

6 March 2026

Uncertainty continues over Beachlands wastewater upgrade timeline



Part of Watercare’s existing wastewater treatment facilities.

Questions remain over the timing and design of the long-planned upgrade to the Beachlands Wastewater Treatment Plant on Okaroro Road, with the project now on hold while further options are assessed by Watercare.

The plant’s discharge consent expired in December 2025, prompting concern from some local residents about how wastewater is currently being managed.

Watercare has confirmed that, despite the expired consent, the plant is continuing to operate legally under provisions of the Resource Management Act.

Watercare’s Head of Strategy and Consenting, Helen Shaw, says: “Since the Beachlands Wastewater Treatment Plant’s discharge consent expired in December 2025, the plant has been legally operating under Section 124 of the Resource Management Act. This means Auckland Council has approved continued operation while the new consent is being processed.”

The upgrade project is intended to provide capacity for a growing population, as well as improving the quality of treated wastewater to better protect the environment,

including the Te Puru Stream. However, progress has stalled while alternative upgrade approaches are considered.

“The consent application is currently on hold while we confirm upgrade options that will improve the quality of the discharge and increase the amount of land it passes through before reaching the Te Puru Stream,” says Shaw.

Watercare says it will provide further information once decisions have been made around the consent renewal and final design of the upgraded facility.

“We will provide an update on the decision on the discharge consent renewal and the design of the plant once we have more certainty,” says Shaw.

“We appreciate the ongoing collaboration and input from all stakeholders as we work to support growth while also prioritising public health, environmental outcomes, cultural wellbeing, and the needs of the Beachlands and Maraetai community.”

No timeframe has yet been given for when the consent process will resume or when construction of the upgrade might begin.

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The PC Times 20 years ago:

3 March 2006: Hearing gives go-ahead to Maraetai 'Goat Farm' subdivision.



Weekly Tide Chart

Day	Low Tide	High Tide	Direction
6 Fri	3:59am ▼ 0.6m	10:24am ▲ 3.3m	↔
7 Sat	4:40am ▼ 0.7m	11:05am ▲ 3.3m	↔
8 Sun	5:20am ▼ 0.8m	11:44am ▲ 3.2m	↔
9 Mon	12:08am ▲ 3.1m	6:01am ▼ 0.9m	↔
10 Tue	12:48am ▲ 3.0m	6:44am ▼ 1.0m	↔
11 Wed	1:31am ▲ 2.9m	7:31am ▼ 1.1m	↔
12 Thu	2:21am ▲ 2.8m	8:24am ▼ 1.2m	↔

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Guest editorial by Kawakawa Bay Community Association

Kawakawa Bay – a safe and inclusive coastal community

Interestingly when I reviewed this period against last year, I mentioned that the weather over the holiday period was not that great. Well, this year was much the same.

The weather did not play ball with a substantial number of windy and rainy days. The difference between last year and this one, was the significant reduction in visitors to our beaches. The lower numbers were observed over the long weekends as well.

Although the visitor numbers were down the Auckland Council in conjunction with the police did an excellent job with their daily patrols and addressing things like anti-social behaviour and illegal overnight camping. This year the council added an additional rubbish vehicle that made extra runs mid-morning to collect any “overflow” rubbish/litter that may have been left. This service was agreed to with the council, when several of the bins in the area had been removed. The community welcomed this additional service.

The reporting of issues to the authorities worked well and there was

a good response from the police and council.

An update on the Kawakawa Bay Community Garden, let's recap:

The Kawakawa Bay Community Garden was first suggested in 2022 as a place to come together, spend time outdoors with other community members, learn and grow healthy produce for the community.

After a great deal of work, it has now become a reality. Great progress has been made in 2025 with tangible results.

On receiving the lease in April 2025, work began with a sheep paddock. The site was fenced and a greenhouse was erected. In September and October workshops were held and the planting began. The first water tank was then erected. Recently maintaining the beds and preparing areas for new planting has been the focus. It's great to now see it come to fruition. Thank you to the dedicated group of gardeners who are working hard to make this garden a success.

The official opening of the community garden was held last weekend, with a good turnout of community members who came to visit the site and see the great progress that has been made and find out what the future plans are.

KBCA – Committee and AGM

Keen to join our committee or just come along to see what it is about; we would love to see you at one of our meetings.

