

PARADISE COAST

Whangamatā NEWS

ISSUE 92 -
5 MAY, 2023

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Sombre Day of Remembrance

ANZAC DAY COVERAGE - P16, 18 & 19
Photo by Mark James



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HOME DELIVERED TO WHANGAMATA

Welcome to the first May 2023 edition of Whangamatā News

- a magazine By Locals, For Locals, About Locals

Whangamatā NEWS

www.WhangamataNEWS.nz

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Printed by Beacon Media Group.
Published by Whangamatā News 2021 Ltd

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Poet's Corner

"If you think you've got dementia, you haven't." That's what they experts say. I don't have much faith in experts; experts designed the Titanic.

I don't think I've got dementia, I know I have. But I'm not too worried, I looked it up in the dictionary... "dementia: short term memory loss, often just temporary."

Oh good, I figured, just temporary, nothing to worry about. Forgetting where I parked the car, climbing into the wrong car and terrifying the lady

in the driver's seat, forgetting to pick my wife up from town... all pretty normal behaviour.

Just too much on my mind perhaps, like trying to write a poem about it; (what could I possibly rhyme with Titanic? Hispanic?)

Anyway I reckon I'm getting better now, trying not to worry about it any more. Now I can even go into the pantry, and actually remember what I went in there for! (sometimes)

- Norm Sayer

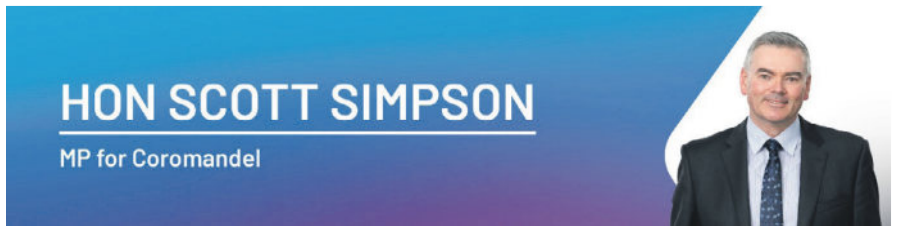
Appreciation

She held his hand, well not too tight
They walked together, the bond was obvious
Her long blonde hair clean and curly
Seemed to sparkle like her smile
He looked at her with an unparalleled pride
He knew he loved her and would forever
It made him catch his breath when they were together
She suggested the ice cream, well it was his shout
They always bought one near the roundabout
He didn't mind how long she pondered
So many flavours, then he wondered

Would she pick her favourite lime with chip
Or just vanilla chocolate dip

The Autumn wind came up, albeit mild
Jackets on, the sun a whisper
Her cheeks were red, the wind was crisper
He checked his watch, how time has flown
Time to go and drive her home
Her mother hugged her on arrival
And suggested thanking Grandad with a smile

- Graeme Smith



HON SCOTT SIMPSON

MP for Coromandel

Three months on... still no decision to fix SH25A

The lack of a decisive plan from NZTA to get SH25A reopened continues to frustrate and anger local residents and visitors, says Coromandel MP Scott Simpson.

'It has been three months since the Kopu-Hikuai highway closed, but we still have no idea when the road will be reopened.

'People have been patient, but the lack of decision, let alone a start on the work to get the road reopened is deeply concerning.

'NZTA are meant to be making an announcement about SH25A in May, but three months has been far

too long to wait and is indicative of the lack of urgency to fix SH25A.

'Our communities are resilient, but I have spoken to many businesses who are at their breaking point. Everyone is suffering and we desperately need to some positive action.

'Any solution that does not get the Kopu-Hikuai reopened by Christmas simply is not good enough, because the prospect of a fourth devastating summer for our region is too awful to contemplate.'

- Authorised by Scott Simpson MP, 614 Pollen St, Thames



What legacy will you leave?

Leaving a gift in your Will no matter the size, is a contribution of extraordinary value to the generations that follow us.

There are many ways to leave your mark on your community.

Everything you do, such as your connections with your family/whānau and friends, your work, sporting, or community activities, all contribute to memories of you.

Another way is to leave a planned gift in your Will to ensure the ongoing provision of care for the elderly in your community.

In doing so, your kindness will live on, improving lives long after you have gone. When you support us, you become a partner in helping to improve the quality of life for

the elderly in our community.

By leaving a gift in your Will to Moana House:

- you will change lives of the elderly for the better by ensuring those requiring supported living receive compassionate care and support.
- you will help provide a quality environment and facilities crucial to the welfare of older members of the community which helps provide the elderly with a better quality of life.

Get more information about leaving a gift in your Will to Moana House by website: www.moanahouse.nz or by email: funding@moanahouse.nz



Scott Simpson
MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime
0800 550 330
mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz
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Authorised by Scott Simpson, 614 Pollen St, Thames.

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Ratepayers present 7 resolutions

As a result of the 9 April public meeting, members of the Whangamata Ratepayer Association Flooding and Stormwater working group have attended two meetings with TCDC officials to consider the seven resolutions presented to Council.

The intention of the first meeting, for TCDC and the working group to begin open dialogue, to establish and confirm the extent of the stormwater and flooding on the environment, beaches, parks and reserves, rivers, and estuaries.

Identify all the areas of town that suffer from flooding and inundation, clearly reinforcing the 7 resolutions presented by residents and ratepayers which must be addressed in a transparent manner.

It was agreed by all those present the meeting was a good first step and a second meeting to be arranged by TCDC that would address the issues raised with the intention of seeking solutions.

The second, Whangamata Stormwater Shareholder Engagement Meeting took place on Thursday 27 April, attended by TCDC infrastructure officials and independent experts. Purpose, to focus on the key issues and seek workable solutions.

Stormwater topics included, history, review of current issues, collection areas, discharge locations, new builds/soak pits, maintenance of stormwater infrastructure, current Whangamata stormwater projects.

It was clear that many of the issues and work that needs to be done have been identified, the immediate task is to prioritise and get on with it.

In the summary session, the working group identified the following to be addressed with urgency:

- Maintenance of existing stormwater infrastructure to be reviewed, this includes sumps and soak pits.
- Regular monitoring of the water table (Working Group offered to do this).
- An urgent review of the Williamson Park Pond and weir, that includes methodology to eliminate the damage to the beach.
- Williamson 9-hole golf course, that a long term solution to the flooding and drainage issues is a priority, one that will benefit residents and ratepayers in the immediate area, golf club and council.

The WRA/Working Group strongly urged that the \$2.2 million in the proposed 2023/24 Annual Plan be retained.

TCDC 23/24 Annual Plan submission hearings took place on 27 April, a good number of local resident and ratepayer submitters spoke to their submission to the 23/24 Annual Plan, all urged the \$2.2 million for stormwater to be retained.

WRA submission form with the seven resolutions can be found on the Whangamata Ratepayers Association website, if you have not completed a form, please continue to show your support by doing so.

