New Remembrance Wall project comes to fruition

RSA Combined Services Day crowd applauds generosity P4 & 5 Photos by Mark James

BY LOCALS, FOR LOCALS, ABOUT LOCALS.

PARADISE COAST

Whangamata

NEWS

REMEMBRANCE

1 SEPTEMBER,

2023

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TARGET: \$25,000 \$23,000

RSA

RETURNED AND SERVICES

edition



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Welcome to the 100th edition of Whangamatā News

- a magazine By Locals, For Locals, About Locals

PUBLISHING

Whangamatā NEWS

EDITOR & SALES DIRECTOR Jennie Black Phone 021 0232 1661 WhangamataNews@gmail.com

SPORTS REPORTER &

Mark James

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We welcome your letters, articles, photos, news tips and advertising enquiries.

• We ask that articles be no more than 250 words, although exceptions can be made.

• Photos should be high resolution and in focus. For editorial or photographic matters, phone Jennie on 021 0232 1661 or email

WhangamataNews@gmail.com

HON SCOTT SIMPSON





Parliament Sitting and **Recess Weeks**

As an MP, most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays are spent in Wellington conducting Parliamentary business. This involves sitting on select committees, speaking on Bills, meeting stakeholders, and taking part in debates in the House.

There is usually one week a month when Parliament doesn't sit. This is called a recess week and it gives electorate MPs more opportunities to meet with their constituents and visit community groups or businesses in their patch. It's a chance to hear from people so MPs can better represent them in Wellington.

During the August recess week I hosted some of my National Party colleagues in Kerepehi, Miranda, Paeroa and Thames. It was great to shine a light on our innovative local businesses and to hear about the potential opportunities and challenges in their industries. We also visited some education and support groups and saw the terrific work they are doing in the community.

The 53rd New Zealand Parliament rose on 31 August and it dissolves on 8 September. The next Parliament will begin sitting after the election.

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





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Police report

Hello neighbours,

What a stunning bit of weather we are having. When I look up to the bright blue sky, I think this is truly paradise. Almost, as I have found the fishing a little tough this month, but I have been spoiled with the abundance of choice that the Hauraki Gulf offers, I digress, so back to business.

This is due to be my last month relieving as the sergeant. Will is due back around the second week of September.

It has been an eye-opening experience for me. I have been required to balance the needs of the 'business' and those of the community, whilst maintaining the safety of the team.

I did not realise the amount of work that goes on in the background for running two police stations.

What I have learnt is how lucky we are to have the police officers we do. I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about them:

• Jeff is our most senior officer with 23 years in. He has come from South Auckland where he was a Senior Sergeant. His passion is for the community where you will regularly see him walking the beat willing to have a yarn.



- **Rei** has been in Whangamatā the longest and is the most recognised and requested officer amongst us. He has 15 years' service, a man with a passion for family and a true dedication to the community.
- Jessie recently joined us from Rotorua and has been in the police for 5 years. She is dedicated to the battle against organised crime and those tainting our communities with illegal drugs.
- Catherine Sell is our station support officer. A previous police officer for many years, with a passion for our young people and now focusing on keeping the station doors open for the benefit of the community.
- **Dylan and Fraser** provide us with support from their home station of Tairua (our sister station). You will often find them in our town providing us with some backup.

I hope you all have a lovely week and I thank you all for your support. We will see you out there!

> - Jack Driver, Acting Sergeant, Whangamata Police

100 EDITIONS OF WHANGAMATA NEWS

"Getting to a 100 in anything is special"

I would like to congratulate and thank the Whangamatā News and its editor/owner Jennie Black, along with photographer Mark, and Anna, graphic designer, for their tireless work in providing our community with news on localised issues and events.

The Whangamatā News is a great resource for showcasing community events especially for those who want to become more active and involved in the community.

Jennie is an expert at conveying the "what, where, who and why's" of locally relevant issues and human-interest stories.

As newspapers continue to converge with the internet and grapple with the future of digital news we need to support Whangamatā News and keep a great local paper that helps strengthen our community.



I wish Jennie and her Whangamatā News all the very best for the next 100 plus editions.

- Terry Walker, Deputy Mayor



Combined Services Day sees new Remembrance Wall project underway

Whangamata RSA President Geoff March told the large crowd, who attended Combined Service Day celebrations last Sunday

"For those of us who have attended ANZAC Days, you'll see that the Remembrance wall is facing the wrong way, with many vets spilling onto the footpath and onto Port Road, we need to upgrade and do something about it".

The existing entry has been in existence for some 25 years, and the RSA Executive Committee launched a plan to gain sponsorship and funding from many very generous individuals, groups, Veterans and local business owners to reach a target of \$25,000.

Delighted to say that the target is very close so the project is underway at last.

Local sculptor Ted Pickett has been tasked with the new monument, a 2 metre polished concrete arboretum with incredible landscaping ideas, water features and lighting to stand the test of time for generations to come.

Ted told the crowd "when the RSA first contacted me I was very humbled, I have to say with all my work with more than 200



District President Tony Hill and Deputy Mayor Terry Walker turn the first sod.

sculptures, this one has me pretty scared, but I do know it will stand out for years to come".

RSA new Padre Ross Falconer was invited to give a few words, he says "whenever something in our community its worth stopping for a moment,giving thanks for that which has been and praying for that which is going to be,

I'm also conscious that many people will be humbled, sometimes just

stopping to rest, thinking, praying and remembering. It's a significant point within this community of which we give thanks, Ross proceeded to bless the wall as a symbol of life and new creation.

District RSA President Tony Hill and Deputy Mayor Terry Walker turned the 'first sod' and so the journey begins.

- Jennie Black



Ted Pickett - Project Sculptor humbled.





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Scott Simpson For Coromandel GET COROMANDEL BACK ON TRACK





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The latest from Mayor Len



Our Council's upgraded rubbish and recycling system (www.tcdc. govt.nz/newkerbside) is about to kick in. Hopefully, you'll have heard by now that the changes take place from Friday 1 September as a new contractor takes over the service.

Naturally, it will take a mindset change for some as we implement a new system, but our team has done a fantastic job under difficult circumstances including the closure of SH25A, and I'm proud of the work they've done to make this happen.

As with any major change, this one has presented our Council teams and our residents and ratepayers with a number of challenges. It also presents significant opportunities for us as a district to do things differently, reduce costs, and reduce the volume of rubbish we all send to landfill.

