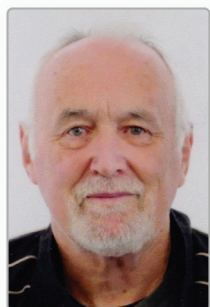


Rodney Local Board Candidates - Equestrian Questionnaire Results

Dairy Flat Subdivision - **Electing 1 member**



PETER BRYDON

I support most outdoor activities, the problem with Rodney is we are big in area, small in numbers, and the way this super city has been formed, is the elected people, are having a less and less say in how the council is run, to a point where the un elected people in council want the local boards gone. Greg Sayers our local councillor, I feel sometimes that he has been in the job so long, that he is now a part off them, and lost sight of who he is working for, having said that, the other night at a meeting at Coatesville hall, with Brown, who does not support Rodney, made underlining tones to Greg, that if you do not support me, you will be getting less funding than now.

So on who to vote for, I would say, vote for someone who is a strong team leader, who can bring people together. To me Auckland is a great place, and it can be greater, we need to remove control from the non elected back room people back to the elected people, your team have a voice, make it heard. We have a lot of these people, who say what people want to hear and that's all, say a lot do nothing.



WARWICK HOJEM

Q1: Do you support pony clubs and horse riding in the Rodney area and why?

I do.

My grandfather, my uncle and my cousin all represented their country in Gymkhana and I would often tag along as support crew. We also had five horses of our own on the beef farm where I grew up.

Although living in mixed rural the past 11 years, we do not have a horse on our current property (we live on one of the ridges of Dairy Flat and not really suitable for horses or riders ... too steep).

That said, we campaigned very strongly from 2015 to 2017 about allowing horses on Blackbridge Road and safe seed limits, especially linked to heavy trucks carting fill to a managed fill in our road. We even got a submission from Blyth Tait supporting our horse owning community.

More recently, I have promoted retaining the Pony Club at Green Road Park and we have succeeded in doing this. We have also got Council to divide the car park into two, one for horse floats and one for the general public.

Q2: There is a lack of safe places to exercise horses around the Rodney region, how could you help us to improve this?

Green Park is already an example of 154 Ha of horse riding opportunity.

I am also asking Waste Management to indicate what their closure plan for Redvale will look like once it ceases to take in waste at the end of 2028. There is currently a Pony Club which has landed provided to it by Waste Management, but, we need to have this written in concrete to allow for future horse use after 2028.

As an ex-member of the NZMCA, I am aware that the NZMCA acquired numerous properties for their members to utilize for their motor homes or caravans and I think that this is something the horse community should explore, too ... maybe even in conjunction with NZMCA.

Q3: Why should people who own and ride horses vote for you?

My main goal is to advocate on behalf of the community that votes for me, listening to what they want and communicating their wishes to the Councillor who represents Rodney and ensuring that he in turn communicates this to the Councillors sitting in Chamber.



LISA WHYTE

Q1: Do you support pony clubs and horse riding in the Rodney area and why?

Yes, I am a former pony club Mum myself and we have had horses at home for almost 10 years. I fully understand the importance of having access to grass roots facilities for equestrian sport. My daughter went through pony club, first as a rider without a horse, then with a pony grazing at Rosedale pony club, and then when we moved to Coatesville she had her own horse at home. We have since bred 2 foals from her retired mare, one is now 7 and showjumping at 1.10m and one who is almost 5 and was broken in earlier this year. Our daughter was a pony club coach at Wainoni Park and Coatesville pony clubs while at university and she still competes in showjumping so I have good awareness of local events and challenges, like the consenting restrictions in place at Woodhill. New Zealand has unparalleled by diminishing entry level access for equestrian sport compared to other countries and pony clubs are a critical part of that. Access to council facilities in Auckland is being challenged by urban sprawl – it was a challenge I had to deal with in my former elected role in Upper Harbour where pony clubs had to merge when the motorway went through and displaced Hockey who in turn displaced Rosedale Pony club. This was not an easy decision but the end result was that we negotiated significantly better facilities in Greenhithe as well as an off-site grazing lease that should make the merged club more sustainable going forward, and therefore in a better position to meet any future challenges for the valuable open space they occupy. The challenge is always to get understanding by decision makers that far from being elitist, pony clubs provide a life education in responsibility for riders and their horses, club service and resilience that few other sports do.

