

# Whangamatā & Waihi NEWS

ISSUE 165 - 8 MAY, 2026



## Two towns... Mighty clash

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Photo by Mark James

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Lions Project needs you! P3



Final jump off the Pepe P16



Waihi Cycles expand P13



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# New approach planned

Taking a new approach with the backing of its community is behind an initiative being proposed by the Whangamata Community Board.

To launch this a public meeting is planned on Friday, May 22 to which the Board is hoping to attract representatives from the many local community groups across Whangamata, Onemana and Opoutere.

Community Board Chairman, Mark Drury, said over the years a significant amount of work had gone into ensuring the district provided the appropriate appeal for visitors, while at the same time making locals feel proud.

He said the board is aware more work is urgently needed.

"Our beaches and harbours are critical assets and while the likes of Whangamata Harbour Care and other community groups continue to do outstanding work, we want to ensure they are further supported.

"At the same time, we want all of those people involved with the harbours and beaches to be engaged with what is going on," said Mark. "It is important we maximise our resources and take a unified approach with projects and activities."

To achieve this two community forums will be established under the banners of Town Restoration and Harbour Restoration.

Mark said community group representatives and individuals were being asked to consider putting their names forward to



form the respective leadership groups.

"These groups will then work alongside members of the community board with an alignment enabling initiatives being identified and then activated."

Mark said when the new board was elected a walk around the district was undertaken with many things being identified needing attention.

"While there are some short-term projects, we also need to set the longer-term objectives and then work together to achieve appropriate resourcing."

He encouraged people to attend the meeting so they can get a clear understanding of what is proposed in the hope they will become engaged and join in.

**The meeting is being held at the Whangamata Golf Club's Titoki Clubhouse, 10am, Friday May 22. For more information you can contact Mark Drury 029 355 1317 or John Freer 027 483 9426.**

## HON SCOTT SIMPSON

MP for Coromandel

# Expanded Role for Community Pharmacists

Timely access to healthcare is important to all New Zealanders, and I'm pleased the Government has announced a proposal which will expand the role of community pharmacists so people can get faster, more affordable treatment for common health issues.

From June this year, families will be able to access treatments for common health conditions through their local pharmacy. That means they won't always need to wait for a GP appointment or pay full over-the-counter prices for straightforward treatments for their children.

Participating pharmacists will be able to assess symptoms, provide consultations, and supply publicly funded medicines for issues like pain and fever, oral rehydration, head lice, scabies, and conjunctivitis.

In many rural communities, like those up and down the Coromandel,

pharmacies are among the most accessible health services. Expanding their role will result in an improved availability of funded treatment, as well as making it easier for families to get timely care when a doctor's appointment isn't immediately available.

To support the delivery of these services, Health New Zealand has established a \$5 million per year Extended Pharmacy Services Fund, and Pharmac will update the Pharmaceutical Schedule to support direct provision of funded medicines under existing pharmacy agreements.

This is positive news for families across New Zealand, because it will take pressure off GPs while ensuring families still get the care they need from highly trained pharmacists.

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

**This weekend away Waihi**

9th May away Mercury Bay (Whitianga)  
16th May away Hauraki North (Waitakaruru)  
23rd May bye - no game  
30th May at home vs Mercury Bay  
6th June vs Thames in Thames  
13th June vs Waihou in Te Aroha  
20th June at home vs Waihi  
27th June at home vs Hauraki North  
4th July at home vs Te Aroha

We have a Red and White night every Friday before a home game. We are also opening the bar from 5pm on Wednesday afternoons for members and supporters.

## Scott Simpson

### MP for Coromandel

**Contact me anytime**  
0800 550 330 • [scottsimpson.co.nz](http://scottsimpson.co.nz)  
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Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

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# Whangamatā & Waihi NEWS

Contact Jennie Black 021 0232 1661  
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# Lions Project work to begin this weekend

The work takes place this Saturday, 9 May and Sunday, 10 May, from 10am.



Whangamatā News met with Ralph Pitcher President of Whangamatā Lions and Kevin Brookes at Moana House to discuss a major refurbishment to the five older cottages to house much needed staff, who care for our community in their golden years.

Kevin told us "we need to bring back to life the five cottages which are dearly needed, they are all very tatty and have been left for some time. The plan is to remove rubbish from the 5 sites, get the outside areas cleared, water blasted and ready to

start for contractors to come in and have a clean run at it."

This is a win-win to reconnect our community, it's also an opportunity for our Lions group to seek active, younger muscled members to assist, going forward they would look to having an annual community day up here, cleaning grounds, keeping up on general maintenance, a very large entity."

Staff are needed immediately and so completion for the first 2 cottages is the 26th May. A short timeline

but with community help this weekend, it could get sites cleaned for contractors to re-roof, paint exteriors, getting them all upgraded to meet rental accommodation standards.

Economics cant allow the budget to be stretched, more than the contractor quotes.

**To those reading this, can you help?**

Support the Whangamatā Lions each day from 10am this weekend, bring your garden gloves, tools and

get stuck in by clearing rubbish and surrounds. Until you need the community care facility, or you have had parents here, then you will know and understand the importance of volunteerism. Parking signs will show you where to park for the day as space is limited.

**It's all outside work, putting all waste in trailers.**

**WILL YOU HELP?  
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- Jennie Black, photos by Mark James

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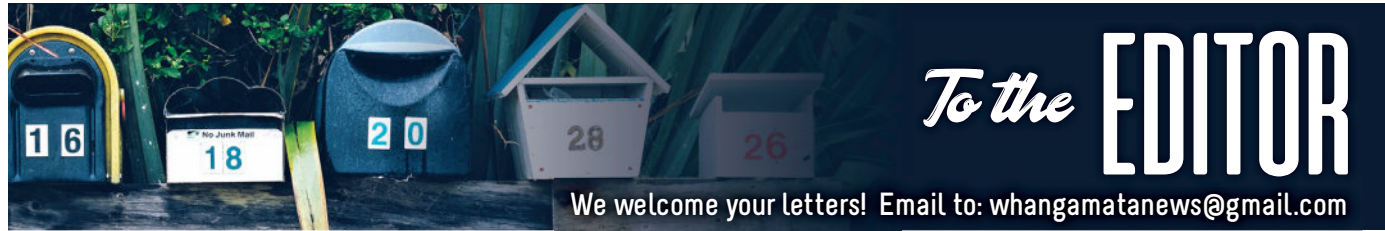
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## No mining

### Coromandel Greens celebrate decision that protects public rights over active mining interests

The recent Court of Appeal decision is a significant moment for the Coromandel, and a testament to the persistence of local people who have stood up, decade after decade, for the protection of our ngahere, and the Coromandel Greens were pleased to see the decision.

“We want to acknowledge the extraordinary work of Ours Not Mines, led by Morgan Donaghue, whose commitment and careful legal challenge made this outcome possible.” says Green Party Coromandel electorate candidate Pamela Grealey. “This is not just a single campaign, but part of a much longer story, one that the Donaghue whānau have carried for more than 45 years in their defence of the Coromandel.”

“This continuity matters and it reflects a deep connection to place, and a determination to protect it for future generations, no matter how long the road.”

Across the region, many local

groups and individuals have contributed to the broader kaupapa of protecting the areas unique environment. From formal submissions to on-the-ground advocacy, it is this collective effort that continues to shape the future of the Coromandel.

“This decision is one step in that ongoing journey. The work to protect our forests and waterways continues, and it will take all of us.”

“We will watch with interest how this decision is received in the context of the Fast Track Approvals Act under which the broader consent was granted.”

Toitū te whenua, toitū te tangata.

**Pamela Grealey**  
GREEN COROMANDEL CANDIDATE

## Fonterra brands

In support of Keith Melville (NZH 20/4/26) plainly, there are some interesting opinions on where Fonterra’s loyalties should lie when strategic policy decisions are taken on behalf of their farmer shareholders. Shareholder approval is also sought.

To some degree it is understandable that domestic customers have a sense of ownership in iconic brands through their ongoing purchases and trust in the quality of these products over many years.

However, to add a little context, these are global brands and our domestic market represents only five percent of all dairy product that we sell on the international market.

