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and welcome to Reconnecting the Coromandel

We're taking the opportunity to reach out and let you know how we're progressing on rebuilding the district since February's Cyclone Gabrielle.

We're making good progress in building more resilience within our communities and infrastructure with a big focus on our roads, so we can better withstand future blows from Mother Nature, We'd love for you to come and see for yourselves the amazing work that has been done to ensure that our valued visitors and out-of-district ratepayers can enjoy full access to our beautiful district.

We've partnered with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on a long-term investment case to better connect our communities. We're leveraging every bit of government and external funding to provide support to our hard-pressed business sector, communities, and bach owners.

We've also been working with the Department of Conservation and our regional tourism organisation Destination Hauraki Coromandel to raise awareness that there are many beautiful walking tracks and visitor activities to be enjoyed.







Chief Executive Aileen Lawrie

You'll also find a heads up on our preparations for our 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, which lays out our budgets and project priorities for the next 10 years. We're firming up the details now and sharing information along the way. Around March-April 2024 we'll be asking for your formal feedback on our consultation document.

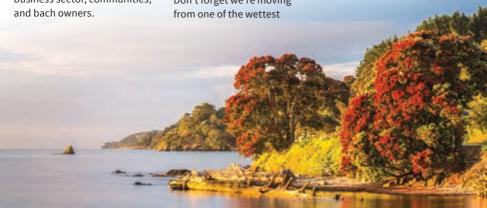
We've also included some information on our Council services and facilities that you may find useful.

Don't forget we're moving

winters we've ever had to what forecasters expect to be a dry and windy summer with an elevated risk of wildfire. So, please be extremely careful with any source of flame or sparks and be mindful of your water use and conserve as much as you can.

We hope this snapshot is good reading, and we're looking forward to your visit. We hope it's a long and enjoyable one.

Mayor Len Salt Chief Executive Aileen Lawrie



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Leep in touch

If you would like to get in touch with our Council, we're here to listen, and are committed to providing outstanding service. You can e-mail us at customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz, or call us on our 24-hour service line at 07 868 0200. To submit a Request for Service, visit tcdc.govt.nz/rfs

For more information, visit tcdc.govt.nz/contact-us

To receive regular news, project updates and opportunities by email, visit tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe

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The beautiful hills and coast of the Coromandel are of special significance to the early inhabitants of Thames-Coromandel: the Māori people and the local iwi (tribes). These include the 12 Crown-recognised iwi: Te Patukirikiri, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Pūkenga, Ngāti Hei, Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Paoa, Ngaati Whanaunga, Ngāi Tai, Ngāti Tara-Tokanui and Ngāti Rāhiri-Tumutumu. The iwi and Māori communities continue to maintain an active kaitiakitanga (guardianship) role over this space. And we encourage all visitors to acknowledge and respect the environment within the rohe (tribal region) and the kaitiaki (guardians).

When visiting, walking or cycling in the area, please show respect for the local iwi, and Māori communities including obeying signs that ask you to keep to the track and stay away from areas of sacred cultural significance such as pā (remains of fortified villages) or urupā (burial grounds).











Our Mayor, Councillors and





























Our Mayor and Councillors

1. Mayor Len Salt 07 868 0200 len.salt@tcdc.govt.nz

2. Terry Walker

Deputy Mayor, South East Ward Councillor 021 536 580 terry.walker@council.tcdc.govt.nz

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10. Peter Revell

Thames Ward Councillor 021 912 993 peter.revell@council.tcdc.govt.nz

Coromandel-Colville Community Board

11. Gavin Jeffcoat

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12. Jean Ashby

Deputy Board Chair 021 503 148 jean.ashby@council.tcdc.govt.nz

13. James Davis

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14. Kim Brett

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Community Board members





























Mercury Bay Community Board

15. Krissy Robinson

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Tairua-Pāuanui Community Board

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Thames Community Board

23. Adrian Catran

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25. Holly MacKenzie

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Whangamatā Community Board

27. Dave Ryan

Board Chair 027 496 5406 dave.ryan@council.tcdc.govt.nz

28. Denis Beaver

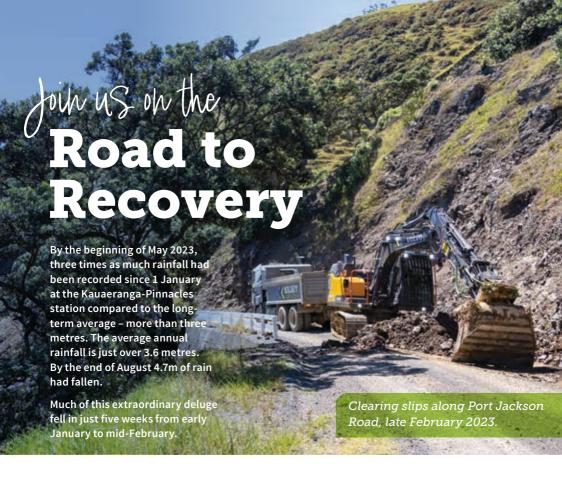
Deputy Board Chair 07 868 0200 denis.beaver@council.tcdc.govt.nz

29. Mark Drury

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30. Neil Evans

07 868 0200 neil.evans@council.tcdc.govt.nz



In that period the Coromandel experienced two ex-tropical cyclones and two severe storms. This was on the back of another two severe storms in November and December 2022. Since July 2022 the Coromandel has experienced eight significant storm events, each of such magnitude they required our Emergency Operations Centre to be activated.

In January and February alone, power was cut to thousands of properties, local roads and state highways were cut in multiple locations leaving tens of thousands of people with no road access at one point or another, 68 areas had disrupted communications, many of our drinking water and wastewater treatment plants were affected and dozens of homes were damaged by slips or flooding.

The recovery from all this will bring about a new normal for many of us. To this end, our Council has been working to identify the short-, medium – and long-term needs of our district and our communities.

Our Recovery Plan was put together in the weeks following

Cyclone Gabrielle to guide this process with the primary goals being to restore, repair, build back, enhance resilience, and take care of our communities and their wellbeing.

"Our Council's Recovery
Team, supported by our Chief
Executive and Leadership
Team, has emerged as a truly
collaborative organisation
that has brought together
a wide range of central and
local government agencies,
community organisations and
volunteers. We acknowledge
and are grateful for their
support," Mayor Len Salt says.

Our recovery framework has four work streams:

- 1. Thriving businesses (sustainable)
- 2. Fit for purpose infrastructure (resilient)
- 3. Rural and communities support (connected)
- 4. Our natural environment (enhanced)

The actions to achieve these work streams are set out in the Recovery Plan.

They are predominantly geared towards meeting the intermediate needs of all affected communities, such as clean-up, repairing the transport network, reopening tracks and accessways, repairing homes and properties, supporting the wider economy and rural sectors, and providing wellbeing support to those affected.

The Recovery Plan has a number of actions around transport and the feasibility of blue highway (coastal shipping) options for emergency and mediumterm activation, as well as contingency planning to be completed with air transport and coastal shipping alternatives included. This work is especially important given the decision of Fullers360 not to operate the Auckland-Coromandel Town ferry again this summer.

While restoring roading has been a key focus in our recovery work, we haven't been ignoring the business and social needs of our communities.

In the immediate aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, our Council allocated more than \$8 million in central government business recovery grants to affected businesses, and distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to individuals, families and community groups in need through Mayoral Relief Funds. We were able to channel \$75,000 to each of our district's five business associations to help them provide targeted support tailored to their communities' needs (see more on p17).

We've also shared information through our communications channels on non-Council relief available for sporting organisations, primary producers and the arts.

From the Department of Internal Affairs we received funding to hire two full-time 'social navigators' for a year as part of a new Community Partnerships Team at our Council which is focusing on strengthening connections between people and support services.

Keep reading through these pages to find out more about our recovery effort and about why you should plan on spending more time in the Coromandel

Our Recovery Plan is a living document and will be adapted in response to the changing needs of our communities and future events.

You can read the plan at tcdc.govt.nz/recovery



Driving the Coromandel this summer

For people who call the Coromandel home, and those who like to holiday and enjoy the beaches and forests of Te Tara-O-Te-Ika-A-Māui, safe access around the Peninsula's state highway network is vital.



Getting around the Coromandel

The main road around the Peninsula loop is State Highway 25, a picturesque coastal route. Although affected by the early 2023 storm events, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is actively working to restore over 50 sites.

SH25 is also seeing a lot more traffic on it after State Highway 25A closed due to the large slip and as a result temporary safe speed limits have been set at various locations.

We're committed to maintaining the Coromandel state highway network so everyone can enjoy their summer. For everyone's safety, please adjust your driving to suit the conditions, allow extra time and take care when travelling on our roads these holidays.

Summer roadworks

To keep our roads safe and accessible, Waka Kotahi undertakes annual resurfacing and rebuilding across the state highway network each summer. Summer is the best time to do this work as the weather is warm and dry, which helps ensure longer-lasting roads.

The 2023/24 summer road works season is well underway and people can expect to see temporary speed limits, cones and crews on the road. This is essential, keeping both the people travelling on the road and our team on the ground safe.

If you're driving through a work site, please be patient, give our team a wave and follow the posted speed limit.

Before hitting the road, check out Journey Planner for live state highway updates – **journeys.nzta.govt.nz**





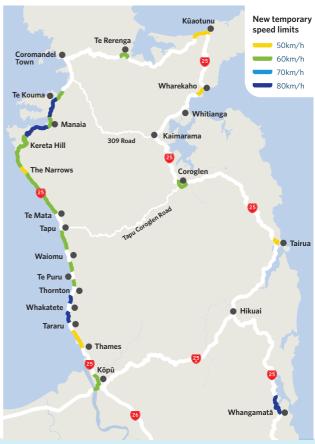


SH25A - reconnecting the Coromandel

State Highway 25A
Taparahi, between Kōpū and
Hikuai, collapsed after the
early 2023 storm events.
The road remains closed
while a 124 metre 3 span
bridge is constructed. We
know how much it would
mean to reopen the road for
summer and we're doing
everything we can to try
and make that happen.

