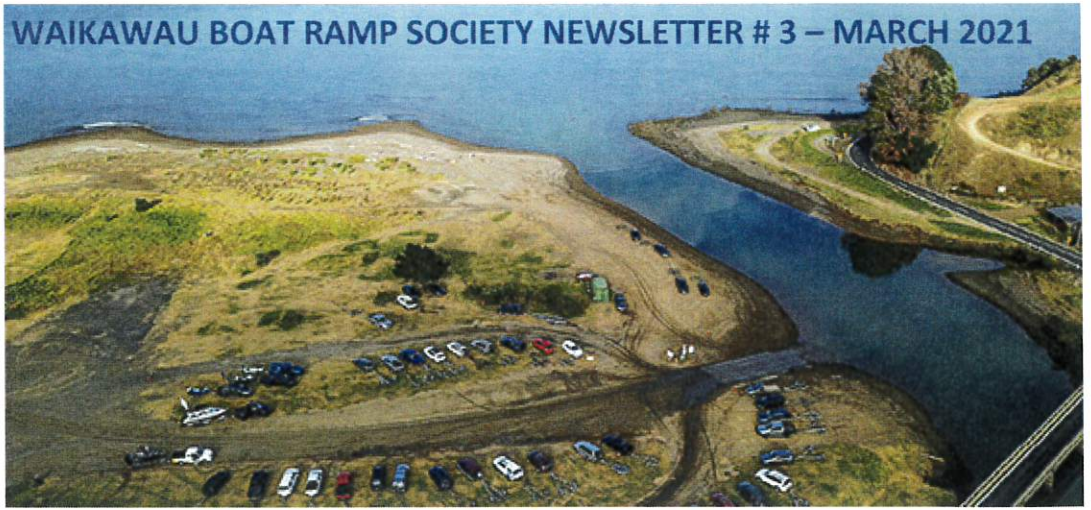


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Hello Members

Where this year has gone already is a mystery to me as it will soon be easter.

As promised at the last AGM, this is our latest newsletter with the last of the bio's of our hard working ramp wardens. These guys are at the coal face and sometimes can be at the wrong end of someone's frustrations.

Please remember that our guys are volunteers and without them our boat ramp would not be what it is today. As you are all aware we have had a huge number of first time users over the last 10 months and we have 240 new members. We are also up on last year's membership which in itself was a record year.

One of the big issues we face is etiquette at the ramp. Whether it be launching or retrieving boats as well as manners and using common sense whilst negotiating the river. I know that it is just a few who let the side down but if we all are a little more considerate then everyone benefits.

Over the next few months we are going to start a big drive on safety and in conjunction with the Coromandel Mussel Farmers Association, a big push in particular on safety in and around the barges and mussel farms where we all love to fish.

Please carefully read our society's code of conduct when we send it out to all our members.

I would also like to thank everyone for their patience in the queues and wish you all a very safe easter.

Kind regards

Eric Carter
President

More Ramp Warden Bios

Hi, I am Allan Gamble and I was born in Coromandel Town and raised on farms in Coromandel, Puriri and Weymouth. I got tired of milking cows, so I ran away to sea at age 16. Trained with

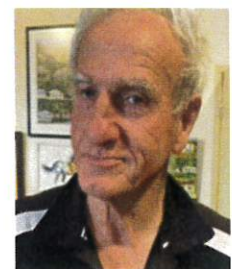


the Royal Navy in Scotland and Plymouth as a marine engineer, returned to the RNZN and spent 21 years with them. Bought a dry stock farm at Takahue (south of Kaitaia) so no tits to pull.

I got interested in bush firefighting and had 14 years as the Principal Rural Fire Officer for the Far North and Thames, Coromandel, Matamata, Piako and Waikato regions.

I have been a keen fisherperson all my life and I am a past President and Life Member of the Waikawau Boat Ramp Society.

Hi, I am Stan Lowe. I retired to Tapu from Tauranga about 8 years ago after a health scare. When I'm not on warden duty or fishing with family and friends, I am



involved on a voluntary basis organising the building and maintaining of huts and tracks on DOC land in the Kaimai Forest Park. This bush work is an extension to my life-long passion for hunting.

My name is Trev Disher and I moved from Te Awamutu to Thames in 1966 after completing a butcher's apprenticeship. I worked for Thames New World supermarket for 15 years before buying Thames Meat Mart in Pollen Street. Ten years ago we set up and operated the charter boat Fish 4 T working from Waikawau. My wife and I are now semi-retired. I love fishing, tramping and travelling. I enjoy helping out at the ramp and meeting all the boaties, but feel we all should respect the facilities more and our committee who have put so much work into making it what it is. To keep 1,000 or so members happy is not an easy task.



Kia Ora, I'm Phil Pawley. I was born in Auckland but grew up on the Peninsula. I'm happily married to Diane for the last 43yrs. We have 4 adult kids (2 here and 2 in the UK) and 6 delightful grandkids. We live at Te Mata and are members of Thames Baptist Church—faith plays a central part in our life. My day job is CEO of Sports Chaplaincy NZ; a charity that provides free pastoral care for sports people and their whanau across the nation. In my spare time, I'm sports chaplain to TVRFC and the Swamp Foxes. I love fishing, cycling up the coast road to stay fit, and growing veges when I get time. It's a pleasure to serve you as a ramp warden.



Hi, I am Russell Waterhouse from Te Mata. Dianne and I run our own small business in Hamilton during the week and try to have less work and more fishing on the weekends. I enjoy interacting with people and helping where I can, so volunteering as a Ramp Warden was my way of giving back to the community. Watching rugby & league games are a regular interest, as is spending time with my family.



Where to go to find updates

www.waikawaubotramp.co.nz

also on facebook

Waikawau and Kaiaua fishing group

Peninsula fishing group

Kia Ora, I am Spencer Baty and I have been a keen fisherman catching kahawai on a spinner at the Waitara river mouth in Taranaki in 1951 as a five-year-old to twice representing NZ in our land based surfcasting teams. Catching Wahoo, Tuna and Sailfish from my 12 foot tinny in Niue whilst working there, also a highlight. I have always been in education being Principal of six different schools and currently I have an education consultancy with my wife Marlene, covering the Central North Island. We live at Ngarimu Bay but soon will be moving to Thames. I thoroughly enjoy my duties at the boat ramp.



Hi, I'm John Kuypers. I arrived in NZ from Holland with my parents and 3 siblings in 1953, was schooled in South Auckland where I later took over my family dairy farm, in Clevedon. I married Noeleen in 1966 and we had two wonderful children. We went sharemilking, poultry and dairy farming in Clevedon before getting into rental properties and enjoying a different life style on our Ardmore lifestyle block whilst also enjoying Motorhoming around NZ. We shifted to Te Mata 6years ago where we are happy grandparents of four grandies. I have always fished and I enjoy meeting other Fishos and being a ramp warden.



Dredging update

Weather permitting we plan to remove the bund build up and spread the previous dredging during April.

RESPECT THE 30 METRE RULE

