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Mercury Bay Informer, Waikato, General News

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Audience

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Pontoon jump joyful activity

North Shore Times, Auckland, General News

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Page 1 of 1

 back

Keas helping with dune planting in Cooks Beach



Six Whitianga Sea Scouts Keas, two of the Kea leaders and several of the Keas' parents and siblings helped to plant some of the dunes in Cooks Beach last Sunday.

"We were planning on planting 100 dune plants, but managed to get in almost 300 assorted grasses and plants," says Laetitia Wilson, one of the Keas leaders who were at the dune planting. "The Keas did an amazing job working together digging holes, adding fertiliser and bedding the plants in, with a little help from the parents who came along and under the watchful eyes of Alan and Alison Henry and Anne Lewis of Cooks Beach."

Before the work started, Alison gave a talk about the importance of protecting the dunes and was impressed with how much the Keas knew about conservation and their enthusiasm.

"Keas are the grassroots of Scouts and we believe our members are never too young to learn about community spirit and caring for and respecting the environment," says Laetitia. "We believe you get back what you give and that really applies to all aspects of life - whether it's respect, kindness or positivity."

Pictured are the Keas, the Kea leaders and the Keas' parents and siblings who were at Sunday's dune planting.



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Page 1 of 2

[back](#)

Pontoon jump joyful activity

Callum Irving, 16, is a student at Westlake Boys High School and lives in Castor Bay

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

How long have you lived here and where are you from?

I was born at North Shore Hospital and I have lived around the North Shore all my life.

Describe your neighbourhood.

The neighbourhood that I live in is nice and quiet. There is a beach close by and Milford is just down the road.

What is your earliest memory of the Shore?

One of my earliest memories of the Shore is riding in my trolley up and over the skateboard bowl in Sunnynook park.

It was great, zooming down as fast as I could, then sort-of getting air time when I came up and out.

What are the greatest advantages to living here?

Some great advantages of living on the Shore is that there are good schools ranging from primary to university.

There are many shops that cover fashion to technology, and there are lots of indoor and outdoor activities to take part in.

Where is your favourite North Shore beach and why?

I don't really have a specific favourite beach but I love the ones that have a pontoon or a wharf to dive off.

Who is the person you admire the most and why?

One person that I admire is my year 9 math teacher Mr Bailey, who inspired me to work hard in maths.

He helped me to understand

algebra from the start and now I find it interesting and fun to work

out the problems and be rewarded with satisfaction and the correct answer.

What do you like least about the North Shore and how can we fix it?

The thing that I don't really like about the Shore is the traffic on Forest Hill Rd.

The bus takes ages in the mornings and sometimes this can happen in the afternoons.

This could probably be fixed by making public transport more viable by having more bus lanes and upgrading the bus network to compensate.

Where is the best place to have a meal?

I am not sure, but I can recommend all the cafes and restaurants in Milford, as they have good food and delicacies at low prices.

What do you like to do during the weekends?

During the weekends I like to play multi-player games with my friends and go swimming at the beach.

Also I enjoy hiking, and I do target shooting and orienteering through school.

I am also involved with the Scouting movement in New Zealand and recently received the

Chief Scout Award, which our Sunnynook group hasn't had anyone complete since I started as a Kea at the age of 6.

The Chief Scout Award is the highest award in Scouts and tests skills in leadership, initiative and commitment.

Only around 150 scouts in New Zealand achieve this award each year.

The award was signed off by the Governor General, Dame Patsy Reddy.

I am currently doing Duke of Edinburgh with Venturers and I also help out as a youth leader with Keas.

“One person that I admire is my year 9 math teacher Mr Bailey, who inspired me to work hard in maths. He helped me to understand algebra from the start and now I find it interesting.”



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 back



Callum Irving, 16, receives his Chief Scout Award from former Sunnynook Scout Group leader Paul Davey.

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