

Whangamata & Waihi NEWS

ISSUE 160 – 20 FEBRUARY, 2026

FREE
COPY

PLEASE
TAKE ONE!

Queens of Drag – *more than just a show!*

PAGES 10 & 11

Photo by Mark James



Waihi Beach Surf Boat Spectacular P12



Kay and crew win the Classic P13



Grom
series
shred
the
waves
P16



BY LOCALS, FOR LOCALS, ABOUT LOCALS.

WE WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Email WhangamataNews@gmail.com • Facebook [@whanganews](https://www.facebook.com/whanganews)

Taken home by bach owners and visitors to everywhere

SEE ALL OUR EDITIONS LIVE AT
WWW.WHANGAMATANNEWS.NZ

EDITORIAL & MEDIA SALES:
JENNIE BLACK – 021 0232 1661

INDEPENDENTLY OWNED

DELIVERED TO WAIHI BEACH, WAIHI, WHIRITOA, WHANGAMATĀ, ONEMANA, HIKUAI, PAUANUI & TAIRUA

Inaugural Yoga Festival coming to Whangamata

Whangamatā News caught up with Soreya James, seeking more information on the Coromandel Yoga Festival, coming up in Whangamatā on 17 to 19 April at the Whangamata War Memorial Hall. Participants can enjoy beautiful Air BnB accommodation to stay whilst here, or the camping ground, this is more of an up market retreat-style festival, rather than a hippy-style festival.

The journey will take you through five elements of yoga, dance, breath, mind medicine and meditation.

Soreya told us “I’ve been teaching at festivals for 25 years, the majority are outdoor, and often after dancing all night, and with so much going on, your nervous system can feel a bit fried, so when I decided to create this, I wanted it to be more intimate, with an intention behind it, to take people on a journey, so when they come out on the Sunday afternoon, their nervous system is reset, they feel balanced with more harmony, had a purification process, so we work with the elements of the body.”

There will be 18 teachers, they are hand picked from the Coromandel region only, and they are hoping to reach 200 participants, its the inaugural festival experience here.

They cater for everybody, beginners, intermediary, advanced and practitioners, disability access and chairs are available, for those not so mobile, all ages and all genders are welcome.

The Friday evening is an invitation to the weekend, a gentle welcoming.

A vegetarian, Indian style food is on offer, good teas and coffee.

Tickets are just \$197 for the whole weekend (excluding meals & accommodation), days start at 8am and will carry on to Saturday to 9pm and to 6pm on Sunday, with 15 classes to choose from.

Special rates are on offer for beneficiaries, senior citizens and students for \$127 per ticket.

The festival will be supporting the ECST here, with some proceeds



Soreya James (above) and Jody Brown (below) have worked together to create a special harmony. Photos supplied.



and a donation from the festival and also Soreya has a very strong focus on community mental health with advice on offer. Don't miss out, book tickets now, enjoy a remarkable experience.

You can email Soreya on soreyajames@gmail.com. Use the QR Code below or go to events.humanitix.com/cyf

- Jennie Black



Learning support rolls out across the country

A big focus for the Government over this term has been raising educational achievement and ensuring each child has the resources to reach their potential.

It's a commitment that will open up more opportunities for young New Zealanders when they eventually join the workforce, as well as ensuring our communities can draw upon the skills needed to grow and prosper in the future.

With this in mind, I was thrilled to hear the Education Minister Erica Stanford announce that learning support initiatives are rolling out for the start of the school year.

Across New Zealand more than 100,000 Year 1-8 students and their teachers will benefit from Learning Support Coordinators to help students who need extra support. This initiative includes 16 schools in the Coromandel electorate, with half of these schools included in this year's funding tranche and the other half receiving support over the next two years.

The services will help identify learning needs earlier, provide support to more students, and starts the rollout of hundreds of maths and literacy intervention teachers.

Last year the Government allocated \$746.7 million to strengthen learning



support through the Budget which was the largest boost in a generation. This initiative is part of this funding and is evidence that we are fixing the basics and building the future.

We are also rolling out a nationally consistent approach to reporting student progress, with regular assessments and clearer more detailed reporting in reading, writing and maths for primary and intermediate students. This will help parents track their child's progress and help them reach their full potential.

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

Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime
0800 550 330 • scottsimpson.co.nz
mpcoromandel@parliament.govt.nz
f [scottsimpsonmp](https://www.facebook.com/scottsimpsonmp)

National 
Authorised by Scott Simpson, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



COROMANDEL YOGA FESTIVAL

Elemental

WHANGAMATA 17 - 19 APRIL 2026



A JOURNEY THROUGH THE FIVE ELEMENTS WITH
YOGA . DANCE . BREATH . MIND MEDICINE . MEDITATION

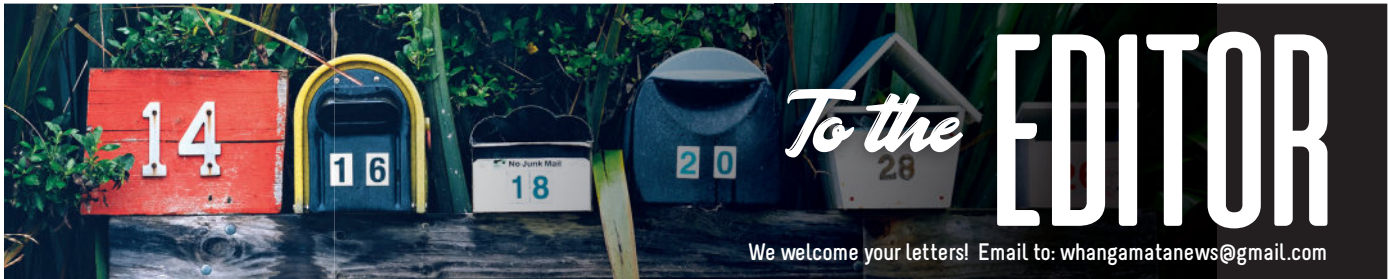


BOOFBOLAND

PAINTER & DECORATOR

P O Box 410, Whangamata 3643
M: 0274 367 254
E: jenboof@outlook.com





Assimilation versus tolerance

There are similar themes to the editorial (NZH 16/1/26) and the Dr Redding article (NZH 14/1/26). From the time when the first ocean going waka arrived on our shores, our population has developed through migration. Our modern society today includes peoples from all parts of the world.

While various Iwi and Governments have sought to settle grievance claims, there are limits to completely righting all of the wrongs of the past. Many settlements have been accepted with grace by both parties while some individuals continue to harbour resentment and intolerance.

In many respects this represents aspects of our modern society with people like Brian Tamaki demanding that all immigrant groups assimilate into our 'kiwi culture' and shun

all reference to their own familiar cultural norms. Just as Te Reo and Maori culture are being increasingly embraced, there is also much to be learned from the cultures of foreign shores.

The bullying tactics of Destiny followers are no less repugnant than the rhetoric that has led to tragedies such as the shootings in Bondi and Christchurch.

Those who agitate for conflict on racial, religious or tribal grounds would do well to reflect on the fact that the majority of people in all societies want the best for their families and to be law abiding citizens regardless of their background.

To insist that your own view of the world is the only one that matters, indicates an arrogance that can only lead to division and conflict.

George Williams
WHANGAMATA

Successful day!

St John Op Shop Whangamata would like to thank all who came and supported us at our open day on Saturday 7 February. It was fun and very successful in creating the awareness of what our shuttle service and ambulance offer to our community.

The sales racks and little ones Lucky Dip were well received, as was the sausage sizzle which New World kindly donated to. Thank you Ricky and your team. A special mention to the gentleman who gave a substantial monetary donation towards the shuttles. The kindness shown is wonderful and greatly appreciated in these difficult times.

A big thank you to my fantastic volunteer op shop staff who gave 100% on the day to assist the cause. Without my team, this would not happen.

Take care everyone.

Karen, Op Shop Manager
WHANGAMATA

Do you recognise this person?



This person, plus one other, burgled the Whiritoa Store early hours of the morning on Saturday, 14 February. If you know of someone with clothing like this please inform the police.



WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS. Your letters must be no longer than 250 words and must be signed (no nom de plumes). *Whangamata & Waihi News* reserves the right to edit, or to not print, submitted letters. Send your letter to whangatanews@gmail.com

Curtains and Blinds and More

CURTAINS

ROLLER SHEERS

BLINDS

WHANGAMATA

SHUTTERS

BEACH PAUANUI

VENETIAN BLINDS

WHIRITOA SURF

THERMALS BLOCKOUTS

HOME BACH

027 4777 916

FREE NO OBLIGATION MEASURE AND QUOTE

email info@curtainsandblinds.co.nz

www.curtainsandblinds.co.nz

Whangamatā Tides 2026											
FEBRUARY 2026				☾ New Moon: 18 th				☀ Full Moon: 2 nd			
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			
20	Fri	10:03	2.0	22:21	1.9	3:38	0.3	16:09	0.3	06:50	20:08
21	Sat	10:46	2.0	23:07	1.9	4:23	0.3	16:54	0.3	06:51	20:06
22	Sun	11:31	2.0			5:09	0.3	17:40	0.3	06:52	20:05
23	Mon	11:54	1.9	12:17	2.0	5:58	0.3	18:28	0.3	06:53	20:04
24	Tue	0:45	1.9	13:07	1.9	6:49	0.4	19:18	0.3	06:54	20:02
25	Wed	1:39	1.9	14:00	1.9	7:44	0.5	20:13	0.3	06:55	20:01
MARCH 2026											
				☾ New Moon: 4 th				☀ Full Moon: 19 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	Sun	5:52	1.9	18:14	1.8			11:58	0.5		
2	Mon	6:50	1.9	19:14	1.8	0:21	0.4	12:58	0.4	06:59	19:56
3	Tue	7:44	1.9	20:08	1.9	1:18	0.3	13:53	0.4	07:00	19:54
4	Wed	8:34	2.0	20:58	1.9	2:10	0.3	14:43	0.4	07:01	19:53
5	Thu	9:20	2.0	21:44	1.9	2:58	0.3	15:29	0.3	07:02	19:51
6	Fri	10:04	2.0	22:28	1.9	3:44	0.3	16:13	0.3	07:03	19:50
7	Sat	10:45	1.9	23:09	1.9	4:27	0.4	16:54	0.4	07:04	19:48
8	Sun	11:25	1.9			5:10	0.4	17:34	0.4	07:05	19:47
9	Mon	11:50	1.8	12:04	1.8	5:51	0.5	18:14	0.4	07:06	19:46
10	Tue	0:32	1.8	12:44	1.8	6:34	0.5	18:55	0.5	07:07	19:44
11	Wed	1:16	1.7	13:27	1.7	7:18	0.6	19:38	0.5	07:08	19:43
12	Thu	2:04	1.7	14:13	1.7	8:06	0.7	20:25	0.6	07:09	19:41
13	Fri	2:56	1.7	15:03	1.6	8:58	0.7	21:17	0.6	07:10	19:40
14	Sat	3:51	1.7	15:59	1.6	9:52	0.7	22:12	0.6	07:11	19:38
15	Sun	4:47	1.7	16:56	1.6	10:48	0.7	23:08	0.6	07:12	19:37
16	Mon	5:40	1.7	17:53	1.7	11:42	0.6		0.6	07:13	19:35
17	Tue	6:30	1.8	18:46	1.7	0:01	0.6	12:33	0.6	07:14	19:34
18	Wed	7:17	1.8	19:36	1.8	0:51	0.5	13:22	0.5	07:15	19:32
19	Thu	8:03	1.9	20:25	1.9	1:40	0.4	14:09	0.4	07:16	19:31
20	Fri	8:49	2.0	21:12	2.0	2:27	0.4	14:56	0.3	07:17	19:29
21	Sat	9:35	2.0	22:00	2.0	3:14	0.3	15:43	0.3	07:18	19:28
22	Sun	10:22	2.0	22:48	2.0	4:02	0.3	16:30	0.2	07:19	19:26
23	Mon	11:10	2.0	23:38	2.0	4:51	0.3	17:18	0.2	07:20	19:25
24	Tue			12:00	2.0	5:43	0.3	18:08	0.2	07:20	19:23
25	Wed	0:31	2.0	12:53	1.9	6:37	0.4	19:01	0.3	07:21	19:22
26	Thu	1:28	1.9	13:49	1.9	7:34	0.5	19:57	0.4	07:22	19:20
27	Fri	2:28	1.9	14:49	1.8	8:34	0.5	20:57	0.4	07:23	19:19
28	Sat	3:31	1.9	15:54	1.8	9:38	0.5	22:00	0.5	07:24	19:17

Community Board meeting shows strong local engagement

It was standing room only at the recent Whangāmata Community Board (CB) meeting as locals crowded into Council offices to speak on a wide variety of local issues.

