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2020-2021

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Welcome

TO OUR COROMANDEL 2020-2021

For many of us with homes and hearts in the Coromandel, it's a haven that has become even more treasured amidst the challenges of a global pandemic.

Full-time residents and holiday homeowners alike are spending more time here, enjoying the delights of our own backyard.

And as Kiwis across New Zealand explore local tourism, the Coromandel is the ultimate offering with beaches, bush, waterfalls, tracks and trails and holidays that are reminiscent of all that's good about the Kiwi childhood.

Inside this edition, we bring you stories of ways to 'back your backyard' and support our local businesses here in the Coromandel.

We also celebrate our neighbouring districts of Hauraki and Matamata-Piako, which have much to offer right here on our doorstep.

Our three districts are united by the marvellous Hauraki Rail Trail – one of the easiest and most scenic 'great rides' of New Zealand, which has soared in popularity this

year as people are more eager than ever to get out and ride. And there's much more to discover 'off the rails' too, weaving through the towns of Miranda, Waihi, Paeroa, Te Aroha and Matamata. Remember to 'back their backyards' too when you visit and if you are looking for new experiences close by.

Event organisers have had their share of challenges this year, but there's still plenty looming on our local calendar, so check our events guide inside to see what's happening over the year ahead.

We're expecting the summer of 2020/2021 to be busy and vibrant as we host visitors from all parts of New Zealand.

COVID has taught us the importance of unity and kindness, and that's something we encourage whether we're sharing our beaches, boat ramps, bike or walking tracks or the roads.

It also applies to how we manage and use our limited resources, and it's important that residents and visitors alike think about

our impact on our water supply, solid waste and road capacity.

Water is one of our most precious resources and supply often comes under pressure during the hot summer months. We explain our water supply and how we manage it and invite you to have your say on our water demand strategy on pages 156-159.

We're a small council and we do our best with the resources we have. Investment takes time and relies on more than just your rates. Our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, mapping our priorities for the next ten years, will be a major focus in 2021 and we welcome your feedback on what Council services you want to pay for. *More information page 20.*

Whether you're a resident or non-resident ratepayer, we are one community – connected by our love for the Coromandel.

Stay kind. Support local.

The TCDC communications team

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Our Coromandel also supports free advertising for:

Coastguard, Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust, Destination Coromandel, Safer Coromandel, St John, Surf Life Saving New Zealand and advertising of events and festivals in our events guide (pages 100-106).

Editorial:

Our Coromandel is an annual publication created by our Council's communications team: Laurina White, Georgina Bond, Amber Baker, Michael Dobie, Dana Little and Kirstin Richmond. Contact us at communications@tcdc.govt.nz

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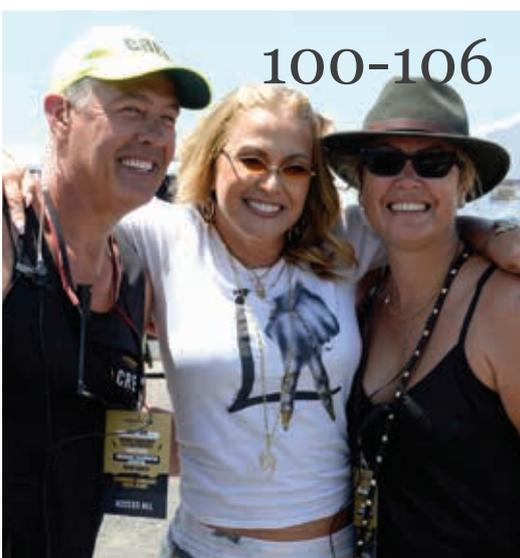
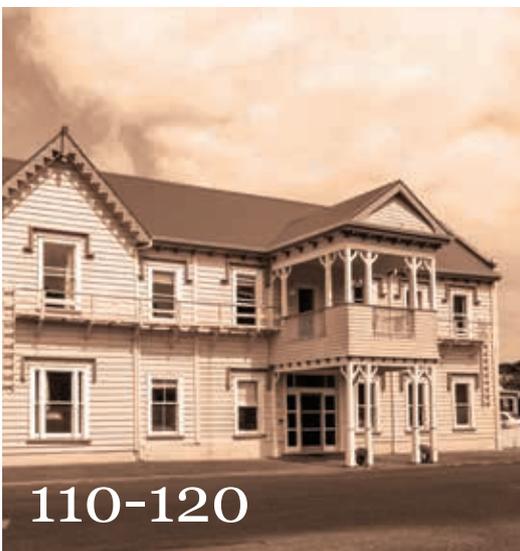
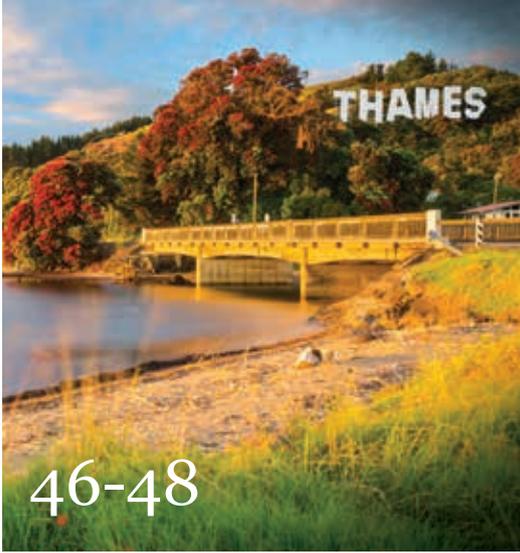


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IT'S BEEN A WILD RIDE SO FAR ...

Mayor Sandra doesn't get on her high horse for nothing. "I've been an MP and now, as Mayor, my focus is still about going into bat for our communities," she says. "I'm here for the people. I got voted in by the people and my priority is getting the best outcomes for our people – and I'm prepared to make a stand to do that."



The day *Our Coromandel* met with Mayor Sandra, she was riding Zeus the Clydesdale horse down Coromandel Town's main street for a photo shoot, (with mayoral chains resplendent, of course) to mark the finish of roading and town improvements.

"The refurbishments have given the town some TLC," Mayor Sandra says. "This town reflects so much history of our Coromandel pioneering times. There's no better way for me to celebrate the finish of this project than by riding a local horse down the main street, which is how they used to do it back in the day," she says.

Harking back to the pioneering times, Mayor Sandra says the people of the Coromandel district are still as strong and hardy now as they were over 100 years ago.

"I'm so proud of how resilient we are as a community overcoming whatever challenges beset us," she says. "In the past four years alone that I've been Mayor, we've gone through tropical cyclones, floods, landslips, drought and now a global pandemic with COVID-19."

Mayor Sandra acknowledges that when faced with adversity, there is strength in unity.

"Look at our response to COVID-19, which was a big effort made possible by collaborating with other agencies and planning by our emergency management team. Our focus was initially on public health, safety and welfare, providing items like emergency food parcels to more than 6,000 people in the Thames-Coromandel District and surrounding areas," she says.

"We then connected small to medium-sized business to other support agencies, launched a support local campaign and held online forums with industries such as construction, hospitality and tourism. That support continues as we move into Phase Two of our COVID-19 Pandemic Response Package, which addresses the medium-to-longer term needs of our local businesses and communities over the next 12 months," she says.

In the past 18 months Mayor Sandra has also seen relationships strengthen within Council's elected arm, alongside its



Celebrating partnership projects. David Taipari from the Hauraki Māori Trust Board, Hon Winston Peters, Mayor Sandra, Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams and Matamata-Piako Mayor Ash Tanner celebrating together the \$19.95 million announcement to upgrade the Sugarloaf Wharf in Coromandel Harbour, thanks to the Provincial Growth Fund.

neighbouring districts and iwi (Matamata-Piako and Hauraki District Councils and the Hauraki Māori Trust Board).

"Working in collaboration doesn't mean that you can't have the confidence to air differences,' she explains. "It ensures a robust dialogue when undertaking any activity and making decisions. Plus, from a local body perspective, we're all facing the same problems." Mayor Sandra is alluding here to the fact that all councils nationwide are grappling with a rating impost, with rates revenue not meeting the true cost of providing the utilities and services necessary.

"There's just not enough money to deliver increased service for good outcomes, while regulation and process is a nightmare. That's why we all need to be prepared for the reality check coming down the line from government. This includes reform in the three waters (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater) and the Resource Management Act (RMA) spaces."

The three waters issue refers to new government legislation and the creation of Taumata Arowai, a new water services regulator, to oversee and enforce a new drinking water regulatory framework and oversight of wastewater and stormwater networks. It acknowledges the underinvestment in the three waters infrastructure in parts of the country, along with affordability issues. There's also a funding package of \$761 million to provide immediate post-COVID-19 stimulus to councils to maintain and improve three waters infrastructure, while supporting reform of local government water services delivery arrangements. The long-term intention looks like public multi-regional models for water service delivery with a preference that entities will be in shared ownership of local authorities.

Alongside that work is government's comprehensive review of the RMA, looking at improving environmental outcomes (including limits and standards) when it comes to development, which will impact on council's planning, consenting and regulatory functions.

So those are some of the challenges Mayor Sandra's preparing to take on for the remainder of her elected term over the next 18 months.

"So we will hold our feet in the stirrups and keep in the saddle while we continue on this wild ride. This is just life in the Coromandel. We love it. Yee hah!"

Sandra

*If you want to chat to Sandra drop her an email
sandra.goudie@tcdc.govt.nz or phone 027 431 2442.*

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YOUR COUNCILLORS



SALLY CHRISTIE

Thames Ward Councillor

COVID-19 has crystallised our purpose and commitment to ensure our communities

are supported from an economic and social wellness perspective. Our Council needs to make sure we can afford core services like water and roading by continuing to run them as a business. We're dealing with mounting costs to address climate change, government reforms around three waters, and the fact our solid waste activity costs more than we can rate for. Dealing with these issues is not just a council conversation, but a national conversation. I applaud our emergency management team who dealt with vulnerable communities during the summer drought, COVID-19 and four sub-tropical storms. My involvement with emergency management gives me admiration for the communities who look after each other through tough times.

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ROBYN SINCLAIR

Thames Ward Councillor

As a first-time Councillor I'm really enjoying the experience of being around the table

and sharing thoughts and ideas with my colleagues both experienced and new, like me. There's diversity for sure, but that's how teams work best. Our job is made much easier (and pleasant) by the approachability of council staff for information and action. I'm a huge supporter of all things Coromandel, and if nothing else, events this year have really driven home that we are incredibly lucky to live in such a beautiful district. It's an honour to share it with so many people who, while they can't live here, are fortunate enough to visit. You may see me cycling around Thames on my retro bicycle. I'm pleased to see more bike racks, more promotion of walking and shared spaces across all our towns. Let's keep more of this happening.

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TONY FOX

Mercury Bay Ward Councillor

In 2020 we were able to maintain a high level of service to our communities during

some extremely trying times, including one of the biggest droughts in our history, COVID-19 and weather-related incidents.

I acknowledge our customer service staff who have been outstanding during these events. We face more hurdles, like meeting government-imposed national standards for drinking water, coastal erosion and finding better ways of dealing with rubbish and recycling. I'm proud to be given the opportunity to represent individuals and groups who make significant contributions to our communities through volunteering, sharing feedback, or getting involved in local projects.

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MARTIN RODLEY

Thames Ward Councillor

I've always taken a community approach to food, energy and economics that's

environmentally stable. Now, in my first year as an elected member, I'm even more passionate about creating thriving towns and villages around our district using that ethos. Revitalising main streets in innovative ways and developing proactive business associations will help market the Coromandel as the place to live for young professionals, (doctors, nurses and teachers), alongside those in the primary and service industries. We've got some great high schools and primary schools to choose from. In my ward of Thames, there's lots of shared space, fantastic coffee, a gold mining history and the Kauaeranga Valley and Thames Coast for recreation. I'm about the big picture and mindful that, as elected members, we're accountable for public money and must ensure robust processes are in place when deciding where money is spent.

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JOHN MORRISSEY

Coromandel-Colville Ward Councillor

Representing our smallest ward of Coromandel-Colville is

a real honour. In the past year, there've been roading improvements along the main street with new street furniture and landscaping, in keeping with the town's heritage feel. This has reinvigorated the community to remember the town and surrounds we are proud of, and why we choose to live here – a place full of quirky, self-reliant and resilient people. As a district, now, more than ever, being united makes us all stronger together. It's not about an east-west divide, permanent or non-permanent resident priorities, or pitting one ward against another to get projects across the line. It's about understanding that where we put our resources comes down to needs and priority, and that's something I'm seeing in our Council outlook as we continue to work together.

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MURRAY MCLEAN

Deputy Mayor and Mercury Bay Ward Councillor

We're in the most turbulent times we've had in the past 75

years as we start rebuilding from COVID-19. My contribution is how we handle coming out of this – is the time, experience and knowledge I've spent both in national and local body politics since 1986 – dealing with social and economic issues. Affordability is the biggest problem we're facing and the current model for local and central government funding is unsustainable. That's against a landscape of the everyday rising costs people are grappling with, as many incomes decline. As a Council, we're dealing with rising costs too, alongside issues about how we manage activities like solid waste and water demand. That's why I'm focused on looking at ways to change our costing models and public habits and behaviours in these areas.

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GARY GOTLIEB

South Eastern Ward Councillor

I stood for accountability and questioned how some things in council were operating, asking for more openness and transparency with public reporting of items at council meetings. As a barrister, I'm also about making sure the law and due process is followed. My approach has been to focus on the big picture, although I've stepped in when needed on south-eastern ward issues, e.g. questioning the financial viability of a boardwalk along sections of Whangamata beach. As a non-permanent ratepayer, spending more of my time in Auckland, I'm sympathetic to the negative judgements made about those who aren't local, particularly whether holiday homeowners should reside here during lockdown. My answer: we're all ratepayers and invested in the Coromandel, and should be working together. We're on the same team.

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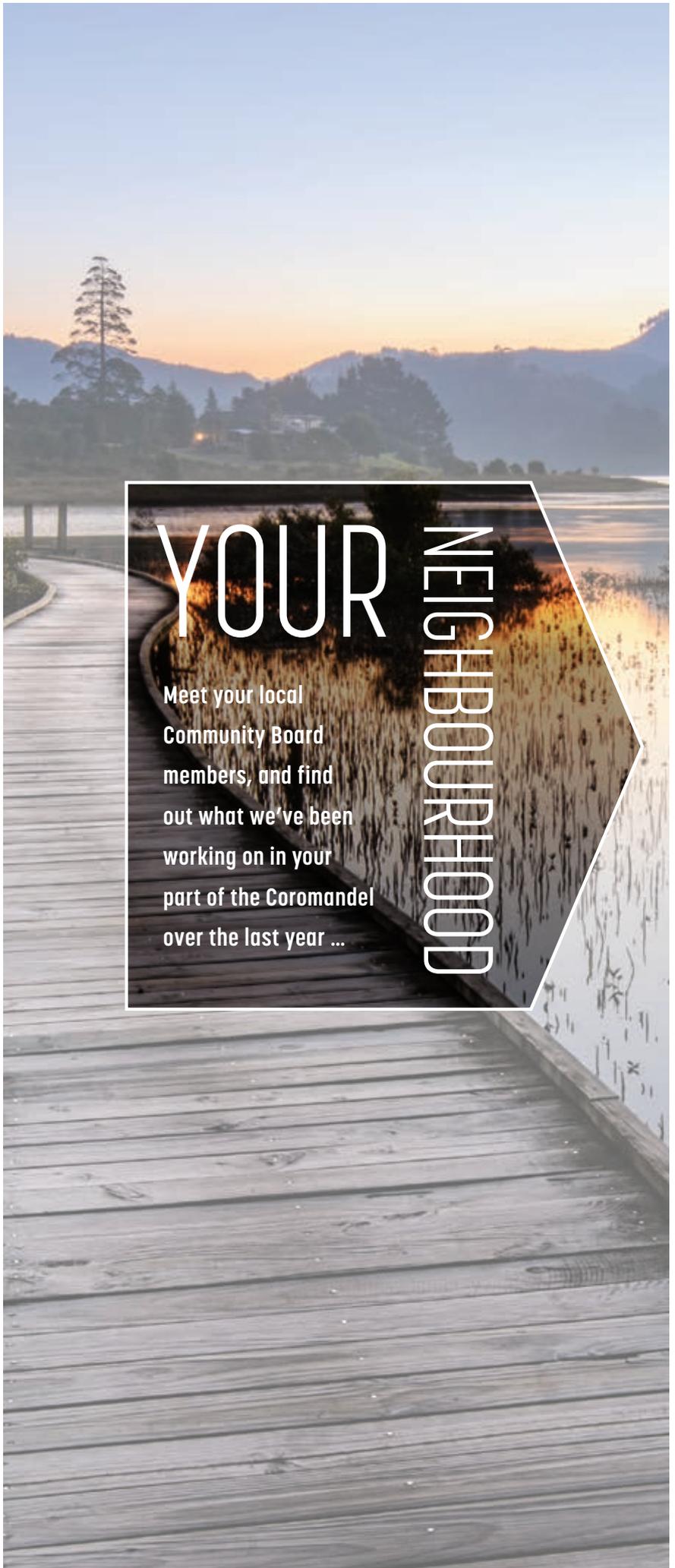


TERRY WALKER

South Eastern Ward Councillor

When COVID-19 struck we had to review our Council's levels of service, project delivery and the average proposed rate rise. Our costs to do business are rising and we need better ways to address this. My focus for our south eastern ward is better stormwater infrastructure and shoreline plans containing local knowledge supported by science. At a district level, it's a balanced capital and operations budget. I'm inspired by our citizens who freely give time to help others for no recognition. I continue to be driven by helping ease the path for frustrated ratepayers battling bureaucratic regulations.

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YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Meet your local
Community Board
members, and find
out what we've been
working on in your
part of the Coromandel
over the last year ...

THAMES PROJECTS

REIMAGINING THAMES

As *Our Coromandel Magazine* was going to print, our Council was in the middle of an ambitious collaboration with the people of Thames to reimagine what the area around the intersection of Pollen and Mary streets looks like and how it could be used in a more people friendly way.

The project, which we're calling 'Create the Vibe Thames' is 90 per cent funded (\$320,125.50) by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's Innovating Streets pilot programme. The remaining 10 per cent (\$35,569.50) is coming from Thames Community Board budgets.

The Innovating Streets programme is funding cost effective, temporary interventions in New Zealand towns and cities that the community has a large role in helping to design. The improvements

can be tested and refined before being made more permanent if they're found suitable.

Beyond the general goal of creating a people friendly public space in the heart of town that will keep residents and visitors

coming back for more, what any changes look like is up to the people of Thames, and we set aside much of September 2020 to hear from residents, businesses and students.

We're hoping to have a few changes in place in early 2021. Because any changes will be temporary, we can make sure they work – or change them.

tcdc.govt.nz/createthevibethames



NGARIMU BAY FOOTPATH

A footpath down Patui Ave has been completed, at the same time as ultra-fast broadband fibre was laid in Ngarimu and Thornton bays (see page 94 for more on fast broadband in the Coromandel), so as to avoid digging up the street twice.



BLANK WALLS TO BE BEAUTIFIED

As part of ongoing efforts to beautify Thames, artist Erika Pearce has been commissioned to create murals for the wall of Baxters Furniture facing Rotary Park (next to Thames Library) and the Mary Street wall of Stirling Sports. As *Our Coromandel Magazine* was going to press, the prototype designs were being considered and will look something like this, below.



THAMES SPATIAL PLAN

What's a spatial plan? A spatial plan gives direction into land use over a decades-long timeframe in order to guide residential, commercial and recreational development.

We're working on the Thames Spatial Plan now, looking at the area between Thames township and Hikutaia to identify whether the zoning in the District Plan is right or if plan changes are needed. An important part of the plan is looking at the commercial viability of different areas from a development perspective and whether the infrastructure already exists to support that or if it needs to be upgraded or built.

Our research identified the lack of housing in the district as a constraint on economic growth (see our Productivity Plan:

tcdc.govt.nz/productivityplan). In the Thames area, the demand for housing is strong, but the supply is not there to meet it and there is a lack of new housing development. Smaller, more affordable homes are in particularly strong demand.

Our research shows that there are opportunities for urban development between Thames and Hikutaia, and numerous landowners here are telling us they would like to develop their land, but there is a lack of infrastructure to enable housing development.

As *Our Coromandel Magazine* was going to print, we were organising stakeholder forums to help further develop the spatial plan.

A full report on the Thames Spatial Plan is on our website:

tcdc.govt.nz/thamesspatialplan

TOTARA VALLEY ROAD SERVICES EXTENSION

One of the areas where landowners have told us they'd like to develop their land and build houses is Totara Valley Road. This year we're working on upgrading the Waipapa Stream culvert, Totara Valley Road and its intersection with Ngati Maru Highway (State Highway 25). Improvements to wastewater, drinking water and stormwater services will be considered for funding through the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

CENTENNIAL POOL

Heat pumps to replace the breakdown-prone wood chip boiler to heat the water at Thames Centennial Pool were installed in August and are working well. The wood chip boiler was prone to breakdown and the sole wood chip supplier recently went into liquidation. The old boiler has been sold and the new heat pumps can be reused in the proposed replacement pool.



BROWN STREET PUBLIC TOILET

This conveniently placed public convenience is getting a much-needed upgrade this Spring, thanks to co-funding from the government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) of \$238,504 with our Council's contribution \$183,626.99. The new toilet will have four pans, including one accessibility/baby change unit, and two urinals. The look of the toilet block is in keeping with the heritage nature of this part of Thames. tcdc.govt.nz/publictoilets



THAMES AIRFIELD

Not only have the drainage and the runways at Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield been improved, to make it usable for more of the year, but we've updated the airfield master plan to guide future development at the site. Airfield users have suggested a site for a cluster of hangars, there is demand for residential hangars/dwellings and scope for aviation-related light industrial, retail or commercial development. In parallel to the master plan update, a designation change process for the airfield land to allow this potential development is proceeding and is expected to be completed soon.

In September, an airfield users group mounted a replica Hurricane fighter at the airfield, in recognition of Thames-born Sir Keith Park, who led the aerial defence of London and southeast England in the Battle of Britain during WW2.



THAMES PUBLIC ART TRUST

Thames Public Art Trust has mounted its first work, Baron, by David McCracken, on its portable plinth at the corner of Mary and Pollen streets. The plinth will hold a rotating display of works. Baron is on loan from the artist, and the plinth was paid for by the Trust with the assistance of Watson Engineering.



ELECTED MEMBERS



Strat Peters
CHAIRPERSON

"It has been satisfying to work with a good, proactive team on the Thames Community Board. I'm looking forward to working with Waka Kotahi, the Thames business community and

residents to flesh out the town centre improvements through the Create the Vibe Thames project. It's been very rewarding working with the Thames Business Association to help build a stronger local business environment. Other highlights are being part of the strategic spatial planning team looking at future land subdivision opportunities between Thames and Hikutaia; and working on the future of Rhodes Park and the Thames replacement pool project."

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Cherie Staples
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

"Kia ora koutou katoa. As a first time-elected member of the Thames Community Board, this past year has proven to be both challenging and rewarding. Working alongside

my fellow board members has been invaluable. Now looking forward, I'm expecting the Create the Vibe Thames project to be the talk of the town. And as one of the nominated representatives for the Shoreline Management Plan Coastal Panels, I can't wait to get started on the Thames Coast panel. Bring on 2021!"

cherie.staples@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Sheryll Fitzpatrick

"My highlight from my year so far as a Community Board member has to be meeting with members of the public and listening to the wonderful things people are doing to make our neighbourhoods an enjoyable place to

live. I am the Board's community liaison representative for Youth, Ageing and Disability, which fits in well with my experience with the Thames Community Centre, the CanDo driver licensing programme and my current focus of helping students gain work experience."

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Peter Revell

"The Board is well balanced, with new blood joining seasoned and wise members. It has been great getting to know everyone, and fun too. I want to ensure continued funding for the Thames Connector public bus service

– a real success that's making a difference to people. Highlights have been being able to provide tangible support for the Thames Business Association, a critical group aiming to bring vibrancy and freshness to our business community, especially in these days of the COVID challenge; and seeing the new airfield designation foster fresh enthusiasm among its users."

peter.revell@council.tcdc.govt.nz

COROMANDEL-COLVILLE PROJECTS

COROMANDEL TOWN MAIN ROAD UPGRADE

The refreshed town centre is being enjoyed by many locals, including Zeus the superstar horse and our Mayor Sandra Goudie. (See Mayor Sandra's feature on pages 4-5)

Coromandel Town is a unique place where people are lucky to live and work," Mayor Sandra says. "The improvements provide a warm welcome at the entrance of the town and a more functional road, which is much safer especially during the summer months when Coromandel Town experiences a huge influx of tourists," she says.

The T-intersection of Kapanga, Wharf and Tiki roads was made into a roundabout which larger vehicles can drive over, the camber (or slope) of the road was lessened to avoid car doors swinging into verandah posts and the Kapanga Rd pedestrian crossing was moved to opposite Samuel James Reserve. A threshold crossing has also been installed at the northern end of town, using cobblestones to match the new roundabout, opposite the Hauraki House Reserve. The stormwater infrastructure was upgraded at the same time as the road works were done.

tcdc.govt.nz/coromandeltownupgrade



COLVILLE FORESHORE

The old parking area has been permanently closed and vehicles are now directed to park at a new area located nearby on road reserve. Large rocks have been placed to indicate the boundary and to prevent vehicles damaging the grassed area. There is a waahi tapu area adjacent to the reserve which has also been closed to vehicles.



HAURAKI HOUSE RESERVE

A double BBQ facility including a water bottle filling station and gazebo has been installed at the Hauraki House Reserve for community use. This was a partner project between our Council and the Coromandel Lions Club.



COROMANDEL 200

The 200th anniversary of the HMS Coromandel arriving at Coromandel Harbour was marked in September 2020. A dedication for the Royal Navy ship (for which the harbour, town and peninsula are named) was held at Whangarahi Reserve involving the Royal New Zealand Navy. The ship came to cut kauri trees to be used as spars by the Royal Navy and carry out coastal surveying. She remained in the area for one year. A sculpture to commemorate the visit was unveiled and the Illume Festival joined forces with the Coromandel 200 event organisers to light up the streets and host a costume ball at the recently renovated Coromandel Citizens' Hall. A community session was held to plant 107 kauri trees (the number the HMS Coromandel crew cut and took back to Britain) at a new Coromandel 200 Commemorative Forest at the Albert Street Reserve (pictured below).

tcdc.govt.nz/coro200



NEW SEATING FOR COROMANDEL TOWN

Bench seating has been installed around the existing pohutakawa trees in the town centre.



HARRIET KINGS ROAD

A new concrete ford has been built on Harriet Kings Road, replacing the previous crossing over the natural stream bed. The new ford will be safer for road users, especially during floods when the stream bed could be washed out and impassable.



COROMANDEL BIKE PARK

The Spirit of Coromandel Trust had a vision 10 years ago to turn the ex-landfill site on Hauraki Road into a "vibrant recreational facility for all to enjoy". In this time, the land has been rehabilitated with fencing and earthworks to a stage where it is now being developed into bike tracks and associated facilities. There will be an all-weather asphalt pump track, a skills development area including three gentle descent trails and children's trail area. This will be next to the car park area. On the adjacent Kauri Block, a site of gold mining from the 1870s – 1930s, there will be flowing single trails for all skill levels and a kauri dieback prevention wash facility. The surface will be hard packed and the trails will have superb views over Coromandel Town and the harbour.

Construction of the bike park was scheduled to begin in October 2020 and progress can be watched at www.ridecoromandel.com or on their social pages @ridecoromandel

Please see

www.ridecoromandel.com/partners for the list of sponsors and funding organisations who are helping to make this park possible.



Peter Pritchard
CHAIRPERSON

"Highlights for me for 2020 include completion of the Coromandel Town main street improvements and the way the Coromandel-Colville ward united and helped each other during the pandemic crisis. The support we each received from all sectors – central and local government, emergency services, Civil Defence, health providers, social services – and just locals supporting locals was fantastic. I returned home from the UK just days before the lockdown and am grateful for those who shopped for me, checked up on me (including the Police and Ministry of Health) and allowed my extended lockdown to be quite bearable. Knowing we are all in this together gives me strength that we will get through, and faith that 2021 will be a much better year for us all."

peter.pritchard@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Jan Autumn
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

"COVID-19 has changed many things, but one thing that has been a bonus for Coromandel-Colville Community Board is the town centre streetscape upgrade. We managed to get the majority of work done before lockdown and the final touches of gardens planted etc completed in Level 3. By the time visitors were allowed again, the main street was looking great and welcoming. A great achievement in trying times."

jan.autumn@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Jean Ashby

"I believe it's important for a Board member to engage with people, listen to their korero and ensure their kaupapa is brought to the table. I was very pleased to hear about the Provincial Growth Fund money awarded to Sugarloaf Wharf. It is a huge achievement and will provide new jobs for people in our ward and provides a vote of confidence for an industry that is important for many people in our community. I enjoy being on a Board with amazing passionate people who make a positive difference for people living here and I am excited to see more of these positive changes in the future."

jean.ashby@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Kim Brett

"I have lived in Coromandel Town from a very young age and I am lucky to have grown up in such a clean and preserved environment. We have some of the best tourist attractions here, one of them being fishing, which I am truly passionate about. We also load 90 per cent of the North Island's Green Shell mussels right here in our town. A huge achievement for our town is the Provincial Growth Fund investment in for our aquaculture industry through Sugarloaf Wharf. I look forward to seeing more positive changes in what is an amazing place to live and bring up children."

kim.brett@council.tcdc.govt.nz

MERCURY BAY PROJECTS

MERCURY BAY SKATE PARK

Despite delays due to COVID-19, the new skate park at Whitianga's Taylors Mistake/Whakau Reserve is still on track to be completed during 2020. This is a safe place for all ages to skate, offering a street drain run with low and high fixtures, an open flow section, with unique and challenging obstacles and a separate bowl section with quarter pipes.

Community fundraising and business sponsorship has been significant, with the Mercury Bay Skate Park Trust raising more than its target goal of \$150,000. Trust Waikato contributed \$60,000 to the build and our Council contributed towards design in 2019 and \$469,000 towards construction through existing budgets allocated in our 2018-2028 Long Term Plan. To donate to the Trust email skate@devenoges.com. Additional funding will be needed for lighting and shelters.

tcdc.govt.nz/skate



TAPUTAPUATEA FOOTBRIDGE

Our new footbridge and boardwalk over Taputapuatea Stream in Whitianga provides a safer way to access the popular coastal area and walking tracks beside SH25. We've worked closely with local iwi Ngati Hei, Heritage NZ and Forest and Bird around the cultural significance of the area and signage to make people aware of this when they visit.



BUFFALO BEACH OUTDOOR FITNESS STATION

Our new outdoor fitness station provides five pieces of equipment for a complete outdoor workout and is being well-used by fitness and community groups. The Whitianga Cancer Support Trust and the Mercury Bay Lionesses both donated \$5,000 each towards the station.



BEACH NOURISHMENT WORK – COOKS BEACH

At the Purangi Estuary end of Cooks Beach, 1650m³ of sand was taken from the spit and placed over the backstop wall that sits below ground level to protect existing infrastructure from the sea. The new sand forms a protective cover to provide an area of high tide beach. This will need to be topped up periodically as sand is moved by the tide.

tcdc.govt.nz/coastal



BOAT RAMP UPGRADES

See pages 148-149 for improvements to boat ramps in Mercury Bay.

tcdc.govt.nz/boatramps



DUNE RESTORATION PLANTING DAYS

We held 12 dune planting days across Mercury Bay in 2020, planting 20,000 sand-binding, native plants with the help of community groups. For more on dune protection see page 154.



TOILET AND WASTEWATER UPGRADE

at Meri Te Tai Mangakahia Reserve, Whangapoua

After talking with the community about improvements, a smarter and more accessible toilet and shower facility was installed along with upgrades to the wastewater facilities in the reserve. This was done with the help of a Tourism Infrastructure Fund grant of \$468,000.

tcdc.govt.nz/meritetaireserveupgrade



IMPROVEMENTS TO LEES RD, HAHEI

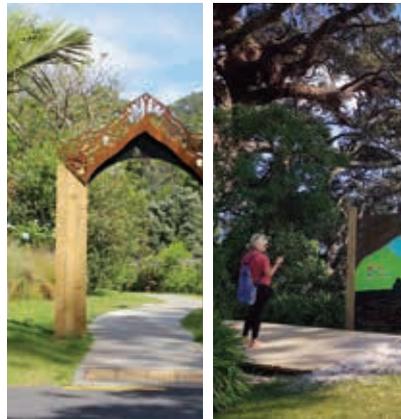
This road is popular route for visitors to the Stella Evered Memorial Park Reserve and this year we improved its safety by widening sections, felling 250 pine trees, removing dangerous corners and extending sealing to the full 1.5km length of the road. The Board approved continuation of a walkway from Stella Evered Memorial Park to the visitor car park at Lees Rd, which also links up to Cathedral Cove.



HAHEI TOURISM IMPROVEMENTS

Visitor facilities in Hahei have been sharpened up with the help of \$1.4 million from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund. This included:

- Extending the existing Hahei Visitor Car Park and building a further car park – lifting the standard of visitor parking from an informal, gravel paddock to a sealed and landscaped facility.
- Installing quality walking paths from the car park to Hahei Village and Hahei beach, adjoining the start of the Cathedral Cove walkway, with new signage.
- Upgrade the existing toilet facility in Hahei Village.



MATARANGI PROJECTS

Improvements have been made at two beach accessways, including a new access platform at Matarangi Green (pictured) complete with a ramp for wheelchairs and pushchairs, while fencing was upgraded around the Bluff Rd beach car park. We also worked with DOC to fell a number of large pine trees overhanging high voltage powerlines on Bluff Rd. Dangerous concrete blocks, dumped historically on the beach near the Omara Reserve, were removed to improve safety at the popular shoreline area and minor repairs were made to the Matarangi Wharf.



Rekha Giri-Percival
CHAIRPERSON

"Despite 2020 being a challenging year, I am pleased to see so many projects completed in Mercury Bay. Thanks to all the volunteers who joined the local dune restoration planting days. It was

fantastic to see construction start on the Mercury Bay Skate Park and completion of the Whangapoua boat ramp upgrade and the Taputapuatea pedestrian bridge. A highlight for me was the July Night Market, organised by the Whitianga Business Association, and seeing the upgraded main street enjoyed by so many, with a relaxed family-friendly vibe. I hope we see more opportunities for our community to come together and celebrate."

rekha.percival@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Bill McLean
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

"We came to visit Whitianga in 2008. Soon, it became apparent we were in a far better place than Auckland and stayed. I retired and concentrated on golf, reading support for young children at the MBAS, community

patrol, writing for the Informer, and generally learning about the area. I'm in my third term with the Board. I have just been appointed as a representative for our area for the National Foreshore Management Plan. So, what is there to like in a ward that gives me the opportunity to help support the community? Everything!"

bill.mclean@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Deli Connell

"I am proud to be a member of the Board for a third term and to continue to work with our community. I've lived here for more than 37 years and never tire of our environment and the wonderful people who visit and reside here. Our growth

and seasonal holiday influx creates challenges for our infrastructure that we need to keep working through. I'm excited by our work around solid waste management and look forward to a time when Council and community work together to greatly reduce rubbish to landfill. Mercury Bay can lead the way in creating a healthy environment that other wards aspire to."

deli.connell@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Jeremy Lomas

"I've enjoyed my first year on the Board and meeting a wide range of local groups to understand our communities and what they want to see. While COVID-19 has, sadly, slowed the momentum of some projects, the Mercury Bay Skate Park is

one I've been pleased to see come to life in late 2020. It will be a great asset for the community, which I hope is valued. I've been appointed to the Council's coastal panel for Mercury Bay. I feel strongly about our younger generation and ensuring there are opportunities for kids who grow up here to stay in the area. This continues to motivate me in this role, and to make a positive difference in our community."

jeremy.lomas@council.tcdc.govt.nz

TAIRUA-PAUANUI PROJECTS

ROYAL BILLY POINT WHARF AND BOAT RAMP UPGRADE

The upgrade is largely completed with the replacement of the floating wharf pontoon and access bridge (stage 1), and the boat ramp upgrade (stage 3). The remaining works include installation of the last section of the concrete access bridge and support piles (stage 2) and will likely be postponed until April 2021 to avoid the busy peak period.



PLEASANT POINT BOAT RAMP

We widened this concrete boat ramp by four metres over its entire 30 metre length in June 2020 within the approved budget of \$78k.



PAUNAU WATERWAYS PLAYGROUND

While completed in June, the official opening was cancelled due to the weather and COVID-19 restrictions. We're working with Tairua, Hikua and Pauanui preschool to do some artwork on the natural play features. This will be completed in November (weather dependent) and once completed we will hold a celebration with the community.



KENNEDY PARK FITNESS TRAIL

This project has been delayed due to COVID-19 and was not completed in the 2019/2020 financial year. Therefore it will be re-applied for in the Long Term Plan and if accepted we expect to install in the 2021/2022 financial year.



PAUANUI SURF CLUB PATH

This was built to allow vehicles to cross without causing damage. New park furniture was installed in partnership with the Pauanui Menz Shed.



PAUANUI SKATE BOWL UPGRADE

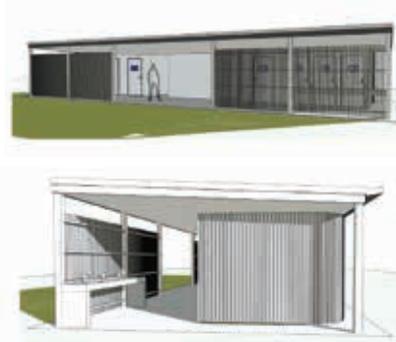
Staff met with local skateboard users earlier this year and their feedback has been included in the concept plan. Tenders were put out in September 2020 for the remedial works.

[tcdc.govt.nz/skate](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/skate)



PEPE TOILET

Work was delayed due to COVID-19 and the facility started being built (off-site) in September and is expected to be completed by the end of October. This project was part of our successful Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) applications.



SAILORS GRAVE (TE KARO BAY) TOILET

This new toilet facility was also part of our successful TIF applications and was completed in August 2020. The overall project cost was \$145k with \$63,275 coming from the TIF.



WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES

Construction of the new water treatment plant in Tairua is finished and the official opening was held in August. Construction has started on the new treatment plant in Pauanui and is progressing well. For more information on our drinking water standards project see tcdc.govt.nz/dws



TAIRUA SKATE FACILITY OPTIONS

In response to community demand for a skate facility to cater for all skill and age levels in Tairua, \$50,000 has been budgeted in the 2020/2021 financial year to investigate the construction of a skate facility in Tairua.

The Board asked for Council staff to work with the Tairua Skate Park working group to produce a design for a skate facility at Cory Park Domain, determine costs and lodge a certificate of compliance. A report will come back to the Board in November 2020.

tcdc.govt.nz/skate



PHOTO CREDIT: JASPER PICKETT



Warwick Brooks
CHAIRPERSON

“Our year started off well with a wonderful summer. We had to revisit our Board’s work programme to help decrease the overall rates increase for our District and along came the challenge of COVID-19. Our meetings moved online, which was a new experience, however we continued to function. With the challenges faced this year, it’s great that projects here are still on-the-go or have been completed to revamp our towns. I would like to thank and congratulate our community for knuckling down and complying with our Government’s instructions. Best wishes for the summer – continue to be kind and stay safe.”

warwick.brooks@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Chris New
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

“When you stand for the Board, you push what is good for the community. It’s not an easy job as we’re constrained by budgets and keeping rate rises to a minimum. For example, the Tairua skate facility project has been delayed, but I’m determined to see it set up this term. I am pleased to see the Pepe toilet upgrade starting and the flooding issues at Holland Close in Pauanui need to be resolved. Let’s help our local businesses recover from COVID-19 and enjoy a great summer.”

chris.new@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Anne Stewart Ball

“2020 has been an interesting challenge with COVID-19 resulting in a new way for our Board to meet online, which was available to all ratepayers to view. I enjoyed seeing the drinking water treatment plant at Tairua open with Pauanui’s upgrade also beginning, and a road-trimming vegetation project for Puketui Rd, Hikuai. The inaugural Tairua boat show was also a highlight, drawing a large crowd and providing an opportunity for local businesses to showcase what this special place offers. Lastly, I have enjoyed visiting all three ratepayer groups – Tairua, Pauanui and Hikuai, as these are community-minded people who’re passionate about our fantastic place on Coromandel’s eastern seaboard.”

anne.stewartball@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Barry Swindles

“The Pauanui community has approached me with numerous concerns regarding local issues that I have brought to the Board. These include the completion of the upgrade at Royal Billy Point, the flooding issues in Holland Close, an upgrade of the skate bowl and the erosion on the ocean beachfront. I continue to advocate for the dune planting programme and a big thank-you to the local community for helping in September.”

barry.swindles@council.tcdc.govt.nz

WHANGAMATA PROJECTS

ONEMANA PUBLIC TOILETS

Another successful TIF application project. The new facility was completed in March 2020 and provides two new accessible toilets to replace the old toilets at the Onemana Surf Club, which are being redeveloped by the Onemana Surf Life Saving Club. It also includes a shelter for school students, as well as space for a community notice board. This project has \$108,352 of funding from central government that was awarded as part of the Tourism Infrastructure Fund.



WENTWORTH VALLEY ROAD

The sealing, drainage and kerbing restarted in September 2020 and our roading team met with residents weekly while work was taking place.



CCTV

Installation of five cameras in Whangamata and one in Onemana is completed.

STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Drainage improvement works in Lowe Street, Whangamata started in July to reduce the impact of flooding during intense rain events. Currently, during heavy rainfall, water ponds on the road and can run into low-lying properties.

The work taking place includes removing a section of the Lowe Street kerb opposite Beverley Terrace and construction of a shallow swale drain and ponding area within Williamson Park. This allows the water to pond in the park and soak away avoiding the hazard of surface water on the road and reduces the flood risk to properties. Long-term stormwater reticulation improvements in Whangamata will be consulted on through our 2021-31 Long Term Plan.



BEVERLEY HILLS WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The plant is to be upgraded as part of our Drinking Water Standards programme. The building consent application has been approved and construction started August 2020. Planning is also underway for Wentworth Valley, Moana Point and Onemana. All of these upgrades will ensure our drinking water quality complies with the current NZ Drinking Water standards.

tcdc.govt.nz/dws

DUNE EROSION

Our Council's new coastal scientist is working with our Parks and Reserves team to monitor storm erosion. Some older structures such as handrails and decking have been removed. These will be upgraded and made safe.

tcdc.govt.nz/coastal



WHANGAMATA SKATE PARK

(Cost: \$339,000) The upgrade consisted of grinding the skate bowl in December 2019 to repair the existing skate park on Martyn Road (1265m² approximately in size), and construction of a street skate area next to the existing bowl on top of the bank. "The project has received a lot of positive feedback from the Whangamata community and created a better flow from the shelter area to establish a street skate 'zone'," says Ken Coulam, Whangamata Community Board Chair. "The focus of the project acknowledges the importance of the existing bowl for skating history in Whangamata, but at the same time we gave it a new lease of life so the next generation can continue to express themselves in new creative and exciting ways."



WHANGAMATA WHARF

In August, we did some repair work to the concrete wharf structure and access bridge to extend the overall life of the facility. We also intend to refurbish the floating pontoon and plan to do this work in May/June 2021 to avoid disruption to the facility over the peak period.

The gantry and hoist have been removed from the wharf for refurbishment and will be reinstalled by Labour Weekend.



WHANGAMATA BOARD WALK PROJECT

From July-September 2020 we trailed a new way to construct a coastal boardwalk at the beach accessway in front of Williamson Park (next to the Surf Club).

The new design aims to reduce the need for excavations and will sit at the surface to maintain natural dune form. It also allows for sections to be built off-site reducing some of the costs and construction disturbance while providing the ability to shift sections should these need to be re-positioned.

We sought public feedback on the three-month trial, to see how it performed and whether it met the project objectives, and to inform future decisions for the boardwalk.

The proposed plan for the boardwalk project is:

- To progress with a boardwalk along The Esplanade only.
- The dunes section of the proposed boardwalk and eventual connection to Hunt Road (to form a connection with the town centre) is to be delayed while further details are worked through with iwi and The Department of Conservation (DOC).
- To build a small 10m section of boardwalk at the southern end of the existing boardwalk by the surf club (Beach Access 10) to test a new lightweight construction that will reduce the need for pile excavations and can be relocated if needed.

tcdc.govt.nz/whangaboardwalk



TE ARA O TE WAIROA (MOANA ANU ANU HARBOUR) WALKWAY

We've been working with the DOC and iwi to explore proposed future stages of this walkway to link Whangamata's reserves and allow walkers to enjoy up to 8km of tracks with various surfaces. Some will be paved, others will remain in existing grass, with sign posts keeping users on track. This concept will be done in stages as and when funding becomes available, and we'll be making sure we communicate closely with any adjacent property owners as each stage is considered.



TOURISM INFORMATION SERVICE (PORT ROAD)

The Whangamata Information Service (620 Port Rd) is under the management of the Whangamata Multisport Club Inc, effective since 1 July 2020.

The new manager, Richard White, introduced himself to the Whangamata Community Board at their July meeting and explained that the club's vision is to refine the current business model to one that is community focused, but sustainable and ready for growth as the world has changed post COVID-19.

Their aim is to deliver on the potential that exists and to create a community hub that is open, collaborative and supportive to all businesses and stakeholders. The Board has recommended to Council to also reconsider the Service Level Agreement funding for the Information Centre as part of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan process.



WHANGAMATA BOAT RAMP

The replacement of the fractured pontoon guide pole is expected to be reinstated late September, subject to weather conditions.



