

KOOKABURRA

Magazine of Kawau Island New Zealand



Autumn 2020



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Membership includes four issues of Kookaburra each year
Check out our Kawau Island website: www.kawauisland.org



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My professional interests are in complex care of children and domestic violence matters, relocation and care and protection matters. I also have a special interest in international relocation matters involving children.

I pride myself on being a pragmatic, solutions-focused negotiator, particularly when it comes to matters involving children.

I practice all over Auckland, with a particular focus on the North Shore, Waitakere and Auckland Central Courts.

I am a member of the independent bar but have extensive collegial relationships with other lawyers throughout the Auckland region. I am also a member of the Family Law Section. Please contact me to discuss how I can assist you with your matter.

From the editor

Jude Wood

As most of you already know, Michael Marris is stepping down from the Kookaburra editorial position after too many years to count. After taking over the position, he developed our magazine from a one page message into the much loved Kawai bible everyone knows today. His input was such that we need three of us (at least) to take his place. I am honoured to take over Michael's position as editor of this amazing magazine and I hope I can keep his high standards in place. Of course, I can only do this with your help, which has already been so generous.

Even though this is the Autumn issue, it certainly doesn't feel like that at the moment. The only obvious sign is the sudden appearance on our walks of Naked Ladies – that's Amaryllis Belladonna to you. We have been blessed with stunning weather, the downside of which means water shortages and parched gardens. Hence, many of our stories reflect this – how much water to assign to our plants, new tanks

arriving, how to get by on a cup of water a day, and more seriously, the danger of fire on our now very dry island. Gavin Brunton writes from Australia, where he was still helping fight their fires, with timely advice on how to keep ourselves and our properties safe, while Kawai Girl entertains us, with her account of their new water storage tank's safe arrival on their property.

Finally, a new column by one of our long term residents, Rebecca, who informs us of other goings-on which may or may not be true. What is certain, however, is that close to her neck of the Kawai woods, kindness to neighbours is still a thing, something that has all but disappeared from many big cities. So big ups to our community and thanks to the contributors who have told us these lovely stories; we don't have roads and so it's with these acts of kindness that we knit our groups together. Sharing the stories in the Kookaburra makes it a community magazine in every possible way.



New Kookaburra team with Michael Marris (left) at the KIRRA AGM: Jude Wood (far right) with Michael Wheatcroft and Kate Backler

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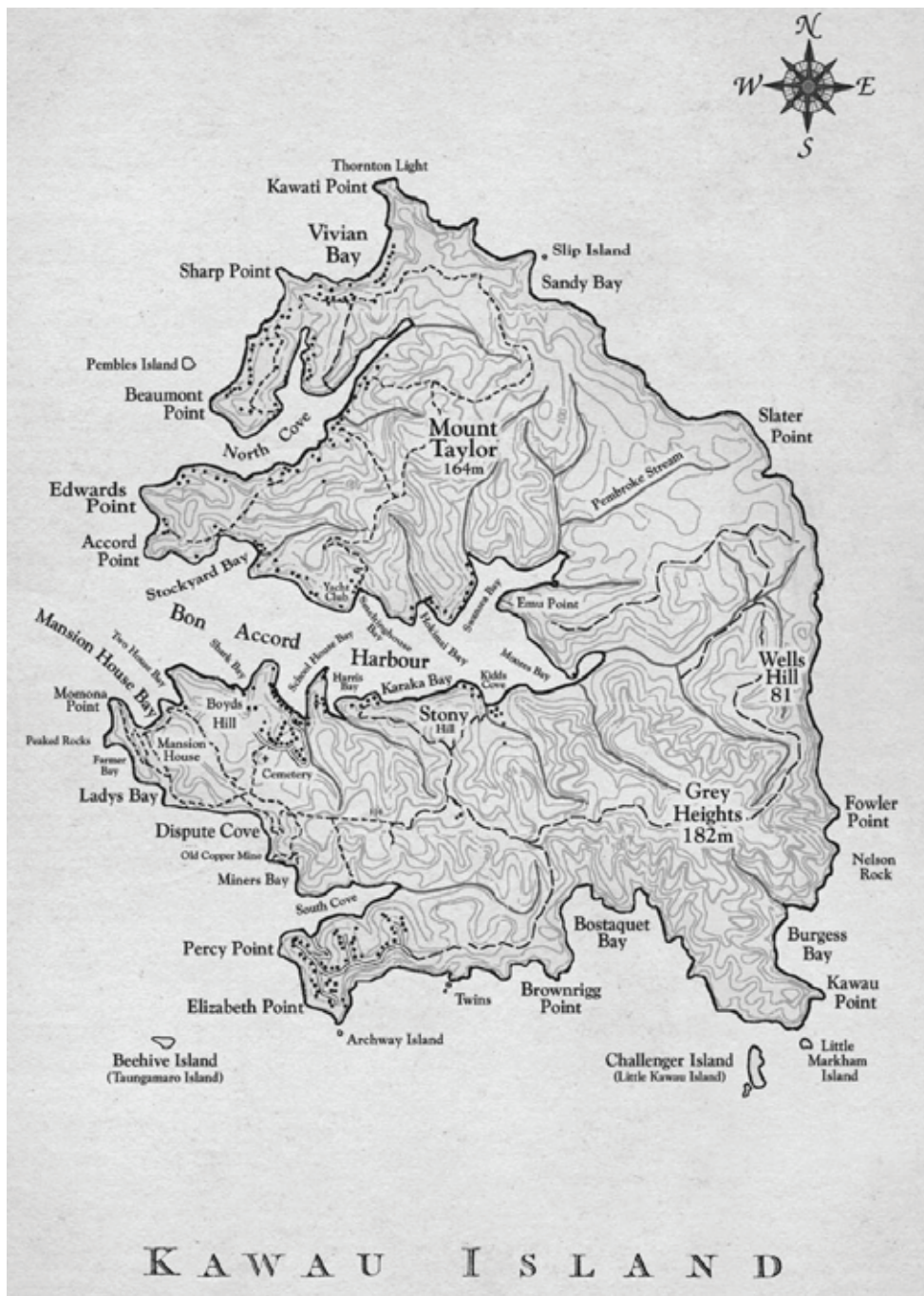
Contributors to this issue of Kookaburra

Editor	Jude Wood
Cover Design	Michael Wheatcroft
Cover Photo	Michael Wheatcroft

Special thanks to our contributors for this issue

Jude Wood, Michael Marris, Lyn Hume, Patria Hume, Fay Richardson, Peter Cunningham, Alan Marshall, Ross West, Andrew Stone, Nellie Lieshout, Gavin Brunton, Lin Pardey, Lois Broom, Grant Whitehouse, Beth Houlbrooke, Scott Macindoe, Peter Newson, Peter and Erin Hyde, Paul Steinkamp, Robyn and David Lee, Carl Weaver, Simon Cometti, Nikki Porteous, Kate Backler, Michael Wheatcroft, Annie Aitchison.

Next Issue: July 2020



Comment

Michael Marris

Our gorgeous Kawau Island community is relatively small in numbers but deep in passion, rich in diversity. As well, being an island, we are geographically ring-fenced. The culture of our community has developed over many generations of family enjoyment. Through a mainland telescope we can be viewed as fiercely independent of our own business, diligent caretakers of our magnificent environment, careful protectors of our community and a cohesive and closely-knit group of people.

But there is fragility in our smallness. The engine room of our community is dependent upon people within our midst; KIRRA, this magazine Kookaburra, KIAC, Kawau Cruises, and the numerous social groups, have a very finite pool to draw from.

As well, regeneration and fresh eyes are continually needed. It's not that "the old" is not working, but rather that as times and circumstances change, new perspectives evolve and demand expression. So it is with pleasure and a tinge of sadness, but with utmost confidence, that I can report that the fortunes of Kookaburra now rest in new hands. Jude Wood has already cut her teeth on the rigours of Kookaburra advertising and will transpose her talents into the important editor's role. The production platform is being managed with the professional skills of Kate Backler and Michael Wheatcroft. This will see our journal take on a fresh look with fresh content and the perspective of a new generation.

Furthermore, at the fantastically well attended AGM in January, the KIRRA committee was also expanded, with new members who will bring fresh enthusiasm to the vital role of overseeing and administering our community affairs. Again, this is not a matter of "out with the

old and in with the new". Deep wells of knowledge and Kawau Island experience remain on the executive, ensuring that their skills and talents will mentor this new generation who are standing up to face the challenges of community contribution.

Our island will experience significant change in the next few years. Particularly, there will be profound impact when the issues around customary rights applications, governed by the Takutai Moana Act, find expression. Inevitably, for some those changes will not be welcome. Because of the almost clandestine and certainly circuitous manner by which these claims are being addressed, the final outcomes may come as a shock to many. Other changes are also happening within our community. Over the past year there has been a significant turnover of properties compared to previous years, and new faces bring with them new visions and new energies. A great example of this is the Boot family who have enthusiastically taken over the magnificent Pettit property in Starboard Arm to preserve and enhance this ecological paradise. Similarly, the Duncan family have seized on what was once known as "Cash Flow Joes," a stunning site at the head of the Arm, which through their vision is being transformed into another tremendous environmental showpiece. These families, along with so many others who have come to Kawau in the last couple of years, are making huge contributions to our community – contributions that over years to come, will enhance and protect all our interests.

We remain a community that is coherent, deeply engaged with each other and with our environment, driven by a passion to preserve the independence of our magnificent piece of paradise.



We salute you

Lyn Hume acknowledges long standing member of the Kawau Island community and recipient of this year's honorary life membership award, Michael Marris, for his passion for our island community.

Here we all were (the KIRRA committee) about to enjoy our Xmas lunch at the end of our December meeting, when came the announcement which we were all anticipating, but dreading. Our magnificent editor advised us that he was retiring, stepping down, from his position as editor of our Kookaburra magazine. There were a few seconds of stunned silence and then a mixture of "Oh no", "Thanks for all you have done", "Who will do it now" etc. came pouring forth.

Michael has been putting together and getting out Kookaburra for the last one and a half decades – an absolutely monumental achievement in anyone's eyes. During that time, the magazine has undergone a complete metamorphosis from a totally black and white production with one-colour cover, to a vibrantly coloured version complete with photographs on the cover and inside, plus several full-page coloured advertisements.

A survey was carried out to see if islanders still wanted to receive the magazine in printed form or whether we should switch to a digital, online, production in future. Michael was met with a storm of protest; it turns out we all really enjoy having a magazine in our hands to read ourselves, chortle over or discuss with friends and neighbours and to leave around for our

guests to read. Subsequently, we now have both versions available to us after Michael had set up a system for sending online for our overseas subscribers, when postage costs became prohibitive.

At the January 2020 AGM for KIRRA Michael was asked, and accepted, to become an Honorary Life Member of our association. This award really means a lot to the recipients as it shows the respect and gratitude islanders have for the inordinate amount of volunteer time put in for a variety of different organisations within the community. For Michael, these include many years as a member of the Kawau Island Advisory Committee (KIAC).

During his time on KIAC, Michael has participated in the arduous task of writing and presenting submissions to national and local



government for the case for KIAC to stay in existence when they would rather have put us down – a fight we continue to this day! During all of the Auckland Unitary plan process, Michael undertook hours of research for submissions to retain or change the outlook and perceptions of local council as to how this beautiful island should be monitored or changed – both environmentally and as to what we should be allowed to do on our properties – for Michael an independent Island State is the desired answer. We have just so much to be grateful to him for. Presently, Michael is working with a sub-committee which is looking at the effects of the Takutai Moana proceedings, which could carry many effects for our island living.

Michael's knowledge, understanding and caring for the people of Kawau, means that he has given inordinate support to many during their trials and tribulations, their successes and

achievements and for this it is not unusual to see many displays of aroha nui.

Lastly, we owe a great debt of gratitude to Gabrielle for her fortitude, support and input, particularly over the arduous task of coordinating the posting out of so many editions of Kookaburra over the years.

Michael, we salute you and wish you well in all the endeavours you undertake.



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Vivian Bay

Fay Richardson recounts her summer with family, fun, fishing and music in Kawau's Vivian Bay.

The big dry summer is on everyone's mind. Should we keep watering? After spending two hours watering before leaving the island for a week, I realised that my garden will just have to survive on its own and only the few precious plants like my potted frangipani, the citrus and avocado trees around the house, were going to be watered. Surprisingly, the tomatoes have thrived and kept producing and the water melons are small but hopefully sweet after the hot temperatures. Plums were my best crop as they fruit early and I'm also looking forward to the passion-fruit.

Christmas was filled with happy children and the walk back from the Kawau Boating Club after carols was filled with laughter and singing. Someone commented that I had my own camping ground which I suppose I do, with the caravan, awning and tent all in use. The new addition of a bunk room for the girls to have as their own space was much anticipated and it

worked a treat even though it still has to have a lot more work done to complete it. Card games and guitar and ukuleles being played filled our home with such joy. Many thanks to our Hume neighbours for helping Dave out.

New Year's Eve was brought in by all the children jumping off the wharf into the phosphorescence much to their delight. The fishing competition was very competitive as usual with Celia getting a prize for her snapper and Ellie caught a hammerhead shark (which we released). We also caught a thresher shark in the piper net which goes to show how close to shore they swim.

The rocky cairn on the track to KBC has had some special effects added to it, (very creative). Now to wait for the rains to arrive and begin planting again for the autumn.



