

Whangamatā & Waihi NEWS

ISSUE 146 - 18 JULY, 2025

2025 McClinchy Cup Grand Final - Hard fought

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Waihi number eight Isaac Seiuli scores the opening try of the match. Photo: Jason Bartley

Opoutere Sunken Vessel

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Youth Trust under threat

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TCDC declines pool funding

Page 7



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'The Silent Intruder'

– A personal journey of living with cancer

Local Whangamatā author Jan Wills-Collins has just released her new book, *The Silent Intruder*. It's available for \$20 at Whanga Books, Waihi Paper Plus and you can order directly by email from Jan at jan.wills@xtra.co.nz

At 82 years, after a full and joyful life hard-won from the shadows of a childhood polio diagnosis, the last thing Jan expected was to face another life-altering battle.

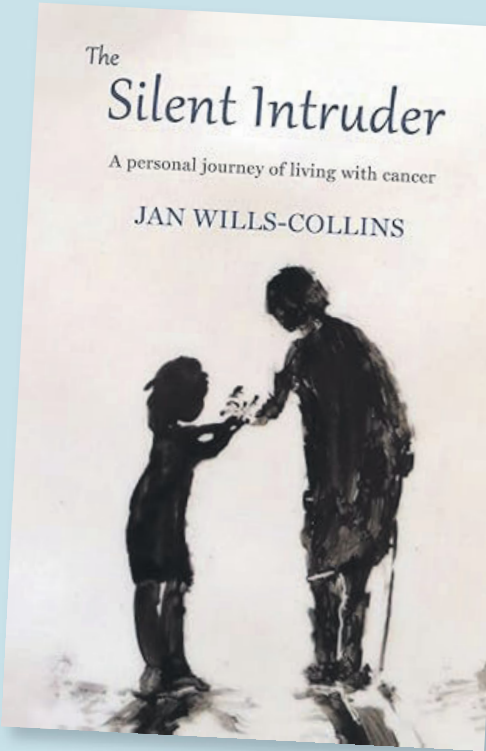
But cancer, the silent intruder, doesn't ask for permission.

The Whangamatā author of *Hidden Scars of Polio* returns with a raw, honest account of her second brush with a terrifying diagnosis, this time, bladder cancer.

Written with vulnerability, strength and grace, *The Silent Intruder* is not just a story of illness; it's a testament to resilience.

This book illuminates the emotional complexity of navigating a life touched by illness more than once.

With unwavering courage and quiet determination to keep living, the author invites readers



into the depths of her thoughts, fears and hard-won hope. This is a story for anyone who has ever whispered "Why me?" For anyone touched by cancer, for anyone seeking strength in the face of the unknown.

The beautiful cover illustration is by the infamous Robin Ranga; she calls it 'Gratitude'.

- Jennie Black

HON SCOTT SIMPSON

MP for Coromandel



Rates Rebate Scheme now available to more SuperGold Cardholders

It's been a couple months since the Government released its Budget and we're now starting to see some of these policies coming into effect.

We know that many New Zealanders are struggling to keep up with rising rates, especially those on a fixed income. In response, the Government is making targeted changes to the Rates Rebate Scheme to provide greater support for SuperGold Cardholders.

From 1 July 2025, the income threshold increased to \$45,000, the maximum annual rebate rose to \$805, and full eligibility for anyone receiving only NZ Super, if their rates are over \$2,000.

That's good news for pensioners here in the Coromandel and across the country. The changes mean an estimated 66,000 additional seniors will be able to access financial relief that wasn't available to them

previously.

This additional support is one of the ways the Government is delivering targeted relief to those who need it. We've also brought inflation down by cutting wasteful spending, and we've increased superannuation which gives couples an extra \$129.40 every fortnight, thanks in part to the tax relief that came into effect last year.

If you think you might be eligible for the Rates Rebate Scheme, I encourage you to apply - even if you haven't qualified before. Applications can be made through your local council or you can download a form online at: www.govt.nz/browse/housing-and-property/getting-help-with-housing/getting-a-rates-rebate/rates-rebate-application-form/

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

Whangamatā Tides 2025

| JULY 2025 | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------------|
| ☾ New Moon: 25 th ☀ Full Moon: 11 th | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date | | High tide | Height (m) | High tide | Height (m) | Low tide | Height (m) | Low tide | Height (m) | Sun rise / set |
| | | AM | | PM | | AM | | PM | | |
| 18 | Fri | 0:10 | 1.9 | 12:37 | 1.8 | 6:22 | 0.3 | 18:40 | 0.4 | 07:26 17:17 |
| 19 | Sat | 1:01 | 1.9 | 13:34 | 1.8 | 7:14 | 0.3 | 19:37 | 0.4 | 07:26 17:18 |
| 20 | Sun | 1:55 | 1.9 | 14:35 | 1.8 | 8:10 | 0.3 | 20:38 | 0.5 | 07:25 17:19 |
| 21 | Mon | 2:53 | 1.8 | 15:37 | 1.8 | 9:08 | 0.3 | 21:41 | 0.5 | 07:24 17:19 |
| 22 | Tue | 3:54 | 1.8 | 16:40 | 1.8 | 10:09 | 0.3 | 22:44 | 0.4 | 07:24 17:20 |
| 23 | Wed | 4:56 | 1.8 | 17:39 | 1.9 | 11:09 | 0.3 | 23:44 | 0.4 | 07:23 17:21 |
| 24 | Thu | 5:57 | 1.8 | 18:36 | 1.9 | | | 12:06 | 0.2 | 07:22 17:22 |
| 25 | Fri | 6:55 | 1.8 | 19:29 | 2.0 | 0:42 | 0.4 | 13:01 | 0.2 | 07:22 17:22 |
| 26 | Sat | 7:49 | 1.8 | 20:19 | 2.0 | 1:37 | 0.3 | 13:52 | 0.2 | 07:21 17:23 |
| 27 | Sun | 8:40 | 1.8 | 21:07 | 2.0 | 2:28 | 0.3 | 14:41 | 0.3 | 07:20 17:24 |
| 28 | Mon | 9:28 | 1.8 | 21:52 | 1.9 | 3:16 | 0.3 | 15:27 | 0.3 | 07:19 17:25 |
| 29 | Tue | 10:14 | 1.8 | 22:35 | 1.9 | 4:02 | 0.3 | 16:12 | 0.3 | 07:18 17:26 |
| 30 | Wed | 10:58 | 1.8 | 23:17 | 1.8 | 4:46 | 0.4 | 16:56 | 0.4 | 07:18 17:26 |
| 31 | Thu | 11:42 | 1.7 | | | 5:29 | 0.4 | 17:41 | 0.5 | 07:17 17:27 |

| AUGUST 2025 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------------|
| ☾ New Moon: 23 rd ☀ Full Moon: 9 th | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date | | High tide | Height (m) | High tide | Height (m) | Low tide | Height (m) | Low tide | Height (m) | Sun rise / set |
| | | AM | | PM | | AM | | PM | | |
| 1 | Fri | | 1.8 | 12:28 | 1.7 | 6:11 | 0.4 | 18:26 | 0.5 | 07:16 17:28 |
| 2 | Sat | 0:41 | 1.7 | 13:16 | 1.6 | 6:55 | 0.5 | 19:15 | 0.6 | 07:15 17:29 |
| 3 | Sun | 1:26 | 1.7 | 14:07 | 1.6 | 7:41 | 0.5 | 20:06 | 0.6 | 07:14 17:30 |
| 4 | Mon | 2:14 | 1.6 | 15:01 | 1.6 | 8:30 | 0.5 | 21:00 | 0.7 | 07:13 17:30 |
| 5 | Tue | 3:05 | 1.6 | 15:56 | 1.6 | 9:23 | 0.5 | 21:54 | 0.6 | 07:12 17:31 |
| 6 | Wed | 3:59 | 1.6 | 16:49 | 1.7 | 10:15 | 0.5 | 22:47 | 0.6 | 07:11 17:32 |
| 7 | Thu | 4:53 | 1.6 | 17:39 | 1.7 | 11:07 | 0.5 | 23:38 | 0.6 | 07:10 17:33 |
| 8 | Fri | 5:46 | 1.7 | 18:26 | 1.8 | | | 11:56 | 0.4 | 07:09 17:34 |
| 9 | Sat | 6:36 | 1.7 | 19:11 | 1.8 | 0:27 | 0.5 | 12:43 | 0.4 | 07:08 17:35 |
| 10 | Sun | 7:25 | 1.8 | 19:56 | 1.9 | 1:14 | 0.4 | 13:28 | 0.3 | 07:07 17:35 |

Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime
0800 550 330 • scottsimpson.co.nz
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Designer for Whangamatā & Waihi News and the Repco Beach Hop programmes





Dear Editor,

The announcement that the Hetherington Road stormwater upgrade will proceed on July 21st brings into sharp focus a pattern of confrontation that has plagued our community's infrastructure discussions for several years. It's time to acknowledge that our current approach isn't working and take decisive steps to break this destructive cycle.

