

OUR COROMANDEL

2022-2023



10

10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



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Welcome

TO OUR COROMANDEL 2022-2023

We head towards the end of 2022 with bittersweet endings and new beginnings.

We're moving out of a COVID-focused environment where we've been locked down, masked up, joined up in bubbles, encouraged to be kind to each other and to scan wherever we go.

We're moving into meeting in larger groups, in real life, reopening borders to international visitors – while still remembering to be kind to each other.

We're farewelling six years under the mayoralty of Sandra Goudie, who made the choice not to re-stand and to focus on family and other pursuits. Over her tenure we've weathered cyclones, drought, tens of millions of dollars of investment in wharfing infrastructure and roading projects, a town centre upgrade for Whitianga and improvements to Coromandel Town,

drinking water plant upgrades and the completion of a major shoreline management project.

We welcome in Mayor Len Salt who will continue to lead our district through major central government reforms around three waters, resource management and local government changes. We welcome a fresh Council who will be coming together to reassess our district's strategic aspirations and visions – while advocating diverse communities' views.

We've also had 10 years of *Our Coromandel* magazine, our Council's annual publication targeted to our nearly 60 per cent absentee ratepayers to keep up to date with news. *Our Coromandel* magazine is one of the ways we catalogue, journal and share what's been happening in our district.

In this year's edition, we reflect on where

we've come from since 2012 and what we've achieved, celebrated and commemorated in the past decade. A decade where the constant throughout has been you – our communities.

For now, let's pause and take some time to head into the end of 2022, to refresh, reset and restart – and reflect through the pages of *Our Coromandel* 2022-2023.



Aileen Lawrie, Chief Executive,
on behalf of our Council team.

aileen.lawrie@tcdc.govt.nz

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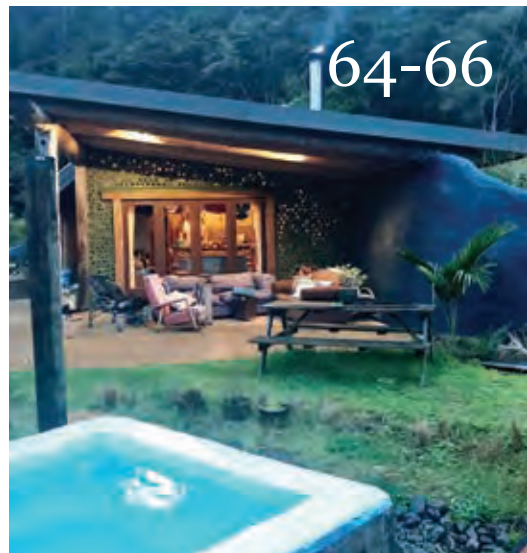
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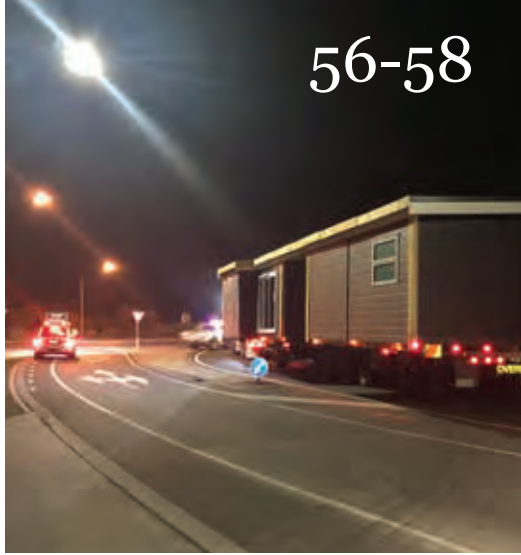


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INJECTING ENTHUSIASM

Adapting to change and innovative solutions to community issues are two skills new Mayor Len Salt is bringing to the table.

Everything Len has done in his life has prepared him to be Mayor. He's worked a number of years in senior management in the food industry in Auckland. Len's also established his own food ingredients and confectionery importing business which won the BNZ Best New Business Award in 2000, before buying a musical instrument retail business.

After the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, Len and his wife Svargo made the decision to close the business and move to the Coromandel in 2010. "It was a tough time, but it led to the most positive decision we've ever made. It's been life-changing."



Living near Buffalo Beach, Whitianga, the couple say they've become way more involved in their community in a way they'd never been in Auckland. Len's been the founder and Chairman of Whitianga Residents and Ratepayers Association and the co-founder and Chairman of Wāhi Tukurua (formerly Mercury Bay Resource Recovery Centre). As if that wasn't enough to keep him busy, he's also been Chairman of Creative Coromandel and Vice President of Greypower Mercury Bay.

Svargo, a "British Kiwi", originally from Yorkshire, has been in education for over 40 years teaching maths at Mercury Bay Area School. A keen gardener, she's passionate about the environment,

particularly about preparing the district to be drought-resilient. The couple felt this first-hand when they lost half their garden in the drought of 2019.

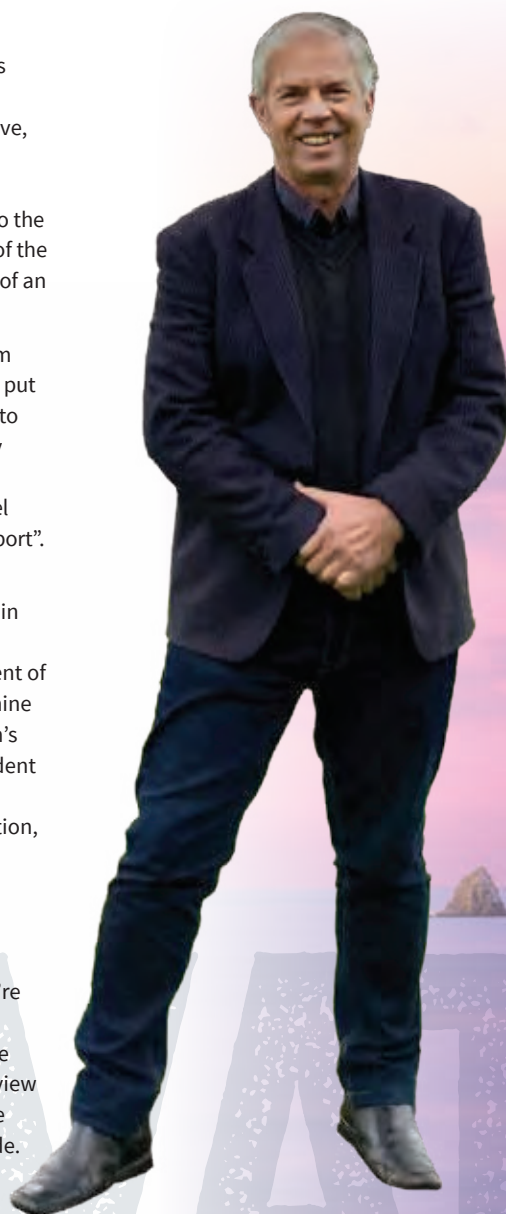
"It highlighted the need to plan for future-proofed water infrastructure and resourcing," says Len. He established the Whitianga Residents and Ratepayers Association and set up a Water Action Committee for the town. "It was a positive, collaborative exercise – ratepayers and residents working with Council and the Community Board to look at solutions to the problem. We're now three years ahead of the game, well into the investigation phase of an alternative water supply for Whitianga."

His many leadership roles have given him deep roots in the community. In 2019 he put himself forward as a mayoral candidate to promote debate. Len says he thoroughly enjoyed the experience of meeting ratepayers up and down the Coromandel and gained "a surprising amount of support".

Efficient waste management is also a passion of Len's. He was a driving force in setting up Wāhi Tukurua, Mercury Bay's Resource Recovery Centre, the equivalent of Thames' Seagull Centre and The Goldmine in Coromandel town. Coromandel town's equivalent, CILT (Coromandel Independent Living Trust) has operated as a sub-contractor in the Refuse Treatment Station, and has managed to inject \$60,000 into community grants.

Len would like to see Council review its contracts model which it established in the 1990s – outsourcing functions. "We're perfectly capable of managing Refuse Transfer Stations ourselves. If we reduce waste, we reduce costs." He'd like to review what could be done in-house across the Council and what savings could be made.

In other projects, Len says our Council has had great foresight in the Shoreline Management Plan work – addressing sea-level rise and the future of coastal communities. The groundwork in understanding the research, the impact locally and asking locals their views will be crucial in the next three years.



**“WHAT MOTIVATES ME EVERY DAY IS THE WELLBEING
OF OUR PEOPLE AND OUR WHENUA,” SAYS LEN.
“BY WELLBEING, I MEAN AT A PERSONAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL,
ENVIRONMENTAL, WORKPLACE AND HOME LEVEL.”**

AND INNOVATION

“What motivates me every day is the wellbeing of our people and our whenua,” says Len. “By wellbeing, I mean at a personal, economic, social, environmental, workplace and home level. People elect a mayor and councillors based on the vision that they present of where Council should be heading. I think sometimes it’s easy to lose sight of that vision in the day-to-day process of council activities.”

He’s “absolutely determined” to bring more innovative thinking to the Council. “We’re facing some very serious challenges in our district – inflation is putting pressure on projects and adding 18-20 per cent to costs in some areas. One choice is to innovate and do things differently.”

Len also advocates the potential of Thames as a heritage site to be tapped more fully. “For example, heritage buildings could be adapted to become ‘innovation hubs’ demonstrating excellent practice and small-

scale enterprise,” he suggests. Other sectors Len would like Council to have further input include developing technology, tourism, online gaming, sciences, aquaculture and supporting the Māori economy.

“Nationally the Māori economy is worth \$68.7 billion,” says Len. With Ngā Puhi and Tainui heritage himself, he is keen to support Māori businesses.

Len is a passionate musician, playing guitar and banjo in a Dixie band. It led him to help set up Creative Mercury Bay, leading arts and music festivals locally. Len’s adult son in Auckland is a multi-instrumental performer and composer.

“I guess you could say I’m hyperactive,” Len says. “I’m always thinking of things to do

and problems to solve. I play guitar to relax, but often my mind is working on what else I should be doing at the same time.”

Len firmly believes the Coromandel is one of the most beautiful spots on the globe. One of his favourite journeys is driving the ‘Crimson Coast’ (Thames Coast Road) just before Christmas when the pōhutukawa trees are in bloom – “one of the most extraordinarily beautiful sites on earth”.

Other favourite locations are Opera Point, New Chum Beach, Thames’ historic areas and Whangamatā.

“I think it’s important to appreciate how lucky we are where we live,” he shares.





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JOHN MORRISSEY
 COROMANDEL-
 COLVILLE WARD


Along with my duties as a Councillor, I'm a director on Te Arika Tahi/Sugarloaf Ltd company, working towards the \$20 million upgrade of the commercial and recreational facility in the Coromandel Harbour that will boost the aquaculture industry. At a local level, the dog walking area has been well received. This is an ongoing project which will be great for dog lovers. I'm proud to see progress with the long-awaited town bypass, the Coromandel Bike Park gaining in use and popularity, and planning around traffic, cycling and walkways around our beautiful area.

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REKHA GRI-PERCIVAL
 MERCURY BAY WARD


The future of Mercury Bay and the District are important to me. I am honoured to represent you at Council. Having served on the MB Community Board, I understand the importance of having adequate infrastructure to meet the needs of residents and visitors. Implementing the Shoreline Management Plan and addressing issues like waste minimisation and the increasing cost to do business will be a key focus. My husband and I own a residential building company in Whitianga. Our children attend the local school. I grew up in Mercury Bay and returned after studying business and international communications and working in Auckland, London and The Hague.

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JOHN GRANT
 MERCURY BAY WARD


I have lived, worked and played in Whitianga since 2018 when my wife and I launched a new radio station, Coromandel's CFM. I'm a registered financial adviser and specialise in general insurance. My career has mostly been in financial services where I've held senior management positions including roles as managing director of large businesses, most recently in the field of disaster management where my company managed over 200 staff or contractors engaged in earthquake recovery work in Christchurch. I've also had board roles with subsidiaries of Colonial Mutual and General Electric. I'm passionate about the Coromandel and bring my experience and will represent Mercury Bay with pride and enthusiasm.

john.grant@council.tcdc.govt.nz

DELI CONNELL
 MERCURY BAY WARD


My background is in education and sustainable development. I was honoured to serve three terms on the Board and am well-equipped to step up as a Councillor. I've lived in Mercury Bay for nearly 40 years, engaging with many organisations, community groups and individuals. These communities and their environments are diverse, and 'one-size' decision-making does not fit all. I am mindful of the need to balance our rich cultural heritage and natural environment with tourism and business. I believe we face four main issues: climate change, coastal erosion, central government reforms and increasing pressure on our overall infrastructure.

deli.connell@council.tcdc.govt.nz

GARY GOTLIEB
 SOUTH EASTERN WARD


I continue to stand for accountability. I have had a wide experience serving on local and national boards for professional and sporting organisations. In my last term I challenged many issues such as an unexpected budget overrun and ensuring legal processes were followed. Those issues are rectified, but there's always more that needs to be done as governance. I will work with our new Chief Executive, Mayor and Councillors to build on this progress and to grow a more efficient, effective and happy Council.

gary.gottlieb@council.tcdc.govt.nz

TERRY WALKER
 SOUTH EASTERN WARD


My renewed commitment is to represent our ward and the people, both residents and non-residents. I'll continue to be a bridge to help connect communities and Council around issues. As the government introduces a plethora of reforms, it's more important than ever to have an experienced voice at the table. I strive for the best outcomes for our community as we deal with climate change, sea-level rise and erosion, while ensuring financial prudence. I work for the betterment of our community and will continue to address several local issues, including short-term accommodation, affordable housing, and a location for a camping ground.

terry.walker@council.tcdc.govt.nz

ROBYN SINCLAIR
 THAMES WARD


I'm honoured to represent our community for another term and proud of my achievements to date; funding for the Kōpū business and marine precinct and climate action initiatives, signing the climate declaration, ensuring quality library services, and the total mobility scheme. Local government is undergoing transformative reform and I bring energy and governance continuity to help Thames thrive. I will take all opportunities to learn and ground myself in the community to better understand needs and desires. I am also Secretary of the Thames Community Centre, Chair of Transition Town Thames, a founder of Tararu Backyard Trappers, and a mother. I am passionate about our district.

robyn.sinclair@council.tcdc.govt.nz

MARTIN RODLEY
 THAMES WARD


I have so much passion and energy for Thames and the wider district. Last term I made a concerted effort to be involved in the local and wider community as I believe in collaborative relationships. Thank you for electing me as it's important to have continuity. With the challenges ahead, business as usual is not going to produce the sort of generational changes that are needed for us to not only survive, but also thrive. It's vital that our Council is responsive to the needs and wants of our diverse communities. My commitment is to listen and to represent our communities.

martin.rodley@council.tcdc.govt.nz

PETER REVELL
 THAMES WARD


I am delighted to be representing the people and the interests of Thames at the Council table. With a new council Chief Executive, a new Mayor and many new councillors we have an opportunity which does not come along very often – the opportunity for a “new beginning”. With a career background in executive leadership, I have the experience, energy, passion and skills to progress good outcomes, in particular for Thames, but for our district as a whole. We need housing development, stimulation of our business environment, airfield development, meaningful climate change action initiatives, and a listening ear to the voices of concern, experience and wisdom in our community.

peter.revell@council.tcdc.govt.nz



WHANGAMATA OCEAN SPORTS CLUB

*The Club with
the Million Dollar View!*



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 and 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 individual's membership fee is allocated to the NZSFC and the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation totalling over \$70,000 a year in donations. 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. On behalf of our members we are working closely with local Iwi, NZSFC,

Legasea and local governance to create a more sustainable fishing grounds for our future generations.

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.

We have some exciting new social events planned throughout the year, all geared around making the most of each season and taking advantage of our location and what we have to offer. Keep up to date with weekly specials, activities, events and tournaments on our new Facebook page – **@WhangamataOceanSportsClubInc** and Instagram **#woscnz**

We welcome visitors to experience our facilities and see for yourself how great the food and view is before becoming a member.

Membership is available and you can join by coming in and talking to our friendly bar team or visit our website **www.oceansports.co.nz** or email **members@oceansports.co.nz** for more details.

***We look forward to welcoming you soon at the Club
with the million dollar view!
Whangamata Ocean Sports, by the wharf.***

Coromandel-Colville



NEW HERITAGE SIGNS

Our Council teamed up with Coromandel Lions group to replace the town's six existing heritage signs. The new signs, costing \$2,550, highlight key historic locations around town, including Coromandel Hospital, Rings Bridge, Hauraki Mine, Royal Mail Hotel and Driving Creek School. The design was updated with railway sleepers for posts.

PATUKIRIKIRI RESERVE TOILET MURAL



Patukirikiri toilets received a colourful makeover from talented local artist Rebekah Pearson, thanks to a joint venture between our Council, Waikato Regional Council and the Ministry of Primary Industries.

LONG BAY CAMP ROAD RESEALED

The access road leading to Long Bay Camp was resealed and improved to address safety concerns, including potholes in the road approaching the campground. New speed humps were added and the road was re-shaped for better drainage, and to prevent water running underneath the camp store. The project work cost \$43,916.



LONG BAY RESERVE FENCING INSTALLED



New stock-proof fencing was installed to help prevent Kauri Dieback at the reserve, with costs shared jointly by our Council, the Ministry for Primary Industries, Waikato Regional Council and the adjoining landowner. Our Council's share was \$6,000. Long Bay Reserve has one of the largest old kauri trees still standing in our district. The fence will protect the reserve boundaries from wandering stock from neighbouring farms.



COROMANDEL HUB

The new Coromandel Hub building at 150 Pound Street is expected to be finished by the end of October 2022. Costs have increased considerably since the build began, and the revised budget is now \$3,271,427. Coromandel Independent Living Trust (CILT) currently has 90 per cent of the funding needed and is working to secure the rest.

WHANGAPOUA ROAD NEW DUMP STATION



COROMANDEL-COLVILLE *Community Board*



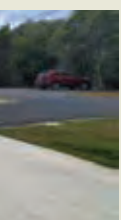
LITTLE BAY BEACH ACCESS REPLACED

Our Council replaced an unsafe, slippery beach access at Little Bay, adjacent to No 2 Louise Lane. The new timber steps, costing \$22,593, were designed by Tiaki Engineering Consultants Ltd and local contractor Wayne Brookes, with Pinnacles Civil overseeing the build. The project has provided a safe and stable access way for people to enjoy the beach.



The building is sited on land transferred to CILT from our Council.

The hub will help to meet the social and community needs of the people of the upper Coromandel, with space for community service and social support providers, including meeting space, co-working facilities, and space for sports, recreation and community clubs.



A new caravan dump station was completed on Council-owned land adjacent to the Coromandel Water Treat Plant (WTP) at 115 Whangapoua Rd, as part of the WTP upgrade. The new station offers more space for larger vehicles and a twin disposal set-up, where two vehicles can dispose of waste at the same time. The old dump site at Patukirikiri Reserve in Coromandel Town has been decommissioned.

KIM BRETT

I am a wife, mum and Nana, and have called Coromandel Town my home for the past 46 years. I work with my husband in our building company. Fishing, cooking, glass art, jewellery and family time are the things I most love. Working in the building industry and owning several businesses in town, I feel I have a good grasp of our wants and needs. It has been a privilege to serve as a community board member for the past three years. I will continue to be a voice for the community, to fight for what we need and manage what we have.

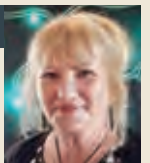
kim.brett@council.tcdc.govt.nz



JEAN ASHBY

I have been associated with Coromandel for 51 years and a resident for 28 years. In the past 25 years, I have worked with individuals, community groups and government authorities to help deliver services to people of this area, for our youth, our kaumātua and for whānau isolating with COVID-19. Our rural area can be overlooked on occasions, but we have a caring community of volunteers and groups. Valuing my whānau and the well-being of the community are my core values, and I believe these equip me with a positive background to listen and to serve.

jean.ashby@council.tcdc.govt.nz



JAMES DAVIS

I am Coromandel born and educated. At 16 years, I enlisted in the NZ Army and saw service in Malaya, Vietnam and the Sinai Peninsula. I served 34 years, retiring as a Major. I returned to Coromandel and worked in Tourist Accommodation, volunteering as a Remedial Reading Assistant at the Area School and later becoming the Truancy Officer. I'm now a driver for Coromandel Independent Living Trust. I play golf and belong to the Coromandel Players Theatre Group. I will concentrate my efforts on making improvements which will benefit the ratepayer, the community, and our area of responsibility.

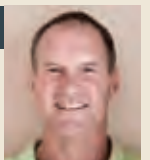
james.davis@council.tcdc.govt.nz



GAVIN JEFFCOAT

I'd like to recognise everyone who participated in the elections, whether standing, voting, organising, or counting, and thank those who ticked my box. I will work hard to ensure your vote isn't wasted. I'm looking forward to taking an active role on the Board and making a positive difference wherever I can. If something is grinding your gears get in touch or come to one of the Community Board meetings. There may be something the Board can do. Thanks again and I look forward to catching up.

gavin.jeffcoat@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Don't just dream it,

Established in the mid-1950s, Whangamata Real Estate is the oldest real estate company on the Coromandel Peninsula. Known for their longevity, loyalty to their town and local brand.

Proudly supporting their community. Whether it be in sponsorship to local sporting teams, groups and organisations or giving of their time to events and fundraisers.

The annual Foodbank collection is one of their biggest givebacks to their community, along with being the main sponsor of the Whangamata Surf Life Saving Club and making sure there are enough lifeguards patrolling the beach during the Summer. And this year the local swimming pool is now open year round, because of the support of Whangamata Real Estate.

In terms of Real Estate they pride themselves on exceptional service, with a combined 145+ years' experience within the industry between them.

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environment and the people is second to none. Their down to earth, personable approach, yet professional and hard-work ethic is one of the reason why Whangamata Real Estate is the successful, creditable company it is today.



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Sharon Laurenson
Sarah Speedy
Salespersons



Pete Sheppard
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Salespersons



Dave Anderson
Renee Jacobsen
Salespersons



Julian West
Salesperson



Nancy Millett
Salesperson



Wendy Jeffs
Salesperson



Kylie Tohaia
Property Management

What makes Whangamata so special?

"The distance, not only is it one of the best beaches on the Coromandel, but it's one of the closest, being positioned at the beginning of the peninsula, the drive isn't too far from major cities and the roads are safe to travel."

"Taking the title of NZ's best beach in 2018. Holiday makers fall in love and return year after year and locals they never want to leave."

"Our stunning beach, our world-famous surf bar and safe swimming options. Fishing & boating. The Mountain bike park. Walking tracks to hiding gems. A great selection of shops and cafes. There is something for everyone"

Whangamata

PUBLIC FACILITIES UPGRADES

The installation of three public toilets was affected by COVID-related delays, however construction started in September 2022 and they will be ready for summer. The Island View facility (\$480,337) provides four new toilets including one accessible toilet. This project received \$235,796 of funding as part of the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF). Facilities at Martyn Road (\$318,114) and Beach Road (\$182,901) include an accessible toilet and parking. Martyn Road received \$146,329 from the TIF – [see **tcdc.govt.nz/tif**](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/tif) for further details. The campervan dump station at the Martyn Road site was also upgraded.



Island View Reserve.



Martyn Road.



Beach Road.



MOANA ANU ANU HARBOUR

With the support of our Council, Waikato Regional Council and Whangamata Harbour Care, the site on Hetherington Road Reserve (behind Firth) was cleared of pest plants and re-planted with 850 native plants in August 2022 (\$19,580.60). Banded rail/moho pererū are a native subspecies which inhabit area.



HETHERINGTON ROAD PEDESTRIAN/CYCLEWAY

A concept design was prepared but our Council does not have any funding available for the anticipated costs (over \$3 million). Therefore, any further work will either require direct community funding and/or need to be submitted for consideration in the 2024/2027 Long Term Plan.

WATER METERS

The investigation (enabling) phase of the Whangamata water meters was completed at the end of September 2022. Installation of the water meters is programmed to start in February 2023. The plans are to complete by “zones” (with zones based on the number of meters that can be read in a day/week).

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



MOANA ANU ANU PEDESTRIAN/CYCLEWAY

It is not possible to construct a new cycleway/pedestrian track along the Moana Anu Anu harbour to Brenton Place due to the proposed route being on Land Information New Zealand and a Department of Conservation marginal strip. Therefore, a staircase will be installed at Brenton Place in the summer months to improve access to the existing natural path (\$70,000).



NEW KERB CHANNEL PROJECT (\$288,155)

The construction of a new kerb and channel on Barrowclough Road is expected to be completed by November 2022. Rutherford Road is planned for January/February 2023.

FIRE STATION RESERVE PLAYGROUND



WHANGAMATĀ *Community Board*



WHANGAMATĀ BOARDWALK

Discussions are on-going with the Department of Conservation and local iwi regarding the construction of new boardwalk along Esplanade Drive and Graham Street. A report will be presented to the new Board at the end of 2022.

tcdc.govt.nz/whangaboardwalk

WILLIAMSON PARK SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Construction of a footpath from Lowe Street and improvement of accessway by the pedestrian refuge on Ocean Road was completed in December 2021 (\$24,944).



ISLAND VIEW RESERVE CAR PARK

The design to construct a new car park adjacent to the existing one to address congestion in the area went to nearby residents for their feedback in August 2022. Progress will be available at tcdc.govt.nz/whangaprojects

CCTV CAMERAS

Installation of CCTV cameras at the skate park and Williamson Park were completed in May 2022 (\$37,210).



The existing playground will be replaced to create an accessible, updated playground. In September 2022 a site visit was completed and the concept design was underway and construction will begin mid-2023 (\$158,521).

DAVE RYAN



This is my second term on the Board. Restricted monies and Covid restrictions meant that some of the planned changes and improvements are only just coming into fruition. I will continue to advocate for street lighting, footpaths, three waters, security cameras and family entertainment for the festive season. These objectives remain a challenge and I will carry on fighting for an equal number of benefits for our ratepayers, and keep residents informed.

dave.ryan@council.tcdc.govt.nz

DENIS BEAVER



I am proud to call Whangamatā my home for my family. I have a strong passion for the community and the people in it. With more than 15 years business and management experience, volunteering on many committees such as the Whangamatā Business Association and Beach Hop, I will be a strong voice and will make sure our community is listened to. I would like to see a long-term strategy for accommodation for seasonal workers and families alike, and ensure Whangamatā receives the appropriate portion of ratepayers' money to spend on core infrastructure such as stormwater, roading, etc.

denis.beaver@council.tcdc.govt.nz

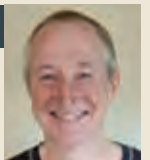
MARK DRURY



I holidayed in Whangamatā for about 30 years before moving here permanently with my wife, Sue, two years ago. I enjoy the natural environment that Whangamatā has to offer, and I want to ensure that future generations have the same enjoyment. With climate change and an increase in population, our community has many challenges ahead of it. I like working with people and contribute to positive outcomes with my broad engineering and environmental experience, combined with leadership and management skills. I am an active member of the golf club and bowling club, as well as a committee member of Whangamatā Harbour Care.

mark.drury@council.tcdc.govt.nz

NEIL EVANS



As a practising lawyer I believe I have the necessary skills to represent and act as an advocate for the interests of our community. I am a trained mediator experienced in problem solving and have lived here for nearly three years, bringing a fresh perspective to current issues. I am actively involved in the community, and I value the importance of sporting and recreational facilities being available, especially to youth, for positive physical and mental wellbeing. I am a member of the local RSA, Whangamatā Baptist Church and Sports Chaplain to the Whangamatā Rugby Club. I support the development of the community marae project.

neil.evans@council.tcdc.govt.nz

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Tairua-Pāuanui



PĀUANUI RESERVE

In May of this year, more than 200 volunteers planted over 13,000 plants across a 260m length of shoreline at the southern end of Pāuanui beach (between beach access #10 and #11) to increase coastal resilience and enable better management of the reserve space (see page 88-89).

Maintenance started in September 2022 on the beach reserve directly landward of the newly restored coastal dune, with small areas fenced off to allow the grass reseeding to develop, improving the existing grass. It won't be a rapid transformation; however, with the help of native sand-trapping plants, ongoing maintenance, enhancement and coastal restoration plantings for the next couple of years, this will drastically improve the turf health (\$9,250).

Contact the Pāuanui Dune Protection Society (info@pauanuidunes.org.nz) for further information.



KENNEDY PARK, PĀUANUI

The ageing tennis courts at Kennedy Park received a makeover in early August 2022. The upgraded surface is a combination of olive and forest green TigerTurf Tournament material, which was installed by TigerTurf's specialist contractor. The new line markings provided for three tennis courts and one dual-purpose netball/basketball court (\$112,516).

New fitness equipment (\$60,761) was also installed in October 2022 and will be ready to use by Labour weekend.



THE TAIRUA SKATEPARK PROJECT

TAIRUA SKATEPARK DESIGN NEARLY COMPLETE

As *Our Coromandel Magazine* was going to print, the design for the skatepark in Cory Park Domain was well underway. We are taking into account stormwater, civil engineering, acoustic engineering, surveying and landscape architecture to ensure the skatepark meets the needs of skaters, neighbours and other park users.

We are working with the Skatepark User Group and other community groups that regularly use Cory Park Domain to refine the design concept. This includes the Tairua Rugby and Sports Club and Fire and Emergency New Zealand. Once a draft concept design is complete, we will work with the Community Design Reference Group to ensure the design meets Council's requirements identified during the site selection process. This will happen in November. We will then be ready to finalise the design and start construction.

tcdc.govt.nz/tairuaskatepark

OCEAN BEACH RD, TAIRUA KERB AND CHANNEL PROJECT



The construction of a new kerb and channel on Ocean Beach Road, Tairua was completed this year. This project addresses a significant issue along this section of road where excess stormwater can create flooding. This project was completed slightly under budget at \$282,455 as opposed to the LTP revised budget of \$300,583.

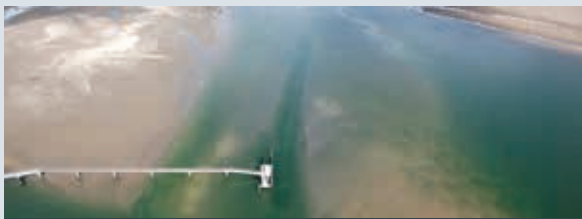
CORY PARK DOMAIN, TAIRUA



PĀUANUI PLAYGROUNDS



The playground at Ajax Head has been revamped (\$255,925) and Beaumont Green will be renewed to include a new playground and shaded areas.



ROYAL BILLY POINT (PĀUANUI)

'Lift and drift' dredging was completed in September 2022. This tied in with the application for all-tide access and removal of sand on a monthly maintenance programme. It opened up the channel and allows the Tairua ferry to operate as normal over the busy summer months (\$12,150).

'THE HUB' – MANIA ROAD, TAIRUA

The project has begun to facilitate an extension of the Tairua Library building to serve as a space for the Tairua Historic Society. An architect was appointed in September 2022. The concept design phase is underway with ongoing consultation with the steering group including members from the Tairua Historic Society, Tairua Library and the Community Board (\$226,308).



BBQS – TAIRUA

A new BBQ will be built at the base of Paku Hill Summit, Tairua. The existing BBQ at South End Reserve Pāuanui will also be improved with a new shelter erected in time for summer (\$27,367).



The courts are due to be resurfaced with a TigerTurf specialist scheduled to begin installation in November 2022. Using olive green TigerTurf Tournament material, the new line markings will provide for two tennis courts, two netball courts and one dual-purpose hockey/football court (\$90,185).

TAIRUA - PĀUANUI

Community Board

WARWICK BROOKS

We need a return to the times when Community Boards were afforded a greater say and responsibility for local communities. The arrival of COVID-19 affected the Board's ability to function efficiently this past term, but for me the most pressing concern has been the gradual and steady decline of the powers of Community Boards since their establishment. I look forward to the result of the Government's Future for Local Government Reform and a return of meaningful responsibility to our Community Board.

warwick.brooks@council.tcdc.govt.nz



CHRIS NEW

I have lived in Tairua since 1981. I'm now retired and the Chief Fire Officer of the Tairua Volunteer Fire Brigade, which I've belonged to for some 40 years. It's been a long time since we had a Councillor from Tairua or Pāuanui so I stood to ensure we have fair representation on the Council. I was first elected to this Community Board in 2010 and also last term. We need to keep rates as small as we can, to make it affordable to live here. Open and honest local government must be maintained.

chris.new@council.tcdc.govt.nz



CATH WIGHTMAN

I love living, playing and working on the Paradise Coast. Having holidayed in Tairua as a child, I became a permanent resident in 2001 and raised my children here. We will see continued growth; families through to retirees will make our area their home and holiday destination. We need to cater to all and involve the community in decision-making, and I am passionate about ensuring the needs of our community are met. As a businesswoman with varied skills, I am a strong relationship builder and team player, hardworking, and committed to ensuring positive outcomes.

cath.wightman@council.tcdc.govt.nz



BARRY ROBERTS

I have the knowledge and skills to be an effective Board member and to lead successful organisations and groups. I am the Chair of the Tairua Information and Community Services Society and also spent two years with the Tairua Residents and Ratepayers group. I believe it's important that all our Coromandel communities succeed and that we do all we can to provide the best services and facilities that budgets allow. My aim is to represent the Tairua-Pāuanui area in a positive way.

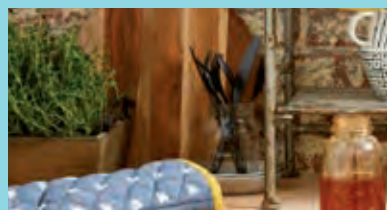
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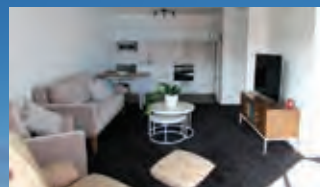
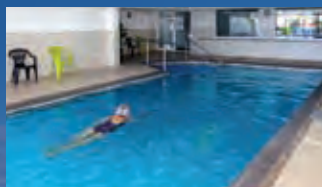
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KŌPŪ BUSINESS AND MARINE PRECINCT PROJECT

It's all systems go on a new marine facility at Kōpū (\$15.31 million) which will create new jobs and apprenticeships, boost the aquaculture industry locally and reinvigorate other businesses in the area.

The project involves building a new commercial marine facility,

which includes a wharf, pontoon, boat slipway and haulage access area, as well as a recreational boat ramp and trailer parking area. A shovel-ready ceremony launched the project in September and contractors started in October.

tcdc.govt.nz/kopumarineprecinct

NEW SCULPTURE FOR THAMES

A stylised sculpture of a fishhook by artist Jay Hogan has become a visual 'gateway' to the northern end of Thames where Campbell and Pollen streets join. The Thames Public Art Trust installed the sculpture on the plinth. It complements the trust's sculpture trail running alongside the Hauraki Rail Trail from Kōpū to Thames. A new wheelchair-accessible table is being sited on the reserve in mid-October.



PORRITT PARK REVAMP

Thanks to a generous donation from local philanthropists, Porritt Park in Thames is being upgraded with improved play equipment and enhanced toilet facilities, with a greater level of disability access (\$1.5 million).

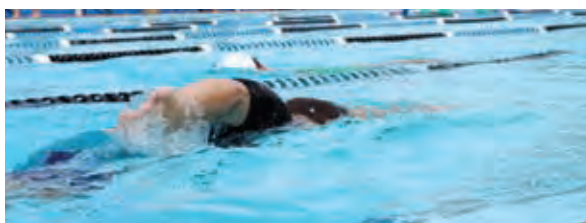
The park's set to become a 'destination playground' that families travel to because the quality play equipment and other features make it a special experience. The community engagement involved schools, community groups and businesses.

tba.nz/porrittparkproject



THAMES SPORTS FACILITIES

New aquatic and sport facilities in the Thames area moved a step forward with a public survey in June 2022 to ascertain community needs. Both the Centennial Pool and Rhodes Park sports facilities are due for an upgrade because of ageing infrastructure, the pool's siting on a urupā (burial ground) and regular flooding on the sports fields. The next step is to look at the feasibility of options for aquatic facilities and the long-term location for sports facilities.





CREATE THE VIBE

The streets of Thames are set to come alive with pop-up activities in the lead-up to Christmas and throughout summer in Thames's outdoor creative space in Mary Street, Create the Vibe. The trial of this space was extended until June 2023 to try to gauge its use over the summer without COVID restrictions in place. Community groups can book the use of the site's colourful container free of charge for community activities and displays by emailing customer.services@tcddc.govt.nz



TOTARA VALLEY HOUSING

Preparatory work is well underway on the infrastructure needed to enable a new residential housing development to be built in Totara Valley south of Thames to ease the town's housing shortage.

A stormwater culvert has been built under Ngāti Maru Highway (SH25) to reduce the risk of flooding. Work began in October to install a turning bay on the highway into Totara Valley Road. Further road widening and extension of water, wastewater and stormwater services are expected to be completed by the end of 2024 (\$6.58 million).

tcddc.govt.nz/totara-valley-road

ADRIAN CATRAN JP



A long-time business owner, former Deputy Mayor and descendant of 1870 Thames miners, I want to help make our town great. I know the impact Council has on businesses. I own New Zealand's oldest funeral home and will revitalise the town I've invested in. I love taking time with people and will work for common-sense, no-nonsense decisions. I'm a great supporter of youth activities: I sponsor Thames youth rugby, school trips and arts. I am President of Hauraki Justice of the Peace Association, Patron of Thames Valley Pipes and Drums, on the committee of Hauraki Aero Club and established Place at the Table Trust giving a free Christmas Day meal to all. A JP, I initiated heritage protocols and established the first Grahamstown committee.

adrian.catran@council.tcddc.govt.nz

HOLLY MACKENZIE



Thames has been my home for over 15 years. I fell in love with a born-and-bred Thames man and we are raising our three children. We own a building company which has given me the ability to create relationships with local businesses. I wish to support and encourage growth, to help give Thames the ability to develop and expand housing, schooling, businesses and sports facilities by using my youthful passion and drive to stand up for change in a forever changing world. I have passion for sport and am on committees for junior rugby and cricket.

holly.mackenzie@council.tcddc.govt.nz

ROB JOHNSTON



My wife, Andrea, and I moved to Thames 18 years ago and have raised our three children here. My work in architecture has involved regular contact with Council. My volunteer involvement has been with community clubs, where I've served on committees for the Thames Golf Club and Thames Squash Rackets Club. I'm also a Trustee of the Thames Public Art Trust and a past Trustee of Creative Coromandel. I am particularly proud of the achievements of the Public Art Trust, as we seek to beautify our surroundings by bringing art into the public arena. I am keen to support the Thames community and its organisations to achieve their goals.

rob.johnston@council.tcddc.govt.nz

KISHAN RAIKWAR



My family and I have been residents of Thames for about 13 years. My wife, Radha, and I opened Gastronomics in 2011, whilst also running the restaurant Club 404 Whangamatā for four years. Last year we were awarded a Hauraki Coromandel Business Award. I have over 30 years' experience in hospitality and can offer a leadership role through experience in restaurant management, food production, financial management and small business. I'm currently a board member of the Thames Business Association. I believe that my experience with people and managing can be utilised to help ensure wise expenditure of ratepayer money locally.

kishan.raikwar@council.tcddc.govt.nz



Heaven & Earth

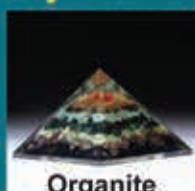


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TEN STONES TO CELEBRATE TEN YEARS

BY ROBERT SIMMONS

In keeping with the tenth anniversary of 'Our Coromandel', I was asked to choose ten special stones from the hundreds we offer at Heaven and Earth in Tairua, and to write something about their beneficial qualities. This is an easy task, because there are so many beautiful and wonderful stones to choose from, although it's a bit difficult to narrow it down to ten!

