



# RUAWAI RAMBLER

A Newsletter for Ruawai and Surrounding Area  
From the Ruawai Promotions and Development Group

March 2017

## From the Editor

Welcome to our Autumn 2017 edition of the Ruawai Rambler. It is probably a bit late to wish you all a Happy New Year, but here goes anyway. Hope that the part we have already had has been good to you and the rest may be even better. As the traditional Irish blessing says: "May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back". After a very dry summer we did get a nice bit of rain to fill water tanks and stop our garden plants from dying. In this Newsletter Bruce Crompton mentions the Kiwi Bank Award Carolyn and I received. We are very happy we were nominated and received this Award. As Bruce mentions many other people in our community do volunteer work without being mentioned, Bruce and his wife Elaine being a great example themselves. Without them, and other members of Ruawai Promotions, there would not be a Christmas Parade. And most people will have seen Elaine working away, keeping the median strip on Wharf Road looking tidy. Another example is Yvonne Balliston, who quietly works away organising boxes for "Operation Christmas Child". See a note to Ruawai from Yvonne in this newsletter.

Congratulations to Annisa and Reuben Thompson for keeping our local Cafe going. We want to wish them good success in their endeavour. The 'Books in Ruawai' shop is going to open later this month. Best wishes to Robyn and her helpers. Sadly, Natalia had to close up her shop 'In a Pear Tree' for personal reasons. We will miss your shop, your lovely service and happy smile Natalia.

The RPDG wants other Ruawai clubs and groups and businesses to know that they can freely use the Ruawai logo, as shown on top of this newsletter, if they wish. It is a logo for Ruawai not just for the RPDG.

Again I want to thank those who contributed to this Newsletter and remind all readers that articles are always welcome. So are good ideas and constructive criticism. We will publish announcements for AGM's or other meetings for Ruawai clubs or groups at no charge. **Contact: Jo Wessel Editor, Ph: 439 2507.**

**email: [jhwessel@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jhwessel@xtra.co.nz).**



**AGM**  
**The Ruawai Promotions and Development**  
**Group**  
**will beholding its**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Date: March 28th. Time: 7.30pm**  
**Place: Meeting Room,**  
**Ruawai Tokatoka War Memorial Hall**  
**All Welcome**

## Hi

This month I would like to start my short article with my congratulations to Carolyn and Jo Wessel. They both received a Kiwi Bank Local Hero Award in December last year. This Award is to recognise people who contribute to their local community. I am thrilled for them both. Being on the R.P.D.G. I have had an insight into just how much community work they both do. This Newsletter, the Ruawai Hall Committee, work at both schools, The Kauri Museum and more.

In fact I thought it a good opportunity to mention the many people who contribute to our Community, not expecting recognition but taking pride in the fact that they are helping.

Let's face it, without voluntary labour, our Fire Brigade and First Response, our Service Clubs, and Sports Clubs would not be able to continue. Volunteers help keep our town clean and tidy. Hospice is run by volunteers and much of the help our elderly receive is voluntary.

I will apologise in advance for missing some one. However, the thrust of this article is to recognise that without people willing to contribute freely to our Community, we would not have one. We have a great Community. Keep up the good work.

**Bruce Crompton, Chairman RPDG.**

***Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do - John Wooden***

## News From Our Mayor, Greg Gent



It's now late February and we somehow have gotten through quite a chunk of 2017. A belated Happy New Year.

Councillors met at my house in late January and had a day with the Chief Executive looking at some objectives for us for the coming year. There will be two priorities amongst a lot of things happening. The first is the Mangawhai Town Plan which should be available for public discussion mid year. This will no doubt be controversial but is well overdue and very necessary. Mangawhai is growing again and fast. Council is issuing around 25 building permits per month currently!! Simply, that growth needs to be managed and planned.

The second priority will be Dargaville. The town is really going nowhere and it is the centre of the western side. We will look at various options including the Library which is way too small for the use it gets. The Pool continues to be expensive to operate and that needs to be looked at.

At our February meeting we considered the first draft of our Annual Plan (budget in non Council speak). That still requires a lot of work as we try and balance ongoing debt reduction with providing adequate service. But that is our reality.

