

# THE CAUSEWAY

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September 2019

## Air New Zealand punts an idea – Commercialise the Whenuapai airbase. Minister of Defence and local Community Board Chairs hit back

One month before stepping down as Air New Zealand's Chief Executive Officer, Christopher Luxon surprised the media, the government and local community boards by punting the idea that Whenuapai Airbase should be commercialised.

He said Air New Zealand is "very interested in the viability of Whenuapai as a second Auckland region airport hub as part of our growth strategy."

"Our customers are telling us loud and clear that the transport infrastructure to get to and from Auckland airport is suboptimal, especially for the large percentage who live north of the Harbour Bridge or in West Auckland.

"Once customers get to Auckland Airport their experience there is well below the standard they expect for the main entry point into our nation's largest city," said Luxon.

Minister of Defence Ron Mark was quick to point out that Air New Zealand's idea that the airbase should be commercialised was news to him, and that Air New Zealand had not talked to the government or himself.

He said at first glance their proposition was half baked and that there were issues and obvious barriers to the feasibility of any commercial airline operating out of Whenuapai alongside of highly sensitive military operations.

But the Minister said that ultimately the biggest issue would be the number of houses and people who now live in the area.

Luxon's timing of the announcement was curious, just one month before his departure from Air New Zealand.

The Chair of Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Chair Julia Parfitt said on the day, "It looks like a cheap shot by Air New Zealand to put pressure on Auckland Airport at a time of commercial negotiations and when the airport is investing millions in new infrastructure."

In another twist, Luxon has not ruled out a career in politics, one assumes more likely for National than any other party. However, if he's eyeing up the northwest Auckland seat that Paula Bennett will vacate at the next election, he might be wise to look where the largest opposition to the 2008 proposal to privatise the airport by a consortium originated.

While Luxon has said that since going public with the idea, he has received a lot of support from North Shore residents but perhaps they haven't yet fully realised the implications.

While it was the local Whenuapai and Herald Island communities which initially galvanised to fight the plan to commercialise the airbase, they were joined by North Shore

residents when they realised that they would be either directly or indirectly impacted. The main flight path into Whenuapai Airbase comes over the North Shore.

In the end, it will be the government of the day which will be the decision-maker.

In his media release Minister Ron Mark says there are issues and obvious barriers to the feasibility of any commercial airline operating out of Whenuapai alongside of highly sensitive military operations.

"Barriers which include, but are not limited to, the security issues that come with a Defence establishment, dated infrastructure, CAA security requirements, passenger facilities, road transport and car parking space.

"But ultimately the biggest issue would be the number of houses and people who now live in the area," he said.

*See pages 10-11 for the full media statements issued on 6 September by:*

*Air New Zealand - CEO Christopher Luxon*

*Minister of Defence - Ron Mark*

*Joint statement from: Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Chair, Julia Parfitt and Upper Harbour Local Board Chair, Margaret Miles*

### NEWS & VIEWS

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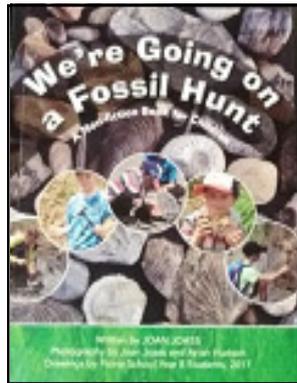
# Herald Island Library News–Book launch in September

*“Free the child’s potential and you will transform him into the world” - Maria Montessori*

Our Library has been very fortunate to be one of the very first to launch a fantastic book which will no doubt make a wonderful Christmas present for 9-13-year-olds. The new children’s book has just been written and published by one of our very own local authors Joan Joass. Her book is an outstanding piece, with many long hours of research resulting in “We’re Going on a Fossil Hunt”. While providing information on fossils in general the text in her book is distinctly New Zealand and most photos were taken at locations in around the country. Some of the children’s exciting fossil hunt findings derive from areas in Kawhia or Port Waikato.

The launch will be held on Saturday 28th September at the Herald Island Library, from 10am-12 midday. Books can be purchased directly from the Fire Station at 57 Ferry Parade Herald Island so be one of the first to have Joan personally sign your book.

Our library is filled with wonderful books, audio books and an enormous array of DVD’s, to keep your little ones busy during the



school holidays so stock up. Etta will be there with her Uke, so please feel free to pop in for a Uke jam, scones and a cuppa. The Herald Island Library is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am-midday at the Herald Island Fire Station.

For any queries or assistance please phone Etta Gillon on 416-7638 or email [heraldislandlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:heraldislandlibrary@gmail.com)

Please note: The Library is closed on long weekends and during the school holidays (from 5th- 12th October 2019).

## We’re going on a fossil hunt!

Joan Joass retired from full-time primary school teaching 3 years ago and has at last had time to pursue one of her dreams, writing books for children. Joan spent a year completing a ‘Writing for Children’ course with tutor/assessor Janet Marriot, winner of the ‘Best contribution to NZ Writing’ award in 2018.

Joan has always had a real love for the outdoors and ever since completing a Science degree with papers in paleontology, has spent many happy hours fossicking for rocks and fossils all around NZ.

It seemed an ideal place to start, so Joan has recently completed her first non-fiction children’s book, titled, “We’re Going on a Fossil Hunt”. As well as providing a lot of information on fossils, the book includes many delightful photographs of real children on real fossil hunts. “Which is partly why it took so long to complete”, says Joan. “It can take a while to coordinate everyone and get the right weather for a venture into fossil territory.”

