

SUMMER 2016



KOOKABURRA

Magazine of Kawau Island New Zealand



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# NEW WORLD

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## Kawau Island Kookaburra

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and as an outlet for news and articles written by interested persons"

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Membership includes four issues of Kookaburra each year  
Check out our Kawau Island website: [www.kawauisland.org.nz](http://www.kawauisland.org.nz)

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2016 - 2017

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# Contents

## Cover Photos: Erin & Peter Hyde, Lin Pardey

Comment	3	Taliesin's Tales – Book Review	33
<i>Michael Marris</i>		<i>Michael Marris</i>	
Vivian Bay & LV News	4	Park Notes	34
<i>Lyn Hume</i>		<i>Susan Stoddart</i>	
Pembles Bay News	5	Sandspit Carpark	36
<i>Lachlan Fyfe</i>		<i>Auckland Transport &amp; Lin Pardey</i>	
North Cove News	6	Island Identity	37
<i>Ross West</i>		<i>Peter Cunningham</i>	
South Cove News	8	A Summer Holiday. Is	38
<i>Andrew Stone</i>		<i>lois e hunter</i>	
Camp Bentzon Report	10	Harbourmaster Report	46
<i>Peter &amp; Erin Hyde</i>		<i>Angela Bedford, Maritime Assistant</i>	
Rescue Helicopter Path	12	The Super Wrought	50
Martine Fernandez & Andrew Fyfe	12	<i>Peter Newson</i>	
Gardening Matters	14	Pohutukawa Trust	52
<i>Jane Myhre</i>		<i>Carl Weaver</i>	
Afloat Around Kawai	16	Kawai Fire Policies	56
<i>Lin Pardey</i>		<i>David Wilson &amp; Dave Jeffery</i>	
New Year's Day	20	The Beach House	59
<i>John Sinclair</i>		<i>Bevan Cox &amp; Per Vilsabek</i>	
Electric Wheelbarrow	22	Medical Training Day	62
<i>Lyn Hume</i>		<i>Mark Smith &amp; Barry Watkin</i>	
Kawai Boating Club	24	Show Time – Book Review	63
<i>Robyn Lees</i>		<i>Michael Marris</i>	
Readers Group vs KBC Library	26	Fire Team	66
<i>Jen Seel &amp; Jenny Spring</i>		<i>Gavin Brunton and others</i>	
Bookworms	27	LegaSea	70
<i>Ruth Henderson</i>		<i>Scott Macindoe</i>	
Coastguard News	28	Kawai Real Estate	71
<i>Kawai Coastguard</i>		<i>Dave Jeffery</i>	
Alarming Fanworm Discovery	29	KIRRA Minutes	72
<i>Michael Marris</i>		<i>Helen Jeffery</i>	
Pohutukawa Ponderings	30	KIRRA Minutes	74
<i>John Duder</i>		<i>Helen Jeffery</i>	
Island Passages – Book Review	32	Kookaburra Advertisers	76
<i>Percy Flage</i>		<i>Classified</i>	

# Comment

*Michael Marris*

First, the heading of this column has changed: the notion of an “editorial” historically carries with it suggestions of authority and prescription, which do not properly reflect our Kawai community. On the other hand the notion of “comment” is in the nature of observation and reflection, which better suits the objectives of our little journal.

Having said that, this issue is a real showcase of the magnificent talents that lie in our Kawai midst. There are three book reviews, two poems, a drawing and many spectacular photographs. Articles range from the humorous and ever-so-slightly-cynical whimsy of Jane Myhre to the professional journalism of Ross West and Andrew Stone, and the lovely prose of our usual in-residence writers such as Carl Weaver, Sue Stoddart and the Two Jens. Lachlan Fyfe has talent - and he is still at school. Plus Lyn Hume and her magnificent electric wheelbarrow!

Importantly one book review, of *Island Passages*, reveals the spectacular range of literary and artistic skills flowing from those wonderful Islanders who meet regularly as Bookworms. This is their third publication and will make a marvellous Christmas present. Stephen Robinson, well-known Schoolhouse Bay identity and nationally recognised photographer, has just published his 18<sup>th</sup> book. Lin Pardey's latest book *Taleisin Tales* is another for the Christmas list.

The two poems written by lois e hunter and Peter Newson are vastly different in style but offer instant and in one, tongue-in-cheek, recognition for Kookaburra readers. Peter Cunningham writes warmly of an old Island identity and there is interesting correspondence around Kawai Island fire issues and policies.

As well we run articles of a more prosaic nature, designed to be informative and keep Islanders up to date with issues such as harbourmaster activities, Coastguard, real estate, the Boating Club and Mansion House – to name but a few. These are willingly submitted, often with great photographs, and provide an extremely important community news service.

That so much talent can flow out of such a small community is wonderful. We are extremely privileged to have this spectacular pool of artistic and literary contributors. Their efforts are given freely and always in beautiful spirit. Our community is so much the richer for their endeavours.

But it would be remiss to leave out appreciation for the loyal advertising support – as that, economically, is the mainstay of this journal. Hopefully readers recognise and respond in kind with their patronage.

Finally, to you the reader, there is also tribute. Your interest and your comments and your feedback are another critical link in the communication backbone over which the richly coloured fabric of our Kawai community is drawn.

Being part of a unique island society offers many rewards, although not without potential for drawbacks. We are a scattered group of mostly little settlements. Good neighbourly relations are critical. Inevitably some abrasions will arise from time to time. However in the broad swath of life our precious community is a beautiful example of cooperative and harmonious living. Our consistent common focus is the wellbeing of Kawai Island.

With that, we may all treat ourselves to a self-congratulatory Merry Christmas.

# Vivian Bay & LV News

Lyn Hume

The sun is finally shining and the romance has come back to Vivian Bay – we love this place.

Over the last couple of months the weather has been a mixed bag to say the least and one thing we all notice most is the lack of sand in the bay – all rocks and large pebbles. There is always a silver lining however and one member of our community loves the opportunity to search daily along the beach for exposed treasures of different types of stones. All we need now though is a few easterly winds and the sand will be back in time for summer revels.

It is wonderful to have two long standing property owners' households now living here permanently - this has basically doubled the number of permanent residents here.

We have all been enjoying the spring growth and colours – gardens are flourishing and producing plenty of fruit and veg for us all. Fay is an inspiration to us all and her gardening enthusiasm is great to see – unfortunately the kereru are also enjoying her garden but various methods of deterrence are helping to ward off their predation. We have been thrilled at the number of bees around that are busy pollinating everything.

As we have heard from all other bays the dolphins, orcas, parore and gannets have given us some incredible sights over the last few weeks with their visits to Kawau. In particular, the other day I was sitting at my computer looking out through our magnificent pohutukawas and watching Jarrod kayak out to *Captain Ron*, moored just off the beach, when my heart jumped as I saw a large orca following right behind him. Jarrod did not realise it was there until he reached the boat and it surfaced a few feet away from him. Unfortunately, I could not



get down onto the jetty quickly enough to take a photograph but watched as he moved carefully out of the Bay followed by several of these beautiful mammals. When he got out to the end of Sharp Point Jarrod stopped the boat and enjoyed about twenty minutes with a pod around him, including a calf. He waited there quietly until they moved on. What a wonderful experience.

Another sight recently was a huge flock of gannets diving into the Bay into what was obviously a very large school of fish. Thanks Robin Stirling for the great photos of gannets and dolphins in the Bay.

The bird life seen recently has been fantastic as well with tui, kereru, wax eyes, fantails and kaka all being seen frequently and little blue penguins making their annual nesting and breeding visit.

We are all enjoying having Pers and Bevan at The Beach House and thrilled to hear the comments from guests as to their enjoyment of their stay. A wedding was held there recently and the courtyard area looked transformed with Bedouin style stretch tents. So good to have a place where people can stay to experience life in our beautiful Bay.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and an enjoyable silly season.

# Pembles Bay News

Lachlan Fyfe

For me exams are over and the holidays have started. Of course, this means that I am now able to take the hour-long drive north to Sandspit and cross over to Kawau.

A lot has happened since now, the wharf that we use most of the time is undergoing repairs after earlier in the year, horrible weather basically had torn everything apart. On the topic of repairs/restorations, the pétanque court has been given a new layer of fresh, white shell and is looking the best it has been for at least my lifetime. I absolutely cannot wait to spend days where I am a bit tired and as a result I can spend a couple of hours playing pétanque until I have relaxed. Up at the White House, the kitchen has undergone a slight change as well. The old gas hob has been replaced with a new gas hob and an induction cooktop, I have to say it looks very nice.

Changing the subject, the weather is still not great but hopefully it will improve and to many farmers' misfortune be dry and hot. Last year's summer (if I could call it a summer) was not great to say the least; the often rain, the wind and the lack of sun. Not great for playing football and swimming.



To conclude, changes have taken place and we are getting ready for what will hopefully be a good summer. I unfortunately was unable to experience a lot of this due to exams and sport this year but now I can and will be loving it.

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# North Cove News

Ross West

The period since I last wrote started and finished with a couple of damn good North Cove parties. The first will never be repeated and the second is a tradition going back many years.

Dave Jeffery celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in early September. It was one of those cracker days in early spring with clear blue skies, no wind and, as luck would have it, high water, so Moana Creek was looking her best. As well as Islanders, there were a good number of Dave and Helen's Auckland friends and we all sat about their large deck in glorious sunshine eating a magnificent lunch prepared by Helen.

On November 26<sup>th</sup> Lin Pardey hosted her traditional Thanksgiving dinner which she and Larry have been doing for many years. Lin always says it's not so much about sticking to her American roots but a good excuse to get together with new and old friends over food and wine. As usual there were a good number of people who arrived in their yachts and locals who got there by any means they could.

In my case I needed assistance. Schoolhouse Bay possum trapper Stephen Robinson stayed at my place on Friday night, so, as high water coincided with kick-off, I elected to row around in my little Walker Bay dinghy. With Stephen, wine and food we were well loaded and by the time we set off the steady breeze had decided to become a healthy blow with white caps down Starboard Arm. Now I consider myself a pretty good rower but after quarter of an hour of intensive blade work we were even a little further from our destination. Fortunately, Dave Jeffery was tending to some business further up the Arm so Stephen sent out an SOS and we beached the dinghy and leaped aboard *Dolphin Explorer*.



As we stood about Lin's new deck enjoying drinks and conversation before dinner there was not a soul who didn't feel the great hole Larry's absence left and when seated at the very long table, contemplating the great spread of food before us, it was Michael Maris who stood and said in a few well-chosen words about what was on all our minds. We all toasted Larry and then set about demolishing a couple of large turkeys provided by Lin, and as well we enjoyed the many dishes brought by guests.

Late November Phil and Suzanne Shaw laid on a 'roof shout' to celebrate the progress on their stunning new house in Starboard Arm. Although Stage One is not large, Phil certainly hasn't shied away from using all the architectural tricks available to him. The end result will be a great addition to the Arm. It's a complicated build and they are lucky to have chosen Warkworth based building company A & F Sibbing Building Limited, who completed a Harris Bay house, again with substantial architect involvement, last year.

Beau Sibbing and Tom Watson have had to contend with a steep site, winter, and a wet



spring, so are enjoying being closed in and turning their attention to lining and finishing. 'Attention to detail' has become an overused phrase but sits perfectly with these two always cheerful builders.

Paul and Elise Harper have bought another boat but we won't be seeing it in North Cove. It's Dutch built, steel, forty-foot-long and sitting on a French canal. I saw it on TradeMe and, along with probably several hundred other folk, indulged in a brief daydream. Paul did something positive and bought it. It's their intention to spend three months in France and most of the rest of the year on Kawaii.

Orcas arrived in the Cove mid-November and according to Helen Jeffery something like ten charged about the Cove and the deeper water



of both tidal arms. A fantastic spectacle and one I've yet to witness.

Dave has sold the Peterson's Starboard Arm property to a young couple, Daniel and Nicola Dickenson, who along with their two sons are very much looking forward to enjoying the bach this summer. Lance and Kay were great fun to have up the Arm and between them made a great job of converting the old Wayne Innes' boatshed into a very stylish dwelling. To say Lance was a character would probably count as the understatement of the year.

Snells Beach bee keeper Paul Castensen returned his forty-odd hives to my property early November and when he recently checked them was delighted with their health so is praying for fine, still weather while the kanuka is in flower. Like most places, it's been a wet and windy spring so I think it's fair to say we're all ready for some 'bee weather'. I certainly am.