By the time this issue of the PC Times hits your letterbox, we will have held our AGM on Monday 2 March.

In March, the KBCA will be reviewing our strategic plan and agreeing on our focus area for the upcoming year.

Derek Nielsen
Kawakawa Bay Community Association Chair

Your Views

A while ago a selfish person complained to the Council about the advertising signs that the Whitford Pony Club had on one of their buildings and on the corner of their grounds. In my opinion the Pony Club is a worthy cause, and once you had seen the signs, you didn't need to look at them again.

The person said the signs were distracting, the Council agreed, and made the Pony Club take the signs down.

Now, signs of various sizes, some large, advertising all kinds of services and companies are appearing along the sides of the roads in the Beachlands, Maraetai and Whitford areas. I find them distracting, unattractive and unfair.

Barbara van Ryn
Beachlands



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Franklin Local Board Wairoa representative Malcolm Bell resigns

Long serving Franklin Local Board member Malcolm Bell has resigned from his position on the board due to ill health.

Auckland Council received Malcolm's resignation on Thursday 26 February 2026.

Malcolm represented the Wairoa subdivision (covering the Pōhutukawa Coast, Clevedon, Hūnua and surrounding areas) for 12 years whilst living in both Beachlands and Hūnua, and his departure from the board leaves a gap in experience that will be hard to fill, say his colleagues.

During his time on the local board, Malcolm was known as a strong advocate for rural communities and local infrastructure. Early in his first term, he campaigned for greater access and use of the Hūnua Regional Park which eventually lead to the formation of the Hūnua Traverse and a shift in long term planning of the park.

A familiar face at planting days, events and local meetings, Malcolm often took on roles that were voluntary, beyond the local board role, because he could and wanted to help others succeed.

Former Franklin Local Board chair Angela Fulljames worked alongside Malcolm for most of his tenure on the board.

"Malcolm worked hard to ensure people were connected, information was

shared and relationships were fostered in the community and at council. He also took up additional roles for the board such as the Auckland Airport Noise Committee, Auckland Emergency Management advisory, Play advisory, Hūnua Pest Control advisory as well as board representation at Whitford, Beachlands and Clevedon quarries," says Angela.

"Midway through his term he became a Justice of the Peace, which not only enabled him to help people beyond his local board role, but also to officiate for the Franklin Local Board at NZ Citizenship ceremonies leading the oath to NZ for new citizens."

Angela says Malcolm has always advocated for children and young people, particularly around road safety where he has lobbied for pedestrian and road safety in all villages and settlements in Wairoa.

As a sport enthusiast Malcolm bought to the board the challenges of different codes and was focused on ensuring support for localised participation for all age groups.

"There probably isn't an event or community group activity that Malcolm hasn't attended, volunteered or participated in within Franklin. This gave him an innate understanding of the diverse communities. He was never one to shy away from tricky or challenging

issues, considering all viewpoints with the intent to find a solution or amiable pathway," says Angela.

His board colleagues will remember him being supportive and a great sounding board, says Angela. His former private sector skills and experience came to the fore particularly during budgeting, planning and HR matters.

"Malcolm is a trusted colleague and friend who cares deeply about people and the environment, who put in the time and attention to serve them. Thus he is well respected within council and the organisations he interacted with," says Angela. "I hope everyone will join me in thanking Malcolm for his service and dedication and wish him well for his next endeavours. I'm sure he will return to supporting his community in some way in the future, 'cause that's his nature."

Malcolm has worked closely with many of the area's community groups, including the Clevedon Association. Association chair Martin Grant says Malcolm has been a fantastic supporter of the whole of the Wairoa area and also particularly of the Association's work in the Clevedon Village and its immediate surrounds.

"Malcolm has brought wisdom and passion to things as diverse as the village design framework and community resilience," says Martin. "We thank him



Malcolm Bell.

for his service to all of the people of the Franklin area and wish him well as he goes forward."

Current Franklin Local Board Deputy Chair Amanda Hopkins has also worked alongside Malcolm for many years.

"Malcolm was really inclusive and supportive as a Local Board Member colleague. He was a real team player and I really enjoyed working with him."

As Malcolm's resignation has occurred more than 12 months before the next election, the vacancy must be filled by an election. Auckland Council staff are still working through the detail, and say they will provide information as soon as some initial planning is complete.



