

OUR COROMANDEL

2019-2020

Zip and zoom

Driving Creek Railway's new zipline opens up a majestic forest canopy tour

Coro magic

Well-known Kiwis tell us why the Coromandel is their special place to unwind

Blazing a trail

Your guide to some of the best walking tracks around our district

Strong foundations

Mayor Sandra digs in for a second term with a new team of elected members

+ events

Festivals, concerts, food and multisport ... there's plenty of reason to visit all through the year.

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Our Coromandel is largely produced in-house by the communications and marketing department of the Thames-Coromandel District Council.

MEET THE EDITORIAL TEAM



LAURINA WHITE. Laurina White is TCDC's Communications and Economic Development Group Manager. Laurina's been with Council for the past seven years after leaving a career in TV, radio and newspapers to move to the Coromandel with her husband and young family. While leaving the big smoke of Auckland for the small village of Kuaotunu was a real seachange, Laurina says she has no regrets on the decision. laurina.white@tcdc.govt.nz



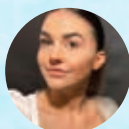
GEORGINA BOND. Georgina is our Communications and Economic Development Officer and loves her part in editing *Our Coromandel* magazine – sharing our delight in the people and places in this special part of the world. Georgina is a former business journalist with the *National Business Review* and *New Zealand Herald* and joined our Council from a role as senior manager media relations at ASB Bank. She lives in Pauanui. georgina.bond@tcdc.govt.nz



AMBER BAKER. Amber Baker is our Digital Communications and Marketing Officer and you will often be interacting with her on our social media channels. Amber moved to Whangamata with her petrol-head family three years ago after spending many years visiting from the Wairarapa for the annual Beach Hop event. Amber is thrilled to be celebrating 20 years of Beach Hop next year – check out page 106-107 to find out more. amber.baker@tcdc.govt.nz



MICHAEL DOBIE. Michael Dobie is our Senior Communications Officer. Michael has called the Coromandel home since 2012 after an 18-year career in journalism that took him from Canada to China to the UK and finally to New Zealand. He's a media all-rounder with experience in broadcasting, print and digital. When not at work, he enjoys spending time with his family, exploring the Coromandel, gardening and doing this and that here and there. michael.dobie@tcdc.govt.nz



DANA LITTLE. Dana is part of our marketing and communications team and joined us in 2018, first as an intern but is now full-time as our Junior Communications Officer. Dana grew up in Coromandel Town and attended Thames High School and went on to gain a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Auckland. She is pleased to be home in Coromandel Town, where one of her interests is riding her horses around our forests and coastline. Find out about Dana's ultimate horse treks on page 38. dana.little@tcdc.govt.nz



KIRSTIN RICHMOND. Kirstin is our Council's District Events Coordinator, supporting events organisers across the busy local events calendar, and promoting the Coromandel as an attractive destination for major events. Previously, Kirstin worked for Spotless Services, responsible for game day and event operations at Auckland's Mt Smart Stadium and Eden Park. Get in touch with Kirstin if you are organising an event, or thinking about setting one up. kirstin.richmond@tcdc.govt.nz

CONTRIBUTORS



NICOLA MARTIN. When she's not chasing her three busy daughters, Nicola can usually be found testing out recipes from all over the world in her Matarangi kitchen. The freelance writer and communications manager moved to Matarangi in 2017 and can be found blogging at www.worldtable.co.nz where she's also written a cookbook that tells the stories of refugees and immigrants through their food. nicola.boyes@gmail.com



TRUDI SHERIDAN. Former Hamiltonian Trudi swapped London for a tiny town on the Thames Coast after more than a decade overseas. She loves the view of the Firth of Thames, being surrounded by pōhutukawa trees, and discovering more of the Coromandel and Waikato. She still gets a kick out of the fact the locals in her area say "hello" to each other, after spending 11 years learning to avoid eye contact on the Tube. trudiwords@gmail.com



FELICITY JEAN WITTERS PHOTOGRAPHER (FLEA). Felicity lives in Kuaotunu and is a photographer offering wedding, family portrait, event, adventure tourism and other commercial photography. She has recently published her first photography book 'A Colourful Community' capturing the spirit of the local people of Kuaotunu, Otama, Opito, Matarangi and Whangapoua. The book is available for purchase at KuaKawhe, the Kuaotunu Store and the Matarangi Gift Shop. fleaphotos.co.nz



MELISSA MCGREGOR. Based on the Coromandel Peninsula, Melissa is a graphic designer and owner of ModoDesign. Melissa has over 20 years in the creative industries and is passionate about communication through design. She is privileged to work alongside great clients and creative collaborators on a wide variety of projects. Melissa loves the ocean and nature, her family, cups of tea and adventure. mododesign.co.nz

Welcome

To Our Coromandel 2019-2020

Can you believe our Council magazine *Our Coromandel* is now into its seventh year?

What started out as a publication to engage with our non-resident ratepayers (we post more than 15,000 copies to approximately 50 per cent of people with an out-of-district address) and share all the good stuff (and the stuff you need to know), has become a well-established marketing tool that sits on coffee tables or bookshelves in cafes, beach houses and homes around our district.

The Coromandel is a place we all adore, whether it's our home or our second home, and we hope this edition of *Our Coromandel* will be laying around your home for friends and family to read and browse through for months to come.

Our Coromandel captures the past 12 months, where the wheels have been turning on many exciting new ventures around our district as our population and economy grows. Be inspired by exciting developments within our aquaculture industry, innovative local businesses and our Chief Executive's vision for our largest town Thames.

Our Mayor Sandra Goudie returns for a second term and is getting stuck into the nuts and bolts of Council core business with a new team of elected members. Hear more from Sandra and meet our new Councillors and Community Board members inside.

We catch up with well-known New Zealanders who cherish special connections here, and they tell us what it is about this place that's hard to beat.

Local business is thriving, check out Driving Creek Railway's new zipline, which provided a fabulous photo shoot for our front cover. The 1km bush canopy tour opens a magical new chapter at the estate – just minutes north of Coromandel Town and a jewel in our crown, drawing 60,000 visitors to the pottery and mountain rail car tours each year. Exciting expansion plans will open up the estate further and see Driving Creek play a bigger role in supporting conservation on the Coromandel and the local economy.

Great beaches, beautiful landscapes and being so close to the busy centres of Auckland and Hamilton provide the perfect elements to attract major events to our district, and quality events are certainly making it a year-around destination. Our 10-page events guide is your go-to for what's happening over the year ahead.

To top it off, excerpts from our local walks guide, pages 44-49, offer plenty of inspiration for you to get out and experience some new journeys, by hike or bike.

Keep enjoying *Our Coromandel*.

The TCDC communications team

Our Coromandel is an annual publication produced by Thames-Coromandel District Council.

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- Editorial contact: communications@tcdc.govt.nz

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Our Coromandel also supports free advertising for:

Coastguard, Coromandel Rescue Helicopter Trust, Destination Coromandel, Safer Coromandel, St John, Surf Lifesaving NZ and advertising of events and festivals in our events guide (pages 96-97).

Cover photo. Our cover photo was taken by Felicity Jean Photography – Fleaphotos.co.nz at Driving Creek Railway in Coromandel Town.

Back cover photo: Opoutere Trails, Hakan Nedjat Photography hakannedjat.co.nz

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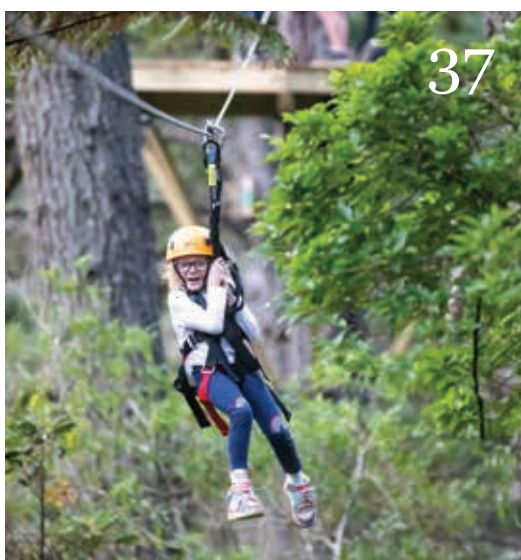
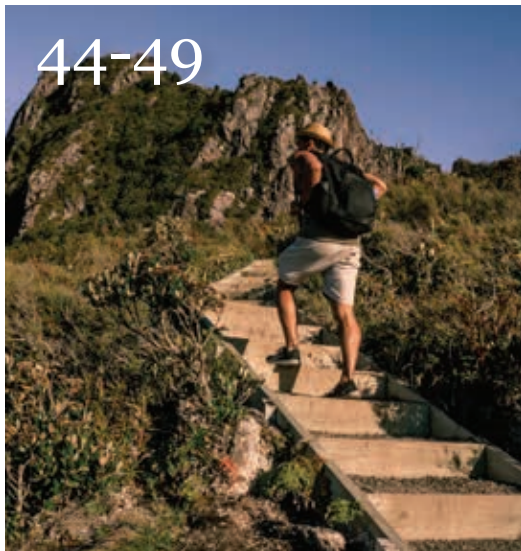
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DIGGING IN FOR A SECOND TERM

Sandra's back and getting stuck into the nuts and bolts of council core business for her next term as Mayor.



It's a real honour to be voted in for a second term and I thank each and every one of you who voted for me to return as your Mayor on election day.

My first term was about putting in the groundwork, getting unity around the table with all our elected members, pulling Council staff and communities together and strengthening relationships with iwi, other agencies and groups.

There's still more to be done in this space, but the momentum is there and I'm here to make sure it keeps on going.

I'm also sticking to our Council keeping focused on the basics – the stuff that's not so sexy, but is core, essential services – pipes, roads, toilets and buildings. It's our drinking water, stormwater and wastewater assets that we're needing to spend a significant amount of money on – because there's a significant amount of risk if there's a failure in our systems. These core bits of infrastructure work just need to get done, which means we've got an ambitious capital works programme over the next few years of approximately \$80 million, plus to investigate the potential for things such as making watertanks compulsory for all new builds outside of the main urban centres (Whangamata, Whitianga, Coromandel Town and Thames).



And yes, we're doing (not talking) our part around climate change initiatives, which consists of both adaptation and mitigation measures. There's the \$2.6 million, three-year programme we've committed to Shoreline Management Plans, which will give us a large-scale hazard assessment on our flooding and erosion issues and identify risk to people and the environment for our coastline over the next century. We're also on our way into investigating housing for adaptive purposes, particularly the zoning of new housing as an option to resilience against our changing environment. There's a whole lot more we're doing in response to climate change and helping communities overcome adversity, (particularly around things such as weather events), which you can read more about at tcdc.govt.nz/climatechange or tcdc.govt.nz/emergencymangement

So we've laid down the foundations to build on over the next three years. Being a MP for nine years and now a second-term Mayor, I know that getting projects across the line is a hard slog. But it's not different to my days when I was dairy farming with my husband Bernard, while bringing up the kids. It's about getting on with getting on. I've still got the drive and commitment to make things happen And I promise that's what I'll be doing again for the next three years, with our newly-elected Council and Community Board members. I'll be your advocate, your supporter and your champion, to make sure we get the best outcomes for the Coromandel – a place we treasure, value and care about, now and into the future.

Sandra

Sandra.goudie@tcdc.govt.nz

Photos, L to R: Bricks 1, 2 and 17, Mayor Sandra checking out the Coromandel Town upgrade. Brick 3, Sandra supporting sport in Thames (and impersonating 80s fitness star Richard Simmons). Brick 4, Sandra showcasing Whitianga. Bricks 5, 7 and 8, with our Chief Executive Rob Williams and Minister for Primary Industries Damien O'Connor looking at the production of wakame in Coromandel Town. Brick 6 with DOC staff lending a hand to biodiversity awareness week. Brick 9, teaming up to raise awareness of the yellow ribbon campaign. Brick 10, getting into gear at Beach Hop Whangamata. Brick 11, with artist Fatu Fe'eu and National MP Judith Collins supporting Coromandel artists. Brick 12, a farewell to the naval boat the HMS Manawanui. Brick 13, with Steampunk the Thames organisers. Brick 14, celebrating the heritage theme at the Thames Centennial Pool. Brick 15, getting to know the local communities at the Thames Bowling Club. Brick 16, partnering with AA and supporting the drivers licence programmes in our district.





Building our community



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Sally Christie

Thames Ward Councillor

Thames and its surrounds has been my chosen home for more than 35 years. Being involved in local government has been an important part of those years, helping create a community and environment where families and businesses thrive. I sought re-election to enable my ongoing contribution to some critical issues facing our area. Planning and mitigating risk from the effects of climate change is an important focus. Our town needs to continue to make itself a vibrant hub for business, retail, educational and health services. I bring common sense, commitment and an ability to work with the richness of diversity present in our area. My extensive network of relationships will be valuable in this engagement process.

sally.christie@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Alison Choppin

Thames Ward Councillor

I am a third-generation Thames-born resident and have lived here for a lot of my life. I attended Thames High School, as did both my now-adult daughters. I am a daughter, a mother, a wife and a step mum to two boys. My background is in communication and finance, being a banker and a finance manager. I am an active member of Thames Search and Rescue, Thames Pony Club and Thames Toastmasters. I am also a trustee and coordinator for the Coromandel Wandersearch Trust which assists people who may, at times, become disorientated. I love the outdoors and this beautiful place that we are lucky to call home. I believe I can add a practical and balanced approach to Council and the challenges it faces.

alison.choppin@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Martin Rodley

Thames Ward Councillor

I've lived with my family in Thames since 1992 and our three sons attended school here. I've got almost 10 years of School Board of Trustee experience, and currently chair a subcommittee on the Thames High School BOT. The future of Thames is my passion, with community involvement my focus. I run my own IT consultancy business. My work sees me providing affordable and sustainable future-focused technologies for our primary schools across the Thames region. Other activities include chairing the Kauaeranga Hall committee, being part of community fruit tree projects and an initiative resulting in 80 Thames homes receiving free insulation. As Vice President and Health & Safety Officer with Thames Music and Drama, I'm often working behind the scenes – and sometimes on the stage too!

martin.rodley@council.tcdc.govt.nz



John Morrissey

Coromandel-Colville Ward Councillor

I moved to Coromandel 27 years ago to become the local police officer. During the time I have lived here I have been on youth group committees, Board of Trustees, the Community Board and was a Thames-Coromandel District Councillor in a previous term. The Coromandel-Colville ward is unique as we have just one elected representative, and deserves a strong voice and the ability to negotiate at Council in order to be heard.

john.morrissey@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Tony Fox

Mercury Bay Ward Councillor

I have a 60-year association with the greater Mercury Bay area and have been a Whitianga resident for 18 years. For the past nine years, I have been a Councillor and a member of the Mercury Bay Community Board. I have used the skills and experience from a successful military career, managing our family business in the health sector, and senior corporate roles in finance and administration to be an effective local government representative. Mercury Bay has seen significant progress over the past nine years and I thank you for your support so that I can continue to provide strong representation to our 17 unique communities.

tony.fox@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Murray McLean

Mercury Bay Ward Councillor

The Mercury Bay Ward continues to grow rapidly from increasing numbers of residents and from tourism. This, in turn, has increased demand for Council services at all levels – roading, water, wastewater, rubbish to name a few. Council faces huge challenges in financing and building infrastructure to cope with this demand, and at the same time, balancing ratepayer affordability. I bring to the table a wealth of local body experience and a practical knowledge of projects and costs as well as proven business experience. Thank you for your support to enable me to contribute further to the precious community we live in.

murray.mclean@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Gary Gotlieb

South Eastern Ward Councillor

I have been coming here for 50 years and consider Whangamata my second home. I am a qualified and active Whangamata lifeguard and I love the place. I feel previous governance has been poor and needs to change and I have the skills and experience to do this. I am a practising Barrister, Former President of Auckland District Law Society, NZ Criminal Bar and board member of: NZ Law Society, Triathlon NZ, Masters swimming. My focus for our ward is for urgent action regarding the infrastructure, facilities and Council accountability.

gary.gotlieb@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Terry Walker

South Eastern Ward Councillor

As a Councillor it is my duty to ensure our democracy works, providing citizens with a voice and opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to matters of local significance. I have championed for a better deal for our rates contribution, prioritised infrastructure improvement and increased levels of service while dealing with coastal erosion, sea rise, increasing project costs and stopped Council from using depreciation reserves for funding new assets. Important projects include community wellbeing, facilities, health, local economy and harbour/river management. A priority project is the lack of stormwater infrastructure. I wish to ensure future generations enjoy this great place to live, stay and play.

terry.walker@council.tcdc.govt.nz



This list reflects those elected to Council according to the preliminary results as at October 16, 2019. A Deputy Mayor had not yet been elected at the time Our Coromandel went to print. The introductions are those our Councillors provided for the October 2019 election.

Looking out for Local

Find out what we've been working on in your neighbourhood over the last 12 months and meet those elected to our five Community Boards, who share their aims for the new Council term.



Thames

Community Board Area

projects



Thames revitalisation project

The Thames Community Board has allocated \$30,000 to fund initial concept plans for the revitalisation of the Thames CBD area. The concept plans will draw on ideas contained in the Thames+ Urban Development Strategy tcdc.govt.nz/tuds and proposals raised at a workshop in August 2019 attended by the Community Board, the Thames Business Association and the Thames Public Art Trust. Boffa Miskell, who designed the popular Whitianga Town Centre Upgrade tcdc.govt.nz/whitcentreupgrade, has been commissioned to investigate establishing a plaza in Mary Street, the future use of the War Memorial Civic Centre, the future use of the building currently used by Wintec (which is owned by Council), and concepts for Pollen Street (for example landscaping). The new Thames Community Board will examine the concept plans in November 2019 and consider the projects for inclusion in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

Thames Valley water project

Work to replace ageing water mains (in some cases well over 60 years old) and improve water supply in Matatoki, Puriri, Omahu, Hikutaia and Wharepoa began in 2014 and is expected to be completed in 2021.

To improve the sustainability of our rivers, Waikato Regional Council has introduced requirements to maintain minimum flows for waterways, reducing the amount of water available to be taken. This has meant being smarter about how we manage our water supply system.

We have renewed water mains in Wharepoa and Hikutaia. We have linked the Matatoki and Puriri systems and replaced the Omahu to Hikutaia main. Analysis of data from water metres indicates that major pipeline replacement elsewhere, particularly in Matatoki, is not required at this stage. We're investigating using the Puriri water source to supply Matatoki, and a potential site for the Puriri reservoir has been identified and design options are being investigated.

We've introduced water metres and water rates for properties larger than four hectares such as farms, and for smaller properties less than four hectares. Metres allow leaks to be identified and charging by the amount used is a more equitable way for the community to pay for water services as opposed to a flat rate no matter how much is consumed.

tcdc.govt.nz/thamesvalleywater



Open drains covered

Deep open drains in central Thames that have posed a hazard for pedestrians and drivers have been covered. Court Street, between Mary and Sealey streets, was completed in mid-2019, while Rolleston Street between Mary and Sealey was finished later. Vehicles, including the popular Thames Connector public bus service which stops outside the medical centre on Rolleston Street can now park against the kerb, with no steep drain to fall into. More information on the Thames Connector bus:

tcdc.govt.nz/our-services/thames-connector-public-bus-service

Te Puru recreation facilities

Recreational facilities in Te Puru on the Thames Coast have been upgraded with the surfacing of the second tennis court at the domain and the installation of a modular pumptrack for skateboarders and scooter riders. A new face has also appeared on the adjacent playground: the climbing dragon that was removed from Porritt Park in Thames when that playground was upgraded two years ago.



John William Hall Arboretum

A loop path through the upper section of this reserve, New Zealand's oldest arboretum, has now been completed. It can be accessed through the car park at the top of Mount Sea Road where there is a boot-cleaning station to help prevent the spread of kauri dieback disease. The path takes walkers past both mature kauri trees planted by John William Hall in the 1870s on what was then his property, as well as younger kauri planted by local school students and Forest and Bird volunteers. A 30m boardwalk to protect roots of kauri trees is a feature as are the views over Thames. Clean your footwear going in and out of the track at the hygiene station, paid for with a grant from the Ministry of Primary Industries.

tcdc.govt.nz/tracksandtrails



Parks and Facilities Officer Ric Balfour on the kauri root protection boardwalk in John William Hall Arboretum.

Walkers in the newly extended upper loop section of the arboretum can clean their footwear going in and out of the track to help prevent the spread of kauri dieback disease.





In July 2019 members of the Thames Public Art Trust (far left Paul Silvester and far right Rob Johnston) unveiled The Spheres, by Paeroa artist Mark Hayes (centre).

Hauraki Rail Trail sculptures

The Spheres is the latest addition to the growing number of sculptures the Thames Public Art Trust is installing alongside the Kopu-Thames section of the Hauraki Rail Trail. The Spheres, made of horseshoes, joins another installation piece, the Jandal and the Trust has plans to add several more sculptures including The Speeding Train by Raglan artist Stuart Shepherd, Miners' Gates by Thames artist John McKeown, and a metal sculpture of a penny-farthing cyclist donated by Thames artist Bruce Harper.

The sculptures serve as "visual breadcrumbs" to draw cyclists and walkers along the trail, add a focus at rest stops and visitor appeal to Thames. The Thames Community Board and Smart Environmental have supported the project with grants, while Kopu Engineering and Stop Digging have donated work to install the pieces.

tcdc.govt.nz/railtrailsculptures • haurakirailtrail.co.nz



Artist Ricks Terstappen relaxes on The Jandal, which he created for the Hauraki Rail Trail Sculpture Trail.

Omahu Cemetery natural burial area sculpture



The Return is by Thames artist Victoria Cullen.

A sculpture called The Return has been added to Omahu Cemetery's Natural Burial Garden. A casket can be rested on The Return during a burial service, or when burials aren't taking place, people can sit on it for some quiet remembrance of loved ones. A natural burial uses no embalming fluids or other items that would interfere

with the environment and caskets are made from biodegradable materials. The natural burial garden was established in 2015 out of the desire of the Thames Natural Burial Group to have an alternative to conventional burials. Options to create a similar natural burial garden in Coromandel Town or Colville are being explored.

www.tcdc.govt.nz/naturalburial

Thames replacement pool

Behind-the-scenes planning continues on the Thames Centennial Pool replacement project. The preferred site at the south end of Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield is going through a plan change to make sure the zoning is correct for active recreation. Our project team is also pursuing external sources of funding so the impact to ratepayers will be as small as possible. Expect to hear more about this exciting project in early 2020.

tcdc.govt.nz/thamesreplacementpool

Your Thames Community Board

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Sheryll Fitzpatrick

"I have worked in both Central Government and community; the latter being to support agencies delivering services across a wide range of social and environmental issues. I was a member of the Hauraki Community Organisation Grants Committee for six years, which distributed funds to local groups delivering services. I helped establish the Thames Community Centre in 2012 and administered the CANDO driver licensing programme assisting mainly young people to obtain their licences. I am presently working with employers for students to gain work experience. I am concerned for people, climate change and pollution."

sheryll.fitzpatrick@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Strat Peters

"I genuinely want good things to happen for Thames. Our communities' get-up-and-go with initiatives like the Thames Business Association, Steampunk, Sculpture Trail, Aquatic and Sporting solutions, Thames Revitalisation is exciting. When I last chaired the Thames Community Board, we helped deliver several long-outstanding projects such as the Thames Recreation Centre. I continue as a trustee of the Hauraki Rail Trail. Thames's heritage, location and enhanced walk and cycle pathways, are opportunities. Better Kopu marine infrastructure will help drive economic growth. Climate change action means 'now'."

strat.peters@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Peter Revell

"A resident of Thames, I belong to the Thames Business Association. Along with my wife Keri, I am the 'make-it-happen guy' behind Kauaeranga Music, which hosts a monthly music concert in the Kauaeranga Hall. Thames has a wonderful history, a perfect location between Tauranga, Hamilton and Auckland, environmental bounty on our doorstep – we have the opportunity to make Thames 'the best place to be'. The Board has a significant role to play in ensuring that happens, requiring energy, passion, and skill. I recently stepped out of full-time executive management in the software sector, and am bringing my energy, passion and skill to help create a Thames that is the best place to be."

peter.revell@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Cherie Staples

"The beautiful Thames Coast is home sweet home for my family. As Thames Coasters we have raised two daughters. I'm a working mum, a sporting mum and a taxi mum. I'm a JP and the long-time Office Manager to the Member of Parliament for Coromandel. My passion and commitment is to work with and for the people from Wilsons Bay to the farming rurals of Hikutaia. Thames Community Board needs hard working, younger eyes with fresh ideas. This will ensure we have balanced representation, loaded with purposeful, focused inspiration to achieve the best results. I'm a hard worker, quick thinker and a factual decision maker. Our community deserves nothing less. "The Goal" is to make the most of all that Thames has to offer. 'I'm on your team'."

cherie.staples@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Coromandel -Colville

Community Board Area

projects

New playground at Long Bay

A new playground was built in 2019 at the Long Bay Reserve in Coromandel Town. Features include sand safety surfacing, a circular confidence course, a basket swing and a sand digger. Our Council also restored sections of the walking tracks and site access on the Long Bay Kauri Walk that was affected by coastal erosion in early 2019. The Kauri Walk entry points have new railings and foot wash facilities at the start of the track, to help prevent the spread of kauri dieback.



Coromandel Citizens Hall reinstatement

The refurbished Coromandel Citizens Hall, formerly the St George's Convent School (1897), was officially reopened in November 2019. Restoration began in February 2019, with the top priority making the building safe for use, followed by general tidy-up repairs, maintenance and painting of the interior, to return the building to its former character and allow it to reopen for public use. The original floor was a combination of kauri and tawa, that could not be salvaged. The timber for the new floor is from 100-year-old matai that was salvaged from rivers in the Hawkes Bay. The cost of the restoration is approximately \$1 million funded by our Council and external agencies. The Bizarre Trust in Coromandel Town donated \$200,000, towards the internal finishes of the building, with grants also coming from Lotteries Communities Facilities (\$248,987), and \$37,500 from Trust Waikato. Coromandel Town builder Glenn Beattie was employed to do the restoration work, with a variety of local subcontractors involved in the project. tcdc.govt.nz/corohallproject



Coromandel Town centre roading improvements

Improvements were made to reduce the excessive 'cross fall' or slope on Coromandel Town's main street Kapanga Road and the kerb line where vehicles park, to allow for easier access into the street for vehicles and avoid any significant damage to buildings and shop verandas. The upgrade has also improved traffic flow through the intersection of Tiki Road, Kapanga Road, and Wharf Road. "We're thrilled to see these improvements happening in the town's main street for both shoppers and the retailers," says Allan Tiplady, our Council's District Manager North. Further work will see the current T-intersection at Tiki and Kapanga Roads change to a small mountable roundabout, which will allow larger vehicles to drive over it and be of a "cobblestone" type construction. The Kapanga Road pedestrian crossing will be moved to opposite Samuel James Reserve. Stormwater infrastructure along the main street has been upgraded at the same time. tcdc.govt.nz/coromandeltownupgrade

Samuel James Reserve upgrade

The Samuel James Reserve has been re-landscaped to provide for a greener space within the town centre area. This included new bench seats, tables and paving, realignment of the existing swings, a new water fountain and a garden refresh.





Tony Brljevic – District Councillor (2019), David Keeves – Chair of Senior Settlement Trust, Carlene Carmichael – Chair of Coromandel Bizarre Trust, and Peter Pritchard – Coromandel-Colville Community Board Chairman (2019).

Public toilets murals

Talented local Tuatua artist Rebekah Pearson partnered with our Council to brighten up our public toilets north of Coromandel Town, painting murals on the Little Bay, Oamaru Bay and Tuatua toilets. The murals depict an environmental message about preserving and caring for our beautiful Coromandel. Rebekah has also completed other murals in our district that promote our beaches being home to native plants, birds, skinks and geckos.



Oamaru Bay Toilet design.

Coromandel 200 commemorations

The commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the visit of the Royal Navy ship “Coromandel,” after which the town and our peninsula is named, will tie in with Coromandel Town’s Illume Festival on May 29-31 2020.

Coromandel – the town, the harbour and the peninsula – was named after HMS Coromandel, a British Royal Navy Ship that transported convicts to Australia in March 1820 and then sailed on to New Zealand to collect timber spars and undertake coastal survey work. A model of the HMS Coromandel is housed at the Coromandel School of Mines & Museum.

Local Coromandel Town artist Rebekah Pearson has been selected to create an art piece which will be revealed in 2020 when it is installed at Whangarahi Reserve, to mark the 200 year anniversary. The actual art piece will be kept a secret and revealed as part of the celebrations in 2020.



There will be a fireworks display, art exhibitions, food stalls, live acts and fun activities for the kids, while the dedication for the HMS Coromandel will be at the

Whangarahi Reserve adjacent to Fureys Creek Bridge.

The Coromandel 200 group has plans to establish a forest on the Albert Street Reserve, where 105 kauri trees will be planted in recognition of the spars that were taken from Coromandel Town.

tcdc.govt.nz/coro200

Your Coromandel-Colville Community Board

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Jan Autumn

“I’ve loved the challenges and rewards serving on this Board for three years. For our ward’s future to be sustainable, we need to focus on economic viability and sustainability, requiring greater efficiency and fiscal responsibility. I’m committed to promoting investment and job creation that enables employment opportunities for young people. I’m a good networker. I listen to people and find opportunities to support or advocate on their behalf to bring their perspective to the table. A personal goal is to have better connection across the entire ward to ensure equitable access and provision of services.”

jan.autumn@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Jean Ashby

“I want our mokopuna to live in a community that is socially and environmentally healthy and where people feel a sense of connection and belonging. I believe it’s important for a Board member to engage with people, listen to their korero and ensure their kaupapa is brought to the table. I’m known for my passion, integrity and collaborative approach to dealing with issues affecting youth, people with disabilities, the elderly, and anyone in need of support. I demonstrate my skills in my mahi with pensioner housing, the Work Co-op, youth transitioning to work and people faced with hardship. In a strong society, old men and women plant trees they will never sit under.”

jean.ashby@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Peter Pritchard

“After a term on the Community Board, I am more aware than ever of the need for a well-balanced representative body that listens to the community and then works alongside Council in a partnership relationship, rather than a confrontational approach. I have enjoyed the wide variety of topics that Council work encompasses, and although it was a steep learning curve, I have now formed a good working dialogue with Council staff and am able to work with them in an atmosphere of mutual respect. I look forward to building on the steady gains made in the last term.”

peter.pritchard@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Kim Brett

“I have lived in Coromandel Town for more than 40 years, having schooled, worked with my husband Kevin, raised a family and started several successful businesses here. I think our people and lifestyles are things that need to be looked after. With the best fishing and tourism attractions, the most creative people and the best-preserved native environment, it’s a challenge to have growth without compromising it. Controlled growth and careful planning will provide sustainable development we can afford and be proud of. With a positive, practical, can-do attitude and unwavering passion for this town, I look forward to being your voice on our Board.”

kim.brett@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Mercury Bay Community Board Area projects



“A big man with a big heart”

Remembering former Mercury Bay Community Board Chairman Paul Kelly

Sadly, the Mercury Bay Community Board farewelled its long-serving chairman Paul Kelly, who passed away in March 2019. Paul was appointed chairman at the Board’s meeting on 5 November 2013 and was a well-respected member of the Council family, who served his community with great commitment. Paul was a man of great integrity and is sorely missed.



Chris Kelly and Mayor Sandra Goudie.

A Community Service Award was presented to Paul’s wife Chris Kelly by Mayor Sandra Goudie, acknowledging his contribution to the community.

Whitianga Town Centre upgrade

Whitianga celebrated completion of stage two of the town centre upgrade during 2019, a highlight of which was the Esplanade playground upgrade to include a timber boat and water play as well as other modern play equipment – proving to be hugely popular with the community. The Esplanade has been upgraded with new line markings, marked car parks and a wider footpath. We also built a foot path along the water’s edge connecting into the town centre. Other improvements include the instalment of public artwork along with a landscaped ‘living wall’ alongside Carina Creek. The public toilets on Blacksmith Lane were refurbished and a mini-roundabout built at the end of Albert Street, connecting into Campbell Street. Our Council was a finalist in the 2019 Local Government New Zealand Excellence Awards for economic well-being for the transformation of the Whitianga town centre to a mixed-use space. tcdc.govt.nz/whiticentreupgrade



Esplanade playground.

Left: Nga tangata o nga hau e wha by Chris Charteris sits at Taylors Mistake across the Esplanade from the waterfront. The compass motif represents the coming together of people from the four winds (nga hau e wha). The circle symbolises unity and peace and represents a cycle of time, acknowledging the past, present, and future.



Carina Creek.

Boat Ramp upgrades

A new, improved boat ramp at Robinson Rd, Whitianga opened in October 2019 with capacity for much larger boats than those that were able to use it previously, taking pressure off the main boat ramp at the Esplanade.



Robinson Rd Boat Ramp.

Reconstruction of Whangapoua’s concrete boat ramp near Opera Point will start this financial year, with stage two, installation of the pontoons, scheduled for 2022/2023 which will make the boat ramp more user-friendly for boats.



Cooks Beach Memorial Cairn

The memorial, which marked the 1769 visit of Captain Cook to New Zealand, toppled into the sea during a storm in July 2018, after waves eroded the land it was positioned on. There was no damage to the monument, which is made of Coromandel granite, but we needed to rebuild the foreshore and reserve where the cairn was placed and it was reinstated in September 2019. A new track to the cairn can be entered from the playground end of Purangi Reserve, leading to a walkway through the pines.

Whitianga water treatment plant

Whitianga’s new \$2.8 million water treatment plant opened at Moewai Rd in July 2019, with the latest technology and methodologies for treating our water including Evoca supplied membrane units, new filtration, dosing and monitoring equipment. For more information on our \$16 million drinking water standards project see page 155.

tcdc.govt.nz/dws





Upgrade of Meri Te Tai Mangakahia Reserve, Whangapoua

During 2019, we've been out to talk to the community about proposed improvements at the reserve. These include improvements to the toilets, playground, barbecue and picnic area, dune protection planting, storage shed and rubbish facilities.

This upgrade is due to be continued in 2020 following the outcome of an archaeological assessment and final community endorsement of the plan. More information: [tcdc.govt.nz/meritetaireserveupgrade](https://www.tcdc.govt.nz/meritetaireserveupgrade)

A Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) grant of \$468,000 was received to upgrade toilet and wastewater facilities at the reserve.

New skate parks

Detailed plans are being developed for a new skatepark at Whitianga's Taylor's Mistake to be built in 2020. Part of

the funding is included in our Long Term Plan, with this being supplemented by fundraising and sponsorship. To make a donation to the Mercury Bay Skatepark Trust please email Chris at c@devenoges.com

We're also working with Kuaotunu Ratepayers Association to establish a location for a skate project in Kuaotunu.

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



Concept design of the new skatepark next to the existing skatepark at Taylor's Mistake.

Managing visitor parking in Hahei and Hot Water Beach



The visitor car park at the entrance to the Hahei village has doubled in size to provide space for close to 500 cars, alleviating pressure on Hahei streets during peak periods. This has made it possible to ban parking at the Grange Road, Cathedral

Cove car park over the peak period and transport visitors by an extended shuttle bus service from the new visitor car park to the start of the Cathedral Cove walking track.

Car parking has also been improved at Hot Water Beach with the development of 29 car parks on the road edge opposite the main beach car park.

Hot Water Beach has two of the seven public facility projects that were successful in our \$1.2 million Tourism Infrastructure Funding (TIF) grant application made to central government. The following two projects will be constructed over 2019/2020:

- \$301,835 for new, larger capacity toilets and to seal the car park at Hot Water Beach Domain.
 - \$98,474 to build a pedestrian footbridge and boardwalk to provide safe access to the beach at Taiwawe Stream, Hot Water Beach
- For more information on our current TIF projects visit

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

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Deli Connell

"I am proud to have been a member of the Mercury Bay Community Board for the past two terms and to have been part of the team to see the Whitianga Town Centre and Esplanade playground upgrades come to fruition. There is more work to do environmentally and within our infrastructure to ensure the ward is a wonderful place for visitors and residents alike. We have issues around solid waste management, reducing the use of chemicals in our public spaces, challenges managing tourism numbers and retaining the special character of our coastal villages. I'd like to see Mercury Bay lead the way in creating a healthy environment that other wards aspire to."

deli.connell@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Rekha Giri-Percival

"I believe in communities, Council, Community Board and businesses working together. Ensuring infrastructure is adequate to meet the needs of residents and visitors and managing coastal erosion are two areas that need ongoing attention. I would like to see greater care for our environment, particularly regarding waste management, and support for projects that offer development opportunities for our youth. I grew up in Whitianga and returned in 2008 after studying and working in Auckland, London and The Hague and from a global public relations role with a multi-national company. My husband and I own a residential construction business and our three children attend the local area school."

rekha.percival@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Jeremy Lomas

"I've lived in Hahei with my wife and two children since 2007 and was born and grew up in Thames. I am a professional sailor, participating in the 1997/1998 Whitbread Round the World Race and then joined Team New Zealand before the defence of the America's Cup in 2000, staying with the team until 2015. I bought the Whitianga Ferry in March 2018 and am a committee member of the Hahei Ratepayers Association. I would like to see the entire Mercury Bay area be a desirable place to live, work and own a business, and for young people to raise their families. Some good progress has been made over the past few years in the development of local infrastructure and amenities and I would like to see that momentum continue."

jeremy.lomas@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Bill McLean

"I'm returning for a third term with the Board. Our ward is enjoying growth which still requires firm, stable, experienced elected members with the foresight to ensure balanced progress. I have a business background, originally with multinational companies. I've recently retired from my own company and have been active in local matters since settling in Whitianga. Prior to joining this Board, I was a founding and driving member of a coastal erosion action group. My community work includes children's reading support at the area school, six years as president of the golf club, and chairman of the Mercury Bay Community Patrol."

bill.mclean@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Tairua-Pauanui Community Board Area projects

Pauanui Waterways playground

Council staff will be working with Playground Creations on a new playground with a basket swing, in-ground trampoline and a slide down the embankment and hope to have it finished early 2020.



Pepe Reserve toilet, Tairua

A Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) application in March 2019 has been approved to proceed with construction. The new high-quality toilet block facility will consist of eight cubicles with toilet pans and three flushable urinals. Pepe toilets are the logical stopping point for visitors travelling North and the first significant stopping point for travellers from the Auckland Airport. A final completion date of 31 July 2020 has been indicated for this facility.

tcdc.govt.nz/TIF

Royal Billy Point, Pauanui

This project involves installing a new wharf pontoon and associated access bridge.

The whole project has been broken into three stages:

- **Stage one** – This involves replacing the floating wharf structure and aluminium access bridge. This work is being done by local and outside contractors under the supervision of Council staff. Construction is taking place off-site and was delivered in late-September 2019.
- **Stage two** – This work started on 17 June 2019 and involved removing three sections of the access walkway, widening and replacing further west. This has been contracted to Bridge It NZ for \$699,545.43.
- **Stage three** – Began mid-July with contractors EPL Construction removing the existing boat ramp and timber wall and constructing a new wider boat ramp with longer timber wall. (\$682,301)

tcdc.govt.nz/royalbillypoint



Given Grove playground

The popular Given Grove playground in Pauanui has been replaced with new equipment designed to fuel children's imagination. The official opening took place in July 2019 with students and teachers from Tairua School, Hikuai School and Pauanui Pre-school who helped finalise the design. The playground includes a double flying fox, a new swing-set, slide and a ninja multi-play course.



Beach Access 9 – Pauanui Beach

The current accessway will be replaced before Labour Weekend 2019 as it is becoming a safety concern. The structure will be removed and replaced further north to line-up with the access from Jacksons Claim, with a soft sand walkway like the other existing beach access paths.

Kennedy Park fitness trial

Staff are working with the community to reinstate the fitness trail at Kennedy Park. There are plans to make a trail with approximately three hotspots of equipment. The fitness equipment will be suitable for all age groups.

Pauanui skate bowl

The plan is to renew the existing skate bowl by resurfacing it to accommodate all users and extend the facility to accommodate junior skaters. This extension will include appropriately sized jumps and berms, that will separate junior users from the seniors. Staff visited students at Hikuai and Tairua school in September to discuss their preferred options and will be going out to the wider community for their feedback.

tcdc.govt.nz/skate



Tairua skate path

Options are being worked on, with budget set aside in the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan for this project. There is \$21,079 in this financial year (2019-2020) for investigations and concept plans, and then a further \$162,515 in 2020-2021 for the physical works. Staff visited students at Hikuai and Tairua school in September 2019 to discuss their preferred options and will be aiming to go out to the wider community for their feedback before Christmas 2019.

tcdc.govt.nz/skate

Te Karo Bay, Sailors Grave toilet

We will be receiving \$63,275 from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) towards the establishment of a modern two-pan dry vault toilet block with disabled and changing facilities to replace the existing deteriorated single-pan long drop. We will also seal the existing gravel carpark.

tcdc.govt.nz/TIF



Pauanui-Tairua Trail

One attraction gaining popularity is the Pauanui-Tairua Trail, for cyclists and walkers. More than 6.5km of trail has been built since work began in 2012, with the long term vision for it to reach Tairua. The trail was the brainchild of the Hikuai District Trust, which has been working with the Hikuai Liaison Group (HLG) and representatives of Ngati Maru to discuss the next stages of the trail. We're all unanimous in the trail having positive economic impacts in the future.

pauanuitairuail.org.nz



Tairua Campground

The enthusiastic new lease holders for Tairua Campground (4 Mania Rd), Joe Ferguson and Ruby Woodruffe, can't wait to work with the Tairua community and offer guests an experience they won't forget. The couple were the successful tender for taking over the lease of the campground, which is on Council-owned land. The campground is currently closed so the kitchen and bathroom areas can be revitalised.

tcdc.govt.nz/tairuacampground



From left to right: Ruby Woodruffe, Harper, Joe Ferguson and Marley the dog.

Pepe Reserve tourist photo frame

A new attraction on the waterfront to encourage tourists to choose to stop in Tairua, for the good of the local businesses, which would then have a flow on effect to the community, thanks to the collaboration of the Tairua Residents and Ratepayers Association (TRRA), and the Tairua-Pauanui Community Board. The project was funded by a grant of \$1,000 from the Tairua-Pauanui Community Board and many generous donations from the community. Already it is attracting a lot of interest from tourists and locals.



In memory of Brent Turner

Brent lived in and out of Tairua for more than 60 years, attending Tairua School and later Thames High School. In 1968, he began building houses and since 1980 he owned and operated several businesses around Tairua.

Brent joined the Tairua-Pauanui Community Board in 2017 and was involved in several community projects. He was pleased to see the development of the new parking design for the Paku Summit car park and the smooth transition of the Tairua Information Centre to its temporary new home in the Tairua Library building. Brent also worked with the Hikuai Hall Society with the upkeep of this facility and assisted the Tairua Ratepayers Association with many of their varying tasks for the betterment of Tairua. He also played a key role in the 'Stop, Snap and Stay' campaign which resulted in the tourist photo frame at Pepe Reserve.



Your Tairua-Pauanui Community Board

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Warwick Brooks

"This is my second term and I look forward to working with the other Board members to ensure that our communities remain havens of prosperity, safety and progressiveness, whilst not compromising our infrastructure. We play an important role connecting our communities and Council. My priority is to promote the concept of a community hub in Tairua, like what is in Pauanui. This would provide a solution to the provision of a permanent home for the Heritage Society along with the Information Centre and result in the freeing up of the public meeting room in the library. The long-awaited and much debated site for a skate path in Tairua is on my agenda as something that needs to be resolved to everyone's satisfaction. I will also focus on our assets, particularly retaining and maintaining our parks and reserves for everyone to enjoy, now and in the future."

warwick.brooks@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Barry Swindles

"I am a long-standing permanent Pauanui resident and previous Board member (2007-2013). I feel privileged to live in the Coromandel and enjoy tramping and exploring our district. I am mindful of our need to protect this unique environment, in particular, Pauanui's most valuable asset – the beach and sand dunes. As our visitor and permanent population increases, we need to be aware of the amenities our communities offer to accommodate us all. I have always encouraged people to approach me with their comments and suggestions and I look forward to bringing together the communities of Pauanui, Tairua and Hikuai to our mutual advantage."

barry.swindles@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Chris New

"I moved to Tairua in 1981 and set up a plumber and drainlayer business. I was a member of the Board from 2010-2013 and stood down for business reasons. I am starting to slow down in the business world now, so I have the time to commit to the role. I have been a member of the Tairua Volunteer Fire Brigade since 1983 and Chief Fire Officer since 2001. I am also part of the Tairua Emergency Response team and I was part of the working for the new Tairua wharf and boat ramp. I believe the Tairua-Pauanui area is a great place to live and I look forward to having some input into the area's future."

chris.new@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Elizabeth Anne Stewart Ball

"I am a resident of Tairua and a Justice of the Peace with more than 60 years involvement across the South Eastern Ward. My family background of the Tairua Valley – Hikuai, Pauanui and Tairua brings an understanding of the rich history and the diverse communities living here. I look forward to bringing this to the Board, along with listening, problem solving, business and other lifelong skills gained as an education coordinator in the forestry and waste industries. I have an extensive volunteer organisation involvement including St John, rugby and heritage. My priority as a Board member is to ensure good governance, democratic, transparent, decision making that will benefit our diverse communities."

anne.stewartball@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Whangamata

Community Board Area

projects

Williamson Park

In 2018, an application for a comprehensive consent for 20 daytime and 7-night events per year, for 15 years for Williamson Park was approved by an independent RMA commissioner, but then held up following an appeal in December 2019. This appeal has now been withdrawn following a mediation hearing. The consent is consistent with the Whangamata Community Board policy on use of Williamson Park. A picnic platform is being constructed which will give a viewing platform for wheelchairs, prams etc and is expected to be completed by Labour weekend 2019. tcdc.govt.nz/williamsonpark



Onemana public toilets

Construction of the new toilet at Onemana is taking place off site and will be installed in November 2019. The new facility will provide two new accessible toilets and will replace the old toilets at the Onemana Surf Club, which are



being redeveloped by the Onemana Surf Life Saving Club. The new facility design and location has been in consultation with the Onemana Ratepayers Association, and will include shelter for school students, as well as space for community notice board. The design has been chosen to provide a high-quality finish, and comprises of two individual toilets, to reduce the bulk of the building, along with a low-profile roof. This project has \$108,352 of funding from central government that was awarded as part of the Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

Stormwater infrastructure upgrade

The contract has been awarded to Hydraulic Analysis Ltd to develop a Whangamata stormwater concept master plan. Work to optimise stormwater conveyance began in June 2019, primarily within Williamson Park. This work is to ease increasing demand on this part of the network, which was highlighted in the 2017/18 storm events. The upgrade will be completed by November 2020.

CCTV

Installation of five cameras in Whangamata and one in Onemana was completed by October 2019.



Whangamata boardwalks

A new walkway is to be constructed, approximately 970m in length, that will take people from the existing Surf Club boardwalk (access 9) through to Hunt Road. This public walkway exists along the back dune edge from the northern end of Whangamata Beach starting at Hunt Road car park (access 4) to the new Surf Club boardwalk (access 9). There is currently an informal unformed sand track that meanders through the dunes from these points which is well used during peak periods. A formed walkway of either boardwalk or mulch would assist in protecting dune flora and fauna from this foot traffic damage.

Work will be done in two stages to align with the Long-Term Plan budgets:

- 2019/2020 (\$295,000) – Stage one: Esplanade Drive to beach access 9 – 8, approximately 330m. Stage two: Dune edge from beach access 8 – 6 approximately 297m.
- 2020/2021 (\$179k Year 2 (stage three) – Dune edge from beach access 6 – 4 approximately 343m



Tourism Information Service

Whangamata's tourism information service on Port Road is now being managed by the Whangamata Community Gardens Incorporated Society from October. The information centre was reopened Labour Weekend 2019, which gave the Trust time to provide training and support they need to be up and running. The Whangamata Community Board will review the levels of service and the funding model for the information service as part of its 2019-2020 Annual Plan work.

tcdc.govt.nz/whangainfo

Whangamata skate park

In August 2019 we asked the Whangamata community to think about the proposed design for the refurbishment and repairs of the existing skate park on Martyn Road (1265m² approximately in size), and construction of a street skate area next to the existing bowl on top of the bank on the park side. The idea is to create a better link and flow from the shelter area and create a street skate 'zone' focusing on the iconic nature of the skate bowl, as the first of its kind built in the country. The skate park will be closed from 8 December 2019 for three weeks for refurbishment. The park will be ground back and densified, providing a new skateable skin which should be similar to when it was first poured. The extension is expected to start early 2020, after the peak period.



tcdc.govt.nz/whangaskatepark



Powerco invests in Whangamata's future

Powerco is improving the network resilience of Whangamata's power supply by installing a cutting-edge battery energy storage system and diesel generator. The battery cuts in automatically when the incoming 33kV power supply from Waihi is lost. It is large enough to run the CBD area for up to two hours. If the incoming supply hasn't been restored by then, Powerco's generator will take over. In addition, Powerco has embarked on an aggressive tree-pruning programme on the main line to further reduce the possibility of line fail. powerco.co.nz/Whangamata

Below: Whangamata Drone – Equipment Installed.



Wentworth Valley Road

The reseal is scheduled for the 2019/2020 year and estimated to take place pre-Christmas 2019 or just after (not during the peak period).