It should also be noted that Fonterra is owned by its farmer shareholders and are therefore the owners of the brands and their capital value. The brands and the countless products that Fonterra sells to the world have been developed over many decades at the expense of the farmer shareholders. The costs involved in processing, research and development and brand development are all borne by the farmer with their payout and dividends based on the residual revenue after costs have been met.

While broad entitlement to opinion on industry affairs is valid for such a vital sector in our nations economy, the views of people directly involved should surely carry more weight.

**George Williams**  
WHANGAMATĀ

## Court of Appeal decision 'disappointing'



Alison Paul, OceanaGold’s Senior Vice President for Legal and Public Affairs, says that the recent decision by the Court of Appeal declaring the decision by Hauraki District Council to grant a licence for the Company to occupy a paper road as unlawful was disappointing.

“While we are surprised by this decision, it is important to understand that it in no way affects the Fast-track approval of the Waihi North Project which we received in December 2025 or the Company’s plans. Our timeline for project development and eventual ore production from Wharekirauponga remains unchanged.”

– Alison Paul,  
OceanaGold Senior Vice  
President in New Zealand for  
Legal and Public Affairs

# Join Us For Our OPEN DAY

Saturday, 16 May, 10am – 2pm

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# Meeting to inform locals about Hub

## Community invited to hear plans for Whangamatā Marae and Wellbeing Hub

The Whangamatā community will soon have the opportunity to see the vision for the Whangamatā Community Marae and Wellbeing Hub, with a public meeting planned for Sunday the 17th of May to share the concept plans for 101 Lindsay Road.

The meeting will provide residents with an overview of the work completed over the past year and offer a closer look at the developing plans for the site. Organisers say the meeting will be an important chance for the community to stay informed, ask questions, and contribute to a project designed to create a lasting cultural and wellbeing space for future generations.

In April last year, the project reached a significant milestone with the signing of the lease for 101 Lindsay Road and the formal change of the land's status from commercial use to a Community Purpose Reserve. The lease signing was followed by a blessing of the whenua, a moving and symbolic occasion that brought together whānau, hapū, iwi, and members of the wider community. It was a celebration and a moment of reflection, honouring the journey of over 40 years to reach this point.

Since then significant groundwork has been completed behind the



scenes. \$75,000 in funding was secured with contributions from Lotteries, Community Organisations Grants Scheme, TCDC Waste Levy Fund and community stakeholders.

Several technical assessments have been completed to support the design process, including geotechnical, stormwater, contamination and topographical investigations, helping ensure the site is suitable for future development. Alongside this work, stakeholders have spent the past year developing concept plans in collaboration with architects, community partners, and mana whenua to create a design that reflects our community and meets our needs.

Project Manager Ryan Thompson

said the planning phase has been both complex and rewarding, particularly given the ambition of bringing multiple community groups together within a shared space.

“Designing a site that can meet the needs of a wide range of groups is always going to be challenging,” Thompson said. “But what has made this process work is the willingness of everyone involved to collaborate and look beyond individual needs toward a shared long-term vision for the community.”

The project brings together a unique partnership of organisations, including the Whangamatā Community Marae Trust, Eastern Coromandel Community Services Trust, Whangamatā

Resource Recovery Trust,

Whangamatā Arts Collective, Menzshed Whangamatā, and Lions Whangamatā.

The concept plans are now complete and ready to present to the wider community. All are welcome to attend the meeting on Sunday the 17th of May, 1pm at the Whangamatā Area School Gym. Organisers say the meeting is an important opportunity to hear where the project has come from, where it is heading, and how the wider community can be part of bringing the vision to life.

### PUBLIC MEETING

**Whangamatā Community Marae and Wellbeing Hub:**  
**Sunday 17th May, 1pm at the Whangamatā Area School Gym.**  
**All welcome, nau mai, haere mai.**



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# Mowing not our biggest cost – the conversation we should be having

**TCDC's 2026/27 draft Annual Plan is now closed for consultation. Ratepayers were asked about reductions to park mowing and garden services, and shorter hours at transfer stations. These are real service changes. But after working through Council's own audited figures for 2024/25, I believe we are being invited to deliberate on the visible cents while the less visible dollars escape serious scrutiny.**

**The numbers that don't appear in the consultation document**

TCDC's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2025 shows total operating expenses of \$143.7 million. Setting aside depreciation (\$37.6 million) and finance costs (\$4.5 million), controllable operating spend of around \$101.7 million breaks down into two visible categories and one considerably larger invisible one.

Personnel costs were \$26.4 million, covering around 248 full-time-equivalent staff. Salary bands, councillor fees, and the Chief Executive's remuneration of \$381,891 are all public. This is genuine transparency and should be commended.

The remaining \$75.2 million sits in a line called "other expenses." Within that, Note 6 of the accounts reveals: **\$35 million in contractor payments**, \$3.65 million in consultants and legal fees, and \$29.6 million in "other operating expenses" – a catch-all covering IT, software, utilities, insurance, fleet and more. These

three lines represent roughly \$68 million of external spend – more than two and a half times the internal wage bill. Unlike staff costs, not a single supplier is named, not a single contract is itemised, and no comparison is published against what identical functions would cost in-house.

The structural issue is this: internal costs are smaller but fully transparent. External costs are larger but functionally anonymous.

**Where the real savings sit**

The mowing and transfer-station proposals save tens of thousands. Small savings matter, but four structural areas represent the larger opportunities.

**Shared services across councils.**

New Zealand's 78 councils each run their own finance systems, legal reviews, policy drafting and IT. TCDC already belongs to WLASS and Co-Lab, the Waikato inter-council bodies established to pool these functions. The mechanism exists. The question is the depth of what is actually shared. Last year's attempted Water Services Organisation with Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty is the clearest example: Council's own modelling projected savings of \$500 per connection by 2034. That collapsed not because the savings weren't real but because of inter-council politics. The opportunity has not gone away.

**Procurement discipline on the major contracts.** A \$35 million

contractor line disclosed as a single number invites complacency. A four-year \$60 million water maintenance contract was signed with Citycare Water from 1 April 2026. Other large arrangements cover waste collection, roading, and facilities. Each deserves public, year-on-year benchmarking. Ratepayers cannot currently assess whether any represent good value.

**Development contributions that actually reflect growth.**

Development contributions came in at \$1.87 million against a budget of \$2.99 million – a \$1.1 million shortfall. The 2021 Long Term Plan acknowledged that ratepayers were subsidising visitors and agreed this was "not fair." Five years on, existing ratepayers still subsidise growth and tourism.

Capital planning and lifecycle honesty. The Thames pool exemplifies the problem: original estimate \$14 million, subsequent ratepayer impact modelled at \$1,100–\$2,000 per household per year. Delayed and under-scoped capital decisions compound into much larger bills.

**What I am asking for**

Before this Annual Plan is finalised, three disclosures Council could make at essentially zero cost would let ratepayers engage with the real cost base:

1. Publish the top 20 suppliers by total spend for 2024/25. This is routine disclosure in most central

government agencies and several overseas councils.

2. Publish the consultants and legal fees line disaggregated by firm and activity area (3 Waters, roading, planning, governance, legal counsel).

3. Publish the total annual cost of TCDC's membership of WLASS, Co-Lab, LGNZ, Taituarā and other inter-council bodies, with a short statement of what services each provides.

None of that is commercially sensitive, all of it is available internally, and publishing it would shift the quality of the conversation.

**The bigger point**

I am not arguing that Council staff or contractors are overpaid or doing poor work. I am arguing that a consultation on a 3.8 percent rates rise shouldn't have a blind spot the size of \$68 million.

A recent TCDC community satisfaction survey recorded 21 percent satisfaction with Council's financial management. Ratepayers aren't stupid. They can tell when the conversation is being held at the wrong altitude.


**Reducing services saves thousands. Improving systems can save millions, every year, compounding across Annual Plans and Long Term Plans. Mowing is not our biggest cost. We should be having the conversation that matches the scale of the numbers.**

– Patrick Kerr, Whangamatā

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# Bringing back Tinsel Town

We are delighted to announce the fantastic news for movie goers in Whangamata where a new Film Club will now show monthly movies at the Whangamata Club.

