

Whangamata & Waihi NEWS

ISSUE 149 - 5 SEPTEMBER, 2025



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Spring A fine place to bee

Photo by Mark James

Waihi Ambulance Station blessed P13



Sunflower seeds ready to plant P17



Dance Students excel P7



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Community's innovative scallop plan

Scallop season once opened on 1 September in Coromandel. Today, the date is a stark reminder of what has been lost. Decades of mismanagement, overallocation, and the destructive use of Victorian box dredges drove the Coromandel scallop fishery to collapse. It was only after sustained pressure from the local community, led by Ngāti Hei, that then Minister David Parker moved to close the fishery in 2022.

"While this intervention was the right thing to do, the outcome of closing the scallop fishery is that everyone loses - commercial operators, regional economies, local whānau, hapū, iwi and communities, and future generations of Kiwis, said Joe Davis from Ngāti Hei. Linda Bird, founder of the Whitianga Scallops Festival understands the economic impact firsthand.

"Every year, thousands of people from around the country would travel to Whitianga to get a taste of Coromandel scallops. Without scallops, we no longer have this festival. The festival generated \$1.3M in economic activity each year and without it local businesses have felt the squeeze."

The Plan

Now, a coalition of iwi, environmental groups, local associations, and industry experts has come together to promote a bold restorative management plan for the future of the Coromandel scallop fishery when (and only when) the scallop beds recover. This approach aims to:

1. Restore scallop populations; and
2. End dredging and transition to hand-gathering only.
3. Create new opportunities for sustainable aquaculture and regional economies.

Principles of the plan

Under this plan, the Government would invest in buying back scallop quota from current shareholders.

Editors note: Recommended viewing David Attenborough's 'Oceans' on the Disney channel



When (and only when) the fishery recovers, new commercial permits would be issued. These would be tied to sustainable selective harvest methods such as hand gathering using breathing apparatus would be issued.

"The benefits of this plan are clear, we prioritise the health of the scallop populations and adopt an agile system where catch limits can be adjusted quickly in response to environmental monitoring, ensuring that scallop stocks are rebuilt and maintained at abundant levels," explained Sam Woolford, LegaSea project Lead.

Benefits for people and the environment

The principles of the plan prioritise rebuilding a healthy marine environment and ensure the Coromandel community benefits directly from the harvest of scallops from local waters.

A Pathway Forward

The scallop restoration plan represents a rare consensus: iwi, local communities, environmental advocates, and regional businesses all agree that scallop dredging must end, and that abundance, not bulk harvesting, must be the measure of success.

"This is a golden opportunity to rebuild an iconic fishery on principles of sustainability, equity, and innovation. Together we can make scallops a symbol of what's possible for New Zealand's coastal fisheries," said Scott Macindoe, President of the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.

- Sam Woolford, Legasea Project Lead

HON SCOTT SIMPSON

MP for Coromandel



Upcoming School Board Elections

School Boards play a vital role in the governance and oversight of our schools and every three years parents get the opportunity to vote for those who have put themselves forward to become Board of Trustees.

These elections will be taking place across the Coromandel electorate over the next few weeks, as the 55 schools in our electorate look to fill these positions. I commend everyone who is standing for election; it's never easy putting yourself out there, but it's an essential part of the democratic process and helps to ensure that our schools are well-governed.

Board of Trustees are made up of parents or people with a stake in their local school who volunteer their time and energy for the betterment of the school community. It can be

thankless task, but our education system wouldn't be able to function without their efforts and commitment. The reward is knowing that they're making a positive impact on the next generation of New Zealanders.

As we draw closer to the election of new Boards of Trustees, I want to thank those trustees who are finishing their terms. I appreciate the service you have given to your school and the wider community. Our local schools are incredibly important, and they can only be as good as the leadership that comes from their school board, principal, and teaching staff.

Good luck to all the new and returning Board of Trustee candidates standing in the elections.

Authorised by Scott Simpson MP, 614 Pollen St, Thames

Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime

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To the **EDITOR**

We welcome your letters! Email to: whangamatanews@gmail.com

Ratepayer money wasted

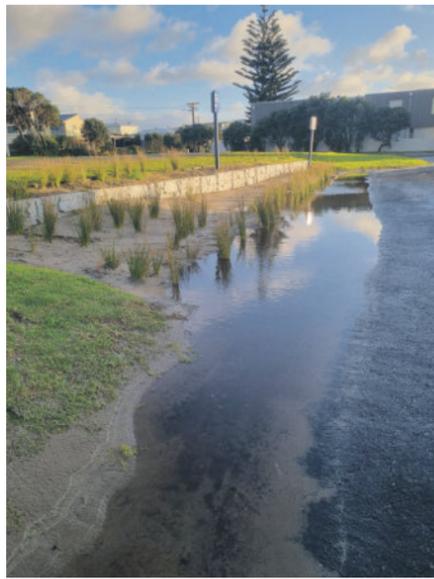
Something is very wrong at Island View.

After thousands of dollars consulting consultants, engineers and then getting the job done at Island View carpark, can someone please explain to the Ratepayers of this town why we have to put up with this kind of a job.

Firstly, the carpark above it isn't fit for purpose and is never used, another waste of money, now we have this so called drainage fix-it which has made the car park worse than what it ever was. The amount of water that lies here for days on end shows that whatever they did, doesn't work.

I have waited to see if something would be done to remedy this botched job but to no avail.

Again this is another one of those jobs that we see around town which is wasting our hard-earned money.



When is Council going to own up to some accountability and stop the wastage!

K. Baker
WHANGAMATĀ

We welcome your letters

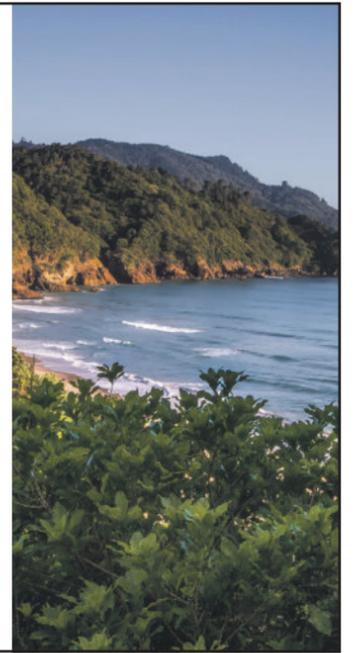
Your letters must be no longer than **250 words** and must be signed (no nom de plumes) and include where you live. *Whangamatā & Waihi News* reserves the right to edit, or to not print, submitted letters.

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New optometrist for Whangamata



Meet our new optometrist **Martin van der Most** who has just started in the past week or so, at the former premises of **Visique O'Hagan on Port Road, Whangamatā.**

Martin has previously been working in Thames for the past 7-8 years, and has extensive experience working with ophthalmologists, so he has quite the following, and is a local to Whangamatā.

So if our readers need assessments for all eye exams, Glaucoma,

Macular Degeneration, or contact lenses. Martin is your guy.

The new clinic, The Eye Place, in Whangamatā, will be open on Wednesdays and Fridays only at this stage. Hours have slightly extended – it is now from 8am to 5pm on both of these days. Martin will remain in Paeroa on Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 8am to 4:30pm.

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Knowing the signs of sepsis can save lives

The New Zealand Sepsis Trust is currently underway with a range of activities to mark global World Sepsis month in September, with its primary objective being to raise awareness of the signs and urgency of sepsis.

Sepsis is a life-threatening condition, killing approximately 11 million people worldwide each year including 4.2 million children. In Australia, sepsis kills more people each year than road traffic accidents. In the UK, five people die from sepsis every hour.

In New Zealand, it is estimated that over 15,000 people in the community will develop sepsis each year. All will require urgent treatment (most commonly, a broad spectrum antibiotic). Sadly, delays in recognition and diagnosis will result in one in five requiring intensive care admission, with amputations, significant organ damage and deaths most often resulting. "It's important that people know the signs of sepsis, and that they understand that it's a medical emergency requiring immediate treatment," says Sepsis NZ General Manager Michelle Crook.

If someone you know has an infection, or even the possibility of an infection - and they start to go downhill rapidly - then it's critical that you call 111 or go to the nearest urgent care or

emergency department and ask "could it be sepsis"? "By asking this question, everyone in the medical environment will immediately respond with the urgency that sepsis requires." No one is immune to developing sepsis and it remains a medical mystery as to why some people will develop sepsis and others won't, says Michelle. Essentially, it can happen to anyone who has an infection, whether bacterial, viral, fungal, or caused by other germs (pathogens).

Sepsis is also indiscriminate in terms of someone's age or state of health.

As an example, Michelle cites the story of a local farmer who went from being fit and healthy on a Thursday night, to being unwell on Friday, feeling like he'd been 'hit by a train' on Saturday, and finally being transported by ambulance to ICU on Sunday night. His stay in ICU was two months duration, his overall stay in hospital was four months, and during this time he lost his right leg and all of his fingertips and thumbs on his right hand. Despite sepsis happening across the board, some people are at higher risk of infection and sepsis including infants, neonates, and children under 15 years of age, adults over 60 years of age, pregnant or recently pregnant women, Māori or Pacifica peoples, those who have had a previous sepsis event, immunocompromised

people and those who have been recently discharged from hospital.

"The best thing that you can do right now is look at the signs of sepsis and make a note of them."

To mark World Sepsis month and raise awareness, the Sepsis Trust has a number of activities planned including a free medical webinar being delivered in conjunction with Health Hub, plus the release of new healthcare pathways it has developed with Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission over the past two years.

It is also the Trust's Annual Appeal month with a range of fundraising activities being promoted at www.stopsepsis.org.nz

There is no single sign and no single diagnostic test for sepsis. Urgent medical help is needed for anyone with an infection or suspected infection and developing any of these signs:

- Slurred speech or confusion, or difficult to wake
- Extreme shivering or muscle pain
- Passing no urine (pee/mimi) for a day
- Severe breathlessness or breathing very fast
- It feels like you are going to die
- Skin mottled, bluish, or pale or feels abnormally cold to touch (especially in children)



Sepsis Chair/GM and local Michelle Crook has committed to swimming every day in September for her Sepsis Superhero Challenge. You can sponsor her at www.stopsepsis.org.nz or join in and create your own superhero challenge.

