

# WESTERN Community News

YOUR PEOPLE ~ YOUR PAPER

Issue 115 (Hakihea / December 2021)

Delivered to over 19,000 homes throughout Hamilton West



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## Dreams Come True

NZ Born Lalakai Foketi Joins  
Wallabies line-up  
See page 2

Photo Credit: Andrew Phan

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ANYTIME**



# Dreams Come True

By Roslynn Billman

A young Te Rapa rugby player living in Nawton names Lalakai Foketi is asked by his dad Scott Foketi, what does he want to be when he grew up? Lalakai answered "A Professional Rugby Player." His dad then asked, "what was plan B?" Lalakai responded, "there is no plan B." Lalakai was a student of Nawton and Frankton Primary Schools. He also attended Maeroa Intermediate School prior to moving across the Tasman to Australia with dad and brother Beaudene at 12 years old. Mum Gina also dedicated her support as lovely Mums do by getting Lalakai to practices and games. This provided a pathway to achieve his ultimate goal of becoming a Professional Rugby Player while attending Balgowlah and The Kings School. His journey has been one of discipline, hard work and overcoming injuries. Dedication

to the game he loves and shares both locally and internationally. Some of his impressive achievements include playing for Manly Marlins Colts, Australian Schoolboys, Australia Under 20 side at the 2013 IRB junior World Championship in France and also in New Zealand. Other teams include Melbourne Rebels, Waratahs, Bayonne France, Greater Sydney Rams, Bay of Plenty New Zealand and Sydney Rays. Ultimately being named in the Wallabies squad in 2021 brought feelings of humility and gratitude for being selected to represent the country he loves and now calls home whilst always remembering his modest beginnings in Hamilton, New Zealand. Lalakai aspires to be an example for all young people to follow their dreams and to encourage parents to support them and believe in their future.



Photo credit: Andrew Phan

## Councillor Comment

By Martin Gallagher  
Hamilton City Councillor



What will our great river city look like in 2050? How will we work, travel and live? To answer these questions, we must plan and prepare for the effects of climate change, right now. We need to work together as a community to transition to a low-carbon, resilient Hamilton, ready for the changes to come.

Here at Council, we're working on a climate change strategy that will create the roadmap to 2050, which we'll share with you next year. But we're also making some important changes right now. Across the city, we're planting trees and protecting our native species, and as we grow, we're building for climate-readiness. We're investing more in our walking, biking and public transport infrastructure, to make it easier for you to

choose a low-carbon commute. There are a few ways that you can help us to create positive change. Small habits can have a big impact. Get savvy on your bins, and always make sure food waste goes in your green bin – so your food scraps can get a new life as compost, not rot away in the dump. Consider leaving the car keys at home, especially for those trips close to home. Be smart with your water and only use what

choose a low-carbon commute.

There are a few ways that you can help us to create positive change. Small habits can have a big impact.

Get savvy on your bins, and always make sure food waste goes in your green bin – so your food scraps can get a new life as compost, not rot away in the dump.

Consider leaving the car keys at home, especially for those trips close to home.

Be smart with your water and only use what



you need. Every drop counts, especially in summer.

We've got a long way to go, but a journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step - or in the case of the climate, a shorter shower.

## MP Comment

Massive thanks to everyone across Aotearoa for coming together for Super Saturday and especially to all the stakeholders in Hamilton.

Before the event, I invited 130 organisations in Hamilton for a hui on Zoom to see how we could all play a part in success of Super Saturday.

Along with Waikato DHB, Police & Hamilton City Council we had representatives from Māori, Pasifika, Indian, Somali, Colombian, Chinese, Korean, Fijian, Pakistani, Malaysian, Sri Lankan, African, Tamil, Muslim, Sikh and refugee communities as well as interfaith group, multicultural council, various community centres, Citizens Advice Bureau and healthcare providers.

We had an incredible amount of talented people in the room eg Red Cross provided us with vaccination related translations while my office did a one pager on vax locations. My office managed to get out all this to ethnic stores, BP & Mobil gas stations & Countdown supermarkets before Saturday.

Our local Anglesea pharmacy distributed videos in multiple languages re: vaccination including Te Reo, Afrikaans, Samoan and Korean to name a few. My office also connected them with the Pakistani community who did some cooking and baking for those getting vaccinated at the pharmacy.