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This list reflects those elected to the board according to the preliminary results as at October 16, 2019. A Community Board chairperson had not yet been elected at the time Our Coromandel went to print. The biographies are those our Community Board members provided for the October 2019 election.

Dave Ryan

"I retired to Whangamata three years ago after a long career with the NZ Police. I have held positions with the Volunteer Fire Service, Lions, Menzshed, Coastguard and Community Patrol. I want to contribute to a Council that maintains a tight focus on the timely, cost effective delivery of core services to ratepayers and ensure that we get our fair share. My intention is to continue to support the community with a focus on roading and road lighting, water supply and reticulation, and power supply. I acknowledge the need for careful prior research and will bring a caring, but no-nonsense approach, and I will be prepared to address any tough issues, in particular climate change."

dave.ryan@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Ken Coulam

"After holidaying in Whangamata for 25 years, we moved here in 2012. Before then, I worked in Local Government in financial and planning roles. I've been actively involved in many groups including Lions, LandSAR and Probus. I want to see Whangamata thrive as a great place to live, visit, work and play. We should encourage visitors to ensure a strong local business community. My focus includes quality infrastructure (especially stormwater), walkways and cycleways, mangrove removal, environmental protection, events and fair rates. I chaired the Board last term and I will continue to work hard to achieve great results for our community."

ken.coulam@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Kay Baker

"My love for Whangamata drives me to keep our community a safe and happy place. I promote various groups including the community gardens and harbour care. There are lots of projects I am passionate about including getting our community pool covered for year-round use, improving our stormwater to alleviate flooding, upgrading our skatepark to make it a safer place for our youth, and making sure we keep Council accountable for our portion of the rates. The small everyday items are also important such as improving Council's communication with any queries or complaints, so ratepayers feel they're heard and valued. I want to make sure Council take our community seriously when decisions need to be made."

kay.baker@council.tcdc.govt.nz



Tamzin Letele

"In addition to the Community Board, I am a Principal QS, mother of three, budding surfer, diversity and inclusion advocate, mental health champion, and a student (completing my post-graduate studies majoring in Social Impact). The best way for me to serve our community is to be the generational conduit. We have an amazingly vast, rich history and knowledge and passion behind this, as well as a wave of locals ready to be part of the action. My priorities are focusing on our rangatahi (youth) engagement and retention, our community's mental health and wellbeing, a local response to climate change we can be proud of, and sustainable housing and economic opportunity twelve months of the year."

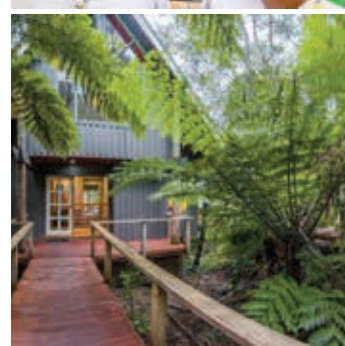
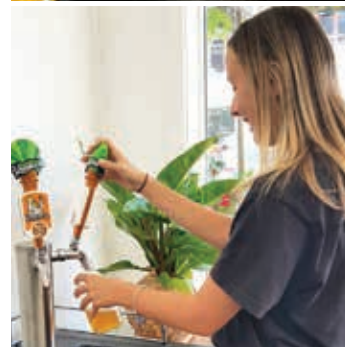
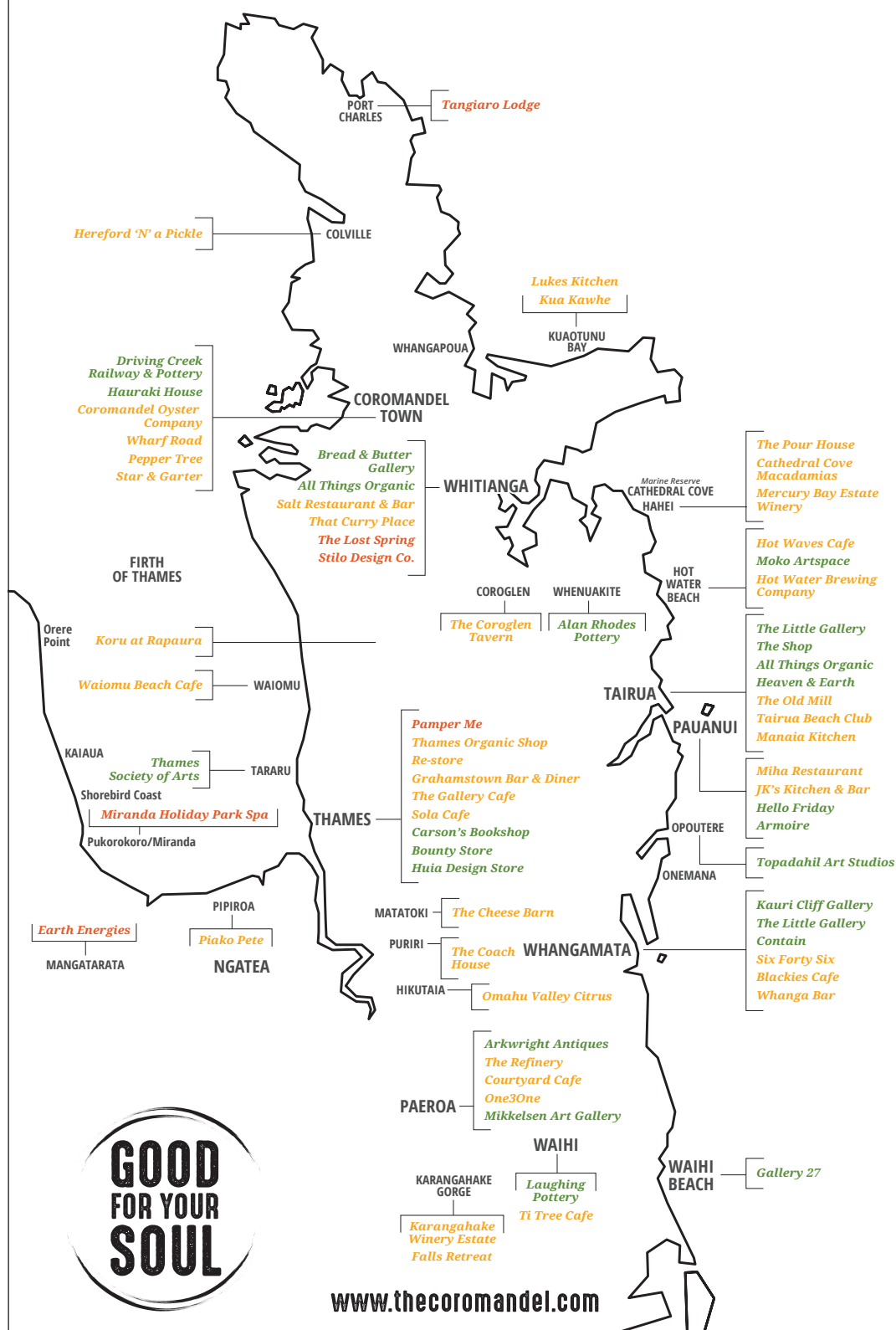
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TE PŌWHIRI ~ The Welcome

Wharekaho (Simpsons Beach)

THE YEAR 2019 MARKS 250 YEARS SINCE CAPTAIN JAMES COOK AND THE ENDEAVOUR'S LANDFALL IN NEW ZEALAND AND THE FIRST MEETINGS BETWEEN MĀORI AND EUROPEANS.

A national commemoration, *Tuia – Encounters 250*, acknowledges this pivotal moment in our nation's history as well as the exceptional feats of Pacific voyagers who reached and settled in Aotearoa/New Zealand many years earlier.

Te Whanganui o Hei/Mercury Bay was one of the first of four landing sites in Aotearoa where Māori and European met during James Cook's 1768-1771 voyages of exploration. *Te Pōwhiri (The Welcome)* is the name given to Te Whanganui o Hei/Mercury Bay community's expression of *Tuia – Encounters 250* while the *Tuia 250* voyage flotilla marks this occasion with a visit to Mercury Bay in October 2019 (*read more about this on page 23*).

Te Pōwhiri welcomes the flotilla's arrival and involves up to 600 students from local schools across the Coromandel performing a pōwhiri at Wharetāewa Pā in Wharekaho (Simpsons Beach), north of Whitianga, where Ngāti Hei performed the first sanctioned pōwhiri (welcome ceremony) between Pakeha and Māori in 1769.

Following Te Pōwhiri, commemoration activities continue with an outdoor, cultural showcase at The Tuia Stage at Whakau Reserve (Taylor's Mistake) Whitianga. Coromandel artists (poets, storytellers, musicians, dancers and kapa haka groups) will present their experience and interpretation of the kaupapa of *Tuia 250*.

The programme can be found on the Mercury250 website mercury250.org

The Mercury 250 Anniversary Trust, comprised of Ngāti Hei kaumatua, community leaders, local historians and an education leader, has helped facilitate the commemoration ceremonies, community events and legacy projects.

Trustee and Mercury Bay Area School Principal John Wright says 2019 is a remarkable year for our region, with hundreds of people from across Aotearoa expected to attend Te Whanganui o Hei's major commemoration ceremonies led by Ngāti Hei during 2019.

"Te Pōwhiri is a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity for us all to embrace this kaupapa and acknowledges a profound experience," John says.

"*Tuia 250* and Te Pōwhiri acknowledge the extraordinary cultures of voyaging and navigation that brought us all together in Aotearoa; the pursuit of knowledge and understanding of our physical and social environments; and, right at the heart of *Tuia 250*, the weaving together of Aotearoa's people and our diverse cultures, creating a shared future we can all be proud of," John says.

Tuia is also looking to the future in helping young New Zealanders understand our shared heritage as part of the school curriculum.

Ngāti Hei spokesperson Joe Davis says *Te Pōwhiri* is an authentic expression to all of welcome and inclusion from Ngāti Hei and the Te Whanganui o Hei community.

"*Tuia* is about two nations recognising their shared heritage and future," Joe says.

"What I like about *Tuia* is everybody recognising their 'waka' and where they are from. Other tribes have their interpretation, but for Ngāti Hei it's about reconciliation and nationhood. We have an awesome history here in Mercury Bay," Joe says.

"I see it as a way of moving forward. We need to recognise our history, but there is also a future."

A national commemoration **TUIA – ENCOUNTERS 250**

- *Tuia 250* is about the people and place of Aotearoa/New Zealand – what brought us together, the challenges we face and how we will weave our cultures and values into a future we will be proud to leave for the next generation.
- *Tuia* means to 'weave or bind together' and is drawn from a whakatauki (proverb) and karakia (ritual chant), which refers to the intangible bonds established between people when they work together.
- Commemorations encourage kōrero (discussion), debate and reflection, so that we speak openly and respectfully about our histories.
- *The Tuia 250 Voyage* (*see page 23*) recognises the extraordinary voyaging traditions and cultures of Te Moana Nui a Kiwa (the Pacific), the exceptional feats of Pacific voyagers, their mātauranga (knowledge), innovation and non-instrument navigation prowess and their decision to settle in Aotearoa many generations ago.
- It also acknowledges the feats of European explorers, the technology they developed and their first encounters with the people of this place when James Cook, Tupaia and others on the *Endeavour* arrived and sailed around Aotearoa in 1769.



Tuia 250 Voyage Flotilla *visits Mercury Bay*

OCTOBER 2019 IS WHEN A FLOTILLA OF HISTORIC VESSELS SAIL INTO WHITIANGA, MAKING A STOP AT THE SECOND MAIN SITE WHERE MĀORI AND BRITISH EXPLORER JAMES COOK MET IN 1769.

Mercury Bay was also the site where Cook and his Endeavour crew set up astronomical equipment to observe the Transit of Mercury across the face of the sun, an observation Mercury Bay was named after (*read more about this on the next page*).

The six-boat Tuia 250 Voyage Flotilla lands at Wharekahō to meet Ngāti Hei and be welcomed onto the historic Ngāti Hei pa site Wharetāewa with a pōwhiri taking place, involving students from local schools across the Coromandel.

The Tuia 250 Voyage Flotilla includes six core vessels:

- Two waka hourua (double-hulled canoes): *Haunui* from Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, and *Ngahiraka Mai Tawhiti* from Tauranga.
- A va'a moana *Fa'afaite i te Ao Mā'ohi*, which joined the Flotilla from Pape'ete, Tahiti.
- Heritage vessels the *HMB Endeavour* replica from the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney, the *Spirit of New Zealand* from Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland, and the *R. Tucker Thompson* from Pēwhairangi / Bay of Islands.

The Flotilla started its journey in Gisborne on October 5, 2019 and sailed to Uawa/Tolaga Bay before visiting Mercury Bay from 18-21 October 2019. There are other sites being visited around Aotearoa New Zealand with significant cultural and historical importance



to both Pacific and European voyaging through to December 2019.

Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage Chief Executive Bernadette Cavanagh said the voyage of the flotilla was an opportunity to recognise the extraordinary voyaging traditions and cultures of Te Moana Nui a Kiwa (the Pacific), the exceptional

feats of Pacific voyagers, their mātauranga (knowledge), innovation and non-instrument navigation prowess and their decision to settle in Aotearoa before European explorers arrived.

It also acknowledged the feats of those European explorers and the technology they developed and mastered in crossing oceans to get here from Europe.

A range of events accompany the commemorations both on the Coromandel and across the country. Find out more at: mch.govt.nz/tuia250

Haunui from Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland.



An historic coincidence:

The Transit of Mercury observation

IT'S NOT VERY OFTEN THAT HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF, ALLOWING US TO REVISIT EVENTS OF THE PAST AND REFLECT ON OUR HERITAGE IN A NEW LIGHT. HOWEVER, THANKS TO A BEAUTIFUL COSMIC RESONANCE BETWEEN TWO PLANETS, ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2019, THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

On 12 November 2019 it will be 250 years and two days since Charles Green, an astronomer who arrived in Aotearoa on Captain James Cook's first New Zealand voyage, pointed his telescope skywards to observe a rare 'transit' of the planet Mercury across the face of the sun.

Just after sunrise on 10 November 1769, Green set up a small telescope on Cooks Beach at Purangi Estuary. He carefully put a protective filter over the top end of the telescope, and pointed it towards the sun.

Just before 7:21am he excitedly called out to the person standing beside him that he could see a black spot just touching the bright solar disk. That black spot was the planet Mercury, and the person with whom Green shared his excitement was Captain James Cook.

Green and Cook's timings of Mercury's transit across our nearest star were amongst the first telescopic astronomical observations made in New Zealand, and played a key role in helping Cook precisely chart Aotearoa/New Zealand on world maps for the first time. It was also an observation after which Mercury Bay was named.



Sadly, back in 1769, Green and Cook didn't share the excitement of this celestial spectacle with anyone other than themselves.

But 250 years on, when the 'transit' occurs again on November 12, 2019, an astronomer at Otago University is sharing this experience with as many New Zealanders as possible.

British astronomer and director of Otago University Ian Griffin says it's an extraordinary coincidence that this transit is happening as New Zealand celebrates the anniversary of the first encounters between Māori and European, which did so much to shape the subsequent narrative of this land.

"The event will be visible across New Zealand, and the historic coincidence with the 250th anniversary of first contact and first telescopic observations is of immense local and international interest," Ian says.

Transits of the planet Mercury are rare. They only occur 13 or 14 times per century, and are not always visible from New Zealand; the last time a transit was seen in this country was 2008, and, after November's transit the next one won't be visible until 2036.

"We are indeed at a unique moment in New Zealand history, when, as the transit occurs, we can look back to a moment when contact first occurred, review where we are now, and think about where we will be in another 250 years," Ian says.

"It also offers a chance to engage our fellow citizens in the excitement of observing an extraordinarily rare astronomical event, and most importantly might be a vehicle to inspire the next generation of New Zealanders to take an interest in science by promoting the extraordinary astronomical research being carried out in New Zealand right now," he says.



Te Mahutatanga o Takero, Mercury rising – a celebration

Otago Museum is celebrating the transit of Mercury tying in with Tuia – Encounters 250 commemoration.

This includes astronomical activities close to the exact spot from where Green and Cook observed the transit 250 years ago. Activities include:

- A live web broadcast of the transit to be made from a professional class telescope close to the site of Green's original observations in Mercury Bay. A broadcast will also be made from the University of Canterbury's Mount John Observatory, which is New Zealand's pre-eminent astronomical facility.
- Observations and video of the transit from Air New Zealand flights departing Dunedin and Invercargill on the morning of 12 November.
- In the week before the transit, a 'Te Mahutatanga o Takero, Mercury Rising Roadshow' will visit Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland before arriving in Whitianga the day before the transit – 11 November 2019.
- The roadshow will feature talks from four of New Zealand's best astronomy communicators and will take place at local maraes or community buildings.
- The Otago Museum's 'lab in a box' will be visiting Mercury Bay before the transit and will be used as a base to engage local schools.

The next transit of Mercury that will be fully visible from New Zealand will be on 10 November 2269.

New monument marks transit of Mercury

Creating a sculpture to mark the spot from where Captain James Cook helped his astronomer Charles Green observe the transit of Mercury was the perfect fit for sculptor Bill Hayes.

The leading New Zealand commission bronze sculptor was invited to come up with a new idea for the plinth at Purangi Estuary after the previous Captain Cook memorial cairn, made of Coromandel granite, fell into the sea during a July 2018 storm.

Known for his nautical works such as small recreational boats and tall ships that explore his love for sailing, Bill submitted a brief for a sextant – a navigational instrument used to measure the transit.

"I did some research on Cook and on each voyage, he upgraded his navigational tools. This bronze replica I have created is a combination of all three [tools]," Bill says.

The replica was installed in October 2019 and sits 750m high in the Purangi Estuary Reserve.

Bill suggested bronze because of its ability to weather sea air. Although it is sealed with wax, the bronze will naturally form verdigris with age.

Bill grew up in New York and met his New Zealand-born wife in San Francisco. After working in New York and California he has made Auckland his home, maintaining a studio at the Lake House Art Centre in Takapuna, where he creates sculpture in a variety of materials.

The sextant was made through a 'lost wax' casting process, which means it was created in wax, then cast in ceramics before the wax was melted out. While the risks with casting made this a challenging commission, Bill, who loves scientific equipment and the era of invention, says he thoroughly enjoyed sculpting this piece.

"Public commissions don't come around very often in New Zealand. This was the perfect fit for me – navigation and scientific equipment," Bill says.

The avid sailor doesn't shy from the irony; he once withdrew from the iconic Coastal Classic, Auckland to Russell yacht race – because the crew lost all electronics such as running lights and navigational positioning.

Bill has spent many holidays surfing, camping and baching in spots across the Coromandel and looks forward to visiting the sextant on future visits.

This is his fifth piece of art in public, having been commissioned to produce bronze plaques as part of a Sir Edmund Hillary Ice Axe memorabilia case, a copper and ceramic fountain for the entrance to the Lake House Art Centre on Auckland's North Shore and a bronze entrance-way for Wairakia Golf Course.



Sculptor Bill Hayes works on a detailed section of the wax profile of his bronze replica sextant, an instrument used by Captain Cook to measure the transit of Mercury.

Creating a legacy

NGĀTI HEI KAUMATAUA JOE DAVIS IS ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE ORAL HISTORY OF THE NGĀTI HEI PEOPLE. SOME OF THE STORIES OF THE TRIBE'S ENCOUNTER WITH CAPTAIN JAMES COOK IN 1769 ARE NOW IN A BOOK 'WHEN TOAWAKA MET COOK'.

Joe was immersed in the history of his people at a young age. He recalls evenings spent around the table with his father and grandfather, sharing the stories of their ancestors with Ngāti Hei elders, including those from 1769 when Captain James Cook sailed into Mercury Bay and Ngāti Hei encountered European culture for the first time.

Captain Cook's arrival was no surprise. Waka had followed HMS *Endeavour* up the coast and by the time Cook landed in Mercury Bay everyone knew and came to see the "spaceship" sitting out there in the bay, Joe says.

Chief Toawaka, Joe's great, great grandfather, played an important role as the main contact between Cook and the tribes in Mercury Bay. "Toawaka went aboard *Endeavour*, and tried his best to explain to Cook, botanist Joseph Banks and the Tahitian navigator Tupaia, where they were located, geographically. So he drew a map of New Zealand with a bit of charcoal and showed him where he was in the bay," Joe says. This was astutely recorded in Cook's logs and thus began the written geographical history of New Zealand.

"I'd love to see that map," Joe says.

The story goes that Toawaka also described the cliff at Cape Reinga, where spirits go to jump off and go beyond the veil to the after life. Toawaka mimicked this in detail by writhing on the ship's deck to suggest death. "For hundreds of years, several of these stories have been passed on as oral history only. They've not been outside these walls," Joe says, speaking at his home at Ko Te Rā Matiti (Wharekaho) Marae.

But in 2019, the stories of Toawaka and the experiences of Ngāti Hei's encounters with Cook during his first voyage of discovery in 1769, have been retold in a book – *When Toawaka Met Cook*.

The book was commissioned by the Mercury 250 Anniversary Trust as part of the 2019



"OUR STORIES HAVE LARGELY BEEN KEPT IN THIS HOUSE. WE HAVE NEVER WHEELED THEM OUT OF THE WARDROBE UNTIL NOW."

Tuia – Encounters 250 commemoration of the first onshore encounters between Māori and European.

Joe has been instrumental in the creation of the book, which is based on Joe's stories and research, confirming the accounts of Ngāti Hei with what was recorded at the time by Cook.

"Sometimes the only way you can pick things up is by living here too. You get the feel of things," Joe says.

"If you look at the geology, it all makes sense. It's like putting a jigsaw together."

When Toawaka Met Cook includes the never before told stories of a Ngāti Hei warrior Te Oma Karere (translates as 'the messenger') who ran from Mercury Bay to Thames to warn tribes of the arrival of *Endeavour*.

It also includes stories of how Ngāti Hei became great gardeners, how Ahuahu – Great Mercury became known as the home of the kūmara and when James Cook first introduced

the potato to New Zealand at Ngāti Hei's Wharetāewa Pā.

Joe, Ngāti Hei mana whenua representative and spokesperson, sees the book as a legacy project.

"Our stories have largely been kept in this house. We haven't wheeled them out of the wardrobe until now," Joe says.

"It's nice for our kids to learn the stories of Ngāti Hei and its important role in that period around 1769.

"People say Ngāti Hei is a nice small iwi. But we weren't once," Joe says. The tribe has approximately 350 people recorded on its books, living in many parts of the world.

"Second and third-generation Ngāti Hei are everywhere – the United States, Scotland, Wales, Australia," Joe says.

He spent time living abroad himself, returning to Mercury Bay 20 years ago after living



in Sydney and he has been on the Mercury 250 Trust, responsible for ensuring the Tuia – Encounters 250 event in Mercury Bay is delivered appropriately.

Ko Te Rā Matiti Marae looks down on the bay of Wharekaho, north of Whitianga, where Ngāti Hei performed the first sanctioned pōwhiri (welcome ceremony) between Pakeha and Māori and where, 250 years on in October 2019, another pōwhiri will take place to mark the Tuia Encounters 250 commemoration. It was here that the first recorded wero (challenge ritual) and demonstration of the tribe's traditional weapons in close quarter warfare took place and that Māori and Pakeha made the first official exchanges of gifts – notably the introduction of the potato, hence the name of Wharetāewa, the Pā of Ngāti Hei or 'house of the potato'.

Ngāti Hei regularly hosts school groups at the site, showing them the trenches, the musket pa and the classic pa, from where Cook was given a display of Māori weaponry – the rākau, the patu, whalebone spears and stones, thrown with deadly accuracy.

Joe is pleased that with *'When Toawaka Met Cook'*, the stories peculiar to Mercury Bay and the navigational history of Ngāti Hei will not be lost.

"It will certainly project Whitianga's history. The most important thing historically is the stories. You can't have the tourism here without the stories."



Joe hopes people will learn and be inspired through its pages.

"People will realise there is more to this eastern seaboard and to Cook's history than Ngāti Hei. This will set the tone for others to dig even deeper," Joe says.

"My hope, for Tuia generally, is to create awareness, and for our kids to realise the descendants of Toawaka are here and we have all this history in our backyard that you can touch, feel and stand on. There are not many places I can say that."

mercury250.org

Wharekaho

Ko Te Rā Matiti (Wharekaho) marae is located at Wharekaho (Simpsons Beach) just north of Whitianga. It belongs to Ngāti Hei, the iwi who originate from Hei the chief, who arrived on the Te Arawa waka and settled in the area.

Ko Te Rā Matiti marae sits below the ancient Pa site Wharetāewa at the top of the headland. It was at this Pa in 1769 that Captain James Cook, botanist Joseph Banks and the Tahitian navigator Tupaia were welcomed by the iwi. Ngāti Hei relate that this was the first time a European experienced an official welcome and Pōwhiri.

In this same tradition, Joe Davis will be leading a special pōwhiri for the Endeavour and the flotilla of Māori and Pacific waka hourua in October at Wharetāewa on October 18, 2019. (For more on Te Pōwhiri see page 22)

It was at this site where Cook and Tupaia sought permission to land and where Cook gave the first potato seedling to Māori. Cook had recognised that the art of giving, expressing gratitude in the form of a physical gift, was something of importance amongst Māori. Just before Cook and crew left Mercury Bay on November 12, Cook presented a couple of handfuls of potato seedling to Ngāti Hei.

According to Joe Davis (as quoted in *'When Toawaka met Cook'*): "Ngāti Hei called the potato 'tāewa', which is another name for the moon, since this is what it looked like when cut in half and held up in comparison. Cook saw how we lived and noticed the engineering of our palisades, our extensive horticulture and fishing. Our men demonstrated the use of our weaponry. Cook spent a good day at Wharetāewa. The general public doesn't know this place has been sitting here all this time and we're still fortunate to have it," Joe says.

The full name of the bay is Te Whitianga a Kupe (the crossing place of Kupe) and through Kupe, Ngāti Hei has ancient connections back across the Pacific to Rai'atea in Tahiti. Indeed, the name Taputapuātea was given to a stream in the area, one of the few places in New Zealand that holds this sacred name from Polynesia.

Words supplied by Ngāti Hei



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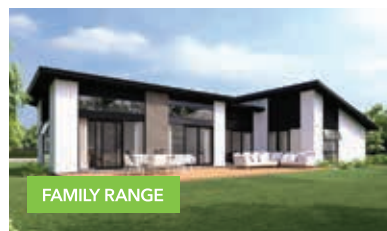
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Loving the Coromandel

Our Coromandel caught up with a number of well-known Kiwi business people, sports and TV stars, for whom the Coromandel is their special place to get away from the limelight, relax and unwind. Here's what they say about their special piece of Coro magic.

Paula Ryan

New Zealand fashion icon and designer Paula Ryan has been taking regular holidays in the Coromandel for twenty years with her husband Rob Dallimore. The couple now call their Matarangi beach house 'home', although they still commute weekly to Auckland where her business Paula Apparel is based.

What do you enjoy most when you are here?

Creating themed activities loaded with champagne and laughter for friends and family.

Describe your ideal day on the Coromandel ...

A brisk early morning beach walk or weights to music on the deck, coffee with friends, body boarding, herb gardening, reading, happy hour followed by dinner from the BBQ or at Luke's Kitchen, ending with homemade Limoncello with friends around our fire pit, or Netflix in the winter. Anything but fishing!

Favorite Coromandel view:

The 24/7 view looking out towards the Mercury Islands from our deck, from where we regularly spot orcas and dolphins. I even enjoy the same view when the sea is dancing and roaring in a storm.

Matarangi Beach.



Best place to swim:

In the waves beach front, or lying like a beached whale in our water feature designed for the grandkids.

What do you enjoy doing in the Coromandel during winter?

A swift McLaren-enhanced drive to Whitianga followed by a movie (now that they serve wine), Netflix, reading, photos into albums, the occasional artist attempt on canvas, card games with friends such as 'Cards Against Humanity', cooking (but only occasionally).

The Coromandel is good for my soul because...

It doesn't get an outing otherwise.

When I'm not here I miss...

The unconditional tranquility with friends and family.



Nesa Rare

Kiwi actress Vanessa Rare, known for her roles on *Shortland Street*, *This is Piki* and *Ruby and Rata* lives in Auckland, but travels to her estuary-side bach in Whangamata, left to her by her grandfather, most weekends.

My Coromandel connection?

I am from Whangamata/Hikutaia. My tribe is Ngāti Pu.

What's the activity you enjoy doing most when you're here?

Fishing, swimming and visiting my kaumatua and whanau.

Describe your ideal day on the Coromandel...

A sunny summer's day, with a choice of activities to do.

Best Coromandel view:

At the top of our pā sight on the hill by the Whangamata Estuary.



Best place to swim:

Whangamata Estuary.

What do you enjoy doing in the Coromandel during winter?

Visiting family, keeping warm and going for walks along the beach.

The Coromandel is good for my soul because...

It is so peaceful. Living on the estuary is remarkable because you don't hear or see any noise or bustle from the town centre. Being by

the ocean neutralises all of my stresses, and it's like I defrag as soon as I arrive. It grounds me.

When I'm not here I miss...

The sea, the peace and quiet and the kai moana.



Rebekah Palmer

Rebekah plays nurse Dawn Robinson on prime-time soap opera *Shortland Street*. Her character's upbringing doesn't differ too much from her own – Like Dawn, Rebekah is a “wholesome country girl” at heart, having grown up on a dairy farm in the Coromandel.

What's your connection to the Coromandel?

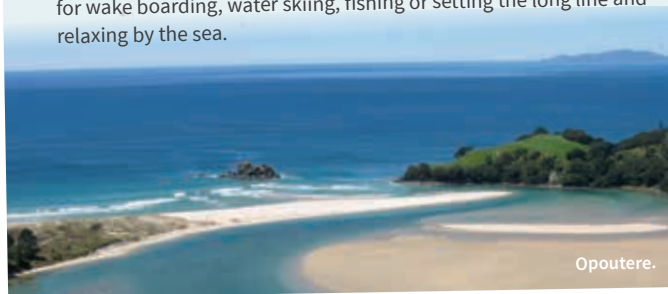
The Coromandel is home for me. I grew up in the beautiful seaside suburb of Opoutere on my parent's dairy farm. We always felt we had the best of both worlds with the ‘surf and turf’. The farm backed onto the Wharekawa River, so we always made the most of the ocean whether it be stand-up paddle boarding or canoeing in summer, and whitebaiting in the cooler months.

Where's home for you usually?

I've lived in Auckland for 6 years now, however when people ask me where I'm from I always revert to Opoutere/Whangamata. I don't like being classed as an Aucklander.

What's the activity you enjoy doing most when you're here?

Anything involving the ocean. Mum and Dad love their boating and in summer you'll often find us up early or out late to catch the tides for wake boarding, water skiing, fishing or setting the long line and relaxing by the sea.



Opoutere.

Describe your ideal day on the Coromandel...

Wakeboarding (you can probably tell by now I love it) in the morning, followed by fish 'n' chips for lunch, then an afternoon swim at the Opoutere Beach bridge (providing the tide is right) to jump off with the locals.

Best Coromandel view:

The Opoutere summit – It can be a bit of a challenge to get up there, however the views of Opoutere from the top are just spectacular. If you love a bush walk then I definitely recommend it.

What do you enjoy doing in the Coromandel during winter?

I love going for a walk along the beach all rugged up, or catching a movie at the iconic Whangamata Cinema with the family. Or just sitting by the fire and keeping warm.

The Coromandel is good for my soul because...

It is home. I feel like I can get out of the city and breathe fresh air. It always holds such a special place in my heart for its idyllic beauty and nature, and it's where I send time with my family and friends.

When I'm not here I miss...

The white sandy beaches. Every time I am on a west coast beach with black sand, I find myself commenting on how I'm an east coast girl at heart.



Dr Grant Schofield

Dr Grant Schofield, Professor in Public Health at AUT and co-author of 'What the Fat' lives in Auckland where he works at the AUT Millennium Centre in Takapuna, but spends as much time as he can at his Tairua beach house.

My Coromandel connection

We have a home on Ocean Beach Rd, Tairua. I started coming to Whangamata for surf lifesaving and family holidays when I was a kid. We started coming back again six years ago when my kids were 12-13 years old. Now it's my “place” where all the better things in life happen.

What's the activity you enjoy doing most when you're here?

There are lots of things in the Coromandel, but to name the things we do most often:

Hanging on the beach at the Tairua Surf Club where the whole family are qualified lifeguards, which includes running the summer junior surf program, surfing and swimming, and then also biking and running all around the place. Tairua is the activity capital of the world – such great natural resources – trails, roads, parks and beaches.

Describe your ideal day on the Coromandel...

On holidays: Meet friends for a run outside the surf club at 8 am, jog around Tairua and up Paku and talk about how awesome we used to be. Have a coffee and a quick swim in the sea, read the paper. Head down to help out with the junior surf club programme. Do a surf swim with the lifeguards. Go home have a sleep. Have an early beer.

Work day: Wake up early and start writing for a solid 2-3 hours, stop briefly for breakfast, work again for a few more hours, achieve loads. Go for a walk/run with dog. Go for a mid afternoon surf. Chill with an early beer.

Best Coromandel view:

Top of Mt Paku.

Best place to swim:

Short swims off Tairua Ocean Beach.

Long swims: Sailor's Grave, Shoe Island to Tairua, Tairua Ocean Beach around Paku to Paku Wharf.

What do you enjoy doing in the Coromandel during winter?

Enjoy being at home with the fire on, with an easterly storm watering the beach.

The Coromandel is good for my soul because...

Tairua itself has a soul and people who are a proper community, which Auckland has lost. Because nature is the best medicine, and having a place that you feel is 'your place' in the world is important to me, and the Coromandel is that. I hope we maintain that special character and we don't lose it all to tourism eventually.

When I'm not here I miss...

Pretty much everything – especially nature and the ability to so easily be in the elements.



Jamie McDell

For singer/songwriter Jamie McDell, Pauanui and the local surf club has been a big part of her life, alongside her musical journey that began when she was first signed to record label EMI at the age of 16. In 2019 she moved to the US to work on her fourth studio album, writing and recording between Toronto and Nashville.

What's your connection to the Coromandel?

My best friend had been a member of the Pauanui Surf Lifesaving Club since a young age and invited me down to Pauanui when I was around the age of 13 and I fell in love with it. I eventually joined the surf club myself and when I'm in New Zealand my fiancé Jake and I are down there every second weekend. His family has recently built their own bach there, so we have even more reason to visit regularly.

What's the activity you enjoy doing most when you're here?

We're spoilt for choice! I love diving along the coast or out at the Aldermen Islands or exploring Slipper Island, but it would have to be surfing my 9.4 longboard with friends. On a good day we've found Pauanui to be one of the most ideal spots to longboard.

Describe your ideal day on the Coromandel...

I guess I can describe a day that actually happened in early 2019: We had breakfast at one of our favourite spots in Whangamata, then came home for a longboard in Pauanui with perfect, glassy, little runners. Then we packed up the boat and headed out to Slipper Island for some fishing and all of a sudden my partner Jake was down on one knee. Of course the answer was yes! We then came home where our friends and family were waiting for us to celebrate.

Best Coromandel view:

I really like looking back at the coast from Slipper Island and trying to spot which areas of coast we haven't explored yet and how we might get there.

Best place to swim:

I like the north end of Onemana. I know the shore break can be dangerous but if you're confident in the water it is also very fun.

What do you enjoy doing in the Coromandel during winter?

We still get out in the surf if we can. It makes you feel you deserve those glasses of red wine by the fire in the evening.

The Coromandel is good for my soul because...

Saltwater, fresh air, adventure, but most importantly quality time with friends and family.

When I'm not here I miss...

Currently living in Toronto I pretty much miss every single thing about it.



Hamish Carter

Olympic Gold Medallist Hamish Carter has been coming to the family bach in Pauanui since he was a one-year-old and it's still a hub for the extended Carter family today. Despite a busy role in Auckland as Triathlon NZ's General Manager of Performance, Hamish and his wife Marisa and children make sure they spend time here as often as they can.

What's the activity you enjoy doing most when you're here?

There are so many things! We do a lot together as a family. If there are waves, we surf, and if not we might go water-skiing or fishing, or get out for a run in the hills. We're always doing something.

Describe your ideal day on the Coromandel...

We like to get up and go for a surf, then come back to the bach and make coffee for everyone. Then the best days are when nothing's particularly planned, we just spend time as a family doing what we feel like doing on the day.

Best Coromandel view:

Being in behind Shoe or Slipper Islands and looking back at the Coromandel and connecting with the water is pretty amazing.

Best place to swim:

Straight off Pauanui Beach. We usually look for a good bank to surf off.

What do you enjoy doing in the Coromandel during winter?

It's still really nice to be here in winter, even if it's cold or wet, and just enjoy a quieter pace if life's been busy.

The Coromandel is good for my soul because...

It represents connection to family and having a lot of fun. When we are all here together the inter-generational connection is really special.

When I'm not here I miss...

The quietness, the beaches and the sense of being away from the busyness of city life.



Sara Wiseman & Craig Hall

Husband and wife actors Sara Wiseman and Craig Hall live and work in Sydney where they both recently appeared in the Australia 1950s period drama *A Place to Call Home*, but come to their New Zealand home in Pauanui's Lakes Resort when their busy acting schedules permit.



SARA WISEMAN

My Coromandel connection

I was a volunteer member of the Pauanui Surf Life Saving Club as a teenager – That was my first introduction to the 'Mandel'. Every Christmas holiday since I was an adult, my mates and I would pick a holiday property on one of the Coromandel beaches; Matarangi, Kuaotunu, Opito Bay, Cooks Beach, Tairua, Opoutere, Pauanui, and make ourselves locals.

What's the activity you enjoy doing most when you're here?

Climbing the hill (Mt Pauanui) then dumping myself straight into the south end surf.

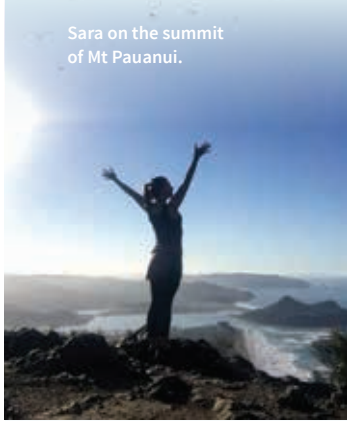
Describe your ideal day on the Coromandel...

Climb Mt Pauanui, swim, breakfast outside on the deck, read, hang with mates, hang with family, swim/ paddle/ ride motorbike/ pushbike, make Kiwi dip, feed the ducks, play music, play board games, swim, eat Kiwi dip, BBQ, watch the sunset with a cool beverage, check out the Milky Way, sleep.

Best Coromandel view:

Way too many to count: looking out from Hahei, Cathedral Cove, New Chum Beach, Otama Beaches, Waikawau Bay (please may the latter two continue to be property-free) but I am particularly fond of the top of Mt Pauanui. You have to work for it. I dream about it.

Sara on the summit of Mt Pauanui.



Best place to swim:

I love the south end of Pauanui Beach.

What do you enjoy doing in the Coromandel during winter?

Climbing the hill and swimming (still). Hanging with our local friends and family.

The Coromandel is good for my soul because...

There is nowhere else like it in the world. Walking barefoot, clean and clear water, native birds, big skies, beautiful forests. It makes my heart thump with pure joy.

When I'm not here I miss...

All of the above.

CRAIG HALL

Coromandel connection:

Apart from having a home there, we have spent every Christmas break together in the Coromandel for the last 19 years.

What's the activity you enjoy doing most when you're here?

Climbing Mt Pauanui and swimming are right up there.

Describe your ideal day on the Coromandel...

A climb then a swim and then brekkie, followed by some good old fashioned relaxing and then another few swims for good measure!

Best Coromandel view:

I love the view from up Mt Pauanui, down the valley and out across to the Aldermen Islands.

Best place to swim:

Either Hahei or New Chum Beach.

The Coromandel is good for my soul because...

The natural beauty and energy of the place is a great reminder of what is important in life. It is like a reset button for the soul.

When I'm not here I miss...

The simple pleasures of enjoying the ocean and the forests and being with family.

Frank Bunce

Frank Bunce's speed and strength as outside centre for the All Blacks in the mid-1990s saw him play 55 test matches, including the 1995 Rugby World Cup in South Africa. The Auckland native has holidayed on the Coromandel for a long time but made the connection permanent after he retired from international rugby and bought the Cooper Tyres outlet in Thames. He now lives in Mangatangi, a small settlement inland from Kaiaua.

What's the activity you enjoy doing most when you're here?

My wife likes to walk so our leisure time is spent walking the many tracks and beach areas.

Describe your ideal day on the Coromandel ...

The sun is shining, we've got nothing else to do but look forward to cruising around and figuring out where to have lunch.

Best Coromandel view:

Not sure I can single one out, but I always enjoy standing up high looking down at any beach you want, take your pick.

Best place to swim:

Have to go with Hot Water Beach as my best place to "swim" – I prefer warm water to cold.

What do you enjoy doing in the Coromandel during winter?

The great thing about the Coromandel is that it's not so cold in the winter that you can't continue on as you would normally, bar some swimming.

The Coromandel is good for my soul because ...

Everything about it relaxes me. The land and the people complement each other.

When I'm not here I miss ...

The quirkiness. You get it all here.





Opito
sands

SECTIONS FOR SALE



**HALF OF THE
SECTIONS NOW SOLD**



Opito Sands subdivision offers 76 prime beachside sections, ranging from absolute beach front to rear elevated sites and priced to meet most budgets, in stunning Opito Bay, Coromandel.

8 kilometres of a crescent shaped bay, renowned for its beauty – golden sand, sheltered and safe coastal environment. An encompassing vista of smaller inner islands and Mercury Island, provides a magnificent backdrop for swimming, snorkelling, photography, exploring and many other coastal living activities. The calm clear waters are also perfect for diving or fishing.

The importance of preserving the natural environment has been the goal in the development of this subdivision. This includes sanctuaries for native bird life, conversion of farmland to native planting and protection of sand dunes with natural dune vegetation including boardwalks for access to the beach.

The development of the subdivision at 68 Skippers Road is a hive of activity, with much of the infrastructure well underway. With the road now benefitting from new tar seal, curbs and channels completed, we are on track for titles to be issued in November 2019.

Half the sections are already sold, secure your slice of paradise now!

Contact Ross Christensen on 0204 051 0527 for an exclusive viewing.



Ross Christensen | 020 4051 0527

ross.christensen@colliers.com | www.opitosands.co.nz

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Zip AND Zoom

At Driving Creek Railway

The late Barry Brickell.



personal collection of artworks including paintings by Colin McCahon and Ralph Hotere, and a conservation project to create a native kauri forest by planting over 9000 kauri and 27,000 native plants. The bulk of the property is now held under a QEII National Trust covenant.

Barry, who passed away in 2016, wanted visitors to experience the true beauty of real New Zealand native bush and learn about native flora, fauna and conservation. The zipline canopy tour aims to align with Barry's vision.

The result took two years to set up and is made up of eight individual ziplines, the longest of which is 200m long, guiding visitors through the bush canopy alongside kereru, korimako (bellbirds) and tui and over the Copeland Stream

Neil Oppatt, Driving Creek Railway's executive director, says there is capacity to host 120 people a day on the zipline, which will be a year-around attraction at Driving Creek, which already draws 60,000 people a year.

Once harnessed, zipline visitors will take the rail car up halfway towards Driving Creek's pinnacle Eyefull Tower observation point for the start of the guided tour back to the Driving Creek village.

The rail car ride to the start, the conservation park setting, ziplining over the Copeland Stream and the guided stories of the land's history is what sets the new zipline apart from others in the country.

Planning is underway to further open up the park and introduce a series of new tourism products including a forest adventure playground for children, pottery workshops, daily 'play with clay' sessions, opening new studios for resident artists and installing a series of curated mini exhibitions throughout the property to tell stories of Driving Creek and Barry Brickell.

A café is due to open before Christmas 2019.

Neil has deep experience in designing tourism attractions, such as pioneering white water rafting in New Zealand, and believes Driving Creek is so successful because of the Barry Brickell story.

"Barry had a vision for the property and we're staying true to that," Neil says. "People are inspired by what one person can do in their lifetime.

"This is one of the most magical tourist destinations I have experienced," Neil says. "All the right ingredients are here. We just have to make it accessible to the public in an interesting and exciting way to tell the stories of Driving Creek's arts, conservation and engineering.

"Owned by a community trust, we see Driving Creek playing a significant role in supporting conservation on the Coromandel, promoting New Zealand's clay arts and assisting in the creation of economic benefit for Coromandel Town," Neil says.

A zipline canopy tour through majestic native bush is the start of a magical new chapter in the story of Driving Creek Railway, minutes north of Coromandel Town.

The exhilarating eight zipline canopy tour opens in October 2019 and is part of a major expansion of Driving Creek from a railway tourist joyride and one of the largest potteries in Australasia, to the full Driving Creek experience across a 25ha estate, bringing to life the late Barry Brickell's vision for the property.

Founded by Barry in 1961, Driving Creek's clay-laden hills were ideal for potting and the ferry at Coromandel Harbour, provided access to his Auckland market.

The venture expanded to include a narrow-gauge mountain railway used to transport extracted clay and large sculptures, a constant flow of resident potters, a museum to house a large

HORSING AROUND THE COROMANDEL

THERE ARE MANY FABULOUS SPOTS TO EXPERIENCE THE COROMANDEL COASTLINE AND FOREST PARKS BY HORSEBACK.

Pony Club memberships on the up

The Coromandel's four pony clubs are growing as more people move to the Coromandel and kids are taking up the reins.

Horse enthusiast Taylor Port from Peninsula Equine in Coromandel Town says the number of competitive riders is at a high across our district.

"It is fabulous to see Mercury Bay Pony Club and neighboring clubs representing the Coromandel at many events – inspiring many young locals to get into riding as their chosen hobby. I have had an influx of families attending lessons this season," Taylor says.

The Coromandel has also seen a boost in the number of rallies being held locally as ribbon days, showjumping days and overnight camps are becoming more popular, Taylor says.

"Pony clubs and riding academies are great ways to build a stronger community and bring children together to create friendships," Taylor says.

Like other sports, horseriding can be competitive, build confidence, trust and character in children and they get to create a special bond with a horse.

"It's dedicated instructors and tireless volunteers who make these clubs go round for the young riders in our communities," Taylor says.



Dana Little credits the Coromandel Pony Club for fostering her strong love for horses when she was growing up in Coromandel Town.

Now, her two horses are a big part of her roots that called the 21-year-old home in 2019 after completing her Bachelor of Commerce Degree at the University of Auckland.

While her full-time role as a communications officer with our Council keeps Dana busy, she makes time to visit her two off-the-track thoroughbreds – nine-year-old chestnut gelding Mr Garcia and 15-year-old bay mare, Pippa, who are kept on family property, most days.

"In summer I ride at least four times a week, sometimes every day – through town to the local beaches or over local farmlands. In winter it's harder to ride as often as there is no covered arena."

The great thing about Coromandel Town and small towns is being able to ride your horses almost anywhere, Dana says.

"My ultimate Coromandel ride is to the beach out towards McGregor's Bay, over Bernie's farm and out the other side to Tucks Bay. Anywhere near the beach and in the sun is ideal for me," Dana says.

"I also enjoy showjumping and dressage, just as much as riding through town to the beach.

"Ultimately, what motivates me to ride is my love for horses and spending time with them."

Dana's passion for horses now sees her giving back to younger riders growing up in Coromandel Town where she offers private lessons.

"I enjoy watching the kids grow more confident with the horses as their riding improves. I enjoy teaching them how to care for a horse and how important it is to treat them with respect, as I want them to take that away and one day get their own horse that they can love and care for."

Owning a horse is a huge responsibility and making time for them is something people need to consider before making a commitment to one, Dana says.

Although there is no longer a pony club in Coromandel Town, there is still a handful of enthusiasts who enjoy riding on the tracks and beaches and those who travel out-of-town with their horses to compete.

"There are a few parents and people who get together and organise a ribbon day for the locals who are interested in riding. The love of the sport is still very strong and there is a great community of people continuing to support it," Dana says.

"After experiencing the love and bond you can create with a horse I know now they will be a part of my life forever."



PHOTO: WHITESTAR HORSE TREKS, COLVILLE.

Mercury Bay Pony Club

Mercury Bay Pony Club is based over 10 hectares of forestry land at Wade Rd in Whitianga. The club has 60 members and holds club rallies on Wednesday evenings, where members get together and are encouraged to work towards gaining their New Zealand Pony Club certificates.

sporty.co.nz/mercurybaypc
mercurybayponyclub@gmail.com

Thames Pony Club

Thames Pony Club on State Highway 25, just south of Thames is well-equipped for show jumping and has a large open paddock for cross country. The club also has paddocks available for grazing horses and ponies. The club holds rallies, showjumping days, derby days and mounted game days and has access to camping and trekking up in the Kauaeranga Valley.

sporty.co.nz/thamesponyclub
teresaramsey333@gmail.co.nz

Whangamata Pony Club

In recent years, the Whangamata Pony Club has become more of a social group of adults and children who ride together and use the arena



Take me on a trek...

Horse treks are a great way to explore the Coromandel from a different perspective. There are two main horse treks in the Coromandel:

Whitestar Horse Treks

The Whitestar Station is set on a 1,260 hectare sheep and cattle farm, 30-minute drive north of Coromandel Town. The farm is run by the Evans family, with Belinda Evans having a strong passion for horses that she loves to share. Her fully-guided treks, pictured here, range from one to five hours and take in the scenery of Colville and beyond through grassy flats and up amongst tall pine trees on the ridges where you will see Mount Moehau in the distance. For the more experienced riders, there are treks to the west coast beaches, with views to the islands of the Hauraki Gulf.