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Sharp Point

The calls of kaka and kookaburra grace the hilltops of Sharp Point as **Peter Cunningham** welcomes his sons Barret and Tim as new island property owners in the Sharp Point 'hood'.

Like all of Kawau, once we endured the early LSW winds, a bluebird summer certainly arrived. A change in ownership occurred in November when our sons, Barret (Melbourne) and Tim purchased the neglected Reekie cabin, being the last dwelling before Sharp point. It is now visible from the sea after much tree felling. This was largely at Barret's request because while he was tidying the place up, a large fire in southern NSW hills was approaching his Australian getaway. It slowly spread down and engulfed all the properties in the region but luckily houses were spared owing to bush clearing and sprinkler systems. A lesson for Kawau.

A small flock of Kakas has settled in the Northern arm of North harbour. Their raucous call is evident early mornings and evenings. Several times we have heard the kookaburras calling from the same area. Our most exciting moment was in the middle of a full moon night being woken by Tim to come and see two dark shapes outside the bedroom on the lawn. A lucky photo confirmed Kiwis; our first sighting in 45 years. Apart from that, we had a wonderful encounter with dolphins on Xmas day, orcas off Sharp Point, stingrays frequenting our bay and even a bronze whaler inside the moorings in the shallows. The trees are showing signs of stress and water holdings are very low. As dry as I can remember, as of February 10. No doubt the rains will come.

Another highlight to summer was dining at the Beach House restaurant. Three occasions on stunning nights. Chef Camilla, assisted by husband Chris and Sophia, all from Argentina,



produced a first class 3 course menu. The rack of lamb was superb and the Mansion House Bay Pinot Gris from Whitehaven 10/10. This range was so named as the wine maker Greg White proposed to his wife at Mansion House just before they set up Whitehaven. Do try.



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North Cove

Ross West reports from North Cove

Late last year, Phil and Suzanne Shaw launched their restored 1956 Austin Healey runabout at Sandspit Yacht Club and motored up Starboard Arm on the top of a big tide. The day had the freshness of early morning and with little or no wind the water was as close to mill pond as you're ever likely to get. A reception committee of two; Nikki Porteous and myself, grew to four when Grant Whitehouse and Tacia Strawbridge steamed across the inlet to join us. Nikki whipped up some nautical looking bunting which I strung along my wharf and a "Welcome Magic" sign completed the civic embellishment. The morning was a special moment for the Shaws and the culmination of three years sparetime work and research. Phil's restoration, from wreck to better than new, has preserved a piece of nautical history. There are few of these gentlemen's little speed boats left in the world and I suspect none that are completed to the standard that Phil has delivered.

The Christmas holidays always mark the Starboard Wharf AGM and this year was rather special. The new owners of the Pettit property, Caroline Boot and Tim Duffet, provided a venue for the event and invited John and Shirley Pettit to stay the night of the meeting. It was a warm gesture by Tim and Caroline and gave John and Shirley the opportunity to "hand over" their property in a very civilised manner. I think they will sleep easily knowing their old property is in good hands.

The other structure in North Cove that joins the land and sea, so to speak, is the pontoon at the opening of Moana Creek. They also have their AGM at around the same time and secre-

tary Luke Oram tells me they have some fifteen owners sharing the facility. Like all things in or around the water, the pontoon needs ongoing maintenance and although they did some major work last year, they have some repairs outstanding.

Our pest control group, North Harbour Custodians, have completed the initial stage of the programme, setting ink pads to establish what vermin etc are present over a twenty four hour period on lines running through the control area. These lines will remain and be used in the future with fresh ink pads to monitor progress. Early in April we will be hosting a pest workshop, after which we will install some eighty Goodnature traps. The man heading the group, Grant Whitehouse, has written about the programme elsewhere in the magazine and I encourage you to read it and attend the workshop.

The dryness as I write this will be not be fresh news to anyone with property on the island. I have been watering new plantings as best I can but have lost a good number of established plants. Ponga were the first to succumb, followed by Kawakawa and unfortunately some Taraire are looking very sick. All of them are self seeded so I have left them to fend for themselves. The hot weather has, however, meant a fantastic tomato crop!

North Cove sailors, Eben Bruyns and Annie Ryan, sailed the Larry Pardey built Taleisin to Tonga and back last winter. It was their first offshore adventure in the boat since buying her in April 2015. The day was also the first time either of them had sailed anything more than

a dinghy so the Tonga trip was the culmination of four years getting to know the boat and the ocean. The trip was twenty days out and nineteen back with nothing sufficiently scary to put them off planning another voyage.

The Jim Young designed NZ37 Neried that has languished on her mooring in North Cove for much of the last two decades, has finally been moved to Robertsons Boatyard, Warkworth. Anthony Fisher has owned the 1970 built boat for some twenty five years and hopes to find a keen young buyer who has the time and energy to rebuild her.

After a good number of years of abandonment, the property on the point above Starboard Wharf is finally having the unfinished road up to it completed. New owners, Karen and Andrew Duncan, aren't afraid of big projects, and the construction of massive retaining walls are all to engineers' specifications and council permits. They have a Tauranga builder friend,

Grant Laidlaw, doing the work. Grant has a team of four, plus Jare Duncan. Russell Goodhue has his digger onsite, boring all the man-trap size holes some two and half metres deep. Fortunately, Joyce Goodhue has made her house next door available to the crew. When I left the island a week ago, they had been doing twelve hour days with Jare sometimes working until nightfall. Karen who put her hand up for caterer initially found it hard to keep up with the gang's huge appetites, but got on top of it with some high calorie old favourites.

Across the water, Neville Eade has come to an arrangement with Herb Fava and is in the process of completing the final detail needed to make the house habitable. Neville has been living on his launch Media Luna and will move into the dwelling when work is completed. It will be great to finally see this striking building occupied.

Mahurangi Marine Ltd

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Setting up a rain gauge

Alan Marshall has been measuring the rainfall of Kawau Island (in particular, in Vivian Bay) over the years and we have had graphs made of his findings. We know that many of you already do this measuring, but for those of us who wouldn't have a clue how to begin, Alan has kindly given us some instruction on how to go about it.

Setting up a rain gauge is a relatively easy exercise.

Most hardware stores stock them, I purchased a Neta brand from Bunnings for less than \$20 and it came with a form to record the daily readings on and a bracket to attach the gauge to a post.

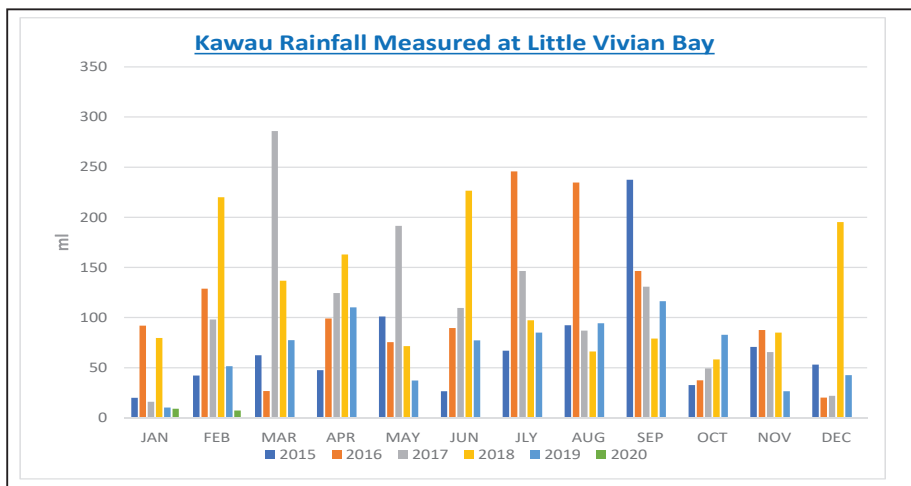
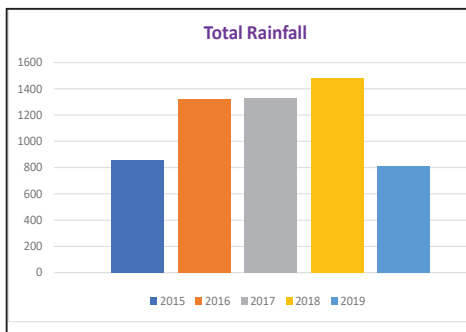
Make a copy of the form before use to provide for subsequent years.

Select a position for the gauge that is clear of any obstruction that would impede rain collection, trees, buildings, etc.

To collect rainfall readings one simply reads the millimetres of water level that is in the gauge using the markings on the front of the gauge and then discarding the contents.

It is preferable to take the readings at around the same time each day, I do mine at about 8-30am.

If you know how many square metres your roof is you can tell how much rain you collected with: $(\text{Rain Gauge mm}) \times (\text{Roof Area m}^2) = \text{Litres collected}$.



South Cove

Andrew Stone talks water, memories and stories that have bound the Community of South Cove together over the years.

Down in the south we are learning to live without water. Or without much water. We shower less and for shorter times, lawns have been abandoned and gardens get a desultory drop or two. At least one family which comes for weekends brings drinking water. Loads of clothes are washed across on the mainland. We have become acutely aware of how precious every drop truly is. It has been an eternity it seems, since we had what we would call a decent drenching.

The weather maps show rain smothering the far south of the country and giving us a swerve. They don't seem to change. It's a worry, because though we're surrounded by water, we don't have enough of the stuff we need. Tanks which ran out at one property were replenished using a fire hose from a neighbour along the road. The residents with spare water decided they had more than they expected to use, and the couple whose supplies were perilously low had nowhere else to go. They have bought some time, perhaps until the weather shifts in autumn.

We had two special events over summer. In late January, residents gathered at a popular picnic area beside the wharf for the launch of an informal history of the community called *A Taste of South Cove*. Collected into a two-ring binder, the booklet is a collation of stories, memories, and informal accounts of the community. It is crammed with characters who have passed through and illustrations which tug at the memory. Compiled by Denise, Glynis, Cheryl and Ben - who spent hours on the task - it is a colourful and fascinating record of our little settlement. There are peo-

ple, families, those who have passed, those who have left, pets, trucks, cars and carts.

The clever format allows for other stories to be threaded into the publication. At the launch there already was talk of accounts that would be added and ideas for new chapters. It is already a bestseller and top value for \$25 with a subsidy from our community fund. It's a great introduction to our place, and an easy way to show guests why we live here or keep coming back.

The other memorable event over summer was a late afternoon musical show hosted by Jan and Russell. It was a hot, dry (no surprise there) day, with shade provided by pergolas which meant the wine remained chilled and the food fresh. The music from Denis and Raymond was perfect for the relaxed mood. Their repertoire was endless and they answered every request. It was generous of the Hughes to invite the community and friends to their Woods Ridge property. Everyone happily staggered home. One property has changed hands. For 20 years, Barbara has come over to stay at her section near the head of the cove. Barbara had a back to nature approach and her property made use of tree saplings and trunks to give extra shelter and help collect water. A professional firefighter, Barbara said she found the place a perfect escape. With her partner Max, and their boy, Samuel, Barbara bade farewell saying she would be leaving a bit of her heart behind.



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Speedy Bay

Nellie Lieshout brings the Mills family headstone at Edward's Point back to its former glory.

My husband Hank and I bought the small bach at Speedy Bay in November, 1971, and before long met Dr. Warwick-Smith, his wife, and from memory, their five daughters from Kangaroo Cottage in Barkers Bay. Over the years, we were regular visitors to Kangaroo Cottage, which is still at the back of Barkers Bay.

I had gone through some of the old Kookaburra magazines and came across the Autumn 98 Kookaburra; here I read that Roley and Margery Bell bought their land in Bell's Bay from Grace Mills, in about 1949. Grace lived in Kangaroo Cottage up the back of Barker's Bay and she owned a considerable amount of land in the area. It is her grave and those of her parents that you come across when walking the West-erly Ridge Track at the top of Edward's Point.

Almost a year ago, I wanted to have the headstone redone of my late brother in law, Father Theodore can Lieshout, as the lettering was fading. I went to see the person who had done my husband's headstone to see if anyone does this work in either Thames or Whitianga and he told me it would cost me hundreds of dollars, why didn't I do it myself? He took me into his workshop and showed me what to do and what I needed so around a month later, I went to Coromandel and redid my brother in law's headstone. I also redid the headstone of the priest next to him as his headstone was much worse and what a difference it made.

So after reading in the Kookaburra about the grave and headstone of the Mills family, I thought perhaps I can do this one too. On Saturday morning of the 28 December, 2019, my daughter Patricia, myself and two other family

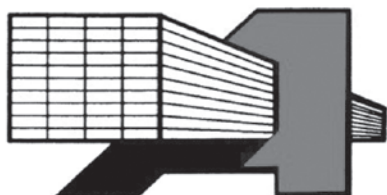
members, walked up to visit the grave at Edward's Point – this is up the hill on the north side of Speedy Bay. The lettering on the stone was not visible but since I was able to feel it, it made me think I might be able to do this headstone.

During the afternoon, I went back up the hill with a plastic milk bottle filled with water, a scrubbing brush, rag for drying the headstone, white paint, a small jar for the paint brush and my mobile phone. I scrubbed the headstone and dried it and when it was dry, I slowly started to paint where the lettering was by feeling with my fingers, doing only a small part as I wasn't sure how it would come out once the paint was dry. I scraped the excess of paint on the lettering part and could see that it was possible to do it – plus, it was windy with the wind coming from the south/west and the paint dried very quickly.

