Pohutukawa Times Coast Times

Issue 1591

26 September 2025



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LIGHTS ON FOR ROAD SAFETY

This month we were thrilled to once again get behind the "Love Them Enough To Care" initiative, a campaign launched by Martin & Tanya MacKenzie focusing on road and bike safety awareness.

Heart-shaped bike lights were handed out to all Year 0 and 1 students at Beachlands School and Maraetai Beach School, with the team talking to the kids about the importance of being seen by cars and staying safe. Our hope is that these small gifts spark big conversations at home about road safety!

Last year, over 1000 bike lights were delivered to local schools – and we're still seeing them zooming past! Now in it's second year, the initiative continues to raise awareness in a meaningful and postitive way, providing simply tools and information that help our youngest community members stay visible and safe around our roads.



THIS ONE'S FOR THE DADS

Few things are as fun as running a good giveaway. This year for Father's Day we had an awesome prize pack up for grabs, with a simple way to enter - nominate an amazing father figure in your life,

Our drawn winner was Paul Hillis, nominated by Liam Hillis, with both of them taking home a meat pack, and Paul a voucher for a round of golf at Rydges Formosa. Well deserved!

WELCOME LOGAN!

Welcome to the newest face in the Beachlands branch, Logan Williams.

After 5 years of living in Beachlands with his three kids, who are involved in the local school and sports scene, Logan has come to know and appreciate every corner of this incredible suburb.





We're still offering our community printing service – for a donation in our Starship bucket we can help you with your printing and scanning needs! Since our last update, we've raised over \$200 in loose change to be donated to the Starship Foundation.

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Dangerous crossing one step closer to solution



Crossing the busy road to get to Ardmore School requires patience and care.

After years of concern about the dangers posed by Ardmore School's carpark being situated across a busy rural road from the school, there are at last signs of progress towards

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has now formally engaged an independent traffic expert to assess the situation and recommend a practical solution to ensure student safety. The move comes after ongoing pressure from Ardmore School's Board of Trustees (BOT), supported by a report from NZ Police last year highlighting serious risks at the site and warning that any incident would be unlikely to be minor.

The independent traffic assessment, currently being arranged, will provide a professional, evidence-based plan for addressing the risks students face when crossing the road. Once complete, the MOE has committed to acting on the findings.

Quarry operator Fulton Hogan has contributed \$15,000 towards construction costs of any potential solution.

Ardmore School Board of Trustees (BOT) chair Ben Diack says the MOE's engagement of a traffic consultant is a positive step forward, and that timing is crucial.

"We feel like we're making some progress, but it's all within the big machine that is the Ministry. What the BOT has said is that regardless of what the powers that be think the solution is – the issue is timing."

Possible long-term options may involve complexities such as land purchase and development. Last year the Franklin Local Board voted to sell neighbouring fire-damaged Ardmore Hall and Bell Field, reinvesting the proceeds within the local area. The sale process is still ongoing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Pōhutukawa **Times**

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

> Member of the New Zealand Community Newspapers Association





The PC Times 20 years ago:

30 September 2005: Local halls' patronage drops with Te Puru opening.



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26 Fri		3:48am ▼ 0.7m	10:11am ▲ 3.1m		
27 Sat		4:23am ▼ 0.7m	10:4apm ▲ 3.0m	•	
28 Sun		5:01am ▼ 0.8m	11:27am ▲ 2.9m	•••	
29 Mon		12:41am ▲ 2.8m	6:41am ▼ 0.9m	•••	
30 Tue		1:25am ▲ 2.7m	7:27am ▼ 1.0m	•••	
1 Wed		2:14am ▲ 2.6m	8:19am ▼ 1.1m	•••	
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Editorial by Orere Community & Boating Association

It was great to see a whole lot of new faces in the crowd at our AGM on 24 August.

Big thank you to Malcolm Bell, Franklin Local Board, and to Lauren Dalley, our new Community Constable for their attendance.

We face a lot of challenges over the next twelve months

As we all know there are elections coming up for Auckland Council and Franklin Local Board. Once the new board is elected, we will submit our plans and ideas to them.

Before we get to putting in a plan, I will be organising a community meeting for all residents and all of our other groups at Ōrere Point - Ōrere Community & Boating Club Committee, the Orere War Memorial Hall Committee, the Örere Volunteer Fire Brigade and Örere Primary School. From this meeting we hope to come up with a list of concerns that we can prioritise then present to the board.