Photos:

Left: Foster Archer, Doug and John Sinclair

Above: Ross West and Jill Hetherington

Below left: Thanksgiving Dinner group

Below: Super high tide late November washes over the Pardey "little wharf"





# South Cove News

Andrew Stone

A big change has occurred at South Cove.

After years of lobbying Auckland Council finally accepted our case that soaring pine trees alongside the road from the wharf were a hazard. It didn't happen overnight. There was a fair bit of arm-twisting applied and the clincher really was about safety.

For any group on Kawau pressing for some Council action, safety seems to be the pressure point. The land beside the road is Council's responsibility. The trees on their land posed a growing risk to people and vehicles using the road because they were aging and weakening. At least one had crashed down in a storm, blocking access until it was cleared.

The threat of one toppling on a visitor was not out of the question. It was a no-brainer to see it was an accident waiting to happen, and the Council could hardly say they were not warned, and more than once.

The Council paid for a tree-felling crew to deal to the forest, and the result is spectacular. No longer do the trees loom scarily above the road. No longer do they swing and creak in the wind.

The forest is now lying on the ground out of harm's way.

Everyone agrees the loggers did a fantastic job. Forty metre giants came down without wiping out too many pongas, a testament to the skill of the contractors.

For those with a chainsaw, there is enough firewood to last many winters.

If the Council thinks it has heard the last of us it can think again.



Our roads are in a dreadful state after a rugged winter, and need urgent maintenance. It took ages to get them repaired previously but we won't relent until they return.

The Council takes thousands for the community in rates and has done for years. We want to see some of that returned to the residents and we are more than willing to lend a hand.

The Cove continues to hum with much construction activity. Two builds are underway, and another is due to start shortly. Over spring the first concrete driveway was laid at Mark's place near the helicopter pad. A fine slab it is too - strong enough to bear the weight of a John Deere tractor and a seven metre launch. The foundation was mixed on site and laid during a break in the weather.

We're becoming more like the city all the time.

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# Camp Bentzon Report

Peter & Erin Hyde

## New sail boats

Some of you will have seen our new optis sailing around the Cove which we purchased with the donation from money raised at Music in the Gardens last year. See the cover photo. Yea! It has created a lot of discussion at the Camp with many adults commenting what a nice community spirit there is on Kawau.

## Peter is learning to sail!

After all these years at Camp Bentzon teaching thousands of children to sail in optimists, Peter decided he should learn to sail a larger boat. Over winter we saw a Reactor advertised. It caught our eye, the name being *Ludwig* and it having new “Hyde” sails. The land at Camp Bentzon was donated by Nicolas Ludwig Bentzon, and of course our last name is Hyde. So we decided it must be the boat for us. The previous owner sailed it up in time for Peter to take his dad out sailing for his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday (*ed note: that's Pete's dad's birthday, not Pete!*). He really enjoyed this.

The people in North Cove have been very positive and encouraging about our little yacht, with offers to give us pointers etc. We hope to get some use out of it over the coming months.

## Wharf project

We are absolutely humbled by the amount of financial support Ian Hutchinson has given the Camp. The donation has enabled us to progress with plans to replace the existing wharf. This week we were very excited to receive a wharf consent. The plan is to dismantle and replace the main walkway next winter. We are on target to do this with some support from local



businesses - ITM Timber and other materials donations. Local builders, all of whom are very busy, have offered labour support during this period. The plan is to then save up and replace the wharf head.

## Camp news

We have been very busy here at Camp, with September having a record numbers of 2,322 beds occupied during the month. It was such a wet month too, with the ground water level being so high that every little shower meant more puddles. Fun for the children staying, but not so for us cleaning – I have never seen so much mud everywhere. Just as well I got to see so much enjoyment, it made up for the cleaning process.

## Accident

Whilst taking a group of school children on a hike one of the teachers slipped, broke and dislocated her ankle. She was on the ridge track at the time and there was a 40-knot SW gale howling in. To evacuate her took a combination of methods, transport, and the involve-

ment of many people. I thought some people might be interested. Initially the patient was made comfortable and warm. I realised it would take some time after assessing her injury to reach the mainland (it took 2 ½ hours).


Helpline was contacted and due to the nature of injury and sea conditions, a helicopter was the method we decided on. Gavin (Fire Chief) responded and between he, Peter and I, we came up with a plan: Stokes basket to Vodafone tower (we had eight men to help carry). Ian McKay brought up his quad and trailer to the tower, and the patient was loaded. It was too windy for the helicopter to land in Smelting House Bay so Johnny (of Kawau Water Taxis) took her over to Schoolhouse Bay where we met up with the helicopter.

A big thank you to Gavin and Ian who helped to make this all run smoothly.

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# Rescue Helicopter Path

Martine Fernandez & Andrew Fyfe

We are all very much aware of our vulnerabilities on this Island if we suffer a medical emergency or have an accident. Frequently helicopter assistance and evacuation is both the quickest and the safest option. That however is highly weather dependent, as we know. KIRRA have been considering the situation.

We (Martine and Andrew) recently spent time down at Mechanics Bay talking with Greg Barrow, and Armin Egli the Instrument Flight Procedure designer, about a joint venture in which the Kawau Island community would raise funding for the cost of a CAA certified designated route from Mechanics Bay into and out of Kawau Island locations.

The outcome of this is that the KIRRA committee have agreed to contribute to and promote the development of a dedicated and internationally certified GPS flightpath. This will enable helicopter assistance to and from Kawau in everything but the most marginal of weather conditions. This will be a significant boost over current operational constraints. As a preliminary gesture of commitment, we presented a KIRRA cheque for \$1,000.

We explain in some detail: the cost of developing the three GPS paths will be around \$25,000. The path in is an SIA (Standard Instrument Approach). The path out is an SID (Standard Instrument Departure). The leg in between is a GPS route from Mechanics Bay to a waypoint probably around Martello Rock, and then back to Auckland Hospital. (Currently visual flying is with reference to coastal towns and lights).

These have no physical presence. In order to unclutter our non-technological minds, Greg



Martine presents KIRRA cheque to Intensive Care Paramedic Rob Gemmell

explained that the routes are “like railway lines in the sky” and entirely computer-generated. “They provides a viable option for a bad weather flight to Kawau Island and then back to Auckland Hospital. They significantly enhances our capabilities.”

The committee will propose at the January AGM that KIRRA underwrites the cost. We are confident that collectively our community will see the value and importance of this resource, and contribute a significant amount, if not all of the cost. We will be talking about that with you in due course.

But first, the question of: “Why should the Island community have to pay for this?” We already receive a rescue helicopter service, that is true. The deeper reality however is that, like other communities similar to ours, a higher level of operational time requires a more sophisticated navigational system. Dark nights, bad weather, windy conditions can all conspire against getting urgent help. The certified GPS pathway will reduce (but not entirely eliminate) current operational constraints which are both weather and visual flying conditions.

Various other communities within New Zealand have raised funds for their similar dedicated GPS pathways – for example, Coromandel, Pauanui and Whitianga. We will be drawing on their experience.

Greg Barrow explained “Especially during cloud conditions when there is no visible reference to the ground a GPS route input can simply be read from the cockpit screen. This essentially enables flying to be completely blind along a designated flight path certified by Air Corporation NZ. Now when there is a need for a descent beneath the cloud level the same technical requirements as for commercial aircraft come into play.”

Armin Egli is the man who builds these approaches. The first stage for Kawau would be an SID (Standard Instrument Departure) route. He explains “there is not much visual reference on Kawau. Presently we track up the coastline where we have lots of visual reference but once we get to the Island it becomes much more difficult.” The SID can guarantee a pathway out if the weather changes once the rescue team have arrived.

Greg Barrow emphasised that this GPS system cannot guarantee 100% operational viability – for example, in fog conditions where there are

still technological limitations. He did say that “recent nightvision enhancements, and especially nightvision goggles, have made a great difference to operational safety and future infrared technology will help in fog.”

Armin explained to us that his specific skills are in assessing the terrain and approaches to Kawau, particularly with respect to the ground contour lines. “The publishing regulator is the Civil Aviation Authority and since your first conversations with me I have already developed a concept plan. Visibility at takeoff is still critical probably to about 400 feet.”

We came away with a clear understanding that this GPS waypoint tracking system vastly improves medical help for accidents and emergencies on Kawau Island. It is specific to our particular location and our original idea of sharing a waypoint, say above Martello Rock, with the Snells Beach and Sandspit community might be a later development.

There remains one major flaw in the system: when calling 111 in an emergency you are only offered the choice of “Police, Fire or Ambulance”. However, the Trust assured us that they have totally adequate resources to assess whether or not a helicopter callout is the most appropriate response in a medical or emergency situation. This may be a policy issue that KIRRA could take up with the relevant authorities as part of this process.

We are enthusiastic and highly committed to making this waypoint development a success for all Islanders. We will be calling upon you for your financial assistance. We have no doubt at all that the funding can be raised easily from within our community and we invite you to read this article with care, and to talk with us or any members of the committee directly about how you might best make your own contribution.



# Gardening Matters

Jane Myhre

## Politics and The Garden

Going into the garden with a weeding implement can be a comforting escape from the tricky business of relating to one's fellow humans. No matter how lovely each individual, when we are in a gathering of more than two, little differences can become uncomfortable gaps.

Is it always war? There is little doubt that in 2016 political shenanigans abound. To speak polemically trumps judicious thought, these days.

If I were a plant I would be a thistle.

That way they couldn't get at me. Or so I would think until doused with glyphosate.

Gardeners often speak of their war with weeds, but I wonder are horticultural beings themselves political?

Perhaps. Even here on glorious Kawau Island, I believe there is evidence of warfare, scheming and intrigue. Amongst the plants, I mean. Let me offer some examples.

On my own patch of ground, a lawn guards against the intrusion of kanuka seedlings which elsewhere seed and thrive easily if left to it. Well-rooted native grass surrounds and guards the house from these most intrusive trees. Still, a few ti-tree loom darkly from behind the neighbours' fence.

Thus largely banned from civilisation, kanuka gather in crowds around the outskirts of Kawau, each tree striving to reach above its fellows for a small moment of beneficence from the sun-king.



Fortunately pohutukawa are beginning to spread around South Cove, and hopefully will soon infiltrate further north, like the hippy movement spreading out from San Francisco back in the 1960s. Intrigued and delighted by their spontaneity and creative lifestyle, on occasion I like to pop pohutukawa seedlings into my backpack for a trip up the road. There they hang out in their new pads on Wharf and Woodridge Roads, annoying any proletarian kanuka still lurking about, on account of their garish scarlet bloom and insalubrious growth.

At the far eastern end of South Cove, pines, foreigners from the coldest parts of the Northern Hemisphere, forbid entrance into their darkness. Poisoning the earth with their needles, and thus fortified against all-comers these natural armies rule wherever they go.

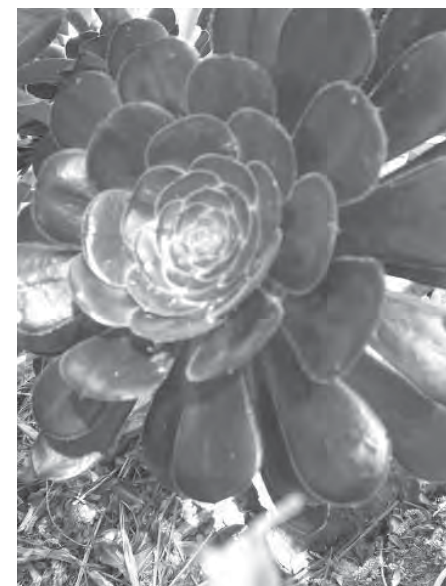
Not all foreigners are unwelcome. On the western border of my garden aristocratic immigrant clivia glow in the shade of regal native-born titoki. Clivia are so glorious I am their willing servant, each spring and autumn laying around them a tribute of blood and bone, with seaweed and sheep pellet side dishes.

Along the roads and walking tracks tree-fern edge artfully around the kanuka and pine, scrolling messages heavenwards. Interpret them as you will, but my guess is they intend to soothe.

In comparison, succulents can only be called vulgar. Quick to root wherever they are lain, they hang out in any soil. Lolling unashamedly in positions most plants disdain, and having no special needs apart from sunlight, these sappy plants, numerous in my garden, scoff when they see me watering or feeding their more delicate neighbours. I like their honesty.

Daily armed with gloves, gumboots and an array of metal tools, I negotiate: picking winners, quietly removing non-starters, eliminating dictators, elevating hard-workers.

Yes, it's political out there.



