

14 November 2025

Illegal fires cause concern at regional park



Evidence of an illegally-lit fire at Duder Regional Park, precariously close to vegetation that could catch alight in dry conditions.

Illegal fires lit at night by people around Duder Regional Park's coastline are sparking concern amongst locals as fire season draws near.

Clevedon resident Guy Blundell walks regularly in the park, and says evidence of fires being lit is worrying.

"If you get a big fire out on the point with a prevailing wind, there'd be nothing left of the park," he says.

Guy has contacted Auckland Council on many occasions about the matter, but says he is yet to see any meaningful action taken.

"The thing that really gets me is that the people lighting the fires are slashing these beautiful pōhutukawa trees for firewood. Some of those trees are about 400 years old. To me that's blatant vandalism."

It is illegal to light open fires or discharge fireworks in public areas in the region. In March 2021, an illegal campfire at Duder Regional Park spread and destroyed over 20,000

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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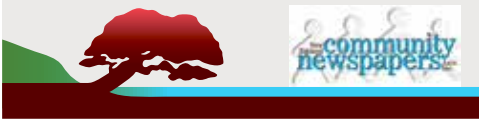
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Date	Moon	Low	High	Direction
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15 Sat	☾	4:14am ▲ 2.8m	10:19am ▼ 1.0m	🐟➡
16 Sun	☾	5:13am ▲ 2.8m	11:17am ▼ 1.0m	🐟➡
17 Mon	☾	6:09am ▲ 2.8m	12:08pm ▼ 0.9m	🐟➡
18 Tue	☾	12:33am ▼ 0.8m	6:59am ▲ 2.9m	🐟➡
19 Wed	☾	1:17am ▼ 0.8m	7:44am ▲ 3.0m	🐟➡
20 Thu	☾	1:58am ▼ 0.7m	8:25am ▲ 3.0m	🐟➡

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Guest editorial by Franklin Local Board Wairoa representatives

Thank you to everyone that played a role in electing us to represent our fantastic community – we’re excited by the opportunity over this three-year term to deliver for Franklin, but there are plenty of challenges ahead!

Like many areas of Auckland, growth is a continuing issue. Some of our settlements are experiencing considerable change and we’ll be exploring how we can increase services as well as ensuring communities stay resilient.

Auckland Council is currently consulting on Plan Change 120, which aims to protect people and property from natural hazards, while meeting government direction to enable more housing. PC120 introduces more stringent rules for building in areas impacted by flooding, landslides, coastal erosion and inundation.

Although the plan change has limited impact for intensification in our area, proposed changes may mean restrictions on what you can do on your properties.

Check the Auckland Council website and maps. Submissions are open until 19 December.

Another significant change coming to local boards will be when parts of Auckland Transport move inhouse to Auckland Council. We expect to have more decision-making power over local transport functions on our roads, including issues like speed bumps, bus stops and cycle networks.

Public Transport services are to remain outside of our decision-making, but we will continue to advocate for improved bus services, including a potential south-eastern link connecting Clevedon with Papakura Train Station and/or Pine Harbour, and increased capacity on the ferries.

We have already started investigating improved support for performing and visual arts, starting with a better understanding of local community and economic benefit and opportunity. We plan to use this to inform future investment if appropriate in partnership with Papakura Local Board.

We are eagerly awaiting an update on the proposal for a Beachlands community hub. The project will enable greater access to council’s library, programming and customer services.

The Franklin Paths Programme continues. The first path was completed in Beachlands and we are looking forward to other projects in Clevedon, Hunua, Kawakawa Bay and Whitford progressing. Check franklinpathsandtrails.org for information, updates and how you might contribute.

The environment will always be a top priority, and we’ll continue to work closely with our local partners in this area. We also have issues with fill sites and other inappropriate land use that affects our environment. We are seeking advice on what can be done to address this better.

Progressing existing and developing new ideas is something we will be testing with you as we develop our Local Board Plan 2026. This plan informs investment for 2027-2030. We have already started talking to community partners to inform what we put up as advocacy priorities in the draft. Consultation begins in May next year so watch this space!