Waikato Indian Association community leaders had volunteers who were also keen on assisting at the centres so we managed to connect them with Hamilton Lake Clinic to help with traffic management at the drive thru clinic. Refugee Orientation Centre organised a Zoom meeting with rangatahi while Shama Ethnic Women's Trust helped bring Hamilton's Spanish speaking people together to talk about vaccines.

The Hamilton City Council offered 1000 vouchers to the Zoo and Waterworld while all our buses offered free rides to people to and from vaccination centres. I also talked to the Police Area Commander

about any protests and how to keep all the volunteers and staff safe and they had great suggestions.

We also circulated some really helpful info from the DHB to all our stakeholder organisations on FAQs as well as a business toolkit for organisations to display.

On the day, my volunteers made 1,675 calls in the electorate to assist them with locations of vaccination centres and any questions they might have had re: transportation. I volunteered at two medical centres.

Along with multilingual flyers we had gotten out to many businesses, I also tried to get message out to our multilingual communities on various radio and news platforms. I want to thank media organisations for playing a big part in helping with the success of the event.

Thanks also to my doctor friends for hosting online sessions where we addressed a lot of questions on vaccine mandates to vaccine hesitancy and antivirals.

Big thanks to organisations like K'aute Pasifika who ran a big drive thru and managed to keep everyone entertained with their Cook Island drummers and a DJ! I visited their Drive Thru along with the pop-up centre at Melville Skate Park (and the two practices I volunteered at in Nawton and Hamilton Lake).

If you still haven't gotten vaccinated Anglesea Pharmacy is vaccinating until 11pm every night along with all the usual vaccination centres.

Thanks to everyone who played a part and came together over the last few months to make Super Saturday successful. We have still quite a way to go so let's keep working together for the health of our whānau and collective communities.



**Dr Gaurav Sharma**  
MP for Hamilton West

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Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160

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# Have Your Say: Western Community Centre Staff 2021 Highlights



**Kayla**

This year was hard and really was challenging. I found a deeper appreciation for my work colleagues and the support we had for each other during lockdown.  
*Whanau Support Worker*



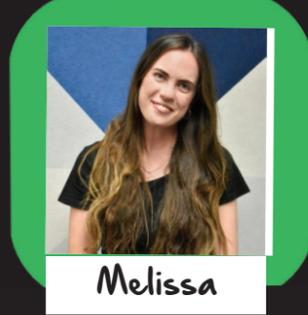
**Neil**

Being able to run the Chill in the Park snow event was really awesome. To see all our youth volunteers put in a big effort to run it smoothly was a big highlight.  
*Manager*



**Trish**

2021 for me went fast! Almost felt like we just skipped a year!  
*Western Stars Coordinator*



**Melissa**

I really enjoyed working with our tamariki in the afterschool program. But the best part was seeing the community come together over the challenges COVID 19 brought.  
*Western Stars Facilitator*



**Zeta**

I loved all the collaborative events we got to run with really cool organisations in our town. It was awesome to let others know the great work we do here.  
*Community Connector*

## Merry Christmas from the Good News Community Centre

We are pleased to announce that the office will be open during the holiday period except for weekends and statutory holidays to collect food as per the Covid restrictions at the time. We are located at 78 Breckons Ave in Nawton.

Please stay tuned to our facebook page for collection days and times.

Unfortunately, due to uncertainty around social gatherings, it appears that we are unable to hold our very popular annual 'Kai and Carols' event in its usual format. However, we do look forward to bringing Christmas joy to the community in other ways. Keep an eye on our facebook page for all the details including some competitions.

Christmas is a time to celebrate being with family and friends enjoying quality time together. It does not need to be an expensive stressful over budget event.

10 low-cost gifts to consider may be; a photo frame to display that all important gathering, a box of chalk for the kids to draw on the concrete, a deck of cards to play card games, a beautiful notebook to journal the long summer days ahead, do a chore for someone; mow the lawn, wash their car, cook a meal, nail polish for the girly girls in our lives, a wrapped box (or two) of scorched almonds for nan and koro, prepare some home baking, bucket hat, sun hat or cap to keep the sun off or books for all ages

You can even get a great range from secondhand shops, trademe or facebook marketplace.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas from the team at the Good News Community Centre.



# HE PUNA KŌRERO PODCAST

Thursdays 10.30am  
Sundays 11am  
Mondays 2pm

**Free FM 89**  
Independent COMMUNITY MEDIA

Tired of repetitive commercial radio?

