

2021-2022

# OUR COROMANDEL

## THE BLUE Revolution

WE'RE RIDING THE CREST OF THE SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE WAVE

## CASTING *the lines*

WE CHECK OUT MAYOR SANDRA AND CLARKE GAYFORD'S FISHING SKILLS

## THE ROAD *less travelled*

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# Welcome

TO OUR COROMANDEL 2021-2022

The blue revolution, as we ride the crest of the aquaculture wave, is the focus of this annual edition of “Our Coromandel”.

We look at how much the farmed aquaculture industry contributes to our district economically and socially, and what infrastructure builds our Council has underway with to help this sector thrive. See P42-43 for updates on the development of two commercial wharves at Kōpū, and 60km north at Te Ariki Tahi/Sugarloaf Wharf in Coromandel Harbour, while P8-18 has features on our farmed mussel and oyster industries and how these are diversifying to meet environmental and economic changes. We also highlight the future potential for seaweed as a commercial sector, and what work is going on around the Coromandel in this space.

We also focus on what’s being done to manage our oceans sustainably with kaitiakitanga principles, so we can still

keep on doing things like the good old Kiwi past time of recreational fishing. We cast a line out with Mayor Sandra Goudie on the Coromandel Wharf as she shares what projects and issues our Council has been dealing with over the past year (p4-5), while Clarke Gayford TV Host of “Fish of the Day,” shares his experiences of Tairua’s best fishing and diving spots (P22-23).

The Coromandel is a busy hub, and you can find out more about what Council related projects are happening in your neighbourhood (P28-39), as well as how we’re looking at the local government reforms – particularly the Three Waters – and the impact to our district (P146-147).

And as always, we have stories that showcase our amazing locals, who are creating art, producing homegrown food and products, track and trail building, event making, and contributing to preserving our heritage and biodiversity.

*Our Coromandel* is produced in-house by Council staff and targeted generally at our non-permanent ratepayers (which is around 50 per cent of you). The purpose of the magazine is to share with you what we’ve been working on as a Council, and show where your rates are being spent. The magazine also allows us to promote the fantastic work our local businesses and community groups are up to.

Whether you live here year round, part time or are just visiting – the one thing we all have in common is our love for the Coromandel. Let’s make sure we all look after it together. Thanks for the contribution you make here – as a Council we do our best to make sure we deliver on what we say we will. We value your thoughts and feedback so drop us a line anytime.

*The TCDC team*

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- Editorial contact: [communications@tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:communications@tcdc.govt.nz)

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1611 Manaia Road, Coromandel Town. Ph 07-866 8028 or [freshoysters.co.nz](http://freshoysters.co.nz)  
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**A friendly reminder.** If you are wanting to enrol in next year’s local body elections – you receive one vote per property. [tcdc.govt.nz/elections](http://tcdc.govt.nz/elections)



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# Casting out the lines with **MAYOR SANDRA**



When it comes to unwinding and finding a moment for reflection, Mayor Sandra Goudie is like many of us who live and holiday on the Coromandel, choosing a spot of fishing as her time out. We caught up with Mayor Sandra at the Coromandel Wharf as she fished and talked about how the Coromandel has fared over the past 12 months, and what she sees coming down the line.

**Q** WHAT'S TAKEN UP A LOT OF YOUR FOCUS FOR 2021?

## MAYOR SANDRA

Our Long Term Plan. Not just for me, but our councillors, community board members, Council staff and of course, our communities. It was a big reality check. There's a real distinction between what we must do (legislatively and contractually) as a council, and then our obligation to consider what is being requested by our communities. So, when we went out for public consultation, we identified those two lists. The must-do list was explicit, and the nice-to-have list was anything added in, at the request of councillors, on behalf of their communities. There was a mix of so many different pressures and while it was a lot of work, it was rewarding. The way we clearly presented the information to our communities was reflected in the quality and quantity of submissions that we received. And the process was satisfactory in that everything was open and laid bare. From a council perspective, there will always be differing views, but we had all the information we needed to have robust debate and decisions made by a majority.





PEOPLE OF ALL AGES CAN ENJOY FISHING ON THE COROMANDEL. IT'S A GREAT PAST-TIME TO GET OUT, GET SOME FRESH AIR, ENJOY NATURE, AND REMEMBER TO ONLY TAKE ENOUGH FOR WHAT YOU CAN EAT.



## Q WHAT ABOUT COMMUNITY SATISFACTION IN THOSE DECISIONS?

**MAYOR SANDRA**

It's not easy to manage everyone's expectations. People have so many differing views and stances and we must manage that spectrum of needs on a tight budget – and still make things happen. I think we've done incredibly well to achieve what we have so far, and everyone's pulled together. The positives have outweighed the negatives, but we're all acutely aware we still consistently need to strive to do things better.

## Q THE LTP WAS SIGNED OFF IN JUNE. IT'S A HUGE PIECE OF WORK WHICH WILL BE REVISITED IN THREE YEARS' TIME. MEANWHILE, YOU HAVE THE GOVERNMENT'S THREE WATERS REFORM COMING HARD AND FAST AT YOU – HOW IS THIS IMPACTING YOUR COUNCIL ALREADY?

**MAYOR SANDRA**

It's incredibly tough for elected members, but also staff, to wrap our heads around the magnitude of change that is coming down the line and to understand the details, the impact and repercussions – not just from a financial perspective, but also what it will mean for our communities in a social step change. Not only is there the Three Waters reform, there's the planned overhaul of the Resource Management Act and a review of the look and shape of how local government operates. So, from coming out of an extremely satisfying process of signing off on our LTP, to now be wrapping our heads around the details of how all these reforms may work, is truly a big ask of everyone. And that's on top of having to deal with another COVID lockdown again. (You can read more about the Three Waters Reform and our Council on P146-147)

## Q THE GOVERNMENT REFORMS ARE MOMENTOUS – THEN THERE IS ALSO THE BIG IMPACT THE COROMANDEL WILL SEE FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN OUR DISTRICT. TELL US MORE ABOUT THAT?

**MAYOR SANDRA**

We were successful in putting together two very credible applications to the Provincial Growth Fund. Those two aquaculture-related projects, with a total investment of nearly \$30million, are close to commencing at Kōpū and TeAriki Tahī/Sugarloaf Wharf in Coromandel Harbour (See P42-43). Both builds will deliver economic benefits to the region, including significant employment. We've also submitted an application to Kainga Ora (Housing NZ) for nearly \$20million to accelerate much needed housing opportunities in Thames. (Read more on P48-49)

## Q WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS HELPED GET THESE PROJECTS ACROSS THE LINE?

**MAYOR SANDRA**

Partnerships and relationships. There's been a huge strengthening of partnerships between our Council and agencies like Waka Kotahi (NZTA), Kainga Ora (Housing NZ), Department of Conservation, District Health Board, New Zealand Police and the Waikato Regional Council – and thanks go to Chair Russ Rimmington and Chair and CE Chris McLay for their leadership in that space. Personally, for me, I'm really enjoying our partnerships and collaboration with iwi. It's an absolute joy. I've spent a lot of time with Pare Hauraki and Hauraki Collective representatives and those relationships are an invaluable and humbling part of my role as Mayor.

## Q “ANOTHER ASPECT OF YOUR JOB IS LISTENING AND BEING AVAILABLE TO YOUR COMMUNITIES. WHAT'S THAT EXPERIENCE BEEN LIKE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?”

**MAYOR SANDRA**

I welcome the many emails and phone calls that people come to me with – because I want to hear about issues and problems before things escalate. We can only help if we know what is going on – and the Coromandel is a huge place geographically to keep across. Communities bringing their issues to my attention means we can work with staff and our agency partners to try and get resolutions. For our communities in the next 12 months, there's no doubt we're up for some challenges. How we meet and deal with them will prove the Coromandel's mettle. We've been tested many times before, whether that's enduring extreme weather events or COVID lockdowns, but we rise above it, get through it, and come out the other side intact and continue on, whatever the change may be.

We are in a constant paradigm of change and we need to roll with it. Strength and faith are what shape us. Being always mindful of others will get us all through and ready to take on the next challenge. It's a bit like fishing – having a bit of patience and perseverance – will help net the prize.

**sandra.goudie@tcdc.govt.nz**



# BACK TO WHERE

A team approach has and always will sit at the heart of Whangamata Real Estate. The team might have been split across two offices in Port Road and Ocean Road up until now, they have moved back to where they began, more than 65 years ago. Their new office, in the old Argos Restaurant is next door to the original real estate agency, Achilles Cabins and Land Agency JV Iremonger - which later became Whangamata Real Estate.

Both the Port Road and Ocean Road teams have moved in together at their spacious new surroundings at 328 Ocean Road, together with a small office in Onemana run by Julian West and a presence in Whiritoa managed by Dave Anderson and Renee Jacobsen.

A new logo, simplified systems and having everyone under one roof means a more focused approach and increased motivation among the team. The familiar green colour of Whangamata Real Estate keeps moving with the times and looks to stay on top - living up to its motto: 'Don't just dream it, live it'.



LICENSED REAA 2008

*Don't just dream it, live it*





# IT ALL STARTED...



Visit us at  
328 Ocean Rd,  
Whangamata

328 Ocean Road, Whangamata 3620  
reception@whangamatarealestate.co.nz

07 865 8499  
whangamatarealestate.co.nz



# The **blue** revolution

*The Coromandel is riding the crest of New Zealand's aquaculture wave. Drive down the Coromandel coastline on a bluebird day and you will see collections of recreational fishers making the most of the fertile snapper feeding grounds amongst the region's mussel beds.*

**M**ussel beds are a well-known spot to land a good feed of fish, but also one vital to the economic prosperity of our region.

With 30 percent of New Zealand's Greenshell mussels produced just off the Coromandel coastline and about 24 percent of New Zealand's Pacific Oysters also grown here, our contribution to New Zealand's aquaculture industry is significant.

### **A growing industry**

Aquaculture brings in more than \$70 million a year to the region and creates about 400 industry-related jobs. Product from our region generates about \$73 million in exports and a further \$30 million in New Zealand retail sales (NZIER 2017). And depending on who you speak to, there is still untapped potential for the industry to continue to grow, not only in the Coromandel, but nationwide.

The Government has set a target for New Zealand's aquaculture industry to become a \$3 billion industry, which will contribute to the world's demand for sustainable food protein.

Aquaculture has been called New Zealand's primary industry of the future, but while potential abounds, so do the challenges.

With more than 25 years in the aquaculture industry in New Zealand there is not much Sanford's General Manager of Aquaculture, Ted Culley, doesn't know about the industry.

The Coromandel is Sanford's second biggest producer of Greenshell mussels, behind Marlborough.

The Coromandel produces 3000 tonnes of Greenshell mussels annually that are shipped to their Tauranga joint venture plant for processing. Sanford's mussel farms stretch from Great Barrier Island to the coastal ribbon around Coromandel, including Wilson's Bay. They are also part of a consortium for a newly consented marine farm to grow mussels covering 470 hectares in the Firth of Thames.

Culley doesn't believe there is a lot of space left in the region for more mussel farm development, particularly given the current specifically defined Aquaculture Management Areas.

He says getting consents for water use around New Zealand is one of the biggest challenges facing the aquaculture industry's growth.

"I think in terms of mussels the Coromandel has probably expanded as much as it can in



TED CULLEY, SANFORD'S GM OF AQUACULTURE.

terms of area. It's now down to working out how we make that area more productive and efficient," he says.

Culley has watched the debates over the sustainability of the industry and the potential to establish mussel spat farms in the area just off Whitianga with interest.

### **New developments and sustainability**

Local Coromandel mussel farmer Peter Bull and local iwi Ngāti Hei had a resource consent application approved last year to establish 30ha of spat farm off the north-west coast of Whitianga.

The application attracted 95 submissions in opposition. An independent commission has granted them a 20-year consent.

Other aquaculture consents currently being considered by the Waikato Regional Council in the area include one by Pare Hauraki Kaimoana to occupy 240 hectares of fin fish farming space in the Firth of Thames.

The space, known as the Coromandel Marine Farming Zone, is located about 10 kilometres offshore of Coromandel Town. Pare Hauraki Kaimoana propose farming kingfish in the space and have had two years to prepare and submit their application.

Culley says he knows little of the fin fish plan but for his industry he says mussel farming is one of the most sustainable options for aquaculture.

"One of the things about this job is I am lucky enough to produce the most sustainable protein in the world."

He calls mussel farming "ranching".

"We are simply holding mussels on the rope and allowing the pasture, in this case water, to run over them. All the mussels are doing is taking nutrients and phytoplankton (tiny algae) from the environment and cleaning the water. We're actually improving the health of our Gulf rather than causing detriment," he says.

**"Aquaculture has been called New Zealand's primary industry of the future, but while potential abounds, so do the challenges."**

Mussel farms have also been shown to create improvements in benthic environments (the delicate ecosystem of the sea floor) where trawling or dredging has taken place. Mussel shells from Sanford's operations are currently being used to restore the natural mussel beds of the Hauraki Gulf. The historic beds used to act as filters for the Gulf before dredging and harvesting during the 1950s stripped them bare.

At their prime the beds could have filtered the water of the Firth of Thames in a day. Now it would take two years for them to do this.

Spent mussel shells from Sanford are being spread across the Gulf as part of the Revive our Gulf project in partnership with iwi, Auckland Council, University of Auckland, The Nature Conservancy and others. The shells regenerate new mussel beds and a place for fish and thousands of different invertebrates to thrive.

Culley believes the other biggest threat facing the expansion of aquaculture, alongside getting space to farm, is the increased sedimentation and nutrients running off our land and into our waterways and estuaries.

"That sedimentation kills off the benthic environment. There was a study done in Marlborough that showed although forestry has only 16 percent of the land area in the region it was responsible for 32 percent of the sedimentation in our waterways. It's not just forestry, it's agriculture and industry contributing to that as well," he says.

### **The future of mussel farming and new aquaculture technology**

Culley believes spat will be key to maintaining and growing the future of mussel farming in New Zealand and the Coromandel.

Hatchery production of mussel spat is now a reality thanks to the SPATnz Primary Growth Partnership Programme funded by Sanford and the Ministry for Primary Industries.

*Continued following page.*



Traditionally, spat have been caught from the wild, encouraged to grow on ropes, like the spat farm proposed off Whitianga. Hatchery spat are selectively bred from mussel families with proven fast-growing qualities and then sent out to mussel farms to grow out.

The SPATnz project has proven hatchery spat can grow twice as fast as spat caught in the wild and the work is expected to be worth \$200 million a year to the wider New Zealand economy.

Culley says this type of research will be key to growing the aquaculture industry in the Coromandel and around New Zealand.

The other major aquaculture player in the Coromandel Industry, iwi owned Moana New Zealand, is also benefiting from advancements in aquaculture farming techniques.

Created as part of the Maori Fisheries Settlement Act the company is owned by 58 iwi nationwide.

General Manager of Aquaculture for Moana New Zealand, Fiona Wikaira, says it has about 38.5 hectares of oyster farms in the Coromandel region stretching from McGregor's Bay to Te Kouma and Preece Point.

Its juvenile spat comes from Nelson at around 50mm in size and is grown out to full size on their farms here. The company produces about 1.2 million dozen oysters a year and 200,000 dozen of those are grown in the Coromandel. It aims to more than double production in the Coromandel from its current level of 200,000 dozen by 2026 and has committed to investing more than \$21million into the business to achieve this goal.

This has seen Moana recently investing in flip farming technology that will see 99 percent of the current wooden oyster farm infrastructure removed from the water and, instead of growing oysters on sticks, the oysters will be grown in floating baskets.

Moana New Zealand currently uses about 18 percent of its 38.5 hectares available but new technologies will increase this to 63 percent by 2026.

“Flip farming removes the need for our staff to be working in the water to harvest the oysters and opens up a huge amount of water space to grow in areas that might traditionally be too muddy to get to, or where the water is too deep,” says Wikaira.

She says Moana has also been undergoing its own environmental review, looking at its impacts on harbours and estuaries

but also how the industry is impacted by surrounding land use.

Like Culley, Wikaira also believes one of the biggest threats to the industry is water quality and the impacts of what is running off land into our estuaries and harbours.

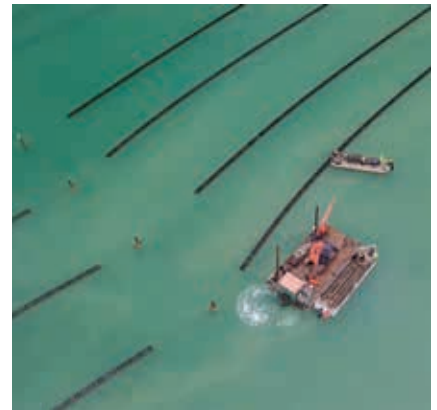
“We are growing one of the most sustainable food proteins in the world, that’s why the Government has earmarked it for growth, but our industry is also impacted by surrounding land use. We don’t feed our animals, they feed on what’s in the water and what’s in the water comes off the land,” she says.

#### **What we do on land affects our oceans**

Their claims come on the back of a Parliamentary Commissioner’s Report released in 2020 calling for an approach to managing estuaries that treats them and the waterways that feed them as a single entity from the mountains to the sea, ki uta ki tai.

The Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor also recently called for more effective management of cumulative effects to ensure that fishing and marine activities remain a way of life for future generations.

While our estuaries and harbours currently accumulate large amounts of whatever is



emptied into them, they also fall between the cracks when it comes to our Resource Management Act.

The Government’s Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge is seeking to understand and address some of these issues.

The Sustainable Seas Challenge was launched in 2014 and will run until 2024 with \$71 million in funding bringing together scientists, social scientists, economists and experts in mātauranga Māori from 30 organisations across New Zealand.

Together they are shaping what New Zealand’s Blue Economy might look like in the future. The initiative is involved in a number of projects in the Coromandel region.

Director Dr Julie Hall says when considering the Blue Economy and growing aquaculture, it’s not just about considering how things are done in the marine environment and what it can contribute economically, but also what has positive social, cultural and environmental outcomes as well.

“We do have degraded marine ecosystems around New Zealand, so we need to improve our management of our marine environment. To do that we need to take a holistic approach that considers the whole ecosystem – which includes humans and the things we do to work, live and play.”

MUSSEL FARMING IN THE COROMANDEL HARBOUR (FAR RIGHT) CONTRIBUTES VALUE NOT JUST IN THE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY BUT ALSO TRANSPORT, RETAILING, EDUCATION AND HOSPITALITY. MUSSELS ARE PULLED ONTO BARGES BY ROPES.

FIONA WIKAIRA (ABOVE LEFT) GENERAL MANAGER OF MOANA NZ. HER COMPANY RECEIVED \$11 MILLION OF PROVINCIAL GROWTH FUNDING TO ROLL OUT ‘FLIP FARMING’ TECHNOLOGY (RIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM) FOR ITS OYSTERS.

She says currently, businesses or operators get consent for an activity but what is not fully understood is the cumulative effects of all those consented activities working together.

“Unless you have a healthy ecosystem, you can’t have a strong, long-term blue economy. Our research is focused on developing tools and mechanisms to help solve the challenges all marine managers face to improve the health of the moana, and to maintain and grow Aotearoa’s blue economy,” she says.

She says research being done in partnership with local councils, community groups and iwi in Hawkes Bay and Kaipara, to investigate sedimentation and nutrient loading in harbours and estuaries will also have impact for our region.

“There is a continuum, and we’re looking at how changing sediment and nutrient levels will impact our harbours and estuaries.”

Essentially the more sediment, the less light gets into the water and eventually, with enough loading, plant and animal life starts to die. Higher nutrient loadings lead to algae blooms which strip oxygen from the water, and also lead to ecosystem degradation. Then other stressors like

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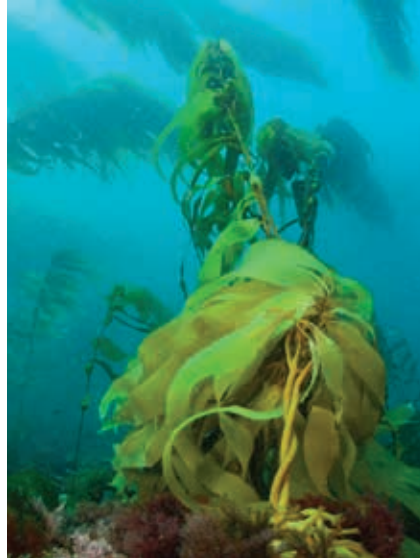


DR JULIE HALL, (ABOVE) IS PART OF THE SUSTAINABLE SEAS CHALLENGE TEAM. SHE HAS A BACKGROUND IN BOTH MARINE AND FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS WITH A SPECIAL INTEREST IN MICROBIAL FOOD WEBS, INCLUDING SEAWEEDS.  
PHOTO CREDIT LANA YOUNG

ECKLONIA (TOP MIDDLE AND LEFT), WHICH IS USED IN AGRICULTURAL, APICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS. TOP LEFT IMAGE PHOTO CREDIT DAVE ALLEN, SUSTAINABLE SEAS NATIONAL SCIENCE CHALLENGE

SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD (RIGHT) IS CAUGHT OR FARMED IN WAYS THAT CONSIDER THE LONG-TERM VITALITY OF HARVESTED SPECIES. PHOTO CREDIT FLEA PHOTOGRAPHY

BACKGROUND IMAGE PHOTO CREDIT LOUIS OLSEN



increasing ocean acidification and temperatures exacerbate the situation.

The growth of mussels and oysters can act as filters but only to a point.

“The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment has said we need to consider estuaries within our freshwater management system, it is ultimately where everything running off our land ends up,” says Dr Hall.

Other specific industry projects that the Sustainable Seas challenge is researching include Kohunga Kutai, a project creating mussel growing ropes from flax fibres, a biodegradable option that could help remove plastics from the mussel growing process. The flax ropes are also thought to be more attractive to growing spat.

Dr Hall says they also worked alongside Sanford on a project that tested using crushed mussel shells among mussel farms to combat ocean acidification.

Ocean acidification reduces the pH levels in the water and when that reduces it also removes CO<sub>2</sub> from the water. To make their shells, mussels need CO<sub>2</sub> so by using crushed shells around the mussel farms you increase the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the water which assists in growing the mussels and helps combat acidification.

**Seaweed the new frontier**

Dr Hall says they also have a project that is relevant to local seaweed companies

AgriSea and Wakame Fresh, called “*Building a Seaweed Sector*”.

“There is a huge amount of seaweed grown internationally but in New Zealand it is still a fledgling industry. We’re looking at it from the perspective of, how do we start this sector based on the principles of sustainability both in the marine environment and ensuring we maintain healthy ecosystems.”

In 2018, the global seaweed sector was valued at more than US\$13 billion. Globally

**“We’re looking at it from the perspective of, how do we start this sector based on the principles of sustainability ...”**

seaweed production has more than doubled in the last 20 years, and now more than 30 per cent of global aquaculture production volume is seaweed.

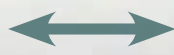
In New Zealand there are currently trials underway for growing seaweed on land, developing it into health and food products, using it to support agriculture and horticulture and using it as a feed supplement for cattle.

“There is not only the potential for some really high value products but there is also potential for environmental benefits in aquaculture farming done the right way,” says Dr Hall.

“The Government has identified aquaculture as a growth area for New Zealand and there is room for expansion and development of our Blue Economy, but we need to be mindful of the whole ecosystem as we do it,” she says.

# 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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# HEALING

## with Crystals and Stones

BY ROBERT SIMMONS

**For the past several decades, there has been avid interest in “stone energies” and their potential beneficial uses among people all over the world. When I encountered this phenomenon thirty-five years ago, I was a firm non-believer. My conventional education, which included four years at Yale University, left no room for such ideas in its materialistic mindset.**

Then I met my wife-to-be, a spiritual healer who used both her hands and an array of stones in her healing practice. She suggested that I meditate every morning while holding a piece of Moldavite – a meteoric gemstone to which I was attracted.



*Moldavite, the meteoric gemstone of inner evolution.*

After a few months with no clear results, there came a day in which, during my meditation, the Moldavite in my hand seemed to buzz with electricity, and the energy spread up my arm and poured into my heart. When it reached my heart, I felt a gentle “explosion” of inner Light, which then moved up and down my spine, sending me into a state of ecstatic bliss. After the intensity of the experience passed, I discovered that, for the first time, I could feel a spectrum of energy currents from a wide array of crystals and stones.

That experience overrode my materialistic beliefs, and it set me on a lifelong career, focusing on the mineral kingdom and the spiritual properties of its many members. During this time, I have met thousands of people who are sensitive to the vibratory currents of the stones. I have also been present hundreds of times to the dramatic event in which someone feels stone energies for the first time.

Even before I could feel the stones myself, I was aware that people were saying that various crystals emanated “healing energies.” They were wearing stones, meditating with them and creating stone “layouts” for purposes of bringing greater wellbeing to their bodies, minds and spirits.

I knew to my own satisfaction that stones can emanate subtle energies that feel very pleasant, and can even bring on mystical experiences. But what about healing the body?

This is a subject I have approached with caution, because physical health is an important subject, and one should not make unsubstantiated claims. Yet, people have a keen interest in the potential use of stones in healing, and they want suggestions in this area. I have written about this in my books, and I stress that healing with stones should not be a substitute for conventional medical treatment. It can supplement other healing regimes, but one should view this practice as experimental and not scientifically validated. My own writings come from meditating with stones and writing down the intuitions that come to me. As such, they are speculative.

However, I do believe that there is something about certain stones that can trigger inner spiritual experiences of great value. These experiences can catalyze psychological self-healing, and psychological wellbeing supports one’s physical health.



*Crystal workshop participants in Japan practice stone body layouts.*

Crystal healing is tied to Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, India, ancient Greece, and ancient Rome. In Greece, amethyst was believed to prevent intoxication and prevent hangovers. The Hopi Native Americans utilised quartz crystals to diagnose illnesses. Early physicians Pliny the Elder and Galen affirmed that certain crystals had medicinal properties. In Europe, the belief in the healing powers of crystal amulets persisted into the Middle Ages. In India, ancient Vedic crystal practices are still very much alive. In Great Britain, the Druids utilised stones for healing and magic. So we can see that the current interest in self-healing with stones has a long history.

I view the interest in crystals and stones as a sign of a worldwide spiritual revival and awakening, in which we re-establish our sense of loving connection with the Earth. If this is so, and if it grows, it may bring peace and wellbeing – the goal of healing – to many.

**Robert Simmons is co-owner of Heaven and Earth, a gallery of crystals, minerals, jewellery and stones in Tairua. His newest book is *The Alchemy of Stones*. He also authored *The Book of Stones, Stones of the New Consciousness, and Moldavite: Starborn Stone of Transformation*.**



*From left to right: Phenacite, crystal of visionary experience.*

*Azeztulite, stone of celestial Light.*

*Rosophia, stone of loving connection with the Earth.*

# Seaweed supercharged

*New Zealand and the Coromandel Peninsula is poised to become a world leader in the production of high value seaweed products.*



SEAWEED HARVEST TANE AND CLARE - COLLECTING ECKLONIA RADIATA.

**I**n three tanks of seawater near the Firth of Thames at the gateway to the Coromandel Peninsula, grows what could be the future of New Zealand's aquaculture industry.

Seaweed. Once considered the domain of alternative lifestylers who use it for fertilising their gardens, is having its moment, and New Zealand and the Coromandel is poised to become a world leader in its production.

Tane Bradley from pioneering Paeroa-based seaweed company AgriSea is positively fizzing about the development. It was 25-years-ago his mother Jill sold up the family home and moved to the Hauraki Plains with the dream of creating a sustainable business out of a product growing in abundance off our shores.

The tanks of seawater, near the Thames Airfield, are just one of AgriSea's latest projects. Alongside our Council and our water contractors Veolia, AgriSea are working with local Iwi, Ministry of Primary Industries, Callaghan Innovation, Waikato Regional Council, and the University of Waikato to trial growing a type of sea lettuce called Ulva, on land, at the Thames Airfield.

It's a practice already used in the United States and Australia. Alongside producing a high value seaweed product used in applications from agriculture to health and beauty products, it also helps clean up nitrogen and phosphorus from the nutrient rich Firth of Thames water they are using to grow the seaweed.

This is a pilot scale project that if successful and scaled up, could reduce tonnes of nutrient loading from the Firth of Thames every year.

It's just one of many projects AgriSea is working on. Tane laughs, saying they have come a long way from their roots 25-years-ago, where AgriSea was almost an underground operation.

In the last seven years AgriSea has hit its straps, its seaweed bio-stimulants are now stocked in Fonterra owned Farm Source stores nationwide.

Seaweed has the potential to be big business, and alongside Crown Research Institutes like Scion, AgResearch and Callaghan Innovation, AgriSea are now working on human health applications and food and beverage products including seaweed as an alternative protein, seaweed gin alongside Southward and seaweed stout alongside the HeyDay Beer Co.

"It's so funny because seaweed has become mainstream now," says Tane. "We always wanted it to be mainstream but for us it was about the research. We knew the uptake would come if we can show the benefits scientifically."

The move into Farm Source stores has been a long journey for the company, which included large investments into research and development to show that their products can help farmers reach their environmental and financial sustainability goals.

"We have recognised that for now our product is really another tool in the toolbox

for farmers and we can help them whatever farm system they are in," says Tane.

A study recently published by Lincoln University, Christchurch, may help boost the pace. However, as AgriSea and researchers from Lincoln have shown their seaweed product, when fed to animals can not only increase the health status of animals but it also leads to a huge decrease in urinary nitrogen, a major contributor to New Zealand's water quality issues.

"We've shown if you take the percentage reduction in urinary nitrogen from one cow and multiply it across a farm it equates to 30 per cent less nitrogen leaching," says Tane. "This is part of what got us into Farm Source. Science is showing that small concentrations of natural products can have a positive impact."

These positive impacts also extend to the development and licensing of a new medical grade hydrogel, made from seaweed, that can be used in burn wound dressings, biomedical engineering applications, drug delivery and cosmetics.

AgriSea has been working alongside Crown Research Institute Scion on a three-year research programme to test the properties of different seaweeds. Included in the mix is *Undaria pinnatifida*, currently considered a pest species along our coastlines and the commercially harvested, native species *Ecklonia radiata*.

Scion recently cracked the code to create the hydrogel using what is currently a bi-product of AgriSea's seaweed tonic operation. The seaweed left for over after they ferment their products in batch brews at AgriSea's site in Paeroa.

Scion researchers were able to mechanically process the seaweed and extract the nanocellulose, a jelly-like crystal like substance, which was then used to make the hydrogel.

The resulting gels can absorb vast amounts of water (up to 100 times their own weight) to form a jelly-like substance.

Seaweed-based hydrogels have been made before, but never from seaweed species growing around New Zealand in sustainably harvestable quantities. The methods used to make the new nanocellulose hydrogels are also significantly cheaper than those currently in commercial use.

AgriSea have now extended their operation to include the machinery needed to produce the hydrogels and they have taken the step to become licensed to produce food grade products.

"We were putting in the plant anyway and we want to be able to continue to expand our capabilities in-house," says Tane. "We've already spoken to brewers about products like seaweed gin and seaweed beer. We

figure if we can add value to their end product, why not?"

They are now working with AgResearch, along with chef Dale Bowie, who previously worked with Heston Blumenthal's at the Michelin three-star restaurant "The Fat Duck," in the UK.

That three-year project is focused on unlocking the nutritional value of seaweed, and towards the end of the second year the scientists expect to have developed a flavourful and nutritious seaweed prototype food.

The research also uses the *Undaria pinnatifida* species of seaweed, abundant in waters around New Zealand and involves

partnering with the University of Otago, University of Auckland, A\*STAR, Ideas 2 Plate and AMiLi.

"People around the world have been eating seaweed for centuries, including Māori," says AgResearch senior scientist Dr Linda Samuelsson.

"But despite it being easily grown and rich in important nutrients, it is not a staple in most peoples' diets," she says. "Partly because it isn't to many people's taste, but also because many of these important nutrients are locked inside the seaweed and aren't readily absorbed by our bodies when we eat it."

"What we are aiming to do with this research is develop ways to cook or process the seaweed so that we have flavours and textures that appeal to people, but we also want to look at the health aspect," she says.

Seaweed proteins are typically less digestible than animal proteins, so scientists are looking at what form the seaweed can better deliver the nutrients

to the person eating it. They are also looking at how the seaweed proteins interact with peoples' gut microbiome (the collection of microorganisms that live in the digestive tract).

The gut microbiome is something that has also reached the common vernacular in recent years.

"It's something that we have always known but again it's having the scientific research behind the product," says Tane. And making it taste good.

AgriSea staff attended a five-course degustation in Wellington using the seaweed which blew Tane's mind.

"It was amazing, so flavourful and he said that was only him trying out a few things."

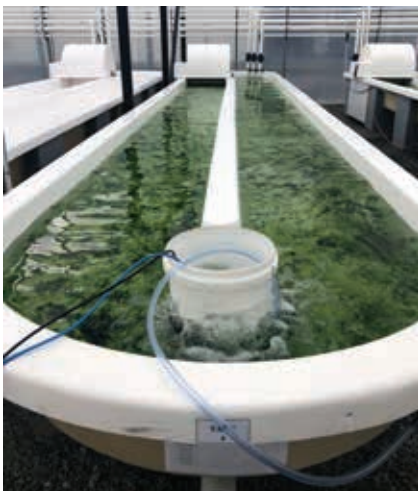
"We're incredibly excited about the future for seaweed in New Zealand, what it can bring to the Coromandel region and very proud of what our little business from humble beginnings has achieved so far," says Tane.

"We've never shifted from our calling and what we've wanted to achieve. Using seaweed and the benefits you can get from seaweed is what we've always considered normal, and now more and more people are understanding its potential," he says.

[agrisea.co.nz](http://agrisea.co.nz)



THE SCION TEAM, ALONG WITH TANE AND MEL FROM AGRISEA.



AT ITS PAEROA FACTORY AGRISEA ALLOWS SEAWEED TO FERMENT AND DRY (ABOVE AND RIGHT) BEFORE PACKAGED INTO VARIOUS PRODUCTS FOR ITS CUSTOMERS.





## Land, sea and home

Deane Gage is on a mission to reconnect divers with their whakapapa and traditional kaimoana gathering practices.



Gathering kaimoana was an instinctive part of growing up for Deane Gage.

“We rode horses, we went fishing, we went diving, it’s what we did as kids.”

As a student at Te Wananga O Aotearoa, Deane started thinking about how that translated into life on the marae and the practices his father and nannies always followed.

It’s driven him to complete a masters research project addressing the dying knowledge of kai gathering. His purpose, to create an education programme resurrecting indigenous knowledge by connecting people back to their whakapapa, and to foster sustainable gathering of kaimoana.

As someone who regularly dives and fishes the Hauraki Gulf side or the Coromandel, Deane doesn’t believe the marine decline is as bad in our region as some other areas of New Zealand, but says there’s certainly room for better practices.

And Deane’s masters project could be the start of a grass roots movement.

“It’s about food sovereignty. New Zealanders should be guaranteed fresh food and fresh meat, that should be a given, but we often don’t have that choice in New Zealand,” says Deane.

As urbanisation has taken hold, people have moved away from traditional hunting and gathering.

“There has been a loss of that kaitiakitanga, tikanga and whanaungatanga. It’s easier to get takeaways than using our traditional methods of hunting, fishing and gathering,” he says.

Deane’s been interviewing people from marine biologists, through to local divers, to determine how to form a community dive programme connecting people back to the land by using Māori practices of kai gathering.

Deane’s model is based on a kina and its five roe.

- **Manaakitanga**, be a good person and kia gatherer. Recognise how much one person realistically needs and take less or share to feed other people.
- **Kaitiakitanga**, sustainably looking after the land and its people.
- **Mātauranga**, using traditional knowledge to gather kai
- **Whanaungatanga**, sharing knowledge of sustainable kai gathering.
- **Tikanga**, doing what is right based on our practices and values.

Once complete, he hopes the programme will be available for institutes and schools.

## SCALLOP Rāhui



An official ban on scallop harvesting in eastern Coromandel waters has been imposed by the Ministry of Primary Industries for the next two years, following a request by one Coromandel iwi, Ngāti Hei, with strong community support.

MPI imposed the two-year ban on gathering scallops from September 11, 2021. The area covered includes the east Coromandel coastline from Anarake Point to Ruahiwihiwi Point, where Ngāti Hei exercise mana moana, and includes Opito Bay.

With the backing of various community groups, Ngāti Hei requested the two-year ban in the hope it would give seabeds “a much-needed breather”.

It came after frustrations around a lack of action on declining scallop numbers, prompting Ngāti Hei to put a voluntary rāhui (prohibition) in Opito Bay waters over the 2020-21 summer period.

Director of Fisheries Management Emma Taylor says public consultation on the request took place between April and May this year.

“We received more than 2000 submissions, with the majority supporting a closure.

“The feedback from tangata whenua and the public reflects the results of recent scientific surveys, commissioned by Fisheries New Zealand. These highlight concerns around the sustainability of scallop stocks right across the northern scallop fisheries, including the east Coromandel area,” she says.

Addressing fishing activity was only part of the picture, however.

“We also know that scallops are affected by land-based impacts such as sedimentation, and by changes to water quality. The closure will relieve some of the pressure while work continues by central and local Government to address fishing and non-fishing related impacts.”

While a large part of Opito Bay was already closed to commercial scallop harvesting, the new closure area is much larger and applies to both recreational and commercial scallop fishing.

The closure will be enforced by MPI fisheries officers who will patrol the coast supporting public awareness and enforcing the rules. Anyone with information about suspected illegal fishing should contact MPI on **0800 4 POACHER** to report it.



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M: 021 104 6060  
E: reubenvandorsten@raywhite.com



**Alex van Dorsten**  
Owner  
P: 07 865 8424  
E: alex.vandorsten@raywhite.com

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## SALES TEAM | WHANGAMATA



**Tony Lucas**  
Licensee Agent  
M: 021 940 090  
E: tony.lucas@raywhite.com



**Paula Lucas**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 0275 729 342  
E: paula.lucas@raywhite.com



**Mike Jeffcoat**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 021 402 542  
E: mike.jeffcoat@raywhite.com



**Roxy Pease**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 021 030 7589  
E: roxy.pease@raywhite.com



**Linda Burrows**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 021 460 144  
E: linda.burrows@raywhite.com



**Brian Morrissey**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 0274 937 836  
E: brian.morrissey@raywhite.com



**Gregory Thomas**  
Licensee Salesperson/Business Broker  
M: 021 463 195  
E: gregory.thomas@raywhite.com



**Andrew McGee**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 021 135 5158  
E: andrew.mcgee@raywhite.com



**Lindsay Turnbull**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 0274 238 093  
E: lindsay.turnbull@raywhite.com



**Hugh Packer**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 022 323 5761  
E: hugh.packer@raywhite.com

## SALES TEAM | WHITIANGA



**Tara Corley**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 027 294 0909  
E: tara.corley@raywhite.com



**Kate Cash**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 021 998 799  
E: kate.cash@raywhite.com



**Daisy Armstrong**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 027 277 2405  
E: daisy.armstrong@raywhite.com



**Lisa Clapperton**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 021 495 345  
E: lisa.clapperton@raywhite.com

## SALES TEAM | MATARANGI BEACH



**Louise Bradley**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 027 348 1700  
E: louise.bradley@raywhite.com

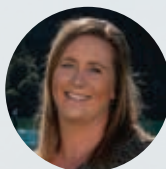


**Pip Perry**  
Licensee Salesperson  
M: 020 4063 7380  
E: pip.perry@raywhite.com

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



**Kylie Foster**  
Permanent Rentals & Accounts  
P: 07 865 8424  
E: kylie.foster@raywhite.com



**Kiera Curd**  
Receptionist & Administrator  
P: 07 865 8424  
E: kiera.curd@raywhite.com



**Cathleen Bierbach**  
Marketing & Graphic Design  
P: 07 865 8424  
E: cathleen.bierbach@raywhite.com

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# Fish Tales

Clarke Gayford is a TV and radio presenter, who back in 2015 created the fishing show "Fish of the Day," with Tairua-based cameraman and documentary-maker Mike Bhana. The series is broadcast on the National Geographic Channel and screened in over 80 countries. Clarke is an avid fisher, who shares with 'Our Coromandel' his special affiliation with Tairua. When Clarke isn't out on the water or in front of a camera, he's running around after daughter Neve and spending time with partner Jacinda.



A YOUNG CLARKE GAYFORD AT TAIRUA WHARF.

The first major fishing competition I ever entered was in Tairua. My ocean obsession was in full flight during my school years and my dad had driven me over from Gisborne to enter The Tairua Big Three. It's a competition needing a winning combination of heaviest hāpuku, snapper and wild pig to take out first place.

Good earthy stuff, I still remember vividly the prizegiving in the Sir George Grey Hotel, watching a judge sniff the gut cavity of the pigs, for any sign of illegal domestic fattening, while listening to fishing yarns and wild rumours that got bigger and taller with every large foam-topped pint glass that slid across the bar.

The competition still runs today. But it's

just a drop in the ocean when it comes to describing the fascinating connection Tairua has with the sea that surrounds it.

