

# Whangamatā & Waihī NEWS

ISSUE 160 – 20 FEBRUARY, 2026

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## 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



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# Inaugural Yoga Festival coming to Whangamatā

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 Whangamatā 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](mailto:soreyajames@gmail.com). Use the QR Code below or go to [events.humanitix.com/cyf](https://events.humanitix.com/cyf)

- Jennie Black



**COROMANDEL YOGA FESTIVAL**  
**Elemental**  
WHANGAMATA 17 - 19 APRIL 2026

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

# 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**

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## 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 lead 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

**WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS.** Your letters must be no longer than 250 words and must be signed (no nom de plumes). *Whangamatā & Waihi News* reserves the right to edit, or to not print, submitted letters.  
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## EDITOR

We welcome your letters! Email to: [whangamataneeds@gmail.com](mailto:whangamataneeds@gmail.com)

## Successful day!

St John Op Shop Whangamatā 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.



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## Whangamatā Tides 2026

FEBRUARY 2026				New Moon: 18 <sup>th</sup>				Full Moon: 2 <sup>nd</sup>			
Date	High tide AM	Height (m)	High tide PM	Height (m)	Low tide AM	Height (m)	Low tide PM	Height (m)	Sunrise	Sunset	
20 Fri	10:03	2.0	22:21	1.9	3:38	0.3	16:09	0.3	06:50	20:08	
21 Sat	<b>10:46</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>23:07</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>4:23</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>16:54</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>06:51</b>	<b>20:06</b>	
22 Sun	<b>11:31</b>	<b>2.0</b>			<b>5:09</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>17:40</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>06:52</b>	<b>20:05</b>	
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 <sup>th</sup>				Full Moon: 19 <sup>th</sup>			
Date	High tide AM	Height (m)	High tide PM	Height (m)	Low tide AM	Height (m)	Low tide PM	Height (m)	Sunrise	Sunset	
1 Sun	<b>5:52</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>18:14</b>	<b>1.8</b>				<b>11:58</b>	<b>0.5</b>		
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	<b>10:45</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>23:09</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>4:27</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>16:54</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>07:04</b>	<b>19:48</b>	
8 Sun	<b>11:25</b>	<b>1.9</b>			<b>5:10</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>17:34</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>07:05</b>	<b>19:47</b>	
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	<b>3:51</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>15:59</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>9:52</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>22:12</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>07:11</b>	<b>19:38</b>	
15 Sun	<b>4:47</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>16:56</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>10:48</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>23:08</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>07:12</b>	<b>19:37</b>	
16 Mon	5:40	1.7	17:53	1.7	11:42	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	<b>9:35</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>22:00</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3:14</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>15:43</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>07:18</b>	<b>19:28</b>	
22 Sun	<b>10:22</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>22:48</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>4:02</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>16:30</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>07:19</b>	<b>19:26</b>	
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	<b>3:31</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>15:54</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>9:38</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>22:00</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>07:24</b>	<b>19:17</b>	

# 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, Whangāmata 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 pleased to see this Community Board meeting so well attended.

- Rob Boston

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# Whangamatā Harbour sedimentation

Sharp-eyed locals will have noticed people in Hi-Viz gear walking around Whangamatā 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 to 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 Whangamatā 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 Whangamatā 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.

Whangamatā 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 Whangamatā Harbourcare

Whangamatā Club

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Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February | 7:00 PM @ WHANGAMATA CLUB

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Whangamatā Club

Todd Sutton

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## 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](http://www.oceansports.co.nz)  
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# 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.

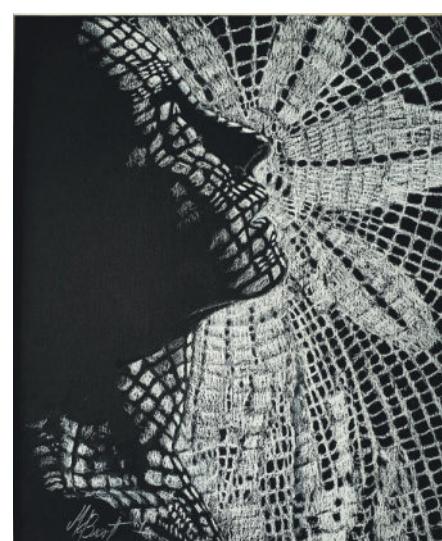
## Response from Pippa Airey - on winning the Creative Writing Award:

"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.

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# 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.