We know there have been outstanding problems for more than ten years - we need some action.

Summer is on its way, and this is when our little bit of paradise becomes very campers and dirt bike riders. I will be asking Council and Police what action plans they will put in place to control some of the behaviours we experience every year.

Speed on our roads between Clevedon and Orere Point has become a major issue. Drivers do not drive to the road conditions, which is why there are so many accidents. We see so many drivers taking risks - over-taking on blind corners, over-taking cyclists, not caring about the oncoming traffic. Drivers need to be patient.

I drive the school bus between Kawakawa Bay and Clevedon each day. It is scary seeing some of the behaviours of drivers, many of who do not know that the speed limit when passing a stationary school bus is 20 kmh, not 80 kmh! Thank you to those drivers who care and know the correct speed.

The Ōrere Community & Boating Club is still looking for members to join the committee - if you are interested please give me a call on 027 876 3849 or email eddieorere@xtra.co.nz.

Something we would like to understand is how the targeted rate works and how or who decides what the money will

over-populated with visitors, freedom be spent on. It has been over twelve months since all rate payers began contributing through our yearly rates. These questions I will put to our Franklin Local Board members after the election.

> Many people have commented on the dotterel signs at the bottom reserve by the river. This project was started by one of our very hard working members of our community who has put in a lot of time and effort. Our shore birds need protecting - once they are gone, they are gone. Please be aware of the signs and what they are asking the public to do.

> **Edward Pram Orere Community & Boating Club** Chair



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Local election candidates present views at Clevedon forum

The strength of Clevedon's community spirit was evident at the 'meet the candidates' session in the Clevedon Hall on Tuesday 16 September.

About 80 residents turned out for a meeting capably chaired by local resident Gwen Bull, where 13 candidates vying for local board, ward councillor and mayoral positions were given an opportunity to present their views.

Mayoral candidates Ted Johnstone, John Alcock, Jason Pieterse, Ryan Puasina and Dr Eric Chuah presented different ideas and priorities for the city. Despite earlier confirming their attendance, Mayor Wayne Brown, Kerrin Leoni and Denise Martin-Widdison failed to appear, while Rob McNeil, Michael Coote and Peter Wakeman did not attend.

After running unopposed at the last local government election, current Franklin

Local Board members Malcolm Bell and Amanda Hopkins are joined on this year's voting papers by newcomers Alix Bonnington, Dene Green, Darron Gedge and Blake O'Reilly (Blake was absent from Tuesday night's event.)

Also in attendance were Franklin Ward Councillor candidates Andy Baker (current Franklin Ward Councillor), Les Thomas and Dene Green.

Ouestions from the audience included asking how much time candidates had available to dedicate to local government roles; the local proliferation of fill sites; the issue of building homes in flood-prone areas; spending prorities and questions about candidates' commitment to pest

Voting is open now, and closes 12 noon on Saturday 11 October.



Local election candidates front the Clevedon crowd.

Dangerous crossing one step closer to solution

CONTINUED ON FROM PAGE 1

Ben Diack says that if the traffic report suggests that Bell Field could be repurposed as a car park and pathway to the school, the process of the MOE buying the land could be a solution, although it will likely mean unwanted delays in reaching a solution.

unacceptable is waiting another 2-3 years for action. This needs to be sorted before an incident occurs."

School parent Niall Bennett believes that Bell Field offers an ideal solution.

"Every single day of the week – twice a day – hundreds of children and their caregivers are forced to risk their safety, even their lives, just to go to school. That's

"What we've said [to the MOE] is plain wrong, and that's why this is now best gift ever, and a wonderful way to a growing issue of major concern across our community.

> "It's the school's 150th anniversary next year. Being able to use the land right next door to fix this dangerous situation and make all our children safer would be the

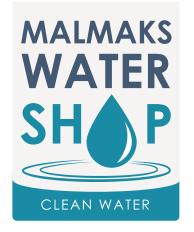
mark the occasion."

While the MOE and the BOT work towards a solution, Police are working closely with the school, carrying out speed checks and monitoring driver behaviour at drop-off and pick-up times.



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BMAFC U23s crowned league champions after nail-biting final

Beachlands Maraetai Association Football Club's U23 men won their final game last weekend to claim top honours in the men's NRF Northern Conference U23 league. The win caps off a season that coach Jake Hutchison described as a "winning combination of talent, skill and hard work."