Joan initially asked some senior school students from Waioneke School, South Kaipara Head what they would like to know about fossils and has used their most common questions as a basis for the information in the book. Year 8 students from Ficino School, Mt Eden provided beautiful drawings and the book includes some fun puzzles and quizzes for children too.

Apart from writing, Joan enjoys walking, gardening, cats and philosophy. Joan and her husband Paul are true Westies and have lived in Muriwai, Henderson, Kumeu and for the last ten years, on sunny Herald Island.

The fossil hunt book, due to be released in a couple of weeks, will be followed by a picture book called “The Long Drop” (Published by Oratia Media, due for release early next year), appealing to both children and anyone who has ever had anything to do with longdrops! So watch this space.

Joan is currently working on a book called “The Hudson, The Hunt and the Helicopter” which is about a 12 year old’s adventure to find the crashed plane (located in the mud to the West of the Upper Harbour Bridge) when something goes terribly wrong!

Joan is keen to develop a real interest in fossil hunting amongst young ones and will donate a fossil for each book sold. Further to the book launch at the Herald Island Library on Saturday 28 September, further book orders can be made via Joan – email: [joass@xtra.co.nz](mailto:joass@xtra.co.nz) / ph: 027-216-6449 or Etta at the Herald Island library email: [heraldislandlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:heraldislandlibrary@gmail.com)



## The Causeway Information

Email: [news@thecauseway.co.nz](mailto:news@thecauseway.co.nz)

[www.thecauseway.co.nz](http://www.thecauseway.co.nz)

~Copy Deadline, 15<sup>th</sup> of the month~

The Causeway is published as an independent community newsletter to support both the Whenuapai Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc. and Herald Island Residents & Ratepayers Association Inc. To inform the community of events and proposals that affect the local area.

Circulation: 1000 copies.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of The Causeway committee.

While we try to ensure accuracy of information, The Causeway committee accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions made by individual contributors.

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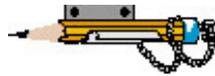
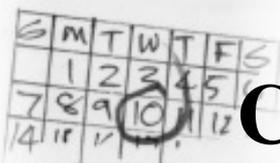
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# Calendar

**18 September - Local Candidates** share their position on environmental issues of the Upper Harbour region. 7pm-8.30pm, Hobsonville Point Primary, 18 De Havilland Rd.

**20 September - Local Body Elections Start**

**28 September - Herald Island writer will launch her book at the Herald Island Fire Station**

**28 September - School Holidays**

**31 October - Halloween**

**20 November - 7.30pm Herald Island Residents & Ratepayers - AGM - Herald Island Hall**

## Regular Weekly Groups...

**Tuesday - 'Herald Island Playgroup'** in the Herald Island Hall 9.30-12noon. Gold coin, plus a piece of fruit for a shared morning tea.

**Wednesday - 'Wednesday Craft'** in the Herald Island Fire Station from 9.30am-12noon. All welcome, drop in for a suppa and see what we're doing.

## A new motorised gate for the Boating Club Wharf



**The Herald Island Boating Club Committee at the new gate.**

The Boating Club Committee decided two years ago to update the club wharf facilities to bring them in line with health and safety of today. A new electronic sliding gate has been installed which is operated by electronic key-ring chips. There is an infra-red beam across the gateway to protect children.

The old steel gates were padlocked, but it was difficult to use the gate especially at night because the numbers had to be read upside-down from the water side. This led to the gate being sometimes left unlocked and one Sunday night three dinghies and outboards were stolen from the dock.

Two new LED floodlights have been installed which operate automatically on daylight sensors and there is also a new security camera. All of the dock power points now work on safety R.C.D's.

- Craig Carr, Club Captain

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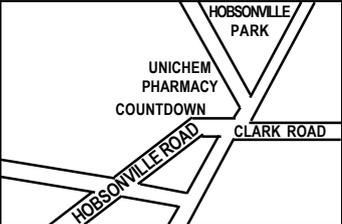
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# Information about Owha the leopard seal

*Information has been provided by Kat Lane - Department of Conservation (DOC) Acting Auckland Mainland Operations Manager*

## 1. How long has Owha, been in Auckland and Northland waters?

Owha arrived in Auckland almost four years ago. She hauled up on Kohimarama Beach in September 2015 and has been living in Auckland and Northland waters ever since.

Department of Conservation (DOC) and NIWA marine biologist Dr Krista Hupman - with her leopardseals.org group - has been tracking Owha in Auckland and Northland waters since 2015.

Owha has spent a lot of time in public places since 2015, such as beaches and pontoons throughout mainland Auckland, Waiheke and on other islands in the Hauraki Gulf.

## 2. Does Owha pose a risk to the public?

In the last four years, Owha has shown no sign of aggression towards people while she's been hauled out at public places like ferry terminals, marinas, public boat ramps and on beaches.

## 3. What should people do when they see Owha on shore?

People can safely watch Owha, on shore, if they follow these simple rules: Stay at least 20 metres away from Owha, Keep small children under your control, Keep your dog on a short leash, Avoid getting between Owha and the sea, Do not make loud noises and do not provoke her.

## 4. What if I'm in a boat and see Owha in the water?

Keep as much distance as you can between your vessel and Owha. If you're in a small boat or kayak, keep your distance and head towards the nearest wharf or beach where you can land safely.

If you know Owha is in the area, avoid going into that area in a small boat or kayak.