These factors have contributed to added costs:

- A new 10-year contract with a different contractor: Increased cost, from \$50 million to \$80 million over the 10 years
- Longer opening hours for Refuse and Recycling Transfer Stations (something many across the district had asked for)
- Road closures mean longer trips to landfill, limiting collection day options and adding to costs
- Higher landfill charges based on the waste levy rising from \$30/ tonne to \$60/tonne (we currently send over 13,000 tonnes per annum to landfill)
- The requirement for every council to meet new governmentmandated standards for recycling and food waste collection

Bin deliveries and where to find the new rubbish tags

Deliveries of the new bins are almost complete with properties in the north of the Coromandel scheduled to receive them over the coming week.

Our contractors Waste Management are busy catching up on properties who were missed in the initial deliveries. If you missed out on receiving your bins while deliveries were made in your area, please contact our helpful Customer Services team.

After your kerbside collection next week, start using your new rubbish wheelie bin and food scraps bin.

The \$8 Pay as You Throw Tags are now available from:

- Coromandel Town Four Square
- Hāhei General Store
- Thames Four Square Discount (527 Pollen St)
- Thames Pak'nSave
- Pāuanui Information Centre
- Our four Council offices:
- Thames
- Coromandel Town
- Whitianga
- Whangamatā

The following retailers will have their stock for sale:

- Mercury Bay Food market
- Whangamatā New World
- Whitianga New World
- Whitianga Glasshouse Emporium
- Pāuanui Supervalue
- Tairua Superette
- Cooks Beach General Store
- Coromandel Town Supersaver
- Thames Read Bros Hardware
- We'll announce further retailers stocking the PAYT tags as they are finalised.

They will also be available at Council offices in Coromandel Town, Whitianga, Whangamatā and Thames, which are open Monday to Friday, but not weekends. We'll announce further retailers stocking the PAYT tags as they are finalised.

For a reminder of what goes in each bin, visit www.tcdc.govt.nz/ newkerbside

Moana Point WTP declared officially open

Deputy Mayor Terry Walker opened the third Water Treatment Plant at Moana Point on 24 August. The first two up on Beverly Hills and the Wentworth Valley.

The three plants in Whangamatā treat approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of water annually or just over 3000 cubic metres a day.

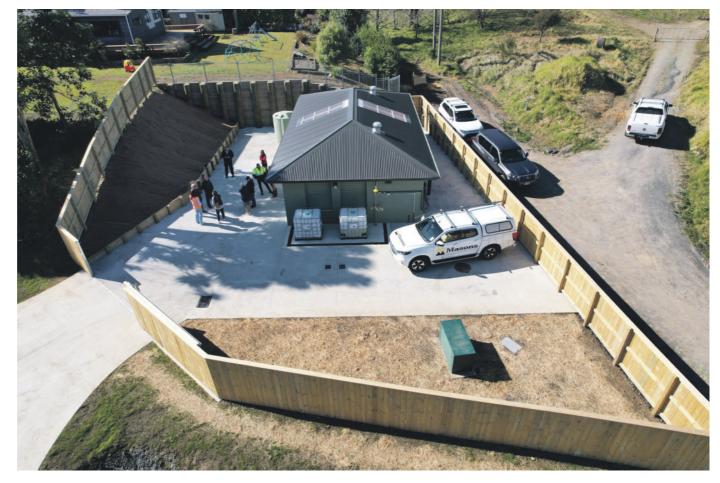
65% comes from Beverley Hills bores, 30% from Wentworth Valley and only 5% from this plant at Moana Point. This is because the latter is only in demand for 90 days over the critical Christmas and New Year period of six weeks.

Interesting to point out that the process for our water supply involves a pH adjustment, to better balance the water and then it is sterilised using UCV lamps and finally disinfected before being pumped up to the reservoirs. And unbelievably tested every minute.

Terry says "Water is an essential to life and an important infrastructure for our towns, this important project that Council has taken on across the district is to ensure its potable delivery to residents and ratepayers is of the best quality."

The final contract price for the principal contractor (Masons) was \$2.38M, with the total cost close to





\$2.73M. This is the third and final total of 10 new water treatment plants with the upgrade programme starting in 2018.

Walker went on to thank the many project contractors and sub-contractors, also saying "this districts spend of \$30M takes a power of organisation, driven by a project team and lead by Masons technical expertise, working through a myriad of challenges and included working with adjacent land owners, gives TCDC the confidence that our ratepayers are getting good value for money."

- Jennie Black



Fricky (Manson Engineering), Sheridan Fathers (Project Engineer EPL), Terry Walker, Bruce Connell (Director EPL Contractors), Ian Smith and Geoff Trusscott.

WHANGAMATA SPORTS BAR NEW OWNERSHIP! NEW MENU!



100 Casement Road, Whangamata. Phone 865 6915. Restaurant - Gaming - TAB

Camellias blooming beautiful

The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the birds for mirth

You are nearer our hearts in a garden than anywhere else on earth

This could well be the mantra of the Whangamata Garden Club as members viewed and enjoyed the entries of members at their annual camellia show on 15 August.

Despite the uncertain

weather, the keen camellia growers were able to exhibit the best of their camellias.

Top honours went to Fay Cox, who was awarded Best in Show. Winners in each category were:

Miniature

1st: Sylvia Manning **Small**

1st: Chris Emmerson

2nd: Sylvia Manning 3rd: Angela Scott Medium 1st: Doreen Spain 2nd: Angela Scott 3rd: Sylvia Manning

Large

1st: Fay Cox 2nd: Jacqui Clarke 3rd: Katherine Kidd

At the time Whangamatā News went to print, we said farewell with the passing of Fay Cox, a long time member of the Garden Club and the Mahjong group.





Local support wows half marathon organisers

From the inaugural event in 1996, the G.J. Gardner Homes Run/Walk Festival has had a long tradition in the community. The new-look G.J. Gardner Homes Whangamatā Half Marathon will continue to pride itself on the incredible array of spot prizes on offer, with thanks to the efforts of the Lions Club of Whangamatā, working with local businesses, and event sponsors.

"The generosity of Whangamatā's businesses for the event has been especially motivating" says organiser Luke Garea, who reports that 90% of entrants so far are from outside the Coromandel area.

"The closure of SH25 has been super tough on many businesses, and has certainly impacted the event too. We're working very hard to bring people to Whangamatā for the weekend, and we're thrilled with the support to keep the spotprize pool cranking as an added incentive."