2140 Colville Rd – 021 660624
facebook.com/whitestarhorsetreks.colville

Rangihau Ranch – The Real New Zealand Ride

Rangihau Ranch is a family owned and operated sheep and beef farm in Coroglen offering guided horse treks through native bush, open fields and hill country with spectacular scenery and glimpses of what the old gumtown used to be like in the early 1800s. Treks range from one to two hours and must be booked in advance. Quiet lead-rein ponies are available for shorter, half-hour treks.

111 Rangihau Road Coroglen
rangihauranch.co.nz

grounds at Mayfair Avenue for monthly events or ribbon days. Those riding in Whangamata enjoy one of the Coromandel's best beaches for trekking on at low tide.

facebook.com/Whangamata-Pony-Club-Inc-161554373928273
whangapc@hotmail.co.nz

Mercury Bay Equestrian Academy

New Zealand equestrian veteran Ron Cooke (pictured) established the Mercury Bay Equestrian Academy in 2015 to give young riders opportunities to improve their riding skills and compete.

And Ron is well qualified, having competed internationally in Japan, Australia and the United States and been selected twice for the New Zealand Olympic Equestrian team. Now in his eighties, Ron wants to give something back to the sport.



The academy holds regular practice days, coaching clinics, show jumping days and events. Like the Mercury Bay Pony Club, the academy also supports neighboring areas without pony clubs such as Coromandel Town, Whenuakite, Coroglen and Tairua.

Ron builds and maintains many of the hurdles and jumps himself and is known for going to great lengths to transport horses for riders who don't have horse floats. Parents constantly tell Ron what a great job he is doing. He is supported by Paula Fawcett who helps run the academy and its administration.

"The main purpose is for the riders to have fun and enjoy themselves. Since I was four years old I took pride in my horse and I want others to do the same," Ron says.

Some of the academy's biggest challenges are seeking sponsorship and prize money, as well as land for the programmes and to hold events.

"It's not easy in a small town, but my ambition to help the children is the drive that keeps me going," Ron says. "There's nothing like watching a kid grow in confidence with their horse."

11 Pacific Place, Whitianga
facebook.com/mercurybayequestrianacademy



Camping with style

IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO TRY A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE ON THE COROMANDEL – THERE'S FAR MORE TO OUR REGION THAN CAMPGROUNDS AND FREEDOM CAMPING. YOU CAN FIND A UNIQUE ESCAPE IN A YURT, TREEHOUSE, FARMSTAY OR CABIN. AND IF YOU'VE GOT PROPERTY HERE, THERE'S A MYRIAD OF OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE QUIRKY, ALTERNATIVE VISITOR ACCOMMODATION. HERE'S A COUPLE OF IDEAS.

Getting hot and heavy

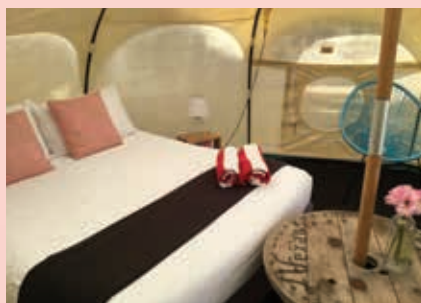
For all you lovers wanting some romance, while still being true to the kiwi camping tradition, why not book into the Hot Water Beach Top 10 holiday glamping site?

It's exclusive – there are only two of these types of tents. It's cosy – only 14 feet wide and about 6 feet high and it's affordable – \$120 per night, (goes up to \$150 for two weeks over Christmas/New Year) and a two-night, minimum stay over weekends in peak summer.

"The glamping sites were first set up for the first time for summer 2017-18 and solidly booked, so are proving to be extremely popular," says Lynette Hendrikse, Hot Water Beach marketing manager. To preserve the experience, and protect from the more inclement winter weather, the tents are only available from October through until April and is specifically for two people per site.

"The experience is perfect for a Valentine's day weekend, a honeymoon celebration or an anniversary getaway, while still enjoying a traditional grass roots type of camping holiday," explains Lynette. "While we can't guarantee glorious days the entire summer, if there's the odd rain shower, this type of glamping is ideal for spending time cosily holed up with your other half."

The NZ designed Lotus Belle tents are produced from a high-quality thick, durable canvas and solid wooden frames and poles. The structures sit on top of a solid wood platform, elevated above the ground and situated in the



campground's "cabbage patch area," alongside the Te Waewae Stream surrounded by a landscape of ferns and native shrubs, discretely obscuring guests from the wider campground.

The interior of both tents house a double

bed, occasional chairs and tables with ambient lighting – thanks to being solar powered. Linen and towels are provided, while wifi, showers, toilets and cooking facilities are available at the communal amenity blocks. (Remember we are still camping here).

And when you're not lounging on the front deck of this site, there are plenty of other activities to keep you entertained around Hot Water Beach, whether you're feeling coupled up, or needing a break from your significant other. For what to do around Hot Water Beach – thecoromandel.com/hotwaterbeach

And for Hot Water Beach glamping bookings – hotwaterbeachtop10.co.nz ●

From container to cottage

Who would have thought that you could find peace and tranquillity inside a shipping container? But that's the reality in this alternative holiday accommodation offering, only minutes from Onemana Beach.

Pauline and Barney O'Neill are founders of O'Neill Engineering, specialising in farm, modular and gable buildings. However, their latest venture is tourism focused – converting brand new shipping containers into two bespoke “cottage inspired,” cabins – hidden away on their 11-acre, lifestyle block, amongst an avocado orchard.

“Barney is always full of new ideas and was inspired after we visited Gibbston Valley in the South Island, where a local company was using shipping containers for its tavern,” says Pauline. “We have a big extended family, as well as hosting lots of friends to stay over summer, so the seed was planted to build some similar style accommodation for when people came to stay and wanted a little more privacy away from the house.”

After placing 20-foot containers on site, Barney got straight into the steelwork, welding several containers together, creating windows, doors and a gable-pitched roof, to produce two homely habitable units, complete with toilet, shower, kitchen facilities and an external deck.

Pauline's eye for interior design has seen each unit colour coordinated and themed differently with thoughtful flourishes and touches, which may look expensive, but have been creatively crafted with a little ingenuity,



like the refurbished side tables, which were converted from wooden cable spoons.

“The Cottage,” showcases pastel, earthy tones, while “The Lodge,” is more rich and regal with red and black – so there's a different feel (and scent thanks to the aromatic diffusers) in each space.

“We're just thrilled that they're both finished as it's been a labour of love .. and learnings,” says Pauline. “Converting shipping containers into short-stay accommodation is something Council hadn't dealt with before, so we have been a real test case,” she says.

Along with the building consent, the O'Neills also have resource consent so they can book the sites out as holiday accommodation. “So when family aren't staying, we are open to taking visitor bookings,” says Pauline, who recommends nearby Onemana Beach for a ramble and the local café for great coffee and food.

Bookings can be done via email
pauline@oneillengineering.co.nz
 or booking.com ●



CLUB OF THE YEAR

2 years in a row!



Another year has come and gone, the Whangamata Ocean Sports Club continues to still be a busy and popular place to spend time.

I am very proud to advise we once again were voted "Club of the Year", by New Zealand Sports Fishing Council (NZSFC), that's two years in a row. We are the Whangamata Ocean Sports Club with stunning views of the harbour and ocean.

During the summer we host some of the largest fishing tournaments in the country: The New Year's fishing tournament with junior and senior sections, the ever-popular Nauti Girls, the largest female-only fishing tournament in the country, and our flagship tournament the A1 Home's Classic, which attracts some of the keenest anglers in the country and boasts over \$60,000 in prizes! The club strongly advocates for sustainable fishing practises through its membership of the NZSFC and specific club rules relating to any particular club event or competition. Accordingly, a portion of each individual's membership fee is allocated to the NZSFC and the New Zealand Marine Research Foundation. A detailed outline of the benefits provided through the NZFC toward making our fishing environment available to future generations is contained within the "Fisheries Management Report" readily available online and through the club.

Legasea is the public face of NZFC 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.

Our restaurant, led by Head Chef Dennis Matthews, is one of the best on the Coromandel. We serve more than 70,000 meals a year with a wide range to suit our 6800+ members and their guests. Remember if you are not lucky enough to be a local or are visiting from overseas come in and try us out, we encourage visitors to trial our facilities before becoming a member and see for yourself how great the food and view is!

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

*Hope to see you soon at the Club with the Million Dollar View!
Ocean Sports, by the Wharf.*



WHANGAMATA OCEAN SPORTS CLUB



We're locals like you.

G.J. Gardner Homes Thames/Coromandel opened in May 1999 and is independently owned and operated by Kelly and Glenn Sonntag of De Leeuw Coastal Construction Ltd.


Husband and wife team Glenn and Kelly Sonntag joined G.J. Gardner Homes in 2003 having moved over to Whangamata from Hamilton where Glenn had trained as a builder. After a few years on the coast Glenn joined G.J.'s and became a construction manager, learning the ropes before getting an opportunity to buy into the business.

Now the General Manager with his vast residential construction experience, Glenn is completely dedicated to building exceptional quality houses that reflect this beautiful area. Kelly who had been working as a dental assistant before having children, now enjoys working in the office with her husband.

"We love making our clients dreams become a reality when planning and building their new home, it's great to see a happy client when we hand over the keys to their new home" says Glenn.

Living in the Coromandel certainly has its benefits, and Glenn and Kelly don't take for granted the natural beauty of this wonderful region. They love calling Coromandel home, enjoying the surf, fishing and bush walks that are all right at their door step. They often take inspiration from the outdoors when designing a building homes.

Visit their stunning new showhome at 1 Vanita Dr, Whitianga.



"We pride our business and personal reputation on providing a high quality product with exceptional service. We're confident that you will enjoy building your special home with our dedicated team."
– Glenn Sonntag

Thames/Coromandel Office 612 Port Road, Whangamata
(07) 865 7554 OPEN Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm

Whitianga Office 26d Albert Street, Whitianga
(07) 866 4259 OPEN Monday – Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm

G.J. Gardner. **HOMES**

0800 42 45 46 gjgardner.co.nz

EXPLORING OUR LOCAL Coromandel tracks and trails

Kiwis love the outdoors, walking and tramping and we are certainly spoilt for choice of places to set out on an outdoor adventure.

This year we published a new guide to the many tracks across our district where you can walk and run and in many cases, mountain bike, within a close range of our town centres.

Your Coromandel Tracks & Trails Guide is available, free, from our Council offices, libraries and Visitor Information Centres around the Coromandel. It's also available to view online on our website at tcdc.govt.nz/localwalks

Unlike the back-country tracks in the mountainous terrain managed by the Department of Conservation, the walks outlined in this guide are largely on TCDC land, with a few exceptions for relatively short walks on public conservation land near our town centres or walks that lead to DOC tracks. The walks and cycle paths described in *Your Coromandel Tracks & Trails Guide* cover all fitness levels.

There are plenty of treasures to discover among these walks, taking you from harbour and river margins, heritage town centres, playgrounds, busy working wharves and, of course, the sandy beaches the Coromandel is famous for.

Developing walking and biking paths on our Council's own reserves, and helping community groups and businesspeople develop tracks of their own, is a major strand of our economic development programme. We welcome feedback on the paths included in our new guide and we'd like to hear from you if you've got plans to develop a walking or cycling track in your area of the district. Send us a line at communications@tcdc.govt.nz

When you get out and about on the tracks and trails listed in our guide, please be considerate of other users. If you're on a bike or mobility scooter and about to pass somebody, please use a bell or voice to warn them, slow down and be considerate.

In recent years kauri dieback has become a pressing issue as there is no known cure for this disease that kills most, if not all, of the kauri it infects. It can be spread by just a pinhead of soil, and is most commonly transferred by people on their footwear and equipment.

But everyone can play their part to stop the disease from spreading by cleaning footwear and equipment of all visible soil and plant material before and after visiting a kauri forest. Use the cleaning stations where provided and follow the hygiene steps, which include first scrubbing off all visible soil and then spraying with disinfectant.

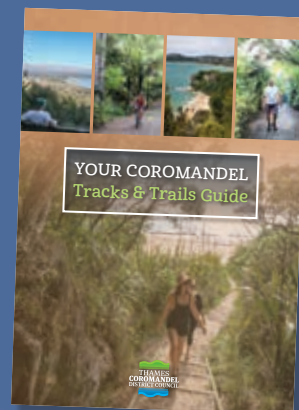
It's very important to stay on the track at all times and off kauri roots, and keep your dog on a lead at all times.

For more information on kauri dieback go to kauridieback.co.nz

Check the DOC website doc.govt.nz for the latest on track changes or closures on public conservation land related to kauri dieback.

Over the next few pages we share some of the walks you'll find in the guide. If you like what you find here, be sure to head out and grab a copy.

The free guide is available at our Council offices, libraries and Visitor Information Centres around the Coromandel. It's also available on our website at tcdc.govt.nz/localwalks





Northern Coromandel

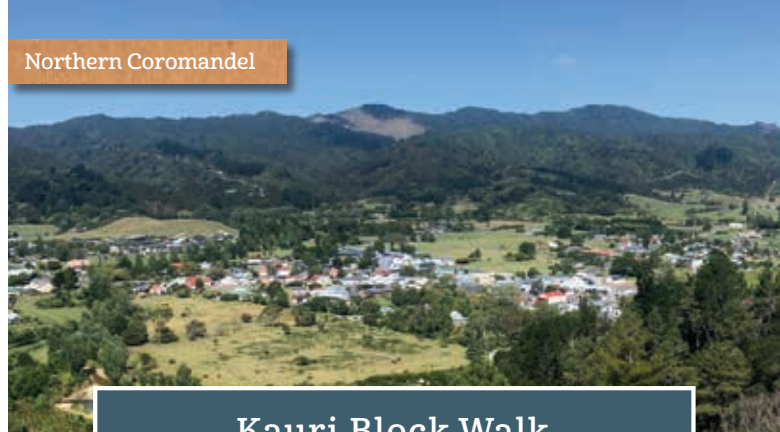
Long Bay to Tucks Bay Walk

The Long Bay campground has access to a variety of walks. From the car park on the foreshore you can head to the fish cleaning station, where there are two entrances you can take. Both options will lead you to Tucks Bay Beach. The option on the right takes you through kauri trees and display boards where you can read up and learn about different native trees as you climb your way to a tall kauri tree. The track will lead up to the gravel road, then you head down the road on your right leading to Tucks Bay. Follow this path as it returns you to Long Bay.

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.

Duration: 1hr return approx

Distance: 2.8km return approx



Northern Coromandel

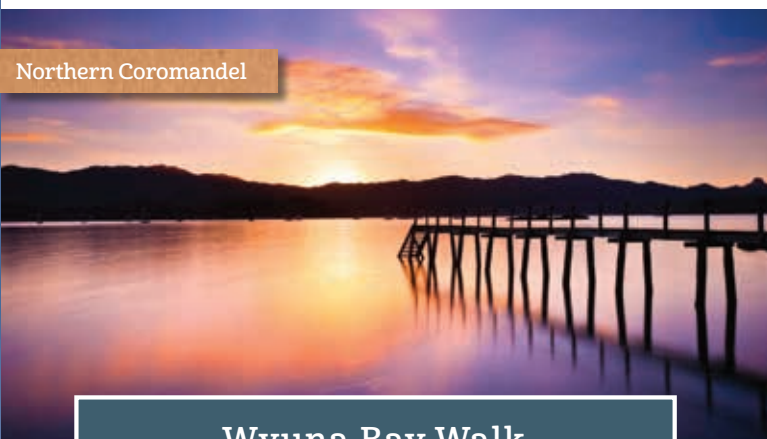
Kauri Block Walk

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

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

Duration: 1hr 30mins return approx

Distance: 1.6km return approx



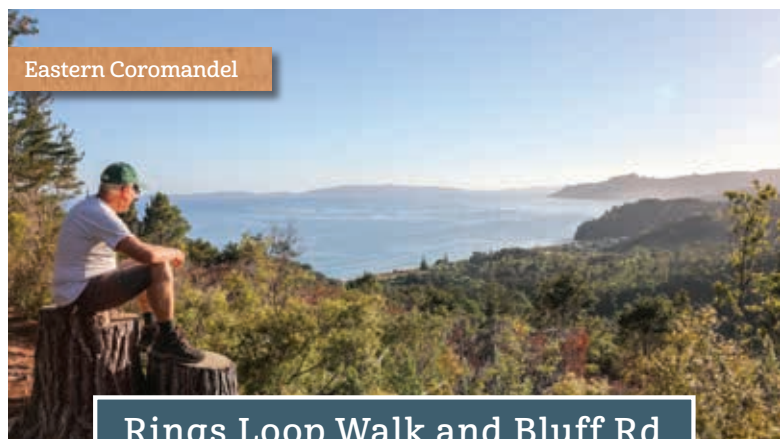
Northern Coromandel

Wyuna Bay Walk

Wyuna Peninsula features stunning views of the Firth of Thames, Hauraki Gulf and McGregor Bay, and it contains a glorious child friendly beach (public toilets are here). Park at the car park at Wyuna Beach and, tide permitting, walk towards the tip of the peninsula to Ruffins Bay beach to the right and return. Explore the rest of the beach towards the base of the peninsula and then once you're back in the car return along the spine of the peninsula on Wyuna Bay Rd and then turn left at the T-junction with Long Bay Rd then left again after about 120 metres onto Glenfern Dr where there is a walkway on the right which leads to Long Bay Beach. Here you can either walk down the beach or rejoin Long Bay Rd by car to where it ends at the Long Bay holiday park, where there are public toilets and access to the Long Bay to Tucks Bay Walk.

Duration: Wyuna Bay to Long Bay 3hrs

Distance: Wyuna Bay to Long Bay Rd 2.6km



Eastern Coromandel

Rings Loop Walk and Bluff Rd to Matarangi Track

Rings Beach, nestled between Kuaotunu and Matarangi, hosts a back country trail for walkers, runners and mountain bike users to enjoy. The Rings Loop 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. There's native bush which is regenerating thanks to a tree-planting programme which started in 2010; and there's birdlife and a wetland. The track was the brainchild of the late Bruce Smith of Kuaotunu, built entirely by volunteer labour and is now managed under the umbrella of the Coromandel Peninsula Coastal Walkways Society. Another shorter route from Rings Beach is heading along the Bluff Rd (pedestrian and bike access only) through to Matarangi return, which takes about 40 minutes.

Duration: 2hrs approx

Distance: 4.7km





Whitianga Bike Park tracks and walks

Only minutes west 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 leading into the slower and can be entered independently, with a kiddies track nearby. Alongside the bike trails is a walking track which also sidles 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 also dog, and in some parts accessibility, friendly. You can download the PDF trail map at whitiangabikeclub.co.nz/trails.html or pick up copies from the Bike Man shop in Whitianga or the Whitianga i-SITE.



Shakespeare Cliff to Lonely Bay Walk

In 1769 Captain James Cook was in the Mercury Bay area for 12 days, stocking up on provisions, carrying out maintenance to his ship Endeavour and interacting and trading with the local Māori. Stories say Cook either thought the profile of the cliff at the western end of Cooks Beach resembled the profile of William Shakespeare – or that the landscape looked so poetic – that he named it Shakespeare Cliff. This headland is one of the Coromandel's most outstanding vistas with the walk down to Lonely Bay a popular spot for wedding photos, thanks to its seclusion and scenery. Shakespeare Cliff is a great spot for picnics, has a public toilet, pohutukawa groves and plaques detailing the history of the area. To get to Shakespeare Cliff you can walk the Lookout Rd from Flaxmill Bay and from the reserve, walk down a steep track to Lonely Bay. You'll need to follow Lookout Rd back to Purangi Rd and either turn right for Flaxmill Bay or left to a track to Cooks Beach.

Duration: Flaxmill Bay to Lonely Bay 1hr return approx

Distance: 3km return approx



Karaka-Waiotahi Circuit

There is a small car park up Waiotahi Rd where the track begins. An initial steep climb through regenerating bush levels off as you wind through the hills with views across the Firth of Thames before the track dives back into the hills. After about two hours Waiotahi Track meets the Karaka Track, and you can either carry on for several more hours to Crosbies Hut and other tramping tracks down the main range of the Coromandel, or return to Thames via Karaka Track and the Red Rocks.

At the Red Rocks, the trail crosses a bluff and there are impressive views over the Karaka Valley all the way to Table Mountain. While the Waiotahi Track is generally well developed, the Karaka Track is rougher and has many boggy sections. There are also some tricky stream crossings, two of which have been bridged by the Thames Mountain Bike Club. Along the way you'll pass many reminders of the gold-mining history of Thames, especially on Karaka Track including shafts dug into the hills to access the seams of gold.

Duration: 4.5hrs approx **Distance:** 11km approx 



John William Hall Arboretum

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

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

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





Thames Coastal Pathway

This flat, well-developed path runs along the foreshore of Thames from Shortland Wharf to Kuranui Bay, taking in wharves, railway stations and many historic sites. There is plenty of scope to cut into town at numerous points to either stop for food and drink, take in the sights, or make a loop by taking a shortcut back to your starting point. Or, park in the middle at Victoria Park and take in one section at a time.

Whichever way you go and whether you're walking, cycling, roller blading, riding a mobility scooter or a skateboard, please share this increasingly busy path with all users. Dogs must be on a lead.

From Shortland Wharf follow the path along the stopbank, past mangroves to Danby Field and then behind Goldfields Shopping Centre. Past the Pak'n'Save Victoria Park begins. You'll pass the Karaka Bird Hide, Thames Small Gauge Railway and the old Grahamstown Railway Station. Opposite the railway station is the Thames School of Mines – run by Heritage New Zealand and open to the public – where the miners

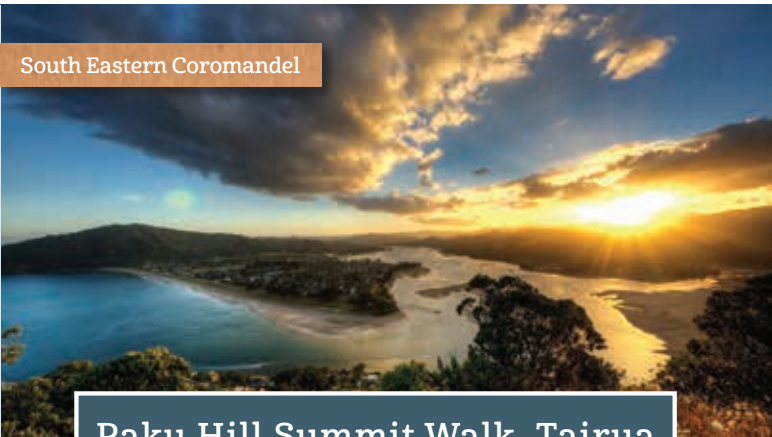
went to learn about rocks. To learn more about the history of Thames and its gold-mining heritage, divert up Cochrane St to Thames Museum and further on to the Bella St Pumphouse, which still houses some of the giant machinery used to pump water out of the deep mine shafts. Back in Victoria Park, continue north past the Croquet Club and then turn left to follow the Coastal Pathway around the now-capped former landfill site to Moanataiari. At the foot of Burke St are the old pilings from the Burke St Wharf. Continue along the path on top of the stopbank to Kuranui Bay Reserve where there is a sheltered BBQ, toilets and parking. From here you can follow Tararu Rd (State Highway 25) back towards town past the sites of the first gold bonanza and the richest mine in the Thames Goldfields before stopping at the Goldmine Experience to tour the mine shafts and see how a stamper battery worked.

From here you can turn down Burke St past A&G Price foundry (established 1868), turn left at Beach Rd, left again at Williamson St, passing the Royal Hotel (1904) on Brown St. Turn right here and on the left is the Lady Bowen (1867), now a BnB. On the corner of Brown and Albert streets is another fine old former hotel (now a private home), built in Auckland in the 1850s and barged to Thames in 1868 and named The Wharf, later renamed The Lady Bowen. You are now back at Victoria Park. Continue down Brown St to Cochrane St and turn left up to Pollen St to enjoy the heritage shopfronts and take a well-deserved break at one of the cafes in Grahamstown.

Duration: Shortland Wharf to Kuranui Bay 1hr approx, more depending on how many detours past historic buildings are taken



Distance: Shortland Wharf to Kuranui Bay along the Coastal Pathway 3.5km approx.



Paku Hill Summit Walk, Tairua

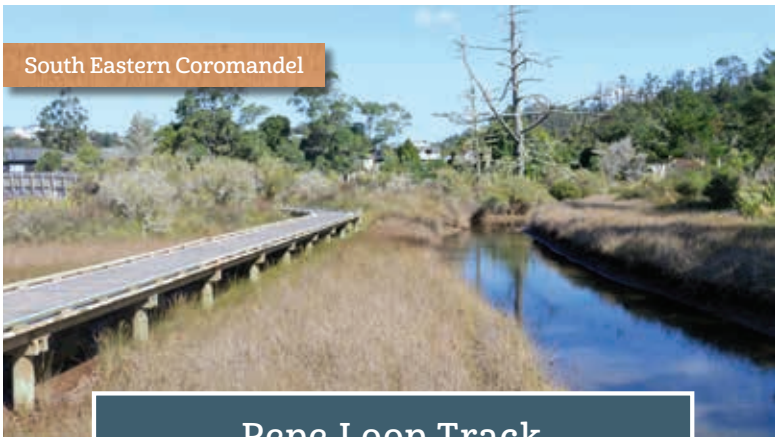
Paku is the twin-peaked mountain at the head of Tairua Harbour where the estuary flows to the sea. The summit walk is relatively short (30-45 minutes return) and the last 15 metres is steep, but the reward is a spectacular 360-degree view of Pauanui, Tairua and the outer islands including Shoe and Slipper Islands. There are also some great views of the coast looking north.

The track is accessed from the car park at the end of Paku Dr, Tairua, where signposts mark the start of the track. Displays are placed at the summit identifying parts of the panorama and rich history of the area.

Directions: From Tairua town centre follow Manaia Rd, turn right into Paku Dr, and then right into Tirinui Cres, where the start of the track is signposted.

There is also car parking halfway up the hill at the Memorial Reserve Car Park on Paku Dr.

Duration: 45mins return approx **Distance:** 640m return



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 and its wildlife and 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: 45min **Distance:** 3km





Pauanui-Tairua Trail, Pauanui

The track starts by Ian Hoppers Rock at Waterways Parade, within the Pauanui Waterways, and first heads across a boardwalk over Tangitarori Stream towards grassy reserve but soon joins with a gravel trail and then winds its way into the bush and follows alongside the Tairua River. After crossing Duck Creek, the track looks west towards the Pinnacles as it makes its way towards Hikuai. This trail has been built by Pauanui community volunteers, who have a vision for the completed track to link Pauanui to Tairua. Suitable for walkers and cyclists, the trail is well formed and largely flat, with a few small hills. At the time of publication, this track was approximately 8km long. When it reaches Hikuai, the track will be approximately 24km return to Pauanui.

pauanuitairuatrail.org.nz

Duration: 2hrs return approx



Distance: 16km return



Te Ara O Te Wairoa (Moana Anu Anu Harbour) Walkway

Te Ara O Te Wairoa Walkway takes in the beauty of the Whangamata Estuary and Harbour while providing linkages to our network of reserves. Some of this walkway remains in grass and walkers are directed by signage while other sections include formed paths and boardwalks.

You can easily access the walk from anywhere in Whangamata with the option of walking from town past the supermarket and following the fitness trail through to Hetherington Reserve, also along the estuary edge behind the town's industrial area. Look for signage through Moana Point Reserve that directs walkers to the grassed trail as you enter Whangamata (before the causeway). At Awarua Point you will find the plaque marking the place where Whangamata's first-ever shop was located.

There are concepts for proposed future stages that will create a walkway linking all of Whangamata's reserves and allows walkers and cyclists to enjoy up to 8km of tracks with various surfaces. This concept will be done in stages as and when funding becomes available.

tcdc.govt.nz/whangamatawalkway



Broken Hills Recreation Area

A range of bush walking tracks of varying distances are located within the DOC managed Broken Hills area of the old gold mining settlement of Puketui in Hikuai.

Relics of the past mining era can still be seen on the walks, and the Broken Hills Gorge also provides opportunities for a refreshing swim in the waterhole, canoeing, trout fishing, fossicking, rafting, bird watching, photography, picnicking and camping.

The easy walking tracks range from five minutes to 10 hours and include the Golden Hills Battery, Broken Hills Battery, Puketui Walk, Water Race Tunnel Track, and Collins Dr Loop.

For more information you can visit the parks and recreation page on the DOC website doc.govt.nz and search under Coromandel Forest Park.

Access is off State Highway 25 at Hikuai onto Morrison's Rd (50m north of the Pauanui turn off) then onto Puketui Valley Rd. It is then 6km to the car park at the end of Puketui Valley Rd.

Dogs are not permitted on these walking tracks.



Whangamata Ridges Mountain Bike Park

The Whangamata Ridges Mountain Bike Park trailhead is located in forest company land, 4km north of Whangamata off Ridge Rd and features some amazing single-track, with purpose-built berms, jumps and rollers. The Grade 1-5 trails, set in a mixture of native bush, pine forest and some recently cleared forest terrain. Riders will experience fun single-track, exciting downhill and climbs that reward the effort with spectacular views of ocean and forest. In addition to the introduction of eight brand new trails, there is a newly developed family-friendly area complete with industrial size sun-shades, picnic tables and a number of fun kiddie trails. This area can be accessed by vehicle between 7am to 7pm on weekends and public holidays.

Stop into the local cycle shop, Pedal and Paddle at 700 Port Rd Whangamata (07 865 8096), to find out the best way to navigate around the park and see which tracks are open as this changes due to forestry work. You can also visit the Whangamata Ridges Mountain Bike Park Facebook page.

Keep Kauri Standing



What is Kauri Dieback?

Kauri dieback is a disease caused by the microscopic pathogen *Phytophthora agathidicida* (PA). There is currently no known cure for PA, which kills most if not all of the kauri it infects. It can be spread by just a pinhead of soil, and is most commonly transferred by people on their footwear and equipment.

But everyone can play their part to stop the disease from spreading by practising good hygiene when entering or leaving kauri forests, and sticking to marked tracks.

1. SCRUB



2. SPRAY



3. STAY



What can I do to stop it spreading?

When you are around kauri:

- Make sure foot wear and equipment are scrubbed clean to remove all visible soil and plant material before AND after visiting a kauri forest.
- Please use cleaning stations where provided, and follow the hygiene steps. This includes first scrubbing off all visible soil and then spraying with disinfectant.
- Stay on the track and off kauri roots.
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times.

By following these steps we can all help protect kauri and ensure they remain standing into the future.

www.kauridieback.co.nz

Consultation will soon start across the Coromandel about new earthworks rules to protect kauri in urban zones of our Proposed District Plan.

The new earthworks rules, proposed by the Environment Court, are designed to prevent the spread of kauri dieback and mean that a resource consent will be required for any earthworks carried out within a 'kauri hygiene zone'. Earthworks within these zones will become a restricted discretionary activity, requiring

a Kauri Dieback Disease Risk Management Plan to be prepared, approved and implemented. Consultation is expected start in October 2019, following approval of the process from the Environment Court. [See \[tcdc.govt.nz/s293kauridieback\]\(http://tcdc.govt.nz/s293kauridieback\) for updates and more information.](http://See.tcdc.govt.nz/s293kauridieback)

Blazing A TRAIL

Meet the volunteers behind two new exciting trail projects – cutting a track for us all to enjoy.

Whitianga Eastern Harbour Track

When a new tramping track opens alongside the eastern shore of Whitianga Harbour, it will be with a great sense of pride for Bob Nicholls and the team of volunteers who have spent hundreds of hours over the past several years establishing the walk.

In 2014, Ferry Landing resident Bob inspired the vision for what is planned to be an approximate 20km long track from Ferry Landing, up the eastern side of the harbour.

“I’ve known this area for most of my life and love the great outdoors, so I saw this as a logical step to take to try and establish a tramping track along the harbour,” Bob says. “It’s a good thing to have for Mercury Bay and it has been an exciting project to get involved with.”

The first stage is expected to open in early 2020 and will branch off the Maramaratotara Track, near the summit and viewing platform, wind along the harbour and into the newly charted territory of the Whitianga Eastern Harbour Track.

It will then lead 4km south to ‘Quarry Point’, a former source of stone for the development of Whitianga, where it’s a 10-minute descent to a shelly beach.

The track has been developed to ‘DOC tramping track’ standards as a grade 2.7 walk and it’s estimated to take two hours, one-way, to Quarry Point Beach with some moderate climbs, boggy wet areas and plenty of opportunities to take in spectacular sea views.

With the starting point situated nice and close to Whitianga, the track is expected to become a popular tramp, but its builders emphasise, it’s no walk in the park.

“This is a serious tramp, as such it’s not suitable for bikes and stout footwear is needed as the ground can be boggy,” Bob says.

He estimates it has taken more than 620 hours of manpower, so far, to cut through the dense bush to clear the track – time that’s been given by a team of five volunteers under the banner of the Coromandel Coastal Walkways Association.

“People have been chomping at the bit to get in and walk the track and are asking when it will be open. But we have had to be patient,” Bob says.

It’s not just sweat and physical labour that has gone into creating the track, but plenty of desk work to seek funding, approvals and landowner sanctions.



Whitianga Eastern Harbour Track volunteers - Peter Smale and Murray Strahan.

For Cooks Beach resident Dave Campbell, it was an ideal project after retiring from work as an accountant in Wellington and moving to his holiday home full time.

“I’ve just loved being out in the bush working on the track. It’s a fabulous area. The whole place is just magical,” Dave says.

Some days, the team kayak less than 20 minutes up the harbour from Ferry Landing for their day’s work cutting or maintaining the track.

Camaraderie among the volunteers has been a highlight. “We have a good time and have some jokes. It’s good physical work. You need something like that when you are retired,” Dave says.

When *Our Coromandel* went to print in October 2019 the Coromandel Coastal Walkways Association was advancing the second stage of the track through to Whenuakite farm. The track will ultimately end at the Te Kauanga Rd Bridge over the Whenuakite River, however the final link route is yet to be determined and it’s likely that sections of boardwalk will be needed.

There are possible future linkages to more trails near Coroglen, Rangihau Road and track, and onwards to Thames for the ultimate ‘coast to coast’ walk, via the Pinnacles Track and the Kauaeranga Valley.

Trailing ahead

A dream map of all existing and prospective trails across the Coromandel charts an exciting future for recreational tourism in our district.

Ambitious walking and trail riding tracks are opening up new ways for people to experience our stunning coastal landscape, by foot or bike. In many cases, trails are being built by teams of enthusiastic volunteers, with the support of iwi and the DOC, in the same vein as the two trails explored in this feature.

With the number of trail-building projects

on rise, our Council held a Tracks and Trails Forum to connect the various working groups and to foster a united approach to supporting track and trail development across the district.

Our Council’s economic development and communications group manager Laurna White says: “The forum launched a new conversation about the rich opportunities for tracks and trails in the Coromandel and the social and economic benefits to our communities,” Laurna says.

Destination Coromandel general manager Hadley Dryden says more walking and cycling trails will be a strong tourism

drawcard for the Coromandel and are an example of sustainable tourism development that enhances our communities – given the tracks are well used and enjoyed by locals too.

Developing walking and biking paths on our Council’s own reserves, and helping community groups and businesspeople develop tracks of their own, is a major strand of our economic development programme. We’d like to hear from you if you’ve got plans to develop a walking or cycling track in your area of the district. Email: communications@tcddc.govt.nz

Pauanui Tairua Trail — *The people's trail*

Thousands of voluntary hours have been poured into the Pauanui Tairua Trail, a stunning and varied track winding in and out of bush alongside the Tairua River, which will ultimately link the two towns on either side of the river.

The trail is being built by the Hikuai District Trust, a voluntary organisation that has a vision to join the two communities with safe access for walkers and cyclists.

More than 6.5km of trail has been built since work began in 2012 at the western side of the Pauanui Waterways, consisting of boardwalk over mangrove wetlands and the Tangiteroria Stream, riverside sections and a well-formed, undulating gravel and bush trail that offers fantastic coastal scenery.

In 2019, the Trust achieved a milestone when it built a pedestrian and cycle bridge over Awa Whio Whio (Duck Creek), opposite the Lakes Resort Golf Course, opening the way for stage three out to Prescotts Garage at Hikuai.

Resource consent for stage three was granted in May 2018 and when *Our Coromandel* went to print, the track had extended a further 2km, as far as the Tairua River, towards Hikuai.

At the same time, a team domiciled in Tairua had started planning work on the first stage of the northern river route from Tairua towards Hikuai, which will link up with the public accessway from the Tairua Primary School into Tairua.

The finished trail will offer a 20km journey and open up users to the range of bush walking tracks within the DOC-managed Broken Hills area of the old gold mining settlement of Puketui in Hikuai.

Grants have been received from the Tairua-Pauanui Community Board and Rayonier Matariki Forests, however the majority of the funding to date has come from personal donations, sales of firewood and wooden bench seats along the trail and from local businesses that have provided material or services.

Project manager Andy Bolton says the dedicated team of nine core Pauanui volunteers work rain or shine, with three or four on site most days. They receive support in machinery from local earthmoving company Storms Contracting.

The trail has buy-in from the Hikuai community and Ngāti Maru, members of which have been involved in consultation of the positioning and timing of the route as the trail moves forward.

Andy, an engineer retired from an international career in underwater gas and oil installations, got involved in the trail when he was asked to help the construction of the new bridge over Tangiteroria Stream and later joined the Trail Committee.

“It takes up a huge part of my time and I really enjoy it, but you have

to keep resilient and motivated when you face obstacles with any big project like this,” Andy says.

Community support is rewarding. “So often when we are out working on the trail, people tell us how wonderful they think it is,” Andy says. “It’s just great to hear.”

Despite their huge dedication, Andy and his team are humble about their efforts. “It’s the people’s trail and it’s for everybody to enjoy. We are just the facilitators, if you like,” Andy says.

“This trail is a great asset to the Pauanui and Tairua communities, who will reap the value of this hard work in years to come.”

Next, Andy is keen to explore what further trail-building projects could be, linking the trail up through the Puketui Valley and into the Kaeranga Valley, or through to Neavesville.

pauanuitairuatrail.org.nz



Andy Bolton works on the Pauanui Tairua Trail.

THAMES *A town of gold needing the Midas touch*



I'm a huge fan of the Thames-Coromandel District and after working here for the last three-and-a-half years, I've got a pretty good grasp of our opportunities and challenges.

TCDC Chief Executive Rob Williams on Pollen St, Thames.

I do a lot of cycling – it not only keeps me pretty fit, but it also gives me a chance to witness our community in action from a different perspective. Whether I ride past one of our many primary schools, the Thames High School or Rhodes Park on a Saturday or Sunday morning to see all of the youngsters enjoying their sporting activities, there is one overriding thought that stays with me.

That is, what can we do to create an environment that nurtures and inspires those youngsters, and for the ones that leave for work, study or to adventure around the world, to have a desire to one day to return to a vibrant Coromandel and to one that they can feel proud to have grown up in?

We've so many young people here with so much energy and when we see those little legs chasing across the football pitch or the netball court, this feels like the kind of place where you know that life is good and you can't help but feel our potential.

Thames is the town often referred to as the 'gateway' to the Coromandel. One of the key things I see with that 'gateway' however, is that it's a bit rusty and needs a good oil. More often than not, it feels only slightly ajar and doesn't give our visitors the best reasons to stop before passing through.

So what's deterring people from having the inclination to spend time (and a bit of money) in Thames in the first place, and more importantly, what is holding people back from making Thames their permanent home, the place to get a job or run a business while feeling like "you're forever on holiday?"

Thames is a town with a fabulously interesting history and one of the best sea views in the country from the top of the nearest hill. It's quaint and quirky – but being old does not ensure quality and one person's quirky ... well enough said. In the time I've been walking these streets, I've had people tell me that staying or living in Thames has the feel like you're back with your grandparents – all net curtains and crocheted doilies. And while for some that may be a comforting thing – on the whole, it's not a product we're finding the majority are prepared to invest in.

From a built environment perspective, Thames has a few 'character' suburbs such as Grahamstown and Shortland, which have a different urban feel about them. So while we do see the pockets of vibrancy – there should be, and *could* be, so much more.

There's the bigger issue we're facing in that there's not enough housing stock in Thames for anyone even considering a move. We're no different in our district than the rest of New Zealand in that housing is a major issue. We really do need to find less costly and more

pragmatic ways of opening up land for new subdivision. I feel for anyone trying to convert a housing opportunity into actual buildings, because the bureaucracy is simply staggering.

We are working really hard within Thames and across the rest of our District to make progress in changing this dynamic. One of our major risks is that if the economy does take a bit of a dive, it's Thames that will play a huge part in holding our district together. Why? Thames is our key service town, it has proximity to commutable jobs in Hamilton, Auckland and Tauranga. While we rely heavily on our eastern seaboard towns primarily for accommodation and the visitor industry, (thank you Whitianga, Whangamata, Tairua, Pauanui, Hahei and all our other coastal villages), tourism and accommodation are the first sectors to slow down when there's an economic downturn, particularly from the higher spending international visitor sector.

From a community resilience perspective, we need to reduce that reliance on being commutable. It's not the best dynamic to have for a town, or a district. Thames needs to have jobs, businesses, accommodation and quality product and services on our retail streets. But for that to happen, we need to increase the commercial opportunity, find better ways to allow for innovation and investment and introduce an understanding of what great hospitality and service really look like.

REVITALISATION BY STEALTH

So what is our Council doing to find solutions to all of this?

In the past year we've started revitalisation by stealth in Thames – taking bite-sized action. One tactic has been replacing a couple of car

parks here and there outside local cafes with pop-up alfresco dining platforms, to promote more shared public space. It's a well-known and tested practice, which communities generally run with, as it discreetly changes the landscape, gets discussion going and inspiration flowing. One of the biggest hurdles to re-invigorating spaces in provincial New Zealand can be the 'who moved my cheese effect' where noisy minorities reduce the majority's desire to take a chance, be brave and give change a go.

We've been working with individual property owners around Thames to restore and refurbish the exteriors of their buildings. It's surprising how a little TLC goes a long way in creating interest and stimulating others to take some action themselves. We're encouraging pop-up performances around the town, with musicians, artists and small street theatre acts on the main street at the same time as enticing higher profile events. The Thames Racecourse hosted Fat Freddy's Drop in January 2019, who are back there again in December 2019, its their summer tour. We've hosted Balloons over Thames in April 2019 and we're working with the Thames Jockey Club to enable more events (5000 people plus), to be held at this site over the next five years. *(See our events showcase on pages 92-93)*

Addressing the shortage of housing stock is a whole different conundrum and something we're working through in our Productivity Plan tcdc.govt.nz/productivityplan, with one of the work streams focused on finding ways to improve land use. This has meant assessing what we can do to improve our consenting and regulatory processes, building stronger links

with those Government agencies that often provide the greatest barriers to development while working on ways to provide better access to buildable land. It's not a short-term fix – but to get something to happen, we have to make it happen and we have to keep bashing away until it does.

And what we're actually seeing happen already is encouraging with some good community spirit, collaboration and partnerships. We're privileged and grateful to have the buy-in and support from the Thames Business Association, the local Community Board and other agencies like NZTA, Waikato Regional Council and DOC.

We're building more supportive relationships with iwi and we're trying different ways to bring businesses and communities together. If you agree with my thinking, or not, I'd like to hear from you, particularly if you have a desire to live, work, play and invest in this District's future. I have a team of very energetic and keen professionals to help bring your expertise and capital to town. And it may be a big ask, but we will give it the best shot we can.

Let's turn that squeaky old gate into a bespoke designer front door with a big welcome mat to greet you. ●



Rob Williams is the Chief Executive of Thames-Coromandel District Council. You can get in touch with him at rob.williams@tcdc.govt.nz

A view of Thames looking out to the
Firth of Thames.





GBD

THE COROMANDEL ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

year ended June 2019

Growth indicators (Change over year to June 2019)

TCDC	NZ	Thames-Coromandel's rank against other territorial authorities
92.5%	7.9%	Non-residential consents
3.5%	1.5%	Traffic flow
6.8%	1.3%	Guest nights
1.3%	-0.9%	House sales
2.1%	2.5%	Gross domestic product
-11.1%	5.8%	Residential consents
-7.4%	0.3%	Commercial vehicle registrations
-10.9%	-8.6%	Car registrations
1.4%	1.4%	House prices

WHAT WE'RE SEEING

The Coromandel economy expanded 2.1 per cent over the 12 months to June 2019, off the back of sustained population growth, confident households, and heightened tourism activity.

The outlook remains positive, with traffic volumes rising 3.5 per cent over the period, the 10th equal fastest growing area for traffic volumes in New Zealand. Increased traffic flows are a leading indicator of economic output, with more activity on the roads indicating more economic activity throughout the Coromandel.

More activity is being driven by a growing population, with health enrolments (our proxy for local population growth) increasing 1.8 per cent, at the same pace as the national average. More people in the area, combined with continued household confidence, has resulted in 9.1 per cent annual growth in consumer spending according to data from Marketview.

A strong labour market means that the growing population is still able to find jobs, with unemployment remaining a full percentage point below the national average. Although the unemployment rate in the area has increased marginally over recent quarters, Jobseeker Support recipients in our district are growing at a slower pace than the national average, up 5.4 per cent compared with 9.6 per cent nationally as the government makes it easier to access income support.

Tourism activity continues to add to our economy. Guest nights in the area rose 6.8 per cent over the 12 months to June 2019, ahead of the 1.3 per cent growth nationally. Guest nights only reflect commercial accommodation, so it underrepresents trends in tourist accommodation in our district, due to the likely larger size of the private accommodation market. Visitors are also increasing their spending, with the 10.9 per cent increase in tourist spending driven by strong growth in spending by domestic travellers.

Find out more about our economy www.tcdc.govt.nz/business

GOT A BUSINESS VENTURE, THINKING ABOUT A START-UP?

We can help with contacts, networks, support and putting you in touch with potential investors.

Contact our council's economic development team 07 868 0200 or email communications@tcdc.govt.nz



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

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

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GRAHAMSTOWN
BAR &
DINER

DOORS OPEN FOR marine industry careers

Smart, local collaboration has answered a cry from Coromandel Town marine farmers for workers to support their thriving industry.

The Coromandel Seafood Farming Course was piloted during 2019 and organisers say after the positive response, it's likely to be the first of many.

The course aims to marry up the town's job seekers with labour shortages on the mussel farms.

Local Coromandel Town training and social services centre Te Ahi Kaa instigated the training – recognising the shortcomings when mussel farmers look elsewhere for workers, when there is resource on their doorstep.

It was the managing partner of Gold Ridge Marine Farm David Blyth, together with Te Ahi Kaa executive director Erica Burke, who had the foresight to create the course.

They sought out Kopu-based tertiary education organisation Valley Education and Training Enterprises Ltd (VETEL) to put together a course, which is all about upskilling and general workplace training.

Te Ahi Kaa director Diane Tuari says it's a pre-employment course, rather than a tertiary qualification. "Our goal is to train the students for employment," Diane says. "We're hopeful that for many, this leads to careers in the seafood industry."

Twelve students were on the 15-week course pilot, receiving practical industry experience on the mussel barges and yards, as well as time in the classroom with tutors focusing on work and life skills such as budgeting, health and safety, employability skills, first aid and employment law.

Te Ahi Kaa's team has been heartened by the industry's support.

Gold Ridge Marine Farm was the first employer on the pilot, providing training in knot tying, knife handling, marine terminology, mussel seeding, harvesting and spat farm maintenance.



The first class to complete the pilot project in seafood farming. From left to right: Tyler Hartley, Todd Hemara, Hurihia Whare, Howard Thaugland, Horua Potae, Jodie May Edwards.

Back left to right: Keilan Hand, Ben Johnson, Alexander Hunter, Waipounamu Huia, Lisa Hale (Tutor), Fay Tutahi (Tutor), Sasha Keremeneta, Safron Hamon, Te Aokapurangi Paora.



Todd Hemara works in the yard at Gold Ridge Marine Farm.

**"WE ARE FOCUSING
ON BUILDING
CONFIDENCE TO
GET INTO WORK."**



Te Ahi Kaa presented the concept of growing a local work base to the Coromandel Marine Farmers Association (CoroMFA), and other marine farmers have since come on board to provide workplace experience on future courses.

"It has been wonderful to find employers willing to work with us," Diane says.

She describes the course as a three-way partnership between Te Ahi Kaa, Valley Education and the aquamarine industry. "It's very much a joint vision and a positive initiative, and a great opportunity for the Coromandel," Diane says.

Student Ben Johnson says he enjoys the course, which has been a practical learning curve. "Going out on the mussel barge or working in the yard increased my knowledge and skills base in the industry. All the people I have met at Gold Ridge have been informative, nice, supportive and helpful to me," Ben says.

Valley Education's organisation manager Mark Jennings says the pilot course was well received and two more are planned for 2020.

The free course targets 18-50 year-olds who receive a certificate on completion. The aim is to have as many of the students in employment by the end of the course as possible.

"We are focusing on building confidence to get into work," Mark says. "The start of a course is the start of a job, because the students have to show us reliability and stamina and the tutors become their references."

The collaboration behind the course demonstrates a new direction for workplace education, where local communities, iwi and industry will have more input in industry training.