Long prized as a safe harbour to fix canoes and harvest seafood, excavations of Māori middens through the 1950s and 60s revealed pits that go back to the very earliest records of human arrival. Even more significant than this is a pearl shell lure, discovered under Mt Paku and carbon-dated to the 1300s, having most likely travelled from the Marquesas in the Pacific. It's one of the oldest artefacts ever found in New Zealand, and one of our clearest links to Polynesia, and entirely appropriately, it's connected to the sea.

Forget the big Jandal when you drive into





town, this pearl shell lure should really be the symbol of the place, which remains joined at the hip to the ocean today, much as it was then.

It's no coincidence that some of the best fishing charters in New Zealand are based in Tairua.

Yellowtail kingfish are revered throughout the angling world and New Zealand has the best 'Kingly' fishing of anywhere, bar none. Tairua would make a strong claim as being one of the best places to do this, and in pre-COVID times anglers came from everywhere, to try their luck.

One popular local skipper enjoyed more than 60 per cent of his bookings, just from Australia, all keen to have a go. We have 23 of the 24 world records for a fish, that is pound for pound, one of the ocean's strongest. I've long thought we should make this piscatorial, green and gold bully our national fish, marketing this experience to the world. Tairua would do well – and with nearly all fish caught and released by these high value tourists who stay and spend locally – would be net positive to the region. Plus, these types of visitors are also 100 per cent less likely to arrive in a curtained van with no toilet.

Through all the seasons Tairua harbour enjoys such a constant state of flux, that it could be considered a living entity, in its own right.



CLARKE GAYFORD SCUBA DIVING AT THE ALDERMAN ISLANDS, OFF THE COAST OF TAIRUA, COROMANDEL.

Historically it has changed so much that the harbour mouth has even been located at times on the Tairua beach side of Mt Paku, a sand bar connecting Pauanui to the Maunga.

At the right time of year though, it fills with action. Kingfish and kahawai come into the shallows to harass baitfish, looking for an easy snack, perhaps a delicious piper, mullet or herring.

Seeing a local spear a kingfish from the wharf I presumed this was a fluke experience, only to later read of boys in the 1950s and earlier making custom 18ft 'wharf' spears from kauri spars with four prongs lashed to the end. They would wait, hanging over the old wharf with a metre of water underneath on still mornings, during the incoming tide. When the tell-tale V-shaped ripple of large kingfish approached, usually in groups of two to six, the biggest would be selected and pinned to the bottom before being dragged in and off to the smoker. Reports of fish 5ft in length weren't uncommon.

Tairua isn't all just about kingfish though. At the right time of year absolutely everything is available, from in-shore snapper and light tackle trevally, to off-shore marlin, hāpuku, blue nose, bass and even the occasional swordfish. One charter operator even offers bespoke trips chasing red-coloured fish, with pink maomao being his specialty.

Of course, if chasing fish isn't your thing and you like to get wet, then the diving here is also superb. The Alderman Islands are far enough offshore, at 20kms out, to enjoy a range of species and experiences not seen on the mainland.

Amongst the abundant fish life, for underwater sightseers, there are caves to explore to all levels. Get the midday light right in one huge wet cathedral and the shafts of blue light beaming down will make even a hardened atheist feel spiritual. For the truly adventurous, there is even a cave that runs hundreds of metres under an island, for experts only.

However, if you have a catch bag in tow, it's possible to find treats like paua, crayfish, kina and even spanish lobster, if you know where to look, or who to ask nicely.

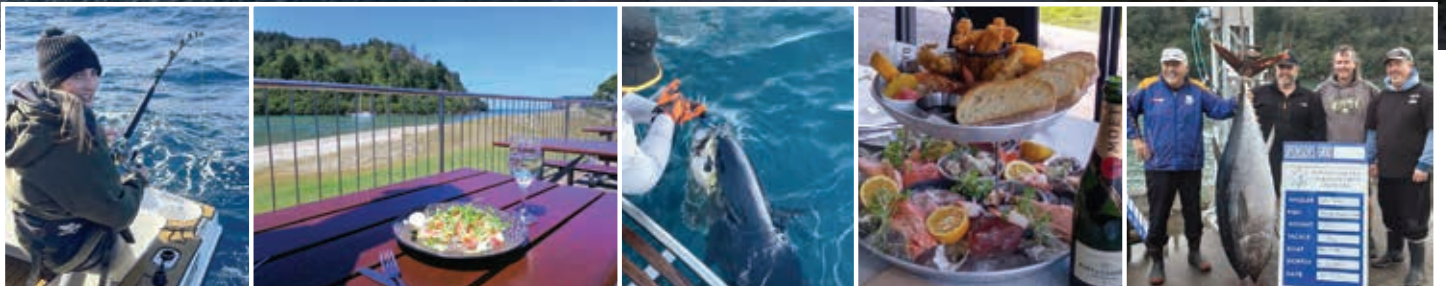
To truly appreciate Tairua's connection to the sea a climb to the top of Mt Paku lays it all on the table. Here you can take in the nearby islands like Slipper, Shoe and Castle Rock in the distance, or gaze back up the harbour to easily see why it's such an important nursery for all manner of marine life. There is an old Māori legend that says anyone who climbs Mt Paku, will always return back there. Perhaps it's this view of the sea and all the life you can witness from here that makes this a place you can never forget.

CLARKE SAYS HE COULD LIVE  
IN TAIRUA, BECAUSE IT'S GOT  
EVERYTHING HE NEEDS IN ONE NOOK  
FOR SURFING, FISHING AND DIVING.



# WHANGAMATA OCEAN SPORTS CLUB

*The Club with  
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**We are the Whangamata Ocean Sports Club, the largest fishing, boating, ocean activities club in the country. With stunning views of the harbour and ocean we offer a full range of food, drinks and water activities all year round.**

During the summer we host some of the largest fishing tournaments in the country: Our ever-popular Smart Marine 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 & boasts over \$60,000 in prizes + a huge \$10,000 tag and release prize pool! We are always looking at new events and this season sees our inaugural Land-Based Competition and our first Jet Ski Tournament getting underway.

The club strongly advocates for sustainable fishing practices through its membership of the NZSFC and specific club rules relating to any particular club event or competition. Accordingly, a portion of each individuals membership fee is allocated to the NZSFC and the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation totalling over \$70,000 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 working closely with local Iwi, NZSFC, Legasea and local governance to create a more sustainable fishing grounds for our future generations by submitting on the ever-deepening issue of our broken QMS and the state of our fisheries on behalf of our members.

Our Restaurant, led by Head Chef Dennis Matthews, is one of the best on the Coromandel Peninsula. We serve over 80,000 meals a year with a wide range to suit our 7000+ members and their guests. We cater to events and celebrations also, hosting weddings and private functions when and where we can.

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](http://oceansports.co.nz) or email [admin@oceansports.co.nz](mailto: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.***



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*Kate*

**Kate Fielding**  
Sales Consultant  
M 027 444 5321

# Our Councillors



**SALLY CHRISTIE**  
THAMES WARD COUNCILLOR

Our resilience has been tested by COVID again, so we're continuing to provide support to our communities. We've made sure in our LTP the impact of COVID was considered, along with affordability for our ratepayers. I'm proud to be part of many projects including the Shoreline Management Plans, accelerating housing for Thames, and the commercial wharf builds at Kōpū and Coromandel Harbour/Sugarloaf. I've also enjoyed seeing Council developing stronger relationships with iwi, DOC, Regional Council, and working alongside our communities. The more we listen to other points of view, have real and honest conversations, the more we can then join the dots together and have better, unified outcomes.  
[sally.christie@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:sally.christie@council.tcdc.govt.nz)



**MARTIN RODLEY**  
THAMES WARD COUNCILLOR

Our recent LTP consultation process has seen extensive use of technology to enable our community to make their submissions, allowing more to have a voice. Despite the perception people have of a West-East divide in Council I feel that we have all tried to understand the big picture and made decisions for the benefit of the whole district. Personally, I've relished being part of our Sustainability and Resilience Working Group, looking at what can be done around our emissions and other projects. Our solid waste contract is coming up shortly and we've got a real opportunity here to make some game-changing decisions, especially with food waste.  
[martin.rodley@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:martin.rodley@council.tcdc.govt.nz)



**ROBYN SINCLAIR**  
THAMES WARD COUNCILLOR

I've really appreciated the high level of engagement we've had through our consultations – from local projects in my ward (like designing our Mary St precinct) to larger issues like the LTP, along with other decisions around our Shoreline Management Plan open days and the freedom camping bylaw. Each submitter brought valuable insight to inform our decision making – whether they submitted for the first time or were seasoned hands at the process. Your councillors are your representatives; thank you for helping us achieve good things for our district.  
[robyn.sinclair@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:robyn.sinclair@council.tcdc.govt.nz)



**JOHN MORRISSEY**  
COROMANDEL-COLVILLE WARD COUNCILLOR

Along with my duties as a Councillor, I'm a Director on Te Arika Tahij/Sugarloaf Ltd, working towards the \$20 million build of a commercial and recreational facility in Coromandel Harbour, that will boost the aquaculture industry. Seeing improvements within Coromandel Town – while retaining its heritage feel, along with upgrading our Water Treatment Plant, has been pleasing to see completed. We've had the rollout of Ultra Fast Broadband, making vast improvements for our local businesses and helping communities connect up.  
[john.morrissey@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:john.morrissey@council.tcdc.govt.nz)



**TONY FOX**  
MERCURY BAY WARD COUNCILLOR

We've responded to the challenges of COVID, weather events, signed off our LTP and now prepare for Three Waters, Local Government and Resource Management reforms, on top of the challenge of how we deal with our solid waste. Our progress isn't possible without our communities' support, particularly volunteers. At a district level good examples are seen in the efforts of our various coastal groups and those participating in the Shoreline Management Plan work. Here in Whitianga another example is the completion of the Skate Park, made possible thanks to the efforts and fundraising by an enthusiastic band of volunteers.  
[tony.fox@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:tony.fox@council.tcdc.govt.nz)



**MURRAY MCLEAN**  
DEPUTY MAYOR AND MERCURY BAY WARD COUNCILLOR

My single big issue is waste. 17,000 tonnes from the Coromandel goes to landfill each year. Over 700 truck and trailer loads or 14 per week. It's unsustainable. Other areas are banning plastics. Waipa? Announced it's banning plastics by 2025. Similarly, bottles should be returned to point of sale. Our government is too slow to act and our local communities should take action. Local action by consumers is what is needed. If you make waste, YOU are RESPONSIBLE.  
[murray.mclean@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:murray.mclean@council.tcdc.govt.nz)



**GARY GOTLIEB**  
SOUTH EASTERN WARD COUNCILLOR

I try to use my skills as a lawyer to empower my communities to ask more questions of what Council does and to be more open and transparent. As a councillor, I try to look at the big picture, and be efficient and effective. I've been a huge supporter of keeping 101 Lindsay Rd for the community – it's reflective of the same issue faced around retaining Williamson Park for free, public access and limiting commercialisation, which I also fought for. A reminder to ratepayers not living permanently in the Coromandel, you're still entitled to vote here in next year's local body elections but you must enrol separately.  
Go to [tcdc.govt.nz/elections](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/elections)  
Also sign up to Council news [tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe)  
[gary.gotlieb@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:gary.gotlieb@council.tcdc.govt.nz)



**TERRY WALKER**  
SOUTH EASTERN WARD COUNCILLOR

Your ratepayers' voice influenced the outcomes of our LTP deliberations and final Plan – 4000 pages of written and oral submissions were read and heard. In Whangamatā, Lindsay Rd Council land has been retained with investigations into a Community Hub. The community pool will be upgraded. Please look closely at the government reforms and implications it has on all of us. District Councils are set to change dramatically over the next 12 months. I'd also like to especially thank all the community organisations and volunteers for the amazing contribution you make to our communities. You make the difference.  
[terry.walker@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:terry.walker@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

# THAMES



## CREATE THE VIBE – THAMES

Come to Mary Street in Thames and enjoy the murals, grab a drink or a bite from one of the local cafés, take a seat and watch the world go by. The shared pedestrian space on Mary Street at the intersection with Pollen Street was put in place in March 2021 thanks to 90 per cent funding from Waka Kotahi/NZTA's Innovating Streets Pilot Programme. We're calling it Create the Vibe Thames because years of consultation and engagement with the community had strongly indicated the desire of people to have a gathering place in town for events and music. The Create the Vibe HQ container (covered in a mural by Thames artist Rick Fisher (Ngāti Maru)) is available to book for community use. Just go to our website for information or call 07 868 0200.

We'll be monitoring use of the space and how the street closure affects vehicle traffic. We'd like to see how it works over a full summer, so the Thames community has a good chance to make use of the space in fair weather. At the end of March 2022, we'll prepare a formal evaluation with input from subject-matter experts including our Roading team and Police.

[tcdc.govt.nz/createthevibethames](https://tcdc.govt.nz/createthevibethames)

## BROWN STREET TOILET UPGRADE

The upgraded toilet block at Brown Street, by the Thames Small Gauge Railway and opposite the School of Mines, was officially opened in July 2021. There are four unisex toilets, a men's toilet with two urinals, a unisex space, a baby-changing area and a mobility accessible toilet. The facility was built offsite by Permacrete, craned into position, and is designed in a heritage look to blend into the surrounding historic area. The roofline allowed for the nearby titoki tree to remain in place. The toilet block's \$370,000 cost was 50 per cent funded by the government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

[tcdc.govt.nz/tif](https://tcdc.govt.nz/tif)

## TE PURU COMMUNITY HALL UPGRADE

The upgraded Te Puru Community Hall (on the Thames Coast) was officially opened in July 2021.

The toilets and the entry foyer have been completely renovated, with new hardware, ceiling, lighting, wiring, change tables and the concrete floor has had a new non-slip surface applied to the freshly ground concrete floor. The hall has a kitchen and can be booked for weddings, parties, anything, and it's great for dancing. It's all looking fresh and fantastic. Check it out.

Bookings can be made via the hall website – [tepuruhall.business.site](https://tepuruhall.business.site)

Te Puru Hall, like many in our district, is community run on land leased from our Council at a community rate.



**Above, top:** Create the Vibe – Thames.

**Above, middle:** Thames Community Board Deputy Chairperson Cherie Staples and other members of the Community Board, Council staff, contractors and members of the community officially opened the Brown Street toilets.

**Above, bottom:** From left to right – Cherie Staples (Thames Community Board Deputy Chairperson), Colleen Flavell (long-standing Te Puru Community Hall committee member), Kay Steen (Hall committee Secretary Treasurer) and Dooley Goonan (Hall committee President).



**Above, top:** Thames artist Kylie Gunn's mural.

**Above, middle:** Mural artist Erika Pearce painted a mural on the wall of Baxters Interiors next to Thames Library.

**Above, bottom:** Rick Fisher (Ngāti Maru) next to his mural on the Create the Vibe HQ container.

## TOTARA VALLEY SERVICES EXTENSIONS

To help boost housing development in the Thames area (see P49 for more on this), funding to extend Council services up Totara Valley Road has been allocated through the Long Term Plan for 2021-2031 (see P38-39 for more on the LTP). The water main along State Highway 25 across Totara Valley Road will be relocated so the intersection can be improved and then the main contractor can get on site to extend drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services up the Totara Valley Road, as well as improve the roadway itself. This is a multi-year project with an expected completion date of June 2023.

# THAMES COMMUNITY BOARD

## STRAT PETERS CHAIRPERSON



I have enjoyed working alongside our Board and the community this term. I am most pleased to see the inclusion in our Council's Long Term Plan of a sports precinct to go alongside the sub-regional aquatic facility, the Totara Valley infrastructure development to initiate more housing, and budgets to investigate some walk and cycle path opportunities. Also, the proposed Kōpū marine services facility is a major economic development win and will attract, build and grow business opportunities.

[strat.peters@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:strat.peters@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

## CHERIE STAPLES DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON



Tēnā koutou katoa.

Wow! 2021 went by rather quickly, but not before some of our projects were completed, including the Te Puru Hall refurbishment, the new Brown Street toilets and of course the "Create the Vibe" pedestrian space on Mary Street. But the pièce de résistance for me this year was the reclassification of the Rhodes Park facilities relocation from a "Nice to have" to a "Must do" in the Long Term Plan. As a Shoreline Management Plan panel member this project has identified risks along our coast and proposed action plans to mitigate or adapt to the effects of weather events and a rising sea. Roll on 2022.

[cherie.staples@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:cherie.staples@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

## SHERYLL FITZPATRICK



In my two years on the Board so far I've been supporting the strategies on Positive Aging, Youth and Disability; however, I really enjoy assisting all community service not-for-profit agencies with funding and building capacity. My current work in this sector across the

Coromandel overlaps with the work I do on the Thames Community Board, particularly assisting community groups to increase their capability to do the work they do. Aotearoa NZ has a strong ethos of helping others and it is this context that I find my work on the Community Board really rewarding.

[sheryll.fitzpatrick@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:sheryll.fitzpatrick@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

## PETER REVELL



It has been very pleasing to see the building blocks laid for the long-term future development of Thames Airfield. We expect to see brand new hangars developed in the near future, and the start of infrastructure to enable not only hangar development but also the

hangar accommodation and commercial initiatives. It has been encouraging to contribute to the significant maturing of the Thames Business Association, which has sharpened its focus, added to its membership, and increased its Board representation.

[peter.revell@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:peter.revell@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

# COROMANDEL = COLVILLE

## POTTERY LANE WEST SEALING

Footpath construction work in Coromandel-Colville Ward was completed ahead of schedule in 2021, which means the Pottery Lane west sealing project for Coromandel Town can go ahead sooner than expected. The project was originally scheduled for 2022/23 in the Long Term Plan, and the Council has confirmed the Board's recommendation that the project proceed in the 2021/22 financial year instead.

## WHARF ROAD FOOTPATH REPLACEMENT

The footpath on Wharf Road in Coromandel Town was rebuilt with good feedback received on the stencil system used. The system is designed to mimic brick or cobble. It is cheaper and quicker to install and creates fewer maintenance issues.

## COLVILLE ROAD DROPOUT REPAIRS

This extensive engineering project was only being wrapped up as *Our Coromandel Magazine* went to print, having been interrupted by the August-September COVID-19 lockdown. A section of the road, which connects Coromandel Town and Colville, slipped during a June 2018 storm, reducing the width to one lane. For the duration of the work, which began in mid-July, the road was closed Monday to Friday, with only periodic openings to allow traffic through. We'd like to thank the northern Coromandel community for their patience while the work was completed.

## JACKS POINT BOAT RAMP RETAINING WALL

The retaining wall at Jacks Point boat ramp in Coromandel Town has been repaired. An issue with the exposed anchor nuts potentially scratching boat sides was resolved and the grass on the reserve adjacent to the retaining wall was reinstated.

**Right:** Wharf Road footpath replacement.

**Below:** Little Bay toilet upgrade.



**Right, top:** Colville Road dropout repairs.

**Right, middle:** Jacks Point boat ramp retaining wall.

**Right:** Coromandel Hub concept.



## LITTLE BAY TOILET UPGRADE

Our public toilet at Little Bay is getting upgraded with co-funding from the government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF). The TIF is providing \$65,247 and our Council will contribute \$59,950. "This funding is great news as this upgrade is much-needed to cater for rapid

tourism growth at this unspoilt, natural environment," says Mayor Sandra Goudie. Permacrete is building the Little Bay toilet off-site and it was expected to be installed in October 2021.

[tcdc.govt.nz/tif](https://tcdc.govt.nz/tif)





## COROMANDEL HUB

While not a Council project, this initiative of the Coromandel Independent Living Trust has received Council funding and is sited on land transferred to CILT from our Council. The Hub is to provide a modern, enduring, collaborative environment where the social and community needs of the people of the upper Coromandel can be met; this includes community service and social support providers; meeting space and co-working facilities; and space for sports, recreation and community clubs. The new hub will be located at 150 Pound Street. CILT has raised 83 per cent of their \$2,222,000 required for the project.

# COROMANDEL-COLVILLE COMMUNITY BOARD

## PETER PRITCHARD CHAIRPERSON



As a keen mountain biker I was thrilled to see the new off-road trails and downhill flow tracks open up in Hauraki Road. These complement the existing asphalt pump track and training track so now there is something for all levels of rider skills. Every time I go, someone else is already there having fun and getting some good healthy exercise. I look forward to seeing this bike park continue to develop and grow with the formation of the new cycling club.

[peter.pritchard@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:peter.pritchard@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

## JAN AUTUMN DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON



Over the past 12 months I have been privileged to be one of our Board's representative panel members for the Coromandel/Kennedy Bay Shoreline Management Plan. The initial objective of the panel was to reflect on the coastal hazards affecting our area and the consequences of the risks. We have since had seven meetings, some in the early days via Zoom due to COVID restrictions and lockdown. I'm excited about the way this panel is looking to the future of our communities on the upper Coromandel Peninsula in regard to the risks that have now been identified and the subsequent effects. I really enjoy the learning that I get from participating on this panel.

[jan.autumn@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:jan.autumn@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

## JEAN ASHBY



In my second year on the Board, I've been continuing to listen to the needs and wants of our community and to see the people that others overlook. I'm passionate about people. In the two COVID lockdowns, the community has rallied to support each other in a very positive way. In the first lockdown, I worked with the police to distribute food parcels. We went into rugged areas where people live with very limited facilities. Related to this, I've been working with members of the community to improve public transportation for people in our area who don't have access to a vehicle.

[jean.ashby@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:jean.ashby@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

## KIM BRETT



These last 12 months have been different. Here in Coromandel Town we have changed as has the rest of the world. One of our challenges in Council is trying to please everyone and it is never possible, but we do try. Our great little community doesn't have a lot of rates money to work with but in the last year we have had a couple of great, long awaited projects finished, like the new water treatment plant that will provide us all with safe drinking water and now the Wharf Road end of our main street upgrade has been finished. I am looking forward to the next year, completing some of the other projects still on our list.

[kim.brett@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:kim.brett@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

# MERCURY BAY

## SHERRIFF BLOCK PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

A section of Council-owned land at 90 Moewai Road in Whitianga known as the 'Sherriff Block' is being developed, largely for recreation purposes.

We held a public consultation in July 2021 on the proposals, and the feedback we received was being reviewed by the Community Board as *Our Coromandel Magazine* went to print.

Thank you to all those who submitted feedback on our proposals. Keep an eye on our website at [tcdc.govt.nz/sherriffblock](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/sherriffblock) for further details as the project progresses and a map of the proposed layout.

There is potential for equestrian use, a speedway, a motorcross facility, concert venue, an outdoor entertainment area (for circuses, markets, fairs, festivals, competitions and more), walkways, stormwater management/wetlands area, water-based sports, and an extension to the adjacent airfield.

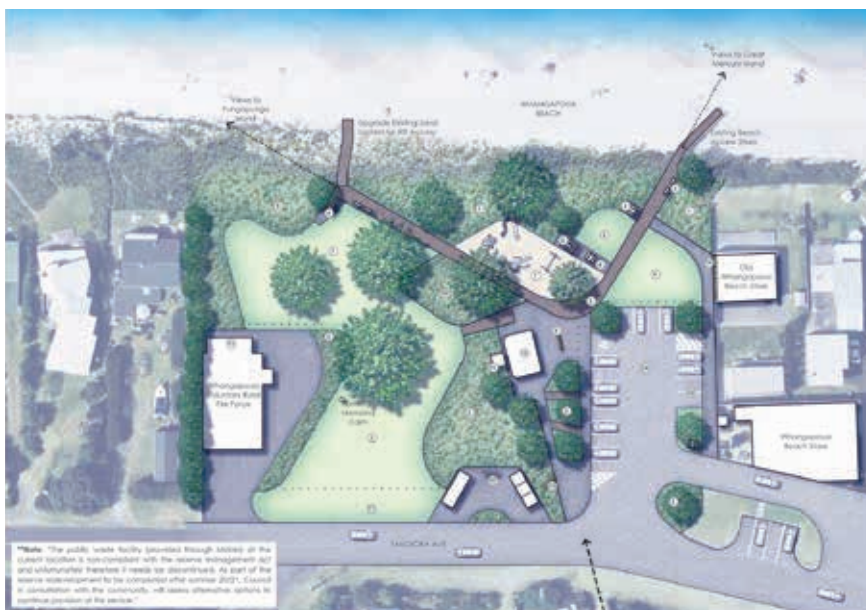
Existing users of the land, including the Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust and the Whitianga Scouts, would remain.

Our Council and Greenstone Entertainment Ltd have agreed a Licence to Occupy for a venue on the Sherriff Block for the Whitianga Summer Concert, which is usually held annually on Auckland Anniversary weekend. This would form part of the development.

Work to implement the finalised plan would take place over a 10-year period.

## MULTI-SPORTS PARK

The netball courts are due to be resurfaced. Quotes have been received and once the contractor has been chosen, work can proceed.

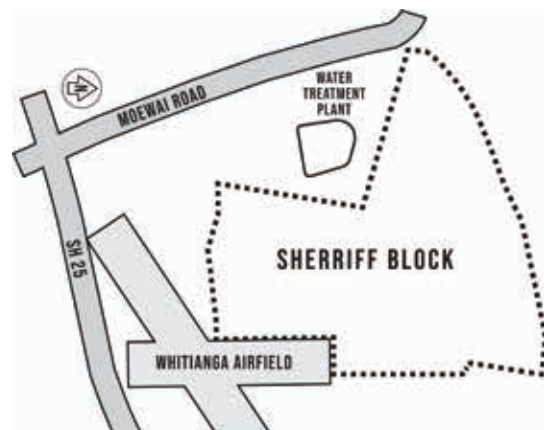


## MERI TE TAI MANGAKĀHIA RESERVE UPGRADE

The hoggin path and the toilet upgrade were completed last year. For the rest of the reserve, after consultation with the community, we have two design options with this one, pictured above, being preferred. Elements of the proposed plan include dune restoration planting, open space, seating areas, an outdoor picnic area, a BBQ under a shelter, realigned parking, upgraded beach access for the inflatable rescue boat (IRB) stored at the Whangapoua Voluntary Rural Fire Force building and a mural of Meri Te Tai Mangakāhia. She was active in Māori politics and welfare activities, and she and her husband, Hamiora Mangakāhia, lived in Whangapoua and raised their children there.

## WHITIANGA REFUSE TRANSFER STATION

Plans are well advanced for the new Refuse Transfer Station (RTS) on Moewai Road. The facility will include a waste reuse and recovery centre, along the lines of the highly successful Seagull Centre in Thames. The new RTS will be configured so reuse centre staff can help customers on their way to the dumping pit to retrieve items that can be reused or repurposed. A community trust has been established to run the reuse centre and has applied to the Waste Minimisation Fund for a grant. The new RTS is expected to be operational by early 2023.

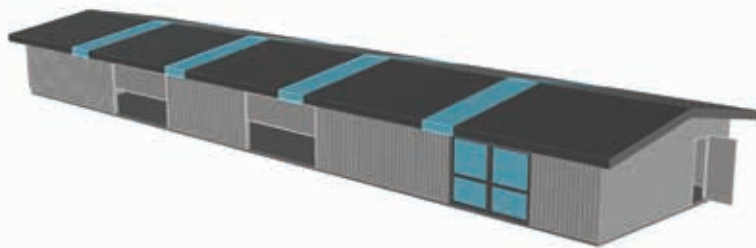


## DUNE PLANTING

Our dune planting sessions had to be curtailed a bit early because of the COVID-19 lockdown in 2021, but our Coastal Management Coordinator still managed to pull off an impressive number of volunteer restoration events over the 2021 winter planting season. In Mercury Bay, these included:

- Cooks Beach
- Buffalo Beach
- Wharekaho
- Otama
- Kuaotunu
- Opito Bay
- Whangapoua
- Rings Beach

We are working closely with our conservation nursery supplier to monitor and maintain our native dune plants in our holding nursery, in hopes to start the 2022 community restoration season in May 2022.



**Left, top:** Meri Te Tai Mangakāhia Reserve upgrade concept.

**Left:** Sherriff Block Proposed Development plan.

**Above, top:** Dune planting.

**Above, middle:** Netball courts at the Multi-Sports Park.

**Above, bottom:** Whitianga RTS Seagull base plan.



**Left:** Whitianga skate park.

## WHITIANGA SKATE PARK

The new skate park was officially opened in January 2021. It features a street drain run which follows the Carina Creek edge and consists of low height obstacles maintaining the views through the facility; an open flow section, consisting of beginner to intermediate transition features, with some unique and challenging obstacles; and an isolated bowl section, consisting of intermediate to advanced quarter pipes.

The design incorporates three main connector paths into the facility: one along Carina Creek, one from the town centre plaza and one from the town hall. Seating has also been incorporated into some of the facility's platform areas. The skate park has quickly become an integral part of the town centre, helping to create a dynamic social hub for the whole community.

# MERCURY BAY COMMUNITY BOARD

## REKHA GIRI-PERCIVAL CHAIRPERSON



During 2021 it was great to get our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan completed. Diverting waste from landfill is critically important and Mercury Bay is well on the way towards its new waste transfer station and reuse/recycling centre. During the year we firmed up the plans for the Sherriff Block development. This land will allow many of our community groups to have a base and further develop their hobbies and passions. 2022 holds some challenges as costs continue to increase and we see more details in the Three Waters Reform proposals.

[rekha.giri-percival@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:rekha.giri-percival@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

## BILL MCLEAN DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON



I would have to say that we are currently working in 'interesting times' when we consider weather events threatening our shorelines, a pandemic requiring lockdown throughout our country, significant infrastructure changes proposed by central government, restricted travel, and shortages of building basics. Now, more than ever, I continue to accept the responsibility to understand and respond to the questions and concerns raised at our meetings or directly from our constituents. I encourage people to make contact if they feel the need for support or discussion of their concerns.

[bill.mclean@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:bill.mclean@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

## DELI CONNELL



Where has the time gone? Year eight as a member of the Mercury Bay Community Board and I still feel very strongly the responsibility of the trust my community has put in me. We've faced many challenges in the past year, not least the pandemic, and very worryingly the obvious effects of our rapidly changing climate on our beautiful coastline and village communities. I have been greatly heartened by groups in the wider community working hard to preserve our natural resources; flora, fauna and our moana. Here's to a wonderful 2022 for you all – a healthy and happy community and environment.

[deli.connell@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:deli.connell@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

## JEREMY LOMAS



There has been so much going on in these last years for our Community Board – there is such a diversity of issues. The skate park has been a big project for us and I'm looking forward to the Sherriff Block being developed into further recreation opportunities for our area. I ran for the Community Board two years ago because I thought we needed a younger voice and I like it that people come to me about all sorts of everyday issues that affect them. The challenge for Council is to balance high community expectations with limited resources.

[jeremy.lomas@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:jeremy.lomas@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

# TAIRUA = PĀUANUI



## NEW TOILET FACILITY AT PEPE RESERVE

The new toilet block was completed in May 2021. It has eight toilets including two accessible units. As you walk up to the facility, there is a map of the Coromandel that shows the main attractions and traveling times. This project was completed thanks to \$412,000 of funding as part of the government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund. [tcdc.govt.nz/tif](https://tcdc.govt.nz/tif)

In August, our Council submitted an entry to the Beautiful Awards in their 'best loo' category. Tairua's Pepe toilets was named a finalist with the winner to be announced by the end of 2021.

## PĀUANUI WATER TREATMENT PLANT

The upgraded Pāuanui Water Treatment Plant was opened in December 2020. It was the third of the new treatment plants in our district to be opened as part of our Council's project to upgrade water treatment plants and the district's drinking water standards. [tcdc.govt.nz/dws](https://tcdc.govt.nz/dws)

## PĀUANUI SKATE BOWL

The well-loved and well-used skate bowl in Pāuanui was ground and sealed this year with an epoxy concrete sealer to extend concrete life and also give a better surface for users. It will receive a fresh makeover in the 2023/2024 year.

**Right:** New Pepe Reserve toilet facility.

**Below:** Pāuanui skate bowl. **Below right:** Royal Billy Point Boat Ramp and Wharf.



## ROYAL BILLY POINT BOAT RAMP AND WHARF

An out-of-cycle budget request for \$256,731 to finish work on the Royal Billy Point wharf and boat ramp in Pāuanui was approved in 2020. In May, contractors completed the installation of the concrete access bridge and the support piles. The final footpath kerb and extra ground works and landscaping were completed in June. [tcdc.govt.nz/royalbillypoint](https://tcdc.govt.nz/royalbillypoint)

## PĀUANUI DUNE PLANT TRIAL (WAS THE PĀUANUI HOGGIN PATH TRIAL)

The trial has been postponed because of the COVID-19 lockdown in August 2021 and restrictions around numbers at volunteer events. We are working closely with our conservation nursery supplier to monitor and maintain our native dune plants in our holding nursery to plan for planting the trial area in May 2022.

Further updates will come early in 2022 around this trial planting project.



**Above:** Warwick Brooks – Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board Chair, Barry Swindles – Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board member, Councillor Terry Walker and Eileen Hopping Area Manager – South Eastern Ward, at the opening of the new water treatment plant.



**Above:** Pāuanui Beach. Photo credit – Ben Frost.

## TAIRUA SKATE PARK

A new timeline and process to look at the development of a skate park at Tairua was signed off in 2021.

An out-of-cycle budget of \$60,000 funded from the Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board's retained earnings is being used for Veros Property Services, an independent company with expertise in planning, consultation and project management, to lead the work.

By the end of 2021, the project plan and community engagement process will be undertaken to identify and assess options for locating a skate park in Tairua. Formal consultation will be held in early 2022.

A site at Cory Park Domain was identified but legal proceedings forced a halt to the project. In order to start with a clean slate, the Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board agreed at its June 2021 meeting to revoke all previous decisions made regarding the skate park.

[tcdc.govt.nz/tairuaskatepark](https://tcdc.govt.nz/tairuaskatepark)

# TAIRUA-PĀUANUI COMMUNITY BOARD

## WARWICK BROOKS CHAIRPERSON



It's been a big year, that's for sure. I want to say a big thank you to the Board for their cooperation this year and thank you to the local community for working with us. It was great to see the completion of the Tairua toilets and to see what we now call the 'railway station' being

well used. I'm looking forward to seeing progress on the Tairua Community Hub and the Tairua Skate Park which is something our community has been trying so hard to get. My first term as the Board Chair has been amazing and although it's come with its challenges, I love it.

[warwick.brooks@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:warwick.brooks@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

## CHRIS NEW DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON



I've been Tairua Fire Chief for more than 20 years now, and as a Board member, I've been motivated by striking a balance between advocating for improved services and facilities for the community, but being mindful that we're limited by budgets and keeping rates rises under

control. It's been great to see the Pepe Reserve toilet upgrade finished – it looks great – and I'm looking forward to the Tairua Skate Park project getting underway in 2022, with a finalised site that's agreeable to the whole community.

[chris.new@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:chris.new@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

## BARRY SWINDLES



This year our Board achieved a lot more than other Boards have and for that, I feel quite proud to be part of not only this Community Board but this community too. There's something special about small beachside communities and I love ours. I never thought being on the Tairua-

Pāuanui Community Board would make me so world famous in Pāuanui. When I'm not talking to the local community about toilets, skate parks and wharves I quite enjoy a bit of biking and heading to the club on a Friday night.

[barry.swindles@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:barry.swindles@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

## CATH WIGHTMAN



If you had asked me at the start of the year if I thought that I would be a member of the Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board this year, I would've said no. It's been a big year of change and learning. Our Board is there to serve the community and although I'm new at it, I can't

wait to do just that. As a mum of three children, I know how important it is that our kids have somewhere to play and spend time with each other. I really hope that we can work together as a Board and a community in the next year to see some progress on the Tairua Skate Park project.

[cath.wightman@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:cath.wightman@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

## DRINKING WATER STANDARD UPGRADES

As part of our Council's drinking water standard upgrades, there has been progress on new water treatment plants in Whangamatā and Onemana.

### **Beverly Hills Water Treatment Plant –**

The plant was completed during the year and was due to be officially opened at the end of September 2021, as *Our Coromandel Magazine* was going to print.

### **Wentworth Valley Water Treatment Plant –**

Construction started in May 2021 and is expected to be completed in March 2022.

### **Moana Point Water Treatment Plant –**

Enabling works to clear the site for the plant have been completed and the building consent application has been submitted.

### **Onemana Water Treatment Plant –**

The design is being prepared and construction is expected to begin in 2022.

**Right:** The existing boardwalk in front of the Surf Life Saving Club.  
**Inset:** Whangamatā Boardwalk visualisation.

**Below:** Wentworth Valley Treatment Plant.



**Below:** The Whangamatā Wharf.

## WHANGAMATĀ BOARDWALK

The Department of Conservation (DOC) held a hearing in May 2021 for submitters to present their views on the proposed concession sought by our Council to construct a boardwalk along The Esplanade. This would tie in to the existing boardwalk in front of the Surf Life Saving Club.

DOC received the application and submissions and will consider the proposal against the Conservation Act to determine if the proposal meets the intent of the Act in terms of facilitating recreation, has ecological benefits and is supported by tāngata whenua treaty partners.

Our Council is awaiting a decision from DOC before the project can progress further.

Delays in the availability of building materials and contractors could result in further delays if the project is approved.

## CCTV CAMERAS

Five CCTV cameras were installed in Whangamatā and one in Onemana over the last year.

## NEW CAMPERVAN DUMP STATION

A new campervan dump station is planned for Whangamatā to replace the current facility on Martyn Road. A new location has not yet been decided on.

## WHANGAMATĀ WHARF AND FLOATING PONTOON REFURBISHMENT

Work to refurbish the floating platform at Whangamatā Wharf was carried out in 2021. The steel plates and timber beams that are located at each end and in the centre of the pontoon were replaced. The existing timber guide piles were also fitted with PVC sleeves to make them last longer and minor electrical alterations were made on the wharf itself.

## ISLAND VIEW RESERVE FLYING FOX

The carriage (the wheeled bit that sits on the cable) and the cable itself for the popular flying fox at the playground were replaced in 2021 after they were stolen. The Island View Reserve playground is one of the most popular in Whangamatā and is well-loved by residents and visitors alike.



**Above:** Island View Reserve playground.

**Right:** Wentworth Valley Road seal.



## WENTWORTH VALLEY ROAD SEAL

This busy road ends at a popular DOC campground. Approximately 4.6km of the road were sealed, the culverts were upgraded or extended and swale drains added throughout the project area. Safety improvements including line marking, edge marker posts and signage have also been put in place.

## WHANGAMATĀ COMMUNITY BOARD

### KEN COULAM CHAIRPERSON



I've lived in Whangamatā for 10 years but have been holidaying here for almost 30. I've been on the Community Board for the last five years and enjoy the challenge of serving the community. When I'm not busy with the Board I enjoy golf, walking and travelling in our motorhome and am an active member of LandSar and Lions. I was pleased to see \$6 million included in the Long Term Plan for improving stormwater in Whangamatā and the community pool is getting \$500,000 for upgrades. Finally, I look forward to when we might be able to return to pre-COVID times and in the meantime, keep safe and get the job.

[ken.coulam@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:ken.coulam@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

### DAVE RYAN DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON



In my second year on the Board, I've continued to work on ensuring that residents get value for rates and that an equitable amount of Council spending comes back into the Board area. I'm very focused on meeting our communities' essential infrastructure needs, such as roads, streetlights and water services. There are many changes coming our way from government reform proposals, so we will have to be nimble in how we adjust to these. It's good to see the Whangamatā community supporting local in the face of COVID.

[dave.ryan@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:dave.ryan@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

### KAY BAKER



I'm grateful to have spent another year on the Board in a town I just love. Being a Board member lets me support sensible initiatives in our stunning town while also making sure our ratepayers' money gets brought into our community and is spent wisely. I am excited with the prospect of our community pool being upgraded. I'm not standing next year as it's time for me to support our town in other ways and it's a chance for someone else to bring a different perspective to keep our community safe and prosperous. It has been a pleasure and an honour to serve this community."

[kay.baker@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:kay.baker@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

### TAMZIN LETELE



I am looking forward to a meaningful and productive third year of representing the community. I continue to hold a position on the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) National Council as part of their Governance Development programme and had the opportunity to speak at the LGNZ Conference in Blenheim on the Future of Local Government (FOLG) Panel in July 2021. I've continued to participate in the Coastal Panel for this area and this coming year should see substantial progress forming our Shoreline Management Plans to manage coastal hazards."

[tamzin.letele@council.tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:tamzin.letele@council.tcdc.govt.nz)

# Our Council's INVESTMENT IN THE COROMANDEL

Our Long Term Plan (LTP) for the next decade sets out an investment programme of hundreds of millions of dollars to make sure we have the services and infrastructure we need to meet the challenges – and opportunities - coming our way.

The average rates increase across our district for this financial year (1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022) was set at 8.8 per cent. District-wide, over the 10 years of the LTP, there will be an average rates rise of 5.1 per cent, or \$195 per year.

“Thanks to the strong engagement from our Coromandel community in this LTP, we’ve laid a solid foundation to address challenges such as the increasing costs of handling rubbish and recycling, keeping communities supplied with drinking water, planning for sustainable growth and addressing climate change,” says our Mayor Sandra Goudie.

“On top of these challenges, we have uncertainty around COVID-19, the government’s ongoing three waters reform programme, reforms to the Resource Management Act and the wider review into the future for local government. Any, or all four of these, could force a radical change to our Plan,” says Mayor Sandra.