Stay for prize-giving to be in to win from a generous spot prize pool, including an adorable cubby house thanks to G.J. Gardner Homes valued at \$1,499, plus major spot prizes from Pedal and Paddle Whangamatā, and cash spot prizes sponsored by CSS Roofing to name a few.

Event sponsors FuelMe, Goodr sunglasses, and Ultimate Direction are also offering up thousands of dollars of spot prize swag for participants.

Fay - our Best in Show

Come on down to the vibrant event base at Williamson Park, with a Popup Whangamatā Weekend Market for shopping in the sun, happy vibes and good times with makers & creators selling their quality wares & delicious treats & street food eats.

Make the most of the beach town venue, and hop on your bike to Williamson Park - you can leave your bike securely at the Pedal & Paddle Bike Valet. Entertain the family with free lawn games on the G.J. Gardner Homes lawn while you wait for friends and family to finish, or take an e-trike for a spin at the Pedal & Paddle "try me" zone. Participants can also enjoy a 10% discount at Smokey Pallet, the Friday night registration venue, when they show their race number.

IELIAS Class

Make a day of it! Make a weekend of it! Enter the G.J. Gardner Homes Whangamatā Half Marathon, 10km or 5km.

The Lions Club of Whangamatā is still out and about on their spot prize drive; if they haven't knocked on your door yet and you'd like to know more about spot prize sponsor benefits, please contact jo@eventday.co.nz.

- Jo Jukes



Ratepayers' Survey 2023 out now

Where do Whangamatā Rate Monies get spent?

\$20+ million of Whangamatā ratepayer money is collected annually by Thames Coromandel District Council (TCDC). Help us advocate to the relevant organisations to have our rates stay and be spent in Whangamatā.

The Whangamata Ratepayers Association (WRA) have launched their Survey 2023 and require the ratepayers and or residents to get behind the survey and tell us what is important to you and where you think our rates should be spent.

Pick up your survey form from the following outlets:

Whangamata Information Centre Whangamata Bookshop Port Rd Project OR visit: www.surveymonkey.com/r/ VQRJ9N3

Please note: the survey runs to the end of September, your personal details won't be used in the coalition of data, but only used to source the relevant information from all peoples who are residents, you do not have to be a ratepayer to join the survey.

Its intention is purely to use feedback and used to advocate to





the relevant organisations to have our rates stay and be 'spent in Whangamatā'.

The WRA would like to thank WAS (Whangamata Area School) for creating the WRA Survey 2023 online version and the senior school students who will be assisting in the collation process.



Meet the candidates

The General Election will take place Saturday, 14 October 2023, potentially one of the most significant elections for many years.

Whangamata Ratepayers Association (WRA) are hosting a Pre-General Election 'Meet the Candidates meeting' Saturday 23 September 1.00pm in the War Memorial Hall.

Five parties have confirmed candidates for the Coromandel ACT, Greens, Labour, National and NZ First.

This will be a great opportunity to hear what our candidates have to offer.

To assist with administration expenses WRA respectfully requests a gold coin donation at the door.



Join Us AT THE WHANGAMATA CLUB NEW ZEALAND IN SKY SPORTS TAT



What is an unfair dismissal

The following article, from Coromandel Workers Council, briefly outlines what is meant by an unfair dismissal, and discusses the rights an employee has in contesting their termination with their employer. An employee can claim their dismissal was unfair in cases where the procedures to terminate an their employment are carried out in a manner that is deemed unjust or the employer carries out the termination so that it does not adhere to their own policies (normally written in an employment agreement).

An employee has 90 days from the date of their dismissal to submit a personal grievance to their employer. If it is submitted after this time period their employer is not legally required to address the claim. If it is declined for consideration by the employer the employee may approach the **Employment Relations Authority** (ERA) and request that the claim be addressed beyond the 90-day period

To determine whether or not an employee's dismissal was unfair it is important that there is either a clear absence of a valid reason



such as but not limited to serious misconduct, performance issues or redundancy or the manner in which the dismissal was carried out is unjustifiable such been fired on the spot for having a disagreement with a manager. An employer must adhere to the employment agreement if it outlines the procedures for disciplinary actions that lead to an employee's dismissal.

For a deeper dive on this topic

head over to www.cwc.org.nz and

search for the keyword dismissal. - Benjamin Rudolph



Geryl Rilev

for Coromandel

Hi there. I'll be in your area and I'd love to catch up.

I've booked stalls at all the markets on the Coromandel. Please come down and tell me about your issues & concerns or just come & say hello!

Sat 9 Sep - Whitianga Ocean's Festival Fri 15 Sep – Katikati Twilight Sun 24 Sep – Whangamata

If you can't make it to a market then please contact me to set up a group or cottage meeting. I'll come to you.

(f)/BerylRileyLabour

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A Neighbour

How could I imagine how she feels, with an empty heart, drained of blood, weak? Sleep, a distant blur of wrecked confusion and inexperience.

How could I imagine how she feels, when he was with her every day, allocating love and care, sharing, building blocks of a family, always aware?

How could I imagine how she feels, now that she is alone? The void now filled with memories, laughter, his smile in her mind, Her only comfort.

- Graeme Smith

Clumsy Old Twit

With a body that's ageing and wearing out fast, With a mind that is weakened, so thoughts do not last, I wish to bemoan-though nobody heeds-My shrinking range of worth-the-while deeds.

Ambition still flickers. True-life disappoints; Geriatric, arthritic, bursitic knee joints Put paid to ambitious and interesting schemes Involving dexterity, strength (not just dreams).

No more can I kneel, or crouch down to work low. Instead I just wobble, and hear curses flow, As the hammer, well-swung for a good, solid blow, Encounters the wrong bloody target, and so-

Another limped trip to get bandaged before Mopping up blood that's dripped over the floor. And what's the result? Rough job at the best, As I shamefully hide and sit down for a rest.

My workshop is crowded with wonderful tools, All ready and waiting, till this silly old fool's Got a bee in his bonnet about fixing that floor, Or stopping the squeak in the garden-shed door.

Then out come the toys the neighbour admires-The drill and the sander, skill-saw, and pliers, Set square, screw-drivers, and nails organised In size-labelled tins. The hammer, most prized.

And inside, Milady: she wearily muses, And wonders how many the cuts, grazes, bruises Will have to be treated, ere this day is done. (At least someone's having some speculative fun.)

