Pohutukawa Times Coast Times

5 December 2025

Clevedon shed project nets world land speed records



The Cook Motor Racing team pictured with 'Wairua 2', one of the four vehicles they took to Bolivia in an attempt to set world land speed records.

Clevedon resident and self-appointed "geriatric" Reg Cook of any speed record attempts. sold just about everything he owns to realise his dream of setting world land speed records on the salt flats of Bolivia. And last month the 79-year-old succeeded - at least partially - with one world land speed record, one unofficial world land speed record, and two other very promising runs which suggest that future records are in the pipeline.

preparing their purpose-built streamliner 'Wairua 2' for the Salar de Uyuni, one of the largest and flattest salt deserts in the world. They also took three other vehicles to Bolivia - a Mini, a Nissan Coupe, and their first prototype streamliner then went on to break his own record three further times on 'Wairua 1'.

But the road to the Bolivia salt flats record attempts was paved with brutal setbacks.

The team's first major hurdle came long before the cars ever touched the salt. Between complex freight logistics, customs delays which almost derailed the entire operation, and a missing container, the original timeframe set for the world land speed record attempts had to be pushed back. The change in timing affected many crucial team members' ability to remain in Bolivia, and necessitated a rescheduling of the FIA scrutineers who are essential to verifying the legitimacy

Once their gear finally arrived on site, those who were left of the team were challenged by the delicate balance required to keep a high-horsepower engine performing consistently at nearly 4,000 metres above sea level.

Despite the setbacks, Reg and his crew battled on, and on 18 November the team's Nissan Coupe "Cookie" lined up for Reg and his team at Cook Motor Racing have spent years an attempt at the world record for a Category A, Group 1 - 2 litre Unlimited Class. Cookie did not disappoint - smashing the previous record (154mph) with a flying 185mph (297kmh) run. Behind the wheel, Reg broke the record on his first run the same day. While yet to be officially verified, it appears that Reg will be the first Kiwi to bring home a FIA land speed record.

> On 21 November it was the team's Mini's turn, lining up for its crack at the Fastest Mini in the World title, powered by an Iron Block 998 cc engine developed by the Cook Motor Racing team. Once again, Reg showed his skill behind the wheel, accelerating to a top speed of 172mph (278kph) to break the world record. The moment was no taglic for Reg,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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Editorial by the Takutai Charitable Trust chair Garth Dawson

Takutai Charitable Trust – year in review

As 2025 draws to a close, we reflect on another busy and rewarding year of supporting - and being supported by - our wonderful community. The strength of the Takutai Charitable Trust lies in the connections we share, and this year has been no exception.

To highlight just a few of the incredible community activities the Trust supports: the Friday Youth Nights at Te Puru have once again been a standout, with an average of 50–80 rangatahi attending each week and creating a vibrant, positive space for young people to connect.

Our intergenerational activities have continued to bring joy across all ages. These gatherings are deeply appreciated by both young and old, reminding us of the value of shared experiences.

The Log Cabin has also played its part this year, providing a wellused community space for groups, meetings, and creative projects. It's a small building with a big heart, and we're proud to keep it available for everyone.

There has been incredible turnout at events put together and run by our Pōhutukawa Coast Youth Council. We've truly seen the development of leadership skills among our future leaders, along with great community spirit in supporting these events.

It is important that we acknowledge the support of the Franklin Local Board, DIA, and Lotto, whose grants make many of these initiatives possible.

The Takutai Charitable Trust is delighted to have been able to award funding to many community groups, clubs and schools throughout the year via our grants programme. If you lead or support a group or project that benefits people in our community, we encourage you to consider making a grant application. Information can be found on our website.

We also want to acknowledge the incredible response to calls for support. Whether it was donating to the foodbank or rallying to help families in need, your generosity has made a real difference. We are also delighted to share that the 2026 calendars are now on sale across the Pōhutukawa Coast and at upcoming community events. We warmly acknowledge the generous sponsorship from Britta Saxter, who has made this opportunity possible.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers. Your time, energy and commitment are the heartbeat of the Takutai Charitable Trust. Thank you for everything you do.

