

Eureka Express

Vol XLVII No. 7 Circ 300

www.eurekaexpress.co.nz

AUGUST 2026

editor@eurekaexpress.co.nz



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WAIKATO SHED
COMPANY ✓
great sheds, done right!

Business Directory – Kindly Sponsored by Waikato Sheds

Eureka Express Committee, thank all who sponsor pages and who advertise with us. We appreciate your continued support, without which, we couldn't continue to produce the express for our locals.

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Billings Builders Ltd

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Kevin Deane JP

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Please refer to the individual
advertisements for further
Information

Lawns & Gardens:

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Motumaoho School

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Tauwhare School

Newstead Country School

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Ross Pumps – Daren Ross

Text & Email

CTAS reminders by Text & Email

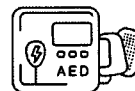
Veterinary Services

Newstead Veterinary Services

Waikato Shed Company

Sheds, Stables, Garages, Lifestyles, Rural,
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AED Defibrillator

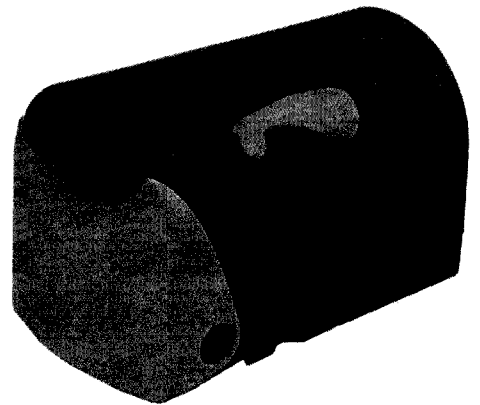


**AED A defibrillator is available at
Eureka Hall. To access this you ring
111 for ambulance and they will give
you the access code**

URGENTLY NEEDED

EXPRESS DELIVERY PEOPLE

We have people who are retiring from making deliveries and have some positions that need to be filled:



- Eureka Road – this run has 45 copies to be delivered along all of Eureka Road
- Appleton Lane – this run consists of 22 copies
- Morrinsville Road – 13 copies to be delivered (towards Morrinsville)

The deliveries get done only once a month for 10 months of the year. We don't do January and combine Nov/Dec. The deliveries would only take about ½-1 hour of your time and can be done over the weekend following print day.

If you are able to help us then please email –
editor@eurekaexpress.co.nz

Thank you



Gillian and I shifted to Eureka in July 2019, along with our daughter Katherine's dog Buddy, after living in Christchurch for nine and a half years having experienced two major earthquakes, floods, fires and a terrorist attack during our time there. We looked at several properties around the Waikato and discovered Eureka, which we thought only existed in California. We have two Adult Children, Jonathan married to Emma and two grandchildren Oli and Harrie, living in Christchurch. They shifted to Christchurch from Wellington after we left and Katherine who lives in Lower Hutt, whose son, our first grandchild, died at 18 months.

I used to be an Orchardist, so we were keen to have a small amount of land where we could grow anything that you can eat. Animals and horticulture don't always mix, so we have one dog Harley, who you will hear if you walk past and three chooks Rachel, Rebecca and Rahab. Rahab is an escape artist, and Harley enjoys rounding her up.

We have lovely neighbours and during Covid and social distancing we traded Feijoas for shortbread which covered two of the essential food groups. Since then, we have planted Macadamia nuts which we are now harvesting, Walnuts, Almonds which have just started to flower, along with Apples, Pears, Peaches, Nectarines, Persimmon, Figs, Avocados, Banana (looking rather frosted right now), Tamarillos (unlikely to survive this winter). Strawberries, Boysenberries, Thornless Blackberries, Blueberries, Mulberries, Blackcurrants, Gooseberries, Passionfruit, Tea and Coffee and various vegetable crops. Gillian and I enjoy harvesting, processing and giving away the surplus.

Our ride on mower doubles as a tractor and we are mostly self-sufficient in firewood, generate as much electricity as we use from the grid and have our own water supply. There is nothing like sitting down to a meal from the property, including the water and electricity. It makes us feel like pioneers without the discomfort and sacrifice of those who went before us. Then we relax in the wood fired hot tub at a balmy 39 degrees C and look at the stars and passing satellites enjoying the fragrance of wood smoke. It doesn't get much better than that!

Gillian and I both work three days a week. I work in East Hamilton at Activate Church as one of the Ministers on staff there and Gillian works as a Medical Practitioner in Morrinsville. We have a motorhome and a couple of Ebikes and Gillian makes sure that we go on adventures rather than always working on the property. As a good friend said to us when we moved to the Waikato, nothing is far from Eureka and that we have found to be true. We are also blessed in Eureka to escape many of the weather extremes to the north and south of us and consider it a privilege to live here in our little expression of paradise.

Michael & Gillian Brown.

Canada & Alaska RV Trip 2026

Gillian and I had visited Canada 26yrs ago with our children to meet some friends we'd made when we were all on a Contiki trip pf Europe (for the 18 – 35yr olds). They also had children by then. This time we wanted to explore parts of Canada and Alaska at our own pace and came across a Kiwi Travel Club initiative that resulted in 22 Kiwi's driving over 8000 km in 5 weeks.

