

21 November 2025

First sod turned at Beachlands South development



Shiny new spades dig the first sods of earth at Beachlands South's new development on the Formosa site. L-R: Billy Brown (Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki), Rob Bassett (Beachlands South), Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, Brett Russell (Russell Property Group), Mayor of Auckland Wayne Brown, Will Goodwin (NZ Super Fund).

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon joined the partners of Beachlands South Partnership Limited to turn the first sod at Beachlands South's ground-breaking ceremony last Thursday.

An early morning blessing by Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, followed later in the day by the ground-breaking ceremony, marked the start of preparatory earthworks on stage one of the controversial project. The earthworks are expected to be completed over the next two summers, with the entire residential, commercial and community development expected to be delivered within 10 to 15 years.

Other than a handful of Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki representatives, local representation was largely absent from last week's ground-breaking event. Franklin Ward Councillor Andrew Baker was present, as was new Franklin Local Board chair Alan Cole, but the board's Wairoa representatives (Amanda Hopkins, Malcolm Bell and Alix Bonnington) were not invited to the event despite Amanda and Malcolm's active participation in the plan change process which resulted in a rezoning of the land to enable development.

A small number of Beachlands residents, whose properties lie adjacent the new development, were present. The two spoken to by the *PC Times* expressed concern at the lack of clarity regarding infrastructure such as water, wastewater and roading.

A spokesperson for the Russell Group told the *PC Times*

that final plans for water, wastewater and roading/traffic management are still being worked through "as part of the more detailed resource consent/fast track/building consent process. We remain in conversation with Watercare/AT/ Auckland Council on these matters.

"Beachlands South will be contributing a significant amount towards ferry upgrades for larger vessels and a more frequent service."

On behalf of the Beachlands South Limited Partnership, Russell Property Group managing director Brett Russell said last week's ceremony marked an important step forward in the project.

"The high quality of planning and design makes today all the more significant as we finally begin work to bring the development to life," said Russell. "It will enable the completion of the Beachlands community in a coherent, masterplanned way, offering a variety of housing types, employment, recreation and educational opportunities that will benefit not only Beachlands but the wider Auckland region."

"There is a lot to do before we get any vertical construction underway, but it's pleasing to be underway on preparatory land shaping work."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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The Pohutukawa Coast Times is distributed weekly to 6800 homes and businesses in: Whitford, Brookby, Beachlands, Maraetai, Clevedon, Ardmore, Alfriston, Kawakawa Bay, Orere Point, Hunua and Paparimu

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The PC Times 20 years ago:

25 November 2005: Beachlands-Maraetai Crime Patrol launched.


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21 Fri		2:37am ▼ 0.7m	9:04am ▲ 3.1m	
22 Sat		3:14am ▼ 0.7m	9:42am ▲ 3.1m	
23 Sun		3:51am ▼ 0.7m	10:19am ▲ 3.1m	
24 Mon		4:28am ▼ 0.7m	10:57am ▲ 3.0m	
25 Tue		5:06am ▼ 0.7m	11:37am ▲ 3.0m	
26 Wed		5:45am ▼ 0.8m	12:19pm ▲ 3.0m	
27 Thu		12:33am ▲ 2.8m	6:28am ▼ 0.9m	

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Editorial

by MP for Papakura Rt Hon Judith Collins

Dear Constituents,

I am very hopeful that we will soon be seeing positive results from of our work as the next few months go by. I know that many New Zealanders are working hard to keep their businesses and employment going and with that in mind our Prime Minister and our Minister for Trade and Investment Todd McClay are working tirelessly to raise New Zealand’s profile as an exporter of quality agricultural products, a wonderful tourist destination as well as remaining an innovative and creative source of new technology.

For my part, I have been in other countries to promote our space and advanced aviation sectors which are a big part of New Zealand’s rapidly growing technology production sector. Because of their potential scale, ambition and relevance, I see these two sectors as the key to increasing productivity, creating employment and opening up business opportunities for innovative people here in Papakura and across New Zealand.

Recently, at the 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Sydney, I met twenty companies and entities representing New Zealand’s space and advanced aviation sectors who were there to demonstrate and sell their products to international buyers.

Later in the month at the New Zealand Aerospace Summit in Christchurch, I spoke to the economic report released earlier this year that shows space sector revenues were worth \$2.68 billion in the five years to 2024, and the advanced aviation sector had a total estimated revenue of \$530 million in 2024.

Our space and advanced aviation sectors are more than just rockets, drones and satellites. They’re about advanced manufacturing, AI and autonomy, earth monitoring and next-generation mobility.

