

Snells Beach Community Roundup

Highfield Garden Reserve and Donkey Society Inc

- **AGM on Monday 18th August, 4pm**, at the Mahurangi East Bowling Club.
- Guest speaker will be Dan Marrow. Auckland Council Ranger for Highfield Reserve
- New constitution to be agreed to
- All welcome, followed by refreshments.
- The society wishes to thank all our supporters for their votes in the recent Junction Awards. We won Non-Profit of the Year (South) +Entertainment of the Year (South)

The Coastal Trail: July Progress Report

- We're excited to share an update on The Coastal Trail, as we hit some major milestones this winter. With fresh funding secured, construction nearing completion on one section, and planning underway for the next, things are really moving.

Planning Underway: Matakana to Sharp Road

- Thanks to new funding from the Rodney Local Board, planning has officially begun for the next 2.2km stage of The Coastal Trail — connecting Matakana Village to the Sharp Road intersection.
- This funding (secured via Auckland Council's "fairer funding" model) covers planning, design, and consents. It does *not* fund construction, which is expected to exceed \$2 million — so our next major fundraising push is just around the corner.
- Planning is critical to get this section shovel-ready — and we're proud to be progressing.

Nearing Completion: Point Wells to Matakana Country Park

- Construction is almost finished on the 2km stretch between Point Wells and Matakana Country Park — transforming a once-dangerous road corridor into a beautiful, safe route for walkers and cyclists.
- This milestone was only made possible thanks to our supporters, including Hutchinson Consulting Engineers, Mason Contractors, and generous local donors.
- We'll be celebrating the official opening soon — more details to come!

Local Business Boost

- Businesses along the new trail are already seeing the benefits. Grass Espoti from Beetopia (located beside the new section) says:
- "What was previously a pretty perilous road is now a much safer option... It's lovely having people walking or biking in."
- With 12km of trail now complete, we're already seeing a positive impact on local tourism, sustainability, and small business.

Welcoming Garth Barfoot as Trail Patron

- At 88, Garth Barfoot recently completed the New York Marathon — and became our first official Patron, generously donating \$150,000 to the trail.
- "Father Time has ended my cycling," he says, "but not my use of cycleways."
- His support is helping us go the distance.
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Meet Mike Brooker – New Trustee

- We're also pleased to welcome **Mike Brooker** as a new trustee. Mike has over 35 years of legal and governance experience and a strong local connection through Scott's Landing and the Mahurangi East Residents & Ratepayers Association.
- His combination of governance expertise and passion for the outdoors will be a huge asset to the project.

Hamatana/ Muncaster/ Grange progress?

- The key milestone of securing the resource consent has been achieved. AT have approved constructing the section of path over the unformed legal road section. Auckland Council is working through a landowner approval process for the small section of land which they control. They are wanting the community to be responsible for the maintenance of any bridges or assets funded and constructed by the community.
- The main barrier really from here is funds to construct the path which our charity do not have at this time. All the main approvals have been secured, which is the hard part.
- Is there anyone in Snells Beach who wants to step up and help coordinate a fundraising campaign for this piece then that would be amazing.

Access thru the Lawries Road Reserve

- This is DOC land. MCTT have successfully secured the landowner approval from DOC for a path. This is the hard part. The main challenge once again is funds/budget, to advance the design, resource consent and construction.

Thank You

- We're so grateful to every person and group who's help to make all this happen. From local families and business owners to engineers and donors — this is a true community-led project.

Snells Conservation report 6 July 2025

- We had an excellent community planting morning in May. Thanks for the support from SBRRA. We had about 20 volunteers.
There was another good volunteer morning in June, releasing wetland plants from perpetual kikuyu grass.
Tūturiwhatu New Zealand dotterels are working hard to establish their territory in the northern section of the beach where there are greater dog controls. Some have been observed practicing mating.
- We produced a display about seagrass, which is included in the Warkworth Museum Trio of Marine Marvels that showcases the wonders of marine life, two touring exhibitions from Te Papa Tongarewa.
Snells Conservation is a project within Forest & Bird Warkworth Area. We successfully had a story published in the winter edition of its nationwide magazine about banding tūturiwhatu at Snells Beach last season.
Some of us attended the Forest & Bird talk Facing the Tsunami: Invasive Weeds, Our Biggest Biodiversity threat. Snells Beach has plenty of the problem weeds that crowd out important and beneficial native plants.
- Free boxes of peanut butter for people who are trapping will be available at tonight's meeting. It is not fit for human consumption. This is compliments of Pest Free Mahurangi East and Restore Rodney East.
- **Next volunteer morning is at 9am on Sunday 13 July.** Meet by former Nikau School, Kokohi Lane.