Q2: There is a lack of safe places to exercise horses around the Rodney region, how could you help us to improve this?

I 100% agree – there is also a lack of understanding of other road users of equestrian rights and road riding is simply too dangerous now, whatever the speed limits might be. My experience as a horse owner will help to inform debate and decision making around community lease renewals and permitted uses of public land. I would also support initiatives for publicly accessible tracks and facilities, and advocate to retain and enhance existing public access to beaches and forests. If there are opportunities to partner with private landowners I would definitely be supportive.

Q3: Why should people who own and ride horses vote for you?

I would be an informed and supportive advocate on the local board. As Rodney becomes more urban the challenges will increase to the allocation of community leases of public land. Public land is not being acquired at the rate it used to be, and as the population grows, open space is at a premium and often needs to perform multiple functions. As 1 vote out of 9 I understand the need to work collaboratively with the other 8 members to advance opportunities for my constituents.

Rodney Local Board Candidates - Equestrian Questionnaire Results

Southern Kaipara - **Electing 2 members**

Current
Member



GEOFF UPSON

Q1: Do you support pony clubs and horse riding in the Rodney area and why?

yes, the same reason i support rugby fields... lots of people use them and its important that people are allowed to continue doing the sports they love for physical health and mental health and wellbeing outcomes.

Q2: There is a lack of safe places to exercise horses around the Rodney region, how could you help us to mprove this?

i have already spoken with council staff about things we can do. i expect the most logical outcome is to pourchase more land that can be used for horse stuff. the local board has already worked at making green road park more horse friendly

please note that i need support from the horse community on this issue. while i have lots of friends with horses i dont have one myself and may not know all things to consider for your requirements.

(things like the maximum distance you want to travel with your horse float and minimum land size requirements etc etc etc)

Q3: Why should people who own and ride horses vote for you?

thats up to them.

the reason i am in politics is because i want to force council and the council controlled organisations (like Auckland Transport) to catch up on the overdue maintenance of council assets in the rodney area and to upgrade where deficits have occured due to development.

i want to cut out the wastage and ensure that rates are used for things that are important to rate payers.

As of end date 19.925



ROB UPSON

No reply

Current
Member



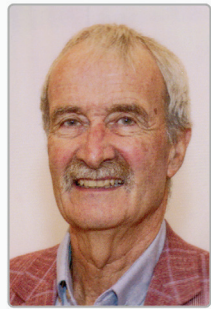
MARK DENNIS

No reply

Rodney Local Board Candidates - Equestrian Questionnaire Results

Warkworth - **Electing 2 members**

As of end date 19.9.25



**Current
Member**

TIM HOLGATE

No reply



TAABETA TABAU

No reply



DAVID ROBB

Q1: Do you support pony clubs and horse riding in the Rodney area and why?

Community is built and formed from clubs, sports, churches, charities, etc. I want to encourage these to form, not just because I believe in community, but also resilience, and the health of our population. I also see pony clubs and horse riding as vital for the vulnerable in our communities. Organisations like New Zealand Riding For The Disabled Association have a vital role to play.

Q2: There is a lack of safe places to exercise horses around the Rodney region, how could you help us to improve this?

As our population grows we'll need to allocate space wisely and fairly. If elected to the Rodney Local Board, and presented with a delegation/representation from MEAG (something I would encourage), I would seek to know what safe places are currently available, and the demand in Rodney, and then consider the other demands from other residents. Ideally finding solutions that provided for multiple users to benefit.

Q3: Why should people who own and ride horses vote for you?