I went slowly, doing one row at a time, and by the time I had done the first coat, I was very happy with the result. I went back down the hill again to home and the following day returned to do the second coat and spray the headstone. I surprised myself at how well it has come up.



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Aussie bush fires, what next?

Kawau Island Chief Fire Officer Gavin Brunton was deployed to Australia to fight the Australian Bush Fires at the end of last year. He shares his learnings and advice for Kawau Island property owners.

I sit here writing this in mid-January and our little island is as dry as can be. When I arrived home from Australia for the second time in mid-December, everything looked so green compared to the dry, scorched and so often burnt parts of Australia where I had just been.

My two deployments to Australia in November and December as part of a NZ Taskforce of Specialist Rural Fire Fighters opened my eyes again to what it's like to be a local with the fire just over the ridge from where you and your beloved house have always been.

We were tasked on several occasions with defending houses when the fire was coming towards us and we quickly understood the difference between houses we were able to successfully defend with those where it wouldn't be safe or practical to try.

The difference? Whether or not the house had space around it - like lawns or park-like grounds (clean, healthy trees and shrubs which are separated out from each other and clear underneath) - to slow fire and give space to work. OR the opposite: if long grass and bush came right up to the house. Think about it: if you can't imagine strangers being able to safely and easily run right around your house in the middle of the night in thick smoke...? We can't either. That's really all the difference it took!

Sure, the more space the better but even a little bit often proved enough to make the difference.

I came home to Kawau and looked around at all the houses, right in the middle of the bush, with some of them surrounded by thickets of kanuka (tea tree) and I couldn't help but think that one day it will be too late to do anything about it. If you think that you can always whip out the chainsaw and drop all those trees if/when you hear there's a fire on the way, you're dreaming! There's never any time with a 100 things to do when the world is going mad and burning around you. Sadly, there were volunteer Australian firefighters out there defending other people's homes as their own houses burned to the ground.

The chances of us one day getting a serious fire here on the island are VERY REAL. We have all the elements the recipe calls for: steep slopes, a forest of explosive kanuka full of old dead wood and volatile oils, progressively drier summers ... throw in a nice sea breeze and there you go. So, in case my message is not already clear. The work you put in around your homes and baches now could make all the difference in the years to come.

- Clear away the kanuka that are encroaching upon your house. Nothing like this

should be near, let alone under, your eaves.

- Think about “green fire breaks” along your boundaries and around your house.
- (e.g. fire resistant trees and plants kept healthy with irrigation and non-flammable mulch. Or lawn if it's well-maintained. etc.)
- If you've got any dead or sickly trees around your property: get them removed and plant one of the many New Zealand natives which are fire resistant in their place. Autumn is a perfect time to do this
- And get a recurring reminder into your diary to get your gutters cleaned out (of leaves) at the start of each summer (more on this below).

I often focus on what we can do to minimise our chances of having a fire getting started and how, as a fireteam, we work hard to do what we can to respond to fires quickly and get them under control before they get a chance to take hold, but my sermon today is about what you can do to save your house if that big one does get going.

Two important things for you to do immediately that could make all the difference:

Trees and garden

- Make sure that the kanuka forest does not run right up to within spitting distance of your house.
- Deal to the fine fuels on the ground: e.g. any long grass and medium-height fuels like regenerating kanuka.
- If you've got big mature kanuka right up close to your place: remove any less desirable ones and get the canopy separated, each tree from the next.

Why? Your house will either burn because there's a continuous line of fuel running all the way up to your house, or by ember trans-



fer (which is when the fire really gets going - it lifts up bits of burning bark etc which then fall down ahead of the fire and start new fires).

Which leads me onto the second thing everybody needs to be doing, each year just as we're coming into the driest part of the year.

Check that all your roof gutters are clear

Because many of us rely on the rain to fill the water tanks, we clean our gutters out on a regular basis, but if, for any reason, you're not one of those diligent souls, I would suggest you set yourself a yearly reminder to get the ladder out ...or pay somebody else to.

All you need is one ember to fall in your gutter of dry leaves and your house is toast!

A little fire in your gutters is perfectly placed to get up underneath the iron on your roof and into the roof cavity. Once your roof cavity is on fire, it's very challenging to put it out (roofs are water-proof!). So, eventually your roof would

collapse setting the rest of your house alight. It might just save your house: get those gutters cleaned out! If you'd like more useful info on plants and trees to plant which are fire resistant and make great "green fire breaks", drop me an email.

Request "Green fire break" information

For more information about trees and plants to plant as fire resistant breaks on Kawau Island, email Kawau CFO Gavin Brunton:

gavinbrunton@gmail.com



Spotted out and about

This photo was sent in by Alan Marshall who spotted the kiwi in broad daylight at about 10.30am on Tom Cashen's lawn at Little Vivian Bay. Alan noted that it barely took any notice of the humans and pecked around on the lawn before moving off.

We are seeing and hearing more tales of Kiwi on our island which is so exciting to see. Keep them coming in.

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Afloat around Kawau

Lin Pardey shares her tales of sailing on *Sahula* and why she considers Kawau Island the perfect home base

I've often been told; travel broadens the mind. I definitely have been traveling a lot the past several months, weddings, family reunions, work, sailing. In fact, I have been right around the world one and a half times. The most recent trip – for my adopted son's wedding in the UK, took me from Victoria, Australia where we have been spending time sailing on *Sahula* – through Hong Kong then back to Auckland for some time with Larry at his hospital care center, and on to Kawau Island for a short stop before arriving back on board *Sahula* here in Australia. Was the traveling broadening? Maybe it would have been if I hadn't stopped at Kawau. Those four days reminded me of why I chose to create my home in North Cove. And by the time I left I didn't feel broader, I felt homesick.

As a sailor, with a partner who can be just as restless as me, we could choose to live almost anywhere in the world just by sailing *Sahula* across another sea. Why does Kawau keep pulling me back? I have some basic requirements for the perfect home base, easy access to the water in a quiet location with interesting



neighbors, within a half hour or so of a small but friendly town and near enough to a big city that can be reached within a few hours to occasionally enjoy some “culture”. Just as important, sailing, exploring new spots, anchoring overnight in different places, this has and always will be an important part of my life so – good local cruising goes right up at the top of this list. Few places seem to tick the box like Kawau.

I recall other spots where I could have imagined living. Southern Tasmania makes that list, small towns, a fun array of people, the charm of Hobart never too far away. Then there is the



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Lin Padey gives an impromptu talk at Kawau Boating Club

beautiful cruising grounds; the myriad anchorages along the de'Entrecasteaux Channel, the wild deserted stretches of wilderness and waterways of Port Davies. On beautiful days this part of the world is stunning. But beautiful days are limited, and gales rush through on a weekly basis, even during summer months. And summer lasts just three months, by mid-March, most of the boats come out of the water for winter storage. Winters can be brutal as I could tell from the huge stacks of firewood Tasmanian friends were stockpiling all summer long.

The tropical areas of Queensland? Some great cruising, warm waters most of the year and no real winter. But also, no diving off the boat with impunity – sharks, stinging nettles, crocs, and then there are cyclones and weeks, sometimes months, of overly hot summer with soaring temperatures and humidity to match.

Looking further afield, I am just back from a visit to the Falmouth Estuary in Cornwall, UK where I went to for the wedding) possibly my very favorite European cruising area (Finland, Sweden and Norway being close second.) Larry and I lived and worked around Falmouth for almost two years during two different periods of our lives. In fact, in 1973 we were offered a chance to create a small shipyard in the lovely little village of Flushing – very tempting as the

cottage that came with it had a big aga cooker, a fireplace and a small landing right in front for our 24- foot cutter Seraffyn. It seemed as if every box on our perfect place to live could be ticked. Then came autumn and the first signs of winter as we helped prepare to lift boats out of the water (and also found we'd topped up our cruising kitty quite well with the work we'd done fixing boats, rigging, sail making). Wanderlust struck with a vengeance and the warm waters of Spain awaited.

It was winter when I visited Falmouth this time. I loved catching up with some of the friends we made during our previous stays, loved being totally involved in the wedding of Ashley Butler who had in 1996 spent six weeks learning boat building and repairs under Larry's able hand and has been a close friend ever since (He calls me Mom, his parents call me Mom 2.) Wandering the tiny lanes that thread along the edges of the myriad waterways leading into Falmouth roads, walking along the shoreline of wonderful quiet anchorages, then warming my hands over the roaring fires of 400 and 500 year old pubs, getting reacquainted with the beautiful classic boats that fill the winter storage yards – if I hadn't found Kawau, I'd be tempted to make my home here. But then I remember the crowds of summer, and the 3 pound per night anchoring fee for each and every boat in each and every bay, nook or cranny.

Yes, I am homesick. Fortunately, I will not suffer too much longer. If David and I can escape the clutches of the horrid sailing weather in the Bass Strait, if we can get just a few days of westerly winds, we will begin sailing east then north towards Sydney where we will prepare to make the passage back towards New Zealand. If the wind gods smile, by October I will once again be back where I now belong, afloat around Kawau.



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Your fate

As you stand there looking around
at this cleared piece of land, flat and dry,
you won't know what was here before
and now rests hidden underground
and dreaming dreams of previous lives.

The midday sun scorching earth and air,
heavy with resin and cicada sound
is too busy being the sun, to warn you,
'Rethink the commitment before you sign.'

The trees hang dumb, no breeze, no bird
to rustle their leaves to "share and tell:"

how first came Mary, later Sarah, Claire
planting bulbs bought from fancy catalogues
-unaware that such a simple act would hold
her, tighter than a child's hand, to this land:

months, years, decades passing by as she waits
"just one last time," to see the yellow clay, wake,
break open and release an ephemeral fairyland
of hypnotic colour - spreading here, there and
everywhere for a brief six weeks - then disappear.

A lone butterfly passes by - for you that's enough
to decide this land's ideal for a quick renovate
of a re-locatable, plant flowers, then move on.

Decision made. You sign along the dotted line.

Lois E. Hunter

North Harbour Custodians

Grant Whitehouse, Nikki Porteous and Tacia Strawbridge update the wider community on the pest control project at North Harbour as they work to eradicate the biggest threat to our island's precious flora and fauna.

The long hot summer has seen the North Harbour Custodians (NHC) project move into top gear. The DOC funded project is tackling pests such as rats and stoats in a 55-hectare area of North Harbour up Starboard Arm. Over 30 property owners are involved and Spring saw us kick-off our activities. In late November, the team installed over 30 monitoring tunnels around the project site. These black corflute tunnels are left for a few weeks for the pests to get used to their presence. Then over the Xmas holiday break, we were out in the bush again to install an ink card loaded with peanut butter into each, for a 24-hour pest count. They work simply by recording the footprints of pests that come into the tunnel to eat the lure. One day later, the cards are removed then photographed and analysed to see how many, and what type of pests we have in the various locations.

We are pleased that many areas showed no evidence, but that does not mean they are not there. Just that none found the tunnels on that

day. The data is now being loaded onto our TrapNZ app, which will help inform where we place our traps. Speaking of traps, we received, after some delay, our 80 Goodnature A24 automated traps. These are now on the island and we are planning an activity weekend to get them installed. This type was chosen as they are self-resetting meaning they can go for months without needing someone to attend them. We are planning on supplementing these with DOC200 traps which we are currently trialling.

If you come across our traps or monitoring tunnels, please keep clear. Human presence deters the pests. Please keep children clear also; although no toxins are used, the traps can be harmful to little fingers.

Get involved

We plan to hold our installation activity on either the weekend before or after Easter (April 4 or 18). We intend inviting Kawau folks to



The North Harbour Custodian team hard at work



join us for the activity to help with the installation and also to attend a 1-2 hour pest control workshop in North Harbour, to be run by Robynne Viz from DOC. We hope to cover a range of topics including biosecurity measures to prevent infestations, monitoring, trapping and pet control (as in dogs and cats), all in the

interest of protecting our special native birds. If you are interested in helping with the activity, and/or attending the session, please register your interest by emailing us at the address below.

Pets

A big reminder to property owners that aside from rats and stoats, one of the biggest threats to our kiwi in particular, are domestic pets. Please ensure any dogs brought to the island are kept on a leash at all times, or install a run on your land allowing them some room to roam without getting free. In my 46 years of coming to Kawau, I have known of many instances of dogs getting loose and causing mayhem with the kiwi and weka. No dog is 'ok with birds'; their presence alone in the bush can cause great harm. Please do your bit and keep the fur babies on a rein.

Tacia, Nikki and Grant
North Harbour Custodians

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A grove of water tanks

Kawau Girl shares the latest instalment of life on Kawau Island.

Water - it's so precious and to survive Kawau without it would be impossible. But the latest fix has worked for us. One should never get complacent though, and we still watch the usage and try to conserve.

The main problem has been the big tank that sprung a leak several years ago - all the repairs haven't worked. At last, M.O.T.H. decided we had to buy another tank, so early in December we travelled out to South Auckland with a borrowed truck and trailer to purchase a new tank with the capacity of 4,500 litres.

Great place to shop - "The Tank Guy" in Penrose where we were helped by a very capable sales lady (she even drove the pickup tractor) who soon sorted out the best solution for M.O.T.H. We could choose the colour we wished, so we settled on a khaki colour to blend in with the bush. Once loaded on the trailer, we had to then drive to Whangaparaoa to get the tank home; it seemed huge behind us, but we were legal and made it safely.

NEXT: how to get the new tank to Kawau. which of course meant much discussion with the men of the family. Could we find someone to tow it through the water? Should we get a barge to shift it? The best solution in the end was to get the tank onto our boat (the 28 foot Protector) which is kept at Sandspit and to then somehow get the tank up the hill to its new position.

