

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

EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY

Regular Yoga Classes
Yoga for Presence | Tues | 5:30pm | Gallery
Hatha Yoga | Fri | 10am | Glenfern

JULY

Golf Club Kitchen with Adrienne
Thursdays "Big Mac Burger" Night
from 4:30 pm onwards
Sunday Roasts from 5:30pm

**20 JULY
3 & 10
AUGUST**

Aotea Poker League
Beginners & All Welcome
Registration from 6pm, starts 7pm
Tryphena Social Club
There will be two lucky seat prizes

**22 & 29
JULY
5 AUGUST**

**Wellness Aotea Addiction
3 week course**
7 - 8:30pm | To book
greg.liggins@emotionalmedicine.co.nz

**22 & 29
JULY**

Island Screens
'A Stitch in Time' & 'Origin'
Kitchen from 5:30pm | Movie at 7:15pm
Entry \$10 | \$15 for non members
Tryphena Social Club

**23
JULY**

Local Board Ordinary Meeting
1pm
Claris Conference Centre

**25-28
JULY**

**Nature Nurture Womens
Wellbeing Retreat**
Focus on gentle reflection and nurturing
Contact to book with Vicky Kyan
vicky@gbi.nz

**27
JULY**

Aotea Winter Hot Night
Barrier Air presents
"The Barrier Chilli Challenge"
Winner goes to Auckland Championships
Register now | 6pm | Barrier Social Club

**27
JULY**

**North Barrier Rate Payers &
Residents AGM**
Details within

**28
JULY**

Grow Food Aotea Workshop
Planting & Pruning fruit trees
with Caity & Gerald Endt
Details within

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

IS THE BAR RESTORABLE?



January 2019



July 2024

David Speir thinks so.

"Unfortunately there has been a long term process of infill for Whangapoua Estuary which resulted in a tipping point in 2019 that dramatically changed the form of the wave on the bar, eventually getting rid of it. Now we have essentially no consistent surf break as we knew it."

The long-time Ōkiwi surfer believes the Barrier's most famous surf break may still have a future.

"We are only talking about sand, and it's movable stuff," he told Aotea FM's Monday morning show.

"To understand its sand motor is important. Whangapoua beach is Holocene sand, offshore sands. They're the sands that came out of the central North Island when the Waikato River used to empty out through the Thames basin. The sands get pushed on-shore by wave action and then wind action moves that sand around, further up the beach and into the dunes and beyond. The prism of water that moves in and out of the estuary, especially on its ebbing movement, transports the sand back out. When the estuary and its channels were deeper, the water had sufficient velocity to carry the sand, drop it again on the bar where we surfed, and from there it would disperse and move back up the beach.

"So there was this cyclical process that went on, and we've been looking back through aerial photography and seeing it operating consistently over the last 60 years."

"The Bar has never done what it's done in the last five years. The sand motor has now essentially collapsed. What we're seeing now is a meandering, fairly low velocity prism of water that's moving in and out on the tides, and it is not sufficient to pump that sand out of the estuary. It is filling in before our eyes."

"If we can put the tidal flow channel back to where it was, which was a stable form because it tracked along the southern rocky edge of the beach, we think we can re-establish it. But not just the delta sand bar, we would be re-establishing the health, the mauri of the entire estuary. It has been done in other places."

"Mangawhai is a good example of a similar situation. Their whole estuarine system collapsed, their dune structure was compromised by rabbits eating all the sand-binding pingao. The ocean broached through the barrier bar, sealed off the entrance and created a big, fetid swamp."

"The locals went, well, we can fix this. They got out there initially with their tractors and small diggers and attempted to do something themselves. Over time, they, with an extraordinary amount of effort, succeeded."

"They showed that, yes, if you move things back to where it was and you maintain the channels and ensure sufficient depths and subsequent water flow, you can put things back."

"We're going to have to have a big community conversation, especially with mana whenua as this is their traditional food gathering grounds which have been severely impacted, to see whether we are up for it - it won't be cheap - it'll push the boundaries I imagine."

David Speir said the next step would be to further assess the feasibility of restoration using advice from experts in coastal geomorphology and estuarine ecology.

