



Easter Sunday was when I and a lot of other people decided that Waimarama was the place to be. It was a beautiful warm, sunny day and there was a real holiday atmosphere with lots of surfers, swimmers, boaties, fishermen (and women), sun-worshippers, families and picnickers all enjoying the perfect weather. No wonder Waimarama is a playground for the well-heeled. It is stunning - and for permanent residents and visitors alike, it is blessed with a long, golden sand beach and no fewer than seven public reserves.



At just over 11 hectares and split into three distinct areas, Waimarama Domain (also known as Airini Donnelly Reserve) is by far the largest. In 2011, Hastings District Council and the Hawke's Bay



Regional Council bought six hectares of previously leased land from the Society of Mary for \$1.17 million. The timely purchase means that all of Waimarama Domain is now in public ownership.



There is a very popular playground with a good variety of play equipment including climbing frames and a flying fox.



Waimarama Surf Life Saving Club (Inc) plays a vital role in keeping swimmers safe during the long, hot Hawke's Bay summers. Volunteers patrol the beach 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends from November through to March while paid Regional Life Guards fill in the weekdays during the peak Christmas period to the end of January. The club's striking Paris Magdalinos cantilevered clubroom won the 2017 Hawke's Bay/Gisborne Architecture Award.



Spoilt for choice, I went for a stroll along the beachfront Harper Road Esplanade Reserve at the southern end of the beach.

This long stretch of prime real estate offers superb views out to Bare Island (Motu-o-kura). It is coastal living at its best and, being totally flat, is an easy walk with access to the beach at regular intervals.



Situated close to the boat ramp, I loved seeing all the brightly coloured Ford and Ferguson tractors lined up ready for duty. Some of the trusty, older model Fergies looked to date back to the 1950's.



Heading back to the other end of the township, I came across another picturesque reserve and wetlands, where there was an abundance of wildlife. It is peaceful and just gorgeous. For details of the other reserves, which I didn't have time to visit, head to the council website:- www.hastingsdc.govt.nz



HAVELOCK NORTH STREAMS COMMUNITY GROUP

You are invited to check out this recently formed Facebook page:- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/570134233966591/about>

On 26 May, Nathan Burkepale, NZ Landcare Trust's Regional Coordinator for Hawke's Bay convened the inaugural meeting of the group, made up of interested people from the Karituwhenua Stream Landcare Group (Bob Harris, David Belcher, Keith Passey), Tauroa Reserve Care Group (Michelle Hicks and Jason Andrews), Friends of Tainui Reserve (Jessica Maxwell), Te Mata Park Trust (Emma Buttle), Nicky and Zoe Solomon and Martin and Andrea Beech.



Four streams flow through Havelock North before entering the Karamū Stream. These are the Herehere, Mangarau, Te Kahika and Karituwhenua. They're suffering from what Nathan terms, 'Urban Stream Syndrome', neglected and often used as a dumping ground. Good News! Help is on the way.



The weed-stricken Mangarau Stream along Lucknow Road

The Facebook page generated immediate interest with locals wanting to be involved and an article published on the *Bay Buzz* website helped increase awareness. <https://baybuzz.co.nz/save-our-streams-s-o-s/>

The group plans to clean them up with community and council support. If you'd like to be part of this project, e-mail coordinator:- nickysolomon@outlook.co.nz



Nicky Solomon at the clogged Herehere Stream at Middle Rd



WILLIAM PIKE CHALLENGE: I well remember the 2007 eruption of Mt Ruhapehu but had forgotten the name of the young climber who lost a leg when rocks burst into one of the huts on the mountain. Since his accident, William Pike has gone on to forge a name for himself as a motivational speaker and as the founder of the

William Pike Challenge - a year-long programme to foster personal development for Intermediate Schools Years 7 and 8 students. Havelock North Intermediate students first took on the William Pike Challenge in 2016. Principal, Julia Beaumont, told me that the school saw it as a chance to provide students with leadership and personal growth opportunities. Since then, over 300 HNI boys and girls have successfully completed the award, gaining confidence and developing resourcefulness.