Amanda Hopkins (deputy chair), Alix Bonnington and Malcolm Bell

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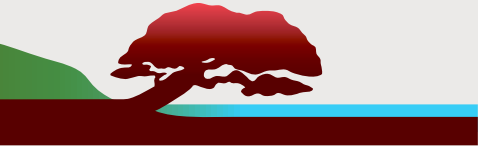
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Illegal fires cause concern at Duder Regional Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

native trees before it was brought under control by fire fighters.

Franklin Ward Councillor Andy Baker says the illegal fires are an ongoing issue, and that last season Fire Emergency NZ were called to the park on a couple of occasions.

“The fires are mostly local fishermen with set nets and lines which is something fisheries staff have been addressing through confiscating illegal nets, so it’s out of the wheel house of our park rangers.

“However it’s a hard one to manage as it’s not happening every night, it can be in the middle of the night depending on tides and when they consider it a good time to fish. Council will not send Rangers out by themselves for obvious reasons. Our staff are not trained to deal with some of the tricky customers, alone and at night when some are often drinking as well.”

Andy says council has had some staff or volunteers doing checks in small groups, but there is still significant risk.

“The fire risk obviously ramps up as the fire danger indices rise but as they say, it is almost impossible to police and or deal with safely.”

Auckland Council’s Southern Principal Ranger Trent Taylor says Council is

well aware of concern relating to campfires along the shoreline at Duder and Waitawa regional parks, and the impact they could have on native trees and farmland along the Whakakaiwhara Peninsula.

“We have clear signage in place confirming there is a total fire ban in these areas. Our rangers regularly patrol the parks during working hours and quickly respond to fires. We encourage anyone who sees evidence of a fire being planned to let us know so a ranger can look into it.

Trent says that while vehicle access to local regional parks closes at night, access is always available at Duder Regional Park on foot around the coastline.

“On occasion, we have engaged security guards to patrol after-hours during peak summer months at other problem areas. But this is extremely costly and is not practical for parks like Duder.

“Instead, our focus is to educate people about the risks and why it’s important to always follow fire bans.

“When a fire is reported, we work closely with Fire and Emergency New Zealand



An illegally-lit fire destroyed thousands of native trees in 2021.

to manage the response. Rangers are immediately alerted and help to provide access and vital information throughout the response.

“We are always hugely grateful of the support we receive from Fire and Emergency New Zealand and encourage anyone who sees a fire in our regional parks to report it immediately to 111.

“Additional information like photos, the exact time, and the location area always helpful.

Council says that in some cases, a warning or trespass notice will be issued

but identifying who is responsible can often be challenging in remote regional park settings.

Guy Blundell believes money spent on night-time security guards would be well spent. “Why did they [Council] spend millions on kauri dieback projects when fire presents a much bigger issue? They had two staff down in Duder Regional Park for months, but refuse to police their own no fire policy.”



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Community invited to Maraetai Beach Boat Club's open day

Maraetai Beach Boat Club has had a facelift, and will roll out the red carpet to the wider community this Saturday to show off their new renovations.

The club now boasts a new kids area, new carpet, tiles and painting upstairs, significant kitchen upgrade including new walk-in chiller and commercial extraction fan, a new servery kitchen area plus upgraded lights throughout the restaurant. A new 85 inch television has been installed in the function room upstairs, while downstairs five new showers will allow sailing club members a chance to warm up after coming in from the water.

Within the kids area is a new racing simulator, which was generously sponsored by Nobilo Finance, Base Law, Top Coat, Aztec Builders, Fire Safety Equipment and Emphasis Homes.

The club would like to thank a very generous local family who have provided an unsecured loan which has allowed the club to complete the renovations and lock in current building costs.

A number of boat club members worked on the project which helped keep costs down.

Set over the water with one of the most spectacular views in the city, the club is available for private functions and weddings at very reasonable rates.

The community open day starts at



The new kids area at the Maraetai Beach Boat Club features air hockey and foosball tables, plus a racing simulator.

midday on 15 November, with a free sausage sizzle and a band starting at 4pm.

In-house caterers Caviar Kitchen will be open from 10am for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The sailing club will also be open, offering junior and adult sailing lessons for anyone interested.

"The open day is a great opportunity for the community to come and check

out our amazing facilities, says club spokesperson Keith Walker.