Ken Coulam
CHAIRPERSON

"I have been on the Board for the last four years as Chair and I enjoy the challenge of serving the community in this role. My focus is quality infrastructure and community services, while balancing needs with affordable rates. This year has been like no other with the arrival of COVID-19, and while we have seen fewer overseas tourists visiting, the domestic visitors have filled the gap. The next year will be difficult but I look forward to the time we can put the virus behind us."

ken.coulam@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Dave Ryan
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

"My wish for our ward is to ensure that residents get value for rates, and that money comes back into our area. The important things to me are the roading, streetlighting, and three-waters projects. There are a lot of 'nice to have items', but ratepayers have made it clear they want to have the important basics provided. I can see extreme caution in spending is necessary and I am pleased that our Board is now working closer together. Please buy locally to support our providers and stay safe."

dave.ryan@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Kay Baker

"I continue to promote the Community Gardens and Harbour Care along with the uphill struggle to have our wonderful pool covered for year-round use. It's wonderful to see the skate park come to fruition. There are lots of projects I am passionate about including: improving our stormwater to alleviate flooding of properties and keeping Council accountable for our portion of the rates. It's also the small everyday items that are important, so our ratepayers feel valued and listened to."

kay.baker@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Tamzin Letele

"This year has been a journey of substantial learning and meaningful progress. My role has included sitting on the newly formed Coastal Panel, Board representative for the local schools and Opoutere Ratepayers, as well as being selected as the Local Government NZ Young Elected Member sitting on the LGNZ National Council. Responding to COVID-19, the Board is focused on community need, sustainability, and economic stimulus as part of the Long Term Plan. Infrastructure, the Community Hub, waste management, and increased local funding are areas of attention for the year ahead. There has been substantial progress nationally in the three-waters space, and we hope to see the positive benefits of this over the coming years in Whangamata."

tamzin.letele@council.tcdc.govt.nz

Focus on Council spending

"We are living through extraordinary times and an extraordinary year due to the impact of COVID-19. Everyone has had to make changes to the way we live, work and play."
 Mayor Sandra Goudie



Our Council business has not been spared by COVID-19: projects, budgets and services were all affected by the lockdown from late March to mid-May and the ongoing economic impact.

The lockdown hit midway through our consultation on the proposed Annual Plan for the 2020/21 financial year. We needed to carry on with the consultation to be sure the Annual Plan reflected what projects and services people thought should be continued, deferred or maybe even cut in order to provide savings moving forward. We received 242 submissions on the proposed Annual Plan and 37 people spoke to our Council over two days of hearings, held online due to the lockdown. The original proposal was to increase rates

9.98 per cent, but was changed to a rise of 4.98 per cent recognising the impact of COVID-19 on the business.

The proposed 9.98 per cent increase was intended to cover increases to the costs of maintaining our current services that had risen at a much faster rate than estimated when the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan was developed.

When our finance team finished our year-end result (30 June 2020) we calculated a more positive financial result, taking into consideration the costs that we faced at the

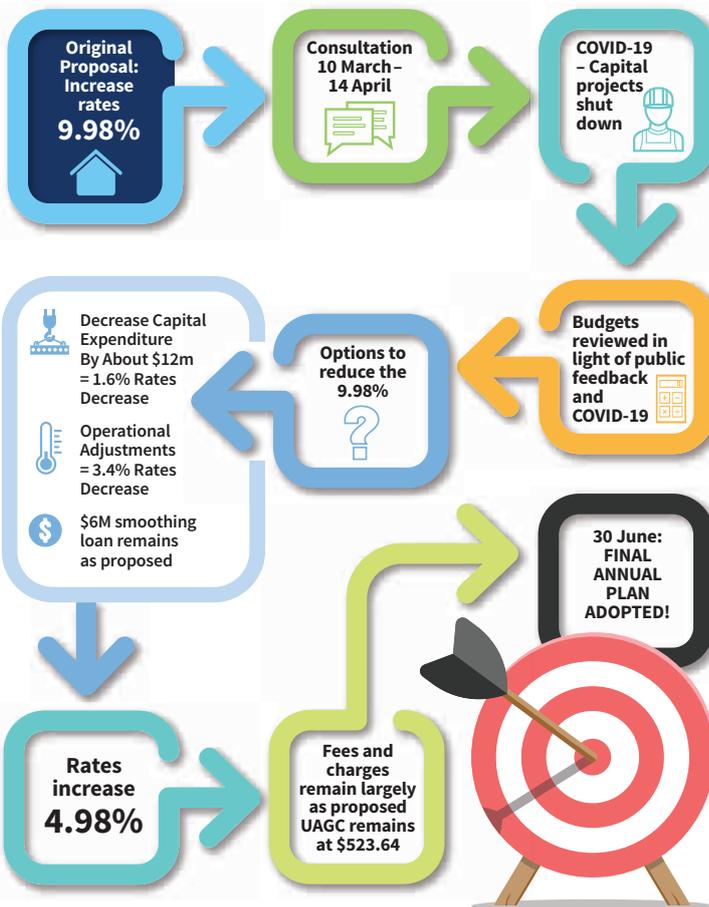
start of the year and the further impacts of COVID-19.

As presented in the operating results summary, the closing position of the 2019/2020 year was \$1.9 million under what was forecast in March 2020.

This has resulted in a better opening financial position for the 2020/2021 year, a trend which will be managed throughout the next financial year.

tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2020

ANNUAL PLAN DELIBERATIONS



GET READY FOR THE LONG TERM PLAN

The cost of delivering our services increases every year. Further rates increases and other revenue sources or savings will be needed to pay for the ongoing operation of Council's services. This will be considered as we develop the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP)



We'll be asking for feedback on some issues in pre-LTP consultations, so keep an eye out for these opportunities over the coming months. You'll also have a chance to examine the LTP proposals in early 2021.

Make your voice heard. What services do you want to pay for? And do you want to see changes to those services?

Stay in touch with our Council to find out more.

tcdc.govt.nz/longtermplan2021





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626 Port Road, Whangamata
P 07 865 6767
E coromandel@jennian.co.nz
jennian.co.nz



Jennian
HOMES
Your personality Our expertise

island paradise

Stretching over 400 kilometres, the Coromandel has one of the most expansive and stunning coastlines in Aotearoa. Just off our shores lie plenty of small islands, complete with hidden lagoons, beaches and views to discover, making them perfect for summer trips and adventures. Some remain largely untouched or have been turned into wildlife sanctuaries, while others encompass farmland or luxury resorts. Explore the Coromandel's treasure trove of islands over the next few pages.

Ahuahu/Great Mercury Island

The largest of the Mercury Islands, Great Mercury Island/Ahuahu (pictured below) housed early settlements of Māori (Ngāti Hei and Ngāti Karaua) and Pākehā. Great Mercury Island was bought by the Crown during the 1800s before being passed into private ownership, and now houses idyllic retreats for the super-wealthy. Fortunately, it also has many pristine beaches that are accessible to the public, with many boats travelling from the likes of

Matarangi, Opito Bay and Whitianga during the summer. In recent years, the Island's owners have worked with the Department of Conservation to completely eradicate pests, so all who enjoy its beauty are asked to be incredibly careful to ensure they're not bringing any pests that may be stowed away on their boats. Popular spots include stunning beaches along its south coast, while charters provide another way to explore its waters.





Slipper Island/*Whakahau* and Shoe Island/*Motuhoa*

Off Tairua's coast lies Slipper Island/*Whakahau* – most of which is a privately-owned resort available to camp on, or for groups to rent – and smaller island Shoe/*Motuhoa*. A luxury stay on Slipper Island could see you snorkelling, kayaking and swimming in its crystal clear waters, or exploring its stunning volcanic cliffs. For those visiting for a day trip, the island's private ownership means you need to stay on the beachfront and bring essentials along with you. Both islands also attract divers and fishers to their waters, offering an array of popular dive spots for most skill levels. In the waters off Slipper Island's South Bay, there's a shipwreck of the steamship S.S. *Manaia*, from 1926, which is another popular attraction for snorkelers and divers.

slipperislandresort.com





Aldermen Islands/ *Ruamaahua Islands*

The Aldermen Islands are a designated wildlife sanctuary and popular diving spot 12 nautical miles off Pauanui's coast, with a range of native wildlife on the mainland. The rocky islands were once part of a much larger volcanic complex, until it was submerged in the last ice age (over 20,000 years ago). The Māori name 'Ruamaahua' has been translated as "thrust up from the depths", referring to their imposing spiked and sheer appearance. The Islands were gifted to the Crown by Māori in 1969, as long as they remained a nature reserve, among other conditions. Their volcanic origins make them a haven for crayfish, as well as scores of other sea life, making it a perfect spot for both deep and shallow dives. Scuba divers can explore the aptly named Honeycomb Caverns – a series of chambers and tunnels filled with fish, sponge and plant life. Other popular spots include Stingray Rock and Gorilla's Head – but remember you'll need a permit to dive in these waters, or to visit with a charter or tour company that has one.



ABOVE & TOP: PHOTO SUPPLIED BY DIVE ZONE WHITIANGA, WHICH OFFERS TRIPS TO DIVE THE MANY STUNNING SITES OF THE ALDERMEN ISLANDS. divezonewhitianga.co.nz

Whanganui Island

Located at the entrance to the Coromandel Harbour, Whanganui Island is privately owned, but you're able to anchor and go onshore to explore its beautiful scenery, beaches and walks. The island is a mix of farmland and forest, with the most popular mooring spot being Woolshed Bay.





Whenuakura

An amazing lagoon lies in the middle of Whenuakura, giving it the apt nickname 'Donut Island'. It lies around 1km off the coast of Whangamatā and is a treasured wildlife sanctuary, which you can visit by kayak or paddle board alongside a certified guide, who will make sure your visit is a safe one. By choosing a certified tour, your visit will ensure a donation is made to support Whenuakura Wildlife Sanctuary and help return native species such as tuatara to the island. This is a gem you'll have to admire from its crystal waters, as stepping onshore could damage its fragile ecology. The island is looked after by local iwi, Ngāti Pu, who work alongside a variety of community groups to preserve the island's native wildlife, while creating memorable and safe experiences for visitors.

For Whenuakura Island kayak tours visit surfsup.nz or pedalandpaddle.co.nz/donutislandkayak



PHOTO CREDIT: PETER STRETCH

OUR COROMANDEL MAGAZINE 2020-2021

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BACKYARD BOUNTY

The Coromandel is brimming with clever small businesses creating innovative and exciting products. Here's a small selection of homegrown products you can buy and, in doing so, 'support local' in the Coromandel.



COASTAL FLAIR

Make your space feel a little more lush with Coastal Flair's range of plants and kokedama (a Japanese technique for wrapping a plant in moss and string, to replace a pot). This small, home-based business on the Thames Coast has also released DIY kokedama kits, if you're looking for a holiday project or gift for a green-thumbed friend. coastalflair.co.nz



BEEKEEPER'S DAUGHTER SKINCARE

These skincare products – which include balms, butters, cleansers, scrubs and moisturisers – capture the magic of mānuka honey, bee pollen and beeswax, utilised for their respective soothing, anti-aging, healing and antibacterial properties. Ingredients are sourced from a family-owned honey farm in Tairua, and paired with native botanicals such as kawakawa, alongside homegrown herbs and flowers. beekeepersdaughter.co.nz



YU ARTISAN SOAP

These Japanese-style soaps are made in Whitianga in small batches, using a slow, traditional cold-press method. Crafted with only natural ingredients, these moisturising bars are infused with the likes of yuzu, lavender and mānuka for a refreshing and creamy lather yuartisansoap.com



COFFEE LALA

Coffee Lala has been caffeinating the Coromandel, and beyond, with their perfectly-roasted beans since 2002. Based in Whitianga, Coffee Lala is delivered throughout the country, with blends to suit every taste, as well as decaf options. They also supply equipment and machines. coffeelala.com



CASTLE ROCK CAFÉ

Before the turn-off to Whangapoua Beach, visit the Castle Rock Café shop for an assortment of dressings, jams and chutneys using produce from their garden. The sensational hot chilli lime chutney and tamarillo and cinnamon dressing are favourites and, like all Castle Rock products, are packed with flavour and free from gluten and preservatives. Just like Grandma used to make. Products available online at castlerockcafe.co.nz



OMAHU VALLEY CITRUS

Straight from the orchard to the bottle, Omahu Valley Citrus has won awards for its delicious preserves, which are stocked all across the country. Their wide range of fruity marmalades, chutneys, jellies and cordials are sure to brighten up your meal-times, baking and platters. All the fruit is grown on the orchard in southern Coromandel, before being lovingly bottled in small batches, using all-natural ingredients. Visit omahuvalleycitrus.co.nz for stockists.



THE COROMANDEL SMOKING COMPANY

Fresh and always delicious, The Coromandel Smoking Company is a must-visit to stock up on smoked fish and mussels, as well as fresh local oysters and seafood. They also offer hampers for entertaining, deliver throughout NZ, and even offer gift vouchers. Find them at 70 Tiki Road, Coromandel, or visit corosmoke.co.nz



CATHEDRAL COVE MACADAMIAS

In case macadamias weren't luscious enough as they are, Cathedral Cove Macadamias have turned theirs into a range of oils and snacks, as well as crumb mixes and nut butter. Did someone say milk-coated macadamias? Visit cathedralcovemacadamias.co.nz to see their full range of products.



COROMANDEL DISTILLING COMPANY

This Thames-based micro distillery was started by two scientists who made their debut with 'The Cuckoo' – a limited edition of 300 hand-crafted London Dry Gin bottles made with 20 secret ingredients including three different types of pepper, rose petals, pomegranate, and hibiscus. Awarded GOLD at the New Zealand Spirits Awards 2020, this gin sold out in record time. In 2020, 'Awildian' was launched – a micro-batch gin celebrating the uniqueness of the Coromandel. Hand-crafted with fresh, local ingredients including sustainably-harvested kauri leaves, mānuka honey and kawakawa, Awildian combines the tradition and art of distillation with the magic of the land and sea.

Visit awildian.co.nz or call in to The Depot, 715 Pollen St, Thames, for a tasting every Saturday between 10am-2pm.



SAVOUR AND SPICE

These carefully blended spices will ensure your cooking is packed with flavour – trying out a new mix is a great way to expand your culinary horizons. At savourandspice.co.nz you'll find their range of spices, as well as some inspiring recipes. Or visit Shop 5, The Depot, 715 Pollen Street, Thames.



WHALEBIRD JEWELLERY

These unique, botanical-inspired jewels are handmade in Kuaotunu and stocked all over Aotearoa. From delicate bracelets and rings, to chunkier necklaces and statement pieces incorporating pounamu and precious gems, Whalebird has something to suit a range of styles. whalebird.co.nz



AVOCADO TO YOU

One for the avo-obsessed: this Cooks Beach farm will deliver beautiful avocados right to your door. They come straight from the orchard after picking, for you to use as they become perfectly ripe. Visit avocadotoyou.co.nz



UNCLE DUNKLE'S CHILLI SAUCE

These fiery, smoky, slow-cooked sauces are produced out of Kuaotunu and are available in a range of spice levels to suit your taste. They're sure to liven up any meal – you can use them in marinades, glazes, curries, stir fries, or even your bloody mary or margarita. Visit uncledunkles.co.nz to order and for stockists.



PAINTINGS BY LIBBY MCCOLL

An artist based in Coromandel Town, Libby McColl's vibrant work captures the beauty of landscapes, countryside scenes and the ocean. Her work is sure to brighten up any space – you can browse her available work at libbymccoll.com



HOSANNA HONEY CO

As well as its range of high-quality Coromandel honey, Hosanna Honey Co produces beeswax candles, perfect for lighting during long summer evenings with friends. They're available in bowl and pillar shapes from hosannahoney.co.nz



AROHART

In Thames, you can find Arohart – a gallery and shop set up as a marketplace for local Māori artists and to “bring mana back to genuine Māori arts and art practitioners”. As well as the popular feather earrings made from recycled materials, they also have stunning whakairo (carvings), pounamu, kete, homewares and prints. Visit 724 Pollen Street, Thames, or arohart.co.nz



PEPE PLAYHOUSE

Keep young minds busy with this range of multilingual resources, created to teach both kids and caregivers Te Reo Māori and Pacific Island languages. These beautifully designed posters and cards are designed in Thames, and can be ordered at pepeplayhouse.bigcartel.com





COPPER CREATIONS

Made from recycled copper and wood, these unique shelves from Thames-based Copper Creations have a range of uses throughout the home. From wine glass holders to spice racks, keep an eye on [Instagram.com/CopperCreations](https://www.instagram.com/CopperCreations) to snap up one of your own.



DUNCAN SHEARER CERAMICS

Inspired by the natural world, each of Duncan Shearer's ceramic pieces is rustic and unique, thanks to his careful yet unpredictable wood-firing and soda-glazing processes. With a range of functional pieces from bowls to beer mugs available, his creations will make drinking and dining a little more special. Duncan works from his studio in the Karangahake Gorge. Find his work at Bounty (754 Pollen Street, Thames) or online at [kaolin.store](https://www.kaolin.store)



ANDERSON SURFBOARDS

If your favourite thing about the Coromandel is its surf, you'll be pleased to discover the local experts at Anderson Surfboards are producing a wide range of boards in Whangamata. They can create custom boards and also supply other essentials, such as wetsuits, wax, fins and bags. Find them at 312 Aickin Road, Whangamata, Coromandel, or visit [andersonsurfboards.co.nz](https://www.andersonsurfboards.co.nz)

HERITAGE BUILDING NOW ONE OF THE FUNKIEST IN TOWN

ADVERTORIAL

In the heart of historic Grahamstown in Thames is The Depot, home to a boutique mix of shops.

With Café Melbourne at the Pollen Street entrance, and an arcade through to Kirkwood Street with spices and kitchenware, home interiors, premium yarns and plant shops, as well as an art gallery and a gin distillery, it's a bustling place to visit.

Built in 1927, the property was for many years a bus depot. The White family ran a bus company and wedding car service from the building, taking passengers all over the Coromandel. They had the first service between Thames and Auckland. At that time, the buses were pulled across the river on the Pipiroa ferry before the bridge was built. In the 1940s, the business was bought by New Zealand Railways and their service became part of the national network.

Since then, the building has been the premises for an upholstery business, a ute maintenance workshop, and an antique shop.

The building's history was the big attraction to previous owners, Trish and Dave Malanaphy, who bought it in 2011 and

restored it to its current glory. Trish had a strong vision to develop the property into a modern precinct while retaining its historic authenticity - the sort of place they enjoyed visiting on overseas trips, where people could meet and relax in a public space, have a coffee or a meal, and visit some upmarket shops. She says the building was an empty box when they began the project and she drew up the layout. Restoring the building was a major undertaking, which included 100 per cent earthquake proofing, and several tonnes of baking soda blasted onto the brick walls to remove layers of paint. Those bricks originally came from a former pumphouse chimney.

The building has always been a big part of the town's life and Trish, who grew up in Thames, remembers getting on and off buses here as a child. She felt the building had soul, and certainly, a lot of stories. The Malanaphys love the property, and with the restoration complete, were happy to pass it on to new owners.

New proprietor Dion Metcalfe says he fell in love with The Depot when he saw it listed online. He was still living in the US at the time so his family, based in Whangamata, visited the property on his behalf. He



Above: The Depot, 715 Pollen St, Thames.
Below: The arcade of shops inside.



was interested in The Depot because it is beautifully preserved, has high-quality tenants and aligns with his mission of preserving the past and building the future. Now, settled back in New Zealand with his American partner Melinda, they are enjoying the quality of life that comes from the Coromandel.

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Canal front properties enable easy access to the water with mooring and boat ramp options on the edge of your property. The sections on Motu Wai Taha are arguably the best in the waterways on the market today with limited canal front and non-canal sections available.

Stage 12 sections under the Joan Gaskell bridge are being released this year, don't delay in securing your section in Whitianga's newest neighborhood. Stage 12 sections offer incredible amenity value for canal front and non-canal front owners with a private boat ramp, beach and walking distance to the future dockside development.

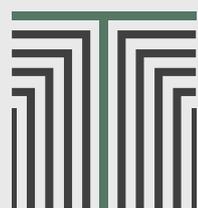


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The Terraces

AT PAUANUI WATERWAYS

Pauanui is undoubtedly one of New Zealand's most popular beach holiday locations and the waterways neighborhood is a unique and desirable location.

All three stages in Pauanui Waterways have now sold and Pauanui's newest sub-division 'The Terraces' are titled and available to purchase.

These will not last so be quick to secure your section.

Contact Talei Douglas at talei@hoppers.co.nz to register.



a star attraction

When we gaze at the night sky, we would like to think we're admiring the exact same panorama our forefathers saw, thousands of years ago. Although we are looking at the same stars that Māori used to navigate their Pacific voyaging and discovery, or used as a guide to seasonal crop planting, what has changed dramatically in the heavens is the proliferation of light pollution and satellites, impeding, or distorting, what was once an unspoiled and unfiltered view.

Here on the Coromandel, steps are being taken by local communities to protect night skies above places like Kuaotunu, Otama and Opito, which are still pristine enough to have the potential to be recognised as an internationally-accredited dark sky sanctuary.

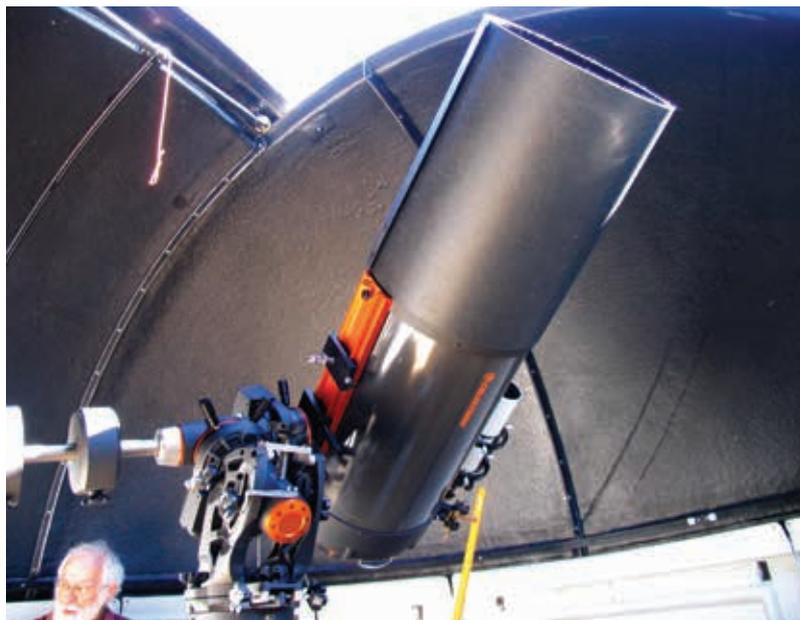
“A dark sky sanctuary, under the award winning International Dark Sky Association (IDA) Program is usually one of the most remote (and often darkest) places in the world whose conservation state is fragile,” says Alastair Brickell, owner of Stargazers B&B Accommodation in Kuaotunu and an advocate for Kuaotunu/Otama and Opito becoming a dark sky sanctuary.

“Steps are being taken already to protect the starry skies above these villages and beaches,” says Alastair. “The new subdivision going in at Opito has no streetlights to preserve the integrity of the night sky and we’re actively trying to educate our local communities about what sort of lights are best to install to lower light pollution in their homes and around

“STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN ALREADY TO PROTECT THE STARRY SKIES ABOVE THESE VILLAGES AND BEACHES”

their properties. It’s also about lobbying the New Zealand Transport Agency and Council about what sort of lighting is used along our state highways and council-maintained roads, so they are safe for driving, without causing excessive light-pollution.”

The proposal for a part of the Coromandel to become a dark sky sanctuary has been positively received by our Council. “It’s a brilliant initiative,” says our Mayor Sandra



Alastair Brickell at Stargazers in Kuaotunu.



The observatory dome at Stargazers in Kuaotunu. stargazersbb.com

Global illumination

- During the second half of the 20th century the rate of growth of artificial light has increased three to six per cent per year. A 2017 study estimated that between 2012 and 2016, the earth’s artificially lit, outdoor area grew by more than two per cent, per annum.
- Eighty per cent of our landmass suffers from light pollution, while for 99 per cent of people in Europe and the United States, the night sky is becoming clouded by artificial lighting – that’s according to research by the Light Pollution Science and Earth Institute in Italy.
- Near cities, cloudy skies are now hundreds, or even thousands of times brighter than they were 200 years ago.

Goudie. "Areas have already been mapped on the Coromandel that are disturbed by artificial light and for the Kuaotunu/Opito area, the community is already in discussion with its local community board (in Mercury Bay) about what measures can be put in place around illumination control," she says.

"While we're also learning more about the adverse effects of light pollution and blue light at night on human health and the environment (see below for more details) we're also aware of the cultural importance of night skies to Māori, as well as the economic benefits associated with dark skies," Mayor Sandra says. "The sky's the limit!"

Alastair and wife Harriet can testify to the economic benefits. Their Stargazers business is one of a growing number of operators nation-wide, promoting night sky tours, a form of nature-based, astro-tourism, where the public can come and view celestial objects, space and the physical universe. Stargazers has its own Observatory Lodge, housing state-of-the-art telescopic equipment, which is remotely controlled from the observatory office in the main building. Alastair also spent time on Great Barrier Island in 2017, helping to set up a tourism stargazing-based venture, along with establishing the area as an IDA dark sky sanctuary – only one of two internationally at the time.

"The thing about astro-tourism is it increases visitor numbers because people have to stay overnight to have the experience, which increases add-on spend" Alastair says. "Not only that, it increases visitors in the off-peak because it's not a seasonally dependent activity – and more often than not the winter sky is even better for viewing because it usually has more clarity – and the nights are longer and it gets darker earlier. That's fantastic for the Coromandel, which is traditionally seen as a spring/summer destination. Wouldn't it be wonderful if it was our night skies, and not just our bush and beaches, that was another natural drawcard making the Coromandel so special?"

The dark side of artificial light

Many studies are starting to reveal the drastic effect unnatural light is having on nocturnal species – and us as humans.

- Predators use light to hunt in the dark and artificial light ruins this.
- Glare from artificial lights can impact wetland habitats, home to amphibians like frogs, whose night-time croaking is part of the breeding ritual. Artificial lights disrupt this nocturnal activity, interfering with reproduction and reducing populations. On the Coromandel we have the small native Archey's frog, which is already classified as a rare species.
- Birds that hunt at night (like our native morepork) or navigate by starlight (like petrels), that are coming in from the ocean in the evening are getting disorientated by bright lights, which is causing them to wander off course, and often get hit by cars.
- Artificial light could be a driver of insect declines. A 2018 University of Waikato research paper observed a decline in cave weta activity due to unnatural light.
- The 24-hour, day/night cycle is an integral part of our biological clock that is being tampered with by artificial (and blue light) with negative effects including sleep-wake disorders, cardiovascular disease, obesity and immunological disorders.

NZ Dark Sky Places

New Zealand's current and aspiring Dark Sky Places – October 2019



Steps are being taken to protect the Coromandel's night skies.



Shooting for the stars

The Coromandel is unique for night sky photography because the light pollution is very low, making for dark skies and stunning seascapes. Two Coromandel astrophotographers share their love for our Coromandel night sky as the perfect canvas for their work.



'Zodiac shack' by Paul C Schrader.

Paul Schrader

Hanging around secluded spots for hours under the cover of darkness is not the most usual of hobbies. Paul Schrader (pictured right) recalls a policeman pulling up once and asking what he was up to during one of his astrophotography missions near his hometown, Pauanui.



"I had my beanie on, it was in the wee hours of the morning, I was setting up a photo. I wanted the image to include car lights going past, and the policeman ended up doing that so I could get the shot," Paul says. For Paul, part of astrophotography's allure is being in the right place at the right time to witness the extraordinary sights and sounds of nature in the night. He has always loved being out in nature under clear skies to capture rarely seen moments through his camera.

There are bonuses to being out when other people aren't, such as the time he heard a scuffle when walking back down the track after an astro-shoot at the Pumpkin Hill lookout. Right in front of him was a kiwi. He would never have seen it had he not braved the cold and set out on an astro adventure that night.

Paul has enjoyed photography as a hobby for many years. In 2016



'Twilight Milky Way on the Pauanui Tairua Trail' by Paul C Schrader.

he started the Pauanui Photography Club, hoping to share skills and knowledge with other amateur photographers. His hobby progressed to what he now refers to as an obsession. Paul was particularly interested in the mechanics of photography and his curiosity drove his learning to figure out the process behind “pointing and shooting” the camera. He encouraged others in the club to get into manual mode too, something Paul says gives him a real buzz, seeing people go further with their photography.

A key part of Paul’s passion for photography is sharing what he creates with his community. Paul’s night sky photos and landscapes are frequently found on community Facebook pages, where locals can enjoy the wonders of their environment as captured by Paul. He says the encouragement he receives makes him work harder to develop his talent.

Through the internet, Paul has also developed connections with a community of New Zealand astrophotographers who are keen to come and capture the Coromandel night sky with their cameras. We are considered a prime location for their work, because the light pollution in some areas is next to zero.

“Pauanui was designed with limited streetlights so you can better see the stars,” he says.

Paul and fellow photographer Hakan

sometimes plan night shoots together, which offers an opportunity to exchange knowledge and share the challenge of their astro adventures. He recalls the pair scrambling down a steep cliff track to ‘The Needle’, a rocky coastal outcrop south of Tairua beach, with camera bag and equipment at 4am.

“You do put yourself in difficult situations if you’re not prepared,” Paul says. “Good planning is essential.”

Rapidly advancing technology has made it more accessible to learn the skills and techniques required for astrophotography. He uses online calendars and apps to figure out when and where the Milky Way is most visible, which is a key factor in setting up an astro shot. During the day, when he is driving around the Coromandel, Paul says he is always on the lookout for potential night shots, so when the stars align, he is ready.

Visit creativeimagesnz.jimdo.com or follow Creative Images by Paul C Schrader on Facebook to buy images or for information on upcoming photography classes led by Paul.



Hakan Nedjat

Astro photographer Hakan Nedjat (*pictured above*) knows a thing or two about the awe and wonder of night sky photography. For the past five years, he’s been setting up his camera, perching his tripod at odd angles on rocky coastlines and sacrificing hours of sleep to capture the star-filled night sky from a Coromandel vantage point.

“I like to take night photos of the Milky Way at Whangapoua and at Pauanui,” Hakan says. Rigorous effort goes into planning and logistics. Hakan plans the image he would like to capture before embarking on the

Below left: 'Pauanui south-end wonderland' by Paul C Schrader.

Below right: 'Whangapoua to New Chum' by Hakan Nedjat.

Far right: 'Cathedral Cove glow' by Hakan Nedjat.



shoot, oftentimes combining seascapes and skiescapes with dramatic results.

“Flat Rock (Pauanui) works well when waves hit rocks,” he says. “Though the sound can be quite scary.”

A good torch is essential for Hakan’s nocturnal expeditions, which usually involve traipsing around rocks and scrambling down steep banks to the perfect point where sea meets sky. Astrophotography also requires a close observation of the moon cycles, along with an understanding of when the Milky Way can be seen, which is only at certain times throughout the year.

It’s the combination of all the different elements of astrophotography that Hakan finds fulfilling. Planning the shot, organising the logistics of getting to the shoot and aligning with perfect weather conditions are all considered. On a personal level, Hakan must also bring technical ability and creativity, and be ready to deal with nature’s unpredictability in the darkest hours of the night.

“Every month, there is a two-week window of opportunity for night sky photography,” he says. “But all the elements must line up,

especially the weather. If it’s clear, I’ll go out,” he says.

Hakan is then out for up to three hours capturing the shot. Editing the photos occurs back at home in Whitianga, where he lives with his wife and two-year-old daughter, and where he works full time as an accountant. Understandably, his biggest challenge with astrophotography is carving out the space and time in his busy life to do it. But he insists it is worth it. Sharing the experience of watching the full moon rising with his daughter is a fondly remembered highlight. Hakan enjoys how photography presents opportunities to connect him and his family with nature.

Hakan and his wife initially came to New Zealand on holiday from the UK. It was the beauty of the country’s landscapes that inspired him to pick up a camera and begin taking photos. He wanted to show New Zealand off to friends and family back in the UK. Seven years later, photography has morphed into a major passion and New Zealand is where the family now call home.

Hakan’s passion for photography expanded from landscapes to astroscaes after seeing night photography online and wanting to

learn more. He is self-taught and especially enjoys the experience of learning and improving with every shoot. He is also now a Sony advocate and shares his insights and expertise through online tutorials, webinars and upcoming workshops, all of which can be found on his website hakannedjat.co.nz



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A passion for the craft of distilling



Dr Paul Schneider and Daniela Sness at their distillery as part of 'The Depot'.

The Coromandel Distilling Company is an experimental distillery specialising in ultra-premium spirits. Through their commitment to the tradition and craftsmanship of distillation, Daniela and Paul made their spirits debut with The Cuckoo Dry Gin and Damson Gin Liquor, awarded Gold and Silver respectively at the 2020 NZ Spirits Awards.

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The Plantery is tucked in behind Cafe Melbourne in The Depot.

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From left: Neil Ritchie, Rod Ritchie and Ali Ritchie.

Getting the BUZZ on bees



A passion for honey bees and their importance to the planet is now shared through hands-on beekeeping tours on the slopes of Mt Pauanui.

“We love honey and started producing our own, at first just so we could eat it,” says Neil Ritchie, referring to the beginnings of Coromandel Pure Honey in 2014.

“It was a family hobby that got out of hand.”

What started as two hives on the Ritchie family property in Pauanui has grown to 100 hives and a boutique family business producing high quality, unpasteurised, organic mānuka honey.

Now, Coromandel Pure Honey is introducing guests to the intriguing world of honey bees

through private beekeeping and honey tasting tours.

High up on the mountainside in Pauanui, the property is a picturesque, botanical bee haven with spectacular views sweeping from Pauanui and up the coastline to the north.

The tour is a unique concept for the Coromandel. It starts with a short theory lesson about the importance of bees and their lifecycle, then sets off on a bush walk that links beehives and the various stages of honey production together.

With European honey bees and bumble bees coming to and from their own handcrafted wooden homes, you can witness queen bees in action and the role they play in their hives, the rearing of new honey bees, and mature foragers returning to their hives with rich pollen and nectar sources.

Dressed in beekeeping suits, there are opportunities to be hands-on with the hives to explore the different stages of honey creation during the tour.

Guests also visit bumble bee hives and a mānuka tree viewing station, for information about the remarkable properties that make this New Zealand native so sought after.

The tour finishes with honey tasting

and a generous lunch on the deck with assortments such as honey-dipped walnuts, platters, sandwiches and savouries and a tea station while soaking in the breathtaking view.

The first tours were held in January 2020 and feedback was nothing but positive, with guests saying they were blown away to learn so much about bees.

Tours will resume in late November 2020 and run through until mid-March, coinciding with honey flow season.

Honey in its natural state

Hives and honey are a world away from where Neil spends half the year, working as a commercial diver specialising in underwater construction in Townsville, Australia.

For seven years, Neil has worked on offshore and onshore construction and inspection projects through our winter. But the summer months are spent in Pauanui with his parents Rod and Ali, which is where his interest in beekeeping began around 2014.

The first two hives came from commercial diving mates who were beekeeping enthusiasts.

The Ritchies’ property was the perfect spot for the hobby to grow – a six-acre section

Coromandel Pure Honey

Coromandel Pure Honey is 100 per cent raw, unpasteurised mānuka.

It’s sold by the glass jar in many stores across the Coromandel and in a number of organic shops. The honey and pure beeswax food wraps and candles can also be bought online at www.coropurehoney.co.nz



with an abundance of mānuka trees and botanical and exotic plants to fuel the bees' honey production.

The trio all went through beekeeping training courses and put extensive hours into researching beekeeping, bees and honey production, producing an outstanding mānuka and multiflora honey that has a unique taste compared to other blends.

The Coromandel Pure Honey brand was launched in 2015, a boutique range specialising in mānuka and mānuka and multi-flora blends, and more recently honey comb.

The goal has been to produce a gourmet honey in its most natural state. For this reason, the honey is unpasteurised and bottled in glass jars, rather than plastic.

"Our honey has as little human contact as possible during the extraction process," Neil says. "We do not heat treat our honey and we do not ultra-filter it or blend it."

Coromandel Pure Honey is expanding its hives to other parts of the Pauanui region.

Going on tour

As the Ritchies developed the beekeeping estate and the brand, they wanted to share their love for bees and the bee-keeping experience.

"Rather than just selling honey to the public, why not get people up and show where the honey is produced and give them some knowledge about the importance of bees and how our survival is dependent on them, and vice versa?" Neil says.

"Many people don't realise that more than one-third of the food humans eat is reliant on bees for pollination. If bees were to disappear, agriculture as we know it would collapse," Neil says. "We are dependent on them, and they are on us."

Neil's energy and deep knowledge about bees is evident during the two-hour tour, designed to give the average person a sound awareness about bees, their lifecycle and the inner workings of a bee colony and how they are crucial to our environment and survival.

He spent a year designing the tour and flew back several times over the winter of 2019 to build the shelled walkway through native bush, viewing decks, handmade hives and to improve the landscaping.

Although honey production and now beehive tours were not part of the plan when Rod and Ali bought the property in 2010, they are now immersed in the business and share Neil's enthusiasm for the environment and the plight of the honey bee.

Neil and Rod look after the primary beekeeping and honey production. Ali creates the handcrafted pure beeswax food wraps and takes care of some of the marketing as well as using her extensive knowledge and experience with gardens to take care of the plant life and nectar sources.

Rod and Ali say they have loved each step of the journey with Coromandel Pure Honey.

"We have learnt so much about bees and how amazing they are," they say. "Combining our efforts and skills to make this all happen has been a life experience."

coropurehoney.co.nz

The bee tour

- Kit up in a full bee suit and enjoy hands on beekeeping.
- Learn about the life cycle of bees and the role honey bees play in their colonies and just how important they are to human survival.
- See a queen bee and how she functions and her role inside the hive.
- Enjoy a range of mānuka honey tasting at the end, on a deck with a breath-taking view over the ocean and the Coromandel coast.
- See bumble bees fly in and out of their hand-crafted wooden homes.

Getting hands-on with active beehives is all part of the experience on the beekeeping tour.
PHOTO: CREATIVE IMAGES BY PAUL C. SCHRADER





From the rugged remoteness of the 309 Road winding between Coromandel Town and Whitianga, to the stunning coastal vistas and historic building facades, the Coromandel district is casting itself a leading role in New Zealand's growing film industry.

On-screen opportunities are developing, particularly in Thames as its historic buildings and lack of traffic appeal to film makers, both local and international, with titles including the Netflix film *Falling Inn Love*, the television movie of the Jean Batten story *Jean* and commercials for Sky TV among those recently set on our turf.

Local filmmakers Kewana Duncan, originally from Thames, and Gaysorn Thavat who lives in the Kauaeranga Valley, are helping to further the town's potential as a filming destination, with their respective movie-length productions due to reach our screens during 2020.

Gaysorn crafted *The Justice of Bunny King*, a film that shines a light on the everyday heroes living amongst us, following the story of a mother fighting her way back from the bottom of society.

Kewana is the talent behind *Toke*, which centres on three kiwifruit workers who discover a new strain of marijuana and are drawn into the high stakes world of the global cannabis industry.

Kewana says filming *Toke* in the Coromandel was a homecoming of sorts.

"I'm inspired by the area and the memories I have of growing up there. It was always the setting for *Toke* in my mind. I feel like Coromandel is its own little icon," Kewana says.

As he scouted the region in 2019 with producers and cameramen in tow, they kept finding places and settings they had never encountered before.

"When we talked about it in the office in Auckland initially, I think I was the only one who 100 per cent thought *Toke* should be filmed here, but as they saw it for themselves, they got more and more excited about shooting in the area," he says.

Filming took place along the Thames Coast, in Coromandel Town, the village of Manaia and at Manaia Harbour. Welcoming locals were part of the charm.

"People let us film at their houses. They didn't mind when we put in stop-go traffic management and people were always keen

to be extras. For our crew, it was quite a big thing to go into a village and get that support and film for a number of days," Kewana says.

On a film set, filmmakers work to build a world for their audience, and for *Toke*, that world was already there.

"We didn't have to create people gathering mussels, going for a fish, or a hunt, or a surf. That world is already there because it's what people are naturally doing every day," he says.

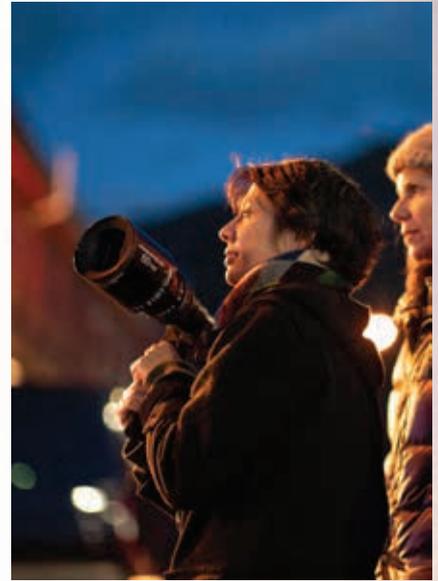
Using locals for extras made sense. "They look like they belong there as opposed to getting a bus load of Aucklanders to come down and be there," he says.

Kewana would like to see Coromandel's film industry continue to grow in terms of television production, movies and commercials.

An industry worth its weight

The New Zealand film industry is worth around \$3 billion to New Zealand annually, with the Auckland region accounting for

Left: Netflix film *Falling Inn Love*.
Right: Gaysorn Thavat on the set of
The Justice of Bunny King.



half of that. Nationally the industry employs between 20,000 and 30,000 people per year.

With films like *Avatar* being shot in New Zealand during 2020, bringing 400 jobs and \$70 million to the New Zealand economy, experts say New Zealand is well-placed to grow the film industry further, particularly considering our low COVID-19 status.

“I’m personally interested in bringing more productions to the region, whether that’s further episodes of *Toke* or other types of media or shows,” Kewana says. “It’s nice to be able to work in your own area and not have to go to Auckland or Wellington.”

The fact that towns such as Thames have less traffic and are friendly and easy to get around is also an appeal for production companies.

Gaysorn agrees. While most of her filming for *The Justice of Bunny King* was done in Auckland, they used a street corner in Thames to film the outside of a key building.

“One of the reasons we came down here was we needed to lock down a whole street corner for a scene and we were able to do that in Thames. We couldn’t do that in Auckland for our budget,” she says.

The Thames Theatrical Society helped with extras and it was easy to accommodate the crew.

“The region offers a lot within a small area,

if you can base your crew here. There is the historical aspect at Grahamstown, and you have access to the Coromandel and lovely sea vistas across the Firth of Thames. It’s really useful production-wise for a film crew,” Gaysorn says.

Living in the Kuaeranga Valley, Gaysorn believes protecting Coromandel’s historical buildings is key to continuing to promote it as a filming destination. Her partner is a cinematographer and worked on the Jean Batten movie that used the Thames airfield and Grahamstown’s historic facades as a backdrop.

“Those old buildings are like a film set that you don’t have to build. We need to preserve the character of Thames and not allow it to be torn down. It’s the backdrop and the charm of the place that attracts film makers,” she says.

A broader film scene is growing in the region, attracting the likes of documentary makers Kirsty Griffin and Viv Kernick, behind *House of Champions*, and Christopher Prior and Miriam Smith behind *How Far is Heaven*.

Kirsty says Thames is a beautiful place to film and a great place for film makers to be based. Thames and Grahamstown were very much a character in both

documentaries *House of Champions* and web series *Amy Street*.

“There are certainly many interesting characters living in this area. Our latest documentary ‘*Pluck*’ is about a Thames korowai weaver who travels to the Chatham Islands to legally hunt weka for their feathers for her korowai,” Kirsty says. It will show at the 2020 Doc Edge Festival.

Christopher agrees, saying he and his partner base themselves from Thames and shoot documentaries around New Zealand with their company Deer Heart Films.

“THOSE OLD BUILDINGS ARE LIKE A FILM SET THAT YOU DON’T HAVE TO BUILD.”

“It’s affordable and it’s easy to be based here, but still have access to Auckland for meetings,” Christopher says.

Port Waikato-based location scout Benny Tatton worked with Kewana on *Toke* and was also involved in the Jean Batten movie. He describes the region as a great environment for a variety of productions.

“*Jean* was a period piece. Most of the movie was set overseas, but we had to cheat all

the overseas locations. It was Thames airfield that provided the best option for one of her historic landings. We got a hundred locals as extras and fitted them all out in period costume and make-up. We also filmed multiple scenes in and around Grahamstown which worked great. I thought it looked amazing,” Benny says.

The support from the Coromandel community was something filmmakers couldn't buy.

“It's a real lesson in old school New Zealand. People aren't jaded by filming. They're enthusiastic and welcoming as long as they're communicated with in the right way,” he says.

Grahamstown's well-preserved historic centre offered real life, but very descriptive and period backgrounds that even work for contemporary filming.

Benny says the wider Coromandel region also offers great locations like the 309 Road with many others still to be discovered.

“I scouted a commercial for a bread company recently. The brief needed white baiting on a river in the morning and then enjoying a barbecue near a beautiful golden beach by the afternoon.

“I ended up finding both locations within 15 minutes of each other, which is very rare. Both amazing visuals and a producer's dream because of the streamlined logistics. Love the Coromandel,” Benny says.

Sarah Kinniburgh, head of production at Satellite Media, agrees the Coromandel offers a huge range of locations.

“You have the Thames town, you have retail, you have the historic aspect. The beaches, you have old school New Zealand, it ticks a lot of boxes in terms of location.”

Sarah worked with creative agency DDB on the Sky TV commercials shot in Thames featuring the loveable supervillain Dr Chaos,



Above: *Dr Chaos*, a Sky TV commercial filmed in Thames.

Below: A scene from Netflix film *Falling Inn Love*.



played by comedian Josh Thomson and directed by Jackie Van Beek.

They made eight commercials in total featuring Dr Chaos. One of his key creative components was that he lived in Thames in his mum's garage. That was a key part of his world, Sarah says.

“When we investigated the town [Thames], we realised it was the only place for it. It just made sense that that is where he was from. It's so quintessentially small-town New Zealand,” Sarah says.

She points to three key things working in the region's favour for attracting the film industry: The region's proximity

to Auckland, the openness for filming permission by our Council, and the helpfulness of the community.