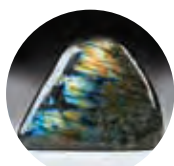
1. MOLDAVITE

is the only gemstone ever to fall from the sky. It is a translucent green tektite – a glassy material that was formed from the fusion of a huge exploding meteorite with earthly rock. Moldavite is known for its quality of accelerating the spiritual evolution of people who wear or carry it. This can manifest in tangible sensations of energy, in the activation of the chakras, in dreams, or even in surprising changes in one's work and/or relationships. In my experience, all of these changes work toward the person's highest good.



2. LABRADORITE

is an exceptionally beautiful form of feldspar, the same mineral that comprises Moonstone. It was first discovered in Labrador, Canada. It is treasured for its remarkable play of colour, known as labradorescence. Labradorite is known as the gemstone of magic, and is often chosen by people who seek to enhance their psychic abilities. It is also believed to provide psychic protection from negative energies or entities.



3. LARIMAR

is a form of blue Pectolite, and is found only in the Dominican Republic. It is valued for its rich patterns of sky blue and blue-green colours. On the energetic level, Larimar is said to bring calmness and serenity, and to aid in the release of stress. It is a stone of feminine power, and can link one with the Divine Feminine within. It supports a state of confident and relaxed well-being.



4. AMETHYST

is perhaps the world's most popular gemstone. Its deep purple colour and sparkling crystal forms are universally attractive. It is found on every continent, but most of the finest pieces come



from Uruguay. Amethyst is believed to provide wholesome, healing vibrations, and to purify one's energy field. It is also used as a stone of psychic protection.

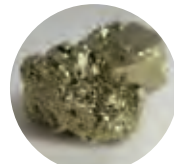
5. CELESTITE

is a strontium sulphate mineral that most often occurs in geodes and crystal clusters. The finest specimens come from Madagascar. Its energies are described as calming and uplifting. When used in meditation, Celestite can help to expand one's awareness into higher realities, including the angelic realm. It is one of the most universally loved stones by those on the spiritual path.



6. PYRITE

is a crystallised form of iron sulphide, and is known for its bright golden sheen. It has the nickname "fool's gold" because it was often mistaken for gold by inexperienced prospectors. Most of the best specimens come from Peru. Pyrite is believed to emanate a masculine energy, and is often chosen by those wishing to enhance their willpower, vitality, creativity and self-confidence.



7. AZEPTULITE

is the name given to a variety of about twenty rare quartz-based minerals that carry an unusual and powerful spectrum of energies. Azeptulite is said to be linked to an angelic group-soul entity that is in service to the energy and Light of the Great Central Sun. When one wears, carries or meditates with Azeptulite, one is exposed to this energy, which is believed to facilitate high levels of spiritual awakening. It is also said to dispel negative or unhealthy patterns on the level of cellular consciousness.



8. HEALERITE

is a beautiful lime-green Serpentine mineral found only in the mountains of Washington state, USA. Its



soft, "soapy" texture makes it pleasant to the touch, and its energy qualities are attractive to many people. Healerite is said to emanate currents that resonate with the spiritual blueprint of human health and wellbeing. It is often used by those engaged in alternative healing modalities. Among some crystal practitioners, it is viewed as the best all-round healing stone, which is where its name comes from.

9. AZUMAR

is an azure blue quartz-based gemstone from East Asia. Its name means "blue ocean," and its spiritual qualities evoke the flowing gentleness of the Water element. Azumar's energies are both peaceful and joyful. Its currents are said to bring feelings of refreshment, joy and rejuvenation to every cell in the body. It is considered to be a healing stone for the emotional body, and can aid in releasing negative fixations, sweeping them away with waves of pleasure and power. Azumar demonstrates that life itself is a flow of ecstasy, and that when one is in tune with the truth, one is in a state of rapturous joy.



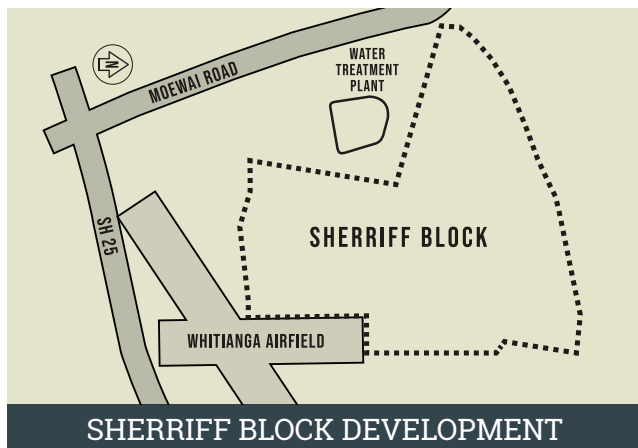
10. VIVIANITE

is a hydrous iron phosphate mineral, chiefly found in South American countries, especially Bolivia and Brazil. It forms beautiful green and blue-green crystals that are often translucent. It is one of the rarer crystalline minerals. Vivianite is among the premier stones for delving deeply into the realm of the heart. It helps in achieving inner silence in meditation, aids in dispelling negative thoughts, and works toward healing emotional wounds. Most importantly, it can open one's awareness to the love that dwells behind all things, which is also the true nature of one's own being.



So that is my list of ten wonderful stones, to commemorate *Our Coromandel's* ten great years of publication. Readers who would like to see and experience some or all of these stones (and many others) are invited to visit Heaven and Earth, 227 Main Road in Tairua. We are open every day, and our staff is well-informed and very friendly. The stones are looking forward to meeting you!

Mercury Bay



SHERRIFF BLOCK DEVELOPMENT

The development of the Council-owned 'Sherriff Block' on Moewai Road in Whitianga began earlier this year, with earthworks and stormwater pipework put in place.

The work is part of a 10-year programme to make use of the site for recreation purposes. The development plan includes an outdoor concert amphitheatre, equestrian space, a speedway, a motorcross facility, an outdoor entertainment area for circuses, markets, festivals and competitions, walkways, stormwater management/wetlands and an extension to the airfield.

Council's contribution of \$353,818 is limited to assisting with the management of stormwater from the site.

Our Council has signed a contract with Greenstone Events to have the Sherriff Block as the venue for their events over the next 10 years. This includes the Whitianga Summer Concert, which is usually held annually on Auckland Anniversary weekend in late January.

tcdc.govt.nz/sherriffblock



NEW CHUM WALKING TRACK

A track counter along the track connecting Whangapoua to the world famous New Chum Beach was installed in collaboration with DOC, Walking Access NZ and adjoining landowners.

KENWOOD DRIVE RESERVE, MATARANGI



A replacement playground was installed that includes a giant climbing 'web', slides, swings, balance equipment, mini pump track and a shaded picnic table. Cost: \$130,000.



MERCURY BAY MULTI-SPORTS PARK, WHITIANGA

A project to replace the playground at Moewai Park with a playground at the sports park has been started and will be completed in the 2022/23 financial year.

The netball courts were resurfaced (pictured) with funding support from the Mercury Bay Netball Club and Trust Waikato.

The total cost was \$272,000, with our Council providing \$202,000, Waikato Trust and Aotearoa Gaming Trust providing \$30,000 each and the Mercury Bay Netball Association contributing \$10,000.



NEW WHITIANGA REFUSE TRANSFER STATION

The new Whitianga Refuse Transfer Station (RTS) on Moewai Road is due to open March 2023. The new site will incorporate a Resource Recovery Centre (like the Seagull Centre in Thames and the Goldmine in Coromandel Town) which will be operated by the trustees, staff and volunteers of the Mercury Bay Resource Recovery Centre. The name for the Resource Recovery Centre is Wāhi Tukurua, meaning Place of Recycling, and was decided through a community contest and in conjunction with Ngāti Hei.

The new RTS layout has been designed with a focus on customer experience. Visitors will enter the site from Abrahamson Drive and move along a one-way traffic system past a recycling drop-off area with an option to then exit onto Moewai Road. Or users can continue on to drop reusable items at Wāhi Tukurua and then exit, or carry on to the entry weighbridge to drop off all other materials and then leave by the exit weighbridge heading back onto Abrahamson Drive. You can enter at Wāhi Tukurua's shop directly from Moewai Road.

The new weighbridge software allows for unmanned self-serve payment kiosks but RTS staff will be right there for a transition period to help all customers get used to the new system. The total project cost is \$2.957 million.

tcdc.govt.nz/MBRTS



MERI TE TAI MANGAKĀHIA RESERVE PLAYGROUND, WHANGAPOUA

In addition to the new BBQ area and basketball hoop, we installed new natural play equipment including swings, slide, nets and logs to challenge all ages and abilities. Cost: \$285,000.

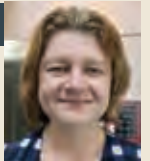
PETER MALCOLM MACKENZIE



My wife and I moved to Whitianga in 2016 with our two dogs. I am a retired lawyer, having practised law in Auckland City for 50 years. I have three main interests as a Mercury Bay Community Board member: (1) To encourage the supply of additional fresh water for Whitianga use; (2) To prevent further erosion of Buffalo Beach; (3) To promote the application of common sense to Community Board and Council decisions.

peter.mackenzie@council.tcdc.govt.nz

KRISSY ROBINSON



I am currently the chairperson of the Whitianga Toy Library and enjoy supporting other local charities and non-profits through my work as a local business operator. My aim is to ensure that all perspectives are always considered; encourage clear and timely communication of community matters; support the community to connect with and make use of our unique environment and local resources; bring experience in business and growth to projects; apply a small business owner's perspective – working with the resources we have, a 'can do' attitude, and a drive to improve; be wholly committed to supporting the development of our community into an even more enjoyable place to live.

krissy.robinson@council.tcdc.govt.nz

BESS KINGI JP



My connection to Whitianga spans 30 years. We, my husband and whānau, consider ourselves privileged to be living here. I am fortunate to be well supported in my business. I am a Justice of the Peace and a founder of Te Puna Reō o Whitianga. I'm on the committees of the Whitianga Residents and Ratepayers Association and the Community Organisation Grants Scheme. We steer this waka in the right direction for the betterment of our community. There is a real need for our Board to reflect the area's diversity. "Our strength is not ours alone but that of our community."

bess.kingi@council.tcdc.govt.nz

CAROLINE HOBMAN



As a "public servant" draughting maps, I experienced mid-1980s NZ governmental reforms. I now understand how central government's decisions have impacted small communities. Centralised decisions for short-term gain have contributed to long-term losses of lifestyles and needs of many New Zealanders. I have lived overseas and worked in hospitality; customer service; caring for families and elderly folk. The wellbeing of people and the environment is in the forefront of my mind. I am married, a mother, and have a degree in complementary medicine. I am passionate about herbal medicines, gardening, farming, and food production. I would like to hold regular local meetings to find local solutions to local issues.

caroline.hobman@council.tcdc.govt.nz

WHAT'S NEW IN OUR 2022/23 ANNUAL PLAN?

In June of 2022, we adopted our Annual Plan for 2022/23, setting in place a robust framework to manage changing circumstances that included rising inflation and supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19.

Like the rest of the world, we're facing labour and material shortages, unpredictable supply chains and rising costs for freight and materials that are continuing to impact the delivery of our capital works programme and our long-term financial forecasting.

As a result, in our 2022/23 Annual Plan we've made some changes to what was described in the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP) for this financial year.

RATES INCREASE LOWER THAN PLANNED

Setting the rates is one of the key outcomes of our 2022/23 Annual Plan. With inflation increasing around the world, and the New Zealand rate reaching 6.9 per cent, our Council worked hard to keep the average rates increases for the 2022/23 financial year at 5.9 per cent.

This is lower than both the 7.7 per cent we projected for 2022/23 in the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP) and the 8.3 per cent we consulted on in March and April 2022.

We were able to keep the rates increase lower than we originally anticipated because we were able to use some of our financial reserves from water, wastewater and stormwater retained earnings to partially fund these activities.

CHANGES LAUNCHED FOR BOAT RAMPS

We've adopted new fees at existing charged boat ramps and introduced fees to three additional boat ramps, which took effect from 1 August 2022. Feedback told us you wanted to lessen the burden on ratepayers for maintaining these facilities, and place more of the cost upon users.

The fees collected will stay in the local area to help pay for the boat ramps and wharves.

Fees now apply at nine ramps including Te Ariki Tahī/Sugarloaf Wharf (Te Kouma/Coromandel Harbour); Whangapoua; Matarangi; Whitianga Wharf/The Esplanade; Robinson Rd, Whitianga; Pūrangi (Cooks Beach – Pūrangi Reserve); Tairua Wharf; Royal Billy Point, Pāuanui and Beach Rd, Whangamatā. Our 17 other Council boat ramps remain free to use.

A proposal we had in our Annual Plan consultation document to change the fees charged for commercial use of our wharves is also on hold pending further consultation with wharf users.

Moving with the times, we also launched a brand new QR code payment system at our paid permitted boat ramps. These days, it's as simple as scanning a QR code with your mobile phone while you're at the boat ramp. Of course, you can still pay in person at our Council offices and approved retail outlets or online at our website.

tcdc.govt.nz/boatramps

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE INCREASED

We raised our capital expenditure from the \$42.5 million projected in our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan (LTP) to \$54 million for 2022/23. Inflation had increased more than we'd anticipated 18 months ago when our LTP was drawn up, and we added an additional 1.7 percent to the cost of all our projects to take account of the rising costs.

We also had \$8.6 million worth of projects delayed to the 2022/23 financial year due to COVID-19 lockdowns and supply chain disruptions.

Our Council staff will be monitoring this as we go ahead so we can be flexible and respond as best we can to changing circumstances.

MATARANGI OPEN SPACE LAND PURCHASE APPROVED

We've worked successfully with the Matarangi Community Trust (MCT), Matarangi Ratepayers Association (MRA) and Matarangi Land Holdings Ltd (MLHL) to secure the permanent protection of the Matarangi Open Space occupied by the golf course.

We've adopted a new shared ownership model and have agreed to contribute \$1.25 million to buy some of the open space land for residents and ratepayers to enjoy. This will be funded by existing reserve budgets with no impact on ratepayers. The remainder of the land will be purchased and owned by MLHL and MCT.

The plan will depend on MLHL and MCT raising the funds required for their investment in the land within two years of the Heads of Agreement being signed.

OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE ADJUSTED FOR 2022/23

Opex is our day-to-day costs of running our facilities and services. It has not been immune to global inflation, but we've offset it to some extent by using our financial reserves (retained earnings).



We've made a few adjustments from what we'd proposed in the LTP, including:

- \$200,000 for Corporate Greenhouse Gases Emission Reduction Plan implementation
 - \$305,000 for implementation and completion of the Shoreline Management Plan project.
- tcdc.govt.nz/smp and [tcdc.govt.nz/climate change](https://tcdc.govt.nz/climate%20change)**

PREPARING FOR THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

As we look to the future, we'll be welcoming and onboarding our incoming elected team and preparing to navigate some major legislative updates from central government.

On the horizon lie transformative changes to the Resource Management Act, which is currently under review; and to the management of the 'three waters' (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater). The three water reforms are now mandatory for all councils and from July 2024. There will be four new multi-regional entities in

place managing water services that were previously managed at a local level.

Some of the changes ahead may see our Council taking a larger role in wider issues flagged by reforms; issues as varied as housing shortages, the impact of climate change and rising sea levels, social policy and reducing carbon emissions.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Nationally, we've already begun to see how climate change poses a considerable challenge for our district's economy and for the safety of our local coastal communities, with sea-level rise in Aotearoa New Zealand now predicted to happen twice as fast as expected.

As we continue to plan for the future, we will need to be proactive, strategic and financially astute. We'll continue to review our capital works programme and to 'right-size' infrastructure as we work towards a 2023/24 Annual Plan and a 2024-2034 Long Term Plan that offer a robust and strategic approach to future changes.

This will help us to set future directions, ensuring that our local communities can be well-designed, resilient to climate change and equipped with the necessary infrastructure and services they need to thrive.

tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2022

HOW WE GOT HERE

- We consulted on our draft Annual Plan proposals from 11 March to 11 April.
- 201 submissions were received during the consultation period. Hearings took place on 2 May when Council heard from 21 of the submitters.
- On 24 May, our Council held its deliberations meeting to consider feedback and submissions.
- The final Annual Plan was adopted at our Council's meeting on Tuesday 28 June 2022.

Original
Proposal

Consultation
11 March -
11 April

Hearing
2 May

Public
deliberations
24 May

28 June
Annual Plan
adopted



Happy Anniversary 'Our Coromandel'

Ten years of marriage is traditionally marked with tin or aluminium, representing the durability and flexibility of a blessed union. Gifts to mark this occasion often involve tins, to store and preserve mementos that are special and important.

This year we mark the tenth anniversary of “Our Coromandel magazine”, and while it might not be tin, the magazine has been the repository where important Council news and information, along with stories about our communities, has been stored every year since 2013. It’s also been a durable marketing tool, packaged in a format that means its shelf life (like a tin can) is longer than something like a rate insert which, anecdotally, we know does not sit around for very long.

And when it comes to durability, we’ve been producing *Our Coromandel* in-house for ten years now – that’s a decade of commitment to working on telling the stories of our Council business, raising awareness of the issues our district has faced over this time, and promoting our people. From staff features and marketing local businesses, artists and community initiatives and events, to providing free advertising to agencies that need that support – including St John, The Coromandel Helicopter Trust and Surf Lifesaving NZ – we have a wealth of shared memories that encapsulate the special spirit of the Coromandel.

We receive fantastic feedback from ratepayers and readers, who tell us the magazine is a helpful source of information where they can learn more about what there is to experience, explore, eat, admire and understand about the Coromandel.

What we know is that the NZ magazine market overall is holding its own – even with the impact of COVID-19. Results reported in the 2021 Roy Morgan Poll, found Kiwis are buying more local magazines – with niche magazines, specific to a genre like fashion,

food, homes and gardens, becoming increasingly popular. More specialised magazines are popping up and focusing on niche markets like the lives of rural women (shepherdess.co.nz), travelling the country in your campervan (Caravans & Destinations), and even businesses and companies are putting out their own promotional marketing dressed up as a magazine – look at Carters, the building supply company, with its “Trade Leader” bi-monthly or Resene, the paint company’s “Habitat” magazine.



And in a time where there is so much information and news out there, particularly through online and digital channels, *Our Coromandel* magazine has been an effective and different tactic we’ve applied to share our news with you. We’ve found our niche magazine about the Coromandel and Council business has a solid readership. Our print-run continues to be around approximately 17,000 copies, with the majority being posted out to our absentee ratepayers, where it sits on the coffee table or the bookshelf at the family bach for visitors to flick through and read year-round.



And while we don’t profess to be in the league of the national glossies like *North and South* or *Your Home and Garden*,

over the years we’ve been creating and refining our unique product to reflect what we all love about the Coromandel. We’re talking good vibes, good people, beautiful places, spaces –

along with the stuff that you need to know about what our Council has been working on, where your rates are being spent and the issues that we are dealing with now, and planning for in the coming years and into the future.

So for now, let’s be nostalgic and take a wander down memory lane of the last ten years of *Our Coromandel*.





information insert that was normally distributed inside the rates reminders. Magazine production (graphic design, writing and photography) was all done in-house by our communications team, with costs (print and post) paid through existing marketing budgets. There was a print run of 12,000 copies and the average cost per ratepayer was \$2.66 per magazine.

A feature story in the 2013 edition was re-introducing ratepayers to Mayor Glenn Leach, in his second term. He told *Our Coromandel* back then, "I want to build on the foundation of what Council started on three years earlier", which entailed finding ways to bring more visitors to the district in the shoulder seasons (October–December and February–April). The plan was to develop more product to entice people to the Coromandel, which included a cycleway from Kaiaua to Kōpū, alongside the investigation into a Coromandel Great Walks project, with the first step being a feasibility study into some proposed routes. A working party for the Walks project was established with a number of agencies involved from DOC, Waikato Regional Council, Destination Coromandel and local iwi Ngāti Hei. The rationale for these projects tied in with

'Our Coromandel' magazine is officially born

2013 was the year of the Census, farmers around the country rejoicing in mid-April when rains started to break one of the worst droughts to hit the country in decades.

Later in this same year Emirates Team New Zealand was in San Francisco to challenge Oracle Team USA in the America's Cup (where they narrowly lost nine to eight) – and the following month in October, our district launched the first edition of *Our Coromandel*. The magazine was mailed out to absentee ratepayers, substituting the traditional one-page, doubled-sided



Sleeping God Canyon. PHOTO COURTESY WWW.THECOROMANDEL.COM



the government's 2013 Tourism Sector Report, which highlighted domestic tourism accounting for 59 per cent of visitor expenditure and, globally, more people travelling, increasing the need for innovation and demand-led product development.

Our Coromandel's back cover for the year promoted existing tourism product, with an image of one of our biggest and most exciting tourist offerings, guided tours of the Sleeping God Canyon in the Kauaeranga Valley. En route to The Pinnacles walk, canyon.co.nz offered full-day packages allowing you to descend 10 waterfalls, abseil, jump, slide and zipline through the canyon. Canyonz is still in the business a decade later.

Another feature in the magazine highlighted the work our Council was doing at the time on a business case investigating upgrades of wharf and boat ramp facilities around Coromandel Harbour and the Thames Coast. The idea was to formulate options to consider an all-tide access facility enabling greater accessibility to passenger ferry, charter boats and recreational users. This groundwork 10 years on has paid off as we now progress the \$20 million upgrade of Te Ariki/Sugarloaf Wharf in the harbour.



Why do people decide to move to the Coromandel?

That was the big question we asked in our 2014-2015 edition of the magazine.

Is it easy to have a better work-life balance here and what was our Council doing to support this? *Our Coromandel* spoke to three different couples on life in the district, including Alison Henry and her lawyer husband Alan (below, left), who moved from Grey Lynn to Cooks Beach, with Alan having the opportunity to expand his practice to Whitianga. Ten years on the Henrys are still living their dream, Alan now fully retired and Alison's conservation work being acknowledged with a New Year's Honour in 2021 (see our Local Legends feature on P49 for more).

Our Council's programme of work to support moving to the district focused on features about our business broker arm, and promotion of wireless and rural broadband and wireless network that was starting to shoot around the district. One of the first areas to benefit was Kōpū, south of Thames, where industrial and commercial land was situated. Our economic data for 2014 showed our biggest sectors were retail and construction, while the average wage was \$40k back then. Eight years on the average wage here is now \$50k, and our retail and construction continue to be the top employers.

Our support for more tourism product continued, with the route development of the Kaiaua to Kōpū cycleway gaining traction and we also raised awareness of building and development opportunities, including a 'Doing Better Business' campaign to attract investment into Kōpū's commercial land. On the residential building side, we profiled Gus Anning and Sarah Rowe and their young family, who were finishing off constructing their radically

sustainable Earthship home in the Puketui Valley of Hikuai, near Pāunau – a passive solar house incorporating the use of natural and recycled materials.

"Council staff were very encouraging, helpful and willing to learn with us the Earthship concepts and had nothing but a commonsense approach," Gus shared at the time. The couple's Earthship Te Timatanga is still as strong as ever and can be rented as a holiday destination.

Along with Gus and Sarah's acknowledgement of our building staff, *Our Coromandel* also did a separate feature on our own Council staff, which has become a regular piece in each publication every year since. We wanted to acknowledge our people, who are also part of the wider Coromandel community – who live and work here and call the Coromandel home, and have true civic pride in the job they do. The first feature back in 2014 promoted local designers and jewellers, with our staff, who were volunteered to be models for the shoot. One brave beauty was Ariana, our Governance Senior Committee Advisor (right), who we're extremely fortunate to still have with us. Since 2014 Ariana has completed her postgraduate degree in Social Policy and been promoted to Governance Team Leader.



2015-2016

We bid goodbye to Mayor Glenn Leach

We bid goodbye to Mayor Glenn Leach in this edition as he shared with ratepayers that he'd made the call after two terms in office that he wasn't going to stand again.

His farewell interview was conducted at the old Coroglen Saleyard where, back in his farming days before he became Mayor Glenn, he used to sell 300-400 head of stock each year. Mayor Glenn reflected on the importance of the Coromandel's history and unique qualities and the potential for it to become a "heritage region", focusing less on volumes and more on adding higher value product and services.

Acknowledging and remembering our past was a recurrent theme in this edition of



Concept art for Thames Indoor Sports Project.



Our Coromandel, with Thames being one of only three places around the country to host the Women of Empire exhibition, which showed us the lives of about 30 women of Australia and New Zealand whose lives were transformed by their experiences of WW1.

Our Council's WW1 Memorial Forest project was thriving, with seven forests planted so far – one in each Community Board area of our district – and the then Minister of Conservation Maggie Barry (below left) taking part with local iwi and school children at the planting of the Gallipoli site on Department of Conservation (DOC) land above Cathedral Cove on Arbour Day 2015. The project provided sites to honour the NZ soldiers who fell in the war, and to honour men from specific towns around the Coromandel who died in battle. An equal number of trees was planted to remember each man who never came home from the war. There are now eight established sites around the Coromandel that people can come and visit.

tcdc.govt.nz/WW1memorialforest

This year our Council also signed off on our Long Term Plan for 2015-2025. After community consultation and feedback it was agreed a proposed \$200 annual fee

Mayor Glenn Leach and Deputy Mayor Peter French take time out to reminisce at the new Council reserve at Coroglen – formerly a stock saleyard.



for anyone renting their home for short-term holiday accommodation wouldn't be introduced, while our stormwater activity became district-funded and our i-SITE and information centres were retained as a district-funded activity. Local-funded rates were allocated to projects like the Whitianga Town Centre, Tairua/Mary Beach wharf and boatramp upgrades, the Active Thames sports facilities programme, Coromandel Town Citizen's Hall refurbishment and the Wentworth Valley road extension for Whangamatā. This was also the year the Pāuanui Community Centre opened, which now houses the Pāuanui community library, information centre and provides a venue for the local Community Board meeting.



Cutting the red tape at the opening of the Pāuanui Community Centre.

2016-2017

Sandra Goudie's time to make magic...

It was Sandra Goudie's time to make magic as she was voted in as Mayor of the district by a strong majority.

As a former MP for the Coromandel she got straight into business, with her agenda for the next three years "looking at cost efficiencies, sticking to core business like drinking water quality and supply, as well as keeping oversight that council infrastructure was fit for purpose".

Breaking down parochialism between wards and Community Boards was also something Mayor Sandra wanted to address. "Everyone has their own piece of magic on the Coromandel. For me it's Otatau Bay (north of Colville), for others it could be Matarangi or Pāunaui or Onemana. There's a little piece of magic here for everyone; my job is keeping that alive," she told *Our Coromandel*.

The year 2016 also marked the year decisions on our new District Plan took effect and was notified for Appeals. The new Plan allowed for 41 more permitted activities to occur and less hassle to build things like a granny flat (minor units). We received 72 appeals over a range of sections of the Plan. In 2022 we currently have two district plans – the Operative District Plan and the Proposed District Plan – Appeals Version, and we work through just a handful of appeals.

When it came to promotion of our district, *Our Coromandel* magazine got bigger and brighter as we started to double our paid



advertising space due to demand from businesses wanting to be involved. Sales guru and a true Coromandel icon Warren "The Maleman" Male came on board as our sales representative. Warren founded Coromandel FM back in the 90s before selling the station to Radioworks in 2004 and staying on as the station's Head of Sales until he retired in 2021. Within 12 months the magazine's costs (all of which come out of the communications allocated budget) reduced from \$3 per ratepayer to \$1.66. Meanwhile, you can read more about Warren in our local legends feature on P47.

The theme for this edition was focused on adventures on two wheels. Construction of the Kaiaua to Kōpū extension of the Hauraki Rail Trail had started, a joint project between our Council and Hauraki District Council. We also raised awareness of many of the mountain biking and



cycling trails around the Coromandel from the Whitianga Bike Park to the Fletcher to Stony Bay track at the top of the peninsula, a 10km dual-use route taking in outstanding views of the coast.



PHOTO CREDIT: JASON BERRY OF THE WHANGAMATA RIDGES MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK



A flurry of ex-Tropical Cyclones

We hit the five-year mark of 'Our Coromandel' with a flurry of ex-tropical cyclones – Debbie and Cook.

The latter caused a state of emergency being declared for our district after major floods caused evacuations and put our communities, along with our emergency management, civil defence and recovery teams, to the test.

Mayor Sandra called for support in lobbying government agencies for greater funding of our State Highways, to renew our focus on safety, resilience and access for everyone to travel around the district.

Travelling our roads was also featured in this edition with the promotion of our Coromandel Electric Vehicle (EV) Touring Route, which was completed in 2017, with EV charging stations established in Coromandel Town, Thames, Whitianga, Tairua and Whangamatā. The project was a collaboration between our Council, EECA (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority), Charge Net NZ and PowerCo, looking at promoting the Coromandel as



ChargeNet CEO Steve West charges his EV at the launch of the Thames fast charger in September 2016.

a visitor destination, while supporting a renewable energy approach.

Steampunk the Thames festival was also growing in popularity. Partly funded through our Council's Major Events Fund, it's a modern-day celebration of Victorian industrial-era innovation and creativity. The discovery of the goldfields around Thames in 1867 (also marked in 2017 with a 150th commemoration) set the foundations for Thames to become a Steampunk Town. In more recent years Steampunk has been cancelled due to COVID-19, but there are plans for its resurrection for 2023. Thames' sesquicentennial anniversary was also

commemorated with local artist

Darin Jenkins (above, right) commissioned to create a landmark sculpture, with a brief from

local iwi Ngāti Maru and a \$50,000 grant from the Thames Community Board. The finished piece, a creation of wood, steel and stone, stands proudly at the southern end of the Kauaeranga Bridge, next to the Hauraki Rail Trail and Ngāti Maru Highway (SH25).

Local and homegrown food producers and providers were also showcased in this edition of *Our Coromandel*. This was part of our Council's commitment to showcase and support Coromandel businesses. Under the Coromandel Food Collective brand we've been able to promote businesses through a stand at the Auckland Food Show, and through marketing material. Producers like Castle Rock Fine Foods castlerockfinefoods.co.nz, Thames Valley Bacon facebook.com/ThamesValleyBacon, Uncle Dunkle's Wood Fired Chilli Sauce uncledunkles.co.nz, and Omahu Valley Citrus omahuvalleycitrus.co.nz continue to thrive.



Shelley Corles and mum Margaret help make the Castle Rock Cafe products and business a local success story.



Shaun Neustroski of Thames Valley Bacon on the Coromandel Food Collective Stand.



The Thames Coast took a barraging

The Thames Coast took a barraging at the start of 2018 with a storm and king tides that kept the Coast Rd/SH25 closed for many days, and forced more evacuations.

This latest event and lobbying from communities and our Council saw NZTA/Waka Kotahi spend \$19 million within the year to improve this section of road. As part of a stronger relationship and growing partnership in roading, lobbying for two-lane bridges to replace the one-lane bridges between Tairua and Pāuanui ramped up. That groundwork is paying off now as Waka Kotahi have allocated money in its latest Regional Transport Plan for a business case for the upgrade of the Pepe Stream Bridge.

Meanwhile progress was also starting to happen in our Council's own infrastructure programme for 2018. Stage One of the Whitianga Town Centre upgrade was completed at the end of this year – a \$4.7 million redevelopment along Albert St, including a town square/plaza that linked through to the waterfront Esplanade. Stage Two, the upgrade of the playground on the Esplanade, through to Taylors Mistake was planned for the following year. A further \$1.4 million (thanks to the government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund) meant a car park for up to 250 vehicles could be constructed at Hāhei to cater to growing numbers of people visiting Cathedral Cove.

It was an ocean-based theme for the cover of *Our Coromandel* this year as we raised awareness of all fishing charters around

the district, along with the local fishing clubs – many of which are run by volunteers who manage to pull together fishing enthusiasts for competitions, catch-ups and sea-faring yarns about “the biggest catch”. This was told in the context that everyone is acknowledging that, as fishing stocks become depleted, attitudes need to change and that everyone needs to limit the catch rather than catch the limit.



Improving water was also a big issue we continued to commit to, as our Council adopted its Long Term Plan (LTP) in June 2018. This is the document that guides our budgets and direction over the following ten years. A total of \$16 million was allocated in the 2018-2028 LTP to fund upgrades to all our drinking water plants around the district. Thames has been upgraded and Whitianga was underway in 2018. Since then, we've completed upgrades at Tairua, Pāuanui, Coromandel Town and Whangamatā (Beverley Hills). The upgrade programme for the remaining seven water treatment plants will be completed by 2023/24 and has been included in our latest 2021–2031 Long Term Plan.



2019-2020

An infrastructure analogy

Voted in for her second term, Mayor Sandra began with an infrastructure analogy where she spoke about digging in and continuing to lay the foundations to build on the work she started in her first term.

“We’re still focusing on the basics – pipes, roads, toilets and building,” she told *Our Coromandel*.

This new term saw the return of many elected members, some new faces and also tributes to Tairua-Pāunaui Community Board member Brent Turner (below, left) and Mercury Bay Community Board Chair Paul Kelly (below, right) who passed away

in March 2019. For Paul it was sadly just months before the national Tuia – Encounters 250 commemorations began, one of the

main events being held in Mercury Bay in October of that year – a project to which Paul had contributed much time, energy and passion.

Tuia Encounters marked 250 years since Captain James Cook and the Endeavour landfall in NZ and the first meetings between Māori and Europeans. Te Whanganui O Hei/Mercury Bay was one of the first of four landing sites, and Te Pōwhiri was the event hosted at Wharekaho/ Simpsons Beach commemorating this historical event. The Mercury Bay 250 Anniversary Trust, comprised of Ngāti Hei kaumatua, community leaders, historians and educationalists, helped facilitate the commemoration ceremonies, events and legacy projects here.

This was the year the government’s Provincial Growth Fund was released, which allowed business cases to proceed on the viability of an upgrade of the Sugarloaf Wharf



in Coromandel Town, and a business and marine precinct at Kōpū, south of Thames.

Sticking with the coast theme, after adopting our Coastal Management Strategy and Coastal Hazards Policy the previous year, 2019 was when our Council embarked on our Shoreline Management Plan project, which would span three years. The objective would be defining the flooding and erosion risk to our communities, while also getting an understanding of the social, cultural, economic and natural environment across all parts of our coastline over the next century. You can find out more on how we’ve progressed on P84.

Meanwhile, our regular feature on Council staff focused on our Customer Service team, our friendly frontline staff who keep busy by helping field questions ranging from rates, rubbish, building and dogs. We introduced Tina (top right) from our Thames office, who’s lived most of her life in Thames and the Hauraki Plains, so is an invaluable source of local knowledge.

The *Our Coromandel* cover for 2019 promoted the zipline tour at Driving



Creek Railway in Coromandel Town. The exhilarating eight-line canopy tour opened in October, as part of a major tourism expansion for Driving Creek, which already boasted a railway tourist joyride and one of the largest potteries in Australasia.
drivingcreek.nz

Little did we know that 2020 would herald a global pandemic that would close our international borders, lock down the country and significantly impact our local tourism industry.



Haunui from Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.

2020-2021

Everyone with homes and hearts in the Coromandel found our district a haven amidst the challenges that COVID-19 brought.

Full-time residents and holiday homeowners alike were spending more time on their own properties around the Coromandel due to lockdowns.

Messages of kindness and localism were the catch-cry around the country, and *Our Coromandel* went with the theme of backing your backyard – exploring, enjoying and supporting local – going back to the good old days involving things like picnics at the beach, swing ball and surfing. We teamed up with our neighbouring district Councils, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako, who also advertised their backyard bounty in our magazine – along with a joint feature on the Hauraki Rail Trail which takes in all three districts. In the eight years since it opened, the Rail Trail has been a major driver of tourism for all three of our districts.

Another economic driver that got a boost this year was a \$19.95 million grant from the government's Provincial Growth Fund to



expand the Sugarloaf Wharf/Te Arika Tahi at Te Kouma, near Coromandel Town. This was supported by findings from the business case, which was completed the previous year, with an expansion of this facility allowing an injection into the aquaculture industry. This same year the government also funded \$8.2 million through the government's \$3 billion shovel-ready fund, to unlock a business and marine precinct at Kōpū, south of Thames.

There were a lot of boat ramp upgrades around our district this year. Royal Billy Point was completed. Pleasant Point Pāuanui had the ramp widened, while major improvements were made at the boat ramps at Whangapoua and Whitianga's Robinson Road.

While being out on the water was fine, our water sources on land were another issue. We spent 95 consecutive days without rain around the Coromandel in the first half of 2020 – with our streams at the lowest since 1959 – so conservation and water use messaging was a major priority. By June our Council had adopted our Water Demand Strategy and the following month we had signed up to Tranche One of the government's Three Waters Reform. This

Everyone with homes and hearts in the Coromandel found our district a haven



did not commit us to reforming water services or transferring assets, but enabled us to access funding for capital or operational spending. With the \$4.8 million we received, we allocated it to water metering projects for Whitianga and Whangamatā.

And while COVID-19 may have brought us down, the Coromandel was not out. We profiled businesses across the district, in a quietly thriving movement producing and providing fresh, locally-grown fruit and vegetables through subscriptions services and roadside stalls. Our local community papers (all nine of them) were still spreading the news and we met some golden oldies getting out there and giving it a go (see image above).



PHOTO CREDIT: THE VALLEY PROFILE.



The blue revolution and riding the crest of the sustainable aquaculture wave was the theme of last year's 'Our Coromandel'.

We looked at how much the farmed aquaculture industry contributes to our district economically and socially, and updated progress on infrastructure-related projects, as our district, like the rest of New Zealand, worked through the economic and social impacts of COVID-19.

We also profiled our aquaculture industry that's thriving around the district, along with the various sustainable practices being implemented to make sure we look after the good things we have.

