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Hello Members,

Things have been really busy at the ramp since our last newsletter and most boaties / fisher people seem to be enjoying the freedoms that level 2 / Orange level allows. The release of the Aucklanders on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December as they migrated to their baches and caravans around the coast didn't have a huge impact on the ramp use. It is not IF there will be a spread of covid it is WHEN and how bad it will be. Remember to scan at the ramp, socially distance yourselves and wear a mask to help stop this covid ruining your holidays and if you want to really step up to the plate, get the jab or two please.

There is not much going on at the moment as we are waiting for Higgins to finish resealing before we have a huge go at the remaining potholes and holes in the main parking area.

I would also like to ask you not to park trailers in the long grass behind the metal heaps as this area has extremely high significance to Iwi. It is where they bury dead whales so if you see someone parking there, just ask them politely not to.

I have made a few visits to the ramp lately and have talked to quite a few members and casual ramp users. Even when the queues are long everybody seems to be understanding of the situation and happy to take their turn. If someone is having trouble or new to the boating game, people seem more obliging and helpful so if you see a situation developing step in and help out, sometimes people just need a little help.

On another note I have noticed that around the barges, people have been a bit more mindful and respectful of the workers and barges so please remember to give them their space.

Remember also that your ramp wardens do the work as volunteers so please be respectful and follow their instruction.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable festive season, I hope Santa filled your stockings with just enough tackle to get you through the season and that the new year treats you well.

Regards

Eric Carter, President, Waikawau Boat Ramp Inc. Society

**Our Two New Ramp Wardens.** We welcome Muri Paki and Terry Brennan.

Hi, my name is Terry Brennan and I am married to Margaret. I was raised on a dairy farm in the Waikato and at age fifteen, I joined the NZ Navy for nine and half years. I went back to Te Awamutu and spent three years as a builder's labourer before joining the Corrections Department. On reaching retirement age we bought in Thames where I enjoy fishing, gardening and volunteer work including as a Waikawau Ramp Warden.



Regards Terry



Hi my name is Muri Paki and I am originally from Huntly. I moved to Taupiri, Ngaruawahia, Hamilton and Gordonton for 30 years then to Thames 2.5years ago. I enjoy fishing and gathering shellfish. I had been down to the Waikawau Ramp several times to launch my boat and noticed that the wardens on duty were getting rather overrun with boaties so that is what made me decide to help out and join this great group of volunteers.  
Cheers Muri

**Ramp Update**

We have completed the repairs to the top of the ramp thanks to Eric, Rowan and the team, which now allows for greater vision, sharper turning and easier backing.

**Please Observe the 30 metre Rule when fishing near the Mussel Barges**

**Waikawau Boat Ramp Number One Rule for Safe use of the Boat Ramp:**

**Please keep State Highway 25 clear at all times. Do not block the entrance to the reserve or cause queues onto the State Highway. Extend the queue to the toilet on busy days, or create multiple queues and keep your speed below 5 kph in the reserve.**

**Waikawau Boat Ramp Committee**

President: Eric Carter.  
Vice President: John Sanford  
Secretary: Mike Lander  
Treasurer: Matt Juby  
Members Secretary: Bev Walker  
Committee Members:  
Rowan Christini, Peter Hudson,  
Greg Ward and Bruce Bogan.

If you have any issues or questions, please feel free to drop us an email (wbrs2000@gmail.com) and hopefully we can answer your queries. We hope to see you out there on the water soon, take care and happy fishing.