“The proximity to Auckland is really achievable. As much as we like to fly people off to other locations, people are trying to be cost effective and it was so easy getting permission,” Sarah says.

“As a producer you're always looking at accessibility, but the key thing is you're also trying to find locations to meet the brief and meet the budget. Sometimes it's just a feeling you're looking for. The Thames-Coromandel region definitely delivers on that.”



SOMETIMES THE LOVE BETWEEN A PERSON AND THEIR PET IS GREATER THAN BETWEEN TWO HUMAN BEINGS



“ We have been absolutely blown away by just how many people have pets as companion animals and people who have lost a partner in life who have turned to pets to fill that role” said Adrian Catran of Twentymans Funeral Service when asked about the newly installed, state of the art pet cremator that began operations just a few months ago.

Forever Pets is a locally owned and operated Pet Crematorium, now one of 16 pet crematoriums in New Zealand. There is no doubt that cremation is the fastest growing, chosen method for the final farewells of their much loved ‘other’ members of the family.

“In the past, families have had to have their pet cremated via their vet who managed the whole process and the family had no control over this process. The pet was held in storage, shipped to Hamilton and cremated at the facilities discretion and the ashes were returned to the family at a later date. They had no control and no way to manage the cremation process themselves.

That is where Forever Pets is now providing a new, affordable, authentic service to the families and individuals of the Coromandel. We are putting the choice back into the hands of pet owners by inviting them to join us in our bespoke pet chapel and crematory for a private, same day cremation and service if they wish.

The pets are brought in or collected in our dedicated pet hearse, owners can spend time to say goodbye and if they want to, they can open the chamber and put their pet in, and then collect the ashes at the end of the day. Every pet is cremated in its own chamber, so you know that you are getting back your pets ashes only. From there you can either choose an urn or memorial tube to save the ashes, or create a private unique ceremony with the

family at a later date. We can fit up to 65kg in the pet cremator so this means we can fit most household companion pets into it easily including guinea pigs, birds, cats, dogs or other small to medium size animals.

Pets are a trusted companion or deeply loved member of our families and we often do not anticipate the level of grief we experience when they leave us. Our staff are pet owners who have experienced the death of a pet. For us, it’s really important that pets are given the same love, care and respect that they have given their owners over the years.




Forever Pets
PET CREMATORIUM

www.foreverpets.co.nz



KEEPING UP WITH

golden oldies

We might be home to the biggest portion of 'oldies' in New Zealand, but retirement on the Coromandel is anything but slow.

The Coromandel tops the charts for many things including having some of the most pristine golden beaches and beautiful native bush spots you'll find in New Zealand.

We also top the charts for our demographics – being home to the largest group of over 65-year-olds in New Zealand.

Census data released in 2010 acknowledged a growing, but aging population for the district.

Our permanent residents grew by more than 14 per cent, to 29,895 between the 2013 and 2018 censuses, and the age cohort seeing the largest growth in numbers was the over-65s, with 9,273 in that

age group compared to 7,059 in 2013. This saw our median age rise to 53.6 – the highest in the country.

Rather than enjoying a quiet retirement, many of our older residents are leading rich, colourful, and active lifestyles, which some might say defy their ages.

Meet some of the Coromandel's inspirational 'golden oldies' in this feature.

Whether it's game fishing, surfing, hunting, cycling or theatrics, they're here to show the younger crowd how to live life to the fullest, whatever stage of life you're at.



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Quality and Value in a Class of our Own

If you are looking for a fun, friendly, welcoming and supportive retirement community with everything you could want and more, consider Longridge Country Estate in Paeroa, the events capital of the Coromandel.

Longridge is an exciting new Village which aims to have the mid upper North Island's very best amenities. You'll enjoy an amazing resort-style community centre and we have comprehensive life-care and medical facilities planned. With 250 homes, you'll have the opportunity to make a lot more friends too!

We have luxurious, spacious new 2 and 3 Bedroom Villas available from just \$399,000, all with landscaped gardens. We can even help you with your move. Homes are available now, so call us today and find out how you can enjoy the unbeatable lifestyle, value and views that only Longridge offers.



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The Silver Surfer

GRAHAM BAMBERY

An avid surfer all his life, this 72-year-old, Whitianga-based water lover knows only too well that the cold beer at the end of the day always tastes better if it's been hard-earned.



PHOTO CREDIT: CRYSTAL VOYAGER



Graham Bambery.

“Surfing gives you freedom. It takes you away from everything and you are just in that moment. You get to enjoy the waves and the water and your friends with you in the water,” Graham says. “Surfing definitely makes that beer at the end of the day really enjoyable, because you’ve worked for it.”

IT'S ON THE WATER THAT HE FEELS MOST AT PEACE

AND HE GETS OUT ON HIS BOARD AS OFTEN AS

THERE ARE GOOD WAVES.

The sea has played a huge part in Graham's life for as long as he can remember. It's on the water that he feels most at peace and he gets out on his board as often as there are good waves.

Graham, and his wife Lorilei, moved back to New Zealand in 2006, and settled in the Coromandel, after living in Hawaii for 40 years. He had left New Zealand when he was 20 to follow the waves and he has chased them ever since.

After his parents became unwell, he moved back to his home country to help his siblings care for them. Sadly, they passed away in 2008.

But he happily calls the Coromandel home and loves that he can see the waves from his hillside property.

“I am retired, and it is so important to do something every day as it keeps you fit and keeps the weight off,” he says.

After four decades of living in Hawaii, surfing is just a part of what makes Graham tick and that will never change. He jokes that he first fell in love with surfing at the age of 15. “It was ever since I first heard The Beach Boys albums,” he says.

During the winter months in Hawaii he would surf and in the summer he would sail. A licensed boat captain, Graham enjoyed taking people out on tours and whale watching.

“Big storms in Alaska brought huge waves in winter so it was awesome for surfing,” he says. “Most of the tours were in summer, when the surf was flatter on Hawaii's North Shore.”

He also enjoyed sailing hobie cats in Hawaii and competed with a crew in the first World Champs at Diamond Head in the 1980s, representing New Zealand.

“We raced in a 16-foot hobie cat boat with a small crew and skipper. We placed somewhere in the middle, but we really enjoyed it – I loved surfing them as well.”

He's surfed competitively in the past and laughs that his claim to fame was coming fifth in the Nationals in Taranaki, in 1970.

He's also competed in longboard competitions, as recently as 2010 in Piha, when they were running 'The Roaring 40s' series – and he won in his division.

Lorilei used to surf too but has hung her board up now – she'll happily watch him from the beach though, often with their dog Charlie on the stand-up paddle board.

Graham says he has always chased the summer and there's never been a time in his life when the sea and water hasn't been a part of it, and that is just how he likes it.

As well as hitting the waves, Graham also likes to hit the tennis court twice a week, with Lorilei and their tennis group. He also sails as often as he can with his friends at the Knot Club.

The Conqueror Riders

Fellowship and camaraderie are at the heart of a cycling group known as the 'Conqueror Riders', who meet to bike around Pauanui each weekday morning.

With nearly 20 members and the average age over 70, the exercise group was formed in 2013 by three neighbours on Conqueror Rise. Known around town for wearing their distinctive yellow t-shirts, the group typically clocks up around 20kms each morning.

Doug Crisp, one of the founding members, says that although the group was primarily formed to stay active, it's come to mean so much more than that for its members.

"We decided riding our bikes on a regular basis would be good for wellbeing and our general fitness," he says. "But when we ride, we always have time for a coffee afterwards and to solve the problems of the world."

A tradition that has grown within the group over the last five years is to really make a fuss when it comes to birthday celebrations.

"It's a gas station tradition now to have a birthday breakfast, and these are getting more elaborate each time with full blown English breakfasts and pancakes and waffles on the menu," he says. "And of course, it's your shout on your birthday."

The group meets each morning to ride for about an hour and they share around the



The 'Conqueror Riders'.

role of ride leader, who determines the route, which keeps things interesting and varied.

THEY SHARE AROUND THE ROLE OF RIDE LEADER,

WHO DETERMINES THE ROUTE, WHICH KEEPS

THINGS INTERESTING AND VARIED.

Doug says everyone has a different style and with the Pauanui landscape being the way it is, you can enjoy what it has to offer for miles and stick purely to flat roads.

"That's the beauty of it all – you could be

riding for an hour and not have to go up any hills," he says. "We like to include one during every ride though, as it gets the heart pumping just a little harder. It makes things a little more competitive too which is good for the spirit."

The banter is equally as important as the fitness: "In a group of 10 or more you can get through a fair bit of talking," Doug says.

One member even cycles in from Hikuai to join the group, adding an extra 16km to his ride, which is no mean feat for someone over 80.

Cyclist extraordinaire

WILLEM KALKMAN

When Willem Kalkman competes in his last ever K2 cycle race in 2021, he'll be 80 – one of the oldest known participants in the race.

The K2 is the toughest one-day cycle challenge in the Southern Hemisphere. And Willem is as prepared as anyone half his age, having kept very fit all throughout his life by running and cycling.

Originally from Holland, Willem jokes most people there are "born on a bike".

He moved to New Zealand 56 years ago, settling in the Coromandel 24 years later, and he went out running on his very first day in the area.

Never a stranger to cycling and hard work, he's still out on his bike at least four times

a week, clocking up 60 kilometres on a typical ride.

The terrain and area mean it's mostly uphill, so the K2 doesn't faze him. He's prepared and that's because he's always known his body well – and its limits.

"I don't subscribe to no pain, no gain at all," he says. "I never push it until it hurts. To do things well you must slowly work up and do things gradually, then it's a case of maintaining it, as keeping fit is a lifestyle," Willem says.

"If you know your body well, you should

never be in pain. Know your limits and you will do well in anything. It's when you don't train well and you're not at the level you need to be, that's when you will hurt your body."

The March 2021, 192km K2 race will start in Tairua and travel in an anticlockwise direction through Whitianga, Coromandel Town, Thames and then back to Tairua.

Scenic and varied, it circumnavigates the Coromandel loop – a view Willem says he never tires of.

K2 preparation is obviously helped by living in the Coromandel region and in the lead up to the event, Willem increases his training to six rides a week

Tramping legend

RAEWYN BERGHAN

Raewyn Berghan is a familiar sight on the Coromandel Town walking tracks, which she walks daily.

The 84-year-old avid trumper has been an active member of the Thames Tramping club for many years.

“To get fit you have to join a club,” Raewyn says. “Through the Thames Tramping Club I have been on a lot of good tramps, one of them being from Tapu to Thames.”

The Kauaeranga Valley and the Pinnacles are two of her all-time favourites tramps that she has done several times.

Through daily walks, she still keeps busy and fit after many years of competitive walking and running.

THE KAUAERANGA VALLEY AND THE PINNACLES

WERE TWO OF HER ALL-TIME FAVOURITES

TRAMPS THAT SHE HAS DONE SEVERAL TIMES.

Raewyn brought home a medal in the half marathon walking event of the Master Games in Dunedin in 2004, after which, she carried on to walk the whole of Dunedin.

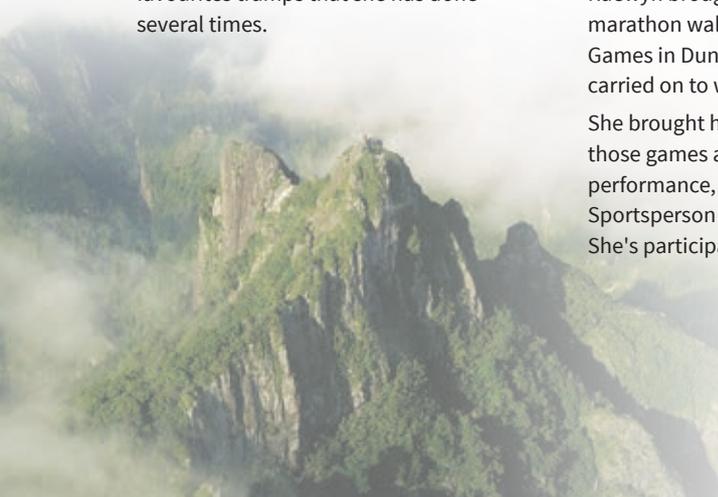
She brought home four medals from those games and for her tremendous performance, she was nominated Sportsperson of the Year by Sports Waikato. She's participated in half marathons and



Raewyn Berghan.

shorter races at the Whanganui Master Games and has completed a full marathon in Rotorua seven times.

Raewyn's love of outdoor activities has also seen her participate in bowling tournaments in Australia. She was the founder of three tennis clubs; in Hikutaia, Coromandel Town and Kerepehi. She has been a netball coach in Kerepehi and played netball herself for many years in Thames and Coromandel Town.



The Pinnacles.



Willem Kalkman.

to get his average distances up, as “it’s a hell of a long way to ride”, he says.

“I don’t ever get bored even though I do a similar ride every day. It’s so beautiful by the sea and it never bores me.”

Willem used to run marathons until it became too hard on his feet and cycling then became his first love and way to stay fit.

As a former engineer, he used to travel all over the country and the first thing he would pack when he travelled for work was always his running gear.

“After a day that might be stressful and busy, I would take off on a run for a few hours to clear my head,” he says. “I really miss it sometimes, but when my joints on my feet were beginning to collapse, I knew it was time to move to cycling.”

There have been some bumps in the road for Willem, but his determination and positive attitude has always seen him come out on top.

In 1997 he was badly injured and spent a lot

of time in hospital, after a car hit him while he was out cycling. He made a promise to his wife that he wouldn’t race anymore after that, so the K2 is a worthwhile and enjoyable challenge, but not an event where he will push it.

“When you are in a group you tend to get dragged along with the fastest, so you keep up,” he says. “Riding solo, you tend to go slower as it’s more of an effort on your own, so I will take it as it comes and complete the race.”

So, where do you go after reaching the level of fitness achieved by Willem?

“Being fit is a great motivation to stay fit,” he says. “If you are fit enough to enjoy it, you can bike forever without getting a sore bum. If you get too knackered, then of course it’s no fun.”

But becoming knackered isn’t something he’s got to worry about, so he plans to keep going until it’s no fun anymore, which isn’t going to be anytime soon.

k2cycle.co.nz



A veteran of the stage

LIZ CAMERON

Keeping active within the community is something Coromandel Town local Liz Cameron is definitely no stranger to.

Liz Cameron.

She's been a key member of the Coromandel Players, a local amateur theatre group, for more than forty years. Whether on stage, or in production, she's been involved with nearly all the group's performances during that time.

This is no mean feat for the 72-year-old, who says she's just so passionate about theatre, as it really brings the community together.

A veteran of the stage, Liz has performed four solo plays during her career, but one that stands out in particular is *The Case of Katherine Mansfield*, which saw Liz perform solo for two hours in front of a captivated audience.

"This play was a huge challenge for me. It wasn't so much the time on stage, but the difficulty of accommodating the different language used in those times," she says. "It was so different. It's all taken from Katherine's diaries, so was quite a bit harder to learn."

Liz says following those performances she felt so thrilled. "To

accomplish it and get good reviews from the people who saw it, was just fantastic," she says.

During any given season, The Coromandel Players can get more than 300 people through the doors of The Hauraki Theatre in Coromandel Town.

"Theatre is a way of getting a message across in a palatable, attractive way to people, so they go away thinking and digesting what they have just seen. They might not like that message if it was delivered in another way," Liz says. "It's very important to have variety – that's what we are here for."

Although she was in a theatre group at high school, Liz didn't do anything official with her acting until she moved to the Coromandel in the 1970s.

Once she became a member of the Coromandel Players, she's never looked back. She encourages anyone with a desire to participate in theatre to just "give it a go".

"Even if you don't think you can do it, get involved, as there really are so many benefits to be gained from it," she says. "There are so

Still in the game

GEORGE BOTICA

George Botica's passion for game fishing started in his 50s, and now at the age of 85, he still gets out on his prized boat 'Fyssher', whenever he can.



George Botica.

George's perfect weekend is one on his boat, venturing out past the Mercury Islands with his grandsons and his rods.

In the early days, it was mostly snapper they went out to catch, but George says now it's all about the marlin, broadbill, blue nose and hapuka.

George's bach at Cooks Beach has been in the family for 60 years and is the perfect launching point for their fishing trips.

"I first took my grandsons out when they were about three years old," he says. "Fishing is such a big part of my life and always will be."

Game fishing requires not only patience but an extraordinary amount of fitness, to be done well.

George says some broadbill can be up to 12 feet long and weigh in at 400 kilos.

"Striped marlin might be up to 200 kilos, so you're dealing with



many other creative ways to be involved too, if acting isn't your area. Backstage or onstage, there is always lighting, building props, backstage help and wardrobe to help with. There's no better feeling than working together and seeing that final result."

Even after more than 40 years of performing, Liz says she still considers learning lines the most challenging and important thing to start with.

"You have to do it, otherwise you can't truly develop your character," she says. "If you put that time in to start with, and

dedicate yourself to it, everything else flows from there and really gives you something to work with."

EVEN IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN DO IT,

GET INVOLVED, AS THERE REALLY ARE SO

MANY BENEFITS TO BE GAINED FROM IT

Liz, who along with her husband ran the local pharmacy for 40 years, has always loved the Coromandel and its wonderful community feel.

"People really look out for each other and there is that feeling of being part of a caring community around town."

As well as her work with the theatre, Liz is also actively involved in other areas of the arts community, and particularly loves the area's rich gold mining history.

On Facebook: Coromandel Town Theatre Group – Coromandel Players.



Liz Cameron on stage in *Entertaining Angels*.

GAME FISHING REQUIRES NOT ONLY

PATIENCE BUT AN EXTRAORDINARY

AMOUNT OF FITNESS

some very big fish that can have you wrestling with them for six hours," he says. "These days I stick to the marlin where I can sit on my chair and reel it in over a few hours. I leave it to the boys to do the broadbill as they can take a lot longer."

The Coromandel is an area dear to George's heart and he says it's "just marvellous being out there on the water, just you and the sea and the fish."

As well as the fishing, he enjoys the camaraderie with the boys that his hobby offers. "It's great to go to the fishing club and nice to have a beer and chat with the boys afterwards."

As an ex-plumber and gas fitter, he's always been fit and says he hasn't really sat down for years.

"I still really enjoy walking to keep fit and I do a bit of yoga," he says.

But it's out on the sea you'll find George as often as he can, reeling them in and thinking about the next big catch.



Dickie Berghan.

Life is (not) boaring

DICKIE BERGHAN

Ninety-year-old Dickie Berghan has been pig hunting for more than 70 years and is known to have caught more pigs in the Coromandel ranges than most hunters in the entire district.

He has pig-hunted from Waihi right through to Port Jackson, Paeroa and Whangamata and has his favourite spots that almost always guarantee a pig.

One of those is in the Omahu Valley, approximately 15kms south of Thames, where Dickie and his pig-hunting apprentices used to stay the night at an old shanty where they would boil a billy and discuss their plan of attack for the following morning.

Other top spots are in the Kauaeranga, Neavesville, and the Maratoto Valleys all of which have guaranteed a wild roast every hunt.

Before the well-known Kopu-Hikuai Road was opened in 1967, the KiriKiri was a popular place to hunt. Dickie's father-in-law Bill Savage was milling the kauri trees in the area and knew where the best locations were. Getting deep in the bush was the hard part, with river crossings and steep hills to navigate before reaching the shanty where they would spend the night. Getting the old truck stuck was common, so they never left the house without a set of chains for the wheels. That's when they weren't tying the pigs to the tail of the horses they would ride out, to bring them home.

Many young pig hunters started their apprenticeships with Dickie and he also has two very keen pig hunting sons, Steven and Kevin, and one grandson, Jared, who are following in his footsteps.

The tradition doesn't only live on within the family. Dickie also breeds excellent hunting dogs and many pig hunters have been keen to get their hands on a 'Berghan' dog to better their success in the game.

At ninety, Dickie has no plans of retiring his love for pig hunting anytime soon. He still does the miles and hunts two-to-three times a week in the Whangapoua Forest, Manaia or down the East Cape with his sons and grandson.



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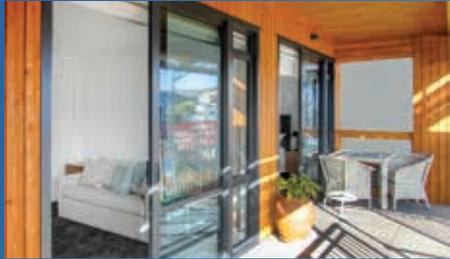
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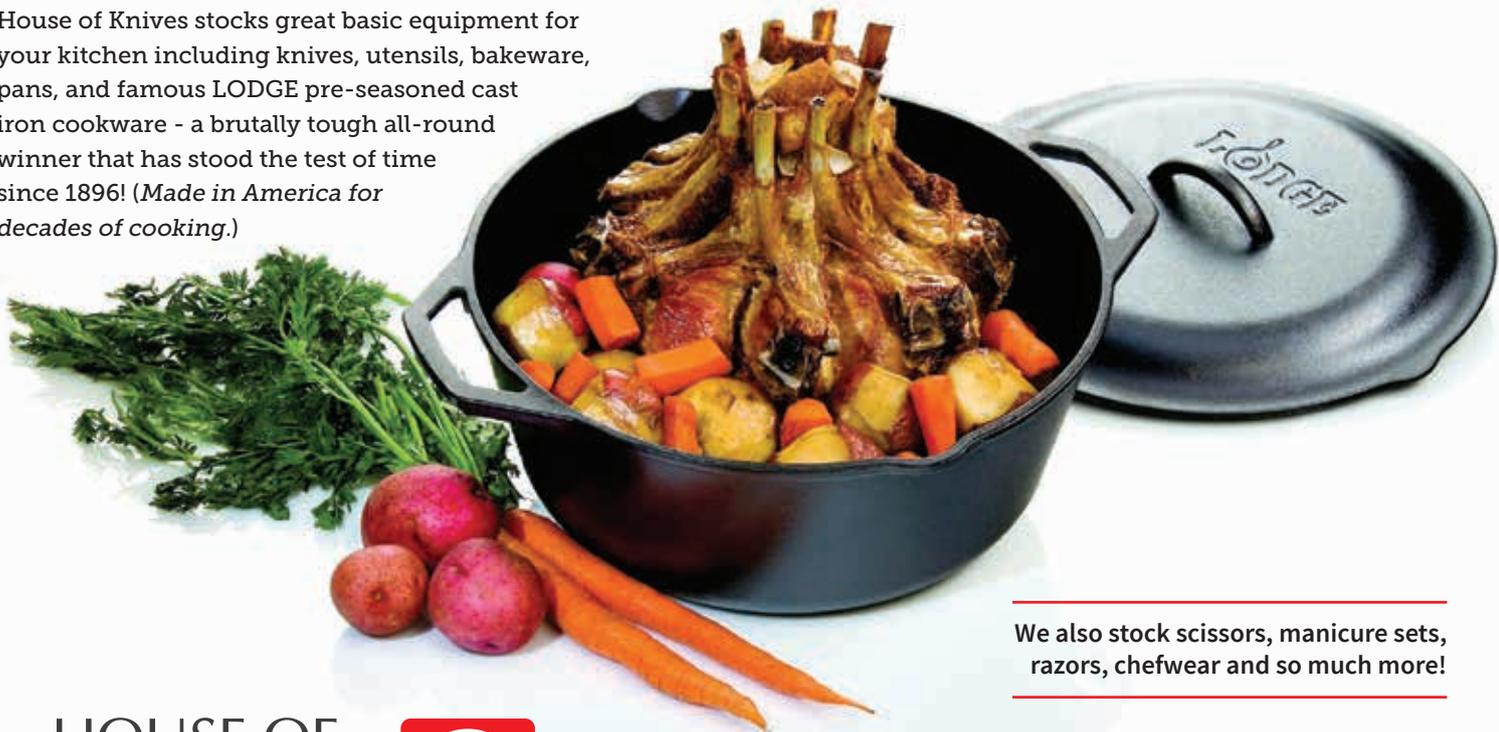
FRESH

Ways

Across the Coromandel there is a quietly thriving movement producing and providing fresh, locally-grown fruit and vegetables. Vegetable box subscription service and roadside stalls are being offered around the district as more people recognise the importance of understanding the provenance of food and how it connects them to the land.

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Mapauriki Market Gardens

There's something rewarding about putting a seed in the ground and watching it grow, says Regan Crosland.

He and partner Tessa Darwin planted the first seeds of their small business Mapauriki Market Garden in August 2017. Built on Regan's parents' farm between Matarangi and Kuaotunu, the garden has grown from hours of hard labour and an ethos of doing something meaningful for both themselves and their community.

Rows of vegetables ramble across half an acre in the paddock outside their home that borders Mapauriki Stream and the latest addition, two hydroponic tunnel houses where they grow lettuce and watercress year-round, sit alongside.

Before returning to the Coromandel in 2017, the couple had spent two years travelling to Canada and South America where Tess worked on organic farms and they experienced markets swathed in seasonal fresh produce.

This and their background in sport and recreation planted the idea of bringing the same practices home to New Zealand.

While they are not yet organic-certified, they use organic practices and base their system on regenerative farming, which aims to rehabilitate and enhance the whole ecosystem, from the soil up.

"I've always wanted to do something meaningful and there's no better place to start than with our food," Regan says.

The couple sell their produce at local markets from Labour Weekend through to Easter, supply local restaurants with lettuce and watercress from their hydroponic tunnel houses year-round and offer a subscription to weekly vegetable boxes, depending on what's available in the garden and season.

During the week they manage the garden around local landscaping work, but the goal is for Mapauriki Farm to become a full-time job for them both and in 2020, those first seeds they planted in 2017 will see them almost realise that dream.

**Mapauriki Market Gardens, 980 Te Rerenga Kuaotunu Rd
Phone 0274 195 728**



Orua Olives

For the first time in nearly 20 years, Jan and Ian Hollister missed their olive harvest this year.

As the COVID-19 lockdown struck they were unable to pick their crop and the birds got to them first. As a small hobby business with all the picking done by family, they didn't see themselves as an essential service during the lockdown.

The couple have owned Orua Olives (Orua is the Maori name for the bay at Hot Water Beach) since 1997. The 50-hectare property is one of the first olive groves planted in New Zealand.

When they took over the property it had only recently been planted and the couple knew nothing about growing olives at all. Their good friend and olive consultant Bruce West taught them how to prune and care for the crop.

Olives were just taking off in New Zealand at that time and back then, the whole property was planted in olives.

The couple, like many growers in the North Island, soon discovered the bulk of their crop (Barnea) was not suitable for the local climate or soils. Jan says the trees didn't seem to like the higher rainfall, which caused disease. The diseased trees had to be removed and they eventually whittled their grove down from 2000 trees to 200, returning the bulk of the land to pasture and parts of it to pine forest.

Ian says the olive venture is now more of a hobby, although they supply Farro Fresh in Auckland with 100ml gift bottles and offer their oils for sale at gift shops throughout the Coromandel.

Their grove is now filled with varieties including Frantoio, Kalamata and South Australian Verdale. Jan says the Frantoio can produce up to 100kgs of olives off just one tree.

During harvesting season, they cart trailer loads of their fruit for pressing by Strat Peters in Thames. Originally from Greece, he uses a traditional antique press.

Jan says Strat only does small loads from local growers and if they have a bumper crop, they can send some to Auckland for pressing too.

"It is hard work, but we get a good crowd of people there and it's quite a fun get together. The pressing is always an exciting time," Ian says.

Orua Olives are sold at the farmers markets in Tairua and Coroglen and small, 100ml gift bottles can be bought at Farro Fresh in Auckland.



Orua Organics

A permaculture paradise is slowly unfolding in the hills near Hot Water Beach.

Neat rows of vegetables spread themselves over nearly one acre of productive ground and three acres of orchard, planted with 250 different fruit trees, gives way to densely covered pine and regenerating bush.

Orua Organics (Orua being the Māori name for the bay at Hot Water Beach) is the dream of Hazel and Jacob Sims and their three boys.

The family have been developing the 86-acre property for three years and Jacob says their goal is to create a permaculture paradise that produces enough food, not only for their family, but for many people around the Coromandel.

Jacob says their decision was driven after living on Dan and Edith Hansen's 4.5-acre orchard near Wilderland, just out of Whitianga, where a 40-year-old orchard dripped with fruit all year round.

"It really sparked for us what was possible and made us think we wanted to create that for ourselves, then the opportunity came up on this property," Jacob says.

His wife's uncle, Howard Saunders, a well-known local horticulturalist, had lived on the property before them and Jacob says Howard has mentored him in recent years.

Now, trees of bananas, apples, plums, pears, nectarines, peaches, and a few apricots they thought they would try out as well, fill their orchard.

They have also planted nearly 50 avocado trees and citrus of all varieties which will give them early, mid and late harvests.

"I think it's something hard-wired into our nature, particularly once you have children; a drive to provide for your family," Jacob says.

"A huge amount of the world's population has lost their connection with the whenua (land) and where their food comes from. I think with COVID-19, people have started to think more along the lines of what happens if the supermarkets can't provide their food anymore," he says.

The couple are now deciding what to focus on for the coming summer season.

Follow Orua Organics on Facebook and Instagram to see where they will be selling their produce over the summer.

Pakaraka Permaculture

In a small corner of the Kauaeranga Valley, north east of Thames, a quiet food revolution is being born.

Yotam and Niva Kay have successfully built a sustainable food business off their quarter-acre market garden, within a total of 215 acres they own in the valley, and now they are teaching others how to do the same.

The couple currently grow more than 8,500 kg of food a season on their property. They use a solar-powered cool room to store produce before deliveries are made to customers at Clevedon and Thames Farmers' Markets, Thames Organic Shop and cafes and restaurants across Auckland, using their electric car.

"I think people are coming to the realisation the current food system is broken," Yotam says.

"To create a food revolution, we need more people to be growing food and market gardening. It's been shown internationally that food grown locally employs three times more people than food that is imported," Yotam says.

With his Diploma in Permaculture Design, Yotam has worked on a wide range of related projects in New Zealand and abroad. This includes establishing food gardens and sustainability programmes in schools, as well as managing commercial organic gardens. Niva studied interdisciplinary environmental studies and permaculture design, and has dedicated years to building and creating practical, sustainable ways and solutions to grow food.

Yotam says for some, the lifestyle they have chosen may seem mad. It can see them work up to 100 hours a week in the middle of summer, but it is one they have worked hard to achieve. They now also have one fulltime staff member helping them in the gardens.

This has freed them up to offer food boxes through a subscription service on their website and set up an online gardening course. The 16-week, self-paced, online market gardening course was launched this winter.

A gardening book is also in the wings.

During lockdown they also added a further 500 metres of gardens to their site in a spot that enjoys full sun year-round.

Expanding the garden will allow us to do things easier and supply more food year-round," Yotam says.

"We want to empower people and to give them the skills to grow food and manage systems that will be good for their lifestyle and the environment," he says

pakarakafarm.co.nz



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~ Kishan and Radha look forward to welcoming you soon ~

Gastronomics

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Purangi Plants and Produce

When the COVID-19 lockdown took effect, Yvonne McLean's punnets of seedlings were selling faster than she could prick them out of their germination trays.

In her 35 years of running Purangi Plants and Produce, Yvonne says she had never seen such demand.

"With COVID, people went mad for seedlings," she says.

It was 1961 when Yvonne's parents bought the property that she and husband Joe eventually took over. Back then it was covered in mushrooms and a sign was quickly made to sell them at a roadside stall.

As a child, Yvonne remembers spending her summers up the plum trees collecting excess fruit to sell at the stall and throughout the years it has offered everything from fruit to Yvonne's mum's handcrafts.

When Yvonne and Joe took over the farm, she says the stall, their small garden and the greenhouse Joe built became a way to be productive with small children and look after her passion for plants.

"I had three children and I was at home with them. It just worked nicely for us. I could work in the garden and they could play around, and I could carry on with what I was doing in the greenhouse," she says.

It is a simple set-up: About 40 square metres of garden and a plastic greenhouse. The vegetable and flower seeds she chooses to grow are dictated by the seasons. Anything she has too much of goes into her own garden and the inevitable gluts of produce are placed on the roadside stall for selling too.

She says she grows thousands of seedlings every year, planting out up to 100 punnets in a day but it is a low-tech operation that sees her head off to the greenhouse most mornings, open it up and hand-water her crops.

Her daughter Estelle has recently dragged Yvonne into the 21st century, she says, putting Purangi Plants and Produce online and seeing her selling seedlings all over the region.

Her punnets sell for \$2.50 each, and while she hopes Estelle will eventually take over the business, she enjoys how it keeps her busy for now.

Purangiplantsandproduce.co.nz



PHOTO CREDIT: JENNY SCOWN, IN SPIRIT GALLERY

Whenuakite Fresh Produce

Cows, a flock of 12 ducks, 60 chickens, two goats, a horse, a miniature pony, three dogs, hundreds of fruit trees and a decent sized vegetable patch is keeping Bridgette Gold busy these days.

Since launching Whenuakite Fresh Produce from the 10-acre property she runs with her partner Russell Edwards, she says she hasn't really had a chance to come up for air.

The couple had been living in Tairua when they found the property at Whenuakite in 2017 and fell in love with its park like surroundings.

"The previous owners had always had a fruit and vegetable stall at the gate and during lockdown, we were trying to decide what to do. People had been constantly asking if we were still going to sell produce," Bridgette says.

So, with that in mind, the couple went ahead and lined the double garage on the property and turned it into their shop, Whenuakite Fresh Produce.

"The idea is we can stock produce from our own orchard and gardens and also take produce from other local suppliers to sell," she says.

Bridgette, a real estate agent, has taken some time off from her job to get her head around the property and the new business.

"It's been a massive learning curve but luckily there have been local people who have helped out and Dr Google is always helpful too," she says.

The couple sell free range eggs from their 60 chickens and the duck eggs when they're available and their orchard has 200 feijoa trees, peaches, apples, oranges, tangelos, mandarin and lime, meaning they have fruit to sell almost year-round.

Any overflow of fruit is also being sold at local weekend markets.

"We won't produce everything on site so we'd like to stock produce from other growers in the area and we will still buy in some produce too," Bridgette says.

The shop is already selling things like local honey and locally made chutneys and jams, olive oil and gift plants and dried flower arrangements.

For more details follow Whenuakite Fresh Produce on Facebook.



DISTRICT Markets

Browse the wares of local stores, artisan food, home-grown produce and plants, bric-a-brac, arts and crafts and more at the following markets across our district.

Tairua Market

Tairua Hall, Main Road
First Saturday morning
of the month

Matarangi Village Market

Matarangi Village shops
Sundays from December to
January and holiday weekends

Whitianga Art, Craft and Farmers Market

Soldiers Memorial Park,
Whitianga
Saturday mornings December
– April, holiday weekends
and during community events

Whitianga Village Market

Sundays 9.30 – 1.30,
Joan Gaskell Drive, Whitianga

Tairua Firemans Market

Tairua Fire Station, Main Rd
Saturday morning of
Labour Weekend

Coroglen Farmers Market

Gumtown Hall, Coroglen
Sunday morning Labour
Weekend – Easter

Thames Market

Pollen St Thames,
Saturday mornings 8am-12pm

Coromandel Town Market

31 Kapanga Rd,
Coromandel Town
Fridays 8am-12pm

Whangamata Lions Market

RSA car park
Auckland Anniversary
Weekend, Easter and
Labour Weekend

Whangamata Community Market

Whangamata Library
car park, Port Rd
Every second and fourth
Sunday of the month, school
holidays and long weekends.
[facebook.com/
whangasundaymarket](https://www.facebook.com/whangasundaymarket)

Whangamata Weekend Markets

Island View Reserve,
Whangamata
Sundays
weekendevents.co.nz



After undergoing a major refurbishment in recent years, The Junction Hotel Accommodation and Grahamstown Bar & Diner continues to impress.

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PHOTO – COURTESY OF WHANGAMATA WEEKEND MARKETS



FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR OCEAN

Ally Davey made a remarkable voyage around the northern tip of the Coromandel in February 2020 – a 67.22km swim that took more than 23,600 strokes – all for the sake of our coastline.

It's 5.30am on the eastern side of the Coromandel Peninsula and Ally Davey is heading home. She walks barefoot in the darkness towards the sands of Little Bay and plunges beneath its lapping waves.

As she kicks and breaths, focusing only on the strokes in front of her, the ocean provides her much needed space. Swimming is time to think, she says. Time to process things.

Ally lost her mother Kathleen nearly two years ago, stolen by dementia long before she passed. Ally nursed her through her final journey at her Little Bay home. Then Ally's best friend Aja died soon after. Colon cancer left two little girls without a mum.

It was a heart-breaking time, says Ally. There are no other words to describe it. But within the waters of Little Bay Ally found her solace and a new focus to leave a legacy of sorts in their memory.

"It brought to my attention if you want to get out and do something you just have to go and do it," Ally says.

"When I was nursing mum, I used to be able to get out for a quick half-hour swim. I'd run down to the ocean."

As she swam, she also noticed rubbish in the water. A diver's watch, a spear gun, copper pipes, old fishing lines. It was a burley bag that eventually sent her over the edge.

"One day I was swimming and I found a burley bag and I thought this is crap. The ocean is providing for us, the ocean is feeding us, and we need to do something about this."

She put the bag around her and swam with it. "It was really horrifying. I'm a confident swimmer and it just kept pulling me down



PHOTO CREDIT: NOTHIN BUT SHORTS

and pulling me down and I was swimming in circles, and I thought this is what it's like for a fish or an animal."

Ally decided to swim the circumference of the Coromandel Peninsula to raise awareness of the plight of our oceans, giving back to the waters that held her during her grief and keeping a promise to her mother and Aja.

"I told mum before she died what I was going to do. She said she thought I was crazy, but to go ahead if it's what I really wanted to do."

Ally, who is not a long-distance swimmer but learned to free-dive in Hawaii, under the training of William Trubridge, says a week after her mum died, she decided to swim her first event. It was from Waiheke Island to Auckland, a 21km swim to raise funds for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

After that Ally was hooked.

Her training for her Coromandel Peninsula

swim started in October 2019 while she worked on Lord Howe Island in Australia, helping with a pest eradication programme.

"Every morning before work I'd swim. I swam 25km during that time," she says.

She returned home from Lord Howe and continued doing laps of Little Bay.

"By the time I was ready in February, I had done 250km. I don't really think about the distance. It's just thinking, I need to get to the next point. I guess it's like all things in life; if you break things down into manageable pieces you can achieve them."

Ally says her time at Lord Howe Island had shown her what protecting our marine environment can look like.

"Lord Howe is a marine reserve and that place was teaming. There were fish everywhere. Their whole reason for being is based around tourism and it showed me what can be achieved when we make looking after our oceans a priority," Ally says.

As she trained for her big swim, people would come out and ask her what she was doing, and if they could swim with her, and Ally saw her opportunity to help educate our communities about our ocean.

"One of the interesting things I saw in Little Bay as I trained was the kina barrens. Snapper normally eat the kina to keep them in check, but the kelp has been dying so the snapper doesn't come and it's just this massive barren filled with kina and nothing else," Ally says.

She wonders what will happen in five or 10 years if New Zealand doesn't start talking seriously about protecting our oceans.

"This is one of the most beautiful places in the world, let's do something about it. This is part of our backyard."

The big swim

So, at 5.30am on February 14, in darkness, Ally headed out into what has become her second home. Her support team of Wally Gilmer who kayaked alongside her and Raine and Jeff Williams on their yacht helped her along the way. Carrlson and Liz Courtney also supported her on their barge. She says the team kept her going through the toughest times.

From Little Bay, Ally swam the 7km towards Te Anapuna Point – a straight line out into the ocean, and as she reached the point the sun started coming up.

"This massive school of kingfish swum along with me, it was quite surreal," she says. The sun was rising, and the kingfish were teeming underneath me and guiding me around the corner. It was so clear and so beautiful, and all the way up the coast there were massive jellyfish just cruising along.

"As I was swimming, I was looking out towards the coastline thinking it was one of the most amazing places in the world," she says.

"I want people to understand that our coastline is really important, and we need to protect it. I thought to myself, this might be the last time someone can swim this coastline as beautiful and as natural as it is."

Ally swam all the way to Port Charles then across into the Pinnacles. As the tide was at its lowest, she swam through the Fletcher Bay reef which she said was rougher than she could have imagined. They moored in Port Charles for the night and set off from Fletcher Bay the following morning.

Right: Ally Davey swims past Te Anaputa Point on day one of her 67km swim. She recalls that beneath was a large school of kingfish, and just around the corner were waves of jellyfish of all sizes.

That was a rough day. Day two saw Ally fight 20 knot winds and battle her way across the Port Jackson reef, which picked her up and spat her out on the other side.

"I was swimming at 5km per hour – that's how fast the tide was moving. It's a pretty gnarly reef. Wally was trying to guide me, but he couldn't hold back to wait for me. He had to go for his own safety. I got pushed over the top of the reef and spat out the other side."

At 21km, and with Ally on the verge of hypothermia, they decided to call it a day around McDonald Reserve. It was the same day her support crew spotted a shark, but they didn't tell her until the day was over. Her crew saw it swim off so decided not to tell her until later that night.

"At that time, I was struggling because of the wind. I was really trying to get to Colville, so I wasn't in a very good head space," says Ally. "They knew I wasn't in danger."

She says she is always aware of sharks in the water.

"I'm aware of them but I'm not worried about them because I realise that's their environment and I'm really privileged to be in that environment. You just have to be respectful."

Huge jellyfish also appeared all the way along her journey.

"For me it's like being on land; these are the obstacles that are coming at you every day in life. It's the same deal," Ally says.

Day three also proved difficult due to the wind. She says it was "a tough slog in open ocean with no reprieve".

Ally wrapped up her swim coming into Long Bay around midday on Sunday 16, February, after burning more than 12,096 calories on a 67.22km swim that took more than 23,600 strokes.

"When I came into the finish I started crying. Doing this has changed who I am. I feel really strong inside, that it doesn't matter what I choose to do, I can do it," Ally says.

Her fear of failure is what drove her. And her love for the ocean.

"When you're in the water for that long, you learn to become one with the ocean; you've got these times when you just have to surrender to it because she's going to do whatever she wants with you," she says.

And while she didn't find vast amounts of rubbish along the coast, she did find a precious marine world she says we all need to work harder to protect.

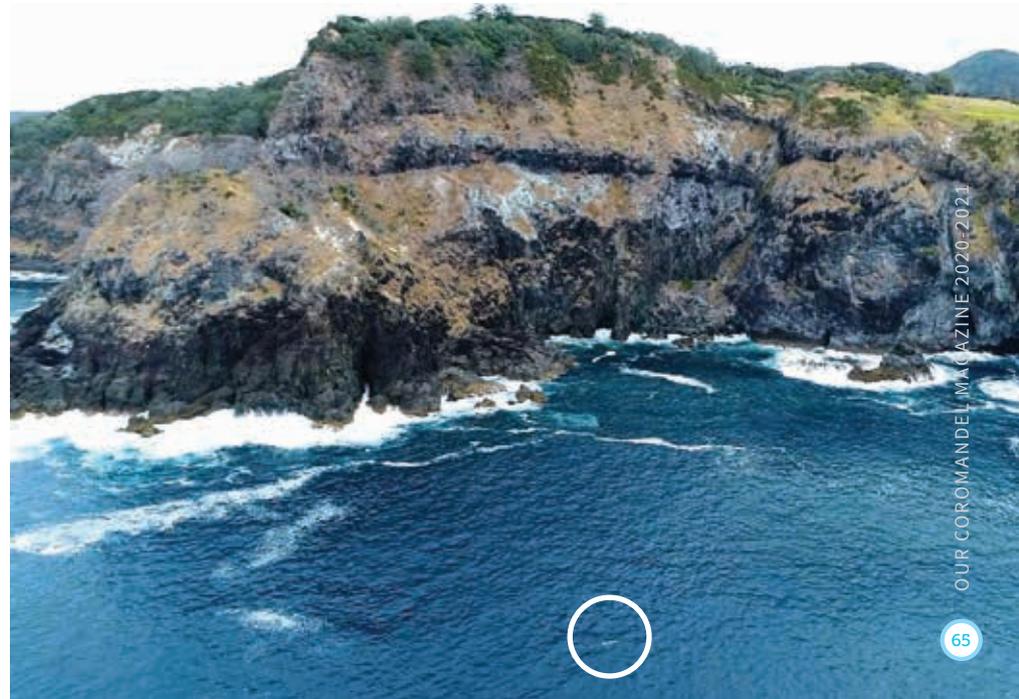
"We really need to talk about this and get some discussion going. We need to be talking about things like, do we need more marine reserves? Do we need some rahui areas or areas protected from gathering and harvesting fish and shellfish?"

"Perhaps we could even create some small 1km areas where we can preserve some of our marine areas to grow more fish for the future."

Ally and her team have made a documentary called Moana Waiwai with the help of funding from Smart Environmental and want to spend time in Coromandel schools helping children understand and be inspired to care for our marine environments.

"As soon as I get into that water, I feel like I'm home. It's this beautiful vast aquamarine of nothing. All of your senses get honed when you're in the water and all you think about is breathing and gliding through the water. We need to protect it."

newzealandmicroadventures.com/moanawaiwai



YOUR PLAYGROUND

A ART & DESIGN

Local creativity in The Little Gallery, throwing clay with the Laughing Potter

B BEACHSIDE BITES

Pizza at Luke's Kitchen, smoothies at Waiomu Beach Café, brunch at Blackies

C COASTAL WALKWAY

Shuttle from Coromandel Town and head across the last frontier

D THE DEPOT

Foodie and art precinct in the old coach house behind Café Melbourne

E ECO FRIENDLY

Cathedral Cove Macadamias, Re-Store, Whangamata Weekend Market

F FAMILY FUNPARKS

Bullswool and Whiti Farm Parks, Waiiau Waterworks and Fun Zone - amusement guaranteed

G GOLD STORIES

Spring to life at the Gold Discovery Centre and the Bella Street Pumphouse

H HAURAKI RAIL TRAIL

A leisurely pedal through charming rural towns from the Shorebird Coast to Matamata

I INTREPID MIGRATING BIRDS

Resting on the shell banks at the Pūkoro Miramira bird hide

J JUMPS & TRICKS

For all thrill levels at the Whangamata skatepark, Hotoritori and Ridges MTB Park

K KARANGAHAKE GORGE

Relics of gold fever lie by the river in the deep valleys and spooky tunnels

L LONG LUNCHES

Falls Retreat, Rapaura Watergardens, The Pour House, The Hive

M MIGHTY KAURI

Towering over the forest on the 309 Road

N NATURAL HOT POOLS

Low tide at Hot Water Beach, any time at The Lost Spring and Miranda

O OTAMA. OPITO. OROKAWA.