Email whangaratepayers@gmail.com or visit Whangamata Ratepayers Association website, Whangamata Ratepayers Facebook page.

- Whangamata Ratepayers Association and Working Group

Fire report



Our Brigade has had a hectic new year including the weather events which have totalled well over 50 calls. At present we are sitting on 111 calls for the year closing in on 2022 total calls of 128 already.

Our brigade still can't get over how well the residents and businesses assisted us in way of donations of food, equipment and financial gifts.

These funds will help towards upgrading our brigade owned Incident Support Vehicle which is becoming a major investment in today's financial times. This vehicle will bring further assistance easing access issues along with the carriage of equipment and personal.

Scene safety is also hugely improved with the many pieces of addition equipment we are able to transport which again has been purchased through donations.

Recently we have responded to medical incidents in the mountainbike park. Some of these calls have been made contacting through bike club or brigade members. I ask that you go through the 111 system and request both Ambulance and Fire to respond so the best possible outcomes can be achieved allowing for time critical response. Other calls have been several medicals, assisting with helicopter landing zones, vegetation fires and powerline issues.

Fire safety is still high on our priorities and the starting of winter and the lighting of home fires brings in safety measures needed this time of the year.

Please check the integrity of all fireplace components and flues with the winds encountered - these could be at risk.

Also have them chimneys cleaned. Remove all items well away from the fire place area and have any ignition sources up away from little ones.

- CFO Nigel Airey

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PLEASE HELP!

WE ARE IN TROUBLE!

WHANGAMATA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB PROJECT TRANSFORM

The renovation of the Whangamata Surf Life Saving Club's aging clubrooms at Williamson Park.

TARGET \$650,000
by the end of May to enable us to apply for grants that could get us to \$2 million.

ACHIEVED \$455,000
(\$100,000 from club savings)

NEEDED \$195,000

The Club will gratefully accept time pledges if that helps. Bank Account details: BNZ Whangamata Surf Life Saving Club (Inc) Building, Account No.: 021-2540027806-010.

Can you help us please or do you know someone or an organisation that can?

For full information please visit:
www.projecttransformwslsc.co.nz
Email: project@wslsc.co.nz
Phone: 0800403020

Tairua Skatepark final design approved



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

The plans can be seen in the meeting agenda on the TCDC website tcdc.civicclerk.com.au/web/Player.

The project team will continue to engage with users of Cory Park Domain - the site of the skatepark - to fine tune any minor design changes needed for health and safety purposes. The next meeting of the project team with the Tairua Rugby Sports Club and the Thames Valley Rugby Union which took place on Friday, 28 April.

Discussion of the agenda item at the Council meeting was moved into public exclusion to maintain legal privilege. After discussion and voting, the resolution to approve the design plans and proceed with the project was moved into public.

Our Council also approved an additional contribution of up to



Concept illustration of Tairua Skatepark design.

\$150,000 from the Tairua-Pāuanui Land Reserves Account because an earlier accounting error meant the Tairua community fundraising amount of \$150,000 had been double-counted.

Construction of the skatepark is expected to begin in July this year and be completed by the end of the year.

This is the final Council resolution, amended from what appeared in the agenda released before the meeting:

Resolved:

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the 'Tairua Skatepark Finalised Design Approval' report dated 17 April 2023.
2. Approves an additional contribution of up to \$150,000 from the Tairua-Pāuanui Land Subdivision Reserve Account.
3. Approves the design plans for the Tairua Skatepark and authorises

the project to proceed with procurement and construction subject to any minor design changes required for health and safety purposes within the project budget following the meeting with Tairua Rugby and Sports Club and Thames Valley Rugby Union proposed to take place on 28 April 2023.

Moved/seconded by:
Walker/Gotlieb

Councillor Revell and Councillor Grant voted against the motion.

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Sounds to Sounds by pedal power

Headwinds, loose gravel tracks and 1500 mountainous kilometres were all easily overcome by two 'Whanga Girls' when they completed the Marlborough Sounds to Milford Sounds bike journey.

Janette Lloyd and Christine Taylor traversed this gruelling biking route on their muscle-powered bikes in an amazing 21 days. Then for good measure they completed the length of Te Ika-a-Maui with a seemingly easy three day cruise to Bluff.

No easy peasy eBikes or GPS or even Google maps for these frontier women. They used pedal power all the way to climb every mountain, negotiate every Pass and straddle every Saddle that they faced on this

modern odyssey. These Whanga Girls scaled the total of 16,500 metres of ascent that included four Alpine Passes.

A snapshot of the peaks includes Wards Pass, Mackenzie Pass, Omarama Saddle and Duffers Saddle - which at 1173m elevation is the highest point on any public road in New Zealand.

Both Janette and Christine cunningly took a very scientific and managed approach to this journey. They streamlined their velocipedes as they tucked in their equipment to reduce wind drag and cheat the persistent headwind. Their journey statistics show they averaged a meaty 80 kilometres per day.

An unwritten journey ground rule was they agreed to be co-navigators to avoid any disagreements. They only used the Kennett Brothers hard-copy *Sounds to Sounds Official Guide* to help them navigate. This proved very accurate and easy to follow with one exception. This is where the Sounds to Sounds App came in handy.

Each group that took part in this classic New Zealand journey was tracked electronically for Health and Safety reasons. Also the Whanga Girls pairing had a huge local following who were keen to follow their progress. Just once the girls took a left instead of a right and the ever vigilant Marius Lloyd spotted



"hey Mum you're going the wrong way." A quick txt got the girls back onto the chosen path. These paths included tar sealed roads, 4WD Tracks, cycle tracks, gravel country roads and two lane goat tracks.

Christine said key points to their success were "this is not a race" and the planning and forethought at the end of each day. Purely functional accommodation included six nights camping, backpackers, cabins and nuclear fallout shelter-like motels. A typical day was up at 6am, porridge, coffee, tea and onto their bikes with an approximate idea of their destination.

Their second to last day was a biggie of 110km. This was

compensated with a wonderful final day downhill finish to Milford Sound/Piopiotaahi.

Some travel notes: no punctures or bike accidents; keas attack bikes; dehydrated butter chicken is tasty; salami keeps well; 30 knee deep river crossings on Omarama saddle and Milford sandflies are overrated.

A brief outline of this fabulous journey start Ship Cove/Meretoto, Molesworth Trail, Hurunui Heartland, Tekapo, Omarama Saddle, Otago Central Rail Trail, Nevis Mountains and Around the Mountains end Milford Sound.

Wonderful journey Whanga Girls, what's next on your list?



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Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club celebrates successes

Whangamatā News was delighted to track down our local Whangamata Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club at one of their training classes at the Memorial Hall last week.

Jeremy Janny - Black Belt, coach and owner of the club, is originally from France, but trained from an early age of five years, the art in Brazil.