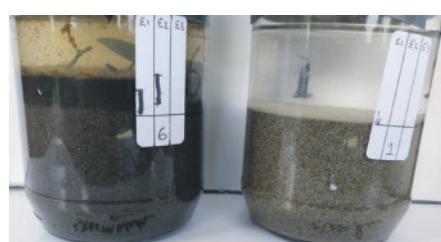
Modern land use exposes soil more frequently and moves water more quickly. Drainage networks concentrate runoff that once travelled slowly through wetlands and vegetation.

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

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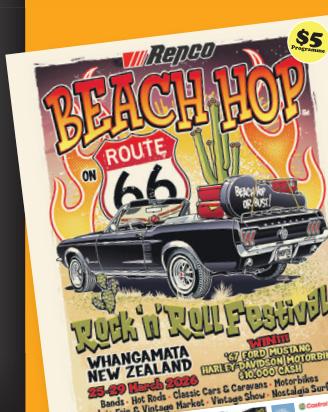
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Designer for  
Whangamatā & Waihi News  
and the

Repco Beach Hop programme



# Our Coromandel

News from Thames-Coromandel District Council

THAMES  
COROMANDEL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

20 February 2026

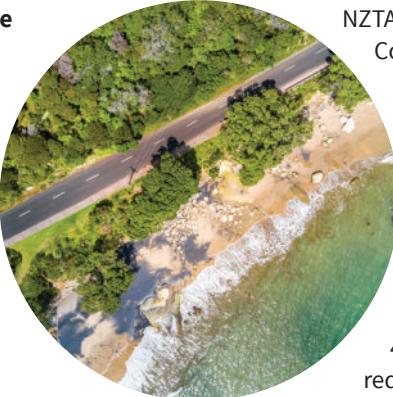
## Building back from the January storm

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 [tdc.govt.nz/stormrecovery](http://tdc.govt.nz/stormrecovery)



### New VSL signs to be installed to make communities safe

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.

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

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TCDCFEB2026

## 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 [tdc.govt.nz/whangastormwater](http://tdc.govt.nz/whangastormwater) for further details.

Need funding for your arts project?

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



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COROMANDEL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

[tdc.govt.nz/ccs](http://tdc.govt.nz/ccs)

# Queens of Drag bedazzled us all!

On 7 February, *Whangamatā & Waihī News* were delighted to attend the best night for a very long time. The fabulous 'Queens of Drag' descended on the Waihī 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](http://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

**creative***nz*  
COMMUNITIES

**HAURAKI**  
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## 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](mailto: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](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/community/grants-funding/creative-communities-scheme)*



# Waihi NEWS



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# Surf boat racing spectacular

Local crews shone as Surf Boat Spectacular at Waihī 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 Waihī 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, Waihī Beach Lifeguard Services Inc., Saturday's North Island Surf Boat Championships delivered a nail-biting highlight in the Under 23 Men's division. The Waihī 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 Waihī 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 Waihī 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 Waihī Beach.

- Photos by Mark James, Whangamatā & Waihī News

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# Waihi NEWS

## “This is as good as it gets”

Whangamatā & 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:

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prize for Most Tagged and released



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# Daniel (Dan) E. Harris QSM

**Waihī 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 Waihī 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 Waihī 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 boating community for establishing the North Island Surf Boat Championships. Created to showcase surf boat rowing properly and put the sport front and centre at Waihī Beach, the event has become a widely supported



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

Waihī 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.

