

Russell Lights

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Coping with COVID19

Under Stage 4 Alert and a State of Emergency, the town's biggest employers acted swiftly.

At Fuller's Great Sites it's believed 40 casual staff were laid off and have all been paid out to the end of their casual contract period. General Manager, Charles Parker, was asked to confirm but said it was 'not appropriate to be commenting at this time'.

The Bay Belle has been taken off service. Arrangements are being made for essential services including the Medical Centre and St Johns. The vehicle ferry will reduce to one vessel only. After hours emergencies will still be accommodated. The Duke of Marlborough Hotel issued an initial statement saying the restaurants at The



Duke and Charlotte's Kitchen in Paihia were to close. Jayne Shirley, said the hotel was also winding down the accommodation side of the business. "Obviously our staff are impacted by this decision and we have been talking to them the whole way through and working with them over the coming days and weeks to see what this means for them and how we can support them during this time."

Most clubs have ceased operating, most venues are closed – except essential services – see Medical Centre box and page 2 for Civil Defence.

The back Four Square in York Street advises anyone needing to self-isolate or who wished not to visit the town, could be offered a delivery service. Facebook page Bay Four Square. Email: foursquare@xtra.co.nz, Phone: Wendy 021 241 4815.

Stand two metres back from anyone at the supermarket checkout. Don't touch trolley handles with your hands, use gloves or paper towels or antiseptic wipes.

For all information:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/>

Russell Medical Centre:

Be prepared – there may be delays in having your call answered.

- For normal medical services, phone for appointment (09) 403 7690.
- The doctor may phone you before your appointment to see if your issue can be resolved without a personal visit.
- For a life-threatening emergency AT ANY TIME phone 111 and St John will respond.
- For non life-threatening attention AFTER HOURS phone the Med Centre and your call will be connected to a trained nurse who can advise you or advance the call to

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- the 111 service for you or arrange a visit to the Duty Doctor.
- For Covid-19 issues - do not phone the medical centre. Call Healthline 0800 358 5453 (for international SIM cards +64 9 358 5453).

- Full details are available on the Med Centre Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Russell-Medical-Centre-111646785583479/?ref=br_rs
- Do not leave home unless it is essential. Do not stop to talk with others - use the phone or email.

Important notices from Civil Defence



National Emergency Management Agency
Te Rākau Whakamarumarū

Civil Defence bulletins will normally be posted on the community online noticeboard and Facebook daily after 2pm. There may be additional bulletins from time to time.

Civil Defence is working in conjunction with NZ Police, as we operate under the state of national emergency.

The community, under the Civil Defence umbrella, has organised support groups as follows:

- Food & accommodation
- Emergency & Medical Services
- Community Health / Welfare
- Communications
- Transport and logistics
- Please use Civil Defence contacts for the above.
- Vehicle ferry 7am to 7pm subject to change
- Commercial waste still operating – more clarification to follow.
- Start a log of your travels/movements to help contact tracing which will become essential.

For those who have submitted to government agencies seeking financial support, once your application is acknowledged please be patient. For further information visit

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/covid-19-support.html>

For a guide showing which government agency is leading various sectors of the Covid-19 response, visit <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/2020/covid-19/index.html>

For overall information and the latest updates visit www.covid19.govt.nz

A reminder of the need not to panic buy. Purchase only what you need so others do not go without and our stores have time to restock.

Stay home, stay alive. If you must go out for essential services, do not stop to talk with others. Strictly respecting self-isolation and personal distancing will save lives. Keep watch over each other by regular phone, Skype and digital platforms.

Rubbish

Please reduce and re-purpose waste, using disposal only as a last resort. Nationwide, recycling is mostly cancelled.

The transfer station is open normal hours for essential waste in bags only. Exact cash only sealed in a bag. Recycling or green waste will not be accepted.

- Commercial services continue for essential need only.
- Domestic rubbish bins and bag collections are running as normal. Disinfect the handle of your bin when you put it out (e.g. with bleach added 2% to water).
- New domestic bins are still available if essential. Email Colin Cashmore: ccashmore3@gmail.com
- Try home composting. Cover your heap or bin with a plastic sheet to increase the temperature and speed the process, but be sure to turn it over regularly to aerate. Be aware of rodent issues at this time of year especially. There are many guides online such as <https://www.foodwise.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Compost-ONLINE.pdf>

Fire Ban

- Total fire ban subject to change
- Start a log of your travels/movements to help contact tracing which will become essential.
- For overall information and the latest updates visit www.covid19.govt.nz
- Please remember to keep apart from others if going outside your home for essential shopping or services. This will save lives.

