

1 May 2026

Descendants Wade through family history



Descendants of some of Whitford's earliest European settlers gather to share family memories at the Whitford Hall. Photo supplied.

One hundred and thirty members of the Wade family gathered at the Whitford Hall for a family reunion on Saturday 7 March.

The Wades were among the first European settlers in Whitford along with their friends the Churches, who arrived in Aotearoa on the same boat.

The reunion began with a viewing of Dale Bradley's 'Whitford Stories' documentary, which features the family's original settlers, Isaac and Eve Wade.

Isaac and Eve arrived in Auckland from Somerset, England on 16 May 1842 on the 'St George' with two small daughters, Hannah and Sarah. Their fare was paid for by Mr Sampson Kempthorne and in return Isaac would work for him as a farm labourer until their fares were paid off in full.

In 1845 the family settled on a small holding of 10 acres in Point England in Tāmaki where son Charles was born in 1846. Charles is said to have been one of the first children to be baptised in the old St Thomas Church in Tāmaki.

In 1853 Isaac sold his property for 125 pounds, and on 24 February 1853 purchased 101 acres on what is now known as Wade's Road in Whitford.

Nine months later he purchased an additional neighbouring

40 acres - the site where Wade's Walkway now sits.

Isaac and Eve's two daughters Hannah and Sarah married the Kelly brothers. Charles remained the only boy, after his brother Abel died young. Charles worked with his father clearing the land of tea tree and bracken and ploughing the fields.

Charles married Georgina Doidge in 1869 and they raised 12 children, 6 boys and 6 girls.

During the reunion family members heard from descendants of the different lines, including information about the LD Nathan Ostridge farm where Will Buchan (married to Clara Wade) worked. Clara and her 2 sisters Louisa and May Wade also worked there in the feather room.

There were also stories about Harry Wade, who with his father Charles and brother Tom, built 'The Standard' boat that transported a range of products to and from Auckland, including iron, maize, chaff, oats, manure, seed potatoes, timber, as well as tiles and bricks from Granger's Brick and Tile Works in Whitford.

The Standard boat could carry up to 9000 bricks at a time,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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INSIDE: Fishermen face possible prosecution for Waitawa Fire p3

ANZAC photos p4

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The PC Times 20 years ago:

28 April 2006: Residents enjoy musical tour of Clevedon River.



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Weekly Tide Chart

Day	Low Tide	High Tide	Direction
1 Fri	12:43am ▼ 0.9m	6:59am ▲ 3.1m	🐟🐟🐟
2 Sat	1:24am ▼ 0.9m	7:42am ▲ 3.1m	🐟🐟🐟
3 Sun	2:04am ▼ 0.9m	9:03am ▲ 3.0m	🐟🐟
4 Mon	2:43am ▼ 0.9m	9:42am ▲ 3.0m	🐟
5 Tue	3:22am ▼ 1.0m	10:21am ▲ 2.9m	🐟
6 Wed	4:03am ▼ 1.0m	11:01am ▲ 2.9m	🐟
7 Thu	4:46am ▼ 1.1m	11:43am ▲ 2.8m	🐟🐟

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Guest editorial by Mayor of Auckland Wayne Brown

When Aucklanders sent me back for a second term, I was clear about the job ahead: finish the fix on transport reform and housing intensification, lift Auckland's economy, and secure a City Deal with central government.

This month, we delivered on that last point. Auckland and the Government signed New Zealand's first City Deal, a significant step forward, but only the beginning of a much bigger shift in how this country's largest city is run.

This deal recognises something that should have been obvious for a long time: Auckland is not just another council. We are home to a third of New Zealand's population, generate around 40 per cent of its GDP, and serve as the country's international gateway. When Auckland succeeds, the whole country benefits.

For too long, the relationship between Auckland and Wellington has felt like a parent-child arrangement. That doesn't work for a city of this scale. What we agreed instead is a partnership that's based on shared accountability, mutual respect, and a clear understanding of Auckland's role in driving national prosperity.

We didn't come to the table asking for a shopping list of projects or a blank

cheque from taxpayers. What we asked for was the ability to take responsibility for our own success, to plan properly, invest wisely, and be held accountable for results. That's exactly what this deal enables.