- Michelle Crook, Sepsis NZ General Manager

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John Bertrand Collectables Are Buying in Whangamata on Saturday 13th September

Once again, the gold and collectables buyers from Wellington company John Bertrand Collectables are visiting Whangamata on Saturday 13th September. Mr Tony Grant from the company says, "If you are downsizing or wanting to dispose of things because they no longer serve any purpose to you or your family bring them in". "Next Saturday will be a great opportunity to have any items you want to sell assessed by our buyers" said Mr Grant. Particularly wanted are Gold and Silver (in any of its forms) and Collectables such as Coins, Banknotes, War Medals, Old Wind-up Watches and other interesting Small Collectables.

"We are keen buyers, especially of the items in the list below" said Mr Grant. "Nothing is too small for our consideration. We are just as happy buying 1 item as we are buying 1,000 items" he said. The buyers will be in Whangamata on Saturday 13th September. (see details below). As Tony Grant points out "If you are in doubt about any items you may wish to sell, bring them along for an instant appraisal."



Mr Anthony (Tony) W. Grant

Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand Incorporated
 Director and Buyer
 John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd
 Author of the John Bertrand NZ Coin & Banknote Catalogue

Gold & Silver At Near Record Prices

During these uncertain times we have seen a sharp increase in the price of precious metals. The gold price in New Zealand is at near record levels so gather up all your unwanted items and take them along to the buyers. Tony Grant says "We can buy old gold items in all forms, including Jewellery (Rings, Chains, Brooches etc), Coins (Sovereigns and the like), Alluvial (River Gold), virtually anything, even Gold Teeth! We also need all Sterling Silver including Cups, Tea Services, Cutlery and Old Coins" he said.



Interesting Small Collectables Wanted

The buyers from John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd, visiting Whangamata on Saturday 13th September are happy to look at any interesting items, for example vintage pocket and wristwatches such as Rolex, Men's Omega, Breitling and gold watches etc. Also wanted, pre 1950's picture postcards, Maori and Pacific artefacts, old fountain pens and other small antique or historical items.

"If you have something unusual which you would like to sell, please bring it into one of our venues, we would like the chance to at least have a look at it" said Tony Grant, buyer for the Company. "We will consider anything which may be of interest to a collector" he said.

Some Big Dollars in Early Banknotes

Early New Zealand Banknotes dated before 1932 are currently fetching big money! This is according to Mr Tony Grant, author of the *John Bertrand New Zealand Coin & Banknote Catalogue*. Mr Grant is in Whangamata on Saturday 13th September on a buying trip for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd and would be very keen to see any of these issues. "We will pay at least \$300 for any undamaged Ten Shilling or One Pound

banknote from a New Zealand trading bank dated 1932 or before.

Denominations of five pounds and higher would be worth from \$700. "Any banknote dated prior to 1900 would be worth at least \$1000" said Mr Grant.

Also purchased are any Reserve Bank of New Zealand pre-decimal issues, especially 50 Pound notes. All overseas banknotes are also wanted, especially early Pacific Island issues.

Collectors Need War Medals

Currently, throughout NZ and the world there is a big demand by collectors for war medals. These cover all wars right through from the New Zealand Land Wars and the Boer War, to the First and Second World Wars and the later Korea and Vietnam conflicts. New Zealand Servicemen and Women first served overseas in the Boer War in South Africa around 1900 and the war medals awarded for this service are needed by the buyers, as are any other Medals from early New Zealand and the New Zealand Wars.

General service medals from both the First and Second World Wars will also be purchased, but as can be imagined these were awarded in fairly large numbers. "If a group of medals has any special award for bravery such as the Military Medal, Military or Flying Cross or other medals for Distinguished Conduct or Meritorious Service, these can add great value to a group" stated Mr Tony Grant, buyer for John Bertrand (Collectables) Ltd. "Many families have old medals, some dating back to early Imperial days, that they are not sure what to do with. These are better off in the hands of collectors who will look after them. We will be happy to look at any war medals whatsoever, just bring them in to venues" he said.

Old Coins Can Toss Up a Rarity

Do you have a bunch of old coins sitting around in your drawers and cupboards? You just never know what rarities may be lurking there. The advice from Tony Grant from John Bertrand (Collectables) Limited is to "bring them in and let us have a look". "No need to sort anything out just bring them in 'as is' and please don't clean them! We can go through coin accumulations and collections fairly quickly" he said. The buyers are particularly keen to buy pre 1946 New Zealand Silver Coins for at least 20 times their face value (more for quantity). "In any event we will buy All Coins," said Mr Grant.

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OLD GOLD

- Unwanted Jewellery or Broken Rings
- Gold Chains
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- Dental Gold
- Gold Coins
- Gold Racing & Trophy Cups



COINS

- All Gold & Silver Coins
- Gold Sovereigns
- Gold Half Sovereigns
- NZ Silver Coins 1946 & Before (at least 20 times face value)
- Also wanted NZ & World Coins after 1946
- Australian Silver Coins to 1963
- English Silver Coins to 1946
- NZ 1935 "Waitangi Crown"
- USA Coins up to 1964
- Old Collections & Accumulations of World Coins
- Modern Collector's Coins & Sets
- NZ Reserve Bank Sets
- *No Pennies or Halfpennies Please*



BANKNOTES

- NZ & Australian "Trading Bank" Notes pre 1932 (e.g. Bank of New South Wales, Bank of NZ etc)
- Reserve Bank of NZ Pre-Decimal Notes
- Any £20, £50 or £100 Notes
- Hong Kong & Malayan Banknotes
- Australian Pre Decimal Notes
- Australian "Star" Notes
- Early Fijian and Samoan Banknotes
- NZ Traders Promissary Notes (1840s)
- NZ Government Debentures
- NZ Banknotes overprinted for use in Fiji, Cook Islands etc
- Postal Notes
- All other World Banknotes



GOLD & SILVER

- Racing Cups
- A&P Show Cups
- Sports Cups
- Presentation Keys & Trowels
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- Sterling Silver Tea Sets
- Sterling Silver Cutlery
- Scrap Gold & Silver
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WRIST & POCKET WATCHES

- Gold & Silver Pocket Watches
- Any Rolex Watches
- Omega Gents Watches
- Any Breitling, Jaeger Le Coultre, Vacheron & Constantin, Patek Philippe, or IWC Watches
- Moon Phase Watches
- Chiming or Alarm Watches (Pocket or Wrist)
- Military Watches
- Divers Watches
- All other pre 1950s wind up watches (parts value only)
- *No Quartz or Battery Operated Watches Please*



TOKENS

- NZ & Australian "Tradesmen's" Tokens
- NZ Transportation Tokens
- Railway Passes
- Tram Tokens (not Dunedin Tramways)
- Presbyterian Church Communion Tokens
- Bread Tokens
- Theatre, Cafe, Discount Tokens etc
- Any other tokens relating to early New Zealand

COLLECTABLES

- Albums & Accumulations of Pre 1920s Postcards (used or unused)
- Old Fountain Pens
- Small Chinese & Japanese Antiques
- Maori & Pacific Artefacts



No item too small for our consideration

WAR MEDALS ETC

- The New Zealand Wars & Boer War Medals
- 1st World War Medals
- 2nd World War Medals, Stars etc
- Orders and Decorations
- Korea & Vietnam Medals
- Antarctic or other Polar Medals
- Fire Brigade Medals
- Lodge Medals
- Shooting Medals
- Military Badges and all other Military Medals
- Gold returning Fob Medals or "Tokens of Honour" from residents of small town New Zealand

HISTORICAL MEDALS

- A&P Show- Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals
- Commemorative Medals & Medalets
- Prize Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Sports Medals (Gold & Silver)
- Life Saving Medals
- Shipwreck Medals
- Coronation Medals
- etc, etc, etc



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Dance studio celebrates stand-out exam results

Whangamata Dance Studio students have wrapped up another successful exam season, completing assessments in Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop, and Contemporary after months of dedicated preparation from February through August.

This year saw a total of **184 exam entries**, with students achieving exceptional results across all genres. Notably, there were 6 Distinctions (marks of 95%-100%) and 14 Outstanding results (marks of 91%-100%), alongside a large number of Excellent, High Honours, Honours, Very Highly Commended, and Highly Commended awards.

Studio Director Amy Toroa says the results are a testament to the hard work and passion of both students and teachers. "Our dancers consistently impress us with their commitment, and it's wonderful to see their progress reflected in these results."

Adding to the celebrations, 9-year-old Molly McKillop was honoured with the prestigious NZAMD Examiner's Award for 2025. Presented to just one student per studio each year, the award recognises a dancer who truly stands out to the examiner for qualities such as enthusiasm, musicality, and performance.

Molly, who trains in Jazz, Tap, and Hip Hop, impressed her examiner with her passion and commitment, earning both a certificate and medal alongside her exam results. Her teachers and fellow students are incredibly proud of this achievement, which marks a wonderful milestone in her dance journey.

With exams now complete, the focus shifts to the end-of-year production, 10-XX, a vibrant celebration of music from the decade 2010-2020. The show will take the stage on Friday, 31 October, at 7pm, and Saturday, 1 November, at 1pm and 7pm, promising dynamic performances, creative choreography, and a showcase of the talent nurtured at Whangamata Dance Studio.

- Amy Toroa, Whangamata Dance Studio




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P. McNeill, 2025 (repeat customer)

"The guys were both really nice. They arrived on time and the move went perfectly. They were efficient and worked hard. It could not have been a better experience (and I have moved house almost 50 times over the years!)"
R. Preston, 2025

"The boys were marvellous. Couldn't fault them!"
T. and L. True, 2025

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Vibrant showcase to hit our stage



When I was just 14, I auditioned and was cast as a dancer in my very first musical, *The Music Man*. I was instantly hooked—and a lifelong love for performing was born. Now, decades later and in my early 50s, I've stepped into the roles of both creator and director for *A Spotlight on Broadway*, an exciting new production being brought to life by the Whangamata Theatre Society this September.

Over the past 14 weeks, our incredible cast of nearly 40 dedicated performers has been rehearsing tirelessly. Together, we've been preparing a vibrant showcase

of songs and dance, woven together with narration to celebrate the magic of Broadway from the late 1930s right through to 2010.

This show is more than just a musical revue—it's a tribute to the power of community, creativity, and the performing arts. It offers a unique opportunity for locals to showcase their talents, whether they're seasoned performers or stepping on stage for the very first time. It's especially inspiring to see our youth cast members gaining confidence, growing their skills, and finding joy in performance—just like I did all those years ago.



The Whangamata Theatre Society is proud to bring this project to the stage, and we can't wait to share the result of our hard work and passion with audiences this September. Whether you're a lover of classic musicals or simply enjoy

a good night out, *A Spotlight on Broadway* promises entertainment, nostalgia, and heart. We hope to see you there—under the lights, in the spotlight, and surrounded by the spirit of Broadway.