While SH25A is closed, we're making the most of it by clearing drains, repairing bridges and pavements, and stabilising several slip sites. This work will be carried out before the road reopens.

Temporary speed limits





For more information

To find out more, or sign up to regular updates, visit us at: nzta.govt.nz/thames-coromandel

Email coromandel@nzta.govt.nz
Before you travel, check
journeys.nzta.govt.nz



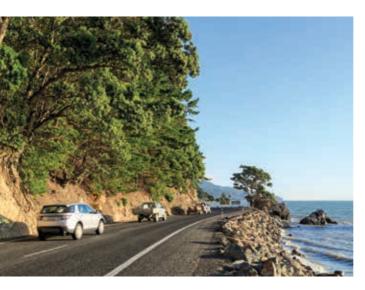


normal?

As of August, there were more than 70 repair sites across our Council's local road network. A small number of these are from previous storm events in 2022 with the majority the result of the storms in January and February 2023.

Full completion of all works is expected to take up to three years. The highest priority is to reopen Tapu-Coroglen Road, then repair Black Jack Rd in Kūaotunu and work progressively through the list. It is hoped that most sites will be done within two years but also accepted that it is a large list and there are many uncertainties. The 28 highest priority sites are programmed for 23/24.

Updates on local road conditions, including closures are on our website at **tcdc.govt.nz/roads**



WHY DO ROAD WORKS IN SUMMER?

Ideally civil construction works take place in the construction season from October through to March.

Construction works have fewer delays in dry weather while doing work in winter is generally avoided as it is inefficient and therefore more expensive. With a work programme as big as the storm response we will be pushing to use the months on the fringe of the construction season as well where possible.

If you're driving in the Coromandel, please:

- · Keep an eye out for road works
- · Follow traffic management directions
- · Slow down, enjoy the view and get to your destination safely

COLVILLE

More information

Council road updates including closures: tcdc.govt.nz/roads

Road repairs after storms: tcdc.govt.nz/roadrepairsFAQs

State Highway updates: nzta.govt.nz/traffic-and-travel-information

for all this road work?

Council roads in New Zealand are co-funded by the Council and by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

Central government contributes a subsidy to roading costs to assist with affordability for local councils. This contribution is managed via Waka Kotahi following strict investment rules and guidelines. Reinstatement works will be partly paid for by our Council and partly the Waka Kotahi contribution.

When a storm event happens our Council assesses the damage and estimates repair costs. This cost then goes through our Council's out-of-cycle budget request process and an application to Waka Kotahi for their share of the costs. Until these approvals are in place there is no funding available to start working on the repairs.

All work on State
Highways is managed by
Waka Kotahi and is fully
funded by the central
government. These
repairs are not included
in the scope of works our
Council is managing.

Find answers to other frequently asked questions like the two above on our website at

tcdc.govt.nz/roadrepairsFAQs



How much of the Coromandel will you experience this summer?



- O Flown over the forest with CoroZip
- O Snorkelled in **Te Whanganui-O-Hei** marine reserve
- O Toured Whenuakura Wildlife Sanctuary
- O Had pizza at Lukes Kitchen or Falls Retreat
- O Abseiled down Sleeping God with Canyonz
- O Discovered the **volcanic coast** with local guides
- O Kayaked around **Te Whanganui-O-Hei** marine reserve
- O **Surfed** the east coast
- O Hunted for gold relics in the Karangahake Gorge
- O Dug a spa at Hot Water Beach
- O Cycled the Hauraki Rail Trail
- O Hiked the summit of The Pinnacles
- O Seen forest giants in Waiau and Long Bay Kauri Reserves
- O Chased waterfalls at Wentworth, Owharoa, Waiau, Rapaura
- O Ridden Goldfields or Driving Creek Railways
- O Gone kid crazy at The Waterworks
- O Soaked at The Lost Spring
- O Fished from the **mussel barges**
- O Heard old stories at the Gold Discovery Centre and Thames Goldmine
- O Explored the Coastal Walkway
- O Blasted down MTB trails in Whangamatā and Coromandel Town
- O Petted baby animals at Bullswool & Whiti Farm Parks
- O Spotted shore birds at Miranda/Pūkorokoro
- O Scored antique treasure in Paeroa
- O Tackled a Kūaotunu Killer ice cream



OUT WABOUT

NORTHERN COROMANDEL CAMPSITES



DOC's Northern Coromandel beachside campsites offer a classic Kiwi experience.

Dotted around the top of the peninsula at Fantail Bay, Waikawau Bay, Fletcher Bay and Stony Bay, they are ideal for swimming, snorkelling, fishing or simply relaxing.

These are "pack in, pack out" campsites: take everything you need (including basics such as toilet paper and water), and remove your waste when you leave.

Check weather forecasts and road network information if you're going.

Book via DOC's website.

MAJESTIC KAURI

Two DOC sites give opportunities to experience kauri trees' grandeur and scale.

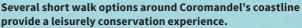
At Waiau Falls, near Coromandel Town, native bush gives way for a picturesque waterfall and swimming spot.

The Kauri Grove Lookout, nearby, features two kauri which fork just above the ground.

Prevent the spread of Kauri Dieback disease by checking cleaning protocols explained at the site and on the MPI website.

Take the 309 Road linking Coromandel Town and Whitianga.

COASTAL WALKS



Öpito Point Pā Walk, at the Öpito Point Historic Walk is a one-hour round-trip to the historic Öpito Pā site. Look out across the



Mercury Islands, locations for essential conservation work for DOC.

Te Pare Pā Historic Walk features two pā sites – Hereheretaura and Hāhei Pā – defended by Ngāti Hei during their historic conflicts with Ngāti Whanaunga, Ngāti Tamatera and Ngāpuhi.

The Te Pare Pā Historic Walk is a short 20-minute excursion, with views across Te Whanganui-o-Hei Marine Reserve and to Cathedral Cove



PINNACLES HUT AND KAUAERANGA VALLEY

The Pinnacles Hut is an 80-bed DOC hut, with a year-round warden. It is equipped with showers and cooking facilities, but visitors should bring water, food and cooking utensils.

Preparation is important and bookings are essential for this popular hut nestled in and overlooking the Coromandel Forest Park.

The Kauaeranga Valley offers several easily accessible family-friendly campsites and an enjoyable nature experience.

Kauaeranga Visitor Centre staff provide advice on campsites available in the valley, and how visitors of all ages and fitness level can enjoy the network of walking tracks in an historic area.

TE WHANGANUI-O-HEI MARINE RESERVE AND CATHEDRAL COVE

Te Whanganui-o-Hei Marine Reserve, near Whitianga, was created in 1992 to protect marine species and habitat.

Te Whanganui-o-Hei Marine Reserve is a beautiful snorkelling, swimming and kayaking experience with abundant sea life. Please make sure you check the marine reserve rules on the DOC website.

Cathedral Cove tracks are closed for summer 2023-24, but you can visit from the sea either with commercial operators or on private vessels. Be aware of the risk of rockfall and landslide risks – and check weather, sea/tide conditions before you go.

For information – including making bookings – visit www.doc.govt.nz

mstone Bay Hahei. Photo Julia Wei

Developing a diversified economy

Our role is to help create vibrant, strong communities and stimulate positive social and economic development. Feel free to contact us with your new idea, business venture or expansion plans; we're here to help.

Email mitch.king@tcdc.govt.nz or jason.nepia@tcdc.govt.nz

Here are some things we're working on right now:

Thames and Surrounds Spatial Plan

This sets out the longterm vision – taking feedback from our communities and iwi



aspirations – on planning for development and change, taking into consideration housing opportunities and our Shoreline Management Pathways Project.

tcdc.govt.nz/thames-spatial-plan



Developed in conjunction with Destination Hauraki-Coromandel (our Regional Tourism Organisation) and Hauraki District Council – and with community and stakeholder input – this strategy will help improve mountain biking (and cycling) experiences around the Coromandel and help our case for external funding where needed.

tcdc.govt.nz/draftbikingstrategy



Mayor Len meets students at VETEL, our Council's Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs training partner.

Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs

Partnering with Valley Education and Training (VETEL) and Ngāti Maru ki Hauraki – this is a nationwide network of New Zealand's mayors supporting young people into education and work. tcdc.govt.nz/youthjobs

Aquaculture

Working with Waikato Regional
Council we're establishing a Regional
Aquaculture Forum covering the
Waikato region to help guide
and support actions to develop
aquaculture in our rohe, and to form
a partnership to implement the Waikato Regional
Aquaculture Strategy tcdc.govt.nz/aquaculture

SUPPORTING LOCAL

We have six Business Associations in our district, which are helping to support events, workshops and well-being of our business community – with central government recently helping to invest in these Associations to help support recovery work.





Coromandel-Colville Business Association (CCBA)

Supports training and mentoring for business owners, helps promote the annual Santa Parade and market, and the Keltic Fair. The Association recently hosted the Ministry of Social Development to share support available for employing youth.

coromandelcolvilleba.secretary@gmail.com | ccbaaccts@gmail.com



Enterprise Whangamatā

Offers networking events, free website listings for members and opportunities to hear from leading speakers. One event it's currently promoting and supporting is new Paradise Coast Golf Classic in early December. whangamata.org.nz



Experience Pāuanui

Supports new local events like the Pink Ribbon Walk and the Pāuanui Fly-in – as well as the new Paradise Coast Golf Classic.

experiencepauanui.co.nz



Mercury Bay Business Association (MBBA)

Provides free website listings for members, business training seminars and workshops. It's also supporting the 2024 Aero Day Over the Bay – a celebration of the Mercury Bay Aero Club's 75th Year.

whitianga.co.nz/business-association



Thames Business Association

Supports collaboration and advocacy. It has produced a directory for workers as part of the SH25A rebuild. It supports the town's Christmas Parade and Whānau Day, and the 2024 Wings and Wheels event.

tba.nz



Tairua Business Association

Promotes local networking opportunities for Tairua businesses, as well as exploring opportunities to collaborate with MBBA and Enterprise Whangamatā.