"Workplace training will be tailored for the needs of local business and local people," Mark says.

"Many people don't want to travel to cities for training. It's beneficial for them to be educated in their own communities," Mark says.

Valley Education registered with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority in 1995 and is a category two tertiary education organisation that supports foundation learning. Courses include manufacturing and technology, agriculture, mechanical engineering, welding, retail and life skills. New courses in bicycle mechanics and track and trail building are planned for 2020.

The team is looking to offer hospitality training courses in Coromandel Town, on the back of the successful seafood farming programme.

valleyeducation.co.nz • teahikaass1@gmail.com

On patrol in the Coromandel

Surf Life Saving New Zealand

The 3 R's of rip safety

Relax and float
Raise your hand
Ride the rip

Onemana Surf Life Saving Club lifeguard Phoebe Havill's top tip she wished all beachgoers knew is to learn how to recognise a rip and what to do if you get caught in one.

People caught in strong rip currents make up a massive 80 per cent of Surf Life Saving NZ rescues.

"Rips catch people unaware, because at first rips can look like a calm spot among the waves," Phoebe says.

People often think they're strong enough to swim out of a rip, but not even an Olympic swimmer can beat a rip. Olympic swimmers can reach a whopping 8.07 kilometres an hour, but that's not fast enough to beat a rip's speed – at 8.78 kilometres an hour – and many rips flow much faster than that.

Phoebe's first message is not to underestimate the ocean: Take a good look around at your surroundings before you enter the water as rips are not always in the same place on the beach, and they are not always sucking water out to sea. On some occasions, you won't see any signs of a rip at all, but it doesn't mean the beach is safe, so always be alert.

Signs of a rip are a calm gap between the waves, an area of deeper darker water and

ripple patterns in the sand under the water. Remember, rips are more likely to form near sand bars and structures in the water, such as wharfs and piers.

If you find yourself in a rip, Phoebe recommends checking to see if you can stand up in the water and wade back to shore.

If you can't, it's important to remember the **3 R's of rip safety: Relax and float, Raise your hand, Ride the rip.**

- **Relax and float** means staying calm and not using your energy to try to fight against the current. Instead, relax and use your energy to stay afloat until help comes.
- Let people on shore know you need help by **raising your hand.**
- Then, **ride the rip** until the rip current dies out. Stay floating until the current weakens. Many rips will circulate and bring you back to shallower water closer to the shore. When the rip current has stopped, only then should you swim to the nearest point on land if you are sure you can.

"We have quite a strong rip at Onemana, and often

people get a bit out of their depth and get sucked into the rip. I've done quite a few rescues for people caught in rips," Phoebe says.



Meet senior lifeguard Phoebe Havill

Across the Coromandel beaches each summer, about 300 lifeguards clock up approximately 19,000 patrol hours, to keep beachgoers safe.

During winter, these volunteer guards work hard to continue their training and development, and call-out squads are available to emergency services for coastal search and rescue.



Like other beachgoers, Onemana lifeguard Phoebe Havill loves getting out on the sand and the water, but she also volunteers her own time to help make sure others enjoying the beach can head home safely.

Phoebe started learning about lifesaving through the junior Nipper programme, then worked her way through the training to become a senior lifeguard for Onemana Surf Life Saving Club, as well as helping out at Whangamata Surf Life Saving Club, and running training sessions.

"It's a really good feeling to be able to help when we're needed, and to help with public education, so people don't get into dangerous situations," Phoebe says.

"There are so many lifeguards who put in hundreds of hours of work, and so many rescues – it's an invaluable service."

There are seven surf lifesaving clubs on the eastern side of the Coromandel Peninsula – supported by teams of volunteers and donations. Anyone can become a Surf Life Saving NZ volunteer. To learn more, contact your local club or visit surflifesaving.org.nz



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Demand for fast internet keeps growing

"The future is already here – it's just not very evenly distributed." That statement by sci-fi author William Gibson applies well to the state of high-speed internet in the Coromandel.

Mobile phone use, online movie and TV streaming, social media chat groups – they're all growing in popularity and people expect fast, reliable connectivity for all the different ways we use data and the internet. Businesses, schools, emergency services, health care – they all require fast broadband and good mobile reception too.

That's why our Council is working with the Government's Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFB) initiative, the second phase of the Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI2) and the Mobile Black Spots Fund (MBSF) to build the essential broadband infrastructure for our district.

Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) is the Crown-owned company established to manage these programmes. Check their website crowninfrastructure.govt.nz for the latest updates.

In addition, mobile network providers Spark, Vodafone and 2Degrees are increasing their network capacity in response to the growing public demand.

Here's what's happening in our district:

UFB

The UFB initiative is to build fibre-optic cable networks in cities and towns across New Zealand. The communities on the Government's build schedule in the Coromandel are:

Thames – COMPLETE
Te Puru – COMPLETE
Hahei – 2nd half of 2019
Coromandel – 1st half of 2020
Kuaotunu – 1st half of 2020
Matatoki – 1st half of 2020
Tapu – 1st half of 2020
Waiomu – 1st half of 2020
Whangapoua – 1st half of 2020
Matarangi – 2nd half of 2020
Whitianga – 2nd half of 2020
Ferry Landing/Cooks Beach – 1st half 2021
Whangamata – 2nd half of 2021
Tairua-Pauanui – 1st half of 2022

Ngarimu and Thornton bays on the Thames Coast will also join the build schedule thank to a partnership our Council reached in September 2019 with CIP and Chorus. We anticipate the build can start in these two communities at the end of July 2020 and be completed by the end of the year.

RBI + Mobile Black Spots Fund

In some communities, it is not feasible to install fibre as the density of properties means that fibre infrastructure is not the best option. Phase two of the Rural Broadband Initiative is designed to bring faster broadband to these more rural areas that are not covered by UFB through new wireless coverage, delivered by a brand new rural mobile network built by the Rural Connectivity Group and a number of Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISPs).

The Mobile Black Spots Fund is ensuring mobile network coverage in tourism areas and sections of the State Highway network, including parts of the Kopu-Hikua Road (SH25A), Port Charles and the Coromandel Coastal Walkway. Between these two initiatives, much of the Coromandel where people live and play will have improved rural broadband and mobile coverage.

To carry out this work, CIP has partnered with the Rural Connectivity Group (RCG – a joint venture between Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees) and WISPs, including Lightwire, based in the Waikato.

More information on broadband in the Coromandel: tcdc.govt.nz/broadband



Where hot metal meets cool hi-TECH

With 150 years under its belt, Thames company A&G Price is one of New Zealand's longest-established engineering works. But what actually goes on inside the firm's big sheds on Beach Road?



Molten metal being poured into a mold.

Walking through the workshops of A&G Price in Thames is to travel through time from the industrial revolution to the space-age. Traditional craftsmanship meets computer technology to fashion metal components for any use to exact specifications.

Molten metal is poured from giant ladles into molds to make anything from train bogies and crusher jaws for the quarrying industry, to parts for the New Zealand and Australian navies' ANZAC class frigates.

The molds for these components are designed and made in-house using state-of-the-art computer modelling technology. The designers and engineers can call on the extensive archive of technical drawings and templates dating back to the early days of the company. When A&G Price was commissioned to refurbish a 1928 locomotive

in Rotorua, not only had they made the original, they had most of the engineering drawings from 1928 on file.

Once a component – even ones eight or 12 metres high or wide – has been cast, it can be wheeled into another huge shed to be precisely machined by computer-driven lathes and drills for use in any number of industries in New Zealand and around the world.

Not long after celebrating its 150th anniversary, *Our Coromandel* was given a guided tour of A&G Price by Managing Director Peter Yates and Chief Financial Officer Ian Findlay.

"We don't have a product as such," Peter says. "We have capability and competence. We are competitive in areas that require a high degree of quality and reliability.

"At least 40 per cent of our work goes



A train locomotive rolls out of A&G Price.

overseas. We are competitive in an international market, very much so," Peter says. "We're able to achieve that because we've built a lot of knowledge and experience over 150 years. Our biggest strength is our people," he says. "A lot of them have exceptional technical skills that enable us to achieve that level of quality."

A&G Price has deep roots in Thames. Some



Left: With 150 years of history, A&G Price is a treasure trove of engineering artefacts.



the UK Memorial at Pukeahu National War Memorial in Wellington that was unveiled in July 2017.

They also made the striking exterior screen on the new Supreme Court building in Wellington, which was completed in 2010. It's made of extruded, recycled bronze and is an abstract representation of windblown pohutukawa and rata trees, which in Māori culture signify the protective wisdom of community elders.

The range of A&G Price's work illustrates that the company can make or repair anything in metal a customer desires.

Not only can they make new pieces for any industry you could name, they can take old, worn-out parts and make them as-new "much quicker and more cheaply than a new part," Peter says. "Our fixes work."

It's this old fashioned focus on being reliable and serving the customer that Ian and Peter say will remain core to the company's values.

And with a new owner "with a fresh approach who's very committed to the Thames community," as Peter says, the future looks secure for this company and for the jobs and the salaries it brings to the Coromandel. In fact, the company was looking to bring on new apprentices to learn the ancient ways and modern techniques of engineering precision machinery.

Chris Reeve, who had already owned the land and buildings for about 20 years, saw the opportunity that still existed in the company when it went into receivership for a few months in 2017.

At a lunch party for staff in December 2018 to celebrate A&G Price's 150th anniversary, Chris outlined his approach: "Run it like you own it. You are our leaders, every one of you. I want you to be every bit as proud of A&G Price as I am. You are my sort of people." ●

families have worked for the company for generations.

The company got its start in Auckland in 1868 when English brothers Alfred and George Price, both of them engineers, saw the need for a reliable machine that could speed the laborious process of producing fibre from the flax plant. The fibre was made into rope which was in great demand in Europe.

In the spring of 1871 the brothers set up an engineering workshop and foundry in Thames to serve the booming gold fields, making stamper batteries, pumps, steam engines and boilers. The firm then branched into the timber industry, producing Pelton wheels for water turbines and timber jacks that were used to shift huge kauri logs.

Goldminers then ordered steam locomotives that were so good the government ordered 10 larger locomotives for the country's growing railway network. Locomotive-making became a mainstay, with A&G Price making

more than 200 steam and diesel locomotives over the decades. The company is still involved in the railway industry, producing components for Australian commuter trains. When we visited, they were busy making an undercarriage "almost all from new" for a 1904 tram that is being refurbished for service in Wellington.

What are Peter and Ian most proud of? There are several jobs they can point to with satisfaction, such as supplying keels for America's Cup racing syndicates for more than two decades – "A challenging manufacture in terms of the shape and selection of materials: high-tensile steel that had to be as thin as possible and as long as possible," Ian says.

"We built up that experience working in the defence industry and the ANZAC frigates," he says. A&G Price made stabiliser fins, anchor capstans, deck winches, operations room flooring and radar cooling control units for the frigates.

They're still involved with after-sales service on those ships and when we toured the plant there were replacement parts being made for the frigates.

It's not just heavy industrial pieces A&G Price can manufacture. They made the intricately shaped bronze leaf outlines for



A&G Price's biggest strength is its people, says Managing Director Peter Yates.



Coromandel's PROVINCIAL GROWTH FUND BOOST



In December 2018, Regional Economic Development Minister Shane Jones announced \$924,000 from the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) for the business cases for three projects in Thames-Coromandel. These projects have the potential to provide a significant boost to our aquaculture and marine-based business industries.

The three Coromandel-based projects, are:

- **The Kopu Marine Servicing and Business Precinct** — led by our Council.
- **Expansion of the Sugarloaf/Te Kouma Wharf** — a joint application led by the Coromandel Marine Farmers Association (CoroMFA) for commercial aquaculture and supported by our Council.
- **The Coromandel Gateway Project** — led by private investment company Pita St Developments in Coromandel Town and supported by our Council.

See the map adjacent for more information on each project.

“All these project fulfil a different need or service and are complementary in nature,” says Thames-Coromandel District Mayor Sandra Goudie.

“They provide opportunities at improving our services, our businesses and building up our population,” Mayor Sandra says. “We’re extremely pleased that the government has invested in all three business cases and we look forward to the next decision, on whether we are successful in the next phase, which has seen

further applications to the Provincial Growth Fund for the build phase of all three projects.”

An announcement on this is due before the end of 2019.

An expansion of the **Sugarloaf Wharf** to accommodate growing aquaculture demand, will be an economic game-changer for our district. More than 90 per cent of mussels produced in the North Island are landed at Sugarloaf, but current wharf infrastructure is inadequate and constrains the ability of the sector to grow.

Production is expected to double over the next 10-15 years, creating 550 new high-value jobs with millions of dollars of additional value to the local economy. This investment in infrastructure will help the industry get ‘match-fit’ for those emerging opportunities.

The **Coromandel Gateway** project is centred in the Coromandel Harbour, close to Coromandel Town. This area currently has no all-tide marine facilities and a severe shortage of boat ramps, yet there is growing demand for all these facilities. The Gateway project is anticipated to incorporate a marina with boat stack storage, limited berths for fishing charter boats, a marine services area and facilities for charter vessels as well as a ferry landing. Once underway, the project is estimated to create up to 50 new jobs, including permanent marine and charter crew and management roles as well as jobs in related industries.

The **Kopu Marine Servicing and Business Precinct** project is looking to enhance the current marine facilities and supporting services for large locally-based boats and barges.

There is strong local support for improvements in this space and evidence a local marina is needed, stretching back to the early 2000s. ●



3

Coromandel Marine Gateway Project

The Coromandel Marine Gateway project involves construction of a marine facility that would include boat-stack storage on land, limited berths for fishing charter boats, a marine services area for minor maintenance, facilities for charter vessels and a potential ferry landing for an Auckland-Coromandel Town service.

The \$52 million project will be majority-funded by Pita St Development Ltd, a commercial company that is looking to develop a marine facility, with potential for a commuter ferry service between Coromandel Town and Auckland. The balance of \$25.5 million will be sought from other funding avenues, including the PGF.

- Provincial Growth Fund Grant: \$93,850 for the business case, with decision pending on PGF support to progress to consent and build.

coromarinegateway.nz

2

Expansion of the Sugarloaf Wharf, Coromandel Town

The Coromandel Marine Farmers Association (CoroMFA) is applying for an expansion of the Sugarloaf Wharf within the Coromandel Harbour to increase commercial production of aquaculture from this facility. Approximately 30 per cent of New Zealand Greenshell mussel production and 24 per cent of New Zealand's Pacific oyster production by weight is delivered by our district, with volumes expected to grow from 25,000 tonnes to 60,000 tonnes over the next 10-15 years.

- Provincial Growth Fund Grant: \$558,000 approved for the business case. Decision pending on PGF support to progress to consent and build.

tcdc.govt.nz/coroharbourproject

1

Kopu Marine Service and Business Precinct

Kopu has the potential to be a key centre to support marine servicing operations across the Hauraki Gulf, as well as being a connector for water-based tourism opportunities across the Hauraki Gulf, through to the Paeroa Wharf.

The initiative, if successful, will make a significant contribution nationally to the marine and tourism industries strategic growth plans, as well as providing opportunities for local business growth in this currently underutilised location.

- Provincial Growth Fund Grant: \$270,000 for business case, with decision pending on PGF investment to progress to consent and build.

tcdc.govt.nz/kopumarineprecinct



Kopu's marine servicing boom

In 2019, an 18-metre, 25-tonne mussel barge from Houhora in the Far North bypassed marine service centres at Whangarei and Auckland and made its way to the Waihou River, Thames to be serviced at Kopu Marine.

The vessel was one of approximately 26 large boats serviced or overhauled by brothers Andrew and Vaughan Austen and their team during 2018/2019 – a year of overwhelming demand for the marine servicing arm of the 45-year-old Kopu Engineering business.

In 2019, Kopu Marine had a wait list that extended to 15 boats including large fishing vessels and working boats, sailing and recreational boats from Auckland and the mussel barges from Coromandel Town.

“We have been turning business away because we simply haven’t had capacity at times,” Vaughan says.

The level of growth demonstrates the potential for a Marine Servicing and Business Precinct at Kopu – a \$12 million project which has been the focus of a central government Provincial Growth Fund application for our district. *(Read more about the proposed Kopu Marine Servicing and Business Precinct on pages 62-63)*

The Austen brothers made a serious tilt into the marine servicing and refit market in 2014, buying up land on the Waihou River, adjacent to their Kopu-based yard, to work on large boats and barges and, more recently, making a \$300,000 investment to build a hydraulic suspension trailer capable of hauling 100-tonne boats over the stopbank in the river and out of the water for servicing.

This was a significant new direction for Kopu Engineering, which was once heavily entrenched in the dairy industry and was the

country’s lead exporter of rotary platforms for milking in the 1990s.

Diversification into the marine industry began around 1998 when Vaughan took on a personal project to rebuild a 1937 Miller & Tunnage kauri fishing boat ‘Kodiak’ (pictured), which he still uses recreationally.

“The rebuild was planned to be relatively quick, but as you find out with boats, jobs become a lot bigger than first imagined,” Vaughan says. “We got an old haulout trailer and modified it to suit the boat. The Kopu ramp was very rough and narrow back then and it was quite a mission manoeuvring the boat around the streets of Kopu in a logging truck.”

The project was a labour of love with local cabinetmaker Brendan Moxon, and involved re-skinning the hull with two layers of timber, shaped and glued over the original kauri planks, an engine refit, a cabin extension, new masts and stabilisers and adding 2000kg of lead to the keel – most of which came out of the vessel Otago from the Pipiroa River before it was towed away and sunk.

Four-and-a-half years later, Kodiak was relaunched into the Waihou River. The only work not completed by the pair was the upholstery and curtains.

“We knew there was a good market for boat work back then, but we couldn’t afford the infrastructure needed to work on larger vessels,” Vaughan says.

The rest of the boat work has been self-taught and is testament to the skill and ingenuity of the brothers and their ability to tailor operations to suit their environment. Building the hydraulic haulage trailer to accommodate deep draft monohull vessels, barges and large catamarans is a prime example of the team rising to a design challenge.

“Well-known Coromandel aquaculture businessman Peter (Paddy) Bull showed



Brothers Andrew and Vaughan Austen with a wheelhouse made on site at Kopu Engineering.

a lot of interest when we were setting up the boatyard and was the first to book in a large, 60-tonne barge that was hauled out for servicing in 2017,” Vaughan says. Since then the team has hauled out five more vessels for Peter with work including stripping vessels of all machinery and engines, fitting a new wheel house, full blast and paint inside and out and a full re-wire.

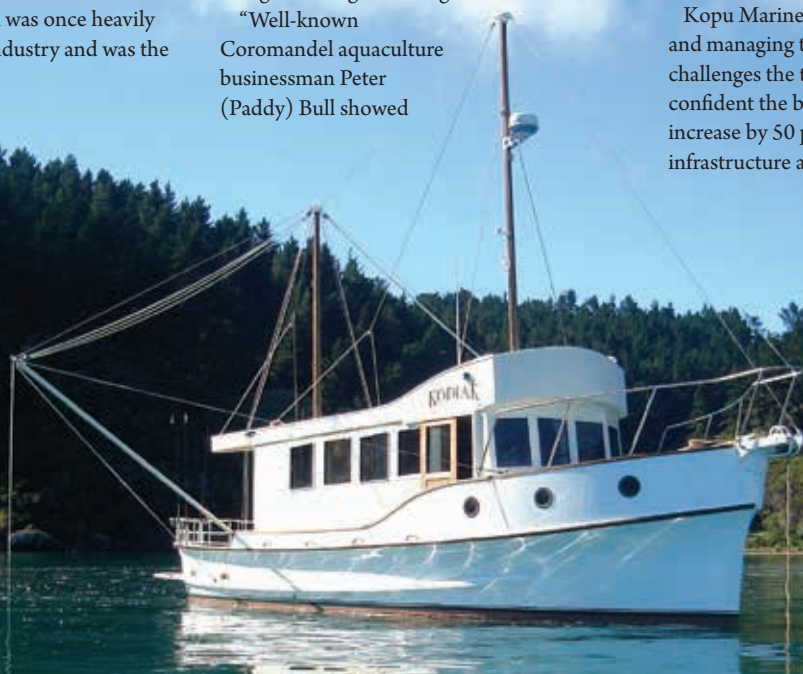
“We are getting a lot of work from the Coromandel mussel industry and it is always increasing as customers see what we are capable of doing. I can see in the future we will have to build another haulage trailer,” Vaughan says.

With a strong outlook for the future contribution of aquaculture to the Coromandel’s economy, and local mussel and oyster production conservatively estimated to increase by 50 per cent by 2025*, there’s potentially a lot more marine servicing work coming down the pipeline and heading Kopu’s way.

Demand to service private and commercial vessels from further afield has been growing through word of mouth, buoyed by the long lead times and exorbitant costs of marine servicing in other locations such as Auckland and Tauranga.

“It’s easy coming here to Kopu because the crew can drive here each day to work on the boat alongside our engineers,” Vaughan says.

Kopu Marine is still only a small boatyard and managing the growth is one of the biggest challenges the team is facing. Vaughan is confident the businesses’ capacity could increase by 50 per cent with improved infrastructure and provision for in-water



‘Kodiak’ the refurbished 1937 Miller & Tunnage kauri fishing boat.

servicing in the proposed marine precinct area. Currently, there is no in-water facility such as a floating pontoon or a mud berth on the western coast of the Coromandel at all.

"If we can get an in-water servicing facility set up it will open a huge amount of work for the area as a lot of the work we do does not require the vessel to come out of the water. It would also allow us to work on larger vessels that cannot be hauled out," Vaughan says.

Also on the wishlist at the current Kopu site is an improved slipway and a new hardstand location, which Vaughan says would help Kopu compete more sharply as a marine servicing hub.

Vaughan is upbeat about Kopu's potential to be a major player in the marine servicing industry, centrally located between Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga and with access to sea routes.

A thriving marine servicing hub in Kopu would have many associated benefits for the surrounding businesses and support trades such as electricians, mechanics and painters, not just for Thames but for the wider Thames-Coromandel and Waikato regions.

"It would be magnificent for the town to have the marine servicing precinct," Vaughan says.

TRAINING UP THE NEXT GENERATION

While Kopu Engineering has been spearheading the small marine servicing industry in Kopu, it has also been investing in developing and training up the next generation of its staff who are welders, machinists, mechanics, builders and CAD drawers.

Kopu Engineering is one of the major employers of apprentices in Thames-Coromandel and in 2019 had six young apprentices on its books.

Vaughan and Andrew Austen learned their craft as apprentices themselves, working at the A&G Price foundry in Thames in the late 1980s. (*Read the A&G Price comeback story on pages 60-61*)

"We had the chance as apprentices to have a tremendous amount of trade knowledge

passed on to us and we see it as being pretty important that transfer continues and the skills continue to be passed down," Vaughan says.

The apprenticeship scheme is the way of the future, and he says it's very difficult to find good tradesman who can join the team.

"If we don't find them, we've got to train them," Vaughan says. ●

*SOURCE: NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH (NZIER) REPORT 2017.

More information: tcdc.govt.nz/aquaculture



Rich opportunities for local apprentices

ROY ADAMS KNOWS ALL ABOUT BEING AN APPRENTICE – HE'S BEEN ONE, TWICE. HIS FIRST APPRENTICESHIP WAS IN COACH BUILDING FOLLOWED BY SHEET METAL FABRICATION AT A STAINLESS STEEL FACTORY, LEADING ON TO A REWARDING CAREER IN ENGINEERING AND BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.

Below: Roy Adams (left) with Ashton Baird (centre) and Rod Aitken from Watson Engineering, Thames. Ashton is holding his completion certificates for his Level 4 General Engineering Apprenticeship.



Now, as the Thames-Coromandel area manager for Apprentice Training NZ (ATNZ), Roy is in the business of recruiting and supporting the training of local apprentices for local businesses.

In 2019, Roy had 14 local engineering apprentices on his books, employed at most of the major engineering companies on the Hauraki Plains and Thames-Coromandel districts.

Roy meets personally with all the apprentices monthly, providing coaching and mentoring and helping with their assessments and on-the-job learning.

He also meets with the employers to make sure they are happy with the progress their apprentices are making and providing the support they need to deliver the relevant training.

Roy says the opportunities are rich for school leavers looking to explore an apprenticeship across the Coromandel and particularly in Thames.

"There are huge choices for young people to go into a trades apprenticeship such as building, automotive, plumbing, electrical or engineering," Roy says.

"The training offered here is first-class, and that's because of the businesses we are partnered with. We have some astute business people in the Coromandel, and those clever people are making the most of the opportunities to train up their staff," Roy says.

Nationally, about four per cent of school leavers go into a trade (figures as at December 2018) and Roy believes that figure would be about right for the Coromandel too.

"While many local apprentices do venture overseas after their training, a high percentage of those gravitate back to the Coromandel, purely for the lifestyle," Roy says.

A&G Price in Thames is a great example of the full circle apprentices can take, with a number of people working in the foundry (and other local engineering shops) having cut their teeth there as apprentices.

Roy says the businesses ATNZ is partnered with in Thames-Coromandel are continually replacing their apprentices. "As one finishes another comes on board," he says. "We are always trying to add to the pool of tradesman that local business can pull from."

To employers who are worried to take on an apprentice, Roy says the selection process, which ATNZ helps with, is crucial to ensure the apprentice is passionate and fits into the culture of the shop.

ATNZ helps match an apprentice with the company looking to take them on and provides support from the enrolment phase and right through the four-year apprenticeship.

"When they start the job, they arrive with a tool box and safety gear, ready-to-go," Roy says.

"It can take a while for an apprentice to get out of the school yard mentality of watching the clock and to become part of the company's culture and to own what they doing," Roy says. "When we get them to that stage, that's when they are most valuable to you. You've got them on board and you will reap the rewards of the investment."

On a typical visit to Thames, Roy can catch up with seven local apprentices. Of those on his books during 2019, he says a large number are exceeding his expectations for their achievements.

In recent years, two apprentices from Thames have gone on to compete nationally and internationally in the WorldSkills competition – one competing in fabrication and the other in mill right engineering. Both achieved national podium placements.

Although in 2019 there were no female apprentices enrolled locally through ATNZ, Roy has had interest in pre-trade courses from females considering a trade and has had some excellent female apprentices in the wider Waikato region. ●

atnz.org.nz



eggs with mussel

There's a little bit of the Coromandel in every FRENZ free range egg. FRENZ Eggs founder Rob Darby calls them, "eggs with mussel".

It has taken the farmer from Pukekohe nearly a decade to master the recipe, but with funding from government-backed Callaghan Innovation, FRENZ is now helping to deal with a by-product from the Coromandel mussel industry, alongside producing its high-quality free-range eggs.

The secret is a dried mussel shell and guts, which FRENZ is now feeding to its chickens.

Rob says it all started about 10 years ago. He has always fished on the Coromandel and used to buy mussel burley for his fishing expeditions from his friend he calls Coromandel Hank.

"When I got home, I'd feed any leftover burley to the hens; they absolutely loved it. We were still quite small back then," Rob says.

Then he came up with the idea of feeding larger quantities to his hens.

"It seemed like a good idea, but it always fell apart because of the drying process. It was hard to do it sustainably," Rob says.

Support from Callaghan's research and technical team allowed Rob to work out the best way to dry the by-product and scale up the operation.

FRENZ is now drying about one tonne of mussel mixture a day – normally mussels that are broken, too small, too large or those that have too many barnacles. This waste is otherwise buried or kicked over the side during harvesting.

"We dry the shells, the seaweed, the barnacles, squirts and resident crabs, the whole lot, and the hens just love it. When the truck comes down the driveway, all the hens

run out to the front. It's like the ice cream man arriving," Rob says.

A tonne of mussel waste produces around 300 kgs of dry feed containing natural sea salt, calcium for the eggshells and an array of nutrients from the mussels, preserved by the special drying technique.

"WE DRY THE SHELLS, THE SEAWEED, THE BARNACLES, SQUIRTS AND RESIDENT CRABS, THE WHOLE LOT, AND THE HENS JUST LOVE IT."

FRENZ introduced free range eggs to the market nearly 30 years ago and now produces about 750,000 eggs a week for the national and export markets. Along with offering a sustainable alternative to dealing with the mussel mixture, Rob says he is excited to see what the nutritional benefits are.

"Our eggs have significant more amounts of omega 3 than other eggs and are higher in protein and have less saturated fat, because of their unlimited access to green pasture, and we're confident we're going to find other benefits from the mussel feed," Rob says.

He is particularly interested in the anti-inflammatory benefits of lyprinol, which is found in high quantities in mussels.

"We figure the hens that are eating this by-

product are also getting the benefits from the mussels and it's going into their eggs as well, just as the omega and other nutrients do from pasture and worms, they graze on," Rob says.

The company is working on further testing to more accurately determine the benefits.

"It's exciting to see where this can go. It's the whole idea of making food your medicine and medicine your food," he says.

The plan is eventually to be able to include this mussel product into chicken feed in 5kg bags at the supermarket for people to use for their hens at home.

Rob says the mussels look to be providing superior health for the hens.

"We have some hens that are getting towards what would normally be the end of their egg-producing cycle when eggs may become thinner shelled or paler. However, these hens are still producing beautiful hard-shelled brown eggs," he says.

Rob hopes the innovation would pave the way for other producers and go some way to keeping our precious harbours clean and blue.

"We can't dry all the mussel waste in New Zealand, but we hope others will catch on and realise this amazing by-product can be converted into a superfood for animals," Rob says.

"With the help of Coromandel Hank and mussel farmers like Gilbert James we got the necessary support to make this possible.

"When we sell eggs to export markets, we're not so much selling eggs as selling New Zealand. This innovation – turning waste into a nutritional benefit – has got New Zealand written all over it," Rob says. ●

Turning gorse to gourmet

Coromandel company Wakame Fresh is the first recipient of a government grant to help it turn pest seaweed into a premium edible export.

Undaria is an invasive seaweed and is often referred to as the gorse of the sea as it is a scourge for the mussel industry, clogging the lines around the mussel farms.

However, the edible seaweed is a delicacy in markets in Japan, where it is known as 'wakame'.

Coromandel Town-based Wakame Fresh has received \$75,000 from the Government's \$40 million-a-year Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Fund (SFF Futures) to investigate the commercial viability of harvesting, processing and exporting the edible seaweed to Japan – where quality wakame is in short supply.

It's the first project to receive money from the Ministry for Primary Industries, through the fund.

The small Wakame Fresh business, led by owners Lucas Evans and Lance Townsend, has been harvesting Undaria for domestic consumption for seven years and began exporting to Australia in 2018. It is contributing \$114,182 into the commercial viability test, which will wrap-up at the end of the year.

Mr Evans says the project is about turning 'gorse into gourmet' and advancing opportunities for the the aquaculture industry.



Above:
Wakame Fresh
directors, Lucas Evans
and Lance Townsend.



Right: Wakame has
been used in Japanese,
Korean and Chinese cuisine
for more than a thousand years.



"This is a project that's also important for New Zealand more broadly, as we explore the feasibility of a new aquaculture sector," Mr Evans says.

Wakame Fresh hosted the Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor on the Coromandel Harbour in September 2019 to see wakame processing first-hand. The seaweed was cut from the lines around the mussel farms then blanched and cooled on the mussel barge.

Mr O'Connor says the wakame project is a perfect example of the type of innovation that SFF Futures was created for.

"This project is really exciting. It's pioneering, it's innovative and it has the potential to create new market opportunities. It also supports a Government priority to assist thriving and sustainable regions," Mr O'Connor says. "This could be the next big thing for New Zealand. We could be looking at the start of a lucrative edible seaweed export market into Japan and other Asian countries."

Fisheries Minister Stuart Nash says a number

of people, including investors and researchers, are interested in this project's trial and its results.

"If successful, it will encourage New Zealand's aquaculture sector to collaborate and invest further in this area," Mr Nash says.

"Aquaculture is a growth industry for this country and has the potential to play a more significant role in our economy. It's currently worth \$600 million a year and employs more than 3000 people. Projects like this will contribute to New Zealand's reputation in sustainable and innovative aquaculture," Mr Nash says.

Our Council has supported Wakame Fresh in developing initial contacts for the funding opportunities and by helping locate a suitable site at Coromandel Town to base its processing operations.

"A huge congratulations to Lucas and Lance and their team for their hard work and innovation to get to this stage," our Council's communications and economic development group manager Laina White says. "If we can help get businesses like Wakame Fresh invested in our district, and boost employment long-term, it's a win-win for everyone."

The SFF Futures funding will be used to conduct a feasibility study, including planning and finalising an approach to trial export of samples of wakame for market research. If this is successful, it is expected Wakame Fresh Ltd would enter a commercial contract for on-going commercial export of wakame.

A condition of the government's funding is that Wakame Fresh shares the information gained with the wider New Zealand seaweed industry, which the small business has embraced. ●



Wakame Fresh director Lucas Evans and Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor look at wakame at a mussel farm in Coromandel Town.

Aquaculture is a vital part of the Coromandel economy

Coromandel aquaculture:

- ✓ Contributes \$69.6 million annually to Thames-Coromandel District (NZIER).
- ✓ Supports 350 local families with meaningful jobs.
- ✓ Produces nutritious and delicious seafood.
- ✓ Underpins the thriving charter and recreational fishing industry.
- ✓ Supports local suppliers and businesses, using Kiwi-made inputs such as rope, floats, engineering, shipbuilders and more.
- ✓ Provides livelihoods and businesses for iwi.
- ✓ Is among the most sustainable and most efficient forms of food production on the planet.
- ✓ Helps keep Coromandel beaches clean.
- ✓ Conducts extensive environmental monitoring to ensure sustainability and food safety.
- ✓ Supports:
 - ~ Coromandel schools, charities, Coromandel Seafood Festival, Coromandel Bowling Club, Coromandel Community Hub and more.
 - ~ Mussel Reef Restoration Trust reviveourgulf.org.nz

Coromandel aquaculture facts and figures

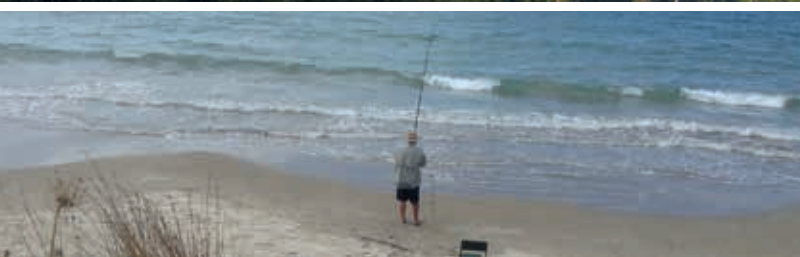
Here's a summary of the direct economic impact of aquaculture in Thames-Coromandel.

Measurement	Mussels	Oysters	Combined total
Number of marine farms	100	15	115
Number of farmers/entities	35	3	38
Consented hectares	1,480	70	1,550
Tonnages produced by Thames-Coromandel (2015-16 financial year)	24,832	466	25,298
Tonnages produced in other regions but transported to district for processing 2016 f y	4874	250	5,124
Estimated employees on farms	117	26	143
Estimated wages (\$m)	5.2	1.3	6.5
Estimated employees working in processing	201	43	244
Estimated processing wages (\$m)	5.4	1.5	6.9
Exports sales revenue, FOB (\$m)	68.3	4.7	73.0
Gross output marine farming (\$m)	55.1	2.5	57.6
Estimated GST, excise and levies (\$m)	1.14	0.04	1.18
Marine farm contribution to Thames-Coromandel GDP (\$m)	41.0	2.0	43.0
Marine farm contribution to Thames-Coromandel GDP (%)	4.3	0.2	4.5
Aquaculture processing contribution to Thames-Coromandel GDP (\$m)	24.5	2.1	26.6
Aquaculture processing contribution to Thames-Coromandel GDP (%)	2.5	0.2	2.7
All aquaculture contribution to Thames-Coromandel GDP (\$m)	65.5	4.1	69.6
All aquaculture contribution to Thames-Coromandel GDP (%)	6.8	0.4	7.2

Source: NZIER and Aquaculture New Zealand

For more information, visit the Coromandel Marine Farmers Association website: coromfa.co.nz





CARING FOR THE COROMANDEL

NZMCA members love holidaying on the Coromandel. That's why we are as committed as you are to caring for the area's stunning natural environment.

We do that by requiring all our 89,500 individual members to have their motorhomes and caravans Certified Self-Contained if they intend to freedom camp.

What's more, we have led the way in raising the CSC Standard to ensure that anyone freedom camping is playing

by the rules – and not leaving waste behind.

With three Motorhome Friendly towns in the area – Coromandel, Whitianga and Whangamata – and two NZMCA Parks, at Coromandel and Whitianga, we are here for the long haul.

Thank-you for sharing your very special part of New Zealand with us.

A QUIET CHARGE

around the Coromandel

WE WERE SOMEWHERE AROUND MANUKAU ON THE EDGE OF THE AIRPORT WHEN THE BATTERY BEGAN TO RUN LOW.

"I FEEL LIKE WE MIGHT RUN OUT OF CHARGE," I SAID TO MY DRIVING COMPANION. "CAN WE MAKE IT TO THE BRITZ DEPOT?"

The dashboard battery-level indicator on our Britz Evolve fully electric campervan was reading 11 percent and the traffic was crawling.

In the end we did make it to the depot just outside Auckland Airport, with charge to spare.

We were finishing a three-day tour of the Coromandel in the Evolve, which Britz had kindly loaned to *Our Coromandel* for a test drive.

In almost all ways, the Evolve handles like an ordinary petrol vehicle: good acceleration, braking, cornering. The essential differences are in its range per charge and in how very, very quiet it is.

The only sound you hear once you start the battery-powered motor is – nothing. This makes for a very quiet, but also smooth and powerful, drive. Just the gentle hiss of the tyres on the tarmac. In fact, the silence was a bit confusing at first: "Have I started it?"

The Evolve is the latest offering from campervan rental company Britz, part of Tourism Holdings Limited (thl).

When thl was developing the prototype of their electric campervan, they tested it in the Coromandel because of our Coromandel EV Scenic Touring Route of five fast electric vehicle (EV) chargers meant a quick top-up was always close by and because our district's hilly terrain would fully test the vehicle's battery range.

Britz has built 10 Evolve campervans and split them between two itineraries that they've created on the North and the South Island. The North Island itinerary takes in the Coromandel Peninsula, using the Coromandel EV Scenic Touring Route.

When thl offered *Our Coromandel* one of their Evolve campervans for a weekend tour, we jumped at the chance.

We started the trip at the Britz depot near Auckland Airport and were given a complete induction into how to charge the vehicle. Top tip: get to the depot as early as possible because it's a busy place and there can be a wait for the induction.

The Evolve has a range of 190km on a full charge, but Britz suggests planning for a range of 120km. The fast chargers deliver a 50KW DC charge that powers the battery up to 80 percent capacity in 90 minutes or less. That's longer than the 30 minutes it takes to charge most smaller EVs because the campervan's battery is so much larger.

We quickly got into the groove of calculating charge levels, estimated battery range and the distance to our next destination. It's a much different atmosphere than driving a petrol vehicle where you have a pretty good idea of

how far you can go on a tank and you know there'll be a petrol station somewhere down the road at the next town.

About 104km and 90 minutes later we arrived at the Thames fast charging station, with the Evolve dashboard indicating we could travel for about another 40km. To bring it up to an 80 percent charge took one hour, giving us an indicative range of 145km.

It was getting late in the afternoon, but we decided to push on up the Thames Coast Road (State Highway 25) to Coromandel Town, where we topped up the battery. There was 45 percent charge left, giving an indicative 80km range – probably enough to get to our destination for the night, Whitianga, but we



Parked up at Hahei Beach.

“THE ONLY SOUND YOU HEAR ONCE YOU START THE BATTERY-POWERED MOTOR IS – NOTHING.”

didn't want to chance running out of juice given the battery-draining hills. Another hour to charge the battery to 80 percent and we were off, arriving at Mercury Bay Holiday Park at just after dark on this late summer evening.

The next morning we had breakfast in the Evolve and then went into Whitianga to charge up and have a look around the newly upgraded town centre.

Our next destination was the gorgeous Mercury Bay Estate for lunch. The “Coromandel Board” of locally sourced smoked fish pate, mussels, venison salami and more, enjoyed with a view over the vineyard down to Cooks Beach and the ocean, went down a treat.

Back on the road, we stopped off at the pretty Purangi Estuary and then headed to our accommodation for the night – the beachside Hahei Holiday Resort. We got settled in then had a swim at the beach before walking to the Pour House, a brewpub with a great menu and a large garden to enjoy it in.

Day three was all about the return trip to Auckland to return the Evolve. As we had fully charged the engine battery overnight we didn't need to top up at the fast EV charger in Tairua



Charging.

but carried on straight to Thames. We charged there for about an hour to get the battery to 80 percent and then hit the road to the big smoke.

The Evolve is great to drive. It's not such a big unit that it's difficult to drive – it corners well and has good acceleration. And it is oh so quiet. It has all the amenities any other mid-sized campervan would have, the storage is good, and the double bed provides a comfortable sleep.

The downside is that range is limited compared to petrol and diesel vehicles. You can't cover large distances in one go. But having said that, this shorter range between charges forces you to slow down, plan ahead and enjoy the quiet ride. ●

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL DOBIE,
TCDC'S SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER.

The Coromandel EV Scenic Touring Route

This is a network of fast charging stations at key points around the Coromandel on State Highway 25 that puts most of the peninsula within range of electric vehicles.

The chargers have been installed thanks to the collaboration of our Council, ChargeNet NZ, Powerco, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority.

The full network has been operational since December 2017.

They are located at:

Thames

Library carpark, 503 Mackay St

Tairua

6 Tokoroa Rd

Whitianga

2 Lee St

Coromandel Town

44 Woollams Ave

Whangamata:

Corner of Hetherington Rd and Port Rd, by the police station.

More information:

tcdc.govt.nz/evchargers



More information:

Britz Evolve: britz.com/nz/en/campervan-hire-deals/evolve-electric-camper

Tourism Holdings Ltd: thlonline.com

Mercury Bay Holiday Park: mercurybayholidaypark.co.nz

Whitianga Town Centre Upgrade: tcdc.govt.nz/whiticentreupgrade

Mercury Bay Estate: mercurybayestate.co.nz

Hahei Holiday Resort: haheiholidays.co.nz

Pour House: thepourhouse.co.nz



Hahei Holiday Resort.

SUPER-COMMUTERS

MEET THE PEOPLE WHO DRIVE THOUSANDS OF KILOMETRES TO WORK
TO ENJOY CALLING THE COROMANDEL HOME.

The odometer on Darren Harpur's car clicks over 180,000km as he drives towards Hamilton on a Monday afternoon.

It's the same trip he's been doing for the past 12 years. As the numbers tick, he works out that in the last five years alone, he has travelled 160,000km, commuting between his home in Whangamata and his work in Hamilton, where he is Chief Executive Officer of Aduro Biopolymers.



Darren [pictured at left] is one of an increasing number of people who choose to live and play on the Coromandel Peninsula, but who travel long distances every week to maintain businesses outside the region or continue careers.

The Ministry of Transport, New Zealand National Household

Travel Survey for 2017/2018, shows each year in New Zealand people are spending nearly 1,400 million hours traveling and they travel nearly 51,000 million kilometres every year, across 6,300 million trips.

The travel survey doesn't detail the distances people are commuting to work every day, but the super-commuter phenomenon is a well-known one overseas, and it's on the rise in New Zealand, particularly as expensive housing pushes people out of metropolitan areas while they maintain their city jobs.

For Darren, the commute was a gradual transition. He had been working at Pauanui's Lakes Resort but took on the new job at Aduro.

He and wife Jayne did not want to disrupt their eight-year-old daughter's schooling and move her to Hamilton.

Jayne, who works at Whangamata's BNZ branch, has a friend with a large home in Hamilton, so Darren boards there Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights and heads home again on Thursday.

"During winter you sometimes think about quitting it, but then spring and summer roll around and we're reminded why we wanted to keep the beach lifestyle," Darren says.

Ed Randal [pictured below, right], research fellow at Otago University's NZ Centre for Sustainable Cities has spent time researching how travel affects peoples' health and wellbeing.

He says, while some people enjoy the choice of living somewhere like the Coromandel Peninsula and commuting, there are also a lot of people being forced into commuting long distances because of housing affordability.

"It's what we see happening in Auckland a lot at the moment," Ed says.

"They are two quite different scenarios, but they come with the same costs – increased travel costs and more time spent in your car where you could be doing other things," he says.

There are environmental impacts too: Increased carbon emissions, more localised pollution, impact on local air quality and the potential pollution of vehicles into waterways. There would also be ongoing funding towards maintaining roads.

"Peoples' choices always have broader impacts," he says.

Ed estimates some commuters could be spending tens of thousands of dollars travelling to work, and when that is accounted for, they may be better off living closer to their jobs, even if more expensive housing was a factor. There were also substantial health costs with continuous lengthy car travel.

"There's been a lot of studies on the impact of long commutes on people's health, both mental and physical, but I think those impacts are geared towards people with limited choice as to whether they have to travel long distances or not. If commuting is a lifestyle choice and your employer allows flexible working, it could actually be beneficial," Dr Randall says.

Darren says he keeps active by instructing a spin class in Whangamata on a Saturday morning and going to the gym in Hamilton most days.



For Sky TV online content manager Sacha Willets [pictured right], the happiness she gets from being surrounded by family was the key reason behind her decision to quit city life and hit the road three times a week.



She travels from Thames to Mt Wellington, in Auckland, on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

She previously lived in Tuakau in Auckland but when her sister Tania Griffin had baby Braxton, she wanted to be closer to home.

"The commute was long in Auckland anyway. It used to take me two hours from Tuakau to Mt Wellington. I thought to myself, I might as well just go all the way home," Sacha says.

Sacha had lived in Auckland for 10 years and has been back in Thames for nearly two years.

"I think I'm a lot happier here. The commute is mentally manageable because at the end of the day I get to be home where I want to be," Sacha says.

It takes her about 2.5 hours to get to work, provided there hasn't been any traffic incidents.

"I think maybe commuting longer distances is increasing as it's becoming easier for people to get online and work online. You can base yourself out of the main centres and travel into the office only a few days a week," Sacha says.

The Statistics New Zealand Commuter View map, using information from the 2013 Census, shows the number of people commuting outside the region on a single day in 2013. Even six years ago, there were people commuting to either Hamilton or Auckland from around the region.

For Megan Byrne and her husband Steve, who travel from Pauanui to Auckland to run their IT business, they decided to commute to have the best of both worlds.

"We get to live in paradise and still do what we want to do with the business. Some people might complain about the commute but it's a choice that we consciously made," Megan says.

Megan now travels to Auckland on a Wednesday and comes home Friday, while her husband Steve travels up on a Sunday and stays until Wednesday.

It means one of them is always available for their staff, and they're

available for their daughter Harriet who studies at Whitecliffe Art School in Auckland.

The couple founded their business while living in Pauanui about eight years ago. They had been living in Ohakune and were visiting the family bach as Steve recovered from a broken hip.

"We were thinking about moving to Auckland. We sat on the beach at 5pm on a sunny spring afternoon and suddenly thought about everyone on the motorway. We thought, that's not living. We don't want to do that, so let's give it a go," Megan says.

As the company and their children grew, Megan says they have had to adapt.

"Our commuting grew as the company grew. We made a choice to cope with a bit of difficulty to continue living here. Commuting is not for everyone. We'd eventually like to get to a point where we can have someone managing the business in Auckland," Megan says.

"We believe lifestyle is so important. I think for a long time we've all got that so wrong."

The couple offer flexible working conditions for their staff too.

"It's how we like to work," Megan says. "Some people like to be in the office and some like to be able to work from home."

Megan estimates she spends about three hours a week travelling to Whitianga for her son Benji's schooling and another four travelling to Auckland. At times it can be difficult if Benji gets sick and needs to be picked up from school, but she has been able to call on friends.

"That's the lovely thing about living in a small community, you can just call on people and it's okay," she says.

Megan also enjoys the drive time to talk to her children, catch-up with friends, hold meetings or listen to podcasts.

"Also, no matter where I'm driving, I can pick up something yummy to eat, or local fruit and vegetables. It's a nice time to still your mind as well. When you're driving in the city there's constantly so much coming at you, but once you hit the open green area your body just sort of slows down and you feel a lot more centred." ●

"WE GET TO LIVE IN PARADISE AND STILL DO WHAT WE WANT TO DO WITH THE BUSINESS. SOME PEOPLE MIGHT COMPLAIN ABOUT THE COMMUTE, BUT IT'S A CHOICE THAT WE CONSCIOUSLY MADE"

MEGAN BYRNE.

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LIVING THE LIFESTYLE *on the Whitianga Waterways*

THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED ON THE COROMANDEL PENINSULA FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS MAY TAKE FOR GRANTED THE IDYLIC LIFESTYLE THIS SPECIAL PLACE ALLOWS. BUT VISITORS AND THOSE WHO HAVE ONLY RECENTLY DECIDED TO MAKE THE COROMANDEL THEIR PERMANENT HOME ARE LIKELY TO BE KEENLY AWARE IT IS NOTHING SHORT OF PARADISE.

Leigh Hopper is an example of the latter, having made the full-time move to Whitianga Waterways in 2019. Although Leigh has had a long-time relationship with Whitianga and the Coromandel more broadly, he still views the region with fresh eyes now he calls it home.

"The Coromandel's stunning scenery, beaches and blue coastal waters are postcard perfect and the diverse and interesting people who make up our communities help grow the area and make it even more attractive," Leigh says.