While not a horse rider myself, I want to encourage people to engage with our natural environment, and especially in group settings. I also understand the value of camaraderie and competition, and the discipline required in these kinds of activities



**Current
Member**

IVAN WAGSTAFF

Our communities from Warkworth to the coast have unique needs, and you deserve a representative who is grounded, committed, and ready to stand up for every single one of them.

I believe in practical action and community-led solutions. I was recently asked some excellent, specific questions by members of our local equestrian community.

Q1: Do you support pony clubs and horse riding in the Rodney area and why?

A: Absolutely. They are community hubs that teach our youth invaluable skills and are a core part of our region's character. My support is proven; I've already worked to renew the leases for all Rodney pony clubs and supported a Rodney-wide facilities review for 2026 to plan for their future.

Q2: There is a lack of safe places to exercise horses around the Rodney region, how could you help us to improve this?

A: My approach is to use the plans we have and create the plans we need. I am a strong supporter of the Rodney Greenways Plan, which specifically provides for open spaces and trail connections for horses. For the long-term, I've also championed the 2026 Rodney-wide equestrian facilities review to ensure we are strategically planning for the future needs of our entire riding community.

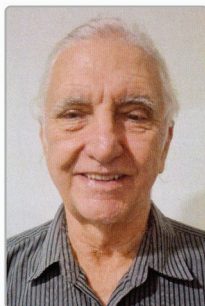
Q3: Why should people who own and ride horses vote for you?

A: Because for me, this is personal. My daughter is a rider, and I've seen firsthand how amazing this community is and the confidence and skills it builds in our young people. This is why I'm so committed to taking practical action. I have a proven record of delivering—from securing leases and backing the Greenways Plan to championing the strategic 2026 facilities review. I will continue to be a strong, practical voice for the lifestyle we all value.

This is the kind of transparent and results-focused leadership I bring to the table. If you have a question about an issue that matters to you, ask me. Together, let's get it done.

Rodney Local Board Candidates - Equestrian Questionnaire Results

Northern Rodney - **Electing 2 members**



GREG DOHERTY

Q1: Do you support pony clubs and horse riding in the Rodney area and why?

I absolutely support Pony Clubs and horse riding in Rodney because it is a healthy activity that connect riders to the heritage of the land. Provision for the future is essential now.

Q2: There is a lack of safe places to exercise horses around the Rodney region, how could you help us to improve this?

I would do all in my power to maintain and create safe places to ride. This is a role that the RLB is permitted to take part in.

Q3: Why should people who own and ride horses vote for you?

I would welcome Horse riders and owners to vote for me, because I will do all I can to see provision for Riding that goes long into the future

A network of riding paths is something that needs to be set in place now. I would welcome feedback from your group as to the best ways to achieve this.



JOSHUA JAMES GRIMSTOCK

Q1: Do you support pony clubs and horse riding in the Rodney area and why?

Pony clubs, as all sports clubs, have a place in the community. As the most ancient form of transport, I believe horse riding has a place in every society. From New York Police to Canadian Mounties to station owners, horses are still used around the world. As a mostly rural region, I would expect a large equine community to be present in the North Rodney region.

Q2: There is a lack of safe places to exercise horses around the Rodney region, how could you help us to improve this?

By advocating for safe riding areas. It is difficult, obviously, to ensure there are areas for riding around every corner as the land is not necessarily available, but areas that are currently in use should be maintained and additional areas that could be utilised going forward proposed and considered

Q3: Why should people who own and ride horses vote for you?

I previously worked for several years at Horselands and am a past owner of a rescue horse which ended up being used for eventing down Waikato. I understand horse ownership and the love horse owners have for their GG's in place now. I would welcome feedback from your group as to the best ways to achieve this.



PAUL MANTON

Q1: Do you support pony clubs and horse riding in the Rodney area and why?