She knows very well that bump, silence, curse Will tell her: "Prepare to practise as nurse." "The Silly Old Sod has shed blood and some skin; "Just give him a moment, he'll soon stagger in."

Another demand made on First-Aid supplies, A regular shopping-list item she buys. For others who read this, I thought I might mention: I just do these things to get some attention.

- Beep

Send your poem to WhangamataNews@gmail.com

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SPILT DREAMS BY MARIEKA DONK

After 30 years, local author Marieka Donk has published her first children's book. And it's absolutely delightful – a fantastic read on the journey of a young boy with his family over the ranges. He encounters the worst of his fears... all his Dreams Spilt out of his ears.

Fantastic art on beautiful gloss stock involves the reader with all sorts of boyhood adventures with sharks, octopus, the black knight, T-Rex, snakes and ghouls.

At only \$22.50 and on sale at Whanga Books and the Whanga Post Shop, it really is the ideal gift for your fave niece, nephew, grandie and all your family. Grab a copy today it's a really

great read and it's from our local Marieka Donk!

– Jennie Black





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Saturday 30th September from 10am to 3pm

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Photos by Mark James, Whangamatā News.









Powerful Waikato win

On a beautifully presented playing surface at the Aickin Rugby Stadium, representative rugby came to Whangamatā.

The Thames Valley Invitational team took on the powerful Waikato Divisional side. And local rugby fans were reminded of the many good things of New Zealand rugby after the early morning news of the deflating heavy loss of the Men in Black to the Boks.

This rep rugby game is a prelude to what promises to be a huge Bunnings Warehouse Heartland fixture between Thames Valley and South Canterbury, here in Whangamatā.

Next Saturday, 16 September, with a 2.30pm kick off at the Aickin Road Rugby Stadium, Whangamatā, are the details.

It was the Thames Valley Invitational team that powered out to a 19-5 lead after only 20 minutes.

The scoring included a classic loose forward try and an intercept breakaway try in which the Valley winger scorched over three quarters of the field to the try line.

Whangamatā winger Conner Emerson continued his fine club rugby form with solid runs and consistent defence

The determined Waikato side regrouped and scored 21 unanswered points to take the lead 26-19 going into the shed – otherwise known as half time.

Geoff Spargo, a local Whangamatā rugby icon, had another busy day managing the Thames Valley squad. Geoff doubled up as Water Boy and the essential go-to management man.

Local players, Jake Barfoot, Tobias Pulley and Jacob Chaplin, were all prominent and kept their names in front of the Thames Valley Heartland selectors. Stephen Wise showed he is a hugely capable half back link between forwards and backs.

The Waikato strength in depth saw them dominate the scoring in the second half and raced to a 40-19 lead – but the local rep side scored the last try of the match to hold their heads up in a festival like rugby game.

The Aickin Road Rugby stadium is looking in great shape with improved crowd control and an upgraded grandstand with new seating and access. Whangamata Rugby chairman Russell Choat is happy with the ground and facility preparation for the Heartland game. More finishing touches are planned.

The Thames Valley Swamp Foxes made it three wins from three with a great 30-22 away win in Greymouth over West Coast. The Swamp Vixens beat East Coast 25-20 while Thames Valley Under 19 girls lost 15-25 to Poverty Bay. Under 16 boys beat Orewa 32-0. Two games for Thames Valley Under 19 Boys a win 22-12 over East Coast and a narrow 12-3 loss to Poverty Bay.

This Saturday, 2 September, the action is at Rhodes Park, Thames, as the Swamp Foxes play King Country, kick off 2.30pm.

> – Don Mackay, Legendary Sports Reporter







Whangamata



THAMES VALLEY SWAMP FOXES vs SOUTH CANTERBURY SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

Don't miss this huge Whangamata event! 300 seat grandstand, TV coverage, food and drinks at the grounds. Gate fee \$5 and parking on No.2 Grounds \$10 KICK OFF 2.30PM! Aickin Road Rugby Stadium Curtain Raiser: 12.30pm Thames Valley vs. Northland Under 19



Update on Our Special Place, South of the Bombays'

OPENING NIGHT

It is now barely a week away before the locally written Musical, 'Our Special Place, South of the Bombays' opens for its ninenight season. Opening night is a Black-Tie Event on the 6th September, celebrating the very first performance of this show. Come along to the 7pm show dressed in your finery and walk the red carpet. You can possibly win a ticket to the next show called 'Austen Found' being performed on October 13th.

If you need a glamorous outfit, contact our Wardrobe Hire person Valda Ritchie on 0211192052 and she may be able to provide you a stunning outfit. If you do not think dressing up is your thing just wear a tie over your normal attire.

After the show enjoy bubbles and platters with the cast and crew in a short Mix and Mingle.

More about the Supporting Cast

The cast of eighteen includes some amazing supporting actors and singers. Read about some of them, their past Theatrical Experience and their impressions of working in a cast aged from 9 to 70's.

Tracey Blake as Susie

I've always dreamed of being on the stage and entertaining.

My first role was as a lead in No Sex Please We're British. My love of comedy came from there. Since then, I have performed in Cinderella a Pantomime, A Cinderella Musical, Oliver, Calendar Girls and Stepping Out. The latter was the most challenging show. Learning to tap dance was incredibly difficult for me but also a skill that I think I achieved rather well. Don't ask me to dance now though. In South of the Bombays my role is not the comedic role I usually play. I look forward to portraying Susie; hard-working, quietly determined, fiercely protective and wine -supping single mum. (there's some typecasting right there).

South of the Bombays is a compelling storyline about Whangamata and how it heals all families. The Cast has a range of ages and a mix of experienced and newbies.

I can't wait to bring all this magic to the stage.

Anna-Maria Slater as Jemima

I began entertaining very young, as part of a local Polish dancing and singing troupe in the UK. From 1998 and I was in the local productions including Abraham written by the late Fr Brian Playfair, Flicks (2000), Schooldays (2002), Funny thing happened on way to Forum (2003), The Reluctant Debutante (2004 doing props), Music Hall (2004), Cinderella (2005), Allo Allo (2007 doing props), Oliver(2007), Dad's Army (2007), Fish out of Water (2011), Beyond a Joke (2012), Understanding Women (2014).

Preparing for each show is always the same but different, with continually changing cast and support crew members bringing their own unique personalities and skills. Often great friendships are formed well after the show is over.

In this show the music choices although a 100% appropriate, have been a challenge as they are in a style that are not at all comfortable to sing, but hey what's life without a challenge or two!

