

Whangamatā & Waihi NEWS

ISSUE 159 – 6 FEBRUARY, 2026

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Ride Your Own Wave ^{P17}

Photo by Mark James

Rally for
Matthew P2

givealittle
POWERED BY perpetual guardian



Nauti Girls 2026 P7



Waihi College Year kicks off P12



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Rally for Matthew’s recovery



Matthew Liddle is the son-in-law of Whangamata locals Karyn and Chris Jones of Te-Ra Charters. Their daughter Danielle said “the damage has already happened and the damage is done and they don’t know how much it’s going to be or if he is going to wake up”.

His January 26th aneurysm, bleeding to the back of the brain, rapidly due to blood thinners he took for his underlying heart condition, so because of his heart problems he was unable to get medical or life insurance. Their sole income would be Danielle’s phlebotomist wages indefinitely, the selling of their Te Aroha home is a very real possibility.

Matt was born with congenital heart defects, he has had several open heart surgeries. The last one involved a mechanical heart valve. This requires lifelong blood-thinning medication and monitoring.

Despite this, he has always been committed to helping others. He works as an ambulance officer and has been studying paramedicine, with this year being his final year toward becoming a qualified paramedic. He is involved in his community. He is a devoted husband and father, who loves his baby and family deeply.

He is now in ICU, critically unwell. At this stage, he is unable to work, and his recovery is uncertain. Brain



injuries are unpredictable, and there is no certainty.

The family lives an hour away from the hospital and has a baby to care for. Alongside the emotional toll, they face financial pressure, loss of income, travel costs, time off work, and the unknown needs that may come with rehabilitation and recovery.

This Givealittle has been set up to help the family during this challenging time, to cover living expenses, travel to and from the hospital, childcare needs, and any support his recovery may require.

Anyone able to donate or share the Give A Little page – Matthews Broken Heart – is deeply appreciated. Even messages of kindness and support mean the world.

- Danielle Liddle



Communities recovering from severe weather

Like much of the North Island, the Coromandel and Hauraki regions were battered by a severe weather event which left a trail of devastation in many of our communities.

We are no strangers to these types of events, but that doesn’t make it any easier for people who have had their property damaged nor lessened concerns about the fragility of the roading network.

I want to acknowledge everyone who has doing their bit to keep our communities safe and informed during some particularly trying times. The first responders, emergency management teams, and contractors who were working during the heaviest periods of the weather event deserve a massive nod of appreciation, as does the general public who followed official guidance, kept themselves safe and checked on their neighbours.

Now our attention turns to recovery and getting everyone back on their feet and restoring our region’s access points.

The Government has announced a range of support packages, including activating the Temporary Accommodation Service, providing additional funding for Mayoral Relief Funds, and reimbursing



marae that provided shelter, food and care to people in need.

There is also existing funding across government departments which will assist in the recovery, such as NZTA which has over \$700 million allocated for emergency work on local roads and state highways for the 2024-2027 period.

As I write this column, NZTA have advised that all sections of SH25 are open, but some parts are down to one lane. Further clean-up and stabilisation work is required to reopen these areas to two lanes.

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

Scott Simpson MP for Coromandel

Contact me anytime
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Waihi Police Report

Police have noticed a huge increase in counterfeit notes being used at local shops around town. If a note looks a bit dodgy, feels off, or just doesn't seem right, please double-check it and let Police know.

With the recent weather events, we'd like to say a big thank you for your patience. This is also a good reminder to check on your neighbours, make sure everyone's doing okay, and ensure you have emergency supplies on hand in case they're needed. If the events have been a bit much and you need to talk to someone about what's happened, support is available — whether that's a counsellor, community service, or local support organisation. Please reach out if you need to.

A heads-up for drivers — Karangahake Gorge is currently down to one lane. Please take it easy, be patient, and show a bit of courtesy to others on the road. No one wins by rushing.

We'd also like to remind everyone to look out for your whānau and neighbours, especially when it comes to family harm. If you're concerned about someone's safety, call 111 straight away. Help is also available through Police, local resource centres, and community support services for anyone who needs a hand.

Thanks for doing your bit to keep our community safe. Take care and look after each other.

– Rachel Gillingham, A/Sergeant,
OC Station, Paeroa

Whangamata Police Report



What a whirlwind few weeks we have had. Record volumes of rain, major slips and isolated towns. This is certainly not the first time and if I was a betting man I would say it is not the last. It is a good reminder that these events can happen at short (just a few days) notice. It is important to plan and have a small amount of supplies to get you and your family through.

Unfortunately, events like we have had also bring out the worst in some people. It is not one person, or even a group of peoples' fault that slips happen and we end up isolated. Venting frustration at someone or even online is not going to fix it any sooner than it would have before. Take the time to turn it into an adventure. Let the experts and contractors do their thing as quickly and as safely as they can. Only seek reliable sources of information and most of all, just be kind to each other. After all, what an excuse right... Telling your boss you can't come to work because you are stuck in Whangamata!



This weekend is going to be a busy one. I have invited my friends to town from what you may affectionately know as the Booze Bus. We call them IPT (Impairment Prevention Team). They are very good at what they do. If they do not get any drink drivers, then you are doing your job right in driving sober or not driving if you are impaired.

We have some good information still coming into us via Crimestoppers lately. We do ask that people take notice around the wharf and Beach Road carpark areas for people who frequent at odd times or with different people often in those places. Vehicle regos and names of people is better. Passing this information direct to us at the station is the best way. This helps us build

our already great picture of who what and where that we have. Your piece of information could be the last we need to get more drugs off the streets either here or elsewhere around our district.

Scams and more scams. The odd person still falling for the phone and internet scams lately. Just remember, no one is going to call saying you have internet or computer security issues. Worse yet, pretending to be a bank saying your credit card has been compromised. If this happens, hang up and call the Bank or whichever it may be, directly back on their NZ contact number to verify. Don't lose your life savings or even a single dollar to these people and groups.

Social Media pages. With a number of local pages going on sometimes it is hard to keep up. Just a reminder team that these are a vital tool for some to communicate but at the end of the day they are just pages. In saying that, people do take things said on those pages to heart. Be kind, be nice and be as though you would be in a face to face conversation.

Keep safe, drive sober.

– Sergeant Will Hamilton,
Officer in Charge,
Whangamata Police




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WHANGAMATA Lunch en Blanc

**Saturday 21st February 2026
12-4pm**

Back by popular request, don't miss out this year, this is your excuse to take a pause from your busy lives, invite your friends, with an opportunity to make new friends.

Location – well that is a well kept secret, until the day.

So simply gather your friends, put the date in your diary and scan the QR code to register.



**Numbers are strictly limited, \$45 per person.
BYO picnic lunch and beverages.
Tables, chairs and umbrellas and live music are all provided.
Profits are supporting Whangamata Harbour Care.**



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TABLE TALK

A celebration of art and community spirit

Success Against the Storm

How a Local Art Event Thrived Despite Terrible Weather, Thanks to Community Spirit & Support

On January 25, 2026, as rain poured relentlessly and fierce winds swept through Whangamata, the outlook for the 10th annual Harcourts Art Challenge seemed bleak. Gray skies, puddled streets and a gusty wind might have discouraged even the most passionate art lovers. Yet, against all odds, the event not only went ahead, it blossomed into one of the most memorable displays of community resilience and artistic celebration.

The Challenge: Weathering the Storm

Organizers woke up to weather warnings and the threat of cancellations that morning. Many artists, some of whom were travelling from neighbouring towns, arrived with their canvases and sculptures wrapped tightly in plastic and tarps. The Whangamata Memorial Hall was transformed as volunteers worked tirelessly to keep the show on track. Despite the challenging conditions, only a couple of artists withdrew due to the road closures, a testament to their dedication and belief in the local community's support. Artistic Judge Ron Left pulled out all stops to get into town by Saturday and Michael Moynahan, judge of the Creative Writing section was able to Zoom In giving his precis at the Awards evening. Thanks goes to both the Judges and local BOOT IT for coming to the rescue with the technology we needed.

Community to the Rescue

As the first guests trickled in, umbrellas in hand, it became clear that the community was not going to let the weather dampen their spirits. Families, students, international guests and seniors alike donned raincoats, braving the



storm to appreciate the creativity on display, turning what could have been a soggy disaster into a cozy, vibrant gathering.

The challenging weather conditions seemed to amplify the event's energy. Artists who were present for BADO adapted by showcasing their work and encouraging interaction from visitors. The Writers Corner was a quiet nook to sit, read and reflect on the 26 pieces that had been submitted in that category, proudly sponsored by the Whangamata Club.

Raffles provided by Whangamata New World and Liquorland were in hot demand with two local residents winning these huge gift baskets. Our thanks to all who made this event not only possible in challenging conditions but another spectacular success!



Reflections and Future Plans

As the last of the banners, balloons and easels were packed away and the rain finally eased, organizers and attendees alike reflected on the strength of their community. "We were worried nobody would show up, but instead, we saw the immense spirit of our community and visitors who had been stranded by the storm getting here against all odds" said Arts Collective Chairperson, Heather Watt. "The weather brought us closer everyone supported one another, and the art shone even brighter because of it."

"This year's event proved that with determination, adaptability, and a strong sense of community, even the worst weather can't stop the celebration of art."

Award winning artwork will be on display in the Harcourts

Whangamata office and the Creative Writing winning entries can be viewed at the Whangamata Club and in the Library. The 2026 Harcourts Art Challenge will be remembered not for its storms, but for the warmth, creativity, and unity it inspired. In the heart of Whangamata, art triumphed over adversity, and the community proved that together, they could weather any storm.

Plans are already underway for next Arts Collective event, the Easter Arts Trail where artists collaborate working together in hubs around the town. Watch this space!