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# Afloat Around Kawau

Lin Pardey

I'd be afloat today but the wind is gusting to 35 knots and *Felicity*, my little keeler, is straining and bucking at her lines alongside the jetty. I would have been off sailing two or three times over the past few weeks. Each time the sun broke through the clouds and the winds were under 20 knots, I was tempted to abandon my desk, with its pile of papers which never seem to grow smaller, and play hooky. But each time happened to be at low tide and unfortunately the steps leading down from the jetty to *Felicity's* pontoon were a mess, some treads missing, some so worm-eaten I was afraid to step on them.



I could have chosen another route, climbed down the metal ladder onto the floating barge where *Jay Dee* sits, untied her lines, started up her outboard and buzzed around the end of the jetty to *Felicity's* pontoon, tied *Jay Dee* up, untied *Felicity*, gone sailing, then come back to repeat the process. But as you guessed, it all just seemed too complicated.

Fortunately, Ryan, a young sailor who has done time as a bricky and yacht maintenance man, sailed in to Kawau a few months ago and set to work helping me clear away a pretty major slip caused by the heavy rains of August. He stayed on to help me upgrade various parts of my Kawau empire.

On Thursday, mid-morning, he asked me to come down and discuss which planks I wanted removed and replaced along the jetty walkway, and also what timber to use repair the jetty steps so *Felicity* would be accessible at any state of the tide. By chance, this happened exactly at high tide and not just any high tide, but one of the highest of the year. Maybe it was the full moon being closer to the earth than normal,

maybe it was the slowly retreating low pressure system, but the tide was so high each wavelet sent water sloshing between the treads of the jetty and bouncing over our sea-wall onto the boatyard. There was little wind (for which I was thankful as my downstairs play room was just 150mm above the water and any waves could have sent water rushing in to ruin the carpet.) I was just commenting on this when I heard a large splash.

"That was an awfully big fish," I commented jokingly. Ryan, eyes as big as saucers, pointed to a widening ring of wavelets with smooth water in the middle. Then I looked down and there, beneath my feet, headed leisurely under the jetty, was a family of orca whales - mother, young one, father. Leisurely they swam beneath our feet, then right alongside the sea-wall, coming within half a meter of the little jetty that fronts my house. Onward they continued, right up to the mangroves at the head of Moana Creek.

Of course I ran to get my cameras. By the time I reached my office, retrieved my cellphone and my real camera, the orcas were meander-

ing gracefully down the far side of the creek. I pointed my camera, pushed the zoom and the dead battery light flashed on. Next I tried my new cellphone but even with the 4x zoom, the whales now looked little bigger than stunted dolphin. Just at that moment a gaggle of kayaking youngsters from Camp Bentzon began to shriek and holler from the center of the Cove.

The sound of their unmitigated delight caught my attention and made me forget about cameras and photographs. Right in the midst of the kayaking youngsters, another pair of orca slowly swam in circles, their fins slicing the water to mark their passage as they waited for their meandering compatriots to finish exploring Moana Creek and rejoin them.

For the next minutes I stood watching the scene; listening, feeling the warmth of the sun on my skin as I let word pictures form in my head. Only as the orca made a grace-

ful exit from the Cove did I turn to head back toward my office. It was then, that I realised I was glad my cameras hadn't functioned, hadn't acted like a barrier between me and the scene that surrounded me. Without the need to rush around trying to frame a perfect shot, I'd stopped to absorb the scene, to feel the first summer-like moments of sunshine warming my skin, to let word pictures form in my mind.

Today, as the wind rakes across the Cove my mind is drawn back to that orca invasion. That is because I am editing the work I did just after they left. It is good, better than much of what I had been writing over the past months. I can see it reflected a far more relaxed and creative mood than normal. Perhaps this was because I'd allowed myself to truly stop and savor the moment and life itself.

You could say, when those whales swam in, when my cameras failed, I'd let my mind be afloat around Kawau.

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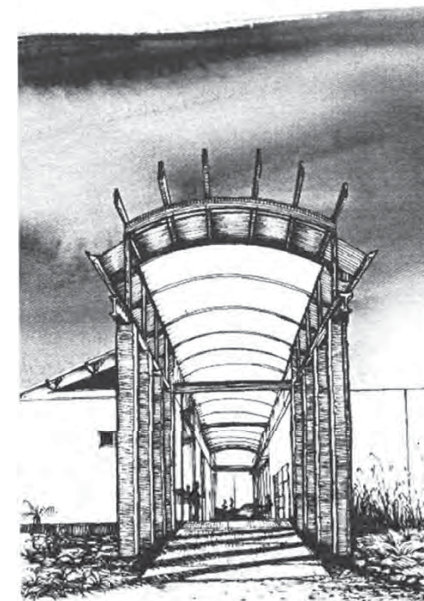
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# New Year's Day

*John Sinclair*

If there had not been a Kawau Island New Year's Day Regatta the Kawau Boating Club might not exist. The first Regatta Day was held in 1948 when Roy and Irene Lidgard invited all their sailing and Island friends to help celebrate the construction of their new home in Smelting House Bay. The event quickly grew so popular and spun off into other sailing events being dreamed up the participants which lead the Lidgards to donate part of their land to build a clubhouse.



along for this one. Hopefully visitors and holiday makers on Kawau will join in the fun, and help make it the family event it used to be.

The Island community donated materials, labour and kept the New Year's Day Regatta going. From reports of some old timers, up to 1000 people joined in, the celebrations being events for children and adults alike. Now the Kawau Boating Club committee is committed to restoring the Regatta to the great family day it should be.

At 5pm a prizegiving ceremony will be held at the KBC. Prizes will include vouchers which can be redeemed at the Club, including drinks and ice creams.

The yacht race, which takes place from noon onward, is aimed at a being a fun event for Island-based sailors and visiting boats – an easy course around Kawau Bay – with divisions for all. Cruising boats are encouraged to take part and handicapping will reflect the extra gear you have on board for your holiday. The race will be run, as always, by the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron and entry forms can be filled out on the day.

The KBC Clubhouse will be open all day starting from 9am.

So come along and enjoy catching up with friends on the Lidgard Lawns, on the waters of Bon Accord Harbour and at the KBC. Let's all get to together and bring back the spirit of the New Year's Day Regattas that made the KBC such an exciting reality.



And while the yachts race, Kawau Boating Club will host family events on the lawn next to Lidgard House. There will be kids races for all ages, three-legged races, novelty events, and traditional and not-so-traditional dinghy rowing races. You can row in inflatables or solid dinghies, so don't be shy. One of the potentially most laughter-drawing races will be the blind rowing race – please bring a bandana or scarf

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# Electric Wheelbarrow

Lyn Hume

It's a funny thing but I don't think I have ever heard anyone chortle with amusement when an Islander talks about having, or getting, a 4-wheel farm bike type of vehicle for getting goods to and from their property. This, however, has been the reaction from most people when I said we were buying one to use here at our place at Vivian Bay. Perhaps I should start at the beginning of the story.

A few weeks ago, Lois Broom sent an email around the Bookworms telling us that a friend had told her about an electric barrow. Lois thought it would be a wonderful thing to have and indeed it has proved to be so. I googled the subject and came upon the site ([www.yardlab.co.nz](http://www.yardlab.co.nz)). Yippee! The barrows are a New Zealand invention and made in Thames; this gets better and better – support our own industries.

What followed then was a series of phone calls on Wednesday and Steve (the inventor) could not have been more helpful. Of course, I wanted the barrow immediately as I had two gardener friends arriving the following Monday to help with the extra maintenance that needed doing here before the family arrive for a Christmas holiday rest. A delivery was arranged to a motel in Wellsford, that being the easiest place for the big delivery truck to drop it off. Wonderful, so off to Wellsford first thing Friday morning to pick it up and get back in time for a 2 o'clock ferry.

The best laid plans somehow just don't always seem to work and when I arrived in Wellsford I found I had picked up a very large piece of metal in my back right tyre (thank goodness it didn't go flat on the road through Dome Valley). As soon as I stopped the tyre went down really quickly, damn. Never mind, my father



had insisted that I learn to change a tyre before I was allowed to get my driver's licence so no problem. Tui ad – yeah right. These days the bolts are tightened by electric spanners and even my considerable weight pushing down on the manual spanner refused to budge any of them. Ring the AA I thought. Good idea but on a Friday at midday they are extremely busy so a two-hour wait ensued. Never mind I had a good book to read so just settled down to wait. The motel owners arrived shortly after and said that they had been treated to a demonstration when it was dropped off and were so impressed they would love to buy one. When they had been told the value they kindly held it in their front lounge overnight for me. So glad I had

bought them a lovely potted chrysanthemum to thank them for their help.

Having rebooked to a 4 o'clock ferry I left Wellsford at 2.30 and just had time to pick up the inevitable groceries before dashing down to the Sandspit. The barrow went onto the ferry no problem and the same getting it off, with some extra help, at our jetty. I immediately had to try it out and decided it would be wise to ask the guys next door at the Beach House to keep an eye on me in case I lost control, it really is powerful and does take off if the throttle is pressed down too far!! What a wondrous machine: along the jetty, up the path by the hedge and around onto the front flat area. Should I try and take it up the ramp to the kitchen door myself – yeah, why not. Brilliant. Straight up the ramp with it pulling me up behind it and straight to the door – I'm really happy already!

Over the last three days six wool bag loads (split into three loads per bag as they were so heavy) of accumulated leaves, grass clippings

etc., which had partially rotted down into lovely compost, has been shifted up the side of the house and up the back to be tipped under a large puriri tree where I hope to grow pumpkins and cucumbers. Enough space there for years and years of composting material. At this stage I have to admit that I haven't actually taken the barrow up there myself yet, but hey nobody said I had to use it physically just as long as it the job gets done.

The next test of this great tool will be to take plants, compost, potting mix etc., right to the top of the hill which I have no doubt we will be able to achieve. The track is steep but with the pulling power already proved this is going to be great. Coming down the hill one puts the handbrake on slightly and this recharges the battery. We have not needed to recharge it at a power point yet and it is still showing full charge so that is definitely working.

If anyone wants to come and try it out please feel free to do so.

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# Kawau Boating Club

Robyn Lees

Everybody Welcome!

The Kawau Boating Club team have been busy over winter and now offer freshly painted and upgraded toilets and showers, a revamped lending library area with tiled floor (and lots of new books) and of course the French doors opening onto the courtyard.

The season has opened with a great turn-out for Labour Weekend. The weather was amazing; Bon Accord was packed with visiting boats.

The Club was rocking with music supplied by the Pipi Pickers, the crowd stayed to cheer as we all watched the All Blacks make short work of the Wallabies at Eden Park to claim a record of 16 victories in a row. Monday many of the folks sailing back after the Coastal Classics Race stopped in to fuel up and see the latest improvements at the clubhouse. Since then the weather has not been the best, but still each weekend sees a good number of members and visitors enjoying the new lounge area in the library and vastly improved showers and ablution block.

The upgrades to the ablutions and library area were definitely helped along by a \$10,000 grant



from the Rodney Local Board, plus materials donated by the Bates family who have had a long association with Kawau Island. Dave Crooks, fuel master for the KBC, did the tiling at no cost. The builders, Downs Construction worked under very difficult conditions as the September weather definitely did not cooperate. Final work was not completed until one day before Labour Weekend when Robyn, Davo and their staff did a great job of cleaning up the builder's debris.

Unfortunately, the extreme weather of the past winter and general wear and tear caused the western steps of the main wharf to break loose. The good news is, as you read this, the old steps are being secured back in place on a temporary basis while Hallett Enterprises builds completely new, upgraded steps which will be installed by the end of January. As we are very aware of the current Health and Safety Regulations, we must urge everyone to understand the potential hazards of using any part of the KBC wharf and steps and take appropriate care.

The Committee continues to work towards 24/7 fuel on the proposed floating pontoon and new deck. While providing much improved boating facilities, the capital cost of these, as well as the wharf steps replacement, will be beyond what membership fees can fund. KBC

is considering launching a fund raising campaign towards these cost. The campaign has been given a kick start by Rodney Local Board contributing \$8000 to the cause. G.A.S. contributed \$16,000 toward the resource consents we needed and the Squadron is contributing toward the wharf steps urgent replacement.

KBC will again be one of the starting lines for the Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta. Again, an early opening will let everyone get some breakfast before starting out for the 10a.m. start. Robyn and Dave Lee, Club hosts and proprietors of the Bon Accord Bar and Bistro, have brought back everyone's favourite chef, Derek, to preside over the kitchen. Olivia Moore from Schoolhouse Bay is back too, as one of the bar managers. David Crooks is on hand to help you with fuelling. The Clubhouse is open seven days a week.