This production also reinforces the amazing contribution of those not on stage make to the overall success



Left to right: Anna-Maria Slater, Tracey Blake, Ron Stokman.

of any show.

Jude Briton as Kathy

After performing as child in plays based on Enid Blyton's The Secret Seven, I did not perform again until my mid 30's. Acting is more my passion than singing or dancing.

My previous roles with theatre companies have been playing a menopausal receptionist, a nosy barista, an aging actress and the most risqué of all a dominatrix in a funeral parlour. My first role involving singing and dancing was with Whangamata's Got Talent last year, which took me out of my comfort zone.

Being part of our current production has been a learning curve for me, having not worked with child actors previously. The concerns around ensuring our rehearsals are productive and not too lengthy to cater for the children and their school commitments can be challenging, but I feel worthwhile in the long run.

This story 'Our Special Place South of the Bombays' is one many will relate to. It deals with relationships, the place we live and negotiating it all in today's world. **CONTINUED P15 >**

The Coromandel Artbeat Spring Festival

A brand new festival aims to bring more visitors to the Coromandel by promoting arts events from across the region under a single banner.

Launched today, The Coromandel Artbeat Spring Festival is an umbrella festival promoting arts events, workshops, exhibitions, and performances happening across the peninsula and Hauraki rohe between 1 September and 12 December 2023.

The Coromandel artbeat Spring Festival programme already includes the Colville Festival, 'Steampunk The Thames', the Whangamatā Arts Collective's 'Art After Dark' exhibition, the Thames Heritage Festival and the Coromandel Open Studio Arts Tour.

Festival organisers are calling on local creatives to get in touch with information about any events planned over the festival period, which will be promoted free of charge.



The Coromandel artbeat Spring Festival is led by Creative Coromandel - He Mana Toi Moehau, a charitable trust that champions the area's arts, artists and creative industries.

Creative Coromandel chairperson Fiona Cameron hopes the festival will help strengthen and reinvigorate businesses and communities after the effects of Covid-19 and severe weather events have impacted the area both economically and socially. "With the Coromandel artbeat Spring Festival we want to create, connect and celebrate the creative people in our communities," Fiona says.

"By creating this 'umbrella festival" - a one stop shop for arts events in the region - we're making it easy for anyone, anywhere to plan a day, weekend, week or all three months exploring the Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki rohe." Thames Coromandel District Mayor Len Salt says he's delighted by the festival initiative.

"There are so many talented, creative people in our district, and bringing events and activities associated with the arts together under this umbrella will make it easier for people to build the arts into their visit to the Coromandel."

Fiona Cameron says Creative Coromandel recognises that art is at the heart of many communities around the Peninsula.

"That's why this festival celebrates the 'artbeat' of our people."

If you have an event you would like promoted as part of the festival, free of charge, please email us: info@creativecoromandel.co.nz

Connect with us at coromandelartbeat.nz or on Facebook and Instagram.



Graeme Smith as Thomas

I'm sure this production will be another sellout as the patrons recognize the amazing talent that has surfaced locally. This is the second time I've participated in a local theatre production. I'm slightly nervous as the character I play is out of character for me.

Well done to all the support crew. They ensure the show takes place and continues smoothly for the duration of the event. Congratulations to Aisne Edwards on her Whangamata focused script.

Denise Boston as Cerise and part of Ensemble

As a kid in school holidays my sister and brothers used to put on shows in the back yard and charge people a penny to come in. As a big family we went to holiday camps and won 1st prizes in the talent competitions for dancing and singing.

I have played too numerous lead roles to list and been involved in lots of Musical Theatre including playing a Dominatrix 3 times in "Professional favours", Madam Edith in "Allo Allo". Mrs Fox in "Dads Army," Recent shows Whangamata" Stepping Out", and "Ugly Customers".

This show is great in that it combines Kiwi music within the acting. The kids are amazing and have such great Talent. The



Whangamata Cast as Geoffrey

production of Whangamata's Got

Now look out for a more sombre

Talent he played multiple characters.

Therese has been involved in theatre

for many years performing in shows

also a part of the South Auckland

Choral Society. As well as acting

and singing, Therese has been a

two years for Showdown judging

the wider Auckland area.

Secondary School performances in

Therese also started a Youth Drama

group in 2005 in Hunua which has

then with the exception of 2021

performed a show every year since

Judge for Zone 1 Musical Theatre NZ

Awards for two years and also spent

in the Auckland area. She was

in Stepping Out. In last year's

part in South of Bombays'.

Therese Dixon, Ensemble

Ann-Maria Slater, Graeme Smith, Jude Briton, Denise Boston.

Director Aisne has written an outstanding heartfelt play. In rehearsals I get tears in my eyes all the time, there are some good laughs too.

It has been great to be a part of this show, so well organised, the care and attention afforded for those playing is marvellous. The behindthe-scenes people are an absolute bonus, I think it is one of the best shows I've had the pleasure to be a part of.

John Norris as Mr Blackwood

When at school in England John was caught mimicking a teacher. His punishment was to play a clown in the school play. Forty years later he was a last-minute replacement for Thomas Beckett, the 12th century Archbishop of Canterbury. History repeated itself when he joined the which was unable to go ahead due to COVID.

She has also directed many adult shows, one of which was "Ugly Customers" in Whangamata in 2021.

Lyn Dorreen. Ensemble.

Lynn has been a dancer for most of her life, having done 15 years of ballet and tap followed by 8 to 10 years of competitive Ballroom and Latin American dancing, achieving both North and New Zealand Champion one year. She got involved in Theatre 1999, performing in various shows in Auckland with five societies. Lyn loves all aspects of theatre and has met some awesome people. (It's like having another family). Moving to Whangamata five years ago she is loving being involved in a musical this time. She likes that the music is all Kiwi based and that people will know and enjoy the music.

Julie Moyle, Ensemble

Julie is enjoying her second show with WTS which involves a few very talented children. She wasn't familiar with the Kiwi music, and now knows and enjoys it so much.

She has been in many performances in Auckland and prefers musicals. Her hobbies include ukulele, rock and roll dancing, writing her life story and walking her dog.

She knows this show will be a 'huge success.'

Our theatre society in regional spotlight

Two members of the Whangamata Theatre Society have been nominated for inclusion in this year's Zony Awards.