It is important to help each other but Civil Defence prefers you ask first.

Russell Civil Defence: Ian MacIntosh email - macs2my@gmail.com (urgent issues 021 706 386)

Russell Covid-19 Communications Centre: Michael Hooper covid@creativemediaworks.org

<https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/>

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One man's junk is another man's treasure. Clive's Community Cave in the making in Orongo Bay.

A Man Cave called Clive

If an example of pragmatic community enterprise was needed, then a shed on a property in Orongo Bay provides it.

It's a man cave, a bloke's shed, Dad's second home and yet more than that; a spot for chaps to chat over a cuppa certainly but with a superior ulterior motive. Clive's Community Cave is currently being rejuvenated into a place for blokes to fix things, to repair items either for themselves or for the community.

In our contemporary throwaway society (usually thrown into a landfill) and with many goods enjoying the 'benefit' of built-in obsolescence, repair and fix are practically unknown terms. But getting back to repairing things, anything, is making something of a comeback worldwide.

The International Men's Shed, for example, is well-established and the shed in Orongo Bay is modelled loosely on that although the Russell group is not affiliated to any official organisation. New Zealand versions are sometimes called a GOME (Grumpy Old Men Enterprises) but Clive's Community Shed doesn't align with those either.

John Maxwell, Chairman of Resilient Russell Charitable Trust, is one of the early organisers. The shed has been generously donated by Raewyn Harwood and her partner Martin on the Orongo Bay property. Raewyn and her late husband, Clive, were oyster farmers there and the shed was formerly Clive's large workshop – hence the nomenclature.

There is already a list of 22 chaps interested and between four and six turn up every Wednesday morning to help make the venue fit for purpose. Next to the main workshop is a lean-to shed that's in the process of being repaired itself, and waterproofed, and will be used as

storage for material that needs to be moved out of the Cave before work can commence.

The structure will be re-blocked, the floor will be lined with oyster shells, timber storage racks will be built and the roof repaired.

Donations of tools have been promised and scavenging trips to the tip are on the to do list.

In the pipeline is an educational component, with school kids visiting the Cave to learn the handy craft of restoration.

In fact, John Maxwell has already spoken with Russell School Board Trustee, Shane Maddern, who is 'very enthusiastic' about the concept as a place where children can learn new skills.

Clive's Community Cave welcomes newcomers and handymen. Phone John Maxwell: 027 380 5640



Tales of old Kororâreka – a light-hearted look at the history of Russell

Compiled by Patricia Colmore-Williams

Samuel and Martha Ford returned to Kororareka from Auckland in 1849. By the time of their arrival our town had been renamed Russell, having taken the original name of the first, albeit short-lived, capital established at Okiato. Lord John Russell [1792-1878], after whom Okiato was once named, was a liberal reformist in the English Whig government. He was a well-respected, colourful peer who also championed religious freedom.

By the time of the Ford's arrival, Russell, having literally dragged itself from the ashes, was attempting to struggle back to life. Some of the original settlers had remained, and some like the Ford family, had returned to make the most of what was now offering – which was very little. Some, like my forebears, the Palmers and Marshalls, returned to claim what was once theirs, but to no avail as they, along with other residents had found nothing remained for them after the town had been sacked and ruined by warrior forces loyal to Hone Heke and Kawiti. Quite a few of the old European settler families that lived then and either stayed, or returned as did the Fords, still have descendants residing in and around Russell today. These names will be familiar to quite a lot of you who have lived here and who live here today; the Baker family (who continue to own the Russell CBD. Joyce Baker is their matriarch), Stephenson descendants, Clendon descendants, the Williams family (not to be mistaken for the missionary family) of whom Winnie Williams remains the matriarch in town today and other old families who can trace their ancestry back to old Kororareka and beyond.