A key focus will be integrated, long-term planning. Auckland will work with central government on a 30-year transport plan that prioritises smart investment, the kind that actually reduces congestion and improves how people move around the city.

That includes tackling bottlenecks like level crossings and continuing to build out a rapid transit network that gives Aucklanders real alternatives to sitting in traffic.

The current fuel price spike is a timely reminder of why this matters. A resilient, reliable public transport system isn't a "nice to have", it's essential infrastructure for a modern city.

Housing is the other side of the equation. With more flexibility around Plan Change 120 and a joint Regional Spatial Plan, we'll be able to intensify in the right places, which is near transport, close to jobs, and away from flood-prone land. That's how you accommodate growth without repeating the planning mistakes of the past.

The deal also sets a direction for Auckland's economic future. We're committing to growing a globally competitive tech and innovation sector, strengthening tourism and hospitality, and making the most of our position as a South Pacific hub for trade.

Improving access to the port and airport will be part of that, as will initiatives like the proposed New Zealand Institute of Advanced Technology - a centre of excellence to support research, startups, and industry.

This is about more than a single agreement. It's about a change in mindset, from fragmented decision-making to coordinated action, from short-term fixes to long-term outcomes.

The Deal sets the rules that Auckland will engage with Wellington on. This government and future governments will do well to abide by them.

Auckland is New Zealand's only global city. This deal recognises that reality.

Now the real work begins.

The views expressed in the Pohutukawa Coast Times Guest Editorial column are not necessarily the views of the editor or publisher.

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Mountain biker injured

Auckland Westpac Rescue Helicopter crew were tasked to Maraetai on Saturday 25 April to assist with the winch extraction of a female patient in her 50s suffering injuries from a mountain bike fall. She was flown to Auckland City Hospital in a moderate condition.

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Descendents Wade through family history



The opening of Whitford's Church of St Thomas which was built by a son of Tom Wade, Baden Wade.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and were used in the construction of the Auckland Blind Institute, the Auckland's Ferry Buildings and King's College. The Standard allegedly sank off St Heliers Bay with 9000 bricks aboard during rough weather.

Another relative spoke of her grandfather, Constable Gerald Wade, who was shot by a union striker whilst on duty, during the Waihi Mine Strike in 1912. Gerald lived to an old age with the bullet still lodged near his spine.

The family also shared stories about the Church of St Thomas in Whitford, built by Tom Wade's son, Baden.

Two vintage vehicles owned by Nelson's grandsons, Barry and Graham Wade, were on show - a restored 1909 Rover (the engine of which was used to drive the milking machine before power arrived in the district) and a 1954 Commer Truck that was owned and operated on the farm in the early days.

Today families of Nelson Wade and Joe Wade still farm the large majority of land first purchased by some of Whitford's earliest European settlers, Isaac and Eve.



Harry Wade's boat 'The Standard' was used to transport bricks made in Whitford to Auckland City.

Prosecution possible following Waitawa fire



The aftermath of the recent fire at Waitawa Regional Park.

Auckland Council's Regional Parks team is working with New Zealand Police to consider charging a group of fishermen who allegedly started a recent fire at Waitawa Regional Park.

The fire broke out on Saturday 11 April, and despite wet conditions the flames took hold of vegetation and burnt a scar on the hillside. Volunteer fire brigades from Clevedon, Kawakawa Bay and Hūnua attended and were able to control the blaze.

Regional Parks Principal Ranger - South, Trent Taylor, says it was lucky the impact was not far worse for Waitawa Regional Park.

"It is always hugely frustrating when a fire takes place at one of our regional parks," says Trent. "The time and cost involved to manage an outbreak in remote destinations is significant, and totally avoidable."

Council believes the fire was lit by people fishing in the area.

"We have clear signage in place confirming a total fire ban in this area. The council takes such action very seriously and has the ability to trespass individuals for lighting fires.

"Our rangers continue to monitor picnic areas throughout the park and shoreline, but we need all visitors to recognise how important it is to use only approved BBQs for cooking."

Council encourages anyone who sees smoke or flames in any regional park to report it immediately by calling 111.

Rules for outdoor fires on public land

You cannot light open fires or set off fireworks in public places in Auckland. This includes:

- beaches and foreshores
- parks
- conservation areas
- forests

How to cook safely in regional parks

You can use a gas barbecue or a contained solid fuel fire (like a charcoal barbecue)

in the picnic areas of regional parks. This depends on Fire and Emergency New Zealand rules. Check current restrictions on 'Can I light a fire?' before you go.

