

14 July 2023

Solar farm proposal offers renewable energy for Clevedon and Ardmore



The farmland surrounding historic St James Church in Ardmore is the site of a proposed solar farm which could supply power to Clevedon and Ardmore.

An application has been made to Auckland Council to build a solar farm in Ardmore which would provide power to the surrounding communities.

Kenny Ardmore Limited has applied for resource consent to construct and operate a solar farm at 600 Papakura-Clevedon Road, Ardmore, adjacent the historic St James Church and opposite Ardmore School. If council grants resource consent, the enterprise will see about 18,000 solar panels installed on approximately 13ha of the 16.9ha site, along with ancillary electrical transformer and substation equipment.

The solar farm's resource consent application says it will generate approximately 17,488 MWh, enough to meet the domestic power demand of about 2,400 houses in the surrounding local communities of Ardmore and Clevedon.

The site could be connected to two local substations via the Vector lines network, which will then transmit electricity to Ardmore and Clevedon. Limited surplus would be fed back to the national grid.

On site, the solar panels will be fixed in place, and will not rotate or swivel. The panels will run in rows, tilted at a fixed angle to face north. Each solar panel will measure

2.4m long x 1.3m wide x 0.4m deep, and will be situated on a mounting frame on piles that are driven into the ground, like fence posts. Once mounted, each panel will measure up to 3m in height. The photovoltaic panels have an expected lifespan of 30 years.

Because the solar panels are an impervious surface, resource consent is required for the diversion and discharge of stormwater onto land from the panels. Resource consent is also required as the solar panels and ancillary buildings exceed the maximum permitted building area and height restriction for the area.

The application says that planting will be undertaken around the site to act as a visual buffer between the road and the solar farm.

The application goes on to say: "Overall, an initial temporary moderate adverse effect on the rural character values and amenity of the site is expected due to the introduction of solar panel structures and associated infrastructure. As the proposed mitigation planting establishes (over a period of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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EDITOR

Leanne Chamberlin
 021 426 207
 leanne@pctimes.co.nz

ADVERTISING

Melody Cutfield
 021 0261 4467
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The PC Times 20 years ago:

11 July 2003: Joint school-community library proposed for Beachlands.



Weekly Tide Chart

| | | | | |
|--------|--|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| 14 Fri | | 4:17am ▲ 3.0m | 10:52am ▼ 0.8m | |
| 15 Sat | | 5:12am ▲ 2.9m | 11:20am ▼ 0.8m | |
| 16 Sun | | 6:06am ▲ 2.9m | 12:11pm ▼ 0.8m | |
| 17 Mon | | 12:39am ▼ 1.0m | 6:57am ▲ 2.9m | |
| 18 Tue | | 1:25am ▼ 1.0m | 7:45am ▲ 2.9m | |
| 19 Wed | | 2:08am ▼ 0.9m | 8:29am ▲ 2.9m | |
| 20 Thu | | 2:49am ▼ 0.9m | 9:10am ▲ 2.9m | |

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Guest Editorial by Franklin Local Board Wairoa Representatives

At our most recent business meeting we had a special deputation.

We welcome input from deputations during our public forum, and it's common to get them, but not from children, so we want to thank the Beachlands School students who gave up their time to present on an issue of concern to them.

What they had to say about the state of the skatepark - and they said it with courtesy and clearness - was challenging because we are aware the issues at Te Puru are long-standing.

The kids told us they are a bit fed up with it.

Boards across Auckland are always talking about engaging with young people and making sure their voices are heard. So now the challenge for us is to make sure their efforts don't come to nothing.

Unfortunately, we couldn't promise a quick fix, and there are issues around the skatepark, its poor condition, and in particular safety issues around where it is sited. Te Puru is also a culturally significant site to Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, something we also need to respect.

Teacher Adelia Saville's young charges can't be expected to understand the nuances of council work programmes,

renewal budgets, leases, playground amenities or designing and tendering for building new facilities.

But sometimes it's good to perhaps 'see things through the eyes of a child' as the saying goes, and to be reminded that none of the things that matter to council organisations in terms of process, figure in children's lives.

They have a simpler view - it's broken, please fix it.

We can't promise an immediate solution, but we can promise that we were listening.

Speaking up is key to a lot of what we can achieve as a board.

Your opinions and input shape our annual agreements, three-year plans and our long-term objectives.

That's why it's important to be heard about what you want for your community during consultation on our Local Board Plan, open from 14 July to 14 August.