Although Hone Heke, once a friend and ally of the Ford family, continued to politically agitate further inland from Kaikohe his influence was on the wane. The pro-government chief Tamati Waka Nene had made it quite clear that Maori must put aside their old ways and adapt accordingly to the English laws now firmly imposed on New Zealand. The pro-government chief Rewa who once controlled the port of Kororareka had now relocated to Te Rawhiti and his son Kerei Mangonui became one of the first government appointed Native Policemen. Heke's star continued to wane as he became wracked more and more with tuberculosis. His wife and cousin Hariata Rongo, daughter of the famous war chief Hongi Hika, continued to be his support, his letter writer, his media consultant and a steadfast companion. Hariata however remained childless and Heke, longing for children, in one last act of

'Heke. Commander in chief during the late War, he died of consumption in 1849. Caused by a blow he received from his wife in a fit of jealousy.' This image was produced by the artist Joseph Jenner Merrett who personally met Heke by falsifying a letter of introduction and through deceit sketching the chief without permission. Heke later railed against the artist complaining that Merrett profited hugely (which he did) by reproducing Heke's image and that of his wife and their allies several times [image National Library of Australia nla pic-an - 2933487-v]



This painting was adapted from an original sketch by Major Cyprian Bridge (after whom Major Bridge Drive was named) by John Williams, also of the 58th Regiment. Both men were stationed for a time at Te Wahapu. Of the buildings seen here only the old Ford house (to the far right of the picture), occupied and largely rebuilt by the Paine Brown family and occupied by the Covic family today is all that remains. As at 1977 it was still possible to identify some old wharf posts, remnants of Gilbert Mair's merchant enterprise dating back to pre-1845. Buttons from the 58th Regiment uniforms are still occasionally collected from Te Wahapu beach during unusually low tides following unsettled weather. [image ATL 030-016]

anti-Christian rebellion left her for a while and took another wife. This turned out to be a very bad move for Heke! Having second thoughts, and no doubt suffering from a turn of conscience for his high-born and loyal wife Heke returned to her at Kaikohe with cap in hand. Although both had been baptised and married in the Christian sense by the Paihia missionaries things fell apart for a while when Hariata Rongo, in retribution for her husband's disloyalty and unfaithfulness, gave him a good thrashing, just as wives used to do and in accordance with the 'old Maori ways'. Heke, realising his wrongdoing, took his punishment submissively. Having satisfied her vengeance Hariata Rongo went on to nurse him attentively until he died very shortly afterward. Although Heke professed Christianity on his death bed Hariata Rongo refused her husband a Christian burial. It is said by some Pakeha that Heke died as a result of his wife's beating but no doubt this was the European rumour mill working overtime, combined with the horrified thought that Heke's wife actually beat up on her chiefly warrior husband and lived to tell the tale!

With Heke no longer active Martial law was lifted, but as a precaution, and to give Bay of Islands residents a measure of security, a detachment of some 300 men of the 58th Regiment remained stationed at Te Wahapu. Here they stayed for a further 11 years.

Samuel and Martha Ford had decided to settle in the middle of Russell township where they built a substantial home on the foreshore down from where the Police House is today. They named their imposing dwelling 'Bellgrave House' in memory of Bellgrave Square in London where, as a young enthusiastic Christian surgeon at 20 years of age, Samuel had proposed successfully to an equally young Martha Wilcox. Here in Russell Samuel Ford, with Martha's able assistance, once again set up a medical practice. From now Mr Samuel Ford, a highly qualified and experienced surgeon, was fondly known far and wide, to European and Maori alike as 'The Doctor'.

To be continued . . .
© Patricia Colmore-Williams

Russell Eco Sanctuary



Photo from doc.govt.nz

On a warm Saturday in March bunches of people could be seen walking around part of 200 hectares of forests and wetlands bordered by the Te Wahapu and Pipiroa streams, the clump of forested land roughly between Okiato and Russell. There was a good reason.

They were on a guided tour of what has become known as the Russell Eco Sanctuary, a collaboration between the organisations of Russell Kiwi Protection and Living Waters-Bay of Islands under the umbrella of the Russell Landcare Trust.

The aim of the collective of volunteers is to restore the natural habitat, to get rid of invasive mammalian predators (mostly rats, possums and stoats) and to target and try to eliminate invasive pest plant species like wild ginger, wilding pines, woolly nightshade and so on. The list of the unwanted is extensive.

Some of the tree species vulnerable to possum browsing are pohutukawa, northern rata and tree fuschia but thanks to the work that's already been done, possum numbers are currently low. And so are monitored rat numbers.



Margaret Pasco – Russell Landcare Trust - one of the driving forces behind restoration of the local bush and wetland area between Okiato and Russell.

When work started just over two years ago in the 200 hectare catchment area, around 2000 rats were recorded. Now that's down to such small numbers as to be considered almost zero. They've installed 18 kilometres of trap lines, three quarters of which are serviced by a professional trapper.