## 5. What can people do to protect inflatable dinghies from being damaged by Owha?

Owha has shown a liking for puncturing inflatable dinghies by chewing them. We know this is frustrating and can be expensive for boat owners. We advise people with inflatable dinghies, in the Waitemata Harbour and Hauraki Gulf, to keep these boats out of the water. Particularly if you hear that Owha is in your area.

## 6. Moving Owha off pontoons at Westhaven Marina

Owha has been spending a lot of time lying on pontoons at Westhaven Marina by the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

This can be disruptive, so DOC is trialling methods marina staff can use to try and move Owha off a pontoon and into the water. DOC has issued Westhaven Marina staff permission, under this law, to trial an intervention procedure for moving Owha from pontoons.

## 7. Where do leopard seals normally live?

Leopard seals live mainly in Antarctic waters in pack ice. They swim north, during autumn and winter, and move throughout the Southern Ocean.

They sometimes visit New Zealand in autumn and winter but normally head back to Antarctica in spring.

The number of leopard seals spending time around our coast is rising and they are now classified as a resident species in New Zealand waters.

### 8. How did she get the name Owha?

Owha is unusual because she's stayed in New Zealand waters for the last four years. In recognition of this rare occurrence Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei have named this leopard seal, He owha nā ōku tupuna, or Owha for short. This means treasured bequest or gift from our ancestors.

### 9. Are leopard seals protected?

Leopard seals are protected under the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978. A dog owner, whose dog attacks a seal, could also face prosecution and anyone, charged with harassing, disturbing, injuring or killing a seal faces a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment or a fine to a maximum of \$250,000.

**Contact: DOC Comms Advisor - Nick Hirst**  
09-307-4866 / 027-704-7773 / nhirst@doc.govt.nz

## Learning to live with a Leopard seal

New Zealand is in the mid-latitudes and receives visiting animals from both north and south, including sea turtles from the tropics and leopard seals from the sub-Antarctic. A few years ago Owha took up permanent residence on the east coast of the North Island and spends time in the upper Waitemata Harbour. She is known to have destroyed fenders in marinas and several inflatable dinghies and lately is reported to have sunk a hard dinghy. She has followed people rowing in their dinghies at Herald Island and they have started their outboard motors to discourage her.

Owha is protected by law and The Department of Conservation (DOC) advises that it is not feasible to remove her. The harbourmaster has indicated that, if necessary, he will take action to protect the sea leopard. In most countries of the World there are wild animals dangerous to humans, and generally in New Zealand we are lucky. However, it seems that we will need to learn to live with Owha and others of her kind. Many of the general public will think this is a reasonable position.

An educational talk was given on Wednesday 14 August at Westpark (Hobsonville Marina).

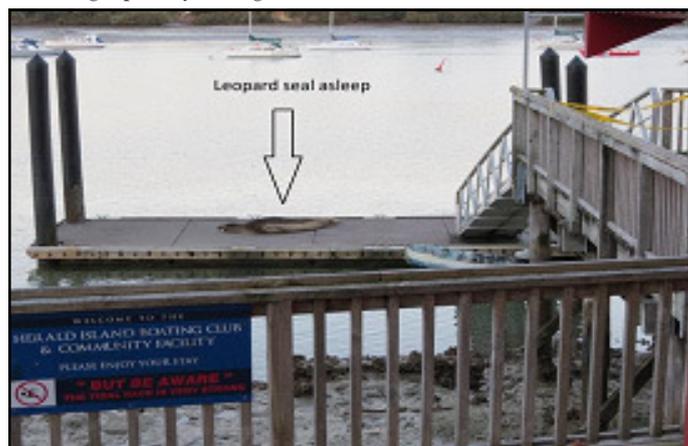
Those present were invited to participate in a survey on attitudes to leopard seals.

The Herald Island Community Wharf trustees are having a small swimming pool-type gate installed near the top of the gangway to stop children running down on to the pontoon.

An interesting story about the leopard seal and her visits to Herald Island was broadcast on National Radio on the Checkpoint programme on Wednesday 14 August and is available on-line. Club Captain Craig Carr and Wharf Trustee Noel Rugg were interviewed.

- Geoff Irwin

- Photographs by Craig Carr



**If you see Owha please call 0800 536 7273**

## Health and safety on Herald Island wharf

The regular visits of protected 'OWHA' the seal for sunbathing on the Community Wharf together with DOC instructions to keep children and animals 20 meters away from the seal, presented a major Health & Safety issue which Police, DOC and Council have been negotiating with Wharf Trustees on how that can be achieved.

Original instructions were that the wharf should be totally closed during its occupation, was unacceptable as the wharf has access commitments to not only to the general public but also is an important staging point for any Emergency Service requiring access to the Upper Harbor.

It was mutually agreed that to provide some security for all concerned, a self-closing, metal gate is urgently being installed at the top of the wharf ramp and this will carry suitable signage that whenever the seal is using the wharf, it will be closed to children and animals and accompanying adult residents are responsible to ensuring that requirement is carried out.

The gate will be self-closing and have a swimming pool type lift bolt lock so access is available to adults at all other times.

Leopard Seals have no record of attacking humans but accidents can happen. The seal is protected under NZ law and finding a suitable health and safety solution has not been easy. Hopefully this gate will provide some restriction especially for animals and children. The seal can jump from the water onto the wharf without any warning and is a large mammal that needs considerable space.