Called the OWL Film Club, it is the brainchild of busy community volunteer Ross Stewart, who has successfully 'read the room' that showed how much we all missed our original iconic cinema which closed in October 2021 following a legendary 48 years of operation by the pioneering Ron Slater. Since then our town has been sadly without a dedicated movie space.

A significant cultural return then for OWL which, in conjunction with the Whangamata Club, will show its movies (initially) monthly on a Wednesday afternoon at 1 for 1.30pm at the Whangamata Club where tickets will be available at \$10 for Club Membership Card holders (and their friends). Seating will be restricted to 50 so early birds will reap the movie thrill reward!

The OWL Film Club Premiere will be on Wednesday 13 May with the highly praised Hollywood Blockbuster musical, Song Sung Blue, starring the talented Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson and featuring the popular music of Neil Diamond.

It's all praise to Ross with his support from another Community



Ross Stewart.

Volunteer round town, Graeme Smith, for pursuing this opportunity with considerable research, to find the way, over multiple hurdles such as licensing, the venue, and film hire, to launch a Not For Profit film club. Non fee Membership will follow after the first 'showing'.

**High level support from the Community will secure the Club's future says Ross who congratulates the Whangamata Club for its willing support. "With the Community behind us we can expand the programme to meet all needs including for example, a school holiday programme."**

- Anne Hunter

## DEATH NOTICE

### PETERSEN Paul

Passed peacefully at Moana House Resthome surrounded by family on May 3rd 2026. Aged 93 years, formerly of McKellar Place, Whangamatā.

Paul was a past member of the Whangamata Lions Club and a long standing member of the Whangamata Golf Club. A private cremation has been held. The family will be holding a celebration of his life this Saturday 9th May from 2pm at the 9th Hole Golf course. All who wish to attend are warmly welcome.

The family would like to sincerely thank all the staff at Moana House for the kind and caring way in which Paul was looked after.



## Poet's Corner

### Daily Goings On

Have you discovered what you can do  
If you're still in your Jammies at quarter to two  
A late nutritious breakfast  
And a flat white, Ahhh!  
Put on a load of washing  
And time it too  
In case I forget which I'm likely to do  
The sun is shining  
The sky is blue  
But I, still have more jobs to do  
A shower was held,  
And duly completed  
Body was clothed, ablutions succeeded  
Hey, I'm thinking that was fun  
Because that's another job done  
Folded jammies and put them away  
Under the pillow where they will stay  
Ready for the next day  
Shhh

Got up the next day  
But went back to bed  
To have a read instead  
But after a few pages were read  
I felt some yearning for  
You guessed it, Nutrition  
Oops, but wait  
It's bone density day  
Thirty minutes for pill to digest  
Ohhh!  
Reading the paper is the next best option  
But then that's a matter of opinion  
Buzzer goes, time is up  
Breakfast, now that will be ok  
Then I can start the rest of my day  
Avocado and salmon on toast  
That's the one I like the most  
I don't have it every day  
Have to keep the calories at bay  
Still in my jammies at half past nine  
But that doesn't matter  
Everything's fine  
And we have sunshine

- Lin Street

## Lunch Specials

\$22 & UNDER MENU

Monday - Friday 12pm - 4pm only

### Beef Nachos

Seasoned beef served on corn chips, with a side of sour cream, salsa & jalapenos  
\$22.00

### Beef Stirfry

Stir fry beef strips with asian vege, sweet chilli & soy sauce  
\$22.00

### Chicken Mushroom Macaroni

Grilled chicken and mushrooms tossed in a cream sauce, topped with shaved parmesan  
\$22.00

### Laksa Soup Dumplings

Prawn and ginger dumplings in a laksa soup with chicken  
\$22.00

### Beef Brisket Massaman

Pulled beef brisket massaman in a fried roti with coleslaw, topped with mint yoghurt & coriander  
\$22.00

### Three Cheese Arancini Balls

4 x Arancini balls served with romesco sauce & parmesan  
\$17.00

### Spring Rolls

4 x chicken spring rolls with sweet chilli dip  
\$16.00

## Mother's Day High Tea

CELEBRATE

Mother's Day

SUNDAY 10TH MAY

HIGH TEA

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LIVE MUSIC 2PM - 5PM

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- 梅布斯 Combination Fried Rice
- 汽联耀 Combination Spring Rolls
- 福一道 Lemon Chicken
- 汽亚中 Honey Soy Baby Back Ribs
- 梅布斯 Pork Bao Buns
- 汽联耀 Chicken & Prawn Stirfry
- 福一道 Chinese Style Fish & Chips
- 汽亚中 Salt & Pepper Prawns
- 梅布斯 Sautéed Broccolini
- 汽联耀 Bowl Jasmine Rice

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# Best of British on show



The Whangamatā community is in for a treat with an exciting new Whangamata Theatre production set to hit the stage on the 15th May. "The Best of British" promises an unforgettable night of entertainment, celebrating iconic music from the 1960s, '70s, '80s, and '90s and runs from the 15th May to 23rd May.

Audiences can look forward to a lively mix of classic hits, comedy skits, and special tribute performances, all designed to take you on a nostalgic trip down memory lane. Whether you're a fan of timeless British tunes or simply looking for a fun night out, this show delivers a true rip-roaring, sing-along experience.

Adding to the atmosphere, the event will feature cabaret-style seating, with nibbles provided on tables. Drinks will be available for purchase, and guests can even buy bottles of wine to share with friends, making it a perfect social evening.

Tickets are available now from Discover Whangamatā (previously the Information Centre) on Port Road, or if you wish to pay online email [teedfelton@gmail.com](mailto:teedfelton@gmail.com). Ticket are Adults \$30. Members \$25. Children \$20.

Be quick—previous shows sold out fast, and this one is expected to be just as popular!

- Denise Boston, Creator & Director

**The Best of BRITISH**  
At the Whangamata Memorial Hall  
Created & Directed by Denise Boston

7pm Fri May 15th  
2pm Sat May 16th  
2pm Sun May 17th  
7pm Wed May 20th  
7pm Thurs May 21st  
7pm Fri May 22nd  
2pm Sat May 23rd  
*Final Show*  
7pm Sat May 23rd

**Songs, Comedy and Skits**  
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or through Discover Whangamata

# Patrols end for the season

**As Easter marks the end of the Whangamatā Surf Life Saving Club's regular patrols, the club recently held its AGM and prizegiving event. An opportunity to recognise participants, volunteers, athletes, and paid staff.**

This year's award winners were celebrated for some great achievements, and the club will be well represented at this year's regional awards in July.

- Junior Surf Coach of the Year: Danielle Travers
- Junior Surf Contribution of the Year: Gareth Kretzer
- Rookie of the Year: Olivia MacDonald
- Overall Sportsperson of the Year: Madison Kidd
- Coaches Commitment of the Year: Ella-Rose Luke
- Senior Male Athlete of the Year: Finn Freemantle
- Senior Female Athlete of the Year: Izzy Milne
- Senior Sports Team of the Year: U17 Male Board Relay (Finn Freemantle, Will Robinson, Daniel Lewis)
- Most Improved Senior Athlete: Poppy Leyland
- Oceans Athlete of the Year: Brooke Schultz
- Oceans Sports Team of the Year: U14 Female Board Relay (Elieta Tukia, Charlotte Oswald, Megan Luke)
- Most Improved Oceans Athlete: Addi Malcom
- Volunteer Lifeguard of the Year: Danielle Travers
- U19 Volunteer Lifeguard of the Year: Zac Wilson
- SAR Contribution of the Year: Tracey Cameron
- Instructor of the Year: Charlie Toumadj
- Patrol Captain of the Year: Tai Rimmer
- Paid Lifeguard of the Year: Tai Rimmer
- Patrol Team of the Year: Echo Patrol (PC - Marcia Graafhuis & VPC - Danielle Ellery)
- WhangaFam Award: Tai Rimmer
- Monsta Cup: Daniel Lewis
- Volunteer of the Year: Andrew Hodgson

Prizegiving was bittersweet for some members, marking the end of an era for several long-standing

contributors in their committee and board roles. Outgoing President Gavin Scott likened his 9 #year tenure to the tides, with ebbs and flows, highlighting the outstanding calibre of young people coming through the club, the continued delivery of a high-quality service during COVID, and, of course, the completion of the refurbishment of the club's facilities.