Onemana, Otautu and Opoutere; out of the way and outstanding

P THE PINNACLES

Through the bush, up stone steps to a vista from forest to coast

Q QUIRKY COLLECTIONS

Heaven and Earth, Paeroa Antiques, Bounty Store

R RAILWAY RIDES

Through rugged landscapes at Driving Creek and Goldfields, Waikino

S SEAFOOD

Local kaimoana at Coromandel Oyster Co, Blackbeards Smokehouse and Coromandel Smoking Company

T TE WHANGANUI-A-HEI MARINE RESERVE

Discover the underwater world, gliding around the volcanic rock formations

U ULTRA-GOOD CAFES

Wharf Road, The Refinery, Port Road Project

V VINEYARDS & HOPS

Taste of our place at Mercury Bay Estate, Hot Water and Coromandel Brewing Companies

W WHENUAKURA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Your guide reveals the secrets of the hidden blue lagoon

X XTRAORDINARY PLACES

So many... www.thecoromandel.com

Y YELLOW FLAGS

Keeping you safe on the eastern surf beaches

Z ZIPLINES & FLYING FOXES

Swooping over native forest on CoroZip at Driving Creek, the park in Pauanui and Paeroa

STEP BACK IN TIME

The Coromandel has plenty of sites where you can delve into the area's rich history and stories from times gone by. From interactive displays to working models, historic photos and mind-blowing machinery, here are some of the places dedicated to looking after the region's treasured relics.



BELLA STREET PUMPHOUSE

A Heritage New Zealand site that was officially opened in 1898, Bella Street Pumphouse (pictured top left) was built to contain a steam-powered water pump, which cleared water from the mines. Amazingly, the pump was capable of removing 2000 litres of water per minute from depths of 300 metres. The gold fields were also in need of water, so a race was created to reach them. Bella Street Pumphouse has recently acquired a portion of the flume that was used (pictured bottom left), and it's now on display for visitors. As well as the flume, the museum is home to gold mining artefacts, working models of historic infrastructure, and fascinating photos from around the region for you to learn more about Thames' mining history, and marvel at the ambitious feats of engineering behind it. Knowledgeable volunteers are available to give tours and answer questions as they crop up during your visit.



212 Bella Street, Thames

Open 10am–3pm, Saturdays and Sundays

bellastreetpumphouse.com

07 868 1027

COROMANDEL SCHOOL OF MINES

Set up in the 1950s, the Coromandel School of Mines Museum holds an eclectic collection of artefacts depicting the social and industrial past of the town. This includes displays on kauri felling, the marine environment, early pioneers, education, mining, as well as the old Coromandel “lock-up”. The museum also holds many histories of local families and is happy to conduct research on your behalf. Outside the museum, you'll find this large buoy (pictured right), which once held anti-submarine nets in the Waitemata Harbour during World War II. The buoy was donated by a local man, who had it in his garden for many years. The buoy takes pride of place outside the museum and catches the eyes of passers-by. In 2020, the museum is marking the 200th anniversary of the arrival of HMS Coromandel into the harbour by publishing a book (pictured above) based on the ship's captain's logs, which you can find at the museum.



841 Rings Road, Coromandel Town

Open 7 days Christmas to Easter, 1pm–4pm.

Open weekends only, from Labour Weekend to Christmas, 1pm–4pm.

07 866 8311



This buoy started life holding anti-submarine nets in the Waitemata Harbour during W.W.II. It and many others were then utilised by mussel farmers to float mussel lines.



MERCURY BAY MUSEUM

You'll find the Mercury Bay Museum situated on The Esplanade opposite the wharf in Whitianga. The museum opened in 1978 after a successful community fundraising drive by the Lions Club and has over 6500 visitors a year, making it the most visited museum on the Coromandel. The museum is housed in what was formerly a dairy factory, and its exhibits cover both the natural, social and economic history of the region. As part of the 'In our backyard – I te ao tūroa' exhibition, you can find the intriguing *Dactylanthus* (*dactylanthus taylorii*) or Wood Rose (pictured above). This was one of the surprise finds when staff were researching what was in the museum's collection – it's a highly unusual plant and holds a special place among New Zealand's indigenous flora as the only fully parasitic flowering plant and the southernmost member of its mainly tropical family. Tellingly, the Māori name for *dactylanthus* is Te Pua O Te Rēinga (flower of the underworld), and alludes to the way its flowers emerge from below ground. *Dactylanthus* is pollinated by the short-tail bat and is currently the focus of a Department of Conservation Recovery Plan, as it's classified as a threatened species.

11A The Esplanade, Whitianga
Facebook.com/mercurybaymuseumwhitianga
Open 10am-3pm, 7 days
07 866 0730



THAMES MUSEUM



Thames Museum is home to plenty of fascinating exhibits, including a 'man trap' to guard a gold miner's claim, one of New Zealand's oldest fire engines (1870s), a typewriter that once belonged to an editor of the Thames Star (1890s – pictured top right), and the Ted Egan Gallery of precision-crafted models of pioneer-era Thames buildings. The exhibit 'Crossing the Waihou' features Ted's working model of the historic Kōpū Bridge's central swing span

(pictured left), on display with memorabilia of the 92-year-old Category 1 historic bridge spanning the Waihou River just outside Thames. It was the winner of Thames Bowling Club's Best Lockdown Project, complete with regulation lighting and a ladder for inspecting the underside of the bridge. The model represents many hours of intricate woodworking and electrical wiring of the 12volt-powered swing mechanism. Thames Museum is run entirely by volunteers, with teams rostered on front-of-house to welcome visitors and behind-the-scenes to care for artefacts and displays.

Cochrane Street, Thames
Open 10am-3pm,
Friday to Wednesday
thameshistoricalmuseum.weebly.co
07 868 8509

THE TREASURY

Among the many gems at The Treasury and Research Centre in Thames is a 161-year-old original Shaw, Savill & Co's passenger ticket (pictured left). The ticket is for James Patterson and his wife, who sailed from London on the *British Queen* on a second cabin passage, arriving in Auckland in August of 1859. The perils of long sea journeys were foreshadowed with the warning that the deposit would be forfeited if passengers failed to embark in a fit state of health for the voyage. The Treasury is home to a breathtaking collection of original papers, certificates, photos, books, manuscripts and oral histories, made even more intriguing when viewed in person. The facility is open to anyone interested in researching the rich past of the area, and help is at hand from knowledgeable volunteers.

705 Queen Street, Thames
Open 11am-3pm,
Monday, Thursday and Saturday (except public holidays)
Please note there is a charge to use the research facilities
07 868 8827

SAFE LANDING

Ferry Landing in Whitianga is the oldest stone wharf in Australasia, built in about 1836, and has been revived thanks to a wide-ranging community effort.

The short ferry ride across the estuary from Whitianga township to Ferry Landing Wharf is a popular amongst thousands of visitors heading over to explore Flaxmill Bay and the spectacular walking tracks nearby. Few know the importance of the stone wharf they arrive on at the other side.

Owners of the Whitianga Ferry, former America's Cup yachtie Jeremy Lomas and his wife Louise, only realised the wharf's history after they bought the ferry business in 2018. It turned out that Louise's great-great-great-grandfather Captain Ranulph Dacre established the original wharf at Ferry Landing in the 1830s.

Back then, it was the seat of the Coromandel's kauri trade and gave rise to one of the earliest European settlements outside New Zealand's Far North.

It was the wharf's history that captured retired engineer and Ferry Landing resident Bob Nicholls and spurred him on to create a local group to restore it.

Bob was four when his father, John, bought some of the first sections on offer at Ferry Landing in the late 1940s. Bob retired there in 2008 and now lives just up on the hill from where he used to watch the ferry coming and going before the pōhutukawa trees grew too tall.

"It's the oldest civil engineering project in New Zealand that's still there and still serving its original purpose," he says.

"I'd always admired its history, but things were falling off it and it was degrading. I knew we had to save it."

Bob rallied a group of like-minded locals, including Toby Morcom and Alison Henry, to drive the project, and together they approached our Council and Engineering New Zealand.

"Everyone agreed it needed to be saved, but projects like this cost money and getting

funding was challenging at first," Bob says.

In December 2014, a \$187,845 grant from the Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund enabled work to begin. As support for the restoration grew, the group managed to raise a total of \$660,000 – the lion's share coming from our Council.

"At the time there were some who questioned why we should spend the money, but you see people come over to Ferry Landing now and they engage with the space," Bob says. "They see the signs and the artwork, and it helps unveil the uniqueness and importance of this area and our place in the world."

A remnant of early international commerce

Heritage New Zealand Senior Heritage Assessment Advisor Martin Jones says the Category 1 wharf is an important demonstration of the arrival of globalised trade in pre-colonial New Zealand.

Built in about 1836, the wharf was designed by Sydney timber merchant Gordon Davies Browne on behalf of Captain Dacre, who had established a timber milling and ship building business in Mercury Bay, exporting kauri products to overseas markets and trading imported goods with local iwi Ngāti Hei. The original structure was built with the help of Ngāti Hei.

While parts of the original 1830s stone wharf remain, it has also been added to over the years. In 1864 it was expanded to include the timber mill, which eventually outgrew the site and was moved to Whitianga. Over time a raised loading platform, goods shed, cattle race, stone steps for ferry access and timber derrick for lifting cargo from ships were all added.

"It is believed to be the earliest stone wharf in New Zealand, so has high technological value in relation to that. But from a bigger

picture perspective, it is a remnant of very early international commerce in New Zealand," Martin says.

The wharf is also significant as it was operating well before the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840.

"The activity of this wharf was operating in a Māori world. Often these stories are told from a Pākehā perspective, but one of the important things about this place is its ability to tell the story of pre-Treaty relationships between Māori and Pākehā, including collaboration and cooperation where there was perceived mutual benefit," Martin says,

The wharf's restoration has also been a collaboration. Our Council, Ngāti Hei, Engineering New Zealand, the Waikato Regional Council, DOC and the Mercury Bay community all worked together to save it.

Our Council's Project Engineer Andrew Scobie says it was a challenging project because of its Category 1 heritage status, which required care not to go too far outside the wharf's original state.

The wharf's old stones, some up to three tonnes in weight, were recovered from the sea floor by divers and a crane. The old timber derrick that used to winch cargo off boats was recreated. Timber baulks were installed to create seating. Artwork, signage and specialist lighting were also installed to finish the project.

"It created a lot of interest as it was worked on," says Andrew. "The ferry continued operating throughout the project, so people were always coming and going, wondering, 'What are they doing now?'"

An old winch from a tow truck in Martinborough was refurbished locally by Kieran McCarten to create the replica derrick. Another local, Travis Boyd, provided the timber baulks, while locals Murray

“FEATURES LIKE THE STONE WHARF HELP TO TELL THE STORY OF OUR PLACE AND KEEP THAT HISTORY ALIVE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS ...”

Strachan and Peter McVicker spent many hours sanding, preparing and installing the derrick and seating.

Acclaimed Coromandel artist James Webster, of tā moko studio and Māori arts gallery Tahaa, worked with Ngāti Hei to create the large compass artwork that is set into the wharf’s pavement, which references voyagers Kupe and James Cook, who placed Mercury Bay on the map.

“These locals provided so much of their time and energy,” Andrew says. “It was also really important to have the link with the community in terms of getting quick responses on things; that community engagement made things flow very smoothly.”

Ngāti Hei spokesperson Joe Davis says the site is particularly significant for Ngāti Hei as Whakapenui and Whitianga pā are sited on the hill to the right of the wharf.

“Features like the stone wharf help to tell the story of our place and keep that history alive for future generations. I think people appreciate that,” Joe says.

And while the wharf is an important example of early stone wall construction, it is also a significant engineering feat that has stood the test of time. The huge ignimbrite stones mined from the local hillsides were originally lifted into place using Ngāti Hei labour.

“We provided a ready workforce. It was like building a pyramid, the way the stones slotted together, Joe says. “The wharf is only a very tiny snippet of the history of our region and our people, but it is playing quite an important role in our tourism industry now and the restoration project has brought it all to light.”

Article adapted from a feature in *‘Heritage New Zealand’*. Recognised as New Zealand’s leading heritage magazine, it features a wide range of interesting articles on the preservation and conservation of historic buildings and sites, as well as the people who work with them.

Gemstone Treasures of the Coromandel

by Robert Simmons

Did you know that when you go on a bush hike or a beach walk on the Coromandel Peninsula, there might very well be gemstone treasures right under your feet? As a lifelong crystal and rock enthusiast from the USA, my first visit to the Coromandel left me positively amazed. In all my thirty-plus years of seeking out beautiful stones, I had never found an area as rich in mineral wealth as the Coromandel. Never mind the gold for which the area is famous--it's the rocks that call to me, and to many others who love gemstones, both for their physical beauty and their metaphysical qualities.

The Coromandel Peninsula was formed from the eruptions of dozens of volcanos, millions of years ago. The gemstones and crystals found here have formed as a result of that very same volcanic activity. This article offers a thumbnail sketch of six different gemstone treasures of the Coromandel.



Quartz Crystal

Coromandel Quartz Crystals are direct products of volcanic eruptions. When volcanos deposited lava and/or ash, gas bubbles often formed. As the material hardened over time, mineral-rich ground water seeped into these cavities. In places where there was the right amount of heat present from the magma beneath, the evaporating ground water left behind its silica content, which crystallized into beautiful Quartz points and clusters.

Although most of the Coromandel Quartz crystals are fairly small, individual points of over 100mm in length have been found. And the sheer variety of the formation patterns of Coromandel quartz is unrivaled by any other quartz in the world. For those who take the time to look carefully, these crystals display exquisite patterns of stunning beauty.

On the metaphysical side, Coromandel Quartz emanates energies of peace, tranquility and gentleness. For those who are sensitive to them, these crystals can fill one's consciousness with beautiful white Light. They are soothing to the emotions and help one to feel a spiritual connection with the Earth.

Coromandel Quartz can be found at multiple sites throughout our area. It is easy to find them outside the shafts of old gold mines near Thames and Coromandel Town. There are also rich collecting areas near Paeroa and in the river that runs along the 309 Road



Carnelian

Carnelian is another member of the Quartz family—a yellow-orange agate or chalcedony that forms in layers which often appear as stripes of varying shades. The Carnelian of the Coromandel is some of the most beautiful in the world, and sometimes a single specimen can display a whole range of vivid shades, from nearly white to deep orange-red. Like the Quartz crystals,

Coromandel Carnelian formed when mineral-rich water came into contact with open spaces in volcanic rock, with the right amount of heat and pressure.

Metaphysically, Coromandel Carnelian is a highly energizing stone. It stimulates creativity, vitality, sexuality and humor. Its influence nudges one toward enjoying life, having fun and relating with others in a warm and affectionate way.

Coromandel Carnelian is frequently found in the Kauaeranga Valley near Thames, as well as around the area around Colville. The easiest place to find Carnelian is in the banks of streams and rivers, and sometimes on beaches near the mouths of rivers in these areas.



Red Jasper

Red Jasper is another form of volcanic Quartz, which is frequently formed between layers of other rock. The color of Coromandel Jasper has a range of reddish shades, but at its best, it is a pure scarlet red. It does not form visible crystals, but instead appears as chunky rocks, although it is indeed crystalline on the microscopic level.

Coromandel Red Jasper has strong energetic currents for increasing vitality, and helping to increase one's life force or prana. Those who do yoga for these purposes may find that a piece of Coromandel Red Jasper can enhance their practice.

Red Jasper can be found in many rivers in and around the peninsula. Some of the most prolific sites include the Tairua River near Puketui and the Kauaeranga Valley. Other good places to look include most beaches, especially Te Karo Bay in Tairua and various beaches around Coromandel Town. The Waiau River beside the 309 Road also contains plenty of Red Jasper, as does the Waiwawa River near Coroglen.



Petrified Wood

One of the most amazing stones of the Coromandel is Petrified Wood. It is not a wood at all, but is actually another form of Quartz or Jasper. In this case, volcanic eruptions covered up ancient trees and branches, making an airtight seal that prevented decay. Then, over many centuries, silica-rich groundwater dissolved away the wood fibers and left colorful quartz in place of them. Because this process happened on the sub-microscopic molecular level, the original form of the wood was preserved, even though it had transformed into stone! Many specimens found on the Coromandel display the patterns of the outer bark, and even the inner growth rings of the original wood. Most of our local petrified wood is brown or gray, but some pieces show black areas where the wood was charred by volcanic heat.

The metaphysical energies of Petrified Wood are said to enhance longevity and memory, and to help one be "grounded." This is an excellent stone for people who tend to be "spacey" and need to connect more with their bodies and the physical world.

Probably because our whole peninsula is volcanic and has been heavily forested in its ancient past, there

is Petrified Wood all over the Coromandel. One of the best known deposits is in Mill Creek near Whitianga. However, one can find Petrified Wood around the Opito Bay area, especially in its rivers, as well as in the Tairua River, and in the creeks and streams north of Tairua. But it is literally just about everywhere. The trick is learning to know it when you see it!



Silver Chalcedony

Silver Chalcedony is another true Coromandel gemstone. It is grayish white and translucent, almost like Moonstone. It is often found in the same areas where there is Carnelian, but the Silver Chalcedony is much rarer. This stone lends itself very well to being cut and set in jewelry.

The metaphysical energies of Silver Chalcedony are in the realm of inner sensing and intuition. These stones are said to enhance meditation, and to help one develop psychic abilities. They are soothing to the emotions, and they resonate to the feminine polarity.

Silver Chalcedony can be found where Carnelians exist, so one can look for it in and around the Kauaeranga Valley and Colville. Also, it is sometimes found on the beach near Hahei, and around Gemstone Bay, between Hahei and Cooks Beach.



Obsidian

Obsidian is a natural glass, found as a kind of volcanic rock. It is produced when lava high in silica cools rapidly, and solidifies without time for crystal growth. Because there is no crystal structure, obsidian blade edges can reach almost molecular thinness, leading to its use for making arrowheads and other weapons, as well as scrapers and various cutting tools. Obsidian from the Coromandel Peninsula is black or grey-black in color. Obsidian is used as a gemstone in jewelry, and for making spheres, bowls and ornaments.

In metaphysical terms, Obsidian is thought to be helpful for eliminating negative energies in oneself and one's environment. It is a strong grounding stone, helping people to find clarity and balance. It is useful for all types of scrying, including spirit communication. It is also a strong stone of spiritual protection.

In the Coromandel volcanic zone, Obsidian is found in Fanal, Awana, Te Ahumata, Cooks Beach, Hahei, Tairua, Whangamata, Maratoto and Waihi.

I hope these verbal sketches have piqued your interest in these seven Coromandel Gemstone Treasures. It is fun to hunt for them in the bush and on beaches, and I recommend it highly. And for those who might like to see these stones all in one place, in raw and polished forms as well as in jewelry, I recommend visiting our huge gemstone gallery, Heaven, and Earth, in Tairua. We have these and other New Zealand stones, plus thousands more from all over the world (and even from outer space!).

May the Rocks be with you!



Heaven & Earth



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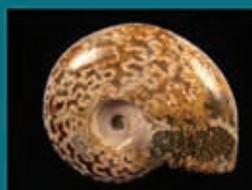
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CROSSING

THE BAR

WE CATCH UP WITH OUR LOCAL COASTGUARD SKIPPERS ON THE HAZARDS AROUND BAR CROSSINGS IN THE COROMANDEL.

Bar crossings are challenging and can be dangerous, even for the most experienced boaties.

In the Coromandel, many of our beaches have a 'bar', which is simply a build-up of sand and silt where a river mouth, inlet or harbour meets the open ocean.

Some days, a bar can appear still and tranquil, but weather, current and tide can cause it to surge alive with waves that can make conditions unpredictable and hazardous.

One of our most notorious local bar crossings is the Tairua Bar, which is known for having the most boat-capsizing incidents on the Coromandel.

Coastguard skipper and unit training officer for Tairua-Pauanui, Andrew Gibson, knows this bar well, as a local Pauanui resident and having been with the Coastguard for nine years.

"It's quite a short bar, and it's close to the beach, so you're pretty much straight into it as soon as you head out the harbour entrance," Mr Gibson says. "It very much depends on the tide and the swell as to how treacherous it can be. At certain times of the day, on certain-sized swells, it can be quite easy to cross, but on the same day at a lower tide it can break hard with white water.

"It's certainly a bar that needs to be respected and approached with patience and preparation, even by the most skilled mariner," he says.

And that preparation starts on the land with knowing the tide, the safety level being advised for the bar and taking a good, long look at the bar before you head out.

"People often have a look at the bar from the car park at Royal Billy Point at Pauanui's north-end, and from there, 400m away, the



Our crews need your support

Local Coastguard crews on the Coromandel are made up of volunteers who train each week, on and off-the-water, to ensure the crew and their vessel operate safely and are in the best position to get out, day or night, to bring people's loved ones home.

Only 12 per cent of Coastguard's funding comes from the government, so our local units rely on donations. Pauanui Coastguard, for example, will need a new boat in five years' time, with an estimated replacement cost of \$1 million. To donate directly to the Tairua Pauanui Unit email pauanuicoastguard@gmail.com

For general Coastguard donations, visit [coastguardnz/donate-now](https://www.coastguardnz.govt.nz/donate-now)

Coastguard skipper and unit training officer for Tairua-Pauanui Andrew Gibson and crew member Bridget Gibson.

waves may not appear that large. But once they're out, they find it's much bigger than they thought. People sometimes don't look for long enough, or they view the bar during a lull in the swell," Mr Gibson says.

Under-estimating the size of the swell is one of the most common mistakes people make when attempting bar crossings.

The other common mistake that cause boats to capsize on the bar, is turning the boat in front of a wave, and going too fast.

"Never turn in front of a wave," Mr Gibson says. "If you think the wave will break, allow it to break if you can, and you need some forward-momentum to ride up over the white water, so don't stop, but don't speed up either. It is a mistake to hit the throttle when approaching a standing wave as that can cause a vessel to go straight up and plant the engine beneath the water when it comes down. This can cause the engine to stall and then the next wave swamps the vessel."

Mr Gibson points out the reputation and number of incidents on the Tairua bar is partly due to the high use it gets over the peak summer months, when keen boaties from Pauanui and Tairua are heading in and out for fishing and day trips.

People holidaying in the Coromandel for a short time only are often more likely to take risks they would usually avoid, due to being eager to get their boats out in less than ideal conditions.

Matarangi Boat and Fishing Club President, Peter Murphy, leads an annual bar crossing seminar, focusing on the Whangapoua Harbour entrance, for local holidaymakers in Matarangi each December.



The view of Tairua Bar, from Royal Billy Point, Pauanui.



Whangapoua Harbour entrance.

Attracting up to 200 people some years, there's clear demand for people seeking the local knowledge.

The course is based on Coastguard information, local knowledge, up-to-date aerial photos and bar crossing videos. Afterwards, the club offers to accompany people across the bar in their own boats, to help them read and understand the bar.

The Matarangi Fire Brigade attends incidents on the bar in its rescue boat, as they are often in a position to respond sooner than the Whitianga Coastguard, due to proximity.

"Since we have been running these courses there have been far fewer incidents on the bar each year, despite the growing holiday population, so the education is making a difference," Mr Murphy says.

The Whangapoua Harbour entrance is forever changing with swell direction, state of the tide, wind direction and channel all playing a part.

"The bar is quite a long way out, which gives boaties a false sense of having already crossed it," Mr Murphy says. "Because of this distance out, it enables skippers to pause in a safe environment inside the bar to analyze the swell, the timing of the sets, the tide flow and wind conditions before committing to the crossing," he says.

The most common bar crossing error is made when skippers try to turn their boat around when a large wave appears, after they have committed to crossing.

"Respect for the bar and the sea is the main thing," Mr Murphy says. "If in doubt, don't go out. It is far better to turn around and go back to the ramp after evaluating the conditions if you have the slightest concerns. I've done this myself, several times. Be realistic about it and know your limitations," he says.

The next seminar on crossing the Matarangi bar will be at 9am on 28 December 2020 at the Matarangi Fire Brigade. There is no cost and the event is open to all boaties. For more information, phone 021 269 0058.

Help for boaties

COASTGUARD BOATING EDUCATION:

Coastguard NZ offers 'day skipper' and the more advanced 'boat master' courses, which will help you know what you're doing and enjoy your boating even more.

Skippers are responsible for everyone on their boat. As well as knowing what safety equipment to carry and how to use it, they need to know how to navigate and comply with maritime rules and regulations. It's essential to understand boating safety and what to do if something goes wrong, and these courses will cover all that.

More information: [coastguardnz/education](https://www.coastguardnz.govt.nz/education)

COASTGUARD NZ ALSO HAS VIDEOS on bar crossings on its website [coastguard.nz/boating-safely/bar-crossing-safety](https://www.coastguardnz.govt.nz/boating-safely/bar-crossing-safety)

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE:

Talk to other boaties who are local and cross the bar regularly for information they can share as your Coastguard course won't necessarily talk about your local bar specifically.



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For just \$115 per year, Coastguard membership means you're covered in the Coromandel and around New Zealand with free on-water assistance if something goes wrong.



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Have peace of mind each time you head out knowing we've got your back with free on-water assistance and more.

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Whangamata Ocean Sports Club

PHOTO CREDIT: JASON BERRY

The Club with the Million Dollar View!



Another year has come and gone and the club continues to still be a busy and popular place to spend time. We are the Whangamata Ocean Sports Club with stunning views of the harbour and ocean.

During the summer we host some of the largest fishing tournaments in the country: The New Year's fishing tournament with junior & senior sections, the ever-popular Nauti Girls, the largest female-only fishing tournament in the country, and our flagship tournament the GFab Trailers Classic, which attracts some of the keenest anglers in the country and boasts over \$60,000 in prizes and a huge \$20,000 tag and release prize pool. The club strongly advocates for sustainable fishing practises through its membership of the NZSFC and specific club rules relating to any particular club event or competition. Accordingly, a portion of each individual's membership fee is allocated to the NZSFC and the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation totalling over \$65,000 a year in donations. A detailed outline of the benefits provided through the NZSFC toward making our fishing environment available to future generations is contained within the 'Fisheries Management Report' readily available online and through the club.

Legasea is the public face of NZSFC involved within the volatile political arena on our behalf. The issues Legasea advocates for on behalf of each and every member of a recognised fishing club, are supported with data obtained from the full spectrum of fishers and its own research. We are currently promoting the Rescue Fish initiative, aimed at replacing the current broken QMS and restoring OUR waters to abundance.

Our restaurant, led by head chef Dennis Matthews, is one of the best on the Coromandel peninsula. We serve over 75,000 meals a year with a wide range to suit our 6900+ members and their guests. Remember if you are not lucky enough to be a local or are visiting from overseas come in and try us out, we encourage visitors to trial our facilities before becoming a member and see for yourself how great the food and view is.

Membership is currently available so visit our website oceansports.co.nz or email admin@oceansports.co.nz for more details.

*Hope to see you soon at the Club with the million dollar view!
Ocean Sports, by the wharf.*



WHANGAMATA OCEAN SPORTS CLUB

ARTS

ONE OF OUR FORTUNES ON THE COROMANDEL IS OUR WEALTH OF TALENTED ARTISTS WHOSE WORKS ARE SHOWCASED INTERNATIONALLY.



WOOD ARTIST TURNS LEFTOVERS TO TREASURES

When Kevin Brett eyes a lichen-covered piece of timber, he already knows what he wants to do with it.

The grey post leaning against the wall of his sawdust-covered workshop will be wire brushed and sanded down until it's smooth and gleaming to become part of a coffee table.

Uncovering the timber's patterns – in their warm and soft yellows, browns, greys and greens – are all part of the fun for Kevin who works with recovered wood and driftwood. It's wood he's heaved into his boat from the Firth of Thames, leftovers from renovations, or bits and pieces that have been lying around friends' farms and sheds. He makes surfboard coffee tables from river kauri, long benches from driftwood pohutukawa, and chopping boards from totara and other native timber. He says the more weathered the piece when he gets it, the better.

Kevin grew up in Auckland but the Coromandel was always in his blood. When he was a child, his parents would take the kids up to Port Jackson in the back of a truck for weekends and summer holidays. Those were the days when the dusty roads up the coast were gravel.

Kevin moved to Coromandel in the early '80s and, besides a few years in Nelson, stayed put ever since. This place is, he says, special.

A builder by trade, Kevin still does renovations and projects, but he always wanted to work with timber to craft beautiful, useful things people could use and covet in their homes.

The very first time he showed his hand-crafted pieces in an exhibition, it was at Hauraki House in Coromandel Town. Arriving late, he saw people leaving carrying



Top: Cheeseboard made from recovered native timber.

Bottom: Colourful glasswork by Kim Brett.

You can check out our local painters, weavers, carvers, jewellers and mixed-media artists and entrepreneurs throughout the year at the Mercury Bay Open Arts Tour mercurybay-artescape.com which is held the first two weekends in March, the Arts Collective Whangamata's open art studio trail at Easter, or the Coromandel Arts

Tour coromandelartstour.co.nz in October or regular exhibitions held by local galleries or organisations such as the Thames Society of Arts thamessocietyofarts.org.nz

In this feature, feast your eyes on the creative works of a small selection of some of our wonderful Coromandel artists.

Interested in the arts? Creative Coromandel is your go-to destination for work opportunities, event listings, artist profiles and creative inspiration. www.creativecoromandel.co.nz



Artists Kevin and Kim Brett in their workshop in Coromandel Town.



his stuff, proud new owners of his work. Inside was one Barry Brickell – the well-known Coromandel potter, conservationist and founder of Driving Creek Railway – sitting on one of Kevin's kauri benches, announcing that he'd just bought it.

Kevin's workshop is next door to The Workshop, the gallery he and his wife Kim founded several years ago. It was their dream for years. That building too is a recovered project; it's a prefab that was once part of the Coromandel Area School.

Kim has a studio inside the gallery, where she makes a range of colourful glassware. She lays out her eye-catching designs in shiny chunks of glass which are then fired in a special glass kiln. She struck lucky

with that kiln, finding it on TradeMe, and picking it up on a four-day mission to Oamaru and back. The alternative was importing one.

Kim always wanted to work with glass, an interest that was ignited as a young teenager on a trip with her artist mother to the Hokitika on the West Coast, where they watched, and were inspired by, glassblowers.

The Coromandel is also in Kim's bones. She grew up here, and her dad started the first oyster farm. She ran a fishing charter out of Coromandel for years. She and Kevin absolutely love fishing, and they founded and ran The Coromandel Smoking Company, a business they jokingly describe as "another hobby that got out of hand." They're in the perfect spot for a bit of fishing too, with the Coromandel Harbour lapping at the edge of their property.

Along with the fish, it's local art that they're super enthusiastic about. The Workshop sells pieces from a handful of other

Coromandel artists. Kim and Kevin want to encourage more of the area's creative and talented people to be confident to display, and ultimately sell, their pieces at the gallery. There are future plans to extend the building to create a space that'll be suitable to host local artists' exhibitions.

The Workshop is at 1613 Manaia Road, just south of Coromandel Town on SH25. Depending on the season, opening hours are 10-4. You can get in touch to check: 07 8667242 or 021 866724, or k-n-k@xtra.co.nz

The gallery is right next door to The Coromandel Oyster Company, so you can combine your visit with some excellent fish and chips, or freshly shucked oysters.



A COLOURFUL INFLUENCE

“I need colours in my life!” says glass artist Michaela Palacios with a big smile. “They’re like my vitamins.”

That’s evident on her workshop table, which is chocka with jars of candy coloured glass rods. This rainbow of colours is the result of whatever mineral content is in the glass. The greens and jades are from copper. The reds and yellows contain gold. And silver tints the blues.

Michaela creates lamp work. This method of glass work involves a lot of heat – about 1500 degrees Celsius of it, delivered via blowtorch.

To form a bead, a glass rod is heated, and then gently wound around a steel rod. That steel rod is coated with graphite, which glass won’t adhere to, and means a hole can be formed through the middle of a bead.

Another colour is heated until melty and carefully applied. When enough of that new colour has been added, the torch acts as a

knife to cut the molten rod. Michaela works the soft glass, pushing colours into place, blending and swirling to get the desired effect. She’ll often add a final layer of clear glass to magnify the result. Beads are then put in a kiln to cool down very slowly, degree by degree, over night.

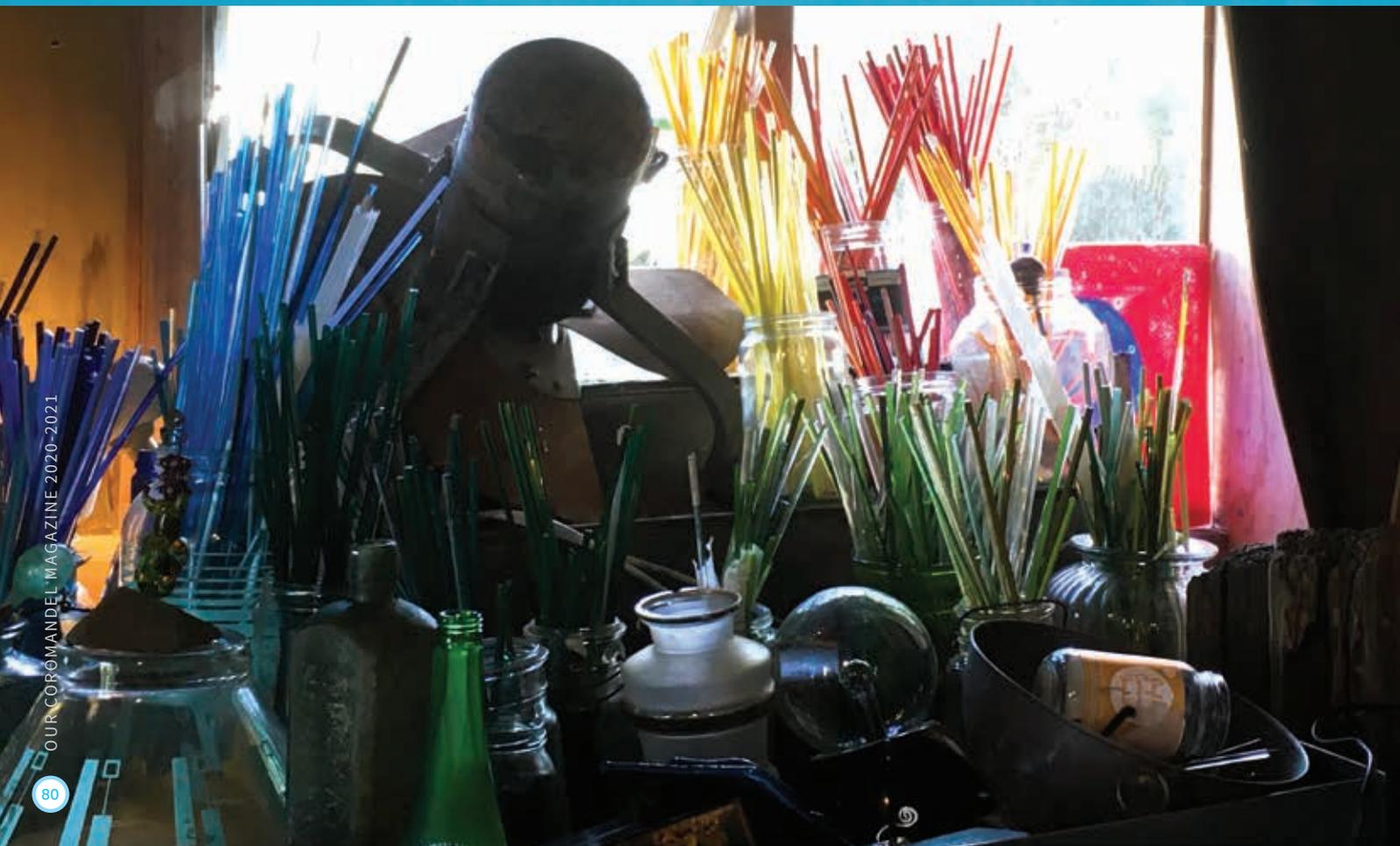
One of her favourite Italian techniques is called ‘latticino’. Here, two or more rods are twisted together so the colours make a spiral pattern. These are often used for things like wine glass stems or inside beads and tiles.

Michaela draws hugely on her Mayan Mexican heritage and says she likes to “incorporate the colourful influence of her ancestors” within her work. She’s inspired by memories of the sights and sounds of her many family trips to Mexico, admiring the culture’s passion for colour, and “the internal spice” for food, family, music and life. One of her other skills is as a flower

grower; working with the different varieties and colours also ignite her imagination when she’s behind the torch.

Born and raised in Washington State in the north-west USA, Michaela’s family spent a lot of time sailing in the San Juan Islands that border British Columbia in Canada. Michaela’s hometown of Bellingham is known for its glass artistry. She studied arts at college there, learning about the history and ancient techniques of glass work.

Her first inspiration was Sage Holland, who’s considered a pioneer in The contemporary American glass bead making movement. Michaela says Sage was “the first to introduce me to the spontaneous dance of glass working.” To get further practical experience, she started from the bottom, sweeping floors and cleaning studios where she was then entrusted to experiment with the tools and leftover glass scraps to figure out her own style, while honouring





traditional Egyptian and Italian techniques. Michaela moved to the Coromandel a decade ago with her young family. She'd taken a hiatus from her lamp work; small children, glass and flaming torches are not a great combination. However, her passion has been reignited here and she's developed a new way of working.

In tribute to Mercury Bay, she's now incorporating tiny amounts of sand from local beaches into glass in a range she's calling 'A Bit of The Beach'. The sand's mineral make-up creates unique colours in the glass. It means you can always have the Coromandel with you wherever you are. A bit of Otama in your earrings or a sprinkle of Hahei in your door handles.

Michaela takes commissions to create personalised glass jewellery, tiles, and door and cabinet knobs. She throws open her studio doors during the annual Mercury Bay Art Escape.

Michaela is available to teach lamp work to individuals and small groups. This summer, she'll be hosting children's arts classes in Kuaotunu.

For more details, check out her Facebook page: [facebook.com/soulfireglasstudios/](https://www.facebook.com/soulfireglasstudios/) or email soulfireglassart@gmail.com



Glass artist Michaela Palacios working with the Italian technique 'latticino', where glass rods are twisted together so the colours make a spiral pattern.

THE AMAZING

PAPER

Phillip Fickling started building stuff out of paper as a young boy and didn't stop.

This passion for paper creations turned into his life's work as a professional artist and 'paper engineer'. He does this from his bush studio near Kuaotunu where being busy cutting, folding and gluing paper involves working for international clients – including greeting card companies and, several years ago, creating the book *Star Wars Mega Models*.

Work includes designing unique paper model kits, pop-up books, unusual packaging configurations and one-off models for photography.

Phillip's environment and surroundings have always played a big part in nurturing his creativity.

He can thank the climate of Seattle, where he grew up, for his career path. Because the city, in Washington state, experiences rain frequently, he was indoors a lot and had a lot of time to make things out of cardboard boxes.



"If I had grown up in California, I would probably have been outside all the time on a skateboard instead, so environmental factors definitely played their part in things," Phillip says.

Having now lived on the Coromandel since 2015, Phillip enjoys the distraction-free feel of the area, its beautiful beaches and wonderful vibe. He says he's never lived in an area with so many inspiring creatives in one place.

Specialising in designing paper model kits, one-off paper sculptures and pop-ups, Phillip's diverse range of clients keep life interesting. He works from home, which he shares with his wife Jenny and their dog, Daisy Lu.

After all these years, Phillip says it is still the initial stage of any creative project that he gets the greatest pleasure from.

"I enjoy the part where I lay it all out, print and cut the design and make the 3D shape. Seeing the white paper turn into the creation and come to life in 3D is what I love," he says. "Literally, doing work, physically, on the table and coming up with things I can play with."

'A partridge in a pear tree' – paper sculpture for Partridge Jewellers.

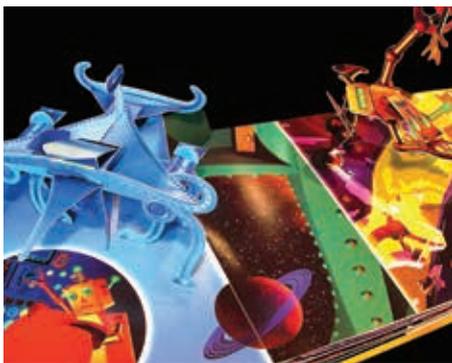
ENGINEER



One-off paper sculpture 'Wingnut' made from acid-free paper and wooden rods.



Paper engineer Phillip Fickling in his Kuaotunu studio.



The best part of freelance work is being able to generate ideas from the start, and it often comes with creative challenges that he finds satisfying to tackle.

“Once I had a brief to make a car logo turn into a snowflake. I worked it out over one weekend and it’s one I am proud of – it won a lot of awards. The client’s creative team had been battling for a while and weren’t sure it could be done. But then sometimes the simplest ones can be the idea you wrestle with for ages.”

Phillip’s been doing this all his life, and his mother, who also has a flair for design, recognised her son’s talent early on.

“My Mom would tell me as a kid: ‘One of these days you’re going to get a job for Walt Disney,’” he says.

Phillip’s dream to be a professional artist was realised part-way through studying for his art degree, when he was snapped up by a talent scout. His tutor put him forward for an interview with a large greeting card company as he thought he had what it takes – despite the company saying they were only looking at graduates.

After pulling out a series of spectacular Star Wars spaceship models from his graduation portfolio, (stored inside a battered old blue suitcase), he wowed the team and he was hired on the spot.

Above right: Models from the Star Wars Mega Models book.

Left, bottom: Paper sculpture 'pogo' made completely out of paper and 260mm tall.

Left, top: A page from Nova the Robot's Super-Galactic Pop-Up Book

“It really was a dream come true. After being a poor student, eating very little, and needing to go to my Mom’s on a Sunday for a meal, this was a real thrill.”

The job lasted 13 years and during that time Phillip and Jenny relocated to Colorado, where the company capitalised on his immense skill for making 3D flat pack modelling kits. The details for the products he made were always intricate and Phillip particularly enjoyed making model replicas for things such as The Mayflower, first ship of the pilgrims, with the 3D replica even including miniature pilgrims.

One of his first assignments for the large greeting card company was to design and build a whole set of spaceships. Phillip was in his element.



“Seeing Star Wars changed things for me. I lived and breathed it. I was a real geek,” he says. “After that movie came out, my life changed.”

But the ultimate delight was being asked to design and illustrate the *Star Wars Mega Models* book.

Work for a diverse range of clients and some of New Zealand’ biggest companies is very fulfilling, but Phillip says in the future he’d like to branch out on his own and have work within a gallery.

There is a local Mercury Bay artists group called ‘10 Artists’ that hire out the Town Hall and have a show of their work in January of each year.

“Everyone does something different from painters to sculptors – it’s a wonderful opportunity to see how everyone works and it’s a great time to sell our work.”

When Phillip and his wife Jenny, who takes care of the administrative side of his business, are not working, they’re likely to be out enjoying their beautiful local beach of Kuaotunu.

phillipfickling.com

Reaching for freedom THROUGH ART

When people tell artist, Rachel Olsen, that her work makes them feel joyful, she says it's the best feedback she can get.

"My art is meant to be playful, warm and nostalgic and I want it to be a reminder to people of happy times in their lives," Rachel says. "I feel those things when I am planning my painting, and I want to convey that to the viewer."

A lot of that is reflected in her distinctive, vibrant paintings, that often depict scenes

from the Coromandel, through the lens of morning or evening light.

From her studio in Cooks Beach, Rachel enjoys capturing and painting the places she resonates with.

After moving to the Coromandel from Auckland 30 years ago, it's the land she feels most connected to.

"Early morning and early evening light is often what I'm drawn to. There is something magical and special about that time – it's

when I feel the most inspired to capture photographs so I can begin drawing."

Rachel's creative process starts with drawing, and she says she feels she tends to find a way better with a plan.

"For me, composition and balance are so important. I feel more confident when I know where I am going," she says.

An "arty" child, who was raised in a super creative environment, Rachel's father was a landscape gardener and her mum was a jeweller.

From a young age, she was exposed to the beauty of her backyard, appreciating all the colours and creativeness that could be found outside.

"I was so fortunate to develop a real gratitude of the outdoors through Dad – the bush, the New Zealand environment and my love of colourful gardens all comes from him," Rachel says.

Her mother, a jeweller, worked with metal, gold, silver and semi-precious gems. After her parents separated, her Mum's new partner was a graphic artist and potter who also did carving.

"I was so fortunate to grow up and see artists being brave enough to stick things out as it's not always easy. People struggled, but they always had enough passion to keep working at it," Rachel says. "I had such a rich childhood and because I was encouraged by all my parents in a practical way to pursue my art, I did."

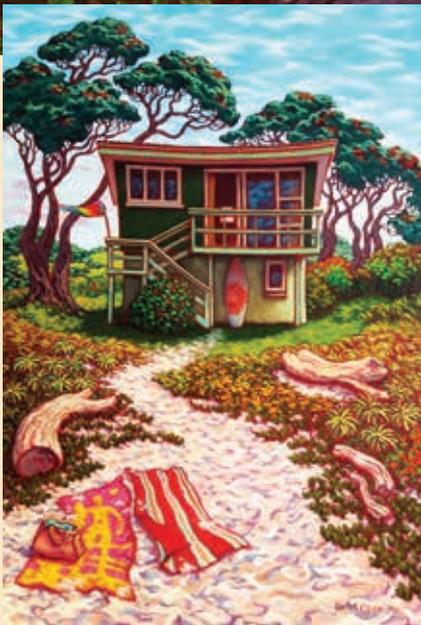
Painting came later to Rachel, after initially working with glass. In the early 90s she and her partner ran a glass business, supplying many galleries throughout New Zealand with a unique variety of pieces including mirrors and window hangings.