— Lisa Dorreen

Tickets for *A Spotlight on Broadway* are available now at the Whangamata Info Centre or by emailing Therese Dixon at teedfelton@gmail.com.

Whangamata Theatre Society Inc.
Presents
A Spotlight on Broadway

Whangamata Memorial Hall

Performances
Sat 13 Sept 7pm Sun 14 Sept 2pm
Tues 16 Sept 7pm Thurs 18 Sept 7pm
Fri 19 Sept 7pm Sat 20 Sept 7pm

Adults \$30
Children \$20 (school age)
Members \$25

Tickets on sale at Whangamata Info Centre
or email teedfelton@gmail.com

Sally Smith
**Whangamata
Community
Board Candidate**

I'm standing for the Community Board because I believe in getting things done.

My positive attitude and strong communication skills, combined with a proven track record of following through on commitments, make me an effective advocate for our community.

My work with Enterprise Whangamata has connected me with hard-working local business owners and dedicated volunteer groups throughout our town.

These relationships have deepened my understanding of what our community needs to thrive.

I want to help shape Whangamata's future - ensuring development is balanced and fair while protecting the special character that makes this place paradise.

I'll bring practical solutions and a collaborative approach to every decision.

**Vote for Sally Smith for the
Whangamata Community Board**
A fresh face, a fresh outlook and a fresh approach

Williamson Park won't go away

An Ombudsman investigation has been launched into the Thames-Coromandel District Council's (TCDC) handling of stormwater planning including Williamson Park, Whangamatā — exposing what could become one of the most serious breakdowns of transparency and governance seen in local government.

At the heart of the dispute is not just a stormwater system, but a question of accountability. Did TCDC knowingly ignore expert advice, sideline its community, withhold documents and misrepresent decisions about the town's most significant public space?

A Park Compromised

Williamson Park is Whangamatā's



crown jewel — the venue for surf carnivals, fairs, concerts, beach hop and everyday leisure. Gifted by the Williamson family for the enjoyment of future generations, it is more than land; it is a legacy of trust.

But that legacy is now in jeopardy. The park has long contained a stormwater pond — tolerated by residents as a temporary measure until a more robust town-wide solution could be developed.

Council was not without alternatives. Council accepted the Engineering consultant's dry detention basin as a practical, interim design that



could manage stormwater while preserving the park's use for events.

Stakeholders argued this struck a balance between technical feasibility and communities future needs. Any other proposal like reverting to the wetland design reduces park usability, poses safety concerns, will harbour toxic algae blooms and be a maintenance nightmare.

Council has delivered a \$750,000 wetland disguised as a treatment plant. This breaches regional stormwater policies, our Stormwater Discharge Consent and a slap in the face to the Williamson gift.

Councils decision-making process raises wider concerns. Council believes it has the right to spend millions of dollars on consultants and reports and withhold them, that is until the Ombudsman complaint was raised.

The Ombudsman Complaint

Frustration boiled over into a formal complaint to the Ombudsman (Case O27284) in July 2025. The allegations are wide-ranging and serious. The Ombudsman is being asked to consider how far TCDC breached its statutory obligations and deliberately withheld information. This is no minor parochial dispute. It is a test case for local government across New Zealand. If a council can ignore expert advice, sideline its community, and make binding decisions about gifted public land in secret, the question becomes: what protection do communities anywhere really have? No council has the right to take this from us.

- Whangamatā Ratepayers Association



Proposed temporary dry basin used all over the world with gentle slope retaining no water.

TERRY WALKER

Standing for Re-Election – Whangamatā Community Board

Proudly representing the communities of Whangamatā, Onemana & Ōpoutere

- ✔ **Why I'm Standing Again** - To continue delivering strong, experienced leadership that puts locals first and gets things done.
- 🏛️ **Proven Experience**
 - 3 years – Whangamatā Community Board
 - 9 years – TCDC Councillor (3 years as Deputy Mayor)
 - In-depth knowledge of Annual & Long-Term Plans
 - Financially skilled with a record of real results
- 🏗️ **Key Infrastructure Delivered**
 - 2014–2023: Nib Kerb Roading & Stormwater Project
 - 2018–2023: Potable Water Network Upgrades – 4 new stations
- 🔧 **Projects Still to Complete**
 - 2026 - ? Final Stage – Nib Kerb & Roading Upgrades
 - 2024–2030: Major Stormwater Network Improvements
 - 2026–2028: Recovery & Recycling Centre for the local area
- ❤️ **Backing Community Groups & Facilities**
 - Community Pool
 - Harbour Care & Beach Care
 - Short-Term Accommodation - Moana House
 - Spatial Plan & Town Beautification
 - Supporting Community Marae & Hub
- 🚲 **Onemana Priorities**
 - Cycleway from Onemana - Mountain Bike Park - Whangamatā
 - Freedom Camping Area defined
 - Safe footpath to the beach
 - Half-court basketball facility
- 🍷 **Ōpoutere Priorities**
 - Hall improvements
 - Continued support for the Arts & local Farmers Market
- 🗳️ **Vote TERRY WALKER**
 For experience, results, and a strong voice for our coastal communities.

Authorised by T. M. Walker, 27 Brenton Place Whangamatā 3691

PATRICK KERR

For Mayor

My commitment to you:

- 1. Back to Basics**
- 2. Fiscal Prudence**
- 3. Community Board Empowerment**
- 4. Real Transparency**
- 5. Economic Development**

YOUR DECISION:

CHANGE or more mediocracy?

Authorised by: Patrick Kerr patrickkerrformayor@outlook.com

Great learning trip for Hikuai students

Whangamatā News wanted to catch up with one of our favourite rural schools, to see what they have been up to. And they have been busy!

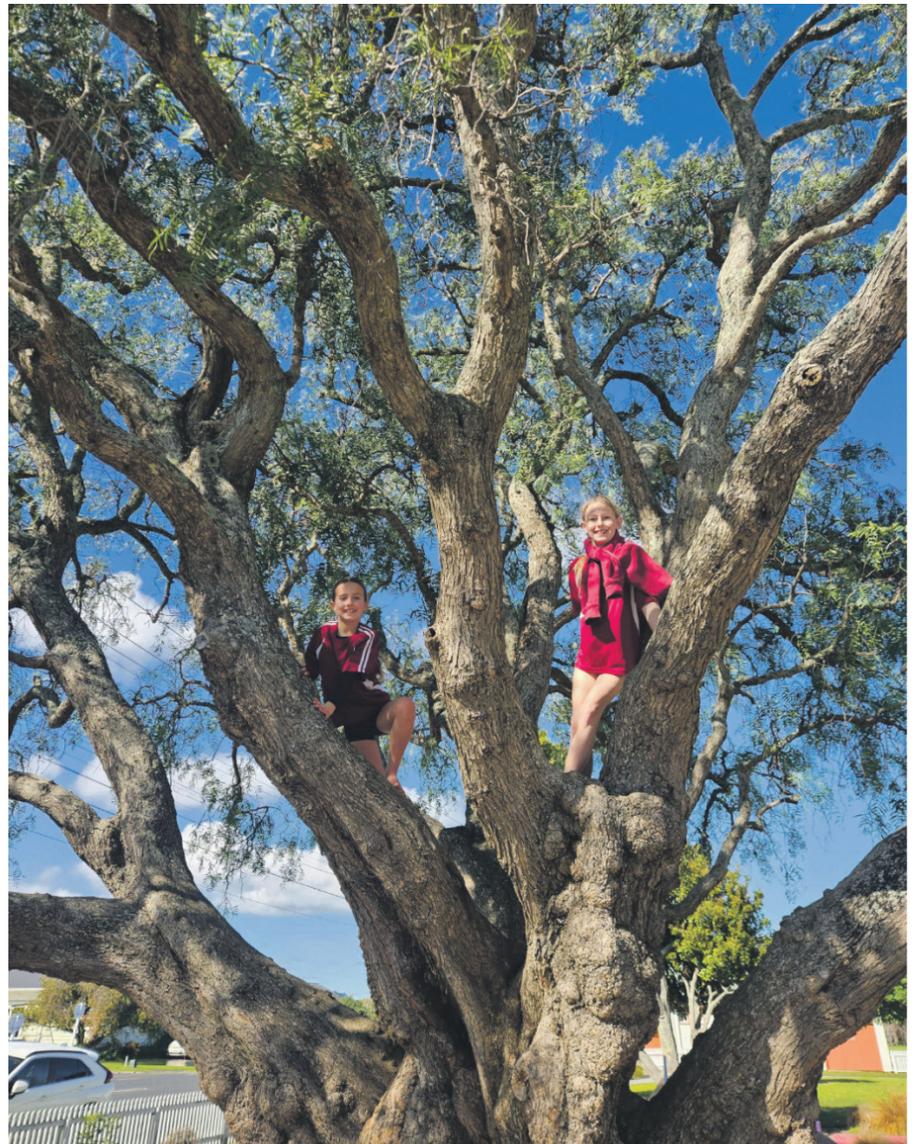
Cross Country Success: The school laced up their runners recently



and were ready to race! They were so pleased that our families could join in for the Hikuai School Cross Country at the beautiful McKenzie Farm. Their team took on a scenic and challenging course across a variety of terrains, cheered on by friends, whānau, and their school community. This was a great opportunity to celebrate perseverance, school spirit, and the thrill of the finish line. Thanks everyone for bringing your loudest cheers.

Students had a very educational trip to Thames. There was lots to see and learn at the museum and much spinning, climbing, scooting and everything else happening at the epic playground! Our tamariki had an awesome day of learning and exploring! Thank goodness they ordered sunshine!

- Principal Rachell Leitch



HEATHER WATT



A Fresh Voice for the Community

CANDIDATE FOR WHANGAMATĀ COMMUNITY BOARD

Heather brings over 30 years of experience in healthcare, education, and community development. Her career includes leading teams of up to 60 staff and managing regional programmes.

Known for her collaborative spirit, strong communication, and ability to navigate complex systems, Heather keeps people at the heart of decision-making. She is approachable, grounded, and unafraid to challenge the status quo when needed.

Her priorities for Whangamatā include:

- Strengthening local resilience
- Protecting our coastal environment
- Supporting youth development
- Ensuring everyone is heard, valued and included

“Whangamatā is a wonderful place to live, and it deserves thoughtful leadership and a strong community voice for the future. I would be honoured to serve on the Community Board and to work hard for everyone who calls this special place home.”