Also in early stages of recovery are giraffe weevils (the longest flying insect), tree wetas, black-spined stick insects, puriri moths and other invertebrates.

The first species to benefit were the fast breeding birds with short life spans like fantails/piwakawaka or tirairaka, grey warblers/riroriro, and noticeably more tomtits/miromiro and tuis which live for around six years and have multiple clutches each year. In this area the tui represents the fastest increase in population following predator control.



Eoin Harwood, Russell Kiwi Protection, with some of the home-made kiwi nesting boxes installed in and around the Russell Eco Sanctuary.

North Island weka are slower breeding (as is kiwi) but they can have multiple clutches each season, too. If the chicks survive stoats and cats to reach 1000 grams in weight, they then only have to avoid dogs. In fact, anyone can join the Kiwi Call-Count teams for May and June 'listening sessions'.

The entirely volunteer group also plans to introduce various native birds like the NZ Whitehead, then perhaps the North Island Robin (Popokatea) as just two examples and their work will allow existing bird life such as kiwi, kukupa and tomtit to regenerate.

As well as their own considerable work, Russell Landcare Trust calls on residents and land owners to install traps. It all takes money and they have various funding sources but, of course, can always do with more.

To join the organisation or to help with volunteer work contact: David McKenzie merkenzie@gmail.com

Mapping history



Robert and Jenny Loosely, owners of The Gables and antiquarian dealers.

Occasionally, everything gels nicely together. Such was the case in mid-March, before we were all confined to home barracks, when Gables Restaurant opened an exhibition of antiquarian maps.

The word antiquarian is key. For starters The Gables is New Zealand's oldest operating restaurant. It was built in 1847 by immigrant shoemaker Joseph England, from pit-sawn kauri laid on whalebone foundations. This was a time, of course, when Kororāreka was the titular hell hole and from whence many a reputation was hard won or so easily lost.

The Gables then was likely a house of ill repute and in its lengthy time on The Strand it has variously been a shop, bake house and a Salvation Army Boys' Home until eventually reverting to providing for the needs of travellers, of all sorts.

Jenny and Robert Loosely bought The Gables in 1980 and still own the venerable structure. And they, as it happens, are antiquarian dealers, collectors of maps, books, objects that are old, ancient, antique and often (but not always) derived from early Roman, Greek or Egyptian empires.

They founded the dealer business Antiquarius about the same time as they bought The Gables and both certainly had the creds to do so since they are both numismatic experts. Robert specialised in Ancient Roman and Greek coins as Jenny became the Head of the Historical Medallion Department at B.A. Seaby Limited in London.

Given professional careers like that, it's perhaps not surprising they hold a large collection of old articles and documents relating to the chequered history of The Gables, including its original deed of sale.

They also have a sizeable collection of old maps and it was these that Jenny decided to exhibit on the walls of The Gables in mid-March.

"We had them sort of lying around and I thought it would be nice to display them so people in Russell could get to see them," she said.

Abel Tasman was, of course, the first to sail his ships around the coastline in 1642 and thus became the first European to visit New Zealand. His mapping was curtailed when local Māori attacked the ship *Zeehaen*, killing four of the men. Tasman named the place Murderers Bay (now Golden Bay) and left without coming ashore, so his maps remain incomplete.

One of the oldest maps was published in 1696, just over 50 years after Tasman. The cartographer was Franciscan priest and mathematician Viicenzo Coronelli, and drawn not long after Abel Tasman did his sweep of the coast of New Zealand.

The most famous map and most familiar is Captain James Cook's complete map of New Zealand complete with the two equally legendary slight errors.

Also displayed were some of the art from the brush of Peter O'Hagan (1942-2013) who practised as an architect in the Bay of Islands and was curator for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

The exhibition at Gables opened on the 20th March. Obviously with lock down the restaurant won't be open until further notice but when it does open, the maps and the artwork will be gracing the walls for show to the public.



When the world is brought to a stop

By Malcolm McAll

An invisible microbe has brought our world to a stop and is a timely reminder of why we need a resilient community. This period of sudden global slow down or lock-down is unprecedented. Covid-19 has succeeded where Climate Change has failed in convincing the entire human family to hit the Pause Button. The global economy, the financial market, transport, tourism, industry, sporting events - in short, everything has been paused. It is a time to re-evaluate what we are doing to our world, our forests, our oceans, our rivers, our clean air, our wild animals and Earth's fragile biosphere. Have we been pushing the boundaries beyond its capacity to cope? Resilience has been described as "The ability to bounce back from adversity", whether in response to a pandemic or an environmental catastrophe.