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 (sal-



ads, baking, homemade sausage rolls and pies, filled focaccias etc) available from first thing in the morning.

We are busy filling the freezer with frozen homemade pies and lasagnas and of course there will be fresh bread, fruit and vegetables bought in daily. Don't forget we stock ice, bait, ice creams and lollies, general grocery items and petrol and diesel for you boaties.



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# Readers Group vs KBC Library

Jen Seel & Jenny Spring

The Kawau Boating Club and the Bon Accord Bar and Bistro have opened for the summer season. It's looking good with a new lick of paint and change of layout. So it was making it very hard to ignore the sad state of the Library area – tatty books and magazines, reference books from the turn of the century, broken toys and incomplete games.

The members of the Readers' Group (AKA Kawau Island Bookworms) came to the fore. The October monthly meeting just happened to coincide with the season opening so it was agreed our priority would be to sort the conglomeration into a user friendly and inviting space for boaties and locals to borrow and exchange favourite reads.

A kind soul made some new shelves, someone else had cut cardboard squares and painted the letters of the alphabet, and another had removed all the contents of the previous shelving

into boxes, about 20 cartons in all. A big thank you to these folk, it got us cracking.

After a shared lunch and catch up chat the 15 or so readers divided into pairs or threes, each group commandeering a bar table and stool. In the welcoming and convivial environment of the Club the sorting frenzy began. The throw out piles quickly grew bigger and the books to keep were transferred to the pristine shelves. A visitor from Aussie took the task of packing the shelves in alphabetical order, some wit wanted to know if they used the same alphabet where she came from!

Goodness the reading matter that was unearthed! There were quite a few manuals giving advice to newly-weds on how to have a successful marriage, there was more than one complete works of Shakespeare, some very old favourites such as "Heidi Goes to School", and

*Continued on next page*

# Bookworms

Ruth Henderson



Very much alive and kicking...a lively bunch of ladies - laughing, listening, talking - about books, current affairs, Island life... We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at different

homes and venues. To find out where the next meeting is and to get on the email list - phone Ruth Henderson 021 298 8120 or drop a line to [ruth\\_e@farmside.co.nz](mailto:ruth_e@farmside.co.nz)

*From previous page*

an inordinate number of condensed Readers Digests. Often could be heard a "Hey, remember this" or an "I can't chuck this out", one bookworm went home with at least a dozen books.

The throw outs were packed back into the boxes for a volunteer to dispose of, and the final displaying touches were given to the books on

the shelves. Even the children's games and toys area looked welcoming. All this was achieved in just over an hour, with only the occasional disagreement needing to be settled.

Thanks to the Bar and Bistro staff for making us welcome, thanks to the book club members for a sterling effort. Now we have to keep it tidy, and encourage the lenders and borrowers to add quality material.

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# Coastguard News

*Kawau Coastguard*

A timely reminder on boating safety ...

As part of your planning for a boating /fishing trip, you should always check that conditions are appropriate for what you are setting out to do. This particularly applies to skippers, who are ultimately responsible for their boats and those aboard.

As a skipper, you should always be aware of the wind and sea conditions. There are marine weather forecasts constantly available and you can get these on channel 20 for the Kawau area on your VHF.

You should also ensure that lifejackets are worn at all times, especially in times of real danger. It is compulsory to wear lifejackets now in craft up to 6m in length but there are times when all people aboard larger vessels should be wearing them.

Before you set out, Coastguard recommends that you radio in a trip report and that you conclude your trip with another call. This enables us to make sure you are accounted for and that we do have information about your trip should it not go according to plan.

You should be also aware that the sea can do things that you don't expect. Even within Kawau Bay there are occasions where the tidal flow and the wind can create conditions that can surprise even experienced boaties – times where you might find yourself among sets of steep standing waves and can end up fearing for your life.

There are places within the Bay and elsewhere in the Gulf – usually marked on maritime maps as 'overfalls' – which are known to pro-



duce these conditions, particularly where tide and wind oppose each other.

It is when confronted with these situations where safety is paramount, when all passengers should be wearing their lifejackets and be aware of all the issues relating to their safety.

Coastguard is committed to providing boating education. Over the last 18 months, Coastguard Northern Region has delivered many Bar Safety seminars at the Marine Rescue Centre and across our region that hundreds of people have attended. Our ongoing commitment to the sharing of our expertise will be purposeful and unrelenting over the months ahead.

## Earthquake and tsunami

You might be surprised that in amongst the recent spate of earthquake activity, *Coastguard Kawau* has put to sea twice to find safer water in the outer Gulf.

After the devastating 'Kaikoura' earthquake in November, the unit was notified of a tsunami threat just after midnight and *Kawau Rescue* sat out in deep water south of Kawau Island until the all clear was given at 6am. Several weeks earlier, after the East Cape earthquake, we took our rescue boat to the same safe water position.

## Operations

Recent operations have been reasonably standard, with the usual mechanical and fuel related

*Continued on page 31*

# Alarming Fanworm Discovery

*Michael Marris*

During a recent haul-out at the new Sandspit Marina it was noticed that a boat based in Bon Accord Harbour had a significant infestation of fanworm on its hull. This was an alarming discovery. This pest is an unwanted organism and is present in New Zealand. It has already become established in Lyttelton Port, the wider Waitemata Harbour/inner Hauraki Gulf in Auckland and in Whangarei Harbour.

In the first week of December the Marina contracted a marine biologist, Andi Paradis to undertake sampling in Bon Accord in an effort to establish the extent of the infestation. Together with Alex Fowler, chairman of the Marina Society, Grant Brown Marina Dockmaster and Norm Gibbons from Schoolhouse Bay, a variety of sites were surveyed. Several populations of fanworms, both juvenile and adult, were identified in various locations along the northern face of Bon Accord. Then, in Schoolhouse Bay itself the infestation was described as a "disaster" with numerous populations of juvenile fanworms (3-6 months) and massive infestations of adult groups being identified.

The Ministry of Primary Industries has been notified. The real issue now is how to manage this pest. Removal is a specialised and tedious job and can be extremely expensive. Norm Gibbons has undertaken to see if it is possible to recruit a volunteer crew willing to address the issue. It is not yet known how or whether this infestation of fanworm has spread to other parts of the Island.

The Marina Society is committed to ensuring that fanworm is not take hold within the Marina and are developing a very strict policy in that respect. Other marinas on the north-eastern coast, including Westhaven, have had



ongoing struggles trying to eradicate this marine pest.

Legal Status: Unwanted Organism – *Mfish*

The Mediterranean fanworm is a marine animal that is typically found in harbours and estuaries, living in depths of anywhere between one to 30 metres.

It consists of a segmented worm living inside a tube which is usually fixed to a hard surface. The worm has a single spiral fan (radiole) which extends out of the top of the tube. The tube is tough and flexible and often muddy in appearance. Marine pests such as the fanworm are easily transported to new locations on dirty boat hulls, inside sea chests, emergency fire intakes and other niche areas.

If you are the owner/operator of a moored boat, you can help prevent the spread of this marine pest by ensuring your boat's hull is clean and well antifouled. It is especially important that your boat's hull is clean before setting out from Auckland, as this region has high densities of fanworms in many places and there is a very high risk of spreading this marine pest to other areas in New Zealand.



# Pohutukawa Ponderings

John Duder

Our family first anchored *Spray II* in Stockyard Bay early in 1950. Throughout the war in England my father Nelson had dreamed of again sailing around Kawau as he had done in *Kotiri* in the 1920s and one of his first moves when we returned to New Zealand in 1949 was to have *Spray II* brought up from Napier.

A property on Kawau came next. Nelson had heard that Stan Sowerby of Schoolhouse was selling thirteen acres and a basic bach at the western end of Stockyard Bay. What did we boys think of buying it? As we sat in the long grass (not so many wallabies then?) brother Ross and I said we'd empty our Post Office savings bank accounts as a token start. Our final tenant was the gentlemanly Arthur Ainsworth, who died only a few years ago.

And so we moved in the next summer. The view from the bach eastwards was little different from today; unfortunately the fine rewarewa close to the beach was taken out for the construction of the boat shed built into an unstable hillside.

The old bach had just four rooms and an Aga range, creosoted external walls, a Malthoid roof which precluded rain capture, and a water supply of sorts pumped from the creek if and when it rained. My mother loved it, although a far cry from her Norfolk upbringing, and she soon established whatever flowers the wallabies didn't eat; now red hot pokers and other tenacious bulbs constitute some of our several weed problems.

The following ten years saw progressive improvements, firstly a corrugated iron roof and modest rain water tank, and a verandah built on by Arthur Grey, but no change to the long



drop which got moved every few years. We had a succession of sailing dinghies, from the clinker *Pixie*, passed on to Con Thode and finally the Silver Fern *Kuia*, both of which were raced in the newly formed Kawau Island Yacht Club.

During our times at university and my work overseas, Nelson had two bedrooms added on with two large concrete water tanks under, and at last a pumped /gravity supply to the kitchen and bathroom.

Lighting had been mostly kerosene lamps but with early evening 22 volt supply from a beautiful single cylinder hand-started diesel and a reject set of batteries joined up with fencing wire. The diesel was removed by Captain MacFarlane from Poplar Bay when mains power finally arrived; how I wish we had kept it!

There were more community facilities in the 50s and 60s with shops in North Harbour, Stockyard Bay, possibly Schoolhouse with an actual school for nine years, and of course Mansion House, along with the Post Office and telephone exchange for party lines, if my memory serves.

Mansion House and the Bay were not quite as pristine as they are now under DOC. Older sailors will have memories of the Snake Pit for drinking round the back and then the Elephant House plus the blocks of rudimentary overnight accommodation; not to forget the "environmentally friendly" ritual of breaking beer bottles so they sank and didn't litter the beach. We were told that DOC eventually got several 44 gallon drums full of empties from the bed of the Bay.

Travel from the Sandspit was a more leisurely affair but less comfortable in rough weather. The wharf was put in sometime in the early 70s – before that the ferry would put its nose onto the beach, and my mother would climb down a ladder. A couple of the old wooden ferries are still chugging around the Waitemata and Kaipara harbours. Our first experience of a hangi was that put down by Roy and Mrs Lidgard for the launch of *Kawau Isle* from their boat shed next to the old smelting house in the early 1950s.

And that was how things stayed for my parents, with Ross and Helen and their two boys

plus Tessa and our four daughters sharing holidays through the 1960s, 70s and 80s.

Nelson handed over the property to us just before he died in 1980, and then, in the course of time, Ross and Helen moved to their own place at Piha.

I started the subdivision process early in the 2000s and we built the new bach around ten years ago. There were mutterings about getting rid of the old place; my succinct response was the expected reference to "my dead body", pointing out that it was becoming something of a heritage item, but in need of some TLC.

We are now into the fourth generation at Pohutukawa Bay and we trust that our two grandchildren and perhaps their off-spring will continue to enjoy our fine gravelly beach and the native bush out to Accord Point.

To that end, as noted in my previous Pohutukawa Ponderings, I have covenanted half of the overall property with the QE II National Trust, the first on Kawau and I encourage other property owners to consider likewise.

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Coastguard: *Continued from page 29*

incidents. Please ensure your boat's maintenance is up to date and all safety recommendations are followed.

The **Old4New Lifejacket Upgrade Campaign** is back this summer. The *Old4New* van, laden with lifejackets, will be hitting popular boat ramps on weekends and holidays encouraging boaties to trade in their old, damaged or worn lifejackets for new, fit-for-purpose Hutchwilco lifejackets. On Saturday 10 December the van will be at the Snells Beach Boat Ramp, Snells Beach Road, Snells Beach, from 1pm to 4pm.

This year, Coastguard is also partnering with retailer Boating and Outdoors to get

the campaign into their 23 stores nationwide. So if you can't meet the van, visit one of their stores.

**Look out for our Coastguard raffle ticket sellers over the holidays**

Coastguard Kawau has sold some of the big prize winning tickets in recent years, and for every \$10 ticket we sell ourselves \$8 comes straight back to our unit.

For any further information contact the KVCG president Luke McCarthy on 021 263 1586 or email [luke.mccarthy@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:luke.mccarthy@vodafone.co.nz)

# Island Passages – Book Review

Percy Flage

Another memorable production from the Kawau Island Bookworms group: this time focused on water adventures around this closely knit Island community. There are 27 pieces, many with illustrations, from 18 authors who all have varying tales, poems and whimsical anecdotes about the vagaries of life on this small Island in the Hauraki Gulf.

