#### READ ONLINE AT WWW.GREATBARRIER.CO.NZ/AOTEAADVOCATE

### International Dark Sky Week | April 21 - 28

FREE COMMUNITY STARGAZING NIGHT ON 23 APRIL | STARGAZING OVER EASTER ON AQTEA | FULL DETAILS WITHIN











### **AOTEA COMES ALIVE - EASTER & ANZAC**

As the golden days of autumn settle over Aotea, the island School Art Auction — a beloved event showcasing student is buzzing with community spirit and celebration across the Easter and ANZAC long weekends.

The action kicks off Easter weekend with the much-anticipated annual surf showdown between our own Aotea Boardriders Club and their friendly rivals from Mangawhai. Expect plenty of wave-riding action and island pride on the line. Sign up to compete or come along to spectate. The location and day of the comp is surf dependent - keep an eye out for updates on the ABC facebook page. After the surf, the good vibes roll into the Saturday night celebration and fundraiser for the ABC Clubhouse at the Claris Club — locals, visitors, and surfers alike are welcome to come along. Doors open at 4pm, food from 5pm, and live music starts at 6pm. Nikau Te Huki of Casual Healing will be playing along with local band "Incahoots". Tickets are \$25 presale from Stonewall or the Rocks and \$30 at the door.

Saturday, 19 April brings family fun to the Easter Market at Claris Club, starting from 10am. With a mix of local stalls, games for the kids, and the always-exciting Easter egg draw, it's a perfect day out for all ages.

Easter Sunday adds a creative flair with the Mulberry Grove

art to raise funds for the island's tamariki. Come support the school, snap up a one-of-a-kind piece, and enjoy the community spirit.

The following weekend, ANZAC Day is marked with remembrance at midday services in Tryphena. In the afternoon, the community is invited to Motu Community Nursery Opening Celebration, running from 1-6pm at The Village. Come raise a glass, grab a bite, and pick up a plant or two to take home.

On Saturday 26 April, the island's creative and musical soul shines. The Art Gallery hosts Everybody's Market from 10am, with artisan goods and handmade treasures. Then, as the sun dips low, Autumn Groove at Aotea Brewing kicks off — a feast of seasonal kai from Good Neighbours Food, delicious coffee cocktails from Aotea Roast, and the infectious live sounds of the reggae/ska band, Strangely Arousing. Come for the beats, stay for the boogie.

Tickets for this event can be found at AoteaBrewing.co.nz. Full event calendar inside.

Photos: Left to right - Strangely Arousing, Nikau Te Huki, Incahoots, previous ABC surf comp.



#### STARGAZING THIS EASTER IN AN INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY SANCTUARY

into the sparkling night sky above Aotea. But with darkness rising at the very reasonable International Dark Sky week running 21-28 around 20 times as luminous. April 2025... the time to get out under our Leo stars is now!

Pop on a jumper, turn all the lights off, go outside and take a few minutes for your eyes Let's start with our two visible planets.

disappear from our view.

Mars is orange red in the northern sky, sitting The Southern Cross, or Crux, is in the SE sky. just above the heads of the Gemini Twins, Look for the pointer stars, Alpha and Beta Caster and Pollux.

The brightest star in the night sky is Sirius. You can easily find this bright diamond by

Any clear night is a great night to gaze up and because it is relatively close to us, at only 8.6 light years away. It's not a particularly big or bright star, being around twice the diameter time of 6:30pm, moon free evenings and and mass of our own star (the sun) and

the lion is one of the zodiacal constellations that is clear in our evening sky right now. Look to the NE, just to the east of Mars. You'll notice that Leo is upside down to adjust to the dark. Now you're ready to go! in our southern hemisphere sky. This is due to our southern perspective on a spherical Let's start with our two visible planets.

earth. The constellations of the zodiac, and Jupiter is glowing gold, low in the NW sky. many other constellations, were identified It is sinking lower to the horizon each night and written about by people in the northern and will soon set alongside the sun and hemisphere. They see Leo on his feet, while we get to see Leo lounging on his back.

