

FAA FREE COMMUNITY NEWS

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BARRIER BUSH PIGS TAKE ON KATIKATI STAGS

player for the Katikati Stags rugby team, the call was put out to at Aotea Brewing. organise a game for the Stags against our very own Great Barrier However, the PIGS gracious in their loss, still managed to stay and Island Bush Pigs. The PIGS were called from the Bush after an awesome effort by the greater Sykes whānau, Ryan Daly and others, and the plan was hatched. Roaring Western BOP Katikati Stags were hearded onto a plane, some more came via boat from Coromandel, clashing their antlers and roaring loudly en route to the pristine lands of GBI. Of course Aotea has been deer free since the early nineties, so the Bush Pigs weren't very keen to share their fertile green pastures with these domesticated semi feral beasts.

The game started well, but unfortunately a huge roaring stag charged some of our vicious feral pigs. The large Stag named Reardon ran hard at our line of ravaged pigs and unfortunately for him, the domesticated stag crumpled.

However, as always our dedicated Island first responders were there to help the wounded stag. Joel Moses, Julianne Higham, Ella Moses were quick to respond. Then, local nurses Sharlamon Marx, Julia and hero. others came to assist. Before long the injured stag was carefully and expertly stretchered off the field and into a waiting Ambulance.

The clash between the two teams was resumed, but now the Stags were out to avenge their own. They ran and stepped and shuffled their way around our brave boars and managed to pull out a 26 nil win.

Due to our local Barrier lad Tyler Mitai Sykes being a regular resident The Stags roared all night, and then carried on again the next day

salute the Stags in their win. By mutual agreement between the two clashing teams of animals, it was agreed that these pristine lands remain the territory of our mighty Bush Pigs, and one day the roaring STAGS may return, but these lands will remain protected from these beasts, and the Bush Pigs will be our guardians.

Congratulations to everyone that participated, huge thanks to the Claris Club and the committee. Our major sponsors, Barrier Building, G.B. Transport, Barrier Air and Speedy Signs Manakau. Of course a big thanks to Katikati Stags for making the effort, the Sykes family and all the individuals involved to get it across the line. It was another great weekend. It was a shame that we needed the Westpac rescue helicopter, but it is again another reason why we should always support them. They even gave Reardon a circle of the grounds where both teams roared in the salute of our wounded

Congratulations STAGS on your win. Congratulation Bush Pigs on another great game. Let's look forward to the next clash.

Thoughts and best wishes go out to Reardon for his recovery. Words from Barry Illingworth. Photo credit: Blair Mason.

PRINT SCHEDULE AUTUMN Looking to make a submission or advertise? Email us on AoteaAdvocate@gmail.com AOTEA ADVOCATE, Next Submission Deadline: 14 April by 10am Next Issue Available: 17 April

COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT: A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NORTH OF AOTEA

"Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi." With your food basket and my food basket, the people will thrive.

This Whakatauki is the essence of Community-Led Development - coming together to share our selves, time and resources to bring about change to our community with the focus starting in the North of Aotea. It rings true that whilst we can see the challenges of living remotely, it also makes a strong community who have a can-do attitude, and what has become a catch phrase to describe us as "good at MacGyvering it up" by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)- our partner in this project. We originally came up with the term but the DIA just loved it and it stuck []

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai Ki Aotea Trust board were successful in 2023 in being selected to be one of the 20 communities around NZ that are currently in the DIA's Communityled Development program. Its initiated by the people, for the people. The communityled development approach focuses on communities as a whole, rather than on specific programmes or activities. It invites us to bring our strengths to the mahi that we do and see where we can bring challenges to the table and turn them into opportunities.

This programme for Aotea is just at the beginning - it continues for five years but from what we have learnt and seen around Aotearoa, this can go for much longer and I am sure the lessons that we learn in the process will far outlast the five years.

Our community-led development initiative This approach is guided by key values: is called Toitū Aotea - to be sustainable and have longevity. To look after the whenua and the whanau who live here now and for generations to come. We have an exciting ' opportunity to create lasting change for the North of Aotea—and in turn, the whole motu > (island).

Some of the challenges on the island are > easy to identify; power, water, kai, health and connection. Those are all big and worthy Through Toitū Aotea , our community has of our mahi and focus. Its the ones that sit behind we are curious about, both big and small what achievements will arise out of our community coming together? Working together, connecting, being reminded sometimes of how things used to be and



what could our future look like if we have the > tools to help us.