For too long, discussions about Whangamatā's stormwater needs have been characterised by mistrust, limited transparency, and adversarial positioning between Thames Coromandel District Council (TCDC) and community groups. This ongoing conflict serves no one's interests and prevents us from achieving the collaborative solutions our community desperately needs.

The current Hetherington Road project, while addressing urgent stormwater issues, has proceeded without the comprehensive evaluation and community engagement that such significant infrastructure decisions warrant. The Port Road alternative, adopted in the 2019 Master Plan, remains unexplored in any meaningful public forum. Meanwhile, requests for



project evaluation documentation have been declined, creating an information vacuum that fuels community concern.

We cannot continue to operate in this manner. Years of confrontation have created entrenched positions that obscure our shared objective: effective, sustainable stormwater management that serves Whangamatā's long-term interests. The current impasse benefits no one and delays progress on infrastructure that our growing community urgently requires.

It's time for a reset. The Whangamata Stormwater Action Group extends an olive branch to TCDC and proposes a fundamentally different approach to resolving our stormwater challenges. We call for facilitated dialogue under independent chairmanship, designed to move beyond historical grievances toward constructive problem-solving.

This process would work within TCDC's existing constraints while addressing legitimate community concerns. The objective isn't to relitigate past decisions but to establish a framework for future collaboration that ensures all affected community groups have meaningful input into decisions that impact their daily lives.

We propose developing a clear action plan that:

- Establishes transparent criteria for evaluating infrastructure options
- Creates genuine opportunities for community input
- Builds trust through open information sharing
- Focuses on securing long-term solutions rather than short-term fixes

The stakes are too high for continued conflict. Our community's infrastructure needs won't disappear, and neither will the requirement for public confidence in how these projects are selected and implemented. We must find a way to work together effectively.

The current contractor commitment could easily be redirected to any approved solution, making this an ideal time to pause and engage in the collaborative process our community deserves. This isn't about stopping progress – it's about ensuring that progress serves everyone's interests.

Whangamatā's future depends on our ability to move beyond confrontation toward cooperation. The Stormwater Action Group stands ready to engage constructively with TCDC and all community stakeholders to forge a path forward that serves our collective interests.

The cycle of confrontation must end. Let's choose collaboration instead.

Sincerely,
Rob Boston & Ian Holyoake,
Whangamata Stormwater Action Group



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Campaign Series: “Who’s really making the decisions?”

A community-led spotlight on council process, planning failures, and the need for a true Spatial Plan for Whangamatā. The Whangamata Ratepayers Association are bringing a series of articles over the next few weeks to support the need for better planning for Whangamatā.

This week, we discuss the Hetherington Road pipe upgrade project. This project is part of a wider stormwater plan – but some key questions remain as to why it was prioritised over other key areas? Read more about the issues Whangamatā faces with stormwater at whangamataratepayers.org.nz and why a Spatial Plan could be the best thing for Whangamatā.

ARTICLE 1: Pipes, Pavement, and Poor Planning – What’s About to Happen on Hetherington Road?

Big Dig, Big Questions

In the coming weeks, one of Whangamatā’s busiest roads—Hetherington Road—will be torn up for a major stormwater upgrade. It’s a \$3.1 million project that will bring noise, road closures, and months of disruption right through the heart of our town.

But many locals are asking: Why here? Why now? And who actually made the call?

Another Surprise Project

This is one of the most expensive infrastructure projects Whangamatā has seen in years. Yet there’s been no open public consultation, no clear explanation of the benefits, and little information shared with

affected residents or businesses.

According to expert reports from 2019, this project wasn’t even supposed to be next on the list. That spot was meant for Port Road—a more cost-effective, less disruptive, and ultimately more logical upgrade location.

So why was Port Road quietly dropped?

Port Road: A Missed Opportunity?

Engineering reports had previously identified Port Road as a better choice for stormwater upgrades. It’s shorter, easier to work on, and less likely to interfere with traffic or town events. It also had the potential to help with actual flood relief in nearby areas—something the Hetherington project can’t claim.

Despite these advantages, Port Road was shelved without explanation—and the more complex, costly Hetherington upgrade was pushed through instead.

Are We Getting Value for Money?

Ratepayers are footing the bill for this \$3.1 million project. But what are we really getting in return?

Local experts have pointed out that:

- The upgrade won’t reduce flooding for the 1,900+ properties recently labelled at-risk.

- The proposed pipe changes don’t address the real causes of runoff or surface flooding.
- The benefits to the wider community—or to existing homes in flood-prone areas—are still unclear.

Worse still, developers who add pressure to the stormwater system with new builds aren’t required to contribute to these upgrades. Ratepayers are being asked to carry the cost alone.

Community Concerns: Planning in the Dark

Many in the community are growing frustrated by the pattern: big projects with big budgets—but no clear process, no community voice, and no strategic vision.

Residents want answers:

- Why was Port Road ignored?
- What flood risks are actually being addressed?
- Where is the long-promised Master Plan for Whangamatā?

The Hetherington Road project seems to be just the latest example of decisions made behind closed doors—leaving locals to deal with the cost, disruption, and confusion.

What We Really Need: A Spatial Plan

This is bigger than pipes. It’s about how decisions are made for our town, who gets heard, and whether the planning is being done for short-term fixes—or long-term benefit.

Whangamatā urgently needs a clear, community-informed Spatial Plan—a roadmap that sets infrastructure priorities based on real data, fair funding, and genuine public input.

Without it, we risk spending millions on patchwork projects that solve little, and benefit even fewer. Whangamata Ratepayers will be finding out what is important to residents and ratepayers in an upcoming petition. Make sure you have your say.

In the meantime:

- Talk to your neighbours
- Share this article
- Visit www.whangamataratepayers.org.nz for more info

Petition Coming Soon:

Calling for

- A proper Spatial Plan
- Transparent, community-first stormwater planning
- Accountability over council decisions

Let’s plan Whangamatā’s future together—before it’s planned for us.

– Whangamata Ratepayers Assoc.

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Supporting local business matters more than ever

Every purchase is a vote for the kind of community you want to live in. When you choose where to spend your money, you’re not just buying goods or services – you’re shaping the future of our town.

The winter months test our resilience. Households tighten budgets, businesses face their leanest period, and communities must pull together. It’s natural to hunt for bargains, but there’s tremendous power in considering where those bargains come from.

The Ripple Effect of Local Spending

Behind every local business is a story of someone who chose to build something here. These aren’t faceless corporations – they’re your neighbours, friends, and fellow community members.

Local businesses create an economic ecosystem that benefits everyone. They hire from within our community, sponsor local sports teams, donate to fundraisers, and reinvest profits back into the area. Research shows that for every dollar spent at a local business, approximately 70 cents stays in the community, compared to just 40 cents from chain stores.

Beyond the Bottom Line

Yes, local businesses face unique challenges. They can’t always match the rock-bottom prices of large retailers who benefit from massive economies of scale. But they offer

something invaluable: personal service, local knowledge, and genuine care for their customers.

Consider the true cost of your purchases. That slightly higher price at the local hardware store includes expert advice, immediate availability, and the peace of mind that comes from supporting someone invested in your community’s wellbeing.

Small Actions, Big Impact

Supporting local doesn’t require grand gestures. Even modest purchases help businesses maintain cash flow during quiet periods. Can’t afford to shop? Your advocacy still matters. Share their social media posts, recommend them to friends, or leave thoughtful online reviews. Word-of-mouth remains one of the most powerful marketing tools for small businesses.

A Community Investment

Think of local spending as an investment in your town’s character and future. Every dollar that stays local helps preserve the unique businesses that make our community special. It’s about maintaining the personal connections and local flavour that make this place worth calling home.

Next time you need something, pause and ask: “Is there a local option?” Your answer might just help determine whether our town thrives or merely survives.

– Patrick Kerr, Chairman of Enterprise Whangamata Inc

Support needed to sustain vital work with local teens

For over 18 years, the Whangamatā Youth Trust has provided life-changing support for teenagers in the Whangamatā community, helping them reach their potential and navigate challenges through mentorship, support, and meaningful activities. The important work they do is now under threat, with a significant drop in funding placing their programmes and hours at risk.