- Noel Rugg  
Herald Island Wharf Trust

**Chris Penk**  
MP for Helensville

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# Local Candidates for Auckland Elections

With the start of the local body elections in Auckland this month, we have invited Upper Harbour Local Board candidates to answer a few questions pertinent to our area.

Remember voting opens on 20 September 2019 and closes at 12noon on 12 October 2019. Official results will be available from 17 October 2019.

Herald Island and Whenuapai fall into the Upper Harbour Local Board, the Albany Ward and the Waitemate District Health Board areas.

For further information go to the Auckland Council website: [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

## ALBANY WARD

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PARFITT Julia - Independent  
WALKER Wayne - Putting People First  
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## UPPER HARBOUR LOCAL BOARD

ATKINSON Anna - Living Upper Harbour  
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BENSON-COOPER Mary-Anne  
BLAIR Callum - Independent  
BOOTTEN Jaggar- Independent  
GLOVER John Henry  
LOAU John - Independent  
MAYNE Nicholas - Living Upper Harbour  
MCDONALD Jonathan - Independent  
MCLEAN John - Independent  
MILES Margaret - Independent  
NEESON Brian - Independent  
STANTON Glen - Independent  
WHYTE Lisa

## Meet the candidates

*We invited Upper Harbour Board and Albany Ward candidates to take part in our 'meet the canddates' page.*

*Note: Some candidates did not have their contact details on the council website so we were unable to contact all.*

Questions:

1. Are you currently on the Upper Harbour Board?
2. Are you currently an elected member of the Albany Ward?
3. Personal information (eg: profession, values, family)
4. What have you personally done to support and stay connected to our community or how would you understand what is important to Whenuapai/ Herald Island?
5. What do you think are the most important challenges for our Whenuapai/ Herald Island community going forward that you will focus on?

## GLEN STANTON

I am a 70 year old former Company Director. Health & Fitness are my passion. Tennis, Gym and Cycling my interests.

This is my first attempt at local politics and if elected I will do my best to represent all constituents in the Upper Harbour Local Board area. I am familiar with both Herald Island and Whenuapai as I ride there fortnightly on Saturday mornings with my 'seniors cycling group'.

I am guessing the future of Whenuapai Airport will be a hot topic? There will be some who might like the idea of catching a flight to Queenstown from there, however most will be opposed due to noise and flight path issues?

If elected I will fight for whatever the residents want.

**MARGARET MILES QSM JP**

I am currently the Upper Harbour Board Chairperson. I am not an elected member of the Albany Ward. A retired Physiotherapist, married, three adult children and 6 grandchildren. I wish to provide safe, well-resourced communities for present and future generations. I have supported community grants/funding through Local Board: \$17,960, toward replacement of septic tank system at Whenuapai Hall. The ecology groups, Living Whenuapai and Herald Island Environmental Group. The Pegasus Flying Trust Air Training Corp – electrical connection to Trust Hanger and attended Whenuapai structure Plan meetings. Through the Local Board, liaised with Whenuapai and Herald Island Community Groups. Water quality – an advocate for improved monitoring of development occurring at Whenuapai and Hobsonville, to avoid detrimental impacts.

**JAGGAR BOOTTEN**

My name is Jaggar Bootten and I am standing for the Upper Harbour Local Board. I am not currently on the Local Board. I am a St John West Auckland Area Committee member, Cystic Fibrosis New Zealand independent director and a medical student which has made me very passionate about the challenges we face as a community. On the local board, the views of the community must be accurately represented. I am committed to understanding and engaging with everyone to ensure this happens through regular online interactions, working with local groups and hosting public meetings. This will be important with any future decision making regarding the airbase. I will also advocate for significant improvements to the bus frequency, bus routes and road infrastructure.

**NICOLAS MAYNE**

Nicholas grew up in Upper Harbour and has lived here most of his life. He currently lives in Unsworth Heights with his two sons, three chickens, and pet rabbit. He is seeking re-election after his first term on the Local Board. One of his areas of interest has been looking after our local environment; and he is well known to local volunteer groups, Living Whenuapai and Herald Island Environment Group. A focus for Nicholas in Whenuapai will be enhancing the North West Wildlink, and water quality in the Waitamata, alongside planned urbanisation. Nicholas is standing on the ticket “Living Upper Harbour” with Anna Atkinson.

**WAYNE WALKER**

Current Auckland Councillor, formerly project manager, owner/manager large garden centre, B Comm. Have involved myself in Herald Island/Whenuapai issues including structure planning, local sewage and stormwater problems, pfas contamination at the Whenuapai airport, on-going opposition to commercial flights from Whenuapai and increasing ferry services. Challenges include improving transport including ferry and bus services, preserving the special character of

**UZRA CAASURI BALOUCH**

Local resident, married, mum, JP, MSc.App. Psychology and your current elected representative on UHLB. I value integrity, accountability, authentic engagement and have worked hard to nurture relationships with residents and community leaders on the R&R Associations and Environmental Groups, to stay upto date about local priorities. Initiatives I have championed are road repairs and resurfacing, upgrade of Kingsway pedestrian access, upgrade of the Bill Moir Reserve fitness track, the Whenuapai Community Hall Septic Tank replacement and a new basketball hoop. Going forward, I will be focusing on the impact of growth and ensuring infrastructure supports it, upgrade of local roads like Brigham Creek Road, better transport, maintenance of sports fields and reserves, environmental protection and support for local business opportunities and volunteers.