Prize Winners of the Harcourts Art Challenge 2026

North

1st: Lena McKillop "True North on an Eastern shore"

2nd: Jesse Macaw "The North Poll"

East

1st: Maree Burt "Morning Light"

2nd: Mandy Henson "King of the Eastern Seas"

South

1st: Kieran Taylor "South Pacific Enchanted Lovers"

2nd: Daphne Inglis "Kiri South Pacific Goddess"

West

1st: Sue Jamieson "West Meets East"

2nd: Lena McKillop "With her back to the West"

Supreme Award

Lena McKillop "True North on an Eastern Shore"

Peoples Choice

Donna McDonald "Arctic Latte"

Youth

1st: Sage Dunn

2nd: Kirsty Houghton

3rd: Jai Airey

Creative Writing Winners

1st: Pippa Airey - The Direction We Carry

2nd: Caryl Cullen - The Surfer

- Clare Mewse for Whangamata Arts Collective

Photos provided by Ann Costar

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Thank you to our community heroes

I would like to express our community's heartfelt gratitude to the local subcontractors and First Responders who worked tirelessly to reopen roads both north and south of Whangamatā following the recent weather event. Their sterling effort ensured our town remained accessible—thank you from all of us.

Special recognition goes to the Whangamata Ramblers for their beach clean-up yesterday. Organised by convenor Kevin Daly, 24 volunteers (mostly Ramblers members) collected an impressive 1380kg of waste between the Wharf and Island View Reserve, complementing Harbour Cares work at the southern end.

However, it's utterly disgraceful that TCDC, with its substantial staff and resources, refused to waive dump fees for volunteers cleaning up storm damage in their own community. While ratepayers stepped up to do the work Council should have prioritised, TCDC sat back and charged the Ramblers \$430.56 for the privilege of doing their job for them. This is a poor show from an organisation that should be supporting, not penalising, community volunteers who tackle problems TCDC has failed to address.

Enterprise Whangamatā wishes to donate \$200 towards these fees in recognition of the Ramblers and Harbour Care's outstanding effort.

This operation wouldn't have been possible without genuine community support: Challenge Service Station and Bubba's Outdoor and Hire provided free trailers, the Whangamata Surf Lifesaving Club lent their quad vehicle, and Search and Rescue contributed a vehicle and manpower.

Our community's response to adversity showcases the best of Whangamatā — people stepping up where Council won't.

– Patrick Kerr, Chairman, Enterprise Whangamatā

One man. One epic mission. One clear message to end bottom trawling.

Follow ultra-distance swimmer Jono Ridler's unprecedented staged swim world record attempt from the very tip of Aotearoa New Zealand – from Waikuku Beach, North Cape down the entire east coast of the North Island to Wellington.

Follow Jono and the crew behind him as they take on long days in the water, tough conditions, and life on the road, all in support of a simple but urgent goal: protecting the ocean.

Along the way, Jono will swim day and night, stop in coastal communities, and carry a call to decision-makers to end destructive bottom trawling.

It's an epic ocean swim for a healthy ocean!

Jono Ridler is the legend who swam 99km, non-stop, no-wetsuit from Aotea Great Barrier Island to Campbells Bay on Auckland's North Shore in 2023, smashing the New Zealand record with his Swim4TheGulf.

Now, Live Ocean and Jono Ridler have teamed up again for Swim4TheOcean – an even bigger and more ambitious record-swim attempt. He got started on 5 January 2026.

It's an endurance effort that aims to ignite New Zealanders around the call for a healthy ocean with a clear call to end bottom trawling. During the Swim4TheOcean journey Jono and the crew will be doing seven flagship day stopovers along the way in Bay of Islands, Goat Island, Auckland, Whangamatā, Mount Maunganui, Gisborne and Napier.



Jono Ridler. Photo by Joshua McCormack

All up it'll likely take around three months. Jono will have a core group of specialists around him across on-water and shore-based support. An amphibious StabiX boat, and an IRB beside him. On shore, a camper and caravan will be moving down the coast with the mission.

At the time Whangamata News went to print Jono was due in Whangamatā on Monday at 8.30pm.

Support Swim4TheOcean
www.swim4theocean.com

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Pepe Bridge and roadworks progress

Bridge plans coming together

Planning for construction of the replacement Pepe Stream Bridge is ramping up and we will be back in Tairua for another public information day on Thursday 26 February.

This will be at the community hall, and people can call in any time between 2pm and 6pm.

Subject to consents being granted by the end of April, we expect to bring the start of construction from spring to July.

Fulton Hogan was awarded the contract in November last year and is working with WSP to finalise consents and design so they can start mid-year on the new 2-lane bridge.

Building a new bridge in a tight urban and coastal environment, while maintaining access for vehicles and walking and cycling will be challenging. Fulton Hogan's plans and methodology will be a key part of the information day.

First up is a temporary pedestrian bridge will be built upstream of the current vehicle bridge. Services will be relocated on to this bridge, and then the existing pedestrian bridge will be removed.

Fulton Hogan will build one lane of new bridge, and shared path, on the east (seaward) side. Traffic will then be run over the new lane while the



An artist's impression of the new 2-lane bridge looking south from the town centre.

old bridge is dismantled, creating room to build the other half of the new bridge and a footpath.

Key dates ahead this year:

- Public information day 26 February
- Consent conditions lodged by end of February
- Consents granted by end of April
- Detailed design finalised by end of June
- Early works (services etc) May-July
- Construction scheduled to start July
- Bridge completed by December 2027

Community group being set up

We want the community involved in the bridge replacement project and

have invited key groups to the first Community Liaison Group (CLG) meeting next month.

We think bringing together key stakeholders and community representatives for regular meetings will enable us and our contractor Fulton Hogan to update the people on progress and allow for discussion of any issues or concerns.

CLG attendees are expected to report back to and bring forward any queries or issues from their memberships and communities.

We understand the level of interest in this project and we will do our best to keep people informed and involved.

Another source will be these newsletters. If your friends, neighbours or family aren't receiving

these, they can sign up at the project website.

Works ahead on SH25 in February

State Highway 25 traffic will be detoured for 2 weeks in February while a section of highway is rebuilt at Mangatarata and repairs are made to the Waitakaruru River Bridge.

The work runs from Monday 9 February to Friday 20 February, with the detour in place between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

The detour involves SH2 and Pipiroa Road and will add about 8 minutes to travel times.

The road will reopen each evening and on the weekend of 14-15 February with speed restrictions in place.

Access for property owners and emergency services will be maintained at all times.

Contractors will be resurfacing a 1.7km section of highway east of the SH2/25 roundabout, while also undertaking work on the nearby Waitakaruru River bridge.

For more information on the SH25/SH25A Thames-Coromandel project, contact us at coromandelprojects@nzta.govt.nz

Visit our website nzta.govt.nz/thames-coromandel

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Western Bay of Plenty
District Council

Great day for Nauti girls

Nauti Girls fishing results

Kahawai

- 1st Laura Murphy - weight 2.82
- 2nd Shree Helliwell - weight 2.356
- 3rd Julie Simmiss - weight 2.156

- 1st Kingfish, weight 12.8
- 2nd spot prize
- 3rd spot prize

Trevally

- 1st Tracey Crapp - weight 2.31
- 2nd Gabby Boyce - weight 2.06
- 3rd Leah Thomson - weight 1.6

Gurnard

- 1st Lynette Blair weight 0.94
- 2nd Shree Helliwell weight 0.9
- 3rd Courtney Ashton weight 0.81

Snapper

- 1st Kim Williams weight 5.5
- 2nd Corina McIntosh weight 4.4
- 3rd Amie Kidd weight 3.86

Tuna

- 1st Emily Van Hellemond - Yellow Fin, weight 19
- 2nd Kerrilee Beetham - Yellow Fin, weight 18.8
- 3rd Kay Haimona - Skipjack, weight 5.81

Photos by Katrina Brickwood





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What is sediment – when does it become a problem?



Why Whangamatā's harbour is changing, even when it looks calm

Most of us think sediment simply means sand. In fact, sand on its own is not the problem.

Sand is what built Whangamatā. Over thousands of years, the ocean ground rocks into sand, pushed it onto beaches, blew it into dunes, and tidal flows carried it into the harbour. That clean sand kept the seabed loose, oxygenated, and full of life. Shellfish thrived. Water stayed clear. The system worked.

The problem begins when **fine sediment** is added to sand.

Fine sediment is not beach sand at all. It is made up of very small particles: clays, silts, organic matter, and decaying material washed off land during rainfall. On its own, fine sediment stays suspended in rivers during floods and eventually reaches the sea.

But when fine sediment **mixes with sand**, something different happens.

Think of sand as flour, and fine sediment as egg and water. On their own they behave very differently. Mixed together, they form something new.

Once fines fill the gaps between sand grains, the seabed becomes dense, sticky, and effectively airtight. Instead of water flowing through it, oxygen is pushed out. Shellfish can't survive. The seabed darkens. Recovery slows or stops entirely.

This is why the term 'sediment' can be misleading.

It's not the presence of material that matters — it's **the type of material and how it behaves once it arrives**.

Over time, land-use changes have altered what reaches the harbour — including the removal of wetlands that once filtered floods, forestry harvest cycles and soil disturbance, road cuts and vibration corridors, fertilisers that speed up decay, and more frequent high-energy rain events.

Each change on its own might seem small.

Together, they increase the delivery of fine, reactive material.

The harbour still receives sand from the ocean, just as it always has.

But now that sand arrives into an environment already loaded with fine sediment. Instead of staying loose and mobile, it becomes locked into a heavy mixture.

People often ask:

"Why doesn't the harbour flush itself clean like it used to?"