These meld into an eclectic portrait of how Kawau life is so profoundly different from the mainstream city world that most of us inhabit. There is a warmth and enthusiasm in the writings that for this reviewer, an occasional and always delighted visitor, whetted his appetite to know more, experience more and discover more about this magical and largely, even in the New Zealand context, unheralded delight.

This is an utterly human book, chock-full of the interesting, different and frequently amusing tales from people who revel in their differences and yet share this deep love and passion for their life on Kawau. The unique spirit of Island existence shouts out at the reader.

This is a book that can be sampled over time. It is compendium of vitality, a homage to a paradisiacal Island, a wanting to share deeply personal memories with others. For those of you who have already discovered the magic of Kawau this is a book to be nurtured and treasured. For those of us on the fringes or occa-



sional trippers it is a taste of what Kawau life can really be like. For those of you in far-off places and in different climates it is a glimpse into slice of life that you might only be able to imagine.

The book is directly available from the Kawau Cruises office at Sandspit for the modest price of \$20. Island Passages is also available through Boat Books based at Westhaven. A wonderful Christmas present.!

# Taliesin's Tales – Book Review

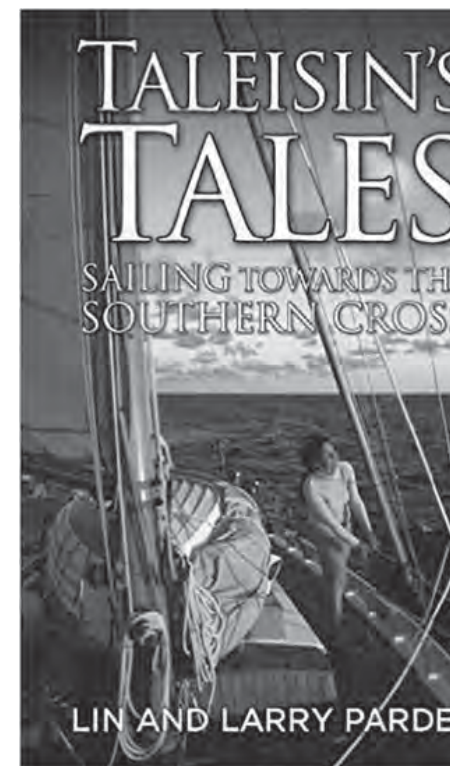
Michael Marris

Pleasurable disclaimer: Lin and Larry are my neighbours on our beautiful Island of Kawau. I have read their books avidly and sat entranced over many glasses of wine listening to their magnificent sailing adventures they experienced over many decades. This latest book sits proudly on our fireplace table. Taleisin's Tales is written in that wonderfully warm and engaging style that so well characterises Lin and her personality.

This is a storybook – great yarns with always the tang of adventure. From the boat launch of *Taliesin* after having been lovingly crafted by Lin and Larry in inland California and after many thousands of ocean miles finding what was to become their ultimate permanent destination in North Cove.

These are tales of travelling the oceans from the West Coast of the US through to the South Pacific and the people they met on the way, the longtime Island friendships they established and surviving the perils of nature that sometimes beset them.

Many new stories have entranced me and as, relatively a non-sailor, I have not only got vicarious joy from their seafaring adventures in this book but have derived a lot of pleasure from the easy-reading and deeply people-focused style in which Lin writes. This book is to be read, enjoyed and the adventures of Lin and Larry to be lived from the safety of an armchair



and a glass of wine. A book to be recommended for that summer afternoon.

Taliesin's Tales: through Amazon in paperback or Kindle. Or talk with Lin directly. New Zealand price is \$25. Contact Lin on 09 422 8997.



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# Park Notes

Susan Stoddart

Hello Summer! Hello Everybody!

I am very pleased to inform you that this is Sue here. As most of you are probably aware ranger Blair left his Island post back in August but I am still around and looking forward to another busy summer season. The Reserve has thrown me a few quick learning curve balls since August, most recently with regard to the water supply... However, I am over that hurdle and we now have a good constant supply of water filling up our tanks and the irrigation systems ready to run to keep the garden and grounds green and lush over the long warm summer that I am hoping for.

So, to some recent past events:

Back in May the tracks were closed and then in July pines along Coach Road and Two-House Bay track were felled. This was done for safety reasons due to large trees falling without warning onto the tracks during a time when we had a number of visitors using the track system.

We have since reopened some of the tracks. To date the George Grey Coach Road, School House Bay Road, Dispute Cove Track and Coppermine Track are open. The road to Lady's Bay is open from the Mansion House end to the Bay but closed beyond there. The track from Mansion House Bay to Two-House Bay is open as far as the lookout and picnic area. There is a nice loop from the Coach Road down to Dispute along the shore at low tide to the Coppermine and up the Coppermine track back on to Coach Road (and vice versa of course).

Unfortunately, the Miner's Track from the Coppermine Lookout to Dispute remains



closed as does the Redwood Track and Lady's Bay from the Bay to the Lookout.

I am presently working on updating the signs to inform the public and I have handouts at the house showing the open tracks.

Last month saw some pest eradication in the park as part of the Pohutukawa Trust's 2016 program. DOC is committed to managing pests on Kawau Island and is behind the pest free movement. We support the work of the Pohutukawa Trust and our aim is to continue working together to ensure the best future for Kawau.

This month we had the Mansion House Roof inspected by drone. The House and gardens look fabulous in the shots we got back. You need to see them on the screen for full effect so if you are visiting the house and I am there I'll be happy to show you.

Over the winter a group of us were lucky enough to receive some training by internationally experienced conservator Madelaine Abey-Koch on the care of many of the precious collection items that furnish Mansion House.

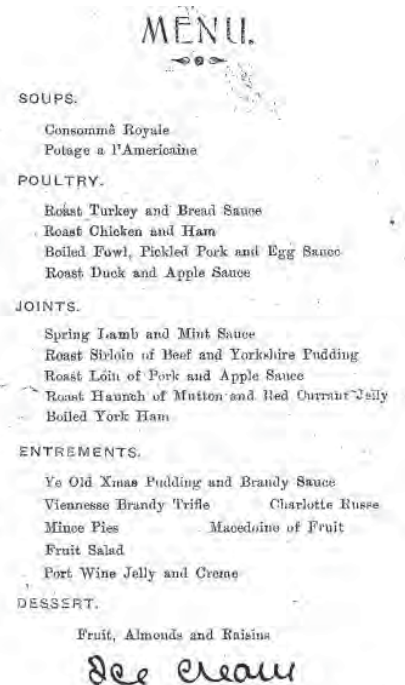
Our wonderful piano tuner Kevin Bennett attended the training and he has recently spent a couple of days at Mansion House inspecting and caring for chattels as well as doing some fabulous creative gardening outside the workshop. I was lucky enough to get an insight into the art of French polishing and to hear one of the music boxes playing (made in Geneva in 1810!)

The Shellac used for French Polishing is a resin secreted by the female lac bug on trees in the forests of India and Thailand. Kevin bought some of the processed dry flakes for me to try out. The flakes are dissolved in ethanol to make a liquid which is then brushed on. Shellac possess good insulation qualities and seals out moisture, it was also once used in electrical applications. 78 rpm gramophone records were also made of it up till the 1950s. Shellac was one of the dominant wood finishes in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Kevin is planning more trips to Kawau so if you need something tuned, repaired or restored he is at: <http://kevinbennett.co.nz>

I also have an amazing young person with a great interest in the history of Mansion House coming over to help me sort through and catalogue some of the many archives housed in the House. A 1925 Mansion House Christmas menu is pictured at right. We wonder if anybody is able to identify any of the people in the image on the facing page.

The gardening group continues to do great work in the garden. They have started a project to map all the historic plants and trees with an eye to developing a garden guide for visitors to use. At present I do have some large maps of the garden which the Friends of Mansion House have allowed me to use. These maps list trees planted in different eras and are a great resource. The garden guide will expand on this with more comprehensive detail about the trees and plants. If anybody has knowledge



or a story to tell about any of the plantings we are very keen to hear about it. Please email [kawauisland@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kawauisland@doc.govt.nz) or call Mansion House 09 422 8882.

And on that note another couple of requests:

We are looking for some good quality furnishings for the bunkhouse and ranger house – dining table, sofa, lounge chairs things like that. If you have anything you are keen to part with, please let me know or call David Wilson at the Warkworth Office 09 425 7812.

Finally, if you have friends or visitors staying this summer, please remind them that dogs are not allowed at all in the Reserve and down to the low tide mark.

Hope to see you at the Music in the Gardens.

# Sandspit Carpark

*Auckland Transport & Lin Pardey*

The importance of the Sandspit carpark to the residents of Kawau Island in particular and to the public of Auckland as a leisure destination is well recognised within Auckland Transport. Over the past two years, with the full consultation of the Local Board and local interest groups, considerable improvements and upgrades have been and are being implemented.



Initially, the cost of parking was examined and a proposal to address the seasonal demand for a limited resource and concerns of the residents of Kawau Island was tabled.

After consultation with all interested parties the proposal was adopted and has been in place for some time.

Replacement of the existing parking equipment was the next challenge as it was well past its economic life, with breakdowns frequent and spares becoming exceedingly difficult to source.

Auckland Transport have now installed a modern system that incorporates the latest "Licence Plate Recognition" and "Pay by Plate" technology.

Sandspit customers will shortly enjoy a convenient and environmentally friendly system that dispenses with the use of paper tickets, removing the need for the public to return to their vehicle to display ticket and for leaseholders to carry and use a plastic card. We are currently in the final stages of programming and anticipate that the system will be fully operational shortly.

Auckland Transport is also currently engaged in transforming the manual issuing of yearly accounts to our automated system. Considerable progress has been made and our staff are working hard to get records up to date prior to going live.

We hope to have these accounts distributed prior to Christmas.

*Lin has helpfully resourced some practical carpark information:*

1. Renewing parking concession: Winnie did not send out invoices as very few people responded the previous year and AT said it was not a financially viable way to do things.
2. All concession parking passes expired on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
3. New concession charge will be the same as last year: \$320 per car, and same as last year for boat and trailers.

4. Holiday daily rates go into effect 15th December and continue until early February - i.e. only half as long as last year.

5. Kawau Islanders, their children and tradesmen working for them get half price day rates - but these must be paid for during working hours.

6. System will be fully operational as soon as a sleeping policeman (Jamaican for speed bump) is in place at the entrance to the parking lot. Seems people have not slowed down enough at times.

# Island Identity

*Peter Cunningham*

Max Rolfe was an iconic Kawau identity. In the 60's and 70s he owned the now Pardey property and wharf and was a substantial landowner, subdividing several properties along the Pembrokes Bay coast including the Cunningham and Souness properties.

Max was a jack-of-all-trades. He had a workboat and large barge. He was the harbour master, the local fisheries inspector, the Waitemata Power Board man on the Island and the P&T man. It was important to be on side with Max. He was a jovial character who loved a tot and a chat.

During the 70s it was common to lose power during a storm, usually because of a tree falling across the lines and tripping a pole fuse. I well recall on several occasions Max arriving at the Souness wharf on a stormy night in oilskins and gumboots with log rubber gloves. He had a long extendible rod with a hook on the end. The offending fuse was usually located on the ridge behind our properties. In the wind and sheeting rain we would hike up to the power pole and while we beamed torches Max would position the rod, yell "stand back" as he flicked the fuse back into place amid a shower of sparks. Power was restored.

On occasions I would go down to the North Harbour northern arm and run a net across the channel at high tide, retrieving it just before low water, usually with a few flounder. One day



I was late on retrieval and the net was high and dry. Max appeared on his balcony and boomed across the Bay,

"Peter are you aware that it is illegal to let a net become high and dry? You will upset the Fisheries Inspector."

I replied. "Thanks Max it was an oversight. Who is the Inspector?"

"I AM".

The photo was taken in 1977 at midnight waiting for the tide to float a barge load of my building supplies at the Sandspit. We missed the earlier tide owing to a stiff southwesterly blowing up unexpectedly. During the 2-hour exercise we all but killed a bottle of rum.

The photo above captures Max as he was, a wonderful character.

*Carpark - Continued from facing page*

7. You must provide the license number of any car that will be using your pass - i.e. if you have different family members, who drive different cars, using the same pass - you must provide all of these numbers when paying for your concession card. But the ma-

chine will not let a second car use the same pass at the same time.

8. Part of the reason for the delay in getting this new system working is - it is controlled from one of the buildings which was affected by the Christchurch. Kaikoura Earthquakes.