For the first time in many years, several members were recognised with service awards. These awards are an opportunity to thank members for their volunteerism, commitment, hard work, and long-standing service to the club.

This season also marked the return of an IRB racing crew. Individuals and teams competed at regionals and at the national event in Gisborne, participating in events over three days, including assembly rescue, tube rescue, single rescue, mass rescue, and team races. Overall, the team had a great experience.

Most exciting is the announcement that the 2027 BP New Zealand IRB Championships will be held in Whangamatā from 2nd to 4th April 2027. With over 300 competitors, support crews, and officials expected from across the country, it promises to be a fantastic event with plenty of action and excitement for spectators.

With the end of Patrols, here are some things to consider:

How do I find the safest place to swim?  
Know before you go. For the latest beach updates and patrol times, download the Safe Swim app or visit [www.safeswim.org.nz](http://www.safeswim.org.nz).

What should you do if you see someone in trouble?  
Call 111 and ask for Police. Police have a direct line to surf lifeguards and others who can help.

Public Rescue Equipment and AED  
Located directly in front of the main club building (Hinemua) is public rescue equipment and an AED. Instructions for use of this lifesaving equipment are available on site.

- Dide Harrison, Club Manage,  
Whangamata Surf Life Saving Club

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# Local clash didn't disappoint

When neighbouring towns clash in a much anticipated local derby, for 80 minutes tribalism comes to the fore. Junior games played before the Senior A's wound up the expectations and once the match got under way the cheering, clapping and advertising hoarding slapping reached fever pitch.

Perhaps against the ratings, Whangamata played well and led at the end of the first half 17-16. According to coach Basil Lennan "We put it to them, and I felt the error rate was

keeping Waihi in the game."

The last half of the second half Waihi came to the fore with their number 10 having a blinder all day and only missing one shot at goal.

The final score of 39-17 wasn't a true reflection of how tight most of the game was and spectators from both towns are looking forward to the rematch in Whangamata.

- Story and photos by Mark James  
See Facebook for more photos



# Business awards return

**The 2026 Claymark Hauraki-Coromandel Business Awards are about recognising the people behind those businesses.**

In Hauraki-Coromandel business isn't one steady pace, it's a cycle. Long summer days where workloads are full and towns swell with tourists. Then the shift. Quieter streets, tighter margins, locals supporting locals. Then add in the unexpected supply challenges and severe weather events and it becomes clear that running a business here takes more than hard work.

The awards are backed by a strong group: Naming Sponsor, Claymark; Media Partner Coromandel's CFM; Platinum Sponsor, Craigs Investment Partners; Gold Sponsors: CooperAitken, Pearl Bird Limited (Mei's Dumpling) and Harkness Henry; Silver Sponsor: Gastronomics.

Thames-Coromandel Mayor Peter Revell says those businesses are central to the region's identity.

"We're proud to once again join with Hauraki District Council and our sponsors to celebrate the businesses that drive the heartbeat of Hauraki-Coromandel," he says. "These are the people helping shape a strong future for our communities."

Hauraki District Mayor Toby Adams also acknowledged the role of sponsors in making the event possible.

"These events simply wouldn't

happen without that support," he says. "It allows us to recognise the resilience and success of our local business community."

This year's awards will span a range of categories, from emerging businesses and digital innovation to sustainability, community contribution and people's choice. This reflects the different ways businesses adapt and contribute across the district.

In the lead-up to nominations opening, organisers are heading out across the peninsula and beyond, connecting directly with local businesses at a series of Business After 5 events.

Join us at your local event: Coromandel-Colville — April 29 at the Combined Clubs:

- Mercury Bay — May 12 (location to be confirmed)
- Paeroa — May 21 at The Refinery
- Whangamatā — June 9 (location to be confirmed)
- Thames — July 2 (location to be confirmed)
- Tairua - TBC

Entries and nominations officially open on June 1, giving local businesses the chance to enter, and locals the opportunity to back the businesses they rely on.

**The awards night will be held on October 15 at the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre, bringing together around 150 business leaders from across the region for an evening of celebration, connection and recognition.**

# Stars that keep shining

**Volunteers play a very important role in our community, they are the oil that keeps the big cogs turning and help make our town a better place to live. They are caring, kind and capable.**

**In each edition we will catch up with a volunteer and ask them a few questions.**

This edition we welcome Sandra Whitmore from the Beach Hop Organising Committee.

*Q. How long have you been a volunteer for Beach Hop Sandra?*

A. Since 2018, so 8 years.

*Q. How does Beach hop benefit our community?*

A. The organisation directly provides financial support to emergency services. Visitors enjoy all the hospitality on offer, accommodation etc. It attracts 80,000 to 100,000 people to the five day event.

*Q. What do you enjoy most about contributing to this event?*

A. I love seeing people have a great time, especially with the dancing, the pretty dresses, and the amazing cars. I really enjoy helping and being part of a like-minded group.

*Q. Have you had a particular experience that stands out for you?*

A. Yes, while dancing in the parade we encourage younger ones to join in and it's so satisfying to see the



smiles on their faces.

*Q. How has your role evolved since you first started?*

A. I started as a volunteer at the Beach Hop Central Shop, then commenced selling programmes on the street, and now I'm on the Organising Committee.

*Q. What would you say to someone who is thinking about becoming involved in the next Beach Hop?*

A. Yes please! Bring it on! We have already started planning for Beach Hop 2027 and welcome and need both young and old to participate.

**Thanks Sandra, you are a star.**

# Whangamata Harbour Birds: Australasian Bittern (Matuku)

This protected, Critically Endangered Species is present in very small numbers and seen only very occasionally in the freshwater wetlands adjoining the Whangamata Harbour and the Otahu Estuary. They also occur in small numbers on the nearby Wharekawa Harbour wetlands to the north of Whangamata. Because of their cryptic plumage, secretive nature and habitat of feeding mainly at night, their presence often goes undetected.

As well as being widely distributed throughout wetlands in New Zealand this bittern species occurs naturally in parts of southern Australia and New Caledonia. They favour freshwater and estuarine habitats surrounded by dense beds of raupo, tall rushes, reeds and rank grasses. Because of their secretive nature accurate estimates of populations are difficult to assess but there is sufficient data to suggest they are in danger of becoming extinct in the near future, unless greater conservation resources and efforts are extended. Fewer than 800 birds are thought to remain in New Zealand. Whangamarino wetland in the Waikato was thought to support 145 bittern in the 1980's but recent reports suggest less than 15 males breed at that site now. Similar levels of decline are reported in Australia with less than



1000 birds remaining and in New Caledonia currently having fewer than 50 birds. In NZ their decline has been largely attributed to the drainage and fragmentation of their wetland habitats, deteriorating water quality leading to reduced feeding opportunities and predation by introduced predators.

The bittern is a member of the heron family, a large stocky bird with a thick neck, longish yellow legs and variably patterned mottled brown and buff plumage. It is sometimes

mistaken for the more common harrier hawk. The males weigh around 1.5kg and the much smaller female 1kg. When flushed they rise in a laboured flight powered by their broad rounded wings. Once obtaining sufficient height and speed they fly with a slow steady wing beat, head withdrawn and legs trailing well behind their tail feathers. Bitterns' food hunting strategy is to either remain motionless and wait at favoured feeding spots for their prey to come to them or by slowly stalking the shallow wetland fringes until close enough to take their prey quietly without having to take rapid lunges as do so many other wading bird species. Their diet consists mainly of eels and small fish, but also spiders, insects, snails, worms, crabs, frogs and lizards.