Recent hands-on testing of harbour sediment showed something unexpected.

When energy was applied — shaking, vibration, even prolonged movement — the sediment

did not loosen. In some cases, energy actually made the fine material bind more tightly into the sand.

In simple terms:

Once the mix changes enough, more movement doesn't fix the problem — it can make it worse.

This explains why:

- Water stays discoloured long after rain has stopped,
- Shellfish beds don't recover even in tidal areas,
- Dredged or disturbed areas quickly degrade again,
- Changes seem permanent rather than temporary.

This is not about "good" or "bad" nature. And it's not about how the harbour looks. It's about **function**.

A functioning harbour:

- Moves water and oxygen through the seabed,
- Supports shellfish and nursery species,
- Clears itself between storms,
- Absorbs change without tipping into collapse.

When fine sediment binds into sand, that function is lost.

Understanding this difference — between sand alone and sand plus fines — matters. Because if we don't recognise what is changing, we keep applying solutions that only treat the surface, while the underlying problem continues to grow.

The harbour isn't suddenly broken. It has been slowly pushed past a point where it can no longer recover on its own.

That is the reality we now need to understand — calmly, clearly, and honestly — before deciding what comes next.

Sediment isn't just sand. When fine sediment mixes into sand, it changes how the seabed behaves — becoming dense, oxygen-poor, and slow to recover.

— WSAG Whangamata Stormwater Action Group Rob Boston & Ian Holyoake

WAS outlines up coming highlights

It is another exciting year in prospect at Whangamatā Area School. After a successful 2025 where our students once again outperformed the national averages in their NCEA exams it is great to again be looking forward to a full on in-class program and an extensive range of extra-curricular activities.

Some highlights this year will include another music and cultural trip to the Pacific islands, this time Rarotonga, and our Surf team have again been invited to attend the World festival of surfing in Hawaii. On the property front we are excited that out Year 7 and 8 students will be moving into a brand new block of classrooms early in term 1 and work is well under way on the design of our cultural space- Te Pringa.

On the staffing front we have a stable teaching team, with every staff member having had a previous association with the school, some returning after a period of leave and others from different adventures.

The student body this year will be led by Head Girl, Sage Dunn and Head Boy, Harrison Biddle supported by deputies India Kennings and Caleb Jameson. These students have already been in at school making plans for the improvements they wish to make as leaders in 2025.

Our primary school programme



continues to offer an excellent programme of core learning and this was reinforced by our positive Education Review Office report published just before Christmas. It is fantastic to have the quality of education that we offer at Whangamatā Area School recognised by an external review team. It is worthy recognition of the great teaching team we have at Whangamatā Area school.

A warm welcome to those families who are new to Whangamatā Area School. We have welcomed a number of families who have relocated to Whangamatā from not just within New Zealand but from around the globe.

We look forward to another great year and to seeing our friends, whanau and community at some of our many sports days, assemblies

and cultural events. We welcome everyone to the Whānau evening, Wednesday February 11 from 5-6.30 pm. This is a great chance to come and meet the teachers, look through your child's classrooms and make connections.

All the best for 2026.

– Rachel Luke,
Whangamatā Area School

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Sun 10am-1pm

Hikuai Term 1 plans action packed

Hikuai School is looking ahead to an exciting and busy Term 1, with a strong focus on learning, community, and new opportunities for our tamariki.

We are delighted to welcome two new staff members to our team this year. Teacher Jacqui van der Beek joins us with enthusiasm and a passion for learning, and Teacher Aide Niki Pollard brings a wealth of experience after seven years supporting students at King's School in Auckland. We are thrilled to have both Jacqui and Niki as part of the Hikuai School whānau.

Our local curriculum this term will centre on identity and community, exploring who we are, where we come from, and what makes Hikuai such a special place to be. Students will be learning about the people,

history, and environment that shape our school and strengthen our sense of belonging.

Term 1 is always an action-packed time, and this year is no exception. Students will enjoy daily swimming in our newly refurbished pool, building confidence and water safety skills. We will also be developing cricket skills, preparing for outdoor experiences, and offering exciting opportunities such as overnight camps and a Pinnacles hike for our senior class. These experiences play an important role in building resilience, teamwork, and independence.

The Hikuai School Triathlon will once again take place later in the term, and we are looking forward to another fantastic community event that showcases perseverance,

sportsmanship, and school spirit.

Alongside all of this, we also face an important challenge with a major building project underway. Our historic original classroom will be lifted, have its piling replaced, and receive new roofing. While this is a significant undertaking, it is an exciting step in preserving an important part of our school's history and ensuring safe, warm, and modern learning spaces for the future.

Term 1 promises to be full of energy, learning, and growth, and we look forward to sharing another positive and productive term with our students, staff, and wider Hikuai community.

- Rachell Leitch, Principal



Opoutere School dives into 2026

The summer holidays are drawing to a close, and while the beach towels are being tucked away, the energy at Opoutere School is just starting to build. There is always a unique sense of anticipation that comes with a new school year—the reuniting of friends, change of class and the promise of new challenges.

On Monday, 2 February, our staff will officially welcome back all tamariki and new whānau with a mihi whakatau (welcome) at 10am to kick off what we know will be a vibrant and engaging 2026.

Our teaching team has already spent time preparing for the journey ahead. We began with two productive Teacher Only Days, where the staff balanced curriculum planning with team building on the water, paddling Waka Ama across the Whangamatā harbour. We are also very pleased to welcome Cassie Elowe to our team this year; she will be leading our Year 7 and 8 students.



A special welcome is extended to our newest five-year-olds and their whānau and all other new students. Starting school is a milestone moment, and we are honoured to have you join our school community.

To help everyone settle in, we invite all families to a whānaungatanga hui early Term 1. This is a great chance to connect informally with kaiako, visit the classrooms, and get to know other local families.

Our focus for the start of the year is "Te Moana" (The Ocean), which ties directly into our core value of Whanaungatanga—building positive, respectful relationships. The ocean will serve as our classroom: senior students are planning days for surfing and kayaking, while our juniors will be exploring shoreline marine life and learning Waka Ama skills. These experiences provide a rich, real-world context for our learning that directly links to our NZ curriculum.

Back on school grounds, the pool is open for daily use. Students will be working on their water confidence and swimming skills, and of course, finding plenty of time for "manu" practise! For our senior students, the focus is on leadership. Many will

be applying for house leader roles and preparing to attend an exciting three-night outdoor adventure camp, followed by the Leadership Conference in Hamilton.

On the academic front, our kaiako continue to implement the refreshed national curriculum and our school-wide Structured Literacy program. We are also broadening our professional development in Numeracy to ensure our students have the best possible foundation. From Kapa Haka and environmental projects with our rōpu taiao, to school, cluster and regional swimming sports, there is a wealth of opportunity awaiting every student.

As the proverb says: Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari kē he toa takitini—Success is not the work of an individual, but the work of many. We look forward to a wonderful year of working together with our community to support our tamariki.

- Jethro Dyer, Principal

SMOKY PALLET

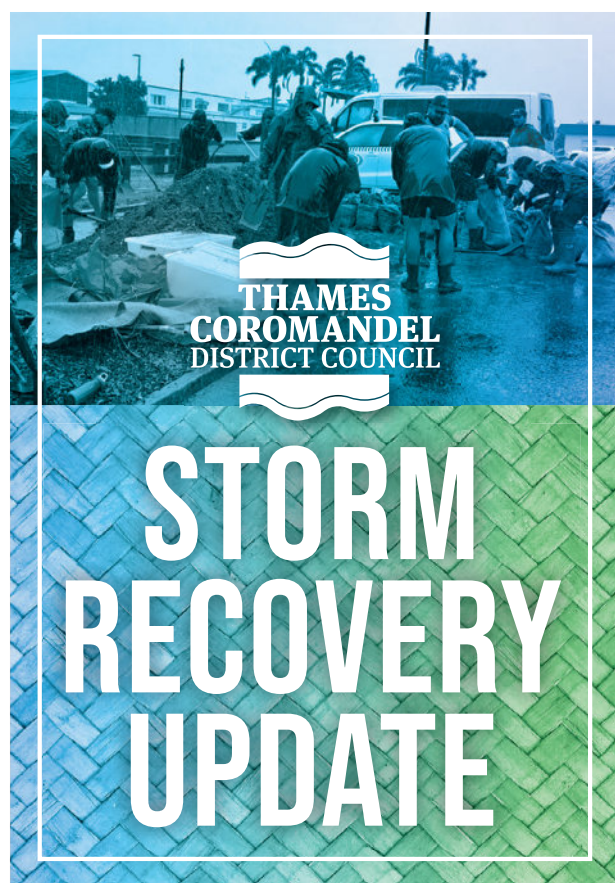
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LAND INSTABILITY

We're encouraging everyone to keep an eye out for land instability – check for signs at getready.govt.nz/emergency/landslides

This doesn't necessarily mean there's an issue, but please report them through the Request for Service (RFS) system so our Council can follow up.

Our team, including GIS specialists and geotechnical engineers, is actively reviewing reports to support our community. Your observations play an important role in this work and are always appreciated.

More information on how to fill out an RFS can be found on our website under the 'contact us' tab.



MAYORAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND NOW OPEN

Application to the local Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund is available to anyone financially affected by the January storm.

The fund provides one-off financial support in cases of genuine hardship, including help with clean-up costs, basic needs, uninsured or underinsured losses, and support for small businesses. It is intended as a last-resort option when other assistance has been exhausted.

We are calling for donations to help build the fund so meaningful support can be provided once applications are assessed.

Applications close Friday 6 March 2026.