Last year's production of 'Whangamata's Got Talent' attracted record crowds. Regional adjudicators attended the shows and have seen fit to give scores based on criteria which is reviewed annually by their committee. This committee of volunteers have an interest in promoting, supporting



Writer & Director, Aisne Edwards.

and recognising musical theatre in the Central North Island.

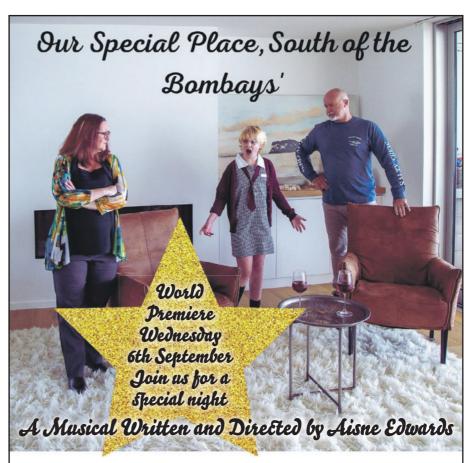
Congratulations to Aisne Edwards who justly deserves the Best Original Script nomination and to Sally Grant for her commendable role as Best Supporting Actor.

Best of luck to these nominees at the prestigious awards ceremony which takes place on 11 November at The Distinction Hotel in Rotorua.

- Graeme Smith



Sally Grant in character is as Marilyn.



Whangamata Memorial Hall Wednesday 6th to Saturday 9th September 7pm Sunday 10th September Matinee 2pm Wednesday 13th to Saturday 16th 7pm

Adult \$30 School age \$15 Purchase Whangamata Info Centre (eftpos or cash) Pumice Patch (cash)

Email info@whangamatatheatresociety.co.nz

Whangamata Theatre Society Members get a discount on tickets booked online

'Small Town Girl' set to hit the big time

Singer-songwriter Renée Cullen has released her debut album, Small Town Girls. The is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication. It tells the story of a small town girl growing up in rural New Zealand and her transition to living in one of the largest and most cosmopolitan cities in the world - London.

Small Town Girls is the eponymous album track about travelling the world but always keeping your roots and values close to your heart.

'I like my music to tell a story. A few of the tracks could cross genre but the heart of the album is Country,' says Cullen, who penned eight of the tracks on the album herself, with the other two songs written by her sister, Gina Kennings. 'It is ultimately a memoir about family, love and loss. It's a coming-of-age album."

Cullen (Ngati Whatua, Ngati Tamatera) grew up in Thames before moving to the small coastal surfing town of Whangamatā, on the east coast of the Coromandel Peninsula. 'Music has always been an integral part of my life,' says Cullen. 'My mother was a Country music singer and I grew up surrounded by music. As well as singing from a young age, I wrote poetry - it was my way of expressing my feelings and thoughts. This eventually progressed into song-writing.

When she arrived in the UK, Cullen only intended to stay in London for two years, however, she met



her Australian husband, Paul, after turning up late to a party on Pall Mall - their chance romantic meeting the inspiration for another song on the album, London City.

Two years have turned into 20 years, and they now live in Berkshire with their four children - Rei,

Kiana, Aria and Kaia, who Cullen wrote her debut album for.

The album follows the release of Cullen's emotionally charged single, Old Coast Road, which launched in 2016 to great acclaim. This single and Turn Back Time were both written in memory of her father, Raymond Cullen, who tragically drowned in a diving accident off

the shores of Tokakahakaha, near Whangamatā, in 2003. 'While a lot of the tracks have that easylistening, feel-good Country vibe, other tracks are very emotionally driven. Turn Back Time took vears to record because I couldn't get through it without crying."

Cullen's favourite song on the album is Angels in this City, which was written whilst Cullen was in quarantine in an Auckland hotel with her three daughters. 'Our room had a direct view of the Sky Tower and at night it was all lit up and beautiful. My friends would drop off parcels for me and the girls at the hotel - it inspired me to write the song.'

The last track, Karakia Timitanga, is a Māori prayer written by Kennings for Opoutere School, near Whangamatā, where Cullen's own children attended on their trips to NZ. 'I have a close connection to Opoutere School as a lot of my friends and family work and teach there. My family love singing this karakia so it means a lot to have it on the album.'

Small Town Girls is produced by Rob Castell and renowned British record producer Stuart Epps (who has worked with many artists including Elton John, Led Zeppelin and Oasis), and Steve Hopwood.

'Working with Renée on Small Town Girls has been quite a journey, which she has handled like a true and experienced professional singer/ songwriter. The album features her brilliantly crafted songs together with stunning vocals. I'm sure there will be many who get as much pleasure listening to it as I do,' says Epps.

Small Town Girls' pre-launch was a huge success, with Cullen performing to a sold-out crowd at the iconic Half Moon Pub in Putney on 15 June

Small Town Girls is available on all music platforms: facebook.com/reneecullenlondon Instagram: @reneecullen.music Sound link: reverbnation.com/ reneecullen/song/27308027-oldcoast-road

Harcourts Whangamata



Beautiful in Brick

This fabulous family home must be sold! Featuring 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, this property provides ample space for a growing family or those who enjoy having guests over. With 3 toilets available, convenience is at your fingertips. The property also includes a garage space for one car plus workshop, as well as two carport spaces and open parking spaces for two additional vehicles.

Situated on a generous 565 sqm land area, this house boasts a spacious building area of 209 sqm. The price guide for this property is available upon application.

Inside, you'll find a range of features that enhance the overall comfort and convenience of the home. The property comes with a range of chattels, including blinds, a burglar alarm, dishwasher, and more. With a study room available, you'll have the perfect space to work or study from home. The hot water system is gas-powered, ensuring efficiency and reliability. Heating is provided by a heat pump, heat ducting system, ceiling fans, and a closed fire, ensuring you stay warm and cosy during the colder months. The property is well-insulated, with insulation in the ceiling and walls.

The kitchen is modern and well-equipped, making meal preparation a breeze. The separate dining area provides a dedicated space for enjoying meals with family and friends. The bathrooms/toilets feature separate showers and an ensuite for added convenience. The lounge is separate, offering a comfortable space to relax and unwind. The interior condition of the property is excellent, ensuring a move-in ready experience.