Mayor Sandra cast out the line in her last term as Mayor, where she spoke to *Our Coromandel* about the past six years and what's been achieved so far, despite extreme weather events (cyclones, flooding, droughts) and a global pandemic. "We're in a constant paradigm of change and we need to roll with it. Strength and faith are what shapes us; being mindful of others will get us through and ready to take on the next challenge," she shared.

We started planning for more homes, and our main service centre of Thames was the first town of focus for a Spatial Plan and applications in with the government's Kāinga Ora (Housing NZ) fund to help open up land south of Thames for development.



Supporting thriving communities while assessing land risks was also the focus of our Shoreline Management Plans – providing large-scale hazard assessment of our flooding and erosion issues within our district. Two years into the three-year project, our four coastal panels (made up of community stakeholders), our co-governance committee (made up of iwi and elected members), and technical experts were making headway into identifying options and pathways around vulnerable parts of our coastline. Our coastal activity was also supported through our partnerships with Coastcare and our communities to plant 44,000 plants to protect and restore our dunes and beachfronts.

This was also the year we signed off on our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, setting out a \$455 million work programme over the next decade grappling with major issues including planning for sustainable growth, addressing climate change and handling rubbish and recycling. It also works through major and impending reforms coming down the line – three waters, the reform of the Resource Management Act and the

*The blue revolution
and riding the crest of the
sustainable
aquaculture wave*



future of local government: issues that will have repercussions for our district and the country for decades to come.

DO YOU WANT *OUR COROMANDEL* MAGAZINE TO CONTINUE?

Every year we conduct a survey to get feedback on what you like about the magazine. Do you want to keep receiving a copy?

After 10 years we're also considering whether we focus even more on our digital offering and make this edition our very last. So, we want to hear from you as to whether you support the continuation of *Our Coromandel* magazine or not. Email communicationsteam@tcdc.govt.nz and share your thoughts and feedback.

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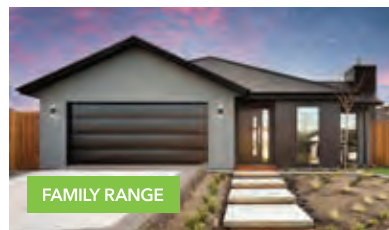
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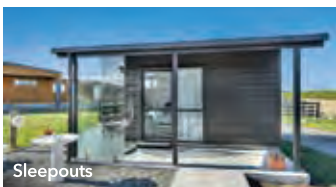
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Dean Allen
District Manager

Eileen Hopping
Southeast (Whangamata
and Tairua-Pāuanui)
Area Manager

Helena Stratford
Mercury Bay and
Coromandel-Colville
Area Administrator

Rosaleen Ward
Thames Area
Manager

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE OUR COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT TEAM WAS ESTABLISHED – LOCAL PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITIES. HERE WE INTRODUCE YOU TO DEAN AND HIS TEAM AND HOW THEY CAN HELP YOU.

WHAT THEY DO

forge and
build stronger
relationships

The role of our Community Management team is to **forge stronger connection with our locals and foster relationships between community groups.** It's about developing two-way communication between the community and our Council, as well as helping to foster positive and mutually beneficial connections, like linking community groups up with funding opportunities.

District Manager and leader of the Community Management Team, Dean Allen, describes his team's purpose as "liaison between our local community, tangata whenua, and ratepayers – and their Community Boards, Councillors, and operations at Council.

"We're advocates, we're facilitators, we're go-betweens," he says, "but most of all, we hear community aspirations, and how we can align this

with what Council is planning and delivering," he says.

"The beauty of our roles is that we're here to serve the communities we are a part of, and we love," says Margaret Harrison (affectionately known as Bubbles). "We help community members and groups navigate through Council processes so they can achieve their goals.

"We've made real inroads as a team into solidifying the engagement process between our Council and our communities – working with them and creating a meaningful conversation. It's all about **serving the community and getting good outcomes.**" she says.

Heather Bruce, Area Manager of the Mercury Bay ward, puts it simply: "We're a tight-knit team that gets stuff done. We are totally focused on delivering services to our communities."

WEENERS

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Important role

An important role of community management is making sure that the priorities and customs of tangata whenua are heard and respected.

A main achievement for Dean is **developing more frequent opportunities to engage with tangata whenua**. It is an ongoing process that Dean says is a primary focus. This is equally important to his hard-working team, who have spent the last year establishing and strengthening relationships with local iwi and tangata whenua within their own wards – in conjunction with Frank Thorne, our Principal Advisor for Māori Engagement. The team acknowledge that there is a lot of mahi still to be done and are committed to fostering meaningful change.

“In Thames, we established bi-monthly hui with mana whenua for this area, Ngāti Maru, who are also mana whenua in other areas on the Coromandel,” reports Rosaleen Ward.

Heather Bruce explains, **“Building relationships with iwi and working to understand kaupapa and respect te ao Māori, is non-negotiable.”**

Dean says that quantifying the achievements of the team is hard because **much of their work focuses on facilitating for others**. The team spends a lot of time fostering relationships with community groups and ratepayer associations – sometimes attending meetings and to act as a liaison.

“We’re also working to connect more to these groups and find out more about what’s going on, so we can give people a broader update and drill down to any actions that may be required,” says Dean.

A new community management improvement programme has identified seven projects that can help to **actively improve engagement and partnerships**, including understanding and providing for our iwi partnerships, understanding and providing for our stakeholder relationships, perfecting how we provide for engagement in our projects, and reviewing how we do our funding agreements and grants.

The team has also **made it a mission to help community groups navigate the sometimes complicated processes** involved in achieving their goals. This can include helping to manage funding agreements for grant recipients, dealing with health providers and other agencies, providing input and advice on projects and helping communities to get their ideas in front of elected members or our Council.

They know their stuff when it comes to getting stuff done at Council and, as Bubbles put it, the team is “always here to champion the little guy”.

made it a mission to help

WHAT CAN THE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT TEAM DO FOR YOU?

The real question here is, what can’t they do for you? With their experience and an abiding love for their communities, our team are ready and willing to help you with just about anything from connecting you to other like-minded groups to navigating complex Council processes. As the friendly faces of our Council, your Area Managers are the bridge between your community and Council, making it easier for you to achieve your goals, make meaningful connections and make your patch the best it can be.

What can’t they do for you?

He Whare Āhuru



Greetings from Vivian Blake, General Manager, Moana House & Village.

Moana House has provided a warm, caring, and supportive home for older people in the Whangamatā community for more than three decades.

From its beginnings with 36 rest home beds, the facilities have grown to include a hospital wing and expanded rest home that accommodates independent and assisted-living services for primary care and residents who are convalescing.

Run by a charitable trust, Moana House & Village is about to grow in two directions as we respond to the

changing needs of our older population. Indications are that one in three people in the Whangamatā community will need the support of aged residential care services at some point.

We see a growing need for a purpose-built dementia unit, as well as a real need for independent apartment living for those who are mobile and want to enjoy a lifestyle where they are self-reliant.

At Moana House, we believe that education is a lifelong activity and independence should be retained wherever possible.



Rest Home Rooms and Hospital Beds: There are a total of 47 beds at Moana House made up of 27 rest home beds and 20 hospital beds.



Willson Gardens: At the village of Willson Gardens there are 14 retirement units all of which are occupied.



Serviced Apartments: There are five serviced apartments – one is currently vacant and available for occupation.

Villa Development: We have submitted a Resource Consent application for the development of 12 new villas. These will be independent living for persons who want the freedom to enjoy a full and carefree lifestyle.

New Care Facility Planned: Once the villa development is underway, we will progress our plans to build an 80-bed care facility to replace the rest home and hospital and incorporate a much-needed dementia unit.



Artist's impression.

Staff Accommodation: As part of our staff recruitment and retention plan, we are working to add two small dwellings for staff accommodation. Rental accommodation in Whangamatā is at a premium and can be a barrier for workers coming to the region.

~ A safe caring place ~



Moana House & Village is located in the beautiful beachside town of Whangamatā on the east coast of the north island, at the foot of the Coromandel Peninsula.

Whangamatā is conveniently situated just 30 minutes north of Waihi, 45 minutes east of Thames, 1 hour 45 minutes from Hamilton and about 2 hours from Auckland.

The town's shops cater for most needs with a New World supermarket, Bunnings and other trade stores, plenty of restaurants and cafes 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 offers 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 Āhuru - a caring safe place

Moana House & Village
Whangamatā

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LOCAL HEROES



PHOTOS CREDIT: GRAEME MURRAY

INSPIRING A LOVE OF THE OUTDOORS: *Ally Davey*

Outdoors enthusiast Ally Davey has made a career out of championing access to nature.

Ally grew up in Maramarua and was inspired to move to the Coromandel after completing the Moehau Man Multisport Race in the early 2000s. As she paddled out of Waikawau Beach and on to Kennedy Bay she saw a line of tractors parked on the beach and decided to one day call the spot home. It took her ten years to, after working for a global sports brand in Germany, but in 2014 she made the move.

Ally is one of the driving forces behind the Ride Coromandel Bike Park and Coromandel Trails Collective, which has united tracks and trails operators in the district to work together.

Ally has a passion for connecting people to the outdoors and was drawn to the sport of adventure racing after founding Girls On Top – a club for women to encourage them to be active in the outdoors. She sees mountain biking and cycling as a way of empowering women to gain confidence and share fun times with like-minded ladies. Her Wāhine on Wheels group holds training workshops across the region to encourage wāhine to ride with mana.

Ally descends from Tūwharetoa and Ngāti Uenuku and she is also passionate about protecting kauri trees, after her father planted one in 1932 on the Whanganui river. She has helped to manage the risk of kauri dieback on the Coromandel by collaborating with DOC to design, build and implement the first kauri dieback targeted bike wash station, located at the Ride Coromandel Bike Park. Ally is currently working with local landowners to develop trail access on the Northern Coromandel along original horse and cart trails.

A podiatrist by training, Ally found her real passion in life once she moved into environmental education and protection. These days, you'll find her freediving in the open ocean and learning to surf, between working hard to get cyclists of all ages and stages onto Ride Coromandel's stunning series of tracks and trails.

WHAT'S YOUR MOST AMBITIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL FOR OUR DISTRICT?

To create 300 kilometres of prime single trails linking multiple hubs across the Coromandel to showcase our environment, culture and biodiversity. How cool would it be to ride the length of the Coromandel Ranges by e-bike listening to kiwi calling at night, watching the tops of kauri poke their heads through the skyline and see a bunch of laughing mokopuna sleeping under the stars after a big day riding?

My goal is to build a world-class local team of trail builders who are employed locally and live locally.

WHAT'S YOUR VISION FOR THE COROMANDEL TRAIL COLLECTIVE?

The vision for the Trail Collective is to develop a network of destination trails, tracks and shared pathways that enhances recreational activity across the wider Coromandel region that links the Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel Districts.

Our objectives are:

1. Improve social cohesion, community health and wellbeing, by encouraging active recreation and connection to the outdoors.
2. Create great experiences, by developing well-maintained tracks that enhance cultural and heritage value.

3. Create a network of trails linking towns and tourism destinations that enables trail users to stay longer in the region and experience our epic destination whilst supporting the local economy, increasing visitor attraction and spending.

We do this with a strong sense of our values which are whanaungatanga (family connection and sense of place), kotahitanga (unity of purpose and collaboration) and kaitiakitanga (guardianship and participation).

WHAT'S THE MOST REWARDING PART OF YOUR JOB?

I get to ride the trails that I have helped create and have had a small part in leaving a legacy for mokopuna and their mokopuna to come. Hopefully I leave this place better than it was.

WHAT MOTIVATES AND INSPIRES YOU IN YOUR WORK?

I think you don't choose the Coromandel, it chooses you. And I am very fortunate to be able to live and be a part of this magical part of the world, just being able to ride some of the most remote parts of this region is special enough for me.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SPOT IN THE COROMANDEL?

On my bike, in the Northern Coromandel, watching the sun rise over the Mercs (Mercury Islands), Port Charles and Stony Bay after climbing 500 meters in the dark is a pretty cool place to be.

BEST PLACE FOR KAI?

Pretty stoked to have the Wharf Cafe in Coromandel Town serving up amazing food – that's my go-to place for yum.



Coromandel



GIVING COROMANDEL A VOICE:

Warren Male

As a young teenager growing up in Whitford, attending high school at St. Peter's, Warren Male would make regular after-school visits to the Radio Hauraki studios in Auckland to peer through the window and dream of working inside.

He harboured an even bigger dream to one day own a radio station himself.

Warren got his chance after finishing college when an opportunity came up at Radio Whakatane, which kicked off a career in radio. From overnight announcing to daytime shifts with various New Zealand stations, he also held sales and marketing roles.

He finished up his on-air career with Radio Pacific in 1992 and turned to the Coromandel for his next challenge, deciding the Peninsula needed a united voice to bring the district together.

In 1992 he realised the big dream and switched on Coromandel FM for the first time.

WHY DID YOU START COROMANDEL FM?

The Coromandel was one of the few areas at that time which didn't have one single voice. We decided to tender for district-wide frequencies, link them together, and give the district a voice.

We had earlier seen Pāuanui as having potential for a strong holiday market so we thought we'd start a short-term six week station to get an understanding of the market. On Boxing Day of 1987 we launched from the Pāuanui shopping centre, then we were in Whangamatā the following year. Those early efforts helped us understand

the market before we decided to go big and launch a Peninsula-wide station.

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES AND HIGHLIGHTS OF EARLY DAYS?

We started off with the studio in Thames but Thames by itself was never going to be enough – we needed to cover the whole Peninsula for it to work. It was a big challenge to create a network of transmission sites in order to cover the whole district as we intended. So, we spent a lot of time talking to farmers and landowners to erect the poles and aerials that we needed to create the network of sites that would cover the whole area.

A definite highlight was on 4 December 1992 when we switched on the whole Peninsula and launched Coromandel FM. We were creating a local radio station that was very local at a time when so many smaller areas were being managed centrally by the networks out of the big cities.

In small markets people love localism. We would send our announcers out to broadcast live from our towns. They would MC events, commentate on fashion parades, just turn up to everything local. Then over summer we'd have up to ten vehicles on the road, doing summer promotions for our clients and being involved in the great Coromandel holiday period.

For 35 years I've personally been out on the road for our summer promotions, and I've never missed a summer. That's definitely been a highlight, being on the road for our clients. Seeing the kids and families get involved with our fun and games, there's nothing better.

THE STATION IS NOW OWNED BY MEDIWORKS, BUT YOU'RE STILL INVOLVED IN LOCAL RADIO?

MediaWorks purchased the network from us in 2004, and the timing just seemed right. But we do still have a very local radio presence in the district through Coromandel CFM, who I consult for these days.

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF LIVING IN THE COROMANDEL?

It has to be our home in Pāuanui, where my wife Angie and I have been "living and loving it" now for seven years. We've travelled the world, but we always come back here to the blue and green peacefulness.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE SPOT FOR KAI?

I can't choose just one, so my two very favourite spots would have to be Gastronomics in Thames and The Church in Hāhei.



KERETA HILL OVERLOOKING MANAIA HARBOUR.

HAURAKI HEALTH LEADER STEPS UP: *Riana Manuel*

Hauraki's Riana Manuel (Ngāti Pukenga, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Kahungunu) has taken on what is perhaps the health sector's most challenging job.

In 2022, Riana was appointed chief executive of Te Mana Hauora Māori, the new Māori Health Authority. She is tasked with implementing huge change to ensure more equal outcomes for Māori and Pasifika families.

Riana is a familiar face in Hauraki district, where she has been manukura hauora, chief executive, of Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, and also of the Hauraki Primary Health Organisation. She grew up in Manaia, 14 kilometres south of Coromandel township, where her dad Harry Mikaere is well known as a mussel farming and aquaculture pioneer.

Here's Riana in conversation with Dale Husband at E-Tangata.

KIA ORA, RIANA. YOUR BACKGROUND IS ON THE COROMANDEL?

Yes, I'm from Manaia, on the Coromandel Peninsula.

My māmā, Ruth, is a Pākehā woman who met my dad, Harry Haerengarangi Mikaere, when he was in the forestry workers' school in Kaingaroa. Mum was a first-year nurse at Rotorua at that time.

My husband is Hone Manuel. He's from Ruatōrea, but he grew up in Gisborne. And then I wrestled him away, nearly 30 years ago.

YOUR SCHOOLING WAS IN THE COROMANDEL TOO?

I started at Hauraki House, which was a small primary school right in the heart of Coromandel, but it closed down and became Coromandel Area School. That's where we spent the rest of our primary school years.

My dad had petitioned for te reo Māori to be taught at Coromandel Area School but got

refused, so we were trucked off to Turakina Māori Girls' College. Then, because Māori girls' boarding schools back then didn't have a seventh form, I was transferred to Auckland Girls' Grammar to do my final year.

HAVE YOU RAISED YOUR KIDS SPEAKING TE REO MĀORI?

Absolutely. Dad's generation were the lost generation, then Hone and I were part of a generation where we got bits and pieces of the language.

But we made a conscious decision that our children should be reo Māori speakers, and go to kōhanga reo and kura. All of our children have been educated through to Year 13 in te reo Māori, and they've been able to do it in the kura in Manaia.

DO YOU ALL LOVE MUSSELS?

You know what? I don't. Dad was one of the first mussel farmers in our rohe, and he's been an aquaculture guru for at least half of his career.

As a kid, I remember him being distraught that none of us seven kids were eating what he was farming. So, he put mussels into our minced stew for dinner one night – and, needless to say, I got a bit sick and never ate mussels again. All of the other kids have come around to eating them. Not me, though!

I'M ASSUMING YOU WENT ON TO STUDY NURSING WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL.

Well, no. When I left school, I joined a group called Kahurangi, and we travelled around overseas.

When I got home, I started working as a carer at my mum's rest home. I watched the nurses, and I'd watched how my mum had gone from being the Plunket nurse to the district health nurse – and I remember thinking: "I could do that."

It's a fabulous career and it's one that I've loved to be a part of. I think Māori are, inherently, a people of service. It's suited

my desire to serve my people, the way I problem-solve and care for people.

YOU WERE THE CEO OF TE KOROWAI HAUORA O HAURAKI BEFORE TAKING UP YOUR NEW MAHI. WHAT'S THE BEST ASPECT OF THAT LOCALISED, IWI-DRIVEN HEALTHCARE?

It came from the aspirations of our own people. When something has its genesis in that kind of thinking, you nurture and take care of it.

You don't limit yourself to thinking that Te Korowai is just a healthcare provider. No, Te Korowai is whānau ora. Te Korowai is mokopuna ora; it's rangatahi ora; it's kaumātua ora. It's every ora wrapped into one. Everything you need to create ora for your people sits inside that kaupapa and is supported by iwi.

WHAT DID YOU THINK WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE MĀORI HEALTH AUTHORITY WAS TO BECOME A REALITY?

I nearly shed a few tears because, in my career, I hadn't ever seen a moment when a Treaty partnership was actually turned into a functional and operating reality.

I feel heartened that we may be able to make a difference this time. We may be able to create an enduring partnership.

And, if we could do it here, what would be the imaginings for the rest of society? This could be a model for many different sectors.

WHAT WAS THE REACTION FROM THE PEOPLE BACK HOME WHEN YOU LANDED THE JOB?

Before I applied for the job, I went back to our people and alerted them, because the last thing I wanted to do was go without the blessing of my people.

There was a mixture of elation and a bit of concern because moving away from home and away from my provider means change. But we're so lucky because I had Taima



PHOTOS CREDIT: STUFF LTD

Campbell all geared up to step in as our interim CEO, and she's fabulous.

I'm also so lucky to have my whānau all living in the Manaia village. Going home grounds me.

WHAT WILL YOUR EARLY PRIORITIES BE IN THE NEW MAHI?

One of the best things we can do is give the resources back to our people so that they can start doing the things that they know, instinctively, how to do.

Our iwi providers are not organisations that have grown up overnight. These are organisations that are 30-plus years old. They're well-oiled machines. And those that aren't as well-oiled as others simply haven't had enough resourcing.

What I want is for our people to have access and choice about the services they get.

THIS POSITION ALMOST ASKS YOU TO HAVE A POLITICAL FOCUS, TOO, DOESN'T IT?

There's no getting away from that. In a democracy we all have to be prepared to have a voice.

We know that there's so much evidence that our people are not getting the health services they deserve. It's just not right that Māori die seven years younger than everybody else.

One of the things we don't account for in colonised nations is that there is so much traditional knowledge that we've lost that would be valuable in this current day.

So restoring our own mātauranga, our reo, our tikanga, our kawa, our rongoā, our maramataka: all of these things can help us and guide us on the way forward.

Our institutions are inherently racist. It's not something we all have to be affronted by. It's something we just have to acknowledge. And, once we acknowledge it, then we start moving toward solutions.

"I'VE HAD SUCH A FORTUNATE LIFE":

Alison Henry

She is known as Mrs Dotterel around Cooks Beach yet the moniker refers to a fraction of the good she has done along the coast.

Alison Henry, 76, has spent a lifetime in conservation, pushing for government change as well as leading many restoration projects in some of New Zealand's most remote communities.

If you ask Henry about the accolades for her 40 years of work, however, she will say they are not hers alone.

"Everything I have done, I have done with other people, and I have been involved with some quite remarkable people," Henry says.

Growing up on a farm in Matamata, Henry says environmentalism was always in her blood.

However, it was not until she travelled to America as an AFS student in her teens that her passion for protection and restoration took flight.

"The people I lived with were a part of the Audubon Society in America and great birders, and I became utterly fascinated with the birds in America.

Back in New Zealand, it prompted her to take up a position at the Department of Conservation in Auckland.

Joining a team of five women, she says she learnt a lot about New Zealand's native species and mātauranga Maori.

Her first big gig involved pest eradication on Motutapu Island.

A stand-out moment of her time with that island, was meeting the late Dame Te Atairangikaahu – the Māori Queen.

"We had got rid of possums and wallabies on the island by that stage, and Dame Te Ata was invited, as well as some

kaumatua and kuia, to come out and see what we had done.

"I will never forget getting off the ferry as they followed behind and hearing distant wailing and weeping as they put their hands in the soil.

"At the time I had no idea what was going on but later I figured out that this was the first time they had been here. They had come home."

Her work restoring habitat on Motutapu led her to becoming a trustee and guardian of Motutapu Restoration Trust.

Her knowledge of the biggest issues the Hauraki Gulf islands were facing became invaluable in 2017 when a panel of experts called for the revitalisation of the Hauraki Gulf.

She and the panel made ambitious recommendations to address the gulf's issues through a marine spatial plan called Sea Change.

"All these recent conversations about our kaimoana show that awareness is growing. I still have hope our plan will get used.

"You are never going to change what I call the Lion Red brigade. They are going to get out there and get a bloody fish come hell or high water but their kids will be different."

Now in her golden years, Henry spends most of her time replanting dunes, protecting endangered New Zealand dotterel, and keeping an eye on newly-hatched chicks.

"Almost every morning I go check on my babies.

"I've had such a fortunate life."

– Stuff Limited



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DYNAMIC CHANGES at Coromandel's leading real estate agency as the region grows

Coromandel's foremost full service real estate agency, Bayleys, has undergone a dynamic growth phase in 2022 – replicating what is being seen in the province's property markets.

Coromandel real estate and community stalwart Mary Walker has stepped down as owner of the area's two Bayleys Real Estate branches after running the company for 25-years.

Walker – well known for not only her highly-successful real estate business across the Coromandel Peninsula, but also her deep-rooted community involvement – handed over the reins to Bayley family member Chris Bayley, and real estate professional Shaun Paterson, who both have strong connections with the area.

The third shareholder on the new venture is existing Bayleys Coromandel shareholder Karl Davis – a top Hauraki Plains rural real estate salesperson with a home in Pauanui.

Under Mary Walker's watch, Bayleys Whitianga first began trading in Albert Street, while Bayleys Thames opened 10 years ago. Incoming Bayleys Whitianga and Thames co-owner Chris Bayley has been working in the family business since the 1980s – establishing the company's South Auckland office, selling real estate, and managing various commercial property teams at the company's head office. He has owned a holiday home in Cooks Beach for some 25-years, and is a member of the local fishing club.

Shaun Paterson – who spent his formative years in Whitianga and returned home to live in the area in 2021 after 11-years working in the corporate real estate sector in London – said that while there may be new personnel



Left to Right; Chris Bayley (Director), Daniel Johnson, Claire Kelly, Neill Fawcett, Belinda Sammons, Marcus Holmes, Janelle Holmes, Shaun Paterson (Director), Linda Bird, Bev Calder, Kylie Pullen, Karen Belsham, Rachael White, Lea Jurkovich, Alana Baker and Robyn Turner

'behind the scenes' from a leadership perspective, there would still be the same professional Bayleys salespeople and administration team in the offices.

The new structure for Bayleys Whitianga and Bayleys Thames comes at a time when the Coromandel province is undergoing substantial growth – not only from a population perspective, but also from both residential and commercial property perspectives.

Thames-Coromandel District Council's 2018-2028 Long Term Plan demographic trends report identifies Whitianga and Tairua as the two towns in the province forecast to experience the biggest growth in the number of holiday and full-time occupied homes being built.

"The projected dwelling and rating unit growth rate (for Whitianga) is higher than population projections due to the on-going growth in holiday homes. Mercury Bay (which includes Whitianga) is projected to experience

the greatest growth in population," the statistics-based council report noted.

"The number of houses is projected to increase across all parts of the district over the next 30 years – with an increase of around 3,580 new houses between 2018 and 2048. Much of the projected growth in the number of houses is expected to occur in the Peninsula's popular holiday settlements – Tairua and Whitianga."

In addition, Thames-Coromandel District Council's *Thames and Surrounds Spatial Plan* has identified addresses around the town which are suitable for rezoning to accommodate future medium density housing – to sustain the area's growing population, and address the current shortage of new build houses in the locale.

"Thames is the economic powerhouse of the Coromandel, but our businesses cannot recruit workers due to a lack of housing. Some 46 percent of our district's jobs are in Thames, but only 36 percent of the population. Well-paying jobs are going unfilled, and employees are commuting from Hamilton, Paeroa, Huntly and surrounding towns," said the council's long-term planning report.

A similar sentiment is expressed for Whangamata township and its surrounds in the *Thames-Coromandel Population Projections 2018-2051* report – prepared by economics analysis firm Infometrics for the council.

Infometrics' demographic analysis and population forecast noted: "A steady population is projected in Whangamata and Thames. Population in Whangamata is largely constrained by development capacity."



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COROBUILD

Our building unit has received an outstanding result following the biennial audit conducted by International Accreditation NZ (IANZ), the national accreditation body.



▲ Pictured above from left to right: Melanie Brownlee (Senior Building Control Officer), Riyan Rattan and Bradley Jackson (Building Control Officers in training), and Brendon White (Building Control Officer).

◀ One of our building inspectors David Greyling out on site.

“These results are significant, with IANZ congratulating our Council for an excellent performance, mentioning that we were one of the highest performing councils in the country to date,” says Brian Taylor, our Regulatory Services Group manager.



“Our building consent numbers continue to increase as well as the complexity of those consents – so keeping up with the workload and timeframes is frequently challenging for the team,” says Mr Taylor.

“A lot of time and energy goes into maintaining our high standards and I want to thank Corinne Hamlin, the Building Unit leadership team and the wider regulatory staff for all their hard work. The feedback about our team was fantastic,” he says.

Only one minor non-compliance was raised during the audit, which was easily resolved on site.

The IANZ audit assesses compliance for 75 Building Consent Authorities in New Zealand that are assessed at least once every two years.

IANZ commented that our Council was considered to pose an Extra Low Risk as a Building Consent Authority, noting that:

- We were substantially compliant with granting and issuing building consents, and issuing code compliance certificates, since the last assessment two years ago.
- We had a well-functioning Continuous Improvements and Internal Auditing system, which helped capture any improvement opportunities.
- There were no upcoming changes identified that could affect our ongoing performance.

Recommendations for the future (which are not conditions for accreditation) included:

- the inspection record includes clearly labelled photos
- there is a consistent level of reasons documented for decisions across all processing officers
- the statutory clock is started on receipt of a complete Request for Information response, and
- that applications are categorised in accordance with the documented procedure and confirmed by the processing officer.

The next routine assessment by IANZ is planned for March 2024. We are in currently in discussions with IANZ regarding a potential reduced scope for the next assessment due to our high performance.

“We’re continuing to focus on developing our staff and procedures, so we can process, inspect and certify consent applications to a good standard,” says Mr Taylor. “In 2022 we took on three more cadets so we’re looking to grow future leaders in our business.”



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THE REALITY OF *Relocatable Homes*

Faced with high property prices and material and labour shortages, more and more locals are considering relocatable homes as an easier way of buying their own home. However, experts advise doing your homework beforehand.

They're going mad for them up and down the country.

For families despairing of getting onto the property ladder, relocatable homes can seem like the answer from heaven. With initial purchase costs much less than building or buying a fixed home, relocatable homes appear at first glance to be a bargain. However, Keith Hay Homes advise that the cost of buying the land, house and transporting it may almost equal the cost of buying an existing home.

The real beauty of relocatable homes is that they can be ready to live in within as little as three months. Buying a pre-existing house avoids supply chain issues and escalating labour and material costs.

Trade Me property sales report that listings of housing for removable homes jumped 93 per cent in February 2022 from the year before.

New Zealand's large stock of timber houses makes moving an existing house feasible. These older houses often offer character features and native hardwood timber which would be prohibitively expensive in a new build.

So, what's the downside? Well ... not so much a downside, as a caution. Relocatable homes can still make for good deals, but due diligence is a must, particularly when it comes to financing and the consents required.

Financing

Only a few years ago, there were bargains galore in relocatable homes. People were buying them from as little as \$10,000. In some cases, people offered them for free.

Not so much anymore. With the rise in demand for relocatable homes, prices, too, have escalated. Trade Me reports the average relocatable home at the beginning of 2022 was almost \$90,000 – a 41 per cent increase from the previous year.

On top of the upfront purchase cost prospective buyers need to factor in the costs of:

- moving the home
- buying land
- (possibly) setting up services from the site to the home
- acquiring the necessary consents.

Joe Adams' Lockwood home was moved to his Opoutere property in the middle of the night by Willcox Building Removals Ltd.





This can bring the costs up to a similar level as buying an existing home or building your own from new.

Securing financing can be tricky for relocatable homes. According to the mortgage broker company Squirrel, you can borrow up to 80 per cent of the land value of standard residential land when it comes with connected services such as water, electricity, drainage and sewerage. In rural areas without services, you'd need a 40 per cent deposit.

Many banks won't look at mortgages on relocatable homes until they're fixed to the ground. However, Westpac specialises in lending for relocatable homes. It offers a package specifically designed for relocatable homes, where it can lend up to 80 per cent of the value of the land and house for a turnkey (ready to live in) relocated house.

Another issue to consider carefully is the cost of renovating an old home. Often there are hidden issues and renovation costs mount up.

Complete package

One way of reducing the risk is to buy an entire package for the home and relocation. A number of companies offer these complete packages of building and transporting homes and setting up services. The advantage to the homebuyer is that they can budget on fixed costs, and each stage of the process is professionally managed, saving time and stress. Locally, companies that offer pre-built homes to be transported to land include:

- Evans Group Limited
- Keith Hay Homes Limited
- Lockwood Coromandel – Coastwood Homes Limited

[Continued on page 58.]



[MOVING HOME]

Joe Adams bought a Lockwood Home relocation from Kōpū to set up on his Opoutere farm property.

"From the moment I thought about a new home I knew I wanted two things: the view down the valley of the farm from the moment you opened the front door and a big deck to enjoy the view while having a cup of tea," says Joe.

"It was a no-brainer: the ability to see it in the showroom, fall in love with it and know this will be the final product with no hidden costs. You knew from the day of deciding on a home exactly what you were getting, from the appliances to drapes. There were no surprises," he says.

Joe reckons a relocatable has ticked 99 per cent of the boxes he'd want if he were to design and build it himself.

"Lockwood took care of everything including consents and transport," says Joe. It took four months from buying to moving in and it was "far cheaper" than building new or buying a fixed house. "I'm extremely happy with my decision."



"YOU KNEW FROM THE DAY OF DECIDING ON A HOME EXACTLY WHAT YOU WERE GETTING"

Buying the site

If you're buying the land you will need to check that there are no covenants on the Record of Title that will block the relocation of an existing home. A geotechnical report will be needed to assess the soil's stability. You can also request that this report surveys the power, sewerage and drainage connections to the house site. Fortunately, if you have mains connections already you won't need this additional report.

In addition, the site will need to have a wide entrance, be clear of obstructions, and be in an area with easy access roads. Some parts of the Coromandel have roads that would make relocating a large home a challenge. It's also important to consider factors such as flood zones and stormwater run-off, wind, views and easy contour for ease of relocation.

Consents

A building consent is required for all building work including the relocation of a second-hand building. Before an application for building consent can be accepted, a building report should be obtained from a suitably qualified person (i.e. an engineer, architect, building surveyor or similar). This confirms that the house is in a sound condition and is suitable for relocating.

The relevant rules of the District Plan also have to be complied with. In some instances, a resource consent may be required if the permitted standards are not complied with or the zone or other overlay rules require it. The relevant standards may include yard setbacks, height, height in relation to boundary, site coverage and earthworks.



If you are thinking of subdividing the site, or putting up a secondary dwelling, you may need extra consents for this work.

For free help with consent queries, call our Customer Services Team on 07 868 0200 or email customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz and ask to be put in touch with the duty planner or duty builder.

Way of the future

Lockwood Homes says COVID-19 has also made many people realise the value of a bach, rather than trips overseas, and are choosing to go down the relocatable route to source one. For many young aspiring homeowners, relocatable homes seem set to continue as a growing trend.

"Do your homework, find a reputable company," says happy owner of a new relocatable home, Joe Adams.



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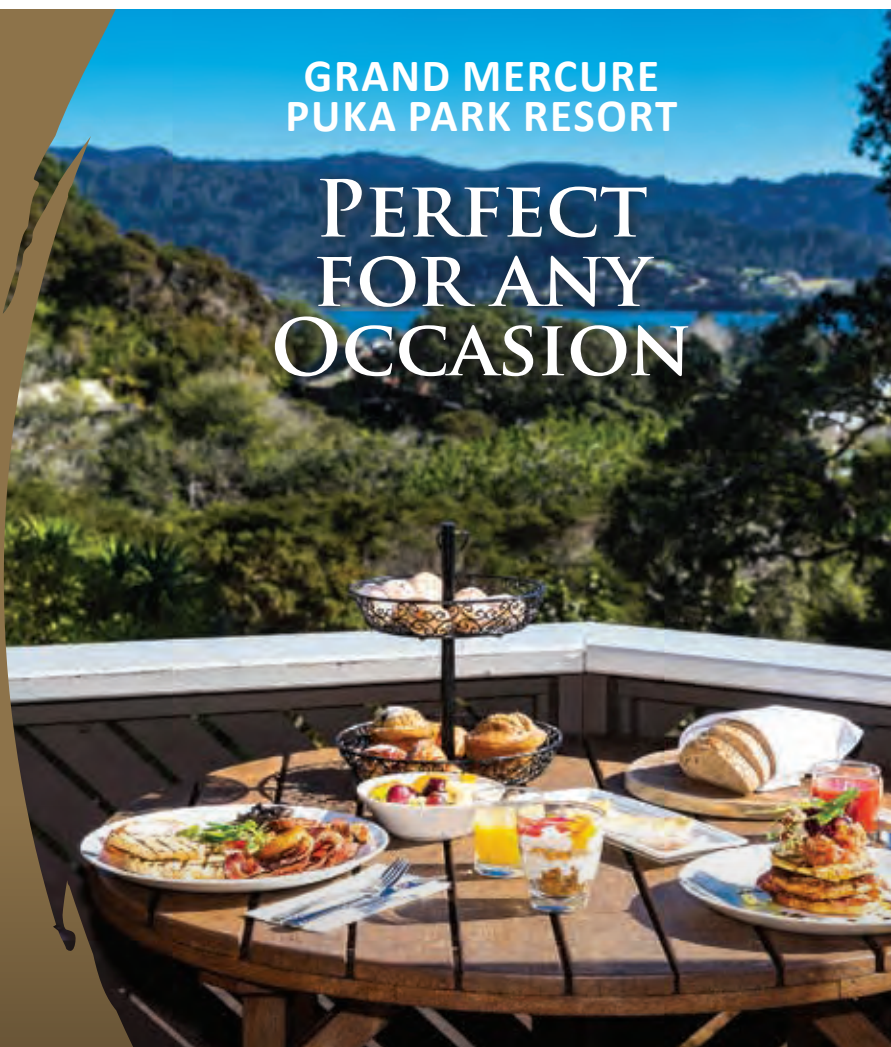
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House at SAILOR'S GRAVE

This humble yet refined home was designed for a couple by architect Sophie Hamer of Seear-Budd Ross Hamer within an affordable budget. The couple who call it home wanted to be involved in the construction process alongside Sam Macaw of Macaw construction.



"WHAT A PLEASURE TO NOT ONLY WORK ON CRAFTING THIS HOUSE, BUT TO BE WITNESS TO HOW IT TRANSFORMS INTO A LIVED-IN HOME."

– Architect Sophie Hamer

The L-shaped house enjoys a northern view over the bay. In the centre of the plan, between the kitchen/dining and living spaces, a central outdoor room connects the rear courtyard to the ocean, providing shelter in all weather conditions. The interiors draw on the rich tones and textures of the client's collection of carved wooden bowls, traditional spears and other objects from their travels and lives as aid workers in the Asia-Pacific region. A series of richly layered spaces create a sense of retreat and expansiveness attuned to their different personalities and hobbies. Dark stained plywood, soft cedar and rough poured concrete form a simple and hard-wearing palette for living.

Here, architect Sophie Hamer reflects on the process of designing the home, through to seeing it become a 'lived-in house' as the clients moved in and made the spaces their own:

"Images are static, framed moments in time. But living in a house can't be reduced in this way. A lived-in house is about a series of moments, strung together to form a much richer experience of the place.

"Over the last year, I've absorbed the slow process of House at Sailor's Grave becoming 'lived-in': slipping away from the plans and drawings, references and specifications. It is no longer a palette but a place. There are no longer dreams of what it might be: these dreams are replaced by experiences of it and stories about it; by shared meals, morning sunlight, an evening by the fireplace.

"Through the design and construction process, I guided the house – and the clients – from idea to reality. Through these steps, the house took shape – each step with more fullness, more newness, than the last. For the clients, these phases were full of excitement, anticipation and energy. Eyes were wide, the momentum of the construction process carrying them forward.

"Since the construction was completed, I've found a more subtle gratification in seeing the life of the house beyond this excitement of the 'new'. I've witnessed the clients

transforming this house into their home, a place that is really theirs, that supports, echoes and enhances the way they live.