**Greg Gent**

## Ruawai Cycle/Walking Trail

In our December publication, Anna Curnow, mentioned the cycle and walking trail on the stop-bank. As you are aware, cycle/walking tracks are popping up all over the country, which is a good thing. This plan is to have a cycle/walking track on the top of the stop bank going from the Ruawai Wharf to Wilson's Landing which leads onto Simpson's Road. Anna is a leading light for this project and here is her progress report.**J.W.**

I'm delighted to report that the Ruawai Promotions Development Group have agreed to take on the overseeing role for the cycle trail and walkway project. A sub-committee is being formed to report to the RPDG on the funding needs and project plan.

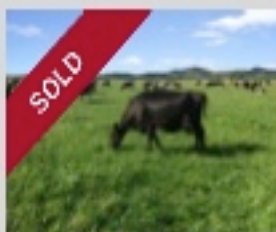
Sources of funding are now being identified as the budget is firmed up. We're hoping to have some physical progress soon. Watch this space! **Anna Curnow Consulting, M 021 667 124, E [anna@annacurnow.co.nz](mailto:anna@annacurnow.co.nz)**

*If you would like results like these, then please, pick up the phone and call me today*

### Dairy



762 Pouto Road,  
Dargaville



139 Poyner Road,  
Matakohe



38 Birch Road,  
Ruawai

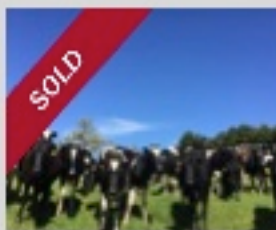


259 Parahi Outlet Road,  
Ruawai

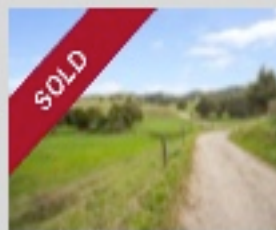
### Grazing



Militai Road,  
Waiotira



Opanake Road,  
Dargaville



Bradley Road,  
Ruawai



5235 State Highway 14,  
Dargaville

### Lifestyle



133 Mangapai Caves Road,  
Mangapai



1 Webers Bay Road,  
Tinopal



57 Petley Road,  
Paparua



193 Awakino Point East Road,  
Dargaville

**Catherine Stewart – Rural Specialist**

| B 0800 422 959 | M 027 356 5031 | E [catherine.stewart@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:catherine.stewart@bayleys.co.nz) |  
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**Operation Christmas Child 2016  
Ruawai, Small Town, Huge Heart**

Once again you have given so much for the children.

This Christmas, 2016, we have sent 72 boxes. That means 72 very happy children. I am so grateful to you all, whether you gave a full box or one toy, It makes a huge difference.

Thank you all for caring  
Yvonne Balliston

*The following important news was contributed by Debbie Evans, CEO, Kaipara Community Health Trust and Elected Member on Northland District Health Board*

## **Staying in Contact with your Doctor just got easier - Do it 'online' via your computer or your cellphone**

Need a repeat on a script and don't require a check-up with your Nurse or Doctor? You can now order it through the Manage My Health (MMH) App.

We now have access to 'an app' where we can go 'online' to help us manage our own health - keeping us local folk up-to-speed in this quickly evolving world we live in.

We appreciate our rural lifestyles, we value our land, resources and strong community spirit. Good health enables us to enjoy and participate in all that surrounds us. We are fortunate in the Northern Wairoa District to have excellent access to healthcare, which we as a community historically have fought to maintain. Our access to health services has just been enhanced by the uptake of this new technology.

The MMH app is especially useful to manage your blood results, if your results are normal you won't get a phone call.... but for some people it's really important to keep an eye on their numbers, logging into the MMH app will let you see all the test results for yourself.

It's awesome that we can live rurally and still enjoy the benefits this technology has to offer. Manage your health any time any place via the Internet with the Manage My Health (MMH) App.

