

Nor-west News

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INSIDE



Not forgotten

A good turnout of young and old gathered to honour the fallen at north-west Anzac Day parades and services - **P6**



Fleecy friends

Come and hand feed alpacas on north-west farms to celebrate National Alpaca Day on Sunday - **P10**

Lucky survivors

By CARYN WIGMORE

SMART seamanship saved the lives of two teenagers when a large fish, possibly a shark, rammed and sank their boat.

A South Head sailor who came to the rescue only spotted the 14-year-olds by their emergency flares, two kilometres off Shelly Beach.

Shaun Ford of Shelly Beach and Kamrin May of Parakai fear a shark could have struck Shaun's boat and ripped a hole in the bottom

during the 11am fishing trip. "It hit the boat with a loud-bang, like boom," Shaun says.

"I knew if I panicked I'd be in trouble so I tried to stay calm and chill out a bit," he says.

They did their best to stay positive by cracking jokes.

"We were just laughing at random stuff," Kamrin says.

Water spouted into the wooden dinghy and attempts to plug the hole with Kamrin's hand, then Shaun's foot, failed.

I'd rather be found on the boat than get eaten by a shark

Shaun Ford, 14, Shelly Beach

The Kaipara College students leapt overboard but struggled to swim far wearing lifejackets.

So the boys decided to turn back to the boat.

"I'd rather be found on the

boat than get eaten by a shark," Shaun says.

The teenagers made a floating circle with the lifejackets.

They packed the neck holes with warm clothing and vital equipment.

"We chucked our cell-phones in the box with flares but that had water in it so the phones got ruined," Shaun says.

The year 10 students clambered on top of the sinking vessel and fired two flares. Just 15 minutes later

escape unharmed.

Remember the days of the old school yard ... and there is plenty to spark the memory at the West Auckland Vintage Shop - P18

ONLINE

Tasty treat

Feeling peckish? There is a dining review of Five Loaves in Devonport, an inconspicuous looking cafe slightly off the beaten track. Go to nor-westnews.co.nz

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