After a plan is adopted, we can put a work programme in place that is shaped by the plan.

Planning our budget for this coming financial year has been challenging given uncertainty over funding, and as we have tried to respond to population growth and climate change, we have needed to focus on core services.

That will mean some of the things we

do now will stop to allow priorities you tell us about to continue. But we will continue to support community-led service delivery and events, advocate for a locally-led emergency response, support coastal safety programmes and our businesses, and continue our environmental work.

We will advocate for investment to address the infrastructure deficit in the south, and to create future opportunities for our communities, and push ahead with investigation work on a Franklin paths programme.

Public consultation runs from 14 July to 14 August. You can comment at Council's akhaveyoursay website, while hard copies and feedback forms will be available at libraries and service centres, or on request by calling 09 301 0101.

In the Wairoa subdivision, in person events will be held at the Kawakawa Bay Markets from 10am-noon, and at the Beachlands Memorial Hall from 2-4pm, on 5 August.

As ever, if you see something that needs attention, call 09 301 0101 or log it at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz and request a logit reference. You can also email Angela Fulljames, Malcolm Bell or Amanda Hopkins - firstname.surname@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

approximately 5 years) the adverse effects on the landscape character are expected to reduce to low-moderate."

An expert has provided evidence within the application to show that the solar panels will not result in glint or glare effects on the surrounding environment, including Ardmore Airport.

Auckland Council says that no decision has been made yet about the application, and that and further information is currently being sought.

If Auckland Council approves the application, construction works could start late this year and are expected to take six months to complete. The solar farm could be supplying power to the local area by mid-2024.

Group seeks community's views on Anzac memorial

A group of residents is keen to hear your thoughts about the idea of a War Memorial at Beachlands at the end of Wakelin Road.

Two public meetings are scheduled this month, where people are encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas. At these meetings, the group will present some ideas about:

- design
- size
- situation and
- cost

of the memorial.

Both meetings will be held at the Baptist Church on Third View Ave. The first will

be on Wednesday 19 July at 7.30pm and the second will be on Sunday 23 July at 3pm.

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Local schools rock at this year's Showquest competition



Clevedon School students celebrate their first placing at Showquest.

Two local schools took to the stage against schools from around Auckland at the end of term 2, punching above their weight to take out the two top spots at this year's Showquest event at the Aotea Centre. Clevedon School won first place overall and the School Spirit award, while Brookby School placed second overall.

Eighty-five students from Clevedon School were involved in this year's production as performers, make-up and costumer designers, and lighting technicians.

Practices and preparation for the show started half way through term 1 and the students worked on it during their lunch and morning tea breaks.

Clevedon School's theme was "You've Got This", with the story following the central character, Awanui, through a big emotional change in his life when his parents divorce.

Students Awanui and Izabellah say they found the experience "out of this world!"

"There was always something to do, and if you were nervous, you had some not only amazing Clevedon School students there to support you. But also some incredible teachers and parent helpers. The day was incredible, but it was the weeks and weeks of practice before that which brought it all together. People watching the show saw what was on stage, but they didn't see a team of students giving it their all to prepare the show for

the day. We could not be more proud of Clevedon!"

Clevedon School also received a highly commended for choreography, highly commended for their video wall/digital backdrop, and the award for best use of drama.

It was the school spirit award that meant the most though.

Teacher Jo Odds says the school spirit award is only awarded to one school who demonstrates team spirit, amazing behaviour and "general awesomeness. We're particularly proud of this one. We were the biggest group there by quite a bit and our kids were just stunning. They understood the meaning of this award and were almost as loud with their cheers for this one as they were for first place."

Brookby School was also delighted with their second placing overall.

Principal Wayne Gillard says that their students worked incredibly hard to prepare and practise for Showquest.

"To involve 41 students from our small school was fantastic. We were so proud to see their amazing performance on the night. For our students to shine under the lights and big stage of the Aotea Centre is an experience that will not be forgotten."

Brookby School's theme was about family heritage and knowing where you come from.

Wayne Gillard says the audience came to life as the Brookby students showcased



It's easy to see why Brookby School won 'best use of props'.

dances from all over the world.

"The Showquest team of Rachel Bellve, Natalie Turner, Nic Ward and Sharon Wheat did such a phenomenal job preparing the students so well.

"They all went the extra mile to ensure Brookby was at its best on the big night. To come second was huge for us and our students, staff and community could not be prouder. We are a small school achieving big things!"

Brookby School also won the award for best use of props, and placed highly commended for their theme and lighting.



