

Matua Moments

Serving the Matua Community

Issue #10

Autumn/Winter 2020

DELIVERED FREE DIRECT TO ALL LETTERBOXES WITHIN MATUA AND CHERRYWOOD

Just Flown in

Despite all the lockdown and restrictions on travellers returning we have been lucky to have a select group visiting us. You may have noticed them as you walk and fly along our foreshore.



Quite distinct with their long bill with the round spoon shape at the end the Royal Spoonbill eats mainly shrimps in tidal flats, plus crustaceans and aquatic insects. The bill structure limits it to feeding in water less than 40 cm deep over sand and mud, dragging,

probing and grabbing with their bill. Vibration detectors inside the bill can detect prey in murky water or darkness. When prey is detected the bird snaps the bill shut and lifts it to let prey slide down its throat. Feeds and roosts in flocks. Birds fly in lines or "V" formation. Resting birds often stand on one leg in hunched posture with the head resting over shoulder on back with eye still visible and bill tucked under feathers.

Originally from Australia having flown here over 100 years ago they are therefore considered a native. In the 1970's there were only thought to be 52 but now we have over 2000 in 19 known colonies, mainly in the South Island. Perhaps we will have a new colony in our harbour. They can be seen high in the historic Macrocarpa between Beach Road and Otumoetai Road.

Breeding occurs in October so they may be seeking out new grounds.



If you have great photos post them on to the Matua Assn Facebook page.

Richard Kluit... an area specialist for over 20 years and passionate about our community



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From The Committee

On the 10th March I started to write editorial for the autumn edition of Matua Moments.

"Items of greatest news over the next few months are the transfer of the tennis courts to the city Council as they look at ways to enhance Matua Park. Public fundraising by the Residents Assn back in the 1980's provided this community facility at a minimal charge to use – more on this further on.

As per tradition we will be hosting candidates standing for the Tauranga electorate in this year's elections. Put aside the 19th August. We also plan to host an open and balanced forum on the referendum for cannabis law reform. More on this closer to the time."

What a major upheaval has taken place since that time. Well done everyone for your commitment and patience in achieving the success we have witnessed when it could have been so different, particularly if we had experienced a cluster in our midst.

We now do not know for sure that the election will take place on the chosen date and therefore our plan for the Meet the Candidates and referendum discussion are equally up in the air. More when we know for sure.

The Assn was asked to join ratepayers and resident's groups to lobby the Council for zero rate rises. Our stance on matters such as this is to not presume that we speak on behalf of the majority of residents without having canvassed their views. As we are not in a position to seek this feedback we can only suggest you make your thoughts known to both ward councillors or the wider council. The suggestion was we ask for a referendum and while in theory this is good we know that the cost and time required will not be likely.

The great weather has encouraged many of us to take advantage and excellent in what must be some of the best backyard in the world. It has been great to see so many families and couples biking, walking together through the streets and along the foreshore.

It only goes to show we need to continue to lobby for the walkway and cycleways to be improved in some areas.

Thank you for your efforts in keeping each other safe, particularly those who have helped out their neighbours. Many streets talk about regular get togethers to cheer each other on without needing close proximity. May the good spirit continue.

Continue to take care.

Richard Kluit

Chairman Matua Residents Assn



GO TO
www.facebook.com/matuaresidentsassociation/
to follow us on Facebook.

WWW.Matua.org.nz

is hosted by the Matua Residents Assn and is a vehicle of communication within our community. There is information about the roles of the Association plus

Community Patrols and Neighbourhood Support
Civil Defence
Matua Estuary Care Group
History of Matua
(photos and information is keenly sought)

Links to connect to pages / websites for Matua Bowls, Matua Baptist Church, Matua Kindergarten and Matua Primary are also included. A local business directory will be included.

If your community group wants to be part of this initiative contact Richard on 0274 337 675 or any committee member.



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Showing their support

Across our suburbs groups of neighbours showed their support for our fallen and serving ANZAC armoured forces by gathering at 6.00 AM on ANZAC day – socially distanced of course. Bagpipes and a bugle could be heard in the still crisp air before the official "Parade" was broadcast over radios held by several. As if to show further support the sky became bright Poppy red as the sun rose in spectacular form. Several families had also set out poppies and crosses on the lawns as a show of support.



Otumoetai Lions Club



Otumoetai Lions Club support community initiatives such as the MND walk along Matua's foreshore. If you are community minded and are interested in being part of an organisation helping others then check out our website

www.members.lionsclubs.org.nz
and search Otumoetai.



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Seating in the Park.

A recent addition to our fabulous sports reserve at Fergusson park is the seating overlooking the No 1 football pitch and main cricket block.



Just behind and alongside are three donated seats from the Veysi, Lusher and Miller families, stalwarts of the football club.

