternative like compost or worm farm system, keep it maintained.

There are certified experts who can service, repair or pump out your wastewater system. These providers are listed on the Auckland Council website and supply the forms to council required for compliance.

Locally, there are two on-site waste watersystem service providers: Barrier Drainage and Aotea Maintenance. Find their details in the adverts in this issue.

Contact the Council service centre for more specific queries and they will forward you to the right team.

BARRIER BREWING FOR SALE

Great Barrier Island Brewing Company, the brainchild of local icons Mike Brown and Erica Archibald, is on the market. Mike's share in the brewery has passed to his kids, Aimee and Mitch.

"It's time to sell the brewery now" Erica said.

The brewery produces a range of beers, including Brownies APA, which features local kawakawa and honey. There's also kombucha, cider, and even the option for customers to create their own unique soft drinks, could be big business for the right person.

The brewery includes an insulated and temperature-controlled brewing shed, walk-in chiller, brew kegs, bottles, and everything needed to start brewing from day one, with full training and recipes provided.

Contact Erica at ericaarchibald@hotmail.com or 02108407869.

Original full article by Aoteagbi.news

BIRDS & DOGS DON'T MIX

Something I hear often is "my dog is great with chickens". That must mean it completely ignores them, because that's what bird aversion teaches. If not, you need to take your dog back for more bird aversion training, because it hasn't worked.

If your dog is allowed to play with or harass chickens, it's unlikely to behave differently with other birds. I can't think of any of our native birds that behave like chickens, they behave differently and are vulnerable to dog attack.

Young kākā are unable to fly when they first leave the nest, spending time on the ground, making their way around by climbing and fluttering between trees until their flight muscles have developed.

Pāteke scuttle through the undergrowth, freezing when threatened or if they have ducklings, the female will try to attack the dog. Guess who wins.

Penguins are totally in their element at sea, short legs, webbed feet and an inability to fly mean they are an easy target.

Shore nesting birds will abandon their nest or eggs get damaged if dogs are allowed in their nesting area.

Ask yourself, what would my dog do when confronted with these situations? If the answer isn't avoidance every time, keep going to bird aversion training and get it right.

Dogs are predators, birds are prey. Any interaction is stressful. It stops them eating, looking after chicks and resting. No wild bird wants to interact with a dog, but they do have to live together on this island.

Words by Karen Walker, local bird rescue & expert

THE KAHILI GINGER THREAT

Kahili Ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*), is a major threat to Aotea, an invasive pest plant with a liking for choking out native flora. Its shade tolerant nature allows it to take hold in even the most pristine native bush and it spreads easily - birds disperse seeds and fragments of tubers can take hold in most environments, so it has no boundaries! At this time of year, Kahili Ginger is moving from displaying flowerheads with lemon-yellow flowers and conspicuous red stamens, to developing a fruiting spike with fleshy orange fruits, so keep a lookout!



Photo 1 credit: Weedbusters Carolyn Lewis

The fight against Kahili Ginger is a mission that requires the collective effort of the island's residents and visitors. The community can play a vital role by assisting with surveillance and reporting any sightings of Kahili Ginger to Auckland Council. Early detection is key to preventing further spread, and the eyes and ears of the community are invaluable in achieving this. Become a 'Ginger Ninja' by joining the 'Aotea High Risk Weeds' project on iNaturalist and record your other high risk weed finds too.

Words by Nik Erikson, Auckland Council Senior Conservation Advisor

UPDATES FROM ANAMATA

Our friendly and fantastic Resource Recycling Centre

SEASONAL CHANGES

As winter approaches, and with it wetter weather and cold and flu season, there are some things we just can't accept for recycling/compost. This includes tissues/toilet paper that have been used.



For the health and safety of staff (who may come in contact with hazardous human matter), we cannot compost or recycle them. Even if not contaminated, there is no way for staff to know this. Please place in your bin/bag for landfill or compost at home.

DRY CARDBOARD ONLY PLEASE

Wet cardboard is also not recyclable so we are again asking our community to avoid putting paper and cardboard out on wet days.



OPENING HOURS

9am - 4pm - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10am - 3pm - Saturdays
Closed - Sundays & Public Holidays

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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!

pestfree@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



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