The strong potential of the Coromandel region and Leigh's vision for Whitianga in particular is one of the reasons he has decided to build his home on the Whitianga Waterways and spend the majority of his time in Mercury Bay.

Leigh's love for the Coromandel began when Leigh was a child growing up in Pauanui. He fondly remembers the trips across the Tairua Harbour on his father Ian's home-made amphibian to catch the school bus, and later, sharing and working under his father's vision to build the Pauanui Waterways.

Boating and a love of the water has always been part of Leigh's life. When you ask Leigh where the best boating in the world is, he doesn't hesitate to say: "The turquoise waters around the Mercury Islands. With the pohutakawas in flower over summer and the bright white sandy beaches, you just can't beat the Mercs!"

Living and semi-retiring on the Whitianga Waterways has always been part of Leigh's long-term plan and will afford him more



Leigh Hopper.

time to focus on the vision for Whitianga Waterways. The waterways community offers a unique style of living with neighbours often travelling to see each other by boat or paddle board. The safe and friendly environment is ideal for walking or cycling and of course the development is conveniently located within minutes of the shops. Part of the vision Hopper Developments has for the Whitianga Waterways is to continue to develop and provide more amenity value to its residents and the greater area. A marine precinct, retirement village, retail shops and hotel are all features of the masterplan.

Two years ago, the Whitianga Waterways opened New Zealand's first man-made

island and work has begun on the next island, Motu Wai Taha. The first stage will be completed by August 2019 and will be accessed through the future dockside retail area. Those fortunate to reside on Motu Wai Taha will cross the new bridge into what is set to become one of the most desirable areas within the waterways precinct.

"Canal-front owners on Stage 10 of Motu Wai Taha will experience stunning views over the grand canal, with easy boat access to the waterways entrance and beyond," Leigh says.

The future plans include waterside retail within walking or paddle boarding distance from the island in the neighbouring dockside gateway area. A show home opening in time for summer 2019/2020 will allow visitors to experience the magic of the site at stage 10 while relaxing on the couch and even enjoying a drink with the Whitianga Waterways sales team, who will be based out of the show home and offering short boat rides around the canals – an ideal way to experience a taste of the waterways lifestyle.

Sections in Stage 10 start from \$340,000 for non-canal properties and from \$730,000 for those with a canal frontage. When compared to the price of property in New Zealand's larger cities and all the attributes you gain from living in the waterways, this is exceptional value and indeed a lifestyle like no other.

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A 3D WORK OF ART in WHENUAKITE

Ceramic artists Gary Nevin and Julie Burns-Nevin took on the sculpture of their lives when they built their 'earth home' in Whenuakite.

The stabilised adobe house, which took four years of hard labour to mould from the ground up, is a work of art they live in and the centre piece of their artisan lifestyle.

Passers-by can't see the house on Tairua-Whitianga Rd, but its 'Artists House Gallery' sign beckons visitors up the driveway to the garden studios and gallery displaying their works and Gary's signature 'flying pigs'.

While art has been their livelihood for many years, returning their focus to small pottery creations paled in comparison after the mammoth task of completing the house in 2004.

BUILT BY HAND – NO UNDERSTATEMENT

Gary's long-held desire to build an earth house brought about an unconventional lifestyle move when the project got underway in 2001.

With their children Vincent and Cassandra, then entering their teenage years, Gary and Julie left their comfortable home in Cooks Beach and for the next two years the family lived in a 5m by 2m working man's hut on a barren, sloping paddock where the house was to be built.

Earth houses are renowned for being small and Gary was warned many times that what they were setting out to build, a two storey, four-bedroom house, was too ambitious.

"For me it was all or nothing," Gary says

Julie designed the home and created a scale model from 3mm cardboard.

The first stage saw a builder put in place the post and beam framework and roof. It was up to Gary and Julie to build the walls with stabilised adobe – a mix made from clay, cement and pulped newspaper.

The pair attended a workshop with one of New Zealand's earth home experts, Richard Walker, and were also tutored by an engineer who specialised in earth building, Henry Mackeson, who helped create the internal staircase.

Each day was spent building. Gary would produce the wet mix and Julie would place it.

"It was all hand-placed. We started on the internal walls and worked our way out," Julie says.

"The mix dried quickly, so you had to be sure of what you were doing. I would struggle up ladders with 20L pails of wet mix. Trying to spread that above your head was hard work," Julie says.

At night they would return to the hut and the family would have dinner by the kerosene lamp.

The lifestyle was challenging, particularly for the children during their schooling years, but they are now very proud of what their parents have built.

MAKING GOOD USE OF THE THINGS THAT WE FIND

The project was based on permaculture principles and making use of resources in the area.

The building materials themselves cost virtually nothing – the earth was a waste product from the local quarry. Gary had collected wood from stock yards over the years and used lots of other recycled items.

When the community got wind of the project, people started dropping off unwanted materials such as windows, doors and sinks.

“It’s a house made out of other people’s junk,” Gary says. There are copper doors built from old water tanks, stained glass windows and an aga oven from a brothel in Auckland.

The true cost was the four years of their time – two years constructing the walls,

followed by two years plastering and colouring the walls, building the floors and establishing the mostly edible garden and orchards on the one-acre property.

They also employed a local metal worker for nearly a year.

The home was designed around the light and spacious atrium – Julie’s favourite space in the house, which has a feature pole and stone-earth floors, representing a riverbed (pictured right).

“I’ve always remembered the saying, any house that has wasted space in it is a big luxury,” she says.

The 30cm thick, textured walls, some brightly painted, have been described as having the feel of a mediaeval European village.

Exposed macrocarpa beams and benches,

twisted pillars and eclectic items express Gary’s love for industrial furniture.

If Gary had to flee the house in minutes, among the first items he would grab would be the portraits he painted of his children (pictured above).

Earth homes create a pleasant environment



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUFF LTD

to live in providing a passive energy supply – storing heat during the day for slow release at night. There’s been no need for additional heating during winter.

The house won the ‘earth house’ category in the awards for ‘My House, My Castle’ and has featured in *NZ House & Garden* magazine.

Many people have been to admire the house and Gary and Julie offer advice to others on how to build with clay.

“There’s a saying: where artists go, twenty years later people will follow,” Gary says.

“It feels like these days, people are ready for it,” he says, referring to the growing interest in low-cost, environmentally-friendly homes.

A HOME THAT EXPRESSES WHO WE ARE

The house well and truly quenched Gary’s desire for an earth build.

“The house is great. I wouldn’t live anywhere else,” Gary says.

It’s the home for their creative worlds and “a lifestyle that expresses who we are.”

Julie and Gary may be known as sculptural potters, but have both diversified over the years.

Julie originally trained as a nurse and naturopath but has worked as an artist for 30 years. She continues to make clay art, including a wide selection of birds and is a harakeke flax weaving tutor.

Gary’s ceramic art theme of figurative and animalistic pieces continues to evolve, with a hint of exaggeration. Many of his works use recycled items. His latest project for 2019 was building a new kiln in his garden studio. He also hosts cement fondue workshops.

The pair have learned to weather the seasonal nature of art and while they have made it work as a living for many years, they now both have part-time jobs working in local gardens.

Gary, 66, jokes that he has done things back to front. “I retired, and then got a job.” ●



Gary enjoys his outdoor entertaining area.



Gary's signature 'flying pigs'.

Riverstone

As Diane and Tim Reynolds travel over the Kopu-Hikuaui stretch of SH25, en route to their Cooks Beach bach, the thoughts clogging their minds from their busy lives in Auckland start to untangle and, once they have arrived and have got their toes in the sand, they feel back to their normal selves.

"I just love it. It kills me when we can't get down here for more than a month," Diane says.

As the director and operator of two thriving pre-schools, and husband Tim, a director and kiwifruit grower in their other family business, the Reynolds lead busy lives in Pukekohe. They built their holiday bach as a retreat for their whole family – four adult children plus partners and six grandchildren – to relax and unwind.

Sharing their first holiday together with extended family in the bach they call 'Riverstone' for Christmas 2017 was a long-awaited dream.

"We searched many coastal areas to buy or build in, but kept coming back to Cooks Beach where we made many fabulous memories holidaying when our children were young," Diane says.

In more recent years, they stayed at Cooks Beach with good friends and got itchy feet for a place of their own.

After several weekends checking out real estate, the Reynolds found the current site, then an empty section set up for a caravan and utility, on a quiet cul-de-sac they had always fancied, within a

five-minute walk to the beach. They made an offer on the side of the road on the way home.

The Reynolds wanted to create a lodge-style bach and were not daunted by building, having previously built their Pukekohe home, a category winner for House of the Year, in the early 2000s.

Rod Percival was the local, multi award-winning builder they had in mind, having admired his previous projects. With his focus now on consultancy, Rod put them in touch with his nephew Damian Percival, who trained with him and owns Percival Construction.

"After a phone call and our first meeting with Damian, we both knew he was the man for us," Diane says. "We had visited some of his projects around the Coromandel, just to confirm, and of course he has done very well, with Master Builder Award wins. Damian and his team didn't disappoint, they were all so friendly, real perfectionists and nothing was too much trouble," Diane says.

The Reynolds knew exactly what they wanted, and engaged Hurley Architects in Pukekohe, with the plans already mapped out on paper.

The riverstone surrounds of the open fireplace create a cosy environment during winter.



Top: The expansive living space opens out through 7m-wide stacker doors to the covered alfresco area.

Middle: (Right) Tim and Diane Reynolds at the doorway to their Cooks Beach home. (Left) Home decor is a passion of Diane and daughter Stacey.

Bottom: Tim loves wood and wanted to create a rustic feel with generous use of band sawn timber.

Tim loves wood and wanted to create a rustic feel with generous use of band sawn timber.

The black, painted band sawn board and batten exterior is accented by wide, white window and door surrounds. The fascia boards are band sawn too, as are the exposed rafters and ceilings throughout.

Privacy was a priority, so they opted for smaller windows from the street front, but once inside the expansive living space opens out through 7m wide stacker doors to the covered alfresco area, which can be enjoyed at all times of the day, even if it's raining.

In time, the fence will be painted black and dense, tropical gardens will provide privacy and finish off the relaxing and tranquil feel of the outdoor living space.

The name they have given the house, 'Riverstone' leads from the large, locally-sourced riverstone exterior chimney and inside, the ceiling-to-floor riverstone surrounds of the open fireplace, which creates a cosy environment during winter.

The whole family had input into the finishing, with Tim and sons Brad and Thomas completing the interior band sawn board and batten walls, architraves, door surrounds and painting. Thomas made the large metre-wide front door from band sawn timber and of course, it's painted black.

While interior decorating is a passion of Diane's, one of their daughters, Stacey, is an interior designer and at the time owned two homeware stores. "We were very fortunate to have her input and great prices for décor items," Diane says.

"It turned into a real family affair with everyone lending a hand, which made it personal to us," Diane says. "Our daughter Kate is a very good cook, she kept us all going with yummy food as well as sanding the door surrounds. Everyone contributed where they could, so we all feel ownership of Riverstone. And we all work and have hectic lives, so it's a lovely retreat for us all. There's is no asking permission; you just take a key and go," Diane says.

Builder Damian says the Reynold's enthusiasm to be part of the build was a great dynamic.

"When you spend time there, you really get a feel for how connected the family are to the space," Damian says. "One of the most rewarding parts of this job is when you get to see the end result. We build houses, but it's the family's ideas and input that make it a home."

Riverstone's open and casual style accommodates everyone in-together and there is plenty of room for the odd tent or caravan as well.

"The dining table is big enough to take the 14 of us and acts as a preparation surface too, as we didn't want an island bench. At night, we clear it for our grandies to play board and card games with their Pop. There are areas for everybody, it doesn't feel crowded when we are all there at all," Diane says.

In the future, Diane hopes she, and Tim might split their time 50/50 between Cooks Beach and Pukekohe. For now, her monthly hair appointment at Whitianga's Stilo Hair & Co, ensures they visit at least once a month.

"I just love coming to stay, even if it's only for the night. It's our happy place," Diane says. ●



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A healthy home was the focus when Tony and Wanda Brljevic designed their new eco-home on the heights of Whangapoua.

There was plenty of inspiration in the site alone – a spectacular north-facing piece of land overlooking Whangapoua village with sweeping views of the beach and out to Ahuahu – Great Mercury Island.

It is Wanda's ancestral land, where her iwi, Ngāti Huarere, have lived since the arrival of the Te Arawa waka.

The Brljevics wanted to build a home there that was strong, kind to the earth, and created a healthy environment for them to live in.

Since earthworks began in February 2017, the couple has worked every available day building the house, which is designed to be fully compostable, is solar energy-ready and, with a rain water collection system, allows them to be fully self-sufficient if required.

When *Our Coromandel* went to print, there was still interior work and landscaping to be done, but the Brljevics were on track to be in the house by Christmas 2019.

Throughout the build, Tony and Wanda have travelled to the site each day from Coromandel Town, where Wanda grew up and Tony was a former Coromandel-Colville ward Councillor and our previous Deputy Mayor.

It's the fifth house Tony, a sheet metal engineer by trade, has built. For this project, he taught himself to use architectural software so he could draw up his own plans to achieve their vision for the modernist, 340m², four-bedroom house.

Before work got underway, he spent hours researching the principles of health-based building and the latest sustainable building products on the market.

Christchurch company Health Based Building was a key source



Tony and Wanda Brljevic.

of information and guidance on sustainable materials, supplying the Magnum Board sheets that line all parts of the house and deliver what is essentially 'breathable walls'.

The board itself is CO₂ negative, which means it consumes CO₂ in the manufacturing process, is free from chemicals and is vapour-permeable and mould proof.

With Magnum Board used for the interior walls, the rigid air barrier and the exterior layer the cladding was adhered to, the wall system meets Health Based Building's 'Foreverbreathe™ Specification' for being airtight and vapour-permeable.

The Brljevic's used breathable paint throughout the house and opted for a wool-based insulation layer, which holds 30 per cent of its weight in moisture and contributes to a drier living environment.

The house 'breathes' through the walls, Tony says. "It will exhale 11 litres of moisture each day. When we are working here we always remark the atmosphere is 'soft' and there's a dry, warm feeling, even on the coldest winter mornings," Tony says.

"A drier environment is easier to heat and cool. We are expecting an average humidity inside the house of less than 50 per cent, well below the 80 per cent level in many modern homes."

Steering away from a traditional polystyrene raft slab for the foundation, the Brljevics built on an eco-friendly system developed by concrete company Firth, consisting of a network of stackable polystyrene-free, recycled plastic 'pods' that connect together to form a grid. The system is becoming popular in Christchurch due to its strength.

The choice of materials throughout the house contributes to a





Above left: The house is built on Wanda's ancestral land.

Above and left: The house is designed to be almost fully recyclable and 'breathes' through the walls.

Far left: Tony Brljevich.

low volatile organic compound (VOC), which means there are fewer toxins in the air.

One of the hardest parts of the project was the plaster cladding, which the couple did themselves, working through the summer of 2018/2019 to apply three layers of a breathable plaster imported from the US.

"We were getting up at 5am to get to the site before the heat of the day, which made the plastering more difficult," Tony says. "That's a job that would usually be done by a team of four-to-five workers, so for two people it meant long hours and heavy work."

Throughout the build, Tony has bounced ideas off a builder friend and friends and family have lent a hand at certain points. One of the couple's sons took time off work to help his Dad with the framing. The plumbing, electrical and drainage work required licensed professionals and Tony and Wanda have used locals, who they say have been great.

Tony juggled the project around his previous Council and Community Board commitments, and stayed on top of Council reading and work in the evenings. Wanda has worked alongside Tony, while also keeping up her cultural and environmental consulting work.

"Tony is a machine and just keeps going and doesn't leave things unfinished," Wanda says. "He's very fussy."

Tony agrees: "One of the reasons I wanted to build this myself is because I knew I could not afford to pay anyone to be as fussy as I am."

There were days where Tony felt a bit anxious about the project. "I just had to trust and take it one nail at a time," Tony says.

He also kept coming back to their belief in being good stewards of the environment and the guiding principle of Tiaki. "We don't live

in the environment, we are a part of the environment. Everything we do reflects back to us," Tony says. "Fortunately, what is healthy for us is also healthy for the environment, so all the materials are environmentally friendly."

All parts of the house, except the laminated wooden frames, are fully recyclable.

Robin Curtis at Health Based Building says Tony's approach to his build challenges current construction methods on all levels.

"Tony looked deeply into every product and what it delivers to his sustainable development focus. He has put everything under the microscope," Robin says. "As an independent home owner, he should be applauded for his focus on sustainable development."

Tony does not think the cost to build a 'healthy home' was hugely more expensive than building with traditional building products, although there were logistical challenges with sourcing the alternative materials from Whangapoua, and getting them to the site.

"You can't just duck down to the local hardware store and get these products," he says.

The reward for the hard work is living in a house they know is 'healthy'.

"We know every single millimetre of this house and what has gone into it," Wanda says.

The Brljevichs are looking forward to spending the summer of 2019/2020 working on the finishing touches and landscaping to achieve a tropical and coastal feel.

Then they can enjoy their hard work.

"2020 will be time for a rest," Wanda says. ●

For more information:
Healthbasedbuilding.com

Building?

Here are some questions we get asked a lot ...

Questions about building projects are among the most common our customer services team receives. Here are some of the topics we get asked. For more information about building work and our process, please visit tcdc.govt.nz/building

Our Council is the Building Consent Authority for our district, providing building consents for work that needs approval and inspection under the Building Act 2004.

The following information is only in relation to the Building Act 2004. Please contact us to discuss rules in relation to resource consent matters.

Decks

Do I need a building consent for my deck?

A building consent is required for work on decks where it is possible to fall more than 1.5m even if it collapses. Note: a safety barrier that complies with the NZ Building Code clause F4 (Safety from falling) is required if there is a fall of 1m or more.

What height does my handrail need to be on my deck?

To comply with the NZ Building Code, a balustrade needs to be 900mm high for stairs or ramps, 1m high on all decks above 1m in height on residential properties and 1.1m high for commercial properties and at all other locations.

Carports & garages

Do I need a building consent for a garage?

A building consent is required for a new garage (car shed). However, repairs or replacement of a one-storey detached outbuilding does not require a building consent if it is made within the same footprint area it previously occupied and is a comparable outbuilding. The outbuilding cannot be open to or used by members of the public.

Do I need a building consent for a carport?

You can build a carport that is no more than 20m² in floor area without the need for a building consent, so long as it is on the ground level. (Floor area is the area within the structure supporting the roof). A carport is defined as a roofed structure for storing a motor vehicle that is permanently open on at least one side.

Can I put a kitchen/bedroom/bathroom in my existing garage?

A building consent is required for this type of building work. A resource consent under the Proposed District Plan (PDP) may also be required for kitchen facilities.

What are the rules for garden sheds?

You can erect a garden shed of up to 10m² in floor area. The floor can be a maximum of 1m above the supporting ground and have a maximum height of 3.5m above the floor level. The shed must also be its own height away from any residential building or any legal boundary. All roof water must be disposed of on-site and in a manner that does not impact on neighbouring properties.

Fences & retaining walls

What height can I build my fence?

You can build a fence up to 2.5m in height from the supporting ground level without a building consent. However, under the PDP, the maximum height for any fence is 2m. Resource consent would be required if a fence is higher than 2m.

Does my neighbour have to pay half?

The Fencing Act 1978 contains provisions for adjoining occupiers to share the cost of fencing.

This is a civil matter and we recommend that you seek legal advice from your local Citizens Advice Bureau or the NZ Law Society.

My boundary is next to a Council park. Does the Council pay for half the fence?

Council may contribute to a shared boundary fence on such places as Council parks, reserves or car parks.

To what height can I build my retaining wall and do I need building consent?

You can build a retaining wall without a building consent, so long as it is no higher than 1.5m (and does not support any surcharge or any additional load to the load of the ground). However, the retaining wall must still comply with the Building Code. In a rural zone you can build a retaining wall without a building consent, so long as it is no higher than 3m and the distance between the wall and any legal boundary or existing building is at least the height of the wall, and it must be designed or reviewed by a chartered professional engineer. **Note:** If there is a fall of at least 1m, a safety barrier may be required under NZ Building Code clause F4 – Safety from falling. The PDP contains rules in relation to earthworks. Most zones in the District Plan have restrictions around the height of a cut or fill in relation to a legal boundary.

Roofed verandas

Do I need a building consent to build a porch or veranda?

You can build a porch or veranda attached to an existing building up to a maximum of 20m² (this area includes any existing porch or veranda). They must also be located at ground or first storey level. A building consent is required if the porch or veranda overhangs any area accessible by the public, including private areas with limited public access, for example, restaurants and bars.

Other common questions

Do I need a building consent for my new fireplace?

A building consent is required for a fireplace.

Do I need consent for my marquee?

- o Any tent or marquee up to 100m² (10m x 10m) in floor area, provided it does not remain for more than one month, does not need a building consent.
- o A building consent is required for a tent or marquee greater than 100m² in floor area, or if it is to remain up for longer than one month.

Can I put a container on my section for storage?

It's very likely resource consent will be needed. However, a building consent is not required if the container is temporary, used for storage and meets spread-of-fire regulations. If the container was to change its use from temporary storage to another use, eg a workshop, retail store or habitable structure, a building consent is required. A shipping container that is permanently founded or connected to services also needs a building consent. The PDP has a definition of a 'building'. If your container meets this definition it will need to be sited to meet the bulk and location controls for the zone.

Building boundaries

How far to the boundary can I build (side/rear and front yard set-backs)?

The Proposed District Plan is the document that controls the placement of a building on any particular site in the district. Each zone within the Proposed District Plan will generally have a set of development standards that need to be met for any new building work. One of these development standards is the yard setback standard. Yards can be in the form of both front and side/rear yard setbacks. All yards are measured from the legal boundary. If you do not know the location of your legal boundary, you need to find your boundary pegs for your property. If you cannot find your boundary pegs, then you will need to engage a registered professional surveyor to place new boundary pegs on your property.

If my building activity is going to encroach on the property boundary, more closely than the required yard setback, will this trigger a resource consent? If so, what is the process?

There are some exemptions in the Proposed District Plan in relation to some of the bulk and location controls. Generally however, if you cannot meet one of the permitted standards for these, a resource consent will be required.

A good quality resource consent application starts with a good quality proposal that includes all relevant information and documentation required for us to process your consent smoothly. This will help to reduce confusion, delay and cost, as we do not accept applications that have missing information.

We recommend you engage a professional (architect or consultant) to prepare your application, as the requirements are technical.

The Resource Consent process

What happens once I lodge my application?

Our planners will assess your application and determine if all of the information requirements have been met to accept the application for processing. If not, we will return your application, with a covering letter explaining the areas where the application is deficient. Engaging a professional will significantly reduce the likelihood of your application being returned in this way.

Our Council has 20 working days to process your application, unless we ask for more information. If we take longer than 20 working days to assess your application for non-notified applications, you are entitled to a discount under the Resource Management Act. The discount is applied automatically by our system at invoicing.

If we need more information (otherwise known as a Section 92 request)

If planners or specialists have questions about your application, they can ask for further information (a Section 92 request), which delays the processing of your application until we receive additional information.

When we make a decision

The planner will contact you, usually by email, to advise whether your application has been granted or refused, or if it needs to be notified. We will send you an electronic copy of the decision and this is also available via our consent tracker tcdc.govt.nz/consenttracker

If we grant your resource consent

You will receive a decision document outlining what conditions need to be followed, the reasons for the decision and the approved plans. If there is any part of this decision, including the conditions, that you are not happy with, you can formally object to our decision.

If we refuse your resource consent

If your resource consent is refused, and you think our decision is unfair, you can formally object to our decision, or lodge an appeal with the Environment Court.

Can I have two dwellings on my property?

Generally two dwellings on a property will always require a resource consent and cannot be carried out as a permitted activity. However, in some zones within the district a minor unit (maximum floor area of 50m²) is a permitted activity.

Can I sub-divide my property?

Subdivision within the district is not a permitted activity and therefore, regardless of which zone your property is within, you will need a resource consent to subdivide. Subdivision applications are technical and will often require a registered professional surveyor or a planning consultant to help with the application.

Our Council has a free duty planner available to help with your questions about building. Contact our customer services team to be put in touch: **07 868 0200** or customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz

ONLINE building consents available

Our building consent system is all online and is quick and simple to use.

An online application allows you to attach plans and specifications electronically, and then you can track the progress of your application. If further information is required, we'll contact you via email. Your Code Compliance Certificate will also be issued by email once a final inspection has been completed and approved.

See tcdc.govt.nz/buildingconsents for more information.



AVONDALE | EAST TAMAKI | KOPU



NEXT DAY DELIVERY

SERVICING AUCKLAND, NORTH WAIKATO &
THE COROMANDEL PENINSULA

AVONDALE

713 Rosebank Road,
Avondale,
Auckland 1007
09 828 9791

EAST TAMAKI

21 Greenmount Dr,
East Tamaki,
Auckland 2013
09 274 4942

KOPU

71 Kopu Rd,
Thames 3578
07 868 9829



THE THAMES ON KIRKWOOD

An exclusive, fashionably elegant, Art Deco-styled venue with a commercial kitchen and bar available for hire in the heart of Thames.

Weddings, birthdays, conferences, anniversaries and those times that you seek a touch of pizzazz to your themed event, The Thames on Kirkwood is a function centre creating a buzz in the heart of Thames.

Succinctly put by Mayor Sandra Goudie upon cutting the ribbon at a red carpet opening in April 2019, owner Adrian Catran does nothing by halves.

"Adrian is so passionate about his community and just loves the heritage, we know your commitment to this community, and it is absolutely outstanding," she said. "This facility is a classic example of it, and we can't thank you enough."

Venue hire is flexible to suit needs, and add-ins include projector, television and screen hire, a commercial kitchen and bar.

The design brief ensured flexibility in room size, dazzling LED mood lighting and state-of-the-art sound provides options for creating ambience.

An onsite management team provides suggestions for caterers, florists and equipment hire partners that they know and trust, making everything easy and locally-based, should you so wish.

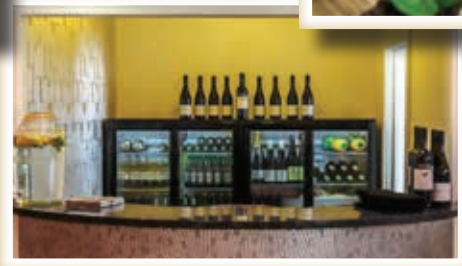
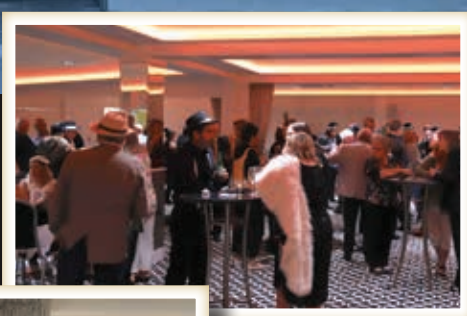
Attention to the finest details and ample onsite parking – even a star studded entrance – in a central location at The Thames on Kirkwood lifts your gathering from supper to soiree, meet and greet to masquerade, or casual 'do' to cocktail party.

It's absolutely darling, darling!

ARTICLE BY HOOK & ARROW
www.hookandarrow.co.nz for The Thames on Kirkwood

'Not since the late 90s when Jim Bannan refurbished and reopened the stunning Embassy Theatre has Thames seen anything quite as exciting as The Thames on Kirkwood'

Thames Biz After 5 organisers



EVENTS

Our Council is serious about creating vibrant, strong communities and stimulating our Coromandel economy. Events are an important part of our economic development strategy.



Fat Freddy's Drop

Kiwi roots band Fat Freddy's Drop heralded a new era at the Thames Racecourse on January 7, 2019 when a crowd of 1500 spent a warm, summer evening grooving to Freddy's combination of reggae, soul, jazz, rhythm and blues and techno.

The seven-piece band enjoyed the concert and the venue so much, it's returning on December 28, 2019 when it will kick off its ten-show Summer Record Tour 2020 with a swag of New Zealand's finest musicians and international DJs as supporting acts.

Concert promoter Brent Eccles says Thames Racecourse provides an excellent stop on Freddy's annual summer roadie around New Zealand.

"The band enjoyed playing at a fresh venue," Brent says. "We felt very welcome. The racecourse was well laid out, and the perfect size for the concert, providing a good experience for the concert-goers."

Brent believes the Thames Racecourse will grow in popularity as a concert venue – being ideally situated to cater to the Coromandel and within driving distance for people to attend from Hamilton and Auckland.

"We are looking forward to December 2019," Brent Eccles says.

- **Fat Freddy's Drop Summer Tour is at the Thames Racecourse on December 28, 2019.**
- **Information and tickets: fatfreddysdrop.com/nztour**

Hot air balloon festival drops in on Thames

For the first time, the spectacular Balloons over Waikato festival was shared with the Coromandel on March 22, 2019.

More than 3000 people enjoyed the free event at the Thames Racecourse, which was organised by the Thames Business Association and Totally Thames.

Michele Connell, managing director at Classic Events, says Balloons over Waikato was excited to bring its annual festival to the Coromandel.

"We really enjoy taking the event to the regions, where many residents often don't have the ability to travel to Hamilton to enjoy the spectacle of hot air ballooning," Michele says.

Holiday-makers feast on Summer Series action

The Pauanui Summer Series started in 1970 with family sports day events including egg and spoon races, egg-throwing competitions, three-legged races, family relays and an aerial lolly drop.

Today, the annual series held over the New Year period includes the popular sprint-distance Pauanui Triathlon, the gruelling King of the Mountain trail run up Mount Pauanui, a Pauanui Waterways swim, quiz nights, sandcastle competitions a colour chase and the Miss Pauanui beauty pageant.

The series is hosted by the Pauanui Sports and Recreation Club and attracts thousands of people across the wide-range of events.

Pauanui Club manager Gary Smith says the series has gone from strength-to-strength and has become a central part of Pauanui's holiday calendar for many families.

"It's a great formula and something that is unique to Pauanui at this time of year," Gary says. "We hear that many people choose to come to Pauanui for their holidays because of what the Summer Series offers."

BRINGING MAJOR EVENTS TO THAMES

Our Council's team worked with the Thames Jockey Club for several months on a resource application to hold major events such as Fat Freddy's Drop and Balloons over Thames at the racecourse on Parawai Rd, following approaches by several promoters about using this facility for large concerts.

Our Council's district events coordinator Kirstin Richmond says it has proven to be a successful venue.

"The feedback from our communities has been extremely positive," Kirstin says. "We are looking forward to being able to bring more events to Thames, at this fabulous venue." Kirstin says.

Thames Jockey Club President Kevin Hansen says it's great to see the community enjoying the venue through a range of new events.





The Pauanui Triathlon and King of the Mountain are the series' banner sports events, attracting a field ranging from keen athletes to fitness enthusiasts and first-timers, or those participating as part of fun or family teams. Miss Pauanui also attracts hundreds of people who watch from the grass of the number 9 fairway of the Pauanui Pines Golf Course.

• **Facebook:** @pauanuiseries

Jet ski fun on the Tairua Estuary

Tairua has well and truly embraced the sport of jet skiing, hosting one of the Coromandel's biggest on-water events of the year – the Tairua Wet 'n' Wild Weekend.

Organised by Jet Ski Racing New Zealand, the action includes circuit racing on the Tairua Estuary and extends to slalom, wakeboard, kickers and rail jumpers, freestyler and trick riding.

Jet Ski Racing NZ treasurer Dean Hudson says Tairua Estuary is a great place to race and Pepe Reserve, alongside, is the perfect location for the event as it allows spectators to get close to the action on the water while enjoying food, music and entertainment.

"This is easily one of the best events on our calendar," Dean says.

"At the end of the day we offer all the kids a ride on the jet skis for a few laps around the track. You should see them lining up. They love it."

• 14-15 March 2020

• tairuawetandwild.com

Scallop Festival returns bigger than ever



The Whitianga Scallop Festival returned on 21 September 2019 with its celebration of Whitianga seafood and marine heritage alongside the Whitianga Marina. In fourteen years, the event has grown into one of New Zealand's iconic seafood celebrations with a simple concept: scallops, cooked in a myriad of ways by talented national chefs and community groups and matched with quality entertainment. The 2019 event was a sell-out, drawing devoted crowds from Auckland, Waikato and Bay Plenty.

• scallopfestival.nz

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE ON THE COROMANDEL CALENDAR

Each year, the Coromandel hosts hundreds of events and there is usually something on most weekends – this includes motorsport, cycling, multisport and adventure race events and summer concerts.



Establishing the Coromandel as a nationally-significant events destination is an ambitious, yet achievable goal for our Council, given our track record in hosting major events such as the annual K2 cycle race, the world-famous Beach Hop event and the Whitianga Scallop Festival.

Our Council's Economic Development Group Manager Laurna White says events are an important part of our economic development strategy.

"We recognise the need to pull more visitors to the Coromandel and to attract our large holiday-home owner population here more often. Quality events are one way to do this," Laurna says.

In 2020 there will be a number of new events in our district including the Tuia Encounters 250 commemoration in Mercury Bay and the twenty-year anniversary of the annual Beach Hop festival.

You can find out more about these and the wide variety of events in our district over the next few pages.

Sign up to our weekly events newsletter to keep up with what's happening in the Coromandel:

tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe

COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR EVENTS

There are two main sources of event sponsorship from our Council:

- Major events sponsorship through our contestable major events fund
- Local community event sponsorship through grants, made available by each Community Board to support local events, either through a dedicated event fund or the community grant programme.

Event funding has strict criteria. You can find out more on our website: tcdc.govt.nz/events

Get in touch with our District Events Coordinator Kirstin Richmond if you are interested in bringing your event to the Coromandel:

Kirstin.richmond@tcdc.govt.nz



PADDLE BATTLES

come to Pauanui

If two-foot swells coming in at a perfect period and very little wind were on the wishlist for the New Zealand Stand-Up Paddle Technical Championships, these conditions were found in perfection at Pauanui Beach on January 19, 2019.



Open men's surf race.



Youth races at the Pauanui Waterways.

The championships are the pinnacle of stand-up paddle (SUP) racing in New Zealand and were attended by close to 100 of the country's top race paddlers including those from the 2018 ISA team, a handful of previous Olympic and Commonwealth Games athletes as well as New Zealand's up-and-coming younger competitors.

The 4.6km course, which consisted of seven buoy turns in and out of the surf with a chicane beach run, served up great viewing for the spectators.

It was a day for the younger paddlers with 18-year-old Ollie Houghton of Auckland dominating the men's race from start to finish, taking out first place titles in both the open men and under-19 categories. Seventeen-year-old Brianna Orams, also from Auckland's North Shore, was the commanding winner in the female race, claiming first in the open and under-19 women's categories.

The event also included racing at the Pauanui Waterways, providing smooth, flat conditions for the shorter course and youth paddling categories.

Event director Troy Huston has held SUP surf race events in Pauanui for the last three years, as part of his, weekly SUP series Auckland Paddlefest, sponsored by Ray White Maguires One Team.

"Pauanui is the perfect destination for this event as it offers surf, flat water paddling and distance race course options, which means the event can go ahead no matter what the conditions are," Troy says.

"Pauanui comes alive with paddlers and the local businesses come on board to support the event, which makes the event grow bigger and better each year. This event is always the highlight on the SUP Calendar for everyone who takes part," he says.

Our Council supported the New Zealand Stand Up Paddle Technical Championships from our Major Events Fund.

The 2020 NZ SUP Nationals will be held in Pauanui on February 22-23, 2020.

SHOE ISLAND CHALLENGE

The Shoe Island Challenge race was held on Sunday January 20, 2019.

The 10km, open ocean distance race sends surf ski and stand-up paddlers from the Pauanui Surf Club around Shoe Island and back to Pauanui Beach.

South-east winds gusting 15 knots on race day presented the toughest conditions for the event so far, with competitors battling wind angle on incoming swell. The race was won by New Zealand's national SUP paddle champ Ollie Houghton.

The Shoe Island Challenge was created by Pauanui local Bevan Gooch in 2010 and has been directed for the last three years by Auckland Paddlefest director Troy Huston.

Bevan says over a short distance, the Shoe Island Challenge presents a wide range of challenges, even for the more elite paddlers at the front of the pack.

"There's a lot of variation with open ocean swell and chop, differing wind angles, swell rebounding off the back of island, as well as getting in and out through the surf," Bevan says.



FLYING ON WATER

With the New Zealand Surf Foil Championships

The inaugural New Zealand Surf Foil Championships, held alongside the Stand Up Paddle Technical Championships, drew a strong turnout for the emerging sport.

Sixteen SUP and prone foilers competed over the weekend for the national category titles, with some travelling from as far as Christchurch and Wellington for the weekend.

Foil surfing is a new way to ride waves, and involves a mast with front and rear wings that harness the energy inside the wave, propelling the rider on their board, elevated – almost flying – above the water.

Competitors were assessed by a panel of local judges on criteria including flow on the wave, number of turns and having the ability to pump out to catch the wave behind and surf it in.

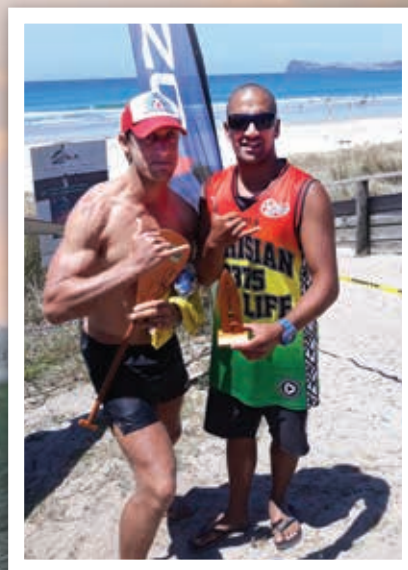
The SUP foil category was won by Pauanui local Bevan Gooch (pictured below), while the prone foil category was won by New Zealand's Raglan-based waterman Daniel Kereopa.

The foil event was organised by Armie Armstrong, of New Zealand-based foil manufacturer Armstrong Foils.

Armie said the contour of the shallow, sloping beach at Pauanui sees it lend itself to being a highly sought-after foiling spot.

"We were really stoked to have the event in the beautiful Pauanui – it offered perfect conditions for foiling – one of the new generation of ocean sports," Armie says.

"Beyond the competition, it was a great weekend for all the competitors to share the stoke on the water and have a lot of fun."



SUP foil category winner, Bevan Gooch (left) and winner of the prone foil category, Daniel Kereopa.

Bevan Gooch, Pauanui Beach.

CREATIVE IMAGES BY PAUL C SCHRADER



Events add diversity, vibrancy and overall well-being to our communities. Here's a snapshot of what's going on around the Coromandel over the next 12 months for you to come along and enjoy. For a full list of events go to thecoromandel.com or subscribe to our weekly TCDC events newsletter tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe.

Thames
**NIGHT
MARKETS**

THAMES TREASURE INDOOR MARKET
(621 POLLEN STREET)
AND OUTDOORS IN SERVICE LANE 8

HELD EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT WITH A VARIETY OF ARTS
AND CRAFT STALLS, FOOD STALLS AND ENTERTAINMENT

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

**26
October
2019**

Whangamata Lions
Craft & Farmers Market

The Whangamata Lions Craft and Farmers Market hosts nearly 100 stalls offering a huge variety of craft, food and produce. Stalls are located inside the Memorial Hall Complex, and outside in more of an open air market.

This wonderful market is held three times a year - on the Saturday of: Anniversary Weekend, Easter Weekend and Labour Weekend.

from
**26 Oct 2019 -
11 Apr 2020**

COASTAL
COLLECTIVE
market

Date	Time
26 October 2019	1 - 4pm
22 November 2019	1 - 4pm
14 December 2019	5 - 8pm
28 December 2019	1 - 4pm
11 January 2020	1 - 4pm
18 January 2020	1 - 4pm
25 January 2020	1 - 4pm
8 February 2020	1 - 4pm
21 March 2020	1 - 4pm
11 April 2020	5 - 8pm

A market on Saturdays at the Cooks Beach shops with a curated selection of stallholders, showcasing the small businesses of the Mercury Bay area.

**2
November
2019**

**MITO Q K2
CYCLE CLASSIC**

At 2,300 metres of screaming descent, the Mito Q K2 is possibly the toughest one-day cycle challenge in the Southern Hemisphere. It is also one of the most scenic and varied with the route.

Visit k2cycle.co.nz for time and location

**7-10
November
2019**

**STEAMPUNK
THE THAMES**

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Thames celebrates all that is Steampunk - a science-fiction genre that blends Victoriana with Industrial in a Futuristic Fantasy World.

COME JOIN THE PARTY.

www.steampunkthethames.org

**8 November
13 December
20 December
2019**

Free Entertainment

LIVE TIME

THAMES CIVIC SQUARE

LIVE PERFORMING ARTS, STORY-TELLERS, MUSIC MAKERS

8 Friday November 2019 Lunchtime Event - 12-2 pm	13 Friday December 2019 Twilight Event - 5-7:40 pm	20 Friday December 2019 Twilight Event - 5-7:40 pm
--	--	--

Join us at: Thames Civic Centre Square, 200 Mary Street



9
November
2019



2019-20 TOURNAMENT DATES

Kids Wharf Competition	Sat	28 Dec 2019
Ladies Blue		1 Dec 2019 - 30 Apr 2020
Pacific Coast Marine		
Top Ten Tuna Tournament	Sat - Sun	4-5 Jan 2020
Ladies Tournament	Sat	25 Jan 2020
Tristram Marine Open	Sat-Sat	22-29 Feb 2020
Simrad / ITM Nationals	Sat-Sat	22-29 Feb 2020
Stabicraft Trailer Boat Tournament	Thurs, Fri, Sat	12-14 Mar 2020
Billfish Classic	Thurs, Fri, Sat	19-21 Mar 2020

www.mbgfc.co.nz

from
1 Dec 2019 -
30 Apr 2020




Santa Parades

Coromandel Town Saturday 7 December	Whangamata Saturday 7 December
Whitianga Saturday 7 December	Thames Friday 13 December

7-13
December
2019

THAMES ART GALLERY
TARARU
SUMMER EXHIBITION 10am - 4pm Daily
DECEMBER - JULY



Paintings
Ceramics
Woodwork
Mosaics
Felt work
UNIQUE GIFTS
all shapes, sizes & prices.
GREAT PRICES

THAMES SOCIETY OF ARTS INC.

from
Dec 2019-
July 2020

Santa on the Pepe
TAIRUA INFORMATION C PRESENTS
Saturday 14th Dec



Santa and a sack full of presents will visit
**Pauanui on the Ferry @ 9am, then
Pepe Reserve on the Fire Truck @ 9.30am**

14
December
2019

Vintage



VINTAGE & CLASSIC SHOW

Fields

DECEMBER 7-8 2019
57 ORONGO ROAD, THAMES 9AM - 4PM

7-8
December
2019

THE 31ST
Coromandel Christmas Art Exhibition

Hauraki House - Coromandel Town
Opening, 5pm, Sunday 15 December - All welcome
Come to the opening - Mix and mingle from 5pm - Opening at 6pm
The exhibition will be open from 10am until 4pm daily
(closed for Christmas Day)

from
15 Dec 2019
11 Jan 2020

from
27 Dec 2019 -
12 Jan 2020

SUMMER FUN

KAUAERANGA VISITOR CENTRE

27 Dec 2019 – 12 Jan 2020

Adventure, fun and learning activities in our beautiful outdoors. Go wild: swim, explore, play, learn, create and have a great time!

Great for all ages, with a focus on children and families.

- Meet the geckos
- Outdoor Skills
- Twilight adventures
- Learn about our amazing kiwi, wildlife & much more!
- Creative fun with nature
- Gold panning
- Kauri gum polishing

Bookings essential and age limits apply for some activities.

All day every day activities include: Treasure Hunt, Kiwi Guardian Adventures, giant lawn games, bush walks, camping, swimming holes and more.

Supporting Kiwi on the Coromandel

Go to.....
facebook.com/kauaerangave
or www.doc.govt.nz
E: kauaerangave@doc.govt.nz
For all the details.



The Whangamata Summer Festival hosts it's Annual Markets in Williamson Park, Whangamata.

With the Annual Craft Market having run for over twenty years, it is safe to say this market is the largest in the region!

The market has a huge range of stalls with everything from clothing, hats, shoes, sunnies, tools, arts & crafts and food stalls to plants, bee products, fruit & vegetables.

Featuring kids rides and slides, live music from local artists and lots of stall demonstrations.

Twilight market with live entertainment
December 27 from 4pm - 9pm
Williamson Park - Ocean Road, Whangamata

Annual market day with live entertainment
December 28 from 9am - 4pm
Williamson Park - Ocean Road, Whangamata

Proceeds raised from market donations fund youth projects as well as two free community concerts - this year the venue will be at the Whangamata RSA: New Year's Day Opera from 7:30pm Jan 1 2020; Bringing Country to the Beach from 5pm Jan 2 2020.

The RSA has obtained a Special Club Licence meaning entry is free for all - you do not have to be a member.

Follow us on facebook Whangamata Summer Fest.



from
27 Dec 2019 -
2 Jan 2020



The Whangamata Real Estate Ltd Whanga Week®

Comprises 6 events over 6 days run by the Whangamata Surf Life Saving Club from 27 December to 1 January each year.

Funds generated from Whanga Week are invested into new lifesaving equipment, training for our members and to ensure the club has the capacity & capability to meet evolving needs.

Times are still to be confirmed for this year's event and will be published in the Coastal News and on our website closer to summer or email manager@whangamatasurf.co.nz

from
27 Dec 2019 -
1 Jan 2020

LOOP PRESENTS

L.A.B.

MAKO ROAD
SOAKED OATS

SAT 28 DEC
COROGLLEN
TAVERN
LOOP.CO.NZ
TICKETS: EVENTFINDA

THANKS TO NZVAPOR

28
December
2019

SUMMER RECORD TOUR

FAT FREDDY'S DROP

DJ JAZZY
JEFF
JESSB
TUNES OF I

THAMES RACECOURSE
SATURDAY 28 DECEMBER
TICKETS FROM TICKETMASTER
ON SALE THUR 19 SEP

28
December
2019

WHITIANGA WELLBEING MARKET

from
28 Dec 2019 -
5 Jan 2020

Whitianga Town Hall,
24 Monk St, Whitianga
10am-5pm, free entry.

A fantastic 9-day market
focused on healthy living, mind
body spirit medicine, organics,
massage, free daily seminars,
natural therapies and products,
readings and herbal remedies.

For further information see
www.wellbeingmarkets.co.nz,
info@wellbeingmarkets.co.nz



Mercury Bay Emergency Services Summer Festival
Taylor's Mistake, Whitianga 9 am to 4 pm 30th December

30
December
2019

FIRE SERVICE, SHANTY LIFE SAVING, LAND SAR, COASTGUARD



31
December
2019

PAUANUI TRIATHLON AND DUATHLON

The sprint-distance triathlon consists of a 400m swim, 10km ride, 5km run and can be entered as an individual or as a team. There is also a duathlon option to run and ride only.

Event HQ is at the Pauanui Surf Lifesaving Club.

The Pauanui Triathlon is brought to you by the Pauanui Sports & Recreation Club's 'Summer Series' and is sponsored by ABC Business Solutions.

Facebook: @pauanuieries Web: pauanuiclub.co.nz



**SHAPESHIFTER
SACHI · JESSB
THE UPBEATS & MC TIKI
SUNSHINE SOUND SYSTEM**

**JOE'S
FARM**

DEC 31 NEW YEARS EVE
JOE'S FARM WHANGAMATA

31
December
2019



Opera at the ROSA
1 January 7:30pm
Whangamata RSA

Bringing Country to the Beach
2 January 5-9pm
Whangamata RSA

1-2
January
2020



**GYPSY
FAIR**

9am – 5pm daily

For almost 30 years the Original Gypsy Fair has been travelling NZ and will be back in Whangamata for the annual summer fair.

As always they will be bringing an expansive range of handcrafted products that are sold exclusively at The Original Gypsy Fair, some of which will be made before your eyes.

Any enquires can be made directly at hippyhill@gmail.com

1-4
January
2020



the keltic FAIR
celebrating tradition, community and creativity

2
January
2020

The Keltic Fair is one of New Zealand's largest one day fairs and a highlight of the Coromandel holiday season. Come along and enjoy free entertainment, kids rides, food, arts and crafts. About 300 stalls.

From 9am - 4pm. Entry \$2 per person over 5 years old, all gate proceeds go to Coromandel Area School.

www.kelticfair.co.nz

KATCHAFIRE

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS*

THE BLACK SEEDS

L.A.B. TOMORROW PEOPLE 1814

27 DEC: THE MOUNT, MOUNT PARK WITH: ● ●

28 DEC: PALMERSTON NORTH, B&M CENTRE WITH: ●

29 DEC: NELSON, TRAFALGAR CENTRE WITH: ○

30 DEC: NAPIER, PETTIGREW GREEN ARENA WITH: ● ○

02 JAN: COROMANDEL, COROGLEN TAVERN WITH: ● ○

03 JAN: ROTORUA, LAKEFRONT RESERVE WITH: ● ● ○

04 JAN: NEW PLYMOUTH, BUTLERS REEF WITH: ●

2
January
2020

KING OF THE MOUNTAIN



The ultimate short-distance trail run challenge.

