

# Local Board Update from *Phelan Pirrie*

*Phelan's Local Board Update – July 2025.*

2025, 6:13am Tuesday 22nd July, North Western Motorway southbound before the Hobsonville Road over-bridge.

Jenny peers ahead through the rain at the rows of red tail lights. The AI driver assist guiding her car continually brake to maintain a safe distance from the car in front, however drivers of older vehicles are pulling into the space in a futile attempt to get through the gridlocked traffic. She's been on the road since 5:45am and feels like she's going nowhere, there's at least a two-hour drive ahead to get to work in Albert Street.

For the last few years the commute times to the central city have climbed dramatically as central government politicians argue about which forms of mass public transport to implement and how it will be paid for. New housing in Redhills and Whenuapai has added to the traffic with thousands of cars choking the side roads. Infill housing along the suburbs off the highway all the way to Te Atatu have clogged the motorway to a standstill.

Although there have been few new houses in the north west suburbs of Huapai and Riverhead and this won't change until after 2028, it's of little comfort to those residents who are faced with a two to three-hour daily fight through the thousands of commuters from the rest of West Auckland. A quicker, dedicated, public transport mode would have given Jenny an option, sadly there's only the same bus service that's been available for years. Political inertia coupled with the decline in the global economy and the billions of dollars required to construct any form of mass transit mean that this solution is still over a decade away.

## Back to the present, 2019.

The Governments Budget Announcement didn't provide a clear indication of whether a genuine public transport system capable of dealing with the population growth in West and North West Auckland is being funded. Some of the Provincial Growth Fund is earmarked to carry out overdue upgrades on KiwiRail infrastructure across the country. The North Auckland rail line may get some love, but nothing like the \$1.3 billion estimated to get it up to the standard required for freight and passenger services.

Light Rail to the North West appears to have gone AWOL. In any case the government hadn't committed sufficient funds instead insisting it needed a partner to come up with the balance, since then it's fallen quiet. Every year that goes by with no solution while housing continues to be constructed across West Auckland, is a year closer to total gridlock.

The wailing and complaining from a large sector of voters about the cost of the CRL means politicians are reluctant to canvas a fully funded \$2.3 billion light rail system out west. Never mind that these sorts of projects do costs billions in other countries, and they frequently balloon in cost. London's Cross Rail project has risen to \$32 billion. Singapore's 4km circle line has been hit with rising costs meaning the final bill will be around \$1.3 billion per kilometre!

The decision to find the funds and get on with implementing a world class public transport system to meet the population growth in West Auckland lies solely with central Government. It is beyond the ability of Council to fund this sort of investment through rates or borrowing. Government should be making the investment now while it can borrow at 1.75%. Next year there is a general election. Residents may want to think about casting their vote for a party, regardless of who it is, that will do what is necessary to fast track public transport for our area. If we don't get a solution agreed on and planning underway many of us are going to be facing two and a half hour commutes to work each day.

Need assistance with Council related matters?

Phelan Pirrie, Deputy Chair,  
Rodney Local Board

Ph 021 837 167

[phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



## LAWN CARE

By Andrew Hall from Waitoki Lifestyle Mowing Machinery  
**Ride on Lawnmower Cutter Deck Issue.**

A lot of us have them somewhere around the yard - Cabbage trees or flax plants. They add that native touch to the scenery, but boy, those fallen leaves are supper tough on rider mower cutting decks. We should collect up the leaves before starting mowing. But do we? The mower seems to cope ok just mowing over them, but is there any unseen damage going on?

These fibrous leaves, once mown, end up wrapped around the blade spindles. They wrap extremely tightly and will push their way into the lower spindle shaft bearing. It is then only a matter of time before the bearing collapses.

As part of a cutting deck service the debris should be removed from the blade spindle shafts, and the lower bearing inspected and replaced if required.

If you have a small engine problem call the experts.  
Andrew and Donna Hall 0274955948.

Lifestyle Mowing Machinery, 8 Stevens Lane, Waitoki  
"We will put the fun back into mowing"



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Melissa Lowe

NUTRITION & HEALTH COACH

## Top tips to kick that cold

With winter arriving on our door step soon the coughs and cold season has started. So, it's

important to fight a cold as soon as you start to feel sick – runny nose, a tickle in the throat, etc. Here's some tips to help you once the symptoms start.

### Raw garlic

Eating raw garlic at the first signs of a sniffle can be hugely beneficial. Crush 1 to 2 cloves of garlic, spread on to buttered toast and eat. Adding chopped parsley or mixing the garlic with raw honey is beneficial too.

### Salt and water gargle

At the first signs of a sore throat put ¼ of a t-spoon of sea or Himalayan salt into a cup and add in ½ a cup of recently boiled water. Once the salt has dissolved and water has cooled, gargle and spit out. Do this every hourly.