The next Saturday, our family of two sons, one son-in-law, one granddaughter and two grandsons, all arrived at our home; the mission being to drive to Sandspit, load the boat with the new tank and INSTALL. Then, wait for rain...



They had no problem getting to North Cove and there were enough of them to carry and push the tank up the hill. M.O.T.H. had prepared the platform and in no time at all, the tank was installed and ready for water. Still, wait for rain...



We now have water tanks in several places; not a roof has been spared . The main supply has 4 tanks to service the cottage, the garden shed has one, two extra small tanks are attached to the cottage for our outside shower, and yet another tank has been set alongside the boat shed. We had to wait until February, but some finally came. Ok, we are ready - next challenge please.

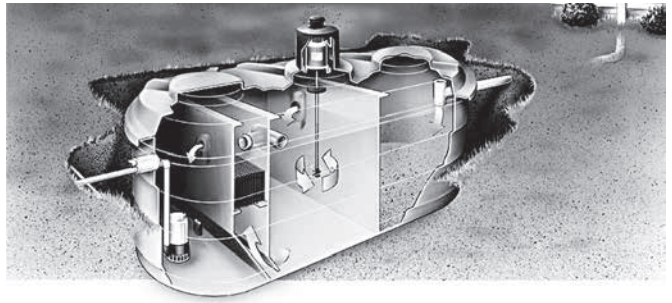
OUR MOST EXCITING MOMENT of this summer

Early in February while out walking in the bush just up from our cottage, we had our first encounter with a KIWI who completely ignored us and just proceeded to burrow for food. What an experience. I have never seen a KIWI before in its natural habitat and it was 930 am. I thought they were nocturnal.



Kawau Girl's grove of watertanks ready and waiting for the rain...

M.O.T.H. later took a container of water to the area where we saw the KIWI and while we haven't seen it since, it's a daily habit as it's very dry and the other birds can enjoy.



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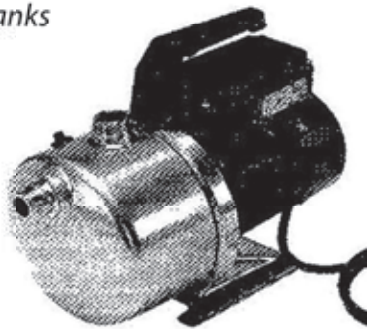


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Sandspit rubbish update

Beth Houlbrooke, Deputy Chair of the Rodney Local Board has been advocating for Kawau residents and ratepayers for the upgrade of the rubbish facilities at Sandspit and reports on the decisions made for the new facility.

The General Manager of Waste Solutions, Parul Sood, has provided some updated information on the new rubbish collection service for Kawau Islanders at Sandspit boat ramp, including answers to questions I have raised on how this will roll out.

Installation of the facility is expected in April this year. We really want to deliver a successful transition.

The facility will be operated with the use of a key code supplied to all Kawau Island ratepaying landowners.

Due to the location and space constraints, they will provide three bins of 1.5m³ for refuse, and one bin of 1.5m³ for recycling, which is less than the current capacity of the Molok bins. To cater for this, the collection frequency will be suitably adjusted upward/downward based on demand.

Live-aboard boaties at both Sandspit and Kawau (not including yacht club members who already have access to the facility there), and commercial operators such as charter fishing vessels, may need to be serviced directly via Northland Waste via purchase of orange bags or hire of a wheelie bin. The Waste Solutions team are meeting with Northland Waste to come up with some options and will come back to me.

I expressed concern about a potential group of people who might fall through the cracks, and that is visiting cruisers up from Auckland who arrive to find the Molok bins removed to their

surprise, and have suggested communication through clubs and newsletters. Parul advises that following on from the communications campaigns they ran over summer for Aotea/ Great Barrier Island and Waiheke, including promoting waste-wise tips for boaties, they now have a comprehensive email distribution list for boating clubs, yacht clubs, marinas, harbourmasters, Coastguard, etc., as well as boating media (digital and print).

I feel it is coming together and due consideration is being given to ensure it is as successful as possible. Some teething issues are expected but I have done my best to get ahead of these as you can see from the above. If anyone has any further concerns they are welcome to contact me.

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Crayfish: how low can we go

Scott Macindoe

Taking more than 80 per cent of the original crayfish stock size then sustaining it at that low level is inviting disaster, by altering the environment, reducing reproductive capacity, and leaving few crayfish available to satisfy customary and amateur fishing interests.

During a recent management review of five areas, Fisheries New Zealand proposed catch increases in the Hawke's Bay-Wellington region, Otago and Southland. Catch reductions were suggested for Northland (-16%) and Gisborne (-13%). Our fisheries management team responded to the FNZ proposals by the early February deadline. In our submission we said that given the lack of any credible information, the Minister cannot justify increasing commercial catch levels in Wellington, Otago or Southland. Also, that the proposed catch reductions for Northland and Gisborne were not enough to halt the decline in stock levels.

The Minister of Fisheries is charged with ensuring sustainability so it just doesn't make sense for him to make a decision knowing that a stock will decline. Instead, Stuart Nash ought to make a bold decision and cut commercial catches back so the stocks rebuild to more natural levels, then there would be plenty for everyone. Nash also needs to remove the concession that allows commercial fishers to take crayfish smaller than the recreational minimum legal size limit. The concession applies in the Gisborne, Otago and Southland areas. We have advocated for years that no commercial catch increases ought to apply until these concessions have been removed.

Another barrier to achieving more abundant crayfish stocks is the dominance of commercial interests in decision making. In November

2019, agreement was reached to hold commercial catch rates at a reasonable level. To achieve the agreed catch rate within five years, significant cuts to commercial catch levels were required in Northland and Gisborne. Our representatives were excluded from subsequent discussions between the Rock Lobster Industry Council and Ministry officials. Between them they negotiated a lower management target, one more acceptable to quota holders.



Compared to past challenges, this scenario hits a new low. The crayfish stock on the east coast of Northland is in trouble. In fact, it is looking scarily like the Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty stock (CRA 2) was several years ago. Yet the short-term objective now is to maintain the stock at current levels. This will do nothing to rebuild abundance and it may not halt the current decline. The crayfish stock around Gisborne is also on a down cycle. This is not good news for people in Northland or the east coast.

With your support we have been able to invest in this process, and we will continue to provide both scientific input and feedback from locals. This is important because there is simply no justification for backroom deals, especially if it means risking the long-term sustainability of our precious crayfish stocks.

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Vivian Bay fishing competition

Patria Hume shares the spectacular hauls of the 2019 New Year's Eve fishing competition at Vivian Bay.

The 2019 News Years' Eve Vivian Bay Fishing Competition had 30 adult and 22 children participating. There were large numbers of snapper caught and kept. There were also many sharks caught and returned to the sea as per the fishing competition rules.

Patria Hume, as MC for the prize giving held on the beach end of the Hume's wharf, blew the conch shell and welcomed the attendees in te reo Māori. Will Gardner was the official weigher of the fish.

The Kane Award for the under 12's biggest fish (any species) went to Harvey Kitt-Reeve (West household) with a 2.15kg snapper. Second equal prize went to Celia Thonston (Richardson/Lornie household) and Cullen Bouterey (Morton household) with 1.07kg snapper. Violet Kingston weighed in a 1.24 kg kahawai.

The "Stan the Stone-man Wharf and Rock Award", carved by Jarrod Hume from a piece of the Hume's wharf pile, with Stan West's

rocks at the base of the carving was won by Stan himself with a snapper of 0.82kg caught off the rocks.

Patria Hume had the biggest other species for a 1.07kg trevally with Jonti Gardner coming a very close second with a 1.06kg trevally – which the crowd celebrated in the spirit of the community fishing competition as first equal.

The "Emily Award trophy for the heaviest snapper" went to Sabrina Brewer (Gardner household) with a 4.22kg snapper. Second prize went to Harvey West with his 2.15kg snapper and third to Michael Nelson with his 1.93kg snapper.

Thanks to Silvio Caldelari for providing the prizes. Spot prizes that were randomly drawn at the end of the prize giving were provided by Trevor Tait (Hume household) and Kiri Tait (Kawakawa).





..... I just have to say that this weka is totally over the hot dry weather. I can tell you that wandering the island in search of water is no picnic. I note on my travels that some water-wise humans are showering with their feet in a bucket, a skill they obviously learned from wekas.

Some humans are generous and leave bowls of water out for us to play in, drink out of and eventually use as our bathroom. There is a particularly upmarket drinking bowl I like to frequent, it is made of china and has little orange flowers decorating the edge. It's a cut above the usual plastic ice-cream container. Unfortunately, a swampy has now got his eye on it.

Generosity and kindness abound. I hear one community has made available, in an emergency, a portable tank that can be filled at a friendly neighbour's bore and taken to residents reliant on rain water. Sharing is a skill us wekas could certainly improve upon.

Noted also is the willingness to share with folk close by, excess goodies from gardens. Unfortunately there is a rule that only humans can be recipients of fresh produce. I know of one home owner who has purchased a water pistol specifically to squirt when I attempt to nibble lettuces, tomatoes, beans and spinach or help dig over the garden.

The arrival of a few helicopters over the summer definitely put the wind up my feathers, also flipping a dinghy or two in their windy wake. "Good job" I say - "Why should weka's take all the flack?". The helicopters have evidently been called for humans unaware of such perils as cleaning inside empty water tanks and pion king parts of their body in wasp's nests. Now you'd never catch a weka doing those sorts of things.

A big thank you to the powers that be that gave the go ahead for the Mansion House Cafe to be opened again. It has given wekas and those messy peacocks, access to delicious food when the "Do not feed the birds" signs are ignored.

Finally, more on the swampy and my favourite watering hole. On a recent very hot day Swampy was there, slating his thirst, when I happened to wander by. Instead of squawking at the brute, I reflected that this could be an opportunity to improve my sharing skill level. I made a tentative approach, noting his tail was making menacing twitches, obviously the libation was quenching his thirst but not cooling his head. I didn't rush things, moved carefully, made soothing noises and did my best to indicate there was enough water for us both. We eventually worked out our differences and now look forward to happily sharing a drink together.

I overheard one human say to another- "I think there's a lesson there for us all". I felt quite proud, accolades for weka's are thin on the ground.

Until next time.....fly safe, happily and well

Rebecca Weka

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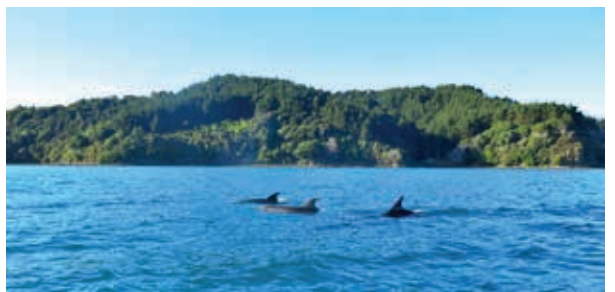
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A short history of Kawau's copper mining

In eighteen forty three Kawau Island was owned by the Scottish Loan company,
They had discovered a seam of copper ore and hoped to make a pretty penny,
The ore was of average quality but better than England's Cornish copper ore.
Extraction began and twelve years later shipping costs kept their returns poor.
In eighteen forty eight they built a smelter and it proved a profitable way.
One of New Zealand's first mining industries had finally begun to pay.

They employed about two hundred people to mine, smelt and refine,
The smelter started operating very successfully, sadly for a short time
Hard work below and above ground the only way to get them ahead.
Their mining followed the copper ore seam down under the seabed;
The Sea began to leak into their tunnels causing fears of what lay below.
So a costly installation of a huge steam pump was the only way to go.
More delays and expenses for the company on top of the smelter cost,
Prohibitive increased transport costs, long time lapses, production lost
Between orders and slow delivery of repairs and maintenance parts.

The increasing intrusion of sea water much greater than in the past.
The gold rush in Australia had taken so many skilled miners away,
With disputes over ownership rights and accusations of foul play,

The demise of the venture as the inflow of water became too great,
Pump's capacity could not keep with the inflow and would meet its fate.
Disputes about ownership and riparian mining rights misunderstood,
And sadly, in eighteen fifty five all work was stopped for good.

Today the remnants of the pump house can be viewed from the boat,
A short walk from Mansion House through the trees instead of afloat.
When pump house was built, now aged one hundred seventy six.
A photo by Ken Pointon shows some serious weathering of the old bricks,
The Smelting House in Bon Accord had a historical archaeological event,
DOC and the Uni. of Auckland exposed an area, it was time well spent.
Access by Kawau Cruises via Mansion house and Boat Club, a short walk.
On the boat during your trip the Captain usually gives an informative talk.

*You can find a much more detailed history in a
well-illustrated book about Kawau Island,
"True Tales of Kawau"
compiled by Don Armitage, Publisher.*

Peter Newson

Beach House

New managers **Camila and Chris** bring some “Argie” flair and enthusiasm plus a wealth of kiwi experience to the Vivian Bay lodge and restaurant.

Hi there! We are Camila & Chris, new managers at The Beach House since mid-December. We are happy to finally introduce ourselves to the whole Kawau community and readers of this great and useful magazine. We are both Argentinians (we like to call ourselves the Argies or the Argie Bargies) and we have been living in NZ since 2013. We are delighted to have the opportunity to be residents of this beautiful country and even more of Kawau Island; it has always been our dream to work in such a stunning location and fortunately it has been accomplished.