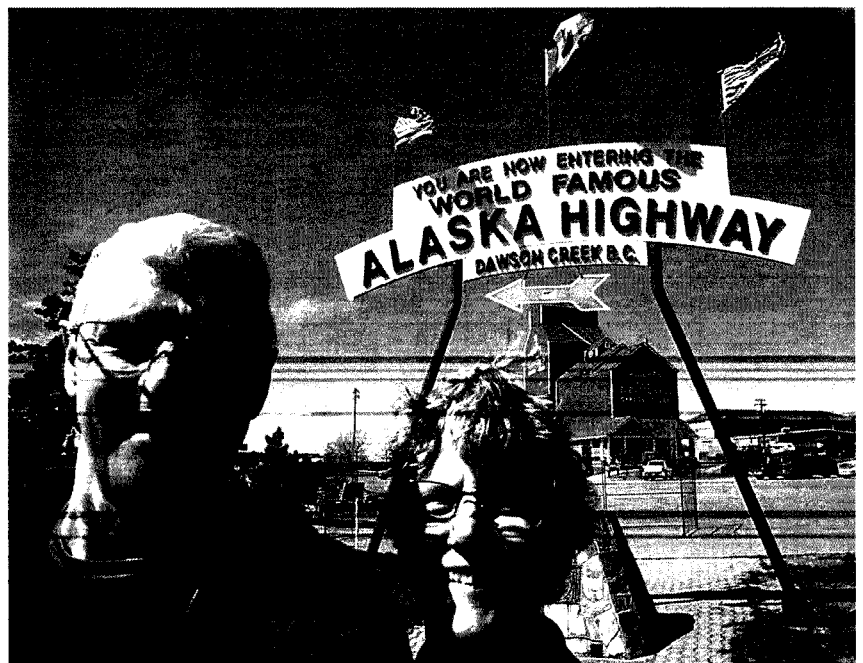
We picked up our RV's in Calgary, equipped with slide out's, generators, large propane tanks which supplied heating through floor vents and air conditioning when plug power was available through ceiling vents, fridge, freezer, microwave and convection oven, plus pod coffee machine. If you have tasted some Canadian and American coffee you will know why that is essential equipment. Fuel was cheaper than New Zealand which is important when you are driving a Ford E450 V8, 6 litre petrol.

First stop Walmart to stock up with essential supplies. We then drove through Alberta and into British Columbia, where we arrived at Dawson Creek which is the start of the Alaskan Highway. The initial highway, which was a four-wheel drive single lane road was built in 8 months by the American armed forces in 1942. We drove through mountains, some with snow, beside glacial fed rivers, spruce trees and deciduous trees. Along the way we encountered bears, bison and caribou. At Watson Lake we had hoped to see the Aurora Borealis (the Northern Lights) but we were there at the wrong time of the year, when the nights are too short.

We crossed over the American border and drove on to Fairbanks, Alaska where you can play golf in May at 12 midnight, if you feel so inclined. The Alaska Highway ended in Delta Junction, and we have a Certificate and Fridge Magnet to mark the occasion. We also saw the Trans Alaska Pipeline which runs from Prudhoe to Valdez 1287km. When America bought Alaska off Russia in 1867 for \$7.2 million US it was considered to be a wasteland and an extravagant waste of money. Much of the infra structure of Alaska has revolved around the discovery of oil and gold. Riverboats became a major form of transportation before the development of the railways. Huskies and sledges are still used today, and you may have heard of the Iditarod Trail Sled dog Race often called "The Last Great Race on Earth" covering 1600km. In Northern Alaska we were told twenty percent of the adults fly float planes to remote locations.

Denali National Park was stunning and Moose are huge, standing over three meters tall. Houses in Anchorage protect their deciduous trees from Moose who wander through some of the suburbs. On the way to Chicken, population of 12 people in the summer, we travelled over the summit in snow past the Eureka Roadhouse, which made us feel at home. Then onto Dawson City, famous for the Klondike Gold Rush, via Top of the World Highway which opened in May. Somewhere along the way we found a town called the North Pole and guess who we found there? Then back to Calgary via Jasper, Lake Louise and Banff. It was a wonderful trip and we made some lasting friendships as we travelled together.

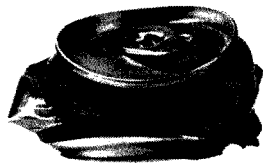
Michael & Gillian Brown



Donations:

A very big thankyou to Karyn Lockheart who generously donated her hall bond to both the Hall Committee and Eureka Express.

Also Ace from Ace’s Woodworking Studio for his very generous donation, after collecting cans and waste steel products that he recycled. Thank you for all your time consuming work and ongoing donations. These donations help us keep the Express in circulation.



If any one has any cans they wish to recycle on behalf of the Express please drop them off to Ace at 28A Eureka Road (take the driveway that is straight ahead).

Neighbourhood Watch:

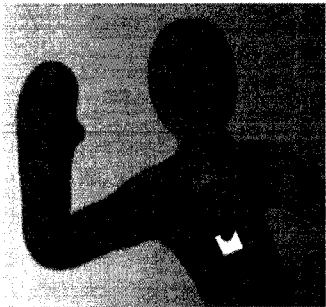


Be vigilant, people. Petrol thefts in rural areas are on the increase, striking one local company twice in a matter of weeks. A number of locals in the rural districts are reporting strange cars looking down driveways and even driving in. They are so brazen, that cameras don’t appear to be much of a deterrent these days, wearing hoodies and turning their heads away. Keep a watch out for your neighbours and strange cars around. In Hooper Road we have a messenger page where strange cars are reported quickly to each other, or if postie leaves a parcel, neighbours collect before the would be parcel thieves. This worked very well at xmas when they were following the postie van. It is also a good communication tool, for when neighbours dogs go visiting, lost cats and animals out on road.

Take care out there! Look out for each other!

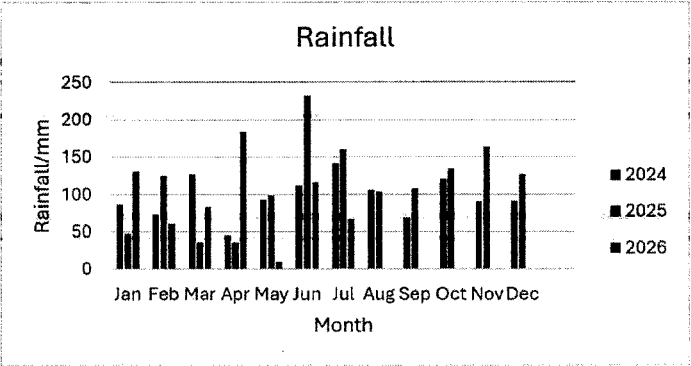
Elections

Reminder that the Electoral Commission, is presently sending out letters for you to check your information. You can choose to vote online but need to supply the Electoral Commission your email address by filling in the back of the form and posting away. Otherwise you will receive your Easy Vote card in the mail. If you haven’t received your letter contact 0800 36 76 56 or visit vote.nz Don’t forget to check your details and Vote on Saturday 7th November.