Because of their secretiveness their sensitivity to disturbance, nocturnal habits and the dense nature of their habitats, bitterns breeding, feeding and socialising habits are not well understood. Very few bittern nests have been found and studied. The nest is usually constructed of reeds and tall grasses in a platform, well hidden amongst the available dense wetland vegetation and close to areas of open water including freshwater lakes, ponds, streams and drainage ditches. Between 3-5 eggs are laid and incubated for about 25 days before hatching. The nestlings remain in the nest for about 7 weeks

The female bittern undertakes all the incubating, brooding, caring and feeding duties during which time they and their chicks are extremely vulnerable to flooding events and to introduced predators (wild cats, mustelids, rats and hedgehogs). Renesting is unlikely to occur in such circumstances due to the weakened condition of the female following her first attempt.

Because of their secretive and solitary nature, their preference for living and feeding amongst or close to dense areas of tall wetland vegetation and their extremely low numbers, very few people will ever have the opportunity of seeing one of these birds. When disturbed they often slink away unseen into the nearby cover or simply 'freeze' with their neck, head and bill stretched upwards, using their suitably camouflaged plumage to blend in perfectly with the wetland vegetation. Some people may be lucky enough to hear a male bird making its territorial 'booming' calls during their breeding season (August to December). The most likely areas to hear this in the Whangamata area are the wetlands at the southern end of the Moanuanuanu Estuary and wetlands adjacent to the Waiharakeke Stream in the upper Otahu Estuary.

- John Adams, Whangamata Harbour Care. Photo: Imogen Warren

# ANZAC DAY 2026

In this crazy war-riddled world where tyrants falsely believe that overwhelming economic power and destructive military might, will bring peace to the world... we ordinary folks know in our deepest core that this is profoundly wrong.

We know from the long history of civilizations that such power and might ultimately fails.

We know deep down; that practical assistance, sensitive listening, profound reconciliation, quality conversations and critical education, are the only abiding qualities that bring about lasting peace. A peace that begins within each life and radiates out to the world.

Pope Leo XIV recently observed.

"Billions are spent on killing and destruction, yet resources needed for healing, restoration and education are nowhere to be found. Woe to those fanatics (of all ilk), who manipulate religion for their own military, economic and political gain; dragging that which is sacred into darkness"

For Jesus taught... "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Let us pray... Eternal God, as we gaze at the rising sun, give to each of us a renewed commitment to be



Photos by Ann Costar



agents of peace in this shattered world.

As the rising sun bids us to begin again... deepen our profound thanks for all those who, have and still are, giving their all that we might live in

peace... May their vision grow not old.

**Lest we forget. Amen.**

- Wg Cdr (retired) Rev'd Ross Falconer  
Former Principal Chaplain RNZAF  
Padre Whangamata RSA



Photos by Mark James



# Waihi NEWS

## Winter sports – when the tough get going!

Photos by Mark James



Whangamatā Year 7 & 8's travelled to Waihi for a hard fought game with plenty of flair and tough rugby on show. Both teams scored some great tries keeping the good sized crowd highly entertained. The combined Whangamata Waihi 1st XV took on Hauraki North in a thriller of a game. Great skills were on offer, and with such depth of talent in our junior teams it bodes well for the future of rugby in the region.



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# Waihi NEWS

## Waihi Sports & Cycles – a family business

Illouska & Bryan Callaghan, together with Dad, John Callaghan have made an enormous move into the former Dillimores premises on Seddon Street. Fantastic to see retail expansion in Waihi, especially with recent weather events and a cold winter ahead.

Even while still unpacking endless stock, the business looks absolutely shelf - ready, the family, bred and born in Waihi bought the business 5 years ago. Bryan formerly a builder and Illouska a teacher and mum to their three children.

Customers will continue to enjoy a huge range of bikes, fishing and all sport supplies. New stock is coming and Bryan told us, when asked about the key to their retail success, "word of mouth, top service, building relationships and quality assured, and open six days per week."

Dad, JC still comes to work daily, for the love of it, after retiring 3 years ago, he is hands- on, complete with his cheek and great wit.

I asked Bryan, what would be his biggest sellers, "probably e- bikes, for the retirement sector, step through e-bikes, known as a comfort bike, not full on mountain bikes, they give the rider a cruise, they also like the high- vis jackets", and we all like to see them on our roads, clearly right.

**Congratulations on the move to the Callaghan family, open 6 days, Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm and Saturday 8.30am to 1pm.**

- Jennie Black, photos by Mark James



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## Waihi Police Report

Winter is just around the corner, which means colder mornings, darker evenings, and that one jacket everyone pretends is still waterproof. Along with staying warm, it's a good time to look out for ourselves, our neighbours, and our communities.

### Mental Health: Check on Your Mates (and Yourself)

Short days and long nights can mess with our moods. If you're feeling flat, stressed, or a bit "meh," that's pretty normal—but you don't have to tough it out alone.

- Have a yarn with someone you trust
- Stick to a simple routine when you can
- Need extra support? Call or text 1737 anytime, or Lifeline on 0800 543 354
- Immediate danger? Call 111

If someone else seems a bit off, asking "You all good?" might matter more than you realise.

### Staying Warm (Because Being Cold Is Overrated)

- Cold houses aren't just uncomfortable—they're unhealthy.
- Heat the rooms you actually use (no need to warm the spare room for ghosts)
- Layer up—even indoors
- Check on neighbours, especially older folks or those living alone



### Duck Shooting Season

Duck shooting season is here, and while the ducks aren't amused, safety is no joke. Please follow the cardinal rules of firearm safety:

- Treat every firearm as loaded
- Finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot
- Always point the muzzle in a safe direction (the sky is not a target)
- Be sure of your target and what's beyond it

Store firearms securely and transport them responsibly. Doing the right thing keeps everyone safe and keeps the season running smoothly.

### See Something Dodgy?

Darker evenings mean it's worth keeping an extra eye out. If something feels off, trust that feeling.

- Urgent or unsafe? Call 111
- Non-urgent concerns? Report via 105

Winter's easier when we look out for each other. Stay warm, stay safe, check in on your people—and don't forget where you put that beanie.

– Rachel Gillingham, Community Constable, Waihi / Waikato East

## New roof fundraising



Rob Wood (the oldest resident at 102!) opening the new kitchen in April.

Waihi is fortunate to have its own rest home and respite care facility. Established in 1977 by the community for the community, Hetherington House operates as a not-for-profit charitable trust, providing both hospital- rest home and secure dementia-level care.

Manager Michelle Wilson explains, "Our mission is to provide a warm, respectful, home-like environment where residents' dignity, independence, and well-being are upheld. We are proud to serve primarily local residents and their families, enabling older people and those with disabilities to remain close to home and connected to their community."

Like many long-standing facilities, Hetherington House is now facing the challenges that come with an ageing building. The relatively new Board is working closely with staff to modernise and upgrade the site to ensure it continues to meet the community's needs.

Board Chair Allan Sole says, "We've recently completed a new, fit-for-purpose kitchen after it became clear the old one had significant issues and needed replacing. We've also been fundraising extensively to address problems with our roof, and are about to begin replacing the C Wing roof, thanks to a generous grant from Lion Foundation and an anonymous local donor."

The Board has also secured funding from OceanaGold Waihi for a new air-conditioning unit in the Dementia Wing, along with support from a wide range of local organisations. "We are incredibly grateful for the backing we've received from The Valder Ohinemuri Trust, Lions Club of Waihi, Waihi Beach RSA, Barrons Pharmacy, Paper Plus Waihi, Mitre

10, and most recently, Western Bay Op Shop, which contributed towards items for our Dementia Care Wing. It's heartening to see our community rally behind this important facility," says Allan.

Despite this strong support, further funding is urgently needed to replace the roofs on D and E Wings. Staff and Board members are continuing to pursue external funding opportunities while also organising local fundraising initiatives.

A highlight of these efforts is the upcoming auction of a painting by Rae Waterhouse, generously donated by a local supporter and valued at \$4,500. "We plan to list it on Trade Me and hope it will make a meaningful contribution towards our roofing project," says Michelle. "We'll also be hosting community events such as Quiz Nights and Housie to help raise additional funds, and we have had many generous local businesses and families come forward to sponsor a room, which has been greatly appreciated."