Behind the scenes with Clevedon School's lighting team.

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Book in for a mental health first aid course this month

Did you know that 1 in 5 adults in New Zealand face mental health challenges? That means at some stage in our lives, we all have the opportunity to offer support to someone in need.

Local lady Berenice Beale has worked with Fleur Thomas from Emerge Aotearoa and Takutai Charitable Trust to bring a Mental Health First Aid Aotearoa training course to our area.

The 3-week programme runs 9am-

1pm on Saturday 15, 22 and 29 July and provides practical, evidence-based strategies to give initial support until specialist help is available. "By attending a mental health first aid course, you can learn how to be there for all people experiencing mental health issues or a crisis," says Berenice.

Studies consistently show that mental health first aid training improves our understanding of mental health challenges, treatment options, and

effective first aid techniques and previous participants report feeling more confident in their ability to offer support, which can lead to earlier access to help.

The training also helps reduce the stigma and discrimination faced by those with mental health and addiction challenges.

This course is open to anyone over 18 years old. More information and registration is available by contacting Berenice on 021 127 1461.

Anahila Kanongata'a-Suisuiki

Labour List MP based in Papakura



For advice and advocacy contact

0800 262 4452 (0800 Anahila)
 Anahila@parliament.govt.nz

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Community invited to 63rd wedding anniversary and renewal of vows

If you need reassurance that romance is not dead, then pop along to St Thomas Church in Whitford on Sunday 23 July at 9.30am.

Tony and Dorothy Booth will be there, renewing the wedding vows they made 63 years ago.

For Tony, it is an opportunity to reflect on the happy life they have spent together. Dorothy now has advanced dementia, and following a stroke in 2021 she moved to a care home in Highland Park. While she may not remember their anniversary celebration this year, Tony is still keen to invoke the memory of their 1960 wedding at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Gee Cross, Cheshire, in the United Kingdom.

At this year's wedding anniversary Tony will be taking the sermon at St Thomas Church Whitford. The plan is for the couple's son and daughter to push Dorothy down the aisle in her wheelchair, accompanied by "Here comes the bride".

They will sing two hymns and recite Psalm 23, just as they did at their original service, and Tony will renew his vows before the *Wedding March* song is played.

The service will be followed by sandwiches and cake in the church's community room.

Looking back to when they first met, Tony says his first conversation with Dorothy took place at a Christian Endeavour bus tour of Europe. It was a hot day and the bus had no air conditioning, so Tony offered Dorothy and her friend (who were

seated in front of him) a drink from his water bottle.

"She said she would love a drink," says Tony. "So that was our first contact."

He then plucked up the courage to offer to carry her suitcase up four flights of stairs while in Lyon, France. This act of gallantry cemented their friendship, and Dorothy then asked Tony to make a speech as she celebrated her twenty-first birthday in Interlaken, Switzerland, while still on the bus tour. Dorothy still has the music box given to her as a birthday present by her tour companions.

Within twelve months of ending their bus tour, Tony and Dorothy were married.

They moved to New Zealand in 1972. "I was a ten-pound-pom," jokes Tony.

A shared belief in Jesus Christ as their personal saviour has bound them together, and they have been a big part of St Thomas

Church Whitford for many years. Dorothy played the organ there for 43 years, retiring from the role in 2021. Tony has served as treasurer since 1995, and they have both been on the church committee for many years.

Tony describes himself as sporty and interested in science, while he says Dorothy always enjoyed more creative pursuits such as art and music.

"We are opposites in some ways, but together we've solved a lot of problems!" he says.

Fellow parishioner Michelle Godsiff says it is an honour to share the Booth's celebration.

"They were always there for my kids growing up. They're the sort of people who hold a community together," she says.

Anyone is welcome to join the Booths



Tony and Dorothy Booth.

at their wedding anniversary and vowel renewal celebration at 9.30am on 23 July at St Thomas Church, Whitford.

Letters

Your front page article concerning Vesting the Cat Burglar is very cute and family friendly but does nothing to address the fact that cats, like Vesting and his 'savage' sibling should not be given the opportunity to roam at night indiscriminately stealing and, unfortunately, killing.

I am a cat lover and always will be, but

it is irresponsible cat owners that don't keep their cats under control at night that contribute toward the bad rap that cats get when it comes to conserving New Zealand's amazing endemic fauna.