Walking the dog



Not only do we have a large number of dogs in the suburb that daily walk their owners but the Park is also a magnet to the wider suburbs whose residents choose to enjoy our wide spaces to get the dogs enjoying a daily exercise.

Many of these pooches are very good and ensure their exercise partners pick up after them and keep their leads attached when required. There are a

minority though who have yet to get the message across to their humans that the local dog bylaws actually apply to them. While running is natural for most canines chasing wildlife can be hazardous to the wildlife. Let's make sure the birds that also like the waterfront are not frightened. Birds in their resting and breeding seasons need rest and not enforced exercise from wayward pooches.

Let's ensure the dogs, birds and humans are able to enjoy our backyard. Also outside the park dogs need to be on leads on footpaths and importantly in the Matua Saltmarsh.

Dogs Only Have Sweat Glands in Their Paw

More specifically, they are found between their paw pads. That's why it can help to wet the bottom of their feet on a hot day, and it's also why dogs rely on panting as a means of cooling down.



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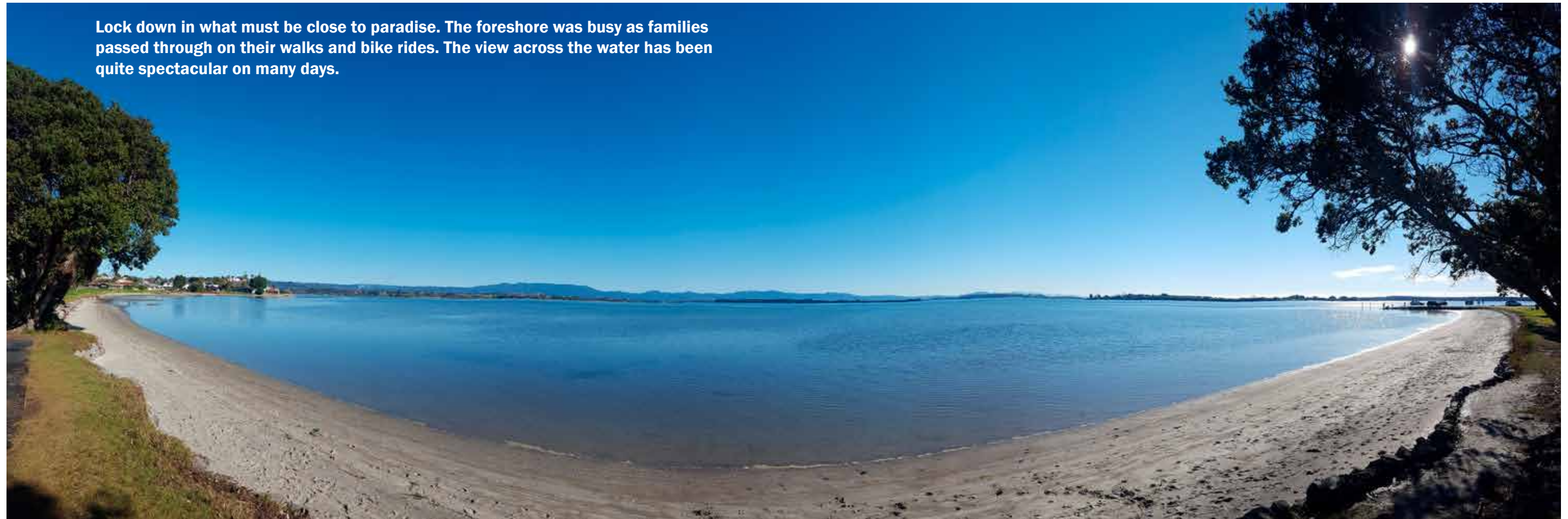
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(expires 30 June 2020)

A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He answered, 'Call for backup.'

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was and I told him. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

Lock down in what must be close to paradise. The foreshore was busy as families passed through on their walks and bike rides. The view across the water has been quite spectacular on many days.



Support the locals

All businesses in the next few months will find the going tough, as well as many families. Let's do our best to show our support for these Matua and Cherrywood businesses that are here for us.



When supporting the advertisers within this magazine **PLEASE LET THEM KNOW.**

Their continuation enables our newsletter to be provided free of charge - they need to know where you found them and that the advertising is working for them too.

Thanks

Summer Colour

Over the warmer months our suburbs sure get plenty of colour with many Pohutukawa and Jakaranda flowering. A beautiful backdrop to our beautiful home.



Swan'ing Around



Seasonal visitors to our shores are now a regular sight on the harbour.

Playgrounds

Haven't the kids done well during this difficult time. With the weather being particularly pleasant we have been out and about enjoying

the sunshine. Families have been walking and biking along the waterfront and of course that means passing by the playground equipment in several parks. Without being able climb and

slide and swing when these things are right there must have been particularly hard for the youngest children who have no idea of the serious reasoning behind the decision.