Hetherington House provides a wide range of essential services, including:

- Hospital-level care, respite care, GP inpatient services, support for people under 65 with long-term disabilities or chronic illness, and palliative care
- A 51-bed Rest Home, Day Stay programme
- Specialist Dementia Care Units supported by trained staff and Diversional Therapists

**If you would like to sponsor a room or donate to the Hetherington House new roof fund, you can contact Manager Michelle Wilson at [manager@hetheringtonhouse.co.nz](mailto:manager@hetheringtonhouse.co.nz).**

## Man, 40, to face court after Waihi firearms incident

**A 40-year-old man is due to appear in the Hamilton District Court tomorrow following a firearms incident in Waihi on Saturday May 4th.**

Police were called to a Rosemont Road property at around 8.55pm on Saturday after a report that a person had been threatened with an alleged firearm. Initial enquiries indicated the firearm had been discharged about an hour earlier, at around 8pm.

Officers established a cordon around the area on arrival. During the cordon, the alleged offender discharged a firearm towards a vehicle inside the cordoned zone. Police have since spoken with the vehicle's occupant, and no injuries have been reported.

Attending staff were armed as a precaution, and the Armed Offenders Squad was deployed to the scene. The Police Negotiation Team engaged with the man, who was taken into custody at approximately 12.10am.

All cordons have since been lifted and Rosemont Road has reopened. Police have advised that residents may notice an increased Police presence in the area while enquiries continue.

Waikato District Commander Superintendent Scott Gemmell commended attending staff for their handling of the situation, noting they had negotiated a tricky situation to achieve a peaceful resolution. He acknowledged the distress such incidents can cause within the community and thanked residents for their cooperation while the incident unfolded.

The man is scheduled to appear in the Hamilton District Court on Monday 4 May. He faces charges of unlawful possession of a prohibited firearm, unlawful possession of a firearm, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of a cannabis plant.

– Supplied: CFM Fb



The new kitchen.

# Waihi NEWS

## Ladies reconnect with fibre & friendships



Spinners, knitters and weavers united from around the Coromandel, from Whitianga, Whangamatā, Thames & Waihi held their annual catch - up and prizes in Waihi last weekend. All the ladies enjoyed a mix of ideas and mingled with the like minded and so very talented.

- Mark James



## Tamahau wins again



On 10-12 April, 250 disabled youth athletes across Aotearoa competed in the Halberg games. Youth 21 and under compete in swimming, track and field, a triathlon and a variety of different sporting and outdoor activities.

Tamahau attended as apart of the Waikato Parafed team. He won all his track events, plus his team won the Senior relay and triathlon. Tamahau was also awarded most promising athlete for 2026.

"I was pretty shocked I won because their were a lot of talented athletes

there," he said.

On the same day, Tamahau also won Youth athlete of the year at the Achilles International New Zealand sports awards, for his outstanding performance in running.

This year alone Tamahau has won five gold medals at the Waikato BOP athletics championships, five gold medals at the Colgate games North Island championships and beaten three New Zealand under 17 athletics track records. Unfortunately, he can't break any New Zealand records until he turns 13.

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# Pepe Stream Bridge night works start next week

Drivers travelling through Tairua on State Highway 25 need to plan ahead from next Tuesday, with night piling works starting at the Pepe Stream Bridge as part of a major replacement project.

NZTA's enabling works begin Monday 11 May, covering construction of a temporary pedestrian footbridge and relocation of services. The piling phase runs over two weeks: Tuesday 12 to Thursday 14 May, then Monday 18 to Thursday 21 May.

During those nights the bridge will be closed to traffic, opening on the hour for five minutes at 8pm, 9pm,

10pm, midnight, 2am and 4am. Allow up to 15 minutes either side of those times, as openings are task-dependent. Emergency vehicles have priority but may face a brief delay while machinery clears the bridge.

The bridge stays open on Fridays and throughout the weekend, so if you have flexibility, that's the time to travel.

Full construction gets under way from mid-July, with the bridge replacement expected to deliver a long-term improvement to one of the peninsula's key highway congestion points.



Keep up to date with road conditions and project updates through CFM and the CFM road page: [cfm.co.nz/roads](http://cfm.co.nz/roads)

## The final jump *Photos by Brett McKewan*



## Service appreciated



It only happens once every 25 years in Tairua... as two graduations happened recently. Tairua Fire Chief Chris New stands down and is succeeded by Rik Tawa who steps into the position. Congratulations to both Rick and Chris. Thank you to Tairua Volunteer Fire Brigade as you have got us covered and we so appreciate your service.

- Tairua Chit Chat, Facebook

# BAYLEYS

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## Secure this harbourfront landmark

Designed for effortless living and sophisticated entertaining, the home presents in superb condition. Expansive open-plan living flows seamlessly to covered outdoor patios at both front and rear. Whether dining alfresco beside the outdoor fire or relaxing in the louvred courtyard alongside the spa pool. Originally constructed in 1970's, the home has since undergone extensive modernisation by Brian Walker Builders and thoughtful innovation by Diana Blake Design. A beautifully appointed kitchen anchors the living zone, complemented by quality finishes, a feature fireplace, underfloor heating in the bathrooms and a consistent sense of understated luxury throughout. Four bedrooms with the primary suite being a true retreat, complete with a walk-in wardrobe, ensuite, and direct access to the front deck. Practicality is well considered, with an oversized double internal-access garage, plus a separate high-stud boat shed and workshop. Quite simply, this is the harbourfront property to own.

[bayleys.co.nz/2221588](https://bayleys.co.nz/2221588)

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**Auction (unless sold prior)** 11am, Thu 28 May 2026

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**View** by appointment

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[dale.sholson@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:dale.sholson@bayleys.co.nz)
**Gordon McGregor** 021 998 810

[gordon.mcgregor@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:gordon.mcgregor@bayleys.co.nz)
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**Whangamatā 210B Sylvia Road**

## Serious about selling

Moments from the beach, Surf Club and estuary, the lifestyle here speaks for itself. Inside, the home welcomes you with a one-of-a-kind, vibrant full-wall-length beach image in a light-filled open-plan living, dining, and kitchen area designed for ease and connection. Two spacious bedrooms provide comfortable accommodation, supported by a well-considered bathroom and the added convenience of a separate toilet. With plenty of parking, the carpeted internal-access garage enhances both security and practicality, while the fenced section offers a safe, private space for children and pets to enjoy. With its low-maintenance design, your time here is spent enjoying the lifestyle rather than maintaining it. Making this an ideal lock-and-leave option or permanent base by the sea.

**The motivation here is clear. The vendors have secured their next move and are committed to sell.**

[bayleys.co.nz/2221632](https://bayleys.co.nz/2221632)

2 1 1

**For Sale by Deadline Private Treaty (unless sold prior)**

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# Indoor Bowls tournament results



On 2 May, Whangamata Club Indoor Bowls Adjunct held their May Tournament with teams coming from Matamata, Tokoroa, Waihi, Manawaru, Huntly, Elstow and Manuwera.

Five games were played in good spirit and, my goodness, how close were these games!

Only 2 teams had 4 wins.

Winners were - from Whangamata - Paulene Rollo, Patrick Cairns, Bruce Rollo and Barbara Hoy who had 21 ends. Congratulations.

Runners up were - from Whangamatā - Tim and Peg Jones, Ann Costar and Denese Braithwaite 1 end behind with 20 ends - so close - well done.

6 teams had 3 wins.

3rd from Whangamatā were Alex Steel, Basil Johnstone, Stephen Hodgson and Marilyn Steel who had

22 ends. Well done.

4th equal with 20 ends from Whangamata were Brian Wyatt, Mark Davy, Phillipa Davy and Erin Wyatt - well done. And from Matamata Shane Patchett, Phil Curd, Phillip Daisley and Sandra Curd.

Tom Hart's team from Huntly 19 ends. Kevin Boothby's team from Waihi and Whangamata had 19 ends. Clarrie Head's team from Tokoroa 19 ends.

Our best local team who had not won a prize were Ellen McSkimming, Jim Foley, Brian Key and Janet Foley with a voucher each from LuvCoffee - thank you Sam.

Our thanks to Twentymans Funeral Services for sponsoring our tournament we are very grateful.