Over the past few decades communities have been consistently weakened by centralization, and re-empowering local communities is critical for ensuring that we have the best possible security for our own future. The provision of our basic needs as well as community decision-making has been largely taken away from individual communities and we are less prepared as a result.

We are currently governed from afar and our democratic voice has been eroded with decisions about our community being made by outsiders, often without consultation. Russell has some fantastic groups doing great work, but to build a truly resilient community we will all need to work together and re-empower ourselves.

A resilient community recognizes its individual skills and the ability to provide for as many of its basic needs as possible, whether day-

to-day or in an emergency. These needs include shelter, water, food, energy, basic health services and security.

Currently, when faced with crises, authorities often react after the event rather than pre-empting solutions. The manner in which they react may be dictated by cost, health and safety issues and internal protocols which leads to the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff rather than the fence at the top.

The re-empowering of our communities is critical if we are to build a sustainable and resilient future.

If we are able to transform from within and emerge more enlightened, more connected and more purposeful it will be a worthy outcome of this global crisis.

Russell Medical Trust

Omata Estate in March and a successful charity function for the Russell Medical Trust with around \$6000 being raised at the annual bash.



Photos by Ian Macintosh

Creative Communities Scheme



(\$2500), Te Tai Tokerau Access Arts Trust (\$2400) and Whakawhiti Ora Pai (\$1400).

Creative Communities next funding deadline is Friday 8th May for a Tuesday 9th June meeting. Potential applicants are urged to contact an administrator at FNDC or one of the CCS committee members listed on Council's website when planning your event and before submitting your application.

Creative Communities Scheme committee. Photo taken in November 2019. (Left to Right) Peter Oldham, Janet Planet (Deputy), Wally Hicks (Chair), Councillor Moko Tepania, Sasha Wilson, Nopera Pikari, Leona Kenworthy. Absent: John Hayward, Lois Stather-Dunn.

The Old Courthouse at Kaikohe's Pioneer Village was the unusual venue for Creative Communities' first meeting of 2020. That's because of an extraordinary Council meeting occupying Council Chambers on Tuesday 3rd March.

"This excellent heritage building was strangely appropriate for a challenging CCS meeting" said Chairperson Wally Hicks.

"We had \$39,000 worth of applications chasing \$13,000 of contestable funds and some tough decisions to make."

Deputy Chairperson and Community Representative from Kororareka-Russell, Janet Planet, elaborates,

"One major issue for Arts funding in Aotearoa New Zealand is the yawning gap or hole between Creative Communities' district-level financial support and CreativeNZ's national-level assistance."

"It's a bit like an economy without a middle-class" adds Mr Hicks.

"There are so few places for medium-sized arts projects and events to get money. We receive worthy applications for larger sums we can't fund, or fully fund. Doing so would be unfair to smaller applicants. CCS funding isn't 'capped' but in reality applications above \$2500 have little chance."

Successful applicants this round were: Arts Far North (\$1920), Bruce Walker's Soundgarden (\$500), Russell 'Go Green' Wearable Arts (\$1950), StageDoor Theatre Group (\$2000), Tai Huri Films

Let's Talk Rubbish

Far North Go Green Awards postponed

Resilient Russell Charitable Trust as promoters of the Far North Go Green Awards, have decided to postpone the event which was to have been held on Friday 3rd April.

Chairman, John Maxwell, said his organisation did not want to put anyone's health in jeopardy.

"We have sold over 100 tickets and the trustees felt that was getting close to the limit for a crowd gathering."

Mr Maxwell said the situation would be monitored and a likely rescheduled date has yet to be determined.

For more information please contact:

John Maxwell

resilientrussell@gmail.com

027 380 5640



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MP for Northland

How to get in touch

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Boats of the Bay

Rex Marine and the Bay Explorers

by Greg Philpott



Bay Explorer II and Bay Explorer III at speed.

Rex Marine was a new entrant into the Bay of Islands tourist boat scene in the 1970s. Started by Miles King who was of the Taranaki King "dynasty".

His grandfather was Newton King and his grand uncle was Sir Truby King (of Plunket fame). King himself had been a WW2 air force pilot and was the pivotal figure in the creation of Rex Aviation which was the import agent for Cessna aircraft and was a pioneer in the aerial top dressing game in New Zealand.

