

17 April 2026

## Teen shooter hits the mark at NZ and World Clay Shooting Championships



Cameron Dickens in action at the NZ Clay Shooting Champs. Inset: Cameron with his silver medal.

Fifteen-year-old Cameron Dickens is already making his mark on the international clay target shooting scene, recently finishing second at the New Zealand National DTL Championships and placing fifth and tenth overall at the ICTSF World DTL Championships.

Cameron, who lives in Brookby and attends Botany Downs Secondary College, has been around shooting since he was young. "From a young age I have always gone duck shooting with my dad, I would try to call them in and he would shoot them," he says.

Cameron's competitive journey began at age 12, when he joined the Auckland Metropolitan Clay Target Club in Pukekohe and began representing his school in interschool Down the Line (DTL) competitions.

Now the sole member of his school's shooting team, Cameron trains weekly at the Pukekohe club while competing nationally as an individual. This year, New Zealand hosted both the NZ National DTL Championships and the ICTSF World DTL Championship, attracting close to 500 competitors from around 10 countries. Cameron competed in the Open B Grade and Junior (under 21) categories.

The Nationals alone drew nearly 400 shooters, with many international competitors using the event as preparation for the world championships.

"Having never shot at these events in the past, it was difficult to know what to expect and to keep calm when surrounded by international competitors," he says.

"I was a bit shocked to be honest, there was a high standard of competition and a lot of the international competitors used the NZ National event as their warm up/practice for the World Championship. I was the only junior member from our club to travel, so it was isolating not knowing many people, but a great opportunity to meet those that had travelled from overseas. It was awesome winning a medal!"

While pleased with his silver medal at nationals, he is more reflective about the world championships.

"I was a little disappointed with my results at the ICTSF World Championship event as I was in third place at one stage. These events are long and having to shoot 100 targets a day is tiring, and by the last day I was feeling it. My final shoot off wasn't my best, but I was the youngest person in the shoot off, and one of the youngest at the overall event."

Support has been key to his success. Cameron credits coach Brendon Cochrane, along with Gavin Paton, president of Auckland Metropolitan Clay Target Club, for their guidance, as well as senior shooters who offered advice in Christchurch, including Andrew Muirhead. His parents and grandparents have been a key part of his ability to train and attend events.

He encourages other young people to consider taking up the sport. "Definitely give it a go, it is an expensive sport (like many others), it is about concentration and focus and it definitely helps develop skill across other areas of shooting, like when I am out duck hunting with dad or at home on the farm with pest control, I never miss a shot."

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17 Fri	12:33am ▲ 0.7m	6:54am ▼ 3.3m	☀️☀️☀️
18 Sat	1:21am ▲ 0.6m	7:42am ▼ 3.4m	☀️☀️☀️
19 Sun	2:08am ▲ 0.6m	8:32am ▼ 3.4m	☀️☀️☀️
20 Mon	2:58am ▼ 0.5m	9:23am ▲ 3.5m	☀️☀️☀️
21 Tue	3:49am ▼ 0.6m	10:15am ▲ 3.4m	☀️☀️☀️
22 Wed	4:44am ▼ 0.7m	11:08am ▲ 3.3m	☀️☀️☀️
23 Thu	5:41am ▼ 0.8m	12:04pm ▲ 3.2m	☀️☀️☀️

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# Guest editorial by MP for Papakura Rt Hon Judith Collins

## ANZAC Day 2026

ANZAC Day 2026 will be my last as the Member of Parliament for Papakura and will be a day of many memories for me. I have attended the Dawn Service and the 9am Service at the Papakura-Karaka Cenotaph and the 11am Drury War Memorial Service and at other War Memorials for ANZAC Day many times.

I greatly appreciate that many residents of Papakura and beyond, faithfully attend these Services year after year, to remember their brave family members and all our brave defence personnel and the non-military people who have served and sadly many of them are now gone but never forgotten.

It has been a privilege to give speeches at ANZAC Day Dawn Services and to stand with many representatives of our New Zealand Defence Forces to clap our brave past and present Army, Navy and Airforce personnel as they parade in honour of their comrades.