As we look ahead, we're excited to finish the year on a festive note with the Santa Parade on 6 December - a celebration for the whole community to enjoy. We hope to see you there!

From all of us at the Takutai Charitable Trust, we wish you a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year. Thank you for being part of this journey.

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Beachlands School leads the charge on hard-to-recycle plastics

Ever feel terrible about throwing plastic waste away? Beachlands School may be able to help. The school is tackling the growing problem of hard-to-recycle plastics - and managing to fundraise for the school at the same time.

Recently the school celebrated its largest collection yet, with more than 35 bags of plastics gathered from local families and staff as part of its new partnership with innovative recycling company Plazrok.

The initiative offers residents an easy way to dispose of a wide range of plastics that normally end up in landfill. From soft plastics and bottle lids to broken toys, stationery, shampoo bottles and even empty chemical containers, almost every type of clean plastic can go into the school's distinctive purple collection bags.

There is no need to check recycling numbers or symbols - if it's plastic and clean, it can go in.

The wider community is invited to get behind the initiative by purchasing purple bags from the school either via the Kindo app for \$6.50 or directly from the school office for \$6.00.

Two dollars from every bag goes towards Beachlands School's Enviro Programme.

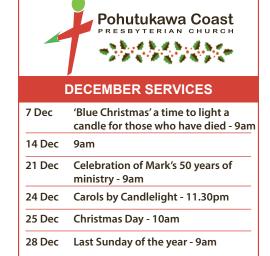


Beachlands School students Mackenzie De Beer (left) and Charlotte Mitchell pictured with some of the plastic waste collected by the school recently.

Once filled, bags can be dropped off Plazrok then collects the plastic and at the school on posted collection days. transforms it into a high-performance

aggregate used in pavers and bricks. Details about upcoming drop-off days regular communications.

will be shared through the school's



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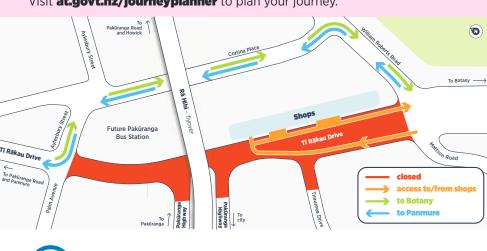
Plan ahead: part of Tī Rākau Drive closed in Pakūranga

27 December 2025 to mid-January 2026

There will be major work on part of Tī Rākau Drive this summer holiday season when fewer vehicles are using the road.

Tī Rākau Drive will be closed in both directions between Aylesbury Street and William Roberts Road. Follow local detours and use Rā Hihi - flyover to access Pakūranga Highway.

To find out more visit easternbusway.nz/construction. Visit at.govt.nz/journeyplanner to plan your journey.





Franklin proves 'it's a place to grow' at EDNZ Awards



L-R: Josh Page (Beyond Usual); Scott Kington (Beyond Usual); Andy Kenworthy; Vanessa Newman; Alan Cole (Franklin Local Board Chair); Christina Rogstad (Franklin Local Economic Development Broker); Connie Clarkson (The Kitchen Project); Andy Baker (Franklin Ward Councillor); Angela Fulljames (former Franklin Local Board Chair); Shawna Coleman (Pukekohe Business Association Manager).

Franklin Local Board was awarded an Honorary Commendation for Collaboration Award at the 2025 Economic Development New Zealand (EDNZ) Awards for 'Find Your Franklin' - a collaborative model for place-led economic development.

The board was nominated under the collaboration category which celebrates outstanding partnerships between organisations that have worked together to achieve significant economic outcomes.

The EDNZ Excellence Awards Gala took place at Wynyard Quarter in Auckland and is part of the three-day economic conference. The event focused on how local capability drives national growth and elevates New Zealand's global competitiveness, offering attendees the opportunity to hear from keynote speakers and connect with leaders across the sector.

The award reflects Franklin Local Board's commitment to economic growth in the area. The Find your Franklin programme was developed and delivered by Franklin Local Board's Economic Development Broker, Christina Rogstad.