Community membership for the restaurant and bar including discounted function hire is \$115 per year. Senior (over 65) community membership is only \$60. Full boating memberships are also available. For further information or to enquire, see maraetaiboatclub.org.nz.

Maraetai Beach Boat Club would like to thank the following businesses for their support of the recent renovation project:

- Cavendish Carpets
- Tile Depot
- Daniel Ramadhan – Interior painting.
- Specialist Linings Limited
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A yellow biplane, seen from below, is flying vertically over a coastal town. The aircraft has the number '078' on its fuselage and a roundel insignia on the tail. A large plume of white smoke or vapor is trailing from the bottom of the plane. The background shows a densely populated coastal town with a beach and the ocean in the distance.

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The collage features a variety of artistic pieces. At the top left is a landscape painting with a cloudy sky and a green field. To its right is a sculpture of a green bird with a white patch on its neck. Below the landscape painting is a circular inset showing a textured, grey, clover-shaped sculpture. To the right of the bird sculpture are three small, colorful ceramic bunnies in white, pink, and blue. Below the clover sculpture is a sculpture of a white rabbit-like figure covered in colorful pom-poms. To the right of the bunnies are two tall, cylindrical vases covered in a pattern of green leaves, filled with white flowers. On the left side of the collage is a vertical column of seven colored circles: black, dark teal, teal, light teal, light pink, and light grey.

Quay Art Gallery, 7a Whitford Wharf Road, Whitford Village | 021335917 | info@quaygallery.co.nz

Food, fur and fun - visit the Clevedon A&P Show this weekend!

The Clevedon Agricultural and Pastoral Show returns to Clevedon Showgrounds again this year on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 November.

The event remains one of New Zealand’s longest-running country shows, having debuted in 1909. This year sees the return of much of what makes the show so unique including:

- livestock and livestock judging, showcasing local cattle, sheep and goats.
- vintage machinery displays and heritage tractor rides
- calf club competitions including fancy dress
- full equestrian competition programme
- dog trials
- produce and craft stalls

- live entertainment and food trucks
- Norma’s Farmyard where children can get up close with friendly livestock.

Visitors can take part in a gumboot throwing competition, hobby horse races, and for the kids a bubble party and lolly scramble.

The Auckland Strongman Series will run throughout the day on Saturday.

For gardeners, bakers and crafty creators, there are competitions in a wide range of classes - see the 2025 Horticultural & Industrial Schedule online.

Saturday 15 November, 9am-5pm

Sunday 16 November. 9am-4pm

Admission \$15 for adults, \$5 for children 6–15, and free for kids under 6. Parking is available on-site.



Coastal Cat Rescue faces tough times amid national rescue struggles

It’s been a difficult year for animal rescue groups across New Zealand, and the challenges have now reached the Pōhutukawa Coast.

Rising costs, a decline in volunteer availability, and the emotional strain of rescue work have left many organisations struggling to keep their doors open, with several forced to pause or shut down entirely.

Local organisation Coastal Cat Rescue is also feeling the pressure. Personal commitments, limited space, and stretched resources mean Coastal Cat Rescue will be scaling back operations over the coming months, with a possible temporary closure from December 2025.

“Family, health, and the welfare of the cats already in our care must come first,” says Coastal Cat Rescue founder Lyn

Gribble. “At this stage, we’re regretfully unable to take in further adult cats.”

Despite these limitations, Coastal Cat Rescue remains committed to supporting the community where it can, and will continue to offer advice, advertise cats needing homes on its website, and work alongside locals to find safe and suitable outcomes for stray, abandoned, and dumped cats on the Coast.

Lyn says she and her team are grateful for the ongoing support from volunteers, foster carers, and donors who have helped them care for hundreds of cats and kittens over the years.

Updates about Coastal Cat Rescue’s future plans and rescue capacity will be shared on its Facebook page.