Bring your own fuel to the park, cook away from long grass and low-hanging trees or plants, cook off the ground or on a hard surface and keep something close by to extinguish the fire (within 5 metres)

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Beachlands and Clevedon ANZAC Day photos



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About 1,000 people gathered for Beachlands' ANZAC Day Dawn Service, followed by a full school hall at the Civic Service and a well-attended inaugural service at Pōhutukawa Landing Retirement Village. Clevedon also saw strong attendance. Above left, top left and top centre: Beachlands Service. Photos by Claude Therondē. Top right, and above: Clevedon's Commemorative Service at the monument and Community Hall. Photos supplied.



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Clevedon Venturers have “unforgettable” time at Scouting event

Six members of the Clevedon Venturer Scout group experienced an unforgettable 10 days at the national Venturer 2026 event earlier this year.

Venturers aged between 14 and 16 attended the large-scale Scouting event, which brought together young people from across New Zealand for a two-phase programme combining hands-on activities, travel and personal development.

To help fund the trip, the Clevedon group spent months working within the community, taking on jobs such as clearing weeds from native planting sites, catering at events including the Clevedon Fire Brigade Honours Night and the A&P Show, selling local honey, running sausage sizzles, staffing Armageddon and hosting car boot sales.

Scout leader Faye Dickson says she is immensely proud of the Clevedon group’s achievements at Venture’26. “I am so proud of their achievements and all that they experienced towards their King scout badge too. It goes without saying that [fellow Scout leader] Mike Kelly and I had a wonderful time as well. Scouts Aotearoa excel themselves at events like this and it was inspiring to see and witness first-hand the mahi involved in preparing and delivering the programme of events on offer.”

For Venturer James Kelly, the highlight

was reconnecting with friends and gaining practical life skills.

“Catching up with friends and learning new skills like welding, learning to drive a manual car, and getting to explore new places like Fielding, Palmerston North and Wellington,” says James. “It was cool not having devices and just hanging out with friends.”

Alannah Kelly’s Venture’26 experience took her even further afield. “At Venture’26 I went down to Marlborough station in the South Island and did 4 days of 4-wheel driving. I then took the Cook Straight ferry to Wellington for 5 days for phase two. My highlight of Venture’26 was probably the party at the end of the camp where UV coloured gloop was thrown at us and we were lit up with UV lights.”

For Kiedis Dickson, who hopes to become a mechanic, phase one was especially rewarding. “My favourite part of Venture’26 was phase one because I was playing around with cars the whole time,” he said. “I learnt to weld so we could fit a roll cage in the car, take parts out of a vehicle safely, learnt to wire kill switches, and all-round general servicing of vehicles.”

Despite strong winds and a flooded tent, Kiedis said the overall experience was worth it. “The overall vibe at both phase one and two was amazing. Everyone



Top photo: Venturer ’26 UV light party. Bottom photo: Venturers learned to drive manual cars, and carry out mechanical repairs on old cars.

was super friendly and I made heaps of stronger connections with my existing new friends over those 10 days and built friends as well.”

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HOWICK?



Howick remembers service personnel with ANZAC tributes

Howick Village has returned to its usual vibrant rhythm following a well-attended ANZAC Day. In the lead-up to the commemorations, the Howick Village Association transformed the village with a series of visual tributes honouring East Aucklanders who have served, including new ANZAC flags made possible through funding support from the Howick RSA Welfare Trust and installed with the assistance of Auckland Council.

Other elements included custom-designed bollard covers and silhouette soldiers displayed along the Good Home fence. In Fencible Park, crosses and poppies were placed ahead of the day itself, while poppies woven through garden areas provided quieter reminders throughout the village.

Hand-knitted poppies created by Charmaine Cole of the Howick RSA Welfare Trust were displayed in the Bayleys Howick window, and Bayleys supported Poppy Day by hosting collectors, giving locals an opportunity to contribute to the commemorations.

Behind the scenes, the Howick Village Association worked alongside local organisations and partners, to plan and install the features.

“We wanted to create a space where remembrance was visible and poignant,” says Howick Village Association manager Katie Treneman.