Come and check out the diverse range of programmes we broadcast on 89.0FM. Here at Free FM we broadcast an eclectic range of programmes, including short series podcasts, music shows and those that celebrate a range of different languages and cultures. Tune in every Thursday to He Puna Korero – a platform where community is the inspiration, as we commence our collective journey to understand decolonisation, and our collective commitment to earth and people. Hosted by Anna Casey Cox it's an informative and interesting way to learn about local environmental matters and much more.

You can access our shows on 89.0FM Waikato wide, streaming and podcasting via [www.freefm.org.nz](http://www.freefm.org.nz) and the Access Internet Radio app, plus on Amazon echo. Don't forget to follow us on social media to be in to win a range of prizes and keep updated on everything we have going on [www.facebook.com/FREEFM89](http://www.facebook.com/FREEFM89) and [www.instagram.com/freefm89/](http://www.instagram.com/freefm89/)

## Goodies for Grandview Kindergarten

*By Joel Goodison*

To bring a little extra excitement to our tamariki, and provide some additional support for our parents in engaging their children in learning and play during lockdown, Grandview Kindergarten recently put together some play packages.

These included resources like puppets, playdough ingredients and a recipe, surprise seeds and plant pots, Diwali rangoli for coloring and a sweets recipe — along with some fun little knick knacks like balloons, fidget spinners, pencils, slap bands and more.

The play packages were delivered to the letterboxes of our whaanau along with a

letter from the team. We were so pleased to receive messages of thanks and photos of the tamariki engaged and enjoying their special surprises.

Not being able to open the doors to all our tamariki and whaanau during lockdown has been tough; the kaiako of Grandview Kindergarten have been missing the daily interactions, smiles and laughter that regular kindergarten life brings.

We know what a resilient community we are a part of and are so proud of the way everyone is playing their part in keeping one another safe.



# TREATS IN THE PARK: BACKYARD EDITION

Congratulations to our awesome winners!!

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100 CASH PRIZE  
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FOR:  
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FAMILY PORTRAIT  
50 COUNTDOWN VOUCHER  
GOES TO:

**SARAH TAFUNA**

FOR:  
THEIR CHARLIE AND THE  
CHOCOLATE FACTORY  
FAMILY PORTRAIT



FOR THE KIDS  
50 WAREHOUSE VOUCHER  
GOES TO:

**JOHANNA LLOYD**

FOR:  
A COUPLE OF KIDS WHO  
WERE SUPER CUTE AND  
SCARY AT THE SAME TIME



BEST USE OF  
RECYCLED MATERIALS  
50 PRESSIE CARD  
GOES TO:

**MONIQUE HEWARD**

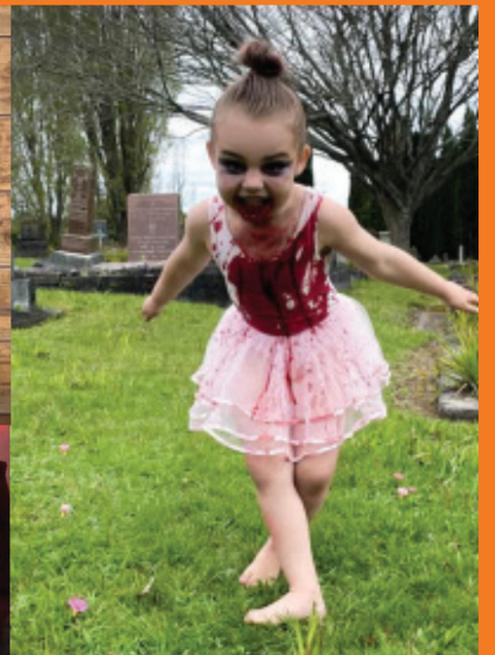
FOR:  
SAVING THE PLANET AND  
LOOKING GOOD DOING IT!



MOST CREATIVE  
50 PRESSIE CARD  
GOES TO:

**LEONIE RYFLE**

FOR:  
A CRAZY AND CREATIVE  
MIX OF COSTUMES!



# KIDS AND GENDER TOOLBOX LAUNCH

By Nathan Bramwell

November 25 is White Ribbon Day, celebrating men taking action to stop violence towards women. This year, White Ribbon teamed up with Hohou te Rongo Kahukura – Outing Violence and Rainbow Hub Waikato to develop a new Toolbox for parents with kids who break gender rules. These kids often get bullied – boys who want to wear nail polish or play with dolls, or girls who refuse to wear skirts and want to play with trucks. Sometimes this means getting picked on at school, or by older brothers and sisters, parents or extended families.