## Planning for sustainable growth

Infrastructure is expensive, but necessary. Spatial plans are blueprints for where and how we should grow and develop while making sure we meet the challenges of climate change. Our first spatial plan, for Thames, is in the works (see page 49). This LTP also includes funding for infrastructure in other parts of our district experiencing growth.

## Addressing climate change

Working out how we prepare for, and respond to, our changing environment over the next 50-100 years has begun, and we are engaging with our many coastal communities to develop Shoreline Management Plans (see pages 104-105). We have also considered our role in helping to meet New Zealand’s target of reducing carbon emissions to zero by 2050. Our Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan is being developed, and will set us on a course to reduce Council’s greenhouse gas emissions.

The next decade will see our Council invest  
**\$455 million**  
in capital projects plus more than

**\$1 billion**

to fund day-to-day operations such as:

-  Handling rubbish and recycling
-  Providing clean drinking water
-  Treating wastewater
-  Maintaining roads, bridges and footpaths
-  Maintaining parks and reserves and sports facilities

## What's a Long Term Plan?

The LTP is the roadmap for our projects, services, activities and budgets for the next 10 years, and it’s how we set the rates. Every three years we review and update the LTP. Adjustments can be made to the LTP in the intervening years through an annual plan. The full LTP is on our website at [tcdc.govt.nz/longtermplan2021](https://tcdc.govt.nz/longtermplan2021).



# Summary of DECISIONS FOLLOWING CONSULTATION



## ISSUE 1: A 'NO FRILLS' BUDGET

As a result of your feedback, we increased our capital expenditure by about \$63 million from what we proposed in our consultation.



## ISSUE 2: MATARANGI LAND PURCHASE (COMMUNITY INITIATIVE)

\$2 million has been budgeted for 2023-2024 to protect land from development subject to further investigation and discussions with stakeholders and the community.



## ISSUE 3: WHANGAMATĀ COMMUNITY POOL

\$500,000 will be provided over 2021-2023 so that important maintenance and improvements can be made.



## ISSUE 4: SALE OF LAND IN WHANGAMATĀ

A decision to declare the land at 101 Lindsay Road surplus to Council's requirements has been deferred to allow the best use of the land to be determined.



## ISSUE 5: THE INCREASING COST OF RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

To reduce the operational costs of providing rubbish and recycling services, Council decided to:

- Discontinue the mid-week rubbish collection for Whangamatā and Pāuanui between Boxing Day and early February (i.e. reduce from three times a week to twice a week).
- Retain the Matarangi and Pāuanui Refuse Transfer Stations with the same level of service.
- Remove the Moloks at both Whangapoua and Opito Bay.

As *Our Coromandel Magazine* was going to print staff were investigating the cost implications of increased hours of operation at Matarangi and Pāuanui Refuse Transfer Stations.

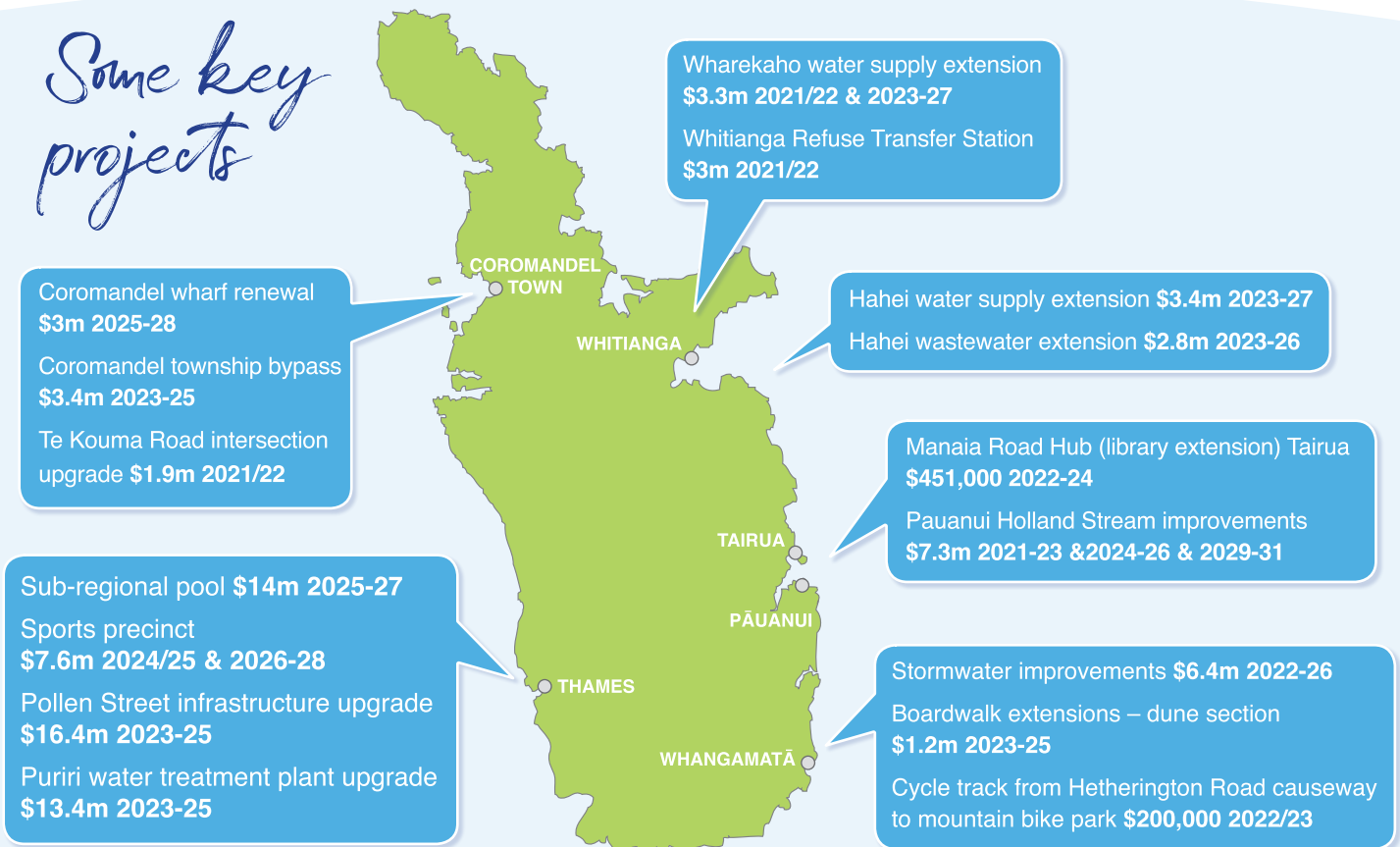


## ISSUE 6: FEES AND CHARGES – GETTING VISITORS AND USERS TO PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE

Council decided to:

- Continue with the current mix of fees and charges and rates revenue to pay for facilities and services
- Keep the fees and charges for Harbour Facilities (including boat launching/trailer parking fees) at 2020-2021 levels until a review of costs associated with the activity and consultation with users of these facilities is completed over the next year. [tcdc.govt.nz/fees](http://tcdc.govt.nz/fees)

Some key projects





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**Kerry Trainor** | 021 236 5978 | [kerry.trainor@trinitynetwork.co.nz](mailto:kerry.trainor@trinitynetwork.co.nz)  
**Maree Simpson** | 027 206 7616 | [maree.simpson@trinitynetwork.co.nz](mailto:maree.simpson@trinitynetwork.co.nz)

**COROMANDEL & NORTH**

**Rob Keatley** | 027 577 7424 | [rob.keatley@trinitynetwork.co.nz](mailto:rob.keatley@trinitynetwork.co.nz)

**PAUANUI**

**Andrea Grant** | 021 043 6437 | [andrea.grant@trinitynetwork.co.nz](mailto:andrea.grant@trinitynetwork.co.nz)

# Marine dreams coming true

## WHARF PROJECTS EXPAND HOPES FOR MARINE INDUSTRIES

Two major wharf projects are set to stimulate economic activity in Coromandel's aquaculture and marine industries, as plans move through design stages and into construction.

At Kōpū, roading works for the development of a marine servicing and business precinct were planning to start as *Our Coromandel* went to print, following a Government injection of \$8.2 million into the project. The marine works are set to start in early 2022.

The funds were drawn from the \$3 billion 'shovel ready' fund set aside in Budget 2020 to ensure adequate economic recovery from the impacts of COVID.

The precinct will provide alternative marine-servicing options for vessels from the Hauraki Gulf, Coromandel, Tauranga, Auckland and Whangarei. This will bring opportunities for boat repair and maintenance, engineering and manufacturing, aquaculture, and trade and transport businesses.

It's hoped that the precinct will result in over a hundred downstream jobs once the project is complete.

"Kōpū is perfectly placed to be an economic gateway into our district," says our Mayor Sandra Goudie.

"The precinct will help us realise that potential, and our bigger vision is to support the employment opportunities with provision of new and affordable housing nearby. We need thriving and resilient communities outside of major flood zones and this is exactly the kind of project which will ensure a vibrant future for our district," she says.



ABOVE: A DESIGN PLAN FOR THE KŌPŪ MARINE PRECINCT.  
BELOW: AERIAL VIEW OF THE CURRENT LAYOUT OF THE KŌPŪ SITE.



Complementing the Kōpū project is the Te Ariki Tahi Sugarloaf wharf redevelopment, approx 60km north in Coromandel Harbour, which has also benefitted from Provincial Growth Funding. A total of \$19.5 million is being invested to raise and expand the wharf and add five new commercial berths, as well as continuing to cater to the existing recreational demand through a new, separate boat ramp and parking facility.

The redevelopment is expected to increase mussel farming offloading capacity by almost 20,000 tonnes, allowing the wharf to accommodate up to 42,000 tonnes of mussels a year, and the potential for other aquaculture products to come over the wharf.

The raised platform will help mitigate the impacts of rising sea levels as well as provide a separate facility for launching

recreational boats which will provide health and safety benefits to all users.

“Aquaculture is of vital importance to our district,” says Mayor Sandra. “Marine farming and processing not only provide local jobs and national GDP, but also have really positive downstream impacts on our social networks and communities.”

[tcdc.govt.nz/kopumarineprecinct](https://tcdc.govt.nz/kopumarineprecinct)  
[tcdc.govt.nz/tearikitahi](https://tcdc.govt.nz/tearikitahi)



SUGARLOAF WHARF – PRE-DEVELOPMENT.



A CONCEPT DESIGN OF HOW THE FACILITY WILL LOOK ONCE DEVELOPED.



### What does the Kōpū Marine and Business Precinct include?

- 80m long commercial wharf and floating pontoon
- In-water marine servicing and loading
- Expanded haul-out area and upgraded entrance for truck deliveries
- Boat haulage to hardstands
- Upgraded and reinforced slipway
- New access road to public



### What does the Te Ariki Tahi/Sugarloaf Wharf upgrade include?

- Raised and expanded commercial wharf with five additional berths
- Increased security with locked gates and surveillance cameras at the commercial site
- Separate public facility with double width boat ramp, while retaining the existing number of car parks
- Operational management provided by our Council



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# Take off at Thames Airfield

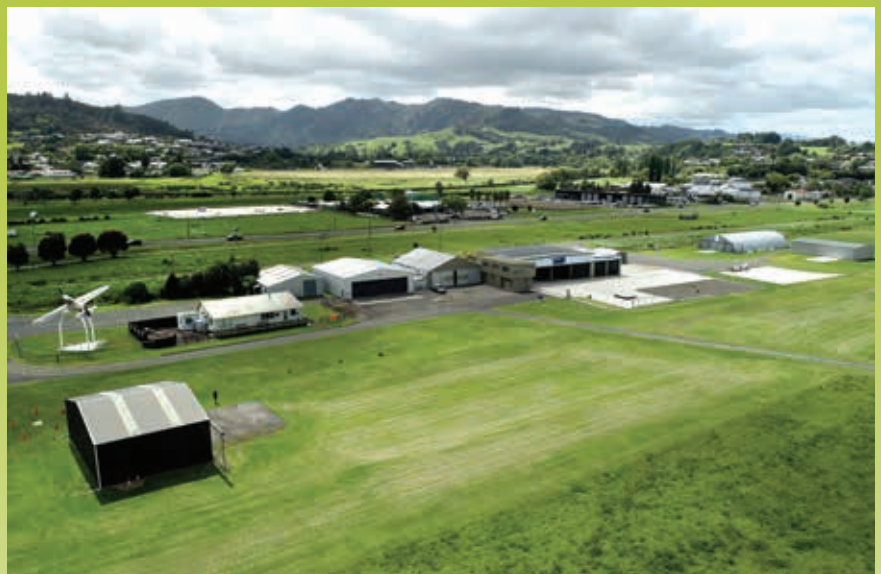
## DEVELOPMENT PLANS START WITH HANGAR LEASES

*Six sites are available to be leased to build aircraft hangars in stage one of plans to develop and better utilise Thames Airfield.*

In the future there will be more sites for hangars, residential hangars and commercial activity.

The residential hangar idea is one that is already in use at Pāuanui Airfield (which our Council owns as well as Thames Airfield) and is catching on at other airfields in New Zealand. Unlike at Pāuanui, where private homes with hangars adjoin the airfield, residential hangars at Thames would be built on land leased from our Council.

The airfield development plan, hangar design specifications, lease information and documents, and the Thames Airfield Master Plan are available on our Council website at [tcdc.govt.nz/thamesairfieldhangars](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/thamesairfieldhangars)



In the last couple of years drainage at the airfield has been improved so both runways are operational for more days of the year. V-drains have been dug alongside the runways and swale drains dug at the

south end of the main north-south runway. The grass taxiway has been improved and widened, another windsock pole installed and the concrete hard stand at the fuel pump has been enlarged.





## About Thames Airfield

Thames Airfield is formally known as Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield, in tribute to the Thames-born man who commanded the Royal Air Force squadrons that successfully defended London and southeast England during the Battle of Britain in 1940.

Poised dramatically above the entrance to the airfield is a replica of the Hurricane fighter plane (*pictured above*) that he flew in the battle, and in the Thames CBD on Mary Street is a statue of Sir Keith Park paid for by a grateful resident of the Coromandel who wanted to honour his achievements.

The airfield is one of several small strips on the Coromandel serving the needs of the aviation community through the region. The proximity to Ardmore, the wider Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions, and the Hauraki Gulf Islands of Waiheke and Great Barrier make Thames both a great base for aircraft owners and for those transiting the region.

Our Council is the owner and operator of the airfield and it's available for general use.

The airfield hosts commercial helicopter operations, the Thames Air Cadets and it's a great site for skydiving, gliding and flying instruction.

The main north-south runway is 1,112m long and the secondary east-west runway is 707m long. Both are grassed. Fuel pumps dispense Jet A1 and Avgas 100.

[tcdc.govt.nz/thamesairfield](http://tcdc.govt.nz/thamesairfield)



## WHAT'S IT LIKE TO LIVE IN A HANGAR HOME?

Robert Powers (*pictured above*) has been flying since the 1970s and has owned a house with a hangar next to Pāuanui Airfield for about a year.

Pāuanui Airfield is Council-owned and the airstrip is lined with hangar homes.

Mr Powers parks his Pipistrel Virus – a Slovenian-made light aircraft – in the hangar and there's room to spare for a boat, surfboards, BBQ and other gear.

***“You’re associating all around the airfield with like-minded people to talk about planes and flying. It’s like a Mecca.”***

“You can fly to the property and you’ve got your plane right there,” Mr Powers says.

“Pāuanui has multiple allure for us. We’ve got the beach and the family and friends can come and visit. We get lots of visitors and we like to take them out for a flight,” he says.

“Planes need maintenance, cleaning and looking after and having the plane in its hangar right in the house makes that convenient.”

It also makes it easier to decide to go for an impromptu flight. “It’s like having a boat and owning one of the Waterways properties.”

Plus, there’s the camaraderie of fellow aviation enthusiasts next door. “You’re associating all around the airfield with like-minded people to talk about planes and flying. It’s like a Mecca.”

# THE HEARTH OF THAMES

*Planning for more homes in the Coromandel's  
main service centre.*



Compared to the more obvious charms of the Coromandel's tourist towns, Thames is something of a quiet achiever.

Tucked between rocky shoreline and forested hills, the town is the commercial and industrial centre of the district and central, too, to its future prosperity.

"There's no doubt Thames is our economic engine," says our Mayor Sandra Goudie.

"The services, retail, manufacturing and commercial sectors that are based here account for almost half of the total jobs in our district."

The development of a marine and business precinct in Kōpū is set to create further opportunities and employment in aquaculture, boat building and servicing, supply chain and logistics, trades and other sectors.

Together with Thames' proximity to Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga, the town is poised for population growth with businesses hopeful of attracting skilled talent and working families.

The challenge that comes with this growth is the need for new housing. There's long been under-investment in residential developments, with existing housing stock in Thames now aging and no longer of high quality. Key industries and innovating sectors are already finding they cannot get the staff that they need due to a lack of housing.

According to a Thames Business Association survey in 2021, nearly 80 per cent of businesses say they know of workers outside the district who are looking for a house in the Thames area, and nearly 50 per cent say that lack of housing is impacting their business. Respondents reported being

unable to recruit talent, even for high-paying jobs, simply because there is no available accommodation. Others said they had staff commuting from Paeroa or as far away as Huntly, because staff were unable to find either rental accommodation or properties to buy.

Compounding the problem is the district's high proportion of unoccupied holiday homes. The number of second homes makes us the most unaffordable district to buy or rent in New Zealand.

The big challenge, then, for the private sector and town planners alike, is ensuring there's a range of affordable quality housing for both renters and new buyers coming into the district, to support business and economic health.

In 2021, our Council applied for Kāinga Ora funding to help open up well-located greenfield areas for new development. At



THE MANY FACETS OF THAMES. FROM THE LONGEST MAIN STREET IN THE COUNTRY, TO HERITAGE TO COASTLINE, THAMES AND SURROUNDS HAS MASSIVE POTENTIAL AS THE PLACE WHERE A VARIETY OF NEW HOUSING OPTIONS CAN BE DEVELOPED.

the time of going to print, a decision on that application had not yet been received, but our Mayor Sandra Goudie says Council is committed to finding ways to accelerate housing development.

“The tricky thing is Thames’ unique landscape which leaves limited land area that is easy to build new housing,” says Mayor Sandra.

“We also need to be aware of our changing climate and ensure that any development activity creates resilient communities that are outside our highest-risk areas,” she says.

Several preferred greenfield areas south of Thames have been identified and our Council is working through the infrastructure requirements which will make the sites attractive to developers.

The land areas were identified as part of ongoing spatial planning work for Thames, to ensure that any residential development activity fits within the long-term objectives for the town and follows a coordinated and well-planned approach.

“A successful development could potentially deliver around 200 plus homes in the short-medium term, with higher yields in the

longer term,” says Mayor Sandra. “Within that a mix of housing needs and price points can be addressed.”

The identified land options are just south of the main Thames township in proximity to the Kōpū Marine and Business Precinct, the Hauraki cycle trail, schools and other amenities.

“It is absolutely our priority to protect our future prosperity by facilitating decent quality homes in well-designed neighbourhoods,” says Mayor Sandra.

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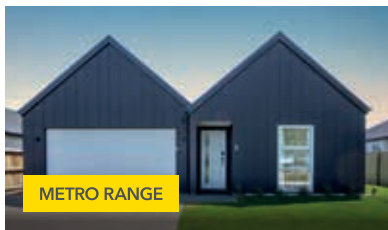
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# Spring INTERIORS

Spring is here which means it's time to pack away the dark soft furnishings and woollen throws and get ready to revitalise your home interiors for a Coromandel summer.

Every single space has the potential to be beautiful, regardless of shape or size, and colour plays an important role in achieving this.

Our New Zealand spring colour schemes typically lean towards restful and tranquil tones, such as pastel and organic neutral shades, incorporating accent colours with fresh spring tones to complete the look.

However, in this spring palette, we are also seeing a trend with the use of deep, rich and opulent tones, creating drama to our surroundings. Everything from dark and earthy greens, savoury and spicy yellows and oranges that come in either warm and inviting tones or incorporating a vintage pink, which is becoming a continuing colour trend in our home interiors.

If greens, yellows, and oranges are not inspiring you, blues could be the perfect match for our coastal lifestyle this season.

Whether it's dusty weathered blues and blue greys which will create a relaxed coastal style, or if you feel brave enough to step out of the box and have fun with accent colours such as deep and moody blues.

Whichever colour palette you roll with, colour will unquestionably enhance your interior space, creating a design scheme which is uniquely yours.

If you are struggling to select your colour palette, look at what colours you love to wear, what are the colours in the artwork you are drawn to, what contrasting colour combinations you like to combine in your clothing to create a unique look? That will help with making choices to bring these colours into your home.

There are several ways to achieve this and, when addressing your colour palette, as a rule of thumb, you would select three accent colours, to incorporate into your scheme.

Whether it is painting a feature wall, incorporating wallpaper, changing your bed linen, rugs, scatter cushions or adding a throw or two, it can be inexpensive

exercise to change up your interior design scheme, from season to season, by swapping out a few key pieces.

Layering your new interiors by using a mixture of colours, textures, geometric patterns and prints will personalise your space. Now is the time to be brave and have some fun.

*Tara Rix is an interior designer based in Mercury Bay.*

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# COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

Ko Tokatea te maunga

Ko Harataunga te awa

Ko Harataunga te marae

Ko Rākairoa te whare

Ko Ngāropi te wharekai

Ko Ngāti Porou ki Harataunga te Iwi



THE HARATUANGA BLOCKS ARE NESTLED ABOVE KENNEDY BAY, NORTH OF COROMANDEL TOWN.





HARATUANGA BLOCK WHANAU AND STAKEHOLDERS AT A HUI HELD IN COROMANDEL TOWN IN 2021 TO SHARE INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT.

## *Māori landowners take the lead in Harataunga*

The Harataunga highlands, anchored by the ancestral mountain Tokatea and extending down to Coromandel's eastern seaboard, are recovering from a damaging history of deforestation.

Regenerating indigenous forest is taking hold on the hill slopes, and within the thriving bush and the small pastoral areas, there is great promise of future biodiversity and productivity from the land.

A collective of Māori landowners has now come together to realise that promise. Through careful land management and protection plans they intend to transform the potential of their whenua into housing and employment opportunities for whānau.

Together they are kaitiaki of over 1,200 hectares in Harataunga, in the northern Coromandel. The aim of the collective is to develop a sustainable and economically viable base for the combined whenua and whānau that will lead to training, jobs and homes.

"We have big moemoea, big dreams," says Sally Steedman, who is the collective's Project Co-ordinator.

"It's really difficult for us to leverage lending against the land currently, because we have so few assets and no revenue off it. But we are determined to establish horticulture, agriculture, and other industries that will allow our whānau to be fed, sheltered and prosperous as we care for this whenua," says Sally.

The collective successfully applied for Te Puni Kōkiri funding through the Whenua Māori Investment Fund to kickstart the project but intends to be self-reliant as quickly as practical.

The first step in their plan is to lay a foundation for future biodiversity through the management of pests and invasive plant species.

"We have our fair share of possums, rats, stoats, cats, feral pigs, goats and roaming dogs. We are strongly opposed to toxins and poisons so are looking at ways to manage

these without the use of 1080, for example," says Sally.

The collective's long-term vision is to establish a papa kāinga community on each block under the collective, with a centralised whareniui, wharekai, and wharepaku for communal meeting, kitchen and ablution facilities, surrounded by whare. They would love to see at least 20 family homes built on the land within the next five-ten years.

"We have whānau living out of the area who would come back in an instant if there was somewhere for them to live, and work for them to do on the land," says Sally. "We would fill those 20 homes in a heartbeat."

The group has engaged the services of BECA Consulting in Hamilton to assist in the development of a master plan and proposed 10-year strategy.

"Everything we do now to look after the land will be repaid in the land looking after us, and that's absolutely what drives us," says Sally.

# Planning on building?

Here are some common issues to keep in mind from our Council's building team to help you with your project.

## A buoyant construction sector



**Building activity is at a high, and our District has a higher-than-usual volume of building consent applications.**

We are processing applications as quickly as we can, but at times it may take a little longer than usual.

Tradespeople, designers and other industry professionals are in high demand too.

## Building consent inspection requirements



**Hard copies** – It's best to have a printed, readable set of plans and specifications on site, because you may not always be able to download an online version you have stored on a device.

**Required documents for consents** – Please provide required documents (PS4s, drainlayer 'as built' plans and/or pressure test statement, electrical certificates, gas certificates), including photographic evidence if this has been requested.

You will need to upload these to the project in the AlphaOne online portal at [tcdc.govt.nz/building](https://tcdc.govt.nz/building)

This is a huge help at Code Compliance Certificate time and keeps the job moving forward.

## Supply delays and product substitution



**The building boom combined with COVID-19 are causing delays in sourcing building materials, products and appliances in many cases.**

These delays are impacting the build process and completion of buildings resulting in additional costs and missed customer deadlines.

The temptation to substitute products can be high. However, please be cautious when considering product substitutions, especially with products you are not familiar with.

You need to satisfy our Council that the proposed substitute product meets the Building Code. Always make sure the manufacturer can provide you with documentation that enables correct installation and verifies that the products are compliant with the relevant clauses of the Building Code. If the manufacturer cannot provide this, do not use the product.

All proposed substitutions will require either a minor variation, or a major amendment if the change is significant, to your building consent. Contact our Council about how to do this.

## Liquefaction update



**Changes from the November 2019 Building Code Update have revised B1/AS1 to ensure new buildings are built strong enough to withstand liquefaction effects.**

The transition period ends 28 November 2021, when B1/AS1 will no longer be accepted for a means of compliance with the Building Code where there is moderate or significant liquefiable vulnerable land.

After that date the Building Code change revokes the use of a 'deemed to comply' pathway for foundations unless the ground has been assessed and/or categorised as not being liquefaction-prone, ie 'good ground'.

Your building designer or representative will need to determine the liquefaction vulnerability category and if it applies to your site. Additional site investigation and engineering input may be required to support your building or resource consent applications.

For more information, visit the government's Building Performance website [building.govt.nz](https://building.govt.nz)

## Keep up to date

If you have a query, either call us on **07 868 0200** or email [customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz)

If you don't already receive our *Coro Build* e-newsletter with building news from our Council, to subscribe please contact [jennifer.anderson@tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:jennifer.anderson@tcdc.govt.nz)

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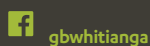
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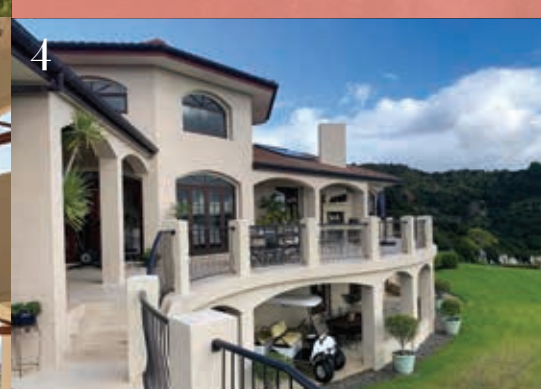
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# In the lap of Luxury



Looking for somewhere a little special to get away from it all? Consider a stay at some of the Coromandel's most luxurious accommodation options – not only will you find privacy and pampering but you'll be giving a helping hand to hard-working owners who are feeling the COVID crunch. We take a look at four exclusive accommodation options around our district that offer something quite out of the ordinary.



## 1. Hillbrook Estate

Arrive by helicopter, if you choose, to this spectacular hilltop farm that commands extensive views of the Pacific Ocean. Just ten minutes north of Whangamatā, Hillbrook Estate is a 50-hectare coastal estate and working farm.

Accommodation options at Hillbrook feature the beautifully appointed Main House – a seven-bedroom stone homestead in the classic style of a Scottish mansion.

Adjoining the main house are two immaculate self-contained suites known as The Stables, which offer a more private option for either families, or couples.

Guests absolutely love the magic of being able to walk down from the hills, through a pōhutukawa forest, to a private sandy white beach where there's fantastic fishing and surfing right on the doorstep.

Hillbrook Estate sleeps a maximum of 20 guests and the complete property is available to rent for luxury getaways or weddings.

During the low season from 1 May – 30 September the entire property, including the Main House and Stables, is available for up to 20 guests at \$4000 per night.

During High Season from 1 October – 31 April it is available for \$5000 per night.

See [hillbrookestate.co.nz](http://hillbrookestate.co.nz) for a full list of rates for smaller groups or wedding packages.

## 2. 970 Lonely Bay & The Barn

~ COOKS BEACH ~

This boutique accommodation offers two luxury stay options in either a gorgeous lodge or a stunning barn-style home.

The Lodge property at 970 Purangi Road is characterised by understated elegance, hidden away in native bush within easy walk of both Lonely Bay

and Cooks Beach. It is a perfect venue for small weddings and functions, honeymoons and indulgent stays. The expansive suites and terraced rooms feature views into the garden or over the Purangi Estuary, Mercury Bay or the adjacent Shakespeare Reserve; for winter breaks, large indoor and outdoor fireplaces and central heating ensure a cosy stay. The advent of COVID has given the owners an opportunity to repaint the Lodge and have it pristine for Summer 2022.

The Barn is located nearby at 14 Taunui Place. It features spacious living areas and two-bedroom suites that make it perfect for two couples, a family or a quiet romantic getaway. Underfloor central heating and indoor and outdoor fireplaces provide a warm winter welcome; terraces from all living areas offer summer dining spaces under pergolas that are hung with vines and nestled into the garden.

Both properties are just a walk away from the beautiful natural environment and spectacular scenery of Cooks Beach and Lonely Bay. It is a short drive to Ferry Landing, Hot Water Beach and Cathedral Cove.

The Lodge, which sleeps up to 10 people, has en suite rooms priced from \$695 up to \$1,300 per night for a two-bedroom suite, with The Barn, sleeping up to four, available for \$1,300 per night.

[970lonelybay.com](http://970lonelybay.com)

## 3. Mercury Ridge

Banish all thoughts of Europe and head instead to the elegant villa at Mercury Ridge. High above Mercury Bay, this property is a little slice of the Mediterranean nestled among an orchard, vineyard and native reserve. The Italian-style villa commands panoramic views and complete privacy and is available for exclusive use or bookings by suite.

The villa sleeps 10 guests with five king rooms available in different configurations to suit your group or family. A gorgeous patio and gardens make it the ideal venue for weddings, with space for ceremonies both indoors and out. The Jenkins family

purchased the villa two years ago and owners Tom and Jo say their passion for the property will see them through the pandemic.

“We just completed a major refresh and renovation last winter, after COVID 2020, so we are in perfect shape to welcome local visitors,” says Tom. “We’re certainly feeling the impact from a lack of international visitors, so we’re offering any guests who arrive through the winter period a special stay of three nights for the price of two.”

Mercury Ridge is a just a short walk to Cooks Beach, or be guided by the Jenkins’ extensive local knowledge to find nearby attractions and recreation options.

Room prices begin with the Lodge Suite at \$595 per night, with packages, specials and exclusive use rates all available.

[mercuryridge.co.nz](http://mercuryridge.co.nz)

## 4. Stone Terrace

Stone Terrace Estate is an oasis of calm located above the famous geothermal sands of Hot Water Beach. The French-inspired villa and guest-house are situated on terraced gardens set among bush-clad hills, creating a perfectly private spot for a wedding. Guests can spend time soaking up the bird song from the surrounding hills, or take a two-minute stroll down to the water’s edge.

New owner, Brian Johnson, purchased the estate in June 2021 and immediately set to work planting and landscaping the already impressive surrounds. He says that bookings have been good despite the challenges of COVID.

“The property really does have a calming aesthetic to it which seems to impart a wonderfully positive vibe to our guests,” he says.

Stone Terrace includes a self-contained two-bedroom guest house, which features a balcony overlooking stunning views of the beach and surrounding bush. The property caters for up to 100 day guests for weddings, with overnight accommodation available for the bridal party and family.

[stoneterrace.co.nz](http://stoneterrace.co.nz)

# GOING GREEN

## PAUANUI BUILDS



PHOTO CREDIT: BEN FROST

*If you drive down Lynette Place, you will come across the Pauanui Green development, where the builds are all architecturally designed with both your health and the environment in mind.*

Only two properties were built at the start of the first COVID-19 lockdown and now, a little over a year later, over eight properties have been built/are in construction and only four sections left for purchase. The development has taken off.

“We’re hearing from people who are keen to invest their money in new builds after being in lockdown last year, and especially knowing that travel isn’t going to happen for a very long time,” says General Manager for Green Homes, Matt Schroder.

The homes are some of the only properties built in NZ that are compliant with the Internal Standards Organisation (ISO) for the design and construction of energy efficient homes. That means the homes require solar panels with capacity for daytime power saving, electric vehicle chargers, along with double glazing, extra insulation in garage walls and doors and tapware that saves on water consumption.

With fully lined, insulated, and carpeted garages this provides potential for another bedroom or living space.

These homes are not only easy on the eyes but also lighter on the bills.

“We have, on average, saved \$50 to \$100 per month on our power bills compared to our last home,” says one happy homeowner.

With builds ‘Lifemark certified homes’, the properties are accessible for over 90 per cent of our population.

Lifemark homes have level door thresholds, wider hallways and doors and nonslip tiled bathrooms, making it the perfect home for most ages, stages and mobilities, ideal if you are looking to age in place.

There are over 70 plans available and Green Homes NZ looks after every aspect of the build for customers, from the plans to the design to the execution. Homes range in price from \$800,000 to \$1.5 million with the ability to customise the home to fit your budget.

“There is nothing for you to worry about,” says Matt. “We do as much or as little as you want us to do.”

Some homeowners have opted for homes without a deck to give them something to do when they reach their retirement. Others with green thumbs have chosen a home without the landscaping done, giving them the opportunity to do their bit. Another is a plumber and has decided to complete all the plumbing himself as part of the build.

Pauanui Homes make the perfect bach, retirement or family home.

[greenhomesnz.co.nz](http://greenhomesnz.co.nz)





# TOPADAHIL ART STUDIOS

OPOUTERE BEACH



## *Guity Evelyn*

View fine art by renowned contemporary French/New Zealand painter Guity Evelyn at the artist's home/studio overlooking unspoilt Opoutere Beach and Wharekawa Harbour.

Guity's unique art and distinctive style exude the beauty of The Coromandel tinged with hints of Provence and the Cote d' Azur, from where she originates. These contrasting reflections of where the Pacific meets the Mediterranean express a character all of their own. Guity's boldness of colour and an affinity for both the figurative and abstract have made her art sought by national and international collectors.

"..Guity's canvas surfaces defy optical logic, playing tricks with their depth with their shifting patterns and melting colours ... They strike a chord with people from all over the world, many of whom come back to collect more of Guity's art. Visitors at Topadahil Studios watching the changing colours of the sea and the movement of light across the sky, understand..."

(excerpts courtesy of  
Kath Webster, Art News NZ)



## TOPADAHIL ART STUDIOS

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# A THING OF BEAUTY

*Brought to you by Destination Coromandel and  
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**T**he Coromandel's long coastline, mountainous backbone, islands, rivers and wetlands make for a wild backyard. Home to a rich biodiversity and a wealth of natural resources, it is a region where you are always close to nature. And the closer you are, the more connected you feel to the living ecosystem that breathes here, one that has nurtured human visitors for centuries.

The significance of this ecosystem and the support it provides to our place cannot be understated. Filtering our water, purifying the air and enriching our soil – nature is far more than a postcard of paradise. Home to a myriad of species, all connected to sustain life on this planet, it is time to fully appreciate why biodiversity in *The Coromandel* matters.

Have you ever stopped to think that our towns and settlements are nestled between great areas of protected landscapes, and the 400km long coastline of Tikapa Moana and the Pacific? We're effectively living in a national park, something that has become the backdrop for our communities and our existence. There's growing acknowledgement that nature must return as the focus, rather than remaining as the beautiful, wild backdrop.

Locals are proud of the fact that there are no multi-storey hotels on our beaches or on our predator-free islands. Our two marine reserves shelter wild underwater communities. *The Coromandel* is home to endangered taonga like the scallop, the kaka, Archey's Frog and Northern Striped gecko, the natural riches of the land and sea that continue to feed our souls.

A combination of complex volcanic geology, dense forest and wetlands means diverse local climates, and a large number of plants and animals make their home in *The Coromandel*, some of them found nowhere else. Subalpine plants cling to the summit of sacred Moehau and regenerating rewarewa, kāmahī, kānuka and mānuka forests cover the lower slopes of the Coromandel Range, but the original kahikatea forest, flax and raupō have all but disappeared.

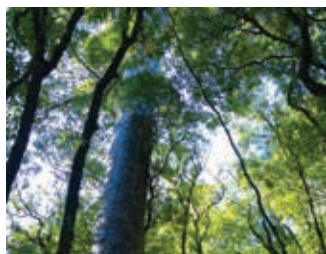
*The Coromandel* is one of the few New Zealand regions where kiwi numbers are growing, yet there are more than 107 threatened species (51 plants and 56 animals) living within our great green canopy. Archey's frogs, one of only four frogs native to New Zealand, live in *The Coromandel*, and the Moehau stag beetle is found only in the northern part of our peninsula. But some of us will never have heard of many of our species in a precarious state.



Photo credits: Sara Smerdon, Ian Preece & Moehau Environment Group



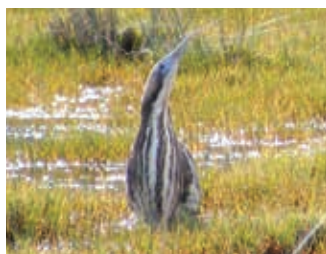
DOTTEREL CHICK



KAURI



HOCHSTETTER'S MUSHROOM



AUSTRALASIAN BITTERN



PERIPATUS



HELM'S BUTTERFLY



ARCHEY'S FROG



NORTHERN STRIPED GECKO

Some of our offshore islands are bird sanctuaries and others never had introduced predators established, offering a window into the past, and inspiration for how this place could again flourish.

Being part of the wild beauty of this place is our privilege, and it is also in our nature to engage. Our hunter-gatherer culture means we look to our backyard as our local supermarket, and to fill our basket with good times, fishing, surfing, hiking and biking. Those who dive below the surface or venture off the beaten track may be intent on forging a path, leaving more than a footprint.

The responsibility to take care quickly becomes a passion that is infectious, with a rising momentum that will tip the balance in favour of our voiceless native species. Only then will nature start to thrive, as locals truly appreciate what a thing of beauty this place is. And visitors will long to return, to recharge their soul.

Many people in our communities do connect with nature, take care, restore and protect the precious places in their backyards. The Predator Free Hauraki Coromandel Community Trust (PFHCT) supports more than 60 community conservation groups in *The Coromandel* under a national predator free movement. These regional projects cover an area of almost 286,000 hectares, planting kauri, restoring wetlands, cleaning up beaches, trapping backyard pests.

The recovering number of kiwi in *The Coromandel* gives a great assessment of and focus on the health of our place. As an environmental health indicator species, the kiwi represents everything we love about our wild home. We even have our own identifiable Coromandel taxon or whanau of kiwi. With so much more to do, you too can connect and engage with local initiatives to help restore our home for the kiwi, and leave more than your footprint behind.

Locals' behaviour sets the standard for visitors to follow and to contribute value to the place we live. First we must practice what we preach. If all who live in Hauraki Coromandel make a difference in their backyard, together we have a fantastic opportunity to make significant improvements to the biodiversity across our region.

As communities across *The Coromandel* link efforts, we can call upon an army of support from visitors who live on our doorstep and come from afar. We are all eager to see that our beautiful home remains good for your soul, forever.

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# LOVE OUR LOCALS

*We have so many talented and passionate people who put their heart and soul into producing fantastic homegrown and homemade products throughout the Coromandel. Here's a selection for you to sample.*

## WHITE SHEEP CO.

Our sheep history goes deep in New Zealand and Whangamatā local Sam Brown has taken the ovine obsession in a surprising new direction – with the creation of sheep milk spirits.

*The White Sheep Co. uses a traditional copper still to brew high-quality white spirits from sheep's milk farmed from all over New Zealand, including the Coromandel.*

The award-winning range of vodka and

gin is sold online, and you can also now find it at Duty Free. More recently, Sam has launched exports to Asia.

“It's been a great adventure,” he says. “I'm looking forward to continuing with the export market.”

The company's sheep milk vodka won the 'best NZ vodka' award in 2019. Other awards include a gold medal in the 2020 China Wine and Spirits awards and the Innovation Award at the 2019 NZ Food Awards.

The website includes recipes to mix your own cocktails such as the 'Feeling Sheepish' and the 'Ewe so Classy'.

[thewhitesheepco.com](http://thewhitesheepco.com)



# NATURALLY COROMANDEL

When Donna Cooney's 9-year-old daughter came home from school, worried about plastic bags killing sea turtles, Donna took matters into her own hands. She immediately set to work developing *Naturally Coromandel*, plastic-free soap and beauty products made from beeswax. The small whānau-driven business strives to care for bees, people and the planet.

*Naturally Coromandel* stocks natural soaps, beeswax wraps, shampoo and

conditioner bars and honey. All products are handmade by Donna, who has a certificate in beekeeping. She sources honey and wax for the products from the family's own hives found on their property.