What is Community-Led Development?

Community-led development is about empowering people to shape their own , future. Instead of waiting for change to come from the outside, we take the lead in identifying what's important, what needs to happen, and how we can make it worktogether. The Government is supporting community-led development, through the Department of Internal Affairs, by providing support, advice and funding, but the work is led by the community.

- Kotahitanga Working together as one projects, and help shape the future. community
- Manaakitanga Caring for each other and our environment
- Whanaungatanga Strengthening connections between people
- _ Protecting and Kaitiakitanga sustaining our whenua and moana

the chance to develop projects that will enhance daily life, support whanau, and build a strong future for the next generation. Some of the ideas that have been suggested so far include:

Activities for Tamariki, Rangatahi &

Sustainable Power & Water Solutions Sharing Kai

- Cultural Development & Community
- Spaces Business Growth with solid fill Community enterprise to boost a localised economy

These are just a few of the ideas that have been put forward. What do you think? What would make life better for our community? We want to hear from you! Toitū Aotea

Community-Led Development Hui is happening on March 22nd at the Port Fitzroy Boat Club, 2-5pm. This is a chance for everyone to share ideas, support

After the hui, Orama will provide kai, and we'll enjoy some amazing local musicians sharing their mahi (work). It's a time to korero (talk), hono (connect), and whakanui (celebrate what's possible when we come together.

If you want to tautoko /support a project—or even better, be part of making it happen—let us know. You can email us at AoteaCLD@ ngatirehua.iwi.nz or come along to the hui.

Kia ora ai koe i tō haerenga, nau mai, haere mai ki te mahi tahi, kia tipu, kia rea tātou katoa. - Sacha Eddington (Community engagement officer) On behalf of the Toitū Aotea steering group

Ditzhuyzen and Buster and Rebecca Park. "In what is probably my least favourite part of As board chair Izzy Fordham said, it was a moment to "reflect on friendships".

(coordinator of the island's Dark Sky disconnect it or replace it.' Enthusiasts' Group) presented Aotea's But turns out Deb saved presented Aotea's 2024 report to the International Dark Sky Association. This report is an annual to local board funding) is now set up in requirement of our dark sky sanctuary Medlands. It tracks meteors in the night

that's gone into the report this year has been really positive. The key thing is our night sky remains exceptional; just as exceptional as when we got our dark sky status. And we want to keep it that way. I'm working hard to keep it that way."

To complete the report, Deb had to drive around the island in the dead of the night, taking measurements from 27 different locations. She told the board she'd found a

A sombre start to the February business few private properties with outdoor lights by the sheer numbers popping off while we meeting, with a minute's silence to that didn't meet the IDA's standards for a sleep. Go to: fireballs.nz/station-map/ (and acknowledge the passing of Monique van dark sky place.

ABOVE BOARD FEBRUARY 2025

the job, I've knocked on the door and talked Judy Gilbert made a brief cameo to speak to

But turns out Deb saved the best for last the meteor watch station which (thanks status. According to Deb, it'd been a great year in the timelapse video; I guarantee you'll be realm of the night sky. "I feel like everything spellbound and surprised



fireballs.

to those people, and to my relief found that a \$5,000 funding application for a "local for Later in the meeting, Deborah Kilgallon Kilgallon they have been fine to switch the light off, local" fish project business plan. The project would see the community buy quota, allowing local fishermen to catch fish then sell it locally. Which in turn would mean locally caught fish on the menus at our clubs and pub etc. A long held and laudable goal. Judy and her team will now go away, crunch the numbers, create the spreadsheets, and see if it's possible to make it work.

> Now, before I go, it's election year! Your onein-three-year chance to stand for the local board. Already we are seeing interested people attending the business meetings to get a feel for this part of the job. The next business meeting is at 1pm on Tuesday 25 March if you're keen to come along and check it out. Candidacy opens in July.