During our years in NZ, we have worked in remote lodges on both the Routeburn and Milford tracks in the South Island, and also around the Ruapehu area. Camila is our chef with over 10 years of experience; she is very passionate, loves spices and fresh ingredients, and her menu also has a bit of South American flair. Every now and then we do a special Argentinian night (watch this space) full of traditional flavours from our home country, and why not, a bit of Tango in the background. Since day one, the community of the island, especially our neighbours in Vivian Bay, have been so welcoming and helpful; we are really grateful for it. We take this opportunity to thank Fay, Dave, Jo, Stan, Judith, Scott, Lyn, Trevor and Patria for being so awesome to us.

This summer has been incredible and while we can say that The Beach House has met the expectations of our guests, we could not have done it without the help of our amazing staff members and their willingness to help out, always with a smile on their faces. So thank you Sofia, Hernan, Antonella and Ignacio. Also a

special thanks to all the crew of Kawau Cruises for their help and deliveries always on time. We feel like we have done well when happy guests and visitors leave The Beach House with a big smile -that is always our main target. For now we say bye and we hope to see each of you visiting this special place soon.

Warm regards from Camila & Chris

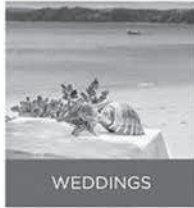


Chris (second from left) and Camila (front right holding the cake) with Fay Richardson and friends on Fay's birthday.



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Camp Bentzon report

Peter and Erin Hyde update the community on the camp that continues to provide a huge range of experiences for youth and adults alike.

New Owners in the Cove

With school holidays and therefore no daily training, we were able to catch up with some of our new neighbours who have purchased in North Cove. After around eight years of people leaving rather than coming, it was really nice to welcome new arrivals and share in their excitement of Kawau and their long terms plans. It feels like the Cove has come back to life!

Another staff member

The Managers and Board have decided another staff member is needed at Camp Bentzon. This has been necessary for some time with the decision being delayed while we worked out the required extra infrastructure needed, not to mention the daily cost of employment for another staff employee. At this stage, we plan for it to be on a 9-month contract basis from Sept-May. One of the main requirements is sailing experience with qualification/ability to work with youth so as to run the sailing sessions. There will also be other daily jobs involved with running a camp facility.

The camp will be purchasing something similar to a cabin/caravan as a temporary accommodation solution for the daily use of our new member, who will sleep in it two nights a fortnight. The new Management staff house we mentioned last month, is still planned. However, this will be a little further down the track, due to funding the huge cost. We have some money saved and the Board have formed a fund-raising sub-committee to explore funding options.

School Camps

We are fully booked for school camps for the following year, with large numbers of enquiries. Many people say, "Why don't you put up your prices, then you could afford a new house for Management?" The simple answer to this is, we are a charitable trust trying with the help of communities, businesses and individuals' input, to give youth this unique outdoor experience. Many of the children's parents would not be able to afford for their children to come here if it gets too expensive, meaning they would miss out on what for a large number of children is their first trip on a boat. Camp Bentzon is only a part of the cost and we try very hard to run it leanly to keep charges down. On top of Camp Bentzon, there is the boat charge, the bus trip to Sandspit, plus food the prices of which we all know have increased dramatically. All of these businesses have been hit hard with compliance costs, fuel and other expenses, which continue to go up. Over the years we have been involved, the organisations who help bring youth here to our camp, have worked very hard to keep the cost down for these children, despite their own increased overheads.

www.campbentzon.co.nz

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- Swansea Bay / Kawau Island Resident



Kawau Volunteer Coastguard

In his last article **Paul Steinkamp** gave a brief summary about the unit, the boat and the crew. In this issue, Paul explains some of the training the Kawau rescue crew complete.

To become a recruit for any coastguard unit, the first thing to do is to fill in an application and apply for police clearance. This ensures that all coastguard members are of good character; important when you consider the interaction we have with members of the community, often when they are vulnerable. Once accepted, the next thing that happens is the induction training. This covers Health and Safety, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the boat as well as topics such as what you should take with you and what you should wear when on the boat. There are also some practical aspects such as demonstrating that you can helm the boat and that you know where all the documentation for the boat is kept. You also have to do a swim test to show confidence in the water, and demonstrate knowledge of life jackets and water survival in case we ever need to abandon ship.

Once through this induction phase, you become a trainee, coming on the boat call outs to gain experience. We aim to get people to trainee status within one to two months of joining. Trainees have a number of areas to learn, first at monthly lectures and then practical work to show the knowledge is fully understood. Topics covered during the year are; observation techniques, victim recovery, different methods of towing and so on. Trainees also do a one-day course on Radio Operation and must gain their Boat-master qualification in courses offered by Boating Education and recommended for all boaties. We also give trainees a two-day (weekend) course on basic first aid and the use of oxygen and defibrillators. This training has a formal refresher every two years.

People take around 12 – 18 months to become Operational. Learning is assessed and operational status awarded by a Coastguard examiner, independent of the unit. By this stage, crew members have experience and knowledge and are valued members of the crew. Often people stay as operational crew but by building knowledge you can become senior crew and then progress to getting a skipper's qualification that is awarded by Maritime New Zealand. The boat is a commercial vessel in survey and has to have an accredited skipper aboard when launched. The skipper's qualification is a special Coastguard accredited one that includes specialist skills around Search and Rescue procedures, search patterns and other related skills. This is apart from the normal requirements of knowledge around Maritime Law and Collision regulations.



In our unit we have a mix of people ranging from skippers to trainees. Since we are all volunteers, we have day jobs. These vary from small business owners to people working areas such as insurance sales, local council and supermarkets. Some of us are retired, helping provide cover during the day. My photograph this time is of a very sorry jet-ski. When we reached this, two people had been in the water for over 3 hours. Their biggest problem was that they had no idea where they were. They

thought they were close to Little Barrier; in reality they were some 6 miles north of there. It is important to realise a Jet Ski isn't a toy and the same skills are needed as for normal boats. You need to be aware of where you are and where you are going, and you need reliable waterproof communication. Otherwise how can we find and help you?

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-  **CHECK THE MARINE WEATHER FORECAST**
-  **AVOID ALCOHOL**

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LJ Hooker

A message from one of our local advertisers.

Dear Kawau Island Residents & Kookaburra readers,

Ross Sutherland from LJHooker has deservedly retired, after having sold around 80% of Kawau Island properties in the last two years. We wish him and his wife Barbara all the very best in their retirement in Katikati.

A little background: I was born at Warkworth Hospital, as was my father and my three children. My father's family came to Leigh in 1860 and farmed and established the Leigh Saw Mill. I trained as a photographer and owned my studio in Wellington for 15 years. Upon selling the studio, I fulfilled a lifetime dream of buying a yacht and sailing the South Pacific for three years, with my wife and child. On sailing back home to reality, I went building, then into Real Estate in Warkworth where I have remained for the last thirty years, owning the Business since 2001.

My earliest memory of Kawau is catching a 10 pound snapper 55 years ago in Bon Accord Harbour from my grandfather's launch. In my builder times, I helped demolish then build Tom Cashin's house and tennis court in Little Vivian Bay. Over the last 25 years I have photographed properties for sale for John Pryor, Dave Jefferies and Ross Sutherland. I have rented baches, attended "Music in the Gardens", manning our LJ Hooker tent, displaying properties for sale on this beautiful part of NZ. Kawau has many secrets and stories which are very much part of its charm. Each property is unique with its own special features and history.

Terrain, tides and isolation are or can be the reason people seek Kawau as a place to live or

have a holiday property. Kiwis have a yearning to own a property on an Island, but the reality, be it economic or practicality, can be overwhelming. Our approach is to guide people through the process of making it possible. Kawau, unlike Waiheke Island, is largely still undiscovered; one day we may all look back and say "we should have purchased on Kawau". Generally speaking, buyers on Kawau are emotional purchasers. Emotional buyers pay more than a speculator looking to turn a profit so our job is to reach these buyers and make it easy for them to access your property. We have many diverse avenues to promote Kawau properties while our Warkworth office has screen slide-shows, trifold brochures and displays inside the office. We also provide trifolds at Countdown; radio broadcasts on MORE FM Fridays lunchtime and 4pm Drive Time. LJ Hooker has an international network of over 600 franchise offices in 6 countries employing 6,000 people.

To get buyers to your property, we plan to run "Kawau Your of Properties for Sale" weekly or fortnightly, depending on numbers, charging a small fee to help sort the genuine buyers from the sightseers. To comply with OSH and Health & Safety regulations, we will be using Kawau Water Taxis. Abigail is our new Sales & Marketing Salesperson, exclusively, for Kawau Island. You will be hearing from Abigail soon!

Kind regards,



Viv Wyatt - Business Owner,
Kawau Island Salesperson,
LJ Hooker, Warkworth

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Kawau Boating Club

Robyn and David Lee shares the spectacular hauls of the 2019 New Year's Eve fishing competition at Vivian Bay.

It's beginning to feel distinctly autumnal in Bon Accord Harbour – shorter days and longer shadows! A time to reflect as we swing into our shoulder season at the Kawau Boating Club. What a wonderful summer – sun, fun, happy faces new and old. The weather was kind to us with only a brief couple of weeks of a gnarly SW up the guts of the harbour. We have already witnessed the increase in Superyacht activity in the Gulf and have had regular visits from Kawil and Adele. Kawil owner Spook Stream III and crew were the winners of the Millennial Cup and enjoyed bringing the cup in and having a couple of quiet ones! They are now sporting our club t-shirts wherever they go ... and the mega size club flag on top of the mast.

Pre-Xmas we enjoyed hosting the wonderful island Bookclub ladies – a fun quiz, lots of laughs and Xmas carols accompanied by Jude Wood on ukulele!

New Year's Eve saw the return of the popular Mark Huckstep. We were delighted to be able to sell tickets on the day to club members, with any unsold by 5pm going to the public..... needless to say, we sold out to members in 45 minutes with 250 tickets sold (maximum of 6 per member). If you would like to join us next New Year's Eve, please join up and come along on NY Eve afternoon to purchase your tickets (no presales sorry).

Latakana from Matakana have been a popular choice of lazy afternoon bossanova and jazz. Those guys are great, and we look forward to getting them back for another session soon.

Like the rest of NZ, we struggled this year in getting hospo staff with the appropriate vi-

sas, and as we look forward to next season we ask our locals if you know of anyone who has hospo experience and who may be interested in our busy 2020/21 season. Having accommodation and transport would be an absolute bonus as we are tapped out with accommodation during the busy times.

As always, we acknowledge and thank our stalwart locals – Olivia Moore, Kiera Sleeman and Janice Hudson for their ongoing camaraderie and hard work. Roll on next season!

Just a reminder that we have a notice board at the club both inside and outside (blackboard). Locals are welcome to use these notice boards and can email Robyn on rllee8660@gmail.com with your info. If you are a Facebook user, please join our Facebook page Bon Accord Bar & Bistro – this will keep you up to date with any special info that Robyn puts on as it comes to hand....

A reminder also that the community/club library is there for book swaps. If anyone has any good quality, clean, largish toys we can add to our play area that would be great (or coloured pens/paper).

That's all for now....see you soon at the KBC!



Kawau Boating Club



Housed in the historic Kawau Boating Club, Bon Accord Bar & Bis-tro is open to the public, fully licensed (including off-license) and we serve breakfast, lunch and dinner.

We love our location and do our best to do Kawau Island proud.

Selling hot coffee, fresh baking, petrol, diesel, ice (no salt), bait and general store items.

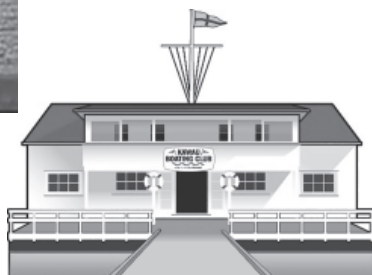
Get there in your own boat, or catch a ferry from Sandspit.



The Bon Accord Bar area is ready for another summer of casual dining by the sea and can happily host up to 60 guests for a private get together. The pop-up bar proved very popular last year and this year we plan to offer pizzas from the bar (great for the little ones whilst mum and dad relax!).



New menu items are on line for summer and we are excited about offering some fabulous tasty takeout meals (salads, baking, homemade sausage rolls and pies, filled focaccias etc) available from first thing in the morning.



Ph: 09 422 8845 | www.kawauboatingclub.nz | clubhouse@kawauboatingclub.nz
Open 7 days from 9am - kitchen closes 8pm (Closed Tues/Wed after Easter)

Pohutukawa Trust

Carl Weaver, President of the Pohutukawa Trust NZ, talks about our growing kiwi and weka population and shares one way of leaving a water source for our treasured birdlife.

Greetings Everyone!