Find out how to donate or apply: tcdc.govt.nz/MDRF

RAPID BUILDING ASSESSMENT AND PLACARD INFORMATION

When an emergency happens, our Civil Defence Emergency Management and Council teams coordinate building assessors to conduct rapid building assessments across the district. These are done to determine whether buildings are safe to occupy and whether they pose a safety risk to others.

Following a rapid building assessment, a property will receive either a white, yellow, or red placard.

Only authorised officials can place, change, remove or advise on removing the placards, which are legal instruction and categorised into three levels.

WHITE Safe to occupy but keep an eye out for any damage.

YELLOW Limited access only. Some areas may be restricted and used under supervision.

RED Do not enter due to damage or land risk. This doesn't always mean the building will be demolished.

White placards are an exception as they expire 21 days after they are issued.

Once we issue a placard, you will need to arrange a more detailed assessment of the property. For more information visit tcdc.govt.nz/placards or call us on 07 868 0200.

Don't worry, support is here

Recovering from an emergency can be tough and you don't have to go through it alone.

If you or someone you know in Thames-Coromandel needs help, here are the services available:



- **Ministry of Social Development (MSD)** – Financial assistance, welfare support, accommodation help. Call 0800 559 009 or visit your local MSD office.
- **Rural Support Trust** – Confidential support for farmers, growers, and rural whānau dealing with stress, damage, or loss. Call 0800 787 254.
- **Here to Help U** – One-stop support for food parcels, financial hardship, mental health, social services and more. Visit: heretohelpu.nz
- **1737 – Need to Talk?** – Free counselling by phone or text, 24/7. Call or text 1737.
- **Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS)** – If you are unable to return to your property and think you may require help with securing temporary accommodation, register with the TAS as soon as possible. Further information is available on their website: tas.mbie.govt.nz
- **Community & Iwi Providers** – Local services offering food, shelter, emotional support and recovery assistance. Check in with:
 - o Local marae and iwi providers
 - o Salvation Army
 - o Red Cross
 - o Local churches and community hubs
- **Thames-Coromandel District Council** – tcdc.govt.nz for updates on road closures, water services, cleanup, and recovery assistance.

Cleaning up after a severe weather event

Floodwater from our storm event may contain sewage and other dangerous materials. Clean, disinfect, and dry your house and everything in it. Take out everything that is wet and that can be moved. Throw away anything that can't be cleaned.

Protect yourself by wearing:

- Masks (P2 or N95)
- Gloves
- Goggles
- Clothing that covers your arms and legs
- Sturdy footwear

Keep an eye out for mould, and take extra care if you have asthma, allergies, or other breathing problems. Talk to your doctor if you have questions about your health during clean-up.

If cleaning up outdoors, remember:

- Check before you dig – there may be buried utilities
- Stay away from flooded areas or waterways
- Be careful around trees that may have been damaged by the weather – they should only be felled by suitably trained persons.

More information about what to do after a natural hazard emergency can be found at the Get Ready website getready.govt.nz and the National Emergency Management Agency website civildefence.govt.nz

RUBBISH DISPOSAL AFTER FLOODING

- **If you have insurance:** Contact your insurer first. Flood-damaged items, including disposal costs, may be covered.
- **If you're insured but need to dispose of items now:** Take photos and keep your receipt from the refuse transfer station so you can claim the cost later.

Please don't donate flood-damaged items



Items exposed to floodwater may be contaminated and are not suitable for donation. Leaving them at donation sites creates extra work and costs for community organisations.

Waihi NEWS

Waihi College packed with opportunities

Waihi College is looking forward to a fresh year full of energy, connection and opportunity. Although timetable classes officially begin from 9th February, our students have already been back for a week, easing into 2026 with a range of engaging activities designed to build relationships, confidence and a strong sense of belonging.

We began the year with our powhiri on Friday, a special occasion where we warmly welcomed all new students and staff into the Waihi College whānau. It was a proud moment to acknowledge new beginnings and set shared expectations for the year ahead. This was followed by our Big Day Out, with students taking part in a range of fun, active experiences in their school houses (Empire, Royal, Dominion or Amaranth).

Term 1 is always packed with exciting learning beyond the classroom, and this year is no exception. Our Senior Student camp was from 2nd to 4th February and provided opportunities for our Year 12 and 13s in leadership, teamwork and personal growth. Year 9 and 10 students headed to Dickey's Flat, where outdoor education, resilience and whakawhanaungatanga



were front and centre. Our Year 11 Kickstart programme supports students to settle into senior study, set goals and build positive habits for success, alongside the launch of our senior courses across the school.

There is also plenty to look forward to on the sporting calendar, with swimming sports and athletics coming up — always highlights of the term and great chances for students to get involved, show school spirit and support one

another.

We are proud to introduce our 2026 student leaders, who will play a vital role in shaping school culture this year: Malea Hutchins (Wellbeing), Cade Tacker (Art & Culture), Stella Shay (Community), Reese Neame (Service), Joey Peka (Te Ao Māori), Zara Clare (Learning), Max Morley (Sport), Alexis Hughes and Rian Morgan (Environment), and Stuart Hartley (Board of Trustees). We thank them for their willingness to serve and lead with integrity.



With strong values, a supportive community and a calendar full of opportunity, we are looking forward to an awesome start to 2026 at Waihi College. Mauri ora

*- Briar Carden-Scott,
Principal Waihi College*



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The village offers a range of one and two bedroom cottages as well as a 65 bed care facility providing resthome and hospital level care for continuity of care.

We have cottages available soon so please contact us for more information or to book a viewing.

We look forward to hearing from you.



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Waihi NEWS

Mayor Toby Adams gives detailed update

Waihi News caught up with Mayor Toby Adams on his take on what has been a rough ride. He told us "Following the recent severe weather event, I want to acknowledge the disruption and damage many in our district are dealing with and thank the residents for their patience and understanding."

"A particular concern has been the Waihi to Whiritoa Road, where slips and surface damage has once again highlighted how vulnerable that route is during heavy weather.

The gorge area was also significantly affected, reinforcing the ongoing challenges we face in maintaining safe access through this corridor during extreme conditions.

Our popular rail trail has been hit



hard, with several sections damaged or undermined. This is a real blow, not only for locals who enjoy the trail, but also for the many visitors it attracts to the district."

"Gilmour Lake has also suffered

noticeable damage, and it will take time and careful work to restore it to a safe and enjoyable standard.

Council staff and contractors are assessing the full extent of the damage and prioritising repairs based on safety and access."

"While there is a desire to see everything fixed quickly, the reality is that recovery from an event like this takes time.

We will keep the community informed and I thank everyone for their patience as we work through, making things right again."

Essentially, this is a good time to remember to check household Civil Defence kits and plans and if you haven't already got one, it's a good time to start. Things to think

about for your kit include enough supplies for three days (water, food, medicine, animal food, a first aid kit, torch and radio). It's a good time to discuss with your family how you might reconnect if you are separated and, if you live near an area prone to hazards it's also a good idea to have grab bags ready for each household member with shoes, warm clothes and some cash.

The best way for people to find the advice they need to be prepared for any future event is to go to the NZ Civil Defence website: getready.govt.nz. Where they'll find good information on how to be prepared at your home, school or workplace. Hauraki District Council is also keen to work with our smaller communities to create or update Community Resilience Plans.



Photos by Mark James

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- 4 Star Energy rating
- H 820-880 x W 597 x D 574 mm

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Waihi NEWS

Queens of Drag sashay into rural Waihi



This Waitangi weekend Waihi is about to trade gumboots for glitter as the fabulous Queens of Drag descend on The Waterlily Gardens for one unforgettable night of high heels, high notes, and high camp.

City lights are giving way to country nights as high-energy drag glamour arrives in rural Waihi, bringing a bold, brilliant show that promises to shine well beyond the stage.

Known for their powerhouse personalities, quick wit, and jaw-dropping costumes, the Queens of Drag are bringing their signature blend of cabaret, comedy, and crowd-pleasing chaos to the heart of the Waikato. Expect iconic anthems, outrageous banter, and enough sequins to be seen from space, all set against the lush garden backdrop of one of the region's most beloved venues.

This event is more than just a show; it's a full night out. Guests will enjoy a gorgeous three-course dinner-and-show experience, complete with fabulous entertainment. Whether you're a long-time drag devotee or a first-timer ready to dip a toe (or stiletto) into the world of drag, this is the kind of night that leaves you laughing, cheering, and replaying your favourite moments long after the lights go down..

Seats are limited, so, gather your friends, bring your sparkle, and prepare for a night where rural meets runway, and fabulousness reigns supreme. Waihi, you've never seen anything quite like this.

Saturday 7 February 2026 - 6.30pm.

Tickets available at www.waterlily.co.nz/events

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Waihi NEWS

Waimata School "be the best we can be"



Te Kura o Waimata has launched into 2026 with energy and enthusiasm, making the most of the summer season through rich, experiential, place-based learning that supports the social, emotional, and physical wellbeing of our tamariki.

Our Term 1 programme is all about connection — with people, place, and purpose — and is packed with exciting opportunities including Swimming Sports, Tough Guy Tough Gal, Rippa Day, the Hockey Big Day Out, Waitā Senior Camp, and our much-loved traditional pēpeha landmark haerenga.

The year began with a Mihi Whakatau, warmly welcoming new and returning kaimahi (staff), tamariki (children), and whānau (families) into our kura community. One of the most exciting developments for 2026 is the opening of our new Hauora Space. This dedicated space has been created to support the diverse and growing needs of our

environment where tamariki can be based or visit as needed to build emotional regulation and the social skills that help them thrive in a larger learning environment.

We are delighted to welcome Whaea Stacey Temple to Te Kura o Waimata. Whaea Stacey is a specialist play-based therapist who will be operating her practice from the Te Motu classroom, further strengthening the wraparound support we provide for our learners and their whānau.