Benefits - the Manage My Health app will let you:

- See your recent medical records, test results, immunisations and allergies
- Ask for a repeat prescription
- Send and receive emails to your doctor or nurse
- Update your personal details
- Share your health information with other health professional if you want to
- (IN THE NEAR FUTURE) Make a non-urgent appointment to see your Doctor in Ruawai
- Make a non-urgent appointment to see your Doctor in Dargaville

**If you'd like to sign up, please complete the form below and email back or drop it into Gerard at the Ruawai Clinic.**

**Please note if you're not registered with Dargaville Medical you'll need to consult with your own medical provider.**

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**Yes, I would like to sign up to Dargaville Medical Centre 'Manage My Health App' (Electronic Health Record)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

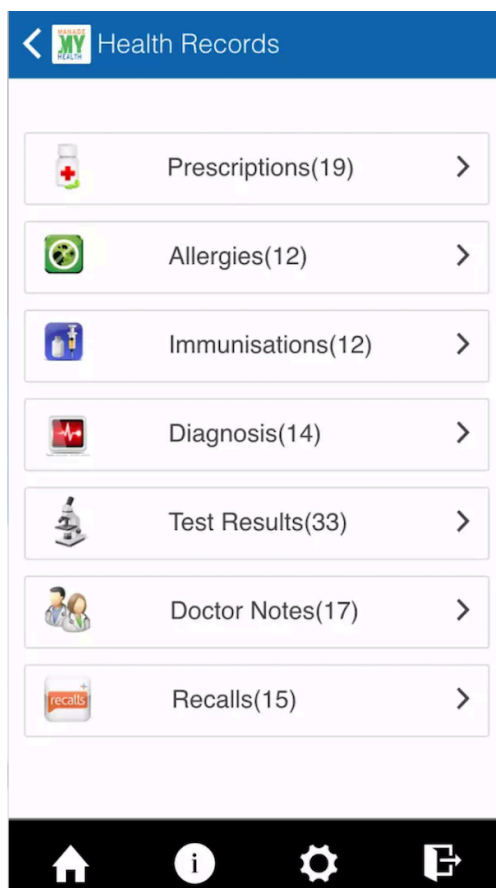
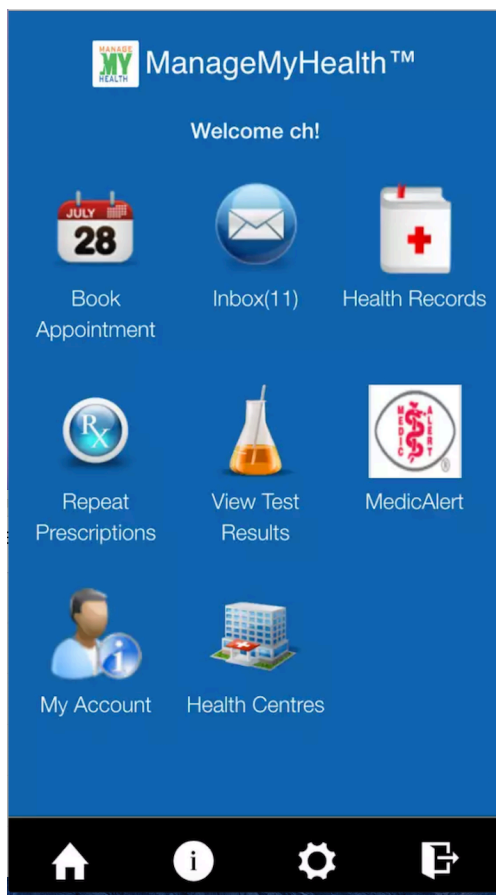
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ **Please email your completed form to: [reception@dargavilledocs.co.nz](mailto:reception@dargavilledocs.co.nz)**

You'll be sent an email with a 'link' to log into **Manage My Health** within 3-5 business working days, if you don't receive an email please check your 'spam folder' Any questions or queries please phone Dargaville Medical Centre Reception 439 8079

**NB: Each individual (adult/child) requires their own email address to sign-up to the Manage My Health App**





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Those of our readers who have lived in the area for some time, will remember Maurice and Maureen Gwillim. A couple of years ago we featured an article about them. Last year Maurice had to decide between retiring or buying another truck. The picture shows how the decision went. The photo and article below are taken (with permission) from the "NZ trucking" magazine. **J.W.**

Maurice Gwillim started operating trucks in 1965 when he purchased a brand new 1113 Mercedes 4x4 and contracted to Thurston Transport in Ruawai, spreading agricultural fertiliser. Three years on and the lifestyle





*Maurice and Maureen Gwillim. Behind every great man is a greater woman!*

working, so he purchased a new Bedford RL 4x4 and continued his contract with Thurston's. In 1971 Maurice married Maureen Morfett, a Northland girl herself from Kaihu north of Dargaville. Maurice's best mate Les Comer drove the wedding car.

