



**DUART HOUSE** is a lovely destination, with the Grade II listed historic homestead at 51 Duart Road, Havelock North set in just over three acres of colourful gardens and well-kept grounds, only a couple of minutes' drive from the village's bustling CBD.

Originally built for Scotsman Allan McLean and his wife Hannah in 1882, ninety years later, through the generosity of its then owner, Miss Rosemary Greenwood, it was sold to the Havelock North Borough Council for \$22,000, well below its Government Valuation of \$38,000. The 2019 GV was \$2.5 million and it will be a lot more now!



The house was built of heart totara floated down the Esk River and from heart kauri brought by sea from Auckland, then rafted in from a ship out in the Bay. The studs are heart kauri and the mock cornerstones outside are solid totara. The main feature of the dining room is its kauri panelling. During the 1931 earthquake, the house itself withstood the shaking but three chimneys came down.



The Duart House Society (Inc) was founded in 1985. It holds a lease of the house and the reserve from the Hastings District Council and, by obtaining grants, hiring the venue out for occasions such as weddings and hosting fundraising events it has almost totally refurbished the interior of the house. Importantly, the original character of the colonial building has been maintained.



The house contains twenty paintings by George Thompson Pritchard (1878-1962) while the Bill Dorward Museum collection is curated in buildings which were originally the servants' quarters.



Since 1990, members of the Duart House Croquet Club have enjoyed playing the game on a full-sized and well-maintained lawn, leased from the Society. Club day is on Tuesday afternoons and a group of members play on Saturday afternoons. The lawns are also occasionally hired out to businesses or groups for social games. Enquiries to: 8777458.



There are a number of mature trees in the garden. Perhaps the most notable is the Coronation Oak, planted by Hannah McLean to commemorate Edward VII's ascension to the UK throne in 1902.



While Hastings District Council maintains the grounds, a small but dedicated group of volunteers spends time planting and weeding to enhance the under-utilised areas. Beds of lovely, colourful roses, annuals and perennials are on show around the house and driveway while in the lower sections, the focus is more on



native plantings and improving biodiversity around the little wetland area by the Duart Stream. An attractive birdbath was generously donated by a volunteer and this is a popular bathing and drinking spot for birdlife, particularly during the long, hot summers. More info:- <https://www.duarthouse.org.nz>



**DIRTY DUMPING UPDATE:** Good News! Thanks to advice and expertise from the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, tons of disgusting iron and junk buried for decades in an old orchard dump right beside the Karituwhenua Stream in Palmbrook Reserve have been removed and carted off to landfill. It's a win for the environment as the initial



plan was for the dump to be covered up and planted over. HBRC contractors dug out the dump, trucked away its contents and built a retaining wall protected by limestone boulders - finishing literally hours before heavy rain soaked the region in the first week of November. Read more at:- <https://baybuzz.co.nz/great-spin-from-hdc/> and <https://baybuzz.co.nz/palmbrook-reserve-or-dump/> If you know about any old dumps, particularly if they're near water, please contact HDC and HBRC.



**SAVE OUR STREAMS S.O.S.** The neglected state of the Havelock North streams (most notably the Mangarau and Herehere was reported to HDC back in May by the newly formed Havelock North Streams Restoration Group. A follow up article in *Bay Buzz* informed the community:- <https://baybuzz.co.nz/save-our-streams-s-o-s/>



However, over the next seven months, HDC managers did nothing to clear the weed-stricken streams. I was dismayed when I saw the still appalling state of the Herehere stream at the end of October. Apart from countless tons of dead and dying weeds (as previously reported), there were tyres, a couple of plastic chairs, a road cone, submerged metal, plastic bags and disgusting general detritus in the stream bed along its entire length between Middle Road and Reynolds Road.



I untangled the chairs from the weed, took them home, hosed them and gave them to an op shop.



As the Herehere flows into Te Karamū, a polluted waterway which the HBRC and wider community are making serious efforts to clean up, I contacted the Regional Council, attaching a range of photos.