"At House at Sailors Grave, the clients talk of discovering new ways of using the space – from shifting a chair into a sunny corner on a winter morning, to loading the fire in winter, or waiting until the light and birdsong are perfect to take a morning shower with the outside door left ajar. They speak of which locations specific plants grow best in; of how even doing the laundry is beautiful; of curling up with a book in the spare bedroom which doubles as a library. Often, through being lived in, a home deviates from the plans in ways the architect isn't privy to. I find a lot of enjoyment in seeing the photos the client regularly sends through of moments they enjoy as the seasons change.

"For Eric, who spent a lot of time working on the construction of the house, it took time for his relationship to the building to shift from precious craftsman to relaxed owner. Initially, he worried about any small mark or footprint, any possible spill on the floor, and continued to use an outdoor shower so he could keep the internal one perfect. Slowly, his perspective has softened, and the house has become his home.

"For Diane, the house is continuously surprising her, and she finds herself unexpectedly touched by otherwise mundane moments. After a week away in Wellington for work, and a day travelling home, flying to Auckland and then driving from the city down to the coast, she opened the hallway door and almost wept at being in the beautiful space once again. Now, she says, she never wants to go anywhere else again.

"What a pleasure to not only work on crafting this house, but to be witness to how it transforms into a lived-in home."



PHOTOGRAPHY CREDIT: THOMAS SEEAR-BUDD.



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INNOVATION IN ACTION

Louise Deane and Ian Stewart's eco-house at Te Mātā has been a labour of love for the couple who relish combining good design with environmentally-friendly features.

Nestled near the bush in a new subdivision off Bennett Road at Te Mātā, facing northwards on a section a few metres from a cliff leading down to a river, is the couple's brand-new eco-house.

More than three years in the making, the house is the product of innovative thinking, the family's 'can do' attitude and a desire to live a more sustainable life.

The five-bedroomed 240² metre house is built on 'passive solar' principles. It's designed to make the most of the sun as a natural energy source, staying warm in winter and cool in summer. The key to its heat-regulating properties is the material it's made of – autoclaved aerated concrete. Put simply, it's built of baked, super-lightweight concrete blocks with pockets of air in them.

"Basically, it's like pumice, really light and full of holes," Louise says. "They're quite big blocks and they're about a fifth of the weight of concrete. So, they're really insulated. They have a lot of thermal mass which means they can store heat and release it slowly. They stop the cold coming in in winter and the heat coming in in summer."

Louise came up with the design for the house and her stepson Jordan drafted the plans. Her husband Ian did a lot of the practical thinking, figuring out how to make the couple's vision work. Her other stepson Connell turned his hand to learning new skills too and kept things ticking over at home.

With no formal qualifications in building or design, Louise embraced the prospect of learning how to design and build an eco-house. "I'm a bit of a frustrated architect," Louise says. "I'm an amateur. I like that word because it means 'one who loves'. I'm interested in good design, basically making houses comfortable, efficient and environmentally-friendly."

Louise and Ian had gained valuable skills from building a straw bale house 21 years

ago, up the road in the old Bennett Road subdivision. "We learnt a lot by building that house, including how we'd do it differently," Louise says. "You learn by your mistakes. We also did a lot of research for the eco-house. YouTube has been a great learning tool."

The highest side of the eco-house's sloped roof faces north, so in winter when the sun's at a lower angle, the house catches those rays. Sunlight pours through the glass windows and soaks into the concrete floor. In summer when the sun's higher up, the roof shades the house, keeping the inside cooler. These features keep the house a more consistent temperature all year round.

The house also has active solar panels. It has a small wood stove for when there's a run of cloudy days in winter and there's no sun to trap. That single wood stove can heat the whole house. "But you shouldn't need to use near anything like the normal amount of wood," Louise says.

The house was designed around the windows, with ventilation and cooling in mind. All the windows are double-glazed and openable, including high windows. "When you're trying to keep it cool in summer, you can just think 'Where's the wind coming from?' and open the windows to let the heat out," Louise says.

"Energy-efficient house design is a relatively simple thing to do," Louise says. "I think it should be standard in houses wherever possible. It saves a lot of energy obviously and it saves a lot of money on power."

Many repurposed or recycled materials were used in building the house. The windows were from a house lot that somebody had ordered but not shown up to collect. The kitchen was bought off Trade Me. "We would never have been able to afford a really nice kitchen like that if we'd bought it new,"



Louise says. All the internal doors, except one, were old bungalow doors.

"We recycled where it made sense," Louise says. "Sometimes new things make sense if they have better features or better economy or ecological features. A good old door that's been going for a long time will probably last a lot longer than an MDF door anyway."

The couple did about half of the building work themselves. For the blockwork, concrete pour, structure and the roof, they contracted Paul Corr Builders, just out of Kōpū.

Their new eco-house took three years to build and was completed at the beginning of 2022. It would have been completed much sooner, but the COVID pandemic and supply chain issues caused delays.



▲ Recycled bungalow doors painted with chalk paint match the colours of the kitchen cabinets.

When they couldn't source contractors to do some parts of the work, local curiosity about their project meant that they could call upon willing helpers. "When we wanted to put the kitchen in, we went and rounded up a few neighbours. They all helped, which was nice," says Louise.

The house was originally designed to be two houses to meet the need for good rental homes in the area. However, gaining consent proved difficult, so it's being used as a single home and rented out to tenants while Louise and Ian continue to live in their straw bale house down the road. When they retire in 10-15 years, they plan to move into the eco-house themselves.

"Part of the reason for building it to be super-efficient is because I think rental properties should be comfortable places to live. I wouldn't want to rent out something to a tenant that I wouldn't be prepared to live in myself," says Louise.

The cost, Louise reckons, was about the same as building a standard house. "The costs were changing rapidly as we were building. Now it'd be even more expensive. Everything's gone up." The real financial benefits occur over the lifespan of the house, with dramatically reduced power bills.

In the end, Louise and Ian are really happy with their house. "I feel quite proud," Louise says. "You can never tell when you design something exactly how it will come out. I think it's worked out quite well aesthetically. Generally, we're all pretty happy."

Louise is currently completing a Master of Applied Innovation where's she's focusing on developing further ways to live more sustainably. She would love to see more people embrace the idea of alternative building materials and passive design. To

her it's simply logical. "It doesn't have to be super fancy or complicated to work better as a house. It can just be pointing your house in the right direction and having the right amount of overhang to stop the sun coming in during summer."



▲ Glazing on the north side soaks up sun in winter to heat the home.

▼ Stained concrete floors absorb heat and release it at night. A wood stove provides backup heating.



▲ Solar panels have a second use as shade for the windows in summer.

EARTHSHIP'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Seven years into living in their radically sustainable Earthship Te Timatanga home in the Puketūi Valley in Hikuai, owner-builders Gus Anning and Sarah Rowe are stoked.



"We love it. It's going really well," Gus says. "With all its earth walls, it holds its heat. It stays warm during winter and it's cool in summer. It's a great place to live."

The couple and their three children have been living in their self-built passive solar house since 2015. "It's a 'machine' designed to collect heat and distribute it," Gus says.

Most of the house is built from natural and recycled materials. The southern side is dug into the bank, filled with earth-rammed car tyres from about 500 cars, and lined with a waterproof membrane. The sub-floor was lined with a layer of mussel shells before concrete was laid. For the internal walls, the family sourced local clay and mudbricks.

The atrium with its wall of windows angled at 70 degrees is central to harvesting the sun's energy. The 240m² internal structure features bedrooms and bathrooms coming off the length of the corridor behind the atrium.

The family have now planted an internal garden in the atrium. "It's working really well. We've got pineapples, frangipani, passionfruit, bananas, many hibiscus and even a mango seedling," Gus says.

Energy-wise, the Earthship has more than proved its worth. The ambient temperature of the house sits around 19-20 degrees. In winter the family sometimes puts the log fire on inside, purely for the cosy atmosphere. "It's out of want, not need," Gus says. "If we're sitting

around, it's nice having a fire on. It's so thermally efficient that if you do put a log on the fire it lasts for ages. The heat has nowhere else to go because the back wall's so thick."

With 17 additional solar panels, most of the year when the sun's out the family feeds excess energy back into the grid, earning about \$50 a month in energy credits. The main two things that use electricity are the fridge and hot water cylinder.

In the last few years, Gus' and Sarah's attention has turned to designing and cultivating. "We have the start of a fruit forest growing outside with lots of different varieties of fruit trees," says Gus.

Sarah's realised her dream of building a spa pool. In true recycling spirit, she converted an old concrete water tank left over from the goldmining hut that was on the property. The large square tank had been used for mixing mud for the house walls

during the build. Now going spare, Sarah found another use for it. She lined the tank, insulated it, plastered it and painted it. "It now has a cover over the top of it, like a Tahitian fare," Gus says. "With the spa running, it's about \$5 a day. It's pretty cheap."

Although it was a radical idea when Gus and Sarah embarked upon the Earthship project, Gus says they met with a positive response from our Council. "They were very open to having alternative solutions. They learnt a lot out of it." A couple of years ago all the Building Inspectors from around the Bay of Plenty visited the house as part of their annual conference to learn about the energy-efficient building.

Gus would definitely advise other people to look at building with natural materials, particularly at the moment with escalating costs and shortages of building materials.

"There are other options using the materials around you, like the recycled tyres we used. There's always a more eco alternative where you can build an efficient house which is kinder to the environment. It just makes sense."

There's been so much interest in the house, Gus says, that they rent it out during the summer on Airbnb.

"All in all, we love it," Sarah says. "It's a very efficient house to live in. Nice and calming. Very holistic. It's a great home to live in – a beautiful valley to live in."



▲ Sarah's project revitalised the old concrete water tank into an amazing hot spa.

The Earthship's wall of windows and its 17 solar panels capture the sun's energy.

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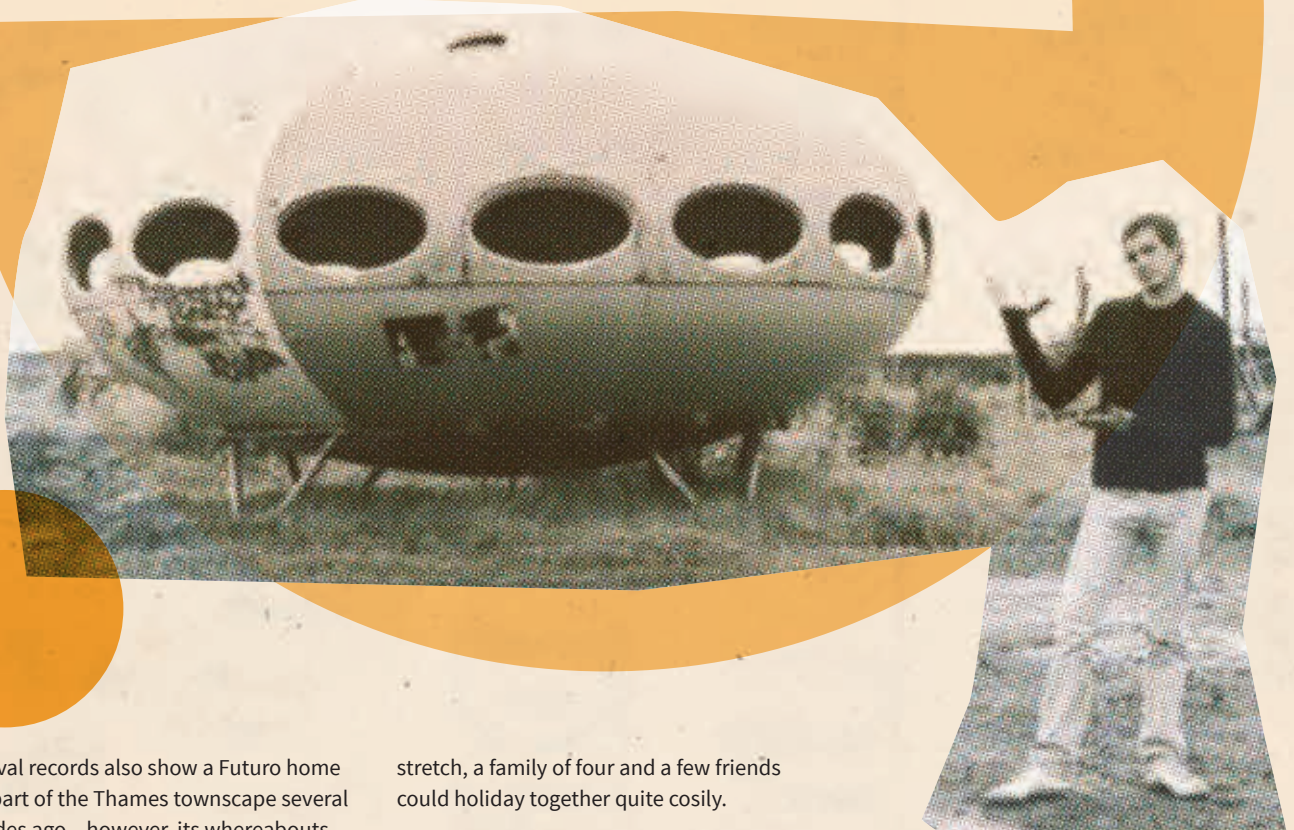
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The house of **FUTURO**

They were egg-shaped, UFO-style inspired, prefabricated homes designed by Finnish architect Matti Suuronen back in the late 60s. They were marketed as “Tomorrow’s Homes from Yesterday” with only 100 ever officially built. It’s believed less than 60 are still habitable around the world – with a handful of them here in New Zealand.



Archival records also show a Futuro home was part of the Thames townscape several decades ago – however, its whereabouts today is sadly a mystery.

Originally designed as portable ski chalets, according to a Wikipedia page dedicated to the history of Futuro houses, the pod-like structures were a product of post-war Finland, “reflecting the period’s faith in technology, the conquering of space, unprecedented economic growth, and an increase in leisure time”. Suuronen’s intention with the design was that it would be “quick to heat and easy to construct in rough terrain”. The homes measured approximately four metres high and eight metres in diameter, with the templated site plan revolving around a central fireplace, one bedroom with lounge sofas that could convert to beds, a kitchenette and dining space for up to six, a bath and toilet. At a

stretch, a family of four and a few friends could holiday together quite cosily.

All the interior elements matched the exterior design, in that they were elliptical shaped. This included the windows, door handles, light fittings and power sockets – and the space designed in a way it could be divided with adaptable partitions (see image bottom of P69.)

Constructed using fibreglass-reinforced polyester plastic, and with stilt legs which could touch lightly on flat ground to a 20-degree incline, Futuro houses could be easily relocated. Because they were universally transportable, and with the ability to be mass replicated, they could be situated in almost any environment – from the mountainside to the beachfront.

According to thefuturohouse.com, the website dedicated to all things Futuro,

the pods were originally manufactured by Oy Polykem Ab in Finland, while manufacturing, distribution and marketing were also licensed by Polykem to many companies and organisations around the world. It was anticipated that the structures would be cheap to build, but when the 1970s oil crisis sent plastic prices soaring, demand diminished.

The New Zealand Companies Office records show Futuro Homes NZ Ltd. (1972 – 1987) was the main manufacturer of the New Zealand Futuros, with a few constructed under license in Christchurch and sponsored by the BNZ for display at the 1974 Commonwealth Games in Christchurch. Because the licensing agreement in New

► The Futuro Homes have a colourful history since being devised by Matti Suuronen (pictured below). They were laid out to be economical for size and space (bottom left). Futuro homes have long been part of New Zealand's landscape - from a derelict shell in Thames (right) to being refurbished and resold like this one back in Christchurch in 2020 (far right), to being converted into a holiday rental (middle right).



Zealand only accounted for the external shell design, the Futuro's built here differed slightly from their Finnish counterparts. There were efforts to 'de-plasticise' the interiors to appeal to the average Kiwi, with each interior designed at the time with on-trend 70s décor, like heavily patterned wallpaper, shag pile carpet and coloured vinyl seating.

One of the Futuro houses showcased at the Commonwealth Games at Christchurch Botanical Gardens and Cathedral Square, and has been relocated twice in the past decade. Back in 2020, when it was last listed for sale (image top right), it had been partially renovated and was marketed as "ready for tinting in the owner's choice," with colour décor suggestions being classic Kiwi white, prototype blue or Finnish orange". The sales listing, which attracted tens of thousands of social media views, also declared that the interior had been cleared after its 2006 relocation, offering "a clean slate from which to work". The marketing blurb also stated the pod contained Marimekko couches and historical plaques, mounted on internal surfaces. Also included in the sale was the original fibreglass kitchen bench, two couch units, and a fibreglass shelving wall unit (with two in storage), an original mattress and window moulds that could be used as a reference for further upgrades. The guide-price for sale back then was \$300,000 NZD – however, what it ended up selling for has not been disclosed.

Meanwhile, there's also been anecdotal

evidence that the manufacturing of the Futuro homes may have been licenced by a company in Thames, which over the course of its business life (from 1967 to 2001), traded as Thames Homes Ltd, Peninsular Builders and finally as Orbital Homes.

Coromandel community online chat sites are filled with posts from people who share recollections and speculations about what happened to the company that supposedly manufactured Futuro homes locally. There are also insights recalling a Futuro home being situated in Thames back in the 1970s, through to the early 90s. One post recalls "the late Graham Harris of Thames," owning a Futuro home and seeing it on display at Kōpū. Another post remembers seeing the house at an old boat yard in Thames, while other posts mention the house (or a replica) being sold and moved to Raglan.

Historical news stories report a Futuro house in

Raglan, which was owned by the late Peter Farrell, a former sea captain, whose estate sold it in 2014, when it was then shifted to Canterbury.

"We sold that at auction for removal at \$80,000 just for the spaceship. I think they're going to dismantle it and take it away on the back of a truck," Ray White

Archival records also show a Futuro home was part of the Thames townscape several decades ago – however, its whereabouts today is sadly a mystery.



▼ Pictured below: Archival newspaper footage of the Futuro Home that was erected in Thames back in the 1970s.

Raglan director Julie Hanna was quoted as saying at the time.

It may be that the Futuro house that was relocated from Raglan to Christchurch is

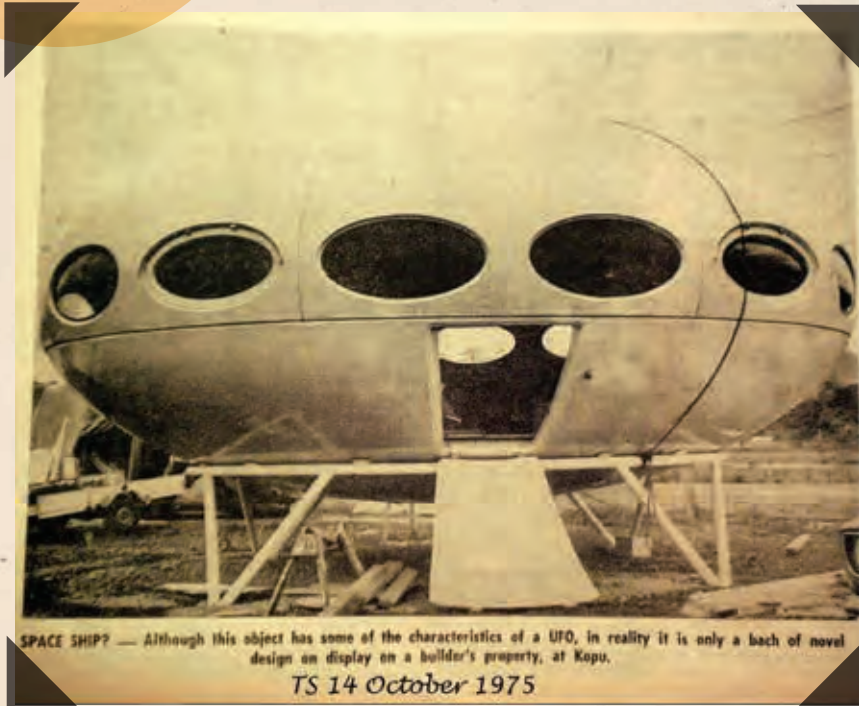
one and the same that went to auction in Christchurch in 2020.

And it also could be that same Futuro home, which is now currently marketed as a holiday rental through AirBnB in Christchurch for about \$500 a night (middle right image on P69). Known as the Area 51 Futuro, the house is fully restored with designer furniture from designers such as Verner Panton and Luigi Colani with a retro-inspired colour theme including magenta-tinted purples and psychedelic pinks.

It does appear there's some perfect symmetry that one of the remaining Futuro homes in the country has been relocated back to Christchurch, the place where the first replicas were showcased for the 1974 Commonwealth Games. Some would say it's a story that's come full circle – or in the case of the Futuro – full elliptical.

Do you know what happened to the Futuro House in Thames? If so, drop us a line as we'd like to know.

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Let's grow Thames

Thames and its surrounding districts face a unique set of opportunities and challenges when it comes to long-term sustainable growth. A changing coastline on one side, and steep hilly terrain on the other, create constraints for how and where the population lives and works. But, as our Council's Spatial Plan shows, that doesn't mean there's no space for a thriving and resilient town well into our future.

Thames and its surrounding areas are perfectly placed for long-term growth. Proximity to Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga, plus a cohesive small-town lifestyle with access to the stunning coastlines of our Coromandel, create exciting opportunities for Thames' communities and economy.

Already, Thames and its surrounding areas are the economic engine of our beautiful Coromandel, and a welcoming place to live for many families and permanent residents as work arrangements become more flexible outside of the big cities.

"But at the same time, we know that aspects of the area are underperforming," says Mitchell King from our Council's Economic Development team.

"It's hard for families to buy or rent houses here, so businesses that want to grow are struggling to find staff, and our infrastructure needs better planning and investment if it is to support our aspirations."

The coastal geography also means careful attention and planning is required to account for the potential hazards from sea-level rise as our climate changes.

That's why our Council has developed the Thames and Surrounds Spatial Plan, which is a strategic response to these issues. It sets a direction and a vision to guide development in the decades to come. It will help realise the growth opportunity in a sustainable and effective way.

"We'll use the Plan as our long-term blueprint as we make the hundreds of smaller day-to-day decisions that make up our future success and prosperity," says Mitch.

Central to the spatial planning process has been incorporating the insights from our Shoreline Management project, which sets out the pathways for our Coromandel communities to mitigate the risks from coastal inundation and flooding.

"The shoreline work that's been done has allowed us to do better planning around the areas where we know there is risk, to focus on growth and expansion in less vulnerable areas so our communities can adapt and adjust," says Mitch.

The Spatial Plan process considered how land should be used for housing, employment and green space, while also ensuring that Thames' unique identity and history are also preserved.



The Plan outlines increased densities in some places, new greenfield development zones, and a pipeline of commercial and industrial land to attract new businesses to the area and allow our existing businesses to grow. The changes in the Plan affect Thames township, Moanatairi, Kauaeranga Valley, Totara Valley, Kōpū, Matatoki and Pūriri.

The Spatial Plan will inform changes to the District Plan, infrastructure planning and investment decisions made by our Council. It's also helping our Council be better prepared ahead of central government's Resource Management Plan reforms, which includes the introduction of the *Strategic Planning Bill*, which will require local government, mana whenua and central government agencies to form joint committees to develop one long-term Regional Spatial Strategy for each region. These will identify areas that are: suitable for development; need to be protected; require infrastructure; and/or are vulnerable to climate change effects and natural hazards. This Bill is due to be introduced at the end of 2022.

"For Thames and surrounds, what we've come up with is a result of local knowledge and expertise. The Plan is realistic about our constraints, but at the same time it is a celebration of the ideas, wishes and dreams of the people who will be central to its success – the residents of our communities," says Mitch.

The Spatial Plan will now help inform zoning and planning changes for the Thames ward. Spatial Plans for other parts of the district including Whangamatā and Whitianga are now being considered.





For more information visit tcdc.govt.nz/yourthamestomorrow

KEY SPATIAL MOVES

GROWTH AREAS

- A** INTENSIFY, CONSOLIDATE AND UPGRADE EXISTING TOWN CENTRE
– Generate investor confidence and community pride in the central business district, provide a planning framework that anticipates typical town centre commercial activity (including short term accommodation) and medium rise development (3 – 6 levels), protect heritage.
- B** DEVELOP ALONG NORTHERN SIDE OF KAUAERANGA RIVER – Look to extend rural residential and lifestyle living choices further into the valley.
- C** DEVELOP TOTARA VALLEY – Standard density to rest of the valley in line with the direction set in the Kōpū to Thames structure plan. Retain natural gully system.
- D** DEVELOP SOUTHWARD – Additional residential growth cells worth investigating on hanging terrace above SH 25.
- E** DEVELOP SOUTHWARD – Large land parcel suitable for mixed density residential and commercial development.
- F** FUTURE GROWTH CELL AT MATATOKI – Medium to long term housing land option.
- G** FUTURE GROWTH CELL AT PŪRIRI – Medium to long term housing land option.
- H** Build on existing industrial node by creating new land for employment up Warahoe Road.

LEGEND

-  Existing Thames Township
-  Convenience Commercial
-  Medium Density Housing
-  Low Density Residential
-  Large Lot / Rural Residential
-  Industrial Land
-  Existing Wastewater Treatment Plant
-  Existing Water Treatment Plant
-  Potential Wastewater Treatment Plant
-  Potential Water Treatment Plant



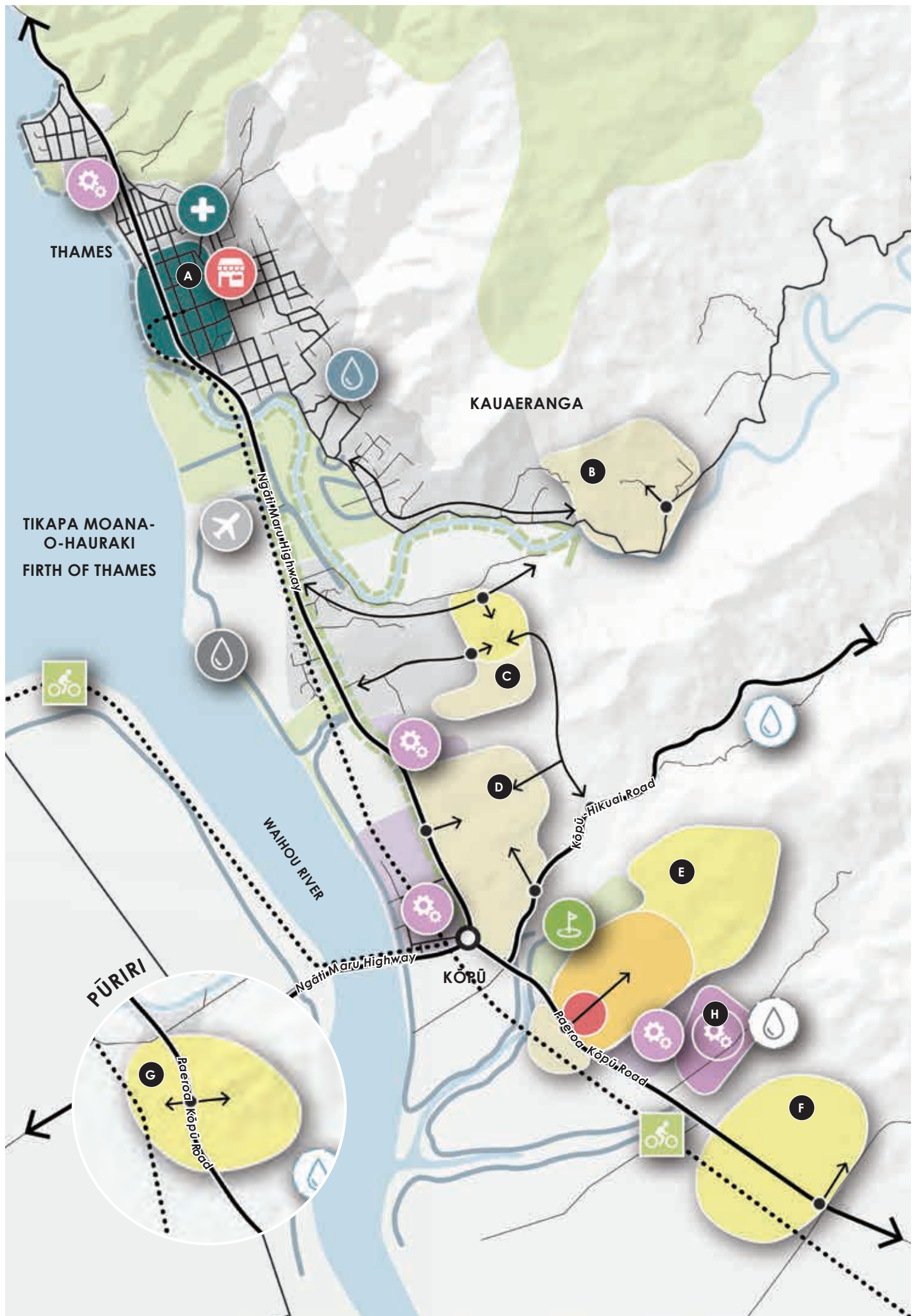




Photo credit: Ashlee Decaires

Urban Homes co-founders, Daniel and Bronwyn Klinkenberg (pictured), started the company from scratch following a dream from the early days of their relationship.



From its head office in Hamilton, Urban has built hundreds of quality homes throughout the Waikato, South Auckland and Coromandel and now has a full-time team of dedicated staff helping to build dream homes throughout the peninsula.

“Taking ownership is key,” says Daniel. “But it’s more than that, over the last 18 years, we’ve built long lasting relationships with our clients based on open communication, trust and respect.”

It’s this exceptional experience that the Coromandel team are replicating from their recently opened office on Blacksmith Lane in Whitianga. Coromandel Area Manager, Deane Sanders explains, “Our new office is modern and inviting and a great complement to our award-winning show home in the Whitianga Waterways.” (Pictured left).



“We make good use of our shopfront to showcase our design and build and our house and land package offerings and are really proud to have a design centre where clients can come and experience the wide range of materials and products we work with and have available to them.”

Deane and his team are also excited about the future which includes a new show home in Whitianga. Equally exciting is Urban Coromandel’s sponsorship of the Mercury Bay Rugby Club. “We’re really into supporting the communities we live and work in and are proud and privileged to be backing a great and dynamic club!” says Deane.

From contract to keys, from conversation to community, Urban is, a company with a heartbeat.

“ Friends and family have asked, would you build with Urban again and, the answer is definitely yes! Absolutely! The process has been amazing. We got the home we wanted – and more! ”

Sam and Harriet Cane



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Building economic and social prosperity

One of our drivers in Council is improving the social and economic wellbeing of our communities by supporting our local economy to become more productive, resilient and sustainable.

Our Economic Development team has priority areas of Capability Building, Innovation and Sustainability, Sector Development and Planning for Growth.

So what's been happening under our work programme this year?

Capability Building

Funding HQ Workshops

Partnering with Funding HQ [funding-hq.com](https://www.funding-hq.com) we hosted three workshops in Thames, Whitianga and Whangamatā with the purpose of helping community groups diversify their range of funding options. Groups were provided with information on how and where to look at what other avenues may be available for funding other than just Council or Community Board grants.

Ally Davey, from Spirit of Coromandel Trust and Project Manager at Ride Coromandel, points out that due to COVID there's been no gaming funding, which is one of the major sources that groups around our district apply to. "Since we completed the Coromandel Bike Park, in Coromandel Town it's been difficult to gain funding for ongoing operational costs such as salaries, wages and maintenance," says Ms Davey. "The Funding HQ workshop helped community groups like ours plan projects and allow for a targeted funding approach."

Over 50 participants made the most of these free-to-attend workshops which were packed with practical ideas to help groups, large or small, demystify the world of fundraising.

Rebel Business School

Partnering with the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, Gr8 Job Hauraki, Hauraki District Council, Matamata-Piako District Council and the Ministry of Social Development, we brought the Rebel Business School Aotearoa business course to Eastern Waikato as part of our economic and social development initiative in the wake of COVID-19.

The free, 10-day inspirational business workshop was held 22 August – 2 September at the Paeroa War Memorial Hall.

With the focus of tearing up the rule book, Rebel Business School inspired people to take the leap into business ownership.



The Rebel Business School ran a free 10-day business building course.

Innovation and Sustainability

Sowing seeds for seaweed farming in New Zealand

Tiny seedlings of hatchery-grown native *Ecklonia radiata* seaweed were planted in the waters off the Coromandel coastline by GreenWave NZ in September, making it the first seaweed outplanting at this scale for New Zealand.

GreenWave NZ's three-year regenerative ocean farming pilot is taking place on consented aquaculture farm sites at Esk Point and Pōnui in the Hauraki Gulf, supported by hatcheries in the Coromandel and Tauranga.

Led by natural resource and sustainability advisor, EnviroStrat Ltd, in collaboration with Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Premium Seas Ltd, the Universities of Waikato and Auckland and AgriSea, the \$5 million pilot is focused on creating a viable economic seed-to-sale model for seaweed farming in New Zealand.

"There's a lot of interest in seaweed farming," says Dr Nigel Bradly, EnviroStrat CEO. "We know that domestically there's an eagerness to consider an exciting new sector to supplement our know-how in mussel and oyster farming. Seaweed farming is emerging as an opportunity to leverage existing skill sets and traditions to bring together positive social and climate impacts while still enabling profitable business."

The knowledge gained through the pilot will be accessible to the aquaculture sector, enabling marine farmers to easily pick up seaweed farming and deploy it alongside existing aquaculture activity.



The Thames CanDo expo showcased opportunities for school leavers and job seekers.



Funding HQ workshops were held across the district, helping community groups secure funding.

Sector Development

Aquaculture Forum

We hosted an Aquaculture Forum in August 2022, in partnership with Coromandel Marine Farmers Association, Aquaculture New Zealand, Ministry for Primary Industries, Pare Hauraki Fishing Trust and Waikato Regional Council. This was an opportunity for the sector to connect, network, share issues and collaborate on actions.

Issues included water quality, climate change and how to increase funding and investment.

"The industry is poised for considerable growth with marine farms occupying the west coast of the Coromandel for harvesting of mussels and oysters," says Aileen Lawrie our Council's Chief Executive. "There are also new opportunities for sustainable seaweed and finfish farming. However, with all these opportunities comes the need to ensure a durable future; and having a coalition of the willing coming together is hugely valuable."



GreenWave leads a regenerative ocean farming pilot in The Hauraki Gulf.



Kōpū Business and Marine Precinct.

Planning for Growth

Thames Spatial Plan

We've developed the Thames and Surrounds Spatial Plan, which is an evidence-based, future-focused (30-year plus) strategy that outlines an agreed vision and direction for Thames and surrounds.

It will help us plan for future prosperity, identify areas for growth and change, and promote the aspirations of our district's iwi.

It sets out the long-term vision for how, why and where we want Thames and our surrounding areas to grow and will help support planning and funding for development and infrastructure.

It's also an important umbrella project which brings together our efforts to accelerate housing growth for Thames with our critical Shoreline Management work that will help us adapt to the coastal inundation and erosion risks that our district is facing.

tcdc.govt.nz/thamesspatialplan

Kōpū Business and Marine precinct development

Construction will now be full steam ahead starting in October 2022 and the build finished by April 2024.

The multi-million dollar project includes a commercial slipway, commercial wharf and pontoon and haulage access area, a new public recreational boat ramp, parking area, along with a new access road (King Street) linking Queen St and Kōpū Quay.

This massive piece of infrastructure will enable commercial opportunities, while also benefitting recreational users.

Many jobs will be created through the precinct's construction, with potential for up to 108 downstream jobs once complete. It brings fresh opportunities to the boat repair and maintenance, aquaculture, trade and transport industries.

It will also boost potential Māori economic development opportunities for Ngāti Maru in the longer term as Treaty settlements are finalised over the next few years.

tcdc.govt.nz/kopumarineprecinct

Te Ariki Tahi/Sugarloaf Wharf Project

A fast track resource consent application for the build of Te Ariki Tahi/Sugarloaf Wharf has now been granted, subject to conditions.

This is a significant asset for our aquaculture industry and will also benefit many other industries across the whole region and will be a massive boost to our district, regional and national economy.

The build will see the wharf platform extended and raised to account for sea-level rise. There will be four new berths for increased aquaculture activity and a separate facility for launching recreational boats.

Te Ariki Tahi Sugarloaf Wharf Ltd, the company made up of our Council, Coromandel Marine Farmers and the Crown, is working through the timeframes for the construction programme, with procurement currently underway.

tcdc.govt.nz/tearikitahi



The shovels were put to use on the Kōpū waterfront for a sod-turning ceremony in September 2022 to mark the beginning of physical work on the Kōpū Business and Marine Precinct.

A family with a vision



HOPPERS

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.



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Whitianga Waterways is a unique urban development located in the heart of the scenic Mercury Bay and only a 30-minute scenic flight or 2.5hr drive from Auckland.

A world class coastal development offering unprecedented social amenity and lifestyle. Living within the waterways offers a lifestyle opportunity that exists only in the thriving Whitianga township.

A waterfront retail centre named Dockside and medical centre are currently underway which will only add to this already flourishing destination.



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Dockside is a mixed-use commercial project developed by Hopper Developments, the company responsible for the development of the waterways and numerous other commercial developments in Whitianga.

The Whitianga Waterways development is a comprehensively planned marine village and once complete, will provide for over 1,500 homes. The development is currently only one third complete and upon completion plans to include a marine precinct, hotel accommodation and waterfront retail. This is a great opportunity for an operator to get in now and capitalise on Whitianga's economic growth.

Call Pete on 027 498 4405 or visit our website whitiangawaterways.co.nz

Marsden Cove Northland Jewel



Situated just inside Whangarei Harbour entrance: less than ten nautical miles from Whangarei Town Basin and 75 nautical miles from Auckland City, Marsden Cove is Northland's most exciting waterfront development.

High demand and growth in the area has offered limited waterfront and non-waterfront sections for sale, has seen many new homes built, and the new Anchorage Retirement Village under construction.

Complete with a world-class 230 berth marina at its centre, retail, boat services and facilities, medical centre and more Marsden Cove has become Northland's premier boating destination and Whangarei district's most desirable neighbourhood.

The Anchorage Village is a unique waterfront retirement village and aims to accommodate the needs of the active retiree over the age of 60, delivering a waterfront retirement lifestyle unlike anything else available in New Zealand.



MARSDEN COVE
09 432 8379
43 Maturiki Dr,
Marsden Cove
marsdencove.co.nz



THE ANCHORAGE
09 376 8770
80 Rauiri Dr,
Marsden Cove
theanchorage.co.nz

PREPARING FOR SEA-LEVEL RISE

Major three-year project wraps up with
adaptation pathways ready to roll

Each section of the Coromandel shoreline now has a specific pathway that sets out how our communities want to manage the risks from sea-level rise. The pathways are the major outcome of our Shoreline Management project which concluded in September 2022. Here, we take a look at the major milestones and outcomes from the project.