Julia explained that, in undertaking the challenges... sporting, service and personal development, "Students have contributed to our community, forged great friendships and created wonderful memories." The WPCA graduation at the end of each year is a proud moment for the school, the students and their families. The first participants of HNI 'Pikelets' are now in their final year of High School. Julia's pride was obvious, "We're delighted at how well they have achieved across a vast array of arenas, including sporting, cultural and academic. They certainly set a high standard and that has been matched by every year group since." For more info:- <https://www.williampikechallenge.co.nz>



2020 HNI Pikelets at work



FLIGHT OF THE FALCONS is a highly-recommended show put on at the Wingspan National Bird of Prey Centre in Rotorua. (**Bookings essential**). Registered as a Charitable Trust in 1992, Wingspan is now recognised as New Zealand's leading conservation, education, and research organisation for birds of prey. It has a big focus on our endemic NZ falcon or kārearea as a threatened species, with only around 10,000 left in the wild. There are four main elements to their work - a captive breeding for release programme; rehabilitation of injured wild birds; research into species and the environment and education/advocacy and wildlife engagement.

The show runs on Thursdays to Sundays, from 11:30am to 12:30pm. Visitors learn all about their conservation programme and witness a demonstration of the age-old and modern falconry techniques used to train and rehabilitate birds. For more information, go to:- <https://www.wingspan.co.nz/> or check them out on Facebook.



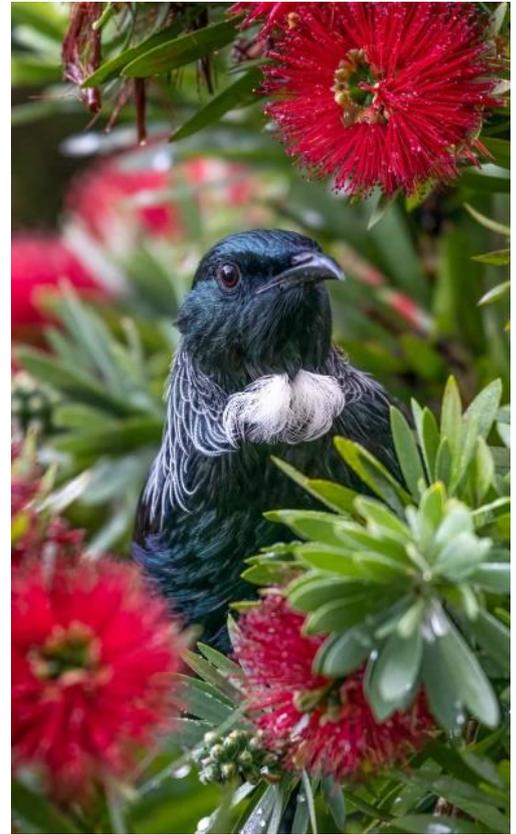
PICTURE PERFECT

This stunning photo was taken by a modest friend of mine, who casually mentioned to me one day that she had taken a nice photo of a tui with her phone. Nice photo? It's absolutely amazing and one I was very keen to share because it's so striking. It has it all; clarity, depth of field, colour, texture and 'life'... a one in a million photo and a shot to be proud of.

With a DOC conservation status of 'Not Threatened', tui are boisterous, medium-sized birds, widespread in both forested areas and suburbia – apart from the Canterbury region.

Appearing black from a distance, when the light catches them, their true colours become apparent. They have a blue, green and bronze iridescent sheen and distinctive white throat tufts. These tufts are called poi. Tui are usually very vocal, with a complicated mix of tuneful notes interspersed with coughs, grunts and wheezes. They are territorial birds and their noisy, whirring flight is interspersed with short glides.

Tui play a very important role in the dynamics of New Zealand forests because they are one of the most common pollinators of flowering plants and also disperse the seeds of trees with medium-sized fruits. To attract them to your garden, they love sugar water. More information at:- www.birdsonline.org.nz



Think this photo of a flock of tui is impressive? How about hosting an annual mass tui get-together where literally hundreds of birds gate-crash the party?

Every June, as the persimmons ripen in an orchard on Millar Road in the Tuki Tuki valley, huge flocks of tui arrive, get tipsy binge-drinking on the fruit juices for a couple of weeks and then move on. Julie Butcher, whose parents recently sold the orchard, tells me that up to several hundred tui congregate at a time, once word gets out through the avian grapevine that the fruit is ripe. Julie calls it 'Giggle Juice!' She said it was impossible to get a photo of the flock as they come and go in ones and twos so, on this occasion, you'll have to use your imagination... here is evidence that there was at least one! **Fun Fact:** A flock of tui is called a battery or whiri koko in Māori.