The Trust operates out of the Youth Room and Whare Mahi at 301 Port Road, thanks to the ongoing support of the Whangamatā Baptist Church. From this base, they offer a wide range of support to young people, including one-on-one mentoring, group sessions and programs, working closely with Whangamatā Area School.

The Trust employs three dedicated, part-time staff members: Manager Ryan Thompson, and Community Youth Workers Simone Hughes and Nicholas Tautuhi. Together, they support and empower young people from all walks of life, those navigating challenges as well as those seeking connection, purpose, and opportunities to grow.

Regular activities run by the Trust include youth group nights, whakairo (carving) classes, driver licensing support, an employment pathway for school leavers, an after-school drop in, school holiday activities, camps, and outdoor

adventures. These programmes are not just fun, they offer structure, connection, and hope for many who need it most.

“Young people here are dealing with overwhelming challenges,” says Tautuhi. “We work with students facing bullying, isolation, family violence and mental health struggles. Some feel completely disconnected or believe they have no future. Our goal is to walk alongside them and remind them they’re not alone.”

National statistics from the NZ Health Survey show that the percentage of young people reporting mild or greater anxiety or depression has risen from 32.5% to 52.5%. And the number experiencing

moderate or higher levels of anxiety or depression has nearly doubled from 14.4% to 28.7%. This means over a quarter of young people face significant mental health challenges.

Demand for services has grown dramatically, but at the same time the Trust has experienced a significant drop in donations post covid. With increased competition for grants and ongoing economic pressures, the organisation has been operating at a financial loss just to keep up with need.

Now, the Trust is facing difficult decisions. Without new funding or community support, they will be forced to reduce their programmes and hours, cutting off lifelines for the young people who need them

most.

The Trust is urging local businesses, residents, and supporters to get involved, whether through financial donations, resources, or partnership opportunities. Whangamatā Youth Trust is a registered charity and all donations are tax deductible.

To contribute or find out more, visit their website or contact the team directly. Any contribution big or small will make a difference. Together, we can ensure our young people have the support they deserve.

whangamatayouthtrust.org

Ryan Thompson (Manager)

ryan@whangamatayouthtrust.org





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Deadly snake washes up on Whangamata beach

Residents and holiday makers have been urged to stay away from Whangamatā Beach after a deadly yellow-bellied sea snake washed up alive on the sand last weekend, the same day another was seen at Little Bay in the Coromandel.

The Department of Conservation

(DoC) said it had a report of a yellow-bellied sea snake washing up on the beach in Whangamatā.

"Although they are generally docile, these snakes are highly venomous, so it's important not to approach or handle them." The Thames-Coromandel District Council

described it as an "important message" for those in the region.

According to DOC, about six to 10 yellow-bellied sea snakes are sighted each year, mostly around the northeast coast of the North Island, though they have been discovered as far south as Cook Strait.

"Beached yellow-bellied sea snakes will almost certainly be dead or dying, as they are entirely pelagic (they cannot live on land). They breed in the tropics and spend a large amount of their lives drifting on the ocean currents.

"They can dive up to 50m for three to four hours, depending on the temperature of the water, and feed on small fishes," the department's website said.

"Although they are generally docile, these snakes are highly venomous,



so it's important not to approach or handle them."

DOC advises that if you see a snake:

- Stay well away – even if it looks docile, it may still be active.
- Keep children and dogs at a safe distance.
- Call the DoC hotline on 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468) to report it immediately. Please send in photos and GPS co-ordinates.



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The milk run



I'm sure we all remember the 'milk run' in our childhood, a deserved first job, just like having a paper run. Of which is very pertinent to Whangamatā & Waihi News.

Milk vendors would deliver milk and other dairy products directly to households, especially in suburban areas. I can also remember when milk was delivered to our Tairua school, usually warm and also NZ Dairy Research Institute milk biscuits, that were intended for children in developing countries, particularly in Pacific and East Asian areas. Not my favourite!

– Jennie Black

Photo: NZ History.govt.nz

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Community support needed after TCDC declines funding

The Whangamatā Community Swimming Pool is urgently appealing to the people of Whangamatā and beyond for support after the Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC) declined its request for additional operational funding for the 2025/2026 year.

The Pool Committee sought \$139,000 in additional funding—the minimum amount required to maintain the pool's current year-round operating hours and meet Poolsafe accreditation standards. This figure includes no allowance for unplanned repairs or maintenance, leaving the facility extremely vulnerable to future disruptions.

The pool has been hit by several unforeseen rises in operational costs since the last funding assessment from TCDC in 2022. The cost of power has increased by over 20%, and due to recent tightening of safety regulations for public pools, staffing levels during opening hours have had to increase.

All of this has occurred without any additional operational funding from TCDC. With no additional operational funding forthcoming from TCDC, the committee has been left with no alternative but to reduce opening hours.

Effective immediately, the pool will operate Monday to Friday from 6am



to 10am and 2pm to 5pm. Reduced operational hours of 7am-10am Saturday and 11am-2pm Sunday will be reliant on public sponsorship.

The committee is determined to retain year-round opening and to do everything possible to ensure the pool's survival, but with local body elections on the horizon, they are seeking community support. "This pool is not a luxury. It is essential infrastructure for Whangamatā," said Chairperson Rob Boston.

"We will continue to fight for its

future, but the Council must step up – and we need the community behind us now more than ever."

"Last year the Council owned pool in Thames received \$740,130.00 in rate payer funding. Our request for the remainder of the year is only 30% of that, and even going forward, we assess our total operational requirement to be around \$400K per annum, a very reasonable request in comparison."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Keep using the pool- every swimmer makes a difference Contact your local councillor to demand support for the pool Sign the petition to the TCDC Sponsor a Saturday or a Sunday opening to allow for weekend swimming Stay tuned for further information about how you can help Together, we can keep the Whangamatā Community Pool open, safe and accessible for all.

For further enquiries please contact: manager.whangapool@gmail.com

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Opoutere Beach wreck leaves WRC to clean up mess



The sailing vessel grounded on Sunday, 15 June, and it is unclear what caused it.

Waikato Regional Council has not been successful in making contact with the owner and incident investigations remain with Police.

WRC Maritime Officers collected and disposed of three loads of debris, focusing on the collection of plastics, foam, fiberglass, chilly bins, and fuel containers. Debris mostly consisting of wood but also fiberglass, a yellow aluminium tank and vessel hull sections remain scattered along a 200m section of the rocky shore.

Wreck salvage contractors completed an on-water assessment outlining the costs and complexity of uplifting the wreck from the rocky shoreline.

Waikato Regional Council's Maritime Services proposes that the wreck is not a risk to navigation and the remaining wreck debris clean up are the responsibility of the vessel's owner.

- Waikato Regional Council

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Just seven chicks survived breeding season

This is the first in a series of articles giving insights into the lives of some of the interesting and iconic birds commonly seen in and around our local harbours and beaches. Each species habitat requirements, their seasonal movements, factors threatening their continued presence here in Whangamatā and their current conservation status will be covered. Birds featured will include NZ dotterel, banded dotterel, banded rail, oystercatchers, pied stilt, bar-tailed godwit, bittern, fernbird, royal spoonbill and various gulls, terns, shags and herons.

Hopefully the series will result in a better understanding of each species and the threats they face locally. Birds are a constant presence and visual component in all our lives, whether they be in our gardens, or on our roads, rivers, beaches, lakes, bush areas, coastal seas, etc.

The first species to be covered in this series is the northern NZ dotterel. This bird was teetering on the edge of extinction up until their plight was recognised in the late 1980's and conservation action initiated. At that time their population was restricted to beaches in Northland, Auckland, Waikato and the Bay of Plenty. They numbered around 800 birds and were rapidly declining. By 2011, due to the introduction of predator controls and nest protection measures, they had increased to around 2500. They have now recolonised former beach habitats as far south as the Wairarapa on the East Coast, including a number of off-shore islands and Taranaki in the West. Their Conservation Status as determined by the Department of Conservation is At Risk - Relict, a vulnerable endemic species.

The Whangamatā population of breeding birds currently numbers around 18 pairs. During the winter months large groups of dotterel totalling around 115 birds, gather



Adult NZ dotterel. Photo: John Adams

at various Whangamatā harbour, estuarine and beach sites. Many of these come here from neighbouring beaches. They flock together for mutual protection, to feed, rest and recover from their breeding season exertions. It is also the time when they moult and grow new feathers, and for some it is the time to socialise and establish new partnerships.