> Words by Kathy Cumming, Strategic Broker, Auckland Council

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20 Public Holiday: Easter Sunday	13	Deadline for submissions for next issue of Advocate 10am		Powers 9am Tryphena Hall	Issue 19 Available	Good Friday Volunteer Morning 10am Community	10am-2pm Claris Club Email clarisclub@xtra.co.nz for stall bookings Harvest Festival at Aotea Brewing
	Public Holiday:	21 Public Holiday: Easter Monday	22 Ordinary Business Meeting 1pm CCC Any enquiries to : AoteaGreatBarrierL ocalBoard@aucklan dcouncil.govt.nz	Yoga with Linda Powers 9am Tryphena Hall	&%	Public Holiday: ANZAC Day	26 Yoga 9am Try Hall Everybody's Market 10am-1pm Arts &

WANT TO SUBMIT AN EVENT? EMAIL US AT AOTEAADVOCATE@GMAIL.COM

FIND THE FULL EVENTS CALENDAR ONLINE AT WWW.GREATBARRIER.CO.NZ/EVENTS



A MESSAGE FROM AOTEA ARTS & HISTORY VILLAGE

full swing into 2025 with a buzz of workshop month we had our first market for the year planning for mid-winter, Exhibition themes and solo shows. We are doing our best to cater for all the positive ideas that come our way.

the schools to share creativity. It's been gallery. a humbling experience to see what Aotea Tamariki have to offer.

Thanks to all that could come and support the first of 2025 exhibition line up - Fenella & Peters 'New Works' exhibition in February grew a fantastic crowd on opening afternoon with a hive of smiles and appreciation for Aotea Artists - some of Fenella & Peters date between 12 -16th May. work is available to view at the gallery.

This last month we have welcomed new artists from the northern end of island and youth members. Are warm welcome we

Hi from Aotea Arts & History Village, we are appreciate you coming all this way. Last UPDATING BIO's & CREATIVE GROUPS EVERYBODY'S Market - the rain behaved. promising positive vibes from all the stall holders and crowd. The Next EVERYBODY'S Market is SAT 26th April 10am - 1pm (day The coordinator has been heading out to after ANZAC) Please book your stall at the

> Our current exhibition 'Dancing around the Barrier' by Monique Endt offers the collaboration of femininity in nature, a playful painterly way to appreciate thoughts from Barrier inspiration. Now showing until 28th March.

> EXHIBITION THEME 'Collaborate' : Hand in

For members & Aotea Groups*

Brief: What would a group, partnership, Nana & granddaughters piece of artwork look like? Any medium, any theme (Limit to 3 pieces per collaboration)

ON ISLAND: Almost every day we are getting asked about artists or WHERE are the creative groups?

Can we please have an update on times and Group names, artists info so we can SHARE. Email: coordinator@aoteaahv.nz

WE NEED TUTORS: If you have a skill that you don't mind sharing to our community, we would like to hear about it. You will be paid for your time and support, and all the admin side will be sorted by the Village.

Please make all enquiries to Helen email: coordinator@aoteaahv.nz

Kind regards, from Helen McLorinian – Aotea Arts & History Village

Helen joined Tim on Aotea FM - You can relisten to her interview on the Island stories podcast on Spotify:

www.tinyurl.com/TimHigham

ECOLOGY FESTIVAL 2025

We have some outstanding and inspiring people from across Aotearoa presenting at this years Ecology Festival on Saturday 29 March. Join us for a day of learning and connection with:

Fletcher Beazley, Chair of the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust and Operations Manager for DOC on Aotea, Fletcher will share a Department of Conservation and a mana whenua perspective on te taiao and conservation on and around Aotea.

Graeme Atkins hails from near Ruatoria in Te Tairawhiti. He was awarded the Loder Cup in 2020 and was one of only three finalists in the 2024 Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards in the Te Toa o te Tau category. Known for his specialty of working with rare and threatened plants, Graeme will share about some of his journey caring for te taiao, matauranga and his experienceespecially with reintroduction of lost plants, and manawhenua led landscape scale pest management.



Photo: Graeme Atkins - gizzylocal.com

Richard Griffiths works for Island Conservation from his base in Auckland, he will share his experience of island restoration, both in Aotearoa and around the world. He and his team have successfully removed invasive species from many islands across the Pacific and he will share how these efforts are contributing to the recovery of threatened species and ecosystems and improving the livelihoods of Pacific Island communities

Opo Ngawaka is an Island taonga residing on Mahuki in the north of Aotea. Opo will share insights into caring for te taiao, matauranga and relationship with the land, sea, and sky.

We're excited to have the incredible virtual reality experience-Kauri Pou Kaitiaki at the festival. Be immersed in a 360-degree simulated world illuminating the cultural, spiritual and ecological significance of our kauri trees and forests. Special thanks to DOC for bringing this special experience to Aotea.