Over the course of the season, the side played 21 games, securing 15 wins, three draws, and three losses. They netted an impressive 75 goals, with striker Henry Lee scoring 25 of them to finish as the team's top scorer.

The season was not without its challenges. U23s captain Reid Szopa says injuries across both senior men's teams forced disruption and reshuffling, but ultimately strengthened the squad.

"This forced us to learn to play and adapt to playing in different scenarios and to really fully understand each others' style, strengths and weaknesses. This forged our team into a winning side which, after being 10 points behind the leaders after 7 games we showed how much grit and determination it takes to play for BMAFC."

That grit was on full display in the nailbiting final game of the season which ended in a 3-2 win against Northland. Reid says the relief and joy at the final whistle after going into "so much" extra time was a highlight, especially in front



The Beachlands Maraetai Association Football Club men's U23 team celebrate their season win.

of one of the largest and loudest crowds of supporters in recent memory.

"I think the pure grit and work rate we have had throughout the season really came out in the second half. I'm not sure what happened, but it was a pretty shaky performance that second half," says Reid. "In spite of this, we dug deep, and it took guts and determination to hold onto our

lead, which is a pretty good picture of the whole season. It wasn't an easy season by far but we put our heart and souls into it."

Reid also acknowledges goalkeeper Shiv, who stepped up to replace regular keeper Finn in the decisive match.

Reid says the league win shows the strength of the club's development side.

"It will prove to the younger people

in our club that we have the depth and capability to develop them and give them opportunities to do great things in football with our club. The strength of our reserves side builds a strong bridge from youth football to men's football. We are eagerly anticipating witnessing the next generation of winners."



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Set Date of Sale

Closes 4:00pm 22 October 2025 (Unless Sold Prior)

View

Saturday & Sunday 12:45 - 1:15 pm



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Discover East Auckland's hidden treasures at Walkfest 2025

Locals on the Pohutukawa Coast and in Clevedon are invited to lace up their walking shoes and celebrate the arrival of spring by joining East Auckland Walkfest - Spring Showcase, running from 20 September to 5 October 2025.

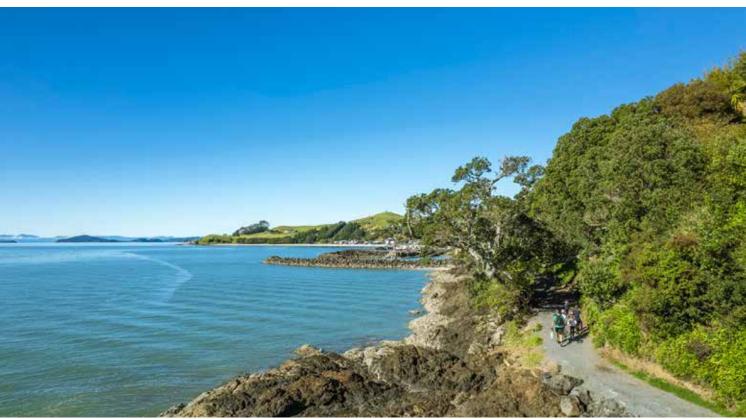
The festival highlights East Auckland's unique landscapes and stories, and this year the Pohutukawa Coast and Clevedon feature strongly on the programme.

Organisers say the event allows people to explore coastlines, countryside and cultural landmarks.

Timed perfectly for the spring school holidays, the 2025 Walkfest programme offers a curated mix of guided adventures and self-guided discoveries with trails for all ages and fitness levels, it's your chance to explore coastlines, countryside, and cultural landmarks.

What's on the trail

- Guided ranger walks explore stunning regional parks and reserves while learning about the unique flora, fauna, and hidden natural wonders.
- Ghost walk at Howick Historical Village – step back in time and into the shadows with a blend of history, atmosphere, and storytelling.
- Garden & sculptural trail wander through creative landscapes and



Explore the Pohutukawa Coast and beyond during the East Auckland Walkfest. Photo by East Auckland Tourism.

artwork.

Self-guided adventures – follow detailed maps to discover beaches, bush tracks, and heritage sites at your own pace.