Authorised by Heather Watt, watt.heather2323@gmail.com

Vote Graeme Smith

for the Whangamatā Community Board

I am:

- Community focused
- Honest and Reliable
- A former business owner for 32 years
- A Whangamatā resident for 8 years

Proven local experience:

- 6 years on the Whangamatā Community Swimming Pool Committee
- 7 years with the Whangamatā Arts Collective Committee
- A Trustee of Creative Coromandel
- 4 years at the Whangamatā Information Centre
- Supporter of the Whangamatā Theatre Society
- The founding member of the Warriors Supporter’s Club
- Contributed to retaining the Lindsay Road land for community use

I will:

- Support initiatives that promote tourism
- Back essential community services
- Advocate for youth focused organisations and future opportunities
- Support initiatives for public transport links to and from our town
- Support art, culture and recreational initiatives
- Stand with and encourage our community volunteers
- Ensure local views are heard in decision-making

Trust me to work cooperatively and proactively for our community.

Authorised by Graeme Smith 0274 974 825



Council approves in-house water unit while exploring partnership

Today our Council approved a Water Services Delivery Plan for submission by the 3 September deadline for government approval, to meet legislative requirements. The plan details how Thames-Coromandel District Council will deliver future water services through an internal water services delivery unit while exploring a joint Water Services Organisation (WSO) with other councils.

On 24 June this year, our Council voted in favour of working with Tauranga City Council (TCC) and Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC) as partners for a joint WSO. An in-house water services unit was identified as the next viable option that Council considered at that meeting. In the short and medium term, an in-house water services unit is a viable option that meets the legislative requirements. Our debt is relatively low and our assets are in good condition. But over the longer term a joint WSO that includes a metropolitan area can deliver greater efficiencies of scale, particularly in procurement and securing skilled staff.

Our detailed analysis and financial modelling carried out over many



months identified a joint WSO as the best long-term option in terms of future affordability for local ratepayers. This modelling clearly demonstrates a saving of \$500 per annum per ratepayer by 2034 through progressing with a WSO with TCC and WBOPDC, whose ratepayers would also see savings.

Affordability was identified as the number one concern by a clear majority of submitters in our public consultation earlier this year. A joint WSO option was favoured by 51% of submitters and 46% said they preferred an internal water services unit.

In mid-August, TCC voted in favour of forming a WSO with WBOPDC and our Council, with TCDC's involvement subject to WBOPDC's approval. However, WBOPDC decided in favour of forming a WSO with Tauranga but not TCDC. Their decision reflects concerns about ongoing Treaty of Waitangi matters involving iwi and hapū local to each area.

Council's decision today reinforced our willingness to continue to work with TCC and WBOPDC on forming a joint WSO in the future. In support of this direction, Council resolved to request a Crown facilitator through the Minister for Local Government to help find a pathway to navigate the iwi/hapū matters that have been raised. If successful, then TCDC will look to join TCC and WBOPDC in the development of a joint WSO. If a suitable pathway cannot be identified through a Crown facilitator, TCDC's fallback position is to proceed with an in-house business unit approach.

If our Council decides to change to a multi-council WSO in the future, the Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) can be updated and re-submitted by 3 September 2026.

- TCDC News Release

ADVERTISEMENT

OPINION:

Local Democracy Is Broken – I'm Standing to Fix It

Denis Beaver – Candidate for Southeastern Ward Councillor



After three years as the Deputy Chair of the Whangamata Community Board, I can tell you—local democracy in this district is broken.

When I was elected, we were promised real power. Promised a voice for our communities. Instead, we've been reduced to rubber-stamping decisions that were already made behind closed doors. There's no real consultation, no genuine listening—and certainly no accountability.

Many councillors nod and say yes to things because they don't want to cause a stir. But leadership isn't about

being popular. It's about standing up, pushing back when needed, and making the hard calls. Because if we don't, who's really in charge?

The answer, sadly, is staff. Not elected representatives. And it shows—in the growing debt, the overcomplication of simple things, and the complete disconnect from what ratepayers actually want.

I'm standing for the Southeastern Ward because we only get two seats at the table. Those seats need to matter. We need strong voices who will say what others won't, who will

represent the people—not hide behind process.

I'm not here for a title or a top-up. I'm a businessman who understands how to get things done. If something's broken, I fix it. And right now, council is broken.

If you want polite politics and soft talk, I'm not your guy.

But if you want someone who listens, fights for what's right, and actually gets things done—then I ask for your vote.

Authorised by Denis Beaver, denis.beaver@outlook.com

New speed reviews underway in Waikato

Speed limit reviews in Coromandel Peninsula, Karangahake, Waihi, VSL outside Raungaiti and Ūkaipō marae and ISZ near Hamilton Airport.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON SPEEDS

Speed limits on some parts of various Waikato state highways are being reviewed and public consultation opens today, running through to 3 October, 2025.

Under the Setting of Speed Limits Rule 2024 (the Rule), NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) is proposing changes to speed limits on some sections of state highways. Speed management reviews must take into consideration safety, technical, cost benefit and other data, alongside community feedback, including through a formal public consultation, to determine speed limits are changed.

Changing speed limits is a legal process. The Rule allows NZTA to set speed limits for roads under its control where there is alignment with the intent and requirements of the Rule and there is strong community support and funding is available.

NZTA has received strong feedback from various communities that these sections of state highway would benefit from operating at a lower speed limit. The sections of state

highways now open for consultation are:

- SH25 Coromandel Peninsula in Kūaotunu, Wharekaho and between Thames and Tararu,
- SH2 in Waihi and Karangahake
- SH27 and SH29 for the introduction of 2 Variable Speed Limit (VSL) signs outside 2 marae
- SH21 / Raynes Road intersection for the introduction of Intersection Speed Zone (ISZ) near Hamilton Airport

More information, including maps and the consultation survey, can be found on NZTA website

SH25 Coromandel Peninsula

Concerns have been raised about speed limits on SH25 by the community over several years. The feedback has been that the posted speed limits are too high for the environment.

These are set out in more detail below.

School VSLs on SH25

We are getting very close to getting the Variable Speed Limits outside

schools implemented on SH25, bringing a variety of speeds down to 30km/h during drop off and pick up times. The schools involved are Tapu, Te Rerenga, Tairua, Whangamatā and Opoutere schools. It is expected that most of these VSLs will be in place in late August/early September 2025.

Karangahake towards Waikino

SH2 Karangahake - 2.83km - from about 1km east of Albert Street to about 1.7km past School Road (towards Waikino)

Current speed limit: 80km/h
Proposed speed limit: 60km/h

The state highway in this area has many corners, narrow sections, side roads, accesses and car park entrances. Tourist activity and parked vehicles reduce visibility and increase safety risks.

Karangahake School Board told NZTA they support a speed reduction, especially near School Road.

A petition from residents supported lowering the speed limit to 60km/h or less and requested safer crossings, turning bays, and double yellow lines.

SH2 Waihi

- SH2 from near the intersection SH2/Martin Road/Baber Street to

- near Orchard Road
- Current speed limit: 70km/h
- Proposed speed limit: 60km/h
- SH2 from near Orchard Road to near Dean Crescent
- Current speed limit: 100km/h
- Proposed speed limit: 60km/h
- 1.79km of SH2 in total proposed to change.

Waihi has grown significantly, including new housing, a retirement village, and play areas along SH2. Traffic has increased, especially at intersections with SH2. Dean Crescent sees heavy vehicle and high traffic volumes due to nearby businesses and the refuse station.

No speed review for SH25A Kōpū and Hikuai

We have had a few questions about SH25A between Kōpū and Hikuai. This state highway has had a 80km/h speed limit since February 2024.

There will be no change to the speed limit on SH25A between Kōpū and Hikuai, nor will it be included in any review. Under the 2024 Speed Rule, the route is categorised as windy and hilly and not appropriate for a higher speed, so the 80km/h limit will remain.

More information, including maps and the consultation survey, can be found on the website: nzta.govt.nz

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Authorised by Peter Revell, Kuaeranga Valley. revellp@gmail.com

Waihi NEWS

St John operations at the new station have begun

Waihi residents will now see ambulance crews and Community Health volunteers working out of the newly built Hato Hone ki Waihi (St John Waihi) ambulance station, following a blessing of the property. In the early hours of 23 August, Hato Hone St John employees, volunteers and local iwi me te whānau whānui came together at 21 Johnston Street to mark the operational opening of Waihi station – ahead of a community opening planned for November. The blessing included the gifting of the name Hato Hone ki Waihi by local iwi representatives. Known as Waihi today, the town's name was shortened over time from Waihihi. Given Hato Hone St John's long-standing history with the community, the name Hato Hone ki Waihihi maintains a connection between the past, present, and future.

The event formalities also included a blessing of three Mauri stones, which have been gifted the name Te Mauri o Waihihi. "In te ao Māori, blessing a new building clears the spiritual energy of the space, acknowledges the land and tipuna, and ensures safety and wellbeing to those who use it. It restores balance (tapu/noa), provides protection,



and connects people to welcome the whare into use," Cam Rota, Hato Hone St John National Māori Health & Equity Lead – Ambulance Services, explains.

The original Waihi ambulance station, which was built during the 1970s, was ageing and no longer fit-for-purpose. It was taken down at the end of 2023 to make way for a new "home away from home" for local ambulance crews. Waihi ambulance operations temporarily relocated to 32 Hazard Street during the vital rebuild. The new facility was supported by generous donations from the Waihi community and the general public across New Zealand.

Most recently, funds were raised during Hato Hone St John's 2024 and 2025 "Light the Way" Annual Appeal and a "111 Challenge" that

saw donors commit to an activity, such as cycling 111 kms or baking 111 cupcakes. Julia Te Huia, Hato Hone St John Group Operations Manager – Coromandel South, is incredibly grateful to have achieved their end goal. "The support that we have received throughout this project has been amazing and we are truly thankful. This includes the Gatland family, who provided our temporary station and went above and beyond to accommodate us, and the support, donations, and hours put in by our past and present area committees, volunteers, staff and managers over the past 15 to 20 years. "We now have sunlight beaming in with no bars on the windows and no more leaking during wet and windy weather. This building provides our hardworking crews with a comfortable place to

rest, recharge, and study – which all benefits our communities."

The new station will also be a space for the local Hato Hone St John Area Committee members and the volunteer-led Waka Ora Health Shuttle community service. Kris Purden, Hato Hone St John Waihi Area Committee Chairperson, says her team has been looking forward to moving in and collaborating in one unified space. "We are so pleased to see the new station completed after many years of fundraising.