Words by Georgie Higham

Photos: Bree Biederman & David Speir

To listen to David's Speir's full interview on AoteaFM with Tim visit:

www.greatbarrier.co.nz/island-stories-podcast/

Winter Issue Notice: Please note, we will only be producing one issue in August then back to fortnightly publications in September | **Next submission deadline:** 12 August by 10am

Looking to make a submission or advertise? Email us on AoteaAdvocate@gmail.com



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WORKSHOP WITH CAITY AND GERALD ENDT

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-THE ULTIMATE PLANTING HOLE	-CORRECT TOOL USE
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AOTEA ARTS & HISTORY VILLAGE HONONGA O TOI TUKU IHO

WINTER CLOSURE NOTICE:

Aotea Arts & History Village will be closed from **24 July- 22 August 2024**

Kylie can still be contacted via email at finance@aoteaahv.nz throughout this time

Everyone is welcome to an opening of the exhibits below and reopening of the gallery **23 August 2024 from 4-6pm**

- Tamariki Toi Exhibition
- Cartons Exhibition - Peter Edmonds
- Book launch - Jenni Ogden

LOCAL BOARD GRANT ROUND OPEN

Applications are now open for Aotea/Great Barrier Local & Capital Grant round one.

Funding of up to \$50,000 available.

Closes 30 August 2024

Visit: www.tinyurl.com/3rhzbc68

ELECTED MEMBERS FEEDBACK

Council wants feedback on the number of elected members Auckland has, how they are elected and where electoral boundaries lie.

Visit: www.akhaveyoursay.nz/represent

WHATS IN THE SKY?

Scorpius: The Scorpion or Maui's fish hook

The Scorpion is a prominent constellation in our evening sky in winter. It has a distinctive shape resembling a giant 'J'. And in NZ, we see it as Maui's fishhook! Scorpius is rich in mythology and stellar wonders. Here's a guide to exploring Scorpius in the night sky:

Scorpius is currently high in the NE in the evening sky. By 9:30pm it is above our head at the zenith. It can be easily identified by its curved body and extended tail, marked by bright stars such as Antares (Rehua).

Matariki

Did you see Matariki during celebrations on the 28th June? If you want another look, or it's your first time, Matariki will be visible in the predawn sky for the next few months, rising earlier every night.

Note that Matariki is also known as the Pleiades star cluster. If you're using a stargazing app, it'll be called Pleiades there.

Here's a guide to observing this beautiful cluster:

Position: The Matariki cluster is located in the constellation Taurus. It can be recognised by its compact arrangement of stars.

FOOD RESILIENCE & SECURITY

Food resilience is essential for the security and resilience of our community and can play a significant role in reducing use of resources and waste to landfill. The Food Resilience Programme supported by the Aotea/Great Barrier Island Local Board has recently transitioned from AoteaOra Trust to Anamata. Caity Endt remains as the Food Resilience Coordinator and Saskia the Oruawhoro Community Garden Manager and there will be additional support from other Anamata team members. The AoteaOra Trust also continues significant projects that involve collaboration both on and off the island to support food resilience. We are very excited about the potential to further improve the resiliency of Aotea for all who live here.

In the Garden in July


Be Warned! It is tempting to try to get plants in super early but our experience is that they usually take a long time to get going, and by being patient, later plantings will overtake those that were planted too early. Planting in the cold can also trigger plants to bolt (go to flower) prematurely when the weather warms up. Typically our frosts on Aotea take place over the next few weeks, so beware.

Sow in Greenhouse for planting in August

> Onions, Banana shallots, Brassicas, Lettuce, Parsley, Sugar snap and snow peas, Flowers for beneficial insects including alyssum, hollyhocks, sweet peas, violas, stock and calendula.

In the Orchard

Plant temperate fruit trees (stone, pip and citrus):



>Prep the soil well

>Pay special attention to giving trees adequate space in our humid climate. 5m for stone fruit, 3-5 m for pip fruit depending on rootstock, 2-3 m for citrus depending on variety

>Prune fruit trees on a dry day

>Prune pip and stone fruit starting with the stonefruit as they are the first to flower

>Plenty of time before apples break leaf so leave them til last

>Clean up and burn/hot compost any mummified fruit and prunings

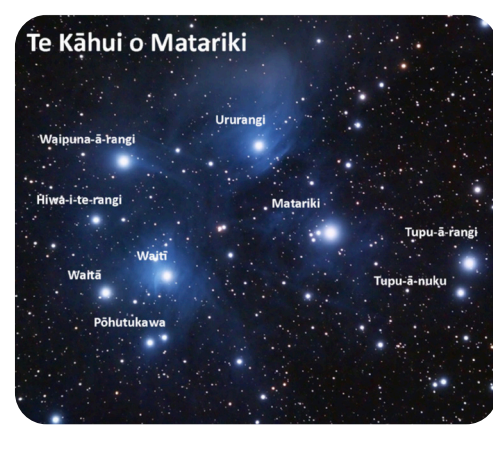
>Use clean, sharp tools

Workshop on Sunday July 28th. See details to the left.