“While the displays may have been simply experienced as a moment of reflection, or a striking visual when passing through, they represent a coordinated commitment to honouring ANZAC Day within the heart of Howick.”



Ruahine the kōkako defies age in the Hūnua Ranges

In human years she wouldn't quite qualify for a Gold Card but in kōkako years, Ruahine is a living legend.

At around 21 years of age, Ruahine is believed to be the oldest known active breeding female kōkako in New Zealand and this season she's once again doing what she's done best for decades: raising chicks in the Hūnua Ranges. Two fledglings currently trail closely behind her and her long-term mate. She is a testament to many years of volunteer efforts to ensure kōkako survive in the ranges.

Ruahine was translocated to Hūnua in 2006 as an adult bird of unknown age from Māpara, making her at least 21 today, although she could be older; a remarkable achievement for a species that was once perilously close to disappearing from the ranges altogether.

Principal Ranger and lead of the Hūnua Kōkako Restoration Project Miranda Bennett says that when Ruahine arrived, Hūnua would have looked very different through kōkako eyes.

"There were just 23 adult kōkako in the entire ranges, all descended from a single remaining matriarch. Ruahine is part of the generation that helped turn that around."

She was one of 14 Māpara kōkako brought in to boost both numbers and

genetic diversity. Settling in the area known as Flat Bush - not flat, but flatter than most of Hūnua - Ruahine first paired with a Māpara male, Taranga. After his disappearance around 2010, she partnered with a local male and has held the same territory ever since. Whether it's been the same male all these years remains one of Hūnua's quieter mysteries.

More than ten of her chicks, banded as nestlings, have gone on to join the breeding population. In 2012, she also played a starring role in a conservation first, becoming the only kōkako to successfully foster eggs transferred between sites, from Tiritiri Matangi to Hūnua.

"That egg transfer was incredibly delicate work," says Bennett.

"Ruahine sat patiently on plasticine eggs for a full day while her own eggs were relocated, before the Tiritiri eggs were flown in and placed under her. It worked and it's still the only successful kōkako egg swap of its kind."

Today, Ruahine and her mate are surrounded by more than 250 kōkako pairs across the ranges. The increase in population is thanks to sustained pest control, habitat protection, and long-term commitment by Auckland Council and volunteer groups.

Councillor Richard Hills says success



Ruahine, identified by the orange and white band around her leg.

belongs to many hands.

"Auckland Council has proudly supported this mahi for decades, working alongside mana whenua, community groups, and ecologists to restore the mauri of the Hūnua Ranges.

"Ruahine's story shows what's possible

when we invest in nature for the long term."

For mana whenua, kōkako are taonga; their return restoring not just biodiversity, but whakapapa connections to the ngahere/forest.

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FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

Steak and chickpea salad recipe

This steak salad is the perfect balance of hearty and fresh. It's easy and filling making it a great lunch, dinner or even a potluck dish.

Serves 2

Ingredients:

- 400g beef steak
- 2T butter
- 1 clove garlic chopped
- 100g uncooked pearl couscous
- ½ cucumber, diced
- 50g feta, crumbled
- 70g garlic, rosemary and olive oil marinated chickpeas (available from supermarkets)
- 60g mesclun salad leaves
- 1 lime, juiced
- 2t dried parsley or a bunch of fresh parsley
- Olive oil
- Salt & Pepper
- Garlic powder

Method:

1. Pre-heat a pan on medium-low heat. Dry steak with a paper towel. Coat steak with salt, pepper and garlic powder on both sides.
2. Drizzle olive oil onto the pan. Sear steak on all sides until cooked to preference, baste with butter and garlic on low heat for 1-2 minutes then set aside to rest. Save the basting mixture from the pan to put into the salad.
3. Cook pearl couscous according to packet instructions. Once cooked, mix in a tsp of olive oil to prevent sticking and set aside to cool down.
4. In a large bowl combine chickpeas, diced cucumber, crumbled feta, pearl couscous, mesclun leaves, lime juice, basting mixture, parsley, 1T olive oil, salt and pepper.
5. Cut steak into bite size pieces and toss into the salad.
6. Divide into bowls to serve and enjoy!