It has been a primary focus for us, and for the Area Committees before us. "Knowing how difficult shifts are at times for our front line teams, it is rewarding to see that they now have a safe, healthy, and modern base to return to. Our Area Committee works hard to support both ambulance personnel and community health volunteers in Waihi and will continue to do so."

Hato Hone ki Waihihi will host a community day on 1 November where its doors will be open to the public. This event will give donors, supporters, whānau, and the people of Waihi the opportunity to meet their local Hato Hone St John team and tour the station.

- Story and pic supplied

✓ VOTE

AMANDA RYAN

for Council



Working
for Waihi

Authorised by Amanda Ryan | amandaryan@farmside.co.nz

Re-Elect Toby Adams

FOR MAYOR OF HAURAKI



Working hard for our communities with experience, integrity, and a strong voice for Hauraki's future.

Your vote will keep Hauraki moving forward.

Authorised by Toby Adams
101 Normanby Road,
Paeroa

Waihi NEWS

Language exchange: Hola! Malo! Salut! Czesc! Kia Ora!

What a fantastic night of learning and interaction we had at The Waikino Hotel on 21 August.

For all our faithful readers, you need to call into the Waikino pub for a coldie at the crafty joint in the Karangahake Gorge.

It's a stone's throw from anywhere and the atmosphere is terrific.

We joined Publican/Owner Wayne Chowles and seven others for their first language exchange. It was fantastic, witty, funny and I can tell you it was not easy learning how others speak, even for the most simple of words. Wayne himself said from his country in Africa, where they have 11 different languages, with people from Mozambique, Angola, Botswana all coming up with different languages "we have an absolute melting pot of people who can not understand each other, not at all!"

A language was then made to suit all, known as Fanakalo, meaning 'it sounds like this', a mixture of English, Afrikaans, Zulu, Sutu, drawing in all groups. So the first thing you do, when you go to



school, is to learn this language "I kid you not, in just three days, I could walk out there and converse with anyone."

Many diverse nationalities arrived for the afternoon with Afrikaans, Indonesian, Japanese, Mexico, Chinese, Polish, Spanish and Honduras.

The group all played clever games, naming an object, say a 'chair', then each member saying 'chair' in their language but also had to recall all the others names for 'chair'.

To be honest, I was way out of my league and obviously the only person who couldn't speak two or more languages. Such nice people, and for the inaugural Language Exchange afternoon, I'm sure it will grow, get along and be a part of it!

Now meeting every third Thursday of the month. The next Language Exchange is 18 September at 4.30pm. This time the focus will be on the Spanish language.

- Jennie Black, Reporter
Photos by Mark James

Coming up at The Waikino Hotel

Saturday, 6 September: From 11am - Beard Appreciation Day

Sunday, 7 September: Father's Day

Friday, 19 September: Pirates of the Caribbean from 6pm WIN a \$100 bar tab for Best Dressed Pirate! Live music with Camila Lenhart, treasure hunting, dancing and rum drinking!

Saturday, 27 September: Singles Day from 4pm \$15 Entry Fee



Mining decision expected in December

A decision whether OceanaGold will be able to expand its mining operation through the Waihi North Project, is expected mid-December.

With the Fast Track application process now underway, the five person panel chaired by Sir William Young KC, has received submissions from invited parties and those directly affected by the

proposed operation.

The company wants to expand its existing gold and silver mining operation north, underground towards the Parakiwai Valley.

Submissions have been heard from Iwi, Coromandel Watchdog and the Waihi Community Forum.

- Coromandel FM Facebook post

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10 Mueller St, Waihi

Waihi NEWS

Library ready for learning

Waihi East School's library has been completely refurbished thanks to the Nieuwerkerke Charitable Trust.

There are 900 schools in NZ without functional libraries (according to a National Library Service survey in 2022) which is horrifying when you couple this with our appallingly low literacy levels.

Waihi East School had a very old collection of books in the corner of their hall and the Trust has refurbished another building on site, completing the makeover externally with a wrap-around mural, a garden and shade sail, purchased over 1,000 new books, new furniture and soft furnishings including a quiet zone area with a teepee and campfire.

The official opening of the library will take place on Tuesday September 16th from 12.30pm.

Whangamatā & Waihi News will be attending and next edition read the follow up on the day.

Here is a little background on the Trust founded by Eunice and Karel Nieuwerkerke, whose vision of enablement has given Waihi East School foster a joy of reading amongst pupils for many years to come.



The Nieuwerkerke Charitable Trust

Eunice Olive Nieuwerkerke (nee Stark-Brown) was born in Waihi and attended Primary School here. She trained as a teacher and in 1939 after teaching at several rural schools in NZ, she took a post in Samoa which was the start of her long involvement in primary education in the Pacific Islands. In 1950, she became a lecturer in infant teaching methods at Ardmore Teachers College. In 1951 Eunice was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to spend an exchange year teaching in Washington State, USA. After her return she was promoted to become Dean of Women at Ardmore College.

Although she had no children of her own, Eunice was a tireless advocate for women and families. She worked with organisations such as the Pan-Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA), Maori Women's Welfare League, Play Centres Association, Christian Education, Marriage Guidance Council and the National Council of Business and Professional Women. In 1975, she was awarded an OBE for her community contributions.

Karel Herman Paul (known as Charles) Nieuwerkerke was born in The Netherlands in 1914 and earned several degrees in Engineering, Science and Psychology. He spoke four languages fluently and read in another two. Whilst The Netherlands was under German occupation during WW2, Charles secretly assisted the allied forces in mapping a safe air-route over the north pole, significantly reducing plane losses due to shortcomings of radar technology at the time.

In 1951, Charles emigrated to New Zealand. He lectured in engineering and then joined Auckland City Council where he reviewed a wide range of council processes and introduced efficiencies which made considerable savings for ratepayers. These ranged from standardising the sizes of stationery

to streamlining rubbish collection routes! He also developed a new property numbering system which was subsequently adopted by many councils globally. Charles was also an inventor and a hoarder, renowned for his collections of books and papers which grew higher and higher in piles around his study. He formulated theories on rocket power and would test his hand-built rockets in the local park. He also created a decimal clock, colour music, a colour photocopier with 13 ink tanks, new systems for teaching mathematics and was an avid genealogist!

Charles passed away in 1996 and Eunice two years later. Upon their deaths, the Nieuwerkerke Charitable Trust was established and over the years the Trust has awarded grants to a number of organisations. Recently, the Trustees decided to consider more enduring projects, building on the shared passions of Eunice & Charles for reading and education. The Nieuwerkerke Trust is delighted to have funded the refurbishment and upgrade of this library and garden for Waihi East School. We hope it helps to foster a joy of reading amongst pupils for many years to come.

- Supplied by Waihi East School



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Waihi NEWS

Predators beware

Predator Free Waihi has been going for over 18 months, with more than 140 rat tunnel traps out in the community. Several trappers are recording their catches on the Trap NZ website which currently records 123 pests removed to date.

“The native birdlife in Waihi is increasing thanks to the growing number of residents participating in our Predator Free Waihi initiative,” says Amanda Ryan.

“Residents of Waihi have reported seeing kākā visiting backyard gardens, and korimako, tūi and kererū regular visitors to the area. Our objective is to expand the number of residents actively involved in trapping efforts to further enhance the local native wildlife population.”

For those without a trap, Predator Free Waihi offers them for purchase at a subsidised rate of \$10 each, made possible by a generous donation from Predator Free NZ which kickstarted the initial project.

Additionally, they operate a Predator Free Waihi Trap Library allowing residents to borrow

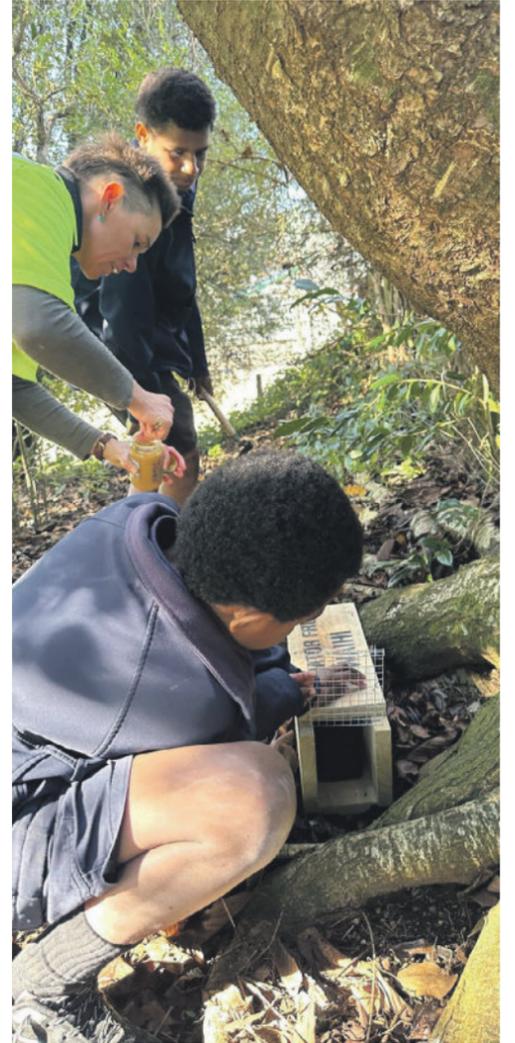
possum and stoat traps free of charge for up to three months. This initiative is run under the umbrella of H.E.L.P. (Habitat Enhancement & Landcare Partnership Waihi).

Support from the Hauraki District Council has enabled the establishment of traplines in local reserves, while OceanaGold has contributed to trapping initiatives along their walkways.

“A grant from Valder Trust, has enabled us to appoint an educator Rebecca Gribble who is collaborating with local schools to promote trapping awareness and assist in establishing

PFW tunnel rat traps in school grounds. Rebecca worked with Waihi College students last Thursday to set up ten traps and they have already reported catching eight rats!”

The project continues to expand, reflecting strong community interest and involvement. “We are always looking for more volunteers so please contact us if you would be interested in joining our trapping team.”



Contact Predator Free Waihi: Amanda Ryan 027 453 3425
 Email predatorfreewaihi@gmail.com
 Website waihinativeplants.nz/predator-free-waihi

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Waihi NEWS

Seeds of Excitement Planted at Waihi Kindy

The kiddies at Inspired Kindergarten Waihi have been busy with Daltons seed kits, carefully planting their Sunflower Skyscraper seeds and are already imagining that maybe, just maybe, their flowers may grow taller than the kindy roof!

It's all part of the Daltons 2025 Sunflowers in Kindergartens Project, which sprouted nationwide this week. Now in its ninth year, the project is about much more than growing flowers. It's about curiosity, patience, responsibility, and having plenty of fun with muddy hands along the way.