Setting off from the Pauanui Surf Life Saving Club, the 8.5km course involves a 2km dash along the beach to the base of Mt Pauanui where the 387m climb to the summit begins. At the top, you're rewarded with spectacular views of Pauanui Beach and the outer islands before heading down the eastern ridge to Cave Bay for a rock-hop along the foreshore before running back along the beach.

Brought to you by the Pauanui Sports & Recreation Club's 'Summer Series' and is sponsored by Bachcare.

Follow the Pauanui Summer Series on Facebook to stay up-to-date for information on this event.

Facebook: @pauanuieries Web: Pauanuiclub.co.nz

4
January
2020



TAIRUA SCHOOL, 110 MAIN ROAD, TAIRUA
SATURDAY 4 JANUARY 2020 9AM—4PM

The Tairua School Food & Wine Festival, proudly sponsored by First National Paradise Coast, has, for the last 25 years, been an important fundraiser for the school. It is a favorite staple of the Coromandel summer, bringing together terrific music, food, wines, beers, ciders, kids' entertainment and great NZ produce.

ST FI

**YOURS TO KEEP
NEW ZEALAND 2020**

SAT JAN 4
COROMANDEL
COROGLEN TAVERN

TICKETS: STICKYFINGERSTHEBAND.COM

4
January
2020

4 January

COOKS BEACH

Summer Gala

9am to 2pm
Cooks Beach Reserve
Taxi or walk from ferry

**Stalls
Games
Food
Music
Rides
Raffles
and more!**

WIN \$1000
with the
Cooks Beach
Richardson's
Real Estate
**DAISY
DUNG
DROP**

Whenuakite School Fundraiser

4-5
January
2020



A unique market/festival held across New Zealand which is completely FREE at Williamson Park.

Market stalls, arts and craft, food, musical entertainment and kids shows.

5
January
2020



FARM
MUSIC FESTIVAL 2020
DANCE
SIGMA (DJ SET)
SLUMBERJACK • CLAPTONE
HOLY GOOF • CUT SNAKE B2B LITTLE FRITTER • REBUKE
MONTELL2099 • LEE MYTHUEWS
GENERAL LEE + MORE TBA
www.farmdance.co.nz

Frankie's Beach Street Meet

5
January
2020



MAIN STREET WHITIANGA FROM 9AM TILL 2PM

Car show - American, classic, cars, bikes, and all sorts of vehicles. If it's interesting, it will be there. No restriction on year model or type of vehicle, everything from three wheelers, to an army truck will be on display. We are expecting 100 +cars. Local rock and roll club performing.

Anyone can enter just email Reg at glasspro@xtra.co.nz

Free entry to the viewing public.

Hahei Market Day

Kotare Reserve, Pa Road, Hahei

A relaxed day out at Kotare Reserve with an array of quality stall holders' irresistible goods. You will find something for everyone, check out the delectable range of food goodies, fun rides and amusements for the children. This is an annual fund raising event for the Hahei Library and Community Wellbeing Projects.

6
January
2020

The BARRY BRICKELL PLAY WITH CLAY DAY

HAURAKI HOUSE RESERVE
COROMANDEL TOWN from 10AM UNTIL 3PM

A fun day playing with clay, remembering Barry Brickell's contribution to Coromandel Town, will be held at Hauraki House Reserve. Everyone is welcome to join with the artists and friends of Barry Brickell to have fun with clay.

- » Make it and break it
- » Learn on the Potters wheel
- » Make tiles
- » Use moulds
- » Enjoy live music, food

Sponsored by Driving Creek Railway and Pottery. Clay for sale for the serious potter and small bags for the learners. There will also be Potters works for sale.



25
January
2020

25
January
2020



Hauraki Aero Club and Thames Vintage Classic Car Club present
THAMES
Wings AND Wheels
25TH JANUARY 2020
THAMES AIRFIELD
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Visit www.wingsandwheelsthames.com

25
January
2020



MERCURY BAY SAND SCULPTURE COMPETITION
SATURDAY 25 JANUARY 2020
Cooks Beach
• International sand sculptor • Water fun park
• Market and food • Aerobatics show
• More FM live on site • Big prizes
Registrations online at www.theinformer.co.nz or on the day from 11:30am. Competition starts at 1:00pm.
Sponsored and organised by The Mercury Bay Informer and Richardsons Cooks Beach.

26 January 2020

WHITIANGA SUMMER CONCERT 2020
SUNDAY 26 JANUARY
www.greenstoneentertainment.co.nz/

WHANGAMATA OCEAN SPORTS CLUB

NAUTI GIRLS FISHING TOURNAMENT

Whangamata Ocean Sports Club
 1100 Port Road, 8 Feb 2020

The largest female only fishing competition in the country with over \$30,000 worth of prizes. Heaps of fun with a fashion show and live music. A great day and night out for all you Nauti Girls out there.

CLASSIC GAME FISHING TOURNAMENT

Whangamata Ocean Sports Club
 1100 Port Road, 13 – 15 Feb 2020

The BIG ONE. Over \$70,000 in prizes up for grabs. More spot prizes that you can shake a lure at. Early bird prize so ensure you enter quick. Get your team together and enter now for Coromandel's biggest Game Fishing tournament of the year.

www.oceansports.co.nz

7 March 2020

MUSIC PICNIC @the point
PLEASANT POINT RESERVE - PAUANUI BEACH

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2020

Contact Pauanui information centre (07) 864 7101

8-9 February 2020

LEADFOOT FESTIVAL FEB 8-9 2020
www.leadfootfestival.com

280 LINK ROAD HAHEI

The Leadfoot Festival is a unique event with a spectacular array of the finest competition vehicles, dating back more than 100 years, to present day championship cars. From classic formula and road race cars, to off-road machines, Leadfoot Festival attracts competitors and race vehicles, an enthusiastic display of speed, style, sound, smell and colour. Guests are given a one of a kind motorsport experience, featuring unparalleled access to competitors, race vehicles and the pits.

14-16 February 2020

Celebrating All Things British – Brits at the Beach is a 3 day festival based around a British Motoring gathering that attracts hundreds of vehicles and is based right on the waterfront at Whangamata's Beach Road Reserve.

www.britsatthebeach.co.nz

OSPREY PACKS ARC ADVENTURE RACE

To celebrate our 20th year of running the ARC Adventure Race we are introducing the new format of adventure racing called the "Adventure Rogaine".

The race will be based from the site of a proposed new Outdoor Camp close to Coromandel Town, and will involve a series of stages, including trekking, mountain biking and kayaking, or an alternative water-based activity. Each stage will be a rogaine in its own right with a time limit and a number of point scoring checkpoints. There will also be the famous ARC Mystery activities including the "Temple of Doom" for which you will need a whip and a wetsuit.

www.arcevents.co.nz/entry

20-22
March
2020



CRAIG ROBERTSON PRESENTS

The Thames Country Music Weekend to be held at the Thames Workingmen's Club. This event continues to grow and is now into it's sixth year. With yet another great line up of top NZ Country Music talent.

www.facebook.com/ThamesCMW

Wet 'n' Wild
Weekend

14-15
March
2020

JETSKI RACING ON A CIRCUIT COURSE
NOVICE EVENT - BRING YOUR JETSKI
PEPE RESERVE - TAIRUA HARBOUR

facebook.com/tairuawetandwild/
FREE ADMISSION

from
20 Mar -
19 Apr 2020

ECHO
WALKING
FESTIVAL



Follow winding tracks through spectacular scenery and amazing views. Explore our backyard and learn about our local history. Hike across hills, discover pools and waterfalls, get a bit of exercise and enjoy our local bush and beach.

From an hour's walk to full day tramps, there's something for everyone.

www.echowalkfest.org.nz

PAUANUI
HALF MARATHON

Pauanui Beach provides the ultimate backdrop for this exciting new running event. The 21km course takes in some of the best sites at this all-time popular holiday spot: the surf beach, the Pauanui Waterways and the off-road forest and estuary-side track of the Pauanui-Tairua Trail.

The event also offers 10km and 5km courses, with walking options on all distances.

www.pauanuihalfmarathon.co.nz

21
March
2020



A TASTE OF
MATARANGI

4
April
2020

Village Green Reserve, Kenwood Drive, Matarangi,
Whitianga from 10am-4.30pm

A family friendly event held at one of the most beautiful beach locations on the Coromandel Peninsula. Enjoy a day of great food, quality wine, local craft beers and non-stop entertainment designed to please adults and children alike.

www.atasteofmatarangi.co.nz

Repco
BEACH HOP

27-31
March
2020



A 5-day festival celebrating the music, culture, fashion, hot rods, motorbikes, dancing, dragsters and scooters of this golden era.

www.beachhop.co.nz

10-13
April
2020



Coromandel Town Seafood Fest

Coromandel Town Seafood Fest
Coromandel Area School Grounds
2nd May 2020 9am - 4pm

2
May
2020

The Seafood Fest is an annual event and entry is just a \$2 coin, with kids under 12 free. The day features a selection of stalls offering a range of seafood dishes. Live music all day, cooking and fish filleting demonstrations and rides for the children.

www.coromandelseafoodfest.com

WHITIANGA HALF-MARATHON

23
May
2020



Fast, flat, fun and scenic are the best words to describe the Whitianga Half Marathon held in the beautiful Mercury Bay.

This popular run/walk event was first held in 2018 and involves a scenic loop of Buffalo Beach and the town's paths and sealed roads. All distances start and finish at the Buffalo Beach Reserve which is also the location for a fun-filled prizegiving and some great music.

As well as the premier Half Marathon 21km course, there is also a 10km event, a 5km event and a 2km kids beach dash, so there really is an event for all.

There will be water stations and lots of encouraging marshals all along the course to keep you moving.

The event is all about fun and participation for you, your mates or your family.

www.whitiangahalfmarathon.co.nz

26 April
& 3 May
2020

THE TREASURY

As part of National Archaeology Week, local archaeologist Dave Wilton, of The Treasury, will guide a walk around the historic locations.

Guided walk around Parawai Mission Station and Halls Arboretum
Sun 26 April 2020 - 9.30am

Kauaeranga Kauri Logging and Devcich's Farm
Sun 3 May 2020 - 9.30am

\$5 per head (under-12s free) - includes handout.

For further information on any events contact:

The Coromandel Heritage Trust

705 Queen Street, PO Box 75, Thames 3540

Ph: 07 868 8827 Email: info.thetreasury@gmail.com

www.thetreasury.org.nz



THE GREAT KAURI RUN

2
May
2020



An off-road cross country run with a total distances of 70km, 32km, 23km and 12km.

Each distance starts and finishes in Coromandel Town. Approximately 200 years ago most of the Coromandel peninsula was covered in Kauri Forest. Today little remains of the original forest. We will plant a Kauri tree along the route for every competitor that takes part in the race and so that gradually over the years there will be an avenue of Kauri trees to run along. To date over 3,500 trees have been planted a distance of 13km.

www.arcevents.co.nz/kaurirun/

Wild Womens Weekend

15-17
May
2020

Whangamata is famous for its beach, cars and rock and roll – and now famous for Wild Women's Weekends. A weekend of music, sport and information at venues all over town.

Learn more at www.wildwomensweekend.co.nz

29-30
May
2020

Coromandel 200 & Illume Festival

Coromandel - the town, the harbour and the peninsula - was named after HMS Coromandel, a British Royal Navy Ship that transported convicts to Australia in March 1820 and then sailed on to New Zealand to collect timber spars and undertake coastal survey work. A model of the HMS Coromandel is housed at the Coromandel School of Mines & Museum.

The commemoration to celebrate the visit, of 'Coromandel,' after which the town and our peninsula is named, will also tie in with Coromandel Town's next Illume Festival 2020.

www.illumefest.co.nz

Coromandel 200
(200 YEARS OF COROMANDEL)



The Strictly Land-Based Annual Winter Family Fishing Competition



31 May -
1 June
2020

Briefing, weigh-In, and prize-giving all held at the Whitianga Hotel on Blacksmith Lane.

Briefing Friday. Lines in 12.01am Saturday - Lines out 3pm Sunday. Prize-giving Sunday 7pm.

Run by Nicole and Gene Bryant, the competition aims to attract like minded land-based fishos from all around NZ with a large focus on engaging families. Again the competition will donate 25% of all entry fees to Variety the Children's Charity. These proceeds will be topped up with all the donations accumulated by The Edge fishing filleting station. For a gold coin donation contestants can have their catches filleted and bagged by volunteers from the Whitianga Butchery with all waste disposed by the SLB. With two days of fishing time, no boundaries and one of the best coastlines NZ has to offer it doesn't matter whether you are a solo angler, keen to enter as a team, or you're looking for a way to spend time with the family, this competition caters to everyone!

Keep up to date with this competition by following Strictly Land-based on Facebook.

TBC
September
2020



The Whitianga Scallop Festival is a celebration of Whitianga seafood and marine heritage.

Now in its fifteenth year, the event has grown into one of New Zealand's iconic seafood celebrations. The concept of the event is simple - scallops cooked in a myriad of different ways by talented national chefs, restaurants and community groups and matched with quality entertainment including live bands, seafood cooking classes and demonstrations.

The festival is nestled alongside the Whitianga marina and the stunning harbour entrance is the backdrop to this seafood extravaganza!

Find out more at www.scallopfestival.co.nz

Visitor Information Centres

WHITIANGA

I-Site Visitor Information Centre
66 Albert Street, Whitianga
Phone: **07 866 5555**

COROMANDEL TOWN Information Centre

Samuel James Reserve,
60 Kapanga Road, Coromandel
Phone: **07 866 8598**

**WHANGAMATA
Information Centre**
616 Port Road, Whangamata

THAMES

I-Site Visitor Information Centre
200 Mary Street, Thames
Phone: **07 868 7284**

TAIRUA

Information Centre
2 Manaia Street, Tairua
Phone: **07 864 7575**

PAUANUI

Information Centre
23 Centreway, Pauanui Beach
Phone: **07 864 7101**

KAUAERANGA

**Visitor Centre -
Department of Conservation**
Kauaeranga Valley, Thames
Phone: **07 867 9080**

Destination Coromandel
www.thecoromandel.com

District Markets

Tairua Market

Tairua Hall, Main Road
First Saturday morning each month

Matarangi Craft Market

Matarangi village shops
Sundays from December to January
and holiday weekends

Whitianga Art, Craft and Farmers Market

Soldiers Memorial Park, Whitianga
Saturday mornings on holiday weekends
and community events

Tairua Firemans Market

Tairua Fire Station, Main Road
Saturday morning of Labour Weekend

Coroglen Farmers Market

Gumtown Hall, Coroglen
Sunday morning Labour Weekend - Easter

Thames Market

Pollen St Thames, Grahamstown, Thames
Saturday mornings 8-12



Thames Goldrush Market Day

Pollen Street, Thames
9 January 2020

Coromandel Town Market

31 Kapanga Road, Coromandel Town
Fridays 8am - 12noon

Whangamata Lions Market

RSA Carpark
Anniversary Weekend, East and
Labour Weekend

Whangamata Community Market

Whangamata Library Carpark, Port Road
Sundays 9am - 1pm monthly in off season
and weekly Labour Weekend to Easter

Whangamata Weekend Markets

Island View Reserve, Whangamata
Sundays. Web: weekendevents.co.nz

Pohutukawa Coast Artisan Market

Waiomu Beach Reserve
Last Friday of the month in summer

THE HOP'S

American connection

As Repco Beach Hop prepares to celebrate its twentieth year in 2020, the festival is now firmly established as New Zealand's biggest celebration of the 1950s and 1960s, with participants revelling just as keenly in the fashion, dancing and culture of this golden era as the hum of the hot rods, motorbikes and dragsters that fill our streets.

More than 100,000 people visit the Coromandel for the five-day Repco Beach Hop festival in March each year and it is now one of the largest events of its kind in the world. Indeed, among those who roar into the Coromandel with their classic cars and retro outfits, are those travelling from overseas to be a part of the iconic celebrations – in some cases shipping their cars over too.

US-based Ron and Vicki Selia are among those who travel from afar to be part of Repco Beach Hop and the couple enjoy a special connection to the festival ever since Repco Beach Hop president Graeme 'Noddy' Watts bought their nostalgic 1949 Ford Coupe drag car, affectionately known to them as "Etta" (pictured below).

Vicki and Etta drag-raced around the USA for many years, but when Vicki could no longer race, it became the perfect project for Noddy and his Beach Hop crew, who shipped her back to New Zealand. The Ford Shoebox is now one of the most notable cars at Repco Beach Hop and the Meremere Nostalgia drags.

"I don't regret selling Etta," Vicki says. "I can see she is appreciated by Noddy and the crew and brings so much joy to the car enthusiast community in New Zealand."

The Selia's first flew to New Zealand for Repco Beach Hop in 2017 and were reunited with Etta, with the opportunity to race her at the Meremere Nostalgia drags. Unfortunately, Vicki had a broken foot, so Ron ran 9.86 seconds at 132.4mph, beating Etta's personal best back in the US.

During Repco Beach Hop that year, the Selia's spotted a car for sale outside the Whangamata Service Centre (201 Aickin Rd). The cream-colored, Lincoln Continental 1961 sedan with licence plate, 'MI PICK', was once owned by a legendary silent film actress known as 'America's sweetheart', Mary Pickford, and was brought to New Zealand by the Hallen family in 2008 from the Pickfair Estate Auction in Beverly Hills, California.

MI PICK was shipped back home to America and the car now represents their special bond with Whangamata.

The Selia's plan to keep returning to Repco Beach Hop to see Etta, Noddy and the friends they have made through the joint passion of cars, and because they say there is simply no festival like it elsewhere in the world. "We think it's fabulous the way people are trying to preserve history and the festival transports us back to celebrate this fun period," Vicki says. "We love Whangamata and can't wait to explore more of the Coromandel."



The crew at Meremere Nostalgia Drags.



The tour – Mustangs make an impact cruising together through the Badlands near Mt Rushmore in South Dakota.

KIWIS ON TOUR

As if running the annual Repco Beach Hop festival doesn't keep Graeme "Noddy" Watts busy enough, he also has another business helping Kiwis tick Route 66 in the US off their bucket list.

Noddy and his partner Andrea Ross offer fully-escorted, self-drive tours across the "Mother Road" of the USA, alongside a range of the tours covering most of the country.

"A lot of Kiwis have Route 66 on their bucket list, and we help make that dream come true," Noddy says.

Since 2010, Kiwis on Tour has taken more than 700 people from New Zealand and Australia on 23 tours of the US where they travel in style in new Mustang convertibles.

"We believe that you can't see the real America in just a couple of weeks, and we give people the freedom of self-driving," Noddy says. "With other tours you are confined to a mini coach where you only get to go where the driver wants you to go, on their timetable, with a bunch of other people in the vehicle. Our tours are designed so you can stop whenever you like and spend as much time as you want at various attractions along the way."

Kiwis on Tour offers the following tours:

1. **Route 66** – The history of small-town America.
2. **Cars & Blues** is 'the bucket list' completed, visiting various famous destinations.
3. **West Coaster** is all about enjoying the stunning scenery.
4. **Reunion Tours** – Designed for people who've been on tour before, taking a different route to Chicago captivating the hot August nights in Reno and SCTA Bonneville Speedweek in Wendover.
5. **Cruisin' Canada Tour** – A new tour coming in 2022.

For more information visit kiwisontour.com



2019 Kiwis on Tour with well-known Route 66 identity Harley Russell Erick, Oklahoma – the redneck capital of the world.

Behind Repco Beach Hop

For Stephen Richards, the best part of Repco Beach Hop is the months leading up to the event when he spends time with the crew and building the give-away cars.

Twenty years of Repco Beach Hop would not have been possible without the hard-working troop of volunteers who put a great deal of time and effort into helping, not only during the event itself, but during the months leading up to it. Many of the volunteers are Whangamata locals, who juggle their own commitments to make time for the voluntary work, which often includes putting a halt on their own classic car projects.

Stephen Richards and his sidekick Stryder, both official Beach Hop crew members, have been involved with transforming more than 30 of the cars and caravans that festival-goers can win each year.

"Our biggest challenge is always trying to get the cars ready in time, but we've had lots of fun over the years and the sponsors have been good to us," Stephen says.

Stephen came to Whangamata after many years of travelling around the world, racing stock cars, and working as a firefighter in Auckland. "I came to Whangamata 25 years ago when I wrecked my



back. I rented a bach and never left," Stephen says.

In that time, Stephen has volunteered his time, skills and knowledge to help his mate Noddy with Repco Beach Hop. "I love working with the crew on American cars and helping to make Repco Beach Hop the success it is for Whangamata."

Stephen says giving back to community is a highlight of the event. The Beach Hop committee hosts an annual volunteers and sponsors bbq at the Whangamata Surf Life Saving Club. Noddy estimates that \$500,000 has gone back to Whangamata emergency services organisations from the fundraising efforts of the team.

"Beach Hop has become a great family event and it's awesome seeing everybody having such a great time and enjoying our town, even in the rain," Stephen says. "I love seeing all the different cars, not just the beautiful show cars, but also the rougher projects, cruising around and in action. That's what makes the Repco Beach Hop such a great, unique event."

Repco Beach Hop 20th Anniversary, 25 – 29 March 2020
beachhop.co.nz

We've got the beaches covered...

Coromandel

Harcourts Coromandel has been a part of the community for many years now, and has in recent times seen a change in ownership and a fresh-faced new team. A small bunch, with a mix of experienced agents and a brand-new salesperson, they're ready to assist you with your buying and selling needs.



You'll find the Coromandel office on the main street, central and handy to pop on in and catch up with the team, as well as being in a prominent position to scroll over the listings in the window.

Managed by Dayle Candy, our business owner based in the Whitianga Office, the Coromandel team is moving from strength to strength as it continues to grow!

Whitianga

Our Whitianga office is the largest team of our five Harcourts Coromandel Beaches offices, with a strong, keen and experienced group of sales consultants. There's also an in-house property management team, covering Whitianga and the wider Mercury Bay area.

This office is very established in the local community with staff ranging from long-time locals to some fresh new influence in the area – covering all of your specialist property marketing needs under the strong national and international brand and network, Harcourts.

Centrally located in town, this office is easily accessible to our valued walk-in customers. Ready to help people with their property goals, pop on into the office to meet the easy going and professional Harcourts Whitianga team.



Coromandel

105 Kapanga Road, Coromandel
P 07 866 8360
E coromandel@harcourts.co.nz

Whitianga

71 Albert Street, Whitianga
P 07 866 4981
E enquiries.whitianga@harcourts.co.nz

Tairua

238 Main Road, Tairua
P 07 864 7822
E tairua@harcourts.co.nz

Pauanui

52 Jubilee Drive, Pauanui
P 07 280 0678
E pauanui@harcourts.co.nz

Whangamata

505A Port Road, Whangamata
P 07 865 9400
E whangamata@harcourts.co.nz

Rentals

P 07 865 9400
E rentals.whitianga@harcourts.co.nz



Tairua

With a team of six salespeople, our Pauanui/Tairua sales manager and an office administrator, the Tairua office is a powerhouse of dedicated professionals, combining proven skills and experience with youthful enthusiasm.

Our business owners Tony and Pip White are predominantly based in our Tairua office, bringing their renowned marketing skills, extensive national network, and reputation for getting the job done.

Incredibly proud of their town, the Tairua team has a wealth of local knowledge, with good roots in the area and depth of experience to help with all your real estate needs.

Pauanui

The Pauanui office is home to our award-winning selling duo Alyce Rowe and Katie Wardenburg, supported by office administrator, Tylah Dix – all working and living the dream in the seaside resort town of Pauanui.

Alyce and Katie have been rated highly by both buyers and sellers, earning them second place for Client Experience 2018/2019 at the Harcourts International Awards.

This office, now in its fourth year, has a reputation of exceeding expectations and although small, it is mighty, having now sold over \$70m worth of Pauanui property.

The team here, while still in a growth phase, are friendly and professional and ready to work for you whether it be buying or selling, and they have the testimonials and ratings to back it up!



Whangamata

The last slice of the Paradise Coast, Whangamata has one of our larger teams experienced in selling all property types: residential, lifestyle, rural, commercial and business.

The team is enthusiastic, professional and actively involved in the community, sponsoring Lions, The Arts Collective, the Bowling Club, Scoot 4 Loot, Run Walk Festival, Ocean Sports Fishing Club tournaments and Beach Hop – just to name a few!



This office, also in its fourth year, has a team passionate about living in the coastal town and being specialists in their beach-side market, having the right can-do attitude to find you the perfect coastal property to suit your needs.

Harcourts Whangamata is home to our rental division covering Whangamata, Tairua and Pauanui, so you could say this office is our jack of all trades!

Harcourts Coromandel Beaches

www.harcourtscoromandel.co.nz

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Love Food Hate Waste

Holiday makers across the Coromandel are being encouraged to think carefully about ways to minimise their waste as the population spikes and kerbside rubbish collections increase during our peak visitor season.

Between December 2018 and January 2019 our kerbside collection in the Thames-Coromandel District spiked by more than 260 tonnes. Food waste is also included in that figure.

A little bit of planning could go a long way to seriously reducing that volume, which helps our environment, and our wallets. With that in mind, local Coromandel eateries have shared tips and recipes for minimising food waste.

Luke Reilly from Kuaotunu café Luke's Kitchen says it's easy to see how food gets wasted over the holidays.

"People stock up on food before they arrive. They go fishing and catch more food. They go out for dinner a couple of times, then there's all this food they need to get rid of before they go home," Luke says.

"Everyone forgets, but I'd say try your best to have a rough meal plan before you go food shopping."

Luke's Kitchen will also be selling pizza dough over the holidays.

"We make our pizzas fresh, but pizzas are also a great way to use up your leftovers at home," Luke says.

Julie McMillan from Waiomu Beach Café encourages people to plan what to do with their leftovers, think about food storage and ask their neighbours or others in the community if they would like meals.

"Food is such a great way of creating community. Kai is community," she says.

Research from Love Food Hate Waste shows that 81 per cent of people would be happy to receive food from a neighbour, but only 13 per cent of people have ever offered their excess food to their neighbours.

Portion size is also important. Rebecca Murray from Whitianga's Blue Ginger Café says people should think about a handful of food being a reasonable portion size.

"The ideal amount of protein is around 200 to 250 grams of meat per person, keep that in mind when you cook the barbecue," Rebecca says.

New Zealanders throw away 122,547 tonnes of food a year worth about \$827 million. That amount of food would feed the Thames-Coromandel District's permanent population for eight whole years.

Visit lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz for more tips and tricks to minimising food waste.

You can find information on refuse and recycling on our Council's website:
tcdc.govt.nz/Our-Services/Rubbish-and-Recycling

Luke's Kitchen



Kuaotunu cafe Luke's Kitchen is all about making pizza not war, but it's also focused on making pizza without food waste.

Owner Luke Reilly says the kitchen started composting its food waste at the local Kuaotunu Food Forest last summer. Ingrid Kregting, who cooks at Luke's Kitchen, built compost bins at the community garden.

"We actually used broken bits of timber off my house to build them," Luke says.

"Minimising food waste is really important to us. They say you can measure the success of a place by how little food it wastes, "I guess it's just like throwing away money," he says.

It's the same principle for holiday makers over summer, with preventing excess food waste by doing a bit more planning.

In the restaurant, Luke's team makes delicious pickles with vegetable offcuts and pesto when there is a glut of produce. Ideally though, they manage what they buy, so food waste is kept to a minimum.

A great way to use up leftovers is to put a pizza stone on your barbecue, turn it to the highest heat with the hood down, and get creative with whatever is in your fridge.

Luke's tips

- Get a garden going and compost your left-over fruit and vegetable scraps. Find more information at lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz

- Everyone forgets but try your best to have a meal plan when you go food shopping. A little bit of planning can go a long way to reducing your food waste.

- Fry or smoke your snapper frames and make stock or a soup or use the mobile app, Free Fish Heads, to find someone who wants your frames. Don't dump them.

Luke's Kitchen Pickle

This pickle recipe is incredibly versatile and can be adjusted depending on your taste. Like a sweeter pickle? Throw some more sugar in. Want to make it a bit funkier? Add some star anise, cloves or a knob of ginger!

- 1 cup vinegar
- 1 cup water
- Salt and sugar to taste
- 1 teaspoon of mustard seeds
- 1 bay leaf
- One lemon sliced
- A few peppercorns

At Luke's we love to pickle cucumber, carrot ends, coriander stalks, radish's, onions, celery and any other vegetables that don't quite make the cut for a salad but are delicious pickled.

Combine all ingredients in a pot and bring to the boil until sugar and salt dissolve. Place vegetables in a jar or airtight container and pour your pickling liquid over top.



Luke's Kitchen Pizza Pesto

This is another super versatile recipe that can be adjusted to different batch sizes, taste preferences and what you have in the fridge. Nailing the correct ratio is an epic way to ensure you always get a good result no matter what your batch size.

- 3 cups of greens (Luke's uses watercress but try out different combinations. Throw some basil and broccoli stalks together)
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 cup nuts (Luke's uses roasted cashews)
- Extra virgin olive oil to combine (up to 2 cups)
- Lemon juice to taste
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a food processor blitz your fresh greens with a little oil until you have a smooth paste. When your greens are well blitzed, add your cheese and nuts then slowly add the rest of your oil until it's the consistency you desire. Hit it with a splash of lemon juice and salt and pepper at the end.



Julie McMillan from Waiomu Beach Café says one of the biggest barriers to safely using up leftovers is knowing how to safely store them.

After making a meal plan, she says you should also think about planning any leftovers you might have and planning the space you have for them in your fridge or freezer.

"Everyone has ham leftover from Christmas. Instead of putting the whole lot into the freezer, cut it up into different slices with portioned sizes," Julie says.

"Cut off some ham steaks for the barbecue, lots of little bits of diced ham for frittata, omelettes or bubble and squeak. Make your thin cuts for sandwiches or some thick cuts for farmhouse pies."

Ham will safely freeze for up to three months and if you put the cuts into small freezer bags and freeze them flat, it won't take up so much space and you can take out only what you need.

Julie also suggests asking your neighbours or others in the community if they would like meals.

Julie also suggests making stock with leftover bones or fish frames which will also use up those stray carrots, onions or any other vegetables you have in the fridge. Add a few peppercorns, a bay leaf and just cover with water. For poultry or fish stock, simmer for up to two hours, for red met simmer for up to four. Stock can also be kept in the freezer for up to six months for your winter soups.

Waiomu Beach Café

Farmhouse Pie

This is a great recipe for packing up to take to the beach or on the boat. You can make it as big as you like and put just about anything in it.

Sheets of ready rolled short pastry

Sheets of ready rolled flaky pastry

Eggs beaten

Leftover ham, turkey, roasted vegetables, peas, broccoli, chutney, sauces or cranberry jelly.

1 finely chopped onion.

Milk or leftover cream

Preheat your oven to 180 degrees

Line a tin or large roasting tray with the ready rolled short pastry.

Scatter over the finely chopped onion and dot around chutney, sauces or jelly.

Sprinkle left over vegetables and meat and any other filling you might like to use.

Depending on the size of your pie you might use between 8 to 12 eggs beaten with 1 to 1.5 cups of cream or milk. Seasoned with salt and pepper.

Pour egg mixture over the filling.

Top the pie with flaky pastry.

Brush pastry with more beaten egg or milk.

Bake in the oven until the pastry is crispy and the filling cooked.



Julie's tips

- Plan your leftovers by portioning them for different uses and freezing them.
- Freeze your leftovers flat so they take up less space in your freezer. Find out more about storage here: <https://lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz/reduce-your-waste/reduce-your-wastestorage>
- Ask your neighbours or others in the community if they would like meals. Kai is community

Blue Ginger Café

Rebecca Murray from Blue Ginger Café in Whitianga says one of the most important things in managing our food waste is managing portion sizes.

When you're feeding a crowd, it can be hard to work out how much everyone needs.

"You should work in handfuls. You shouldn't be making much more than that. You only need about 200 grams of protein or red meat, per person," Rebecca says.

If you still end up with leftovers she says just about anything can be whizzed up into a dumpling filling. Add a bit of soy sauce or oyster sauce to the mixture and some vegetable oil, sesame oil and minced ginger or any green herbs such as coriander or Thai basil.

"Kids can get in on the folding and give mum the night off cooking."



Blue Ginger Pork + Fennel Dumplings

- 300 grams pork mince
- 1 teaspoon fennel seeds
- 150 grams of cabbage
- 100 grams of carrot
- 2 spring onions
- 1 teaspoon ginger minced
- 1 teaspoon fish sauce
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 teaspoon ABC kecap manis
- 1 packet dumpling wrappers
- Salt and pepper to taste

Dry roast fennel seeds, shaking pan often for 5 minutes
Smash up in a mortar + pestle until rough powder.
Mince cabbage, carrot, spring onions salt and pepper and ginger in a food processor.
Mix all ingredients together well.
Taste test your mixture by placing a teaspoon of mix in boiling salted water until cooked. Adjust flavours if needed.
Place a spoonful of mix in dumpling wrappers. Wet edges and seal into half-moon shapes.
Cook in boiling salted water or stock until floating.
Serve with your favourite dipping sauces.

Rebecca's tips

- Use your food processor. Whizz up stray carrots, cabbage or other vegetables to make dumplings,
- Manage your portion sizes. Think in handful sizes. You should aim for no more than 200 grams of protein or red meat.

FOOD

with provenance

In December 2019, artisan cheese-maker Mercury Bay Creamery is due to open a boutique store at Auckland's Mission Bay, selling its organic cheeses and raw milk – fresh from the farmgate at Whitianga.



Shoppers at the busy Eastridge Shopping Centre will be able to select from its range of camembert, brie, merlots, manchegos, feta and butter kase cheeses, while also taking home a taste of the Coromandel from other complementary home-grown food products such as honey and vinegerettes, to be stocked alongside its dairy fare.

Mercury Bay cheeses are already served up at the high-end Auckland restaurant One Tree Grill as well as the Park Hyatt Auckland hotel and another national hotel and convention centre, with the restaurant market now providing two-thirds of its revenue – not bad for a small business that launched in early 2018.

Owner and cheesemaker Carl Storey (pictured above with wife Jeanette) says

these are all doors that opened as a result of being part of the Coromandel Food Collective stand at the Auckland Food Show in 2018.

Mercury Bay Creamery returned to the Food Show for a second year in 2019, alongside four other local food producers – exhibiting as a collective, with support from our Council.

“We’ve had customers come by our Whitianga shop in the summer who say they saw us at the Food Show,” Carl says.

“The Coromandel Food Collective shows people we’re not just bush and a few nice beaches here on the Coromandel; there is a lot more going on,” Carl says.

Mercury Bay Creamery cheeses have been picked up by three new restaurants as a

result of the 2019 Food Show, which means business is really hotting up.

November 2019 will also see the opening of a retail presence in central Whitianga with the co-lease of a shop on Albert St.

The creamery is in the throes of doubling the size of the factory on Tairua-Whitianga Rd, 1km south from the Whitianga township turnoff – a direct result of its restaurant accounts. It’s also producing triple the amount of cheese from when it started, with plans to employ another cheesemaker and retail staff.

“We wouldn’t have expanded without those restaurants, which we wouldn’t have picked up without the Food Show,” Carl says.

Dishing up a taste of the Coromandel

Attracting close to 30,000 people, the Auckland Food Show is one of the largest food shows in New Zealand, which our Council co-funds businesses to attend as part of the Coromandel Food Collective exhibition space.

In 2019 we hosted what was largely an all-new new set of exhibitors, who returned home buzzing from the sales, networking opportunities and from discovering new markets for their food.

Plant-based, whole food maker Corokai used the show as the launch pad for its organic, gluten-free bread mix. The freshly-baked herb and seeded loaves received keen interest from foodies and from commercial buyers, impressing celebrity chef Simon Gault, who endorsed the bread at his cooking theatre demonstration over the weekend.

"It's a great opportunity to get a feel for the market and to know that we're supported and to meet other businesses and make connections," says Corokai bread maker Guy Macindoe.

Kuaotunu-based Uncle Dunkles Chilli was only six-months old when owner Kyle Dunkle showcased his wood-fired chilli sauces at the show.

"For a young business to be invited by our Council to take part in the Coromandel Food Collective stand is amazing," Kyle says.

Morag Standbrook, from Thames-based Savour & Spice, said she was grateful for our Council's support to get to the show with her range of mustards, spices and teas.

"Little businesses like us find it challenging financially to be at an event like this otherwise," Morag says.

Over the course of the show, Morag made new wholesale and export contacts, and enjoyed networking and sharing her knowledge of manufacturing with fellow producers on the stand.

"I think building the network of small, artisanal food producers here on the Coromandel is important. The biggest hurdle for any new business is knowledge. We can help with that and pass on our experience," Morag says.

Honey Shed Tairua enjoyed strong interest in its honey, candles and bees wax products. Owner Molly Hayward said she made connections with wholesalers as well as boosting the store's social media following.

"We received so many comments that people love the Coromandel stall," Molly says.

Food Show events company Northport Events reports 29,107 people attended the 2019 show, with an average spend of \$193 each. The main reason people visit is to see new products and services and to look for ideas and inspiration.

"Each year we have strong demand to join the Coromandel Food Collective at the Food Show, and there were many more exciting food producers that would have represented the Coromandel with gusto," says our Council's communications and economic development group manager Laurina White.

"The fact we can take what's virtually a whole new group of exhibitors, and for them to have such a productive show, shows the depth of our artisan food industry," Laurina says.



"Local and homegrown food is an important part of the Coromandel economy, with mussel farms, organic growers and producers among those helping to establish our district as the pantry of artisan and locally-grown food products," Laurina says.

"Increasingly, as people learn about the great, home-grown, fresh artisan products produced right here, it's becoming another strong

reason for people to visit the Coromandel," she says.

A 'homegrown in the Coromandel' food trail guide can be found inside The Coromandel Visitor Guide, which you can collect from an i-SITE visitor centre or view online at thecoromandel.com

The five food producers showcased at the 2019 Auckland Food Show were:

Mercury Bay Creamery

Organic, artisan cheeses hand-crafted from Mercury Bay Creamery's own milk supply. Visit the shop, just 1km from the Whitianga township where you can see the cheeses being made.

mercurybaycreamery.co.nz



Savour & Spice

Spice blends, curries, marinades and vinaigrettes hand-made on site in the historic building called 'The Depot' at 715 Pollen St, Thames. Savour & Spice distributes to kitchens in Singapore, Japan, Australia and beyond.

savourandspice.co.nz



The Honey Shed Tairua

At 307 Main Rd Tairua, The Honey Shed supplies locally-produced honey bee products including wax wraps and candles, local produce and fresh food.

facebook.com/thehoneyshednz



Uncle Dunkles Chilli

Locally-sourced ingredients are used to make these wood-fired chilli sauces, slow cooked and smoked in a wood-fired oven with New Zealand tea tree wood. Flavours include chilli, chilli BBQ, and extra hot chilli sauce. Visit the shop at 20 Black Jack Road Kuaotunu.

facebook.com/pg/uncledunkleschilli



Corokai

Corokai is an organic, gluten-free, plant-based, food maker based in Coromandel Town and launched its gluten-free artisan bread mix at the 2019 Food Show.

Corokai.co.nz



Our Council created this network as part of our economic development arm, to help promote and support local, homegrown businesses and market the Coromandel as a food destination.

tcdc.govt.nz/corofoodcollective

Gastronomics

Restaurant, Café and Bar with Function Room and Alfresco Dining



Gastronomics is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Raikwar.

Chef Kishan has 30 years experience in hospitality, including overseeing the operation of large restaurants capable of catering for up to 1500 patrons per day. He has been a member of the NZ Chef Association and a dining judge for the last 11 years at the NZ Culinary Fair at Auckland.

Kishan and Radha look forward to welcoming you soon.



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Our open plan, single level apartments feature covered balconies with fantastic views of the sea, Kauaeranga River and Mountains. Each unit's elegantly finished kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom offer stylish warmth and light. All residents enjoy scenic views from each level's shared lounges, use of the Village community Lodge and participation in all activities and amenities at your leisure. ***All enquires welcome!***



Coromandel a Favourite WITH NZMCA MEMBERS

ASK ANY OF THE NEW ZEALAND MOTOR CARAVAN ASSOCIATION'S 89,500 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS FOR THEIR FAVOURITE SPOTS IN OUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY AND IT'S A SURE BET THAT COROMANDEL WILL FEATURE RIGHT AT THE TOP OF THE LIST.

And no wonder – it's a region that's got it all; unspoilt native bush, beautiful white-sand beaches, great fishing, cycling, walking and a wide variety of other leisure activities.

New Zealand Motor Caravan (NZMCA) members also love the area because of the warm welcome they receive from locals and for the fact they are spoiled for choice when it comes to parking their certified self-contained motorhomes in the district.

As well as the NZMCA Parks in Coromandel Town, Whitianga, and numerous commercial campgrounds nearby, members also report how much they enjoy the DOC campsites dotted around the peninsula.

Favourites haunts include:

- **Fantail Bay:** Known as 'the fisherman's campground' thanks to the great boat launching and deep water close to shore.
- **Port Jackson:** Camping on the water's

edge is always a treat. Plus, at the eastern end of the campsite, the Muriwai Coastal Walk provides stunning coastal views.

- **Fletcher Bay:** The beachfront campground in a farm setting is a favourite for many, thanks to its great fishing, diving and swimming.
- **Stony Bay:** This picturesque campsite, with its own beautiful bay ringed with pōhutukawa, and Mt Moehau rising in the background, is particularly spacious.
- **Waikawau Bay:** An awesome beach with great fishing, the powered motorhome sites are popular with members, as is the store that opens in summer.
- **Kahikatea Campsite:** A great launching pad for a touring holiday, this campsite in the Kauaeranga Valley is just 20 minutes' drive from the centre of Thames.

Simply enjoying Coromandel's stunning natural environment is top of nearly every visitor's to-do list, but there are many other activities NZMCA members like to recommend to each other. They include:

- Driving Creek Railway – where visitors of all ages enjoy the one-hour round trip on the narrow gauge mountain train through replanted forest up to the whimsically-named 'Eyeful Tower' viewing platform, which offers a great view over picturesque Coromandel Town;
- Exploring the area's historic towns, such as Coromandel Town and Thames, where the remnants from their colourful pasts in the days of the gold rush are still evident;
- Marvelling at the views from the Coromandel Coastal Walkway;
- Discovering the many stunning beaches 'around the next headland', such as Cathedral Cove, New Chum Beach and Stony Bay;
- Shopping for bargains in local boutiques and dining on the best of Coromandel's produce – from the land and the sea – in the many welcoming settlements that dot the district; and
- Soaking their cares away in nature's spa pools on the sands of world-famous Hot Water Beach.
- And then, of course, there's a growing list of great events on the calendar, including the 'bucket list' Whangamata Beach Hop, which require scheduling and a little forward-planning.



Top: Walking is an activity enjoyed by many NZMCA members and it doesn't get much better than this – the Coromandel Coastal Walkway to Stony Bay.

Middle: Soaking in the warming waters at Coromandel's famous Hot Water Beach is one of the many 'must-do' activities for NZMCA members holidaying in the region.

Bottom: Barry Brickell's ingenious Driving Creek Railway, just up the road from Coromandel township, is always a great day out.



NEW ZEALAND MOTOR CARAVAN ASSOCIATION

Article supplied by NZMCA



STAY POSTED

THREE PILLAR BOXES IN THAMES ARE RARE SURVIVORS IN TIMES OF
CONSTANT COMMUNICATIONS CHANGE.

In the wider story of postal services in New Zealand, it's fair to say that Thames has three standout cast-iron pillars of the community in its ranks. Two of the mail pillar boxes, installed in 1869, pre-date the official formation of Thames by five years, while the other was a relative Johnny-come-lately to the local scene, being installed in 1877.

The three pillar boxes have moved from their original positions over time and today two are located on Pollen Street – the main street and shopping precinct – and another on Queen Street – the main gateway to and from Coromandel. Dressed in their finest and most distinctive 'pillar box red' livery, they were likely originally painted green.

These Category 2 heritage features are the oldest surviving pillar boxes in the North Island and the second oldest nationally behind one in Nelson. They were based on a design by New South Wales Post Office clerk Thomas Levinge and manufactured in Sydney.

Importantly, they remain as markers of Thames' 19th-century status as an important and prosperous town following the discovery of gold in the area in the 1860s. Thames itself was established following a merger between smaller towns Shortland and Grahamstown, which had been established in 1867 and 1868 respectively.

For former Thames Community Board Chairwoman Diane Connors, the pillar boxes help to deliver a quality visitor experience for history and heritage buffs. Two are within the Thames-Coromandel District Council's Grahamstown Historic Heritage Area and the third is just outside.

The historic area remains blessed with buildings dating from the very early years of Thames' formation, some streetscapes uninterrupted despite the passage of time and growth.

"A few years ago, the board wanted to make Thames a destination centre in its own right, particularly in terms of heritage, and not just a gateway to somewhere else," Diane says.

"We are very proud of our heritage and the pillar boxes are part of that. The sign on the main road in to Thames says 'Our heritage is gold' and it really is. That the pillar boxes are still here, and in use, is really interesting for visitors. We try to keep our heritage alive as much as we can, because once it's gone, it's

gone. If we can, we want to retain our heritage. It means so much more to be able to physically connect with it.

"It's lovely watching them get used and cleared out," Diane goes on to say. The pillar boxes at 711 Pollen Street and on Queen Street remain in use by New Zealand Post, continuing a tradition dating from 1869.

"We see great value in our historical posting boxes," New Zealand Post Postal Heritage Lead Richard Leikis says.

"We hope they demonstrate the significant role the postal service used to provide in every community and the development of communications over time. We plan to maintain all historical posting boxes we own for the community to admire in their current states or better and will try to keep them operational with community support.

"In the future, if they are no longer required by the community for posting letters, we will work with the local council or other stakeholders to preserve them as heritage items, either where they sit today or in another public display."

New Zealand Post is currently working on updating its inventory of postal boxes with historical information about each box.

The combination of the pillar boxes' rarity and their continued use as communications tools is an important contributing factor in their heritage recognition, Heritage New Zealand Senior Heritage Assessment Advisor Martin Jones says.

"The Thames pillar boxes are very rare, especially as a surviving group, and their value is also enhanced by what they represent," Martin says.

"They have been part of the daily fabric of people's

lives for a century and a half because of the importance of their function. Used for posting personal and business letters, they were part of a communications revolution that allowed ordinary people to keep in much greater contact with others in and beyond their community, including overseas.

"That revolution continues today in other forms of technology such as mobile phones, email and the internet. The pillar boxes, however, provide a physical link to the historical origins of that social change."

Although the boxes have been shifted within the town to accommodate changing community needs and priorities – a process started in the 1880s – that only serves to highlight their importance and versatility.

"They still enjoy high public esteem and have done for many years. When New Zealand Post began replacing the Levinge post boxes around the country with the standard wooden hutch-type boxes mounted on posts in the 1960s, the people of Thames fought back and the pillar boxes were retained. Today they are exceptionally rare survivors."

That community pride in its pillar boxes has carried through to today, with the ultimate stamp of approval given by the Thames Valley Philatelic Society using the Levinge circular pillar box as its logo. ●

Reprinted with permission from *Heritage New Zealand* magazine. Words by Jamie Douglas. *Heritage New Zealand* is an award-winning magazine published quarterly by Heritage New Zealand. Recognised as New Zealand's leading heritage magazine, it features a wide range of interesting articles on the preservation and conservation of historic buildings and sites, as well as the people who work with them.



PHOTO: ULRICH LANGE

WWII LEGEND SIR KEITH PARK

returns to hometown Thames

A CENTURY AFTER LEAVING THAMES, SIR KEITH PARK HAS RETURNED TO THE PLACE
OF HIS BIRTH – IN THE FORM OF A BRONZE STATUE IN HIS LIKENESS.

Sir Keith led the air defence of London and south-east England during the Battle of Britain in 1940, forcing Adolf Hitler to abandon plans for a land invasion.

The bronze statue of Sir Keith was officially unveiled in a ceremony outside the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre on 27 April 2019 attended by Defence Minister Ron Mark, the UK's defence attache to New Zealand Commander Guy Haywood, our 2019 Councillors Sally Christie and Tony Fox, Coromandel MP Scott Simpson, members of the Park family, an air force honour guard and a contingent of Hauraki air cadets.

The statue itself was paid for by a \$200,000 bequest from Betty (Yvonne Elizabeth) Hare, of Coroglen, who felt that Sir Keith deserved greater recognition in his homeland.

Betty Hare passed away in 2017 and in her will left the money for the bronze statue to be created.



Sir Keith Park during the Battle of Britain in 1940.

Vintage military aircraft from the New Zealand Warbirds staged a flyover during the Park statue unveiling.

Mark Whyte sculpted the statue and it was cast in bronze by Jonathan Campbell.

The niece and nephew of Betty Hare, Wendy and Ralph Hare, carried out their aunt's wishes and organised the making of the statue and the unveiling ceremony.

Speaking at the unveiling, Wendy Hare turned to the statue and said: "Sir Keith, you're home to stay."

Thames Ward Councillor (2019) Sally Christie said at the unveiling: "To both the Park and Hare families, thank you for giving this fine statue to Thames."

"Thames youth will no longer need to make the trek to London to make the link between the name of their airfield and the highly recognised military hero immortalised in the statue at Waterloo Place," Sally said.

Defence Minister Ron Mark said Sir Keith changed the course of history.

"Simply put, Sir Keith Park was ... a Kiwi we should all be very, very proud of," he said.