Digital Drivers Licences

Digital Drivers Licences been greeted with enthusiasm by many but with a little doubt by others. I would like to explain why I am excited about the introduction of using an all-of-government-app, that will be as simple to use as a banking app.

We will be checking that the App is properly tested so that its introduction goes smoothly and paves the way for more government services to be added to it. It will make our lives simpler, as it will eventually be used for car registration, road tolls, inland revenue transactions, payments like superannuation and benefit and Births, Deaths and Marriages documents.

This will provide greater convenience and safety for people as a digital footprint is always left should the almost impossible happen, that your digital data is stolen somehow.

However, I strongly reassure you that traditional ways of accessing government services will remain and certainly hard copies of Driver Licences will still be available.

Local Government Elections Results

I wish to congratulate our Councillors who were elected in the recent Local Government Elections – for Manurewa-Papakura we have Daniel Newman returned and Matt Winiata newly elected and for the Franklin district we have Andrew (Andy) Baker returned. We wish them well for their next term as members of Auckland Council headed by Mayor Wayne Brown also re-elected.

I also congratulate the members of the Papakura and Franklin Boards who were re- elected and newly elected.

Gratitude

My travels this year have revealed awful evidence of the destruction and danger that many civilians endure in their home countries due to the unjustified actions of a neighbouring one. These brave people seem to keep going with a smile on their faces and gratitude for the small kindnesses they receive.

We have so much to be thankful for in New Zealand - our community-based cities, beautiful countryside and coasts, our small population where everyone knows someone, our relaxed lifestyle and peace.

We must continue to be good citizens of the world and our official representatives’ frequent visits to other countries on foreign affairs and trade missions and as providers of support in times of man-made and natural disasters, do this for us all.

I am grateful to you for all that you do in your communities, schools, businesses and the contribution you make to support others less fortunate both here in New Zealand and overseas. May we continue to value all of this as we approach Christmas and the New Year and join with our family and friends to celebrate and relax over the summer holiday.

Wishing you a joyful and merry Christmas and a happy prosperous New Year.

Hon Judith Collins KC



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Beachlands innovation wins top honours in National Business Awards

A company that most Coasters have probably never heard of has taken top honours at this year’s Auckland Business Chamber Awards. Petromac, which had its beginnings in a small Beachlands shed, won both the Innovation Award and the prestigious Supreme Award, recognising excellence across business planning, marketing, exporting and overall performance. The awards, sponsored by 2degrees, saw around 50 companies shortlisted as finalists across all categories.

Petromac’s story began in 2012, when Beachlands resident and petrophysicist Stephen McCormick decided he wasn’t quite ready for retirement after 30 years working in the oil industry. Instead, he set out to solve a longstanding problem that had troubled engineers for decades: how to efficiently and reliably transport sensitive surveying equipment deep inside oil wells, particularly those that are sloping, to reach the outer edge of the oil reservoir.

From his humble Beachlands shed, Stephen invented the Tool Taxi – a specialised wheeled carriage that allows surveying instruments to travel smoothly through oil wellbores, even when they are steep or obstructed. Traditionally, these “logging tools” are lowered into wells by wireline and descend by gravity alone. When a well is sloping or obstructed by drilling debris, logging tools can become stuck, sometimes adding a full day to an operation. On a large offshore rig, that delay could cost a company up to US\$1 million.

“In essence, it’s simply a re-invention of the wheel and the ski,” McCormick joked when the technology was first profiled in the *PC Times* in 2016. But once its effectiveness was proven, global demand quickly followed. Within nine months, Petromac had gone from a Beachlands shed to the Gulf of Mexico, one of the world’s most high-risk and costly drilling environments.

Petromac leases its devices rather than selling them, ensuring ongoing support, continual improvement and strong industry relationships. The company has grown twelve-fold since 2016 and now holds over 40 international patents. It employs six staff in New

Zealand and eleven overseas. Beachlands engineer Grant Bowring, who helped turn McCormick’s designs into working hardware, still contracts to the company, while the company’s head of maintenance, Mike Bird, also lives in Beachlands.

Being small, flexible and willing to take calculated risks has ensured their success, says Stephen.

“Petromac is unencumbered by the processes and procedures that hamper innovation in much larger companies and multi-corporates. Our regional managers are experienced and well respected ... ideally qualified to promote the technology and provide support for all deployments.”

As the world shifts towards cleaner energy production, Petromac is also adapting.

“We continuously innovate and introduce new products to broaden the portfolio,” says Stephen.

“We’re becoming heavily involved in carbon sequestration projects and geothermal wells. Outside of the oil industry, the Tool Taxi is also useful in pipeline integrity monitoring.”