As a kura, we continue to thoughtfully implement aspects of the new curriculum while proudly upholding and growing our kaupapa grounded in ao Māori. This balanced approach ensures our tamariki are supported to learn, grow, and succeed confidently in both worlds.

With our 2026 kaupapa, "Whaia te iti kahurangi – be the best we can be," Te Kura o Waimata is set for an inspiring year of learning,



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Waihi NEWS

Help available for residents affected by weather event

Hauraki District Council, with help from the Government, has opened a Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund to help people affected by the 21 January storm get back on their feet.

Mayor Toby Adams established the fund to support residents facing financial hardship from damage caused by the storm.

"This fund helps our communities through recovery," Mayor Adams says. "We've designed it for people facing real hardship - whether you need help with essential daily needs, debris removal, or costs your insurance doesn't cover."

We can support Hauraki District residents and ratepayers.

The fund provides one-off hardship grants to affected residents, with priority given to:

- Essential daily needs such as food, accommodation, and utilities
- Additional costs resulting from the storm
- Debris removal from your property if you're uninsured or underinsured
- Support during family or personal crisis
- Costs not met by insurance or other support, including WINZ

These grants help ease the financial

and emotional pressure on you and your family.

Applications close on Friday, 27 February, 2026.

Download the application form at www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz or pick one up from our service centres or public libraries in Paeroa, Waihi or Ngatea.

We're here to help with your application - email us at info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz, call 07 862 8609 or freephone 0800 734 834, or visit a service centre.

We'll assess all applications after the closing date and allocate available funds proportionately to people who meet the criteria.

Want to help your neighbours?

You can donate to support affected community members:

Account name:
HDC Mayoral Relief Fund
Account number:
03-0435-0768043-001
Particulars: Your phone number
Reference: ReliefFund

For more information, visit Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund - Hauraki District Council or contact 07 862 8609 or freephone 0800 734 834 or info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz

Students lend a hand

The Student Volunteer Army rolled into town last week to help flood-affected businesses at Waihi Beach.

Five student volunteers from the University of Waikato branch spent a day helping move flood-damaged appliances and gym equipment from the Surf Shack Eatery and Victoria Lemon Transform Today gym next door.

Kurt Waugh, Western BOP District Council's Community Resilience Advisor, who helped coordinate the day, says it was inspiring to see the students helping with the recovery efforts.

"It was great to see the volunteers travel over from Hamilton to help out. They worked alongside some locals to move some pretty heavy, bulky items - it certainly needed a team of people to do it," says Kurt.

"Everyone worked hard. I was really impressed with how it came together and how amazing the student volunteers were."

The students - Zoe Wakefield, Kyla O'Toole, Alex Johnson, Samantha Pemberton and Isaiah Dougherty - worked with staff from the two businesses to load around 18 flood-damaged appliances onto trucks and trailers, along with barbels and exercise machines, so they could be

taken to the Waihi Transfer Station.

Surf Shack Eatery owner Pip Coombes, gave "big ups" to the student volunteers.

"It was all hands on deck. Between the students, our staff and Kurt, we got all the really heavy stuff out," she says.

"It was really nice to meet the students and talk to them. They did hard mahi on the day and I really appreciate what they have done."

Gym owner Victoria Lemon was equally appreciative.

"The five of them were very enthusiastic and did the best they could to lift very heavy equipment and machinery," she says.

Student Isaiah Dougherty, who is originally from Tauranga, says he "just wanted to lend a hand".

"I saw what was happening at the Mount, and with all the floods, and thought I'd do my small part. It was great - we hauled some fridges and equipment and helped some lovely people out. It made me feel useful to make other people's lives easier."

Zac Isaac, Co-president of the Student Volunteer Army - University of Waikato, says volunteering is a great way to give back to the community.

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			
6 Fri	11:12	2.0	23:34	1.9	4:48	0.3	17:21	0.3	06:34	20:24
7 Sat		1.9	11:54	1.9	5:33	0.4	18:04	0.4	06:36	20:23
8 Sun	0:18	1.8	12:36	1.9	6:18	0.4	18:47	0.4	06:37	20:22
9 Mon	1:03	1.8	13:18	1.8	7:03	0.5	19:30	0.5	06:38	20:21
10 Tue	1:50	1.7	14:01	1.7	7:49	0.6	20:16	0.5	06:39	20:20
11 Wed	2:40	1.7	14:48	1.7	8:39	0.6	21:05	0.6	06:40	20:18
12 Thu	3:34	1.6	15:39	1.6	9:33	0.7	21:57	0.6	06:41	20:17
13 Fri	4:30	1.6	16:33	1.6	10:28	0.7	22:52	0.6	06:42	20:16
14 Sat	5:25	1.7	17:29	1.6	11:24	0.7		0.7	06:43	20:15
15 Sun	6:17	1.7	18:23	1.7	11:45	0.6	12:16	0.7	06:44	20:14
16 Mon	7:05	1.7	19:14	1.7	0:35	0.5	13:05	0.6	06:46	20:13
17 Tue	7:50	1.8	20:02	1.8	1:21	0.5	13:52	0.5	06:47	20:11
18 Wed	8:33	1.9	20:47	1.8	2:06	0.4	14:36	0.5	06:48	20:10
19 Thu	9:15	1.9	21:32	1.9	2:49	0.4	15:20	0.4	06:49	20:09
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

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P. McNeill, 2025 (repeat customer)

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

R. Preston, 2025

"The boys were marvellous. Couldn't fault them!"

T. and L. True, 2025

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Ride your own wave

Just last weekend **Whangamatā News** were delighted to meet up with **Bruce Rule, former sign writer and currently a real estate agent, at 303 Winifred Avenue, Whangamatā, where he was busy spraying finishing touches on the block garage wall.**

Bruce told us "Blake, one of the three brothers, asked me to make the mural, to do something cool on the side of the shed." Being a long time family friend he said "when the boys were younger I would give them fake tattoos, drawings for their 21st's and so on". The brothers are 3rd generation to own the property.

Bruce even made the surfboard, from scratch, that project took 2 days, and using the Pete Anderson Surfboards logo (with permission)

it is the perfect stage for taking photos, it takes up to 80 kg, so, after a lot of prep, he spent a day and a half to create, what we call a 'masterpiece'. The public are welcome to come and 'ride their own wave' for photos.

The original owners Earl Francis (aka Jack Francis/Pop), and his wife Ann came out from England, in the late 1940's early 50s and bought the section from the Williamson family, and then built the bach.

The couple lived in Whangamata for many years, after the sudden death of Ann then several years later Jack, the property then passed to the Orange/Holmes family and is now owned by brothers Trent, Blake, Tyler and their mother Megan.

The Certificate of Title under the

land transfer act is dated 22 July, 1960. Transferred to Earl Jack Francis and his wife.

Jack served in the First World War for England, and had a background in the food industry and opened a fish and chip shop, called Moby Dick, on the corner of Ranfurly and Diana roads.

The neighbouring property at 305 Winifred Ave was also bought from the Williamson family and owned by

their great grandparents Albert and Lil Pope who purchased the section for £40 in 1949.

305 Winifred Ave was built in 1954/55 completed in 1956 and is now owned by their uncle.

Perhaps you would like a mural on your shed, Bruce even specialises in classic car cartoons, and they are exceptional, give him a call, he is a Whanga local, on 021 974 581.

- Jennie Black



Summer Sale. On now!

55% off Swisstek Beds and Mattresses!

Keep cool with temperature regulating KūlKōte.

NOW \$3,509

Swisstek Select Queen Bed

55% off.

ONLY \$449

Elements Wave 3 'Grab & Go' Queen Mattress



Available rolled in a bag for easy transport. Grab one in-store.

Everyday Low Price.

ONLY \$1,199

Wonderest Sleep Easy 3 Queen Bed



A durable bed with the comfort of pocket spring technology.

Everyday Low Price.

NOW FROM \$2,699

Serenity Eden Queen Bed



Featuring temperature control for a premium sleep experience.

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NOW \$4,499

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Where dreams begin.

Summer Sale ends 10.02.26. Discount offers apply to selected beds and bedding only, prices as marked. Offers exclude Everyday Dream prices, run outs, clearance stock (unless otherwise stated) and not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. See in-store for details. 30-Day Comfort Guarantee available for in-store purchases only. We reserve the right to correct errors and misprints and to change product specifications. All products are advertised in good faith and will be available, except in circumstances beyond our control. Product ranges vary between stores and some products are available in selected stores only.

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

WRA AGM

**Saturday 28 February 2026
11:00am
Whangamata Club**

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Call for apologies
- Confirmation of AGM Minutes 2025 – to be accepted (and any matters arising)
- Chair's Report 2025/26
- Treasurer's Report 2025 (as circulated)
- Election of Officers for 2026:
 - Chair – Nominations
 - Vice Chairperson – Nominations
 - Secretary – Nominations
 - Treasurer – Nominations
 - Committee – Not less than 5 and not more than 9 committee members for the term
- Appointment of Auditor for 2026 year
 - Graeme Rix has volunteered to be the auditor for 2026
- New Constitution
- General Business

Nominations for officers and committee close Thursday 26th February 2026, and should be emailed to whangaratepayers@gmail.com. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the AGM.

By order of the Committee
Whangamata Ratepayers Association Inc
Peter Priest – Chair
whangaratepayers@gmail.com

Following the close of the AGM, members are invited to stay for a guest speaker presentation.