> Look for the pointer stars, Alpha and Beta Centauri (also known as Rigil Kentaurus and Hadar) to point to this important southern hemisphere constellation.

looking high in the NW sky. Sirius is bright Also note the golden colour of Alpha Centauri, the third brightest star in the sky, and closest star (after the sun) at only 4.3 light years away.

> Note: these images are at 7pm on 18 April 2025. Each night after the 18th, the stars will move a little further to the east (about 4 minutes per night).

> A dark sky is the best sky so please help maintain our International Dark Sky Sanctuary. Turn off any outdoor lights, or have them on a sensor. Choose warm coloured bulbs. 1800K is ideal - it's written on the bulb. To know more about how to keep our night sky dark, and why, or to get involved in Aotea's Dark Sky Enthusiasts Group contact your Dark Sky Coordinator, Deb Kilgallon (deborahkilgallon@gmail.com).

> Will you look up and admire Aotea's sparkling dark sky this week?

> Words by Deborah Kilgallon, Dark Sky Coordinator

Free community Stargazing at Medlands Beach. 23 April 2025 @ 6:30pm and 7pm. Please message Deb on 027 407 8037 for your 30 min slot.







#### FENZ TEAM WIN RANGER

Thousands of people around the country entered the Seven Sharp competition to win a new Ford Ranger and Okiwi Fire Crew were the lucky winners of one of the two utes going!

She's been dubbed Foxtrot 2.2, a fantastic surprise and much needed upgrade for the northern Fire Crew who are thrilled to have this new ute. This truck gives the crew the ability to ride together on call outs, get there safely and reliably, and continue to service the northern community as a whole

What a deserving win - endless thanks to our entire volunteer fire and emergency crews on the island.

Full story at: www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/ seven-sharp/clips/new-ford-rangerwon-by-great-barrier-island-s-volunteerfirefighters



### MULBERRY GROVE SCHOOL ART AUCTION FUNDRAISER Easter Sunday April 20th Kitchen open with **VENUE: BARRIER SOCIAL CLUB TRYPHENA** Doors open 4pm **Auction starts 5pm** Raffles Art Auction Something for everyone Other Auctions



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **AOTEA COMMUNITY RADIO TRUST** 

> 17TH MAY 2025 10:30am NAVY STATION

#### POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT NBRRA

The North Barrier Residents and Ratepayers Association are looking for a suitable person(s) to fill a short-term administrative role, primarily around updating constitution to coincide with new charities law changes. Message/text Josh on 0211478088 with a suitable after work time for further information.

The Association would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Local Board/Auckland Council for providing the funding to do so. Kia ora