The packaging on the beeswax wraps and soaps is biodegradable, eco-friendly packaging meaning that it can be easily disposed of in your compost. The honey comes in recyclable jars, and Donna is in the process of finding a supplier who will

provide glass jars and hopes she can make the swap soon, to something that's even more sustainable.

Although they have an online shop, their products are available at many stockists throughout the Coromandel. Some include Thames Re Store, Saltwater Surf Shop in Whangamatā, Colville General Store and Hahei General Store.

**[naturallycoromandel.nz](http://naturallycoromandel.nz)**



# RUPI

When Thames sisters Nikky Fisher and Trudie Douglas started looking for a way to bring their entire family together, they came up with a business idea to produce the perfect, plastic-free shampoo and conditioner. It took a year to refine a recipe for the solid shampoo and conditioner bars that met the exacting standards of their business ethos which is keeping things natural. In 2019 *Rupi* was launched, named after the sisters' Nana Rupī.

The bars are batch cured from a range of natural ingredients. Any imperfect or leftover product isn't wasted, instead turned into pet animal soaps for washing dogs and horses.

The products are 100 per cent handmade and the whole family gets involved from stirring the mixtures, to pouring the moulds, to packaging the bars to be sold. The bars also have different scents, giving people a variety of options to choose from. Scents include black raspberry and vanilla, pina colada, summer breeze and apple cinnamon.

"We're trying to make a difference in our world by reducing the amount of plastic that goes to landfill," says Nikky. "We can't solve all the problems of the world, but we can do our bit and we ask you to join us for the ride."

Find out more about their story, and try their products at **[rupi.co.nz](http://rupi.co.nz)**



## BLUE FRIDGE BREWERY

Adam Coleman-Smith tells a story of blood, sweat and beers that led to the founding of *Blue Fridge Brewery*. Based out of Kuaotunu, Adam brews balanced beers from NZ hops and malt. He launched the business in 2015, following years spent travelling the world and identifying the characteristics of good beer. He returned to an internship at Coromandel Brewing Co in Whenuakite, until establishing his own brand. Starting off with 120L capacity the brewery has now grown to a 600L system.

*Blue Fridge Brewery* stays true to its roots by minimising its environmental footprint, using quality local ingredients, selling locally, reducing waste by giving spent grain to animals and cleaning both equipment and brewery with eco-friendly products.

Keep an eye out for Blue Fridge's local collaborations – Hot & Sticky, a Chilli Mango Pale Ale made with local Kuaotunu favourite Uncle Dunkle's Hot Sauce. There's Seaweed Gose (a type of German sour beer), made with wild harvested seaweed



from Quality Seaweeds in Port Charles. There was also an exclusive beer released for the Whitianga Oceans Festival.

Adam says further expansion is planned with a location in Whitianga set to open in late 2022. The new location will have a tap that dedicates all the profits from that beer to a revolving list of local charities.

Check them out [bluefridgebrewery.co.nz](http://bluefridgebrewery.co.nz)



# OPITO BAY SALT CO.

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*Opito Bay Salt Co.* was started two years ago by Opito Bay locals Perry Cornish and Erin Mone. After tasting an artisan salt, the pen and notepad came out and the couple began brainstorming how they could create their own high-quality product.

Perry has been coming to Opito Bay for over 20 years and says the pristine, clean water and long sunshine hours make it the perfect location for producing salt. The salt is all handmade by the couple in their greenhouses. It's a labour of love

from the harvesting of the water to the harvesting of the salt.

"You can really taste the minerality in our salt which reflects its natural environment", says Perry.

A lot of brands use imported commercial grade salt and add flavouring, but it is nothing like the unique texture and flavour of *Opito Bay Salt*.

While they have their staple plain salt, they also make other salt flavours

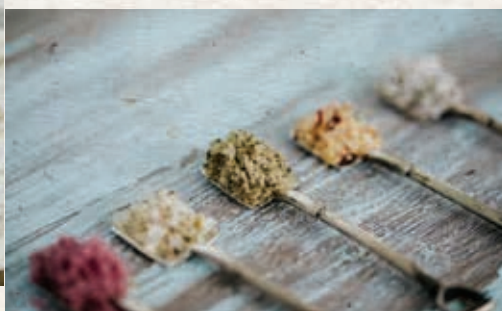
that include a traditional rosemary, a stunning local smoked chilli salt, plus their newest flavour which is a toasted fennel and thyme. A limited-edition pinot noir salt will be out for summer 2021-2022, so keep an eye out.

"We often change up our range depending on the season or inspiration," Perry says.

They have 15 retail partners across the Coromandel and Eastern Waikato and their next step is to go international.

"We have been stunned by the positive reaction and support of the locals from the Bay and right across Coromandel," says Perry.

You can check out their Facebook or Instagram or order directly from their website [opitobaysalt.co.nz](http://opitobaysalt.co.nz)



## JAM CANDLES

---

John and Maree Smith describe themselves as candle-aholics. John started hand-pouring wax into old jam jars to feed his wife's obsession with beautiful and original candles, with the results quickly turning into a thriving business.

With over 10 scents including

Coromandel Gold, Cinnamon Vanilla, Pomegranate Noir and White Musk, there's a smell for everyone.

The name, *JaM*, pays homage to both their initials and the fact that old jam jars are still used for the candles.

But candle making is not John's only area of expertise. When he isn't creating candles, he keeps himself busy with the couple's other business – Branching Out. For those who need their lawns tended to, weeds sprayed or rubbish collection, the pair do it with excellent attention to detail and prompt and efficient service.

You can find the candles in store at the Tairua Post and Lotto shop and also Get It On!, a local fashion store in Tairua also owned by the couple.

Whether you want to purchase a candle or get your lawns done, get in touch.

[branchingout.co.nz](http://branchingout.co.nz)

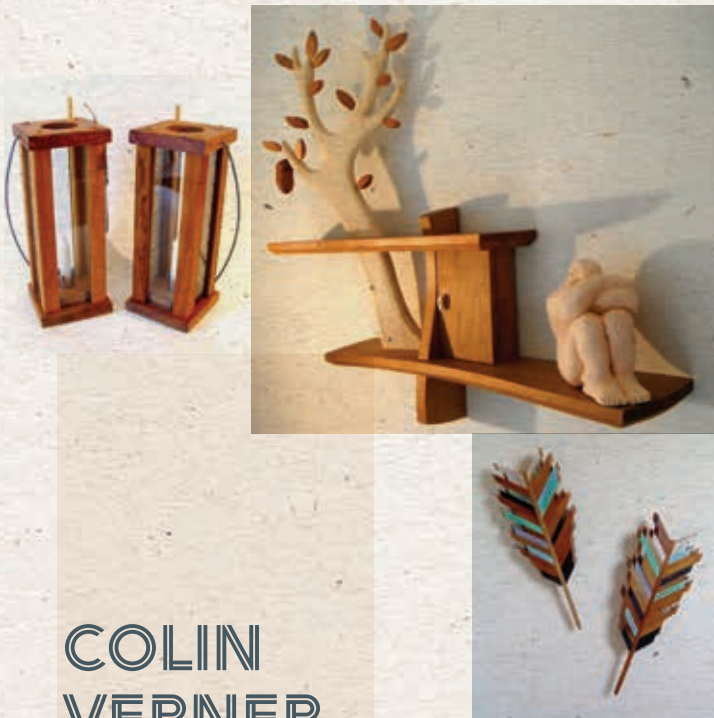
# YELLOW BIKINI ECO.

Founded by Simone Johnson in December 2019, *Yellow Bikini Eco.* was born from her passion for the environment and living sustainably.

*Yellow Bikini Eco.* makes beautiful, local, eco-friendly products, with a mission to provide products that are both good for the earth and good for the soul.

“Living in beautiful Whangamatā and being out in the ocean almost every day motivates me to do as much as I can to help protect the environment that we live in,” she says.

You can buy coconut bowls and cutlery



## COLIN VERNER

Kuaotunu artist Colin Verner constructs and carves mounted relief sculptures from recycled wood and other materials. One of the more functional pieces he creates is traditional wooden candle lanterns, in small and large, which are beautiful home accessories that create a warm ambience.

“As a starting point for my art, I use several techniques designed to access

what in Western civilisation is referred to as the unconscious mind,” says Colin. “So, I use automated drawing or writing to generate images and ideas, which I then juxtapose in imaginative ways until I realise something I wish to physically craft,” says Colin.

Colin's background is studying at Whitecliffe College of Arts and Design, graduating with honours, before working

in the United States and South Korea where he has exhibited.

Colin's studio in Kuaotunu is open by appointment, and during the summer months it is open to visitors most weekends if his banner is out on SH25. His lanterns, and other art pieces, are for sale at the Bamboo Bach in Kuaotunu or look on the website [bamboobach.com](http://bamboobach.com)



## NICHE = THE LITTLE COLLECTIVE

As a young child Ang Hilliar would make up flower potions from her family's garden and sell them to kind neighbours who were mostly purchasing muddy water.

for your smoothie bowls, cereals and cheeky desserts. Simone also makes and stocks her own candles, concocted using the same coconut bowls. She also sells diffusers, and bamboo 'Cause Candles' that raise money for three environmental charities. Charities include Forest and Bird, Project Blue and Sea Shepherd NZ. There's a variety of fragrances like vanilla bean, ocean breeze, citronella and feijoa sorbet.

The double-walled keep cups are also a very popular product.

Every detail is thoroughly thought out, from the sustainability of the product and packaging materials to the feel and texture of the products.

All essences and oils in the candles are

made from natural and sustainably sourced ingredients. And obviously, there aren't enough coconuts in New Zealand to keep up with demand, so while most products are locally sourced, some come from overseas places like Bali. Simone makes sure that any products brought in are sustainable and follow fair trade practices.

Simone has her products available at various stockists around our district including Aspire Refill & Eco Store, Whangamatā Information Centre, Cote Bleu Home, Re-Store and Hotties at Hot Water Beach.

Or, you can shop online at [yellowbikini.co.nz](http://yellowbikini.co.nz)



This is where her passion and fascination for blending products blossomed into now running her own beauty therapy business, BeautiHaven, where she sells her own skincare products, as well as products made by other talented locals from around our District.

If you visit the Whangamatā store, you'll find macrame décor and plant hangers, perfume, home décor, wellness and skincare. You'll also find candles, diffusers and essential oils handmade by Ang boasting beautiful fragrances such as marmalade love, exotic ambiance and all things nice.

Alongside a selection of crystals and incense, the little store also stocks Tesora Jewellery made with Larimar, an

exquisite gemstone from the Dominican Republic, handmade by another Whangamatā local.

"The jewellery is just beautiful," says Ang. "Each piece uniquely radiates peace and love. Being able to stock local products makes our wee store special and that's what we're about, supporting each other."

"My businesses aren't there just for the tourists and summer visitors," says Ang. "I'm here to serve our town and our people and so my prices will be affordable and my products things that will support our local community."

"It's not just the local community we try to support. We're also very focussed on supporting trade aid and stock many of their products," she says.

Pop in-store and say hello to Ang or visit her Facebook and Instagram – [nichethelittlecollective](https://www.facebook.com/nichethelittlecollective)

# WHITIANGA FINE WINES AND SPIRITS

*We have a passion for fine wines*

- The Mercury Bays only boutique liquor store specialising in fine wines and spirits.
- Imported premium wines and spirits plus a great selection of New Zealand leading brands.
- A great range of New Zealand Craft beers including local brews from Hot Water Brewing Company and Blue Fridge Brewing.

WHITIANGA  
FINE  
WINES  
AND  
SPIRITS



23A Albert Street, Whitianga  
07 211 6542

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

## Gastronomics

*Restaurant, Café and Bar with Function Room and Alfresco Dining*



Gastronomics is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Raikwar since September 2011.

Chef Kishan Raikwar has over 30 years' experience in hospitality, including overseeing the operation of a large restaurant capable of catering for up to 1,500 patrons per day. He has been a member of the NZ Chef Association, current board member of Thames Business Association and a culinary judge for the last 12 years at NZ Culinary Fair/NZ Hospitality Championships at Auckland.



*~ Kishan and Radha look forward to welcoming you soon ~*

## Gastronomics

428 Pollen Street Thames • Phone: 07 868 9406

[www.gastronomics.co.nz](http://www.gastronomics.co.nz)



# Weddings on the Coromandel

The Coromandel is the perfect location for your special day. With its beautiful beaches, stunning reserves and charming halls, there are plenty of spots to choose from for your wedding.

And now, it's even easier to book one of our Council's beautiful parks, reserves or halls for a wedding ceremony.

You can find our new easy-to-use application form and everything else you need to know about holding a wedding ceremony on our website

[tcdc.govt.nz/weddings](http://tcdc.govt.nz/weddings)



MATARANGI WINTER WEDDING. PHOTO CREDIT: FELICITY JEAN PHOTOGRAPHY.

## 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.



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

Being an attractive and comfortable place for modern-day travelers and tourists to stay for a few nights while visiting Thames, providing a standard of hospitality that dates all the way back to 1869.

Grahamstown Bar & Diner, or "The GBD" as locals affectionately call us, is one of the most popular restaurants in Thames.

A favourite night-life venue with a friendly, relaxed, atmosphere where locals and visitors alike get together to socialise over a few drinks.

Enjoy our delicious cuisine, prepared by skilled chefs using the best New Zealand produce and seafood harvested straight from the Hauraki Gulf.



bistro • bar • accommodation

Pollen St, Thames – Phone 868 6008

[gbd@thejunction.net.nz](mailto:gbd@thejunction.net.nz)

[www.thejunction.net.nz](http://www.thejunction.net.nz)



# TESTING THE WATERS

*In 2020, we had several local water-based tourism businesses test the waters and offer new services for visitors, with great success. They now look forward to providing more experiences for everyone to enjoy over the coming years.*



## CRUISING THE PURANGI ESTUARY AND STELLA EVERED RESERVE

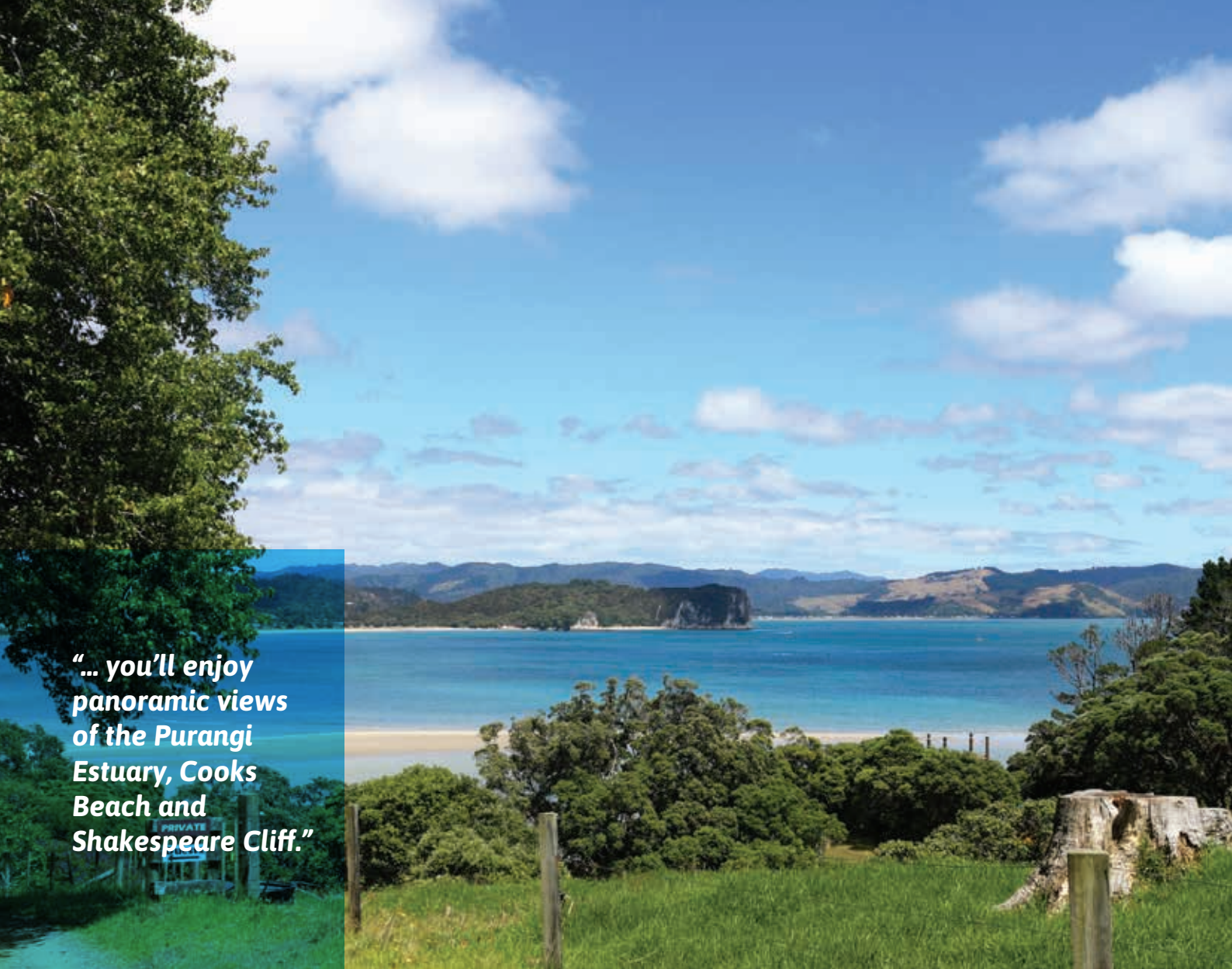
Pack your sneakers, swimwear, hat and sunscreen and visit the Stella Evered Reserve Park, a hidden gem to add to your bucket list. The reserve is on private land that is open to the public. It is looked after by the Perpetual Guardian (PG) Trust, an enduring professional trustee company which manages wills, estates and legacies. As you walk the many scenic tracks around the Park, you will lose yourself in the tranquillity of stunning panoramic scenery and beautiful bays.

The Park is the charitable legacy of proud previous owners, Stella and Eric Evered. The couple owned 30.4 hectares of land on Lees Road, including the entirety of what is now known as the Stella Evered Reserve.

With no family to bequeath the land to, Eric named the estate for his late wife and left it in the capable hands of the PG Trust. For decades the property has remained accessible to the public. In recent years further improvements to the walkways and extensive planting have occurred, thanks to the Coromandel Coastal Walkway Group, which volunteers its time to improving the experience of walkers and trampers.

The Park also has historical heritage significance. Back in 1769, Captain James Cook and the Endeavour crew visited what is now the Park, using the streams there to fill their water barrels, before sealing and floating them back to the ship. Further along the Te Ara o Hei trail are more sites, such as the Hereheretaura Pa site, which hold meaning and history for the local iwi, Ngāti Hei.

The Park contains four easy-to-moderate tracks (depending on where you start), leading to different beaches, jetties and viewing platforms. If you decide to take the main walk, you'll enjoy panoramic views of the Purangi Estuary, Cooks Beach and Shakespeare Cliff. Afterwards, you can wander down to a secluded beach for a swim into the Estuary, which is sheltered by a stunning pohutukawa tree believed to be 450-750 years old. For anyone that



**“... you’ll enjoy panoramic views of the Purangi Estuary, Cooks Beach and Shakespeare Cliff.”**

is up for a challenge, you can continue the walk through the reserve and down Lees Road onto the Department of Conservation managed Cathedral Cove, using a privately-run car park and trail – Cathedral Cove Gateway Trail – for \$2 per person. [cathedral-cove-gateway-trails.business.site](https://cathedral-cove-gateway-trails.business.site)

The walk from Stella Evered Reserve to Cathedral Cove is part of a larger trail – Te Ara o Hei - which links from Whitianga, through to Ferry Landing. In the long-term it will link to Hot Water Beach. [tcdc.govt.nz/tearaohei](https://tcdc.govt.nz/tearaohei)

“New Zealanders should have access to their land and be able to use it for walks like this to enjoy,” says John Gaukrodger, caretaker of Stella Evered Reserve.

If you don’t mind getting wet, at low tide you can easily swim from the Stella Evered Reserve across the Purangi Estuary to Cooks Beach.

There is also an alternative, dry option – Shanán Laird’s rowboat. This is a new service operating under his Coromandel

Paddle Boarding business, operating under his Coromandel Paddle Boarding business.

Shanan grew up on a farm just out of Hamilton, but spent a lot of time at Cooks Beach, making the most of the stunning Coromandel weather. Many years later he’s now back in the district, living his dream life and running his own business.

After seven years travelling and working in Spain, America, Europe and Australia Shanán returned to Whitianga and started Coromandel Paddle Boarding. The business is now located on the banks of the Purangi Estuary. The location enjoys less wind, calm waters, and stunning scenery.

“It’s the prime spot,” he says.

The development of Te Ara O Hei trail has now allowed walkers better access between the Stella Evered Reserve and Cathedral Cove. “That’s when I saw a gap in the market,” says Shanán. “The question was raised about how visitors would cross from the banks of the Purangi Estuary to Stella Evered Reserve,” says Shanán.

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT:

THE TRACK FROM STELLA EVERED RESERVE TO CATHEDRAL COVE.

SHANAN LAIRD WITH HIS RED ROWBOAT.

THE VIEW FROM STELLA EVERED RESERVE OUT TO SHAKESPEARE CLIFF.

The solution was his little red rowboat.

Shanan secured the relevant permits needed to expand his paddleboard business on the banks of Cooks Beach, to include rowing people across the Estuary in his rowboat with bench seats. It’s not easy work and it’s a job that keeps him fit.

Shanan can transport up to three people per trip, charging \$5 per person.

[coromandelpaddleboarding.com](https://coromandelpaddleboarding.com)

## TAIRUA WATER TAXI – TESTING NEW WATERS

Hot Water Beach locals Hayden Smith and Katy Lingard have found new ways to boost business, operating in a COVID climate, by refocusing their tourism product to meet the needs of a domestic visitor market.

In 2016, Hayden and Katy took over the Cathedral Cove Water Taxi, when it was in its third year of business.

“It’s definitely been a big learning curve, but it’s been really good” says Hayden. They then found themselves testing new waters as a taxi service further afield. After attending the first Tairua Boat Show in August 2020, they saw a gap in the market to transport passengers between Tairua and Pauanui.

They cater to those who want to travel when it suits them, or outside the scheduled times of the ferry service.

The couple’s water taxi service ran from December 2020 to February 2021, between the Royal Billy Point Wharf in Pauanui, the Tairua Wharf and the Pauanui Waterways.

Their water taxi activity helped keep the couple busy during the summer months – when before COVID and preceding lockdowns – business would be buzzing, with more than enough tourists for their boat to handle, just doing water-based transport.

The couple, who live at Hot Water Beach, agree they’re “living the dream.” If they aren’t walking their little dog Figgy, they’re surfing, spearfishing, or over the summer months, running their business.

“We only end up being at work 40 per cent of the time, because we can’t get onto the beach if there’s even a little bit of a swell,”

Hayden says, “it’s a job that becomes mentally – and financially – hard, when you want to work, but you can’t be out there.”

Katy supplements their income as a fulltime speech therapist, and when he isn’t chauffeuring people to Cathedral Cove, Hayden finds additional work though commercial diving and building. In the down time there’s always surfing and other hobbies.

So, for those that want to travel to dinner without driving, or to transport bikes home after riding the Tairua to Pauanui trail – the couple’s water taxi service remains an excellent option to consider.

**Check them out on Facebook – Tairua Water Taxi and Tours.**







**LEFT:**  
HAYDEN SMITH AND KATY LINGARD PICTURED WITH ONE OF THEIR BOATS.

**BELOW:**  
THE VIEW OVER TAIRUA AND PAUANUI.  
CREDIT: ANDY BELCHER.

*“The couple, who live at Hot Water Beach, agree they’re “living the dream.”*”



## CRUISING THE WATERWAYS

Over the last couple of years, Jeremy and Louise Lomas, owners of the Whitianga Ferry, were looking for other ways to branch out into the water tourism market.

The Lomas' purchased the Whitianga Ferry Service four years ago and have been running it ever since. As a former America's Cup sailor for Team New Zealand, Jeremy is often a skipper on the ferry service, as he still enjoys being out on the water as much as he can.

With a drop in customer traffic due to lockdowns and the impact of COVID, the Lomas' wanted to come up with alternative service for their smaller ferry.

"Our solution was to use it as a tourist craft motoring around the Whitianga estuary and waterways, which are calm, peaceful and interesting parts of Mercury Bay that could be better explored," says Jeremy.

When they first launched, they kept advertising and marketing to a minimum, as they wanted to gauge interest before investing more money in advertising.

"We wanted to make sure that when we

started the service, we got it right and tested the market," says Jeremy. Even with limited advertising, they still managed to have about a dozen people per trip and everyone loved it.

The Whitianga Waterways Cruise runs from the Whitianga Wharf and travels up through

the estuary for 3km. Charges are \$35 for adults, \$15 for children and \$80 for a family of four. It's an adventure that caters to both young and old. Prams and wheelchairs are easily accommodated.

The tour lasts 80-minutes and is scheduled to run two times a day taking up to 30



**"Our solution was to use it as a tourist craft motoring around the Whitianga estuary and waterways ..."**





LEFT:  
THE HISTORIC STONE JETTY SEEN DURING  
THE CRUISE.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM:  
THE WHITIANGA FERRY.

JEREMY AND LOUISE LOMAS WITH THEIR  
BOAT THE MERCURY STAR.

guests each tour. The tours run at high tide to allow the most time to enjoy the scenery and experience. On the boat, you will see historical landmarks such as the old pioneer stone jetty juxtaposed alongside luxury lifestyle properties within the Waterways development. If you're lucky, occasionally dolphins and orcas enjoy cruising the

estuary too, but you will be most likely to see shag colonies and seabirds.

"I really enjoyed the nice calm boat trip up the estuary and through the Waterways. It was a great way to see a different view of Whitianga," says one satisfied customer quoted on the couple's website. Jeremy and Louise plan to refine the cruise by

doing a longer loop around the Waterways, which they anticipate will be developed in 2021-2022.

The Lomas' can't wait to have you on board the boat this season.

[whitiangawaterwayscruises.co.nz](http://whitiangawaterwayscruises.co.nz)

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# Whitianga *waterways*

# Creating the dream

In 1995 Hoppers purchased a strategic 73ha landholding in the flat lands of Whitianga and put a joint venture proposition to three adjoining land owners forming Whitianga Waterways Ltd. They set to the task of establishing a Structure Plan for the combined area (220+ ha) with consideration to the environment, roading, air services and infrastructure to service the project. After a number of years planning, construction commenced in 2002 with the first release of sites in 2003. Whitianga Waterways is a comprehensively designed waterways community encompassing residential property, commercial, retail, marine services, accommodation, mixed use and retirement. The unique environment of the waterways provides lifestyle attributes that residents claim are unsurpassed to any other location they have lived at.

## Lifestyle opportunities

To date over 700 residential lots have been created and over the next 3 years another 200 residential lots will be added to this number. Whitianga Waterways has been a key contribution to the swift growth in the area. The impact of Covid-19, returning kiwis, home/work life trends and the desire for lifestyle, has resulted in the continual desirability of Whitianga. The future of Whitianga Waterways is exciting with a new retail zone proposed to start in 2022 and the Mooring retirement lifestyle village to commence shortly after. New canal and non-canal lots will be released later this year, we recommend registering your interest to ensure you do not miss out.



# Dockside

Whitianga Waterways will have a new hot spot in 2022. Building consent has been granted for the Dockside retail/commercial area and construction is planned to start in January 2022. The aim is to be open and ready for the 22/23 Summer season.

The first stage of building will include a waterfront hospitality establishment and the Whitianga Waterways sales showroom. The building has been designed to take advantage of its unique waterfront location, with large vaulted ceilings and joinery to capture the views. Generous landscaping and over 200m<sup>2</sup> of decking will enable patrons to relax in the warm Coromandel sun and enjoy the outlook. For more information and leasing opportunities please contact the sales team at Whitianga Waterways.



07 866 0164

[WHITIANGAWATERWAYS.CO.NZ](http://WHITIANGAWATERWAYS.CO.NZ)

# A family with a vision



The Hopper Family came to establish themselves in New Zealand initially, as a young couple from Yorkshire, Ken and Edith Hopper immigrated in 1920 to live in Auckland, later settling in Whangaparaoa in 1927.

The couple had visions to farm and become land holders. They were hardworking and aspirational, purchasing the Arkles Bay Country Store and Post Office. Further enterprising into farming dairy cows, pine trees, growing pumpkins to sell to the US Navy during World War 2, and eventually moving into property development. All the while the family multiplied, Ken and Edith having 6 children; Barbara, Tony, Ian, Guy, Bill and Trish.



In 1950, brothers Ian and Tony Hopper, set out to start a civil construction company. Later joined by brothers Guy and Bill, they created developments around Auckland, and in 1967 the innovative Pauanui Ocean Beach Resort on the Coromandel was initiated.

From 1987 Ian's son, Leigh, took over part of the family business, broadening activities into canal developments, retirement living, commercial, retail and residential building, marine developments, and more. Until recently Leigh had been securely at the helm, but now has decided to slow down and enjoy the lifestyle he has spent many years creating at Whitianga Waterways.

Today the third generation is taking hold of the reigns including Leighs' son Gray, daughter Shana, nephew Andy and niece Aloise. With a legacy behind them the future looks promising.

Hopper Developments continues to look for opportunities to grow, but lifestyle is still the company focus and remains core to the company strategy moving forward.

# FOOD Truckking

Meet four food producers who have taken their businesses on the road, to serve up their particular food offerings to customers around the Coromandel.

## The Bread Mobile

Lihi Shaky is “obsessed” with sourdough. She produces gorgeous authentic loaves from her home kitchen in Coroglen using organic flour and wild yeast.

“Real sourdough only uses flour, water and salt. There’s nothing else. My bread is naturally leavened through a very traditional and very long process of fermentation,” she says.

You can taste the difference, it’s a really beautiful bread.”

Originally from Israel, Lihi has lived in the Coromandel for ten years. She perfected her dough during years of home kitchen experiments, before renovating an old trailer to create The Bread Mobile in 2020.

“I’m starting to get to know quite a few locals who have become regulars, which is fantastic, especially during the slower winter season,” she says. “I love that idea of being in the locals’ shopping basket each week.”

As she gets to know her regulars, Lihi also caters to requests – producing less crusty loaves for sandwiches, or different styles or shapes to suit meals.

Preparing the dough for each bake takes all day. Then it rests overnight in the fridge before Lihi wakes at 4am to bake fresh on the day of sale.

She produces a variety of sourdough breads including seeded, spelt, soft oat, and a popular French baguette.

“Sourdough breads are really filling, healthier and easier to digest than other breads,” she says.

With two children now at school, Lihi says The Bread Mobile fits perfectly around family life and she’s thrilled with the response so far.

“Making bread is a meditation for me,” she says.

**You can find The Bread Mobile on Albert Street in Whitianga on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9.30am, and at the Coroglen Farmers Market on Sundays starting Labour Weekend. Lihi also regularly updates [facebook.com/BreadMobile](https://www.facebook.com/BreadMobile) and [instagram.com/thebreadmobile1](https://www.instagram.com/thebreadmobile1)**



LIHI SHAKY (ABOVE) COMBINES FAMILY LIFE WITH A PASSION FOR BAKING AUTHENTIC FERMENTED SOURDOUGH USING ORGANIC FLOUR AND WILD YEAST.







## Dandelion is Blooming

Market days start at midnight for Dianna Smith from Dandelion in Whangamatā. Getting 1000 made-from-scratch doughnuts ready for hungry punters at local markets is a several-day process. Dough has to be mixed and weighed, custard made, cream whipped, as well as organising toppings such as jams, sprinkles and glazes. That's all before Dianna begins what she describes as the intense process of deep-frying hundreds of brioche doughnuts, starting not long after the rest of us have gone to bed. After what usually turns out to be an all-nighter, it's off to the market where she's behind the coffee machine all day.

And that suits her just fine. "By the time I get to the customers and making coffees, it's already been a huge, huge day. But I love it," she says. "It's massive, but we go hard for one day, and then recover before the next market a few weeks later."



For Dianna, it's all about being able to be flexible, to pick and choose events around family life. She also has the fun of coming up with new cream and custard fillings, when chocolate companies release new flavours, such as Caramilk or Hundreds and Thousands.

Dandelion's vehicle is named Cliff, after the previous owner. Dianna saw the truck parked on the roadside in Paeroa and knew it was right for her. She had already looked at other options to go mobile, as she wanted a change of pace from running a store-based business. Cliff had been set up for travelling, so Dianna gutted it completely, fitting it out with benches, a deep fryer, and a coffee machine. She says Cliff's a slow vehicle and there's enough work for her in and around Whangamatā, so they stay local. Summer markets are her big days, and there are other events such as Beach Hop or collaborations with other food trucks at local reserves. Dianna's skills as a cake-maker are also in demand for wedding and birthday cakes.

Dianna takes Cliff to private events too, such as weddings where he's been hired for use as a bar, both for cocktails and cakes. The dessert bar menu might include cheesecake, tiramisu and, of course, doughnuts, but she can design a menu to suit customers' tastes.

**To keep track of where Cliff will be appearing next or to find out more about hiring Dianna for your event, follow her Facebook page [facebook.com/dandelionest18](https://www.facebook.com/dandelionest18) or email her at [dandelioncakery@gmail.com](mailto:dandelioncakery@gmail.com)**



YOU CAN'T TURN DOWN A DONUT FROM DIANNA (LEFT) IN HER FOOD TRUCK "CLIFF," WHILE YOU'RE IN THE COROMANDEL. DIANNA ALSO DOES CAKES AND TREATS TO ORDER FOR PARTIES AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS.



COME AND CATCH UP WITH LINDA AND JAN WHILE YOU'RE IN THAMES. ALONG WITH THEIR COFFEE AND MUFFINS, THEY CAN SHARE THE BEST PLACES TO SHOP AND VISIT AROUND THE AREA.

## What a Treat

Linda and Jan from Treats say they feel like ambassadors for Thames. They happily offer recommendations to customers buying their real fruit ice-cream and delicious coffee about what there is to do in the area, a place they are passionate about. "We think Thames is such a cool place," says Linda. "We send people up to DOC in the Kauaeranga Valley, to the rivers and beaches for a swim, and interesting, historic places around town."

The Treats food-truck is a beautiful, metallic-silver caravan. It was built at a factory in Shanghai and imported through a company in Mt Maunganui. A special exterior coating keeps it mirror-shiny, particularly after heavy rain. Inside, there are ice-cream and coffee machines, fridges and a freezer. There's enough room for three people to work, and due to its double insulation, it never gets too hot or cold.

Often parked in the Danby Field Shoppers' car park on Queen Street, near Porritt Park playground, Treats is super convenient for vehicles such as trucks, campervans, boats, and those towing a load to pull over without having to navigate a car park. Regulars often make a stop for coffee and a chat.

Part of the carpark is designated for freedom camping and many visitors are delighted to get a real coffee at their front door. One camper thought he was having an especially vivid dream about coffee, and discovered on waking that he'd inadvertently parked right beside Treats' regular spot and the aroma of a freshly made flat white was wafting into his vehicle.

Linda, who was involved in the Thames Business Association, wanted to start Treats because a lot of people passed through Thames, without taking the time to explore its many attractions.

Now, they are proud to be making up to 200 coffees a day, as well as other hot drinks, and real fruit ice-cream, and selling old school, cream-filled donuts, cookies and their famous ham and cheese toasties.

Opening during the COVID Level 3 in 2020 required extra considerations, such as a perspex screen between staff and customers and a new awning, so people could queue safely while staying protected from the sun and rain. Outside chairs meant people could enjoy a socially-distanced coffee with their friends again. Linda says they love having a laugh and meeting new customers, and people who were a bit nervous as restrictions eased felt comfortable at Treats. "We had one customer who hadn't spoken to anyone in person during lockdown and came here. Others who were anxious told themselves 'I'll go and see Linda and Jan after I've done the shopping' and that made it easier for them to go out," she says.



**Treats are usually on Queen Street in Thames, Thursday-Sunday and they have become well known at special events around the area. Follow them on Facebook to check their hours [facebook.com/Treats-Thames-100101851552291](https://www.facebook.com/Treats-Thames-100101851552291) or get in touch to book them for your community event.**



# Adding some Spice

Little Bali boss Yanti Forsyth is impressed by how much chilli-heat Kiwi customers can handle. The Indonesian chef has been serving her Asian-fusion tacos around the Coromandel for the past five years and was initially cautious about how much to spice things up.

“I put a little bit of the sambal, [a spicy chilli sauce] on the side, but some people put three or four big spoonfuls of it on their tacos,” she laughs. “And I realised I didn’t need to worry so much.”

Yanti takes her food-truck to events around the Coromandel, such as to the Whitianga Summer Concert, the K2 bike race, and local food festivals. Her menu mainstays include Asian slaw-filled, soft-shell tacos with Korean marinated pork belly, Indonesian spiced chicken, or crumbed fish, aioli and sriracha. And there’s a beef rendang curry and rice, or scallop and prawn wontons.

She says customers enjoy her food because she’s offering new and different flavours, and aside from the taco shells, she makes everything from scratch, including all the sauces. Yanti heads to specialty Asian grocery stores in Auckland for many of her supplies: for ingredients such as galangal, shrimp paste, turmeric leaves, and lemongrass. When it comes to serving at events, it’s all hands on deck inside the custom-fitted Little Bali food-truck.

Yanti takes orders, with husband Scott and two of their teenaged sons on the till, the grill and the deep-fryer. Yanti and Scott, who’s a New Zealander, met in Bali, where they ran a jewellery business. After the 2002 Bali bombings, international tourism dried up on the Indonesian island and they decided to move to the Coromandel. Yanti had trained as a chef at hotels and resorts across Bali and got a job at The Dunes restaurant at the Matarangi Golf Course.

A decade and a half later, with three boys, Scott out building around the Coromandel, a part-time restaurant job, and a popular food truck business, it’s a busy life, but Yanti loves taking Little Bali on the road.

“I like being my own boss, I love cooking, and I want to introduce people to my food. At festivals, people are open to trying new things. There’s Thai and Filipino food, pies, people selling sauces, and more,” says Yanti.

“We talk with other stallholders, discuss our next events, and swap food with them,” she says.” Yanti is planning to expand the business into catering and private functions.

**To find out where and when Little Bali will be serving up their Indonesian deliciousness at public events, check out the Facebook page: [facebook.com/littlebali01](https://facebook.com/littlebali01), or email [yanforsyth@gmail.com](mailto:yanforsyth@gmail.com) for more information about their catering.**

YANTI (LEFT) IN FRONT OF THE FAMILY FOOD TRUCK “LITTLE BALI,” WHICH SERVES UP ASIAN FUSION YUMMINESS. A POPULAR DISH IS THE TACO SALAD WRAPS (MIDDLE) WHICH YOU CAN ORDER FROM THEIR FOOD TRUCK WHICH TRAVELS AROUND THE DISTRICT FOR FAIRS AND FESTIVALS (TOP).



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0508 KNIVES 564 837 ■ [houseofknives.co.nz](http://houseofknives.co.nz)



# New World Waka Kai delivering groceries to a beach near you again this summer.



Visit [newworld.co.nz/whitianga](http://newworld.co.nz/whitianga) for more details

Thames in for a hootin' tootin' good time

# HOOTNANNY COUNTRY ROCK FESTIVAL

**N**oddy Watts is no stranger to a good party, and the organiser of Whangamatā's famous Beach Hop Rock'n'Roll Festival is now bringing a more country vibe to the Coromandel.

The Hootnanny Country Rock Festival is a three-day festival which will be held at the Thames Racecourse at the end of February. It will feature a line-up of New Zealand's best country rock performers, and up-and-coming acts.

There will also be country dancing and a farmers' market, as well as a car and truck show and other events to celebrate all that's best of the Wild West.

The idea for a celebration of folk, cowboy and country music was born out of Noddy's multiple trips to Nashville with his partner Andrea, who shares an interest in classic USA V8s and Hot Rods. Together, they have led dozens of self-drive tours of the USA in Mustang convertibles over the past decade.

"A hootenanny is an old-time country word for a party, pronounced "hoot-nanny", so we knew that was the perfect word for our plan – which is to make this the biggest country music party in New Zealand," says Noddy.



There's no doubt he's the man to make it happen. As the well-known Festival Director of the Beach Hop for over 20 years, which won NZ's Favourite Event of the Year in 2017, Noddy has also been awarded a NZ Royal Honour in 2021 and was made a Member of the NZ Order of Merit for his services to the community and fundraising.

**"A HOOTENANNY IS AN OLD-TIME COUNTRY WORD FOR A PARTY, PRONOUNCED HOOT-NANNY, SO WE KNEW THAT WAS THE PERFECT WORD FOR OUR PLAN ..."**

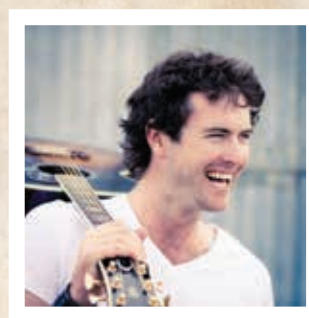
The couple's long-term dream, once COVID travel restrictions ease, is to bring in international acts to the festival and emerging bands from the honky tonk bars of Broadway.