King had virtually lost everything in some stock market skulduggery and so came to the Bay of Islands in the early 1970s and set up Rex Marine beginning with six small U-Drive power boats for public hire. King had a reputation for "sailing close to the wind" with officialdom and his maritime exploits in the Bay of Islands were no different.



2020 - Serenity moored at Te Wahapu

Rex Marine commissioned two fast speed mono-hull boats from the yard of Whangarei Engineering and Construction. Bay Explorer II was launched on 16th Dec, 1972 and Bay Explorer III was launched a year later on 20th Dec 1973. These boats were virtually identical and reportedly had a similar hull to Fuller's Waikare which had been built at the same time and in the same yard as the Bay Explorers. The Bay Explorers had a top speed of 22 knots and the noise of their high speed diesels earned them the local nickname of "Bay Exploders".

An extract from Miles King's autobiography states "Five years and 160,000 passengers later, our vessels had thrust their way over 640,000km of the bay, and we were carrying forty-seven percent of the total tourist traffic.

"However, we had major financial problems, and P&O needed our traffic, so on a mutually acceptable basis, we sold them the Bay Explorer vessels. I became a director of their operating company, a job not too time consuming but very satisfying. They changed the name of the vessels, and the era of the Bay Explorer was over, P&O being the then owners of Fullers."

Bay Explorer II was renamed Okahu and was eventually disposed of by Fullers. And there the trail goes cold. A boat resembling Bay Explorer II / Okahu has recently been seen on a mooring in Te Wahapu. She is much modified and renamed Serenity.

After Rex Marine Ltd was sold to Fullers in 1978, Bay Explorer III was renamed Paroa and relocated to Auckland in 1981. She was then used on the Auckland to Pakatoa run as well as for excursions.



2020 - The former Bay Explorer III / Paroa as GlenRoyal on the hard at Seaview Marina in the process of conversion to a house boat.

Paroa was sold in 1985 to Glenmore Cruises who operated mail cruises and fishing/dive charters in the Marlborough Sounds. Paroa was initially based at Havelock, and then extensively refitted in Picton where the old deck was removed and replaced, a sun deck was added and the cabin floor raised. She was relaunched as GlenRoyal in 1985.

GlenRoyal was sold in 1987 and was moved to Wellington where she was based at Greta Point and operated as "Harbour City Cruises". She was again sold in 2004 to Mokau River Tours Ltd. GlenRoyal was motored to Mokau, North Taranaki in March 2004 and then operated charter tours on the Mokau River. Mokau River Tours was closed down in 2017 and GlenRoyal advertised for sale.

In early 2019, GlenRoyal was again sold and relocated to Wellington. There she is being converted to a live-aboard boat to be based at the Seaview Marina.

I am always keen to gather more information / pictures / memorabilia of the 'Boats of the Bay'. Please contact me on email gregphilpott@xtra.co.nz if you can help build the big picture.

The regulation two metres

By Sara Dinnen

How long is two metres? In the absence of a tape measure or a yard stick or even a yard glass, how do you know how far away to stand from your fellow earthling?



Some suggest you touch your nose with your left hand and stick out your right hand perpendicular to your body. Times two. But what if you have short arms? Do you just add a bit? Would it be an advantage to have long arms like a Neanderthal?

Speaking of which and according to Wikipedia, Neanderthals (an extinct species or subspecies of archaic humans lived in Eurasia until about 40,000 years ago) probably became extinct due to competition with, or extermination by, immigrating modern humans or – and this is the scary bit – due to great climatic change, disease or a combination of these factors.



I once heard a woman acquaintance describe her ex-husband as having 'knuckles that dragged on the ground' so he'd be more than the regulation two metres away from his fellow man if he stuck his arm out to measure. But not nearly far enough away from the woman who said it, of course.

In any event, the regulation two metres is a guess and it's hard to maintain it if you're inside the supermarket.

On the day before being confined to home barracks (25th March) I ventured forth with my rubber gloves (because I didn't have any surgical

gloves because they'd sold out everywhere and the gardening gloves were filthy and therefore probably more dangerous than my own hands) and without a face mask (because they'd sold out as fast as hand sanitiser) so I just held my breath and hoped no-one would impinge closer than my two metre bubble of personal space.