Our Anzac Day commemorations were

originally designed to remember those who fell at Gallipoli. But increasingly New Zealanders are using the occasion to remember and honour all who have served New Zealand in conflicts since then.

In 2023 my colleagues and I made a commitment to honour the sacrifice and service of all veterans, to ensure they receive the recognition and support they deserve.

In February this year, an Amendment updating The Anzac Day Act 1966 was passed to allow for recognition and commemoration under the Act to be more inclusive. Now the Act covers all people who have served New Zealand in time of war or in warlike conflicts in the past and in the future, including in non-military roles and other ways not covered by the original Act.

Specifically, the Amendment states there will be a Day in commemoration of the part taken by New Zealand servicemen and servicewomen in six specified conflicts (from the South African War to the war in South Vietnam) and in memory of people

who at any time have given their lives for New Zealand, the British Empire, or the Commonwealth of Nations. It also recognises and commemorates service by New Zealand service personnel in a variety of deployments, such as United Nations (UN) missions, multi-force groupings, or organisations like the UN peacekeeping force on the Sinai Peninsula.

Any Allied forces that include New Zealand service personnel who die or who have died in training associated with wars or warlike conflicts are included too.

These new categories are now added to New Zealand's revered Day of Commemoration which is ANZAC Day on 25 April each year. Lest We Forget.

## Farewell

As you may know I have been appointed the President of the Law Commission, a post I will take up in June. This means my time as your Member of Parliament will end at that point. A new candidate for National has been selected to stand in the Election in November and I am sure you will enjoy getting to know her.

I will most definitely miss the regular contact I have had with my wonderful constituents in this vibrant and supportive Electorate of Papakura. I feel truly blessed by the 24 years that I have had as your Member of Parliament and I wish you all the best for the future,

**Judith**  
**Hon Judith Collins KC**  
**MP for Papakura**  
 www.judithcollins.co.nz

# CRT responds to cyclone threat

The Pohutukawa Coast and Clevedon areas were fortunate to escape lightly from the path of Cyclone Vaianu last weekend, but had the situation been any worse, local Community Response Teams (CRT) were well resourced to help.

Pohutukawa Coast Community Response Team leader Nick Cockerell says teams in Beachlands, Maraetai, Clevedon, Hūnua, Ararimu and Paparimu were poised to assist. Sandbags were filled and deployed in areas at risk of flooding in Beachlands and Maraetai, and a community shelter was set up at the Maraetai Beach School hall.

While the help was fortunately not needed, it was a good training exercise for the newly established teams of CRT volunteers, says Nick.

"It might feel like it was unnecessary, but it's hard to predict where a cyclone will hit, so we needed to prepare for the worst."

The CRT is currently looking for further



CRT volunteers fill sandbags in preparation for Cyclone Vaianu.

volunteers to join its Clevedon team - if you would like to register your interest, see: <https://crt.org.nz/become-involved/>

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# Your Views

In addition to Stevenson's promotion of the next 50 years of operation of the Clevedon Quarry, it is important to note the history of the quarry.

Beginning with one of the early quarry operators, respected local identity Warren Shaw. To begin with the surrounding landowners were approached and advised the quarry was for local supply only. Hence there were no formal objections and this of course worked well with the community.

The quarry was then sold to Warren Fowler Quarries Ltd and subsequently

to Fulton Hogan Limited (Stevensons) This was when the Clevedon Protection Society 2017 was formed.

The incentive for the formation of the Clevedon Protection Society was community safety and increased truck movements. Indeed community safety was one of the foundations of our appeal to the Environment Court in 2017.

The resulting judgement of the Environment Court was that 141 conditions were imposed on the operation of the Clevedon Quarry. It is important for the Clevedon community to be aware of

the quarry conditions of operation.

Among those conditions (as Stevenson's noted) are limits on truck movements until McNicol Road is widened. Once this is complete, the quarry is then permitted an average of 900 truck movements per day.