Their nest is a simple shallow scraped bowl on open sandy foredune sites, usually above the reach of high-tide wave surges and on the seaward side of the more densely vegetated higher dunes. These small, trusting and endearing birds are very protective of their nests. They will establish territories around them which they defend whenever they are approached by other birds, people, dogs and any native or introduced predators. They do this by first trying to attract the intruders away by putting on broken wing displays or charging at them and aggressively making loud distress calls.

The dotterels main native predators are harrier hawks, black-backed and red-billed gulls, and their introduced predators include cats, dogs, stoats, ferrets, weasels, hedgehogs, and rats. Adult dotterels, their chicks and eggs are all targeted by most of these predators.

Sadly, in the past 3 breeding seasons, the numbers of pairs successfully raising chicks through to fledging (flying) age at Whangamatā Beach has declined significantly, despite the best conservation efforts of our 'volunteer minders'. Nest monitoring over the past 2 years has revealed only 13 eggs hatched successfully from 35 laid in the 2023/24 breeding season, with only 4 chicks surviving to flying stage. This last breeding season only 13 chicks hatched from the 51 eggs laid, and just 7 survived to the flying stage. It seems nest desertions due to human and dog disturbances are the main cause for most of these egg and chick losses.

We currently have a small group of volunteers in Whangamatā and another in the Onemana/Opoutere areas who have taken on the responsibility of looking after their beach populations of NZ dotterels. Their activities include locating, signposting and fencing-off nesting sites, predator controls, and when necessary moving nests out of reach of rogue waves during extreme high-tide storm events.

What can you do to assist the continued presence of these birds on our beaches:

1. When exercising your dogs on the beach during the breeding season,

keep them under close control, at all times and on leads whenever in the vicinity of nesting or roosting dotterels.

2. Try to avoid walking your dogs along the beach during high tide periods and keep away, as far as possible, from the base of the foredunes.

3. Familiarise yourselves with the current local dog by-laws, respect and follow them.

If you observe other people breaking them, report their actions as soon as possible to the local TCDC dog ranger and the DoC.

4. When you and your children are walking, playing or just laying around sunbathing at the beach, do so at least 15-20m away from known nest sites, whether or not they have been fenced off. Avoid the temptation to seek a closer look at the nest as this inevitably results in the incubating bird being disturbed off the nest.

5. During non-breeding periods each year, from March through to August, large groups of dotterels and other shore and sea birds gather together on our harbour, estuaries and beaches to rest and recover from their feeding efforts. They generally crowd closely together during high tide periods and any disturbance of them should be avoided if at all possible.

6. For those people living close to beaches and the harbour perimeters, reduce the opportunity for your pet cats and dogs to roam freely from your properties. Numbers of nests, eggs and chicks are destroyed each year from such occurrences.

7. Add your voices to those seeking increased dog control by-laws and law enforcement on our beaches and the provision of alternative dedicated dog exercise areas.

- John Adams

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Jonah Van Dam tests the Thames defence.



Reuben Meares sets his backline away.

Never say die for Waihi B team

Earlier in the day the Waihi 'B' team also contested their own McDonald Cup final against the Thames 'b' team. In the most closely contested match of the finals day at Moewai Park, Whitianga last Saturday. A late surge almost brought the team home, after falling behind 9-22 early in the second half. However, the never say die attitude the team showed all season shone through, and a missed kick at the death denied them a win, the match ending 22-21.



Aaron McLeod battles through a Thames tackle.



Unstoppable: Dylan Bower breaks the line.



Flight time: Ish Laulia scoring.



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Clinical Waihi Crush Paeroa

In a replay of the 2024 McClinchy Cup Grand Final, Waihi again came up against near neighbours Paeroa last Saturday, and again, came away with the trophy after a tough 80 minutes at Moewai Park in Whitianga.

Played in great conditions considering the amount of rain the evening before, the first 40 minutes were a tight affair. The first five scores in the match were penalties, and a 9-6 lead to Waihi as both sides had periods of

dominance without being able to prise open some ferocious defence from both teams. The armwrestle was broken just before halftime, as a heavy shower passed over the ground. Waihi was able to exert a bit of pressure through a series of scrums, and powerful number eight Isaac Seiuli crashed through for the matches first try, and a 16-6 lead at the break.

The second half started with the rain still pouring down, and in the first ten minutes Waihi, via Quinn Collard's boot extended their lead by six points to 22-6. However a break down while hot on attack let Paeroa back into the game via their fullback Bitner Johanssen, who scooped up a loose ball and raced away for Paeroa's first try of the match. The comeback was short lived, as just five minutes later, as the rain cleared, Collard put rampaging centre Ish Leilua through a gap to extend the lead again, 29-13 with twenty minutes to play.

The match was put to bed for Waihi four minutes later when another big run from Seiuli put Paeroa on the back foot, and slick passing from the Waihi back division put replacement winger Petoru Pouri-



Energizer: Tireless loose forward Lesen Huiarangi carried hard all day.



Running of the bulls: Sam Halalilo on another hard charge.

Lane over in the corner. Collard duly converted from out wide and the match was over as a contest with fifteen minutes left on the clock, 36-13. Waihi were not done yet though, and with ten left on the clock, a final try to hard working midfielder Dylan Bower put fifty points within reach.

Paeroa however were not done, and with a Waihi kick blocked, Johanssen scooped the ball up and raced away for his second five pointer, 43-20. Waihi stormed back onto attack from the kickoff, and were awarded a final penalty, skipper Kenan Gillson pointed towards the posts, and Collard landed his sixth penalty, and tenth goal of the match, for a personal tally of 26 points in the match.

Waihi Athletic 46 (I Seiuli, I Leilua, P Pouri-Lane, D Bower tries; Q Collard 4 conversions, 6 penalties) beat **Paeroa 20** (B Johanssen 2 tries, conversion, 2 penalties; P Tuigamala conversion). HT 16-6.

- Story & photos by Jason Bartley, Waihi News Sports Reporter



Boom: Quinn Collard unleashes another huge punt.



Hard Yards: Prop Brad Nightingale carts the ball forward.



Here comes the boom: Issac Seiuli confronts the Paeroa defenders.

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"Real change required"

Local lawyer and businessman Flemming Rasmussen, Kuaotunu, is standing for TCDC Mercury Bay Ward Councillor.

Because I care, I am, after careful consideration and significant encouragement from diverse groups in our community, announcing that I am standing for Council in the Mercury Bay Ward in this year's Local Government Elections.

My wife and I live in Kuaotunu. We are deeply involved in and form part of community groups and initiatives, all with a focus on giving back to the community. It is part of our fabric. It is who we are. Over the past decade, we have created local jobs, invested in business, bought and sold properties, and built and subdivided. Mercury Bay is home.

Status Quo – Not an Option

If you want more of what you have had in the last three years: +36% rate increases amid a cost of living crisis, planned debt tripling, quadrupling of interest costs, and a lack of transparency and openness: vote for our three incumbent councillors. They did!

I stand because I am concerned about where we are going. Bureaucracy, like rust, does not sleep. With little or nothing to show, we:

(i) Have an ever-increasing,



centralised Council bureaucracy (headcount and cost);

(ii) Have a Council culture lacking "can-do attitude", shielding behind an opaque, thin veil of blaming central government, whilst neglecting to serve the residents/ratepayers paying their wages and who represent their entire (professional) reason for being;

(iii) Spend money we do not have; and

(iv) Lack of accountability.

Voting for me is a welcome departure from the status quo. I stand for real change.

Real Change Required

I believe in local decisions by locals. We can and must do so much better. My vision for Mercury Bay is one rooted in our unique identity, environment, and a commitment to sustainable growth. I believe

in cherishing and protecting our distinctiveness while fostering controlled and targeted growth. To become economically sustainable, we need to enact business- and community-friendly policies, including some rezoning of public and private land, creating opportunities for private enterprise to invest and generate well-paid jobs, and fostering growth in our building, conference, hospitality, and accommodation sectors. Enabling conferences, events, and destination activities, especially during the shoulder seasons, provides tourists with more reasons to visit. Our focus must be on quality over quantity, not an infinite number of tourists, but tourists who stay longer and spend more.

Controlled, targeted growth enables us to build a larger Mercury Bay business, ratepayer, and resident base, in turn affording us better private and central government-funded, Whitianga-based services (such as healthcare, active retirement living, palliative care, and rescue helicopter availability), which enhances the quality of life for everyone.