Most shoppers stood the regulation two metres back at the check out line. But not all. One older couple stood about one metre away from the woman in front of them checking out her groceries. They simply did what they'd always done and zoomed into the checkout bench.

There were no armed guards patrolling the indoor supermarket precincts (and no security guard around to stop any excessive stockpile buying either) so the older couple got away with it. The woman checking out her groceries wasn't wearing a mask or gloves as she punched her code on the EFT-POS machine. She didn't seem to mind the older couple moving closer and closer with each can of corn they placed on the counter. The checkout lady didn't seem to mind and she wasn't wearing a mask or gloves either. So, none of these four people seemed to be taking precautions for themselves or, indeed, for anyone else. And now we're in lockdown and I hope not to see any of them anywhere near.

I did rather like the bloke by the veggie boxes, however. He had a long scarf wound around his face, he was wearing a beanie and had donned very heavy-duty gardening gloves like those in the forestry industry wear. Clean ones. Bless.



Secure future

By Louise Irvine

Are you renting? Are you wondering what you will do as you grow older?

Many of us in Russell are in rented accommodation and as we grow older we worry whether we might be asked to move out, either because our landlord wishes to rent our home for the increased summer visitor rates or simply because the rental has to increase in line with inflation. One solution to this dire situation might be found at the Duffus Estate so, in order to see what one might expect, I went along to talk to two of the residents. You can hear their



opinions over the next two issues of the Russell Lights.

There are the four original cottages and another two recently added so I spoke firstly to Sue who lives now in one of the older homes.

From the outside her home looks interesting and although they are older, Sue's house is delightful and the sunny patio overlooking the bush is a winner. One thing

I remarked on is the tenants make their house their own with their own furnishings and decor so, although these four homes look almost identical from the outside, they totally reflect their occupant's taste and style. An older house seems to have such character that it is a joyful place.

Sue has lived in Russell since she was 23, first living with Laurie Samson and his family at Te Hui Bay. After spending some time in Australia she returned to Russell seven years ago and was living in a rental in Orongo Bay. This was only a short term rental and a bit far from the town so she was desperate to move right into town. In addition her daughter and three grandchildren live in Russell so being on the Estate enables her to be close to her family and be available as a baby sitter!

For Sue the best thing about living on the Duffus Estate is the feeling she is lucky. The house is small, warm and homely and, joy of joy's, the bathroom is on the same floor as her bedroom! There is a second bedroom upstairs which would enable a carer to live in when and if it becomes necessary. Sue also loves having an indoor laundry and says the oven is fantastic!

I loved the window seat looking out over the bush. When you have had almost nothing, this is indescribably wonderful! There are so few places for single people to rent in Russell and having a permanent place to live gives a huge sense of relief especially knowing it is a forever home.

As Sue says, "it doesn't feel like suburbia but as you get older you like the security of knowing there are others around you or if you need help or just company. The houses are so nice you are just happy to be in one".

For Sue this really has been the answer to a prayer. To sum up my visit to the Duffus Estate I can do no better than repeat Sue's words that this really is a village within the village.

If you are interested in putting your name down for the future sometime, please contact for an expression of interest form:

Val Marshall-Smith, Trustee, E-mail: valmarshallsmith@gmail.com



Russell Four Square is listed as a Category 2 building in the Historic Places Trust Register. It is the only surviving 19th Century trading store still fulfilling its original purpose on the Russell waterfront.

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The battle of Kororāreka remembered

KORORĀREKA 175th ANNIVERSARY COMMENMORATIONS



Red sky in the morning. Photo Stephen Western.

Flagstaff Hill at dawn, 11th March 2020, acknowledging the 175th anniversary of the Battle of Kororāreka, or sometimes known as the Burning of Kororāreka and an engagement of the Flagstaff War in New Zealand.

Although he had been the first to sign the Treaty of Waitangi in February 1840, Nga Puhi chief Hōne Heke Pokai had subsequently become increasingly unhappy with what he perceived as government oppression toward Māori, coupled to economic loss to Ngāpuhi as a result of changes to custom tariffs and the relocation of the capital to Auckland.

In July 1844, Heke and a group of warriors entered the town and Pakaraka chief Te Haratua cut down the flagstaff. Heke himself had set out to cut it down but had been persuaded by Archdeacon William Williams not to do so.

Six months later on 10 January 1845 the flagstaff was cut down a second time - this time by Heke himself. A new and stronger flagstaff sheathed in iron was erected and later that month a guard post built around it. The next morning the flagstaff was felled for the third time.