Some of these kids will grow up to be part of the Rainbow community. Parents often have lots of questions at this stage, and it's important to know that you are not alone, other parents have walked this road too. Rainbow Hub Waikato can help you connect to communities and resources needed to nurture and validate your child, which is important because support and love from their family is always what

matters most, for all children.

The Kids and Gender Toolbox will be launched online, on Monday 29th November at 6pm. We will hear from several parents who have gone through this journey, sharing what they found useful. To register, please contact [community@waikatoqueeryouth.org.nz](mailto:community@waikatoqueeryouth.org.nz)

To connect for social support or information you can also follow us @RainbowHubWaikato or contact us at [info@rhw.org.nz](mailto:info@rhw.org.nz)



## Alvina's Shave for a Cure Journey



By Dezna Le Cordier

In early November, local young person Alvina, raised money for Cancer Research by participating in Shave for a Cure. Currently she has raised over \$1,000 absolutely smashing her goal of \$250.

Alvina decided she would like something positive to focus on during our recent lockdown, and after losing her Gramps two years ago to cancer she decided this was a great way to honor his memory and put her mind to something positive. Alvina thinks her Gramps would love that she is doing something so brave for the benefit of others but would also jokingly make fun of her new do!

Thank goodness Alvina loves her new hair-do and would happily shave for a cure again... and she is now on the search for her next charity to fundraise for.

She has also donated her hair to Freedom

Wigs NZ, who offered to pay her for her hair. Alvina has instead requested this money goes towards someone finding it difficult to pay for their wig to make it easier for them. She also requested her family, who won the Western Community Centre Treats in the Park: Backyard Edition costume competition, donate their \$100 cash prize towards her Shave for a Cure fundraising too.

Alvina thinks shave for a cure is a great fundraiser especially for kids with summer fast approaching- and would love to see other people getting behind both of these wonderful organization during incredible mahi for people suffering from cancer

If you would like to give back this summer season, you can donate to Alvina's Shave for a Cure at [shaveforacure.co.nz/alvina-roux-le-cordier](http://shaveforacure.co.nz/alvina-roux-le-cordier)

Any size donation makes a b



1. With Here to Help U at Western Community Centre
2. Police Community Meeting at Good News Community Centre
3. Easter at Dominion Road Reserve
4. Crawshaw clean up with Keep Hamilton Beautiful & Good News Community Centre
5. Tug of War at Easter celebrations at Dominion Road Reserve
6. Meeting with Grant Robertson at Western Community Centre
7. BBQ with community Police at Western Community Centre
8. MP Constituent Clinic at Good News Community Centre
9. Chill in the Park at Western Community Centre
10. City Safe officers attending Police Community Meeting
11. World Yoga Day at Western Community Centre
12. Waitangi Day at Elliott Park

Dr Gaurav Sharma MP for Hamilton West



Labour

[www.gmsharma.info](http://www.gmsharma.info)

Authorised by Dr Gaurav Sharma MP, Parliamentary Buildings, Wellington



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Te Kura Tuarua o Taniwharau

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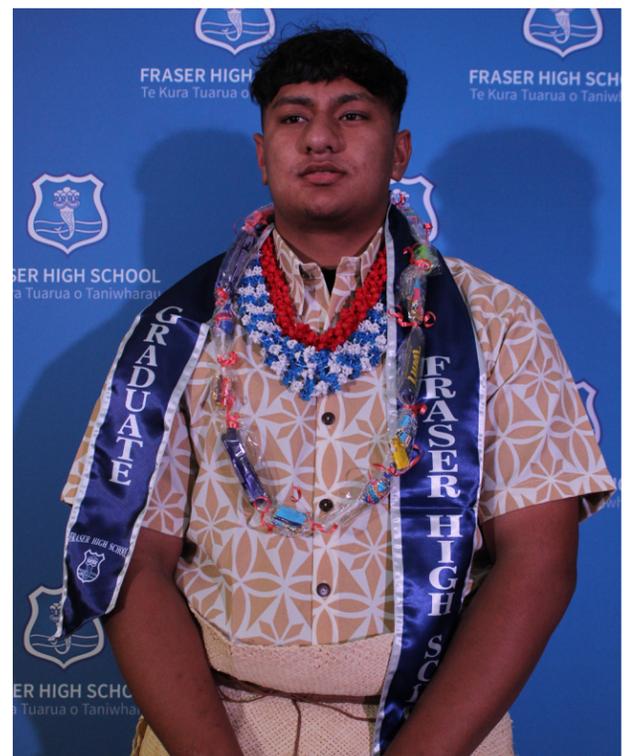
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## MIA DOWNING