Weather

Weather for July	2026	2025
Rainfall total	66.5 mm	160.5 mm
Rain Total for year	651.5mm	736.5mm
Rainy days	10	13
Most daily rainfall	20 mm	40mm
Temp high	16.3°C	19.7 °C
Temp low	-3.4°C	-2.2 °C



Morrinsville's Herd of Cows

Nine new members have joined the town's favourite herd of cows, which were unveiled at a gala event at the Morrinsville Gallery.



The additions bring the number of painted fibreglass cows in the herd to 69. The Herd of Cows project began in 2015 when former Matamata-Piako District councillor Nicky Robb suggested that Morrinsville follow the lead of similar public art trails she had seen while living in the United States.

Fifteen cows arrived in April 2015 with a further 27 following later that year. Mabel, the herd's beloved Mega cow was installed at Power Farming in 2017.

Divine Bovine- sponsored by Seddon Park Funeral Home, blends a heavenly feel with rural imagery

Pi Kau- (Bee Cow) – Busy Bees was designed to reflect manaakitanga and the trust placed in the early childhood centre, with the centres past and present children contributing to the artwork.

Moostone- sponsored by Bridgestone tyre centre celebrates the rural heartbeat of Morrinsville, with rolling farmland, and grazing cattle and tyre-tread patterns.

Jess- Was commissioned by the Fraser Jones family for St Joseph's School and captures elements of the school's culture. Jess has taken her place on the school grounds on Linden St.

From Paddock to the Plug - sponsored by Ebbett Toyota and created by Chrissy Taylor in a cartoon meets Pop Art style

Moo-tallic- sponsored by Greenville Auto Painters showcases the craft of panel beating and airbrushing.

The Morrinsville Community House Cow - sponsored by Graham and Nancy Eastwood who gifted the property that became Community house.

Theatri-cow - sponsored by Steven and Annette Silcock for Morrinsville Theatre. The design captures the audience, the stage and a backstage dressing room scene, along with a nod to the old Morrinsville Little Theatre on Canada St.

Homegrown - Wrapped rather than hand painted was sponsored by Halter that depicts halter families and herds on their own farms.

An updated trail map will be available in the coming weeks from the Morrinsville i-site. and online, so locals and visitors alike can go and meet the newest members of the herd for themselves.

Ice Block Stick Crafts

Ice-block stick crafts were always very popular with the children at school.

Children can use own ideas, be creative and have a lot of fun.

The sticks can be purchased from The Warehouse and \$2 shops in two different sizes.

You will also need: hot glue gun, craft glue or pva, glitter, straws, pipe cleaners, googly eyes, diamantes, buttons, feathers, assortment of paint, depending on what you want to make.

There are lots of cool ideas on pinterest and craft sites. Be imaginative!

Some ideas:

Picture frames

Stars

Rockets

Christmas trees

Keyholders

Welcome signs

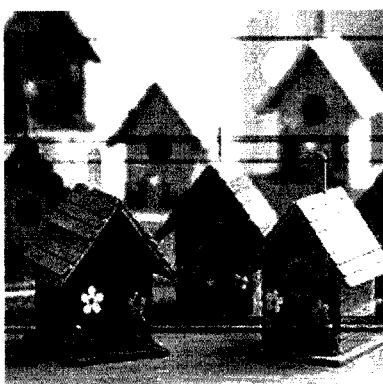
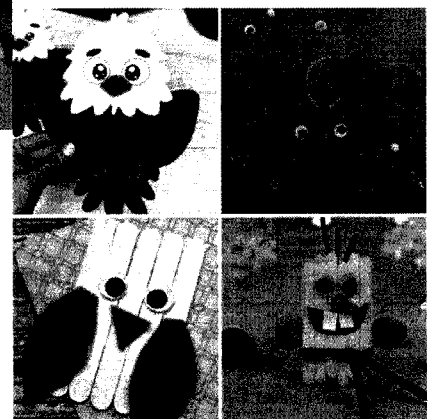
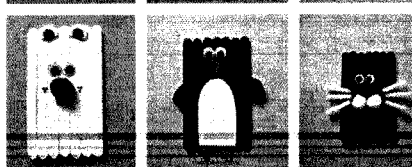
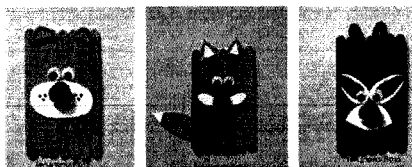
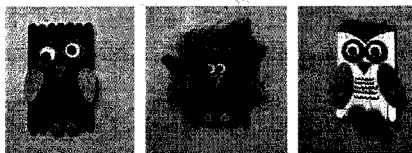
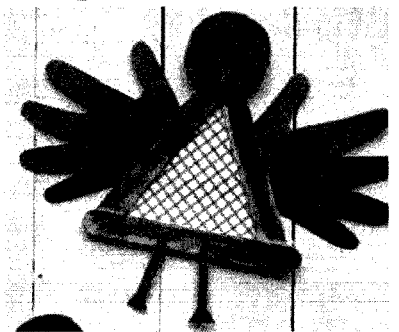
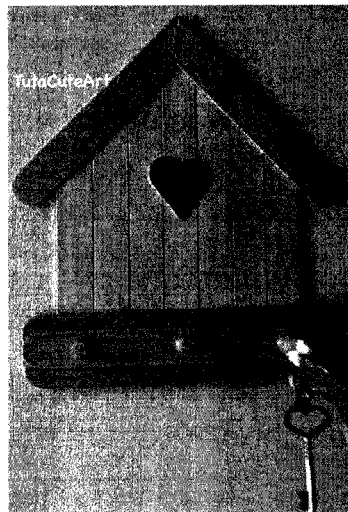
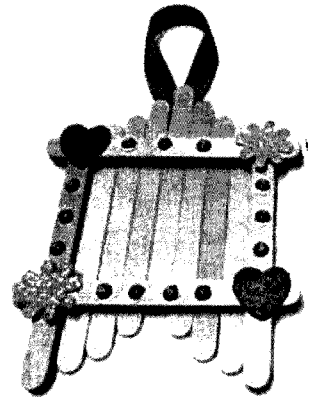
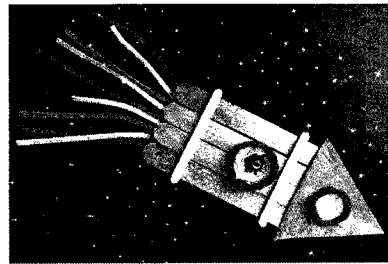
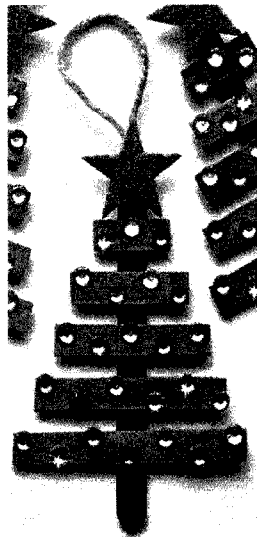
Bedroom sign