Operating for the last four years here, the club has students ranging from five years old to 50 years in the adult classes.

And there's no reason that age ever needs to be a barrier, as the martial art was created to help little Brazilian guys compete with, and defeat, bigger guys. BJJ (Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is completely non-discriminatory).

Our Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club boasts multiple national champions and medal winners (in both gi and no gi styles). Classes are broken into age groups of 5-6 years, 7-10 years, 11-14 years and over 15 through to adults.

Jeremy just won the International Open in Australia two weeks ago on the 22 April, winning first place in Sydney. This puts him off to the World Championship this December in Las Vegas.

An incredible achievement at just 28 years old.

We asked Jeremy what he thinks the tuition of Jiu Jitsu brings to the youth of Whangamatā.



Back row (from left): Eli Callaghan, Lochy Moffat, Sando Miller, Cruz Hill, Danny Wills
Front row (from left): Jesse Treblico, Kobi Rose, Javier Hoskins, Charlotte Oswald, Mekhai Webb

"Self-defence, discipline, confidence, respect to their coach and others. No fighting - they are all good boys." Student Danny Wills just won the Nationals last weekend in Auckland, and incredibly the second year in a row.

Paul Oswald, parent to Charlotte (the only girl in the advanced kids class) says "the club itself is incredibly warm and welcoming and caring of new people. We don't want them getting hurt - though it is combative so sometimes strains can occur (part of the journey)." Personal benefits I've noticed are; great for physical health (one guy has lost 25kg changing nothing else except starting jiu-jitsu (in fact, he just won his first gold medal at 48 years old) and fabulous for mental health (social connection, physical exercise, mindfulness), confidence and humility and if you think you're pretty tough, the first couple of submissions will remind you of your levels".

"We do want to get the word out there to increase the numbers as much as possible so I want to be

able to help in that regard. If we have to move to a bigger facility to accommodate, that's great! We are also really short on girls and ladies (currently, my daughter Charlotte is the only girl in the advanced kids class and we have no regular lady members in the adult classes. Perhaps a ladies class might be in order. Anyone is welcome to come down for a free trial to see if they like it."

What a club of incredible talent and determination with the 11-14 years team having a regional tournament coming up in Rotorua in June.

"Jiu Jitsu is becoming a leading sport and growing in the World, In America its huge, Brazil, Europe, it's just picked up in NZ after starting only 10 years ago" says Janny.

If you are interested you could come down to see a session or phone Paul on 021 311 708 or email him at proswald@gmail.com or Jeremy at janny.jeremy@gmail.com

- Jennie Black



Coach Jeremy Janny and Danny Wills - both winners!

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One day Classic



David Gillingham, Bruce Rosie, Dave Hunter and John McConnell from Pauanui took out first place, winning all seven games.

The Whangamata Bowling Club hosted a One Day Classic Tournament on 18 April with 18 teams of four players competing in a seven game challenge with each team playing in the four lawn bowls disciplines, Fours, Triples, Pairs and Singles. Teams from Pauanui, Tairua, Waihi Beach, Whangamata, along with five teams from Waiuku played

on a day that stayed perfectly dry, despite the many weather warnings.

Everyone agreed it to be a great day out and expressed grateful thanks to Peter O'Hagan from Visique O'Hagan Vision Care for his brilliant Sponsorship.

- Keith Miles



Whangamata's Herb Armitage, Peg Jones, Tim Jones and Dexter Harpur were second with six wins.



The second Pauanui team of Derek Davies, Des Paton, Anne Hunter and Anne Jeffries finished third with five wins and a draw.

Menzshed Open Day



Whangamata Community Menzshed Open Day on Saturday 29 April was a great success, with lots of interest, thanks to all those who attended.

There was a selection of current and recent projects, demonstrations, and practical workshops for those looking for new interests.

Menzshed are always looking for new members, open Monday, and Thursday afternoons from 3:30pm to 5:00pm and Saturday 9:00 - 12:00 pm.

Just pop in for a look round, chat and cup of tea, please note membership is not limited to men, we welcome all.

We have a large cross section of skilled and enthusiastic members, traditional woodworking skills, experienced metalworkers, retired aeronautical experts, woodcarvers, we are looked to expand this into carving walking sticks and staffs.

With this wide range of skills, the shed is approached by various groups to undertake



George Macartney who has made a fully operations wooden car engine.

community projects, these include Whangamata Area School, Moana House, community pool, RSA. These projects provide opportunity for Menzshed groups to work together for the benefit of the community and at the same time enjoying some banter and leg pulling.

The shed is located on the Whangamata Area School campus, with access of Achilles Ave, (just down from the community swimming pool). For further information ring 020 41 81 1070.

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Saturday 6th May

6.30pm Start
Live at The Whangamata Club

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Seven Sins a must-see

The Tairua Troubadours have begun rehearsals for this year's show **Seven Sins** planned to entertain during an eight-show run starting on Thursday, 15 June.

Writer/director Jennie Turner said her interpretation of the seven sins will probably not be what most people are expecting.

The script is different to previous years, rather than an entire story, there will be individual scenes depicting her comedic take on each sin.

"I'm sure the audience will relate, and in terms of music there's a real mix to suit each individual scene."

The cast is smaller this year, some members were affected by the collapsed roads so they will take a year off. However, there are a few familiar faces, including chiropractor

Gordon Winter who is in two minds about the show - playing a devil and an angel is conflicting he says. Gordon not only performs, both acting and singing, but he's also the musical director creating the tracks to suit the individual singers.

This takes hours and hours of commitment but he says he wouldn't do it if he didn't enjoy it so much.

Also behind the scenes is Dave Burton, jazz drummer and the Troubadours sound engineer. Dave came on board last year and soon got hooked on what the Troubadours stand for; the fun, the personal growth, the community laughter and the giving back. He's looking forward to another show.

Alice Jones, international educator and chairperson, has traded



Tairua Troubadour Gordon Winter is unsure about his role in the upcoming show, **Seven Sins**.

places and will this year show-off her talents behind the slide show presentation linked to the music tracks. Two years ago the Troubadours put on an extra show to buy themselves a rear screen projector to help set the scenes.

On lights is Petra von Allmen, chef and a person who likes to dress

up, she's hoping to transition the Troubadour lighting system into the 21st century. In the meantime she will make the cast shine on stage.

Numerous people commit for a short time during the winter months to produce something quite unique. The monies raised by the Troubadours under Jennie Turner's reign, is now close to \$200,000.

Coromandel Rescue Helicopter has received a large slice of that, being a trustee Jennie feels passionate about this service especially now the Coromandel roads are compromised.

Jennie says "It will be nice to see the community laughing after a dreadful summer and difficult navigations still ahead". This will be her 24th show.

Tickets are now on sale - email tairuatroubadours@gmail.com

Beach Hop-oly: You could own this painting for just \$20

This original painting is being raffled at \$20 per ticket with all proceeds going to Moana House in Whangamata to help build a Dementia Unit.