In the meantime, there'll be plenty to keep the whole family entertained at the inaugural event, with all the details available at [hootnanny.co.nz](http://hootnanny.co.nz)

Other events include a lawnmower race, big rig truck show, freestyle moto x and monster truck displays, an automotive swap meet and free carnival rides once you are through the gate.

*Tickets are priced at \$65 for an adult for three days, or \$80 for a family of three kids, mum and dad.*

*There is limited on-site camping available for Friday and Saturday nights and free shuttles will run from Thames township.*



CAM SCOTT.



MITCHELL SISTERS.



JAYDEN SHINGLETON.

All the above artists will be performing over the three-day event. For a full list of artists check out the Hootnanny website. [hootnanny.co.nz](http://hootnanny.co.nz)



# 2021/2022 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.



## THE WHANGAMATĀ LIONS CRAFT AND FARMER'S MARKET

**SATURDAY OF ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND, EASTER WEEKEND**

Approximately 100 stalls offering a huge variety of craft, food and produce. Stalls are located inside the Memorial Hall, and outside in more of an open-air market. The Lions book sale, always the biggest and most popular stall at the Market, is located in the main hall with books and puzzles galore.

*Whangamatā*



## SANTA PARADES

**COROMANDEL TOWN**  
**SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER**

**WHITIANGA**  
**SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER**

**WHANGAMATĀ**  
**SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER**

**THAMES**  
**FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER**

w: [tcdc.govt.nz/santaparades](http://tcdc.govt.nz/santaparades)

## SANTA ON THE PEPE

**SAT 18 DEC, FROM 10AM**

A free family-friendly Christmas event on the beautiful Pepe reserve. There will be a car boot sale for the adults and games and a magician for the children with Santa arriving on the big fire truck.

*Pepe Reserve Tairua*



## KAUAERANGA VALLEY SUMMER FUN

**27 DEC 2021 TO 8 JAN 2022**

Experience exciting new games and exhibits, book into free fun activities. Enjoy adventures, wildlife encounters and learning in our beautiful outdoors. Bring a picnic, swim, explore, play, relax and have a great time. Check the programme for dates and details.

[DOC Visitor Centre, Kauaeranga Valley](#)  
facebook.com/kauaerangavc

w: doc.govt.nz

e: kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz

p: 07 8679080



## THE EXTRAVAGANZA FAIR BUFFALO BEACH RESERVE, WHITIANGA

**27 - 28 DEC 2021**

**9AM TO 5PM**

## WILLIAMSON PARK WHANGAMATĀ

**TWILIGHT: 6 JAN 2022, 4PM TO 8.30PM**

**7 - 8 JAN 2022, 9AM TO 5PM**

The Extravaganza Fair is a community centred event with a creative and sustainable focus. A family affair, free entry, fun day out with free entertainment. A park of fun, grassroots shows and old school values which is a thrill for young and old. Unique and interesting market stalls, arts and craft, food, musical entertainment, the fabulous Ashton Family Circus, Dylan Daisy's Magic Show, LuckyStar from festivals such as Splore, unique to NZ tiny homes, solar power, kids shows and games.

w: extravaganzafair.co.nz



## WHANGAMATĀ SUMMER FESTIVAL MARKETS

**27 DEC 2021, 2PM TO 8PM**

**28 DEC 2021, 9AM TO 4PM**

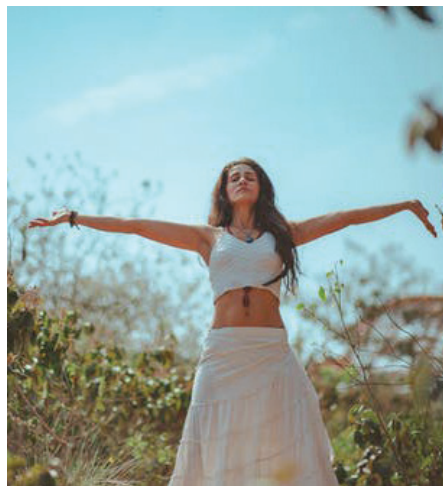
The Summer Festival markets have a huge range of stalls with everything from clothing, hats, shoes, sunnies, tools, arts and crafts and food stalls to plants, bee products, fruit and vegetables.

Featuring live music from local artists and lots of stall demonstrations. BYO shopping bags.

\* Remember there is a liquor ban 24hrs/7 days in all public places.

[Williamson Park, Whangamatā](#)  
(behind Surf Club)

facebook.com/whangasummerfest



## WHITIANGA WELLBEING MARKET

**28 DEC 2021 - 6 JAN 2022, 10AM TO 5PM**

Wellbeing Market featuring great stalls, qualified practitioners, on-site treatments, massage, crystals, arts and crafts, readings, natural therapies, organic beauty, and nutrition.

[Whitianga Town Hall, 24 Monk Street, Whitianga](#)

facebook page:

whitiangawellbeingmarket



## TAIRUA WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL

**30 DEC 2021, 10AM TO 4PM**

The Tairua Wine and Food Festival is a staple of the Coromandel summer bringing together terrific music, sumptuous food, wines, ciders and beers, kids entertainment and great New Zealand produce. All of the event proceeds go to the Tairua School providing financial assistance towards the school which makes a significant impact on our children's education and it continues to help keep the Tairua school at the cutting edge of education in New Zealand.

[110 Main Rd, Tairua](#)

w: tairuawineandfood.co.nz



## COROGLLEN TAVERN CONCERTS

*"It ain't a summer on the Coromandel without a Coroglen Concert."*

Several epic nights have been booked. Keep an eye out on the Coroglen Tavern Facebook page for announcements.  
facebook.com/TheCoroglen



## NEW YEAR'S DAY OPERA

**1 JAN 2022, 7.30PM TO 10PM**

FREE CONCERT

Join Ian Campbell's Garden Opera Company made up of talented, hand-picked, rising stars of the opera world at the Whangamatā RSA for an evening's entertainment.

Full kitchen and bar available. Bring a koha for the donation buckets.

[Whangamatā RSA, Port Rd](#)

facebook.com/whangasummerfest



## WHITI BEACH MEET 2 JAN 2022, 9AM TO 2PM

Whitianga's premier vehicle show, free to the public, come see the car, truck, or bike, you should never have sold. See the American Muscle Street and Custom Club Whitianga facebook page for full details.  
[Facebook.com/American-Muscle-Street-Custom-Club-Whitianga](https://www.facebook.com/American-Muscle-Street-Custom-Club-Whitianga)



## HAHEI MARKET DAY 6 JAN 2022, 9AM TO 2PM

Hahei Market Day is held once a year and attracts 140 stalls, ranging from a variety of food stalls, clothing, art, toys, crafts, hats, fruit and vegetables, jewellery, and children's amusement rides. A great day out in the beautiful village.

*Kotare Domain, Hahei*



## THE KELTIC FAIR 2 JAN 2022, 9AM TO 3PM

A great family day out with live music, over 250 stalls, great international food stalls and kids entertainment. This fair has been running for 30 years and benefits Coromandel Area School. A Coromandel tradition over the summer break.

*Coromandel Area School, Woollams Ave, Coromandel Town*  
w: [kelticfair.co.nz](http://kelticfair.co.nz)



## BRINGING COUNTRY TO THE BEACH 2 JAN 2022, 5PM TO 9PM

### FREE CONCERT

Country music comes to the beach. Join Kevin Tappin and his all-stars band at the Whangamatā RSA for an evening's entertainment.

Full kitchen and bar available. Bring a koha for the donation buckets.

*Whangamatā RSA, Port Rd*

[facebook.com/whangasummerfest](https://www.facebook.com/whangasummerfest)

## PICNIC IN THE PARK 8 JAN 2022, 11AM TO 3PM

Live music and fun for all in beautiful forest surrounds. Enjoy a great day relaxing and listening or enjoying family activities. Water games, prizes, displays and much more! Great food and ice-creams available or bring a picnic. Gold coin donation for kiwi care. All welcome.

*DOC Visitor Centre, Kauaeranga Valley*

w: [doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz)

e: [kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz)

p: 07 8679080

[facebook.com/kauaerangavc](https://www.facebook.com/kauaerangavc)

**20-23 JAN • WHANGAMATĀ**  
RIDE THE COROMANDEL LOOP  
BIKE SHOW • STAMPEDE • CAMPING  
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**LIVE CONCERT SAT 22 JAN**  
ARTISTS TO BE ANNOUNCED  
REGISTER NOW FOR FIRST ACCESS  
TO TICKETS & CONCERT LINE UP  
**KICKDOWN.CO.NZ**  
**THE ROCK**



## AMPLIFY

18 - 20 FEB 2022, 7AM TO 3PM

Calling all Ocean Warriors. A three day celebration of the ocean, wellbeing, art and sustainability.

- Daily yoga and meditation classes
- Creative workshops
- Ocean, wellbeing and inspirational speakers
- Healthy food
- Art, wellbeing and sustainable business market

An original event to connect, be inspired, and create change.

[Williamson Park, Whangamatā](#)

[facebook.com/amplifyocean](https://facebook.com/amplifyocean)



## HOOTNANNY COUNTRY ROCK FESTIVAL

25 - 27 FEB 2022

New Zealand's newest Country Rock Festival with live music on three stages including the Legends of Kiwi Country and Rising Country Rock Stars. Plus Car and Big Rig Show, country markets, Freestyle Moto X, Monster Trucks and much more.

[Thames Racecourse](#)

[facebook.com/hootnannynz](https://facebook.com/hootnannynz)

## MOANATAIARI SCHOOL REUNION 2022

11 - 13 MAR 2022

A fantastic weekend of events planned for all past students, whānau and family. Students who transferred from Thames Central, Thames North and Kōpū Schools welcome to attend.

p: 07 8686504

Facebook:

[@MoanataiariSchoolReunion2022](#)

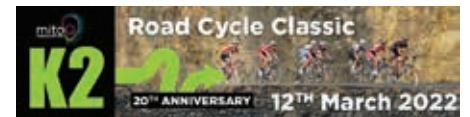


## THAMES HERITAGE FESTIVAL – LEARNING FROM THE PAST

12 - 13 MAR 2022

A festival of yesteryears – wear a costume and bring the young ones. One day they will be in charge of our heritage.

w: [thamesheritage.co.nz](https://thamesheritage.co.nz)



## MITO Q K2

12 MAR 2022

20th anniversary event – starting in Whitianga travelling in an anti-clockwise direction through Coromandel Town, Thames, Tairua and finishing in Whitianga.

Possibly the toughest one-day cycle challenge in the Southern Hemisphere. It is also the most scenic and varied with the route travelling through sub-tropical forest, pacific coastlines, rural farmland and the pōhutukawa coastline of the Hauraki Gulf.

w: [k2cycle.co.nz](https://k2cycle.co.nz)



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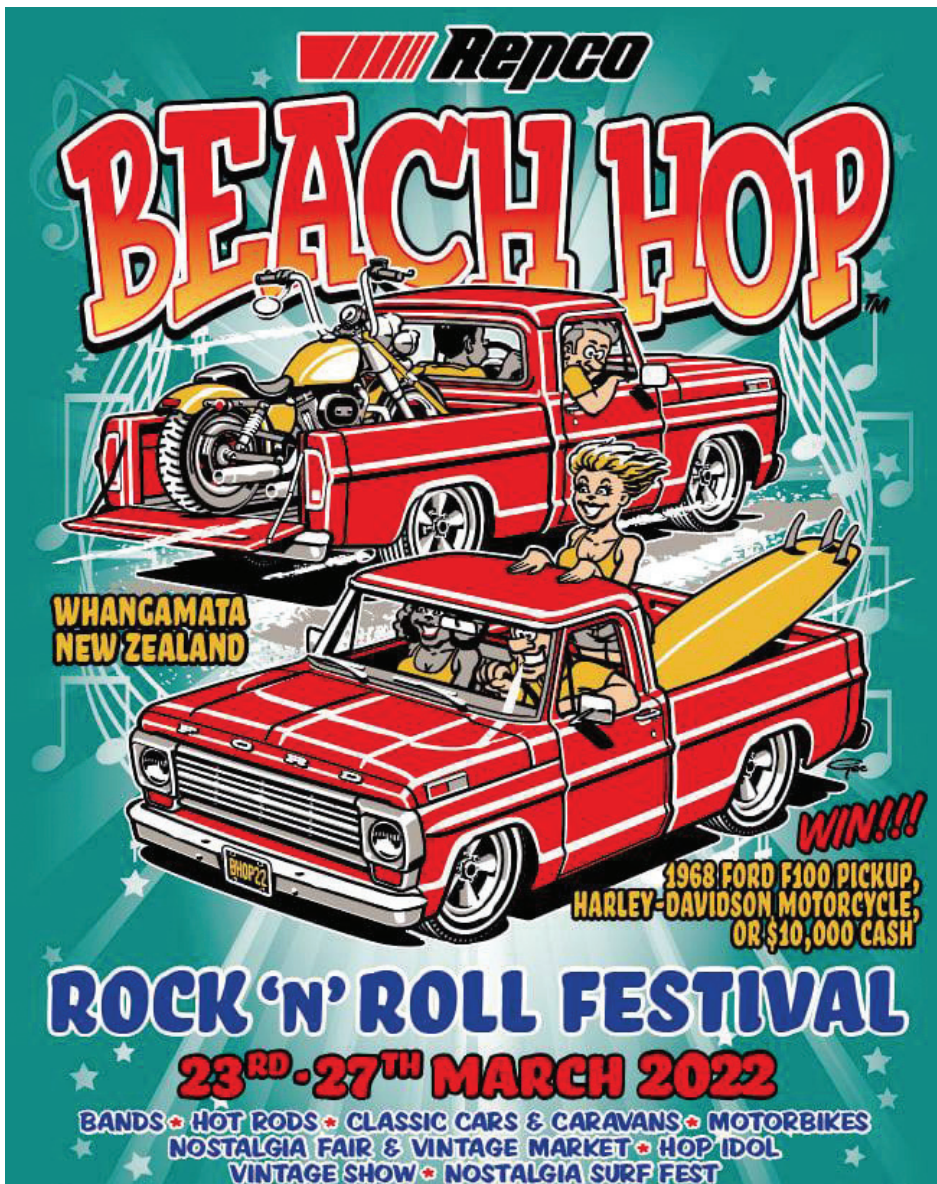
**Hello friday**

# WHITIANGA SUMMER CONCERT 2022

⚡ SUNDAY 13 MARCH ⚡

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL THE LATEST NEWS – SIGN UP TO OUR CONCERT CLUB

[www.greenstoneentertainment.co.nz](https://www.greenstoneentertainment.co.nz)



**A TASTE OF MATARANGI**  
**9 APRIL 2022, 10AM TO 4.30PM**

Matarangi's own food, wine and music festival will hold its eighth annual event. Take the family and enjoy an entire day of delicious food, craft beer, great wines and a fantastic line-up of entertainment held at the beautiful beach-side venue of the Village Green. For more information and exciting entertainment go to our website.

*Village Green, Kenwood Drive Matarangi*

w: [atasteofmatarangi.co.nz](http://atasteofmatarangi.co.nz)

**Coromandel Town**  
**Seafood Fest**

**COROMANDEL SEAFOOD FEST**

**7 MAY 2022, 10AM TO 3PM**

The western side of the Coromandel is renowned for its aquaculture industry supplying world famous mussels. The Coromandel Harbour is the gateway to Coromandel Town supporting oyster and mussel farms, as well as being a great place to catch fish. The Seafood Fest is held right in the heart of Coromandel Town.

Food stalls, live music, craft stalls, cooking demonstrations, children's entertainment. Fun, family friendly event (alcohol free).

Come and share in the celebration of our wonderful culture around seafood.

*Coromandel Area School Grounds, Coromandel Town*

w: [coromandelseafoodfest.com](http://coromandelseafoodfest.com)



**CIRCUSPUNK**

**31 MARCH - APRIL 3 2022**

Steampunk The Thames presents CircusPunk 2022, bringing fun, flair and festivity to Thames with a steampunk-y twist. A weekend of cogs, clowns, and comedy for the whole family to enjoy. Keep an eye on their Facebook page for event details and get creative with your art, cars and costumes.

[facebook.com/steampunkthethames](https://facebook.com/steampunkthethames)



## WILD WOMEN'S WEEKEND 13 - 16 MAY 2022

Whangamatā is famous for its beach, cars and rock and roll - it's now also famous for Wild Women's Weekends. A chance to get away with mates, take some time out, play some sport, have some fun.

[Whangamatā](#)

w: [wildwomensweekend.co.nz](http://wildwomensweekend.co.nz)



## WHITIANGA MARATHON 21 MAY 2022

New Zealand's Coastal Marathon. If you are looking for a fun, mainly flat, coastal course with stunning views based in the heart of the Coromandel Peninsula, then this is the event for you. An event for everyone ranging from a 5km fun run right up to the full 42km marathon.

w: [whitiangamarathon.co.nz](http://whitiangamarathon.co.nz)



## WHITIANGA OCEANS FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 2022

The new Whitianga Oceans Festival, brought to you by Whitianga Scallop Festival Inc., will deliver yet another fabulous day centred around seafood, music, beverages and entertainment. The festival will celebrate both the regions, and New Zealand caught seafood as well as our marine heritage as we allow our scallop beds to rest and recover.

This is our 16<sup>th</sup> Festival and will continue to be one of New Zealand's iconic seafood/kaimoana celebrations.

Come and savour a variety of seafood cooked in a myriad of different ways by renowned chefs, food trucks and local community groups.

The seafood is complemented with an array of local and New Zealand beverages, and you'll be entertained by live bands, buskers, seafood cooking classes and more.

w: [oceansfestival.co.nz](http://oceansfestival.co.nz)

## INFORMATION CENTRES

### COROMANDEL TOWN

60 Kapanga Road,  
Coromandel Town  
07 866 8598

### WHITIANGA

66 Albert Street  
Whitianga  
07 866 5555

### TAIRUA

2 Manaia Road  
Tairua  
07 864 7575

### PĀUANUI

23 Centreway  
Pauanui  
07 864 7101

### WHANGAMATĀ

w: [thecoromandel.com/explore/whangamata-information-centre](http://thecoromandel.com/explore/whangamata-information-centre)

### THAMES

w: [thecoromandel.com/towns/thames](http://thecoromandel.com/towns/thames)



### WHITIANGA ART AND CRAFT MARKET

Soldiers Memorial Park, Whitianga.  
Every Saturday morning throughout summer and long weekends throughout the year. A great opportunity to purchase beautifully made local crafts, art and homegrown produce from the Mercury Bay area.

### COROGLEN FARMERS MARKET

Gum Town Hall, Coroglen  
Sunday mornings October – April  
Purchase quality local organic seasonal produce and check out the handcraft stalls. A chance to grab yourself some home baking and hot coffee.

### TAIRUA MARKET

Held the first Saturday of every month 9.00am - 1.00pm outside the Tairua Hall, Main Road, Tairua.  
An eclectic collection of stalls and produce beside the harbour.

### THAMES MARKET

Held 8.00am – 12.00pm, Saturdays in Pollen Street, Thames  
Locally produced plants, organic and others, fruit, vegetables and handcrafts.

### MATARANGI

During the summer months, a local market pops up on the Village Green at Matarangi. Sunday mornings from 8am through until approximately 1pm.

### COROMANDEL TOWN HOMEGROWN COMMUNITY MARKET

Fridays 8.30am - 1.00pm beside the BNZ Bank on Wharf Road from Labour Weekend through to Easter.  
An array of local/homegrown produce and crafts for sale. Organic and gluten free options, you will be spoilt for choice. A great chance to re-stock the pantry with jams and chutneys.

### WHANGAMATĀ WEEKEND MARKET

23 October 2021 (Labour Weekend)  
Saturdays 9am – 1pm.  
The markets are a celebration of the weekend, slap on your sunscreen and leave your shoes at home. A great way to support makers and creators of quality goods and enjoy delicious food and summer tunes.  
w: [weekendevents.co.nz](http://weekendevents.co.nz) or  
FB Whangamatāweekendmarkets

# K2 CYCLE RACE TURNS 20

*Keith and Rita Stephenson have celebrated some milestone anniversaries together. They've been married 46 years and have been running sports events for more than 40 years, with one of their most established events being the Mito Q K2 Road Cycling Classic, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in March 2022.*

In 2000 the couple joined forces with Andy Reid, who has a background in banking to form Adventure Racing Coromandel (ARC) and the trio kicked off the cycling event the following year. Keith had long believed that the roads around the Coromandel had the makings of a great cycle circuit. Once State Highway 25 was finally sealed, the dream became a possibility.

The event is named after Kuaotunu, one of the stunning beaches on Coromandel's eastern coast, while the 2 refers to the almost 200km's the ride covers.

At 2,300m of screaming descent, the K2 is possibly the toughest one-day cycle challenge in the Southern Hemisphere. It's also one of the most scenic and varied with the route travelling through kauri forests near Coromandel Town, along our Pacific coastlines, through rural farmland as well as the pohutukawa-lined Thames coastline beside the Hauraki Gulf.

"When we first started out, we didn't have to worry about health and safety or traffic management plans," says Rita. "Even though it takes more effort and paperwork now, the event is still totally worth running, especially when you see the smiles on people's faces at the end of the day."

The 20th anniversary event in March 2022 is expected to attract racers from around the country, and hopefully international competitors if border openings permit. Prior to COVID-19, the event had some international competitors, and the couple



FROM LEFT: ANDY, RITA AND KEITH.

hopes to see them when our international borders are relaxed.

For those who may find the prospect of a 200km ride in one day somewhat daunting, there are two shorter distances of 50km and 100km where you can also participate on an e-bike. For the warriors who enjoy a challenge there's the K4, which is doing the circuit twice. The K4 event is run every four years and the next one falls in 2023.

Proceeds from the event go to the Spirit of Coromandel Trust, which was also set up by ARC, and has been used to establish a long-awaited world class pump track and bike park in Coromandel Town and plant kauri trees in the Coromandel-Colville ward. The Trust has also supported local youth to attend the Turangi Outdoor Pursuits Centre.

"Our events are all about giving back to the community and encouraging people into the outdoors," says Rita.

The event is a huge logistical challenge and requires the support of sponsors and



the efforts of over 100 volunteers, who not only assist riders around the course, but encourage and cheer them on along the way. Many riders send in feedback praising the marshals for giving up their valuable time.

"Marshalls and volunteers are the life and blood of the K2," says Rita. "Without the support of our local communities, police, sponsors and our Council, the K2 would probably struggle to exist."

As well as volunteers, the K2 relies on its sponsors and are always looking for more sponsors to get behind the event. With some funding ending in 2021, the Mito Q K2 is looking for more people to get behind the event. If you're interested in supporting the K2, you can contact Andy by email [andy@arcevents.co.nz](mailto:andy@arcevents.co.nz)

So, for the avid cyclers out there or anyone wanting to challenge themselves just a little bit, sign up and get along to the 2022 K2 cycling event – it won't be one to miss. [k2cycle.co.nz](http://k2cycle.co.nz)

# Warm, caring and supportive

For over three decades, Moana House and Village has provided a warm, caring and supportive home for older people in our Whangamatā community.

From its beginnings with 36 rest home beds, the facility has grown to include a hospital wing and expanded rest home and village that accommodates independent and assisted-living options for residents, as well offering services for primary care, palliative care, and convalescent patients.

Moana House and Village allows residents in our district to maintain quality of life, with peace of mind for their families, or to access the care they need without frequent travel to Thames and Waikato Hospitals.

Run by a charitable trust, the Village is now

about to grow in two directions, as it responds to changing needs among our older population.

“The community here has really been crying out for a purpose-built dementia unit,” says Board of Trustees Chairman, Mark Middleton.

“There’s a real need out there for a secure, safe and supportive environment to care for our residents who are living with this condition,” he says.

There’s also been separate and growing demand for independent apartment-style living, where units are offered on an occupation license agreement basis.

A two-staged development is now planned at Moana House to meet these demands. The first stage is the construction of 12 new independent living apartments. Building work on these should start from the summer of 2021/22.

Stage Two is a new 80-bed care facility, which will include a 20 bed dementia unit. Construction on the unit is expected to begin in 2023.

“It gives us a real sense of purpose to know that we’re giving our older people the chance to remain in a district that many of them have known and loved for a long time,” says Mr Middleton. “We’re really proud of the community we’ve created here.”



Villas stage 1, artist's impression.



For more information visit  
**DRIVINGCREEK.NZ**

380 Driving Creek Road, Coromandel Town  
0800 327 245

# He Whare ahuru



**M**oana House & Village is an organisation committed to the welfare of older members of the community who need ongoing residential care and support. The quality of the environment and facilities as well as maintaining a warm, caring and supportive home is paramount for our organisation.

We believe our residents are individuals with their own inherent needs and value and the right to a secure environment, privacy and being treated with respect, courtesy and dignity.

Education is considered a lifelong activity and independence is retained wherever possible. Cultural and religious values are accommodated and are seen as a sharing experience.



## *Our levels of care:*

**Resthome rooms** ~ There are 27 single rooms of which 12 are dual purpose, all with en suites and usual facilities. Small lounges in each wing create a private space and gardens around the home bring pleasure to residents.



**Hospital** ~ There are 20 single rooms for continuing care or medical patients. A registered nurse and an experienced team of caring support staff is always on duty.

**Convalescence and palliative care** ~ General practitioners also have access to admit acute primary care clients who can be admitted for regular monitoring and care in Whangamata, instead of having to travel to Thames or Hamilton.



**Respite care** ~ One dedicated room is available for this on a booking basis.

**Day care** ~ This is organised according to individual needs and incorporated into the Moana House activity programme.



*Artist's impression.*

**Apartments** ~ Currently there are four apartments at the facility with plans for a further 12 independent living apartments to be built later this year.

**Village** ~ The village known as Wilson Gardens comprises 14 independent residential units set in a tranquil garden surround. Each centrally heated unit has two double bedrooms, single internal entry garage and plenty of storage space.

# ~ A safe caring place ~



Moana House & Village is situated in the beautiful beach side town of Whangamatā on the east coast of the north island at the base of the Coromandel Peninsula.

Whangamatā is 30 minutes north of Waihi, 45 minutes east of Thames, one hour 45 minutes from Hamilton and about two hours from Auckland.

The retail and trade aspect caters for most needs; New World Supermarket, Bunnings and other trade stores, numerous restaurants and cafés and a great variety of fashion stores.

Health services include a medical centre, x-ray services, Pathlab, St John Lifelink with a health shuttle, dentists, physiotherapists, plunket, midwives, district nurses, Hospice, naturopaths, homeopathy, massage and beauty clinics.

Whangamatā has churches of most denominations.



*For more information browse our website or contact us via phone, email or just drop by and we are glad to answer your questions.*

He Whare Ahuru - a caring safe place

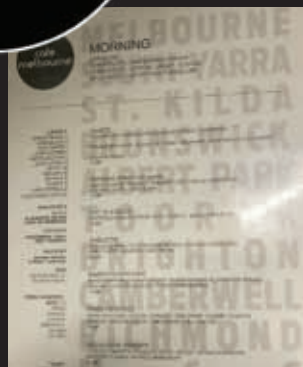
**Moana House & Village**  
Whangamata

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**The Good Yarn Store** is our own boutique wool shop and Colleen is always ready with great advice and for a yarn!

**Insider Interiors.** Robyn is Coromandel's leading interior designer, visit the store for all things 'interiors'.

**Savour&Spice.** Jaki has a beautifully created selection of kitchenware, plus her own delicious range of spice blends ... so good.

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# OUR CHANGING COASTLINE

*Adapting to climate change in the Coromandel*

*The Coromandel's magnificent coastline sustains our communities. More than 400 kilometres of foreshore are integral to the lives of our residents and visitors.*

**O**ur unique geography is beautiful but fragile. As our climate changes, coastal erosion and inundation are becoming issues in some of our towns and villages. The good news is our Coromandel communities are now at the forefront of adapting to new conditions and managing climate risks. Our Council is looking ahead, gathering scientific expertise, and listening to residents in all areas of our district, to ensure our towns, assets and environment have a resilient future.

At the same time, there is a pressing need to supply more housing. A shortage of quality housing is limiting the ability of businesses to attract skilled workers to our area. Decision-makers need to take account of shoreline and inundation impact while continuing to plan for thriving and growing communities outside the highest risk areas.

In 2018 our Council adopted a Coastal Management Strategy, a milestone project which sets out an ambitious range of

initiatives to understand risk and look after our coastal assets over the next 100 years. The strategy sets out a blueprint for a district-wide and long-term approach to manage changing conditions and to protect our coastline and communities.

A key part of the strategy, in partnership with iwi, is the development of individual Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs). They allow for a full range of voices and perspectives from across the whole of our district to be heard. Four coastal panels, made up of community representatives, are working with us to develop protection and management plans specific to each of the key regions of the Coromandel that they represent.

"We're helping our communities adapt to coastal hazards through site-specific plans for the entire length of our coastline, including our offshore islands," says our Mayor, Sandra Goudie.

"The Shoreline Management Plan project is running alongside our Accelerated Housing Plan for Thames, to build houses in areas not affected by coastal inundation in order to meet the current and urgent need for new homes," she says.

The SMPs are providing large-scale hazard assessment of our flooding and erosion issues. They are assessing subsequent risk to people and the environment for our coastline over the next century. SMPs are also identifying the options and



COASTAL PANELS, LIKE THIS GROUP AT A SOUTH EAST SITE, ASSESS THE RISK IN EACH AREA AND DECIDE ON SHORELINE PROTECTION OPTIONS.



## Our iwi co-governance

The Shoreline Management Committee is the first co-governance entity between our Council and iwi. It is designed to ensure our Council fulfills our Treaty obligations to partner with Māori on critical long-term decision making. The Pare Hauraki Collective participates as co-governors and through the Technical Advisory Group and Coastal Panels in order to provide more detailed review of specific district areas.

interventions for managing those risks in a sustainable manner.

“The plans go beyond traditional asset management. They help us understand the coastal environment more holistically, including the connections between people, waterways, landscapes, estuaries and beaches,” says Amon Martin, who is leading the SMP process for our Council.

Around New Zealand, protection options that are in use include stop banks, pumps and floodgates, improved stormwater

systems, rock and sandbag walls and groynes. Other softer, non-engineering options include sand push-ups, dune restoration and wetland regeneration. Our Coastal Panels are reviewing the full range of protection and management approaches.

Our Council is also prioritising emissions reductions, efficient energy initiatives, and is implementing the Government’s Climate Change guidance for local government.

For more information, visit: [tcdc.govt.nz/smp](https://tcdc.govt.nz/smp)

## The SMP Process



### Drivers of change:

- New climate information
- Signals and triggers
- Social, cultural and economic change



SHORELINE PROTECTION OPTIONS INCLUDE GROYNES, LIKE THIS ONE BEING TRIALLED AT FLAXMILL BAY, TO HELP MANAGE EROSION.

Over the past 12 months Coastcare groups planted over 44,000 plants to protect and restore the coastal environment in locations across the district including Cooks Beach, Matarangi, Pauanui, Thames, Whangapoua, Otama, Opito Bay, Kuaotunu, Wharekaho, Buffalo Beach, Flaxmill Bay, Onemana and Whangamatā.



ABOVE: VOLUNTEERS DIGGING AND ENJOYING THE SUNSHINE AT THE 2021 OPITO BAY PLANTING DAY.

BELOW: COASTCARE PLANTING DAY IN JUNE 2021 AT OPITO BAY.

# PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR COASTAL PROTECTION



Coastcare Waikato is a community partnership programme to restore coastal areas throughout the Waikato region. The programme involves local communities, iwi, the Department of Conservation, district councils, including ours, and Waikato Regional Council working together to restore, protect and look after our coasts and regenerate our dune systems to support all the species that live and grow in this environment.

Dunes are deposits of windblown sand, and therefore vulnerable to human activity and extreme weather events. Dunes are important because they act as a buffer between the land and sea, giving protection from coastal erosion. Native coastal plants like spinifex and pingao bind the sand and help capture more sand to rebuild dunes after a storm.

As well as promoting community engagement in our environmental initiatives, a key goal is to better promote education around coastal restoration. These planting days are a great way to get involved.

Our Council is very lucky to have a full-time Coastal team working in this

space, which is hugely dedicated to our coastal communities. Tanya Patrick, our Council's Coastal Restoration Coordinator, supports Jamie Boyle, our Coastal Scientist, and together they have been driving this initiative, but it's the community involvement that shows what can be achieved when you have collaboration across the community, and it's the dedicated volunteers who are the backbone of it all.

"This is our coast, and striving together as a community to create resilient coastal environments will ensure thriving coastal communities long into the future for our kids and future generations," says Tanya.

"The damage to our coastal reserves after the 2021 May storm was a timely reminder of the vital role that natural sand dunes play on our beaches."

"We are looking forward to the 2022 Coastcare planting season. There are lots of ways to help for anyone who wants to get involved, you don't need any experience or knowledge, we'll show you everything you need to know and everyone is welcome," she says.

Keep an eye out on the Coastcare Waikato Facebook page for more information at [facebook.com/CoastcareWaikato](https://facebook.com/CoastcareWaikato) or visit our website [tcdc.govt.nz/coastalgardening](https://tcdc.govt.nz/coastalgardening) for 2022 event dates.



## New Coastcare signs across our district

We have put up some new signs around the district in our restoration sites to ask people to stay off the dunes and use the marked accessways. So, please, if you see one of these signs around the district please stay off the dunes. We all need to work together to protect our beaches, minimise our impact and make our coastlines a safe place for the plants and animals that call it home.

# WHITIANGA'S TIME TO SHINE

## SOLAR COMPANY'S PLANS TO POWER THE PENINSULA.

On 80 hectares of farmland adjacent to Whitianga township, solar company Lodestone Energy hopes to generate enough power to supply the whole town and beyond.

“The energy we will be able to produce off our Whitianga solar farm matches the energy requirements of the town and also up the Peninsula,” says Gary Holden, Lodestone’s Managing Director (pictured right). “We anticipate the price of power will drop as a result.”



The Whitianga site is one of five solar farms being built by Lodestone Energy around the country, in the largest yet attempt to create grid-scale solar generation in New Zealand. Together, the farms will cover 500 hectares and will require 500,000 solar panels for an annual output of about 400 gigawatt hours (GWh) per year, or about 1 per cent of the country’s electricity supply.

The farms use unique panels with motorised tracking that follow the sun from dawn to dusk. The panels sit 2.3 metres off the ground and are double-sided to absorb both direct sunlight and energy that is reflected from the ground.

Lodestone expects its Whitianga farm to generate approximately 55 (GWh) per year – enough, the company says, to supply more than Whitianga, including during the busy summer season, and enough to offer bundled options to bach owners to

cover their primary residence too. The company hopes to achieve this through peer-to-peer energy transactions, where power supply is pooled and the solar production is measured and matched to a customer’s consumption

elsewhere on the grid. Lodestone expects that its summer solar generation would allow for consumers to combine the daily demands of both a house and a bach.

“One thing we’re adamant about is that the power we generate from this farm won’t just disappear wholesale into the grid, we want any resident or property owner in Whitianga or in the wider Coromandel district to have the ability to see that they’ve purchased solar power that’s been measured off our farm, knowing it’s been generated locally and sustainably,” says Mr Holden.

“Then if you get an electric car, you can order a bit more power from the farm to match and do a huge amount to take environmental control of your energy usage,” he says

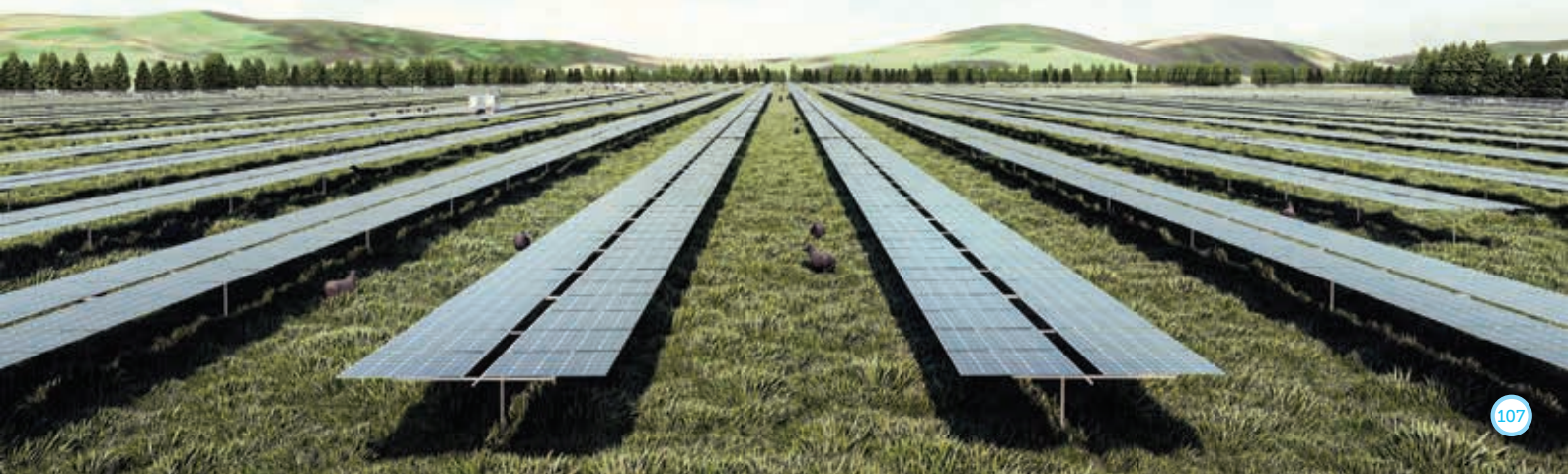


LODESTONE ENERGY'S PLANNED WHITIANGA SOLAR FARM.

Lodestone Energy is backed by investment from founding partner Guy Haddleton, as well as 25 others including Sam Morgan and Sir Stephen Tindall’s KIW1 venture capital fund. The company is also exploring battery storage for the Whitianga site to stretch its supply ability further into the evening. It’s also working with lines company PowerCo to enable consumers to mix and match generation source.

“Middle of the night power could still come from normal grid operations,” says Mr Holden, “but day-time usage is matched to our generation.”

Construction on the Whitianga site is set for early 2022 with first expected solar generation that same summer.



# Stoat on your boat?

## Ants in your pants?

*If you have a boat and love to explore the pristine waters around the Coromandel, then you play a vital role in protecting our islands and keeping them free from unwanted animals and weeds.*

Boaties are urged to check their gear and vessels each time they set sail on the beautiful waters of the Coromandel this summer.

We are fortunate here in the Coromandel to have many amazing islands, home to a range of endangered taonga species. Many of these islands are pest-free, allowing our precious native species and habitats to recover and thrive.

Ahuahu (Great Mercury Island) is a perfect example of this – rats and cats were eradicated from the island in 2014, making it completely free from all mammalian pests. Since the eradication, the island has seen significant recoveries in its bird and reptile species and locals have noticed the island's morning chorus is certainly getting louder.

The beaches of Ahuahu have been accessible to the public since Sir Michael Fay and David Richwhite took ownership in the late 1970s. The public can land on the shores of the island and explore its beautiful coastlines. However, because half of the island is a working farm, access is strictly limited to the beaches. Dogs are welcome too but must be kept on a lead at all times. This helps to protect the island's sensitive ground-nesting birds. Dotterels nest right on the beach and birds such as kākā have begun to nest much closer to the ground since the pest eradication.

Landing on the rest of the Mercury Islands, as well as Cuvier Island and the Alderman Islands is completely prohibited. These islands are home to very important plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. There is a high risk of introducing an unwanted animal pest, weed or pathogen by landing illegally on these islands, which would have catastrophic impacts to these important ecosystems.

Rats, mice and stoats, unwanted insects

like Argentine ants, or even a single fungus spore stuck to your clothes – can quickly destroy the recovering island ecosystem. Even vessels that are anchored close to the shore can still pose a threat. A mouse can fit through a hole the size of a pencil and a rat the size of a 10-cent coin! Once in the water a rat can swim up to 1.5km and a stoat can swim up to 3km. So, it's important to check your boat and gear thoroughly before heading onto the water around the Coromandel this summer.

Treat every island as if it is pest-free. Before you use your boat give it a good clean and check for any unwanted hitchhikers. Load your boat during daylight when pests are less active. Zip up your bags tightly to avoid pests crawling in, and remove seeds and dirt from your clothing and shoes. Remember to collect and discard any

rubbish or waste at an appropriate site once back on the mainland.

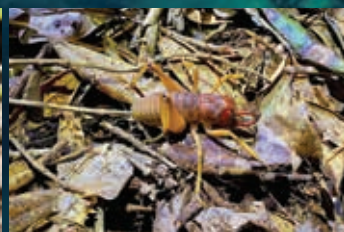
Boaties could also consider keeping rodent bait stations on board their vessels and around where they are stored to control for rodents. A chewed bait block is good indication you have a rodent on board and is certainly preferable to chewed wiring on your boat.

Your actions make a huge difference in helping to protect these amazing islands. The community is the front line of defence in protecting our islands so by doing your part and encouraging others to do the same, you are making a huge difference.