Now based in East Tāmaki, the business is “an aspiration come true” says Stephen. “Unique technology, made in New Zealand, generating offshore revenue in one of the most challenging industries in the world.”



L-R: Rolando Velasco (Operations Manager), Ibin Velasco, Lizzette Lindemann (accounts), Amanda Bird, Gemma Rothwell, Craig Rothwell (patent Lawyer), Steve McCormick (founder), Karen McCormick, Mike Bird (Head of Maintenance), Clinton Lindemann.

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Community support needed to keep Clevedon School pool open

Clevedon School is calling on the community to help ensure ongoing use of the Clevedon School pool. Rising maintenance and compliance costs mean the school must secure additional funding to keep the pool open and available to both students and families.

The pool has been an important part of Clevedon for decades. Without convenient access to public pools, the school pool plays a vital role in teaching water confidence, safety and swimming skills. Every Clevedon School student uses the pool during summer as part of the curriculum, and the pool is also available to the wider community through key-holder memberships each summer.

In recent years, the costs of maintaining the pool have increased significantly. Regular upkeep, water quality management, equipment replacement, and meeting health and safety standards all require ongoing investment. Without new funding the school may face difficult decisions about limiting access or closing the facility for periods of time.

To protect the pool’s future, a dedicated committee has recently launched a fundraising drive, and is inviting local businesses, families and supporters to consider sponsorship.

The sponsorship programme offers several levels of support, ranging from

Bronze to Principal Sponsor, with options for contributions over three to five years.

Sponsorship tiers include:

- *Principal Sponsor* – \$8,000 per year (5 years): includes poolside advertising, recognition on sponsorship board, and acknowledgment in school and community communications.
- *Platinum Sponsor* – \$4,000 per year (5 years): includes logo on pool signage and public acknowledgment of support.
- *Gold Sponsor* - \$2,000 per year (3 years): recognition on the sponsorship board and acknowledgement in school newsletters.
- *Silver Sponsor* – \$1,000 per year (3 years): includes name displayed on the sponsorship board.
- *Bronze Sponsor* – \$500 per year (3 years): includes acknowledgment and optional key-holder pool access.

The school also welcomes direct donations of any size, community fundraising support, or assistance from families and businesses with relevant skills or resources.

To learn more or offer support, contact clevedonpool@gmail.com.

Right: the Clevedon School pool also acts as a social hub over summer.



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Photos from the 2025 Clevedon A&P Show



First sod turned at Beachlands South development

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Russell acknowledged the strong contribution to the project from local iwi Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, and Māori collective property investment fund Hāpai, both of which have invested in the project alongside the New Zealand Super Fund.

The first sod turning signals the beginning of earthworks across 37 hectares of land, roughly 21 percent of the live-zoned area of the proposed development. The land preparation work is for an area proposed to include a new primary and secondary

school (subject to Ministry of Education approval) as well as the adjoining village centre, housing and community facilities that surround it.

Despite nothing having been confirmed by the Ministry of Education, Christopher Luxon jokingly said “yes” to the government’s approval of a secondary school at the site when he attended last week’s ceremony.

“Let’s just announce it, say it’s happening... let’s make it easy for the Ministry of Education, and tell them it’s happening,” he said.

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Top tips for safe summer motoring

- by Pohutukawa Motors

Another year almost gone - Christmas is upon us. To get the most out of wherever your road takes you we'd suggest you look at the tips below. They're worth doing, they're easy and they could save you time or money.

If you need help, contact us to book your car in for a holiday checkover or service. We use top quality Shell Oils and Ryco Oil Filters and are confident in their abilities, however we do recommend you have your car looked at before you go away. Modern (2000s) vehicles and modern fluids don't like missing, or going beyond, their service intervals – this can (and has) proven a costly way to "save money".

- Check your oil. Cars can still use oil between services. Check it now and top it up if required.
- With the engine cold, check the coolant reservoir and/or radiator is at the correct level. If the level is extremely low, have the system checked for leaks. A potential leak spotted now may save you paying for a major engine repair later!
- Check the engine drive belts. A very important part of the engine, this simple piece of reinforced rubber is often the only thing pumping coolant around your engine. They run the alternator to charge your battery, power the pumps that drive your power steering, and pump refrigerant through your air conditioning system. If you see a

lot of cracking on the ribbed section or white cords showing, have them looked at by a professional as soon as you can.