Patrick Kerr, Chair of Enterprise Whangāmata, with local businessman and Landscape Architect Andrew Priestley opened proceedings by addressing the need to support funding for a comprehensive landscape and design plan to properly identify the entrances to the main retail area and the beach, the town's main attraction.

Port Road is tired and in need of refreshing. The most recent refurbishment was in 2004 and many of the recommendations were not addressed.

Lynda Dacey, on behalf of local Grey Power, pressed the CB to consider and support the reinstatement of tsunami sirens.

In her capacity as a local resident, she spoke of the need of meaningful consultation, as well as the importance of accountability and transparency.

With local projects and funding efficiencies, what are we going to get for our rates and where does the community go if we do not see this

happen?

A group of residents presented a paper describing the poor condition of the Hetherington Road Fitness Trail and proposed plans for its future, perhaps as a suitable joint CB – community project.

As part of their ongoing work in the Waireka Reserve, Whangāmata Lions, following community consultation, sought an approved name to replace what is commonly called Waireka Reserve.

Rod Leversedge, a Lions Club member, presented the possibility of developing a small-scale, family-friendly "Fun Ride." The concept involves a trackless battery-powered engine towing four themed carriages in a suitable community space. Rod explained, "At this stage, there are no fixed plans, no costings, and no expectations around funding or approvals—we're simply seeking CB support to investigate whether this is something worth progressing."

Peter Priest, Whangamata Ratepayer Ass Chair (WRA) agreed our town needs a tidy up, on the subject of rates, which in his opinion are unsustainable, he commended council intention to keep rates lower and manageable. Adding our town contributes a sizeable portion of rates collected by council he

questioned if the town receives its fair share returned to the town.

Peter spoke of the establishment of a Harbour Restoration Group to monitor and evaluate the condition of local estuaries, harbours and beaches. Finally, he urged those present to attend the WRA AGM on Saturday 28 February, 11.00 in the Whanga Club, emphasising WRA has an important role to play in the community as a conduit to the CB.

With several supporters in attendance, the Community Pool requested both short- and long-term operational funding support from the CB. Whangāmata Area School Principal Alistair Luke spoke of the value the pool brings to the school community as a recreational and educational facility.

After further discussion, the CB agreed unanimously to support the immediate cash shortfall and, in principle, the funding of operational expenses in the 2026/27 Annual Plan and subsequent Long-Term Plan.

The feeling in the room was one of optimism and goodwill. The only disappointment from this writer's perspective was the lack of reporting on CAPEX projects such as the Hetherington Road Stormwater project.

The decision to reduce the number of CB meetings to six per year raises concerns over community access and participation.

It could be beneficial for the CB to establish regular informal public forums to allow residents opportunity to raise issues and consult without formal TCDC structures.

This option would certainly allow for open and transparent dialogue on local matters, individuals and groups could informally make presentations and if sufficient interest, make a Public Forum submission/presentation at the formal bi-monthly CB meeting.

If accepted the CB Chair could present at the next meeting of the full Council.

For the community's information, the CB cannot make decisions without a formal paper with recommendations etc. Presentation at the Public Forum can get items onto the Action Schedule – with potentially the preparation of a decision paper/report for formal consideration by the CB.

I was pleasing to see this Community Board meeting so well attended.

– Rob Boston

Huge Lounge Suite Sale

Includes new & custom orders

**Bellview
2.75-seater**



**\$2395
Now \$1775**
NZ Made

**Hampton
2-seater**



\$2499 Now \$1399

Hampton 3-seater
\$2799 Now \$1669
Feather Fill

**Norfolk 3RR
Recliner Suite**



**\$3125
Now \$1995**

Zarah 3-seater
\$1575 Now \$995



Zarah 2-seater
\$1165 Now \$795
Charcoal/Grey/Beige

**Gazly
Sofabed**



\$595
Comfy with lots
of padding

**Zarah
3-seater Chaise**



**\$1695
Now \$1175**

**Tamara
2.5-seater**



\$3125 Now \$1695
Floor Clearance Only!

**94 Seddon St,
Waihi
07 863 8787**

Smart Buy **furniture**
Inside Beds R us store

**419 Port Rd,
Whangamatā
07 865 9027**

Whangamata Harbour sedimentation

Sharp-eyed locals will have noticed people in Hi-Viz gear walking around Whangamata Harbour's mudflats at low tide. These people are moving from one set of mysterious posts to another, with each post poking about 8 centimetres out of the mud. The posts – in sets of four – were installed two years ago along transect lines across our harbour and Moana Anu Anu estuary by Waikato Regional Council as part of its coastal sediment monitoring programme.

Each set is anchored to a concrete slab buried beneath the mud. The idea is you measure down through the mud to the concrete slab to understand the build-up (or erosion) of sediment over time. The council's science and monitoring team take annual measurements, with the hope that a picture of what is happening will emerge over a 5-10-year period. But Whangamata Harbour Care volunteers have also been trained to measure the depth of mud – the thought being that there could be supplementary data gathered between the annual regional council measurements. As an example, we can measure the mud depth after major flood events to check how much new sediment has arrived, with another check a month later to see how much



remains after normal wave and tidal action.

There is broad agreement that certain land management practices over the past century have led to the significant buildup of sediment in many parts of the Whangamata Harbour. Sediment core analysis by NIWA and the University of Waikato tells us that sediment levels in the estuary increased dramatically

following the clearance of the land for farming and forestry – and have remained elevated ever since. Sedimentation is usually more pronounced near river mouths, where sediment enters the estuary, and in sheltered areas where waves and tides can't wash it away.

Whangamata harbour Care is keen to work with the regional council over the coming years

to produce an agreed view on what is happening in our harbour and estuaries – and to find ways to reduce human impacts. The council's wider environmental monitoring, including rainfall, coastal ecosystems, stream sedimentation and catchment inspections, will help build a clear picture for the way forward.

A lot of work is already underway to tackle sedimentation in our freshwater and coastal waterways. Riparian fencing and planting projects are restoring the health of waterways that feed into our coastal environment. The Wentworth River Care group, for example, has been working along the Wentworth River and its tributaries for more than 20 years, and Waikato Regional Council partners with tangata whenua, iwi trusts, landowners and communities to undertake restoration works.

The council also undertakes spot checks on forestry harvesting operations to see if the nationwide agreements on best practice are being followed. However, upper catchment stability remains an issue, particularly in areas of forest collapse caused by browsing animals, such as possums, goats, deer and pigs.

– Ken Allen, Chair Whangamata Harbourcare



Whangamata Club

Join Us AT THE **WHANGAMATA CLUB**



sky sports TAB



Live Music
AN EVENING WITH
MARK HUCKSTEP
Friday 20th February | 7:00 PM
@ WHANGAMATA CLUB



CURTIS & HAYWARD
High Energy Acoustic & Electric Duo
Rock | Pop | Jazz | Blues
Soulful Vocals of Finn Curtis
Guitar Mastery of Bevin Hayward
SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY | 7PM
THE WHANGAMATA CLUB
From Laid-Back Vibes to Party Rockin' Hits!



BRUNO MARS JOURNEY SUBLIME THE WEEKEND TOTO
Whangamata Club
VAN HALEN U2 ELTON JOHN ADAM LEVINE MICHAEL JACKSON COLD CHASE
SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
CROWDED TROUSERS
LENNY KRAVITZ CELO GREEN B...
7.00PM
No wonder we are knackered after every show !!

OPEN DAILY FROM 11AM

BISTRO
Monday – Friday from 3pm
Saturday & Sunday from 12pm

DINNER MENU
From 5pm daily

RESTAURANT
Friday to Sunday from 5:30pm

404 PORT ROAD

FACEBOOK.COM/THEWHANGACLUB

WWW.WHANGAMATACLUB.CO.NZ

P. 07 865 8705

WOSC Classic 2026 Prize Winners

Tag and Release Striped Marlin

1st Kay Haimona - check out the video of the tag and release on our Facebook page, it's epic!

Kingfish Heaviest

1st: Tim Bryant - 21.98kg

DAY 1

Tuna Heaviest

1st: George Walker - Yellow Fin - 21.90kg
2nd: Vaughan Stevenson - Bigeye - 21.20kg
3rd: George Arona - Yellow Fin - 21.20kg

DAY 2

Tuna Heaviest

1st: Vaughan Stevenson - Bigeye - 21.00kg
2nd: Simon Heaps - Yellow Fin - 18.70kg

3rd: Joe Hawira - Bigeye - 18.50kg

Tuna Comp

1st: George Walker - Yellow Fin - weight 21.90kg
2nd: Vaughan Stevenson - Bigeye - weight 21.20kg
3rd: George Arona - Yellow Fin - 21.20kg

Snapper Heaviest Comp

1st: Benny van den Broek - 8.00kg
2nd: Glen Newman - 4.70kg
3rd: Keith Smith - 3.20kg

Last Man Standing - \$10k prize:
Lynette McIntosh

Webber BBQ: Julie Simmiss

Rod and Reel Raffle:
Angela Macmillan

Bike: Heather Lowen



Hi everyone...

I'm **Bec Murray**, and I'm very pleased to be joining the club as your new General Manager.

I bring over 30 years of experience in hospitality, including four years owning and running my own restaurant.

That experience gave me a strong understanding of what it takes to successfully manage day-to-day operations while creating a welcoming environment for members and guests.

Following that, I spent 7.5 years in property management, overseeing a portfolio of more than 200 properties. This role strengthened my organisational skills, attention to detail; and ability to manage a wide range of responsibilities- all of which I look forward to bringing to the club.

Outside of work, I have a 26-year-old daughter and two beautiful grandkids who keep me busy and smiling.

I'm excited about this new opportunity- especially learning more about the fishing side of the club! I'm looking forward to meeting members, getting to know the community, and working together to continue building something great.

Please feel free to introduce yourself when you see me around - I'm excited to be here.



www.oceansports.co.nz

@whangamataoceansportsclub

Phone 07 865 8704

End of Port Rd at Wharf

FLOORINGXTRA.CO.NZ

FLOORING TO SUIT YOUR STYLE

CARPET • VINYL • TIMBER • LAMINATE • RUGS

Phone or email us! We're measuring & laying! View samples instore!

WHANGAMATA FLOORING XTRA

Whangamata | 636 Port Road | 07 865 8562 | whangamata@flooringxtra.co.nz

Artful Insights

The recent Harcourts ART Challenge once again highlighted the strength and creative spirit of our arts community.



The enthusiasm of artists, writers, volunteers, sponsors, and visitors ensured the event was a warm and welcoming success.

A standout this year was the creative writing component, proudly sponsored by the Whangamata Club, which saw entries double from last year. The growth reflects both the talent within our community, and the encouragement writers feel to share their voices. The calibre of submissions impressed the judge and audiences alike, firmly establishing writing as an inspiring part of the Challenge.

Looking ahead, it promises to be an exciting year for the Collective, with workshops planned for both writers and visual artists, along with some fun and inspiring road trips for members.

If the 2026 Challenge is anything to go by, the future is bright. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported the event. Your involvement helps keep the arts thriving in our community.

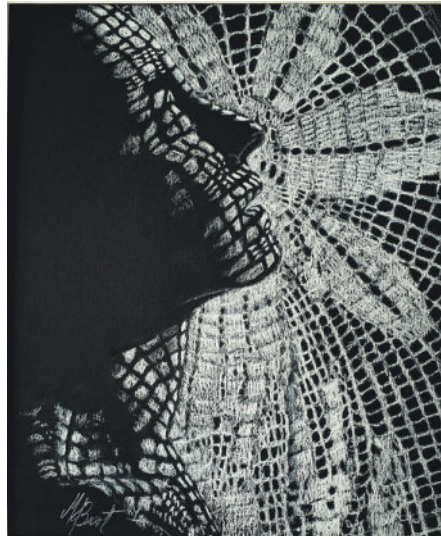
Response from Pippa Airey - on winning the Creative Writing Award:

"I love the outdoors, the arts, and my friends.

I have loved reading and writing since I was young and dreamed of becoming an author when I was 10.

I am now at College and trying a lot of new subjects. I was excited to enter the Harcourts Challenge, and even more excited to have won it.

It is such an honour."



'Morning Light' by Maree Burt.



Maree Burt, winner of the Harcourts Challenge East theme category.



Pippa Airey: 1st Prize Creative Writing.

The Directions We Carry

By Pippa Airey

This compass belonged to my Dad, though it never worked the way a compass should. The needle shook and spun, reluctant to settle on North, as if it couldn't decide the way forward. When I was younger, I thought it was broken. Now I just think it was honest.