"Glass has its own rewards and is beautiful to work with, due to the way it reflects and transmits light. It's so vibrant and intense, but as beautiful as it is to work with, the design process is restrictive, as shapes need to be stylised and simplified so each piece can be cut from glass," she says.

What it did offer was good discipline and



Rachel Olsen in her studio at Cooks Beach.



learning for design, and when Rachel felt like a change, she started to paint.

The subjects she paints range from land and seascapes to portrait and figure studies, trees and birds. Seaside baches and caravans are also prevalent in her work.

“Painting loosened me up a lot and I felt so free,” she says.

And this freedom is something she encourages any other artists to reach for through their work.

“Do something that gives you joy and satisfaction in some way – and not giving up is key. It’s all about following your heart and seeking out other creative people that will support you.”

The Mercury Bay Art Escape Tour managed

to take place over two weekends prior to the lockdown in March 2020, and was a real success for Rachel, with more than 250 people visiting her studio.

Rachel spent time during lockdown doing lots of gardening, walks and resting and says she was inspired by the “profound silence and stillness of that time”.

She’s always happy to give burgeoning artists advice and many visit her studio – curious about starting out.

But while advice is great, young artists need to strike the balance of following advice and trusting their gut instinct too.

“You have to have faith in your own intuition. It’s very important that you put the time in and also find the fun in it. The more you enjoy something, the better you will get at it.”

Even now, Rachel still faces challenges where she gets to a tricky part in a painting and finds herself lost and unsure of how to continue.

“It feels like it’s out of control and you just don’t know how to proceed to solve it. You just have to have faith that you will find a way and it’ll work. When it feels like there is no way out, but you continue on and finish, sometimes those can be the best paintings,” she says.

“Life’s a bit like that – you just have to have faith.”

rachelolsenartist.com

Paintings by Rachel Olsen.

Top:
'Hibiscus bach'.

Middle:
'Driftwood bach'.

Bottom:
'Flaxmill Bay'.



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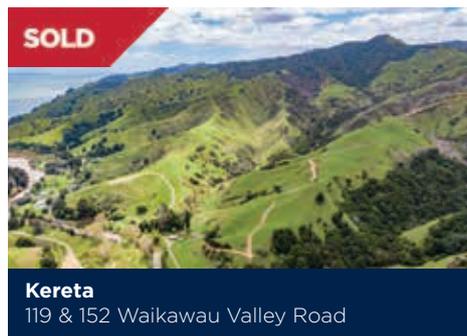
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local rags

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They're our original social network, and on the Coromandel we're fortunate to have a range of locally-owned community newspapers that play a vital role in keeping us informed and connected – sharing stories that are uniquely ours and championing local causes.

During the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020, the enterprising owners and editors of our local papers worked under extraordinary circumstances, with uncertainty as to whether newspapers could

publish in print, let alone be delivered to the usual outlets, while sources of advertising dried up.

But they weathered the storm, many adapting to online publishing, providing a vital connection point for their audiences and championing 'support local' campaigns.

Ultimately, they are small businesses themselves, who need our support.

Long may they thrive.

The Valley Profile

Launching a newspaper during a global pandemic was certainly an interesting start for *The Valley Profile* owner and editor Teresa Ramsey (pictured right).

After taking over *The Plains Profile*, she decided to extend the publication's reach, but her first edition, due out in April, was put on hold during the COVID-19 lockdown.

"Some said it was bad timing, but I think launching during the biggest news story in 100 years is a good omen," Teresa says.

Eventually, she got her first monthly paper out in early May 2020 and she is encouraged by how much community support she has received.

"People are really keen to get back to having



a publication serving the area that is 100 per cent local news," she says.

The Plains *Profile* has been operating on the Hauraki Plains for around 30 years, but former editor Bronwyn Roberts and her team of volunteers were ready to move on.

"I'm so grateful they decided to hand over the reins to me. They developed the *Profile* into such a fantastic, well-respected and well-read publication over nearly three decades, so it's nice to be able to build on that and extend the coverage area," Teresa says.

The paper now covers Hauraki Plains, Tahuna, Maramarua, Kaiaua, Paeroa, Thames, Thames Coast, and even extends into Te Kauhata with a readership of around 22,500.

Teresa grew up in Thames and says it's satisfying being able to bring a truly local publication back to the town.

Her first lead was covering the ongoing roadworks on Ngatea's main street and the double blow the COVID-19 lockdown was having on business owners.

"We also featured the scarecrows of Hikutaia. While other areas had teddy bears

in their windows during the lockdown, Hikutaia went with scarecrows," she says. Teresa would eventually like to take the newspaper to a fortnightly publication, but for now she says she is focused on bringing local news to the communities her newspaper serves.

valleyprofile.co.nz

Whangamata News

A publication by locals, for locals, about locals was the goal for Lesley Staniland and Jennie Black (pictured below) when they set up the *WhangamataNEWS* alongside Lesley's husband and photographer, Peter West.

The two women had previously worked for the NZME-owned *Coastal News*, but decided to branch out on their own, publishing their first edition in January 2019.

"The community really wanted a local paper with all local stories and people kept asking us to set one up," Lesley says.

What started as a monthly publication has quickly grown to fortnightly, and the paper now averages between 28 and 36 pages, serving the wider Whangamata community.

They have campaigned on issues, from the need for a dedicated dementia care unit for the town, to striving to save their information centre – and now promoting the Support Local call to shop with local businesses to get them back on their feet after the restrictions caused by COVID-19. Along the way they broke the story of a new \$2 million battery backup power system, built by PowerCo, designed to save

Whangamata during power outages which have previously had serious impact on local businesses, and have been first with the news of Waitomo Fuels coming to town and the change of ownership of the current Z Energy to Challenge.

Lesley says they also provide regular slots in the paper for local emergency services, local MP Scott Simpson's column and a 'Saving the planet' column on simple things people can do to be more environmentally-conscious.

"We're pretty well known around town and people know to email, phone or text us with news tips. We like to say our paper is by locals, for locals and about locals."

whangamataneews.nz

The Local Advertiser

Living in a small town, Barry Pollard (pictured right with wife, Keri) says he is always guided by what the local community needs.

The Tairua resident and owner of the weekly publication, *The Local Advertiser*, moved to the town with his wife Keri 15 years ago and bought the local DVD store, which also published the local newspaper.

The couple had been teaching in Auckland and decided to move permanently to their holiday home.

"We've learned everything from the ground up. When the demand for DVDs waned, we further developed the print side of the business, but *The Local Advertiser* has remained the mainstay," Barry says.

Each week, the four-page A4 publication is distributed to 1500 homes in Pauanui,

Tairua and Hikuai. Barry writes editorial covering the goings on in the community, but he says the focus is to provide a space for local businesses to promote themselves to the local community.

"It's been well received, that's for sure and that's why it's still going. We're so grateful for the community's support over the years," Barry says.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, the publication was more information-focused as they had less advertising during the period, but they are moving back to their usual format with the support of their advertisers.

Alongside *The Local Advertiser*, the couple also publish a summer booklet promoting local events.

"We put that out each year for people to use as a diary planner for all the events we have happening in our area over the summer holidays," Barry says.

tairuadvertiser.co.nz



Local Magazines

Pauanui Post

While the *Pauanui Post* has a staff of one, it has a team of many, says owner and publisher Jodie Hurst (pictured below). She took over the monthly community publication from Christine Brierley in 2013, 11 months after she moved to Pauanui with her young family and says it is a publication with a long and interesting history. The first issue of the *Pauanui Post* was published on 16 May 1978. Fifty copies were printed on a Gestetner printing machine and sold for 10c a copy. And while the *Pauanui Post* continued for 11 years, eventually the job became too much given the equipment available and the last issue was printed in May 1989.

'With the community growing the paper was reinvented in 2008 and has continued as a monthly publication ever since,' Jodie says. Funded by advertisers, the free publication is available around town and email copies are distributed to an ever-growing database (currently over 850) of mostly holiday



homeowners wishing to keep up to date with what is happening in Pauanui.

'It's a great way for clubs and businesses to get their information out to the community,' Jodie says.

'Information and articles are provided from members of the community, local businesses, Experience Pauanui, Pauanui Ratepayers Association and local Council,' she says.

Jodie says, in her role, she is constantly amazed at how many people volunteer their time for everything from planting trees to rubbish pick-up days and community events.

experiencepauanui.co.nz/business-community-info/pauanui-post

Matarangi Beach Paper

Liam Kedzlie (pictured right) took over the *Matarangi Beach Paper* in January 2017, but he says he has always thought of it as belonging to the local community.

When he returned from Nagoya, Japan, where he had been working as a policy research manager and legal advisor for the tertiary education sector, he was looking for a job with more of a Coromandel vibe and something that would connect him to the community.

'I always knew my future was in Matarangi, my family have either lived here or had holiday homes here for the last 25 years. When the paper came up for sale it was the perfect opportunity,' Liam says.

The paper was set up 10 years ago by former local Michelle Adams and started life as four A4 pages, published once a month, featuring news and views from the local community. It has steadily grown into a 20-page publication, still published once a month, but now offering up stories from northern Mercury Bay.

Liam says his focus is serving the local community and providing a space for community groups and organisations to promote themselves and share their news. It features regular stories from Te Rerenga School to the Matarangi Fire Station and the local fishing club.

'My most memorable stories would be profiles of locals including the late Mercury Bay Community Board member, Paul



Kelly, and former English Premier League Footballer, Vic Mobley. My biggest story would be the pilot whale stranding on Matarangi spit in January 2020. I think that one really encapsulated our community spirit,' Liam says.

He enjoys how the paper has become an integral part of the community. 'Yes, I own the paper, but I always think that it's really the community who owns it.'

matarangibeachpaper.com

Coromandel Town Chronicle

Debbie Morgan, publisher of the *Coromandel Town Chronicle*, describes putting together her monthly newspaper like doing a giant puzzle without any instructions.

The Coromandel Business Association established the *Coromandel Town Chronicle* in 1996, as an A3 folded paper designed to promote local businesses to local people. Debbie, (pictured below), a graphic designer by trade, took over the



publication in 2008 alongside Julie Smith, with the Business Association maintaining ownership of the title.

In recent years however Debbie has become the paper's owner, but she says it is the local people that make the paper what it is.

"It's great because the local community provide most of the content which, makes it a publication that's a reflection of our community," Debbie says. "We have stories from everyone from the local fire brigade to the local bowling club."

The paper ranges in size from 32 to 44 pages, depending on the number of advertisers, and she prints between 2700 and 3100 copies each month. They are delivered to the Thames Coast, Coromandel Town, north of Coromandel, Te Rerenga and Whangapoua.

"I know the community really love the publication and I know they look forward to having it every month. It turns up all over the country as people take copies with them," Debbie says.

Her most memorable story was in 2011 when 14 locals shaved their heads to raise funds for the Child Cancer Foundation and she says her biggest challenge is often moderating many of the community voices she shares in the publication.

Her long-term goal is to make the publication full colour and continue to share all the locally-sourced community news.

coromandeltownchronicle.co.nz

Mercury Bay Informer

Stephan Bosman and his wife Petra were looking for a lifestyle change when they came across the Whitianga-based Mercury Bay Informer in 2013.

Stephan was a lawyer, Petra a counsellor and they were then based in Tauranga, but Stephan says a health scare caused them to review their direction in life.

"We didn't have a background in newspapers, but when we saw the paper for sale, we liked the fact the Informer very much had a local focus and worked to give back to the community," Stephan says.

The newspaper was established in 2003 and in the seven-and-a-half years the couple have owned the newspaper, they have grown their fulltime staff to four and amassed a group of dedicated freelancers who contribute news and columns to the weekly publication which covers the Mercury Bay area.

They print 7,500 newspapers each week and share their stories to a growing online audience.

"It's more than a newspaper. We donate a lot to the local community supporting everything from community events to sports clubs, which we love doing. We also work hard to campaign on the behalf of our community and we're not afraid to ask the hard questions."

During COVID-19 they launched a buy local campaign to support local businesses. Other campaigns have ranged from trying to get the Whitianga-based rescue helicopter reinstated, to encouraging Trade Me to include Whitianga in its drop-down box selection.

During the COVID-19 lockdown uncertainty over whether community newspapers could publish, meant one edition went solely online, but the newspaper was back in bulk stands the following week.

"We couldn't deliver to letterboxes in Whitianga, but we increased our number of bulk stands and all the papers were gone. People were desperate for that local information," Stephan says.

theinformer.co.nz



Left: From left – Gillian O'Neill, Stephan Bosman, Petra Bosman, Lemonade (shop dog) and Alex Kennedy.



Realising our potential

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE INVESTMENT STORY

If we'd all been told at the start of 2020 that, due to a global pandemic, we'd all be confined to our homes for up to six weeks, with only the essential services being able to operate – and that our economic recovery from this could take years (maybe even decades) – we'd believe it to be the plot of some sci-fi movie.

But that's the stark reality, and it's meant reassessing the way we work and live. Within our district, our focus began with the emergency response to the COVID-19 lockdown, in tandem with social and economic welfare and transitioned to ongoing social and economic recovery.

From a national perspective, the strategy for economic recovery is to invest now more than ever into infrastructure projects. Historically, the problem for us on the Coromandel has been that infrastructure investment has been beholden to the big smoke – Auckland – and projects like the Auckland-to-Hamilton road corridor.

Don't get me wrong, the corridor is an absolute must-do and I'm looking forward to it being completed but when our meagre funds for big projects has been focused on the metropolitans for decades it causes other problems.

Looking at this very simplistically, what we have seen is that our country's lack of investment in core infrastructure has left a major funding gap between what we need and what we have provided for. It isn't catastrophic, but it is large, and it has put us behind by several decades compared to many other OECD countries.

In our district's situation, this relative over-investment in the big cities has left the provinces like ours with comparatively poor access problems that don't just hinder us in our business activities, but also send new business to other locations that are easier to get to and easier to do business in as a result. Is it any wonder that Hamilton, and particularly Cambridge at the southern end of the 110 km/hr Waikato Expressway, is bursting at the seams with growth in housing and business activity as Auckland empties out those who can afford to leave, knowing that they can get back into the city whenever they desire in just over an hour? Thames is the cornerstone of our district's base and economy – and I suggest – that

access to and from Thames to the rest of the 'golden triangle' (Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga) is critical to how well we survive and thrive now and in the long term as we rebuild from COVID-19. We must have better roads.

The Mayors of Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako Districts are presently working together as an Eastern Waikato bloc to send very pointed and clear messages that the status quo is no longer acceptable, and it is time to redress the balance.

Which leads me to a second big-picture issue – our iwi settlement process. In the Eastern Waikato we have the Hauraki Collective, a significant partner of the Tainui Waka Alliance. The Hauraki Collective is critical to our economy over the coming decades. Our Hauraki iwi should have reached settlement years ago and the longer this process drags on, the longer it will take for the 50 per cent of unrealised potential in our economy to be realised.

As we know, Tainui settled a very long time ago and as a result is an iwi economic powerhouse. They own major investments, are a significant force in the redevelopment of Hamilton and the surrounds and of course house many of us, when we stay in the airport hotels in Auckland (or should I say we used to stay in prior to COVID-19). I say good on Tainui, this is a prime example of what the New Zealand of the future must look like, our iwi are our competitive step-up the global economic ladder, and this is something for us all to celebrate.

Another key to unlock our district's economic success at present is core social infrastructure in the form of housing and technology. Our district is now being connected to the fibre network and the uptake of technology (people connecting up to the fibre from their homes as the fibre is available) is so important. So that leaves housing as our number one economic gap, which is true for the whole of the Eastern Waikato.

Fibre and the roll-out of fibre is something that we've been actively involved in as a council, working with Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) and the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) doing our very best to get as many small communities around our district connected.

As Auckland heralds the arrival of the 5G



network, it's bordering on madness that there are still parts of the Coromandel that lose signal or cannot get broadband plans.

Around housing, we're working very hard to correct the deficiencies of the past. We need land zoned for new housing urgently, with Thames being the priority (there has not been a new sub-division of any scale in Thames for more than 25 years). That's why we are currently putting the required documents together to make this happen. You can find out more on the reasons for this project at thamesspatialplan.co.nz

Some other points in our plan of action.

1. We're working on the changes to the District Pan and zonings (Council's role).
2. Our Economic Development team is working hard to connect the dots between landowners and developers (Council and businesses' role).
3. Presenting our towns and villages to our public and our visitors as places we really want to live in, with great product choices, excellence in service standards, quality and appropriate spaces for businesses to operate out of (Council and businesses' role).
4. Driving our communities forward by being brave, making decisions and not fearing failure, becoming youthful in our outlook and sage in our analysis (everyone's role)

With our business communities and our Council connected, we will succeed.

Rob Williams is our Council's Chief Executive since 2016. If you have ideas for revitalising Thames, or the wider district, flick Rob an email rob.williams@tcdc.govt.nz

AUCKLAND RESCUE
HELICOPTER TRUST

50

YEARS

1970 - 2020



Counting on you, because lives count on us.

—

This year we celebrate 50 years serving the Greater Auckland, Hauraki Gulf and Coromandel communities. Our rotors started running in the summer of 1970/71 with the hope of seeing more lives saved.

Performing over 20,000 missions to date, they still run thanks to you. Our commitment to every individual in their greatest time of need, as well as their loved ones, hasn't changed. Your support helps save more lives.

Thank you.

rescuehelicopter.org.nz



BROADBAND ON THE COROMANDEL

The government's programme to install Ultra-Fast Broadband fibre in towns and cities across New Zealand has gathered momentum over the last year in the Coromandel, with more of our communities now connected to the fibre network.

WHAT IS UFB?

Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFB) fibre provides a reliable, consistent experience even at the busiest time of day.

It delivers speeds in excess of 25 Megabits per second (Mbps), using optical fibre technology rather than the slower ADSL or VDSL technology delivered over a copper telephone line.

Not only does this make your online experience faster, it allows multiple people in your household or business to be online at the same time. You will experience faster download and upload speeds, more reliable connectivity, the speeds will be consistent and you won't have to deal with buffering.

The Coromandel fibre build programme:

- Thames – COMPLETE
- Hahei – COMPLETE
- Te Puru – COMPLETE
- Coromandel Town – COMPLETE
- Kuaotunu – COMPLETE
- Matatoki – COMPLETE
- Tapu – COMPLETE
- Whangapoua – COMPLETE
- Waiomu – second half 2020
- Matarangi – second half 2020
- Whitianga – second half 2020

- Ferry Landing/Cooks Beach – first half 2021
- Whangamata – second half 2021
- Tairua-Pauanui – first half 2022

Ngarimu and Thornton bays on the Thames Coast have had fibre installed through a pilot project developed between our Council, Crown Infrastructure Partners and Chorus. Our Council is also lobbying for other communities that are currently not on the UFB programme to be included.

More information:

crowninfrastructure.govt.nz/ufb/when

RURAL BROADBAND INITIATIVE & MOBILE BLACKSPOTS FUND

The Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI) is designed to supply improved broadband access to many rural households, Marae and businesses that are not part of the UFB build because of difficult terrain, geographical isolation and low population densities.

The Mobile Blackspots Fund (MBSF) is aimed at improving the availability of mobile services to support safety on state highways and enhance visitor experience at key tourist destinations, which do not currently have coverage from any mobile operator.

“New Zealand continues to advance in the OECD country rankings for population coverage with fibre available, from 14th in 2015 to 11th in 2016, and once the UFB programme is complete in 2022 New Zealand should be in the top five in the OECD for fibre availability.”

*Crown Infrastructure Partners
crowninfrastructure.govt.nz*

In the Coromandel, eight kilometres of State Highway 25A between Kopu and the vicinity of Puketui Road will receive mobile coverage by 2022, as will Port Charles and the Coromandel Coastal Walkway.

Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) is the Crown-owned company set up to manage the UFB, RBI and the Mobile Blackspots Fund. To carry out this work, CIP has partnered with the Rural Connectivity Group (a joint venture between Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees) and wireless internet service providers.

tcdc.govt.nz/broadband





Kōpū marine precinct has been awarded \$8.2 million through the government's \$3 billion 'shovel-ready' fund to revamp our marine-servicing infrastructure and create new economic development opportunities.

Left: View of Kōpū and the Waihou River into the Firth of Thames.

KŌPŪ MARINE AND BUSINESS PRECINCT GETS MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR BOOST

The commercial and business sector of Kōpū is to benefit from an \$8.2 million injection from the government to revamp its marine-servicing infrastructure and create new economic development opportunities.

This project is being supported from the \$3 billion 'shovel ready' fund set aside in Budget 2020 to kick-start the post-COVID-19 economic recovery.

Infrastructure Minister Shane Jones announced the funding in August, saying: "A significant government investment in the Kōpū Marine Precinct will not only support employment in the Thames township, it will also provide alternative marine-servicing options for vessels from the Hauraki Gulf, Coromandel, Tauranga, Auckland and Whangarei."

"This project will have immediate benefits for the local community by creating up to 13 jobs in the short-term. Another 19 jobs will be created through the precinct's construction, with potential for up to 108 downstream jobs when the project is complete.

"It is estimated that the Kōpū Marine Precinct could bring economic returns of up to \$58.5 million over the next 30 years. It brings fresh opportunities to the boat repair and maintenance, aquaculture, trade and transport industries," Mr Jones says.

"Kōpū already has excellent connections to Tauranga, Auckland and Hamilton and a good foundation of existing marine-related businesses. This project will enhance and diversify local economic opportunities while improving the resilience of the marine industry," he says.

Our Mayor Sandra Goudie welcomed the funding, saying it will allow our district to take advantage of a growing marine servicing industry, creating jobs and significant economic growth for the area.

"These upgrades have been a long time in the making. I am pleased the government can support Kōpū and the wider Thames-Coromandel district to make the most of its plans to enrich the region," Mayor Sandra says.

"Kōpū has been a prime site we've been promoting for business opportunities for some time and we're grateful to the government for recognising the potential and opportunities this area has," she says.

"This is not just good news for us and our neighbours, but also in boosting potential Māori economic development opportunities for Ngāti Maru in the longer term as Treaty settlements are finalised over the next few years," she says.

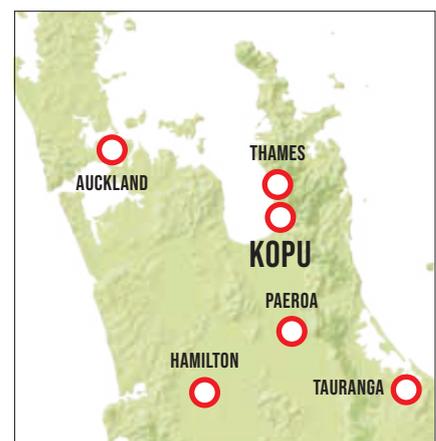
"This also complements the Te Arika Tahi/Sugarloaf Wharf project (see page 96), which also benefitted from Provincial Growth Funding (PGF) of \$19.95 million to expand the wharf for the marine industry, in a joint venture between our Council, the Coromandel Marine Farmers (CoroMFA) and the Crown."

The \$8.2 million funding for Kōpū will go towards planning and construction of an upgraded boat ramp and a floating pontoon that will provide all-tide access for vessels, including large mussel barges and working boats, to enable in-water servicing, keeping local employment in

Thames rather than vessels being serviced out of our district.

The new development will also separate commercial activities from recreation, providing dedicated parking and a new recreation boat ramp, and retaining freight operations for essential transport in-and-out of Kōpū for aggregate, sand and building to the rest of the upper North Island. The improved slipway and all-tide access for larger boats will also promote marine-support industries in Kōpū and Thames such as boat builders, electricians and carpenters.

tcdc.govt.nz/kopumarineprecinct



Kōpū has the potential to be a key centre to support marine servicing operations across the Hauraki Gulf as well as being a connector for water-based tourism opportunities through to the Paeroa Wharf.

Setting up in business? We're here to help

If you're setting up or growing your business, our Council's economic development team is here to help guide you through the steps of any Council process that may be required. We can also help with

contacts, support and putting you in touch with potential investors. Contact our Council's economic development team on 07 868 0200 or email our communications and economic development group manager Laurina White – laurina.white@tcdc.govt.nz



Mussel-ing up our aquaculture industry thanks to the Provincial Growth Fund

2020 brought an exciting development for the Coromandel as we received \$19.95 million from the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) to expand the Sugarloaf Wharf/Te Ariki Tahī at Te Kouma, near Coromandel Town.

This is an injection set to increase mussel farming capacity in our district by almost 20,000 tonnes, and create additional jobs.

Our Mayor Sandra Goudie hosted Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters in Thames in June 2020, for the announcement of what she says is a significant investment in our district and a much-needed boost for our local marine famers.

“Now, more than ever, we will be needing our food producers, particularly in the primary sector, to carry us forward in these uncertain times,” Mayor Sandra says.

“And this infrastructure build fits well within the government’s investment strategy to help our economic recovery after COVID-19. We are extremely grateful to the government for acknowledging the importance of this sector, and the investment into our district,” she says.

The aquaculture sector in Thames-Coromandel contributes \$70 million to the district’s GDP and is responsible for 350 jobs.



During his visit in June, Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters acknowledged the sector has long been significantly constrained by a lack of capacity at Sugarloaf Wharf, which handles 90 per cent of the North Island’s mussel production.

The PGF funding will build an extended, raised wharf platform to account for rising sea levels, with four new berths to allow for increased commercial activity and a separate facility for launching recreational boats.

“The new wharf, Te Ariki Tahī Sugarloaf, will accommodate up to 42,000 tonnes of mussels a year, to meet increased demand from recently granted consents that have extended mussel farming space in the Hauraki Gulf by 775 hectares,” Mr Peters says.

“Construction will generate around 25 new jobs. Long-term, the new wharf will enable an estimated 170 new jobs in the marine farming sector, whilst supporting the employment of over 800 people in the North Island’s aquaculture industry,” Mr Peters says.

Mayor Sandra acknowledges the

collaboration between the Coromandel Marine Farmers Association, our Council, Pare Hauraki iwi and Waikato Regional Council in the project and that helped make the announcement happen.

“There are so many people involved, and it was fantastic to be able to celebrate in June with the Deputy Prime Minister in town,” Mayor Sandra says.

Coromandel Marine Farmers’ Association Chairman Stephen Hand says an extended wharf is a vital ingredient for the future growth of the industry, but was beyond the resources of the local marine farmers.

“The government investment is a vote of confidence in our future,” Mr Hand says.



From left to right: Coromandel Marine Farmers Chairman Stephen Hand, Hauraki Māori Trust Board Chairman David Taipari, Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters, Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Sandra Goudie, Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams, Matamata-Piako Mayor Ash Tanner.



Sugarloaf Wharf – pre-development.



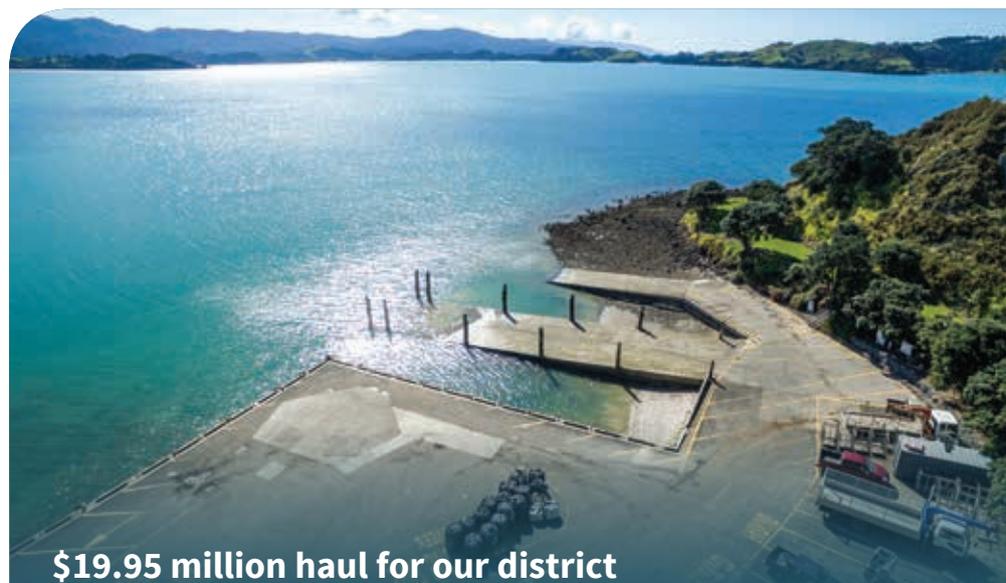
A concept design of how the facility will look once developed.

Project progress

Since the funding announcement has been made, progress so far has been:

- The Wharf Company has been established with a board of directors. Our Council's representatives are Mayor Sandra Goudie and Coromandel-Colville Ward Councillor John Morrissey. There are two representatives from the CoroMFA and an independent chairperson, Ian McNabb – former Port Marlborough chief executive.
- The first tranche of funding from the government has been received and the project team is now working on detailed design and preparations towards lodging a resource consent.
- Stakeholder engagement is ongoing, with conversations with iwi and local residents and key stakeholders.
- Construction is anticipated to start mid-2021.

tcdd.govt.nz/tearikitahi

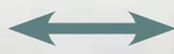


\$19.95 million haul for our district

- The Provincial Growth Fund application for redevelopment of Te Arika Tahī was a joint submission by the Coromandel Marine Farmers Association (CoroMFA) and our Council.
- This upgrade has been 20 years in the making, with collaboration between the CoroMFA, our Council, the Hauraki Māori Trust Board and Waikato Regional Council.
- Iwi own 40 per cent of consented water space in the Hauraki Gulf, with all mussels being landed at Sugarloaf, so this investment will provide greater economic returns for these holdings.
- The aquaculture industry is the backbone of many regional economies, including Thames-Coromandel where the sector currently contributes \$70 million to the district's GDP and 350 jobs.
- This investment will provide a vital boost to businesses, skilled employment, and the wider aquaculture sector in the North Island - and is timely to support our primary food producers and the construction sector.
- Providing a safer recreational boating space will bring more domestic visitors to the region and the development of existing (but undeveloped) mussel farming space will continue to grow new opportunities such as charter fishing, which is popular in the harbour.

Everyone knows the best place to go fishing is near a mussel farm

Please follow these guidelines to keep everyone safe



Keep 30 metres from working mussel barges at all times



Don't tie-up to a line being worked on



Never cast your line towards a mussel barge – farmers have been injured from flying hooks and sinkers



No anchors. Tie-on to a longline buoy or use approved mooring hooks



Minimise your speed and wake



Never drive across the lines





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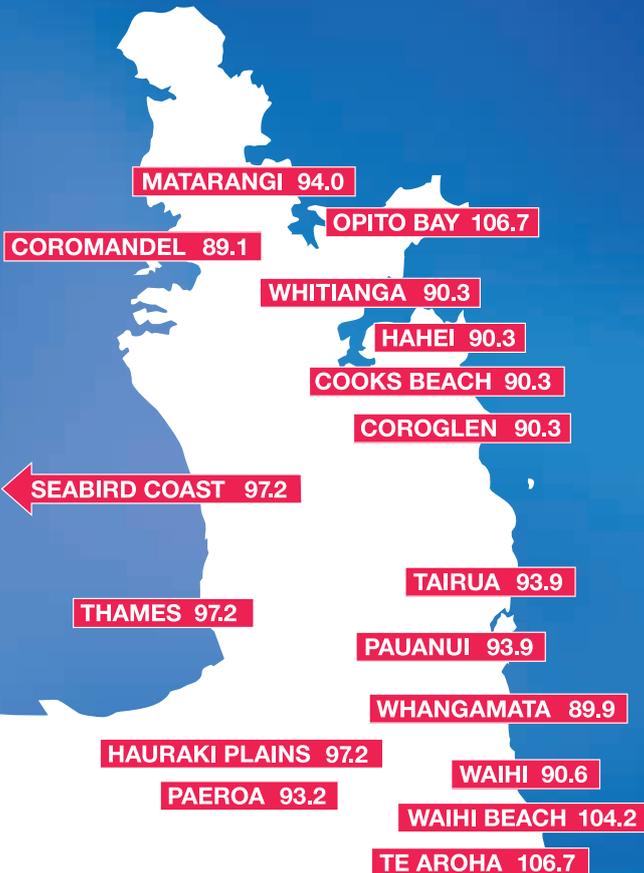
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**MICHELLE & ANDY
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events

Our Council is serious about creating vibrant, strong communities and stimulating our Coromandel economy. Events are an important part of our economic development strategy.



THE GRADY WHITE
TAIRUA BOAT SHOW
AT THE TAIRUA MARINA 10AM - 5PM
FREE ENTRY
8TH & 9TH AUGUST
BOATING, FISHING & DIVING DISPLAYS

SURTEES EXTREME STABICRAFT SOUTHERN PROFILE
LAZERCRAFT BRIG BUCCANEER SEALEGS RAYGLASS
FURUNO YAMAHA OCEANPRO HUTCHWILCO MINN KOTA
SHIMANO OKUMA KILWELL SIMRAD GARMIN HUMMINGBIRD BLA
RAYMARINE ENL BAY FISHER PACIFIC POWERBOAT PROPSPEED
WHITI COASTGUARD BALEX FUSION STEREO ULTRALON NZSFC SPLASH
LEGASEA ADVENTURER SEAHORSE KONTIKI DOCKPRO RIFLE & ROD
MARCO SMUGGLER McLAY SENATOR PURECRAFT DNA FC BOATS
BEUCHAT U-DECK HUGOBOSCH BOATMAGS INTELLIBAT STRIKEZONE

FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE AT THE TAIRUA FISHING CLUB

TAIRUA BOAT SHOW DELIGHTS

The inaugural and hugely successful Grady White Tairua Boat Show on 8 and 9 August 2020 defied organiser's expectations and put Tairua on the map for the marine industry.

In a year where other major boat shows were cancelled due to COVID-19, what was planned as a small show to launch the new range of US-brand Grady White boats was soon flooded with demand from an industry eager to showcase their products to market.

Show organiser and managing director of Grady-White Boats NZ Stuart Arnold was blown away by the demand.

"I don't know how many times I was out on the Tairua Marina grounds with a tape measure to make sure I could fit the growing number of boats and displays in," Stuart says, of the weeks leading up to the event.

"We used every bit of space available to us and there was millions of dollars' worth of boats and marine electronics, fishing, diving and tackle gear on display as well as drinks, food and guest speakers," he says.

"Top-end brands used the show to launch their latest products, which was huge kudos for us."

The show attracted 50 exhibitors and more than 10,500 people through the gates, with free entry over the weekend.

While the show was terrific for the marine industry, it also provided a great boost for Tairua's economy.

"As far as I'm aware, every bach was packed and local cafes and businesses did a roaring trade. We just managed to get the show in before the August lockdown in Auckland," Stuart says.

"The feedback was amazing. Local businesses were very grateful. In fact, I believe the show benefits the whole of the Coromandel, not just Tairua."

All exhibitors have rebooked, and the event will be taking place again in 2021, Stuart says.

Tairua is a perfect location for a boat show. "It's an easy place to get to from Auckland, the Waikato and the Bay of Plenty and that catchment area is naturally a good one, with a lot of interest in boating, fishing and diving," Stuart says.

"The show's success exceeded our expectations, and we'll be working to make an even better show for 2021," he says.

tairuaboatshow.com

NEW VENUE HERALDS NEW ERA FOR WHITIANGA SUMMER CONCERT

Far left: Steve Stevens, Dean Calvert, son Sol Calvert, Amanda Calvert and Billy Idol.

Left: Dean and Amanda Calvert with Anastacia.

Below, left to right: Images from The Grady White Tairua Boat Show 2020 at Tairua Marina.



When COVID-19 hit in 2020, Dean and Amanda Calvert from Greenstone Entertainment decided to look closer to home for performers for the annual Whitianga Summer Concert.

As they watched international borders close and travel bubbles with Australia being discussed, the concept of an ANZAC-themed event, celebrating New Zealand and Australian artists, struck them as one that could work.

“The timing was quite lucky for us as lockdown happened in what is essentially our off-season. We were able to talk to the international acts we had signed for February 2021 and confirm them for a 2022 concert,” Dean says.

Such is the nature of the entertainment business.

After decades in the industry, the couple have seen their fair share of shocks to the market, ranging from the Global Financial Crisis in 2007 to the Christchurch earthquakes.

Dean says this year’s concert also marks an exciting time, as Greenstone has negotiated a new venue in Whitianga that will see them commit to another 10 years of bringing international performers to the region.

The venue, known as the Sherriff Block, which is a council-owned reserve behind the Whitianga Airfield, will be the new site for the annual concert from 2022, offering more space and crucially, more shade, for a concert that has traditionally been put on during sweltering Whitianga summer temperatures.

“We’re really excited about the new venue. It will be a beautiful space, with more shade and the backdrop of the hills behind the pa,” he says.

Greenstone Entertainment was started 10 years ago in Queenstown after the annual Millbrook concert had ended and they launched a one-off concert at Gibbston Valley Winery in Queenstown.

From there, the couple grew the concept

for concerts in some of New Zealand’s most beautiful spots. The company now turns over nearly \$10 million a year, providing a huge economic boost to the regions they deliver it in.

Dean says the first year they delivered the

concert they put on Creedence Clearwater Revival and Doctor Hook.

“The Christchurch earthquake had just happened and the South Island’s generators, scaffolding and equipment they would normally hire was in use.

We managed to

pull it off and it was incredibly popular. We realised there was just nothing in the market for a more mature audience that wanted to enjoy the music of their youth,” he says.

In 2012, they grew the concert into their hometown of Taupo and started talking to artists about running three shows across New Zealand.

They initially on-sold the Whitianga show to another promoter and held their third concert in Matakana, but decided if they wanted a cohesive experience across all three shows they needed to be running it themselves. Shortly after, the opportunity arose with a call from the people who had been running the Whitianga concert to say they were no longer doing it.

Dean and Amanda took the drive from Taupo to Whitianga and they were sold.

“We wanted to do concerts in the most beautiful parts of New Zealand and we certainly found that in Whitianga. We tell our artists when we sign them that when they commit to doing the three concerts, they will also be visiting the most beautiful parts of our country.”

Dean says the couple are driven by the fact they can put on a concert for people that they keep coming to year after year.

“There’s nothing better than watching a crowd singing along to the songs from their youth and having the best time,” Dean says.

“There’s nothing better than watching a crowd singing along to the songs from their youth and having the best time”

– DEAN CALVERT –

Love Coromandel events

Each year, the Coromandel hosts hundreds of events and there is usually something on most weekends – this includes motorsport, cycling, multisport and adventure races, food, arts and concerts.

Look at what’s coming up for 2020/2021 over the next few pages.

Sign up to our weekly events e-newsletter to keep up with what’s happening across the district: tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe

Get in touch with our district events coordinator Kirstin Richmond if you are interested in bringing your event to the Coromandel.

kirstin.richmond@tcdc.govt.nz



2020/2021 EVENTS GUIDE

These event listings were accurate at the time of going to print, however there is the possibility they could be affected by COVID-19 levels and restrictions at the time of the events. Please follow the information available on the event organiser's website or social media channels.



CLUBS NEW ZEALAND 2020 NORTH ISLAND MEN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

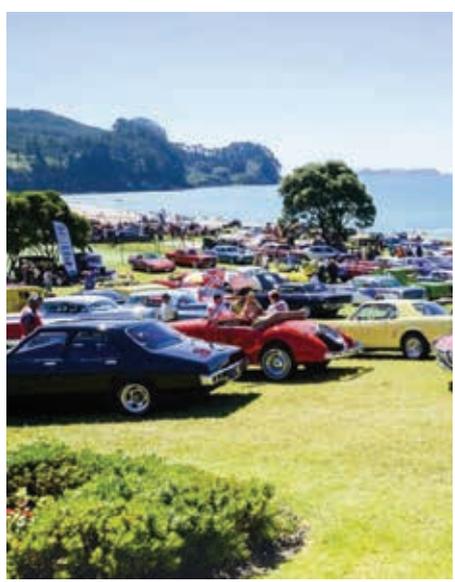
13 - 14 NOV, ALL DAY
 A golf tournament involving all clubs in the North Island. Each club fields one, two or three-man teams and they battle over two days for the trophy. Last year it was held at Ohope and Whangamata previously hosted the tournament in 2011.
Championship at Titoki Golf Course, Whangamata with supporters competitions at Waihi and Tairua.
www.clubsnz.org.nz/tournaments/golf/



STEAM DAYS - GOLDMINE - EXPERIENCE, THAMES

21- 22 NOV 2020, 10AM TO 4PM

A working steam engine or two is being fired up to drive old gold-mining machinery (usually electricity-powered).
Main Road (north end of town) Thames.
facebook.com/pages/Goldmine-Experience/200184246759927
www.goldmine-experience.co.nz



REPCO BEACH HOP

25-29 NOV 2020 AND 24-28 MAR 2021

New Zealand's biggest celebration of the 1950s and 1960s, featuring rock'n'roll music and thousands of classic cars.
Whangamata, Waihi, Whitianga and Onemana
www.facebook.com/BeachHopCars

THAMES HERITAGE FESTIVAL

MAR 2021, TIME AND DATE TBA

Take a leisurely stroll or cycle along the old Kōpū Bridge, a Category 1 historic listed site, over the Waihou River.
Kōpū Road, Kōpū. approx 7km from central Thames.
Facebook.com/SaveKopuBridge
www.historickopubridge.co.nz

**PAUANUI CHRISTMAS
HOME WANDER
28 NOV 2020, 10AM TO 3PM**

This is your chance to peek inside 12 enchanting, elegant and quaint Pauanui homes while supporting Prostate Cancer Foundation. Includes the Devonshire Tea. Tickets \$55.

Pauanui

e: patcourtney@xtra.co.nz

p: 021966153

SANTA PARADES

**THAMES - SANTA DASHA
AND SANTA PARADE
FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER**

**COROMANDEL TOWN
SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER**

**WHITIANGA
SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER**

**WHANGAMATA
SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER**



**PAUANUI HALF MARATHON
SAT 5 DEC 2020 AND
SAT 20 MAR 2021**

Pauanui Beach provides the ultimate backdrop for this exciting new running event, which takes in some of the best sites at this all-time popular holiday spot including the Pauanui Tairua Trail. 10km and 5km courses available, with walking options on all distances. www.pauanuihalfmarathon.co.nz

**SANTA ON THE PEPE
SAT 12 DEC, FROM 10AM**

Jolly old Santa will arrive in the big red fireman's truck. You can then meet him at his grotto in Pepe Reserve and there will be fun and games with Presto The Clown entertaining the children with his magic show.

Pepe Reserve at the playground in Tairua.

**THAMES HERITAGE NETWORK
TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS
CAROLS**

MID-DEC 2020, DATE AND TIME TBA

A relaxed sing-along of traditional carols and popular Christmas songs combined with Twilight Train Rides at Thames Small Gauge Railway.

401 Brown Street Thames

www.thamesheritage.co.nz

facebook.com/thamesheritage



**COROMANDEL CHRISTMAS
ART EXHIBITION**

20 DEC – 15 JAN, 10AM TO 4PM

You are invited to the opening celebration at 5pm Sunday 20 December 2020

Come along and experience some of New Zealand's leading artists including Michael Smither, Fatu Feu'u, Wailin Elliott, Peter Sephton, Ian Webster, Ian Dalzell and many more.

Hauraki House, Coromandel Town



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PROGRAMME**

**27 DECEMBER 2020 TO 10
JANUARY 2021**

Enjoy adventure, wildlife and learning in our beautiful outdoors. With daily activities, there's something for everyone. Swim, explore, play and have a great time!

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facebook.com/kauaerangavc

www.doc.govt.nz

e: kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz



THE EXTRAVAGANZA FAIR

27 - 28 DEC 2020, 9AM TO 5PM

2 Buffalo Beach, Whitianga:

8 JAN 2020, 4PM TO 8PM AND

9 - 10 JAN 2020, 9AM TO 5PM

Williamson Park, Whangamata

Free entry and a fun, family day out. We're bringing a unique style of interesting market stalls, arts and crafts, food, musical entertainment, circus shows, performers, unique-to-New Zealand tiny homes, kids' shows and games. Enjoy the 'old school' with sack races, tug of wars and musical bean bags.

facebook.com/theextravanzafair/



**WHANGAMATA SUMMER
FESTIVAL ANNUAL TWILIGHT
AND CRAFT MARKETS**

27 DEC 2020, 2PM TO 8PM

28 DEC 2020, 9AM TO 4PM

The markets have a huge range of stalls with everything from clothing, hats, shoes, sunnies, tools, arts and crafts and food stalls ranging from plants to bee products, fruit and vegetables.

Enjoy kid's rides and slides, live music from local artists and lots of stall demonstrations. BYO shopping bags.

Williamson Park, Ocean Road, Whangamata

www.facebook.com/whangasummerfest/



**ANNUAL MERCURY BAY
EMERGENCY SERVICES
SUMMER FESTIVAL
30 DEC 2020, 9AM TO 4PM**

There's food, crafts and game stalls with something of interest for everyone with the aim of raising funds for local emergency services.

All ages.

*Whitianga at Taylor's Mistake Reserve
Albert Street, Whitianga*

P: David Harvey on 0274 878 363 for stall bookings

allaboutwhitianga.co.nz/mercury-bay-events-guide



**ONEMANA MARKET DAY
29 DEC 2020, 10AM TO 3PM**

Fun activities, great food and drink, live entertainment, ice-cream, arts, crafts, homewares, jewellery, fashion and more.

Oratia Place, Onemana beachfront reserve

facebook.com/onemanabeach/

e: ratepayeronemana@gmail.com



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www.facebook.com/TheCoroglen

**WHANGAMATA OCEAN
SPORTS CLUB NEW YEARS
TOURNAMENT AND FISH
AUCTION**

2 JAN 2021

**SMART MARINE NAUTI GIRLS
6 FEB 2021**

**GFAB TRAILERS GAME
FISHING CLASSIC
11 - 13 FEB 2021**

**WHANGAMATA OCEAN
DENTAL TAG AND RELEASE
TOURNAMENT
1 - 31 MAR 2021**

www.oceansports.co.nz/



**THE KELTIC FAIR
2 JAN 2021**

One of New Zealand's most successful fairs and the highlight of the Coromandel holiday season. Over 300 stalls, arts and crafts, yummy food and entertainment open all day, attracting more than 15,000 visitors each year.