- Pump your tyres up. Check the manufacturer's specifications for your vehicle (a tyre decal is usually on the driver's door pillar). Low tyre pressures don't just mean increased wear/decreased tyre life, they can also mean increased fuel consumption and poor handling. If you're loading up the car with gear or piling it all in the boat (check you're not overloading your boat and/or vehicle towing capacity) – make sure you increase the tyre pressure to the correct setting. If you have a spare tyre check it is inflated or that you carry a can of tyre sealant (available instore at Pohutukawa Motors Repco reseller shop).
- If you can jack a trailer wheel up, give it a spin – if it's noisy you may need the bearings or other components checked. A boat left on the side of the road isn't as much fun!

We shut our doors at 5pm Monday 22 December and will reopen at 8am Wednesday 14 January. Like all of you we are looking forward to a decent break this year, soaking up the sun, splashing around in the sea, and enjoying some long evening BBQs!

The Pohutukawa Motors team wish you all a merry and safe Christmas and New Year.

Asbestos risk in play-sand closes Maraetai Beach School

Maraetai Beach School was one of dozens to close around the country as a precaution this week, after a national health alert about coloured "kinetic" sand products containing possible asbestos risk.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment confirmed that several play-sand products, including popular sets sold by Kmart, may contain tremolite asbestos, a hazardous form of the mineral.

As of Tuesday, over 200 schools and early childhood centres around Aotearoa had reached out to government authorities with concerns.

In a Facebook message to parents on Monday, Maraetai Beach School said the school would be closed on Tuesday 18 November to allow for immediate professional assessment and remediation of affected areas, and that the school was working closely with the Ministry of Education, Worksafe and Aerem.

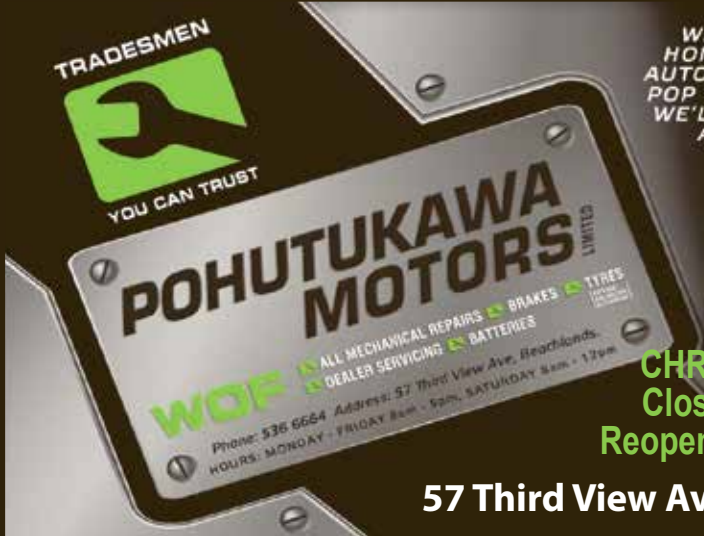
Beachlands School was also affected, confirming use of Kmart's Green Sand

product and a suspected Pink Sand product which had been used in a small number of spaces.

On Tuesday the school was working with a licensed asbestos assessor to check the affected classrooms and remove the sand products. Students from the affected rooms were temporarily relocated to other classrooms and the school said it would act upon any instructions provided by the Ministry of Education, the asbestos specialist and WorkSafe.

University of Adelaide School of Medicine Senior Lecturer Dr Ian Musgrave said the risk of asbestos-induced disease depends on the duration of exposure and the amount of inhaled fibres, but that light, short-term exposure rarely causes disease and one-off exposure is not a major risk.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to call Healthline if they have any health worries, though officials emphasise that immediate medical attention is not necessary in most cases.



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LOCAL STUDENTS' NEWS, VIEWS & LITERARY TALENT

This column features news, views and literary talents of students from Beachlands, Maraetai, Clevedon, Brookby, Hunua, Paparimu, Orere 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 Mike Deverell

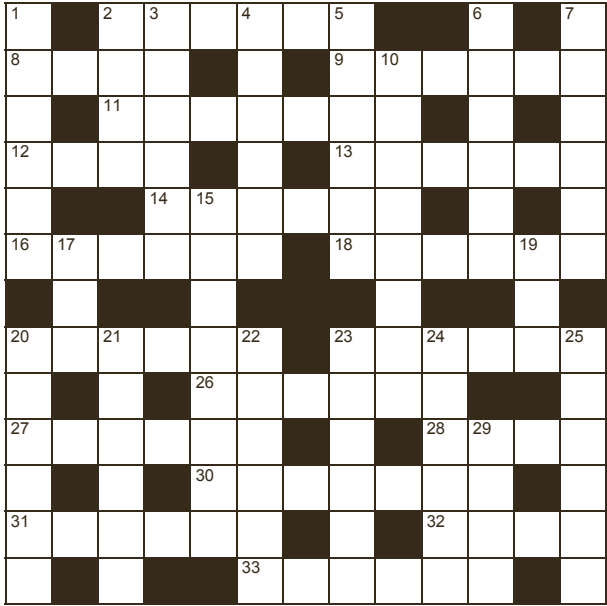
Dear Te Ra

Please move more slowly because I want to play on my bike. I like when you shine on my back... I don't like it when it is cold, but I like snow. I like sunbathing.