**LISA WHYTE**

Are you currently on the Upper Harbour Board? Yes  
Are you currently an elected member of the Albany Ward? No  
I am an accountant by profession and have represented this area for 15 years. I live on a lifestyle block with my family, cat, dog and our daughters’ horses. My contact has mainly been issues based, and I follow the social media pages. We have had security and anti-social behaviour, boy racer issues, water quality due to sewerage, planning issues around Pohutukawa Road etc. On the upside we have improved Bill Moir Park and replaced the Basketball hoops at Whenuapai and Herald Island following advocacy from local young people. We have also significantly increased our volunteer budget to support groups especially around pest control. Development of the surrounding area is having a massive impact on transport, water quality and community disruption through change. We have increased our place making budget for programmes to assist the community adapt and change together as we grow. We will need to work closely together to retain the strong village feel of both places.

**JOHN WATSON**

Current Albany Ward councillor, former secondary school teacher with community and family values. I’ve tried to stay in touch with Whenuapai and Herald Island Residents Associations – generally and over specific issues of concern when they arise. They are incredibly proactive and community-minded groups doing some great work. If there are individual residents with issues I’m always more than happy to meet up and help out in any way I can. Challenges - the local transport network and environment, maintaining the special lifestyle that has attracted people to live here in the face of the surrounding rapid development.

**Remember voting opens on  
Friday 20th September 2019 and  
closes at 12noon on  
Saturday 12th October 2019.**

### **CALLUM BLAIR**

I am not currently an Upper Harbour Board member, however I have been in the past. I am not an elected member of the Albany Ward, however I have been in the past during the North Shore City era.

I am a 51 year old father of 6 adult children. I have a long standing connection to the area as the past NZ Police Community Constable and City Councilor/ Community Board Member. In more recent times I have continued my Security Business within the Educational Sector based in the Upper Harbour area.

Over the years as a North Shore City Councilor and Albany Board Member, I worked closely on matters associated with both Whenuapai and Herald Island including, but not limited to the Civilian Airport, development of Hobsonville Point, Herald Island causeway etc... The growth in these areas require support and management from the Board and I always have an open-door policy to address matters.

The most important challenge for the both the Whenuapai/ Herald Island community is the exponential growth both within and around the area. Funding needs to be in place to address the infrastructure required to manage the impact of this growth and the only way to get that funding is to advocate strongly in Council. I look forward to serving you in this capacity.

### **JULIA PARFITT**

Are you currently on the Upper Harbour Board? No  
Are you currently an elected member of the Albany Ward? No  
I have been the Chairperson of the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board of the Albany ward for the last 9 years. Previously I was a North Shore City Council councillor for the Albany ward. A former teacher, I am married with 2 adult sons. I live in Murrays Bay.

I will stay connected by attending any public meetings in the area and by reading your Facebook pages and of course this publication *The Causeway* plus screening items on local board and council agendas.

The most important challenge you face is around transportation where you have limited direct bus options now the North West Busway has been shelved. This link needs to happen! Also, any possibility of a commercial airport would provide significant transport challenges.

### **BRIAN NEESON**

Are you currently on the Upper Harbour Board? Yes/  
Are you currently an elected member of the Albany Ward? No  
Married 4 children 12 grandchildren + Dog. Former National MP, former chair Wilson Home Trust, former member of Human Rights Review Tribunal. Elected member WDHB and local businessman.

I have always made myself available and met with members of the community to discuss their concerns and act on their behalf.

Intensive development and community expansion brings the need for new facilities for sport, recreation and local gatherings (eg swimming pool). Brighams Creek and Trig Road renewal, must be high priority. Access to reliable Public transport. Safer connections to main highways, business and retail centres. I will continue to fight for the quality of the waterways in the Upper Harbour.

### **ANNA ATKINSON**

Are you currently on the Upper Harbour Board? No  
Are you currently an elected member of the Albany Ward? No  
I grew up on the North Shore and currently live in Paremoremo with my husband and two children. I am a chartered accountant with many years standing in business. I am involved in community groups and cycling initiatives.

To stay connected with the local community I will seek to move the Local Board Community Forums to other locations around Upper Harbour not just Albany.

I think that one of the most important challenges are around transport and safe walking and cycling routes. I would like to see a proper cycleways and shared paths in many areas eg along Kauri Road.

I am standing on the ticket 'Living Upper Harbour' with Nicholas Mayne.

### **ALEX HENETI**

Mayoral, Councillor and Local Board candidate 2019, JT Foxx Worlds #1 Wealth & Business coach client and MindPowers and Landmark graduate.

I ASK. I always ask what is wanted. I ask you. I then research. Then I go and get it for you.

The most important challenges are whatever your community wants. My specialty is getting you what you want.  
Have an awesome day.

## **Volunteers – We Need You!**



Living Whenuapai has recently moved in the direction of stepping up their pest control efforts in the Whenuapai area. Auckland Council is now able to supply rat and possum traps and bait stations FREE to community groups like Living Whenuapai. This has been made available through the

Council's "Natural Environment Targeted Rate".

As many residents of Whenuapai will be aware the Living Whenuapai group has been coordinating pest control in the more "urban" areas of Whenuapai – ie:Waimarie, Kauri, Totara and Karaka Roads. However, it has proved more difficult to engage residents about the importance of animal pest eradication in the more rural areas of Whenuapai.

Thankfully we now have two keen locals in the Bristol Road and Riverlea Road areas to get this program spread out into the wider Whenuapai areas. This will involve support and partnering with Auckland Council staff.

As this is a large area of both public and private land we need more helpers to get trap and bait lines out and checked from time to time. This is all part of the Whenuapai communities effort towards helping make Auckland Pest Free by 2050.