## A Summer Holiday. is

is, waking slow'  
when the warmth  
of the sun lights  
the bedroom wall  
to hear a piping  
song - along with  
the rhythmic creak  
of the garden swing;

is, tilting the blind  
to keep the glare from  
the sun on the sea,  
off the book  
you are reading;

is, being a child again;

is, laughing - delirious  
in the moment of  
flipping the dinghy  
and tumbling out  
into the sea;

is, CD's and BBQ's;

is, lemonade fizzing;

is, one child with hiccups  
the other giggling – and  
no one remembering  
to tune into the news.

A summer holiday, is.

lois e hunter



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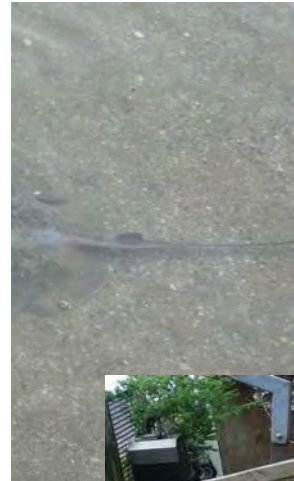
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SEAGULL HITCHING A RIDE ON A STINGY



ABOVE:  
FROM STEPHEN ROB-  
INSON'S NEW BOOK  
- WOODCHOPPING  
AT THE WARKWORTH  
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ABOVE: SOUTH COVE LOGGING  
BELOW: TABLE SET FOR BEACH HOUSE WEDDING



ABOVE:  
LYN HUME'S ELECTRIC  
WHEELBARROW  
LEFT:  
JACQUES CARVES THE  
PARDEY THANKSGIVING  
TURKEY  
RIGHT:  
WEEKEND LUGGAGE ON  
THE FLYING FOX





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# Harbourmaster Report

Angela Bedford, Maritime Assistant

There have been lots of changes in our local Harbourmasters team this year.

After many years in the job, our lovely Cathy Green is no longer doing the mooring administration. We wish her all the best and thank her for the contribution she has made to the job, she is looking forward to her next adventures. Administration will be done now between Auckland and the Sandspit/Warkworth offices.

Our casual skipper, Kelly Hansen, is now our fulltime skipper for the Harbourmasters and will be patrolling this summer with our volunteers. He will be covering a lot of Graeme's on-water work whilst Graeme is on medical leave. Graeme should be back in the swing of it



The *Spirit of New Zealand* and the *Esmeralda* photographed last month on Auckland Harbour

by 2017. Thank you to all that have expressed their concerns and best wishes for his speedy recovery.



Harbourmaster Graeme Kearney stopped this small inflatable in the river and issued fines for failing to have lifejackets.

One of the first jobs for Kelly was to help with the Naval Review in Auckland! What a way to start! (As you can see from the photo at left).

This summer we really want to spread the message of life jackets, names on vessels and dive flags. We have so many more visitors to Kawau Bay, as it is so easily accessible to the city. Each summer more and more flock to our lovely part of the world and it's important that we as a community lead by example and show everyone how we treat and respect our waters

We get asked all the time about the rules around life jackets. Below are the most common

Q - "Do we have to wear a life jacket?"

A - Personal flotation devices must be in a readily accessible location on board the vessel; of an appropriate size for each person on board; and in good operative condition.

Q - "What if we are in a dinghy for just a couple of minutes"

A - Wearing of personal flotation devices on small recreational vessels six metres or less: (1) Every person on board a small recreational vessel must wear a properly secured personal floatation device of an appropriate size for that person at all times.

Subclause (1) does not apply if the person in charge of the vessel, after assessing all circumstances and determining there would be no reduction in safety, expressly authorises any person on board to remove a personal floatation device.

Dive flags need to be on the vessel that the diving is happening from and seen from 200metres. If diving with no vessel you must have a dive flag on a buoy in close proximity. It must be able to be seen from a vessel 200 metres away.



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# Pohutukawa Trust

Carl Weaver



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Merry Christmas and Seasons greetings.

It has been a productive year for the Trust with the continuation of the Trust's work to remove pests from the Island and provide an environment where the native flora and fauna can again begin to thrive. As with all things in life there have been difficulties to overcome but the positives are certainly outweighing them. The trustees thank everyone who have made a contribution and shown us support during 2015. We urge you to continue your support in the coming year as our efforts step up.

Landowners and supporters of the Trust showed many years ago, when the Trust was conceived, visionary insight of what could be if what was then thought to be impossible was made to happen. These were imaginings and concepts that are now moving away from the fantasy to the reality. New Zealand is a world leader in conservation with the government's announcement this year to make New Zealand predator-free by 2050. This certainly is an ambitious and visionary goal to rid New Zealand of these most damaging introduced predators that threaten our nation's natural flora and fauna. As we gather our thoughts and reflect on the year that has passed the Trust remains strong in its commitment to advance the removal of pests and the rehabilitation of the native flora and fauna of Kowhai Island.

As we work to remove the pests we are also gathering valuable information on the regen-



eration that is taking place. In the areas that we have been working during our operations this year kiwi sightings have increased substantially. There has been a marked increase in the grasses and plant growth, particularly small and juvenile native seedlings. Bird life including weka is also reportedly up.

We are covering a large portion of the Island with our pest eradication programme but need more landowners and supporters to come on board. It is very simple and requires very little effort from the landowner as the Trust organises and completes the required work. If you would and I urge you to do so make contact

with either myself or the Trust through our contact section of our website.

The Trust as part of its 2016 program was grateful for the opportunity to work with DOC in the latter part of this year. This has enabled us to carry out pest eradication on land administered by them. This has proved very successful and we hope to continue with more in the future.



We also need your continued financial support to ensure that we are able to speedily complete the job. You can become a member or supporter of the Trust by donating through our Givealittle page which you can find at: <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/pohutukawatrustnz> or go directly to our website <http://pohutukawatrust.kiwi/>.

As the cost was substantial, in an effort to direct all of our efforts to the Island's recovery,

the Trust is not able to send calendars out this year. We appreciate that this is a departure from what we have done in previous years but we must keep our focus firmly on the end goal.

Again a big "thank you" from the trustees for your support and commitment and we wish you all the best for a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Best regards from us all.



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## The Super Wrought

Where is the conscience of our MPs that made the decisions  
for the people whose votes put them into their positions,  
I see every day the Superannuates who battle away,  
Most have worked for a lifetime and saved for the day  
They retire and relax in comfort for the rest of their lives.  
Many had invested their savings having listened to lies.  
Some have lost all their savings and home gone as well,  
the terrible last years of their lives are like being and hell.  
They are expected to survive on a Super pittance so low,  
not enough for a car, the buses too slow and nowhere to go.  
Years of taxes and rates paid for roads, hospitals and schools,  
For the new generations who treat them like fools.  
They've not forgot the Great Depression and Wars they survived,  
wondering what they fought for and why still alive.

They are watching the immigrants who arrive on our shore.  
Getting welfare and health care, housing, schooling and more,  
all from our taxes, a slap in the face for our elders of yore.  
Long ago, all taxpayers paid into a government super scheme,  
One and sixpence in the pound, doesn't that sound a bit mean,  
from the 50s to the 80s is about 30 years, over 65 years  
of inflation and interest, a very fine sum to stop all the tears.

The problem is this, it all went missing about the time of "THINK BIG",  
And it was probably spent by PM Muldoon, nicknamed "the Pig".  
Shortly after "Universal Superannuation" became the new word,  
and the happy and gullible taxpayers could hardly be heard.  
We will hear from the Beehive, "There's not enough to go around",  
There super's so generous, and the trough they'll be found,  
Their conscience not bothered, the position is sound, they hope.

Peter Newson



KAWAU ISLAND RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Private Bag 912, Kawau Island, Auckland, New Zealand

PRELIMINARY

## NOTICE OF AGM

TO BE HELD

SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017

KAWAU BOATING CLUB, BON ACCORD HARBOUR  
KAWAU ISLAND

COMMENCING

10.00AM

Lunch will be provided – RSVP to secretary

If any members have any issues or discussion points that they would like heard, please notify the secretary at least one week prior to the meeting so that these can be bought up under General Business. Email: [secretary@kirra.org.nz](mailto:secretary@kirra.org.nz)

**KIRRA committee seriously requires some new committee members as we are suppose to represent a good cross section of people from around the island. Anyone interested please let us know.**

Nomination forms for anyone interested in joining the Executive are below. Nominations will be accepted at the meeting but would be preferred in advance and can be sent to the Secretary at Private Bag 968, Victoria Street West, Auckland Mail Centre, 1142.

**PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OR ENCOURAGE A FRIEND TO DO SO.**

Nomination for 2017 Executive

Position: .....(Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Committee)

Nominee Name: .....

Nominated By:.....

Seconded by: .....

Accepted by Nominated Person:..... (sign)

# Kawau Fire Policies

*David Wilson & Dave Jeffery*

(Ed note):The threat of fire is a constant presence on our Island. The tree felling program and dry matter debris that are left behind in Mansion House Park presents a massive risk. Concerns were raised by Lois Broom and the responses from the DOC supervisor and our own Rural Fire Officer give food for thought to the careful reader. In particular, whether the very legitimate and real concerns raised by Lois have been addressed in any meaningful manner. You decide.....

*From Lois Broom:*

Saturday, 12 November 2016  
Dear David Wilson

As a long-time resident of Schoolhouse Bay, and for a short time also a part time worker at Mansion House, I was aware of and very grateful for the service you provided for the safety of our Island, notably the register you ran of any fires being lit on the Island each day. If I smelt unexpected smoke on the air I could always phone and check in that you knew of it and we could confirm it was from a legitimate fire. Not long after you discontinued this service there was that fire that had been smouldering unnoticed behind the Ranger's house for 3 days – I had smelt the smoke, but it seemed I was the only one and I presumed it was from someone's rubbish fire.

This last winter there have been more fires than usual on the Island – it seems after phoning around, the smoke I saw were mainly from beach rubbish fires. I don't like presuming that's what they are because there is no-one now to check it out with. Yes I could have phoned 111, but that many times?

Now leftover from all the culled pines, there are great piles of drying tree rubbish on the sides of the popular tourist walking track from Schoolhouse Bay through to Mansion House. More than a potential fires risk over the summer. If I smell smoke will I presume it is from a local incinerator?

For your, the Island's and my safety I am asking you to re-instate the very effective fire register service you used to provide, back to our Island.

*DOC Ranger Supervisor David Wilson's:*

Monday, 14 November 2016

Hello Lois

Thank you for your email.

Up until 2012, the Department of Conservation issued fire permits for areas near the boundaries of reserves we administered. Because we had a register of the fire permits we issued, we were able to advise callers if fires had been permitted by us or not.

Since 2012, fire permits have been issued by the Auckland Council, rather than by DOC. So you are able to contact the Council if you want to ask whether a fire has been legally lit. I've just checked on the Council website, and the advice on their rural fire page was to phone them on 09 301 0101 for enquiries about fire permits. Naturally, for a suspicious fire it is still best to call 111 immediately.

The background to this is that until 2012, fire control and permitting was the responsibility of several organisations, including the Department of Conservation - we issued permits for areas within 1km of reserve boundaries. In order to simplify this, fire management in the region was brought under the control of a single fire authority, this being the Auckland Council.

*Dave Jeffery, Kawau Island Rural Fire Officer  
Kawau Island Fire Team, explains:*

I'm the one who has been issuing Fire Permits throughout Kawau Island for the past 4 years, since DOC passed the job on to the Auckland Council.

Permits are issued annually to residents for beach burns or open fires, which are allowed during the Fire Season which usually ends at the end of September, but this year has been extended to the end of November or maybe even beyond by the Auckland Chief Rural Fire Officer.

Once we are advised by Council that the season is closed, we let the residents know through the Editors database and the fire team members passing on the news verbally to anyone who asks. Permits for approved BBQ's, incinerators, fish smokers or the like are approved for use on an annual basis, and these permits can be suspended by the Chief Rural Fire Officer in times of severe fire danger and again permit holders are advised of such restrictions in the same way.

Once a resident has a Permit they do not have to contact anyone for permission to light a fire

or BBQ etc., and as long as they comply with the permit conditions it all works well.

D.O.C. are not involved in any way and the Council does not require any records to be kept for fires lit, so contacting the Council number to enquire if a fire is legal will not obtain an answer as anyone answering that enquiry will have no idea where you are talking about or who the person is lighting the fire.

If you see a fire that you consider is out of control I agree with David Wilson's suggestion, Dial 111 and report it .

I'm happy to answer any other questions you may have, just call me on 09 422 8831 or 021 951 038.