Only 250 tickets to be sold.

Will be drawn as soon as all tickets have been sold.

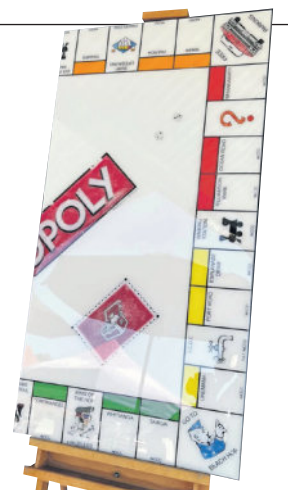
What you need to know about the painting...

An original painting by Clinton Christian created using acrylic with a resin coating. Clinton's pop art originals are extremely sought after by pop art enthusiasts - they are bright and lots of fun with a nostalgic twist on many of our old time favourites.

A Beach Hop take on the traditional Monopoly board. Including all the towns that the Beach Hop goes to - fun and a real talking piece.

120cm x 60cm.

Get your raffle ticket from The Little Gallery Port Road Whangamata (beside Chill Cafe).



Whangamata Lions Club - Project Gabriel

Lions serving those in need

Whangamata Lions Club has started a fund with a \$5,000.00 donation!!!

Supporting the cyclone recovery efforts in Hawke's Bay & Gisborne.

All other donations are gratefully received. Let's make it \$10,000!!

100% of the money goes to those in need.

Donate to the Whangamata Lions Charitable Trust Fund today!

Account Number: 02-1254-0031370-000 (Reference Gabriel)

Tax receipts available. Contact:

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Challenges and opportunities that confront our region

Enterprise Whangamata held a meeting for members at Craft Haus last week. MP Scott Simpson was invited as the Guest Speaker, to talk to some very direct questions from the well-attended group.



"What are your views for 3 Waters and the legislation that this government has pushed through?" asked Craig Sanders (EW committee member).

MP Simpson tells us "3 Waters are stormwater, drinking water and waste water, what makes our area interesting is that because all of us present are involved in business or community activities, you will understand the kind of economic cycle we have here, that many businesses we have here on the peninsula, most of you will do 80 or 90% of your annual revenue over a two or three month period over the Summer."

"Whangamatā does have a pretty good sewage system, that was paid for by ratepayers in this area at high cost, because unlike many parts of the country, when the TCDC is providing 3 Water services, they have to build that infrastructure for the 'peak', they build it for the people who are going to be here for that busy month of the year, but for much of the rest of the year, those facilities are actually operating at under capacity."

Simpson went on to say, "the current government decided to centralise the water entity, they gave it to a governance outfit and took it away from councils and ratepayers. I call that 'state sanctioned theft' of ratepayer assets and ratepayer infrastructure and investment."

"By the way the Labour Party have already passed this legislation, it's already done, they did it under 'urgency', they rammed it through using their absolute majority, which they can do, however if National gets in October this year to lead a new government, we will repeal that legislation and replace it."

Patrick Kerr (Committee member-Enterprise Whangamata) felt "co-governance is a really big issue, so asking MP Simpson " Are you and your party going to continue with this co-governance malarkey or step away?"

Simpson said "yes we would

step away from it, we think there are some real challenges, with a co-governance model for what are essentially the arms of state, Government departments and agencies, a good example of this is the health system and needs, should be based on health needs. It should not be based on our ethnicity or who your grandfather was...."

The next question also came from Craig Sanders (EW committee) he asked "with climate changes globally, how do you feel about decarbonisation, the Paris agreement is suggesting to save 50 billion tons of carbon globally per year, to get equilibrium for the planet by 2050, in this country we seem to blame our farmers, who are the backbone of our country, where do you stand Scott on decarbonisation?"

MP Simpson responded with "between now and 2050 there will be multiple changes of government, of all mixes and persuasions but that trajectory to net zero 2050 is really important that businesses, councils, citizens and anyone in decision making, knows no matter what kind of government we have now and until 2025, that the direction of travel isn't going to change.

"Part of progress to net zero 2050, will be that there does need to be a contest of ideas, there will be a range of different pathways to achieving that. Some of it will be

about decarbonising our transport system for instance, that won't mean that everyone has to have an electric or a hydrogen car, some will choose to, others won't. But they need to make decisions on their financial interests, how efficient it is, where they get their energy from, but a pathway to a decarbonised economy is obviously really good for the planet, but really good for us in NZ and our economy."

Thank you MP Simpson for attending, what was long and informative discussions, there are many points to ponder.

- Jennie Black

The Classic Cover Insurance Nostalgia Fair at Repco Beach Hop is run every year by Enterprise Whangamata. Proceeds from the fair are then donated to various local clubs and organisations across our area. If you would like to be considered for some of these funds, register your club's interest by 22 May, then be at the Whanga Bar on 25 May to present to our Enterprise Whangamata Panel.



For further information on how to apply, please phone Jennie Black 021 0232 1661 or 0272 108 190.

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Sunday 14th May

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2 seatings 8:30am & 10:30am, maximum 8 per table

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Tōku Ara – a unique educational journey

On the surface, it looks like any high school camp you might see on Instagram, but Tōku Ara is a well-researched, unique educational experience. What happens on Tōku Ara is an intentional process with a beautiful combination of planned and natural challenges. Through this challenge, students experience growth in a way that has lasting impact on them, their families, and their community.

The challenge of community living

Living with others can be hard. Usually, students quickly get very close with each other during a program, and through that synergy comes a significant amount of learning. As students grow more comfortable with each other, they lean into deeper challenges by sharing about their lives and their reflections on the program. This can be scary for some, but the more a team shares, the greater the opportunity to grow in compassion, as students learn from the perspectives of others.



The challenge of outdoor living

Outdoor living is a great example of a natural challenge. Our outdoor pursuits instructors have no role in creating these challenges. They are at the mercy of nature. All they can do is teach the students the

technical skills to manage these challenges and aim to develop a culture where they support each other through it. Living in nature is a practice of sitting with discomfort. It is a step outside our normal, comfortable, modern lives. There are

incredible highs with immense pride, and of course, there are deep lows that make you wish you were back home on the couch. Sometimes we are uncomfortable, and we must learn to show resilience and thrive anyway.



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Explore our spectacular Mountain Bike Park

Whangamatā MTB Park is located 4km north of Whangamatā in a commercial logging forest. The park has single track trails for all levels of riders from grade 2- 5 single track trails, ideal for families or advanced riders looking for a challenge. (Permits required)

PHONE 865 8096
700 PORT RD, WHANGAMATA



The challenge of choice and lack thereof

Some elements of Tōku Ara have a "challenge by choice" component. This can look like using a sleeping bag or not during our survival night, or it could be deciding to share a letter you have written to your future self at our fire ceremony. When presented with a choice, there is usually an easier and a harder option. Deciding to tough it out until the morning without a sleeping bag, or sharing in a circle where you might feel vulnerable are just two

examples of difficult choices. When given the choice, can you lean in and pick the harder one?