Words by Anamata & Caity Endt

Season: Matariki rises in the eastern sky in the early morning hours in winter, and gradually moves into the evening sky, where we can observe it from early November, till the end of April, throughout our long New Zealand summer.

Predawn Viewing: Look to the NE a couple of hours before sunrise when the sky is still dark and the stars are prominent.



Te Kāhui o Matariki

Words by Deb Kilgallon, Dark Sky Coordinator

COMMUNITY THANK YOUS

From the Missaars

Haere rā. Last winter we arrived with our three children, Lily, Reef and Maya on your beautiful motu for a whole year of bonding and educational adventures. We are very sad to say goodbye to so many kind and loving people now that our return to the Netherlands is near. A special thank you goes to Kaitoke School who went to great lengths to make this experience possible for our international students. The kids have learned to master the English language among so many other things in and outside the classroom. They have grown in confidence, resilience, and awareness of their natural environment.

We loved being part of this kind and supportive community. Aotea and its people will always be in our hearts. We say goodbye for now, but not forever, we will visit the Barrier again.

From Helen McLorinan:

May was a creative month with painting workshops. It was a hive of activity, creativeness and achievements for all that participated. Huge thanks goes to the generous funding from Aotea/Barrier Local board for these sell out workshops.

I also got to hang out with some of the schools helping with their creative projects, volunteering at the gallery and community garden, I hope to come back!

PLASTIC TO FENCE POSTS

Last week, eight tonnes of sorted plastics were transported from Anamata off the island by Liftit.



This shipment included 13 bales of hard plastics, 1 bin (300 kg) of plastic lids, and 8 bales of soft plastic, which are destined for Future Post to become posts or raised garden bed surrounds.

A big shoutout to everyone who has been diligently sorting and bringing plastics to Anamata. This represents a significant effort that diverts waste from landfill, supporting reuse and sustainability.

Words by Anamata

DEFENDING AOTEA FROM CAULERPA SPREAD: NEW LOCAL RESPONSE TEAM

A good crowd of 60 folks – most of us in the room and some on the zoom, gathered at the Claris Conference Centre on 3 July to hear co-chair Chris Ollivier and members of the Aotea Caulerpa Response Team (ACRT) share the plan to deal with this beast of a seaweed.

The ACRT is a point of coordination for the community, Council, MPI, DOC and other iwi and groups who are dealing with exotic Caulerpa in their waters. It is led by Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea and was established in April as a partnership between the community and mana whenua, to oversee and coordinate a local response.

The plan has three goals:

Locate It & Map It: Conduct planned surveillance and GIS mapping of high risk and high value sites

Remove & Control It: Secure and put into use the best available tools to kill and/or remove it from priority sites

Set Up For The Future: Establish Aotea project, build capacity and knowledge, work with new technologies as they emerge

Read the full ACRT article online

1980'S TRYPHENA SNAPPER SNAPSHOT



These are some observations offered by Bob Whitmore of Tipi and Bobs that were gleaned from his years commercial long line fishing out of Tryphena around 45 years ago. They have long been scribed on my wall.

Sept - Small run snapper - In September there sometimes would be a small run of snapper leading him to think the schoolies had arrived early only to then disappear.

Oct 20 - Snapper arrive - Do like the precise date. Bob said he would then start fishing the incoming school snapper at the Broken Islands and over the next few days he would work them down to Tryphena.

May - Try full of snapper - During May Tryphena Harbour is full of snapper

July - Oct - Snapper poor - From July to October snapper fishing is poor.

Words by Peter Sporle

SEPTIC CHECK SUBSIDY AVAILABLE

Properties on the island can now access a discount on septic tank checks. Primary system checks are \$80 and advanced systems are \$130. Council will cover the rest of the cost through the service provider (funded through the water quality targeted rate).

WHAT A DIFFERENCE 365 DAYS MAKES

This time last year it was standing room only at a tense Aotea Family Support Group annual general meeting at the St Johns Church annex in Medlands. People had turned up to hear how the organisation planned to get out of the very deep hole in which it found itself: \$200,000 in debt, the trust standing down en masse and a developing public image problem.

Out of that meeting emerged an entirely new trust and a concerted campaign to turn the ship around. With Syd Davies as new chair, Beverly Slater appointed as the organisation's (first ever) general manager and the likes of Brent Henderson and Winny Medland stepping up as trustees, AFSG has performed a miraculous 180, and today, one year on, is on solid ground once more.