Our thanks also to Challenge for \$50 voucher for petrol. The winner was delighted.

## Club results

### MAHJONG

1 May: We held our Whangamata Club Mahjong Adjunct AGM which was attended by 65 adjunct members. We help our mahjong session after the meeting and also enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea.

We had 67 players today including 4 of our Monday players.

Congratulations to today's winners:

1st Philippa Dennison, 52 points  
2nd Robyne Curd, 41 points  
3rd Donna Lowrie, 39 points

Today's lucky number was 14 which was struck by 3 players so we had a draw and the lucky winner was Jennie Walters.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Whangamata Arts Collective ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



To be held Monday 18th May 2026 @ 5.30pm  
Whangamata Club - Upstairs venue

All members & interested parties welcome

For more information please contact [artscollectivewhanga@gmail.com](mailto:artscollectivewhanga@gmail.com)

## Reserve Spraying

Residents are advised that Whangamata Harbour Care will be undertaking spraying on the reserves at Hetherington Rd and Tukere Drive in Whangamata over the next 12 months. The spray used will be glyphosate and the purpose is to contain weeds to protect recent plantings of native species.



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## Whangamatā Tides 2026

MAY 2026										
☾ New Moon: 17 <sup>th</sup> ● Full Moon: 2 <sup>nd</sup>										
Date	High tide	Height (m)	High tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Sun rise	Sun set
	AM		PM		AM		PM			
7 Thu	10:40	1.7	23:13	1.8	4:36	0.6	16:45	0.5	07:00	17:23
8 Fri	11:23	1.7		1.8	5:18	0.6	17:27	0.5	07:01	17:22
9 Sat	11:57	1.8	12:08	1.7	6:03	0.6	18:12	0.6	07:02	17:21
10 Sun	0:43	1.8	12:57	1.7	6:50	0.6	19:01	0.6	07:03	17:20
11 Mon	1:32	1.7	13:49	1.7	7:40	0.6	19:54	0.6	07:04	17:20
12 Tue	2:22	1.8	14:44	1.7	8:31	0.6	20:49	0.6	07:04	17:19
13 Wed	3:13	1.8	15:41	1.7	9:25	0.5	21:46	0.5	07:05	17:18
14 Thu	4:06	1.8	16:39	1.8	10:19	0.4	22:42	0.5	07:06	17:17
15 Fri	4:59	1.9	17:35	1.9	11:14	0.4	23:39	0.4	07:07	17:16
16 Sat	5:54	1.9	18:31	2.0		0.4	12:08	0.3	07:08	17:15
17 Sun	6:48	2.0	19:25	2.0	0:34	0.4	13:01	0.2	07:09	17:14
18 Mon	7:44	2.0	20:19	2.1	1:29	0.3	13:54	0.2	07:10	17:13
19 Tue	8:39	2.0	21:14	2.1	2:24	0.3	14:47	0.1	07:10	17:13
20 Wed	9:34	2.0	22:08	2.1	3:20	0.3	15:40	0.2	07:11	17:12
21 Thu	10:30	2.0	23:03	2.1	4:16	0.3	16:33	0.2	07:12	17:11
22 Fri	11:27	1.9			5:12	0.3	17:27	0.3	07:13	17:11
23 Sat	11:59	2.0	12:24	1.9	6:09	0.4	18:24	0.4	07:14	17:10
24 Sun	0:55	2.0	13:22	1.8	7:05	0.4	19:21	0.4	07:14	17:09
25 Mon	1:51	1.9	14:21	1.8	8:02	0.4	20:20	0.5	07:15	17:09
26 Tue	2:45	1.9	15:19	1.8	8:58	0.5	21:19	0.5	07:16	17:08
27 Wed	3:38	1.8	16:15	1.8	9:52	0.5	22:15	0.6	07:17	17:08
28 Thu	4:29	1.8	17:07	1.8	10:44	0.5	23:07	0.6	07:17	17:07
29 Fri	5:17	1.8	17:56	1.8	11:33	0.4		0.5	07:18	17:07

## Waihi Beach Tides 2026

MAY 2026										
☾ New Moon: 17 <sup>th</sup> ● Full Moon: 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup>										
Date	High tide	Height (m)	High tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Sun rise	Sun set
	AM		PM		AM		PM			
7 Thu	10:35	1.7	23:08	1.8	4:31	0.6	16:40	0.5	07:00	17:23
8 Fri	11:18	1.7		1.8	5:13	0.6	17:22	0.5	07:01	17:22
9 Sat	11:52	1.8	12:03	1.7	5:58	0.6	18:07	0.6	07:02	17:21
10 Sun	0:38	1.8	12:52	1.7	6:45	0.6	18:56	0.6	07:03	17:20
11 Mon	1:27	1.7	13:44	1.7	7:35	0.6	19:49	0.6	07:04	17:20
12 Tue	2:17	1.8	14:39	1.7	8:26	0.6	20:44	0.6	07:04	17:19
13 Wed	3:08	1.8	15:36	1.7	9:20	0.5	21:41	0.5	07:05	17:18
14 Thu	4:01	1.8	16:34	1.8	10:14	0.4	22:37	0.5	07:06	17:17
15 Fri	4:54	1.9	17:30	1.9	11:09	0.4	23:34	0.4	07:07	17:16
16 Sat	5:49	1.9	18:26	2.0		0.4	12:03	0.3	07:08	17:15
17 Sun	6:43	2.0	19:20	2.0	0:29	0.4	12:56	0.2	07:09	17:14
18 Mon	7:39	2.0	20:14	2.1	1:24	0.3	13:49	0.2	07:10	17:13
19 Tue	8:34	2.0	21:09	2.1	2:19	0.3	14:42	0.1	07:10	17:13
20 Wed	9:29	2.0	22:03	2.1	3:15	0.3	15:35	0.2	07:11	17:12
21 Thu	10:25	2.0	22:58	2.1	4:11	0.3	16:28	0.2	07:12	17:11
22 Fri	11:22	1.9		2.0	5:07	0.3	17:22	0.3	07:13	17:11
23 Sat	11:54	2.0	12:19	1.9	6:04	0.4	18:19	0.4	07:14	17:10
24 Sun	0:50	2.0	13:17	1.8	7:00	0.4	19:16	0.4	07:14	17:09
25 Mon	1:46	1.9	14:16	1.8	7:57	0.4	20:15	0.5	07:15	17:09
26 Tue	2:40	1.9	15:14	1.8	8:53	0.5	21:14	0.5	07:16	17:08
27 Wed	3:33	1.8	16:10	1.8	9:47	0.5	22:10	0.6	07:17	17:08
28 Thu	4:24	1.8	17:02	1.8	10:39	0.5	23:02	0.6	07:17	17:07
29 Fri	5:12	1.8	17:51	1.8	11:28	0.4		0.5	07:18	17:07

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We cover Coromandel, Thames, Waihi, Waihi Beach, Whitianga, Whangamata

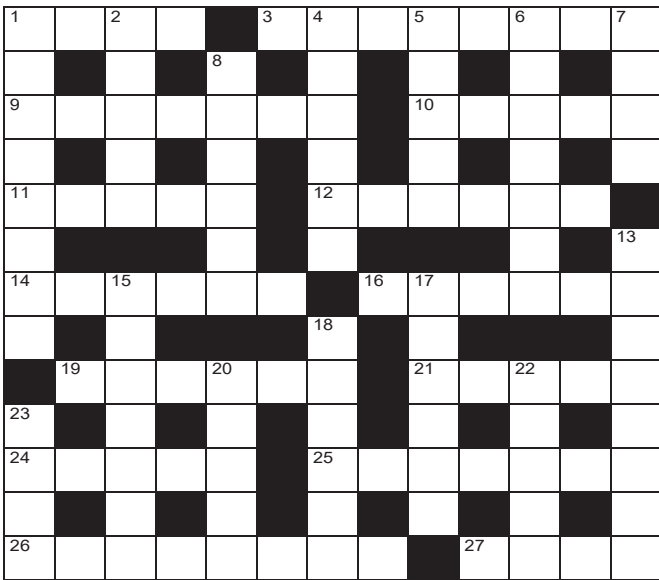
## GRAPHIC DESIGN

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Graphic designer for *Whangamatā & Waihi News* & the *Repco Beach Hop programme*