Franklin Local Board Chair Alan Cole says the board is proud to receive the award.

"The award reflects our commitment to driving growth and opportunity across the region, we'd like to especially acknowledge former Chair Angela Fulljames and Councillor Andy Baker for their vision and support."

The economic plan addresses one of the 2020 Franklin Local Board Plan's key objectives of supporting economic development in the region. Since then, the board has expanded its investment

in local economic development from \$160,000 to \$600,000.

The plan has guided that investment, creating a clear path for economic growth that suits Franklin's mix of coastal, rural and urban areas and leverages local benefit from significant development and change in the area.

The strategy provides a long-term framework for sustainable growth and prosperity for Franklin. It focuses on fostering innovation through targeted hubs, attracting aspirational businesses that add value to the region, supporting growers to adopt sustainable practices that protect export opportunities, and strengthening education pathways tied to local industries.

It also highlights the role of tourism and storytelling through initiatives like the Hunua Traverse (hunuatraverse.co.nz) and Kai Franklin.

The innovative approach taken by Franklin Local Board is encouraging neighbouring boards in South Auckland to consider their own economic strategies. Sparking wider conversations about planning for growth and local prosperity.

About the Economic Development New Zealand Awards

The EDNZ Awards celebrate people, councils, iwi and organisations across New Zealand that are making a real difference in their communities through economic development. They recognise projects and leaders that drive growth, create jobs, support local business, and use innovation to build stronger, more sustainable regions.

Editorial standards: These articles appear under a partnership with Auckland Council. Although the space has been paid for and the articles have been provided, the editorial standards that apply to all stories in the Pohutukawa Coast Times have been adhered to.

Clevedon shed ingenuity nets land speed records

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

who won his first motor race over 55 years ago in a Mini. At that time he was assisted behind the scenes by his "Mini Man" friend, John Provo, so it was fitting that 79-year-old John also played a key role in the Mini's success in Bolivia and was on the salt flats to see the car break the record.

"You're never too old to get the job done!" says Reg.

Unfortunately the FIA Steward had departed when the Mini broke the record, meaning the attempt did not receive official FIA verification.

Reg also ran his personal best speed at 510kmh (334mph) in the team's custom built streamliner 'Wairua 1', despite only pushing the vehicle to 30 per cent of its throttle potential. Sadly gear box issues following the attempt meant the vehicle had to be retired from the 2025 Bolivia event

"Nevertheless Wairua 1 proved it can go even faster than hoped, and it will. Just not this year," says Reg.

Hopes were high for Wairua 2, the main contender for the world land speed record for a piston engine wheel driven car. The custom built streamliner was constructed in Reg's Clevedon shed, and showed its potential in Bolivia by reaching 496kmh on one test run on just 40 per cent throttle.

"So absolutely a contender to become the fastest piston engine wheel driven car of all time. Just not this year," says Reg. "Unfortunately instead of a six-day event, the FIA had to leave after just three days, not leaving enough time to continue with runs of Wairua 2."

For now, Reg has to be content with being the fastest land speed race car driver in world history in two categories.

"We've learnt (the long hard way) how this can be done in Bolivia - with the right people in place!" he says. "We've demonstrated Kiwi can-do resilience and determination. Every massive hurdle nearly shut it all down but we continued to find a way again, and again, and again. The many 'near end of road' experiences of this event set a new record of its own!

"It was a four week campaign that ended up a ten week campaign. At the final death nell, incredibly talented, dedicated and passionate people stepped up, flew in, stayed on, came back, and pulled rabbits out of magic hats to resuscitate the CMR Bolivia 2025 Challenge," says Reg.

Reg says the Bolivia attempt is not the last of Cook Motor Racing's attempts to set land speed records in Wairua 1 and Wairua 2, which have proved their potential.

Reg says that the team's unplanned extended time in Bolivia created "financial havoc". The team is grateful for any support they can get to continue their mission - a Give A Little page has been set up called 'World records to be set by CMR Kiwi can-do team'.