Maurice sold the spreading business in 1972 to his brother Trevor and the late Pat Horan and purchased a Bedford SB3 bus from 'Pud' Meale who ran a daily passenger and freight service between Ruawai and Whangarei. The run included the RD 8 rural post delivery contract out of Whangarei. In 1989 Maurice and Maureen sold the passenger business but retained the freight, operating various trucks increasing in size as freight volumes grew. Although the rural delivery run had also doubled in size, it was sold off to two employees. The late nineties signalled change for Maurice, Maureen and their

three daughters when the decision was made to move from Ruawai to Whangarei. At the time Maurice received a letter from Grenfell Thurston commending Maurice for his service to Ruawai over 30 years, starting as a youngster. The township presented the Gwillim family with a large engraved mirror as an appreciation for their services. Maurice joined United Carriers as a driver in 2001, and shortly after purchased a Mitsubishi GM70, contracting to the company as an owner-driver. He remained with the company until shortly after the Toll takeover in 2009. In late 2009 Maurice took his six-month-old 700 series Hino and joined NZL Group, painting the truck in the well-known green and white livery and continuing to operate out of Whangarei. Late in 2015 Maurice reached a crossroads in his career with some decisions to make. With 700,000km on the clock, replacing the Hino needed consideration. At 70 years of age, should he sell his truck and trailer and retire, or should he continue contracting to NZL Group with a new truck. "I was enjoying the driving," he said, "and if I decided to retire and sit on my backside I would simply go to rot. "It was not all that hard to make the decision in conjunction with my wife, Maureen, and also after some discussion with the management of the NZL Group," Maurice said, "so I went to Auckland and spoke to Ron Price at Trucks & Trailers about purchasing a new Mercedes." Maurice readily admits that if he had not had the support of his wife Maureen over the years, he would not have been in a position to make a decision at all.

### **Ruawai Indoor Bowling Club News.**

Happy New Year from the Ruawai Indoor Bowling Club. With summer drawing to a close we start to prepare for a new season of Indoor Bowls in the Ruawai Tokatoka Hall. We will be kicking off later this month (date not available at time of publishing). If you are thinking that you may like to play some sort of sport, not too physical and as competitive as you choose (either as teams or single) this sport might suit you. I am writing this assuming that you have never played before. We have a range of players in our club - young, old, disabled, all with their own style of playing. We try and keep it interesting with a range of different mixtures of games. Plenty of coaching and help on the night is available as well as leaving you to do your own thing. We would love to see you. Even if you think maybe you might come down to the Hall and just watch, you are more than welcome. This is alcohol and smoke-free, followed by a cup of tea, and is family friendly. For more information contact: **Tony Oud Ph 439 2390**

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## Ruawai Primary School "Bikes In Schools" Project



We are happy to report that good progress has been made towards making "Bikes In Schools" a reality at Ruawai Primary. Firstly, we would like to thank the members of the community who have kindly made donations towards the project following our open letter to the community, which gave a brief outline of what we are working towards. Your support is greatly appreciated and moves us one step closer to our goal.

Bikes Northland has confirmed that they have secured funding for helmets for every child in the school! They are currently working towards obtaining the funding for our bikes. We have continued to approach organisations for grants and, as a result of one such application, we met with a representative from the Lotteries Community Grant Scheme who came to visit our kura

and discuss our application for the funding of the bikes tracks. We will find out early March if we have been successful; so fingers crossed. If you would like to hear more about our project, or would like to talk to us about how you or your business could support it, we would love to hear from you.