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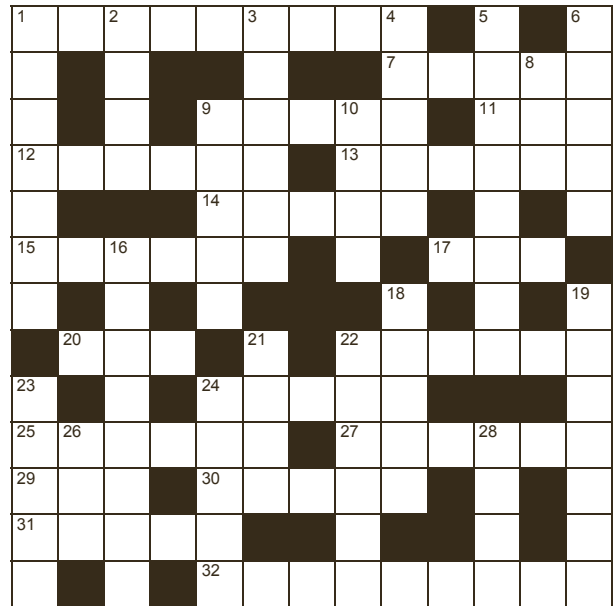
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Across

- 1. Quicker alternatives (9)
- 7. Make sore by rubbing (5)
- 9. Engine (5)
- 11. Poorly (3)
- 12. Irish province (6)
- 13. Make or model of car (6)
- 14. Flower (5)
- 15. Documents (6)
- 17. Drill piece (3)
- 20. Catch (3)
- 22. Lure (6)
- 24. Type of drum (5)
- 25. A bribe (6)
- 27. Athlete (6)
- 29. Snake (3)
- 30. Beginning (5)
- 31. Lurk (5)
- 32. Being (9)

Down

- 1. Strong cider (7)
- 2. Belonging to us (4)
- 3. Repeated part of song (6)
- 4. Metal for recycling (5)
- 5. Rum cocktail (8)
- 6. Riotous fight (5)
- 8. Winter ailment (3)
- 9. Unit of length (5)
- 10. Leave out (4)
- 16. Australian animal (8)
- 18. Animal's nose (5)
- 19. Rebuke (7)
- 21. Give temporarily (4)
- 22. Exit (6)
- 23. Cramp (5)
- 24. Man (5)
- 26. Inquire (3)

Answers on page 10

BARFOOT THOMPSON & Student Voice

LOCAL STUDENTS' NEWS, VIEWS & LITERARY TALENT

This column features news, views and literary talents of students from Beachlands, Maraetai, Clevedon, Brookby, Hunua, Paparimu, Oere and Ardmore Schools.

One student featured each week will be presented with a certificate and a \$20 book voucher, thanks to Barfoot & Thompson's Beachlands and Whitford branches.



This week's voucher sponsored by Matthew Brown

Why Kahikatea classroom should have a class pet dragon

I strongly believe Kahikatea should have a pet dragon. If we did I would name it Scaley.

Firstly, having a dragon would keep the school safe. Scaly is very powerful. If robbers came, Scaly would take them to jail. Also if there was a fire he could use his superpowers to control water so all the fire could go out.

Secondly, Scaley would make school much more fun and exciting. We could fly to the Hūnua Ranges. He could roast marshmallows. Also Scaley could make hot chocolate and light up the sky with fire flames. He could hold up the door for us. That would be helpful!

Finally a dragon could help us in lots of different ways at school. For art, we could paint it flying. In maths, we could measure how long it is. In science we could tell the dragon how to make a dragon.

- by Greyson Schwarz, Year 2, Hūnua School

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Ocean pollution around the Pōhutukawa Coast

- environmental writing by Saint Kentigern College student Eleanor Vogel

Have you ever seen a piece of rubbish on a beach and chosen not to pick it up? I have, and I would suspect that at some point, you have too! Most people have done this at some point in their life - after all, we can't all be Greta Thunberg. But what we often forget is what that one piece of rubbish will go on to affect, when we don't pick it up.

When we walk along the beach, we often will notice multiple pieces of rubbish. And I don't expect anyone to go for a lovely walk and then find themselves morally obligated to pick up every piece of rubbish in sight. But what I hope is for you to finish this article, and learn a bit more about what all the rubbish on beaches can affect, and maybe take away a small lesson at the end.

Let's say this piece of rubbish was a plastic bag. Plastic takes thousands of years to break down, and during this time it ends up in the ocean, it can harm animals like turtles as they will mistake it for food, which can lead to choking, starvation, injury and even death. Rubbish like small fishing lines can trap animals, leading to injury or drowning. A common misconception is that because they live in the ocean, they can't drown - which I have recently learned, is not true! Then this same piece of plastic, through the process of it breaking down will create microplastics which will pollute the ocean and can enter tiny sea creatures, entering the food chain. Even one piece of rubbish can release toxins into an area, which will often have a ripple effect on entire ecosystems.