Stalls/Display stands: There is still time to get in touch with Jo O'Reilly to book a conservation/ecology related display at the festival ecologyvisiongbi@gmail.com or Ph 022 314 9346

And check www.ecologyvision.co.nz/ or Ecology Vision Great Barrier Island on Facebook for updates and associated events happening.

NORTHERN RANGATAHI SECURE VOYAGE ON SPIRIT OF NZ

Four lucky northern rangatahi have been given the opportunity to attend a five day Discovery voyage on the Spirit of NZ. Tane & Tiana Troope, Rhapsody Fisher Reed & Hunter-Leigh Fisher Robinson will be departing later in the year and would like to say a HUGE thank you to Okiwi Kura, Glenfern Sanctuary, Mary Fisher, Alan Phelps, the Robertsons and the CLD project for their generous contributions towards their haerenga - they are very excited for their adventure! The four travellers will be looking for more fundraising opportunities throughout the year, if you have any mahi you need extra help with

please get in touch with Casey - 021 2397 051. Thank you again to our special community for helping us make this experience possible. Ngā mihi nui.







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GROW FOOD AOTEA & CURRACH HARVEST FESTIVAL DINNER

What a magical Late Summer Harvest Many thanks to our hosts, Orla and Mark, Dinner on Feb 27th.

One sleepless warm night in February I was pondering how to plan a harvest meal....

Shane and Carl, the chefs at The Currach, had been up several times to our gardens, enthusiastically discussing herbs, onion varieties and tasting all the unusual things we grow... and I suddenly thought- wouldn't it be great to have them create a meal that would draw attention to vibrant flavours of homegrown produce!

Nine days later, over sixty guests gathered on a sublime late summer evening, the sun casting a golden glow over the stunning setting at The Currach. Shane and Carl put their outstanding talent to work, transforming boxes and boxes of locally grown produce, donated by many gardeners for this occasion, into an exquisite four course meal that celebrated each ingredient and had us all in raptures.



Throughout, Shane Langford serenaded us appreciated. with a wonderful repertoire of songs that had one or two on their feet.

Appetiser: Okiwi Olive Oil, red pepper pesto, with garlic pizza bread straight from the pizza oven

Entrée: refreshing chilled gazpacho soup using tomatoes, peppers, red onions and cucumbers topped with finely sliced rampicante, basil chiffonade, and black fig.



Main: A choice of Gurnard in a green salsa wrapped and baked in banana leaf, or Food Resilience Aotea (aka Grow Food chargrilled rare steak, on a bed of roasted Aotea) and The Currach Irish Pub rosemary potatoes and red pepper sauce Words by Caity Endt, Food Resilience studded with Cape gooseberries and topped Coordinator with a sprinkle of microgreens.

for saying yes to this middle-of-the-night idea and very quickly making it a reality, to Carl and Shane who created all this at very short notice alongside a regular Thursday night menu, Kate Waterhouse for the Okiwi Olive Oil, Andi Ross for the Island Gin, and the various wonderful gardeners who contributed produce, eggs, and fruit. Shane Langford, thanks for the lovely songs and music.



Thank you to Feli who designed the promotional poster. Big thanks also to Jo O'Reilly who said "go for it" when I mentioned the idea!

The Currach is donating \$100 from the proceeds to each of the three island kura towards their school gardens.

Photos contributed by various guests on the evening: Sandy Lintott, Annamarie Clough, Joanne Ó'Reilly, very much



Saskia Missaar and Shane Langford were the lucky recipients of the two complimentary tickets kindly donated by Ally Gibbs.

This event was a collaboration between

LEGO CLUB LAUNCHES

Inspired from her travels around New and then pieced it together, the detail Zealand, Nichole Lill has a lego club on the was amazing to see, with an engine room island and everyone is getting stuck in!

it and blew me away with their creations, started, with some ambitious lego creations. imagination, and team work. Some children loved taking it upon themselves to create something new, while others formed groups Okiwi, and get an hour glass so that the kids to collaborate and piece together a creation, can see how long they have to work on their using inspiration from booklets or step by creations." step instructions. A standout original design The next lego club is at Kaitoke School, was by a group of three children, they each 3-4pm, 2 April completed a section of a large ship,

included! It is hard to break apart the "It was alot of fun, the kids fully embraced creations or not quite complete what they A common question asked by the kids is "When is it next on". I am hoping to include

And Mulberry Grove 3-4pm, 9 April.