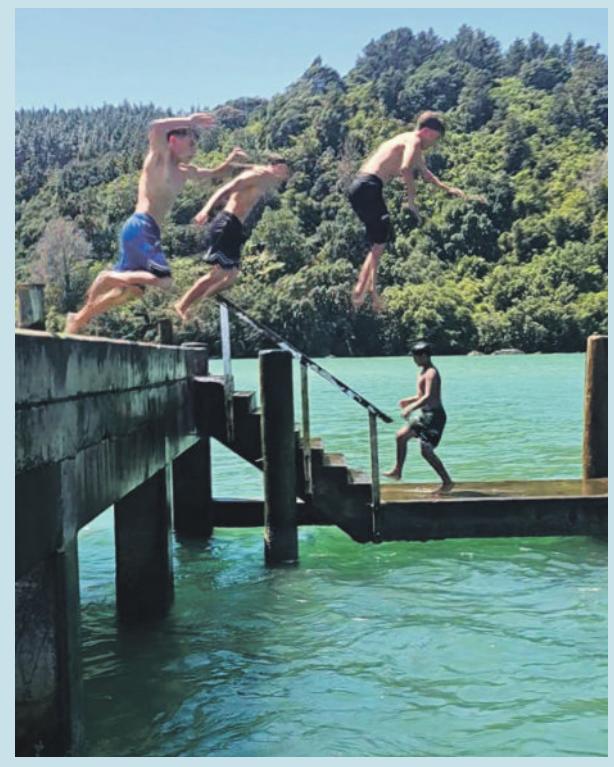
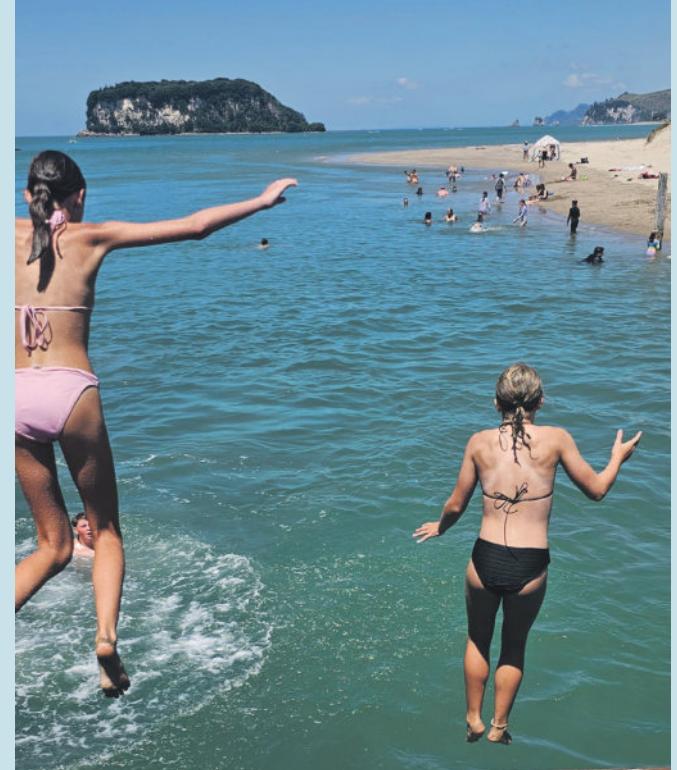
ECHO Walking Festival  
20 March – 19 April 2026

**For more information and to book your spot, head to: [echowalkfest.org.nz](http://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 Whangamatā.

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 Whangamatā (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, Whangamatā Beach.**

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

Source: Surfing NZ

## Whangamatā Club Adjunct Indoor Bowls

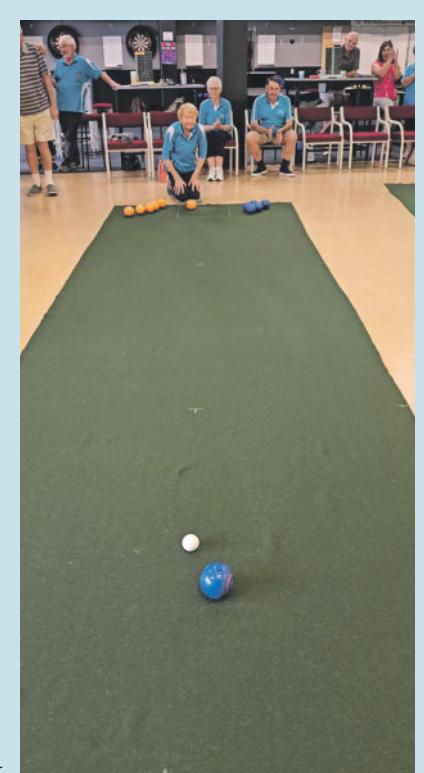


On Friday, 13 February, we had our Opening day with a very good turnout. President Ann Costar welcomed everyone and wished them a good year of bowling. Ellen Martin one of our oldest Bowlers sent the first bowl up, then 30 Bowlers had a fun afternoon with the Club providing platters of slices.

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



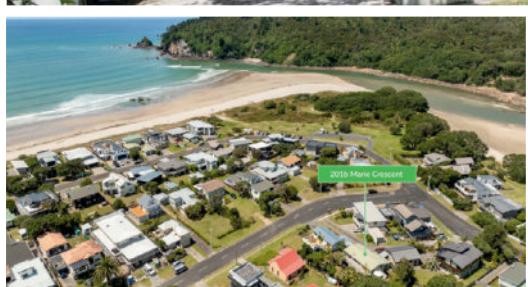
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# Sports & Results

## 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. Whangamatā 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.