This is a screenshot from my computer, part of a 54 second video taken at Snetterton Circuit in Norfolk, England. When the kestrel hovered in front of the CCTV camera, Graeme Cameron zoomed in. What was fascinating was that, throughout the entire video, despite its body being buffeted by wind and while performing incredible movements, its head stayed absolutely still. **Google:** 'Kestrel at Snetterton Circuit' to watch the video.

PLASTIC POT-A-THON: Plastic kills wildlife on land and in water, so any initiative to repurpose or recycle it - or keep it out of landfill is fantastic.

The Green Door's weekly newsletter let its customers know that they can bring back their used No. 5 plant pots... just one request. They must be washed.

Some pots are returned to suppliers to reuse, others go to the Environment Centre at 1004 Karamu Road Nth, Hastings for recycling and Green Door keeps a selection for customers to take away for free. Great idea for schools!



I retrieved a whole lot from my garage and got the hose out. I then asked my neighbour and she had heaps of them lurking in a dark corner of her section, so they got washed too. Thinking that other neighbours might also have some, I did a mailbox drop and got even more. Even No. 5 plastic labels are recyclable. Imagine if every street organised a pot-a-thon collection and took them straight to the Environment Centre. That would make a huge difference.

E-Waste manager, Henry Coulson and volunteer, Blair Appleby



May 2021

DAM GOOD IDEA: Karituwhenua Stream Landcare Group volunteers, who have created a fabulous urban retreat over almost three decades, have built a series of 'leaky' dams to help prevent bank erosion after heavy rainfall events.

Leaky dams are made of natural woody materials, laid in streams and ditches.



June 2021

They're best suited to streams less than 2 metres in width and are designed to reduce the downstream flood peak, temporarily storing water by holding it back within the stream's channel or encouraging it to spill onto the banks behind the barrier and slowing the flow. This mimics natural obstructions caused by trees and branches falling into a waterway. Dams can range from a single large branch to several branches or tree trunks tied together. I checked them out after the very wet weekend of 19/20 June and they were certainly making a difference with really good ponding.

PEOPLE POWER: June, July and August are the busiest months for getting plants into the ground and the wet weekend just mentioned was exactly what was needed to get recently planted trees and shrubs off to a good start, while providing good soil moisture for others scheduled for planting in the following weeks. There are more opportunities to help out this month.

When planting at scale, it's a case of organisers rounding up as many volunteers as possible. Without their help, mega planting such as is in progress at The Cape Sanctuary simply wouldn't be possible, so a big 'Thumbs Up!' to all the good people who donned their gumboots and gloves during June to make it happen. Your practical help is greatly appreciated.



Bostock NZ planting day at Te Karamū



Looking at the calendar on Biodiversity Hawke's Bay's website, I saw that Forest and Bird Hastings/Havelock North Branch was out planting along the Karamū Stream in the Longlands area. The HBRC reports that, thanks to community planting over the past few years, 7.3 hectares along Te Karamū has now been established to support habitat, wetland groves and ecosystems and it has developed several new wetlands.

There was a Tree Planting Party which went on for nearly a week at the Hart's Mangarara Family Farm near Otane, hundreds of natives went in at Te Mata Park's new Te Kahika block and the brave souls from the Haumoana Ecology Group soldiered on in foul, wet conditions on Sunday June 20. That's dedication for you.

Bostock New Zealand's latest Karamū Restoration Project planting day at Pukahu was very well attended with around 100 keen volunteers helping out, while the Esk River Care Group and Pan Pac Forest Products got another 2,000 plants into Eskdale Park.



Haumoana Planting. Keep Calm and Carry On!

If I've missed any group out, please send me a note and a photo and I'll include it next month. For July's planting dates, check out:- <https://www.biodiversityhb.org/what-can-i-do/join-an-event/>

If you're aware of a conservation champion or something relevant going on in Hawke's Bay, please let me know and I'll be happy to follow it up:- jessicamaxwell2017@gmail.com



*Happiness is a journey,
not a destination.*