In January 2018 an intense storm of high winds and heavy rainfall in the North Island coincided with high tide and resulted in some of the highest water levels in recorded history for the Firth of Thames region.

At least 391 properties were damaged across the Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel districts. Over 20km of State Highway 25 along the Thames Coast was severely impacted, including sea walls and revetments. The impacts of the storm severely tested the readiness and coping capacity of Coromandel's coastal communities and infrastructure. It was a timely reminder of the need to prepare our coastal communities for changing coastal risks.

That same year, our Council adopted a Coastal Management Strategy and a Coastal Hazards Policy. These opened the way for a detailed project to proceed, to better understand the risks related to sea-level rise and to prepare our communities to manage them. The project was designed to create Shoreline Management pathways for each section of our coastline.

The project laid out a three-year process to define the flooding and erosion risks to people and the social, cultural, economic and natural environment across all parts of our coastline over the next century and beyond.

"We were really ahead of the curve on this one," commented Sandra Goudie, our then Mayor in early 2022. "By the time the Shoreline Management project was being signed off in August 2022, central government was announcing the outline of a National Adaptation Plan where the kind of detailed analysis we've done at a local level was yet to be done nationwide," she added.

The project in Coromandel has been a valuable opportunity to understand each section of our 400 kilometres of coastline more holistically, including the connections between people, catchments and waterways, landscapes, estuaries and beaches.

A co-governance structure with the Pare Hauraki Collective has been critical to the project's development and execution.

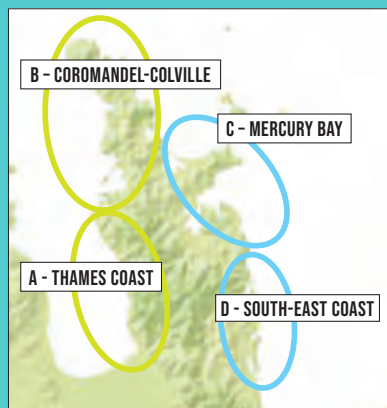
"The wide-ranging implications of this project are real and will significantly influence the future world of our mokopuna and future generations," says Co-Chair Paul Majurey. "The importance of the risks and responses mean that all voices need to be heard."

In May 2019, our Council appointed a consortium led by international consultancy Royal HaskoningDHV to support the project's development and roll out.

"No-one can say exactly what's going to happen with sea-level rise, particularly over the long term when the modelling gets more uncertain. But what we do know is that 20 – 30 centimetres of sea-level rise is locked in and that's going to happen over the next 20 years. So, we need to make sure our communities are ready for that," says Sian John from Royal HaskoningDHV.

Co-governance in action

Central to the success of our shoreline planning is iwi leadership. The Shoreline Management project is co-governed with Pare Hauraki collective, which includes committee co-chairs Paul Majurey and David Taipari. The first co-governance committee was held in October 2020.



Coastal Panels lead the way

The Shoreline Management process was also led by those who know our coastline best – the communities who call Coromandel home. Four Coastal Panels made up of residents, locals and community leaders met regularly throughout the project, sharing detailed localised knowledge about how their coastline behaves, which has been invaluable to the pathway conclusions.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



SHARING OUR SHORELINE INSIGHTS

In July 2022, our project lead Amon Martin spoke by invitation at the World Climate Research Project's Sea Level Conference in Singapore.

The conference hosted leading climate experts who shared the latest science behind sea-level rise projections, while other global participants shared their own community approaches to

protecting lives, properties and assets in coastal environments.

"It was invaluable to get a deeper understanding of the certainty, and also the areas of uncertainty, that underpin the latest science on sea-level rise," says Amon. "This is the science that is informing our decisions here at home and it's critical that we use it to think about how to reduce



The Shoreline Management project has produced 138 coastal adaptation pathways. The pathways are intended to reduce the risk from coastal hazards to an acceptable or tolerable level.

The pathways are tailored to each section of our coastline. The action they include ranges from options such as additional

dune planting, through to defence structures such as stop banks and sea walls. In some areas, the pathways require communities to consider managed retreat from their current locations, once sea-level rise triggers are reached.

“The important thing to remember is that we will start doing these things when

we see certain levels of sea-level rise - regardless of what is causing that rise, or the rate at which it is happening,” says our Council’s Project Manager Amon Martin.

“Whether the hazards to our communities are a result of coastal inundation, erosion, or land subsidence, once we reach the trigger points, we will have a clear plan of the action that our communities want us to take,” he said.

As part of the project, a feasibility study was done, which looked into possible protection options for eight locations that are considered to be at imminent risk of coastal inundation. These are Thames, Moanataiari, Tararū, Te Puru, Colville, Kōpū, Whitianga and Tairua.

“The reality is that for some of these communities, defence structures will either be too expensive or ineffective if we see anticipated levels of sea-level rise over the next few decades,” says project lead Amon Martin. “So we need to think about things like raising floor levels, stopping new construction, and considering retreat from those areas of coastline over time.”

To see the coastal adaptation pathway for your community, go to tcdc.govt/smp

What happens now?

Our Council adopted the Shoreline Management pathways in September 2022. An implementation plan is being developed which will look at how we prioritise action and make funding decisions. Some of these decisions will be made through Council’s 2024 Long Term Plan, while other options will be seeking support from external agencies.



INTERNATIONALLY

uncertainty as we plan for our future in the Coromandel.”

Amon presented an overview of our Council’s three-year Shoreline Management project to the conference, receiving feedback that the detailed work adhered to best global practice. Amon was supported by the project’s co-chairs Paul Majurey and David Taipari.

“What we’re doing here in the Coromandel isn’t in isolation from the rest of the world. I had discussions with many community leaders from around the world who are grappling with the same challenges and hazards,” says Amon. He noted the amount being spent in Singapore, for example, on protection measures is well over \$5 billion.

“Compared to others who are already needing to build physical protection structures, because their cities are built right on the shoreline, we have an opportunity to plan our future development and densities more carefully to take into account the expected hazards,” he said.

For more information visit tcdc.govt/smp



CARING FOR OUR COAST

Sand dunes are an important buffer between the ocean and land, and they're also natural habitats for native species of birds such as the dotterel.

You can help look after our coastline by getting involved with an upcoming dune planting day near you. For more information visit tcdc.govt.nz/coastalgardening. You could also join one of the many volunteer groups.

Someone who is passionate about this is Andrea Whitehead, who has called Whitianga home for 15 years. She'd been volunteering at planting days for many years before joining our Council in 2022 and fulfilling her dream job as a Coastal Restoration Coordinator, (AKA "dune builder").

"The best part of my job is working with proactive, passionate volunteers," says Andrea. "They're the crucial part of our Coromandel coastal restoration, but we can always do with more help."

The Pāuanui dune planting project, completed in May 2022, is Andrea's most rewarding experience since joining so far. "It was amazing how many people showed up and were keen to learn about our coastal restoration (the Coastcare movement), and the importance of creating, maintaining and enhancing a resilient dune system," she says.

"Planting is important, but it's only the beginning – there is much more involved. And I can promise you, spending time with like-minded people in nature is good for your soul."

More than 200 volunteers planted over 13,000 plants across a 260m length of shoreline at the southern end of Pāuanui beach (approximately between beach access #10 and #11) to increase coastal resilience and enable better management of the reserve space.

This was our biggest and most successful restoration event yet thanks to those involved:

- the Pāuanui Dune Protection Society
- the wider Pāuanui community and other volunteers
- Mercury Bay Environmental Trust
- Department of Conservation (Whitianga)
- NZCS
- Waikato RC
- CoastCare (Onemana, Waikato)



Photo from left to right: Stacey Hill Coastcare Waikato, Lou Mackwell TCDC Community Field Representative, Monique Nelson-Tunley Waikato Regional Council, Derek Thompson TCDC Community Facilities Manager, Matthew Allnutt TCDC Community Field Representative, Jamie Boyle TCDC Coastal Scientist, Tanya Patrick TCDC Community Field Representative and Andrea Whitehead TCDC Coastal Restoration Coordinator.

- Recreational Services
- Hikuai School
- Valley Education (Thames)
- Coastlands Nursery
- Storms Contracting
- Scotty's Bobcats.

See tcdc.govt.nz/Pāuanui-dune-planting for more information on this project.

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 and Waikato Regional Council working together to restore, protect and look after our coasts and all the species that live and grow in the Coromandel.

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.

For more information follow facebook.com/coastcarewaikato or contact Andrea: andrea.whitehead@tcdc.govt.nz

In May 2022 more than 200 volunteers planted over 13,000 plants across a 260m length of shoreline at the southern end of Pāuanui beach.



ANDREA'S TOP TIPS:

- Look out for the Coastcare signs, (like those shown above), reminding people to use marked accessways to get to the beach to help protect our sand dunes.
- Encourage children to respect the dunes and not play on them.
- Do not light fires on the dunes.
- Do not dump personal or household rubbish or green waste in the dunes. Do not leave rubbish on the beach, full stop.
- Respect the fences, which provide boundaries to help protect dune plants.
- Keep vehicles off the dunes. Important plants and creatures live in the dunes, and motorbikes, 4WD vehicles and quad bikes harm them.
- Surf the waves, not the dunes: sandboarding on the dunes destroys plants and loosens the sand, which allows wind erosion to occur.



WHEN ANDREA ISN'T HITTING THE BEACH OR MINDING THE DUNES, YOU'LL FIND HER TAKING UP EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO GO OUT AND EXPLORE THE OCEAN. ONE OF HER FAVOURITE EXPLORATIONS IS A WEEKEND SCUBA DIVING ON THE M.V. WHAI - MARINEADVENTURES.CO.NZ



Milly's
on main street

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07 864 7464

KAYLA

522 Pollen Street, Thames
07 868 9063

TRINKETS TREASURES *and Talismans*

Jeweller Louise Penberthy loves the timeless element of her craft; the way that a beautifully made piece of jewellery can be passed down for hundreds of years, becoming a treasure that can provide ties to the past as well as beauty and meaning in the present.



Louise wears an engagement ring from her grandmother Timmi's second marriage, which she has worn every day since Timmi died. "My grandmother adored jewellery and the finer things in life. When we visited, she always pressed us to have another gin, saying: 'You can't fly on one wing darlings.' I miss her to this day," says Louise.

"I still have my grandmother's pounamu heart and it gives me courage and strength. That's the talisman side of it."

Louise comes from a long line of jewellers and independent women. The family

name, Penberthy (of Cornish origin), has been traced back to the 12th century, where the original Penberthy ancestor was also a jeweller. She loves the special way jewellery can link families together over generations.

"When you make a piece of jewellery, it can be passed down for hundreds of years," she says. "Historically, jewellery is about women's wealth. Through much of history, women could barely own anything themselves, but they could own and sell jewellery, and pass it down from mother to daughter," she explains. "I love how I have

my grandmother's jewels and I will pass them on to my daughter."

These days, her roots are firmly planted in Coromandel soil but there's a history of belonging that has called her back to the natural beauty of this area. Her mother first came to the Coromandel as part of the alternative movement during the late 1970s, living off-grid in northern Coromandel without electricity. It's no surprise that her childhood revealed an early love of past relics and treasures.



PHOTOGRAPHY: JENNA JAMES WWW.JENNAJAMESPHOTOGRAPHY.CO.NZ

"We had a little shack that didn't have windows or doors or running water. It was a plywood car case on the site of an old farmhouse. Our favourite game was archaeologists," she recalls. "We dug up relics from the old farmhouse and they were our treasures."

In high school, Louise enrolled in a jewellery course and discovered a natural talent, which led to work in a jewellery factory making "Michael-Hill-type jewellery". "That wasn't me," she adds, "but I learnt a lot of skills. I like my pieces to be individual so people can express themselves uniquely. I'm not about making loads of the same things."

In 1989, relatives from the UK opened the Great Frog in Lorne Street, Auckland's first rock 'n roll jewellery store, and Louise had the freedom to make whatever she wanted. "We had about 45 different skull rings," she laughs. "It was all very heavy metal, but we did a lot of handmade jewellery with beautiful stones."

From Auckland, Louise headed down to Wellington, starting her family in the city's vibrant Cuba Street quarter. Her jewellery making took a back seat until some 15 years ago, when the lure of the Coromandel called her back to her childhood roots. One thing she hadn't forgotten though, was her love for treasures of the past.

From cracked china recycled from the oldest tip in Auckland to vintage Victorian buttons turned into rings, re-inventing relics of the past remains a passion close to her heart. There's a collection of colour-coded glass buttons, an old dental tool turned into a punch and a stash of rusty iron railway nails.

"I want people to put something on and feel beautiful. It's your armour to help you face your day."

"I like elevating things that are not intrinsically valuable. Cool Victorian buttons I've found, recycled silver and semi-precious stones. I love the cracks in the broken things the most. Even the stones

I work with have little imperfections. It makes it more real."

Her creative process is equally as real and, in her own words, involves a lot of "bashing, crashing and bending" as she shapes and hammers gold and silver. "It's very elemental and satisfying. I'm like a cross between an artist and a tradie – a jeweller plumber," she laughs.

One of the main tools of her trade is a French torch, designed especially for jewellery making and soldering delicate earrings, jump rings (used for making chains) and small links. It's somewhat reminiscent of a bunsen burner, so you'd be forgiven for thinking it's been hijacked from a lab.

Other pieces are patiently crafted in wax then cast in metal. "It's called Lost Wax Casting," says Louise. "That process hasn't changed much in the past 500 years. You can make a single piece or have a mold, and it gives you a wonderful 3-D result."

The results speak for themselves in her studio cabinets, each piece reflecting a desire to create unique and beautiful pieces that will stand the test of time. There's an ornate chainmail necklace; sparkling Chandelier earrings that drop to the shoulder; playful statement earrings that spell out words like 'disport'; silver hearts inlaid with vintage china and recycled glass; colourful Victorian button rings and simple little wave rings hand-worked from silver.

"I just love making jewellery," she says. "I'm passionate about it and I don't think I'll ever get sick of it. I want people to put something on and feel beautiful. I love it that jewellery makes people feel better. It's your armour to help you face your day."



Visit Louise

Louise works from Sinistral Jewellery, a small but perfectly formed studio in Coromandel town (75 Wharf Road, Coromandel) opposite the Four Square, in a room that used to be part of her husband's engineering workshop. Surrounded by burnished orange walls and collections of antique and recycled objects, she creates, displays and sells her handmade silver jewellery, alongside a range of Circe natural perfumes.

Sinistral Jewellery is open Tuesday to Friday, 9 till 3 and Saturdays by appointment.

Email sinistraljewel@gmail.com

Follow Louise on:

Facebook: @Sinistral-Jewellery-Louise-Penberthy-Jeweller-109413894546141

Instagram: @sinistraljewellery

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE



PEOPLE

Ever since she was small, mosaic artist Dessa Bluu has used art to tell stories. When she wasn't outside playing in the bush, she was indoors drawing with a pencil and paper. It was only as a young mother that she ventured into the world of mosaics and discovered the art form that would later become her passion.

"I had a friend who was really into mosaics and as soon as I did a mosaic pot, I knew that I had something special. When I first started, the kids were little. I didn't even have a garage so I put up a tarpaulin. I'd create in the middle of the night when the kids were asleep, sitting outside until the early morning."

Although she doesn't define herself strictly as a Pasifika artist, Dessa's Samoan heritage is woven into her work with traditional design motifs such as diamond and frangipani patterns, and a love of telling stories through art.

It's part of who she is, and one that sits just as comfortably alongside the European heritage passed down from her British grandmother and Swedish grandfather. One of her first ever pieces (a mosaic surfboard) featured a frangipani motif, the Swiss Alps and the flowers of Sweden all intertwined.

"I am Pasifika. It's who I am," says Dessa. "It's important to know my culture and where my culture and ancestors come from, but I'm proud to be Kiwi born and bred. There's definitely an element of bridging the generations and cultures in my art."

It wasn't until Dessa moved to Tairua with her second husband (who grew up in



Thames) six years ago, that she began to develop her art in earnest, setting up shop in their garage. One of her first two mosaic pieces in 2017 was a Pasifika Princess; the other used traditional crosses and frangipani motifs. Both were exhibited in the Franklin Arts Festival in Pukekohe and renowned glass artist Peter Raos awarded her first place in the glass category.

Since then, the talented artist has been finding her way creatively, "working quietly" on a series of mosaic portraits she's called *Tagata Aulelei* (Beautiful People). Inspired by mosaic artist Jeanne Reynal, Dessa seeks to convey a reality that is both individual and real. From sultry singer Billie Holliday to chain-smoking actress Dorothy Dell, each portrait reflects a piece of her own story.

"It's about not forgetting where we came from and who we are," says Dessa. "I was surrounded by smokers growing up as child,



***“Mosaic, to be real,
must be individual,
coherent and
luminous – the reality
fresh and frightening,
like every original.”***

Jeanne Reynal



and we watched a lot of movies, so Dorothy Dell just resonated. Dame Whina Cooper and Billy T James – we watched them on the box. Albert Wendt and *Sons for the Return Home* – we grew up with that book too. It's about where I've come from; the stories, the journey – everything. The good, the bad and the ugly.”

Dessa's created 14 pieces so far, including a transgender woman, and has taken nearly a year to build her collection. Her latest work, called *Tom, Dick and Harry*, tells its own story about how we can label others and miss their uniqueness. Recognising the beautiful in the ordinary is something Dessa never wants to lose.

“To me, every Tom, Dick and Harry is a person. I've never liked to put labels on people. Everyone has a story, no matter how ordinary they are. To me, they are all beautiful.”

Dreaming BIG

There's a bit of history around Dessa's latest private mosaic commission – *bird of paradise and tui and harakeke* – on two giant pottery urns on Ocean Beach Road, Tairua. The pots sit at the gateway to a private property that was once home to a garden centre and art gallery called Easterley.

Dessa Says...

“The craft shop ran throughout the 1970s and expanded into an outlet for many local and Coromandel artists, who displayed glass pieces, leather work, art, woodwork and jewellery.

“When I first moved to Tairua, I spotted the pots as I drove along Ocean Beach Road and thought how much I'd love to mosaic them. That thought has remained as a dream for almost seven years.

“During that time, I met the original owners of the Easterly pots, Pat and Dave, who were by then well into their nineties. I vividly recall asking Dave if there'd been any books written about him, as he was highly decorated after World War II. Although he'd been approached by a family friend to write about him and his war efforts, he declined, wanting to leave it behind and enjoy his life.

“Dave was a very humble man who adored his wife Pat and I remember saying to him how much I would have liked to have been around when they owned the Easterley so I could've worked on his pots.

“Both Pat and Dave have since passed away and the property is now in the hands of my client and has become a totally unexpected dream realised. Tairua and the wider communities, as well as visitors, will now be able to enjoy the Easterley pots even more.”



To view Dessa's works in person or discuss a commission, get in touch by phoning 027 275 4852 or emailing info@dessablue.com.

You can follow Dessa on:
facebook.com/dessablue

instagram.com/dessablue and instagram.com/dessablueartist

THE FREEDOM of words

Shining a light on the stories of women and their search for freedom lies at the heart of writer Stephanie Parkyn's rich and imaginative historical fiction.

Raised in a book-loving family in Christchurch, with tales of fantasy and adventure and the 'thrill of imagining things', it was a love of science that first claimed Stephanie's attention, leading to a career as an environmental scientist.

Moving to Tasmania in 2010, Stephanie took up her pen full-time, with a passion to illuminate the stories of woman erased from history. "There are so many stories where women have been overlooked, especially in the arts and sciences. Their contributions have been lost – we're not hearing about their discoveries, not seeing their art in galleries," she explains.

Her novels are one way this talented author has sought to address the imbalance: "Those periods of history I'm writing in, women often didn't write their own story, so when I first began researching, it was very difficult to get a feel for that first person voice," says Stephanie.

Set against the tumultuous backdrop of the French Revolution and the rise and fall of Napoleon's Empire, her first three books are a skillful blend of real-life events and fictional narrative. While deeply rooted in a vivid sense of time and place, the themes of love, freedom and personal autonomy will resonate with many contemporary readers as her characters search for love and the right to make their own choices.

Her first novel, *Into the Word*, re-imagines Marie-Louise Girardin's extraordinary real-life voyage to Australia and the South Pacific disguised as a sailor, and her quest to retain

her independence and to reconnect with the child she leaves behind. Her second novel *Josephine's Garden*, follows socialite Rose de Beauharnais's remarkable rise to become Empress Josephine of France, bringing to life the precariousness of her place in society and her rights to her home as she struggles to provide Bonaparte with an heir.

"I wanted to explore the things women were struggling with and the very real constraints that women were under at that time in history: the need for security and a home, being able to look after and provide for themselves, the search for freedom and independence," says Stephanie. "At the time of the Revolution, women were also fighting to become citizens and have the right to vote."

"Although I write about what fascinates me, I hope readers will feel what life was like for someone else in the past and perhaps reflect on what we're doing now."

and how it can be shaped by struggle.

"At the same time that my characters are travelling through Germany, the Brothers Grimm are collecting fairytales from those occupied lands. They had been feudal towns when Napoleon joined them under the Empire, but they united to fight back," says Stephanie. "Those fairytales were a common ancestry, and the beginning of a common identity."

In Italy, the young storytellers connect with people using art and performance

Her latest book, *The Freedom of Birds*, published in 2021, plays out against the fall of Napoleon's Empire as it follows a troop of French storytellers on their travels through Europe. It's a story not only of belonging and the history of storytelling, but of cultural identity



to rebel against oppression. "There's a style of performance theatre called *commedia dell'arte*. It's a physical form of improvisation that's very uncontrolled. Napoleon took over Venice and banned that art form. It's so interesting to see what some leaders do when they come into power; how they begin to oppress people; trying to break that sense of who they are culturally.

"We see it over and over again with colonisation. It takes a long time to bring that identity back into being when you've been made to think your culture, your stories, are not important."

Next on the horizon for Stephanie is a book exploring the travels of Victorian-era women and she's already hard at work researching some of those real-life stories and uncovering their unique voices. "What's interesting about this era is that these women write their own stories in the first person, and you can actually hear their voices."

Those voices from the past, she adds, have a meaningful rôle to play in the present, helping us to reflect on our own society. "Although I write about what fascinates me, I hope readers will feel what life was like for someone else in the past and perhaps reflect on what we're doing now, especially in the way we treat each other. It gives us hope for the future."

Bibliography



Into the World, 2017: (Longlisted for the Tasmanian Premier's Literary Awards, Tasmania Book Prize 2019.) Inspired by a true story, *Into the World* is the compelling story of Marie-Louise Girardin's extraordinary voyage to Australia and the South Pacific disguised as a man. Set in the age of scientific enlightenment and the turmoil of the French Revolution, Marie-Louise escapes France seeking independence, but suffers grief and guilt for the baby she leaves behind.



Josephine's Garden, 2019: In the aftermath of the bloody end to the French Revolution in 1794, Rose de Beauharnais stumbles from prison on the day she is to be guillotined. Within a decade, she'll transform into the scandalous socialite who marries Napoleon Bonaparte, becomes Empress Josephine of France and builds a garden of wonders with plants and animals she gathers from across the globe. But she must give Bonaparte an heir or she risks losing everything.



The Freedom of Birds, 2021: As Napoleon's vast Empire crumbles, two French storytellers and a runaway girl travel through fairytale lands, Italian theatres and the battlefields of France in this beautifully told story about the bonds of love and friendship, the importance of stories, and finding a place to belong.

CONTACT STEPHANIE

Tucked away in her off-grid home overlooking Little Bay, just under an hour north of Coromandel Town, author Stephanie Parkyn researches and writes her books surrounded by regenerating bush, tūī, kākā and bellbirds.

Stephanie is available to speak about her novels and for creative writing workshops – rates on application.

Her books are published by Allen & Unwin and are available in print, audio, and ebook, in bookshops and online.

stephanieparkyn.com

You can follow her on:

facebook.com/sparkyn.story

pinterest.com.au/stephanieparkynauthor

instagram.com/stephanieparkyn





going with *the Flow*

For artist Christina McGrath, her flowing resin artworks have a story to tell about learning how to go with the flow and embracing the fluidity of life.

Christina's light-filled house perches on top of Mount Paku, the stunning views stretching across the sea and down to Pāuanui. It's the perfect spot for an artist who draws her inspiration from the colours and flow of the ocean and her love of surfing.

"I love the ocean; the feel and the flow of it. There's a certain connection you get when you're out there surfing and I was inspired to put that into my art. You have to be completely present and focused. There's only one chance to catch the wave. It's very similar to how I work with resin. Trying to get the perfect wave in that short window," she explains.

Originally from Colorado, Christina came to the Coromandel searching for an art community and has never looked back. She found both friends and mentors among the area's creative souls.

"The energy of the place and the people who live here, it's amazing," says Christina. "To be able to join a community that is so accepting and supportive has really helped me on my journey."

A self-taught artist, Christina started out painting her abstract waves in acrylic but was excited to find a medium that allowed her to enjoy that special flow she finds when surfing. "There's such a beautiful sense of expansiveness and freedom when you're surfing and I love capturing that in my art."

"There's such a beautiful sense of expansiveness and freedom when you're surfing and I love capturing that in my art."

Using a fast-drying medium like resin comes with its own set of challenges but Christina enjoys the hands-on process and the way that resin can be manipulated to allow a free interpretation. Once Christina's poured the colours on her canvas, there's only a short window of about 30 minutes where she can manipulate it, often tipping the canvas or using her hands or a stick to create her trademark abstract swirls.

"Resin is like water. It does take a bit to manipulate and most of the time it has a mind of its own," she laughs. "I'm often thinking, 'Wow, that didn't turn out anything like I thought it would.' But I like that when people look at my work, everyone sees something different."

Her first ever exhibition "What do you see?" was about how we bring our own perspectives to viewing art. Held at Whangamatā's Little Gallery, Christina asked people to share their thoughts and feelings about what they saw in her work.

"There's a certain level of vulnerability in being an artist, sharing your perspective, and it's the same for the person viewing and interpreting it. It's fun when people tell you what they see," she adds. "When they look at my pieces – I want them to tap into how they feel, who they are, what they see and love about it."

"It's such a rich experience to connect with people and whatever you see when you look at a piece of art, it doesn't really matter – it's all about freedom of perspective."



SWELLFITLIVING

Next was an exhibition alongside two other women artists at The Little Gallery in Whangamatā, called “Waves of Change”. It was a perfect fit for a theme that’s close to her heart – encouraging others to go with the flow. “For me, it’s all about free expression – inspiring people to see the fluidity in life and to embrace change.”

Christina is also harnessing her background in well-being as a yoga teacher and nutrition coach for a week-long creative retreat in November 2022 called “Flow”. She’ll be using her skills coaching nutrition, yoga, painting and meditation to help people connect with the ocean and harness their creativity.

“There’s such a strong draw in me not only to create, but to help others develop a connection with the sea – to love and protect it,” says Christina. “We are in a really good place compared to some countries, but we still have many things we can do locally to protect our oceans,” says Christina. “And the better we can take care of ourselves, the better we can take care of nature.”

ON THE HORIZON

FLOW

Christina and her Flow team are hosting a seven-day, six-night all-inclusive experience to empower you to create your own unique formula for increasing motivation, creativity, performance, and purpose - exploring movement, music, meditation, dance, painting, play and more.

Tairua, NZ | 7-13 November, 2022 flowlabcolab.com/experiences

SEA AND SHORE

An art exhibition with Christina McGrath, Ian Preece and Clare Elliot.

**Driving Creek Exhibition Gallery, Driving Creek,
Coromandel Town
1-14 January, 2023 | drivingcreek.nz**

GET IN TOUCH

Christina works from her light-filled home perched on top of Mount Paku, inspired by the expansive ocean views around her. She is currently taking commissions and private showings are available. You can contact Christina at christina@swellfitliving.com

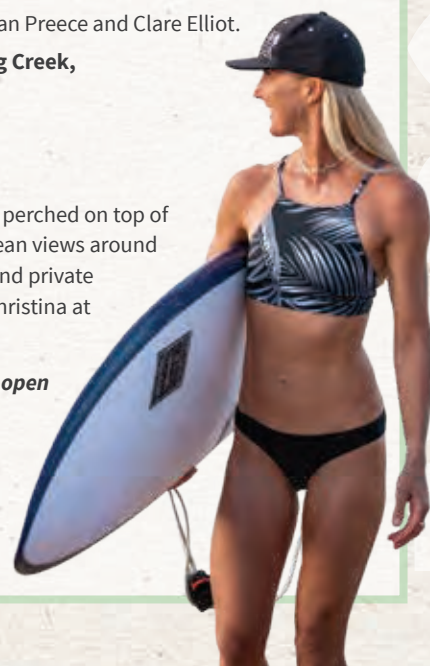
Connect with Christina to find out about open house dates and upcoming events:

Facebook:

[@facebook.com/swellfitliving](https://facebook.com/swellfitliving)

Instagram:

[@instagram.com/swellfitliving](https://instagram.com/swellfitliving)



**Our local art groups and creative projects can get a helping hand with funding from the Creative Communities Scheme.
See tcdc.govt.nz/ccs for more information.**



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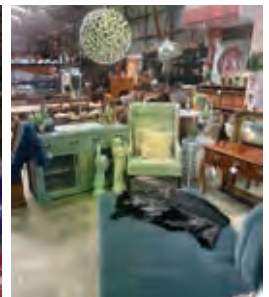
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TOPADAHIL ART STUDIOS

OPOUTERE BEACH



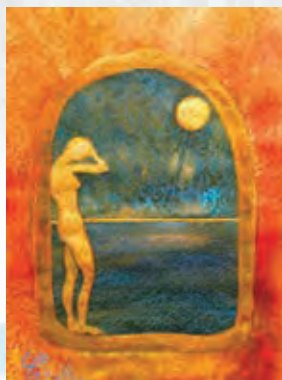
Guity Evelyn

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

289 Opoutere Rd. Opoutere Beach ~ Just 10 min north of Whangamatā ~ Open Daily, Visitors Welcome

p 07 865 7266 m 027 342 1480 e david.topadahil.studios@hotmail.com

<https://youtu.be/k80Rx7fmhEg> (video link)





COUNTRY CONNECTION

Life in our rural communities

Not all Coromandel life revolves around sea and sand. Our district is dotted with rural communities tucked away among our hills and valleys, which offer thriving small-town living in proximity to our more celebrated coastal attractions. Whether it's farming or just finding a quiet spot away from the summer crowds, here's a look at why locals love life in three of our country villages.

Peaceful Pūiri

This small and picturesque valley settlement is situated where the Pūiri River intersects with State Highway 26. The cluster of family homes, small businesses and farming activity is just 14 kilometres south-east of Thames, with Paeroa also a handy commute. Life for many families revolves around the school, where calf club and hunting competitions are annual highlights. There's no shortage of outdoor activities in Pūiri with the Hauraki Rail Trail right on the doorstep, walking tracks and numerous bush trails which include private access to forestry land and bush.

Being part of Pūiri

Miriam Courtney, along with her husband Clark and three children have lived in Pūiri for the last 8 years. Clark is a long-time local, living in the area for 39 years, and two of the couple's three children have been to Pūiri School. Here, Miriam tells us about life in peaceful Pūiri.

How are you and your family involved in the local community?

I am on the Board of Trustees for Pūiri School, just actually finishing my 3-year term this September. We also host a farmers' market through our Christmas Tree Farm which encourages local businesses to sell their products on this day.

We also host the Pūiri School and Thames Valley Cross Country on our farm - allowing the students to have an adventure while completing cross country, and running around the Christmas Trees.

What role does the school play in Pūiri?

Pūiri School is at the heart of Pūiri town and currently we have 26 students on our school roll. Our ERO reports are showing how progressive and well established our school is. Currently we are going through the process of a change in Principal, which will commence at the beginning of 2023. We use the river as Awa school which incorporates children learning about Science, Nature, Environment, Turangawaewae (Where they stand) and their local Rohe (area). So Pūiri School is really embracing our local environment.

Can you tell us about your business The Christmas Tree Farm?

Lynne and Keith Courtney (Clark's parents) started the farm 28 years ago, then Clark and I took over running the farm 12 years ago. We grow Christmas Trees and Clark shapes them into their conical shape over their growth cycle - 3.5 years later they are ready for families to come and choose and collect to take home and enjoy their family tradition. We also have a barn which has been converted into our Christmas Decoration Shop - in here you will find a magical array at your fingertips. Each year we have new



customers from around the country come and enjoy our little venture here in Pūiri. It is definitely a family affair with my extended family all being a part of the sales team. Our website is christmastree.co.nz and our Facebook page has our opening dates and times.

What's the best part of living in Pūiri?

The peace and quiet, generally, despite the family of kākā (native parrot) that has made Pūiri home. We love the fact we have the stream, forest and the rail trail to enjoy. We are often out and about enjoying the natural area. We are so close to Thames and Paeroa and surrounds which enables us to enjoy the best of both worlds. There's just an amazing feel about the place. The outlook of our mountain range with the mist that often covers it brings a sense of calm to the area. Having the primary school on a side road is fantastic for allowing for the safety of our students walking to and from school. My children have all made it their home. It's a fantastic place to be.



The outlook of our mountain range with the mist that often covers it brings a sense of calm to the area.



Make the most of Matatoki

Just up the highway from Pūriri is the neighbouring community of Matatoki. The Matatoki Stream runs from the Coromandel Range through the area to join the Waihou River. The community has a deep pre-colonial history. The eastern bank of the Waihou River on Matatoki's western edge was the location for many Māori pā, including Oruarangi pā and Paterangi pā, thought to have first been settled in the 1300s. In modern times, the Kōpū Sawmill was once the centre of employment for Matatoki, but its closure in 2008 saw the loss of 145 jobs. These days the community is based around farming and small business interests, with a small and thriving primary school that has a roll of approximately 65 students.

Must do in Matatoki – Visit The Cheese Barn

Kelvin Haigh started Matatoki Farm Cheese back in 1994 as the principal cheese-maker of a range of certified organic cheese. By 2011 his wife Cathy had joined him in the business, which expanded into The Cheese Barn in 2011. Kelvin still makes the organic cheese and yoghurt and Cathy runs the cafe and does all the admin and orders for the business. There is a small team of staff working in the cafe and helping pack the cheese and other products which are all made on site. Here, Cathy tells us a bit more about the business and life in Matatoki.

Why stop at The Cheese Barn?

The Cheese Barn is only 30 meters from The Hauraki Rail Trail so it's a must stop when you are biking the trail. Only one hour away from Thames, by bike, it's the perfect distance to take a rest and have a bite to eat. The cafe is open seven days a week, and it also sells gelato and sorbet hand-made by Cathy using the same organic milk which goes into the Barn's award-winning cheese and yoghurt. There is a big outdoor area for sitting outside, so you can let the kids run around and feed the many animals nearby. As well as its outstanding dairy products, the Cheese Barn is known for excellent coffee. If you're in the mood for something stronger, then the venue is also BYO licensed, so you can enjoy a wine with your cheese board while soaking up the country surroundings.

How else are you involved in the local community?

We welcome local groups for talks and cheese-tasting, and we love it when school groups visit to learn about our cheese and where it comes from, often visiting a local farm first to see the cows being milked. It's wonderful to be involved in the community in that way.

What's the best part of living in Matatoki?

It's nice to be living in the country with plenty

of space for our animals, but not too far from town. It's also amazing having The Hauraki Rail Trail right on our doorstep so we can use it ourselves for walks and bike-riding, as well as welcoming our travelling customers! Our location means we're also not too far from the Kōpū Hikuai hill and some lovely beaches and holiday destinations if we feel like a getaway without going too far at all.

Why is Matatoki a good place to do business?

Being out in the country gives our customers something different from the other cafes in town, where there's not a huge amount of space outside for kids to run around. We're also able to provide the large parking area that campervans and buses require. We love it when car clubs come through while on a rally and there's plenty of parking space for them.

Would you encourage others to consider living in Matatoki?

Absolutely. Matatoki is a great place to live if you like the rural lifestyle but it's not too far away from everything else you need to stay connected.

Tell us how people can find you

We are on State Highway 26 between Kōpū and Paeroa at 4 Wainui Road. If you're riding the Rail Trail there are signs on Wainui Road that point the way to where we are. The cafe is open seven days a week from 9am with the cafe closing at 3.30pm and the shop at 4.00pm.



Matatoki is a great place to live if you like the rural lifestyle but it's not too far away from everything else you need to stay connected.

Head over the hill to Hikuai

Just over the Kōpū hill off State Highway 25A is the wee gem of Hikuai, with a population of 237 at the last census. Tucked underneath the Pinnacles, in between Pāuanui and Tairua, the settlement's beautiful river swimming holes and tramping tracks are popular with the summer crowds as well as with locals year-round. Primary-school children from around the area travel by bus to Hikuai School, which is central to community life with its busy calendar of activities.

Hidden away in Hikuai

Hikuai School has a long and valued history as part of the Hikuai community on the south eastern side of the Coromandel.

In 2022 the school celebrated its 125th Jubilee, sharing histories and memories with past and present pupils. The current principal of Hikuai School is Rachell Leitch. Here, she tells us why she loves her job.

How long have you lived in Hikuai?

I am new to the area, moving from the Kapiti Coast, starting my principalship at the start of 2021. My family have always enjoyed our holidays in Tairua and adventures up the Tairua River to Hikuai. Swimming at Snooks Corner, hiking

up Puketui Valley along with beach days at both Pāuanui and Tairua were a real favourite for the whole family. I was really fortunate to be appointed as principal and am enjoying getting to know my community.

What do you love about your job as principal?

I love the diversity of our community. Our pupils come from Hikuai, living on farms and lifestyle blocks; from Pāuanui, beach loving kids who enjoy the holiday town all year round; and Tairua, travelling to us each day for the smaller rural school experience.

What's the best part of living and working in Hikuai?

The community! I was made to feel welcome from the get go and people went out of their way to help my family settle in. Again I say: "Thank you for the scones with home-made jam and the firewood." We may be small but when you need something done there is always someone to help.

Why is Hikuai a good place for families?

Our Hikuai families enjoy our outdoors. The river, the bush and the beach down the road all feature as great reasons for living here. Hikuai is peaceful and beautiful with the Pinnacles forming an amazing backdrop for our school and the surrounding farms and lifestyle blocks. Families can enjoy the peace and quiet, however our close links to Tairua, Pāuanui and Whangamatā mean that nothing is too far away.

Would you encourage others to consider living there?

Hikuai is a great little community who are very much connected to the land. It always makes me smile as I drive to work in the morning and see the pinnacles standing tall. Tū Ake, Tū Kaha.



Hikuai is peaceful and beautiful with the Pinnacles forming an amazing backdrop ...



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We have offices in both Whangamatā and Whitianga. Please call us to book an appointment prior to coming in, so that we can ensure the right member of our team is available to meet with you.