South was where he came from. A place of cold mornings and quiet people, where words were used carefully. Strength was something you learned from the mountains, rather than in a classroom. He said the South taught him how to stand alone, how to keep going even when no one was watching.

North was where we lived. Warm and familiar, filled with sunshine and laughter and long afternoons that stretched wide to the horizon. It was the sound of my mother humming while she cooked, the way locals remembered your name, the comfort of knowing where you belonged. North wrapped itself tight around you and refused to let go. It taught me that love could be messy, and permanent all at once.

East was always about beginnings. My father loved to wake early, dragging me outside with a fishing rod before the sun rose. With a hook in the water, we watched the light seep slowly into the sky. He once told me that the East reminded him that every day offered another chance to catch the big one, even if yesterday had been a dud. I hadn't understood it then, but I do now. East is hopeful, fragile, and easy to miss if you aren't paying attention.

West was the hardest for him to talk about. It was where things ended. Where the sun sank low behind the hills and the sky burned itself out in colour. He said the West taught him how to let go of

the hard things, how to accept that some things leave whether you are ready or not. When he looked in its direction, his eyes always softened, as if he was saying goodbye to something only he could see.

After he passed away, I found the compass in a drawer, the glass scratched, and its needle still restless. I held it in my palm and felt something stirring inside my chest. It didn't point North. It didn't point anywhere at all. Instead, it reminded me of him; of every place that made him him, of every direction he carried within himself.

I realised then that we are not meant to choose one way forward. We are made from many directions, pulled by our memory, by hope, by love, by loss. We move through the world not guided by folded paper maps or in-200-m-turn-left GPS, but by the invisible compass inside us, the one shaped by where we've been and who we've met.

This compass still doesn't work. But neither do I, not perfectly. And I think that's the point.

The Surfer

By Caryl Cullen

I rise on the backbone of a wave
Where the sea lifts me
The North Wind Barrels in
Gathering the salty spray
And whipping it across my face

I balance between hush and roar
From the deep that pulls
And the gust that gives
Just a fleeting traveller
conscious that the sea is never still

For a moment I am both
weightless and wild
A drifting soul caught
Between water and wind
Riding the world,
Free, just me and the swell and
the wide-open blue.

SMOKY PALLET

FREEHOUSE



FOLLOW US FOR ALL OUR UPDATES

 @Smokypalletwhanga

 @Smokypallet

The sludge factory: When sand stops being sand

Over the last two articles we've focused on understanding. Now we focus on Moana Anu Anu.

The Change

Fine sediment is natural. Clay, silt and organic material have always moved through catchments into tidal systems.

What has changed is how much, how fast, how often — and what it now mixes into.

NIWA data presented on a logarithmic scale shows modern sediment delivery in some catchments reaching roughly 100 times pre-settlement levels. That is not a small variation. It is a different operating condition.

Modern land use exposes soil more frequently and moves water more quickly. Drainage networks concentrate runoff that once travelled slowly through wetlands and vegetation.

Before it reaches the inlet, it begins here.

This exposed ground is not unusual. It is part of modern land use cycles. But when rain falls on disturbed soil, fine sediment is mobilised and carried downslope.

The result is more fine material delivered more rapidly into the inlet — where it mixes into sand.

When Sand Stops Functioning



Jar tests from different parts of the system: clean sand, fine sediment, and the mixed material that forms when the two combine.

When sand stops functioning as sand, the life it supports declines.

Sand supports life because water and oxygen move through it. Shellfish, eelgrass and juvenile fish depend on that circulation.

But sand can only absorb a limited amount of fine material.

When too much clay and organic



Exposed ground during disturbance phases increases the mobilisation of fine sediment during rainfall events.

matter fill the gaps between sand grains, the material no longer behaves like clean marine sand.

Water does not pass through it easily. Oxygen exchange declines. Shellfish move. Channels narrow. Flood storage reduces. It may look like sand. It no longer functions like sand.

You do not need a 40-page laboratory report to see this behaviour.

Simple jar tests from different parts of the inlet show the same pattern: sand and fines separate in layers, then bind once disturbed and resettled. It is not complicated chemistry.

It is observable physics.

Mixing Is Easy. Removal Is Not.



At the inlet, fine sediment mixes with sand and organic material, forming a dense substrate that does not easily re-separate once settled.

The fines do not drift slowly and

evenly across the landscape. They are channelled.

This drainage channel is tidal. At low tide, backwater conditions reduce flow velocity. Fine sediment settles. Organic material accumulates.

As the tide rises, water backs up. As it falls, water drains away — but not with enough force to scour and remove what has settled.

Dilution occurs. Removal does not.

This is how material moves from land to inlet — and stays there.

Storage



At the inlet, fine sediment mixes with sand and organic material, forming a dense substrate that does not easily re-separate once settled.

At the end of that pathway is this:

Sand is visible. So are fine clays and organic fragments.

Once combined and saturated,

the mixture becomes dense and adhesive.

Anyone who has stepped into it recognises the behaviour — it clings and does not wash away easily.

At scale, the same process is occurring throughout Moana Anu Anu.

Tides can move loose sand. They do not easily unmix clay and organic material once it has settled at current delivery rates.

Over time, deposits build. Vegetation establishes. Channels narrow. Floodplain storage reduces. River bed levels rise.

Moana Anu Anu increasingly functions as a mixing and storage site for fine sediment and organic material.

Volume, Supply and Storage

The issue is not simply volume.

It is elevated volume, ongoing supply, and the fact that once fines mix into the sand, they remain stored.

As accumulation continues:

Ecological function declines further. Flood capacity reduces. Recovery becomes more complex and more expensive.

Natural systems adjust over long periods. Rapid loading compresses that adjustment time.

Current land use has compressed loading into decades.

The Practical Question

We do not want sand to become a storage basin for sludge. We want sand to function as sand — supporting life and maintaining tidal exchange.

So the question becomes practical, not philosophical:

Do we reduce the production and concentrated delivery of fine sediment into the inlet?

Or do we allow accumulation to continue and manage the consequences later?

Understanding is step one.

Whether we choose to act is a community decision.

— WSAG Rob Boston & Ian Holyoake

For your design needs

- Adverts
 - Signs
 - Posters
 - Flyers
 - Magazines
 - Business cards
 - Gift vouchers
- and more...

Contact Anna Gledhill
 aljgledhill@gmail.com or 021 653 148

Designer for
 Whangamatā & Waihi News
 and the
 Repco Beach Hop programme



Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council



20 February 2026

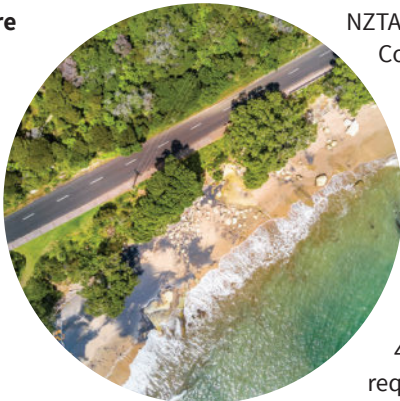
Building back from the January storm

A couple of weeks after the severe rainstorm hit our district, Mayor Peter Revell declared the Coromandel open and back in business in time for the Waitangi Day long weekend.

The weekend was a great success, pulling in thousands of visitors to supply our hospitality businesses with a much-needed shot in the arm.

Our Council's roading and water services teams, as well as NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi and the Department of Conservation, have moved mountains – of slip debris – to reopen roads, get water flowing and reopen tracks and campgrounds.

But the damage to roads, parks, water infrastructure and dozens of properties will take some time to be fully put right. Our recovery programme is mobilising considerable Council resources, our contractors, partner agencies like Waikato Regional Council,



NZTA Waka Kotahi, the Department of Conservation, other government agencies and the Coromandel community.

After the storm, our district was faced with eight weeks of initial clean-up on our roading network including clearing slip debris and contractors carrying out simple repairs on scores of sites. About 40 sites need longer-term work requiring a designed approach, such as earthworks and retaining walls.

Our recovery work encompasses not just the rebuilding of damaged infrastructure but also the physical and emotional wellbeing of our people. We will be liaising with government ministers and officials as much as possible to advocate for central government funding for a long-term roading resilience programme for the district.

For more information on our storm recovery work, go to tcdc.govt.nz/stormrecovery

STORMWATER DETENTION BASIN

While heavy rain affected much of the Coromandel, the stormwater detention basin in Williamson Park, operated exactly as designed –

capturing and releasing stormwater in a controlled manner to Whangamatā Beach. This helped reduce pressure on upstream pipes and reduced water pooling in several areas historically prone to surface flooding.

The previous design was a stormwater pond, which had no outlet. Simply put, during large rain events, once the pond was full, the stormwater network efficiency was significantly reduced, resulting in surface flooding.

The January weather system was the first major test of the recent stormwater improvement programme, part of a broader multi-year investment aimed at strengthening Whangamatā's resilience to severe rainfall. The pond's effective performance reflects the value of these upgrades and the ongoing work guided by the Whangamatā Stormwater Improvement Project

Observation of the plants within the basin during the event confirmed they did not prevent the flow of water across the basin.

Our Council Water Services engineers say the results are encouraging and confirm the approach being taken: combining upgraded infrastructure with natural water-management features to improve both flood protection and environmental outcomes.

Further improvements are scheduled over the coming year, but this event has shown that the investments are proving their worth when it matters most.

See tcdc.govt.nz/whangastormwater for further details.



New VSL signs to be installed to make communities safer

Work begins next month to install Variable Speed Limit (VSL) signs outside local schools as part of efforts to make our communities safer.

VSL signs work by triggering a lower speed limit during busy times outside schools (at the start and end of the school day) then reverting to the road's standard speed limit when there is minimal student activity such as at nights, weekends and holidays. Schools also provide flexibility to control speed limits during special school events, in coordination with our Council and our road operation and maintenance contractor.

Most urban schools will have a 30km/h limit during school travel times. Some rural schools may have a 60km/h limit, depending on road context.

Temporary traffic management is expected as the signs are installed.

Please be patient while this work to make our communities safer is carried out.



HAURAKI COROMANDEL BUSINESS AWARDS



Save the date and join us in showcasing business brilliance

The Claymark Hauraki Coromandel Business Awards are set for 15 October 2026 at the Thames War Memorial Civic Centre.

This biennial event is a chance to recognise and celebrate the incredible businesses that make our region thrive, bringing over 150 local business people together for an unforgettable evening.

Celebrating excellence requires backing from equally brilliant businesses.

Sponsorship is an excellent way to:

- Gain exposure for your business
- Enjoy a night out with industry leaders
- Support and celebrate fellow businesses in our community.

If you are interested in being a sponsor, see tcdc.govt.nz/HCB

Help us celebrate the businesses that make our Hauraki-Coromandel thrive.

OUR NEXT WHANGAMATĀ COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING WILL BE 10AM TUESDAY 21 APRIL
AT THE WHANGAMATĀ SERVICE CENTRE, 620 PORT RD

@ThamesCoromandelDistrictCouncil

coromandel_tcdc

Get our free eNewsletters!
www.tcdc.govt.nz/subscribe

tcdc.govt.nz

customer.services@tcdc.govt.nz
Private Bag, 515 Mackay St, Thames
Phone: 07 868 0200

Need funding for your arts project?

APPLICATIONS FOR THE CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME CLOSE ON FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2026

creative nz COMMUNITIES



tcdc.govt.nz/ccs

Waihi NEWS

Queens of Drag bedazzled us all!

On 7 February, *Whangamatā & Waihi News* were delighted to attend the best night for a very long time. The fabulous 'Queens of Drag' descended on the Waihi Waterlily Gardens on a beautiful summer night. The quick wit, personalities, the costumes, the make up, the songs and, oh my, the 3-course meal only added to what was total fabulousness!

Thank you to Tracey and her team, a night that was more than just a show.

Great photos by Mark James!



Get creative

HAURAKI

Creative Communities Scheme - Funding for local arts

FUNDING NOW OPEN!

Do you have a creative arts project that needs funding?

If your project provides creative opportunities for your community; engages with young people (under 18 years) or celebrates and promotes the diverse arts and cultural traditions of your community, then don't delay!

Applications are open to individuals and all ages groups. Download the application form from our website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme.

Projects must take place between 1 April 2026 and 30 March 2027.

Applications close 4pm Friday 13 March 2026

Performers at the Paeroa Contemporary Dance End of Year Show 2025 - Circus Mystique



Hauraki District

creativenz
COMMUNITIES

HAURAKI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Love the arts?

We're looking for people to help assess funding for the Creative Communities Scheme.

Who is needed?

Anyone with a passion for local arts and culture, from any community and any age!