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Otumoetai Doctors

FLU VACCINE TIME

Protect yourself against the unpleasantness of catching the flu book an appointment for your vaccine with the nurse.

The Government is again offering the free flu vaccines to all patients over the age of 65years, and also to those under 65 who have chronic illnesses.

Winter coughs and colds

Most people refer to a cold as “the flu” but influenza or the real flu is a specific illness, different from a cold.

The flu has the following symptoms, which distinguishes it from a cold. These include sudden or rapid onset of symptoms:

- o High temperature
- o Chills and fever
- o Headache
- o Weakness and aching muscles
- o Loss of appetite

Most flu symptoms usually clear in 7 to 10 days, and most people with flu are likely to take several days off work and school.

If you still have not had your vaccine, please call us on 576 2321 and we will book an appointment for you.

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COVID-19

Don't be scared, be prepared.

That's the Ministry of Health's advice for older people anxious about the current COVID-19 pandemic. People aged over 70, and in particular those with underlying health conditions such as respiratory issues are more vulnerable to infections, including COVID-19.

Older people need to take more precautions to protect themselves against all infections, not just COVID-19, including avoiding close contact with people who have a cold or flu-like illness.

The annual flu vaccination is free for people aged over 65 and those with certain long term conditions. While influenza vaccination does not prevent COVID-19, influenza is a serious illness that causes hundreds of deaths each winter in New Zealand, and thousands of hospital admissions and doctor's visits. Improving the population's protection against influenza will improve our ability to manage any increased demand on health services as a result of COVID-19.

It's also important that people seek help quickly if they're worried about their health. Sadly many older people are delaying going to their GP for a routine check-up or if they are feeling unwell because of concerns around COVID-19.

People needing health care should contact their GP as usual or call Healthline for advice on 0800 611 116. If it's an emergency, call an ambulance.

Here are some tips on staying well during this time.

- Wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds using soap and water and dry them well. This is especially important after; using the bathroom, coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose, getting home, eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your nose, mouth or eyes unless you have washed your hands.
- Stay away from sneezes. Two metres is a safe distance to stay from anybody sneezing. This is about the length of your couch or bed.
- Cover your cough – If you need to cough or sneeze, cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or

a tissue (then throw it in the bin).

- If you feel at all unwell, make sure you stay at home until you feel better and try to stay in a separate room from people you live with.
- Find the facts – lots of people are talking about COVID-19 right now. It can be confusing when lots of people are saying different things. Make sure you get your information from official sources like the Ministry of Health and the COVID-19 website. If people tell you new information, ask where they got it from – make sure it's official! Keep up to date with facts, not rumours.
- Manage your mental wellbeing. Reach out to your family and whānau, friends and workmates. Sharing how we feel and offering support to others is important. We also recommend sticking to a routine such as having regular mealtimes, bedtimes and exercising. Tell yourself that how you are feeling is a normal reaction and will pass – it's nothing to be afraid of.
- If you feel you are not coping, it is important to talk with a health professional. Call your regular health care provider or for support with grief, anxiety, distress or mental wellbeing, you can call or text 1737 – free, anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – to talk with a trained counsellor.

editorial supplied by Ministry of Health

Book Club

Would you like to join a Book Club.



They meet once a month, during the day to discuss whatever is being read. Call Rita on 5768113 if this sounds like you.

Matua Bowling Club also have a library for members and can be accessed by keen readers.



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Predator Free Matua

The long dry summer has seen a large amount of birdlife around, which of course has been the goal of Predator Free however the conditions have also been great for rats. Their need for fresh water is provided by the stormwater outlets and several hot water bore pipes and of course fruit is plentiful at this time of year.

The Council have a new contractor for reserves etc and thanks to the communication from our group



there has been extra attention given to Matua. We are aware of sightings along the foreshore, which is also where a lot of our birdlife can also be found, so we ask that if you are out and about and see evidence of rats please call the council and report it. The more attention we give it the more action that will be taken.

We encourage you to keep your trapping going, perhaps try a new type of food as bait.



The Battle for the Stone Bridge



Prior to lockdown there was a lot of debate over the fate of the stone bridge across the stormwater drain that divides Kiriwai reserve from the western side of Fergusson Park. Council has inspected the bridge, originally built by volunteers from Rotary, and found the foundations to be failing.

They plan to replace it with a wooden platform a few metres across from the existing site.

Some residents seek to have the bridge rebuilt in the same spot, too expensive says Council. The Assn made a submission requesting a public meeting where all facts can be put and opinions given. The lockdown put paid to that happening for now.

Our concerns were also over the safety of the drain, the fact that Kiriwai Reserve is not passable for many winter months, particularly from the new site. The location is also subject to the harbour coastal erosion

Plan and the Stormwater Flood Plan so these factors need consideration when deciding the fate of the bridge.





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