**Kind regards, Kim Jenyns, Natalie Davidson**



### ANZAC Service

Tuesday, 25th April, 2017 is ANZAC DAY, the day we honour those of us who fought for us through two World Wars and other conflicts. The Ruawai RSA will hold a Memorial Service in the Ruawai and Toka-Toka War Memorial Hall. The President and Committee extend a warm welcome to all to join in the Parade and Memorial Service starting at 10.30am. If you wish to lay a wreath in memory to a loved one, bring it to the Service, there will be an opportunity to do so.

Medals to be worn. **Alex Stewart, President, Ruawai RSA**



### From the Boating Club



HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all. We have been quite busy over the last few months what with the great fishing in the harbour, organising fishing competitions, renewing the resource consent, as well as the ongoing maintenance of the ramps and walkways. First to the competitions: The last two have been very successful - the ice breaker held on the 26th of November, then the Waitangi 3-day comp., which has a good fishing tale. Wilsons and crew fished all over the Harbour with not much luck; crew member, Kelvin kept talking up his 'lucky spot' all day. Upon return home they fished the much-talked about 'spot' just out from the wharf resulting in Dion landing the winning snapper (over 21 pounds) with the last piece of bait. The Ultimate Angler is still running; some great prizes to be won even if you don't catch fish. Tickets available at the Challenge service station. "Take A Kid Fishing" is scheduled for the 11th & 12th of March. This is a free day for member's children, hosted by the Ruawai Fire Brigade. **Safe boating! Tony Oud**

### Picnic Exhibit at TKM

The Kauri Museum has many permanent exhibits which most of you have probably seen at one time or another. There are, however, temporary exhibits which are very interesting. One of these has been on display for a while, but finished last week. It depicts how family picnics have evolved over the last century. One side shows a picnic in 1890, the other one in 1990. The costumes of the 1890's come from the Museum's extensive textiles collection and most of the work was done by the "textile ladies", a group of volunteers who



do an amazing job. Their next project is an exhibit called "Textiles Down Under" and features ladies & men's underwear from the collection of The Kauri Museum. It runs from 8 March 2017 - 8 June 2017. These exhibits are another good reason to visit the Museum on a regular basis and take any visitors over as well. And don't forget the special Tudor Collin's exhibit which is on and shows some amazing photography done long before our present cameras and smart phones. And remember that entry to the Museum is free for residents of the 'old Otamatea District' which includes the area from Tokatoka all the way to Mangawhai. **J.W.**



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**Rainfall figures.  
Thanks to Kura Newell**

Nov./16 - 80mm  
Dec./16 - 29mm  
Total for 2016 - 1102mm  
Total for 2006 - 1268mm  
  
Jan./17 - 19mm  
Feb./17 - 78mm up up 26th

## Hospice Kaipara Update



Hospice Kaipara Awareness Week 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May

Again this year Hospice is holding the Car Poker Run to kickstart Awareness week. This year it is going to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May - as the Mother's Day Poker Run - take your mum out for a drive! The run will start from the Vintage Machinery Club, Dargaville to the Thirsty Tui (Paparoa Tavern) at Paparoa via Tinopai. Registration is 12 noon on the day. Please contact Hospice Kaipara for more information.

Our other big event will be our 25 -year celebration. Hospice Kaipara would like to thank our community for all their help and support throughout the past 25 years. The 28<sup>th</sup> July is the day we will be holding celebrations at Dargaville Town Hall. More information about the day will be available closer to the time. If you would like to know more about the work Hospice Kaipara does, please call in at our stand with Northland District Health at the Field Days or contact us on 09 439 3330 ext 6716. Thank you! And please contact me if you would like a chat about any of the above. **Pamela Barton Fundraiser/Administrator**



## Ruawai Garden Club doings.

Hi for the first time in 2017. I hope everyone had a happy and safe New Years. The date of writing this is the 16th of February, and we had our first meeting of the Gardening Club this morning, so consequently we don't have a lot of doings. So here is the good news. We are planning another local trip, for the latter part of March. The target gardens this time are at Te Koporu, and also a visit to a nursery. We will stop and have lunch during our wanderings, maybe at Aratapu Tavern. Sorry, I can't give any more details, but the date will be decided by the bus availability. As always anyone is



welcome to join us, you don't have to be a gardening club member. Anyone interested please phone Noeline Gatehouse at 439-2071. I hope everyone is appreciating the rain today, cos we so need it. And just think what follows a good dollop of rain. Happy weeding to all!! **Merle Jackson**