STORAGE AVAILABLE

STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE

- 72sqm or 144sqm
- Both with large 3.8m high doors
- Toilet facility
- 4.8m high stud
- Available March 1st, permanent

Phone 027 473 5528



PUBLIC NOTICES



Professional Women's Network Group

**Thursday 19 February 2026, 6 - 7.30pm
The Whangamata Surf Life Saving Club**

It's time to re-connect, bring a friend and come along for a mix & mingle to kick start 2026. With your ideas 'hat' on, bring some ideas and suggestions.

**Please RSVP your attendance by email ew@whangamata.org.nz
Pizzas provided, the bar will be open.**

Bridge Club opening night

After the atrocious weather earlier in the year, there was a huge turnout for the opening night of the 2026 playing year for Whangamata's growing Bridge Club.

Friendly, social and noisier than bridge players are supposed to be, 26 women and men of a wide range of ages (from not many to quite a lot), interests and abilities

came together for three hours of cards and conversation, interspersed with supper on a typically lovely Whangamata summer evening.

Keeping the grey matter working is more important than ever, and with free lessons and a peppercorn annual fee, we look forward to welcoming even more members as the year unfolds.

We provide a wide range of services for your Companion Animals:

- 24 Hour Emergency Care
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Waihi Clinic:
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Willson Gardens
offer **2 bed fully refurbished units** with internal garage within peaceful picturesque gardens.

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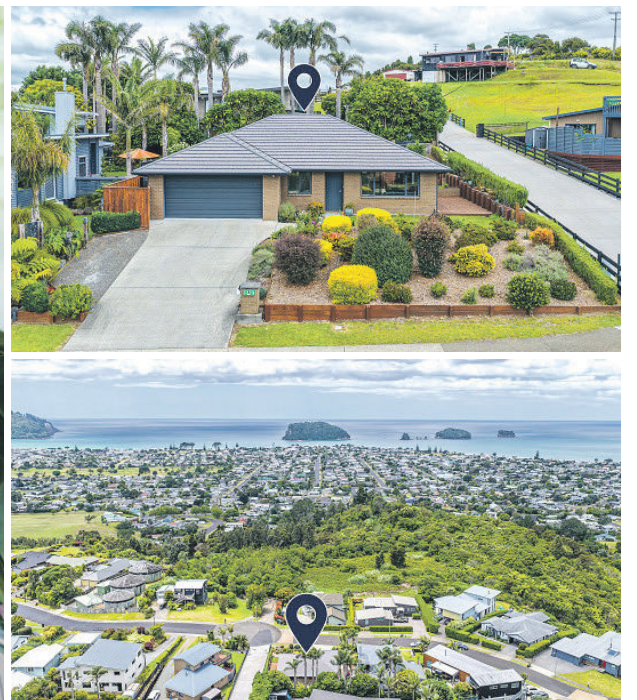
Contact us for more information on 07 865 9643

For more information, please phone (07) 865 9643
Deborah Padfield (General Manager)
353 Tairua Road, Whangamatā

MOANA HOUSE & VILLAGE

He whare ahuru – a caring safe place

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Whangamatā 101 Estuary View

Elevate yourself, quiet neighbourhood, quality residence

Modern coastal home offers an exceptional opportunity to secure quality, comfort and long-term livability. A 169sqm single-level dwelling provides a generous yet manageable footprint ideal for permanent residents, couples, families or those embracing a relaxed coastal lifestyle. The thoughtfully designed layout maximises natural light, ease of living and connection to the outdoors. The open-plan kitchen and living area is welcoming and functional, well-suited to everyday living and entertaining, flowing seamlessly to outdoor areas for year-round enjoyment. Accommodation includes three well-proportioned bedrooms, a master suite, two bathrooms and a separate office, offering flexibility for families or those working from home. A secure internal-access garage with an automatic door, quality chattels, double glazing and GJ Gardner Homes construction complete the package.

Establish yourself, where quality homes and permanent living come together

bayleys.co.nz/2221566

600 sqm 3 2 2

Auction (unless sold prior) 11am, Thu 26 Feb 2026

96 Ulster Street, Hamilton

View by appointment

Dale Sholson 021 636 519

dale.sholson@bayleys.co.nz

Gordon McGregor 021 998 810

gordon.mcgregor@bayleys.co.nz

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Whangamata Real Estate

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ENQUIRY
OVER
\$775,000



Sun, Surf & Simplicity

211B Weka Street, Whangamata

2 1

- Handy to Island View Reserve, estuary, Williamson Park, surf club, and the surf beach
- A light-filled open plan kitchen, dining, and lounge area
- Great indoor / outdoor connection to sheltered deck
- Fully fenced and gated yard area
- Flat lawn with low-maintenance gardens
- Enjoy the simplicity of single level living

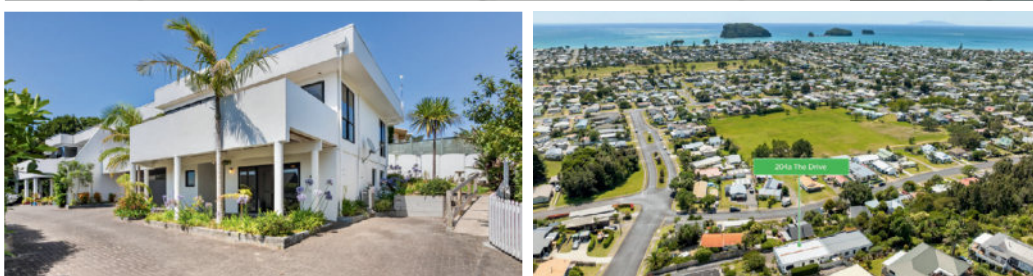
Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8538



ENQUIRY
OVER
\$1.025M



Panoramic Ocean Vista

204A The Drive, Whangamata

3 2 2

- Stunning and expansive ocean and island vista
- Elevated with a north facing aspect capturing all day sun
- Versatile floor plan where you choose how to use the spaces
- New decor throughout with modern kitchen and new bathrooms
- Office space, hobby room / workshop
- Internal access double garage
- Easy care gardens

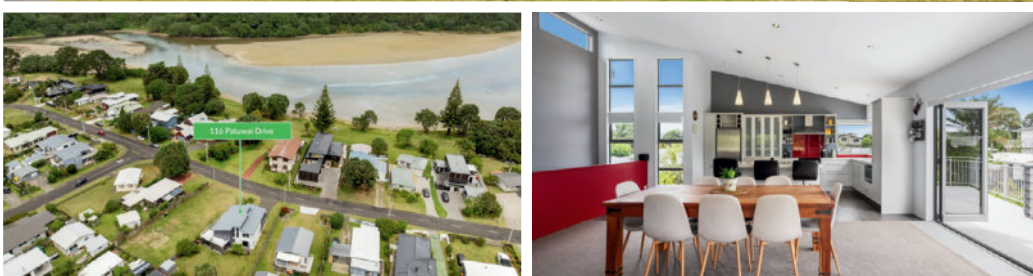
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Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8582



ENQUIRY
OVER
\$2.1M



Estuary Views

116 Patuwai Drive, Whangamata

3 2 2

To be sold by Deadline 3pm 12 February 2026
(unless sold prior)

- Water views overlooking grassy reserve to Estuary
- Across the road to reserve walks and swimming
- Level freehold 718sqm full site
- Second lounge or large fourth bedroom
- Open and spacious living area and wrap around decks
- Outdoor dining options
- Full site, big back yard
- Bathroom on each level

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8587





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AUCTION



Boaties Paradise

620 Harbour View Road, Whangamata

4+ 3 3

Auction Saturday 14 February at 1pm (unless sold prior) at 328 Ocean Road, Whangamata

- Located in the heart of the harbour and near the marina
- Views over the boat ramp and upper harbour
- North-facing, light-filled open-plan living
- Seamless indoor-outdoor flow
- Second lounge / family room plus dedicated office
- Internal access triple garage with workshop
- Fully fenced, gated grounds with easy-care lawns

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8581



PRICE BY
NEG



The Great Entertainer

130 Moana Anu Anu Avenue, Whangamata

5 3 2

- 1357sqm freehold title located on the boundary of reserve
- Serene and natural outlook to bush, reserve and harbour
- Expansive outdoor entertainment area, deck and lawn
- Envious Entertainer's kitchen
- Open plan living area with dual lounges
- Multipurpose family room can be hobby room, large office or media room
- Dedicated games room complete with bar and pool table

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8595



PRICED
FROM
\$755,000



Horizon Views Way Subdivision

409 The Drive, Whangamata

- Titles have now been issued
- Five elevated sections in Whangamata's newest subdivision - House & Land Packages available
- Outstanding views of Pacific Ocean, Outer Islands and Whangamata
- Natural surrounds and bush backdrop and ocean views
- Established post-and-rail fencing
- Access via private road (auto gate)
- Lot 1 \$755,000
- Lot 4 \$765,000
- Lot 5 \$875,000
- Lot 6 \$775,000
- Lot 7 \$825,000



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8473





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ENQUIRY
OVER
\$855,000

Lock 'n Leave on Leander

212A Leander Road, Whangamata

2 1

- Close to beach and town
- North facing deck creates central gathering space
- Cabin providing extra space or storage
- Carport and low maintenance features

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8472



ENQUIRY
OVER
\$935,000

511c Ocean Road

Beachside Sweetheart

511C Ocean Road, Whangamata

2 1

- Opposite and overlooking Williamson Park and Surf Beach
- Refurbished unit
- Easy lock and leave option
- A great position so close to the beach

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8514



ENQUIRY
OVER
\$1.045M

Home to the Hamptons

112 Hampton Road, Whangamata

4 2 2

- 568sqm Freehold Title, level with easy access
- Open plan kitchen and bonus kitchenette
- Supersized garage and workshop
- Selling fully furnished and ready for Summer