NBRRA Committee

## APRIL & MAY EVENT CALENDAR



AI MIE W IIAI EVEIII CAEEIIDAN						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
13	14	15	16	17 Somatic Movement € 12 Somatic Movement € 12 Somatic Movement	Public Holiday: Good Friday  ABC hosts MBR 12th Interclub Surf Comp Location & day of Event TBA on	19 Easter Market 10am-2pm   Claris Club ABC Fundraiser for Clubhouse & Comp Shindig From 4pm at Claris Sports Club   Live Music from Casual Healing   Tickets \$25 at Rocks or Stonewall   \$30 on the
20 Easter Sunday Mulberry Grove School Art Auction Fundraiser Doors from 4pm - Auction at 5pm Barrier Social Club	21 Public Holiday: Easter Monday International Dark Sky Week April 21 - 28 Island Screens 'The Mountain' 7:15pm   BSC	Local Board Ordinary Business Meeting 1pm   CCC aoteagreatbarrierlocal board@aucklandcounci l.govt.nz	23 AGBIET AGM 4:30-6pm   CCC   Details within Int'l Dark Sky Week Free Community Stargazing 4:30pm & 7:00pm Booking details within	The Currach  24 Somatic Movement & Mantra Meditation with Eunate   1.30-2.30   Tryphena Hall	weekend  25 Public Holiday: ANZAC Day  ANZAC Day Services Midday at Tryphena Hall   Full details within  Motu Community Nursery Opening Celebration   1-6pm Details within	26 Verybody's Market' 10am-10m   Arts & History Village   Claris Bird Aversion   Dog Training   Details within at Aotea Brewing 12 -6   Music by Strangely Ausing   Tickets at aoteabrewing.co.nz
27 'The Beauty of The Barrier' Art Exhibit by Francie Kemp   on till 28 April	28 Gentle Yoga 10am   Tryphena Hall Island Screens 'The Critic' 7:15pm   BSC	Local Board Extraordinary Business Meeting 11:30am   Local Board Office	30 Yoga with Linda Powers   9am Tryphena Hall or 1pm CCC	O1 MAY	O2	Growers and Makers Market 9:30am CCC
O4  Tai Chi with Viv 10am   Sundays Claris Club, Everyone Welcome, Koha	O5  Island Screens 'Eric Ravilious' Documentary 7:15pm   BSC	06  Yoga 5:30pm at Okiwi kura	O7 Yoga with Linda Powers   9am Tryphena Hall or 1pm CCC	O8 Somatic Movement & Mantra Meditation with Eunate   1.30-2.30   Tryphena Hall  Jam Night at The Currach	09 Hatha Yoga   10am Glenfern Volunteer Morning 10am   Community Garden Medlands	10 Yoga   9am Try Hall
Tai Chi with Viv 10am   Sundays Claris Club, Everyone Welcome, Koha	12 Gentle Yoga 10am   Tryphena Hall Island Screens 'There's Still Tomorrow' 7:15pm   BSC	13 Yoga 5:30pm at Okiwi kura	14 Yoga with Linda Powers   9am Tryphena Hall or 1pm CCC	Jam Night at The Currach	Volunteer Morning 10am   Community Garden Medlands	17 Yoga   9am Try Hall  Actea Im  Actea Community Radio AGM   10:30am at Navy Station   Details within
18  Tai Chi with Viv 10am   Sundays Claris Club, Everyone Welcome, Koha	19 Sisland Screens 'A Son' 7:15pm   BSC	Yoga 5:30pm at Okiwi kura	Yoga with Linda Powers   9am Tryphena Hall or 1pm CCC	22  Jam Night at The Currach	Volunteer Morning 10am   Community Garden Medlands	24 Yoga   9am Try Hall
M Vaga Class details same as above or below						

Yoga Class - details same as above or below

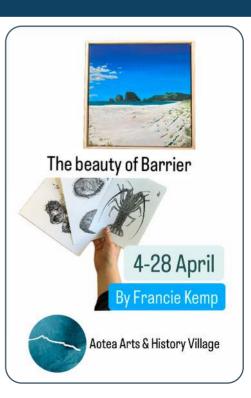
#### FIND THE FULL EVENTS CALENDAR ONLINE AT WWW.GREATBARRIER.CO.NZ/EVENTS





ect.

Barrior



## AOTEA FAMILY SUPPORT PUT ON PARENTS WORKSHOP

Parents and caregivers from across Aotea came together for two powerful and practical talks by Brett Harvey of Tāima Kōrero, hosted by Aotea Family Support Group. The event tackled an issue many families face but few feel fully prepared for—how to talk to children about pornography, online safety, and the digital world they are growing up in.





Brett, who has dedicated his career to helping families navigate these tough conversations, shared his personal journey and research-backed insights into the harmful effects of pornography on young minds. He emphasized that in today's world, it's not a matter of if children will come across explicit content online, but when. Rather than relying on bans or fear tactics, he encouraged open, honest discussions to equip young people with the tools to navigate the internet safely.

Attendees left with a greater understanding of how to foster trust and communication with their children, practical strategies to create a safer online environment, and the reassurance that they are not alone in this challenge.

One attendee remarked:

"Time 2 Talk was an eye-opener into a confronting reality that is unfolding right now. As parents navigating this for the first time, having the right tools and information to be our children's anchoring bias is a true comfort. Brett was informative, friendly and candid, sharing his knowledge and experiences while reminding us that even in this harsh reality, there is hope."

For those who missed the event, more information about Tāima Kōrero and Brett Harvey's work can be found at www.taimakorero.

Thanks to the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board, AFSG was able to offer these talks free of charge to local residents.