Linda Crozier | lindascottcrozier@gmail.com



Kopū Marine and Business Servicing Precinct

Marine businesses and recreational boating are due to receive a huge boost when the new Kōpū Marine and Business Servicing Precinct opens in May 2024. Long-term, the precinct is expected to enable the generation of up to 100 new jobs.

The finished facility will consist of:

- an 80m-long commercial wharf with a floating pontoon enabling in-water marine servicing and vessel loading
- an expanded, unsealed commercial haul-out area
- an upgraded, concrete reinforced slipway; and
- a public boat ramp and trailer parking area.

Consultants Urban Solutions are overseeing construction under our Council's direction, with contractors Fulton Hogan, Land + Sea Civil and the Heron Group carrying out the work. Local subcontractors are being used as much as possible throughout the build.

Financing the project

Most of the \$15.31 million cost of the project is being met through an \$8.2 million grant from the government's Crown Infrastructure Partners Fund, \$4.05 million from the Three Waters Reform 'better off' funding from the Department of Internal Affairs, and \$1.4 million from the Thames Community Board's Thames Urban General-Purpose Reserve.

\$530k has been provided from TCDC's CAPEX fund for the formation of King Street.

A further \$565,000 has been granted from the Waikato Regional Council's Regional Fund, while the remaining \$565,00 has been underwritten by the Thames Community Board.

Local business involvement

Thanks for the following local businesses, organisations and suppliers who have been working on the project:

- Fulton Hogan Waikatobased team.
- Kerepehi Transport for test piling operation.
- HG Leach engaged to supply quarry materials.
- Cirtex engaged to supply geogrid and geotextile materials.
- Hydra-Care engaged for hydro-excavation to locate underground services.
- Kōpū Engineering for minor truck repairs and engineering supplies.
- Avalon Motel used to locally house Fulton Hogan staff.
- Local hospitality i.e.
 Kōpū Hotel, Kōpū Cafe.
- Local Porter Hire branch for plant and equipment hire
- Ngāti Maru for cultural induction and cultural monitoring.
- Ngaati Whanaunga for cultural induction.

The project has also carried out close monitoring of the impact on the local environment, particularly bird life, to ensure no damage occurs.

What's the Patest?

We celebrated a milestone in the construction of the Kōpū precinct, with work completed on the recreational boat ramp at the beginning of October. The top section of the concrete boat ramp has been constructed, the pontoon abutment has been poured, and the floating pontoons were due to be installed.

The cofferdam (a watertight enclosure from which water is pumped to expose the seabed to allow the construction of the slipway) should be installed by late October, after which the excavations for the commercial slipway will begin.

The piling barge arrived in late September to continue with the construction of the commercial wharf. The first job is to remove the last row of sheet piles from around the recreational boat ramp.

tcdc.govt.nz/kopu



DECISION PENDING ON TE ARIKI TAHI SUGARLOAF WHARF

A decision on the outcome of an appeal of the fast-track resource consent process for the \$20 million upgrade of Te Ariki Tahi Sugarloaf Wharf in Coromandel Harbour is expected by the end of December 2023.

An appeal proceeded to a one-day hearing in the High Court on 25 July 2023. Our Council and the Coromandel

Marine Farming Association joined in support of Te Ariki Tahi Sugarloaf Wharf.

If approved, the build will see the wharf platform extended and raised to account for sealevel rise. There will be four new berths for increased aquaculture activity and a separate facility for launching recreational boats.

tcdc.govt.nz/tearikitahi



Mussel barge docked

at Te Ariki Tahi

TAIRUA SKATEPARK

The High Court in Hamilton has dismissed the legal challenge from Preserve Cory Park Domain Society to block our Council's project to build a skatepark in Tairua.

The final design plans for Tairua Skatepark were approved by our Council at its 26 April 2023 meeting, which also authorised the project team to proceed with procurement and construction.

Justice Powell dismissed the claims that the process and public consultation our Council and contractors followed to make decisions about a skatepark for Tairua were flawed

Fencing around the skatepark site at Cory Park Domain went up during September, marking the beginning of construction.

Some parts of the domain and its facilities will be unavailable during construction.



Fencing will go inside the tennis courts, but one court will remain available, except while drainage work is completed (in mid-October). Access to the tennis courts will be from the back via Hornsea Road.

The site fencing will extend to the current location of the rugby posts, which will be removed until the fencing is pulled back at the end of the year. At this stage, an earth bund will be built to separate

the field and skatepark.

On Friday 8 December the site is scheduled to shut down until 30 January. The target is to have the retaining walls and pathways to the netball courts and Hornsea Rd completed.

The skatepark is expected to be finished by the end of April 2024. Landscape planting will take place within the planting season, starting in June 2024.

tcdc.govt.nz/tairuaskatepark

Coromandel Hub ready to occupy

After many years of planning and fundraising, the vision of providing a centre for community and social services in Coromandel Town and the upper north of the Coromandel is now ready for occupation.





Our Council's Shoreline Management Pathways project scooped the prestigious GHD Award for Environmental Leadership at the Taituarā local government excellence awards in June.

The award recognised that the project provided tangible benefits to the environment and showcased leading practice in managing environmental impacts.

Our Council's win reflects over three years of comprehensive work to understand the risks to our coastline and communities from the effects of sea-level rise. The project set out 138 adaptation pathways specific to the aspirations and concerns of each of our communities, and the principles of kaitiakitanga.

We are now prioritising and implementing projects from those pathways and began updating our coastal communities with a series of public meetings in September. This included sharing plans of the concept design and estimated costs for improving Tairua's stop-bank along Manaia Road. In Whitianga, we also shared details of improvements and actions to manage erosion at Brophy's Beach, Buffalo Beach and Macrocarpa Reserve.

tcdc.govt.nz/smp or email ourcoast@tcdc.govt.nz

Our Council has been working with Coromandel Independent Living Trust (CILT) since 2018 to purchase land to build a community centre, with a Deed of Grant signed in 2019.

The Coromandel Hub Te Pūtahi Whaiora offers 395 square metres of space for CILT offices, shared workspaces, meeting rooms, tourism amenities and office space for other service providers.

The front desk will continue to be the first stop for the public wanting to access support and a wide range of social and wellbeing services. The purpose-built facility will also ensure further development and sustainability of service delivery for the community into the future.



tcdc.govt.nz/coromandel-hub

Coromandel's tracks and trails

On a peninsula famed for its sandy pristine coastline and beautiful bush-clad hills, Thames-Coromandel District has many beautiful walks and tracks to offer.

For more walks, pick up a copy of our *Tracks and Trails* guide from a Council office or information centre. Or take a look online at **tcdc.govt.nz/tracksandtrails**Be sure to check out the online information about walks that have been affected by storm damage and may be closed.

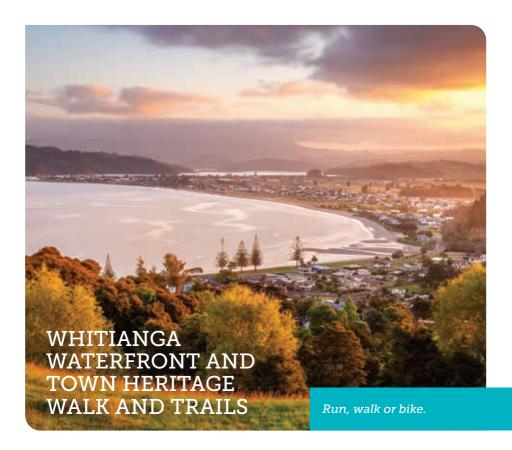


This track is on public conservation land but is a short, easy walk that is accessible from Coromandel Town and offers spectacular views over the town, nearby islands and the Coromandel Ranges. Access is from a right of way beside 356 Wharf Rd, opposite the access to Jacks Point Boat Ramp. Follow the path through regenerating bush and many kauri, planted by the Kauri 2000 Trust. Be sure to take the side track to the high point where there is an old pā site with panoramic views. The main track follows the ridge to where it emerges at Harbour View Rd. Please note there is a section of the track that is narrower than usual due to a small slip. There is a temporary safety barrier in place. From here, either go down the road and back to town past the wharf on Long Bay Rd (no footpath) or take the path to the right that leads to Hauraki Rd which takes you back to Wharf Rd.

For a longer walking experience (about 70min one way), take the Harray Track from Harbour View Rd over the hills to the other side of Coromandel Town to Rings Rd.

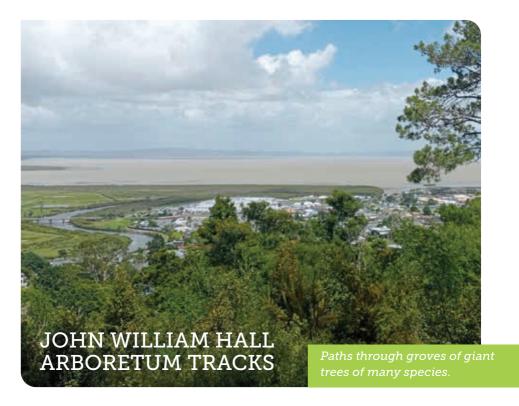
Duration: 1hr 30mins return approx

Distance: 1.6km return approx



From Whitianga Wharf to the end of Brophy's Beach you can either run, walk or bike using the beachfront shared path. Features include: stingrays stencilled into the path, with input from well-known local artist Michael Smither; and the historic Buffalo anchor, a memorial to the HMS Buffalo wrecked in a storm in 1840. The shared path swings past a children's playground and the Taputapuātea Stream, a great spot for kids to swim. Amenities along the way include two BBQ sites, dog litter dispensers, three public toilets and several water stations. Another diversion is across from the Buffalo memorial anchor into Halligan Rd. Take a left into Cook Dr where you'll pass The Lost Spring, a natural thermal spring that's now a luxury hot pool and day spa. From here there's a signposted council walkway on Cook Dr to School Rd Reserve. Take School Rd to Eyre St, turn right to Hannan Rd, then left on Kenneth Ave to the end and through another walkway onto Albert St. From here you can view old pioneer buildings on Coghill St before turning left onto Victoria St. Walk towards the harbour to complete a circuit of the main town centre.