Animals

Bird Houses

Wands

Snowflakes



Tiny Hat & Booties

Double Knitting wool (8 ply) and size 8 (4mm) needles

Cast on 49 stitches and work in rib for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches finishing on the right side row

Row 1 : Purl 7, purl 2tog, (purl 6, purl 2tog) repeat to the end of row

Row 2: Purl

Row 3 to 8: knit 6 rows stocking stitch

Row 9: Purl

Row 10: with right side facing (knit 3, knit 2tog) repeat to end of row

Row 11: Purl

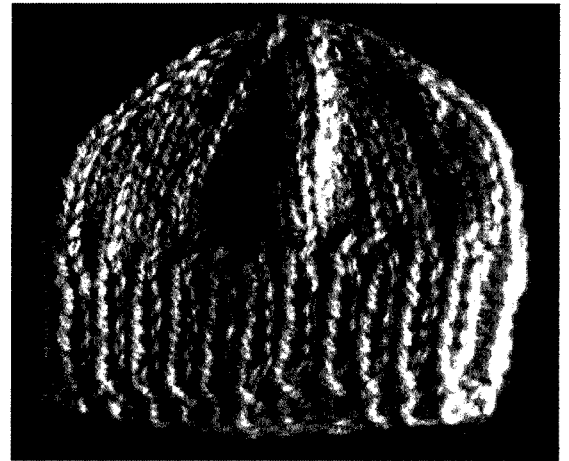
Row 12: (Knit 2, knit 2 tog) repeat to end of row

Row 13: Purl

Row 14: (Knit 1, Knit 2tog,) repeat to end of row

Row 15: (Purl 2 tog) repeat to end of row 8 stitches remaining

Thread wool through remaining stitches and pull tight, sew in carefully and sew down both sides of hat together.



Booties

Double Knitting wool (8 ply) and size 8 (4mm) needles

Cast on 25 stitches and knit 8 rows

Row 9: Knit 10, K2tog, K1, K2tog, k10

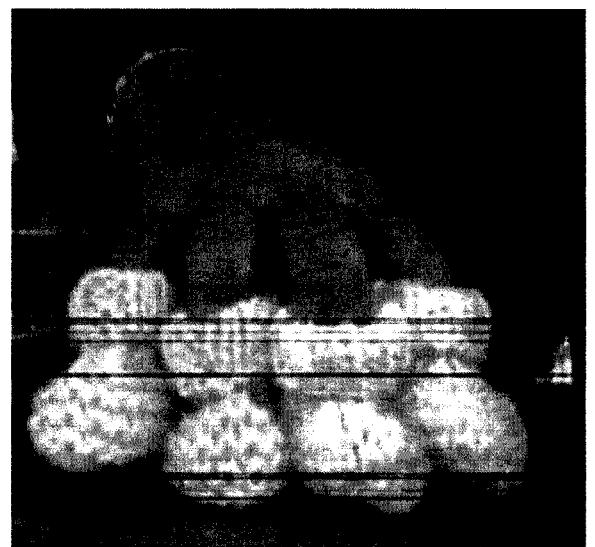
Row 10: Purl 9, p2tog, P1, P2tog, p9

Row 11: Knit 8, k2tog, K1, k2tog, k8

Row 12: Purl 7, p2tog, p1, p2tog, p 7

Rib 8 rows, cast off in rib

Told booties in half, sew up the sole around Outside edge to the ankle



Next month: Grannies knitted slippers

Ladies a plate

Easy Apple Tart

250 gm soft butter	1 tsp vanilla essence
¾ cup castor sugar	2 ½ cups flour
1 egg	2 ½ tsps. baking powder
Grated rind of an orange	400g tin of apple pieces



Beat together the butter and sugar. Add egg, rind and vanilla. Beat well. Add flour and baking powder. Spread 2/3 of mixture in base of well-greased and floured loose bottom cake tin. Spread over the sugar and apple then dot over the remaining dough. Bake at 190 deg for 40 minutes. Sprinkle with icing sugar and serve with whipped cream.

Savoury Glazed Meatloaf

750 mince	1 cup soft breadcrumbs
1 tbsp Worcester sauce	2 tbsp tomato sauce
1 tsp salt and pepper	1 medium chopped onion
160ml milk	1 dsp dry mustard
1 beaten egg	

Mix all ingredients together. It is a moist mixture. Press into a greased loaf tin. Bake at 180 deg for 15mins, then remove and brush loaf with glaze – (½ tsp dry mustard, ¼ cup tomato sauce, 1 tbsp brown sugar)

Return to oven and bake a further 50 to 60 minutes.

Recipe compliments of Kazza



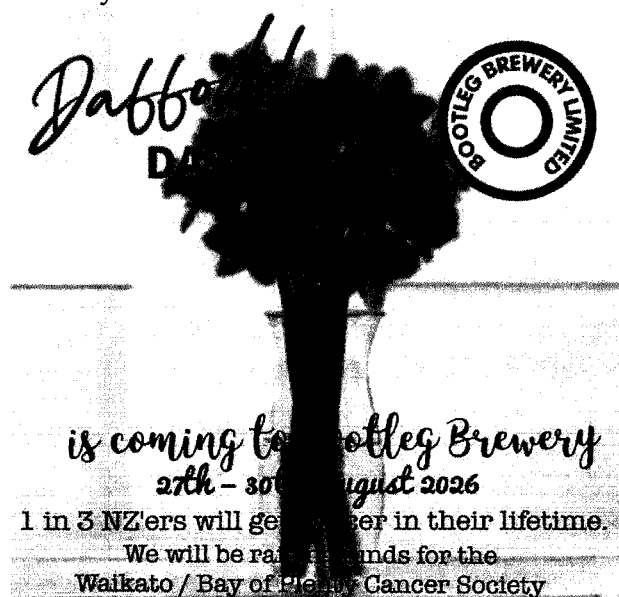
BOOTLEG BREWERY IN SEPTEMBER



Daffodil Day is this weekend.