The HBRC's CE, James Palmer, responded positively and told me the good news that the HBRC will be employing catchment coordinators to support and mobilise volunteer groups, as well as other partners like HDC, iwi and funders, to restore and protect these streams. This is a very encouraging initiative and provides a ray of hope that something is finally going to be done to mitigate a serious and long-neglected pollution problem.



Rotary Havelock North is featuring again this month, helping out with another good community project.



Members cleared the extensive bank between the carpark and the railway station at Keirunga Gardens and planted grasses specially selected for the hot, dry location.



As well as that, the team held various working bees and created several attractive raised garden beds with retaining walls, which visitors will enjoy as they walk past on their way to the trains.



**CONGRATULATIONS!** I was told about the fantastic work that the Te Wai Mauri Trust and its Kaitiaki Rangers were doing for whānau and the environment a few months ago and have let others know, so it was great to see that the Trust took out the **Best Emerging Business** category at the 2021 Pan Pac Hawke's Bay Business Awards a couple of weeks ago. Congratulations also to the enterprising and hard-working Stobart family and their team at Birdwoods Gallery for winning the award for the **Ultimate Visitor Experience**.

The lovely sculpture garden at Birdwoods, its café, unique gift-shop and sweet-shop make it a favourite destination and venue for both locals and out-of-town visitors.



## PICTURE PERFECT

This lovely rural scene was captured by HBRC's Open Spaces Team Leader, Russell Engelke, when he was out and about, driving along Tuki Tuki Road.

In the 'good old days', whenever I had family or visitors from overseas coming to stay, the first thing I liked to do was to hop in the car and drive them up to Te Mata Peak for a 360° view of Hawke's Bay.

Then we'd come back down Te Mata Peak Road, hang a right, call into Craggy Range Winery on the way to Red Bridge and then cross the Tuki Tuki river.

This photo is taken a couple of kms from Red Bridge before passing Tuki Tuki homestead and on up to the lookout where the view back to the peak is one of the most photographed vistas in the region.



The next part of the scenic drive was to enjoy the winding road through to Te Awanga, stopping off for lunch at Clifton, or maybe bringing a picnic and parking up somewhere on the way. Homeward bound, we'd cross over the river at Black Bridge and head back to the village. Next time you have friends coming to stay and the weather is nice, this is just the most beautiful drive anyone could wish for and a real opportunity for locals to show visitors the very best scenery Hawke's Bay has to offer.

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**The Department of Conservation (DOC)** recently investigated concerning reports of kororā (little blue penguins) being handled by irresponsible members of the public at coastal sites near Napier.

"People appear to think it's okay to pick up penguins, pat them, and try to feed them and often the goal is just a selfie for social media," said DOC Hawke's Bay's Operations Manager, Moana Smith-Dunlop.



Clearly, it's not okay. Cute they may be, but these are wild birds and this stupidity would distress them, so if you see anyone interfering with kororā, please contact **0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468)**.



On a brighter note, Napier Port, in partnership with the manu whenua hapū of Ahuriri and Napier City Council, has launched a penguin research and enhancement programme as part of its Marine Cultural Health Programme.

There are about 150 nesting sites at the port and in surrounding coastal revetment walls. Kaitiaki Rangers from Te Wai Mauri Trust are installing nesting boxes and placing traps to help control predators such as rodents and stoats. Trust chairman, Te Kaha Hawaikirangi said, "This mahi will help raise awareness about the importance and uniqueness of our local environment and its wildlife, specifically for the kororā and reinforce the need to protect and care for these taonga species." This is really good news for wildlife.

**SAFETY FIRST:** The much anticipated cycling and pedestrian boardwalk along the notoriously dangerous Tauroa Valley Road is nearing completion. The photo, taken at the end of October, shows some of the 162 sturdy wooden poles needed to support the elevated section as it passes above Tauroa Reserve. The \$1.3 million boardwalk was co-funded by HDC and the Provincial Growth Fund as a post-COVID 'shovel ready' project and is designed to get cyclists and pedestrians safely to and from Te Mata Park and the village.