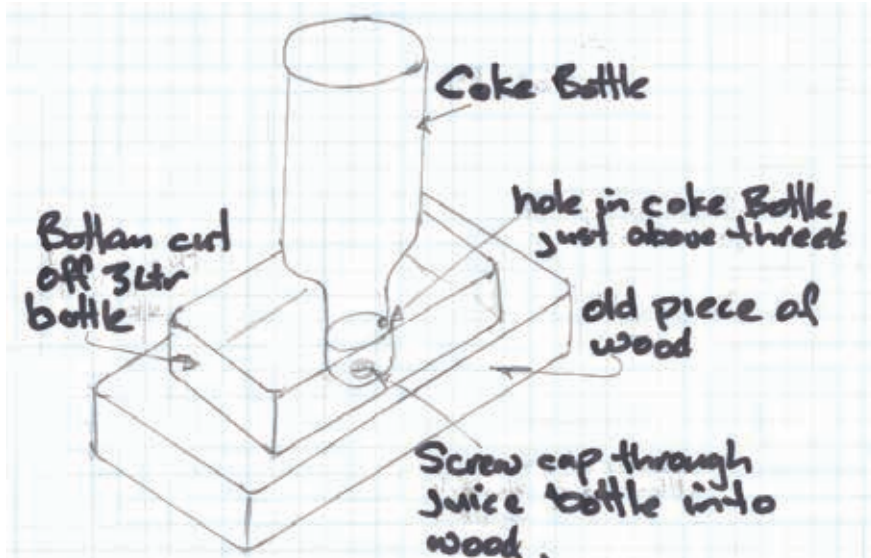
I'll bet it's been a hot time in the old bach at night recently. Spare a thought for the animals and the plants around your place that have also been trying to cope with the heat and dry we have experienced over this glorious summer. Many of the smaller watercourses and drips from your water tank fittings that you have been meaning to fix but not gotten around to, and which traditionally would have provided a little sustenance, will have dried up some time ago.

If you are regularly visiting your holiday home perhaps you might consider leaving a source of

water out for the birds. If you do, don't forget our growing population of Kiwi and Weka as they will need something placed close to the ground. You can easily make something simple from an old 3Ltr drink bottle (the type you would get orange juice in) and a 2Ltr coke bottle.

Make a hole in the coke bottle for the water to come out, about 3mm in diameter, and just above the threaded part. Cut the bottom section off the juice container so it ends up about 20 mm above the height of the hole you made in the coke bottle. Unscrew the coke bottle lid and using a flat head screw, fasten it through the bottom of the juice bottle bottom into the

Design your own water feeder



wood tightly so it won't leak. Fill the coke bottle with water and screw on the cap (with attached base) and then turn the whole unit upside down.

The water should fill up the juice container base to the level of the hole and then stop until the level drops again. If you want to attract some Tui, then you can mix up about 1 cup white sugar in 2 Ltr of warm water to fill the container. Perhaps use a feeder in conjunction with some of those great Trail Cameras that KIRRA has been selling to see what you have visiting whilst you are not looking. You might be surprised at what you have come visit for a drink.

One of the best times of the year for planting your Natives is during the autumn months of April to May when the soil moisture levels have recovered. Well, that's normally the case but I guess with the weather we have been getting, this may vary. It is good to put some time into planning what you plant as this will produce the best results. Spending a bit of time first working out how you want it to look and what is best suited for your particular area. If you have a patch of natives close by to where you want to plant, then see what is doing well or not so well before you purchase any plants. In the desert that the predation from pests has left us, I guess that we have thought that that any native is good but planting the right thing in the right place will reward you faster.

Many of our Natives are used to germinating and growing through a ground cover of decaying moss and old leaves. We see this very obviously in Kauri shooting up its two little leaves through the moss.

If you have an old cardboard box or newspaper perhaps rather than discarding it, use it to make a cover for the ground where you have planted and place something like old rotten Tee Tree on top. This will help keep a more constant moisture level around the plant, especially if you are not regularly there to water it.

Following on from our successes last year, we are planning on undertaking a number of pest removal programs this year. The evidence is apparent across the island with bird and plant life activity continuing to increase. If you have not previously been part of the programme and wish to be included just drop us a line. Don't forget that we have Stoat and Rat traps available should you wish to borrow one. Now is a great time to get on top of them before the spring nesting season starts.

Thank you, have a safe autumn as the cooler weather arrives.

Carl Weaver

Chairman, Pohutukawa Trust New Zealand

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"To promote the conservation of indigenous species in New Zealand"
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Why the Kookaburra?

Jude Wood and the Kookaburra team reflect on the history of the name of our wonderful community magazine and ponder its beginnings after receiving a fabulous image from **Simon Cometti**

Simon Cometti, from Hokimai Bay, has very kindly sent us in a photograph of his father's painting of the Kookaburra. His father, R.H. Cometti, painted it himself. Simon recalls, "My father was an artist/illustrator. He wrote and/or illustrated many books. His passion was painting New Zealand native birds and he seldom painted any other, with the exception of the Kookaburra. I think in this case, his interest with a foreign bird was purely due to the Kawau connection.

You arrive on a Friday night after a hectic week, unpack your gear, pour a glass of wine, sit outside on the deck just as the sun is setting and you hear the Kookaburras. What better sound! That's the trigger. That's when you relax and switch off the world for a few days.

My boys used to sing a different version of that famous song. "Kookaburra sits on electric wire. Tears in his eyes and his pants on fire."

We asked Simon if he had any idea how the Kookaburra magazine acquired its name,



considering it is in fact, a foreign bird. He says that, "as far as naming the publication "Kookaburra," I really have no idea. Maybe they're the true sound of Kawau. Chattering. Laughing out loud. Calling to your friends across the bay."

If anyone knows how we became The Kookaburra, please let us know. In the meantime, we love Simon's suggestion.

***"...the true sound of Kawau.
Chattering.
Laughing outloud.
Calling to your friends
across the bay."***



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Having a broad base of aluminium joinery experience and expertise, Composite Joinery has earned a reputation for excellence within the building industry. They are well-known for consistency, quality and timely delivery: on their ability to get a good job done well.

Something about our advertisers

Jude Wood

Welcome to our Autumn issue where we happily meet two new (full page) advertisers, plus three newcomers to our classified index. The two inside ads come from (a) Composite Joinery in Warkworth, and (b) Viv Wyatt from Hooker Real Estate, while the three classifieds advertise Pepper's Clothing Alterations, The-go2guy, and Warkworth Taxis and Bus Services.

With new builds going on and joinery repair work always needed, it appears that Composite Joinery will be a great fit for the island. For more information on their products, go look at their website www.compositejoinery.co.nz or visit them to view their ranges in person, at 7 Glenmore Drive, Warkworth. Viv Wyatt from Hooker Real Estate shouldn't need any introduction, having being involved with many of us over the years, in our first interaction with Kawau Island, when we purchased our homes here. He has a page of introduction for new readers. We welcome three new advertisers to our Classified Ads section, which features at the back of the Kookaburra. These are The-Go2Guy (if he sounds familiar, it's because he is), Pepper's Clothing Alterations and Warkworth Taxis and Bus Services.

The Go2Guy has already been busy sweeping chimneys over the island this summer, and comes fully recommended by satisfied residents. Pepper is a local, having introduced herself (with Tom) in the Summer issue. Living at Moores Bay, Pepper is starting up a small business as a seamstress, mending and altering etc. And lastly, the mainland taxi company that so many of us have used over the years, has a listing which I'm sure will be helpful to those

of us who prefer to stay right here rather than pick up guests at the airport, just one of their services.

As always, a note of appreciation goes to our long term advertisers – in particular our local Kawau Water Cruises, The Boat House, The Beach House and Kawau Lodge, not forgetting the smaller homegrown businesses as well. We are also lucky to have advertisers from Warkworth and Matakana – please look them up (and say hello from Kawau) when you're there.

Below are the Kookaburra's rates – which are very reasonable, especially if the advertising works! You know what to do.

Full B&W	\$ 95
Half B&W	\$ 60
Quarter B&W	\$ 45
Classified 4 issues (4 lines of text)	\$50

All advertisers are listed in our index and on our website www.kawauisland.org.nz - some are even mentioned on our Instagram @kookaburramagazine.



Follow us on Instagram

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Warkworth AutoElectrical

Contact Benny

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WELCOME

KAWAU LODGE

EVENTS RETREAT NORTH COVE

Learning to live low and slow

From reducing waste to sustainable living, **Michael Wheatcroft and Kate Backler** invite the Kawau community to share your tips and tricks for making the most of island life.

This was our first long stay out at Kawau for some time, and it was a test of approximation, to see if we could stretch our food for two and a half weeks. Fortunately for us, we had visitors on our first weekend who left a plethora of yummy morsels and staples in their wake – largely due to our rather poor coordination and planning we must confess.

Even though we compost and have a worm septic system, extreme food wastage doesn't sit easy and we try to be mindful of what we buy, make and waste. So while we sit here on the island watching the COVID-19 pandemic unfold globally and the subsequent panic buying that seems to be flooding our supermarkets, we pondered what to do to reinvent the left over bread and bananas that were slowly turning as they remained untouched with each meal that passed once our guests had left the island.

Bread, lots of it with not enough freezer room. Easy to turn into a bag full of toasted bread-crumbs with an oven and a food processor (which blew in the process because it was so old but luckily we had a backup). Croutons would have been my other go to in the absence of anything to grind them to a crumb. The golden crumbs are eagerly awaiting some fresh fish. Simple.

The second over supply was bananas. With neither of us being bakers in any form we wondered what to do with them, other than putting them in the freezer until such time as we decided our aspirations far exceeded our talent, will, time or patience. Luckily for us, the latter

two are in abundance on the island. So Kate googled banana bread without butter (as you do and because we didn't have any) and Donna Hay obliged. With no loaf tin, Kate seconded a under-used cake tin found in the depths of the pot cupboard. With a few easy ingredients plus the left over vodka soaked cherries that were destined to be our kirsch substitute for the visitors' unmade cheese fondue and voila, it worked. Neither banana or said cherries went to waste. To the seasoned baker this may seem unastounding or trivial (Kate's mum certainly thought so) but for Kate, a self-confessed and confident savoury foodie that never ventures into baking territory, this is akin to winning the lottery, if only fifth division.

If, like us, you have never aspired to baking, and you have a few left over bananas, this recipe is guaranteed fail-safe. If in the unlikely event that it does (fail), please don't contact either of us as Kate would like to bask in the long overdue bubble of newbie-baker happiness for a little while longer...

If you have tips and tricks about living low on the island, whether that is reducing your waste, minimizing your water usage beyond what you already know, growing your own vege or minimizing your 'footprint' on the land, we look forward to hearing from you.

Email: editor@kirra.org.nz

Recipe adaption of Donna Hay's banana bread. Perfect for bananas that you haven't quite managed to eat.

- Turn oven on to 160c on bake.
- Mash together 3 very large very ripe bananas
- Add 1½ cups sugar (half brown and half white as this was what we had)
- Add 1 tablespoon of vanilla essence
- Add dried cherries soaked in vodka for about a week (purely optional of course!)
- Lightly beat 3 eggs and add to the mix with ½ cup grape seed oil. Beat all ingredients together lightly.
- Sift in 1½ cups sifted self-raising flour and grate in some nutmeg (or use

cinnamon if you have it as this was in Donna's original recipe) and mix again.

Pour mixture into a round cake tin and bake in the oven for 50-55 mins or until a cake tester or skewer comes out clean. If you have a loaf tin you may want to go back to Donna Hay's recipe on her website for the actual timing. Enjoy.



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An advertisement for Skywork Professional Helicopter Services. The background is a black and white photograph of a helicopter in flight over a large body of water with several sailboats. The text is overlaid on the image. At the bottom, there is contact information including a phone number, email, and website.



Kawau Island Residents and Ratepayers Association

Minutes of the KIRRA Executive Committee Meeting

10am Saturday 14 December 2019 | Andrew Fyfe's, Pembroles Bay, Kawau Island.

PRESENT: Gael Archer, Pam Dallow, Beth Houlbrooke, Peter Buckton, Shelley Futcher, Michael Marris, Nikki Porteous, Sally Ostick, Carl & Mandy Weaver, Andrew Fyfe, Lyn Hume, Michael Wheatacroft & Kate Backler, Guy Warman & Rebecca de Souza, Colin Bright, Abigail Harress-Blaas, Tim Holgate, John and Kathryn Sinclair.

APOLOGIES: Robynne Vis, Jude Wood and Paul Steinkamp (Coastguard).

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: No matters arising.

Moved by Mandy Weaver, seconded by Pam Dallow.

CORRESPONDENCE: Incoming – email from Sam Davison offering his legal assistance pro-bono to the Takutai Moana Act claims. Colin Bright to follow up.

FINANCIALS: Sally reported that we still have a lot of people who have not paid their membership fees. Sally will send a list out. If advertisers have not paid in 2019, they will not be able to place adds in 2020. She reminded us to use advertisers and to let them know that we saw their advertisement in the Kookaburra.

Sally will be away for 4 months in 2020 but is happy to continue in her role while overseas.

KAWAU ISLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (KIAC) Lin Pardey, Michael Marris & Lyn Hume. Lyn informed us that there is nothing to report. Something will be prepared for the AGM to vote for and nominate new members.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011 – Applications for recognition orders affecting the coastal and marine areas around Kawau – Colin Bright updated us on the applications. There is only one month available to respond from when applications are posted onto the website.

Carl Weaver asked the question as to what steps if any had

been taken relating to the motion passed at the previous KIRRA meeting which was that a letter be written by Colin Bright, Michael Marris, John Sinclair and Lyn Hume and be sent to the Governor General requesting information as to our rights as subjects of the Queen to have the use of the seabed and foreshore for boat moorings, jetties and seawall construc-

tion as access to our properties. Colin advised that we continue to pursue the matter through Andrew Collins, our legal representative, so we can retain a neutral position.

Rodney Local Board – Beth Houlbrooke reported that this is her third term with the Rodney Local Board (RLB). She is one of three elected board members. There is no board land on Kawau Island therefore no RLB and Auckland Council voice. Auckland Transport has two wharves and roads. However, Beth can represent our concerns around Sandspit.