**KAWAU ISLAND  
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## The Beach House

*Bevan Cox & Per Vilsabek*

It has been a busy few months for us getting settled into the Beach House but we have our first wedding behind us now. The weather played the game and the dolphins came in to swim on the wedding day, so it made for an unforgettable day all round. Many thanks to our neighbours with helping lug all the goods off the wharf, I'm sure they thought we were setting up a dairy.



Well the weather seems to have settled so we are looking forward to a long hot summer season ahead, and have already had a few group functions fly in by chopper to enjoy the little piece of paradise we have at Vivian Bay. Another thank you goes out to Maree, Rueben and the crew from Kawau Cruises. Your knowledge and help has been amazing over our first three months. This has made it so much easier for us

to get the products and services we need to run the Beach House.

And lastly, we would like to wish all the residents and visitors a safe and festive Christmas. Long may the weather hold!

### Kawau Boating Club Sunday Morning Market

We are wanting to give the local Island community an opportunity to come along on a Sunday morning 9 - 12 with their wares to sell at a pop up market in the Bon Accord Bar area (weather permitting). No charge for Islanders, just come along with all you need and we will find a spot for you.

Give Robyn a call on 021 047 1516 to register your interest.  
Ideas are art, books, produce, herbs, plants,  
boat chandlery, a hair cutter perhaps??

Kawau Boating Club hours are now 7 days  
10 - late Monday to Friday  
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# Medical Training Day

Mark Smith & Barry Watkin

Kawau Island is a somewhat unique community in that many of the services available on the mainland do not exist. The most prominent of these services are medical facilities i.e. no hospital or medical services. This void is therefore left to the Kawau Island Volunteer Rural Fire Force, as medical first responders.

While all Fire Service personnel have some medical training, by necessity, it is more intensive for the Kawau Volunteers due to the variety of medical incidents they are required to attend. The nature of these incidents can range from cardiac, respiratory, trauma and everything in between.

Compulsory medical training is provided by Rural Fire every two years, but this is not adequate for the Kawau Volunteers due to the services they are required to provide.

Should hospital treatment be required we are heavily reliant on the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust (Westpac Rescue) for both treatment and transportation of patients requiring a higher level of medical assistance than can be provided by KIVRFF. Services provided by Westpac Rescue over many years have led to a strong relationship between Westpac Rescue and KIVRFF personnel.

When Westpac Rescue learned of our need for supplementary training, we were offered the services of Barry Watkin. Barry (ARHT's Chief Paramedic 1997 - 2015) has many years of experience as an Advanced Paramedic with both St John and the Westpac Helicopter Trust. He is able to arrange training programmes to suit the type of work undertaken by KIVRFF first responders, which is proving invaluable and will hopefully continue into the future.



From Barry Watkin:

"When someone is injured or unwell at a relatively remote location, with limited facilities, we all rely on the dedication of the Volunteers who make up a first response unit. It is both a pleasure and a privilege for me to be involved with the Kawau Island group in this way. Our mutual goal is simple: Better preparation, equipment and training = better outcomes for patients"

**KAWAU ISLAND  
TOTAL FIRE BAN  
IN PLACE  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

# Show Time – Book Review

Michael Marris

One of our great Island personalities, Stephen Robinson, has come up with another photographic masterpiece highlighting the great New Zealand tradition of A&P shows throughout our rural heartland. *Show Time: the A&P Show for all New Zealanders* is a glorious tribute to our rural lifestyle and reflects four years of Stephen travelling throughout the country to reflect small community and farming life in our rural heartlands. For over 150 years these annual shows in numerous small and large towns throughout the country have celebrated rural life, including, of course, Warkworth.

We know and love Stephen for his exuberant personality and unfailingly happy demeanour. What we see through his eyes in this book is a deep analytic ability to quickly identify the meaningful elements of a rural scene. These are classic portrayals which are deeply familiar to us all. For that reason they provide a meaning which goes far more than a coffee table volume of beautiful photographs.

Talking with Stephen about the making of this book he says:

"I'm really interested in small communities that are connected to the land. We come from an agricultural nation. A&P shows offer the opportunity for city folk to relate back to our heritage. These are important connections.

Warkworth is one of my favourite shows. There is still a good density of city folk to farmers. Warkworth is also near where people can get to. I produced this book when I came to the realisation that if the shows were not recorded then the knowledge of them would disappear.

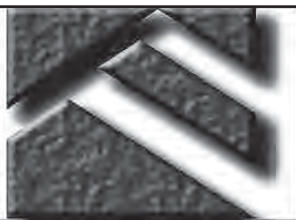
The highlight for me was finishing the book – I might have collected a lot of photos but then I



needed to put them all into a form that people will appreciate. This is now my 18<sup>th</sup> book so I've got some real experience in the area! It's been a really enjoyable exercise." This is a book to be savoured. It is a book that pleausurably reminds us of the great A&P show tradition which, like manual transmissions and cars and open-to-the-weather tractors, is slowly being overtaken by the fast pace and changing focus of our evolving society.

The foreword by the ToppTwins and their commentary on the bonus DVD is absolutely appropriate and they set the tone for everything else inside. Stephen's superb photographic skills have never been more evident and this memorable portrait of a moment in time in New Zealand's cultural history has a deep value all in itself.

A book to treasure, a book to give as a gift, a book to enjoy and to talk about – *Show Time* has it all. And Stephen is one of us. Published by PQ Blackwell Ltd and available at Paper Plus in Warkworth for \$59.95 the photographer's autograph is easily available at Schoolhouse Bay!



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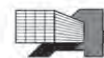
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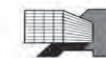
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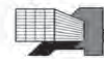
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# Fire Team

A call for help.....

The photo adjacent shows a patient getting prepped, ready to be loaded into the Westpac helicopter, at the Schoolhouse Bay helicopter landing site.

The lady had broken her ankle while out walking on the tracks between Camp Bentzon and Rocky Bay.

Being one of the very windy days that we have been having on the Island, it was too rough to get her off by boat or even land the helicopter on the north side of Bon Accord. So, she was carried in a Stokes basket by hand to the nearest bike track, transported in the Stokes basket on a trailer down the hill from the cell phone tower, then took a water taxi ride across Bon Accord Harbour in one of the Kawau Cruises' little boats and finally had a helicopter ride to the hospital. That's full service.

How and when to call 111:

We all remember as children being taught that 111 is what you call when there's an emergency. In the same breath, we are taught "never call 111 when it's not an emergency". We grow up learning how many little crises in life are 'not an emergency' no matter how bad it seems at the time and eventually we have the idea firmly lodged that, unless it looks and feels like a TV show ER, collapse from obvious heart attack, or car crash, it is 'not an emergency'.

Perhaps on the mainland of New Zealand that can be true for the most part but here on the island, where help, in the form of real hospital level care, is 1-2 hours away at the best of times

*Gavin Brunton and others*



we need to learn what an emergency looks like long before it becomes critical. By the time it looks like a TV show you might just be too late. So what does an emergency really look like?

When should you call 111?

First off, if you're thinking: 'I don't know how serious this is, I wonder if I should be calling for help? Maybe it's not serious enough?' Then, here on Kawau, it's time to call for help. It may not be as serious as you fear but, if it is, you'll have the time for help to get to you or to get yourself to help. There is a great intermediate step you can take in remote locations like this: Healthline puts you on the line with a registered nurse. She can help you go over the situation and give you the options.

She'll know what situations are more likely to deteriorate quickly, which times you should get yourself to the mainland on the next boat, and which might be fine to watch, wait and see. Call 0800 611 116, give your name and address and tell them all about it. If you need to call 111, they will tell you. A few tips: if they say you need an ambu-

lance, yes, that means hang up and call 111; if they ask for a street address and you, like most on Kawau, have no road address you just need to give them the closest road: try 1 Schoolhouse Bay Road and move on. They just need these details to ensure they're providing the relevant service for your location and it has to come up on the system to work. If you or the nurse think it's possibly more serious, don't hesitate to call 111. That's what they're there for: to help you triage the situation.

What will happen when you call 111?

In some cases, they can simply talk you through what to do, getting you to first aid instantly by making you the first aid medic. In others, they can get help on the way while they get more information from you. Again, you need to be aware that they will need your name, your physical address for the system (e.g. *1 Schoolhouse Bay Road, Kawau Island 0982*), your more specific location (e.g. *Hokimai bay, 3rd house on the right from the wharf with the big lawn and the blue roof*) - anything that will help locals and helicopters find you, and then all the symptoms. If you've already called Healthline it will feel like you're repeating yourself a lot. Don't worry, they're not wasting any time: help is coming from the moment they know the problem.

So it will be: call 111, choose Ambulance (or Fire or Police), tell them you're on Kawau Island and you have someone who .... (just a short sentence: e.g. *Has hit their head; Been vomiting all night; Won't wake up; Is having trouble breathing; Might have broken their leg; Had a bit of a fall; etc*). They will ask for a physical address (give both: first, road address, confirm it, and then actual location), then symptoms. It's fine to say if you're not sure it's serious. They're there to help and know what to do. The moment they know someone needs to



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come they'll send out pagers to the local fire and first response team and we'll be on our way. It can take as little as 15 minutes for us to be there but is more likely to be at least half an hour if we're really quick.

We will be able to deal with urgent first aid but the real medical help will need paramedics and hospitals. All of this takes time. If you're feeling sick during the day but don't want to leave the Island, hoping it's not serious or you might just get better: call Healthline right away. That way you get the chance to leave in time if your symptoms indicate there's more risk than you thought and you'd be much safer closer to medical attention.

Don't leave it 'til after the last water-taxi shuttle has left the Island for the night. Everyone's symptoms tend to get worse after dark and especially in a low-pressure weather system. Don't assume that in an emergency it will be a helicopter evacuation - in many situations you'll get to help faster by boat to an ambulance on the Sandspit Wharf. Ambulances and helicopters can be free in a genuine emergency but will cost you money if you didn't take reasonable care to plan ahead and prevent the illness degrading into an emergency. It takes time to get to help. Don't risk being the pain in the neck, ask for help (or advice) early.

Kawau Island Volunteer Rural Fire Force:

Every year the Fire Team are given a refresher course as First Response medics. We learn an array of skills, get an idea of how many problems can present themselves, and run through practise drills on CPR and patient evacuations.

Every year, after learning more than ever about all the possible crises and the latest understanding of what improves a patient's chances, we come out with the same summary, the same mantra: if in doubt, call 111. They'll sort it out

from there. Time to respond is your most powerful intervention. And it costs you nothing.

No-one minds a genuine false alarm, it's great practice. No-one wants that call to come when it's too late to help because you didn't think it was serious or didn't want to bother anyone before, that's heart-breaking. Better a quick, unnecessary phone call in the morning than a full turnout at 10 o'clock that night.

So what does an emergency on the Island look like?

Anything from a relative who looks drunk and crashing about at the wedding when you thought he was teetotal (he might be diabetic and he might not know it), to a fall from the roof or a bump to the head that seems not to have affected you all that much, to a bout of diarrhoea that hasn't gone away in 48 hours, to slurred speech and a wonky smile, to chest pains or shortness of breath.... not that they're necessarily anything to worry about, they're just some of many little things that do need to be checked out sooner than later. Give us a chance, give us time to help. And, of course, from October to April if you see smoke don't wait to figure out where it's coming from: call 111.

Quick Quiz on Kawau help:

If you're not sure if it's serious you should:

- A) Leave it and see what happens overnight.
- B) Make sure it's serious before calling 111.
- C) Call 111 (or Healthline), tell them the situation and ask for advice.

Please tell me you all picked (C). If not, read the above again.

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# LegaSea

Scott Macindoe

Trawling banned 600 years ago

Bottom trawling is an indiscriminate method of fishing which has been around for hundreds of years, more or less unchanged. For centuries people have scoured the sensitive ecosystems from the bottom of the seas around the world. What were once beautiful environments, are now little more than barren wastelands.

As far back as 1376 there are documented records of the destructive nature of trawling. This came in the form of a petition to King Edward III about the use of an early form of a beam trawl, the Wondyrchoum. The Wondyrchoum was said to be a six-meter-long, three-meter-wide net, held to the bottom with rocks and open at the top by a long beam. Sound familiar??

In this petition, it was alleged that the Wondyrchoum ran over the sea floor destroying all life on the bottom, including all the plant life and the spat that sustained the entire food chain. It was also said that the fishermen took more fish that they had use for, which they ended up feeding to their "fat pigs". All the people of the realm were said to be suffering.

Upon receiving this petition, the use of this method was outlawed around Britain and remained that way for centuries, although it was still carried out in secrecy. It was made illegal all over Europe and even made a capital offense in some areas.