This year, more than 11,500 children from 238 kindergartens across New Zealand are joining the growing fun. Each centre receives giant sunflower seeds, resources, and activity ideas that tie in with Te Whāriki, the countries Early Childhood Curriculum.

Waihi Head Teacher Mandy Erasmus says the sunflower challenge always sparks animated conversation amongst the kids. "They've always enjoyed seeing their flowers grow in previous years competitions. Flowers can win based on either total plant height or width of the flower face. It creates loads of excitement, especially as the flowers



start blooming!" she says.

Inspired Kindy Waihi already has a bit of sunflower fame. In the 2017/2018 season, they grew a record-breaking 'Late Bloomer' which reached a really impressive 3.28 metres tall. And in 2021, just down the road, Whangamatā Kindergarten scooped the prize for the Widest Sunflower Head Award. All proof that our stretch of the coast from Waihi to Whangamatā, is

a prime spot for growing a garden with maximum yield.

Daltons General Manager Colin Parker says the project is designed to spark learning while keeping things joyful.

About the Sunflower project, says, "Gardening is more than just growing plants - it's about fostering a love of nature, learning patience, responsibility, collaboration and



other important life skills. The project is a fun, hands-on way for children to learn these values while growing something beautiful to enjoy together."

The project runs until December, when the tallest and widest blooms will be celebrated. Watch this space, another sunflower skyscraper could soon be sprouting in Waihi!

- Sam Roff, Waihi News Reporter

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Swamp Foxes on the board

Well me old mates, the mighty Swampies have broken their duck for the 2025 season, with a hard fought 24-20 win over our southern neighbours King Country. Trailing by one at the break, it looked like business as usual, as errors and some horrible skill executions kept the tough as teak visitors in the hunt for a win. By the final whistle though, the Swamp Foxes put a four tries to two win into the bag.

The boys did it tough though, and if, as it is said by those wiser than ole Tighthead Ted, that adversity builds character, then the Valley squad will have more characters than a Disney movie come the end of the season. The win, and retaining the Centurions Cup, will be a much needed tonic before the first of two weekends in the South Island - this week North Otago, followed by Buller.

Under the mountain of love though, the Valley had a fast start, Logan Mitchell dotting down in the opening five minutes after some strong work from the midfield pairing of Sam McCahon and Mayer. Shortly after, another probing run from veteran McCahon, who linked with Mitchell, who then with a spectacular offload, put the ever present halfback Finley Davenport in for a five pointer, and a 12-3 lead.

The Rams weren't to be outdone though, and the visitors monopolised the ball through the



Sam McCahon cut through with Logan Mitchell in support.



Sione Etoni crashes through a tackler.

final stages of the first spell, and put their fullback Cody Nordstrom in for a spectacular try. A forward dive worthy of the Olympics into the corner after a miracle offload from Josevata Malimoce but the Rams within sniffing distance of the lead. A late penalty in front of the posts, saw that sniff become a taste, and after 40 minutes, the visitors were up 13-12.

The second spell was an arm wrestle for the first twenty or so minutes, before the Valley broke the deadlock with a second try to halfback Davenport after a charge down and scramble for loose ball in the King Country in goal area. This put the Valley back into the lead, and a few minutes later, a try to the hard charging wing Sione Etoni pushed the lead out to 24-13 with ten minutes to go.

Again the Rams refused to lie down and die, and like the Black Knight of Monty Python and the Holy Grail fame (look him up kids, comedy gold), kept coming back for more. A late try was the only reward though, but it was enough to make the Valley supporters pucker a little, before the match was won with a late penalty being put into touch.

A much needed win for the home team, and if you needed reminding that any win over King Country is a good win, me old mate Ross Cooper's little victory dance told a tale in itself.

So points on the board, Miss Ford, the Valley finally have a tick in the win column for 2025, and have climbed to 6th on the ladder. Which Swamp Fox players caught the eye this week? For starters, the tireless props, Adam Coyle and Toby Taylor, a mountain of a man. Both props could be poster boys for the US Marine corps - mobile, agile, hostile, everything you want from your bookends. Not far behind this pair was captain Connor McVerry and the hard charging pint of guinness, number eight Aporosa Vuniyayaswa. While the set pieces are still works in progress, around the field the pack is tireless. Out the back, the midfield of McCahon and Mayer were a handful, as were wingers Mitchell and Etoni, while Davenport in the nine jersey was rewarded with two tries.

- Tighthead Ted, Whangamatā & Waihi News Sports Reporter
- Photos by Jason Bartley



Logan Mitchell gets a miracle pass away to Finley Davenport for first try of the match.



Prop Toby Taylor carts the ball forward.



Issac Seiuli added punch off the bench.



Prop Adam Coyle in full flight.

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We are proud to sponsor the Whangamata Half Marathon on 20 September. Our team is all set to hit the ground running, and we can't wait to be part of this amazing event. There's still time to register: whangamatahalfmarathon.co.nz

Whangamata Harbour Birds: The Fernbird (matata)

So far the articles for this series have described birds that are commonly seen on and around the harbour and nearby coastal habitats. Fernbirds do not fall into the 'commonly seen' category. They are a unique species in many ways, not the least being their secretive but sometimes inquisitive behaviours. Enigmatic is possibly the best way to describe them. They are more often heard than seen. Most sightings are usually very brief as having satisfied their curiosity as to what has disturbed them these birds quickly disappear back into their densely vegetated territories. Their very weak flying abilities and habit of feeding and nesting close to the ground exposes them to high levels of predation. Their survival so far, in view of these behaviours and physical limitations, continues to baffle scientists.

Fernbirds are small, sparrow-sized birds, with predominantly streaked brown feathering above and pale spotted breast and underparts - similar to the song thrush. They have a chestnut coloured head cap, a white stripe above the eyes, with their most prominent feature being their very long, brown tail feathers which have a distinctive tattered appearance. They spend a lot of their day fossicking for food items on or near the ground. These mainly consist of a wide variety of insects and other invertebrates,



and less commonly small seeds and berries. They are very territorial, with their calls often being the only thing revealing their presence. A wide variety of calls are used but the main one is a double call, best described as a 'uu-tick' sound, made by the male alone or in duet with its mate. If the call is recorded and played back, it will quickly result in the appearance of its very agitated territorial owners.

Fernbirds are an endemic species, closely related to the Australian spinifex bird. The five NZ subspecies are confined solely to the 3 main NZ islands and some of the smaller off-liners. The North Island subspecies conservation status is "At Risk/Declining". The preferred habitat for the North Island fernbird is low

densely vegetated areas often adjacent to bodies of water. They have disappeared from large areas in southern parts of the island and are now widely and patchily distributed in suitable coastal habitats north of a line drawn from Waikanae to Porangahau. Fernbirds are still locally common in dry shrubland near North Cape, present in tussock-covered frost flats up to 1000m altitude in Tongariro National Park and in dense blackberry and bracken fern patches adjacent to exotic forestry blocks on the Maungaharuru Range in Hawke's Bay. Historically they occupied widely diverse habitats over much larger areas. In recent years they have been introduced to Tiritiri-Matangi Island in the Hauraki

Gulf and Mana Island near Porirua.

Fernbirds have been sighted at a number of locations around the Whangamatā Harbour perimeters. Although they may occasionally be seen along the mangroves fringes, they do prefer to live, feed and nest in the more dense and diverse vegetation of the saltmarsh rushes, grasses, sedges and native shrubs. Their nest is a deep cup woven from grass, small twigs and feathers, suspended in dense vegetation, rarely more than 1-2 metres above ground or water level. They lay a clutch of 3-4 eggs which hatch after about 13 days incubation. The chicks fledge after being fed and brooded in the nest for around 16 days. Both parents share the caring duties. The relatively short incubation and brooding period maybe important factors contributing to the species survival so far as it significantly reduces the period they are most vulnerable to predation. Also, each pair may raise more than 1 brood each breeding season, which is another possible factor in their continued survival.

Whangamata Harbour Care's predator control programme around the harbour perimeters and contributing catchments will hopefully ensure this species continued presence here.

- John Adams,
Whangamata Harbour Care
Photo by Bevan Walker

BAYLEYS

NEW LISTING



Whangamatā 417 Otahu Road

Unwanted trade, get it sold please!

Vacant and ready for a new family right now, this amazing beach residence has just changed hands as part of a property transaction, the out-of-town owners have made it clear: **they have no intention of keeping this home. They want it sold!** Sitting proudly on a full freehold 670 square metre (more or less) site, this well presented bach balances charm with convenience. Packed with character yet well-presented, the home offers:

- A quaint, homely bach in good condition
- Outdoor entertainment areas front and back with all-weather protection.
- Off-street parking for the boat, campervan, or extra toys.
- A fully fenced section — perfect for kids and pets.
- Easy walking distance to the estuary and a short stroll to the beach
- A short walking distance to the Whangamata Beach Store and Takeaways; plus
- Chattels include a near new, trailered tiny home and a removable cabin.

Whether you are looking for a lock-and-leave, a holiday base for all the family, or a site to secure your future in this sought-after town, this property ticks all the boxes. The message is simple: **this bach is excess to requirements, we need it sold!**