*If you see any unusual behaviour this summer around our islands or see a pest on, or near an island you can report sightings to the DOC emergency hotline **0800 DOC HOT** (0800 362 468).*



TUATARA.



TUSKED WĒTĀ.



CUVIER SADDLEBACK.

GREAT MERCURY ISLAND.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY PETE MAY, AMY BLAIR AND DOC.

# Keep Kauri Standing



## What is Kauri Dieback?

Kauri dieback is a disease caused by the microscopic pathogen *Phytophthora agathidicida* (PA). There is currently no known cure for PA, which kills most if not all of the kauri it infects. It can be spread by just a pinhead of soil, and is most commonly transferred by people on their footwear and equipment.

But everyone can play their part to stop the disease from spreading by practising good hygiene when entering or leaving kauri forests, and sticking to marked tracks.

### 1. SCRUB



### 2. SPRAY



### 3. STAY



## What can I do to stop it spreading?

When you are around kauri:

- Make sure foot wear and equipment are scrubbed clean to remove all visible soil and plant material before AND after visiting a kauri forest.
- Please use cleaning stations where provided, and follow the hygiene steps. This includes first scrubbing off all visible soil and then spraying with disinfectant.
- Stay on the track and off kauri roots.
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times.

By following these steps we can all help protect kauri and ensure they remain standing into the future.

# kauriprotection.co.nz

## Government funding helps fight kauri dieback in the northern Coromandel

Members of Mercury Bay iwi will work alongside the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the community to minimise the spread of kauri dieback in the Hukarahi Block in the northern Coromandel, thanks to funding from the Jobs for Nature programme. The \$1.475 million project will see more than 20 roles created in conservation work across three years to carry out more research into the scope and spread of kauri

dieback, predator control and boundary fencing in the 377-hectare area where the disease was first discovered in the Coromandel. The area was closed in 2013 to mitigate the risk of visitors spreading the disease. Kauri dieback has since been identified at five other sites in the Coromandel.

See [doc.govt.nz](https://doc.govt.nz) for more information.



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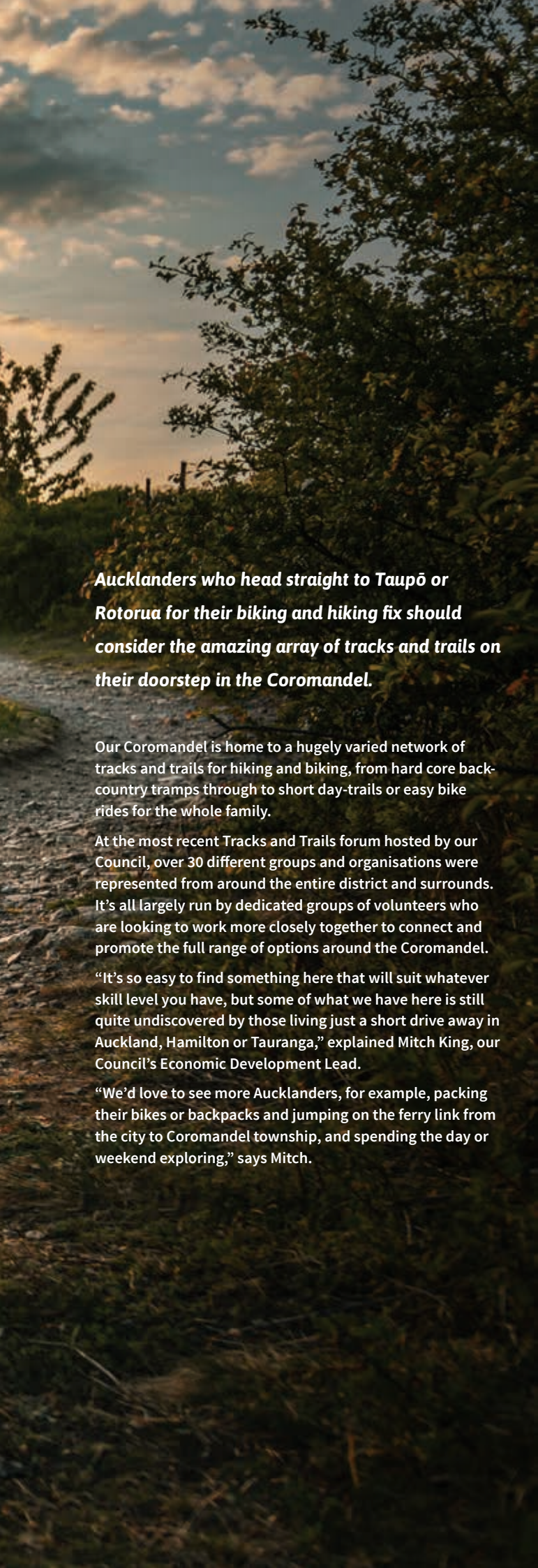
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**Aucklanders who head straight to Taupō or Rotorua for their biking and hiking fix should consider the amazing array of tracks and trails on their doorstep in the Coromandel.**

Our Coromandel is home to a hugely varied network of tracks and trails for hiking and biking, from hard core back-country tramps through to short day-trails or easy bike rides for the whole family.

At the most recent Tracks and Trails forum hosted by our Council, over 30 different groups and organisations were represented from around the entire district and surrounds. It's all largely run by dedicated groups of volunteers who are looking to work more closely together to connect and promote the full range of options around the Coromandel.

"It's so easy to find something here that will suit whatever skill level you have, but some of what we have here is still quite undiscovered by those living just a short drive away in Auckland, Hamilton or Tauranga," explained Mitch King, our Council's Economic Development Lead.

"We'd love to see more Aucklanders, for example, packing their bikes or backpacks and jumping on the ferry link from the city to Coromandel township, and spending the day or weekend exploring," says Mitch.



One of the legacies of the old mining and logging activity in the Coromandel region is a network of old roads, rail trails and worker pathways which now provide leisure-seekers with access to native bush, remote country, small villages, or stunning coastal outlooks.

Local operators hope to eventually provide a central hub of information that sorts all the options by ability level and links together all the tracks and trails with accommodation, dining, and other activity options in the vicinity.

In the meantime, there are a number of sites and resources which provide good information about the different options throughout the district. Destination Coromandel provides lists of walks, guided tours, and cycling options at **[thecoromandel.com](http://thecoromandel.com)**

Our Council has also produced a booklet which gives an overview of popular tracks and trails. Unlike the back-country tracks in the mountainous terrain managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC), the walks outlined in this booklet are for the most part short jaunts in or near our town centres. The guide can be downloaded at **[tcdc.govt.nz/tracksandtrails](http://tcdc.govt.nz/tracksandtrails)**



It's also available for free at our Council offices, district libraries and Visitor Information Centres around the Coromandel.

For the tracks and trails in the guide that are managed and maintained by DOC, it's best to check their website for updates on changes or closures, especially due to kauri dieback which has been detected in several locations on the Coromandel.

**[doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/coromandel/brochures/](http://doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/coromandel/brochures/)**

"It really is true that there's something for everyone here if you're prepared to do a little homework," says Mitch.

**Free-to-use network of mountain bike trails, flow trails, downhill and gravity jumps and Velosolutions pump track.**

On the opening day of the Ride Coromandel cross-country trails in June 2021, the park buzzed with riders on the descent trails and pump track. For project managers, it was the fulfilment of a long-held dream.

‘We’ve built some sick tracks. There’s a part so good we named it Vegas’ said Ally Davey, Project Co-Manager.

The Ride Coromandel Bike Park has been a labour of love for the Spirit of Coromandel Trust team. For over ten years they’ve been raising funds and raising hopes for a high-quality bike park to give locals and visitors an active experience of the outdoors and Coromandel’s natural beauty. And now, the park is bigger and better than they imagined.



# RIDE COROMANDEL

## *Bike Park*



PHOTO CREDITS: GRAEME MURRAY  
@GRAEMEMURRAYNZ

**Visitors can enjoy four different cycling experiences:**

Ride the Velosolutions Pump Track built to international standards for the Red Bull racing circuit. This is an asphalt track with tight turns, berms and jumps enjoyed by kids and the young at heart.

Take on the downhill descent tracks. Built over a capped landfill site, there are three grades of difficulty to try with jumps and berms down each 300m track.

Improve your riding in their skills area with rocks and obstacles designed to challenge.

Ride the exciting cross-country trails through the regenerating kauri block and historic mining area. Two intermediate grade, single trail, one-way loop tracks have been developed. Ara Tuatahi (the

first trail) is 4.4km long and rises to the top of the park with superb views out to the western islands and over Coromandel township, then continues downhill towards Coromandel Harbour. Rickers Return (named after the kauri rickers you will be riding below) is a flow loop 1.8km long.

Summer 2021-2022 will see the whole park open for the first time. The New Zealand Pump Track Championships will be held at the park on 26 and 27 of March, 2022.

Find the bike park on Hauraki Rd (past the Refuse Transfer Station). Check out all the details and kauri dieback prevention information at [ridecoromandel.com](http://ridecoromandel.com)

Ride Coromandel Bike Park has been created in partnership with Te Patukirikiri, our Council, DOC and the community. The Spirit of Coromandel Trust hopes that a bike club will form to keep the park moving forward. Come and try out the trails and get involved this summer.

Facebook and Instagram  
[@ridecoromandel](https://www.facebook.com/ridecoromandel)

PHOTO CREDIT: GRAEME MURRAY @GRAEMEMURRAYNZ



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# WHANGAMATĀ

## Mountain Bike Park



### Forest trails for all levels just five minutes from Whangamatā township.

Set among native bush and pine forest, the trail network at the Whangamatā bike park offers riders a wide selection of singletrack, exciting downhills and uphill climbs to spectacular views of the ocean and forest.

Club volunteers have developed 30 kms of tracks ranging from Grade 2 to 5 and catering to all levels and abilities from first-time riders to advanced competitors. The park is located 4kms north of Whangamatā.

“We have an epic network of trails in proximity to some of the best surfing, fishing and diving in the country,” said Whangamatā Mountain Bike (MTB) club manager Blake Cropp. “We’re part of the destination experience for visitors, and we’re really involved with the local community too.”

Riders mostly gain altitude on forestry roads and head down again on purpose built singletracks. The club has a membership of around 1600 riders and attracts thousands of users each year.

“We’re really passionate about helping kids get off the couch and off their screens. We work with the schools to teach our kids how to



handle the trails and make them as fun and accessible as possible,” explains club member, Justin Leach.

There are plans to hold a regional MTB event and encourage participation from students around the Coromandel, Hauraki, and Waihi areas. The club currently has children from Paeroa, Pauanui, Opoutere, Tairua, Coromandel, Hauraki and Whangamatā using the trail network in school programmes.

Another next step for the club is to work toward safe cycle connections from the township of Whangamatā to the start of the forest trails. The hope is to create a purpose-built path from town to the MTB Park and include an underpass for safe access to and from the entrance. Currently riders must either transport bikes by car, or ride along the busy State Highway 25.

All riders wishing to enter the park must have a valid day pass or annual membership. The funds generated are reinvested back into park operations to ensure maintenance and safety. Prices and passes are available at **whangamataridges.nz** along with information about current operations and events.

The club welcomes donations to support the club and park and also has commercial sponsorship packages available.

At HQ, the MTB park base, there is a picnic area complete with shade sails to rest and refresh. There are also some great kids’ trails in this area catering to young riders and families. Vehicle access through the park gates to the picnic area is subject to forestry operations in the area and is generally available in the summer period.

The Whangamatā MTB Park operates within a commercial forest block operated by Rayonier Matariki Forests. Riders in the park need to keep an eye out for signs indicating forestry operations and areas of cultural significance are marked and excluded from riding or access.

For more information visit the Whangamatā Ridges Mountain Bike Park Facebook page.



**Milly's**  
on main street

**KAYLA**

236 Main Road, Tairua  
07 864 7464

522 Pollen Street, Thames  
07 868 9063

# Art & SOUL

Coromandel art is just good for the soul. There are so many galleries around our district, art events and art tour weekends throughout the year, where you can appreciate the diverse talent of artists living here, and pick up some exceptional, eclectic and unique pieces. You can learn how to potter, paint, woodturn, mosaic and sculpt, either at art retreats or hosted at local artists own homes. Here we showcase four local artists putting their h(art) into their work.

## THE WONDERFULLY WACKY Mr Heff

Wacky is a word Paul Heffernan uses a lot. Mr Heff, as he's usually known, is the creator of a range of colourful ceramics and a growing line of children's books, work he gleefully describes as wacky and whimsical. That's what it's all about for him; having fun and putting a smile on people's faces.



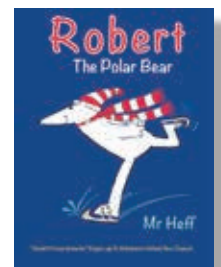
SOME OF MR HEFF'S CREATIONS INCLUDE HIS FISHERMEN AND SEA MONSTER SERIES (LEFT) ALONG WITH OTHER WACKY CERAMIC CREATIONS (TOP AND FAR LEFT), WHICH RANGE IN PRICE FROM \$60 TO \$400.



Mr Heff is constantly coming up with new ways to make that happen and gets all his ideas down on paper. In his office are tidy boxes and files of notes with plans for future epic novels and picture books, lists of potential names for his yet-to-be-made pigs, and cartoons he just had to draw as an idea popped into his head.

In retirement to the Thames Coast 13 years ago, Mr Heff finally had time to get stuck into the clay and to start creating ceramics. Vikings, dragons, and philosopher

fishermen are some of his main characters. All are fancifully named, with jolly backstories that he invents as he makes them. Larger pieces can take several weeks to put together. They are fired in a kiln in his garage and his wife Kathy – a talented painter - decorates them with the shiny layers of glaze.







MR HEFF WORKING ON HIS TWO LATEST CHILDREN'S BOOKS "JINGLE JANGLE STREET," AND "ICKY STICKY."

Publishing children's books is a relatively new direction. He's always drawn and written things down, but those ideas and images remained stashed away in boxes until Kathy and friend Bruce, told him he just needed to get on with it and get those stories out in the world. So, he learned how to illustrate using a programme called ProCreate on his iPad and got to work on publishing his first title, "Robert the Polar Bear". The idea for the story, about a bear who didn't like the cold or swimming, is several decades old. He still has the original draft in a yellowing hardcover book. New Mr Heff titles are coming out in 2021.

Before moving to Tararu, Mr Heff had been in education for many years, both as a high school art teacher and a primary school principal. His philosophy is that kids should have a tonne of fun at school and he wanted to be the best principal in the world. He had a gun rack full of super-soaker water pistols in his office, ready to hose down unsuspecting kids. He'd climb through classroom windows as part of an ongoing challenge with pupils to sneak up on each other. He wore crazy hats and wacky costumes and loved to devise original stories to tell his classes. His now grown-up former students track him down to tell him those school days were the best years of their lives.

**"... the creator of a range of colourful ceramics and a growing line of children's books, work he gleefully describes as wacky and whimsical."**

Mr Heff welcomes visitors to his studio in Tararu, just north of Thames, where you can view and buy ceramics, and books with a personalised dedication if you wish.

Get in touch on 027 635 0001 or [pfkeheff@gmail.com](mailto:pfkeheff@gmail.com)

His work is also for sale at [mrheff.co.nz](http://mrheff.co.nz), The Poi Room in Newmarket, Auckland, Carson's Bookstore in Thames, and the Little Gallery in Tairua and Whangamatā. His books are also on Amazon.





TIM AT HOME IN HIS GALLERY, WHERE YOU CAN ALSO COME AND LEARN TO WOODTURN YOURSELF



THIS PIECE IS TITLED "ANNIE AMPLE," NICKNAMED BECAUSE OF HER BEAUTIFUL BIG FEET. SHE IS THE BEST SURFER AND THE FASTEST SWIMMER AROUND. HER LARGE FEET AND HER STRONG LEGS HELP HER TO BALANCE ON HER SURFBOARD AND POWER ALONG WHEN SWIMMING.

## Wood LORE

A new piece starts with an idea. Followed by a drawing. And then, the search for the exact right piece of wood. But that, jokes Tairua woodcarver Tim Aldrich, might take all day with his big collection of timber to rummage through.

Kauri, macrocarpa, and Oregon pine are Tim's main woods of choice. Some people are surprised he uses pine, but he says the imported stuff from the American north-west grows slowly, producing lovely rings in the wood, as evidenced in his carved fish. Tim has found a lot of the kauri he uses when out on bike rides, especially after heavy rain when it's washed up on the beach. He says his kids sometimes got fed up going out for a cycle with him as they often ended up having to lug big hunks of wood back home again.

Working with wood is part of Aldrich family lore. His father and grandfather were both barge builders, working on vessels that heaved goods up the River Thames to feed the city of London. When Tim was five, his father started a night school woodcarving course and the wee lad was fascinated. His dad gave him a chisel to try it out himself, a tool he continues to use today. His father went on to teach him the basics and ultimately built Tim and his siblings their own little workshop, next to his own at home in Bromley, Kent. It was freezing in winter, says Tim, with just a curtain at the door, but he'd put on his coat and get to work. He still uses his dad's tools, some of which they found in markets around London.

Tim, his wife Wendy, and their children, then aged 8, 10 and 12, moved to the Coromandel in 2005. His brother was already here, and before they had kids, Tim and Wendy had backpacked around New Zealand. They thought it was absolute paradise. Now a local, Tim is still passionate about the area, with its world class surf and incredible sunsets. Inspiration for his work comes from seeing things like stingrays, with their spotted wings under the wharf, and the fish he loves to draw.

Tim is very enthusiastic about the tradition of passing on skills to others and he teaches woodcarving in his workshop. People often have an idea of what they want to make, he says, so before their sessions, they discuss what new students want to achieve so they leave with something they're really proud of.



ARMOURED STINGRAYS ARE ONE OF THE MANY SEA CREATURES THAT EMERGE FROM THE WOOD TIM CARVES.



Check out Tim's work on  
**Instagram @tim\_woodcarver**  
**Facebook "Tim Aldrich Wood  
Carver & Artist"**

or at

**[mercurybay-artescape.com/tim-aldrich](http://mercurybay-artescape.com/tim-aldrich)**

To view in person, discuss a commission,  
or to book tuition, get in touch by emailing  
**[aldricht193@gmail.com](mailto:aldricht193@gmail.com)** or give him  
a call on **0220488592**.

## NATURE FORMED INTO Metal

**Ever since she was a little girl, jewellery designer Hannah Clayton has been a maker. She'd create polymer clay Christmas decorations to sell at the local market, or spend summer holidays carving wooden toys and making bows and arrows alongside her grandfather in Devon, England.**

Jump forward two decades and home is northern Coromandel, and the materials silver, sometimes gold, and semiprecious New Zealand stones.

Hannah's light-filled studio, a former barn, overlooks the backyard of the family's Kuaotunu property. With a view of veggie beds and fruit trees, she creates her botanically-inspired designs. Earrings, necklaces and bracelets often feature a range of native plants such as kawakawa or kowhai leaves, and manuka flowers. Hannah uses real leaves as the starting point for some of the pieces. She presses them into a moulding compound, and from the impressions, original models are created in wax, before being sent to a specialist casting company in Auckland. There, the wax models are encased in plaster, which is then heated to melt out the wax. This leaves a shell into which molten metal is poured.

With some new lapidary tools. Hannah has begun to collect rocks from local beaches to use in her pieces. She finds chunks of jasper and carnelian, bringing them home to cut, shape and polish. She also uses pounamu from a South Island supplier.

Her studio was completely renovated by her builder and cabinetmaker husband Steve. He put up shelves with recycled timber from an old deck and ingeniously fashioned an extractor fan from an old gas bottle. Machines line the bench, for grinding, polishing and sanding, and there's a variety of tools, many of which were bought during her art school days in Plymouth on the English south coast.

At the start of lockdown in 2020, Hannah says the uncertainty of what was happening made it hard to keep creating. But as soon as life began to get back to normal, she got busy, quickly. "People who already knew of me got in touch to treat themselves. Others had family events coming up and wanted special gifts or wedding rings. I heard lots of really lovely stories from my customers ... the gifts were really heartfelt. That reinvigorated me, chatting to people and connecting after such a strange time," she says.

Hannah enjoys designing bespoke pieces alongside her ever-evolving jewellery range, and loves the ideas and new directions that spark from conversations with customers.

To see Hannah's range or to get in touch visit her website  
[whalebird.co.nz](http://whalebird.co.nz)  
 Facebook page  
[facebook.com/WhalebirdJewellery](https://facebook.com/WhalebirdJewellery)  
 or Instagram @whalebirdjewellery



SOME OF HANNAH'S POPULAR WORKS INCLUDE HER LEAF CHARM NECKLACE (TOP) AND HER POUNAMU SILVER RING (ABOVE). PHOTOS BY JAMES MUIR



THESE CUTE LITTLE KAWAKAWA HOOP EARRINGS (ABOVE) COME IN GOLD PLATE AS WELL, WHILE THIS MANUKA BLOOM NECKLACE (RIGHT) IS STRUNG ON AN ADJUSTABLE 45-50CM SILVER CABLE CHAIN AND FINISHED WITH A TOGGLE CLASP. PHOTOS BY JAMES MUIR



## THE BOLD AND THE *Beautiful*

**Jan Panther's pieces are often big and they are frequently bold. She uses oil paints to get good solid sweeps of colour across the canvas. One thing she doesn't use much is a brush. Those she saves for small details, like birds or butterflies.**

For the main body of a piece, she uses a palette knife to smooth the paint into place. "I wanted to be free in my work, so the palette knife came out," she explains. Jan is self-taught and developed the technique herself.

When she starts a new piece, Jan often works from a photo, or an image in her head of somewhere she's visited. She then sketches a broad outline on the canvas to create some structure before the paint goes on. Jan likes oil paints for their thick texture.

"That's because I can move them around on the canvas," she says. "Oil paints do need time to dry before too many colours are added, so they don't end up mixing and turning muddy".

Jan will come back to a piece several times to layer in more colours until she's happy. Some pieces may take five to six weeks to complete.

Land and seascapes are Jan's favourite things to paint. She loves the fluidity of the hills and seas, the diversity of colours and the changing shadows. At her home near Coromandel Town, the hills in the distance provide inspiration, as does the Thames Coast and Motutere/Castle Rock in the Coromandel Ranges.

The natural environment of the area fuels Jan's creativity. She studied art at school, and years later when her children were grown, she went back to her passion. She used pastels to draw friends' dogs and horses - and tried watercolours and acrylics. But after moving from north of Auckland to Wyuna Bay, and then to just south of Coromandel Town, she found space to create, and her style evolved.

Her studio is in a cute wee cottage on her and husband John's property. With pieces of her work in every room, it feels like an art gallery. They use the place to welcome visitors and when friends and family stay, the paints and tools are put away. But

when it's just back to being Jan's studio, works-in-progress on easels dominate the main room. Windows and doors are thrown open to let in the light, the breeze and the birdsong, as Jan recreates Coromandel on her canvases.

Jan Panther's work is for sale at The Source Gallery in Coromandel Town. Her studio is open during the Coromandel Arts Tour held in October each year.

To connect with Jan, send her an email at [janp.johnb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janp.johnb@xtra.co.nz)

JAN SPENDING TIME IN HER STUDIO IN COROMANDEL (RIGHT AND BELOW). MUCH OF HER INSPIRATION COMES FROM THE LIGHT AND LANDSCAPES THAT SURROUND HER HOME.



### Here's a selection of ways to find

**[mercurybay-artescape.com](http://mercurybay-artescape.com)** Artists from Hikuai through to Opito Bay open up their galleries and studios over March for two weekends to the public.

**[artscollective.co.nz](http://artscollective.co.nz)** The site to find the Whangamatā based group of artists, artisans, musicians, craftspeople and bards focused on bringing creativity to the wider community through events and exhibitions.



**out more about our local art:**

**thamesartgallery.co.nz** Situated just 5 minutes north of Thames, up the coast, this gallery aims to have a changing display of local art. Open 10-2pm daily. Free entry

**coromandelartstour.co.nz** The place that connects artists from the Coromandel Town-Colville north region. Along with their Open Studio arts tour, there's a shared studio section on this website which has updates on artistic visits and workshops, collaborative events, and curated exhibitions.

**Milly's**  
on main street

**KAYLA**

236 Main Road, Tairua  
07 864 7464

522 Pollen Street, Thames  
07 868 9063

# EVERY LIBRARIAN *has a story*

## *Nicole Thorburn*

### THAMES LIBRARIAN

You'll find Nicole at the front desk of the Thames Library. She also processes our inter-library loans, orders our DVDs, and manages our district libraries' social media. In her spare time, she loves to write about history. She authors a wonderful history column in Library Life magazine ([lianza.org.nz](http://lianza.org.nz)).

Nicole grew up in Thames. She completed her history degree in Hamilton and worked at the Waikato Museum before returning home to join The Coromandel Heritage Trust and Thames Historical Museum. She has been with us for five years.

**The best part of my job is...** The fabulous moment when someone asks me for some wildly obscure piece of information, and I find the exact thing they're looking for.

**The most rewarding experience I've had while working at Council is...** Working with my team during the COVID-19 lockdown. Everyone pulled together beautifully. We shifted completely online and our staff shared book reviews, tech tips and boredom busters. We even managed to adapt our big ANZAC Day event, Poppies in the Park, into a virtual field of home-made poppies. Once lockdown lifted, we swung straight back into action with a new contact-free click-and-collect service, as well as housebound deliveries. I was so

proud of how our team handled such a challenging situation.

**I love living in the Coromandel because...** It's got it

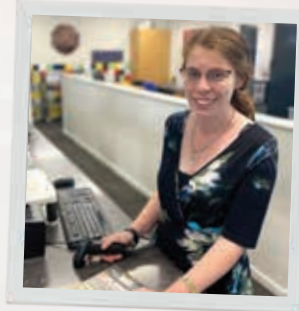
all – beaches, hills, towns, the quirky and the cool. And city life is only an hour or two away if you need a change of pace.

**I love the following things about my community...**

The people who live here always take such an interest. Last year I got my professional librarian registration and I was blown away by how many people congratulated me and wanted to know more – even months later.

**My favourite Coromandel adventure is...** Getting lost among the market stalls and shops in Thames on a Saturday morning. I love finding a good bargain. In Grahamstown, I've been exploring Steamy Sisters and The Bazaar – you never know what weird and wonderful thing you'll find.

**My favourite book/author is...** Now that's a hard question! I like Deborah Challinor's Convict Girls series, about a group of women transported to Sydney in the 1830s after committing crimes in England.



## *Shori Allen*

### THAMES LIBRARIAN

Shori has been our children's and young adult librarian for the past few years. Her love of books grew from being read to every night by her older siblings. She has fond memories of visiting the library for books, events and activities. Shori has a background in teaching.

**The best part of my job is...** I get to create, explore, imagine, and play and it's considered work! I plan holiday programmes, book clubs, and other cool activities. I want children to have the same magic memories I have of the library. We create giant bubbles, rockets with real fire power, kites, musical instruments, and Lego challenges to name a few. I also run regular weekly events like Lego club, Toddler Time and Coding Club.

**The most rewarding experience I've had while working at Council is...** Working with my amazing team. We pull together under pressure but we also know how to have a laugh and enjoy the small things.

**I love living on the Coromandel because...** Paradise is right on our doorstep. Beautiful beaches, rivers, amazing walking tracks, markets, history, nature, and communities that look out for one another. There's a less complicated and more peaceful way of living here.

**I love the following things about my community...** I live

in a small community on the outskirts of Thames where we all know and help one another. Sometimes

people know what you are doing even before you do. I love my community and am proud to be a part of it.

**My favourite Coromandel adventure is...** Recently I have been exploring my own backyard and the rich history where I live. At The Treasury in Thames ([thetreasury.org.nz](http://thetreasury.org.nz)) I found some old maps that showed where gold mining had taken place. When I explored the area with friends we found what appeared to be the foundations of an old stamper battery and some mining tunnels. It felt like we were walking in the footsteps of the pioneer prospectors.

**My favourite book/author is...** Alpacas with Maracas by Matt Cosgrove. It's a heart-warming children's picture book about two alpacas, Macca and Al, who are great pals. I love alpacas and the book has fun quirky rhyming prose.





Our three district libraries in Mercury Bay (Whitianga), Tairua and Thames connect people with a world of ideas, whether that's through traditional mediums like books and hosting events or using digital technologies such as online resources and collections. Behind the resources we have a team of local librarians dedicated to helping their communities discover, connect and enjoy. Here we introduce you to four of our staff.

## Lesley Preece

### MERCURY BAY LIBRARIAN

Lesley spent most of her youth itching to get out of town, then in her mid-30's yearning to come home, like many of her childhood friends. Growing up in Whitianga and attending Mercury Bay Area School, Lesley left the district for University, then her first fulltime job at Howick Library in Auckland. She also worked in academic, special and private libraries overseas before returning to Whiti City (Whitianga) in 2006 and has been with our Mercury Bay Library ever since.

**The best part of my job is...** The variety. I never know what our customers will need help finding. Within half an hour I can get anything from genetic genealogy to identifying land snails.

**The most rewarding experience I've had while working at Council is...** Being a part of a local team that works hard to make improvements for our communities.

**I love living in the Coromandel because...** Yes, it's beautiful and yes, we're lucky to live here, but most of all, it's home.

**I love the following things about my community...** The independent spirit of Coromandel people. If we don't like something, we'll stomp our little feet and get off our butts and change it.

**My favourite Coromandel adventure is...** Camping.

**My favourite book/author is...** C'mon that's too hard! I'll read anything on any subject or genre, as long as I like the writing style. Life is too short to read bad books.



## Jennifer Hutchinson

### TAIRUA LIBRARIAN

Jennifer has embraced the change of pace in Tairua, after working at various public libraries in both New Zealand and Western Australia. Spending over a decade of her career in the hustle and bustle at Hutt City Libraries, including as a Team Leader at the War Memorial Library in Lower Hutt, Jennifer moved to the quieter lifestyle of the Coromandel, almost four years ago.

**The best part of my job is...** Having the time and focus to make and celebrate the connections with our community. Finding the new book for the local who has 'read everything in the collection', and welcoming new customers, whether they have made Tairua their home or visiting the family bach.

**The most rewarding experience I've had while working at Council is...** The warm welcome and support I have received from both our Council and the Tairua community, especially the team of library volunteers who make it possible for us to visit the local kindergarten and Residential Care home and offer Toddler Time and school holiday activity sessions.

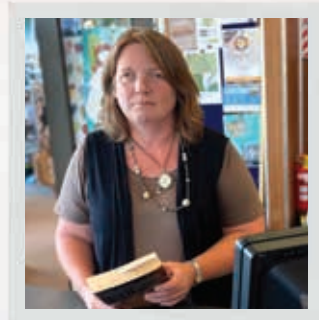
**I love living in the Coromandel because...** The awesome scenery around every corner and the people

who add to that with their welcomeness, authenticity, creativity, and love for where they live.

**I love the following things about my community...** Tairua welcomes all and celebrates what you bring to their community. It's all about doing what you do well, to support the community, with volunteering being at the heart of the services and networks.

**My favourite Coromandel adventure is...** Following one of the many art trails to find artists in their environments. There's amazing art and craft to enjoy and possibly buy, and a reason visit various areas of the Coromandel.

**My favourite book/author is...** Too many options! I always enjoy Di Morrissey, as she celebrates the location the story is set in as much as the character's stories, this writing style gives the locations special properties, which adds more to the character's journeys, sort of like the Coromandel.



# A place to connect ideas

Our three District Libraries in Mercury Bay, Tairua and Thames give you access to more than just books on the shelves. Come with us on a tour of our collections, and find out what your free District Libraries membership can provide.

The home of the hottest fiction, including the latest titles from Lucinda Riley and Lee Child, our libraries offer a great range of titles across a variety of formats. Did you know that there's a dedicated collection of graphic novels aimed at adults at Mercury Bay Library? If you're not usually a big reader, or you're looking for a way to ease back into reading, trying out a graphic novel can be a fresh way to get into a story. Our Adult Graphic Novels cover everything from *Game of Thrones* to Katherine Mansfield – have a look next time you visit us in Whitianga.

If you're getting away from it all, including the internet, then you can still enjoy a Hollywood blockbuster or binge-watch a TV series from our DVD collection for \$2.50 per week (if you still own a DVD player). With almost 2000 DVDs to choose from, there's bound to be something for your next movie night.

If you or someone you know has a sight impairment, check out our ever-changing collection of free talking books, supplied by the National Library of New Zealand in CD format. Also on CD is our own collection of adults' and children's talking books, which features hundreds of old classics and new favourites. Our talking books for adults cost \$2.50 to borrow for three weeks; our children's talking books are free.

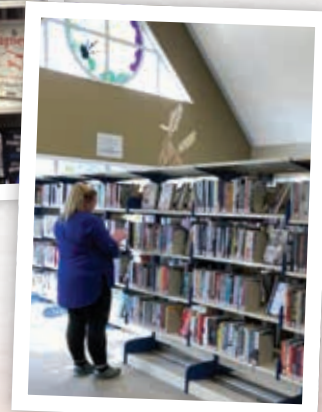
With over 22,000 titles at your fingertips, our e-book and e-audiobook collections are also available to borrow anywhere and anytime. Through ePlatform by Wheelers, our patrons can enjoy a massive selection of titles, from your childhood favourites through to the latest releases. Maybe this summer you'll kick back at the bach and enjoy Richard Osman's *The Thursday Murder Club*, or you'll listen to the BBC Radio dramatisation of Neil Gaiman's *Good Omens* in the car on your Coromandel road trip. There's plenty online to keep the kids busy as well – David Walliams, *Warrior Cats* and *Diary of a Minecraft Zombie* are all just a few clicks away, 24/7.

Being a District Libraries patron gives you access to the collections at all three

branches, as well as selected titles at two of the Coromandel's volunteer-run Community Libraries – Coromandel Town Community Library and Whangamatā Community Library. Using our app, TCDC Libraries, or our online catalogue, you can easily request an item from any of these libraries to pick up at your nearest District Libraries branch.

Even if we don't stock the title you're looking for at one of these five libraries, we may still be able to find it for you. As a member of the Te Puna Interloans network, Thames-Coromandel District Libraries can request books on your behalf from over 130 libraries nationwide – from bigger public libraries to more niche university and special library collections. Inter-library loans are a great way to find older or more specialised titles that might not be in our collection here on the Coromandel.

Joining our District Libraries is completely free. All we need is a few minutes of your time to fill in a simple online form – you can do this at home, or in person at one of our branches. Our friendly staff put the finishing touches on your account at the counter and issue you with your new library card. Discover, enjoy and connect with our District Libraries.



THAMES - COROMANDEL  
**District Libraries**  
discover connect enjoy

#### OUR LIBRARY BRANCHES:

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

#### OUR HOURS:

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri: 9am - 5pm. Wednesday: 9:30pm - 5pm. Saturday: 9am - 12pm

#### FIND US ONLINE:

[tcdc.govt.nz/library](http://tcdc.govt.nz/library) ~ [facebook.com/tcdclibraries](https://www.facebook.com/tcdclibraries)

APPS: TCDC Libraries and ePlatform by Wheelers, both available through your app store

# IN THE SWIM

## at Thames Centennial Pool

*Jayne Wright is a world champion swimmer, qualified lifeguard, New Zealand body building champion, former police officer, and the new head coach for the Thames Swimming Club.*

She is also modest and not likely to tell you many of these things herself.

Jayne (pictured at right with granddaughter Libby), who is originally from Colne in Lancashire, has lived in Thames for the past three years with her husband Jason. She first moved to New Zealand with her two children in 2008, initially working as a police constable based in Whangamatā.

From there, Jayne moved on to become a road policing officer, based in Thames, and she was in that role when the head coach position was advertised at the Thames Centennial Pool.

“I guess it was the push I needed, and I knew it was my chance to return to swimming,” says Jayne.

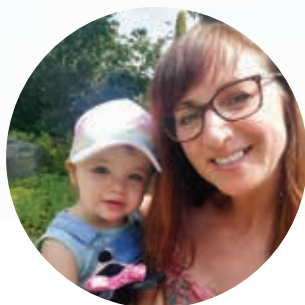
Jayne says her life has always been centred around swimming, from being selected for the England team for the 1990 Commonwealth Games, and then deselected in favour of a higher ranked swimmer, to coming second in the Swimming World Cup for 100 metres butterfly, to eventually joining the British Police swim team.

“My history is all swimming. It’s where I have always been happiest and what I have always come back to,” says Jayne.

When she left school, Jayne says she went straight into teaching and coaching swimming before she joined the British Police, but she continued coaching voluntarily and joined the British Police swim team.

Always one for a challenge, after moving to New Zealand Jayne also took up bodybuilding and won the NABBA WFF Pan Pacific Championship, and the NABBA WFF Pan Pacific Championship in the figure category, in 2012.

“I guess I have a competitive spirit and



enjoy the challenges that come with competing in sport,” says Jayne.

Jayne’s talents don’t end there, however. In December 2013 Jayne’s lifesaving skills were recognised after she saved a group of girls from

drowning in the Waikato River. The rescue was less than a week after she injured her shoulder while arresting a man found to have a gun in his car.

In 2014 Jayne received a silver merit bravery award and badge for her efforts.

Jayne says this coming season she will be focused on assessing swimmers’ needs and getting to know the kids.

“We focus very much on technique and working on having long streamline strokes, along with improving starts and turns,” says Jayne.

**“I’m absolutely loving it. I’m blown away by the love of the sport that the kids have ...”**

“I’m absolutely loving it. I’m blown away by the love of the sport that the kids have and it’s that same love I had back in the 1980s. They are so motivated, they love the sport and that’s all that I need,” says Jayne.

Her classes teach swimming for those

that can swim freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke confidently and have an understanding of butterfly.

“We want them to improve those skills to competition standards. Some kids learn quickly, and others take a little longer. Whatever their goals our coaching caters for all. We can help them improve general fitness and confidence in the water or we can take them through to national standard.”

Jayne’s adult children now live in Paeroa and her three-year-old granddaughter, Libby, is also taking learn to swim lessons at the pool and proving to be a water baby, says Jayne.



### Thames Centennial Pool



- The 25m heated pool is open year-round. The facility offers a range of learn to swim and training opportunities. There is lane swimming, aqua aerobics, and a giant inflatable pool toy available on weekends during the summer months.
- The Thames swimming club runs Monday to Friday, morning and evening, with six groups ranging in abilities from beginner to competitive level. The club caters for more than 100 swimmers and the squad training program is delivered year-round. Contact the Thames Swimming Club at [thamesswimnz@gmail.com](mailto:thamesswimnz@gmail.com)
- The Thames Centennial Pool also offers ‘Swim Cool Swim School’ encouraging infants (six months to five years) to school-age children (five years and above) to develop vital skills and become water confident. Coaches use a range of techniques to engage and teach all ages. They offer low swimmer-to-instructor ratios per class, and each session is tailored to the skill of the group.

# TAKE A DIP

## in our community pools

Fancy cooling off in a community pool instead of the ocean? Our Council supports three fantastic community swimming pools in addition to our Thames Centennial Pool.

[tcdc.govt.nz/communitypools](https://tcdc.govt.nz/communitypools)

### Mercury Bay

20 South Highway, Whitianga



Originally built in 1976, this six-lane 25m pool is maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers at the Mercury Bay Community Swimming Pool Trust. Recently repainted, the pool has also been upgraded to increase its depth and allow for the installation of new ladders and dive blocks.

“We’re a passionate team of volunteers who want to be able to provide our community with a pool that anyone can use,” says trustee Chloe Wilson.

The pool is heated and has lifeguards on duty. It’s available for public enjoyment over an extended summer period and also for limited hours during term time. Some free entry days are also offered from time to time to encourage new swimmers.

The Trust is hopeful it can one day provide a new pool complex to allow year-round access. If you want to lend support or think you can help, contact the Trust on their Facebook page

[facebook.com/Mercury-Bay-Community-Swimming-Pool-284187998283377/](https://facebook.com/Mercury-Bay-Community-Swimming-Pool-284187998283377/)

#### The Team:

**Chloe Wilson** – A former competitive swimmer, and highly experienced pool and beach life-guard.

**Jenny Collier** – Swimming teacher who has been with the Trust since inception 10 years ago. Husband Derek is also a huge help.

**Dan and Mel Asquith** – Long-standing pool trustees. Dan’s the local GP. Both he and wife Mel are also keen ocean swimmers.

**Lydia Anthony** – Trust’s treasurer. She’s actively involved in her community and responsible for Trust finances.

**Howard Baker** – Chairman and an absolute fount of knowledge for the team.

**Maurice Baker** – Who holds a World Masters swimming title and comes from a family of accomplished swimmers.

**Gary Hinds** – An experienced lifeguard who only learned to swim in adulthood. Gary’s made many rescues at Hot Water Beach and is also a coach. Partner Sandi is Pool Manager. She coordinates a crew of pool lifeguards who often go on to become Regional surf lifesaving guards.

### Coromandel Town

120 Woollams Avenue, Coromandel



This popular facility was built in 1999 following extensive fundraising and planning.

There’s a 25m six-lane solar heated pool and a smaller heated toddler’s pool, plus changing rooms and an upstairs hall complex. The facility is operated by the Coromandel Community Recreational Society from October to April.

