



Arapuni Village

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Arapuni Whānau

Welcome to the latest edition of the AVCA Newsletter, where we share stories of community spirit, initiatives, and updates from our wonderful village.

Contact AVCA

Committee members:

- Anthony De Reus
- Rosie Cahalane
- Dean Gittings
- Kathleen Edwards
- Milton Sinclair
- Nicki De Reus
- John Pitcairn.

- ✦ arapunivillage@gmail.com
- ✦ Facebook: Arapuni Village Grapevine
- ✦ www.arapunivillage.nz

Get Involved

Got ideas? We'd love to hear them! Your input and involvement help shape the success of our community projects and events.

Joining AVCA is a simple way to support the growth and wellbeing of Arapuni—and have your say in what happens next. Membership is just \$10 per year, and you can sign up using the form on our website.



Arapuni Gets Arty

Great news for the village — the Arapuni Village Community Association (AVCA) has secured a \$2,000 Creative Communities Scheme grant. This funding will bring a series of fun, hands-on art workshops to the village, led by local artists Mandy Turner and Mark Brawn. All workshops will be free, with registration required. We'll first open bookings to Arapuni residents, then to the wider community if there are spaces available.

What's coming up

Cartoons & Crafty Kids

During the school holidays (Sunday 4th October), we're planning creative sessions for children aged 7 and up. Two workshops will run side by side in the hall: 10-11am and 11.30am-12.30pm. Kids can choose to attend one or both sessions, with a mix of cartoon drawing and craft activities.



ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA



Landscapes

On Saturday 21 November 2026, Mark will guide participants through: Drawing landscapes (10.00–11.00am) and Watercolour landscapes (11.30am–12.30pm). Come along for one session or stay for both.

Wearable Wonders: Hat Edition

Early in 2027, Mandy will host a special three-hour workshop where participants create their own wearable art hat. The event will wrap up with a fun fashion show. All ages are welcome — date to be confirmed.

We'd love your ideas and hats!

Mandy and Mark, who run a local art gallery and have delivered a range of art programmes over the years, are keen to tailor these workshops to what our community wants.

For the kids' cartoon sessions, possible themes include pirates, mythical animals (dragons, taniwha, unicorns) superheroes & villains, farm animals, trucks & cars, astronauts & aliens, dinosaurs. What would your children enjoy most?

Mandy is also looking for fresh craft ideas — what would you and your family like to make?

Please share your suggestions and help shape these creative events for Arapuni. When you register for Cartoons & Crafty Kids vote for your favourite cartoon themes and tell us about what you'd like to craft or contact Mark or Mandy at mandy@arapuniart.co.nz.

If you have spare hats, fabric or accessories that you would be happy to donate for the Wearable Wonders workshop please do get in touch.

Family Fun Day 2026

Another wonderful day was enjoyed at the annual Arapuni Family Fun Day, with sunshine on tap and plenty to keep everyone entertained. Highlights included a large bouncy castle, the world-famous-in Arapuni water slide, excellent free barbecue kai, all sorts of games, and seedlings and jams for sale.

The day was made possible thanks to a \$500 grant from the Tindall Rural Community Event Fund. Special thanks also go to Bromac Construction for providing a fantastic spot prize — an air fryer that is sure to be well used! AVCA also provided prizes for children's water sliding execution and artistry.

A big thank you to the Arapuni Bowling Club, who opened their gates for a "learn to bowl"

session at the end of the day, much to the delight (and slight confusion!) of an American whānau who happened to drop in and gave it a go.

It was a great day of community connection and fun, with very positive feedback. We're looking at ways to make the event even more inclusive, with activities and attractions for all ages.



Big thank you!

The AVCA committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Nicki De Reus** for her significant work on the revised constitution. Her efforts ensured everything was completed in time for AVCA to continue operating as an incorporated society.

We also wish to acknowledge **Stacey McMillan**, who has recently stepped down from the committee due to other commitments. Stacey has been a wonderful contributor, especially in organising events and bringing great energy and enthusiasm to the committee.