So, overall, even just one piece of rubbish can have a big impact. If you'd like to make a difference, try picking up a piece of rubbish the next time you see one. You don't need to clean the whole beach - just one or two pieces can really help our ecosystem and keep our beaches beautiful.

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Across: 1. Shortcuts, 7. Chafe, 9. Motor, 11. Ill, 12. Ulster, 13. Marque, 14. Tulip, 15. Papers, 17. Bit, 20. Nab, 22. Entice, 24. Bongo, 25. Payola, 27. Runner, 29. Asp, 30. Onset, 31. Skulk, 32. Existence. Down: 1. Scrumpy, 2. Ours, 3. Chorus, 4. Scrap, 5. Daiquiri, 6. Melee, 8. Flu, 9. Metre, 10. Omit, 16. Platypus, 18. Snout, 19. Reprove, 21. Loan, 22. Egress, 23. Spasm, 24. Bloke, 26. Ask, 28. Noon.

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Armstrong Smarter Security and Alarms

09 274 0999

SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

SST Services phone Rob

09 2947611 or 0274 967430

SURVEYORS - LAND

McInnes, Read & Lucas Ltd

298 7288

Churchill Land Development Services Ltd

273 4182

Survey Plus Ltd

020 4 SURVEY (020 4 787839)

TAXIS/TRANSPORT/SHUTTLES

Coast Shuttle - local hire & airport trips

536 6488 or 0274 722 613

Driving Miss Daisy

09 534 7712 or 021 174 9999

Country Roads - Let me take you home

021 084 28757

Airport transfers / Group Tours / School Runs

Info@country-roads.co.nz, Book online at www.country-roads.co.nz

TRAVEL - INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC

Clevedon Travel Brokers chrissyashby@ttb.co.nz

027 273 9701

Travelselect Beachlands call Mark or Sam

536 6730

Beachlands Travel Brokerer phone Nicole

021 1769791

nicole.ambrusfy@thetravelbrokers.co.nz

TREE SERVICES

Coastal Cutters - coastalcutters@hotmail.com

021 196 6509

Jessep Contracting - JessepContracting.co.nz

022 607 4455

TYRES - SALES & SERVICE

Maraetai Automotive

536 6542

Pohutukawa Motors

536 6664

Tyre Guard - Mobile Tyre Service, Call Mike

021 901 034

UPHOLSTERY & CANVAS

Eastern Cover Centre. Boat & Outdoor Furniture Covers

535 7524

VALUERS - PROPERTY

Property Valuations Ltd, Papakura

299 7406

VETERINARY SERVICES

Franklin Vets - Pohutukawa Coast Shopping Centre,

538 0010

Beachlands, Open: Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm Sat: 9am-1pm

Pohutukawa Coast Vets - 43 Wakelin Rd, Beachlands

320 1472

Open: Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm Sat: 9am-12pm

WALLPAPERING

Lucy Cui

536 5899 or 021 174 8466

WATER DELIVERY

Beachlands/Maraetai Water Supply

273 9763

Clevedon Water

292 8099

Whitford Water Supplies

530 8164

Maraetai Blue Ltd

536 6437, 027 536 6437

Carlton Haulage

0800 420 246

Coastal Water Cartage

0508 262 7825

WET AZZ – www.wetazz.co.nz

0800 WET AZZ (0800 938 299)

A Plus Water

021 0727 163

PROWATER - Support Local, Ph Shane/Sheridan

021 530 727

WATER TANK CLEANING & REPAIRS

Maraetai Blue Tank Cleaning

Call Jacob 021 029 84170

Clevedon Pumps & Filtration

027 479 7741

WATER TREATMENT

Malmaks Water Shop

530 8872, 021 470 588

Allwater Pumps and Supplies Ltd

09 536 5444, 027 536 5444

Clevedon Pumps & Filtration

027 479 7741

WEDDING VENUES

Te Puru Centre

536 5360

Maraetai Beach Boating Club

536 6649



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