Externally, the property showcases a brick/masonry exterior in excellent condition. The decking/patio area is perfect for outdoor entertainment and BBQs. The roof is made of coloured steel, ensuring durability and longevity. The flooring consists of carpet and tiles, providing a mix of comfort and practicality. The property is fully fenced, offering privacy and security. The aspect of the property is northerly, allowing for plenty of natural light. Backing onto a reserve there's space to walk the dog or kids to play. Additional features include a security system, smoke detectors, a waste disposal unit, and a rangehood. The property is connected to mains sewage and has access to town water and a 3000 litre rain tank.

Don't miss this opportunity to buy now. Contact Chris today to arrange a viewing and secure this home for your future.

Deadline Sale by 4:00pm, 22 September 2023.

Chris Brown AREINZ

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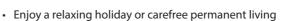
Private viewings are welcome!

Lindsay Turnbull | 0274 238 093 lindsay.turnbull@realty.co.nz

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By Negotiation



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By Negotiation

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- Internal access garage accessible by lift
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- Outdoor shower Wash area Pet friendly

Private viewings are welcome!



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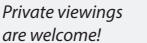
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> - Antony & Katrina, Aotearoa Crafts

Petition started to ban whaling in Iceland

We demand that Iceland's government bans whaling once and for all.

Whales have taken as long as two hours to die during Icelandic hunts, according to a report by the Icelandic food and veterinary authority.

Last year, animal welfare officers were on board the hunting vessel from whaling company Hvalur ehf and documented and filmed 58 of the 148 fin whales that were killed that season.



36 whales (24%) were shot more than once with explosive harpoons. Of these, five whales were shot three times and four whales were shot four times.

To put this in perspective it takes about 8 minutes to reload the harpoon that then needs to hit a fast moving animal in the ocean more than once if it fails to kill.

One whale with a spear in its back was chased for 5 hours without success.

The median time from the first shot to the death of the whales that did not die immediately was 11.5 minutes, and the agonising slow deaths lasted up to two hours.

Three whales were shot but could

not be caught and have fought long excruciating deaths.

Horrific treatment of animals in this way is unacceptable.

We demand a revocation of the whaling license and that these brutal killings be stopped and banned once and for all.

For more information, visit facebook.com/stopwhalingiceland or go to www.change.org/p/banwhaling-in-iceland and add your name to the petition.

- Source: change.org

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Sports results

MAH JONG

25 August: What a wonderful turnout today. Just like pre Covid with 63 people. And the winners wow!!!

We had 3 on 1st and they were: 1st equal with 40 points Fiona Volkner, Karyn Jones & Jenny McLeod 2nd with 39 points Philipa Dennison (you will all be pleased I am away for 6 weeks after next week) 3rd with 37 points Christina Sadler

The lucky number was 17 won by Robyn Snell.

Reminder no Mah Jong on Monday as Fay Cox is farewelled at the club, who passed this week. Rest in peace Fay, we will miss your smiley face.

TABLE TENNIS

10 August: Roger Wolfe and Wayne Broome were 1st equal winning 7 games each while Keith Gribben and Ken Allen were right behind them winning 6 games each.

Sandra Whitmore made a late comeback winning her last 3 games – not enough to join the winners unfortunately.

Well done everyone.

17 August: Wayne Broome was our winner today winning 9 of 10 games. In second place was Alby Driver winning 8 of 10 games, and in third place was Angie Dewhurst winning 7 of 10 games. Well done everyone.

24 August: 11 games were played and 1st equal with 8 wins were Angie Dewhurst, Denise Wallace and Wayne Broome, in second place was Barbara Hoy winning 7 games. A great crowd of 17 players today, lots of fun and good games.

Whangamata team at National Tournament

The 56th National Darts Tournament was hosted recently by the Porirua Club, played over four days.

Whangamata Club sent two men and two women -Judy Fenton, Karen Williamson, Anaru Ashby and JP. The first day's play was in Mixed Pairs consisting of 124 paired players.

Judy and Anaru were placed 5th in the consolation round. On the second day Mens and Ladies Pairs battled it out, with 60 Ladies pairs and 98 Mens. Judy and Karen placed 9th equal in the main round, very well done, and JP and Anaru were placed 5th equal in the consolation round.



The Cup Judy is holding was the result of winning the Inter Area competition at Pukekohe, a requirement of gaining entry to the Nationals. This was the first time the Club has ever won this, a great effort in itself.

They went on to represent the North Island versus Canterbury, which resulted in a draw initially. The play off was to 1001 and Judy hit the winning double and was selected for the North Island team eventually finishing runners up in this.

Ladies singles was next, with Judy placing 9th equal out of 116 players, another commendable result. The Men's Singles saw JP finish 5th equal in the consolation round, and overall a fantastic effort by the Whangamata crew.

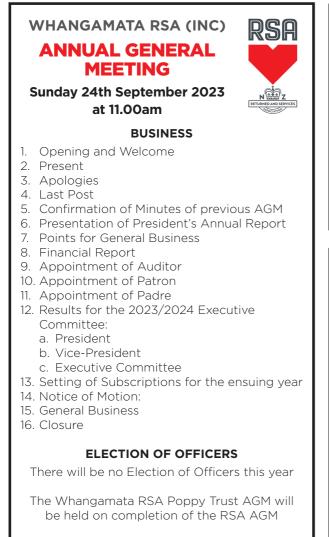
– Mark James



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PUBLIC NOTICES



K. Bain, Secretary/Manager



at Opoutere Hall **1 Opoutere Road** 1pm sharp start

Te Whanau Waka ama o Whangamata

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Low tide

Full Moon: 29th

Sun

rise

Sun

set

Height

(m)

Whangamatā Tides 2023 **SEPTEMBER 2023** C New Moon: 15th High Height tide (m) High Height tide (m) Low tide Height Date (m) (m) (m) РM РM 1 Fri 7:31 1.9 20:00 2.1 1:16 2 Sat 8:25 2.0 20:51 2.1 2:09 3 Sun 9:17 2.0 21:42 2.1 3:00

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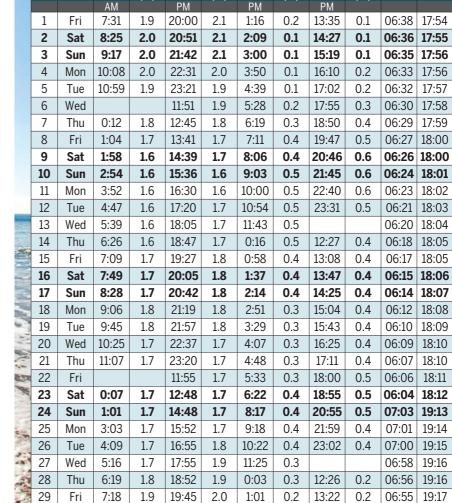
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enterprisewhangamata@gmail.com Numbers Limited to 120 people. Book now \$150 Bank Acc: 02 1254 0008998.00 REF: PCGC