Yes I support horse riding and Pony Clubs as well as any other Horse riding activity be it on private or public land. I have had years of experience with clubs and horse ownership and have actively supported and organized trail rides across and through the Rodney district. My Family own 3 horses. I use horses in my work, on stock and access in winter to places a quad bike will not go.

Council look at wellbeing as an important part of a healthy community - I believe horses and pets support positive wellbeing and reinforce positive outcomes in all ages of our community. This should not be underestimated in a world where technology and the acceleration of information is key to the hectic pace of life. Horses move at their pace, they calm you down, they listen they don't judge, they take you there and back, they teach you patience. Horses historically along with Beef, Sheep and dogs broke in the Rodney district and long may they continue to be part of our future.

Q2: There is a lack of safe places to exercise horses around the Rodney region, how could you help us to improve this?

I would approach this issue with a multi level solution, 1) Try and push for parks like Temuri to be completed so Horses can access this vast area and have safe float parking areas established. 2) I support for leases to be granted to pony clubs and other equine clubs on council land so that clubs have the ability to plan their future and can make long term commitments without the fear of removal. 3) I would advocate for recognition of the private landowners who open up their land for horse, trail and pony club riding etc by the way of some form of Rates relief or other Council incentives. 4) I would advocate for equine groups to seek inclusion of riding ways in plans for access tracks like the Greenways plan, Puhoi to Matakana trails etc. There are plenty of plans for walking and cycleways in place, where are the Horse trails? It is late once the land has gone to development to say we should of? If inclusion is not possible as E-Bikes and Horses don't get on, then I support groups to start planning dedicated trail networks for horses. Rodney could lead the nation in this.

Q3: Why should people who own and ride horses vote for you?

1) I will support and keep the equine community at the forefront of local board decision making and I will advocate that Equine clubs are treated on an equal footing as other sports at council level and due consideration be given to dedicated land for equine use.

2) I will empower clubs to engage with the local board, work and join with groups like The Mahurangi Sports and Recreational Collective so they are included in relevant parks management plans.

3) In my opinion it is important that clubs do not try and work in isolation and that a collective voice is heard and considered when looking at long term plans and multiple land use complexities so I also advocate and support groups like MEAG to advocate on the horse riding Communities behalf.



JAMES PEMBERTON

Q1: Do you support pony clubs and horse riding in the Rodney area and why?

I absolutely support horse riding and pony clubs. As a parent of a 10 year old girl who has started riding with her friends (Haven't bought a horse yet!) I see first hand the joy it brings to her and also the responsibility it instils due to the care required to keep horses. I would say half of my immediate friends and parent friends are regular riders so I speak to them often about the sport..

Q2: There is a lack of safe places to exercise horses around the Rodney region, how could you help us to improve this?

I think all public spaces, parks, tracks and beaches should be enjoyed by as many different activities as possible so the ratepayers are getting value out of their hard earned rates. It is important as a local board member to engage with groups such as MEAG to see what the challenges are and work to a solution.

Q3: Why should people who own and ride horses vote for you?

My overall drive is fairness. A number of years ago whilst staying at my parents place in Bream Bay I attended a public meeting where some people were trying to block almost all use of the beach for anything but walkers (With strict dog rules), and sought to kick out vehicle access and race horse exercising. I spoke in support of the horses on the beach as they already respected others and their impact was minimal. They exercised out of peak times, at low water and respected others and slowed down where necessary. This is an example of fair use of a public resource and I have always been vocal in support of fair and equal rights to enjoy our amazing area.



Current
Member

COLIN SMITH

Q1: Do you support pony clubs and horse riding in the Rodney area and why?

I want to identify a whole space for all animal activities in Rodney as the parks are being taken over by other activities who grow and don't want to share.

Q2: There is a lack of safe places to exercise horses around the Rodney region, how could you help us to improve this?

I have asked the council to set aside Hoteo Reserve for this activity. It is central and can provide for large events.

Q3: Why should people who own and ride horses vote for you?

I have always advocated for a special place for these activities as a farmer.