PROXIME ACCESSIT







# STUDENT ARTWORK

Natalie Lowe



Jannah Antenor



Mia Downing





# Your Journey Starts Here

**Enrol Now to ensure your Learning choices for 2022**

2022 Enrolments are now open online  
*Avoid the end of year rush*

## NAU MAI HAERE MAI

We invite you into our whaanau

### Year 8 Enrolment Conferences

Please complete the online enrolment application ASAP. The school will then be in contact with you to book an-online conference with you.

### Year 8 Fraser Days

Now in 2022

Tuesday 8th February  
Wednesday 9th February

9.00 am - 2.45 pm both days

## ENROL NOW

to ensure your learning choices for 2022  
[www.fraser.school.nz](http://www.fraser.school.nz)



**FRASER HIGH SCHOOL**  
Te Kura Tuarua o Taniwharau



# What's on at Western Community Centre

46 Hyde Ave, Newton | P: 8474873 | E: admin@wccham.org.nz | westerncommunitycentre.org

## The Western Community Centre

Since 1979 Western Community Centre has been providing a wide range of services. Our two facilities are at 46 Hyde Ave and 108 Grandview Rd in Newton. The centre is owned by the community and overseen by a board of community members elected each year.

We offer printing and photocopying services, free use of computers and a landline, lamination, binding, and scan to email services.

## Food Bank & Toiletries Collection

Drop off food items such as tinned goods, spreads, tea and coffee, baking goods, healthy snacks, rice, pasta, cereals and other packaged, long lasting items to the Western Community Centre as part of the Christian Food Bank. Toiletries, cleaning products, nappies and sanitary items are also welcomed.

## Fruit & Veggie Deal - Just \$15

The best deals of fresh fruit and veggies! Order and pay at Western Community Centre and pick up your bag on Thursday from 11am-5.30pm or Friday 9am-5pm.

## Tiger Worms for your Worm Farm

\$20 for an ice cream container of tiger worms. We're also happy to provide support to people about worm farming. Worm Tea is also available with 2L for \$3. Pick up at Western Community Centre.

## Justice of the Peace

Available every Tuesday from 9am – 11am. No appointment needed, just turn up! Make sure to bring your originals and photocopied versions for the JP to sign.

## Tables and Chair Hire

We have tables and chairs for hire! Tables \$6 each - Chairs \$2 each. For weekend hire pick up Friday drop off Monday. Visit our website to book online.

## Triple 1 Care Workplace First Aid

Visit [www.tripleonecare.co.nz](http://www.tripleonecare.co.nz) to find out when the next course is being held. Book on 0800 487 475 ext 7 or email [info@tripleonecare.co.nz](mailto:info@tripleonecare.co.nz)

## Toastmasters

Meet a great bunch of people, have an enjoyable evening AND learn the art of public speaking in a supportive environment at Dinsdale Toastmasters on Tuesdays from 7.15 pm - 9.00 pm. For more info phone 0800 736 753 during the day or 07 850 4187 in the evening.

## Children's Holiday Programmes

We run 2 weeks of holiday programmes from 8am-5.30pm based at Western Community Centre. 8 weeks of holiday programmes are held throughout the year. WINZ subsidies may be available. Enrol online at [westerncommunitycentre.org](http://westerncommunitycentre.org)

## Western Stars

Western Stars is an after school care programme run during the school term Monday-Friday from 3pm-5:30pm at Western Community Centre. Pick up from Newton Primary and afternoon tea is provided. Fee \$14 per day or \$70 per week. WINZ subsidies may be available. Single day booking available. For more information or to sign up go to [westerncommunitycentre.org/after-school-care](http://westerncommunitycentre.org/after-school-care)

## Laughter Yoga

Free Laughter Yoga class every week! Tuesday morning from 9:30-10.10am. It's a great way to start the day, just turn up and be ready to laugh.

## Courage Counselling

Courage Counselling is dedicated to helping you strengthen your relationships, regardless of the issue, or the size of the issue. Courage Counselling can help you build strong relationships. Call Jenny to book on 027 536 7464.