Through the freedom of choice, students can experience agency and empowerment. And on the same day, there may be a situation with little choice about it. Maybe it's been a huge day tramping, it's raining and we're wet, and really the only option is to get to camp. We can't just stop and rest, although maybe we want to. Moments with a lack of choice show us that we can push through challenging moments, allowing us

to experience a new level of our capabilities.

Tōku Ara is a 26-day residential localised curriculum held at the Wharekawa Lodge at Opoutere. It has been specifically designed for year 10 students from WAS. Our

mission is to set students on a path of personal growth, and support them to discover and develop their potential, through challenging experiences within our local environment.

- Gina Kennings



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Hauraki Maori rugby league do us proud

Though the weather may have been up and down here in Whangamatā, the heavens had opened up and produced picturesque weather at the annual Aotearoa Maori Rugby League tournament held in Rotorua, the home of Te Arawa iwi.

The tournament, which saw teams come from all corners of the motu (island) and across the ditch (Queensland Maori and several players from Australia) competing for the national title in the U13 grade and U14 grade.

Hauraki was represented at the Maori rugby league tournament with players coming from Waihi, Thames, Whangamatā, Opoutere, Hamilton and Auckland to make the first Hauraki Maori rugby league U14s. Throughout the competition, the games were hard-fought and intense, with no shortage of mana on display. Though the results didn't go the boys way there was plenty to celebrate. Coming from rugby backgrounds, our Hauraki team were able to hold their own against some heavyweight teams, all who play rugby league seasons in their respective areas. The reason why we were able to compete so well against these teams was due to the whakawhanaungatanga that the boys shared before tournament. With only a month and a half to prepare, the boys attended several noho and full day training sessions. This time was used to help develop unbreakable bonds which saw them compete against teams from Tūwharetoa, Tūhoe and Ngongotahā.



It was an eye opening experience for the boys, many never seeing te aō māori taking centre stage. With haka off's being displayed before games to hearing teams speak only te reo māori on and off the field, it was an experience that made the boys proud to be māori.

Their coach Daniel Paul said " it's truly amazing seeing how far these boys had developed." "The biggest reward was not getting wins, but seeing them develop and grow to become better sportsman, not only on the field but off it as well." Many comments directed to Daniel were about how well the boys acted on the field. "The comments I would receive from officials was phenomenal." "Ref's would come up to me and congratulate me on how well-disciplined the boys were on field, hearing that makes all the headaches worthwhile haha."

The road to Te Arawa wasn't an easy one, but when you have the support of the whanau and community, it makes moving mountains a breeze.

The Hauraki Māori Rugby League would like to thank the whanau of the boys for supporting them financially, spiritually, mentally and physically, being at the games cheering them on or watching the livestreams on youtube. Thanks is to be given to Waihi College, Thames High School, Opoutere Kura, Pak 'n' Save Thames, Mico plumbing supplies, Whangamata New World, Whangamata Plumbing and Drainage, Dennis Beaver, Summer Bar, Beach Hop 2023, Whangamata Woman's Senior Netball Team, South Waikato indoor pools, Tokoroa P.I.C Church. Your support and help was so well received.



A huge mihi must be given to the coaching and management staff. Daniel Paul, Walter Wiki, Beef, Hone Ranga Stephanie Noa, Hinemoa Thwaites, Paki Rameka and Alyessa Tuhakaraina.

These tournaments are held annually during school holidays and long weekends which range in ages from U10s all the way through to open men's divisions. It also holds a U13 Kotiro (girls) division and goes through to open women's divisions.

Keep an eye out on Aotearoa Maori Rugby League Facebook page and Hauraki Maori Rugby League Facebook pages to see upcoming tournaments and trials for teams.

Until the next tournament... Mauri ora whanau.

- Daniel Paul



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The Irish arrive

All of us who enjoy and support local rugby remember fondly the young Irishmen who came and played for the Red n Whites last season. They were admired not only for their skills and passion, but also for their character.

Now there are another three fine young men travelling halfway around the world to immerse themselves in our town's culture, and to put their bodies on the line. Whangamatā News met up with them - Finn McCall, Callum Wall, Sean Cullen - at the Whangamata Club on the day that they arrived.

Hailing from Munster, Tipperary and Leinster and playing for the University of Galway, they are all well aware of the challenges that they will face, the good times to be had and the Team Family to get to know. Informed by the last crew they know the hard work that is ahead of them and all are looking forward to the next three months. "They all came back twice the players they were before, we're all good to work hard and do the same.



From left: Zach Clarke (Captain), Finn McCall, Callum Wall, Sean Cullen and President Russell Choat.

It's a different style of rugby to what they're used to. "We're told it's a very physical game and a lot faster than it is back home, so we are looking forward to try and adapt to that."

We also had a brief chat with Russell Choat, Rugby Club President. He tells us that the players are all flattening together in the one house and are looking to work in town, probably in hospitality.

Russell is hoping that the double header this coming weekend will draw a big crowd, on a nice sunny day - get along there people!

Captain Zach Clarke was also at the club, and tells us he is anticipating a big game. After a win and a loss since returning to play, he says, after last week's game "I hope it's a bit of a fork in the road kind of moment - there's two ways you can go about it. You can use it as motivation or you can spiral down. We had a really good training on Wednesday, with the team motivated and the arrival of the Irish players will add big time to the squad. It's such an even competition this year, any team is capable of winning." He is anticipating the depth, class and culture from the Irishmen will provide an edge.

So Whangamatā, get along and support Whangamatā, and the Irishmen.

Go the Red n Whites!

- Story and photos by Mark James



The young Irish players: (from left) Callum Wall, Finn McCall and Sean Cullen.

Russell CHOAT
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Support urged for Lions

The Whangamata Lions are wanting to partner with other community groups and youth to get their involvement with our community service projects. We have partnered with Whangamata Anglican for the Labour Weekend giant garage sale, the Junior Sailing Club supplying them with brand new life vests, we sponsor kids who fund raise for trips on the Spirit of Adventure, Jamborees, etc.

It is hoped that parents might be interested in joining Lions as we do need more younger members to keep the club going. When you join Lions you become a member of the largest world wide service organisation.

Lions is all about service and having rewarding service activities for the betterment of our community.



Pictured are the Whangamata Scouts and Cubs assisting with planting at Waireka Place Reserve.