**FIREWORKS FOLLY:** The planned firework display at the Property Brokers Christmas at the Park event which was to have been held in Anderson Park was cancelled. WATCHDOG!'s very well-supported petition to ban them was signed by

over 1,000 caring people, sending Napier City Council and organiser, David Trim, from the Kaisen Charitable Trust a very clear message that their idea to set off fireworks in the vicinity of a protected wildlife sanctuary was as crazy as it was cruel.

NCC's CE, Dr Steph Rotarangi, responded promptly and has assured WATCHDOG! that Council will now commit to making sure its procedures around fireworks are reviewed. Huge thanks to everyone who signed up to help protect the innocent birdlife and for the many messages of support.



## WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre is a not-for-profit charity that relies on grants, donations and visitors' entry fees to breed rare native species for release into the wild. It is located on State Highway 2 between Hawke's Bay and Wellington,



just a 20-minute drive north of Masterton.

The 942 hectare, unfenced breeding sanctuary, is maintained through traplines and bait stations to allow wild bird species such as kiwi, kōkako, kererū and kākā to call the ngahere (forest) their home. At last count in 2019, Pūkaha had forty pairs of wild kōkako roaming free in their forest. Lucky visitors may get to see them during the centre's popular 2-hour looped walking trail that also takes in stunning mountain vistas of the Wairarapa and Tararua ranges.

Over summer, the wildlife in the reserve thrives due to the abundance of flowering forest food. There are often kiwi eggs in incubators waiting to hatch and sometimes even young kiwi chicks being fed. On rare occasions a visit may even be timed just right to see a kiwi hatch!



The centre has four daily visitor talks throughout the day which include tuatara, kiwi, tuna (eels) and kākā. Both the eel and kākā talks are also feeding sessions and these are the highlight of any visit.

The centre also breeds whio (blue duck), pāteke (brown duck), the critically endangered tūturuatu (shore plover)

and the very rare and severely threatened orange-fronted parakeet. Guests can also view takahē from the observation deck at the Kākā Café.



Relax in Nature, walking amongst ancient native forest and see some of Aotearoa's most iconic birds and wildlife. Open daily over spring/summer, 9am – 6pm, except for Christmas Day. Adults \$22, Kids \$7, Families \$55. Visit <https://pukaha.org.nz> for more information. *Thanks to Tara Swan for the fabulous photos of the kererū, kiwi chick, takahē and kākā.*



**POOR TERRY:** Terry, the lonesome hawksbill sea turtle on display at the National Aquarium of NZ in Napier could remain incarcerated in his 3m x 12m tank, where he has been held captive since 2002, until he dies. What a nightmare existence.

Following concerns raised about his welfare and the welfare of other marine species held there in an RNZ article dated 22 July, WATCHDOG! asked MPI and the accrediting ZAA to inspect the aging facility. They did so and, sadly for the creatures detained there, both authorities reported that they didn't identify any animal welfare issues. It appears to WATCHDOG! that the Animal Welfare Act 1999, which sanctions the use of this sort of unsuitably small tank, is totally unfit for purpose. The question for NCC personnel, inspectors and readers is, 'How would you like to have been imprisoned in MIQ as a child, held there since 1979 and then have to live out the rest of your life in such a confined, boring space?' It appears morally and ethically wrong to WATCHDOG! that this sort of unnatural confinement is apparently within the law and deemed 'okay' by those who could recommend improvements. Can public opinion help Terry?

**FILLING THE GAP:** Napier City Council has identified a Westshore location sited opposite the airport, known as 'The Gap', as a Significant Natural Area. A fortnight ago, locals joined ecologists Kay Griffiths and Marie Taylor to mark, map and count the precious native plants there. Stage 2 will see the area restored and the local biodiversity enhanced. If you'd like to help with this great project, e-mail Debbie Monahan (seen here hard at work), General Manager at Biodiversity Hawke's Bay on:- [gm@biodiversityhb.nz](mailto:gm@biodiversityhb.nz)



If you're aware of a conservation champion or something relevant going on in Hawke's Bay, please let me know and I'll be happy to follow it up:- [jessicamaxwell2017@gmail.com](mailto:jessicamaxwell2017@gmail.com)



*I saw a woman talking to her cat.  
She really thought the cat understood.*

*I told my dog when I got home and  
we both had a good laugh!*