## Walking Group

Runs every Monday from 9am. Meet at the Western Community Centre for a 45min easy walk followed by a cuppa.

## 50+ Luncheons

Luncheons and trips take place on the third Thursday of each month at 12pm. The potluck luncheons provide an opportunity for seniors in our area to socialize. Transport is provided if needed. Email [aileen@wccham.org.nz](mailto:aileen@wccham.org.nz) to sign up.

## Woolly Club

Every Wednesday we meet at the Western Community Centre at 10am-12pm. Bring your craft projects, knitting or crochet.

## Venue Hire

We have a selection of different spaces available for hire. Our rooms are ideal for meetings, training events, presentations, children's birthday parties and more. Visit [westerncommunitycentre.org/venue-hire](http://westerncommunitycentre.org/venue-hire) to make a booking enquiry.

## Out West Radio Show - Free FM

Tune into 89.0FM every Friday 11am – 11.30am to stay updated with news and information about what's happening Out West. Visit [freefm.org.nz](http://freefm.org.nz) or Spotify for podcasts of the show and further info.

## Annual General Meeting 2021

The Western Community Centre AGM for 2020-2021 will be held on Monday 20th December at 4pm at 46 Hyde Ave Newton. Anyone is welcome to join us for afternoon tea and to celebrate another great year. RSVP: [admin@wccham.org.nz](mailto:admin@wccham.org.nz)

## Christmas might look different in 2021

By Jenny Ensing

As Christmas approaches there can be an air of expectation, hope and anticipation. While trying to hold to our usual Christmas cheer Christmas 2021 has also had an air of uncertainty.

Christmas is often portrayed as a time of year when families and friends connect and have a wonderful loving time. Christmas does have the potential for connection and fun. It is also helpful to keep in mind that, while Christmas can be fun, it is also considered to be one of the top six most stressful life events. The possibility of COVID uncertainty could add stress to the season. Some helpful communication might be the key to not only surviving, but also flourishing this Christmas

Remember to talk about your hopes and expectations for the Christmas period with your partner and family, or if you are alone, with a friend, before the Christmas season. Discuss how you prefer to celebrate, including things that you would really like to happen, what upsets you, and what you will need from each other. While some people will want a quiet, peaceful Christmas season. Others will want to squeeze as much into the season as superhumanly possible. Discuss the impact of different expectations, beliefs or values around Christmas.

Explore budget options and how you can have the most fun within the budget that you have decided is available. Include children in your discussions. Avoid the stress of post-Christmas debt.

For families where children have multiple sets of caregivers and parents, where possible, communicate early about hopes for how time will be divided with children. Plan to look after yourself during the time the children are with their other parents/caregivers.

Gift sharing can be fun and connecting. Some families choose not to share gifts

at Christmas. If you decide to gift share, explore stress free ways to share. Some ideas are: gathering wish lists early and catching early specials, handmade gifts, Opshop or garage sale gifts, coupons for acts of service, and growing plants. A Secret Santa gift exchange can simplify gift giving, and relieve financial pressure.

Expect that there will be unexpected events, and discuss how relationships can be prioritized during this time.

Explore ways to look after mind, body, and spiritual health. Discuss how you will manage COVID limitations to stay safe as individuals and as a family. Honour



individual choice around social distancing. Also, remember that Christmas can be associated with the negative impacts of increased consumption of food, drugs, alcohol or gambling. Consider how to keep yourself and loved ones safe and healthy this Christmas.

Find ways to laugh. Find ways to laugh together. Create opportunities for fun memories. Find ways to safely include others in the fun.

When the Christmas season is over, have some conversations highlighting the positives, and exploring the not-so-positives, so that each future Christmas has the possibility of being better than the last?

For support on helpful Christmas communication, please contact Jenny from Courage Counselling 0275367464.

Feel down, overwhelmed, or need to talk: [www.1737.org.nz](http://www.1737.org.nz)

## COMMUNITY ORAL HEALTH

### To our community

We would like to update you about the changes to the Community Oral Health service in response to COVID-19.



Parts of the Waikato are in different COVID-19 Alert Levels.

If your child is experiencing pain, please phone us and we can get an oral health therapist or dentist to triage and talk you through potential treatment options.

COVID-19  
Alert  
Level 3

Those in Alert Level 3 we will be providing appointments for dental care for children who have been assessed by an oral health therapist or dentist for recent dental pain or infection.