Coromandel Area School



WHITI BEACH MEET

SUN 3 JAN 2021, 9AM TO 2PM

Whitianga's premier vehicle show. Free entry. Come and see the car, truck, or bike, you should never have sold.

Albert Street, Whitianga

American Muscle Street and Custom Club Whitianga Facebook page.



**COOKS BEACH SUMMER
GALA**

4 JAN 2021, 9AM TO 2PM

Over 100 stalls, entertainment, music, rides, games and more. The Cooks Beach Summer Gala is a fundraiser for Whenuakite School.

Cooks Beach Reserve

cooksbeachsummergala.co.nz/

facebook.com/cooksbeachsummergala/



**MERCURY BAY SEASIDE
CARNIVAL**

7 JANUARY, 2021

The Carnival was formed in 2014 as a great new annual summer event in Whitianga. Set right by the sea on the Buffalo Beach Reserve, this fabulous community event raises funds for Mercury Bay's largest education provider - Mercury Bay Area School.

Buffalo Beach Reserve, Whitianga



KAUAERANGA BIG FAMILY FUN DAY

SAT JAN 2021, 11.30AM TO 3PM

Fun for all: live music, displays, water games, prizes, Canyonz zipline. Bring a picnic and enjoy a great day out.

DOC Kauaeranga Visitor Centre, Thames.

facebook.com/kauaerangavc

doc.govt.nz

e: kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz



BARRY BRICKELL PLAY WITH CLAY DAY

SAT 30 JAN 2021, 10AM TO 3PM

A day exploring clay and remembering Barry Brickell's contribution to the Coromandel. Bring the kids for a creative, family day out.

Hauraki House Reserve – Coromandel Town



THAMES WINGS AND WHEELS SATURDAY 30 JANUARY, 2021

A static display showcasing a variety of aircraft and vehicles, held in conjunction with Hauraki Aeroclub and the Thames Vintage Classic Car Club. A full programme of events is currently being developed.

www.wingsandwheelsthames.com/

WHITIANGA SUMMER CONCERT 2021

SUNDAY 31 JANUARY – AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

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www.greenstoneentertainment.co.nz



**MITO Q K2 19TH ANNIVERSARY
13 MAR 2021**

The K2 is the toughest one-day cycle challenge in the Southern Hemisphere. It is also one of the most scenic and varied as it circumnavigates the Coromandel. The 2021 race will start in Tairua and travel in an anti-clockwise direction through the towns of Whitianga, Coromandel Town, Thames and back to Tairua.
www.k2cycle.co.nz/



**THAMES HERITAGE NETWORK
HERITAGE FESTIVAL
MAR 2021, TIME AND DATES TBA**

Events, talks, walks at heritage sites and places of historic interest around Thames, including the Pumphouse and the Goldmine.
thamesheritage.co.nz
facebook.com/thamesheritage



**STEAMPUNK FESTIVAL
22-25 APRIL 2021**

For full event details see;
<https://steampunkthethames.co.nz/>
facebook.com/steampunkthethames/



**WHITIANGA HALF MARATHON
APR OR MAY 2021, DATE TBA**

A fast and flat scenic loop of Whitianga and the Mercury Bay on both pathways and sealed roads. All races start and finish at the Buffalo Beach Reserve.
facebook.com/whitihalf
whitiangahalfmarathon.co.nz/course/



**COROMANDEL TOWN
SEAFOOD FEST 2021
SAT 1 MAY 2021, 9AM TO 4PM**

Fun family day showcasing the seafood in our local area. There will be demonstrations, food and craft stalls and live music.

Coromandel Area School
Facebook: Coromandel Town Seafood Fest
www.coromandelseafoodfest.com



**SOLARPUNK AOTEAROA
8-9 MAY 2021**

An optimistic arts festival of the future. For plant protectors, nature nurturers, right tech lovers, co-creatives, art makers and proactivists and all those who enjoy a great arty party.

Thames
p: Deb MacDonald Brown 0272288011



**WHITIANGA SCALLOP
FESTIVAL
SEPT 2021**

The Whitianga Scallop Festival is a celebration of Whitianga seafood and marine heritage, held annually in September.
facebook.com/scallopfestival
scallopfestival.co.nz

**VISITOR
INFORMATION
CENTRES**

WHITIANGA
I-Site Visitor Information Centre
66 Albert Street, Whitianga
PH 07 866 5555

COROMANDEL TOWN
Information Centre
Samuel James Reserve
60 Kapanga Road
Coromandel Town
PH 07 866 8598

WHANGAMATA
Information Centre
616 Port Road, Whangamata
PH 027 3114102

THAMES
I-Site Visitor Information Centre
200 Mary Street, Thames
PH 07 868 7284

TAIRUA
Information Centre
2 Manaia Street, Tairua
PH 07 864 7575

PAUANUI
Information Centre
23 Centreway, Pauanui
PH 07 864 7101

KAUAEARANGA
Visitor Information –
Department of Conservation
Kauaeranga Valley, Thames
PH 07 867 9080

**DESTINATION
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thecoromandel.com



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- Federation
- RPM · Huffer
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- Hello Stranger
- Minti · Havaianas
- Vans
- MF Surfboards
- Salty Crew
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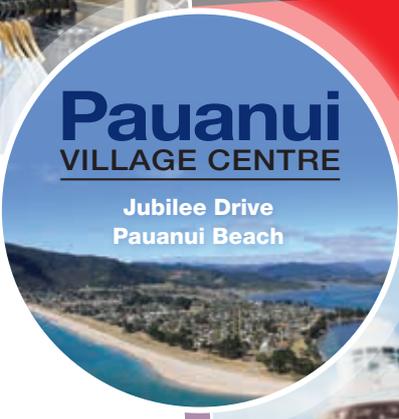
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Community at the heart

**For Whangamata Real Estate Principal Murray Cleland,
community is at the heart of the business.**



At the helm of one of the Coromandel's longest-established real estate companies, Whangamata Real Estate, Murray Cleland is a firm believer in seeing business give back to the local community.

This sees the 64-year-old agency keenly support 25 community events and organisations including Whanga Week, Miss Whangamata, the community swimming pool, bowling and golf clubs and a 34-year-old sponsorship of the all-ages 'Pub to Club' Christmas fun run.

With 22 staff across two offices on Ocean Rd and Port Rd, Whangamata Real Estate is proud to sponsor the food bank in early December, which sees its agents going door-to-door collecting non-perishable goods for the Whangamata Community Trust's Christmas parcels (*pictured right*).

"Whatever you make in a small community, you should give something back," Murray says. "We have held a major share of the market over the last ten years, and that has allowed us to support this community and I see that as pretty important."

After thirty years in real estate, he has also made a big contribution to the industry itself.

With wife Barbara, he bought Whangamata

Real Estate in 2011 having sold a shareholding in Century 21 New Zealand, which had 60 real estate offices nationally.

He is a past president and a life member of the Real Estate Institute of New Zealand and has been an auctioneer for 35 years – still running all auctions for Whangamata Real Estate and judging the Australasian auctioneer championships.

Originally from Hamilton, Murray's career started in the wool industry as a wool classer. He later worked in the stock and station industry for Newton King, Allied Farmers and Elders Pastoral in management roles.

Murray and Barbara have three children and three grandchildren.

He's the president of the Whangamata Rugby Club. Other interests include golf and enjoying beach life at Whangamata.

whangamatarealestate.co.nz



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SECLUDED WITHIN THE DUNES

Nestled in the sand dunes at the south end of Tairua's Ocean Beach sits a home as subtle as it is stylish. Cedar and stone integrate harmoniously with the environment, creating a modern, yet timeless, beachfront property.

The Hemi Place home has been a long time labour of love and care. Four-and-a-half years ago, owners Mark and Lisa Darrow started their search for a beachfront site to build a holiday home for family and friends to enjoy for generations to come. A week-long road trip exploring beaches from Waihi to Coromandel Town saw them settle on Tairua. Its proximity to extended family in Tauranga and Auckland was ideal and the ocean beach location provided the stunning setting they envisioned.

A surprising historic family connection also came to light during the process, whereby Mark discovered his great-great-grandfather ran the Tairua Kauri Sawmill between 1890 and 1895. The discovery further confirmed Tairua as an ideal place for their dream home.

Mark's intention was to build a naturally toned property featuring lots of cedar and stone. He employed the expertise of as many local tradespeople as he could, creating an authentic Tairua house produced by skilled professionals with a sound understanding of their local environment.

Mark Carnachan of Carnachan Architecture designed the house, chosen for his extensive experience designing coastal properties.

The build was executed over two years by Tairua builder Barry MacCulloch and his team at MacCulloch Construction. Building a house on sand posed unique challenges. Every pole, hole and foundation had to be boxed up, and a coastal scientist was involved in the development process.

Mark says his choice of builder was one of the best decisions they made. "Barry cares. His pride and top-notch workmanship

shows in the quality of the build," Mark says.

The house is the first tilt-slab residential house in Tairua and the first time Barry and his team had encountered such a build. There were 20 slabs in total, manufactured by Wilco Precast in Auckland and delivered to the Tairua site where they were craned into precise angles.

One of the home's standout features is an internal concrete 'blade' wall (an exposed concrete tilt slab that runs through the centre of the house), with a skylight above that allows the sunlight to heat the slab, creating warmth throughout. Additional distinctive features include the high lounge ceiling and high roof lights, along with solid American oak flooring and granite benchtops. The two-level house boasts a media room, wine cellar, three bathrooms and four bedrooms.





From the outside, the tilt panel and cedar cladding are capped by a visually remarkable nautically inspired roof line. Iron work by Jill Ryger Iron Design enhances the strong impact from the road. The house fits graciously within the landscape while maximising the environment with stunning views of Tairua's Ocean Beach, Mt Paku, Shoe Island and the Aldermen Islands out at sea. The Darrows enjoyed their first family Christmas and summer holiday at their home in 2019. They have since added an

extended deck to the property and look forward to enjoying many more summers spent watching the sun and the sea from their secluded spot within the sand dunes. Adjacent to the deck, an Oamaru Stone sculpture designed by Mark and sculpted by Tirau artist Trish Looney instantly captures the eye. It was craned in and set in place amidst the seagrass, adding another natural texture to the harmonious beachfront home.

Mark and his family say living on the beach is magical, especially waking up to the

sound of the sea. They enjoy Tairua as a community, and find it an interesting place to be, with plenty to do including tramping, walking and kayaking through the estuary.

For Tairua builder Barry MacCulloch, the Hemi Place house remains a huge accomplishment and career highlight. "I thrived on the challenge of this build which has captured something totally unique," he says. "I'm so glad I was given the opportunity to do it. It's something that's going to be there for the rest of my life."

- ARCHITECT* MARK CARNACHAN, CARNACHAN ARCHITECTURE
- BUILDER* BARRY MACCULLOCH, MACCULLOCH CONSTRUCTION
- LIGHTING DESIGN* STEVE COOMBES, AKON LIGHTING
- LIGHTING AUTOMATION* CRAIG HALL, HALL AUTOMATION
- ENGINEER* RAMAN FORBES, ARNOLD & JOHNSTONE
- PLUMBER* GLENN McDOWELL
- ELECTRICIAN* GRAEME KEYTE
- AUDIO & SECURITY* CLIFF RAYMOND, RAYCON
- FIXED FURNITURE* ADAM SHARP, SHARP & PAGE
- TILT SLABS* WILCO PRECAST
- IRON WORK* JILL RYGER, IRON DESIGN
- HARDWARE* KNK HARDWARE



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 4  2  2  2

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7 Awatea Drive, The Waterways, Whitianga
Show home open hours
Wednesday – Sunday 12pm – 4pm

Coromandel Design Centre

608 Port Road, Whangamata
Opening hours
Weekdays 9am – 4pm | Saturday 10am – 4pm

Thames' grandest old lady

With big dreams of striking it lucky, hundreds of hopeful goldfields workers poured into Thames when gold was discovered at the end of the 19th century.

The early miners lived in rugged, often miserable conditions; bunking down in rough-and-ready tents at the mercy of the elements.

There was an urgent need for housing with Thames' population growing rapidly. The town had 18,000 residents at its peak, similar numbers to Auckland.

Some Kiwi ingenuity was required to meet the serious lack of decent accommodation. One of the solutions was to bring in pre-built hotels. That is how Lady Bowen Hotel arrived in Thames in 1868. She was cut

into pieces in Auckland, barged down the Hauraki Gulf, unloaded at Old Curtis's Wharf, and hauled by bullocks up the road. Put back together on the corner of Albert and Brown Streets, she has stood there proudly ever since.

First known as The Hylton, followed by the Wharf, then the Park, Lady Bowen Hotel got her current name in 1953. The quirk of licencing rules back then meant liquor licences were attached to the name of the premises, not the physical building itself. So when the publican moved from what's now

a B&B on Brown Street, the name of the hotel went with it across the road.

By late 1870, there were more than 100 hotels in Thames. As well as housing miners, many served as pubs or restaurants, or held concerts or church services. Just a handful of these remain in Thames: The Brian Boru, The Cornwall Arms – now the Thames Workingman's Club, The Imperial, The Junction Hotel, and The Salutation are among them.

Lady Bowen Hotel was home to goldfields workers and other members of the public.



Lady Bowen Hotel, has stood on the corner of Albert and Brown Streets in Thames since the 1860s, and became a private residence in the mid-1980s.



The heritage building has been lovingly renovated and redecorated, retaining the original kauri flooring.

Their friends and relatives would visit and community groups would meet there in the heart of Grahamstown. A story from those days tells of an accordion player who was having such a jolly time at a party, he fell backwards from the first floor, didn't feel a thing, and walked away unhurt.

The ground floor once housed The Bamboo Restaurant and Bar, and a public bar – the local for A&G Price workers.

Lady Bowen became a private residence in the mid-1980s when it was bought from Lion Breweries by Paul and Glen Silvester.

With Paul working as a surgeon at Thames Hospital, they wanted a family home near his work. But before they had even moved in, two events challenged the structure of the house; a flood and a fire. These were, however, not total disasters. The flood provided a fundraising opportunity for the Thames Swimming Club in the form of some demolition work on an unneeded wing. Meanwhile, the damage caused by the fire enabled the complete remodelling of one wing, from lots of little bedrooms to one large and light living room. Paul says the volunteer Fire Brigade performed wonders saving the old hotel against the blaze – as the arsonist watched on.

That family room has made some great memories. Its large living-room has hosted music lessons, concerts, school ball preparations, meetings and some fantastic parties. The poet Sam Hunt has even performed there, setting up stage in the lounge, as little Silvester children watched with amazement and a hundred people huddled in the lounge to hear the bard.

The Silvesters carried out some extensive, sensitive renovations to the building, which is a listed Historic Place. There were previously 17 bedrooms. Some of the

internal walls were removed to make much bigger family-friendly spaces.

One entire wing was knocked down – thanks to the local swimmers – creating more space outside and room for a spacious balcony to go up on the coast-side of the property. People can spill out onto the deck to take in the view of the pohutukawa in Victoria Park and towards the Firth. A good century ago, the Lady Bowen, The Pacific Hotel, The Stock Exchange and the BNZ were on opposite corners.

Evidence of the building's life as a hotel remains. The former bedroom doors number 16 and 17 now house the hot water cupboard. One corridor is lined with doors on either side; their four daughters' bedrooms were formerly hotel rooms. Each room has a sink, some with the original copper piping.

A glorious kauri staircase leads from the front door to the upstairs family area. This had been part of a film set for the movie *Sylvia*, which was filmed in New Zealand. A cupboard under the stairwell made an excellent hiding place for the Silvester children. Paul recalls the time when one of the girls slid down the bannisters, straight into a pot of soup resting on the newel post at the bottom of the stairs. Of course, the soup went flying all over the lobby to the dismay of her parents who were both unwell with flu.

Paul repurposed part of the downstairs into a self-contained, two-bedroom flat. Glen's office is there too, as well as another large family room on the ground floor, which has housed his looms and musical activities.

Lady Bowen Hotel will soon move into new hands as Paul and Glen have decided it's time to move on. Paul says they cherish the memories of bringing up their family in the grand old house, of family gatherings for

“A glorious kauri staircase leads from the front door to the upstairs family area ...”



The kauri staircase.



The entrance to the grand old house, welcoming its guests for more than 100 years.



Upstairs rooms open onto the long veranda.

significant birthdays, and visits back home. He says there's nothing as real as seeing history in front of one's own eyes, and they hope the historic building will continue in her grand tradition of contributing to the life of Thames.

CHANGING PACE in Whangamata

The seed of change was planted for Reuben van Dorsten and his family a few years before the day of the big move arrived – leaving Auckland for Whangamata as the new owners of Ray White Real Estate in Whangamata and Whitianga.

Whangamata’s relaxed lifestyle and access to the beach couldn’t be a better fit for this family of water lovers.

“We’d been looking for somewhere to live outside of Auckland where there would be opportunities to run a business and bring up a family, and ultimately we wanted a smaller town with good infrastructure that could provide a new kind of lifestyle closer to the water and outdoors,” Reuben says.

“We’re in a really special little pocket here. You have everything you need, including fast internet and the ability to work from home if needed,” he says.

Previously, Reuben worked in television production where he met his wife, Alex, and then moved into real estate. When the opportunity with Ray White Whangamata

presented itself, the couple thought: “Let’s do it.”

Ray White has a strong brand reputation that made them feel very comfortable with the choice, he says.

They had an existing love and existing connection to the Coromandel, having run the backpackers in Kuaotunu previously. Alex’s family also has a beach house in the area that has been in her family for 30 years.

Once they bought the business in 2019, the move was all a bit of a whirlwind, but the reality of how fortunate they are to live in the area is not lost on them.

“I love that I can get home and take my daughter straight to the beach to run off some steam in those afternoon hours that can be trickier with little ones. I can even pop home for lunch, grab my board, be out on the water for half an hour then back to work – having scoffed down a sandwich and had a surf,” Reuben says.

Nothing beats getting back to work with water in his hair, a buzz on, feeling refreshed and fired up for the rest of the day, he says.



Reuben and Alex van Dorsten and their daughter in Whangamata.

The COVID-19 lockdown in 2020 was a time of reflection for Reuben, and he came out “more committed and enthusiastic than ever to grow and improve the business and services we offer”.

Business is steady, and the couple are seeing more and more interest from out-of-towners for long-term rentals and to buy homes in their little slice of paradise – as more people seek a change of pace from some of the bigger cities.

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A new focus at Marama Lodge

A treelined driveway off Kaimarama Road, south of Whitianga, hides a stately homestead, lovingly restored and nestled into expansive lawns looking out over a small avocado orchard.

Well hidden from the roadside, you could be forgiven for missing it entirely. The private location is precisely what drew Janelle and Marcus Holmes to buy the property in 2019.

“It’s just such a beautiful home and property and so quiet and private. We couldn’t believe it was here,” Janelle says.

The couple had previously owned a holiday home in Whitianga and had been holidaying in the town for nearly 20 years, but in 2019 they decided to make the move permanent from Pukekohe. Marcus left his job as a building project manager and the couple were searching for a lifestyle change.

Marama Lodge, as they have named it, offered the perfect opportunity for a new focus.

In more recent years, the property has been the location for the Hi Zone ropes course, which sits in one of the front paddocks, but Janelle and Marcus were drawn to the beauty of the old home and the property.



The two-story homestead was relocated to the 15-acre farm in 1991 – no small feat considering it was shifted all the way from Ellerslie in Auckland.

The five-bedroom house had started life as the maid’s quarters for a Scottish family on a piece of land known then as Ellerslie Farm. It was owned by Robert Graham, who it turns out also had

ties to the Coromandel peninsula, owning property in the Kauaeranga Valley during the Coromandel gold rush.

The Holmes have a new vision for the property. With its expansive lawns and beautiful countryside setting, the it offers the perfect location for weddings or events.

“We want it to be the kind of venue where people can just come and create their own feel and their own event, while we provide the location,” Janelle says.

Marama Lodge can be booked through Bachcare or through the property website at maramawhitianga.co.nz



Building in the Coromandel

Our Council is the Building Consent Authority for our district, providing building consents for work that needs approval and inspection under the Building Act 2004.

For more information about building work and our processes, please visit tcdc.govt.nz/building or buildwaikato.co.nz

Whenever you're thinking about building, you have to not only comply with the Building Act and the Building Code, but with all other enactments e.g the Resource Management Act. To assist you with any planning queries, our Council has a free duty planner available. Contact our customer services team to be put in touch: **07 868 0200** or customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz

SUBSCRIBE TO CORO BUILD

Sign up to receive our *Coro Build* e-newsletter for updates on building-related news and issues in our district. To be added to the subscriber list, email jennifer.anderson@tcdc.govt.nz

Risky approach: Starting building work without a consent

There have been a few cases recently where our staff have turned up for the first inspection to find works have clearly been in progress for some time, but the building consent has only just been issued.

We understand how this can happen; however, it is unlawful and can put your consent and/or your code compliance certificate (CCC) at risk.

Our inspector needs to 'sight' key elements to be able to be satisfied on reasonable grounds they comply with the Building Code when issuing a CCC.

If we do not get to see, for example, membranes under concrete slabs or structural framing before it is closed in, it is unlikely we will be able to issue a CCC.

We have recommended that applicants remove elements to enable critical areas to be inspected. In some circumstances if the work has been done before the building consent has been issued you will need to apply for a Certificate of Acceptance for the work that has been done. It is always better to avoid this, as it can add significant cost and time to your building project.

If you do find yourself in a situation where work has begun before a consent is issued, please contact us on 07 868 0200. If we know, we can work with you to find the best outcome.



Does your building work require a building consent?

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) provides guidance for building work that does not require a building consent under the Building Act 2004.

New exemptions came into effect 31 August 2020 and include those for outdoor fireplaces and ovens and additional exemptions for car ports, verandas and porches, awnings and single-storey detached buildings. Some of the exempt work can be done without the help of a professional, while other work requires the involvement of a chartered professional engineer or licensed building practitioner.

The full list of building work that does not require a building consent is available from MBIE's website at www.building.govt.nz

It's recommended you read the guidance document before deciding to start any exempt building work.

Even when a building consent is not required, there are still rules to follow. All exempt work must meet the Building Code and other relevant legislation.

Exemptions are not retrospective. If you carry out unconsented building work which was not exempt at the time the work was undertaken, you need to apply to Council for a Certificate of Acceptance.

More information building.govt.nz or phone 0800 24 22 43



Checklist before starting any exempt building work

- ✓ Read this guidance document
- ✓ Consult with a professional and/or your local council
- ✓ Check your plans are compliant with other relevant legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991, district plans and local bylaws
- ✓ Check your plans and specifications are compliant with the Building Code
- ✓ Check if you need a specialist to design or undertake the work
- ✓ Consider retaining a record of any exempt work completed on your property; including the details of any licensed building practitioners or chartered professional engineers involved with the project..

Natural Hazards

If you proposing to undertake building work for a new structure, or alterations to an existing structure, you may need to consider any potential natural hazards that may affect the site.

Over time, information known about sites can change and, in some cases, the natural hazards may not have been previously taken into account as part of the original subdivision. These may need thinking about now, as this could affect your design and the proposed floor levels. We recommend you seek guidance from your design professional early in the design stage.



Requirements for outdoor showers

When you come in from the surf and sand, outdoor showers are a convenient way to rinse off.

You may not be aware that it is a requirement of NZ Building Legislation to connect a shower to a suitable outlet.

The New Zealand Building Code G13 requires sanitary fixtures connect to a drainage system. This is to safeguard people from illness due to infection or contamination from personal hygiene and to prevent unpleasant odours.

In terms of hot and cold, the Building Code G12 Water Supplies does require a sanitary fixture to have hot water when used for personal washing and showering.

We've taken a pragmatic approach in applying the legislation as we recognise that a cold shower is not generally how people wash themselves on a regular basis. Cold showers are more for just rinsing off sand/salt after a day at the beach, similar to a handheld hose. Please note that the discharge needs to be managed so as not to cause loss of amenity or nuisance to neighbouring properties.

Hot showers are viewed the same as any other sanitary fixture and must meet the requirements of the NZ Building Code. These fixtures need to be directed to an appropriate outfall (gully trap) with means of preventing stormwater infiltration into the wastewater system.

ONLINE building consents available

Our building consent system is all online and is quick and simple to use: [tcdc.govt.nz/buildingconsents](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/buildingconsents)



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HOW CAN I HELP SAVE KAURI...

Kauri dieback disease is killing one of Aotearoa/New Zealand's taonga (treasures) – our unique kauri forests. But kauri will be saved ... with the help of people like you.



... WHEN MOUNTAIN BIKING

As you know, a mountain bike can collect a lot of mud. But by carrying out some basic preparation, responsible mountain bikers can help save kauri.

- Keep a cleaning kit in your vehicle that includes brushes, an adequate supply of Sterigene (which is available from vet clinics), and plastic bags for bagging any gear that can't be cleaned on-site.
- Carry a brush and disinfectant on your ride too.
- Clean all soil off your tyres, frame

(including recesses), clothing, bag, accessories and footwear every time you enter or leave an area with native trees, and as you enter a new catchment. This is to avoid introducing the disease to a new area or moving it from an area where the disease is. A pinhead of soil is enough to spread the disease. Don't use water (including stream water) to clean gear, unless it will be captured in a sewer, as the pathogen that causes dieback is a water mould and is activated by water.

- Use disinfectant only after you have removed all the soil; spray it on all the areas that have come into contact with soil.
- Only ride on designated mountain bike tracks. These should avoid going near kauri wherever possible (a kauri's roots are extremely delicate, grow close to the surface, are susceptible to disease, and can grow outwards 3-times as far as a tree's branches).
- If an area has been closed or is protected by a rahui (temporary closure), do not use

it. Closures are only made when the risk of spreading the disease from an area is extremely high, or because that area is at extraordinary risk.

- Never assume anywhere is free of kauri dieback. Infected trees may not show it.
- Spread the word within your networks about the need for mountain bikers to help stop the spread of kauri dieback and be seen doing the right thing. Everyone has a part to play in saving kauri.

... WHEN WALKING, RUNNING OR TRAMPING

By taking the time to clean, and by factoring in kauri dieback when planning your trip, responsible walkers/runners/trampers are helping save kauri.

- Clean all soil off your footwear and other gear (including hiking poles, clothing and bags), every time you enter or leave an area with native trees. This is to avoid introducing the disease to a new area.
- Be prepared to encounter cleaning stations and use them.
- Avoid going off-track and going near kauri – unless the track is board-walked.
- Carry a brush and disinfectant if you are going to be going off-track, or using tracks that do not have cleaning stations, or if you will be crossing multiple catchments. If possible, clean your gear between catchments; i.e. between – but not in – rivers or streams, or between valleys.



- If you use hiking poles, use rubber feet on your poles to minimise the amount of soil your poles pick up.
- When you're buying new footwear, consider how easy it will be to clean – is there a better option?
- To avoid spreading contaminated soil inside your vehicle, pack a second pair of footwear for the drive home.



ABOUT KAURI DIEBACK

The pathogen that causes kauri dieback is microscopic, 'smart' and tough. It's possible for it to survive at least six years on footwear or equipment. It can sense where a kauri tree's roots are, and 'swim' towards them through the soil. It kills most, if not all, kauri it infects. Kauri naturally occur in the Northland, Auckland and Waikato regions, and in parts of the Bay of Plenty; so if you're in Coromandel bush, it's likely you'll be near kauri. People (and animals) are the number one way in which the disease is spread, through the movement of contaminated soil.

For more information go to
kauridieback.co.nz

email kauridieback@mpi.govt.nz
or call **0800 NZ KAURI**

For information on kauri dieback in our district and consultation about new earthworks rules to protect kauri in urban zones of our Proposed District Plan, see tcdc.govt.nz/kauri



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PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS PARKER

A NEW ZEALAND
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Anything's **POSSIBLE** *when you ride a bike*

If you've been coming to the Coromandel for some time and you haven't yet experienced the Hauraki Rail Trail, it's a gem on our doorstep that's begging to be explored.

Set on New Zealand's oldest railway corridors dating back to 1898, the trail journeys through beautiful countryside and quaint townships steeped in history.

Use of the historic railway lines makes it one of the easiest of the Great Rides in New Zealand network (Grade 1) and being mostly wide, flat and smooth, it's suitable for all fitness levels and cycling skills and is perfect for family groups.

The 197km trail officially starts from Kaiaua in the north and traces the Shorebird Coast along the Firth of Thames before heading south via Paeroa to then branch either east towards Waihi or south to Te Aroha.

Pick one of the five stages for a day ride or make it a multi-day adventure. The Hauraki Rail Trail is fully-serviced with supported tours, shuttle services, luggage transfers, bike hire and plenty of dining and accommodation options.

Out on the bike, you'll enjoy some of the best scenery New Zealand has to offer, from the pohutukawa trees on the expansive Thames Coast through to lush Waikato farm lands and areas rich in pioneering history.

A major highlight includes riding through the stunning Karangahake Gorge, one of the '14 wonders of NZ' with its majestic views and fascinating gold mining ruins and tunnels.

Others include soaking in the hot pools at either Miranda or Te Aroha, watching the migrating shorebirds from the Miranda Shorebird Centre, fossicking your way through the many antique shops in Paeroa, the antiques capital of New Zealand, or a photo opportunity or quick dip at Owaharoa Falls.

One of the more recent sections to Matamata offers a gentle ride through lush farmlands to the home of the Hobbiton movie set.

Day trips can be added on, such as shorter rides along the Thames Coast, walks in Te Aroha and Karangahake, or take a train from Waikino to Waihi where you can ride the short 4km Waihi gold pit rim trail or take a trip to see the surf at Waihi Beach.

And don't forget food. The Hauraki Rail Trail makes for indulgent adventuring, with an abundance of eateries either trail-side or nearby. Choose from cafes, wineries, boutique cheeses and gourmet wood-fired pizzas for your pit-stop.

Over the next few pages, we look at two ride experiences you can have on the trail – for lovers of wildlife and nature-lovers or riders seeking some luxury along the way. For more ride experiences, including rides for art lovers, history buffs, or ideas for doing the trail on a budget, visit haurakirailtrail.co.nz/plan-your-ride



A trail of success

Since it opened in 2012, the Hauraki Rail Trail has been an immense success and a major driver of tourism for the Thames-Coromandel, Matamata-Piako and Hauraki Districts.

In 2019, more than 100,000 people rode the trail. January and February of 2020 saw record numbers of monthly riders (more than 16000 for both months).

While the trail went quiet and was closed in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 lockdown, visitor numbers quickly bounced back as soon as people were allowed to move around the country again and when *Our Coromandel* enquired in July, year-to-date numbers were above last year's despite the pandemic.

Diane Drummond, Chief Executive of the Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust, says accessibility is one of its biggest advantages, sitting within a two-hour drive from the major centres of Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga.

And its easy grade and scenery has made it a hit with families.

"I call it a 'nursery trail' for the Great Ride network, for people to come and hone their riding skills and get their teeth around a multi-day ride," Diane says. "People are loving biking and this trail suits multi-generational family groups from grandparents through to young kids," she says.



PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS PARKER

In 2020, work was underway on a new section of trail between Kaiaua and Thames, opening up the beautiful Thames Firth coastline and wetlands of international significance.

"These are stunning views of the Coromandel coastline you don't get anywhere else on the trail," Diane says. Attractions for riders include soothing tired muscles at the Miranda Hot Springs, experiencing and learning about precious birdlife along the Shorebird Coast, expansive rural tranquillity and landscapes and the historic Kopu Bridge and Waihou River, with the volcanic Coromandel Ranges providing a dramatic backdrop. The first section of this new section was open to ride from the end of July.

Also in 2020, work got underway on the Paeroa Historical Maritime Park Wharf development, which will enable trail visitors to cruise by riverboat into Paeroa this summer of 2020/2021 and see riders ferried between the Park and the town. The success of the Hauraki Rail Trail has been a driving force behind the project, which saw the Park awarded at \$730,000 Provincial Growth Fund grant. Each year, progress continues towards completing the trail to the original vision and Diane says the aim is to have a sealed trail through most of the network where possible. There's always plenty happening to improve the trail, with beautification through native planting, the addition of local art and sculpture and new opportunities to showcase what we've got here on our doorstep.

Choose your ride

Section A: Kaiaua to Thames – 55km

Internationally renowned for its 'Wetlands of International Significance' and migratory shorebirds.

Section B: Thames to Paeroa – 34 km

Enjoy farm-to-gate at the cheese factory, while passing through tranquil farmland culminating at the Historical Maritime Park.

Section C: Paeroa to Waihi – 24km

Ride through the historic and scenic Karangahake Gorge past gold mines and through the 1km long tunnel.

Section D: Paeroa to Te Aroha – 23km

A leisurely ride through lush farmland under the gaze of Mount Te Aroha ('The Mountain of Love').

Section E: Te Aroha – Matamata – 37km

An unexpected journey past goat, dairy and thoroughbred farms, with views to the Wairere Falls and the Firth Tower to Hobbiton (Matamata).

Multi-day ride – 5 days (cruising) – 197km

Take the time to explore all this area has to offer at your own pace or book a tour. Visit haurakirailtrail.co.nz to find accommodation, places to dine and drink, things to see and do or to hire a bike or shuttle service.





Wildlife and nature along the Hauraki Rail Trail

If you're hungry for adventure and want to experience the wild and natural essence of the region, the Hauraki Rail Trail has you covered.

SECTION A – KAIIAU TO THAMES (55KM, 5-6 HOURS)

Shorebird Coast & Pūkoro-koro – Miranda Shorebird Centre

Starting from the seaside village of Kaiāua in the North, the trail winds around the edge of the shallow Firth of Thames, over chenier shell banks and through the Ramsar wetlands of international significance.

At the Pūkoro-koro–Miranda Shorebird Centre you can learn about the area's precious birdlife and incredible feats of the Godwits



PHOTO CREDIT: KEITH WOODLEY

annual migration. Bird-hides offer the chance to view the shorebirds up close and identify the various migratory species.

The Kaiāua to Kopu section offers natural attractions which can be enjoyed from the trail itself. Visitors can find information, birding tips, environmental education, accommodation and the most comprehensive natural history bookshop in New Zealand.

Native birds that spend part of their year on the Thames Coast before flying to the Arctic now have a safer place to refuel as their main pit stop, the Yellow Sea, has been given World Heritage site status.



**SECTION B – THAMES TO PAEROA
(34KM – 3-4 HOURS)**

The Kaimai Ranges and Hauraki Plains

The section of trail begins at first following the old railway line out of Thames town and through lush farmland with memorable views across the Hauraki Plains. The flat, fertile plains have been enriched by alluvial muds, sands and gravels deposited up to 20,000 years ago by the Waikato River, and more recently by the Piako and Waihou rivers, once the major trade route to the inland towns of Paeroa and Te Aroha, to Stanley Landing.

Riders can also enjoy the Kaimai Range. Of volcanic origin, it has many valleys and is mostly forested, with summits between about 550 and 950 metres.

Alternative transport is planned for cyclists into the township of Paeroa, via the Waihou and Ohinemuri Rivers. This river-based transportation will offer the opportunity to make the most of this special habitat and learn about maritime history at the Historical Maritime Park.



**SECTION C – PAEROA TO WAIHI
(24 KMS, 6 – 8 HOURS RETURN)**

Karangahake Gorge

This popular section of the trail follows the Ohinemuri River through the dramatic Karangahake Gorge – a deep canyon cut through the Kaimai Ranges. Home to a spectacular regenerating forest and wildlife paradise, it is an absolute must for any nature enthusiast.

The Karangahake Tunnel Loop Walk is not to be missed, taking you along the Ohinemuri River and over the lower Waitawheta River, fully immersing hikers in New Zealand native flora.

The stunning staircase Owharoa Falls is nestled in the heart of the Karangahake Gorge and makes an ideal picnic spot for riders. If it's

warm enough, cool off with a swim in the crystal-clear fresh water. A second, lesser known falls can be found upstream for those willing to climb and get their feet wet.

Bullswool Farm Heritage Park

A short drive by car, and up in the hills behind the village of Karangahake at Bullswool Farm Park, is the Bush Discovery Trail. Visitors can learn about native New Zealand birds, trees and aquatic life and the fascinating history of the Karangahake Gorge's first miners and kauri bushmen.

Minutes from the Karangahake Gorge Walkway, Bullswool Farm Park is a unique slice of rural paradise – a working farm with a variety of animals in their natural flocks and herds, ranging from miniature horses and cattle to deer and donkeys.

Waihi Waterlily Gardens

A meander through the Waterlily Gardens is a lovely way to spend the afternoon. Planted in 1950, the gardens span fifteen acres of mature trees (giant oaks, maples, liquid ambers, rimu, kauri), lawns, lily ponds and a lake.



**SECTION D – PAEROA TO TE AROHA
(23 KMS, 2-3 HOURS)**

This part of the trail offers a leisurely ride through serene country landscapes beside the magnificent Kaimai Ranges. The terrain is rough, and only two roads pass over it. It's a perfect family ride with farm animals to see along the way. Whether your day departs from Waihi, Waikino, Karangahake or Paeroa, it's an easy journey down to the township of Te Aroha.

Heading south, you'll pass through lush Waikato farmland dotted with dairy cows and farm animals. The Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges and Mt Te Aroha (952m The Mountain of Love), and expansive views over the Hauraki Plains are a feast for the eyes.

**SECTION E – TE AROHA TO MATAMATA
(37 KMS, 2-4 HOURS)**

This new and gentle section of trail passes by fertile plains, significant horse studs, goat farms, groves of scented trees. The mesmerising Wairere Falls and ravines are close by – so make time for a detour or two. The Falls are the highest waterfall in the North Island and has a popular walking track. The return walk to the viewing platform at the base of the Falls takes about an hour and a-half, with a spectacular view as water plunges 153 metres over the falls, before forming streamlets that flow through moss covered rocks and ferns. It's a perfect picnic stop with views of the bush-clad Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park.



Luxury Rail Trail Adventures

If you want to spoil yourself, or celebrate a special occasion, there are a few ways to introduce a little bit of luxury to your rail trail experience.

You can arrange your own luxury experience, or let a tour operator look after your every need. Comfortable bikes, transport, luggage transfers, advice on activities, and top quality food and accommodation provide an unforgettable journey and means you can relax and make the most of your ride. More information: haurakirailtrail.co.nz/tour-services

ACCOMMODATION

The House with No Nails is host to visitors from all over the world, providing a truly luxury experience. Sitting quietly in its beautiful location in Wardville, the totally handcrafted barn is unlike any other homestay in New Zealand. Situated along Section E (Te Aroha – Matamata) it offers a perfect night of indulgence and incredible home-cooked food to celebrate nearing the end of your ride.

On arrival guests are welcomed by an inviting porch. The bold oak door and antique Welsh knocker hinting at the experience awaiting. A unique home full of character and personality, and a pure reflection of hosts Jen and Dewi, and their burgeoning efforts to share their space with strangers who depart as friends. housewithnonails.co.nz

In the Karangahake Gorge, The Falls Retreat is a stunning haven, and an ideal stop when cycling the Hauraki Rail Trail. Visitors can enjoy delicious food and warm hospitality in this beautiful setting, with boutique accommodation options.

Stay in the secluded Rose Cottage or Waterfall Cabin, surrounded



by native bush and birdlife, and just a minute away from Owharoa Falls. To celebrate a special occasion, packages include the Romantic Getaway with massages and pamper packages in the comfort of your cottage. Or choose the Girls Getaway for a night of relaxation and pampering with luxury bath robes and Prosecco on arrival. And for the guys, there's an outdoor experience which includes bike hire, craft beer and fly fishing.

The renowned wood-fired oven serves gourmet pizzas and rustic slow-cooked food and an a la carte menu utilises seasonal home-grown and local produce. The bistro is a must for gastro lovers, and riders are advised to book in advance or check ahead for seasonal opening times. fallsretreat.co.nz

On your bike

Thames bike shop JollyBikes has kicked into a new gear as the commuter and recreational cycling boom sweeps the world.

JollyBikes' new, larger store on Richmond St, Thames has been humming since the first lockdown restrictions were lifted in May 2020 and Kiwis grew more eager than ever to get out and ride and explore their backyard.

Founder Matthias John and co-owner Luen Wong are passionate advocates for cycling and bike tours.

"We believe the current pandemic has made many of us rethink our lives and what matters, such as health and quality time in nature with friends and family," Matthias says.

The Hauraki Rail Trail has also been a game-changer for cycling in the Coromandel, fuelling demand for JollyBikes' rental fleet. Luen enjoys creating attractive and convenient tour packages, including local attractions and even kayaking. The team works hand-in-hand with businesses on the Rail Trail and has its hire bikes available both in Thames and at the Positive Paeroa information hub.

Matthias, who also works as a GP in Coromandel Town, is also a big advocate for bicycles becoming a healthy and daily means of transport again. "New Zealanders

are typically anxious to ride on the road, particularly if children are involved, so bike trails have become the welcomed solution," Matthias says.

JollyBikes is a specialist for e-bikes of all styles as well as mountain bikes, carrying prestigious brands and quality models for all riding levels, including kids' bikes, alongside a full range of parts and accessories. The store also has an excellent workshop for bike repairs and maintenance.

The business started in 2015 and currently employs six staff. The team pride themselves on exceptional service and going the extra mile for customers as a cycling hub for the Thames community and beyond. Its basic bike maintenance classes have been well

received. Keep an eye on jollybikes.co.nz for similar workshops in the future as the team look to share their enthusiasm for bikes and riding.

Matthias and Luen are big fans of the Coromandel. "It's the best of New Zealand, I think. It's so diverse with three different coastlines, the Miranda and Pohutukawa coasts and its fine sandy eastern beaches, as well as hills and lush bush, to explore," Matthias says. "It's just amazing what you can do on the Coromandel."

jollybikes.co.nz



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Villa Walton is an idyllic homestead and boutique bed and breakfast set in the quiet historic village of Walton. Enjoy beautiful cottage gardens and specimen trees, Victorian features, and sweeping verandahs allowing for privacy and intimate spaces with views towards the Kaimai Range. Situated in close proximity to a wide range of activities including the Hobbiton Movie Set, this villa is an opportunity to enjoy the experience of being on a farm in the heart of New Zealand's dairy country. villawalton.co.nz

EXPERIENCES

Nestled in the beautiful domain at the foot of Mount Te Aroha is the Te Aroha Mineral Spas. Renowned for their healing properties since the 1800's, it's the perfect way to soothe tired muscles and unwind after a day's riding. tearohamineralspas.co.nz



Formerly the Ohinemuri Winery, the Karangahake Winery Estate is located in the stunning Karangahake Gorge and couched in a native bush and formal garden setting above the Ohinemuri River. A 160m track leads from the tunnel entrance on the trail

to the cellar door, making it a great place to stop and indulge.

forbiddenfruitwine.co.nz

Nearby, Forty Mountain Bike Park is a premium destination for mountain biking, with trails catering for beginner to expert riders, with a dedicated uphill trail to access the lower half of the park as well as an uplift service. Riders can opt for full access to the whole park with their own private shuttle. Coaching sessions are available for all ages and abilities and are fully customised to your needs, with the course tailored to areas you want to focus on.

fourfortymtbpark.co.nz

Adventure Te Aroha's river kayak tours provide the perfect half-day excursion from the Hauraki Rail Trail. From its source at the Blue Springs to where it enters the Hauraki Gulf, Te Waihou winds its way gently northwards. A variety of different tours are offered to suit all ages. adventuretearoa.com

Exclusive tours of the Hobbiton Movie Set can be organised for individuals or groups. Personal guides escort you through the twelve-acre site recounting fascinating details of how the beautiful Waikato farmland was transformed into The Shire from Middle-earth. Visitors can also choose to enjoy a festive feast lunch in the party marquee, or the evening banquet tour lets visitors experience Hobbiton at dusk with a guided tour of the Shire and a banquet feast fit for a Hobbit. hobbitontours.com



PERFECT FOR ANY OCCASION



GRAND MERCURE
PUKA PARK

Grand Mercure Puka Park is a secluded hideaway located at Pauanui Beach.

The perfect location to accommodate relaxing stays, functions, events, weddings, we cater for it all.

Miha Restaurant offers an intimate ambience, superb local cuisine and beautiful views, while other facilities include an outdoor swimming and spa pool, gym, tennis court and bikes for hire, with an international 18-hole golf course and excellent fishing nearby.

Getaways
Conferences
Weddings

Talk to one of our friendly staff today.

Tel: 64-7 864 8088 or reception@pukapark.co.nz

Grand Mercure Puka Park Resort

42 Mount Avenue, Pauanui 3579, New Zealand

pukapark.co.nz accorhotels.com

GOLD DISCOVERY CENTRE



waihi bicycle hire



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GET INSIDE THE FENCE**

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Gold Discovery Centre & i-SITE 126 Seddon St, Waihi. Ph: 07 863 9015

Waihi **SITE**

Off the Rails

Expect the unexpected when you go off the rails and explore the back roads and hidden gems of the Hauraki District.

This is just a small sample of the unique experiences and eclectic treats that await those who dare to explore the path less travelled.

For more surprises, check out the huge range of boutique shops and other delights we have on offer at www.lovehauraki.nz

IS THIS THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY COWSHED IN THE WORLD?

Luxury accommodation in a herringbone cowshed may sound like an unlikely combination, but that's exactly what you'll find just ten minutes out of Waihi. Crisp linen and copper sinks uniquely combine rural dairy farming nostalgia with designer comforts in this beautifully restored Cowshed. Perfect base to indulge, relax, explore.

The Cowshed, Waitawheta, Waihi



WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL MY LIFE?



That's what everyone asks owner Alena when they discover what's behind her big red door on Rosemont Road. A feast of colour, texture, fashion, accessories and homewares await. Once you've discovered this Aladdin's Cave, you'll wonder how you ever did without it. It's addictive.

La Diva, Rosemont Road, Waihi



WE'RE ALL KIDS AT HEART RIGHT?