**Send us your team's results!** Email [whangamataneeds@gmail.com](mailto:whangamataneeds@gmail.com)

## Waihi Beach Tides 2026

FEBRUARY 2026		New Moon: 18 <sup>th</sup>				Full Moon: 2 <sup>nd</sup>					
Date	High tide	Height (m)	High tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Sunrise	Sunset	
	AM	PM		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 <sup>th</sup>				Full Moon: 4 <sup>th</sup>					
Date	High tide	Height (m)	High tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Low tide	Height (m)	Sunrise	Sunset	
	AM	PM		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

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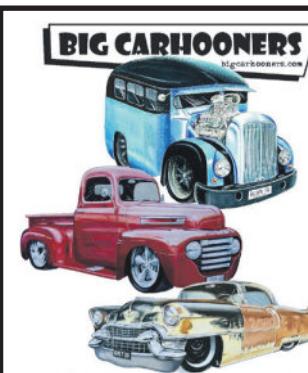
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## DELIVERERS WANTED IN WHANGAMATĀ

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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 whangamataneeds@gmail.com

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Free estimates

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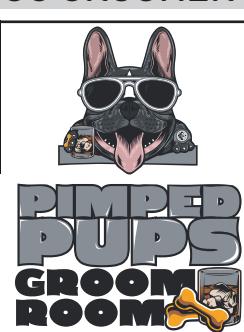
### ELECTRICIAN / DOG GROOMER

  
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### ADVERTISING

# Whangamatā & Waihī NEWS

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



# Use Only the Best Services in our Community!

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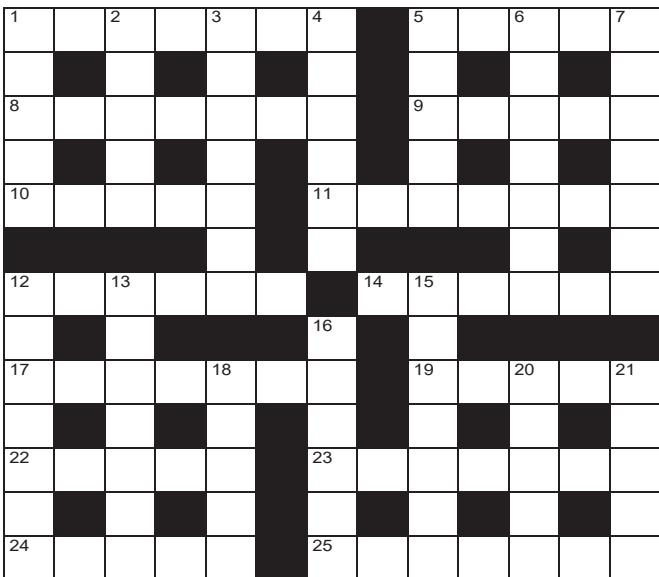
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We cover Coromandel, Thames, Waihi, Waihi Beach, Whitianga, Whangamatā

## QUICK CROSSWORD



## Across

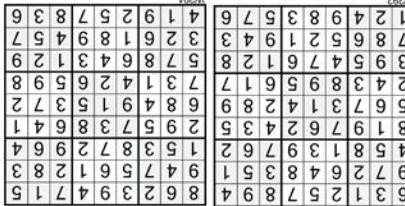
- Captain (7)
- Measure of liquid (5)
- Bitterness (7)
- Ascend (5)
- Carried (5)
- Missives (7)
- Shortage (6)
- On the whole (6)
- Contradictory statement (7)
- Cast out (5)
- Donate funds (5)
- Language of a region (7)
- Unwell (5)
- Slim (7)

## Down

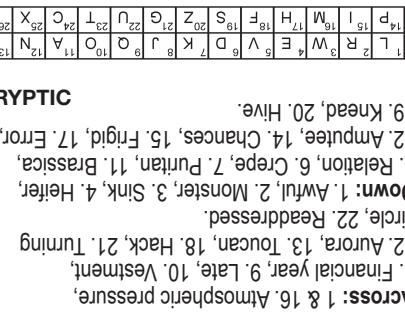
- Scour (5)
- Area on a dartboard (5)
- Guard (7)
- Seldom (6)
- Lawful (5)
- Cut in three (7)
- Building used by diplomats (7)
- Lower (7)
- Shorten (text) (7)
- Intimidate (7)
- Mass migration (6)
- Marriage payment (5)
- Beg (5)
- Afterward (5)