The pool is a lively environment that’s used daily by the community, students, the Coromandel Swimming Club, as well as for learn-to-swim, injury recovery, and water-safety programmes.

The Swimming Club holds its annual 24-hour swimathon at the pool, and local schools also hold their swimming sports events here. The hall complex is used for activities such as tai chi, martial arts, ballet, and by the Spirit of Coromandel Trust.

The society is run by a hard-working group of volunteers, with day-to-day running of the complex under the management of Debra Attwood (pictured left).



*Continued on following page.*



## Coromandel Town [cont.]

“It’s so important that people learn to swim and to survive in a water environment,” says Debra. “Especially as we are surrounded by water and so involved with activities such as boating, fishing and aquaculture.”

During the season, the pool is open every day except Christmas Day, with hours changing during term time.

For more information on programmes, entry fees and opening hours, check

**Facebook @CoromandelCommunitySwimmingPool**

**call 027 348 2400**

**or email: coromandelcommunityswimmingpool@outlook.com**



## Whangamatā

112 Achilles Avenue, Whangamatā

swimming, learn-to-swim programmes, aquarobics and recreation. It is also regularly booked for birthday parties.

The pool is an integral part of the community with regular use by local swim and surf clubs, and in recent years the number of users has steadily increased with over 20,000 swim admissions by March of the 2020/21 season.

Highlights from this season were a family fun day and a ‘dogs in togs’ event (pictured far left).

The pool is managed by a small committee of dedicated local volunteers who are driving to upgrade the facility. The upgrade is

outlined in our Council’s Long Term Plan [tcdc.govt.nz/longtermplan2021](http://tcdc.govt.nz/longtermplan2021)

Pool operations are overseen by highly experienced life-guard Monique Thomas, (pictured above) who works tirelessly to provide a safe, attractive and cost-effective pool facility for locals and visitors alike.

“I’m not from this area, and the pool has made me feel like part of the community,”

says Monique. “I’ve met so many people, and key to the pool’s success is the great support network we have from our community.”

Monique was supported by two lifeguards over the 2020/21 season, Tyler Tapper and Tayla Clark, who have now returned to University.

Tyler (pictured right, middle with fellow competitors) is a competitive swimmer who continues to swim in Christchurch during his first year at the University of Canterbury.

Tayla (pictured right) is in her second year of study at the University of Otago and resides in Onemana during the holiday periods.

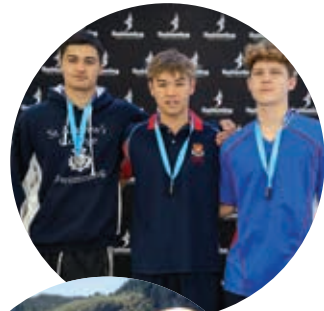
“Working as a lifeguard at the pool has given me valuable skills and it is such a great environment to work in because of the people who use it, and those that run it,” says Tayla.

“For many years I instructed the Junior Surf Program which meant I could put my previous skills as a swim school instructor to good use and share my passion for the ocean with many children,” says Tyler.

New members are welcome.

To find out more about events, entry and open hours, check

**Facebook@WhangamatāCommunityPool**  
**or call 07 865 7296.**



The Whangamatā Real Estate Community Swimming Pool is also a community-owned and operated pool. It is open between Labour Weekend and Easter.

Built in 1991, the pool is now solar-heated and recently had a new deck added by the local Menz Shed.

Over the years the pool has served the Whangamatā community faithfully, providing aquatic activity to young and old, including fun-days for kids, squad



# SURF'S UP

A funding injection from the Government's Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) at the end of 2020 has provided a boost for four Coromandel Surf Lifesaving clubs.

## PAUANUI SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

**A \$676,000 funding injection from the PGF is changing the face of the Pauanui Surf Lifesaving Club this summer.**

The club, established in 1973, will overhaul its clubrooms, hopefully in time for summer 2021-2022, adding more space and refurbishing the building that club President Rodney Lewis says has become tired and a bit run down.

The club is spread over two buildings, one they refer to as The Lodge, which provides accommodation over the summer for many of their lifeguards, and the second they call The Tower, which is where they store all their equipment and where the lifeguards work from.

Rodney says the refurbishment will happen at The Tower, a two-storey building with a garage and toilets underneath and meeting rooms and viewing area on the second storey.

"We will refurbish the upstairs where there is a 180-degree viewing window which lets us see right down the beach," he says.

The garage underneath has always been a tight fit for all their vehicles and gear, and because the club is growing, Rodney says, they will extend the space in that area.

"We want to offer more services and we're getting more gear all the time, so we need more space to store and maintain it," he says.



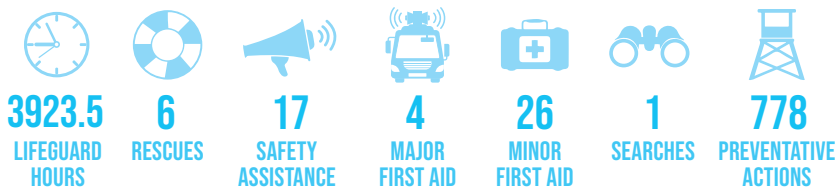
PAUANUI SURF LIFESAVING CLUB IS KNOWN FOR ITS IRB RACING.



PAUANUI SURF LIFESAVING CLUB MEMBERS.

STATS 2019/20

INVOLVING 9,973 PEOPLE



The Pauanui club is well regarded for both its work maintaining, and in competing in, IRB racing. Rodney says Surf Lifesaving New Zealand ran a workshop at their club in 2020 on IRB maintenance.

"We have a very dedicated group of guards who are very committed to maintaining the engines of our IRBs and our other vehicles because they take such a hammering on the beach," says Rodney.

They are also competing in racing all over New Zealand, and Rodney says, they have found this aspect of the club has also helped them attract and retain their volunteer guards.

The club had 84 guards on patrol last season, including volunteer guards and access to nine paid regional guards over the busy period.

"The club is extremely strong with IRB racing. That has generated increased interest from the guards. Patrolling the beaches can sometimes involve long hours with not a lot of action and we've found having IRBs and the additional activity around that a real draw card for our guards," says Rodney.

Most of their guards came from outside the Pauanui area and he says the new clubrooms will also help make it a more desirable place for the guards to be.

It's hoped the improved facility would also help them run more education for schools through the Beach Education programme.

"It will mean we can have more school children or classrooms visiting in groups. They are able to stay in The Lodge and we can run the Beach Education programme," says Rodney.

# TAIRUA SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

A 1940s state house with peeling interior and no hot running water or showers has been home to the Tairua Surf Lifesaving Club for as long as Chairman Tony Cheetham can remember.

Upgrading the facility has been in the club's sights for the past 15 years, but as a volunteer organisation that fundraises every year to manage their day-to-day running, Tony says they always thought it was a pipe dream.

A \$699,000 funding injection from the Government's PGF at the end of 2020 has helped turn their pipedreams into a reality, and now a new building for the club is being built in time for the 2021/22 summer season.

"The old state house was literally falling apart, and we were doing repairs and maintenance each year just to see us through. We were in a position of thinking how on earth are we ever going to raise the money needed," says Tony.

The club had done its best to move forward with plans for a new facility and it had prepared drawings ready to go through the consent process.

"We had done that work because we thought we needed to do what we could to get it to the start line. Because we'd moved down that path, the opportunity came up where we could go in with the other surf clubs in the district and apply for the Government's shovel ready projects funding," says Tony.

From there they were referred on to the PGF and their funding for a new building was approved.

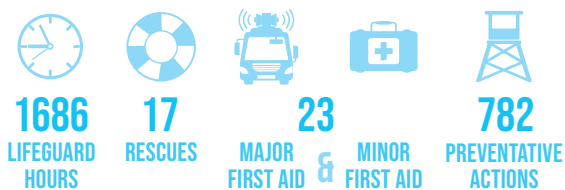
"It is remarkable in lots of ways. It's all volunteers that have pulled this together," says Tony.

The new building is not "too dramatic", and functional for the club, providing space to separate their surf lifesaving volunteers and staff from the public during the season, provide hot showers and even allow them space to hold training sessions.

The club has about 250 members and 42 volunteer guards, along with paid guards on duty during the week over the peak season, which runs from Labour Weekend to the end of January.

He says the club has a strong junior surf programme that has good numbers, but the challenge came in retaining them, so they had enough lifeguards on the beach come summer.

## STATS 2019/20



So, the new building is also about providing space that surf lifesavers, many of them teenagers and young people, can interact and get together.

"We need to retain our staff for longer, so we need a space where our teenagers want to come and be part of it. All clubs are looking for ways to achieve this as there are so many other distractions. We want a clubhouse that can look after them," says Tony.

The new club house is expected to be ready at the end of 2021.



ABOVE: LAURA BEANLAND-STEPHENS - JUNIOR CLUB CAPTAIN AT TAIRUA SURF CLUB.



ABOVE RIGHT: CURRENT TAIRUA SURF LIFESAVING CLUBROOMS.



BOTTOM RIGHT: TAIRUA CLUB ARTIST IMPRESSION.

# HOT WATER BEACH SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

**When you're responsible for more than 1000 beach goers an hour, every day over summer, in an area that offers both bubbling thermal water and pounding surf, you need more than a tent and a surf lifesaving tower.**

Volunteer lifeguards patrol Hot Water Beach every summer from Labour Weekend until Easter. During their busy period they also have paid regional guards on the beach from December through until June.

Club Chairman Gary Hinds says the club has 45 local lifeguards and five from out-of-town. They started in 1997 with one tent and a lifesaving tower for them to work from. Now, thanks to help from

the Government's PGF, they have a purpose-built facility, opened in December 2020.

"It's amazing to think we started with one tent. Then we had two tents and a lifesaving tower and now we have this purpose-built facility," says Gary.

Over the years the club had fundraised for a new building and it had already started building it when the opportunity arose to apply to the PGF.

The \$167,000 it received from its successful application gave the club the money it needed to fully complete its building.

"We were rapt. It's not only provided us the space we need, it also recognises all the hard work our lifeguards and volunteers put in here every summer," says Gary.

Hot Water Beach is unique because lifeguards are contending not only with people in the surf at the beach, but also with high numbers of people visiting over a short period time. Most people arrive one or two hours either side of low tide, to dig in the sand and uncover the thermal water the beach is famous for. After soaking in their own personally dug pool, they then hit the ocean for a swim and, Gary says, this is often where problems arise, with a strong rip that frequently runs out from the hot pools area.

"It is a unique situation. Pre-COVID we could have up to 2000 people on the beach in a short space of time in a very condensed area and that can be challenging to manage. The guards are not only watching what's happening in the surf they are also going around to see people in the hot pools," says Gary.

The new building looks straight down the beach, which gives lifeguards a view of the water in a direct line and allows them to see what is happening, on both the sand and in the surf.

It also provides them the space they needed to store their IRB and rescue aids, a dedicated first aid room and a break-out space for guards to also have time away from the public during their breaks and protection from the elements.

"It is a really great facility for the community and we're looking forward to getting the full use out of it this coming season," says Gary.

STATS 20 19/20

INVOLVING 38,422 PEOPLE



**5690**  
LIFEGUARD  
HOURS



**68**  
RESCUES



**62**  
SAFETY  
ASSISTANCE



**27**  
MAJOR  
FIRST AID



**166**  
MINOR  
FIRST AID



**34**  
SEARCHES



**6210**  
PREVENTATIVE  
ACTIONS



HOT WATER BEACH SURF LIFESAVING CLUB. WHERE IT STARTED WITH A TENT AND A TOWER.







# ONEMANA SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

Rebuilding a surf lifesaving club on an archaeologically significant site certainly has its challenges, says Onemana Surf Lifesaving Club committee member, Jenni Taylor.

Onemana Beach is a hidden gem that offers good surfing, fishing, diving and snorkelling.

But it is also one of the region's bigger surf beaches and is patrolled every day from December through to the end of January and on public holiday weekends. The Onemana club has 28 volunteer lifeguards and paid regional lifeguards on weekdays.

Jenni says the club works hard to fundraise to ensure it has three guards on the beach every day over the busy summer period.

The club has also been fundraising to upgrade its leaking clubrooms for the past 10 years.

“It was leaking, we didn’t have enough space to store all of our equipment, it really was time for a project,” says Jenni.

It had building plans, a resource consent and an application for a building consent in progress when Surf Lifesaving New Zealand suggested they apply for funding through the Government’s PGF.

The club was successful and received \$317,000 from the fund. Along with the club's reserves and grants from Trust Waikato, Lotto, NZ Community Trust, Lion Foundation and Onemana Residents and Community Association it was enough to waterproof and refurbish the original clubrooms and add on the new second storey.



TOP: ONEMANA SURF LIFESAVING CLUB.

ABOVE: ONEMANA SURF LIFESAVING CLUB MEMBERS.

“We really were shovel ready and the growth funding helped us to complete the project. We were expecting to be fundraising for years to come to complete what we thought would be a shell of a building,” says Jenni.

The area is known to be of archaeological significance however, and there were also protected trees nearby which needed to be taken into account.

“We decided to have the second storey built as a prefab off-site in Cambridge and we just had it lifted into place on top of the previous clubhouse,” says Jenni.

It meant there was little disruption to the community, no trees needed to be removed from the site, and they didn’t disturb the surrounding area by turning it into a full-scale building site.

The club is thrilled with the new building that officially opened Easter 2021. The new clubhouse is a community facility and is available for use by the whole community.

“There were some concerns early on about how it would sit into the environment, but the community is really happy with the building,” says Jenni.

The second storey gives lifeguards a full view of the entire beach which is what they need for the safety of all beachgoers.

“Onemana is a beautiful, safe beach at mid to low tide, but it is renowned as a dumper beach at high tide. That’s why we are there,” says Jenni.

STATS 2019/20

INVOLVING 1,611 PEOPLE



1536  
LIFEGUARD  
HOURS



7  
RESCUES



19  
SAFETY  
ASSISTANCE



2  
MAJOR  
FIRST AID



7  
MINOR  
FIRST AID



0  
SEARCHES



787  
PREVENTATIVE  
ACTIONS

From Whangā grommet

# TO SURFING OLYMPIAN

“IT WAS JUST SO SPECIAL, AND I WAS LIVING MY DREAM QUITE LITERALLY. I REALLY TRIED TO JUST SOAK UP AND ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF IT.”

Whangamatā’s Ella Williams was born into a family of surfers and began surfing when she was four years old. At the age of seven, her family made the move to the Coromandel after purchasing the local surf shop.

“I think Whangamatā is a unique and special place and I feel very blessed to be living in such a wonderful place,” says Ella. When not surfing she works in the family business, Whangamatā Surf Shop, running their online store.

“It’s given me the best of both worlds of being able to work and surf in the Coromandel. I’ve been able to fulfil my dreams of surfing, training and working here, what more could I want?”

Ella entered her first national competition when she was six. At 12, she began competing internationally and she made the finals in both the Occy Grom and Rusty Competitions in Australia.

In 2013, she won the ASP World Junior Title event in Brazil, becoming the first New Zealander to gain a world title in surfing. She remains the only New Zealand woman to hold a world title in surfing.

Her success at competitions continued and in 2019 at the ISA World Surfing Games in Japan, she qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, which were later postponed due to COVID-19.

At the Olympics held in Tokyo in 2021, Ella placed ninth in a field of 20. Finishing in the top 10 against some of the best competitors in the world is a significant achievement.

“For me it shows people that you can do well wherever you come from, including the Coromandel.”

Preparing for the Olympics was an immense physical and mental journey. Mentally preparing for a competition that’s so big and watched worldwide was a challenge for Ella that she got through by a combination of breathing, visualisation and meditation.

As part of the preparation, she trained alongside well-known surf coach Dave Wood.

“Working with Dave was an amazing opportunity and I feel very fortunate,” says Ella. “We mixed up the training a lot and it really tested the mental side for me as well as the physical. I really enjoyed the whole experience.”

As well as getting out in the water and catching some waves, the training included ice baths, sand dune sprints with weights, hand ball co-ordination and cadence breathing exercises.

Overall, Ella describes the Olympic experience as ‘incredible’.

“The atmosphere, the training and the schedule were all incredible. Especially being surrounded by some of the best athletes in the world,” she says.



PHOTO CREDIT: BEN REED.

PHOTO CREDIT: SEAM EVANS.

“It was just so special, and I was living my dream quite literally. I really tried to just soak up and enjoy every moment of it.”

Now home from the Olympics, Ella is enjoying being with family and friends.

“It was a really long build up for the Olympics,” she says. “I’m really happy to stop for a little while and have a good rest.”

But she wants everyone to know that if you believe in yourself, you can achieve anything you set your mind to, no dream is too big.

“I always say dream big because you’ll achieve whatever you put out there to the universe,” says Ella.

“If you give it your all then anything is possible. You can do anything you put your mind to, your mind is the most powerful asset you’ll ever have. So have fun with it and enjoy the process and the journey.”

# Essential tips for STAYING SAFE ON COROMANDEL BEACHES



As summer approaches and we get set to enjoy Coromandel's stunning beaches Surf Lifesaving New Zealand (SLSNZ) is reminding people of important safety messages that could save your life, or the life of someone you love.

Last year, in the Coromandel region volunteer Surf Lifeguards saved the lives of 47 people in rescues, assisted 155 people to safety, provided 351 people with first aid care, and carried out 15 searches for people missing in the water. On top of this, whilst on duty Surf Lifeguards undertook 8,654 preventative actions by constantly scanning the beach and guiding swimmers to the safest swimming spots.

## 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.

Ensuring people get home safely after a day at the beach is the number one priority for Coromandel's volunteer Surf Lifeguards. Chaz Gibbons-Campbell, SLSNZ's Eastern Region Lifesaving Manager says, "We want everyone to enjoy their time at the beach, but we need to make sure that beachgoers are aware of the potential dangers, keep safety at the beach top of mind, and know what to do if they get in trouble in the water."

In the Bay of Plenty region, two-thirds of fatal beach drownings in 2019-2020 took place at a surf beach and happened when the person was swimming or wading. Most fatal drownings are preventable so swatting up on safety before you hit the beach can help avert a potential tragedy.

The first step is to think about where you're heading and ideally choose a lifeguarded beach so help is on hand if you get into trouble. Next, when you arrive at the beach look for the red and yellow flags and be sure to swim between them. Then when you're in the water don't

overestimate your abilities or those of the people with you.

If you happen to visit a beach without flags and lifeguards, it's even more important to be aware of the conditions and look out for rips. Rip currents are the main cause of rescues performed on Coromandel beaches, and Chaz encourages people to learn how to spot them before getting into the water.

Rips often appear as regions of deeper, darker water with less wave-breaking activity between areas of white water. Chaz warns, "If you're unsure what you're looking at is a rip, don't get in the water. If in doubt, stay out."

"The rip current won't pull you under or take you a long way out to sea. You may end up little way out, but often the water brings you back into shallower water where you can stand up," he explains.

**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.**

If you spot someone in trouble and there are no volunteer Surf Lifeguards around, call 111 immediately and ask for the police. They have a direct line to the SLSNZ's emergency call-out squads and will send for help.

Spending time at the beach is a classic Kiwi summer activity, Chaz says. "We want people to have a great time enjoying what the beach has to offer but there are dangers to be aware of. Keeping these tips in mind will help beachgoers stay safe this summer."

## *In it for life*



Surf Life Saving New Zealand is a charity organisation that depends on donations to keep people safe at the beach. Your donation, big or small, will help save lives by ensuring volunteer Surf Lifeguards are trained and supported to make lifesaving rescues and prevent drownings on beaches in the Coromandel, and across Aotearoa.

[www.surflifesaving.org.nz/support-us/donate](http://www.surflifesaving.org.nz/support-us/donate)



**SURF LIFE SAVING®**  
NEW ZEALAND



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# CHECKING BACK IN WITH OUR FUTURE LEADERS

Our young people who grow up here on the Coromandel often head away to study, work and begin their adult lives.

We caught up with some of our youth – who we spoke to as students in previous editions of *Our Coromandel*, who are now living away from our District – about how a Coromandel childhood has shaped their outlook and future aspirations.



TRYING AND MAKING MISTAKES IS SO MUCH BETTER THAN NOT TRYING AT ALL. STEP OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE, IT'LL BE WORTH IT.

**When we first spoke to Reuben back in 2018 for 'Our Coromandel', he was Head Boy at Whangamatā Area School.**

#### **Where are you now?**

I'm living in Auckland City. I'm often in the studio recording music with different producers and artists. When I'm not in the studio, I'm busy hitting the gym.

#### **What's your favourite thing about what you're doing now?**

For as long as I can remember it's always been my dream to become a professional musician and entrepreneur, so I'm one step closer towards realising that goal, which is exciting.

#### **What's been your biggest motivator since finishing school?**

Understanding that enjoying life is the best way to get the most out of it.

#### **Where do you see yourself in five years?**

Hopefully alive and healthy. My biggest goal is to be performing my music to the world.

#### **Any lessons you've learnt since leaving school?**

Trying and making mistakes is so much better than not trying at all. Step out of your comfort zone, it'll be worth it.

#### **Has growing up on the Coromandel shaped your career path and life choices?**

For sure! I'll always be a surfer at heart. The beach and outdoors motivates me to do

the things that I enjoy and find meaning in, which means I'll always try to do them well.

#### **Any advice for those still in school?**

Step out of your comfort zone because there's so many lessons to learn just from trying. Even if you don't achieve what you set out to, you'll still learn and experience something new. There's so much to look forward to and school is crucial in shaping a positive and happy future. Honestly, take advantage of every opportunity whether it be saying yes to going on that trip, or trying out for that sports team. Some of my best years ever were in school.

**YOU CAN HEAR REUBEN'S MUSIC ON FACEBOOK – REUBEN FLEETWOOD MUSIC**



**I'VE LEARNT TO DO THINGS MYSELF, TO BE INDEPENDENT AND TO TAKE RISKS.**



that I didn't have in NZ. I made it into the Centennial Conference Championships with the college swim team. It was an awesome opportunity and I placed 9th in the finals for the 100m butterfly and 6th in the finals for the 200m butterfly. College life in the US is so huge and the experience is just so different compared to anything in NZ, it's awesome.

**What's been your biggest motivator since finishing school?**

My family. My parents did a lot to help get me to where I am now. Their support has allowed me to do all of these things. For years, they drove me everywhere around the North Island I needed to be in order to train for swimming. With COVID and everything that's now going on, it's hard not being able to see them. I'm so grateful and thankful for everything my family has done.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

I want to be back in NZ. I love America, but I don't plan on living here. I'm not sure exactly what I'll do when I get back, I might consider pursuing counselling.

**Any lessons you've learnt since leaving school?**

I've learnt to do things myself, to be independent and to take risks.

**Has growing up on the Coromandel shaped your career path and life choices?**

The Coromandel has been my home for most of my life. It will always be home in my heart. All my memories are there. It's definitely shaped how I see things now, especially when I've moved away. I really appreciate where I grew up and wouldn't change it for the world.

**Any advice for those still in school?**

The biggest thing I would say is don't be afraid to do what you want, and to get out and go where you want. When you get out and explore and see other things it makes you appreciate the Coromandel so much more.



**We first featured Ella in 'Our Coromandel' back in 2018 when she was studying at the Mercury Bay Area School in Whitianga.**

**Where are you now?**

I'm living in Westminster in the United States, studying at McDaniel College. I'm completing a Bachelor of Psychology, minoring in Sociology. I got contacted by a recruitment agency through my swim team.

I then got offered an International Student Scholarship from the college based on my academic records. It can be really hard for someone to study in America and although the scholarship doesn't cover everything it helps a lot and I'm so thankful for the opportunity.

**What's your favourite thing about what you're doing now?**

I'm getting a lot of opportunities here



**FIND YOUR  
PASSION AND LET  
EVERYONE KNOW  
ABOUT IT.**



**We first spoke with Sam in 'Our Coromandel' back in 2019 about being a Coromandel Youth MP while studying at Thames High School.**

**Where are you now?**

I'm in Auckland attending Media Design School (MDS), studying a Bachelor of Media Design at the new campus in Wynyard Quarter, right on the Auckland Viaduct. I'm also interning as a creative at my church, Equippers Church Auckland.

**What's your favourite thing about what you're doing now?**

I'm really enjoying having my creative abilities stretched in different areas. We've just finished a project at MDS where we wrote and illustrated a comic book in just over a week. It really pushed my skillset. In my internship, I'm working on content for two music albums producing a mixture of hip hop, R&B and EDM music. One album was released in March and the other will be released in July/August, you can listen to these on Spotify by searching 'Equippers Revolution'. We're experimenting with some really cool content and I'm uber-excited to see what people think when everything is released.

**What's been your biggest motivator since finishing school?**

Being around people who are constantly pushing me to grow as a creative and as a person. I'm lucky to be surrounded by people who are doing amazing things, like Kenan

Stephenson who is one of the two musicians who founded the albums I help produce. I also help run a week-long conference in Auckland called Shout which usually has around 5000 people come and attend. Not many 18-year olds can say that they've had their design content displayed on a 65ft tall LED screen in front of 5000 people.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

I honestly don't know. Things have changed so much even in the last year in terms of my priorities and the opportunities I've been offered and COVID-19 has definitely played a part in that. As students in lockdown, we didn't get a lot of the socialising and extracurriculars you're supposed to have as a high school student, during that time in lockdown we had to sacrifice a lot of things. If I'd been asked that question five years ago I would've answered with "I'd be studying at a film school in the USA" but here I am in 2021, living in Auckland and not at film school so who knows where I'll be in five years but I'm excited to find out.

**Any lessons you've learnt since leaving school?**

I can now cook. That's got to be the number one thing I wish I'd done before I left school. I've been living away from home for three

months now and I'm still struggling to refrain from ordering Uber Eats once a week.

**Has growing up on the Coromandel shaped your career path and life choices?**

From the very start of my creative journey the Thames community rallied around me and supported me at every opportunity to further my goals. My journey started when I stumbled upon an interest in filmmaking, and from the get-go I was blessed by how the community wrapped its arms around me. They found workshops I could attend, people that could help build my knowledge, film and TV sets I could intern on and opportunities to lead other youth in the creative arts. So many people in our community helped me along the way and I can honestly say that I never would've had access to so many opportunities if I hadn't lived on the Coromandel.

**Any advice for those still in school?**

Find your passion and let everyone know about it. We're so lucky to live in a District where the community champions anyone that is vocal about their passions and what they want to do. So be loud and be proud about it.



# SOPHIE CLARKE

**We shone a spotlight on Sophie in 'Our Coromandel' back in 2018 when she was Head Girl at Thames High School.**



## **Where are you now?**

I'm flatting in Christchurch and studying a Bachelor of Commerce at Canterbury University, majoring in Economics and Finance.

## **What's your favourite thing about what you're doing now?**

In Year 13, I found out that economics had optimisation and calculus components and also incorporated social policy. I found it super interesting and political. I really enjoyed my internship at this (Thames-Coromandel) Council because it's local government. I have always loved maths and social sciences. Economics really combines both, so I get to do my two favourite things every day.

## **What's been your biggest motivator since finishing school?**

I want to sharpen my skills and use those to make the biggest impact I can. I've always known that I want to make a positive difference and that hasn't changed, that's still my driver.

## **Where do you see yourself in five years?**

In five years' time, I will have completed my undergraduate degree and finished my Master of Applied Finance and Economics

(MAFE). I'm looking to apply for a Treasury internship in Wellington, which leads into a graduate programme that lasts a few years, so I'm hoping that will be my path. I'll keep an eye out for other internships as well. I do like the idea of going into government and having an impact on other people's lives.

## **Any lessons you've learnt since leaving school?**

What it's like flatting. I recommend going flatting but make sure it's with people that have similar values and interests as you. Also make sure that you flat and make friends with people that have similar degrees as you so that you can study together.

## **Has growing up on the Coromandel shaped your career path and life choices?**

Yes. It's really instilled in me a love for the environment. In a way, that's why I chose Christchurch to study- the landscape is very similar with plenty of beaches and mountains.

## **Any advice for those still in school?**

Figure out what makes you happy and what you like, then do that. Pursue what gets you going. Don't be afraid to try lots of things.



**I WANT TO SHARPEN MY SKILLS AND USE THOSE TO MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT I CAN. I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT I WANT TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE AND THAT HASN'T CHANGED, THAT'S STILL MY DRIVER.**

# Scott Simpson

MP for Coromandel

## Here to help

614 Pollen Street, Thames 3500

0800 550 330

mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz

scottsimpson.co.nz



Authorised by Scott Simpson, 614 Pollen St, Thames.



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452 Pollen Street  
Thames, 3500



21 Robinson Road  
Whitianga, 3510



# Protect our waterways

Help stop harmful contaminants entering our stormwater drains.



## Car washing

Dirty water from washing cars can contain chemicals and other contaminants like oils and heavy metals which pollute our waterways and endanger aquatic species.

Even biodegradable detergents are harmful to wildlife.



- ✘ **Avoid washing your car on your driveway where the water can run into the stormwater drains**
- ✘ **Don't drain oil and antifreeze where it could reach stormwater**



- ✔ **Take your car to a commercial car wash where water is contained**
- ✔ **Wash your car on the grass so that it soaks into the ground**

## Paint, plaster and concrete wash

Wash water from these activities can smother aquatic plants and creatures.



- ✘ **Don't tip paint or plaster wash down outside drains**
- ✘ **Don't let concrete wash or cutting water run into stormwater drains**
  - ~ The pH of concrete wash is harmful to aquatic life
  - ~ Concrete wash from one driveway killed more than 200 eels



- ✔ **Use buckets to wash brushes, rollers and other equipment. Empty wash water onto soil where it will soak away**
- ✔ **Take unwanted paint back to the store**



## Landscaping and gardening

Open ground and topsoil piles can easily wash into our waterways and harbour, blocking sunlight and smothering aquatic life.

Garden waste dumping can increase nutrients which can degrade habitats and create algal blooms.



- ✘ **Don't leave piles of dirt uncovered near the road**
- ✘ **Don't dispose of garden chemicals and fertilisers down the drain**



- ✔ **Cover any exposed ground or stockpiles**
- ✔ **Take your garden waste and unwanted chemicals to the transfer station**
- ✔ **Compost your garden waste at home**



## Exterior washing and water blasting

Run-off from exterior cleaning and water blasting is much more harmful than run-off caused by rain. Detergents like moss and mould remover contain chemicals that can harm aquatic life if they reach waterways.



- ✘ **Don't let the water from any exterior washing or water blasting flow to the road and enter the stormwater network**



- ✔ **Disconnect your down pipes prior to cleaning your roof**
- ✔ **Direct wash water onto unsealed ground such as grass, so that it will soak into the ground**

## Remember:

- Outside drains send water straight to our streams, beaches and harbour. Prevent anything other than rain entering this system.
- Many homes have roof gutters that flow straight to our stormwater network.
- Even small quantities of seemingly harmless materials can add up and cause damage to the environment.
- If you see something that doesn't look right, please contact the Council.

Phone 07 868 0200  
[tcdc.govt.nz/stormwater](http://tcdc.govt.nz/stormwater)



# THREE WATERS REFORM

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE COROMANDEL?

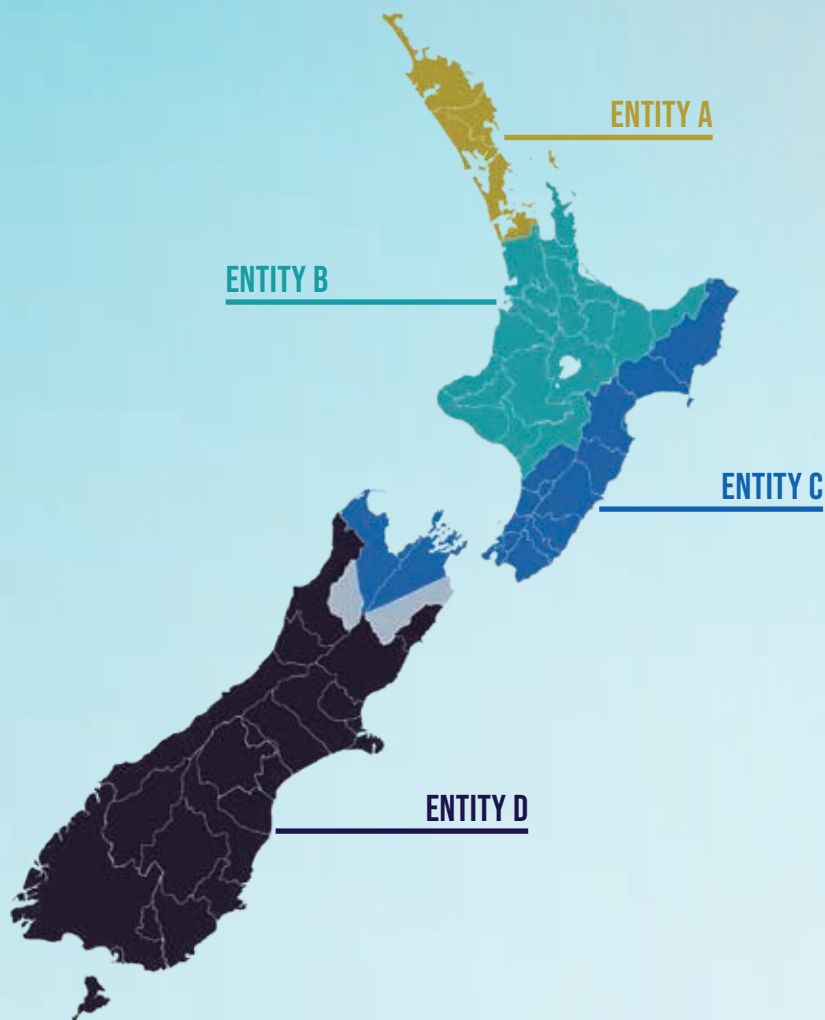
*In July 2020, the Government launched the Three Waters Reform programme – a three-year programme to reform local government three waters service delivery arrangements.*

Currently, 67 different councils own and operate the majority of the drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services across New Zealand.

The Government says the programme seeks to ensure no council is worse off, and every community is better off, after reform. It also sets councils up to focus on community wellbeing – and creates a precedent for working more closely with the Government.

The starting intention is to reform local government's three waters services into a small number of multi-regional entities. The exact size, shape and design of these entities is still being worked through.

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) has a map which shows the proposed boundaries of the three entities. Our Council is likely to be included in entity B and is in the process of giving the Government feedback on the map. At the time *Our Coromandel* went to print our Council hadn't firmed up a position on the overall proposal and boundaries yet.



The Government's announcement in July 2020 also included a \$2.5 billion package for councils to obtain funding, as part of the three water reforms.

**The package has three financial components:**

1. Support for local government to invest in communities' wellbeing. This part of the investment totals \$2 billion, with \$500 million being available from 1 July 2022. It will be allocated between councils according to a nationally consistent formula, reflecting population (75 per cent), deprivation (20 per cent) and land area (5 per cent).
2. Targeted support to ensure no councils are financially worse off as a result of transferring their three waters assets. This is designed to protect councils from any negative financial consequences of the asset transfer.
3. Cover of reasonable transition costs. This is intended to make sure council service delivery (including of water services) during the transition isn't compromised by the work needed to make the transition happen.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OUR COUNCIL?

We're waiting further information from DIA. As part of the announcement, it was noted that DIA is still to publish more detail about the package, including individual council allocations.

This will assist our staff in understanding the implications of the announcement for our District and communities.

The Three Waters Reform could potentially significantly change the way water infrastructure and services are delivered in our District.

### WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Every council has until the end of September/early October 2021 to analyse the reform proposals and assess the impact on them and their communities.

The Government will then consider next steps, including the process and revised timing for decision-making. No decisions on this have been made, or will be made, until after this engagement period.

During the period of analysis and consideration, Local Government New Zealand, LGNZ will support councils to understand what the package means for them.

There is a commitment from all parties for the need to spend more time working through some issues that are important to all of us. These are:

- Ensuring all communities have both a voice in the system and influence over local decisions. This means being sure the water entities understand and act on communities' needs and wants, including responding to localised concerns like a desire for chlorine-free water.
- Effective representation on the new water entities' oversight boards so that there is strong accountability to the communities they serve. This includes effective assurance that entities, which will remain in public ownership, cannot be privatised in future.
- Making sure councils' plans for growth are appropriately integrated with water services planning.
- It is also noted that staff who work primarily on water will be guaranteed a role at the new water service entities. This role will retain key features of their current role including salary, terms and, critically, location.

Find more information on our Council's website [tcdc.govt.nz/threewatersreform](https://tcdc.govt.nz/threewatersreform)



WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION ON THE THREE WATERS REFORM?

[threewaters.govt.nz](https://threewaters.govt.nz)

# History in the making

*There's a beautiful old building on Thames' Queen Street which sits stately alongside an architecturally designed modern box. Blink and you might miss them both.*

Stop, and hidden inside you'll discover stories of families who forged some of New Zealand's foremost heavy industries. From steam engines, built by A&G Price, to Phoenix Breweries, famous for their German style beer, and the fact they eventually became part of New Zealand Breweries and later Lion Nathan.

They are stories of people, families and businesses that formed the Coromandel Peninsula, Ohinemuri, Te Aroha and the Hauraki Plains region, Te Tara o Te Ika a Maui. A place once considered to include the most famous gold mining town in the world, Thames, and a region that threatened to surpass the size of Auckland as gold fever hit.

The two buildings are the restored Carnegie Library, originally built in 1905, now home to a local heritage trust known as The Treasury. Alongside it, the modern box, is a purpose-built temperature-controlled archive where many of these stories are permanently stored, hidden in documents filed away.



THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

Both buildings' existence and the treasures housed within are testament to what a dedicated group of volunteers can achieve with determination.

Thames' resident and one of the driving forces behind the creation of The Treasury, alongside her late husband Morrie, Geraldine Dunwoodie, says it all started about 1999.

A group of retired ladies wearing fingerless gloves worked in a freezing room at the



GERALDINE DUNWOODIE ALONGSIDE HER HUSBAND MORRIE WERE DRIVING FORCES BEHIND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TREASURY.

Thames' School of Mines, diligently sifting through historical treasures from the goldmining era.

"Back then we were known as the Hauraki Thames Indexing Group," says Geraldine.

As they worked, a constant stream of people were coming to them with boxes of historic records looking for a home.

"We were building quite a nice little collection in our own homes because there was nowhere else for it to go. Photos, family



THE TREASURY ARCHIVE (FOREGROUND) AND THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY ARE A MELDING OF OLD AND NEW.



THE TREASURY MANAGER, DANIELLE CAMPBELL, WITH A BOOK FROM A COLLECTION GIFTED BY THE FAMILY OF THAMES' HISTORIAN TOSS HAMMOND OBE.

documents, business records and early books were piled in boxes in corners and cupboards," says Geraldine.

The group wanted to see the treasures they were gifted housed and cared for appropriately for the benefit of future generations.

In 2000 they kickstarted their plan by enlisting the support of former Thames-Coromandel District Council Mayor, Chris Lux, and New Zealand's foremost historian, the now deceased Michael King, who became their patron. Perhaps more astonishingly it led them to raise \$1.1million over nearly a decade to construct their purpose-built archive.

After many meetings and initial fundraising drives, The Treasury finally found a home in the Carnegie Library building in 2009, after our Council earmarked it for earthquake strengthening and refurbished it. The Trust acquired the property next door, and in 2013 they finally built their purpose-designed heat, light and dust-controlled archive.

The building's modern design caused quite a ruckus – some loved it, others thought it was awful. But they had clearly done something right when the archive won the Heritage Award from the New Zealand Institute of Architects.

In 2015 Geraldine was awarded a Queen's Service Medal for her work towards heritage preservation linked to the creation of The Treasury.

"I never wanted any recognition. I just wanted to see it created. These stories from our early families and from the early towns

in our region needed a home. They're great records to have," says Geraldine.

Since Geraldine's time, The Treasury has taken on a General Manager, a Collections Assistant and the latest project is to build a new website and digitise the entire collection in a programme call Past.

For a small fee people can drop in at the Carnegie Library building and be assisted by volunteers to find nuggets of history from the homes or working lives of people and businesses throughout the region.

There's still a lot of cataloguing to be done and the Trust is working on a long-term funding strategy to ensure its continued sustainability.

The Trust currently receives support from our Council and Hauraki District Council, and they've also been successful in a series of recent funding rounds from the Lotteries Commission and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage's Museum Hardship Fund. To date, the money has provided for their General Manager, Collections Assistant and some digitisation of the collections.

Without places like The Treasury, the risk is all the historic documentation hidden in garages and under beds will be lost forever.

**You never know what might be hidden away in an old tin box, says Geraldine Dunwoodie.**

One day she was telling community archaeologist Dave Wilton about some of the exciting finds in a collection The Treasury had been gifted and she mentioned a receipt from 1 October 1870.

It was from the Electric Telegraph Department, Thames Station, and it stated it was for the transmission of Telegram No. 2.

The date of the receipt was just three months after the telegraph link between Auckland and Thames was finally completed, launching connections between the two centres.

"We think the receipt is from one of the first telegrams sent from Thames once the line was finished," says Geraldine.

Telegrams were generally charged on a per word basis with a standard telegraph 'word' being five characters long.