Hang out with Spike for a couple of hours and you will be. His interactive museum of Lego® and Technic® is the best kept secret in Waihi! Mind blowing traditional, pneumatic, remote controlled and Bluetooth models create fascinating fun for all ages. Come and play!

Spike's Bricks & Models, Haszard Street, Waihi

WHAT WORDS DO YOU LIVE BY?

Bake slow, eat slow, live slow –that's the philosophy Ronny & Annika bake into their healthy, certified organic, vegan, fermented sourdough breads; pastries, pretzels and German sausage rolls. For a taste of Europe mixed with the Kiwi good life, you can't go past this bakery in Waihi.

The German Bakery, Seddon Street, Waihi

HMM ... WHAT TO BUY WHEN YOU'RE TRAVELLING LIGHT?

Diamonds from the town with a heart of gold of course! Bespoke jewellery designed and manufactured by master craftsman/owner, Paul, plus gorgeous homeware and gifts curated by his wife Delwyn, makes this a must see destination for discerning shoppers. Shop. Share. Cherish.

Diamonds on Seddon, Seddon Street, Waihi



WHERE DO YOU GO TO MY LOVELY?

To the weird and wonderful world of anachronistic steam punk fashion and accessories. Step through the door of this eclectic, mystical Pandora's box and get lost in a world of retro futuristic treasures. Go into Katherine's fitting room ordinary, come out transformed!

Pandora's Box, Belmont Road, Paeroa



WHAT'S AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS?



An explosion of colour, clothing and an architectural surprise! Clear your diary, you'll need a couple of hours to really explore all Deb's individual rooms full of retro fashion, art and furnishings. And then head through the foyer to a part of Paeroa's past! You won't be disappointed.

Upstairs Downstairs, Belmont Road, Paeroa



REMEMBER WHEN EVERYONE HAD A FORMICA DINING TABLE?

Go back in time to a 1950's inspired world of mix and match furniture and retro bric a brac. Originally the National Bank gold refinery, this historic landmark is the perfect place for long nostalgic lunches listening to the huge collection of vinyl, or choose a rustic table next to walls of ivy outside. There is also boutique accommodation on site if you want to stay the night.

The Refinery, Willoughby St, Paeroa



WHEN DID YOU LAST FEEL TRULY RELAXED?

Escape the city and experience relaxation and tranquillity like never before on 200 acres of rural land just one hour from central Auckland. Take care of yourself with a personally tailored half or full day of therapies such as Floatation Therapy and Zero Balance. You know you deserve it.

Earth Energies Sanctuary, SH2, Mangatarata

KIDS AND DOGS WELCOME

This place is a well-known stopover destination for a reason. Not only can you enjoy homemade fare you won't just find anywhere, your kids and pets will thank you for pulling over so they can stretch their legs at the large playground and dedicated dog walking area. There's a huge range of homemade gifts and locally made products for sale too.

Woodturners Café, SH2, Mangatarata



WOULD YOU LIKE SOME ART WITH THAT?



Be surprised by this upmarket gallery featuring NZ contemporary artists. Grab a coffee from one of the many nearby cafes and take a wander with owner and artist, Wendy. From big canvases to small, bespoke treasures, there's something for every wallet and wall. Treat your senses and take home some art today!

Mikkelsen Gallery, Belmont Road, Paeroa

ARE YOU AN ETHICAL SHOPPER?



You'll be delighted to explore this treasure trove of New Zealand made and fair/ethically traded products. Ranging from boutique clothing to baby essentials, as well as offering consultations on a huge range of stunning chalk paints for those keen to create something themselves – that perfect gift has never been so easy to find.

Willow Gifts and Lifestyle Boutique, Orchard Road, Ngatea

EVERYONE LOVES A ROAD TRIP



Especially if you're lucky enough to stumble upon this gem, tucked away in Pūkorokoro-Miranda. Healthy food, organic coffee, fresh fruit from the orchard and a stunning

gallery with an ever-changing collection of some of New Zealand's best visual artists on display. Even the toilet is a work of art.

Miranda Farm Gallery, Miranda Road, Miranda

HOW MUCH AUTO-MEMORABILIA CAN YOU SQUEEZE INTO ONE BARN?



This barn is bursting at the seams with old cars and machinery and every piece has a story. Luckily, collector Laurie

Brunt and his wife Linda know all of them and like to have a yarn while they show visitors around the museum. There's farm machinery outside too, waiting to be restored 'one day.' Call in today.

The Yesteryear Barn, SH2, Netherton

NOTHING HOLDS A CANDLE TO THIS

Follow your nose down the back streets of Paeroa and delight your senses. Filling your home with the hand-poured fragrance of brown sugar and fig, orange and honey, or whiskey in a jar, is as easy as popping into this factory shop and choosing your favourite hand-poured candle jar, room spray, or reed diffuser.

Amberjack Candle Company, Willoughby Road, Paeroa



FRANKLY MY DEAR, I DO GIVE A DAMN

One thing Paeroa sausage maker, Frank, won't compromise on is the quality of the ingredients that go into his sausages or the natural, nutritious methods he uses to make them. They come with a personal guarantee because he makes them himself. And with mouthwatering names like pork with apple and cranberry or chicken with mango and coconut how could you resist?



Franks sausages, Normanby Road, Paeroa



Discover Te Aroha

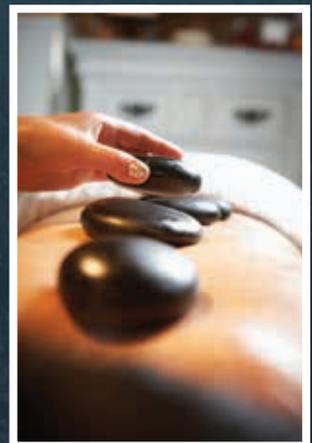
Nestled under the 'Mountain of Love' is Te Aroha, a little treasure of a town, waiting for visitors to discover its spoils.

Perfectly placed between Paeroa and Matamata, the grade one cycle trail leads you on an easy ride through serene farmland with beautiful views of the Kaimai Range. It offers the perfect place for weary cyclists to unwind and rejuvenate in nature with cafés, eateries, golf, hot pools, op shops and boutique stores to keep you nourished and entertained. Spotted throughout town you will find the work of resident artist Adrian Worsley, who designs and constructs unique and original sculptures entirely from recycled materials in his studio workshop in Te Aroha. If you look closely, you will see a number of his magnificent works have been cleverly designed to incorporate a bike rack so cyclists can perch their wheels in style.

RICH SPA HISTORY

The history behind this delightful little town starts with a beautiful Māori legend. Te Mamoe, son of a Bay of Plenty Chief, climbed to the summit of the mountain, and seeing landmarks of his tribal home said, "Aroha ki tai", "This mountain shall be called the Mountain of Aroha (Love)". Later a stream of crystal water began to flow from the heart of the mountain and Māori discovered that hot springs with healing qualities had appeared. A clear pool, known as

the "Mirror of Te Mamoe", became a wishing well for newly-married couples. You can still enjoy these hot springs today by booking a private wooden tub (minimum two people) at the Te Aroha Mineral Spas. Onsite, we also have skilled massage and beauty therapists that have a range of treatment options that will leave you feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. Visitors travel far and wide to enjoy these healing waters and indulge in an 'Aroha Signature Wrap,' so make sure you book in advance to secure your spot.





NO. 2 BATH HOUSE

An exciting recent development is the reopening of the No.2 Bath House, a larger mineral spa that has been restored that is perfect for larger groups. Suitable for two to 10 people, the No. 2 Bath House is a part of the Swim Zone Te Aroha swimming pool complex and has public and private sessions available. Pack your togs and take a leisurely dip in the scenic heated outdoor pool before soaking in the natural, silky mineral water that has made Te Aroha famous for over 100 years.



EDWARDIAN DOMAIN

The hot springs along with the surrounding land was gifted to the Crown as a reserve by local Māori Chief Te Mokena Hau in 1882. Europeans sunk a bore to access the healing waters, resulting in a geyser of hot soda water, the only one of its kind in the world. It was named the Mokena Geyser, in honour of the Māori chief. You can visit this unique geyser today, set in public view in the beautiful grounds of the Te Aroha Domain, the only complete Edwardian Domain in New Zealand.

Visit the Te Aroha Museum to discover its fascinating beginnings as a gold mining town and how it became the country's first geothermal spa town to annually receive thousands of visitors. Wander The Domain Gallery and enjoy the work of local artists, many of whom have captured the changing light and mood of Te Aroha's magical maunga (mountain). The Domain is home to a number of well-marked walking and mountain biking tracks, catering to all fitness levels, including a track to the summit's 360 degree views. You can also try kayaking or paddle boarding the Waihou River with Adventure Te Aroha, or enjoy watching the ducks, swans and geese that glide in the adjoining wetlands as you stroll the Howarth Memorial Track.



EXPLORE MATAMATA

A hop skip and a jump down the road is Matamata, an easy 37km cycle away, where you'll find purpose-built cafes along the trail to stop for some refreshments and prepare for your next leg. As you approach the Matamata township, you will be graced with the Firth Tower Museum with its historical buildings and picturesque gardens waiting to be explored. Do some leisurely laps at Swim Zone Matamata, with its heated indoor and outdoor pools open year-round and immerse yourself in its bustling retail and hospitality district.

Whatever you enjoy, make i-SITE your first stop. The friendly teams can direct you to local accommodation options and have a wealth of local knowledge, information and maps to help you make the most of your visit.



ART ESCAPE

A visit to the Wallace Art Gallery in neighbouring Morrinsville is a must see, where art patron James Wallace has pledged the rights to exhibit the entire James Wallace Arts Trust collection. With the most comprehensive collection of contemporary New Zealand art in existence - more than 5,000 pieces valued at over \$50million and spanning over 50 years, it is an incredible accolade for the gallery. The continuous change of art exhibits ensures repeat visits are essential.



Calling the Coromandel HOME

One of the Coromandel's oldest and largest real estate businesses holds firm to its founding roots as it prepares to celebrate 60 years in business.

With six decades in the local market, Richardsons Real Estate is well placed to know the special place the Coromandel holds in the hearts of those who live here.

Founded by father and son team Colin and Lance Richardson in 1960, strong family values run through the 10 offices across the Coromandel today.

Sales staff still talk about the 'Richardsons culture', which is family-focused and centres on caring for their people through awards functions, social gatherings and staff training days.

Richardsons Managing Director Emma Ashworth says the knowledge within each office extends to not only the real estate market, but also local community knowledge, which comes from deep involvement within their hometowns.

"Most of Richardsons' 62 staff also grew up in their communities, so have called the Coromandel home for most of their lives," Emma says.

"Our staff understand the Coromandel region, their towns, and are passionate about their communities. That is what our culture is based on. Personal relationships and community involvement," she says.

"Our team are loyal to their towns, and each office gives back to its community through local sponsorships and volunteer work in a range of community activities."

Understanding the Coromandel since 1960

Richardson's founding roots are well chronicled in the book *'Richardsons - 50 Years'* marking the 50-year anniversary back in 2010.

It charts the story of how Colin Richardson cut his teeth in business operating 'Moodies Dairy' – the local milk bar in Thames, a job that saw him become very familiar with the Coromandel while making deliveries for its frozen foods wholesale distribution business.

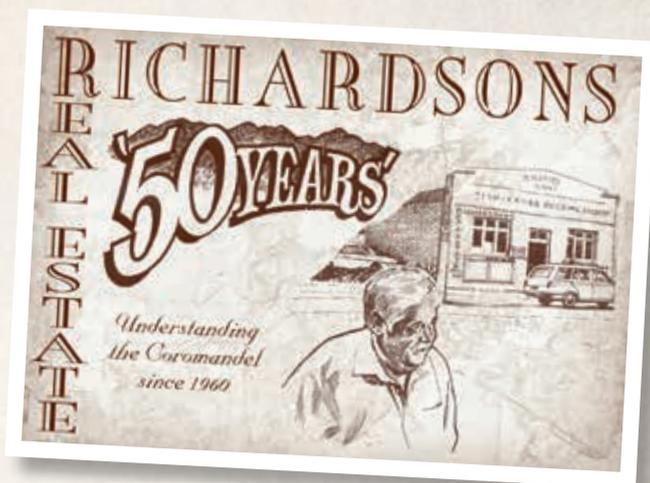
Later, he ventured into another business, George Shepherd Ltd, which operated as a toy, gift and stationary shop, and a new chapter was opened when he and Lance decided to make use of the shop's real estate license. From there, Richardsons Real Estate was born.

At the time, the requirement to be a licensed real estate agent was to go down to the local magistrate to swear under oath that you were an upstanding citizen and they gave you one.

Marketing was a card placed in the shop window, with no photo. There were no mobile phones, internet or social media tools to drive the integrated digital marketing campaigns that see listings make a splash today.

Richardsons was the only residential real estate office in Thames until the mid-1980s. Over the years, its reach has grown organically to most towns in the Coromandel as resident populations have grown and demand for both holiday and family homes has increased.

Today, still an independent company, to celebrate 60 years in business on the



Coromandel is testament to the people who are part of the Richardsons family.

Emma says the legacy of founders Colin and Lance is not forgotten with the team.

"Together, they established what is today the largest and most successful real estate business on the Coromandel," she says.

"We're still a business that's based on family and community and because we're working in our communities every day, we have so many wonderful experiences, from helping a first home buyer into their family home, to receiving a letter from the local school thanking us for helping them," Emma says.

"The Coromandel region contains some amazing entrepreneurial businesses and organisations focused on benefiting our communities. It's the same kind of foundations that Richardsons Real Estate was built on," she says.

richardsons.co.nz

SECTIONS FOR SALE – OPITO BAY

www.opitosands.co.nz



Opito Sands Subdivision offers 40 prime beachside sections, ranging from absolute beach front to rear elevated sites and priced to meet most budgets, in stunning Opito Bay, Coromandel.

An 8 kilometre crescent shaped bay with prominent headlands, renowned for its beauty – golden sands, clear waters, sheltered and safe beach, snorkelling, diving, fishing, photography, exploring and many other coastal living activities.

The importance of preserving the natural environment has been the goal of this subdivision. This includes sanctuaries for native bird life, conversion of farmland to native planting and protection of sand dunes with natural dune vegetation including boardwalks for access to the beach.

The development of the subdivision at 68 Skippers Road is now complete with titles available.

**Half the sections are already sold, secure your slice of paradise now!
Contact Ross Christensen on 0204 051 0527 for an exclusive viewing.**



Ross Christensen | 020 4051 0527

ross@countrywiderealestatesales.co.nz
www.opitosands.co.nz


Countrywide
Real Estate Ltd



OUR SMALL TEAM OF BYLAWS OFFICERS

are the faces you'll see out and about for our Council-managed issues such as dog control, parking, and freedom camping, helping to look after our communities and environment. Here are a few we'd like to introduce.

KEN WARD

BYLAWS AND COMPLIANCE TEAM LEADER

After spending most of his career as a police officer in the United Kingdom and New Zealand, Ken and his wife Kim made the decision, like many of our employees, to relocate from Auckland to the Coromandel for the lifestyle three years ago. As the team leader, Ken supervises and manages the small team, which he enjoys because he says they are all local, community-focused and have good relationships with the diverse groups of people across our district.

The best part of my job is ...

Those wonderful days when the weather is great, and your office is a beachfront walk. I also enjoy the customer service aspect and communication with our community. I want our team to add value to our communities and maintain a good reputation of providing

quality service. Sometimes, due to the nature of the job, we aren't very popular, but given we're also part of the community, that can be challenging. However, my goal is to try and work with people in a way that we achieve a positive resolution.

The most rewarding experience I've had while working at Council is ...

When people have thanked me or the team under distressing circumstances and shown they have appreciated our work, despite the fact it may not be a pleasant situation. For example, when a dog is involved in an incident.

I love living in the Coromandel because...

It has got a soul and you can feel it. Also, I'm surrounded by like-minded people who appreciate what we've got.

In my spare time you'll find me...

Having a laugh with our tight-knit friend group here, taking up an offer to go fishing, or enjoying local walks.

I love the following things about my community ...

They look out for and support each other, which is evident now post COVID-19 with everyone supporting our local businesses.

My favourite Coromandel adventure is...

The Driving Creek Railway because it's a unique, incredible, and inspiring story and place. I recommend it to everyone, and they always enjoy it.



The best part of my job is ... Those wonderful days when the weather is great, and your office is a beachfront walk.



REBECCA TILSLEY & OTIS

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Rebecca has worked in many different roles between her homeland in England and New Zealand, including being a mum, looking after animals, children, and the elderly. You'll now find Rebecca and her side-kick Otis (Staffordshire Bull Terrier) out-and-about across our south-eastern ward. Rebecca's passion, care and knowledge of dogs is evident as she goes about her work, so if you see her and Otis, say hello.

The best part of my job is ...

I love bringing Otis to work with me and the dog control side of the job, helping people where dog behaviour is concerned, as this is what I studied. However, I also really love meeting the freedom campers and interacting with them. I often end up having a chat and educating them with brochures and information that helps not only to promote the Coromandel, but also to protect it by ensuring they know the rules.

The most rewarding experience I've had while working at Council is ...

Rehoming and rescuing dogs. People often don't call us when they see a roaming dog in fear it will go to the pound or be put down. However, this isn't the case at all. We work with many great rescue centres across the country so dogs can have a second chance and ensure they're properly assessed in a home environment before they are rehomed. A great example is when a dog, well-known in the community for roaming, ended up at a rescue and now use as a model dog with others due to his temperament.

I love living in the Coromandel because ...

I like the beach. My boys and husband love the beach so if they're happy then I'm happy. I also love it for the fishing and walks.

In my spare time you'll find me ...

Out with the family walking Otis, fishing,

crocheting, watching Harry Potter on repeat, or cruising in my Mini Cooper. Family is really important to us and our two sons, Hamish (11) and Michael (13), are at the age where they still want to do things with us so they, and Otis, come everywhere with us.

I love the following things about my community ...

Whangamata is a small community and in their own way, everyone looks out for one another. I love how the community constantly changes with the holiday makers coming to town as it adds a whole other atmosphere and makes the town buzz.

My favourite Coromandel adventure is ...

Wentworth Valley with Otis and my kids as I love the bush and it's nice to have a break from the beach sometimes.



I love how the community constantly changes with the holiday makers coming to town as it adds a whole other atmosphere ...

VICTOR MCLEAN (NEE) MAKARINI HEREWINI

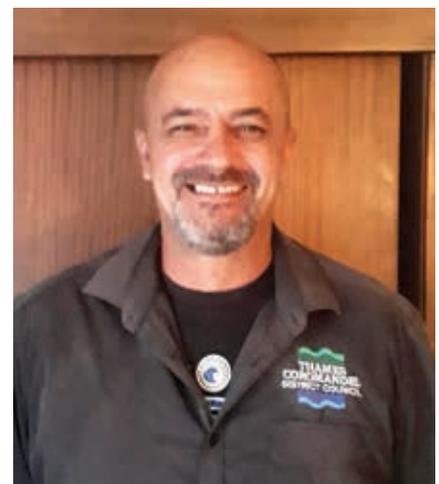
COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Kō Ngāti Tamaterā kō Ngāti Porou ōku iwi kō Te Paea te Marae kō Harataunga, Kō Kuaotunu tōku tūrangawaewae, Kō Maata Ngapo tōku tūpuna whaea kō Marutuahu te tangata.

My iwi is Ngāti Tamaterā and Ngāti Porou, Te Paea is our Marae in Kennedy Bay, our standing place rights of residence is in Kennedy Bay and Kuaotunu, my ancestors are Maata Ngapo and Marutuahu whom affiliate us to this land.

Victor was born in Whitianga and moved back home from Tokoroa 27 years ago with his wife Tania to raise their three children and now two mokopuna (grandchildren)

Continued following page



in the safe environment they both grew up in. Victor has been working in the role for



It is our home. It holds so many memories, and there isn't a better place to make more.



seven years and you'll find him covering Whitianga, The 309 Rd, Manaia, Coromandel far north, Kennedy Bay to the East Coast of Opito and Kuaotunu.

The best part of my job is ...

Simply working with people in our community to provide them with the best possible outcomes in accordance to compliance.

The most rewarding experience I've had while working at Council is ...

Being part of the team that implemented affordable microchipping of dogs for dog owners and also helping with putting together the pro-rata rate for new dogs registrations regardless of the age of the dog.

I love living in the Coromandel because ...

It is our home. It holds so many memories, and there isn't a better place to make more.

In my spare time you'll find me...

With family, riding my Triumph motorcycle over the Coromandel loop. I love the corners, tight bends and curves, while taking in the great views to offer. To go bush is also a must-do in my spare time trapping, hunting and gathering in Kuaotunu, or netting flounder in our backyard – the estuary.

My favourite Coromandel adventure is...

The Peninsula Riderz Whitianga Poker Run. This is a fundraiser for our local volunteers, the Whitianga Fire Brigade and the Whitianga Saint John Ambulance.

I love the following things about my community ...

The history it holds, the alternative lifestyles and the coming together as a community when action is needed.

DANIEL GARDINER

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Danny has spent most of this life in the Waikato District working in animal control, security and compliance for Council. Originally, he intended to only be in Tairua for a couple of years, but 20 years later he still calls it home.

The best part of my job is ...

The interaction with different people and I get a sense of achievement when you have an outcome and resolution. I feel like I have been looked after as an employee and my job has kept me in the district.

The most rewarding experience I've had while working at Council is ...

Managing complaints by talking with both parties to get a resolution and being acknowledged that we're just doing our jobs with a simple thank you.

I love living in the Coromandel because ...

Of all the different activities on offer and because I feel like I belong here. My family has always been here, and I have been visiting since I was a toddler. I love all the different activities I can do on my days off

with my partner Carey who loves tramping. We check out the local tracks and trails and then I can share tips with our freedom campers about where they can go. There is always something to do and you can't starve here – we can live off the land and ocean.

In my spare time you'll find me ...

Discovering new fishing or tramping spots with Carey. Otherwise I am a homebody and enjoy watching movies. I love a rainy night in Tairua, or even better – a thunderstorm.

I love the following things about my community ...

They're always active and doing something that is open to everyone. Most days I meet some good people in Tairua, and I've made some great friends. Tairua is the best place to be in the Coromandel as it's 45 minutes from everywhere else and under two hours to the main cities.

My favourite Coromandel adventure is ...

I like to make the most of the simple things in my own backyard such as fishing off the wharf or walking across the pipi bed at low tide.



In my spare time you'll find me ...Discovering new fishing or tramping spots.



Pooches on the Peninsula

On the Coromandel we are lucky to be able to take our best canine buddies almost anywhere, whether it's down to the beach or for a stroll into town for a bite to eat and puppuccino. What you may not realise is that you need to have your dog on-lead in most areas, unless specified.

To make sure everyone can enjoy our public spaces, we have a few simple rules to provide a safe environment for dog and non-dog people. Our dog rules are easy to follow for both our residents and visitors with signs now using a traffic light system.



Green = off lead, orange = on lead, red = no dogs allowed.

Microchipping

As well as registering your dog, they must be microchipped. This helps us to promptly identify roaming or lost dogs and reunite them with their owners.

We've noticed many dogs on our database don't have a microchip number.

- It's a one-time procedure.
- A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice, implanted under the skin behind the dog's neck.
- A 15-digit unique number assigned to the microchip helps identify your dog through our registration records and the National Dog Database.
- The microchip number will retrieve your contact details so we can get in touch with you quickly.
- If your dog isn't microchipped it can be difficult to reunite you both.
- Under the Dog Control Act 1996 new puppies and dogs (except working farm dogs) must be microchipped within two months of first registration.
- Failing to do so may result in a fine.
- In 2020 we provided a low cost 'Microchip Monday' service for dog owners in our district, which we may run again in 2021.



tcdc.govt.nz/microchipping

Being a responsible dog owner

Paws & think

- Make sure your dog is registered and wears a registration tag at all times. If you're from another district, an ID with your name, address and mobile phone number will help if your dog gets lost or picked up by a Dog Control Officer.



Otis – assisting our Compliance Officers.

- Don't take your dog to areas where dogs are banned. Between 20 December and 31 January and public holiday weekends, most beaches have restricted times dogs are allowed on the beach, if at all.
- Dogs are not allowed in cemeteries, sports fields and within childrens' public play areas.
- Dogs are prohibited from protected bird habitats. Keep an eye out for signs – usually from Labour Weekend to 1 March – which is during NZ dotterel breeding season.
- Make sure your accommodation has somewhere to keep your pet safe, secure and under control.
- Don't let your dog wander or cause a nuisance by fouling or barking.
- Unless in a designated dog exercise area, you must have your dog on-lead in a public place.
- Remove your dog's droppings. Take a plastic bag wherever you go.
- Make sure your dog has access to shade and fresh drinking water during the day.
- Please never leave a dog in your car in the heat.
- See doc.govt.nz regarding dog access to conservation land.

These are three terms we use to explain the rules, and you will see the symbols used on all of our dog related signs.



PROHIBITED: This means no dogs at all. We have some areas that are prohibited all year round, but most are during the dotterel nesting season so the prohibition is from Labour Weekend to 1 March at all times. Outside of these times, areas will have other rules such as Little Waikawau (west coast) where dogs are prohibited Labour Weekend to 1 March and allowed on leash at all other dates and times.



RESTRICTED: We use the restricted term for the summer period and holiday weekends. It means that there are restrictions around where you can take your dog during certain dates and times. For instance, Brophys Beach prohibits dogs from 20 December to 31 January and all holiday weekends between the hours of 9am and 6pm. All other dates and times you can run your dog under control and off leash.



EXERCISE AREAS: You can have your dog off-leash but under control at all dates and times.

The definitions of beaches, public places, children's playgrounds and sports surfaces can be found on our website along with the area-specific rules.

📞 Call 07 868 0200 for questions or complaints.

tcdc.govt.nz/dogs

RayWhite.

Do what you **LOVE**
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COUNCIL CONNECTING YOUTH, EDUCATORS AND EMPLOYERS



SMART WAIKATO SECONDARY SCHOOL EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS (SSEP)

We're part of Smart Waikato's Secondary School Employer programme (SSEP).

This award-winning initiative partners business mentors with students introducing them to a wide range of careers. This is our fifth year working with SSEP through Thames High School and our first with Mercury Bay Area and Whangamata Area Schools.

SSEP aims to improve student achievement introducing them to industries in our region – and local employment.

"If it helps students achieve better results and introduces them to jobs for young people in our district, then that's a fantastic result," says our Mayor Sandra Goudie.



SSEP class working on projects.

The programme includes:

- **HANDS ON-EXPERIENCE** – forming small businesses in groups, with help from mentors
- **MARKET RESEARCH** – using surveys, looking at potential customers, competition and the external environment
- **BUSINESS FINANCE** – identifying resources, costing out their products.
- **PRODUCT DESIGN** – through a manufacturing plan
- **REPORTING** – going to market, completing financial reporting

REAL WORLD BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AT THAMES HIGH SCHOOL

Thames High teacher Leanne Donovan says its small business unit is now becoming a popular class as students see the success of other students and learn about what they can achieve. Business people around town are enjoying stepping back into the classroom as mentors and also introducing students to career opportunities.

"It's providing a sound knowledge of how a business operates, but also involves the community in our school with mentors working with the students. Both mentors and students enjoy this contact and find it rewarding," Leanne says.



Thames High student Katherine Bayer (pictured above) says: "It gives us a look inside what it is like working in reality and introduces us to budgeting and simple business procedures that take place in a business. I chose this class because it's working alongside business mentors while learning how a product can be profitable, and taking this experience into the real world when transitioning from high school."

"It's challenging," Katherine says. "My group found it difficult to come up with an idea – coming up finally with driftwood candle holders. One of our group member's dads has a drill and we live in a place surrounded by local beaches, so driftwood is readily available, easy to access and free to source. This class teaches us good communication skills and how to work with people who we may not normally interact with, just like how it would be in the workplace," she says.

MEET COUNCIL'S GRADUATE ENTRY PROGRAMME RECIPIENTS

This programme helps young people with their studies, while introducing them to career opportunities within local government – ranging from animal control officers and water specialists to transport planners and building inspectors, as well as careers in policy and planning, parks and reserves and IT. The programme helps pay course fees of up to \$5000 per year for a maximum of four years. No more worries about finding holiday work, we pay you to do work relevant to your course. After graduation you're guaranteed full-time, paid employment with an organisation you have an existing relationship with.

HERE ARE SOME COMMENTS FROM OUR GRADUATE RECIPIENTS

Jonathon Prouse

"I completed a degree in Civil Engineering at Wintec in Hamilton. Throughout my studies I gained work experience with Council during my semester breaks. After completing my degree I'm now working here full-time."

After finishing his degree, Jonathon moved to Ngatea to be closer to Thames for work. "I called Council and asked if they had any work experience and that's when I found out about the graduate programme," he says.

"The programme supported me financially and provided me with valuable work experience that is very hard to get," he says. "I really enjoy my job at Council, I do a lot of surveying and stormwater work including designing stormwater catchments for towns in our district.

"Gaining work experience at Council allowed me to work alongside some very knowledgeable people that have taught me a lot," Jonathon says.

Joef Magat

"I work in Council's IT department after completing a degree in Computer Science at the University of Waikato in 2019. This is my second year of working for Council full-time."

"I found out about the Graduate Entry Programme through my placement coordinator at university. The programme helped me with my professionalism and taught me how to better communicate with managers. I am very grateful to have been offered this, as it allowed me to gain valuable work experience with a big company," Joef says.

"What stood out for me was the job security after graduating. It's hard to find companies that are willing to take on graduates with no work experience, but Council's Graduate Entry Programme is great because it gives you the work experience you need while you are studying and then guarantees you a job upon graduation," he says.



Joef Magat.

tcdc.govt.nz/youth

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OUR COROMANDEL BOAT RAMPS

Fishing and boating are among the favourite past times of people in the Coromandel.

Our Council controls and services several boat ramps on the Coromandel. Some of these facilities are free and some require permits to use.

Here's a guide to a selection of our ramps and where to find them.

More information:
tcdc.govt.nz/boatramps

Boat ramps on our west coast



1. Waiomu Boat Ramp
SH 25 Thames Coast Road, Waiomu (opposite Trotters Avenue)



2. Te Puru Boat Ramp
Seaview Avenue, Te Puru



3. Kereta Bay Boat Ramp
SH 25, Thames Coast



4. Ruamahunga Boat Ramp
SH 25 Ruamahunga Bay, Thames Coast



5. Amodeo Bay Boat Ramp
Colville Road, Amodeo Bay



6. Long Bay Boat Ramp
3200 Long Bay Road Coromandel Town



7. Oamaru Bay Boat Ramp
Colville Road opposite #420 in Oamaru Bay



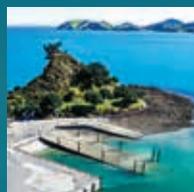
8. Tararu Boat Ramp
Thames Coast Road SH25 (beside the Thames Sailing Club)



9. Kopu Boat Ramp
Off Quay Street, Kopu



10. Jacks Point Boat Ramp
Wharf Road, Coromandel Town



11. Sugarloaf Boat Ramp
Te Kouma Road off SH25, Coromandel

Boat ramps on our east coast



12. Pauanui
Tangiteroria Lane, Royal Billy Reserve and Pleasant Point Reserve



13. Tairua
Wharf Road and The Esplanade



14. Whangamata
Beach Road and Opoutere



15. Mercury Bay:
RAMPS: The Esplanade, Quarry Point (Kuaotunu), Opera Point (Whangapoua), Robinson Rd, Dundas St, Brophy's Beach.
BEACH ACCESS: Flaxmill Bay, Cooks Beach Central, Matarangi Bluff Rd, Kuaotunu (Blackjack Boat Ramp), Opito (Skippers and Moore Crescent), Hahei (Wigmore Stream)



16. Purangi Road
(Cooks Beach – Purangi Reserve)



17. Matarangi

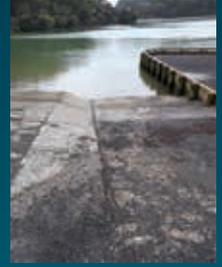


Sugarloaf Wharf, Te Kouma

Find out about the major development at Sugarloaf Wharf through the \$19.95 million Provincial Growth Fund investment on pages 96-97.

Whangapoua boat ramp upgrade

Reconstruction of this boat ramp was scheduled to start in late August 2020, with work to span over several years. The work will address the cracks that were appearing in the concrete of the previous boat ramp and the fact the two ramps were initially poured at different levels, which was inconvenient for users. The new ramp will eliminate these issues and the addition of a pontoon (part of stage two, scheduled for 2022/2023) will make the boat ramp more user-friendly for boaties.



Ruamahunga Boat Ramp replacement

We have consent to replace this boat ramp within a period of 10 years. The timing will be considered as part of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

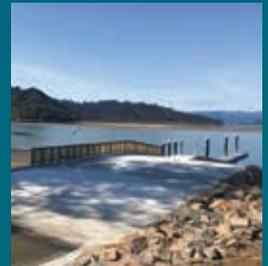
Purangi Boat Ramp sealing project, Cooks Beach

Sealing was completed in July 2020, improving the ramp and the turning area in front of the ramp, which frequently had potholes and required maintenance. The ramp is now more user-friendly with a dedicated boat staging area for parking cars while preparing to launch, or where boats exiting the water can prepare to travel from the ramp.



Robinson Road Boat Ramp, Whitianga

The 2020 upgrade, including a new concrete ramp and a floating pontoon, has improved the overall accessibility of the boat ramp and taken the pressure off the other local ramp by the wharf in Whitianga. A boat trailer permit system is now in place on the Robinson Road Reserve. As of 1 July 2020, there is a fee of \$80 per annum or \$10 per day to park on the reserve, similar to parking fees introduced at other boat ramps in the district that have been recently improved. The changes also include paid trailer boat parking adjacent to Hilton Park.



Royal Billy Point Boat Ramp, Pauanui

This project has been completed as far as practicable with minor works postponed until April 2021. Work on the boat ramp involved replacing the floating wharf structure and aluminium access



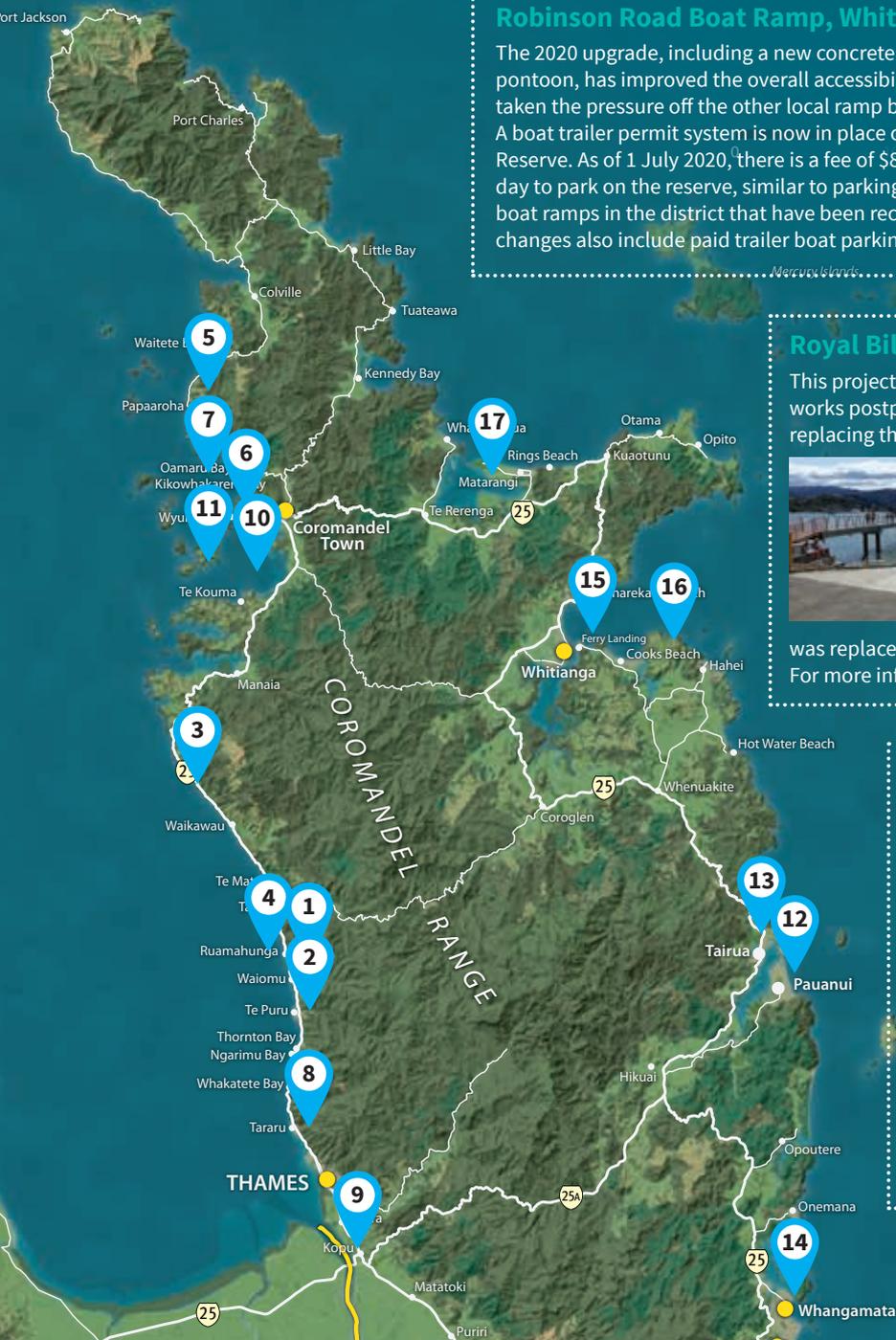
bridge, removing three sections of the access walkway to widen and replace sections further west. The previous boat ramp and timber wall

was replaced with a wider boat ramp with a longer timber wall. For more information – tcdc.govt.nz/royalbillypoint

Pleasant Point Boat Ramp, Pauanui

In 2020 we widened the existing Pleasant Point boat ramp to make more room for boat and jet ski-users launching at the ramp and to help with congestion when this ramp is well-used in summer months. We extended the width of the existing concrete ramp by four metres, bringing the finished width to a total of 10 metres. The extension was earmarked in the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan and the cost was approximately \$80,000 –

completed on-schedule and within budget.



OUR JOURNEY TO SUSTAINABLE COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Following the adoption of our Coastal Management Strategy and Coastal Hazards Policy in 2018, our Council continues to develop adaptive Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs).

This milestone project is being run in partnership with Royal HaskoningDHV to prepare SMPs for large sections of our coastline by 2022.

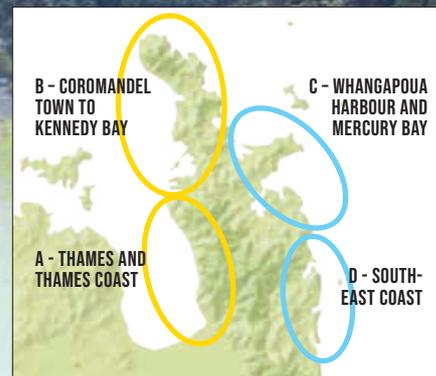
"The project is all about helping our communities and coasts adapt to coastal hazards through site-specific plans for the

entire length of our coastline, including our offshore islands" Mayor Sandra says.

A Committee of Council has been established with the Pare Hauraki collective to guide and direct the project.

"This is a really positive step for Council and iwi working together," Mayor Sandra says.

Pare Hauraki Collective Chairperson Paul Majurey says: "Mayor Goudie and Council are to be congratulated for another major step towards establishing co-governance between Pare Hauraki and local government."



COASTAL PANELS

Community panels have been set up to cover our coastline as follows (see map above):

- Kopu-Thames and the Thames Coast.
- Coromandel Town Coast to Kennedy Bay.
- Whangapoua Harbour and the Mercury Bay Coast.
- South-East Coast (Tairua through to Whangamata).

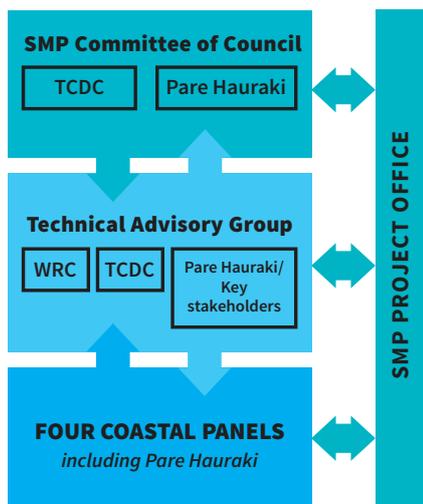
Coastal Panels are advisory boards, made up of Community Board representatives, citizens, iwi, local businesses and asset owners, and aim to provide a fair and balanced representation of the relevant viewpoints regarding the management of our coastal environment.

Panellists will work together to classify the risks to their local coast and risk tolerance, and to propose policies and actions to address these as they work through the development of their SMP and action plans. The panels will have access to required experts and will be guided by a sequence of steps and key questions set out by the Ministry for the Environment. These include:

- What is happening on the coast?
- What matters most?
- What can we do about it and how can we get it done?
- Is it working?

At the end of the process, panels will make recommendations to our Council on how its community can prepare for and adapt to coastal change.

"Coastal Panels are the engine for the project, and I look forward to our communities getting involved and working together to come up with community-led, coastal adaption solutions," says Mayor Sandra.



Coastal newsletter out now

Read online: tcdc.govt.nz/coastal, or at one of our Council offices for updates on the SMP project, as well as a look at the timeline of work ahead. We've also created a factsheet 'Who does what in the coastal environment', exploring some of the differences in function under the Reserve Management Act (1991) between the Waikato Regional Council and our Council.

Meet our new coastal scientist

Jamie Boyle (pictured on a day off enjoying the surf) joined us in 2020 to analyse our coastal issues, including coastal erosion and flooding, and see how our coastal assets are affected by these. "A big part of my role will be involved in directing the SMPs and figuring out how we manage the threat of coastal hazards in a sustainable way so that future generations can get as much satisfaction out of the coast as we do," Jamie says.



Due to storm events in 2020, dunes at some of our eastern seaboard beaches have eroded. "Dune erosion is completely natural and the active dunes that lost sand are doing exactly what they should be doing and providing a buffer for wave energy," Jamie says. Check out our website for some great resources and tips from Jamie on dune erosion – tcdc.govt.nz/coastal

CONTACT US

Over summer 2020-2021 we'll be holding community open days to share more information. In the meantime email ourcoast@tcdc.govt.nz or tcdc.govt.nz/coastal

STAYING SAFE on Coromandel beaches

Coromandel's volunteer Surf Lifeguards have some important messages they want beachgoers to remember this summer to ensure everyone gets home safe after a day at the beach. They are expecting a big summer season over 2020/2021 as Kiwis flock to beaches for their Christmas break staycations due to COVID-19 disrupting international travel plans.

Surf Life Saving NZ (SLSNZ) Eastern Region Manager Chase Cahalane says for the last ten years, New Zealand's fatal drowning rate has been 70 per cent higher, per capita, than Australia's. "That's appalling," Chase says. "Most drownings are preventable. Our messages are simple and could save your life – or that of someone you love."

Chaz Gibbons-Campbell has been a volunteer Surf Lifeguard for more than 12 years and is a well-known face at Coromandel's beaches. He's asking people to take care in, on and around the water.

"Choose a lifeguarded beach and swim between

the red and yellow flags," is the advice of this Whiritoa Lifeguard Service volunteer.

"If you get caught in a rip remember the '3Rs Rip Survival Plan: RELAX and float to conserve your energy, RAISE your hand to signal for help, RIDE the rip until it stops and you can swim back to shore safely, or help arrives."

Rip currents are the main cause of rescues performed on Coromandel beaches, and Chaz, who is also SLSNZ's Eastern Region Lifesaving Manager, encourages people to learn how to spot them before getting in the water.

Rips often appear as regions of deeper, darker water with less wave-breaking activity between areas of white water.

"The rip current will not pull you under, nor will it take you a long way out to sea. It may take you a little way out, but often the water will circulate and bring you into shallower water where you can stand up," Chaz says.

"If you're unsure that what you're looking at is a rip, don't get in the water. If in doubt, stay out."

If people see someone in trouble and there



are no volunteer Surf Lifeguards around, they should call 111 immediately and ask for the police as they have a direct line to SLSNZ's emergency call-out squads.

During the 2019/2020 patrol season, Surf Lifeguards spent 26,699 hours on patrol at seven of Coromandel's beaches.

In total, Coromandel Surf Lifeguards saved the lives of 135 people, assisted 204 people to safety and treated 463 first aid patients.

Beach Safety Messages

1. Choose a lifeguarded beach and swim between the flags
2. Read and understand the safety signs – ask a Surf Lifeguard for advice as conditions can change regularly
3. Don't overestimate your ability or your children's ability to cope in the conditions
4. Always keep a very close eye on young children in or near the water – keep them within arm's reach at all times
5. Get a friend to swim with you – never swim or surf alone
6. Watch out for rip currents, they can carry you away from shore. If caught in a rip current remember the 3Rs: *Relax and float, *Raise your hand and *Ride the rip
7. Be smart around rocks: When fishing, never turn your back towards the sea and always wear a lifejacket
8. If in doubt, stay out!
9. If you see someone in trouble, call 111 and ask for Police
10. Be sun smart – slip, slop, slap and wrap to protect your skin and eyes from the sun's damaging rays.



- Surf Life Saving New Zealand is a charity. If you would like to support your local lifeguards this summer, please make a donation online at surflifesaving.org.nz
- There are plenty of ways you can volunteer with Surf Life Saving New Zealand. To learn more, contact your local club or visit surflifesaving.org.nz



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW ZEALAND



NEW ZEALAND MOTOR CARAVAN ASSOCIATION INC

CARING FOR THE COROMANDEL

NZMCA members love holidaying on the Coromandel. That's why we are as committed as you are to caring for the area's stunning natural environment.

We do that by requiring all our 95,000-plus individual members to have their motorhomes and caravans Certified Self-Contained if they intend to freedom camp.