"East Auckland is full of hidden treasures waiting to be explored," says Andrew even create your own nature-inspired Laing, Chairman of East Auckland

Tourism. "Walkfest is our way of sharing these places, not just the views, but the stories, the people, and the history behind them. We want locals and visitors alike to step into spring with us and see East Auckland through new eyes."

Walkfest offers both free and paid options to suit every budget and interest, and the experience doesn't end when the walk does. Many walks are close to East Auckland's cafes, bars and restaurants, perfect for a post-walk coffee, bite to eat, or well-earned glass of wine.

The full programme, including booking details for guided walks, is available at: www.eastaucklandtourism.co.nz

Notice to drivers



Fewer lanes on Pakuranga Road

Saturday 20 September to Friday 24 October

so that Rā Hihi - flyover above Reeves Road - can open in October.

Major work is needed on Pakūranga Road to build the access to Rā Hihi - flyover - so it can open during October, five months ahead of schedule. We are working round the clock to get the job done and improve travel for east Aucklanders.

From **Saturday 20 September to Friday 24 October** there will be fewer lanes on Pakūranga Road. **Expect significant congestion and delays.** Plan ahead to avoid travelling at peak times.

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

Rā Hihi – flyover – opening dates:

1 October - from Pakūranga Road towards Waipuna Bridge 27 October - open in both directions



SUPPORT LOCAL SPONSORED CONTENT

All Aboard: local travel expert brings the world to Formosa Resort

- by Michele Cadman, **Travel Brokers NZ**

For many of us, the thought of travel sparks excitement – the promise of new destinations, cultures, and unforgettable memories. But with endless choices and countless details to arrange, planning the perfect holiday can feel overwhelming. That's where local travel expert Michele Cadman comes in.

On Saturday 18 October, from 11am to 2pm, Michele will host a special Cruise Day at Formosa Resort, showcasing the very best of the cruising world and offering one-on-one advice for travellers looking to make their next journey extraordinary.

With 36 years in the travel industry and more than 14 years running her own home-based business, Michele brings a wealth of knowledge to every itinerary she creates. She has personally travelled to 49 countries across six continents, giving her first-hand insights that she loves to share with her clients.

"I don't just book a ticket – I design adventures," Michele explains. "Cruises, tours, accommodation, flights, rail. buses, transfers - I tie it all in so my clients can just relax and enjoy the adventure."

Cruising remains one of the fastestgrowing ways to travel, appealing to both seasoned adventurers and those dipping their toes into international travel for the first time. At Cruise Day, visitors can browse the latest itineraries, discover special offers, and chat with Michele about tailoring a holiday to suit their style, budget, and dreams.

The event is open to everyone – from those who have already caught the cruise bug to travellers who are simply curious about setting sail. "Cruises are such a great way to see the world," Michele says. "You unpack once, wake up somewhere new each day, and have everything you need right there on board."

Whether you're picturing the dramatic fjords of Norway, the turquoise waters of the South Pacific, or the vibrant cities along Europe's rivers, Michele's expertise can help turn those daydreams into plans.

Mark your calendar for Friday 18 October, 11am-2pm at Formosa Resort, and come along to meet Michele and a number of cruise partners. Your next adventure could be just around the corner – and just a conversation away.

"I don't just book a ticket - I put the whole trip together so my clients can simply relax and enjoy the adventure."



Above: St George Sonesta Nile River Cruise Aswan to Luxor Below: boats 'rafted' at Mljet National Park, Croatia





536 6006

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SUPPORT LOCAL

Franklin Vets: Alfie's raisin scare



by Franklin Vets

Alfie, the 4-year-old miniature Dachshund, was recently in the hospital with us, having eaten a huge number of raisins.

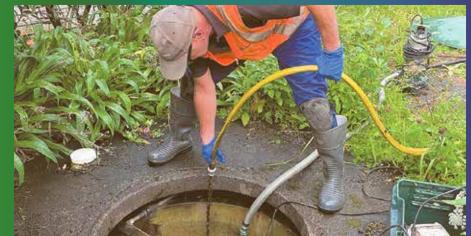
Raisins are highly toxic to dogs, even in small quantities, but fortunately, his owners noticed right away and brought him straight to us.

After discussing the situation with his owners, we quickly made him vomit. Because of the huge number of raisins

he'd eaten, we gave him medication to bind any residual toxins and started him on intravenous fluids to support his kidneys. He was such a good boy throughout the entire process—calm, patient, and incredibly brave.

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Applications open 1 October 2025.