All puzzles © The Puzzle Company

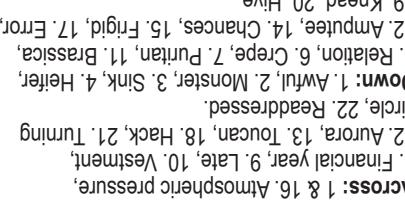
## SOLUTIONS



## DECODER

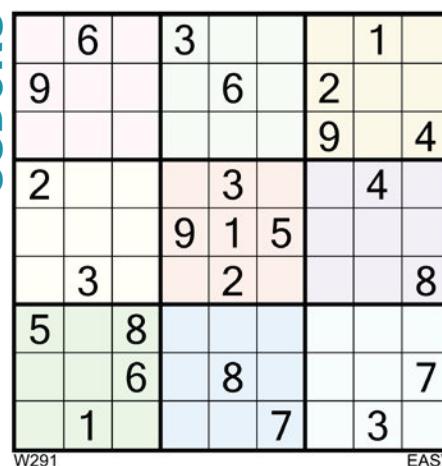


## CRYPTIC



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

## SUDOKU



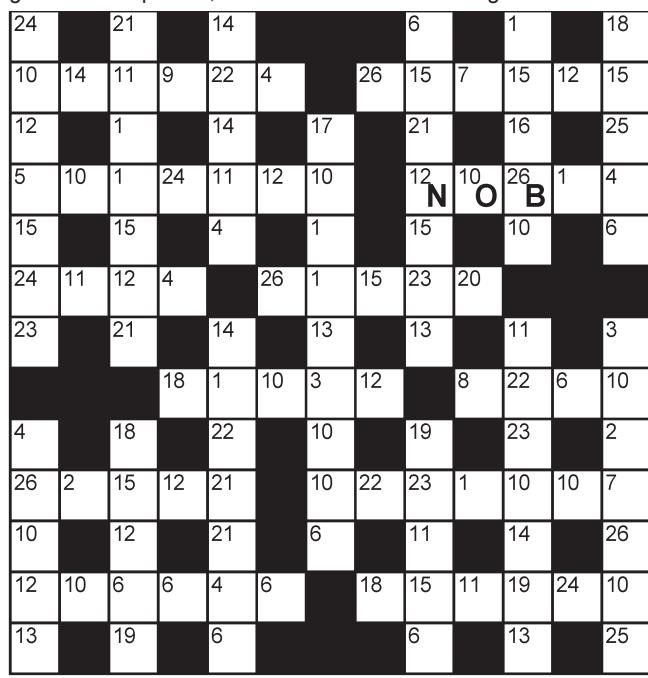
W291 EASY



W292 HARDER

## DECODER

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



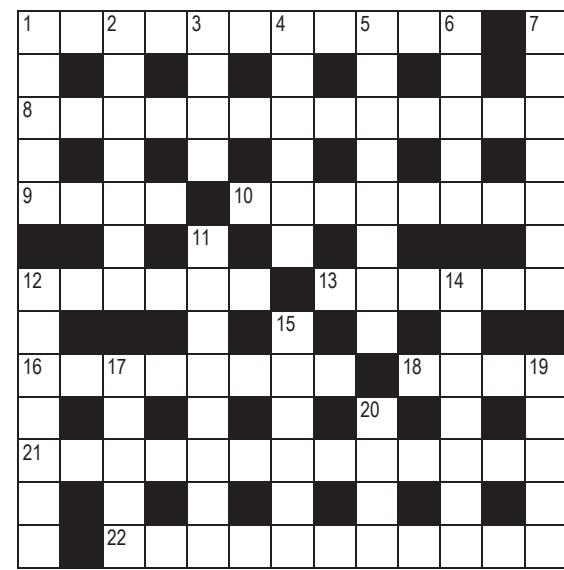
## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

## Across

- 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)  
 17. Troop carriers lose apricots, oops! (5)  
 19. Work the dough naked? (5)  
 20. Spot the honey maker's home (4)

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from 4:30pm until sold out

**FULL SIZE BUFFALO WINGS**

**\$1 PER WING!!**

Dine in only

conditions apply

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ONLY \$25

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