1 in 3 New Zealanders is likely to get some form of cancer during their life.

We're very aware of this at Bootleg – one of our staff has stage 4 cancer. And a couple of our regulars have dealt with it recently... So we're raising funds to help with the work of the Waikato Bay of Plenty Cancer Society.

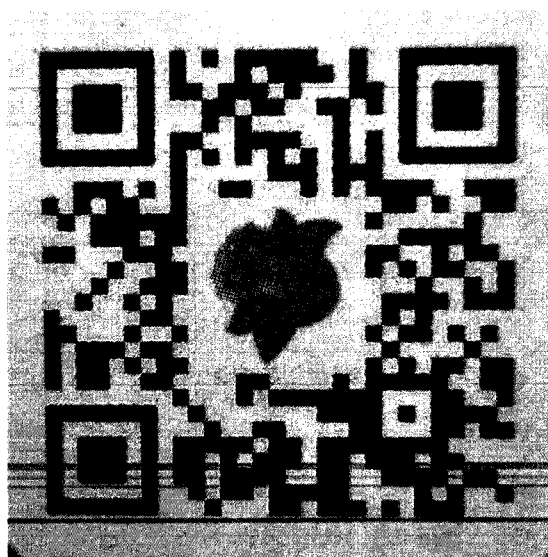


All funds go directly to the Cancer Society – click on the scan on the right in the next week. Choose the amount you want to donate, Waikato for the area, and the Organisation is Bootleg Brewery. We're also taking funds at the brewery.. Easy! Thank you.

Keep an eye on the food trucks this month – there are some special ones booked.

CATERERS COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER

Thu 27 th	Thai On The Fly
Fri 28 th	Sweet and Sassy Smokehouse
Sat 29 th	ROAM
Sun 30 th	Smokin' Oak Barbecue
SEPTEMBER	
Thu 3 rd	Kaliméra Pizzas
Fri 4 th	All Around The World
Sat 5 th	Smokin' Oak Barbecue
Sun 6 th	Suzuya Japanese
Thu 10 th	Kaliméra Pizzas
Fri 11 th	Sweet and Sassy Smokehouse
Sat 12 th	All Around The World
Sun 13 th	Kaliméra Pizzas
Thu 17 th	Suzuya Japanese
Fri 18 th	Kaliméra Pizzas
Sat 19 th	Thai On The Fly
Sun 20 th	Sweet and Sassy Smokehouse
Thu 24 th	Suzuya Japanese
Fri 25 th	All Around The World
Sat 26 th	Smokin' Oak Barbecue
Sun 27 th	ROAM



The food caterers are all happy to cater for pick-ups while the brewery is open, and the food can be packed for takeaways.

In the Old Dairy Factory, 452 Matangi Road, MATANGI. Ph 022-463-1726

July Hall Update

On 5th July about 35 people of Eureka gathered for afternoon tea with the Mayor Aksel Bech to hear about the government's proposed big change to how councils are organised across New Zealand. By simplifying local government the aim is to reduce duplication and cost for example by combining two or more district or city councils with regional councils into a single council that covers the combined jobs. We discussed the pros and cons of different combinations of councils. Some councils have higher debt per resident than others, which is a consideration. Rural communities have smaller populations and need a voice.

Councils were invited by central government to put forward initial proposals and for that the council sought feedback from residents. Feedback closed on 10th July. It is unknown how combining councils would impact representation of residents and numbers of councillors and how many redundancies might occur.

The discussion was followed by a generous self-catered afternoon tea.

The hall committee was asked if they needed an increase to targeted rates to cover hall costs. Since there have been no major expenses this year there was no need.

Hall bookings are managed by Kathryn Schicker. Kathryn's system is to check emails requesting bookings on Monday night. If you are requesting a booking for the next weekend after Monday, please still send your email and text me so that I can alert Kathryn about an urgent booking. Many of the committee have full time jobs. This means we are not necessarily immediately available and have to juggle this voluntary activity with other work.

I can be contacted on 0221238220. Texts work well if I don't answer. I especially appreciate your calls about anything out of place or damaged at the hall.

For all your hall bookings please email Eurekahallwaikato@gmail.com and if you forget how to book the hall, it is displayed on the hall signage.

Regards Susan Rudolf

Chairperson

Phone 0221238220.



RESPECT - RESILIENCE - RESPONSIBILITY

TAUWHARE SCHOOL

Term 3 – AUGUST 2026

WWW.TAUWHARE.SCHOOL.NZ

TOP NEWS

Where the Wild Things Run

Our annual Cross Country was a fantastic display of resilience, with every child giving their all and pushing themselves to achieve their own personal goals. It was wonderful to see students supporting one another, persevering when the course became challenging, and celebrating their own achievements.

Congratulations to our Cup Race place-getters:

1st – Blake, 2nd – Ryan, and 3rd – Chris.

A huge well done to everyone who took part and showed our school value of Resilience in action.

Turning The Page

At Tauwhare School, we are committed to creating a strong culture of reading and ensuring every child has access to books they can connect with. From our school library to classroom and outdoor libraries, we make books visible, accessible and part of everyday school life. We believe that readers are leaders, and through fostering a love of reading, we are helping to cultivate the next generation of confident, curious and capable learners and leaders. (Left) Milee and Ayla share their stories with each other under a tree.



Safe Mode Activated: A Conversation about Online Safety



We were fortunate to welcome Mike Fitness and Frank Young to Tauwhare School for an informative evening focused on digital safety. They shared their knowledge, practical advice and insights to help our whānau and wider community navigate the ever-changing digital world with greater confidence. It was a valuable evening with plenty of key takeaways, thoughtful conversations and practical strategies that families can take away and put into practice. A big thank you to Mike and Frank for sharing their expertise and supporting our community.