What's involved?

Be a part of the selection process by attending assessment committee meetings twice a year in March and September.

The Creative Communities Scheme

Each year Creative New Zealand provides Creative Communities Scheme funding to local and district councils throughout New Zealand to distribute in their area. The scheme supports more than 1,800 projects every year.

Interested?

We'd love to hear from you! Contact the CCS Administrator for Hauraki District Council at info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz or phone 0800 734 834.

To learn more go to www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme



Waihi NEWS



100% HOME WAIHI

Summer BEST BUYS!

TCL Front Load Washing Machine P108FLW

- Honeycomb Crystal Drum
- Add Garment
- 18 min quick wash cycle
- Steam Wash
- High Temperature Wash – up to 95°C
- 16 washing cycles
- Delay Start Function
- Quiet and Energy Efficient Brushless DC Motor
- Auto Drum Clean
- Child Safe Lock



\$599

TCL Hybrid Chest Freezer 3F380CFW

- 371 Litre Capacity
- Switch between Freezer or Fridge
- Ideal for freezing food in bulk
- Removable sliding food basket
- LED Light
- Easy access thermostat



\$699

100% HOME WAIHI

24 ROSEMONT ROAD, WAIHI • PHONE 07 863 8207
email waihi100@xtra.co.nz • www.100percent.co.nz

We've Got Your Back

We're always checking price
Talk to us.



Waihi NEWS



Surf boat racing spectacular

Local crews shone as Surf Boat Spectacular at Waihi Beach delivered three days of high-energy surf boat racing over Waitangi Weekend, hosting one of the largest surf boat gatherings of the season as part of the Waihi Beach Surf Boat Spectacular.



The event brought together the Eastern Region Surf Boat Championships, the North Island Surf Boat Championships and the Champion of Champions across a single long weekend, with 48 crews and around 310 competitors travelling from across the country, including New Brighton, Wellington, Napier, Omanu, Whangamatā, Piha, Red Beach, Orewa and Sunset Beach.



For the host club, Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services Inc., Saturday's North Island Surf Boat Championships delivered a nail-biting highlight in the Under 23 Men's division. The Waihi Beach crew finished just one point behind long-time national representatives Titahi Bay, with the medals decided in the final race of the day.

The local crew claimed a race win and multiple second placings, pushing Titahi Bay all the way in what was the reigning champions' final year in the Under 23 division. With that crew now moving on, the



result signals an exciting pathway ahead for Waihi Beach's young men as they continue building toward the 2026-27 season.

Friday's racing saw the Eastern Region Surf Boat Championships contested at Waihi Beach. With other ERC disciplines unable to proceed this season, surf boats became the sole completed event, drawing stronger-than-usual entries and creating a competitive platform for regional clubs.

Sunday's Champion of Champions provided a fitting finale, with crews battling it out for overall honours. Paekākāriki claimed the Champion of Champions title, while Piha Piranahs finished as the top female crew.

Beyond the racing, the weekend carried a festival feel, with music on the beach, strong spectator support and outstanding conditions across all three days. The opening ceremony included a mihi whakatau led by Te Whānau a Tauwhao representatives Reon Tuanau and Garston Smith of Otawhiwhi Marae, welcoming visiting teams and acknowledging the mahi of surf lifeguards nationwide.

Event organisers said feedback from visiting clubs was overwhelmingly positive, praising the organisation, atmosphere and hospitality that have become a hallmark of major events at Waihi Beach.

- Photos by Mark James, Whangamatā & Waihi News

JOIN THE COMMUNITY QUEST

FREE Family Fun Day

SAT 28 FEB

Waihi Beach Community Centre Reserve
10am – 1pm

Check our Facebook event page for wet weather updates.

Help shape the future of your town by trading your ideas for free food and activities.

YOURPLACE.WESTERNBAY.GOV.T.NZ

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Baker Glass & Glazing Ltd
"Craftsmanship with care"

- Glass Repairs
- Shower Glass
- Splashbacks
- Balustrades
- Retro-fit Double Glazing
- Insurance Quotes

Member AMN Masterglaziers network
Proudly supported by Metro Glass

CONTACT 021 514 497 | glass@bakerjoinery.co.nz

SALE!!!!

It's Summer Sale Time @ La Diva!! Come in and grab a bargain.

10 Rosemont Road Waihi
www.ladiva.co.nz

Waihi NEWS

“This is as good as it gets”

Whangamata & Waihi News were delighted to get a catch up with Kay Haimona from Waihi straight after prize giving, I have to say that’s one off her bucket list... Well done, Kay!

This is her take on the day:

What can I say... this is as good as it gets.

With me on the deck, a top crew behind me, and our skipper — aka hubby Nathan — at the helm, we were in as good a place as you can be.

Alongside us was our boy Jordie – aka “The Winch”, and our brother from another mother Mike Bellamy. When you’ve got that crew around you, anything’s possible.

It’s funny how much harder it is to bring a fish in when there’s potentially ten grand on the line. Then you realise it’s not hooked that well, so instead of going hard you’re gently teasing it in... legs shaking, arms absolutely dying, genuinely felt like I was about to have a seizure — it was not pretty.

Not sure who was going to give up first, me or the fish. After a rough day on the water, watching that fish finally come up and get released was unreal. Hugs all round, jumping like kids — and then your son looks at you and says, “Shot Mum, you know you’ve cracked it.”

That one hit hard. The following days were pretty tough on the boys, drinking to hammerheads and watching the leaderboard like hawks. If you know, you know. By the time we had our last drink at 3pm on the final day, nerves were absolutely cooked.

Then suddenly you’re on stage, top boat for the first time out of 71 boats.

Victory never tasted so good.

Well done team. Well done us.

Team Fin Reaper Classic 2026 winners receive:

1st day tagged Marlin \$1000
\$10,000 tagged marlin prize
\$1000 Top Team prize for Most Tagged and released



Owens Flooring

We Have All Your Flooring Needs Covered
Flooring Sales & Installation • Domestic & Commercial

**Carpets • Vinyls • Floor Sanding
Laminate & Timber Planking**

Showroom: 5/57 Wilson Road at Waihi Beach
07 863 5723 / 027 233 7277
sales@owensflooring.co.nz • www.owensflooring.co.nz

Baker Joinery Ltd

"Craftsmanship with care"

- Kitchens
- Joinery
- Wardrobe Solutions

- Laundry
- Bathrooms
- Pre-Hung Doors

For top-notch craftsmanship & expertise in joinery & cabinetry
contact 07 863 8962 | info@bakerjoinery.co.nz
Or pop into our Show Room 46 Johnston Street, Waihi

SHOW ROOM OPEN SATURDAYS

TYRE HQ

WAIHI

**LATEST TECHNOLOGY
JUST INSTALLED!**

**WE BUY OUR TYRES IN BULK,
SO YOU SAVE!**

GOODRIDE | **KUMHO TIRES**
Performance Tyres

07 863 9211 | WWW.TYREHQ.CO.NZ

Waihi NEWS

Daniel (Dan) E. Harris QSM

Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services Inc. is deeply saddened to share that Dan Harris QSM passed away on 10 February, 2026, in Hamilton.

Dan was a defining figure in surf lifesaving at Waihi Beach and a well-known presence in surf boat rowing circles across New Zealand. His involvement with the club spanned more than six decades and was marked by commitment, high expectations, and a strong belief in what surf lifesaving - and surf boat rowing in particular - could and should be.

In 1956, Dan gained his Surf Bronze Medallion and went on to compete at national level well into his seventies, including continuing to sweep surf boat crews at an age when most had long since stepped away from competition.

Over the years, Dan held numerous positions of responsibility within

the club, including Club Captain, President across multiple terms, and Chair, while contributing far beyond any formal title through hands-on support, mentoring, fundraising, and advocacy.

Dan's service was recognised through major honours including Life Membership of Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services Inc., District/Regional Life Membership, and being named an SLSNZ Life Member. In 2004, he was awarded the Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for services to surf lifesaving and youth.

Dan is particularly well known in the boatie community for establishing the North Island Surf Boat Championships. Created to showcase surf boat rowing properly and put the sport front and centre at Waihi Beach, the event has become a widely supported



and enjoyed fixture on the surf boat racing calendar, respected nationwide.

Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services

Inc. is preparing a club tribute to acknowledge Dan's life of service and the legacy he leaves with the club and surf boat community.



Waihi Police Report



Waihi residents may have noticed a recent uptick in some unwelcome activity around town — and no, it's not just everyone deciding to hit the supermarket at the same time. Over the past few weeks, Police have observed more burglaries, tools being stolen, an increase in vehicle-related offending, and a noticeable rise in suspicious behaviour linked to drug harm.

While there's no need to panic, it is a good reminder for everyone to stay alert, secure their gear, and look out for their mates and neighbours.

Burglaries & Tool Theft: When the Criminals Start Their Own Toolbox

It seems some offenders have decided to take up DIY — with other people's tools. We've had several reports of sheds, garages, and Utes being targeted, with tools being the easiest and most attractive items to grab.

Protect your property by:

- Locking sheds, garages, and vehicles — even for quick jobs.
- Engraving or marking tools for

identification.

- Taking photos of serial numbers.
- If you spot someone strolling around at night with a wheelbarrow full of power tools and no building site in sight... maybe give us a ring.

Stolen Vehicles: Keep Your Car Where You Parked It

Vehicle thefts and break-ins are also on the rise, especially among older cars.

A few simple steps help keep your wheels at home:

- Lock your car every time.
- Remove valuables — even small change can tempt a would-be thief.
- Consider steering locks or immobilisers for older models.
- Park in well-lit areas.

If your alarm goes off at 2am, check it's not just a determined possum auditioning for a heist movie.

Wild Weather & Wild Offending: A Double Whammy

The recent run of rough weather hasn't helped matters either.

High winds, heavy rain, and power outages make it easier for offenders to sneak around unseen — and harder for homeowners to notice something's off.

A few weather-smart safety tips:

Double-check all doors, sheds, and vehicles are locked before storms hit.

Tie down or secure anything outside that can be rummaged through or used to gain access.

Keep outdoor lighting working — especially around access points.

Check on neighbours, especially elderly ones, after big weather events.

Bad weather is annoying enough on its own — we don't need burglars using it as cover for their own "after-hours adventures".

Increase in Drug-Related Harm: Activity Bringing Other Offending With It

Police have also seen a rise in drug-related activity across the Waihi area. This behaviour often connects to other forms of

offending — including thefts and vehicle crime.

Locals are encouraged to report suspicious activity early, even if it seems minor. Small details can help build the bigger picture.

Let's Keep Waihi Safe — Together

Waihi is a tight, community-minded town — and that's our best defence. By securing property, sharing information, and reporting unusual behaviour, we can reduce offending and keep our neighbourhoods safer.

If you see something off, hear something odd, or catch someone trying to "borrow" your chainsaw during gale-force winds — call 105 for non-emergencies or 111 if it's happening right now.

Stay safe, lock up, supervise your tools, and let's put an end to this DIY crime spree before someone decides to roll away a cement mixer in the middle of a storm.

– Rachel Gillingham, Community Constable, Waihi/Waikato East

Walking the Landscape: ECHO Walking Festival 2026

From sweeping coastlines to lush native bush, the landscape stretching from the Coromandel to Te Puke offers some of the most diverse and rewarding walking experiences in Aotearoa. This rich terrain — shaped by wind, sea and history — forms the backdrop to the ECHO Walking Festival, a celebration of walking, connection and storytelling led by knowledgeable local guides.

Running from 20 March to 19 April 2026, the ECHO Walking Festival invites walkers of all ages and abilities to explore this remarkable region. With a programme of 44 guided walks, the festival ranges from short, gentle outings to full-day and overnight adventures, offering something for everyone.

ECHO Chair Vicki Lambert says



the festival plays an important role in connecting people to place, “The ECHO Walking Festival is a wonderful way for locals to deepen their understanding of the landscapes they call home, while welcoming visitors to explore and learn about our region. Through walking and shared stories, people gain an appreciation of what makes this area so special.”

For seasoned trampers seeking a rewarding challenge, highlights include the Waiotahi-Karaka Loop just outside Thames, where steep climbs are ultimately met with sweeping views over the Firth of Thames. Adventurers can also join the ECHO team for a one-day return journey to conquer the iconic Pinnacles Walk. History enthusiasts can explore the Maratoto Wires Track, following remnants of New Zealand’s early telephone network through the Maratoto Valley, or step back into the gold-mining era on the

Horse Whim and Komata Reefs Mine walk at Golden Cross.