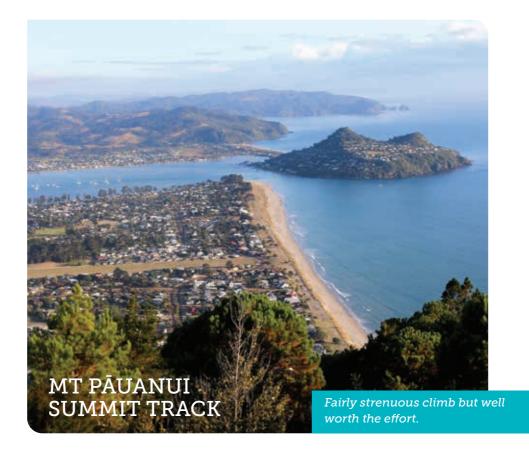
Duration:	Whitianga waterfront (one way) 1hr	Distance:	3.5km
Duration:	Town heritage circuit 1hr	Distance:	2.5km



John William Hall Arboretum is New Zealand's oldest arboretum, established in 1872 by Thames chemist John William Hall. He began planting his three-acre property in 1872, initially to control erosion, when he became alarmed at the effect of rainfall on the area's deforested hillsides, the trees having been cut to make pit props for the goldmines. However, he also planted for habitat provision and research. Mr Hall was an amateur naturalist in the best tradition of the Victorian era. He is widely recognised for his discovery of a separate tōtara species known as Hall's tōtara, of which several specimens can be found in the reserve.

The site affords sweeping views over Thames and the Firth, and there is a network of well-developed, but steep in parts, paths through groves of giant trees of many species, including Hall's tōtara, Norfolk pine, oak, pūriri, rimu, mataī, western cedar, red cedar, pōhutukawa and kauri.

There is a car park at the top end of Mount Sea Rd; alternately, the arboretum can be accessed from Currie St, Brunton Cres or Korokoro Cres. You can easily spend an hour or more walking the various paths.



Not for the faint-hearted, this is a fairly strenuous climb but well worth the effort when you get to the top, at 387m high. Enjoy a well-deserved seat at the summit and soak in the aerial view of Pāuanui, Tairua, the harbour and offshore islands.

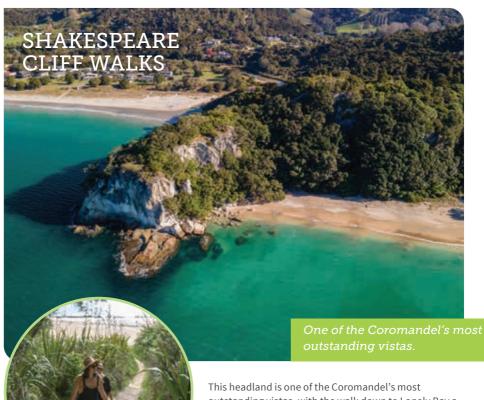
This DOC track is found at the south end of the beach, accessed from the car park at the end of Pāuanui Beach Rd, and is well-formed and clearly marked. A good level of fitness is required as it's a steep, steady climb. Fitter walkers reach the summit comfortably within 30mins.

Coming down, take the direct track back straight down the hill to reach the car park, or you can take a longer route, veering right towards Cave Bay for a slightly longer but more gradual descent. The final part of this longer track takes you back along the rocks for the final 200m.

Allow approximately 2.5 hours to complete the trig track, or 15 mins one way to complete the Ocean View loop track.

Duration: Trig track 2.5hrs approx

Distance: 4.8km



This headland is one of the Coromandel's most outstanding vistas, with the walk down to Lonely Bay a popular spot for photos. Shakespeare Cliff is a great spot for picnics, has a public toilet, pōhutukawa groves and plaques detailing the area's history.

Drive to the summit up a rough, narrow, twisty gravel track for a short mobility-friendly walk to a lookout point with stunning views. Take particular care driving in busy summer months where you may need to give way to cars coming the other way.

Alternatively, from the horseshoe-shaped reserve walk, park at the lower car park on the access track and walk down a steep track to Lonely Bay. The track down to Lonely Bay requires a decent level of fitness, as do other tracks. To return to Pūrangi Rd from Lonely Bay, facing the sea either turn left to walk around towards Flaxmill Bay or right to a track to Cooks Beach. You can also walk the route starting from Flaxmill Bay returning to Pūrangi Rd down the access road.

Allow at least an hour for the 3km return loop from Flaxmill Bay or 30mins return from Shakespeare Cliff to Lonely Bay.

Duration: Flaxmill Bay to Lonely Bay 1hr return approx

Distance: 3km return approx

Photo: Felicity Jean Photography.

Coromandel's cycle trails

Blessed with a beautiful coastline, bush-clad mountains, easy coastal routes and superb views, Coromandel is fast becoming known as an ideal cycling location.

The district is home to at least eight major cycling trails or networks:

- · Ride Coromandel Bike Park
- Whitianga Mountain Bike Park (currently undergoing repair)
- Tairua River Trail
- · Moanataiari Mountain Bike Park
- · Thames Coastal Pathway
- Hotoritori Mountain Bike Park
- Whangamatā Mountain Bike Park
- · Hauraki Rail Trail.

Most of them offer a full range of trails from family-friendly easy experiences to harder trails more suited to adrenaline junkies.

Check out the listing for each trail. Grade 1 is suitable for novice riders, families and others seeking easy, relaxing cycling experiences, while at the other end of the scale, grade 5 is for experienced mountain bikers with excellent off-road skills and a high level of fitness.

Many routes maintained by cycling enthusiasts are shared with walkers as well. Remember to be considerate and share the paths graciously.

Also, help prevent dieback disease (which threatens native kauri trees). Wash your bike before you bring it to the district and ensure you use the dieback disease cleaning facilities at the beginning and end of trails.

What are you waiting for? Join the cycling revolution.





Ride Coromandel Bike Park is a central hub for mountain bike trails and cycling experiences in Coromandel Town, with a family-friendly focus and skills areas suitable for all levels of riders. Located on Hauraki Road in Coromandel Town, the park has a network of mountain bike trails, flow trails and gravity jumps for a wide range of riders and e-bikers, whether complete beginners or highly experienced. Professionally constructed grade 2, 3 and 4 descent trails and two intermediategrade single trails take riders alongside forests of 10,000 planted kauri. Two loop trails, Ara Tuatahi at 4.4km long and Rickers Return at about 1.8km, provide stunning views over the town and Hauraki Gulf, through native forest and Te Patukirikiri land. Or try out the all-weather Velosolutions Pump Track. Within coffee-riding distance of Coromandel Town, the park is a perfect place to head to for an epic ride session or to speed up the gentle slope on your e-bike and enter the trails with a grin. To protect against dieback disease, please pass through the bike-specific wash station before you ride and also make sure you clean your bike before you visit the Coromandel. Trail dogs are welcome.



ridecoromandel.com instagram.com/ridecoromandel facebook.com/RideCoromandel



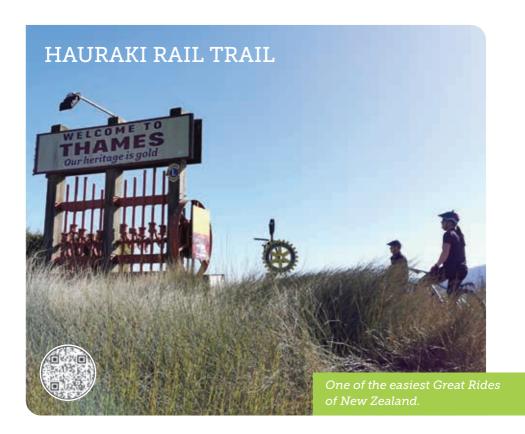
The Thames Mountain Bike Club has created a network of mountain bike trails in the hills behind Thames, totalling 4.2km. The park features its well-known 'St John' grade 5 (expert level) downhill run to keep the adrenaline junkies happy, along with trail grades starting from 1 (easiest level) upwards to suit all skills levels.

Parking is at the end of Moanataiari Creek Road, which is on the north end of Thames by the St John Ambulance station. At the top of the access road behind the gate there is a flat area that's perfect for picnics, with great views over the Firth of Thames.



The Thames Mountain Bike Club maintains these trails. For more information see the club's website **thamesmtb.club/trails**





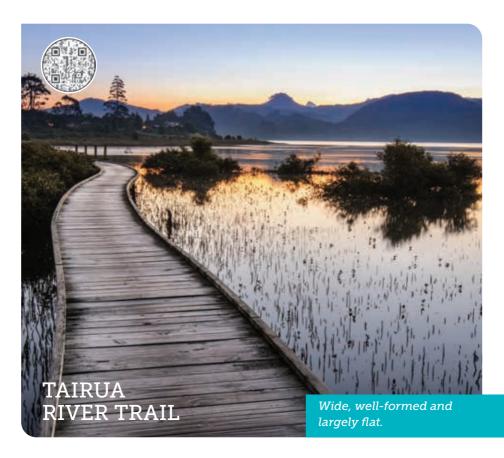
The Hauraki Rail Trail is one of the 23 Ngā Haerenga Great Rides of New Zealand. Ranked at grade 1 ("very easy"), it is suitable for all ages, fitness and abilities. Leisurely riding takes cyclists through historic towns, lush farmlands, scenic coastlines and an historic railway corridor. With its gentle terrain, tour services, accommodation and restaurants, it's one of the easiest Great Rides of New Zealand. The 197km trail can be completed in 4-5 days. Five sections ranging from 23km to 55km allow for excellent and manageable day rides.