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Celebrity chef joins stall holders at new Beachlands Market

Beachlands locals can now treat their palates to hand-crafted goodies created by a chef who has cooked for some of the biggest music celebrities in history.

Peter Chaplin has spent time as personal chef to legends such as Madonna, Iggy Pop, the Thompson Twins and Chrissie Hynde of The Pretenders.

And now he's a stallholder at the new Beachlands Market, held every Saturday from 8.30am to 1pm at the Beachlands Chartered Club. Peter's wares include cerviche, patēs, antipasto, and salads priced from as little as \$5. It's a rare chance for Coasters to sample food created by a high-profile international chef - without leaving Beachlands.

Market coordinator Jenny Foster says the market was established with a clear purpose: to support the local community by increasing access to fresh, high-quality food. The goal is to give residents more choice, particularly for fruit, vegetables and specialty foods, rather than relying solely on the local supermarket.

The Beachlands Market currently hosts around 20 stalls, with numbers steadily growing as more producers come on board.

Products on sale include:

- fresh fruit and vegetables
- Eden orchard cherry juices



Madonna's ex personal chef, Peter Chaplin (above) is now a regular stallholder at the new Beachlands Market held every Saturday at the Beachlands Chartered Club.

- candied macadamia and cashews
- Howick Baker's baked goods
- The Good Batch's home baking
- specialty cakes
- Beebro honey
- handcrafted peanut butter

- microgreens
- artisan jams and chutneys
- specialty teas

There are also non-edibles on sale including:

- Tania Mallow jewellery



Local artist Tania Mallow is another stallholder at the market, selling her range of jewellery inspired by native flora and fauna.

- Helen Henare artworks
- handcrafted candles
- children's dresses and shirts
- washable story books
- handmade dolls
- brassware and polish
- garden art
- canvas art

Jenny says that by supporting small producers and makers, locals are helping build a sustainable, community-focused event that's also a great opportunity to socialise.

For updates, stallholder information and weekly highlights, residents can follow the Beachlands Market on Facebook.

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- by Rotary Club of the Pōhutukawa Coast

It's Trolley Derby weekend! The (mainly) kids have got their trolleys and caregivers organised, helmets on and are ready to race the hill!

This iconic Coast event always has some thrills and (hopefully non-injury) spills to keep you entertained as well as the: the WetAzz water slide, a bouncy castle, Barfoot's chocolate throw, the Waiuku Zero Waste junk play, G.J's chill-out spot, and food and beverages to keep you refreshed and fuelled-up.

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What: G.J Gardner Beachlands & Maraetai Trolley Derby

Where: Omana Regional Park (near the playground)

When: Sunday 8th March from 9am
See you there!



Could you cope for 72 hours? Emergency readiness event hits Clevedon

Pōhutukawa Coast and Clevedon locals are invited to learn more about how to be prepared for the impacts of extreme weather, at the first AMI Weather Wise pop-up this Sunday 8 March next to the Clevedon Village Farmers Market from 10am-2pm.

With support from emergency experts FIRST72 and volunteers from the Pōhutukawa Coast Community Response Team, AMI's community team will provide live demonstrations of the response teams in action and offer information on practical ways to prepare

for natural disasters and severe weather.

The team will share tips on how to prepare for the critical first three-days following a major weather or natural disaster event and will showcase equipment in the community's new Emergency Pod (EPOD) set-up, soon to be located at the nearby Clevedon Hall.

AMI's Executive General Manager Claims, Stephannie Ferris said the company was proud to join with FIRST72, specialists in helping communities prepare for emergencies.

"We know that communities who are

prepared with the knowledge, skills, tools and networks can help hugely in the immediate aftermath of a major weather or natural hazard event. So it's fantastic to get involved in helping people come together to think practically about how they can support each other best."

"We are delighted to support the Pōhutukawa Coast Community Response Trust (PCCRT), a highly organised group of local residents motivated to support their community when needed and their expert EPOD set-up now means that the team can help townships around the

Pōhutukawa Coast to take action when severe weather strikes."

AMI will have five emergency grab bags available to win, built for fast evacuation in an emergency. Packed with carefully selected gear including practical survival tools for the first 72 hours following a major event, the kits include first aid, water purification and nutrition essentials, all contained in a generous wet-dry bag.

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A new chapter for Beachlands with community hub opening soon



Beachlands' own community hub is set to become a reality.