Families and curious explorers are equally well catered for, with a dedicated ECHO Explorer Kids Bingo programme designed to inspire tamariki through fun, hands-on outdoor experiences that encourage learning, curiosity and connection with nature. An after-dark adventure in Te Aroha’s forest reveals glowing titiwai (glow worms) and the call of ruru on the Twinkle Twinkle Little Titiwai walk. The Restoration Ramble through l’Anson Bush Reserve showcases the inspiring transformation of former pasture into thriving native forest, while the Otawhiwhi Cultural Walk at Bowentown offers a gentle, guided experience rich in Māori history and storytelling.

A defining feature of the ECHO Walking Festival is its local guides, whose deep knowledge of ecology, history and conservation brings

each walk to life. Some walks also access private land, opened exclusively for the festival, offering truly unique experiences. Most walks are koha-based, making it easy for families and visitors to take part.

Whether you’re discovering a new track, seeing a familiar place through fresh eyes, or enjoying time outdoors with purpose, the ECHO Walking Festival offers an unforgettable way to experience the land — one step at a time.

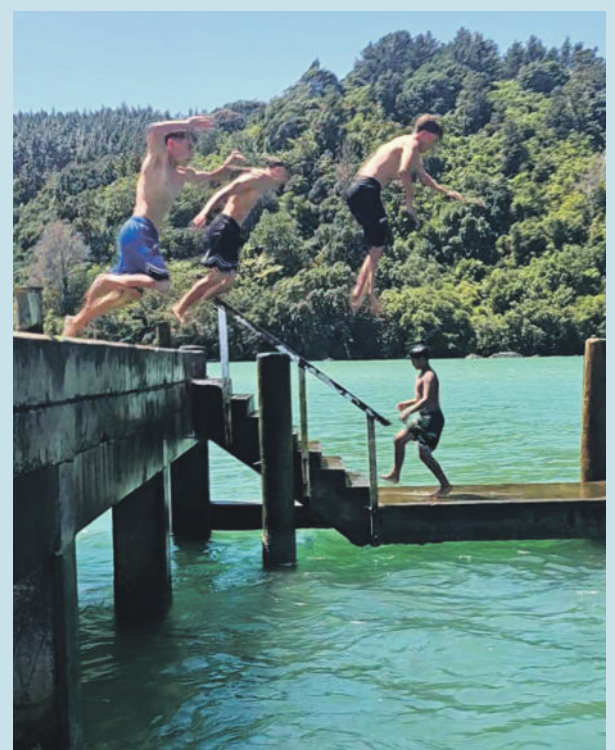
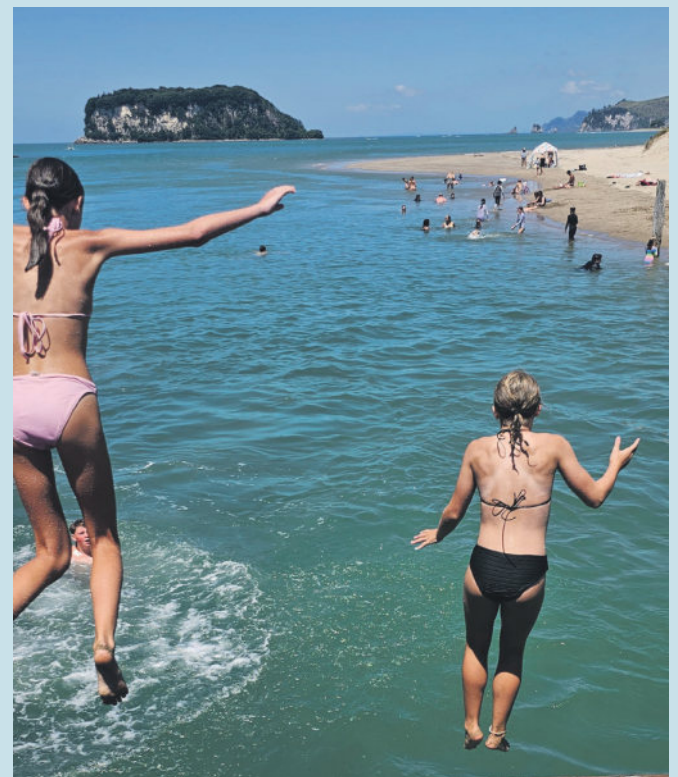
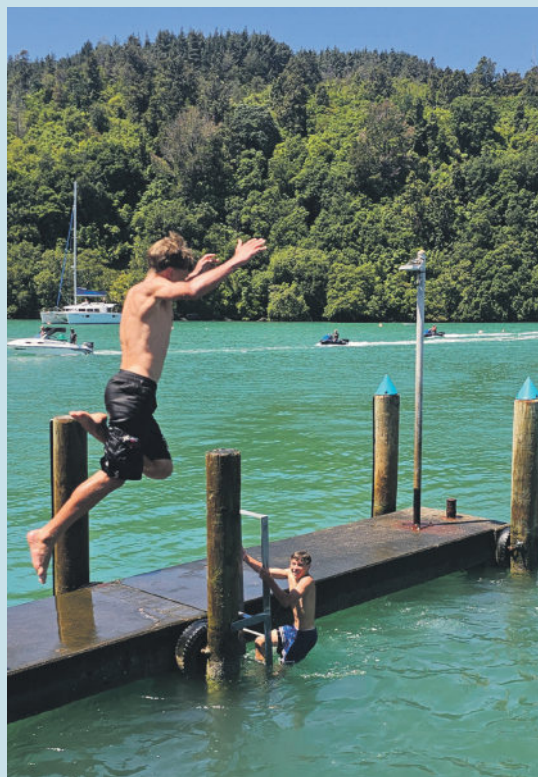
ECHO Walking Festival
20 March – 19 April 2026

For more information and to book your spot, head to:
echowalkfest.org.nz

For more information and marketing of the ECHO Walking Festival, please contact:
Cindy Clare
021 083 07553
cindyclare@live.com

Wharf jumping

Photos by Ann Costar



Billabong Grom series celebrates 21 years



Groms met with small waves last weekend, but shredded them anyway! A huge crowd turned out to support the youngsters and the 2026 Billabong Grom Series, presented by Oceanbridge in Whangamata.

Celebrating 21 years of the event, and for many youngsters, their first taste of a surfing event. Loads of fun, testing their skills in the ocean over the 2 day competition.

Check out the great photos by Mark James, Whangamatā & Waihi News Photographer!



The Billabong Grom Series, presented by Oceanbridge, offers up many youngsters their first taste of a surfing event. Putting themselves up against their fellow competitors and surfing friends, enjoying a fun two days of surfing at each event, developing their skills in the ocean and inspiring some to consider their future as a competitive surfer in Aotearoa.

With a long history of supporting grommet surfing in New Zealand, Billabong and Oceanbridge proudly present the 2026 series and celebrate its 21st anniversary. If previous years are an indication, the series will sell out again as one of the highlights on the New Zealand Grom Series calendar.

The event also marks the second of eight national events around the New Zealand coastline as part of

the "Epic Break" summer campaign showcasing surfing talent and celebrating the surfing community between January and April.

Participants surf across three age groups - Under 18, 16 and 14s for boys and girls providing opportunities for all ability levels. Other enticing factors include national ranking points and points towards selection for the New Zealand Junior Surfing Team, something that many grommets will have their eye on with a number of surfers from the 2025 Junior Surfing Team returning this year.

A majority of New Zealand's elite surfers have taken part in the Grom Series over the past 21 years including Olympians Saffi Vette, Billy Stairmand and Ella Williams along with ex World Tour surfers Paige Hareb and Ricardo Christie and the

likes of talented free-surfer Kehu Butler.

Apart from the competitive side of the series the Billabong Grom events also bring the junior surfing community together for three weekends over the summer, a chance for groms to hangout, surf, enjoy the waves and build friendships.

Following on from the National Championships held in Gisborne just last week, the hotly contested first event of the Billabong Grom Series will take place at Mount Maunganui.

Freshly crowned National Champions, eager groms and local hopefuls will be amongst over 130 participants displaying their skills in the surf at Tay Street Beach from the 31st January to the 1st February.

At the conclusion of Event 1, the Billabong Grom Series presented by Oceanbridge heads to Whangamata (14-15th February) and then the third and final event is set to take place at Piha Beach on February 28th - March 1st.

The 2026 NZ Grom Series comprises over 10 events nationwide with participants best four events counting toward their national ranking.

EVENT DATES

Event 1: 31 January - 1 February, Mount Maunganui, Tay St Beach.

Event 2: 14-15 February, Whangamata Beach.

Event 3: 28 February - 1 March, Piha Beach, Auckland.

Source: Surfing NZ

Whangamata Club Adjunct Indoor Bowls

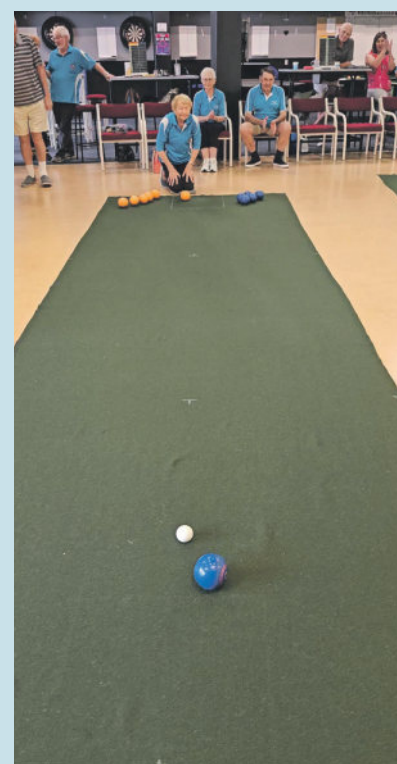


On Friday, 13 February, we had our Opening day with a very good turnout. President Ann Costar welcomed everyone and wished them a good year of bowling. Ellen Martin one of our oldest Bowlers sent the first bowl up, then 30 Bowlers had a fun afternoon with the Club providing platters of slices.

Winners were: Brian Wyatt, Lynda Callaghan and Denese Braithwaite
Runner up: Alex Steel, Pamela Bracewell and Laraine Osborne
Chocolate: Neville Bracewell, Marilyn Steel and Max Hill. Congratulations and well done to all teams. Our Bowling days are Wednesdays 1.15pm and Fridays 1.15pm.

New players welcome... we will teach you the game, give it a go.

- Ann Costar



Whangamata Real Estate

WHANGAMATA REAL ESTATE 2024 LTD (LICENSED REAA 2008)

Don't just dream it, live it

ENQUIRY
OVER
\$1.195M



Estuary Eden

201B Marie Crescent, Whangamata

4+ 2 1

- Stunning estuary location with choice of surf beach or estuary for swimming
- Serene garden oasis perfect for relaxation
- Sunny elevated deck ideal for entertaining
- Light-filled open-plan kitchen, dining, and lounge flowing to the outdoors
- Four bedrooms, two upstairs and two downstairs, each level with its own bathroom
- Spacious office/hobby room plus a second lounge for flexible living

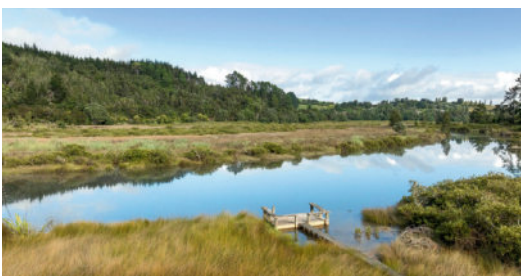
Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8604



ENQUIRY
OVER
\$1.425M



Nature on your Doorstep

106 Whitby Place, Whangamata

2+ 3

- Prime estuary-edge location with serene, ever-changing water views
- Jetty access adds fun and entertainment on the water
- Single-level open-plan living with easy flow to outdoor areas and gardens
- Two spacious bedrooms and two bathrooms, including wheelchair-accessible option
- Second lounge/family room opening to louvre-covered patio
- Self-contained, fully furnished cabin with private access

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8602



PRICE
BY
NEG



Beach & Bay Panorama

209A Esplanade Drive, Whangamata

3+ 2 2

- Waterfront property with panoramic views of the bay
- Dual north-facing upper-level decks with sweeping outlook
- Three/four bedrooms with great separation & guest facilities, two bathrooms (one on each level)
- Master bedroom with walk-in robe & private deck access
- Open-plan kitchen & living flowing to decks and views
- Easy lock and leave, low maintenance property
- Stroll across to beach for swimming between the flags
- Wander to Blackies Cafe for Breakfast or Coffee
- Too easy - relax and enjoy



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8571



Sports & Results

WHANGAMATA MAH JONG

6 February: We had 37 players including 3 new members and one visitor. To welcome everyone back we were treated to two sweet slices for afternoon tea.
1st. Dianne Trembath with 39 points
2nd. Eleanor Leopold with 38 points
3rd. Erin Wyatt with 31 points
The Lucky Number was 16 and was won by Kathy Weir.