A blockhouse was built around the base and a guard of 20 soldiers was placed in this as a fourth flagstaff was erected.

On 11 March 1845 Hōne Heke and his men, along with Te Ruki Kawiti and his followers together attacked the town.

British forces were outnumbered. HM sloop Hazard landed a party to aid the detachment of 96th Regiment commanded by Lieutenant Edward Barclay and in all there were about 140 soldiers, sailors and marines. The American sloop USS St. Louis, under the command of Commodore Foxhall A. Parker, was also present and her crew assisted in evacuating British subjects.

Heavy skirmishing lasted for some time until a large explosion destroyed the defender's reserve ammunition. The explosion also set a building on fire which subsequently spread. Around the same time the British began to withdraw to the safety of the ships anchored in the bay and evacuated the civilian population. HMS Hazard then bombarded Māori positions.

Ten military defenders and three civilians were killed in action or died of wounds. At least thirty-six were wounded. The town was mostly destroyed after evacuation and over the following days.

Sources: Wikipedia and History.nz.org.



Kororareka. Photo courtesy Peter de Graaf, The Advocate.



A Minister of the Crown elaborates – unidentified socks but presumed to be those belonging to the Hon Shane Jones, NZ First. Photo Stephen Western.

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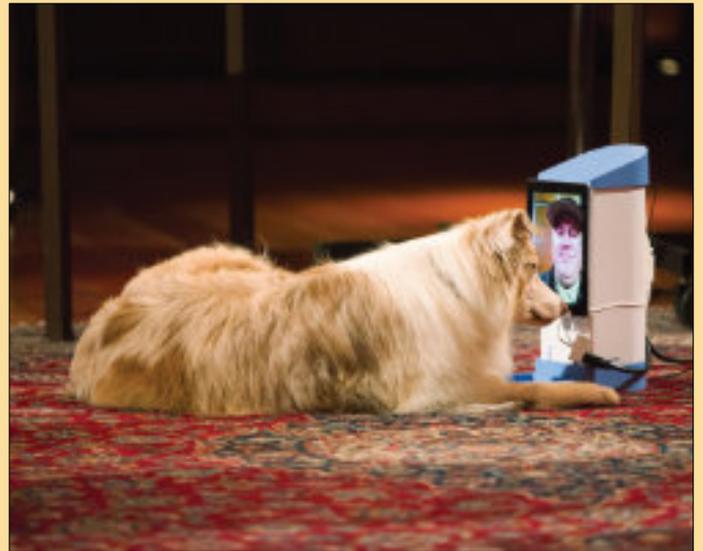
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Lock down

It was planned to do a round-up of several Russell and Okiato residents to see what they're doing for lock down but, in fact, we are all being so sensible it didn't make for enlightened reading. So, when in doubt, try your Facebook Friends for the umpteenth time in the past week and occasionally something amusing pops up.

Things to do in isolation

1. Say 'hasta la vista, baby' while closing every work-related tab on your computer.
2. Try to find yourself on Google Earth
3. Tighten the screws on your pot handles.
4. Organise your desktop so it's neat and tidy and now you can't find anything.
5. Clean the kitchen.
6. Come up with a new signature
7. Watch a year's worth of Netflix in the afternoon.
8. Avoid eye contact with all the books on your shelves you've never read.
9. Rank every biscuit in the pantry from good to best dunked in tea.
10. And while you're at it, clean the kitchen.
11. Resist the urge to cut your own hair.



12. Play Scrabble.
13. Pull out two Qs and not one U.
14. Argue about whether Qi is a word.
15. Spend fifteen minutes looking at pictures of quokkas on the internet.
16. Decide you're going to have an early night.
17. Have a sit down shower because you're adult and you can do what you jolly well want to, inside.
18. Check the news.
19. Close the news after two minutes.
20. Brush up on the history of the Roman Empire or who invented tomato sauce, whichever seems most important.
21. Research home work outs.
22. Instantly feel exhausted.
23. Clean the kitchen instead.
24. Ponder who invented the coat hanger.
25. Facetime someone with a dog.
26. Learn to spell onomatepia.
27. Google how to say it.
28. Put on your shoes as a novelty.
29. Research how to make sourdough.
30. Realise you simply don't have the time to make sourdough because you've got to clean the kitchen.

All photos honourably filched from the 'net because the time to do it was readily available.



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