Franklin Local Board has approved the approach and scope of works for the newly integrated library and community hub in Beachlands.

Franklin Local Board Chair Alan Cole is delighted this project is moving forward for residents.

"This is an important step in the board's ongoing commitment to Beachlands residents and the area's amenity, to provide service levels that are relative to those offered in neighbouring town centres, Waiuku and Pukekohe," says chair Cole.

"This board will be keeping our foot on the gas to get this underway, while ensuring the offering is delivered in a way that meets the area's unique needs."

In early 2025, the local board proposed the much-needed facility for its community as part of that year's annual plan consultation. With most consultation participants supporting the proposal, the local board has been working with staff on the best approach to deliver this service, with as little disruption as possible to existing users.

What's the approach?

The plan is to integrate the Beachlands Memorial Hall building and the Beachlands community-led library into the Beachlands Community Hub.

The current library building will become a space for community activities like art classes and club meetings and more. The upgraded library service will have an additional book collection located in the hall with expanded services as part of the Auckland Libraries network.

Prior to the integration, minor improvements will be made to accommodate the new services and better accessibility. This work should be completed by the end of June 2026. Improvements include installing shelves, a reception service area for customer service and upgraded storage to maximise space.

Board member Alix Bonnington is pleased with this initiative.

"Making sure that Beachlands and our other communities across East Franklin have access to services, in a way that meets the needs of residents is what motivated me to stand for the local board," says member Bonnington.

"It's great that we now have a sensible and affordable plan of action. I'm looking forward to working with our new Beachlands team to bring this hub to life and seeing locals of all ages enjoying these spaces!"

What happens next?

Venue hirers will be notified shortly before work begins. Existing bookings at Beachlands Memorial Hall will continue through to 30 June 2026, with minor improvements carried out around bookings where possible.

Further improvements may be identified during the hub's set up. More updates will be shared with the Beachlands community as soon as details are finalised, including how future bookings and the library service will operate. New bookings from 1 July 2026 will be on hold while community hub arrangements are confirmed.

A second stage of upgrades is anticipated later down the track once there is a better picture of what else might be needed. This will be informed by how locals use the buildings and grounds, and the community will be encouraged to have their say.

Want to know more?

To keep up to date with this project and other Franklin news and events, sign up via the QR code on the right, or follow the Franklin Local Board Facebook.



Is the Annual Plan on track for Franklin?

Franklin residents are being asked to weigh in on the region's Annual Plan for 2026/2027, which proposes a rates increase of 7.9 per cent for the average value residential property.

This increase is to bring the City Rail Link to life and help get Aucklanders going places. It aims to connect commuters more seamlessly by bringing the CBD closer to many more doorsteps, enhance Aucklanders' quality of life and deliver economic and environmental benefits.

Is the plan on track? This is Franklin's moment to help shape the future of our neighbourhoods - our parks, our paths and our shared spaces. Your voice directly influences what gets protected, improved or postponed.

Franklin Ward Councillor Andy Baker acknowledges the proposal's impacts on Franklin residents are likely to be pretty big and there's no way to sugarcoat it.

"In the past year, we've made significant savings to reduce the rates burden, which has landed us on this proposed budget. But the reality is everyone has different needs and priorities, and that's why we need to hear from you," says Councillor Baker.

"It's our job to listen to everyone, look at the whole picture and balance out Auckland's diverse needs," he says.

"If you want to pay less and get less - tell us what you're happy to live without."

From Friday 27 February, submit your feedback at: [akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/annual-plan-2026-2027](https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/annual-plan-2026-2027)

The plan also includes targeted investments prioritising transport and water, while giving local boards the ability to respond to the needs of their communities.

Each annual plan sets out what the council will invest in for the year ahead and how it will pay for it. Rates also support essential local services that strengthen Auckland's communities, which local boards are responsible for. These include parks, environmental initiatives, libraries, pools, recreation centres, community halls, programmes and local events and support for local community groups.

Public feedback will be critical to helping elected members understand what Aucklanders value most and what could be reprioritised.

"If you look at how much investment has gone into the local area over the years - it is significantly more - so it's not as if we're going backwards. We're getting better playgrounds and doing more for local parks," says Councillor Baker.

However, local boards are navigating tighter budgets as they work within the new fairer funding model, which allocates funding based on population, deprivation and land area.

Homeowners and residents will be impacted by these proposed changes one way or another, whether they use any of the services provided.