Rodney Local Board Candidates - Equestrian Questionnaire Results

Kumeu Subdivision - Electing 2 members

Current Member



BRENT BAILEY

Rodney Local Board has requested a review of equestrian facilities provision and a gap analysis in our work program next year. I feel it would be wrong to give the impression that our minds have been made up ahead of this staff advice. We have an open mind and while we are constrained on capital investment, we are somewhat better placed with operational funding. This may create an opportunity for purchase of services rather than creation of assets. It is way too early to respond to these questions at this point, but Rodney Local Board recognizes the issues that you have highlighted. Kind regards



KATIE VERSTEEG

Firstly, thank you for reaching out. It takes time and effort to do so.

Unfortunately there has been a lot that has been ‘missed’ and ‘not heard’ over the last 3 years.

I am an upstanding, independent citizen who wants to be one of the voices for Rodney and to hear, meet and understand everyone and their perspectives to make everything a tad easier moving forward.

Your voice will not go unheard Karen.

I would love to come and meet with you to understand your side a bit better so you can show me more on the ground vs what is on paper. That way you can meet me and hopefully I can become your voice of reckoning on the, hopefully, newly formed Rodney Local Board! How does that sound?



ZACH STARK
No reply



GEMMA DONALDSON
Missed original deadline

Q1: Do you support pony clubs and horse riding in the Rodney area and why?

Yes, absolutely. I live on a rural property here in Rodney and have friends who keep their ponies and horses with me. Driving up my driveway and being greeted by them running alongside me never fails to lift my spirits or put a smile on my face. I loved riding as a child and have been getting back into it more in recent years. Pony clubs and riding areas are a key part of Rodney’s identity and heritage, giving young people the chance to learn responsibility, confidence, and teamwork, while also promoting intergenerational connections and volunteering. Riding also offers clear mental health benefits for all ages. As urbanisation increases, it’s vital we retain these spaces to ensure future generations can enjoy affordable equestrian opportunities and to protect Rodney’s unique rural character.

Q2: There is a lack of safe places to exercise horses around the Rodney region, how could you help us to mprove this?

The Rodney Local Board can play a vital role by prioritising equestrian needs in planning and open space strategies. I’d like to see the Board work with existing pony clubs, riding groups, and landowners to identify and protect existing riding areas, while advocating for horse-friendly trails within new developments and regional parks. Supporting safe roadside verges, bridle paths, and shared-use tracks would improve safety and connectivity. Securing and retaining pony clubs will ensure long-term opportunities for youth development and community engagement. By investing in safe equestrian infrastructure, we preserve rural character, promote wellbeing, and protect local heritage.

Q3: Why should people who own and ride horses vote for you?

Earlier this year, I took my horses to Muriwai with my son, daughter and other friends and loved watching them roll in the sand - moments like that remind me why spaces for horses are so important. I understand the frustrations around lack of safe riding areas and will push for better planning and the continuation of pony club leases where possible. My approach is practical and collaborative, always focused on protecting rural lifestyles while managing growth. Horse owners and riders can trust I’ll make sure their voices are heard and that equestrian opportunities in Rodney thrive.



MATT ROSS

Missed original deadline

Q1: Do you support pony clubs and horse riding in the Rodney area and why?

Yes, absolutely. Pony clubs and horse riding are a vital part of Rodney’s culture, heritage, and economy. Ours is the largest riding community in New Zealand, yet we have some of the least facilities. Pony clubs are more than just a sport — they’re a hub where children, parents, and grandparents all take part, learning responsibility, discipline, and teamwork in a safe environment. Supporting equestrian activities also means supporting women in sport, which aligns with national goals. For me, preserving and strengthening this part of our rural character is non-negotiable.

Q2: There is a lack of safe places to exercise horses around the Rodney region, how could you help us to mprove this?