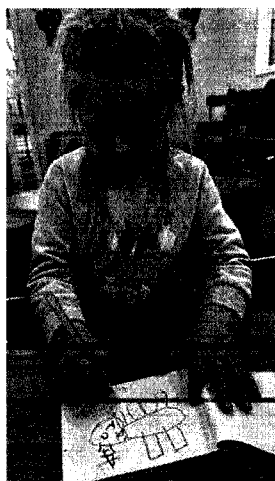
We have two spaces available in our preschool room from late September onwards for children aged 2–6 years.

If you've been thinking about starting your little one at Pukeko Country Preschool, now is the time to get in touch.

At Pukeko, we provide a warm, nurturing environment where children can learn through play, build friendships, develop confidence and enjoy exploring our beautiful rural surroundings.

Whether your child is ready for their first step into early childhood education or you're looking for a new preschool for your whānau, we'd love to welcome you in for a visit and show you what Pukeko is all about.

Spaces are limited, so get in touch today to arrange a visit or find out more.



Nga mihi,
Alea Mosen
Centre Lead



New Zealand Native Birds

Z M N H S H K O R I M A K O T X T
Y G X R Y S E H A R O G J A U D H
K E R O A K P K T M P T R F I C O
K A V E D W E O T A A S J J G Q K
I F K Q H W A R N V K X N H U C U
G R C I M P X V E I A A D E Z H K
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PIWAKAWAKA
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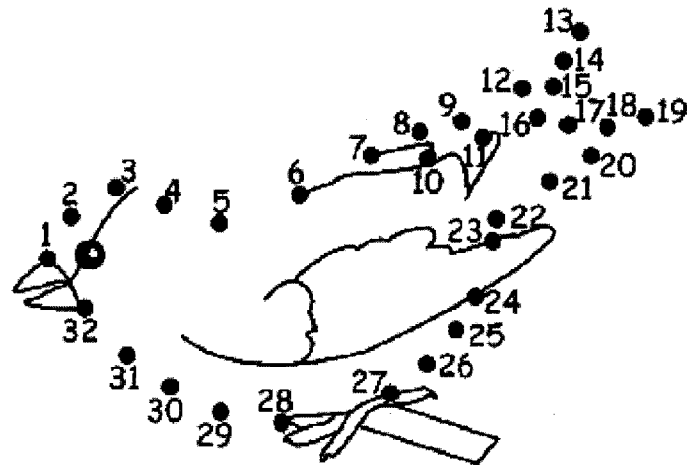
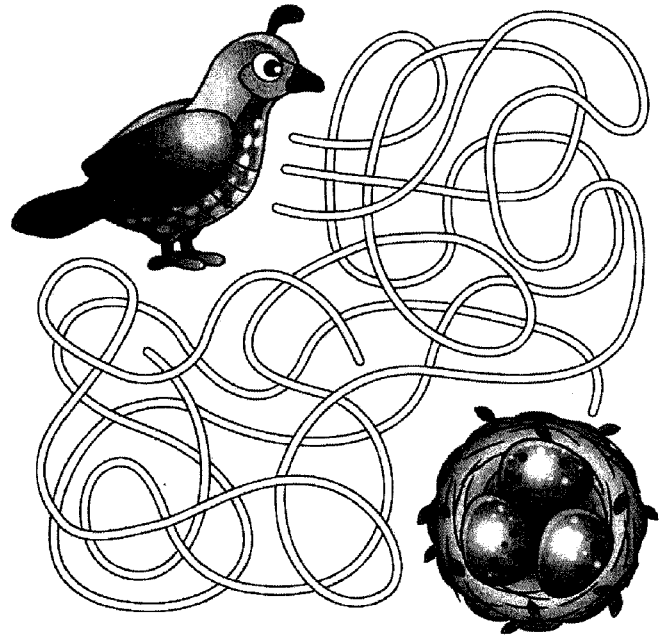
KOTUKU
KAKAPO
TOROA
KAKA
KEA

unscramble the names of the Bird and write it in the blank.

1  ANUOCT	2  DEVO	3  ASNW
4  OEOSG	5  ENPIACL	6  WLO
7  COAVET	8  UKCD	9  PCEOCKA

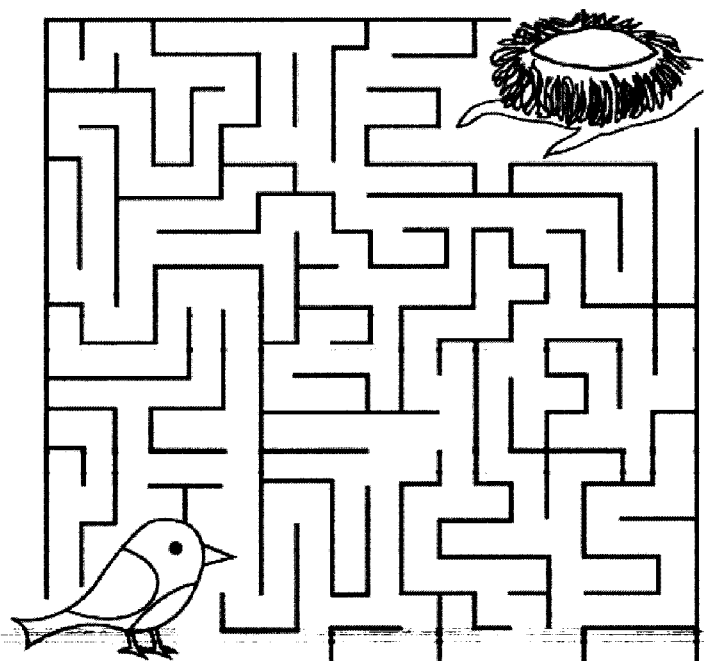
Toucan, dove, swan, goose, pelican,
owl, avocet, duck, peacock

Which path leads to the Nest



Bird Maze

Help the bird get back to its nest.



Gardening Tips

Recent frosts may have damaged plants in your garden, with visible signs beginning to appear. If you suspect frost damage, follow these practical tips to help your plants recover:

Protection: The dead blackened foliage acts as an extra blanket, shielding the healthy lower stems and roots from any subsequent freezes.

Prevent extra shock: Pruning stimulates active new growth. If a new frost hits while fresh shoots are appearing, the plant will suffer even worse damage.

Accurate assessment: It is impossible to tell which parts are truly dead and which are merely surface-damaged until the weather warms, and natural spring growth begins.