To ensure Franklin's budget reflects the needs of its community, residents are encouraged to speak up whether these initiatives affect your immediate neighbourhood or not. Submit your feedback now or hold your peace... until the next budget proposal.

For everything there is to know about Annual Plan 2026/2027, visit: [akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/annual-plan-2026-2027/](https://www.akhaveyoursay.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/annual-plan-2026-2027/)

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Roasted red cherry tomatoes

If you got a bit enthusiastic when planting your cherry tomatoes this year, here's the recipe for you! This dish is versatile, smells amazing and tastes sensational, either with store-bought cherry tomatoes but especially when you can use your own, fresh from the garden.

Ingredients:

- 2-3 punnets of cherry tomatoes
- 2-3 garlic cloves, chopped or crushed
- Olive oil to drizzle
- Generous handful of fresh basil leaves, chopped (or 1 tsp dried basil)
- 1 tsp oregano

Method:

Place cherry tomatoes in a baking dish, add garlic and herbs, and drizzle generously with olive oil. Bake at 180 degrees for 15 minutes.

To serve:

- You can use roasted cherry tomatoes in a multitude of ways, including:
- adding a block of chopped feta after removing from the oven, and stirring through cooked gnocchi or pasta
 - adding a whole burrata plus 1/2 cup parmesan after removing from the oven, stirring thoroughly, and serving as a dip alongside crostini
 - draining excess liquid off, then freezing for winter use in casseroles



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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 Matthew Brown

The Most Disgusting Food Ever - Soup!

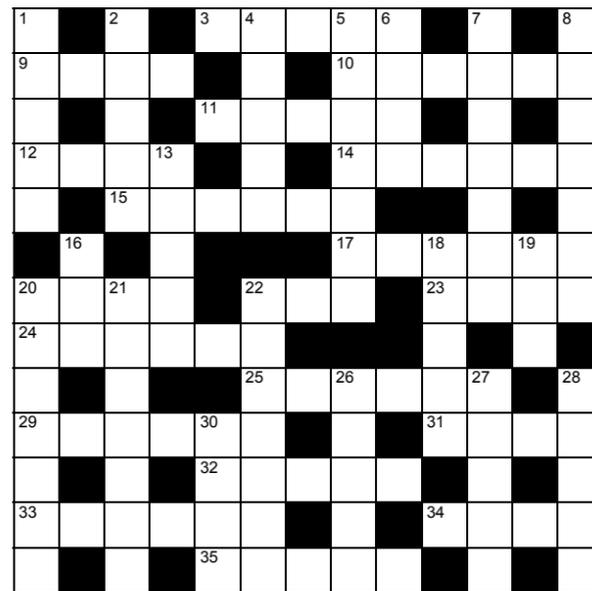
I step into my house feeling exhausted. I had a long day at school, and all I ask for is a good dinner. And then it hits me, a whiff of that horrid soup shatters my spark of hope.

I see that familiar pot mum cooks soup in. "What are you making?" I say as my hands tremble. "It's vegetable soup, it's satan's slop served in a bowl." I scramble back to my room as I hear the dish being served.

I can feel the anger and disgust building up in my body. I'm hopeless. I have to shove this abomination down my throat. I creep out of my room to the dining table. The slop gets put in front of me, and I move it around to make it look like I ate THE soup.