I see this as an issue of both safety and planning. As urban development expands, we must make sure equestrian needs are not squeezed out. If elected, I would:

- Advocate within Council planning to ensure green spaces and trails are preserved and new subdivisions account for multi-use corridors, including equestrian access.
- Work with Regional Parks and AT to expand safe riding trails alongside existing bridleways, and to include horses in shared-use planning rather than treating them as an afterthought.
- Push for consultation: equestrian voices like MEAG’s should be heard early in the process, not after decisions are already made.
- Support partnerships with community groups, landowners, and schools to secure safe access routes and preserve riding grounds.
- This is about recognising horses as part of Rodney’s transport and recreation landscape — not just fencing them off.

Q3: Why should people who own and ride horses vote for you?

I’m standing because Rodney needs strong, local voices that put our communities first. I know what it feels like to see our area overlooked in favour of the city, whether it’s roads, schools, or sporting facilities.

For equestrians, my commitment is simple:

- I’ll **fight to protect existing facilities** from being lost to unchecked development.
- I’ll **push for new, safe riding opportunities**, in line with the National Equestrian Facilities Strategy that highlights Rodney as both the biggest rider base and the least resourced.
- I’ll **ensure your voice is heard at the table** when Council and Auckland Transport make decisions that affect access to land and safety on our roads.

I’m not backed by a political party — I’m a parent, a small-business owner, and a lifelong local who knows Rodney deserves better. If elected, I’ll work with groups like MEAG to make sure equestrians get the fair share of recognition and investment you’ve long been owed.

Current Member



GUY STEPHEN WISHART

Q1: Do you support pony clubs and horse riding in the Rodney area and why?

Yes, I do. My daughter was a keen pony club member in the Kumeu area and gained a lot of pleasure from riding, probably more than any other activity she has done. Pony clubs and horse riding areas are an important part of Rodney’s identity, heritage, and community life. They provide safe spaces for young people to learn responsibility, confidence, and teamwork through caring for and riding horses. These clubs foster intergenerational connections, volunteering, and rural skills that reflect Rodney’s strong equestrian traditions. Riding areas also support physical and mental wellbeing, offering outdoor activity and social connection. With increasing urbanisation, retaining these spaces ensures that future generations can access affordable equestrian opportunities, protects green space, and sustains Rodney’s rural character, which is a key drawcard for families and visitors alike.

Q2: There is a lack of safe places to exercise horses around the Rodney region, how could you help us to mprove this?

The Rodney Local Board can play a vital role in addressing the lack of safe places to exercise horses by prioritising equestrian needs in its planning and open space strategies. Firstly, the Board could work with pony clubs, riding groups, and landowners to identify and protect existing riding areas, while advocating for dedicated horse-friendly trails within new developments and regional parks. Supporting the development of safe roadside riding verges, bridle paths, and shared-use tracks would improve rider safety and connectivity between communities. The Board could also explore partnerships with Auckland Council, NZTA, and private landowners to co-fund and co-design equestrian facilities, ensuring they are accessible and affordable. Additionally, retaining and enhancing pony clubs on public land leases secures long-term opportunities for youth development and community engagement. By investing in safe equestrian infrastructure, the Board helps preserve Rodney’s rural character while promoting recreation, wellbeing, and local heritage.

Q3: Why should people who own and ride horses vote for you?

We have owned and looked after 4 horses in the Kumeu area and understand the frustration that pony clubs and horse riders have. Pony club and horse riders should vote for Guy Wishart because I understands the importance of equestrian activities to Rodney’s rural character, youth development, and community wellbeing. I have consistently advocated for retaining green spaces and ensuring they meet the needs of local communities, including equestrians. I recognise the lack of safe riding areas in Rodney and will push for better planning that includes bridle paths, safe verges, and secure spaces for pony clubs including long term council leases. I am committed to protecting rural lifestyles while balancing growth pressures. My focus on practical solutions, collaboration, and preserving Rodney’s unique identity means horse owners and riders can trust he will ensure equestrian voices are heard in local decision-making.

Rodney Local Board Candidates - Equestrian Questionnaire Results

