

businessnorth

Volume 24 | Issue 5 | August 2025

www.waterfordpress.co.nz



Standing Strong

West Auckland's Stronghold Group has firmly established itself as a leader in the Māori and Pasifika business landscape...

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▶ **Virginia Wright**

They knew the site, with its proximity to the town centre and expansive views across the valley, had the potential to develop into a true community and they set about the development accordingly, planning from the outset to provide the full range of services traditionally needed by what will eventually number between 400 and 450 houses.

A second branch of the Te Awamutu Medical Centre is close to being operational in the Commercial Hub, along with a pharmacy. Provisions have been made for offices, a day-care centre, a superette and café along with other typical services such as a hairdresser and a nail salon. Their long-term hopes for the development are that people will enjoy building a life out there, and one that suits their individual needs.

The earthworks needed to shape the land, lay out the roading system, form the building platforms complete with retaining walls, and prepare the wetland and gully system for stormwater management took two years, and involved moving 500,000 cubic metres of clay.

During the design phase they chose the pond system rather than a soggy field, knowing they could add to the appeal of the subdivision, while also adding to its ecology, and future-proofing for big storms.

So far, they have planted around half of the 26,000 natives planned to work in tandem with their habitats.

An aerial photograph of a new residential development in a rural setting. The foreground and middle ground show a large, undeveloped plot of land with a winding road and a roundabout. A small building is under construction on the left, and a large, flat-topped hill is visible in the background under a cloudy sky. The development includes several rectangular plots of land, some of which are already built upon with houses. The surrounding area is mostly open fields and some scattered trees. The sky is filled with large, white clouds.

"We've historically avoided selling bulk-lots sections to group-home builders – our preference has always been individuals and families."

The discovery of a number of natural springs when they were working the site means the plantings should be safe, even in a serious drought.

A photograph of a playground structure featuring two wooden towers with peaked roofs and a slide. The structure is partially hidden behind a dense thicket of green bushes and trees. The sky is bright blue with some white clouds.





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