Reg behind the wheel of his land speed record setting Mini.

Vector begins lines work on Maraetai Coast Road

Vector will begin work undergrounding power lines along the Maraetai Coast Road

The works will extend from east of Maraetai Beach to Umupuia. Vector says it will result in improved reliability and support for future growth.

Partial (and possibly full) road closures will be needed at times during the project, which runs over the summer months to mid 2026.

Full details of the scope of works and road closures will be published in next week's issue.





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Hūnua Ranges Regional Park reopens following 1080 operation

Te Ngāherehere o Kohukohunui / Hūnua Ranges area has reopened following the final laying of bait in the Hūnua Ranges. Waharau and Whakatiwai regional parks.

Pests such as rats, stoats and possums have devastating effects on native birds, such as kōkako, and the fauna in the Hūnua Ranges.

Rats and stoats take eggs from nests while hungry possums damage the forest

A non-toxic pre-feed, to familiarise pests with bait, was carried out on 15 August. The first toxic bait application to

Auckland Council's 1080 programme in one block was carried out on 17 October, and the final toxic bait application to the second block was carried out on 30

> In addition to removing the dams from service, other safety measures around the water supply included exclusion zones around and no flying over the dams.

> While the park has reopened to the public, Auckland Council Regional Parks Manager Scott De Silva says visitors must remain aware they are entering an area recently treated with a toxin.

> "Signs will remain in place for the next six months to remind people 1080 has

been used in the area. This caution period is one of the operational requirements of using a toxin like 1080 and is a good reminder to visitors they may encounter either bait that hasn't yet broken down or pest animal carcasses.

"Dog owners should not bring dogs to the park for the next six months, as they are highly susceptible to the toxin. Those who walk dogs near the operational area should make sure dogs are not allowed to scavenge carcasses. Children should also be carefully supervised," says De Silva.

De Silva says the operation has gone well and early monitoring is extremely promising.

"Treating a 23,000-hectare area that is popular for public access and includes a water catchment and private land, requires many months of careful planning.

"Getting the right weather conditions was a challenge for this operation. We appreciate the support and patience of the Hūnua community and our park visitors while the park has been closed.

"After each block was treated with toxic bait an extensive track clearance programme was carried out. This required staff and volunteers walking over 700 kilometres of tracks and carefully moving baits and carcasses," he says.

A post-control monitoring programme will be carried out to establish how effective the operation was in reducing possums and rats.

Watercare's dams have been returned to service following completion of a water testing programme and approval given by the Medical Officer of Health.

Dogs are at risk following the 1080 application. If you must visit the ranges (where dogs are permitted), always supervise your dog and do not allow it to scavenge baits or carcasses. If you suspect your dog has been poisoned, induce vomiting and immediately go to a vet.

New shuttle service links riders to Hūnua Traverse

A new shuttle service launched last book their pick up time and location Council's recent pest control operation month by The Y Camp Adair will make access to the Hūnua Traverse cycle trail

Camp Adair has taken the pain out of logistics by coordinating a monthly shuttle between Clevedon and the start of the traverse. Simply meet them at Hallertau Clevedon with your bike on a Sunday morning, and they will drop you off in Kaiaua so that you can ride 44.5km through the Hūnua Ranges back to the pub at your leisure. Alternatively, riders can choose to begin their ride at the Clevedon end of the trail, finishing in Kaiaua.

Riders wishing to use the service can

directly with the Camp Adair team at www.hunua-traverse-shuttle.raiselysite.

All proceeds from the shuttle service will go to the 'Send a School to Camp' initiative run by the Y Camp Adair, giving more kids access to outdoor adventures.

All riders will receive a voucher for a free beer at Hallertau.

The shuttle service will run on the following dates from 8.30am: 7 December, 18 January, 15 February, 15 March, 26 April, 17 May.

The Hūnua Ranges Regional Park has recently reopened following Auckland in the area. Cyclists are urged to follow compliance rules including using the wash stations at park entrances.