Impacting Real Change

In life and the law, seeing a debate in a broader context can help avoid misunderstandings, unproductive arguments, and speaking past

each other. There is no place for party politics in local government. What is at stake is too important to get wrong. Common sense and coming together are required. As a Mercury Bay Councillor, I will be but one of 11 Council voices (in the 2025/28 electoral term). We need systemic change. To achieve that, we need like-minded, competent people in the room. As a lawyer and advocate, I mediate and litigate. I bring disagreeing parties together to achieve resolution.

I have cultivated contacts and established dialogue with like-minded existing and

potential new councillors in Mercury Bay and all other Wards to bring about the required change.

Why Vote for Me?

I have a proven, successful business track record. I bring a results-focused, no nonsense approach to governance, anchored in financial, business and legal acumen.

And a steely determination.

We need your active support, voice and vote!

Your Choice: Want Real Change? Vote: Flemming Rasmussen. Visit www.linkedin.com/in/flemming-h-rasmussen-7754842/

– Press release from Flemming Rasmussen

LandSAR AGM and recognitions

The Tairua-Pauanui-Whangamata Land Search and Rescue group held their 16th AGM at the Whangamata Club last month which was well attended by their members as well as by the District Support Team Leader and representatives from the Waikato District Police Search and Rescue Team.

President Rob Adam gave a summary of the group's activities and said it has been a quiet year with only two callouts (39 operational hours) assisting the police to find the lost and injured over the past 12 months which is a huge drop from the previous year of 1158 operational hours.

Training continues monthly with several new members joining the group which includes management, field and wander search roles. This now brings the membership to 38 volunteers.

One of the aims for the group this financial year is to acquire a permanent base to store our equipment which consists of a vehicle and trailer.

The AGM concluded with the presentation of service certificates to three of the members consisting of two 5 year certificates to Ross Stewart and Zoe Batten and one 21 year certificate to Lammina Hutchison.



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Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



18 July 2025

Stormwater upgrade set to begin on Hetherington Road



Pictured are representatives from Ngāti Pu, Ngaati Whananga, Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Tamatera and Ngāti Maru, alongside Council Contractors Schick Civil Construction, Metis Consultants and our Council representatives

Work is about to begin on a major stormwater upgrade along Hetherington Road in Whangamatā, as part of our Council's commitment to long-term resilience and infrastructure improvement.

To mark the start of this significant project, our Council and our contractors, Schick Civil Construction, were joined by local Mana Whenua for an opening karakia and site blessing at dawn on Wednesday 9 July. Following the ceremony, the group gathered back at the office for introductions, a kōrero on the cultural history of the area and a project briefing from the team.

The Hetherington Road stormwater reticulation upgrade is part of our six-year programme to improve performance of the stormwater network and mitigate flooding.

Construction work is scheduled to begin on **Monday 21 July** and expected to be completed by the **end of October 2025**. This may involve significant traffic disruption and people may want to plan their travel accordingly during this period. See details below.

The project involves a full upgrade of the existing stormwater pipeline, running from the Moana Anu Anu Estuary outlet near the causeway through to Port Road. This work will mitigate surface water flooding in the area. The stormwater pipeline has been designed with climate change and sea-level rise in mind. Wa-stops (which prevent seawater from entering the pipe during events such as king tides, while still allowing stormwater to discharge into the marina) will be installed. As part of our on-going efforts to improve stormwater quality, gross pollutant traps (GPTs) will also be installed to capture debris and other pollutants before discharge.

Upgrading the entire network will help enable a series of subsequent capital works upgrades in areas with significant stormwater flood issues, (Casement Road, Tuck Road and Port Road/town center).

This was identified as a priority in the Stormwater Improvement Project Master Plan, which guided how the \$2.135 million capital budget for 2024/25 would be allocated.

"This upgrade is an important step toward protecting the Whangamatā community and their property from increasingly severe weather events," says our Water Services Manager Brett Houston. "We're committed to completing these essential works efficiently, respectfully and in close partnership with iwi and the local community."

Temporary traffic management will be in place on Hetherington Road while this work is underway. Construction will take place Monday to Friday, between 7:00am and 6:00pm, with stop-go traffic control and some detours or no-entry zones in place at times. Please plan ahead, allow extra time for travel and follow all on-site traffic management directions. Thank you for your patience as we carry out this important work.

See further details at tcdc.govt.nz/whangamatastormwater

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tcdc.govt.nz/elections

Nominations for the Thames-Coromandel District Council election are open until **Friday 1 August**.

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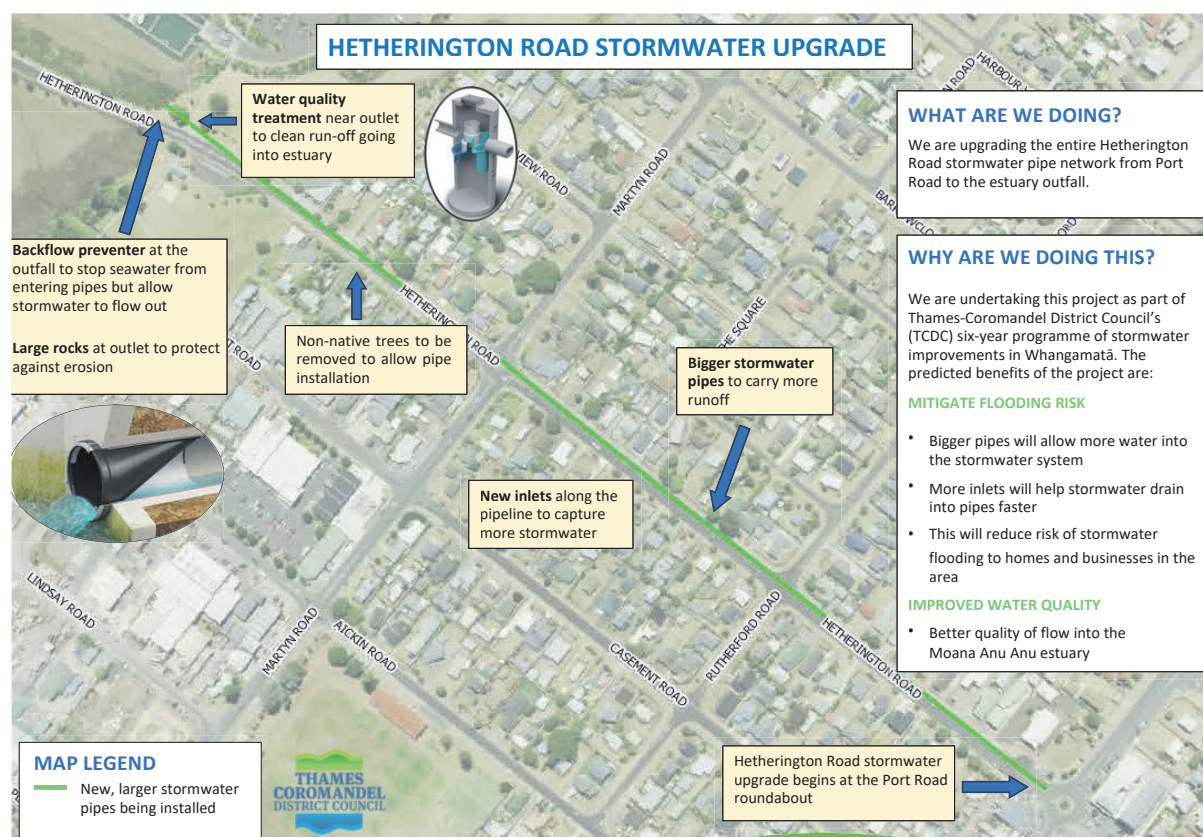
At the end of June, our Council adopted the Annual Plan for 2025/26, setting the project priorities and budgets. We're mostly sticking to the course set in our Long Term Plan, but we had to make a few tweaks because of unavoidable cost increases and new government reforms, especially to water services. We kept the average rates increase to the 7.7% forecast in the Long Term Plan, and we raised some of our fees and charges to keep up with inflation or increases in the cost of delivering some services.

WANT THE DETAILS?

What's planned in your neighbourhood:
tcdc.govt.nz/annualplan2025

New fees and charges: tcdc.govt.nz/fees

Check your 2025/26 property rates:
tcdc.govt.nz/rid



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Waihi NEWS

New library weaves together people and place

Te Ara Mātauranga, Waihi Beach's new library, service centre and community hub, opened today – a space interwoven with community, creativity and connection.