Other conditions include:

- quarry trucks are to travel at a maximum speed of 50kph on McNicol Rd and from the one way bridge on Tourist to McNicol Rd.

- all quarry trucks exiting the quarry with dusty loads are to be covered, and when no covers are fitted, dampened prior to

leaving the quarry.

Another condition was the formation of the Clevedon Liaison Group with meetings of local representatives, quarry owners and council; these meetings have taken place quarterly in the Clevedon District Centre.

Caryn Gaffney is the main point of contact re any issue regarding Stevensons Clevedon Quarry. Email [caryn.gaffney@stevensons.co.nz](mailto:caryn.gaffney@stevensons.co.nz)

**Tony Curran**  
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# Beachlands illustrator turns lifelong dream into picture-perfect career



Children's book illustrator, Jo Beasley.

Beachlands resident Jo Beasley is delighted to be living her dream as an internationally-published children's book illustrator - and she's even earning a living from it!

"As a child I lived in my imagination and art was my favourite subject," says Jo. "I was always drawing fairies and witches and goblins and (weirdly) palm trees. I dreamed of being a book illustrator."

"The years went by and somehow I found myself doing every job under the sun except illustration which always sat on the backburner as a 'one day'. The closest I got to it was being a graphic designer which wasn't quite as fun."

It was a message from old school friend, Jo van der Borgh, asking if she would like to collaborate on a picture book, that finally set her on the path to becoming an illustrator.

"That was the firm nudge I needed and so The Terrakeet was born!"

The Terrakeet is written by Jo van der Borgh and has been published by Walker Books Australia, with Candlewick Press releasing it in the United States - both versions in hardcover. This year, The Terrakeet will be published in a paperback version which Jo hopes will make it accessible to a lot more children.

Seeing the finished book for the first time was "magic", she says.

"I remember seeing the box from my publisher at my front door and getting a rush of butterflies in my stomach as I took out the first book, touching the cover with its beautifully embossed title, fanning the pages to breathe in that new book smell, then slowly going through the pictures,

my pictures! It was kind of surreal."

It took about two and a half years from the initial contract signing to the moment Jo first held the published copy in her hand.

"Publishing is a really slow process," she says.

The response to the hardcover edition has been positive. "It's had some great reviews including a starred review from School Library Journal."


Illustration is now her main occupation. "I'm lucky to call it my day job, alongside a bit of admin for our family business and taking on other occasional custom illustration jobs."

Jo isn't sure that there is any special trick to telling a story visually, but says that emotional expression and visual flow are key.

"Being able to understand your character's emotions through their facial expressions and body language is important. In The Terrakeet there is a big growl that goes over a few pages in the middle which kids and parents (especially dads) love to read really loudly! It makes for fun storytelling."

She hopes children notice the fine details in her illustrations - like the crabs and snails and things in the background, such as hairy trees.

The book has received good reviews, including a starred review from School Library Journal. Feedback has also been great from her readers. She has collaborated with her friend Jo on a new book due to be released this July, called The Frumpling, and there are a few more books in the pipeline too.



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LOCAL STUDENTS' NEWS, VIEWS & LITERARY TALENT

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With a neck as wide as his torso, he has hair forming on his chest. Then just below his neck... another singular eye?! This bulging eye stares at you, curiously, between his four outstretched arms. He stands, waiting for his hug. Do you dare?

**- by Lola, Year 7, Clevedon School**



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# Why treated groundwater is the smart choice for rural households

- by Coastal Pure Water Ltd

As water supply is “top of the mind” for many, rural households will once again be relying on rainwater tanks to get them through the hotter months. While rainwater collection is a long-standing tradition across coastal and rural communities, it’s worth remembering that roof-harvested water is not treated, not monitored, and often not as clean as people assume.