What's more, we have led the way in raising the CSC Standard to ensure that anyone freedom camping is playing

by the rules – and not leaving waste behind.

With three Motorhome Friendly towns in the area – Coromandel, Whitianga and Whangamata – and two NZMCA Parks, at Coromandel and Whitianga, we are here for the long haul.

Thank-you for sharing your very special part of New Zealand with us.



NZMCA funds campaign to stimulate local tourism

The 95,000-plus member New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA) is funding a campaign to send a stream of responsible motorhome tourists to the Thames-Coromandel district's three Motorhome Friendly Towns – Coromandel Town, Whitianga and Whangamata.

Designed to help kickstart the local economy, NZMCA's decision to double down, at its own expense, on the promotion of the Motorhome Friendly Towns is a reflection of the support from those locations in the past, says NZMCA CEO Bruce Lochore.

"The Thames-Coromandel district has long been a favourite with our members, and no wonder – it's a region that's got it all; unspoilt native bush, beautiful white-sand beaches, great fishing, cycling, walking and a wide variety of other leisure activities," Mr Lochore says.

"Our members also love the area because of the warm welcome they receive from locals and for the fact they are well catered for when it comes to parking their certified self-contained motorhomes in the district.

"As well as our NZMCA Parks in Coromandel Town and Whitianga and numerous commercial campgrounds, members also report how much they enjoy the DOC campsites dotted around the peninsula," he says.

As the first step in what is a nationwide campaign promoting all 56 Motorhome Friendly Towns, NZMCA members recently received a special full-colour magazine – distributed along with their normal bi-monthly member magazine – promoting the attractions and activities available in each of them.

Produced at absolutely no cost to the Motorhome Friendly towns, the magazine is the spearhead of a multifaceted campaign that will ensure the NZMCA's membership 'stops, stays and spends' in the participating locations.



Along with the 140-page magazine, other highlights of the campaign will include:

- *The opportunity for members to win more than \$20,000 dollars' worth of prizes in the NZMCA's Great Kiwi Road trip competition that will focus exclusively on motorhome-friendly destinations;
- Expanded promotion of Motorhome Friendly towns through the NZMCA's member magazine, website and regular member e-newsletters;
- Introduction of a new NZMCA App that links directly to motorhome-friendly destinations;
- A renewed focus on the organisation's events program in Motorhome Friendly Towns – drawing a line in the sand to give event organisers the confidence to commit to setting a date for their next event;
- Promotional support for the campgrounds in motorhome-friendly areas with an expanded CampSaver program;
- Exclusive, member-only discount coupons offering savings and add-ons at businesses and attractions throughout the Motorhome Friendly Towns.

The attractions of Coromandel Town, Whitianga and Whangamata have all been promoted with double-page spreads, such as this in the NZMCA's Motorhome Friendly magazine.

Mr Lochore says the NZMCA is ideally placed to lead such an initiative.

"When all the focus was on international tourists in the big-name destinations, we led the charge to ensure that rural and provincial New Zealand got its fair share of tourist dollars," he says.

"So, now we're 'going hard' to once again bring responsible motorhome tourists in certified self-contained vehicles to the Motorhome Friendly Towns."

nzorca.org.nz



NEW ZEALAND MOTOR CARAVAN ASSOCIATION
Article supplied by NZMCA

Hit the Beach, BUT MIND OUR DUNES

Coromandel's iconic coastline is a major attraction, and so everyone can enjoy our beaches, we all need to respect our sand dunes.

"Sand dunes protect land and properties from erosion and storms, and on many of our beaches, the dunes are also natural habitats for native species of birds such as the dotterel," says our Council's coastal restoration coordinator Tanya Patrick. "Our dunes are always changing as they erode and build up again, in cycles," she says.

In many places, our Council has worked hard with community groups during the year to restore vulnerable dune areas with native coastal plants that help build up dunes and maintain their natural function.

"The good news is, we can all play our part in caring for our sand dunes by staying off them and sticking to marked access ways when heading to the beach, as well as not driving on beach reserves or the dunes and not leaving rubbish on the beach," Tanya says.

tcdc.govt.nz/coastal



Our Council is proud to be part of the Coastcare Waikato partnership, alongside the Waikato Regional Council (WRC), the Department of Conservation (DOC) and iwi, working in with Forest & Bird NZ and ratepayer groups to protect and restore our coast.

Dune care is for everyone

Look out for the Coastcare – Waikato signs, (like those shown top right), reminding people to use marked access ways to get to the beach to help protect our sand dunes.

Here are some other good guidelines to follow:

- Encourage children to respect the dunes and not play on them.
- Do not light fires on the dunes.
- Do not dump personal or household rubbish or greenwaste in the dunes. Do not leave rubbish on the beach, fullstop.
- Respect the fences, which provide boundaries to help protect dune plants.
- Keep vehicles off the dunes. Important plants and creatures live in the dunes and motorbikes, 4WD vehicles and quad bikes harm them.
- Surf the waves, not the dunes: Sandboarding on the dunes destroys plants and loosens the sand, which allows wind erosion to occur.

Dune planting days happen frequently across the district and if you want to get involved with a planting day near you see tcdc.govt.nz/duneplanting

COASTAL EROSION

Back-to-back storms during winter 2020 resulted in coastal erosion around our open east coast beaches, with Whangamata, Pauanui, Tairua, Whangapoua, Mercury Bay, Cooks Beach among the notable spots.

"Coastal erosion is a district-wide issue and the costs are significant to do any type of hard and soft work structures," says our Mayor Sandra Goudie.

"Protecting and enhancing the dunes we have left is critical to the future of beaches and existing beachfront properties."

The options we have to react to coastal erosion are many and invariably costly.

"Our Council can't just go in and do works as and when it sees fit," says our coastal scientist Jamie Boyle. "As well as construction costs, there's also

consenting and consulting costs that have to be managed, and unless we can prove that critical infrastructure is at risk (parks and sand dunes don't count as critical infrastructure), then the process can take a very long time."

Here's some indicative construction estimates for an 80m section of foreshore:

ITEM:	FOR 80M	PER LINEAR METRE
Rock seawall	\$760,000	\$9,500
Geotextile bags	\$500,000	\$6,200
Backstop wall	\$490,000	\$6,125
Naturalistic concrete	\$1,120,000	\$14,000
Temporary groynes (5-year consent)	\$320,000	\$5,400
Sand push-ups	Between \$1,000 & \$4,000 per 1,000m ³	

See our website for more information on why this happens to our dunes tcdc.govt.nz/coastal

making a SPLASH

Swimming is a skill that opens up a world of incredible experiences and our Thames Centennial Pool, on the corner of Mackay Street and State Highway 25, offers a range of learn-to-swim and training opportunities, as well as a space for relaxation and fun.

The swim school continues to grow with more than 350 swimmers per term, along with the reputation for producing some of the country's best competitive juniors with youngsters who've moved through the lessons now attending squad training and striving for competing at a national level.

Meet the Mclean sisters, Gail and Helen, who are stalwarts of the pool, coming in three days a week and swimming a fair few lengths. They were born and raised in Thames and swimming at Thames Centennial Pool holds fond memories for them both, from the learn-to-swim programme as children and swimming club at Thames High School. Gail is also part of our Council's Finance team.

"A few years after leaving school, we started back doing aqua aerobics and then progressing to lane swimming. Swimming has always been an important part of our lives," Gail says.

In 2005 Helen suffered a brain aneurysm which has left her with a communication difficulty called aphasia, she describes as "when the right words don't come out at the right time".

During the time of recovery, exercise was Helen's savior. "Swimming along with the cycling and walking got me through this."

In 2011, Gail was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune disease that causes inflammation, pain and swelling in the joints. "This disease has changed my life as over the years it has become more difficult to walk. Swimming is the only exercise I can do and being in the water allows me to walk like normal and keeps the legs moving."

Summer Hours

Begin Monday 12 October

Mon: 6am-8am / 10am-6:30pm

Tues, Thurs & Fri:
6am-8am / 11am-6:30pm

Wed: 6am-6:30pm

Weekends: 11am-5pm

Closed public holidays

Winter Hours

Mon: 6am-8am / 10am-6:30pm

Tues, Thurs & Fri:
6am-8am / 11am-6:30pm

Wed: 6am-6:30pm

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 10am-4pm

Closed public holidays



Gail and Helen Mclean.

"We think the pool is an important asset for our community and we have really appreciated the friendly staff over the years. We're excited to see what the future holds for this facility," Gail says.

APPROACHING A NEW SEASON

New heat pumps were installed in July 2020 to replace the wood burner-heated system and are working well keeping the 25m Council-staffed facility a toasty 28 degrees. However, the team and community are outgrowing the current facility due to the growing numbers of lessons and increasing public and squad use. The Pool is reaching the end of its usable life and is due for replacement by 2027. We're moving forward with finding a site for the new swimming pool, with a location at the south end of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield in Thames chosen for further investigation.

tcdc.govt.nz/thamesreplacementpool

As *Our Coromandel* went to print, we were operating under Alert Level 2 and there are changes to how the facility operates with altered opening hours, booking requirements and programme cancellations. Please make sure you check our website –

tcdc.govt.nz/swim or call

07 868 8441 for more information.

Community Pools

There are also community pools across the District, located at the local schools. Check out their Facebook pages for updates, opening hours and prices:

~ Whangamata Area School

facebook.com/WhangamataCommunityPool

~ Mercury Bay Area School

facebook.com/MercuryBayCommunitySwimmingPool

~ Coromandel Area School

facebook.com/CoromandelCommunitySwimmingPool

Alcohol Control Bylaw

We've got a mix of year-round 24/7 town centre liquor bans on some beaches and seaside reserves at Christmas/New Year and long weekends. You cannot consume, carry or possess alcohol (including in a vehicle) in an area of the ban. Our Alcohol Control Bylaw is enforced by the New Zealand Police who can issue fines of \$250 for breaching the bylaw. If convicted of an offence against this bylaw, you can receive a fine of up to \$20,000. Check out where and when it's okay to have alcohol in a public place –

tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrolbylaw

Fire Bans

Fire and Emergency New Zealand issues permits for fires in the open, sets fire seasons and bans. A total fire ban applies in the Coromandel from 20 December to 8 February every year and may be extended if weather conditions dictate. The ban includes: open fires in public places, beaches, public conservation land (DOC), and on private property. Fires include: traditional cooking fires, bonfires, solid-fuelled BBQs, braziers, fireworks, Chinese lanterns.

• To apply for a fire permit or for more information go to

checkitsalright.nz

• If you see an out of control fire, call 111.

Balancing supply with demand

OUR WATER

The Coromandel is surrounded by water, so it is easy to think we should never run out of this precious resource.

As summer temperatures soar however, the river and stream levels in our region become lower and we must manage our supply of fresh water to protect these natural ecosystems.

Because of this, water restrictions are a frequent feature of our Coromandel summer. As tens of thousands of holidaymakers come to our beautiful district to enjoy long, hot days by the beach or on the boat, it is those same dry conditions that create the need to manage our fresh water supply.

Twelve different streams and rivers in our region provide fresh water to our communities. The amount of water we can

take from each river or stream during the year is set out in a resource consent, which we obtain from Waikato Regional Council.

This resource consent ensures we are managing the health of our rivers and streams. As stream levels drop, so does the amount of water we can take.

Unfortunately, this reduction often coincides with the time of year thousands of visitors across the Coromandel want to enjoy the beautiful weather and use more water.

“We know water restrictions are just that – restrictive – for both holiday-home owners and residents. People want to be able to



wash their cars or boats or water their gardens, which they work hard on all year,” says Bruce Hinson, our Council’s Operations Group Manager.

“The current consents our Council has to take water from these nine streams are sufficient for the district’s communities and take account of the holiday influx over summer,” he says.

“The issue we face is the increased demand for water over a long, dry summer, coupled with falling stream levels caused by a lack of rain. Even with a new resource consent, we may not be able to take any more water from our rivers and streams that are already facing record low levels over summer,” Mr Hinson says.

Over the summer of 2019/2020, when water restrictions remained in place right through to May 2020, our district’s streams were at the lowest levels they had been since 1959 during a meteorological drought with the Coromandel alongside northern Waikato, Auckland and Northland as the worst-affected areas in the country.

Our Council assesses its resource consents regularly. The current resource consent for Whitianga, as an example, is valid until 2025, however, if the population starts growing faster than expected and more water is needed before then, a new resource consent application process may start. Any new application will not alter the need to manage the levels of the streams

Council agrees to sign up to government’s ‘three waters’ reforms

In August 2020, our Council signed up to central Government’s Three Waters Services Reform, which is providing \$761 million nationally to assist local authorities to maintain and improve three waters infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater, stormwater).

In the first round of funding, Waikato attracted a regional allocation of \$33 million and our Council received \$4.8 million. Our Council has developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a funding agreement and a delivery plan for our share.

The Government has indicated there will be two further rounds of funding over the next two years and councils can join multi-regional groupings that are envisaged by Government to collectively deliver three water services, most of which are currently owned and delivered by local councils.

While the MOU does not commit our Council to reforming water services or transferring assets, it does enable us to access funding for capital or operational spending on our three waters services.

Following a Government review of three waters services after the 2016 Havelock North campylobacter outbreak, Government has indicated it would like to see public multi-regional models for three waters services.





and rivers over the dry summer in order to maintain their health.

When those levels drop, they will continue to be managed, often by putting in place water restrictions such as hose and sprinkler bans and watering on alternate days.

Exactly which restrictions are put in place is determined week-by-week and led by the river and stream levels, the long and short-term weather forecast and the projected number of visitors to the district over any set timeframe.

Long-term plans for meeting population demand for fresh water are also continually being assessed through our Council's Asset Management Plans and will be assessed in our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, which goes out for consultation in early 2021.

Mr Hinson says from these plans, any proposals for a new water source or new reservoir could also be formulated. Some people have also suggested building a dam, but this would be extremely costly and very challenging to consent.

"We would like to thank our communities for cooperating and following our restrictions when they are introduced over the summer months. Conserving our district's water supply, by not using water unnecessarily, is extremely important for public health and fire safety," Mr Hinson says.

Our staff do get in touch with residents who are flouting the ban to remind them of the need to conserve water. People who continue to ignore our calls can be fined on conviction up to \$20,000 for breaching our Water Supply Bylaw.

If you know anyone who is having trouble accessing water for their basic needs, please contact us on 07 868 0200 and we can help residents to get in touch with the right agencies.

For the latest information on our water supply and restrictions, go to tcdc.govt.nz/water

CASCADING THE NUMBERS



11 water supply networks across the Coromandel. Due to geography, it's not practicable to connect these supplies up.

60% (approx.) of our water supplies are from rivers or streams and **40%** of our water comes from groundwater via wells.

We manage **41** resource consents for all of those supplies.



\$1.37 per **1000 litres** of water is what an 'ordinary' user household uses per day, which is equal to **28 showers** or **13 baths**.

Lower consumption often happens in communities where meters are installed, as people get a better idea of how much water they're using. Metering combined with charging for actual water use sees consumption lower due to cost saving incentives and improved leakage identification.

Water use is measured by the cubic metre (1,000 litres).



13 days, on average, of water restrictions on communities for the 2019/2020 summer period (the worst drought New Zealand had in decades).



550km (approx.) of piping network we have to maintain, which if you stretched out in a straight line, would stretch from Thames to Wellington.



We produce approximately **6 million** cubic metres of water per year – the equivalent of **2400 Olympic-sized swimming pools** (which are about 2500 cubic metres in volume each).

NOT WATERING DOWN THE FACTS

Top 3 reasons for water supply challenges:

- 1. Huge influx of tourists and holidaymakers**
- 2. Drought conditions**
- 3. Loss of water from older infrastructure**



Water meters can help us track leaks, monitor the condition of our network and raise awareness of the amount of water we use. Meters allow water to be charged on what we use rather than a general charge.



Currently, we have meters at properties in Coromandel Town, Thames, Thames Valley, Pauanui and commercial areas of Whitianga, where water is charged at a flat rate per cubic metre of water consumed as well as a reduced fixed charge. Implementing metering across the remaining unmetered townships would be a significant project.

We want your feedback on our Water Demand Strategy – which will help us make decisions on where we spend money in our upcoming 2021-2031 Long Term Plan: tcdc.govt.nz/waterdemand

Drinking water treatment plant UPGRADES ON-THE-GO

We're in year two of a three-year project to upgrade 10 water treatment facilities across our district as our Council continues to be proactive about what we need to do to keep improving the quality of our drinking water supplies.

Our Mayor Sandra Goudie says this is a significant investment to ensure compliance and that our communities benefit from improved quality drinking water and public health.

Tairua and Whitianga's water treatment

Left: Thanks to *Cakes by the Ocean* for their creative cake which was part of the morning

tea had by our staff, contractors and locals to celebrate the completion of the project.

plants were upgraded in 2020, marking an important milestone in our drinking water standards project – Tautiaki Wai Māori.

The plants have been fitted with the latest technology and methodologies for treating our water including Evoca-supplied membrane units, new filtration, dosing and monitoring equipment. The upgrades will ensure our drinking water quality complies with the drinking water standards set by the Ministry of Health.

The installation of the new plant in Pauanui is scheduled to be operational by November 2020.

Meanwhile, civil works have started on-site for the fourth new plant in Coromandel Town, expected to be finished in May 2021.

Construction at the Beverley Hills (Whangamata) plant will start in October and we expect this one to be finished in June 2021.

Planning is underway for the remaining upgrades: Wentworth Valley (Whangamata), Moana Point (Whangamata), Onemana, Matarangi and Hahei (in that order). More information: tcdc.govt.nz/dws



Our Mayor Sandra Goudie (pictured above, left) with Tairua-Pauanui Community Board Chair Warwick Brooks officially opened the new plant on Tairua's Hinemoa Tce.

FLUSH YOUR TAPS

The Ministry of Health reminds all of us to flush a mug of drinking water from our taps every morning, to help remove metals that might have dissolved in plumbing fittings overnight. The Ministry recommends this simple precaution for all New Zealand households, including those on public and private water supplies.



EVERY DROP COUNTS

CHECK OUT OUR DRAFT WATER DEMAND STRATEGY



[TCDC.GOV.T.NZ/WATERDEMANDSTRATEGY](https://tcdc.govt.nz/waterdemandstrategy)



OCEANS, RIVERS & LAKES ALWAYS BRING YOUR MATE!

BOAT RAMP LOCATIONS
LOCAL BOATING INFO
SAFETY CHECKLIST
MARINE RESERVES
VHF CHANNELS
TIDE INFO



NATIONWIDE
INFORMATION

DOWNLOAD YOUR
FREE APP TODAY



IF YOU CAN'T BE
HEARD
YOU CAN'T BE
HELPED



ALWAYS CARRY
TWO FORMS
OF WATERPROOF
COMMUNICATIONS



waikatoregion.govt/waterproof-communications



DIGITAL HEART - COMMUNITY HUB

Our district libraries have far more to offer than just a good book. Membership is open to anyone, so if you are visiting the bach, you can still access our three district libraries in Thames, Tairua and Mercury Bay while you're here.



Lending a helping hand with niggling tech problems is the concept behind 'Need a Nerd', a new service offered twice a week at Thames Library. Our Community Engagement Librarian Shana is our resident 'nerd', offering one-on-one sessions where members of the public can get personalised technology advice.

Take Terri for example. One thing she missed about living in South Auckland was listening to the local Pasifika radio station. When she retired to Thames, she could no longer pick up the signal. Fortunately, our Need a Nerd service was here to help her find an easy fix. Shana set up an icon on Terri's phone taking her straight to the station she wanted - all she had to do was press play and enjoy. Terri can now bring a little bit of the community she loved in Auckland to her new home on the Coromandel.

Anne, meanwhile, was struggling with IRD's new website. She knew it was possible to file her tax returns online, but she struggled to get her head around using MyIR. Shana

walked her through the process step-by-step, helping her set up everything she needed. Next year, Anne feels confident she'll be able to do it all herself.

The first Need a Nerd sessions began in February 2020, but the COVID-19 lockdown enhanced the importance of technology for keeping in touch with family and friends. Shana's now able to help our patrons set up social media accounts and smart-phone settings as well as navigating the finer points of sending an email. The one-on-one nature of Need a Nerd means that Shana can really tailor each session to the person's specific needs.

Need a Nerd has also been a great way for people looking for work post-COVID, to find out about all those essential job-hunting skills. Shana's on-hand to help people learn how to write a CV, set up a RealMe log-in, hunt for work or brush-up on their office skills.

Need a Nerd is a free, year-round service - just phone Shana at Thames Library and book a time slot. Mercury Bay and Tairua Libraries will also be introducing their own Nerds soon - keep an eye on our Facebook page to find out more -

[facebook.com/tcdclibraries](https://www.facebook.com/tcdclibraries)

All three of our District Libraries are part of Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa (APNK), offering free and secure wifi access as well as APNK Chrome Stations and Chrome Books. We can also print, photocopy and scan to email. [tcdc.govt.nz/library](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/library)

Library events

- **Book Group**, stitch and bitch with our Knitting Group on Tuesdays, or catch a mystery movie at our monthly Free Film Friday. (Thames)
- **Justice of the Peace weekly drop-in sessions** to get documents signed. (Thames and Tairua)
- **Family history**. If this is your hobby, the local branches of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists can help you every month (Mercury Bay and Thames)
- **Crochet Club** (Mercury Bay)
- **Toddler Time** fun morning of stories and games each week, (Mercury Bay, Thames and Tairua)
- **After-school Lego brick-building afternoons**. (Mercury Bay, Thames and Tairua)
- **School holiday programmes** at all three libraries always book out quickly

[facebook.com/tcdclibraries](https://www.facebook.com/tcdclibraries)



There's two apps available through both the Apple and Android app stores.



TCDC Libraries - put our catalogue in your pocket and lets you manage your library accounts on-the-go



ePlatform by Wheelers for access to our e-book and e-audiobook library. Many of our patrons tried reading e-books for the first time during the COVID-19 lockdown; it's a great way to make sure you're never caught without a book.

Community libraries

Libraries in Coromandel Town, Pauanui, Whangamata, Hahei, Kuaotunu and Ferry Landing are community libraries; run separately by groups of volunteers and each have their own separate rules and registrations.

[tcdc.govt.nz/communitylibraries](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/communitylibraries)

Whangamata Library

620 Port Road - 07 865 7416
Mon to Fri: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 10am - 12pm

Coromandel Town Library

130 Kapanga Road
Mon, Tues and Thurs: 10am - 1pm
Wed and Fri: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 10am - 12pm

Pauanui Library

23 Centre Way - 07 864 8105
Mon to Sat: 9.30am - 12pm



THAMES - COROMANDEL
District Libraries
discover connect enjoy

CONTACT YOUR LIBRARY

THAMES LIBRARY
503 MACKAY ST, THAMES
07 868 6616
thameslibrary@tcdc.govt.nz

TAIRUA LIBRARY
2 MANAIA RD, TAIRUA
07 864 7960
tairualibrary@tcdc.govt.nz

MERCURY BAY LIBRARY
22 VICTORIA ST, WHITIANGA
07 866 4776
mblibrary@tcdc.govt.nz

OPENING HOURS:

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri: 9am - 5pm. Wednesday: 9:30pm - 5pm. Saturday: 9am - 12pm.

[tcdc.govt.nz/library](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/library)



STAY ALIVE ON 25
DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS!

Stay Alive On 25

As the weather warms up and weekend escapes become more enticing, road safety experts are reminding drivers that properly planning for your car journey can save lives.

Ingrid Le Fevre, the road safety co-ordinator for east Waikato, says the COVID-19 lockdowns quietened the roads for periods of 2020, and encourages people to bring this unhurried pace of life to their summer driving.

"We're hoping that people will drive a lot slower," Ingrid says.

Coromandel roads require sharp focus while driving

"Motorists need to be aware of speed limits, and that Coromandel roads are really windy. You do need to drive more slowly than what you're used to," Ingrid says. "Our roads are windy, have no street lighting in rural areas, can be slippery and there may be gravel on the road, cyclists or effluent – you don't know what's around the next corner so expect the unexpected."

Road closures are also unexpected, so it's important people are ready to take a detour, which might involve driving for much longer than expected. Snacks and extra water are vital as delays can be significant, particularly if it involves a slower drive on an unsealed road.

"If you're going away to a gig or event you

prepare – and driving a car is literally like preparing to go to an event. You get your keys, you need to be fuelled up, your windows need to be clean, your tyres need to be ready, and you need to have a rego and WOF," Ingrid says.

"Put phones on silent or in your glovebox, so you're 100 per cent focused on the drive.

If you need to have Google Maps, make sure it's not in your view so you're just listening to it. If you have a co-driver, they can be in charge of the phone, snacks, water, and where you're going to stop for your two-hourly rest breaks. It's a team effort."

Other helpful tips include getting enough sleep prior to your trip and making sure you've packed a sleeping bag and warm clothes if you're planning to crash at a friend's for the night. And of course: "As soon as you get in the car, your seatbelt goes on – not halfway down the driveway. You're more likely to have an accident really close to home than you are on a trip," Ingrid says.

Ingrid also encouraged drivers to take on responsibility by reporting hazards they come across (such as an overhanging tree or slip) to 0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49) or nzta.govt.nz/traffic-and-travel-information or our Council on 07 868 0200.

Our Council offers workshops on combating fatigue and refreshers of the road code. Ingrid said those who have completed the courses speak highly of them and feel much



more confident, as many drivers don't revisit the road code after passing their driving test as a teenager.

To put your name down for a workshop, get in touch with us on 07 868 0200 or tcdc.govt.nz

You can also visit the 'Safer Coromandel' Facebook page for more information on staying safe, and to go in the draw to win road safety prizes throughout summer [Facebook.com/SaferCoromandel](https://www.facebook.com/SaferCoromandel)



FREE 2020-2021 ADULT CYCLE SKILLS COURSES

With the increase of more people out cycling, we invite you to put your name down for our FREE Adult Cycles Skills Course. Benefit from upskilling your cycle and road skills and bike maintenance knowledge, and many other tips. These are being held across East Waikato and are limited to 12 people per course. Call our Council on 07 868 0200 to book your space.



Group sessions with maximum number of 12, booking is essential!

Phone **Thames-Coromandel District Council** on 07 868 0200 to book your space!



DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS!

Check journeys.nzta.govt.nz before you travel

If you see an issue with the State Highway call The NZ Transport Agency on 0800 44 44 49

For local roads call **Thames-Coromandel District Council: 07 868 0200**

For emergencies call: 111



Join us, it could change your life.



St John
Here for Life

Working with a dedicated team, learning new skills and giving something valuable back to your community can be incredibly rewarding.

Are you 18 years or older, have held a full NZ drivers license for at least 12 months (or completed an approved NZTA Defensive Driving Course if less than 12 months), have a clean Police and driver record, and can commit to ongoing clinical and station training? If so, we would love to hear from you!

Our operational volunteers play a critical role, working alongside our permanent staff to respond to emergencies and provide medical cover at pre-planned events.

At St John, we understand our volunteers have commitments and therefore promote flexible volunteering options.

To find out how you can train to become a St John volunteer, contact **Coromandel Station on (07) 866 8279**. You'll never look back!

We are ALL Civil Defence

The aim of our Council's Emergency Management Unit is to ensure the safety of people, property and the environment.

Some of their role includes identifying significant hazards in our communities, determining vulnerability to these hazards, and building resilience to recover from significant events.

Civil Defence is us working together with Emergency Services and you to mobilise resources to cope with disasters.

While COVID-19 lockdown was a challenge, there's inspiring stories of

our local Community Emergency Response Groups working together to support their neighbours.

A community response plan helps everyone understand how to help each other in an emergency in your neighbourhood.

We work with you to identify strengths, resources, risks and solutions to help your community get through an emergency.

tcdc.govt.nz/emu

TWO TALES OF COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Kuaotunu

The double blessing for the village of Kuaotunu during lockdown was a constant refrain: how lucky we were to be in New Zealand and how lucky we were to be on the Coromandel.

This positivity was a key feature of the COVID-19 Kuaotunu Community Emergency Response Team (KCERT) made up of the Kuaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association (KRRA), Kuaotunu Search and Rescue (KSAR), and local volunteer Fire and Emergency Service (FENZ).

The response to the pandemic was the group's first emergency, so what could've been a trial by fire was actually a smooth process thanks to everyone involved. St John, local health professionals and community liaison volunteers chipped in.

Within 24 hours of lockdown through regular Zoom meetings, support was there for smaller neighbouring areas like Rings Beach, Otama, Opito and Matapaua.

A 2019 civil defence questionnaire provided a database to match against anyone isolating in Kuaotunu during this time and needing assistance with groceries, medication or just a friendly check in and a dedicated Facebook page offered information and support.



KCERT member Jose Kakebeeke and the team made sure the message was clear.

The KSAR landcruiser did regular patrols providing a visible presence that emergency service assistance was on hand.

The Kuaotunu community prides itself on being inclusive and kind – a collective of diverse and wonderful people. We're proud to have supported Kuaotunu through lockdown and feel equipped to take on future emergencies and challenges that come our way.

Te Puru

As a small seaside village that's experienced more than its fair share of natural disasters (14 in the past 20 years), we're used to having to take care of ourselves and be prepared.

The COVID-19 lockdown event saw our preparedness pay off; with systems already in place we sprung immediately into action.

With the support of Council, we brought together a core group of locals to form an emergency response committee.

The most important part was ensuring we were in regular contact with all our residents and everyone got the support needed. With a mix of old-fashioned telephone tree calls and modern auto-text alerts, we had everyone covered.

One amazing resident offered to shop for anyone over 70, and this was very well received. Others shopped for their neighbours and older friends in the community. It was a great time of local care and support of each other.

Even with the best intentions, sometimes outside help just can't reach us quickly, due to geography and the one road in and out. So, even if our plan isn't perfect, it's a good start and gives us a good set of guidelines to work with.

tcdc.govt.nz/emu

GET READY – BE PREPARED

In New Zealand, emergencies can happen anywhere, any time, and without warning.

The good news is that there are simple steps you can take to make sure you, and the people you care about, are ready to get through. Check out this handy website with everything you need to get ready – getready.govt.nz or stop into your local council office to pick up resources to help you prepare.



RADIO



KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS



ONLINE



EMERGENCY MOBILE ALERT

IN AN EMERGENCY
STAY SAFE
STAY INFORMED



THAMES-COROMANDEL DC
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Putting waste to good use

The Seagull Centre in Thames has been a leader in waste minimisation since it began operating in 2004 – and now the Seagull is spreading its wings to establish colonies in other towns in the Coromandel.

In August 2020, the Seagull Centre was nominated for a Beautiful NZ award in the Community Environmental Initiative category. In 2017, the centre won the Hauraki Coromandel Business Award for Excellence in Sustainable Practices.

How the Seagull Centre works:

The premise of the Seagull Centre is simple: it accepts goods that would otherwise end up in landfill and sells them at an affordable price. It is self-funded and provides local employment and affordable goods.

It is a registered charitable trust that operates as a social enterprise, meaning it is community-orientated but is run on business terms.

“The Seagull Centre’s strategy is to add value and extend the life of things that otherwise would have been dumped,” Seagull Centre Manager Manus Pretorius says.

People in Thames have known for years that if they’ve got things they no longer need, but that are still usable or can be repaired or repurposed, they can drop them off at the Seagull Centre. They also know that if they need items ranging from clothes, hardware,

electronics, furniture – pretty much anything – they can probably find it there too.

Electronics are tested before they go on sale to make sure they work and if they don’t, or can’t be fixed, the parts are recycled as much as possible. E-waste is accepted for a small donation as it costs money for these to be recycled properly.

In 2019, the Seagull Centre expanded onto the site between its shop area and the Refuse Transfer Station (RTS), creating a new drive-through drop-off area, a sorting shed and relocating two disused classrooms from a local primary school and repurposing them for workshop space. This has allowed the centre to significantly increase its operations and introduce new initiatives.



Thames Ward Councillor Martin Rodley officially opened the Seagull Centre Resource Recovery Park expansion in January 2020.

Wood Waste Initiative

This is intended to capture some of the building trades wood waste that otherwise would go to landfill: offcuts that builders don’t need, as long as the pieces are one metre or longer. Staff will denail the wood and sort it ready for sale. MDF will be considered if it’s undamaged, otherwise it soaks up moisture.

“What’s driven this is, with our new drop-off centre, traffic volumes have increased substantially and we’re getting waste products we didn’t get before,” Manus says.

“The message for builders is, consider us as a drop-off facility – reduce your waste and the cost of what you’re putting into landfill,” he says.

“We’ll start with the wood and look at what other materials we can take,” Manus says. “There’s a handyman market in Thames that wants this.”

Seagull Mobility

The Seagull Centre is joining forces in late 2020 with Mobilise Thames, which will close its Mackay St operation and move into the Seagull Centre site, using the old Re-Cycle Thames workshop and showroom containers. The new “Seagull Mobility” will provide sales, repairs and refurbishment for mobility scooters and mobility aids. The facility will be located near the drop-off point in the Seagull Centre’s new expansion area.

Customers will be able to drive up to the facility, which will be safely out of the way of the Seagull Centre’s other operations.

Seagull Colonies

Community groups in Whitianga and Whangamata are inspired by the success of the Seagull Centre and want to start their own operations.

The new RTS in Whitianga is being looked at to site a Seagull-style operation and sites in Whangamata are being considered.

Manus from the Seagull Centre is helping with the background work to them get up and running using the Seagull model.

“The idea is they’re independent, but collaborative – a network,” Manus says.

Coromandel Town already has its own operation mining the waste stream – the Goldmine Reuse Centre next to the RTS on Hauraki Road.

[facebook.com/TheGoldmineReUseCentre](https://www.facebook.com/TheGoldmineReUseCentre)

[facebook.com/seagullcentre](https://www.facebook.com/seagullcentre)

Have something to donate?

- Go to Burke Street in Thames as if you were going to the RTS and pull in to the left where a directional sign says “Cars”.
- Staff will help you sort through your items and pull out anything that can be sold or reconditioned in their new workshop.
- Carry on to the RTS with anything left over – you’ll be paying less to tip now that your load’s been lightened, and you’ll be putting less into landfill.

LOVE THE COROMANDEL? SO DO WE.

Let's get recycling right.



PLACE YOUR COUNCIL BAGS ON THE KERBSIDE.

Bags hung from trees or poles, or left in a cage, will not be collected.



REPORT FLY-TIPPING
to the Council.



**IF YOU'RE LEAVING
TOWN BEFORE YOUR
COLLECTION DAY,**
drop off your rubbish
and recycling to one of
seven transfer stations
on the Coromandel.

**PLEASE PLACE
ONLY CLEAN
RECYCLING IN YOUR
YELLOW WHEELIE BIN**
and check the lid for
what you can recycle.



**CANS, STEEL
& ALUMINIUM**



**PLASTIC CONTAINERS
(rinsed with lids off)**



**PLASTIC
TYPES
1 & 2 ONLY**



**PAPER, CARDBOARD
(flattened)
NEWSPAPER & MAGAZINES**



**No refuse, oven-proof glass,
ceramics, plastic bags,
hot ashes or liquids**



MAKE SURE YOUR GLASS CRATE IS NOT OVERFILLED

and if your crate is
broken contact the
council for a new one.



TAKE YOUR EXCESS RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

to one of seven
transfer stations on
the Coromandel.

**WANT A BIN FOR
YOUR REFUSE?**
Get a Smart Bin!
Order online now.



Phone, Email or Visit us Online today:

PHONE 0800 4 MY BIN [0800 469 246]

EMAIL info@smartbins.co.nz

ONLINE www.smartenvironmental.co.nz



smart
environmental



Smart Environmental, loving the Coromandel for over thirty years. #GoodforyourSoul



KERBSIDE RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

CHECK THE SCHEDULE FOR YOUR AREA AT
TCDC.GOV.T.NZ/KERBSIDE
OR ASK AT ONE OF OUR COUNCIL SERVICE CENTRES



REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS (RTS)

Check www.tcdc.govt.nz/rts for summer RTS hours.
Or ask at one of our Council service centres.

Use one of our seven Refuse Transfer Stations if you're:
Leaving town before your collection day - drop off your blue Council rubbish bags and recycling for no charge.

Missed your collection? Don't leave your blue bag on the street for the next collection, drop it at the local RTS.

LOCATIONS

Coromandel Town

525 Hauraki Rd
07 866 7616

Matarangi*

101 Matarangi Dr
07 866 5427

Whitianga

237 South Highway
07 866 2954

Tairua*

3 Red Bridge Rd
07 864 7639

Pauanui*

887 Hikuai Settlement Rd
07 864 7949

Whangamata*

2755 SH25 Waihi-Whangamata Rd
07 865 9723

Thames

102 Burke St
07 868 9637

**24/7 drop-off facility for blue
Council rubbish bags and recycling*

DROP-OFF RUBBISH & RECYCLING SITES

Besides our RTS, we have portable rubbish compactors and these two 24/7 drop-off locations:

Whangapoua

Tangiara Ave, in the car park by the shop

Opito Bay

350m up Matapoua Bay Road off Black Jack Road



PORTABLE RUBBISH COMPACTORS

LOCATIONS:

Check tcdc.govt.nz/rubbishcompactors for the locations and cost per bag of our portable rubbish compactors.

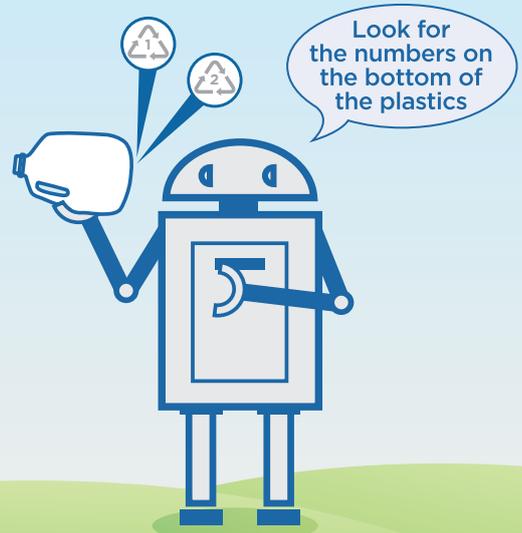
PLASTIC RECYCLING



Only plastics 1 & 2
are collected
for recycling



Plus tins, paper & cardboard as usual



In mid-2020 we moved to only accepting plastic types 1 & 2 for recycling in our Kerbside collections and at our Refuse Transfer Stations.

Check your plastic for the number 1 or 2 inside a triangle. If the number is different, or there is no number, we can't accept it for recycling. Please put it in your rubbish for disposal.

WHY THE CHANGE?

Plastics numbered 1 and 2 can be recycled within New Zealand but types 3 to 7 are usually shipped overseas for processing and are no longer accepted by most global markets.

A number of initiatives have been investigated across New Zealand for recycling plastics 3 to 7, however the viability of this remains largely impractical, so these plastics will generally go to landfill in New Zealand for now.

We are asking that people on the Coromandel avoid buying products that use non-recyclable plastic where possible, in order to lessen the amount of plastic going into landfill.

WHAT ARE PLASTICS 1 & 2?

Most hard plastics have a number on the bottom inside a triangle. The number indicates the type of plastic.



POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE (PET/E)

Soft drink bottles, condiment/food jars, some food trays



HIGH-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE (HDPE)

Water bottles, milk bottles, cleaning products, personal cosmetics

The only way to be absolutely sure your plastic is recyclable is to check for the number.

Plastic meat trays, for example, can be made from either 1, 3, 5 or 6.



POLYVINYL CHLORIDE (PVC)

Takeaway containers, some meat trays, plumbing pipes, flexible packaging, bags



LOW-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE (LDPE)

Squeezable bottles, soft plastics such as bags and cling film



POLYPROPYLENE (PP)

Hard containers, medicine bottles, takeaway containers, some meat trays, bottle caps



POLYSTYRENE (PS) AND EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE (EPS)

Plastic plates and cutlery, sushi packs, some meat trays, CD/DVD cases, Styrofoam/polystyrene



COMPOSITES AND POLYLACTIC ACID (PLA)

Any plastic that is not one of the above plus items made from natural materials such as corn starch, tapioca, sugar cane. These 'natural plastics' cannot be recycled in New Zealand. They can biodegrade in most home composting situations if left exposed to natural elements.

Want more information on plastic? Go to recycle.co.nz



DISPOSE OF YOUR BATTERIES RESPONSIBLY.

Please don't try to recycle them or put them out with general rubbish! Take them to the hazardous waste section of your nearest RTS. Batteries start fires.

What can you recycle on the Coromandel?



What goes in your wheelie bin?

Paper, Cardboard, Cans & Plastic 



Paper & Cardboard



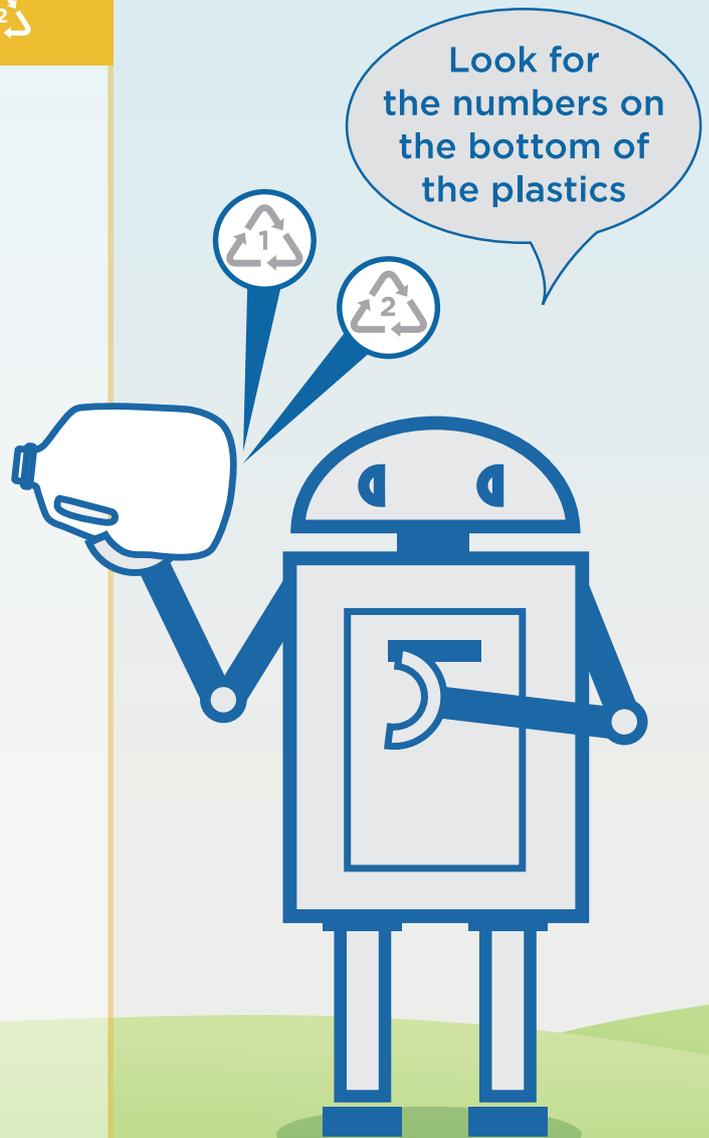
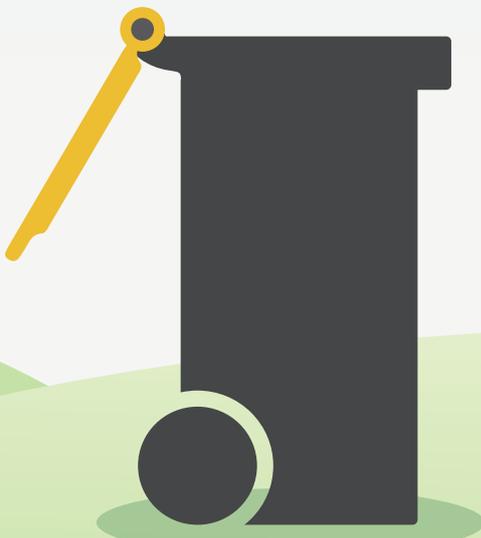
Aluminium & tin cans



Only Plastic



Discard lids and rinse plastic item clean. (Other numbers, or no number, put in the rubbish.)





What goes in your TCDC crate?

Glass only



Glass Bottles & Glass Jars

Rinse clean and do not overfill crate



Items to keep out of your recycling

When in doubt, keep it out



Household rubbish



Nappies & sanitary items



Plastics 3 to 7 or without a number



Food scraps & garden waste



Building waste



Polystyrene



Pyrex, glasses, light bulbs, mirrors & windows



Ceramics



Foil packaging



Tetra Pak cartons



Electronics & batteries



Clothes & shoes

TOP TIPS TO REDUCE WASTE GOING TO LANDFILL

REDUCE PREVENT WASTE

Say no to unnecessary single-use items like coffee cups and straws, and think twice before you buy something new.

Food waste is a huge component: **157,389 tonnes** of food waste every year goes to landfill in New Zealand.

That discarded food is worth **\$1.17 billion EACH YEAR**

Love Food Hate Waste has great tips on reducing food waste lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz

REUSE

Investing in a few handy items like a reusable water bottle, a keep cup and a stash of reusable bags for your groceries can make a huge dent in your waste footprint.

And why not get creative and find ways to upcycle and reuse objects that you might otherwise throw away?

RECYCLE

Recycling is a great way to ensure that materials like plastic, glass and aluminium can be used over and over again and keep them out of landfill.

But it's essential that you recycle right - by rinsing your recyclables clean and following our Council's recycling guidance on the preceding pages.

The Ministry for the Environment has great tips on how to work towards a waste-free future bit.ly/3mDMcK6



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FREEDOM CAMPING – WHERE SHOULD IT GO?



Our bylaw is up for review this summer.
Find out more about the current sites – and
share your suggestions of where it should go.

tcdc.govt.nz/freedomcampingreview

— BE IN TO — **WIN**



Fill in our survey with a chance to win a \$500 petrol voucher.



*How can our Council
do better getting
out news to you?*



*Do you enjoy Council's
Our Coromandel
magazine?*



*Do you know about
our website and social
media channels?*

tcdc.govt.nz/survey2020



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