We can be found at 604 Port Road, Whangamatā and 33-35 Albert Street, Whitianga (upstairs of the Natal Trust Building). All enquiries can be made on (07) 865 8824.



The Ussher Lawyers Team: From left, Josee Klein (Trust Account & Office Administrator), Maria George (Registered Legal Executive), Natasha Ussher (Solicitor), Michael Ussher (Director), Maddie Airey (Receptionist), Kassie Philps (Legal Secretary), Will Everton (Solicitor).

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Hauraki Coromandel

CARBON FREE | WASTE FREE | PREDATOR FREE

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME



Manaaki whenua, Manaaki tangata, Haere whakamua
CARE FOR THE LAND, CARE FOR PEOPLE, GO FORWARD



Sustainability Programme

The *Forever good for your soul* programme is a practical way for the Hauraki Coromandel tourism industry to step beyond greenwashing to make positive changes to help solve a global environmental problem. The future success of tourism in our region depends on the preservation and enhancement of our beautiful unique nature with all its biodiversity, as that is the main reason people visit.

The programme provides access to the knowledge required for businesses to progress, starting with quick wins, until sustainable practices become part of their core business.

There is much to be done, but together we can make big changes. Destination Hauraki Coromandel has chosen annual

growth in Coromandel kiwi population as the key measure of success. There will be many achievements, but by focusing on kiwi we can connect with our visitors in a meaningful way

We know that visitors want transparency from businesses they engage with, to understand their values and choose accordingly. We will reach the point where visitors booking with businesses in the programme will know that they are directly helping save Coromandel kiwi, their habitat and our wider nature. Working together, within a decade the difference in our environment will be visible and audible.

Forever good for your soul.

Sustainability Pathway

CARBON FREE | WASTE FREE | PREDATOR FREE



- **Sign up.** Your \$50 annual fee will be donated to a local community conservation group of your choice.



- **One-on-one sustainability coaching.** Schedule a free 3-hour session with Instep experts.
- **Local Ambassador Workshop.** Coming soon to a town near you.



- **Implement recommendations** from your sustainability coaching session.
- **Support** our regional effort by getting others on board.
- **Switch off** power when not in use.
- **Stop using** single-use coffee cups.

Making Progress One Business at a time

We can all reduce our environmental impact by taking stock of what we do, and how we do it.

The experts at Instep, who are guiding us along this pathway, describe Sustainability as:
'meeting the need of today without impacting the needs of tomorrow'.

Waiomu Cafe

WAIOMU BEACH CAFE
JOURNEY TO
CARBON FREE / WASTE FREE / PREDATOR FREE

STEPS ALREADY TAKEN

Waiomu Beach Cafe follow a Triple Bottom Line philosophy with a focus on compostability and ethical delivery.

- ✓ Promote the use of keep cups.
- ✓ EV charger installed onsite.
- ✓ Donations made to Thames Coast Kiwi Care.

200 kg
worth of coffee cups saved from landfill each year

50%
waste diverted from landfill

ACTION PLAN

LOCAL FOOD MILES ☐
Promote local food, lowering food-miles & supporting community.

PLASTIC FREE ☐
Attempt to be a single-use plastic free cafe.

WASTE AUDIT ☐
Carry out a waste audit to identify problem items.

2022 Sustainable assessment performed by **instep**

SUSTAINABLE IDEAS

- Find an alternative for your biggest single use plastic item
- Consider re-usable cup loan scheme for locals
- Consider your electricity provider and if they generate from renewable sources
- Ask your supplier how best to prepare for BioLPG in the future, an LPG made from waste products
- Showcase a local ingredient seasonally
- Plant trees locally to balance your energy emissions

2022 CARBON FOOTPRINT

Electricity 36%
LPG 62%
Petrol 2%

FUEL:
2,340 kg LPG
1,000 Ls petrol
7,334 kg CO2e

ELECTRICITY:
31,750 kWh electricity
4,032 kg CO2e

TOTAL CARBON FOOTPRINT 2022
11,366 kg CO2e

This carbon footprint is the equivalent of
43 trips from Thames to Hamilton

And would need the planting of
26 native trees to neutralize

2022 Sustainable assessment performed by **instep**

Protect our special environment with simple actions
CARBON FREE - Switch off power when not in use, save energy and money
WASTE FREE - Say no to single use 'Rubbish Cups', use a keep cup or have here
PREDATOR FREE - Save Coromandel Kiwi and support your local conservation group

Julie is well-known for sustainable practices at the cafe in beautiful Waiomu Bay. They source much of their food locally, organic where possible, and their Tesla and EV charging station allows guests to contribute to Thames Coast Kiwi Care. They have been using compostable (made from plants) cups and lids for years. Well on the path, yet pushing to improve 'Sustainability with a mind to a responsible approach regarding community, environment and ethical business'.

Sunlover Retreat

SUNLOVER RETREAT
JOURNEY TO
CARBON FREE / WASTE FREE / PREDATOR FREE

STEPS ALREADY TAKEN

International bed and breakfast retreat offering strong messaging on Maori history and Coromandel outdoor information and cultural experience

- ✓ Continue messaging your single-use, plastic-free initiatives
- ✓ Strong educational messaging on Kiwi Care, kauri restoration and predator free

Solar-powered hot water system

60.7%
waste diverted from landfill

ACTION PLAN

VEHICLE FUEL ☐
Target a 2% reduction in vehicle fuel

LIGHTING ☐
Implement LED replacement programme

EV CHARGING ☐
Explore appropriate funding for EV charging station

2022 Sustainable assessment performed by **instep**

SUSTAINABLE IDEAS

- Ensure all amenities and goody bags are environmentally friendly
- Ensure hot water temperature is set at minimum regulation requirements
- Consider your electricity provider and whether they generate from renewable sources
- Consider offering guests the opportunity to plant trees in local programmes, or suggest within accommodation costs you have planted a tree on their behalf
- Continue to showcase local ingredients products

2022 CARBON FOOTPRINT

Electricity 70.5%
Petrol 29.5%

FUEL:
0 kg LPG
240Ls petrol
588kg CO2e

ELECTRICITY:
11,064 kWh electricity
1,405 kg CO2e

TOTAL CARBON FOOTPRINT 2022
1,993kg CO2e

This carbon footprint is the equivalent of
8 trips from Thames to Hamilton

And would need the planting of
5 native trees to neutralise

2022 Sustainable assessment performed by **instep**

Protect our special environment with simple actions
CARBON FREE - Switch off power when not in use, save energy and money
WASTE FREE - Say no to single use 'Rubbish Cups', use a keep cup or have here
PREDATOR FREE - Save Coromandel Kiwi and support your local conservation group

Donna and Chris designed their property in Tairua with sustainability in mind, using solar power, collecting rainwater, growing food and recycling carefully. As they already have a well-planted garden, the annual carbon offset provided by 5 native trees and the tree they will plant for each new booking will help grow a native forest somewhere in The Coromandel.

Take action and play your part

CARBON FREE

Switch off to save money,
energy and the planet.



Be part of the solution, not the pollution

The Coromandel has long been known as a place where people care for the environment, it is part of our culture. Doing away with single use coffee cups is one small thing we can all do to eliminate a mountain of waste, literally, from going to landfills across the region. It will save money, and customers can stop a while, sit down and smell the coffee. A much better experience!

As more people and businesses commit to becoming Waste Free, we are living up to our collective reputation. An industry commitment to give back to the environment that so many visitors come to enjoy will add heft to a Hauraki Coromandel culture of care for our place. Elevating "*The Coromandel, good for your soul*" in hearts and minds, forever.

Small steps to big changes

Encouraging your staff and visitors to switch off lights and power points, will help your business eliminate energy waste and save money. As part of the one-on-one Instep coaching programme you will discover other ways that you can support your customers and our visitors to make Carbon Free choices too, and demonstrate that your business cares for our environment.

The team at Destination Hauraki Coromandel has worked through the steps to measure, reduce and offset their annual greenhouse gas emissions to achieve Ekos certification as a Zero Carbon Organisation. So we know what it takes for us to change, and designed this programme to help guide you through your process.

WASTE FREE

Say NO to single use
coffee cups.
Keep cups
forever.



PREDATOR FREE

Save Coromandel kiwi and their
habitat with a \$50 donation.

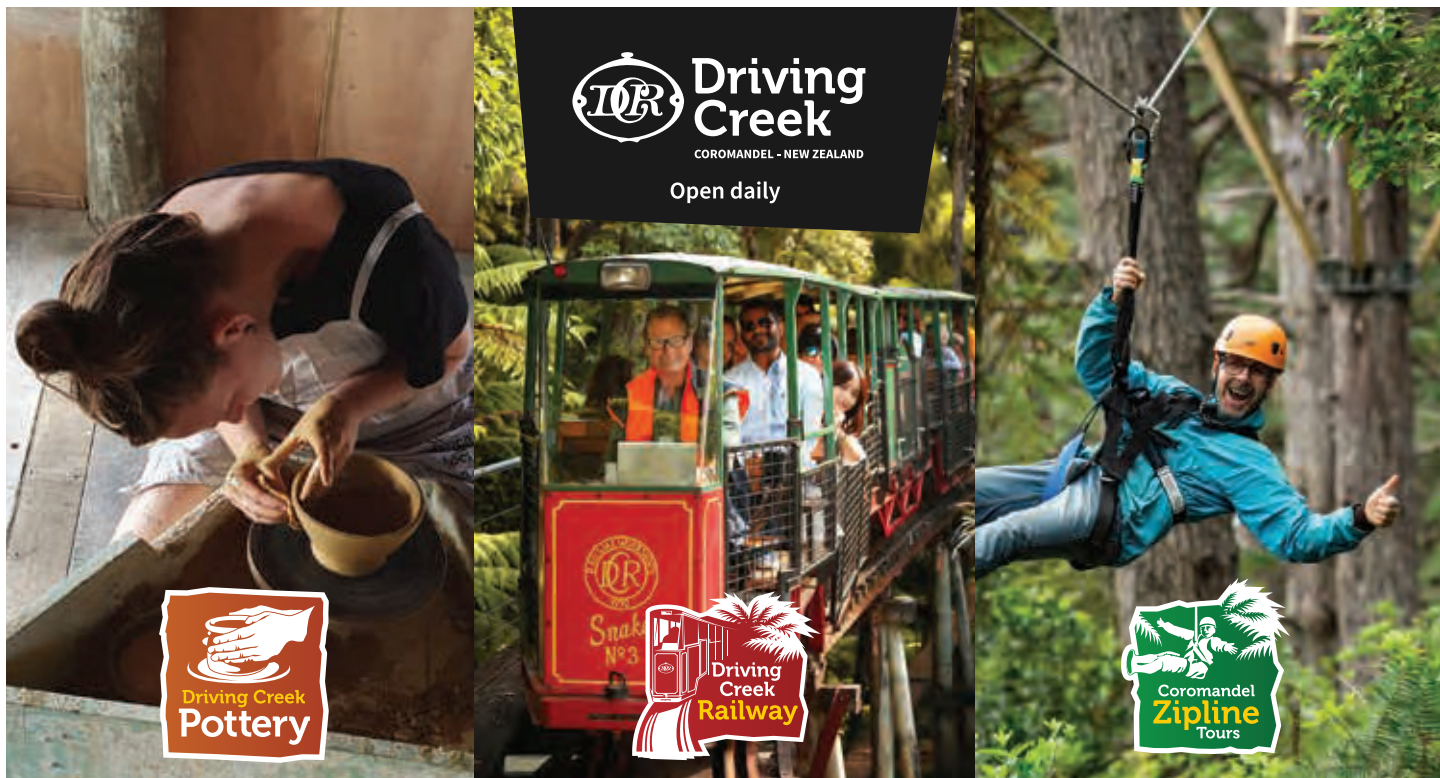


Every effort, big or small is significant

It may seem like a big task to make Hauraki Coromandel Predator Free, but there are already many community groups in action, making dramatic progress. Your donation to a community conservation group through this programme with Predator Free Hauraki Coromandel will be a massive boost. \$50 will help provide peanut butter for bait, repair a trap or buy a new trap. As protected areas grow, and nature rapidly recovers, kiwi and other species will thrive.

That's good for your soul.

SIGN UP
to keeping
The Coromandel
good for your
soul, forever



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2022/2023 EVENTS GUIDE

These event listings were accurate at the time of going to print. Please follow the information available on the event organiser's website or social media channels.



MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC.)

MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB

Cathedral Cove Scenic Cruises

No Bait Tournament

12 TO 13 NOV 2022

Ladies Blue

1 DEC 2022 TO 30 APR 2023

Suzuki Top Ten Tuna Tournament

31 DEC 2022 TO 7 JAN 2023

Kids Wharf Fishing

28 DEC 2022

Ladies Tournament

28 JAN 2023

Tristram Marine Open

18 TO 2 FEB 2023

Nationals

18 TO 2 FEB 2023

Kubota Billfish Classic

16 TO 18 MAR 2023

Junior Tournament

15 AND 16 APR 2023

Snapper Tournament

3 JUNE 2023

12 The Esplanade, Whitianga 3542

p: 07 866 4121

e: mbgfc@xtra.co.nz

w: gamebase.co.nz



THAMES HERITAGE FESTIVAL 12-13 NOV 2022

This year's Festival is an opportunity to check out how things were done in the past - whether it be taking a photograph, transporting yourself around, socialising with the locals, or deciding on a 60s hairstyle.

This is a chance to dress up, learn something, take photos, and have fun.

At Heritage sites around Thames

See website for further event details.

w: thamesheritage.co.nz



COROMANDEL CHRISTMAS ART EXHIBITION

17 DEC - 15 JAN 2023

The Coromandel Christmas Art Exhibition is now in its 34th year. This annual group show features over 40 artists work including Michael Smither, Bronwynne Cornish and Fiona Tunnicliffe. Come along and experience some of New Zealand's leading artists. There will be an opening mix and mingle from 5pm, 17 December 2022.

w: thecoromandel.com/explore

SANTA PARADES

At the time of going to print we have not yet had the confirmed dates for the 2022 Santa Parades. The Parades occur annually in Thames, Coromandel Town, Matarangi, Whitianga, and Whangamatā.





THE EXTRAVAGANZA FAIR

Buffalo Beach Whitianga

27 AND 28 DEC 2022, 9AM – 5PM

Williamson Park Whangamatā

6 AND 7 JAN 2023, 9AM – 5PM

The Extravaganza Fair is a family affair, free entry for kids and a gold coin entry for adults, a fun day out with something for everyone. Family shows, live music and entertainment plus unique stalls, food, rides, and prizes to be won.



KAUAERANGA VALLEY SUMMER FUN

27 DEC 2022 TO 7 JAN 2023, 9AM - 4PM DAILY

Nature games, lawn-maze, crafts, quiz-hunts, displays, special events including wildlife encounters. Enjoy adventures, relaxing and learning in our beautiful outdoors. Something for everyone. Bring a picnic, swim, explore, discover, play. Check the programme for details including our big family friendly event on January 7.

DOC Visitor Centre, Kauaeranga Valley

FB: /kauaerangavc

w: doc.govt.nz

e: kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz

p: 07 8679080



WHANGAMATĀ SUMMER FESTIVAL MARKETS

Annual Twilight Market

27 DEC 2022, 2PM TO 8PM

Annual Craft Market

28 DEC 2022, 9AM TO 4PM

The annual markets have a huge range of stalls with everything from clothing, hats, shoes, sunnies, tools, arts and crafts, loads of food stalls, plants, bee products, fruit and vegetables. Featuring live music from local artists and lots of stall demonstrations. BYO shopping bags.

We look forward to fantastic weather, awesome stalls and entertainment this summer. See you there.

Williamson Park, Ocean Road, Whangamatā

FB: whangasummerfest



ONEMANA MARKET DAY

29 DEC, 10AM TO 3PM

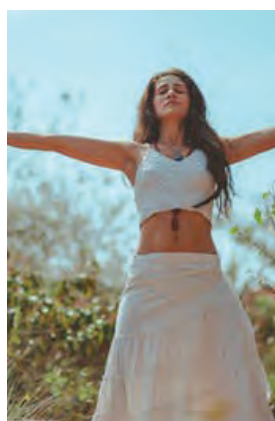
Arts, crafts, books, games, food, ice-cream, fashionwear, jewellery, music, a wonderful community day at the beach.

Beachfront Reserve

w: onemana.org.nz

e: ratepayeronemana@gmail.com

FB: onemanabeach



WHITIANGA WELLBEING MARKET

28 DEC 2022 - 4 JAN 2023, 10AM TO 4PM, FREE ENTRY

The biggest free mind body spirit market in NZ. Lots of amazing stalls to explore and enjoy over eight days.

Whitianga Town Hall, 24 Monk Street, Whitianga

FB: whitiangawellbeingmarket

WHANGAMATA GYPSY FAIR 2023

SUN 1ST JAN - TUES 3RD JAN 2023
9AM - 5PM

WHERE:
WHANGAMATA AREA SCHOOL
PORT ROAD



THE KELTIC FAIR

2 JAN 2023, 9AM TO 4PM

The Keltic Fair is one of New Zealand's most successful fairs and the highlight of the Coromandel holiday season. Over 300 stalls, arts and crafts, food, entertainment with over 15,000 visitors.

Coromandel Area School, Woollams Ave, Coromandel Town

w: kelticfair.co.nz



PĀUANUI KING OF THE MOUNTAIN

2 JAN 2023, 8AM

The ultimate short-distance trail run challenge.

The 8.5km course involves running on the beach reserve to the base of Mt Pāuanui where the 387m climb to the summit begins. Take in the spectacular view, before descending the bush track to Cave Bay for a rock-hop along the foreshore running back to the Pāuanui Surf Life Saving Club.

King of the Mountain is proudly presented by the Pāuanui Sport and Recreation Club's 'Summer Series'.

Pāuanui Surf Life Saving Club – Beach Reserve

FB: [pauanuieries](https://www.facebook.com/pauanuieries)

w: pauanuiclub.co.nz



COOKS BEACH SUMMER GALA

4 JAN 2023, 9AM TO 2PM

Over 100 stalls, games, food, rides, entertainment and raffles. Also the opportunity to win \$1000 with the Richardsons Real Estate "Daisy Dung Drop". The annual fundraiser for Whenuakite School.

Cooks Beach Reserve

w: cooksbeachsummergala.co.nz/



HAHEI MARKET DAY

6 JAN 2023, 9AM TO 2PM

The annual Hahei Market Day in beautiful Kotare Reserve. Over 120 stalls, local arts, crafts, produce plus the annual Hahei Library book sale. Amusement rides for the family, food stalls and coffee, cold-drinks and ice-cream.

Hahei Market Day is the annual Library fund raiser, with profits distributed through the Community Well-being support programme.

Kotare Reserve, Pa Road, Hahei



WHITI BEACH MEET

**8 JAN 2023,
9AM TO 3PM**

Whitianga's premier vehicle show, free to the public, come see the car, truck, or bike, you should never have sold.

*Buffalo Beach Reserve,
Whitianga*



BRITS AT THE BEACH

**10 TO 12 FEB 2023,
10AM TO 4.30PM**

A celebration of all things British, including cars, food, music and fashion. Held annually in beautiful Whangamatā.

w: britsatthebeach.co.nz

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Limited Local Tickets Available at Whitianga iSite or Tairua & Pauanui Info Centres

*Plus booking fee until sold out

Or From www.greenstoneentertainment.co.nz



MERCURY BAY ART ESCAPE OPEN STUDIOS

4, 5 AND 11, 12 MARCH 2023

Visit 50 studios in the beautiful Mercury Bay area and meet a rich and eclectic variety of artists.

Opening event Friday 3 March 2023
5.30pm.

w: mercurybay-artescape.com/



PĀUANUI HALF MARATHON 18 MARCH 2023

Pāuanui Beach provides the ultimate backdrop for this exciting road and trail running event. The 21km course takes in some of the best sites at this popular holiday spot: the surf beach, the Pāuanui Waterways, pathways, boardwalks and the river-side track of the Pāuanui Tairua Trail.

As well as the 21km event, there are 10km and 4.5km courses with walking options for all distances.

w: pauanuihalfmarathon.co.nz

FB: PauanuiHalfMarathon



REPCO BEACH HOP 2023 22 TO 26 MARCH 2023

Celebrate the best of the 50's and 60's in this five day nostalgia festival. Live music, 1000's of Hot Rods, Classic Cars, Motorbikes, Markets, Fashion and Rock'n'Roll dancing. A free event for the whole family.

Whangamata

w: <https://beachhop.co.nz/>



A TASTE OF MATARANGI 1 APRIL 2023, 10AM TO 4.30PM

Matarangi's own food, wine and music festival. 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.

Village Green, Kenwood Drive Matarangi

For more information and exciting entertainment go to our website.

w: atasteofmatarangi.co.nz

FB: atasteofmatarangi



WHITIANGA MARATHON 2023 DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

If you're looking for a fun, mainly flat, coastal course with stunning views based in the heart of the Coromandel Peninsula, then you've come to the right place. We have an event for everyone ranging from a 5km fun run right up to the premier 42km marathon and a 22.5km off-road trail.

Buffalo Beach Reserve, Whitianga
w: whitiangamarathon.co.nz

INFORMATION CENTRES

THAMES INFORMATION KIOSKS

Goldfields Mall Thames

PĀUANUI

23 Centreway
Pāuanui
07 864 7101

COROMANDEL TOWN

Samual James Reserve
60 Kapanga Road,
Coromandel Town
07 866 8598

WHANGAMATĀ

616 Port Road,
Whangamatā

KAUAERANGA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Department of
Conservation
Kauaeranga Valley,
Thames
07 867 9080

WHITIANGA

66 Albert Street
Whitianga
07 866 5555

TAIRUA

2 Manaia Road
Tairua
07 864 7575



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.

THAMES MARKET POLLEN STREET, THAMES. WEEKLY ON SATURDAYS

Locally-produced plants, organic fruit and vegs, bric-a-brac, second hand goods and books, arts and crafts, fine food, cheeses, specialty oils, health and body care products, flowers, bread, knit wares, and much more.

TAIRUA MARKET

9.00AM - 1.00PM

The first Saturday of every month, you will find this eclectic collection of stalls and produce right by the harbour next to the one-lane bridge on Tairua Main Road.

WHITIANGA MARKET EVERY SATURDAY FROM LABOUR WEEKEND TILL EASTER

Whitianga market is a community artisans market which runs every Saturday during the summer months. It has a wide range of handcrafted items available.

WHANGAMATĀ WEEKEND MARKET SATURDAYS 9AM – 1PM ISLAND VIEW RESERVE

20 November, 18 December, 15 January, 29 January, 5 February, 19 February, see their website for further schedule - www.weekendevents.co.nz

Celebrate the local culture with the beachside markets. A quality selection of fresh produce and food trucks, craft stalls and live music.

DIVE ZONE WHITIANGA

PADI Dive Instructor career training is offered right here in Whitianga! If you have been considering a marine based career then come and talk to us. We offer NZ's largest PADI dive training facility and all of our diving is done in world class dive locations – right here on our doorstep as well as offsite practicum trips away. Our programmes meet the Government's Fees Free Policy criteria for eligible students and student loans and allowances may also be available.



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academy
of diving



www.divezonewhitianga.co.nz



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Academy of Diving Trust is registered as a Private Training Establishment by NZQA and has approval to sub-contract to Dive Zone Whitianga



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www.thelostspring.co.nz

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thegoodyarnstore.co.nz



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f INSIDERINTERIORS i INSIDER.INTERIORS
M 021 509 952 WWW.INSIDER.NET.NZ

THE ONE-STOP MUST-SHOP

I SEAFOOD and I eat it

We sent Amy Bedwell from our Communications Team and friends on a gastronomic journey around the Coromandel to uncover the seafood sensations that only our district can provide.

COROMANDEL OYSTER COMPANY

Coromandel
Town

The big kahuna: MUSSEL CHOWDER WITH GARLIC BREAD

A warm Sunday afternoon in March saw me and a gaggle of motorbike-mounted friends pull into the gravel parking lot of Coromandel Oyster Company. It was charming from the get-go: a ramshackle hut with oodles of character, thousands of oyster shells heaped into a mound at its rear, a line of local, family punters who'd been there before. The vibe? Unmistakably Kiwi.

Unlike many fish and chip shops, Coromandel Oyster Company didn't stop at deep fried morsels and burgers. On the menu was a variety of fritters including paua and oyster, smoked fish in white sauce, and even the choice to bring your own fish to be cooked. A unique touch was the frozen pre-made pottles of chowders and mornay available to take home. But the most popular choices among my group included the seafood bounty basket (shared between two), fresh natural oysters, mussel chowder and the tried-and-true, fish n' chips combo.

Happily, we shed our riding gear and laid claim to the large seating area overlooking the Coromandel Harbour tide. The view was an interesting one – Mount Oyster, the rusty exoskeleton of a defunct family car and, beyond, gently meandering waves stretching towards the coast of Whanganui Island. Militant seagulls swarmed greedily as each of us retrieved our numbered lunches.

What the Coromandel Oyster Company lacked in elegance, it made up for in flavour. The group's oyster enthusiasts raved about the freshness of the shellfish and easily devoured four dozen between the five of them.



Another fan favourite was the mussel chowder with garlic bread. Generous chunks of salty flesh, the restrained inclusion of vegetables and sinfully creamy soup. I remember thinking, if the seagulls attack now, at least I'll die happy.

The other meals satisfied and were worth the mid-range prices charged (around \$15-\$20.) Everything was fresh, well-cooked and rustic and the service was quick and friendly. It goes without saying that I'll be back at Coromandel Oyster Company as soon as I can.

freshoysters.co.nz • 1613 SH25 Manaia Road, Coromandel Town
07 866 8028

Mussel chowder with
garlic bread ...



The big kahuna: GLUTEN-FREE MARKET FISH WITH ASIAN GREENS

It was a cool Friday night. We were basking in the last of the sunshine, our second round of Piña Coladas in tow, watching the bobbing waves gently sway the boats of Whitianga marina. The atmosphere at Salt was vivacious – upmarket without being pretentious, with a unique mixture of couples on first dates, families (like us) eager for a treat, and even a rowdy table of workmates on a night out.

Staff were attentive and vibrant and, best of all, knew the menu like the back of their hand. My sister scrutinised her short-list for traces of nuts, gluten, and olives. Happily, her requests for small augmentations to dishes were met with a smile and accommodated for without hesitation.

Between the three of us, we ordered a veritable seafood buffet. We started with a dozen oysters Kilpatrick and seared scallops which arrived quickly and tantalised our palettes and stomachs for the main meals. The oysters were juicy and tasty with a pleasant zing, while the seared scallops with chorizo and nori nam jim sauce were buttery and light and packed a sweet, Thai-style, punch.

While waiting for our main meals, we meandered along the wharf and spied sting rays and hundreds of tiny fish in the dark water. We watched a small yacht slip into its overnight resting place.

Our main meals were delivered by the chef – battered fish and chips with home-made tartare, a heritage tuna salad (sans olives), and market fish.

Every one of the orders was presented skilfully, making even your stock-standard beer battered fish look like a million-dollar meal.



Gluten-free market fish with Asian greens...

The taste lived up to the look, especially the Asian-style, market fish which proved the ideal follow up to the seared scallops from earlier. Flaky, fresh and bursting with oriental flair, this flawless dish was finished with edamame beans and a chilli consommé that could be bottled and sold.

Our feast had filled us to the brim, so we opted for a final cocktail in place of dessert. Walking home with smiles and full bellies, we resolved to come back for more the very next night.

saltwhitianga.co.nz • 2 Blacksmith Lane, Whitianga • 07 866 5818



SEA AND SALT TAKEAWAYS Whangamatā



*Fresh battered
snapper burger ...*

The big kahuna: FRESH BATTERED SNAPPER BURGER

It was Tuesday at noon, and I was starving. A morning spent in video meetings on mute to disguise my rumbling stomach was finally done, and I wanted something fast, tasty and full of flavour.

Mid-COVID-19, many of Whangamatā's main street staples were temporarily closed for business – but still boasting a booming trade was the local chippie, Sea and Salt. I diligently scanned online reviews en route, growing more excited about my upcoming lunch with each glowing rating I read.

Sea and Salt was unassuming – a little hole-in-the-wall shop with a blue and white facade wedged between Bay Audiology and a hairdresser on the main drag. Having already perused the menu on my walk and growing increasingly hungry amid the fish and chip store's tempting aroma, I ordered quickly. My groaning stomach was thankful for the cook's quick work, and my food was ready only ten minutes later.

A fresh battered snapper burger, three battered oysters and a mussel fritter was, in hindsight, too much food. The portions were mammoth, especially when you consider the extremely reasonable price points. The snapper burger was sublime – a toasted, buttery, gourmet bun with a thick layer of cheese, tartare sauce and mayonnaise and a large, lightly battered fillet of snapper that tasted as if it were caught that very

morning. I opted out of beetroot and tomato, but the carrot and lettuce added a welcome crunch. The addition of lemon salt and pepper was what pushed this burger from good, to darn delicious.

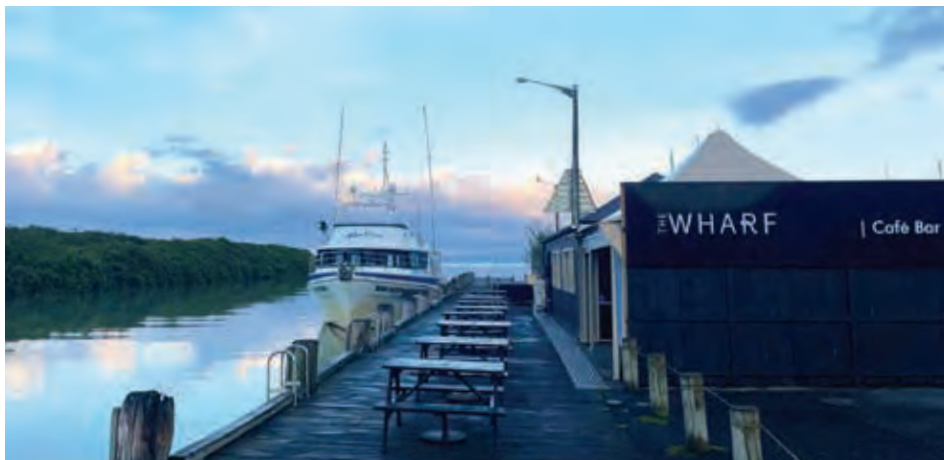
My battered oysters were equally as appetising. It was my first time ever trying oysters this way and I was glad that the team at Sea and Salt were able to create a crispy, light cocoon of batter that did not overpower that exquisite oyster flavour. As for the mussel fritter, I didn't expect the mussel to fritter ratio to be as good as it was for the tiny six-dollar price. I sadly only managed half and regretted tossing the rest away by dinner time, craving another bite.

My final judgement? There are not many chippies I would drive an hour from home to order from. But Sea and Salt is 100 per cent worth the trip.

seaandsalttakeaways.com • 709 Port Road, Whangamatā
07 865 9005

... world's greatest fish cakes...

THE WHARF CAFE AND FISH AND CHIPS Thames



The big kahuna: THE WORLD'S GREATEST FISH CAKES (as voted by me)

It was hump day, and my energy was zapped. It was the kind of malaise that could only be fixed by a nap or a really, really good meal. With a nap out of the question, I drove into Thames to sample what succulent seafood The Wharf had to offer.

The cafe is housed in a spruced-up shipping container that boasts multiple nautical-themed and locally produced artworks (for sale) on its interior walls. It was alive with customers – from a large group of friends seated in the quaint gazebo, to retirees enjoying fish and chips and a cheeky midday vino outside, to working folk like me grabbing hasty cabinet fare or enjoying a long lunch.

With some options unavailable on weekdays, my mother and I opted to split a tantalising seafood platter and ordered the much-lauded fish cakes from the adjoining fish and chip shop.

We secured a modest table overlooking the mouth of the Kauaeranga river at low tide. Boats were moored on mangroved banks and seagulls stalked patrons mid-mouthful. The water rested lazily, creating an interesting contrast between the sluggish and gentle world outside and the quick-paced and busy urban cafe.

The food arrived in two parts: first was the fish cakes which we agreed to forgo until our platter arrived but quickly changed our minds. They really were something else – crisp and delicate on the outside and deliciously moist and flavourful on the inside. I've had fish cakes in London, Paris, and Japan and these gold nuggets outshone them all.

The seafood platter was great value at \$40 for two and included magnificently oily salmon wings, smoked mussels, smoked fish, smoked fish dip with salty capers, pickled vegetables and an assortment of crackers.



At times the platter lacked moisture, but the flavours were pronounced, and combining each element together on a simple ritz cracker was a taste explosion. It was easily shared between two hungry people, and we even had a few morsels to take home as a late afternoon snack.

The Wharf should be a go-to lunch spot for anyone in Thames, and the fish cakes alone make it a destination eatery. They'll be seeing a lot of me around lunchtime from now on.

thamesfisheries.co.nz/wharf • Shortland Wharf, Thames • 07 868 6828

PUTTING THE COROMANDEL *on the menu*

Eric Pateman, one of the world's leading consultants and strategists on culinary tourism, led a Coromandel food workshop in May 2022, as part of a shared initiative between our Council and Auckland Council's Economic Development arms.

The purpose of the workshop was to bring together Coromandel food producers and providers to improve collaboration and networking between the local food, hospitality and tourism sector businesses and start to devise an action plan for food tourism opportunities.



"Auckland is one of our biggest visitor markets, and part of the discussion at the workshop was about how we can balance and manage what the Coromandel food and hospitality sector has to offer with customer expectations and satisfaction," says Laurna White, TCDC's Economic Development and Communications Group Manager.

"It also continued the conversation and planning on what public and private sector action could be made available to help spur innovation in product development, destination development and successful marketing of the Coromandel," says Mrs White.

Eric's work takes him around the

world to provide expert advice to the food sector on how to improve and better promote local markets. He also has a focus on seafood and aquaculture, which is why his insights are invaluable to our region.

The forum is part of our Council's development of the Coromandel Food Collective work, which is supporting and promoting local food producers and providers. Our role is bringing together the local food and beverage industry to share opportunities and discuss common challenges that could be solved as a collective. We also help put members in touch with organisations, contacts and funding opportunities for food-related businesses and industry on the Coromandel.

Local and homegrown food is an important part of the Coromandel economy, with mussel farms, organic growers and artisan producers among those helping to establish our district as the pantry of artisan and locally-grown food products.

Coromandel producers taking the prize



Opito Bay Salt Co

After a move to Opito Bay, Perry and his partner Erin created Opito Bay Salt Co based on their love of sea and food. The company won five medals at the Outstanding NZ Food Producer Awards 2022. The first-time entrants impressed 30 judges, comprising top chefs, food writers and retail gurus who blind tasted the best products of New Zealand's food producers. Opito Bay Salt awarded five medals and also a Special Award.

NZ's Top Emerging Food Business 2022

Opito Bay Rosemary Sea Salt – Gold

Opito Bay Natural Sea Salt – Gold

Opito Bay Smoked Chilli Sea Salt – Silver

Opito Bay Smoked Chilli Sea Salt – Silver

Opito Bay Black Garlic Sea Salt – Silver

Opito Bay Furikake – Bronze

opitobaysalt.co.nz



Gin made in a tiny distillery in Thames using plants foraged from the Coromandel has been awarded the World's Best Classic Gin.

Coromandel Distillery's Awildian dry gin, described as "a lingering finish – so interesting and well balanced", was selected by a panel of international judges at The World Drinks Awards.

Their two flagship gins, Awildian Coromandel Dry Gin and Coromandel Mānuka Gin, both won best in the country and went against the best in the country around the world.

awildian.com



Blackbeards Smokehouse, also based in Thames, received a Seafood NZ Water Silver Medal for its Chilli and Lime smoked mussels in the Outstanding NZ Food Producers Awards 2022. Thirty judges, tasting in 10 panels of three, assessed a record 300-plus food and drink entries from 126 producers for these awards. It was the first time Blackbeards had ever entered something like this – and were considerably smoked by the outcome.

blackbeardsmokehouse.co.nz



In the past we have hosted a stand at the Auckland Food Show, where local producers have been able to showcase their wares to a wider market and allowed them to connect with restaurants and retail outlets from around the country. With the impact of COVID, our approach this year has been to bring food tourism and industry experts to the Coromandel to meet with the sector.

Attendees to the workshop were 309 Honey, Castle Rock Fine Foods, Opito Bay Salt, Espy Café Whitianga, Gastronomics Restaurant Thames, representatives from the aquaculture sector and the food nutrition unit of the Mercury Bay Area School.

"There was some good discussion that has come out of the workshop including the return of the Coromandel Food Trail guide, which we'll be working on alongside Destination Coromandel, our Regional Tourism Operator," says Mrs White.

tcdd.govt.nz/corofoodcollective



"A taste of Eric Pateman"

Eric Pateman is one of the world's leading consultants and strategists on culinary tourism, and the only expert on the planet who unites a background as a chef with an MBA in Finance and international experience in over 100 countries.

Eric started cooking in restaurants at the age of 12, started his first entrepreneurial endeavour (a catering company) at age 17, and hasn't stopped innovating since. With a long list of successful restaurants, retail shops, festivals, culinary travel programmes and more to his name, Eric is a well-regarded figurehead in Canada and the rest of the world when it comes to culinary tourism.

The bulk of Eric's time and energy is spent leading his roster of global experts and consultants under the ESP Culinary Consulting banner. As the leading culinary consultant and marketing and brand strategist, he shares his expertise with global brands and international organisations, with work that takes him from pole to pole (literally) and everywhere in between.

Eric's award-winning enterprises include Edible Canada, which encompassed a bistro and retail shop as well as a culinary travel division that took guests across the Arctic on a private 737, and on a luxury coach through the American South on a legendary bourbon and blues tour. The artisanal Amola brand of sea salts under his Sea to Sky Seasonings company is found on shelves in Canada, the United States and New Zealand.

ericpateman.com – [instagram.com/ericpateman](https://www.instagram.com/ericpateman)



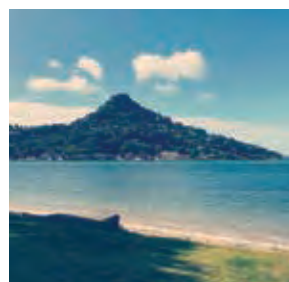
Overlooking the Tairua waterfront at the base of Paku Hill, our cafe is the perfect stopping point for locals and travellers!