Keep your cat in at night. Your cat will be healthier and happier. You will save on vet bills from cat fights and vehicle injuries. You will help protect our bird,

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Brian Stewart
A Cat Lover

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|---|---|--|--|---|
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| | BADMINTON 9.30 - 11.30am STADIUM FREE | | | SENIOR CIRCUIT 10 - 11am STADIUM \$7 / \$60 for 10 |
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| YOGA 6 - 7pm FUNCTION ROOM \$16 / \$150 for 10 | TABLE TENNIS 1.30 - 3.30pm STADIUM FREE *During school term | BADMINTON 10 - 12pm STADIUM FREE *During school term | | |
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Te Puru Gymnastics Club Term 3 2023

| CLASS | DAY | TIME | AGE | COST |
|--|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------|
| Jumping Juniors | Monday Thursday | 11am - 11.45am 9.15am - 10.00am | 1 - 4 yrs 1 - 4 yrs | \$105 |
| Gym Skills 5-6 yrs | Monday | 3.30pm - 4.30pm | 5 - 6 yrs | \$140 |
| Gym Skills 5-6 yrs GymFest 7yrs+ | Monday | 4.30pm - 5.30pm | 5 - 6 yrs 7 yrs+ | \$140 |
| GymFest Gymnastics 9yrs+ | Monday | 5.30pm - 6.30pm | 9 yrs+ | \$140 |
| Gym Skills 5-6 yrs | Thursday | 4.00pm - 5.00pm | 5 - 6 yrs | \$140 |
| GymFest 7yrs+ | Thursday | 5.00pm - 6.00pm | 7 yrs+ | \$140 |
| Tumbling (Beginners) Tumbling (Intermediate) Tumbling (Advanced) | Thursday Thursday Thursday | 4.00pm - 5.00pm 5.00pm - 6.00pm 6.00pm - 7.00pm | 5 - 6 yrs 7 yrs+ 9 yrs+ | \$140 |

Club Sports Term 3 2023

| CLASS | DAY | TIME | AGE | COST |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------|----------|
| Basketball (PCBC) | Tuesday | 4.00pm - 9.00pm | 5 yrs+ | Club Fee |
| Parkour | Mon-Wed | 3:30pm onwards | 5 yrs+ | Club Fee |
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| Touch | Wednesday | Contact Club | | Club Fee |

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Boating Association accuses Council of dropping biosecurity responsibilities

- by Laura Kvigstad, Auckland Council reporter. Funded by New Zealand on Air.

An Auckland boating association issued a call for help from the Hauraki Gulf Forum as fears around hardstands closing across Auckland fall on deaf ears at Auckland Council.

In the past year six hardstands have reduced their hull cleaning capacity, with three shutting their doors entirely.

Boats are a primary way for pests to spread in Auckland waters and with cleaning capacity reduced boats will need to travel further for cleaning. This could result in pests being dragged for longer distances.

Exotic *Caulerpa* is one pest plant which

currently poses a big threat to sea life in the Hauraki Gulf. Also known as Sea Mustard, it was discovered at Aotea (Great Barrier Island) and Ahuahu (Great Mercury Island) in 2021 and has since spread to western harbours. Should it reach the Hauraki Gulf, the consequences for biodiversity are dire.

The ability for boaties to effectively clean their boats is important because it helps reduce the spread of pests such as Sea Mustard.

At last month's Hauraki Gulf Forum, Auckland Yacht and Boating Association representative Andrew Barney asked for help from the forum.

"We are losing cleaning capacity and Auckland Council has not identified this

death by a thousand cuts," Barney said.

He said the association's public input at a council committee and a meeting with Mayor Wayne Brown were both declined.

"We seem to be the only organisation aware of this risk."

"As a not for profit we are out of cash and we are losing - we feel we are fighting on our own here."

Cr Christine Fletcher asked if Andrew believed that council staff had built it's advice on the assumption that Auckland boaties were all wealthy.

Andrew said while council appeared to believe boaties were all wealthy that was not the only issue.

"I believe Auckland Council has walked away from its role on biosecurity," Barney

said.

Fletcher replied that she did not believe council's response was out of malice but the organisation had become too big.

Co-chair Toby Adams identified himself as a "non-wealthy boat owner."

"There are not enough haul outs now - even in winter I struggle to get an appointment," Adams said.

Cr Wayne Walker said the association had "skin in the game" and could commission a report on the effects of closing hardstands.

Barney responded that the organisation could but the issue was whether anyone would listen.