The cost to send them worked out to be about 13 pence per word. It was not cheap technology when the standard

The Treasury Manager is Danielle Campbell, who completed a Master's Degree in Museum and Heritage Studies and worked at Wellington City Council as a Heritage Advisor before joining The Treasury.

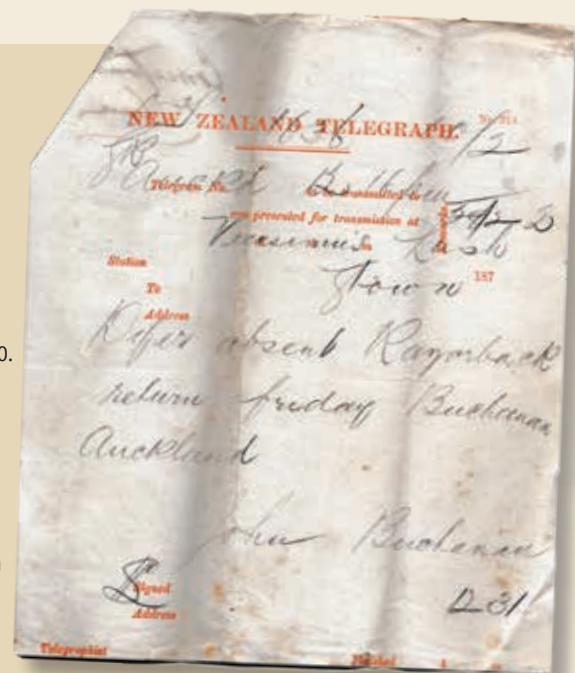
Danielle currently manages a team of 50 volunteers who offer their services to help people source historical information or help catalogue the collections coming in.

"The gold mining history is what's most well-known and definitely what makes Thames-Coromandel's history so unique, but there are also those social and cultural histories to be told," says Danielle.

Recent donations have included a collection from well-known Thames' historian Toss Hammond OBE.

"Toss Hammond walked everywhere, even all the way to Rotorua for a holiday. He was meticulous in his writing, and he was a collector. He also kept every Art Union (lottery) ticket he ever purchased. The cupboards in his home were full of these tickets," says Danielle.

The Treasury is open to the public Monday to Thursday, and Saturdays, 11am to 3pm.



A RECEIPT FROM WHAT IS THOUGHT TO BE ONE OF THE FIRST TELEGRAMS SENT FROM THAMES AFTER THE LINES OPENED.

pay rate for an underground miner in Thames was 10 shillings a day.

"It shows what can be found when saving an old piece of paper from 1870," says Geraldine.

# Panning through Coromandel's rich history

*The Coromandel has plenty of hidden locations where you can delve deep into the area's rich mining history. Instead of trying to track them down yourself, take a guided tour.*

It's believed that the first European discovery of gold in New Zealand was right here in the Coromandel. The find is attributed to Charles Ring, a Tasmanian who found a small amount of the precious metal at Driving Creek near Coromandel Town in 1852.

Over the next decade many others flocked to the Peninsula. They were armed with pickaxes, prepared to live in primitive camps, and fuelled by dreams of finding a fortune.

Finally, in 1867, a group of prospectors named William Hunt, John Ebenezer White and George Clarkson, noticed a sparkling speck in the rock face of a waterfall at Kuranui Stream.

The discovery turned out to be the first big strike in the Coromandel and it made millionaires of Hunt and his friends overnight.

Then, in 1878, the first suggestion of gold at the famous Waihi site on Pukewa, Martha Hill, was unearthed by prospectors John McCombie and Robert Lee. But the rock samples they sent off were unfavourably assessed and the two men left the area. Their claim was taken over in 1879 by

William Nicholl who pegged out five acres. By 1882 the first battery was in operation and by 1903 Waihi had the biggest gold mine in New Zealand.

The mines in Thames and Waihi set in motion the first gold boom for the Coromandel, with Thames alone producing over one million pounds sterling in the years between 1868 and 1871.

However, the Coromandel terrain proved hazardous and difficult to mine. Most of the gold was locked inside quartz reefs deep within hard rocks. Quartz reefs required machinery and equipment to mine the ore, crush it and extract the gold, so eventually companies set up stamper batteries and began large scale mining production.

The mines needed well-trained miners and engineers and the Thames School of Mines was established in 1885, and Schools in Waihi and Coromandel Town opened their doors soon after.

The Coromandel Gold Stamper was commissioned by the New Zealand Government and opened in 1900 in Coromandel Town. It processed gold from over 65 different mines in the Coromandel.



ABOVE: ASH FRANKLYN, GEOLOGIST AND GOLDMINE HISTORIAN.

RIGHT: GOLD AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAN.

FAR RIGHT: ASH IN ACTION DEMONSTRATING HOW TO PAN FOR GOLD.





The Stamper Battery was powered by New Zealand's biggest working water wheel and was the first diesel powered processing plant in New Zealand.

Ash Franklyn, geologist and goldmine historian, started running operations at the Coromandel Gold Stamper Battery from 2001. This was shortly after Hot Rocks Adventures kicked off in the year 2000.

These days, the Gold Stamper Battery is not open, however Ash still runs Hot Rocks Adventures in Coromandel Town. These include authentic gold panning experiences and guided walking trips, all of which bring alive the region's fascinating geologic and mining history.

"The Coromandel has always been incredibly interesting to me, no matter where you go, if you put a pan in the water you always bring some colour from it," says Ash. Before moving to Coromandel Town he ran a tourism business in Auckland, adventuring to Auckland volcanoes and other areas that held a special geological interest.

"I was about seven years old when my uncle took me on one of his field trips in the Wiri Lava Cave, Auckland's longest

known lava cave at around 290 meters. I went underground with a group of guys and from that moment on I was fascinated and in love with the idea that rocks are cool," Ash explains.

He says while there is plenty of information available online about Coromandel's mining

**"... no matter where you go, if you put a pan in the water you always bring some colour from it..."**

history, it's not always easy for visitors to pinpoint the precise places of interest.

"We have such a unique place in Coromandel with so many firsts, which are so easy to miss to a standard visitor or tourist. There are little places that are just off the beaten track and they need people like me to point them out, explain them, put them in context and expand the story because they hold some absolutely amazing stories."

The panning experience takes visitors for an entertaining and informative 1.5 hours of creek side panning where he teaches

the basic technique of this time-honoured way to find gold. Wide, shallow pans are filled with sand and gravel and the process involves submerging the pan with water and shaking it in a "drive the steering wheel" motion. As gold is much denser than rock and other materials, if it is present, it will quickly settle to the bottom of the pan.

Ash also offers two walking tours, the Talk of the Town walking tour and a guided tour of the museum. All options are family friendly and reservations are required in advance.

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Hot Rocks Adventures is located at Karamana Homestead at 84 Whangapoua Road, Coromandel Town. For more information you can visit [hotrocksadventures.com](http://hotrocksadventures.com) or call Ash now to make your booking 0210 232 8262.

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Another specialised adventure tour that has been providing guiding services across the Coromandel Peninsula since 1975 is Kiwi Dundee Adventure Tours based in Tairua. Experienced local guides provide insight and education about the kauri forests, gold mining history, volcanic geology and much more. You can find out more information on their website [kiwidundee.co.nz](http://kiwidundee.co.nz)



## *Save your loved ones from the burden of making tough decisions at a difficult time by pre arranging your final farewell*

We don't know when we'll die or who will be left to ultimately make those decisions. Planning ahead enables you to design your final send-off and share your last wishes with your family so that, in the end, you get the funeral you want with your own personal touches.

There's no better time to talk about your funeral plans than when you have strength. Invite your loved and trusted family members or friends to join you for an honest talk with one of our funeral directors.

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Our operational volunteers play a critical role, working alongside our permanent staff to respond to emergencies and provide medical cover at pre-planned events.

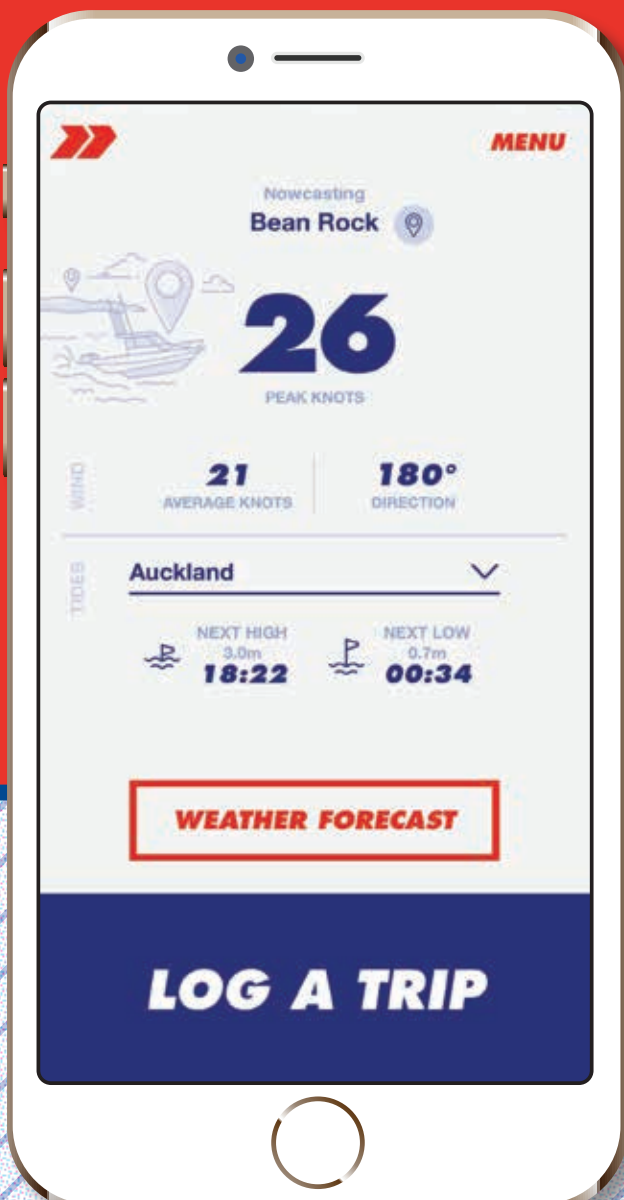
At St John, we understand our volunteers have commitments and therefore promote flexible volunteering options.

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!

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## Paws & think

### Dog friendly district

On the Coromandel we have many areas that dogs can call their own playground. Knowing where you can take your dog, on or off-lead, is important as we want to make sure everyone can enjoy our public spaces and there's a safe environment for dog and non-dog people. What many people don't realise is that you need to have your dog on-lead in most areas, unless specified.

### Prohibited, Restricted, and Exercise Areas

*There are three terms we use to explain the rules, and you will see the symbols used on all of our dog related signs.*



#### EXERCISE AREAS:

You can have your dog off-leash but under control at all dates and times.



#### RESTRICTED:

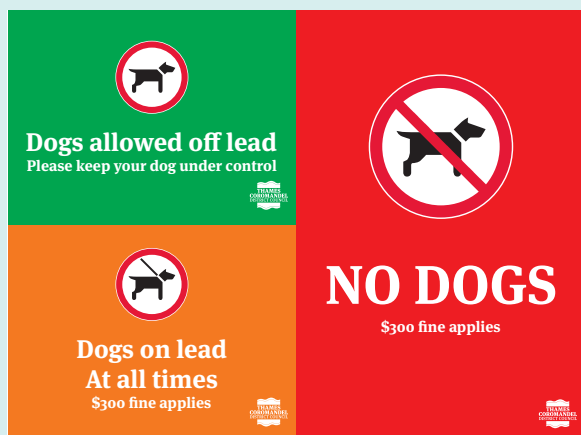
We use the restricted term for the summer period and holiday weekends. It means that there are restrictions around where you can take your dog during certain dates and times. We also have some areas that are restricted all year round.



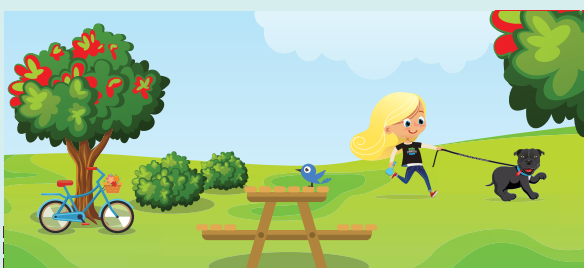
#### PROHIBITED:

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.

*Across our district we have a traffic light system in place to make it easy for you.*



📞 Call 07 868 0200 for questions or complaints.  
[tcdc.govt.nz/dogs](http://tcdc.govt.nz/dogs)



## LEAD THE WAY



Our bylaws team has been spending time stopping and talking to dog owners about our local rules, especially if dogs aren't on lead where they should be. For any dog not on a lead in areas not designated as an off-lead area, dog owners can be fined \$300.

Our aim is to educate people about our rules and to encourage voluntary compliance by giving out free dog leads before issuing fines.

- Make sure your dog is registered and wears a registration tag at all times. If you are 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 Bylaws Officer.
- Dogs are not allowed in cemeteries, sports fields and within children's public play areas.
- Dogs are prohibited from protected bird habitats. Keep an eye out for signs, it will usually be from Labour Weekend to 1 March, which is during the NZ dotterel breeding season.
- See [doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz) regarding dog access to conservation land.
- 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 space.
- 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.
- Never leave your dog in your car in the heat.
- Remember the five-second rule: Whenever you take your dog outside, place the back of your hand on the pavement. If you can't hold it there for five seconds, it's too hot to walk your dog.

## Microchipping

As well as registering your dog, they must be microchipped. This helps us promptly identify roaming or lost dogs and reunite them with their owners.

You can get your dog microchipped by a local vet, or phone us on 07 868 0200 and we can organise for a Bylaws Officer to visit you. We charge a micro-chipping fee of \$25.00 per dog. [tcdc.govt.nz/microchipping](http://tcdc.govt.nz/microchipping)



# DOG ZEN

for your pooch



At the age of six, Mark Vette was gifted a large German Shepherd that came with its fair share of behavioural issues. The young boy, following in the footsteps of his grandfather who trained dogs during the war, made it his mission to help the troubled animal.

This passion for helping dogs, saw Mark spending his twenties studying wolf behaviour in America under the guidance of renowned wolf behaviourist Professor Erick Klinghammer.

Work with wolves on the set of the Narnia movie then followed, which is described in the book “Zen Heart” which he recently wrote, covering his extensive career as a dog behaviourist, educator, author and television presenter.

“My mission is to transform the dog human relationship, and therefore ourselves, in service of the world,” says Mark Vette.

Mark moved to the Coromandel two years ago, where he loves soaking up the beautiful environment and where he runs his business, Dog Zen, at a slower pace – living, as he says, in the best of both worlds.

Dog Zen, Mark explains, is dog behaviour training done differently. The online school is an alternative to traditional dog training based on the principles of Zen philosophy.

Mark shifted the business from Auckland to Hot Water Beach, with his existing plans to offer online training and virtual workshops coinciding with the first COVID-19 lockdown.

“We were one of the lucky businesses,” says Kim Morresey, General Manager of Dog Zen. “We were ready, we just had to pivot slightly.”

Dog Zen builds on Mark’s 40 years of applied clinical practise to give dog owners the tools they need to build better relationships with their canine companions.

“It’s easy to screw up with dogs but it’s also easy to do really well,” he says.

Alongside the virtual schools, there is a specialist clinic, to treat dogs with serious behavioural issues. The focus of all the programmes is to provide owners with deep insights into how to establish a loving and sound relationship with their dog, and all the techniques to correct common and persistent behavioural problems.

---

*Dog Zen also sells training kit and accessories, including belts, leads and clickers.*  
**dogzen.com**

**“It’s easy to screw up with dogs but it’s also easy to do really well ...”**





## OUR COUNCIL WINS NATIONAL AWARD FOR

# Parks Week 2021

Recreation Aotearoa has recognised our Council's work to produce and market events for Parks Week 2021 with the coveted Green Pavlova award.

Recreation Aotearoa is the professional body that represents the recreation industry in New Zealand. In May 2021, at a national conference in Rotorua, our

Council was awarded the Parks Week 2021 Marketing Award.

"Normally these sort of awards are snapped up by the big metro Councils, so I can't emphasise enough how excellent this is," says our Community Facilities Manager Derek Thompson.

"Our Community Facilities Team, including our Libraries staff, put a huge amount of effort into creating events and programmes for the week that required a lot of planning



OUR COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY FACILITIES FIELD REPRESENTATIVE SUE COSTELLO WITH THE PARKS WEEK 2021 MARKETING AWARD CERTIFICATE.



LOCAL SURFERS FROM TE RERENGA SCHOOL ENJOYING ONE OF OUR COUNCILS RESERVE FACILITIES.

and a high attention to detail, and were very well received by the public," says Mr Thompson.

"To say it took a lot of effort is an understatement as we start work on the next Parks Week almost as soon as the last one is over," he says.

Recreation Aotearoa said the award was in recognition of our Council's fantastic programme encouraging our community to enjoy our local parks during Parks Week 2021.

"We were impressed by the breadth of Parks Week Events put on by the Thames-Coromandel District Council. They made a real effort to host events that could be done



## Williamson Park – Whangamatā

There are approximately 2000ha of parks and reserves in the Thames-Coromandel district, one of the most scenic areas in New Zealand due to its dramatic topography and coastline, its native forests, and its diverse coastal settlements. One of our popular well-used ones is Williamson Park in Whangamatā. Over the past 10 years the use of Williamson Park has grown substantially with the park providing a platform for a significant number of events over the Christmas period and into the shoulder season. It's a fantastic place for family picnics with all the facilities you need. This includes a 24-hour public toilet, BBQ facilities, sheltered seating, lots of room to play, right next to Whangamatā's only beachside cafe, Blackies Cafe with quality local cuisine, and a couple of steps away from the beach.

If you are interested in holding an event at Williamson Park contact our District Events Coordinator – [kirstin.richmond@tcdc.govt.nz](mailto:kirstin.richmond@tcdc.govt.nz)

under lockdown conditions and accessed by anyone," says Sarah Ford, Recreation Aotearoa Marketing Manager.

Parks Week is an annual event involving events and activities to celebrate the vital role parks play in creating liveable towns and thriving communities.

Parks Week ran from 6-14 March 2021 and included cycle awareness workshops, cemetery tours, children's activities such as fairy door finding in Thames and Whitianga, selfie frames and much more, to promote the value of our wonderful parks and open space reserves and to encourage people to get outside and use them.

[tcdc.govt.nz/parkswweek](https://tcdc.govt.nz/parkswweek)

## RECREATIONAL SERVICES TAKES ON OUR DISTRICT'S PARKS AND RESERVES MANAGEMENT

From 1 July 2021 Recreational Services took over the contract to manage and maintain our district's parks, reserves, playgrounds and cemeteries.

The company was awarded the contract earlier this year, after a competitive tender process.

Recreational Services is taking over from Smart Environmental Ltd, which had held the contract since 1998.

"While we are excited about the future, we also want to acknowledge the hard work over the years by the crew at Smart Environmental Ltd," says our Community Facilities Manager Derek Thompson.

Recreational Services is a Kiwi-owned and operated family business founded in 1992. It tends more than 5,532 parks and reserves around New Zealand and has contracts with hospitals, schools, councils, stadiums and golf courses.

The company holds sports or full facility maintenance contracts with 12 other councils, including Auckland, Christchurch, Far North District, Whangarei, Tauranga and others.

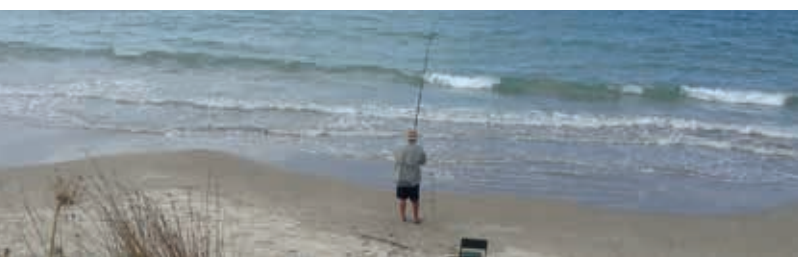
"Our Council is pleased that Recreational Services Ltd will be our partner in managing our green spaces and recreational assets," says our Council's Chief Executive Rob Williams.

Recreational Services Chief Executive Cameron Parr says, "We are thrilled to be coming to the Coromandel. We are blown away by the district's natural beauty and we're looking forward to working alongside the Council's parks team in finding innovative approaches to engage with the community to have a greater sense of ownership, pride and satisfaction in their local parks."

[tcdc.govt.nz/parksandreserves](https://tcdc.govt.nz/parksandreserves)



LEFT TO RIGHT: RECREATIONAL SERVICES (RS) QUALITY AND IMPROVEMENT MANAGER GRAHAM NORTON, TCDC OPERATIONS GROUP MANAGER BRUCE HINSON, RS REGIONAL MANAGER DAMON BROWN, TCDC CHIEF EXECUTIVE ROB WILLIAMS, RS CHIEF EXECUTIVE CAMERON PARR, TCDC COMMUNITY FACILITIES MANAGER DEREK THOMPSON, AND RS PEOPLE AND CULTURE ADVISOR MICAELA PARKER.



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 106,000-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.



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- We will add value to your business

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[collinsjames.co.nz](http://collinsjames.co.nz)

Or phone your local office:

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Rangiora

Ph 07 865 8241  
Cnr Casement and Port Roads  
Whangamata

Ph 021 737 102  
Unit 6, 1 Waterman Place  
Christchurch



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FOR ANY  
OCCASION



# BETTER CONNECTIVITY FOR MORE COROMANDEL SPOTS

Five new cell sites across the Coromandel will be up and running ahead of Christmas 2021 thanks to the Rural Connectivity Group (RCG). It will bring much needed fast wireless broadband and mobile services from Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees.



## NEW AND PLANNED SITES



Over 230 permanent residents and thousands of visitors to the popular areas of Kennedy Bay, Little Bay, Otama Beach, Coroglen and Kaimarama will benefit from new coverage available in December 2021. Feedback from these communities has been that people are very keen to have access to reliable services especially as the population swells during the busy summer months.

“The new RCG network is important for our families to contact emergency services in the case of an accident, fire or other emergencies,” says our Mayor Sandra Goudie. “Our residents will be better informed of potential hazards related to events, such as earthquakes, tsunamis or Civil Defence warnings and have immediate ability to report any criminal activity,” says Mayor Sandra. “We’re very pleased that the Coromandel has benefited from the RBI2 programme with nine sites in total planned, which will transform the daily lives of our communities.”

The RCG network is part of the Government’s Rural Broadband Initiative Phase 2 and is

delivering fast 4G wireless broadband and mobile services from Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees to rural areas across New Zealand.

The remaining RCG sites to provide coverage to the communities of Opoitere, Te Mata, Waitete Bay and Port Charles are being worked on by the RCG team. The sites on the western side and north tip of the Coromandel are difficult to connect back into the national telecommunications network as there are limited options available.

RCG require line of sight to other infrastructure that is connected to fibre which means there are specific locations where facilities can be positioned. The RCG team is working with landowners in these specific locations and hope that by the second half of 2022 these sites will be built and providing services.

The RCG cell sites are running the latest 4G technology and services will be available to customers of Spark, Vodafone, 2degrees and their wholesale resellers. Customers may need to upgrade their mobile phones to enable 4G voice calling. Information is available on the websites for each company and anyone unsure if their device can receive and make calls over the 4G network should contact their service provider.

### Connect Up

- For more information about RCG and their work programme:**
- Rural Connectivity Group (RCG) [thercg.co.nz](http://thercg.co.nz)
- Crown infrastructure Partners (CIP) [crowninfrastructure.govt.nz](http://crowninfrastructure.govt.nz)
- National Broadband Map – [broadbandmap.nz/home](http://broadbandmap.nz/home)
- Spark Coverage Map – [spark.co.nz/shop/mobile/network](http://spark.co.nz/shop/mobile/network)
- Vodafone Coverage Map – [vodafone.co.nz/network/coverage](http://vodafone.co.nz/network/coverage)
- 2degrees Coverage Map – [2degreesmobile.co.nz/coverage](http://2degreesmobile.co.nz/coverage)



# Commitment to road safety recognised

**Ingrid Le Fevre's commitment to making our roads safer was recognised in 2021 when she received the New Zealand Police Leo Tooman Award.**

The award recognises acts of bravery, long service and good conduct.

Ingrid has been dedicated to keeping people safe on our roads for 12 years. Her role at our Council entails managing the Eastern Waikato road safety education campaigns, covering Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako districts. She lives and breathes road safety through education and encouragement.

"Our Council is very proud of everything Ingrid has achieved and would like to acknowledge the work she has done, she is an extremely worthy winner of this award,"

**"Ingrid has been dedicated to keeping people safe on our roads for 11 years."**

says our Mayor, Sandra Goudie. Ingrid is extremely passionate about road safety and works closely with New Zealand Police in order to achieve a shared goal of safer roads.

"It was amazing to be recognised by another organisation I work closely with," Ingrid says.

"I feel very honoured to be nominated, let alone to have won. It was pretty amazing to be standing up on stage in front of a huge crowd of police and colleagues listening to the presenter list out my work and the reasons why I had won. It's a very humbling experience."

When asked why she works so closely with the police, she says it's quite simply because they have the same goal to save lives.



INGRID LE FEVRE, OUR EAST WAIKATO ROAD SAFETY COORDINATOR WITH THE LEO TOOMAN AWARD.

**Safer Coromandel**

Ingrid is also heavily involved in the award-winning Safer Coromandel campaign with the objective of working together to prevent deaths and serious harm in the Coromandel.

In 2015 Safer Coromandel won the Evidence Based Problem Oriented Policing Awards, Overall Best Problem Solving Project as well as the Overall Supreme Award.

In 2018 Safer Coromandel won the Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards for Community. In 2018 Ingrid was also nominated for, and won, the Cedric Rogers Road Safety award.

In 2020 Ingrid was invited to the March 2020 Evidence Based Problem Oriented Policing Awards with Police staff, to co-present Safer Coromandel revisited.



**FREE 2021-2022 ADULT CYCLE SKILLS COURSES**

If you want to incorporate more bike riding into your daily life but need to get to grips with the basics first, then we are here to help.

Cycling holds increasing appeal as a low-impact, low-cost way to commute or exercise. If you'd like to join the movement, then put your name down for one of our free Adult Cycle Skills Courses.

**The courses cover**

- Bike maintenance
- Road safety skills
- Upskilling your cycle skills

Our Council will be running these for the next few years across the East Waikato but spaces are limited so call **078680200** to book your space.

e-Bikes welcome



See [tcdc.govt.nz/roadsafety](https://tcdc.govt.nz/roadsafety) for more information.



**DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS!**

Check [journeys.nzta.govt.nz](https://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

# UPDATES FROM THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UNIT

## RESILIENCE,

Emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere. You can take steps to be prepared.

The more resilience that can be built into our daily lives, the better the outcome is likely to be when things go wrong.

Around the Coromandel Peninsula, 23 communities have their own Community Response Plans (CRP's), a plan tailored just for that community. These response plans identify local hazards and includes notification, response options and community recourses available, to assist during an emergency. Communities need to know how they will look after themselves until help arrives.

The CRP's require regular review and updating, as people come and go and new technology advances, especially in alerting and communication.

While about technology, our Council has disconnected the old tsunami siren paging system and added and enhanced a suite of new tools to be able to provide far more reliable and widespread emergency alerting across the Coromandel Peninsula. The Red Cross Hazard app, Emergency Mobile Alert, Whispir, enhanced cellular and fibre coverage, greater communication platforms and new tsunami information signage, are all part of building more resilience to keep people safe.

Above all of this, personal resilience is having a good understanding about what you would do if you were at the beach and a severe earthquake occurred, a wildfire erupted close by, an ex-tropical storm has isolated your community or, the Coromandel was thrust into an immediate COVID lockdown.

## GET PREPARED.

**It's up to you to make sure your family, and the people you care about, know what to do and that you all have what you need to get through on your own.**

### KNOW THE NATURAL WARNING SIGNS FOR A TSUNAMI

If you experience any of the following, go immediately uphill or inland as far as you can:



Feel a strong earthquake that makes it hard to stand up, or a weak rolling earthquake that lasts a minute or more.



See a sudden rise or fall in sea level.



Hear loud and unusual noises from the sea.

[waikatoregion.govt.nz/tsunamihazard](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/tsunamihazard)

### IF AN EARTHQUAKE IS

# LONG OR STRONG, GET GONE

MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO THE NEAREST HIGH GROUND OR AS FAR INLAND AS POSSIBLE. DON'T WAIT FOR AN OFFICIAL TSUNAMI WARNING.



# BEING PREPARED AND STAYING INFORMED

There are a number of ways you can ensure you are aware and can stay informed about emergency events that may impact you.

## Home emergency supplies

Make sure you have food and water for your family and pets for at least three days



## If you need to leave home, you may need to take these items with you



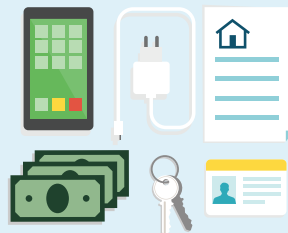
Food and water for your family



Torch, radio, and spare batteries



Warm, waterproof clothing and comfortable shoes



Personal items and documents



Medications, prescriptions and a first aid kit



### Make a plan

Have a plan on how your household will evacuate in an emergency.

[getready.govt.nz/prepared/household/plan](http://getready.govt.nz/prepared/household/plan)



### Make sure you receive the Emergency Mobile Alert (EMA) on your phone in an emergency

[getready.govt.nz/prepared/stay-informed/#e1234](http://getready.govt.nz/prepared/stay-informed/#e1234)



### Phone Tree

If you don't receive the EMA on your phone arrange for someone that does to give you a call. Think about elderly neighbours, family and friends who are on their own and may need support.



### Community Response Plans

Understand how you can help each other in an emergency.

[tcdc.govt.nz/communityresponseplans](http://tcdc.govt.nz/communityresponseplans)



### Download the Red Cross Hazards App on your smartphone or mobile device

[redcross.org.nz/hazard-app](http://redcross.org.nz/hazard-app)

## STAY UP TO DATE:



### e-Newsletters

Subscribe to our Council's e-Newsletters and make sure you don't miss any emergency updates that our Council sends out.

[tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe](http://tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe)



### Facebook

Make sure you like our Council on Facebook so that you can see updates.

[facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/ThamesCoromandelDistrictCouncil)

[ThamesCoromandelDistrictCouncil](https://ThamesCoromandelDistrictCouncil)



### Useful Links

MetService: [metservice.com](http://metservice.com)

Civil Defence: [civildefence.govt.nz](http://civildefence.govt.nz)

GNS Science: [gns.cri.nz](http://gns.cri.nz)

For more information visit [tcdc.govt.nz/emu](http://tcdc.govt.nz/emu)



# 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, cannot 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:*

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**EMAIL [info@smartbins.co.nz](mailto:info@smartbins.co.nz)**

**ONLINE [www.smartenvironmental.co.nz](http://www.smartenvironmental.co.nz)**



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*Smart Environmental, loving the Coromandel for over thirty years. #GoodforyourSoul*





# 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](http://waikatoregion.govt/waterproof-communications)

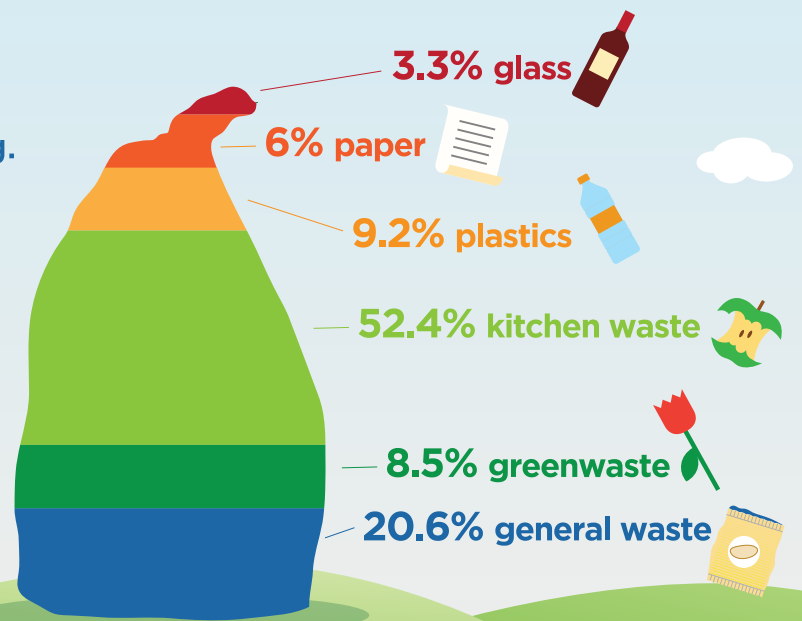


# LET'S BIN THE BAD HABITS

An audit of waste thrown out in blue Council rubbish bags revealed that nearly

**80%** of the contents of the average bag could be diverted from landfill, either by composting or recycling.

By composting our food waste and garden clippings, recycling our glass, plastic and paper and taking old furniture, household items and clothes to a charity store or recovery centre, we can drastically reduce the amount of waste we are sending to landfill.



## What can I do with e-waste and hazardous waste?



**Hazardous waste** is one of the biggest issues in our district. Lightbulbs, paint, chemicals, batteries, old phones, tablets and laptops are materials that often end up in the general rubbish that must be handled separately.



# Together let's fight the landfill

## Compost is nature's way of recycling.

You can compost the majority of your kitchen scraps.



### Tips for composting:

- Keep a small compost bin or container under your sink to easily dispose of scraps and peels and when that is full, take it out to your compost bin.
- Adding leaves, sticks, twigs and newspaper to your compost can help it to break down easier.
- When your compost has started to break down (this can take up to six weeks), mix it in with your garden soil as fertiliser to help your plants grow.

## Use your leftovers

Another way that we can minimise waste is to use up those pesky leftovers that sit in the back of the fridge.

Some of our favourite recipes are:

- Potato, kumara and beef hash
- Cheesy potato bombs
- Leftover mashed potato bread cups
- Cheesy chicken and rice casserole

Find these recipes on the Love Food Hate Waste website: [lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz](https://lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz)

More recipes from some of our locals are:

- Waiomu Beach Cafe's farmhouse pie
- Luke's Kitchen pickle
- Blue Ginger Cafe's blue ginger pork and fennel dumplings

Find these recipes on our Council's website:

[tcdc.govt.nz/lovefoodhatewaste](https://tcdc.govt.nz/lovefoodhatewaste)

### What do I do with old and used lightbulbs?

Old lightbulbs can be dropped off at your local Refuse Transfer Station (RTS) kiosk to be disposed of correctly.

### Where do I take old TVs, phones, iPads, tablets and laptops?

These items are called e-waste (electronic waste). Please do not dispose of these with your general waste. Most of these items have lithium inside them which is a fire risk if put through a compactor in a truck or waste facility. Old screens contain toxic elements and some old TVs and computers have mercury components. Our RTSs cannot take e-waste. Instead, take these items to the Seagull Centre in Thames which will take them for a koha as they are expensive to strip to recycle the component parts. Some Noel Leeming shops will accept e-waste. Check their website for the nearest location. Mobile phone shops may have a bin to collect old mobile phones.

### Use our reuse centres

The Seagull Centre in Thames and the Goldmine in Coromandel Town are next to RTSs so you can donate items that you might otherwise throw out that are still usable or can be repaired or repurposed.

[seagullcentre.co.nz](https://seagullcentre.co.nz) | [cilt.org.nz/goldmine](https://cilt.org.nz/goldmine)

### What do I do with my batteries?

Batteries can be dangerous if placed in with your general waste. Lithium batteries, especially, pose a fire risk. We ask that you take any old used batteries to your local RTS and ask at the kiosk where they should go.

### What do I do with old tins of paint or other chemicals?

Take these to your nearest RTS and ask at the kiosk where they should go.

### How can I get rid of asbestos?

Our Refuse Transfer Stations do not accept asbestos. The Worksafe website lists asbestos disposal locations and certified asbestos removers: [worksafe.govt.nz](https://worksafe.govt.nz)

# How to RECYCLE, not WISHCYCLE

## There are two components to correct recycling:

- 1 Identifying items that can actually be recycled, instead of things you wish could be recycled and chucking them in your recycling wheelie bin in the hope that they'll be recycled – that's what we call wishcycling.
- 2 Not throwing things into the rubbish bin that CAN actually be recycled.

We're finding that many recycling wheelie bins contain items that can't be recycled, including soiled nappies, tissues and paper towels, light bulbs, the wrong types of plastic, batteries, dead animals ... the list goes on.

This contaminates the recycling and means the contents of the wheelie bin, and potentially the whole truckload of recycling, might have to go to landfill instead of being correctly disposed of. So please check what you're trying to recycle, before you put it in your wheelie bin or glass crate.

Please don't squash your aluminium and tin cans for recycling. A crushed can will not be recognised by machinery at the recycling processing plant and will end up going to landfill.



## What goes in your wheelie bin?

Paper, Cardboard, Cans & Plastic 



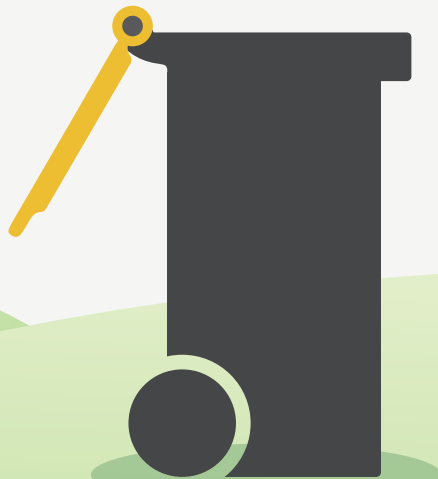
Paper & Cardboard



Aluminium & tin cans  
(Don't squash them)



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



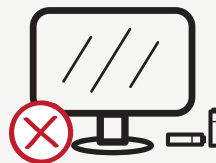
Ceramics



Foil packaging



Tetra Pak cartons



Electronics & batteries



Clothes & shoes



Tissue paper/paper towels



Shredded paper



Plastic bags

## Can plastic bags be recycled?

We don't collect soft plastics for recycling. Some large shops in Auckland and Hamilton collect plastic wrappers and bags to be recycled. Check the Packaging Forum website for locations of outlets participating in the Love NZ Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme: [packagingforum.org.nz](http://packagingforum.org.nz)

# Moloks at Whangapoua and Ōpito Bay

The Moloks (a type of rubbish and recycling collection bin) at Whangapoua and Ōpito Bay are being removed. When *Our Coromandel* Magazine went to print the timing had not yet been determined.

The decision to remove the Moloks was made through the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan process as a cost-saving measure. The Moloks were an additional level of service that these two communities were receiving above and beyond the normal Kerbside collections in those areas, so we have been doubling up on the service we already provide.

Once the Moloks are removed, Whangapoua and Ōpito Bay will continue to receive the same level of Kerbside

collection service that other communities receive, including additional collections over the summer period.

The Molok sites also present a number of challenges. Dumping of excessive amounts of waste can cause problems for other customers as well as create additional costs for our ratepayers.

For property owners and visitors leaving Whangapoua and Ōpito Bay before their Kerbside collection days, there are seven Refuse Transfer Stations in the district where rubbish in pre-paid blue Council bags and recycling can be left for no charge.

## Refuse Transfer Stations & portable rubbish compactors

### REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS (RTS)

Check [www.tcdc.govt.nz/rts](http://www.tcdc.govt.nz/rts) for summer RTS hours.

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

##### Pāuanui\*

887 Hikuai Settlement Rd  
07 864 7949

##### Whangamatā\*

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

Our Refuse Transfer Stations at Matarangi, Tairua, Pāuanui and Whangamatā have 24/7 drop-off facilities for blue Council rubbish bags and recycling.



### PORTABLE RUBBISH COMPACTORS LOCATIONS:

We have portable rubbish compactors that can be moved to visitor hot spots as needed where bagged domestic rubbish can be deposited for a small charge.

**Check [tcdc.govt.nz/rubbishcompactors](http://tcdc.govt.nz/rubbishcompactors) for the locations and cost per bag of our portable rubbish compactors.**



### What about greenwaste?

Greenwaste can be dropped off at your local Refuse Transfer Station or you can arrange a regular kerbside collection of your garden waste from a commercial service.



# Summer Kerbside collection changes in Whangamatā and Pāuanui

The Wednesday Kerbside collection in Whangamatā and Pāuanui from Boxing Day to early February every summer will be discontinued. This decision was made through the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan process as a cost-saving measure and makes Kerbside collection services in the two communities consistent with the rest of the eastern seaboard.

Our Kerbside rubbish and recycling collection schedules can be found on our website at [tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside](https://tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside).

## Top tips

### for Kerbside collection



**✗** Please don't hang your blue bags from trees or light poles or leave them in cages and please don't place them on top of your recycling wheelie bin. Place them on the ground next to the kerb.

**✗** Please don't overfill your wheelie bin so that the lid can't close.

**✗** Please don't overfill your glass recycling crate. If it's overflowing, bottles and jars can fall out and break on the ground, creating a dangerous mess.

**✓** Put your blue Council rubbish bag out on the morning of your collection day. If you're leaving town before, drop it off at no charge at your nearest RTS, so you're not leaving a tasty treat for the gulls and roaming dogs to get at.



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