

# Local Board Update from Phelan Pirrie

Phelan's Local Board update – February 2020

The record-breaking dry weather has caused hardship of many of us who rely on rainwater. With no rain for 40 days, tanks have run dry catching many people out. This has led to a rush on water carriers who are now swamped with orders – some have had to stop taking further bookings. I know I'll be looking at putting in another water tank this winter!

There have been calls for Council or Watercare to step in to guarantee water supply for rural communities, and dismay that there no water restrictions for urban residents on Watercare's reticulated water supply.

Most of Auckland's reticulated water is linked. From the Orewa to Pukekohe residents share the same sources and water supply. Since amalgamation Watercare (which is a stand-alone, self-financing unit of Auckland Council) has been very successful in developing a reliable, safe water supply for its urban customers. Billions of dollars have been invested in water and sewerage infrastructure however this is not paid for by general rates, but through user and infrastructure charges to connect. In some cases, these connection charges can be as high as \$20,000. Watercare has a contractual responsibility with these customers to provide them with water.

Currently there is no shortage of water for the main Auckland urban supply. While Watercare has encouraged people to be careful with water, it has not had to impose the bans seen in the past because it has ensured a robust storage network.

In Rodney; Helensville, Warkworth, and Wellsford the urban water supply is supplied by each town's own source. Bore water is pumped into reservoirs. Again, millions of dollars have been invested in making these supplies resilient which is why those customers have not yet seen bans on what they can use water for.

For rural residents looking to top up empty water tanks, there are either suppliers with their own bore water or those that use Watercare's filling stations of which there are 11 across Auckland. Two of these are in Wellsford and Helensville. There is an issue with how quickly carriers have been able to deliver because the demand suddenly spiked for filling station supply as water carriers started working later and later. It affected the aquifers' ability to fill the reservoirs quickly enough to maintain water pressure for fire hydrants. Because there is normally negligible use overnight the steady flow of the bore supply topped the reservoirs off, however with tankers drawing off water until late at night this wasn't able to happen. In response to the drop in pressure on water mains Watercare limited or shut off flow to these to filling stations which slowed down the speed that carriers could deliver water.

Watercare is in a difficult position. It has a responsibility to those that have paid for the infrastructure and rely on the water for not only domestic use but also from fire hydrants in the event of an emergency.

The calls to have Watercare more directly involved in rural water supply need to be considered carefully. This will come at a cost and currently, rural ratepayers do not pay anything towards Watercare's infrastructure (apart from the \$15 per 10,000 litres water carriers pay if you use their service). Any move to guarantee supply will involve us all paying a contribution towards Watercare's infrastructure just like households paying \$20,000 to hook up to the supply in urban areas. Meters may be required to ascertain usage because Watercare would need to know how much water it needed to store for rural users. Geography and the sparse population mean the costs of this will be significant. In order to make it financially viable, everyone may be compelled to contribute. Would it would be better to pay a one-off cost of a few thousand dollars to install another tank to collect free rainwater or leap into paying Watercare significantly more, on an ongoing basis, for a guaranteed urban supply?

Auckland Council staff have led the response to the situation working through a range of options to mitigate the hardship for those who have run out of water. Community centre and halls have been opened to allow residents to fill drinking water containers and use showers, large tankers have been deployed at filling stations to allow water carriers to fill up quickly so they can tackle the backlog of customers.

There is also a plan (at time of writing) to place large water tanks in rural communities to allow residents to fill up containers closer to home.

I expect longer-term Watercare will be looking at its filling stations and how to increase capacity at them to allow carriers to fill while not compromising water pressure firefighting supply.

There's a plea from water carrier to residents to let them know if you've booked with multiple suppliers and got your delivery. Carriers have turned up at residences to find full tanks wasting hours of delivery time. This is contributing to the waiting lists and carriers closing off orders.

You can get the latest information on Council's response and services being provided at community centres by visiting: [www.ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

You can contact me about Council related matters on either 021 837 167 or [phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:phelan.pirrie@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)  
Phelan Pirrie, Chair – Rodney Local Board.





### Ultimate Siteworks Ltd

ULTIMATE RESULTS FROM START TO FINISH

- ✓ Excavations
- ✓ Farm Work
- ✓ Drilling
- ✓ Trucking
- ✓ House Sites
- ✓ Foundations
- ✓ Aggregate Supply
- ✓ & more

Contact Grayson today to discuss your project or for a no obligation quote or advice

☎ 021 083 05733

🌐 [www.ultimatesiteworks.com](http://www.ultimatesiteworks.com)



## LADIES HIGH TEA

Sunday 9th May - Waitoki School Hall

Come and enjoy great company & delicious treats fit for a queen.  
Prizes for best hat and outfit!

**TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON**  
Keep an eye out on Facebook, Waitoki School events page and school noticeboard for details on Ticket Sales.



Proudly Sponsored by



Looie & Tracey

TRUSTED REAL ESTATE SPECIALISTS

### Tracey Howe & Looie James

LIFESTYLE AND RESIDENTIAL SPECIALISTS

Harcourts Cooper & Co Ltd - Albany

P. 027 706 5790 E: [loolie.james@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:loolie.james@harcourts.co.nz)

P. 021 330 751 E: [tracey.howe@harcourts.co.nz](mailto:tracey.howe@harcourts.co.nz)

## Harcourts



## Waitoki Village Market

Saturday 11th April 2019

Waitoki Hall, Kahikatea Flat Rd / 8.30 till 1pm

Support your community; all proceeds from the Market go back to our local community.

Want to know what's going on in the local community?  
Find out at the next Waitoki Village Market Day

Come and chat, meet your neighbours, and find out what is going on in your community. There are a variety of groups; exercise, craft, martial arts, indoor bowls, find out from the locals in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

Gather and Gossip, have a massage, pick up baked goods, plants, essential oils, locally crafted gifts, homemade and preloved bargains, preserves, and more at the Waitoki Hall, Kahikatea Flat Rd. 8.30 till 1pm Saturday 11th of April.



Future market dates: 11th April, 13th June, 8th Aug, 10th Oct, 12th Dec

New stall holders welcome, contact Gill 420 3301 or email [waitokihall@gmail.com](mailto:waitokihall@gmail.com)



## THE THRIVE GUIDE

## Melissa Lowe

NUTRITION & EPIGENETICS HEALTH COACH

Green Smoothies are all the rage (and rightly so)! Dark leafy greens are among the most nutrient-dense and nutritious foods out there. But, if you're like most people I know, the idea of eating more greens may make some of you grimace.

This is where gorgeous green smoothies are a winner. Full of nutritious greens and they taste great too.

Blending is part of the magic so using a high-powered, high-speed blender can be extremely helpful because the texture is key. We want smooth and creamy smoothies. Gritty, grainy green smoothies aren't great. So, make sure you start with the right equipment. Fat, fibre, and protein in a smoothie are a powerhouse combo that helps stabilise blood sugars, remove toxins, supply the building blocks for hormones and create energy. You could have this for breakfast or it's great as an afternoon snack so you can avoid that 3pm slump.

**Ingredients:**

- 1 cup baby spinach or kale (stems removed) or a combination of both
- 2 Tablespoons fresh parsley (stalks removed)
- One peeled fresh or frozen banana, sliced (and thawed slightly if frozen)
- 1 Tablespoon organic dandelion greens (optional)
- 1/3 cup chia seeds (you can soak these in liquid to soften if you don't have a high-powered blender)
- 1/3 cup LSA (ground linseeds, sunflower seeds, almonds)
- ½ cup of frozen strawberries/berries (thawed slightly) or chopped pineapple
- ½ cup of water

Blend until smooth and creamy. Enjoy!

Ready to balance those crazy hormones, plus lose weight and gain energy?  
Then book a free 30-minute Health & Wellness session with me at [www.thethriveguide.co.nz](http://www.thethriveguide.co.nz)  
FB & IG @thethriveguidewithmelissalowe



## LAWN CARE

By Andrew Hall from Lifestyle Mowing Machinery

I will be hoping that by time you read this blurb the rain has returned and the water tanks are full or a least becoming full.

While grass grow has been very slow of late, some of you will still be mowing. The dry conditions will mean your lawnmower will be breathing in a lot more dust than is normal. I would recommend spending a little time after mowing cleaning out the engine air filter. Paper air filters need to be blown out or replaced, while foam filters can be washed in hot water and strong detergent.

After leaving the filter to dry work a little engine oil into the foam. The oil traps the dirt in the foam. Without oil a foam filter is completely useless and fine dust will enter and wear the engine.

At Lifestyle Mowing Machinery we want to make sure you have the right equipment for the job at hand. "We will put the fun back into your mowing"

“Don’t Kick it- I’ll Fix It”  
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”



## LIFESTYLE MOWING MACHINERY

We will put the fun back into mowing

- \* Quality brand mowers & ride ons
- \* Unparalleled service & Support
- \* Large Product range

Come in and see us today  
8 Stevens Lane, Waitoki

Or  
Call us on 0274 955 948  
[www.moadoc.co.nz](http://www.moadoc.co.nz)



## HONEYSUCKLE FLOWERS

## Flowers for any Occasion

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



## Laura Schwerdtfeger

## Lifestyle Animal

Veterinary & Support Services

027 VET LIFE (027 838 5433)  
[thelifestylevet@gmail.com](mailto:thelifestylevet@gmail.com)