The use of cycle trails within the Hūnua Ranges Regional Park could be at risk if cyclists don't get better at complying with strict bike and shoe washing requirements. A survey this year revealed that only 8 per cent of cyclists are completing the hygiene process correctly, while a further 69% of cyclists were attempting to follow procedures but failing to complete them correctly.



Brookby School marks 150 years with community celebration



Brookby School's kapa haka group welcomes guests to the 150th anniversary celebrations.



A 1998 issue of the PC Times was unearthed in the time capsule.



Clockwise from front left: Philippa Cadwallader (parent, BOT member and a student in 1998 when the capsule was created), current principal Wayne Gillard, past principal (1995-2000) Susannah Fowler, Lyn Gordon (staff member in 1998, then principal) and Mary Fitzgerald (teacher at the time of capsule creation) cut the anniversary cake.



Brookby School 1998 students Angelina (left) and Natasha Singh are reunited with their time capsule contributions.

Brookby School marked its 150th anniversary on Saturday 22 November with a community event attended by past and present families, some of who had travelled from overseas and from outside Auckland to reconnect with the small rural school.

Past principals Susannah Fowler and Lynette Gordon were invited back for the much anticipated opening of the school's 1998 time capsule. Inside they found student-made packages from the time, a 1998 issue of the Pōhutukawa Coast Times, and - mysteriously - four rolls of toilet paper.

Current principal Wayne Gillard said the people." capsule would soon be refilled and resealed for a future generation to rediscover.

Throughout the day, visitors explored the school's beautifully restored historic church building which hosted displays of memorabilia spanning more than a

In his anniversary speech, Wayne Gillard reflected on what makes Brookby School so special. "We have a saying here: 'Once a Brookby kid, always a Brookby kid.' That applies to everyone - students, teachers, parents and grandparents. This place pulls you back and connects

He described Brookby as proudly unique. "As a semi-rural school, we're in the sweet spot where gumboots and Google Classroom happily co-exist. Children here grow up knowing how to code a robot and bottle-feed a lamb, sometimes on the same day."

Wayne said that the school's small size is one of its greatest strengths.

"Bigger isn't better. Smaller has always meant stronger. Every child is known by name, every family is connected, and everyone pitches in. The big kids look after the little kids. You don't get lost in the crowd because there isn't a crowd."

As the school looks toward the next 150 years, Wayne said its core values will remain unchanged.

"The next 150 years will bring technologies and opportunities we can't yet imagine, but the essence of Brookby - people first, connection, and community - will stay the same."

"I have the best job, the best team, the best students and the best school," said Wayne. "A five-year-old once asked me if I live here, and sometimes it feels like that. But there are definitely worse places to hang out."

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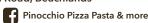


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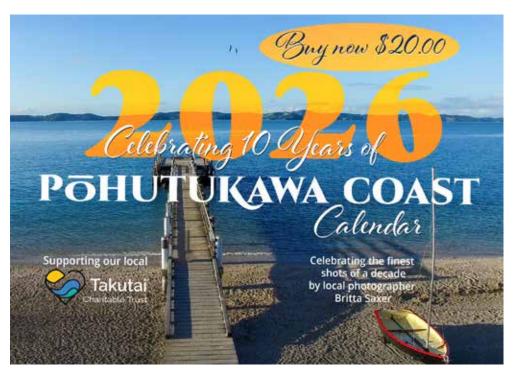


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Photographer releases 10th annual Christmas calendar



Beachlands resident Britta Saxer has fundaised for local causes for the past decade with her annual Christmas calendars.

The 2026 Pōhutukawa Coast Calendar has arrived, celebrating 10 years of the Pōhutukawa Coast Calendar with a special best-of edition. This stunning and practical piece features the finest shots of a decade from local photographer Britta Saxer, capturing the charm and natural beauty of our local coastline.

Each month of the A4-sized calendar highlights a unique coastal scene, including local favourites such as Sunkist Bay in Beachlands, Sunset next to Pine Harbour Marina, Sunrise at Umupuia, and Pohutukawa at Omana Regional Park. The calendar is also highly practical, featuring daily moon phases and high tide times.