- by Eli Wei, Maraetai Beach School



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- Across**

 - 2. The spirit or mind (6)
 - 8. Harvest (4)
 - 9. Smoked herring (6)
 - 11. An Irish woman (7)
 - 12. Mongrel (4)
 - 13. Serving no useful purpose (6)
 - 14. Impenetrable to light (6)
 - 16. Black eye (colloq) (6)
 - 18. Plod (6)
 - 20. Grab (6)
 - 23. Element, Na (6)
 - 26. Card game (6)
 - 27. Casualty (6)
 - 28. Become indistinct (4)
 - 30. Bloodsucker (7)
 - 31. Blush (6)
 - 32. Uncertain (colloq) (4)
 - 33. First-born (6)
- Down**

 - 1. Bread fragments (6)
 - 2. An agreement or treaty (4)
 - 3. Absolutely right (4,2)
 - 4. Basement (6)
 - 5. Make do (3,3)
 - 6. Support (6)
 - 7. Light wind (6)
 - 10. Inside (8)
 - 15. See (8)
 - 17. Fowl (3)
 - 19. African antelope (3)
 - 20. Strict (6)
 - 21. Row of covered shops (6)
 - 22. Compassionate (6)
 - 23. Formed (6)
 - 24. Rubble (6)
 - 25. Person killed for their beliefs (6)
 - 29. Departed (4)
- Answers on page 10

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 2. Psyche, 8. Reap, 9. Kipper, 11. Colleen, 12. Mutt, 13. Otiose, 14. Opaque, 16. Shiner, 18. Trudge, 20. Snatch, 23. Sodium, 26. Euchre, 27. Victim, 28. Blur, 30. Vampire, 31. Redden, 32. Iffy, 33. Eldest. **Down:** 1. Crumbs, 2. Pact, 3. Spot on, 4. Cellar, 5. Eke out, 6. Uphold, 7. Breeze, 10. Interior, 15. Perceive, 17. Hen, 19. Gnu, 20. Severe, 21. Arcade, 22. Humane, 23. Shaped, 24. Debris, 25. Martyr, 29. Left.

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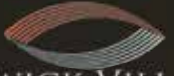
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Beachlands Physio beachlandsphysio.co.nz

09 222 4120

PILATES

Krystel Jeffery www.mypilatesstudio.co.nz

021 646 729

PLUMBERS

Dynamo Plumbing

0800 175 988

BF Brown Plumbing & Drainlaying

0800 477 455

PLUMBERS & GASFITTERS

Ashby Plumbing & Gas

292 2445 or 0272 553 499

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Rent People Ltd

0800 426 580

Ray White Beachlands - Five AM Property Management

536 7011

Barfoot & Thompson Beachlands

536 4990

PUMP SALES & REPAIRS

Auckland Electrical & Pump Services

536 4074, 0274 741 579

Malmaks Water Shop

530 8872, 021 353 158

Allwater Pumps and Supplies Ltd

09 536 5444, 027 536 5444

Clevedon Pumps & Filtration

027 479 7741

QUARRY

Manukau Quarries

263 0220

REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Barfoot & Thompson Beachlands

536 4990

Barfoot & Thompson Whitford

530 8292

Ray White Beachlands - Five AM Realty

536 7011

ROOF PAINTING SERVICES

Master Tradesman. Text details for fast service:

027 517 8494

Visit our website: www.5starroofpainting.co.nz

ROOF SOFTWASHING

Skyhigh Roof and Gutter Cleaning Ltd

Website: www.skyhigh.nz

021 951 719

ROOFING SERVICES

Alba Roofing

021 584 530

Roofing & Spouting NZ Ltd

021 766 260

SCAFFOLDING

Scaffold Connect Ltd

021 235 5963 or 09 576 5879

DTS Wright Scaffolding Ltd

021 239 4276

SECURITY SYSTEMS

ADS Security Ltd (alarms & monitoring)

536 6860

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 Broker 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,

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

538 0010

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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