Recommended Steps for Recovery

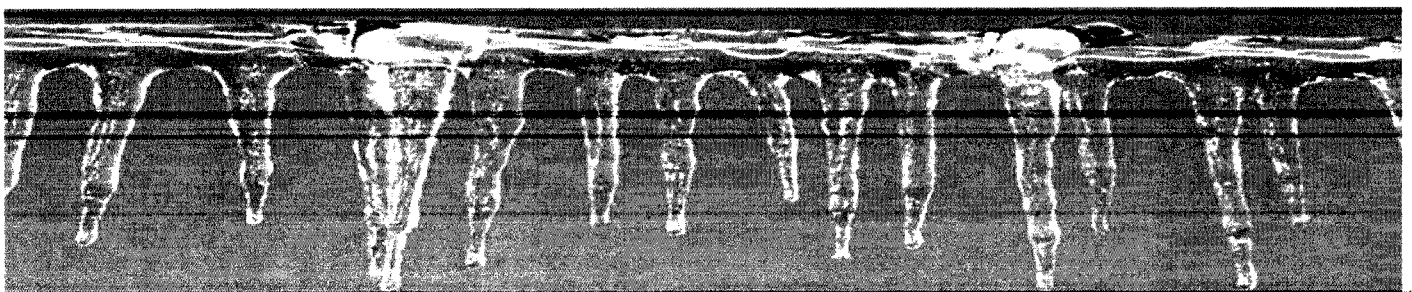
Don't feed plants yet if you suspect frost damage as the same thing can occur. New fresh growth will not have time to harden off if there is a late frost. Wait until new growth appears before removing damaged plant material.

Water the roots adequately (unless the ground is frozen) so the plant stays hydrated and can draw up vital energy.

Once the risk of frost has completely passed (usually mid-to-late spring), use clean shears to cut back the dead, brown material to a live stem junction.

Similarly, some lawns will be starting to look a little yellow/brown and sad, this is frost damage. Don't be tempted to feed the lawn until temperatures warm up as the grass isn't actively growing and so not taking up nutrients – leave it for a few weeks until temperatures warm up and the risk of frost has passed. Then feed frost damaged lawns

Don't be surprised if plants look like they have survived the frost, remaining green for several weeks after temperatures warm up then collapse. This can happen and often there is little that can be done to save the plant when it gets to this point. Don't give up totally, some plants do regenerate successfully, it just may take some time for the new growth to appear



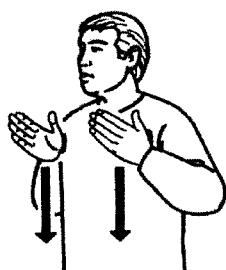
Next month, Deaf people and Deaf people with disabilities will raise awareness as we celebrate our community, culture, and sign language from 21st to 27th of September. We mark this every September.

The theme is Human Rights Week for Deaf people and Deaf people with disabilities.

The human rights of Deaf people are closely linked to the recognition, protection, and promotion of sign languages and Deaf culture. Instead of seeing deafness only as a medical issue or stereotype, international human rights frameworks recognise Deaf people, including those with disabilities, as members of unique linguistic and cultural minorities.

Here is how these rights are established and protected worldwide.

- 1.The Foundation: The CRPD
2. Linguistic Rights as Human Rights
3. The Right to Cultural Identity
4. Current Challenges and Implementation Gaps



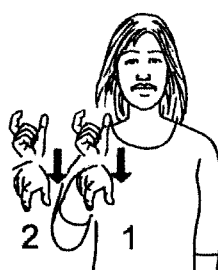
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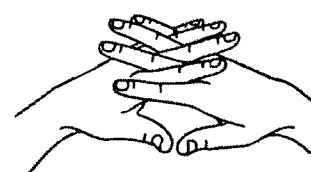
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mana whakarite



people

tāngata



week

wiki



week

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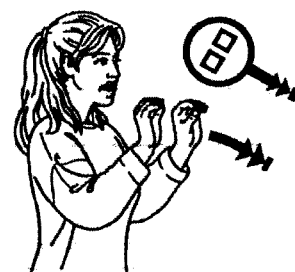
jail, police

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pirihimana, ture*



arrest

hopukina e te ture



education,
teach

mātauranga, ako

Tamahere-Woodlands Councillors' update August 2026

A strong local voice remains vital for Council amalgamation

Rates affordability, managing debt and a strong local voice were common goals raised by our community over the past month as we started engaging in the biggest local government reorganisation in nearly 40 years.

Following a flurry of local consultation meetings, Waikato, Waipa and South Waikato District Councils have together submitted a proposal to the Government to amalgamate five councils (including Taupo and Hamilton City) to form a "Western Waikato Unitary Authority" broadly covering the Waikato-Waipā catchments. Taupo and Hamilton have rejected the proposal in favour of taking a "backstop" position, so we now await a Government decision in September to find out if further design work can continue. If accepted by the Government 'in principle', the Western Waikato proposal will undergo more detailed design and the community can expect to be consulted again early in the New Year before the proposal is refined for a final decision by Government in May. "Head Start" proposals accepted by the Government will be put in place through legislation in time for the 2028 local body elections. If the proposal is rejected, then Waikato District Council will be subject to a mandatory "backstop" which means reorganisation by legislation after the 2028 elections.

As well as the Western Waikato proposal, two other amalgamation proposals have been submitted for councils in the Waikato region. Otorohanga and Waitomo District Councils are seeking a King Country amalgamation model. Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako District Councils have submitted an Eastern Waikato proposal covering the Waihou-Piako and Coromandel catchments. All "Head Start" amalgamation proposals submitted by Councils around the country can be found on the Local Government NZ website. Go to www.lgnz.co.nz and search for "Head Start".

New-look rates invoices

Your rates invoice looks a little different starting this financial year because water services are now being delivered by IAWAI – Flowing Waters Ltd, the council-controlled organisation that is 100% owned by Waikato District and Hamilton City Councils. This means fixed charges for water and wastewater are now listed separately, but the way they are set hasn't changed. They are added together with the remaining council rates to provide one total to pay. You can continue paying your invoice the same way you always have. If you already pay your rates by automatic payment, your water charges will also be paid automatically.