For information on how to apply, visit www.transpower.co.nz, or email CommunityCare.Fund@transpower.co.nz

We look forward to hearing from you.





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^{*} Offer available for new residents applying for Participating Units at selected villages only. To qualify, applications for an Occupation Right Agreement (ORA) must be submitted between 2 August 2025 and 31 October 2025 and the Commencement Date of the ORA must be on or before 28 February 2026. Further terms apply – see www.metlifecare.co.nz/30kcashback

[^] Price is for an Occupation Right Agreement secured by a first ranking mortgage in favour of the statutory supervisor on behalf of the residents. Price valid for 30 days from time of printing. Products images are indicative only. Stock availability subject to change.

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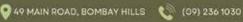
DJ Night - 20th September - from 7pm Franklin's Oktoberfest - 11 October - preorder for steins & meat platter

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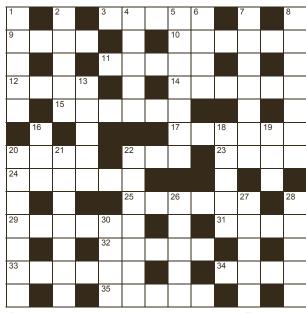




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Across

- 3. Metal bar (5)
- 9. Egg-shaped (4)
- **10.** Local inhabitant (6)
- **11.** Drive back (5)
- 12. Enthusiastic (4)
- **14.** Be thrifty (6)
- **15.** Commencement (6)
- **17.** Evaluate (6)
- 20. Closely similar (4)
- **22.** Mongrel (3)
- **23.** Tangle (4)
- 24. Top of a volcano (6)
- 25. Honda model (6)
- **29.** Arousing (6)
- **31.** Roman gown (4)
- **32.** Light boat (5)
- **33.** Ring (6) **34.** Centre (4)
- **35.** Wipe away (5)

Down

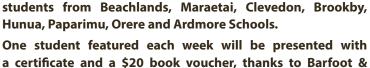
- **1.** Faithful (5)
- 2. Wireless (5)
- 4. Requirements (5)
- **5.** Lowly-rated hotel (3-4)
- **6.** Bathroom powder (4)
- 7. City resident (7)
- 8. Storm (7)
- **13.** Bed covering (5)
- **16.** Exclude (3)
- **18.** Go around the edge of (5)
- **19.** Bean sauce (3) 20. High-pitched shout (7)
- **21.** Stonework (7)
- **22.** Biscuit (7)
- **26.** Wrist irons (5)
- **27.** Giver (5)
- 28. Tag (5)
- 30. Small island (4)

Answers on page 10

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.





This week's voucher sponsored by

Bogtrotter and the cake

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Bogtrotter shivered with fear, lifted a knife and cut a thin slice. He lifted the chocolate cake and took a small bite. Chocolate sauce dripped down his chin while gooey icing stuck to the roof of his mouth. Jaws dropped to the ground and eyes watered with jealousy. The cocoa scent flowed around the air while Trunchbull boomed like thunder "EAT IT NOW!". Bogtrotter nodded with fear and cut a fourth slice. Crumbs fell on the floor but Bruce kept going with pride. He raised his knife and stood up with the whole school cheering. Drip... drop... chocolate icing dripped slowly onto the wooden floor.

"Well Bruce, what do you need to say to the cook?" Miss Trunchbull BOOMED.

"Yummy cake, thank you" Bruce whispered.

"LOUDER!!!"

"Yummy cake, thank you!" Bruce exclaimed.

The Trunchbull picked up the plate and crashed it on top of Bruce's head but nothing could hurt the champion.

- by Lara Pike, Year 4, Maraetai Beach School

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 3. Ingot, 9. Oval, 10. Native, 11. Repel, 12. Avid, 14. Scrimp, 15. Outset, 17. Assess, 20. Same, 22. Cur, 23. Knot, 24. Crater, 25. Accord, 29. Erotic, 31. Toga, 32. Skiff, 33. Circle, 34. Core, 35. Erase. Down: 1. Loyal, 2. Radio, 4. Needs, 5. One-star, 6. Talc, 7. Citizen, 8. Tempest, 13. Duvet, 16. Bar, 18. Skirt, 19. Soy, 20. Screech, 21. Masonry, 22. Cracker, 26. Cuffs, 27. Donor, 28. Label, 30. Isle.

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