The Thames leg of the trail starts at Shortland Wharf, heading south to the townships of Kōpū, Paeroa, Te Aroha, Waihi and Matamata. Here the trail divides, with one branch crossing the bridge, following the stopbanks along the Firth of Thames north to Kaiaua. Please note that construction work may close or reroute sections of the trail. Check the website for updates. The trail meanders along the seaside passing the Pūkorokoro-Miranda Shorebird Centre. The other branch follows the old railway line past Matatoki, Pūriri and Hikutaia, towards Paeroa and through to Matamata. For more information, itineraries and current trail status check the website or Facebook page.

haurakirailtrail.co.nz

Duration: Thames to Kopū 20mins cycle, 1hr on foot approx

Distance: Thames to Kopū 7km one way



Formerly known as the Pāuanui-Tairua Trail, this shared trail starts by Ian Hopper's Rock at Waterways Parade, within the Pāuanui Waterways. It heads across a boardwalk in the Tairua River estuary before crossing a grassy reserve where it becomes a gravel trail as it winds its way through the WW1 Memorial Park before entering a pine tree glade which emerges at the Tangiteroria Stream bridge. The grade 2 trail essentially follows the southern bank of the Tairua River offering spectacular views of the river and the Pinnacles beyond. After crossing Duck Creek, the trail continues through bush and then turns across farmland back towards the river, where it currently ends. This trail is maintained by the Hikuai District Trust, while a community of local volunteers has helped restore native bird populations through extensive pest-trapping and tree-planting.

Suitable for walkers and cyclists, the trail is wide, well-formed and largely flat, with a few small hills. It is currently a 13km out-and-back journey, but there are plans to build a 120m bridge across the Tairua River, extending the trail along the northern bank to create a 15km link between Pāuanui and Tairua.

Duration: 3hrs return walking, 1hr return cycling

Distance: 13km return



The Whangamatā Mountain Bike Park is located 4km north of town and features world-class single-track rides, with purpose-built flow trails and techie features to satisfy all skill levels from grade 2 to grade 5. Biking is for everyone. Make your way to 'Fred's Carpark' and see what all the hype is about. You won't be disappointed.

Make sure you pay a membership fee. You can't ride without one. Membership is crucial to keeping the park operational as a high-quality community asset and can be bought through the park's website **whangamataridges.nz** or the **Hivepass app join.hivepass.app/wmtbpark**

Please respect the cultural significance and mana whenua of the area while riding in the park. The park operates within a commercial forest block operated by Rayonier Matariki Forests. Keep an eye out for signs outlining forestry operations and comply with any instructions to stay safe.



For more information and to keep updated, visit:

facebook.com/WhangamataMTBPark instagram.com/whangamata_mtb_park



Coastcare Waikato is a community partnership programme to restore coastal areas throughout the Waikato region.

This involves residents, schools, beach users, iwi, the Department of Conservation, our Council and Waikato Regional Council working together to restore, protect and look after our coasts and all the species that live and grow here.



When visiting the beach, you can help to give the new plants a chance to grow by:

- · Keeping off the dunes.
- Stick to the defined access ways and make sure your dogs do too.
- If you see any rabbits, stoats, rats or mice on the dunes, please note the location and report this to our Council.
- Join your local Coastcare Group.

For more information on this work, visit **tcdc.govt.nz/dunes**

Find out more about Coastcare Waikato at waikatoregion.govt.nz/coastcare

We feature updates in our weekly newsletter. Visit tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe

The goal is to enable a more resilient dune (self-repair) system and encourage the natural regeneration of indigenous species. These plants catch and bind wind sweep sand, building up the reserve of sand so when we get weather events like the ones last summer, this sand will take the brunt of the storms and protect the

land behind. Where dunes were damaged by the severe weather events in 2023, restoration work included working bees and community planting days taking place, with thousands of native plants being restored. Thank you to everyone who pitched in – we're lucky to have such an enthusiastic and dedicated community behind this work.

Safe summer boating in the Coromandel

Whitianga (

Coromandel waterways can be a busy place, with lots of different activities going on at the same time.

To help keep our waterways safe, make sure you're familiar with the boating safety code and the regional bylaws in place in your area before heading out on the water.



Whangamatā 🔵

Safe boating rules



Always wear your lifejacket

It's recommended that everyone on board wears a lifejacket at all times. They must be worn on vessels 6 metres or less while moving and on all vessels at times of increased risk, including when crossing a bar.



Always carry two forms of waterproof communication

Make sure you have waterproof communications that will work where you're going. These could include: a cellphone in a waterproof bag, VHF radio, flares or a personal locator beacon.

If you're carrying a cellphone, make sure you know there will be good reception where you're going and the phone has enough battery charge to see you through your entire trip.



Fly the flag

Divers must display a dive flag that is clearly identifiable at a distance of 200 metres.

Keep to 5 knots or less within 200 metres of a dive flag or float.



If in doubt, don't go out

Check the marine weather forecast and tides before going out and get regular updates while on the water.



Know the speed rules

Always keep to 5 knots or less within 50 metres of people and other vessels. In coastal waters, you must also keep to 5 knots or less within 200 metres of the shore, structures and boats displaying a dive flag.

If you're inland (rivers and lakes), keep to 5 knots or less within 50 metres of structures, and within 30 metres of the shore.



When towing, it takes three to ski!

- You must have an observer on board who is 10 years of age or older.
- Travel in an anticlockwise direction.
- Always wear a lifejacket (this must include the person being towed).
- Keep your wake to a minimum if it could affect other boats, swimmers and structures.
- Don't tow between sunset and sunrise.

The Thames-Coromandel district is a favourite among recreational boaties because of the great fishing opportunities paired with beautiful scenery and small islands to visit with the whānau (family) and friends.



Matarangi Harbour, Matarangi

White sand beaches and a great boat ramp make this a popular destination in summer. Just around the corner is New Chums Beach, an idyllic spot only accessible by foot or boat. Being an experienced navigator here is important. The harbour has narrow channels and gets extremely shallow in places. In addition, the bar deserves respect and should never be crossed during bad times. Remember a window of three hours before high tide and no more than one hour after high tide in order to head back in safely.

Find out more or get in touch

For more information on navigation safety in the Waikato, visit waikatoregion.govt.nz/boatsafety or call 0800 800 401.







Whenuakura Island, Whangamatā

Also known as Donut Island, this is a beautiful wildlife sanctuary located just 2km from Whangamatā beach. It gets its name from the shallow lagoon in the middle that's surrounded by a canopy of trees and accessed from a narrow channel by small boat or kayak. While close to shore, any safe water user should know to keep an eye on the weather. Swells and wind can make entering the channel hazardous, particularly for boats. If in doubt don't go out. As the land itself is considered tapu by Māori, make sure to keep in or on the water only.



Mercury Bay, Whitianga

A great option for boaties not confident crossing a bar. You can launch at any of the public boat ramps and head into deeper water for big gamefishing opportunities or to simply explore the surrounding coastline. While Mercury Bay has no bar, safety is still paramount, so only head out with a capable vessel and the experience and training to match, as the sea state can be much more severe in open water.





Tāria te tuku para

OUR NEW RUBBISH AND RECYCLING SERVICES FROM SEPTEMBER 2023



PARA KAI | FOOD SCRAPS BIN







fruit & vegetables



meat & seafood bones



coffee grounds



bread





rice & pasta





cooked food





egg shells

NO

- **x** garden or pet waste
- **x** plastic & tea bags
- **X** liquids
- * tissue, paper, newspaper, paper towels or cardboard
- * no bags or bin liners of any kind

Note: Any of these items will contaminate our composting process.



Food waste will be turned into nutrient-rich compost to grow more kai – a great circular outcome.

HANGARUA | MIXED RECYCLING BIN

Collected fortnightly



flattened paper & cardboard

Rinse containers clean. Put lids in rubbish.



plastic bottles & containers numbered 1.2 & 5



tins & cans



NO x lids

- **x** glass
- **x** plastics 3, 4, 6 & 7
- * vaping gear
- **x** polystyrene

- **x** soft plastics
- **x** takeaway coffee cups
- **x** milk & juice cartons
- **x** compostable items
- * nappies & sanitary items
- ***** batteries & e-waste
- **x** aerosol cans
- ***** medical waste

TIP

Think before you throw.

Wrong items in the wrong bin can contaminate the whole recycling truckload and may mean it has to go to landfill.

If in doubt, throw it out.

KARAEHE | CRATE FOR GLASS Collected fortnightly **YES** glass bottles GLASS RECYCLING glass Rinse iars bottles and jars clean. Put lids in rubbish. NO x lids **x** drinking * medicine or glasses or vapeware **x** broken cookware **x** perfume glass **x** windows or bottles **X** light bulbs or mirrors fluorescent



tubes

Did You Know?

> Glass is sent to Auckland where it is sorted and reprocessed into new glass bottles and jars.

PARA | RUBBISH BIN





PAYT

Rubbish collection will be funded through a pre-paid Pay As You Throw

items

system. This means that you only pay when you put a bin out. You will need to buy \$8 pre-paid tags from participating local retailers and attach them to your rubbish bin each time you put it out.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING

TRANSFER STATIONS

We operate seven Refuse and Recycling Transfer Stations – at Thames, Coromandel Town, Matarangi, Whitianga, Tairua, Pāuanui and Whangamatā.