COVID-19  
Alert  
Level 2

Alert Level 1 & 2: We are open for dental exams and some treatment.

The wellbeing of our community is paramount for us, therefore all parents and caregivers who are attending booked appointments will be asked to wear a face-covering/mask and use hand sanitiser on entering the clinic, and these will be provided on arrival.

If your child is in pain or you have immediate concerns about their teeth, please phone 0800 TALK TEETH to speak with an oral health clinician, or 07 859 9160 - 8am-4pm Monday to Friday

If you require urgent dental care outside these hours, please contact your family dentist or a dentist in your area.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during these uncertain times and we look forward to being back out in the community. Look out for us in your schools and at local events.



## Climate Action Hub - Te Puumanawa o te Waaheke

Te Tīmatanga; Kotahi anō te tupuna o te tangata Māori, Ko Ranginui e tu iho nei, Ko Papatūānuku e takoto nei. Nā Te Rangikāheke

There is but one ancestor of the Māori people, Ranginui standing above, Papatūānuku lying here.

This whakataukī from the Te Arawa rangatira, Wiremu Maihi Te Rangikāheke, represents the love and intertwining of the primal parents: Ranginui and Papatūānuku.

The unity of these two beings represents a duality for the world. The sky reflects the earth and the earth reflects the sky. In the context of the climate crisis, the burning of fossil fuels is displacing this original harmony and balance. This displacement in the sky is reflected onto the humans who dwell on the earth.

In October, we launched the Climate Action Hub. It's purpose is to bring together people who care about climate change,

with conversations, collaborations and hope to build the change we need. In the launch event, which was held on Instagram Live; our climate organiser Hannah Huggan was joined by four phenomenal leaders of change. The kōrero were disability justice, the expression of tino rangatiratanga by rangatahi takatāpui, and mental health and whānau. The videos are still available on the @climateactionhub Instagram page. Since then we've followed the progress

of leaders at COP26 and the impact of the covid response on vulnerable communities. It confirms for us why it's so important to centre the needs of people from marginalised communities in action planning. Art enables us to express ourselves, and connect with the experiences of others - and formed the basis of our November event. While we'll take a break in December, we'll meet virtually, or in person at 5pm, on the last Friday of every month from January.



### Eco Shop

Our Eco shop has cool and useful products for people and the planet. Carefully sourced to help you live more sustainably every day. We do the hard work so you can spend more time gardening, reading or enjoying nature. We also have a growing selection of local art (zines & badges) and te reo Māori books to browse.

Every purchase supports Go Eco to be a voice for the environment, a centre for learning and a catalyst for change. Check out opening hours <https://shop.goeco.org.nz/> and find us at 188 Commerce Street, Frankton, Kirikiriroa or [https://www.instagram.com/go\\_ecoshop/](https://www.instagram.com/go_ecoshop/)



### Manga Waitawhiriwhiri Kaitiaki



The chance to build a school transport system that works for people and the planet have led Go Eco (Waikato Environment Centre) to launch a call to the government to prioritise funding for safe and healthy school journeys.

"We want to say goodbye to school traffic, make it safe to travel to school, and remove the cost of transport as a barrier to education".

We are asking for:

1. Free public transport for all school students from 2023 onwards
  2. Access to dedicated school buses for all schools that need them
  3. Commitment to providing safe walking, cycling and scooting routes to and from school by 2025.
  4. Funding for school travel coordinators (to organise initiatives like walking school buses and bike trains)
- "We know that school traffic

increases congestion by 34% at peak times of the day. We also know that 60% of the carbon emissions in Kirikiriroa are from transport. From a climate perspective it is important to help organise action for our tamariki, to keep them safe now and in the future".

Go Eco supports work towards climate adaptation methods which increase community resilience to climate change and decreases carbon emissions. They believe that safe and accessible walking and cycling options, multi-modal transport, affordable reliable public transport, and sustainable urban development should be incorporated in every climate impact plan for our healthy futures.

Go Eco have launched a petition which they will present to the Ministers for Climate and Transport ahead of next year's budget. Please take the time to sign in support here [tinyurl.com/safeandhealthyjourneys](https://tinyurl.com/safeandhealthyjourneys)

### He Puna Korero on Free FM

He Puna Korero shares the aspirations and mahi of our team and community as we work towards a vision of Healthy Environments and Thriving Communities, in a weekly Free FM radio show and podcast.