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Black Bean & Walnut Chilli - by The Kai Box



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a medium pot heat the oil and saute the onions, garlic and chilli spices for 3-4 minutes. Add the red capsicum and stir fry for another minute. Add a tablespoon of water to prevent sticking.
2. Add the tin of tomatoes, the black beans and walnuts. Stir and cover, simmer on medium low heat for 10 minutes.
3. While chilli cooks, prepare the cauli rice according to package instructions.
4. Serve chilli on a bed of cauli rice, with slices of avo, wedge of lime and fresh coriander to squeeze.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tsp olive oil
- 1/2 red onion, finely diced
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- Chilli spices (1 tsp ground cumin, 1 tsp ground coriander, 1 tsp smoked paprika, 1/4 tsp chipotle)
- 1/2 red capsicum, diced
- 1 tin chopped tomatoes
- 1 tin black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1/2 cup walnuts, roughly chopped
- 1 packet of cauli rice (or half a cauliflower, grated into cauli rice)
- 1/2 lime, cut into wedges to serve
- 1 avocado, halved then sliced
- 2 TBs coriander, finely chopped for garnish

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Across: 1. Bludge, 5. Orchid, 8. Dip, 9. Dogged, 10. Talc, 11. Yonder, 12. Sales, 15. Choral, 17. Indict, 20. Macro, 21. Reflex, 23. Esteem, 26. Yummy, 27. Salted, 29. Ruin, 30. Random, 31. Via, 32. Wiggle, 33. Billy-o.
Down: 2. Loofah, 3. Dagger, 4. Eddy, 5. Open fire, 6. Hear, 7. Dichotomy, 10. Tend, 12. Scarecrow, 13. Loaf, 14. Same, 16. Laxative, 18. Nosy, 19. Item, 22. Loan, 24. Tunnel, 25. Embody, 27. Sing, 28. Drab.

Wet summer provides boost for new plants at Duder Regional Park



These time lapse photos show the progress made by a newly planted area at Duder Regional Park. Clockwise from top left: Area prepped for planting autumn 2021; volunteers plant the area winter 2021; latest photo taken in March 2023 after two years growth. Photos / Paul Wilson.

Park Ranger Paul Wilson says that while it may have been a disappointing wet summer for most, restoration plantings at Duder Regional Park have been loving the conditions.

“The wetland at Duder was planted in winter 2021, and for the first 12 months we didn’t see much happening as all the action was happening underground as the tree roots settled and grew,” says Paul.

“Rangers carrying out maintenance

weed control in the plantings this summer noticed that the wetland plantings were doing really well, with toe toe and flax flowering and plenty of new growth across the site. The restoration of the wetland provides important habitat for native birds at Duder and compliments the existing saltmarsh wetlands there. Wetland are great sinks for carbon and provide important flood mitigation and help to retain soil moisture over dry seasons.”



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.

8 May 2023
Robdog Writing

If I had laser eyes I would go to war, because I can shoot down jet and if I turn my head I would hit heaps of people and if I get good at aiming I can cut bullets. I would be an'asser in the war.

If I could fly like rob dog I would fly to different countries instead of going on a plane because planes cost money to travel so then I could put the plane cost in to the hobby.

Done by Billy

- by Billy, Ōre School

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Across

1. Scrounge (6)
5. Exotic flower (6)
8. Depression in the road (3)
9. Determined (6)
10. Dusting powder (abbr) (4)
11. Over there (6)
12. Periods of reduced prices (5)
15. Sung by a choir (6)
17. Formally charge (6)
20. Large scale (5)
21. Involuntary jerk (6)
23. Regard (6)
26. Scrumptious (inf) (5)
27. Seasoned (6)
29. Devastation (4)
30. Haphazard (6)
31. By way of (3)
32. Squirm (6)
33. Very much, vigorously (inf) (5-1)

Down

2. Bath sponge (6)
3. Knife (6)
4. Whirlpool (4)
5. Begin shooting (4,4)
6. Perceive sound (4)
7. Disparity between two groups (9)
10. Take care of (4)
12. Bird frightener (9)
13. Commonsense (colloq) (4)
14. Closely similar (4)
16. Purgative (8)
18. Overly curious (4)
19. Object (4)
22. Borrow for a limited time (4)
24. Passage (6)
25. Personify (6)
27. Chirp (4)
28. Dull (4)

Answers on page 8

Classified Ads

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GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 7pm

To be held at Kawakawa Bay Health Clinic

Purpose: To vote on rule change to the constitution, passed at the recent AGM.

To allow up to 12 Committee members to stand.

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