"No other New Zealand-born military figure had a greater impact on history ... for none have ever had such a significant role in determining the course of such a major battle, a battle that had it been lost, would have allowed Hitler's land forces to invade Great Britain, thereby changing the history of the world," Defence Minister Mark said.

Speaking of her great uncle, Lesley Park said she had learned nothing of him in school, although she knew of his achievements.

"To me he was just my uncle. He was an accomplished sportsman and very competitive," she said. He was also "a true gentleman – a humble and kind man."

'LEADERSHIP AND CALM JUDGEMENT'

Sir Keith Park was born on 15 June 1892. He landed with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and then served on the Western Front and was wounded. After his recovery he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and later commanded No. 48 Squadron.

Between the wars, Sir Keith remained in the



BETTY (YVONNE ELIZABETH) HARE, OF COROGLLEN, FELT THAT SIR KEITH DESERVED GREATER RECOGNITION IN HIS HOMELAND.

Royal Air Force and soon after World War II began he was promoted to air vice-marshal and given command of No. 11 Group of the RAF Fighter Command, responsible for the defence of London and south-east England during the Battle of Britain.

Germany's failure to defeat the RAF was their first major setback of the war and prevented a land invasion of Britain.

A senior RAF commander during the Battle of Britain, Air Vice Marshall Arthur William Tedder (who later in the war was second-in-command of the Allied forces in western Europe), said of Sir Keith: "If ever any one man won the Battle of Britain, he did. I don't believe it is recognised how much this one man, with his leadership, his calm judgement and his skill, did to save not only this country, but the world."

Sir Keith Park later led the air defences of Malta, for which he was knighted in 1942. He went on to command British air forces in

the Middle East and by the war's end he commanded Allied air forces in South-East Asia.

After the war, Sir Keith moved back to Auckland and worked in the civil aviation industry. He persuaded the government to buy land in Mangere to establish Auckland International Airport at its current site and he served as an Auckland city councillor for three terms.

Sir Keith Park passed away in Auckland on 6 February 1975. The airfield at Thames is named in his honour, as are a school in Mangere and a display hall at the Museum of Transport and Technology (Motat) in Auckland. A statue of him was unveiled in Waterloo Place, London, in 2010. ●

Read more about Sir Keith on Te Ara, the Encyclopedia of New Zealand website: www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/5p9/park-keith-rodney



Thames Ward Councillor Sally Christie and Defence Minister Ron Mark with the bronze statue of Sir Keith Park.

Sir Keith Park – the early years

- Born 15 June 1892 in Thames. His father, James Park, was director of the Thames School of Mines.
- Age six, Keith and the Park family move to Birkenhead, Auckland.
- **1901** – the Park family moves to Dunedin but Keith remains in Auckland as a boarder at King's College until 1906, and then joins his family and attends Otago Boys' High School.
- **1909** – Keith joins the cadets.
- **March 1911** – Keith joins the Territorial Army, serving in the Field Artillery.
- **June 1911** – Keith joins the Union Steam Ship Company in Dunedin as a Cadet Purser.
- **December 1914** – Keith is granted war leave and joins the army in an artillery unit.
- **April 1915** – lands at Gallipoli.



Cadets from the Thames Squadron Air Training Corps with NZ Defence Force officers, Defence Minister Ron Mark and UK defence attache Commander Guy Haywood (far right).



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Rapaura Water Gardens Magic

THE FIRST TIME SALLY SANK VISITED RAPAURA WATER GARDENS, SHE SAYS THE 'BIGGEST, FATTEST RAINBOW' APPEARED AS SHE DROVE UP THE VALLEY FROM TAPU. IT WAS A COLD, WET EASTER DAY BUT SHE SAYS SHE STILL FELT THE MAGIC OF THE PLACE.

She bought Rapaura in 1994, and returned to New Zealand from Hong Kong several years later to run the property. Son Sacha soon followed and is now cooking in their acclaimed Koru Cafe on site.

Sally and Sacha (pictured right) work long hours to maintain and develop Rapaura. With nearly 26 hectares, or 64 acres, of land to take care of, it's more than full time work. They employ two staff who tend the gardens and hire others to work in the cafe over summer. There's also accommodation for hire and they host weddings.

The gardens were first established by Fritz and Josephine Loennig in the '60s. They built two cottages and began to develop gardens in the regenerating bush. They dug lily ponds, forged paths winding around water and under the trees, planted sub-tropicals and exotics.

Under Sally and Sasha's care, the gardens are a tranquil, peaceful place. Native birds dart through the trees and flaxes. Ducks paddle in the waterlily ponds. There are irises and bog plants, azaleas and rhododendrons, orchids, begonias, and hydrangeas. Sculptures are



carefully tucked among the plants, and a gentle uphill walk leads to a cascading waterfall called Seven Stairs to Heaven (pictured below).

It's been a long journey since the gardens were hammered in the 2002 weather bomb that tore through the west coast of the Coromandel. It did huge damage to Rapaura. Heavy rain saw 3000m³ of rubble, roots, and rocks shift, redirecting the natural flow of the water around the property, causing serious flooding.

The damage included major disarray to the water system; pipes that diverted water from the creeks into lily ponds and other areas were washed away. Sacha has spent hours upgrading and replacing what he says was once a "spaghetti

junction" of pipes. It's been a big learning curve, completely different from his experience in hospitality, but Sacha says he's a hands-on person and has enjoyed the challenge.

All that dedication and hard graft has paid off with Rapaura being awarded five stars and named a Garden of National Significance by the New Zealand Garden Trust. The organisation awards five stars to gardens it highly recommends "for their presentation, design and plant interest throughout the year. They have a distinctive identity of their own and a character that gives them an edge. They may have special features that may appeal to those with special interests." Sacha says it's a true recognition of the input by many people over the years; constantly maintaining and improving the property.

Rapaura Water Gardens are open 9-5, though winter hours may vary. Koru Cafe is open from October to April. They're at 586 Tapu-Coroglen Road, about half an hour from Thames, or 45 minutes from Coroglen on unsealed road. ●

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A family business of more than 150 years

Traditional wood screws, high quality fencing pliers and a specialist piece of threaded rod are just some of the unique products Thames' retailer Read Bros Hardware has sourced for its customers across New Zealand.

Staff at the business, which clocked over 152 years in 2019, are known as "chief problem solvers", says owner John Read.

The business, in Pollen Street, Thames, currently employs seven staff. Their experience ranges from building, engineering, gardening, to pickling and even history, so they're well equipped to cover any situation.

John is the fifth generation to run the business that his great, great, grandfather, also a John, started in 1867.

"Our uniqueness is in the independent nature of our business. That means we don't have to compromise on the level of service or the quality of products that we offer. We can and will sell you one bolt if that's all you need," John says.

Read Bros has built a reputation over the

years for finding pieces of hardware that are either no longer made, or nearly impossible to find online, and the relationships they have built with their suppliers over many years means they can find most things.



Nicola and John Read, Stuart and Jocelyn Read.

"People will come in looking for a specific product, or they know they need to fix something, but won't know exactly what they need. We'll go the extra mile for customers to find them what they need, and if we don't have that exact product, we will find something that will work just as well."

Read Bros has a small workshop on the premises, which means it can make small

alterations to things, such as fasteners, so they work in the way their customers need.

Read Bros also has a website that catalogues the stores' product range and services. The team also use their Facebook page to connect with the community and their customers by sharing projects, ideas and exciting new products (and a few really old ones). Both are used by out-of-towners and local customers to enquire about products and ask advice.

With more than a century-and-a-half of operating in Thames, Read Bros also plays a big part in supporting the community – sponsoring local schools and the region's Westpac Rescue Helicopter for more than 20 years. It also supports the Thames Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Waikawau boat ramp and St Johns Ambulance.

"We believe that bricks and mortar retail is a key part to a thriving community, and we are active members, not only within the business community in Thames, but the wider region as well," John says.

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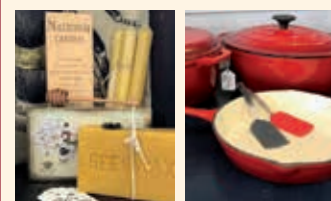
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Aerobatic thrills IN PAUANUI SKIES

The throaty roar of four Russian Yak 52 trainer planes thundering overhead is a familiar sound from the skies on a summer's evening in Pauanui.

Whether it's from down on the beach or while having drinks on the deck, all eyes are on the mighty Yaks as they perform head-spinning moves and sequences off the beach: Barrel rolls, tail chase and stall turns and the caterpillar loop – sometimes painting a picture in the sky with smoke.

Onlookers gasp at the hair-raising 'spaghetti break' manoeuvre, when the four aircraft look like they will collide, but cross paths just in time.

Up in the air, it's as much of a thrill for the four resident pilots who put on the show.

"Some nights we get complaints if we don't fly," says Doug Batten, an Air NZ 787 Captain who lives on the Pauanui Airfield and flies a 1996 9-cylinder Yak 52.

Pauanui holidaymakers may not realise just how lucky they are to have this airshow in their backyard. Pauanui is one of only two places in New Zealand where you will see wing-to-wing flying like this.

The other is downtown New Plymouth where a smaller group of three Yak pilots rehearse.

The two groups team up to form the 'Yak 52s' and display at The Warbirds Over Wanaka and Omaka Airshow over alternate Easters.

Much of the displays in Pauanui are in fact training for these annual shows, for which they practice in two separate groups and have about three days together in New Plymouth to rehearse before the show.

"It's more the timing we're bedding in when we get together," Doug says.

"The manoeuvres themselves have been practiced."

The Yak 52s are the only group in New Zealand that do a Yak display. In 2016, a pilot flew in from Alaska to join them for a world record-breaking, nine-plane loop at Warbirds Over Wanaka.

"We are the only civilian radial flying team



The Yak 52s became the first civilian radial flying team in the world to complete a nine-piston powered, nine-ship loop.

Photo by Gavin Conroy.

in the world that has done a nine-piston powered, nine-ship loop. Even those in Russia who made the Yakelov fighter planes can't believe the feat," Doug says. Needless to say, the roar as nine radial engines thundered overhead, like an iconic WWII scene, wowed the crowds.

CHINNING THE BAR

Of Pauanui's four Yak 52 pilots – Doug Batten, Bryan Coppersmith (BJ), Paul Huggan (Huggie), Kevin Jane – three are Air NZ pilots who commute to Auckland for work. They are joined in the summer months by Rick Grant, an Alaskan bush pilot who has a holiday home on the Pauanui Airfield.

Not many pilots experience formation flying. Huggie and BJ were introduced to it in the air force and shared their passion for the challenge with Doug Batten in 2004.

The group has been flying together since 2001 and the trust between the pilots is tremendous.



LEFT: The Yak 52s. Back row, left to right: Mark Helliwell, Bryan Coppersmith, Kevin Jane, Doug Batten, Mike Harvey, Peter Vause. Front row: Brett Emeny, Paul Huggan, Rick Grant.

“OUTSIDE THE MILITARY OR THE AIRFORCE, FORMATION FLYING IS HARD TO GET INTO. WE’RE LUCKY TO HAVE FOUR OF US IN PAUANUI THAT CAN GO UP AT ANY TIME.”

The manoeuvres alone test the g-tolerance and require serious concentration: flying in formation with just three-feet separation between the planes, wing tip to wing tip, there’s not a lot of room for error.

“It’s like a team sport in an aeroplane,” Doug says. “Outside the military or the airforce, formation flying is hard to get into. We’re lucky to have four of us in Pauanui that can go up at any time,” Doug says.

Together, they have thousands of flying hours behind them and as a group they are perfectionists. Each flight has a brief and debrief immediately afterwards, to talk through the display.

“We like to land and know we’ve chinned the bar,” Doug says.

Huggie says the group is always trying to change things up with the routine.

“I want people to look at us and see excellence. That’s what drives me,” Huggie says.

Not too many civilian flying teams have lasted as long as the Yak 52s and the group feels keenly that they need to teach and pass on their motorskills and formation flying finesse.

“It’s up to us to bring on some younger people and keep it alive,” Huggie says. ●



SCHOLARSHIP UNLOCKS POTENTIAL

through challenge and adventure

Nomination from our Mayor Sandra Goudie led to an amazing opportunity for Thames High School student Ethan Taylor-Evans (pictured right), who attended Outward Bound's 21-day Mind, Body, Soul course in Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds on a scholarship in early 2019.



Outward Bound, which helps students discover their potential through outdoor challenge and adventure, designed the Mind, Body, Soul course with the intent that students leave this adventure fitter and stronger, with new social skills and more confidence in group situations.

Students spend time with their instructor learning how to apply these skills to everyday life.

The Outward Bound instructors helped Ethan to realise what he was able to accomplish by simply putting his mind to it, and although it was challenging, he really enjoyed the lessons.

"I was eager to go because I'd heard

incredible stories from other students who had been, and I thought it would help me realise what exactly I want to do as I was considering pursuing outdoor education as a career," Ethan says.

"The adventures you go on are just remarkable, as well as the people. The things I saw on the course and lifelong friends I made will be things I cherish forever."

The highlight for Ethan was sailing an exact replica of Captain James Cook's small cutter vessel. "The wooden boat may not go very fast, but exploring the water and islands, while having banter between the group, made the two days fly by. In fact, the whole course did. The saying 'time flies when you're having fun' is how I would describe my trip," Ethan says.

Ethan found his biggest challenge was to step back a little and let others lead. "I admit, I found this difficult because I always want things done my way. However, by the end of the course, it was as if I was a different leader – I had learnt to be someone who lead through

example, and how to be relaxed while talking to everyone," Ethan says.

Overall, Ethan found the most important lesson he learnt was to believe in himself, never give up when times are getting tough, and to just push on.

"I can do amazing things if I tackle the problem with the right attitude. I also decided that I want to become an instructor because of the way they can change people's lives, in the way it did for me and my new friends. They helped us to be more confident and taught us some important life lessons which has inspired me to follow in their footsteps," Ethan says.

"It was an amazing trip and I count myself lucky to have been able to do it." ●

Know someone who might benefit from an Outward Bound scholarship?

If you would like to nominate someone in our district, aged between 16-18 years, who would benefit from this opportunity to develop themselves and their skill base, please send your nominations to amber.baker@tcfdc.govt.nz for the Mayor's consideration for The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) scholarships. There are also courses for older age groups. See www.outwardbound.co.nz for more information.

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- **Mentoring:** You'll be teamed up with a Council staff member who will establish your holiday work programmes and provide ongoing mentoring
- **Job:** After graduation you will have the opportunity to start in a full-time job.

Does this opportunity sound like something you are interested in?



Contact our people and capability team: HR@tcfdc.govt.nz or visit tcfdc.govt.nz/graduatejobs



Coromandel Youth MP Sam Oxford addressing the 2019 Youth Parliament in Wellington.

We are the future

If Coromandel Youth MP Sam Oxford had his way, New Zealand's voting age would be lowered to 16 and civics would be included in the school curriculum so young people know how to vote and what they're voting for.

The Thames High School student is adamant that young people should have a greater say in how New Zealand is run. We are the future, he says, and we should have a say.

That's one of the reasons Sam was eager to represent the Coromandel electorate at the 2019 Youth Parliament, where he says the real decision-makers had an obligation, for three days at least, to listen to young people.

He took the concerns of local youth to Wellington, and one of the major discussions was around climate change. Sam believes it's one of the biggest issues facing our society and he wants to see some serious action taken. "If the sea level rises to the predicted levels, much of the beautiful Coromandel electorate, the rest of our country, and our Pacific neighbours, will all end up underwater. That will eliminate the tourism industry that our country relies on as well as access to our homes. While the proposed Zero Carbon Bill takes good steps in the right direction, it isn't big enough or soon enough to make change before the literal 'deadline'," Sam says.

It's vital there's strong communication between our young people and our country's leadership to ensure their voices are heard," Sam says. Climate change was also the

subject of the speech Sam delivered before the House, in front of his peers, the Youth Press Gallery, MPs, and the Speaker. It's an experience he describes as "nerve-wracking" but it's made him more interested in public speaking and debating.

There were other practical tasks, such as preparing for Question Time to ask the Minister of Transport what plans are in place to reduce deaths on State Highway 25, and sitting on a Select Committee to discuss lowering the voting age.

For Sam, picking the biggest highlight of it all was easy. "It was fantastic meeting so many incredible, like-minded

young people from all over the country. We might have different opinions on things, but we all had a common vision. We want our country to be a better place for ourselves and our children. And although we are young, we have influence," Sam says.

The Youth Parliament also opened up some new ideas for Sam about his own future. He's planned since he was little to be a filmmaker. But, after his experience discussing and advocating change, he's having a re-think. And that just might include going into politics. ●

"WE MIGHT HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS ON THINGS, BUT WE ALL HAD A COMMON VISION."



One of Sam's highlights was meeting other Youth Parliament MPs from across New Zealand.

The New Zealand Youth Parliament happens every three years. Members of Parliament choose the Youth MP to represent them and the young people of their community, for a six month tenure. They are aged between 16-18 at the close of the selection process. Youth Parliament was first held in 1994 to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the lowering of the voting age to 18.

Youth MPs:

- get training to learn about their role and to prepare for Youth Parliament
- actively work on topics and issues they're interested in
- talk to local youth for their views on issues before attending Youth Parliament
- get involved in projects with or for young people, during their tenure
- may join their local MP at events
- speak in public about their role

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Let's talk property

KARL DAVIS CLOCKS UP MORE THAN 1000KMS ON LOCAL ROADS EACH WEEK AS HE MEETS WITH PEOPLE TO TALK PROPERTY ACROSS THE THAMES-COROMANDEL.

That could range from a 5:30am meeting with a farmer discussing marketing tactics to a 9pm sit-down with clients in their living room to negotiate a sale. A strong support team frees Karl up to spend the majority of his time face-to-face with people in this way.

"It's a person, not a shop front, that sells your house," Karl says.

That ethos and his passion for real estate, and the Coromandel, has seen Karl soar to the top 1 per cent of Bayleys real estate agents in New Zealand across all sectors including residential, commercial and country sales. In 2018, Karl was awarded the company's number one auction agent.

Karl found his niche in real estate and, since entering the industry in 2005, has sold more than \$630 million worth of property across the greater Thames Valley, which includes the Hauraki Plains and North Waikato and Coromandel.

In 2017, Karl became co-owner of Bayley's Coromandel, which is currently in an expansion phase.

"If you want to get a job done well, give it to a busy agent," Karl says. "Call me if you are thinking about selling your property on the Coromandel."

Karl maintains strong links to Hauraki Plains where he grew up on



Karl Davis and the team.

a dairy farm Waitakaruru, attending the local primary school and then Hauraki Plains College, and it's where he has played for Hauraki North Rugby Club for more than 30 years and coaches junior rugby and hockey.

The annual Karl Davis Charity Golf Day, held at Hauraki Golf Club, has raised more than \$73,000 for NZ Guide Dog Services, Make a Wish Foundation and local Coromandel non-profit organisations.

Prior to joining the real estate industry, Karl gained a Bachelor of Leisure Studies with the focus on marketing and computer science and worked for Microsoft as an engineer, sales manager and trainer.

The Davis family has lived most of the last four years in Pauanui, enjoying the climate and the relaxed lifestyle.

www.bayleys.co.nz/karl-davis

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ARTS

One of our fortunes on the Coromandel is our wealth of talented artists whose works are showcased internationally. You can check out our local painters, weavers, carvers, jewellers and mixed-media artists and entrepreneurs throughout the year at the Mercury Bay Open Arts Tour mercurybay-artescape.com which is held the first two weekends in March, the Coromandel Arts Tour coromandelartstour.co.nz in October or regular exhibitions held by local galleries or organisations such as the Thames Society of Arts thamessocietyofarts.org.nz

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

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



New Chum Beach.

Fascinated with the natural environment

Twenty years ago, Ian Preece's job as a geologist took him all over the world. From the coastlines of his native Britain to ports in the Gulf of Mexico and California, from the North Sea to northern Italy and the Atlas Mountains in Morocco.

Taking photographs of what's grabbed his attention above the ground has always been a big part of Ian's adventures. He's been fascinated with the outdoors and the natural environment for as long as he can remember. "I think there is something in our DNA about finding peace in these spaces. The thing I love about photography is it enables you to capture an image that can help you relive the experience of a

moment in nature. Even better, is when we share that image with others and in doing so communicate that emotion with them," Ian says.

It was in Ladakh in north-west India where Ian's hobby became a career option. After travelling extensively in the area, he became an official trek photographer and taught workshops on location in the Himalayas. This led to his accreditation by the Royal Photographic Society in the United Kingdom.

Ian and his partner Shirley came to New Zealand in 2010, for a second time. They'd lived in Wellington in the late '90s, and after a stint back in the UK, happy memories of the Coromandel inspired them to come back. They bought land in Kuaotunu before their return and gradually built a modern home in the hills. For a photographer,



Photographer, Ian Preece.

Ian says the diversity and the light here are fantastic. "We have everything from pristine beaches to rugged mountains and lush native forest. The beauty of living by the sea is that the light conditions change constantly giving endless opportunities to photograph. Visiting the same beach on consecutive days for example will often give completely different images. The Coromandel is one of the foremost places in New Zealand for conservation of native fauna and flora and we are home to some amazing and very rare species," Ian says.

And Ian loves to get in close to some of those species. He's photographed critically endangered Archey's Frogs off The 309 Road between Coromandel and Whitianga, and was thrilled to discover a great huddle of weta in a fallen puriri tree on Great Barrier Island.

Astrophotography – that's taking pictures of stars – is a particular passion and he's been back and forward to Glenfern Sanctuary on Great Barrier to capture the Milky Way. The sky above the island is known as a Dark Sky Sanctuary meaning it has exceptional starry nights due to the lack of light pollution. There's also a predator-free sanctuary, where he can check in on those weta.

Ian is interested in all aspects of the natural environment. "Tiny insects and the Milky Way couldn't be further apart in terms of scale but both are similar in that the camera enables you to see into worlds that the naked eye simply cannot. There is a real sense of wonder looking at the micro-textures of a weta's eye in the same way as revealing the incredible textures and colours that exist along the axis of our Milky Way," Ian says.



Archey's Frog.



Starry sky at Otama Beach.

Ian is the chairman of the Mercury Bay Art Escape Open Studios and enjoys meeting other artists in the thriving local art scene. He and Shirley have a strong connection to

the land, evident in the care they take planting on their own property, and Shirley's volunteer work with local groups such as Rings Beach Wetland Group, Kuaotunu Bird Rescue and Kauri 2000.

Ian teaches photography too and has students

from New Zealand and overseas. He has set courses, and can design bespoke programmes for individuals and groups. All courses are very practical and done outdoors on location. There's accommodation on their property, so students can stay next door. That's convenient because plans can be altered quickly to make the most of the light and weather conditions. Ian also trained as a chef at the New Zealand School of Food and Wine so you might well be in for a good dinner after a hard day behind the lens. ●

You can see more about Ian Preece's courses and work online at seascape-photography.com
Learn more about Dark Sky Sanctuaries at darksky.org

Making an impression

“Relish the slow” is Nicole Arnett Phillips’ philosophy when it comes to making her art. She prints her work, one careful piece at time, on heavy, gleaming printing presses in her Grahamstown studio in Thames.

Nicole’s a typographer, meaning she works with letters and words. Her commercial work includes designing book covers, for example. She’ll convey the feel and intention of the words through the style of font, the layout of the words, the design of the cover. This sort of commercial client work is done on the computer.

But when she’s creating for herself, it’s back to the presses and doing it all by hand. Albert, Frank, George and Sergio are the names of her grand old printing presses and Nicole knows their stories like they’re part of the family.

Take Albert, for example. Manufactured in 1872, he’s the rarest of her presses. Imported to Australia from the UK, Albert produced the first local newspaper in the Blue Mountains. Nicole bought him from the original owner’s grandson; he was sad to see the press leave the area, and gave her his printer-grandfather’s Certificate of Trade for safe keeping, together with the machine.

George is from 1867, an old style platen printing press, while Sergio’s Italian from early last century, and Frank’s a ‘60s cylindrical press, which can produce larger posters.

And let’s not forget Calvin, the guillotine and book binder. He’s going on 120 and hails from Ohio.

To create a piece by hand, first is the task of setting out each individual character. Nicole has boxes and drawers full of letters, punctuation marks and spaces. The new ones are lead, others are wood. Her oldest set is about 200 years old. She also cuts her own lino prints and carves her own designs into wood.

Since returning to New Zealand after many years in Australia, Nicole is finding her inspiration has changed. Previous work might have been her visual reaction to something happening in international politics or society. A “visual vent” she says, when life was busier and noisier in the city. Now, having chosen to relocate to the Thames Coast, it’s the sea, the bush, and the birds that are informing her work.

So, why words? Well, she says she was always obsessed. Nicole produced a book about cats when she was four, complete with hand-sewn binding. She loves stories and narratives. She writes for graphic design industry publications and has her own blog – **Typograph.Her**.

The self-confessed stubbornness about sticking to the old, handmade methods – which confounded her graphic design teachers – stems from her enthusiasm as a kid in going to work with her dad at the New Zealand Herald where he was responsible for the mechanical print technology. She would love to see the “wondrous process of language becoming physical in pages on the back of trucks”.

The technology’s changed enormously since her dad’s days, but it’s not forgotten. He’s Nicole’s first port of call if she ever needs advice on how to repair her grand old presses in Grahamstown. ●



Images at right:
Nicole printing her book ‘Tikapa’ about Tikapa Moana-o-Hauraki/ The Firth of Thames.

Nicole Arnett Phillips’ work is available at Huia Design Store, 712 Pollen St, Thames: huiadesignstore.com

You can read her blog at typographher.com. She also sells her work here from time to time.

A painting obsession

Tairua artist Reina Cottier is evidence that a decent smartphone can be an artist's best friend. She's embraced the power of social media to great success to build her career and reputation.

Reina picked up her brushes when her now-teenaged daughters were little and says she quickly became obsessed with painting. She knew immediately that she wanted to make her living through her art. She also knew she didn't have the time nor the energy to try to travel around galleries and markets. So, she posted pictures of her pieces on social media. The work sold and her audience grew and grew.

Reina grew up in a creative family in Auckland, where her mother was a theatre wardrobe mistress, who'd use the kitchen table to pin and stitch costumes draped on mannequins. The family garage was a treasure trove of her mum's projects; antique restoration, stained glass, and jewellery. Her father was a pharmacist, who retrained in natural medicine, and went on to help form the Nutralife vitamin, mineral and herbal supplements company.

Growing up, her family was diverse, with Bahai parents, a part-Maori sister, Polynesian 'aunties'. She says that multicultural environment has influenced her style, which tends towards Māori and Pasifika, with bright colours, flowing shapes, and images of mostly-native animals and plants.

Reina had gone into hairdressing after high school. She cut out a very successful career in the industry, which included travelling around New Zealand advising salons on how to up their game. Once her children arrived though, all that travelling wasn't going to



Reina Cottier in her studio.

work. She was looking for a creative outlet and began painting classes. With a new way to express herself, she was hooked.

Her garage transformed into a studio. Reina says she painted so prolifically she couldn't stop. She put pieces on Facebook and friends wanted to buy them. Then, it was friends of friends, and her followers grew. She put her pieces on every site she could think of, testing out different platforms. Now, as well as selling through her website, she's pared it back to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, and YouTube. Some of her prints are on TradeMe. Her images – mostly in acrylic paint and ink – are on canvas prints, cards, coasters, guidance cards, photo blocks, and even a colouring book.

Efficient use of technology means that when someone orders a print in New Zealand, Reina can email the printers who have her work on file. They can print it and send it directly to the customer. In North

America, buyers on the Fine Art America website can select an image and it'll be reproduced and sent to them as a print, stationery, or even on a bag. She does exhibit at the Mercury Bay Art Fair, and her studio doors are open during the Mercury Bay Art Escape.

Reina teaches other artists how to use the Internet, and particularly social media, to sell their own work. She feels her success is theirs too, and she wants artists to feel confident charging what their pieces are worth, and feel confident to put themselves out there.

With a view of Tairua's Mount Paku from her studio, and the cows and pukeko in the paddock next door, Reina says she loves what she does. She feels she is living the dream.

Reina's art can be viewed on her website reinacottier.com where you'll also find links to her social media pages. ●



Aroha Hathaway in her gallery.

A home for Māori art

After spending almost 30 years in radio, television and film, Aroha Hathaway has come home to Thames to pursue a dream and make a difference for her Māori heritage.

The ex ZM radio announcer and Good Morning presenter was born and bred in Thames, and returned in 2017, but still commutes to Mediaworks Auckland to produce the evening news and current affairs and run weekend sport.

If life wasn't already busy enough, when the perfect site became available in Grahamstown for a gallery to house her vision for local Māori art, she took a leap of faith on a new venture.

ArohArt gallery, which opened on Pollen St in January 2019, displays traditional and contemporary Māori art, particularly works from local Coromandel and Hauraki artists.

Aroha and her son Tikirau Hathaway identified the opportunity for the gallery while searching for art for Aroha's house, only to discover that a lot of 'Māori art' in Coromandel galleries and shops was not created by Māori, let alone local Māori artists.

"We went on a bit of a tiki tour when we first came home and checked out all the art galleries and shops dotted around the peninsula. The Māori art was impressive, but when we'd ask about the artist, 90 per cent of the time they were not Māori or the artist's name wasn't even known," Aroha says.

"The reo was often incorrect or Māori words were misspelled, but pieces were still reasonably pricey and being sold as Māori art," she says.

And so began their vision for a gallery that would become a Hauraki art hub where tangata whenua of the area could have their art showcased and bring authenticity to the local Māori art scene.

The pieces fell into place when the lease came up at the former framing shop next door to Sola Cafe on Pollen St.

The mother-and-son duo worked tirelessly to get everything ready for the January 2019 opening, just in time for the Auckland Anniversary weekend crowds.

ArohArt opened with works from world-renowned Hauraki artist Rei Hamon, Huia Hamon, Darin Jenkins, ToiTiki and feature artists Natasha Keating and Shane Hansen.

The gallery is open 10am-4pm daily and sells high-end art pieces as well as entry-level arts, crafts and gifts.

Hauraki art is not distinct overall, but there are Hauraki-specific patterns and designs which local Hauraki carver Darin Jenkins is good at incorporating into his works.

Aroha knows each piece of art intimately and dabbles in art herself, which includes repurposing chairs, lamps and small homewares with kitsch, Kiwiana with Māori elements.

Tikirau, a graphic designer in his early twenties, is a co-owner and looks after the gallery's branding including the shop's own range of branded tee shirts and hats celebrating Thames, its coast and Hauraki.

ArohArt also hosts craft and weaving workshops and Aroha also runs free te reo lessons on Wednesday nights, at the Lotus Realm gift shop, three doors down.

She says the gallery has become a platform for more than just art. "It's a

place for a conversation around Hauraki and indigenous rights and the right to be celebrated," Aroha says.

"I have been home for two years and there has not been one indigenous celebration I know of," Aroha says. "I grew up here and I felt like we were Māori enough, but I think that was an illusion and we were living in a microcosm because I was involved with kapa haka," Aroha says.

"Art is a great expression of culture and a great way to foster awareness of indigenous issues.

"My vision is not just for the gallery as an entity, but it's about the idea and I hope the idea grows and people become more conscious and more thoughtful of what Māori art is," she says.

Consumers are getting more discerning about what they buy and Aroha believes the potential for authentic local Māori art is huge.

"I loved growing up here on the Thames Coast," Aroha says. "It was the best place to be a kid. I want locals and visitors to the area to be able to take home an authentic slice of our paradise." ●



ArohArt

724 Pollen St, Thames

Arohart.co.nz



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PROTECTING OUR SPECIAL PLACE

Sarni Hart and Willie Lochore are on a mission to bring sustainable tourism to the Coromandel Peninsula.

The couple, who own Coromandel Adventures, started their business in 2011, after Sarni saw a gap in the market for visitors to the region arriving without a car. Since then, the business has continued to grow every year, and last summer season their team of seven welcomed more than 5500 visitors.

The company connects customers from Auckland to Coromandel and further afield to Waitomo, Hobbiton and Rotorua.

Our mission is simple, says Sarni: "To inspire, educate and enable people to look after the places we all love."

Sarni, a founding trustee of the Kauri Dieback Forum, says the couple are passionate advocates for the unique and fragile environment of the Coromandel and, with that in mind, they're now weaving the principles of kaitiakitanga, guardianship, into their business every day.

This summer (2019/2020), the couple will build on the national Tiaki Promise campaign, launched last year, to encourage all visitors to New Zealand to care for and protect our environment (see page 171 for more information).

Coromandel Adventures will partner with DOC, Moehau Environmental Group and Kauri Dieback to deepen visitors understanding of the precious nature of New Zealand's natural environment.

"We want our visitors to leave with an understanding of how special our place is and a desire to help protect it," Sarni says. It's about helping to create that conscious understanding that our natural resources are under pressure. We see it as our obligation that visitors travelling with us leave with more than pictures. They leave with an insight into our place and can move on from the Coromandel taking that with them."

When making a booking on Coromandel Adventure's website or while on one of their tours, visitors will also be able to choose to donate to the organisations involved, which in turn, will help to strengthen their services.

"The work of these groups is really personal to our team. We always give our visitors an insight, but by doing this we can also give them an opportunity to contribute, so what they are seeing today can continue on into the future," Sarni says.

Sarni's work with the Kauri Dieback Forum was instrumental in introducing ambassadors to walking tracks around the region to provide face to face communication with visitors

about the disease. Two staff from Coromandel Adventures have also worked as ambassadors.

Sarni says DOC has since funded a dedicated Kauri Dieback officer but donations will help to fund more ambassadors. Donations will also support the work of the local Moehau Environmental Group, from education to predator control, habitat restoration and Kiwi protection.

"If we can make it easier for people to leave with an understanding and greater respect and appreciation for this majestic place, and a desire to help protect it, then that's our legacy as a business," Sarni says.

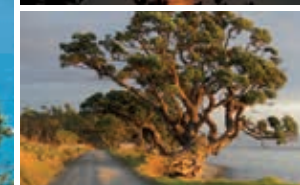
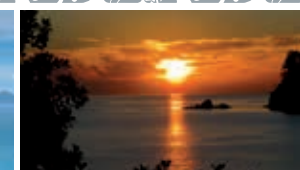
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Willie Lochore and Sarni Hart.

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NZ North Island Dotterel

Back from the brink

THE IMAGE OF A NORTHERN NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL FLYING TOWARDS THE COCKPIT OF A JUMBO JET ON THE AUCKLAND AIRPORT TAXIWAY EPITOMISES THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF A TINY BIRD COMING BACK FROM THE BRINK, SAYS FROUK MILLER.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) Dotterel Watch Programme Manager was flying to Queenstown, looking on as a twin-engine jumbo jet taxied by a dotterel nest, settled on the runway sidings.

"This bird flew straight for the cockpit trying to lead the aircraft away, like it was going for the pilots," Frouk says.

"I thought, oh no, it's going to get sucked into the engine. Then it flew off. About 30 seconds later, I see it come back and boom, she's back on her nest, it was incredible, this little dotterel taking on a jumbo jet."

Frouk had heard of dotterel nesting at Auckland Airport, close to the Manukau Harbour. The endangered birds populate beaches and estuaries in the northern half of the North Island from Taranaki to Gisborne north, with their numbers totalling around 2400. Almost one quarter of the dotterel population live in the Coromandel.

Their numbers are smaller than some species of kiwi and a national recovery programme has been run by DOC since 1991, starting at Opoutere, one of the bird's main breeding sites. A separate programme also protects the critically endangered Southern NZ Dotterel, where just 130 remain and breed only on Stewart Island.

Increasing coastal development, introduced predators and disturbance during the breeding season, when thousands of holiday makers flood breeding beaches, have impacted the dotterel population along with natural factors such as storm surges and king tides.

On the Coromandel, Frouk, a second DOC ranger Joanna Gable-Fearn and dedicated volunteers are helping to bring the rare native species back from the brink.

"THE HIGHLIGHT OF COURSE IS FINDING NEW CHICKS HATCHED, SEEING OLDER ONES STRETCH THEIR NEW WINGS ..."

Frouk's area covers the Thames Coast and everything south of Whitianga down to Whiritoa. Frouk, Joanna and their volunteers helped fledge a total of 155 chicks, from 23 breeding sites with 238 breeding pairs across

the Coromandel last season. In the summer of 2017/2018 they fledged 105, which helped take the birds status to "at risk and recovering" rather than "endangered".

It's a great result, says Frouk, and a credit to the programme and its volunteers, who don't always have an easy job.

"Approaching the beaches, you're always anxious. Is there going to be carnage on the beach today?" Frouk says. The highlight of course is finding new chicks hatched, seeing older ones stretch their new wings or jump on the spot trying them out, and that final flight when you know they're reasonably safe.

Dotterels mate for life and nest in the same spot every year. The female dotterel sits on her eggs during the day, the male at night, but as nesting grounds have diminished the birds are increasingly closer to human contact and introduced predators.

At the Pauanui Waterways, dotterels were found nesting on building sites in previous seasons.

"With the redevelopment of the estuary the birds have a radar in their heads that this is where I nest. The builders put fences up, but here are these dotterels, trying to nest within metres of building foundations," Frouk says.

Trevor French is one of the programme's

longest standing volunteers (13 years) and is based in Pauanui, where they fledged 20 of the chicks last season.

The dotterels' success seems to defy odds when you consider their nesting habits which includes nesting close to the tide-line so their young can feed themselves on grubs and sand hoppers as soon as they hatch, after around 28 days incubation.

French says when they nest too close to danger, the nest can be slowly moved to safer ground, by an authorised person, one painstaking meter at a time.

At first each 'scrape', or nest, will generally have three eggs. For most, maybe one chick will make it to fledging. If the nest is predated or abandoned, the breeding pair will keep trying again. Generally laying up to three times in a season with a decreased number of eggs each time.

Further up the peninsula, Joanna Gable-Fearn managed the dotterel nesting grounds from Whitianga north last season.

"These poor little birds are up against it," Joanna says.

"Thankfully, we have some amazingly dedicated volunteers all over the peninsula fighting for their survival."

Minders check the daily progress of the birds, nests and rope off nest sites. They are often responsible for rescuing nests, eggs and fledglings from storm surges and king tides.

While nesting sites are hunted out by volunteers and fenced off, Joanna says people don't realise the dotterel will run away from its nest to lure predators away.

"They make the most ridiculous displays to distract predators. They'll be flapping about in the tide trying to convince you they're drowning to drag you away from the nest. Or limp, fake a broken wing and appear lame."

Joanna says people see the fenced off areas and think that's the outer limit, but the birds need a wide berth.

"We've had people hang their beach towels on the ropes. If the adults are off the nests for too long the eggs get too hot or cold. Chicks end up left to the elements for too long without their parents' protection."

Joanna's most entertaining pair breed at the Whangapoua lagoon.

Thousands of holiday makers trekked past their nest on their way to New Chums Beach last summer. Joanna says the mother was, "one of the most chilled birds I have ever seen".

After spending the night beachside, each morning she would get her chicks up and cross the stream to the lagoon. The mother misjudged the tides one day and as the chicks went to cross the stream, they started to be washed away.

"I was watching and there was this family walking. I was yelling at them. Get the chick, get the chick. They rescued it and it survived. That

pair fledged two chicks this season out of six."

Chicks fledge six-to-eight weeks after hatching and in winter they gather at six main flocking grounds including Opoutere and the Whangapoua/Matarangi estuary.

In Matarangi, Diane Skelton has been volunteering for two years. From a farming family in Nelson she used to go "nesting" as a child.

"We'd love hunting for birds' nests. I guess that's a bit like what I do now – go out looking for new nests every day so we can fence them off and protect them," Diane says.

"Even if I wasn't a volunteer, I'd probably still be out here looking. I feel a bit like a grandmother."

Last season, The Dune's Golf Resort in Matarangi provided her with a golf cart to carry her equipment and she wears the high visibility vests DOC issued to all its Dotterel Watch volunteers.

Frouk Miller says the vests have helped with volunteers' visibility on the beaches, while simultaneously raising the profile of the programme.

"People want to know what the volunteers are doing and it provides an opportunity to give information on our endangered birds, creating an interest and involvement," Frouk says. It also helps to give them some authority when they ask people to keep their dogs on a leash or move away from fenced areas.

Volunteers are key to the programme. Without them the results would be far less significant.

She says they all feel any bird losses, but also the achievements, and take their jobs very seriously.

"If we didn't do this work, there would be a rapid decline in numbers. Dotterels really are dependent now on our management and care. They're endemic to New Zealand, they don't go anywhere else to breed. Once they're gone, they're gone," Frouk says. ●

Below left: Trevor French – Department of Conservation Dotterel Watch Programme volunteer on Pauanui Beach.

Below right: Dianne Skelton and a dotterel chick ready to fledge on Matarangi Beach.



Tūturiwhatu pukunui

The New Zealand North Island Dotterel

- There are approximately 2400 New Zealand North Island Dotterel (Tūturiwhatu pukunui) left, making them more endangered than some species of kiwi.
- Their breeding season lasts from September to February and chicks take up to seven weeks to fledge.
- You can do your bit to help our dotterel by staying well outside the fenced off areas with 'birds nesting' signs.
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times. Remember that some beaches are only open for dog-walking at certain times. These are generally sign-posted, or you can check our Council's website tcdc.govt.nz/dogrules
For information on dog access to conservation land check doc.govt.nz
- If you see a dotterel pretending to be injured, or come across eggs or chicks, please leave them alone.
- Please walk and ride your horse below the high tide mark on beaches where dotterels are breeding.
- Please do not take vehicles on beaches.

CLIMATE CHANGE

WHAT IS OUR COUNCIL DOING?

WE ARE TAKING ACTION TO BOTH MITIGATE THE CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND TO ADAPT TO THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF IT. WE'RE ALSO ADVOCATING THAT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TAKE THE LEAD AND WORK WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON WHAT WE DO GOING FORWARD TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS.

In January 2018, our Council adopted, and has begun to implement, the Government's *Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Guidance for Local Government 2017*. This means we're taking into account a potential sea-level rise of up to 1.88m by 2150 for planning purposes. The Ministry for the Environment website contains the *Guidance for Local Government* and much more information, including assessments of climate change and its impacts on New Zealand.

Waikato Regional Council (WRC) has information on climate change and actions people can take including a coastal inundation tool that models the extent of various sea level rises.

We're currently reviewing our Council's sources of direct greenhouse gas emissions (for example, from vehicles and power use) to identify measures to reduce them that Council can consider implementing. That report is expected to be completed by April 2020.

Advocacy

We're advocating through Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) to Central Government, asking them to lead the response for small coastal communities like ours when it comes to possible threats to infrastructure, private property, and the local economy.

We also work closely with WRC, which is charged with managing our region's water and coasts.

Mitigation

We have taken action to help reduce heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions and stabilise their levels in the atmosphere.

Electric vehicle (EV) chargers – We worked with Charge Net and Powerco and with support from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority's (EECA) Low Emissions Vehicle Contestable Fund established the Coromandel EV Scenic Touring Route, a network of five fast charging stations that provided EV drivers full access to the Coromandel. This has helped spur the uptake of EVs in the district, attracted EV-driving visitors here, and helped reduce CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions.

LED streetlights – We're reducing carbon emissions (and saving ratepayers' money) by switching our streetlights to LED lamps,



Left: Mercury Bay Area School students plant trees in the "Gallipoli" WWI Memorial Forest site at Cathedral Cove, on Anzac Day 2015

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

The Earth's atmosphere is made up of oxygen, a large amount of nitrogen and other gases, including a small percentage of greenhouse gases.

The greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. They trap warmth from the sun, making life on Earth possible. But increasing the concentration of these gases in the atmosphere traps too much heat and causes the climate to change.

Historically, the global climate has fluctuated from ice ages to temperate periods. Recent increases in concentrations of atmospheric greenhouse gases are resulting in changes to global, national and local climate at a rapid rate, causing:

- Sea level rise
- Acidification and warming of the oceans
- More heavy rainfall and flooding events
- More frequent and more severe droughts with greater fire risk
- Stronger winds
- More extreme temperatures, more often.

Source: Ministry for the Environment

which use less energy than the previous sodium and other lamp types. NZTA has contributed 85 per cent of the replacement cost.

By 30 June 2019 we had saved:

- Approximately \$90,000 worth of electrical power over our usage in 2017/18
- An additional \$90,000 in maintenance
- Approximately 750,000 kWh, which equates to 100 tonnes of carbon not released into the atmosphere

This saving in electrical energy is equivalent to the power we use in our Council's main office building in Thames over 2.3 years.

Energy use investigation – Our Council is partnering with EECA and other Waikato councils through the Waikato Local Authority Shared Services group to monitor energy use at all our sites, investigate opportunities for energy efficiency improvements and increase the use of renewable energy – all of which will reduce carbon emissions and save ratepayers' money.

Walking and cycling infrastructure – We're working to get people out of their cars by working with community groups and existing trail managers (such as the Hauraki Rail Trail) to create and improve walking and cycling infrastructure.

Examples include the Coromandel Tracks and Trails Forum we held in November 2018 to bring together groups looking to develop tracks in their community, and our updated *Your Coromandel Tracks and Trails Guide*.

We've provided an affordable public bus service in Thames – the Thames Connector.

Tree planting initiatives – With community involvement we have planted and maintain thousands of trees in the World War One Memorial Forests and we work with schools and community groups to plant fruit trees and native tree species in suitable reserves as part of the Enviroschools and Trees For Survival programmes. We also work actively with WRC and community beach care groups to plant sand-binding native species on sand dunes to make them more resilient against erosion. Growing trees remove carbon dioxide from the air, store carbon in the trees and soil, and release oxygen into the atmosphere.

Adaptation

Our Council adopted our Coastal Management Strategy in June 2018. This sets out a range of initiatives now underway to better manage our coastal assets and understand the risk of

coastal inundation and erosion. The 2018-2028 Long Term Plan includes \$2.6 million over three years to help us implement this strategy.

We're taking a district-wide approach, allowing us to better manage our coastline from a holistic and long-term perspective. We work together with public and private organisations such as the WRC, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), the Department of Conservation, iwi and community groups with an interest in coastal protection.

A major step in carrying out the Coastal Management Strategy is the development of Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs).

Read more about this project on page 146 or on our website at tcdc.govt.nz/coastal

All the existing research on our various bits of coastline is being gathered and, together with the information our communities have provided, will be used as the basis for identifying how best to manage the risks and hazards in any given area. ●

Links to more information

- Ministry for the Environment, *Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Guidance for Local Government 2017*: mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/coastal-hazards-and-climate-change-guidance-local-government
- Ministry for the Environment, *Guidance for local government on preparing for climate change*: mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/climate-change-guidance/guidance-local-government-preparing-climate-change
- Waikato Regional Council: waikatoregion.govt.nz
- Local Government New Zealand: lgnz.co.nz
- TCDC EV chargers: tcdc.govt.nz/evchargers
- LED streetlights: tcdc.govt.nz/ledstreetlights
- Waikato Local Authority Shared Services: waikatolass.co.nz
- Coromandel Tracks and Trails Forum: tcdc.govt.nz/trackforum
- *Your Coromandel Tracks and Trails Guide*: tcdc.govt.nz/tracksandtrails
- Thames Connector public bus service: tcdc.govt.nz/thamesconnector
- Coromandel WWI Memorial Forest: tcdc.govt.nz/ww1memorialforest
- Enviroschools: enviroschools.org.nz
- Trees For Survival: tfsnz.org.nz
- Coastal Management Strategy: tcdc.govt.nz/cms
- Shoreline Management Plans: tcdc.govt.nz/coastal

Building a sustainable COASTAL FUTURE

Developing resilient coastal communities in the Thames-Coromandel District

Following on from the adoption of our Coastal Management Strategy and Coastal Hazards Policy in 2018, our Council is now developing Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs).

This is a three-year project 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.

As we develop these plans, we have a valuable opportunity to understand our coastal environment more holistically, including the connections between people, catchments and waterways, landscapes, estuaries and beaches.

We are examining the interaction between the way in which the coast behaves and is likely to evolve, and the way in which the coast is used and valued in each community.

Each SMP will:

- be specific to a stretch of coast
- identify what's at stake and why
- consider a number of different future scenarios of how coasts and communities may change
- set objectives for the management of the coastal environment
- be action-oriented and clearly link the actions of today with those we might need to take in the future
- work through viable solutions
- plot a course towards those solutions, making sure we use our collective knowledge and observations of the coast to keep track of our progress and enable a change of course if necessary.

To give our SMPs strength, we will link them to plans and policies others are responsible for, such as the Waikato Regional Policy Statement: Te Tauaki Kaupapahere te-Rohe o Waikato – or plans central government agencies, such as NZTA or DOC, may have for their areas of interest. We are also working with neighbouring councils, particularly in areas such as the Firth of Thames.

We will also ensure our own operations, plans and strategies (such as the District Plan) are informed by the way we want to manage our coast.

In recognising the coastal environment as taonga, we will work directly with mana whenua to ensure that SMPs reflect their objectives.

All of our coastal communities will be relied upon to tell us their coastal stories, pass on their knowledge of coastal environments, engage in discussions and work through solutions. We will work with communities at the grassroots level to inform, be informed by and collaborate in identifying objectives, issues and solutions.

A MILESTONE COASTAL PROJECT

In May 2019, our Council appointed a consortium led by international consultancy Royal HaskoningDHV to support the development of our Shoreline Management Plans.

While plans to deal with coastal change have previously been developed in a couple of other locations in New Zealand, the work our Council is doing is distinct in that we are developing SMPs across our whole district through active involvement of all key community stakeholders along our beautiful yet fragile coastline.