1:55

0.1

14:16

Daylight Saving begins Sunday, 24 September

0.1 | 06:53 | 19:18









30

Sat

8:13

1.9

20:37 2.0

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9

Fill the grid so every row, column and 3x3

3 5

4

8

6

5

9

1

5

2 6

9

3

6

9

1

4

6

7 4

7

3

8

4

28. Revel, 30. Ages.

4

3

1

EAS

6

4

box contains the numbers 1-9

9

6

3

5

4

8

5

8

7

3

8

3

9

7

7

1

3

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

7

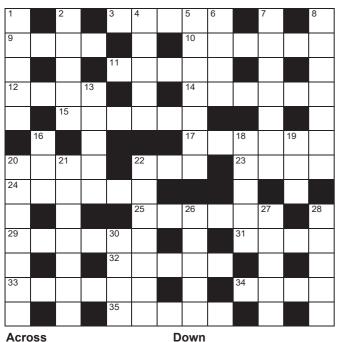
2

W170

1

9 8

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

child (5)

- 3. Pithy principle (5)
- 9. Intentionally disclose (4)
- 10. Male relative (6) 11. Restraining straps for a
- 14. Relating to the stars (6) 8. Be uncomfortably hot (7)
 - 13. Alluring, dangerous wom-
- 17. Split (6)

12. Responsibility (4)

20. Painful (4)

15. Kindling (6)

- 22. Petrol (US) (3)
- **23.** Length of calendar (4)
- 24. Step high and springy (6)
- 25. Faulty merchandise (6)
- 29. Say again (6) 31. Unit of heredity (4)
- 32. Estimate (5)
- 33. Hang around (6)
- 34. HQ (4)

The same three-letter

sequence will complete

each of the four words

SH___

W___ED

C___ET

E___IECE

TRIO

35. Reasonable rationale (5)

- 1. Flower (5)
- 2. Complete range (5)
- 4. Correct something (5)
- 5. Entrails (7)
- 6. Untidy state (4)
- 7. Waterfront worker (colloq) (7)
- an (5)
- 16. In favour (3)
- **18.** Competing eagerly (5)
- 19. Wipe (3)
- 20. Twinkle (7)
- 21. Acting unrestrained (7)
- 22. Hand or body movement (7) 26. Legal expenses (5)
- 27. Rot (5)
- 28. Take delight in (5)

Ε

Μ

S

С

30. Gets older (4)

Ν

WORDWHEEL

Add one letter

9-letter word

to make a

clockwise

clockwise

reading

or anti

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26. Costs, 27. Decay, 20. Sparkle, 21. Rampant, 22. Gesture, 13. Siren, 16. For, 18. Vying, 19. Dab, 5. Innards, 6. Mess, 7. Wharfie, 8. Swelter, Down: 1. Bloom, 2. Gamut, 4. Amend, 32. Guess, 33. Linger, 34. Base, 35. Sense. 24. Prance, 25. Second, 29. Repeat, 31. Gene, 17. Divide, 20. Sore, 22. Gas, 23. Year,

Э,

Μ D Р A 0

DECODER

Ð

Λ

11. Reins, 12. Onus, 14. Astral, 15. Tinder, Across: 3. Maxim, 9. Leak, 10. Nephew,

Z₆

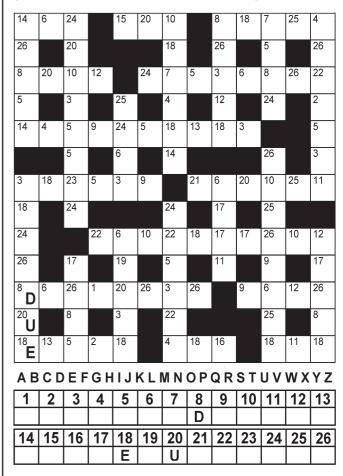
S

Y. N,

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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.



SUDOKU

₩

Ø

Я

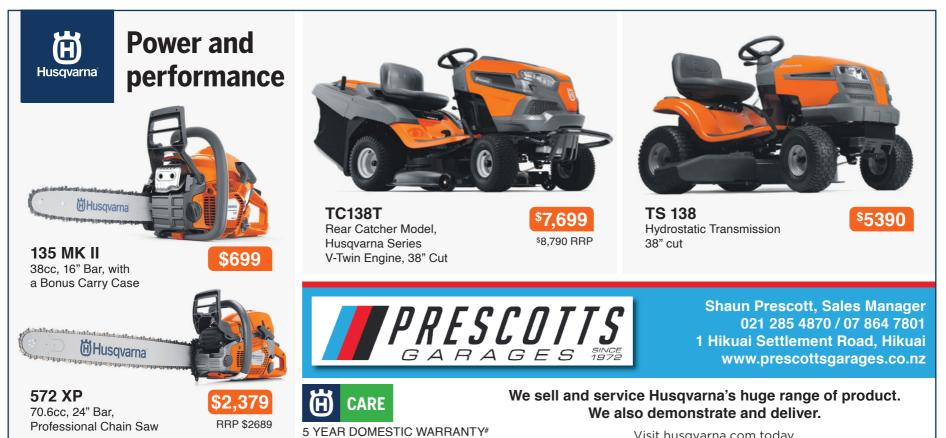
Η.

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ſ	٢	9	G	2	6	3	L	8	1
ĺ	6	2	L	4	ŀ	8	G	3	9
	3	7	8	G	9	L	6	F	2
[8	Г	6	9	2	G	3	4	L
	2	G	3	F	L	4	9	6	8
	4	L	9	3	8	6	2	G	ŀ
[9	8	7	6	3	2	ŀ	L	G
	S	3	2	L	4	٢	8	9	6
	L	6	ŀ	8	G	9	7	2	3

4 8 3 7 7 8 8 2 0 1 L 8 C 2 t 3 5 2 5 8 4 3 1 6 2 9 8 8 5 2 7 9 7 9 7 3 3 4 2 1 3 8 8 8 1 2 6 3 9 8 2 4 5 9 2 3 4 3 5 4 1 8 1 8 3 2 3 4 53462248

TRIO: 484 **WORDWHEEL: SOIMEDNAG**

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