If you live anywhere in the area and can spare a couple of hours a month to help out OR you live in that area of Whenuapai please give these two awesome guys a call – they need your help. Rob: 027-447-1111 or James: 021-164-0055  
"We are all in this together"

# Plants supporting native birds

*Herald Island Environmental Group (HIEG) Ausust planting day*  
Just over 400 local native plants that support our native birds were planted in the Herald Island Domain and Alison Avenue by 40 volunteers at the HIEG community planting day in August. We were fortunate to have the support of Kaipatiki Project and their team of bush care trainees.

The Alison Ave site was a weedy road cutting – now planted with mountain flax to cover the slope and coastal spear grass, at the base, which will grow in its variable wet and dry conditions.

A variety of species were planted that will provide both living space and food for our native birds, including:

- coastal astelia – fruit from February to May
- hangehange – fruit and seed from March to April
- kanuka – insects all year round
- karo – fruit and seed from February to May and nectar from August to December
- kawakawa – fruit and seed from January to February
- coastal kowhai – nectar from August to October
- mountain flax – nectar from October to January
- nikau – fruit and seed all year round
- NZ blueberry – fruit and seed from November to February
- puriri – fruit seed and nectar all year round



**Planting day volunteers in the Herald Island Domain.**

There is food here for all the common native birds we see on Herald Island:

- insects for fantail, grey warbler, kingfisher, morepork, silvereve, tui and the occasional shining cuckoo.
- nectar and fruit for silvereve, tui and the occasional bellbird.
- fruit and foliage for kereru.

- But space needed to be created and enriched for these plants by:
  - removing ground hogging agapanthus
  - removing all dumped garden waste from a few areas along the Domain fence line
  - spreading a mulch of bark

If your house backs onto a reserve, including our foreshore reserves - please respect it and keep your garden waste on your property. If reserve vegetation encroaches on your property please phone Auckland Council on 301 0101 or email enquiry@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz to request pruning or removal. If our reserves are respected and treasured, native plants will flourish and provide our birds with plenty of living space and food.

Thank you to Kaipatiki Project for their support and everyone who contributed to these plantings that will provide more living space and food to support our native birds.

*Jan Diprose*

*Chair Herald Island Environmental Group*

## Causeway Clips

### Congratulations Whenuapai School

For winning the North West Shopping Centre North-West Rewards initiative through the efforts of the community. Whenuapai took the top prize of \$3,000 through customers redeeming their shopping receipts and voting for their favourite participating school.

Principal Raewyn Matthys-Morris says they were delighted with the win.

“Thank you to all our Whenuapai School whanau and friends for contributing to this wonderful fundraiser. The prize money will be put towards replacing our school playgrounds and we are absolutely delighted to be closer to our goal”.

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## Air New Zealand media statement:

### Attributed to Christopher Luxon

Air New Zealand is very interested in the viability of Whenuapai as a second Auckland region airport hub as part of our growth strategy. Our customers are telling us loud and clear that the transport infrastructure to get to and from Auckland airport is suboptimal, especially for the large percentage who live north of the Harbour Bridge or in West Auckland. Once customers get to Auckland Airport their experience there is well below the standard they expect for the main entry point into our nation's largest city.

While our assessment of Whenuapai is not yet completed, it has become clear that several services a day to both Wellington and Christchurch could be commercially viable. We are in the final stages of assessing whether we could make flights to Queenstown, Napier, Nelson and Palmerston North stack up as well.

Once we have a fully formed view on the merits of Whenuapai, we would want to engage in a conversation with Government as the owner of the airfield and associated assets. Whenuapai is a key infrastructure asset for New Zealand yet it could be utilised much more if the Government was up for considering it as a dual use facility for both military and commercial operations. In doing so New Zealand could collectively get a better return on investment from the Whenuapai asset.

Current estimates show that airport operating costs at Whenuapai would be lower than at Auckland Airport. Therefore, moving some of Air New Zealand's flying there could also be a significant step in helping keep down the cost of air travel for hundreds of thousands of Kiwis. The bottom line is that over the next five years all airlines operating into and around New Zealand, especially those with Auckland Airport in their network, are going to come under significant pressure from a rapid escalation in airport charges.

Ultimately, New Zealand needs to rise to the challenge of delivering the urgent and necessary infrastructure it so desperately needs now and in our future. Part of that national challenge is to think about how we can deliver the best airport infrastructure, in the right place, for the benefit of all New Zealanders. We should be open to considering all options - and for Auckland, Whenuapai is certainly an option Air New Zealand and the Government should be actively considering and discussing.

### Media statement:

#### Minister of Defence Ron Mark

"That Air New Zealand was undertaking feasibility studies into using Whenuapai was news to me. It is interesting that they're now discussing this publicly through the media before formally discussing it with Defence or I.

I have initiated a First Principles Review of the Defence Estate and while Air New Zealand is welcome to offer input, at first glance their proposition is half baked.

There are issues and obvious barriers to the feasibility of any commercial airline operating out of Whenuapai alongside of highly sensitive military operations.

Barriers which include, but are not limited to, the security issues that come with a Defence establishment, dated infrastructure, CAA security requirements, passenger facilities, road transport and car parking space.

But, ultimately the biggest issue would be the number of houses and people who now live in the area. The John Key National government in 2008 ruled out turning Whenuapai into a commercial airport, and since then tens of thousands of people have moved into the area. It's one thing moving into the flight path of a Military airbase that is home to only 13 aircraft, it's a whole other thing when a commercial carrier moves in next door. I'm really surprised

by the apparent lack of homework done by Mr Luxon.