Sandspit wharf repairs will be carried out next winter.

The new rubbish facility is due to be completed by April 2020. Beth has been chasing this issue for over two years. It will be built down the side of the carpark and will require a pin or a card. Signs re fines for illegal dumping will be installed. In the meantime, there will be two to three rubbish pickups over the summer.

Parking is currently under Auckland Transport but they no longer want it as it makes a loss. As the carpark is on a reserve Auckland Council Parks may take it over. A full asset review is to be completed first and they have asked AT to do a full parking assessment. The carpark is only fully utilised 3 weeks of the year. Beth hopes to see the fees reduced so people will be less likely to use Brick Bay Road. A hope was expressed that with the changes rates won't increase. Another option could be a community lease. This was attempted some time ago by a Kawau Islander but was unsuccessful due to bureaucracy.

It's great to see the new pontoon installed at KBC. Rodney Regional Board contributed \$8,000 towards this. They also contributed towards the Sandspit toilets.

Tim Holdgate a new Rodney Local Board member introduced himself. He has a background in property and banking and can advocate for KI landowners and ratepayers.

DOC – Nil report.

Pohutakawa Trust – Carl Weaver thanked Kawau Islanders for their support and efforts. People are reporting more birdlife and the rehabilitation of the island. A discussion followed about the recent large dumping of fish off the coast of Kawau. It appeared that NIWA were following up. Lyn Hume will liaise with Scott McIndoe from Legasea. It was good to see it reported in the media following our meeting.

Kookaburra – Michael Marris our Editor reported that the summer issue has just gone to the printers. The challenge of the mailout and the money wasted on post office bureaucracy was acknowledged. Thanks go to Lyn Hume for her perseverance. It is all worth it as the magazine brings us a great amount of joy.

However, the Kookaburra needs a fresh face as Michael will be slowly stepping down after 15 years. There are 7 roles: -

1. Editing which requires someone well embedded on the island.
2. Professional proof reading.
3. Design and typesetting which is the most complex and technical aspect.
4. Printing – David Faulls of ExPress Communications Limited (ExCom) does a great job.
5. Posting – NZ Post's bulk mailout.
6. Advertising – in the capable hands of our advertising manager, Jude Wood.

7. Financial – Sally Ostick our treasurer covers this.

More than one person could do it and Michael will continue to be involved but would rather divert his energies to the Takutai Moana Act. We have a fabulous pool of contributors on the island. The committee thanked Michael as he has put his heart and soul into the magazine.

KIRRA fundraising trail cameras – 10 have been purchased and are available at \$110 each. Michael Marris has put a notice about these in the summer Kookaburra. If you wish to purchase one please contact Nikki Porteous secretary@kirra.org.nz or phone 021 027 08953.

Kaitiaki Advisory Group (KBKAG) – John Sinclair introduced us to this group. Those who live, work, play or visit Kawau Bay and its islands recognise what a unique and valuable taonga it is. Recognising that growth and development will inevitably affect the area, KBKAG is proposed to bring together interested parties to consider proposals that potentially affect the qualities that make it so special. KBKAG does not seek to replace current governance functions or be a pressure group – but recognises that major proposals, Council responses and the tendency for ‘one size fits all’ solutions do not always reflect the views of stakeholder organisations. So KBKAG will provide a forum where significant change proposals can be debated – and if a consensus is reached, which will not always happen, provide valuable input to the decision-making process. The bona-fides of the forum membership will affirm the value of that input – and hopefully counteract the inevitable asymmetry of this process.

Examples of issues that could arise and would benefit from the group’s input are: - Growth in cruise ships and passenger activities, mineral/resource extraction, major development

proposals, marine life exploitation, coastal management change proposals and legislative/regulatory actions inappropriate to the area values. Administration will be minimum. It is hoped KIRRA can take a lead role and provide the initial ‘digital touchpoint’.

Proposed initial parties in addition to KIRRA & KIAC to be invited to participate include: - Ngati Manuhiri, Auckland Council, Rodney Local Board, Regional Parks, Department of Conservation, NIWA, Hauraki Gulf Forum form Algies Bay, Snells Beach and Sandspit. Assuming sufficient expressions of interest, it is proposed to have an initial meeting in early 2020 to advance the concept.

Moved by Shelley Futcher, seconded by Peter Buckton.

Coastguard – Paul Steinkamp the new president of Kawau Coastguard reported that Coastguard will be available and on call over the whole of Xmas and the New Year.

Memberships 2019 – These are down on the previous year. Suggestions were made to help recruit new members such as door knocking, forms on the ferries, raise it at Bookworms, the form on the website, when delivering the new emergency list to check to see whether they are members or not and to have posters “Join KIRRA”.

Nomination for annual honorary membership – a unanimous decision was made and will be announced at the AGM.

Meeting closed 12.20pm.

Next meeting the AGM, Sunday 26th January 12pm 2020 at Mansion House Gr



Kawau Island Residents and Ratepayers Association Annual General Meeting 2020

The AGM was well attended by members of the Kawau community, on what was another stunning summers day on the Island. Many thanks to those who attended and to Marie from Mansion House cafe for organising the catering.

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

12pm, Sunday 26 January 2020, Mansion House Grounds, Bon Accord Harbour

PRESENT: Graeme & Doreen Phipps, Craig Ewington, Andrew Stone, Lyn Hume, Nikki Porteous, Joanna Hopkins, Mike Davison, Carl & Mandy Weaver, Ross West, Jill Hetherington, Lynne & Fendall Halliburton, Gabrielle Wilson, Greg Sayers (Auckland Counsellor, Rodney Ward), Michael Marris, Beth Houlbrooke (Rodney Local Board Chairperson), Colin Smith (Rodney Local Board), Helen & Phil Southerdon, Andrew Fyfe, Kate Backler, Michael Wheatcroft, Jenny Paine, Cameron Paine, Kathryn & John Sinclair, Caroline Boot & Tim Duffett, Peter Newson, Fay Richardson, Abigail Harress-Blaas, Rob Sutherland, Les & Doreen Mellars, Peter & Margaret Stretton, Andrew & Karen Duncan, Carl & Mandy Weaver, Peter Buckton, Lois Broom, Sally Ostick, Jude Wood, Pam Dallow and Shelly Futcher.

APOLOGIES: Gael Archer, John Duder, Denise & Bruce Barlow, Susan & Wally Simpson, Ron & Cynthia Archer, Patria Hume & Trevor Tait, Robynne Vis (DOC), Russell & Jan Hughes, Michael & Anna Simson, Mark Mitchell MP, Guy Warman & Rebecca De

Souza, Lesley & Diana Shand, Cheryl & Steve Hoyle, Janne & Arthur Beale, Phil & Suzanne Shaw, Don Glibraith, Angela Bucton and Joyce Goodhue.

WELCOME: Andrew Fyfe (KIRRA Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM 2019: Copies distributed prior to the beginning of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising. Moved by Shelly Futcher, seconded by Sally Ostick, motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Sally Ostick, Treasurer

The year has ended well with our Surplus Income over Expenditure at \$5000 compared to a negative \$1000 last year. This is mainly due to:

1. Increased advertising which we expect to continue through 2020. There are still some slow players so we will continue to chase them

2. Reduced costs for the website now it is set up and running

The subscriptions are down, and we are not sure why. If you know anyone who would like to join, please encourage them. The membership to KIRRA this year was split charging \$42 for single households and \$45 for double. This caused extra admin so this year all memberships will be \$45.

Copies of KIRRA's accounts for the year ended 21st December 2019 were circulated.

KIAC (Kawau Island Advisory Committee) REPORT – nil presented.

KERT (Kawau Emergency Response Team) REPORT – Ken Wells, Chairman

- First of all, a huge vote of thanks to the Trustees and Honorary Trustees for their ongoing support and contribution to the smooth workings of KERT throughout the year. Whilst we are all passionate about Kawau Island, meetings and the other activities we get involved in such as maintaining the response depots, maintaining the South Cove Helipad, selling first aid kits, looking at funding opportunities etc., still take up valuable family and personal time.
- I would like to formally place on record the contribution made by Chris Carding over the years. He has decided to scale back his involvement in the various Kawau Island groups (including KERT) that he has belonged to, in order to spend more time travelling, and with his family. We will miss his enthusiastic participation and boundless energy, and wish him all the best for the future.
- We continue to be very appreciative of the support we receive from OPAK. We have added the \$7k donation from the last Music in the Gardens to other funds

on hand. At the latest KERT AGM over Labour weekend we discussed how best to use these, and future emergency response funds, for the benefit of the Kawau Island community. There are a couple of initiatives under discussion at present with the Fire Team. We also discussed our approach to future fundraising initiatives. Typically to apply for funds from the usual funding sources, we need to identify a specific project, or item, so more discussion needed on this.

- The trust has been in operation for 15 years (time flies does it not?!). Our AGM was a good time for the Trustees to review our approach, and set a direction for the future. We decided a wee while ago that we would be guided by the requirements of the Kawau Island Fire Team in terms of what amount of funding was required, and how it would be applied. More discussion will be held in the months ahead.
- The Fire Couplings initiative has been a tad disappointing, due to a very low uptake from the Kawau Island residents; however we did try, and a big thank you goes to all involved.
- Other activities such as assisting in the provision of community Defibs and first aid kits have been appreciated, and will, I imagine, be an ongoing opportunity to add value to Kawau Island.

We look forward to continuing to be of service to the residents and others who live on, or visit, Kawau Island. We would be keen to hear from anyone who has a suggestion as to how our funding may be usefully applied for the health and wellbeing of Kawau Islanders and visitors, from an Emergency response point of view. Please send any suggestions to our Secretary at Cheryl.hoyle@icloud.com.

FENZ (Fire Emergency NZ) KAWAU REPORT – Gavin Brunton, Chief Fire Officer – nil presented.

Gavin has been away assisting our Australian neighbours with their bush fires.

KOOKABURRA & WEBSITE REPORT - Michael Marris, Editor

Kookaburra has gone through another four successful issues. It is a great tribute to the many people whose collective involvement makes it all possible. For example, lets headline our magnificent contributors. There is this wonderful group of regular and enthusiastic and highly talented Kawau Islanders and then, for every issue, new pieces written by new authors. These people populate our pages.

Underneath that, is the misnamed "backroom group" – in reality, very much to the forefront. Jude Wood has done an outstanding job maintaining long-standing advertisers, recruiting new advertisers and ensuring that their interest in our magazine and our community are maintained. Sally Ostick gets the money in – maybe her beautiful demeanour can carry a little sting if necessary! Lyn Hume has battled, with a tenacity that we can only admire, with the all-to-often disfunction of New Zealand Post. More than that, she has triumphed so the mail gets out! Nikki Porteous, our secretary, remains a stable and diligent manager of the system. Externally, David Faulls does a fantastic job with the printing at a phenomenally modest price. And a special thanks has to go to Peter Buckton who is always a willing and enthusiastic supporter both of KIRRA and Kookaburra. Peter does a splendid job in delivering copies of the Kookaburra around the Warkworth business community. He is widely appreciated, both on the Island and in Warkworth itself.

This is all by way of reinforcing the fact that Kookaburra is very much a collective endeavor

and its success is totally reliant upon the fantastic contributions of all you wonderful people in our community make, in your various ways. My role as editor would otherwise be impossible.

However, after much reflection I came to the view that Kookaburra is in need of fresh eyes. I've been sitting in the editor's seat for over 14 years and as much as I love our little magazine and can feel pleased with how it has evolved over time, I know that a new look is required.

In that respect, I and the KIRRA committee have been talking to various skilled people in our Kawau community whose talents and abilities will enable a new Kookaburra regime to unfold. That will be a transitional process and whilst I will keep my sticky fingers out of everybody's pies I will continue to be there to mentor these changes.

Finally, on a very personal level, I wish to record how incredibly committed everybody who contributes to the production of Kookaburra is and what a spectacular asset it is to our little community. My heartfelt appreciation goes to all of you..... and of course, finally, to our readership. You, the reader, are ultimately what it is all about. Thank you for your commitment as well.

POHUTUKAWA TRUST NEW ZEALAND – Carl Weaver, Chairman

I am pleased to provide this report to you on behalf of the Trustees. The Trust firstly would like to thank the Residents and Ratepayers Association, Auckland Council, Department of Conservation but the greatest thanks must go to the residents of the islands for their tireless efforts on behalf of the islands Flora and Fauna. Also thanks to those from the wider public community who recognise the significance of the island's ecosystem and place within the greater Hauraki Gulf, and provided support to the Trust. As a direct result of our combined

efforts recovery of native flora and fauna is being widely observed. There continues to be an ever-increasing number of anecdotal reports conveyed to me of greater numbers of native plants and birds etc that are not only just surviving on the island but in some cases flourishing. This has been particularly evident with birds such as Kiwi and Kaka which can now be seen across the island.

Following on from our previous years' work, and in conjunction with our ongoing supply of traps etc. three very effective and efficient large-scale pest control operations were undertaken in 2019. Both the feedback we receive from landowners and information we gather during the main culls indicates a strong reduction in the number of declared pest animals on the island. This reduction in pest numbers has necessitated constant modification to our program to ensure effective and efficient use of our resources.

During the year, the Trust received a request for assistance from Te Papa, Auckland Museum, and Landcare Research to help with the collection of specimens for their research. We of course were happy to facilitate this and a number of different animal specimens were collected and provided. We understand that

we will be asked to undertake further work for these agencies in the coming year.