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8569



ENQUIRY
OVER
\$2.1M

Size, Space, Surf, and Sunshine

107 Rangī Avenue, Whangamata

4 2 1

- Freehold 809sqm full site
- Popular address near surf beach and estuary
- Open plan kitchen and living area flanked by dual decks
- Second lounge or games room

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8568



\$2,195,000

Barrowclough - Beach & Bar

103B Barrowclough Road, Whangamata

4 2 2

- Desirable location three back from beachfront
- Sought after address in quiet beach side cul-de-sac
- Handy to beach, harbour, surf bar, town, cafes
- Views of the beach, bay and outer islands

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson
M 027 662 3164
View Listing whanga.co/8457





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ENQUIRY
OVER
\$1.195M

Single Level Simplicity

105 Avalon Place, Whangamata

3 2 2

- Single level easy open plan living and low maintenance property
- Master bedroom with walk in robe, ensuite and private patio
- Internal access double garage and fully fenced rear yard
- Bonus hot / cold outdoor shower

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson

M 027 662 3164

View Listing whanga.co/8590



\$815,000

A Honey for the Money

106 Everitt Crescent, Whangamata

2 2 1

- Easy access level site in a quiet cul-de-sac
- Good indoor / outdoor connection to north facing patio
- Open plan kitchen, dining, lounge
- Additional family room plus office / playroom

Check QR Code for viewing options



Sharon Laurenson

M 027 662 3164

View Listing whanga.co/8487



REDUCED
TO
\$449,000

Vendor wants Sold

9/106 Barbara Avenue, Whangamata

1 1

- Sunny, elevated one-bedroom unit
- Ideal for weekend getaways or AirBnB
- Selling fully furnished
- Open-plan living with nice flow to balcony patio

View 10am Sat 7 Feb



Sarah Speedy

M 027 843 4013

View Listing whanga.co/8395



AUCTION

Breathtaking 180-degree Ocean View

431 Onemana Drive, Onemana

3 2 2

Auction Saturday 28 February at 11am (unless sold prior)

- Spacious open plan living with modern kitchen
- Elevated position & well appointed for the sun
- Freehold 562sqm section
- Highly motivated vendor who 'just wants sold'

View by appointment only



Sarah Speedy

M 027 843 4013

View Listing whanga.co/8599



\$955,000

Easy Living on Everitt

135 Everitt Crescent, Whangamata

3 2 2

- Open-plan living and dining with a renovated kitchen
- Sunny north-facing veranda running the length of the home
- Master bedroom with ensuite and walk-in wardrobe
- 614sqm (more or less) freehold site

Check QR Code for viewing options



Chris & Katie Speedy

M 021 747 901 or 021 382 022

View Listing whanga.co/8547





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DEADLINE SALE



Renovate, Rebuild, Redevelop

200 Mary Road, Whangamata

3 1 2

To be sold by Deadline 3pm 11 February 2026 (unless sold prior)

- Prime Surf Club Zone location in sought after streets
- Rare 809sqm (more or less) freehold, flat corner full site
- Original 1980s brick home with functional floor plan
- Large double garage/workshop
- Well appointed aspect
- Outstanding potential to renovate, rebuild, or landbank

View 11am Sat 7 Feb & 11am Sun 8 Feb



Sarah Speedy
M 027 843 4013
View Listing whanga.co/8584



DEADLINE SALE



A Hidden Gem in Sharyn Place

107 Sharyn Place, Whangamata

4 1 2

To be sold by Deadline 3pm 18 February 2026 (unless sold prior)

- Beautifully renovated, single-level home or bach
- Sunny north-facing aspect with excellent outdoor living
- Stunning kitchen, new bathroom, flooring & paint
- Versatile consented sleepout and garage
- Generous 924sqm (more or less) freehold section
- Immaculately presented property
- Offers over \$1,175,000 will be considered

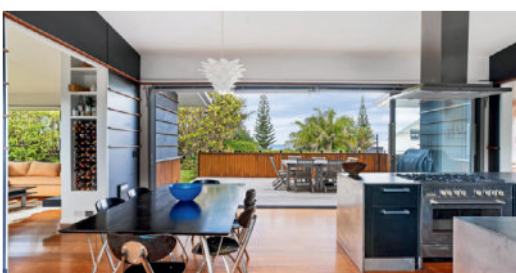
View 12pm Sat 7 Feb & 12pm Sun 8 Feb



Sarah Speedy
M 027 843 4013
View Listing whanga.co/8574



DEADLINE SALE



Architectural Entertainer

107 Russell Bruce Place, Onemana

4 3

To be sold by Deadline 3pm 20 February 2026 (unless sold prior)

- Architecturally designed by Hillary Priest, built in 2006
- Exceptional entertaining spaces with ocean view
- Standout kitchen flowing to outdoor living
- Private, tranquil setting with a variety of fruit trees
- Beach, tennis courts & cafe all just an easy stroll away
- Large 918sqm site (more or less) running directly onto a large grassy reserve

View 1.30pm Sat 7 Feb & 1.30pm Sun 8 Feb



Sarah Speedy
M 027 843 4013
View Listing whanga.co/8585





DEADLINE SALE

Harbour Attraction

200A Harbour View Road, Whangamata

3  2  1 

Deadline Sale closes 3pm 12 Feb 2026 (unless sold prior)

- Prime harbour, ocean beach location
- 3 double bedrooms + rumpus area
- Exterior reclad including double glazing
- Single garage plus carport

Check QR Code for viewing options



Colin Thompson

M 021 723 723

View Listing whanga.co/8578



DEADLINE SALE

Spacious Family Living

115 Chevron Crescent, Whangamata

4  2  1 

Deadline Sale closes 3pm 12 Feb 2026 (unless sold prior)

- Permanent ocean and island views
- Peaceful elevated cul-de-sac location
- Modern kitchen with excellent views
- High stud rumpus room

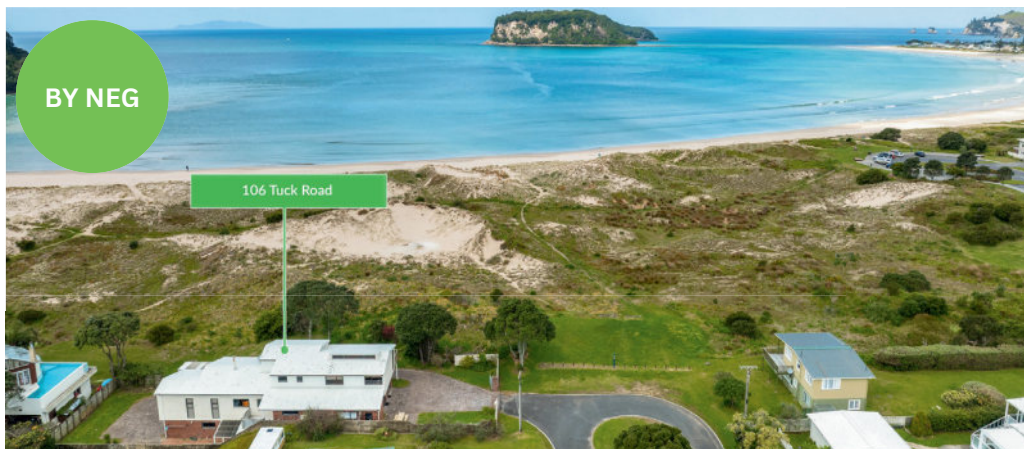
Check QR Code for viewing options



Colin Thompson

M 021 723 723

View Listing whanga.co/8573



BY NEG

Ultimate Beachfront Escape

106 Tuck Road, Whangamata

5  5 

- Prime beach location
- Substantial accommodation options
- Wide beach front boundary
- Comprehensive chattels list - ready to move in

Check QR Code for viewing options



Colin Thompson

M 021 723 723

View Listing whanga.co/8541



BY NEG

Development Opportunity

1006 Port Road, Whangamata

4  2  3 

- Extra density zoning (1011m2 approx)
- Living on ground & first floors
- Harbour and ocean views
- Highly desirable location

Check QR Code for viewing options



Colin Thompson

M 021 723 723

View Listing whanga.co/8512



Desired Harbour Location

104 Moana Avenue, Whangamata

3  2  2 

- Open plan living with sarked ceilings and water views
- North facing decks with direct access from lounge
- Low maintenance landscaped site with mature planting
- Easy access to harbour reserve walks, marina and town

Check QR Code for viewing options



Colin Thompson

M 021 723 723

View Listing whanga.co/8544





Whangamata Real Estate

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First Home Buyers **\$849,000**
104A Casement Road
2 1 1 whanga.co/8517



Onemana Hideaway **\$895,000**
338 Onemana Drive
3 2 whanga.co/8446



Easy Living **\$955,000**
135 Everitt Crescent
3 2 2 whanga.co/8547



Lifestyle & Location **\$1.050M**
201 Ocean Road
3 2 1 whanga.co/8464



Must See **\$1.175M**
109 Te Tutu Street
3+ 2 2 whanga.co/8525



Views & Location **\$2.195M**
611 Beach Road
3 1 1 whanga.co/8511



Surfside **EO \$2.195M**
106 Saint Patricks Row
3 2 2 whanga.co/8310



Harbour Views **\$1.150M**
131 Durrant Drive
3 2 2 whanga.co/8576



Tropical Escape **By Neg**
324B Mary Road
4 3 2 whanga.co/8496



Harbour Views **By Neg**
623B Harbour View Road
4 2 2 whanga.co/8490



Premium Apartment **By Neg**
4/111 Hunt Road
3 2 3 whanga.co/8440



Elevated Style **By Neg**
107 Pacific View Drive
3 2 2 whanga.co/8567



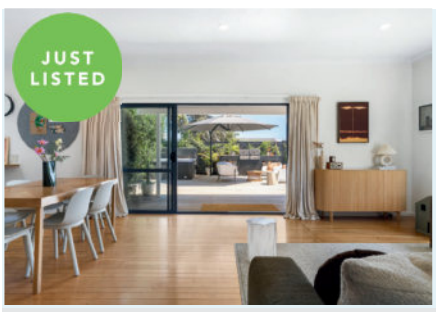
Prime Location **\$699,000**
2E/105 Aickin Road
3 1 2 whanga.co/8575