If this proposition were to be explored I'd want a commercial Airport operator engaged to advise Defence. Defence don't have experience operating commercial airports, and I would need to be assured their return on asset was commercially sensible, and it was protected.

Some better advice would inject some reality to Mr Luxon's musings.

On another note, I applaud Air New Zealand's newly stated concern for the future wellbeing of the traveling New Zealand public, but being resident in the Wairarapa I didn't see much interest of that sort by Air New Zealand when they shut down the then profitable Masterton to Auckland service at huge cost to the Wairarapa.

Especially by my small council, Carterton, who put money into the operation alongside of Masterton and local businesses.

For any future conversation to occur, there has to be a level of confidence between parties. Given the manner in which this conversation has been broached and what I've witnessed in the Wairarapa in the past, Air New Zealand has a way to go."

### **Media statement:**

**Julia Parfitt, Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Chair. Margaret Miles, Upper Harbour Local Board Chair**

Air New Zealand's proposal to develop a commercial airport at Whenuapai appears to lack substance and is causing unnecessary worry for our community.

"This appears to be cynically timed, parting statement from a chief executive who appears to have political aspirations," said Julia Parfitt, Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Chair.

"It looks like a cheap shot by Air New Zealand to put pressure on Auckland Airport at a time of commercial negotiations and when the airport is investing millions in new infrastructure," she said. Julia Parfitt and Margaret Miles were both councillors of North Shore City Council and opposed the commercial development of Whenuapai, when a similar proposal was mooted over a decade ago.

"This has come out of the blue for residents, with no prior consultation or sharing of the business case Air New Zealand say they have prepared— a company which appears to have flip flopped over the years on its position to develop a commercial airport at Whenuapai. Only a decade ago, Air New Zealand did not support it," said Margaret Miles, now Chair of the Upper Harbour Local Board.

"Since this matter was first considered, there are now thousands of new homes in the area and some have been built right up to the boundary fence of the air base. This development would have huge implications for those people.

"It's important to remember that flight paths impact *all* of North Shore, especially the residents of Upper Harbour and East Coast Bays, who are immediately under the flight path to Whenuapai air base," Margaret Miles said.

Julia Parfitt said the best interests of the Auckland region needed to be considered in terms of development of new infrastructure.

"The current infrastructure deficit is putting pressure on the Auckland region, and developing Whenuapai with its need for additional transport and airport infrastructure doesn't stack up financially.

"This coupled with the fact that it is now much quicker to travel to the airport from the North Shore via the Skybus or the Waterview Tunnel, than a decade ago," said Julia Parfitt.

Margaret Miles and Julia Parfitt remain committed to the current Whenuapai air base operation remaining an operational defence facility, and value its contribution to our community.

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## Whenuapai Floral & Garden Circle



With the Club still in recess perhaps now would be a good time to encourage any prospective members to come along and check us out. We meet at one p.m. for a couple of hours at the Village Hall, Waimarie Road on the second Thursday of most months, well make that February through May and September through November. No need to phone ahead, just turn up on the day and you will be welcomed.

A small entry fee and reasonable annual subscription will not break your bank and you can enjoy the fellowship of likeminded keen gardeners, also learn from the other members and guest speakers and purchase bargains at the trading table, plants and seedlings and often times over abundance from others' gardens. There is a raffle run at each meeting also best bloom and produce displays for friendly competition.

My husband and I hope to attend the annual Orchid Show at the Kelston Community Centre this coming weekend. Last year the array of flowers was amazing, beautiful, fragrant, well arranged and a joy to behold. Entry is free!

Keep well, enjoy our early spring flowers.

*Until next time,  
Mary Anne Clark*

## Upcoming events at the Hospice Op Shop

The Hobsonville Hospice Shop has extended their hours. The op shop is now open from Monday to Sunday from 9am-5pm and from Thursday 5 September will hold a late night every Thursday until 7pm.

The 'End of Winter' sales start near the end of September. In October the Rugby World Cup and Halloween will feature in store.

In November the store will hold a 'Sustainable Christmas Fashion' event, being held on Thursday 28 November from 5.3pm-8.00pm. It will be a special evening with Christmas treats and drinks, high-end labels, quality shoes, stylist handbags and fine jewellery for sale.

A note all keen op shoppers, in the near future a new Hospice Op Shop will be opening near the Don Buck/ Triangle Road round about.

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# Herald Island Garden Club



There was much laughter and hilarity when Lynda Hallinan visited our club, to bombard us all with Damson overload! She launched straight into a Damson Jam

making demonstration (we did the taste test with scones and cream later) while she regaled her experiences of growing up in the country and devouring all the preserves, jams and chutneys that her extended family produced.

Lynda was quick to impart lots of practical tips in her usual entertaining style, combining wit with wisdom. She also managed to stir up some Damson paste, which she set in madeleine trays, while getting side tracked, telling us funny stories of her grandmothers and their talent's.

She showed us some Damson trees and explained how carefree and easy they are to grow. They are self-fertile and prolific fruiterers, but the down side is that the fruit is quite small, so the numbers needed for any particular recipe and the amount of tiny stones left to deal with, is really the only problem.

Her recent passion is Damson infused Gin and yes you guessed it, she brought some for us to sample. Then to finish off, we also tried some delicious treats.... chocolate dipped plums (that had been soaking in the gin for at least three months) that Lynda can't resist making.