Around 160 people gathered to mark the opening of the new \$5m facility whose name, gifted by Te Whānau a Tauwhao hapū, means 'The Pathway to Knowledge'.

A blessing was performed by Reon Tuanau, of Ōtāwhiwhi Marae, together with tamariki from the neighbouring Waihi Beach Kura, with Western Bay Mayor James Denyer cutting the ribbon to declare the building officially open.

"Libraries today are important community hubs – their role is so much more than just a repository for books. They're public spaces where communities come together to learn, connect and thrive," says Mayor James Denyer.

"This has been a collaborative process with involvement from elected members, Council staff, mana whenua, the school, and the community centre committee. I want to thank all those involved for achieving such a great result, and in particular our builder, Hawkins, for delivering ahead of time and on budget."



Valeta Duncan, Council's Customer Services Manager, celebrated the community-led approach behind the new library.

"This project has been as much about the process, the relationships, and the learning as it has about the building," says Valeta.

"From the start, we knew building a new library was a big deal, so it had to be an inclusive process. Everyone had the chance to have a say – especially our tamariki, who were encouraged to dream about what a new, shiny library could look like for them.

"Our partnership with Te Whānau

ā Tauwhao Ki Ōtāwhiwhi has been crucial. We wouldn't have this beautiful building that honours the stories and rich cultural heritage of mana whenua, without it."

As well as the name, Te Whānau a Tauwhao gifted design elements connecting the building to Ōtāwhiwhi marae, the taiao (environment), and the coastal nature of Waihi Beach, including a kōwhaiwhai depicting the mangōpare (hammerhead shark). Representing resilience and perseverance, the mangōpare is depicted in the steps leading into the library, and windows throughout the building.

Reading 'cubbies' inside the library are named after different types of obsidian found on Tuhua (Mayor Island) – Tuhua, Paretao and Kahurangi – also gifted by Te Whānau a Tauwhao.

A large harakeke weaving, by Kairāranga (weaver) Marino Magee, is on display as you enter the building, reinforcing the importance of taiao.

The new 400sqm library and service centre is four times bigger than the old library and is open 43 hours a week, compared to the previous 23 hours, bringing it in line with Council's three other library and service centres, in Te Puke, Ōmokoroa and Katikati.

The space includes two large meeting rooms with a moveable wall, one smaller meeting room, public computers and free wifi, dedicated reading spaces, 'bring your own device' work spaces, and a table for activities such as crafts and puzzles.

Te Ara Mātauranga Opening Hours:
Monday – Friday: 9am – 5pm
Saturday: 9am – 12pm
Sunday and Public Holidays: Closed

For more information visit:
yourplace.westernbay.govt.nz/te-ara-matauranga

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Waihi NEWS

Miracle garden – back to former glory

Whangamata & Waihi News met with the wonderful ladies, Sheryl Parkinson, Rose Barrington, Helen Mackay, and Marian Richards, who volunteer at the Waihi Butterfly garden in Baker Street, Waihi, last week to see the wondrous remake of the Fairy House by the awesome guys at In Ch-It Plumbing.

The house was tragically destroyed by vandalism mid-April, and was also needing the wee bridge repaired, new boardwalk creation, paths and planting of beautiful colour. They would love any donations of plants, simply take them down there on a Friday morning – you will find the busy



ladies more than appreciative. It's a testimony to volunteerism that the Butterfly Garden has been lovingly worked on by local angels!

Helen Mackay told us "last January, I came down here to do a bug-hunt and the whole place was totally overgrown, I thought it all needs line trimming to find the tracks, so I kept coming down here every three or four weeks for upkeep, just last year we put in pipes and half bricks, short concrete tiles to tidy up the edges. It was then that I met Sheryl Parkinson, she jumped on board and kept the project going".

We caught up with Sheryl and she told us " This is my fourth year living here, I got to know about the Millstream Walkway walking my little dog, as time went by in six months

it got more and more overgrown, I am a keen gardener and I don't shy away from hard work, so I thought I'll just start clearing around "Ethols seat" from March last year, in the winter cold and all, it was so sad. The ladies from the Herb Society started it and then Gabrielle came along and flattened the lot," it was then when she met Helen.

Rae Barrington, formerly a roofer builder (Rose's husband) has been

incredible with time too, clearing bush and pongas, laying pathways and just recently he has made an incredible boardwalk, he would love more timber or brick donations, if our readers have anything to give for the project.

Contact Waihi News on 021 0232 1661 and I'll put you in touch with Sheryl or Rae.

- Jennie Black




Sheryl Parkinson, committed volunteer.



From left: Rose, Marian and Helen.

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Waihi NEWS

Ezra's Bench, a place to remember

A new park bench has recently been installed at Waihi's Rocket Park in memory of Ezra Tapp — an adventurous three-year-old who tragically drowned in 2014.

Ezra loved the Rocket Park. His grandfather helped build the original park, making the location a fitting place for a lasting tribute.

The memorial was initiated by local woman, Amy Sleep, who was inspired by a heartfelt tribute from Ezra's mum, Julia. "She'd asked people to toot their horn for Ezra while crossing the bridge," Amy said. "I thought — what if there was something permanent in a place he loved?"

With Hauraki District Council's support, a Givealittle page and a generous donation from local family



A seat made with love: Amy Sleep at Ezra's bench. Photo supplied by Amy Sleep.



Stuie and Tamara Thompson, the dream of a memorial seat quickly became reality.

For Julia and Jason who now live in Northland, the new seat means everything. "As an angel mum, my biggest fear was Ezra being forgotten," she said. "This gives him a place in the world — something permanent. It's beyond precious."

She says hearing about the community effort left her overwhelmed and grateful. "After years of hardship, to be helped like this — it's so beautiful."

Julia hopes the seat brings peace to others, too. "It may have Ezra's name, but it's for anyone missing someone. A place to sit, remember, and feel connected."

The bench rests near the rocket Ezra once loved, with the rainbow in sight — a gentle place to imagine him soaring beyond, to his place in the sky — overlooking laughter, play, and the kind of joy Ezra brought into the world.

— Sam Roff,
Waihi News Reporter

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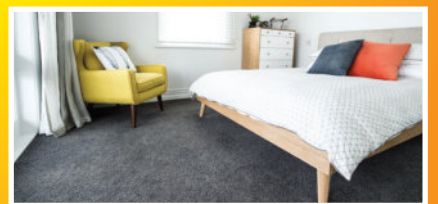
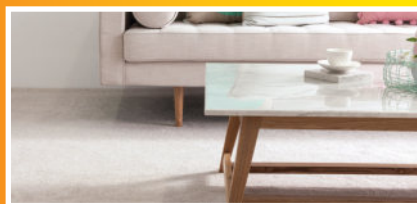
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Waihi NEWS

Waihi’s postal service reflects the town’s growth

In the 1880s, the first Post Office operated from a small general store beside the Waihi Hotel (now known as the Commercial Hotel). The store was managed by Daniel Campbell, who also ran Waihi’s first mail coach service. He delivered letters and parcels by horse-drawn carriage between Waihi, Paeroa, and Tauranga.

As the gold industry developed, so did the town. By the 1920s, the Post Office had become a busy centre. Telegrams were sent to and from mining companies, newspapers, and stockbrokers. A team of message

boys, telegraph operators, and postal workers kept mail moving despite slow roads and limited technology. Waihi’s population was about 5,000 at the time, and the Post Office was a key service in everyday life.

Today, Waihi’s postal service continues to adapt — now embracing digital tools to meet modern needs.

The Waihi Paper Plus and Toyworld store, a long-standing NZ Post retail agency, was recently selected as one of only a few locations nationwide to pilot a new digital customs form for sending overseas. Store owners Stephan and Petra say they’re proud to support the initiative locally.

“We were really excited to be chosen,” says Stephan. “NZ Post even sent a film crew to record the new process in action in our shop, which will be used to help train other stores across the country.”

The update replaces traditional paper forms with a streamlined online system. Customers scan a QR code in-store using their smartphone or device, complete the required customs information online, and receive a barcode. Staff can then scan this to instantly access the details and process the parcel.

This shift reduces the chance of errors or delays and enables NZ Post to more easily reflect changes in customs requirements across different countries.

Understanding that not everyone is confident with technology, Stephan and Petra have made sure help is available at their store. “We know it’s new for some people, so we’re happy to guide customers through the process,” Stephan says. “And

we’ve chosen to provide a device in-store for anyone who doesn’t have one.”