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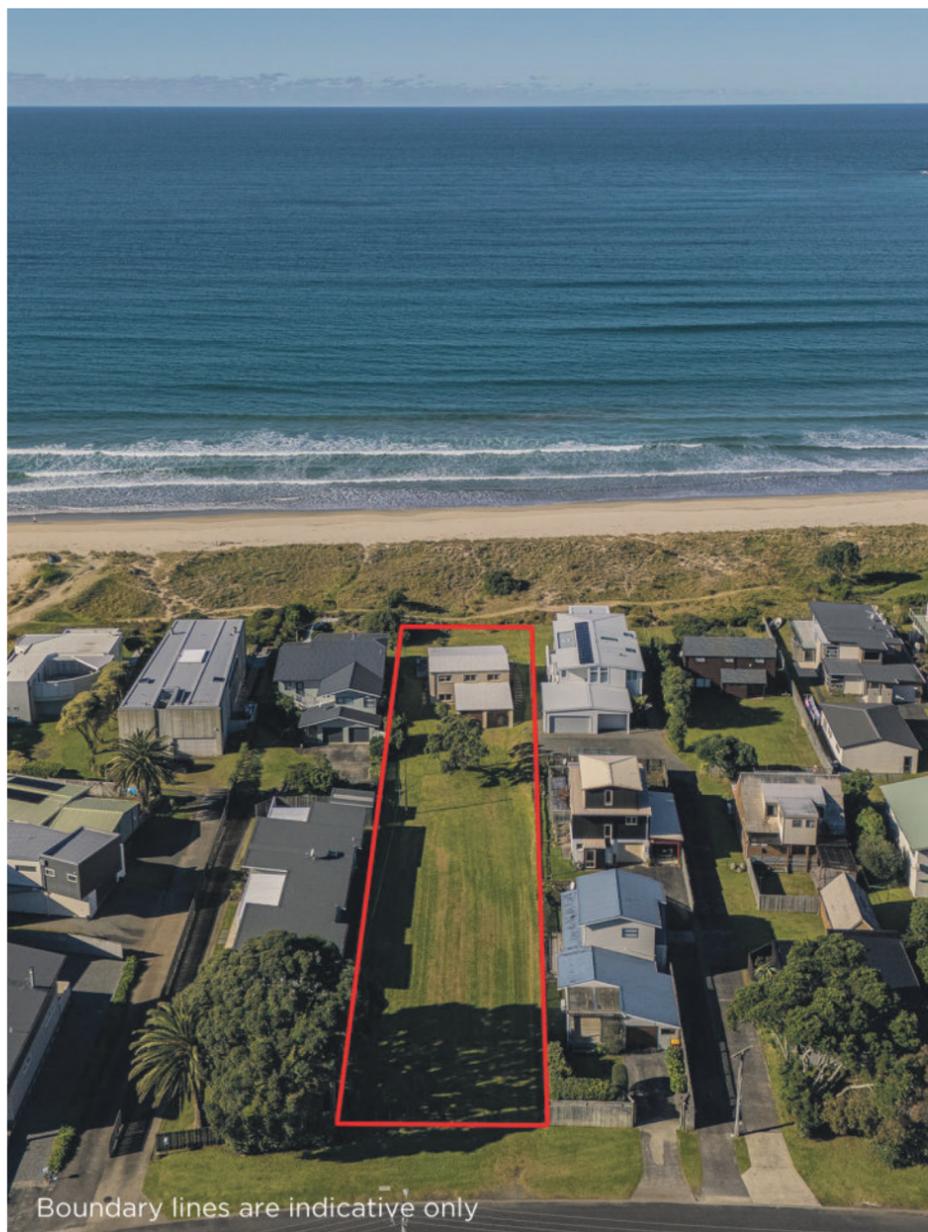
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Owned by the same family since the 1970’s, the existing character-filled home carries the charm of summer holidays past, retro, liveable, and full of heart. While the likely future lies in grand architectural vision, it is ready to enjoy right now for weekend getaways or laid-back family escapes.

With elite beachfront positioning, the lifestyle here is unparalleled. Wake to the sound of the surf, step from your deck onto the sand, and soak up uninterrupted views that stretch endlessly across the ocean.

Properties of this calibre, with this land size, in this location, are exceptionally scarce. Whether you’re looking to design your legacy home or secure a trophy holding in a tightly held enclave, this is your moment.

Contact Dale or Gordon for a private viewing and take your first step toward owning one of Whangamatā’s finest beachfront addresses.

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Camellias – blooms delight at annual show

Whangamata Garden Club held their annual Camellia Show last month. Dianne Norris from the Whangamata Floral Art Group very kindly judged on the day.

On show were a variety of spectacular blooms considering the rain and wild wind we had experienced in the two weeks prior.

Angela Scott was the Overall Winner, with her picture perfect icy white Camellia). Congratulations Angela.

Other category winners:
 Angela Scott (Miniature Camellia)
 Angela Scott (Small Camellia)
 Pat O'Reilly (Medium Camellia)
 Marie Wise (Large Camellia)



Waihi College ready for national tournament



The Waihi College AIMS netball team is off to the Zespri AIMS Games. With help from their Coaches, Manager and Whānau, the kids will spend the next week playing against other intermediate aged kids from around New Zealand.

The event hosts around 12,000+ competitors from over 390 schools competing in 27 different sporting codes.

The team have worked hard this year, they played in two different tournaments to prepare

themselves for this event – they would wake up early on Saturday mornings for a 6.30am start and head down to Tauranga for their weekly games, and on Mondays head over to Cambridge to play their evening rounds of netball. Throughout the week, they would fit in two training sessions a week either on court or at the gym for fitness.

Good luck team and enjoy the experience. Well done to them for their commitment.

- Theresa Ng Wun



Protecting native species from introduced predators in Otahu

The Department of Conservation (DOC) in Thames is going to control rats, stoats, ferrets and possums over 7,200 hectares of the Otahu Ecological Reserve. This is scheduled for the first clear weather windows between 4 August and 31 October. Otahu is situated at the southern end of the Coromandel Range, to the south of Whangamata, north of Waihi and includes privately owned Mataora Bay.

Native wildlife and forests need protection

Native species are fighting for survival due to predation from rats, stoats, ferrets and possums. Without protection, we risk losing the unique natural heritage and biodiversity within the Otahu Ecological Area. Native fauna species being protected include kiwi, kakariki, long-tailed bats, Archey's and Hochsetters frogs and their habitat.

Our plan to protect native species

Through sustained predator control using 1080, there is a big increase in breeding success for native birds, their food source is more abundant, and the forest canopy is healthier.

The safest and most effective method we have to control possums, rats and stoats over large areas is to use biodegradable cereal bait pellets containing 1080. This bait targets rodents and possums. Stoats are also controlled through secondary poisoning as they feed on the carcasses of the dead rodents.

Helicopters distribute bait pellets across the forest area along pre-determined and monitored flight paths using technology that enables accurate placement. This is the only viable method to control predators in the Southern Coromandel Range due to the vast and rugged terrain.

This operation begins with the distribution of non-toxic pre-feed bait pellets (sandy coloured). This prepares possums and rodents to eat the toxic bait (dyed green) that is applied afterwards. Both baits are about 16 mm in diameter and cylindrical shaped.

Consultation and permissions

DOC has consulted with hapū, iwi and key stakeholders including landowners adjacent to the treatment area.

DOC is delegated authority by the Environmental Protection Agency to decide applications for permission to use 1080 on land administered or managed by DOC. Permission has been granted for this operation. DOC has also received the required permission from the Ministry of Health. DOC ensures that all legal and policy requirements are met, and that any potential risks of the operation are managed.

Managing risk

1080 is poisonous to humans, domestic and game animals. In areas where the toxin has been applied, dogs are highly at risk until poisoned carcasses have disintegrated. This takes four-to-eight months or longer.

There will be warning signs placed at entrances to the treatment area immediately prior to the operation.

Risks can be eliminated by following these rules:

DO NOT touch bait

WATCH children at all times

DO NOT EAT animals from this area or within the buffer zone outside the treatment boundary. The buffer zone is 2 km for deer and pigs, 200 m for rabbits, and 1 km for hares, tahr, wallabies and possums.

Poison baits or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. These signs indicate pesticide residues may be still present in baits and poisoned carcasses. When signs are removed, normal activities can resume. If in doubt, check with your local DOC office. Please report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs.

If you suspect poisoning, please contact:

- Your local doctor or hospital OR The National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766 (urgent calls) or 03 479 7248 OR dial 111
- Seek veterinary advice for suspected poisoning of domestic animals.

For more information

Please contact: Operational planner Ranger Biodiversity, Hauraki Office, 3/336 Ngati Maru Highway, Thames 0800 275 362 and thames@doc.govt.nz

OR Epro Ltd, 0800 ASK EPRO and control@epro.co.nz

Visit the DOC website: More information about DOC's National Predator Control Programme is available on our website www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/national-predator-control-programme

Map of predator control area within Otahu Ecological Area

This map shows the area we are controlling rats, stoats, ferrets and possums to protect native species. You can also see operational updates and detailed maps of predator control on public conservation land on the DOC website. www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/pesticide-summaries the DOC website. www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/pesticide-summaries



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PUBLIC NOTICE

U3A Katikati September activity

Katikati, a sub branch of U3A Tauranga, welcomes visitors to the **Wednesday 10 September meeting, 10:00am - 12:00 noon** at the Hub adjacent to the Katikati Library. Entry \$3. Main speaker Braden Rawson, Environment Bay of Plenty.

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DEATH NOTICE

DONOVAN, John Michael (Michael).

Peacefully at Julia Wallace Retirement Village, Palmerston North on Sunday 17th August, 2025; aged 91. Very dearly loved husband of the late Helen for 68 years. Loved and respected father and father-in-law of Julie and Gavin Lees, Vicki and Michael Peden, Gillian and John Fenemor, and Christopher. Loved grandfather of Simon and Emma, Matthew and Robyn, Sarah and Sam; William and Douglas; Daniel and Julia, Anna and Gus, and great-grandfather of Benson, Riley, Thomas, Mila and Cooper.

Requiem Mass was celebrated at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Whangamatā on Saturday 23rd August, followed by private cremation.



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Whangamatā Tides 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025											
☾ New Moon: 22 nd ● Full Moon: 8 th											
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			
5	Fri	4:19	1.6	17:01	1.7	10:29	0.5	23:04	0.5	06:32	17:57
6	Sat	5:15	1.7	17:51	1.8	11:22	0.4			06:30	17:58
7	Sun	6:08	1.7	18:38	1.9		0.4	12:12	0.3	06:29	17:59
8	Mon	6:58	1.8	19:25	1.9	0:45	0.3	13:01	0.3	06:27	18:00
9	Tue	7:47	1.9	20:12	2.0	1:33	0.2	13:50	0.2	06:26	18:00
10	Wed	8:36	1.9	20:59	2.0	2:20	0.2	14:38	0.2	06:24	18:01
11	Thu	9:25	2.0	21:47	2.0	3:08	0.1	15:27	0.2	06:23	18:02
12	Fri	10:15	2.0	22:36	2.0	3:56	0.1	16:18	0.2	06:21	18:03
13	Sat	11:07	1.9	23:28	1.9	4:46	0.1	17:11	0.3	06:20	18:04
14	Sun			12:02	1.9	5:37	0.2	18:07	0.3	06:18	18:05
15	Mon	0:23	1.8	13:01	1.8	6:31	0.2	19:07	0.4	06:17	18:05
16	Tue	1:21	1.7	14:04	1.8	7:29	0.3	20:10	0.5	06:15	18:06
17	Wed	2:24	1.7	15:07	1.8	8:31	0.4	21:14	0.5	06:14	18:07
18	Thu	3:29	1.7	16:08	1.8	9:35	0.4	22:17	0.4	06:12	18:08
19	Fri	4:32	1.7	17:05	1.8	10:36	0.4	23:15	0.4	06:10	18:09
20	Sat	5:31	1.7	17:57	1.8	11:33	0.4			06:09	18:10
21	Sun	6:24	1.7	18:45	1.8	0:08	0.4	12:24	0.4	06:07	18:10
22	Mon	7:11	1.8	19:28	1.8	0:56	0.3	13:10	0.3	06:06	18:11
23	Tue	7:55	1.8	20:09	1.8	1:39	0.3	13:54	0.3	06:04	18:12
24	Wed	8:35	1.8	20:48	1.8	2:20	0.3	14:34	0.4	06:03	18:13
25	Thu	9:14	1.8	21:25	1.8	2:58	0.3	15:14	0.4	06:01	18:14
26	Fri	9:52	1.8	22:02	1.7	3:35	0.3	15:53	0.4	06:00	18:15
27	Sat	10:31	1.7	22:40	1.7	4:12	0.3	16:32	0.5	06:00	18:16
28	Sun			12:12	1.7	5:50	0.4	18:14	0.5	06:56	19:16
29	Mon	0:20	1.6	12:56	1.7	6:30	0.4	18:59	0.6	06:55	19:17
30	Tue	1:04	1.6	13:44	1.6	7:14	0.5	19:48	0.6	06:53	19:18