Pink Ribbon Breakfast

Thursday 25th May

8.30am to 11.00am



Pink Ribbon breakfast to raise funds for Breast Cancer Research

There are 9 women in New Zealand diagnosed with breast cancer everyday

Come along and support this worthy cause

- Entry fee \$30
- Entry covers buffet
- Come dressed for a "Pink Morning"
- Prize for best dressed
- Live Auction. Great items to bid for from local sponsors.
- (Donations welcome)

MUST Register your interest with Jan Collins -

jan.wills@xtra.co.nz for catering reasons

Payment via Internet Banking: 15-3970-0068915-01

Ref: "Name" or Cash at the Door

Whangamata Golf Club - Titoki

Sports results

MAH JONG

April 21: here were 48 players and being pre ANZAC there were 4 special Theme hands but only 2 were won. These will be carried on till next week. The winners were: 1st with 53 points Christine Adams 2nd with 39 points Tina Palmer 3rd with 36 points Dianne Trembath

28 April: We had 41 members present today which ment 3 tables of 3. The results were: 1st with 51 points Rosemarie Rotherford 2nd with 41 points Philipa Dennison

3rd with 35 points Catherine Kidd

9 of our players are in Upper Hutt playing Mah Jong. Hope they are doing well.

TABLE TENNIS

20 April: Our winner was Wayne Broome, with equal points for second place shared by Brendan Ryan, Alby Driver and David Branks.

27 April: Results were 1st equal Gary Small, Ken Allen and Wayne Broome. Well done guys. We had 19 players and some long close games. Good fun was had by all.

WHANGAMATA CREATIVE FIBRE INVITES YOU TO OUR OPEN DAY

Memorial Hall, Port Road, Whangamata
THURSDAY May 11, 2023

Doors open 10am, Gold Coin entry
Raffles and Spot prizes

AN OPEN DAY THAT GIVES A WINDOW OF TIME
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SPOIL MUM THIS MOTHER'S DAY

SUNDAY 14 MAY



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The PUMICE PATCH

Anzac Dedication

At this hour, on this day, ANZAC received its baptism of fire and became one of the immortal names in history. We who are gathered here think of the comrades who went out with us to battle but did not return. We feel them still near us in spirit. We wish to be worthy of their great sacrifice. Let us, therefore, once again dedicate ourselves to the service of the ideals for which they died. As the dawn is even now about to pierce the night,

so let their memory inspire us to work for the coming of the new light into the dark places of the world.



Pia Rogers (left) and Ella Williams.



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WHANGAMATA

RSA



PROJECT Remembrance Wall 2023

Our Remembrance Wall is in need of a completely new and modern look, after 25 years its appearance is scruffy and outdated and will not stand proudly at times of commemoration in years to come.

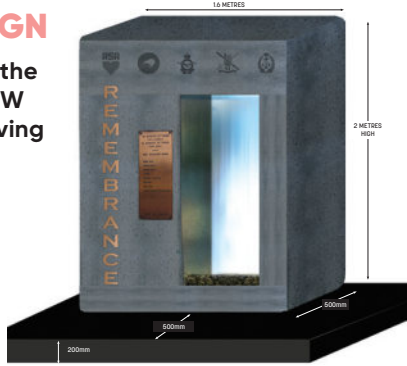
The RSA is embarking on a major renovation with a local sculptor, Ted Pickett, to give the planned area a fantastic new look, that transcends anything we have seen locally before.



PROPOSED RENOVATION & DESIGN

The plan is to turn around the facing area (off the road frontage for safety reasons) to view a NEW monument of 2m high in polished concrete, giving the laying of wreaths on the new monument major focus and the respect they deserve.

Featuring a central water feature, tinted pebble areas in koru form and expansive seating with two pohutukawa trees to create shade and colour throughout the seasons. The plans will delight all locals, not just our service men and women of tomorrow. Not just for ANZAC Day, but for many civic services and also having the flagpole repositioned when recognising the passing of an ex-veteran.



ABOUT THE SCULPTOR: TED PICKETT

Sculptures... original, unique and spiritually connected



Ted Pickett is a local, contemporary artist and a member of the Whangamatā Arts Collective. Along with his partner Melissa and two sons, he has lived in Whangamatā for the last 25 years. Ted, through the use of

whakapapa, traces back to Ngāti Rangitihi (Te Arawa) and is also of Scottish and English descent. He has a spiritual connection to the area as his whenua is Opoutere. Ted works mainly with concrete, recycled timber, copper and resins as well as colouring using natural oxides and stains. His sculptures are original, unique and very distinctive.

He is inspired by his māori heritage and his profound connection to the Coromandel environment.



HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

The cost of this undertaking is beyond the financial capabilities of Whangamata RSA. We have secured some funds locally, but seek community and/or business support to make this new designed area a reality.

Contributions will cover site clearance, concrete prepping, removal of existing gardens and uneven surfaces, new concrete installation, brass plaque reinstating, trees, new seating materials and of course the sculptor's time and materials needed (at cost) to bring the PROJECT TO COMPLETION.

Your Support

A member of our Whangamata RSA Executive Committee will make an appointment to discuss with you and will promote the PROJECT in the Whangamata News and on social media extensively.

All contributions of this size will be formally acknowledged and all donors invited to attend the Official Opening of the new Remembrance Monument on its completion.

And will have their appropriate business logo placed on the seating area.

All other donations, no matter what the size, are considered an incredible assistance, and even if its material or labour you can offer to bring our dream to fruition would be a giving gift of years to come.

- Geoff March, President

Costs Involved

- Taking up old pavers
 - Breaking up old wall and footings
 - Box up and pour concrete bollards
 - New timber seats
 - Preparation of area for 100mm thick concrete pad
 - Reinforcing mesh
 - 5m² coloured aggregate
 - Steel reinforcing rods to form work for bollards
 - Digger hire, rubbish removal
- SCULPTURE:**
- Prep, box sculpture footings
 - Reinforcing steel cage
 - Installing water pump and plumbing
 - 3m² black coloured concrete
 - Grinding all edges of monument
 - Attaching brass letters and emblems
 - Labour overall

TARGET: \$25,000

\$5,500

Our Bank Details

Account name: Whangamata Returned and Services' Association (Inc)
Account number: BNZ 02 0472 0020608 00

RSA



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Sunday 14th May

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"Neville Ormsby" EBONIVORY 4PM



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Generational support heartening

Kris Faafoi is a government and public relations specialist; a former Labour member of Parliament and a former Cabinet minister; and a former Press Gallery journalist. He writes some very inspirational work, most fitting for this page.

OPINION: Anzac Day evinces a sense of patriotism from New Zealanders that is needed now more than ever.

At its simplest, the mere awakening of families for the local dawn service sends a message to the youngest New Zealanders that this morning is unlike others.

At a higher level, Anzac Day is a remembrance, an honouring of sacrifice and the disproportionate impact that conflicts have had on New Zealand. It's also the only day we stand and proudly sing Advance Australia Fair.

Something has been happening over the last 20 years as more and more children and families have been making the chilly early morning pilgrimage to remember the courage and sacrifice made by our servicemen and women. That is so heartening to see.