# ANZAC DAY SERVICES

Where	Event	Start
Aotea / Great Barrier Anzac Day Service:	Service	12pm
Service at Tryphena Hall,		
Great Barrier Island.		
Contact: Kathy Cumming, 021 409 991 or		
kathv.cumming@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz		

Updates are possible so for a full list of services, parking and road closure information please visit **ourauckland.nz/anzacday** or phone **09 301 0101**.





## AOTEA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP THANK DR SYD DAVIES

The Aotea Family Support Group Trustees would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Chairperson, Dr. Syd Davies, who has recently stepped down due to health reasons.

We acknowledge his hard work and tremendous leadership through a particularly challenging time. Under his guidance, the organisation achieved financial stability and put a number of measures in place to ensure we can continue to serve our community well into the future.

We are deeply grateful for his dedication and wish Syd all the very best for the future.

#### LOVE THE ADVOCATE? IT COULD BE YOURS.

We're looking for someone passionate about Aotea's community, storytelling, and keeping the island informed to take over this local news resource.

We have loved setting up and publishing over the past year, but we both have other commitments - plant kids (Bree) and human kid (Lucy), that mean we do not have the time needed to move it forward.

Keen or just curious to know more? Flick us an email on AoteaAdvocate@gmail.com — we'd love to talk.

#### WHATS ON AT THE AOTEA ARTS & HISTORY VILLAGE

**Current exhibition:** "The Beauty of the Barrier" by Francie Kemp on show to 28 April in the blue room.

**Members open** display in the front room along side a fun collaborative display wall of the work by Tamariki of Mulberry Grove School Easter Sunday Biennial Art Auction.

**"Curious Rocks"** is also on show in the front room - inspired from the Japanese "Hall of curious rocks". - During Easter school holidays. Bring in your rock of interest before Easter weekend. (These will be returned to all).

**Everybody's Market** is coming up 26 April in- 10am - 1pm. All kinds of stall holders welcome - spaces are allocated please contact Kylie by email manager@aoteaahv.nz

**"Collaboration"** - Themed exhibition hand in date 12 May. Brief: join forces with a friend, family member or group to piece together a creative masterpiece. Enjoying and sharing opportunity for conversation and connection.

Words by Helen McLorinian, Gallery manager.



### ABOVE BOARD MARCH

#### Private cemetery support

Public forum at the March business meeting Izzy thanked Jason for putting the plan began with the Blackwell family seeking together so concisely (he'd literally broken a letter of support from the board for an the road up into four metre sections to application for a private cemetery on their tackle). land. Christina spoke to their request, emphasising what the whanau had been through in recent times.

"We've had three members of our family a staggered approach." diagnosed with cancer," she said. "One of those family members has now passed, and it was sad not to be able to fulfil her wish to be laid to rest on the land where she was born and brought up."

land for seven generations, and "intend to do so for another seven years" should strengthen their case. "We would like a letter of support from the board."

Neil Sanderson: "As a member of another pioneer Barrier family, I understand the wish to be buried on land that's been in the family for generations. You have my support."

The board agreed to the letter.

#### Whangaparapara Road

All Gunns blazing Jason Gunn then presented a proposal for improving Whangaparapara Road. "The road is a point of frustration; when it's bad it's really bad. A lot of people using the road have to drive in and out more than once a day, and a lot of locals launch their boats from Whangaparapara. With the After some discussion, board members increase in traffic it's become a safety issue. It's easy for drivers to lose traction. The wear They were visibly disappointed by the and tear on tyres is significant. But it's also outcome. "It saddens me immensely," said an environmental issue; all the sediment washes into the drains and down into the departments really bent over backwards harbour, which quickly turns into the same on this one, and we were really hopeful colour as the dust on the road."

Jason said he understood that when you Four more years! looked at the cost of tar sealing the whole road it was intensely off-putting. "We understand there is not budget to do the whole road."

So he'd come up with a staged approach, which would see specific sections of the road in between initial bedding in and election fixed each year over a four year period. "The cycles, would save expense related to road is always seen as too big to solve. But if you break it down it might be something planning and certainty for constituents and that's affordable. You don't need to tar seal business". it all at once."