OCTOBER 2025											
☾ New Moon: 22 nd ● Full Moon: 7 th											
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			
1	Wed	1:53	1.6	14:37	1.6	8:03	0.5	20:41	0.6	06:52	19:19
2	Thu	2:46	1.5	15:32	1.6	8:56	0.5	21:37	0.6	06:50	19:20
3	Fri	3:44	1.6	16:28	1.6	9:54	0.5	22:34	0.5	06:49	19:21
4	Sat	4:44	1.6	17:22	1.7	10:52	0.5	23:29	0.4	06:47	19:22
5	Sun	5:43	1.7	18:13	1.8	11:48	0.4			06:46	19:23
6	Mon	6:39	1.8	19:04	1.9	0:23	0.3	12:42	0.3	06:44	19:24
7	Tue	7:32	1.8	19:54	1.9	1:14	0.2	13:34	0.2	06:43	19:24
8	Wed	8:23	1.9	20:44	2.0	2:05	0.1	14:25	0.2	06:41	19:25

Sports results

MAH JONG

29 August: We had 51 players.
1st with 58 pts - Christina Sadler
2nd with 48 pts - Dianne Trembath
3rd with 38 pts - Rosemarie Rutherford (on count back).
The lucky number today was 11 and we had three players on this number so had a draw for the winner. Liz Brunton won the draw.



WHANGAMATA CROQUET CLUB

The Whangamata Croquet Club held the Smith Shield Singles competition on Saturday, 15 August. It is a club competition and has been contested for since 2011.

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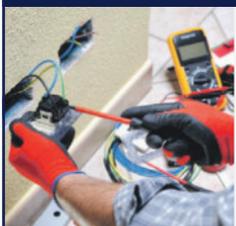
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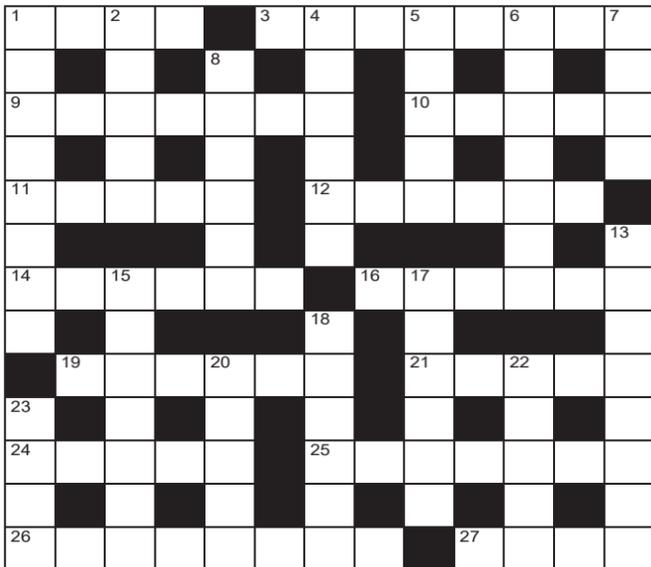
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QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

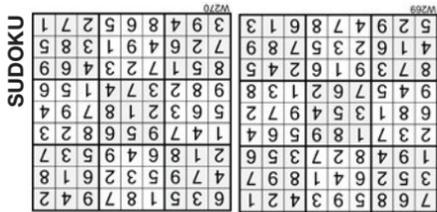
- 1. Melt (4)
- 3. Unexceptional (8)
- 9. Disastrous (7)
- 10. Change (5)
- 11. Logic (5)
- 12. Lubricate (6)
- 14. Powerful (6)
- 16. Fall abruptly (6)
- 19. Jailer (6)
- 21. Prick (5)
- 24. Command (5)
- 25. Minor illness (7)
- 26. Ended (8)
- 27. Daze (4)

Down

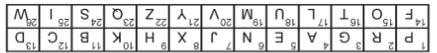
- 1. Wearying (8)
- 2. Bird-like (5)
- 4. Quit (6)
- 5. Stupid and silly (5)
- 6. Skilled tradesman (7)
- 7. 91.44cm (4)
- 8. Hidden (6)
- 13. Intensify (8)
- 15. Delight (7)
- 17. In conclusion (6)
- 18. Highly decorated (6)
- 20. Conditions (5)
- 22. Incompetent (5)
- 23. Laze about (4)

All puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SOLUTIONS



DECODER

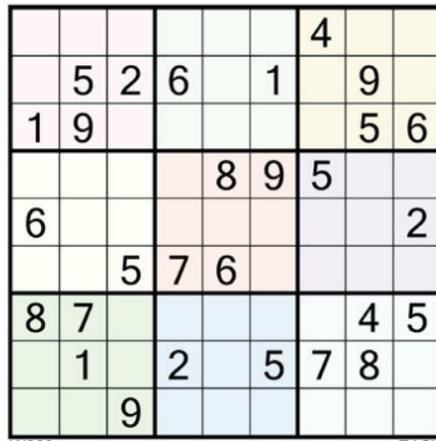


CRYPTIC

- Across: 1. Upper crust, 7. War cry, 8. Tanner, 10. Roll, 11. Each way, 15. Elude, 16. Rapid, 18. Esquire, 20. Mica, 23. Grubby, 25. Wicked, 26. Taxi driver.
- Down: 2. Punten, 3. Earl, 4. Una, 5. Tonga, 6. Barb, 7. Warren, 9. Waxwork, 12. Herb, 13. Bean, 14. Id card, 17. Prickle, 19. Squat, 21. Ugli, 22. Hifi, 24. Box.

SUDOKU

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



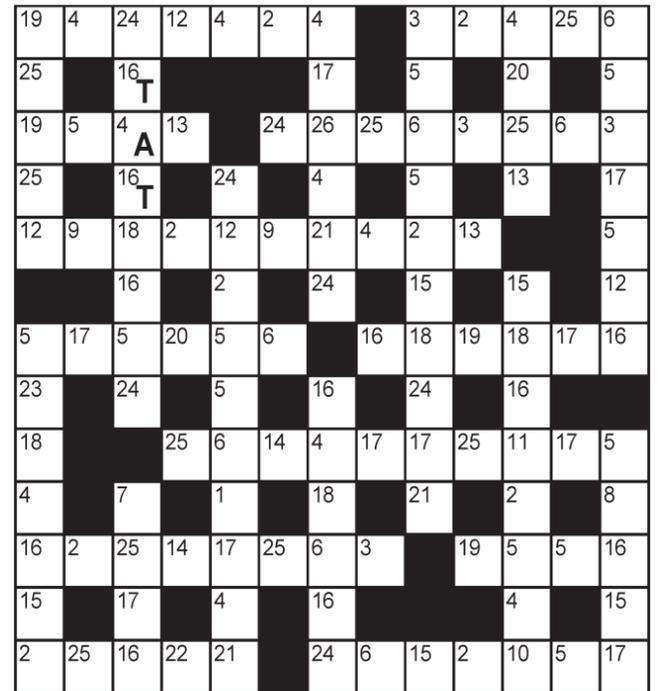
W269 EASY



W270 HARDER

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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													
			A																						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26													
		T																							

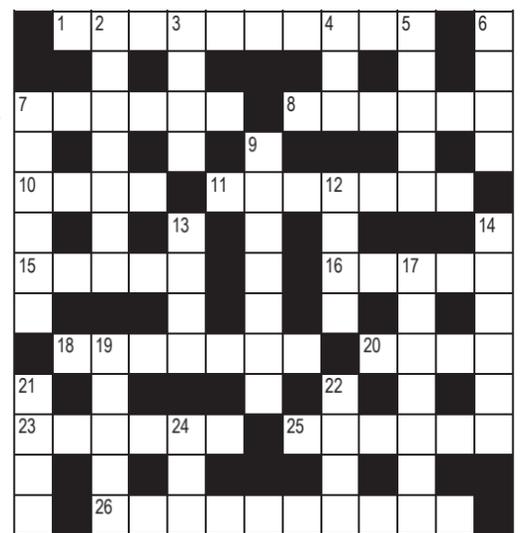
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Were they top of the class for loafing? (5,5)
- 7. Turned over uncooked blubber gets an encouragement call (3,3)
- 8. Sixpence for the leather worker (6)
- 10. Displease the king's relation we hear (4)
- 11. No 8 twice for a win and place? (4,3)
- 15. Unpleased, pans out to evade (5)
- 16. Fast on water? (5)
- 18. Almost night reportedly (7)
- 20. A piece of chemical silicate (4)
- 23. Dirty - like larvae? (9)
- 25. Evil sort of candle? (9)
- 26. He charges a handsome price by the sound of it (4,6)

Down

- 2. The neighbouring area of Kuala Lumpur. Lie under the palm trees (7)
- 3. A bit of a fearless nobleman... (4)
- 4. ...and the girl from the saunas (3)
- 5. ...travel on Island transport (5)
- 6. She is sharp and short (4)
- 7. He is reportedly from the local borough (6)
- 9. Gives you the impression it's real (7)
- 12. He's not one of the Spice Girls ... (4)
- 13. ... which is just dandy (4)
- 14. I could see myself on this (2,4)
- 17. No rash for parish clerk - just a small puncture wound (7)



- 19. In a position you should not be in (5)
- 21. Pretty revolting fruit we hear (4)
- 22. It no longer takes records (4)
- 24. Wooden container for spar (3)

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