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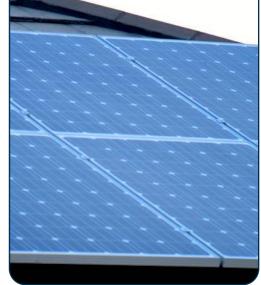
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KĀKĀ TRAILS

They are off!!! The first of the 9 kaka chicks banded with a transmitter from Windy Hill Sanctuary has taken flight and left the nest. Landcare Research scientist, Neil Fitzgerald, has sent through the first two maps of its Journey.

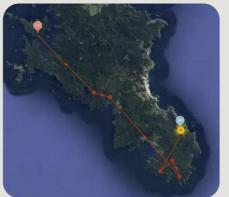
So where to from here? First stop Motu Kaikoura and then a short jump to Coromandel.

The dots on the map show where the GPS got a fix, which could be in flight, or perched in a tree. In general, the GPS only tries to get a location every 12 hrs. If the battery is well charged from lots of sunshine, it will try more often. The dots are grouped into clusters, with the number telling you how many dots are grouped together, so this gives an idea of where they are spending more time.

Thanks again to Neil Fitzgerald and Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research for sharing this data with us.

Words by Windy Hill Sanctuary

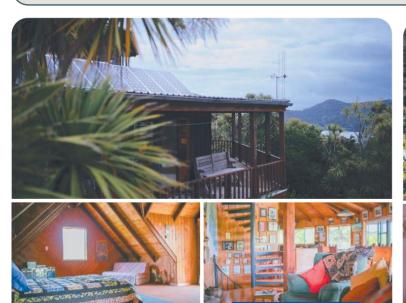




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AOTEA'S PEST PLANT DREAM TEAMS

Big shout out to all of our Pest Plant Contractors, putting in the hard mahi to protect Aotea from High-Risk-Weeds, as well as all the Aotea residents who continue to show their support, it is much appreciated! The summer months have been swelters, but teams from Envirokiwi, Motairehe, Te Ara Kokiri and Blackdog Conservation have kept pushing through and achieved some huuuge milestones! Particularly with Kahili Ginger, which is recognized as one of the "100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species". Theres not many places in NZ, let alone the world, where Pest plant eradication objectives have been met or are getting close to being met. Teams on Aotea are arguably some of the most Bush Fit Contractors in the country, all you have to do is just look outside and see some of the terrain they tackle! Aotea is in good hands with the crews we have on deck and we are steering away from being part of the weediest city in the world (Which is Auckland!). You can help the programme by logging/reporting your High Risk Weeds on inaturalist, to help hunt them down. Some of the many pest plant heros out there putting in the mahi to

Words by Niklas Erikson, Senior Conservation Advisor, Auckland Council.

keep Aotea free from pest plants are pictured below.



THE AOTEA ADVOCATE

The Aotea Advocate is owned and put together by Bree Biederman and Lucy Dixon. It is run on community advertising and submissions.

If you have something you would like to contribute or would like to know more email us on aoteaadvocate@gmail.com



Kia ora Aotea! Let's talk about our community.

Get in touch about any local issues or if you need support. I'm here to help and would love to hear from you.

Chlöe Swarbrick MP for Auckland Central chloe.swarbrick@parliament.govt.nz | 09 378 4810

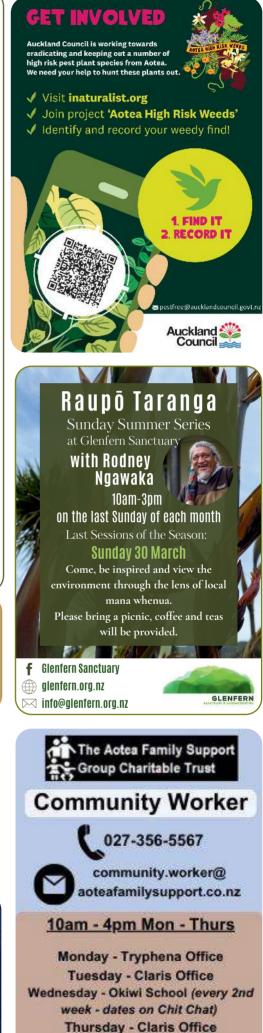


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Friday - Closed (urgent enquiries

please contact 09-4290-465)