From 1 September 2023, they'll all be open to standard hours seven days a week including most public holidays:

DURING DAYLIGHT SAVING

Monday to Sunday 8.30am - 5.30pm

OUTSIDE OF DAYLIGHT SAVING

Monday to Sunday 8.30am - 4.30pm

CLOSED on Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday and until 1pm Anzac Day All seven sites take household quantities of:

✓ items that would normally go in your mixed recycling bin, glass crate or rubbish bin.

In addition, they take:

- ✓ green waste
- ✓ metal waste
- ✓ tyres
- √ hazardous waste (batteries, chemicals, paint and more – see full list at www.tcdc.gout.nz/rts)

The sites do not take food waste.



WHY THE **NEW SERVICE?**

FOOD SCRAPS BIN

The new food scraps service will result in less waste going to landfill. When food scraps break down in landfill they give off greenhouse gases like methane, which are harmful for the environment. Getting food scraps out of landfill and collected to make compost is a much better use of the resource and gets the goodness back into the soil, where it belongs.





GENERAL RUBBISH WHEELIE BIN

We are replacing single-use blue plastic bags for rubbish collection with a 140-litre wheelie bin collected fortnightly. The new 140-litre rubbish bin holds the equivalent of two-and-a-third blue pre-paid bags. Blue bags will not be collected kerbside from 1 September 2023. Instead, you can take them to your local Refuse and Recycling Transfer Station for free drop-off until your stocks run out.

How is it paid for?

All of your recycling and food scraps collection will be paid for through a solid waste targeted rate. This makes it easier for all households to participate in waste reduction.

reduction, resulting in less household waste going to landfill

Rubbish collection payment will be via a 'Pay As You Throw (PAYT)' system.

You will need to buy a paper tag for \$8

from a participating retailer or Council office and attach that tag to the rubbish bin lid before collection.

This PAYT system for rubbish bins means that each household is only paying for the rubbish they generate.

WHEN TO PUT YOUR BINS OUT

You'll be allocated a bin collection day. This may be a different day than what you have currently. One week it'll be a red week where your rubbish bin and your food scraps bin get collected. The following week will be a yellow week where your mixed recycling bin, glass crate and food scraps bin will get collected.



HOW TO PUT YOUR BINS OUT

- ✓ Please keep lids closed and don't overfill bins.
- ✓ Place bins with the logo facing towards the road.
- ✓ Put them as close as possible to the kerb with about 30cm between each bin so the trucks can pick them up.

If you're in a flat, cul-de-sac or shared driveway, talk to your neighbours about where you can put your bins. Sometimes it may mean putting your bin outside a neighbour's property.



Please go to tcdc.govt.nz/bindays

to download a collection calendar for your address.

Or visit one of our Council offices for a print-off of your collection calendar.

Or call us on 07 868 0200.

We'll also be organising extra collections over the summer holiday season in some areas where there is significant increase in visitor numbers and we'll be publicising these widely.

To reduce the possibility of bins blowing over in winds, or contamination from passers-by, please don't put your bins out the day before. Instead put your bin(s) out on your collection day, by 7.30am.

SOFT PLASTICS

Soft plastics (such as plastic bags, wrapping and cling film) can be put in soft plastic recycling bins at key places in Thames, Whangamatā, Whitianga and Tairua.



Find out more at tcdc.govt.nz/softplastics

Our Annual Plan 2023/24

The focus of our Council's latest Annual Plan for the 2023/24 financial year was reprioritising budgets and projects to make room for repairs to our storm-damaged roading network and make it more resilient to extreme weather.

We adopted the final Annual Plan at our Council meeting on 27 June 2023. In it, you'll find the rates, services, infrastructure, facilities and budgets for the 2023/24 financial year, how these costs will be funded, and how this differs from what we proposed for the year in our last Long Term Plan (2021-2031).

We set the average districtwide rates increase for this financial year at 11.6 per cent. We achieved this by cutting our operational costs, revising our capital works budget, and deferring some of our nonroading projects.

We also used retained earnings
– which are generated when
our operational budgets have



been underspent – to soften the rates increase by three per cent. You can see the rates increase for your community service area on page 56 of the annual plan, which you can download at the address below.

tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2023

WHAT DO I GET FOR MY RATES?

In 2023/24, the average rates for activities and infrastructure adopted in our Annual Plan budget will be \$3,867 per rateable property, or about \$74.38 per week. This is an increase of 11.6 per cent.

How much you pay can depend on factors such as the value of your property and the services it is rated for.

Here is a weekly breakdown of what you get for your rates based on our 2023/24 budget.





Behind the scenes with our LTP 2024-34

We've started together on the Long Term Plan (LTP) journey, creating a road map for the coming 10 years that will guide our long-term decision-making.

This vital planning document outlines all the services and projects we're planning, what they're going to cost and how we'll fund them (including what rates increases are likely to be for the next 10 years).

We know that this coming LTP will be focused on recovery from the extreme weather earlier this year, as well as enabling that same recovery and resilience within our communities.

Our Community Boards are discussing what projects and facilities they see their communities needing, and our Council is doing the same thing for our district. These discussions will help to shape what we propose for the draft LTP.

Key milestones in our LTP

- We held drop-in sessions in October to share some of the key issues, and to help answer any questions you had about the process, and how to share your feedback.
- Our LTP Consultation
 Document will contain the main issues and priorities we'd like you to know about.
 We'll be asking for your formal feedback on this document during March/April 2024.
- LTP hearings will be held during late April/early May, for people who have



requested to discuss their feedback in person.

- We propose to deliberate on those decisions in late May 2024.
- The final LTP is scheduled to be adopted in late June 2024.

Watch this space:

tcdc.govt.nz/LTP-2024-2034

OUR LTP VISION AND PRIORITIES



We've endorsed our new LTP vision statement and key priorities, which are central to the LTP process.

The new vision we decided on:

The Coromandel – live, work and play

Our key priorities:

- A collaborative district
- A vibrant and safe district
- A connected and resilient district
- A district with sustainable services and infrastructure.

SUPPORTING OUR ARTS SECTOR WWW.



Arts, culture and heritage organisations from around the Coromandel are taking part in a year-long online training and mentorship programme to build on their fundraising skills.

Our Council and Creative

Coromandel are supporting the members of 15 arts, culture and heritage organisations to participate in the programme, which is run online by capability building platform Funding HQ. It includes some self-directed learning, expert monthly one-on-one coaching, access to the sector's

most comprehensive funding database, and additional tailored fundraising support.

Several members from within each organisation are taking the course, completing 12 modules and participating in regular online sessions. Find out more about the programme visit tcdc.govt.nz/fundinghq

Bring your creative project to life

If you have a creative project to increase local participation in the arts, you may be eligible for Creative Communities
Scheme funding. With support from Creative New Zealand, the Arts Council of New
Zealand, our Council offers two rounds of funding each year, for performances, workshops, exhibitions and events. Visit tcdc.govt.nz/creative

Creative New Zealand also offers a range of funding and development opportunities for a wide range of artforms. Visit **creativenz.govt.nz** to view their funding calendar and guidelines.



Funding supported an Arts Open Day and Kids' Art Exhibition in Coromandel Town, run by Fay Purdy-Nicholls.



Accessing our local history

The Treasury Research Centre and Archive has recently launched its online archive catalogue, a digital gateway to the centre's wealth of historical records and captivating stories.

The online archive catalogue opens the doors to a trove of historical records, including digitised images, of the Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki District. With the ability to search by names of individuals, organisations, and places, users can effortlessly explore records related to their interests.

It has the added benefit of reducing handling, helping to preserve fragile items.

Almost half of the collection has been catalogued and new records will be continuously added. To find out more, visit **thetreasury.org.nz**

Mercury Bay arts feasibility study

He Mana Toi Moehau Trust | Creative Coromandel and the Te Whanganui o Hei Arts Facility Steering Committee are exploring options for a publicly owned arts facility for Te Whanganui o Hei | Mercury Bay. The feasibility study involves consulting Ngāti Hei, local artists, arts groups and organisations, and the local community. It will also explore how to best serve Tairua/ Pāuanui and Whangamatā.

For more information, visit creativecoromandel.co.nz info@creativecoromandel.co.nz



Exploring the arts

Find out about local exhibitions, events and workshops on our events pages (p48) or by visiting tcdc.govt.nz/events
We also share locals news, opportunities and events in our weekly newsletter: tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe and on our Facebook page
@ThamesCoromandel
DistrictCouncil



Events add diversity, vibrancy and overall well-being to our communities. Here is a shapshot of what's going on around the Coromandel over the next 12 months for you to enjoy. For a full list of events visit thecoromandel.com

MERCURY BAY

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL AND NIGHT MARKET WHITIANGA

2 December 2023

EXTRAVAGANZA FAIR

26–28 December 2023, Buffalo Beach Reserve, Whitianga extravaganzafair.co.nz

THE COROGLEN TAVERN

29, 30 and 31 December 2023 nye23.co.nz

MERCURY BAY EMERGENCY SERVICES CARNIVAL

29 December 2023Taylors Mistake, Whitianga

COOKS BEACH SUMMER GALA

4 January 2024 Cooks Beach Main Reserve cooksbeachsummergala.co.nz



HAHEI MARKET DAY

5 January 2024 Kotare Reserve, Hahei facebook.com/Hahei.Library

THE FEELERS - COROGLEN TAVERN

5 January 2024 eventfinda.co.nz

CORO CLASSIC, MATARANGI

6 January 2024 thecoroclassic.co.nz

THE MERCURY BAY ART ESCAPE

Weekends 2–3 March and 9–10 March 2024 mercurybay-artescape.com

TASTE OF MATARANGI

6 April 2024 atasteofmatarangi.co.nz

WHITIANGA HALF MARATHON

May 2024

5km, 10km, 21km and Trail Run See whitiangarunfest.co.nz for entry details.