12 February: We're off to a good start for 2026 with 13 attending the inaugural Napier Art Deco Tournament over the Waitangi weekend. There were 80 contestants from around New Zealand and Australia. Whangamata Club had 5 in the top ten. Dawn Styles 2nd, Daphne Inglis 3rd, Trish Griffiths 5th, Vina Carroll 7th and Donna Lowrie 9th. Plus several Session and hand of the day winners.



From left: Daphne Inglis – 3rd, Dawn Styles – 2nd, Vina Carroll 7th and Trish Griffiths – 5th.

13 February: We had 54 players with two tables of three.
1st. Bev Kerr with 41 points
2nd. Dawn Styles with 40 points on countback
3rd. Donna Bailey with 40 points
Today's Lucky Number was 9 and was won by Heather Van Rijs.

500 CARD CLUB

500 cards has recommenced and we play every Wednesday 1-4pm at the RSA. Come along and join us.

4 February: We had 27 players. Winner & Highest score: Mike Tyne - \$20 voucher
Runner Up: Bruce Lowrie - \$10 voucher
Average score: Janice Allen - \$10 voucher
Lowest score: Colette Slack - bar of chocolate
Raffle winner: Leticia Murray - \$25 New World voucher

11 February: Winner & Highest score: Snow Harris - \$20 voucher
Runner Up: Michael Paris - \$10 voucher
Average score: Christine Lipanovich - \$10 voucher
Lowest score: Chris Hepi - bar of chocolate
Raffle winner: Mike Tyne - \$25 New World voucher.

TABLE TENNIS

12 February: 1st place – Roger Wolfe;
2nd place – Albie Driver;
3rd place – Keith Gribben.

Send us your team's results! Email whangamatanews@gmail.com

Waihi Beach Tides 2026

FEBRUARY 2026										
New Moon: 18 th					Full Moon: 2 nd					
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			
20	Fri	9:58	2.0	22:16	1.9	3:33	0.3	16:04	0.3	06:50 20:08
21	Sat	10:41	2.0	23:02	1.9	4:18	0.3	16:49	0.3	06:51 20:06
22	Sun	11:26	2.0		1.9	5:04	0.3	17:35	0.3	06:52 20:05
23	Mon	11:49	1.9	12:12	2.0	5:53	0.3	18:23	0.3	06:53 20:04
24	Tue	0:40	1.9	13:02	1.9	6:44	0.4	19:13	0.3	06:54 20:02
25	Wed	1:34	1.9	13:55	1.9	7:39	0.5	20:08	0.3	06:55 20:01
26	Thu	2:34	1.8	14:54	1.8	8:39	0.5	21:07	0.4	06:56 20:00
27	Fri	3:38	1.8	15:57	1.8	9:43	0.5	22:10	0.4	06:57 19:58
28	Sat	4:44	1.8	17:04	1.8	10:49	0.5	23:14	0.4	06:58 19:57

MARCH 2026										
New Moon: 19 th					Full Moon: 4 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	Sun	5:47	1.9	18:09	1.8			11:53	0.5	
2	Mon	6:45	1.9	19:09	1.8	0:16	0.4	12:53	0.4	06:59 19:56
3	Tue	7:39	1.9	20:03	1.9	1:13	0.3	13:48	0.4	07:00 19:54
4	Wed	8:29	2.0	20:53	1.9	2:05	0.3	14:38	0.4	07:01 19:53
5	Thu	9:15	2.0	21:39	1.9	2:53	0.3	15:24	0.3	07:02 19:51
6	Fri	9:59	2.0	22:23	1.9	3:39	0.3	16:08	0.3	07:03 19:50
7	Sat	10:40	1.9	23:04	1.9	4:22	0.4	16:49	0.4	07:04 19:48
8	Sun	11:20	1.9		1.8	5:05	0.4	17:29	0.4	07:05 19:47
9	Mon	11:45	1.8	11:59	1.8	5:46	0.5	18:09	0.4	07:06 19:46
10	Tue	0:27	1.8	12:39	1.8	6:29	0.5	18:50	0.5	07:07 19:44
11	Wed	1:11	1.7	13:22	1.7	7:13	0.6	19:33	0.5	07:08 19:43
12	Thu	1:59	1.7	14:08	1.7	8:01	0.7	20:20	0.6	07:09 19:41
13	Fri	2:51	1.7	14:58	1.6	8:53	0.7	21:12	0.6	07:10 19:40
14	Sat	3:46	1.7	15:54	1.6	9:47	0.7	22:07	0.6	07:11 19:38
15	Sun	4:42	1.7	16:51	1.6	10:43	0.7	23:03	0.6	07:12 19:37
16	Mon	5:35	1.7	17:48	1.7	11:37	0.6		0.6	07:13 19:35
17	Tue	6:25	1.8	18:41	1.7	11:56	0.6	12:28	0.6	07:14 19:34
18	Wed	7:12	1.8	19:31	1.8	0:46	0.5	13:17	0.5	07:15 19:32
19	Thu	7:58	1.9	20:20	1.9	1:35	0.4	14:04	0.4	07:16 19:31
20	Fri	8:44	2.0	21:07	2.0	2:22	0.4	14:51	0.3	07:17 19:29
21	Sat	9:30	2.0	21:55	2.0	3:09	0.3	15:38	0.3	07:18 19:28
22	Sun	10:17	2.0	22:43	2.0	3:57	0.3	16:25	0.2	07:19 19:26
23	Mon	11:05	2.0	23:33	2.0	4:46	0.3	17:13	0.2	07:20 19:25
24	Tue		2.0	11:55	2.0	5:38	0.3	18:03	0.2	07:20 19:23
25	Wed	0:26	2.0	12:48	1.9	6:32	0.4	18:56	0.3	07:21 19:22

CLASSIFIEDS

SITUATIONS VACANT

URGENTLY REQUIRED
Part-time caregiver

Part-time caregiver needed in Whangamata to assist with personal care for a lovely lady in her 70's. Good hourly rate offered, training provided. Phone Margaret on 865 6804.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Katikati U3A, sub-branch U3A Tauranga, general monthly meeting

Wednesday 11th March 10am - 12pm, at The Hub, adjacent to the Katikati Library.

\$3 admission, all welcome.

Speaker: Donna Forde, Western Bay Museum, Treasures from the past.



Heart & Artery Screening

WORTH MORE THAN A NIGHT OUT!

One dinner out lasts a night.
Supporting a healthy heart can last a lifetime.

A Screening offers clear, personalised insight into your cardiovascular health – one of the most valuable investments you can make in your long-term wellbeing.



Whangamata Pharmacy
2nd of March 2026

This March, Make One Smart Swap

www.cardiaction.co.nz

Book Now

PEST PLANT MANAGEMENT

On behalf of
Second Nature NZ, Kūaotunu Dune Care Group,
Pauanui Dune Protection Society, Thames-Coromandel District Council, Maintain Pāuanui Ltd, Gilbert Contracting, Hei O Wharekaho Settlement Trust, Coastcare East Coast weed control contractors will be spraying to target and control non-native weed plant species on public and coastal reserves.

This includes, and is not limited to, Whangamatā, Onemana, Pāuanui, Tairua, Hot Water Beach, Hāhei, Cooks Beach, Flaxmill Bay, Front Beach, Whitianga, Wharekaho, Ōpito Bay, Ōtama west end car park, Kūaotunu, Rings Beach, and Matarangi and Whangapoua.

From: 3 February 2026 to 19 December 2026
(excluding school holidays, weekends and public holidays)

The areas will be signposted and a site-specific spray plan is available on request.

For more information phone 07 868 0200

A Lawrie
Chief Executive
Thames-Coromandel District Council



Only the best WAIHI TRADIES will do!

Use Locals... For Locals... Support Locals!

OP SHOP

WAIHI ST JOHN OP SHOP
Recruiting Now!



Make a difference
IN THE WAIHI COMMUNITY

Are you a Customer Service Superstar? Magic Merchandiser? Keen Handyman?
We are currently recruiting for a variety of roles across various departments in our Waihi Op Shop.

If you're keen to volunteer, pop in and ask to see Store Manager Sam for a chat, or call her on 07 863 9274 to find out more!

3 Silvertown Road Waihi

VETERINARY SERVICES



FranklinVets



WAIHI 07 863 8684
WAIHI BEACH 07 863 7387

TYRE SERVICES

Gold Valley TYRES

- Tyre Sales • Mag Wheel Sales
- Fitting & Balancing • Laser Wheel Alignment
- Motorcycle & Truck Balancing

ph: (07) 863 8555 **32 Kenny Street**
m: 027 303 1428 **Waihi 3610**
e: goldvalleytyres@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING & ALTERATIONS

Nanna's Little Pretties



Made with love by a Nanna.
Every girl deserves something pretty to wear and love.
Sizes from 0-3 months to 10 years. A range of boys clothes is also available. Bigger sizes available by request.

Handmade baby and children's clothes using good quality fabrics. Baby knitwear using NZ merino wool is also available. I have a range of ready to buy & also do a lot of custom-mades. I have a wide range of fabrics to choose from.

Shop at 110 Savage Rd, Waihi 3610 / Phone 021 892 248
Email nannaslittlepretties@gmail.com

I also do repairs and alterations - hemming, shortening skirts dresses, taking in dresses etc - minor bridal work.

FLOORING

Owens Flooring

Flooring Sales and Installation
FREE MEASURE & QUOTATION

Carpet, Vinyl, Wood & Laminate Flooring
SHOWROOM: 5/57 Wilson Road, Waihi Beach
Open 8.30am-4.00pm Monday to Friday
Saturdays by Appointment

Phone: 027 233 7277 | 07 863 5723
sales@owensflooring.co.nz owensflooring.co.nz

RENTAL PROPERTY MANAGER

PGG Wrightson Real Estate

FRIENDLY. LOCAL. RELIABLE.
RENTAL PROPERTY MANAGER - WAIHI

Call today! **Julie Cunningham**
027 549 2427

pggwre.co.nz | PGG Wrightson Real Estate Limited,
licensed under the REAA 2008.

PLASTERER

PLASTERER
FIX+STOP

PATCHES, repairs, new builds, skim, renovations, coving, wallpaper removal.
Ph or txt 022-4266-151.

ARBORIST & FIREWOOD

SHORT BACK 'N' SIDES LTD
Arboricultural Contractors

TREE PROBLEMS?
Dismantle, pruning, removal, stump grinding. BIG or SMALL - we do them ALL!
0274 390 367
www.shortbacknsides.co.nz

FIREWOOD
Available all year round. Smoking chunks or dust, kindling, bagged wood. Delivery available or pick up on Fridays from 15 Dean Cres, Waihi. Gold Card discounts. Also 100s of native and exotic milled slab timber, garden mulch, smoking wood.
0274 390 367 or our firewood hotline 022 043 1862



HOUSEHOLD GOODS

The HUB Waihi
NEW PREMISES
7b Dean Cres, Waihi
Ph 0204 086 2746

- Pre-loved furniture • Collectables
- Decor • Estate clearances

NEW ITEMS DAILY
Open WEDNESDAY to SUNDAY 10am-6pm

ARBORIST

TREE TOPS
ARBORIST

- Professional experienced and insured arborist
- All tree work including removal / pruning
- Hedge trimming and property maintenance
- Quality firewood and smoker wood

Heath van Leeuwen 0210 838 9922
email Heathsvan@gmail.com

TYRE SERVICES

GOODYEAR AUTOCARE

Car, 4WD, truck, bus & tractor tyres
Tyre repair - Lease vehicles,
Wheel alignments & Mechanical,
All brands of tyres

Waihi Tyre Services
48 Rosemont Road, Waihi
07 863 7508 • waihityres@gmail.com

ADVERTISING

ATTENTION
WAIHI TRADIES!!!

Grab your spot on this page
Super affordable!
Just ONE price:
\$100 + GST for TWO adverts per month
Contact Jennie 021 0232 1661
Whangamatā & Waihi NEWS

Only the BEST TRADIES will do! Use Locals... For Locals... Support Locals!