Proceeds from the calendar sales will be donated to the Takutai Charitable Trust.

The Trust operates several local initiatives, including the Takutai Foodbank (Nourishing our Coast), the Community Garden (Growing our Coast), their preloved goods shop, Coastal Treasures, and the Log Cabin. They also provide groups for babies, youth (the Youth Project), and seniors (Silver Tones for over 60s).

The calendar is designed for easy gifting: it comes with an envelope for easy posting, perfect for sharing a piece of the Coast with family and friends.

Where to purchase

You can pick up your copy of the 2026 Pōhutukawa Coast Calendar from the following locations:

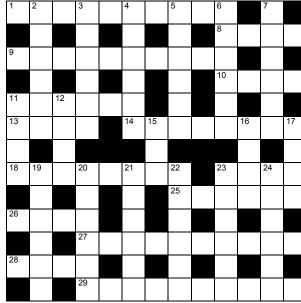
- Coastal Treasures Op Shop (which is the community pre-loved goods shop run by the Takutai Charitable Trust)
- Unichem Pharmacy Wakelin Rd
- GAS Maraetai
- Maraetai Dairy
- Beachlands Post Shop

Or you can order online at https://www. pohutukawacoast.nz/.

Support local, celebrate our Coast, and help the volunteers of the Takutai Charitable Trust continue their great work in the community.



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- **9.** Suspension of an ongoing activity (10)
- **10.** Dry (4)
- **11.** Messenger bird (6)
- 13. Peruse words (4)
- **14.** Solidly built (8)
- **18.** Encourage (8)
- io. Encourage (
- **23.** Dismiss (4)
- 25. Speak indistinctly (6)
- **26.** Closed (4)
- **27.** Speed up (10)
- **28.** A group of countries working in alliance (4)
- **29.** Imposer of hard work (10)

Answers on page 10

Down

- 2. Person lacking experience (6)
- 3. Overjoyed (6)
- 4. Quantity (6)
- 5. Hot pepper (6)
- **6.** Comment (6)
- 7. Intercede (6)
- **11.** Prudish (4)
- **12.** Walking manner (4)
- **15.** Scorching (3)
- 16. Absorbent pad (4)
- **17.** Remove (4)
- **19.** Delayed (2,4)
- **20.** In one piece (6)
- **21.** Counting device (6)
- 22. Symbol (6)
- **23.** Stings (6)
- 24. Outfit (6)

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, 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

Many people use plastic, but I think it is so bad so I'm going to talk about ways to stop it and ways people do it.

Many people just dump their rubbish in the ocean or on land which is so horrible because of the animals like seabirds, whales and turtles, and even animals on land. But it's not just the animals we're hurting we're also hurting ourselves because of the little micro plastics. They get into our food, our water and most importantly they get into our brains so that means there are millions of tiny plastics in our brains and there's no way to get them out. I think we should get rid of plastic cups and we should start bringing metal cups or drink bottles or make edible cups and packets. I also think we should stop laminating because it is just plastic melted on a piece of paper so it can last longer. Laminating is so bad because it can last up to at least one thousand years.

I think everyone should start to recycle their plastic bottles, their chip packets and their wrappers from anything because it will destroy the nature around us and debris on the beaches is ugly and horrible for tourists and the community and the animals.

So, I say stop using plastic and get rid of it and start recycling.

- by Niamh Morbey, Year 6, Ōrere School

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Across: 1. Freelancer, 8. Evil, 9. Moratorium, 10. Arid, 11. Pigeon, 13. Read, 14. Thickset, 18. Motivate, 23. Sack, 25. Mumble, 26. Shut, 27. Accelerate, 28. Bloc, 29. Taskmaster. Down: 2. Rookie, 3. Elated, 4. Amount, 5. Chilli, 6. Remark, 7. Liaise, 11. Prim, 12. Gait, 15. Hot, 16. Swab, 17. Take, 19. On hold, 20. Intact, 21. Abacus, 22. Emblem, 23. Smarts, 24. Clothe.





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