From handwritten telegrams to digital declarations, Waihi’s postal service continues to evolve — and thanks to NZ Post, locals can now send their parcels overseas with greater ease and accuracy.

- Sam Roff - Waihi News Reporter



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GOOD ONYA

Waihi NEWS

Waihi dominates at semi-final

The ruthlessly efficient and composed Waihi Athletic side somewhat inevitably beat a courageous Waihou 31-16 in a Thames Valley Premier Mens rugby semi final at Kenny Street rugby stadium.

This knockout, winner-take-all match went exactly to plan for the Athletic Red n Blacks. An analysis of the scoring showed Waihi with three tries against Waihou's two. Waihi's points scoring machine Collard drilled four penalties and two conversions. Waihou were shut out for most of this match. Though Waihou had a faintest glimmer of hope early in the second half with a try to Scott Day.

But Waihi limited any Waihou attacks by dominating both the possession and territory battles. Waihi Athletic players to shine included lock Dylan Horne and the loose forwards Kenan Gillson, Isaac Seiuli and Lessen Huiarangi. While resilient hooker Scott Day and first five Devyn Sheehan sparkled for Waihou. Score Waihi Athletic 31 (tries C Sue 2, P Pouri-Lane. Q Collard 4 penalties and 2 conversions) versus Waihou 16 (Tries B Wilson-Beech and S Day, D Sheehan 2 penalties)

- Don Mackay, Waihi News Sports Reporter
Photos by Mark James



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

NOTICE OF CLOSURE OF CONSERVATION AREA UNDER SECTION 13 CONSERVATION ACT

PURSUANT to section 13(1) Conservation Act 1987, I hereby close conservation land in the Coromandel Forest Park in the Wharekurauponga catchment to public entry for reasons of public safety.

The closed area is across fourteen sites totalling approximately 0.56 hectares of public conservation land being Forest Park, as indicated on the below plan.

The period of closure is from 10 June 2025 until 21 May 2027.

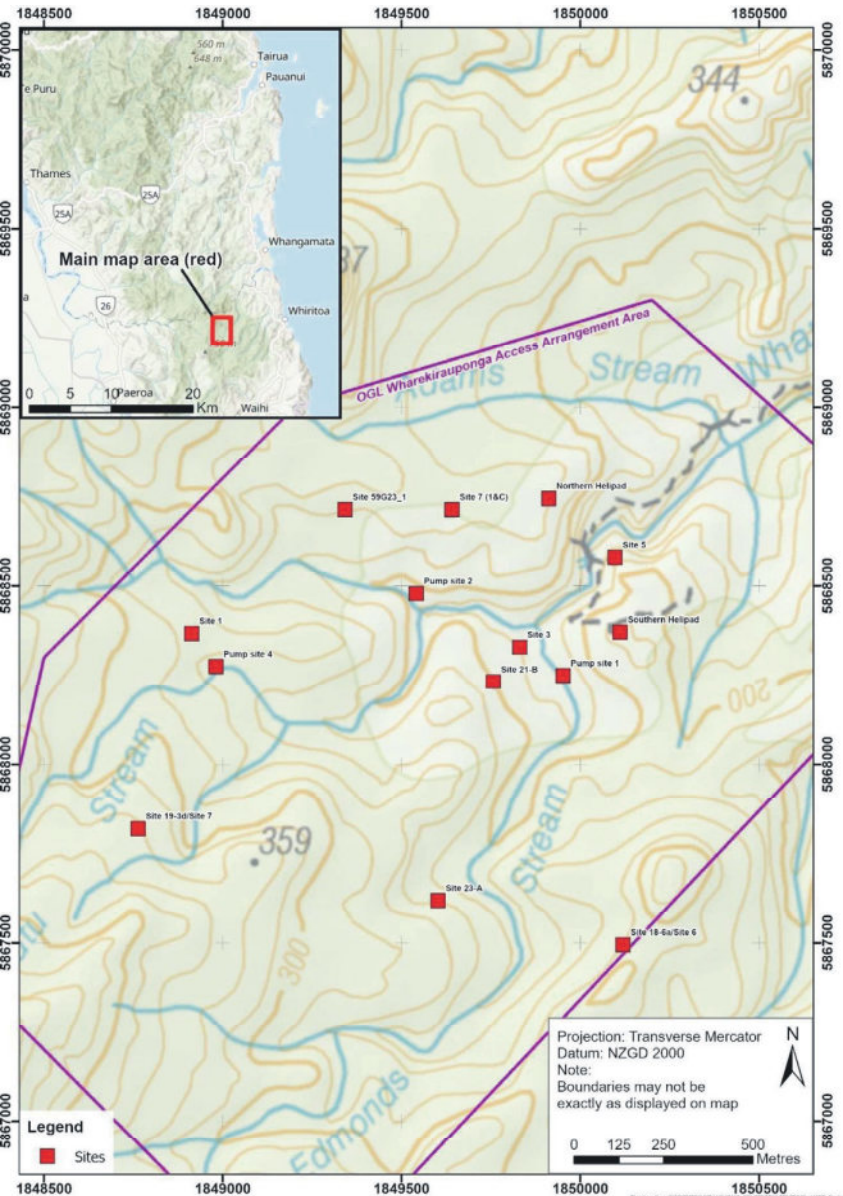
The closure is necessitated by the need to ensure the safety of the public for the duration of exploration operations on the land.

During the closure it is an offence for a person who is not authorised by the Director-General to remain on, or enter, the area indicated on the below plan.

Active closed sites will be clearly demarcated by fencing and signage.

For further information on the conservation land closure contact:
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Avi Holzapfel, Operations Manager, Hauraki District



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PUBLIC NOTICES



Annual General Meeting 2025

In terms of Clause 17.1 of the Constitution of Enterprise Whangamatā Incorporated its 2025 Annual General Meeting is to be held at the **Whangamatā Club Restaurant, 404 Port Rd, Whangamatā on Thursday 31 July 2025 at 5pm sharp.**

2025 AGM AGENDA

The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting will be:

1. Opening of meeting
 2. Apologies
 3. Confirmation of minutes of previous Annual General Meeting 26 July 2024
 4. Chairman Patrick Kerr's Annual Report – and Adoption of Annual Report
 5. Treasurer's Report & Presentation of Financial Statements – & Adoption of Financial Statements
 6. Election of Committee
 7. Notice of Motion
 8. Approval of Budget for the next financial year by the Treasurer
 9. Urgent General Business
 10. Closure
- Followed by our Monthly Business After 5 (BA5)**
- Introduction and welcome by Patrick Kerr
 - Members Minutes
 - Presentation by Mitch King from the Economic Development Team at TCDC
 - Momentum Waikato an update on Future Funds – Janice Lapwood & Stephen Town
 - Finger food and limited complimentary drinks will be provided

Sports results

500 CARD CLUB

We meet every Wednesday 1-4pm at the RSA. Come along and join us. This week we played at the Whangamatā Club.

3 July: Highest score Snow Harris
Lowest score: Ange Dewhurst
Raffle winner Donna Lowrie

10 July: Highest score Erin Delaney
Lowest score Coltte Slack
Raffle winner Eleanor Leopald

TABLE TENNIS

10 July: Played at Whangamatā Club. Angie Dewhurst was our winner with 9 points followed by Roger Wolfe and Wayne Broome with 8 points and Denise Wallace with 7 points.

MAHJONG

11 July: We had 58 players today with 15 tables.

The results today are as follows
1st with 55 pts: Tina Palmer
2nd with 49 pts: Fiona Volkner
3rd with 49 pts: Dianne Trembath (countback)

Well done everyone.

There were three people with today's lucky number which was 12 and was won by Jenny McLeod.

We welcomed two new players from Monday today - Kathy Weir and Christine Lipanovich.