### DIY Kite making at The Kauri Museum

These upcoming school holidays why not come to The Kauri Museum and make your very own kite? Our team of keen kite-makers have perfected the designs to ensure the kite you make can fly on the day and will be awesome

**When:** 10am-2pm Wednesday 19 April 2017

10am-2pm Wednesday 26 April 2017

**Skill level:** Beginner to expert, ages 7 - 97

**Cost:** For charges please check the website [www.kaurimuseum.com](http://www.kaurimuseum.com) or call the Museum

**Where:** The Kauri Museum, 5 Church Road, Matakoho.

**Book your place by phoning:** 09 431 7417 or email [admin@kaurimuseum.com](mailto:admin@kaurimuseum.com)

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### **Ruawai Community Sports Club**

Presents



**St. Patrick's Sunday**

**Community Dinner**

19th March 2017

Meal served between 6:30pm and 7:30pm

Come along for some Irish Stew, Mashed Potato and Peas

\$10 Booked, \$12 on night - to make a booking comment on the event on our facebook page or e-mail [ruawaigroundspread@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ruawaigroundspread@xtra.co.nz). Kids welcome.

Guinness available over the bar

Keep an eye out for our Monthly Community Dinners organised by our affiliated clubs!

**Recent Farm Sales** - The real estate market for farms is active at present. In the past twelve months there have been 20 dairy farm sales reported in lower Northland (Kaipara and Whangarei Districts), and 21 sales of grazing farms of 100 hectares and over. For comparison I checked back to 2012-2013, as this was my first year in real estate, and I found only 9 dairy farms and 9 grazing farms were sold in that twelve month period. This means that those wanting to make their next property move are able to do so whether it be a first farm, a bigger farm or a change in lifestyle. I have a strong database of buyers right now so if you are thinking of selling please give me a call on **0800 100 027. Warm Regards, Nicky Reid.**

## "BOOKS AT RUAWAI"

Opening Soon

in 5 Freyberg Rd, Ruawai

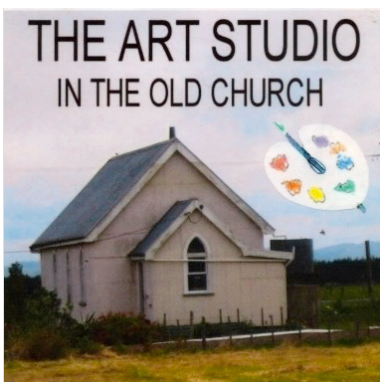
2 secondhand bookshops.

Ph 439 2044



### **About the Bookshop**

I was allowed a peek inside to take a photo. The number of books and the range of subjects is amazing. There are books about gardening, travel, cooking, business, religion, psychology, etc. and that was only in the one shop. So, if you like books, be sure to come and have a look. The shops will be opening soon. **J.W.**



**The Art Studio** welcomed in the New Year with a group outing to The One Tree Point Art exhibition. This was followed by a lovely lunch at Land & Sea Café, a visit to the Gallery opposite & then calling in at the Waipu Gallery on the way home. Our new term classes have commenced. These are held on a Monday from 10am and will run through to Monday 10th April with term 2 starting on the 1st of May.

Late last year the studio received a grant from The Kaipara District Creative Communities NZ to hold an Art Workshop which we hope to do in the next two or three months. This will probably be a Pastel Workshop.

If you would be interested in attending this, or joining our friendly group on a Monday, please phone **Frances on 094392554. or 0210616367.**



### Ruawai Rugby News

Well it's time for the rugby season to roll around again. Conditions may dictate otherwise, with the grounds being like a road, but nevertheless they breed them tough up here in Northland. The Nomads (Ruawai Seniors) are looking to build on their mid table finish of last year and make a push for a finals berth this year. With a young team, that gained a lot of experience from the previous year, and with the addition of a few other players, the boys are working hard to try make this happen. We had our first muster in Ruawai mid December with a reasonable turn out. Since then we have had a run out at Tinopai trying to make a few extra recruits and a day spent up at Kai Iwi Lakes where the lads were put through the wringer in pretty hot conditions. Since then we have been training Tuesdays and Thursdays with a focus on fitness.