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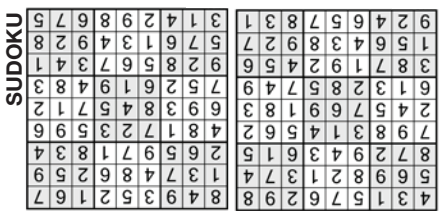
**QUICK CROSSWORD**



- Across**  
 1. Handle (4)  
 3. Situation (8)  
 9. Souvenir (7)  
 10. Swell out (5)  
 11. Move furtively (5)  
 12. Teeter (6)  
 14. Obey (6)  
 16. Delicate (6)  
 19. Slacken (6)  
 21. Conscious (5)  
 24. Yellow-green colour (5)  
 25. Courageous (7)  
 26. Military unit (8)  
 27. Remain (4)
- Down**  
 1. Missing familiar surroundings (8)  
 2. Renowned (5)  
 4. Particular (6)  
 5. Member of the aristocracy (5)  
 6. Dependent (7)  
 7. Concluded (4)  
 8. Reveal (6)  
 13. Lately (8)  
 15. Berth (7)  
 17. Operational (6)  
 18. Bumpy (6)  
 20. Vapour (5)  
 22. Separate (5)  
 23. Grim, sullen (4)

All puzzles © The Puzzle Company

**SOLUTIONS**



**DECODER**



**CRYPTIC**

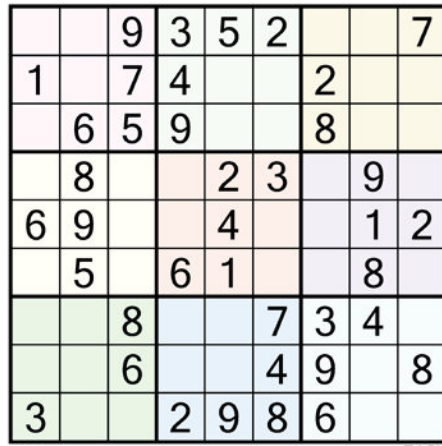
21. Run, 23. Ash.  
 15. Reactor, 16. Scales, 17. Adam, 19. Oasts,  
 6. Galle, 7. Spice, 10. Terrine, 12. Hot, 14. Bop,  
**Down:** 2. Unlatch, 3. Tin, 4. Pan, 5. Table,  
 24. Sunbathers.  
 18. Chopping board, 20. Lustre, 22. Batter,  
 11. Cottage cheese, 13. Rhubarb tart,  
**Across:** 1. Mustard pot, 8. Polony, 9. Anabel,

**CROSSWORD**

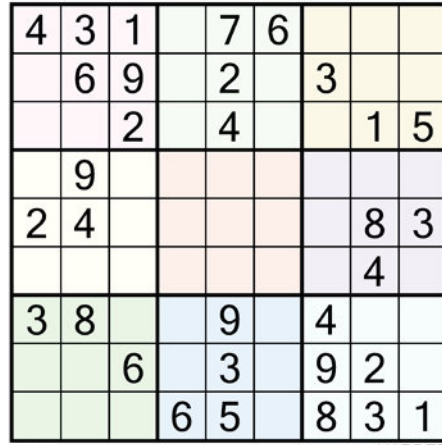
23. Dour.  
 20. Steam, 22. Apart,  
 18. Uneven,  
 17. Usable,  
 15. Mooring,  
 13. Recently,  
 7. Over, 8. Unveil,  
 5. Noble, 6. Reliant,  
 2. Famed, 4. Choosy,  
**Down:** 1. Homesick,  
 27. Stay,  
 26. Regiment,  
 25. Vallant,  
 21. Aware, 24. Olive,  
 19. Loosen,  
 16. Subtle,  
 14. Comply,  
 11. Side, 12. Seasaw,  
 9. Memento, 10. Bulge,  
 3. Scenario,  
**Across:** 1. Haft,

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

**SUDOKU**



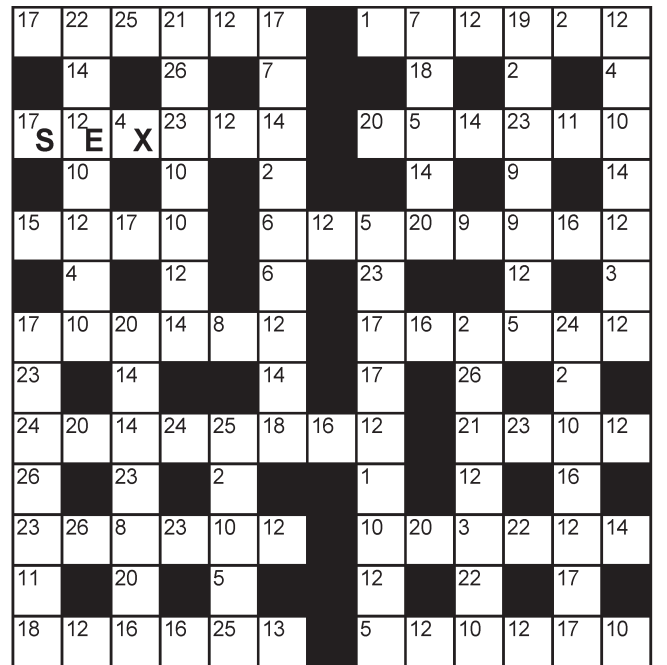
EASY



HARDER

**DECODER**

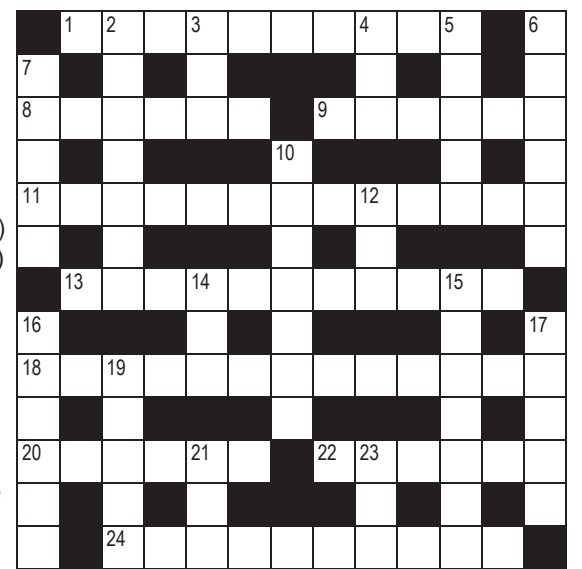
Each number below represents a different letter. Find the correct letter for each number by working out the word from the letters given. To keep track, cross the letters off on the grid below.



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													
			X																				E		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26													
			S																						

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**

- Across**  
 1. Found in the pantry to tap drums (7,3)  
 8. Redskin food made from New York game (9)  
 9. She might be Alan (6)  
 11. Curiously get coat and smile at the camera for dairy product (7,6)  
 13. This dessert is a statement of fact so bar Ruth & Bart (7,4)  
 18. The axemen's committee are in the kitchen? (8,5)  
 20. The surprising result of polishing (9)  
 22. Beat the fish? (9)  
 24. They burn the ass perhaps (10)
- Down**  
 2. To permit entry the organisation needs gold currency to get to church (7)  
 3. Janitor returns with the container... (3)  
 4. ...and the kidnapper comes back with the pot (3)  
 5. On the list to be laid (5)  
 6. Printers tray found in a kitchen... (6)  
 7. ...so the disciples slid out for flavouring (5)  
 10. Shows how she may not err in earthenware dish (7)  
 12. A popular temperature (3)  
 14. Dance that is a hit (3)  
 15. Creator of power generation (7)  
 16. Climbs an octave? (6)  
 17. Aaron initially brings dowelling back from Norway to decorate with (5)



19. Where they create the start of a dry beer? (5)  
 21. Manage cricket score (3)  
 23. Fashionable sort of tree (3)

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\$12 Pints  
 \$12 Pizzas  
 \$12 Wines  
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