

Save the date in your diary...

...Normandale Residents' Association Annual General Meeting will be held in June—date and place to be confirmed but most likely to be Wednesday 21st of June.

Our guest speaker will be talking about civil defence in Normandale. Given all the recent natural disasters this is a highly important topic for us to discuss!

### Free to a good home...

If anyone would like some sweet chestnut trees we have some seedlings. These are the chestnuts you can roast over the fire, they taste a bit like Kumara. Ring us on 5891090. First in, first served.



Based in the Maungaraki shops, we offer weights, pilates and yoga, nutrition plans, massage, personal training . . .

Nikki and Reno are committed to your success, if you are then contact us on 586 4881 or [info@o2exercise.co.nz](mailto:info@o2exercise.co.nz)

PF Normandale "catch" tally for March 25 to April 25:  
15 rats and  
18 mice.

Don't forget to check your traps - this time of year is prime time for rats and mice to head indoors.



#### Word of the month: Gambol

- A. A collection of weasels
- B. A type of cured meat
- C. To bet money
- D. To frolic, skip or hop

#### Last-month's word: Quintessential

B. Most perfect or typical

ART/PAINTING CLASSES



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Maungaraki Community Centre

# NORMANDALE TIMES

Published by the Normandale Residents' Association



John Latimer 1924 – 2016

May 2017

Richard John Latimer was born in May 1924, and grew up on the Eiffelton farm where his parents lived. He was educated at Eiffelton School, Ashburton College and Canterbury University where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts with Honours in Maths. During his time at university he also met Joan whom he married in 1946.

He served in the RNZAF immediately post war and spent some time in the Pacific serving in the Solomons, Gilbert and Ellice, Cook, and Fiji Islands. During his service John took up meteorology and on return to New Zealand he was initially posted to Wigram before transferring to the brand new Christchurch International Airport, and then to Ohakea before returning to Nadi Airport where the family spent four happy years. Whilst there John was prominent in running the Bowling Club and heavily involved in the construction of St Christopher's church in the airport precinct.

1961 saw a return to New Zealand, living in Upper Hutt, working at the Met Office in Kelburn and reading the National Weather Forecast on the "YA" network. From the Met Office he moved to the Health Department doing Operational Research, and while there managed to fit in a Diploma course in Public Administration, and later a Bachelor of Commerce degree at Victoria University.

1965 saw the purchase of the farm at the end of Stratton Street shortly followed by the move to "202" where he and Joan remained until his last fortnight. John joined the Department of Statistics in 1971 and in the mid-1970s, he was appointed Assistant Government Statistician, heading the new Christchurch Office, and then in 1979 Deputy Government Statistician.

*Continued over...*

## Knitting for Cool Kids



Our knitters urgently need wool!

Any colour, any amount so we can knit hats, scarves, etc. for Lower Hutt children to help keep them warm this winter. Pop it in your letterbox & give us a call or email & we will gladly collect.



Cheryl Salt & Chrissy Kibblewhite | 04 569 0768 | [saltteam@redcoats.co.nz](mailto:saltteam@redcoats.co.nz)

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The next NRA meeting will be held at St Aidans church on Thursday 18th of May - all association members welcome. The meetings last from 7:30 until 9:00.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Note: Copy deadline 25th of preceding month.

## Drawing colonoscopy out of the shadows.

Promoting colonoscopy as a health and wellness experience that can prevent cancer as well as diagnose it is the aim of a new website by Normandale resident Rosemary McLennan. After supporting a friend through her successful colorectal surgery, Rosemary discovered she, too, needed a colonoscopy procedure. But she found there were no New Zealand experiences shared on the web.

After searching out many helpful preparation tips from overseas sites she practised them on herself with good results and decided to share them. She is keen to see people self-fund their own colonoscopies because they can enable the removal of immature polyps that can become cancerous.

Rosemary hopes her site, [www.mycolonoscopytips.nz](http://www.mycolonoscopytips.nz), will be particularly helpful from this July when the Government begins the national roll-out of its bowel cancer screening programme, starting in the Hutt Valley and Wairarapa.

Over the 24 months from July, men and women aged 60 to 74 who live in the areas covered by the Hutt Valley and Wairarapa District Health Boards and eligible for publicly funded healthcare will be posted a letter of invitation. They will receive a kit to send away a faecal sample for analysis. If blood is found, they are likely to be offered a publicly-funded colonoscopy.

Rosemary ([rmclennan@vodafone.net.nz](mailto:rmclennan@vodafone.net.nz)) is also keen to obtain speaking engagements to help fund the website's ongoing costs.

## ASPIRE!

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## John Latimer continued

About this time the farm was sold to the Regional Council to become part of the projected Regional Park, although John retained a grazing licence. After retirement in 1986, John had lots of time to devote to his farm, to his bowling clubs, the church and a number of charities, most notably the Lower Hutt

## Miromiro Road history

*A reader thought we might be interested in this subdivision of Miromiro Road found with the original plans for their house.*

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Foodbank. He was one of the central figures in amalgamating the Petone and Central Bowling Clubs and the private road that leads to the houses on the old Petone greens was named “Latimer Way”.

John's health gradually deteriorated in the last few years of his life, although still active he was noticeably less steady and more frail but he remained steadfast in his resolve to care for Joan in the family home for as long as he possibly could. Major surgery earlier in 2016 was a significant blow and John's passing came far more suddenly than any expected.

John Latimer, 1924 to 2016, rest in peace, we have all been enriched through having known you – you will be sorely missed.