The scent of the rum-laced coffee and conversations between young and old, and enjoying a beer in an RSA at a little after 7am is something that is unique in our 365-day rhythm. Our respect for ageing service people who march, resplendent with medals, and for those who currently serve, is quite emotional.

No-one can share their pain and experiences, but them. And we all wish for a time where we never see such conflict again. There is a challenge being accepted at Anzac commemorations.

It's the Anzac spirit again that should force us to have the debate about what role New Zealand plays in keeping the Pacific safe with independent states making decisions which are best for them, their people and their way of life.

Not many New Zealanders would know of the work our Defence Force undertakes regularly in the Pacific to monitor and patrol the ocean, to ensure the likes of fishing zones are adhered to, drug routes are interrupted, and development and humanitarian work is done in our name.

At a time when our RSAs are struggling to make ends meet there is more to this that warrants our attention. No RSA means the people who still support our veterans, our servicemen and women will find it impossible to do the behind-the-scenes activities such as home and hospital visits.

And no RSA means local Anzac Day ceremonies would likely fall away.

There is something in the collective silence, the haunting Last Post and the remembrance of Anzac Day that proves that we are capable of uniting. Both as generations and on what is important to us all.

- Kris Faafoi

Salt in his veins

Tom Sparrow joined the Merchant Navy at 16 years old, as an Engineer Cadet Officer, doing Navy College time in England.

He served at sea for seven years, in which time he saw most of the world's seas, including several trips to New Zealand and Australia.

During that time his ships were carrying munitions for the Armed Forces, and he received the Armed Forces Veterans Badge for this.

He moved onto refrigerated ships and passenger ships until retirement. For Tom, Anzac Day is a time to remember his father, who served in WW2 doing duty in Burma, and his Mother who was in the Land Army. Toms uncle, DFC, served in an upper turret of a Lancaster bomber. He had completed his tour of duty, however he still volunteered to go on a final mission on D Day and was tragically shot down and killed.

As soon as his stint in the Merchant Navy ended Tom, with fond memories of New Zealand from his travels, jumped on a ship and headed here.

Well done, Tom.

- Mark James



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Ralph Morris –legend



Whangamatā News was very fortunate to catch up with the family of Ralph Hugh Clark Morris.

Ralph is aged 97 and served with the British Army in World War II.

On ANZAC Day at Whangamatā, he was the only WWII veteran in the parade and completed the entire walk with the aid of his walker.

Ralph was born 27 January, 1926, in Blackpool, Lancashire UK. Before the war, he was at single and at secondary school – Arnold House in Blackpool.

He found out about Pearl Harbour while he was still at school on December 7th 1941, he was drafted at 18 years old to the British Army Infantry, September 1944.

Ralph attended basic training at Carlisle Barracks and remembers the frequent route marches with a full pack walking 25 miles, his military specialty was in the defence force for the British Army, using a 303 rifle and a Bren gun.

When we ask "what is one of your most memorable experiences during WWII?", he says "defusing mines in the North Sea, the East Coast of Northern Scotland".

"Did your service in WWII affect the rest of your life?" we ask. He replies "yes, I couldn't settle back into tertiary studies at Liverpool University, so I emigrated to New Zealand in 1949 at my own cost of 85 pounds.

What lessons would Ralph like to pass onto today's generation? "More discipline is required of today's younger generation". And rightly so, Ralph Morris.

We thank you for your service and now welcome you to Whangamatā and your new home at Moana House.

- Jennie Black



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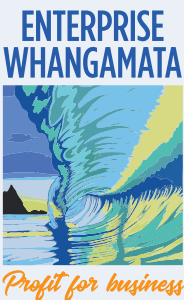
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AGM

Whangamata Club Restaurant
Monday 12 June 5.15pm
Financial reports, minutes, Election of Officers

Contact Jennie Black 021 0232 1661
or Jeremy Mace 021 922 240

Profit for business



AGM


Whangamata Arts Collective
10 May 5pm, Whangamata Club

Seeking Nominations for Committee.

Contact Gaye Barton - Secretary
phone 027 4444557

AGM

Whangamata Hospice and Cancer Support Trust
Tuesday 16th May 2023 - 5.15pm
Hart and Lowe Office, 512 Port Rd, Whangamatā
All welcome
Contact Judy - 021 023 83998



WHANGAMATA THEATRE SOCIETY Inc

NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.30pm Cornerstone House - 100 Ocean Road
Thursday 25th May 2023

AGENDA
Welcome & Apologies
Minutes - AGM 2022
President's Report
Finance Report
General Business
Election of Officers

At the conclusion of the meeting all members and prospective members are invited to socialise and brainstorm some ideas for future productions.

All enquiries to Secretary, Jude Briton
021 1885134 or judeb@live.com



Marine VHF callsigns

A reminder of the importance of callsigns.

A VHF callsign provides a unique identifier for your vessel and includes a description of your boat, your contact details and your emergency contact ashore. Many vessels have common boat names but a callsign is specific to you and your boat which may provide vital information in an emergency situation.

If you have a callsign it is also important to periodically check that your current details are correct on the callsign database. If you have changed or sold your boat or your

contact details have changed you need to update your information.

The cost of registering a callsign is sixty dollars and it becomes yours for life. If you sell your boat you can retain your callsign and change the vessel details on the register to fit the new boat if one is purchased.

Callsign purchase or correction of detail may be done through the Coastguard Boating Education website www.boatingeducation.org.nz/marine-vhf-radio-callsigns/ or if you require assistance you can call our 24/7 phone number, 07 865 8800.

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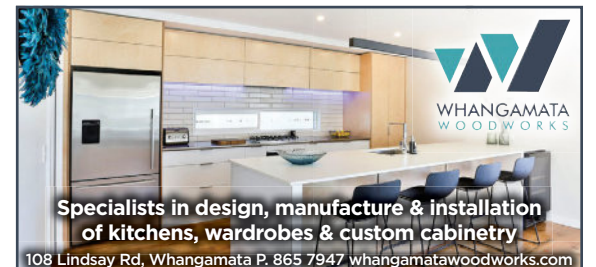
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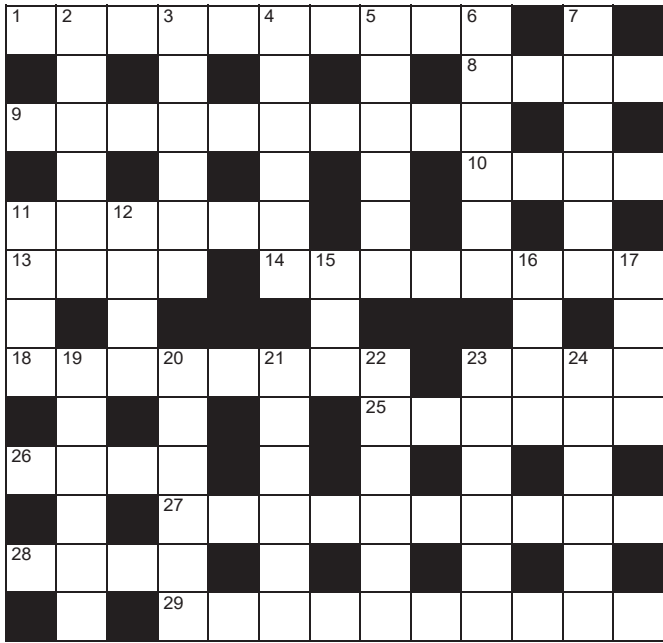