JUST LISTED
Walk to Estuary **EO \$799,000**
115A Papanui Road
2 1 1 whanga.co/8588



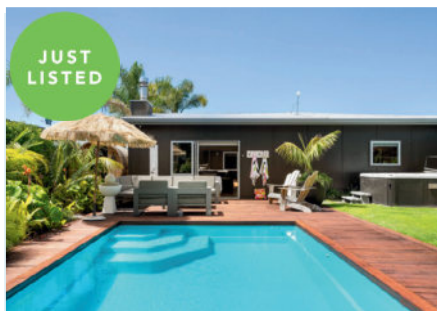
JUST LISTED
Easy Living **\$825,000**
115B Papanui Road
2 1 1 whanga.co/8589



JUST LISTED
Sun-Soaked **By Neg**
208B Leander Road
3 1 whanga.co/8566



JUST LISTED
Beach Days Start Here **By Neg**
602 Williamson Road
3 1 whanga.co/8575



JUST LISTED
Everyday Getaway **Auction**
209 Kiwi Road
5 3 2

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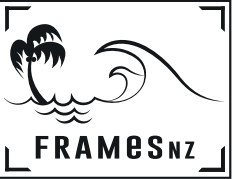
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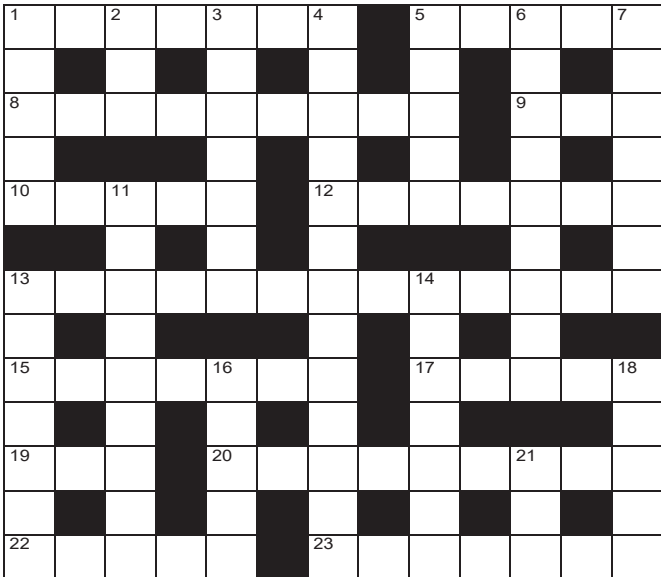
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QUICK CROSSWORD



Across

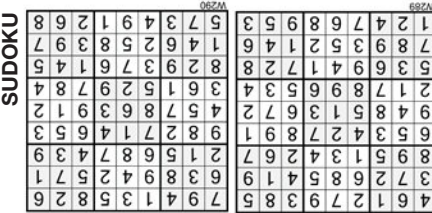
1. Use again (7)
5. Climb (5)
8. Land projecting into the sea (9)
9. Sum up (3)
10. Song of mourning (5)
12. Gaunt (7)
13. Deplorable (13)
15. Formally arranged encounter (7)
17. Mix (5)
19. Wrath (3)
20. Exactness (9)
22. Grilled food on a skewer (5)
23. Spire (7)

Down

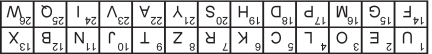
1. Swift (5)
2. Tin (3)
3. Bring together (7)
4. Informed supposition (8,5)
5. Informal language (5)
6. Free (9)
7. Express support for (7)
11. Symbolise (9)
13. Residue (7)
14. Glorious (7)
16. State indirectly (5)
18. Solid (5)
21. Pixie (3)

All puzzles © The Puzzle Company

SOLUTIONS



DECODER

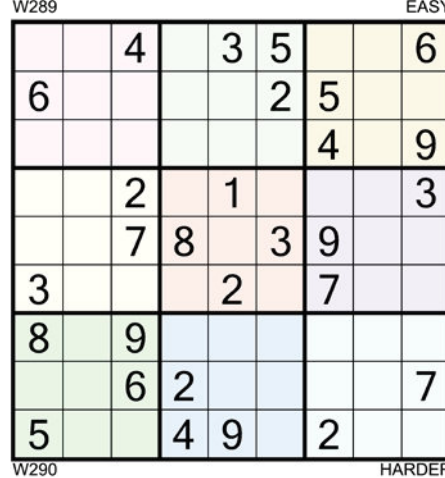
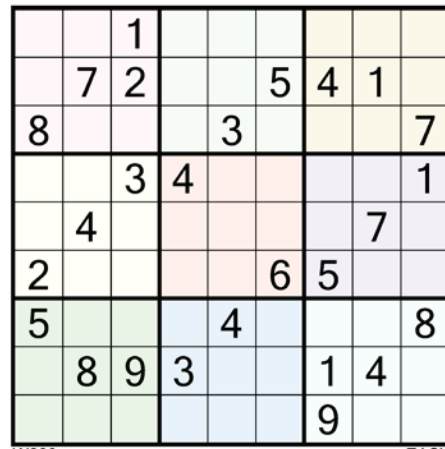


CRYPTIC

20. Sans, 22. Mar.
12. Saved, 13. Bassinet, 15. Tuition, 19. Litre,
music, 6. Cutaway, 7. Cam, 8. Self-interest,
Down: 1. Foie gras, 2. Creel, 4. Rig, 5. Chamber
23. Sanitary, 24. Cent.
18. Mixed doubles, 21. Alkie, 22. Moisture,
11. Goldfish bowl, 14. Aft, 16. Never, 17. Yea,
Across: 1. Face, 3. Tricycle, 9. Iceberg, 10. Alter,

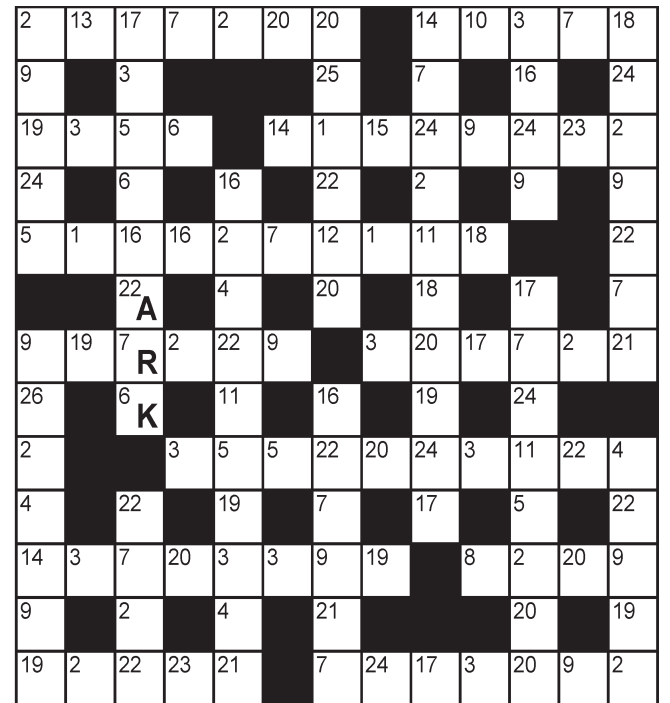
SUDOKU

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

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

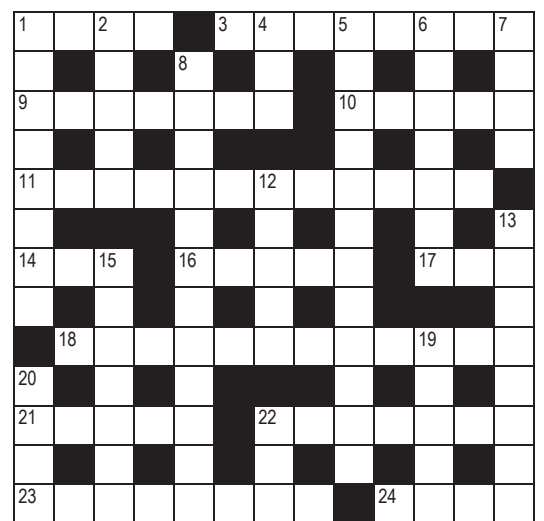
Across

1. Dial the front (4)
3. For kid's transport try Cecil (8)
9. A floating lettuce (7)
10. Change later (5)
11. Holds big fowl maybe but usually something smaller (8,4)
14. The back of the kaftan (3)
16. No RSI using verniers – you don't say! (5)
17. Positively short (3)
18. Two shots of gin and rum land you in court (5,7)
21. A favourite sounds the same ... (5)
22. ... no items to wet (7)
23. It's hygienic to put out hot in ashtray (8)

24. Reportedly posted some money (4)

Down

1. A rose fig used as paté (4,4)
2. Get little credit for the fish in the basket (5)
4. Fix the sail (3)
5. Sung in the toilet? (7,5)
6. The inside of a formal suit (7)
7. Student leaves study to make a living (4)
8. Let fines rest, but only for their own benefit (4-8)
12. Put aside rescue (5)
13. Fish I catch causes cot case (8)
15. No Latins in institutional instruction (7)



19. A measure of return in crossfertilisation (5)
20. Lacking without French (4)
22. Spoil the sheep's back (3)

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