Mahurangi East Library. Pip Stocking Manager

- I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone in the community who supported us and volunteered their time, resources and enthusiasm for our community reopening and celebration of the library and community centre. It had such a wonderful, happy and positive feel about it with so many people coming out of all generations. It has made the long wait all the more worthwhile. Our space is now feeling like home and so much brighter and fresher. Our collections are looking great in the new layout with lots of rotating displays for those new book ideas you can choose from.
- Now we have been back in the library for 2 months or so now, the library team have been working hard to get programming up and running again. We are all excited to be offering some goodies from the past and some new programmes and events. There are many


more that are still evolving and will continue to be added to our regular and one off timetable.

- **For children:** Evangeline our Children and Youth Librarian has been creating fun school holiday events, continuing with our regular children's music and literacy programmes , after school activities such as craft and she is engaging schools and ECE with outreach sessions regularly. We are working on some youth engagement one off events and regular programming so watch this space. There is also lots of activities that are in the library at different times that anyone can drop in and do for example: Chess, lego etc.
- **For adults** we still have our book club and one more chapter book chat but these are currently full, but please put your name down if you are interesting in joining. We have a new programme called 'Brain Charge' which is all about doing gym exercises for your brain to keep it active plus it is a fun way to meet other people. These sessions are on a Wednesday term time but please be aware that once a month the time will change (these will be noted in the library). Once a month we also have 'Armchair Travel Talks', this is where we have someone from the community who comes and talks about their travel experiences, where, what, how and any learnings they may have had. These will be either a Thursday or a Saturday each month so keep an eye on our Facebook page or in our regular newsletter (coming out soon) for more details and dates of upcoming talks.
- There lots more ideas we have and are in the process of developing on and working within our staffing capabilities with but we hope to be able to add something new soon to our programming. We also would love to hear from you in the community about any programmes you would like to run in the library that we can support you with. There is so many areas of need and only a small amount of hours, days and staffing capacity to run them all. This is where we need to work together as a community and collaborate using all our strengths to provide variety support for each other.
- As part of looking at the bigger picture not just in the library we would love to also hear from you **about “what you love about living in Mahurangi/Snells Beach” and “what you would like to see in the community”**. We have a fishing net hanging up outside the library with some pens and triangle sheets you can write these ideas on and place them on the net. Please come and see what other ideas have been added and add your own. There will be other events in the community coming up to capture as many of the communities ideas as possible. We may not be able to achieve all of the ideas put forward but there could be opportunities where they are feasible to achieve and/or align with community organisations already working on things.
- Again thank you all for your ongoing support and we look forward to working alongside you all more.

Community groups in our area

- **Stitch and Yarn** is a free,friendly group of crafters...where we knit and natter, and crochet but don't get crochetty! Every Tuesday morning 10 -12 in the Betty Paxton Room.
- **Scrabble Games** every Thursday 10 til 12 in the Capri Cafe and ice creamery next to the 4 Square.
- **Mahurangi East Toy Library** during the school terms downstairs from the **Mainly Music** sessions.Snells Beach Baptist Church Wednesdays 9 til 1130.

Mahurangi East Library Events Timetable

<div>  Mahurangi East Library REGULAR PROGRAMMES July, 2025 </div>					
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	LET'S READ A BOOK! 11:30AM - 12PM (term time only)	BRAINCHARGE 10 - 11 AM (term time only)	WĀ PĒPI BABY TIME 10:30 - 11AM (term time only)	ONE MORE CHAPTER BOOK DISCUSSION 24 TH JULY (FULL)	LEGO TABLE 10AM - 12PM
				JUSTICE OF THE PEACE 10AM - 12PM	ARMCHAIR TRAVEL TALK 26 TH JULY 10 - 11AM
	MAHURANGI BOOK ENDS BOOK CLUB 8 TH JULY (FULL)			FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY COFFEE CLUB 4 TH & 18 TH JULY 10AM - 12PM	
	DIGITAL DROP-IN SESSIONS 1 - 2.30 PM	HOME DELIVERIES 2 ND & 16 TH JULY 1 - 3PM		DIGITAL DROP-IN SESSIONS 1 - 2.30 PM	
COOKING WITH MAITE 14 TH JULY 3.15 - 4.15 PM (registration required)			CRAFT CLUB 3.15 - 4.15PM (term time only)	BOARD GAMES TABLE 3.15 - 4.15PM (term time only)	
<div> <div></div> Children & Youth activities <div></div> Digital Drop-In Session, all ages </div>		Our School Holiday Programmes will be running from 28 June to 13 July. Check out the School Holiday calendar for all the fun activities we've planned!			