As far back as 600 years ago the decision makers recognised the destructive power of bottom trawling. It is hard to fathom why our decision makers allow industrial scale trawling in in-shore waters to be one of the main ways fish are caught today.



All that time ago they prioritised the health of the environment over the fattening of the pigs, maybe it is about time we did the same...

Back in 2001 we were advised that 'an organised recreational fishing lobby is an oxymoron' - today we believe we on track to disproving that. If you are interested in being part of this 'coalition of the willing' please subscribe to receive email newsletters from LegaSea:

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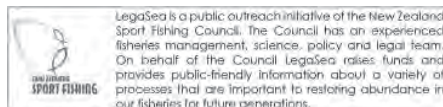
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If you would like more information, please feel encouraged to call me on 021 622463 or email [scott@LegaSea.co.nz](mailto:scott@LegaSea.co.nz)

Boaties' Tip: Whether you're sailing or motor-ing, if you see birds resting on the water go to leeward. Birds always fly off the water into the wind. Doing this simple manoeuvre will prevent many broken bones and dead birds.



# Kawau Real Estate

Dave Jeffery

Here we are with Christmas fast approaching and the weather not behaving anything like summer yet. After a brilliant Labour weekend which saw Bon Accord looking more like New Year's Eve with boats everywhere and the Boating Club bursting at the seams, the westerlies have returned with a vengeance but hopefully will have gone by the time this is published.

Interest in Kawau real estate reached new highs recently with offers accepted on four properties since the last newsletter and negotiations underway on three more, so it appears that potential buyers have finally realised that a holiday home on Kawau Island represents excellent value for money.

The new bank lending restrictions however have eliminated several buyers who up until four months ago would have been able to

buy here, so the measures being taken to slow down the Auckland property boom are having all sorts of unintended effects in areas quite separate from the Auckland market. In spite of these restrictions, interest in Island properties is increasing steadily and I'm sure it won't be long before we are back in the situation we were 10-12 years ago when good Kawau properties for sale were as scarce as hens' teeth.

During their tour of Island properties, buyers often comment that so many of our home locations here are quite unique and simply unavailable anywhere else.

I would like to wish all our vendors and new home owners a very happy festive season and safe summer, and thanks again for your support over the past 12 months.

# KIRRA Minutes

*Helen Jeffery*

MINUTES OF THE KIRRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING held Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at Kawau Lodge, North Cove, Kawau Island

**PRESENT:** Helen Jeffery, Alan Marshall, Andrew Fyfe, Les Mellars, Gael Archer, Shelley Fitcher, Michael Marris

Also present representing Civil Defence: Chris Carding and Trevor Hutching

**APOLOGIES:** Colin Bright, Peter Buckton, Paul Strauss, Pam Dallow, Ian Henderson, Simon Pirie, Beth Houlbrooke, Lin Pardey, Lynne Hume

Les Mellars apologized to the meeting regarding change of meetings over the past 3 months, it was unavoidable.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Minutes had been circulated it was moved by Helen Jeffery and seconded by Alan Marshall that they are true and correct.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Inwards: received last print copy of Hauraki Gulf Forum; letter from Raewyn Morrison re inorganic collection points for Kawau Island

Outgoing: nothing outgoing

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** financials were presented and approved by Gael and seconded by Andrew.

Membership sits at 264, need to target non-members next year via Kawau network working bay by bay. Each team members take names and approach individuals.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE:

There was no report to hand as Lin Pardey is overseas. General discussion took place regarding the Sandspit carpark, apparently we are "guinea pigs" for the system that has been put in place. Discussions are still taking place regarding the future management of this car parking facility and also relocation of the Harbourmaster's office to the general area alongside the carpark, including upgrading the office facilities. Raewyn Morrison (RLB) on behalf of the The Waste Minimisation Team (Paul Mortimer) are wanting to know two potential consolidation sites for an inorganic collection on Kawau Island. Lin to follow up on this on her return.

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

**Kookaburra:** Spring issue posted, another great publication, thanks to Michael Marris. Shelley has new advertisers on board which is great, need to send these details through to Alison for inclusion on the website [www.kawauisland.org.nz](http://www.kawauisland.org.nz)

KIRRA has sponsored an advertising board at the Warkworth / Matakana Coast Tourism I Site in Warkworth, five Kawau businesses participated in this promotion and so far the feedback has been positive.

**Civil Defence** – Chris Carding and Trevor Hutching, both Civil Defence and Emergency responders, trustee's of KERT plus are heavily involved in the training and requirements of our Fire Team, attend the meeting to talk about future proofing the island. There are more permanent people moving to live here and there

needs to be better infrastructure for Civil Defence overall. They have support in principle from Rural Fire, Civil Defence Management and KERT and need support from KIRRA and once this is to hand, they can work as a united group to achieve a positive outcome. They are proposing a high ground facility on Kawau Island that would operate as a community facility as well as central point for Civil Defence, Fire and Emergency services.

Les Mellars moved and Gael Archer seconded "that KIRRA acknowledges the presentation and conceptual plans for a high ground Welfare & Emergency Centre as presented by Chris and Trevor which is supported by the KIRRA executive and needs to be ratified at the AGM to be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at the Kawau Boating Club". One page document needs to be sent out with AGM papers.

**Westpac Helicopter Beacon Proposal** – following on from general discussion held at the last meeting, Andrew, Martine and Michael Marris will go and meet with the CEO of Westpac Helicopter Trust regarding the installation of GPS co-ordinates on Martello Rock. It was moved by Andrew and seconded by Shelley that we donate a further \$1,000 and the above-mentioned people will present this at the meeting. This will also go onto the AGM agenda for discussion and agreement from all KIRRA members.

**Pine Tree Project** – apparently department is still working hard on progressing this through the necessary processes and requirements. Will not be starting this year, perhaps next year. DOC are committed to the project and are keen to see the project progress. They are looking to replace Blair as Park Ranger

**Sandspit Carpark** – ongoing, full report next meeting.



**Music in the Gardens** – there is an opportunity for KIRRA to have a tent at this event but needs to be manned by members, chance to showcase all businesses who advertise in Kookaburra. Need to follow up with Taz regarding rolling advertisements on TV screen?

**Emergency Laminated List** – needs updating - Shelley to get a price for laminating from a local business – 300

**Sunny Bay** – There needs to be follow-up regarding Sunny Bay / Two House Bay / Silver Bay – sitting as a Treaty of Waitangi claim – Colin Bright was doing some research and Pam Dallow needs to report to Colin regarding the Lidgard connection.

It was also suggested that we obtain help from a couple who live in South Cove and who may have knowledge of the history of this area on the island.

Meeting closed at 12.15pm.

**AGM:** date set for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017 10am at the Kawau Boating Club, lunch will be provided. Notice of Meeting to be sent out via database 6 weeks prior and Agenda etc to be sent out early January 2017.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup> 2016, Ponsonby Yacht Club, Westhaven.



# KIRRA Minutes

*Helen Jeffery*

MINUTES OF THE KIRRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING held Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at Ponsonby Sailing Club-rooms, Westhaven

**PRESENT:** Helen Jeffery, Andrew Fyfe, Les Mellars, Gael Archer, Shelley Fitcher, Colin Bright, Peter Buckton, Pam Dallow, Simon Pirie, Paul Strauss, Martine Fernandez, Michael Marris, Lin Pardey, Greg Sayers – Rodney Councillor

**APOLOGIES:** Alan Marshall, Ian Henderson, Beth Holebrooke

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Minutes had been circulated it was moved by Gael Archer and seconded by Andrew Fyfe that they are true and correct.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Inwards: correspondence from Andy Coleman, Cathy Casey - Democracy Services. Email from Beth H re community meetings, notice that KIRRA mooring needs servicing – Helen to phone Harry

Outgoing: congratulations note to Greg Sayers and Beth Houlbrooke, emails to incoming councillors, Allison Roe and Tessa Berger and invitation to attend to AGM in January 2017.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** financials were presented and approved by Les Mellars and seconded by Peter Buckton.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

**Unitary Plan:** Andy Coleman and Sakkara Investments have lodged an appeal to the Unitary Plan. It appears that once mediation was completed Auckland Council made some small changes to the preamble associated with the

Precinct Plan and this may affect some properties on the island. It is hoped to sort this out via mediation and Lin Pardey will meet with the planner who has been working on Kawau Island's behalf.

**Moorings:** There are still issues with the Mooring Zone – we are now allowed more than 200 moorings but they need to be located within the allocated mooring zones, zones which pretty much conform to those we already use, there are a few outlying moorings that don't comply. The harbour master will be asking Auckland Council to do a "blanket resource consent" for these moorings, as they do not interfere with any anchoring areas for boats.

**Sandspit carpark:** cameras have been installed but appear not to be working all the time. Peak time rate of \$12 per day will apply for a six week period from approximately 15 December to end of January and then will go back to \$6 per day. Kawau Island family members and tradesmen will still get the half price rate during this time. You need to register all vehicles using concession parking spot with the office but only one vehicle per paid up pass can be there at any one time. New Local Board: KIRRA received special recognition

**Sandspit Marina:** use of the outside area for parking boats is proving popular; this is for full time residents only.

**Organic Collection:** Lin to follow up

**KBC:** general discussion regarding local support, would KIRRA like to consider an affiliated membership but after discussion it was decided it was not necessary and most members were already members of KBC.



## GENERAL BUSINESS:

**Rodney Local Board:** Greg Sayer, newly appointed Rodney Councillor attended the meeting and gave us a brief run down on his appointments, which include deputy chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee, member of the Strategic Procurement Committee. Both these roles allows him to monitor council spending, and working with council for sensible spending, finding efficiencies and stop wastage of ratepayers money. He also briefed the committee on Hill Street and Matakana Link Road projects.

**Unitary Plan:** discussion took place under KIRRA report but it was moved by Colin Bright and seconded by Pam Dallow that we need to support Andy Coleman's appeal and to investigate what has actually happened. Greg to put Lin in contact with the right person to talk to.

**Sunny Bay:** on-going investigations by Colin Bright has found that back in 2004 at a meeting of the Auckland Conservation Board, DOC said they did not want ownership of Sunny Bay anymore and the area was reclassified from historic reserve to recreational reserve. The Treaty of Waitangi have a caveat on the title – the community of Kawau just want to be assured that it remains as a recreational reserve. Secretary to forward documentation that is on file to Colin and he will draft a letter and send to chairman and Michael M.

**Kookaburra:** Summer issue due out 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Civil Defence** – the Civil Defence team will present their proposal to the community at the AGM on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**Westpac Helicopter Beacon Proposal** – Martine, Andrew and Michael M met with the CEO and presented the \$1,000 cheque. There needs to be a fund raising plan instigated, cost will be \$26,000 and KIRRA needs to find people to work with from the community. Looking ahead to 2018, Music in the Gardens would be a good resource. Meanwhile, Martine and Andrew to work on a proposal to present at the AGM, article in Kookaburra and perhaps a function to launch this fund- raiser. All committee agree this is a worthwhile cause and will benefit Kawau Island, allowing helicopters to arrive safely at the island in all weather conditions, day and night.

**Emergency Laminated List** – all underway, distribution prior to Christmas.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm. Next meeting December 17<sup>th</sup> 2016.

**AGM:** date set for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017 10am at the Kawau Boating Club, lunch will be provided. Notice of Meeting in Kookaburra and to be sent out via database 6 weeks prior and Agenda etc. to be sent out early January 2017.

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## KIRRA MEETINGS 2016 - 2017

NEXT MEETING:

\*SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER 9.30am  
KAWAU ISLAND  
Christmas Metting

AGM  
SATURDAY 28th JANUARY  
10.00 am  
Kawau Boating Club  
(See full page notice  
in this issue)

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Printed by: ExPress Communications Ltd  
Next Issue: 15 March 2017

## Emergency Numbers

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SANDSPIT WHARF	425 7315
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UNDER 5	no charge	

### TIMES FROM SANDSPIT

Daily	8:00am	10:30am	2:30pm	4:00pm	6:30pm
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### TIMES FROM KAWAU

DEPARTURES DAILY	SOUTH COVE	BON ACCORD	NORTH COVE	VIVIAN BAY
	7:20am	7:05am	6:50am	6:40am
	9:05am	9:20am	9:35am	9:45am
	2:05pm	1:30pm	1:00pm	12:50pm
	4:35pm	4:10pm	3:55pm	3:45pm
	N/A	5:20pm	5:35pm	5:45pm

Please ensure bookings are made at least two hours before departure

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