Just a reminder that subs of \$10 were due on 30 June. Please see Donna Lowrie if you want to pay or pay online at the account: Whangamatā Mah Jong 02-0472-0011752-16

PUBLIC NOTICES



WHANGAMATĀ RSA (INC)

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 14th September 2025 at 11.00am

Notices of Motion, and Nominations for the Executive Committee are to be in the hands of the Secretary by 5.00pm Friday 15th August 2025

Whangamatā RSA Poppy Trust

The Annual General Meeting of the Whangamatā RSA Poppy Trust will be held on completion of the Main AGM

L Ward, Secretary

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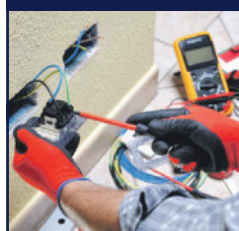
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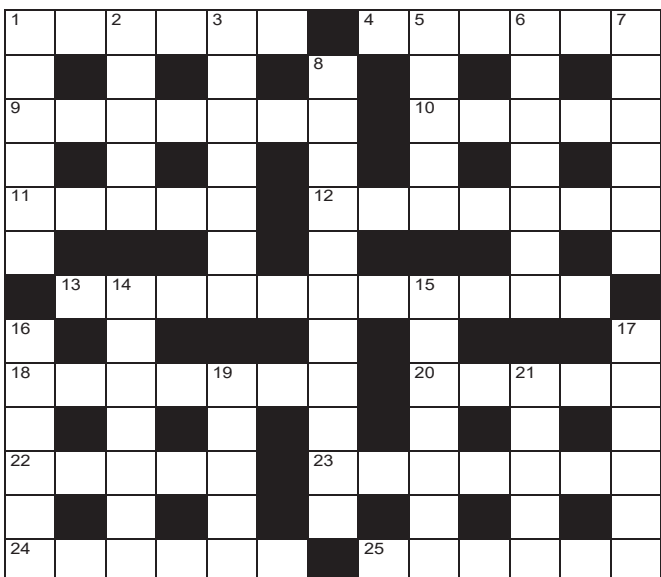
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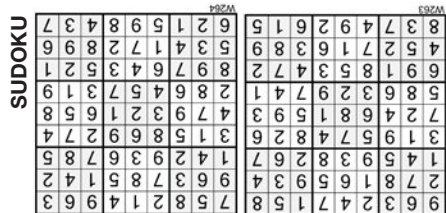
1. Accomplish (6)
4. Seek (6)
9. Strengthen (7)
10. Gradually reduce (5)
11. Guide (5)
12. Greed (7)
13. Absorbed (11)
18. Alike (7)
20. Recess (5)
22. Once more (5)
23. Relating to the sense of touch (7)
24. Most recent (6)
25. Regain (6)

Down

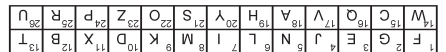
1. Help (6)
2. Banal (5)
3. Conflagration (7)
5. Additional (5)
6. Cold-blooded creature (7)
7. Stinging insect (6)
8. Imprison (11)
14. Leftover (7)
15. Style and flair (Fr) (7)
16. Attack (6)
17. Tranquil (6)
19. Joins (5)
21. Porcelain (5)

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SOLUTIONS



DECODER

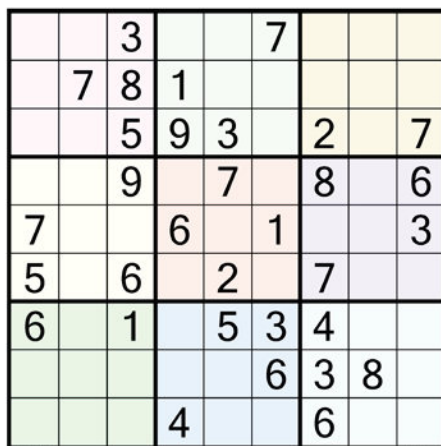


CRYPTIC

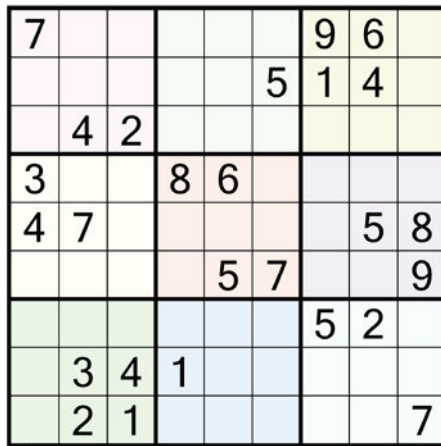
- Across: 1. Queenstown, 9. Rock cod, 10. Roger, 11. Stern, 12. Roping, 14. Marty, 16. Rehab, 19. Canyon, 21. Flair, 24. Weigh, 25. Earnest, 26. Pigeon-toed.
- Down: 2. Uncanny, 3. Eiders, 4. Strap, 5. Organza, 6. Norm, 7. Presume, 8. Acre, 13. Charity, 15. Reading, 17. Enforce, 18. Invest, 20. Yahoo, 22. Alec, 23. Swap.

SUDOKU

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



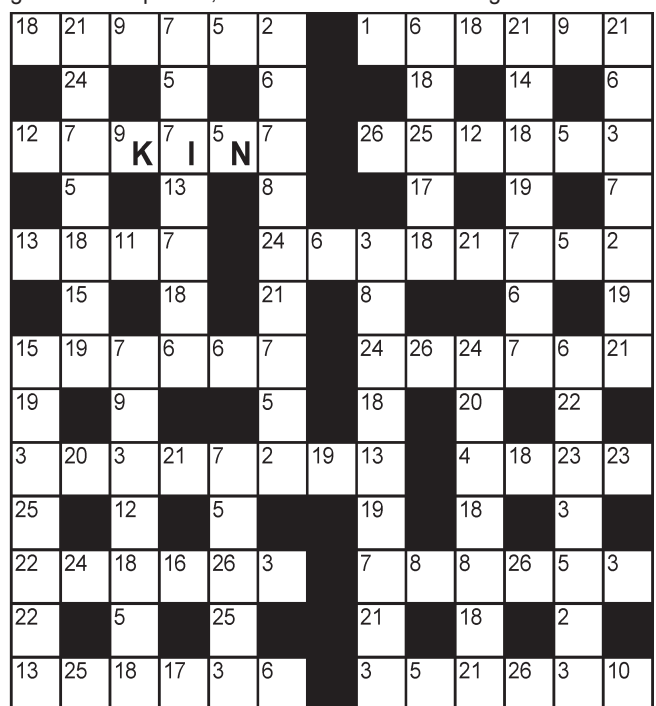
W263 EASY



W264 HARDER

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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | N | | I | | K | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

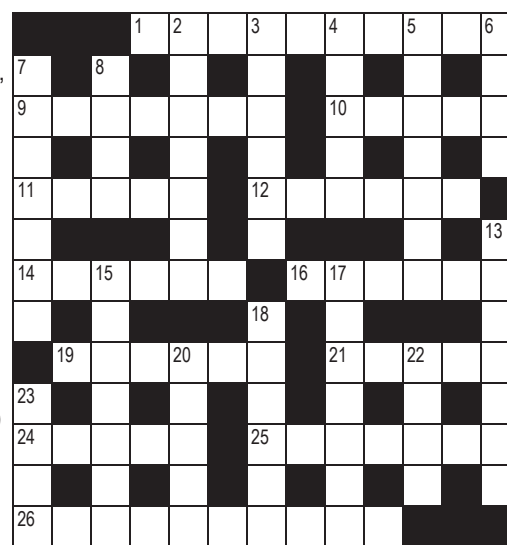
Across

1. Where you may find men in drag? It is a New Zealand resort town (10)
9. Stonefish? (4,3)
10. He is totally understood (5)
11. A serious rear end (5)
12. Poring over lassoing (6)
14. Mr. Tray was one to make a great sacrifice (6)
16. Rash he unfortunately would keep going on about (6)
19. Priest hides a youth leader in the gully (6)
21. An ability to be just with a beginner (5)
24. Measure the skim milk so to speak (5)
25. The grave nature of dear Nester and Bob (7)
26. An unusual gait caused by

hanging on to birds with ropes, we hear (6-4)

Down

2. What a fluke! UN gets Nancy revolutionised (7)
3. Ducks to get down (6)
4. Get parts back for belt (5)
5. See through material made from middle-sized angora (7)
6. He's enormous! Well – on a par within (4)
7. Conclude (sometimes falsely) with supreme contrivance (7)
8. Virginia creeper gets a measure (4)
13. Birthday cake (not baked) for alms (7)
15. Looking through a brochure west of London (7)
17. Go by the rules once! Ref! (7)



18. Put money into office installation (6)
20. Cheers from the internet (5)
22. He's a smart sort of person (4)
23. Exchange feet in return (4)



NEW



Husqvarna 410 XE Nera Automower

- GPS wire free
- All new EdgeCut
- Up 1000m2
- 30% slope performance
- 4G and WiFi connected
- Radar
- Theft protection
- Made in England

\$6,058
Fitted

Electrical installation costs not included.



5 YEAR DOMESTIC WARRANTY#
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021 285 4870 / 07 864 7801
1 Hikuai Settlement Road, Hikuai
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