### Supplements

Open 1-2 pro-biotic capsules and tip the powder into the back of your throat - hold it there before swallowing. This allows the good bacteria to fight the bad bacteria in your throat, nose and ear canals.

Eat vitamin C rich foods (oranges, lemon, kiwifruit and berries) and take other supplements like Echinacea, zinc and Colloidal Silver.

### Keep warm & sleep

Rug up, rest and drink plenty of water until you feel better.

The more you look after yourself at the beginning of a cold the quicker you will be back to feeling healthy.

For some immunity boosting tips to keep you well this winter, go to <https://www.thethriveguide.co.nz/lose-weight-and-get-healthy-article>

For more health and wellness tips come on over to my Facebook or Instagram page **The Thrive Guide with Melissa Lowe**

## HONEYSUCKLE FLOWERS

Dried Wreath Making - Friday 26th July, 12 - 2pm

Come and learn to make a grapevine wreath and decorate it with dried flowers - Class Cost \$110 per person

Winter Table Flowers - Friday 9th August 12 - 2pm

Come and learn to make some gorgeous seasonal table flowers designs to wow your friends when they come for dinner - Class cost \$100 per person



## HONEYSUCKLE FLOWERS

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Based in Waitoki, Call Annie 027 444 8716  
or visit [www.honeysuckleflowers.co.nz](http://www.honeysuckleflowers.co.nz)

## Art down the Lane Gallery

### Introducing: Paula Weir-Multi Media Artist

As owner of 'Art down the Lane' Gallery I would like to introduce you to one of my amazing artists, that I am featuring this month. Paula Weir is a polymer clay artist. She also has many other crafting abilities including crochet, soft toys and mosaic work.

I am featuring her gorgeous Utensils with polymer decorated handles. Every one of them is unique and different in their own way. The joy of handmade being that not every piece is the same. One of my customers recently asked me if Paula could make her some utensils with extra weight in the handles for her brother, who has Parkinson's Disease.

People with Parkinson's need extra weight in the handles so they can feel the utensils easier, which assists them in feeding themselves to help keep their independence.



I sent Paula a brief of what they wanted, and the challenge was accepted and executed extremely well. She finished the piece with absolute beauty and my customer was extremely happy.

If you know of anyone that has Parkinson's or you would just love some gorgeous, one of a kind, utensils in your Kitchen, feel free to pop on down to see me at;

**Art down the Lane**, 8 Stevens Lane, Waitoki  
or email me at [artdownthelane@gmail.com](mailto:artdownthelane@gmail.com)

Donna Hall



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## Laura Schwerdtfeger



## Lifestyle Animal

— Veterinary & Support Services —

027 VET LIFE (027 838 5433)

[thelifestylevet@gmail.com](mailto:thelifestylevet@gmail.com)

## Foot-rot explained by The Lifestyle Vet

The wet Winter weather is often accompanied by an increase in the number of foot-rot cases. Foot-rot occurs when animals graze in wet, muddy and water logged paddocks for extended periods of time.

Constant wetting of the skin causes the skin between the toes to become macerated (we call this scold). This enables a bacterial organism called *Fusobacterium necrophorum* to invade the wet skin. This bacteria is commonly found in the faeces and soil and is very good at damaging tissues that are wet.

Once the tissue is damaged, a particularly aggressive bacteria called *Dichelobacter nodosus* then invades this already damaged skin, resulting in inflammation, swelling, pus, and that awful dead tissue smell that goes hand in hand with foot-rot.

Being lame prevents an animal from being able to feed adequately. Animals often lose weight, lambing percentages decline and wool quality can also drop. If left untreated, the infection may spread to involve the entire joint, which can be debilitating and life threatening.



## What can you do?

If your animals have foot-rot, they will require medical treatment. There are a variety of treatment options available and the treatment and medication chosen will often vary depending on the severity of the infection. Most of the time, antibiotics and pain relief medication is required. Did you know that the effectiveness of antibiotics given for foot-rot is highly dependent on our ability to keep the feet in a dry environment for 24 hours after treatment. Returning animals to wet paddocks after treating them actually inhibits the diffusion of antibiotics to the affected tissues. In 90-95% of cases, using a combination of topical and injectable antibiotics will treat foot-rot. It is important to re-check the feet a week after treating them to ensure that the animals have responded to treatment. Are your animals affected by this condition?

If you are worried about your animals having foot-rot this winter then don't hesitate to get in touch with us at [thelifestylevet@gmail.com](mailto:thelifestylevet@gmail.com) or call us on 027 VET LIFE (0278385433).

Our sheep annual health plans for lifestyle blocks are perfect for keeping an eye on those feet. Prevention is always better!