He said he'd discussed the plan with Fulton Broker, Auckland Council. Hogan and Aotea Contractors and "everyone

seems to agree it's a pretty good idea."

Patrick: "You're right that when Whangaparapara Road gets mentioned it is always classed as 'too big a job'. I support

#### Faith no moor

local board has worked hard over the last few months to set up 10 short stay moorings in Tryphena and Whangaparapara, to allow boaties to visit She said the fact the family had farmed the those harbours despite the Caulerpa CAN (controlled area notice) in place.

> However the moorings ran into some complex consent issues, including that the consents were linked specifically to the CAN. Which is to say that, if the CAN gets removed (which is fully at the discretion of the Ministry of Primary Industries), the consent lapses.

> "I'm not comfortable progressing with this project," said Izzy. "I'm concerned about budgetary implications. If the CAN is removed, they have to be ripped out. I can see a horrible scenario where we put them in and then within a few weeks or months the CAN gets removed and they have to get taken out.

> voted to can the project (no pun intended). Board deputy chair Chris Ollivier. "Council we'd actually achieved something."

The board was asked to provide feedback on the proposal to extend the New Zealand parliamentary (and local board) term to four years. They said yes, on the basis it would "allow for more active governance elections, and would provide for better

Words by Kathy Cumming. Strategic



#### Ngā Ara Hīkoi ki Aotea **Community walking connections**

Want to take steps to improve safe walking connections on the island?



Scan the QR code or go to: herengaanuku. govt.nz/aotea to read more

and sign up for news and updates.

WHAT: Improved community walking connections across southern Aotea.

WHO FOR: This is a project initiated by community members for local connectivity.

**HOW:** The project has local funding. Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa, the Outdoor Access Commission, is coordinating the project, with support from local volunteers.



#### **BLACK MARKS THE SPOT - CONNECTIVITY SURVEY RESULTS**

The results are in - many of us have switched to Starlink for better internet, but a number of us are still living in total mobile blackspots. Such are the findings of the Aotea/ Great another option, but nothing compares". Barrier Local Board 2025 connectivity survey, which was carried out earlier this

One hundred and fifteen people responded to the survey, which was designed to see if the island's made any progress since the last survey in 2018. Back then things were particularly dire, with something as simple as checking emails from home an impossibility for many.

So have things gotten better? Well, it's a mixed bag.

Starlink is now Aotea's first choice of internet, notwithstanding reservations about its owner.

"Starlink has been a complete game changer," connectivity wish list. "In 2025 we should beat. I loathe Elon Musk and wish there was of New Zealand," said one.

The real issue seems to be mobile coverage which is how we send conventional texts and make good old fashioned phone calls (not using the internet). Not much has improved on this front since 2018, and whereas there's a 74% satisfaction rate with mobile coverage on the mainland, here on Aotea seven out of every 10 respondents described coverage as "poor" or "very poor". Specific blackspots cited include Whangaparapara, Schooner Bay, Awana, Kawa and Motairehe.

With landlines slowly being retired, mobile coverage is becoming even more important. Locals recognise this, with the majority of respondents putting "better mobile coverage across the island" at the top of their

said one respondent. "It has never missed a have the same coverage available as the rest

The local board will now take these findings and use them to lobby and advocate for improvements.

Words by Kathy Cumming



#### MOTU COMMUNITY PLANT NURSERY OPENS IN MEDLANDS



Just in time for the planting season, in line with the much needed rain, we are really excited to announce that we have opened the new native plant nursery in Medlands at The Village on Mason Road - alongside Aotea Brewing, Aotea Roast, and Good Neighbors - Saturdays 8:30am - 12:00pm Food Truck.

This is our retail nursery site, where you can This project has been a big undertaking and come check out all the eco-sourced natives we have available, chat to us about planting plans and projects, learn about Aotea's native plants and just enjoy the atmosphere in part for the funding and backing from the Facebook: Motu Community Nursery in the nursery.

#### **Opening Party Celebration** Friday 25 April 1-6pm

Food, drinks, and of course plants will be available. Come celebrate the opening of the nursery, check it out and enjoy The Village.