Waikato District Long Term Plan work underway

The Council plans to hold informal discussions with the community on its next Long Term Plan (LTP) within the next month. We'll be seeking community perspectives on key topics to help shape the plan. Formal consultation is expected to be held in March next year once there is a formal draft plan to share.

A recent "high-level" Council LTP assets workshop identified more work is required to allow for an increase in stormwater OPEX to cover additional regulatory and consenting requirements, and the roading budget is so far allowing for 3% roading renewals whereas 6-8% is needed for long-term sustainable management. A subsequent LTP workshop has been held to scrutinise budget carry forwards to ensure funding continues to support Council's strategic priorities.

New contracts for open spaces maintenance

The Council has appointed new contractors to maintain its open spaces from 1 August. Downer has been appointed to maintain Council parks, gardens and cemeteries. Aceline will be responsible for sports field maintenance and associated equipment. The new contractors take over from outgoing contractor CityCare.

Slow Fashion September

The Council is on a mission to combat the local effects of fast fashion that sees over 533 tonnes of fabric waste ending up in the district's landfill each year. This September we've partnered with stylists, sewing experts and waste minimisation champions to run a series of events to help you repair and/or refresh your clothes without adding to fabric waste. There are online clothing repair workshops, in-person stylist sessions across the district, an OpShop bus tour, and even a bra donation drive. The events are supported by the Ministry for the Environment Waste Minimisation Funding. For more info go to www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz and click on "Slow Fashion September".

Fast Track update

Council received an update on Fast Track proposals in Waikato District at a recent Policy & Regulatory committee meeting. There are now 16 projects in Waikato District that have either been listed or referred for Fast Track, with one ("Green Steel") having been approved. These can all be found on the Government's Fast Track website, and represent nearly half of the 34 projects referred for fast track throughout the Waikato Region so far. Two more development proposals in Waikato District are still awaiting the Minister's consideration for Fast Track referral. They are "The Rest Tauwhare" and "Horsham Downs Estate".

Other local news:

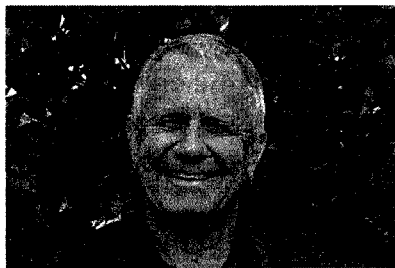
Roading programme 2026-27 – includes planned reseals and rehabs (reconstruction) for roads in Tamahere-Woodlands. Reseals are planned for sections of Eureka Rd, Holland Rd, Hunter Rd, Matangi Rd, Pickering Rd, Seddon Rd, Tauwhare Rd and Waverley Rd, and rehabs planned for sections of Bellevue Rd, Hiwi Rd, Peach Rd, Tamahere Dr and Tauwhare Rd.

Woodcock-Tauwhare Rd corner – redesign and construction is currently planned for 2027/28.

Reserve planning – proposed designs for Matangi sports reserve and Tamahere reserve have been produced, but are still subject to more work and a wider community consultation process.

Speed limit changes – a rollout of new signage is underway to put in place the Council's speed limit plan (superceding the speed limit bylaw, which will be revoked.) The full plan can be found on the Council website. Go to www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities then click on "Roads and footpaths" and then click on "Road safety".

Contact your Tamahere-Woodlands Councillors:



Crystal Beavis, mob 0275 957 927, email crystal.beavis@waidc.govt.nz

Mike Keir, mob 027 449 3012, email mike.keir@waidc.govt.nz





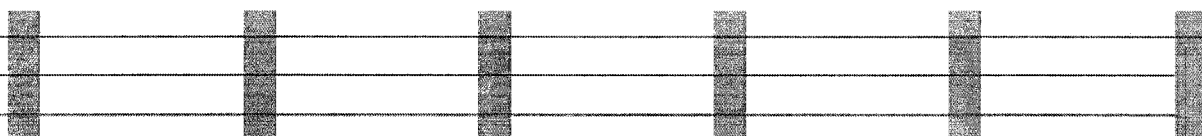
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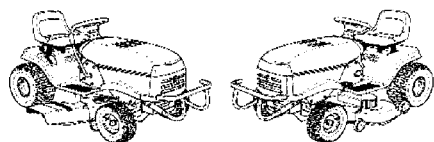
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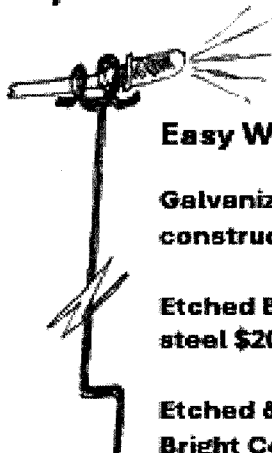
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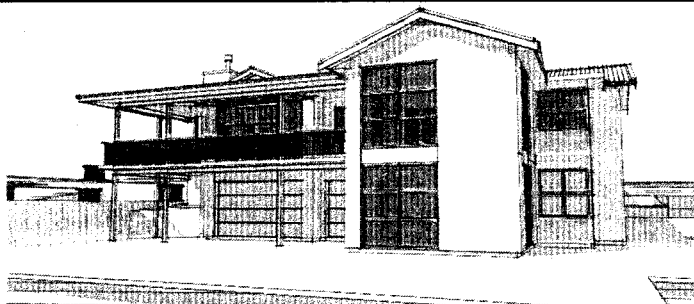
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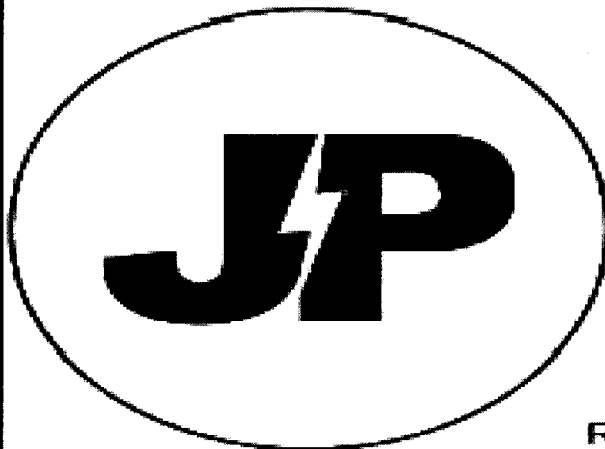
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