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# CATCH OF THE WEEK PHOTO COMPETITION

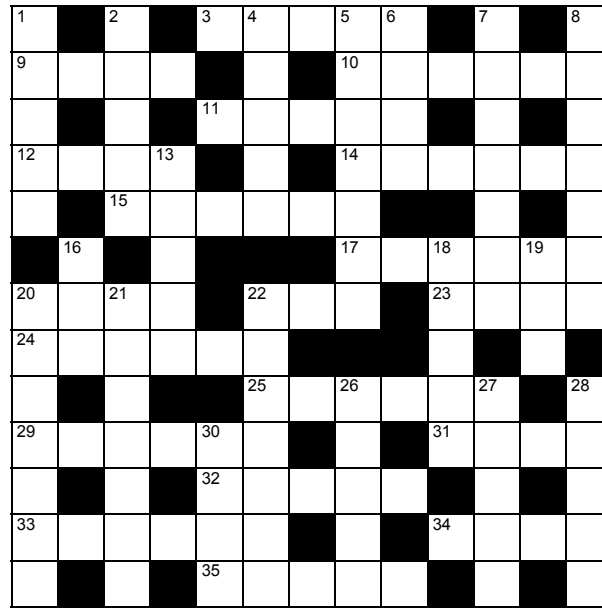
Send us your fishing photos this summer and be in to win a \$50 Top Catch voucher from GAS Maraetai each week!  
The overall season winner will win a brand new rod and reel sponsored by GAS Maraetai.



While wanting to go out “deep”, Hunter Waddell caught his biggest snapper to date off the family’s boat ‘Residency’. A good 36cm, caught at the bottom end of Waiheke, the fish put up a good fight and there was lots of excitement. It was enjoyed as fish and chips that night.

TO ENTER, EMAIL YOUR PHOTO TO LIZ@GASARAETAI.CO.NZ  
include your full name, plus details about your catch (where the fish was caught, boat name, special gear used, what you did with the fish after it was caught etc).

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### Across

- 3. Board game (5)
- 9. Highest point (4)
- 10. Vegetable (6)
- 11. Of short duration (5)
- 12. Big mouthful of drink (4)
- 14. Instrument strings (6)
- 15. Not yet developed (6)
- 17. Distant (6)
- 20. Restrict (4)
- 22. Reverence (3)
- 23. Very eager (4)
- 24. Having existed a long time (3-3)
- 25. Centre (6)
- 29. Graduates (6)
- 31. Story (4)
- 32. Relating to a city (5)
- 33. Presume (6)
- 34. Chimney duct (4)
- 35. Ruffian (5)

### Down

- 1. Wetlands (5)
- 2. Danger (5)
- 4. Multitude (5)
- 5. Ghost (7)
- 6. Settee (4)
- 7. Shamefaced (7)
- 8. Pirated goods (7)
- 13. Swedish actress (5)
- 16. Hairpiece (colloq) (3)
- 18. Masculine (5)
- 19. Plaything (3)
- 20. Camel train (7)
- 21. Drive back (7)
- 22. Fan (7)
- 26. Preliminary version (5)
- 27. Premature (5)
- 28. Heavenly creature (5)
- 30. Deadened (4)

Answers on page 8



## AUCTION

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## Rotary Club of Pōhutukawa Coast Charitable Trust seeks applications for annual funding round

This funding round has opened for 2026 and closes on 30th April. If you are involved in an organisation or group that does good things in the community, or if you are an individual who just needs help, you may be able to apply.

The application form can be accessed at: <https://www.rotarytrolleyderby.co.nz/funding-applications.html>

Please carefully read the guidelines and fill in all the relevant details when you click through to the application form.

The Trustees' decisions are final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Applicants will be advised by around 15 May 2026.

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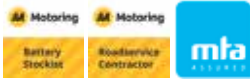
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Survey Plus Ltd 020 4 SURVEY (020 4 787839)

**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 chrisyashby@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, 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

**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



## YOUR LOCAL BUILDER

If you're thinking of building, our local team is here to help you every step of the way. Bring us your ideas and we'll work with you to design a home that suits your needs.

**Showhome**

2 Pureirei Drive, Clevedon. Open Sat & Sun 11am-2pm  
09 274 2082 gjgardner.co.nz

G.J. Gardner. HOMES