1 The Esplanade, Tairua

www.oldmillcafetairua.com

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8:30am to late, Dec to Feb



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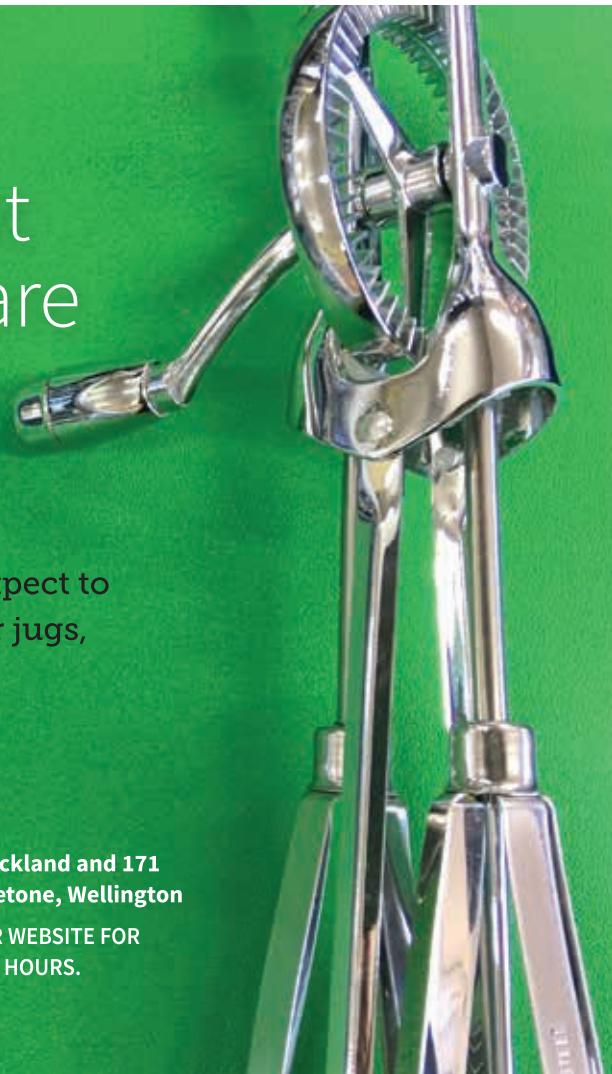
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Gastronomics

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, former 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

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A TRIBUTE TO FOUR

We honour four well-respected and much-loved locals who have passed away since the last edition of *Our Coromandel* a year ago. The contribution and impact these four made in their communities has helped shaped the fabric of our district and seen positive environmental, economic, cultural and social outcomes. Their legacies will live on through their family and whānau and we hope sharing their exploits helps inspire all of you.

HAROLD ABRAHAMSON

9 June 1937 – 8 October 2021

Harold was a well-known, respected and admired Whitianga resident who left behind a legacy of notable achievements.

A deserving recipient of our Community Service Award in December 2020 and recognised as "Whitianga's biggest cheerleader", it was his vast knowledge base of people and initiatives that have made Mercury Bay the thriving place it is today.

Born in South Africa and raised on his family's sugarcane farm, Harold had always been a hard worker. He met the love of his life, Tertia, and they emigrated to New Zealand where they purchased their first dairy farm in Cambridge. Harold's parents and wider family also followed.

Harold and his family then discovered Whitianga, first as holidaymakers in 1966 after reading a NZ Herald article pronouncing the Coromandel as "ripe for development." They permanently moved to the area the following year, buying 1,000 acres of scrub on the Kūaotunu Hill.

Soon after, Harold immersed himself in the local political fabric joining the ratepayer's association, which introduced him into wider politics around the development of Mercury Bay and the inimitable Joan Gaskell.

Moving with their three school-aged children, Harold and Tertia ruled out the costs of sending their children to boarding school and started researching the schooling situation. He was quickly recruited by Joan to attend his first school committee meeting and elected to join. The committee was tasked with upgrading the school and after a lot of hard work their innovative concept of an area school was agreed on. This attracted a high calibre of lifestyle-focused teachers and allowed local children to return home from boarding schools, enabling a richer curriculum and community. Mercury Bay Area School now has over 1,000 pupils.



Harold was a generous sponsor of many clubs and organisations and always donating his time, money, diggers, trucks and operators for community projects including asphaltting the courts of Mercury Bay Tennis Club and being a key part of creating the beautiful course at the Mercury Bay Golf Club.

Over the course of his 54 years in Whitianga, he was integral to much of Whitianga's development. He also owned a wide variety of businesses which created many jobs and boosted the local economy.

The Whitianga Waterways development, a project first envisioned in the early 1970s (but not underway until 2000) was when Harold bought his first hydraulic digger that led to the establishment of Whitianga Excavators. The Kopu-Hikuai Road was completed in the 1980s which proved to be massive for expansion. Harold's business thrived by acquiring contracts to build many of the roads in the area, various drainage projects and several subdivisions including Natal Estate, Matarangi Spit, Golden Valley, and Centennial Drive. After the 1987 share market crash the business environment became difficult so Harold developed his own land at Jackman Avenue to keep his staff employed and bought Whitianga Sawmill.

Harold loved Whitianga, and Whitianga loved him. He made his final journey through town accompanied by the classic car club in a parade that demonstrated the community's respect for him.

Harold inspired everyone who had the privilege of meeting him and will always be remembered as one of the very few who shaped Whitianga into the wonderful town it is today.

WHITIANGA'S BIGGEST CHEERLEADER

KEITH STEPHENSON

18 May 1946 –
19 December 2021

Keith Stephenson (also known as Hemi) was renowned for enriching the local environment and many lives for over four decades in Coromandel Town.

As you walk along the many beautiful tracks and trails around the Coromandel-Colville ward, you may not realise they were opened up, literally, by Keith and his mates using machetes axes and chainsaws.



A quintessential Kiwi, Keith had many jobs and roles, but devoted much of his life to helping others. This included serving four terms on our Coromandel-Colville Community Board and being a fundamental part of the Spirit of Coromandel Trust for more than 20 years.

Keith was a devoted husband to Rita, similarly, inspired by her love of nature, and they had four children: Elliot, Carne, Kara and Riana.

As a trustee of the Spirit of Coromandel, alongside Rita and fellow adventurer Andy Reid, they shared the importance of 'feeling alive' in nature. Regularly raising funds for athletes and youth to attend outdoor adventures. One of the biggest assets they helped create is the Coromandel Bike Park, and of course running the three iconic events; K2 Road Cycle Classic, ARC Adventure Race and the Great Kauri Run.

The Trust's K2 Road Cycle Classic is possibly the toughest one-day cycle challenge in the Southern Hemisphere and requires more than 150 volunteers, who are never hard to find. A testament to the organisers.

For Adventure Races Coromandel (ARC events), Keith and Andy hiked around the Coromandel to locate remarkable challenges including cliff-faces, mine shafts, tunnels, eels and fast water, while also in the developing relationships with farmers, iwi and landowners.

The Great Kauri Run took athletes over multiple stream crossings into the hills behind Colville, connecting with tracks to Coromandel Town. Each participant's entry ensured the planting of a kauri tree – another of Keith's passions. Protecting the environment and raising awareness, particularly for the kauri forests, his lifelong volunteering resulted in a forest of these taonga being planted.

A man of action, he was also a trustee on the Coromandel Kauri Dieback Forum and the Coromandel Town co-ordinator for Kauri 2000 with more than 55,000 kauri planted in our district since then.

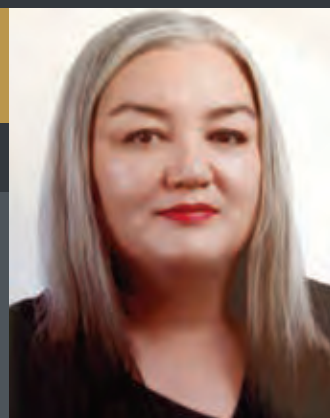
Valuing the notion of giving back to his community, Keith gave his profits, time, knowledge, and kindness to all, including supervising community work. He accepted people for who they were and mentored many through their own journeys.

Keith was a kauri of a man and made a huge contribution to the Coromandel. There are many lasting legacies, including the new bike park, which live on through all of those he worked with and the environment he cared for.

LIANE NGAMANE

Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Tamaterā

12 July 1966 –
1 January 2022



One of Coromandel's taonga (valued treasures) was lost with the passing of Liane – following a lifetime's contribution to conservation, resource management and iwi and community development.

The Coromandel Peninsula – its conservation, ecological restoration and social, cultural and economic re-vitalisation – was the driving force behind Liane's 30-plus year career and her passion, commitment and dedication. At 55 years of age, Liane had already made an impressive mark on efforts to better sustain the people and natural environment of the district.

Liane's involvement in natural resource management stemmed from her whānau, especially her father and aunts who mentored her through practical experiences and matauranga Māori (traditional learning) associated with the natural world and its sacred places. This included formative experiences being woken up at dawn to go fishing and scalloping, and learning principles of sustainability of taking only enough for a feed from both the sea and the bush.

As a young 24-year-old Liane joined the Hauraki Māori Trust Board. Having attended Thames High School, she went on to graduate from the University of Auckland in 2001 with a First Class Honours degree in planning.

Her career and voluntary achievements spanned a wide range of interests. Some of her key roles included: Partnerships Manager at the Department of Conservation, Member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Sea Change, Tangata Whenua representative to the Hauraki Gulf Forum, Manawhenua member of the Independent Māori Statutory Board, Deputy Chair of Hauraki Primary Health Organisation and Board Trustee of Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki. From 2013 until her death Liane worked on Tai-Timu Tai-Pari Seachange Project out of which came the Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan.

In her role as Mandated Treaty negotiator for Ngāti Tamaterā, Liane and her co-negotiator were responsible for the Treaty negotiation process. Working in the iwi environment was transformational, Liane remarked; it contributed to the development of co-governance models that will apply on the Coromandel Peninsula.

"Because she was involved in numerous kaupapa (issues), no one person knew the breadth of her mahi," her sister Juliana says. "For us, her whānau, she was driven to achieve the best outcomes for the health and wellbeing of the people, the land and the sea of Hauraki and the Coromandel."

Liane was known as a "fierce but fair negotiator", always motivated by her deep passion, especially for the area of Moehau. "Her work was not done," mourners at her tangi commented. Liane's legacy of revitalisation of the area will live on, as will her inspiration to others.

MOTIVATED BY HER DEEP PASSION

TED (EDWARD) SHAW

Ngāti Pū

1 August 1946 – 19 August 2022

The district lost a gifted leader and communicator with the passing of Ted Shaw at his home in Te Aroha in August, after a long illness.

Ted was born in Thames where he spent his childhood years before leaving to attend Napier Boys' High School as a teenager. On leaving school he commenced work as a fitter/welder for Carter Holt Harvey at the Port of Napier. He later married and moved his family to Auckland in the 1980s where he also ran a cafe in Papakura before moving into his role as Purchasing Manager for Bertuebels in Papakura until his retirement in February 2014.



In the late 1990s, Ted decided he wanted to find his whakapapa on his mother's side which led him back to the Hikutaia/Whangamatā area. He discovered his mother came from the Ngāti Pū tribe with tangata whenua links to Hikutaia and Whangamatā. Ted actively became involved with Te Runanga o Ngāti Pū Inc, an authority set up by the Ngāti Pū people to manage the activities and environmental issues in their tribal area of Hikutaia and Whangamatā. As part of this organisation Ted was instrumental in setting up the Environmental Management Group. This group have a long association with local government agencies, developers and the wider community to promote Ngāti Pū kaitiakitanga and actively engage to gain consensus that benefits everyone.

Ted was known as a strong communicator and strategist who was always fair and would strive for the best outcomes for Ngāti Pū and the community. His leadership qualities were of the highest and as such he also became chairperson of the Hikutaia Marae and Urupā Trust who have been given the task of building a marae at Hikutaia for the Ngāti Pū people. Sadly, with Ted's passing he will not see the marae being built within the next year or so, but a huge part of the hard work achieved behind the scenes is thanks to him.

Ngāti Pū has lost a great leader. Those that worked alongside him said it was an honour and he taught them a lot. Ted's qualities will be taken forward in continuing the Ngāti Pū relationship with Council and the wider community.

Tangi kau ana te mapū. Ko te mamae o te mate e. Moe mai rā e te pāpā, e te taniwha hikuroa, haere, haere, haere atu rā.

NGĀTI PŪ HAS LOST A GREAT LEADER



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A TRIP THROUGH TIME

in our Council Cemeteries



Thames-based writer and historian Meghan Hawke delves into the intriguing lives of three men buried in our local cemeteries: a Waterloo veteran, a birdkeeper, and “the damnedest liar in [the] Coromandel.”

ROBERT ROYCROFT 1796 – 1875

SHORTLAND HISTORIC CEMETERY, THAMES

Robert Roycroft's last journey was made on a gun carriage, his coffin covered with the national flag of the United Kingdom, the Union Jack. As one of the survivors of the Battle of Waterloo a last honour was paid to him with a military funeral.

Despite the short notice the Officer commanding the Thames district mustered parades of the Naval Brigade, the Scottish Brigade, the Māori Corps, and the Engineer cadets. The companies were inspected then marched to the Golden Age Hotel, Waiotahi, where they formed the order of procession.

Robert was taken to Shortland cemetery accompanied by the bands of the Scottish and Naval Brigades playing in turn the Dead March and the plaintive Mariners' Hymn. A sergeant of each company acted as pall bearer. A three-volley salute – which originated from the custom of



halting fighting to remove the dead from the battlefield – was fired by the Pārāwai Māori Volunteers.

The funeral was one of the largest that had been seen for a long time at Thames. It was a fitting tribute to an old veteran whose comrades on the battlefield had mostly gone before him.

Robert Swanton Roycroft was born in 1798 in Carlow, Ireland. When he was 16, he joined the British Army, giving his age as 17. Being underage, he was not eligible for pay so he initially worked for his food, clothing, and bed.

He was a fresh faced youth with black hair and hazel eyes when he served with the 42nd (Royal Highland) Regiment of Foot – a Scottish infantry regiment in the British Army also known as the Black Watch.

At the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815 the 42nd Regiment was deployed on the left

▲ The Historic Shortland Cemetery is part of the Thames Historic Walks.
Find out more thecoromandel.com/explore

and centre of the Allied line, sparsely spread over a mile. They suffered heavily from the artillery fire of Napoleon's Grand Battery.

After Waterloo, Robert received a medal and a service credit of two years. He had also been wounded which entitled him to a small pension. He continued his service variously in France, Scotland, Ireland, and Gibraltar mostly as a Private although in 1822 he spent six months as a Drummer.

In 1832 the 42nd Royal Highlanders were stationed in Malta. Now married with a small son, Robert and his family were housed in the Floriana Barracks. Fever was prevalent and lodgings were damp. Robert's son Richard died at two months old, and his wife Anne the following January aged 32.



▲ Above and above right: The gravesite of Robert Rycroft.

Five years later, he married Jane McIntosh, in Edinburgh Scotland.

In 1839 Robert was discharged from the British Army having served 25 years. The grounds given were 'unfit ... from being worn out by long service'. He then worked as a musician.

Eight years later Robert, Jane and their four children immigrated to New Zealand, arriving on the *Minerva* in 1847. Their passage was free as they were part of the Royal New Zealand Fencibles scheme.

The New Zealand Fencibles (derived from the word 'defencible') were formed in 1846. Governor George Grey, concerned about the unrest between Māori and early settlers had requested military forces, but British parliament approved the creation of the Fencible Corps instead.

New Zealand Fencibles were retired soldiers of good character with 15 years of military service under 48 years of age. Most were Irishmen who had served in the British Army and whose lives in Ireland were wretched due to the regular potato famines of the 1840s. Married soldiers were offered land, a

cottage, food and pay in New Zealand. They were advanced money to buy household necessities and assured of employment on public works on arrival in the colony. Ten ships brought 721 pensioner soldiers and their families to Auckland, which virtually doubled its population of 2,800.

Robert and his family settled at Howick where they were to have four more children. In February 1851 tragedy struck the family when their five-year-old son John accidentally drowned in a well.

A few months later the Fencibles, which Robert was still under service to, were called to action when a large party of Ngāti Pāoa from Thames and Waiheke Island arrived at Auckland's Mechanics Bay in about 20 waka to attack the city. A Thames Māori, Ngawiki, had been arrested by a Māori police officer for stealing a shirt from an Auckland store. During the tussle that followed a chief of Ngāti Pāoa of Waiheke was hit on the head by the Māori policeman's baton which violated Māori protocol. Ngāti Pāoa gathered support from other tribes and 300 armed warriors came to Auckland seeking revenge.

In 1867 the Thames goldfield was opened attracting many of the men from Howick, including Robert and his sons. Robert was 69 by then and was thought to have been a violin teacher at Thames.

By 1875 Robert was living at Punga Flat, a bush settlement behind Thames. He was exceptionally fit and when the quarterly Imperial pensions were paid in September, he walked from Punga Flat to Shortland to collect his. The next month though he became ill and died, aged 77, at his residence. He was the last Waterloo veteran in the district.

One of Robert's sons was buried with him in 1881. John Archibald, 24, had died after an illness. He had been named after an earlier John Archibald, who had died in 1845 in Edinburgh, when just a few days old. A grandson, James David, who slipped and drowned in the river at Parawai aged three, is buried nearby.

For a while Robert's grave was simply marked by a white peg noting his name and that he had been 'a veteran of the Battle of Waterloo'.

In 1995, 120 years after his death, around 40 descendants joined with the Thames RSA to dedicate a new plaque embedded in a concrete tombstone. The ceremony included speeches from family and local dignitaries, and a bagpiper.

In 2017 a plaque commemorating 170 years since the Rycroft family arrived in New Zealand was placed on the grave.

The Shortland Historic Cemetery at 201 Danby St Thames is a journey through the town's heritage, combined with great views from its hilltop position. Along with the graves of former residents of Thames dating back to the mid-1800s, it contains the official war graves of six men who served in the New Zealand forces during the First World War. The cemetery is one of six in our district that are no longer in use, however our Council still manages the public records and maintenance of this site. It is also still open to the public to visit.



Above: Mercury Bay Cemetery houses both historic and more recent graves. ▲

JOHN JAMES WILSON 1840-1918

MERCURY BAY CEMETERY, FERRY LANDING

There is bird song over the grave of John James Wilson. He lies in the tranquil Mercury Bay cemetery, where in the trees are the avian ancestors of the birds he successfully bought from England, for the New Zealand government, in 1862.

Early settlers were nostalgic for English bird life, but the first attempts at introduction had been erratic and unsuccessful. This changed with the arrival of the ship “Cashmere,” which had left London with a consignment of birds intended for acclimatisation in New Zealand, under the care of John Wilson.

There were 147 song and game birds occupying 81 cages. Nine partridges, two pheasants, 12 blackbirds, 13 thrushes, 12 skylarks, eight goldfinches, eight bullfinches, nine linnets, 16 chaffinches, 16 sparrows, 12 starlings, two Canadian geese, four barnacle geese, 12 teal, and 12 pigeon.

They had been wild caught, a deliberate approach to ensure they could find their own food when liberated. Having been cared for in a natural state they were much stronger in constitution than if they had been nest-reared and artificially fed.

Providing food for such a large number of birds was a challenge. Great care was

taken to replicate their diet on board ship. Confined to a small area, there was a danger of the birds gaining weight and dying, if fed on stimulating food.

Their diet consisted of German paste (a mixture of seeds and fat), preserved liver, preserved fruit and vegetable, biscuit, rice, potatoes, carrots, apples, eggs, wheat, barley, hemp seed, canary seed, rape, flax, linseed, pea meal, and barley-meal. Ten quarts of water per day eased their thirst.

John Wilson’s management of the birds extended to providing small coconut mats on cage floors to protect webbed feet. The mats were kept clean by being washed in the sea. Trays of grass seed and other fast-growing vegetation were put on the deck when they reached a warmer climate to be used for foraging.

Despite the trying ordeal of a long voyage, the change of climate, and the effects of a tremendous storm, John Wilson’s care of the birds was exceptional and 88 birds survived, a much larger proportion than was anticipated.

“May they thrive in their bloodless and unobtrusive mission of colonisation,” enthused a newspaper reporter on their arrival. Two of the sparrows were kept in cages at a Devonport grocer’s shop for the benefit of homesick settlers.

John Wilson was from Croydon, Surrey and the brother of Frederick Wilson, the superintendent of the Natural History Department at the Crystal Palace, a huge

Mercury Bay cemetery, 1138 Purangi Rd, Ferry Landing is still operational with limited burial sites.

Many of the district's pioneers are buried in the oldest section, nearest to the wharf. This area, used up until the 1940s, contains many unmarked graves, as well as those with headstones.

Headstone inscriptions were transcribed in the 1970s by genealogists who found the earliest headstone dated 10 May 1872. However, there is anecdotal evidence that the cemetery was in use from the early 1800s. As many of the older burial records for this cemetery were destroyed by a fire in the old Council building in the 1940s, it's been difficult to get details about these older parts of the cemetery.

There is also a Garden of Memorials Block and an RSA section.

structure originally erected in London to house the Great Exhibition of 1851. It was probably through Frederick that John was given the task of bringing the birds to New Zealand.

Although he had a good education John struggled to find employment, initially picking up labouring work and joining the Waikato Militia for a few months.



▲ An older section of the Ferry Landing cemetery.

In 1868, while in Mahurangi, Northland, he married 17-year-old Sarah Cleaver. They moved a great deal following work up and down the east coast of the Auckland province, having 11 children along the way.

John was variously a store-keeper in the Far North, a gum buyer at Whangamatā and a hotel keeper at Tairua. At one stage he resourcefully baked bread in an oven built into the side of a bank to sell.

The family finally settled at Whitianga in 1891 where they ran a large boarding house and bakery for timber mill workers.

Misfortune struck in 1892 when their daughter Louisa died at 19 days old, and again in 1894 when their son Alexander died on Christmas Eve, aged six months.

When John James Wilson died in 1918 aged 78, his wife, in his death notice, poignantly said of him “There is rest for the weary.”

John is buried at Mercury Bay cemetery as are the two children who died before him, as well as his eldest son Edward who died in 1907, from injuries received in a bush accident.

Although the birds brought to NZ under John Wilson’s care initially brought joy to early settlers, many became pests damaging crops and competing with native birds for food.

JAMES CARNELL 1837-1904

BUFFALO CEMETERY, COROMANDEL TOWN

It was a strange funeral that took place at Coromandel Town’s Buffalo cemetery in 1904. As a protest against the expense and waste of money at most funerals James Carnell, in a thin board coffin without ornamentation, was carried to the grave in a one-horse cart.

In death he was as curious as he had been in life.

It was said that James, a lawyer, had moved to Coromandel Town from Thames where he opened an office, but despite his ability and shrewdness, his practice didn’t flourish. He was always ready to give legal advice to any needy miner or settler who asked for it and was known to have a big heart and wide sympathies.

But why he renounced the riches of legal work was a mystery.

The belief was that James had abandoned his profession after an incident in his native England. He had defended a murderer and got him acquitted but later discovered the man was guilty of the crime. James, scrupulously conscientious, was mortified and took no more risks.

Whether the story was true or not James remained silent about his early history.

James, from Kent, England had arrived in New Zealand in 1864 aboard the ship “Ulcoats” on her maiden voyage.

He had been admitted to legal practice in England in 1861, and in 1866, after passing an examination, was admitted as a solicitor in New Zealand. At the Auckland Supreme Court two weeks later, he defended five Māori who had been accused of murdering the missionary Carl Volkner, a grisly event which shocked the colony. As the most junior lawyer he was regularly assigned the cases of impoverished accused.



By May 1867 James was in Coromandel Town where he teamed up with Daniel Tookey, an influential Pakeha Māori. Tookey had lived with Māori long before the opening of the Coromandel and Thames goldfields and was one of the early prospectors.

With the opening of the Thames goldfield in August 1867 James was indispensable to Tookey as his legal adviser, secretary and general manager of Tookey properties. Tookey seldom made a move without consulting James Carnell.

James also took out Miner’s Rights at Thames and Coromandel Town and brought mining shares himself.

In December 1867 he was appointed as a census sub-enumerator for the North-East district of Coromandel and it was while carrying out this job that he suddenly went missing.

James and three others had left Port Charles in a whale boat intending to distribute census papers to Whangapoua and Mercury Bay. No more was heard of them and as the weather had been rough and stormy it was feared a fatal disaster had occurred. Two weeks later a letter from James arrived at Auckland stating that they had arrived safely at Whangapoua.

For the next several years James was active working as a solicitor, taking out miner’s



Above and above left: Grave sites at Buffalo Cemetery in Coromandel Town. ▲

rights, applying for leases and in 1869 was manager of the Golden Point mining company at Coromandel Town.

During the 1870s he lived at Tiki Road, later moving to Kapanga. In 1885 he was appointed Property Assessor for Coromandel, and in 1890 was named by the Anglican Church as a lay reader and a Synod man for Coromandel – a church official who resolved questions of discipline or administration.

James never married and in later years was the registrar of births, deaths and marriages for the Coromandel district.

In 1891 an odd little skirmish erupted. A “queer looking” pamphlet, titled ‘The Administration of the Law in Coromandel and Mercury Bay’ was sent to the Observer newspaper in which Henry Northcroft, Resident Magistrate for Waikato, appeared to call James Carnell “the damndest liar in Coromandel.”

What it was about was another mysterious piece of the puzzle that was James Carnell.

James enjoyed good health until Christmas 1903 when he was taken ill. He died of heart failure at Coromandel Hospital in early 1904.

Despite the paltriness of his funeral, which was conducted by the ironically named

Reverend Fortune, the cortege was a very long one and among the mourners was James McGowan, Minister for Mines.

There was talk of a memorial tablet being erected in his memory at the Auckland Anglican Christ Church where records listed him as an early Sunday school teacher.

No doubt he would have disapproved of this as well as the advent in later years of Coromandel’s magnificent horse drawn glass hearse owned by the Denize Brothers.

Buffalo cemetery is one of the oldest burial grounds in New Zealand and remains operational to this day.

A popular resting place for miners of the areas, early graves at Buffalo cemetery featured elaborate headstones and wrought iron surrounds. Originally housing 750 plots, Buffalo cemetery has since grown following an exchange in 2008 which allowed our Council to extend the cemetery to accommodate additional plots.

Some records dating back to the 1890s can be found on our Council website.

Thank you to the team at New Zealand War Graves Project for providing the images in this article.



OUR OPERATIONAL CEMETERIES ARE LOCATED AT:

Coromandel Town/Colville

Buffalo Cemetery – 149 Buffalo Rd, Coromandel Town

Colville Cemetery – 84 Wood Rd, Colville

Mercury Bay

Mercury Bay Cemetery – 1138 Purangi Rd, Ferry Landing

Tairua/Pāuanui

Tairua Cemetery – 16 Main Rd, SH25, Tairua

Thames

Totara Memorial Park – 110 Te Arapipi Rd, Totara

Omahu Cemetery and Natural Burial Garden – 17 Wharepoa Rd, Hikutaia

Whangamatā

Whangamatā Cemetery – 2745 SH25 Whangamatā–Waihi Rd, Whangamatā

THE FOLLOWING ARE DISUSED CEMETERIES WITHIN OUR DISTRICT THAT WE HOLD HISTORIC RECORDS FOR:

- Shortland Cemetery (Thames)
- Tararu Cemetery (Thames)
- Tapu Cemetery (Thames Coast)*
- Tairua Historical Cemetery
- Allan Block Cemetery (Whangamatā)
- Kūaotunu Cemetery

* Tapu Cemetery is not Council owned.

tcdc.govt.nz/cemetery



Taking care of your special place

Road to Port Jackson | Credit Shellie Evans

NZMCA members love holidaying in the Coromandel, with three Motorhome Friendly towns in the area – Coromandel Town, Whitianga and Whangamatā – and two NZMCA Parks in Coromandel Town and Whitianga.

Our members know how important it is to protect public health and the environment by disposing of their wastewater in the right place. Public dump stations are essential – that's why it was a no brainer for NZMCA to commit \$25k towards the public dump station in Whangapoua Rd, Coromandel Town in 2020 with the project being completed in 2021. NZMCA member Bryan said *"Best dump spot we have been to. Double sided, clean, with lots of room for larger rigs"*.

The NZMCA Greenfund is an initiative helping to fund grassroots environmental and conservation projects throughout New Zealand. The Waitekuri Wetland Project was established by the Denize family – 4th generation family farmers whose land is on the steep foothills of the Waitekuri Catchment at the gateway to the Whangapoua Harbour. In 2020, NZMCA donated \$3k to support the planting and wetland restoration project.



Coromandel Public Dump Station | Credit Joanne Anderson



Whangapoua Beach | Credit Shellie Evans



Simpsons Beach | Credit Shellie Evans



To find out more about the NZMCA Greenfund
email greenfund@nzmca.org.nz, or call Sarah Davies on
09 298 5466 ext 712, or go to nzmca.org.nz/greenfund



Freedom Camping

ON THE COROMANDEL

The Coromandel is the most popular destination for freedom camping in the North Island. To help manage some of the issues that can come about from freedom camping on public land there is national legislation, Department of Conservation rules and our own local bylaw.

What issues can freedom camping cause?

Our seaside parks and reserves are the crown jewels of the Coromandel and are understandably popular, including with freedom campers.

But even when freedom campers act fairly and responsibly, the activity of freedom camping can still cause problems such as pollution from disposal of human waste or litter, damage to native flora and fauna or wāhi tapu, people being exposed to safety risks on land that is prone to flooding, excessive noise, compromised access to public areas, and traffic safety hazards.

That's why the Freedom Camping Act 2011 allows local bylaws to prohibit or restrict freedom camping in an area to protect the natural environment or the cultural and historical

significance, the health and safety of the area's users or to preserve access to the area for all users.

Our new bylaw was drafted in 2022 and after public consultation on the draft bylaw, a new bylaw was made and comes into force on 5 December 2022.

Where is freedom camping prohibited or restricted?

In Aotearoa New Zealand, freedom camping is permitted in most public areas unless it is prohibited or restricted in legislation, including local bylaws.

Our new bylaw restricts freedom camping in all local authority areas of our District, which means people can only freedom camp in a certified self-contained vehicle between 5pm and 9am for two consecutive nights.



Our new bylaw also prohibits freedom camping in 84 areas, most of which are Council reserves or roads. And the bylaw further restricts freedom camping in 25 other areas, most of which are Council reserves, where freedom camping is restricted to a 'designated place' for a specified maximum number of vehicles. Prohibited areas are listed in Schedule 1 of the bylaw and restricted areas are in Schedule 2. All areas listed in the bylaw's schedules have signs informing people of the rules that apply. Our bylaw also contains maps that show the locations of the prohibited or restricted areas grouped by the Community Board area they are located in.

In addition to the areas where freedom camping is prohibited under our Council's bylaw, freedom camping is also prohibited on other Council reserves under the Reserves Act 1977.

The Freedom Camping Bylaw is on our website at tcdc.govt.nz/freedomcampingbylaw

Can I freedom camp in a tent?

No. You must use a vehicle that is certified as self-contained. A certified self-contained vehicle has a toilet and meets the sanitary needs of the users for a minimum of three days without requiring any external services or discharging waste. Wastewater can then be safely disposed of in approved dump stations, which can be found in most campgrounds and public areas.



BOATIES – NOW THERE'S

A SMARTER WAY TO PAY



If you're heading out on the water in our district, remember, there's now a smarter way to pay for your launching and trailer parking at boat ramps where fees apply:

- Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone using your camera, Google Lens or QR scanner app and follow the easy prompts to pay – right at the ramp.
- Download your receipt and you're good to go.
- No smartphone? No worries. You can still pay at our Council offices and participating retail outlets.
- Visit tcdc.govt.nz/boatramps for more information and to watch our handy 'how to' video.



WHANGAMATĀ



TAIRUA



ROYAL BILLY



MATARANGI



PURANGI



WHITIANGA
WHARF



ROBINSON RD



WHANGAPOUA



TE ARIKI TAHI/
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TEN WALKS to Wander

The Coromandel has hundreds of tracks and trails for you to explore. Here we share our suggestion of a few walks that are mostly shorter and easier excursions near our town centres. They are all on a variety of our Council and public conservation land (DOC). We've got walks for people of all fitness levels, and we've included cycle paths and mountain biking trails as well. Developing walking and biking paths on our Council's own reserves and helping community groups and business people develop tracks of their own is a major strand of our economic development programme.

tcdc.govt.nz/tracksandtrails

MT PĀUANUI SUMMIT WALKWAY

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

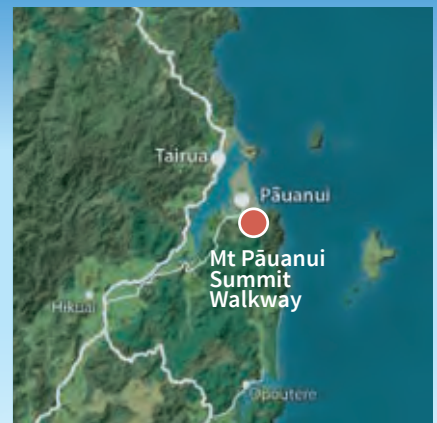
climb. Fitter walkers reach the summit comfortably within 30 minutes.

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 minutes one way to complete the Ocean View loop track.

Duration: Trig track 2.5hrs approx

Distance: 4.8km





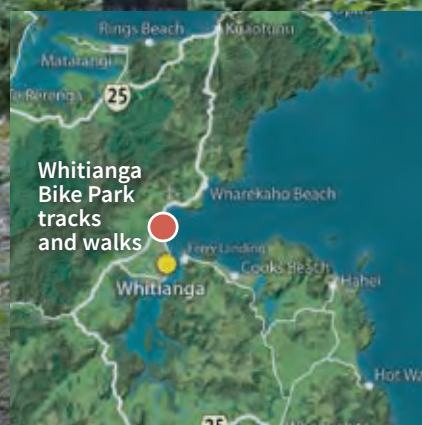
These tracks have been closed several times recently due to erosion damage from storms and wet weather. Take care when walking these tracks: the damage has been fixed but we advise caution.

Distance: 2.8km return approx



WHITIANGA BIKE PARK TRACKS AND WALKS

Only minutes north of the Whitianga town centre on Moewai Rd lie 17ha of mountain biking, BMX tracks and bush walking trails that suit all ages and abilities. Since 2004 the Whitianga Bike Club has leased land from our Council and developed this facility with donations and sponsorship thanks to local businesses. The park is free and offers about two to three hours riding for average riders with more than 20 trail options from novice to extreme. The BMX track has two loops, with the faster route leading into the slower one. They can be entered independently and there's a kiddies track nearby. Alongside the bike trails is a walking track which also travels around the perimeter of the Whitianga golf course



and takes in a grove of up to 50 kauri trees and views through the bush to Mercury Bay and its islands. You could spend the day here with family and friends. There is a BBQ (bring your own gas bottle), badminton nets, rope climbs and frisbee court. Sunshade, drinking dispensers and toilet are also on site.

It's dog friendly, and some parts are also accessibility friendly. You can download the PDF trail map at trailforks.com/region/whitianga-bike-park

FERRY LANDING WALK

Start at the walkway signpost on Purangi Rd facing Front Beach to get to the hilltop and lookout seats before returning back down to the road, along the footpath, and back to the ferry. Platforms all the way up to the lookout offer stunning views over the whole of Whitianga, Lonely Bay, Shakespeare Bay and the islands beyond Mercury Bay. There are public toilets at the Ferry Landing car park. No dog, mobility or bike access.

Please note that DOC's Maramaratōtara Walk route is currently closed.

Duration: 1hr approx

Distance: 3km approx

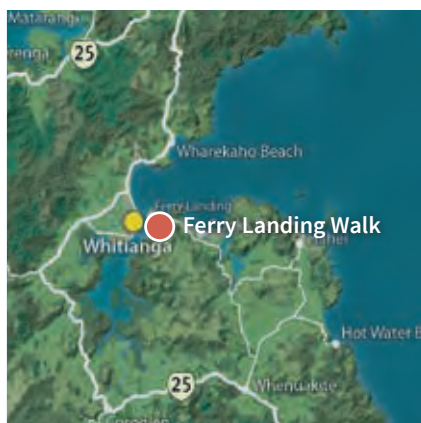


Photo: Felicity Jean Photography.

MATARANGI BLUFF SCENIC RESERVE TRACK

Rings Beach, nestled between Kūaotunu and Matarangi, hosts a back country trail for walkers and runners to enjoy.

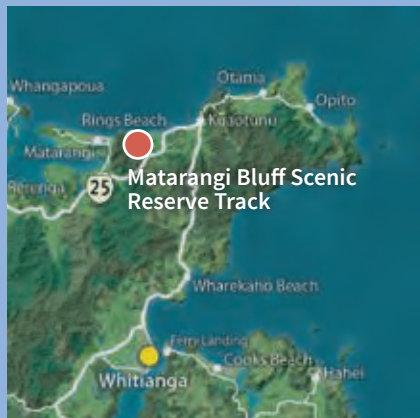
The track can be accessed at both ends of Rings Beach and sits inside a 267ha conservation estate. There are hill climbs, one of which takes you up to the trig point with a great view overlooking Matarangi Beach. Native bush is regenerating, thanks to a tree-planting programme which started in 2010. It's also rich in birdlife, including several pairs of the native fernbird (mātātā). A loop of the track goes around a flourishing wetland.

The track was built entirely by volunteer labour and is now managed by the Rings Beach Wetland Group Inc. Dogs must be on a lead, and the track is not viable for bicycles, scooters or wheelchairs.

ringsbeachwetlandgroup.org.nz/our-track

Duration: 2hrs approx

Distance: 4.7km



WAIOMU KAURI GROVE

This path is maintained by DOC but it's well-developed and apart from the final ascent up steps to the stand of mature kauri, the general grade is not too challenging for walkers of moderate fitness. Park at the car park on Waiomu Valley Rd on the left about 200m past Lucy Rd and continue on foot up the road to where the track begins. Clean your footwear on arrival and departure at the cleaning station to help prevent the spread of kauri dieback.

Duration: To the kauri grove
45mins approx

Distance: 2.5km



PHOTO: FELICITY JEAN PHOTOGRAPHY.





HAURAKI RAIL TRAIL – THAMES

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. At this point the trail divides, with one branch crossing the bridge, following the stopbanks along the Firth of Thames north to Kaiaua. Please note the stopbanks are closed for Regional Council works over summer 2023. Keep an eye on

the website for updates. It is still worthwhile spending a day (and a night) in the northern section, where the trail meanders along the seaside and passes the Pūkoro-Miranda Shorebird Centre. The other branch follows the old railway line past Matatoki, Pūriri and Hikutaia, towards Paeroa and through to Matamata, with plenty of eateries along the way. For more information, itineraries, and current trail status check the website or Facebook page.

haurakirailtrail.co.nz

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

Distance: Thames to Kōpū
7km one way

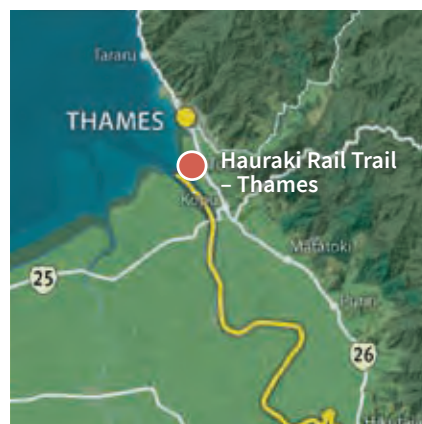


PHOTO: CHRIS PARKER PHOTOGRAPHY.



