

Pre-dawn ceremony to bless the ground for the new Ruakaka library.

A pre - dawn ceremony to bless the ground where it will be built and to turn the first sod for the new Ruakaka Library was held last Wednesday, 3 March. Paraire Pirihī led a delegation representing Patuharakeke, Mayor Stan Semenoff, Councillors Phil Halse and Shelley Deeming, members of the Ruakaka Library Committee and well - wishers from the Ruakaka community in a circuit of the field alongside the Ruakaka Service Centre where the new facility will be built.



Councillor Shelley Deeming, Mayor Stan Semenoff and Councillor Phil Halse turning the first sod for the construction of the new Ruakaka library and council service centre.

His words in Maori were explained, for the benefit of those unable to understand, by Mr. Semenoff who said he had talked about the benefit the new library would bring to his children and grandchildren and the unity of people who lived in the Ruakaka community.

Maureen Irving, chairwoman of the Ruakaka Library Committee said 35 years ago five ladies with 50 books between them had got together and set up a library in one of their homes. The library now had 6,000 books and 800 readers.

“Hopefully, with our beautiful new building the library will grow and grow.”

The Ruakaka library is currently housed in cramped conditions in the basement of the Ruakaka Recreation Centre.

Trevor Griffiths of *Griffiths and Associates*, which is managing the project, said after 16 months work it was good to be getting started. He said he hoped the building would be completed by the end of August and that “we will have something we can be proud of.”

Mr. Semenoff said it was fitting that Councillors Shelley Deeming and Phil Halse should join him in the ceremonial role of turning the first sod as they had campaigned long and hard for the library.

“Now it is my job to make sure we have the money. The full council does not know about this. They got me in a room and said tick this and hope that the thing is built before they (the other councillors) wake up.”

A sum of \$600,000 has been voted by the Whangarei District Council for the new combined Ruakaka Library and Council Service Centre. The estimated cost of the building is \$700,000 and, before construction could proceed, it was necessary to get some kind of \$100,000 underwrite from Mr. Semenoff on behalf of the council.

Mr. Semenoff said he had been up all night as a palm kernel ship had arrived in port and he had been overseeing the loading operation for his trucking company. He had been told by Councillor Deeming to get to the ceremony on time.

“And to change out of his jeans”, said Councillor Deeming.

Mr. Semenoff said he had been able to change in the car park under cover of darkness prior to the ceremony.

All blacks signing autographs in Ruakaka this Sunday.

“We have had confirmed that on the Sunday 14th March at 11am, Dan Carter, Ali Williams and Richie McCaw will be at Ruakaka SuperValue”, Michelle Alison, the store owner emailed the Bream Bay News last week. Ruakaka.

The All Blacks will spend an hour at the store signing autographs.

The All Blacks visit is as a result of the store winning a promotional competition to sell the most bottled water in the North Island. To enhance the occasion Supervalve will provide wine, beer and food tasting and has arranged for a bouncy castle, sausage sizzle and a coffee van to be on site.

Another fatality on the Brynderwyns.

Photo by Paul Gordon



A three car collision towards the bottom of the Brynderwyns on the Waipu side on the afternoon of Sunday February 28 left a young man dead and two others in hospital.

Paul Gordon, who arrived at the accident scene about 10 minutes after it occurred said cars continued to travel up the Brynderwyns for half an hour before a diversion through Waipu Cove and Mangawhai was put in place.

“I do appreciate that the first priority at the accident is to give assistance and prevent any further accidents, but from my observations there were plenty of resources available after 10 minutes to call for the traffic to be diverted - it was obvious almost immediately to me it was going to be a long hold up.”

Sergeant Ken Andrews of the Bream Bay Police, said Police take charge initially but the New Zealand Transport Authority looks after traffic diversion at accident scenes. He agreed that “sometimes it can take a while.”

Bream Bay News has sent a question about this to the NZTA's press officer, Ewart Barnsley.

Mail	[Image]
WAIPU HOTEL	
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Open Wednesday to Sunday	