Our Council's operations group manager Bruce Hinson says SMPs are one of the proactive steps our Council is taking in response to the challenge of climate change for our communities, ensuring we are engaged, prepared, protected and safe in the long-term.

"Over the next three years, with your valued input, capturing learning from SMP practices locally and internationally and our legislative requirements, we will produce SMPs that cover the entire Thames-Coromandel coast," Mr Hinson says.

"This is your coast. We believe that by striving together to create resilient coastal environments we will ensure thriving coastal communities long into the future," Mr Hinson says. "Help us contribute to a sustainable coastal future." ●

To get in touch with us about this project,
email: ourcoast@tcdc.govt.nz

More information: tcdc.govt.nz/coastal





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At St John, we understand our volunteers have commitments and therefore promote flexible volunteering options.

To find out how you can train to become a St John volunteer, contact **Coromandel Station on (07) 866 8279**. You'll never look back!

AT YOUR SERVICE

Pop into any of our four Council service centres across the district and you'll be greeted by our friendly frontline team who keep busy helping our customers, in person and over the phone, fielding questions ranging from rates, rubbish, building and dogs.

Our customer services teams are a wealth of knowledge about our business and district, and they are a talented bunch, with a wide range of interests outside the office.

Here are a few members of team, talking about what they love about living in the Coromandel.



Liz Oliver

Liz Oliver is one of the friendly faces you'll see at the front counter of our Coromandel Town Service Centre.

COROMANDEL TOWN SERVICE CENTRE



Liz has been part of our Council family for more than nine years and she has built up a broad knowledge of the many areas we are involved with in our communities. Liz likes providing great service and seeing people leave with a smile on their face. Working at Council goes hand in hand with Liz's role as a Justice of the Peace, which is another way she can help her community.

The best part of my job is ...

Working at the front counter is not for everyone, however I can honestly say most of the time it

is an enjoyable and rewarding role. It gives me real pleasure to be able to assist people in their dealings with Council, as we all know there are times when it can be rather daunting for people, and it feels great when they leave our office with a smile on their face.

The most rewarding experience I've had while working at Council is ...

Over the years there have been numerous occasions that I would class as rewarding, making it hard to single out one. But a recent experience that comes to mind was assisting an elderly lady at the front counter who was very upset. I helped her as I would any customer, providing a service that I believe we are all entitled to whether dealing with Council or any other organisation. The following day I received a most beautiful bouquet of old fashioned roses with an incredible scent and a lovely card with a cat face on the front (unknown to the customer two of my favorite things). Being thanked in such a thoughtful way was definitely humbling and unexpected.

”

I love living in the Coromandel because ... it's a wonderful place to work and live, with a great sense of community.

In my spare time you'll find me ... enjoying many of the local walks and fishing and spending time relaxing with friends and family or pottering at home.

I love the following things about my community ... I love feeling part of a supportive community and living in an area where people look out for each other. We have some amazing and inspiring but unassuming people living among us.

My favourite Coromandel adventure is to ... Be out fishing in the plentiful Hauraki Gulf.



Esther Smith

MERCURY BAY AREA SERVICE CENTRE

Behind the counter at the Mercury Bay Service Centre in Whitianga, Esther Smith enjoys meeting and helping people from her community with their Council business and questions.



After completing high school at the Mercury Bay Area School, Esther ventured overseas to Brisbane, but returned home to Whitianga in 2015.

Outside work she's devoted to her two-and-a-half-year-old son Lawson, and when time permits, she loves to spend time on her incredible realism portrait drawing with coloured pencils.

With an artist mother, Esther grew up in a home where art was created and has enjoyed having creative outlets since a young age.

She ventured from oil painting to coloured pencil work just a few years ago and has an impressive collection of

portraits and landscapes, most of which she draws from photos.

It has taken her a while to master the layers and waxy textures and says animals are her most challenging subject. "The fur is really hard to master," she says.

While her drawing is largely a hobby, Esther has been asked to create works for people.



Esther and her son Lawson.

She's a busy mum, but fits her art passion in where she can, and loves to get time on a Saturday morning to draw.

"I just zone out. I find it relaxing and having a final product that you are proud of is satisfying," Esther says.

Inspiration comes from close to home.

"My son inspires me to be a better, to dream big and have goals where I can," Esther says.

Esther has recently been working on NZ nature-themed drawings and wants to do more Coromandel-themed works.

On something she'd like to achieve with her art: "Doing a mural somewhere would be cool."

Instagram.com/sstarart

The best part of my job is ... Meeting lots of inspiring and diverse people from my local community in Whitianga.

The most rewarding experience I've had while working at Council is ... The thanks I get when I can help someone, gratitude is a quiet joy!

I love living in the Coromandel because ... It's paradise. I love the beaches and views and being able to go for a walk and soak it in after work. Above all, that it's a great place to raise a family.

In my spare time you'll find me ... Playing with my son and drawing.

I love the following things about my community ... The huge local support shown when people are in need. It's beautiful seeing everyone come together.

My favourite Coromandel adventure is to ... Walk as many of the spectacular tracks I can and take in all of the views. My favourite local walk is the Shakespeare's Cliff walk because of the stunning views and the good track.



”

Vicki Kretzer

WHANGAMATA SERVICE CENTRE

One of the many friendly faces in our Whangamata Service Centre is Vicki Kretzer.



Vicki grew up in Pennsylvania, USA, where she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations before moving to the United Kingdom for two years. When a friend was moving to New Zealand, she jumped at the chance to tag along.

Vicki soon met her Kiwi husband Gareth, and they bought a bach in Whangamata, where Gareth had holidayed for many years with his family. While Vicki was on maternity leave with her now three-year-old son Oran, they decided to think about their next steps, and the possibility of making Whangamata home.

“The best part of my job is ... Being able to help people in my community. Working for Council allows me to have a good work-life balance, which is important as I aspire to improve my fitness and wellbeing.

I love living in the Coromandel because ...

Whangamata is a great place for young families. It's the little things, like knowing your neighbours, that we can just let our kids be kids for a bit longer, and we don't have to spend all our time driving everywhere.

In my spare time you'll find me ... Mountain biking, which is easy to do here with Whangamata Ridges Mountain Bike Park on the doorstep and the local women's riding group. Mountain biking



Vicki enjoying an outdoor bootcamp on Whangamata Beach.

really pushes me, it's a rush when you do something you didn't think you could do, such as conquering the next feature. It shows me I am capable of more and can continue to improve. When I get to the top and look out over Whangamata, my home, I am rewarded with such a beautiful view.

I'm also a regular at bootcamps or studio sessions with personal trainer Lisa Wright of 'Be That Body'. I really enjoy the bootcamps because it is a great mix of people with all ages and ability levels. I love the social side of fitness, as well as the challenge.

I love the following things about my community ... There is so much to do and so many groups and different ways to get to know people. My husband shares my passion for sport and fitness and is involved in waka ama and soccer, which been great ways to build connections in the community.

My favourite Coromandel adventure has been ... Taking part in the annual Whangamata Adventure Race and Find your Zen on a Ladies Weekends with 25 to Life Fitness.



Vicki and Oran enjoying the Whangamata Ridges Mountain Bike Park.



A scene from the Thames Music and Drama production *Tails of Hamelin* in July 2019, for which Tina worked on sound and lighting.

Tina Haakma

THAMES SERVICE CENTRE

Tina's smiling face greets everyone who comes into the Thames Council office, especially those who have some AA business to conduct, such as driver licence renewals.



She's lived almost all her life in Thames and the Hauraki Plains, so she's an invaluable source of local knowledge and contacts.

When not at work, Tina's busy with the music, drama and photography scenes in Thames. Technically-minded Tina does lighting and sound effects for Thames Music and Drama productions and she's an active member of the Thames Camera Club. "I like photography. We take photos and put them in to judges associated with the Photographic Society of NZ who provide feedback." She's also delivered some workshops for the club on photography and lighting.

Tina also sings and plays guitar with a couple of music groups (mostly easy-listening and country). Her favourite song "change all the time," but at the moment The Gambler and The Carnival is Over are on high rotation.

The best part of my job is ... Helping people find solutions when they come in not knowing what they need to do. Sometimes when people don't understand what they need to do they get nervous and that makes them emotional.

The most rewarding experience I've had while working at Council is ... At dog registration renewal time (July and August)

I love convincing people to bring their dogs in for met to pet. Sometimes I have to twist their arms a bit to come in with their dogs, but they do! People love to show off their animals and it's always fun getting a new dog to pet.

I love living in the Coromandel because ... There is so much available, beaches on once coast, cities not far away if you want to go shopping. Also, the lack of traffic is great.

In my spare time you'll find me ... What is this "spare time" thing you speak of???!! When I'm not at work, I belong to a few different clubs, and there are plenty of family members to keep me busy.

I love the following things about my community ... That there is so much to do – if you go out looking. I belong to the theatre, camera club, music group as well as other places and everyone is happy to pitch in and help where needed.

My favourite Coromandel adventure is to ... Drive up the coast, stereo turned up, then sit on the beach and watch the sun set over the waves.



Tina climbing Mount Ngauruhoe, south of Lake Taupo - the location for Mt Doom in *The Lord of the Rings*.



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ANNUAL PLAN MAINTAINS FOCUS ON INFRASTRUCTURE

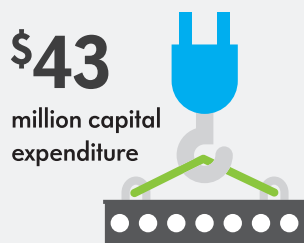
Providing essential services and making sure the infrastructure we need in the coming years is fit-for-purpose is our Council's focus for this current financial year.

The Annual Plan states what the Council intends to achieve over the coming financial year, how much it will cost, and how that cost will be funded (including the setting of rates).

An Annual Plan is produced in the two intervening years between each Long Term Plan (LTP) and outlines any key changes Council has made to the last LTP.

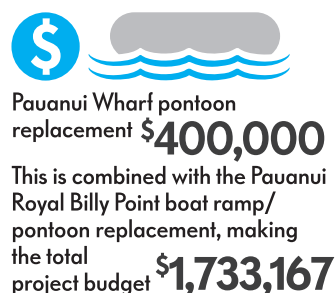
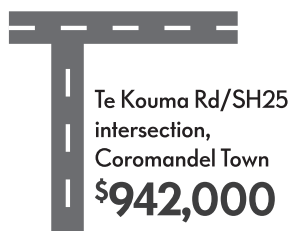
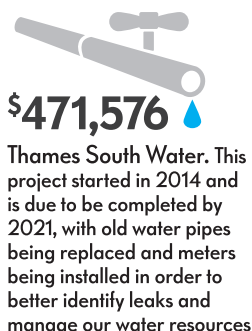
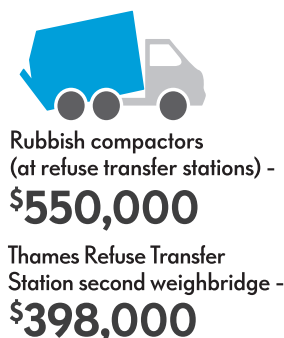
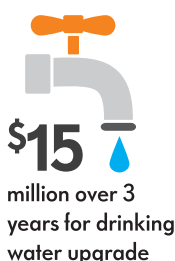
So what's in the 2019/20 Annual Plan?

There is no significant variation from what was set out for the financial year (1 July to 30 June) in the 2018-2028 LTP. The total rates increase was set at 4.94 per cent, up a little from the projected rate increase in the LTP of 4.13 per cent. That's because of higher-than-expected inflation and additional costs for our district's roading maintenance contract, which was recently renewed.

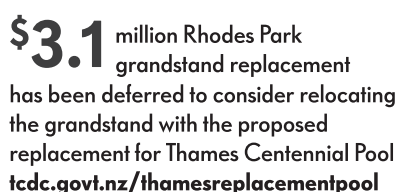


This is the total planned expenditure on building new things and maintaining and replacing old things, including water treatment plants, roads, footpaths, toilets, drains, recreation facilities, library books and much, much more.

HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT WE'RE DOING:



THE TIMING OF SOME WORK HAS BEEN CHANGED:



For more information on the 2019/20 Annual Plan, visit our website tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2019

Find out more about rates and why they pay for at tcdc.govt.nz/whatcouncildoes

Making progress on our drinking water treatment plant upgrades

WORK IS WELL UNDERWAY WITH OUR PROGRAMME TO UPGRADE TEN WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES ACROSS OUR DISTRICT – IN MANY PLACES BUILDING BRAND NEW TREATMENT PLANTS – AS OUR COUNCIL CONTINUES TO BE PROACTIVE ABOUT WHAT WE NEED TO DO TO KEEP IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF OUR DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES.

In total, \$16 million, as set out in our 2018-2028 Long Term Plan, is being spent to fund the upgrades, which will take three years through to June 2021.

The upgrades will ensure our drinking water quality complies with the drinking water standards set by the Ministry of Health. This essentially involves the installation of membrane filtration at our treatment plants.

Our Mayor Sandra Goudie says this is a significant investment to ensure compliance and that our communities benefit from improved quality of drinking water and public health.

The first plant to be upgraded in May 2019 was our Whitianga water treatment plant, where Masons Engineers built a new \$2.8 million water treatment facility on the current site. This is a brand new plant (*pictured*), complete with the latest technology and methodologies for treating our water.

The treatment plants in Tairua and Pauanui were also upgraded in 2019.

The next towns on the upgrade schedule are the three Whangamata plants and Onemana, for completion in 2020, followed by Coromandel Town, Matarangi and Hahei the following year.

Five of the drinking water plants, which treat river-supplied water, will use membrane filtration technology, the highest-quality treatment available for this type of water source. The Memcor brand membranes are being supplied by Evoqua Water Technologies. The other five drinking water plants will use filter/cartridge system for treating bore-supplied water.

The drinking water treatment plant at Thames was upgraded more recently than the other plants, and is not due for an upgrade as part of this project.

More information: tcdc.govt.nz/dws ●

FLUSH YOUR TAPS

The Ministry of Health reminds all of us to flush a mug of drinking water from our taps every morning, to help remove metals that might have dissolved in plumbing fittings overnight. The Ministry recommends this simple precaution for all New Zealand households, including those on public and private water supplies.



The new water treatment facility in Whitianga.

All welcome to join, come in and see us!

'family friendly atmosphere'

8 ball and snooker tables | quiz night | housie | kid's club | live shows and entertainment | member draws
Open 7 Days from 11am | 324 Port Road, Whangamata | whangamatarsa.com | 07 865 9419



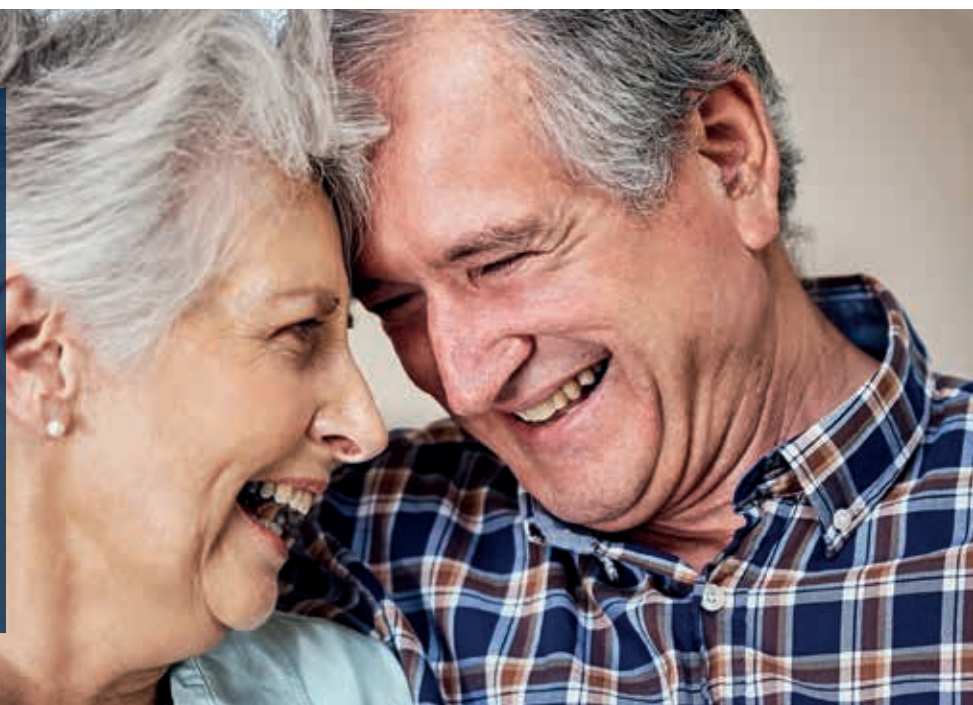
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You can enjoy a stylish one or two bedroom apartment, or a roomy, modern villa. Our high-quality community spaces add to the 'feel good' factor, and include three communal lounges and libraries, plus a gymnasium, a pool table, indoor and outdoor bowls and pétanque.

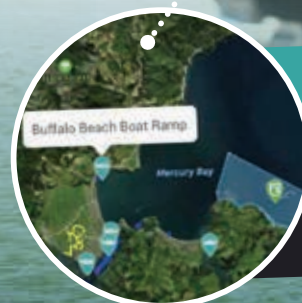
Call Deborah on (07) 974 9532 | 109 Wilson Street, Thames | www.bupa.co.nz/tararu





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HOW TO STAY INFORMED IN AN EMERGENCY



RADIO

If the power goes out, a solar or battery powered radio (or your car radio) can help you keep up to date with the latest news.



NEIGHBOURS

Community response groups bring people together to create safer communities. Call our Civil Defence team on 07 868 0200 to talk about community response.



ONLINE

For updates, check out our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/ThamesCoromandelDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/ThamesCoromandelDistrictCouncil) and on Twitter at [TC_DC](https://twitter.com/TC_DC)



New Emergency Management Unit for Thames-Coromandel

Earlier this year the emergency management partnership between our council and the Hauraki and Matamata Piako District Councils was disestablished to make way for individual councils to beef up their overall emergency management and civil defence capability.

What does this mean for our Council? We have a dedicated team to focus on community resilience, business continuity, asset management and incident management alongside our well-established response and recovery components.

We are not out on our own though. Should we encounter a major emergency event, our partner councils and the Civil Defence Group of eleven district councils will be here to help, just as we will continue to support our partners should they have an event.



Tsunami Open Days

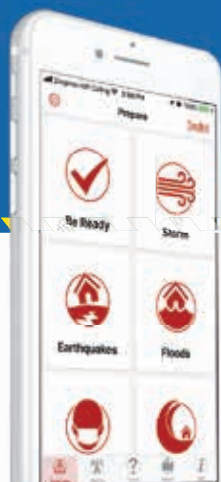


In June 2019, the last of our tsunami open days was held for Thames Coast communities.

This completes a ten-year project, with our regional council partners, to model the entire Coromandel Peninsula and provide accurate and easy-to-understand information to the many hundreds of residents and visitors who attended the open days.

A tsunami remains one of the biggest threats to the Coromandel and now that both our east and west coasts have been modelled and the likely impacts are known, those living along the coasts can plan and prepare as individuals and as a community.

Find out more at tcdc.govt.nz/emergency



Get alerts from official agencies including TCDC, Civil Defence, MetService, GNS Science and more.

Monitor up to five locations (Such as your home, bach, kids and the grandparents.)

Step-by-step guides to assembling emergency survival items, and creating a household emergency plan.

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**THAMES-COROMANDEL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Saving Future Generations



One of the reasons our supporters donate to our service is that they never know if they might need us. Every year, this sentiment is true for over 1,000 patients rescued by your Auckland & Coromandel Westpac Rescue Helicopters.

To ensure we are around for many years to come, a number of our supporters have made the kind decision to leave us a gift in their Will. Their reason being that they want us to be available not only for them, but for their families too.

If you would like information on how you can save future generations through a lasting legacy, please contact Kerrie at 08004RESCUE, or visit **coromandelrescue.org.nz**



CANINES IN THE COROMANDEL

Knowing where you can take your dog on or off-lead is easier now our local rules and signage are clear and easy to understand for both our residents and visitors.



On the Coromandel we are lucky to be able to take our best canine buddies almost anywhere, whether it's down to the beach or for a stroll into town for a bite to eat. What you might not realise is that you need to have your dog on-lead in most areas, unless specified.

In 2018, we noticed an increase in complaints around dog issues in our district and compliance with our dog control bylaw was relatively poor over our ban periods.

Our bylaws team has spent a lot of time stopping and talking to dog owners about our rules, especially if dogs weren't on-lead where they should be. They handed out information on our dog control bylaw and a free dog lead.

This is to make sure everyone can enjoy our public spaces and provide a safe environment for dog and non-dog people.

It became apparent that responsible dog owners were either confused by the message on our dog signs or missing them altogether. We did some research and found that a traffic light system worked (green = off lead, orange = on lead, red = no dogs allowed). We also simplified the message and created flip signs that change to give the right message for that specific period. We piloted this system in Whangamata last summer and found compliance increased and we received positive feedback from the people that we spoke to.

The new signs will be rolled out across the district before summer 2019/2020 and we will be strictly enforcing the responsibility of dog owners to keep their dogs on-lead in areas not designated as off-lead areas. Dog owners can be fined \$300 for any dog not on-lead in areas not designated as an off-lead area or failing to immediately remove their dog's faeces from a public place and dispose of it adequately. The mechanism to issue such fines has been in place since 1996.

Prohibited, Restricted and Exercise Areas

These are three terms we use to explain the rules, and you will see the symbols used on all of our dog related signs. Here is a definition of what they mean:



PROHIBITED: This means no dogs at all. We have some areas that are prohibited all year round, but most are during the

dotterel nesting season so the prohibition is from Labour Weekend to 1 March at all times.

Outside of these times, areas will have other rules such as Little Waikawau (west coast) where dogs are prohibited Labour Weekend to 1 March and allowed on leash at all other dates and times.



RESTRICTED: We use the restricted term for the summer period and holiday weekends. It means that there are

restrictions around where you can take your dog during certain dates and times. For instance, Brophys Beach prohibits dogs from 20 December to 31 January and all holiday weekends between the hours of 9am and 6pm. All other dates and times you can run your dog under control and off leash.



EXERCISE AREAS: You can have your dog off-leash but under control at all dates and times.

The definitions of beaches, public places, children's playgrounds and sports surfaces can be found on our website along with the area-specific rules.

📞 Call 07 868 0200
for questions or complaints.

tcdd.govt.nz/dogs



Otis – assisting our Compliance Officers.

Being a responsible dog owner:

- Make sure your dog is registered and wears a registration tag at all times. If you are from another district, an ID with your name, address and mobile phone number will help if your dog gets lost or picked up by a Dog Control Officer.
- Don't take your dog to areas where dogs are banned. In general, between 20 December and 31 January and public holiday weekends most beaches have restricted times dogs are allowed on the beach, if at all.
- Dogs are not allowed in cemeteries, sports fields and within children's public play areas.
- Dogs are prohibited from protected bird habitats. Keep an eye out for signs, it will usually be from Labour weekend to 1 March, which is during NZ dotterel breeding season.
- Please go to the Department of Conservation website regarding dog access to conservation land doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/dog-access.
- Make sure your accommodation has somewhere to keep your pet safe, secure and under control.
- Don't let your dog wander or cause a nuisance by fouling or barking.
- Unless in a designated dog exercise area, you must have your dog on a leash in a public place. Remove your dog's droppings. Take a plastic bag wherever you go.
- Make sure your dog has access to shade and fresh drinking water during the day.
- Please never leave a dog in your car in the heat.



Stay Alive On 25

It's no secret that the Coromandel is a popular destination and every year we host hundreds of thousands of visitors to explore our natural attractions and enjoy the many great events and activities that take place here.

Our visitors travel around Thames-Coromandel by car, motorhome or motorcycle or bike packing and this means spending a lot of travel time on the State Highway, which is 270kms of winding and hilly roads with 983 curves, give or take a few.

Our road safety co-ordinator, Ingrid Le Fevre, and Thames police officer Constable Catherine Sell have been working together on the road safety campaign 'Stay Alive On 25.' In their roles they have both seen too many people being injured or killed in our area,

and they want to reduce the risk of people suffering from the trauma that crashes cause.

"The number of road users on SH25 is increasing and we don't want the number of crashes to follow," says Constable Sell. "Every serious crash has a traumatic effect on victims and their families. We don't want to see any more families missing their loved ones on their holidays."

Ingrid says high-risk driver behaviour such as crossing the centreline and overtaking in unsafe places cause 93



Our road safety co-ordinator Ingrid Le Fevre and Thames police officer, Constable Catherine Sell on the Thames Coast Road.

per cent of all serious and fatal crashes on the Coromandel loop.

"Stay Alive on 25 is a simple campaign about the basics," says Ingrid. "Keep to your side of the road, drive to the conditions, slow down on our winding roads, keep your water bottle in the car, stay off your cell phone, plan your trip with rest stops and stay safe."

The campaign targets road users by creating awareness of the challenges SH25 presents. It also highlights the importance of taking regular breaks from driving.

"Summer is always busy across our district so congestion and delays are inevitable in "peak times," Ingrid says. "But if everyone leaves plenty of time for their journey, drives to the conditions and plans ahead before leaving home, the worst of the frustrations can be eased and everyone can concentrate on arriving safely. We want people to reach their destinations safely."

Keep to your side of the road, drive to the conditions, slow down on our winding roads, keep your water bottle in the car, stay off your cell phone, plan your trip with rest stops and stay safe.

- SH25A, often call the Kopu-Hikua opened in 1967.
- SH25 has 270km of fully sealed road and approximately 983 curves.
- Over 500,000 people visit the Coromandel each year.
- 1.4 million vehicles drove on SH25A in 2016.
- On average, 40-50 motorcycles ride the Coromandel loop each day.



Everyone wears
SEATBELTS



Keep LEFT



NO talking on Mobile Phones



NO overtaking on yellow lines



DRIVE TO THE CONDITIONS!

Check journeys.nzta.govt.nz before you travel

If you see an issue with the State Highway call The NZ Transport Agency on 0800 44 44 49

For local roads call
Thames-Coromandel District Council: 07 868 0200

For emergencies call: 111

First adult cycle skills course held in Thames, March 2018.



Cycle Skills

Want to incorporate more bike riding into your everyday life? We're here to help make it happen.

Our Council has gained ACC cycle funding to deliver free cycle skills training, with the first courses being held in Thames and more are to be held across the East Waikato.

"Confidence comes from knowing what to do on the rides you enjoy," our road safety coordinator Ingrid Le Fevre says. "We have successfully run

"Confidence comes from knowing what to do on the rides you enjoy ..."

two cycle skills courses in Thames for adults and after receiving positive feedback, we are continuing the programme."

Participants must be adults (18+ years) and capable of riding a bike with reasonable control of direction and speed and have some knowledge of the road code.

There are a limited number of spaces available so please check tcdc.govt.nz/roadsafety for upcoming courses and registration details.

Driver Refresher Courses

Over the past two years our Council, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako District Councils have worked with Age Concern to deliver a simple, yet effective refresher course for drivers.

Almost 40 courses with more than 552 participants have been run, and 90 people have upskilled with one-on-one sessions with a driving instructor.

The classroom workshop is for participants aged 60+ and focuses on:

- Road rules and defensive driving tips
- Intersection rules and roundabouts
- Prescription drugs and driving
- Rural and urban driving

Each course runs from 9.15am – 1pm and they are held all over the East Waikato. No vehicles are required and there is no test or assessment involved.

There are only 20 spaces available per course, so booking is essential. If you or someone you know may benefit from this course, all you need to do is call our Council: 07 868 0200 to book or see tcdc.govt.nz/roadsafety for upcoming courses.



Diane Willcocks, previous driver refresher course participant.

"Before I went to the driver refresher course in Thames I struggled with intersections and roundabouts. I would wave people to go ahead of me, without having the confidence to go myself. Now, after completing the course, I drive with my lights on, day or night, and I am far more confident. The one-on-one with the driving instructor was really helpful. I thoroughly recommend doing the course."

Diane Willcocks

Road Safety IS EVERYONE'S Responsibility

Thames Centennial Pool staff
delighted with life-saving
equipment donated by Boat
Safety New Zealand.



Thames Pool gets gold

THE SWIM COOL SWIM SCHOOL AT OUR COUNCIL'S THAMES CENTENNIAL POOL HAS BEEN ACCREDITED WITH SWIMMING NEW ZEALAND'S HIGHEST-LEVEL QUALITY SWIM SCHOOL MARK – GOLD.

"We previously held Bronze accreditation and now we've jumped over Silver to achieve Gold," our Council's recreation manager Paul Duffy says.

"This means we deliver to the highest possible standards within the Swimming New Zealand structure. Our programme, regulatory and safety standards are the top in the country," Mr Duffy says. "This is a big achievement for a small, rural pool."

Our Thames Centennial Pool also scored a coup with a grant of \$8,000 worth of life-saving equipment donated by Boat Safety New Zealand. This gear, including the boat and life vests pictured, has now been incorporated into swim lessons to teach water safety and life-saving skills.

These safety skills and resources are fundamental to our community as drowning is the number one cause of recreational death nationally and the second highest cause of death as a result of unintentional injury among 1 – 24 year olds, and the third highest cause of accidental death (behind road accidents and falls).

In 2018, 68 people lost their lives to preventable drownings and the five-year average is 82 fatalities.

Thames Centennial Pool credits swim school co-ordinator Katrina Price for the growth of the swim school and for putting a tremendous amount of work towards getting its gold award.

"The boat safety resources and program has also been driven by Katrina," Mr Duffy says. "We deliver to more than 350 swimmers per term, plus we have our school holiday lessons. We're at full capacity for our term one swim school and we had to turn some late enrolments away."

"If numbers continue to track the way they are we will look into opening up more classes in the future, but this puts pressure on pool space for the general public and squads. We're outgrowing the current pool," Mr Duffy says. "The pool staff are doing the best they can with what they have got but are limited to how many people they can deliver to because of the current facility."

With Thames Centennial Pool needing to be replaced by 2027, we're moving forward with finding a site for the new swimming pool to replace Thames Centennial Pool, with a location at the south end of the Sir Keith Park Memorial Airfield in Thames chosen for further investigation. You can read more about the Thames replacement pool project at tcdc.govt.nz/thamesreplacementpool.

The Thames Centennial Pool facility offers a range of learn to swim and training opportunities as well as ensuring space for relaxation and a bit of fun. tcdc.govt.nz/swim

Summer Hours

Begin Monday 7 October

Mon: 6am-8am / 10am-6:30pm

Tues, Thurs & Fri:
6am-8am / 11am-6:30pm

Wed: 6am-6:30pm

Weekends: 11am-5pm

Closed public holidays

Winter Hours

Mon: 6am-8am / 10am-6:30pm

Tues, Thurs & Fri:
6am-8am / 11am-6:30pm

Wed: 6am-6:30pm

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 10am-4pm

Closed public holidays

Community Pools

There are also community pools across the District, located at the local schools. Check out their Facebook pages for updates, opening hours and prices:

~ Whangamata Area School

facebook.com/WhangamataCommunityPool

~ Mercury Bay Area School

facebook.com/MercuryBayCommunitySwimmingPool

~ Coromandel Area School

facebook.com/CoromandelCommunitySwimmingPool

A place to connect ideas

Our libraries connect people with a world of ideas, whether that's through a traditional medium such as books and events or newer technologies such as digital resources and online collections. There's always something fun, free or thought-provoking to engage with at your local library.

Our three district libraries in Mercury Bay, Tairua and Thames are a great place to relax or get things done with free wifi, public computers, printing, scanning, faxing and photocopying facilities available.

It's easy to join; all you need is a New Zealand postal address, \$2 for your library card, and photo ID. Fill in the registration form online and you'll have access to all of our district libraries, including our online e-book collection – perfect for finding your ultimate holiday-time reads.

We're also home to one of the Coromandel's biggest selection of DVDs for hire – ideal for a movie night.

Our libraries are kicking-off summer with their annual 'Great Summer Scavenger Hunt'. This is an exciting opportunity for children and their families to explore the Coromandel and win some incredible prizes.

Pick up an activity booklet at one of our district libraries and then take the road trip hunting for clues and solving puzzles about the Coromandel. You'll discover stories behind

some of our local landmarks and explore some of the hidden places that make the Coromandel special. Creativity is encouraged by writing poems, taking photos or drawing pictures for some of the challenges. It's free to enter and lots of fun with a prizegiving party for all participants at the end of the summer school holidays.

Throughout the year, our libraries also offer popular school holiday activities which are free to attend. Past activities include building working robots, recycling trash into treasure, and testing out some crazy science experiments.

For more about what our libraries have to offer see tcdc.govt.nz/libraries or follow them on Facebook facebook.com/tcdclibraries



Community libraries

Libraries in Coromandel Town, Pauanui, Whangamata, Hahei, Kuaotunu and Ferry Landing are community libraries; run separately by groups of volunteers and each have their own separate rules and registrations.

tcdc.govt.nz/communitylibraries

Whangamata Library

620 Port Road
07 865 7416
Mon to Fri: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 10am - 12pm

Coromandel Town Library

130 Kapanga Road
Mon, Tues and Thurs:
10am - 1pm
Wed and Fri: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 10am - 12pm

Pauanui Library

23 Centre Way
078648105
Mon to Sat: 9.30am - 12pm

CONTACT YOUR LIBRARY

THAMES LIBRARY

503 MACKAY ST, THAMES
07 868 6616
thameslibrary@tcdc.govt.nz

TAIRUA LIBRARY

2 MANAIA RD, TAIRUA
07 864 7960
tairualibrary@tcdc.govt.nz

MERCURY BAY LIBRARY

22 VICTORIA ST, WHITIANGA
07 866 4776
mblibrary@tcdc.govt.nz



THAMES - COROMANDEL

District Libraries

discover connect enjoy

OPENING HOURS: Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri: 9am - 5pm. Wednesday: 9:30pm - 5pm. Saturday: 9am - 12pm.

How to enjoy a drink responsibly over summer in the Coromandel

We've got a mix of year-round 24/7 town centre bans and Christmas/New Year and long weekend bans on some beaches and seaside reserves. You cannot consume, carry or possess alcohol in a ban area, or in a vehicle in the ban area. Our Alcohol Control Bylaw is enforced by the New Zealand Police who can issue fines of \$250 for breaching the bylaw. If convicted of an offence against this Bylaw you can receive a fine of up to \$20,000. Check out where and when it's okay to have alcohol in a public place tcdc.govt.nz/alcoholcontrol

Fire Permits

Our Council no longer issues fire permits. Fire and Emergency New Zealand has taken over responsibility for issuing all permits for fires in the open in the Coromandel and overseeing fire safety as a result of a change in legislation.

- To apply for a fire permit, go to the FENZ website checkitsalright.nz
- If you see an out-of-control fire, call 111.



LOVE THE COROMANDEL? SO DO WE. *Let's get recycling right.*



PLACE YOUR COUNCIL BAGS ON THE KERBSIDE.

Bags hung from trees or poles, or left in a cage, will not be collected.



REPORT FLY-TIPPING
to the Council.



**IF YOU'RE LEAVING
TOWN BEFORE YOUR
COLLECTION DAY,**
drop off your rubbish
and recycling to one of
seven transfer stations
on the Coromandel.

**PLEASE PLACE
ONLY CLEAN
RECYCLING IN YOUR
YELLOW WHEELIE BIN**
and check the lid for
what you can recycle.



**CANS, STEEL
& ALUMINIUM**



**ALL PLASTIC
CONTAINERS
(rinsed with
lids off)**



**PAPER, CARDBOARD
(flattened)
NEWSPAPER & MAGAZINES**

**No refuse, oven-proof glass,
ceramics, plastic bags,
hot ashes or liquids**



MAKE SURE YOUR GLASS CRATE IS NOT OVERFILLED

and if your crate is
broken contact the
council for a new one.



**TAKE YOUR EXCESS
RUBBISH AND RECYCLING**
to one of seven
transfer stations on
the Coromandel.

WANT A BIN FOR YOUR REFUSE OR RECYCLING?

Get a Smart Bin!
Order online now.



Phone, Email or Visit us Online today:

PHONE 0800 4 MY BIN [0800 469 246]

EMAIL info@smartbins.co.nz

ONLINE www.smartenvironmental.co.nz



smart
environmental



Smart Environmental, loving the Coromandel for over thirty years. #GoodforyourSoul



Let's talk rubbish

Managing solid waste is where the rubber hits the road in terms of our Council delivering essential services at an affordable cost while keeping the Coromandel a clean, green place where people want to live, work and play.

On the following pages you'll find information about what we're doing to keep our place neat and tidy: there are our summer rubbish and recycling Kerbside collection schedules, top tips to make sure your waste gets collected, and what to do with items that can't be picked up from the kerbside.

We also share some of the initiatives around the district that our Council and people in the community are coming up with to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Pick it up

Three people from Dive Zone Whitianga spent just 30 minutes on Sailors Grave Beach in mid-2019 and collected more than 400 items of rubbish, ranging from bits of wood, to plastic packaging to cigarette butts. Some of this could have been recycled if put out for collection or taken to one of our Refuse Transfer Stations, but a lot of it should have been put in rubbish bins in the first place.



Thumbs up to Dive Zone for their efforts, and for all the other clean-up parties that help get rubbish off our beaches before it washes into the oceans.

divezonewhitianga.co.nz

Love food, hate waste

Every year New Zealanders throw away 122,000 tonnes of edible food. It goes into landfill and generates greenhouse gases. That's about \$560 worth of uneaten food per family every year being thrown away. In the Coromandel, the amount of food thrown away increases dramatically over summer as people over-cater for parties and BBQs. Join the Love Food Hate Waste campaign for practical tips on how to reduce your food waste and save money. See pages 110-113 for more and visit our website for some tasty recipes from local cafes that use up leftovers.

lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz

tcdc.govt.nz/lovefoodhatewaste

Turning trash into treasure

The Seagull Centre in Thames and the Goldmine Reuse Centre in Coromandel Town are both examples of social enterprises capitalising on their locations next to Council Refuse Transfer Stations. Everyday items otherwise destined for landfill, but that still have some

life left in them or that can be repurposed to new uses will be accepted, fixed up if needed, and sold, instead of going into the tip.

The Seagull Centre's Resource

Recovery Centre expansion, due soon, will double its waste-diversion operations and provide room for education and training workshops on repairing and recovering items, including furniture, appliances, sports equipment and more.

tcdc.govt.nz/seagullcentre

facebook.com/TheGoldmineReUseCentre



Bags, bags, bags

The Government banned single-use plastic shopping bags as of 1 July 2019. To help you get your collection of reusable bags started, get one or more of the jute totes we've had made with three iconic native plant species: the pohutukawa, the nikau palm and the harakeke. Collect all three!

Just \$3/bag at any of our Council service centres.

There are a number of Boomerang Bags groups in the Coromandel sewing handy shopping totes out of pre-loved fabric. You can see them available outside shops here and there. They're always looking for donations of fabric and sewers to make more bags. Check the Boomerang Bags website to get in touch with the nearest group.

boomerangbags.org

And while we're on the topic of plastic bags, yes, we know our official blue Kerbside rubbish bags are made of plastic. We're currently exploring options about how they can be replaced or phased out over time, while still keeping costs at a level ratepayers can afford.



Summer Kerbside Collections

Whangamata

Monday



Wednesday



Saturday



Please put your Kerbside collections out by 9:00am
There will be collections as usual on New Year's Day and the rest of that week.
There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day. Collections following those public holidays are one day later.

Summer Weekly Kerbside Collection

STARTS 28 December 2019

ENDS 8 February 2020

www.tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside



Onemana & Opoutere

SH25 to Kopu-Hikua Road

Monday



Saturday



Please put your Kerbside collections out by 9:00am
There will be collections as usual on New Year's Day and the rest of that week.
There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day. Collections following those public holidays are one day later.

Summer Weekly Kerbside Collection

STARTS 28 December 2019

ENDS 8 February 2020

www.tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside



Pauanui

Monday



Wednesday



Saturday



Please put your Kerbside collections out by 9:00am
There will be collections as usual on New Year's Day and the rest of that week.
There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day. Collections following those public holidays are one day later.

Summer Weekly Kerbside Collection

STARTS 28 December 2019

ENDS 8 February 2020

www.tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside



Mercury Bay North

Kuaotunu to Whangapoua

Tuesday



Friday



Please put your Kerbside collections out by 9:00am
There will be collections as usual on New Year's Day and the rest of that week.
There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day. Collections following those public holidays are one day later.

Summer Weekly Kerbside Collection

STARTS 27 December 2019

ENDS 8 February 2020

www.tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside



Coromandel Rural North

Tuesday



Friday



Please put your Kerbside collections out by 9:00am
There will be collections as usual on New Year's Day and the rest of that week.
There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day. Collections following those public holidays are one day later.

Summer Weekly Kerbside Collection

STARTS 27 December 2019

ENDS 8 February 2020

www.tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside



Coromandel Town & Te Kouma

Wednesday



Please put your Kerbside collections out by 9:00am
There will be collections as usual on New Year's Day and the rest of that week.
There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day. Collections following those public holidays are one day later.

Summer Weekly Kerbside Collection

STARTS 26 December 2019

ENDS 5 February 2020

www.tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside



Summer Refuse Transfer Station Hours

Monday 16 December 2019 – Sunday 23 February 2020

Closed Christmas Day. On public holidays, Sunday hours apply.

All our transfer stations will accept your official pre-paid blue rubbish bags and recycling at NO CHARGE.

WHANGAMATA

2755 SH25

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4pm

Saturday 10:30am to 5:30pm

Sunday 10:30am to 6:30pm

Public Holidays 10:30am to 6:30pm

PAUANUI

887 Settlement Rd

Monday to Friday 12:30pm to 5:30pm

Saturday 10:30am to 5:30pm

Sunday 10:30am to 6:30pm

Public Holidays 10:30am to 6:30pm

There will be collections as usual on New Year's Day and the rest of that week.
There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day. Collections following those public holidays are one day later.

Tairua

Including Whenuakite and SH25 north to Wade Road

Monday



Thursday



Please put your Kerbside collections out by 9:00am
There will be collections as usual on New Year's Day and the rest of that week.
There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day. Collections following those public holidays are one day later.

Summer Weekly Kerbside Collection

STARTS 26 December 2019
ENDS 7 February 2020
www.tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside



Mercury Bay South

East of SH25

Monday



Thursday



Please put your Kerbside collections out by 9:00am
There will be collections as usual on New Year's Day and the rest of that week.
There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day. Collections following those public holidays are one day later.

Summer Weekly Kerbside Collection

STARTS 26 December 2019
ENDS 7 February 2020
www.tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside



Whitianga Town

Including Centennial Heights and Wharekaho

Tuesday



Friday



Please put your Kerbside collections out by 9:00am
There will be collections as usual on New Year's Day and the rest of that week.
There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day. Collections following those public holidays are one day later.

Summer Weekly Kerbside Collection

STARTS 27 December 2019
ENDS 8 February 2020
www.tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside



Thames Coast & Manaia

Tuesday 24 December 2019



Tuesday 31 December 2019



Tuesday 7 January 2020



Tuesday 14 January 2020



Tuesday 21 January 2020



Wednesday 29 January 2020



Tuesday 4 February 2020



Please put your Kerbside collections out by 7:30 am
There will be collections as usual on New Year's Day and the rest of that week.
There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day. Collections following those public holidays are one day later.

Summer Kerbside Collection

STARTS 24 December 2019
ENDS 4 February 2020
www.tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside



Thames and Surrounds

Puriri Village North to Tararu

Week 1

1 or 2

Week 2

Thursday 26 December 2019

Wednesday 1 January 2020

Wednesday 8 January 2020

Wednesday 15 January 2020

Wednesday 22 January 2020

Thursday 30 January 2020

Wednesday 5 February 2020

Thursday 26 December 2019

Wednesday 1 January 2020

Wednesday 8 January 2020

Wednesday 15 January 2020

Wednesday 22 January 2020

Thursday 30 January 2020

Wednesday 5 February 2020

Please put your Kerbside collections out by 7:30 am
There will be collections as usual on New Year's Day and the rest of that week.
There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day. Collections following those public holidays are one day later.

Summer Kerbside Collection

STARTS 26 December 2019
ENDS 5 February 2020
www.tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside



Thames South Rural

South of Puriri Village

Friday 27 December 2019



Thursday 2 January 2020



Thursday 9 January 2020



Thursday 16 January 2020



Thursday 23 January 2020



Friday 31 January 2020



Friday 7 February 2020



Please put your Kerbside collections out by 7:30 am
There will be collections as usual on New Year's Day and the rest of that week.
There will be no collections on Christmas Day, Auckland Anniversary and Waitangi Day. Collections following those public holidays are one day later.

Summer Kerbside Collection

STARTS 27 December 2019
ENDS 7 February 2020
www.tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside



TAIRUA

3 Red Bridge Rd

Monday to Friday 12:30pm to 5:30pm

Saturday 10:30am to 5:30pm

Sunday 10:30am to 6:30pm

Public Holidays 10:30am to 6:30pm

WHITIANGA

237 South Highway

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm

Saturday 10:30am to 5:30pm

Sunday 10:30am to 6:30pm

Public Holidays 10:30am to 6:30pm

MATARANGI

101 Matarangi Dr

Monday to Friday 12:30pm to 5:30pm

Saturday 10:30am to 5:30pm

Sunday 10:30am to 6:30pm

Public Holidays 10:30am to 6:30pm

COROMANDEL

525 Hauraki Rd

Monday to Friday 11am to 4:30pm

Saturday 10:30am to 5:30pm

Sunday 10:30am to 6:30pm

Public Holidays 10:30am to 6:30pm

THAMES

102 Burke St

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 2:30pm

Saturday 10:30am to 5:30pm

Sunday 10:30am to 6:30pm

Public Holidays 10:30am to 6:30pm

tcdc.govt.nz/rtts

Kerbside Rubbish and Recycling Collections

When do I put out my rubbish and recycling for Kerbside collection?

Check the summer schedules on pages 168-169 or go to tcdc.govt.nz/kerbside

But one crate isn't enough for all my recyclable glass!

Simple. Buy another one for \$16 from any TCDC service centre.

Seagulls are attacking my blue bag with rubbish spilling onto the street!

If you're worried about pests getting into your rubbish bag, put the bag on top of your glass recycling crate. But please don't put it on top of your wheelie bin because then the drivers have to get out of their truck to remove it and that slows the whole collection process down.

Or, cover your blue bag with a gullinator, a strong mesh sack that sits over your rubbish bag and protects it. Available from all TCDC service centres for \$16.



It's late and the transfer stations are all closed!

No fear, we have some RTS that have 24/7 drop-off facilities.

Find out which ones at tcdc.govt.nz/rts

My crate's broken, what can I do?



If it's a TCDC-issued green crate with the Love NZ logo on it, bring it in and we'll replace it at no cost to you.

What goes in the official blue pre-paid refuse bag?

Everything that's not recyclable.

Put the bag on the ground at the side of the kerb for Kerbside collection on the morning of your scheduled pick-up day. Bags hanging from trees or poles or left in cages will not be collected.

But I'm leaving town before my collection day!

Take your blue bags and your recycling to any of our seven Refuse Transfer Stations (RTS) in our district and drop them off at no charge. Check the locations and opening hours on pages 168-169 or tcdc.govt.nz/rts

What can be recycled?



Introducing the six Rs of sustainability





TIAKI MEANS TO CARE FOR PEOPLE AND PLACE. THE TIAKI PROMISE IS A COMMITMENT TO CARE FOR NEW ZEALAND, FOR NOW AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

NEW ZEALAND IS PRECIOUS, AND EVERYONE WHO LIVES AND TRAVELS HERE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO LOOK AFTER IT.

BY FOLLOWING THE TIAKI PROMISE, YOU ARE MAKING A COMMITMENT TO NEW ZEALAND. TO ACT AS A GUARDIAN, PROTECTING AND PRESERVING OUR HOME.

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI KI AOTEAROA, WELCOME TO NEW ZEALAND.

HOW TO CARE FOR
NEW ZEALAND



PROTECT
NATURE



KEEP NZ
CLEAN



DRIVE
CAREFULLY



BE
PREPARED



SHOW
RESPECT

TIAKI PROMISE

WHILE TRAVELLING
IN NEW ZEALAND I WILL



CARE FOR LAND, SEA AND NATURE,
TREADING LIGHTLY AND LEAVING NO TRACE



TRAVEL SAFELY, SHOWING CARE
AND CONSIDERATION FOR ALL



RESPECT CULTURE, TRAVELLING
WITH AN OPEN HEART AND MIND



TIAKINEWZEALAND.COM | #TIAKIPROMISE



Love the Coromandel...

LOCKWOOD
Designed for good

...Live it in a Lockwood!

Choose a beautiful family home or bach designed and built by Lockwood Coromandel, Coastwood Homes.

High Performance is locked in for life with solid wood insulated materials coupled with low maintenance exteriors, making a Lockwood home an eco-smart choice – that's built to last.

We are the winners of the Lockwood Contractor of the Year award 15 times over, so our clients can be assured they are working with local experts who regularly exceed client expectations.

Talk to us about designing and building a home of any size, we'll create the perfect plan for your site and budget.



Talk to the local experts, Coastwood Homes, Kopu.

Visit the Coastwood Homes Show Village,
107 Kopu Road, Kopu, Thames
PH 07 868 8733 | E info@coastwood.co.nz
www.lockwood.co.nz