Everyone is welcome and we'd love to see Many thanks to the rest of the team at The you there!

#### **Weekly Nursery Opening Hours:**

- Fridays 9:00am 2:00pm

(Closed Good Friday, Open Easter Sunday)

we are super proud and excited about what we've accomplished so far, but we wouldn't be here without all the support. Huge thanks Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board plus many **Email:** MotuCommunityNursery@gmail.com gracious whānau & friends who have helped us get this nursery built. This really has been a group effort and we couldn't have done it without these awesome, enthusiastic and caring people.



Village on Mason Road for being super helpful, supportive and excited about this collaboration.

Massive thanks to Malcolm MacRae, Morgan Munroe and Victor Greenfield who were endlessly helpful and totally crucial.

Ngā mihi nui e te whānau,

Alan Phelps & Bree Biederman

Contact us and find more information at:

Web: Motucommunitynursery.nz



## **EASTER AND ANZAC DAY COLLECTION DATES**



### **AOTEA / GREAT BARRIER ISLAND**

All Auckland Council roadside collections will be collected a day later. All collections will return to normal on 28 April 2025.

Your usual collection day is:	Your new collection day is:	
Monday 21 April 2025 (Easter Monday)	Tuesday 22 April 2025	
Tuesday 22 April 2025	Wednesday 23 April 2025	

Remember all council rubbish bins, bags, bundled paper / cardboard and recycling crates are to be placed out before 8am on your collection day.

Search bin days Q



Altogether Auckland. Tāmaki Turuki.



#### **AOTEA BIRD AVERSION TRAINING - 26 APRIL**

Bird Avoidance Training is taking place No bookings required! on Aotea on Saturday the 26 th of April in Okiwi, Okupu, Medlands and Tryphena.

the threat of dogs injuring or Puriri Bay killing native birds. As a responsible dog owner, it is a key part of training your blackdogconservation@gmail.com pooch and looking after our wildlife.

Nesting time might be over for many of our shorebirds, but there are still chicks around. Black petrel chicks fledge in April and May, and by July and August, our pāteke and bitterns will be starting to nest.

Like people, some dogs learn faster than others, and practice makes perfect. So, whether your dog is a young puppy coming along for the first time or an older pet that has been before, we encourage you to bring them along for a refresher. Bird species used are changed each season to make it relevant for the dogs. This makes it beneficial for bach owners and holiday makers that are visiting the island with their four-legged mates.

- 9-10am Okiwi Airstrip
- 11am-12pm Okupu Beach
- 12.30-1.30pm Medlands Campsite Bird Avoidance Training can minimise 2-3pm Sunken Rock Sailing Club,

For information email Chris Giblin at









### **AOTEA / GREAT BARRIER** LOCAL BOARD

## **LOCAL AND CAPITAL** GRANT

Applications are now open for the Aotea / Great Barrier Local and Capital Grant round, closing 2 May.

Don't miss out, see if your community initiative or infrastructure project could be eligible for funding of up to \$50,000 and apply:

https://tinyurl.com/3rhzbc68

#### **Building site waste?** We've got you.



Keep construction/demo separating waste from recycling, and ensuring reusables remain refuse, food waste (etc).

\$230 = 4x palletainer bin hire, including drop-off + final collection. - Not including disposal charge. + \$172.50 for additional

- collection/bin swap out. + Maneuverable around the site to suit building stages.

Here to help

mro@anamata.nz 027 335 8943

#### AOTEA GREAT BARRIER ISLAND **ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23 APRIL | 4.30-6PM CLARIS CONFERENCE CENTRE CONTACT HANNAH IF ANY QUERIES: CONTACT.GBIET@GMAIL.COM







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

Get in touch about any local issues or if you need support.

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





**BROADCASTING FROM 7AM EVERYDAY** TUNE IN 94.6 | 104 | 107FM STREAM ONLINE @ AOTEAFM.NZ FIND WEEKLY SCHEDULE ONLINE





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m.iensen@barfoot.co.nz k.lombard@barfoot.co.nz

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