The Trust is providing on going assistance to the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadrons project to rehabilitate the area around the yacht club and Smelting house bay in preparation for the upcoming America's Cup activities.

The Trust supports the Kawau Island Vision Document (adopted 30 July 2009) in which the objectives and activities for the islands Natural Environment are detailed. Although we are making quantifiable and significant progress towards the objectives contained in this document the task cannot be underestimated.

To ensure a continuum, the Trust this year increased the number of permitted Trustee positions and has appointed two new young office holders. This not only ensures that we have a succession process in place but also provides a voice for new thinking and the energy we will need going forward to advance the islands ecological restoration.

Significant Concern exists relating to Kawau Island property rights and the Trust believes a clear position and understanding is necessary to be developed and widely promoted by KIRRA concerning property owner's rights



and resources on Kawau Island, particularly in terms of the Coastal Marine Area. The correct position in the Trust view should be the preservation of all existing private property owner's rights and resources lawfully granted to them by their legitimate title of ownership of land on Kawau Island.

Significant Concern exists relating to Kawau Island property rights particularly in terms of the Coastal Marine Area. The Trust believes KIRRA must develop a clear position and widely promote property owner's rights and resources on Kawau Island. Kawau is unique in the sense that it was sold prior to the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi.

The correct position in the Trust view should be the preservation of all existing private property owner's rights and resources lawfully granted to them by their legitimate title of ownership of land on Kawau Island.

In the coming year the Trust will continue the large-scale community initiated pest control operations, and further develop new activities to complement the work we are currently undertaking.

Thank you again for your continued support, the Trusts wishes you all the best for the coming year.

RODNEY LOCAL BOARD CHAIRPERSON
– Beth Houlbrooke

The Rodney Local Board's interest in Kawau Island is limited as they have no assets on the island. However, Auckland Council does fund the environment and pest management and as ratepayers, Beth represents our interests with issues in the Sandspit area such as rubbish, parking and the Sandspit wharf.

The new rubbish facility will be installed in April this year. The issues with parking on Brick Bay Road continue to be addressed.

Sandspit wharf repairs won't occur until next winter 2021 due to contract availability.

AUCKLAND COUNCILLOR, RODNEY WARD - Greg Sayers

Greg updated us on what is happening with Auckland Council. Phil Goff has been re-elected. He reflected that he was one of Phil Goff's harshest critics in the previous term. Greg expressed confidence that he now has improved support from our mayor.

He updated us on the Hill Street intersection, the sealing of rural roads and the new motorway which is due completion in 2021 and is on budget. Greg reminded us that the Rodney Local Board are here to help us.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

MARINE AND COASTAL AREA (TAKUTAI MOANA) ACT – Carl Weaver commented that islanders may not be aware of where their boundaries are. About half of the islanders have riparian rights and private ownership down to the mean high-water mark. It's important that we don't give up ownership as it is on the titles.

Colin responded that he did not have knowledge of the matters that Carl was speaking about and that he was not able to comment on them. However, KIRRA's ability to participate in these very important proceedings was extremely limited. If the society was going to be able to have a more meaningful input into the various applications that have been lodged, seeking coastal and marine rights around Kawau, far more funding was going to be needed than KIRRA could provide from its own resources.

When these claims were first lodged, most of the people and entities, who were likely to be affected may have felt (like KIRRA) that they had neither the funds nor the resources to be able to properly evaluate and/or to test and

participate in the applications, but they could rely on the Crown to do that for them.

Early on in the Takutai Moana proceedings, the Crown did seem to be adopting an approach like that to the applications. The Crown's approach, though, was challenged by a number of the applicants who claimed (amongst other things) that it was wrong for the Crown to be endeavouring to adopt an approach to the application in the role of a contradictor, since the Crown was the Treaty partner and should not be taking sides.

The Crown then moved away from what seemed to be its earlier approach. Its approach now is that it will be recorded as an interested party. As an independent party, it will look at each application on a case by case basis.

The Court has since ruled that the Act does not cast the Attorney General in the role of defendant in applications. The Attorney General is free to oppose applications or some aspect of the applications, only where issues of public interest justify that. The Court has ruled that in exercising the role of an interested party under the Act the Attorney General does not act in support of any sectional interest, but only in the interests of the public generally.

If the Attorney General does step in and is challenged, then the Attorney General may have to justify what the public interest is that results in the opposition.

Therefore, people or entities who are, or who may be, affected by applications seeking rights to the marine and coastal area, should not now think that they can safely stand back and rely on the Crown. Such reliance may be completely misplaced.

Whether an application is eventually supported, or opposed, the need to be able to check it, and to fully understand the nature and extent of the rights that are sought by the applicant, and to be able to understand and evaluate the

evidence provided in support of each application, will require a much more proactive participation than KIRRA can presently provide.

To be able to consider participating more fully in the process, KIRRA would need a lot more outside financial support.

It may seem a bit unfair, but it is a reality, that whilst the applicants for the marine and coastal rights have their costs met by the Government (as of course does the Crown) interested parties such as KIRRA have to meet all their costs themselves. They can only take part in the process to the extent that any funding they have enables them to do so. At present, KIRRA simply does not have the funding to enable it to take a more proactive role.

DOC – apologies from Robynne Vis. No other DOC representatives present.

UNCONTROLLED DOGS AND THE THREAT TO OUR BIRDLIFE - Two statements were read out on behalf of islanders who had sent their apologies: -

1. We are aware of the increasing presence of kiwi around North Cove and have recently seen one at the rear of our property. We know of 2 other recent sightings. Our concern is the number of uncontrolled dogs (often off visiting boats) that impose a real threat to the kiwi population (and other birds etc..). Can some further type of general publicity be promoted to restrict 'uncontrolled' dogs on Kawau?
2. As Islanders we have observed that owners with both dogs &/or cats that have brought by them to Kawau Island to stay, i.e. visitors by ferry/shuttle/ boaties & owners of property on Kawau Island, frequently leave these animals unrestrained & out of view. This action/lack of attention enables them to roam freely often unrestrained. This needs to be brought under control as there have been too

many incidents whereby birds have been pursued causing maiming/death &/or distress (due to being chased &/or barked at).

Thus dogs, when on beaches, are required to comply with AC rules & regulations; i.e. that animals must be under control/restrained @ all times + having dogs on beaches is off limits, unless as stated in AC local area rules, dogs must be on-leash at all times in public places with unrestricted access, this means beaches. They must be under control, especially where there are nesting ground birds, i.e. Dotterel's & Oyster Catchers on open beaches.

ALL CATS SHOULD BE BANNED FROM KAWAU ISLAND. Cats when brought to Kawau must be restrained @ all times, i.e. secured inside with doors & windows having screens to control escape, especially at night, as cats when allowed to roam free at night cause devastation with the ground nesting birds; e.g. Kiwi, Weka, Dotterels & Oyster Catchers. Other birds such as Pigeons, Fantails, White-Eyes, Warblers & the like are also being attacked. We've seen evidence of dead birds + loose feathers on the ground within the beach & bush areas. Neither of these issues with dogs & cats can be allowed to continue without some form of control being implemented & notified. We seek KIRRA support to enable these concerns to be promulgated as wide as possible.

Discussion followed and the proposals made: -

- More and upgraded signs around the island.
- KIRRA write to real estate agents asking them to inform prospective buyers.
- A sign at Sandspit wharf.
- Kawau Cruises already have a policy that dogs be on leads but maybe there needs to be some signs on the boats.

- Letters written to boating clubs.
- Consider making a by-law. In the Bay of Islands, DOC actively prosecute owners.
- Liaise with DOC.
- Look at Auckland Council rules.

Moved by Les Mellars, seconded by Shelley Futcher, motion carried.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP – Each year KIRRA nominates one deserving person for honorary membership at the AGM. This year it was with much pleasure that we presented Michael Marris with this award for long and outstanding service to both the Kawau Island community and to the association. Michael responded with a very moving speech thanking islanders for their generosity.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – All apart from two nominations have been received in accordance with the rules. We welcome our new committee members Abigail Harriss-Blass, Greg Knowles and Caroline Boot.

Current committee members in alphabetical order are listed below:

Abigail Harress Blaas, Andrew Fyfe (Chair), Carl & Mandy Weaver, Caroline Boot, Colin Bright, Gael Archer, Greg Knowles, Guy Warman, Jude Wood (Advertising), Kate Backler, Michael Wheatcroft, Nikki Porteous (Secretary), Pam Dallow, Peter Buckton, Sally Ostick (Treasurer) and Shelley Futcher.

Meeting closed at 2.30pm.

KIRRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2020

Chairman: Andrew Fyfe	021 622 231
Secretary: Nikki Porteous	021 027 08953
Treasurer: Sally Ostick	021 223 4268
Gael Archer	021 052 9002
Kate Backler	027 431 5687
Caroline Boot	021 722 005
Colin Bright	09 524 6189
Peter Buckton	09 422 3520
Pam Dallow	09 444 3378
Shelley Futcher	021 231 1372
Abigail Harress-Blass	021 924 267
Greg Knowles	021 307 332
Lin Pardey	09 422 8997
Sally Ostick	021 223 4268
Carl Weaver	0274 572 640
Mandy Weaver	021 273 9479
Michael Wheatcroft	027 433 6222
Jude Wood	021 529 633

KIRRA SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - 2020

WED. 25th March - CANCELLED

SAT. 16th May - 9.30am - Shelley Futcher's, Stockyard Bay

WED. 8th July - 5.30pm - Ponsonby Cruising Club, Westhaven

SAT. 5th September - 9.30am - Shelley Futcher's, Stockyard Bay

WED. 28th October - 5.30pm - Ponsonby Cruising Club,
Westhaven

SAT. 12th December - 10am - Christmas Lunch. TBA

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Please support our Kookaburra advertisers as they support the Kookaburra. Have a look through our directory...you'll be pleased with what you find! Note that many of our listings also have a larger space advertisement elsewhere in the magazine.

*Every advertiser also gets a free listing on the Kawau Island website:
www.kawauisland.org > Our Community > Local Services*

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THE BEACH HOUSE (p49) • Lodge • Licensed restaurant • Wedding and function venue • Conference room • Degustation menu • Luke & Karina • Ph: 09 422 8850 • Great Island lunch and dinner venue

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TIMBER See Building Supplies”

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WATERTANKS NORTH COVE • Two black poly water tanks, used (*may* need minor repairs) for removal from North Cove property • Any offer considered • Tank one: 1.8m diameter x 1.6m high • Tank two: 2.8m diameter x 0.7m high • Ph: Neville 021 402 616

Emergency Numbers

FIRE EMERGENCY NZ (FENZ)	111	(Service will alert DOC & FENZ and will activate the siren)
KAWAU EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	027 319 4040	Chris Carding
ST JOHN AMBULANCE	111	Kawau Island First Response
Non-Urgent	0800 4 AMBULANCE	(0800 426 285)
HEALTHLINE (24 hours)	0800 611 116	
POLICE Warkworth	09 425 8109	
COASTGUARD Auckland	09 303 1303	
FAULTS	Vector	0508 832 867
	Telecom	120
MEDICAL Warkworth Medical	09 425 1199	
Kowhai Surgery	09 425 7358	
Mahurangi Medical	09 425 5055	
Kowhai Coast	09 425 6666	
AUCKLAND COUNCIL	09 301 0101	
SANDSPIT WHARF	09 425 7315	
SANDSPIT CAR PARK	09 425 7039	
MANSION HOUSE	09 422 8882	
KAWAU WATER TAXI BOOKINGS	09 425 8006	
WARKWORTH TAXI	09 425 0000	
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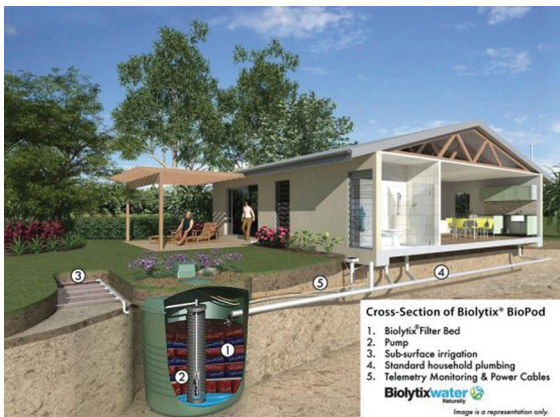
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MON - THU	8:00am	10:30am	3:00pm	no sailing	6:00pm
FRI	8:00am	10:30am	2:30pm	4:00pm	6:30pm
SAT - SUN	8:00am	10:30am	2:30pm	no sailing	6:30pm

Note:  This is the Royal Mail Run Cruise

TIMES FROM KAWAU

	SOUTH COVE	BON ACCORD	NORTH COVE	VIVIAN BAY
DEPARTURES DAILY	7:20am	7:05am	6:50am	6:40am
	9:05am	9:20am	9:35am	9:45am
	2:05pm	1:30pm	1:00pm	12:50pm
MON - THU	4:05pm	4:20pm	4:35pm	4:45pm
FRI, SUN, PUB. HOLDS	5:05pm (Fri. ONLY)	5:20pm	5:35pm	5:45pm
SAT - SUN	4:35pm	4:10pm	3:55pm	3:45pm

Please ensure bookings are made at least two hours before departure

All times given here are for departure only

Kawau Boatshed (Ltd) reserves the right to amend timetables, substitute plant or equipment at any time

* Ten-trip tickets, or concession cards are valid on shuttles & private taxis

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