WHITIANGA OCEANS FESTIVAL

September 2024 oceansfestival.co.nz





THAMES

WINGS AND WHEELS, THAMES

27 January 2024 wingsandwheelsthames.com



TAIRUA-PĀUANUI

PARADISE COAST GOLF CLASSIC

1-3 December 2023

whangamata.org.nz for entry details.

PĀUANUI HALF MARATHON

16 March 2024

pauanuihalfmarathon.co.nz/



FRIDAY 1 DEC, SATURDAY 2 DEC & SUNDAY 3 DEC 2023

worth of PRIZES

GROSS, NET AND STABLEFORD – TWOS Max Men 27, Max Women 40

THANKS TO:

Enterprise Whangamatā, TCDC, NZ Golf

For more details and to enter go to www.whangamata.org.nz



COROMANDEL TOWN

KELTIC FAIR

2 January 2024 Coromandel Area School www.kelticfair.co.nz



DISTRICT-WIDE EVENT

THE COROMANDEL ARTBEAT SPRING FESTIVAL

1 September – 12 December 2023 creative coromandel.co.nz/events

create
connect.
come together
celebrate

01.09-12.12



WHANGAMATĀ

PARADISE COAST GOLF CLASSIC

1-3 December 2023

whangamata.org.nz for entry details.

WHANGAMATĀ SUMMER FESTIVAL MARKETS

27–28 December 2023 Williamson Park, Whangamatā

ONEMANA MARKET DAY

29 December 2023

facebook.com/onemanabeach

EXTRAVAGANZA FAIR

4–6 January 2024 Williamson Park, Whangamatā extravaganzafair.co.nz

BEACH BREAK, WHANGAMATĀ

5 January 2024

beachbreak.co.nz

BEACH HOP

2–24 March 2024 beachhop.co.nz

WHANGAMATĀ HALF MARATHON

September 2024

whangamatahalfmarathon.co.nz

DISTRICT MARKETS

COROGLEN FARMERS MARKET

Gumtown Hall, Coroglen
Sunday mornings October–April

THAMES MARKET

Pollen Street, weekly on Saturdays.

TAIRUA MARKET

Tairua Hall

The first Saturday of every month.

WHITIANGA MARKET

Soldiers Memorial Park

Every Saturday from Labour weekend-Easter.

WHANGAMATĀ WEEKEND MARKET

Island View Reserve

For dates see weekendevents.co.nz

LITTLE BIG MARKETS

Williamson Park, Whangamatā
For dates see

thelittlebigmarkets.co.nz/calendar

COROMANDEL TOWN MARKET

Friday mornings from 8.30am–12.30pm at The Hike 'n' Bike lawn, (opposite the Four Square Supermarket).

Barking up the right tree

The ultimate guide to summer dog etiquette

Our furry friends love to be out in the sunshine, but there are some important rules dog owners should know about the summer months. Some rules change during this time, and it's our job as responsible owners to make sure we're barking up the right tree.

Dogs in urban areas

Dogs must always be kept on lead while in urban areas like town centres and roads. You will see our Compliance Officers out enforcing this simple rule.

Dogs on playgrounds and sports surfaces

Dogs should never be within a children's playground or on a sports surface. Our rules state dogs are prohibited from these areas at all times.

Dogs on beaches

Dogs are generally allowed off-leash on our beaches but we do have restrictions for certain areas at different times of the year. Please look for our traffic light signs at beach access ways that will indicate if a restriction is in place, and whether that restriction allows for on-leash dogs or prohibits them for a period of time.

Dog poo

Please remember that it is your responsibility to clean up your dogs' droppings if they leave something behind in a public space. Take a few poo bags with you on walks or take advantage of our free poo bag dispensers in some of our districts most popular dog walking areas.



Hot Tips for Hot Days



Never leave dogs in hot cars, conservatories, outbuildings or caravans on a warm day (even if only for a short while). When it's 22°C outside, temperatures can quickly rise to 47°C in these environments, which can be fatal.

The high heat of summer can become extremely hazardous for your dog's paws. Employ the "five-second test" to see if the ground is too hot for your furry friend. Touch the pavement with the back of your hand for five seconds – if you can't hold out for the full five seconds, then it's also too hot for your dog's paws.

Ensure pets always have access to shade and fresh drinking water to help keep them cool.

Put ice cubes into your dog's water bowl or make some tasty ice cube treats.

Some beaches won't be accessible to dogs during the summer months, so you could replace this with a paddling pool to splash around in to keep cool and entertained.

Find out more about summer dog rules including area specific rules at **tcdc.govt.nz/dogs**





Beat the heat with our local pools

Our Council's Centennial Pool in Thames, and the community pools we support around the Coromandel, provide safe, family-friendly environments to learn to swim, relax, or train.

Thames Centennial Pool

The 25m heated, Councilstaffed Thames Centennial Pool offers a range of learnto-swim opportunities, as well as space for relaxation and fun. Alongside the pool is a Splashpad to play in, complete with seating, a shaded area and full fencing.



The Thames Centennial Pool is looking forward to having a pool hoist installed and available for use in the coming months. This will be a great asset, increasing accessibility for anyone needing assistance to use our pool. We are working with Coombes Aquatics, who also installed our automated pool cover system – another great addition. This unit is designed and manufactured by Para Mobility. We will update our pool page with the details once this has been installed.

105 Mackay Street, Thames.

For more information, including opening hours and prices, visit tcdc.govt.nz/swim

Phone 07 868 8441

Facebook @ThamesCentennialPoolsThames

Classes, swim school and training

Swimming is a lifelong skill that opens a world of incredible experiences. Thanks to its classes and training opportunities, Thames Centennial Pool has a growing reputation for supporting some of the country's best competitive young swimmers.





Swim Cool Swim School

The swim school encourages babies and young children to develop and enjoy key skills, while building their confidence and safety in the pool. Babies aged from six months are welcome to join these classes.

Learn to Swim

From five years old, children can join the Learn to Swim courses, where they'll be taken through each stage of skill development.

The course can cater for all ages and abilities, including adults, from beginner to competitive. Private lessons are also available.

For questions and enrolments, contact learntoswim@tcdc.govt.nz

Facebook:

ThamesSwimCoolSwimSchool

Swim Club

We offer regular training squads for swimmers, from beginner to competitive level. We also have open water squads for masters, triathletes, ocean and social swimmers.

To enquire, please contact our head coach jayne.wright@tcdc.govt.nz

Fitness and fun

We offer lane swimming for fitness and relaxation, as well as Aqua Aerobics for a fun, low-impact workout, suitable for all ages. Lanes are available during pool opening hours.

For details about aqua aerobics, contact our team on 07 868 8441, or see our staff at the pool kiosk.
Visit tcdc.govt.nz/pools





Community Pools

While we're lucky to be surrounded by the ocean, we also support three great community swimming pools. They offer a safe, relaxing places to cool off, offering classes and events. Visit tcdc.govt.nz/pools

Mercury Bay Community Pool

20 South Highway, Whitianga 07 866 5151 | melasquith@gmail.com

Facebook: @MercuryBayCommunitySwimmingPool

Whangamatā Community Pool

112 Achilles Avenue, Whangamatā 07 865 7296 | manager.whangapool@gmail.com

whangapool.co.nz

Facebook: @WhangamataCommunityPool

Coromandel Town Community Pool

120 Woollams Avenue, Coromandel Town 027 348 2400

coromandelcommunityswimmingpool@outlook.com Facebook: @CoromandelCommunitySwimmingPool



HOW TO JOIN



All you need is a New Zealand postal address. Fill in the registration form online and you'll have access to all our district libraries, including our online e-book collection.

tcdc.govt.nz/join-a-library

Discover, connect, enjoy

Our three district libraries in Mercury Bay, Tairua and Thames are the perfect companion to your time in the Coromandel. We also have some great school holiday programmes to keep the kids entertained with fun crafts and activities.







DISTRICT LIBRARY
THES TERMOVED

Our Council's three district libraries at Thames, Mercury Bay, and Tairua removed fines for overdue books from July 2023, improving access for

So far, over half of Aotearoa's public libraries have removed overdue fines, reporting a range of positive outcomes, including an increase in

everyone in our community.

membership and use of their services.

"We are so excited about this positive change," says our Council's district libraries Manager Shana Allan.

"Removing overdue fines not not only increases access for our community, it will help our library teams to focus on our goals of improving literacy



levels and encouraging reading for pleasure."

There will still be a replacement cost for lost or damaged items, and charges for some lending items, as well as services such as printing and scanning.

Our libraries always have lots to offer – from kit collections to free events, including our regular activities for children and adults. Check out what's on offer on our website or facebook page.

facebook.com/tcdclibraries

tcdc.govt.nz/library ~ facebook.com/tcdclibraries

APPS: TCDC Libraries and ePlatform by Wheelers.

both available through your app store









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

FIND US ONLINE:

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 Closed public holidays.





If you want to freedom camp in our district:

- Please be a responsible camper and clean up after yourself.
- Use proper toilet facilities such as public toilets and campervan dump stations.
- Look for our signs showing where freedom camping can take place.
- Be familiar with our bylaw: tcdc.govt.nz/freedomcamping

In areas managed by our Council, people can only freedom camp:

- In a certified self-contained vehicle (freedom camping is not allowed in tents);
- Between 5pm and 9am for two consecutive nights unless otherwise sign-posted.



The main body of the bylaw explains the general rules around freedom camping.

Schedule 1 lists 84 prohibited areas where freedom camping is not allowed, most of which are Council reserves or roads. Freedom camping is also prohibited on other Council reserves under the Reserves Act 1977.

Schedule 2 lists 25 other areas, mostly reserves, where freedom camping is restricted to within sign-posted areas for a maximum number of vehicles for that area.