During November, we were joined by Tipa Mahuta to talk about He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Niu Tirenī; Hannah to talk about the Climate Action Hub; Kiri Crossland, Transport Planner and Go Eco Board Member & Andrew from the Waikato Regional Council for an update on Project Halo.

Listening in each week is a great way to keep up with our work in the community. The show airs at 10.30am every Thursday on Free FM 89.0, then:

SPOTIFY <http://bit.do/HePunaKorero-Spotify>

IHEART RADIO <http://bit.do/HePunaKorero-iHeart>

APPLE PODCASTS <http://bit.do/HePunaKorero-Apple>

FREE FM <https://www.tinyurl.com/goecopodcast>

#### HE PUNA KŌRERO PODCAST

Tipa Mahuta joins Anna to reflect on He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Niu Tirenī



A voice for the environment, a centre for learning and a catalyst for change

<https://tinyurl.com/goecopodcast>

### ECO SHOP

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# Our Community News

**Hon Nanaia Mahuta**  
MP for Hauraki-Waikato

Authorised by Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP,  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington



By Sophie Parish

Teena Koutou Katoa, Hello  
Thank you for your contribution to keeping Aotearoa New Zealand safe from Covid-19 this year, it has been challenging at times and we hope you've had access to kai and supplies to keep you going. As your Hauraki-Waikato representative I and my colleagues are working to ensure a successful recovery and thriving communities across Aotearoa New Zealand. You will be aware of major reforms and infrastructure investments are being made for our drinking, waste and storm water. Over the next 30 years, essential

infrastructure investment for drinking, waste and storm water is estimated to cost between \$120 billion and \$185 billion. These upgrades will put significant strain on ratepayers and councils. This is why we are bringing together three waters services, currently delivered by 67 different councils across New Zealand, into four water service entities. We also announced a \$2.5 billion package to support local government to transition through the reforms.

### Three Waters Governance

The first part of the Three Waters Reform Programme involves setting up Taumata Arowai as the new sole regulator of

Aotearoa New Zealand's water services. Utilising the recent feedback we heard from local government over the recent two-month engagement period raised a number of concerns about the proposed representation, governance and accountability arrangements for the new entities. To address this, Cabinet agreed to establish a working group to take a fresh look at these aspects of the entity design. The new working group is comprised of 20 members, including an independent chairperson, Doug Martin, nine elected members of local authorities, nine Iwi/Maori representatives, and the chair of the joint Central-Local Government Three Waters Steering Committee

Privatisation is not part of the reforms, and measures to protect our precious assets are already in place.

### Drinking Water

The Ministry of Health's most recent annual report on drinking water quality revealed that in 2019-2020, only 78.1 per cent of suppliers serving small populations of between 101 and 500 consumers complied with drinking water standards. By ensuring UV and filtration devices are installed in smaller communities, we can avoid people getting sick each year due to

unsafe drinking water. In larger cities the water reforms will ensure councils maintain their drinking standards and expand offerings as cities grow, while making sure the taxpayer is not burdened with high water rates each year.

### Waste Water and Storm Water

In some places our waste water and storm water pipe filtration systems are inadequate. With heavy use and rains causing some beaches and towns to become contaminated, we are ready to implement sustainable solutions to ensure whaanau and future generations are able to enjoy swimming and living in an environment that is safe and clean. To find out more about the three water assets reforms you can visit: [www.threewaters.govt.nz](http://www.threewaters.govt.nz)

### Whakapaa mai

Our team is available to help advocate on your behalf. We can connect you with a range of support services in your area. There are several clinics each week around the region and our friendly and helpful team will make an appointment for you to see them.

Book an appointment in your area: 0800 624 882

Email: [hauraki.waikato@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:hauraki.waikato@parliament.govt.nz)



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## WESTERN Community News

YOUR PEOPLE - YOUR PAPER

The Western Community Newspaper is published by the Western Community Centre in partnership with Fraser High School. It's been Hamilton's only 100% locally owned and operated newspaper for the past 36 years. The Western Community Newspaper is delivered bi-monthly across Hamilton West to 19,000 letterboxes.

If you are interesting in advertising, or have a story to share, in our paper please contact us on [westerncommunitynewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:westerncommunitynewspaper@gmail.com)

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Check out more at [facebook.com/westerncommunitycentre](https://facebook.com/westerncommunitycentre)

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