SMALL ENGINE REPAIRS

ANTS REPAIRS

Whangamata-based small engine repairs & maintenance

- Chainsaws • Lawnmowers
- Ride ons • Weedeaters

Anthony Law
121 Sharyn Pl • 021 0244 2791
ants.repairs.nz@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING

Beach Contractors & Landscape Supplies

LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES:

Bark, mulch, compost and topsoil | Sand, lime chip, river stones and pebbles | Cement, builder's mix and a range of metals

Delivery service available

Whangamata Yard 2546 Waihi Whangamata Rd M. 027 261 1262
Waihi Beach Yard 691 Waihi Beach Rd P. 07 863 5340

CUSTOM ART

BIG CARHOONERS



Cartoon drawings of your ride

BRUCE RULE
bigcarhooners.com
Instagram: bigcarhooners2
Mobile 021974581

LAND DEVELOPMENT



Subdivisions
Boundary Markings
Land Use Consents Topographical Surveys
Building Setout and Certifications

Contact us
0508 4 BIRCH
tairua@birch.nz
244 Main Road, Tairua
www.birch.nz

EARTHWORKS



- Bobcat & excavator
- Tight access work
- Site works
- Topsoiling
- Driveways
- Hole drilling
- Concrete prep
- Cartage

Shay 021 742 966 | www.blackhillearthworks.co.nz
info@blackhillearthworks.co.nz

IT SUPPORT



Boot it.

FIBRE INTERNET
now available to order from Boot I.T.

We are the Coromandel's only local Fibre Internet Provider, and the ONLY provider that offers 7 days per week support.

Call us on 0800 242 266 to find out more.

PAINTER



TOTAL PAINTING SOLUTIONS

CALL LEE ON 0275 656 336
Lee.tpms@gmail.com

30 Years of Interior & Exterior Painting
Delivering High-Quality Service with Exceptional Results

CONCRETE

BROWN MORE CONSTRUCTION CONCRETE CONTRACTORS

Any Concrete Requirements: Slabs, driveways, patios, paths, etc
All types of concrete - colour - finish
Council Permits for Vehicle Crossings
Excavation to finished product • Saw cutting & drilling

We take pride in doing a quality job at a competitive rate

REX: 027 285 5489
P. 07 863 3364 • office@brownmoreconstruction.co.nz

www.brownmoreconstruction.co.nz

PAINTER & DECORATOR

Gavin Johnson PAINTER & DECORATOR

Interior/Exterior Painting
Wallpapering

Cedar Cleaning and Restoration Service

0224 552 363

brushstrokeswhangamata@gmail.com



DIGGER & CARTAGE

COAST DIGGER & CARTAGE

- Digger & Tip Truck Hire
- Driveways
- Building Digouts
- Site Works
- Concrete removal
- Track work
- Hole Drilling
- Tree Felling & Removal



Murray Clarke 027 2010 209
muzzclarke66@hotmail.com

HOME IMPROVEMENT



Coastal Home Improvement

Small business - local through & through

- Aluminium Fences, Pergolas & Structures
- Renovations
- Showers
- Laminate flooring
- Wooden Decks, Fences & Pergolas
- Projection and Track Awnings
- Repairs and more....Just ask

Tony Fraser 027 350 6948 CoastalHomeImprovement
coastalhomeimprovement@outlook.co.nz

PAINTER

Coastline Property Painters

Protecting your investment Communication is everything
Interior Exterior Roofs Updates & photos as your job progresses

Call Richard Upton: 0274 884 881 / www.coastlinepropertypainters.com



OUTDOOR COVER

Covered.

- Louvres
- Privacy Panels
- Awnings
- Sails



info@covered.co.nz 07 865 6207 or 027 497 1236
www.covered.co.nz 300 Casement Rd. Whangamata

CURTAINS / BLINDS

Curtains and Blinds and More Whangamata

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

- Curtains • Venetian Blinds • Roller Blinds
- Romans Blinds • Shutters • Honeycomb Blinds

100% Mobile Service
We come to you, Free Measure and Quote

Call Louize or Gavin
on 027 4777 916

or email info@curtainsandblinds.co.nz

ADVERTISING



Contact Jennie
Whangamata & Waihi NEWS

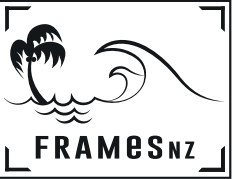
Phone
021 0232 1661

whangamatanews@gmail.com
Secure your space on here today!

Use Only the Best Services in our Community!

Use Locals... For Locals... Support Locals!

FRAMING



- Picture framing
- Framed mirrors
- Art installation
- Pick up & delivery

Ade Cunningham
M. 0274 929 695 or P. 07 575 9149
info@framesnz.co.nz • www.framesnz.co.nz
300 Port Rd (corner of Ajax Rd), Whangamata

HANDYMAN

HANDYMAN

30 yrs experience, specialising in:

- Bathroom, deck & building repairs
- Gib fixing & plastering
- Interior /exterior painting

Please ring Rex on 021 997 428

BUILDING & LANDSCAPING



HANSEN BUILDERZ
BUILDING & LANDSCAPING
COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE
Contact us to discuss your project & a free estimate today



ADRIAN 0274 263 895 | hansen.builderz@gmail.com | HBLHomesnz
Residential | Commercial | Alterations | Additions

ARCHITECTURAL BUILDERS

HOME & Lifestyle

- Architectural Builders
- Interior & Colour Design Services
- Project Management

For trusted expertise with your building project
Katrina Jackson 027 273 0685 | Leigh Goodman 027 4475 423
info@homeandlifestyle.co.nz

BUILDING WASHING

HOUSE WASHING

Exterior house or commercial building wash, roof wash, fences, driveway, patios – soft-wash for best moss and lichen clean and treatment, exterior window cleaning, or general water blasting, 100m of hose so access is no problem.

Prompt local service with 20 years' experience.

Ph 0800 747 787 email housewash@xtra.co.nz **or dial Andy direct on 027 313 4386**

CLEANING



Jae
we'll take care of it

- Carpet Cleaning
- Pest Control
- Flood & Fire Restoration
- Stain Removal
- Upholstery Cleaning

From Waihi to Whangamata
07 863 8358 or 0800 225 552
whangamata@jae.co.nz



AUTOMOTIVE & BOATS



BOAT TRAILERS, CARS, CLASSIC & HOT RODS

ONLY Repco STOCKIST IN TOWN! **ONLY HONDA AGENT IN TOWN!**

Aickin Road, Whangamata (next to Bunnings)
P. 865 9073 | E. office@jcdcustoms.co.nz
Mon-Fri from 8am

CHILDCARE

Jemma's Homebased Childcare - Recruiting Now
Passionate about children & their learning?



- Work from home and make a real impact
- Free training & level 4 study
- Smaller group size/build stronger relationships
- Create learning experiences reflecting your values

Join our supportive whānau today!
Be part of a rewarding role where your work makes a difference
Call Jemma's: 0800 536 627
| info@jemmas.co.nz | www.jemmas.co.nz

HOME BUILDERS

Whatever the site, we'll help you create the perfect home.

Jennian HOMES

614 Port Rd, Whangamatā E: coromandel@jennian.co.nz P: 07 865 6767



TRAVEL BROKER



Kay Gregan
The Travel Designer

THE TRAVEL BROKERS
a member of helloworld TRAVEL LIMITED

AWARD-WINNING TAAZ BONDED TRAVEL BROKER
Travel Broker & CLIA Accredited Cruise Specialist
2025 Inaugural Brand USA Ambassador
Whangamata 07 865 9568 | M: 027 337 6222
Kay.Gregan@thetravelbrokers.co.nz
thetravelbrokers.co.nz/kaygregan

ELECTRICAL

For All Your Electrical Needs



Electrical Laser
"Totally Dependable"

Now Open In A Second Location
Introducing Laser Electrical Waihi

WAIHI 07 863 7746 WANGAMATA 07 865 9309
waihi@laserelectrical.co.nz whangamata@laserelectrical.co.nz
40B Kenny Street 100 Lindsay Road

DELIVERERS WANTED

DELIVERERS WANTED IN WHANGAMATĀ



GET PAID TO GO FOR A WALK
Hottest delivery rate in town, \$20 per route at rate.
One delivery per fortnight with a 2-3 day window to deliver. Most routes take approximately 1 hour.

Whangamatā & Waihi NEWS

Contact Jennie Black 021 0232 1661 or email whangamataneews@gmail.com

Only the BEST TRADIES will do! Use Locals... For Locals... Support Locals!

LOUVRES

Engineered for Life
LouvreTec®
OPENING & RETRACT ROOFS
SUN LOUVRES / SHUTTERS
07 574 6040 office@louvretec.com
www.louvretec.co.nz
free no obligation quote & site visit

KITCHENS

McBeth Rd Orchard Joinery
Affordable joinery
Kitchens new or upgraded
Laundries & bathrooms
Wardrobes & storage units
Free estimates
Tony & Nicky Ball - 027 229 2255
Whangamata

BUTCHER

MEAT AT THE BEACH
Come into the local butcher and find:
BBQ meat, in store made sausages, patties,
tasty chops, steaks, butterflied chickens & much more.
'The home of Whanga bacon & Whanga Black Pudding'
601 PORT ROAD, WHANGAMATA P. 07 865 7241
MON-FRI 8.30AM-5PM • SAT 8.30AM-3PM

BARBER


027 577 0666 Shop 3, 701 Port Road, Whangamata
cutsbysaminz@gmail.com
paradise_coast_barbers

PODIATRY

Pedicare Services
Professional Foot Care
Alison Walkington
Registered Nurse
Home visits by appointment
Mobile 027 663 2320 or
email alison.c.walkington@gmail.com

ELECTRICIAN

PITCHER ELECTRICAL
YOUR TRUSTED
MASTER ELECTRICIAN
working in Whangamata,
Opoutere, Onemana and
Whiritoa
**RESIDENTIAL AND
COMMERCIAL SERVICES**
TONY PITCHER 0274 589 573

PEST CONTROL


Professional Pest Management
Say goodbye to unwanted pests -
spiders, ants, wasps, cockroaches,
rodents & more!
We offer a safe, effective pest
management solution tailored to suit
your needs.
Contact us today for a pest-free home
or business. Locally owned & operated.
STEPHANIE FRITH - QUALIFIED TECHNICIAN
pestpros@outlook.co.nz | 027 3211 796 | www.pestpros.co.nz
Whangamata & Surrounds
A member of Pest Management Association of New Zealand

WINDOW CLEANING


Your ecofriendly
window
cleaning
service.
Mike Horton M 021 501 324
info@purenclean.co.nz www.purenclean.co.nz

HEAT PUMPS

Reef REFRIGERATION & AIR CONDITIONING LTD
We Sell and Service all Major Brands
Your heat pump specialist
On site marine & commercial refrigeration
Call today for a hassle-free quote
027 933 8599
www.reefrefrigeration.co.nz

ROOFING


RIKKI ROOFING
we aim for the roof shout
Rikki Daysh, Owner/Operator
022 408 8424
rikkisroofing@gmail.com
Residential re roofs & new roofs
Spouting
Cladding
Maintenance & re screws

PLUMBER

Russell CHOAT
GAS & Plumbing
Whangamata
FOR ALL YOUR GAS-FITTING, PLUMBING,
DRAINAGE & ROOFING REQUIREMENTS
Registered craftsman & member
of Master Plumbers
M. 0274 714 869 E. office@choatsplumbing.co.nz

ELECTRICIAN / DOG GROOMER


Rusty Sparks
EVERYTHING
ELECTRICAL
Residential, Commercial,
Data, Alarms
021 800 017
admin@rustysparks.nz

**PIMPED
PUPS
GROOM
ROOM**
021 850 017
WHANGAMATA

BUILDER


**RESIDENTIAL
SERVICES**
LBP Builder / Renovation Specialist
07 865 6555 / 027 238 1659
skfrs@xtra.co.nz

ADVERTISING

Whangamatā & Waihi NEWS

By Locals, For Locals, About Locals! Home delivered.
For enquiries, contact Jennie 021 0232 1661.



Use Only the Best Services in our Community!

Use Locals... For Locals... Support Locals!

WINDSCREEN REPAIRS

secureglass

For all your
windscreen
needs!

021 617 664
secureglassltd.co.nz



MONDAYS:
RSA car park, Whangamata

TUESDAYS:
Fresh Choice car park, Waihi

THURSDAYS:
Tairua Community Hall, Tairua

FRIDAYS:
Goldfields car park, Thames

BINS

**Skip Bins, Wheelie Bins,
Front Load Bins**

Contact us today!