- by Elliot, Year 8, Clevedon School

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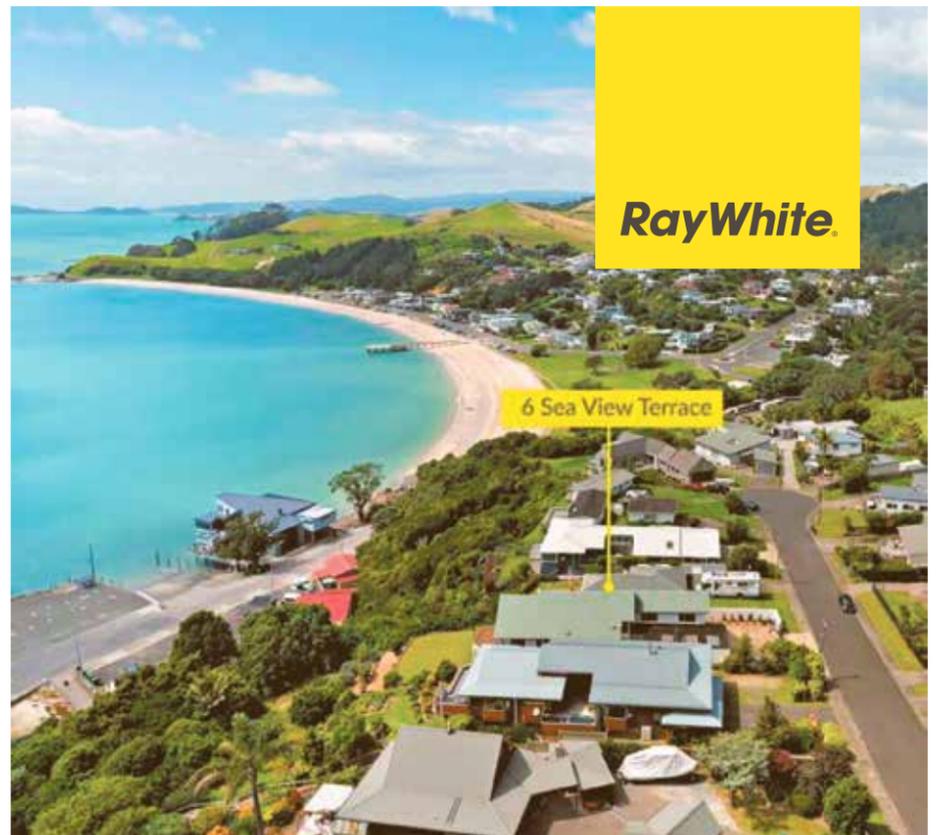
Across

- 3. Residue (5)
- 9. Wander (4)
- 10. Truthful (6)
- 11. Trite (5)
- 12. Elitist (4)
- 14. Serious (6)
- 15. Prestige (6)
- 17. Detest (6)
- 20. Online comment (4)
- 22. Tent rope (3)
- 23. Stern and gloomy (4)
- 24. Idolise (6)
- 25. Plays for time (6)
- 29. Directionless (6)
- 31. Discharge (4)
- 32. Coherent (5)
- 33. Merchant (6)
- 34. Plot (4)
- 35. Stupid (inf) (5)

Down

- 1. Insignia (5)
- 2. Mayhem (5)
- 4. Stretch (5)
- 5. Hideous (7)
- 6. Unaccompanied (4)
- 7. Souvenir (7)
- 8. Very attractive person (inf) (7)
- 13. Move forcefully or roughly (5)
- 16. Beer (3)
- 18. Mix up, confuse (5)
- 19. Embrace (3)
- 20. Wide range (7)
- 21. Partially cover (7)
- 22. Hand or body movement (7)
- 26. Awry (5)
- 27. Puny (5)
- 28. Hold one's ground (5)
- 30. Ran away (4)

Answers on page 10



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Across: 3. Dregs, 9. Roam, 10. Honest, 11. Banal, 12. Snob, 14. Solemn, 15. Cachet, 17. Loathe, 20. Blog, 22. Guy, 23. Dour, 24. Revere, 25. Stalls, 29. Adrift, 31. Emit, 32. Lucid, 33. Trader, 34. Plan, 35. Dense. **Down:** 1. Crest, 2. Havoc, 4. Reach, 5. Ghastly, 6. Solo, 7. Memento, 8. Stunner, 13. Barge, 16. Ale, 18. Addle, 19. Hug, 20. Breadth, 21. Overlap, 22. Gesture, 26. Amiss, 27. Small, 28. Stand, 30. Fled.

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ROOFING SERVICES

Alba Roofing 021 584 530
 Roofing & Spouting NZ Ltd 021 766 260

SCAFFOLDING

Scaffold Connect Ltd 021 235 5963 or 09 576 5879
 DTS Wright Scaffolding Ltd 021 239 4276

SECURITY SYSTEMS

ADS Security Ltd (alarms & monitoring) 536 6860
 Armstrong Smarter Security and Alarms 09 274 0999

SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

SST Services phone Rob 09 2947611 or 0274 967430

SURVEYORS - LAND

McInnes, Read & Lucas Ltd 298 7288
 Churchill Land Development Services Ltd 273 4182
 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 chrisshyashby@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

WALLPAPERING

Lucy Cui 536 5899 or 021 174 8466

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 2999)
 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

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