At its 2024 AGM on 5 July, Syd described it as a "challenging but very rewarding year", made easier by "brilliant and very talented trustees". He also acknowledged all those who stood by the organisation - both in spirit and with donations - during its rocky patch. "We have accomplished miracles with the help of the residents of Aotea. Thank you."

Just some of AFSG's successes cited at the meeting were: negotiating the write off of most of a large IRD debt, negotiating increased rates for home help, overhauling the governance and management of the organisation, sorting counselling for locals and securing funding to allow rangatahi programmes to continue. The hard mahi isn't over but there's a real sense that AFSG has emerged stronger and better.

Words by Kathy Cumming, Community Broker

NATIVE NURSERY CHANGES HANDS

The Community Native Plant Nursery is set for new growth. It was established in 1919 and has been run by Windy Hill Sanctuary. It is now operating as a social enterprise - Motu Community Nursery, run by Alan Phelps and Bree Biederman.

Alan has 35 years of native plant experience. He set up and ran Motu Nursery which he then passed to his daughter, Casey Fisher - who ran it as Okiwi Green. Alan has extensive knowledge of our native plants, large restoration projects, wetlands and waterways planting as well as fencing.

Bree has lived on Aotea since 2018. She has worked with Okiwi Passion and is passionate about growing. Bree & Alan have recently managed a large private wetland restoration project together, growing over 50,000 native plants.

The retail site for the nursery will still be located in Mulberry Grove, at the end of Garden Road, with opening hours to the public remaining the same on Saturdays from 10am-2pm.

In the near future, the nursery will have two locations. The growing nursery will be located in Okiwi and the retail site will move to Medlands in Spring. Casey & Ben at Okiwi Green will be closing their nursery and remaining stock will be passed to Motu Community Nursery.

The nursery will host community workshops, seed collection walks, learning opportunities and donate plants to the schools. They are looking forward to working with the community, groups and local businesses.

Growing eco-sourced plants helps us not only reduce bio-security risks, but help preserve the ecological distinctiveness of an area and the plants fare better as they are adapted to survive in our local conditions.

Thanks go to Windy Hill for all their hard work establishing the nursery and for entrusting us to take it into the future. A heartfelt thank you to Casey & Ben at Okiwi Green. We are grateful to you both and recognise the incredible mahi you've put into your nursery.

Finally, a thank you to our Local Board & Auckland Council for their support towards this critical resource on Aotea.

If you have planting projects on the horizon, please do get in contact. Let's grow!

Email: MotuCommunityNursery@gmail.com

Waterway Protection Fund Opens

A grant round will open on 29 July aimed at waterways protection and restoration, it has a strong focus on Aotea. For full details and criteria, please refer to their ad on the right.

Words by Motu Community Nursery

BUSHY ASPARAGUS

Bushy Asparagus, Asparagus aethiopicus, is an Aotea High Risk Weed.



Originally from South Africa and once a popular garden ornamental, it is now jumping the fence from the pot plant and forming dense infestations, which excludes native vegetation. It has long-lived tubers that resprout, and seeds that can be widely distributed by birds. It loves to invade low-growing habitats and dune vegetation, which is a problem for Aotea as we have some real treasures in that space.

If you see Bushy Asparagus, please report it to Auckland Council or Envirowiki team.

Words by Nik Erikson, AC Biosecurity

North Barrier Residents & Ratepayers Association AGM
Saturday 27th July 2024, 2-4pm



It's time to renew your membership!
Come along and connect with your community, and share your ideas.

Port FitzRoy Boat Club
2039 Aotea Rd, Port FitzRoy, Great Barrier Island, 0991
Kai will be provided after the meeting.

Textiles
Alterations & Repairs Sessions

Spaces available to join the talented Nicola Allison for alterations or repair sessions at Anamata on the following days:

Tuesday 23 July
Wednesday 24 July
2hr sessions beginning at 9:30am or 1pm

- Bring something to alter or repair
- \$10 - with ongoing access to sewing machines (when available) after registration
- Contact 027 335 8943 or info@anamata.nz to secure a spot

Please note, access to the Sewing Hub involves steep stairs



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Or phone land advisor Amber on 0272149778



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.



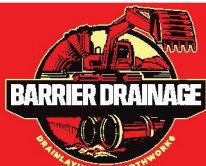
Visit inaturalist.org
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Photo by Chris Morton



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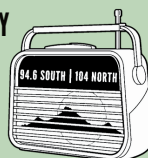


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