*We can
help!*



smart
environmental

0800 4 MY BIN - www.smartbins.co.nz

Proudly 100% Kiwi owned

BOARDING KENNEL / CATTERY

SPOT X
BOARDING KENNELS
AND CATTERY

Quality care and facilities in a rural setting
Office hours: 9am-12 noon and 3-5pm daily
INSPECTION WELCOME
Ph 07 865 8242 or 027 624 3890
Annette Gillatt
4km south of Whangamata on the main road

FIREWOOD

SUMMER SALE

WINTER 2025 BURNING
SEASONED PINE 2m³ \$200
SEASONED GUM 2m³ \$300
SEASONED PINE & GUM MIX 2m³ \$250

*Minimum 2m³ orders. Order 6m³ or more and get a further \$60 discount
(to qualify for the discount the 6m³ must be delivered in one drop off).
All our wood has been seasoned for a minimum of 12-18 months in log form,
not freshly cut down, and double screened to ensure a clean product.*

PH/TXT 0272841811 • WWW.STEVESFIREWOODSUPPLIES.CO.NZ



REFRIGERATION & AIR CON

**TIDELINE
REFRIGERATION**
WHANGAMATA

- * HEAT PUMPS
- * REFRIGERATION
- * AIR CONDITIONING
- * VENTILATION

SERVICING IN THE COROMANDEL AREA
0272121994 - 0277251820
TIDELINEREFRIGERATION@GMAIL.COM
WWW.TIDELINEREFRIGERATION.COM

TREE SPECIALIST

- Tree felling & pruning
- Hedge trimming
- Stump grinding
- Fully insured
- Qualified arborist

TREECARE WHANGAMATA LTD
Contact 022 648 8150
treecarewhangamata@gmail.com

LAWYERS

**USSHER
LAWYERS**

We can help with all of your general legal needs

- Conveyancing if you are buying or selling property
- Sale and purchase of business assets • Commercial leasing
- Relationship property • Trusts • Wills • Enduring powers of attorney

www.ussherlawyers.co.nz | Phone **07 865 8824**
We've moved - now at **123 Lindsay Rd, Whangamata**

WARDROBES

**WARDROBES
DIRECT**

Steve Parkinson
Central, East & South
021 0733 100
steve@wardrobesdirect.co.nz
**ALSO SERVICING
WHANGAMATA**
www.wardrobesdirect.co.nz

Showroom
and office:
175 Marua Rd
Mt Wellington

LAUNDRY

WHANGA LAUNDROMAT

"The only locally owned & operated laundromat in town!"
OPEN 24 HOURS - 7 DAYS A WEEK
CASEMENT RD, WHANGAMATA (OPPOSITE WAITOMO FUEL)

SCAFFOLDING

**WHANGAMATA
SCAFFOLDING**

- Mobile scaffolding
- Roof edge protection
- Construction scaffold

Servicing Whangamata
and surrounding areas

Please ring **022 076 0160** or
email **whangamatascaffolding@gmail.com**
102 Lindsay Road, Whangamata Est 2014

TYRE & BATTERY SERVICES

**WHANGAMATA
TYRE & BATTERY**

Car tyres / Wheel alignment
4WD tyres / Tyre repair
Wheel balance
Small implement tyres
Batteries - car & marine

KUMHOTYRES 7
Phone Simon
865 7698

CHALLENGE Cnr Port & Ocean Rd,
Whangamata
www.challenge.net.nz

WINDOW & DOOR SERVICES

**WHANGAMATA
WINDOW & DOOR
SERVICES**

Bryce Hall
M. 027 282 2057
Ph. 865 9714

Reglaze Repairs Maintenance
Retro Fit Double Glaze

whangamatawindowdoorservices@extra.co.nz

HOME SERVICES

YourLocal
NZ's Trusted Home Services

Avi@yourlocal.nz • www.yourlocal.nz • 022 534 5478

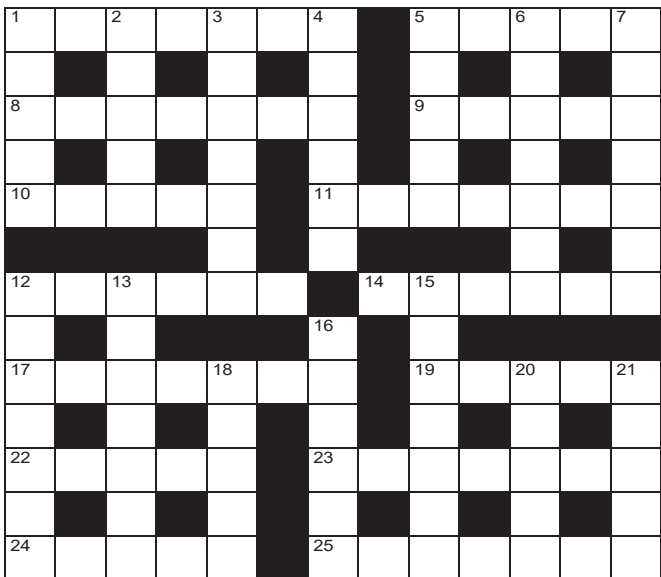
We specialise in

- Exterior house wash, windows, driveways, patios, decks,
fences & roofs • Commercial, residential, rural, new builds
& painters prep • Pests treatment (fumigation)
- Rodents & wasps • Chimney sweeping • Roof treatments

BUSINESS FRANCHISE FOR SALE

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

QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

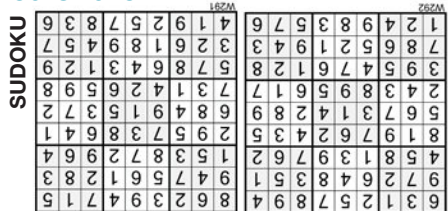
- Captain (7)
- Measure of liquid (5)
- Bitterness (7)
- Ascend (5)
- Carried (5)
- Missives (7)
- Shortage (6)
- On the whole (6)
- Contradictory statement (7)
- Cast out (5)
- Donate funds (5)
- Language of a region (7)
- Unwell (5)
- Slim (7)

Down

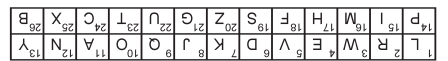
- Scour (5)
- Area on a dartboard (5)
- Guard (7)
- Seldom (6)
- Lawful (5)
- Cut in three (7)
- Building used by diplomats (7)
- Lower (7)
- Shorten (text) (7)
- Intimidate (7)
- Mass migration (6)
- Marriage payment (5)
- Beg (5)
- Afterward (5)

All puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SOLUTIONS



DECODER

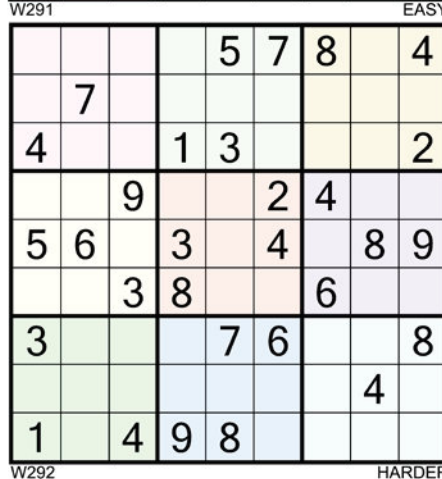
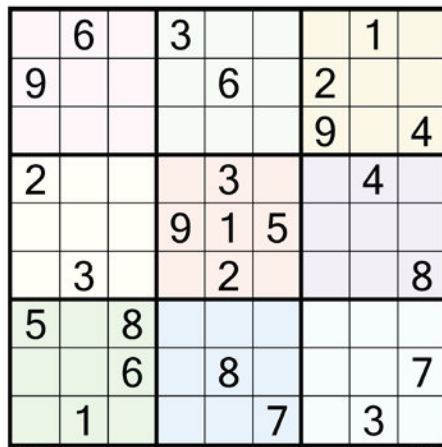


CRYPTIC

1. Skipper, 2. Paradox, 3. Paradox, 4. Paradox, 5. Paradox, 6. Paradox, 7. Paradox, 8. Paradox, 9. Paradox, 10. Paradox, 11. Paradox, 12. Paradox, 13. Paradox, 14. Paradox, 15. Paradox, 16. Paradox, 17. Paradox, 18. Paradox, 19. Paradox, 20. Paradox, 21. Paradox, 22. Paradox, 23. Paradox, 24. Paradox, 25. Paradox

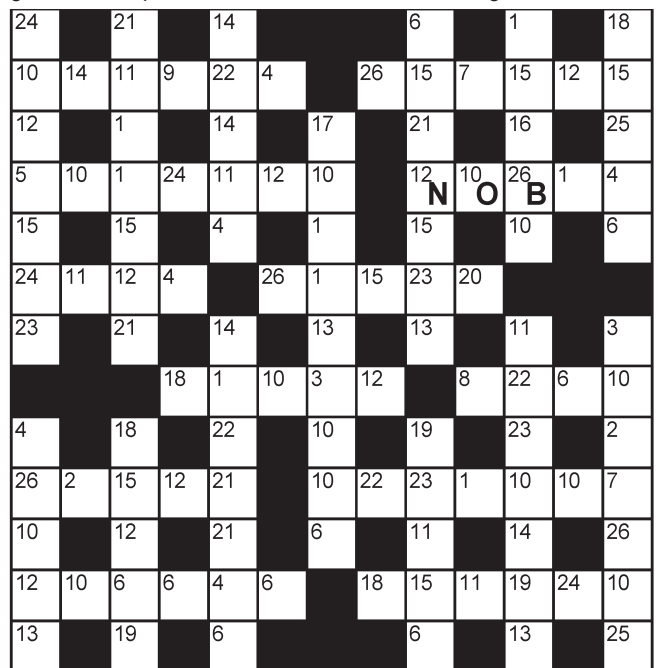
SUDOKU

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



DECODER

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



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13													
										O		N													
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26													
																									B

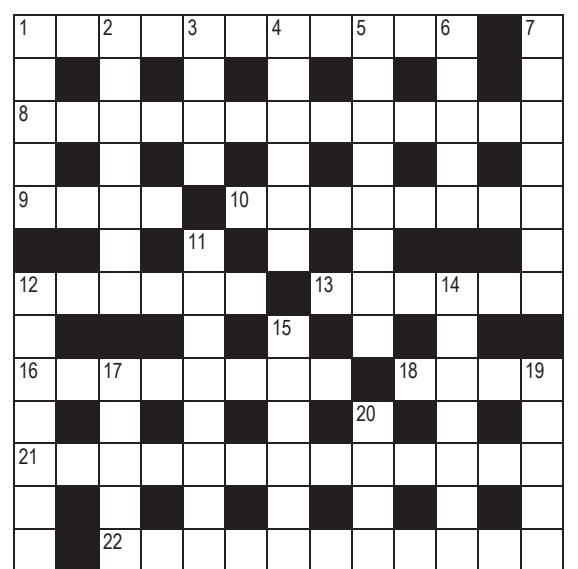
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 & 16. The cause of colder tea on Everest or stage fright (11,8)
- It's usually never contained within the current calendar (9,4)
- Not dead on time – or is he? (4)
- Worn by men in a strange TV set? (8)
- The artist uses gold front and back for lights (6)
- Count a bird ... (6)
- See 1
- ... and chop up a horse (4)
- Centric ruling. It can get you around at home (if you have the room) (7,6)
- Spoke again and altered the envelope (11)

Down

- Set out wasteful and horrible (5)
- Me snort? No! It was the other scary thing (7)
- An underwater basin? (4)
- Here if a female – no bull either! (6)
- An ancestral story? (8)
- Paper thin material (5)
- Train up to be strictly religious (7)
- Cabbage looking maybe (8)
- Not having enough members (7)
- Changes, loses a grand, but gets a hundred lucky dips (7)
- Bitterly cold when you



- return to excavate on Friday (6)
- Troop carriers lose apricots, oops! (5)
- Work the dough naked? (5)
- Spot the honey maker's home (4)

\$1 WINGS WEDNESDAY

from 4:30pm until sold out

FULL SIZE BUFFALO WINGS!! \$1 PER WING!!

Dine in only

conditions apply

PASTA THURSDAY

choose one of our pastas and grab a pint off tap or glass of haus wine for only **\$23.00**

manager@crafthauswhanga.co.nz

Friday Shout

\$10 PINTS
\$10 PIZZAS
\$10 HOUSE WINE
\$10 COCKTAIL

2:30PM - 5:30PM EVERY FRIDAY

DINE IN ONLY DEAL

conditions apply

SHELLFISH SATURDAY

Grab 1kg of greenlipped mussels in a Thai green curry sauce, served with garlic bread and either a pint off tap or glass of Haus wine.

Book your table now 07 865 6300

ONLY \$25

Give a Schnitz Sunday

Grab a pork or chicken schnitzel, slaw, gravy & a pint off tap or glass of haus wine

only **\$20**

Dine in only

BOOK YOUR TABLE AT manager@crafthauswhanga.co.nz

CRAFT HAUS

Gastropub Est. 2022

711 Port Road, Whangamata
@crafthauswhanga - www.crafthauswhanga.co.nz
07 865 6300