Our bylaw also contains maps that show the locations of the prohibited and restricted areas grouped by the Community Board area they are in.

We now have improved signage around the district to help visitors identify proper freedom camping locations.

Our Council's compliance team is out seven days a week monitoring the district for compliance with the new bylaw.

What you need to know

- Our Freedom Camping Bylaw is on our website at tcdc.govt.nz/freedomcamping
- Prohibited areas where freedom camping is not allowed are listed on Schedule 1 of the bylaw.
- Restricted areas where you can freedom camp within designated sign-posted areas are listed in Schedule 2.
- Maps of prohibited and restricted areas are on our website alongside the bylaw.
- Department of Conservation information about freedom camping: doc.govt.nz/parks-andrecreation/places-to-stay/stay-at-a-campsite/ freedom-camping

GOING BOATING? Pay the Swart way

If you're heading out onto the water in the Coromandel this summer, remember our Smart payment system lets you pay for boat ramp and trailer parking fees using your smartphone.

The updated QR code system was introduced in August last year. All nine ramps where fees are charged have signage with a unique QR code, and easy-to-follow instructions for scanning, paying and downloading your receipt at the ramp.

Just scan the QR code with your mobile, using your camera or Google Lens, open



the browser link, then follow the

> steps to make your payment using your credit card, Google Pay or Apple Pay.

If you don't have a smartphone, you can still pay in person at our Council offices and participating retail outlets.

Visit tcdc.govt.nz/boatramps for more details and to watch the handy 'how to' video.



Which ramps need payment?

The QR code system replaces physical ramp permits at the nine boat ramps where fees are charged:

- Te Ariki Tahi/ Sugarloaf, Te Kōuma
- Matarangi
 - Pūrangi
- Robinson Rd, Whitianga
- Royal Billy Point,
 Pāuanui
- Tairua Wharf
- Whangamatā



Your payment options

Combo Passes (Launch and Parking)

This allows you to launch and retrieve your vessel, and park your vehicle and trailer in a parking space designated for boat trailer parking. Please note our Council cannot guarantee the availability of parking spaces on any given day.

COST

- \$30 per day
- \$115 per year

Launch-Only Pass

This allows you to launch and retrieve only. It's ideal if you plan to take your trailer home or have an amphibious vehicle e.g. SeaLegs.

COST

- \$15 per day
- \$45 per year

Council Boat Ramp Passes can be used at any Council-operated boat ramp where fees are charged.



Water is taonga, a prized natural resource. It is our future.

IT'S NOT ON TAP

All of the water in our district comes from rivers, streams and aquifers. In the drier summer months water levels drop and the volume we can take from some sources is also reduced to ensure we operate within the resource consent levels Waikato Regional Council sets.

Water may be renewable - but it's not infinite.

Conserving water is everybody's responsibility, to ensure there is enough to go around now and in the future. Look after the environment and each other.

Water - it's not on tap forever.



Everyone can help to reduce our need for water restrictions over our longest, driest months.

Being mindful of our water usage habits all year round can help us avoid water restrictions in summer. Breaking bad habits while water is unrestricted will set us up for success when our water levels dip in the summer sun.

This initiative involves every single member of our thriving community. By getting educated on good water practices and giving rainwater collection a crack, you could be a driving force in keeping restrictions to a minimum this summer.

Seven effective water conversation tips

- Fix household leaks like faucets, hoses and shower heads: Household leaks can waste up to 60 and 120 drops of water per minute. That could equate to three litres per hour.
- Wait for a full load before washing dishes or clothing: Some appliances have options for half loads which use less water.
- Don't run water while you are brushing your teeth: You can save up to 30 litres of water a day.
- For cold drinking water, fill a jug and put it in the fridge: Running water to cool it down can waste 10 litres a minute.
- Try rainwater collection methods like water tanks: This water can be used for a variety of tasks that don't require treated water.
- For lawns, apply the 'step test': If grass springs back, it doesn't need watering.
- 7. If your toilet has a dual flush button, use the half flush: You wouldn't believe how much water your toilet uses every time you flush!

Remember: water is renewable, but it's not infinite. Water is taonga, a prized natural resource. It is our future.

And it's not on tap forever.



But wait.Aren't we surrounded by water?

Yes, we're surrounded by water on the Coromandel – and it's easy to think that water is a free resource that will never run out. But water isn't as abundant as you might think. Fluctuating population in summertime puts a strain on this precious resource.

For example: our District uses an average of 13 million litres of water per day, but in summer this can rise to 25 million litres per day – that's enough to fill 10 Olympic-sized swimming pools!





Rainwater tanks

Rainwater is a free resource that is abundant for many months of the year, but when it comes to summer, we can often go weeks without heavy downfall. Rainwater tanks allow you to capture rain off your roof and store it for use during these hot summer days where water restrictions may be in place.

Stored water in your rainwater tank is perfect for cleaning the car and boat or keeping the flowers, vegetables and lawns alive. Having this stored water reserve means that you'll have less dependency on community water supplies.

Find out more about rainwater tanks at

tcdc.govt.nz/savewater

PUTTING A DAMPER ON WILDFIRE RISK

We've had an extremely wet first half of 2023, but the forecast from the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) is for a hot, dry summer.

Warmer weather will drive grass and vegetation to quickly grow and then dry out, providing ideal fuel for wildfires.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) says 99 per cent of wildfires are caused by people and we can all play our part to prevent them.

TO REDUCE RISKS, MAKE SURE TO:

- Keep grass short and green
- Move highly flammable plants and materials well away from buildings, plant fire resistant species
- Clear gutters and areas around decks of dead leaves and other debris
- Keep driveways and access to properties clear (4mx4m) so emergency services can enter
- Keep your address number or RAPID number visible
- Have a plan of action for you and your family in the event of a wildfire

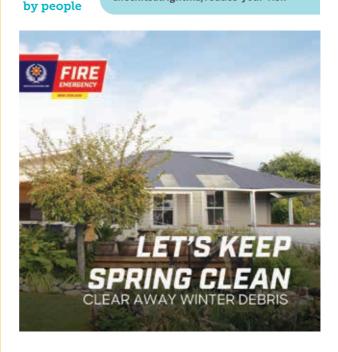
99% of wildfires are caused



Reduce your risk

If you're planning a fire outdoors, check with FENZ if you need a permit and for any bans in place. Some outdoor equipment and machinery can generate heat and sparks. Check the rules and learn how to reduce your risk.

checkitsalright.nz/reduce-your-risk



SAFE SUMMER





Good night's sleep Keep driver refreshed Water bottle filled up Encourage 2 hourly refresher stops Allow plenty of time for trip

ROAD TO ZERØ

PHONE 07 868 0200 TO BOOK YOUR BUSINESS ONTO OUR FREE 3-HOUR FATIGUE COURSE.

Having fun while staying safe

A few tips from Waikato Police:

- A sure way to ruin a good time is a trip to the hospital or a Police station – make sure you have a plan if alcohol is involved.
- Liquor bans will be in place in areas throughout the Coromandel.
 If you breach the liquor ban, you won't just lose your alcohol, you could also face a fine.
- The only people who can lawfully supply alcohol to young people under 18 are their parents or legal guardians.
 Consider the strength of the alcohol provided, how much you give them and providing food and no-alcohol options.
- · Please ensure children and friends stick together.
- Ensure your phone is fully charged before heading out.
- Plan how you are getting home at the end of your night, and have cash, an EFTPOS card or app to pay for transport. If you have concerns about someone's behaviour, call Police.
- There will be an increase in patrols and checkpoints on the roads and there will be zero tolerance of impaired drivers.
- Don't risk your safety or the safety of others. You can expect Police patrols anytime, anywhere. Please be responsible if you're behind the wheel.



Emergency preparedness

If there's an emergency and your cellphone's switched on, you'll receive an emergency alert. Make sure you have a grab bag ready beforehand. Include warm clothing, dry food, water, medications and cash.

Please take note of the tsunami information boards located around the district, and evacuation route signs and safe zone signs on roads.

If there's an earthquake, remember if it's long or strong, get gone! Drop, cover and hold during the shaking. As soon as the shaking stops, move immediately to the nearest high ground or as far inland as you can away from tsunami evacuation zones.

getready.govt.nz



Ask a local

LOCAL INFORMATION CENTRES

Our Visitor Information Centres can point you in the right direction.

WHITIANGA INFORMATION CENTRE

66 Albert Street, Whitianga – 07 866 5555 info@visitcoromandel.co.nz

WHANGAMATĀ INFORMATION CENTRE

616 Port Rd, Whangamatā - 027 311 4102 whangamatainformationcentre@gmail.com

TAIRUA INFORMATION CENTRE

2 Manaia Road, Tairua – 07 864 7575 admin@tairua.co.nz tairua.co.nz

PĀUANUI INFORMATION CENTRE

23 Centreway, Pāuanui - 07 864 7101 family-friends-fun@pauanui.co.nz experiencepauanui.co.nz

COROMANDEL INFORMATION CENTRE

74 Kapanga Rd, Coromandel Town - 07 866 8598 info@coromandeltown.nz coromandeltown.nz

KAUAERANGA VISITOR CENTRE (DOC)

Kauaeranga Valley Rd, Thames – 07 867 9080 kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz doc.govt.nz

THAMES INFORMATION KIOSK

Goldfields Mall, Thames goldfieldsshops.co.nz

Request for Service

Have an issue that needs our Council's attention?
Submit a Request for Service at tcdc.govt.nz/rfs
If it's urgent, call our Customer Services team on 07 868 0200.



Stay in the loop

We send an email newsletter with local news, opportunities and events.

Sign up at tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe

Follow us on:



@Thames-Coromandel District Council



@coromandel_tcdc



@Thames-Coromandel District Council



tcdc.govt.nz