The Damson plum is a sour fruit that originates from Damascas (hence its name) but is widely prized in England and so it was brought out to New Zealand by our ancestors. Lynda's 'farming stock' family, have been growing these heirloom plums for three generations and now Lynda is continuing the family tradition. With four books under her belt, she decided she just had to dedicate another one to the heritage of this unusual plum and has since published her newest book "*Damson, From Hedgerow to Harvest*"

We were so appreciative that she ventured out to Herald Island from her cozy cottage at Foggy Dale Farm, on such a wild stormy night. She certainly sent the crowd home in high spirits!



Lynda Hallinan with her new book "*Damson, from Hedgerow to Harvest*"

## ~ CAUSE WAY ~ CLUB NEWS FREE SERVICE



**Alcoholics Anonymous  
Herald Island**  
Meets Thurs from 7.30pm  
at Fire Station  
Margaret - 021-523-133

**Alcoholics Anonymous  
Whenuapai Branch**  
Meets Tues from 7.30pm at  
Whenuapai School Hall  
Margaret - 810-8521

**Citizens Advice Bureau**  
833-5775

**Civil Defence - Resident's  
Response Team**  
In emergencies meet at the Fire  
Station, 57 Ferry Pde

**Community Patrol, Whenuapai**  
Graeme Barnard 416-4499

**Greenhithe Bridge Club**  
HI Museum - 57 Ferry Parade  
Mon evenings 7.30pm  
Alby Hart - 413-5273

**Herald Island Boat Club**  
Paul Judd - 416-4194

**Hobsonville Art Group**  
Tuesday at Hobsonville Hall  
9.30 - 12.15pm  
Bev 416-6366  
or Leesa 027-580-2010

**Hobsonville Bowling Club**  
Liz Ballam - 021-269-5680

**Herald Island Environmental  
Group**  
Jan Diprose 027-687-4157

**Herald Island Garden Club**  
Second Tuesday of each month.  
Lee Barry - 416-3981

**Herald Island Hall For Hire**  
heraldislandbookings@gmail.com

**Herald Island Heritage**  
Margret Brands 416-7452  
heraldisland.museum@gmail.com

**Herald Island Library**  
Weds: & Sat: 10-12noon  
Etta Gillon - 416-7638

**Herald Island Museum**  
57 Ferry Parade.  
Open by appointment  
Ph 027-687-4157

**Herald Island Playgroup**  
Tues 9.30-11.30am  
at the HI Hall.  
Gold coin donation per child.  
Contact: Victoria 027-258-3251

**Herald Island R&R**  
Kevin Casbolt- 416-1318  
heraldislandrandr@gmail.com

**Hobsonville R.S.A.** 416-7227  
**Hobsonville Bowling Club**  
Joe Chojnacki - 416-5993  
Paul Thompson - 416-5422

**Hobsonville Church & Settlers'  
Cemetery Preservation Society**  
Leanne Midgley 021-688-164  
hobsonvillesettlerschurch@gmail.com

**Karate Classes**  
Adults - Children - Teenagers  
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Thursday 7.00-8.00pm  
David Cox - 416-6620  
Henry Lotter - 021-807-231

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**Tauhinu Sea Scout Group**  
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Eddie Grassick - 416-8220  
Neil Beken - 483-7323

**Whenuapai Air Scout Group**  
Tim Dunbar - 416-6667

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**Whenuapai Floral  
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Par Hooper - 416-8403

**Whenuapai Hall For Hire**  
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<b>Drain Layer</b>	Lupton Drainage	0274-776-154/810-9595
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<b>Electrician</b>	Good Electrical Ltd	0274-984-762/416-9473
<b>Electrician</b>	Streamline Electrical - Chris	021-488-274
<b>Electrician</b>	Wired Electrical	416-6148
<b>Garage Doors</b>	Don Morris	416-4907
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<b>Physiotherapist</b>	Hobsonville Physiotherapy Clinic	416-4455
<b>Plumber</b>	Plumb Tight	022-416-6061
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## Weeds to Watch Out For

### Tree Privet (*Ligustrum Lucidum*)

Tree Privet grows into a mid-canopy tree that can live up to 100 years. It can displace native trees. Further north of Auckland it has reduced some areas of native bush to a tree privet forest, its own seedlings providing the only new growth.

It is an attractive evergreen tree growing to 14 metres high with dark green glossy leaves, which smothers itself in abundant sprays of tiny creamy white flowers from November. The following berries are dark purple with a light bloom to them. They ripen in stages over a long period and some ripe berries can still be found at the time of writing. At the flowering stage, asthma can be a problem for some people. The leaves, flowers and berries are poisonous.

Tree Privet is well adapted to our area. It tolerates shade and frost, survives physical damage and grazing, damp and drought soil conditions and salt laden winds.

Keep a watch out for the seedlings, which grow quickly. The seeds are spread by birds and can be transported over a long distance by Kereru.

### To control this pest:

1. Pull out or dig out the seedlings as soon as you see them. Look through your hedges and around established plants in your garden where they might not be noticed but difficult to remove when bigger.
2. Cut low to the ground and treat immediately with Cut'n'Paste Met Gel. stumps are very prone to resprouting so be prepared to retreat.
3. For big trees drill holes around the base and fill with herbicide.
4. Don't replant the bare soil too soon as there can be profuse reseeding. Spray seedlings with 2% glyphosate.

Anne Johnson

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