PEPE LOOP TRACK

For a different view of Tairua, away from the ocean beach side, try this 3km loop around the Pepe Estuary inlet. The loop track was created by the Walk Tairua Society and takes you around the perimeter of the Tairua Golf Course through council reserves, while taking in the swampland wildlife, birds and views back up to the Coromandel Forest Park. The track is flat, with a pedestrian bridge over the Pepe Stream, and is suitable for bikes.

Park your car at the playground by Pepe Estuary and cross the road to start the track on Pepe Rd. While there are safety shields in place, please be aware of the neighbouring golf course and stay on the marked tracks. You can then continue your walk along the Tairua Estuary, towards Paku Mountain. This is a grassed area with no footpath, and there are signs detailing the birdlife found in Paku Bay. Choose to continue up Paku if

you're feeling energetic or visit the Tairua Ocean Beach before returning to town.

Duration: 45mins

Distance: 3km



ŌPOUTERE FOREST TO BEACH TRAIL

From Whangamatā drive north on State Highway 25 for 11km until you reach the turn-off to Ōpoutere, where there are numerous walks and mountain biking options. The car park to access the DOC managed walk is approximately 4kms down Ōpoutere Rd. The track starts by crossing a wooden footbridge, then passes through well-established pine trees. On reaching the beach follow the track to the right before walking along the shoreline to see for yourself one-metre-deep layers of shell that make up a fascinating archaeological midden, confirming people have lived here from as early as 1350AD. At the southern end of Ōpoutere Beach lies the winding entrance to the Wharekawa Harbour which is protected by a spectacular sand spit.

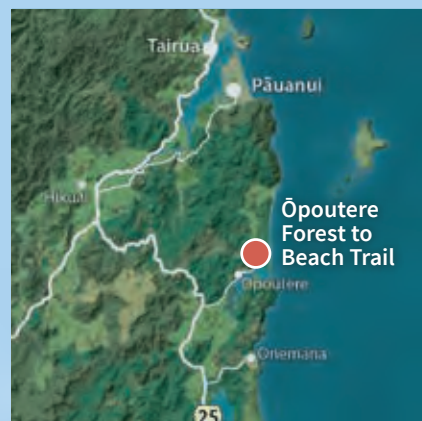
The spit is a breeding ground for several endangered species of native sea birds including the New Zealand Dotterel and Variable Oystercatcher. A DOC ranger is on duty at the refuge during breeding season from November through to February.

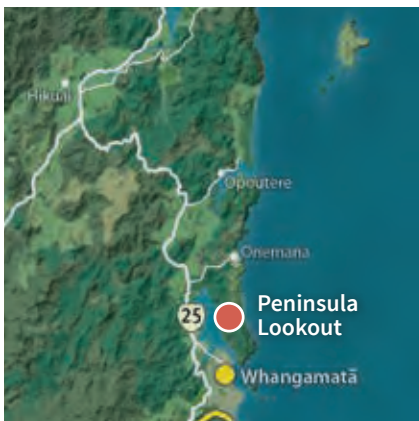
You can also explore the Ōhui rock pools at the northern end of the beach and the state forest, where you can visit the historic Phoenix goldmine.

Stay at the Ōpoutere Coastal Campground and easily access the tracks and trails from there: Opouterebeach.co.nz

Duration: 40mins return

Distance: 1.5km return approx





PENINSULA LOOKOUT

There are two recreation areas near Onemana in the Tairua Forest, about a 10-minute drive from Whangamata. Off Tairua Rd (State Highway 25), on Whitipirorua Rd, turn right at the top of the hill on the way to Onemana to access Peninsula Rd or left to discover Pokohino. To access these, drive along the gravel roads at 30kmph for 10-15 minutes until you reach the car parks. Please take care and be mindful of cyclists. Always check the signage first that access is possible. Due to active forestry harvest operations, access may not always be possible. Access may



also be closed due to weather conditions, e.g. strong winds. Please obey signage and follow instructions such as: stop or no entry. This applies to both vehicles and cyclists and is for your own safety and that of the harvesting crews. The road surface gets rough in summer due to the high volume of traffic. The forestry company opens the gates at 7am and locks them at 7pm so you must be out by then.

At the end of Peninsula Rd, enjoy a picturesque picnic area and encounter astounding views of Whangamata and

its harbour. No fires, cooking or camping are permitted.

This track is a lot easier compared to the Pokohino Bay walk and will take 15-25 minutes depending on which track you take around the bush-clad hillside. Peninsula Rd is a popular mountain bike ride. You can also access a short but steep track which leads down to the secluded Te Ananui Beach.

POOCH PROTOCOL

ON THE PENINSULA



Your best canine buddies can join the whānau almost anywhere in our dog-friendly district, whether it's down to the beach or a stroll into town for a bite to eat. Just remember, your dog must be on lead in most areas.

So everyone can enjoy our public spaces, we have a few simple rules to provide a safe environment for dog and non-dog people. Our dog rules are easy to follow for both our residents and visitors with signs using a traffic light system.



BE A GOOD HOOMAN



Make sure your dog is registered and microchipped. An ID tag with your contact details will also help.



Follow the signs: green = off lead, orange = on lead, red = no dogs allowed.



Keep your pet safe, secure and under control on your property, where they won't be a nuisance to neighbours.



You must have your dog on lead in most areas unless specified.



Remove your dog's droppings.



Provide access to fresh drinking water.



Never leave your dog in a hot car.



If you can't hold the back of your hand on the pavement for five seconds, it's too hot to walk your dog.

PROHIBITED, RESTRICTED & 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.



Maniac, rehomed at the start of 2022, snuggling up to her new sibling.

ADOPT ONE OF OUR POUND PUPS

We work with many individuals and rescue organisations to give dogs a second chance.

In the 2021/2022 financial year we rehomed 26 dogs. If you're interested, check out tcdc.govt.nz/pound

DO YOU HAVE SPACE IN YOUR HEART AND HOME?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Our Dog Control Policy and associated bylaw is up for review. We need to balance dog owners' right to enjoy public recreation with protecting people and wildlife from any potential harm from dogs. We'll be consulting the public towards the end of 2022 – tcdc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

right to enjoy public recreation with protecting people and wildlife from any potential harm from dogs. We'll be consulting the public towards the end of 2022 – tcdc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

Call 07 868 0200 for questions or complaints.
tcdc.govt.nz/dogs



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THREE WATERS REFORM RUMBLES ON

Where do things stand in our district?

If there's one topic that everyone knows has been a priority for local government in 2022, it's water. Access to safe, clean drinking water, along with cost-effective and well-managed wastewater and stormwater are critical to the health and wellbeing of our communities. As central government reforms to three waters management continue to progress into 2023, our Council will continue to fight for good outcomes for our Coromandel communities.

Government reforms to how our water is managed are intended to improve the safety and efficient provision of infrastructure and services. The planned reforms were initially progressed through a voluntary, partnership-based approach with local councils, but this became a mandatory process in 2022.

In our district, our Council is the owner and provider of ten wastewater treatment

systems and ten water supply plants, as well as stormwater infrastructure. The proposed changes would see these assets and their management shift into the Western-Central Water Services Entity (Entity B), which covers an area of 22 territorial authorities.

But it's been our view that aspects of the proposed reforms could put our district at a disadvantage and jeopardise the proper resourcing and management of

these important assets. The model reduces transparency and the ability of community groups and individual community members to have their say.

Under the reform model, councils will receive non-financial shares in the new water management entities based on resident populations. Our district, with a permanent resident population of approximately 33,000, would have just



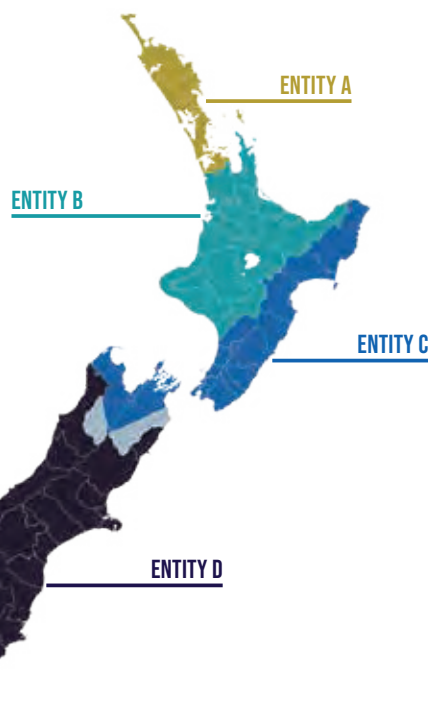
one share in Entity B, which covers much of the central North Island. This is the same share as little Kawerau, with a population of 7,670. Our position, therefore, is that our district is severely under-represented in the new model.

Our population can double on a long weekend and can go up 400 per cent over Christmas/New Year.

We've got to supply water and wastewater services for all ten wastewater systems and ten drinking water supplies – Hamilton has one of each. There's an inequity in the financial support and shareholding aspects of the reforms. The government allocation model puts our district permanently and historically at the bottom of the rung with the allocation of funding.

Throughout 2022 our Council expressed its unhappiness with the Government's decision to mandate the reforms. Our communities' key concerns were relayed through the formal feedback and select committee process, including a comprehensive submission on the proposed Water Services Entities Bill.

Heading into 2023, our Council remains of the view that there will be little improvement to three waters infrastructure



provision unless the proposed representation model is amended.

Our Council is concerned that the proposed governance framework for delivering three waters infrastructure sets up a competitive environment, making it difficult for our communities' needs to be appropriately recognised, weighted and properly funded to ensure projects and good service are delivered. Considering that local authorities are the owners of the three waters assets and that their communities will be directly impacted by this reform process, we consider the Government should be engaging directly with both local authorities and the communities that they serve on an on-going basis.

Access to
safe, clean drinking
water, along with
cost-effective and
well-managed waste
and storm water are
critical to the health
and wellbeing of
our communities.

Through the next stages of the reform programme, our Council will continue to fight for local voices to have a place in planning and service delivery, and for assessments about our district to be made on rateable household property numbers, rather than usually resident population.

To stay up to date with our progress, visits tcdc.govt.nz/threewaters





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



Love to hit the water in the Coromandel?

You're not alone.

Whether you're a kayaker or jetskier, skipper or SUPer, you've probably noticed it can get pretty packed around the peninsula.

For Kiwis, the popularity of recreational boating has been on the up for many years, with 55 per cent of us getting out on the water in 2022, according to Maritime NZ.

With all the different vessels and activities out there, the Waikato now has some of the most congested waterways in New Zealand.

A lot of this activity is concentrated around the Coromandel over the summer period. We're so lucky to have so many great spots to enjoy but we need to bear in mind that popular places mean more people, and more people mean more risk.

That's why it's more important than ever for all boaties to follow the rules and know their limits. Before hitting the water, make sure you're familiar with the boating safety code and our regional navigation safety bylaw.

Always check the conditions before and during your trip, and make sure you have a plan of action in case you get into difficulty, no matter how experienced you are.

Always wear a lifejacket, no matter what type of craft you are on, and always carry at least two forms of waterproof communications.

It's the Waikato Regional Council Maritime Safety team's job to enforce the rules and help keep our coastal and inland water safe for everyone to enjoy.

This summer, we'll be upping our seasonal patrol presence again to ensure people are following the rules and sticking to our regional bylaw.

We are expecting another busy season and we're asking boaties to play their part in keeping our waterways safe, too.

We can't be everywhere at once so if you see something that's not right, like hazards on the water or boaties acting recklessly, give us a call on 0800 800 402.

For more info on navigation safety in the Waikato, head to www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/boatsafety



Bar crossing safety

Last summer, there were four major incidents involving bar crossings around the Coromandel.

It's a real reminder of risks they carry and should be taken as a warning to be prepared and well equipped beforehand.

If in doubt, don't go out. Be prepared to change your plans, and don't attempt a crossing if unsafe to do so.

Weather, current and tide conditions all conspire to make waves break in an unpredictable pattern on bars, creating an unstable and hazardous environment.

Sand bars are common around the country in harbours and rivers. To get out into open seas, you usually need to navigate them, and they can be extremely dangerous, even for experienced boaties.

The best time to cross a bar is anytime within three hours before high tide. As a general rule, coming back up to three hours before and one hour after high tide is best.

All other times should be avoided, and a

bar should never be crossed at low tide or at night.

Other top tips for crossing a bar:

- seek local knowledge before attempting to cross
- thoroughly check marine weather forecasts and pay close attention to the swells
- check the tides and avoid crossing at low tide
- secure loose gear and ensure everyone is wearing a securely fitted lifejacket
- always take two forms of waterproof communication to call for help if needed
- spend some time observing the conditions before attempting to cross
- don't try and exit the channel too soon
- contact the local coastguard on VHF to let them know your intention to cross the bar and that you have made it across safely
- have a plan B if you can't get back the way you came
- if in doubt, don't go out.



Coromandel

Mercury Bay

Tairua

Whangamatā

Safe summer boating in the Coromandel

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.

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, flare or 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.



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.



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.



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.

Find out more or get in touch

For more information on navigation safety in the Waikato, visit waikatoregion.govt.nz/boatsafety or call 0800 800 402.



facebook.com/WRCHarbourmaster

Coromandel

Check out the signs at your local boat ramp for more information.

-  Boat ramp
-  Towing access lane
-  Towing zone
-  Jet ski (PWC) zone
-  Mooring zone
-  Swimming zone
-  Surfing zone
-  Prohibited power driven vessel zone

Mercury Bay

Power driven vessels are prohibited in designated swim and surf zones.

Watch your speed when entering and leaving the harbour. You must keep to 5 knots or less within 200 metres from shore and within 50 metres of another vessel.

Tairua

In mooring zones, the use of any vessel for towing is prohibited and you must keep your speed to 5 knots or less.

Check out the designated jet ski and towing zones! Remember to keep a good lookout and watch your speed.

Whangamatā

Moana-anuanu Estuary

Use designated towing access lanes when towing from shore and travel in an anticlockwise direction.

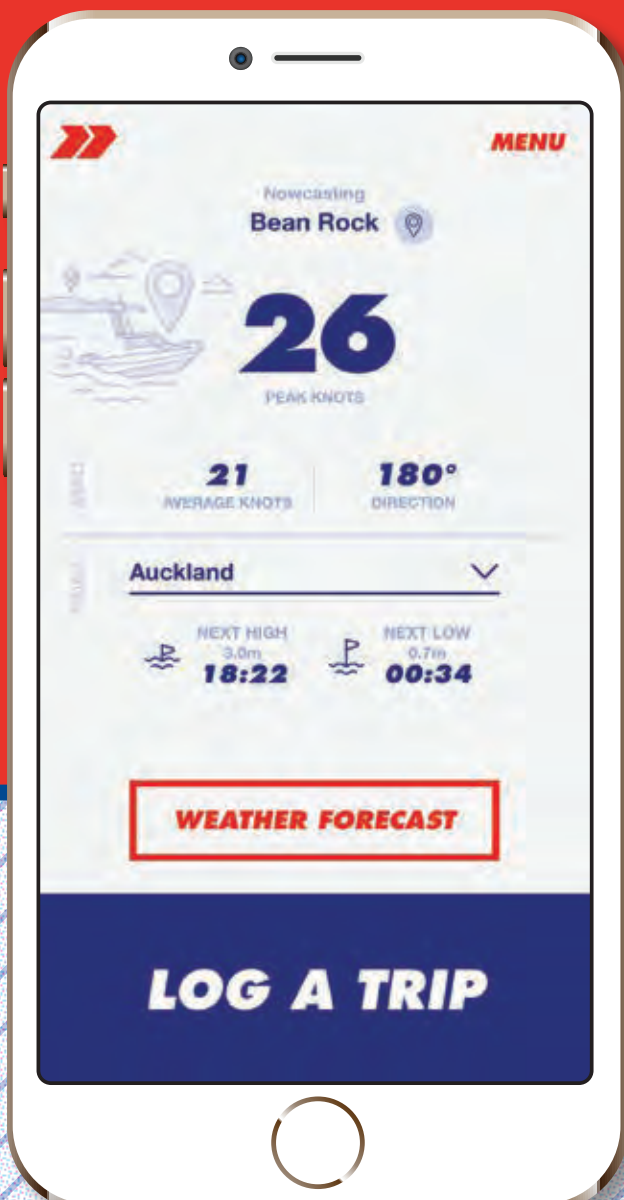
Remember, lifejackets must be worn on kayaks and paddleboards.

Otaahu Estuary

DOWNLOAD THE FREE COASTGUARD APP

THE BOATIE'S BEST MATE

boatiesbestmate.nz



LOG A TRIP



FORECASTS



NOWCASTING



**SAVE YOUR
FISHING SPOTS**

Search **Coastguard NZ**
to download from



THE CHARITY SAVING LIVES AT SEA

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



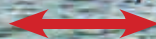
No anchors. Tie-on to a longline buoy or use approved mooring hooks



Minimise your speed and wake



Never drive across the lines



www.coromfa.co.nz



Making a SPLASH



The 25m heated, Council-staffed Thames Centennial Pool facility, on the corner of Mackay Street and State Highway 25, offers a range of learn to swim and training opportunities, as well as providing a space for relaxation and fun.

The toddlers pool needed replacing, creating an exciting opportunity for something new. With great planning and a lot of groundwork, the Splashpad was delivered.

The project was slightly delayed due to COVID-19, but it was thanks to the hard work of local businesses, TIC Landscaping and Thames Farm Industrial Supplies, that we now have this wonderful wet play area for many generations to enjoy.

All ages will take pleasure in the new area with form seating, a sail and cantilever umbrella erected for shade. Also being fully fenced it's safe for younger families.

For more information including opening hours and prices see tcdc.govt.nz/swim
07 868 8441 | Facebook: @ThamesCentennialPoolsThames

Congratulations to Andrew Jeffcoat on his victory in the men's 50m backstroke at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Andrew grew up in Colville and learnt to swim at the Coromandel Town community pool.



COMMUNITY POOLS

While we're surrounded by the ocean as an option to cool off, we also support three fantastic community swimming pools. They offer a safe, fun alternative and are worth jumping in to – tcdc.govt.nz/communitypools

Mercury Bay

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

Whangamatā

112 Achilles Avenue, Whangamatā
07 865 7296 | manager.whangapool@gmail.com | whangapool.co.nz
Facebook: @WhangamataCommunityPool

Coromandel Town

120 Woollams Avenue, Coromandel Town
027 348 2400 | coromandelcommunityswimmingpool@outlook.com
Facebook: @CoromandelCommunitySwimmingPool

IN AND AROUND THE POOL

Swimming is a lifelong skill that opens a world of incredible experiences. Thames Centennial Pool has a growing reputation for producing some of the country's best competitive juniors with youngsters who've moved through the lessons, now attending squad training.

Swim Cool Swim School:

Encourages babies and children to develop and enjoy vital skills while becoming confident, capable and safer in the aquatic environment. Lessons are available for babies from age six months to five years.

Learn to Swim:

Courses are available to children aged five years and older. The courses take your child through every step of the process. There are normally 300-400 students enrolled each term. The course can cater for all ages, including adults and abilities, from beginner to competitive. Private one-on-one lessons are also available.

Contact our Learn to Swim coordinator
libby.gray@tcdc.govt.nz
Facebook: @ThamesSwimCoolSwimSchool

Swim Academy:

Offers squads for swimmers from beginner to competitive level and open water squads that cater for masters, triathletes, ocean and social swimmers. Contact our head coach
jayne.wright@tcdc.govt.nz

Aqua Aerobics:

A low intensity aerobic workout suitable for all ages that allows you to work at your own pace while having fun in the pool.
Facebook: @ThamesAquaAerobics

THAMES REPLACEMENT POOL PROJECT

In July 2022 we prepared the needs assessment for aquatic facilities and will move to the feasibility study in early 2023. By mid-2023, we will have worked through the options available to meet the needs identified. A business case will then be prepared for the preferred option in late 2023, in time for assessing what will be required for the draft Long Term Plan.

The key driver for this project is that our Council has agreed to return Taipari Park to Ngāti Maru as Thames Centennial Pool was constructed on an urupā (burial ground). At 50 years old, the pool is also coming to the end of its cost-effective life.

For more information go to
tcdc.govt.nz/thamesreplacementpool

Connect, learn and explore

Our three District Libraries in Mercury Bay, Tairua and Thames are the perfect companion to your time in the Coromandel. Find a connection through traditional mediums like books and events, or newer technologies such as digital resources and online collections.

Along with all the services you'd expect from your local library, we also have some great free events that are delivered all year round.

2022 was a year of new collections, events and faces. That means we can guarantee you'll find something fun, free and thought-provoking for all ages and stages. Thanks to the New Zealand Library Partnership Programme (NZLPP), our libraries services have been upgraded with funky, fresh new ideas and technology.



Coville residents enjoying the Book Waka. ▶



◀ Children working hard on their stop-motion movie productions at the July 2022 school holiday workshop at Tairua Library.

Mercury Bay Library creative school holiday sessions with the giant collaborative colouring wall. ▼



▲ Elsa Klein, our Mercury Bay Library Assistant welcoming families to the school holiday programme.



◀ STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and maths) Lab day at Tairua Library.

Book Waka

The first pop-up event, Book Waka, hit the Coromandel roads in May 2022 with Colville, Coroglen, Waiomu and Matarangi communities being provided with books to browse, activities, information about upcoming programmes, and the opportunity to sign up for free membership.

"It was so fun, and a great way to get to know our local like-minded communities, who live further afield from our three district library sites," says Elsa Klein, our Mercury Bay Library Assistant.

A huge thanks to Hereford 'n' a Pickle, Coroglen Tavern, Waiomu Beach Cafe and Pipers Cafe for hosting. We hope to do this again soon, so keep an eye on our Facebook page facebook.com/tcdclibraries

Kit Collection

NZLPP funding was used to establish 'Kit Collection'. Members can hire a kit to try out a new hobby with all the specialised tools provided. We've started this off with two kits that both help teach computer coding. The coding robot kits are a great way to learn to code, without using a computer.

Botley and Artie are two coding robots, providing an easy, fun way for children (and adults) to learn about coding. Both robots can be taught to follow simple instructions – Botley can navigate obstacle courses, and Artie can draw pictures.

We're keen to expand our collections and open to your ideas, so get in touch.

School holidays

Don't forget you can always book in for our popular, free school holiday activities for primary school-aged children. Past crafty fun activities include building working robots, recycling trash into treasure, and testing out some crazy science experiments.

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/library

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

FIND US ONLINE:

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

OUR HOURS:

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri: 9am–5pm. Weds: 9.30pm–5pm. Sat: 9am - 12pm
Closed public holidays.

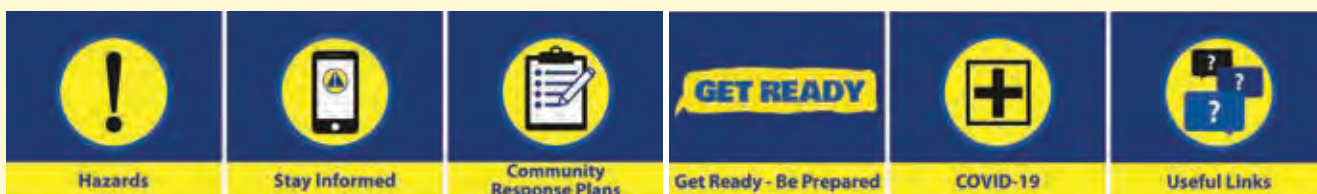
APPS: TCDC Libraries and ePlatform by Wheelers, both available through your app store

OUR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UNIT

The Thames-Coromandel District Council Emergency Management Unit is here for the safety of people, property and the environment.

We do this by identifying significant hazards in the community, determining vulnerability to these hazards, and building community resilience to respond and recover from significant events. Civil Defence is our Council staff and elected members working together with Emergency Services, welfare agencies, iwi and you to mobilise the full resources of all of us to cope with disasters.

Check out our website to learn more: tcdc.govt.nz/emu



BE PREPARED AND STAY INFORMED

There's a number of ways you 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



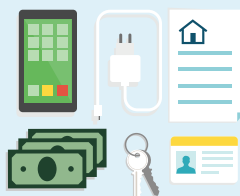
Food and water for your family



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

getready.govt.nz/make-a-plan



COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLANS

tcdc.govt.nz/communityresponseplans



RED CROSS HAZARDS APP

redcross.org.nz/hazard-app



EMERGENCY MOBILE ALERT (EMA)

getready.govt.nz/emergency-mobile-alert



PHONE TREE

Arrange for someone to give you a call.

STAY UP TO DATE



E-NEWSLETTERS

tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe



FACEBOOK

Our Council updates.



USEFUL LINKS

METSERVICE: metservice.com

CIVIL DEFENCE: civildefence.govt.nz

GNS SCIENCE: gns.cri.nz

WAKA KOTAHĪ: nzta.govt.nz

TSUNAMI EVACUATION INFORMATION

HE PĀRONGO WHAKAWĀTEA TSUNAMI



Tsunami information boards have been installed around our district. You will see these signs (above) at beach entrances, public toilets close to beaches, boat ramps and town centres. Take time to look over the information, familiarise yourself with your current location and tsunami risk, where to go and what to do. The most important message to remember is if an earthquake is long or strong, get gone.



NO INTERNET?

If phone and internet were down, how would you arrange to meet up? How would you get the news and alerts?



NO POWER?

If you had no power how would you see, cook and keep warm? How would you buy gas, or get cash with no ATM?

GET READY

getready.govt.nz

It's easy to ask for help

- ✓ Free
- ✓ Friendly
- ✓ No judgement
- ✓ 24/7 Access
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Mental health support
- ✓ And a whole lot more ...



www.heretohelpu.nz | 0800 568 273

Here to help
Kei konei mātou hei puma āwhina mōu

FLOOD WATER CAN HIDE
DANGEROUS DEBRIS.
IF WATERS RISE...

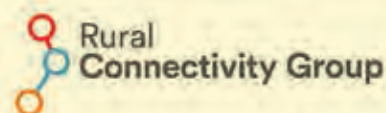
**GET
THE
FLOOD
OUT**

FLOOD WATER CAN
PICK UP YOUR VEHICLE.
DON'T DRIVE THROUGH...

**GET
THE
FLOOD
OUT**

IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY

In a world first the Rural Connectivity Group (RCG) designs, builds and maintains new telecommunications network that New Zealand's three network operators will share. RCG with assistance from our Council, have been working hard over the past two years to improve mobile and rural broadband coverage across the district.



Emergency Management relies on a robust telecommunications network to ensure that we can communicate and respond effectively. This project will significantly improve our district's ability to stay connected and informed.

Coroglen, Kaimarama, Kennedy Bay, Little Bay, Ōtama, Port Charles and Te Mātā are all sites that have gone live in 2022. With further sites to be switched on by mid-2023: Kōpū, Papa Aroha, Te Kōuma and Waitete Bay – thercg.co.nz



RCG's Coroglen cell site providing 4G services to the local rural community.

Safer Coromandel

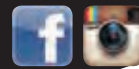
Safer Coromandel is a group of community organisations working together to prevent death and serious harm in the Coromandel region.

Plan B4 U Party

CHECK LIST

- ✓ Sleeping bag & pillow
- ✓ Take low alcohol drinks
- ✓ Hydrate with water
- ✓ Stay at a mates place
- ✓ Extra cash for taxi

Find us at
Safer Coromandel
and like us on:



I won this awesome
summer coolie prize
pack - Sweet!



ALCOHOL BANS – Our Alcohol Control Bylaw consists of year-round, 24/7 town centre, Christmas/New Year and long weekend bans. You must not consume or take alcohol into any public place where an alcohol ban is in force.
tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol



For more information go to
tcdc.govt.nz/roadsafety

**Road Safety IS
EVERYONE'S Responsibility**

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

Hauraki District Council: 07 862 8609

For emergencies call: 111

FIRE BANS/PERMITS – A total fire ban applies in the Coromandel from late December to early February each year. It may be extended if weather conditions dictate. Go to checkitsalright.nz if you wish to apply for a fire permit.



FREE ADULT CYCLE SKILLS COURSES FOR BIKES AND E-BIKES – tcdc.govt.nz/roadsafety

**HELMET
OR**

**\$55
FINE**

**GIVE CYCLISTS
ROOM**

1.5m

**SHARE
THE
ROAD**

EAST WAIKATO ROAD SAFETY
Proudly working towards





The Coromandel Peninsula's Leading waste provider



**No matter what your waste needs are, Smart have
Waste and Recycling solutions to meet your needs.
From Business to your Back yard, we cover it all!**



**WHEELIE BINS
80ltr to 1100ltr**



**FRONT LOAD
1.5m3, 3m3
4.5m3**



**SKIP BINS
3m3, 4.5m3
7m3, 9m3**



**Call us now for the best bin deals in the Coromandel
0800 4 MY BIN (0800 469 246)**

www.sales.support@smartenvironmental.co.nz



PUT YOUR WASTE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Every year, every man, woman and child in New Zealand sends **740kg** of waste to landfill - about the maximum weight that a mid-size elevator can carry.

The simplest way to reduce that amount is to follow the **Six Rs: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle, Rot (compost).**

You can also reduce the amount you're sending to landfill by simply putting your waste in the right container when you put it out for Kerbside collection.

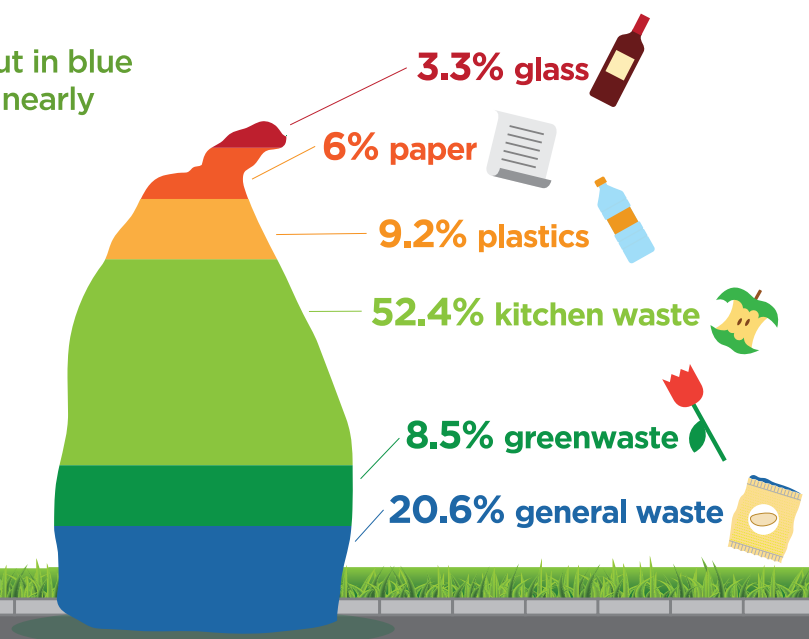
Reducing the amount of waste we're sending to landfill is better for the environment. Waste is a resource and we want more materials diverted from landfill and recycled, reused, repurposed or rotted.



HOW YOU CAN HELP DIVERT WASTE GOING TO LANDFILL

An audit in 2021 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 BE RECYCLED?

We're finding that many recycling wheelie bins contain items that can't be recycled. Things like soiled nappies, tissues and paper towels, shredded paper, light bulbs, the wrong types of plastic, batteries, dead animals and more.

These items contaminate the recycling and mean the contents of the wheelie bin, and possibly the whole

truckload of recycling, might have to go to landfill instead of being recycled.

Please check what you're trying to recycle before you put it in your wheelie bin or glass crate to make sure it can be recycled.



What goes in your TCDC crate?

Glass only



Glass Bottles & Glass Jars

Rinse clean,
discard lids and
do not overfill
crate



What goes in your wheelie bin?

Paper, Cardboard, Cans & Plastic 1 & 2 & 5



Paper & Cardboard



Aluminium & tin cans
(Don't squash them)

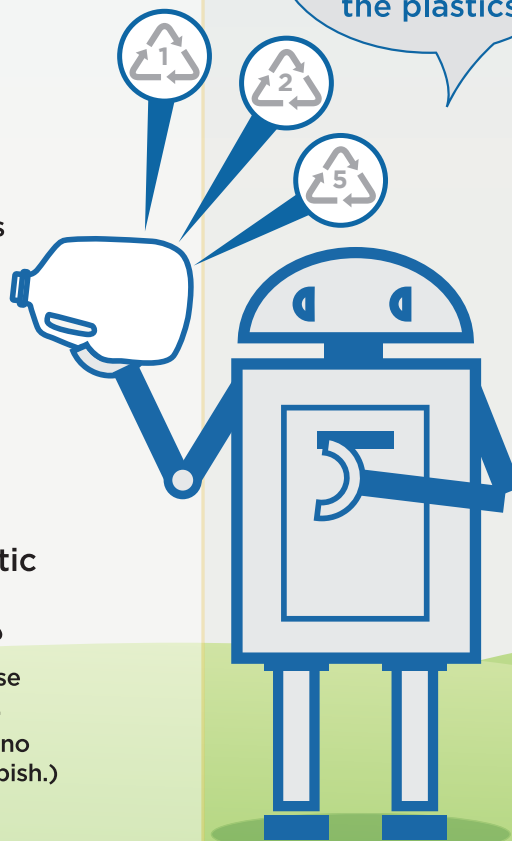


Only Rigid Plastic



Discard lids and rinse
plastic item clean.
(Other numbers, or no
number, put in the rubbish.)

Look for
the numbers on
the bottom of
the plastics





Items to keep out of your recycling

When in doubt, keep it out



Household rubbish



Nappies & sanitary items



Plastics 3, 4 & 6, 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

SOFT PLASTIC PACKAGING COLLECTION BINS NOW AVAILABLE



What is soft plastic?

Soft plastics are bags, film wrap and other packaging that can now be recycled into fence posts or building materials through our partnership with the Packaging Forum's soft plastics recycling scheme.

In the first eight weeks of several bins being placed at Thames locations, more than 500kg of plastics were collected and turned into the equivalent of 45 fence posts.

COLLECTION BIN LOCATIONS

THAMES

- Pak'nSave
- The Warehouse
- Council office, 515 Mackay Street
- Refuse Transfer Station

WHANGAMATĀ

- New World
- Council office, 620 Port Road
- Refuse Transfer Station

WHITIANGA

- New World Whitianga
- Countdown Whitianga
- The Warehouse Whitianga
- Council office, 10 Monk Street
- Refuse Transfer Station

tcdc.govt.nz/softplastics | packagingforum.org.nz

More locations to come. recycling.kiwi.nz for more information.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH E-WASTE AND HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Old and used lightbulbs:

Old lightbulbs can be dropped off at your local Refuse Transfer Station (RTS) kiosk to be disposed of correctly.

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 do not 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.

Old tins of paint or other chemicals:

Take these to your nearest RTS and ask at the kiosk where they should go.

Use our reuse centres:

The Seagull Centre in Thames and the Goldmine in Coromandel Town will be joined in the summer of 2022/23 by a reuse centre at the new Refuse Transfer Station in Whitianga on Moewai Road. All three of these reuse centres are next to Council Refuse Transfer Stations so you can donate items that you might otherwise throw out that are still usable or can be repaired or repurposed and sold at the shops on-site.

seagullcentre.co.nz | cilt.org.nz/goldmine

Aerosol cans:

Please don't put these in your recycling wheelie bin or general waste. Instead, take them to the hazardous waste of your local RTS.

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.

Asbestos:

Our Refuse Transfer Stations do not accept asbestos. The Worksafe website lists asbestos disposal locations and certified asbestos removers: worksafe.govt.nz

REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS & PORTABLE RUBBISH COMPACTORS

REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS (RTS)

Check www.tcdc.govt.nz/rts for summer RTS hours.

If you're leaving town before your collection day drop off your blue Council rubbish bags and recycling for no charge at one of our seven RTSs.

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

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 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 provider.





NEW SOLID WASTE CONTRACT TO BRING CHANGES TO SERVICES



Starting from 1 September 2023 we'll no longer be using our official, pre-paid blue plastic rubbish bags for Kerbside collections. Instead we'll be using wheelie bins, just like the ones we use for recycling except a bit smaller.

This is one of the changes that will come about when a new contractor takes over our solid waste operations.

After a robust procurement and tender evaluation process, Waste Management NZ was awarded the solid waste contract to run our district's Kerbside collections, Refuse Transfer Station operations and implement a food waste collection, for the next 10 years.

Starting 1 September 2023, Waste Management NZ will provide the following services for our district:

- Weekly Kerbside collection and disposal of residential food waste in a 25-litre bin, including supply of the bins (this will be a new service);
- Fortnightly Kerbside collection and disposal of residential rubbish in a 140-litre wheelie bin, including supply of the bins (this will replace the blue bags collection);
- Continued fortnightly Kerbside collection and disposal of glass in a Council crate (two per household maximum) and other recycling (paper, cardboard, tins and hard plastics) in a 240-litre wheelie bin – the same as our current service;
- Additional rubbish and recycling collections in the peak summer period for some areas, as is currently carried out;
- Resource, operate and manage our seven Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS);
- Operation of after-hours drop-off facilities at Matarangi, Tairua, Pāuanui and Whangamatā Refuse Transfer Stations;
- The changes in service will be communicated to our district's residents, ratepayers and businesses well before the new contract begins.

To find out more about Waste Management NZ, visit their website wastemanagement.co.nz

Top tips for Kerbside collection

UNTIL 31 AUGUST 2023 CURRENT SERVICES CONTINUE

Our current solid waste contractor, Smart Environmental, will continue to provide our solid waste services, including increased summer services, as they currently exist. To find out your Kerbside rubbish and recycling collection schedule and RTS hours, visit tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside and tcdc.govt.nz/rts. Summer RTS hours and Kerbside schedules will be published in December on those same pages.





Love the Coromandel.....live it in a Lockwood



BUILDING IN NEW ZEALAND
— SINCE —
1951
NZ GROWN • NZ MADE • NZ BUILT



LOCKWOOD
Designed for good



Why build a Lockwood?...

A trusted brand since 1951, Lockwood homes are sustainable, energy efficient and built from a renewable resource, with timber locally sourced and manufactured. Whether you are relaxing, fishing, spending time with family and friends or

all of the above, our low maintenance homes will leave you with plenty of time to live your best life in the Coromandel. Start your design and build journey today with our award-winning team at Coastwood Homes in Kopu.

Talk to your local Lockwood experts today

Coastwood Homes, Kopu.

Visit our Show Village, 107 Kopu Road, Kopu, Thames

PH 07 868 8733 | E contact@coastwood.co.nz | www.lockwood.co.nz





PHOTO CREDIT: WARREN MALE