Both Nicki and Stacey are valued supporters of our community, and we thank them for all they've done.

Working together

AVCA has been actively building closer working relationships with both the Arapuni Village Bowling Club and the dedicated team who manage our local hall. The aim is simple – to support one another, make things run more smoothly, and explore opportunities to work together on shared events and activities that benefit the wider community.



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You're invited to the

MATARIKI

COMMUNITY

Potluck Dinner

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- 📅 SATURDAY 18 JULY
- 🕒 STARTING AT 5.00PM
- 📍 ARAPUNI HALL
- 🍴 Bring a plate to share
- 🍷 BYO drinks
- 🕒 Dinner served from 5.45pm
- 🎬 Movie for the kids
- 🍰 Dessert bar supplied by AVCA

Good community idea?

There are a range of grants available through philanthropic organisations and local government to help bring community projects to life. AVCA is keen to support Arapuni residents who have ideas that could enhance the wellbeing of our village — whether it's a sports event, arts or cultural activity, or a beautification project. If you've got an idea that you'd like to explore that needs funding, we'd love to hear about it. And if you need help finding funding or need a hand with an application, please get in touch with Rosie Cahalane (rosie.cahalane@gmail.com).

New subdivision

AVCA lodged a submission on the proposed Horahora subdivision, raising a couple of concerns on behalf of Arapuni residents while remaining neutral on the proposal.

Key issues include safety at the one-lane Pokaiwhenua Stream bridge, where residents have already experienced near misses. With increased traffic expected, we've asked Council to clarify when and how the bridge will be upgraded to two lanes, whether funding is in place, any impact on rates, and what contribution the developer will make.

We also highlighted concerns about current speed limits on Horahora Road. With more homes and vehicle movements planned, the existing 100km/h limit south of the bridge is unlikely to remain safe. AVCA is asking Council to make the current 80km/h limit permanent and extend it along the full length of the development, with an appropriate buffer to the south.



Coming events

- ♦ **18 July, Saturday:** Matariki Community Potluck Dinner
- ♦ **4 October, Sunday:** Cartoons & Crafty Kids workshops
- ♦ **21 November, Saturday:** Landscape Art (watercolours & drawing) workshops
- ♦ Arapuni Welfare Committee meeting & Civil Defence workshop, date TBC
- ♦ **2027:** Wearable Wonders: Hat Edition workshop & fashion show

Register for
Arapuni Gets Arty at
arapunivillage.nz/artly



Call for Expressions of Interest: Revitalising the Arapuni Welfare Committee

The Arapuni Welfare Committee was established in 2019 by dedicated volunteers with the initial aim of creating an emergency phone tree and recording support needs within our community. Our early efforts included developing a 'Community Guide to Emergencies' which was printed and distributed to Arapuni Village households.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we successfully activated our phone tree to support vulnerable residents by arranging groceries and maintaining contact. This experience highlighted the strength and care within our community.

Recently, South Waikato District Council (SWDC) has employed Martin Barratt as the new Emergency Management Officer. Martin has connected with some of our volunteers and expressed great interest in the history of civil defence in Arapuni and especially our emergency phone tree, which Kathleen Edwards has diligently maintained since its beginning. He values the dedication of our community members and recognises the importance of this work in times of crisis.

We are now looking to rejuvenate the Arapuni Welfare Committee and invite all interested community members to express their interest in joining us.

Our Goals:

- ♦ Develop a comprehensive Arapuni Community Response Plan.
- ♦ Plan and establish a local evacuation site and community-led centre.
- ♦ Organise a round-table emergency simulation exercise later this year.

We will reach out to previous committee members and warmly welcome new volunteers who want to contribute to the safety and resilience of Arapuni.

If you are interested in helping shape our community's emergency preparedness, please contact us to join or learn more.

Together, we can build a stronger, safer Arapuni for all.

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