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QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

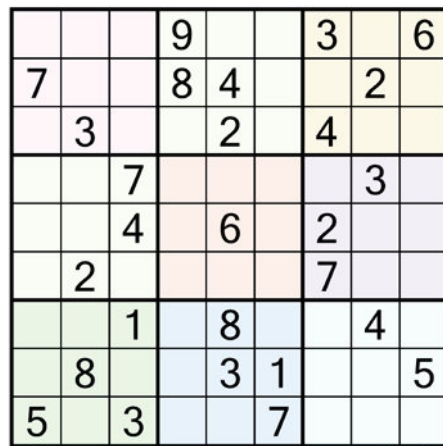
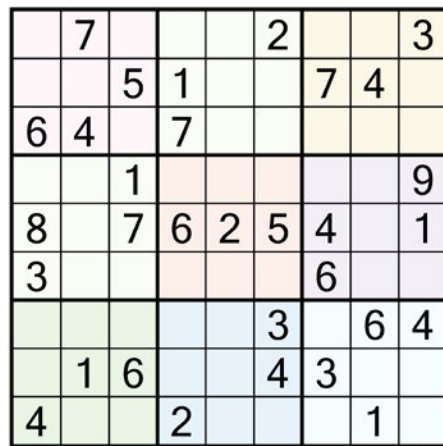
- 1. Hybrid (10)
- 8. Follow orders (4)
- 9. Self-centred (10)
- 10. Eager (4)
- 11. Pub (6)
- 13. Inheritor (4)
- 14. Wisely (8)
- 18. Detached notes (8)
- 23. Rip (4)
- 25. Desolate (6)
- 26. Instead (of) (4)
- 27. Note tack (7,3)
- 28. Bloodsucking insect (4)
- 29. Unusually big in scope (5-5)

Down

- 2. Music genre (6)
- 3. Gullible person (inf) (6)
- 4. Sub tropical fruit (6)
- 5. Straying from accepted course (6)
- 6. Till receipt (6)
- 7. Disclose (6)
- 11. As a result (4)
- 12. Travel stamp (4)
- 15. Harden (3)
- 16. Always (4)
- 17. Chat (4)
- 19. Small amount (6)
- 20. Like a tale (6)
- 21. Illicit relationship (6)
- 22. Do someone a favour (6)
- 23. Extremely distressing (6)
- 24. Antenna (6)

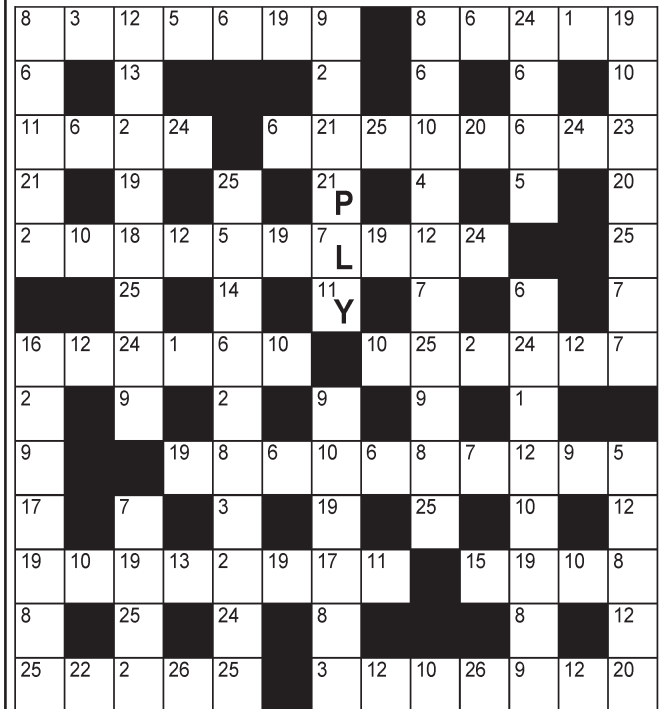
SUDOKU

Fill the grid so every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9



DECODER

Each number below represents a different letter. Find the correct letter for each number by working out the word from the letters given. To keep track, cross the letters off on the grid below.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13													
							L													Y					

WORKING SPACE

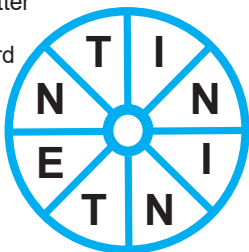
TRIO

The same three-letter sequence will complete each of the four words

___CK
UN___G
___VER
CY___NE

WORDWHEEL

Add one letter to make a 9-letter word reading clockwise or anti clockwise



SOLUTIONS

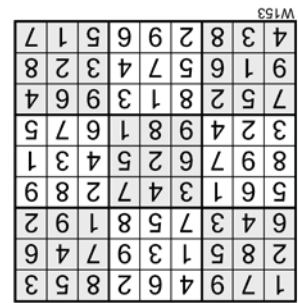
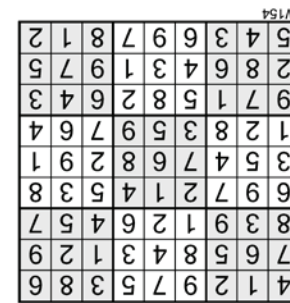
CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Crossbreed, 8. Obey, 9. Egocentric, 10. Keen, 11. Tavern, 13. Heir, 14. Astutely, 18. Staccato, 23. Tear, 25. Barren, 26. Lieu, 27. Drawing pin, 28. Flea, 29. Large-scale.
Down: 2. Reggae, 3. Sucker, 4. Banana, 5. Errant, 6. Docket, 7. Reveal, 11. Thus, 12. Visa, 15. Set, 16. Ever, 17. Yarn, 19. Trifle, 20. Caudal, 21. Affair, 22. Oblige, 23. Tragically, 24. Aerial.

DECODER

1	G	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q
2	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
3	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
4	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
5	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
6	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
7	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
8	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
9	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
10	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
11	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
12	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
13	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
14	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
15	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
16	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
17	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
18	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
19	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
20	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
21	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
22	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
23	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
24	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
25	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	
26	U	H	V	M	O	L	C	S	N	Y	A	Q	

SUDOKU



TRIO: CLO

WORDWHEEL: NONTNENI

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