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By Pōhutukawa Motors

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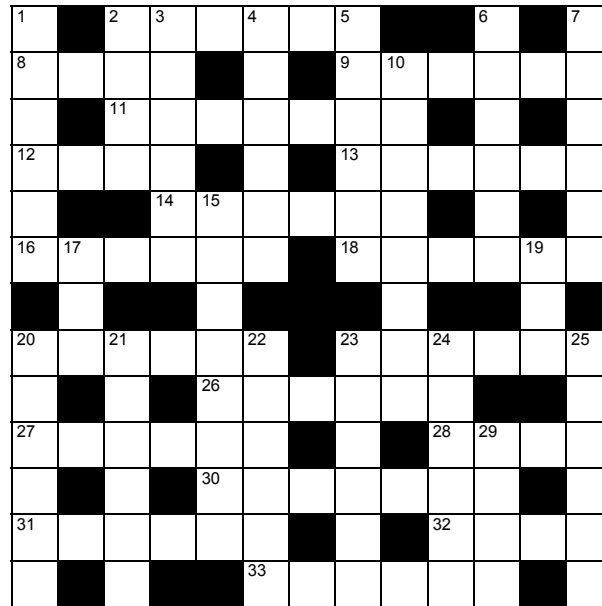
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Across

- 2. Irrational fear (6)
- 8. Notion (4)
- 9. Rebuke (6)
- 11. Religious disbelief (7)
- 12. Slant (4)
- 13. Optimistic (6)
- 14. Food establishment (6)
- 16. Singe (6)
- 18. Fabric dealer (6)
- 20. Dull and impassive (6)
- 23. Mariner (6)
- 26. In the course of (6)
- 27. Steal (6)
- 28. Average (4)
- 30. Lunar phase (3,4)
- 31. Entitlements (6)
- 32. Regulation (4)
- 33. Sequence (6)

Down

- 1. Pause (6)
- 2. Chime (4)
- 3. Maker of headwear (6)
- 4. Hint or suggestion (6)
- 5. Laughable (6)
- 6. Untrue (4,2)
- 7. Superior (6)
- 10. Relating to heaven (8)
- 15. Chance event (8)
- 17. A reduction (3)
- 19. Self esteem (3)
- 20. Excellent (6)
- 21. Compel (6)
- 22. Threats (6)
- 23. Bubble gently (6)
- 24. Disregard (6)
- 25. Child's onesie (6)
- 29. Responsibility (4)

Answers on page 10

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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

March 24 1918

My dearest children

War isn't what the men thought it would be like. It's not what I thought it to be either; war just sucks. Nursing is not easy. The men have just been injured all the time. They have been fighting very hard though I regret to inform you your father is dead, shot in the leg. He got infected so bad that now he's dead. I hope you two are looking after your grandma. You must be eating dinner right now mashed potato and gravy with your steak and juice, a luxury meal if you ask me. My meals are stew, stew and even more gross slimy stew with lumps of chewy meat that are hard to slip down your throat.

It's cold out here, always stormy, never sunny and despair just floats through the cold harsh air. I'm surprised that I'm not dead yet planes float overhead carrying shells and gunpowder ready to drop over the battle.

There are big guns forever going off with bangs right in my ears. It gives a person headaches. It does your head in all those shells or eggs we call them here and the guns and the screams as another soldier falls to a great death. I wish every night to be home with you to hold your hands to kiss you better when you fall over to tell you goodnight to see you every morning when I wake up just to see your happy smiling face, your gleaming eyes and your hugs I think that's the thing I miss most about you.

Love you to the moon and back

Miss you lots write to you soon your loving mother

- by Emily White, Maraetai Beach School

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 2. Phobia, 8. Idea, 9. Berate, 11. Atheism, 12. Tilt, 13. Upbeat, 14. Eatery, 16. Scorch, 18. Draper, 20. Stolid, 23. Sailor, 26. During, 27. Pilfer, 28. Norm, 30. New moon, 31. Rights, 32. Rule, 33. Series. **Down:** 1. Hiatus, 2. Peal, 3. Hatter, 4. Breath, 5. Absurd, 6. Made up, 7. Better, 10. Empyrean, 15. Accident, 17. Cut, 19. Ego, 20. Superb, 21. Oblige, 22. Duress, 23. Simmer, 24. Ignore, 25. Romper, 29. Onus.

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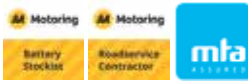
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