Exciting things are ahead this year with the biggest shake-up of the competition in years, with four teams added from Bay of Islands (Kawakawa, Moerewa, Ohaewai and Otiria). This means a lot more travel, but also differing styles of rugby than we are used to followed by a crossover playoff system against the teams from the top half of Northland. The boys are really looking forward to this new challenge.

Our season kicks off on the 25th March with a home game against Tomarata. The draw has worked out that we have a home game every second week so pencil this in your diary and come support your home town. But prior to this we are having a pre-season run of two 40-minute matches versus Tomarata and Otamatea reserves on the 4th of March in Kaiwaka. So if you're interested in pulling on the boots for a run, or even getting involved in coaching/managing/refereeing or just want to have a good social time, come down on a Thursday night from 6:30 and get involved. On the IMB front we are having a muster/sausage sizzle on Thursday 2nd March at the Ruawai Community Sports Club from 6pm so if you have kids in the 13-18 year range that are keen for a run, come down for more information and we'll see what can be done for you. We are looking for coaches, managers, etc for these grades as well. So if you have a passion for rugby, and perhaps an inclination to shape the next Richie McCaw come on down and get involved.

For any enquiries contact **Chris Bellamy Club Captain on 02102238248**

**Cheers Chris**

### The Well Cafe



*The ElleCee cafe has re-opened with a new name and new management. Tina Mccullough went to check it out. J.W.*

Located on Freyberg Road, Ruawai, The Well Cafe is run by Annissa and Ruben Thompson. It has always been a dream of Annissa's to own a cafe that produces affordable, tasty, good food. Annissa also wanted to showcase her baking skills. They are committed to giving their customers quality food at an affordable price. They have a fantastic menu, whether you want breakfast, lunch or just a coffee and some delicious baking. (I heard a lady ask for a piece of their famous marshmallow slice, and after tasting it, I know why it's famous!) The reviews on their Face book page and on their webpage are very complementary.

One example is "Fantastic food and sensational coffee, served by friendly, fabulous people".



So next time you have the need for a coffee, or lunch, head down to see Annissa and her lovely team at the Well Cafe. Open Monday to Saturday 7am to 4pm. Well worth the trip  
**Tina Mccullough**



#### Naumai Haere Mai

We warmly invite you to come along and immerse yourself in our awesome Early Childhood environment.

We cater for children in Ruawai and surrounding communities aged between 2-6yrs, 5 days a week (9am-3pm).

All our teachers are fully qualified and we offer 20 free ECE hrs.

**RUAWAI  
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4376A SHWY 12  
Ruawai

09 4392415

[ruawai@nka.org.nz](mailto:ruawai@nka.org.nz)

Facebook: Ruawai

#### Ruawai Tokatoka War Memorial Hall

The Hall is a great venue for all sorts of occasions.

**The Meeting Room** - for casual or formal meetings,

**The Social Lounge** - for large meetings, dinners, parties

**The Main Auditorium** - for large Social events, weddings, children's parties, etc. There is a large, fully equipped, licensed kitchen.

#### From The Ruawai Bowling Club

Congratulations to Hendee (Brian Henderson) for achieving 50 Club Championship titles, winning the Men's Champ Pairs 2017 with Malcolm Joynt. Just a reminder that our club is open Friday nights for a hearty meal and convivial friendship. If anyone is looking to join either as a full playing member or as a social member, they are welcome to come to Community Bowls on Wednesday afternoons 6.00-7.00pm. **Linda Sheehan**

#### Ruawai Lions

## FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017 RUAWAI KINDERGARTEN OPEN DAY 10-2PM



On 12th February the Ruawai Lions held their annual "Music in the Garden" afternoon, which was well attended and very enjoyable. Here are a few photos of the event. Photos by Grant Carter



## The Vet Centre Ruawai

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